

Mile High Academy

e-news

August 2009

Over a week of school and our student body is growing!

Highlights in this issue:

- Golf Tournament August 16
- New Playground Dedicated
- Gale & Sheryl Page Honored at Golf Tournament
- New Teachers

Golfers & Sponsor Make it Possible for Students to Attend MHA

80 golfers got up early on Sunday, August 16, to make a difference at Mile High Academy. The *Mile High Academy 7th Annual Golf Classic*, which honored **Gale** and **Sheryl Page** with Frank Diehl as the Tournament Chairman, took place at Raccoon Creek Golf Course.

A huge “thank you” to our Sponsors:

Title Sponsor:

\$7,500

Littleton, Parker, & Porter Adventist Hospitals

Corporate Sponsors:

\$2,000

Concrete Foundations & Flatwork, Inc.

Tecra Tools, Inc.

Team Sponsors:

\$1,000

Todd & Michelle Essex/Kraft Foods

Porter Place Retirement Residence

Western Convenience Stores, Inc.

Goodie Bag Sponsors:

Todd Essex/Kraft Foods

Littleton Adventist Hospital

Parker Adventist Hospital

Porter Adventist Hospital

Golf Committee:

Frank Diehl, Chairman
Jim Blackburn
Cheryl Chiasson
Aaron Fritz
Alan Guyton, Jr.
Mick Kasischke
Gale Page
Karsten Randolph
Stuart Rasco
Karl Weber

Event Volunteers:

Heather Blaire
Pastor John Cress
Shellie Dale
Aaron Fritz
Bonita Gimbel
Jere Gimbel
Jessica Pardo
Annie Schimp

Golf Chairman's Message:

*Welcome to the 7th Annual Mile High Academy Golf Classic. Mile High Academy has been blessed with your continual support for this golf tournament over the years, and I--along with the teachers, staff, and students--offer our most sincere **Thank You!***

MHA has always held a special place in our family. My three siblings graduated from MHA. Although I did not, after returning to Denver, I enjoyed many years and countless hours of coaching at the academy. The administration and staff at the school are working diligently to forge a new path that will lead to a bigger, better, and brighter future for MHA and our community. With the continued support of everyone here today, and so many more that could not make it today, I am certain the goal can be reached. Play well and have fun!

Frank Diehl, Chairman

Thank you to the Golf Committee, golfers, sponsors, and volunteers, for supporting our mission to provide a quality Christ-centered education that empowers young people to excel.

Tournament Winning Teams:

A Flight, 1st Place:

Terry Tautz
Frank Diehl
Michael Miller
Willie Watson

B-1 Flight, 1st Place

Blair Tikker
Jeff Tikker
Calvin Fesler
Brook Fesler

B-1 Flight, 2nd Place

Jim Blackburn
Craig Blackburn
John Linser
Brad Denning

B-2 Flight, 1st Place

Kevin Hake
Greg Branch
Bud Noland
Alan Parks

B-2 Flight, 2ndPlace

Gregg Chiasson
Kyle Chiasson
JR White
Erik Pardo

Co-ed Flight, 1st Place

Gale Page
Kent Page
Greg Hettinger
Kay Coulson

Other Contest Winners

Closest to the pin, women – **Kay Coulson**

Closest to the pin, men - **Jeff Tikker**

Longest drive, women – **Jamie Pickett**

Longest drive, men – **Chris Pickett**

Longest putt – **Mick Kasischke**

Gale & Sheryl Page Honored at Mile High Academy 7th Annual Golf Classic

Gale and Sheryl Page have a long history of supporting Mile High Academy. They have given countless hours of time, given generously financially, and continue to take interest in our mission. They both attended Seventh-day Adventist schools and believing this has made a difference in their lives, they now choose to make a difference in the lives of others as well.

Gale served as Chairman of the *School Operating Board* for several years, was a charter member of the *Development Committee*, and has served on the *Golf Tournament Committee* for the past five years.

Additionally, Gale and his business partner, **John Clemenson**, both of **Concrete Foundations and Flatwork**, which they started in 1976, have supported the golf tournament each year as a corporate sponsor with three teams playing in the event.

Sheryl has shown her support as well, having recently served on the auction committee for MHA.

During his tenure as SOC Board Chairman, Gale led the charge to establish MHA's current *Mission and Vision* as well as updating the drug, tobacco, alcohol, and other *substance abuse policy*.

Significantly, this included the redemptive part of the policy which requires counseling. This policy was updated to allow a student to accept and deal with school imposed consequences, complete the required counseling, and also complete his or her education at MHA if the student so desired.

Gale and Sheryl were actively involved with the school when their kids attended. **(Ryan) Scott Page**, attendee, '96; is employed by **Lockheed Martin** in Slidell, Louisiana, leading the jet engine test team for testing engines for the **Rolls Royce Corporation**.

Jason Page, '99; is an Estimator/Project Manager/Safety Manager for **Concrete Foundations & Flatwork** and lives in Denver.

Abby Page Helm, '01; lives in Columbus, Ohio with her husband **Nathan**, who is completing a residency in Orthodontics at Ohio State University. Future employment possibilities are currently being explored.

It is with deepest admiration and gratitude that this year's MHA Golf Classic is dedicated to Gale and Sheryl Page. Thank you, Gale and Sheryl, for your love for MHA!

A Brand New Playground in Place Thanks to You – Our Generous Donors

Thanks to you—our generous community of donors—a new playground is in place at MHA! A formal dedication with a ribbon cutting took place during the recent back-to-school Ice Cream Social.

In addition to the newly purchased equipment, a gently used play structure was donated by a local children’s center, thanks to a tip from **Julie Collett**, SOC member. A group of volunteers secured that equipment on a cold spring day and it was installed along with the new structure. In total there is about \$55,000 worth of new (& gently used) equipment for our kids to play on.

MHA’s profound appreciation goes to all those who helped fund and install the two playground structures. Included are **Jo & Don Tautz** (who initiated a playground fund), **Eric Brodis**, **Steve Chen**, **Jay & Alisha Eno**, **Todd & Michelle Essex**, **Mark Hainey**, **Gale Page**, **Todd & Cindy Rapp**, **Stuart & Amy Rasco**, and **Kevin & Kelly Waller**.

Thank you again for providing a safe play environment for our kids!

Principal’s Message

One of my greatest joys as principal is to see our students playing together. An image I would like to share with you comes from the first day of school.

Knowing the new playground equipment was ready for students to climb, jump, and yell on; I made sure I was ready. Camera in position, I anticipated the rush of young boys and girls to the new “toy”.

The bell sounded, my heart rate shot up, and I lowered my head to the viewfinder. Without further ado, around the corner came one screaming banshee after another. Bodies at full throttle, I thought a few might take a digger before they even reached the playground. Whew! They made it without injury. Behind the banshees came those with more reserve (the little ladies). Funny how the volume actually went up! Boys and girls threw themselves on the various new pieces of playground equipment. Excitement reigned. Yelling increased. I was riding on cloud nine! MHA. . . MHA. . . MHA!

Greg Kier, New History Teacher

Greg Kier, our new high school history teacher, comes to us from Kelowna, British Columbia and Auburn, Washington. He taught PE for grades 4-10 at Okanagan Adventist Academy as well as some history and math. He graduated from Walla Walla University with a History major and a Film Studies Minor. In addition to

teaching social studies/history Greg is the volleyball coach and a Senior class sponsor.

His work experience includes working for his dad, a sea urchin diver, as a dive tender shoveling urchins into totes. In addition, Greg was a snowboard instructor in high school and spent two summers as an assistant project manager for a construction/condo conversion company.

Outdoors is where Greg spends his spare time, especially at the ocean or in the mountains. You can find him snowboarding, wakeboarding, skimboarding, longboarding, rock climbing, camping, kayaking, hiking, playing frisbee golf, and hiking.

Obviously, sports are a big part of Greg's life, and he enjoys all aspects of sports: playing, coaching, and watching sports. His favorites to play are volleyball, flag-football, floor hockey and baseball. His favorites to watch are ice hockey, soccer and baseball. Other hobbies include photography, travel, reading, watching/studying film (especially films with a historical setting or literary adaptations), and listening to all types of music. Greg also collects soccer jerseys and flags from around the world.

"I love that Denver is so close to the mountains! I also like that there are seasons here! I've been dreaming of the day when I would get out here and enjoy hot summers and snowy winters, unlike the three seasons of rain in the Northwest," said Greg.

Greg states that he is glad to be teaching at MHA "because I think the directions this school is taking is phenomenal. The leadership in this school is proactive, the teachers are dedicated, and their goals are noble and attainable. MHA's focus on Christ, and Christian service, combined with continually setting the bar high in education and sports makes me excited to be a part of MHA."

"I believe that our schools are such a crucial place to bring people to Christ (both our students and the community around us). I believe in my heart that good experiences in SDA academies and good teachers who respect and care for the students on our campuses plant seeds in SDA and non-SDA kids alike. These seeds may sprout right away or may take years and years before these kids come back to the church. But I think by teaching in the SDA system I can reflect Jesus while giving the students the information and tools necessary for succeeding in their lives after high school."

Some interesting tidbits about Greg: he spent a semester in France at the Adventist campus in Collonges sous-Saleve. He enjoys medieval and WW2 history. He has been to 49 states (missing Hawaii). He is a dual-citizen (Canada/USA); hence, he

roots for the Vancouver Canucks and the Colorado Avalanche. Greg is 6th cousin to the late Princess Diana and 7th cousin to Sir Winston Churchill. He loves food with all his heart--his favorites being Chinese, Thai, Sushi, and Mexican.

Carol Robbins, New Preschool Director

Carol Robbins is the new Preschool Director at MHA. She was most recently employed at PorterCares (Porter Adventist Hospital day care center) where she taught the Pre-kindergarten class. Prior to that she taught first grade at Challenges Choices and Images Charter School in Montbello, at I-70 and Peoria. This school was developed specifically for African-American students. She was known there as “Sister Robbins.”

Carol began teaching in the native village of Uqpiagvik, more commonly known as Barrow Alaska, 250 miles north of the Arctic Circle. This is the furthest point north one can go in the United States. She and her family lived there for the majority of 17 years. My two boys grew up riding snow machines and hunting caribou. We camped at 20 below zero when it was goose season, and celebrated whale harvesting with our Inupiat community each spring and fall.

Carol graduated from Southwestern Adventist University in 2003 with a degree in Elementary Education and a minor in Early Childhood Education. This was the same year her oldest son graduated from Barrow High School. I enjoy reading, spinning fibers into yarn, and skin sewing, which is making clothing out of fur.

Carol has been married for over 26 years to her beloved husband Kenneth , who works for an Alaskan Native Regional Corporation called NANA. This enables us to connect with the indigenous peoples of our great Untied States. He currently manages NANA’s Denver office of WH Pacific, an Architectural Engineering firm.

Their oldest son Paul, graduated from Union college with a BS in Physics and is a 2nd Lt. in the Army, working in the field of Military Intelligence. His goal is to work for the FBI. He will be deployed to Iraq at the end of September. He married his college sweetheart in July. Their youngest son David, is a senior at Walla Walla University, majoring in Mechanical Engineering. His usual summer job is working as a commercial fisherman just south of the Aleutian Chain in Alaska. And yes, he has done work with those big ships seen on “Deadliest Catch.”

“I am enjoying the Preschool class at Mile High where we are learning about Jesus, singing language development songs, and encouraging early literacy skills,” said Carol. “I don’t know how anyone could live in Denver and not be enamored with the beautiful mountains that border our city. We live in the foothills and love it. I am excited about being here at MHA where students can be taught the whole truth about the world our Creator has given to us,” she continued.

Lisa Kemper, New Science Teacher

Lisa Kemper, new high school Science teacher, moved to Denver from Killeen, Texas. A graduate of Union College with a degree in Biology Education, and Minor in Religion, she worked in Campus Ministries as the Student Missions Director supporting all the outgoing and current student missionaries and task force workers.

Lisa took a year out during college to go as a Student Missionary to Ebeye, Marshall Islands where she taught high school math and science.

Her hobbies and interests include any kind of sports, especially basketball, and doing anything active outdoors such as hiking, camping, mountain biking, snowboarding, and wakeboarding. She also enjoys photography and scrapbooking.

“I love how there are so many different active things to do in Denver. Downtown is great, but I love how close we are to the mountains, and of course I think that the weather is gorgeous and perfect—not too hot, not too cold, and lots of sunshine!” said Lisa. “I want to be a part of the MHA family because I feel that it is a place that shares the same kind of vision and goals that I have for teaching. I feel that I will be able to make a difference in a positive way with the school and the students and also, I feel MHA is a place where I can continue to grow as well. I feel that young people today need good strong Christian role models. I love the impact that you can have in a student’s life as they grow and develop. Last but not least, I want to be able to give students a good, solid, strong foundation or background in science,” she added.

In addition to teaching science, Lisa will be the JV girls basketball coach and a Freshmen class sponsor.

Do You Shop at Sunflower Market? Purchase Gift Cards From the Junior Class

The junior class is selling Sunflower Market Gift Cards in \$25 and \$50 increments. See any junior or contact the office at 303-744-1069.

Do You Shop at Target? Use Their REDCARD & Help MHA!

We recently received a check from Target—a 1% rebate from parents who used a Target REDCARD (any of Target’s charge cards). Remember, become a regular Target REDCARD shopper, and help Mile High earn a rebate! For more information about how you can help MHA by using a Target REDCARD, call Cheryl at 303-607-4917 or email her at cchiasson@milehighacademy.org.

Online Gift Giving Made Available via PayPal

You may give to MHA online through PayPal. Just go to the PayPal website, click on "send money," and enter the email address gift@milehighacademy.org to complete. You will receive an email acknowledging your gift, and a tax receipt will follow by mail. Thank you in advance for supporting the mission of Mile High Academy.

Calendar Highlights

- 9/9-11 Middle School Outdoor School
- 9/18 Homecoming Football Games
- 9/19 Homecoming
- 9/21-25 PS-12 Week of Prayer

Blessings,

Cheryl Chiasson

Alumni /Development Director

Mile High Academy

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