



The PawPrint is a publication of the McNairy Central High School Journalism Department. The views and opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the administration, faculty or staff.

EDITOR Lisa Forsythe

UPCOMING EVENTS

- MON Oct. 15 - FRI Oct. 19**
•FALL BREAK
- FRI Oct. 19**
•5:30 2000's Night Tailgate Party
•PINK Night at the Game
•7:00 FB Fayette Ware (H)
- SAT Oct. 20**
•Fall Preview Day AT East TN State & UT Chattanooga
- SUN. Oct. 21 - TUE Oct. 23**
•College Road Trip East
- TUE Oct. 23**
•12:00 Parent-Teacher Conference
•5:00 FAFSA Night @ UTMcNairy
- WED Oct. 24**
•11:30 Graduation Invitation Orders
- FRI Oct. 26**
•SPIRIT DAY: Frat Day
•9:30 Pep Rally
•5:30 2010's Night
•6:30 Senior Night
•7:00 FB Westview
- SAT Oct. 27**
•Planetarium Grand Opening
- MON Oct. 29**
•9:30 UTMartin Repts
- TUE Oct. 30**
•8:00 ACT Senior ReTake
•2:00 NTHS Induction
- THU Nov. 1**
•TN Promise App deadline
- TUE Nov. 6**
•9:30 Bethel Univ. repts
- FRI Nov. 9**
•9:30 Womanless Beauty Review

The MCHS Class of 2019 will order invitations, caps and gowns and graduation accessories during lunch Oct. 24

\$80 deposit required

See Ms. Forsythe with questions

Class of 2019

FAFSA FRENZY
October 29
9:00 - 2:00
Get help filing for college financial aid

PARENTS, NEED GRADEBOOK ACCESS?
Send an email to grades@mcnairy.org with your name, the student's name(s) and grade(s). You will receive a username and password within 3 school days.

McNairy Central High School

Grand Opening "McNairy Planetarium"

By Lisa Forsythe, Editor



The "star machine" as it was used in the early days of the planetarium's education program.

In the fall of 1969, MCHS first opened her doors to students from all over McNairy County. Billed as the "super school", she was unlike anything around. Round buildings, no walls separating classrooms, a state-of-the-art broadcasting studio, and a host of other new concepts that set her apart from other schools.

One of the most unique features was the installation of a planetarium. Riding on the wave of national events, space exploration was a hot topic, along with anything associated with it. With the landing of astronauts on the moon shortly before MCHS opened, astronomy was a new and exciting field that piqued the interest of many Americans.

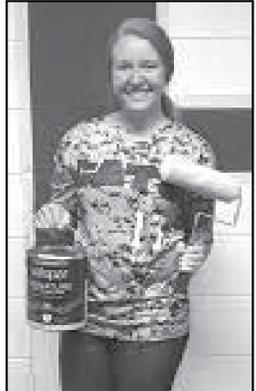
The planetarium was a source of excitement for hundreds, perhaps thousands of elementary school students through

out those early years. I remember entering the room as a child in the mid-70's and straining to look upward at that dome as we shuffled to seats. The lights went out, and suddenly an outside sky appeared over my head. We oohed and aahed as the instructor talked about meteors, stars, and constellations. I remember going home to lay in my back yard for many nights to come, searching for the constellations and watching for falling stars.

As we all know, the planetarium fell victim to mechanical issues and lack of funding. In the 1990's, the program was closed, and the great star machine was removed from its' lair in the floor, to be sold for parts to other planetariums across the country. As time went on, the room became nothing more than an oversized storage closet.

In 2015, one lone senior had stars in her

eyes again, and chose to tackle this huge task for her senior project. Allie Ray (Class of 2016) would change the course of the planetarium. She envisioned the room as a functioning classroom, complete with state-of-the-art technology to once again lure students into the science fields. With a LOT of hard work, and the help of her successors Trase Jester (2017) and Layla Brothers (2018), the room underwent a physical transformation. New paint, flooring, chairs, and most importantly a new digital projection system have all brought the planetarium back to life.



Allie Ray had the dream, and the determination, to breathe new life into the planetarium.

With the renovation and restoration of the planetarium, we would like to capture the imaginations of a whole new generation. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held a few months ago, but we are now opening the doors to the community and alumni. The Grand Opening event will be Saturday, October 27. Admission to the event is free. Thanks to the involvement of a few key alumni, we are excited to announce that Mitzi Adams, NASA scientist, will be present for the day. Ms. Adams will have VIP shows at 10 and 11 am that are by invitation only. She will remain afterward for a Q&A session in the Little Theater for anyone who would like to meet with her. Shows will continue throughout the afternoon, scheduled to begin each hour on the hour.

For the kids, we will have the "Jupiter Jump", the "Moonwalk" and other party jumpers, snowcones, space ice cream, make your own 'galaxy slime', and more events still being planned. The planetarium t-shirt and 50th anniversary t-shirts will be available for sale, along with a picture backdrop so you can have a record of this historic event. A full list of events will be published on the

McNairy Central HS facebook page in the days leading up to the event. Check it out to see a preview of "Rocket Man", a video set to Elton John's hit song that was one of the shows played during the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

To attend one of the VIP or afternoon showings, you can contact the McNairy County Director of Tourism, Jessica Huff, at 645-6360 or by email at jessica@mcnairy.com. All reservations will be on a first-come, first-served basis.



Mitzi Adams

Mitzi Adams is a solar scientist for NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC), where she studies the magnetic field of the sun and how it affects the upper layers of the solar atmosphere, the chromosphere and corona. Ms. Adams, a daughter of Atlanta, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in physics with a mathematics minor from Georgia State University. In 1988, the University of Alabama in Huntsville and NASA made her an "offer she couldn't refuse" and she moved to Alabama, where she earned a Master of Science degree in physics and began work at NASA/MSFC. With a professional interest in sunspot magnetic fields and coronal bright points, friends have labelled her a "solar dermatologist." Frequently involved in educational outreach activities such as viewing solar eclipses and transits of Mercury and Venus, Ms. Adams sometimes seeks innovative material in unusual places. While few women travel alone, she has often been seen alone and in groups in the wilds of Peru, northern Chile, Romania, Zambia, Guatemala and southern Italy.

Provided by
ST13 NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center
National Space Science and Technology Center
320 Sparkman Drive
Huntsville, Alabama 35805
(256) 961-7626

Celebrating 50 years of educational excellence!
This is one of the events in our year-long celebration, culminating in the 50th anniversary in August 2019.

GRAND OPENING

McNairy Planetarium

Shows begin at 10 and continue every hour **October 27**

Meet Mitzi Adams, NASA Scientist

- *VIP Showings
- **Fun Activities for the kids

FREE Admission
*Contact Jessica at 645-6360 to reserve your spot
*Activities and concessions available for a small fee

See our Facebook page for the full schedule of events

facebook.com/mcnairycentralhighschool

2000's Night

MCHS vs Fayette Ware
October 19

MCHS invites back graduates from
2000-2009
5:00 - 6:30 Tailgate Party

Dress in 2000's Fashions, hear your favorite music, eat some free food & visit with classmates as we celebrate your decade all night!

Parent-Teacher Conference

Tuesday, Oct. 23
12 - 6 pm

Pick up report cards and receive parent access to the online gradebook