

Martin Luther School Messenger

December 2022



As December brings in the cold weather, we are coming together as a school community to stay warm. Our students will gather around our fireplace to participate in a winter community read, where staff will share their favorite winter book with students. We also hold upper and lower school gatherings; at these events, we honor our students for their hard work in their classes and celebrate our school dance troupe. We'll even brave the cold to see our students on wheels at the Philly SkatePlex. We are thankful that your student is a member of our community - our holiday season is brighter because of each and every one of them.

Declan French, Curriculum Supervisor

Happy Holidays!

Important Dates To Remember

Winter Spirit Week

12/20 - Wear your cozy PJs

12/21 - Wear winter white and blue

12/21 - Lower School SkatePlex field trip

12/22 - Wear your warmest hat and gloves

12/22 - Upper School SkatePlex field trip

12/23 - 1/2 Winter Break

Staff Spotlight



Meet Danielle Beldham

Experiences, both traumatic and joyful, shape a person, and I have had a lot of unusual experiences in my life. I met my husband during an exchange program in Australia. We have lived in Australia, New Zealand, New York, and Central Pennsylvania, but we have been in Northampton PA for the last twenty-five years. To be closer to family. We have three adult children. Our son runs a law firm and works in Philadelphia, while our youngest daughter attends the University of Pittsburgh. I have worked many interesting jobs, including being an office manager/ship assistant in a software manufacturing shop, a design good mother, and a part-time supervisor. Most recently, I have worked in education for over twenty-five years.

How long have you been at MLS?

I have been at MLS since 2011. First as an ELA teacher, then as a Science and Social Studies teacher, and now as a Math teacher. Eventually, I became a Reading Specialist and moved to the Reading Department.

How long have you been a Reading Specialist?

I completed my Master's Degree in 2020 and then passed the exam shortly afterward to become a Reading Specialist.

This month's Staff Spotlight is on one of our dynamic Reading Specialist, Danielle Beldham. Check out our interview with in the link below. Maybe you will

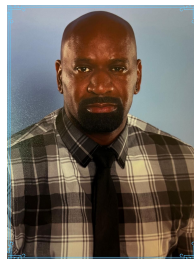


learn something new or discover things you have in common.

Check out the interview here!

Welcome to Our Newest Deans

Alvin Swindle



Alvin Swindle is an experienced and compassionate behavioral health leader with more than 25 years of experience in the field. Arriving in 1997, Mr. Swindle began his career with Martin Luther School as a support staff and has recently held many positions with Martin Luther School as a Student Advisor. Mr. Swindle is a certified Safety Crisis Management (SCM) Trainer specializing in de-escalation and behavior management strategies. Mr. Swindle is committed to providing leadership, growth opportunities, and transformational experiences to the school community.

Kareem Williams



Kareem Williams came to MLS in 1996 and has been a steadfast colleague and student mentor for almost thirty years. In 1998 he moved to the classroom as a teaching assistant. This allowed Mr. Williams to be more active in the educational process. Mr. Williams remained in this role until he became a student advisor in 2019. As a student advisor, he was instrumental in helping the 8th grade to provide a very productive educational environment. Williams looks forward to keeping positive relationships with students and staff, as he has done for many years at MLS. He will focus on success on the theme of growth as an easy road the school community can travel together.



Student Reflection

This trimester, our 5th-grade students took a deep dive into indigenous cultures during their social studies unit. Students analyzed maps highlighting the locations of the first Native American tribes in the United States. Our students also learned about the first people of the northwest, southwest, and east. Students focused on living conditions, traditions, and the overall culture of these tribes. Students created a project showing their understanding of Woodland Tribe Shelters and displayed it in the Hess front lobby!

Artist in Residence

We are thrilled to have Mr. Brian Bowens, aka BBSketch, join our staff for a few weeks to provide our students with an arts special titled "I am a Symbol of Hope".

You may have seen his work on an outdoor wall in the Tri-county area or even on the feet of a few notable athletes. Brian is a leading Illustrator and Designer who has built his reputation on an authentic love for sports and a brilliant eye. His visual approach is energetic, emotional, and dynamic. He brings athletes and stories to life through a recognizable style that builds on existing connections fans and enthusiasts have with their favorite athletes. He is sought after by many leagues, sports teams, brands, and players and can apply his artistic gifting to any arena.



[To learn more visit his website here](#)

What's Happening in the Curriculum Department



In the month of December, our ELA classes turn the page on reading and focus on becoming writers. This doesn't mean the reading stops, but our reading work shifts to studying what makes a piece of writing go. Our students will become authors of poems, essays, and short

stories, while they find their own voice. They will learn about these modes of writing by studying experts of each genre - Maya Angelou, Marta Salinas, and George Ella Lyon, among many others. They will write about countries around the world, convince local leaders of what is right and wrong, and tell what makes them who they are. We are excited for our students to find their voice and share it with the world.

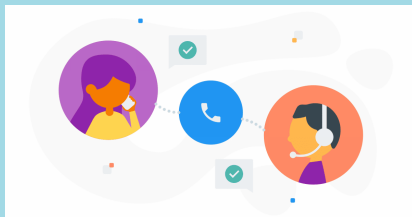
Health and Safety Corner

Sleep is Academic!!!

Students should get the proper amount of



sleep at night to help them stay focused, improve concentration, and improve academic and behavioral performance. Students who do not get enough sleep have a higher risk for many health problems, including obesity, type 2 diabetes, poor mental health, and injuries. Below are two CDC guides as to how much sleep your student(s) should get each night, along with tips for a good night's sleep. To learn more information on good sleep habits, please visit www.cdc.gov/sleep.



One Call Now Text Alert System

We are excited to announce that Martin Luther School will be adding a text messaging feature to our One Call System of notifications. If you would like to receive text message alerts from MLS, please be sure we have your cell phone number.

To opt in to the One Call Messaging System please text the word ALERT to 22300. This text messaging system is optional. If you have any questions or did not receive a call on Friday, 12/9/22 from the One Call Now system, please contact Lisa Hand 610-825-4440 ext. 3403 or email at lhand@martinlutherschool.org.



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