



MASS ACADEMY MATTERS

NEWS FROM THE MASS ACADEMY OF MATH AND SCIENCE

Briarwood a big success!

On Wednesday August 31st, the sun was shining and the class of 2013 pulled out of Gateway Park bright and early for their 3 day excursion to Briarwood. Based on the follow-up survey conducted by Mr. Barney, as well as discussions with the faculty, the Briarwood trip continues to be an excellent way to start the year, and specifically, the best way for students to bond as a class. Here are a few comments from students as well as a few statistics from the survey.

“The time spent at Briarwood was Amazing! No other word can describe all the things we did and accomplish in just three days. I never knew I can learn about someone as fast as I did and if I could do it again i absolutely would. Thanks MAMS for the awesome time.”

“I loved Briarwood; I was able to see my friends and faculty in a new light and it opened my eyes to how wonderful they are!”

“One of the best parts about Briarwood was getting to know different people. I had so much fun staying up late with the girls in my cabin, just talking and laughing. All of the activities were very fun as well. Kayaking was both relaxing and strenuous, fishing was fun and adventurous, swimming was refreshing, and ultimate frisbee was very competitive (or at least I thought so). The marine research and STEM mapping was enjoyable and informative. This experience has really made me more social and willing to talk to new people that I do not know.”



BRIARWOOD AUG 31-SEPT 2



ELECTIVES RUNNING TERM A
ROBOTICS, MOCK TRIAL, DRAWING, STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING, WIND ENERGY

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS RUNNING (SO FAR)
MATH TEAM, SPEECH AND DEBATE, MOCK TRIAL, FIRST ROBOTICS, GSA, STUDENT GOVERNMENT

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift.
— Steve Prefontaine



“FIRSTS’ AT BRIARWOOD
 FIRST TIME FISHING=11
 FIRST TIME KAYAKING=10
 CAUGHT FIRST FISH=3
 TOASTED FIRST MARSHMALLOW=1



DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

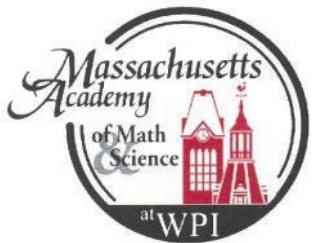
STEM: At Briarwood the juniors worked on identifying and “mapping” possible research and engineering projects, as part of the STEM course that culminates in the Academy science fair in February. In the next couple of weeks, juniors will begin meeting with their STEM advisors and mentors to refine their project ideas, and they have started to use the vast electronic resources available to all Academy students through the WPI library.

STW: Juniors are working on scientific writing styles, word choice, parallel construction, and common writing problems (including a review for the upcoming PSATs). Next week they will begin research for a paper on a pseudoscience of their choice (anything from Big Foot to crystal therapy) in light of Occam’s razor, the law of parsimony in crafting scientific theories.

REMINDER TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS
 PLEASE READ THE HANDBOOK POLICIES AND PROCEDURES CONCERNING DISMISSALS. WE ASK THAT YOU SCHEDULE APPOINTMENTS ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS WHENEVER POSSIBLE. IF IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO MISS SCHOOL TIME, WE NEED ADVANCE WRITTEN NOTICE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- TUE SEP 13 PSG (PARENT SUPPORT GROUP) FIRST MEETING 5:00 P.M. BRICKYARD
- FRI SEP 16 FIRST DANCE 7-10 PM BRICKYARD
- SAT SEP 17 PARENTS’ ACADEMY 8:15 AM -12:00 NOON
- MON SEP 19 STUDENT ELECTIONS



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COLLEGE VISITS

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| TUES SEP 13 | B.U. | 9:00 AM |
| | W.P.I. | 1:00 PM |
| WED SEP 14 | SKIDMORE | 9:30 AM |
| MON SEP 19 | VANDERBILT | 9:00 AM |
| | NORTHEASTERN | 10:00 AM |
| TUE SEP 20 | SWARTHMORE | 8:30 AM |
| WED SEP 21 | WASHINGTON U | |
| | ST/LOUIS | 8:00 AM |
| THU SEP 22 | CLARKSON | 9:00 AM |