

THE QUARTERLY CAVALIER

THIS IS OUR STORY. YOUR STORY. | SPRING 2023

FISK Jubilee Singers Schoolwide Field Trip

By: Emmy Elter

On Wednesday, February 8th, around 700 kids and almost all faculty of Meigs Academic Magnet school hopped on 7 buses and drove into the downtown city. Why? A once in a lifetime opportunity to see the Fisk Jubilee singers. Ms. Clemson, the gifted and talented teacher, fell in love with this brilliant group in 2019 while visiting a convention. She became extremely moved by their music and wanted to bring the experience to Meigs. When she got the list of shows she scrambled to get tickets for the school. Students and faculty were not disappointed as the whole show was educational and fun. We learned many things from the history of Fisk to the individual composers of the songs they sang. They sang both spirituals and some recent pieces composed for their 150th anniversary. Most students were very excited to go, with one 7th grader saying, "I am excited because my parents went to Fisk, and I can learn more about that." And another from 5th grade saying, "learning about Fisk will be fun and interesting". Though Ms. Clemson loved the music; her favorite part of the whole trip was seeing Meigs fill up the upper section of TPAC.

She also said she was so proud of how everyone behaved and the amount of work and dedication the staff put into making this a reality.

This talented group of singers has been around since 1871 and is about to celebrate its 153rd anniversary. They started because Fisk, a historically black college, was almost bankrupt. At the end of their 18-month fundraising tour, they came back with two new things: popularity and \$40,000. Now in the present time, they have won many awards including winning Grammys for "Roots Gospel Album" and "Gospel/Contemporary Christian Music Performance".

Ms. Clemson hopes this will become a Meigs tradition because you can never get enough of this talented group.

BOB

Mrs. Tucker Dye feels exceptionally confident in Meigs's ability to make it far in the district Battle of the Books competition! She has been so impressed with how well our teams are doing, and that is across all grade levels. We have strong teams across the board, so she is hopeful we will do well this year. There are so many things that she hopes students will learn from BOB.

Her main goal is to introduce awesome books to students that they may not otherwise find. Not every book is for every reader, but she does hope that every reader finds a book that they love. Students also learn about teamwork, and what kind of team members they are.

Her favorite book is a difficult decision for her, but she must go with *Scythe*. She has been raving about this book since I read it a few years ago, so she is so glad to be able to discuss it with so many students!

Mrs. Tucker Dye, along with 4 other MNPS librarians, started Battle of the Books 12 years ago or so, and it has grown to a huge competition with schools since then. She has never participated as a student, but she wished something like this had been available to her when she was younger. Something she loves about BOB is that it is not just about winning. It is about learning to work together as a team, it is about celebrating a variety of books, and learning who you are as a reader. We now know the team that will be advancing to district battle- congrats to The Titlers!

National History Day

By: Isis Hawk

NHD (National History Day) is a history competition where you must put together a project based on the topic for that year. The various project categories were exhibits, documentary, websites, performances, or paper. The topic this year was ***Frontiers in History***. NHD Regionals took place at TSU on February 17th. 28 students from Meigs placed in the top 3. The Sizzling History of Sir Francis Bacon, presented by Charis Awoyode, Ella Gambill, Sally Gandhi, Frances Jack placed first at NHD Regionals and will be moving on to state.

Some NHD participants were also interviewed about the process they went through and their experience with NHD. Zoe Sobecki, who participated in NHD Regionals, gave this response when asked how she felt about moving on to regionals.



"I feel pretty excited, but also nervous because I don't know what to expect and putting it on top of school is kind of stressful."

When Millie Allen and Nico Lewis, who placed 3rd in NHD Regionals, were asked about their process and how they chose their topic, they responded with this:

"We narrowed it down to different topics we liked and decided on our topic." NHD is a wonderful way to help students with critical thinking, teamwork, and learning history.

THE SPORTS COLUMN



MNPS All-Sports Award

Miles Theisen

The inaugural All-Sports Award for MNPS middle schools was awarded to Meigs on May 9 of this year. This award means that Meigs athletics did very well in the city tournaments. Both boys and girls cross country got first in the city tournament, girls' soccer, volleyball, and track placed 2nd in the city, along with boys track coming in 3rd place. Boys Soccer is yet to be determined, due to the city tournaments still happening. But so far boys soccer is doing really well, and could win it all!

Volleyball Interview with Cassidy Gambill

By: Claire Jackson

Cassidy Gambill is a 7th-grade volleyball player on the Meigs team, she loves being on the team. She said her favorite part is all the relationships you can gain. Cassidy loves Coach Shaffer because she is very personable, and she's not afraid to tell you that you made a mistake. Cassidy's favorite position is right side setter, but she also really likes being able to hit. She said she plans to get into a good college and play for a long time!



Baseball Club

Finn Lacey

In a recent "Meigs Memo" it was announced that the Meigs PTO has started a baseball club. Weeks after this announcement, many students have shown interest and there is no lack of demand for America's favorite pastime. The purpose of the club is to prepare students for high school baseball. Meigs feeds into Hume Fogg, and last year they had a record of 8-2; placing first in the district. Hume Fogg would like for Meigs' students to be well prepared not only for academics but also athletics. If you are interested in joining, make sure you fill out the form in the Meigs Memo.

Crossword

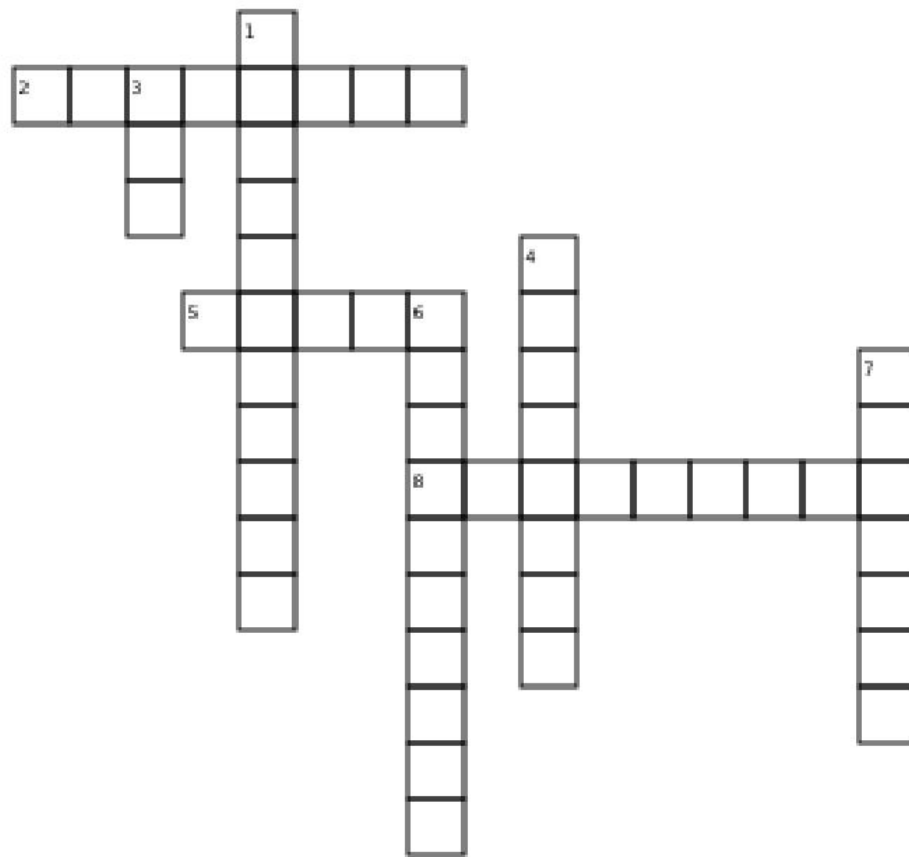
by: Pepper Kuo

Down:

1. Meigs' Principal
3. Big 7th grade project
4. Something you carry your stuff in for school
6. Craziest grade
7. Where you get your books

Across:

2. Band director
5. _____ Academic Magnet Middle School
8. 60 words per minute to test out of _____.



Breaking News!

By: Liam Murphy

MNPS has begun moving 5th grade back to elementary schools. According to our sources, Meigs will only have 5th grade for one more school year. Starting in 2024, Meigs will only be 6th through 8th grade! As of right now, we are unsure of what will happen but we hop they will add more students to each grade level.

These are some students opinions about the removal of 5th grade at Meigs:

“I think it is better to be at Meigs for 5th grade. I have more experience navigating middle school.” Kabir Deshpande, 5th grade

“I think it will be fine having only 3 grades but we may have to let go of some of our most beloved teachers.” Claire Jackson, 5th grade

“I think it will be harder for newcomers to get used to middle school with only three grades.” Elsie Rider, 6th grade

“I think it will be different and am a bit sad fifth grade is leaving, but in most schools, I think, fifth grade is not a part of middle school.” Pepper Kuo, 7th grade

Meigs Winter Dance

By: Hazel Hickman, Isis Hawk



The winter dance took place in the gymnasium on February 24th. A school dance is a time for students to socialize and have fun. Students were able to wear anything from a fancy dress or suit to what they wore to school earlier that day. At the dance, there were also concessions, a professional DJ, teacher chaperones, and much more.

5th and 6th Grade Dance

The 5th and 6th grade dance took place from 3:00 to 5:30. Everyone was excited to buy concessions, sing along, and, well, dance! People had so much fun listening to songs classic favorite songs!

7th and 8th Grade Dance

The 7th and 8th grade dance took place from 6-7:30pm and everyone had lots of fun. There were conga lines, a dance circle, and everyone had a great time! Some people were a bit unsure and against the no electronics rule, but everyone had a blast without them. The concession stand is an element that is at a lot of events hosted by Meigs and is usually ran by parents after school who volunteer. The yearbook committee also took pictures from the school dance to capture the fun.

History of Meigs

By: Sinclair Rowland and Ella Grider

Meigs opened in 1883. In the fall of 1867, Nashville opened its first public school for African Americans, it used to be a gun factory by the Confederates during the Civil War. In 1934, the Meigs school was rebuilt because of a big tornado that damaged the building in 1933 at a cost of \$36,000. In 1958 Meigs became a high school again, adding a grade per year with 1963 being the first year for graduation. The last class graduated from Meigs High School in 1969. In 1970, only grades eight and nine were taught at Meigs. In 2001, a new construction began on the Meigs building that replaced the 1934 structure. If you are in the building, you can check out the mural and trophy case near the gym. We have also interviewed 2 staff members about their thoughts about Meigs progress. We asked the 6th grade Apple Classroom teacher, Mr. Parsons, who has worked here for 20 years. When we were interviewing him, he stated that the most noticeable things that has happened at Meigs was another building transfer because of the rebuilding of the school. Another was having the students having their own personal devices in the classroom. Mrs. Hatelburg, the art teacher who has worked at Meigs for 21 years, said that the noticeable changes is the better teaching and understanding of students.

- 1867- Meigs was opened
- 1933- Meigs was hit by a tornado
- 1934- The school is rebuilt at 713 Ramsey St.
- 1960- a fire damaged the school
- 1969- the last senior class graduates
- 1981- Meigs became a middle school
- 2011- Dr. Underwood became principal
- 2020- Meigs is hit with another tornado



Old Meigs Building

School Improvements

By: Emmy Elter

Meigs is going through a lot of changes this coming year! The new band room construction is underway! The construction will be taking place from the beginning of May till after fall break of next year. It will triple in size and will be a great way to improve our school's band.

We will also be getting a new basketball court that will be portable and used for the outside. All the head teachers agreed that a basketball court is a right addition to the school. Many people have also wanted the picnic tables back, after the March 2020 tornado! After three years, they are finally back!

The outdoor classroom is now open, after being checked for safety. It will be a great alternative to the Apple classroom! Teachers can book a time. It is now open to teach out there which will be a great change of pace from the regular classroom. Most students are excited with a 7.6 out of 10 interview rate.

Ms. Poe (8th-grade literacy teacher) also notes the things she would like to see. She would like a more advanced language program starting in 7th to get students more prepared for Hume Fogg courses and get interests up.

Ms. Culp wants to have better computers and more technology used in the classroom. Ms. Niemic wants a more diverse curriculum and a more dependant on technology. We are all excited about these big changes!



Word Search

by: Pepper Kuo

O F L O D C B T M E H Q A M O
A Q X V Q J M A S V H X J F X
M M D C D P A Y A C L H Y Y D
G X E Q G L T L Q S I S H B G
T W U I U B H O W W C E T L R
W M A L G U B R P I S I N J A
W M S H Y S J S O M F L U C D
S C H O O L U W V S D P S T E
J T D M F X K I U A F C J L S
A P Y E W V L F Q E S M Q Q V
N I O W D Q W T S P O R T S C
G K K O N V W V C P T B B R F
J H S R N B A C K P A C K K N
P V H K C O B U S U M M E R G
G G X M V N K K Y M P L B O B

SIXTH GRADE SCIENCE CAMP

By: Madison Pinson

This past November the 6th grade classes went on a field trip to William P. Ridley 4-H camp to learn different subjects of science. During the trip, 6th graders focused on team building, UAVs, energy, rocks and minerals, wildlife, weather, and forest ecology. The absolute purpose of this trip was for the students to learn things that wouldn't be covered in the classroom in a unique way while bonding with their peers. During their time at science camp, 6th graders also got to enjoy other activities like scavenger hunts, rocket building, fear factor, scary stories, and Jeopardy. A lot of 6th graders reported that it was very cold during their time there and that zip-lining and the canteen were some of their favorite parts. To round out the trip, 6th graders left the camp with memories and tons of knowledge.

Oklahoma, the Musical

By: Elsie Rider, Hazel Hickman, Isis Hawk, Finn Lacey

Here at Meigs, our staff offers a wide variety of extracurriculars, clubs, and fun activities. One of which is our amazing drama teacher's job, Cavaliers on Stage. Every year there is a musical and a play of his choice. This year we are doing "Oklahoma!" A fun loving, gut bustin' musical with laughs within every scene. Serious at times, this musical is good for drama lovers and comedy lovers alike! Set in a western territory as it turns into a state, it centers around Laurey, a young farmer's daughter, with her heart set on Curly, a strong cowboy ready to face whatever it takes to get to her. Which just so happens to be a skeevey man named Jud. He's the perfect antagonist to go along with the two excellent protagonists, Curly and Laurey.

Here we have included a fantabulous interview with Mr. Randolph himself!

1. What makes this show so appealing? "Oklahoma!" is a historical time piece, in theater, because it was the first musical where the songs were actually important to the show. Before then, they were just a fun little break. Nowadays, people are used to seeing things like Hamilton or Wicked, where the music is very important to the show. Since "Oklahoma!" started it all, I think it's really important."

2. Why did you decide to make the show double casted? "I wanted to give more actors/actresses to get an opportunity to shine and showcase their talents. Although "Oklahoma!" has a very large cast, there are only a few roles that have speaking parts, so I wanted to allow all our talented Cavalier actors/actresses to present."

3. What is your favorite musical or play? "My favorite musical is "Rent", and my favorite play is "Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf?"."

4. Why did you choose to be a drama teacher? "I have done theater for my entire life, and I have liked to help people with it, and I realized that since I love theater so much, it's really great that I get to have a job where I can teach students and future actors/actresses learn to perform."

Bonus joke! Q. Why do actors tell each other to break a leg? A. Because they are in a cast!