

## GOING DEEPER IN DEVELOPING YOUNG LEADERS

“They saw the deeds of the Lord, His wondrous works in the deep.” Psalm 107:24

At Mariners Christian School, leadership development begins in kindergarten, with teachers who are passionate about finding the unique gifts of children, building their character, and training them up in the way they should go. By the time these students reach sixth grade, things look a little different. **Middle-school students are capable of building on those first seeds of faith planted in elementary years and moving to a more mature level in all aspects of leadership.**

authentic faith as well as a time of praise and worship. From there, students walked to Sky High Trampolines and enjoyed a time of team-building and fun. To top it off, teachers and coaches joined students on the MCS field for an all-out teal and black competition. This day of “going deeper” in building fellowship and faith was especially beneficial for the 28 brand new middle school students who transferred from other schools this year.

*As MCS continues to send graduates into local high schools and colleges, it is exciting to consider the potential impact these young people will have on the world for Christ.*

To set the right tone for the year, MCS middle school teachers and administrators set aside the first chapel Friday for spiritual renewal, focus, team-building, and fun. Sixth through eighth graders began the day at Rock Harbor church with a message from Mr. Sladek focused on living out an



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# BUILDING CHARACTER ON THE BLACKTOP



*“We want them ready to have fun, responsible for their own behavior and choices, and respectful of each other and our school’s facility.”*

*Jennifer Letterman, Outdoor Director*

**Readiness. Responsibility. Respect.** These are new code words for MCS students on the playground. As part of a school-wide effort to help students “grow deeper” in their relationships with one another, as well as their own personal character, MCS has adopted this 3 R’s theme and will continue to emphasize it throughout the year in chapels as well as lunch and recess time. Jen Letterman has taken on a new role this year as Outdoor Director, and it is her personal passion to see the children having fun in a safe environment on the playground.

In addition to mentoring students with these principles in mind, an increased number of staff members out on the playground will help facilitate expanded activities, giving students a greater variety of opportunities for active play. As new Vice Principal Jim Christensen summarized, “Above

all, we want even students’ ‘outside time’ to remain Christ-centered and a safe place for growing in their social skills. Employing these three terms - readiness, responsibility, and respect - will cause undeniable spiritual growth in our children and bring God’s favor. Let’s partner together and watch God’s hand working in and through our students for His glory!”

## WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO “GO DEEPER” IN FIRST GRADE?

Recently Mrs. DeAllen helped the students brainstorm specific ways to apply the “3 R’s” of Readiness, Responsibility, and Respect in their daily lives. Through group discussion, these students identified how a first grader might be ready (get in line quietly; be honest), responsible

(respond to an adult with a greeting), and respectful (respond to an adult with a greeting). They then took these concrete examples and created a slideshow that they could revisit throughout the year. Mrs. DeAllen said, “**I was amazed at the extent of examples that these first graders came up with. And they quickly began implementing their ideas, as well -- I’ve heard on many occasion, ‘Shhh! Be ready!’**” said by a first grader!”



# HEAD OF SCHOOL PERSPECTIVE

*How to Influence Generation iY*



.....  
*They are a unique group with a love for technology; they are overly confident and socially well-connected, but largely lacking in maturity and good decision-making skills.*  
.....

Generation iY, named for their love of anything “i” – Internet, iPhone, iTunes – is the generation of young people born in the 1990’s through the early 2000’s, some who are now entering the workforce, but many who are still completing their schooling, including our very own MCS students. As a school that wants not only to impact this generation of students but also help them “GO DEEPER” in their faith, education, and personal character, Mariners Christian School is committed to pursuing creative ways to engage them in the learning process. Spiritually, our chapels and Bible program will take the teaching, worship, and discussion to a deeper level this

year, challenging students to move beyond the basics of Christianity. Academically, we are placing greater emphasis on helping students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills as well as preparing them for this ever-changing world:

- increasing non-fiction writing
- better preparation in mathematics
- more technology integration
- more individualized instruction

In social skills, we will proactively train our students to be respectful, collaborative, compassionate, interdependent, and just. **Above all, we want them to live out their faith authentically in all situations.**

**THANK YOU!** to MCS parents



**for organizing a fantastic Fall event!**

## A SALUTE TO VETERANS

11/11/11

*Sponsored by Rancho  
Mission Viejo*

Grandparents and veterans are warmly invited to attend this unique annual event that both honors military veterans as well as welcomes all MCS grandparents. The festivities include a red, white, and blue grandparent reception which precedes an all-school program with music, student reading(s), history teaching, and comments from extraordinary veteran guest speaker(s).

This year will feature a distinguished panel including **Walter Drake**, Lt. Col., Ret., Air Corps, WWII Pilot on D-Day; **Beate Wilder-Smith**, author of *The Day That Nazi Germany Died*; **Jack R. Hammett**, WWII Combat Veteran, Pearl Harbor Survivor and former Mayor of Costa Mesa; and **Don Christianson**, US Navy, WWII.

.....  
*“I look forward to this event every year. It is by far the best Veterans Day event I’ve ever attended.”*

*Dr. Ben Friedman, MCS supporter*  
.....



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT ON JACK MCBEAN

*How a Foundation in Christ Keeps Him Strong*

*“There are two ways of living: You can live for yourself and this world, its glory and praise; or, you can always thank God for your life, be humble before Him as your Creator and ultimate Father, giving Him the praise, honor, and glory for your life. I will strive to do the latter, no matter where I am or where I go in my life.”*

*Jack McBean, MCS Alumni Class of '09, LA Galaxy - #32 Forward*

Two years ago, Jack McBean was an 8th grade student at MCS, studying his heart out and exploring his gifts and talents the way many current MCS students are doing. Today he is a forward for Los Angeles Galaxy in Major League Soccer, the youngest player to have signed for the club in its history.

Jack practices with the first team, improving his skills as much as he can, and currently plays in Galaxy Academy and Reserve games; he is also completing his high school course work after practice, meeting with his teachers – he is on schedule to graduate with his peers.

While athletic success is certainly something to applaud, character and integrity are even more significant.



*THEN - During Jack's elementary years at MCS*

For Jack, personal character both on and off the field is just as important as skill and ability. Athletically he works hard to improve his skills and fitness every day – he aims to steer clear of focus on the negatives. When looking back on his years at MCS, Jack recalls learning that a person's actions confirm character. He says, “Doing the right thing, whether someone is watching me or not, is going to make a difference in my character.”

MCS is proud of Jack and all Alumni who represent Christ with excellence in all they do.



*NOW - Professional athlete for LA Galaxy*

## 3RD ANNUAL FALL GOLF CLASSIC JUST GOT BIGGER AND BETTER

*Newport Beach Country Club  
November 14*



Attention ladies and gentlemen! This year, to help raise vital funds for MCS student scholarships, the golf tournament will feature some exciting changes, including a **breakfast with inspirational guest speaker Chris Rix**, a national football analyst for FOX Sports and active leader for Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

In addition, a **special ladies luncheon has been added**, featuring guest speaker Milan Yerkovich, author of “How We Love” – not only a benefit for current MCS Moms, but also an excellent outreach opportunity to invite neighbors and friends. Seating is limited so be sure to sign up promptly.

**Visit [www.marinerschristian-school.com](http://www.marinerschristian-school.com) to register.**

# NEW LEADERSHIP

Two New Administrators with a Commitment to Excellence



**Vice Principal Jim Christensen** comes to MCS with a wealth of public and private educational experience, including 30+ years as an administrator, teacher, counselor, and coach. In his new role as Vice Principal, Jim has primary oversight for the discipline and character development of students in grades junior kindergarten through eighth to ensure a safe and Christ-like environment. *His passion is to disciple young people to know Christ and follow His plans for their lives.*



**Academic Affairs Director Sheri McDonald** is stepping in to oversee the instructional program, including curriculum, teacher development, and academic standards, to ensure a high degree of learning for all students. Her background includes 21 years in public education as a principal, teacher, and programs coordinator, including working with the Orange County Department of Education for special needs and GATE students, as well as evaluation and support of classroom teachers. *Her passion is to enable students to achieve their full God-given academic potential.*

# SPIRITUAL PARENTING

As part of MCS’s effort to “partner with parents” in the training up of young disciples for Christ, MCS has launched a six-week Bible study entitled “Spiritual Parenting,” based on Dr. Michelle Anthony’s book. Parents have the privilege and awesome responsibility of raising up their children “in the way they should go,” and Mariners Christian School is committed to doing its part to encourage and equip them in their roles.

A primary theme of the book is the idea that Jesus is not merely looking for good behavior; He wants hearts that are shaped in vibrant faith and love towards Himself and others.

*Our vision is to grow MCS’s parenting program and create a strong community of believers who are raising a generation that ‘knows God’s voice, desires to obey Him, and does so in the power of the Holy Spirit.*

# NEW FACULTY

One of the hallmarks of Mariners Christian School is its outstanding faculty and staff. Each one is not only tremendously skilled professionally, but also called by God to serve and invest their talents into the mission of “building a firm foundation through Christ-centered education.” In addition to the faculty featured below, MCS enthusiastically welcomes the following new staff members: Kathleen Carpenter (Receptionist), Whitney Rodriguez (Aide), and Jessica Setter (ASP Aide).



Lisa Schmitke  
5th Grade Teacher



Justina Erre (R),  
Math Teacher



Nicole Kording  
Drama Teacher



James Rensink  
Worship Leader

## CHECK OUT THE NEW MCS BLOG!

MCS family and friends – the new blog is here! Want to read up on the inside scoop? Visit [www.marinerschristianschoolblog.com](http://www.marinerschristianschoolblog.com) regularly to be “in the know” regarding school news, teacher perspectives, athletic updates, and alumni achievements. The blog is designed to provide news and views that matter to the MCS community.

**MARINERS** | **BLOG**  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL | WELCOME  
BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION THROUGH CHRIST-CENTERED EDUCATION

*“Thanks for telling us about the blog - what a great way to keep up with activities! We’re always interested, and so amazed and proud of all you accomplish with the kids at school!”*

*Marilynn Harmon, MCS Grandparent*

## NEW FACES ON CAMPUS

This year MCS welcomed 135 new students, more than any prior year. It is a joy to enfold these new young people into the MCS Family – many are beginning in kindergarten, but many are also joining in later elementary and middle school years.

*MCS enrollment is at an all-time high, underscoring the fact that more Orange County families than ever desire an exemplary Christian education for their children.*

Our diverse student body now represents over 40 churches, 6+ ethnicities, and 23 cities, from as far north

as Long Beach to as far south as San Clemente. Each student brings his own God-given gifts and abilities into the classroom, adding to the overall experience for everyone.

