



# The Herald

January 2011

A Publication of the MCA Office of Advancement and Development



From the Office of Advancement and Development:

## A Season of Giving.....All Year Long by Lu Ann Browne

Happy New Year!! We hope that you've had a wonderful break and that your new year is off to a great start. As the new year begins, it presents a good time to think about some of the best things from the past year, and how they can be carried forth into the next. One of the best things at MCA is the set of three pillars upon which the philosophy of the school is founded: Scholarship, Character, and Community. Since we are an educational institution, it sometimes seems that we tend to focus more on Scholarship, but each of these pillars is just as important as the other.

The mission statement of MCA states that we are a school "whose classroom is the community." Just what does that mean? For one thing, the classroom is the community when it comes to learning. Field trips away from school and guests who come to MCA to share topics with our students are two great ways of being involved in

the community and learning new things that aren't necessarily found in books.

Another aspect of being involved in the community is being aware of community needs and being willing to help meet those needs where possible. Just as one would take care of a physical classroom, our students help take care of their community classroom. During the past few years, MCA students have raised over \$13,000 in cash for various charities. This is in addition to the hundreds of pounds of food, coats, shoes, pet food, and other supplies raised for one cause or another.

This issue of *The Herald* is dedicated to "the season of giving," one that lasts all year long at MCA. Thank you for your willingness to support these causes, but most of all, thank you for your wonderful students that work so hard to take care of their "community classroom."

## Student Leadership Council Raises Money for Cancer Research



The MCA Student Leadership Council, under the leadership of Kim Sawyers, Claire Wilkerson, and Sandy Cave, sponsored a Cookies for Kids Cancer fund raiser to help children who have been diagnosed with cancer. By selling baked goods, the Student Leadership Council was able to raise \$212.85, which was matched by the Glad Products Company, making a total of \$425.70 to be given to cancer research.



Sarah Shepherd presents the donation to Emily Fowler, representative for Cookies for Kids Cancer

**Drew Tilley**, SLC representative from 3rd grade, was very instrumental in helping organize the drive at MCA. Emily Fowler, representative for Cookies for Kids Cancer, accepted the check from the Student Leadership Council. Cookies for Kids Cancer is a pediatric cancer research organization. For more information visit

[www.cookiesforkidscancer.org](http://www.cookiesforkidscancer.org)

MCA Student Leadership Council Representatives for 2010-2011  
Front Row: **Jackson Vaughan, Zach Wardle, Ben Marshall, Jack Bevard, Drew Tilley, Brooksie Lawson** Middle Row: **Sarah Chaney, Chynna Brintle, Jack Campbell, Laurel Petri** Back Row: **Emily Diaz, Corbin Robertson, Catherine Price, Caitlyn Price, Sarah Shepherd**

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## More Student Government Activities

Other Charities Supported by the MCA Student Leadership Council thus far this year include:

- \* **The Fall Ball**, with proceeds going to the Surry County Animal Shelter
- \* **MCA Spirit Week**, with proceeds going directly back to MCA to purchase new gym equipment
- \* **Annual Chili Christmas** - Yummy desserts donated by SLC members and their families supported MCA Fine Arts
- \* **Christmas Projects** – provided Christmas cheer gifts of gingerbread house kits, Food Packages from Angel Food Ministries, and cash donations to local families
- \* **Food Drive** - partnered with Lowes' Foods to support local food banks.

The Presidential Leadership Council, student government for the MCA Middle School under the direction of Ms. Nicole Kesler, also supports many charities. This year, the PLC created gift baskets that were put up for silent auction at the Chili Christmas event in December. Sixth grade created a "coffee basket" that raised \$45 for Habitat for Humanity. Seventh grade created a "winter basket" with goodies like specialty hot chocolates and blankets that raised \$50 for Operation Christmas Child, and eighth grade created two baskets: a "kitchen basket" that raised \$50 for the Second Harvest Food Bank, and an "art supplies basket" that raised \$30 for Emily's Wagon, a charity that supports pediatric cancer patients.

## Give 2 The Troops

During the months of November and December, the entire student body collected various non-perishable foods, toiletries, and other goodies to be packaged and delivered to US military troops overseas. Four large boxes of items were collected, and then delivered to a drop-off location in Greenville, NC, where the contents are sorted and packaged to send to US military personnel. Mrs. Barbara Whitehead, Director of the NC Branch of Give 2 the Troops, was very grateful and happy to receive the donations. As she expressed her gratitude, she talked about what a difference small gifts could make in the day-to-day life of a soldier. She also mentioned how letters, notes, cards, and hand-drawn pictures were even more important and encouraging to our troops than almost anything else they could receive. If you'd like to know more about Give 2 the Troops, visit their website at [www.give2thetroops.org](http://www.give2thetroops.org). Contact information for the NC branch is 252.321.8227, e-mail [barbara@Give2thetroops.org](mailto:barbara@Give2thetroops.org).



Right: Mary Beth and Laura Browne, PLC representatives, present Barbara Whitehead with the collection from MCA at the Greenville, NC, collection center. Of special interest are the stars on the background wall. Each star, of which there are many more than pictured, contains the name of a US soldier killed in Iraq.

## JAMS Club

One of MCA's student sponsored clubs, JAMS (Jesus Among Middle Schoolers), spearheaded by 7<sup>th</sup> graders **Abby Shepherd** and **Katie Knight**, recently sponsored a gold buy-back event for local charities. The club made a total of \$465 dollars, with \$155 dollars being given to the Foothills Food Pantry, and the remaining \$310 being given to local families in need during the holidays.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual MCA Chili Christmas



Mr. Money's Advanced Music class performed a series of special numbers at the MCA Chili Christmas.

It's been said that charity begins at home. With that, the MCA Fine Arts Team hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Chili Christmas on December 2. All proceeds from this event go to the MCA music and art departments to purchase new equipment and supplies. Not only does MCA Fine Arts benefit, but all who attended got a good dose of the Christmas Spirit and had a great time socializing with friends and neighbors. This year, over \$600 was raised, thanks to YOUR generosity.