

The Expedition



Grateful for our Community!

One vital way we achieve our strong sense of community here at Magellan is through our wonderful families. Parent support is fundamental to all that we do, and our strong parent/school partnership truly sets us apart. Volunteering is a key aspect of being a member of the Magellan community, and we rely on parent volunteers



for many aspects of our day-to-day operations: supervising lunch and recess, chaperoning voyages, and supporting community service efforts. Thank you to our amazing families for your continued support of our tradition of excellence. We are grateful for each one of you!



Important Dates

Early Release
DECEMBER 16

Winter Break
DECEMBER 19-30

Teacher Workday
JANUARY 2

MaP Meeting & Parent Education Program:
Lock Your Meds
JANUARY 10

No School, MLK Holiday
JANUARY 16

Board Meeting
JANUARY 17

Early Release
JANUARY 20

Teacher Workday
JANUARY 27

Message From Head of School



Dear Mariner Families,

As we gear up for winter break and prepare for the New Year, it is a perfect time to pause and reflect on our core values as Mariners. We have spent the first trimester focusing on Respect, and we will turn our attention to Responsibility for Trimester 2. In addition to being a responsible student and classmate, we also believe that we have a responsibility to give back to our community through service. We are striving to not only create lifelong learners, but also lifelong givers!

This month's Expedition highlights just a few of the amazing projects that our students and families support. From our Spread the Love event and our partnership with the Ronald McDonald House, to our school-wide service project with StepUp Ministry, we are focused on promoting a culture of compassion that takes students beyond the classroom and into our community. We also know that volunteering can provide a range of benefits to academic, social, and emotional development as students learn about the power of making a difference in the lives of others and supporting a meaningful cause.

Our parent volunteers provide the best role models to illustrate the impact of giving back to our community. Magellan magic simply would not be possible without the incredible commitment and support of our families.

Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season and a new year filled with peace and joy. As always, thank you for your partnership and for everything you do to support our lifelong givers.

Warmest regards,
Jessica O'Donovan

Building Improvements

Our beautiful school building has received several significant upgrades this year. In the spring and summer, eleven aging HVAC units were replaced, all window gaskets were replaced, and the exterior stucco was repaired and resurfaced. Over fall break, a new sound system was installed in the gym to deliver education programs, showcase student performances, and contribute to greater school safety.

These improvements, totaling over \$200,000, were funded by families who generously contributed to the Capital Campaign, a special fundraiser for first-year families held each spring. Unlike traditional public schools, charter schools do not receive capital funds, and so the Magellan community is responsible for building maintenance, repairs, and construction projects. Money raised from the Capital Campaign is used to address these large, expensive maintenance and repair projects without adversely affecting our school's operating budget. THANK YOU to the many families who participated in this critical campaign. Your thoughtful donations will serve countless students throughout their Magellan journey.

Community Service

PROMOTING A CULTURE OF COMPASSION

In **3rd grade**, students held their annual Spread the Love event, where students rotated through stations to make cards for first responders, bookmarks for donated children's books, and fleece blankets for The Linus Project.



Our **4th grade** team partners with the Ronald McDonald House each year. For Halloween, students made goodie bags full of treats and toys to deliver to the children and families staying at the Durham house.



COMING SOON! The **5th grade** team will be participating in Make a Wish, an organization that creates life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. Fifth grade students will also be raising and earning money by initiating other projects of their own choice and passion.

Our **6th grade** team serves our community daily by raising and lowering the American flag on our school grounds. In January they will begin their service project with North Raleigh Ministries, collecting and organizing items for their food bank.



Our **7th grade** team gleaming a sweet potato field in Angier, NC to provide food to those who go hungry in our community.



COMING SOON! The **8th grade** team is beginning work on the 'Cue & Do fundraiser. This annual tradition.



is the capstone event for each Magellan 8th grade class and raises money for an organization of their choosing. Our 8th grade students also serve our school community by assisting with carpool and collecting recyclables.

Magellan Buddies



The tradition of Magellan's Buddies Program is an all-time favorite among students. In 3rd grade, each student pairs with a 7th grader. The relationship continues throughout the following school year and becomes one of mentoring & friendship. Older students are able to share experiences and advice to their younger buddies on specific projects they remember, and younger students are able to ask questions about what it's like "upstairs."

Students meet with their buddies for a variety of student-planned activities such as games, scavenger hunts, bowling and other outings. This unique relationship affords older students the opportunity to serve as mentors and gives our younger Mariners a role model within the school. Our Buddies Program bridges the elementary and middle schools and is yet another way we build our sense of community here at Magellan - and the students absolutely love it!

StepUp Ministry

For the 9th year in a row, Magellan partnered with StepUp Ministry for our holiday community service project. StepUp helps provide jobs, life skills, and stability to those who are in need. This year we were honored to support 48 children in their program with donations. Thank you Magellan for being a community that cares!



Note-Vember

In November, Magellan collected donations of new and gently used clothing for Note in the Pocket, an organization that provides support for impoverished families in Wake County. Thank you to our Lunch/Recess Coordinator Jennifer Fitzsimmons for leading this project and to our families for your generosity.



Voyages bring joy to the journey of academic excellence.

4TH GRADE VOYAGE TO OLD SALEM

Fourth graders visited Old Salem, NC where they learned about the culture and history of the Moravian community. Students explored the colonial way of life through tours and hands-on experiences, including a stop at Winkler Bakery for delicious Moravian treats!



5TH GRADE VOYAGE TO NC MUSEUM OF ART

Fifth graders traveled to the NC Museum of Art Park where they rotated through five stations across the grounds. They studied sculptures, learned how water travels, journaled, practiced yoga, and made rubbings from art etchings.



Voyages are an unique part of Magellan's dynamic curriculum.



4TH GRADE VOYAGE TO CAMP DON LEE

Our 4th graders enjoyed their first overnight voyage to Camp Don Lee! In addition to getting to know their classmates better, students also engaged in archery, canoeing, sailing, and lots of fishing! They learned about reptiles, dug for fossils, and even dissected squid. Last but not least, they enjoyed campfires and smores! It was a very memorable voyage.



CHARACTER AWARDS

Congratulations to our character award recipients who were selected as model students representing our core value of RESPECT.



Ben R.
3rd Grade



Jordan G.
4th Grade



Nick A.
5th Grade



Sam H.
6th Grade



Carter A.
7th Grade



Klein P.
8th Grade

Counselor

CONNECTION

Community Service: Volunteering as a family teaches students about empathy and instills a generous spirit. Here's how to get started:

Help your child research community service opportunities. Make a list of ideas that match the ages of family members and jot down the time involved for each job. Visit websites such as createthegood.org and volunteermatch.org to get ideas. It can also be a good idea to reach out to community centers, shelters, and places of worship to ask if they need help.

Review your child's list together and talk about possibilities that interest everyone. If your family loves animals, consider feeding and playing with dogs and cats in a shelter. Or if you like to cook together, think about volunteering at a soup kitchen or a fire station's spaghetti dinner.

Talk about those you'll be helping, such as people who don't have enough to eat or animals who need attention and comfort. Considering how others feel helps students understand how important it is to help out— and it also makes your volunteer experience more meaningful.