

The Expedition



Partnering with Parents to Build Community

At Magellan, one vital way we achieve our sense of community is through our strong partnerships with parents. 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, such as supervising lunch and



recess, chaperoning voyages, assisting with class projects, and supporting our many community service efforts. So we'd like to start the new year by recognizing and thanking our amazing families for the continued support of our tradition of excellence. We are grateful for each of you!



Important Dates

MaP Meeting
JANUARY 13

Early Release
JANUARY 16

MLK Holiday, School Closed
JANUARY 19

Board Meeting
JANUARY 20

Club Photo Day
JANUARY 27

Teacher Workday
FEBRUARY 2

MaP Meeting
FEBRUARY 10

Early Release
FEBRUARY 13

President's Day, No School
FEBRUARY 16

Admissions Application Open
JANUARY 28-FEBRUARY 27

MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL

Jessica O'Donovan



Dear Mariner Families,

As we begin the New Year, it is a perfect time to pause and reflect on our core values as Mariners. We spent the first trimester focusing on Respect, the "Other People Matter" mindset, and eight different Positivity Project (P2) character strengths: kindness, self-control, creativity, social intelligence, fairness, gratitude, appreciation of excellence and beauty, and leadership. It was wonderful to see our students honored at the Trimester 1 Character Assembly for demonstrating academic excellence along with these character strengths.

In Trimester 2, we turn our attention to our second core value: Responsibility. Students will explore the P2 character strengths of perseverance, open-mindedness, curiosity, prudence, love, enthusiasm, love of learning, and teamwork.

In addition to helping students learn to be responsible classmates, we also want them to learn to be responsible citizens who 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 meaningful service projects our students and families support. From Spread the Love and Make-a-Wish, to our partnership with the Ronald McDonald House and our school-wide service project with StepUp Ministry, we are cultivating a culture of compassion that extends beyond the classroom and into the community. Service experiences support academic, social, and emotional growth as students learn the power of making a difference for others.

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 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

StepUp Ministry

For the 12th year in a row, Magellan supported StepUp Ministry as a school-wide community service initiative over the holiday season. Thanks to all the families who contributed their time and resources, we were able to support 48 children whose parents are trying to better their lives through the StepUp program.

Thank you for your partnership in taking our students beyond the classroom and into the community to make a difference in the lives of others.



Community Service

PROMOTING A CULTURE OF COMPASSION GRADE BY GRADE

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 partnered with the Ronald McDonald House for Thanksgiving. Students collected food and supplies for families who have traveled far from home for their children's medical care.



Our **5th grade** entrepreneurs raised money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. From bake sales, lemonade stands, dog walking and more, they raised over \$7,800 to grant the wish of a local child.



Beginning this trimester, our **6th grade** team will be collecting items to make birthday baskets for the Smiling While Sending Hope organization whose mission is to provide joy and comfort to those in hard times..



In the fall, our **7th grade** gleaned a North Carolina sweet potato field - successfully bagging 550 bags of sweet potatoes, which equals about 18,000 servings! All were donated to serve local families experiencing food insecurity.



8th graders serve our MCS community by collecting recycling from all over the school each week and by assisting with carpool. On February 27th, they will host a BINGO BASH charity fundraiser to raise money for an organization of their choosing - look for more details soon!



8TH GRADE VOYAGE: CAROLINA BEACH

Our 8th graders visited Carolina Beach to explore the coastal ecosystem and estuary. Students enjoyed a day together crabbing, hunting for shells, and even dissecting squids!



7TH GRADE OVERNIGHT VOYAGE: GREENSBORO & CHARLOTTE

On this (new!) voyage, students visited the International Civil Rights Museum to learn about the local civil rights movement, the Greensboro Science Center for animal observations and interactive exhibits, and the Nascar Hall of Fame and Charlotte Motor Speedway for hands-on STEAM activities. They also squeezed in a little team bonding with a round of mini golf!



6TH GRADE OVERNIGHT VOYAGE: CAMP HANES

Sixth grade embarked on the first overnight voyage of the school year - and these smiles say it all! From rock-climbing, hiking, and canoeing, to archery, ropes courses, and campfires, overnight voyages and the time spent outdoors fuel creativity, independence, connection, and joy.



5TH GRADE OVERNIGHT VOYAGE: BETSY JEFF PENN CAMP

Fifth grade had an unforgettable voyage to Betsy Jeff Penn 4H Camp. Students enjoyed ziplining, high ropes courses, team building challenges, and fireside chats. This overnight voyage helps build confidence, resilience, and a deeper appreciation for nature.



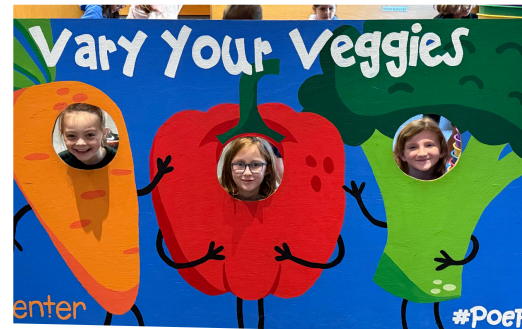
4TH GRADE VOYAGE: TRYON PALACE

Fourth graders took a journey through history at Tryon Palace in New Bern — the first permanent capital of the Colony of North Carolina and home to our first royal governor. From colonial life to Revolutionary War stories, students explored what it meant to live in North Carolina centuries ago!



3RD GRADE VOYAGE: POE HEALTH CENTER

The first voyage for our newest Mariners! Our 3rd grade visited Poe Health Center and enjoyed many hands-on activities to expand their learning about bones, muscles, joints, and how to keep the body healthy. There are many more experiential learning opportunities to come for these young Mariners!





Congratulations to our award recipients who were selected as model students representing the following Positivity Project character strengths.

	3 rd Grade	4 th Grade	5 th Grade	6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade
Social Intelligence	Ava Grace P.	Caroline J.	Noah M.	Mal S.	Lane E.	Ellis C.
Fairness	Cooper D.	Lucy P.	CJ L.	Rainey C.	Walker L.	Aaryan P.
Gratitude	Jack R.	Olivia S.	Kendall E.	Kipper S.	Hayden W.	Sully B.
Appreciation of Beauty & Excellence	Ford C.	James D.	Cami F.	Maxwell M.	Scout C.	Lexi B.
Leadership	Jules P.	Kyla H.	Logan W.	Max B.	Veda C.	Lucy H.
Perserverance	Maddie Y.	Ava H.	Lottie W.	Mary Adkins H.	Mia R.	Emmie C.
Open Mindedness	Lucy J.	Willow L.	Gwenyth D.	Mitchell R.	Roan B.	Ashlyn K.
Curiosity	Gabriel L. Joseph P.	Rhett C.	Lia H.	Gray E.	Naim H.	Oli H.

**A special congratulations to our grade level winners of the
*Other People Mindset Award***

Lydia W.
3rd grade

Garland J.
4th grade

Yefim R.
5th grade

Carl S.
6th grade

Oliver M.
7th grade

Owen S.
8th grade

2026-2027 APPLICATION FOR ADMISSIONS IS OPEN JAN. 28-FEB. 27

Do you know students who fit the profile of a successful Mariner?

- Academically Focused
- Ready for Challenge
- Highly Motivated
- Independent & Collaborative
- Manages Experiential Learning

If so, help us spread the word about our upcoming Information Sessions & School Tours!

SIGN-UP HERE

INFORMATION SESSIONS & TOURS

January 28th, 6:30pm

January 29th, 9:00am

February 9th, 6:30pm

February 10th, 9:00am

**SPACE IS LIMITED.
ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

