



Manasquan High School

The Blue & Gray



Artists
Display
their
Talent
at
MHS Art
Show

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JAY GATSBY!

The Great Gatsby celebrated
100 years since publication,
and Mrs. Fenlon knew she
had to honor F. Scott Fitzgerald's
literary classic (and her
personal favorite book)



BIRTHDAY!
Seniors
make their
college
choices

In this Issue...

Time to Retire! Mrs. Polak & Mr.
Freda call it quits

It's Prom Season! Juniors & Seniors
enjoy their night to remember

MHS National Merit Scholars

MHS Dance Show

Teacher Spotlight: Mrs. McQuillan
and so much more



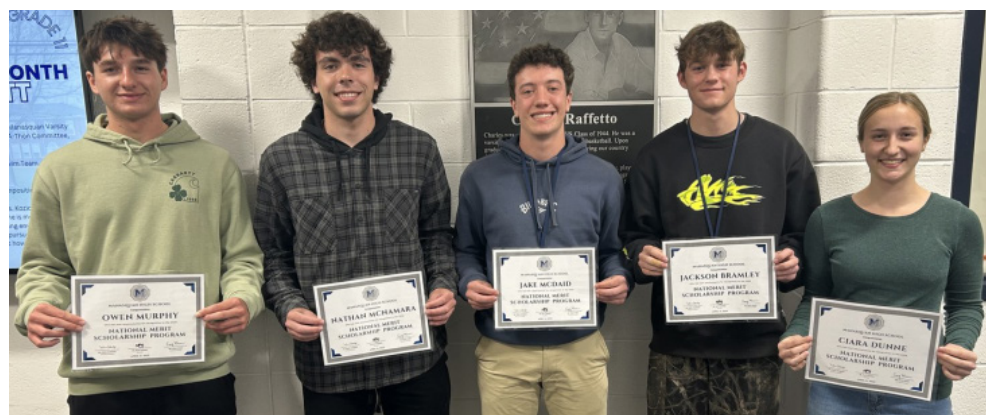
The Blue & Gray Manasquan H.S. 2024-2025 Issue Four

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MHS Students Receive National Merit Scholarship Recognition



ABOVE: Manasquan's five National Merit Scholarship Award winners are recognized for their achievement.

BY: Mei Lian Lee

As high school students wrap up their junior years, many of them that plan to further their education begin to choose colleges to apply to that will help them achieve their dreams. However, this can be an extremely competitive process depending on the school being applied to, with the best schools in the country having very low acceptance rates. Those with the motivation may join a multitude of extracurriculars and keep up their grades in an attempt to get their dream schools to notice them. However, there are other ways students can draw attention to themselves and make their applications stand out, though they may be more difficult to achieve. One of these is by acquiring the National Merit Scholarship Award, which five Manasquan High School juniors were awarded this year.

The National Merit Scholarship Award is a prestigious

accomplishment that greatly assists students with their college applications if they happen to win it. According to the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, "The mission of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) is to recognize and honor the academically talented students of the United States." They do this by taking students' PSAT scores and using a mathematical formula to create a new scale, called the National Merit Selection Index Score, that helps them determine which of those in question scored highly enough to be deserving of the award. On average, for students to be considered for the scholarship they need to get a 219 or above. However, the score range differs by state.

The five impressive Manasquan High School students that achieved this outstanding accomplishment are as follows: Owen Murphy, Ciara

Senior Prom 2025

By: Juliana Casale

The class of 2025 celebrated their 4 years of high school at their senior prom on May 30th 2025! The class gathered at the elegant Jumping brook in Neptune NJ for an unforgettable night. The event sparkled with energy, laughter, and lasting memories as they remember their high school journey is almost to an end.

The DJ had the dance floor packed that kept the energy alive all evening. Many students agreed this year's music topped all previous proms, with the perfect mix of throwback, top hits, and upbeat dance anthems. Whether seated inside or taking in the fresh air on the beautifully lit outdoor

patio, students were able to relax, listen to the music and take in the scenic venue.

Senior Paige Ellery exclaimed, "The music was so much better than it has ever been which made me want to stay at Prom longer."

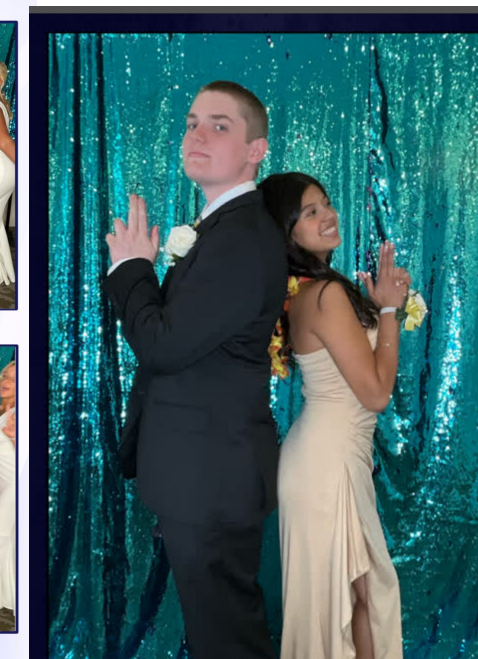
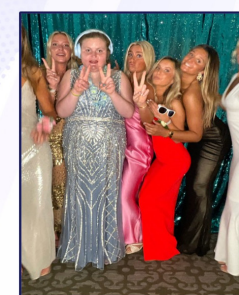
The evening also offered a delicious buffet spread. The students enjoyed delicious chicken parm, Penne Vodka, and a crisp salad, with dressings. After dinner, students enjoyed dessert!

Senior Adrian Brown commented, "The food was very good, I enjoyed it!"

As the night got later the crowd gathered for the announcement of the Prom court. Cheers erupted as Adam Murphy and Rose suarez-morales were crowned prom King and Queen as they earned their titles with laughter and smiles!

The event was filled with elegant outfits, perfect weather, and a professional venue. Manasquan's senior prom was the true celebration of the Class of 2025!

As the night came to a close, the energy remained high, the long lasting memories strong, and connections even stronger.



M MANASQUAN HIGH SCHOOL
SENIOR PROM 2025

M MANASQUAN HIGH SCHOOL
SENIOR PROM 2025

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What Its Like to Be A True Warrior



Above: March's selected Warriors

Manasquan High School is all about pride and dignity! This school has a foundation made by kindhearted people with good intentions and positive mindsets. As of the '24-'25 school year, a new initiative called "Caught Living Like a Warrior" was introduced to Squan!

There are a lot of distractions in today's world and many kids are worried about the wrong things now-a-days. This program helps focus on taking notice of the things that do matter.

"Caught Living Like a Warrior" was introduced this year by new MHS principal Dr. Kukoda, to help recognize students who embody traits such as Integrity, Perseverance, Empathy, Leadership, Inclusion, and Gratitude.

When getting more insight from Dr. Kukoda,

he mentioned, "I see all this good stuff going on in this building every day, and I wanted to pick out ways to highlight that."

A group of Squan's teachers and administrators got together and created this program to be able to appreciate students who have manifested those characteristics. Each month, a poll goes up and teachers along with students can vote on who they think is the right choice to be "Caught Living Like a Warrior"

Since "Caught Living Like a Warrior" has touched down at Manasquan, students have had nothing but a positive outlook. Student Juliana Casale says, "It made me feel good about myself. I got nominated for perseverance and I hung it up on my wall. Whenever I'm feeling down it reminds me, I'm helpful."

This initiative helps students stay more motivated because they know their

By: Claire Vilacoba

actions are being watched and that the little things they do, don't go unnoticed.

"Caught Living Like a Warrior" reflects the importance of making sure everyone cares for each other. There are going to be times when the people around you are going to need someone to help and care for them, and you want to take the responsibility of helping them and ensuring that when you need help, someone's there for you as well.

There is hope that this program will help encourage some positive peer pressure and inspire kids to help when people are in need as this sets Manasquan's kids up for success in and out of the classroom! Go Squan!

Below: January's selected Warriors!



A Night of Perfect Harmony

By: Amelia Steger



On May 22nd in the Jack Nicholson theater, the MHS concert and jazz band performed in a marvelous show to remember. All levels and grades of band students came together and performed in perfect harmony.

The jazz and concert bands are all run by Director Mrs. Szakal who has worked with the students all year to perfect their musical skills. In the beginning of the year, they

worked hard and long to learn MHS songs, but after the football season ended, they had more freedom to learn any song they wanted.

On this night in particular, the band performed songs from Wicked, and music by the four seasons Vivaldi (orchestra). They played them beautifully, sending goosebumps through everyone.

"We had a lot of practice during school, like lunch practices, and obviously during class," said freshmen Sam Edwards who plays percussion for the concert band.

Although the jazz band performed on May 22nd, they also



Pictured Above: MHS Concert Band

had their own jazz night on May 29th in the MHS Media Center. The sounds of the night were smooth and flawlessly played by each musician. Special shout out to Drake O'Chat for his great narration too.

It's clear how much time and effort the jazz and concert bands put into each night because the outcome couldn't have been better. Here's to another great year in music for the MHS jazz and concert band!



Pictured Above: MHS Jazz Band at Jazz Night

Manasquan's Annual Art Show

BY: Mei Lian Lee

Manasquan High School held its annual art show on Wednesday, May 28 and Thursday, May 29, in the school's Media Center. The two-day event featured a wide variety of artwork produced throughout the school year by students in all levels of art classes, including Art I, AP Art, Ceramics, and Cultural Arts.

The exhibit displayed projects of many different mediums, including acrylic paintings, oil pastels, ceramics, paper mâché sculptures, handmade dream catchers, and more. All of Manasquan's art teachers helped organize the event, ar-

anging the work very carefully on giant boards and tables displayed in the Media Center. Projects were grouped by course level and also by medium, with each AP Art student having their own board to showcase their work.

Each piece represented what each class worked on and learned throughout the year, and it was almost surprising how many different projects there were.

"It was nice seeing our

work displayed," said Christina Weng, a sophomore in Art I. "I liked being able to look at what everyone else made, too."

Many of the students shared a similar sentiment. They liked seeing their work on display, as well as seeing the work of their peers.

"It was really nice to see what students in other art classes were working on this year" said Isabella DeBlasio, a freshman in Art I. She especially liked the ceramic works, and thought they were very creative.

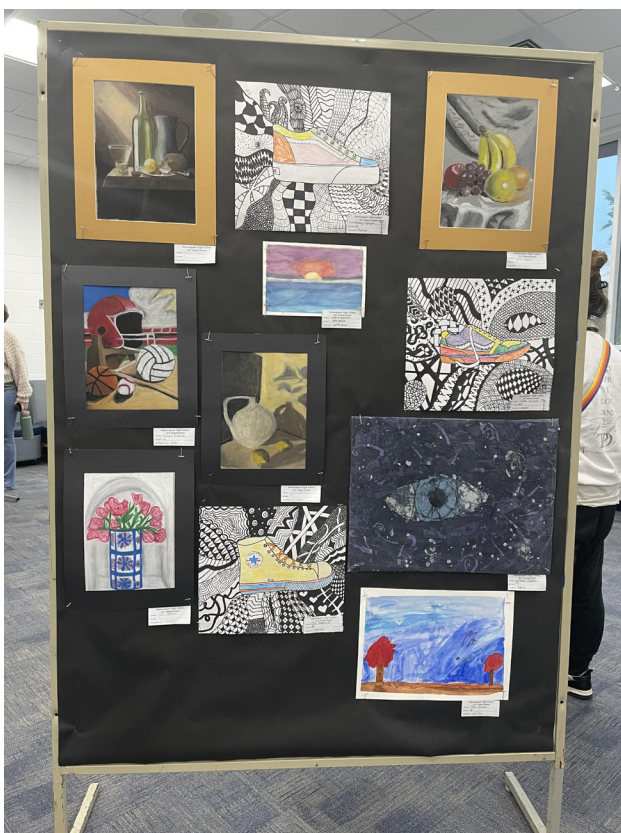


ABOVE: An example of a ceramics display at the Art Show

Although the teachers weren't sure how many people to expect, the art show got a great turnout on Wednesday evening, and students from Manasquan Elementary School were able to visit the next day.

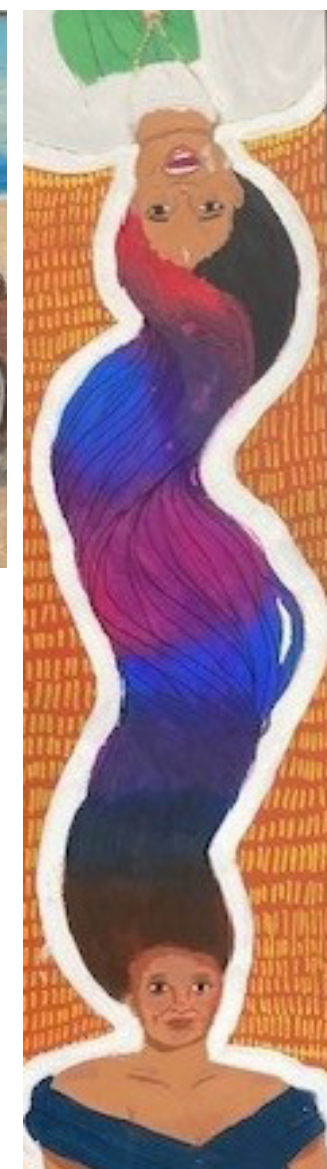
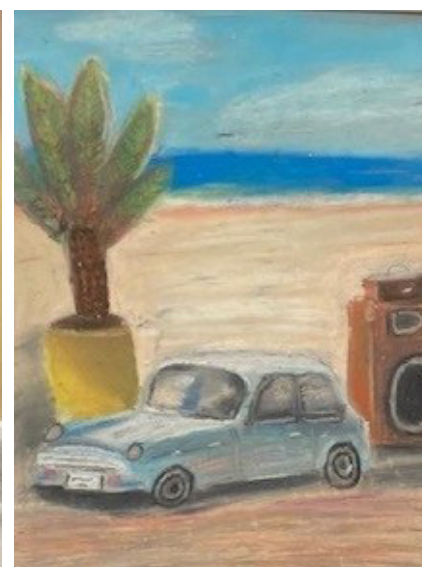
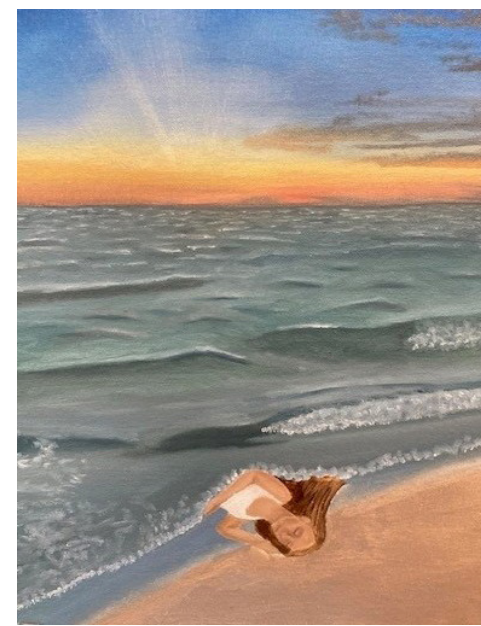
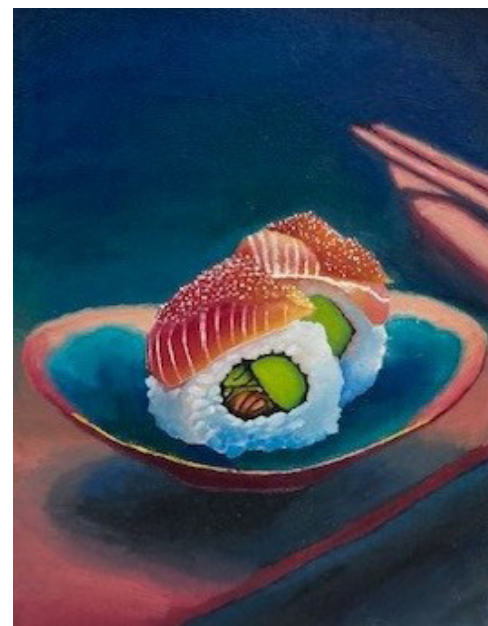
The art show was also open to all students and staff on Thursday during the school day, and many art teachers brought their classes by to view the exhibit.

The annual art show has become a tradition at Manasquan High School, offering a space to recognize the efforts of student artists and to bring attention to the school's arts program. While the projects vary from year to year, the goal remains the same: to celebrate creativity, hard work, and artistic growth.



BELOW: An example of an art display at the MHS Art Show

Art Show: Focus on Student Paintings



Lights Camera Dance!

On Wednesday May 7th and Thursday May 8th, in the Jack Nicholson Theater, the lights were shining, the crowd was cheering, and the stage was full of talent. The Manasquan High School Dance program performed their 5th annual Spring Dance show. The name of the show this year was "Lights Camera Dance!" which fit the theme of lights perfectly. Every dancer shined on stage and moved perfectly to the beat of their song, making for a flawless performance.

Here at MHS, there are three different levels of dance which students are allowed to join. There is foundations, which everyone takes their first year to learn all different styles of dance. Then

By: Amelia Steger

there is dance performance which comes after foundations. Although, if you dance outside of school, then you jump to advanced dance which is for experienced dancers.

No matter if you have been dancing your whole life or MHS dance is your first time, everyone gets an equal opportunity to shine on stage.

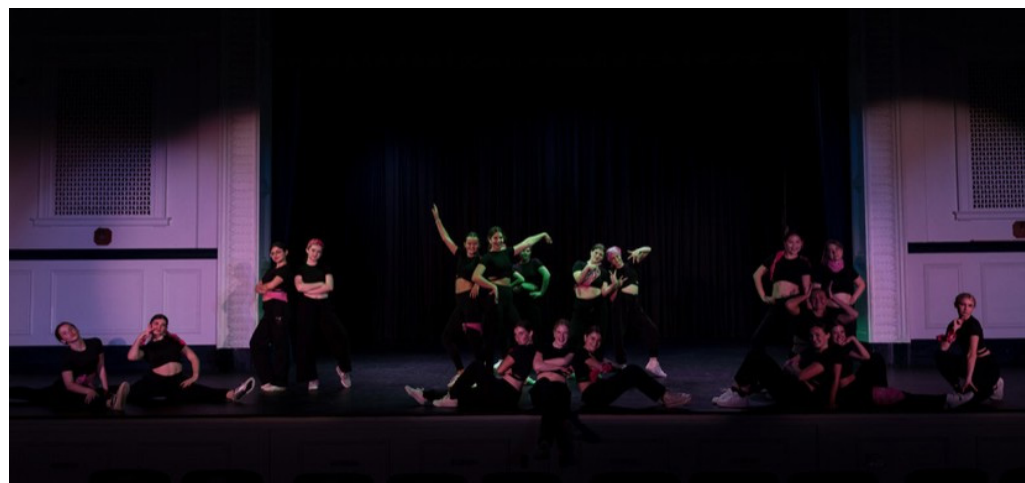
Mrs. Galano, the dance teacher here at MHS, is amazing at making everyone feel important and makes dance class a fun and nonjudgment place.

"It's such a fun and amazing environment and everyone is so supportive of one another and the feeling of providing joy and entertainment to a crowd is uplifting," said junior dancer Savannah Lopez.

Lights Camera Dance included 24 dances which were a mix of dances from every



Pictured Above: All of MHS and Mrs. Galano
Pictured Bellow: Josh Johnsons' Maneater Jump



Pictured Above: MHS Foundations of Dance

Pictured Bellow: MHS Advanced Dance

level of class. Also, in the show were dance club dances and a sister duet.

"This year's Spring show was one of the most fun out of all four years, everyone did so great, and it was the best one yet" said MHS dance senior Rylan Dwyer.

To start the show every dancer



With a hype crowd dance performance period 4 performed a dance to Maneater and Josh Johnsons' high, and incredibly talented jump had the crowd in shock and cheering.

Following, advanced dance



Pictured Above: Ava and Hannah Melchiorri



Pictured Above: MHS Dance Club Dance

wore their purple shirt and danced their hearts out to a light song mixed by Mr. Galano and choreographed by Mrs. Galano, and it got the crowd hype for the rest of the show.

Working off this hype energy from the crowd, dance club performed Let's Get it Started which got the crowd even more energetic. Shortly after, tapping their way onto stage, dance club members performed a tap dance to 24k Magic choreographed by MHS dance student Ella Bellusci.



Pictured Above: Ella's Tap Dance

Special thanks to Matt Schmidt for taking the photos!

performed a ballet to What Was I Made For. This dance was extra special because the MHS Choir sang the song live on stage. Foundations blew the crowd away with their performance to No Roots, and Gia Frattaroli's cheer jump in the end had them in awe.

After settling down with an intermission, the crowd quickly got back to cheering when Ava Sharkey's

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By: Brennan Quinlivan

May 15th, the Jack Nicholson Theater was once again filled with an eager audience, all gathered to watch the Choir students perform a highly anticipated show that they had been rehearsing for nearly five months. The atmosphere was tense as pressures were high on every member of the choir, but the excitement was far greater.

The show, titled *What Was I Made For*, was destined to be a powerful performance. It was centered around the theme of introspection. The concert invited the audience on a journey of self-discovery. Each song, that was picked by the choir members, represented a piece of the performers emotional and personal growth. The students used their songs as a form of entertainment as well as a tool for self-expression.

Mrs. Schelle, the choir director, described the concert as a “carefully crafted musical experience” that challenged students to connect deeply with their material. She emphasized that the performance not only allowed individual expression but also required significant a level of vulnerability in themselves and with their peers.

The show ran for about an hour and featured a total of 11 songs, including five solo performances. Some of the powerful pieces performed that night included *The Sound of Silence*, *What Was I Made For*, *Does the World Say*,

Muusika, *The Road Not Taken*, and *This is Me*. Each song was met with applause and admiration.

The show also had several special guests. A group of performers from the *New Jersey Chamber Singers* appeared in one of the group songs. Mrs. Schelle was able to contact and convince the Chamber Singers to join in the show, being a member of the group herself. The Chamber singers sang side by side with the students and made for a beautiful edition to the show.

This year’s senior soloists were MJ Murray, Bridget Freeman, Jaclyn Finn, Luke Rudo, Mia Bramley, and Cameron Lieb. Their solos served as heartfelt reflections on their time in the choir program and highlighting their growth as musicians and individuals.

Cameron Lieb, one of the solo performers at the show, sang *Being Alive*. Cameron said he chose this song, not only because its just good, but it also has a powerful meaning as it talks about feelings, wants, and fears experienced through life. This being Camerons fourth year on the choir, he wasnt nervous to go on stage, saying he’s, “desensitized, and besides you can’t see anything with the lights shinning in your eyes.”

The evening left a lasting impression, as a showcase of musical talent, but more notably as a celebration of courage, identity, and self-expression.

Class of 2026 Junior Prom

By: Emma McNulty

On Friday morning May 2, the air was filled with eagerness and excitement for the juniors at Manasquan High School.

Not because AP Exams began the following week, but because it was the morning of the Junior Prom!

“All day, everyone was talking about prom—what they were wearing, how they were getting there. You could feel the energy,” said junior Sophia Covert.

The ballroom was glowing with colorful lights and cool decorations that gave the night a fun fancy feel. After months of talking and preparing for this one evening, it has finally come and Manasquan High School’s Class of 2026 junior prom did not disappoint.

Everyone showed up dressed to impress. The girls wore full-length satiny gowns in every color you could imagine—shimmery blues, deep reds, emerald greens, pale pinks, and even bold black or silver looks. Some were sleek and simple, while others had

sparkles, lace, or dramatic slits.

The boys were wearing suits or tuxedos, most of them matching their dates perfectly. “It was so cool seeing everyone dressed up. Some girls even posed for a picture with all the colors of the rainbow,” said Sadie DePasquale.

Mrs. Choma, the junior class advisor, helped organize the entire event, and everything came together in a way that made the night feel extra special.

A major highlight of the evening was the announcement of prom court. Cheers erupted as Kiernan Accorsano was crowned Prom King and Avery Bovitz was named Prom Queen.

The food was another win. Tables were loaded with pasta, salad, and a variety of sweet desserts like cookies and cupcakes. It was the perfect fuel for a night full of dancing, even if the music didn’t totally live up to expectations.

The DJ played a mix of throwbacks, pop songs, and slower songs, but for many students, it just didn’t reach their expectations. “I wish the music was better, it wasn’t what I was hoping, for but the night was fun regardless,” said Natalie Goble.

Despite the mixed music reviews, the vibes were high all night. Everyone was taking tons of pictures and videos of people dancing and laughing. Couples slow danced under the lights, friends took over the dance floor, and everyone just enjoyed being together for a fun filled night outside of school. As the night wrapped up, heels and ties came off. Some students headed to afterparties to continue their celebration, while others just rode home, tired and happy.

Junior prom wasn’t just a dance, but a night full of laughter and memories that will stick with the Class of 2026 long after the last song played.



The Heart Behind The Help: Mrs. Polak's Lasting Impact



By: Mya Bea

On the morning of her upcoming retirement, Mrs. Polak will walk through the halls one last time. Reminiscing about every photo, every classroom, every corner that all whisper memories recalling her time at Manasquan High School. She doesn't need an award or speech to know she's made a difference. She sees it in the eyes of every student who has learned how to cope, how to breathe, how to hope during her time at MHS.

This is the moment she prepared others for—an ending, a transition, a new chapter. But now, it is hers.

Mrs. Margeret Polak began her career at Manasquan High School in the early 1990's after working at various elementary schools in Middletown including Harmony and Fairview, when mental health support in schools was often being overlooked. She worked as a part of their Child Study Team helping students with learning challenges. More recently, she worked tirelessly with Kelly Balon—the district behavioralist, and started the CLI program during Covid which

was later launched in July 2021 with enrollees.

Mrs. Polak once said, "Work has taught me that sometimes life is very hard, and we must do hard things despite doing the right thing." This insight on life speaks volumes to the reality that's doing what's right doesn't always lead to easy outcomes or immediate rewards. Her words remind us that integrity often comes with struggle and that true strength lies in continuing what your gut thinks is right and not just following one another.

"I learned how to accept changes with some grace." Mrs. Polak claimed after mentioning all the hardships she'd been through to get to where she is standing today.

Mrs. Polak has done everything from picking up the baby's breath on a farm at the age of 13 to chucking clams in a beer garden. But no matter what her job was, it was never just about kids working on coping strategies or including others. It was about connections.

She started her career answering suicide hotline calls, and learned how to guide people through hard

times. She moved from answering the phone to being in the hospital, which allowed her to see the callers face to face evaluating whether they needed hospitalization, commitment, or outpatient care. She would work with psychiatrists to develop a plan. Typically, the 5pm-12am shifts felt like forever, but Margeret was doing what she was most passionate about, helping people.

"I would like my legacy to be when they think of me, they say, she always had our back, she always helped us, she always went out of her way to make a difference in my life and the lives of everyone around us." Margeret struggled to speak with her emotions taking over and tracing down her cheek.

Starting as a young girl, Margeret always looked up to her parents for advice regarding what her future held for her. With most of her family in education, they highly encouraged her to not pursue being a teacher due to low salaries and

the time at work. Her mom was a second-grade teacher in Brick Town for what it felt like forever and her father was a fifth-grade teacher in Neptune. Yet despite her parents' comments, she liked education and found being a school psychologist would be a good blend, giving her what she wanted most—to help people in a school setting.

But other than her parents playing a major role in her life, so did the late Clement Bramley. Clement who also went by "Kim" was a long time MHS administrator. He was director of guidance and special education. Which included being responsible for all the kids with special needs, making all the kids schedules, and managing the team of guidance. He was a true backbone to the school!

According to English teacher Mr. James Mawn, "When I started teaching at MHS, Mr. Bramley was one of the primary leaders in

the school. He was a helpful and caring person who was willing to help anyone. Mrs. Polak is right. He was a good man."

"The one-person who's had the most profound impact on me was Mr. Bramley's dad, Clement Bramley who we called Kim Bramley. He was the director of people personal services here and he hired me. When he retired, I became sort



Above: Mrs. Polak and Mr. Hoffman (spanish teacher) posing on a California beach while the Surf Team competes 2022.

of him—but we continued to talk. I learned so much through his mentorship he was a good guy who passed away about a year ago. He is the first person that will come to mind that I'll be forever grateful for."

Her retirement is introduced with both celebration and reflection. Students in the CLI program are forever grateful she made what



Above: Mrs. Polak's school photo to her last year at MHS (2025).

they're apart of, as well as everlasting colleagues she'll always share laughs and talks with. To say the least is that her absence will be noticed.

As the final bell of her career will ring, she doesn't plan on rushing out the building like children on the last day of school. Instead, she'll stand quietly by her office door, watching students pass by—some waving, others to shy to say goodbye. She didn't need every student to remember her. What mattered to her was that they'll remember how they felt after leaving her office: heard, supported, and a little less alone. Her legacy won't be a statue or plaque on the wall—it would walk out the exact school doors she wandered in 34 years ago.



Above: Mrs. Polak's school photo to her first year at MHS (1990).

Chemistry Teacher by Day, Runner by Night

By: Amelia Steger

On April 21, Ms. McQuillen traded her lab coat for running shoes and ran in the 129th Boston Marathon. Running with fast speed and breaking all her records, she came in 5,877th place out of 28,709 overall and 636th place out of 12,399 women.

"I felt really good while running the marathon, it was one of the first races I trained really long for, and had loads of carbs before," said Ms. McQuillen, so even she knew this race was going to be a breeze.

Ms. McQuillen is a chemistry teacher and the cross-country coach here at Manasquan High School, al-

though that's just part of her life. The other part is running, day after day, race after race.

Ms. McQuillen has been running since freshmen year of high school. She started as more of a soccer player, but even then, she was always the fastest on her team.

When attending New Brunswick High-school in 2006, her best friend convinced her to leave soccer and join track with her instead. Luckily for that best friend because now Ms. McQuillen is a 19-year runner.

Ever since then, she has run in New York City's half marathon in 2022 and the New York City full marathon in 2023. Although, the Boston Marathon has been her biggest challenge yet.

Registering and qualifying for the Boston Marathon is not for the weak and you must be a greatly experienced runner. To qualify, you need to have a certain marathon running time. These times vary for all ages and genders but are all difficult to reach. To put it into perspective, one of every four people is bound to get rejected.

In early October, Ms. McQuillen got the thrilling news that she had made it in. Getting in is only half the

Pictured Above: Ms. McQuillen holding her Medal

battle, once in you must grow your running talent immensely.

"This marathon was the first time I actually fully followed a plan. To prepare for Boston I completed an 18-week training plan which I started a week before Christmas," said Ms. McQuillen.

Her training plan included specific workouts she needed to complete each week. She also ran a medium run every Wednesday night which was 14 miles, and one long run every Sunday which was 20 miles.

Those six months flew by in the blink of an eye and before she knew it, the big day had arrived. Ms. McQuillen drove into Boston early Saturday morning alongside her fiancé Alex and her parents.

The Boston marathon



Mrs. McQuillan

continued from previous page

is always held on the anniversary of Paul Rever starting the Revolutionary War. Also due to this day, everyone in Massachusetts has off so the energy and crowds at the marathon are always huge and hype which gets the runners ready. It was especially big this year because it was the 250th anniversary of the start of the Revolutionary War.

Her set time was 10:30 A.M. and she was well-prepared when the time came. All set up with running shoes and gels; the second she heard the whistle blow, she was off.

Finishing her first three miles in just 21 minutes set up the amazing results for the rest of the marathon. From the second she passed the start line to the minute she heard her family cheer her name at the end, it only took Ms. McQuillen three hours, five minutes, and thirty-five seconds.

With this extremely impressive running time, this meant her average minute per mile was only seven minutes and five seconds. Also, as stated before, this meant she came in 5,877th place overall out of all 28,411 participants.

"I was really impressed but not very surprised. She trusted the process and followed a structured plan and routine," said Ms. McQuillen's fiancé Alex said after hearing her results.

After the marathon, Ms. McQuillen was extremely happy and proud of herself. Although, after celebrating she quickly felt the aftermath of running a marathon. She couldn't walk down the stairs for a few days after, but it was all worth it.

Everyone here at Manasquan High School, and everyone who knows Ms. McQuillen, is extremely proud of her for competing in such a difficult marathon. Her placements and



Pictured Above: Ms. McQuillen Crossing the Finish Line

achievements were well earned and deserved.

"The Boston Marathon is so historic being the oldest marathon in the U.S. and I feel so grateful that I was able to run it because it is very difficult to get into. I knew even before the race started that I would be so happy," said Ms. McQuillen.

Dance Show

continued from previous page

hiphop dance to Glorilla was performed on stage. Switching up the mood, Ava and Hannah Melchiorri had the whole crowd in tears with their sister duet to Don't Worry About Me.

Those tears got whipped away again though when dance performance period 8 performed Glamorous in their sparkly skirts and glasses.

This year, MHS dance had a guest choreographer Daniel L. Padierna, a college dance

teacher at Earl Mosley's Diversity of Dance, Inc. He helped choreograph a dance for both dance performance and advanced dance this year. He is incredibly talented, and his dances were performed beautifully on stage by the dancers.

From each choreographer to each and every dancer, this show couldn't have gone better. Every night the crowd was hype, and the dancers were confident in performing and having fun on stage.

"The energy from the dancers was electric. I am so proud of everyone's focus and hard work, especially the week leading up to the show. I am really happy and proud," said Mrs. Galano.

Pictured Above Ms. McQuillen Mid Marathon

Mrs. Fenlon Throws a Birthday Party for her Favorite Book, The Great Gatsby

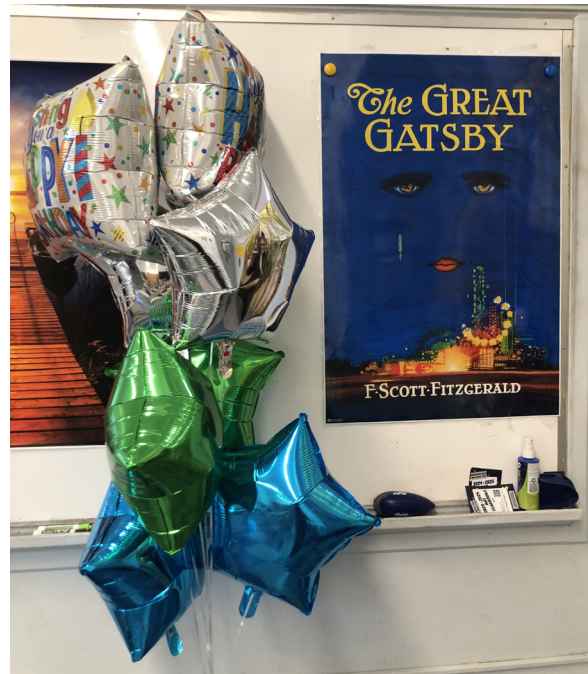
On April 9, an American classic celebrated its 100th birthday. F. Scott Fitzgerald's story of love, betrayal, and murder still intrigues readers today. Set in the Roaring 20s, or The Jazz Age as he called it, Fitzgerald portrayed the wealth, the parties, and the fashions of the time period, and introduced the iconic Jay Gatsby, an ambitious man hopelessly in love with the beautiful Daisy Buchanan. *The Great Gatsby* is often referred to as The Great American Novel.

It is MHS English teacher Mrs. Fenlon's favorite book to teach. So naturally, knowing that the book's publication in April 1925 needed to be recognized, she planned a birthday party.

As a Gatsby lover, the fact that April 10th marked the 100-year anniversary of the novel was something I couldn't ignore celebrating," Mrs. Fenlon said.

Students of Mrs. Fenlon's brought snacks and drinks to class and one student, Joe Sedutto, arranged a jazz playlist. Mrs. Fenlon, meanwhile, planned some party games to play in class and invited other teachers and classes to join the fun!

The games were the best part. One was "Pin the light on Daisy's dock" and another was a Gatsby Trivia Game Show. Winners of the games were awarded Dr. TJ Eck-



Pictured Above: (top): party decorations, including Balloons and Gatsby poster; a contestant "pins the light on Daisy's dock"; at left: juniors JulesCasale and Sophia Bilodeau wear their winner's glasses and a group shot of the period 1 class.

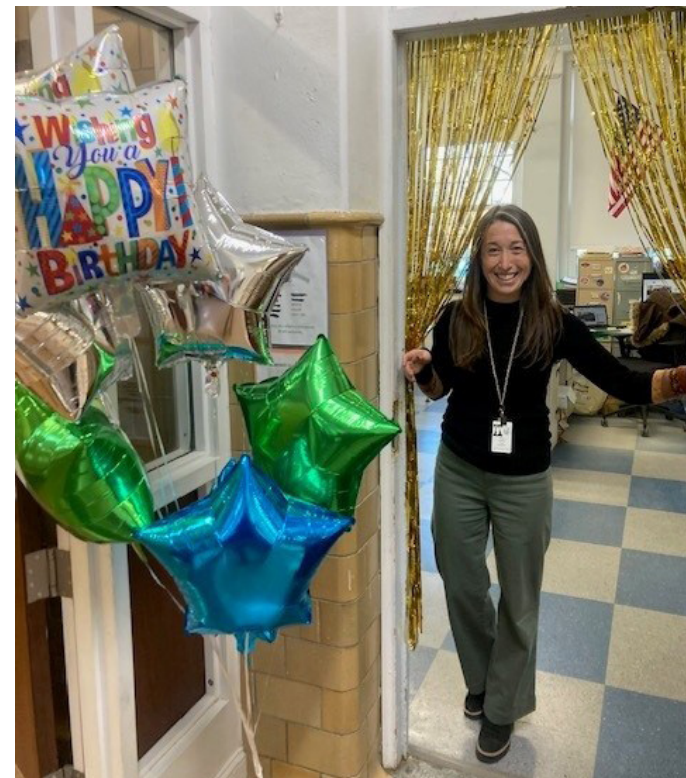


leburg eyeglasses and flapper headbands. (Sorry readers, You'll need to read the book to understand the references!)

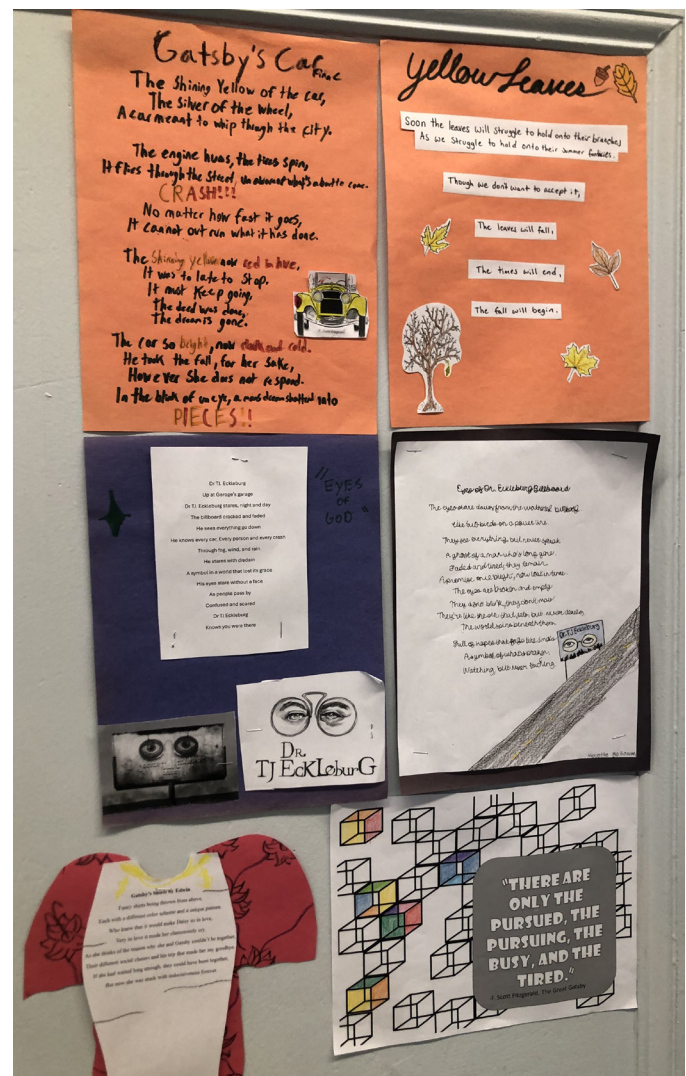
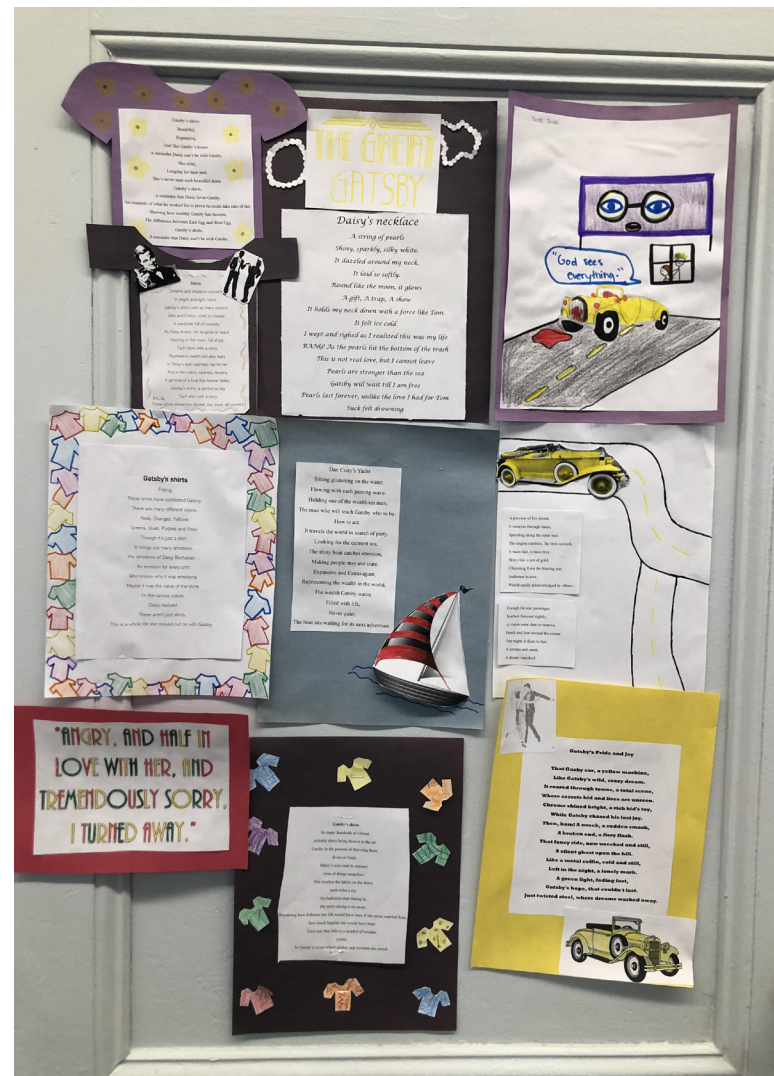
"I thought the day went well, and that the kids enjoyed themselves playing some novel inspired games," Mrs. Fenlon added.

Other English teachers were impressed with Mrs. Fenlon's party idea. Expanding the idea to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries of other authors, such as William Shakespeare and Harper Lee, became topics of conversation.

Mrs. Fenlon liked that idea a lot. "I would love to do something like this again and involve more students and department members to make a special, literary-inspired event happen each year," she said.



Pictured below: While reading the novel, students fired up their imaginations with creative responses, including poems and drawings, based on memorable moments in the story.



The History Of Prom Fashion

By Juliana Casale

1950

Prom dresses were elegant and feminine. The ball Gown dresses were Soft pastel colors and delicate embellishments like rhinestones which give the dresses a dreamy, romantic feel, often paired with gloves and pearls for a classy look.



1994

Girls rocked Tea-length dresses with vibrant colors and patterns. The fabrics worn were mostly satin and velvet. Some girls chose to wear black sheer tights.



2000

During this era Prom dresses were inspired by Pop cultural Icons! Such as Taylor Swift, Britney Spears, Jennifer Lopez, etc..



2010

Dresses often featured strapless or sweetheart necklines, with chiffon skirts or dramatic mermaid silhouettes. Popular details: rhinestones, sequins, and beaded embellishments



2025





Welcome to this year’s special edition of College Acceptances! Congrats to the Class of 2025 and all of there amazing college acceptances. It show that all the your hard work here at MHS pays off! Our list is based on student feedback- some seniors did not respond to our request for acceptances. We’ll update the list in April with more acceptances, and again in June with each senior’s college choice.

<p>Ryan Aldi Bentley University</p> <p>Ally Attardo Indiana University Purdue University, Arizona State University The College of New Jersey Virginia Tech North Carolina State</p> <p>Isabella Bird Villanova University Boston University University of Maryland University of Delaware George Washington Univ. Syracuse University Rutgers University</p> <p>Emily Black Lehigh University University of Connecticut Rutger University Marist University Seton Hall University</p> <p>Donovan Brown University of Colorado Boulder Middlebury College University of Vermont Lehigh University Northeastern</p> <p>Shayne Bryne Rutgers University Penn St James Madison University University of Connecticut University of Delware</p>	<p>James Cadott Delaware Valley University Suny Cobleskill Rutger University</p> <p>Ozzy Canarick College of Charleston University of Alabama Louisiana State University University of Arkansas Florida Atlantic University UNC- Wilmington Miami University</p> <p>Christopher Carhart Rollins College</p> <p>Julia Carson Montclair State University</p> <p>Elizabeth Carton UNC- Wilmington University of South Carolina University of Rhode Island Georgia Southern University Coastal Carolina University Auburn University Clemson University Elon University University of Mississippi</p> <p>Delaney Casello University of Oregon Temple University University of Louisville University of Cincinnati University of Kentucky Louisiana State University</p>	<p>Quinn Casello University of Cincinnati University of Pittsburgh Louisiana State University University of Louisville Univ. of Illinois at Chicago Arizona State University The University of Arizona University of Connecticut</p> <p>Matteo Chiarella University of Pittsburgh Virgina Tech Widener University Stevens Inst. of Technology Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute</p> <p>Kayden Clark Le Moyne College</p> <p>Ella Condon University of Colorado Boulder</p> <p>Logan Cupo James Madison University Penn St UNC- Charlotte</p> <p>Bailey Czekalski UMass Boston University of Rhode Island Rowan University Stockton University University of New Haven Arizona State University College of Charleston</p>	<p>John DePalma University of Maryland The College of New Jersey NJ Institute of Technology University of Delaware Drexel University Lehigh University Penn St Binghamton University Rutgers University</p> <p>Garret Devine Flagler College College of Charleston UNC- Wilmington University of Rhode Island</p> <p>Shea Donnelly Colby College</p> <p>Paige Ellery James Madison University Univ. of South Carolina University of Rhode Island Florida Atlantic University University of Kentucky University of Mississippi UNC- Charlotte</p> <p>Sophia Evans University of Maryland Drexel University Rutgers University Saint Joseph’s University George Washington Univ Fordham University University of Pittsburgh</p>
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Caden Eastmond
Salve Regina
Muhlenberg University

Giuliana Ferraro
Austin Peay University

Danni Forrester
St. Peters University

Bridget Freeman
Brookdale Community
College

Lindsay Fuller
Penn St

Angelina George
Cornell University

Kaitlyn Gray
Rochester Institute of
Technology

Caroline Giblin
Bucknell University
Providence College
Fairfield University
Loyola University Maryland

Jack Hale
Florida State University
University South Carolina
Auburn University
Clemson University
University of Maryland
Rutgers University
Seton Hall University
University of Tennessee

Parker Harms
Villanova University

Greg Herrera
University of Tampa
Virginia Tech
Florida Atlantic University
James Madison Univ.
Providence College
Arizona State University

Devon Kelly
University of Maryland
University of Louisville
University of Pittsburgh
University of Scranton
Loyola Maryland
University of Duquesne
Eastern Carolina Univ
Fordham

Jake Kovach
Colgate
Florida State University
Univ. of South Carolina
Auburn University
University if Alabama
Rugters University
University of Tampa
NJ Institute of Technology
University of Arizona

Elinor Krebs
Indiana University
Louisiana State (LSU)
Michigan State University
University of Arizona
University of Colorado
Boulder
University of Alabama
Fairfield University
Arizona State University
University of Mississippi

Christian LaForge
James Madison Univ.
Virgina Tech
UNC- Wilmington
Coastal Carolina Univ.
Univ. of Rhode Island
University of Delaware
Mary Washington Univ.

Mia Law
Univ. of South Carolina
University of Tampa
University of Pittsburgh
UNC- Wilmington
University of Maryland
University of Pittsburg
Monmouth University
Clemson University

Megan Liggett
University of Tampa
Virgina Tech
University of Rhode Island
University of Delaware
Providence College
Loyola University Maryland
James Madison University
High Point University
Fairfield University
College of Charleston

Griffin Linstra
Tufts University

Brooke Loughlin
University of Virgina
Villanova University
Wake Forest
Syracuse University
Boston College
University of Colorado
Boulder
University of Vermont

Patrick Loxley
Muhlenberg University

Grace Love
Stevens Inst. of Tech.
The College of New Jersey
Drew University

Julianna Martell
Lehigh University
University of Virginia
Clemson University
University of Pittsburgh
University of Delaware
University of Florida
Virgina Tech
Wake Forest

Aidan Masselli
University of Rhode Island
The College of New Jersey
Florida Institute of Tech.

Joanna McDonald
Auburn University
University of Colorado
Boulder
Rutgers University
UNC- Wilmington
James Madison University
North Carolina State
Florida Atlantic University
East Carolina University
University of Utah

Finnegan Meier
Loyola University Maryland

Daniel McManus
College of Charleston
University of Connecticut
Quinnipiac University
Univ of South Carolina
Mount St. Mary’s
University of Delaware
Gettysburg College



Noah Mencer
Bentley university
Colorado State University
Marquette university
Miami university
Rutgers university NB
University of Delaware
University of Vermont

Kathy Minchala
James Madison University
Virginia Tech
University of Virgina
Umass- Amherst
University of South Carolina
Fairfield University
Lehigh University
Bucknell University
George Washington Univ
University of Lafayette

Dylan Morris
Drew University
University of New England

Adam Murphy
Colgate University

Cassidy Murray
The University of Tampa
Clemson University
University of Pittsburgh
Fordham University
Steven Institute of Tech.
Xavier University
College of Charleston
Penn St
Providence College

Finley Nielsen
Auburn University
College of Charleston
George Southern
Louisiana State University
University of Alabama
University of Mississippi
University of Tampa

MJ Murray
Rowan University

Drake O’Chat
Rowan University
Brookdale

Tess O’Reilly
Coastal Carolina University
College of Charleston
Florida Atlantic University
High Point University
James Madison University
Stockton University
University of Tennessee
University of Rhode Island
University of Tampa
Virginia Tech

Elin Olenyik
High Point University

Aiden Opatosky
University of Florida
University of Maryland
University of Wisconsin
University of Tennessee
Virginia Tech
Indiana University
University of South Carolina
Baylor University
Rutgers University
University of Pittsburg

Ansh Prajapati
Rutgers University
Stevens Institute of Tech.

Om Prajapati
Rutgers University
Stevens Institute of Tech

Josephina Presbrey
University of Texas at Austin
University of Georgia
Texas Christian University
Clemson University
Auburn University
Virginia Tech
Univ. Tennessee Knoxville
Louisiana State University

Emma Preston
University of Maryland
Pennsylvania State University
University of Pittsburg
Texas A&M

Dean Randazzo
Brookdale
Temple University
Chaminade
Plam Beach Atlantic
Keiser University

Chris Reyes
Stevens Institute of Tech.
University of Rhode Island
Arizona State University
Louisiana State University
University of Tampa
Lynn University

Leo Reyes
University of Richmond

Tommy Reynolds
University of Maine Orono
University of Delaware
Ursinus University
Syracuse University

Kailie Rothery
Virginia Tech
James Madison University
West Virginia University
East Carolina University
Miami University
Xavier University

Luke Rudo
Mercer County Community
College

Robert Runge
Worcester Polytechnic
Institute

Kurt Sackariasen
Jame Madison University
Univ. of South Carolina
University of Rhode Island
Rutgers University

Matthew Schneider
Monmouth University

Matthew Schnurr
Clemson University
Auburn University
University of South Florida
University of Tennessee
University of Delware
Florida Atlantic University

Olivia Shaughnessy
Loyola Maryland Univ

Giovanni Scaglia
University of Tampa
University of Alabama
Baylor University
University of Arizona
Louisiana State University
Oklahoma State University

Valentino Scaglia
Louisiana State University
University of Arkansas
Michigan State University
University of Louisville
University of Alabama
Mississippi State University
Texas Tech University
University of South Carolina

Stephen Sharpe
University of Louisville
University of Kentucky
University of Mississippi
University of Alabama
Louisiana State University

Payton Siano
Highpoint University
University of Mississippi
University of Arizona
Louisiana State (LSU)

Joe Tarigo
Bentley University
Fairfield University
University of Connecticut
Monmouth University
Villanova University

Henry Terlizzi
Colorado School of Mines
College of New Jersey
Colorado Western Univ.

TJ Walther
Univ.y of South Carolina
Villanova University
Seton Hall University
University of Connecticut
Florida Atlantic University
Baylor University
University of Alabama
University of Maryland

Chase Warmkessel
Baylor University
Clemson University
Fairfield University
University of Tampa
Virgina Tech
Florida Atlantic University

John Wheeler
Virgina Tech
Rowan University
College of New Jersey
SUNY New Platz
Rutgers University

Ronnie Whille
Penn St
Univ. of South Carolina
College of Charleston
University of Delaware
Rutgers University
University of New Haven
Stockton University
Montclair University

Sierra Winters
Stockton University
Albany of Pharmacy and
health science
Iona University
Rowan University
Keen University
Hawaii Pacific University
Penn St

Connor Volksen
Messiah university

Cristian Zelinsky
University of Tennessee
Arizona State University
University of South Carolina
Auburn University

Yixuan Zhu
George Washington Univ
University of Delaware
Monmouth University
Rutgers University

National Merit Scholarship

continued from page 2

Dunne, Jackson Bramley, Nate McNamara, and Jake McQuaid. This already impressive feat is made even more so due to the fact that New Jersey, being tied only with Massachusetts and Washington DC, is one of the hardest states to win this award in, with students needing an index score of 223 or above to even be considered for it.

“I was so excited to get this award” says Ciara Dunne. She hopes that this will help her out with college applications and get her into the school of her dreams. As for the others, she says

they are also sure to go far with this amazing achievement added to their resumes.

All in all, winning the National Merit Scholarship Award is an exceptional accomplishment that is incredibly hard to get, especially in New Jersey. The recognition that comes with it is very useful with boosting college resumes which make it easier to get into good schools, and the satisfaction that comes with achieving it is very fulfilling in and of itself. This year, five Manasquan students were recognized for their intellect when they won the honor. Hopefully, with this recognition, they will be able to get into the schools of their dreams and go far in life.

SENIORS! CLASS OF 2025

The End of an Era at Manasquan High School

The school year is at a close, and with that we now have a class of seniors at the end of their high school career, including myself. Through the past four years we saw many moments that we hold close to us and in our memories. Though we will leave school, the school's spirit won't leave our hearts, unless you want it to of course. With ups and downs in each of our times here, we all share one thing, and that's the aspiration to learn, and keep learning.

We do not as students anymore but as individuals outside of school we will treasure this experience we have had and, in retrospect, what it gave us. The array of attributes we developed while here at MHS is remarkable.

Senior Justin Reilly says, "I think like, so much changed and not in a bad way from all this time at school."

Another senior, Ryan Rose, who was one of the contenders for class president last year, also reflects on his time at Manasquan. "MHS has been a huge thing in our lives, I mean obviously it's our high school but it's somewhere that we practically called home for the time we were here."

All of the participators in extracurriculars also reflect on their teamwork, not just their academic work. For example, the baseball team grew together as not just teammates but friends. The better they got playing the game, the closer they became as people.

Freshman year we came

into this school as young and impressionable kids, but now we have grown into ourselves, as young adults and new people. That's the sort of transformation a place like this can make.

"You spend your entire high school experience wanting to leave, but when it actually comes the time of leaving, you wanna stay," Micheal Callas said, as he spoke on what high school is and what it actually was to everyone. I feel it's not really until the very end that we see how much it actually meant to us, all a team while we were here, but we didn't realize.

By: Dylan Broglio

SENOIRS SHARE SOME FAVORITE MEMORIES

By: Brennan Quinlivan

Cristain Canseco



My favorite memory is celebrating on the bus after winning a wrestling match.

Jackson Pattagila



Winning the football Thanksgiving game this year

Rose Suarez



All the amazing art classes I took and the amazing and funny teachers who inspired me.

Herny Terlizzi



Breaking the indoor school record for shotput.

Johnny Jimenez



Interactions with friends, making friends, and being in the pickle ball club

Heidi Bonilla



Walking in the hallways with my friends and fooling around in classes Freshman year.



CLASS OF 2025 ADVICE



SPRING 2025

The Blue & Gray

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Time Flies When You're Having Fun!

Manasquan seniors share best memories, advice, and stories

By: Claire Vilacoba



"Join everything possible and make connectiosn with true friends and teacher".
Cassidy Murray



"Put yourself out there as much as possible".
Dylan Vowteras



"Get involved in as much as you can freshman year!"
Elin Olenyik



"Go to school!"
Ally Attardo



"Make sure you talk to new people and make new friends."
Dp McManus



"Do what makes YOU happy"
Shea Donnelly



"Do what you want to do"
Pat Frost



"Be open to everything, it leads you to open opportunites, Get involved in as many things as possible, Don't be afraid to join sports or clubs, it will make your HS experience!"
Reese Miller



"Get out of your comfort zone".
Parker Harms

Memories...



Grace Love
"Winning the championship 2 years in a row"



Kenna Dwyer
"One of my favorite memories was being in the dance shows"

Advice...



Shea Donnelly
"Don't let over-thinking kill your fun"



Ryan Aldi
"Enjoy your fun, high school goes by fast."

Thank you...



"I would like to thank Mrs. Radzinsky and Mrs. Virok for being so nice and for being great teachers my freshman year"
Adam Murphy



"I would like t thnak coach Bilodeau for all the lessons I've learned."
Jack Hale