



Manasquan High School The Blue & Gray

Bravo!

**Drama Club Spring Musical
Earns Rave Reviews**

*Junior Paige Petruzzielo,
senior Cam Lieb and a
wonderful supporting cast
turned heads in an inspired
version of the classic TV show
The Adams Family*



Basketball Rules!

*Girls and boys basketball players jumped
into the crowd to celebrate their sectional
championship victories over Rumson.
Pictured holding championship plaques
are senior standouts Olivia Shaughnessy
and Griffin Linstra. Both teams moved on
to win the coveted overall Group 2
title with triumphs over Madison*

In this Issue...



**Mr. Murin
Day!**

Squan-a-Thon Success!

FBLA Competes in Atlantic City

AOF Hosts Annual Fashion Show

MHS Band Enters Busy Season

and so much more!



The Blue & Gray
Manasquan H.S.
2024-2025
Issue Three

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Surprise!!

It's Mr. Murin Day!

By: Mya Bea

Wednesday March 12th wasn't just any old day, it was filled with surprises! To start the day Manasquan High School went all out to honor assistant principal, Mr. Murin for "Craig Murin Day". And the reason "Mr. Murin Day" originated was because of his astonishing 500 wins as the swim coach.

Mr. Murin has a lot to celebrate in his life. After being in Manasquan's School District for almost three decades, he has made an unquestionable impact on the community. Over the course of his time at MHS, Mr. Murin has contributed to the growth and success of countless students, shaping not only their school life and math skills, but also their character all together.

At the Board of Education meeting the night before "Craig Murin Day," the community gathered to celebrate the countless number of achievements of Mr. Craig Murin, the beloved swim coach who had just reached the milestone of 500 career wins the prior month. The night was filled with stories of his dedication, leadership, and the lasting impact he had on his athletes.

What made the event even more special was the surprise element. Mrs. Eldridge, the Assistant Principal, had quietly put together the surprise by sending out an email to the entire school, ensuring that everyone was in on the celebration that would happen the following day.

"We wanted to do Mr. Murin day to celebrate his big milestone in his coaching career. It was hard to keep the secret, and I almost spoiled it but held back. Thankfully he was still very surprised," Mrs. Eldridge exhaled with relief, reflecting on how successful the day was.

With Mr. Murin completely unaware of the upcoming recogni-

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Above: Mr. Murin standing along is coworkers in front of MHS



Addams Family Magic

BY: Merritt Brown



was contagious. The actors really brought these eccentric characters to life in such a lively and fun way. I found myself laughing at all the quirky moments and feeling moved during the emotional family scenes. It didn't even feel like I was watching high school students—it felt so professional.

I had to ask Cameron Lieb what it took to get the performance just right, and he said, "We stayed after school until 10 p.m. for a while, and on top of that, I had to

The Addams Family is a popular play that many people love to adapt. Recently, Manasquan High School put on an amazing performance of this play from March 12th to March 15th. The cast was full of talented students: Cameron Lieb as Gomez Addams, Molly McCarthy as Morticia Addams, Gillian Eldridge as Wednesday Addams, Abigail Shaw as Pugsley, Griffin Tomney as Lurch, Camryn Rothenburg as Grandma, Jack Nicolay as Lucas Beineke, Paige Petruzzello as Alice Beineke, and Christopher Rechner as Mal Beineke.

In this version of the story, Wednesday Addams is dating a "normal" boy. They fall in love and decide to get married, but both families disapprove of each other. As the play goes on, the families begin to warm up to each other, and love and understanding start to grow.

I had the chance to attend the opening night of the play with my mom, and it was honestly incredible. From the moment the curtain went up, you could see that everything was well planned. The set designs were beautiful, the costumes were just right, and the music fit perfectly with the story. The energy from the cast



Wednesday and Lucas holding each other

come together, with each actor bringing something special to the stage."

As the play ended and the curtain fell, I couldn't help but think about how much I enjoyed the whole experience. It wasn't just a school play—it was a fun, heartfelt show that gave a fresh spin to The Addams Family. On the way home, my mom and I agreed that we wished we had seen more plays in the past. We realized we'd missed out on some amazing experiences, and this show made us excited to go to more in the future. It was such a great time, and I'm really glad I got to be a part of it. The hard work and talent that went into this play made it something truly special, and I'm already looking forward to the next one!

Below: Wednesday Addams and Lucas Beineke at the dinner table



practice hours every day until I got it perfect."

Looking around the theater, I could see that the audience was just as engaged as I was. Everyone was laughing, smiling, and enjoying the show from start to finish. It was clear the play had everyone's attention.

I think a lot of the positive energy came from the dedication of Mrs. Schillia, who put so much heart and effort into bringing the play to life. When I asked her how she felt about the show, she told me, "Well, I think the play went wonderfully! It was like watching a masterpiece



Manasquan's FBLA Shine at States

BY: Mei Lian Lee

About two weeks ago, March 10-13, Manasquan's FBLA demonstrated their amazing business skills when competing in the NJ state competition in Atlantic City. While they didn't take home a trophy, it was still an excellent accomplishment for them to have made it that far, and they represented MHS very well.

The FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) is a national organization that, according to njfbla.org, "inspires and prepares students to become community-minded business leaders in a global society through relevant career preparation and leadership experiences." There are multiple competitions throughout the year that schools compete in, with many different events so the students can pick which ones interest them. Common events include international business, social media marketing, and public speaking. The club also holds fundraisers like car washes and plant sales to help support themselves.

The NJ FBLA State Conference, which our team recently participated in, is the largest FBLA event in our state. This year, there were over 5,000 students from various schools that went head-to-head in the many events that are part of the competition. While Manasquan did not make it to nationals, which is



ABOVE: Manasquan's FBLA Team



ABOVE: Manasquan's FBLA hosting a car wash as a fundraising event

being held in Anaheim, CA, Caroline Giblin, a senior here at MHS, made a significant achievement by winning a scholarship for her excellent performance.

Mrs. Hoeler, who also helps run Key Club, is the teacher in charge of the FBLA here at Manasquan. "I think it's a great

club because it really gives people good real-world experience," she says. She likes how there are so many different aspects to the organization that teach students skills they'll need if they want to enter business or marketing or want to become an entrepreneur.

Caroline Giblin, the senior who won a scholarship at the state competition, says that she's really "found her niche", and has been able to build up her strengths, particularly in social media related topics.

Overall, the FBLA is a wonderful club for anyone interested in building useful skills for any job, as it caters to a myriad of different interests and talents. At Manasquan, we have a very talented team of students who, under the leadership of Mrs. Hoeler, have built up great skillsets that will undoubtedly help them in the future, both in college and when they begin their careers. They also did a fantastic job at the

State Conference the other week, and we can't wait to see what they will accomplish next year.

"Our students gained valuable experience, improved their leadership skills, and represented our school with pride," says Dr. Kukoda, principal of MHS.

Dancing for the kids!

By: Juliana Casale

Engaging in volunteer work and fundraising are two amazing things to continuously do in your lifetime. Helping people who are incapable of helping themselves is a meaningful act of service.

Every year Manasquan High School holds a fundraising to help provide financial assistance to local families affected by pediatric cancer. This fundraiser is called Squan-a-thon. On March 21st 2025 the students of MHS participated in the Fundraiser and danced for 12 hours without stopping. Throughout the long night, they honor those who fight the ongoing and tiring battle of cancer.

Squan-a-thon junior, Charlotte Michko stated, "I chose to be a committee member because motivat-



Above: A few Squan-a-thon dancers smiling for a photo with the impressive amount of money they raised!

ing people when struggling for those 12 hours I just tell them to think about the tired and struggling kids with cancer."

Squan-a-thon is full of many activities such as inflatable obstacle courses, face paint, Dj's, Dancing, music, and tons of memories!! Many kids like to sing to the music and dance to keep their minds off the time.

Junior Regan Prime commented, "Karoki was my favorite part."

The students do not have to dance for all 12 hours but they are not allowed to sit down. The event is open to the community from 8pm-11pm to family and friends who would like to experience the Squan-a-thon fun or just to stop by to add a donation to the organization.

For the past 14 years, Squan-a-thon has been a valued tradition at MHS. Every year, the event continues to exceed expectations, raising thousands of dollars for pediatric cancer. This year, the students of MHS raised an incredible \$86,467.90! Each student brings their warrior spirit, passion, and heart to this cause, making a real difference in the lives of others.

Senior Joey Presbey said, "I was so tired but it makes me feel like a better person!"

Squan-a-thon is more than just a fundraiser. It's a night full of joy, connection, and purpose. Leaving everyone who participated knowing they've helped change lives. At MHS we know and feel in our hearts that Every child deserves a happily ever after!



ACADEMY OF FINANCE fashion show

BY: Giuls Ferraro



Above: Mr. Driscoll speaking

AOF transformed the gloomy gym it is always is, into a fashion show runway!

The fashion show recently took place on March 18 and was undoubtedly a huge success,

raising money for the Academy's scholarships and future field trips. After weeks of planning, the group of students in charge, along with director Mr. Driscoll,

Below: Senior girls smile for picture



Below: All the AOF students gather for a huge group photo



Finance and fashion, what could be better? The fact that it is a part of a fundraiser hosted by Manasquan High School's Academy of Finance. It is a staple of the academy, as

members of the

gathered donations for gift baskets and outfits for the students to model in, to market local businesses. Along the way, students gained important real-world business experience.

Senior Ally Attardo, who has been involved with the academy since sophomore year, stated,

"I look forward to this event every year. Since my sophomore I've been formal, I love going to the stores and getting to pick out an outfit. I am thankful for all the stores that volunteer every year!" she goes on and thanks Mr. Driscoll and Mrs. Hoeler because "this event wouldn't be possible without them!"

Caroline Giblin who was a huge help in putting this event together! This year one of her jobs was to reach out to all the local stores for outfits, and she reveals what stores were shown: Juli Mei, Waterlily, Nocca. Barefoot, Rare Cargo, Faherty, Starlight, Bare Wires, Wanderlust, Ryan Patrick, and Brave New World.



Above: Seniors posing on stage

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MHS Students Caught "Living like Warriors"



Students Recognized by Staff and Peers for Demonstrating Perseverance and Empathy

Two important qualities for success are the ability to push ahead even when obstacles are in the way, and the ability to understand the feelings of others.

In January and February, Dr. Kukoda's new program celebrating the core values of Manasquan High School focused on perseverance and empathy. Students demonstrating these characteristics received a certificate, recognition at the monthly Board of Ed meeting, and best of all, pizza!

According to Dr. Kukoda, perseverance means "pushing through obstacles with determination, resilience and unwavering focus on goals." A number of students were honored for their perseverance in January.

Juniors Maddie Marcucci and Elle Vitanzo nominated two of their fellow students, Ace Etienne and Mia Moore. Math teacher Ms. Canonaco nominated Lindsay Fuller and Aiden Opatosky for their work in the classroom. Junior Jack O'Reilly was nominated by his sister while another junior, Meghan McCafferty, was

nominated by her friend Livie Zelinsky.

Another junior, Juliana Casale, was pointed out by Mrs. Rudder. "It was a surprise," Juliana said of being selected. "But it was also really nice."

Other students nominated for their perseverance were Sabrina O'Boyle, Miles Kline, Richard Conklin, and Harry O'Hea.

February brought a new theme to MHS: empathy. Dr. Kukoda wrote of empathy: "It's showing compassion and offering support to those around you. Warriors build a sense of unity by standing in each other's shoes."

Phys. Ed. teacher Mr. Voskian got busy recognizing the sensitivity and empathy of students in February. He nominated seniors Cassidy Murray, Reese Miller, and Joey Presbrey.

Others MHS students noted for their empathy were Jesus Guzman-Reyes, Nick Felbinger, Jack Kelly, and Fernanda Morales.

Keep your eyes open as the rest of the school year plays out, and don't be afraid to nominate students that you see "living like a warrior."

Manasquan High School Warrior Band

By: Amelia Steger

The sound that carries the football team through games, the songs we all cheer along to at pep rallies, and the music every alumni knows, all comes from the talented Manasquan High School Warrior Band.

Since MHS opened, the band has been by its side giving spirit to our school and students. This year, the band is no different and they continue to play their hearts out at every event and more.

The determination and effort the band musicians put into each song is inspirational and extremely difficult. Every player practices for hours and hours learning the songs of MHS. Then they attend countless amounts of sport games, school events, and even their own performances.

For the past two years, MHS band has been directed by Mrs. Szakal, and she has been doing a terrific job. From having to learn the songs herself to perfectly teaching them to students, there are no questions of

whether she was the perfect pick for this position.

"I have been playing music for 38 years now, and self-taught myself almost all of the instruments in band which is something you need



Pictured: Band members supporting MHS at football games



to know to teach it," said Mrs. Szakal.

While having such a wonderful director, the band also has extremely talented leaders. This year's drum major is Molly Bennett, assistant



drum major Joe Sedutto, and drum captain Olivia Taylor. They have all mentored younger band members, helping to create the band we hear today.

After endless amounts of practice, even carrying into the summer, the MHS band is finally ready to perform. You will hear them throughout the school at different events and don't forget to support them all throughout their own events too.

"I love music and being able to play music for people to enjoy it is really fun and heartwarming," said Molly Bennett who plays the baritone saxophone for the band.

The football session is not only big for the football team, but also huge for the MHS band. They must learn endless amounts of songs and drills to perform. It's all



Above: Freshmen Band Members

worth it though because there is no better sound than the band playing their music after a huge touchdown.

Same for the basketball season. During the games you will hear the pep band playing. The pep band is a small group of band students who volunteer to come out and support the basketball team by rocking out.

To get us in the school spirit for these games too, we have pep rallies throughout the school year. And who are the ones always getting our spirits higher than ever? Of course, the school band.

Apart from playing for school events, the MHS band also has lots of their own performances and showcases. This year the band had the opportunity to play at The Belmar Saint Patrick's Day Parade.

Held on March 2nd, the band wore their brightest blue and gray, and marched the streets of Belmar in per-

fect unison. They played alongside hundreds of other talented people, and it is truly an honor for MHS band to have been

chosen to play. If you were there you heard them supporting the Irish community in song.

"It was a really cool experience to be part of such a big community event and it's so much fun to play in the parade and see other bands play!" said MHS junior Maeve Korth, who has played in band since middle school.

Back in February the band hosted their annual winter concert. The band also played in the Halloween parade, Columbus Day parade, and the Manasquan Christmas tree lighting.

With Spring just around

all that's to come. Even though the band has already prepped and performed for so much, they still have many showcases on the horizon.

Don't miss the Spring band Concert on May 22, at 7pm in the Jack Nicholson Theater. They will be playing songs from the four seasons and Wicked the musical, and songs from our jazz band. Come out and support the ones who give musical spirit to our school!

This year, some individual students from the band deserve an extra shout out. For the past two years that Mrs. Szakal has been directing the band, she has decided to allow students to play in the orchestra for the school musicals. The phenomenal students who did so this year include Molly Bennett, Nicholas Kutcher, Amy Esquivel, Madeline Marshall, and Drake O'Chat.

Also of note, junior Eliana Ko auditioned and got

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the corner, the band continues to practice and play as much as they can to prepare for



MHS Band

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into All Shore Bands for her talent with the clarinet. The All-Shore band chooses students from all over Monmouth County and only selects a handful to play with them. The All-Shore Band has a concert on April 5th so come out and support!

The Manasquan High School Warrior Band continues to show indescribable talent year after year. There should be no fear for the future of MHS band because they are shining bright in talent.

“To me, the future of MHS looks like growth, I really hope to increase band enrollment. Of course, I also want the band to always feel comfortable, have so much fun learning all different types of songs, and most of all feel they have a home in the band room,” said Mrs. Szakal.



Above: MHS Band trumpet players

fashion show

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The models are given a store to go to and choose an outfit from and receive an assigned partner the day of. To make the show fun the couple is asked to do a fun and creative handshake on stage while the speakers read their bios.

Senior Joey Presebery says, “the handshakes are her absolute favorite. She likes to do something creative and fun with her partners!”

The night moves fast with the show

starting right away with formal, the formal bios were read by Seniors Joey Presbrey and Dylan Vowteras. In between they raffle of the electric bike and the Tv before starting causal. Casual was read by Seniors Alexandra Carton and DP McManus. When all the models have walked, it is time for the big group photo! After all is over all the other raffle numbers are posted on the screen for people to see if they were the lucky ones!

All hard work put into the fashion show shines, and the students and the advisors should feel very proud of the work they put in to make the night a huge success!

Above: Senior boys smile for picture; below: Junior girls at Fashion Show



Popular Mr. Mason Gets Ready to Retire

By: Emma McNulty

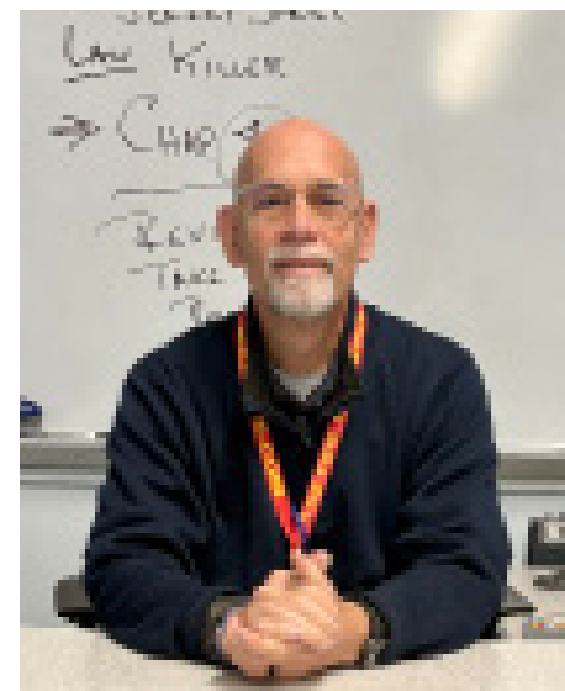
Making learning interesting, interactive, and exciting for the students is a quality of a great teacher. Eric Mason makes an impact on every one of his students with his wise, inspiring, and fun personality. Mr. Mason makes each lesson not only informative but also entertaining, with interactive discussions, real-life case studies, and occasional movies and documentaries. These class experiences help bring the important lessons to life for students, making them more relatable and understandable.

Before coming to Manasquan High School, Mr. Mason spent years protecting and serving his community. He grew up in Northern New Jersey and joined the police department in 1982. He has always loved teaching and passing on his knowledge to others, so he took on teaching all over the country to different departments, while still working as a detective sergeant. Mr. Mason had a very rewarding and full career. He retired in 2008 after serving for 26 years. Now Mr. Mason has shifted his career to teaching and inspiring students with his past experiences with the police department.

“Of course I have always loved teaching, and Manasquan has been great to me. I love the people here and they have re-

ally made my time here special,” exclaimed Mr. Mason.

Mr. Mason keeps students engaged in each class



by incorporating real-world events, interactive discussions, and showing his enthusiasm and love for his work. His students find themselves looking forward to his class. Mr. Mason is seen as a comforting and safe person by many of his students and he is always willing to help with anything they need. He provides students with constructive criticism that helps them grow while also encouraging them to enjoy learn-

ing. Mr. Mason goes beyond the class materials to offer real life advice and guidance to his students. He is also known to joke around with his students, part of what makes him so loveable and his class so enjoyable. Mr. Mason is a reminder of the powerful impact that a dedicated and kind teacher can have on their students’ lives.

“Mr. Mason’s class is my favorite. I always look forward to it, and I am gonna be so sad when he’s gone next year,” says Junior Natalie Goble.

Senior Paige Ellery said, “For the 2 years that I had Mr. Mason as a teacher he has always been one of my favorites, he is so genuine and really cares about his students.”

Mr. Mason will be saying his goodbyes to Manasquan high school in June when he plans to retire after a very fulfilling and successful career. He has definitely made his mark on the school even though he has only been teaching at Manasquan High School for a few years. His students are of course devastated to see him go, but happy and excited for him to move on to the next chapter in his life.

“It has been an awesome experience teaching at Manasquan, and I have really enjoyed the environment here,” remarked Mr. Mason on his time here at MHS.

APRIL FOOLS DAY

By: *Juliana Casale and Giuls Ferraro*

Teacher: Mrs. Fenlon



"My Favorite April Fools memory is with Mr. Mawn the flood prank"



Seniors: Elin Olenyik



"Giuliana pranked me with a instagram DM"



Junior: Lexy Stamos



"I've done the oreos with tooth-paste inside"



Teacher: Mrs. Hodnett



"My daughter Julia teacher pranked them with dounuts but inside the box was fruit"

APRIL FOOLS DAY MEMORIES

BY: *Mei Lian Lee*



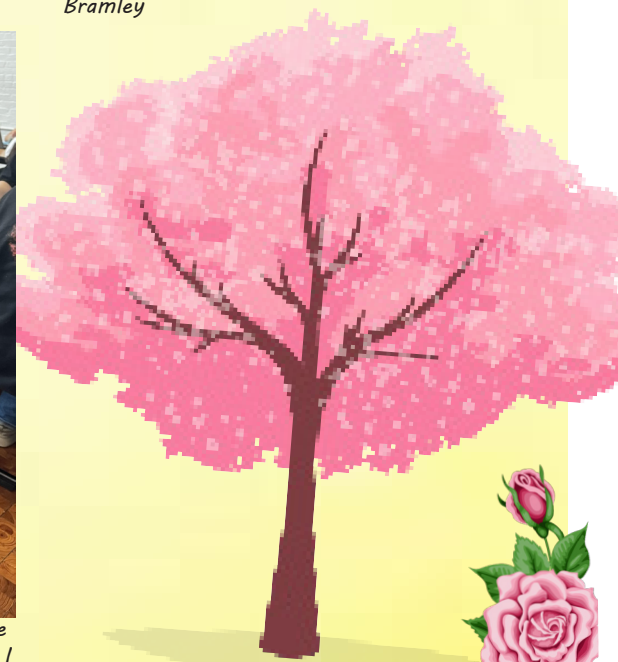
"When I was in fifth grade, the boys in my school threw confetti all over the bathroom. The teachers were mad, but it was pretty hilarious". -Lillith Fries



"In fourth grade, my teacher told me that I had ten pages of homework due the next day. It was not funny". -Mia Bramley



"When I was little my brother told me my rabbit had died on April Fools, and I was devastated". -Alice Kurtanick



WARRIOR SPORTS

Title Town Girls and Boys Basketball Teams Win Group II Championship

By : Claire Vilacoba



Above: Squans basketball teams holding up their championship trophies

Dominating the Shore, both of Manasquan High School's basketball teams ended their seasons with strength and determination, winning Group 2 championship titles. Squans boys and girls successfully swept the title, and they meant straight business.

Manasquan's teams both coincidentally ended up playing against the boys and girls Madison High School basketball teams at the Jersey Mike's Arena on the Busch campus of Rutgers University. The games ended in a close but rewarding win.

The Manasquan girls ended their season 25-5 with head coach Lisa Kukoda. When asked about it, Mrs. Kukoda reflected on the season, "We had some losses, and our goal was to always learn from those and get better from them. But this was really one of our best groups."

The first step to their prestigious win was beating Rumson-Fair Haven High School. The effort was successful, as they won 57-38. They were dedicated to securing their opportunity for a championship banner. Then they were challenged by Middle Township. The team's nerves were high, since they were so close to achieving the goal but still had to beat a strong opponent.

Led by senior Shea Donnelly being a crucial player in the third quarter, scoring several baskets, making great steals on defense, and picking the Warriors back up when they were down. Shea has been a strong leader for the team and secured 12 points in this 60-42 winning game.

At last, they made their way to the final round, where it was all or nothing for some of these girls.

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WARRIORS BASKETBALL WINS GROUP 2 TITLE!



Outstanding Performers:

MHS Winter

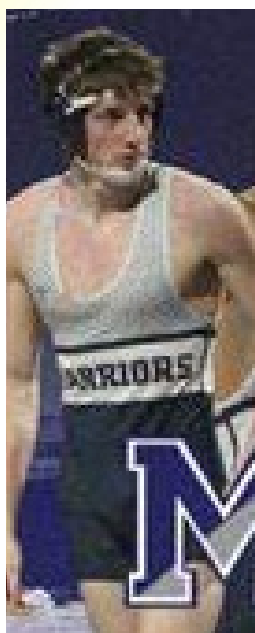
Michael O'Connor

By: Brennan Quinlivan

If you've wandered the halls of Manasquan High School for a short while, you'd most likely heard the name Micheal O'Connor quite a bit, especially as of recently. O'Connor is a student at Manasquan High School and is also a phenomenal wrestler. He first began wrestling when he was in second grade, it was love at first grapple. Micheal would spend countless hours with extreme dedication to the sport. He consistently practiced wrestling and the more he practiced the more he liked it. Eventually it became an integral part of his life, a huge passion.

During his first year at MHS, O'Connor joined the wrestling team. This was the first time he'd been able to integrate wrestling with his school life, and it was his chance to do something great with his skills. Micheal did not waste this opportunity and showed his prowess, winning the majority of his matches his first Squan season.

Throughout high school Micheal continued to exceed expectations, and pushed himself more and more. His determination led to him following the trend of freshman year, winning nearly all of his matches.



Sports

Chris Reyes

By: Dylan Broglio



Warriors.

Chris ran the 800 meters with a time of 1:59.27, which earned him the Central Jersey Group II championship.

Then at the overall Group 2 meet the following week, he ran 2:01.52, placing 4th in the state.

Chris spoke of the progress he made this year, and his successes in winter track. "After this winter season I am proud of my achievements, however I know that I can be a lot faster than I am now," he said. Although he is content with what he did, Chris knows he has got more to give in the future.

Reyes had been on the track team since freshman year and he has put in his all since then. This year he participated at the non-affiliated Nike Track & Field Center at The Armory, in New York for the 'Armory Hispanic games', making a time of 54.19 seconds for the 400 meters. He ended up in 52nd place against a tough field of runners from all over the country.

Chris's winning of a sectional title was indeed remarkable. "From the beginning of the winter season, I was confident that the sectional title was in con-

MHS track has seen some true athletes in recent years, and senior Chris Reyes is definitely one of the best! This class of 2025 runner holds many school records, and recently, he earned a sectional state title for the

O'Connor

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With his determination O'Connor earned many achievements in his wrestling career, including being the first Manasquan wrestler to win 100 matches, securing his place in Manasquan history. He wasn't done yet, as he was also the first district champion in over 20 years. Micheal pushed himself so far that he is now ranked fourth, in his weight class, for the 2025 Shore Conference Final. These achievements have easily made O'Connor one of the best wrestlers in MHS history. However, Micheal credits much more than just himself, saying that it was his, "Coaches and teammates who pushed me to get better." And he thanks them for their encouragement.

During senior year O'Connor ended with an amazing 36-8 record. However, he is not just known for his abilities. O'Connor's, kindness, sportsmanship, and humility will be remembered as much as his legacy. Nico Princiotta says whether he's on the mat or on the bench rooting he is a, "friendly and encouraging teammate." Micheal O'Connor is the embodiment of a great athlete, and a kindhearted student.



Reyes

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tention for me," he said. "I maintained this confidence throughout the season and was able to perform when it was time. The preparation that went into this was mainly just staying consistent and listening to my body while trying to stay injury free."

Reyes often put in more work than he needed to, though he always kept his pace while training and gave credit to the help of his fellow track and field athletes. "My teammates are very supportive, and although track can be a mentally and physically demanding sport, they make each day easier. They are fun to be around and are great teammates all around." Not a day went by at track where Chris didn't feel great around his teammates, and that shows through his achievements. His coaches, including coach Cavanagh, attributed his success to great work ethic and devotion to the sport that exceeds the baseline of effort.

At the Shore Conference championships, Chris faced tough competitors from bigger schools all over Monmouth and Ocean County like Toms River and Christian Brothers. He ran one of his fastest races of the year, finishing 4th with a time of 1:59:27. In most of his races he has placed within the top five. In the 600 meter he ran 1:26:76. His endurance in the medium to short distance races are beyond amazing.

Chris values the ideas of teamwork and dedication to a sport. He says that you cannot just walk into practice, or even into your first competition and expect to be taking 1st place. It takes conditioning and months of preparation, with something like track especially. It is one of the most physically demanding sports out of them all.

Chris's coaches must be given credit as well, as the Manasquan track/field team wouldn't be the same without them, and the team especially wouldn't be the same without Chris Reyes.



Below: Chris Reyes honored with a certificate from Mr. Goodall at the March Board of Ed meeting

Mr. Murin

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tion, the event was a demonstration of the positivity that surrounded him, making the next day's festivities more meaningful. Mr. Murin's event stood as a symbol of the teamwork and admiration that surrounded him, adding even greater significance to the activates the following day.

All the staff wore "Giddy Up" T-Shirts because that's one of Mr. Murin's favorites phrases. The shirts also featured a "D" on the front, representing Dayton University, the college he attended. In addition to the shirts, there were cutouts—but these weren't just any cutouts. They had Mr. Murin's face on them! Just like the shirts, the cutouts were placed all over the place: on windows, doors, desks, hands, and even on the board!

Mr. Murin's initial expression of gratitude to his coworkers was, "I am truly humbled by the recognition from the board last night and the well wishes from each of you today. I am lucky to have spent the last 28 years working at Manasquan and am fortunate to be amongst such a great group of

educators."

Mr. Murin's legacy in the Manasquan School District will certainly be remembered for years to come. It's clear that his work has left an indelible mark, and his influence extends far beyond the school itself.

"Craig Murin's day was so much more than just honoring him for his outstanding accomplishments as our Swim Coach, reaching the 500 wins. The day also stood for his dedication to our school, our students, and the community. Craig cares and it is an honor to work with him," Mrs. Winter said, smiling proudly to be his coworker.

He has been teaching math and coaching the swimming team for 27 years, and to say the least, he is more than exceptional at what he does.



Above: Mr. Murin faces, seen all around MHS on his day

Basketball Group 2 Champs

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You better believe they claimed their victory to Madison with the help of senior Olivia Shaughnessy by making one three-pointer and 3 two-pointers.

The girls came together and really did little things to be successful, and their efforts put the team in a great position to win! The seniors made sure to lead by example, and the underclassmen followed. Even when in tough situations, the support of the community kept the warriors reminded that this is what they trained for and that these are the type of moments they want to be present in. "We fought really hard for this championship, and I'm proud of our accomplishments," said junior Lily Johnson.

The Manasquan boys ended their season 25-4 with head coach Andrew Bilodeau. This season, the players put their best foot forward, and they first grabbed the win against Rumson 48-36, with Logan Cleveland making foul shots to give them a boost in the fourth quarter, putting them at a 34-21 advantage.

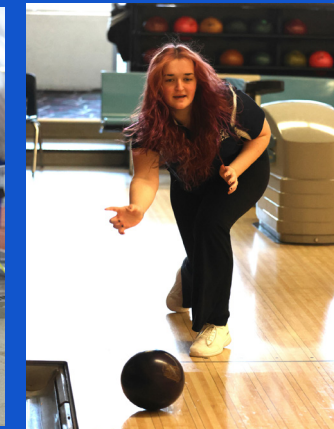
The win over Rumson advanced them to the semi-finals against Camden High School. Though last year's

game against Camden stirred up controversy, they made sure to not let history repeat and won with a too-close-for comfort score, 44-43. Leaving them in the final against Madison, they successfully cleared them with a score of 67-56 with the help and motivation of senior Griffin Linstra scoring 21 points.

The boys were dedicated to pulling off a victorious season. They wanted to bounce back and be even better than they were last year, and they did exactly that. This season there were some injuries to different boys, but they did a good job at being flexible in approach to last-minute game plans. Their coach, Mr. Bilodeau added, "The culture and chemistry of our program has been really strong, but this group has been really close and spends time on and off the court."

At the end of the day, there was a strong foundation built. There is no doubt that these players put in hours of blood, sweat, and tears into this sport. Manasquan's basketball players are all high achievers, and everyone is eager to see more of them in the '25-'26 season!

MHS WARRIORS



WINTER SPORTS