

September 2011

Manasquan High School

# The Blue & Gray

## New School Year Brings Change and Success

In this Issue: \*New Bullying Law\*Fall Sports Excel\*  
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# New Year Brings New Staff to MHS

## Mr. Voskian Gets the Call, Finally!

By: Patty Ramirez



You might all remember the amazing teacher, Mr. Voskian, who would come in and substitute for a teacher when absent. You might know him as the coach. Or to some staff, you might know him as a former student right here at MHS. Yes, you read right, Mr. Voskian graduated here at Manasquan High School in the year 2002 and attended the university of

East Stroudsburg. For those of you who don't know him, he started off as a substitute teacher here and has replaced Mr. Cahill as the gym teacher for juniors. I got to sit down and talk to Mr. Voskian for you guys and just who exactly he is.

As a high school student, Mr. Voskian was a two sport athlete; he played football and wrestling which made him very

social and well known in the school. Don't start thinking he was too busy for homework and all that because in reality he was just as focused on his future as he was with his sports. He had an equal balance between his sports and his education. Having grown up with two brothers and a sister, he felt the need to be an example to them so they also could succeed in the future. Yes, it has been about 9 years since Mr. Voskian has walked through these halls as a student but he stated, "The only difference in MHS is the staff, some retired and were replaced. The atmosphere hasn't changed though. It's a great learning environment and one can come out successful."

You always see kids saying they don't feel like running that mile or just doesn't want to do that activity for that day. "As a gym teacher, I want to teach students about fitness through life; keeping yourself in a state of physical, mental and emotional healthiness. With all the diseases out there now, fitness can prevent you from getting some of those diseases," Mr. Voskian stated. He says that on his spare time, he likes to work out, do personal training 101 and coach two seasons. He loves to travel and has recently visited Maine, South Carolina, Mexico and Canada.

I asked him to describe MHS in one word and why he chose that word, his response was: "Family. When I came here, I felt I was part of a bigger family. Teaching here, gives me that same feeling. My advice to everyone at MHS is to make great friends, make goals and never lose sight of your goals."

## Mr. Hoffman Here for Awhile, at Least

By: Julia Callahan

Although he is now teaching Spanish to freshmen and sophomores at MHS, new teacher Mr. Hoffman spent the last two years teaching English to students in Spain. After graduating from Neptune High School, Mr. Hoffman attended Flagler College where his professor recommended that he teach

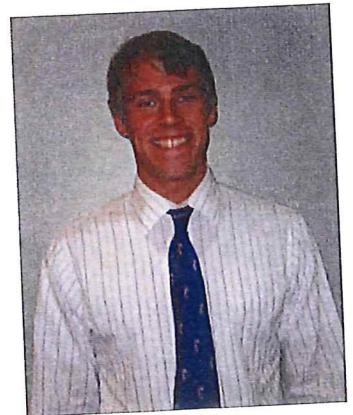
abroad. "I never knew that I wanted to be a teacher," said Mr. Hoffman, "the opportunity just sort of presented itself so I took it".

Here at MHS you can find Mr. Hoffman teaching Spanish I and II. Though he thinks the freshmen and sophomores can be pretty loud sometimes, Mr. Hoffman enjoys his job and is looking forward to establishing a good relationship with all of

his students. You can also find Mr. Hoffman fulfilling his love of surfing by assisting Mr. Buss with the MHS Surf Team.

Outside of school, Mr. Hoffman loves surfing, playing soccer, and snowboarding. He also loves to watch football and root for the New York Giants, his favorite team.

Mr. Hoffman is excited about the upcoming school year and we are happy



to welcome him to our MHS family!

## Miss Marco continued from page 3

everyday life. She finds most literature very relatable and loves how it can parallel to life and its experiences.

Even though Miss Marco is still taking in her new surroundings, she does have some upcoming events that she is looking forward to. "I can't wait to experience the football games and the school activities that showcase how the kids feel about their school!" Marco adds. She is also anxiously

waiting to get to know her students better, start a set routine, and not have everything feel so new. Aside from teaching, Miss Marco says that she enjoys scrapbooking and artsy activities. She notes that, "I would be an art teacher if I did not teach English." All in all, we are happy to welcome Miss Marco to our MHS family and are excited to see what she will accomplish this year!



# Survival of the Freshman!

## Welcome Class of 2015

As you enter the hallways adorned with pictures of the past, your heart starts pounding against your chest. All around you are intimidating upperclassmen and brand new teachers. You attempt to open your locker, while questions are swimming around your head....*Where's my first block class?.... Why do the room numbers skip from the 200s to the 500s?.....Is there really a pool on the third floor?.....Is there a third floor?!* No, this is not some dream...this is your freshman year at Manasquan High School!

Yes, high school can be a scary time in your life, but not if you know the rules of survival here at MHS.

Who better to advise freshman than the most experienced, most intelligent, and no question about it, the most good looking students in the school? Who are these god-like creatures? THE SENIORS!

Look down the page. See Haley's

By: Amy Pretz & Devin Gannon

advice? She's right. It's important to go with the flow of students as you travel from class to class. Don't stop in the middle to talk to your friends or make out with your significant other. You will disrupt traffic and receive many dirty looks. Also, don't freak out about getting to class on time. You have five minutes to make it there. The school is small. Plus, walking will save you from colliding with someone when you turn a corner.

Next, check out Steph's good advice. This energetic senior knows what she's talking about. You can learn a lot from her. Not only are clubs super fun here at MHS, they also provide an opportunity to meet new people and explore different interests. You only have four years here, so why not try a little bit

of everything to see what you like.

As good as Steph's suggestion is, Kim offers some of the best possible words of advice. In high school there's always the possibility of cliques and gossip, but if you can avoid this high school will be so much more enjoyable. Choose your friends wisely and have fun!

Check out another nugget of truth from Adrianna. As many of these seniors already know, their time here at MHS is almost over, so make sure you participate in homecoming events and other fun MHS traditions. No one wants to leave high school regretting their lack of participation.

And don't be intimidated by Hannah's parting words. To respect your elders is important. Take it slowly, learn the ropes around here and you'll find MHS really is the best.

We hope this helps! And don't worry, by senior year you'll be the ones giving the advice. Good Luck!

**Haley Long**



"Walking in the hallways is like traffic ...you walk on the right side of the hallway, stairs, and use the right hand door. If you start to merge left you'll have a big accident on your hands."

**Steph Leather**  
"Join everything possible!"



**Kim Matthews**



"Make friends... don't get caught up in drama because it's so not worth it."

**Adrianna Matyas**

"Enjoy your time here because it flies by. Get involved and embrace Manasquan traditions."



**Hannah Roesler**



"Just know your place."



## New SAC: Mrs. Busco

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As the school's SAC (Student Assistant Counselor) some of her main priorities are conducting the Random Drug Testing, which Busco says is one of the major downsides. She wants to make sure that the students know that the change in this policy this year was not her doing. It was purely administered by the state. However, she feels the

change will help her make the correct referrals for help for the kids with alcohol problems. She hopes that all students will be able to come to her to discuss any and all problems that may be going on in their lives.

All in all, Ms. Busco enjoys her job immensely and feels Manasquan is a great school district that is well run and has so many things to offer their students. Ms. Busco hopes to contribute to the school's success by keeping the

Student Alliance going and providing more groups for kids who are sober for a decent amount of time. When she isn't in her office or running around the school Ms. Busco enjoys spending time with her husband and 17 month old son. She loves to ski and enjoys working out or cooking in her spare time. Overall, she is adjusting to her new environment quite nicely, and we are very excited to have her onboard the MHS staff this school year and hopefully many more school years to come.



# Student Spotlight

## David Buckle

### Drum Major Wants One Thing Senior Year

By: Steph Leather

What senior David Buckle strives for is deceptively simple, "I just want to be remembered." His time at Manasquan High School has been full of late night band practices, Student Alliance meetings, volunteering for Key Club, playing at different events with the jazz band and being set on fire.

He seriously was set on fire his junior year in Chem. But there's a lot more to him than first degree burns. We see him in the hallways in his royal blue jeans made to match his band shirt every Friday. But not everyone really knows him "He is an inspiring leader and is a beautiful person," says fellow band officer and good friend, Joe Khammar.

Buckle, as his friends call him, has been a trumpet player for eight years. According to Joe and almost anyone else in band, "He is the best trumpet player this side of the Mississippi." If not the trumpet, Buckle wishes he could play the baritone saxophone, as it is his second favorite instrument.

His favorite song to play in the stands is "Gimme Some Lovin'" and of course his favorite field show is Chuck Mangione. His most memorable football game is "Wall, my freshman year. Their band played "Everybody's Everything". Since it's one of our stand songs, we played it as they marched off of the field."

He has been in the band since his freshman year and was Field Captain last year. It's no surprise that his idol is none other than George Parks. Parks founded the George N. Parks Drum Major Academy, which is a summer program that trains over 3,000 high school drum majors each year. He has twice attended. When his name was called for the Drum Major, relief washed over him. "There were a lot of good competitors," he admitted. Tyler Hackett, his best friend since fifth grade, says that "he uses his power without taking advantage of it. He doesn't treat anyone like they aren't worthy enough to be around him because he is Drum Major. He's just talented."

Buckle is, in fact, extremely talented. Enough so that he landed a mace toss down the fifty yard line while practicing the field show for half time. This is when the Drum Major throws a mace (a stick with a ball on top of it) into the air and summer-saults before catching it and continuing down the fifty yard line. This took him months to perfect and he can finally add it to his

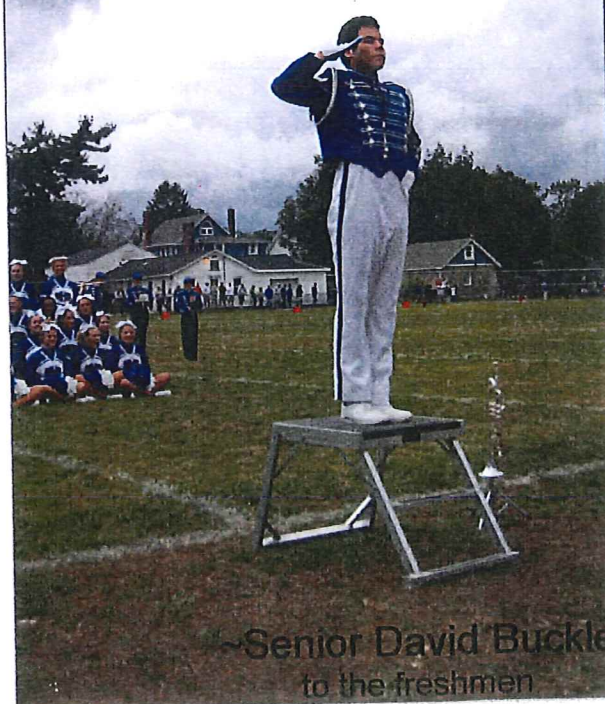
impressive tricks.

Only a lucky few friends know the true Buckle, the one who gives the best hugs on the continent. According to Mat Cobb, he is "experimental. He's never afraid to try something else." It's agreed amongst his friends that he's a "funny, loving, and overall, caring...REALLY CARING, person."

As a friend, Buckle is "someone you can count on for anything. You can tell him everything and it is still okay," said Tyler. "I love just driving around with him fist pumping and jamming out to music. He's a great guy."

Overall, this senior boy is someone to watch in both the classroom and on the football field. He is destined for greatness and greatness is achievable. He is definitely going to be remembered after he graduates.

**"BE YOURSELF.  
DON'T BE AFRAID OF ANYTHING.  
SHOW OFF YOUR PERSONALITY."**



~Senior David Buckle  
to the freshmen



# Emotions

By: Joel Harvey

Emotions, they are a mystery  
I don't know much about the history;  
The thought of knowing about the mind -  
Who knows what you might find?

Here we have the feeling of happiness  
It makes you feel good with all the niceness;  
Now we have the feeling of sadness  
Its happiness covered in darkness.

Then there's hate  
It's something that the past can relate;  
No one likes that word  
It's a feeling that's too disturbed.

The opposite of hate is love  
It goes on like the sky above;  
The say that love is powerful  
A feeling, they say, that is wonderful.

Now, we have the feeling of rage  
Common in any age;  
It mostly happens to teens and adults  
It always has bad results.

Everybody likes the feeling of joy  
It's a warm feeling for girl or for boy;  
It's also part of the feeling of life  
For a new born baby, husband and wife.

The world of feelings has been going on  
Forever, since the break of dawn.

## September Students of the Month



Clockwise from Top Left: Junior Ariana Lane, Senior Justin Popa, Sophomore Paul Salgado, and Freshman Shannon Walsh

## FUN FACTS

By: Patty Ramirez

\* Lee Redmond just recently set a new record for longest fingernails. She has not cut her nails since 1979 and has carefully manicured them to reach a length of 7m 51.3cm (24ft 7.8in)!



\* Mickey Mouse's name in Italian is Topolino, in Indonesian is Miki Tikus, in Norwegian is Mikke Mus, in Portuguese is Rato Mickey, in Turkish is Miki Fare and in German is Micky Maus.

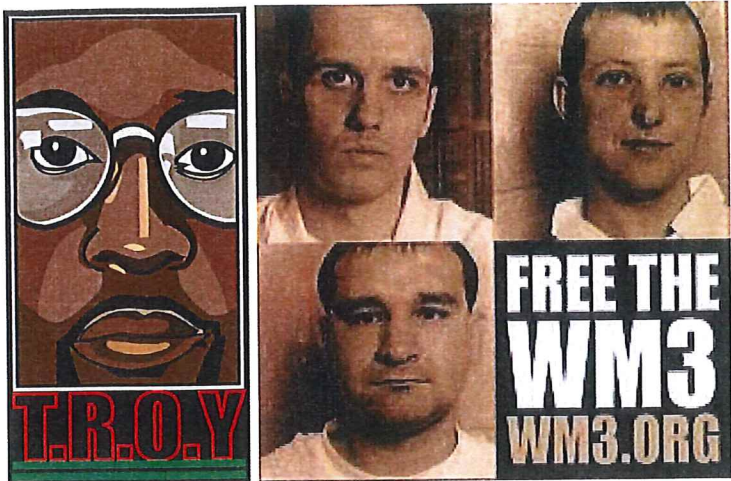
\* About 90% of the world's population kisses AND it's great for your breathing!

\* The first letters of the months July through November spell JASON!

\* Coca-Cola originally contained cocaine!

\* If you try to say the alphabet without moving your lips or tongue, every letter will sound the same!





## Injustice is Served

By: Rachel St. Denis

Unfortunately, injustices in court have occurred throughout time. Just in the past month two court cases have raised eyebrows all over the world. One of these has a "happy" ending, while the other, sadly, does not.

One of the most notable cases in recent history came to a brutal end, when Troy Davis was executed on September 21, 2011. Mr. Davis was convicted in 1991 of murdering a Savannah, Georgia police officer in 1989. On August 19, 1989 Police Officer Mark MacPhail came to aid a man who was being beaten in a nearby parking lot. As MacPhail approached the fight, he was shot. Davis and two other men were present at the scene of the crime.

During the trial one of the prosecutor's witnesses proclaimed that Davis pulled the trigger that fatal night. That was enough to convict Mr. Davis, even though there was never any physical evidence to link Davis to the accusation, and the trial was littered with other shaky witness testimonies as well. Most disturbingly, since the trial in 1991 five out of the seven witnesses have changed the story they told in court.

The outlandishness of the trial and Mr. Davis's conviction drew an enormous amount of attention. Many organizations and citizens across the world have cried out, protesting what they believe is a gigantic injustice. More than 630,000 letters asking for the Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles to rethink Davis's fate were sent by supporters of Amnesty International. Former President Jimmy Carter and 51 members of Congress have denounced Davis's guilty verdict. Davis's execution date was changed more than four times until finally he was set to be killed on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011. Even on that very date, Davis's execution was delayed for a few hours so his case could be reviewed by the Supreme Court one last time. Ultimately the Court denied Davis's lawyers' request for a new trial.

Before his death Troy Davis reportedly looked at MacPhail's family and told them they had the wrong man. Later that day lethal injection took his life.

The story of The West Memphis Three is as shocking and wrong as Troy Davis's story, but the outcome is very different. Instead it's bittersweet. During 1993 three 8 year old boys were killed in a forest outside West Memphis, Arkansas. Three young men were put on trial for the crime: Damien Echols, 18, Jessie Misskelley Jr., 17, and Jason Baldwin, 16. During the trial, people from West Memphis testified for the prosecution and talked about how horrible the boys were. The suspects, especially Echols

were notorious in their hometown of West Memphis. They wore all black clothing and listened to heavy metal. They read Stephen King novels. The townspeople believed that the West Memphis Three, (their soon-to-be-infamous nickname), were Satanists that sacrificed animals, and this case children, for their religion.

There was no evidence for these assumptions and the three teenagers constantly denied their role in Satanism and the murders. During the trial the boys tried to prove their innocence but as most outsiders could attest, the people of West Memphis already had made up their mind of who was guilty even before the trial began.

Echols, who the media described as the ring leader, was sentenced to death. Baldwin was given life without parole and Miskelley got life and forty years. There was little evidence against the West Memphis Three besides the jurors' own prejudice. During 2007, DNA from the 1993 crime scene was studied. The results showed that none of the DNA at the crime scene matched the three jailed men. In fact, the DNA found on a rope used to bind one of the young boys was matched the stepfather of one of the victims. Still, without any physical evidence, a murder weapon or motive, the men remained in jail.

Quickly, there was media uproar over the verdict. Many people were outraged by the guilty sentences, especially rock musicians and other celebrities who identified with being ostracized in their youth. Henry Rollins of Black Flag, along with many other famous supporters organized a benefit CD to help The West Memphis Three. But most attention was generated by an HBO documentary about their situation, called *Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills*. The directors followed the boys' stories from the beginning of their trial, and portrayed the injustice. Yet even as their support grew and so much attention focused on the injustice, the boys were not set them free.

Finally, after 18 years and 78 days in prison, the boys used the Alford plea to achieve their freedom. The Alford plea lets a suspect plead their innocence but also makes them recognize that the prosecution has enough reasoning to convict them. So they essentially pleaded guilty and not guilty simultaneously. The West Memphis Three are now faced with ten years of probation but they also have their entire lives ahead of them.

When convicted the three were teenagers. Now these men finally get to live the life that was stolen from them for so long. The justice they have received, however, only serves to highlight the harsh injustice done to Troy Davis.

### Bullying Law

continued from previous page

differently from Point Boro kids, from Wall kids, and from Neptune kids. How do schools know whether the punishment is consistent with parents values? And, if the school doesn't punish the students the way the state wants, then will the school look bad? The state can't set out a policy of "if this happens, then this is the punishment". Each situation is different. But what, exactly, does a state want of extremely diverse schools? Even the state don't seem to know. They are looking for certain things to

show that the bullying law is improving the situation by reducing acts of bullying, but when administrations have asked what the state is looking for, they've been met with unsure answers. The state can't grade schools on the number of punishments or investigations they go through. The schools have no control over how many kids are bullied. The state is demanding things from schools, but they are vague on what they are demanding. So what's a school to do?



**Majors/Minors.** According to the College Board, a major is, "a specific subject that students can specialize in." Minors are the same thing, but they are not as in depth. At most colleges, students will be required to declare a major at the end of their sophomore year. Sometimes when you know what you want to major in you can apply to a college with your major already declared. But for those of you who don't know what they want to study it's OKAY not to have your major picked out by the time you apply to college. Don't worry if you go in undecided. The majority of students are undecided when they enter their first year of college (refer to "U").

**Notes.** When you research your schools and visit them take notes (refer to "K" and "V"). Your notes will come in use when you are unsure which colleges you will want to apply. All you have to do is compare and contrast your schools from your notes. This can be very helpful when organizing all of your thoughts about college.

**Questions.** Ask them! Ask your guidance counselor, siblings, parents, admissions, teachers, anyone about any questions you have about applying to school, what to look for in a school, etc. The more questions you ask, the better off you will be.

**Transcripts.** This is a sheet of paper that shows all of the classes you have taken and all the grades you have received since the beginning of freshman year. For colleges to be impressed, this should show how academically strong you are and how much you are willing to challenge yourself. Ask your guidance counselor to print out a copy (refer to "G").

**Expectations.** It's important to have high expectations when you visit a school because this is where you will be spending the next four years of your life. If the school doesn't reach your expectations don't apply to it if you don't like it. But remember: no college is perfect.

**Online application.** Back in the old days applications were sent through the mail, but now most colleges require you to apply online usually through the common application (refer to "C").

**Recommendation letters.** Most schools will require two to three letters from your past teachers and your guidance counselor (refer to "G"). Think about your favorite teachers and ask them nicely to write you a recommendation letter. Remember: you need to have had this teacher in the past for it to count as one of your recommendation letters.

**Undecided.** This is when you do not know what you want to major in college. DON'T WORRY! Most students enter college as undecided. Take a deep breath. You have until the end of sophomore year to declare a major (refer to "M").

**Visits.** Visiting a college can be very beneficial when you are deciding what colleges you want to apply to. A college may read well on their website, but you may love/hate it when you see it in person. It's also a great way to learn more about the school through a tour, interview, etc. (refer to "I").

**Yes!** You got in! Congratulations! Make sure you send a letter to inform you will be attending the college by the indicated deadline (refer to "D"). Now you can relax and enjoy the rest of your senior year. ☺

# COLLEGE ABCs

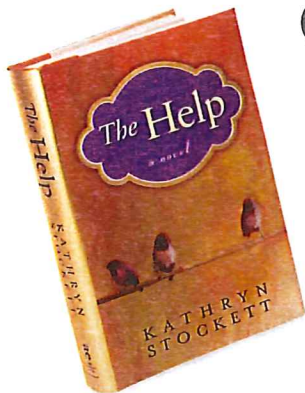
**Plan ahead.** Think about what schools you want to apply to. Do they have the proper facilities you may need for a specific major? What do you want out of a school? Where is it located? Think about all these possibilities and start researching based off of your needs (refer to "K").

**SATs.** Yes, nobody likes to get up early on a Saturday morning to take standardized testing, but it's worth it! Most colleges require the SATs or the ACTs when you are applying to their school (refer to "A"). Check the College Board for testing dates and locations.

**Wait-listed.** If your college letter says you've been wait-listed that means you're in college limbo. Your college has not said yes but it didn't say no. When you are wait-listed you may still be able to attend the school if a spot opens up. A school can only send out so many acceptance letters, so the rest of the applicants are rejected or wait-listed. A spot can open for a person that is wait-listed if someone who has received an acceptance letter decides not to attend that particular school. This isn't the end of the world, but you might want to apply to some more schools because a spot is never guaranteed when you are wait-listed.

**Zzzzzz.** Don't be lazy! Stay awake in your classes! Get good grades! Work on your applications (refer to "B")! All your hard work will pay off when you get that acceptance letter to the school of your dreams (refer to "Y").





# Change Begins With a Whisper

By: Devin Gannon

With 121 weeks on the New York Time's Best Seller List, the novel *The Help*, by Kathryn

Stockett, has

become a national phenomenon.

The setting of the book is Jackson, Mississippi in 1962. Segregation is in full swing, and the novel tells the tale of African American women working as maids for their white bosses, for hours a day, for little pay. As maids, these women are required to raise their bosses' children, yet cannot use the same bathroom as them and receive little to no respect because of the color of their skin.

As a recent graduate of Ole Miss, Skeeter Phelan dreams of moving to New York and becoming

a famous writer. However, her conservative southern mother stands in her way. She wants her daughter to put down the books, and pick up a husband. Skeeter has had little to no luck in the love department,

*The Help* will leave you moved and hungry for more

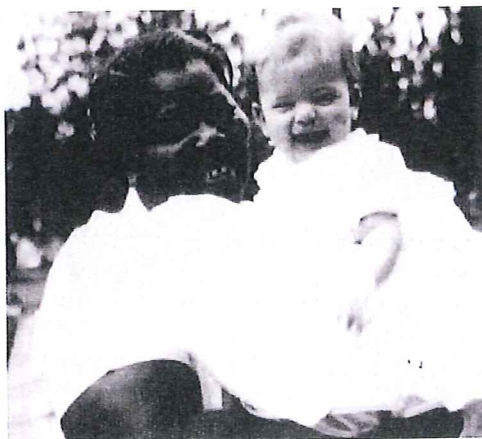
and is more determined to start her journalism career than her life as a wife and mother. Still living at home with her mother in Jackson, Skeeter is desperate to jump start her life. Will she be able to do it? Her dream may come true when she gets an idea for a controversial novel.

With help from two maids, Aibileen, a wise, respectable woman raising her seventeenth white child,

and Minny, Aibileen's best friend, Skeeter begins to write a groundbreaking novel about the day in the life of a black maid living in Jackson. Skeeter begins to live two lives, one being a traditional southern woman, the other, a young individual crossing boundaries she never even realized existed.

These three women work for something bigger than themselves, starting a monumental movement in their severely divided town. This novel is deeply moving, filled with poignant, sad, and joyous scenes that will make the reader laugh and cry.

I suggest that everyone gets their hands on this beautifully written story. Not only does it teach valuable lessons about the treatment of others, it entertains until the very last page.



## About the Author...



Born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi, Kathryn

Stockett graduated from the University of Alabama with a degree in English and Creative Writing. Before writing her debut novel, *The Help*, Stockett worked in magazine publishing and marketing for nine years.

Amazingly, Stockett's book was turned down at first by 45 different publishers, before finally being accepted by Penguin Books. She got the idea for her novel from her own experience as a young girl raised by an African American woman. Her personal reflections in the book make the novel really hit home.

She now lives in New York City, working on her next novel.





# BLUE & GRAY SPORTS

By: Devin Gannon

## Boys Clinch Division Title; Girls Boast 8-4-1 Record



This year, the girl's soccer team started off the 2011 season with a bang. With four wins in the first four games of the season, the team's confidence level was high. Now almost in the post-season, the girls record stands at a respectable 8 wins and 4 losses.

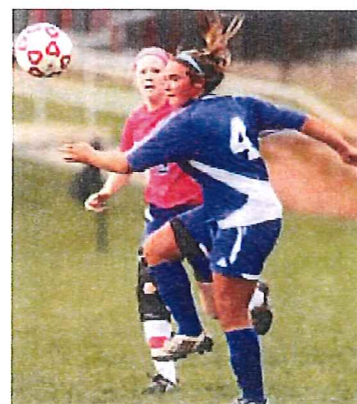
This team fills the field with talent, with junior Meghan Maldjian leading the team in goals scored (6) and senior Melissa Pavia, captain, leads the team in assists (5). Other noteworthy players include seniors

Gretchen Fay, Keara Homan, and Victoria Condon, all who help contribute greatly to the team's success.

With much hard work and dedication, the girls hope to have a rewarding post-season. Senior Morgan Talty feels confident in the team's ability to work together and maintain their great record.

"We're doing a lot better this year than last year. Hopefully we'll advance in States!"

With out a doubt, the Lady Warriors will definitely be tough competition for the other teams during the post-season.



Junior Meghan Maldjian gets ready to send the ball upfield, away from the other team.

The 2011 season for the Manasquan boy's soccer team started off with a little inconsistency. The boys lost their first game against Holmdel, and then tied Lakewood. Scoring goals became a constant struggle for the team. However, their record of 6 wins, 4 losses, and 3 ties does represent the team's overall ability. As the season progresses the team has become more in-sync with one another, working together as a unit. This was evident when the team clinched the Class C Central division title with a win against Jackson Liberty 2 to 1 on October 12th.



alive and ready for the Shore Conference Tournament. If they continue to move in this direction, the boy's soccer team will definitely come out on top. The head coach, Mark Levy, was quoted expressing his hopes for the rest of the season: "The last few games we have been playing a lot better," said the coach, following the game. "We are moving the ball better and our decisions have been better. Overall, I think that has been the key for our success."



Above: Coach Levy explains some new plays to the team during a time out.

Freshman Julio Ceja led the boys to victory, scoring the game winning goal in the 76th minute of the game. With this win, Mansquan has won their first division title since 1987. With many experienced players like seniors David Schenke, Joe McAlary, Ben Lukas, and juniors Andrew Dayton and Chase Cookson, the team is filled with talent. Winning games against Point Boro and Wall the team is really starting to look