

November 2015

Manasquan High School

# The Blue & Gray Surfers Win Championship... AGAIN!



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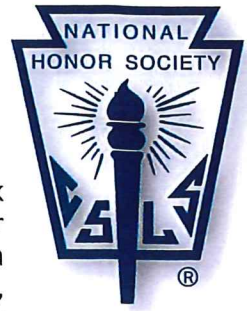


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# Lighting a Path to the Future

By: Rachael Gray



On Tuesday November 3, the National Honor Society held its annual candle-lighting induction ceremony for this year's twenty-nine new inductees. The induction took place in the Jack Nicholson Theater, where friends, family, and teachers gathered to witness this momentous occasion. The candle-lighting ceremony consisted of senior members lighting candles for the four pillars that the National Honors Society upholds: scholarship, character, service, and leadership. The new inductees were led by Mr. Coppola in the recitation of the pledge, lighting candles of their own.

The National Honor Society is an organization with chapters in schools across America, Canada, and Puerto Rico. It strives to encourage students to further their involvement in school and community activities to aid those around them without receiving anything in return.

To get into National Honor Society, each inductee had to perform 120 hours of community service during their time at Manasquan High School. Inductees had to complete forty miscellaneous hours of volunteering, forty hours in one location, and either one forty-hour leadership project or two twenty-hour leadership projects. The leadership project is a way for inductees to demonstrate that they have the character and leadership capabilities to be good role models for the school.

After the lighting of the candles that represented the four pillars of the society, the guest speaker, Ms. Matyas - a former National Honor Society member and Manasquan High School alumni - spoke. Ms. Matyas is currently a maternity-leave substitute at Manasquan Elementary School, and she agreed to come back to the high school to impart valuable advice for the new inductees. Her speech focused on the assets that National Honor Society provided not only for high school, but for college and the working world beyond it.

The ceremony also consisted of inducting a teacher into the society. This year, Mrs. Kozic was the teacher chosen to join the society. Mrs. Fenlon, the director of Manasquan's chapter, had this to say about the choice of Mrs. Kozic as the teacher to join: "Mrs. Kozic was the first teacher they [the senior members] came up with, and we felt she was a great fit for her dedication to the student body and her continuing work in the health careers

academy."

Mrs. Kozic was also chosen as a student's sponsor that night, proving how much of an impact she has made on students here at Manasquan.

Following Mrs. Kozic's

induction, each inductee took their turn in reading a speech for their sponsor. The sponsor is a teacher the student has or had, and has made an impact on their lives. Each speech is a way for the inductees to thank the teachers for how they have helped the student, and was a very touching moment during the night.

With the induction a success, the National Honor Society is now looking forward for ways they can help those around them. They will be having their annual gift wrapping event in December, as well as other events in the coming year. And in June they will run senior awards night as they do every year, and so spectacularly pull it off.

## Congratulations to the New Inductees:

Jack McCrink	Shannon Kirk	Jackie Kurtz
Kristin Lange	Matthew Ertle	Beau Bradley
Benton Barry	Karly Grogan	Emma Russo
Jack Long	Dylan Lembo	Elizabeth Rooney
Kate Callahan	Brona Nielsen	Lucia Donadio
Mara Bennett	Abby McHugh	Kelli Finn
Quinn Giblin	Ally Kaden	Cady Formichella
Kevin Dempsey	Summer Farren	Melissa Fischer
Caroline Carter	Ally Johnson	Annabella Condoluci
Emily McLaughlin	Alexandra De Forge	



**Far Left:** Inductees perform the candle-lighting ceremony. **Left:** Senior member Julie Hohenstein thanks Mrs. Fenlon for her hard work in running National Honors Society. **Below:** Inductees sit on-stage and listen to former MHS National Honor member Ms. Matyas' inspiring speech.





# In the MHS Spotlight

Teacher  
Feature

Starring  
Student

## Meet Mr. Rostron, MHS's New Life Skills Teacher

By: Alissa Cielecki  
&  
Kendall O'Malley

Getting a bit of a late start due to a contract situation at his old school is Mr. Rostron, a teacher who previously taught in Mercer County for twelve years before coming to share his knowledge with MHS. He moved to our area close to a year ago, and now teaches academic and life skills classes. In college, Mr. Rostron knew he wanted to own his own business or become a teacher, but was also involved in volunteering for the Special Olympics for several years. While going to school to be a math teacher didn't completely work out for him, he still was able to follow his dream of teaching. Making the most of his skills, he ended up going into a career in special education, where he has been teaching ever since.



So what does this new face think of Manasquan High School? So far he likes it a lot. Mr. Rostron "took a risk," he says, by coming to a new school, but doesn't regret it. He likes the old character of the school, and has even taken a keen liking to the school's blue and gray colors, compared to his old school's red and black. Mr. Rostron expressed that he is

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## No Easy Task! Senior Liz Homer Runs First Half Marathon

By: Julie Hohenstein



It was forty-five degrees and overcast in the heart of Brooklyn on Saturday, October 10. Thousands gathered at the crack of dawn, all eager to run. Some had done this a million times, others were rookies, but behind every number lay a different motivation for the footsteps that would follow.

Senior Liz Homer had been preparing for this exact moment for twelve weeks. Her vigorous training schedule included a range of activities from "short" four to six mile runs, dynamic stretching in the form of yoga, cross training, and interval sprints. After loading up on carbs and cold brew coffee (Rook, of course), she hit play on her iPod, flooding her ears with the music that would anchor her for the next 13.1 miles. And so the race began.

Though she had run various short distance races such as the Spring Lake 5 and the Color Run, Liz had never participated in such a lengthy event before. "It didn't even faze me that I was running a half marathon until I was waiting in the 4th wave at 5:30 in the morning in the middle of Brooklyn," said Liz. "That's when the voice saying 'omg, this is really happening, I'm really running this' began to echo through my head."

Though the voice slowly faded as she began to pound her feet into the pavement, it returned throughout miles eight and nine. Undoubtedly the most difficult, eight and nine marked the time past the halfway point but were not close enough to thirteen to be considered the home stretch. "When the miles started getting challenging, just remembering that my mom woke up at 3:30 that morning to drive to Brooklyn to come see my sister and I run was enough."

With her motivator meeting her at every other mile, Liz tackled each avenue with increasing vitality. The course was beautiful, offering a scenic view of landmarks such as Prospect Park, but was composed entirely of hills, yet another obstacle that one had to work past. "You have to WANT it," Liz exclaimed. "It's not something you can just 'wing' and slightly struggle with but make it to the end."

Thanks to her admirable work ethic, 13.1 miles later, with burning calves and a

*continued on next page*



# EMMA RUSSO: THE COUPON KID

By: Brittney Buechele

After the hustle and bustle of the school day, homework, and studying, there are a few precious hours left in the day to do whatever you want. Some people participate in sports, some join clubs, and others prefer to just relax, but there are some Manasquan students who fill up their free time with hobbies that are just a little more out of the ordinary than most. Senior Alex Devoy has a talent for taxidermy, sophomore Delaney Heffernan is a crafty calligrapher, senior Jake Algor rocks a Rubix Cube. But one student in particular, senior Emma Russo, has a hobby that is not only unique, but also beneficial to her family. Emma is an extreme couponer.

In case you are unfamiliar with the term, extreme couponing is the art of saving money by using discounts and coupons from newspapers, websites, and other sources. Once you gather your coupons and get yourself organized, you can go shopping, saving around 70% on all your purchases. It seems easy: clip a coupon here, use a store discount there, but the reality of extreme couponing is that you need to put a considerable amount of time, thought, and effort into it if you want to be successful and save money. Extreme couponing is an exact science and Emma seems to have mastered it.

She says it all started when she was 12 after watching the show, *Extreme Couponing*, on TV one day. It looked like a lot of fun so she tried it out. As time passed, she got better at it and realized that not only was couponing enjoyable, it was a great way to help her family save money on bills, and for her to take occasional daytrips to New York City. Emma said, "I extreme coupon partially to have fun and partially to save money on our family's groceries. In the past five years, I've saved about \$25,000." On one of Emma's shopping trips in September, she paid only \$0.97 for \$102.81 worth of groceries, meaning she saved over 95%.

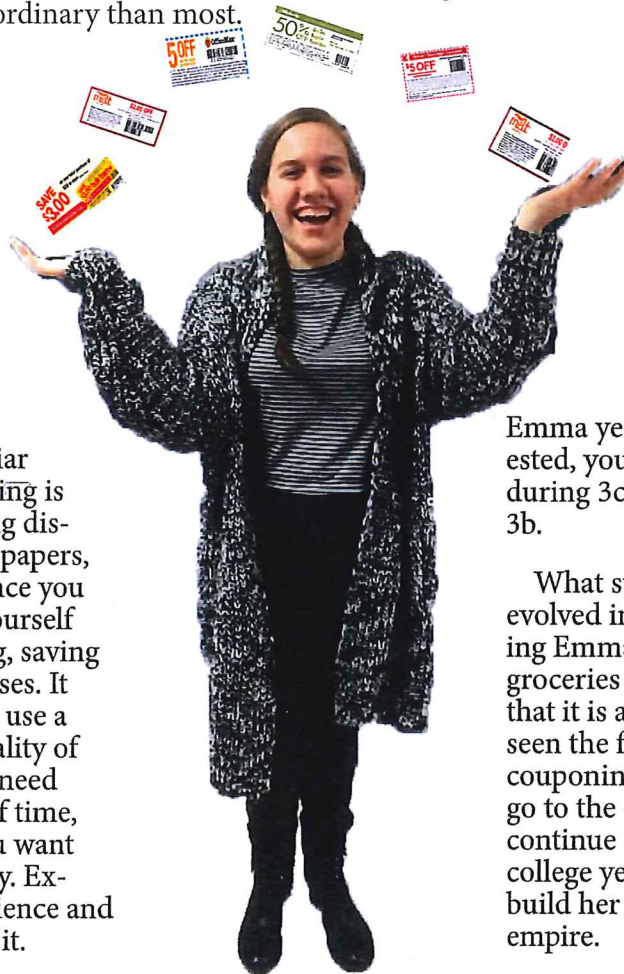
Emma says that she is beginning to look for deals at clothing stores and restaurants, as well as gro-

cery stores. It is one of her favorite pastimes, one that she can share with her family. "My dad and I have been able to bond when we go out shopping. It's really funny because I yell at him for putting things in the cart that we don't have a coupon for. The whole thing has become a game of 'how little can I spend this week?'"

And if you are now curious about how extreme couponing works, don't worry, Emma is planning to offer couponing classes that will help others save up to 70% on groceries and other purchases for their families. In one of her two-hour classes, you will be able to learn some of the tricks and tips to extreme couponing that took

Emma years to master. If you are interested, you can find Emma in the cafeteria during 3c and in the library during 3a and 3b.

What started as an interesting hobby evolved into a fantastic lifestyle, helping Emma's family save almost \$600 on groceries every month. Emma explains that it is a great way to relieve stress. "I've seen the freedom we have because of couponing to be able to go out to eat or go to the city more often." Emma plans to continue extreme couponing well into her college years and adult life, and hopefully build her business into a grand couponing empire.



**Emma and  
Grandma  
Russo  
displaying  
one of  
Emma's  
couponing  
triumphs.**



# Chaos strikes again at 8th Annual History Water Balloon Battle

By: Beau Bradley

A yearly fall tradition for the history classes resulted in the same group of students celebrating for the second year in a row.

The Water Balloon Battle, run by History teachers Mr. Fagen and Mr. Bryant, was another great success. Fagen described this year's battle as "epic" and "large scale chaos and destruction."

In a battle consisting of four factions, AP US History, AP World, US I Honors, and US II Honors, AP US came out on top. The class was comprised of mostly the same group of people that won last year's war, led by experienced seniors Matt Del Guercio and Emma Carton. When asked about the Sunday morning chaos, Del Guercio described the fight in a different manner. "We took both of their flanks and pushed them towards the middle," he said.

The AP US History class took a back seat in battle. They waited for the other teams to waste their ammunition, then pounced by pushing to the middle and eliminating their adversaries.

Victory wasn't easy to come by, and losing isn't fun. Some participants took some shots to the face, and some dealt the shots. For example, Emma Carton said, "I nailed a girl in the face and I felt so bad." Well, sometimes winning requires some guts. The recipient of the water balloon to the face, Amanda Karp, had a different reaction. "When I got hit I immediately hoped my contact didn't fall out," said Karp. Losing in this type of battle isn't pleasant.

Although Mr. Fagen's current US II Honors class didn't come out on top this year, he credits himself with providing the proper training for the AP US History class last year, which led to their second consecutive victory this year. Mr. Bryant feels differently about the win, as he is less competitive than Mr. Fagen.

"This year's battle was really excellent. We [Mr. Fagen and I] decided to change it up this year and split the battle into four different teams rather than two, and it was great to watch," said Bryant.

Mr. Fagen's US II class did have something special to bring to the battle this year: a protestor. Junior Mike Rafter dressed as Jimi Hendrix for the battle and protested the chaos. "I was dressed as Jimi Hendrix for a band concert and I couldn't stay at the battle for the whole time to fight, so I protested for as long as I could," explained Rafter. No one in his class expected this, so he enjoyed surprising his classmates upon his arrival.

This year's battle of four factions ran perfectly. This was the 8th year of the tradition, and the participants are already looking forward to the battle next year.

**Pictured Below:** The AP US class is all smiles after their victory.

**Pictured Left:** Matt Del and Emma Carton defended their title.



## Mr. Rostron

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having a positive experience thus far at MHS. The support of the community is greatly appreciated. If you see him, make sure to give him a warm welcome!

Mr. Rostron currently has eight students in his Life Skills classes. While it's a small class now, he would like to see the Special Education program at MHS grow in the years to come, by hopefully gaining several students each year. The expansion of the program is celebrated because it makes it possible for students to get their educational needs met within their home school district.

A large component of his class focuses on career readiness/skills, so the students will visit job sites in the

community to gain experience. Additionally, the students perform in-school and out-school jobs and services including: delivering copies, plant watering, custom candy bar and water bottle wrappers, designing flyers for events, business cards, and buttons. If you are interested in any of these services or have any other ideas, feel free to let Mr. Rostron know!

As the class grows, always keep in mind to be welcoming to our new peers. It would even be great if students could form a club to encourage interaction and friendship between all students! While such a club is just an idea now, we could make it a reality, and one that would definitely have a positive effect on the school and the MHS community.



# 2015

## HOMECOMING

By: Morgan Sisom



*2015 Homecoming court*

The Manasquan High School homecoming dance is a classic tradition that students look forward to each year. The Yearbook staff along with the help of many other students and faculty had been prominently working hard on making this the best homecoming yet. Their hard work showed on Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, when students arrived to the dance to spectacular decorations with many lights and balloons.

While setting up for the dance, members of the yearbook staff were asked what their hopes were for the 2015 homecoming dance. Senior, Kate-lyn Pearce said "I hope it's a success! I also hope that everyone has fun and enjoys themselves!"



*Seniors posing before their last Homecoming dance*

Senior, Olivia Santos also said she hopes everyone has fun along with the hope that it will be a great homecoming, especially since it's her last

year!

During the school day, students were excited and preparing for the upcoming night. Senior, Kirsten Barnes said "I'm excited to be with all my friends. I love taking picture and seeing all my friends dressed



*MHS students take a picture before they make their way to dance floor.*

up." Others said they were excited for the music, the dances, and of course, all the lights not being on! Sophomore, Connor Morgan, was excited about "Getting jiggy on the dance floor. That night, students arrived to homecoming excited for the night of



*Yearbook staff smiles for success in homecoming dance*

dancing!

Senior class president, Matt Del-Guercio said "I'm really happy with the turnout of homecoming. Everyone was really well behaved so it looks really good on the student council and the student body. Hopefully the faculty was impressed and we can continue to have these awesome dances!"



*Seniors, Gill Black and Lily McNamara excited for the homecoming dance*







# Homecoming Week Favorites!

By: Gillian Black

*Homecoming week is known to be the best week of the year, filled with tons of school spirit and smiles. It begins Friday night, with the school-wide homecoming dance, followed by the Powderpuff football game two days after on Sunday morning. Tuesday night each class gets to decorate their own hallway and section of the gym in preparation for the pep rally Wednesday during school. Wednesday night is the night of the bonfire and parade. And finally, Thanksgiving Thursday is the annual rivalry varsity football game against Wall!*



As one of the student council advisors for the class of 2016, English teacher Miss Marco gets the opportunity to heavily participate in the theme decision and hallway decorations each year: "It's an awesome feeling seeing our completely finished hallway Tuesday night... the seniors will be taking home the bragging rights this year for sure!"

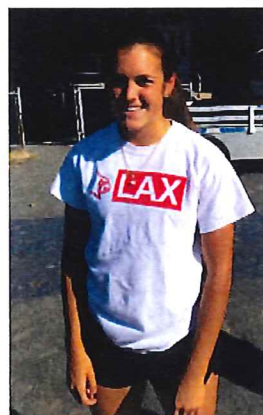
"The infamous homecoming dance has to be my favorite event because I love dancing with my friends all night long and getting ready for the following week's festivities!" Senior Taylor Morris has been to the dance every year and hopes this year's is the best one yet.



Senior Ryan Jensen loves playing in the nerf football game during the pep rally. The star player elaborated: "It's a great atmosphere and a fun game to play with my friends against the other grades. I always have to wear my eye black and a sophisticated headband for good luck."



Senior superstar Emily Pettillo admits that she enjoys the shortened week the most: "It's crazy how much energy fills the halls in only three days. Everyone has a smile on their face and is just happy to be a part of Manasquan High School's tradition."



"The annual rivalry football game against Wall definitely has to be what I look forward to as homecoming week ends. The school spirit really gets me pumped up and ready." Junior Tom Pollock plays defensive end for the Warriors and wears #41.



Guidance department secretary Miss Juska loves going to the parade and bonfire on the Wednesday night before Thanksgiving: "I get to bundle up, see each grade's float, catch up with alumni, and get pumped for #Gameday!"

"I'm super excited to participate in the homecoming games during the pep rally this year. Can't wait to compete against the other grades and hopefully beat the upperclassmen!" Sophomore Denny Maher was a key weapon in last year's nerf football game.



Junior Karly Grogan's favorite event during homecoming week is the football game on Thanksgiving morning: "Everyone is there to support the warriors and there's free hot chocolate at the shack! It's a great kickoff to the weekend celebration!"



# Students Tackle Issues in the World

## The Blue & Gray Editorials

### Thanksgiving From a Vegetarian's Point of View...

By: Nicole Place

#### Celebrate the Harvest, Not the Hunt!



I come from a family of self-proclaimed carnivores. Every man in my family is a better hunter than the next. I grew up under the impression that meat was needed for survival. But as I got older, I formed my own opinion and decided to quit eating meat "cold-turkey."

Thanksgiving is a holiday that is centered around family and food. Spending hours in the kitchen preparing the meal for everyone.

But every year at Thanksgiving I get teased by family members for my "dumb and pointless decision". They ask me questions such as "So what are you planning on eating...nothing?" "Why don't you just eat some turkey, its Thanksgiving!" I've answered these questions a million times but they never stop coming. Everyone is concerned about me not eating meat, when in reality it's themselves they should be more concerned about. Studies have shown that vegetarians have a longer life expectancy and a lower risk of heart disease among tons of other health benefits.

The purpose of Thanksgiving is to give thanks for the

blessing of the harvest and to be with your family. Nowadays this holiday seems to revolve around a particularly large piece of dead flesh sitting in the middle of a table, also known as an oven-cooked turkey.

In past years my plate consisted of just a giant serving of mashed potatoes. But I've found tons of alternative meals that can be prepared in place of turkey. For example "tofurky" exists, which is made from wheat protein and tofu.

Whatever you are planning to eat next Thanksgiving, think about making it a cruelty free meal, so turkeys everywhere will be thankful for you!

*Looks delicious, right?  
A vegetarian  
Thanksgiving dinner.*



### HEY MHS! Get ready to celebrate Life is Good Week: December 7th-11th

Life is Good Club annually dedicates one week in December as Life is Good Week to enthusiastically spread positivity throughout Manasquan High School. The executive board and club advisor Mrs. Apostolu put together different and exciting activities for the student body and faculty to enjoy during the week. Activities include games in the cafeteria, auditorium, and homeroom classes, such as speed stacking, rock-paper-scissors tournament, candy cane hunt, bingo, headbands and many more! Winners of these games will win prizes such as Walter's big cookies and candy! Simple activities like these have the ability to make someone's day a little brighter, which truly is the goal of the Life is Good club. Furthermore, there will be a door dec-



orating contest for every homeroom. Each homeroom will have all week to dazzle up their door and have the chance to win a bagel party Friday morning! Although the week usually concludes with the "Life is Good Day" assembly, this year will be a little different. The assembly will take place later in the year and will welcome a guest speaker to talk to all grades in the gym. Lastly, if any student wants to sign up to run any activity during the week, please see Mrs. Apostolu, co-president Brian Lembo, or co-president Gill Black. Get ready to spread the positivity during this highly awaited event!





# The Blue & Gray

## FEATURES



## Back in Time

By: Matthew Hanley

Last month, the day came. It finally came! For over 25 years, fans of *Back to the Future Part II* had been waiting for the future to arrive. In the 1989 film, protagonists Doc Brown (played by Christopher Lloyd) and Marty McFly (played by Michael J. Fox) traveled to the far-off year of 2015; October 21, 2015, to be exact.

While the filmmakers didn't get 2015 exactly correct, a few things weren't far off. For example, the film accurately predicted the rise of videoconferencing during the scene where adult Marty gets fired, flatscreen TVs in a prior scene, and hands-free video games in the scene at the 1980s nostalgia diner. One more fantastic prediction was the commercial mass production of hoverboards. Yes, hoverboards do exist, but they only work in the very specific environments of the laboratories in which they were created.

*The "Slide" hoverboard, produced by Lexus, unveiled in 2015.*



Unfortunately, not all the predictions made by the filmmakers came true. We still don't have flying cars everywhere, there are still only four *Jaws* movies (not nineteen), and we still don't have drones walking our pets (although drones in general do exist).

...And maybe the most prominent prediction was that the Chicago Cubs would sweep the 2015 World Series. After beating the St. Louis Cardinals in the playoffs, the Cubs were but a few games away from that destiny. Alas, the New York Mets breezed



*Marty McFly wanders through the distant year of 2015.*

their way through to win this year's National League pennant, knocking the Cubs out of the running, and further entrenching the 70-year-old Curse of the Billy Goat.

In a 2010 commentary on the film, director Robert Zemeckis explains, "...rather than trying to make a scientifically sound prediction that we were probably going to get wrong anyway, we figured, let's just make it funny."

In honor of the actual October 21,

2015, several companies issued promotions to commemorate both the date and the film. For instance, Pepsi produced a limited edition "Pepsi Perfect" soda which started selling on October 21, 2015. Nike released the Nike Mag sneaker seen in the film, complete with self-tying laces. They are to be auctioned off in 2016, with the proceeds going to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research. Universal Studios and Mattel filmed a fake advertisement for the hoverboards seen in the chase scene with Griff's gang. The cast of the film appeared on both *Today* and *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* to celebrate the event. Quite unusual for a movie promotion, the town of Reston, Virginia, temporarily changed its name to "Hill Valley" for the day.

While the Cubs may not have made it to the World Series this year, October 21, 2015, will be a day that is forever remembered in cinematic and pop culture history.

*Jimmy Kimmel, Marty McFly, and Doc Brown (Christopher Lloyd) take a selfie together on October 21, 2015.*



## NYC Marathon

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As you ponder the millions of spectators spread throughout the city, you begin to notice how much positivity and enlightenment people bring. Many hold signs baring positive messages, telling the runners to "Just Keep Going" and "your pain is just weakness leaving the body," which definitely gave these competitors the mental strength they needed as the race progressed. So much optimism comes from the crowd, as these spectators stood with signs for hours, cheering on complete strangers.

The 26.2 miles alone is an accomplishment so many

people wish to fulfill, and for these people to give their time to help people keep going is an awesome thing. With this annual race reaching its 45th year, it is important to realize how far we've come since the way beginning in 1970; with only 127 participants and a \$1 entry fee, running solely in Central Park. Fast forward four and a half decades later and this is one of the biggest race events in the world. Viewing from the spectator lines, you can see all the different contenders, ranging in various shapes and sizes. With the oldest runner at 95 years of age, a few runners with prosthetic legs, and many overweight runners that you would never even imagine being able to complete a full marathon, what more motivation do we need to set goals of achieving ourselves one day?



# Students Tackle Issues in the World

## The Blue & Gray Editorials

### "Give Thanks, Give Blood"

By: Kendall O'Malley

The 2015 Fall blood drive took place on Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. Bi-annually, the drive is run by Mrs. Kozic's Health Career Academy in conjunction with the Central Jersey Blood Center (CJBC). This year's theme for the blood drive was "Give Thanks, Give Blood" because of its closeness to the Thanksgiving holiday.

The drive was a huge success this year, with there being over seventy pints of blood donated. The spring blood drive is expected to be even larger due to the increase of students becoming old enough to participate. About 65% of the blood at the CJBC comes from mobile blood drives, such as the one's held here at Manasquan High School each year.



## Donate Now

These blood donations are used to help save premature babies, trauma victims, as well as those suffering with various conditions and diseases that affect the blood. Thank you to all who participated, and be sure to sign-up for the spring blood drive if you would like to donate!

### Student Parking Issue Needs a Better Solution

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such as parking illegally, in unauthorized spots, or trying to get away with parking in the lots of other businesses just to try and make it to school on time.

Where are all these two hour parking tickets coming from you may ask? Well there is an empty lot behind the Manasquan Recreation Annex that has a total of approximately 40 spots, but a whopping 13 are for two, sometimes even strictly one, hour parking only. Also, the spots on Pearce Avenue, near Surf Taco, are all strictly two hours! So if you want to park down that way you must park on the street of Surf Taco, Parker Avenue, or only on the right side of Woodland Avenue. The streets of Curtis and Blakely have only two hour parking as well. All of these open two hour parking spaces, all of these open opportunities, are taken away from the students.

As mentioned before, many students have resorted to taking their chances by parking in illegal spots and hoping to not get a ticket. Not only does this hurt them when they get the ticket, but it also hurts the surrounding businesses. When students have nothing left to do and are forced to park in the two hour parking spots in the lot near Dairy Queen, other businesses such as "The Training Room" and "Pit Stop" lose their parking for their own establishments in return.

These problems are not going unnoticed. There was actually a plan, in the discarded referendum, to expand the horseshoe in the front of the school, creating twenty extra spots for the school. There was also an idea of building an auxiliary lot with roughly thirty

spots in it, however, this was not granted either. While not going unnoticed this pressing issue still remains unsolved.

What can be done? Many students have come up with ideas to help lessen the parking dilemma. Mike and Stefan think that the school should either see if the two hour parking can be limited or if a student parking lot can be built or bought for the students.

Maggie thinks that the best resolution is to make the whole parking lot free parking with no hourly restrictions. Megan Gianforte and Matt Del Guercio think that the school should turn the field hockey / softball field into a parking lot.

MHS security director Mr. Clayton shed light on a good point: guardians of students who attend Manasquan High School pay tax dollars and tuition fees (i.e. Manasquan Board of Education home page: "Manasquan is a receiving district for the municipalities of Avon by the Sea, Belmar, Brielle, Lake Como, Sea Girt, Spring Lake, and Spring Lake Heights. These districts send their students to Manasquan High School and are charged a tuition fee per student") for their children who are required to go to school and aren't guaranteed parking spots, however, teachers who are paid to go to the school are. There seems to be an imbalance between parking for teachers and parking for students. A happy medium may be reached if the students are allowed to park in the teachers parking lots.

Here at the Blue & Grey our best solution for this problem involves all the side streets that are monopolized by the two hour parking signs. We decided that

the most spots would be freed if the side streets by Surf Taco and across from the teacher parking lot were no longer limited to two hours only. We understand that they were originally made to be two hours so the residents would have a place to park. To solve this outer lying problem we decided it would be best to allot each house a spot or two- marking each with yellow paint- either on the street or curb (big enough for one car) while the rest of the street remains open. This solves two problems- it gives the students more parking options while still keeping the residents happy.

Take a look at the small town of Sea Girt, it's residents have no guaranteed parking on the streets secured by two hour limits. Families that live a block from the beach have no place to park all summer while their street spots are filled by persistent beach goers. Residents in Sea Girt have adapted to these limitations by parking their cars in their driveway or by snagging a coveted street spot earlier. Residents in Manasquan could do likewise! This is a tough problem, that is true, but that does not mean that it should be one that is ignored or overlooked. It will take brainstorming and a series of negotiations to come up with a solid resolution but it is an urgent issue that can no longer be skirted.

Mr. Coppola encourages any, if not all of the seniors, to take this problem into their own hands and create a proposal- with his help. He recognizes that there should be more senior privileges... and maybe this could be one of them. Mr. Coppola even suggested that he would go to a town council meeting, accompanied by many seniors, to present a proposal to extend the two hour parking on both the streets and in the empty parking lot. There is hope yet, however, it is up to the students to seize this opportu-



# HALLOWEEN 2015

By: Nicole Place





# Need a Read?

By Alissa Cielecki

It's not easy keeping up with all of your favorite hobbies as you enter high school. Reading is not an exception. For those who love novels but no longer always have the time to engross themselves into a world of fiction, a good book is long overdue. Whether you're the type to dedicate yourself to a series or just take on one short story at a time, there are always books for you. Don't forget about the magic of reading that may have enchanted you in childhood. The magic is still there.

Take the initiative and get back into that pastime you always loved. In the spirit of the season, there are several options that will help you get into the holiday mood, but let there be no limits. Every book is an adventure worth experiencing. Here are a few choices to start off:

## Stories for the Season

**Let it Snow: Three Holiday Romances** by John Green, Lauren Myracle, and Maureen Johnson.

Three young adult authors come together to create a compila-

tion of three holiday love stories. This feel-good read will help you ease into the season, and is sure to leave you pleased, if not optimistic, from the three different but related takes on winter passion.

**Out of My Mind**- Sharon M. Draper

Have you ever felt like no one quite understands you? Melody, the protagonist of *Out of My Mind*, is a smart young girl but no one knows it. Without the voice to convey all her thoughts to the world, she's stuck in her mind, as well as in classes that repeatedly teach her things she already knows. What happens when she gets out?

**The Sleep Room**- F.R. Tallis

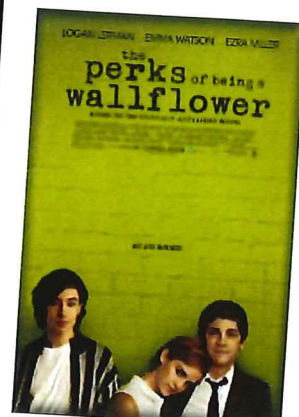
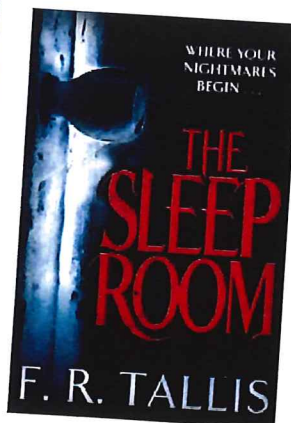
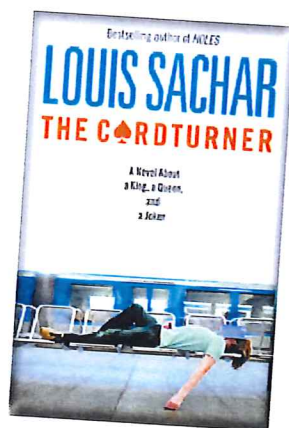
If holiday romances and happy endings aren't your cup of tea, you still have choices. *The Sleep Room* tells the story of a psychologist taking on a job in a seemingly promising medical establishment, only to find that the place isn't quite normal.

**The Cardturner**- Louis Sachar

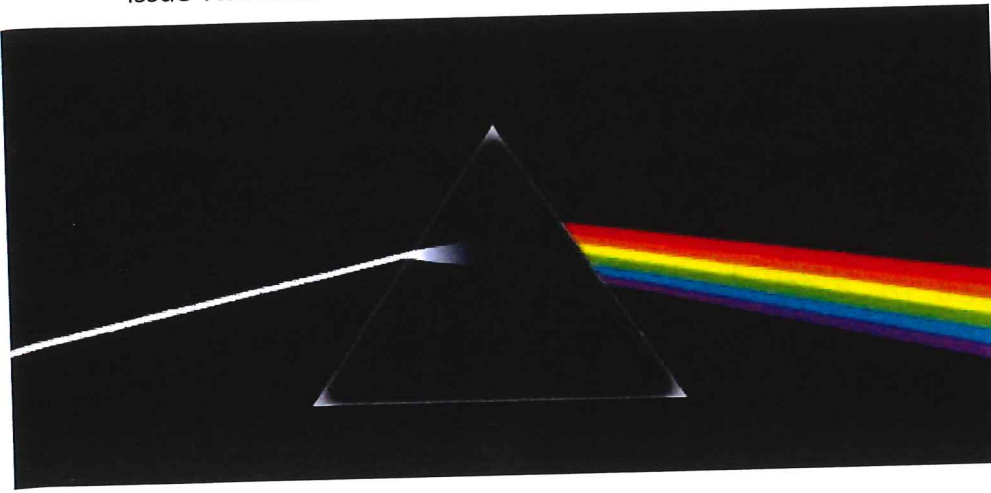
Some books teach you how to play cards. Some tell you the story of a guy just trying to figure things out in his life. *The Cardturner* does both! Forced to accompany his great-uncle on regular trips to a bridge club by his parents, Alton has no idea what kind of world he's getting himself into, a world of cards, mind games, money, and the beautiful Toni Castaneda.

**The Perks of Being a Wallflower**- Stephen Chbosky

Maybe you didn't grow up in the 90s, but Charlie's high school career is still relatable today. Encompassing several different aspects of a high schooler's life, this book is a fascinating illustration of the hardships of growing up different. Written in a series of letters to an anonymous receiver, Charlie relates his experiences of love, hate, and an astonishing realization.







PINK  
FLOYD  
THE  
WALL

## A band that lives on...

by: **Brendan Fahey**

The type of music we listen to is always changing. It is safe to say that the Fetty Wap song we jam to as we stroll down the hallway is definitely different than what teenagers thirty years ago would listen to. Not to go as far as to insinuate that the music we listen to these days is nothing more than talentless trash, but it is crazy to compare it with the music from previous decades. There's absolutely nothing wrong with getting your Drake and Nikki Minaj bumping on your drive to school; although, if we expand and broaden our knowledge and genres of what we listen to, there might just be a band that you will like. Many people in their older years consider our generation to be lacking the kind of music they grew up listening to, and say that we are missing out on the great and timeless music that rocked their generation.

Is this true? Is there a reason behind the fact that our parents can't stand the rap and hip-hop that takes over our radio, and prefer to listen to Elvis or the Beatles?

It is definitely presumable that the majority of our parents have at least once said to us that their generation of music was much better, and we continue to fight them claiming ours is the best. In all honesty, music is all about preference and it is based solely on what you like to listen too. Nobody can say that one type of music is better than the other. This is like saying a certain color is better than another one. Although, we can definitely agree that certain artists and bands have come along that, no matter how long ago it was, will continue to be

known for their amazing talent and the influence they made on their genre.

A band that has done this and so much more is Pink Floyd, a psychedelic rock band that emerged out of London in the 60's. Their distinctive use of synthesizers and the way they created their sound was unlike anything else seen before in the music world, which truly made them stand out and become one of the most popular rock bands of its generation. If you were to listen to Pink Floyd, it is quite easy to tell how different their sound is from the fast-tempo and fast-guitar soloing most of the bands in their time tried to convey. Instead, the musical geniuses behind this group dedicated their albums to creating an originality that no one had ever heard before.

"Our music has depth, and attempts philosophical thought and meaning with discussions of infinity, eternity and mortality. There is a line which people cross that turns it into some magical, mystical realm, for which I don't claim responsibility" – David Gilmour (singer and guitarist for Pink Floyd.) Their albums tell a story, and are encouraged to be listened to all the way through in one sitting, instead of just one song at a time. It is hard to compare them to other artist's, because no one's music ever really was done the way theirs was. Every song in each of the albums creates an emotion that is linked to the next track in some form; one fades as the following one takes over. If you truly listen and break down the powerful and profound

lyrics that intertwine throughout the music, you will realize how much of a distinctive sound this band sincerely projects. Since their time, not many artists have come close to doing what these musicians did. If you take some time to discover what kind of music is truly out there, you'll never know what can come from it. In today's society, we don't get that sense of originality on the radio as we did in prior decades.

Some may argue, but when it comes down to it, most of the music we label as "pop" nowadays has to do with partying and things the media believe will be appealing. There is no deep meaning behind the lyrics, which has changed from years before. Not to say that nobody has talent in the music industry anymore, but it is just crazy to think how much things have changed. It is safe to assume that Pink Floyd will continue to be listened to from generation to generation. This is why they can easily be labeled as a timeless group that will never lose their originality. Yes, with a few band members deceased at this point in time, they may be gone; but never will be forgotten.

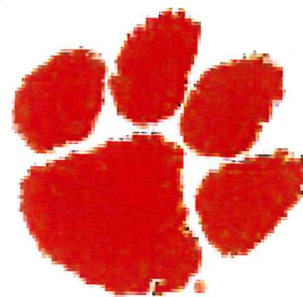


# The Playoffs & The National Champs

## 1. Clemson (12-0)

Games Remaining: 12/5 UNC at Charlotte in ACC Championship game

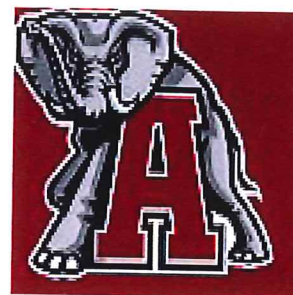
The Tigers are one of 2 remaining unbeaten in the FBS and have stated their case for the playoff loud and clear. They have the nation's best QB in Deshaun Watson, a solid defense, and playmakers at receiver. They have passed every test year, including 24-22 and 23-13 wins over Notre Dame and Florida State, have impressive road wins over bowl eligible teams NC State, Louisville, and Miami, including a 58-0 win over the Canes, the U's worst lost in 40 years. If they get past 11-1 UNC in their conference title game, they will have yet another impressive win, and will be a shoe in for the playoff. However, the Tar Heels and QB Marquise Williams will be a tough out and the annual battle with South Carolina won't be a walk in the park either.



## 2. Alabama (11-1)

Games Remaining: 12/5 Florida at Atlanta in SEC Championship game

The Tide are playing like the unquestioned number 1 team in the country right now, but have 1 hiccup: a 43-37 home loss to 9-3 Ole Miss. But that was back in September and was similar to Ohio State's loss to Virginia Tech last year: a fluke where tipped passes, and the lack of a consistent quarterback hurt the Tide. However, Nick Saban decided on Jake Coker and Coker has been a solid game-manager ever since. Of course, it helps to have Derrick Henry, the Junior Heisman favorite at running back who has mowed through premier defenses all year. It also helps to have wideouts like Calvin Ridley and Ardarius Stewart and the nation's top defense which features A'Shawn Robinson, Minkah Fitzpatrick, and Reggie Ragland. Bama has the best resume of the Top 4 despite the loss, with wins over Georgia, Mississippi State, LSU, Wisconsin, and Texas A&M to their name.



## 3. Oklahoma (11-1)

No Games Left; Has already clinched Big 12 Championship

Similar to Alabama, Oklahoma has played like the best team in the country but has one bad mark on its resume a 24-17 loss to archrival 4-7 Texas. Despite the lack of championship game in the Big 12, Oklahoma has proved to have a solid and an explosive offense that has run through the gauntlet of its schedule and can compete with Clemson and Alabama. In the last three weeks, Oklahoma has beaten dangerous, ranked teams Baylor, TCU, and Oklahoma State. In addition to these wins, Oklahoma also has an impressive road win over Tennessee to its name. Oklahoma is led by Heisman Trophy candidate Quarterback Baker Mayfield, Running Back Samaje Perine, and slot receiver Sterling Shepard.



## 4. Michigan State (11-1)

Games Remaining: 12/5 Iowa at Indianapolis in Big 10 Championship game

Michigan State will probably be ranked number 5 in this week's CFP poll, but can still get in with a win over Iowa. In my opinion, they will easily win this game and will slide into the 4 spot in the playoff, reminiscent of Ohio State last year. The Spartans have 1 loss, a 39-38 setback to Nebraska in which the refs caused more harm to the Spartans' chances of winning than the Spartans themselves. Michigan State has shown the ability to win consistently in the final seconds of games this year: they beat Michigan 27-23 in the Big House on a miracle blocked punt, they beat Ohio State in the Horseshoe on a game winning field goal without injured QB Connor Cook, they won tight games against Rutgers, Oregon, and Purdue. Michigan State has pro prospect in Connor Cook at QB, a stable of underclassmen running backs, and three solid receivers in Aaron Burbridge, Josiah Price, and Macgarrett Kings. But, as all Michigan State teams in recent years have been, the Spartans are relentless on defense. Shilique Calhoun, Riley Bullough, and Malik McDowell lead the solid unit on that side of the ball.

