

June 2012

Manasquan High School

# The Blue & Gray Seniors Take Center Stage



## Graduation Approaches!





## Green Mohawks, Giraffe Hooves, and One Very Special Cause

By: Rachel St. Denis

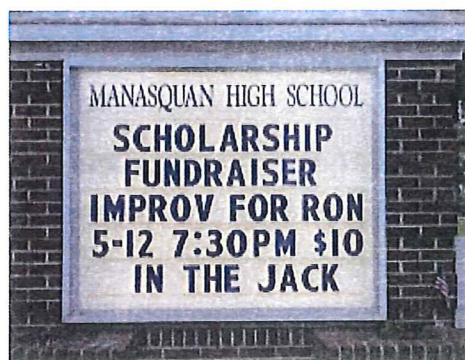
Many school events at Manasquan High School have laughter, high spirits and joyful students. The first ever Improv for Ron fundraiser was a classic MHS night to the ninth degree.

The feeling of Improv Night was so positive and absolutely powerful. English teacher and Acting teacher Mr. Harvey hosted the night, along with fellow English teacher Mr. Mawn.

The students from Mr. Harvey's Intro to Acting class were the primary performers for the night. Although for most of the actors it was the first time in front of an audience, they all did a wonderful job. Not only were they funny, they were all funny together. The giddiness of the performers was contagious. The crowd responded enthusiastically, often laughing hysterically and clapping vigorously throughout the night.

The night began with the music-based game Flock Dance, and the crowd was immediately hooked. Seniors Dave Schenke, Christian Morgan, Billy Acciavatti, Maggie Gillespie, and Sean Maldjian lead the improvisers with their dance moves to whatever

### First Annual Improv for Ron Gets Rave Reviews



song Mr. Harvey chose for them. Flock Dance started the night on the right foot, keeping the energy up for the rest of the night. The audience roared with laughter, especially during the Electric Crocodile commercial, the many gags in What Are You Doing, and the Unicorn Phobia Support Group. All the improvisers excelled, none hogging the spotlight but instead letting everyone have a chance to shine.

Audience members could really feel the positive energy throughout the night. Eileen Daly, Ron's mom, closed the night with her speech, followed by the unveiling of a new plaque to commemorate the winner of Ron's scholarship. Mr. Mawn and Mr. Harvey presented the brand new plaque to Mrs. Daly as a surprise.

Ron's mother is so proud of him and his continuing legacy. Her words about

her son left few eyes dry. Ms. Daly spoke about Ron and how ambitious he was, even in high school. She told a story about how Ron fought for the right to wear a green mohawk in school, and

continued on page 6



### Behind the Scenes of an Improv Show

By: Amy Pretz

For years now I have been going to Mr. Mawn and Mr. Harvey's Improv classes. At first glance, the classes may not look like much with just some chairs, some tape on the floor and kids chattering, but after two hours you come home with a sore stomach and mouth

after laughing and smiling so much. Thanks to Mr. Mawn and Mr. Harvey, I was introduced to a whole new passion I never knew existed. It is such an incredible feeling doing this kind of spontaneous acting that sometimes results in tears from laughing so much. Even though my family knew I loved every hilarious session, I could never quite explain the thrill of it. That's why when Mr. Harvey and Mr. Mawn approached me about doing an improv show at the high school I jumped at the chance!

For weeks leading

continued on page 6



# Wheels in Motion: MHS Students Help Cross-Country Riders to Finish their Trek

By: Julia Callahan



Think of all the places you drive to in one day: to school, to lacrosse practice, to dance rehearsal, to Chipotle for dinner, to Strollo's with your best friends, and back home. What if you had to do this all on your bike? Could you do it? Would you stop halfway, huffing and puffing, and turn

the idea to ride across the United States to raise money for a scholarship to help kids with Cerebral Palsy attend college. When they began riding 11 months ago from Newport Beach, California, James and

JT did not know what their journey would hold. But they did not give up. Along the way they stopped at various colleges and universities to show Frankie's documentary and raise awareness of his situation. James and JT were met by welcoming crowds who were amazed at their journey and dedication. They filmed their trek and hope to turn it into a documentary.

When MHS's Life is Good Club got word of this incredible expedition, they began to organize Wheels in Motion, an event to welcome and congratulate James and JT at the final stop of their journey: Sea Girt, New Jersey. To promote the event, Life is Good Club founders David Schenke, Kodie McNamara, Matt MacFarlane, and Joe McAlary filmed a series of videos in their typically-hilarious style. The videos, which featured Matt and Dave training for a mock-bike ride competition, aired on MHS-TV and got the student body very excited about the event.

The Wheels in Motion event was a huge success. At 2:30 PM on Sunday, April 29, over 150 students, teachers, and community members gathered outside MHS to greet and cheer for James and JT. On bikes, rollerblades, skateboards, and scooters, the group followed James and JT down Beacon Avenue and onto Sea Girt beach. After dipping their bike tires into the ocean to signify the culmination of their journey, James and JT led about 100 fearless Manasquan students in a plunge into the chilly April water.

around? Or would you keep going, knowing that if you complete this journey you will make a difference in someone's life.

When we were first told that two men, John Trevor Gladych (JT) and James Monahan, were riding their bikes cross-country from California to Sea Girt, we could not believe it. How could they do that? some thought. Why would they? wondered others. They did it to help students in need. They did it to inspire people across the nation. They did it to make a difference.

Upon meeting Greg Hannah and Frankie Kineavy in 2009, James, like many others in his position, was skeptical. He questioned how someone like Frankie, a student affected by Cerebral Palsy, could survive—and thrive—at Villanova University. He wondered if that was the right choice. However, as he spent more time with Frankie, James became overwhelmed and truly inspired by Frankie's journey and accomplishments. After watching the documentary "Coming off the DL", which features Frankie and another Villanova student with Cerebral Palsy, Nick Gaynor, James knew he wanted to help this cause. He, like many others, quickly realized Frankie's brilliance and saw the need for students in his situation to be given equal opportunities to attend college.

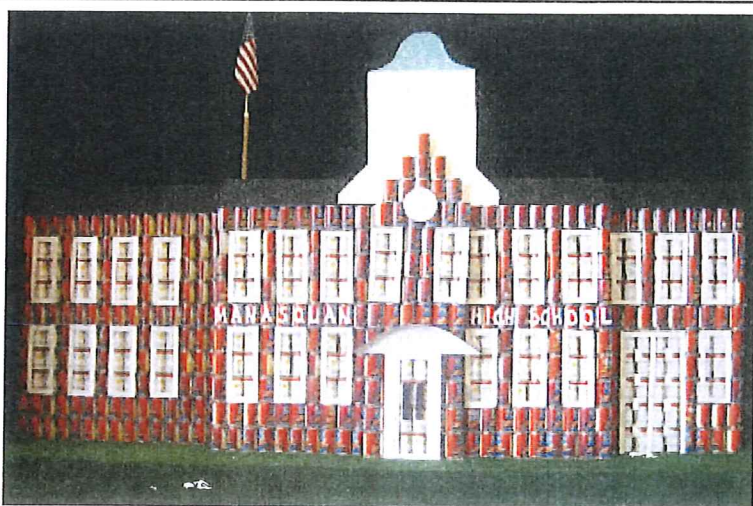
About a year ago James and his friend JT came up with



## MHS Can Sculpture Unveiled

Tuesday, April 24 was a busy day for junior Monica

Murphy and a small team of volunteers who assembled on the stage of the Jack Nicholson theater to construct a replica of Manasquan High School from soup cans collected over the past month. The hundreds of soup cans were later donated to the Monmouth County Food Bank, but not before this amazing recreation of our school. Everybody loved the details, including the tower and flag atop the school.





# MHS Graduate Stands on the Brink of Stardom

By: Devin Gannon

As a student, each and every day you see hundreds of faces, in the hallway and in the classroom. You may look at these faces, but are you really seeing them? In a high school of over 1,000 students, who will be remembered? Who will make their mark on the world? Take time to notice those usually overlooked. You never know where a future star is lurking. For the 2003 graduating class of MHS, many regret not getting to know a girl named Alexis.

As the lead singer of Sleigh Bells, the band that creates "mosh pit anthems" and "hip-hop party jams", Alexis Krauss seems to be on the brink of ultimate stardom. Alongside band member Derek Miller, formerly of heavy metal band Poison the Well, the two come together to create what's best described as "noise pop". The band has recently released their sophomore album, *Reign of Terror*, following up their debut *Treats*. This past February, Sleigh Bells performed on Saturday Night Live and last month Alexis Krauss' face graced the cover of Spin magazine. Currently, Sleigh Bells is touring with The Red Hot Chili Peppers, playing at arenas across the United States. To say they have made it would be an obvious understatement.

The meeting of Derek Miller and Alexis Krauss seemed to be taken right from a book. Krauss had been teaching fourth grade in the South Bronx, concentrating more on her students than her music. However, in the summer of 2008 everything changed. While Alexis and her mother were eating at a Brazilian bistro in Brooklyn, their waiter began making small talk. He mentioned he was a musician looking for a female singer. Knowing her daughter's talent, Mrs. Krauss immediately recommended Alexis. (As a teen, she had sung in the unsuccessful



**THEN & NOW:**  
Alexis Krauss, lead singer of Sleigh Bells, recently featured on Saturday Night Live and the cover of Spin Magazine, was voted "Most Likely to be Famous" by her peers in the MHS class of 2003.



teen pop group, Rubyblue, and after college occasionally sang at weddings). And so, Derek Miller and Alexis Krauss met at a later date and exchanged their music and ideas. Heavy metal guitar met sweet and sugary pop vocals. With that unusual combination, the eccentric sound of Sleigh Bells was born.

During her career at Manasquan High School, Alexis could always be found in the art room. Mrs. Monaghan, art teacher, remembers her being "very creative and passionate. She was committed to making her artwork be the highest quality." Then it is no surprise to learn that Alexis had won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 2D/painting category in the annual art show her senior year. Along with being very artistic, Alexis sang in the chorus. This was where she really shined. In 2003, her fellow classmates voted for class superlatives and crowned Alexis "Best Vocalist" and "Most Likely to Be Famous". They must have recognized the star qualities that Alexis possessed before the rest of the world even knew she existed.

The future looks very bright for Sleigh Bells. The band has gotten a ton of positive feedback and gains new fans after every ground-shaking, ear-ringing show. The live performance Sleigh Bells puts on is unbelievable. The band's energy level is always high, pumping up the crowd with every note and guitar riff. This is one band that will definitely be around for years to come.

The size of a high school does not matter, nor does the location. The only significant thing is the few people that inspired you to become a better person, and to reach your potential. The people she surrounded herself with, both in and out of school, helped Alexis get where she is today. No matter how far Sleigh Bells travels on the road to success, Alexis Krauss will always remain a Warrior.



# MHS Choir Entertains Audience at Annual Spring Concert

On Wednesday, May 2nd, the

Manasquan High School Choir performed in the Jack Nicholson Theater for their annual Spring Concert. The audience enjoyed a variety of classical and pop songs, such as "Antiphonal Song Joy" (Dave & Jean Perry), "Chindia" (Alexandru Pascanu), "Velvet Shoes" (Randall Thompson), "Orinoco Flow" (Enya) and "Walking in Memphis" (Marc Cohn).

Soloists included Courtney and Megan Hulsart in "O Danny Boy" (Traditional), Jack Edick in "The Safety Dance" (Ivan Doroschuk) and Amy Pretz in "Poor Wayfarin' Stranger" (David Eddleman). Sophomore JD Donohue, who wowed the crowd with his ukulele and voice, as he performed Israel Kamakawiwo'ole's "Somewhere Over the Rainbow."

By: Amy Pretz

It "felt so good. It was even more exciting than singing a solo," said Julie Temple, a junior, who conducted "Antiphonal Song of Joy", the first song of the night.

"Disney Dazzle!", a medley of Disney songs from *The Little Mermaid*, *Aladdin*, and *Beauty and the Beast*, also featured a variety of solos that evening.

Towards the end of the concert, the new choir officers were announced. The members voted for two students to represent each grade, a president and vice president. Grace Nielsen was named President with

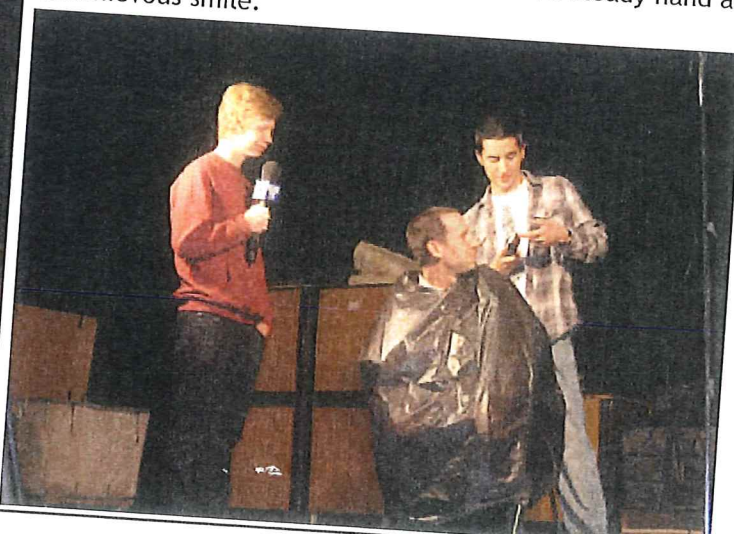
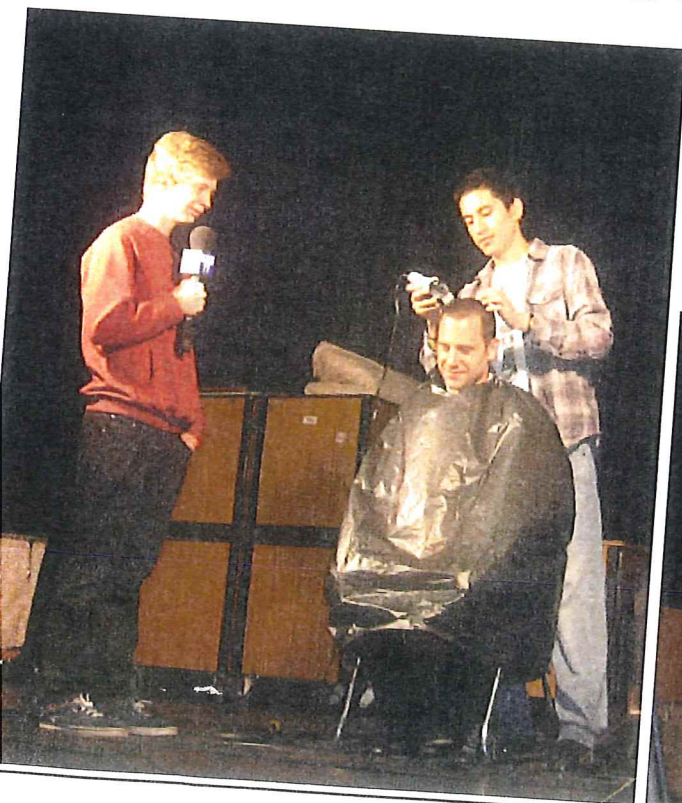
Caitlin Donohue as her Vice President. These two juniors with amazing voices and talent will lead the chorus next year.

In addition, Mr. Weisert announced the recipients of the Arion Award and National School Choral Award. With her leadership and excellent performance over the past four years, Amy Pretz was awarded the Arion Award. Dana Neigel was given the National School Choral Award for her hard work and dedication as the MHS Choir President.

Overall, the Spring Concert was a great success! Coming up, the MHS Choir will perform in the Pops Concert on Saturday, June 2nd. The theme this year is "Love Songs." Also, look out for the MHS Gospel Choir to perform at the Baccalaureate with conductor Phiny Williams.

## Mr. Fagen Gets a Buzz

As producer of MHS TV, Mr. Weisert named the event A Man of His Word, but most students referred to it simply as "Fagen's getting his head shaved!" The man, of course, is History teacher Mr. Fagen, who followed through on his vow to assist junior Monica Murphy's soup can collections, Mr. Fagen pledged to allow one lucky student the opportunity to shave his head. The student's name was chosen randomly from a pool of contestants who bought chances for \$1 each, with all of the collected money added to Monica's Food Bank Donation. Junior Alain Cervantes won the honor, and wielded the razor with a steady hand and mischievous smile.





they competed in a "Jazzercise Dance-off" showcasing a variety of different Jazzercise moves, ranging from Alec's "Jesus Jamba" and "Driscoll Cha-cha" to Kodie's "White Boy Tango". They completed the skit with the "Balance of Jazz" where they both pulled different muscles and dragged each other off stage. Next to the stage was Will as he did his version of the popular Saturday Night Live segment "Weekend Update". Will really came out of his shell and didn't hold back as he made jokes about anyone and everyone, from the administration to Mr. Fagen (who took the brunt of most of his punch lines). Dave Schenke made a cameo appearance as Mr. Fagen doing horrible stand-up comedy. Will ended his "Weekly Update" by saying how special MHS is to him and how he couldn't imagine spending four years of high school anywhere else.

Dancing proved to be a popular talent choice in this year's pageant. Christian Morgan came out in a black robe and recited a funny poem about his great times at MHS; however his talent didn't stop there as he broke into dance with MC Hammer parachute pants accompanied by seniors Casey Wyckoff and Eddie McGrady. Zack Vasilenko also enlisted the help of his friends, seniors Joe McAlary and Aidan Preston, along with junior Joe Murphy, as they did a synchronized group dance to the popular "Call Me Maybe" hit. Dressed in neon t-shirts and matching tights, Vasilenko ended the performance by ripping his shirt and revealing "Call me maybe" and his number written on his chest. Finally Matt MacFarlane and Billy Acciavatti also teamed up and performed the old SNL "Chip and Dale" sketch where they did a shirtless dance off. Billy was a great sport as the "judges" chose Matt as the winner of Mr. Manasquan based on his "flawless physique".

The final portion of the competition was Formal Wear. During this part of the night the boys got all dressed up in their best suits and were escorted by some of MHS's prettiest senior girls. During this portion the boys also had to answer a question that emcee Sean pulled out of a bag. Kodie McNamara was escorted by senior Keara Homan to the tune of "My Heart Will Go On" from the popular movie Titanic and when asked who should win Mr. Manasquan other than himself, he answered, "Dave Schenke," because he worked really hard. Next was Dave Schenke escorted by senior Jess Easton to "Dancing in the Moonlight". Dave touched the audience when asked what he would do if he could go back in time by saying he would go back and try to save his brother who passed away in April 2008 because he was his best friend. On a lighter note, Zack Vasilenko took a detour from the usual shirt and tie and came out dressed as a purple Teletubbie escorted by senior Madalyn Higgins. The crowd erupted in laughter when Zack ironically was asked what television show he could see himself being in. After a long minute of deliberation Vasilenko appropriately answered "Teletubbies" because he always thought he could make a good Teletubbie. Matt MacFarlane, escorted by senior Maggie Brown, charmed the crowd when he said that his greatest accomplishment at MHS was helping Dave by being on the Executive Board of the Life is Good Club because they have touched so many people.

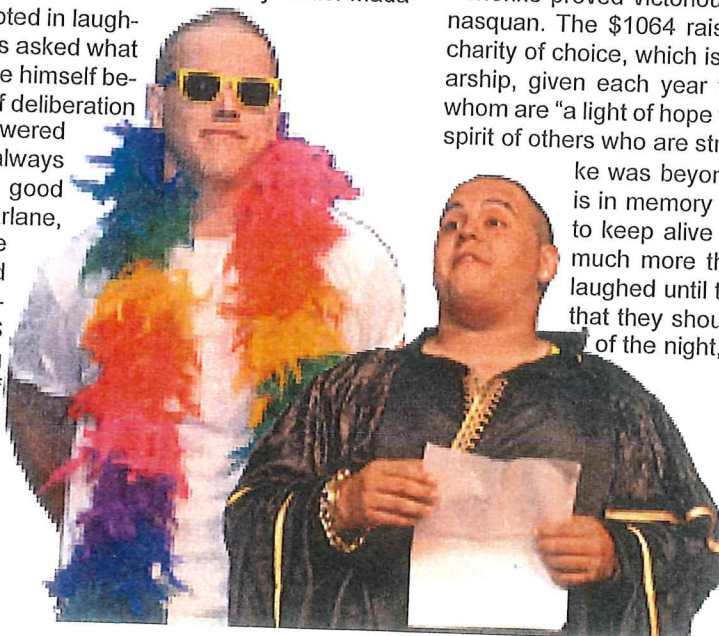
Will Conte, escorted by senior Paige McWade, got laughs out of the crowd when he used his "improv skills" when asked what he

would do with his power if he were principal, to which he answered no more silent study halls and Halloween every Friday. Christian Morgan tackled the question what is the biggest challenge teenagers face today. With his escort senior Hannah Roesler by his side he won the crowd over by saying that we need is to "just say no" to drugs and alcohol. Billy Acciavatti hit the stage next with his escort, senior Marisol Gonzalez, dressed like a pimp with a purple fedora to the tune of "Candy Shop". When asked why he decided to participate in Mr. Manasquan and what he has gained from the experience, he answered in his best presidential-candidate voice that he has waited for four years to participate in this competition and he wasn't going to pass this opportunity up. He also made it known that, most importantly, this was all for charity. Finally Alec Lorenzo gave some advice for the incoming freshman as he took the stage with senior Kelcie Mack by saying all the incoming freshman need to walk on the right side of the hallway and respect the upperclassmen.

Finally, after all the gut-busting laughs that filled the night, it was time to crown the winner. Each contestant had a specific charity that they were participating for. These charities ranged from everything from Squan-A-Thon to St. Jude's Research Hospital, to



the Cusack Care Center (a retirement facility that helped Will's grandfather before he passed earlier this year). All were great charities, and it seemed to be a tough task for the esteemed high school faculty judges to pick a winner. Finally, the results were in. In the end, Matt MacFarlane and Christian Morgan tied for second place, and Dave Schenke proved victorious and was crowned the new 2012 Mr. Manasquan. The \$1064 raised from the ticket sales will go to Dave's charity of choice, which is the Timothy Schenke Light of Hope Scholarship, given each year to 2-4 students nominated by their peers, whom are "a light of hope when things seem most dark" and "build the spirit of others who are struggling to believe in themselves..." Schenke was beyond words and chose this charity because it is in memory of his brother Tim, whose legacy he wants to keep alive at MHS. All in all, the night proved to be much more than anyone had hoped for. The audience laughed until they cried as the guys gave 150% to prove that they should be the next Mr. Manasquan. At the end of the night, the best man won, and no one left disappointed. Even though only one out of the eight contestants could take home the title, all agreed that the experience and the bond that they formed with each other was more important than winning. More importantly this will be one of their fondest memories when looking back on their years here at MHS. Great job boys!!





# Students Tackle THE BLUE & GRAY Issues in the World EDITORIALS

## Presidential Election 2012 Republican Candidate, Mitt Romney is Questionable

By: Rachel St. Denis

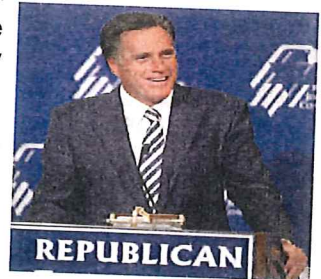
With Rick Santorum ousted from the race and Newt Gingrich dropping out, Mitt Romney has finally secured the nomination of the Republican Party. Romney was a long time front runner for Republican presidential candidate, but not always the first choice. The road to candidacy seemed to be never ending. There seemed to be more potential candidates each week with Michelle Bachman, Rick Perry, Santorum, Newt Gingrich, Tim Pawlenty, John Huntsman, Herman Cain, Stephen Colbert, and even Chris Christie.

Now that the Republican race is drawing to a close, the real election race is just about to begin. Romney now has to appeal to more mainstream voters, not just staunch conserva-

tives. This might prove to be a hard task for Romney, who's known for changing his opinion to appeal to whoever he needs the vote from that day, especially with sensitive subjects like health care, abortion, and taxes. Romney will also have to address his stand on poverty in the upcoming months. After his "I'm not concerned about the very poor," comment earlier this year, Romney will have to work hard to be viewed as fair to all people, and to earn the less privileged voters' choice.

President Obama, however, also has a battle ahead of him. After a rocky and what some critics say a futile term, Obama will have to work very hard to stay in office. When elected in 2008, Obama was lauded as a hero, even before he was able to prove himself. Keeping the country's praise on Obama was the hard part. Americans were frustrated that change wasn't happening as quick as they wanted.

But are they so annoyed in Obama that Romney is their new option? Only time will tell. With many MHS students voting in their first election, America's future is in our hands for the first time.



## Spring Concert Highlights Musical Talent

Fine music filled The Jack Nicholson Theater on Wednesday evening, May 30, as the Manasquan High School concert band took the stage for its annual spring concert. The Wind Ensemble played favorites such as Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Jesus Christ Superstar" and, the senior's choice, highlights from "Star Wars". Later, the Jazz Band picked up the energy and jammed as only it can, playing Steely Dan's "Peg" and Bill Withers' "Lean on Me" in its set. The highlight was undoubtedly the advanced Jazz Improvisation students, who played original pieces written by Matt Trice, Dave Abraham and Tessa O'Boyle. With passion they soloed and smiled and filled the auditorium with their amazing sounds. Not many class assignments receive



such public appreciation, but this one did. To end the night Band Director Mr. Abraham took the drums, and jammed with his son, senior Dave Abraham, in an extended and energetic intro to the jazz band's final song. What a night!



# Senior Prom Prep Tips

Now that junior prom has come and gone, it's time to turn our attentions elsewhere. Senior prom! Ten days before graduation, senior prom is the last hurrah, the last chance for the entire senior class to come together, let loose, and celebrate. That being said, here's our guide to all things prom- dresses, nail color, hair and accessories! The only thing we can't help you with is getting a date. Sorry.



Cut-out:

For senior prom, most of the girls wear short dresses. They're much easier to dance in, and more comfortable considering the weather will be considerably warmer. Here are some of the trends in dresses:

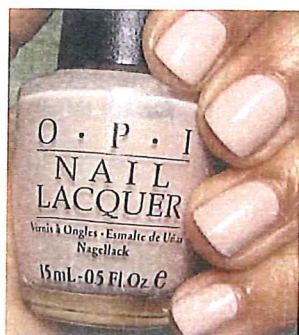


Sequins:



High-Low:

Nails: Neutrals are in! Tone down the nail colors for a look that goes with anything. If you've got a bright colored dress, try neutral nails. And you can't go wrong with French manicures!



Hair: Braids are in! For hair that's down, try a simple yet elegant waterfall braid. For an updo that's a little more formal, try Taylor Swift's soft waves pulled into a loose bun. If you find your updo falling out, don't worry- it'll just look better that way!

## Accessories:

Delicate drop earrings are in fashion right now. With a coral dress, try gold. For blues, try silver.



Shoes: Neutral colors go with everything: a peep toe makes the shoe appropriate for summer months. If you love color, however, try a pretty pastel robin's egg blue.





**Gabrielle Galizio:**  
The College of New Jersey

**Marisol Gonzalez**  
Brookdale Community College

**Joseph Haley:**  
Fairfield University

**Jenna Herrmann:**  
Towson University

**Devin Gannon:**  
American University

**Anna Graney:**  
Marist College

**Melissa Haley:**  
The College of New Jersey

**Madalyn Higgins:**  
Arizona State University

**Shea Gegan:**  
Wagner College

**Emily Grannick:**  
John Jay College

**Andrea Hart:**  
Brookdale Community College

**Elizabeth Holby:**  
Brigham Young University

**Brian Geiger:**  
Princeton University

**Steffi Groezinger:**  
Savannah College of Art and Design

**Luke Hayduk:**  
Rowan University

**Katherine Holt:**  
University of Scranton

**Micheal Gianforte:**  
University of Delaware

**Thomas Haberstick:**  
Brookdale Community College

**Shea Heavey:**  
Elon University

**Keara Homan:**  
Brookdale Community College

**Melanie Gibson:**  
Brookdale Community College

**Tyler Hackett:**  
Florida Institute of Technology

**Samantha Heil:**  
Brookdale Community College

**Georgiana Honrath:**  
Saint Joseph's University

**Margaret Gillespie:**  
Pennsylvania State University

**Jackson Haley:**  
Rowan University

**William Hennessey:**  
Rutgers University

**Rebecca Honrath:**  
Salisbury University

**Brielle Gilly:**  
University of Rhode Island

**Micheal Henriques:**  
Brookdale Community College

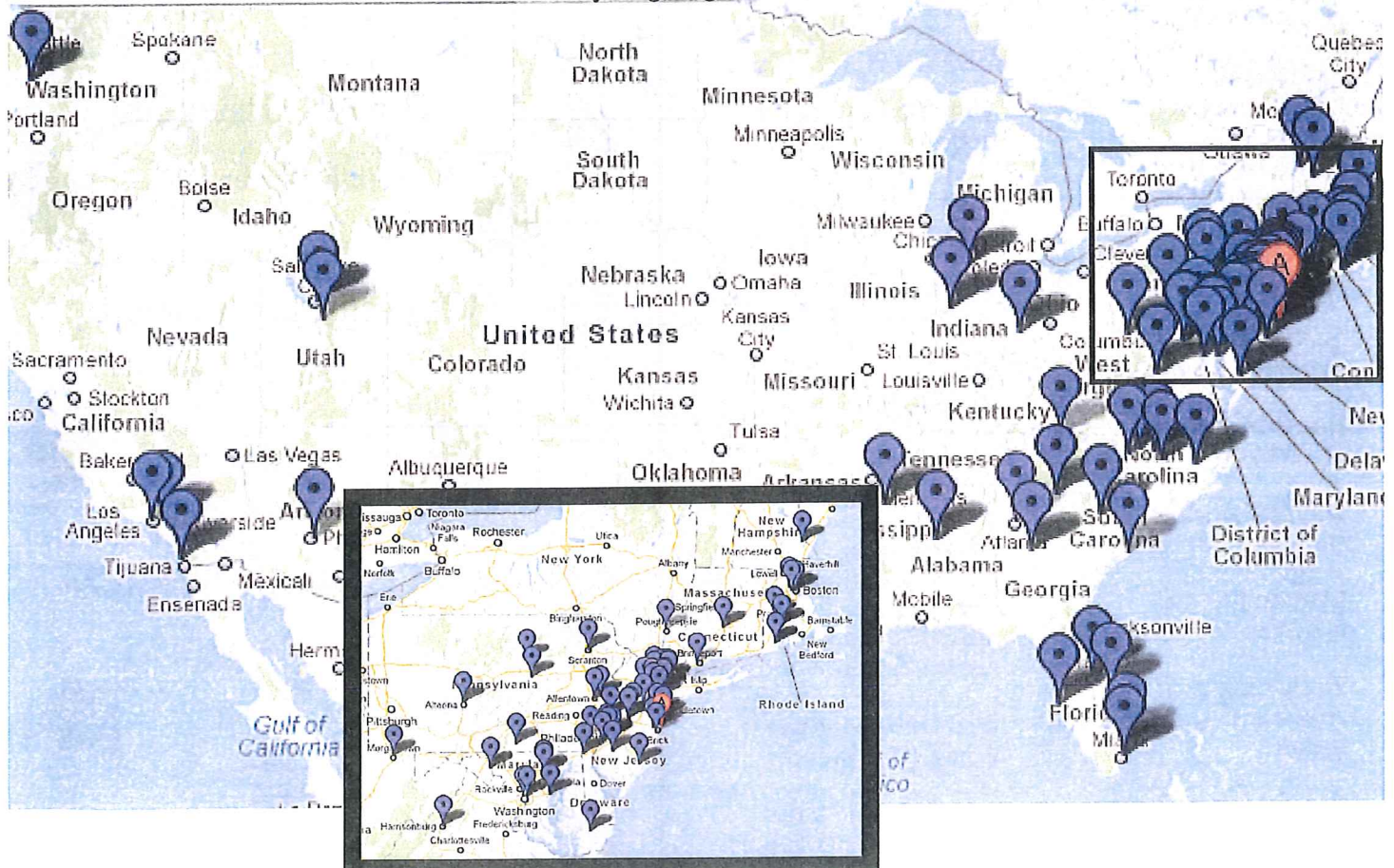
**Courtney Hulsart:**  
Brookdale Community College

**Shauna Golding:**  
Undecided

**Casey Huth:**  
Montclair State University

# Map It Out

Here's a visual of where the seniors are heading next year. Point A is MHS and all of the blue points are where they're going to be in the fall.





**Matthew Marotta:**  
Brookdale Community College

**Stephanie Marshall:**  
University of Utah

**Jeremy Martin:**  
Rowan University

**Kimberly Matthews:**  
Messiah College

**Adrianna Matyas:**  
Catholic University of America

**MacLean Mayer:**  
University of Vermont

**Joseph McAlary:**  
College of Charleston

**Edward McCormack:**  
Brookdale Community College

**James McCumsey:**  
Monmouth University

**Allyson McDonough:**  
West Virginia University

**Allison McElynn:**  
Temple University

**Patrick McGill:**  
Quinnipiac

**Eddie McGrady:**  
Monmouth University

**Cole McMahon:**  
University of Miami

**Kodie McNamara:**  
Gettysburg College

**Elizabeth McTighe:**  
University of Delaware

**Paige McWade:**  
University of New Hampshire

**Teresa Meakem:**  
Brookdale Community College

**Natalie Merlo:**  
Brookdale Community College

**Jordan Miskin:**  
University of Scranton

**Marc Mole:**  
Monmouth University

**Margaret Moore:**  
California State Polytechnic  
University

**Grace Moran:**  
University of Delaware

**Christian Morgan:**  
Delaware Valley University

**Justin Mrowicki:**  
Eckerd College

**Steven Murdoch:**  
Brookdale Community College

**Jill Neary:**  
Fairleigh Dickinson University

**Noelle Nadeau:**  
Brookdale Community College

**Dana Neigel:**  
Brookdale Community College

**Olivia Nesnay:**  
University of Delaware

**Molly Nighland:**  
West Virginia University

**Krista O'Donnell:**  
Brookdale Community College

**Kevin Olmedo:**  
Brookdale Community College

**Melissa Pavia:**  
Moravian College

**Nicole Payne:**  
Johnson and Wales University

**Kelly Petillo:**  
Bryant University

**Corey Phillips:**  
Richard Stockton College

**Nicole Phillips:**  
Northeastern University

**Elizabeth Piazza:**  
Brookdale Community College

**Kathleen Piccoli:**  
Fordham University

# Student Debt Reaches Over \$1 Trillion

By: Rachel St. Dennis

American Student Debt recently hit the one trillion, just as Manasquan

While our lives are supposed to be just starting, we're saddled with debt...

seniors gear up for the start of college next year. While our lives are supposed to be just starting, we're saddled with debt from the get go. Debt that's only going to get worse as the years pass. Obama recently told the press that Michelle and him finally paid off their student loans eight years ago.

The interest rate for the very popular Stafford federal student loan's interest rate is set to skyrocket from 3.4% to 6.8% in July since the Senate could not come to agreement on how to handle the Student debt problem. Both sides of the political spectrum recently have called attention to the problems with our country's student debt. Obama faults Republican stubborn stances in the senate for the upcoming increases. While Romney has

How are we supposed to be successful in life if we're essentially doomed from the start?

said the 3.4% rate should be extended but doesn't say how this should be accomplished.

Congress had made it even more difficult to get money for college students in recent years. Making it harder to qualify for grants for already less fortunate, but intelligent students.

No matter how students get their loans, they almost always create problems. Student loans are one of the very few types loans that declaring bankruptcy doesn't erase. Why educated people can't get their loans erased from when they were nineteen erased makes absolutely no sense.

How are we supposed to be successful in life

Stafford federal student loan's interest rate is set to skyrocket from 3.4% to 6.8% in July

if we're essentially doomed from the start? It's entirely unfair the amount of debt college students are burdened with. When kids go to college, they should be reward and encouraged, not punished with expensive loans.

As our debt loom, in most European countries tuition is completely free or very cheap. It sounds ridiculous from an American stand point but seriously. European students get to go to college for free.

As I start my collegiate and adult life, sure to be filled with student debt, I can only hope the Student Debt issue only grows smaller, not my bank account.



**Catherine Van Stolk:**  
The College of New Jersey

**Zachary Vasilenko:**  
Kean University

**Derek Vogel:**  
Johnson and Wales University

**Jeffory Voorhees:**  
West Chester University

**Alexander Waga:**  
Bentley University

**Bryan Walsh:**  
North Carolina State University

**Kieran Walsh:**  
Rutgers University

**Kayla Watson:**  
Brookdale Community College

**Micheal Watters:**  
Brookdale Community College

**Jack Whipple:**  
Brookdale Community College

**Margaret White:**  
Manhattan College

**Casey Wyckoff:**  
Brookdale Community College

**Ann Zappulla:**  
West Chester University



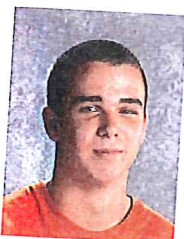
The majority of the senior class can't wait to go to say goodbye to high school and say hello to college. Whether you're going to the University of Hawaii, Brookdale, or just entering the work force, there are some key things every graduating senior should do before August ends and we enter another stage in our lives.

1. Road trip. Pick a destination- Wildwood, Baltimore, NYC, North Carolina- fill up your gas tank (before prices skyrocket)- and just drive!
2. Hit up the beach. A lot.
3. Tour your hometown. While you may hate it now, you'll miss it when you're away at college. Visit all your favorite haunts, past and present.
4. Go to a concert. Check out The Stone Pony Summer Series, The Starland Ballroom, or just check TicketMaster.
5. Hang out with your high school friends as much as possible, especially if they aren't going to the same college as you. If you hang out more in the summer, you'll be more likely to keep in contact with them throughout the year.
6. Talk to your roommate. Get to know them. Make sure you learn more than their favorite color and how many dogs they have. Learn about their sleeping and study habits and things like that, to ensure harmonious living. Coordinate your décor if you want to create the ultimate dorm room.
7. Ikea. It's the best place for really nice bedroom décor at really nice prices. Plus, a majority of their products take into consideration small spaces and offer really clever ways of making the most out of a broom closet sized space. Try also Target, Bed, Bath, and Beyond, and dorm.co.

## Seniors...

By: Hannah Roesler

### WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO ABOUT STARTING COLLEGE?



"The college chicks"

-Jacob Forman,  
West Chester University



"Making new friends, and meeting new people"

-Libby Manovill,  
University of Dayton



"The football games"

-Kevin Dolan,  
West Virginia University

"Hanging out with all my friends that already go to Brookdale"

-Nico English, Brookdale Community College



"The freedom of being on my own"

-Gabby Galizio,  
The College of New Jersey



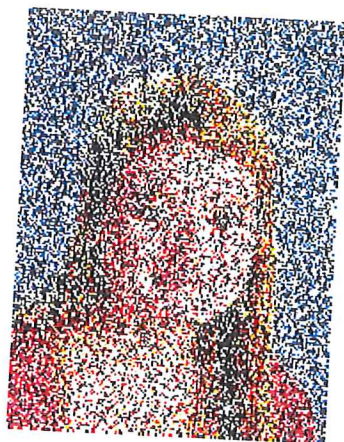
"Living in a great city"

-Devin Gannon,  
American University



# SENIOR GUESS WHO?

By: Hannah Roesler



This little lady will be attending Savannah College of Art and Design in the fall. In August she will leave her gigantic family behind and head south to Georgia. To rake in the money flow you can find her working at "The Bee" boutique in Brooke 35. She loves work because she gets to kick it side by side with her best friend. This senior beauty is very personable and can make friends with anyone. When she isn't chatting it up you can find her in her native Brielle. With a birthday in August, who is this hottie?

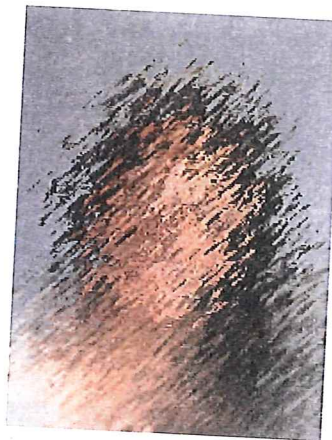
AKLAY RTFKA



This blonde haired hottie is taken by one of the finest ladies around. One half of this amazing senior power couple, you can find him speeding around Brielle in his black Crown Vic. This senior stud is known for his sense of humor and super personality. Choosing to stay close to home next year, this boy will be taking classes at Brookdale while maintaining his part time job at Shipwreck Grille. Who is this jaw-dropping chick magnet?

WHO IS THIS?

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S SENIOR  
GUESS WHO:



This senior gal is the avid editor of the Blue & Gray. Residing in her native town of Avon, she can be spotted driving around in her blue Volvo. In September she will officially be a Georgian Court Lion. This generous girl spends her free time by helping out with the first aid squad and the fire department. Sorry boys, this lovely lady is taken by one of Shark River Hill's finest. Who is this senior girl?

TPEHAISEN EHEATLR



This senior boy is notorious for his great sense of humor and intelligence. Currently claiming the number three spot in the senior class, he is one of the smartest people Manasquan High School has ever seen. In the fall this aspiring English major will be attending Princeton University. His cunning wit and looks leaves all the ladies in his honors and AP classes swooning. Another Brielle native, you can find him doing math problems and teaching himself AP classes in his free time. Who is this senior genius?

IARBN REGGERI

Bryan Abadrabo, Shea Gegan, Keara Homan,  
and Dan Ehrola





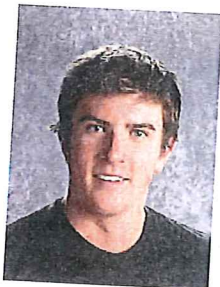
# HAPPY BIRTHDAY SENIORS! JUNE



By: Hannah Roesler



Leigh Avery  
6/1



David Carlson  
6/1



Matt Bloodgood  
6/3



Kristin Brown  
6/9



Brielle Gilly  
6/9



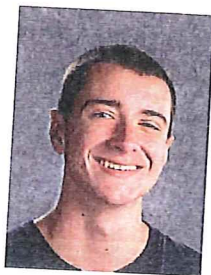
Abby Farr  
6/9



Nick Blanco  
6/1



Anna Graney  
6/10



Mike Watters  
6/12



Jamie McCumsey  
6/12



Becca Tichansky  
6/13



McKenzie Black  
6/14



Thomas Haberstick  
6/14



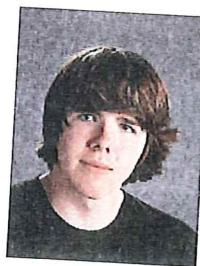
Marisol Gonzalez  
6/16



Billy Acciavatti  
6/20



John Iorio  
6/20



Jared Ashdown  
6/22



Annie Zappulla  
6/25



Catherine VonStolk  
6/25



Dave Abraham  
6/27



Matt Trubenbach  
6/27

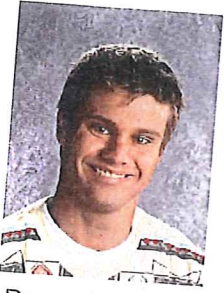


Eddie McCormack  
6/30



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY SENIORS!

## AUGUST

Bryan Abadrabo  
8/1Adrianna Matyas  
8/4Kali Ferguson  
8/5Pat McGill  
8/7Shauna Golding  
8/8Taylor Smith  
8/8Bryan Walsh  
8/9Olivia Nesnay  
8/11Jeanine Balestrieri  
8/11Steffi Groezinger  
8/13Corey Phillips  
8/15Forrest Babola  
8/17Lois Mains  
8/19Alex Waga  
8/23Eric Tremblay  
8/24Michael Long  
8/25Sean Place  
8/25Kieran Walsh  
8/26Giana Honrath  
8/26Sammi Jenkins  
8/27Rebecca Honrath  
8/27Ryan Quigley  
8/27Ian Colrick  
8/28Kelli Degnan  
8/28Kristin Woolley  
8/29Alec Lorenzo  
8/31



# What if you were locked in a ROOM?

## New novel *Room* by Emma Donoghue is Mesmerizing

By: Steph Leather

### *Here's the picture:*

You're walking down the street listening to your iPod. You're only a freshman or sophomore in college and you can't imagine anything going wrong in your life. Suddenly a man runs up to you yelling about his sick dog. You go to help him but everything spirals out of control. He grabs you and puts a hood over your head. He pushes you into a van and your world ends. You wake up in a shed that's only 11 square feet. That's your house for the next seven years.

Now what if you were born in that shed. The first 5 years of your life were confined to that small cell and you thought everything outside of your room was just pretend. Then, one day you escape and the world is opened up to you. How scary would that be?

Jack is a five year old boy who lives in Room. He lives with Ma, Table, Rug, Bed, and whatever else is in Room with them. He wakes up, eats 100 pieces of cereal, does Phys Ed, watched T.V. and eats lunch. Then he reads and watches more things that he thinks are imaginary on the television. Then, he goes to bed and Old Nick, Ma's captor, comes at 9 o'clock sharp.

### *The Great Escape:*

Jack and Ma devise a plan to escape Room and Old Nick. Plan A is Sick, Truck, Hospital, Police, Save Ma. Jack is going to get sick enough to convince Old Nick to take him in his truck to the hospital. Once there, he's going to tell everyone he's been kidnapped and they'll call the police. Then they'll save Ma. When Old Nick comes, he doesn't know what to do and storms out. Frustrated, Ma concocts Plan B; Dead, Truck, Run, Police, Save Ma. Jack will pretend to have died from the illness and Ma will wrap him up in Rug. Then he will put him in his truck and drive somewhere to bury him. But Jack will crawl out of Rug and run to get help. Then the police will save Ma.

### *The Outside:*

Once they've gotten away

from Room and Old Nick, Jack and Ma face a challenge even harder than escaping; they need to get accustomed to Outside. They need to become immune to all of the sicknesses, their skin needs to adjust to the sun, and most of all, they need to learn how the outside world is. A good majority of the book is Jack and Ma conforming to the world. Since Jack has never been in Outside, he isn't used to things that we grow up with; stairs, people looking at us, stores, animals, everything.

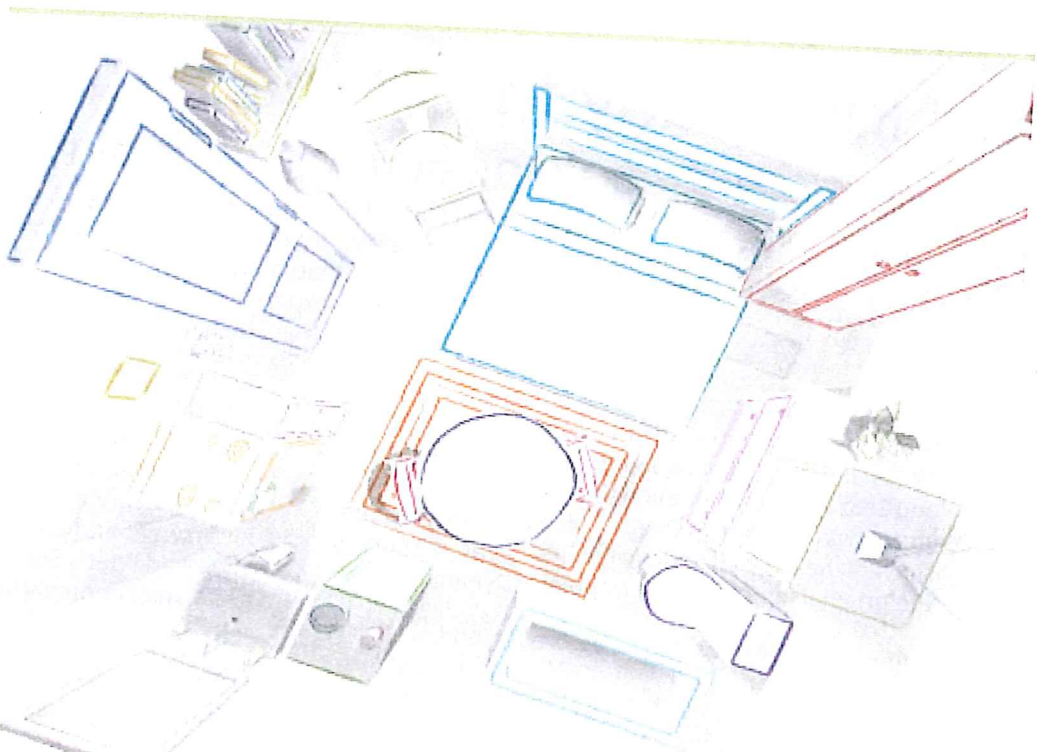
### *Good or Bad:*

This book will make you think. I think it's a good book to bring to the beach. You can probably finish it in a day or two of lying in the sand and soaking up the sun. It's the best book if you're just lazy. It creates a world that is really easy to escape into. Emma Donoghue does an amazing job of painting Room in your mind. The picture at the bottom page is from Emma's website. It is nothing like I imagined, but if you haven't read it yet; it might be cool to know what it looks like.

The book isn't an action, or a romance, or a comedy. It's raw. The escape was a call part, but after that there isn't any heart stopping moments. It's more or less about their transformation from being captives into real humans and living and interacting with other people. It's really a good read and you'll definitely think about when you stop reading.

### *My favorite part:*

My heart fell when Ma's father walking into their room at the clinic and wouldn't look at Jack. It's really the first time in the book I remembered that Jack was Old Nick's son. Her father says he can't be in the same room as him and Ma yells at him. She tells him that Jack saved her and that if he walks out he'll never see her again. It shows how much she cares about Jack even though he holds such bad memories for her. It was one of those "awwwwww" moments.





National  
Candy  
Month

June 2012

## NATIONAL DAYS OF THE MONTH!

National  
Iced Tea  
Month

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

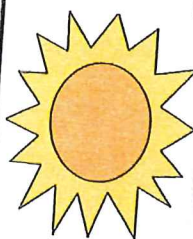
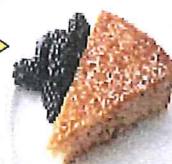
Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

National...

1 Hazelnut  
Cake2 Rocky  
Road

3 Donut



4

5 Ginger-  
bread6 Applesauce  
Cake7 Chocolate  
Ice Cream8 Strawberry  
Rhubarb Pie

9

10

11 German  
Chocolate  
Cake12 Peanut  
Butter  
Cookie13 Kitchen  
Klutzies of  
America14 Strawberry  
Shortcake

15

16 Fudge

17 Apple  
Strudel

18

Last day  
of school !

19

20

21 Peaches &  
Cream

22

Chocolate  
Eclair

23

Pecan Sandies



24 Pralines

25 Strawberry  
Parfait26 Chocolate  
Pudding

27

..day of the month !

28

29

30



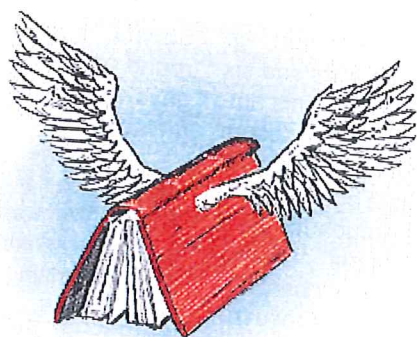
## CONGRATULATIONS

all the performers who have taken the stage this year, from the boys of Mr. Manasquan to the cast and crew of *Urinetown*; from the Improv for Ron performers to the band and chorus... you've been the "Voices from the High School" all year!

We'll see you this summer at...  
**MR. HARVEY & MR. MAWN'S**  
**8th Annual**

## Acting Camp

July 9 - July 13



## Writing Camp

July 16 - July 20

Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Open to Children 10 - 17 Years Old  
All Towns Welcome

**FOR REGISTRATION, OR MORE INFORMATION**  
EMAIL: [jmawn@manasquanboe.org](mailto:jmawn@manasquanboe.org)  
[rlwharvey@verizon.net](mailto:rlwharvey@verizon.net)

Sponsored by Manasquan Recreation





# BLUE & GRAY SPORTS

## Solid Season for Softball

The girls' varsity softball team recently finished a solid regular season. Starting in March, the girls finished impressively with 10 wins and 5 losses- two of which were losses against Shore Conference Champion Wall.

The end of the regular schedule brought the girls into the most exciting part of their season: tournament play. After

By Libby Manovill

"Hanging out with all the girls is great: we're all really good friends and we always have fun."

Even though a loss against Toms River East took the team out of the Shore Conference finals, the girls are still advancing in States. A team effort win against North Burlington on May 29 in the semi-finals, with 19 team hits, pitted them against Lawrence on Friday June 1, vying for the state title. The girls are the number 3 seed in states.

The championship game was hard fought and memorable. Playing on their home field, the girls were ready, but could not take the prize. They fell by a score of 3-2, ending their season with a record of 15-7 and crushing their championship dreams.

The team includes seniors Meredith Bryant and Keara Homan. Rising seniors will be Allyson Latourette, Brier Hawkins, Quinn Vaticano, and Katelyn Anderson. Sophomores are Katie Barnes, Kate Marotta, Leah Florentine, and Molly Bryant. Rounding out the team are the four freshman, Quinn Saito, Megan Gilly, Aubrey Jones, and Olivia Galinis.



Falling in the Shore Conference tournament, the girls mounted a charge and nearly pulled off a state championship. Two of their most recent games were hard won, tied in the bottom of the ninth inning, winning both. In one of those games- the quarter finals for states against Nottingham- senior Meredith Bryant hit a single to centerfield, and the runner on second scored, allowing the Squan girls to win by one.

For Meredith Bryant, the best part of her senior softball season was "Just how our team is so close and how we've gotten along, and they've helped me to reach my goal of 100 career hits."

Junior Brier Hawkins agrees.



## Baseball

continued from page 34

Squan shut out Matawan 4-0. Because of the win against Matawan, the Warriors were just two game wins from the State Sectional title. "All the tough games we have played leading up to this game definitely prepared us," said senior shortstop Andrew. The Warriors pulled together for their final games. Squan's next game ended in a loss against

Monmouth Regional.

The senior boys showed their stuff for the last time. Tim Barry, Greg Appleman, Josh Armando, Steve Lange and Stewart all played excellent games to finish their high school baseball careers.

All though the baseball season ended on a sour note, The Squan Boys still had some major successes.







# BLUE & GRAY SPORTS

## Boys Tennis Wins Big this Season; Earns Share of C-Central Division Title

By: Amy Pretz

The MHS Boys Tennis team had a great season this year ending with a record of 13 wins and 3 losses. The MHS team worked hard and reaped the rewards with a co-championship in the C-Central Division with Wall.



Above right: Senior Maclane Smoke gets ready to hit a backhand; Above left: Smoke and Andre Barbero, the team's top two players.



Tournament this year, and proved it with his play. In the state tournament, he won three singles matches before losing a close match in the round of 16, which Coach Rav said was a good performance.

They had an impressive run in the Shore Conference Tournament as well.

Two standout players this year were Maclane Smoke and Andre Barbero, who played first and second singles respectively. They led the team all season. Smoke returned as one of the top singles player in the Shore Conference

Mr. Ravaoili was very happy with the season: "It was a successful season especially because we worked hard for our accomplishments and the kids put in a lot of effort to reach those accomplishments," he told The Blue & Gray. Good job boys and good luck next year!

## Track

continued from previous page

the Meet of Champions for the pole vault event as well, where he hopes to clear a 12-6ft jump.

The final standout track athlete is junior Grace Neilsen. Fully recovered from an injury that ended her amazing Cross Country season early, Grace is back and better than ever. Grace also competed at the CJ Group III meet along with Read and Pappas. However, Grace did what she does best, she ran. Grace competed in the 800 hurdles and went into the meet seeded the 11th fastest.

However, Neilson was surprisingly placed into the second heat with runner 12-24 according to The Coast Star. Although this was discouraging, it just pushed Grace harder to do her best. Grace ran her personal-best of 2:19.43 earning her 3rd place and a trip to the State Meet of Champions alongside Pappas and Read. The Warriors are bringing the best of the best and will definitely finish out the season strong. Michaela Read finished her last track season strong as she placed 2nd in the high jump last Saturday June 2nd with a jump of 5-6. Great job Michaela and great season MHS Track!