

This issue of  
The Bridge  
is dedicated to

**GREG WAGNER &  
STAN URQUHART**

Thank you  
for taking  
good care  
of our campus!

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# The Bridge ...between Home & School

*Mesa Grande Academy*



## MGA'S ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT IS COMING SOON!

Spread the news! MGA is hosting its eighth annual golf tournament on Sunday, March 30 at the Oak Valley Golf Course. The tournament helps to raise funds for both the athletic varsity program and the student assistance fund. The "Cardinal Classic" is an opportunity for golfers of all ages and skill levels to come together for a day of fun, friendly competition, and to show support for Mesa Grande Academy.



Last year's winning team came from Redlands Academy. Come on Mesa Grande golfers... Make your plans now for a four-some and start working on your game. We are counting on your participation to make this tournament a success! For more information contact Lucio Camacho @ 795-1112 x 238 or Judie Yakush @ 795-3478.

## INVITING ALL GRANDPARENTS!

Grandparent's Day at MGA is quickly approaching! **Mark your calendars for Friday, March 21** for the annual celebration of a very special relationship... grandparents and grandchildren.

Each year in the spring, our elementary students look forward to Grandparent's Day when they honor their grandparents and have the opportunity to show off their school. Past Grandparent Day programs have included classroom open house, student entertainment, a student art show and tasty refreshments.

Please take time now to make your plans and pass along the invitation to your grandparents. If you have any questions regarding Grandparent's Day or would like to be involved in the behind the scenes preparations, talk to any Home & School leader.



*Tyler Boom and her grandma smile for the camera last year at Grandparent's Day.*

*Grandparent's  
Day  
March 21*

# THE PEER COUNSELORS OF MGA

by Carly Barruga, MGA Junior

Do you ever find yourself in a situation where you really need to see a friendly face?... You need someone to talk to?... You just need a friend? Well, at MGA our high school students can find that friendly face, someone to talk to, ...a friend. They just need to know where to look!

The Peer Counselors (PCs) of Mesa Grande Academy consist of a group of 8 students - one boy and one girl from each high school class. The current Peer Counselors include, Mark McMillan and Rachael Preston (seniors); Michael Castillo and Carly Barruga (juniors); Trenton Thomson and Katie Esquibel (sophomores); and Justin Mock and Rachel Tohm (freshmen). Students are chosen to be Peer Counselors at the beginning of their Freshman year by the existing PCs, based on their positive attitude and inclusiveness towards others. These same students remain PCs representing their class through their senior year.

The Peer Counseling Program is sponsored by MGA teacher, Mr. Jerry Kopitzke and Pastor Dustin Comm, youth pastor of the Calimesa SDA Church. Mr. Kopitzke and Pastor Comm meet with the PCs every Thursday at lunch to discuss ways to help other students “de-stress”. Campus events such as the occasional “relaxed chapel” (a spin on regular chapel that may find the students playing dodge ball or even taking a nap to refresh tired spirits), hot chocolate on cold days and candy canes at Christmas are just a few examples of simple ways that the PCs reach out to fellow students. Another event sponsored by the Peer Counselors that has become quite popular over the years is called “Warm Fuzzies”. During the Week of Prayer, you will find the cupboards in Mr. Kopitzke’s classroom covered in Post-It Notes with handwritten messages from students to students - warm fuzzies. It is a message board of sorts, used by the students to write encouraging notes to their friends, or to make new ones.

The PCs are also responsible for making new students and visitors on campus feel welcome and comfortable, providing for any needs they may have. As well as needing natural people skills, the PCs are trained for situations in which counseling may be needed. Last year, the PC girls had the unique opportunity to attend a bullying workshop, coming back with a lot of insight and valuable tools in regards to how to handle bullying.



Pictured are Peer Counselors (left to right) : Rachael Preston, Rachel Tohm, Trenton Thomson (back), Justin Mock (front), Katie Esquibel and Carly Barruga. Not pictured are Michael Castillo and Mark McMillan

Over the years the Peer Counseling Program has been very successful, and has even saved lives of hurting students. In a Peer Counselor, students can find a source of friendship, comfort, confidence and perhaps even a Tootsie Pop or two. So next time you are on campus and looking for a friend or a smiling face, remember you are sure to find one in a student Peer Counselor!





# VARSITY BASKETBALL

## SENIOR NIGHT

On Thursday night, January 31, a “standing room only” crowd cheered the men’s and women’s varsity basketball teams on as they played their final home games of the year. Both the men’s and women’s teams played well and the crowd enjoyed some great basketball. Thank you to the parents for coming out to support the players and thank you to the varsity team members for representing MGA!

**Senior** varsity members include; (men) Jason Moran, John Roach, Nick Boyer, Casey Bartlett, Clyde Dieto, Jack Johnson, Raul Groth, Andrew Morales & Gregor Ellis; (women) Rachael Preston, Cady McAnally, Lisa McMillan, Julia Ruybalid & Carla Bartlett.



**The men’s senior varsity players are pictured with Coach Dustin Comm and their parents.**



**“Let’s Go Cardinals, Let’s Go!!!!” The enthusiastic crowd cheers for the Cardinals.**

# MGA STUDENT

## BAND PERFORMS



On December 8, the MGA Freshman Band had the opportunity to perform in the Charity Promotions Benefit Concert featuring Christian singing artist, Ayiesha Woods (pictured below). The free concert, held at the Campus Hill SDA Church in Loma Linda, helped to raise money for the Drug Alternative Program based in Grand Terrace, Ca.

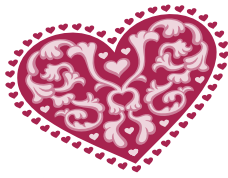


Band members pictured above include Justin Mock - guitar, Edward Ramos - bass, Tyler Sherwin - violin, Bryan Soderblom - keyboard, (Ayiesha Woods and her brother), Jaci Shankel - vocals and Amanda Darkens - vocals. Guest performers with the band included Calimesa Youth Pastor Dustin Comm on drums and sophomore Katie Esquibel doing vocals.



**The Lady Cardinals with Coach Bob Walker.**





# Mission: Possible ...The Mexican Experience!

By Steven Haddad (MGA sophomore) and Heather Logan (MGA freshman)

On Thursday, November 15, seven students, four MGA faculty members and a pastor gathered in the early morning hours, packed their luggage into a van and an SUV and headed for the border. When they got back, they could officially say they experienced building a house (or shed so to speak), meeting new people (including new Mexican friends), experiencing new food, and making memories they will never forget (or at least until they are 40).



High school students; Alex Larson, Byron Kruppa, Ethan Roach, Heather Logan, Steven Haddad, Angel Root-Moon and Mindy McLarty, along with Pastor Fidi Mwero, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Tatum, Mr. Alfred Riddle and Mr. Ed Haddad traveled to Tijuana, Mexico. They were on a mission trip joined by approximately 300 high school students and about 50 adult chaperones from other schools including Redlands Adventist Academy, Loma Linda Academy, Escondido Adventist Academy, La Sierra Adventist Academy, Mesa Grande Academy and a handful of college students from La Sierra University.

"A lot of people can't believe that we literally built a house (shed by American standards). But what some people don't know is that we didn't have any power tools to aid us in our quest to provide a home," says Alex Larson, MGA junior. You lay the foundation, put up the walls, put on the roof, stucco the house, and presto, you have a house ...NOT! It took the team the whole first day just to dig trenches, measure the foundation, mix cement and try to communicate with the family (which took longer than all the previous things mentioned combined).

The rest of our time there went into building walls, the roof, and installing windows and doors. Our group kept up a pretty good pace. In fact, with Mr. Riddle and Mr.

Haddad later joining us with their expertise in construction (mostly Mr. Riddle), we finished our house first out of twelve homes!

On Sabbath, all the students in our camp helped run a miniature Vacation Bible School for the kids in the community we were in. We did a variety of things, including playing ball and puppets with them, and singing songs like



"*I've got the Joy*" in Spanish. The kids were eager to spend time with their international friends, and we, the students, were eager to surprise them with our backpacks full of goodies!

The ride home was action-packed with soda, burping, laughing and funny stories of our experiences from the trip. We all treated ourselves to a hefty America dinner at Claim Jumper when we crossed over the border into California.

All in all, the trip was a major success. Students from a variety of schools learned the importance of helping the less fortunate, and had fun while doing it!

by Linda Dryer, MGA parent & H&S leader

Lastly, please be sure to LABEL your uniforms, as they do get lost and are difficult to identify without a name in them. And please, check the LOST & FOUND rack occasionally, as there are scores of lost uniform garments waiting to be claimed on the rack. The Lost & Found rack is located in the elementary building, outside the kitchen near third grade. At the end of the year, all unclaimed uniforms will be donated to students in need.

- March 21  
Grandparent's Day
- May 6 - Teacher  
Appreciation Day
- June 1 - Work Bee

WINNER Of  
The Elementary School  
**GEOGRAPHY BEE!**



- Sandra Estrada, MGA parent & SCRIP Volunteer





Tracey, Bonnie, Janet, Dr. Parker  
Erica and Debbie

# *Family Dentistry*

- New Patients Welcome
- Children and Adults
- Cosmetic Dentistry
- Implants

**RICHARD L. PARKER**

**D.D.S., M.S.**

**Calimesa - Yucaipa**

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*Stop by the office for your **FREE** toothbrush!*

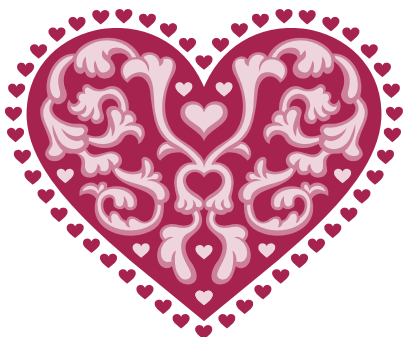


Lori and Lindsey

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