

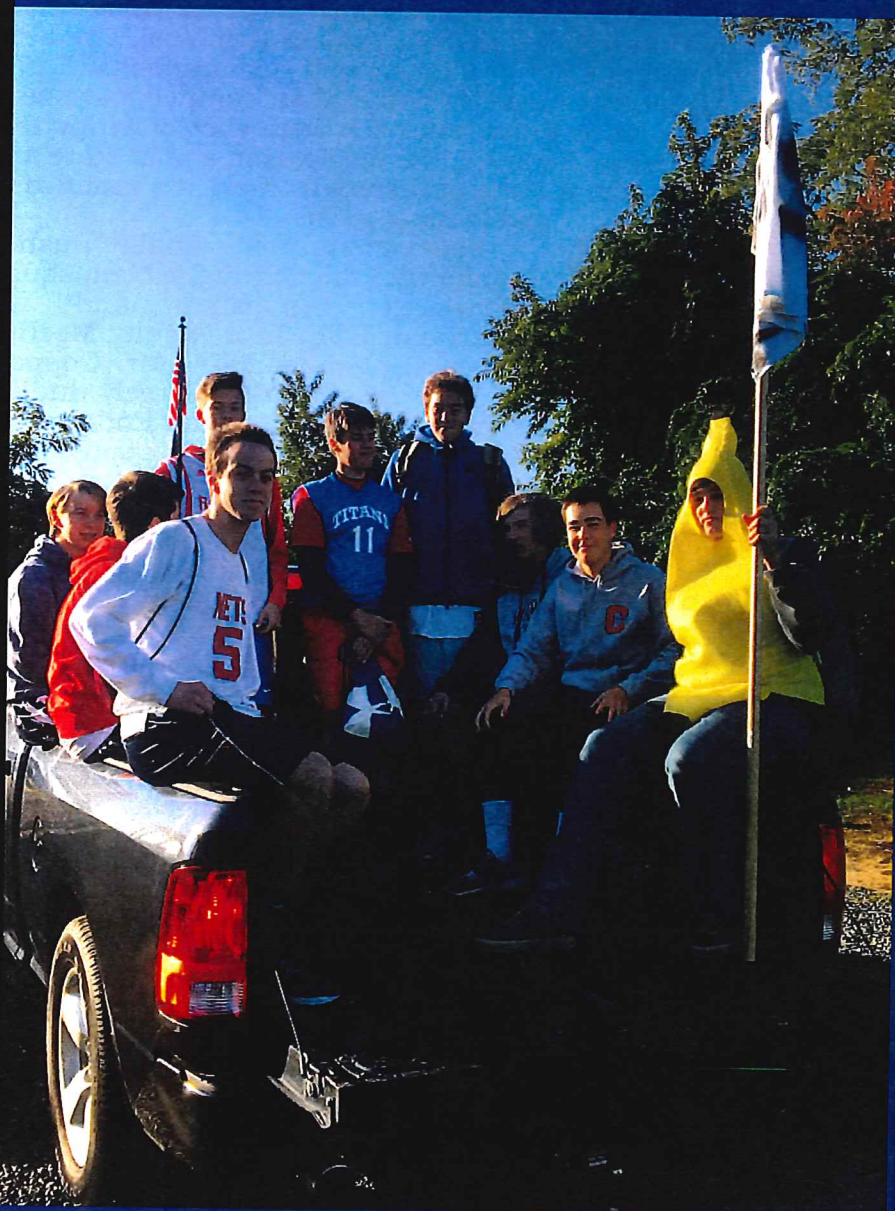
The Blue & Gray

Manasquan High School

October 2016

Squan Rides into New School Year

*Below: Sophomores Surprise Seniors, Win Annual
Water Balloon War*



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By: Amanda Karp

Another summer has come and gone, and with the opening of school, comes the opening of another sort – the school's fall play. This autumn

MHS Drama Club will perform *Museum*, which will be presented in the Jack Nicholson Theatre on November 3rd, 4th, and 5th. Tickets will be \$8 for students and \$10 for adults.

Museum, written by Tina Howe, has had a lengthy history. It premiered on April 19th, 1976, at the Los Angeles Actor's Theatre, and was performed Off-Broadway in 1978. The play fell from notoriety, but picked up traction in the early 2000s, as it was performed through workshops and table reads. It came back to audiences when it was performed at Villanova in 2012, and was directed by Joanne Rotté.

MHS Drama Club director Mr. Weisert is optimistic about the show: "It's been on my radar for years. It's an interesting comedy that has some dramatic moments."

The play is meant to poke fun at art, and how it is perceived by many different groups, and thus takes the viewer through roughly an hour and a half of conversations that go on in the museum, as the audience "people-watches" the actors. In particular, the show is likely to attract artistic students. Mr. Weisert added, "Being an artist in music it also interests me because I spend a lot of time in the MOMA" (Museum of Modern Art).

MaryGrace Iorio, a senior, who plays Mrs. Salt and Lillian, said "The fact that I get to play more than one character is very exciting, and I also get to do a lot

MHS Drama Club Set to Perform Fall Play



Seen above is the cast from the 2012 production at Villanova University, with (from left to right): Michael Jansen as The Guard, Ahren Potratz as Jean-Claude, and Felicia Leicht as Francoise.

of pantomiming." She said that in this play she has a small amount of lines, but nevertheless, hopes to make the most of the fall show and the musical in the spring.

Museum features a large cast of characters, quite literally. When Howe created the play, it had forty roles that needed to be filled, and instead of twenty people taking on two roles, forty people were cast to play the roles of the rotating cast. The Drama Club, however, will be using the method of doubling up the roles for their production, as they have 25 people in their play.

Some people who will be performing double roles will be MaryGrace Iorio, Sarah Curtis, and Dylan Scott. Others who have a singular role are Adam Dayton, Brendan Gillespie, and Erin McBride.

Sarah Curtis, a sophomore, plays Carol and Gilda Norris. She is very passionate about the

preparation for her performance, as she is running through her line and is working on memorizing the cues for her lines. She said, "It's less about knowing what you say, and more about knowing who you are as the character," as she improves on her methods for doubling, learning about each of her character's personalities.

Adam Dayton, a senior, plays The Guard, said, "I'm looking forward to being on stage in full costume" and that the play is "going to be fun, so totally come out and see it!" This will be his seventh school production.

Drama Club president Chris Heilos, who is also the stage manager for the production, said that he's looking forward to working with the cast, to be spending time with them, and is excited to see how the play turns out.

So, support the Drama Club this fall and pick up tickets to come see *Museum*!



WE WANT YOUR BLOOD!



For the 5th year in a row, the Health Career Academy is hosting a blood drive at Manasquan High School! Each year the event takes place in the gym and the Dynamics of Health Careers class, taught by Mrs. Kozic, is in charge of creating a theme and organizing the whole day.

The students are responsible for reaching out to their peers and getting them to participate, but according to senior Declan Reichy, who was in the class last year, "It's not that hard getting people to donate blood when it gets them out of class."

Last year the blood drive was the most successful in Manasquan High School history and was also given the recognition of the #1 Blood Drive in Monmouth County. The Health Careers Academy and Manasquan High School was honored at a Lakewood Blue Claws game during the summer. They even got to throw the first pitch!

MHS senior George

McCormack is part of the Health Careers Academy and belonged to the Dynamics of Health Careers class last fall. George explains the process of giving blood does not hurt, it just takes a long time and he intends of giving blood again this year. However, the best part of the day for George was getting to work with phlebotomists, the people who take your blood. He expressed how this is something he enjoys and how the blood drive gives him opportunities to explore his future, "I like taking care of people, it's something I'm interested in and want to do with my life".

Some students are veterans at donating blood, like senior Colleen Hessinger, who has participated since sophomore year when she was first eligible. Colleen is a member of the Health Careers Academy and like George is very interested in pursuing a future in medicine and health. Once

By: Jenn Forcillo

again, Colleen will be involved in the event by helping to organize it and donate.

Others, however, like senior Ally Vernaglia, donated blood for the first time last year and unfortunately fainted after the process. Although Ally said she felt perfectly fine the first fifteen minutes after making a contribution, she soon found herself laying on the mats in the gym with Mrs. Kozic hovering over her to make sure she was okay. "Even though last year definitely did not go as planned, I am looking forward to donating again and hopefully not passing out" Vernaglia noted when asked about her experience last spring.

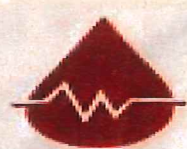
While the blood drive is still a few weeks away, there are some rules those looking to contribute should be familiar with. First you must be 17 years old and at least 120 pounds. These standards are set in place to ensure students safe-

ty and keep them from fainting. Mrs. Kozic then had her own words of wisdom for people wanting to partake in this special occasion, "It's best to eat a healthy breakfast that morning and drink lots of water the day before. The more prepared you are, the better you will feel after". She also recommended to sports players not to donate on days when you have games or competition.

If you find yourself eligible to donate blood, talk to Mrs. Kozic or members of the dynamics class about sign ups so you do not miss out on being a part of a unique event at Manasquan High School!

Blood Drive Checklist: You Must

- ☐ Be 17 years old
- ☐ Weigh at least 120 lbs
- ☐ Drink lots of water
- ☐ Eat a good breakfast



**Central Jersey
Blood Center**
Where Community Comes First

2015 - 2016

Manasquan High School
177 Donations

HALLOWEEN COMING ARE YOU READY?

By: Leah Tilton

Halloween is right around the corner, meaning that right about now everyone's Pinterest search history reveals last minute "Do-It-Yourself" costumes, pumpkin spice is almost impossible to avoid (not that you would want to avoid something so good), and your latest purchases include crazy glue, fabric, and face makeup.

Whether you are dressed as a character from your favorite show or you make up something entirely on your own, Halloween is a time for creativity and fun, and that is something that Manasquan High School students have been embracing for decades.

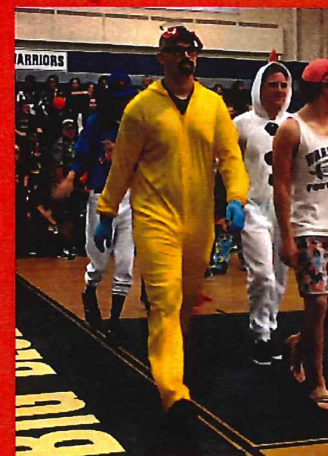
MHS has been known for having the best Halloween costumes year after year. A few years ago it was customary to meet in the hall outside the auditorium and walk across the stage to show off your costume, but with the de-

cisions made by the student council and administration last year, the way MHS celebrates the day has changed.

This year the students will once again be called down to the gym in the morning. Each person can either choose to observe or participate in contests that involve categories like best group or best solo costume.

After the assembly, the day will continue as normal, something reiterated by Principal Coppola when discussing the day. "We will always have our students dress up and continue this tradition while at the same time allowing the integrity of the school day to stay intact," Coppola states when asked about the day as a whole.

Although Halloween is looked at as a time for children to dress up and ask their neighbors for candy, it is also a time MHS students get to express themselves and have fun, so don't forget to get the Pinterest searches going and to stop by a craft store soon, in fact, it will probably be on your way home from getting that pumpkin spice latte you've been craving since last fall.



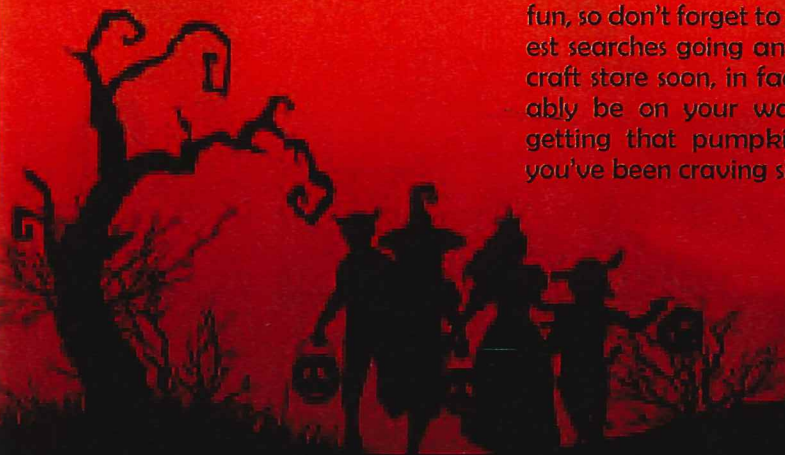
Senior Ben Barry dresses as Walter White from the Hit show "Breaking Bad"



Tilly Marks and Kelli Finn, as "good Sandy" and "bad Sandy" from Grease



Nicole Zito and Ally Vernaglia dress as a strawberry and pineapple

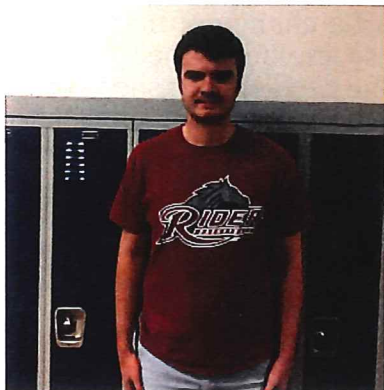


Meet the MHS Student Council 2016

By: Shane Connelly

With the start of a new school year comes a new group of student leaders on the MHS Student Council. The student government plays a key role here at Manasquan High School, as they bridge the gap between students and staff. This year's council looks forward to helping to create a fantastic school year for everyone at MHS.

First, we need to know who is serving in each position on the council this year. While many of us remember the election and who we voted for last year, the incoming freshman and transfer students need an introduction to our representatives.



Chris Driscoll

is serving as our student council president. Chris is passionate about Manasquan High School. When asked why he ran for student council, he told me, "I really love this school." Chris is hoping to carry on the tradition and pride of MHS, which is his favorite thing about our school. He's also

looking to start some new fundraisers and put together a great class trip for the senior class. Chris is dedicated to his role as president, and he looks forward to putting in the work in order to achieve his goals.

Our vice president for this school year is **Maura Farragher**.

Maura is a kind-hearted individual who is motivated to make a difference in our school as VP. She ran for student council because she is interested in helping people and doing good for the students. Some of the changes she mentioned that we could

see include "another dance" and a revamped open house for the incoming freshman. Maura says that her favorite thing about MHS is "the pride and spirit."



The student body has a fantastic group of representatives for the 2016-2017 school year. These four bright, creative, and motivated seniors, along with the help of the schoolboard, will do anything it takes to ensure that this year will be wonderful for everyone involved. It's clear that this council has a great batch of ideas and the means to get things done, and we as students should look forward to these ideas coming to fruition!



Our elected secretary is **Ally Johnson**. Ally is a smart student who says that she likes "being a leader" of the senior class. She also loves planning, which is just another reason she's a great fit for the student council. Ally says the student council has "a long list" of goals for this year that they'll be looking to fulfill through teamwork. Ally also mentioned that one of the goals students should look forward to is a neater, more organized Homecoming dance.

The position of treasurer this year will be handled by **Leah Tilton**.

A cheerleader here at MHS, Leah says she joined student council because she likes to be involved in the school. Her goal as a member of the student council is to allow all students to "remember high school as a good time." Leah went on to say that "a lot of people" have provided suggestions and help along the way in order to make this year go smoothly.



Respect Week

continued from page 6

ting involved and stopping the bullying that happens in our country. More teachers have also included Respect week into their lessons plans."

One of the clubs that MHS gained through Respect Week is the We Stand Together Club. This club was

designed with the help of Mrs. Busco to focus on the HIB Law. The HIB Law is to strengthen standards for preventing, reporting, investigating, and responding to incidents of bullying and to reduce the risk of suicide among students.

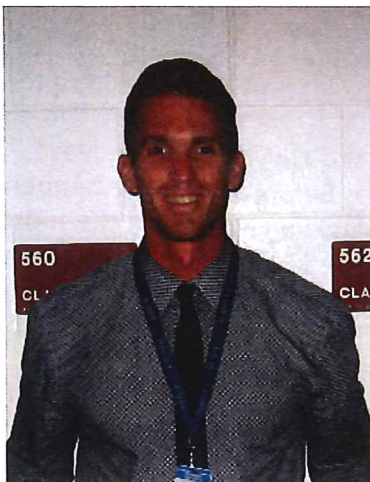
To conclude, Mrs. Busco, explains with some confidence that once the week is over she loves how many of the students and teachers still use the meaning of "Respect Week" day after day.

Welcome, Mr. Shibla!

By: Jeff Petrulla

This year, the Humanities department gained a new teacher, Mr. Shibla. Mr. Shibla teaches classes in World History, US History, and Economics, as he replaced Mr. Read. He's new to the school, but no stranger to the area. Mr. Shibla went to Wall High School, and said he had "many friends from Manasquan" when he was growing up. He went on to graduate in 2003, then got a degree from Rutgers University.

After Rutgers, Mr. Shibla found himself in the business world. Unfortunately, his timing was not ideal. Not long after he left school, the economy entered the Recession of 2008. So, Mr. Shibla decided to go back to school for a teaching certification. Mr. Shibla said he chose teaching because he "really wanted to work with the youth of America" and "al-



Above: New History teacher Mr. Shibla likes the vibe so far in Manasquan

ways tutored other students through college." It seemed like the right fit for him.

Since getting certified to teach, Mr. Shibla has taught at Colt's Neck in place of a teacher who was out on disability leave, and a charter school in Plainsfield. He said he "loves it here" and that it's beach town like no other, "There's a certain vibe about Manasquan compared to other beach towns. The closest thing is Point Beach, but it just doesn't compare."

Aside from teaching, Mr. Shibla enjoys surfing and collecting vinyl records. He's applied for a position as the track coach, and also intends to start a JSA (Junior State of America) Club here at Manasquan. We can't wait for Mr. Shibla to make his mark on MHS, and we wish him the best of luck in the rest of his first year!

Say Hello to Ms. Matrale!

By: Leah Tilton

The Science department welcomes Ms. Matrale to Manasquan High School this year as a new student teacher from Stockton College. Matrale grew up as a Howell native, but it is clear that she fits right in as a warrior.

After first getting her degree in Biology, she decided to also work towards becoming a teacher. She is in an educational program, and will

receive her certificate in December. She is currently sitting in on classes run by Mrs. Crowning, high school biology teacher.

Mrs. Matrale attended Howell High School as a teenager, and for years she grew up hearing about how great Manasquan was. It is because of the great reputation MHS has that she decided Manasquan is where she wanted to further her career.

"Mrs. Crowning has shown me how to have great classroom management skills, taught me different things I would like to do in my classroom, and has been nothing but generous," Matrale said when asked what she has learned so far.

In the past, Matrale was a part of FPAC, a performing arts program

at Howell High School where she spent half her day dancing. She furthered her love of performing by joining the dance team at Stockton College.

While being involved at school was always important to her in the past, she recalls that her high school never did anything special for homecoming, something she is most excited to be a part of at Manasquan this fall.

"I would love to work here in the future. I have been here since August and I have been invited to everything, and everyone has been so welcoming," Matrale remarked when asked about considering a possible future at MHS.

We hope that Ms. Matrale enjoys her time here at Manasquan High School and we wish her luck in her future career.



Left: Student teacher Ms. Mantrale is earning her degree at Stockton College, and developing her teaching skills this semester at MHS.

MANASQUAN ADDS A NEW FACE TO SOCIAL SERVICES TEAM

BY: ABBY MCHUGH

New social worker Mrs. Rudder recognizes the impact an authority figure can have on a high school student's life. The recent hire, who previously worked as a mobile response social worker for children, says that she "has always had an interest in school counseling" and "realizes the impact she can have for children".

Mrs. Rudder is originally from South Orange, and is currently living in Wall. She received her undergraduate degree from Ithaca College in upstate New York and received her masters from Fordham University in New York City.

Asked why she became a social worker, she cited her desire to help people, coupled with her aversion to the spotlight. Social work is not a glamorous job- they are not rewarded by glory, or even a healthy salary. Often having to deal with tough cases, social workers rely on their sense of self and aspiration to help others to pull them through cases.

Rest assured Manasquan students have a healthy support network with a passionate new social worker like Mrs. Rudder on the job.



Ms. McManus Joins MHS Child Study Team

By: Liz Rooney and Rachel Irizarry

Starting a new school year can be tough for anyone, with new classes, new teachers, and new expectations. For teachers starting a new school year isn't easy, ei-

ther with new tablets, new lesson plans, and students names to memorize. But what about if you're a new staff member at the high school?

That is the case for several new members here at Manasquan. One of many new staff members is Ms. McManus, the newest member of the Child Study Team.

Ms. McManus grew up nearby in Wall and went to Wall High School. Currently she takes graduate classes at Seton Hall University. As an undergrad she majored in psychology, a subject she first became interested in from a girl she was friends with at school who was a psychologist at another school. From talking to her friend, Ms. McManus found herself becoming interested in it. Growing up, though, she never thought she would be interested in psychology and education like she is now.

So far Ms. McManus has all positive things to say about MHS, sharing: "I like it her a lot and

couldn't ask for anything else"

When she isn't working Ms. McManus has a few interests and hobbies she likes to keep up with. She enjoys going to the beach and even though she can't be at the beach all year long she loves living near it. She also really enjoys doing Pilates in order to get a workout in. If she could do anything else with her life, Ms. McManus says she would want to be a brain surgeon - saving lives and making a difference in people's lives.

Even with Ms. McManus being focused on work right now she still has some life goals in mind. Her biggest goal right now is to receive her doctorate in psychology. She is currently working towards that goal and really hopes she can achieve it. Another ambition is to change the world, whether it is here in Manasquan or someplace else, making a difference is important to her.

Ms. McManus might be new to Manasquan, but she is finding her way around, looking to get involved and hoping to make a difference. Whether you see her in the hallways or see her going back and forth between the elementary school and the high school, Ms. McManus is working hard and is fully determined to make her mark here at Manasquan High School.

Advice For Freshman

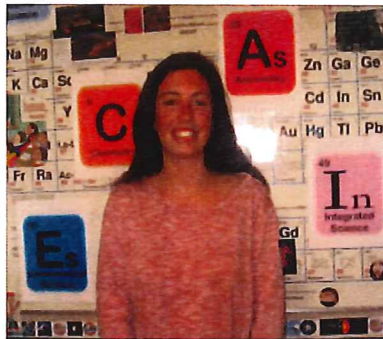
As everyone knows the four years we spend in high school go tremendously fast. Throughout the four years there can be ups and downs. Many freshmen struggle with grades, the amount of homework, their social lives, and much more. Upperclassmen have more of an advantage to these difficulties since they now know how to cope with them. So, here, seniors offer some of their best advice for this year's incoming freshman.

By: Rachel Irizarry



"Use study hall wisely, get ahead, and load up on AP classes."

- Logan Roddy

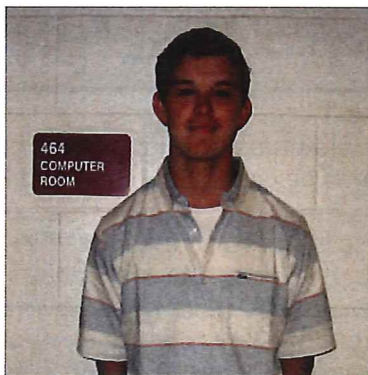


"Get involved and join as many clubs as you can." - Annie Heenan



"Stay on top of all of your work. It will pay off."

- Vaughn Mangle



"Don't get into trouble."

- Mitch Grogan



"Don't be too full of yourself, you are still at the bottom and you have to work your way up to the top. But keep in mind, try to interact with people and get to know as many teachers as you can." - Katie Zhang



"Socialize and make new friends." - Megge Sanchez

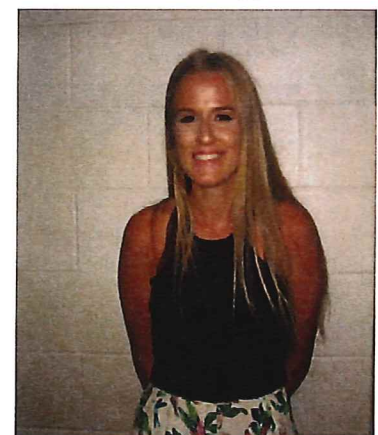


"Get involved as much as possible and try to make new friends."

- Elizabeth Kingman



"Try new things, join clubs, and make as many friends as you can." - Brielle Stevens

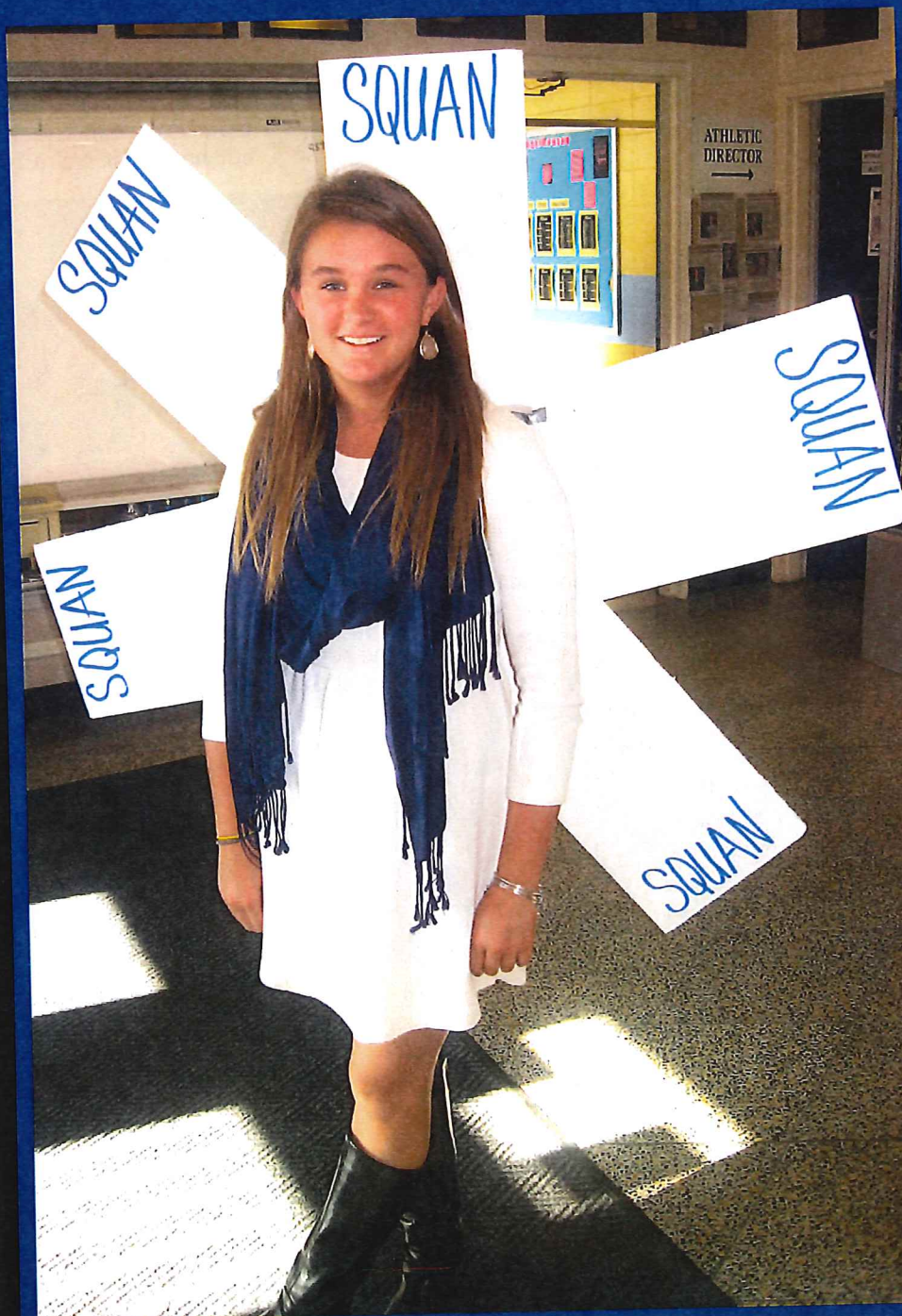


"Do your homework." - Hannah Digerness



The Blue & Gray

Squan
School
Spirit
Shines
Bright



in this Issue

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Seniors Enjoy Last Powderpuff Experience

By: Maggie Leddy

On December 1, the annual girl's Powderpuff game was played on the Vic Kubu Warrior field, marking an end to the final celebration of homecoming festivities. The favored seniors fell to the underdog juniors with a final score of 28-14.

The juniors made it clear early on that they were not messing around. With mandatory team practices, matching uniforms, coaching by current MHS football player Luke O'Shaughnessy, and specific plays, they proved to be a powerhouse on the field. The team was stacked with athletic ability and determination.

Coached by Mr. Battaglia, it was apparent that the seniors were sick with

"senioritis" by the looks of their playing. However, the entire team seemed to agree on the fact that they were involved with the game to have fun with each other and not necessarily to win. Perhaps it was the final acceptance and realization of this being their last year together, but win or lose, they were happy to be out there on the field as one unit, something that maybe the juniors will feel next year.

Ironically, the game was interrupted during the second half by heavy rainfall making for a muddy field after previously being canceled last week due to what appeared to be the same "unplayable" field conditions. Girls were slipping and sliding all over the place, but continued to run out the



Juniors celebrate a score!



Seniors huddle before a play.

clock. It was definitely a humorous sight to see.

Both teams shook hands at the final whistle and accepted their status with maturity and celebration. The seniors huddled together and took on their role as No. 2 and smiled for countless team pictures holding up the popular peace sign symbolizing their ranking. All while the juniors celebrated their victory by advertising the big win over social media. All in all it was an excellent way to wrap up this year's homecoming.

Senior quarterback Shannon Walsh calls a play.



Key Club Resumes Tradition of Holiday Helping

By: George Taboada

The Key Club is at it again this Holiday season, providing assistance to those less fortunate in our area.

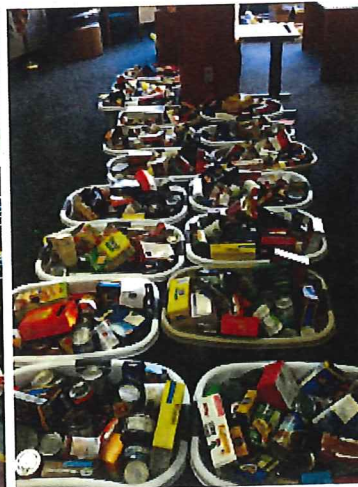
Known for its volunteer work and fundraising in our local communities, MHS Key Club, run by Mrs. McKenzie and Mrs. Basaman, is always active, never hesitating to reach out to those in need.

One of their recent, and very successful, projects was the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. Key Club members were required to bring in 10 boxes or cans of food in order to feed the hungry. They also ran a collection day at Manasquan Elementary School.

"Families have a lot to look forward to this Thanksgiving," Brooke Mason said cheerfully when interviewed. Hundreds of non-perishable food items cover the desks and floors of our library, ready to go people in need of a great Thanksgiving dinner.

Other than Thanksgiving, Key Club also has a whole line up of Christmas community service to brighten the community's hectic holidays. Members helped out at the annual Christmas tree lighting on December 7

Food donations filled the library, and the Wish Tree stood tall, as two examples of Key Club's important activities this time of year.



in Green Acres Park in Brielle, lifting the towns' holiday spirit. Another favorite is Key Club's hosting of Old Saint Nick, straight from the North Pole, at the Meet Santa event on December 13 and 20 from noon to 4 in the afternoon. And best of all, Key Club's Wish Tree helps numerous local children to receive presents for Christmas,

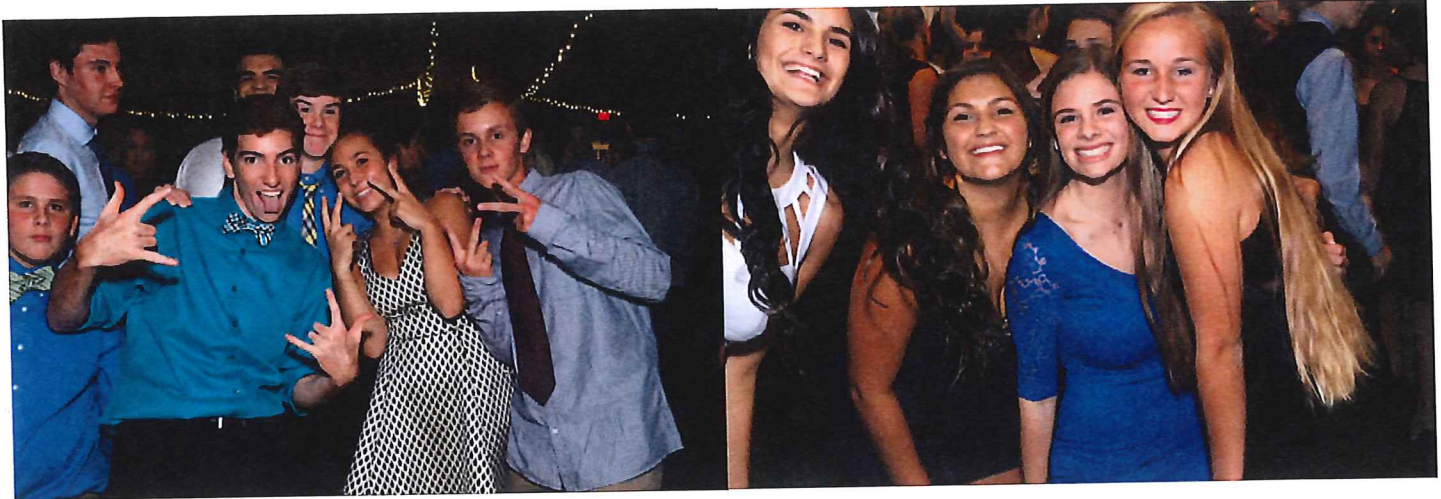
that they might not otherwise receive. Many faculty members, school clubs and students take a tag, shop for a child, and wrap the gifts, which Key Club officers deliver directly to homes.

Finally, the Key Club wreath sale was a recent hit. This annual fundraiser helps to raise much of the club's money for use throughout the year. Every year they are beautiful and easy to hang up on your door. This journalist has bought them before and can guarantee their quality.

So whether it is the holidays or any days throughout the year, Key Club members continually dedicate themselves to helping others in whatever ways possible.

MHS Shakes the Dance Floor at Homecoming 2014

By: Nicholle Beese



The highly anticipated Homecoming dance was held on Friday, November 21 at Manasquan High School. It is surely burned into all of our heads as a night full of dancing, chaos, bruised feet, and good music.

Mrs. Onorato and the Yearbook committee came to the school early to prepare for the hundreds of kids who would be showing up for the dance. They set up tables with tons of snacks and they also made a backdrop for anyone who wanted to get their picture taken with their friends.

Dressed up and bubbling with excitement, the students of MHS stormed into the school and ran straight to the dance floor. The girls quickly kicked off their shoes and soon, the DJ was surrounded. He gladly accepted requests and did his best to keep everyone satisfied.

Song after song, the dance floor beamed

with hyper, happy teenagers. In no time, a mosh pit formed and people were either getting sucked in or were feeling brave enough to enter on their own. Although it got a bit rough for some people, if someone was knocked down, they got right back up. No one was ready to let anyone ruin their time!

Later on into the night came the announcement of the Homecoming Court. Harley Pilling and Sunny McKiever represented the freshmen class. Sophomores Olivia Chevance and Bruce Bogan claimed their spots on the court. Hannah Pringle and Kai Reynolds won the junior court. Lauren Johnson and Craig Miller enthusiastically accepted their places on the senior court. Finally, seniors Nicole D'Anton and Will Stewart were awarded with the titles of Homecoming King and Queen.

As the night came to an end, everyone was savoring their last few minutes with each other. The seniors were especially making the best of it. It was a bittersweet night for them – their last Homecoming dance.

Despite the fact that the dance did not go perfectly, MHS students definitely make the best of every situation. It was an enjoyable time and undoubtedly, a night we will never forget!



Hall Decorating

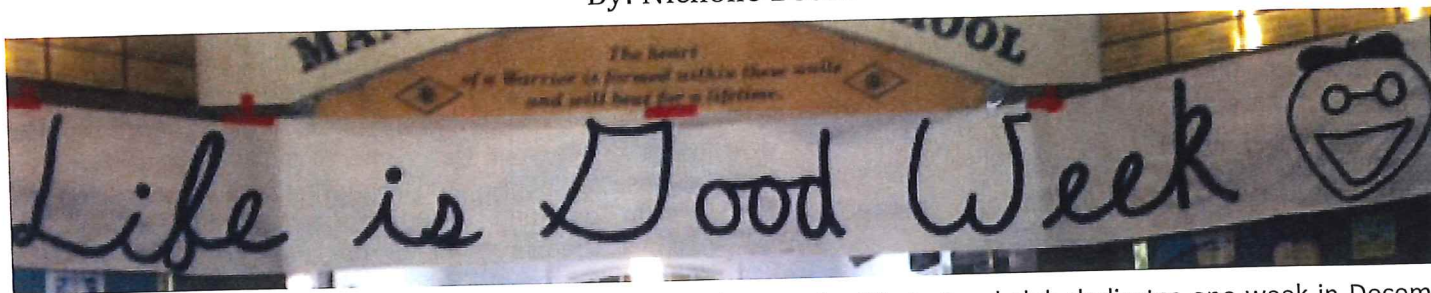
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Across the hall, the first-time freshman decorators dealt with the color white and turned it into an out of the ordinary and fun monopoly game. Combining the words freshman and monopoly they called themselves "Froshopoloy." Entering the "start" to the game, the freshman made special attractions from surrounding towns as the stops in the game. Their biggest hit were the attractive Christmas lights.

From sailing into new horizons, to different monopoly stops around town, the winners for this year's hallway

Manasquan High School Shines with Positivity During Life is Good Week!

By: Nicholle Beese



Life is Good wristbands sporting inspirational sayings were distributed by the club



Each year, the Life is Good club dedicates one week in December as Life is Good Week. The main message of the week is to spread positivity throughout Manasquan High School.

The Life is Good executive board and Ms. Apostolu put together activities for the week, keeping the annual Life is Good tradition alive. The executive board consists of President Logan Sabins, Vice President Jenn Alvarez, James McAlary, Darby Formichella, Johanna Keosseian, Gill Black, Ryan Jensen, Brian Comer, and Liz Clark. Each member contributes fabulously to the club and possesses optimism, which they radiate throughout our school.

Activities during the week included games in the cafeteria and auditorium, such as speed stacking, bingo, word searches, rock-paper-scissors contests, thumb wars, candy jar guessing, and a video game tournament. Additionally, people won prizes such as free cookies and candy for finding a ticket under their desk or completing a word search. Simple things like these have the ability to make someone's day a little brighter, which truly is the goal of the Life is Good club.

Lastly, the door decorating contest was held on Friday, December

12. Each homeroom had the opportunity to dazzle up their door in hopes of winning a bagel party for their class. This year's winner was Mrs. Martucci's homeroom. It has always been an enjoyable and favorite activity to partake in during Life is Good week.

Although the week usually concludes with Life is Good day, this year will be a tad bit different! Stay tuned for updates and announcements regarding the highly awaited event!



THURSDAY:

BIGGEST FAN DAY

Whether it be the MHS Warriors (McKenzie, left) or college and pro, MHS showed its team pride!



Friday: Black-Out Day

Simple: All black, everything



Life is good:

The International Language: Ice Skating!

By: Sofia Kim

Monday November 17, 2014 marked the second Spanish and French Honors Society's ice skating night.

Howell ice world was open solely for participants of this event, making for a uniquely private MHS get-together. Roughly 120 skaters, from the tentative wall huggers to the Olympic status figure skaters shared an exciting night to raise money for Hispanic families in need this holiday season.

And what better way to kick off this merry season than giving what we can, with a few face-plants?

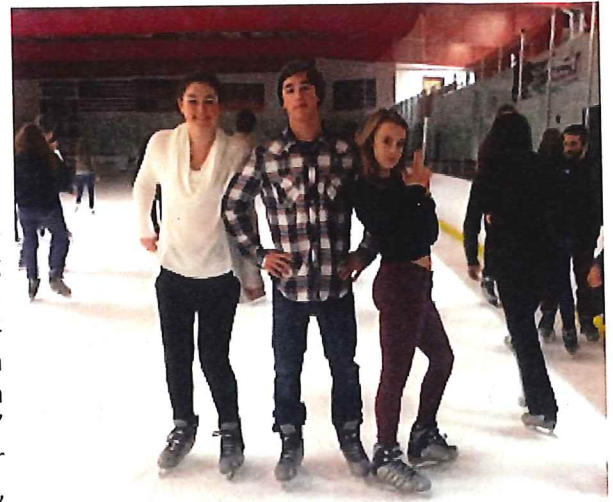
Spanish teacher and Spanish Honors Society Leader, Mrs. Eldridge remarked that "We love seeing the good and the bad skaters. And seeing the people who come out and ice skate for the

first time."

But don't let the prospect of wiping out and getting a taste of Howell's ice stop you from attending such a memorable night. You're bound to have a wonderful time supporting such a worthy cause. "I had a blast!" said Senior, John Russo. Senior Emily Woodfield agreed saying, "It was so much fun!"

And if movement with two knives attached to your feet fails, there's always hot chocolate as acknowledged by Senior, Annie Farragher, "I'm not very good at ice skating but the hot chocolate was delicious!"

Spanish and French Honor's Society



Pictured left to right: Seniors Marianne Kenneally, Reed Melchionda and Chelsea Eareckson enjoyed a night at Howell Ice World.

hopes to able to continue this festive tradition. So we'd advise you to dust off your skates, summon your courage, and get ready for next year.

National Honors Society Writes Letters to Troops

By: Julia Valgenti

With the holiday season approaching, the caring and compassionate attitude of MHS is at an all-time high. There is no shortage of thoughtful students at MHS and a variety of charitable projects are popping up all over the school.

This December, the National Honor Society and History National Honor Society are coming together to organize a Letter to the Troops event at MHS.

They plan on working in collaboration with Operation Gratitude, an organization that annually sends 150,000 + care packages to currently deployed service members, new recruits, veterans and Wounded Warriors. Their letter writing program runs year round, but is especially popular, and appreciated, during the holiday season.

In their description of the program, Operation Gratitude suggests writers to keep their letters "positive and upbeat", while also adding a personal touch. This could involve tell-



ing the soldier a little about yourself, or thanking them for all they do. It is recommended to start the letters with "Dear Hero" or "Dear Brave One". Ultimately, the goal of the letters is to "bring a smile to a soldier's face" and to let them know there are people out there who care about and appreciate them.

All completed letters are sent to Operation Gratitude in California, where they will be screened and then sent out to the troops. Writers may choose to include a return address or email address to receive a response, and are suggested to only provide their first name.

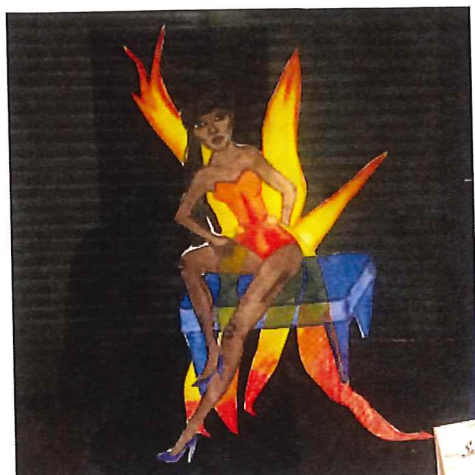
Strangers Invade Manasquan High School

Not only have these strange beings come to our school, but they refuse to leave! Occupying the back row of the auditorium for at least the last month has been the Kiss look-a-like pictured below (left), while the purple alien guy has set up shop in the library. And everyone has seen the faceless Heights stranger on the bench in center hall; in fact, rumor has it a few students have even fallen in love with him!



AP STUDIO ART PROVIDES CREATIVE FREEDOM TO FUTURE ARTISTS

By: Kerry Weiland



Sam Cunliffe, grade 12, mixed media.

Unlike most AP classes that we're familiar with, AP Studio Art is a hidden gateway for inspired artists who want to further their talents. Instead of AP classes where students tend to be loaded with books, papers, and must study for the final AP test at the end of the year, studio art is a class that doesn't follow this exact pattern.

This class is for talented artists

who will be eligible to earn college credits just as any other AP class, but instead of taking a test at the end of the year, students hand in a portfolio of their best work to College Board. College Board says that AP Studio Art students are asked to, "emphasize research, experimentation, discovery, inventive thinking and artmaking, critical analysis, and problem-solving," in their work.

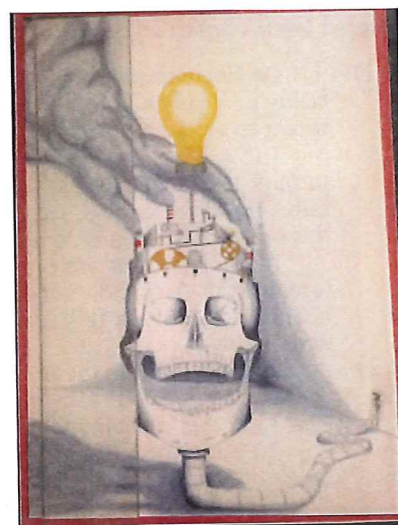
The AP program consists of three different courses that a student can choose from to put together their portfolio in May. They are: 2-D design, 3-D design, and drawing. Whichever one is chosen, a portfolio of the same three sections for each course will be evaluated. The first section is "quality" which is the understanding of their course in concept, composition, and execution. "Concentration" is in depth exploration

of their design concern, and "breadth" are works demonstrating the understanding of the design issue.

In the art room on Manasquan High School's second floor, lays a second block AP Studio Art class with a small total of just about eight students. Each student is given the same assignment by their teacher, Mrs. Cassi. However, each student's piece of work is entirely different.

Senior Ryan Coulson explained the reasoning for their unique works, saying that it is because they have the freedom to "use this medium, that angle, this view, you can add this, add that..." They can choose their choice of medium such as paint, drawing with any utensil, or multimedia.

College Board even writes in the portfolio introductions that students should be sure to "recognize that there is no preferred or unacceptable content or style." There are no multiple choice A, B, C, or D fill in the blank. The students expressed their love for the class and the artistic freedom they are given. They do get caught up in assignments and stressed like most students in college-level classes, but they are furthering their careers and love what they are doing.



Ryan Coulson, grade 12, marker.

Senior Stress

continued from previous page

never attended. Eventually, the tumultuous Common App is completed, and you believe you are ready to go; that is, until the supplements roll in.

One's grades, leadership opportunities, and honors are finite, there's no time to fill in the holes of the activities, grades, and honors you lack. The essays-the supplements-are the only item on the application in which we have complete control over-and that makes them terrifying. The application portrays your extracurricular and academic life, but the supplements are a chance to show who you are. You have told them *what* you do, but now it is time to show them *why*. To define and translate your entire personality into a story of less than 650 words. 16-17 years of life, emulated into one little prompt. Essays are proof-read, analyzed, and proof-read again: one sentence rewritten ten times until they sound perfect. A descriptive opening, a powerful story, and a broad, empowering ending statement. The pressure is on, and the spotlight is shining: three brief months that can determine one's entire future.

However, it is not all storm clouds. As December begins, many students are already receiving acceptance letters and rejoicing in the fact that they have options. Eventually the storm will pass for all seniors, and

Sleep Deprived

continued from previous page

noon when you need to feel most alert.

So how do we beat this bad habit we seem to fall victim to? There are different ways we can ensure our body gets optimal hours of sleep. One is to avoid eating or drinking anything that contains caffeine at least 3 hours before going to bed. Another is to set a distinct bed time every night to make your body adapt to a regular sleep schedule. And finally, avoid using a laptop or cell phone before going to bed. The brightness on these devices offsets the brain and disrupts ability to fall asleep. Instead, try reading a book or magazine to put you into a sleepy mood.

So get in those PJ's and turn out the lights. Use your self-control to avoid hitting the "next episode" button on Netflix and stop scrolling down your Instagram and Twitter feeds. Climb into bed and let your busy body rest after a long day of work. Your body deserves it and it will thank you in the morning when you awake refreshed and ready to take on the day with alert and eager eyes!

the sunlight of senior year will radiate. Eventually, our future paths will be found, and we will know what next year brings. But, until that day comes, we will continue to lament in *Senior Year Stress*.

Students Tackle Issues in the World

The Blue & Gray Editorials

MHS Says Goodbye to Midterms!

What a Relief!

By: Maggie Leddy

In previous years at MHS, it seems like students are always preparing for the next big exam. Come November the kids have finally settled into a set routine, but then it is time to take first semester midterms. Trying to find papers from the first week of school, cramming to fit time to study, and memorizing vital information to make sure you get that A+ takes a lot of energy out of high school kids who are busy with other priorities and extracurricular activities.

With such a short amount of material to test the students on in the given three months, midterms seem useless and unnecessary. It makes more sense to wait until January to give the final exam on all material learned. It might seem like a lot at one time, but more often than not having more information on subjects makes it easier to understand the beginning steps better.

To prepare for a big exam every two months is too much for a high school student. This is why MHS has made the correct decision in eliminating all midterms from the 2014-2015 school year. Now students will only have to worry about the final exams at the end of each semester. So be sure to thank the administration for lifting some weight off your shoulders this year!

Beware the Sleeping Giant

By: Julia Valgenti

Midterms are now a thing of the past! Many students at MHS breathed a sigh of relief at this news, knowing they would be spared from the stress of exams, at

least until the end of the semester. But is the decision to only have final exams a blessing? Or perhaps a kiss of death?

At first, the news is overjoying. You realize that the stressing, the frantic note reviewing, and the late night cramming won't haunt you until the end of the semester. And anyway, two months of school is barely enough material to amount to the weight our midterm weighs in our overall grade, right? The school year begins and just as students settle into their classes, they're buried in flash cards, highlighters, notes, review sheets, and power point printouts. We barely have enough time to break in our new school shoes before we are crammed into classrooms for exams.

But although not obvious, the benefits of midterms far outweigh the momentary relief we have experienced this fall. In reality, midterms (not their absence) provide us relief.

Think about your grade, no midterms means one less factor to contribute to your final average. For those poor souls that earn bad grades on their final exams, they no longer have the possibility of a good midterm to outweigh the damage. So make sure you study for that final!

But prepare to study a lot more than usual. If you thought studying for midterms was overwhelming, the new and improved finals adds ten pages onto that previously five page review sheet. That's right, without the midterm to test you on the first half of the semester, finals are likely to into a bigger, badder beast than we remember them as. Seems the sanity the lack of midterms provides us in November is short lived, and amplified come January.

Relaxing at midterms is great, but it might mean more stress at finals!





SENIOR-FOR-HIRE

By, Reed Melchionda

On Tuesday, November 25, Squan-A-Thon hosted Manasquan High School's first Senior-for-Hire Day.

A Senior-for-Hire Day can mean a multitude of things, but for MHS it was a chance for seniors to be bought, possibly humiliated, and dressed in a costume of their buyer's choice. Similar to Halloween, students found no trouble in finding creative and unique costumes to dress their peers in. Even though some buyers graciously allowed their friends to dress in onesies or as something as simple as a "thug," others ruthlessly forced their male peers to appear as Easter

Bunnies or even Prom Queens. Some comically played off of stereotypes by making non-athletic classmates dress as jocks and skaters as "Lilly Pulitzer Preps." Some even went as far as to design Christmas Tree and Pillsbury Dough-boy costumes.

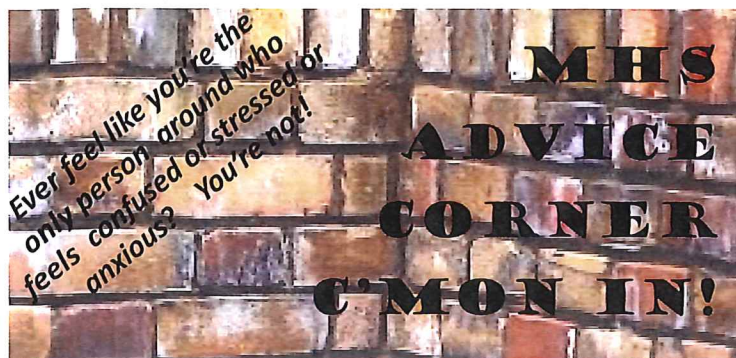
Senior-for-Hire was ran by Squan-A-Thon's new Special Events Committee – a group designed to create unique fundraising ideas that raise money and excitement for the event. With each senior only costing \$5 and more than 80 seniors purchased, the day raised approximately \$400. Sydney Osso, a transfer from Howell High School, originally gave the idea to Mr. Battaglia and Mrs. McKenzie, the Squan-A-Thon sponsors: "It was a good way for Howell to raise money for its senior trip, so I figured it would be a great way to raise money for such a good cause like Squan-A-Thon." Sydney believed that Manasquan's recreation of this idea was a huge, and hilarious, success: "My favorite part is when the guys are forced to dress as girls: it's always so funny."

Even administration, who was at first skeptical of the idea behind the

concept of a Senior-for-Hire Day, was impressed by the outcome and productivity of the event. Mr. Clayton, the security guard, was able to see all the costumes wander throughout the halls and exclaimed, "I thought it was a pretty funny idea, after seeing all of the costumes. A few of the boys may have violated girl's dress code, but overall it worked out well."

In the future, perhaps more students will be open to Senior-for-Hire Day and will participate in the cause. In upcoming years, the Special Events Committee is even considering adding an auction in which seniors can be bid on. In terms of Squan-A-Thon, Mr. Battaglia and Mrs. McKenzie are proud of the event's turnout and have high hopes for future endeavors by the Special Events Committee.





By: Sarah Spears

How do I deal with pressure from my parents to be more like my siblings?

If you are feeling pressured by your parents (or by anyone else) into being something you're not, then there are a couple things that you can do. First of all, communication is key. There are probably reasons as to why you are feeling this way and they aren't that you suck or that your sibling is perfect. Rather, your parents may be forgetting that what is best for one person is not always best for another. If you feel uncomfortable because of the expectations that your parents are perpetuating, then you should talk to them about it. If you allow yourself to bottle up your feelings, it will only lead to

trouble. Your parents are there to listen and support you (it's okay to remind them of this); if they realize that their actions are hurting you, then perhaps things will change.

However, the blame doesn't just fall on your parents. If there is a problem, it may start internally. Again, I am in no way making any implications that you are inferior. There is nothing wrong with you; you may just not be thinking broadly enough.

A helpful suggestion when dealing with something like this is to remember that you are an individual. In fact, this world is made up of individuals. Your mom is one. Your dad. Your friends. Your siblings. Everyone. Even if you tried your hardest to be like your sibling, you would never be able to do it. The only person who you are is you. Think about all of the things that you love and that you have experienced. These things make you who you are. They are distinctive to you and only you; you should be proud of that. You are yourself, that's a greater gift than anything money can buy. You don't need to be like your brother or sister. If you begin to understand how unnecessary that pressure to be like someone else or to be "perfect" is, then it will go away. You have to believe in your own capabilities and create your own definition for success, even if it's not something you think others will approve of.

If you are looking for approval, that's something you have to find within yourself. Once you approve of who you are, then the rest will follow. Just be confident, you have a greater value to the world than you might understand right now.

The "Cool Kids" of Echosmith Take on New York City

By: Nicholle Beese

We were greeted by the bitter cold as we stepped out of Penn Station and into the busy streets of New York City on Friday, November 14th. Excitedly, we took the subway to our destination, Webster Hall, and braced ourselves for the two hour wait in line. Only a few hours separated us from Echosmith!

Echosmith originated from Chino, California and was formed in 2009. The American indie pop band consists of four siblings. The youngest member, Graham (15), plays drums. The only female member of the group, Sydney (17), is the lead vocalist. Noah (18) plays bass and sings back-up vocals. The oldest member, Jamie (21), sings and plays guitar. They are best known for their hit song, "Cool Kids" which has undeniably been stuck in our heads since it has made its way to the radio.

Josie Millard is one of my best friends and has been my go-to girl when I hear about a concert I want to attend. She's always willing to go on an adventure and Echosmith was our adventure of the month.

Waiting for the doors to open is always the worst part about concerts. We grew colder by the minute. Anxious and freezing, we did whatever we could to stay warm and help the time pass. At one point, we saw the bassist wander into the street, practically unnoticed! Once the doors finally opened, we rushed inside. When we looked to our left, the drummer was walking up the other set of stairs. Eagerly, we ran up the stairs and into the Marlin Room so we could get a spot close to the stage.

Madi Diaz was the opening act and she got the crowd to wake up. As soon as Echosmith came on stage though, the crowd came alive. It is definitely an intense feeling when a band you love walks on stage, right in front of you, close enough to touch. They had so much fun, singing and dancing, interacting



Sydney Sierota of Echosmith rocked Webster Hall in NYC with her bubbly personality and angelic voice.

with the crowd, and demanding our voices to be heard over their own. To no one's surprise, they sang "Cool Kids" right before their encore. It was clear to see who came for that one song because every single person in that venue blurted out those lyrics like there was no tomorrow.

At the conclusion of the encore, Josie and I made our way back into the streets of New York City. We were freezing and tired and sore, but we both agreed that it was worth it. It always is.

Josie and I take on New York for back to back concerts in December. Yet another adventure awaits us that we shall embark on and attempt to survive.



DIY (Do It Yourself) Gifts

Amidst the holiday spirit of giving, it is easy to feel tangled up in price tags, stressed shoppers, and tight budgets. This year, instead of subjecting yourself to daunting store lines and monotonous holiday music, why not invest your time in do it yourself (DIY) gifts? In the spirit of macaroni necklaces and finger painted cards, DIY gifts allows you to really personalize gifts which in turn can create more meaningful and sentimental presents.

By: Sophia Kim

Candy Sleighs



Summon your tetris skills and layer any assortment of candy for the sleigh's body then two candy canes for the runner.

Open When Cards

"Open when" cards allow you to write personalized messages for various occasions for that person where one card won't cut it.

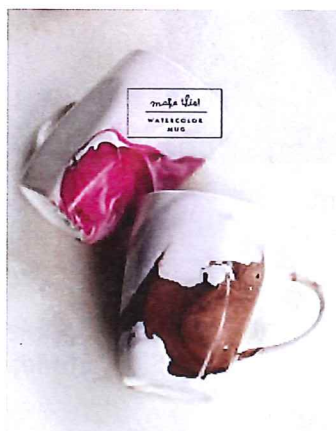


To ail those chapped lips mix together 2 tsp brown sugar, 1/2 tsp honey, 1 tsp olive oil and 1/4 tsp vanilla extract.



Lip Scrub

Nail Polish



- Fill a bowl with warm water.
- Add drops of nail polish to the water and spread it out
- Dip your mug in the water.
- Pat mug dry with paper towel.
- Once you've achieved the look you want, let it sit for at least two hours.

Mason Jar Snow Globes

Glue desired objects to lid. Fill the jar with water and glitter. Then glue the lid to the jar shut.



Hot Chocolate Kit

Hot Chocolate Mix gift in a jar



Assemble together hot cocoa mix and an assortment of whichever dressing you desire.

Money Balloons



If all else fails, you can always give money in a balloon.



Christmas Traditions Around the World

Christmas Time in Australia!

By: Keely Flood



fooled, Australia may be located on a different hemisphere. But even 10,000 miles away from MHS and currently in its summer season, it's also "the most wonderful time of the year" 'down under'!

Christmas in Australia is celebrated on December 25th, which may really be the difference you find between how we celebrate it here in America versus our mates over there. December weather-wise in Australia is far from anything considered typical in Jersey. Average temperatures can range from 17 degrees Celsius (63 degrees Fahrenheit) and 30 degrees Celsius (86 degrees Fahrenheit). It gets so hot around this time of year in Australia that often massive bush fires occur across the country!

Just like Americans, Australians follow traditional holiday traditions such as hanging wreaths from doors, Christmas caroling on Christmas Eve, and decorating their homes and gardens with Christmas trees and holiday lights. Australians also decorate their houses with bunches of 'Christmas Bush', a native Australian tree with small green leaves and cream colored flowers. In summer the flowers turn a deep shiny red over a period of weeks.



In each State capital city there is a large Carols by Candlelight service. Famous Australian singers like The Wiggles, John Farnham, Anthony Warlow, Colin Gery, Niki Webster and many more help to sing the carols. These carol services, held in different cities, are broadcast on TV across Australia. There are also huge Christmas pageants in each state capital city, that are also broadcast across the country. Most towns and cities have festivals and parades. In some places, there is a fireworks display at the local park.



Christmas in Sweden!



By: George Taboada

December 13 is the biggest holiday in Sweden during the Christmas season. St Lucia Day is nationally celebrated by electing girls to play St Lucia in choirs. She gets to wear a red sash around her waist and a crown of candles. She also goes around visiting local hospitals and old people's homes to sing and hand out "Pep-parkakor." There's even a national lottery held to have a girl officially be the St Lucia of all of Sweden.

Christmas Eve is also an important holiday. This is when the family dinners and get-togethers happen. They have julbord (a buffet) and eat cold fish, ham, along with other meats and an assortment of vegetables. To drink they typically have grogg (sweet mulled wine.) This is also when presents are exchanged.

The end of the Christmas season is January 13. This is when the Swedes take down their Christmas trees and eat any leftover cookies.



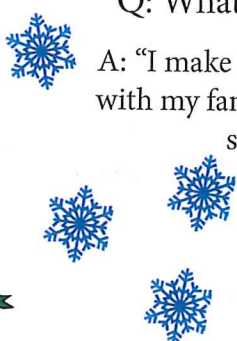
Christmas Around MHS!

Q: What is your favorite Christmas tradition?

A: "I make a ginger bread house with my family!" -Logan Sabins, senior



A: "My mother used to make 8 different types of pies for breakfast." -Mrs. Caci, art teacher





BLUE & GRAY SPORTS



Girls Basketball Team Foresees a Season of Victories

Powerhouse squad looks to continue last year's success

By: Keely Flood

Everyone knows that the girls' basketball team here at MHS is something that shouldn't be messed with. This year's roster is hard to beat, consisting of seniors Courtney Hagaman, Molly Read, and Marina Mabrey; juniors Alex Kurtz and Gillian Black; sophomores Stella Clark, Addie Masonius, and Victoria Galvan; and freshmen Carly Geissler and Dara Mabrey. The girls are amped and ready for a competitive season full of victories.

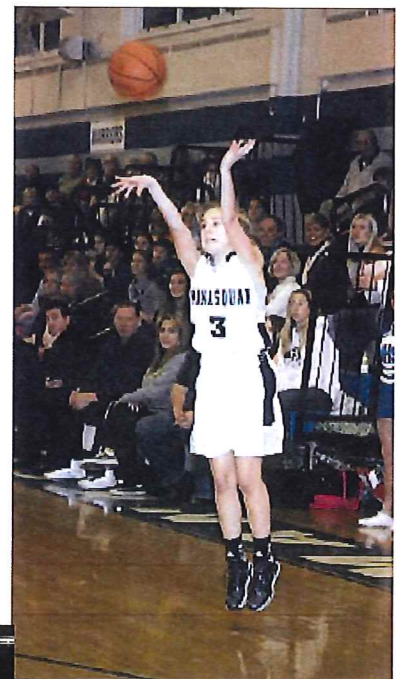
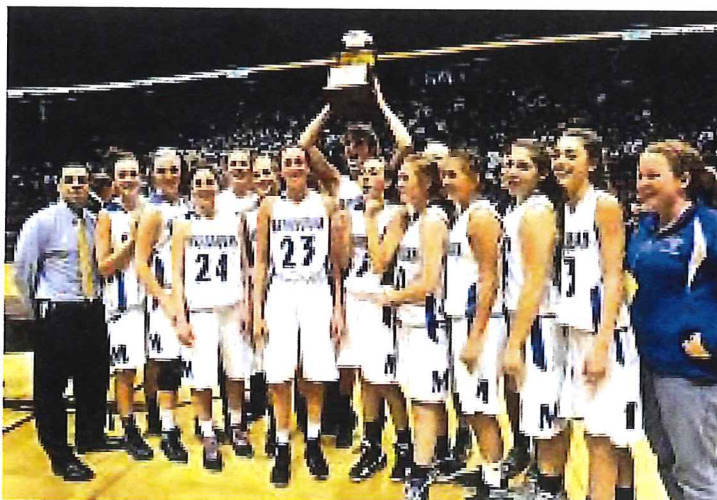


According to the on-line roster, the girls play SJV in an away game on January 9th at 6:30.) "I'm just excited to play with my team. Our main goal is to get to the TOC!" Based on the smiles and uplifting, positive attitude from Courtney during the interview, it's safe to say the girls aren't too worried about their competition

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In a recent interview, senior Courtney Hagaman gave some insight of what the team is preparing for. When asked who she thought the team's biggest competitor will be, Hagaman responded, "I'd have to say SJV (Saint John Vianney) because they have a great matchup and it was an intense game last year." (Ac-

Led by #23 Marina Mabrey, the Warriors hope to repeat last year's Shore Conference Championship.



Stella Clark shooting a 3 pointer in a game last year, returns for her sophomore season.

this upcoming season.

Cheer the girls on at their first game (home) against Rumson-Fair Haven on December 19th at 6:30 in the gym. Good luck this season, ladies!



BLUE & GRAY SPORTS



Manasquan Boys and Girls Bowling hoping to keep success train rolling

By: Logan Muir

Under the excitement over basketball season lies one of Manasquan's most interesting sports: bowling.

Within these past few years, the Manasquan Girls and Boys Bowling Teams have seen much success. The girls' squad, led by Coach Tom Glenn, has won three consecutive state championships, an extremely impressive streak. Likewise, the boys' team has been making a name for themselves under Coach Alan Abraham.

The bowling season is already underway for both the girls and boys and both have seen early success. The girls' team has kicked off the season with an 14-2 record while the boys have a record of 21-0. Both teams hope to keep this winning trend going.

For the boys, senior Jack Cunningham has taken charge as the team captain. Cunningham provides a seasoned, dedicated leader for the team.

Junior Tyler Wolfe is expected to perform at a high-level this year alongside freshmen varsity starter Noah Zadwasky. Last year, Wolfe finished an impressive season with a Second Team All-South Jersey honoree.

Other notable players include seniors Dan Jahnsen, Joey Sigmund,

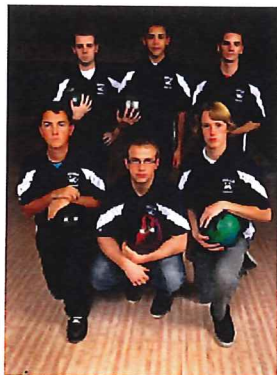
Michael Khammer, and John Moriarty. According to Moriarty, this year will be "taken to a whole new level." This seems to be true, as the boys already seem to have clinched the division title.

For the girls, Coach Glenn hopes to lead the team to another state championship. With the 2011, 2012, and 2013 state championships under their belt, it will be tough for the girls to break this trend of success. The girls are in the driver's seat with their impressive record to win the division title once again, but several matches do lay ahead.

The girls' team is led by Jamie Walliker. With star bowlers such as Bryce Petracorro graduating last year, Walliker seems to be the leader of this tough girls' squad. Other key members include juniors Megan Bauter, Ella Luzzi, and Emily Neiberlien.

This past weekend, Wolfe, Walliker, and Bauter all competed in a singles tournament. All three made it past the first round while Walliker made it to the quarter finals, finishing seventh overall.

The Manasquan bowling teams are off to a fantastic start and it will be exciting to see how the season continues.



Pictured above: Members of the Boys Bowling Team, led by last year's county champion Tyler Wolfe; below: the Girls Bowling Team hopes to follow in the footsteps of their successful predecessors, winners of three consecutive sectional state championships.



Young Wrestlers Building a Foundation for Future Success

By: Julia Valgenti



The Warrior's wrestling season is set to open with their first tournament the Saturday before Christmas. They have been training hard to get ready for a strong showing.

The Warriors will face Wall in their first home match on Wednesday January 7th. They can use some fan support so come out and cheer them on!

This year's team consists of seven upperclassmen and eighteen underclassmen. According to coach Voskian, the relatively 'young' team "looks good for the future to build off of." Among the plethora of underclassmen, two stand out from the rest. Sophomores Joey Ostberg and Frankie Faasan will be competing this year on the varsity team.

This season also promises success for senior Ben Meseroll who has held a two year winning record on varsity. Meseroll is expected to be a key member of the team in the upcoming season.

New to the team this year is sophomore Karla Muñoz, who is one of two girls on the team.

Overall, the warriors are ready to compete and "looking forward to a good competitive year".



BLUE & GRAY SPORTS



Warriors Football Stays Strong During Tough Second Half of Season

By: Logan Muir

The 2014 football season has officially come to a close. Going into the final half of the season with a 3-3 record, the football team, with hopes of obtaining a state championship, finished with an overall disappointing 3-7 record.

With all the talent and leadership surrounding the Warriors, this year's season came as a shock. No one expected an unsatisfactory record, especially the players. Senior Craig Miller stated "It's a letdown to leave after this season."

The Warriors showed flashes of greatness throughout the season. Among impact players included, senior running back James McAlarey who established himself as a strong, elusive runner while defensive players such as senior linebacker John Morris made himself a force to be reckoned with.

With many senior football players graduating this year, it's hard to imagine their places being filled on and off the field. However, one thing learned from this year is that there are many upcoming underclassmen who appear willing to fill the shoes of their predecessors. Some include sophomore Tommy Meyer, who got plenty of playing this time on varsity this year and freshmen quarterback Tommy Antonucci and running back Connor Morgan.

To top of an unfulfill-



ing season, the Warriors unfortunately lost at home in their final game against their archrival, the Wall Knights. Manasquan suffered a 21-14 loss to Wall, but the game was undoubtedly exciting throughout. While down 14-0 at halftime, Manasquan came back in a strong second half with two touchdowns. Although Manasquan showed resilience after a slow first half, the Warriors simply could not keep up with Wall's offense, which appeared to be in synch all game long.

Manasquan had a chance to tie the game with two minutes left on the clock, but the impressive drive was stopped short due to an untimely interception. Even though Manasquan ultimately lost the game, the players and coaches should all be proud. It was obvious every member of the team laid it all out on Vic Kubu Warrior Field that day.

Although the season did not go as planned, the Warriors played their hearts out this season. This was evident through several second half comebacks that Manasquan constructed throughout the season. For those group of men, the win-loss record is not the whole story. For seniors, they can move on knowing they are forever part of the Big Blue tradition. For underclassmen, they can start preparing for next season and more passionate and stronger than ever.

Senior wide receiver Max Hawkins catching a touchdown to put the Warriors on the board.

