

BIRMINGHAM CITY
SCHOOLS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Hispanic Heritage 1
Month

The Gold Cadillac 1
lac

MGMS Football 1
Schedule

MGMS Girls' Vol- 2
leyball Team

MGMS Cheer- 2
leaders

Exploratory 2

Upcoming Events

Parent Seminars	Oct. 4
College/ University Day	Oct. 25
Spotlight on Science	Oct. 25
Teacher Workday	Oct. 26
Parent Involvement Day	Oct. 30

Martha Gaskins Mission Statement

The mission of Martha Gaskins Middle School is to provide a learning environment in which students are motivated both academically and socially to become model citizens prepared to compete in a global community.

The Titan Times

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

SEPTEMBER 2012

Hispanic Heritage Month

By Alex Honorato, Lorenzo Cardenas, Johana Villavicencio, and Alicia Morales

"Mexican heritage is one of the many cultures of the world," stated Alex Honorato. "Mexican heritage has many different traditions. We celebrate many American holidays such as Christmas and 4th of July, but we also have Mexican holidays such as The Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe."

Lorenzo Cardenas described the type of celebrations that take place on The Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. "In Mexico, some people make tamales and posole, which is a type of soup. Many people make decorations for



Hitting a piñata is popular at Hispanic celebrations.

their houses and even their cars. The person who has the best decorated car gets to lead all the others in the parade for the festival. There are also lots of piñatas for everyone!"

"Piñatas are containers made of papier mache and filled with

candy," Johana Villavicencio explained. "For birthdays and parties, we make piñatas; then we cover our eyes with a blindfold and hit the piñata with a stick to break it open and get the candy that's inside."

"My favorite Hispanic traditions are cooking with my family," Alicia Morales expressed. "My grandma and I cook enchiladas, chile rellenos, tostadas, and sopa, which is soup. We also have a wonderful time as a family when we have holidays. I love to get dressed up in fancy clothes and celebrate with my family. That is why I love Mexican traditions."

The Gold Cadillac

by Johnathan White

In Ms. Washington's reading class, we read the book *The Gold Cadillac* by Mildred Taylor. The story is about a father who buys a gold Cadillac for his family. The mother is not happy about the new car though because the father used the money they were saving for a new house to buy it. However, the father's two daughters, Wilma and Lois, are very excited to have such a beautiful, shiny new car.

It isn't until the family

decides to drive from Ohio to Mississippi that the father realizes what kind of trouble the car creates for him and his family. On the road to Mississippi, they get pulled over by a white policeman who accuses the father of stealing the car. When he is arrested and put in jail, it's up to his family to pull together and get out of a dangerous situation in one piece. I highly recommend reading this book to find out what happens.

Martha Gaskins Football Schedule

Come out and support our "Tenacious Titans" as they compete on the football field!

Mon., Sept. 17 - Phillips - 5:00

Mon., Sept. 24 - Smith - 6:30

Tues., Oct. 2 - Hudson - 5:00

Tues., Oct. 9 - Inglenook - 5:00

Mon., Oct. 15 - Christian - 6:30

Mon., Oct. 22 - Ossie Ware - 5:00

Martha Gaskins Girls' Volleyball Wins Against Arrington

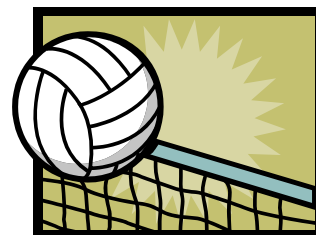
By **Tori Tookes and Imari Anderson**

"When we won I was so happy, I didn't know what to do!" Tori Tookes stated, excitedly. "We worked well as a team. That day, I was proud of my girls. When we got to the game, I was nervous. I thought we were going to lose, but when we got in the game I don't know what came over us! I love my team, and I hope that next year we're even better!"

Imari Anderson shared her enthusiasm about the game. "When we first won our game against Arrington, I was so happy that my heart dropped! I felt as if we worked as a team, and we got the job done. All of us had team spirit and told the other team, 'Better luck next time.'"

"I feel that we won because it's important to play hard and smart," Imari

went on to say. "In the end, team work was the key to success. It was great to end our win with our team cheer in the middle of the court."



Cheerleading: Supporting Our Tenacious Titans

By **Nailah Cleggett, Iyandra Williams, Zoey Rogers, Dasia Key, and Teyana Williams**

"Being a cheerleader at Martha Gaskins Middle School is wonderful," said Nailah Cleggett. "One of my favorite cheers our coach, Mrs. Callens, taught us is 'Stomp and Shake It.' I have a lot of fun with the other girls cheering and supporting our team."

Iyandra Williams explained why she enjoys cheering. "I like being a cheerleader because it is fun. It always shows me something new. I also like it because we do a lot of things like

cheer at football and basketball games."

"I'm proud to represent my school at games and pep rallies!" Zoey Rogers explained. "Even though it's my first year on the team, I'm proud to be a 'Tenacious Titan.' I'm proud to show my school spirit and represent 'the burgundy and gold.'"

Dasia Key told of her cheerleading experience. "I am a proud cheerleader at Martha Gaskins Middle School. I

have been a cheerleader for two years now. I enjoy basketball season most because that's when we do my favorite cheers. Cheerleading is a great hobby and sport."

"I enjoy cheerleading because it allows me to bond with the other cheerleaders," Teyana Williams stated. "I've made many friends from this experience even though it's my first year. I'll carry these experiences and memories with me always."

Exploratory

by **Broderick Austin, Dedrin Abercrombie, and Ashley Robinson**

Exploratory is a day in which students are introduced to experiences that they may or may not have the opportunity to be exposed to during their everyday lives. The exploratory activities are chosen carefully by teachers to help students encounter something unique and helpful. Some of our students shared their exploratory experiences:

"I went to gaming stations for my

exploratory activity," Broderick Austin explained. "The first game I got to play was Candyland, but then I got to play on the Wii with three other people. We played bowling and I lost, but at least I got three strikes."

Dedrin Abercrombie's exploratory activity was Men's Grooming. "We talked about how to take responsibility for cleaning our rooms, combing and brushing our hair, and how we don't

always need to depend on our mamas. We also talked about sagging and why we shouldn't do it. I thought it was interesting."

"My exploratory choice was to go to Hip-Hop and Zumba with Mrs. McLain," Ashley Robinson expounded. "I had an awesome time! We did a lot of fun dances like The Slide, The Shuffle, The Bunny Hop, and lots more. I would love to do it all over again!"