



## Principals Corner Dr. Mederios



### Greetings Lightning family:

Happy New Year to everyone! As we begin the second semester, we would like to take a moment to thank you for your continued support of our teachers and staff here at Varsity Lakes.

What an exciting time of year this is! This is when we see many students take giant leaps in their learning. Students who may have struggled with the transition to middle school really begin to find their niche, and those students that may have struggled with being “tuned into” learning are starting to take off. This is a true testament to all the work done at school and at home since the start of the school year.

**Dr. Mederios**  
Principal

**Mrs. Booker**  
Assistant Principal:  
6th Grade Discipline

**Mrs. Fisher**  
Assistant Principal:  
Curriculum

**Mrs. Padilla**  
Assistant Principal:  
7th Grade Discipline

**Mr. Plucker**  
Assistant Principal:  
8th Grade Discipline

**Ms. Burke**  
Counselor:  
8th Grade

**Ms. Guiterrez**  
Counselor:  
7th Grade

**Ms. Kombat**  
Counselor:  
6th Grade

**Contact Information:**  
**(239) 694-3464**  
801 Gunnery Rd. N  
Lehigh Acres, FL  
33971

Our students have come in this second semester ready to learn, and we have settled into the daily routines. Please remember that you play a vital role in your child's success at school. You can help by asking your child about his/her day, having a positive attitude about learning, and encouraging your child to read every night. You would be amazed what 20 minutes of reading each night will do for your child's reading and literacy skills. Thank you for all your support at home!

If you or someone you know would like to make a donation or charitable contribution to Varsity Lakes Middle School, please contact our bookkeeper, Shelby Vick, for more information. Also, be sure to visit our website at [vlm.leeschools.net](http://vlm.leeschools.net) for more information about all the opportunities that VLMS has to offer.

Kind Regards,

**Matthew Mederios, Ed.D.**  
**Principal**

***Varsity Scholar  
Creed***

*My education will determine my future*

*My choices will shape my life*

*I will do my best to maximize my potential*

*I will not quit when things get tough*

*I respect myself, my family, my teachers,  
and my school*

*I will support and stand up for my peers*

*Through my actions, I will make a difference  
in this world*

*WHO AM I?*

***I AM A VARSITY SCHOLAR***

**SAC MEETINGS  
2018-2019**

**All meetings begin at 6pm**

**Monday, February 25**

**Monday, March 25**

**Monday, April 29**

## OUT OF FIELD TEACHERS:

Out-of-Field Teachers Florida State Statue 1012.42 recognizes that teachers at times must be assigned duties in a class outside the fields in which the teacher is certified. The following faculty members are:

Nico Agostinelli	ESOL
Esther Amisial Copeland	ESOL
Dana Barajas	ESOL
Kim Cabrera	Gifted/ESOL
Jessica Carter	ESOL
Susan Collins	ESOL
Ashley Demarais	ESOL
Eric Doyscher	Middle Grades Mathematics 5-9/ESOL
Elaine Dunseath	Middle Grades Social Sci 5-9/Reading/ESOL
Kelly Howiszak	Elementary Education K-6/ESOL
Ashley Kozlowski	ESOL
Jokira Jiles	ESE K-12
Justin Martin	ESOL
Ellen Moran	ESOL
Sarah Phillips	Middle Grades Integrated Curriculum 5-9
Kathleen Reyes	Reading/ESOL
Richard Riggs	Reading/ESOL
Ruth St. Romain	ESOL
Scott Weill	Reading/ESOL
Karen Whiteman	ESOL

# SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

FEBRUARY 1: SPELLING BEE, 10AM @ VLMS

FEBRUARY 4-5: JAZZ BAND @ LSHS

FEBRUARY 6: STUDENT AUDITIONS FOR DRAMA @ 4:15

FEBRUARY 8: BAND SOLO/ENSEMBLE @ GOLDEN GATE HS

FEBRUARY 8: SPECIAL OLYMPICS @ LAKES PARK

FEBRUARY 9: MATH COMPETITION @ TBA

FEBRUARY 15: NATIONAL NO ONE EATS ALONE DAY

FEBRUARY 15: DANCE WITH HEART @ 4:15-6:15

FEBRUARY 21: ALL COUNTY JAZZ AUDITIONS @ NFMAA

FEBRUARY 25: FSA PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

MARCH 2: MATH COMPETITION @ TAMPA

MARCH 2: ODYSSEY OF THE MIND @ SFMHS

MARCH 7: SPRING PICTURES @ VLMS

MARCH 8: FACULTY FOLLIES, 7PM @ VLMS

MARCH 9: PREZTIGE STEP TEAM TALENT SHOW @ SFMHS

MARCH 13: ALL-COUNTY JAZZ @ NFMAA

MARCH 14: SGA KICKBALL TOURNAMENT @ VLMS

MARCH 15: NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

MARCH 15-17: DISNEY STEM TRIP

MARCH 18-22: SPRING BREAK, NO SCHOOL

MARCH 27: FBA MPA PRE-FESTIVAL CONCERT BAND @ LSHS

MARCH 29: DONUTS WITH DAD, 8AM @ ALMA

APRIL 4-7: CONCERT BAND SPA @ TBA

APRIL 8-13: GOODWILL DONATION DRIVE @ VLMS

APRIL 12: THEATRE CLASS SHOWCASE, 7PM @ VLMS



## CLUB MEETINGS

EVERY MONDAY AFTER SCHOOL:  
GUITAR CLUB & MATHLETES

EVERY TUESDAY AFTER SCHOOL:  
VARSITY TSA

EVERY WEDNESDAY AFTER SCHOOL:  
GUITAR CLUB & LEGAL STUDIES CLUB

EVERY THURSDAY AFTER SCHOOL:  
CHESS CLUB

FEBRUARY 4:  
GQ @ 4:15PM

FEBRUARY 6:  
BTV @ 4:15PM

FEBRUARY 8:  
GEMS @ 8AM

FEBRUARY 20:  
BTV @ 4:15PM

FEBRUARY 22:  
GEMS @ 8AM

MARCH 4:  
GQ @ 4:15PM

MARCH 6:  
BTV @ 4:15PM

MARCH 8:  
GEMS @ 8AM

APRIL 1:  
GQ @ 4:15PM

APRIL 3:  
BTV @ 4:15pm

APRIL 5:  
GEMS @ 8AM

## SPORTS:

FEBRUARY 4:  
SOCCER GAME @ OAK HAMMOCK

FEBRUARY 6:  
SOCCER GAME VS. FMMS

FEBRUARY 7:  
SOCCER GAME VS. DUNBAR

FEBRUARY 11:  
TRACK TRYOUTS BEGIN

FEBRUARY 14:  
SOCCER GAME VS. DUNBAR

FEBRUARY 21:  
SOCCER VS. OASIS/FM

FEBRUARY 25:  
BOYS SOCCER QUARTERFINALS @ TBA

FEBRUARY 26:  
GIRLS SOCCER QUARTERFINALS @ TBA

FEBRUARY 27:  
LAST DAY OF TRACK TRYOUTS

FEBRUARY 27:  
BOYS SOCCER SEMIFINALS @ TBA

FEBRUARY 28:  
GIRLS SOCCER SEMIFINALS @ TBA

MARCH 4:  
SOCCER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

MARCH 12-14:  
TRACK REGIONAL MEET @ TBA

MARCH 25:  
GOLF & TENNIS TRYOUTS BEGIN

APRIL 3:  
GIRLS TRACK FINALS

APRIL 4:  
BOYS TRACK FINALS

The logo features the word "Disney" in its signature script font, positioned above the words "Youth Education Series" which are written in a large, bold, blue, blocky font with a slight 3D effect.

# Disney Youth Education Series

## FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

### CONCESSIONS:

**FEBRUARY 4TH**

**FEBRUARY 6TH**

**FEBRUARY 7TH**

**FEBRUARY 14TH**

**FEBRUARY 21ST**

**WHEN: MARCH 15-17**

**ALL SPOTS FILLED! CONTACT ONE  
OF THE CHAPERONES TO BE PUT  
ON A WAITING LIST**

**ALL STUDENTS BALANCE SHOULD BE AT  
OR LESS THAN \$100 BY FEBRUARY 8TH**

**CHECK GOOGLE CLASSROOM  
FOR ALL UPDATES!**

### CONTACT:

**MR. ARMSWORTH - [JEFFREYAR@LEESCHOOLS.NET](mailto:JEFFREYAR@LEESCHOOLS.NET)**

**MS. STOKES - [JESSICALST@LEESCHOOLS.NET](mailto:JESSICALST@LEESCHOOLS.NET)**

# Student Highlights: DECEMBER & JANUARY

These students were nominated by their teachers for going above and beyond in the classroom. They will have an opportunity to win a 2018–19 Yearbook, as well as being featured on the VLMS News and get a paper certification in their Advisory Class.

## 6th Grade:

Sean Battle  
Melanie Ortiz  
Emily Burnham  
Zachery Snyder  
Liam Sedmak  
Alana Webb  
Ahmad Faircloth  
Sam Salamanca  
Leniel Cardec  
Samuel Salamanca  
Nia Erome

## 7th Grade:

Michael Ortega-Rodriguez  
Summer Tang  
Estefany Nato-Campo  
Aisha Rojas  
Kiara Thompkins  
Alexis Pajan  
Taylor McCoy  
Angel Diaz-Echevarria  
Leo Desmornes  
Alexa Ruppe  
Isabella Hernandez  
Rachel Perez-Penado  
Emely Ibarra  
Ariany Romero-Antunez  
Gianna DelPizzo  
Ke'vontay  
Hannah Davis  
Ke'vontay Duverne

## 8th Grade:

Jaden Robles  
Alyssa Wilson  
Samara Bates  
Jessica Jean-Baptiste  
Ashton Desronvil  
Rosa Benitez-Justo  
Landyn Higginbotham  
Cynthia Alaniz  
Jeffrey Estimond  
Mariela Garcia-Smith

**October Winner: Alana Webb November Winner: Mariela Garcia-Smith**



# NJHS Dance For Hearts

NJHS is hosting a Valentine's Dance on February 15th in the cafe. Tickets cost \$5 and there will be concessions available with items costing from \$1-\$2.

Come support a great cause and have fun with friends in a safe environment!

## YEARBOOK 2018-19

WANT TO ORDER ONLINE?

[YBPAY.LIFETOUCH.COM](http://YBPAY.LIFETOUCH.COM)

ID NUMBER: 13581419

NOW ACCEPTING 8TH  
GRADE BABY PICTURES!

BOOKS NOW COST \$30

Contact Ms. Stokes for more  
information:

Winners of getting their name on the  
cover of the yearbook:

Kimberly Garcia, Alejandro Perez,  
Katelyn Waters, Matthew Smith,  
Nicholas DelPizzo, Jakob Gray, Kiana  
McIntosh &  
Esmeralda Viveros-Mendoza

COMING  
SOON!



Spring Pictures on  
March 7th

You can bring clothes to  
change into, get your  
picture taken by yourself  
or with a friend!

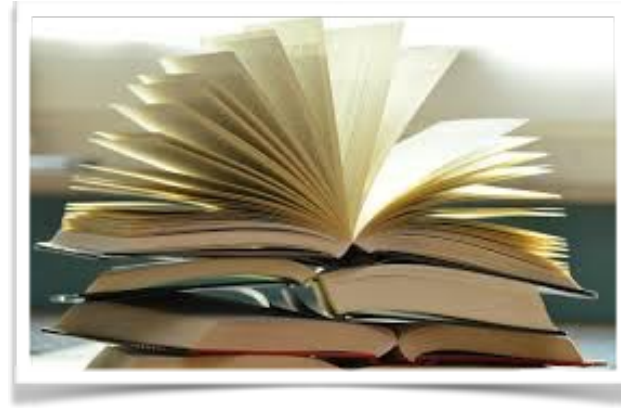
You must pre-pay in  
order to get your picture  
taken!



# MESSAGES FROM MEDIA

WITH MRS. SHAW

**DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY? GIVE ANY & ALL SUGGESTIONS TO MRS. SHAW!**



**WANT TO BE A STUDENT AMBASSADOR NEXT YEAR? SEE MRS. SHAW FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ALL THE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE MEDIA CENTER!**

## TECH TALK WITH MR. NEES

### **Chromebook Reminders:**

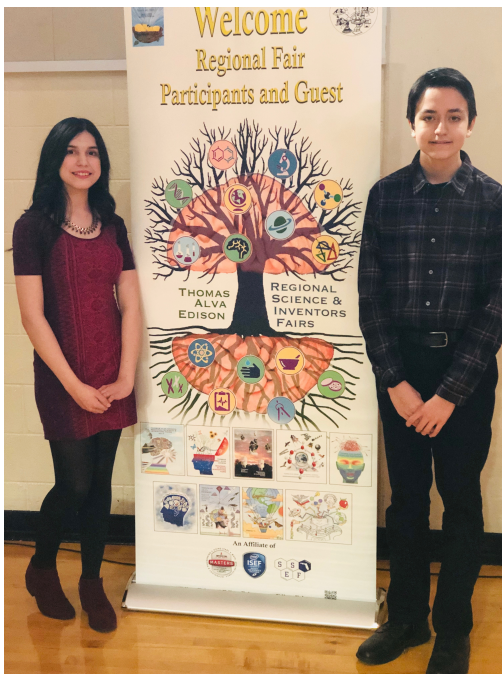
- Always put your chromebook in its case
- Don't carry it by the screen
- No need to download music
- Charge it every night
- They are not free to replace or fix
  - Cost is \$300 to replace if lost



# Science Fair 2018

**Juliet Varela and Jason Thompson received the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) award called 'Taking the Pulse of the Planet', which recognizes outstanding student projects in ocean, coastal, Great Lakes, weather and climate sciences.**

**This was after Juliet and Jason had previously competed and won in the VLMS Science Fair and moved to Regionals.**



**There were two divisions (Junior & Senior) and out of hundred who competed at the event hosted by FGCU, only a portion were selected as winners and honored.**



# Math Team

**Congratulations to the VLMS competitive math team for their fourth place finish at the district competition held at Dunbar High School. There were over 20 schools in attendance and our mathletes did an amazing job! We would also like to recognize both James Nehl and Brycelyn Turner for scoring in the top ten out of all the participants in the competition, great job! Great job to all the mathletes!**







# Band

**February 5th:**  
**Jazz Band MPA @ NFMAA**  
**2:30-7PM**

**February 8th:**  
**Solo/Ensemble Festival @ Golden Gate HS**

**February 21st:**  
**All County Jazz Auditions @ NFMAA 5-6:30PM**

**February 25-27th:**  
**Guest Conductor**

**February 26th:**  
**FBA Pre-Festival**

**March 13-14th:**  
**All County Jazz @ NFMAA 6-9PM**

**March 27th:**  
**FBA MPA Pre-Festival Concert @ LSHS**  
**10AM**

**March 4-7th:**  
**Concert Band MPA @ TBA**





Random Acts  
of Kindness

**Quarter 3 Service Project:**

**SOLES-4-SOULS SHOE DRIVE**

**GOAL: 500 pairs of shoes**

**January 25-February 25**

**Needed:**

**Good & worn out shoes**

**Good shoes will be donated to needy  
people through Soles 4 Souls**

**Worn out shoes will be recycled into  
playground equipment by Native Shoes**

**Drop off locations:**

**Front office, Mrs. Cabrera, Mrs. Albright,  
Mrs. Barrero & Mr. Windey**

# DRAMA

## Faculty Freakshow 2

### A Talent Show

**Starring the  
Student, Teachers &  
Administration!**

**Friday, March 8th 2019  
7:00PM**

## Spring Showcase

**An evening of scenes, songs  
and monologues**

**Presented by the Theatre  
Classes**

**Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> 2019  
7:00 PM**

## The Wizard of Oz

**The classic story brought to life  
onstage.**

**Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> 2019 7:00 PM**

**Thank you to the following who supported Career Night at  
VLMS, giving students an opportunity to come and learn about  
new careers:**

Southeastern Guide dogs, Inc- Roy Kennedy  
Florida Everblades-Ali O'Connor  
Suncoast credit Union  
Lee County Sheriff's Department-Lieutenant Sylvester  
Tice Fire Department- Ted Ross  
Child Care Southwest Florida-Carmen Green  
IMAG History & Science Center-Amanda Plummer Soisson  
Southern Eastern Guide Dog Inc- Gater B.  
Prostruct Inc. -Josh Jackeon & Michael Costa  
Cape Technical Community College-Melody M. Allen  
Family Health Center -Tori Cunningham  
Radiology Regional Center- Angela Alvarado  
Dastani Homes Real Edge Realtor- Ron Reincke  
Imag History and Science Center SWFL -Vcunningham  
The Southern Sophisticats – Mr. Whiteman  
Goldstein, Buckley, Cechman, Rice & Purtz, P.A.- Stephen W. Dommerich

United Way –Mary M.  
LA Hair- Terry  
Pest Control- Ralph's  
Learning for life - Tina  
Family Health Center  
Calusa Harbor Nature –Sam Origlia  
Dr. Schiffhauer  
Exceptional Realtor –Sandra Thibodeau  
Sebbie Images- Jesi Cason  
Mr. Whitman and his drums  
Child Care SW Florida- Angela A.  
Learning For Life – Tina Pegler  
Tice Fire Department- Monahan  
Suncoast Credit Union- Rosmary Gutierrez

# GEMS

**GEMS had a lock-in on December 14th in which they created toiletry kits for the Act Women's Shelter in Lee County. These houses support women who are being abused or suffering from domestic violence.**

**Each kit had a hand written note from a GEMS member, as well as supplies that were donated and bought from fundraising.**

**Students packed almost 100 kits during the lock-in which were delivered to the shelter.**

# SchoolMessenger

## Why is my school asking me to okay receiving telephone calls or text messages?

Under a federal law designed to protect consumers, we have to get your permission to send nonemergency messages to a mobile phone by automated voice call or SMS text. It's also just a good idea, so that we're sure the message is going to the right phone number for the right person. This permission is needed only for automated voice calls and texts. Permission is not necessary for other calls from the school, like you might get directly from a teacher, principal, or other staff member.

## I have never been asked about phone calls before. Is this new?

While it is not completely new, the rules were recently updated to make it clear that we need the recipient's okay to send non-emergency automated phone notifications, as well as SMS text messages, to a mobile phone number. To comply with the law contact information must be current.

## What if there is an emergency?

In an emergency, we will call or text you as long as we have your contact information on file. The law has an exception for calls made for "emergency purposes," which is usually a situation affecting the health and safety of consumers. What if I change my mind about phone calls, or change my mobile number? You can opt out of non-emergency calls and text messages at any time. For voice calls, we will provide instructions on how to use touch-tones on your phone keypad to stop receiving calls. For text messages, you can stop receiving them by texting "UNSUBSCRIBE" or "STOP" after receiving a text from us.

## Can I be contacted in other ways, too?

Yes. We can contact you, if you would like, by email. Email is covered by a different set of rules than the permission required for automated voice calls and text messages to mobile phones.

## My school says it uses the SchoolMessenger app. What is it?

The SchoolMessenger app is a free web and mobile app that gives you access to school notifications of all types (text messages, voice and email) inside a single inbox. You can also change your contact preferences and adjust contact numbers in the web app, available from any Internet-enabled device.

## How do I sign up for the SchoolMessenger app and provide permission?

The easiest way is to visit the SchoolMessenger app website at <https://go.schoolmessenger.com/>. Create an account by clicking "Sign Up" on the top right menu, using the email address that you have provided to the school. You can choose how you want to be contacted based on the category of message (from emergencies to school activities) and provide contact permission. You will also be able to listen to and read messages from the school for the previous 30 days so you do not miss a thing, including alerts, notifications and attachments. You can also sign back in to change your preferences at any time.



## What if I want to use the SchoolMessenger mobile app?

You will find the SchoolMessenger app in the Apple iOS Store or Google Android Play Store. If you have already created an account, you simply have to log in. If you have not, Click the “Sign Up” button, enter your email address, and create a password. An email will be sent to that address with a secure token. If you receive a “This email is already registered” error message, which means you have already created a SchoolMessenger account via another SchoolMessenger product. Simply follow the “Return to login” link and login. Use the “Forgot your password” link if needed.

## Will the SchoolMessenger app notify me if there is new information?

You can opt in to receiving Device (or push) Notifications under Notification Preferences. When you choose to receive Device Notifications, a badge or alert will appear when new communications are available in your SchoolMessenger app inbox.

## How private is the information in the SchoolMessenger app?

West, the trusted provider of SchoolMessenger is one of more than 200 organizations that has signed the Student Privacy Pledge ([www.studentprivacypledge.org](http://www.studentprivacypledge.org)). The Pledge spells out a dozen commitments related to the protection and responsible use of student data. You can rest assured that your student’s information is secure and will never be sold, rented, or shared. Signatories to this pledge can be held legally responsible for actions or practices that do not conform to it.

## Who should I contact if I have more questions?

Please contact us at the school offices if you need any more information.



### STAY CONNECTED THROUGH SCHOOLMESSENGER COMMUNICATE



The SchoolMessenger Communicate website and app enable parents, staff, and students to stay informed and up-to-date on important information and activities within their school and district communities.

**RECEIVE 24/7/365 ACCESS TO NOTIFICATIONS SUCH AS:**

- Activity and event information
- Classroom and group updates
- Potential emergency situations
- Related weather reports
- Schedule changes

Set your communication preferences for phone calls, emails, texts and more. Additionally, the app allows teachers and parents to communicate individually or in groups, **all in one place.**

**GET STARTED**

**SIGN UP FOR SCHOOLMESSENGER COMMUNICATE TODAY!**

Visit [Go.SchoolMessenger.com](http://Go.SchoolMessenger.com) and sign up for your free account. This app is available via PC, Apple iOS and Android.

For a detailed user guide, sign up instructions, and FAQs for teachers and parents, visit [www.LeeSchools.net](http://www.LeeSchools.net)







### MANTÉNGASE CONECTADO A TRAVÉS DE SCHOOLMESSENGER COMMUNICATE



El sitio web y la aplicación SchoolMessenger Communicate permiten a los padres, el personal y los estudiantes mantenerse informados y actualizados sobre información importante y las actividades en curso dentro de su escuela y las comunidades del distrito.

**OBTENGA ACCESO LAS 24 HORAS DEL DÍA, LOS 365 DÍAS DEL AÑO A LAS NOTIFICACIONES, TALES COMO:**

- Información de actividad y evento
- Actualizaciones en el aula
- Posibles situaciones de emergencia
- Informes meteorológicos relacionados
- Cambios de horario

Establezca sus preferencias de comunicación para llamadas, correos electrónicos, textos y más. Además, la aplicación permite a los maestros y padres comunicarse individualmente o en grupos, **todo en un solo lugar.**

**EMPEZAR**

**COMIENCE HOY CON SCHOOLMESSENGER COMUNÍQUESE!**

Visite [Go.SchoolMessenger.com](http://Go.SchoolMessenger.com) y regístrese para obtener su cuenta gratuita. Esta aplicación está disponible a través de PC, Apple iOS y Android.

Para obtener una guía de usuario detallada, instrucciones de inscripción y preguntas frecuentes para maestros y padres, visite [www.LeeSchools.net](http://www.LeeSchools.net)







# FOURTEEN FOODS & DAIRY QUEEN



**99¢**  
**BLIZZARD**  
*treat*

with purchase of blizzard treat at equal or greater value

Not at all Fourteen Foods locations. Not www.fourteenfoods.com for complete list of locations. Not valid with any other offer. No cash value. Not if altered, copied or restricted by law. Limit one coupon per customer. DQ and the flame-shaped logo are trademarks of DQ. DQ, Cup, M&M, M&M's logo © 1998. PLB-27015



**4-PIECE**  
*chicken strip*  
**BASKET**  
**\$1 off**

EXCLUDES \$5 BUCK LUNCH



Not at all Fourteen Foods locations. Not www.fourteenfoods.com for complete list of locations. Not valid with any other offer. No cash value. Not if altered, copied or restricted by law. Limit one coupon per customer. DQ and the flame-shaped logo are trademarks of DQ. DQ, Cup, M&M, M&M's logo © 1998. PLB-27021



**\$3 off**  
**ANY DQ**  
**Cake**  
8" OR LARGER



Not at all Fourteen Foods locations. Not www.fourteenfoods.com for complete list of locations. Not valid with any other offer. No cash value. Not if altered, copied or restricted by law. Limit one coupon per customer. DQ and the flame-shaped logo are trademarks of DQ. DQ, Cup, M&M, M&M's logo © 1998. PLB-25015



## COME CELEBRATE WITH US