



HELLO Autumn

The MLS Messenger - October 2022 Edition



What's going on in High School

In other schools, students learn their schedule in the first couple of weeks and try to get around the school. At Martin Luther, it's an experience! We kicked off our school year by planning foundational trips for the students. They started at the Elmwood Park Zoo and participated in a team-building activity while having fun on the high ropes course. The next day students went to the Liberty Museum, where they explored the concept of Truth -- what is true, what is their truth, and how we define these things across our curriculum. The following week the students went to Fluxspace, where they explored creativity and innovation. We ended our experience by volunteering at the Share Food Program to give back to the community. Our students learned a lot about themselves through these experiences and a better understanding of what it means to be a part of the world around them.

Sasha Gachelin, Principal

Important Dates to Remember

- 10/7- Panthers Showcase
- 10/10-Indigenous Peoples Day- School Closed
- 10/24-10/31 Red Ribbon Week
- 10/25- School Pictures
- 11/3- Smiles Program, Dental Exams



Hey kids! What are you working on?

At the start of each ELA block, students engage in a creative writing experience. This activity can range from a content-related writing prompt to a fun activity stimulating their writing and thinking muscles. Here is a look at a fun writing activity completed by our 3rd graders where they used their creativity and knowledge of sentence structure to dress up one of our Student Advisors for Halloween!



STAFF SHOUT OUTS

Meet the MLS Nurses



Loretta Scott

MLS Nurse Consultant

I have been a nurse for many years. I have been a registered nurse for many years. After receiving my Diploma, I worked at Germantown Hospital while attending school in the evening to earn my Bachelor of Science in Nursing. I then worked at the Fox Chase Case Cancer Center. After caring for very ill patients, I decided to change gears and work with healthy people. I obtained my School Nurse Certification and then my Master's Degree in Education from LaSalle University. Originally, I worked at the West Oak Lane Charter School, then Wissahickon School District recently retired from the Upper Dublin School District. I am married, and we have four sons. I sincerely love working in the school setting. There are so many occasions to promote health. I am grateful to spend this time at Martin Luther with the amazing staff and students.

Brenda Smith

Hess Nurse (Grades 4-7)

I've been a nurse for 25yrs. I've worked in many areas including pediatrics, geriatrics, corrections, mental health, and school nursing. Before starting at Martin Luther, my previous job was administering the covid vaccine and covid testing. I'm also wound care certified and received my certification from Penn State to teach nursing assistants. I have two grown sons and two grandchildren and will be getting married in the early spring. I currently reside in Cheltenham. What I enjoy most about being a nurse is being able to care for someone and educating them to care for themselves as well. I'm very excited about my new position at Martin Luther School and hope to bring the students and staff happiness!

Christine Irvine

Harrison Nurse
(Grades K-3, MS, and HS)

I am a BSN, RN, and NCSN. NCSN means I am a nationally certified school nurse by exam. I am also studying to be a licensed Psychiatric-Mental Health nurse by exam. I like to keep up to date on the latest science to use new information for evidence-based practice. I like to ride horses in my spare time and have two dogs, two cats, and a horse.



WHAT HAPPENED???

Chromebook Update

With our virtual day and the continued use of 21st-century technology in the classroom, we know things happen to Chromebooks and get damaged. We are implementing a new protocol for student Chromebook damage. If students willfully break their first Chromebook at home or school, they will be ineligible for Panther Time for the week. If it occurs a second time, they will be ineligible for Panther Time for the week and will be charged Kickboard dollars; they will be unable to shop at the market and school store. If this occurs a third time, they will be ineligible for panther time for the week, charged kickboard dollars, and loss of school store privileges. The parent/EDM/caregiver must also come to school for a restorative conference.



School Highlights



Curriculum: ELA

This year in ELA, our students will read far and wide. Our classes are currently embarking on their first novel studies. Through their reading, students will experience basketball courts, Philadelphia neighborhoods, medical school, and the circus, among other locales. We believe reading should allow our students to experience new worlds and environments. Through writing, discussions, and culminating activities, students will grow their understanding of the world around them. We hope you join our journey by discussing these reading experiences with our students!



Special: Music

In music class, we use sound to create works of art over a canvas of silence. A musician's job is to make the right sound at the right time and make it sound beautiful. Music is part of the universal language; no matter what language you or your audience speak, music can communicate powerful ideas and emotions. It expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent. In music class, we have been using the instrument given to every person, the most beautiful and expensive instrument in the world, the instrument that sounds unique to each individual who decides to use it, our voices. We have been singing and rapping music from such artists as 21 Pilots, Bob Marley, Bill Withers, James Brown, Ella Fitzgerald, Michael Jackson, and many others. We also have the opportunity to play instruments outside the body, such as the drumset, piano, guitar, bass, and auxiliary percussion instruments. In addition, we take the time to listen intently to the music of the highest caliber, discuss what makes it so powerful, and answer questions about how that music applies to our everyday lives and interact

Panther Time

Panther Time at MLS is the exciting period that culminates our school day. It is a time for students to engage socially with their peers while participating in their chosen activities. Choices include but are not limited to basketball, flag football, Egames/Esports tournaments, cooking, and arts and crafts. Similar to after-school clubs or activities offered at other schools, the goal is for students to interact with peers and staff outside their homeroom classes, build interpersonal skills and learn from one another. Additionally, the anticipation of participating in Panther Time serves as a deterrent to challenging behaviors.





Health and Safety

At Martin Luther School, school safety is an important topic, and we continually work to ensure that our students and staff can thrive in a secure yet comfortable environment. The tragedies over the past several years remind us that we must continually assess and enhance our safety practices here at MLS.

On Monday, October 3, 2022, our staff was involved in an Active shooter preparedness training - Run, Hide Fight- by Plymouth Township Police. Protecting our students and staff is of utmost importance, and we commit ourselves to the ongoing development and implementation of safety initiatives.



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