

Awards Assembly

February 12, 2009

Opening prayer by Katelyn Holliday and Matt Kudija

Welcome to you all!

Sharing successes. Celebrating together. Creating community. That's what today is about... actively making community, each offering her best and connecting up with others who are doing their best as well.

We honor you today in this ceremony in order to show our respect for what you're working towards. But remember, you're not in this alone and you're not in this only for yourselves! The banner that expresses our school motto: becoming women and men for others – suggests that we offer our best selves as a gift for others: the gift of excellence, the gift of hard work, the gift of competition, the gift of creative expression, the gift of service, the gift of leadership.

What we are given, we are given to share. So when you do something vital and awesome, you make it even better by sharing it. And you make others better in the process, too.

And so today, I'm here to celebrate with you your greatness, your brilliance, the incredible hope that you represent for our world... but also to remind you that your life is not your own... it must be shared. Together, we are becoming women and men for others. Let's see how:

Maddie Fetyko has had another poem published in the International Library of Poetry this year. Her poem, called, "Simply Amazing," explores the mystery of personal identity.

In the fall, after the Open House, an older gentleman who was an MCP alum sent a thank you to the school acknowledging and

praising one of our students for the awesome personalized tour he received – he indicated how much he appreciated meeting our own Steven Fleming whom he considered to be a real credit to our school.

Based on an essay he wrote, Scott Robinson was one of 70 students nationwide that have been selected to attend the annual Reagan Ranch High School Conference next month.

Music ministers, altar servers, Eucharistic ministers, gift bearers, readers, cantors... the 46 individuals who have led retreats this year, all of those who have attended People's Kitchen this year. Please stand up so that we can thank you all for your ministerial leadership.

Congratulations to Samantha Harvey, Matthew Kudija, Connor Pozdolski, and Taylor White – for being named commended scholars in the National Merit Scholarship program... that means that their PSAT scores were in the top 5% among the 1.5 million students who took the test.

In September, Kellie Fryer was named a semi-finalist in the National Merit Scholarship competition, which means that her scores were among the top 16,000 nationally. We have just learned that Kellie has been selected to continue in the contest, and that she is now designated a National Merit Finalist! Kellie, please come on up here and receive your Certificate of Merit. Way to go, girl! From this elite group of 15,000 students, 8200 Merit Scholarship Winners will be announced in March.... Let's have a nice round of applause for Kellie and her hard work and big brain!!!

Lori Wooldridge recently received the "You're an Angel" award from the Parent Association for her positive attitude, willingness to volunteer, and always greeting everyone with a friendly smile.

Stop by and let Lori know that we notice and appreciate her welcoming demeanor.

Every month, two seniors represent our school as Elks Students of the Month. Please stand as I call your names: Jordan Hasey and Matthew Kudija; Kellie Fryer and Rainer Fiege-Kollman; Nyri Achadjian and Kyle Minkel; Katelyn Holliday and Connor Pozdolski. February winners are: Jenna Caruso and Joe Obrien while March will be Hannah Palmer and James Cogley. Congratulations to all of these outstanding students.

Alex Detz, Dylan Morrow, and Jordan Hasay have already committed to playing a sport next year in college. Alex will play baseball at Sacramento State University, Dylan will play baseball at San Jose State University, And Jordan Hasay will run Cross Country and Track at the University of Oregon. Congratulations to these student athletes, and to all the rest of you who are still discerning where your athletic goals will take you next year.

We feel so blessed to be able to have students from other countries come to MCP and grace us with their presence, sharing with us their new culture and perspective. We know how hard you all work, doing your studies in your second or third or fourth language! Thank you to our International students who took a risk, and have enhanced our lives so greatly!

Daniel McGrail just earned his Eagle Scout Award. John Iribarren spoke eloquently at the Honor Court in Pismo at the Vet's Hall on Daniel's behalf.

Other Eagle Scouts among us: Matthew Kudija, Connor Pozdolski, Jim Walker, Jake Mather, Ed Zuchelli, Thomas Warren

Working towards this honor: John Nano, Tom Witcher, Nick Haggard, James Cogley, Michael McGrail, and Michael Flynn

Jake Stanier has really been the pillar behind the technical stuff on the daily announcements, enabling the student video initiative to take off so much this year. Thanks Jake!

Ed Zuchelli and Anh Lai Pham went far above and beyond the call of duty shooting video at the Christmas classic that we broadcast over the internet.

Bryan and Daniel Conti are the backbone of the technical theatre crew here at Mission. Before school started last summer, they redesigned the PAC layout for Performing Arts this year and spent significant time building the lighting, sound, and computer systems. You guys rock!

Hannah Palmer is responsible for the Silverware drive. We are now helping the environment by using silverware instead of plastic here at school. Thanks, Hannah, for challenging us all to be better!

Dylan Morrow was named 1st team all-state for division 5 football, leading the team this past season to the best finish in our school's past 40 years. This is the same team that saved the crane operator's life last summer by removing the tree he was pinned under after he was flung from the cab last summer.

Great job, Coach Lock, this season as Interim Football Coach. Don't you all think it'd be great if Coach Lock came back again next year as the permanent Head Coach? Can I get some applause there? What dya say, Brady?

John Iribarren was nominated by a litany of his peers for membership in the Southern Section CIF Hall of Fame. This is Coach's 47th year here at Mission... that's a lot of detentions!

The MCP 2008 fall sports season was very successful with all five teams advancing to the CIF Central Section playoffs and the volleyball team advancing to the semifinals of the State Regional tournament. Winter and spring sports are not yet decided... let's take the Basketball team members' lead and continue to show our support for all of our teams! Boys and Girls Soccer teams are home tonight and tomorrow night! Go Royals!!

Congratulations to the cast and crew of the fall musical, Little Women. If you are a student who acted in or worked the tech crew for Little Women, or is currently involved in, The King and I, please stand and be recognized. [applause] Thank you, you may be seated.

Taylor Castanon... you just joined our community this year, but thank you so much for showing us the way with your Recycle the Warmth coat and blanket drive. And thank you to all of you who serve and excel and create and compete in many, many ways that have not been mentioned today. Your gifts are exemplary.

Some of you have earned recognition for scholastic performance throughout the fall semester of this year. And so we now ask the following students who achieved a gpa of 3.0 to 3.49 to please come forward as your name is called to accept your award and to be recognized.

Please line up as all the recipients of this category are recognized. Please hold your applause until all individuals in this group are recognized.

Ernie and Jolynn will be asked to read the names.

Applause – thank you, please be seated.

Our next award is for students who achieved the honor roll principal's list. These students earned a gpa of 3.5 to 3.99.

Please come forward when your name is called and line up with your fellow recipients.

Ernie and Jolynn will be asked to read the names.

Applause – thank you, please be seated.

It is with great admiration that we recognize the following students who have achieved honor roll with distinction. This award is for students who achieved a gpa of 4.0 or above.

Please line up as all the recipients of this category are recognized.

Ernie and Jolynn will be asked to read the names.

Applause – thank you, please be seated.

The California Scholarship Federation, known as CSF, is an organization that honors high school students for outstanding performance in a rigorous and challenging course of study.

We present CSF lifetime membership pins to our seniors who have achieved this honor. To be a lifetime member a student must be a member of CSF four semesters out of a possible six semesters 10th through 12th grade including one semester of their senior year.

These seniors receive their lifetime membership pins today. On graduation day, they will wear a gold tassel on their cap and a gold cord over their shoulders. Their diploma will also bear the gold seal of lifetime membership in this prestigious scholarship association.

Please line up as all the recipients of this category are recognized.

Ernie and Jolynn will be asked to read the names.

Applause – thank you, please be seated.

Closing remarks

Thank you so much for the opportunity to share with you all a glimpse of your best selves. I know that there must be some of you out there who were not mentioned... we need to know your successes – adults and students alike. We want to celebrate each member of this community because everyone has a gift and a dream, everyone has a creative expression or a competitive spirit. Let today be a challenge to us all to live with greater vitality in the pursuit of excellence. Let's offer our individual successes as a gift to the community in order to build it up and make MCP grow stronger!

Thanks for your many involvements that make us like no other.