



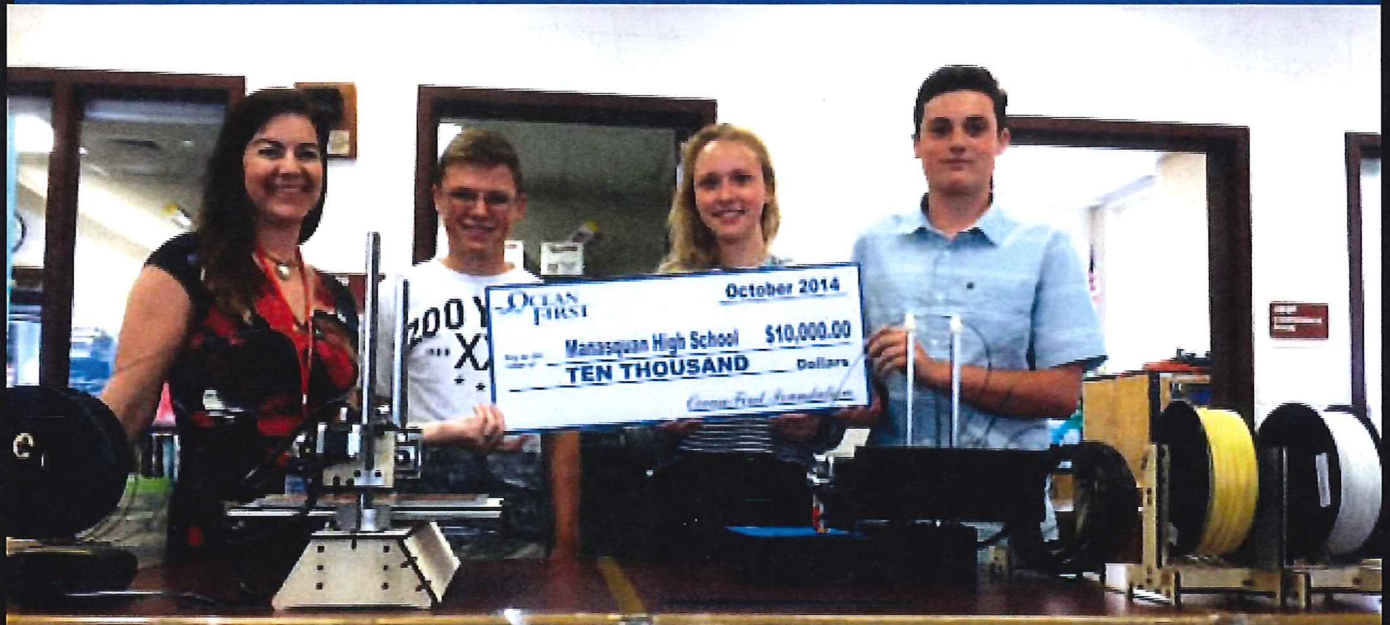
October 2014

Manasquan High School



The Blue & Gray

Mrs. Edwards Leads MHS into the Future



**FUTURE SITE OF THE:
MHS INNOVATION LAB**



in this Issue

New Superintendent, Dr. Kasyan, Takes Charge
Surfers are State Champs!

SAT Anxiety? Remember: You are Not a Test Score
Drama Club Set to Perform Comedy

High School Survival: Advice to Freshmen, Seniors and All
Movies, Music, Books, Restaurants - the Reviews are in!

Fall Sports Strive for Success in States

New MHS Innovation Lab Enjoys Grand Opening

By: Sofia Kim

The library is a vision of technology and collaboration. The buzz of 3-D printers mingle with the exchanges between Manasquan firefighters, students, teachers and parents. Mrs. Edwards, the master mind behind this sensational addition to our school, sweeps through the room, and engages with the crowd of over 50 students and community members.

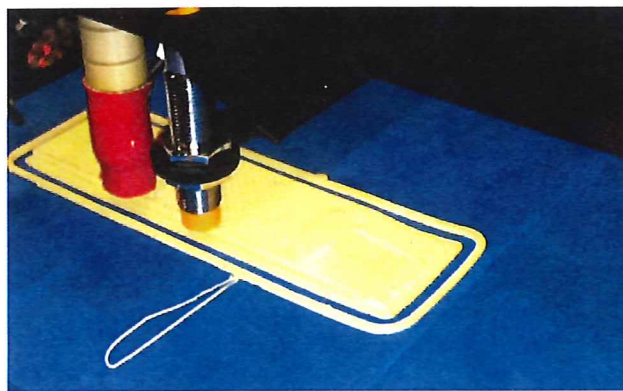
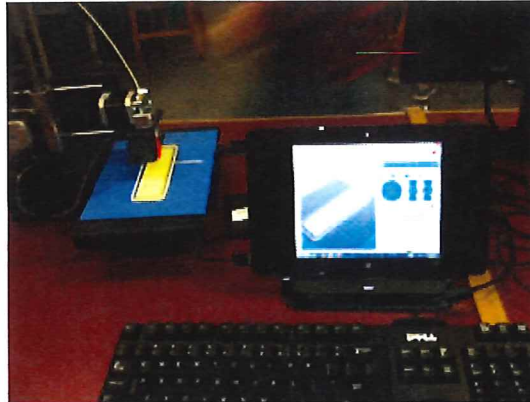
"I'm excited! Innovation Lab offers us a chance to explore emerging technologies. It gives us the ability to take new innovations around us and apply it to real world challenges," said MHS Media Center specialist, Mrs. Edwards.

The library is arranged to be conducive to exploration. Manasquan's own 3-D printer is live and running, student made 3-D printers are on display, and 3-D printed door wedges created by the Architecture and Construction class are being voted on. Jennifer Serbiss from Wall's Camp Evans has even come to share her insights into exploratory research through her display of various inventions displaying an "augmented reality."

The Innovation Lab was made possible thanks to Mrs. Edwards' ambitious endeavors in pursuing a ten thousand dollar grant. She planned on dedicating this money to fund the creation of the MHS innovation lab.

That dream became a reality when she heard the announcer share the winning school's admission statement. She recognized the first four words as her own and knew then that MHS had won. Soon after that she was featured on the popular radio station 94.3 to discuss the school's plans with the winnings. We have Mrs. Edwards to thank for introducing these out-of-this-world creations directly into the hands of students.

Some students have already even accomplished the remarkable



Pictured from top: a computer design, one of three 3D printers, and a door stop with Manasquan fire department's MH&L insignia

feat of building their own 3-D printers.

Senior Steven Coulter describes the process as "fairly simple" after successfully constructing one in his home after only 6 hours of work. You can find his "test robots" and "legs" on display in the library.

Other "Master Builders" such as junior Jack Kruger and freshman Connor Tuzeneu have their finished 3-D printer on display in the library.

Connor was hoping to "get involved as quickly as possible" in his first year of high school. Little did he expect to be a builder of a functioning 3-D printer. Working from a box of

parts, these students built it from scratch "I had to put the pieces together by myself with the guidelines online. I didn't know anything when I started. My knowledge wasn't expansive enough to know what each part was, so I mixed pieces until I found what each piece was for. I had never seen one in person before this".

The Architecture and Construction class has also been working for months for this unique collaboration with the Manasquan Firefighters of 27-1 with personalized door stoppers to use in compromised situations. Firefighter Paul Samuel, a 2nd Lieutenant of the Manasquan Fire Dept, describes this collaboration as a "wonderful project. There was lots of thought put into this. We found two exceptional doorstops. These winning door stops were designed by senior Heather Meyer and junior Damian Chalk."

Mrs. O'Connor summed up the night perfectly. "It was a very exciting night to showcase the new innovation lab. Lots of students showed a lot of interest in wanting to get involved. It opened their eyes to the opportunities they have at Manasquan," she said.

It was an exciting night not only to display the exciting innovations of today and the future but also to celebrate individual success, and to push the boundaries of each student's capabilities and opportunities. Mrs. Edwards has many exciting plans for the future, and she encourages all voices to be heard. "I need students to tell me what they want".

It is incredible what this innovation lab has started. The enthusiasm and pride in the MHS Media Center that night are exactly what we need to fuel amazing student feats, and encourage interest in today's spreading innovations.

New Art Class Grabs Attention!

Intro to Sculpture Elective offers new genre to students

Do you like art but are tired of drawing? Or maybe you're not an artist but want to try something new. If so check out the new Introduction to Sculpture class! Taught by Art teacher Mrs. Treney, Intro to Sculpture focuses on creating three dimensional art using a variety of methods and materials. There is currently one Intro to Sculpture class this fall during second block.

By: Julia Valgenti

As a hands on class, Intro to Sculpture is meant to provide a different form of art for students not interested in traditional art classes. The art department hopes that the class will provide a unique art experience that many students can enjoy.

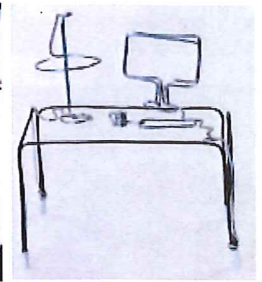
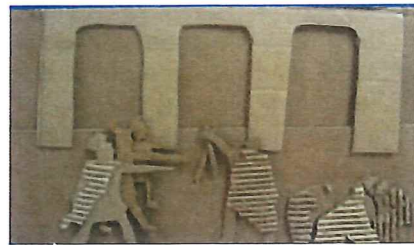
To all the students not taking Intro to Sculpture this year, "you really missed out" said Mrs. Treney. When asked how she would describe the class to students, she said it is a "fun, different and exciting class" that everyone will enjoy. Excited about the upcoming projects, Mrs. Treney says the class will be working with a wide variety of materials including clay, wire, cardboard, and found objects.

The class is currently working on a large installation project based off of the work of Claes Oldenburg and George Segal. Segal is an American artist best known for his life size sculptures of human figures displayed in site-specific locations. Some students, including junior Brittney Buechele and senior Nick Sergi have chosen to create figures using plaster craft to mimic Segal's style. The time consuming process includes applying plaster craft to the body and waiting for the plaster to dry and harden. Buechele and Sergi are using a variety of techniques to create hands, feet and even arms to assemble their figures.

Students also have the option to create a sculpture in the style of Claes Oldenburg, who enlarged everyday objects to a comical scale. In addition to soft fabric sculptures, Oldenburg also created colossal art projects for major cities. His most famous creations include "Lipstick on Caterpillar Tracks" at Yale University and "Clothespin", a steel sculpture in Philadelphia. Senior Spencer Kurten is currently working on a six foot spray bottle sculpture using chicken wire and plaster craft. Other projects created in this style include giant pens, pencils, a screwdriver and a paperclip.

Completed projects including cardboard and wire sculptures can be seen in the display case or the library. Expect to see many other sculptures displayed around the school. Mrs. Treney has many exciting projects planned and hopes to see more people take Intro to Sculpture in the future!

A variety of interesting student creations, ranging from 3D cardboard cutouts that imitate famous paintings to wire arrangements, have inspired the imaginations of students and excited art teacher Mrs. Treney.



MHS Students of the Month

Honored for their outstanding performance in and out of the classroom in the first month of school were (pictured from left to right): freshman Terry Mahon, sophomore Kaitlyn Calabro, junior Joey Waldeyer and senior Caroline Bilotti.

Work hard: maybe you'll be next!



Planning for Squan-a-Thon 2015 is in Full Swing!

By: Nicholle Beese

This March will mark the sixth year of Squan-a-Thon, a 12-hour dance-a-thon to raise money for pediatric cancer. Mr. Battaglia and Mrs. McKenzie created Squan-a-Thon six years ago with the inspiration of Penn State's THON.

Mrs. McKenzie believes that Squan-a-Thon will be the best night of the year for everyone who participates. "There is nothing better than getting involved and giving back to the community," she said.

The Squan-a-Thon team, consisting of six different committees, was chosen by Mr. Battaglia and Mrs. McKenzie in June of last year. They have been putting their heads together to come up with new and fun ideas to spread the word and get everyone involved.

According to the committee, this year's theme is Superheroes with the slogan "Be Someone's Hero". The Entertainment committee and the rest of the team truly believe this slogan captures the essence of Squan-a-Thon and portrays reasons to get involved.

The theme and slogan were unveiled to the whole school on Tuesday, October 7. Dressed up as superheroes, committee members went to every classroom to pass out dancer cards. In addition, the Squan-a-Thon video was shown during homeroom, promoting the event.

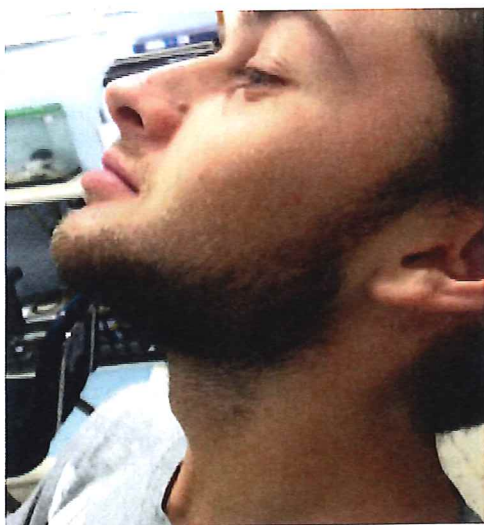
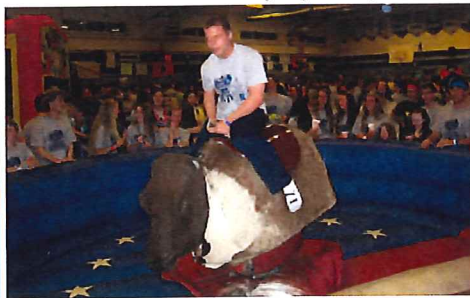
"This year is going to be the best yet! I truly love everything about this event and hope everyone takes advantage of getting involved" said Josie Millard of the Dancers committee.

Mr. Battaglia and Mrs. McKenzie took the Squan-a-Thon committee to the K. Hovnanian Children's Hospital at the Jersey Shore Medical Center on Wednesday, October 29. The committee got a tour of the hospital and spent some time making get well cards, which they then gave to some of the patients. It was an extremely heartwarming and eye-opening experience for the Squan-a-Thon team. "Being able to meet these strong, struggling patients makes me even more eager to get everyone involved with Squan-a-Thon and raise more money than ever before," said Amanda Barry of the Marketing committee. "Kids are suffering, even younger than we are. We can't sit around and wait for a miracle to happen. We need to do something. We need to find a cure," she expressed.

Over the past five years, Squan-a-Thon has raised over \$250,000 for pediatric cancer. Each year has been more successful than the last, with more and more students participating and more and more money raised for children with cancer in the community.

Squan-a-Thon 2015 will be held on Friday, March 20, here at Manasquan High School. All students are encouraged to partake in this event and make a difference! Be someone's hero!

Scenes from Squan-a-Thon's past: jousting, dancing and mechanical bull-riding have been popular activities for participants and guests. What will the fun include this year?



FUZZ BECUZ IS RAISING AWARENESS FOR ALZHEIMER'S

By: Logan Muir

From October 23rd to November 21st, students who donate at least five dollars for Alzheimer's are able to participate in a facial hair growing competition. Those who grow the most luscious beards will be awarded one of various different prizes.

For anyone not participating in the competition, donations are welcome.

For more details, see Craig Lapham, Eddie Franzoni, Shane Flanagan, or Brendan Kelly or follow @FBecuzz on Twitter.

Introducing Janitor Diane!

Meet MHS's newest member!

By: Keely Flood

It's no secret that there are some new faces around the halls here at MHS. And yes, we're all missing our happy-go-lucky Kathy, always greeting us as we pass her. But change is inevitable. So who else is going to clean up our messes with a big smile? Cue Diane: Sal's newest sidekick and the latest lady in the janitor's uniform.

In a recent interview, while she was on duty cleaning up the aftermath of the last fourth block lunch, Diane was all positive vibes. She has had numerous jobs before this, and has "been in schools for years." She loves being back in a high school atmosphere because she truly enjoyed her experience. When asked what her favorite/most memorable year in high school was, she replied, "I guess my junior year. I had awesome classes! I had a lot of literary classes that I loved."

With such a big role to take on, we can only wonder how she and our beloved Sal are getting along so far. "Oh, he's great to work with! Such a great guy," she quickly responded. As for the kids and the teachers, "Everyone's been very friendly, really welcoming". Diane said she can already see herself working here for a long time.

Outside of school, Diane likes to stay active. You often can find her doing yoga, riding her bike, or spending time with her two-year-old grandson, Declan. She herself has three kids of her own.

When asked what, in her opinion, is the best part about coming to work every morning, she responded that she loves "having a job where (she) can make a difference". Diane also added that she believes the most important aspect of her job is "helping out whenever needed and being supportive of the staff in general." Trust me, Diane. MHS as a whole would be a mess without you and Sal. You are definitely needed and making a difference!

As for obstacles, Diane wasn't worried about not being accepted or liked by the students and faculty. Her main concern? "Obtaining my boiler's license! But I was able to take a course and I obtained it before I started working. But everything else is easy!" she laughs. We're glad it's been nothing but smooth sailing for you!

By the end of my interview with Diane, I realized that the MHS population may be seeing a different face in the halls each day, but her uplifting cheery spirit is what really counts. "Mrs. Clean" is a sweet, kind-hearted woman with great intentions, and wants nothing but to help out this school and the people in it. Thus far she absolutely loves it here at MHS. Be nice to her! And, of course, welcome to the MHS family, Diane!



Mr. Snyder, the New Math Warrior

by George Taboada

Every so often, Manasquan manages to catch a truly amazing teacher to fill its classrooms with life. Mr. Snyder, the new Algebra I teacher, is one of those great catches.

Jason Snyder grew up in Hazlet, but now lives in Point Boro with his wife and two kids. He's avid about hockey. A Devil's fan, a family man, a dog person: he's perfect for MHS.

If you have him next semester, don't worry. Plenty of Manasquan students agree that Mr. Snyder is an A+ math teacher. Freshman Colin Mastro-rilli calls him, "a really good

guy."

Mr. Snyder exceeds the credentials needed to teach. He has FOUR degrees (two bachelors, a minor, and an associates) in everything from teaching to mathematics and mechanical engineering.

So why is a former engineer now teaching us Integrated Math? Back in 2007, a family friend persuaded him to quit construction and move into education. That friend, a former teacher in Brick, saw that Mr. Snyder's love of math could be used to teach in schools. Also, he naturally likes to help others. He can be found helping his students during his

lunch block with their homework.

He's gone through what we are going through: the ups and downs of education. He's had great teachers, like Mr. Ferrow, his favorite physics teacher in high school, who tried all sorts of ways to make his class exciting in order to instill passion in his students. And he's had the bad ones. His sophomore English teacher was inflexible. "It was her way or the highway," Mr. Snyder said. He understands that sometimes you turn in a paper late and is prepared to give you a



Mr. Snyder teaches Integrated Math and Algebra I Concepts in room 570.

fair shot in his classes.

Mr. Snyder, with his helpful attitude, mathematical passion and teaching skills, will fit right at home in the Manasquan Community. Welcome.

Can We Trust the National Football League?

How the NFL Leaders are ruining the league's image and credibility By: Logan Muir

With the regular season already more than halfway complete, many have forgotten about the domestic violence issues that dominated the beginning of the National Football League season. Instead of thinking about Ray Rice and Adrian Peterson's futures in the league, many NFL fans are pondering about their fantasy leagues and their struggling teams' records.

While the domestic violence dilemma has seemed to take a back seat in recent weeks, many are still wondering if the NFL can be trusted.

The NFL, particularly commissioner Roger Goodell, is under fire due to its recent actions, primarily the decision to suspend Ray Rice from the league indefinitely after TMZ leaked a video of Rice striking his wife, knocking her out cold, and dragging her unconscious body out of an elevator. Rice was also released by the Ravens organization after the video broke headlines.

When news first emerged back in March that Rice was the culprit in a domestic violence case involving his then-fiancé (now wife) Janay, Rice was only suspended two games by the league. This caused a stir of controversy, as many players and members of the media believed the ban was too light and the NFL should've punished Rice more harshly.

It was not until TMZ released the video of Ray Rice that the NFL decided to come down on him more severely. This is a cause for suspicion. Although Commissioner Goodell has asserted that he never saw the video until the TMZ leak, many are wondering if Goodell and the league as a whole are just trying to save face.

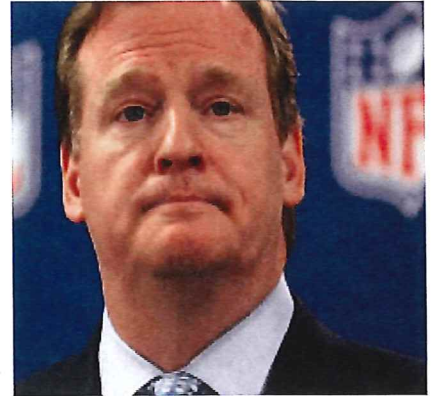
On the heels of the Rice controversy is the circus revolv-

ing around Adrian Peterson, as he has recently been indicted on charges for beating his 4-year old son with a switch as a disciplinary action. Peterson turned himself in to a jail in Texas after a warrant was released for his arrest.

With all the controversy surrounding the Ray Rice dilemma, the Vikings organization took firm action and suspended Peterson indefinitely from the club until legal procedures are resolved.

Furthermore, some are questioning if the league has proper judgment in seeing the severity of some crimes over others.

Many players are serving longer bans for failing drug tests. Players include star Cleveland Browns wide receiver Josh Gordon receiving a one-year suspension from the league for (barely) failing a marijuana test for the second time and Indianapolis Colts linebacker Robert Mathis reaping a four game ban



Roger Goodell, NFL Commissioner, is under heavy fire since being suspected of covering up the Ray Rice Case.

continued on page 13

Ebola and You

(continued from previous page)

ids, particularly blood. It cannot go airborne like the cold because it has practically no presence in saliva or other sneeze/cough projectiles.

In short, despite the scariness of the epidemic in West Africa, the likelihood of you contracting Ebola is next to none. The US is a developed nation. The Center of Disease control, our national epidemic prevention organization, is the most capable organization of its kind. There will be no Ebola epidemic that will threaten the Manasquan community.

TRAVEL TO AND FROM EBOLA-AFFECTED COUNTRIES IS LOW-RISK HERE IS WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



WHILE TRAVELLING

If you develop a fever and Ebola symptoms yourself promptly inform airline personnel.

fever, weakness, muscle pain, headache, and sore throat; followed by vomiting, diarrhea, bleeding.

Alert airline personnel about a fellow traveller who has Ebola symptoms.



AT AIRPORTS AND AT YOUR DESTINATION

DO NOT touch the body of a person who has died from Ebola.



Use alcohol rub throughout the day. When hands are visibly dirty use soap and water.

Seek prompt medical attention if you have Ebola symptoms.

Avoid direct physical contact with anyone who is displaying the symptoms of Ebola.



World Health Organization

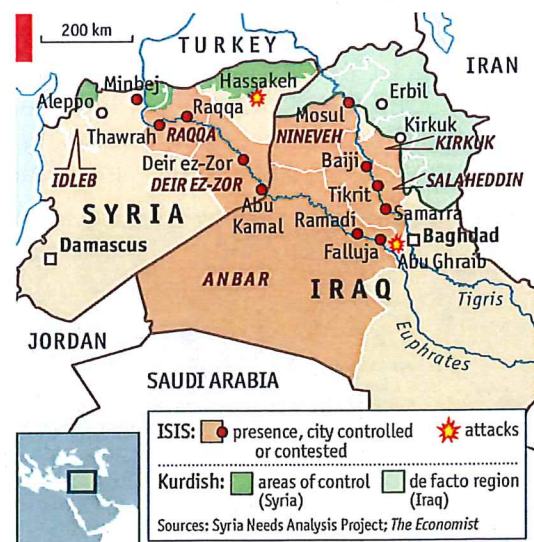
Obama's Turnaround

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tell how, but our country is going to change from this war.

The Vietnam War in the 60s and 70s was one of the most influential factors in shaping modern American culture and identity. It began the same way it's beginning in Iraq now. Obama is following the path of President Kennedy, sending in hundreds of advisors to combat a group of rebels trying to build a state.

Watch this story and stay informed. It's going to be big.



Students Tackle

Issues in the World

The Blue & Gray Editorials

You Are Not a Test Score

The Truth about the SATs

By: Sofia Kim

SAT morning, a mass exodus of students, dazed like prisoners of war in a zombie apocalypse seeing the sun for the first time. In a haze we grapple with the shift from the caged classroom to the blinding outside world. We try to recalibrate our burnt brains to normal functioning, stretch out our cramped hands, and process what we just walked out of. The heavy stumble out of the whirlwind of timed anxiety, raised blood pressure and brain cramps, has become a pivotal moment in every high school student's life.

Standardized tests have morphed to the teenager's monster under the bed, or the insidious shadows in the closet. From the very first tentative steps as freshmen these ominous parasites have latched onto the back of our consciences. A lingering concern, a source of stifling pressure.

We are pushed through an exhaustive system, one that constantly berates us with "If you want a promising future, you better produce a high test score." Each one of us, our parents, teachers, role models, have all at one point found themselves stuck between the contradicting relationship of striving

to achieve the best scores we can whilst trying to distance yourself and your self-worth from a number.

The SATs started during the First World War as an intelligence test for recruits. (As if 21st century high school students are synonymous with WWI recruits). Following the war, the test was adapted to be used in the college admissions process. The 1933 Harvard president, James Bryant Conant liked the test because he thought it "measured pure intelligence, regardless of the quality of the taker's high school education."

To believe this concept that "pure intelligence" can be bubbled-in, measured, and determined in 225 minutes is to undermine and sell years of experience and education tragically short. How you are able to perform on a given Saturday morning for four hours is not equivalent to the wealth of your academic abilities.

In reality the test fails to closely follow high school curriculum. In fact it is widely accepted that the SATs and other standardized tests do not test true academic skills needed in college. In truth, the skills validated in these tests aren't connected with a student's ability to enhance classroom discussions. They demonstrate a very narrow set of skills that are not even necessarily what our

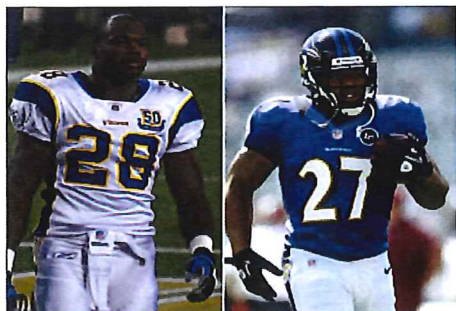
nation or economy needs. Additionally, the idea of college accepting students solely who excel in the SATs detracts from a diverse campus. Simply put, standardized tests do not accurately define your intelligence, college performance, or how successful you'll be. As said in Suli Breaks' song "I Will Not let an Exam Result Decide my Fate", "Test us with tests, but the finals are never final. Because they never prepare us for the biggest test which is survival."

The truth of the matter is, SATs are rooted in a lucrative system where SAT prep is a money pot and the College Board charges for each test. It is a system laced with prejudice, and it boils down to be an inexpensive way for college admission officers to narrow the pool of applicants.

So while we may not be able to change the system, we can change our mindset going in. If you find yourself pulling your hair out over what "anthropocentrism" means or how to find the "closest approximation of the solution of the equation $2^{x-1} = 3^{x+1}$ " know that the SATs do not define your future. In fact more and more colleges are choosing to be "test score optional" and now more than 750 schools don't even require the test.

Needless to say, as with anything you do, put your best efforts forward, but as Mr. Mawn wisely said, "You are so much more than a number on a test." You'll do great!

NFL (continued from page 11)



for violating the league's substance abuse policy. Looking at these suspensions, many people have lashed out, criticizing the NFL for its judgment.

Is it just for one player to receive a year-long ban for drug abuse while a player who physically beats his partner to be punished with only a two-game ban?

More and more questions are be-

Adrian Peterson (left) and Ray Rice (right) are both NFL stars whose acts of domestic abuse sent shock waves through the NFL and all of American society.

ing asked and there will be answers soon, as the league announced a while back that Robert Mueller, a former FBI Director, will lead an independent inquiry into the league's investigation and how it gathered evidence in the Ray Rice case.

On another note, since the release of the Ray Rice video, the National Football League Players Association (NFL-PA) has established a new drug-testing program, which has since reversed bans of several players involved in drug-associated suspensions.



Halloween Festivities at MHS

On the 31st of October, Manasquan High School students and teachers celebrated their annual Halloween celebration. Despite some calamity, chaos, and confusion, the spirit of Halloween echoed throughout the hallways.

The school came alive with costumes of all types: the funny, the classics, the scary, and the never-before-seen. Halloween is a chance for

By: Reed Melchionda and Maggie Leddy

people to find their most creative sides; a skill Manasquan High School has seemed to master. This year, the costumes were divided into five categories: Best Individual, Best Group, Most Original, Funniest, and Best Teacher.

There was a wide variety of individuals who were applicable for

winning the Best Individual costume: ranging from classical costumes such as a mime, to more iconic ones such as men dressed as Clark Kent and Superman. However, the student who took first place in this category was senior Nick Galizio who was dressed as Chuck Noland from Cast Away.

In addition to individual costumes: *continued on next page*

What's Your Favorite Part of MHS Halloween?



Senior Kolbe Brennan:

"I like seeing the funniest Halloween costumes. My favorite from last year was the Mr. Waldeyer's."

Senior Nicholle Beese:

"I really liked seeing everyone's costumes, and just being together!"



Senior Kerry Weiland:

"My favorite is sitting all together in the auditorium, socializing, and watching the show."



The Blue & Gray Book Review

Suzanne Young Intrigues and Entertains in New Novel *The Program*

By: Keely Flood

Sloane knows exactly what it's like to want back something that means so little to people, something as miniscule as a memory. With suicide now a national epidemic, Sloane will do just about anything not to be reported to The Program—the only proven course of treatment—by her peers. Any sign of sadness or suicidal tendencies could land her in a place that, after just 6 weeks, will leave her a blank slate, with little to no recollection of anything. That's right, no idea of who your best friend is, any past relationships you've been in, or really anything for that matter.

The goal of The Program is to wipe away any bad memories/feelings of depression to stop the suicide epidemic from growing. Some call it a cure, some call it a death sentence. Unfortunately, Sloane's older brother, Brady, was part of the epidemic, having taken his own life in the water. Not only did he let himself drown, but he did it right in front of Sloane and James; Brady's best friend and Sloane's since boyfriend. This left Sloane with a permanent ache in her heart and a depression that gets more and more difficult to conceal every day. Now, her parents are on a mission to protect the only child they have left from something that could leave them with an empty nest. Sloane's mission? Simple; fake a smile every day until she's 18.

Looking at the cover of this book, I almost didn't even give it a chance to review, thinking this was nothing but a typical, 12-year-old, summer-romance sappy novel. Five minutes

later, I'm at the counter of Barnes and Nobles purchasing the book. Sure, there's some romance in it. Don't let that put a damper on what could be a book you'll never want to put down.

There's so many more factors that go into this novel, such as psychology, science, exploration and behavior. For a while I read this book without an outlook of "This could never happen", but as I continued to turn the pages, the realization that the concept isn't too out-of-this-world made me read on and on. You're predicting and being corrected of what you think is going to happen next from start to end.

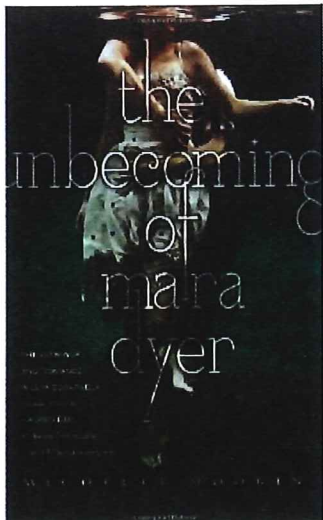
For anyone who likes surprises left and right in a novel, buy this book. All-around science lovers, buy this book. Even you, romance lovers, take a whiff. Anyone and everyone is in for a surprise. If you're none of the above, give it three chapters. You won't want to close it, guaranteed!



The Unbecoming of Mara Dyer Enthralls Thrill-seeking Readers

By: Nicholle Beese

Michelle Hodkin's 2012 novel *The Unbecoming of Mara Dyer* is filled with constant twists and turns that make it a captivating story for a variety of readers. It is safe to say that this book was nearly impossible to put down; I finished all 480 pages



in a matter of a few days. This romantic, supernatural mystery was so enticing that each chapter left me aching for more.

The Unbecoming of Mara Dyer tells the story of 17-year-old Mara Dyer, who wakes up in a hospital with no recollection of how she got there. She is told that she is the only survivor of the accident that killed her best friend, boyfriend, and boyfriend's sister. Mara's family decides it would be best to move to a new state for a fresh start. However, Mara's psychological and emotional problems follow her.

Hallucinations and painful nightmares begin to invade Mara's life once she moves to Florida. Along with these invasions comes a beautiful boy named Noah. Although Noah may seem like

nothing but a terrible distraction, he may just be exactly what Mara needs.

Mara's struggle throughout the book was far from monotonous. Hodkin kept my brain alert and aware with each plot twist. Even Noah, a breath of fresh air, has his own story with his own mysteries to solve. These two characters are most definitely what made this book so mesmerizing. They were somehow relatable through their inner conflicts and very easy to fall in love with.

Upon finishing the novel, I needed to know what would happen next. I immediately purchased the second book of the trilogy, *The Evolution of Mara Dyer*, and flew through that as well. Hodkin's last book of the *Mara Dyer* trilogy, *The Retribution of Mara Dyer*, hits the bookshelves on November 4th, 2014. If you are a sucker for romance and enjoy being on the edge of your seat, then *The Unbecoming of Mara Dyer* is the perfect book to cuddle up with.

Rock Revival?

Up and coming artist brings classic but fresh sound

By: Logan Muir

When I listen to the radio, like most of you out there, I get tired of hearing the same songs, the same beats, the same bass drops over and over again. That's why when I heard Benjamin Booker crank out a tune on WXPB, my attention was indeed caught.

Benjamin Booker, a 25-year-old singer/songwriter based out of New Orleans, reminds us that the classic rock and roll sounds that our parents grew up listening to are not dead. In his self-titled debut album released in August, Booker brings out the hard roots of rock, and oh boy does it sound good.

The whole album is a heap of fun. From start to finish, listeners will undoubtedly be rockin' out to these fresh tunes. Songs such as "Have You Seen My Son?" and "Violent Shiver" establish a grungy tone while others such as "Happy Homes" bring out a more classic, bluesier attitude. So at the least, listeners will be nodding their heads.

Booker's sound, while unique in today's day and age, is very recognizable. Booker's style is similar to those of artists



Benjamin Booker is known for his fun and hard-rocking live performances.

such as Chuck Berry, The Ramones, and Jack White (he toured with White, actually). Booker and these artists all share the same fast-paced, raw rock sound that people have grown to love.

If you're looking to update your

music library soon, Benjamin Booker is a must-add. Whether you're planning on jamming out or just enjoying some new sounds, you won't ever regret getting this new album.

The Head and The Heart: Your New Favorite Soft Rock Acoustic Indie Folk Band

By: Logan Muir

Me being an acoustic, folk-loving music listener, it's hard for me not to be biased about The Head and The Heart.

This Seattle-based indie folk band began its rise to fame in 2010 and instantly invited its listeners into a lovely world of soft rock. They offer a blend of acoustic sounds with a pumped-up attitude. Following lead man Jonathan Russell on the guitar, The Head and The Heart possesses a strong unity between all the band members. They successfully link their beautiful vocal harmonies with the sound of their instruments.

Some of their most popular songs include "Lost in my Mind" and "Down in the Valley", both songs that slowly but surely gain momentum as the tune progresses. What starts off as a simple single acoustic guitar strumming softly gradually transforms into a harmonized, loud epic towards the end. This is a common theme in many of their songs, as "Gone" and "Ten



"Thousand Weight in Gold" also follow the same path.

Soft acoustic songs are not all of what The Head and the Heart are comprised of. Their song "Shake" off Let's Be Still, their second studio album, is undeniably a rock song. It makes you, well you know, want to shake.

The Head and The Heart has it all: a mix of light acoustic melodies along and louder, rockin' tracks. What else could you ask for? Well, I'll tell you: not much.

Eleanor & Park

(continued from page 18)

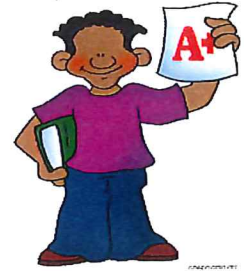
and exciting towards the end, which I really enjoyed. However, I feel like it could have ended a little stronger. I feel as though Rowell was trying to do a lot with her story, but bit off more than she could chew and it came off as corny.

Overall, I really enjoyed the story, but I wouldn't call it an all-time favorite. The diction was enjoyable and it created clear mental images of what was going on. It was a cute story that has the ability to draw readers in. I would say it was well worth the read even with its small problems. I recommend it to anyone who likes realistic fiction or John Green types of literature.

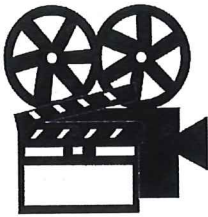


People change. The best friend you have freshman year may not be the same person you want to hang out with anymore junior year. That's fine. People outgrow each other, it's a part of our human nature. Don't get hung up about it. Instead, focus on creating new friends. There's plenty of fish in this "Big Blue" sea.

Grades matter, but they don't define you. Yes, grades are important factors that will decide what kind of classes you can take and where you'll get into college. However, they don't control you. Don't let the stress of getting perfect grades take over. You'll miss out on fun things that high school has to offer. Additionally, if you're struggling academically don't get down on yourself. Not everyone is going to be the next Einstein.



Don't base it off the movies. Just disregard all of the high school expectations that you have from watching "Grease" and "High School Musical". We do not have random outbursts of singing here. High school is completely different for everyone. Make your own movie plot!



It goes fast. It's the scariest thing. One minute you're walking in the doors as a freshman on your first day and in the blink of eye you're a senior getting ready to be thrown into the real world. You have four short years to make a name for yourself. Use them wisely. Make every moment count. You don't want to look back on High School twenty years from now wishing you had done things differently.



Don't be afraid! Don't let the fear of failing stop you from going after something great! Academically, socially, or personally the rule applies. It's something that you should learn in high school so you can have it mastered later in life.



Lovers of History Inducted into National History Honor Society

By: Reed Melchionda

On Sunday, October 19, at 2:00 PM at the Women's Club in Manasquan, MHS hosted its annual National History Honor Society Induction.

National History Honor Society is a club that prides itself on its connection with the rich history intrinsic to the town of Manasquan. Therefore, after the celebratory induction, the attendees were invited to the Manasquan Historical Society on South Street for a tour, as well as donuts and cider.

This year, the society had the honor of inducting thirteen members: Noah Drake, John Driscoll, Julia Hohenstein Molly Keenan, Brian Lembo, Brooke Mason, Patricia McKiever, Grey McMahon, Shane McNamara, Madeline Monaco, Shawn Nolan, Sienna Richert, and Liam Tobin.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

continued from page 6

and an abundance of humor. As George stated, no other staff member was as worthy as "The Man, The Mawn, The Legend, Mr. Mawn himself" (as George put it).

The ceremony concluded with a speech from this year's Honorary Guest Speaker, Megan Flannery. Megan is a Manasquan Alumni of the Class of 2009 and is a graduate of Towson University. As an Advertising Account Manager, she delivered an inspiring speech encour-

aging the new inductees to follow their dreams and passions in life.

This year, NHS had the privilege of inducting 21 members: Gillian Black, Brittney Bvechele, Haley Crecca, Noah Drake, Megan Gianforte, Rachael Gray, Julie Hohenstein, Ryan Jensen, Alex Kurtz, Brianne Lauria, Patricia McKiever, Lily McNamara, Maddie Monaco, Ilsa Papunen, Mia Pelly, Shannon Schatzman, Megan Scranton, Liam Tobin, Julia Valgenti, Alexandra Warren, and Reed

Fall FASHION

By: Nicholle Beese

Going back to school is a dreadful concept, however, not many can deny their love for back to school shopping. Students are enthusiastic about showing off their new wardrobe each year. After a hot summer comes a cool fall, and sweaters and jeans seem like a warm invitation to us all. Shaking off the summer weather, students of MHS model the latest fall fashion styles of 2014.

Boys' Fashion

The boys of MHS most definitely have their signature outfit: button-up shirt, khakis, and a fine pair of vans to top it off. This simple style can be seen on almost every boy walking up and down the hallways, and is perfect for the chilly weather to come.

John Russo, Senior



"Funky" Pants

A majority of the girls at MHS own what some people call "funky pants", and I'm sure each and every girl that has worn them can agree they are not only comfortable, but extremely stylish. With a plethora of unique patterns, these pants can brighten up any outfit.

Melissa Fischer, sophomore



Overalls

The girls of MHS have managed to bring something back that was not so popular in the fashion world: overalls. Now made in many different styles, shapes, and sizes, overalls have slipped into clothing stores and caught the eyes of eager buyers.

Maria Dubicki, Senior



Flannels

Cute, casual, and comfortable. Flannels are the perfect addition to any outfit and make an overwhelming appearance during the fall season.

Makenzie McGowan, Senior





BLUE & GRAY SPORTS



Cross Country Running Strong

By: George Taboada

The cross-country team enjoyed an explosive start down the track this season. At their conference in Holmdel Park, the guys beat out 6 other teams and the girls ran some of their best times yet.

And the season was just getting started. At the Shore Coaches Meet the boys came in 6th out of 22. While talking to Mr. Schwarz, the coach of the boys team, he told me that the two teams act as one. He and Mrs. Gilbert, the girls coach, work both sets of runners together. They are working hard together, trying to bridge the time gaps from the lower to the upper tiers on cross-country.

That may be tough considering how incredible their times are. At the Shore Conference, Kyle McDermott ran 18:22.12. Craig Lapham was right behind him with 18:24.22. Liam Tobin, James Boyle and Joe Desomma came in a bit further, but by no means far, behind the two. Just four minutes later, Brona Nielson passed the finish line at 23:38.32. Then came Katie Bardsley (23:41.12) and Sydney Osso (23:44.49.)

When asked of her goals for this season, Sydney Osso wants to break 20 minutes. She added with full confidence, "Mrs. Gilbert can get me there."

We've got some excellent runners such as Kyle McDermott, Brona Nielson, and Craig Lapham. Sydney Osso is running her first year in cross-country and is already within the top 3 girls. James Boyle, another first timer in the club, is also placing just behind the seniors in practically every race.

Mr. Schwarz and Mrs. Gilbert have some up and coming runners up their sleeves as well. People like Madison Harkness, Kristen Lang, Joe Desomma, Shane McNamara, and Kathryn Wynd are all expected to join the stars on the 3 mile track.

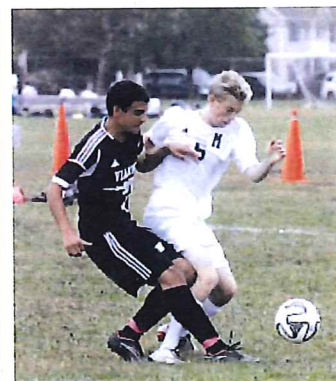
Even better news is that Manasquan placed 11th out of 30 teams the qualifier. Still ahead is the Group II State Championships, which the team has qualified for.

Above, Left: Senior Kyle McDermott speeds around the track in an intense practice run; At Left: runners endure another tough practice run



Boys Soccer Season Comes to an End

By: Julia Valgenti

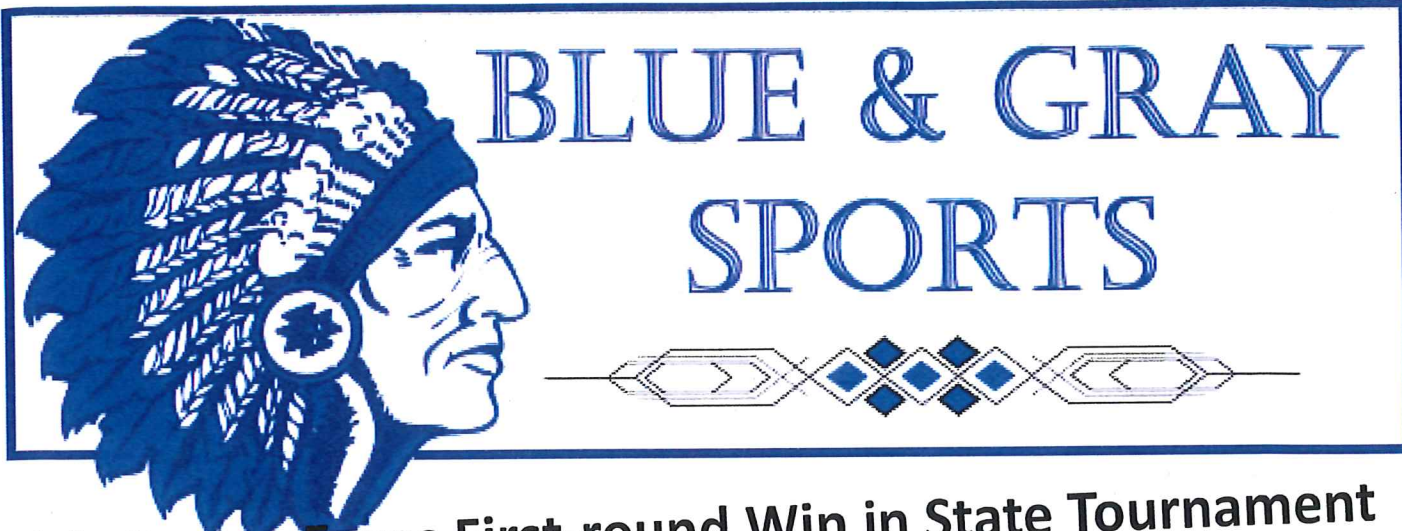


With the season coming to a close, the MHS boy's varsity soccer team had a great start, followed by a strong season, but unfortunately, a disappointing end.

Holding second in the Central Conference, the team was in good shape to qualify for the Shore Conference tournament with a 7-4-1 record.

On November 3, the boy's season came to an unfortunate close with a 2-1 loss against Governor Livingston in the opening round of the Central Jersey Group II state tournament. Enrique Perez scored the

continued on page 32



BLUE & GRAY SPORTS

Girls Soccer Earns First-round Win in State Tournament

By: Sarah Spears and Sophia Kim



MHS Girls' soccer team has made us proud. Their commitment, hard work, and talent have lead them to exciting wins and a locked in position for Shore Conference.

They kicked off the season with change; new, young coaches, new varsity players and a new team dynamic. The girls showed their spirit with their ability to adapt and thrive. Coach Onorato, the new varsity coach, says, "The entire coaching staff was shocked at how quickly they showed their potential. They had great team chemistry from the start."

Soon enough, their potential was supported by genuine ability. Win after win, the girls earned an intimidating reputation. They finished the season with a record of 11-9 in a tough league, and their conference record was 8-5. They've been "taking on big teams like Holmdel and Rumson Fair Haven which has proved a lot, because no one expects it from us," Coach Onorato added.

Beating their rival Holmdel was a turning point in the season. In their huge win, the girls proved themselves against a team that previously had beat them 3-1. In the second game not only did the girls pull through in a win of 2-1, but they also showed how ca-

pable they were of pulling together, pushing each other and proving their true abilities. And despite two losses to Rumson-Fair Haven, the girls proved themselves in those games as well.

In the game against RFH, the girls went into double overtime. Although they lost in the final seconds, Coach Onorato told the Coast Star that "they played their hearts out and gave Rumson a run". Simply going into double overtime was as huge feat because in previous games RFH had defeated them. This most recent loss dropped their score back to 6-6, but they built it back up in other games against schools like Saint John Vianney.

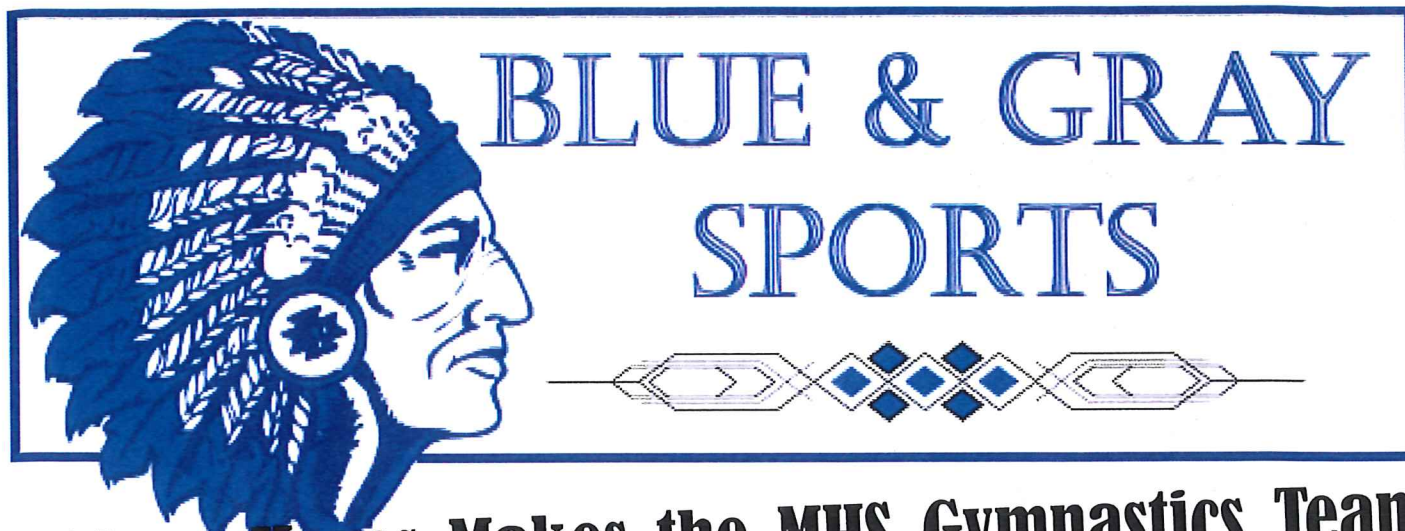
The high point in their season undoubtedly came in the state tournament, when they upset Spotswood in the first round. Spotswood, seeded 7th, could not keep up with the speed and determination of the Warriors. Led by senior Aubrey Jones, freshman Dayna Van Pelt and sophomore Kaitlyn Calabro, the girls blew out their opponent by a score of 4-0. Calabro scored two goals and Van Pelt scored as well, while Jones assisted on two of the scores. Coach Onorato praised the team's focus, teamwork and effort in the victory.

In other words, they've decimated their "underdog" status. Qualifying for the Shore Conference tournament was a victorious feat that had not been accomplished in five years. Coach Onorato credits their success with their "strong Leadership shown by the seniors, and great freshmen. Everyone contributes".

However, their season came to a conclusion when they played against Governor Livingston on November 7th. According to Coach Onorato, "We didn't come out as strong in the beginning, but we picked it up in the 2nd half." The girls demonstrated their perseverance and grit by holding it to a tight game and only losing by one goal. In the end, the score was 2-1 favoring Governor Livingston.

The girls ultimately played their hearts out from the beginning up until the very last seconds of the season. As Coach Onorato put it, we are "nothing but proud" of them.

The team has been able to ride out their beginning learning curve, and play together in a way that not only pushes each other but also reinforces the Manasquan name. Their hard work has really paid off this year.



Ashlynn Hayes Makes the MHS Gymnastics Team Recognized

To those who are unaware: MHS *does* have a gymnastics team. But you aren't to blame! With little publicity, it's a surprise to many to hear about this little-known, under-wraps team.

Led by first-time coach, MES sixth-grade English teacher Mrs. Jillian Berra, the gymnastics team consists of just four girls: freshmen Isabella Jannarone and Jessica Waldeyer, sophomore Ashlynn Hayes, and junior Abigail Schwind.

During an interview with Ashlynn, I got the details on the team, its success, and Ashlynn herself.

"This is my first year on the high school gymnastics team, but I've been doing gymnastics since I was about seven," she replied when asked how many years she's participated. Looking toward her next/last two years here at MHS, Ashlynn says she hopes to continue competing and representing MHS. "It's a lot of fun and the girls are really close," she said.

As for how the team is currently doing, Ashlynn responded, "We're doing pretty good. With only four girls on the team, we're doing pretty good right now." The team has previously had 8 meets and has taken victory over 3 (with a team of four girls, that's impressive!)

By: Keely Flood

But why the heck have none of us heard anything about one of our own school's teams? It could possibly be due to the rapid decline of people trying out. "I don't exactly know what the normal number of competitors on each team is, but last year only one girl tried out. She's on the team with us now, but then the year before they had about 9 to 12 girls on the team. Other school's definitely have a lot more girls on their teams," Ashlynn said when asked about the unusual size of the crew.

With only one or two more meets until the season is over, these dedicated, hard-working girls have made a big year out of little foundation. Make MHS proud, show some big Blue-and-Gray love, and cheer the girls on at their last upcoming meets. Way to make us look good, ladies!



Cheerleaders

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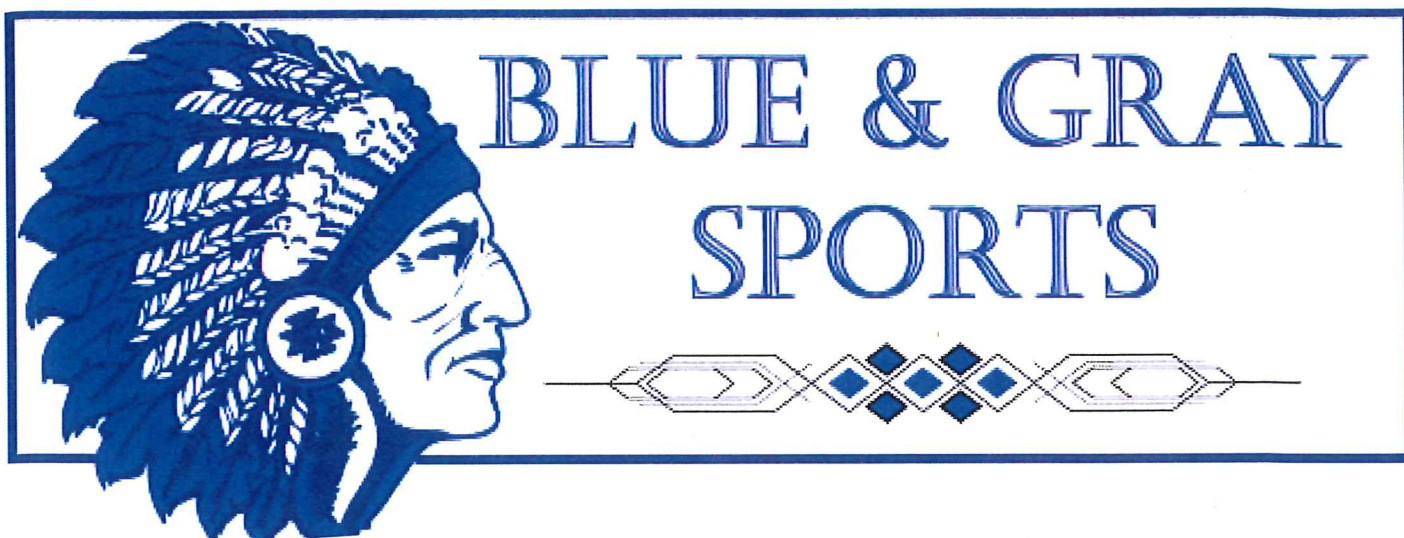
posters, toilet paper, streamers, and glitter. Even for away games, the cheerleaders compile goodie bags filled with sweets and home-made goods to show the support the school has for its football team.

As Co-Captain Karly McNamara states, "One of my favorite parts of being a cheerleader is our before game rituals. As a child, I would always remember the cheerleaders coming to decorate my house for my older brother who played football at Manasquan. To me, decorating is not only to build enthusiasm for the big

game; it is the continuance of a legacy."

In fact, most cheerleaders feel that it is this love and companionship that unites them together to become a team. Like any other activity, no cheerleading team can survive without trust. If a flyer cannot trust her spot to catch her as she falls, no stunt would succeed. According to Senior Co-Captain, Makenzie McGowan this unity and trust is even found off the field: "We are not just a team on the field. During the season, we become a family. We are together all of the time whether it is for practice, poster making, or an Applebee's trip after another Squan victory."

With the season only half way through and the big Thanksgiving game against Wall approaching, the cheerleaders still have a long time to keep the Warrior energy heightened. Although, in a town like Manasquan, this is not a difficult task. In fact, the true catalysts of this school spirit are not only found in the cheers and stunts of the cheerleaders, but in the fan section as well. Junior Olivia Chevance believes, "We don't only motivate the fans, but they motivate us as well. Sure, it is the job of a cheerleader to bring the fans alive but we play off the energy of the crowd. It's so easy to cheer for such a receptive and enthusiastic audience."



Another Successful Season for Girls Tennis

Led by junior Brianne Lauria, Monmouth County singles champion

By: Nicholle Beese

The girls' varsity tennis team, coached by Mr. Ravioli, has been very successful during the 2014 fall season. With a current record of 13-5, the girls are continuing to live up to their goals and expectations for the year.

"We have a really strong line-up this year. I am honored to be the captain of such a wonderful group of girls" says senior, Erin Beaton. Erin has been a varsity player since her sophomore year and was gratified to be chosen as this year's captain.

The team consists of strong, resilient players who all contribute to the team's success. Junior Brianne Lauria plays first singles. Freshman Calli Sabaitis plays second singles. Sophomore Brie Kozlowski plays third singles. Sophomores Ally Kaden and Holly Moloney play first doubles. Senior Erin Beaton and junior Jessica Gerard play second doubles.

Brianne Lauria defeated Keren Khromchenko of Manalapan in a super tiebreak to win the first singles section of the Monmouth County tourna-

ment. Khromchenko claimed the first win, 6-0, but Lauria came back and won the second 6-3. With her strength and determination, Lauria won the super tiebreak 10-6. The team and her coach are extremely excited for her and are proud of her accomplishments throughout the years. They truly believe she deserved that win.

Rumson and Holmdel have proven to be the toughest opponents, being the only teams who have beat Manasquan thus far. However, Rumson tasted defeat at the hands of the Manasquan girls on Friday, October 16. The girls played their absolute hardest and best, wanting nothing more than to crush one of their top rivals. In honor of this huge win, Coach Ravioli and the team went out for a celebratory dinner. Simple things like this really convey the unbreakable bond that the team and coach share. "Nothing



Pictured above: Brianne rips a forehand shot in a match earlier this season.

compares to doing what you love with the people you love!" says Erin.

The girls' last match of the season will be held on Friday, October 24 against Shore Regional High School. It is truly bittersweet for the team to be finishing up such a great season. Seniors Erin Beaton and Mary Dolan have been incredible role models for the younger players, and they are now ready to pass their torches to the upcoming seniors. Next year cannot come soon enough!