

# The MLWGS Jabberwock

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## Cheerleading Cancelled

MLWGS administration has abolished the traditional male cheerleading routine at the PSAT pep rally

**Anna Mohan**  
Jabberwock Staff Reporter

The cheerleading routines, customarily presented in association with the Powderpuff football game, will be cancelled this year. Although there will be no male cheerleaders, the pep rally will still take place.

"There have been complaints ever since I've been here," said MLWGS director Mr. Douglas Hunt. "In a public high school, we have to draw the limit somewhere."

According to Mr. Hunt, the faculty, administration and others at MLWGS have expressed concern about the cross-dressing in the cheerleading routines.

"Mr. Hunt told us that the cheerleading is very offensive to females. Teachers complain and parents don't like it," said SCA Co-President Susie Brock ('07). So this year, there will be another activity to replace the dances.

Suggestions for other activities include a field day with class competitions including tricycle races, three-legged races, one-on-one dodgeball matches and tug of war. Another option is a homecoming field hockey game after school with a cook-out in the student parking lot.

The Powderpuff football game can still happen, but, according to Mr. Hunt, a field day would be "more inclusive." The final decision about the activity, however, will be up to the SCA representatives.

Many students, however, object to



Last year's juniors pose in their French maid cheerleading uniforms. *Photo by Sohini Sircar.*

the cancellation of the routines.

"I don't think it's right to cancel [the cheerleading]. All of the routines and outfits were approved by the administration beforehand," said Keith Moran ('07), who coached the junior-sophomore Powderpuff team.

"Powderpuff was one of the most exciting events of the school year," said Emma Bland ('08). "Everyone loved it, and no one really understands why it's being cancelled."

The pep rally has traditionally been held on PSAT day as a part of spirit week, culminating in the Homecoming dance. This year, the PSAT will be given on October 18, the week after Homecoming; therefore the date for the pep rally has not yet been determined.

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# Protect Powderpuff

For years, Powderpuff football and cheerleading have been traditions at MLWGS. After the PSATs the entire student body participates in or watches the girls play football and the boys perform cheerleading acts in an interesting reversal of normal gender roles. In the past few years a number of the male cheerleaders have gone to an extreme with inappropriate dance choreography and costumes, which may have offended some individuals. As a result, the administration has decided to terminate this MLWGS tradition. The issue of inappropriate male cheerleaders should have been handled differently, instead of taking it to an extreme and canceling the event without any student consent.

The dance routines and outfits the male cheerleaders wear must be approved by the administration prior to the presentation of the act. Last year the administration allowed many questionable components, such as suggestive dance moves and raunchy French maid outfits, pass through the approval process. If parents and teachers complained about the vulgarity of the male cheerleaders in the past, why did the administration approve of the acts last year that ended up upsetting the MLWGS community the most? The answer this dilemma is simple: the administration should allow for only those acts that fully abide by the rules set forth and are modest by the administration's personal standards can perform on the PSAT day.

A few years ago, the administration ruled against any use of "body enhancers." Adding a few more rules to strike out inappropriate dancing and clothing would solve the problem of indecency. Hopefully these changes would force the acts to impress their audiences with gymnastics, acrobatics, stunts and engaging dance moves.

The student representatives should have been given a chance to argue the opinions of the student body to the school authorities regarding the issue of the removal a unique MLWGS tradition. The problem of indecent male cheerleaders is quite solvable; the students should still be allowed to retain this entertaining MLWGS tradition in the years to come.

— SS

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The MLWGS Jabberwock covers news events related to the school community and provides a forum for students to share their ideas. However, the statements expressed by columnists do not necessarily reflect the views of the Jabberwock staff.

All members of the MLWGS community are invited to submit letters to the editor on any topic, although the publication of all letters is not guaranteed. The newspaper reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, language and length. Please e-mail letters to: [newspaper@gsgis.k12.va.us](mailto:newspaper@gsgis.k12.va.us).

# Terror From Another Home

## Five Years and Thousands of Miles Later: Change

**Natalia Virani**

Jabberwock Staff Reporter

September 11th was an event of grief, terror and shock, but most importantly, it became a time of unity.

Mrs. Sharon Parker, the Mentorship and Senior Seminar Coordinator, perceived the events of September 11th from a different angle.

"I wanted to go somewhere with different languages and different cultures," Parker said. After graduating from Virginia Commonwealth University, she went abroad, to Kuwait.

From 2000 thru May of 2006, Parker lived in Kuwait as a history teacher and an International Baccalaureate (IB) coordinator at the American International School (AIS) and American Creativity Academy (ACA).

"Even after living in Kuwait for so long, Richmond is what I consider home," she said.

Upon hearing about the attacks, Parker recalls, Kuwaiti schools were closed that Tuesday and Wednesday, September 11 and 12.

Over the four day gap, Parker received multiple cards, phone calls, and visits from her students to show their sympathy.

Throughout the school, all nationalities united during the hard time.

"It wasn't only the American teachers," she said, "we all felt we had to do something."

Parker created red, white and blue ribbons for those who voluntarily chose to show their support.

"Ninety-nine per cent of the students wore the ribbon," she said. "Someone will always disagree, but there was an overwhelming support too."

In the days that followed, Parker and her friends intently watched the media coverage.

"There was not a dry eye in the house," Parker said. "We were all glued to the television, watching the news. You are so far away from home and you are not able to do anything."

However, it was not only the adults who were anxious. "The students were the most concerned," she remembers. "They were worried that the American teachers would turn against them."

Lebanese, Egyptian, Palestinian and American teachers came together to ex-

hibit their sympathy for the victims of 9/11, Parker said. "It was just so sad to see the level of tragedy."

"When I would drive down the streets, there would be signs reading, 'Thank you America. We will never forget you,'" Parker said. These signs were to show Kuwait's appreciation for what the Allies did in the first Gulf war.

"Like before, [Kuwait's citizens] were very supportive of Saddam Hussein's removal in the war on Iraq," Parker said. "He was perceived as a threat to Kuwait and now they felt the threat had been removed."

As the Code Red was declared in the United States, Kuwait's government took the threat of terrorism very seriously. "There were three instances where the government acted quickly and swiftly to prevent any such circumstances," she said, "any threat was taken very seriously."

The 9/11 attack not only changed America, but greatly impacted the entire world. "You could see changes in Kuwait," Parker said. "For the first time, women voted in the past elections. High school students, male and female, participated in a protest to allow women the right to vote."

"Things have slowly changed," she said. "Earlier in 2006, the leadership changed and another family has come to power. There will be many more changes in Kuwait."

After returning to the United States, Parker has taken a different approach to things. "The culture is what makes us so different and our experiences shape our opinions and thinking."

"You hear about the military fighting the war on terrorism, but as educators, I call us foot soldiers, in the course to try to promote greater understanding of what is happening," Parker said.

"Having the knowledge gives us a better understanding. As an ambassador to American, in a crisis, it made me rethink what it means to be an American and what our founding fathers meant."



**Robert Parker, (far right), Parker's brother, spoke to the senior class at AIS to about the re-building efforts in Iraq after 9/11. Photo courtesy of Sharon Parker.**

# "The Covenant" is Broken

**By Ellen Hart**

Jabberwock Staff Reporter

I am having a hard time imagining screenwriter J.S. Cardone pitching the script of "The Covenant" to a producer. Did it go something like, "Okay, picture this: 'Dragonball Z' meets the Salem witch trials?" Was there a long silence that followed? How exactly would a sane person agree to make such a film?

I suppose we will never know the true events that unfolded during that fateful pitch. Perhaps the producer was inebriated, hypnotized or simply career-suicidal.

What we do know is that all known copies of "The Covenant" should be buried five hundred feet below ground and never spoken of again. I'm

serious. Do not waste your money on this movie.

On the other hand, if all you desire is simply to see cute boys air-boxing and flying through the air, and if that is all you expect, by all means, this is the movie for you.

There have been many cases in the past, such as in "Titanic," in which talented actors have taken an embarrassingly bad script and turned it into something wonderful.

Unfortunately, the actors were almost as ghastly and trite as the plotline, which is about a rich high school kid Caleb (Steven Strait), along with his rich high school kid friends, Reid (Toby Hemingway), Tyler (Chace Crawford) and Pogue (Taylor Kitsch), who belongs to a



**Caleb (Steven Strait), Reid (Toby Hemingway), Tyler (Chace Crawford) and Pogue (Taylor Kitsch) discuss their problems in their secret lair. Photo courtesy of Movies.com.**

witch family with superpowers and has to stop another *evil* rich high school kid with superpowers (Sebastian Stan) from hoarding all their superpowers. Honestly, there were so many plot holes, it was like Swiss cheese. And they opened the door for a sequel in the end. In your dreams, J.S. Cardone!

I guess the movie was supposed to be scary. There are a couple scenes that used, as opposed to original ideas, long-established scary things (such as swarming spiders) to frighten the audience. And yes, swarming spiders are indeed scary, and I was indeed scared, but I also felt cheated because anybody could have come up with swarming spiders.

Some ways to make it better: We are never offered a real and true explanation as to what exactly these "superpowers" are. There are occasional allusions to Satanism, but even that does not make sense when you think about the characters

and the plot. So a backstory would be in order. Unexpected plot twists would be nice. We are looking for originality in entertainment these days, and this movie adds absolutely nothing to our culture.

To give it some credit, the music was okay (mostly hard rock to get us pumped), and it seemed like director of photography Pierre Gill was the only person who really thought about what he was doing.

The bottom line is that you walk out of the theater wondering whether you actually just saw a movie. It has no impact on the viewer whatsoever. I am not saying that every film should be overly-philosophical and make you think, but even "Mission Impossible III" stuck with me for at least ten minutes afterwards as I replayed my favorite scenes in my mind.

There's just no substance to "The Covenant," and I honestly regret the 97 minutes of my life wasted by watching it.



**Chase (Sebastian Stan) uses his expert air-boxing maneuvers to take out his enemy. Photo courtesy of Movies.com.**

## Field Hockey (3 - 0)

Manchester 0, MLWGS 8  
 Monacan 0, MLWGS 4  
 MLWGS 3, Prince George 0

### Upcoming Games

9/14 Thomas Dale, MLWGS  
 9/20 MLWGS, Clover Hill  
 9/25 Hermitage, MLWGS  
 9/27 Mills Godwin, MLWGS  
 10/2 MLWGS, J.R. Tucker  
 10/4 Patrick Henry, MLWGS  
 10/5 MLWGS, Manchester  
 10/9 Midlothian, MLWGS  
 10/11 Cosby, MLWGS  
 10/13 MLWGS, L.C. Bird  
 10/16 Deep Run, MLWGS  
 10/18 MLWGS, Douglas Freeman  
 10/19 MLWGS, Thomas Dale

## Boys' Volleyball (0 - 3)

Colonial Heights 3, MLWGS 1  
 Varina 3, MLWGS 1  
 Prince George 3, MLWGS 1

### Upcoming Games

9/14 MLWGS, J.R. Tucker  
 9/19 Henrico, MLWGS  
 9/21 MLWGS, Patrick Henry  
 9/26 MLWGS, Hermitage  
 9/28 J.R. Tucker, MLWGS  
 10/3 Hermitage, MLWGS  
 10/5 MLWGS, Mills Godwin  
 10/6 MLWGS, Lee Davis  
 10/10 Patrick Henry, MLWGS  
 10/12 MLWGS, Thomas Jefferson  
 10/13 MLWGS, Henrico  
 10/18 MLWGS, Varina  
 10/19 MLWGS, John Marshall  
 10/24 Douglas Freeman, MLWGS  
 10/26 MLWGS, Deep Run

## Girls' Volleyball (3 - 1)

MLWGS 0, Collegiate 3  
 Highland Springs 0, MLWGS 3  
 MLWGS 3, Varina 1  
 MLWGS 3, Prince George 2

### Upcoming Games

9/14 MLWGS, J.R. Tucker  
 9/19 Henrico, MLWGS  
 9/21 MLWGS, Patrick Henry  
 9/26 MLWGS, Hermitage  
 9/28 J.R. Tucker, MLWGS  
 10/3 Hermitage, MLWGS  
 10/5 MLWGS, Mills Godwin  
 10/6 MLWGS, Lee-Davis  
 10/10 Patrick Henry, MLWGS  
 10/12 MLWGS, Thomas Jefferson  
 10/13 MLWGS, Henrico  
 10/18 Varina, MLWGS  
 10/19 MLWGS, John Marshall  
 10/24 MLWGS, Douglas Freeman

## Golf

MLWGS 329, Highland Springs 380,  
 Prince George 311  
 MLWGS 309, Deep Run 286, Douglas  
 Freeman 294, Hermitage 334, J.R.  
 Tucker 370, Mills Godwin 306,  
 Patrick Henry 294  
 MLWGS 161, Cosby 179  
 MLWGS 165, J.R. Tucker 181  
 MLWGS 160, Deep Run 155, Douglas  
 Freeman 154  
 MLWGS 167, J.R. Tucker 202, Mills  
 Godwin 151

# Dragon Icons: Chix with Stix

**Nick Eilerson**  
 Jabberwock Staff Reporter

The pride of MLWGS athletics is not a bunch of high-flying, crowd-pleasing basketball heroes; nor is it a gang of ripped football jocks; nor is it even a group of smooth-swinging golfers. Somewhat unsurprisingly, the true athletes at this atypical school are a rabid mob of pony-tailed chicks who enjoy wearing mannish skirts and brandishing deadly wooden clubs.

What makes our school's varsity field hockey team so special is that, unlike many MLWGS teams, they are good at what they do, which means they win more games than they lose. That means they score goals. That means students from schools like Freeman or Godwin do not anticipate playing them with excited phrases like, "Alright! My crippled uncle could take this team, and he's in a coma!"

One word explains the everlasting respectability of these fierce dragon hockey players: consistency. Their records speak for themselves. Year after year, they finish the season with records like 14-2. And they continually venture beyond the mere district tournament, often delving into the latter stages of the regional competition. So what makes these girls so good anyway?

"I think it's obviously the huge school support evidenced by large fan turnout," said Alex Hanson ('07) in the most sarcastic of tones.

Despite their winning ways and their

**Continued on page 6**

## Legend

Season standings will be printed next to the name of the sport. For each match up, the home time will always be named first.

Games that have already been played will

be listed first. The games are in chronological order. The scores from these games will be listed after the schools' name.

The upcoming games will be listed next, and the date of these games will be listed before the teams' names. Also, only varsity scores will be reported.

# Field Hockey Fall Sports Preview

Continued from page 5

flashy mouth guards, the girls never seem to draw a significant cheering section. Whether or not it is because of the brutal malice of the sport, MLWGS kids do not seem to be quite ready for the unrestrained brouhaha that is field hockey.

If crowd support is not the key to the program's success, what is?

"It's the unwavering dedication that we put into our training that makes us so amazing," said field hockey co-captain Lauren Elliott ('07).

"This commitment comes from Coach Hawkins, who constantly pushes us to the limit," she adds.

Yes, the true root of success stems from the most redoubtable Paige Hawkins, who has been the core of the

program's success since 2001, when the first MLWGS Field Hockey team was formed. She attributes the players' accomplishments to several points.

"The addition of the [Junior Varsity] team a few years ago allowed everyone to get more playing time and gain confidence," remarked Coach Hawkins.

"Also, there is real camaraderie on the two teams, which is something that comes from off-season training and leagues. Lastly, field hockey skills are pretty basic and easy to pick up," she adds.

I still can not decide what helps these girls more: is it the team mouth guards or the motivating coach? I am certain of one thing, though: these ladies are goshdarned good hockey players.

## Success does not stop at academics for MLWGS athletes

**Karthik Ilakkuvan**  
Jabberwock Staff Reporter

With the onset one of the most successful sports seasons at MLWGS just beginning, players, coaches, and even fans can not wait to get into the action. Fall sports include some of the greatest sports teams at MLWGS, including volleyball, cross country, field hockey and golf.

The MLWGS Girls volleyball team has started off with a wonderful start. With team captains Sarah Uzel ('07) and Lauren Parsons ('07) leading the way, the girls team has started off with a record of 3-1.

"I think we have a really good team this year. Everyone is really enthusiastic and happy to be out there. Our freshmen are really good, and they've been playing volleyball for quite a while," said Uzel. "People who moved up from [Junior Varsity] have also come up quite well in the last couple of weeks. This season should be great. There's a lot of potential."

After a disappointing loss at Collegiate, the girls rebounded back with three straight wins against Highland Springs, Varina, and Prince George.

"Against Collegiate, we could've played better, but they are a good team. They have a lot of good girls.

Against Prince George, I believe we were the better team," said Uzel. "We had some difficulties playing the ball up and keeping ourselves in the game, but I'm glad we still won in the end, even if it took five games."

The MLWGS Boys volleyball team is also hoping for a successful season. They hope to change a couple of things since last year. Team captains Tommy Nicholas ('07) and David Giancaspro ('07) hope to lead the boys to a successful season.

"We have better overall leadership this year. Last year, our team was disorganized and all over the place, but this year we're all on the same page," said Nicholas.

The MLWGS Boys volleyball team has also set high goals for itself this year. They are hoping to get into the top four in the Colonial District, and they want to stay together as a team through the course of the year. They also want to change a few things in their lineups this year.

"We have some new guys we are trying to incorporate, but our top six do really well on the court. We're also trying to use two setters at a time this year," said Nicholas.

The MLWGS Field Hockey team has picked up where they left off last year, starting their season with a 3-0 record, with wins against Manchester, Monacan and Prince George.

After making it to the regional finals last year, they lost to Prince George.



During a heated game, two members of the MLWGS volleyball team jump up to the ball to keep their opposition from scoring. *Photo courtesy of Jeremy New.*

## FALL FESTIVAL

By Lucy Sprague

MLWGS's tenth annual fall festival is going to be held on September 29th this year. It will begin at 4 pm and will end at 8 pm.

There is no admission to join the fall festival, but to participate in many of the games and activities, a small amount of money will be required. The booths at MLWGS are set up by clubs to support them throughout the year with the proceeds that they earn.

There are several traditional activities that are to be held at the Fall Festival this year, such as the chess challenge, where people pit themselves against the MLWGS chess club, Rent-a-Roman, in which students in the Italian club are auctioned off, and henna tattoos sponsored by the Debate team.

Other organizations at MLWGS will be selling food, like the Model United Nations club did last year.

All throughout the evening, there will be performances by students that celebrate different cultures from around the world.



**MLWGS Model United Nations club hold its first meeting of the year in the Forum. Students and teachers passing by gaped at the large turnout of students at one of MLWGS biggest clubs. This club plans on attending a few conference and holding its own conference during the year. Photo by Ellen Hart.**

# Fall Sports at MLWGS

Continued from page 6

"We have been working on really coming together and really getting to know each other on the field. We're working on communication a lot. We're just getting comfortable playing with each other," said Kelsey Huffer ('09).

"It would be amazing if we could have as good of a record as last season's, but the whole team is just taking it one game at a time and focusing on each game individually," she adds.

The MLWGS Golf team is also hoping to better itself this year. They have already started off on a good foot, as they have beaten the 18-hole record for the school. Jesse DeAlto ('08), Sam Orelove ('07), Mike Hagemann ('07) and

Nick Eilerson ('07) beat the old record with a stroke of 309 at the Hollows Golf Course.

They have also set some goals for themselves this season.

"I want to be more consistent. I don't want to do good one day and just blow up the next," said Jae Chon ('09). "I don't want to get as nervous about the matches, and I hope the team can have a winning record this year because most of the players will be gone next year, since a lot of the top six are seniors."

The Boys and Girls Cross Country Team is also hoping to mimic its success and progress from last year, when they were one of the two schools that had both their boys and girls cross country teams qualify for the state champion-

ships. Yet, they are still trying to improve.

"There's always room for improvement. We lost some great runners last year, but our team is really young with a lot of new amazing runners," said Susannah Piersol ('09).

"Although winning the district is going to be a challenge, there is always a chance we can achieve it because of all the hard work we have put into it already this season," she adds.

As fans are looking forward to what is sure to be a successful fall season, teams are still working hard and improving as to the best of their abilities.