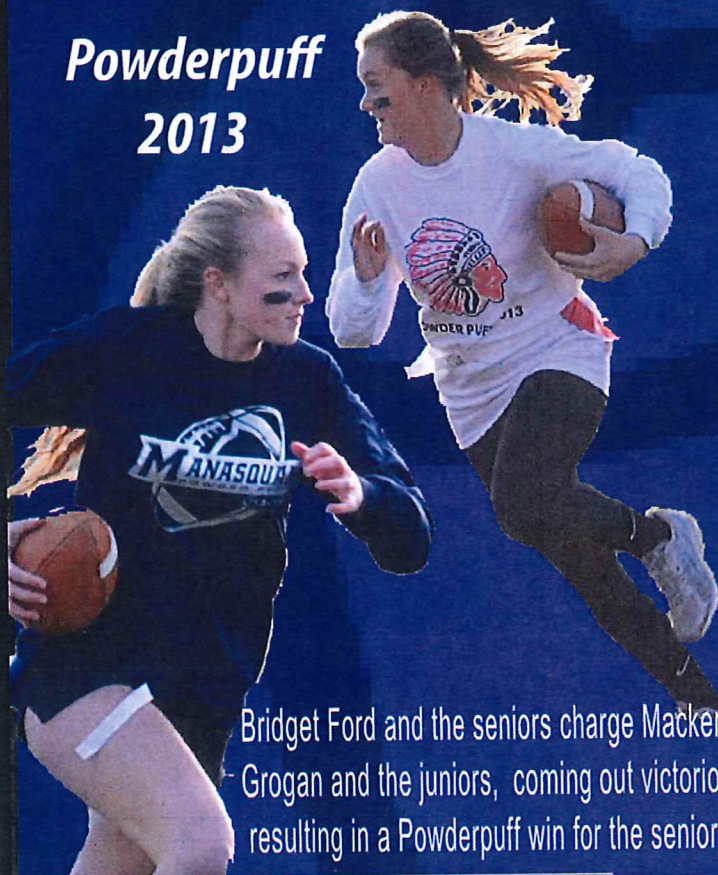


December 2013

Manasquan High School

The Blue & Gray

**Powderpuff
2013**



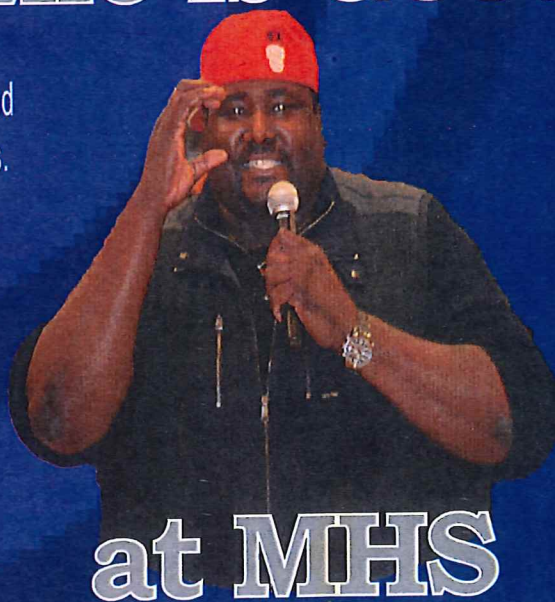
Win Against Wall,
Senior Sweep,
Vacation is
Coming...

Life is Good

Bridget Ford and the seniors charge Mackenzie Grogan and the juniors, coming out victorious and resulting in a Powderpuff win for the senior class.

Also in this Issue

- Life is Good Day
- Squan-A-Thon Preview
- Monthly Riddle
- Discipline Policy Changed
- Special Christmas Section!



at MHS

Then Mr. Hyland was awarded this year's Community Member of the Year.

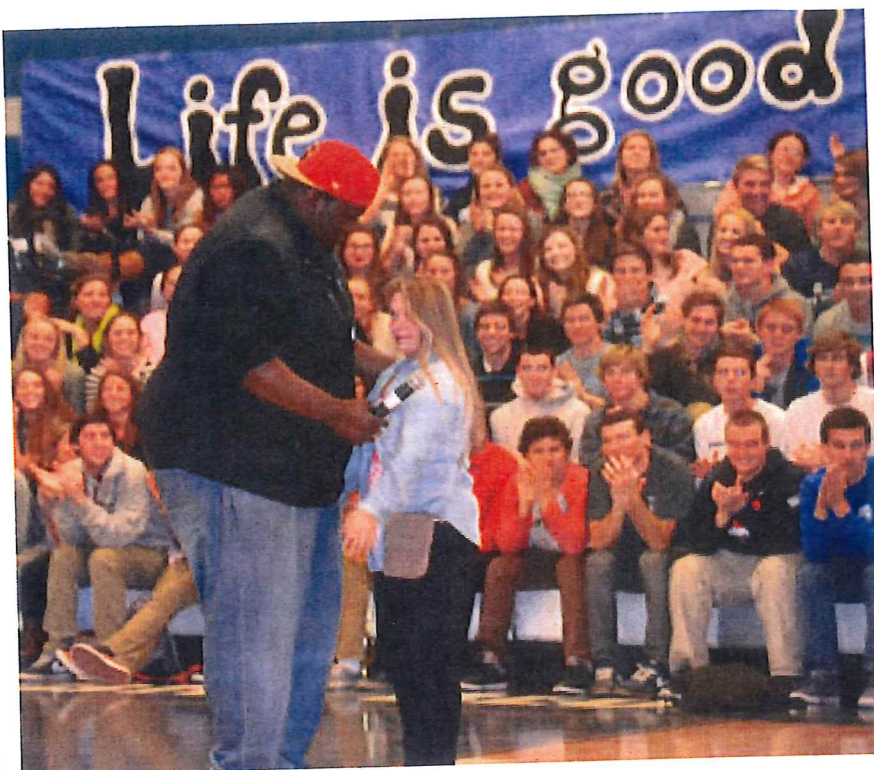
After this the winners of the Life is Good Day contest were announced. The winners were Allison Peters and Tessa O'Boyle with their "Tree of Life" entry. Congratulations girls! Other winners of the day were Mary Dolan, Tomas Garcia, Liz Clark, Brittney Buechele, and Dan Torres. Each winner received valuable prizes, such as gift certificates, sunglasses or clothing.

The talent at MHS is truly amazing. Senior Mary Beth Bielicki stated, "It was exciting to see all of the visual art contest entries because it showed how life is good for so many reasons." What she says is true, and it shows again how Manasquan is so special; we have so many unique students and we celebrate differences and how each person has their own reasons why their life is good.

English teacher Mr. Mawn liked the visual art contest also. He said he loved "Dan Torres' sketch of his baby sister, and his explanation that *she* is what makes his life good."

Finally after all winners claimed their prizes, Quinton Aaron joined in on some fun activities with the students. First there was a contest where Quinton and the students had to try to eat a cookie with no hands, after it was placed on their forehead. Then there was a contest where students had to link hands and race left side against right side to send a hula-hoop all the way from the first student to Quinton without breaking the chain. Last, there was a dance-off which was judged by Quinton, and won by Taylor Morris. That girl sure can dance!

All in all, the activities were fun, amusing, and



Freshman Shannon Bauer moves in for a hug from Quinton

entertaining, while also communicating the club's positive vibes and important message. Mrs. Onorato and Miss Apostolou did a great job of planning and executing the assembly, with the help of the Life is Good Club committee.

In a school like Manasquan, anything is possible; stars can be made, athletes discovered, and unlucky days can be changed into reminders of why life is beautiful and something to cherish. Here at MHS life is, always has been, and always will be good, and nothing and no one can take that away from the students and staff.

Below: Quinton joins hands with students participating in the hula hoop passing game. Below right: The door to Room 108, decorated as part of the Life is Good festivities.



Squan-A-Thon; A fun way to Give

By: C.J. Hobbie

Being diagnosed with Pediatric Cancer is a terrible tragedy that all should take very seriously. Can you imagine if your little brother or sister, cousin or neighbor, were suddenly diagnosed with cancer? Many families in our country are affected by this unfortunate ailment.

Many students in Manasquan High School will take their part in a special event to help local families affected by pediatric cancer. Often these families are overwhelmed, and have other pressing needs that make their lives even more challenging. On March 21, 2014, here at MHS, students and faculty will host the fifth annual Squan-A-Thon.

The purpose of Squan-A-Thon is to bring hope and provide help to local families affected by pediatric cancer. The students who participate aim to raise money, which in turn provides financial assistance to families who have many other concerns during the crisis.

According to faculty advisors Mrs. McKenzie and Mr. Battaglia, they were inspired by an event known as THON which is held each year at Penn State and is the largest student run philanthropy (an organization supported by funds for humanitarian purposes) in the world. "I originally took part in fund raising for THON," Mr. Battaglia, A Penn State graduate, stated. "I just always thought that we could pull something off similar at MHS."

Squan-A-Thon consists of activities such as dancing, eating, and listening to many forms of entertainment for 12 hours, beginning on Friday night and not ending until Saturday morning. While the money



2011 Squan-A-Thon: participants dancing to their hearts' content.

raised goes to the families in need, Mr. Battaglia noted that the students who participate in the event also gain something from the experience.

"We also hope to inspire a sense of altruism in our student body for many-not all-but many of our students that are fortunate that they have good health," he said.

So far, according to Mrs. McKenzie, who leads Squan-a-Thon along with Mr. Battaglia, students are working hard to accomplish their goal of making this year's Squan-A-Thon a success. "We're working very hard," Mrs. McKenzie said. "We have 27 committee members working together, putting together the entertainment, the food, inflatables and games. We're also trying to get the word out."

These faculty mem-

bers are accomplishing their goal of getting the word out, at least to the student body. As of right now, the advisers tell us that there are over 400 students participating in the events that take place during Squan-A-Thon.

Despite this event being

filled with many elements that make up a party, organizing the event is serious business and it takes time and effort to get it going. It is expected that getting the food, organizing the entertainment, and getting as much money as possible is a challenge to every person involved in this event. However, that doesn't mean that the people who organize this event dislike doing their job; it's actually the opposite. Mrs. McKenzie and Mr. Battaglia both enjoy organizing the event; to them, the feeling of giving to the families that are less fortunate make up for the time spent on this event.

Senior Christina DiUBaldi, who is in charge of the food committee, also feels the same way. She started working with the food committee after being chosen for the position last year in May.

She volunteered to work for Squan-A-Thon and, after an interview with Mr. Battaglia, was chosen to manage the food. "It's all for a great cause," She stated. "It's really nice to be able to help the kids while still making the night fun."

Many people are excited to know what special events will be a part of this year's Squan-a-Thon. Will there be jousting again? Another mechanical bull? Student bands? Hypnotism? Unfortunately the exact details are being kept secret.

"In the past, we've had different inflatable obstacle courses, a Rave Room, karaoke, face painting, tug of war, and other things," Mr. Battaglia noted. "As for this year... you'll have to stay tuned; that stays under lock and key until we are ready to reveal it."

Are you one of the students that haven't signed up for the event? Don't waste any more time; the deadline for participants to give their donations is December 20th, 2014. If you haven't signed up for the event and you were thinking of doing something that was both fun and productive; become a part of Squan-A-Thon. Don't think twice, don't hesitate; just do it; it is for a good cause.

Pictured at Squan-a-Thon, 2012, are committee members and along with faculty advisors Mr. Battaglia (far left) and Mrs. McKenzie (third from right).



Merry Christmas! Feliz Navidad! Frohe Weihnachten!

Christmas Customs and Traditions Around the World

By: Vanessa McCarthy

All around the world people are getting ready for Christmas time; a time to visit family, sing Christmas carols, and enjoy the holidays with traditions passed on from generations. Families in the U.S have traditions, such as baking cookies or going Christmas caroling, however many other countries have different customs that are celebrated during the best time of the year. Here are some places that celebrate different holiday traditions to get into the holiday spirit.

They hope to exchange presents with these men who came from the Orient and are tired from their journey. The children leave out food for the Kings, water for their



camels and a pair of shoes outside the door or window, so that when the Kings pass by they will fill them with gifts.

Sweden



On December 13, young Swedish girls, dressed in long white night gowns and wearing a crown of candles like Saint Lucia, go around their houses and give cakes to

their families. Processions of Saint Lucia are also organized; the first one took place in 1927.

Germany

Many of the cities in Germany celebrate the holiday season with a traditional Christmas market.

The fairs, which date back to the 15th century, originally provided food and practical supplies for the cold winter season, but later



the markets became a beloved holiday tradition and a great way to get into the Christmas spirit. These markets also are a great way for people to find the perfect Christmas presents.

Spain

On January 6, Spanish children stand at the door or window of their house, anxiously waiting for the three wise men to appear and exchange gifts.

They hope to exchange presents with these men who came from the Orient and are tired from their journey. The children leave out food for the Kings, water for their

Australia

In Australia, December 25 falls during summer vacation, so a lot of the country's Christmas festivities take place outdoors. Some Australians celebrate their Christmas dinner during



Melbourne, Australia

midday on a local beach; Bondi Beach in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs attracts thousands of people

on Christmas Day. In addition, there is Carols by Candlelight, an event held each year on Christmas Eve, where tens of thousands of people gather in the city of Melbourne to sing their favorite Christmas songs.

Italy

Italians celebrate Christmas with caroling and baking, specifically a bread dessert called panettone.

On Christmas Day, Italians invite their family and friends for a large lunch that usually goes on all day. Many families serve traditional

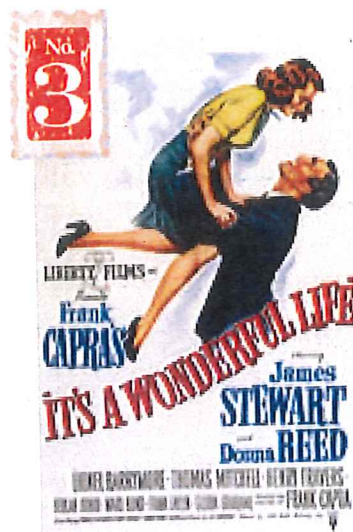


dishes like pasta in brodo (pasta in broth), roasts and sweet bread desserts like panettone. Panettone is a bread typically made with raisins, and similar to Irish soda bread.

Top 12 Christmas Movies



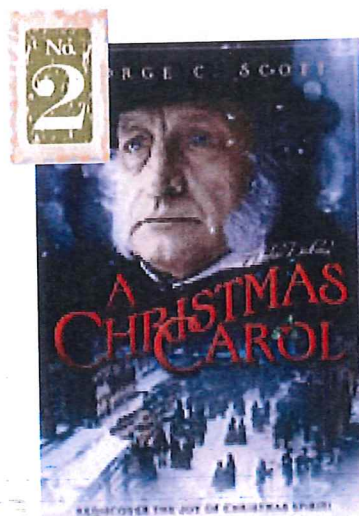
Young Kevin McCallister's family accidentally leaves him behind during their Christmas vacation, and it is up to him to defend his home against a pair of hooligan crooks. While we all have envisioned at one point what it would be like to be alone, *Home Alone* reaffirms that the only way to celebrate Christmas is with your family.



George Bailey serves to show that everyone is important. Frank Capra's classic Christmas movie tells the tale of a man on the verge of losing it all and taking his own life, until his guardian angel shows him how we are all connected, that our kind deeds make a big impact, and no matter what, it's your family and friends that make you rich.



When we are little we believe that the Santa Claus at the local mall is real. But in *Miracle on 34th Street*, it is Macy's Santa who thinks he's the real thing. What comes next is a court case to prove whether he is the genuine article and along the way brings a little Christmas spirit to grownups and kids alike.



Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* is a timeless masterpiece and whether the story is being brought to life by classically trained actors, the Muppets or Mickey Mouse, each version resonates deeply during. The best though has to be 1984 version starring George C. Scott as he definitive version of Ebenezer Scrooge.



Clark Griswold just wants to have the perfect family, fun-filled, old-fashioned Christmas. By the time all of the in-laws and second cousins show up, Clark has 25,000 lights stapled to the house and this comedy is in full swing.



Nothing beats *A Christmas Story*. This hilarious movie best sums up what Christmas means to kids, that we waited all year and had to deal with family, friends, bullies and teachers all the while wishing for perfect present from Santa under the tree on Christmas morning.

Rolling Stone

Square



For being written off as devil's music in its youth, rock and roll sure has contributed to the holiday season. Most fans assume that all Christmas music is terrible. They're mostly right, but every once in a while a Christmas miracle happens — a groundbreaking song gets produced. Here's a countdown of the best and most memorable rock n' roll songs that give the holidays a bit more spunk.

Written By: Megan Chelednik

10. John Lennon "Happy Xmas" 1971

This 1971 tune is as much an anti-Vietnam War song than a Christmas song. John Lennon and Yoko Ono took out billboards across America during that holiday season saying, "WAR IS OVER! If you want it!" In the past 40 years it's become a classic, even if the original message sometimes gets lost.

9. Ramones "Merry Christmas" 1987

A punk-rock take, complete with an opening riff that sounds more like the Sex Pistols than their buzz-saw approach they seem to favor. It's Christmas in Queens and poor Joey Ramone is just trying to find himself a little peace on earth. He can't find Santa, can't find Rudolph, can't find Blitzen and his girl can't find it in her heart to set aside their differences, despite his pleas of "Christmas ain't the time for breakin' each other's hearts."

8. Kinks "Father Christmas" 1977

The song begins sweet and seasonal - with sleigh bells and cheering. Then, the slashing power chords kick in, it's clear that this will be a Christmas record like no other. The song isn't so cheery, but the lead singer's heart is in the right place when encouraging listeners to think about the poor kids who have nothing during the holiday season.

7. The Beatles "Christmas Time Is Here Again" 1967

The Beatles treated their fans to a special gift at Christmas with a record that was unavailable elsewhere. This six minute dose of holiday cheer was recorded as a fan-club record but wasn't officially

released until 1995. Chances are you'll be humming it for days.

6. Chuck Berry "Run Run Rudolph" 1958

Although he receives no credit for the lyrics, Chuck Berry does his best to make this holiday classic sound unheard.

With his super cool guitar riff, I'm pretty sure it could pass as a Christmas Carol; even Grandma will give it a listen.

5. Tom Petty "Christmas All Over Again" 1992

Tom Petty and The Heartbreakers salute the season with humorous lyrics and a cheerful melody. He sighs his way through a line about long-distance relatives, something fans can relate to during the holidays, "Yeah, I kinda missed 'em. But I just don't want to kiss him."

4. Paul McCartney "Wonderful Christmastime" 1979

There's no middle ground here, you either love it or hate it. It's Paul and Linda being all lovey-dovey, repeating the same lyric over and over. If you're considering making a move under the mistle-toe this year, you can't go wrong if this song is playing.

3. Beach Boys "Little Saint Nick" 1964

The Beach Boys' original holiday song "Little Saint Nick" still managed to be a hit. The track is basically "Little Deuce Coupe" with different lyrics, but "Little Saint Nick" actually has managed to have a longer life span than the original.

2. Springsteen "Santa Claus is Comin' To Town" 1975

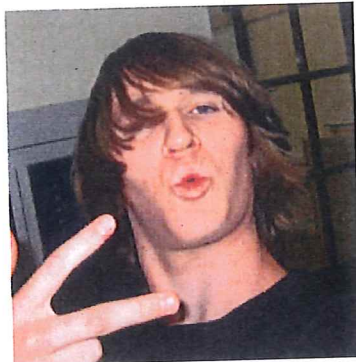
Recorded at a Long Island gig in December 1975, Bruce Springsteen released the song as the B-Side to "My Hometown" which became a holiday staple. Springsteen will usually break out the song if he's doing a show around Christmas, but whether it's played in a department store or in a bar, it's always a crowd pleaser.

1. Elvis Presley "Blue Christmas" 1957

This is Elvis doing Christmas his way, setting the scene with a stutter of "I'll ha-ha-have a Blue Christmas without you." There's nothing especially merry about this particular Christmas as a broken-hearted Elvis sulks about the one that got away, but when it's played you know for sure it's a Christmas classic (not to mention he is the king of Rock n Roll.)

What are your plans for Christmas?

Tom:
"I'm going to my couch."



Tom Carty
Senior

Tomas:
"I plan on staying home."

Roger:
"I'm going to hang out
with my family, eat some
ham, and watch some
Christmas movies."



Tomas Garcia
Senior

Roger Lokker
Junior

Lauren and Ben:
"I plan on staying
home."

Mike:
"I'm going to Pennsyl-
vania with my relatives."

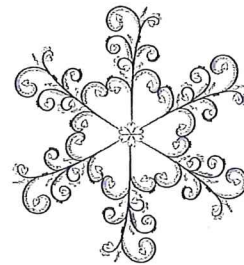


Mike Ossino **Lauren Bounassi** **Ben Wick**
Senior Senior Senior

What do you want for Christmas?

**Tom [Quoting 'A Christmas
Story']:**

"I want 'an official red ryder,
carbine action, two-hundred
shot range, model air rifle.'"



Tomas and Roger both
want a variety of guitar
petals this year.



Mike:
"I want Blaine Birche's
hair."

Lauren:
"New red Doc Mar-
tins."

Ben:
"Blaine Birche's life!"

Santa or no Santa?

By: Megan McLean

Over time there have been many movies and written works debating the existence of Santa Clause. One of the most historical and widely known is a letter to the editor by a young girl named Virginia. In the September 21, 1897 issue of New York's Sun there was a letter to the editor printed that was written by eight-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon. In this letter Virginia asked Mr. Francis Pharcellus Church if there in fact was a Santa Claus. This letter to the editor, and his brilliant response made history and has become one of the most reprinted newspaper editorials, appearing in all media outlets such as: books, movies, other editorials, and on posters and stamps, all in a plethora of different languages. In this letter Francis assures the young girl, "Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus".

"DEAR EDITOR: I am 8 years old.

"Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.

"Papa says, 'If you see it in THE SUN it's so.'

"Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?"

"VIRGINIA O'HANLON.

"115 WEST NINETY-FIFTH STREET."

VIRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAS. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, VIRGINIA, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

9. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer
had a very shiny nose.
And if you ever saw him,
_____.

10. Good King Wenceslas

Good King Wenceslas looked out
On the feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about,
_____.

11. Ding Dong! Merrily on High

Ding dong! Merrily on high,
In heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! Verily the sky
_____.

12. The Christmas Song

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire,
Jack Frost nipping on your nose,
Yuletide carols being sung by a choir,
_____.

13. I'll be Home for Christmas

I'll be home for Christmas;
You can count on me.
Please have snow and mistletoe
_____.

14. Jingle Bell Rock

Jingle bell, jingle bell, jingle bell rock
Jingle bells swing and jingle bells ring
Snowing and blowing up bushels of fun
_____.

15. Here Comes Santa Claus

Here comes Santa Claus!
Here comes Santa Claus!
Right down Santa Claus Lane!
Vixen and Blitzen and all his reindeer
_____.

16. White Christmas

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
Just like the ones I used to know
Where the treetops glisten,
and children listen
_____.

17. Jolly Old Saint Nicholas

Jolly old Saint Nicholas,
Lean your ear this way!
Don't you tell a single soul
What I'm going to say;
Christmas Eve is coming soon;
Now, you dear old man,
Whisper what you'll bring to me;
_____.

18. Rocking Around the Christmas Tree

Rocking around the Christmas tree
At the Christmas party hop
Mistletoe hung where you can see
_____.

19. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

God rest ye merry, gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
Remember, Christ, our Savior
_____.

20. The Twelve Days of Christmas

On the twelfth day of Christmas,
my true love sent to me
_____.





Nelson Mandela

1918 - 2013

This December the world came together to mourn the loss of one of the greatest champions for human justice and equality. Born July 18, 1918, Nelson Mandela was the first black president of South Africa. Before he rose to that office however, Mandela was an anti-apartheid hero and an advocate for equal rights and freedoms in his home country. In the early 1960s, he was declared an enemy of the government, and his actions as a protester led to him being targeted. He was eventually arrested and spent almost thirty years in prison, before finally being released in 1990. He went on to negotiate the end of apartheid rule, and become president of South Africa. After his retirement, he continued to help improve conditions across the world. Mandela's passing marks the loss of one of the last great liberators of the twentieth century; his death is best summarized by poet Maya Angelou, who said that "Our planet has lost a friend." - Dara McGuinness

Sandy: One Year Later

continued from previous page

right off Manasquan Inlet, her house took a heavy hit. "We got four and a half feet of water," recalled O'Boyle. "Our first floor was gutted, it was really gross, we had nothing left down there. It was exciting to get back in, it took a whole year to rebuild, but I'm just happy to have my house back."

Recovery took a long time for many, but some people are not even back in their homes yet.

The construction on many homes has been delayed due to lack of funds from the government to rebuild. Many families, like sophomore Julia Valgenti's, were delayed procuring funds by the recent government shutdown. "Sandy caused our house to slide off the foundation, and we needed grants to rebuild. Yeah things did get tied up with the shutdown," said Valgenti "but at least we are getting back in."

In a way families like the Valgenti and O'Boyles are lucky in that they are going to be able to get back in their homes; many homes had to be demolished. Senior Marianne Borke never got to go back to their house after they

were told to evacuate. "Our entire downstairs was destroyed, there was a lot of old family stuff gone that we couldn't get back," commented Marianne. After her home was condemned, she and her family moved in a hotel in Spring Lake paid for by FEMA. "We were in a hotel for three months, back and forth in Spring Lake. It was a nightmare you know? Thinking about the little things you never had to think about before, like food, clothes or a roof over your head. We even spent Christmas in a hotel." Marianne and her family had to spend the rest of the year in Maine, but moved back in time for Marianne to start her final year

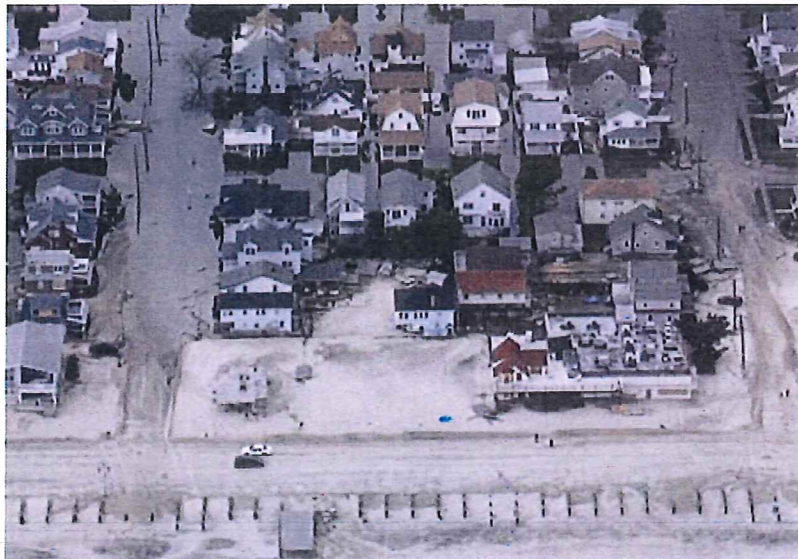
here at Manasquan.

Students were not the only ones to be relocated by the storm. Mr. Waldeyer was forced to sell his house in Manasquan and move his family in with his mother for three months, all while continuing to teach at the school. "We had four hours to put all of our stuff in to storage, for the next few months we were living out of boxes, it was rough," recalled Mr. Waldeyer. "The concentration it takes every day to teach, it was hard with everything going on outside of school and difficult to focus, the stress-level was high last year." The new house the Waldeyer's bought required extensive renovation; "From

Father's Day to Labor Day it was under construction, and we had to camp out in an RV," said Mr. Waldeyer. Looking back Mr. Waldeyer remembers how difficult the year was, but he is thankful for the aid he received, "It was a long year, but we were lucky, the school and administration helping out made a real difference."

Whoever you ask, they will surely talk about the relentless damage that Sandy afflicted, but they will no doubt express their thanks to everyone who lent a hand. This year when, New Jersey residents sit down for the holidays, they will all take a moment to appreciate the things they never noticed before Sandy, whether it be the security of having a roof over your head, electricity, or even just the food

Before and After: Aerial view of Ocean Avenue between 19th and 18th Avenues in Belmar



fashion **AROUND** *the* **WORLD**

BY: MOLLY BRYANT

We have observed the styles of MHS fashionistas in past issues. This time, we can check out fashion around the world! Girls of MHS sport dresses, skirts, pants, and fun accessories. However, what are girls in other countries wearing? Although they also wear skirts, dresses, and accessories, how are the styles different and how are they worn in other places of the world?

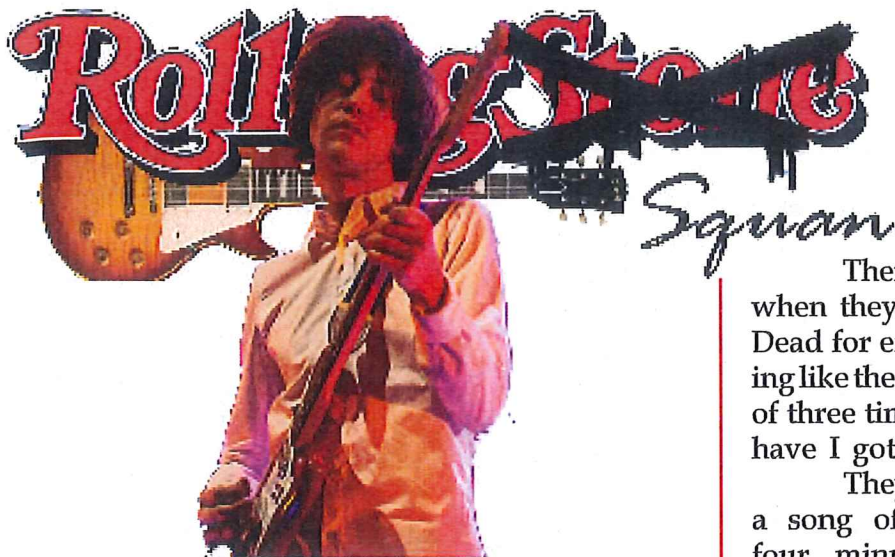
Below, different street-styles are pictured from fashionable cities around the world. From New York City to London, similar pieces are worn in unique fashions. To begin, girls from London are sporting bright colors and tights. While one girl wears various shades of orange, with a dress, tights, and blazer, the other wears printed shorts, tights, a cropped lace shirt, and green blazer over top. In

South Africa, the streets are filled with loud and bright colors, incorporated in almost every piece. Both girls sport vivid greens and blues, and one tops off the outfit with a head wrap and blue sunglasses. Both carry large and boxy leather bags. Seen in Amsterdam are fur coats and tights or leggings. One girl wears a warm knit hat while the other uses a colorful scarf to keep warm. Both wear a version of a combat boot. Similar to South African colors, Italy's streets are also full of bright colors. Seen below are girls sporting various shades of blues and purples, with an occasional orange or yellow. The three girls wear sunglasses and van-like shoes to finish off their looks. The looks of Los Angeles are anything from leather overalls layered with a black and white crop top,

to black pants with a long jacket, and scarf. Spain and Paris resemble each other's looks with printed pieces. The dress seen in Paris has pastel colors; while Spain's are more traditional and neutral. Last but not least, New York City holds some of the most talked-about fashion in the world. One girl below wears a classic-cut baby doll dress with a vibrant print, paired with simple white heels. The other sports a printed romper with a turquoise collar necklace and carries a brown leather bag.

Styles around the world can be both compared and contrasted, as each one takes on its own personal flare. While they share many of the same pieces we do, even at MHS, it is interesting to see how other girls take those pieces and make the outfit their own.





ARTICLE BY:
MEGAN CHELEDNIK
December 19th 2013

If you spent your past Friday night indoors watching old Christmas re-runs, you were surely missing out. MGMT played a handful of hit singles which stretched over a period of two and a half hours at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn.

The arena fit a whopping number of 23,000 people, who were anticipating to hear mind altering guitar riffs by the very talented Andrew VanWyngarden and synthesizing notes by keyboardist Ben Goldwasser. The band performed songs from all their albums, *Oracular Spectacular*, *Congratulations*, and their newest psychedelic creation, *Alien Days*, which was released this September.

Andrew, who is also the lead singer, greeted the audience shyly, "Hello giant room filled with people, we are MGMT." Then he nods at Ben, and they begin their opening song, which was "Flash Delirium."

There are no words to describe this band when they perform live - consider The Grateful Dead for example, each performance seems nothing like the other. I've seen this band perform a total of three times, all in different states, and not once have I gotten bored with their musical abilities.

They extended "Siberian Breaks," a song off their second album, by an extra four minutes, which was filled with intertwined melodies from both Andrew's guitar and band mate James Richardson's bass.

Later in the night they went on from playing their most common hits, such as "Time to Pretend," "Electric Feel," and "Kids" to focusing on songs to promote their newest album. They brought out Faine Jade himself to play guitar and sing along on stage to cover the band's personal version of the 1968 classic, "Introspection." Bright colors rippled and flashed across the video screen overhead following the band's every move, and if you weren't lost in the music itself, you were gone just looking at the projector and lights.

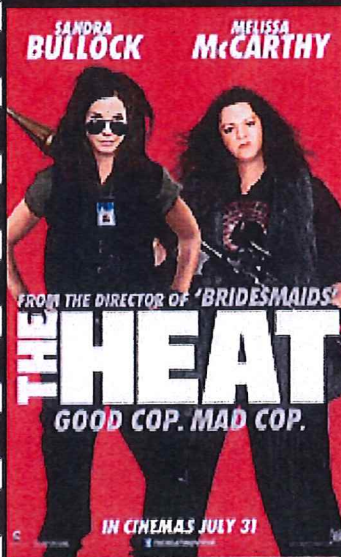
The band enjoyed an encore longer than usual, leaving the audience with a soft-wave-your-lighter-in-the-air song called "Congratulations." All I can advise to you is next time MGMT is on tour, be sure to buy a ticket no matter what the cost.



Women In Movies

2013 was a great year for movies, but what about women's portrayal in movies?

By: Dara McGuiness



As 2013 wraps up, so does the releases of movies that want to be considered for award season and it's generally around this time that people remember all of the fun they had at the theaters this year. The comedies we laughed at, the action packed flicks that were filled with suspense, the dramatic films that move us to tears, the light hearted pictures that are as cheesy as our popcorn. But there was something conspicuously missing in all of the movies I saw this year; I had to ask myself, where are all the women?

If you were to walk into any random movie theater in the US, you would have a 90% chance of watching a movie that centers on a man or a group of men. The majority of movies made this year were about dudes in capes, dudes in cars, dudes doing magic tricks, dudes being funny, dudes being dramatic, dudes blowing stuff up, dudes getting killed, and dudes saving other dudes.

So I have a new question, why are there so few movies with women?

When Hollywood makes a movie they make one they think people will go see. Why do you think people go to see movies based on board games or that there is a constant stream of remakes and sequels? It's because we are comfortable and familiar with the story up on the screen. Hollywood thinks that men won't be able to identify with a woman, so they won't buy a ticket to go see a movie with a female protagonist.

But haven't movies like *The Hunger Games*, *The Heat* and *Gravity* proved this notion to be wrong?

Audiences didn't cringe away from the buddy cop movie *The Heat* that starred Melissa McCarthy and Sandra Bullock, it was one of the most successful comedies this year. Bullock went on to star in the in-space thriller *Gravity*, which grossed \$252,871,195. And when *The Hunger Games* sequel *Catching Fire* debuted this November it broke all kinds of box office records, and was the third most profitable movie this year.

Of all the characters that appeared on screen this year, only 30.8% were women. And the few women that were in the movies this year were not portrayed in the most flattering light. Roughly a third of female characters are shown in sexually revealing clothing or partially naked.

It's also a little demoralizing how many films this year failed to pass the Bechdel Test. What is that you ask? The Bechdel Test is a way to examine how important women are to the plot of a film. To pass the test a film must meet the following three criteria: (1) the film has to have at least two women in it, who (2) who talk to each other, about (3) something besides a man. Next time you see a movie try to see if it passes the test.

Women purchase half of all movie tickets in the US, so isn't it time that Hollywood starts making movies for them too? Movies that came out this year like *The Hunger Games*, *The Heat* and *Gravity* demonstrate that you can make money with movies starring women. Hopefully next year Hollywood will challenge the current status quo and showcase women in more active and less sexualized role.



BLUE & GRAY SPORTS



Surprises and Controversies Highlight the 2013 NFL Season

We're dishing out the latest standings, regular season awards, and playoff predictions

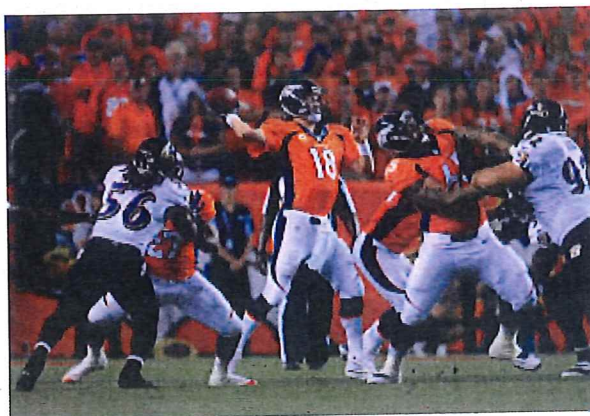
Heading into the final and most crucial weeks of the National Football League's regular season, this is the time when teams show what they are made of. This is when teams put the pieces to the puzzle together and soar into the playoffs. Unfortunately, this is also when teams collapse and falter, as they come inches away from making it to "the big dance". Who will rise to the occasion? Who will crumble underneath the pressure?

As compelling as the regular season is now, the 2013 NFL season as a whole has been just as intense and heart-throbbing; even unpredictable. I mean, who would have ever thought that the Kansas City Chiefs, who finished their 2012 campaign with a meager 2-14 record, would steamroll to a 9-0 start to the 2013 season (currently 11-3) and be contending for a divisional title? Everyone thought they would improve, especially with the addition of head coach Andy Reid, but nothing like this. On the other side of the spectrum, both the Houston Texans and the Atlanta Falcons have combined record of 6-22. These two franchises had extremely high Super Bowl aspirations this year, and yet they have fallen flat on their faces. In fact, the Texans, 2-12, have the worst record in the league. It's safe to say both the Falcons and Texans aren't going to be found anywhere

By: Andrew Sullivan

near East Rutherford this coming February.

Everybody knows that defense wins championships, right? Wrong. Offense has been at an all-time high this season. This season NFL games average a shade over five touchdowns per contest, which is



Quarterback Peyton Manning lighting up the Raven's "D" with seven TD passes in Week

the most since the AFL-NFL merger in 1970. Even more impressive was the fact that in Week 14 all 32 NFL teams combined for an incredible 104 touchdowns. Never before in league history have there been more than 100 combined touchdowns in a single week. The Denver Broncos and their electrifying offense have piled up a daunting 535 points so far, only 44 points off from the single-season record. Only one other

NFL team, the Chicago Bears, have reached plateau of 400 points scored this season.

As thrilling as the 2013 NFL season has been on the field, the NFL off of the field has been equally extraordinary. One storyline that has grabbed the attention of the entire NFL as well as the entire country and has scarred the Miami Dolphin's locker room was the Richie Incognito/Jonathan Martin bullying scandal. After being accused of threatening and using racial slurs against one of his fellow offensive linemen Martin, Incognito was suspended by the team and could potentially lose his job in the coming weeks when the Dolphins make a roster move to decide whether to keep or dismiss Incognito. As for Martin, amidst the alleged harassment, he left the team and was eventually moved to the non-football illness list, thus ending Martin's season and most likely his career with the Dolphins. You have to give kudos, though, to the Dolphins for putting the distractions of Incognito behind them and continuing to fight for a playoff spot this year.

One of the hottest topics not only during this season, but for the past couple seasons, is the number of injuries increasing in the sport of

continued on next page



AFC Playoff Predictions

American Football Conference			
AFC East	Win	Loss	Tie
New England Patriots	10	4	0
Miami Dolphins	8	6	0
New York Jets	6	8	0
Buffalo Bills	5	9	0
AFC North	Win	Loss	Tie
Cincinnati Bengals	9	5	0
Baltimore Ravens	8	6	0
Pittsburg Steelers	6	8	0
Cleveland Browns	4	10	0
AFC South	Win	Loss	Tie
(z)Indianapolis Colts	9	5	0
Tennessee Titans	5	9	0
Jacksonville Jaguars	4	10	0
Houston Texans	2	12	0
AFC West	Win	Loss	Tie
(x)Denver Broncos	11	3	0
(x)Kansas City Chiefs	11	3	0
San Diego Chargers	7	7	0
Oakland Raiders	4	10	0
x - Clinched Playoff Berth z - Clinched division			