

Manasquan High School

The Blue & Gray

Laughs Abound at Improv for Ron

Annual Scholarship Fundraiser a Success!



June 2016
in this Issue



Senior Prom... Graduation is Next!
Seniors Give Advice to Underclassmen
Squan-a-Thon Cracks Six-figures, Achieves New Heights
Academy of Finance Earns National Citation
New Fishing Club a Catch with Students
Senior Gabby Roe Honored by The New York Times
Cafeteria Meets Needs of Alternative-eaters
Seniors Announce their College Choices!
More Editorials! Spring Sports!

Magical Night for Squan-A-Thon



The journey to six digits ends with great success

By: Beau Bradley



Eleven months of hard work and nonstop fundraising finally paid off on Friday, April 15th, or should I say, Saturday, April 16th, with the final sum an astounding \$106,899.57 raised for Pediatric Cancer. Last year's event set a high standard for this year's council and participants, but they surpassed expectations with over ten thousand dollars more than last year.

This incredible amount came as a surprise to all of Squan-a-Thon's dancers. When the time came to reveal the amount, the roar of the crowd wasn't nearly as loud as previous years. The committee "made a mistake," as Mr. Battaglia put it, and held up posters that showed \$60,899.57, but quickly reordered the numbers to spell out \$106,899.57 which prompted an ear-ringing wave of excitement.

Although the committee knew the amount before holding up the posters, they were equally as thrilled when they saw how well they had done. Jess Gerard, a part of the marketing committee, said she was brought to tears when she heard the amount. Julie Hohenstein, another member of the marketing committee, was confident that they would achieve their goal, but was surprised that they managed to break \$100 thousand by so much.

The money reveal is the least stressful part of the night. Squan-a-Thon's committee has spent the last 11 months together furiously putting pieces of the night together for the dancers, community members, and local vendors, as well as fundraising huge amounts of money. Committee member Maddie

Monaco managed to raise the most money, over \$2,500, while also planning for the actual event. The word "stressful" doesn't do justice to the process that the committee endured.

In the end, that stress paid off in amazing ways. The night was incredible for all of the dancers. Planning for 12 hours of nonstop activities is not an easy task, but the committee managed to fulfill it. If you're wondering, what do you do for 12 hours? Ask this year's King and Queen of Squan-a-Thon, Nick



Aromondo and Kristin Lange. These two embodied the energy of the night, as well as the cause.

Everyone I managed to speak to had a different part of the night that they enjoyed most. Phil Vorbach, a senior and part of the Squan-a-Thon committee, enjoyed Eric Thomas's speech the most. "He laid the groundwork for what we can be. He's a perfect example, and he showed that for Squan-a-Thon, there are no limits for what can be accomplished," said Vorbach.

Jess Gerard also emphasized

the accomplishments of the committee, not only during the event itself, but during the last year. The committee was fortunate enough to meet the families they were helping. The money raised not only paid for medical bills, but for other things too. For example, they provided a birthday party for a kindergartner named Brisa with Leukemia. "You don't realize how important it is until you see it first hand," said Gerard.

Friday, April 15th into Saturday April 16th, was a night to remember. Not only did a group of over 300 young people manage to raise a stunning \$106,899.57, a group left with tired legs and bags under their eyes, but most importantly, a group left with an indescribable feeling in their heart. One that will last forever, knowing that the world is one big step closer to kids with cancer seeing the future in front of them rather than a high percent of them not making it.

As for next year, the bar is set even higher, but as Eric Thomas put it, "This can go viral." In the last four years, Squan-a-Thon's total number of dancer's has doubled, and the money raised has strictly increased. The future is bright. If you didn't participate this year, all Julie Hohenstein can say is, "No one remembers the nights where they got plenty of sleep."

The Blue & Gray wants to thank Mr. Battaglia, Mrs. Basaman, Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Mackenzie, and Mr. Fagen, the committee, as well as all dancers for an unforgettable night.



BROAD STREET to WALL STREET

*Congratulations to the Academy of Finance
Class of 2016!*

By: Julie Hohenstein

As the days until summer decrease and graduation season enters full swing, seniors get ready to say their final goodbye. On Wednesday, May 11th, the Academy of Finance acknowledged the success of its senior class as the students took to the stage in the Jack Nicholson Theatre to patiently await their academy diplomas. The night celebrated the journey and future of the 32 graduates, and proved a sentimental and memorable night for all.

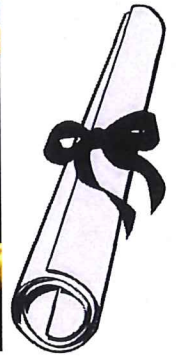
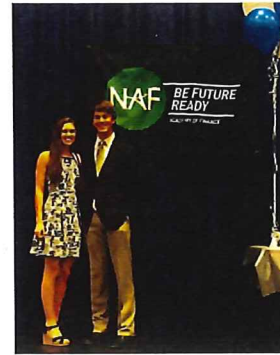
To begin the graduation ceremony, senior Nick Aromando delivered a profound welcome address. He reminded the class that this was the beginning of a new journey. The way is not paved, but AOF has helped to carve it out. Mr. Coppola continued the ceremony, encouraging the graduates in all of their future endeavors and offering the continued support of Manasquan High School.

Mr. Driscoll then delivered a heartfelt - and hilarious - speech that drew upon his memories regarding the class of 2016. Mr. Driscoll mentioned every

graduate personally, a feat that highlights the close-knit nature of the academy. Mr. Driscoll not only thanked the graduates for their involvement in AOF, but for getting others involved in the program. "You are what keeps the program alive" said Mr. Driscoll. "Without such enthusiastic and dedicated students it's not possible to continue to do what we do."

Following Mr. Driscoll, senior Brianne Lauria spoke of her own experience with AOF. Piggybacking on Nick's theme, Brianne began with the bold statement "I have absolutely no idea what I am going to do in the future". She went on to further qualify her statement, saying, "No matter what we do in the future, the foundation the Academy of Finance provided for us will help in every way." She raved about the lessons of each individual teacher of the last four years: from Mr. Gordon and Mr. Waldeyer to Mr. Read and Mr. Driscoll. Every class proved unique, she asserted, and it was amidst the difficulty of debits and credits and swear jars that the students grew into graduates.

Later in the night Brianne



was named the Academy of Finance Student of the Year, receiving a scholarship in praise of her efforts. The town Chamber of Commerces awarded four scholarships to Shawn Nolan (Brielle), Matt Del Guercio (Manasquan), Marisa Marrone (Sea Girt), and Santino Timpani (Spring Lake). Other scholarship winners included Ryan Jensen (Student Achievement), Brendan Kelly (Excellence in Service), Brian Lembo (Academic Excellence), Kevin Pompilio (Matthew Caughey Memorial), Alex Kurtz (Leadership), and Nick Aromando (Leadership). The academy presented over \$8,000 worth of scholarships intended to fund the continuing education of its members.

The successes of the graduates highlight the success of the academy, which has received "model status" by the National Academy Foundation for the 4th year in a row. Students will travel near and far in pursuit of their goals, and they travel with an indisputable advantage over their peers. Congratulations and best of luck to the Academy of Finance Class of 2016!

2016 Graduates

Kevin Aridas
Nicholas Aromando
Beau Bradley
Matthew Cannon
Elizabeth Clark
Brian Comer
Kyle Coyne

Peter Degnan
Matthew Del Guercio
Matthew Ertle
Shane Flanagan
Jessica Gerard
Megan Gianforte
Ryan Jensen

Brendan Kelly
Conor Kineally
Patrick Kineally
Paul Krueger
Alexandra Kurtz
Brianne Lauria
Brian Lembo
Emily Maher
Marisa Marrone

Brian McLoughlin
Shawn Nolan
Emily Petillo
Kevin Pompilio
Ryan Shafer
Jack Sheehan
Santino Timpani
Phillip Vorbach
Joseph Waldeyer

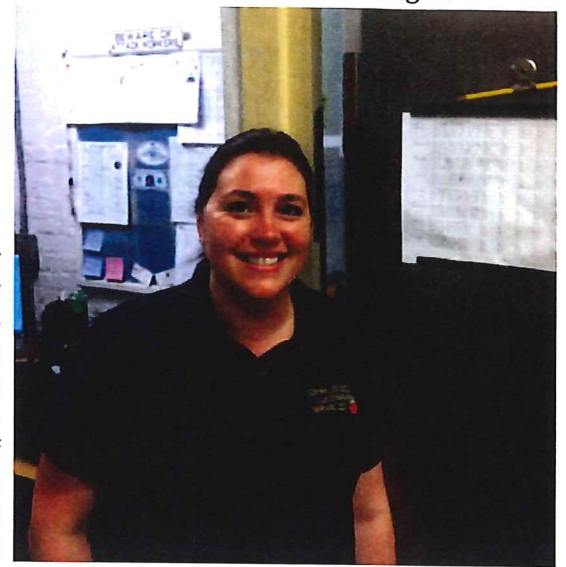
MHS Cafeteria Takes a Turn for the Better... and Healthier

By: Morgan Lavalla

For two and a half years I struggled through finding something I could eat in the cafeteria. Being a vegetarian, there were very few options for vegans and vegetarians including salad bar, granola bars, and occasionally the soup would be meat-free. It was extremely hard to find something that I was able to eat until recently new lunch member Tina joined the force at Manasquan High school. Tina has added so many not only healthy and nutritious items to the menu, but so many vegan and vegetarian. This makes a difference to so many students that choose to not include meat

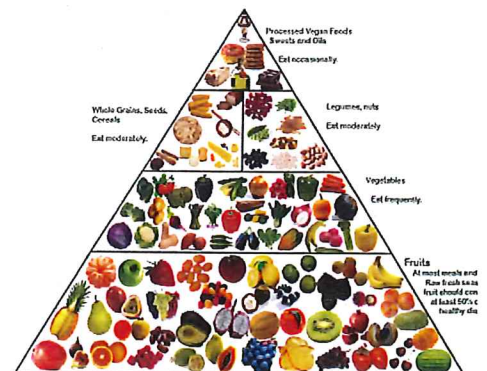
fish dairy eggs and honey in their diet. I remember the first day I saw Tina putting out these large colorful salads full of fresh spinach fruits nuts feta cheese with a homemade honey-balsamic dressing. These salads looks absolutely beautiful full of fresh produce, except there was one problem... there was chicken. I asked Tina if it was possible to make one of the salads vegetarian as it looked absolutely delectable, but I could not eat the meat. She said "Yes,

absolutely!", and from that day on she included not one but many vege-



New cafeteria manager Tina wants students to expand their food interests, and experience new flavors.

tarian salads each day at the snack bar which ended up quickly selling out. Since then there have been even more vegan/vegetarian options included such as an array of fresh salads, various grilled vegetable sandwiches, vegetarian soups, and various snacks that are vegetarian and vegan friendly. This may seem like a small gesture, but her doing this has made school lunches so much more approachable to students. Health is becoming such a big topic in our country, especially amount school systems. Many school's offer school lunches with little to no nutritional value, and are extremely processed. The time and effort Tina has put into making these nutritious and healthy school lunches shows the rapid advancement MHS has made compared to many surrounding schools.



IMPROV FOR RON

continued from previous page

be when she laid in the middle of the stage and acted as if she was in labor, with the aid of Kevin Pompilio as her doctor. The greatly dramatic scene was then performed opera style, which made for a hysterical scene that pleased the audience.

As the games came to an end, Mr. Harvey got on stage and introduced Ron's uncle, a retired FDNY firefighter, Dan Daly. After a warm welcome from everyone attending the event, he was given the mic and began to tell his story. Dan was very close to his nephew, Ron. He explained that Ron was the kind of person that would constantly put others before himself, which applied to his decision of joining the military. When Dan was concerned for Ron's safety and questioned him as to why he wanted to go back for another tour, Ron told him that if he said one more thing about it, he would leave the room.

For him, it wasn't a question for him to go or not; he simply felt he needed to protect his country no matter what. He was a selfless young man that would always put others before himself. All in all, we learned how incredible of a person Ron was

through his uncle, and it was an amazing and enlightening moment to conclude this night.

Raising close to \$4,000 for a scholarship in Ron's name, the night was no doubt an absolute success. We were able to remember an exceptional young man and honor him for the brave acts he has done. A big thank you to Mr. Harvey and Mr. Mawn for putting together such a great night for an even greater cause!

Left: One of the evening's funniest moments, as Mr. Harvey flags Kevin Pompilio for a "foul" forcing Kevin to apologize for an inappropriate remark.



MHS Robotics Team Enters the Fray

By: Jili Zhu

According to the University of Cambridge, the word robot was added to dictionaries in 1920 with Czech writer Karel Čapek's play R.U.R. (Rossum's Universal Robots). Over the years, robots have been developed to work in numerous industries including manufacturing and space. At the same time, many competitions for students were also created.

FIRST Tech Challenge is one of the competitions that is student-oriented. Every year, schools send teams of students to the Challenge to get involved in games that require designing, building, testing and programming independent and human controlled robots that must carry out tasks.

This year's Garden State Rumble NJ FTC Championship Tournament, a part of the challenge, was held on February 28th. The game this year was called "FIRST RES-Q." Throughout the game, robots programmed by the team members competed against each other. Our school's robotics team volunteered at the NJ FTC Championships as the Field Reset Crew.

The team was created back in January and



Above: members of the MHS Robotics Team, pictured from left to right. Chris Palangio, Niamh Mather, Mrs. Edwards, Mr. Shiller, Matt Palangio and Harvey Zhang.

has 15 members. The name of the team is Cyber Blue. Mrs. Edwards is the advisor and Aidan Price, Christopher Palangio, Connor Tuzeneu, David Pearce, Kenneth Simeone are five of the fifteen people on the team.

Team members said the team is fun and they encourage others to join next year. Mrs. Edwards expressed that she hopes the team will win the NJ FTC, the national FTC, and maybe the World FTC in the future.

More detailed information about the game can be found on the MHS Academy of Engineering Page.

Promoting Math through Competition

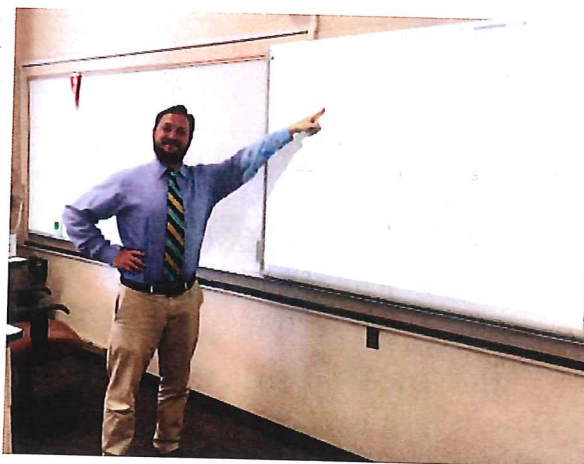
Mr. Lomas's period 2 class hold first place in Geomapalooza

By: Matt Collins

Throughout history competitions have been waged to weed out the strong from the weak. The ancient Greeks held the Olympics, the Romans competed in coliseums, and similarly, the warriors of Manasquan High School's geometry classes are doing battle in Geomapalooza.

For those who are unaware, Geomapalooza is a competition run by Mr. Lomas and Mr. Minutoli between 9 Geometry classes that takes place every spring. Students compete in a multitude of both geometry and non-geometry related events like proof writing, surface area problems, page turning, book covering, and emptying a tissue box.

The origin story of Geomapalooza is akin to stories of the wars of ancient Greek times. It began 2 years ago when one titan of mathematics, Mr. Minutoli insulted another, Mr. Lomas. The two teachers soon traded more insults, Minutoli mocking



Above: Math teacher Mr. Lomas teaches a concept to his class. Under his outstanding leadership, Lomas's 2nd period Geometry class leads the competition.

Lomas' love of chocolate milk and Lomas mocking Minutoli's "love of BBQ spare ribs and how messy they can be," as Lomas tells it. That was the last straw.

According to Lomas, "The school was no longer big enough for the both of us. We decided that the only way to settle it was a contest. A geometric contest. One in which our classes would compete for everlasting glory in an arena built on mathematics." And with that, Geomapalooza was born. The inaugural competition in 2014 was won by Lomas' block 2 class.

As of May 25th, Mr. Lomas' block 2 geometry class is in the lead but only by a slim margin of .5 points over Minutoli's Block 5 with 3 competitions remaining. Geomapalooza takes place twice a week and started in April. Feel free to take a side in the Lomas/Minutoli war and come support your favorite geometry classes.

New Classes Being Introduced for Upcoming School Year

MHS has decided to introduce a few new classes next year including: Fashion and Interior Design, and Painting. So if already already selected one of these classes or you're looking to switch into one, heres what you're in for!

Several exciting new classes are now available for the upcoming 2016-2017 school year. One of the classes, Fashion and Interior Design, will be taught by Mrs. Morris. As well as a Painting class that will be taught by Ms. Caravella.

You may know Mrs. Morris from having her previously in a cooking class. But prior to teaching, she was a project manager for an interior design firm and a visual merchandising manager.

Mrs. Morris purposed the idea of this class so students would be able to learn about the principals of designing clothing and interiors. It will be available for grades 10, 11, and 12. In the class students will practice drafting and sketching models

for spaces and clothing.

At the beginning of this school year Ms. Caravella created a petition so she could teach this new painting class. She also had to create the curriculum for it and have it approved by the administrators.

The painting class is available for grades 10, 11, and 12. Throughout the course students will be exploring the elements and principals of design including color, line, shape, balance, movement and unity. Students will be drawing and painting their own designs. They will also be using several different painting mediums such as acrylic, water color, and even oil paints.

Mr. McCarthy explained why these additions were approved saying "We are always striving to expand and advance Manasquan High School's Art Department and the electives available here. We want to help students discover what they want to select as their college majors and even their future careers."

By: Nicole Place



Mrs. Morris (pictured with senior Matt McGovern) playing frisbee outside with her Block 5 class.

Senior Gabby Roe wins honorable mention from The New York Times

By: Morgan Lavalla

For most high school students, even a mention in the local newspaper or school newspaper is a proud accomplishment. But for 12th grade Manasquan High school senior Gabby Roe, she accomplished something far greater and admirable.

A student of senior English teacher Mrs. Fenlon, Gabby participated in The New York Times editorial contest through an assignment that Mrs. Fenlon mandated of all her students. This is the second year that Mrs. Fenlon's class has participated in The New York Times contest, and is the newspaper's third annual editorial submission competition. Last year Mrs. Fenlon's students did not get the chance to submit their pieces, but all had the chance to this year. Students were required to write two editorial pieces, and to submit one of them.

Mrs. Fenlon found out about the contest

last year through The New York Times Learning Network, an educational resource which provides prompts and SAT words for teachers to use in class. Mrs. Fenlon uses the network as a learning resource for her students.

Student Gabby Roe had submitted her editorial on the important topic of Religion vs. the LGBT community. Gabby's editorial won one out of 54 honorable mentions. This was out of 6,300 submissions! Not only did Gabby receive honorable mention from one of the world's most prestigious news publications, but she also received recognition from the Board of Ed on behalf of Manasquan School District. Even better, Gabby received a Harry Potter mug from Mrs. Fenlon, as she is a huge fan.

To other students feeling apprehensive about submitting a controversial piece, Gabby says to "just go for it!"

Julie Hohenstein: Manasquan's Caring Award Recipient

By: Rachael Gray

Thursday, March 17th marked the annual Monmouth County Guidance Directors Association (MCGDA) Caring Award ceremony at Brookdale Community College. The MCGDA is a non-profit organization comprised of guidance counselors from public and private schools throughout Monmouth County. Every year, this organization hosts the Caring Award ceremony, a ceremony in March that highlights the wonderful things candidates from each school have done. Manasquan High School is lucky enough to be one of the schools that participate in this event, and this year the recipient of the award for the school is Julie Hohenstein.



raising money for it, as well as interacting with the benefitting families. All of these outstanding accomplishments, as well as others that Julie did not include in her video are reasons as to why she is the chosen recipient for this prestigious award.

Julie is an outstanding student, and as her required two minute video for the ceremony shows, she has done many wonderful things to benefit her community and those outside of it. In her video,

Julie was not the only person considered for the Caring Award from Manasquan. Each guidance counselor recommended one of their students for the award. The guidance staff then meets and evaluates how each student has contributed to the school as well as their community, and decides on one person to be their recipient. The Dean of Students, Mr. McCarthy, stated that it was very difficult to choose one person to receive the award, but the staff agreed that Julie was very deserving, and everyone seems happy with the decision.



Above: Mrs. Hohenstein, Julie, and Mr. McCarthy at the Caring Award Ceremony.

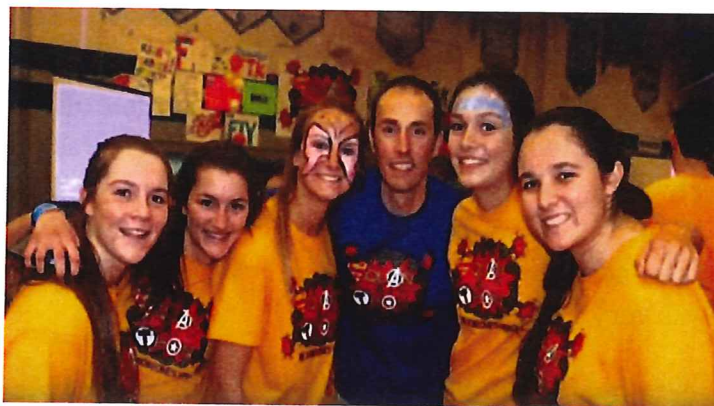
Left: Julie with students in Costa Rica.

Right: Julie with freshmen during her summer tutoring program.

Below: Dancers and Mr. Battaglia at Squan-a-thon 2015.

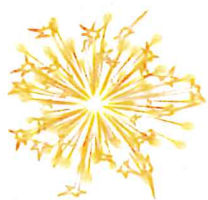


Julie explains how over the summer between sophomore and junior year she participated in Projects Abroad in Costa Rica. There she had the opportunity to spend two weeks in Costa Rica, working on reforestation and teaching English to children in schools. Julie also discussed how she set up a Summer Freshman Transition program at Manasquan. The program is designed to provide tutors to incoming freshman that helps them with their summer assignments as well as the overall transition into high school. Finally, there's Squan-a-thon. Julie is on the executive committee for the event this year. She has spent the entire year working on planning the event and



The actual ceremony took place on March 17 from 8-11 A.M. There was a breakfast provided for all the recipients of the award, and all the videos of the students from each school were shown. Julie stated that "it was an honor being there. Seeing everyone else in the room, you

feel like you're with qualified people. It was so flattering and good to know that there are people out there doing their best to improve the world in some way". Julie also received a scholarship of \$150 and a certificate for the caring she has displayed throughout her high school career.



Q: What are you looking forward to most at prom?

Tori Olsen:
"Rapping."

Mike Parziale:
"I'm excited to go to prom with my one true love."

Kailee Harmstead:
"Getting dressed up."

Matt McGovern:
"Slow dancing with my high school sweetheart."

Jenna Nudo:
"I'm really excited to make a lot of memories with my friends."

Brendan Fahey:
"Dancing with my friends and having a grand old time."

Gill Black:
"I'm excited to spend one last night with my graduating class."

Matt DelGuercio:
"Getting dressed up fancy."

Mary Lintott:
"I'm looking forward to dancing."

Senior Prom

By: Erin Brolewicz

Prom King: Conor Kinneally
Prom Queen: Taylor Fancera

The annual Manasquan High School Senior Prom came and went, and was nothing short of amazing. The bad weather and superstitions of the day (Friday the 13th) definitely did not dampen the spirits of the students attending. It was so nice to see everyone dressed to the 9's, and having the time of their lives.

The DJ of the night played both today's hits, but also songs that were more popular when we were younger. The song of the night seemed to be "All I Do is Win" by DJ Khaled. As soon as it played, everyone on the dance floor went crazy. They sang along, especially during the chorus. As soon as T-Pain sang "Everybody's hands go up", a roar went over the crowd and everybody's hands did go up in the air.

The photobooth was definitely a huge plus and contributed to the fun of the night. There were baskets of props to use for the pictures, everyone had a blast! The pictures were a cute souvenir of the night.

All in all, it was an amazing night filled with laughter, dancing and memories that will last a lifetime.



Q: What did you think about prom?

Matt DelGuercio:
"For only being there for an hour and a half, it was a great time to hang with friends and dance."

Tori Olsen:
"I had a really great time, I didn't get to rap on the mic but overall I had a BLAST."

Mike Parziale:
"I think it's a wonderful time to see all your friends dressed up and have fun with some great people."

Mary Lintott:
"Loved it."

Matt McGovern:
"It was a great time and I got to spend it with the love of my life, Liv Santos."

Gill Black:
"I thought this years prom was 10x better than last year. Everyone was dancing and the music was on point."

Jenna Nudo:
"The photo booth was a good feature."

Kailee Harmstead:
"Prom was a lot of fun, my table rocked, but they should've played better songs."

The Blue & Gray

FEATURES

New MHS Fishing Club

continued on page

math teacher Mr. Buss. All are experienced fishermen, who gladly offer students their expertise.

One of the monthly meetings was held on May 17th in room 306. Mr. Freda started off the meeting with tips for fishing this week. Captain Jay Monteverdi, guest speaker and Al's dad, taught and demonstrated how to prep and fillet fish. Mr. DeMuro offered some useful tips during the demonstration. Club buttons were handed out at the end of the meeting.

The very next day, sophomore Jack Tomkiel caught a 40 pound striped bass while fishing with the club off Mantoloking.

Students in the club fish almost every day. "The team fishes for all different kinds of fish, fresh and saltwater. They specifically target bass, trout. Carp, crappie, striped bass, bluefish, fluke and anything else that comes through the NJ inlet and the Atlantic Ocean," Al said.



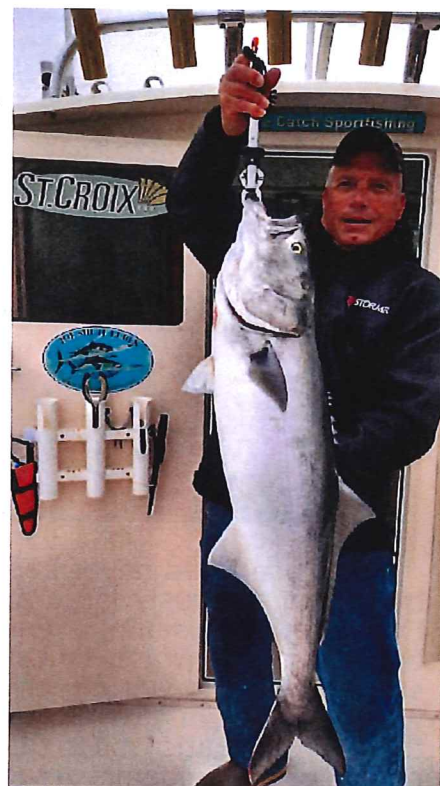
Al has been fishing for as long as he could remember and has never tired of it. In the past, he has caught a 100 pound mako, a 50 pound striper, a 65 pound sailfish, a 165 pound tarpon, and many others. His father brought fishing to his attention and he took off with it. He has his own boat now and goes out as much as he can.

Senior Matt Cannon, one of the members in the club, started fishing when he was only 11 years old. He says that he became even more interested because he wanted to be like Jeremy Wade, star of the TV show *River Monsters*. He once caught a 9 legged octopus and also caught a hickory shad.

Junior Andy Beer, another member of the club, started fishing when he was 6. His uncle got him started in fishing. Andy used to meet him at the dock because that is where he would go after he fished for tuna in the canyon. In the interview, Andy said that he would recommend fishing to people who are looking to have a fun time in what basically is a limitless sport. In addition to his 7lb largemouth bass, he has caught a 125 lb yellowfin tuna and a 40 lb striped bass.

Newsletters for the club are on the bulletin board outside room 121. Students participating in the MHS Fishing Club receive discounts from Reel Seat in Brielle. The High School Fishing Club continues to look for support from local communities and industries.

Looking back on his first year at MHS, and his leadership in the Fishing Club, Al expressed pride. He wanted to pursue his interest through the school, and says, "I successfully did it with support from my parents, friends and teachers."



The Blue & Gray

FEATURES

Homemade Kombucha makers, Shawn and Ryan Kelly visit Manasquan High School!

By: Morgan Lavalla

On Wednesday, May 4th the Kelly brothers paid a visit to Manasquan High School to represent their product, and the health benefits it provides. The brothers spoke to the health careers academy class, and the academy of finance classes. Shawn and Ryan explained the business aspect of their company including how they worked hard to achieve a successful business from scratch, and also the nutritional health benefits that accompany consuming the drink. To make the visit even more eventful, the brothers had samples for everyone to try! The presentation was very informal, and towards the end of the presentation Shawn and Ryan asked questions and students were rewarded with free t-shirts and bottles of Kombucha for answering correctly!

Brothers Shawn and Ryan Kelly began selling their homemade Kombucha in July of 2015. Their business, Fine Health Kombucha, is located in Bradley Beach New Jersey. Being the first homemade brewery in New Jersey, they are also the fourth state in the country to sell homemade Kombucha on tap. Besides Fine Health Kombucha, the only other three states you can find homemade Kombucha are, California, Colorado, and Vermont. Health



food stores also sell Kombucha, although it is not homemade but packaged and shipped from other states.

Now, you're probably wondering, what is Kombucha? The drink starts out with these three simple ingredients: organic tea, purified water, and evaporated cane sugar. Although, there is one key ingredient missing: the Scoby Disc! Shawn and Ryan explained the scoby disc, and that it stands for symbiotic colony of bacteria. The bacteria and yeast ferments the tea over a period of as little as 7 days to as long as 14 days. During that process, the sugar is converted to small amounts of alcohol and then into acetic acid. Then there is the fermentation process which creates probiotics, antioxidants, enzymes, and organic acids. Consuming the drink helps digestion, provides an ample amount of probiotics, and even improves your immune system and circulation!

While Manasquan High School students were provided samples of the Kombucha, there were an array of reactions from the students and faculty, ranging from those who love it and others who don't particularly enjoy the unique taste. I personally enjoy Kombucha from Fine Health and try to drink it as much as possible for I adore the health benefits it provides. I thought this presentation was exciting because it was such a unique topic, and I loved how Shawn and Ryan informed both the health careers academy students and the academy of finance students.

Overall the presentation was enlightening, interesting, and definitely informative for students of both the health and business academies. The two brothers came together despite their different career interests, and accomplished making a successful business that benefits people's health and wellbeing. Their business is growing each and every day and they are even opening a Kombucha truck that will travel around New Jersey selling their homemade Kombucha! Look out for them this summer as they are located at 126 Main Street, Bradley Beach NJ!



Left: Shawn and Ryan in their Bradley Beach shop.

Students Tackle Issues in the World

The Blue & Gray Editorials

Picking a Major



The unnecessary stress that comes along with making the decision.

By: Beau Bradley



The college application process is known as one of the most stressful things to go through during senior year. Not only is it extensive and difficult, but it is also different for most schools. So to begin, you have to pick schools, then write essays, fill in personal information, and lastly, you pick a major. That's the biggest stressor for myself and many others. Sorry, but at only seventeen years old, I'm not ready to decide what I want to do in the future.

So much can change in four years of college, especially a student's mind. For those who know what they want to study, this may not be a problem, but for those who don't, this can add massive amounts of time and stress. And, to make it worse, the decision the undecided student must officially make may not be what they truly want to do.

The application for most schools is different. Some may allow you to apply undecided while some may not. Either way, this can cause issues. Schools that allow you to apply undecided will tell you that it may put you at a disadvantage in your application, and schools that force you to pick a study may force you into picking the wrong option, leading you towards a future that you never planned on pursuing.

At seventeen or eighteen years old, students are still developing and changing. Instead of forcing the teenager to pick a major when applying, colleges should allow them to test different waters when they get to the school before making a final decision. I believe that the fact that schools can reject your application strictly because you have applied undecided is ridiculous. Some of the smartest people worldwide changed their minds well out of college, and weren't put at a disadvantage, yet colleges believe that our major should have an impact on whether or not we are smart enough to be admitted into the school.

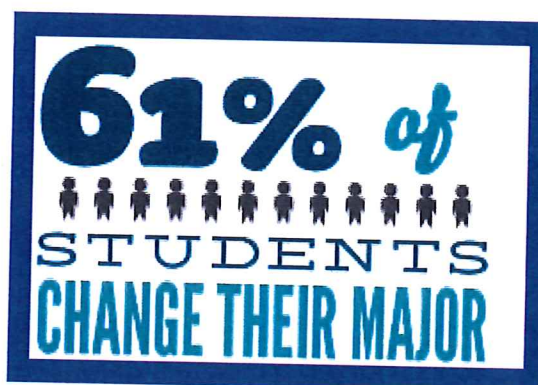
I spoke to multiple seniors at MHS, some

undecided, some not, and all of the students had strong inputs on this topic. For example, when asked for her opinion, Jess Gerard of Spring Lake said, "Colleges should allow you to keep your options open instead of making you decide." Jess will attend Tulane University next fall, and originally applied to major in English, but said, "I didn't know what my college specializes in when I applied, and I may change my major."

If colleges allow you to change, then what's the point in forcing you to decide in your application in the first place? Senior Rachael Gray of Belmar applied to schools undecided, and brings up a massively important point. She said, "Before deciding to pick a major I want to feel very strongly about it before spending all of that money. I originally wanted to major in film, but I don't want to lock that in before I am positive."

Rachael brings up arguably the most important factor in college decisions, money. College is undoubtedly one of a family's largest expenses that they will ever pay, and what if they spend all that money on you only to find out that you have no interest in your major? Then what's the point?

At such a young age, applicants are very likely to not know what they plan on doing in the future, so instead of forcing a major on an applicant to add to their stress during the application process, schools should accept the best students for their school, regardless of their major. College is for students to get smarter, not for them to be forced into something they'd never want to do in the real world. If colleges gave more time for students to make a decision, there would be much fewer people in the world that are unhappy with the major that they picked to study as an immature teenager, which resulted in them embarking on a career path that they don't feel strongly about and are unhappy in their adult lives.



Students Tackle Issues in the World

The Blue & Gray Editorials

America is hailed as the land of opportunity, historically known for the rags to riches fairy tales that result from honest blood, sweat, and tears. However, in today's day in age, America's business has become business itself. And while blood, sweat, and tears are still involved, they are no longer the driving factors, but the products.

Astereotypical businessman is unyielding and witty, a politician of a new type of party. They desire success with every ounce of their being, and measure their efforts in dollars, sports cars, vacation homes. Sure, I would like to believe that honesty exists on Wall Street, but the numbers are far from righteous. Today, opportunity seems to only present itself if one has a checkbook to encourage it. Students are accepted to college thanks to financial connections, salaries continue to skyrocket for the high and mighty, and the divide between the wealthy and the poor intensifies as the once secure middle class evaporates into thin air. Land of the free? Home of the brave? Hmm, if bravery is measured in bills.

The world is more than business. However, students are forced to learn the mindset of a monetary man through a statewide financial literacy mandate. Students are

BUSINESS ETHICS

By: Julie Hohenstein

required to take adequate business credits in order to graduate. Here at Manasquan students enroll in Introduction to Business, and many continue along the path, joining the Academy of Finance. Manasquan does an incredible job teaching without preaching the necessity of money, maintaining the focus on knowledge in a program that defies the stereotype. However, not all schools are blessed to have such level headed programs.

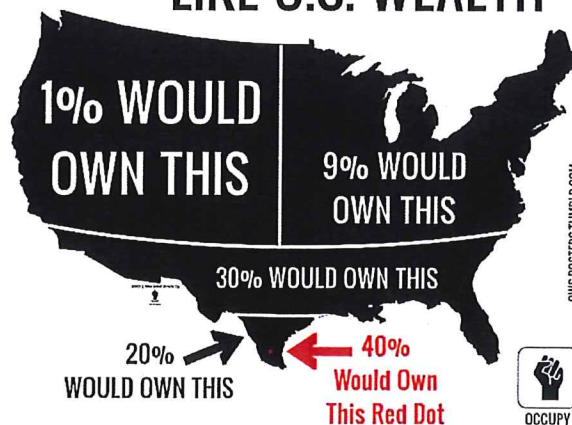
The state mandate highlights the twisted morals of the country. We hold hypocrisy too highly and

put pathos on a lower pedestal than profit. Students should be taught the traits of humanity before they are asked to enter a field that puts all of those traits into question. Too many companies encounter corruption because their employees don't entertain proper ethics. They are blinded by wealth. Plagued by an absence of empathy.

The financial literacy requisite should be replaced, or at least matched, by a psychology requisite. We take art and english, math and science, but how are we supposed to understand these complicated subjects when we don't understand ourselves? Psychology is the study of human behavior and mind. It embraces all aspects of experience, instilling in us an understanding of the greater good, a picture far greater than a full bank account.

Granted, money is a necessary evil. I am not naive enough to believe we can continue without it and live in a happy-go-lucky world where bad never battles good and misfortune ceases to exist. However, I am hopeful that change is possible if humanity unites. The divide is too great for one generation to overcome. It is time to turn to the future and not only change the financial divide, but the minds of those promoting it.

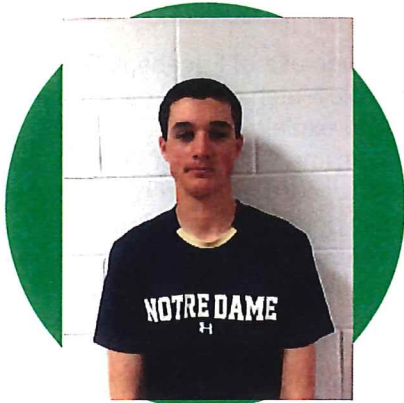
IF U.S. LAND WERE DIVIDED LIKE U.S. WEALTH



Seniors Give Advice to Freshmen

By: Beau Bradley

High school is a speedy transition from fun and games to serious business. Freshmen battle with the struggles of adolescence, more homework, and more responsibilities. Everyone has to go through the process, but everyone finds a way to cope with the trials and tribulations of freshman year. Seniors offer their best advice to assist next year's incoming freshmen.



"Take as many challenging classes as you can throughout your high school career. It will help you when applying to colleges." - **Pat Kinneally**



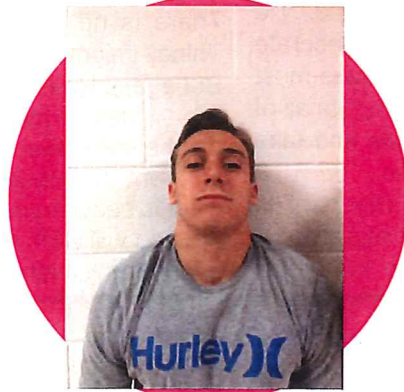
"Get involved in a lot of clubs and sports to make new friends and have fun." - **Ryan Jensen**



"Attend as many school sporting events as you possibly can to show school spirit!" - **Matt Del Guercio**



"Build good relationships with teachers, they'll always be there to help you." - **Paul Krueger**



"It's never too early to start thinking about college. The process is long, so get ahead on it." - **Kevin Aridas**



"Don't be afraid to meet new people and make different friends." - **Brian Lembo**



"Don't be afraid to be yourself." - **Kiera Mulroy**



"Stay organized and get your priorities straight as a Freshman, it will make it easier later on." - **Shawn Nolan**



"Challenge yourself and get involved because you can do much more than you think." - **Brianne Lauria**



College Choices



By: Chloe Cox

Class of 2016

The Blue & Gray rounded up a bunch of class of 2016 seniors, and found where they're headed to school next year. We tried to get everyone, so if you're not included: we apologize!

Jake Algor:

Brookdale Community College

Nick Aromando:

Monmouth University

Kirsten Barnes:

Duquesne University

Margot Barry:

University of Charleston

Samantha Bauer:

Coastal Carolina University

Megan Bauter:

Kutztown University

Tom Bielicki:

Rowan University

Gillian Black:

Pennsylvania State University

Sierra Blanco:

Johnson & Wales University

Anna Boyan:

Brookdale Community College

Beau Bradley:

The Taft School

Emily Brennan:

The University of Alabama

Erin Brolewicz:

Albright College

Brittany Buechele:

The College of New Jersey

Emily Burns:

Montclair State College

Anneke Butkus:

University of Vermont

Matt Cannon:

University of Delaware

Emma Carton:

University of Charleston

Logan Campanelli:

Rider University

Mike Capone:

Brookdale Community College

Jennifer Carden:

University of Tampa

Kelly Cattani:

Savannah College of Art and Design

Liz Clark:

The College of New Jersey

Matt Collins:

Seton Hall University

Brian Comer:

West Virginia University

Megan Corbet:

Monmouth University

Chloe Cox:

Brookdale Community College

Hailey Crecca:

Lafayette College

Krysta Cruz:

Endicott University

Matt DeConie:

Brookdale Community College

Peter Degnan:

Moravian College

Matt Del Guercio:

Virginia Tech University

Kevin Dempsey:

College of New Jersey

Alex Devoy:

Delaware Valley University

Mike Diahy:

Brookdale Community College

Julian Donadeo:

University of California at Santa Barbara

Jackson Dunson:

Ringling college of ART & Design

Mary Emich:

Monmouth University

Matt Ertle:

University of Miami

Brendan Fahey:

Brookdale Community College

Maggie Fabean:

Queens University of Charlotte

Sara Ferraro:

James Madison University

Shane Flanagan:

UNC at Wilmington

Katelynn Fuchs:

The University of the Arts

Jess Gerard:

Tulane University

Megan Gianforte:

University of Richmond

Lindsey Gladden:

Marywood University

Rachael Gray:

George Mason University

Torey Grennan:

Brookdale Community College

Mirielle Hansen:

Clemson University

Kailee Harmstead:

Rider University

Rachael Herman:

Brookdale Community College

Julie Hohenstein:

University of Virginia

Erin Howard:

UNC at Wilmington

Mike Howell:

Rowan University

Emma Ientile:

Monmouth College



IMPROVISATIONAL COMEDY SHOWS!

Tuesday Nights 7:30
June 7, 14, 21, 28

4 Shows Only! \$5

Manasquan Rec Center
on Atlantic Avenue

Lots of Laughs! Summer Fun!
Family-Friendly Entertainment!



featuring
MHS Students
Improv for Ron Players
MHS Grads from College Improv Troupes

See Who's Playing Each Week at
SHOREFUNIMPROV.COM

Sponsored by
Manasquan Recreation Commission



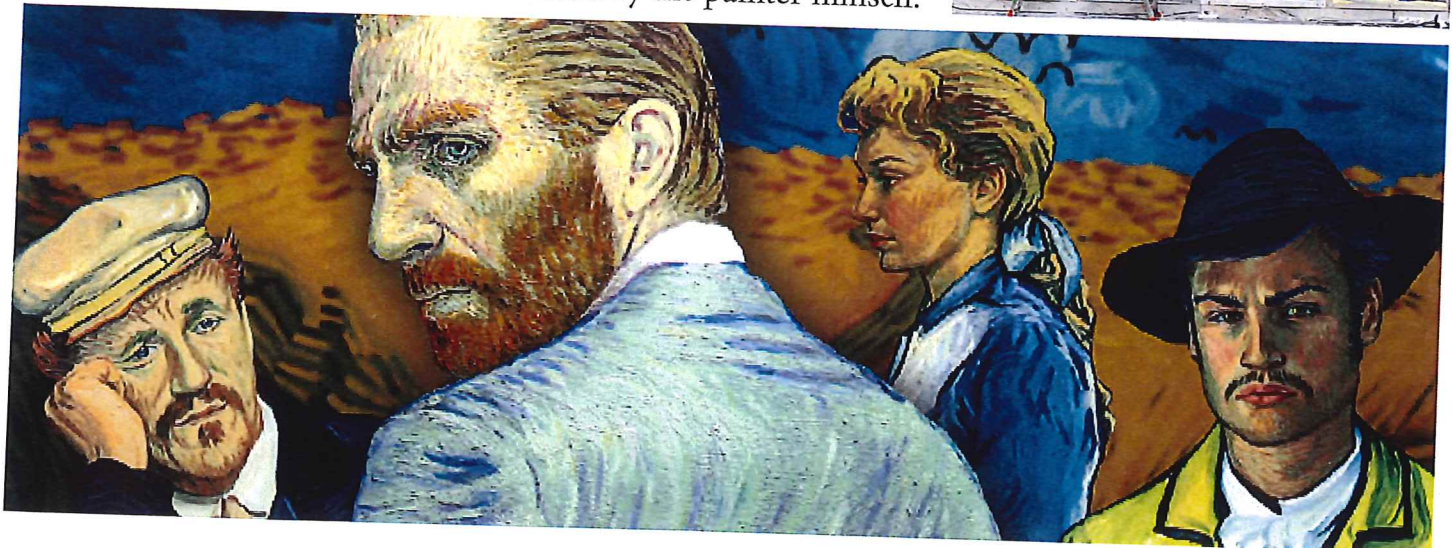
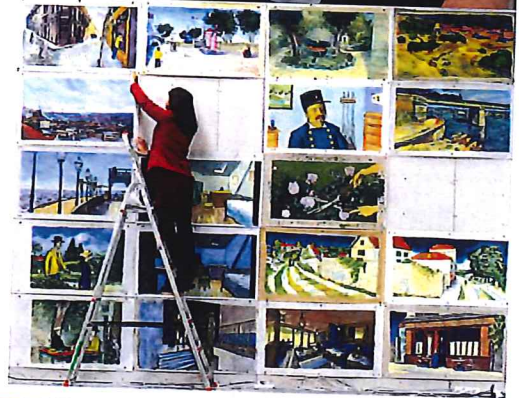
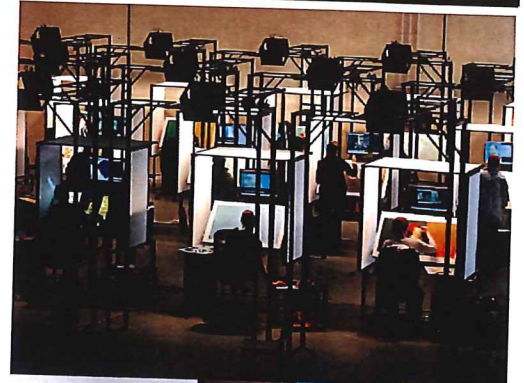
Loving Vincent Preview

By: Nicole Place

Loving Vincent, the story of Vincent Van Gogh's life and his tragic death, is currently in the works and expecting to premiere sometime in 2016. When it does reach audiences, it will make cinematic history.

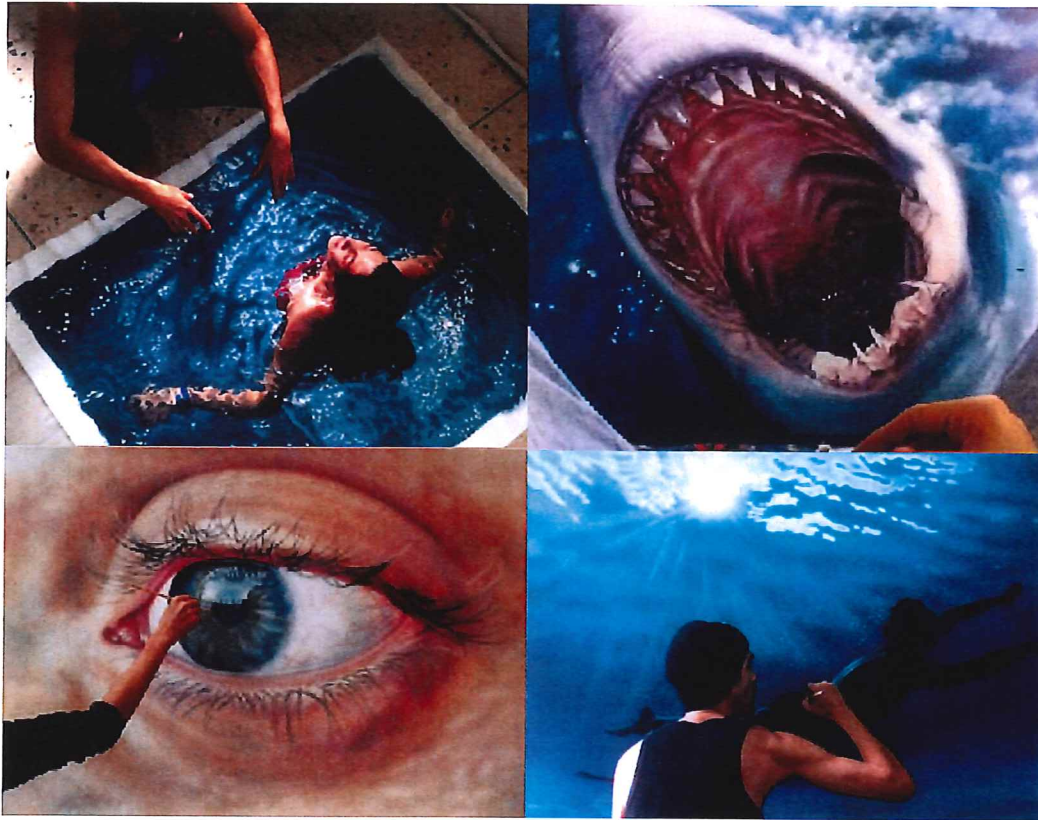
Why? It will be the first fully painted animation feature film to ever exist. To create this movie over 125 painters, who specialize in imitating Van Gogh's style, were hired to create every frame of the movie. There is estimated to be over 62,450 frames in this entire film, and each one is an oil painting on canvas. That's over 12 paintings per second.

This movie is being funded by the Polish Film Institute and directed by Dorota Kobiela (who produced the 2006 film *Peter and the Wolf*, which won the Oscar for Best Animated Short) and Hugh Welchman. No words are spoken in the new trailer, it's simply paintings coming to life to tell their own stories. The artists who created this movie went through a pretty rigorous selection process—including a three-week intensive training session in how to paint like Van Gogh. The plot, too, comes directly from Van Gogh's work: It's derived from 800 letters written by the painter himself.



Featured Artist: **Gustavo Silva Nuñez**

By: Nicole Place



Gustavo Silva Nuñez is a 36 year old artist based in Valencia, Venezuela. He creates incredibly lifelike paintings of people swimming in water, along with other hyper realistic images. His use of light and reflections makes them appear three-dimensional. It is obvious that he has mastered the medium of his choice: oil paints. His perfect use of shading and highlighting, as well as the water's swirls, bubbles, and distortion, makes the paintings look incredibly real.

Gustavo begins his work by basing his painting off of a photograph. Then he paints every detail exactly how it is in the picture, which is no easy task. This process can take anywhere upwards of a few months to complete. When he is finished he pushes the boundaries between reality and painting even further, by playfully posing as if the people he painted were really there beside him.

Social media has helped Nuñez gain a large following and interest in his work. If you like what you see, check out his other paintings on his Facebook or Instagram account: @gustavoinutero.

Boys Lacrosse Finishes Season WITH RINGS!

Bounce back from Shore Conference Final loss to earn revenge against Rumson, win CJ II Championship

By: Chloe Cox

At the conclusion of the season, the Manasquan boy's lacrosse team reminisces on an impressive 19-5 campaign. This season's record tops last year's record of 14-4. The boys maintained the same spot as last year, repeating as Class B South champs. Their undefeated record (6-0), passed their record from last year by 1 win.

But better things were to come as the post-season tournaments played out.

The team took second in the Shore Conference Tournament after falling to Rumson-Fair Haven by a close score of 8-5 in the finals. But looking for redemption, the boys faced Rumson again, winning 8-4 to knock them out of states, and win the Group II championship. This followed an outstanding

victory over Hopewell Valley in the semis, a 12-6 win led by junior John Moran, whose passing led to several goals for the Warriors.

When asked about his thoughts on the end of his high school lacrosse career, senior Peter Degnan said, "It's a bittersweet feeling that it's over. We accomplished so much this year and it was the team's best year ever. I'm always going to remember winning states for the first time in school history."

He added, "I can't wait to come back next year and see the team win it all."

The boys fell to Chatham 4-2 at Livingston High school in the Tournament of Champions. Despite this loss, the team held their heads high as they are still the first in Manasquan High School boy's lacrosse history to win a sectional state championship.

A group of talented players has many going on to play in college. Many have committed to play past their high school careers. Junior, Devin Carroll has committed to Quinnipiac University. Senior, Jimmy LaPoint will continue playing at Georgian Court University. Peter Degnan, Senior, will continue playing lacrosse at Moravian College. Senior, Paul Krueger will go to Muehlenberg College. Junior goalie, Tom Pollock will continue at DeSalles University. Senior, Stefan Ogden will continue at Wheaton College.

The Warriors will graduate eight seniors this year. Jimmy LaPoint, one of those seniors, added, "I'm sad that my high school career has come to an end, but now I know exactly the work that I will need to put in in college in order to win a championship." With the team being such a close group of boys, the senior will surely be missed.



Left: The tight-knit Warriors celebrate their state championship, the first in school history.



BLUE & GRAY SPORTS



Page 37

Softball strikes out the competition!

By: Jili Zhu and Matt Collins

The Manasquan High School Softball team finished their season at (12-7) and despite early exits in the Shore and State tournament, the Warriors went 9-3 in their division, Class A Central, finishing second only to powerhouse Saint John Vianney. The girls lost to Donovan Catholic 5-1 in the Shore Conference Tournament Quarterfinals. They were also defeated in the state tournament by Voorhees 5-0.

However, the Warriors did have some signature performances during the season and showed promise despite being a young team with only one senior. Junior Victoria Galvan, a South Carolina commit, was dominant at the plate and on the mound hitting .544 with 12 homers and 30 RBI's and going 9-6 while striking out 160 batters in the process. Senior Shakyra Moore added 7 home runs and 19 RBI's.

The Warriors started the season by crushing Shore 14-0. Sophomore Hannah DePaul went 1-2 with 3 RBIs and Victoria added 2 hits with 2 RBI's in the Shore game. In a 1-0

win against Holmdel on April 15th, Victoria pitched a no hitter, striking out 16 and allowing only 2 baserunners. Victoria exploded for 3 home runs and 8 RBI's a week later in a blowout win against Shore, further proving she is one of the Shore's most versatile players.

Shakyra had a signature game on April 23rd when she hit 2 homers and drove in 6 to back up Victoria's 1 hit shutout in a mercy rule win over RBR. Other signature wins included a 14-1 thrashing of Rumson on May 12th when Victoria struck out 11 and hit yet another homer, a 5-2 win over rival St. Rose on May 17th, and a 6-1 win over Henry Hudson in the Shore Conference Tournament 1st Round as Victoria and Shakyra both hit home runs to back Victoria's 15 strikeout, 2 hit performance.

Despite the losses in the playoffs, Manasquan softball had a solid season, and despite the loss of Shakyra, they will have a solid nucleus returning that should contend next spring.

Spring Sports Teams End Season with a Bang

By: Beau Bradley

A successful spring has come to a close for Manasquan High School athletics. The postseason was a wild one this season for most teams. From sectional titles in boys lacrosse, to challenges for the title from the baseball and girls lacrosse teams to school records broken by the track team, MHS has a lot to be proud of.

After finishing the regular season with an A Central title, the baseball team was ready to rock in the playoffs. An early exit in the Shore Conference tournament meant that the Warriors had everything to play for in the state tournament. After a pitching effort from Jack Sheehan,

Manasquan snuck by Spotswood with a 2-0 victory, and moved into the quarterfinals against cross-town rivals, Point Boro, the two seed. Manasquan was more than up for the occasion as the underdog. After another lockdown performance from the other Sheehan, Tommy, as well as hot bats and a little help from Boro's mistakes, the boys cruised with an 8-1 win over Point Boro into the semifinals against Delran. Although the game against Delran didn't end as they hoped after a tough loss, the boys have a ton to smile about after an outstanding season.

The Squan Track team ended the season on a high note as well. The team sent a total of seven athletes to the Group II state meet, led by the school record-breaking 4x800 girls group composed of Sophie Smith, Brana Nielsen, Megan Cobb, and Grace Weber. They managed to beat the record early in the season, then beat their own previously set record later in the season, something not easy to do while dealing with the heat that comes in

May. Manasquan Boys and Girls Track had a wonderful season, and made the school proud with their performances later in the season.

Golf and Boys tennis teams wrapped up their seasons for the spring with great performances from golfer Austin Devereux and first singles tennis player, Andy Beer.

Manasquan's spring sports had a great season, and have big things to look forward to next year.

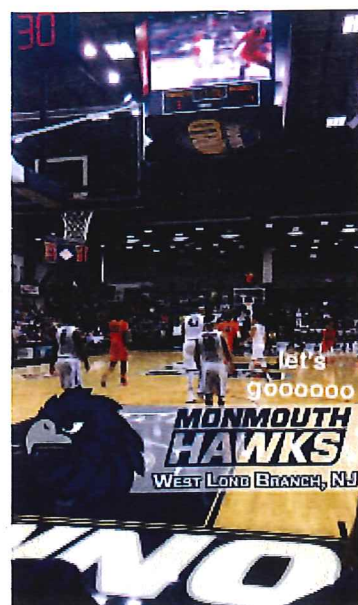


M Monmouth University Basketball

By: Erin Brolewicz

On March 16th of this year, I attended my very first college basketball game, and it was an amazing experience. I saw the Monmouth Hawks play the Bucknell Bison, and it was insane.

After applying to Monmouth and getting accepted, I was determined to see a game (just to get a feel of the atmosphere) but only found time at the end of their season. The team competed in the MAAC Tournament in Albany, and were chosen to play in the NIT (National Invitational Tournament) at Monmouth. When I found out about this, I immediately purchased tickets for my two friends and myself. We ended up getting courtside seats which was perfect in itself (especially for my first basketball game).



It was so cool to see the guys play after seeing them on TV so many times. The Monmouth bench or "Bench Mob", always put on a show for their audiences during the game. After they score, the bench goes crazy, doing some hilarious stunts that have given them national attention. Some of their well known celebration dances include "The Angry Birds", "The Flexin'", "The First Down", "The Human Hoop", "The Big Catch", "The Human Scissors", "The Katniss Everdeen", "The OMG" and "The Gives Me Life"...just to name a few. Their crazy stunts on the bench have given them attention from ESPN, The Today Show, CBS, The New York

Times, The Daily News, The Bleacher Report, NPR, VICE News and many more.

At this particular game, our seats were facing the court, diagonal from the Monmouth bench, giving us the perfect view to see these elaborate celebrations. There was so much going on, between the game, fans cheering, and the boys on the bench, there was always something to look at.

Before the game started, King Rice (head coach), walked on the court and greeted spectators. He's a really down to Earth guy, and I think, a perfect fit for Monmouth.



Justin Robinson (guard) scored 23 points at that game, Collin Stewart had 16 points, and Deon Jones scored 15. Seven straight points were scored by Deon Jones to put Monmouth up by 12 with under a minute left. It was insane.

We stuck around after the game, to let the traffic die down as there were a lot of people that went. Maranda, Kailee and I actually had the opportunity to meet one of the players, Greg Noack, #4 forward from Pennsylvania. He was super nice, we talked about the game, and then took a picture. We all kept our cool. After all, he IS a normal college student.

I'm so happy I was able to finally attend a Monmouth basketball game this year, especially since it was a big year for them. I'm really looking forward to next season.