Testing is a part of life in schools today and we are beginning to get busy! In the month of October there was the PSAT (or Pre-SAT) Test for juniors. It was not required but the test helped many students practice and get ready for other tests. November brings the Explore and Plan Tests and an ACT Practice Test. There will also be Discovery Assessment Tests from November 27th-30th.

While we are in school we take many different types of tests from multiple choice, true or false, online, open book, short answer, fill in the blank, matching, and essay questions to the dreaded high-stakes standardized tests. Before you take any kind of test it is helpful to look at some hints to make the task easier. While taking a multiple choice test it is best to answer and read all of the questions, and eliminate all of the answer choices you know are wrong. For a true or false test you should read every question carefully and check for numbers, facts, and dates. If you are taking an open book test it is best to organize your notes and materials that you would use on the test before you go to take the test. This will make it a lot easier for you. When dealing with short answers look for

(Continued on page 6)

Sophomore House Completes Community Service Activity
By Sparkle Burns, Staff Writer

On Thursday October 4th, Mrs. Wooding-Smith’s house went to the Memphis Children’s Museum for a community service project. The students and Mrs. Wooding-Smith decided to do their community service project at the Museum because Middle College already had an established relationship with them.

The students were assigned to different parts of the museum by Director of Volunteer Services, Brad Laney. The student volunteers worked in exhibits such as the grocery store, Orpheum, FedEx, dentist’s office and tree house. They helped the children who came to the museum that day with in the planned activities. Sophomore Kayla Harper stated that she had a wonderful time working with the year.
**MCHS 5K Brings Food and Fun**

By Nicholas Richard

On Saturday October 27th students and family of Middle College woke up early for the annual 5k walk. Once again the event was held at Overton Park. The walk was pleasing even though it was too early to get up in the morning and it was cold. Still, it was a great way to meet graduates, friends and family.

Despite the chill, there were a great number of supporters. The walk lasted for hour or two. The walk was long but it was worth it to see old friends. Coach Brown always puts a lot of time and energy in the walk and we look forward to the event again next year.

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**Thanksgiving Food Drive**

By Akeem Wiley, Staff Writer

The Middle College Student Council will once again make Thanksgiving baskets for needy families. This is a school tradition and your help is needed.

Mrs. Graybeal asks that students and teachers donate non-perishable food items such as dried beans, peanut butter, rice and canned goods. Instant mashed potatoes and cornbread stuffing are also needed.

Teachers will have collection boxes in their classrooms.

You can also make donations to help buy turkeys to put in the baskets. This will be a competition in house.

Thanksgiving is a time to be thankful for what we have but it is also a time to give to those in need. Please give what you can to make a better holiday for someone.

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**Check This Out!**

By Kristin Glover and Jessica Tuggle, Staff Writers

This month we focus on the hidden talents of three freshmen. Mari Andrews first showed us her talents on the school camping trip to Shelby Forest. Mari was born August 28, 1998 and she started singing when she was only two years old. She sings almost everywhere. When asked, she said that she sings to “express how I feel and to let out anger.” She said she sings, “whenever I get a chance.” She sings all kinds of songs, but she does not sing country. She wants everyone to know that she loves to sing to people and exaggerate things when she sings.

Malachi O’Kelly also showcased his talents at Shelby Forest. He was born on July 14th 1998. He started stepping when he was in the 6th grade. He steps at home and at church because he enjoys it. Malachi says that he steps everyday. In addition to his dancing talents, Malachi also sings and draws.

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**Words of the Week Build Vocabulary Skills**

By Ellis Rich, Staff Writer

Do you listen to the morning and afternoon announcements? If not, you should listen up. Every week there is a new word of the week. These words were chosen to help build our vocabulary as we get closer to the ACT and other formative assessments.

The ACT is full of words that many of us don’t know. Building our vocabulary with new terms will help us improve not only the English and reading sections of the test but the science reasoning as well.

In elementary school, we had spelling and vocabulary tests every week. Now that we only get our new vocabulary from reading in class, we have to work a little bit harder to understand these words. Every little bit can help move us closer to a higher ACT score, dual enrollment classes and college acceptance. Knowledge is power!

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**Dinner and Death on Deck**

By John Leflore, Staff Writer

What happens when a well-respected member of the theatre community dies in her dinner? You get Dinner at Eight, Dead by Nine, a “whodunit” comedy mystery dinner theatre. The Middle College Drama Club and Thespian society will present this play by Michael Druce on Friday November 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Tickets are $12 and include a delicious dinner of salad, spaghetti with meat sauce, green beans, bread and dessert.

The cast features Noah Ploderer as playwright and producer Nick, Ellis Rich as Police Inspector Bungler, Ivy Blackmon as Eleanor Van Heusen, guest of honor, Wynter Haley Scott as her personal assistant, Maggie, and William Thornton-Leonard as Dr. Heinrich Rank. Jarvis Sumlin and Mallory Nolen play newlyweds Desmond and Hadley Kennedy and Tina Gregory and Marvin Wilkins as young sweethearts Darby and Tommy. The cast also features Ivy Blackmon as the mysterious Nora Dumond and Kaamilya Pleas as Chef Ramona. William Douglas, Malachi O’Kelley and other members of the Drama Club and Thespian society will serve as the wait staff for the evening.

Because this is a catered meal, you have to buy tickets in advance. You can purchase a ticket from cast members or from Mrs. Wood-Bowien. Please purchase your tickets now to see this all star-cast perform an amazing and mysterious play on this frightening Friday night!

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(Continued on page 7)
October 24th was a great day for one of our newest elective classes at MCHS. Under the direction of Mrs. Michelle Johnson, the new Middle College orchestra students gave their first public performance. The performance orchestra from Whitehaven High School was our special guest for this performance. In front of family and friends, the students played three songs, Beethoven’s Ode to Joy, Lightly Row, and French Folk Song.

Photos courtesy of Alice Thompson

Awareness for What?

By Victoria Carpenter, Staff Writer

Have you ever wondered what all these colored ribbons are or why we have a different “awareness month” almost every month? There are many worthy causes that like to bring attention and creating a slogan or ribbon is a good way to get people thinking about things. Everyone knows that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month thanks to the Think Pink campaign and the Race for the Cure. But, there are many other worthy organizations that want you to recognize their efforts as well.

In November, we recognize Alzheimer’s Disease, Diabetes, Lung Cancer, Pancreatic Cancer, and Epilepsy Awareness. But things other than diseases need to be recognized too. Did you know that November is also set aside to acknowledge Prematurity, Adoption, Family Caregivers, Healthy Skin, American Indians and Alaskan Native Heritage and Non-Profit Organizations? It is also National Runaway Prevention Month.

While all of these are worthy causes, the trend to name a month for anything can be a bit ridiculous. A group put out a press release claiming that July is National Tickling Month. Some silly things just happen for a day, like “Talk Like A Pirate Day” on September 19th. This day started as a joke between two friends that was picked up by a nationally syndicated newspaper columnist. It has now gone international. That just goes to show that awareness does work.

Remember that raising awareness is more than donating a dollar or wearing a ribbon. It is about educating yourself about the topic. You have to look beyond the slogan and learn more about the cause. Wearing a pink t-shirt won’t cure breast cancer but it might make someone you love remember to get a mammogram and save their life.

Upcoming House Events:

November 1
Clubs and Class Meetings
November 8
Community Service Activities
November 15
Head Start Sessions
November 29
Intramurals
Getting to Know Coach Adams
By Sparkle Burns, Staff Writer

As a new feature of The Bark, we will interview a staff member every month to get to know them a little better. Our first interview is with Coach Nicholas Adams.

Coach Adams is from Memphis. He graduated from Fairley High School. As a high school student he says that he was, "mature for his age." He was a member of Men of Distinction, Jobs for Tennessee Graduates, and played for the varsity basketball team. He knew that he wanted to become history teacher when he took a modern history class from the football coach.

After graduating from Fairley, he attended Paul Quinn College to pursue education. He chose this school because he was allowed to double major. He also wanted to attend an HBCU (historically black college or university).

Coach Adams began teaching at Middle College. He says he had never heard of the school until someone told him about it. He was interested, applied, was hired and the rest is history.

Outside of school, he reads action novels and is learning to play the guitar. He is also learning to mix music.

(Continued on page 8)

Support the Bulldogs and Lady Bulldogs as they take on the Carver Cobras on November 26th and come home to face the Fairley High Bulldogs on November 30th.

What’s Going on in Clubs?
By Devin Craft and Imhotep Kyser, Staff Writers

When we meet as clubs during house, everyone is always in their own club. Do you have any idea what other clubs are doing that you might want to be a part of? Here are a few things that might interest you.

The Music Club will perform every other Thursday during lunch in the cafeteria, Sponsors Coach Adams and Mr. Jackson hope that these performances will help to showcase some of our hidden musical talents. Look for flyers for upcoming show dates.

The Pep Club will sell hoodies to promote school spirit. You must pay in advance. The cost is $31 and is due by November 15th. The front feature a bulldog with boxing gloves saying “Put Them Paws on ‘Em.” The back says “Rough ‘Em Up” and features the names of everyone in the Pep Club. If you want to join, all you need to do is buy a hoodie and have your name added to the list. See Mrs. Mooney for details.

El Especto Feroz Modeling society is planning another fashion show for December. This time the theme will be “The North Pole” and

(Continued on page 8)

“Take advantage of every opportunity that allows you to better yourself”

Looking for the answer to the hidden talent? You found it! The artist is Auston Hardy

Book Review
By Librarian Alice Thompson, Special to The Bark

Could it really happen? Could a father maintain two families who live around the corner from the other?

Set in a middle-class neighborhood in Atlanta in the 1980’s, the novel revolves around James Witherspoon and his two families—the public one and the secret one. When the daughters from each family meet and form a friendship, only one of them knows they are sisters. It is a relationship destined to explode when secrets are revealed and illusions shattered. As Jones explores the back stories of her rich yet flawed characters—the father, the two mothers, the grandmother, and the uncle—she also reveals the joy, as well as the destruction, they brought to one another’s lives.

This is a book full of suspense, humor and tears. It will hold your attention until the very last page. Check it out in the library. We have two copies.

Read On! Read On!

“Take advantage of every opportunity that allows you to better yourself”

Looking for the answer to the hidden talent? You found it! The artist is Auston Hardy

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(Continued on page 8)
The show was intense off the runway as well. The backstage area could easily be described as a “train wreck on heels.” Everywhere you looked you saw pieces of colored hair, clothes, shoes, makeup and cans of hairspray. The room smelled like a cross between a pageant and a beauty shop. But the mess stayed behind the scenes as all went well on stage.

The fashion show would not have taken place without Ms. Crooks, the club sponsor. Special recognition should also be given to the hard-working models: Tayla Middleton, Delmonne Ward, Kelsey Bonds, Olivia Harris, Homer Jones, Monica Jones, Malachi O’Kelley, Terrolyn Owens, Noah Ploderer, Kendria Lobbins, Wynter Haley Scott, Clara Swearingen, Alexis White, and Marvin Wilkins. These students went through a lot to look so frighteningly fierce.

Happy Birthday Bulldogs!

November 2  
Joseph Jameson

November 6  
Brieonna Hall

November 9  
Rebecca Johnson  
Corey Mays

November 11  
Calvin Houston

November 13  
Marneka Oliver

November 14  
Mrs. Glenda Burton

November 17  
Mia Jamison

November 18  
Kyle Cardwell

November 26  
Keyla Mejia

November 27  
Laritta Daniel

November 28  
Monterrious Bledsoe  
Tierra Holt  
Brandon Lawton

Guess who?—Student Edition

These three adorable toddlers are now beautiful bulldogs. Do you know who they are? The answer can be found on page
Testing Tips for Testing Season

“Testing Tips for Testing Season” (Continued from page 1)

key words and facts. When taking an essay test it is good to outline what you think and make sure that you have an attention grabber, 3 main points to talk about, correct grammar usage and of course legible handwriting.

There are different ways to study for a test too. You can study independently or with a friend, parent, or even in a study group. If you choose to work in a study group you can compare each other’s notes, test one another, and teach each other. However, when choosing a study group you may want to pick someone who is dedicated to studying with you.

“How can I study for a test if I don’t have good study habits?” I’m glad you asked. To study for a test you can do daily, weekly, and major reviews by yourself to see where you stand. You should view your notes from class daily and touch on the lessons you learned. You should review every subject at least twice a week for an hour. Major reviews are important because they come right before the test. This is the final and critical study time. This means that there will be longer review times. You can also create flash cards by writing the questions on one side and the answers on the other side and use them at any time especially when you are on the go. Old tests are also good to help you plan and review. For high-stakes standardized tests you should take as many practice tests as you can possibly can.

Many people ask, “how can I let go of test anxiety?” First, tell yourself to STOP! Know that you are not going to let your thoughts control your mind and what you really want. It sometimes helps to describe these thoughts in writing.

Do not beat yourself up over a test. Instead, praise yourself. Tell yourself that you can do it and you can and will pass. Consider the worst thing that could happen. Think of everything bad that could happen from failing the test and think of what bad things can come from failing. Keep this up until you have thought of the worst of the worst and then just laugh about it, thinking how silly you sound.

Another good thing to do is to breathe in and out for 2 to 3 minutes. This can calm you down and keep you focused on what your main goal is.

Use these test tips to help you with your next test whether it is for class or the ACT. You never know, you may do better than you anticipated doing. Always remember that if you really learn from your mistakes, that “F” you received stands for feedback, not failure.

UPCOMING TEST DATES:

NOVEMBER 8th
PLAN - 10th Grade

ASVAB - Selected Juniors & Seniors

NOVEMBER 14th
Practice ACT - Juniors

NOVEMBER 27-30
Discovery Assessment Tests
- Biology
- English 1, 11, 111
- Algebra 1
- US History

Bulldogs are Ready to Hoop

By Jordan Smith, Staff Writer

The Middle College boy’s basketball team is looking forward to a better year than its last one. After finishing last year with just four wins, the school and the team are expecting a huge change.

How will the Bulldogs prove themselves this year? We will find out on November 26th. The 2012-2013 season opener has the Bulldogs squaring off against the Carver High School Cobras. The Bulldogs were defeated twice by the Cobras last year but the team is leaving all that behind.

Middle College is expecting to cap off this year with more wins than losses and maybe even a playoff appearance. The best way you can support the team is with your presence at all our home games. Coached by Mr. Nicholas Adams, this year the bulldog roster includes several new players including Terian Brown, Mario Roach, Ashton Hardy, Eric Barton, Marvin Wilkins, Kalon Jones, Keith Dennis, Kyle Moten and Calvin Jamison. Jordan Brown, Jerien Glass, Jordan Smith, Aaron Avant, Emilio Walls, Justin Nichols, Darryhl Naylor, Sammy Johnson, Tychicus Jones, Chevez Williams and Brandon Booker are also returning to the team.
Cheer Roster Announced
By Tyfani Stubbs, Staff Writer

After a long try out process, we are ready to introduce the outstanding members of the 2012-2013 Bulldog Cheer Squad. Our sassy seniors are Dramia Chalmers, Victoria Carpenter, Lonniqua Hart, Cenisha Hines, La’Kayla Morgan, Kaamilya Pleas, and Terrolyn Owens. Our courageous juniors are Antonio Couch, Kristin Glover, Aviance Murphy, and Tyfani Stubbs. Our super sophomores are Corteria Banks, Kirsten Brown, Victoria Franklin, and Ayanna Hill. Our only, but most spirited freshman is Mallory Nolen. Our amazing new sponsor is Mrs. Belinda Martre, and our lovely captain is Kaamilya Pleas and co-captains are Terrolyn Owens and Aviance Murphy.

The team has been practicing together for about a month now and we can not wait for basketball season to kick off. In addition to cheering at all the home and away games, the cheer squad will also compete locally. We would very much appreciate your support at these competitions as well.

Students see the Complete Works of William Shakespeare in one outing!
By Lakayla Morgan, Staff Writer

Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Wood-Bowien recently took 30 students to Poplar Pike Playhouse to see the Complete Works of William Shakespeare, Abridged. The play wasn’t exactly the complete works. Instead it was a funny look at all of Shakespeare’s plays in mash-up form. The show was extremely hilarious and was a great experience for the students.

The play was presented by the Tennessee Shakespeare Company. Mrs. Wood-Bowien has taken students to see their plays before but this was the first modern they have performed for us. It was entertaining to see three actors play many famous characters. They even performed plays like Hamlet backwards. It was a very spontaneous show that was enjoyed by Middle College and the entire audience.

If you get a chance to see another play by the Tennessee Shakespeare Company, I highly recommend it!

Date Set for College and Career Day
By Imhotep Kyser, Staff Writer

Middle College and Fairview Middle School will host another college and career day on Friday November 16 in the Gym. The event will last from 8:00 am until noon. Mrs. Mary Hall, guidance counselor, says that this year’s fair will focus on career clusters like business administration, information technology, technology and communications, law and finance. There will also be information on cosmetology, and protective services like the Memphis Police and Fire Departments. Fed-Ex and Best Buy will also be on hand.

This is the second year that MCHS and Fairview have worked together on the event. Mark your calendars and start formulating questions now.

Check This Out!
(Continued from page 2)

Our final hidden talent comes from someone slightly mysterious. He wanted to show his talent but he didn’t want to give you his name. He shares his last name with another MCHS student, he is in Mr. Jackson’s 5th period class and he “plays a lot.”

The drawing to the left is an example of his work. See if you can discover the secret before everyone else! If you can’t you can still discover the secret hidden on page 4 of this issue.

If you have a special talent that you would like to share, please email The Bark staff at mchsbark@gmail.com.
School Pictures Set for December 6th

By Jordan Smith, Staff Writer

Middle College will take school day photos on Thursday December 6th. Mr. Ray White will be set up in the auditorium and students will be called by their houses to come and take their pictures. Every house is scheduled between 8:30 and 2:45. Because we want this process to run smoothly with one hundred percent participation, students should be alert and come straight to the auditorium when their house is called. All classes, including seniors, will be photographed on the 6th.

This will be an out of uniform day for students. Here are some tips to make your school photo stand out. Plan your outfit in advance. Don’t wake up on the morning of picture day and just grab whatever is clean! Plan a great outfit that matches your skin tone, hair color, eye color and really flatters your shape. Make sure that the pattern on your top isn’t too crazy. If the pattern is slightly too busy, then it will take all of the attention away from your gorgeous face. Solid colors are generally the best choice.

Plan your accessories and hairstyle in advance as well. Seniors will need to keep this in mind because they will also take tuxedo and drape photos. Senior girls should bring a pair of pearl earrings for that photo. A necklace will be provided.

Dual enrollment students will need to work around their CBU class schedule. If you have a CBU during your scheduled photo time, you will need to take your picture as soon as you return to campus. This year, we want all faculty and staff to have great photos too. They can come to the auditorium at any time to take their pictures. Please encourage everyone at Middle College to take their photo on time with their best smile. After all, nobody likes an embarrassing yearbook photo.

Guess Who?—Student Edition


Reap the rewards of being infraction free . . .

More fun things to come!

Coach Adams

(Continued from page 4)

Coach also enjoys home improvement projects. When I asked him, “What would you do if you won a million dollars in the lottery?” he said that he would give back to Paul Quinn College, take care of his family and move overseas. He says that he would no longer teach, but he would invest in education.

Coach Adams says that he would give a piece of advice to his high school self. “Every opportunity you get doesn’t always come twice. Take advantage of every opportunity that allows you to better yourself.”