

# Warrior Spearhead



EDITORS: BARBARA BORKE, MEGAN LISK, AND

BRIGID MCCARTHY

JUNE 2017

EDITION THREE

# The L.E.A. D.'ers of Tomorrow.

Today, Bridget Brennan, Maya Rosado and myself, Ellie Hallman, went to the L.E.A.D graduation ceremony for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade. We interviewed a couple students about how they felt about the L.E.A.D program. One of them, Ainsley Price, said, "An important thing I learned would be to fake a phone call when in an uncomfortable, dangerous situation." Ainsley also thought Officer Keith was an amazing educator that taught all 5<sup>th</sup> grade students how to say *NO!*

Another student, Kiera Berlin, said "I learned how to say no to drugs and how to escape risky situations," also believing that L.E.A.D was a significantly important program. She said, "L.E.A.D taught me so many important things about drugs I didn't know before." Katie Hallman and Sophia Romano also participated in the L.E.A.D program, as well as the "graduation". We also asked Katie some questions about L.E.A.D and she seemed ecstatic about it, particularly about what she learned and she said, "I learned about setting goals, to stop and think, and to be smart with my decisions. "

After that, the three of us also had time to interview Officer Keith. We asked him, "How do you think L.E.A.D is affecting kids today?" He responded, saying, "Kids are really taking in the information and understanding it, and putting it to use in bad situations." Officer Keith did a wonderful job educating the 5<sup>th</sup> graders on what they need to know for the future and their safety.

L.E.A.D is a fun and entertaining way to educate children on drugs, how to say no, and how drugs and alcohol can affect you. Going to this event brought back memories to my 5<sup>th</sup> grade year, and my friends and I agreed L.E.A.D affected us in a great way. Overall, visiting the 5<sup>th</sup> graders L.E.A.D graduation was an amazing experience and we hope I can do it again.



# Diary of a Worm: In the Unique Perspective of a 5<sup>th</sup> Grader

Mrs. Reichey's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class just enjoyed a charmingly original story titled "Diary of a Worm". Following this phenomenal read, they had to compose a diary of their own of what they thought an animal of their choice does on a daily basis. The stories were exquisitely delightful overall. Some consisted of very interesting creatures including some of the following: a red panda, an elephant, a blobfish, a koala, a wolf, a snake and a manatee. In his diary, on his subject of the red panda, Matt Loveland cleverly quipped, "Red pandas are pandas and pandas are bears." Matt also described some interesting facts about red pandas, and was shown to be very passionate about his animal choice.

By Doreen Cronin • Pictures by Harry Bliss

## DIARY OF A WORM



Another student, Katie Collins, researched a very unique animal- a blobfish! She described the animal on its summer vacation, a "shell phone", and also featured the qualities of a normal middle schooler in its personality. This diary caught my eye in particular because of its main character and the fact that a 5<sup>th</sup> grader would think of a blobfish as their favorite animal among all else.

Reading these diaries prompted me to reminisce, return to 5<sup>th</sup> grade, when I'd written these stories. These stories have evolved so vastly and these children are getting more and more creative with each year. It was nice to see that the kids were excited about reading to the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders, and that the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders were just as excited to read them as well. Overall, these articles brought a smile to my face, and to those of 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and 5<sup>th</sup> graders alike. For the sake of the happiness of future 5<sup>th</sup> graders I hope that the tradition of these diaries lasts for years to come.

## Ice Cream Social

On May 16 the Manasquan Elementary School held an ice cream social party to help raise money for the library renovation. This event was run by the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Ms. Wemple. Manasquan successfully raised \$600.

Warrior  
Spearhead



TRIBUTE TO THE EIGHTH GRADE  
CLASS OF 2017

*The halls of Manasquan Elementary School have been highways for hundreds of children on their way to something greater than today. The comfort and warmth that these halls offer have been kind and wise indeed. The eighth grade class of 2017 will regret to leave behind these halls, but, with their multitude of talents and passions, is nonetheless eager to expand their highways. Each individual eighth grader who is soon to walk out of MES's doors has expressed something great – be it kindness, fun banter, brilliance, or overall good humor. Each teacher expects absolute wonder and value from each brain that enters and exits his or her classroom. And as for the younger students, soon to be in the 8th graders' place, they've observed the maturity and wisdom of the current 8th graders, and are sure to follow in the bright footsteps of their upperclassmen. Through nights of studying, light-hearted laughter shared with friends, and well-earned successes, the class of 2017 has created a strong name for themselves. More importantly, they've prepared themselves for what their futures have to offer them. The highways of MES, that have taken eight years to travel, have offered an excess of education to its 8th graders. To wherever these highways will lead, to cities, villages, or across seas, the 2017 eighth grade class is sure to make the most of it.*

*-Barbara Borke*

Nick Accisano

Nick is excited to be attending MHS where he will definitely be in the Academy of Design and Engineering since his career goal is to be a robotic engineer. Nick will miss the small class sizes at MES and his friends. He is proud of the fact that he had the longest overdue book, four years, to be exact. Nick loves the cool side of the pillow, but dislikes stubbing his toe. Nick thanks Mr. Manser for helping him succeed in math.

Dominic Baratelli

Dominic will be attending Jackson Memorial High School. Dom just came to MES this year, and got involved with student council and quickly learned that the beach was his favorite place to hang out. Dominic loves helping others in need, even if it means giving up something of his own. Dominic is a little bit nervous about graduating, but with his motto being “you only fail if you stop trying,” success is certainly in Dominic's future.

Joseph Battaglia

Joe is proud to be attending Manasquan High School. Joe has loved being a part of the MES baseball team and has set his sights on being a professional baseball player, but his back-up plan is becoming a lawyer. Joe will always remember his fourth grade spelling bee experience. Joe feels that Mrs. T has made him become not only a better writer and a better student, but also a better person as well. Joe loves his friends, but his family is important to him as well, and his favorite place to hang out is his home. Regarding graduation, Joe is indifferent. He knows that although eighth grade is ending, it is only a matter of time before school starts up again. However, Joe will probably enjoy summer for one of his favorite foods, ribs, and will definitely enjoy the break from “9-91 odd” for Algebra homework! All who know Joe believe that he will reach his goals.

Amanda Bautista

Amanda is heading across the street to MHS. Her favorite word is “hope” and after showing her inspirational movie about her love for music and her family and friends, Amanda's hope of becoming a musician will undoubtedly become a reality. Her favorite memories from kindergarten is field day, but joining chorus in fourth grade and then band in eighth grade only increased her love for music. She was Student of the Month in December and her teachers said that her positive personality and great attitude made Amanda a pleasure to have in class. Amanda would like to thank Mrs. Lauffer and Mr. Clark because they both made her realize that music is more than just a song. They showed her what it is like to be passionate about something and are encouraging Amanda to pursue her dreams, even as she leaves for MHS.

Melanie Bautista

Melanie will be attending Manasquan High School, and since she wants to be a nurse, Melanie will certainly take advantage of the Academy of Health Careers. She will miss all her teachers at MES who always encouraged her to do her best, and has fond memories of singing opera for students' birthdays in Mrs. Taft's class, singing in chorus for four years, and the Gettysburg trip. Melanie loves the Inlet and the beach near Gee-Gee's. Her favorite book read in school was *And Then There Were None*. Melanie is excited for high school!

Sally Becker

Sally is heading to MES and has dreams of becoming an interior designer, a dancer, and she would love to do missionary work, too! Sally has fond and funny memories of MES, a kindergarten story involving Legos, and a third-grade memory of "Slapping Line." She loved *Among the Hidden*, dancing because it makes her feel alive, but does not like pointless homework. Sally will always remember Mrs. T's grammar songs! She cherishes her eighth grade with all her friends before they each move on to different schools. Sally can't wait to spend her summer at the beach. She wants everyone to remember her for being kind and caring. Sally loves the quote: "She believed she could, so she did."

Peter Berlin

MHS is where Peter is heading this fall. His best memory is being inducted into the National Junior Honor Society which shows that hard work pays off. Peter is guided by Winston Churchill's quote: "Success is never final; failure is never fatal; the only thing that counts is courage." Peter loves the Manasquan beach, but he loves hanging out at his home. Peter loves his family, and hates losing people he loves. Peter will be remembered for his kindness and his determination.

Maggie Bisazza

Maggie will be at MHS next year, but she will miss all the nice people that she can always count on. She fondly remembers doing yoga in Miss Hill's class, learning grammar songs with Mrs. Berra, and throwing a surprise birthday party for Ms. Walling. Maggie has been positively impacted by Ms. Walling because she has always pushed her to become the best student she could be, and Mrs. Trischitta because she always told her that she could do it, even when she thought she couldn't. Maggie loves watching summer sunrises with her friends, and despises fish and slugs because they are scary and sneaky. Maggie wants her friends to know, "I may not always be there with you, but I will always be there for you." Although Maggie is sad to leave all the amazing teachers and friends at MES, she can't wait for summer and then trying new things in high school.

Barbara Borke

Barbara will be part of the MHS freshmen class and is excited to be part of the Academy of Public Safety where she can begin to reach her goal of becoming a criminal profiler. Barbara is thankful for Ms. McNelis for showing her that people can still be cool even if they have different political views, Mrs. Trischitta for teaching her that she can be herself without being scrutinized, and Mr. Clark, mainly because she feels he doesn't find her to be a nuisance, and "that's a good feeling." Barbara enjoys hanging out at Joe Brennan's house, writing, making incredible movies, and having water-gun fights with her friends.

## Hayden Boyler

Hayden is going to MHS. She is happy she moved here in seventh grade because she met new people and made great friends. Hayden is grateful to Mr. Manser and Mr. Reid because they helped her through tough times and made her feel as though she was worth something. They encouraged Hayden to believe in herself. Hayden lives by Benjamin Franklin's adage: "If I didn't fail the test, I just found 100 ways to do it wrong." She loves Manasquan Pizza and Dunkin' Donuts, the beach, and her family and friends, because they are always there for her when she needs them.

## Joe Brennan

Joe Brennan never fails to brighten up his friends' day with his bright smile and good humor. Joe is going to MHS and he will miss long gym periods spent playing boxball. Joe enjoys spending time at the Dog Beach, Curtis Park, and making short comedy films with his friends. If he had to pick a favorite book read in school, Joe would choose *The Pigman* by Paul Zindel. Joe aspires to be a marine biologist, and with his creativity and passion, he is sure to attain his goal.

## William Burns

Billy will be making a name for himself attending Manasquan High School. He has many great MES memories including the Halloween parades, band, and the eighth grade class trip. Billy was part of three undefeated cross country seasons and is excited to be a part of the cross-country team in high school. Mrs. Yellovich positively influenced Billy for her incredible spirit and attitude helped him become a more positive person. In the summer, you can find Billy at Riddle Beach.

## Kate Capodanno

Kate Cap is excited to be a part of the MHS family. She is such a happy, positive person, it is no wonder "happy" is her favorite word. Kate's best memories include being a part of Mrs. Sayre's third-grade class, reading *And Then There Were None*, and winning the MCLA soccer championship. What you see is what you get with Kate Cap, and her favorite quote is "take it or leave it." She thanks Mrs. Trischitta for making learning enjoyable and Ms. Walling for pushing her to be her best. Kate Cap is excited to play soccer, her favorite sport, and spend her summer at the Inlet.

## Nate Cardilla

Nate is headed to MHS where his bright smile will certainly light up his classes. Nate loves hanging out at Matt Testa's house, going to Riddle Beach, and fried chicken. However, if Nate sneezes and no one says, "God bless you," Nate becomes sad. Nate is relieved yet nervous about graduating from MES, but with memories such as having a surprise party for Ms. Walling's birthday and the positive influences from his teachers, Nate will reach his dream of becoming a movie producer.

## Jovana Casale

Jovana is excited to cross the street and become a part of MHS. She greeted each day with a smile and lived by the famous acronym: YOLO. Mrs. Eastmond, Mrs. Murin, Mrs. Yellovich, Ms. Walling, and Mrs. Trischitta pushed Jovana to be the best she can be. Her favorite place to hang out is Riddle Beach because she loves summer more than anything. Regarding high school, Jovana is sad and nervous, but also quite excited.

## Jack Collins

Jack is excited to be a part of Manasquan High School. Jack will never forget the fun he had for the past three years playing sports for MES, and he will always remember the fun he had with his teammates and coaches. Jack will also remember Mrs. Sayre because she was one of the most fun, kindest teachers he has ever had. Jack also recalls fifth grade field day when his homeroom was down eight events and then won. Jack will go down in history as the “Ham” from the Dr. Seuss play, his first stage play ever. Jack would recommend taking advantage of every opportunity at MES and work hard, as it will pay off. Jack’s motto is, “You can’t lose if you never try.” Jack will not only be remembered for changing his classmates’ (and teachers’) background screens to CHEESE, but also because his favorite word is cheese.

## Cate Comer

Cate is headed to MHS. She aspires to be a pediatric surgeon or teacher. Cate has wonderful memories of MES. She loves singing in Mrs. Sayre’s class, playing silent ball in Mrs. Marshall’s class, and being part of the Drama Club for three years. She chose *The Westing Game* as her favorite novel read in school, but will not miss the stress of tests and quizzes. Although she will miss seeing her friends every day, Cate says, “Don’t cry because it’s over. Smile because it happened.” Cate loves summer and can be found on Riddle Beach, the park, or Bubbakoos!

## Emma Cunningham

Emma is a bit sad about leaving MES where she has so many incredible memories, including being the lead in all three musicals, *Annie*, *The Sound of Music*, and *Legally Blonde*. Emma taught the eighth grade a dance “Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree” which became the first-ever flash mob performed at the Holiday Dance. She has been positively impacted by Mrs. Sliwoski who taught her to believe in herself while always being humble. Emma hates gossip, loves her friends and the beach, and can’t wait to explore all the opportunities offered at MHS. In the future, we may find Emma singing on Broadway, teaching in a classroom, defending the Constitution as a lawyer, or helping people find their beauty as a stylist.

## Cynthia Dalton

Cynthia is ready for MHS. She loves the word “wasps” which is a fun word to say. (Try “wasp’s nest.”) She has several favorite memories from MES, specifically going to the petting zoo in second grade, the Camden Aquarium in fifth grade, and having Mrs. Yellovich as a teacher. Wasps, zoos, and aquariums...perhaps that is why Cynthia aspires to be a veterinarian. Cynthia thought *Dunk* by David Lubar was the best book she had to read for language arts. She loves spending her summer at Riddle Beach and is excited to graduate.

## Shane Dery

Shane will join many of his classmates at MHS. He has a memory of food fights, the Fourth Grade Spelling Bee, and his teachers who have inspired him in various ways. Shane’s favorite memory is being in Multimedia Literacy and showing his video on his own dogs on June 2, 2017. Shane’s favorite novel read in school was *No More Dead Dogs*. Shane loves his parents, Riddle Beach, Curtis Park, and Yoda, who has given Shane great advice: “Do or do not. There is no try.”

## Kate Dangler

Katie, or “K-Ding,” is going to Manasquan High School. She is a happier individual whose favorite word is “Yay.” She will miss how close everyone in the eighth grade is and Mr. Reid because he taught her that she needs to work hard if she wants to get somewhere in life. K-Ding remembers that in kindergarten she threw a Lego at a classmate because he (or she) tried to steal one of her friends. Katie loves hanging out with her



friends and helping her buddies visualize and create their futures. She loves the quote “An object in motion stays in motion unless an applied force acts upon it.” Kate is happy everywhere—the beach, her house, the Inlet, and spending time with her dogs.

Kennedy Driscoll

Kennedy is “happy” to be a rising freshman at MHS. She remembers her trip to the zoo in kindergarten, performing a play in fifth grade, and the eighth grade class trip. Kennedy hopes MES will remember her as a good person, and with a role model like Mrs. Yellovich, she will be remembered as being nice to everyone. Kennedy loves Riddle Beach, *The Outsiders*, goats, but is bothered by floppy lettuce. Kennedy lives by the motto YOLO.

Ileigh Duffy

Ileigh is just going to be “walking across the street” for high school, and she is ready. Ileigh has a great group of friends, loves the beach, and the novel *Unwind*. She is creative, honest, and loyal. She loved being in Mrs. Taft’s class, and thanks Mrs. Trischitta for encouraging her to be a better writer and a better person. Ileigh finds the following quote profound: “As free and crazy as we want to be, and how much we want to make the world a canvas, there’s also a part of us that doesn’t want to make any mark.” It’s a fact that Ileigh will make a beautiful mark on the world with her talent.

Patrick Ertle

Pat, Patrick, Pertle—there isn’t just one name for this MHS bound graduate. He will always remember *The Polar Express* day in Mrs. Mead’s class, when Tommy stepped on him while watching a movie, Mrs. Berra’s sixth grade class, and eighth grade lunch period. Patrick was positively impacted by Mrs. Snel because she was his favorite teacher for being so nice and understanding, and Mrs. Yellovich. Patrick loves hockey, and he admires Wayne Gretzky who said, “You miss 100% of the shots you don’t take.” Pertle is excited for graduation to experience new things. You may find Patrick at the beach, a friend’s house, or the Inline hockey rink, but you will not find him on a roller coaster.

Ahni Falcone

Ahni is ready to make her mark at MHS! She is carefree and happy, and can’t wait to begin high school. Ahni has been influenced in some way by all of her teachers at MES, but she is excited to start high school so she can reach her dream of being a model. Ahni loves music and the beach, and even though Ahni calls herself short, you can expect BIG things from her.

Faith Franklin

Faith loves the word serendipitous, and she hopes to impress her MHS teachers with her smile, her friendliness, and her ability to react to the spontaneous events that happen daily. Faith will miss all her teachers, particularly Mrs. Ward, who made Faith learn to love language arts. Faith happily recalls fifth grade field day and will never forget her trip to Gettysburg with her eighth grade classmates. You may find Faith at Bubbakoos, Riddle Way, or watching gorgeous sunsets. Don’t ever offer Faith salt and vinegar chips however. Faith’s favorite books were *The Outsiders* and *Walk Two Moons* but she is excited for all the new books she’ll read in high school, along with everything else MHS has to offer. One day, Faith would like to raise puppies, giving her kind and caring nature.

## Corbin Galliana

Corbin will be attending Brick Memorial High School, much to the dismay of the close friends he's made here at MES. Because of his love for language arts, Corbin aspires to be a language arts teacher. In second grade, Corbin accidentally stabbed his hand with a pencil, and he loves to reflect on that experience with a laugh. Corbin loves hanging out with his friends, especially at Colin's house. He also loves Mrs. Yellovich's positive attitude, and can probably recite his favorite book, *The Cat in the Hat*.

## Cate Geiger

Cate is continuing her education at St. Rose High School. She will be remembered at MES for being a valuable member of the MES girls' soccer team and for always offering a bright smile to anyone. Cate is genuine, kind, and has a great sense of humor. She treasures her friends and her family.

## Rory Giblin

Rory is excited to start at MHS where he hopes to be in the Engineering Academy so he can get a start making his dream of becoming an engineer a reality. Although Rory is excited to leave MES, he knows he will miss all of his friends and hopes he never loses them. Rory remembers having a Cinco de Mayo party in kindergarten with chips and salsa, in fourth grade planning a vacation to New Hampshire to capture the librarian, and when Rory graduated to eating lunch in the cafetorium, he remembers singing Cold 45 at lunch, and everyone knew the words. Rory's favorite quote is "Nothing's ever promised tomorrow today." His favorite novel from school is *Unwind* by Neal Shusterman. Rory loves reconnecting with people he hasn't spoken to in a long time as it fills in a puzzle to who's doing what. Rory wishes people would not judge a song just because it doesn't fit into his or her favorite genre of music.

## Christina Giunco

Christina is excited to be representing Manasquan at Marine Academy of Science and Technology High School, MAST. Christina is not a fan of change, adjusting to something new is never easy. "Same old, same old" is the way she likes it. Order, patterns, and routines are better than transitions. Christina will miss all the people, students and teachers, at MES but will stay involved with MHS sports and activities. Christina is inspired by Ghandi: "Be the change you wish to see in the world." For someone who doesn't like change, Christina and her buddy Fredi were the ones who began the Elephant Project this year, which raised over \$1,400 and saved 28 elephants. Christina has appreciated sitting in Mrs. T's room during lunch and taking a break from everything related to school. She also improved her writing from working with Mrs. Trischitta. Her favorite novel was *Dandelion Wine* by Ray Bradbury. Christina does want to better the world, and her goal is to become a member of the Peace Corps.

## Haley Griffith

Haley will be attending MHS in September, and is looking forward to being a part of both the softball team and hopefully the Academy of Health Careers, since she aspires to become a doctor. She will undoubtedly be an asset to the school in both athletics and academics. This summer, you can find Haley at Riddle Beach in Manasquan.

## Katie Hallman

Katie will be dancing her way to Manasquan High School next year, just as she has done throughout her entire elementary school career. She will be remembered fondly for her positivity, infectious smile and her effort in cross country and a new sport this year, track. It is no doubt that Katie is, and will continue to be, a friend to everyone.

## Jack Hamilton

Jack loves the familiarity of MES, but within a few days of attending MHS, Jack will be just fine. No one will ever forget Jack's "TED Talk" about saving the elephants in eighth grade. It boosted Jack's self-confidence so he could play the starring role of Dr. Seuss himself in the Read Across America original play, *Seuss in Squan*. Jack thanks Barbara for creating her multimedia literacy project on him, for she showed the world just how good a friend Jack is. Jack's favorite quote is "Nobody exists on purpose. Nobody belongs anywhere. Everybody's gonna die. Come watch TV." It gives you motivation to make your one shot at life worth it, in his mind. Jack would like to thank Mrs. Trischitta for all the bad grades he received in seventh grade, for her honesty helped him become much better at writing. Then there is Mr. Reid, the teacher who showed Jack that math can be like watching a stand-up routine. His toughness motivated Jack to do better. Mrs. Rostron was another teacher who positively impacted Jack. Her class was chilled out, and it was a nice change of pace. Mrs. Wahl was a great science teacher. She went deep enough to keep Jack engaged in class and she made science really interesting. Jack will be anything he chooses to be.

## Charlie Height

Charlie is going to "swiggle" on over to Manasquan High School next year. He will fondly look across the street at the little playground outside of the kindergarten classrooms where he had so many good memories. Charlie loved getting lockers in fifth grade and chose *The Outsiders* as his favorite book. Jack always did his best and will continue to do so. He will miss all of his MES teachers, but with his family and friends beside him, Charlie will make a name for himself at MHS. Charlie hopes to have a career in music, and with luck, Charlie will continue performing in school musicals.

## Danny Hippe

Danny is headed to MHS. Although he is a bit nervous, his happy nature and strong work-ethic will bring Danny much success. Danny loves memes, but dislikes slow wifi. Danny loves hanging out with his friends, looks back at his seventh grade homeroom with Mr. Manser as being great, and thanks Mrs. Yellowich for teaching him to "be chill." Danny proudly has the honor of being the first Geography Bee champion. His favorite hang out is Curtis Park, and the beach you'll find him on is Riddle. Danny hopes to be a world traveler, which is certainly a possibility with his keen geographical knowledge.

## Elsie Johnson

Manasquan High School is lucky to have Elsie as part of its freshmen class. Elsie thanks her teachers such as Mrs. O'Hara who helped her get back on track, Mr. Manser for helping her do well on the algebra placement test, Mrs. Ward for teaching her to be less shy, Mrs. DeMattia for helping her become a better runner, and Mr. Reid for helping her develop good study habits. Elsie loved running cross country and track for MES. She loved *Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie* and is excited and a bit nervous for high school because she doesn't know what to expect. Elsie loves her dogs who are always happy to see her when she comes home, but can't stand it when she is behind someone who takes a really long time to order food. Elsie is a decision maker who will reach her goal of becoming a doctor.

## Grace Larned

Grace's laughter will grace the MHS halls next year. Regarding MES, she will miss knowing everyone, but is super-excited to meet new friends. Grace feels that "everything happens for a reason" and her favorite memory is moving to Manasquan! Grace wants to thank Mrs. Trischitta and Mrs. Yellowich because she had a blast in their classes and they taught her to love school. Grace loves her family and hanging out at home, but you can also find her at Riddle beach with her friends.

Ava Lewis

Ava will be attending MHS, but she will make the most out of summer because not only is it her favorite season, she also loves the beach and has claimed it as her second home. Ava has been positively impacted by Mrs. Yellovich and Mrs. Trischitta and will miss seeing them every day. She remembers the fun projects she did in the younger grades and being a part of the drama club in grades 6-8. Ava loves the word “zipper,” (perhaps because of the Fireman’s Fair, a Manasquan summer tradition?) and hopes to become a photographer.

Danny Liggett

Danny Liggett, after eight years of attending and enjoying MES, will be a mere few yards across the street next year at Manasquan High School. Danny is eager to see what sports and athletic opportunities MHS holds for him, especially with his hope of becoming an athletic trainer in the future. Although Danny is sad to leave some of his favorite teachers behind, including Mr. Reid, Mr. Wahl, and Mrs. Trischitta, he hopes that MES will remember him for helping out around the school. As he enters into high school, Danny will keep in mind his favorite quote to move him through, “If it doesn’t open, it’s not your door.”

Megan Lisk

Megan is representing Manasquan at Biotechnology High School. She is relieved to graduate, and excited to pursue her dream of becoming an avian veterinarian or a conversational biologist. Megan says that “although it seems insignificant, [she] will miss that little creek bisecting the school because it makes MES unique.” It also gives everyone a chance to see wildlife, ducks, the cardinal that visits Mrs. Wahl, groundhogs, chipmunks, and changes with each season. Megan has an undying passion for birds. “The sing me out of misery and remind me of my path in life. They’re so diverse, and yet, unified as one. They’re a mirror to mankind—their personalities and conflicts are so much like those of humans. Even the most ‘stupid’ birds have a flicker of human emotion.” Megan would like to thank Mrs. Trischitta who always provided honest feedback on her writing and Mrs. Wahl for helping her make important decisions, such as which high school would be best for her career path.

Evan Lloyd

Evan is going across the street with a positive attitude despite numerous hardships he’s encountered through recent years. Everyone at the school will fondly remember Evan for his politeness, kindness, and even his willingness to hold the door for people. He loves and always will love travelling to remote places that most of us can only dream of. Perhaps his biggest journey that will await him will be at MHS.

Ally Maher

Ally loves the eighth grade and MES because it feels as though it’s her second home and she is surrounded by family. She will miss the teachers and how everyone has such pride for MES. Ally’s friendliness and trustworthiness will certainly make her an asset at MHS, where she will find her new family. Ally remembers kindergarten where her teacher would read a book and let the girls play with her hair. That was her favorite time of the day. Ally also remembers when in third grade she and her friends lip-synched and danced to “Hot Hot Hot” by David Johansen. She will always remember the eighth grade field trip. Ally hopes everyone realize how much she loves MES, especially Mrs. Murin for teaching her to never give up on herself and to believe she can achieve anything, and Mr. Reid who taught her to work hard in school and in life and she will succeed.

## Lily McCaffery

Lily is super-excited to attend Manasquan High School, where her sister will be a senior. She has fond memories of school picture days, has loved the encouragement she received from all her teachers, and enjoyed playing sports for MES. Lily always does the best she can, and since her favorite quote is “be the best you can be” she will undoubtedly achieve her dream of being some kind of designer. Lily will never forget Mrs. Trischitta or *The Outsiders*, and can’t wait for summer to hang with her friends at the beach.

## Brigid McCarthy

Brigid is apprehensive about leaving everything she has known and attending Communications High School. However, with Brigid’s effervescent personality along with her passion and enthusiasm and positivity, she will quickly make new friends. However, Brigid will still be involved in MHS activities, and will make time for her MES friends, especially Faith Franklin. Brigid remembers Tommy Rice giving her a cat-shaped Silly Band, winning a poetry contest in fourth grade, and performing *Seuss in Squan* in eighth grade. She was impacted by *The Giver* and *Dandelion Wine*, and she loves Dodie Clark, Domino’s pizza (her guilty, secret pleasure), and poetry, which is more beautiful than the world itself will ever be. Brigid will treasure STEM, room 303, and Mrs. T for pushing her to do more. You can see Brigid at the beach or performing in *Peter Pan* at Algonquin Arts Theater this summer.

## Luke McHugh

Luke McHugh, after elementary school, will remain in Manasquan, and will be going across the street to attend Manasquan High School. While Luke knows that he will be leaving behind beloved teachers such as Mrs. Trischitta, who always kept pushing him to attain more, he is excited to walk through the doors of MHS. With his much favored quote, “It always seems impossible until it’s done,” from the mouth of Nelson Mandela, Luke will continue to push forward. Looking back at his elementary school, Luke will leave with the hope that his beloved school will remember him fondly as one of the best soccer captains. Luke will definitely go down in MES history as being the giant green egg in the play *Seuss in Squan*.

## Billy McManus

Billy is excited about his future at MHS. He loved playing in the band under the direction of Mr. Clark who always encouraged him. Billy will never forget his first day of kindergarten, knocking over his teacher’s coffee by accident, and winning the baseball championship in eighth grade. Billy’s award-winning personality and love for pizza will certainly contribute to his future goal of being a historian.

## Lucas Mellon

Lucas Mellon is soon to be departing from MES, and entering Manasquan High School. Although apprehensive, Lucas has high hopes for what he’ll learn in his new school. With his strong belief that “knowledge is power”, he can’t wait to learn and see more. Lucas dreams of becoming a physicist one day, and so hopes to excel in future science classes. Either way, Lucas is sure to find a surplus of experience and knowledge as he moves on into high school.

## Ryan Minervini

Ryan Minervini is soon to enter Manasquan High School, along with several other of his peers. He’s eager to achieve his dream of becoming a lawyer as he grows further and further in his education. Forever the jokester, Ryan hopes for MES to remember him for his height. All jokes aside, Ryan will miss MES’s lovely gymnasium when he parts with the school. Along with that, his heart will ache as he leaves his favorite teachers, Mrs. Yellovich and Mr. Reid, who’ve encouraged him to do his best. Despite the sadness that is sure to overcome him, Ryan is relieved to enter MHS at last.



Daisy Morgan

Daisy Morgan is to enter Manasquan High School as a freshman in the upcoming school year. Although Daisy Morgan hasn't been attending MES very long, she is heartbroken that she'll have to leave behind so many kind people. However, Daisy is grateful that she'll be able to stay in Manasquan, as she absolutely adores the Manasquan Inlet. As her upcoming freshman year nears, Daisy cannot wait to experience what people and classes MHS will have to offer.

Morgan Muly

Morgan will be taking her talents to Manasquan High School, where she not only wants to continue being a *fantastic* pitcher, but also become a radiologist technician. Even though she'll miss all the teachers, Mrs. Yellovich in particular, she's excited for her graduation and will continue to treasure the beach.

Lulu Nelson

Lulu will take her singing dream to the next level at Manasquan High School. This next step is both sad and exciting for her, since she'll miss field day, her teachers, and her friends who won't be there next year. No matter what happens, she'll always love the beach (despite a scary encounter with sharks) and Idol Time, which she describes as her "second home". Lulu has developed an obsession for banana cream pie and she is currently searching for THE BEST banana cream pie in the area. Catch Lulu as an Indian in Algonquin Arts performance of *Peter Pan* this summer!

Julia Nudo

Julia, or Jules, has the best laugh that will certainly echo throughout the hallways at MHS. Julia remembers getting in trouble for throwing a sponge in second grade, meeting one of her friends, Jovana, and going to Gettysburg. She has been fortunate to have two positive influences, Mrs. Murin and Mrs. Yellovich, and loved the novel *Flipped* from seventh grade. Aside from being rich when she grows up, Julia hopes to be surrounded by puppies.

Grace O'Boyle

Grace is excited to attend Manasquan High School in September, where she will continue to be an important part of the Warrior Band. Although she is leaving MES, Grace will always remember Mrs. Murin and Mrs. Yellovich, the Gettysburg class trip, and every time she fell asleep in class (or, actually, when she woke up). MES will remember Grace as the girl with an easy sense of humor and the ability to make anyone laugh.

James O'Neill

James is relieved that school is ending, and he intends to enjoy summer as much as he can before he starts at MHS. James is often referred to as a savage, perhaps for his baseball skills, and he will always be proud of his championship victory his eighth grade year. James loves food, and although he isn't sure what he wants to be "when he grows up," we can be sure that James will eat three meals a day.

Talia O'Reilly

Talia is excited for summer to roll around. She is thrilled that she will be graduating MES and attending MHS with many of her friends. Talia is loved by many people for her humor and friendliness. She loves hanging out with her besties and biking down to the beach.

## Maddie Paradise

Maddie is ready for summer to begin, but she is also excited for high school to begin. At MHS, Maddie is academically prepared, and she would like to thank Mrs. Rostron and Mrs. Yellovich for all their support. Maddie loves hanging out at home, and feels the best beach in Manasquan is the Inlet. Maddie feels her life would be better without bugs, but if her friends sometimes bug her (rarely) that's okay.

## Cameron Perna

Cameron has always been a fan of the first day of school, and when he opens the door at MHS, Cameron will have a confident smile on his face. Although Cameron does not like getting up early for school (note—it's only earlier for high school), Cameron has been told by an influential teacher, Mr. Reid, that life and school is only going to get harder after eighth grade. Cameron has all summer to sleep, but he'll wake up to head to Riddle Beach or Manasquan Pizza with his friends. Cameron loves making saves in lacrosse, and he hopes to use his skills on the high school lacrosse team. Since his goal is to become a billionaire, Cameron is one friend you'll want to stay in contact with!

## Nick Peeples

Nick Peeples is soon to be a freshman at Manasquan High School. While he is eager for graduation and summer, he knows that he will miss MES and the school's small and cozy size. Nick was influenced heavily by Miss O'Hara, Mr. Reid, and Mrs. Trischitta, who showed him monumental wisdom. As Nick grows both in age and emotionally, he edges closer and closer to attaining his dream of making the world a better place.

## Christina Phillips

Christina loves laughing and is always optimistic, so her success at MHS is guaranteed. She is grateful for Ms. Walling who helped her believe in herself, Mrs. Yellovich, who always made sure everyone understood the material and made her laugh, and Mrs. T, who made learning fun. During the summer, Christina loves hanging out at her pool or the beach, and will greet everyone with a friendly smile just because that's who she is. Christina remembers how she cried every day in kindergarten, until she decided that she would stop. That day, Christina got an award for not crying. In fourth grade, she and her friend Julia did lip sync, and practiced their dance for weeks. At one point in their routine, they both forgot the choreography, so they just danced on the stage. Did Christina cry? No, it was funny.

## Ali Presbrey

Ali Presbrey is excited to attend MHS, but sad to leave all of the teachers who made her education at MES so special. Ali loved the shows her class put on in Mrs. Kirk's first grade, making pancakes in fourth grade, and being a lawyer in the court case presented at Manasquan Borough Hall in seventh grade. Ali thanks Mrs. Sayre for encouraging her to do her best, and Mrs. Yellovich for always listening to her. Ali loves the beach, playa bowls, the novel *Unwind*, and hanging out at the beach. Ali's goal as of now is to become a lawyer or pediatric surgeon, and with this quote to inspire her: "Let your smile change the world, but don't let the world change your smile," Ali will make the world a better place.

## Megan Priest

Megan will be going right across the street to attend high school, and there she will be excelling both in her honors classes and on the soccer field. She will miss the STEM class and all of her friends that will be attending different high schools. MES will remember Megan for her kind smile and compassionate nature.



## Izzy Ragan

As Izzy Ragan departs from MES to take on MHS, she hopes and prays that the residents of MES will remember her for her smile amongst all else. She'll miss the teachers that inspired her when she leaves, but she is still very excited to witness what MHS has to offer her. Izzy still has a variety of options in mind for her future, such as athletics, real estate, and wedding planning, so she still has much to experience as a young person. Whatever path she walks down, the children and teachers of MES will always be grateful for her kindness and positive attitude.

## McKenzie Ramire

McKenzie Ramire, best known as "Fredri" by the school, has been attending MES since her first day of kindergarten, when she walked in sporting her Hello Kitty backpack alongside Connor Walsh. Ever since that day, Fredri has spent her time studying hard and maintaining a positive and friendly attitude. With her intelligence, it's no surprise that Fredri will be leaving MES to attend High Technology High School, with hopes of pursuing her dream of becoming an engineer. As she parts ways with MES, she will greatly miss her good friends, and, most of all, Mrs. Trischitta, who has been like a "second mother" to her since 7<sup>th</sup> grade. While all of MES will be as sad to see her go as she herself is, we will keep in mind that Fredri is sure to give the Manasquan legacy a good name.

## Thomas Rice

At the start of the upcoming school year, Tommy Rice will begin attending Manasquan High School. With his high intelligence, there's no doubt that Tommy will excel in high school, eventually to achieve his dream of becoming an aerospace engineer. With the words he lives by constantly in the back of his mind, "Just keep swimming!", he is sure to accomplish much. As he parts with the school he loves, Tommy will miss the kindness of the lunch ladies and the ample wisdom of his teachers. Despite his regret at leaving behind these people, Tommy is eager to graduate and receive the high school experience. As he parts ways, he hopes that his school will remember him for being an amazing soccer goalie who not only led his team to two playoffs, but also helped in a championship victory.

## Bryce Ridge

Bryce Ridge is well-known by both the educators and attendees of Manasquan Elementary School as being a class clown who never fails to brighten up a dreary classroom. Bryce, soon to attend Manasquan High School, is sure to make an impression in high school as well. With his creativity and personality, Bryce is sure to reach his goal of becoming an entrepreneur. While not pursuing his main interest of becoming an entrepreneur, Bryce enjoys playing lacrosse. As he leaves to attend MHS, Bryce knows that he will miss his former teachers dearly. Whilst exiting the doors of MES for his final time as a student, Bryce is sure to remind himself to "float like a butterfly, sting like a bee," as Muhammad Ali once said.

## Mark Rudo

Mark can't wait to go to MHS because he absolutely loves hockey and is looking forward to being a part of the team. Mark loves having his brother in his school, but for a year or two Mark will have to be happy with knowing his brother is safe at MES, just across the street from him. Mark believes everyone should do what you love and love what you do. Mark's positive outlook makes those around him happy. He loves having fun with his friends, and teachers Mrs. Yellovich, Mrs. Murin, and Mrs. Kelly. When Mark isn't on the rink, you can find him (in the summer) at Riddle beach.

## Peyton Rydholm

Peyton is attending Allied Health and Science High School. She is ready for the demands and knows she is well-prepared after her eight years at MES. Sometimes the stress of school gives Peyton “agita,” but with an early-morning coffee (iced or hot) and the friendly faces of her teachers and friends, Peyton is all set. Peyton remembers her countless talks with Fredi, “Ladybug”, and “Gingerbread”, who were the girls’ first crushes in elementary school, but then Peyton realized that she could depend on herself. Peyton calls MES her second home, but Allied is the place for her since her goal is to become a labor and delivery nurse, in honor of her grandmother.

## Jose Sanchez

Jose is ready for MHS because he is excited to be part of the soccer team. Jose loves soccer and spends time at Mallard Park working on his skills, because his motto is “no pain, no game.” Jose pushes himself to be the best he can be, on the field and in school. He will miss his teachers, Mr. Russoniello’s lectures in social studies, but will never forget the pride he felt when he found out he made the MES soccer team.

## Andrew Scranton

In just a few short months, Andrew Scranton will be attending Manasquan High School. Although Andrew doesn’t have much of an idea of what he’d like to do as an adult, it’s certain that he’ll be able to attain what he desires with his creativity and maturity. He is proud to have been a student in the first MES STEM class. Leaving MES, Andrew knows that he’ll miss the classmates and teachers who’ve shown him great kindness. No matter what high school holds for him, Andrew has determined that he doesn’t require any words to live by; instead, he lives in the moment, and lets each minute decide for itself.

## Stephen Schmeider

Stephen loves the word “redundant.” Is it redundant that Stephen, too, is headed to MHS? Stephen is excited to be part of the Academy of Health and Sciences as he may want to do something in the medical field one day. Stephen will miss his friends who are attending other high schools, but when he answers a question correctly on Jeopardy, everything is right in the world. Stephen loved kindergarten because of the letter people, although he thought Mrs. T was Mrs. Triggiano. In fourth grade, Stephen presented information on the Hindenburg, and was questioned by Mr. Russoniello’s father, also a history teacher! (No wonder Stephen can answer questions on Jeopardy!) Stephen enjoyed eighth grade because of the Elephant Project, where the entire school came together to raise money to adopt 28 elephants. Stephen admires President Abraham Lincoln, who said, “You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.” Redundant may be in Stephen’s vocabulary, but “procrastination” certainly is not.

## Van Schreck

Van Schreck will soon be leaving MES to attend Communications High School, with the hopes of becoming an animator. Van can often be spotted doodling on whatever scrap of paper he can find. What seems like doodling to him, of course, would be considered raw talent to the rest of us. Van has yet to fail at giving his friends a good chuckle, what with his unique humor and whacky improv. Van has a soft spot for the food here at MES (his favorite is the chicken nuggets), so that’ll be a shame to leave. Of course, regardless of what the food at Communications tastes like, Van is sure to make an impression at his new school. And although his friends are certainly glad to see Van succeed, there will definitely be a hole in all of their hearts when they won’t have the privilege of seeing Van’s face every day during school.

## Mia Sisom

Mia is more than ready to start high school where she joined the cheerleading team and use her skills to excite the fans and the team. She loved fourth grade because it was so much fun and she felt close to her classmates. Mia will never forget *The Westing Game* and *The Outsiders*. Mia lives by the golden rule, and treats others the way she wishes to be treated. This will come in handy as Mia fulfills her dream of becoming a pediatric surgeon. Mia loves the beach and the town of Manasquan, itself.

## Jillian Spalt

Jillian lives by the words “It is not in the stars to hold our destiny but in ourselves”, and she hopes that destiny will lead to her goal of becoming an architect. Now, going to Manasquan High School, she’ll miss the cross-country team, but will continue to run (and swim!), hoping that M.E.S. will remember her two impressive seasons where she came in first every race.

## Brooke Stark

Next year, Brooke will be attending Communications High School en route to becoming an artist. She’ll miss all the people she’s gotten to know since grade four, when she moved here, and the ones who went to the serendipity of a pool party she threw in seventh grade. Even though Brooke is upset about leaving, her favorite quote, “It does not to dwell on dreams and forget to live”, reminds her to think ahead.

## Elijah Steger

Elijah Steger, a talented artist with a good sense of humor, will be leaving MES to head across the street to attend Manasquan High School soon. The love that Elijah harbors for MES mainly stems from his friendships here. He enjoys spending time at his house, simply to open his sketch book and draw whatever inspirations pop into his head. With his unique art style and passion, it’s no surprise that Elijah hopes to become an animator in the future. Elijah is excited to part ways with the school he’s been attending for years, and can’t wait to walk forward with no looking back.

## Matthew Testa

Matt Testa will soon be attending Manasquan High School alongside many of his good friends. Matt is a talented pianist and music enthusiast, and, given that, would love for MES to remember him as being a valued contribution to the Jazz Band. While thrilled to graduate, Matt will yearn for the home and comfort of MES once he’s across the street. As he leaves, he’d like to thank Mrs. Boyne for helping him to speak well. It’s certain that Matt will meet many new students and teachers across the street. All the while, Matt will remember to treat his new acquaintances the way he wishes to be treated.

## Gavin Tuite

Gavin does not have a far walk to Manasquan High School! He had a great baseball season this year, and the MES team won the championship. Gavin hopes to pursue baseball and maybe make it to the MLB. Gavin has many memories of elementary school. He loved Mrs. Kappy, especially the day Mrs. Kappy brought her dog to school. In fourth grade, Gavin’s fear of ripping his jeans in school came true. Gavin bent over to pick something up and hear a rrrrrriipp. No one notice, but then someone pointed at the rip in Gavin’s pants and Gavin has worn khakis ever since. Jack loves the Patriots and the GOAT, Tom Brady, but his true love is Notre Dame. Gavin says that “heroes are remembered, but legends never die.” So true.

Chris Vasquez

Chris will be in the class of 2021 at Manasquan High School. He lives and breathes soccer. His best MES memories are from being on the soccer team. Chris admires Mr. Reid for all that he has taught him, and hopes to use his mathematical knowledge to become a future engineer. Chris loves all the Manasquan beaches, and is often found at Mallard Park, the bike path, and Main Street. Chris is excited to be a part of the MHS Boys' Soccer team next year.

Jonathan Vogel

Jon is heading across the street to Manasquan High School. He loves playing hockey and will remember being on the cross country team in which he came in the top seven. He's happy to be graduating so he can move on to bigger and better things. Jon doesn't know what he wants to be when he grows up, but hopefully, MHS will help him decide his career path.

Alex Vreeland

Alex feels excited and relieved that eighth grade graduation is almost here. He is excited to pursue his talents at MES and take engineering and design courses to help him reach his goal of becoming an architect. Alex is a Jurassic Park fan, and believe that Jeff Goldblum's line "Life, uh, finds a way," is true. Alex loves Gull Island in Manasquan and Sea Watch Beach.

Connor Walsh

Connor is ready for September where he will attend Manasquan High School. Connor excels in math and would like to become an actuary. He dreaded the handwriting books from elementary school, remembers the broken door in Mrs. Femenella's class, and will always cherish his starring role as The Cat in the Hat for the play *Seuss in Squan*. Connor is also an excellent athlete who rallied his team for the first ever student victory in the basketball game against the teachers. "The idea is not to block every shot. The idea is to make the opponent think that you might block every shot." When Connor hit that three-pointer, everyone on the bleachers cheered! Connor enjoyed the novel *Unwind*, thanks Mrs. T for making him a better writer and Mr. Reid for giving him workloads that will prepare him for high school. Connor is a fan of Riddle beach, loves his family, and is a role-model for many.

Sean Wayne

Sean will miss the MES traditions that he has come to appreciate and love, but more tradition awaits him at MHS. Sean remembers the fun he had in Mrs. LaMorticella's fourth grade Spanish class. Sean loves soccer and is grateful to Coach DeMuro for all he taught him about soccer and life. Sean takes responsibility for himself and stays in shape, all in preparation for high school soccer. Sean's love for soccer dominates his life, but he is thankful for his family for always believing in him. Sean sees the MLS in his future, but if that doesn't work out, then he hopes to be a designer.

Abby Weber

Abby is excited to attend MHS next year, but wants to enjoy every moment of her summer at the beach. Abby loves her friends, and making new friends. She is grateful to Mrs. Jones and Mr. Reid for helping her become better at math, and her favorite school novel was *The Outsiders*. Abby hopes to become a lawyer or a doctor, and with her solid work ethic, she will reach her goal.

## Trevor Wells

Trevor is excited to attend Manasquan High School. His most memorable MES moments are the second-grade dance-off, when Corbin came to MES, and seventh grade field day. He thanks Mrs. Eastmond for impacting his education! Trevor will always be remembered as the MVP, and for being thrilled every day at 12:15 for lunch, as food is one of Trevor's top priorities. Trevor also loves lacrosse. Trevor's good-nature and positive outlook will be missed at MES.

## Colin White

Colin is pleased to be heading across the street to MHS. He is a creative soul who enjoys being with his friends. He adores his dog, who has many nicknames, hates vaping, and is ready for summer. Colin loves the eighth-grade hallway with its red and blue tiles, and will miss walking only on the red tiles.

## Ethan Willis

Another MES graduate heading across the street is Ethan Willis. Ethan remembers the "letter people" in kindergarten. He remembers how the entire class got dressed up for the marriage ceremony between "Q" and "U," something Ethan will never forget. His favorite MES memory was being in the STEM Seuss play. Ethan's character finally realized that if you try new things, you might like new things, which is a lesson for Ethan as he heads to high school. Ethan can't wait to get involved in all sorts of activities. Ethan channels Ralph Waldo Emerson who said, "Every artist was once an amateur." His love for movies and movie making needs cultivation so he can reach his dream of becoming a movie director. Ethan was influenced by Mr. Reid who taught him that hard work equals respectable grades, and Mrs. Trischitta who helped relieve stress or get energy boosts. It's amusing that his favorite novel, *Unwind*, was in her class! He loves the word "oxymoron."

## Makenzie Wiseman

Makenzie will be at MHS for the next four years, and there Makenzie will most certainly make MES proud. Kenzie always tries her best, and every teacher she has had at MES has encouraged her love of learning, reading, writing, and solving problems. Kenzie is an unbelievable dancer and performer, and she has helped the MES drama club both on stage and off stage. She loved being in Mrs. Sayre's class, making books in third grade, and being in the Seuss play for Read Across America Day. Makenzie knows that "the right thing and the easy thing are never the same," and Makenzie always pushes herself and her friends to do the right thing. Although Makenzie has future goals of becoming a lawyer or a doctor, it will surprise no one if she also becomes a published author.

# Thoughts on Friendship

By Lulu Nelson

Middle school – a time for acne, drama, friends, and cliques. Normally, the average girl would get caught up with that stuff, but Gracie never did. I met Gracie at Idol Time sometime in October. She was loud, funny, and weird; basically all the things that are used to describe me. After those three hours stuck with her in a room, I knew we were going to be best friends.

“My best friend is the one who brings out the best in me.” – Henry Ford.

One time Gracie and I were coming back from a three-hour dance rehearsal and her dad was driving me to practice. We got into the car and the whole time Gracie was talking about how she was set on going to Wendy's. Her dad gave in and when he asked me what I wanted I said, “Just fries please.” He laughed and said, “That's not enough. How about chicken or a burger?” It turned out that I got large fries and six pieces of chicken nuggets. She knew me so well that without even asking, she took the chicken nuggets from my bag and ate all six pieces. Gracie is the type of girl who can make everyone smile when they're down. She is supportive, loving, and crazy.

## My Best Bud

By Nick Peeples

“Friends are the siblings God never gave us.”-Mencius.

A friend is someone who always has your back and is always there to cheer you up. Friendship is always knowing that there is someone there to talk to you in times of need. You can't really tell if someone is a good friend, because

it is all based on your meaning of a good friend. If I was put in one of my pals' shoes, I would consider myself a good friend. Sure, I have my fire roast sessions, but in the end, we all know that it's all just for fun.

My best friend is probably this kid Luke McHugh, otherwise known as Dono, Donosaur, Donosaurus Rex, Lego, Legoluke333, Underscore, and Lil' Dono. Lil' Dono is his rapper name in our “group” WKSBB (We are sponsored by Oreos). He is the weirdest kid I have ever known. Whether he's snapchatting me strange videos, or claiming that his water is poisoned, he is constantly being odd. We have known each other since second grade, and I practically live at his house because I am there so often. While he is strange, he is really gullible and dependable. That's why he's my best friend. I can tell him anything and he can tell me anything. Also, ever since last year, he has been a ladies' boy. It's might be because of his hair or beefiness. I guess the world will never know.

# I am

## By Jovana Casale

I am caring and ambitious.

I wonder how many licks it takes to get to the middle of a Tootsie pop.

I hear waves crashing down on a summer night.

I see the sunset on a warm yet chilly summer night.

I want to make a difference.

I am caring and ambitious.

I pretend I understand something, but I really don't.

I feel relaxed and happy.

I touch the refreshing cold water on a hot summer day.

I worry about war and violence.

I cry when someone or something dies.

I am caring and ambitious.

I understand that love, money, and happiness conquers the world.

I say we make the best of our lives and with no regrets.

I dream of being successful in life.

I try to be a better person.

I hope one day everyone will love themselves the way they are.

I am caring and ambitious.

I am Jovana.

# Where I'm From

## By Nate Cardilla

I'm from the home of Warriors, Warriors that get washed away in the waves, the waves by the shore, the shore of endless memories.

I'm from a child hood of family time, a time of play, a time of forgetfulness, a time of no stress and too much innocents.

I'm from a galaxy of imagination, a galaxy of epic battles and endless races that don't have is winner, a galaxy with a huge town of trains that never stop moving. (all of this with my toys obviously)

I'm from a clean slate, a new begging with a whole new figure, a new figure that gave me new opportunities.

I'm from Vans, Vans Company the only brand of shoe I ever wear, the only shoes I wear to go skating, skating down the biggest hills.

I'm from a religion, a religion where I go to CCD every Monday and church every Sunday, a religion that I do believe in, and always will.

I'm from TV like, Nickelodeon, Disney channel, Cartoon Network. SpongeBob, Diego, The Amazing World of Gumball, Girl Meets world (Sabrina Carpenter!!!!)

I'm from music, music like, Rap, pop, music by Sabs, by chance the rapper, music that relaxes me.

I'm from friends, friends who like who I am, friends that enjoy me around. The thought of memories made as we grew up as friends.

I'm from people, people that change me and, people that change people.

I'm from a missing part, a missing part that could have been, should have been and, would have still been here.

## By Brigid McCarthy

### Beauty

There are three inevitable parts of the human life – birth, monotony, and death. In that statement, monotony is the keyword, in that I figure it to be the worst of the three. Although those parts of life are inevitable, many people manage to divide the fraction of life further, and manage to incorporate beauty, experience, and pleasure into that fraction. Judging by the title of this quaint little essay, that’s just what it is that I believe. I believe that beauty and pleasure can elevate life above all else.

Beauty comes in various shapes, colors, aromas, tastes, and sounds. Because of their frequency and uniqueness, such pleasures may be observed all around us. Perhaps it is in the scent of a hydrangea, the art of a stranger’s body, the satisfaction a well-prepared cut of meat grants your tongue - anything that peaks your fancy. Upon the dull, black and white canvas that is monotony appears an object or experience in bright color. The definition of beauty morphs from person to person, as all people have different minds. For example, I don’t enjoy the sunny beach, as many people do, mainly because of the heat and crowds. Rather, I prefer the beach at evening, with silence and high tides and shining stars in the endless and dark sky.

The beauty we search for needn’t be of pleasure to blatant parts of the body, such as eyes or tongues. Perhaps the fineness of a piece of music travels from your ears and makes your heart flutter with pleasure. Each bit of beauty makes a life worth living, in order to experience more, to drown in the beauty that you cannot witness inside a grave.

I was the new kid on the block in first grade. I remember kids and teachers asking me “Where did you move from?” and my answer was “I didn’t(?)” Even with the confusion of a new school, I made friends easily. A girl named Christina Giunco lived just around the block from me, and we were fast friends. However, I was in a gamer phase. I was obsessed with the Mario Bros franchise. And that made me popular with the boys. Some of my other best friends in first grade were Jack Hamilton and Nate Cardilla. Nate would come over to my house and play video games with me, and Jack and I would create adventures together. I was pretty friendly to everyone. Except for one fatal day that shook the foundation of my love for video games.

See, I loved Mario so much that I bought a shirt at Target with him on it. It was, like, the coolest shirt, and I couldn’t WAIT to wear it to school! The day I wore it, all my girl friends from my class and beyond crowded around me.

“That’s a boys’ shirt,” they snickered.

Well, yeah. I bought it in the boys’ section at Target. So? Was that a big deal?

Apparently so.

The girls tormented me so much that morning that I spent the rest of the day in a jacket that covered the design of the shirt. Maybe that’s why I eventually stopped playing video games altogether.

Other than that, my first grade year went pretty smoothly!

In first grade, the trend was these things called Silly Bands. Being the new kid on the block meant that not only did I not have any Silly Bands, I hadn’t even heard of them. When the kids were showing the ones they had and trading for the ones they didn’t, I felt so left out. But I remember Tommy Rice taking me aside one day. “I know you don’t have any Silly Bands, but I have a million. Here,” he said, handing me an orange one in the shape of a cat. Tommy, I will be forever grateful.

In school, my favorite subjects were reading and writing, and my teacher, Mrs. Barrett, always encouraged my imagination. I remember this assignment she used to give out, where she would hand us pictures to color, cut out, and paste on a piece of paper. We accompanied the picture with a caption. Me? I wrote short stories. My dream in first grade was to be an author. My first grade self would be blown away by what I’m writing now, and it makes me happy that I’m making her proud.



# Laughter

## By Andrew Scranton.

I love laughing because I am enjoying myself if I'm laughing.

I hate laughing because my stomach starts to hurt and I get out of breath if I laugh too much.

# With Great Friends Comes Great Responsibility

## By Mackenzie Wiseman

Your life is your story. Your jokes are your comic strips. Every story has its villains. It's heroes. Some of these characters might just be your friends. Evil or kind, you love them all the same. Though even friendships have their rough patch.

There's always the one who complains when they get a 95 or 92. Who truly is smart but sometimes doesn't have common sense. Iron Man, though did very well in life, didn't always make the smartest decisions in his life. You love this person and can turn towards them whenever you're confused and they become your tutor. Sometimes though, the simple laws of a human aren't clear anymore. For example, this person can struggle with everyday movements such as walking and math such as 2+2.

# Where I'm From

## By Steven Schneider

I'm from Squan, the east side, right by the shore, ten minute walks to the beach and school, and traffic only in the summer.

I'm from hide-n-seek late on summer nights, Go-Fish on rainy days, Chess with my dad, Manhunt all around the neighborhood, baseball in the early spring, and golf early on summer days.

I'm from overalls and tucked in shirts with stains all over them, wearing Quiksilver and Volcom in the summer, flannel shirts and Stance socks to keep me warm in winter, and Scout uniforms every Thursday night.

I'm from Clifford the Big Red Dog, The Hungry Caterpillar and his giant appetite, Franklin and his friends, Dr. Suess and his crazy rhymes, The Hunger Games reminding us to think of others, The Maze Runner where WICKED is good, and Harry Potter which taught me to overcome the toughest challenges.

I'm from the Wiggles and their yummy fruit salad, One Direction before they went different directions, Taylor Swift back in her country days, Justin Bieber, Kenny Chesney, Luke Bryan, and Toby Keith with his patriotic songs.

I'm from Little Bear and his forest friends, Sesame Street with Ernie and Bert, Hannah Montana before bed, Lazy Town with Sporticus and his blimp, Suite Life of Zach and Cody, iCarly and the random dancing scenes, and Bikini Bottom.

I'm from Put the phone down!, Let the dog out!, Leave it better than you found it, Keep your head down and your eye on the ball.

I'm from a family of all different trades. A doctor who treats the little kids, a carpenter who loves to make cabinets, teachers of all different subjects, rednecks that make their own trails through the woods, caregivers of the young and old, veterans, and architects that design beautiful homes.

I'm from CCD on Monday afternoons, summer rec every July, The Fireman's Fair, bodyboarding the big waves, running around in bare feet, lunch at Bubbakoo's on weekends, candy trips to CVS, and nine holes on summer days.

I'm from politicians who fight over every little thing, social media, terrorist attacks around the world, dabbing and bottle flips, new and improved technology, hacker attacks daily, and viral memes that disappear after a week.

# And Beyond

## By Tommy Rice

Good morning World! I have recently turned twenty-three years old, and I am living the life of my dreams. Today is going to be another great day in the office. I get up out my bed and start my day like every other; shower, brush my teeth, tidy up my room, eat a healthy breakfast and grab my bags and I am out the door. I have a fifteen-minute ride to my office in Arlington, Texas. I grab my bags, suit up and I take the field. Another day of practice with the boys. We are preparing for our important game against the Giants on Sunday. When I was fourteen, I was idolizing Ezekiel Elliot, never once would I think that I would be a running back for The Dallas Cowboys. My life motto was always, "Academics above athletics," this worked out as well. When I was fourteen I also wanted to be an aerospace engineer, I got my degree from Stanford University in 2025. I graduated from Manasquan High school with a 4.5 GPA and I broke two records on the football teams; the most rushing yards and most touchdowns scored ever. During my time at Stanford I excelled in my classes but also on the field. I got drafted first overall to the Cowboys. When I retire from the NFL, I plan

## Loving and Loathing

### By Megan Lisk

I love birds, when they sing me out of misery and remind me of my path in life. They're so diverse, and yet, unified as one. They're a mirror to mankind- their personalities and conflicts are so much like those of humans. Even the most "stupid" birds have a flicker of human emotion, though even the smartest biologist can't understand what it is.

I love humanity's past, the brazen renegades and outlaws who brought in so many discoveries and innovations. But, I'm deeply dismayed by its present, unwinding its past of gilded discovery into a path of pollution and the artificial.

on living my other dream of being an aerospace engineer. With all the money I earn, I will not spoil myself or my family. We will live like we had prior to my success, when I am eighty years old, I don't want a floating chair traveling the world. I simply want a rocking chair, a fireplace, and a TV and I will be satisfied.

## Kindergarten

### By Luke McHugh

The first thing I ever did, that was considered "bad," was in kindergarten. My teacher was Mrs. Hill, and I stole a Lego from her room. At the time, I was obsessed with Legos and she had a Lego flower and I had never seen one. I continued to do it for a month until my mom found out, when she found out, I started crying non-stop for an hour because I felt so bad. After that, no one in my class trusted me around the Legos anymore. Every time I would go near the Legos, some other kid would shout out, "Luke is going to steal a Lego." Although everyone in my class was annoying, Mrs. Hill didn't care that I stole something from her and I still say hi to her in the hallway at school.

Dreaming is the best way for your mind to make up a story, and I adore them. However, it makes me livid when they end, leaving the end of the book blank instead of satisfied.

I hate war- though the enthralling stories of battles can scarcely be matched in intrigue, it shows how ignorant the human race can be. Blowing up people and then being horrified is like knocking down a house and crying over its remains.

I love the beach, the rapid currents flowing with gentle saltwater, but I hate the jerks who feel the need to chase away gulls, even though they have as much of a right to be there as humans there, in fact, more.