Simply Spectacular: *The Sword in the Stone*

by Jimmie Anderson

In the second annual Junior School production, *The Sword in the Stone*, a novel read by all seventh graders was brought to life on stage by students from MBA, St. Bernard’s, St. Henry’s, Harpeth Hall, and Overbrook. The plot stayed relatively close to the book but also had some creative touches, such as Wart’s education in the ant colony and with the geese. The musical talents in the Junior School were evident in the delightful songs. The costumes, such as the large talking fish, provided a great source of entertainment. This lighthearted and expertly done play proved a hit with the audience. Once again, Dr. Seay revealed his remarkable skills as a director; in addition, he wrote the clever script. Judging by the reaction of other students, many would agree that the play was an absolute success.

**Eddie Seay:** Very well done, definitely a great decision to go see it.

**Cedric Smith:** I liked the ant scene with Daniel Rundberg as he used his antenna as a walky talky.

**Hayden Synder:** My favorite scene was when Arthur pulled the sword from the stone.

**Joe Riegle:** I enjoyed watching Mitchell fall off the stool!

**Cooper Thomas:** I liked the fog and blue lights around Wart at the end of the play.

Sir Ector, Sir Grummore, Kay, and King Pellinore admire Merlyn’s gift.

Wart proves that he is the rightful king.

All creatures tremble before the powerful Mr. P.
Archimedes teaches Wart to fly.

Lyo-lyok, the Norwegian goose, sings “No Boundaries.”

“You Can See Everything,” according to Archimedes’ friends. Wart gives Archimedes a tasty mouse.

Cavall and Dog Boy

Sir Ector and Sir Grummore portray “The Life I Love.”
The Sword in the Stone

Reflections from Gage

The play was a huge success! The entire cast will have many great memories of it! I had a blast, and I am so glad we had big crowds to come watch this year’s musical. I have tried to come up with some nicknames, but they are a little cheesy. Here are a few:

Kevin (Fell from a Tree) Murphy
Chris (To London!) Goodrich
Andrew (Slow Down) Wright
Mitchell (Are You Cereal?) Shope
Anna (Honk!) Nelson
Daniel (Done, Done, Done!) Rundberg
Nicholas (Don’t Touch the Explosives!) Caprioli
Darby (Red Head) Raybourn
Gage (The Fat Owl) Baxter
Ali (I Am a Plastic Red Bird!) Caprioli
Taylor (More Port, Now!) Ely
Aaron (What, What??) Ardisson
Christopher (Woof, Woof, Woof!!) McClure
Hunter (I Have a Loooowww Voice) Woolwine
Andrew (Pheasant) Powell
Malcolm (The Air Is Fresh. The Sky Is Blue?) Morrison
Zemel (I Can’t Honk!) Shropshire
Will (Boy-o!) Lee
John (Roach Boy) Elam
Eric (Sorry, but You Don’t Have a Nickname) Walsh
Philip (Where Is My Ant hHead?) Spelman
Jill (The Short One) Ryan

Thank you to the tech crew and everyone else! THANK YOU, DR. SEAY!!

Grummore p’owns Pellinore.

The ant nest sings “Done/Not Done.”

Merlyn declares the wonders of London.

With Hob’s help, Pellinore recovers after his joust with Sir Grummore.

Merlyn “Making Magic”
Father Son Dinner

John and Philip Spelman

Joseph and Mike Whelan

Leif and Kevin Murphy

Cooper and Tom Thomas

Marc and Aaron Ardisson

Joe and Mark Barry
Father Son Dinner

Mitchell and Frank Shope

Chris and Christopher McClure

David and Anderson Rader

Baker and Tom Swain

Rock and John Morphis

Jack and Chris Whitson
Good Times with Grandparents

Jimmy Thomas: Pops, Grant Thomas, sends us a $50 bill (a Grant) every birthday and Christmas. My grandmother, “E,” took us birthday shopping as kids and had Easter egg hunts at her house.

Tom Markham: Some years ago, Doc and I went down to New Orleans. We went by train and stayed in the French Quarter. One night, we watched an old black-and-white Andy Griffith film that Doc loved. I remember cracking up over the movie, and still today, I remember that trip very well.

Joe Riegle: My grandfather, Papa Joe, is all talk. When I was about eight years old, he would watch me playing basketball and tell me that I needed to keep practicing because he could “easily beat me” in a game of one-on-one. After he would brag, I would ask him to play; the game was not fair at all. He could not support his talk because every time we played, I shut him out. His excuse was always that he let me win. I just let him think that!

Cooper Thomas: When I was in the sixth grade, I went to my Grandma’s house in Albuquerque, NM, where I learned how to drive her five-speed Honda Prelude in a church parking lot.

Rob McArthur: I remember when I was four years old, my grandfather gave me a five dollar bill to get some candy, and I looked up at him and asked, “Daddy Brent, ain’t you got any twenties?”

Lucas Rappuhn: My grandparents always think about me and spoil me.

John Wyse: My grandparents, Grandaddy and Gran Jan, live in Mississippi. They used to take me to the Strawberry Park playground and to a pond where we could feed the ducks. Grandma Martha had a huge backyard. I remember building bonfires in her yard and playing charades late into the night.

Will Granbery: I have some great times with my grandfather, Pappadaddy. A few years ago, I flew to Maryland, and my grandfather picked me up at the airport. We had about an hour drive and had a very interesting conversation on quantum physics. The whole time we were discussing different theories; I would say something, and he would correct me. This conversation is one of my favorite memories with Pappadaddy because we had the time to talk about things we both love.

Russell Anderson: I can remember those dreaded Sundays before the
first week of school. My grandfather, Jimmy, would always sing an obnoxious song about going back to school and give us noogies. I also remember asking him when I was very young, “How did you get your hair off?” I will never forget when I went over to my grandparents’ house, and Momma would slip me into the kitchen and give me candy without my parents knowing. Those were the golden days.

**Paul VanPernis:** Pacha used to always call me over and say that he wanted to talk to me. When I got had a beautiful alto singing voice. She also had a gift for writing poems. She was the kindest, gentlest woman I’ve every known.

**Will McCaskill:** I remember lots of different occasions when my grandfather, Pa, and I would just hang out. Recently, we went fishing in Canada and spent some great times catching huge fish. We got to eat on the shores of small islands on the lakes. I also remember my trip to NYC with Pa and Mimi; we had so much fun walking around, enjoying all the great sights. We also saw Gwen Stefani in the “TRL” studio. I was so startled, I yelled out, and my grandparents asked me “Who is that?” I responded, “Gwen Stefani, duh!” So many good times!

**Alex Gant:** Every day I would go out to Gramma and Mic’s house after school. They live by a swamp. Naturally, Mic and I would go down to the swamp and canoe or fish. I really enjoyed the time with him. That was where I caught my first, and only, fish.

**Clay McDonald:** One of my favorite memories is spending the night at Mee-Maw’s house and going to the drug store and then the Dollar Tree, where she said I could buy anything I wanted. Since I was pretty young, I had no idea that everything in the store cost a dollar! I always thought she spoiled me. I will never forget those days—the good ones.

**Will Baker:** I woke up one morning at my grandnanny’s house to the smell of bacon. I got up and ran out to see what was going on. My grandnanny said, “Here, Will, wash your hands, and you can cook the eggs.” My grandmother and I cooked a great breakfast together of eggs, bacon, biscuits, sausage, and cereal.

**Nathan Tinnell:** My grandfather, Pepaw, used to make Round-2-Its, which were tokens that were handed out to anyone who said, “I’ll do it when I get around to it,” when they were asked to do something. He made hundreds of them and handed them to everyone—doctors, people at church, even people that he did not know. My other grandfather, Pawpaw, has a weird cat that always puts paperclips in his food bowl and lays on all the clothes in the closet. He also tries to bite me every time I visit.

**Mrs Virginia Bakken:** When my grandfather was 75, he and his 70-year-old friend made it their “pet project” to get rid of the alligator there, he would wrap his legs around me and not let me go. While he had me wrapped up, he would tickle me with “The Finger!”

**Mr. David Brown:** Granny Page was born in the Choctaw Nation of Indian Territory, and I grew up hearing a lot of cowboy (her dad was one) and Indian stories. She infected me with a love of history. Grandma Brown had eight children, was an accomplished musician, and
Grandparents. . .

that had made our farm pond his home. Despite the fact that it is illegal in Georgia to kill an alligator, they had grand plans to hunt down this predator. To catch the gator, they took a shark hook, baited it with chicken, and tied it to an empty milk jug. The next morning they found the dead alligator, jumped in the water, and pulled it out of the pond. The little alligator that had invaded our pond was a monster! It was over 10 feet long and weighed at least 400 pounds!! The best part of the whole story was watching my grandfather recount his adventure with a childish twinkle in his eye. Every summer I think he hopes, just a little bit, for another guest alligator.

**Gage Baxter:** I have had so many fun times with my grandparents, Carole and Ed Nelson (Tis and Pappasan). My fondest memory with them was when we went to the U.S. Open in 2004 in New York. I hope they live another 100 years because I love them sooooo much!

**Alex Luna:** My grandmother Gran is very funny. She picked Harrison and me up from school one day. It normally takes ten minutes to get to our house, but that day it took two hours due to a squirrel, a bent stop sign, and a baseball cap that flew off into the wind. Afterwards, Harrison and I laughed about it, but my grandmother was asleep on her chair.

**Chris Goodrich:** My parents once took my brother, sister, and me on a road trip, promising that we would arrive at M.B. and Grandad’s house in a few hours. However, an hour or so into the trip, they revealed to us that we would actually be making a trip to Disneyworld! We immediately burst into tears, all three of us (ages 3, 5, and 8). To our parents’ dismay, we all would have preferred to visit our grandparents in Chattanooga instead of going to Disneyworld!

**Mrs. Carol Steele:** I remember my grandfather very vividly sitting at a tea cart, listening to the baseball game and playing solitaire. He had beautiful white hair and a wonderful smile. We were sure he could do anything. I also remember my grandparents in El Dorado, Arkansas. My great uncle was a conductor on the train, and we would ride from Little Rock to El Dorado to visit my grandparents. We would pack a lunch, and off we would go.

**Nick Kohler:** My granddad has a collection of WWII swords in his basement, and I remember going downstairs and playing with them. One time, he even let me keep one, so I have a WWII sword in my own room.

Rob Barnes: Every year, we go to Jackson, Mississippi, and celebrate Christmas with my grandparents, who have the whole family to their house to eat and exchange presents. They always try to spend all the time they have with us and rarely take time for themselves. Every year, they argue with my parents to stay for another day, but they are never successful.
Cedric Smith: My favorite memory of Grandma and Grandpa was when I was little. During the summer, I would stay up late at night and watch movies with my grandma. We would often stay up all night long, eating ice cream and bonding. Then, after staying up all night, I would go fishing at five in the morning with Grandpa, and he would teach me fishing techniques. On the way home from fishing, I would always fall asleep from the late night and sleep the rest of the day away.

Van East: Mimi and Grandad have always been extra caring and fun around me. They always take me places that I enjoy a lot. They sacrifice time and money for me. I remember one day after breakfast, Mimi asked me what I wanted to do for a day. I wanted to go see a movie, buy some fun games, and eat at a fancy restaurant. I was expecting none of these wishes to come true, but to my surprise, she took me to do everything I had asked for!

Julian Jones: My grandparents were wonderful. I used to spend my summers with them in Memphis. They knew so many fascinating people—Margaret Polk, the famous “Memphis Belle,” was a close friend and many others. They always took me with them on great trips. My favorite memory was when they took me to Hot Springs, Arkansas. We went to all the auctions, and they taught me how to bid on things. It was amazing. And man, did I have good food! I adored them.

Patrick Duffey: Many memories come to mind of my four amazing grandparents. Papa takes me to many Vandy and Titans games. Mamie takes me to many art and music festivals, along with the saying, “Where’s your winter coat?” when it’s 50 degrees outside. Mumps takes me and the rest of the family any place that we need to be at any time. And finally, Nana takes care of me like she was my mother when I was sick. I thank all four of my outstanding parents!

Hampton Farr: When I was little, my mom’s parents, Gran and E, lived in Greenville, Mississippi, an extremely small town in the Delta. My grandfather, E, worked at this small sporting goods store called Judge Little Sporting Goods (found throughout Mississippi). The store wasn’t like Academy Sports or Dick’s Sporting Goods, but more like a small Sports Seasons. Sometimes E would take me to the store and let me play with all the gear. After work sometimes, E would take me to feed the ducks at a small pond in the middle of nowhere. One day at their house, I was running in the kitchen in my sock feet on the hardwood floor, and I ran into the door. That day, I learned how not to run in the kitchen...
right into the doorknob of a closed door. Gran was in a state of shock, but I imagine my dad and E were probably laughing to themselves about the four-year-old going full speed and slamming headfirst into a doorknob!

**Doug McWilliams:** I remember one time I was at my house, and suddenly the doorbell rang. My granddad had surprised me by coming over to say hi. He also brought some pretzels because he knows how much I like them.

**Stephen Bedard:** My Meme and Pepelive in Florida. I remember when I was little and thought Pepe was called that name because he put lots of pepper on everything. Although they have 18 grandchildren, they still manage to come to important events of every one of them.

**Ben Coode:** Every Christmas Eve, my cousins and I go over to my grandparents’ house to show what we were blessed with. Also, my grandparents and I go their farm to ride the four-wheeler, swim in the creek, fish, and play.

**Davis Thrailkill:** One year, my dad and I decided to go to Nana’s house for a weekend and play in two tennis tournaments. Great Gran is 91 now and lives with Nana, and her memory and hearing aren’t what they used to be. One morning, my dad asked Nan if she had any coffee filters. She said that they had a closet full of filters. Great Gran replied, “We have a closet full of lettuce?” The next morning, as my dad and I were leaving to go to the tournaments, Great Gran wished me luck and told me to hit a homerun! I got runner-up in both tournaments, so I received the 2nd place trophies. When we got back to Nan’s house, Great Gran saw the trophies and asked me if I hit a homerun. I told her I didn’t, and she replied, “Oh, that’s okay. You’ll get one next time.”

**Dr. Rick Seay:** My grandfather, Odell Lugar, was wonderful, and I still miss him very much after twenty years. My favorite memory of being with him involves times when he and his brothers would get together and play improvised bluegrass. They were totally untrained musicians, but the music they created on banjos, fiddles, and mandolins was amazing. Still today, my most prized possession is my grandfather’s fiddle, complete with rattlesnake rattles inside to improve the resonance!

**Connor Caldwell:** My grandma is such an incredible cook. I swear I’d weigh 300 pounds if I lived at her house. I remember when my PaPa drove me to the grocery store in a golf cart to get ice cream. He parked close enough to the door that the automatic door opened.

**Ryan Hill:** I remember when Papa took my cousins and me to the movies a while back. He had just gotten a
green Mini Cooper, and to break it in, he decided to hit 50 mph in the parking garage. It was the first time I ever smelled burning rubber.

**Philip Spelman:** My grandmother’s name is Gagee because I could not pronounce Grandma. When I was little, my dad would pretend to be a monster and chase me around the family room. My grandma would save me. Then I would turn around and, being a three-year-old comedian, I would imitate the way she walked and then fall down—the “Gagee Walk.”

**Ian Sharbel:** When I went to visit my grandparents one year, they gave me all the fishing equipment I needed. During that whole visit, I fished in the lagoon and still continue to use that same rod and reel.

**Connor Pagnani:** I fondly remember spending time with my grandparents in Raleigh each summer. I would wake up each morning to the smell of pastries that Grammie had baked for breakfast, and then I would go off to play with the gifts they bestowed upon me each time I visited. The highlight of my day would be riding in a little wagon, attached to the back of the lawnmower or “tractor.” Bocher would drive me around the yard and through the woods until we both got tired enough to go inside. Grammie always had something for me to help with—a puzzle or game and would always make me laugh. I will forever cherish my time with them, and I am truly lucky to have such caring grandparents.

**Nick Bessette:** When I think of my grandparents, whom I call Oma and Opa because they are German, I have many memories. My favorite one is when my family went to a traditional German restaurant. I learned how to do the chicken dance and danced a long time with my grandparents. It was really fun, but I mainly enjoyed just being with my grandparents.

**Daniel Rundberg:** My grandparents, Granny and Dodo, have always been some of the nicest people. They know where all the fun places in town are, and they make it a point to take us there. They have a never-ending interest in what we do at school. They also have a great sense of humor.

**Mrs. Carole Pettus:** During the 1950’s and early 60’s, my grandmother, whom I called Babo, and my step-grandfather owned the Sundown Drive-In Theater in Paris, Tennessee. I LOVED to visit them—a movie every night and all the popcorn I could eat. Babo didn’t like to cook, so she would take my family out for an early dinner before we all headed out to the drive-in. My first viewing of *Gone With the Wind* was at the Sundown on a lazy summer evening, sitting with my brother beside one of the speakers.

**Chase Owen:** I call my grandparents Mommom and Pop. Every Sunday after church, we make a trip to their house to eat lunch made by Mommom and go on a “Sunday Adventure” with my grandfather and cousins. Whether we go to the movies or to MBA, we have a blast and go get ice cream after the adventure.

**Patrick Meehan:** Grammy and Papa are big-time tennis players. They try to teach me “everything” they know, especially Papa. My favorite time of year with my grandparents is Christmas. It’s not about the presents but the amazing Christmas dinner Grammy
makes and, of course, spending time with the family. On the other side of the family is G. J. We call her that because she was tired of being called “Granny Joan,” so we came up with G. J. and the name stuck.

**Christian Alford:** My best memory of my Papa and Popop is going to breakfast with them every month. I see my Nana all the time because she makes it a point to come to every single game I play in. I used to go to my Grandma’s house, and we would get out all the toys and play. We had a great time.

**Jack Hallemann:** Every time I see my grandparents, we always play cards. Some of my best memories of Nan Pap, Gamma, and Papa are of their teaching me Poker, Texas Hold ‘Em, Bridge, Gin, and Tripoli. I usually only see them at Thanksgiving, so there’s always pumpkin pie waiting after we finish playing.

**Carter Callaway:** I remember one time when I was walking with my cousins and grandfather, G-daddy, through the woods near his house. We saw a vine hanging down from a tree, so we thought it would be fun to swing on it. My cousins and I started swinging, and then G-daddy started swinging. It was really funny to see him swinging out and back, having a blast with us instead of watching.

**Will Lee:** My fondest memory of my grandmother would be when I was younger and in my rock-collecting phase. She went all the way to Tucson and got me some cool rocks from the gem and mineral show. I was so happy about that, so she does it every year now.

**Hayden Morgan:** One of my many memories is with my grandmother, whom we call “Booger.” Once a year my sister and I stay with her while my parents take a trip. These memories are special because she always buys me something, and I love her for that.

**John Hughart:** My grandmother Nana is very nice to me. She would always play with my Lincoln Logs with me. We would build very big lake house, we had just gotten a ski boat to replace my grandad’s twenty-year-old, rarely-working hunk of metal. One day we had a bunch of people to the lake, and we were about to get out the boat, but for some reason it wouldn’t start. Suddenly, Grandad came around the corner to the rescue in his old boat! Everyone then went out and had a great time. Unfortunately, on the way back, the propeller fell off, and we had to swim the boat back home! It was a crazy day.

**Will Norton:** For Christmas one year, Gigi and MamMam took me to see a showing of the Rockettes. Afterwards, we ate dinner together; however, whenever I am with my grandparents, it seems as if every moment is special.

**Christopher McClure:** My grandmother, Mama Rabbit, has come to quite a few Grandparents Day programs over the years. Even though her back caused her pain, she would still take the time to come to support me.

**Miller Higgins:** One time my Papa took me to play golf with my brother Alan. I had never played golf, but he was very patient. He worked mainly with Alan because I was only seven. He taught me the dollar bill trick when your ball is in a sand trap. It was the best golf lesson I ever had.

**Jack Keller:** When I lived in Chicago, I visited my grandparents often. My grandmother, whom I call Grandma, hid gifts for me and my sisters in a night table. We always ran, found the gifts, and then thanked her. Our family would then sit down and cheer for the Chicago Bears.
Gage Baxter sang "The Star Spangled Banner" before the Vanderbilt-Kentucky game. Great job, Gage!

MBA MathCounts: State Champions for the fourth consecutive year. Andrew Powell will advance to the national competition. Congratulations!

Concert with the Symphony by Andrew Cho

On Sunday, March 4, 2007, MBA, Harpeth Hall, and St. Cecilia Academy presented a combined concert at the Paschall Theater. The concert featured the choruses of the three schools directed by David Cassel, Jan Pippin, Nancy Turner, and Jeanette MacCallum. The combined concert also featured MBA’s Ellington Jazz Band, MBA chamber orchestra, and most importantly, the members of the Nashville Symphony. The concert was very special considering that the choruses from three schools performed on the stage together and also considering that it is not an everyday opportunity for one to play with such a renowned orchestra like the Nashville Symphony.

The combined concert began with the Harpeth Hall concert choir and the chamber choir skillfully singing two songs called “Echo” and “Tota pulchra es.” The Harpeth Hall choir was followed by the St. Cecilia concert choir singing two beautiful songs called “Psalm 23” and “City Of Heaven.” (I personally liked this one.) Then, our own MBA chorus took over the stage. The MBA singers first sang “Yellow Bird,” which many of us have heard during assembly. They also performed an interesting piece called “Rainbow ‘Round My Shoulder.” Next, the three choruses, the Ellington Band, and the members of the Nashville Symphony Orchestra, led by Scott Schwartz’ solo vocal, overwhelmingly performed a piece called “You’re Still A Young Man.” I thought this performance of the concert was the most awe-inspiring part.

After intermission, I got a chance to play with the members of the Nashville Symphony Orchestra as a part of the MBA chamber orchestra. The three choruses, the MBA chamber orchestra, and the Nashville Symphony harmoniously sang and played “Homeward Bound,” which many people thought was great. After this, the choruses and the Symphony performed three more songs, and the concert ended. If you were at the concert, you would not argue with the fact that the concert was FANTASTIC.
Dodgeball
by Joe Barry

The seventh and eighth grade began a dodge ball tournament the week before spring break, benefiting the American Heart Association. After a five-dollar entry fee, students picked their own teams. Most of the games went down to the wire. In one game, everyone thought Henry Richardson was done for when it was 3 on 1, but Henry managed to get one person out and stay in for quite awhile before being eliminated. The reward for his hard work was that he did have the crowd chanting his name. There were many great plays, including one by Aaron Ardisson, where he tipped a ball with a ball he held. He tipped the ball thrown at him so high that he was able to catch it as it landed perfectly in his arms. Both the eighth grade and the seventh grade teams worked hard and made some memorable plays. Aaron Ardisson said: “It is amazingly fun, and it is a great honor to captain the ‘Beta Pythons.’”

A different approach was taken by Logan Standard, who said, “In the future, dodge ball will be illegal, and nerds everywhere will rejoice.” Early on, seventh-grader Mason Luplow predicted the winners: “The Beasts.” Indeed they did win, dominating their opponents, the “Team Meluch,” in the finals. The eighth-grade tournament was just as exciting. Miller Higgins expressed surprise when he stated, falling to the rapid-fire assault of the “Pretty Pink Pandas.” Being a player in the tournament myself, I have to say it was fun and a great way to earn money. I personally wish we could do this every quarter or at least every semester.

“The overrated team ended up dominating the tournament.” The eighth-grade tournament was decided when Alex Blanton caught Van East’s ball, sealing the victory for the “Pretty Pink Pandas.” When the eighth grade squared off against the seventh grade in the final game, the victors emerged quickly with the “Beasts” falling to the rapid-fire assault of the “Pretty Pink Pandas.” Being a player in the tournament myself, I have to say it was fun and a great way to earn money. I personally wish we could do this every quarter or at least every semester.
The Beasts prepare for battle.

Grey Curtis’ wicked slider fights off Team Meluch.

Pretty Pink Slaughter

“The Beasts”

Pythons regroup as Coach Wims looks on.

“The Beta Pythons”

The eighth graders revel in their victory.
Joe’s Crossword

Sports Season
Created by Joe Scherrer with EclipseCrossword — www.eclipsedcrossword.com

Across
2. First name of boxers Marciano and Graziano
5. Famous baseball player who later got expelled for life: _____ Joe
7. First Heisman Trophy winner
8. Sport that helped diplomacy with China
10. Reason for the cancellation of the 1919 hockey Stanley Cup
11. Major league baseball team with the most World Series titles
13. First black Major League baseball player
14. Player on 1960 Ohio State NCAA champion team (later famous coach)

Down
1. Sport where you can find a "sticky wicket"
3. Loser of Super Bowl I
4. Major League Baseball catcher and WWII spy
5. Home of Basketball Hall of Fame (and Homer!)
6. Sport named after a vegetable
9. Major league baseball team with the longest time since winning a World Series
12. Inventor of basketball
Stanley Cup for Nashville?

by Jimmy Thomas

The Nashville Predators have distinguished themselves as one of the best teams in the NHL this season. With a record of 49-21-7, they have already clinched a playoff spot and are currently fighting to maintain their position at first overall in the league. If the Preds win their remaining five games, they will earn home-ice advantage throughout the playoffs.

The Nashville Predators were established in 1998 and are in their eighth season. Each year, the Predators have gradually improved and are now playing their best ever. This year, however, the Preds are attempting to break trends of the previous seasons; if they can keep the lead in the Central Division with five games to go, they will earn their first ever division title. The Preds also have their best chance to advance past the first round of the playoffs for the first time in franchise history, previously losing to the Red Wings in '04 and the Sharks in '06. (In '05 the hockey season was cancelled because of a lockout.)

When it comes to talent, the Predators rank among the best in the league. They are led by veterans Kimmo Timonen, Paul Kariya, Steve Sullivan, Jason Arnott, and newly acquired Peter Forsberg. The Preds also have two great goalies in Tomas Vokoun and Chris Mason. Additionally, Jordin Tootoo (my favorite player) and Alexander Radulov are two great young players who have superstar potential.

The Predators will end their '06-'07 season on April 7 with an away game against the Colorado Avalanche. The playoffs will begin soon after. If Scott Hartnell (broken foot) and Steve Sullivan (back spasms), two key factors in the Preds’ offense who have been out for many games now, recover in time for the playoffs, the Predators should be able to seriously contend for the championship. If you have never been to a game, go to the playoffs to support the Preds. The games are very fast and fun and much more exciting than Titans’ games. And, if they score five goals, free tacos for everyone!!!!!
Daniel McGugin is the new varsity football coach at MBA, but more importantly, he teaches American history in the Junior School.

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