

# The Blue & Gray

Manasquan  
High School

May 2017

## Squan-a-Thon Reaches New Height

Hard work of advisors, committee members, and volunteers  
pays off with record fundraising



Committee members Shannon Kirk, Kelli Finn and Savannah Hobbie enjoy the moment at Squan-a-Thon

### in this issue



Coming soon: Improv for Ron - Saturday, May 13  
Students Excel on fall PARCC testing  
Fiddler on the Roof a hit for Drama Club!  
AOF Fashion Show a super success  
Peers spread good vibes in MHS  
Academic Competition Team earns a trophy  
MHS Teacher helps lead town  
Environmental Commission  
College Acceptances: the list gets longer!  
Features: Aaron Hernandez tragedy  
Surfer returns from devastating injury  
Major League Baseball is back!  
Beauty & the Beast movie review  
Spring Fashions  
Spring Sports & much more!

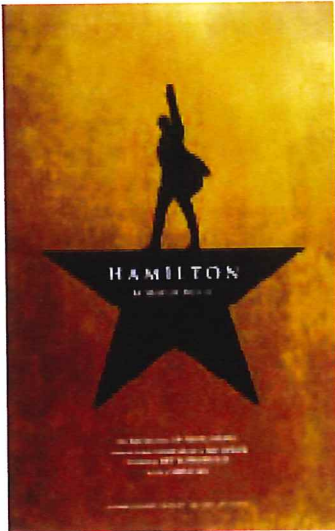


# Students Tackle Issues in the World

## The Blue & Gray Editorials

## Expensive Broadway Tickets Cause New Controversy.

BY: Sarah Langan



Hamilton, Wicked, The Lion King, Cats, The Phantom of the Opera, Waitress, and Aladdin are all amazing shows Broadway offers, along with many more, that wealthy people pay a lot of money to see professionally done with a live orchestra.

Of course, not only wealthy people get to go to these incredible musicals but the way Broadway's prices are – it's hard to believe someone on a normal budget can afford a ticket. Depending on the show one ticket could cost upwards near \$2,000! Of course, there's shows you can see in the balcony seating (in the way back) that would only cost about \$100... but the pricing can seem to be a bit ridiculous.

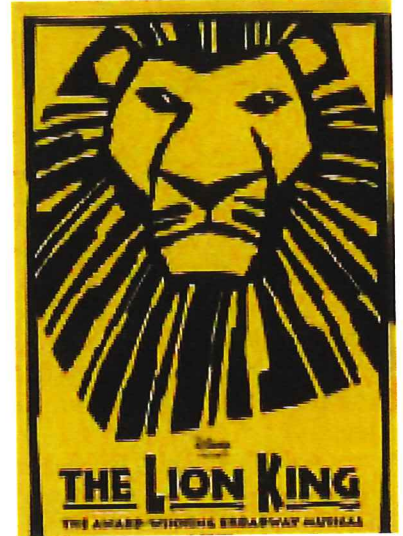
That's where bootlegging comes in. It seems more and more people are watching bootlegged videos online

of the Broadway plays. People who were lucky enough to get tickets were able to sneak their video cameras in or film it on their phones, despite Broadway's extremely strict ban against this. Then when they've successfully caught the show on film, they go home and upload it for the entire world to see.

YouTube tries to delete these videos, much like they delete full filmed movies that are uploaded, for copyright purposes. Many people agree that it's right for YouTube to do this, feeling bootlegging is wrong and taking away the "Broadway magic" that the actual show gives. People have also been claiming that it loses Broadway money.

Most people I know would say that even if they watched a bootleg of a musical online they'd easily jump on the opportunity to see it in person – if distance, money, and transportation wasn't an issue.

Broadway easily makes a fortune even if there's bootlegs of their musicals out there. "A hit musical on Broadway will usually take in from \$600,000 to \$1,000,000 per week in ticket sales." – For example, The Lion King easily makes \$1,000,000 in sales per week. So are bootlegs really



hurting Broadway's income?

I get why Broadway doesn't want these videos on the web, but claiming it loses them money is a bit of a stretch. Out of respect for the show's writers, cast, and choreographers – who put a lot of work into it and gets paid based on ticket sales – it is wrong to watch the plays online. But once again, like I've previously stated, most people would still buy a ticket if they could. Saying they can't watch it at all just because they live in a faraway state, or can't afford the price of a ticket isn't fair.

Broadway has tried in the past to give people more opportunities to witness a show, giving lotteries and such on the radio and also having casts go on tours. But they don't do it enough to make a difference.





## PITCHERS AND HITTERS DOMINATE ON OPENING DAY

By: Elizabeth Rooney

Warmer weather, school days winding down, and more outdoor activities taking place. These are all key things that occur when spring finally decides to make its appearance. With the arrival of spring comes the start of another sport season that will be welcomed into millions of homes in America. Major League Baseball officially kicked off on the second day of April.

Sunday April 2 marked the beginning of the season with three games: Yankees at Rays, Giants at Diamondbacks, and Cubs at Cardinals. Reigning World Champions the Cubs looked to become the first repeat champions since the 1998-2000 Yankees and win 100 games for a second year in a row.

Excitement was all around these three games as the Rays out ran and homered the Yankees, and the Cardinals and Diamondbacks found it in themselves to rally and come out victorious.

San Francisco Giants pitcher Madison Bumgarner broke records by hitting a home run before even allowing a baserunner. It was hit at 112.5 mph., one of the hardest hit home runs by a

pitcher ever calculated. However, he wasn't done hitting powerful homers, as he hit another one a few innings later.

Bumgarner wasn't all about the hitting on that day either, as he had a



no-hitter into the bottom of the sixth inning. But the Diamondbacks were able to rally and pull out the first walk-off victory of 2017, beating the Giants 6-5.

Cardinals pitcher Carlos Martinez paid respect to Yordano Ventura and Oscar Taveras, who both tragically passed away in the off season, by drawing their numbers into the mound before

the game started. The Cardinals then rallied together in the ninth inning with the bases loaded for the second walk-off of the season, beating the defending World Champion Cubs.

The following day was filled with 12 more opening day games, rewarding

baseball fans with two opening days. This day was filled with more power, as players continued to launch home runs into the stands.

Washington Nationals outfielder Bryce Harper hit his fifth career Opening Day home run in the Nationals win against the Marlins. While the Angels Mike Trout hit his third career Opening Day home run against the As, Khris Davis homered twice for the A's against the Angels.

The home runs didn't end there as the Rangers hosted the Indians in a slugfest. For the Rangers Rougned Odor hit two home runs, and Carlos Gomez blasted one into the second deck, while for the Indians Edwin Encarnacion didn't want to feel left out and belted one as well.

The first grand slam of the season came from the Dodgers, as Joc Pederson blasted one as they beat the Padres 14-3. And Mark Trumbo launched the season's first walk off homer in the Orioles win against the Blue Jays in 11 innings.

Even with the power of the hit-

*continued on page 26*





# COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

**Dimitrios Morgan-**  
Fairleigh Dickinson University  
Ramapo College  
William Patterson University

**Matt Mulrenan-**  
Duquesne University  
George Mason University

**Connor Muly-**  
Old Dominion University

**Brona Nielsen-**  
Manhattan College

**Jack Nolan-**  
SUNY- Maritime College

**Ashlee Nykyforuk-**  
Loyola Univ. - New Orleans

**Joseph Ostberg-**  
Texas A&M University  
Fairleigh Dickinson University  
Nova Southeastern University  
Stephen F. Austin University  
The Citadel  
Univ. of North Carolina-  
Greensboro

**Cera Paslawsky-**  
Clemson University  
Pepperdine University  
University of California- Santa  
Barbara  
University of San Diego  
University of South Carolina

**Brian Paturzo-**  
College of Charleston  
University of Florida  
University of North Carolina-  
Wilmington  
University of South Carolina

**Edward Perez-**  
New England College

**Kathryn Petrone-**  
Florida State University

**Jeff Petrulla-**  
Boston College  
Providence College  
Fairleigh Dickinson Univ.  
Seton Hall University  
Stockton University  
Monmouth University  
Rider University

**Nick Pierro-**  
East Stroudsburg University-  
Kutztown University  
Old Dominion University  
Penn State University

**Brendan Reilly-**  
Fordham University  
Bentley University  
Northeastern University  
Rutgers University

**Abigail Rice-**  
Old Dominion  
University of Mississippi  
College of Charleston  
Auburn University  
University of Mississippi

**Shannon Richards-**  
Coastal Carolina University  
Johnson and Wales University  
Old Dominion University

**Mychael Roberts-**  
Brookdale Community College  
Quinnipiac University  
University of Hartford

**Logan Roddy-**  
Fordham University  
Loyola University Maryland  
Miami University (Ohio)  
The College of New Jersey  
University of Maine  
Univ. of North Carolina-  
Wilmington

**Elizabeth Rooney-**  
Drexel University  
Pennsylvania State University  
College of Charleston  
College of New Jersey  
University of Maryland  
Clemson University  
Virginia Tech University

**Maddy Ryder-**  
Michigan State University  
Quinnipiac University  
University of Vermont  
The College of New Jersey  
University of Tampa  
University of Delaware  
The College of Charleston  
University of South Carolina

**Cassidy Sabins-**  
East Carolina University  
University of Tampa  
Monmouth University

**Chip Sarnasi-**  
The College of Charleston  
Manhattan College  
St. Joseph's University  
Suffolk University Boston  
University of New Hampshire

**Shawn Saulys-**  
Augustana College

**Brinley Schmidt-**  
Elizabethtown College  
Gannon University  
Ithaca College  
LIU Brooklyn  
Misericordia University  
Quinnipiac University

**Adam Schreck-**  
East Stroudsburg University  
University of Rhode Island  
West Chester University

**Jada Scimeca-**  
Flagler College  
Florida Atlantic University  
Rutgers University  
Monmouth University  
Coastal Carolina University  
The College of Charleston  
Univ. of North Carolina-  
Wilmington

**Thomas Sheehan-**  
Notre Dame University

**Paige Sierra-**  
East Stroudsburg University  
Seton Hall University  
University of Delaware

**Sarah Smith-**  
Chestnut Hill College  
Franklin Pierce University  
Kutztown University  
New Jersey City University  
Wilmington University  
Fairleigh Dickinson University

**Summer Smith-**  
East Carolina University  
Monmouth University  
College of Charleston  
Fairleigh Dickinson University  
Mount Saint Mary's University

**Nikki Stevens-**  
Montclair State University

**Evan Storer-**  
Rutgers University

**Matt Synder-**  
The University of Scranton  
Kings College  
Iona College

**Ana Taboada-**  
The College of Charleston  
Elon University  
East Carolina University  
University of Colorado - Boulder  
Pepperdine University  
University of South Carolina  
University of Tampa  
University of Texas at Austin

**Matt Tantillo-**  
Florida State University  
Ohio State University  
Rutgers University  
Temple University  
University of South Carolina

**Tom Tantillo-**  
Florida State University  
Fordham University  
Monmouth University  
Penn State University  
Rutgers University  
Temple University  
University of Alabama  
West Virginia University

**Leah Tilton-**  
Georgia Southern  
University of South Carolina  
Montclair State University  
Salisbury University

**Paige Tipaldi-**  
Fairleigh Dickinson College  
Manhattan College  
Marymount Manhattan College  
Monmouth University  
Quinnipiac University  
West Chester University

**Damon Tito-**  
Stockton University

**Joseph Tonkovich-**  
Indiana University

**Sydney Valles-**  
American International College  
Loyola University Maryland  
New York Institute of Technology  
Western New England University



**TCNJ THE COLLEGE OF  
NEW JERSEY**



# COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Edited By: Julia Barry & Annie Heenan

*Spring is here, which for high school seniors around the country means one thing: letters from colleges arrive in the mail, holding the news we so desperately want to hear. Did we get in? MHS seniors know the feeling well, and for many, the news has been good so far! See our recently updated list of which schools our seniors have received the highly anticipated acceptance letter from.*

**Mackenzie Baeszler-**  
University of Montana

**Kyle Benjamin**  
New Jersey Institute of Technology

**Nick Benjamin**  
Stockton University

**Ben Barry-**  
Middlebury College

**Julia Barry-**  
Susquehanna University  
University of Delaware  
Quinnapiac University  
Monmouth University  
Stone Hill College

**Sam Bauer-**  
Penn State University  
University of Tampa  
Monmouth University  
Florida State University  
University of Delaware  
Syracuse University

**Alex Bennett-**  
Sacred Heart University  
University of Rhode Island  
Salve Regina

**Mara Bennett-**  
Rutgers University  
University of Delaware

**Jarrett Birch-**  
Furman University

**Nina Branch-**  
Salve Regina University

**Brady Bresnahan-**  
Coastal Carolina  
Montclair State  
Plymouth State  
Stockton University

**Joe Cajas-**  
Rider University

**Kate Callahan-**  
Boston College  
Rutgers University  
Brown University

**Devan Carroll-**  
Quinnapiac University

**Caroline Carter-**  
DeSales University  
Ithaca College  
Lebanon Valley University  
Monmouth College  
Quinnapiac University  
Stockton University  
University of Scranton

**Stella Clark-**  
Northeastern University

**Julia Clayton-**  
Delaware Valley University  
Loyola University Maryland  
Sacred Heart University  
Saint Josephs University  
Salve Regina University  
University of Scranton

**Annie Condoluci-**  
Messiah College

**Shane Connelly-**  
University of Pittsburgh  
Penn State University  
Rutgers University

**Connor Critchley-**  
Kean State College  
Plymouth State University  
Southern New Hampshire Univ.

**Liam J. Cuozzo-**  
University of Pittsburgh  
Drexel University  
Purdue University  
University of South Carolina

**Daniel P. Del Guercio-**  
East Stroudsburg University  
Flagler College  
Lynchburg College  
Saint Leo University  
Bloomsburg University  
Coastal Carolina University  
Indiana University of Pa.  
West Chester University  
West Virginia University

**Alex Dettlinger-**  
University of Rhode Island  
University of New Hampshire

**Madison Dettlinger-**  
Auburn University

**John Devereux-**  
Rider University

**Chris Driscoll-**  
Stockton College  
Rider University  
La Salle University  
University of Scranton  
St. Joseph's University  
Fairleigh Dickinson University  
Wagner College  
Sacred Heart University  
De Sales University

**Dillon Dunwoody-**  
Becker College  
Marist College  
Quinnapiac University  
Saint John's University  
The College of New Jersey

**Clark Ellicott-**  
Drexel University  
Fordham University  
McGill University  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Pratt Institute  
Virginia Tech University

**Francis Faasen-**  
Augustana College

**Maura Farragher-**  
Fairfield University  
Loyola University Maryland  
Monmouth University  
Montclair State University  
Saint Joseph's University

**Summer Farren-**  
Fordham University  
Univ. of California-  
Los Angeles (UCLA)  
University of California  
San Diego

**Kelli Finn-**  
Mount St. Mary's University  
Pace University  
Xavier University  
Fordham University  
Univ. of Massachusetts, Boston  
Providence College  
West Chester University

**Melissa Fischer-**  
Clemson University  
University of Maryland  
Virginia Tech

**Maggie Flynn-**  
High Point University

**Jenn Forcillo-**  
University of Vermont  
St. Bonaventure University  
University of Delaware  
The College of New Jersey  
Catholic University  
The College of Charleston  
Rutgers University  
University of  
New Hampshire

**Matt Forcillo-**  
University of Delaware  
Univ. of North Carolina-  
Wilmington  
University of South Carolina  
Manhattan College  
Rutgers University

**Cady Formichella-**  
Penn State University  
Susquehanna University  
University of Delaware

**Jon Furson-**  
Christopher Newport Univ.  
Monmouth University  
James Madison University





# The Blue & Gray

## FEATURES

### From NFL Star to Life Behind Bars: The Tragic Story of Aaron Hernandez

By: Shane Connelly

The life story of Aaron Hernandez is a story filled with tragedy, and it came to an abrupt end on April 19<sup>th</sup>. He was in the process of serving a life sentence for the 2013 murder of Odin Lloyd when he was found hanging by a bedsheet in his cell.

Hernandez grew up in Bristol, Connecticut with his mother Terri, father Dennis, and brother D.J., a tight knit group. Aaron was only sixteen years old when his father unexpectedly passed away due to complications from a hernia surgery. This moment, according to his mother Terri, is what changed the trajectory of her son's life forever.

After losing his father, Hernandez became a rebellious young man. His mother even said, "he wasn't the same kid," in an interview with USA Today back in 2009. It was a tough time in his life to be without a father as he weighed his college choices. Originally, he planned to follow in the footsteps of his father and brother and play football at the University of Connecticut, but after connecting with assistant coach Steve Addazio of the University of Florida he flipped his commitment and joined the prestigious Florida Gators football team.

During Hernandez's college career, the head coach of the Gators football team was Urban Meyer, a legendary figure in college football history. Coach Meyer did his best to take Hernandez under his wing.

Meyer dedicated a lot of his time to Hernandez, once even holding a ten-hour meeting with him during a time where Hernandez was really struggling. Meyer did what he could to keep Hernandez from going down the wrong path.

Despite finally having a role model, Hernandez still got



*Hernandez looks onward during the 2013 Odin Lloyd murder trial.*

himself into trouble in college. In 2007, Hernandez was involved in a fight at a Gainesville bar after he reportedly ordered alcoholic drinks and refused to pay for them. He was escorted out by an employee, and when the employee turned to walk away, the 17-year-old Hernandez punched him on the side of the head, rupturing his eardrum. The incident was never brought to court, however, as a settlement was reached.

It has also been speculated that a 2007 shooting that injured two people in Gainesville may have been Hernandez's doing as well, but that

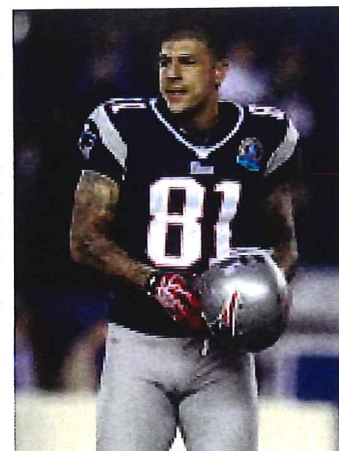
case will now remain unsolved.

Following his junior year at Florida in which the Gators won the BCS National Championship in a game against the Oklahoma Sooners, Hernandez entered the 2010 NFL Draft, forgoing his final year of college eligibility. While his talent was unquestionable, his checkered past caused his draft stock to drop. Hernandez was selected in the fourth round, 113<sup>th</sup> overall by the New England Patriots, continuing the trend of being a member of a football powerhouse.

The Patriots are a model franchise in the NFL. Over the years, they have upheld fantastic standards and managed to keep their players under control on and off the field. It seemed to be a great fit for the troubled Hernandez, who entered the league as the youngest player on any active roster.

On the field, Hernandez blossomed. He and fellow tight end Rob Gronkowski dominated NFL defenses. The Patriots made the two tight end set the basis of their offensive game plan, and they utilized Hernandez's skillset all over the field. On August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012, just one year before he was indicted on murder charges in front of a grand

*continued on next page*



*At left: Hernandez playing football for the Florida Gators; right: Hernandez during his time in New England. .*



# Water Testing Results Reveal Excessive Levels of Lead

By: Sarah Langan and Elizabeth Rooney

On April 27, a letter from Dr. Kasyan was posted on the district webpage informing parents, teachers, and students that drinking water in both the elementary and high school have tested positive for lead in certain parts of the schools.

It was anticipated from school officials that there would be a problem with the water in the schools. Parts of the school are quite old, whether it was from the infrastructure to plumbing. With the age of the building taken into consideration the school district was able to see results of the test coming.

Since the water has tested positive for lead, the affected classrooms have been addressed and water fountains have been shut down. Water fountains and sinks affected throughout the school are now posted with "DO NOT DRINK" or "DO NOT USE" warning signs for students and faculty.

With the positive test results the school district has tested all drinking water and food preparation areas that use water

for any risk of lead. 60 samples were taken from the elementary school and 97 from the high school.

Within the high school the science wing was highly affected by lead in water. In each science classrooms sinks have been shut down and signs have been posted. Water

fountains outside both the girl's and boy's bathrooms in Center hall and upstairs have also tested positive for lead in addition to the water fountain outside the training room.

The lead in the water could cause some serious health problems. It's harmful to the brain, kidneys, and production of red blood cells. While it's not good for anyone to consume, it's especially problematic for pregnant women, infants, and children under

6. It delays development, reduces hearing and attention span, and can even lead to brain damage.

Lead doesn't appear in water naturally, but it spreads from deterioration of

materials that contain lead, which hold the water—allowing it to enter the water distribution system and building's plumbing. Also, when water sits in lead pipes for an extended amount of time, it can dissolve into the water.

It's important that Manasquan was able to test the water and is fixing the problem as quickly as possible. However, if you drank the water from the school, it doesn't mean your life is at any risk. For the time however, it is not a bad idea to keep your distance from certain water fountains in the school.

Fortunately, the school found out and now they are fixing the problem. Students shouldn't have to think twice about where the water they are drinking came from, and whether or not it's safe. In no time the problem will be fixed and the lead water problem will be a distant memory at Manasquan.



Above: water from fountain looks clean, but (below): note posted on 2nd floor fountain warns the opposite.



## Be a Life Saver, Donate Blood!

By: Bella Jannarone

Students and staff, mark your calendars! Mrs. Kozic and the Academy of Health Careers is hosting this year's Spring Blood Drive, scheduled for Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. The organization running the blood drive, Central Jersey Blood Center, has run the high school's blood drive many times in the past.

According to the Red Cross, although an estimated 38 percent of the United States population is eligible to give blood at any given time, but less than 10% of that eligible population actually do it every year. An important thing to remember about blood is it cannot be made, it is

only supplied by generous donors.

One member of the Academy of Health Careers, Alexis Jaime-Kelly, thinks "it's very important to donate, because not enough people do and hospitals are running out of blood."

Last year's Blood Drive received an impressive 78 donors and the day ran smoothly, as planned. While most donors happily said that the pain was minimal, some admitted to a little pain, but agreed that the payoff of saving lives was definitely worth it.

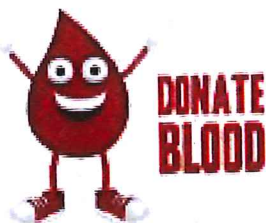
This year's blood drive will take place in the MHS gymnasium throughout the entire day. To ensure a welcoming and comfortable environment, music is played throughout the gym along with many nurses, keeping a close eye on all donors.



In the gym, many seats are set up for the donors, along with various snacks and water water bottles. The donors are encouraged to eat these snacks to ensure the safest donation process.

Mrs. Kozic and the Academy hope to surpass the number of donors they received last year, and encourage more people to donate blood.

To donate, you must be 17 years or older, and weigh at least 120 pounds. If you are interested in signing up for this year's Blood Drive, see Mrs. Kozic with your preferred time during block one (room 112), block three (room 567), or block four (room 560).





# MHS Junior Prom Truly A Night to Remember

By: Bella Jannarone

On Friday March 24, the halls were buzzing with excitement for the hours to come: junior prom. For many, this meant an afternoon of hair and makeup appointments, as well as anxiety and nervousness that something may go wrong on this night to remember. Many juniors were looking forward to this day since the beginning of the year.

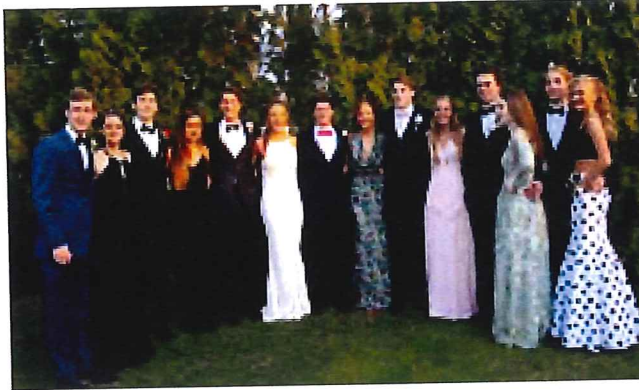
As the trolleys and limos and cars and busses pulled up to the beautiful Water View Pavilion, elation filled the air. Girls carefully and eagerly stepped out of their rides, making sure not to break a heel, some with help from their dates.

After walking up the steps into the venue, first came a cold greeting from suspicious police officers and a quick bag check from assistant principals. After checking in with class advisors and saying hi to a few teachers, attendees went around taking pictures with each other and throwing compliments, everyone looking lovely.

The common theme among girl's dresses was long, flowy and sleeveless. Boys wore perfectly tailored suits and shiny black shoes, sometimes with a colored bow tie to match their date's dress.

A dress that stood out to Kendall Grogan was Harley Pilling's, a navy, plunge neck dress matched with bright fuchsia heels, perfect for a spring prom, while her date Dylan wore a navy suit and a fuchsia bow tie. Another dress that stood out on Friday was worn by fashion enthusiast, Ella Cardelfe. She wore a long sleeve, high neck gown, embellished with a blue and green floral print. Meanwhile her date Tommy Sheehan wore a simple black suit with a black bowtie.

After everyone signed in and found their designated tables, shoes and jackets were taken off, purses put down, and the stress and nervousness



of prom disappeared as people set out to the dance floor.

From the few songs that the DJ played in the beginning, everyone knew the music was perfect for the night. Dinner, a buffet style filled with pastas and meats, came and went shortly after our arrival. During dinner the current hits "Rolex" and "That's What I Like" played, making everyone too eager to get back onto the dance floor. Denny Maher said that "the food was alright but nothing amazing."

The first person to hit the dance floor after dinner was Taylor Grieb, accompanied by her date Kyle

Abbot, who didn't leave the dance floor once. Brian Rogers also had some eye catching moves, admitting that the "lawn mower" is his favorite. For the few students who don't love the thought of dancing watched from upstairs or chatted with friends at dinner tables.

At around 9 pm the DJ asked that everyone on the dance floor return to their seats for the crowning of this year's prom court, determined by a vote from the teachers. The court consisted of Haleigh McGowan, Justin Gladden, Andrea DeAndrea, John Heeseman, Tommy Antonucci and Ella Cardelfe. Dylan Finn was crowned junior prom king while Lexi Jaime Kelly, who wore a sparkly burgundy gown, was crowned queen, both surprised and excited that they won.

With only an hour left in this memorable night, everyone made the most of it on the dance floor. A song that seemed to get everyone moving and out of their chairs was "All Star" by Smash Mouth. When this early 2000s hit came on, a circle formed around Ricky Flynn while he showed off his dancing skills which included a lot of "dabbing", "bernying" and "hitting the shmoney".

One of Kendall Grogan's favorite parts of the night was when they played the slow song "Can I Have this Dance" from High School Musical because "it was a break from all the upbeat intense music." Contrarily, Denny Maher's favorite part of the night were the loud songs that got everyone jumping because "it was cool to see everyone in our grade, friends or not, all together and dancing."

School the following Monday was a mix of relief and sadness- relief that our junior prom was behind us, sadness that it was over. But I think that everyone could agree that it sure was a night to remember!





# Annual Spring Choir Concert

By: Rachel Irizarry and Rebecca Irizarry

On May 3, 2017, Mr. Weisert hosted the annual MHS Spring Choir Concert. It was a night filled with great songs and amazing singers.

To start the night off, the choir sang their opening song. The song was "Antiphonal Song of Joy". The chorus was broken up into two groups (block three chorus and block four chorus). One group would sing a part of the song, and then the other group would follow. While these two groups were singing, the choir was standing around the audience in the aisles.

After the opening song, the choir sang "With a Voice of Singing". In this song you could definitely hear the harmonies that the chorus made. The first solo of the night was Delaney Heffernan, a sophomore.

Following that, the choir sang a funny song named "I Bought Me a Cat". This song is not what you think it is! The whole crowd was laughing as the men made their noises and did some little dance moves along with each noise.

Taking it back to the 1950's, Brendan Gillespie, a senior, sang a jazz song called "Lullaby of Birdland". You could definitely tell he put a lot of hard work into this song, and sure enough, it showed.

Up next for the solos we have Aiden Lyone, a sophomore, he did an original song. Singing an original song is scary enough but Aiden didn't stop there. He also played the acoustic guitar while singing his song "Return to Earth". He explained that he was excited but also very nervous to do an original: "It took me a week and a half to write it, and I decided to give it a shot," he told us.

Topstick performed the next two songs. This group of eight people from the choir came together and sang a capella. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, Topstick was unable to perform a cappella so they were accompanied by piano. Although there was a piano playing in the background, Topstick shined through.

With the show halfway over, the choir had another solo. It was



Above: The top photo is all of the boys performing "I Bought Me a Cat" and the bottom is everyone who is in the choir.

Gabby Freeman, a junior, singing "Home". After the solo, the next song the choir did together was "Scarborough Fair". This was a sweet song that moved at a good pace.

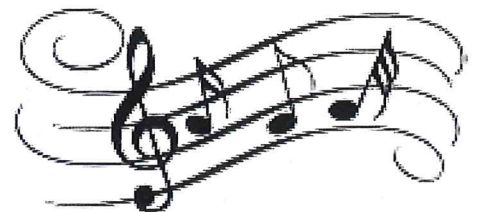
With the show coming to a close, there was still one more solo. The last solo went to Natalia Tapia, a sophomore, who sang "Un Giorno Per Noi" an Italian song. She has an amazing voice and boy did it stand out in this song. This was an experience that Natalie said she really loved: "Singing this song was easy since it was short. Since it was in Italian, it was a different way of singing since it wasn't in English."

Singing a song from a Broadway musical can be hard and tricky, but the chorus was up for the challenge. The song that they did was "For Good" from the Broadway show *Wicked*. This song has two solos, which were sung by MaryGrace Iorio, a senior, and Erin McBride, a freshman.

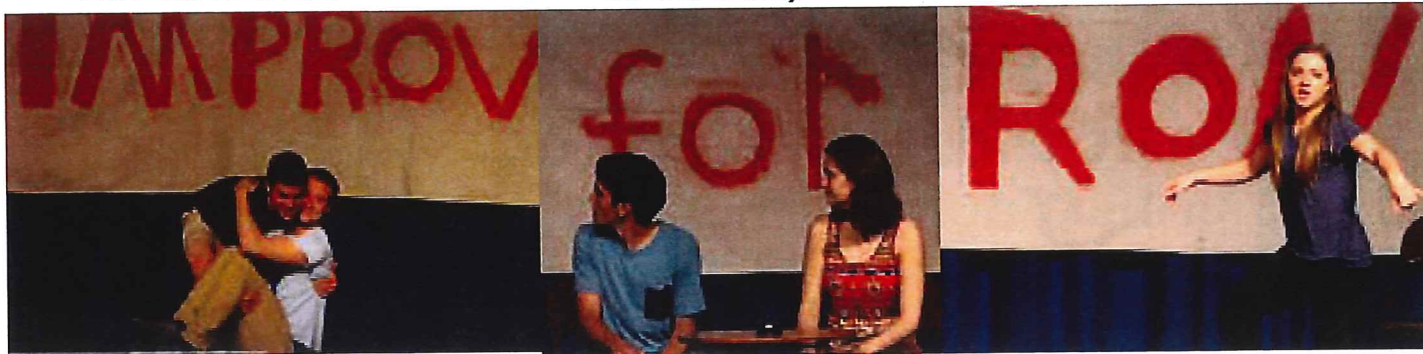
Being that this was Erin's first solo in choir, you can bet she was a little nervous. "Although I was nervous Mr. Weisert and MaryGrace made me feel comfortable up

there on stage." MaryGrace had to say that her favorite song that the choir has performed in her career here was "Bohemian Rhapsody". She also confessed that she will miss singing every day in the choir. There were so many great people.

To close the show, the choir sang "Viva La Vida" by Coldplay. Overall this annual choir concert was a night to remember. With eleven seniors leaving next year, everyone was emotional and proud of how far everyone had come this year. From putting in all of the hard work on the more choral pieces, to upbeat songs, and to all the solos, this was a spectacular show. If you want to join choir next year make sure you put it in your schedule, so you don't miss out of all the fun!







## GET READY FOR IMPROV FOR RON

Celebrate a heroic MHS graduate, laugh till your sides hurt, and help raise money for the Sgt. Ronald A. Kubik Memorial Scholarship this Saturday night 7:30 pm in the Jack

Get ready MHS – it's that time of the year again. The days are getting longer, the nights are getting shorter, the temperature warmer, and everybody's favorite improvisational-comedy show is right around the corner. That's right, Improv for Ron is almost here, so mark your calendars for Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>!

If you find yourself asking "What in the heck is improv?" here's a little background information. Improv is a form of live theater in which the plot, characters, movement, and dialogue of a game or scene are made up on the spot – no pre-planning, no memorized lines, just straight up teamwork and creativity.

And practice. Lots and lots of practice. The best improvisers practice to learn to follow the rules of improv that help them work together and make magic on stage.

For those of you unfamiliar with MHS's annual night of fun, Improv for Ron is an improvised show run by teachers Mr. Mawn and Mr. Harvey and performed by our very own students and alumni.

Students who perform in the show have taken Mr. Harvey's acting class, so they know a thing or two about improv. A few of the students performing this year have even taken improv classes outside of school with Mr. Mawn and Mr. Harvey's Shore Fun Improv program. This year's list

By: Tilly Marks

of students is available on the next page.

We can't forget our amazing group of alumni improvisers: Jack Masterson, Madi Blecki, Matt Conte,

est honor designated solely for heroism in combat.

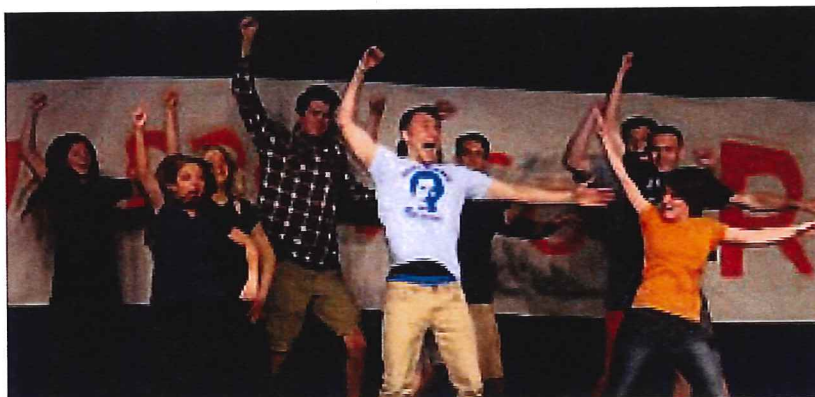
Mr. Mawn and Mr. Harvey taught student Ron Kubik and started the Ronald A. Kubik Memorial Scholarship in his honor. He took English classes with both teachers and was in Mr. Mawn's journalism class and Mr. Harvey's acting class.

In fact, Ron had his own column called "The Adventures of Ron." "Each month he would write about some strange adventure he had taken," says Mr. Mawn. In one issue, Ron wrote about visiting the cemetery with his friends. "I'm not saying there was a ghost there but I am

saying you never know and we are not alone," Ron wrote. This quirky and bold personality was just one of the many things that made Ron such an amazing person.

It was only fitting for Mr. Harvey and Mr. Mawn to start a comedy show to fundraise the scholarship, remind people of what Ron was really about, and do something fun to honor Ron's memory in a way he would've liked.

The Ronald A. Kubik Memorial Scholarship is open to MHS seniors and all seniors are encouraged to apply. Just last year, Torey Grennan and Sonny Timpani were each awarded



Above: Kyle Stewart leads a "flock dance" at last year's Improv for Ron.

Will Conte, Miguel Garcia, and Ryan Coulson.

Improv for Ron's purpose is not only to entertain, but to raise money from ticket sales and much appreciated donations for the Ronald A. Kubik Memorial Scholarship.

The Ronald A. Kubik Memorial Scholarship was started in memory and honor of Ron Kubik, a Manasquan graduate and Army Ranger who gave his life in Afghanistan, saving the lives of 5 fellow rangers, 5 Afghan soldiers, and 19 innocent Afghan women and children. For his bravery and service to our country, Ron was awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Silver Star – the military's third high-

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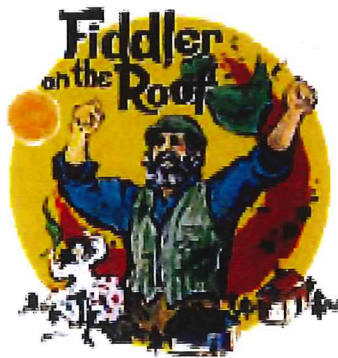


# FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

*Fiddler on the Roof* was a hit, selling out all three nights it debuted in the Jack Nicholson Theatre here at Manassquan. The story is about Tevye (Adam Dayton) a poor dairyman, and his wife, Golde (Marygrace Iorio) finding their three eldest daughters suitable husbands. The daughters fall in love with men that their parents, at first, don't approve of. Tzeitel (Delaney Heffernan) wishes to marry the poor tailor instead of the wealthy butcher, Hodel (Natalia Tapia) falls for the eccentric student, Perchick (Brendan Gillespie), and Chava (Amelia Johnson) elopes with a man outside of their Jewish religion.

It's a nice tale about having praised traditions but also the need to accept change and other's differences, being a drama, romance, and comedy all in one, it was truly a treat for the community to come out and see. There were times when the theatre was filled with laughter at Adam's dancing, or other times filled with an eerie silence as we watched a dramatic moment unfold.

BY: Sarah Langan



Not only was the acting and singing by the cast very well done, the set looked great with the vibrant, blue, or orange background, and the placement of where things were located. For instance, wherever the door frame was placed you could tell if they were outside, or inside the house.

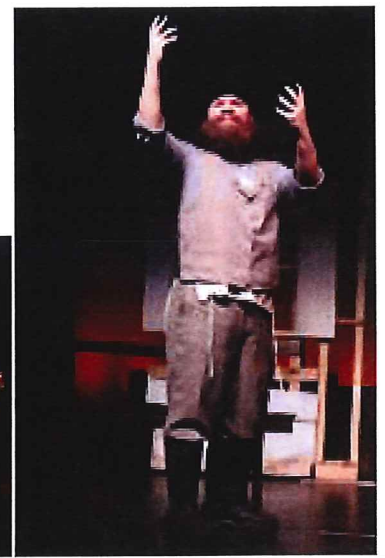
Along with the high school students, there was a few children from the elementary school who played some of the villager's children, and the two youngest daughters of Tevye and Golde. Also a few members

of the staff filled in roles as well, such as the Rabbi and villagers.

Adam Dayton took the lead role in this year's spring musical, and other notable drama club members who took on large roles were Marygrace Iorio, Brendan Gillespie, and Delaney Heffernan.

A lot of seniors took the stage for the last time in their high school theater careers that night, leaving everyone a little sad. "My last show was definitely bitter sweet. I really enjoyed it but I'll really miss everyone," Marygrace said on the topic.

The Drama Club's director, Mr. Weisert, was ill during the rehearsal process of this play, hindering the show's production. "It was really rough at first because we didn't know what to do," Alissa Cielecki commented. She went on to say that everyone really stepped up and did their part to make this show as good as it could be. I think it's safe to say that they were able to make him proud.



## STUDENT AND STAFF REVIEWS

**Ally Kaden:** "I really liked it, and I thought Adam was very funny and did a great job."

**Ally McLaughlin:** "It was super good. Marygrace was great, and the songs were very catchy."

**Mrs. Gerlach:** "I loved it, it was very professionally done. Even when they had an interruption. They came back on and were spot on."



# The Blue & Gray

## FEATURES

### Wright's Miraculous Recovery and Return

By: Bailey Redy

About 15 months ago, Owen Wright suffered a severe brain injury at Pipeline on the North Shore of Oahu in Hawaii. It had the potential to end his career and even his life. As the first event of the 2017 season rolled around, Wright's ability to perform was questioned by many.

But on March 14th, Wright proved that he was back to his best form and possibly better than he'd ever been. He opened up his 2017 season with a 16.83 total in his first heat. With all eyes on him, Owen Wright displayed one of the biggest comebacks in history and went on to win the Quiksilver Pro Gold Coast, the first stop of the World Surf League tour.

Wright, born on January 6th, 1990, grew up with great expectations of having a successful surfing career. In recent years, injury has held him back.

During the 2015 season, Wright made history at the Fiji Pro. In round 5 he had a heat total of twenty out of twenty, then in the final he also had a twenty out of twenty, making himself the first person to have two perfect heats in one contest.

The day before the 2015 Pipe Masters was due to kickoff, Wright suffered a tragic brain injury while warming up for the contest. As a few weeks went by and the Pipe Masters ended without Owen, very few reports stating how severe his in-



*Owen Wright being chaired up the beach by his sister, Tyler, and brother, Mikey. Both of his siblings competed in the contest as well.*

jury were available. Many thought Wright's injury was just a minor concussion.

Some reports said Wright's brain had "small" amounts of bleeding but a severe concussion. Eventually Wright withdrew from the first half of the 2016 season without an injury update. In March of 2016, Wright went to Instagram for the first time since the injury to reveal his first surf since the injury. He said "I couldn't get to my feet. So I just layed there."

In September of 2016, he posted: "Turned the biggest corner this week with the head injury. It's good to be feeling a lot more like myself again." Then on March 7th, 2017, after doctors gave him the "okay" and surfing in a local contest, Owen Wright announced his full return to tour on Instagram with a confident, "Bring on 2017."

During his first heat back, it looked like his surfing had improved from when we'd last seen him surfing in 2015. Taking first in his round 1 heat, led him straight to the third round where he surfed against longtime friend, team-mate, and three-time world champion, Mick Fanning. Wright beat him by a tenth of a point.

He continued to strive through the contest, winning his quarterfinal heat, then beating 2014 world champion, Gabriel Medina, by a long-shot in the semifinals.

Wright met one of his best friends

and former event winner, Matt "Wilko" Wilkinson, in the final.

After Owen and Wilko went wave for wave for thirty-five minutes, Wright came out on top. Wilko said, "To see Owen the way he was last year, was the toughest thing I'd ever seen. If anyone's going to beat me, I'm so glad it's him," as he began to cry and hug Owen in the post-heat interview.

Eleven-time world champion Kelly Slater said, "How is it that after 13 or 14 months of not being able to really surf like the Owen we know, in fact, hardly being able to surf from what I hear, he comes back and is surfing like this?"

As the surfing and sports world watched one of the greatest returns of all time unfold, Wright never fails to give credit to his baby boy and girlfriend for his success. Wright explained, "There's definitely a Dad Power that you get when you first become one. It's a funny experience, coming in from a heat and holding a baby. Before I had that, I'd come in from a heat and be like 'Oh, did you notice me, that wave this and that.' Now I just sit there and play with him and it's the best thing in the world."

Wright's comeback isn't over. He will be heading into the Margaret River Pro ranked #1 in the world and standards are set higher than ever.



*Competitors in the water, best mates on the podium. Owen Wright and Matt Wilkinson*



*Wright on one of his many 10-point rides during the Fiji Pro*





## HARD WORKING HIGH SCHOOLERS

BY: MADDY RYDER

Going to school five days a week for six hours a day can be stressful and tiring enough, add working during the week and on the weekends to the equation, and the stress and fatigue level goes way up. Living in a fun area like Manasquan with many events going on and stores and restaurants lining the sidewalks, it comes with a price, so students in MHS get jobs to pay for all of the things they want to do. It takes a lot of time management skills and hard work to balance school, a job, and being a teenager.

### ALEX DETTLINGER



"I work at Brave New World surf shop and the Manasquan River Golf Club. It has taught me how

to take advantage of my free time in school so I can get all my homework done before I have work, because I am always too tired to do it after. During the spring I barely have time to sleep in because I have school five days a week and then I have to be at the golf club by 6:30 on Saturday and Sunday. I like working at Brave because I get to be involved in the surfing and snowboarding community and learn more about it. I like working at the Golf Club because I get to be outside the whole time and the hours are super flexible, and I usually get done around noon so I have the rest of the day to do what I want."

### TIPS FOR SUCCESS: HAVING A PART TIME JOB WHILE BEING IN HIGH SCHOOL

1. Use your free time correctly. Spend down time finishing up homework or studying for a test. Also check with your boss if it would be ok to do homework/study during slow times at work.
2. Talk about your schedule with your parents, having them as support will make it easier and less stressful.
3. Avoid conflicts by planning your schedule way in advance.
4. Start your job slowly, don't commit to working a lot of hours right away, ease into this different schedule.

### COLE STEVENS

"I work at The Mill in Spring Lake Heights. My shifts are very long so if I have a test or homework



due the following day, it's hard to study without missing many important hours of sleep that night. I also work every weekend so I never get to relax and hangout with friends after a long week of school. I also work all holidays which takes up a lot of my possible free time out of school. I managed my time by taking some days off during the week to hang with friends and catch up on school work. I love having this job because I make a lot of money which helped me buy my own car this past September, and I am also really close friends with all of my co workers."



# The Highlights of Coachella 2017

By: Lauren Fielder

At tickets priced from around \$500 to \$2,000 and limited availability, you probably weren't fortunate enough to experience the astonishing performances, exclusive artwork, and breathtaking aura of the Hollywood scene at the annual Coachella music festival. It is the only time of the year where the world's most talented and famous artists come together to perform in the vast desert valley of Southern California over the course of two weekends in April.

This year's most anticipated performances included artists like Lady Gaga, Kendrick Lamar, Lorde, Radiohead, Travis Scott, and Gucci Mane – and those were just a fraction of the singers featured in the music festival. It seemed as though every other celebrity in the nation could be found among the crowd along with the thousands of people who had been planning for the event months in advance.

Rihanna, Paris Hilton, Kendall & Kylie Jenner, Katy Perry, Emma Roberts, and Hailee Steinfeld are all celebrities who took advantage of the event to showcase flashy new outfits and edgy fashion statements. While some of the stars' clothing was unique and admirable, others left onlookers confused to say the least.

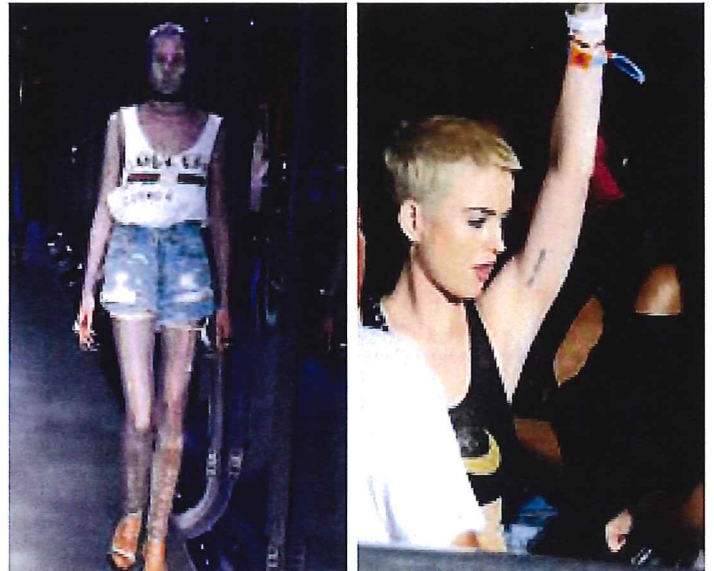
Initially, Beyonce's performance was expected to be the main feature of the event, but plans changed when she announced her pregnancy and her spot was replaced by Lady Gaga. However, the pop-singer's 20-song set full of pyrotechnics, confetti, and the surprise premiere of her new single, "The Cure" the crowd showed little disappointment.

When audience members weren't screaming and cheering as they watched their favorite singers perform, they strolled around the venue filled with delicious food vendors and eye-catching modern artwork.

At the end of the day, when the tents were taken down and celebrities returned to their glamour-filled lives, participants did not leave empty-handed. The memories of their magical experience will remain in their lives forever.



*Above: Kendrick Lamar performing live on Sunday, April 16th*



*Above: Rihanna (left) shows off her bedazzled Gucci bodysuit while Katy Perry debuts her new, bold haircut (right)*



*Above: The giant moving astronaut sculpture constructed by the artist group, Poetic Kinetics, looms over the crowd*





# A Tale as Old As Time The Magic of Beauty and the Beast Revived in 2017

By: Elizabeth Rooney

Growing up one of my favorite childhood movies was *Beauty and the Beast*. I would watch the movie over and over again eventually having to get another copy. I knew almost every line and sang along at five and six years old. When I heard they were coming out with a live-action version of *Beauty and the Beast* I knew I had to see it as the Beauty and the Beast was a huge part of my childhood.

The movie released on March 17 was directed by Bill Condon starred Emma Watson as Belle and Dan Stevens as the Beast. The movie broke records as it brought in \$170 million in its premiere weekend and continues to break box office records.

The movie started off a bit different than how the animated film started off with the audience learning about how and why the prince became the Beast. Then the movie jumps years later to Belle's village as they sing the well-known opening number of "Belle."



Gaston still pines heavily over Belle while Belle stands up to him strong headily and says she will never marry him. LeFou still sticks behind Gaston and everything he does.

Belle in the movie is an avid reader and inventor just like her father, Maurice. Maurice goes on a trip to the market and gets lost in a storm ending seeking shelter at a castle. However, in an attempt to leave he is im-

prisoned by the Beast.

With Maurice's horse returning without him, Belle goes into the forest to the castle searching for him. She trades places with her father as the prisoner to save her father. Belle views the Beast as a heartless monster, and befriends the servants in the castle to make her less lonely.

As time progresses on at the castle Belle opens up to the Beast and the beast opens up to Belle. In this version of the movie we receive new scenes from the Beast's past as well as learning how Belle's mother dies.

The movie truly does stick to the 1991 animated version with only a few differences here and there. It appealed to both young and old generations and stuck to the original storyline that made it so successful and popular when it first came out decades ago.

In remaking in any movie that was already a success and is already loved by many comes with a risk. It will be judged more critically and compared to the successfulness of the animated version. I was apprehensive to see the movie, fearing that the movie I loved and cherished so much would be ruined to me.

However, that was not the case. If anything the movie made my loved the story of Beauty and the Beast even more than I remembered. Sure there are differences, but it wouldn't be a remake if there weren't.

In my opinion what makes this movie worth going to see is simply the fact of a well-known loved storyline stays intact as decisions were made toward this movie to make the story only deeper and fuller than before.

Through the classic songs that made us all fall in love with Beauty and the Beast in the first place to the some of the new ones the music adds to the overall magic and ro-



mance of the movie and doesn't disappoint. Though the differences do occur whether it is adding a whole new scene, a new character, slight line changes, or new songs the magic feeling of Beauty and the Beast doesn't cease to exist.



# TEACHERS SHARE THEIR CRAZY CLASSROOM STORIES

By: Lauren Fielder

"I had a kid who hit his elbow on a desk and somehow hit a blood vessel that made him pass out... we had to call down the nurse"

Mr. Fagen, History

"Students have microwaved their cell phones... one time a student put a metal bowl in the microwave and [the microwave] exploded and we had to throw it out"

"I've had pans of grease drip into the oven and catch [the oven] on fire"

"One girl stuck her hand in the deep fryer"

Ms. Morris, Cooking/Fashion

"Someone dove head-first into the pond to get a ball that they lost"

Ms. Certo, Gym

"[One student] was falling asleep at his desk... I yelled his name and he sat up and smacked his head on the wall and knocked himself out. He gave himself a concussion and was out of school for two days"

Ms. Kaas, Psychology

"This one time I was teaching something and I could tell [a student] wasn't paying attention, so jokingly, I picked up a piece of chalk and said, 'Mike, pay attention!' and said if he zoned out again I'd throw the chalk at him... and when I threw the chalk it ricocheted off the wall behind him and flew into his eye"

Mr. Mawn, English



# The Trend of Promposing

By: Maddy Ryder

Asking someone to prom used to be an easy and stressless task. An over the phone question or a causal in the hallway conversation usually was just enough to ask that certain someone to prom. But things have drastically changed since then. Now a days the word "prom" comes with stress, over thinking, and anxiety, this is caused by the dramatic and outrageous ways teenagers now pop the question. Because of social media and how fastly news and pictures can travel, people have taken their promposals to over the top levels so they can be "noticed" on social media playforms from all over the world. Promposals have now become time consuming, expensive, and nerve raking. But aside from all the craziness and drama that comes along with them, they are a fun and exciting way to ask your special someone to prom, and makes the whole experience a bit more thrilling. Many Manasquan Highschool students have taken part in this promposal trend and have set the standards high on how one should be asked to a Manasquan Prom.

## IN OUR SCHOOL:

### *Shannon Kirk and Carter Condulucci*

Carter popped the question to his girlfriend Shannon during this years Squan-A-Thon. While the committee was participating in a dance off (which both Shannon and Carter took part in) the song that was being played switched to "Single Ladies" by Beyonce. Shannon, confused, then turned to Carter who was holding up a sign that said "Dont Be Single at Prom" (referencing to the song). Shannon said yes!



### *Marina Zupko and Connor Morgan*

Marina, a senior, recently asked her boyfriend Connor, a junior, to her prom in a "swell" way. After school the two were outside and enjoying the weather when Marina pulled out a Swell bottle container. Inside contained a brandnew black swell bottle that connor has been wanting for a while now. On the outer part of the container read "It would be Swell if you went to prom with me." Connor of course said yes! And loves his new Swell.





# HOROSCOPES

By: Amanda Karp

## Aries

Your kindness will take you far in life, but be careful of those who want to take advantage of your nature.

## Taurus

Though confrontation may not be your strong suit, people will respect you for telling them your honest opinion.

## Gemini

You have a certain warmth that positively impacts how others feel about themselves, and those good feelings will return to you.

## Cancer

You have many strong opinions, which may lead to conflict in a future encounter.

## Leo

There may be times when irritation seems to be at no end, but it is important to keep a level head during trying times.

## Virgo

You've been under a great deal of stress recently, and have been working through it diligently, but you need to take some time to decompress and relax.

## Libra

You recently came up with an idea that you've been afraid to put into action, but it is necessary to take that chance and make the idea a reality.

## Scorpio

You have a remarkable aptitude for leadership, which makes you stand out around others, so put your talent to good use when the time arises.

## Sagittarius

You had a plan that went wrong, but do not let it impact the confidence you have in yourself.

## Capricorn

There will be a situation in which the success of it will depend on your attitude.


## Aquarius

There is exciting news on your horizon, which may inspire inspiration for your future, especially travel plans.


## Pisces

Your energy has been low recently, so take time to remedy that by treating yourself to something that restores your energy.





# BLUE & GRAY SPORTS



Page 43

## Golf Team Hopes for Success in States

By: Maddy Ryder

The Manasquan Golf Team has started their season off strong with a 4-2 record so far, only losing to their biggest rivals, Wall and Middletown South. The team is in the Shore Conference, playing schools from all over. They just competed in the shore conference tournament on April 25th, leaving with sixth place. Some of the best scores were from Junior, Jack Rispaud who shot an 88, junior Braden Ward with a 91, and senior Austin Devereux with a 74, also winning second place in individuals. Senior captain, Austin Devereux, is ecstatic to be captain this year and stated "Being a captain is so fun and keeping the team active and helping them win is a great feeling." Jack Long is the one other senior on the team and he is always assisting Austin in running practices and being some-



*The Varsity Golf Team with Coach Guinco*

one to look up to for the younger boys on the team. The team is coached by Vince Guinco and he practices with the team Monday through Thursday af-

ter school at the Manasquan River Golf Club or at Howell Park. Vince brings a great energy to the team and is always there to help the boys out in improving their game. The team has their state tournament on May 16<sup>th</sup>, although they have never won states in the past, they're hopeful for a win this year because of their stacked team, including Junior, Braden Ward, who Austin Devereux says has great potential and definitely is one of the best. The team always manages to make every practice and match exciting because of the teams great bond and friendship. The boys carpool to the golf courses together and hang out before or after matches as well. The team is doing great and their future as a team looks even better.

## Boys Tennis

*continued from previous page*



And for the second time this year, it was a closely contested matchup between the rival schools. This time, however, Manasquan left victorious by a 3-2 score. Andrew Beer, Tyler Smith, and Sean Dickenson all beat their opponents in their singles matchups, and the two doubles teams fought hard, but fell short in the end. Still, Manasquan topped Wall, evening the season series 1-1.

Since then, the boys have

successfully continued their winning ways against Toms River North and Middletown South, both wins coming by a close 3-2 score. Andrew Beer gave props to third singles player Sean Dickenson, who has been a very consistent part of the team all year, and his efforts of late have helped Manasquan stay in the playoff hunt.

The tennis team has had a very successful season thus far, but it's not over just yet. The boys still have more matches to go, and they still have a shot at a division crown, so get out there and support the team while you still can!

## Baseball in full swing



*continued from page 41*

game now tied 4-4.

The 12th inning, the Lions scored, followed by squan. With the score 5-5 and with Harmstead on 2nd, we needed a run. Sheehan up at bat, with the pitch coming at him, he ripped it out the park! With the most controversial hit of the season. The Umpire called it fair, Harmstead and Sheehan ran home making the score 7-5, and Squan takes the win!