

MANASQUAN HIGH SCHOOL

BLUE



GRAY

SPIRIT WEEK TRADITIONS RETURN TO MHS

Powderpuff 2023 vs. 2024

The Seniors Win Over the Juniors!

Homecoming Queen and King



MADDIE JACKSON & DANNY COLON



WARRIORS CAPTURE FIRST WIN OVER CRIMSON KNIGHTS SINCE 2017



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...

- NHS Induction
- Homecoming
- Thanksgiving Recap
- ESPORTS
- Key Club Food Drive
- Football Season
- Teacher of the Year
- And So Much More!

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The Blue & Gray Manasquan H.S. 2022-2023 Issue Two

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Above: Mrs. Onorato receiving flowers from the high school administration

A Well-Deserved Honor: Mrs. Onorato Named Teacher of the Year

By: Jacquelyn Stewart

Each year, Manasquan High School honors its Teacher of the Year, and this year one teacher stood out like no other!

On Friday, December 2, during 5th period Mr. Goodall came onto the intercom and announced that this year's Teacher of the Year was Mrs. Onorato. She was surprised by members of the administration and her supervisor, Mrs. Polak with flowers in her classroom that day as well.

This year, Mrs. Onorato teaches Podcasting and four English I Honors classes, though in the past she has also taught English IV and regular English I. She has been teaching English for thirteen years at MHS and started teaching Podcasting last Spring.

The process of winning Teacher of the Year begins with all the teachers receiving an email asking them to nominate someone to win. After all the nominations are in, a committee has a meeting to

pick the winner. "Knowing that other teachers that I have been working with for years that are so amazing nominated me is very humbling," says Mrs. Onorato.

Mrs. Onorato's current students as well as former students were super excited for her. "When I heard Mrs. Onorato won Teacher of the Year, I was so happy for her," says junior Megan Spears. "She deserves it." Megan had Mrs. Onorato two years ago when students were half virtual. She learned a lot and her favorite parts of class were the books she read and the fun attendance questions.

Freshman Stefaniya Belocerkoveca loves having Mrs. Onorato this year. "I really like having Mrs. Onorato as a teacher, she's kind and takes really good care of us," Stefaniya says. "We have a lot of fun in our class and even though we haven't known her for very long, everyone was really excited for her."

Mrs. Onorato is a wonderful teacher and was the perfect choice for this year's award.



New National Honor Society Inductees



Academic excellence, commitment, hard work, and most importantly leadership, are all qualities that the new members of the National Honor Society, Beta Omega Chapter, possess.

On November 29th, 99 Manasquan junior and senior students were inducted to be a part of this organization that recognizes the success of young adults and encourages them to strive to be leaders.

This achievement is incredible, and their recognition is well deserved, after working through a rigorous process to be inducted. Both MHS teachers, Mrs. McHugh and Mr. Critelli overlooked the installation of the new members while they announced each name with pride. "It's a feat to be awarded this because it is a national, to be able to achieve the national guidelines and Manasquan mandates is very impressive," McHugh stated.

Not only do the students have to be hand picked, they must get 30 service hours and 10 leadership hours. Along with this they have to complete a multitude of essays,

By: Isabella Lopez

including a statement of 25 goals, and get letters of recommendation outside of MHS. These tasks along with having fantastic academics are very difficult and more rigorous than the requirements from last year.

Overall, the evening was a huge success with many parents and guardians cheering for their kids as they went up to the stage.

The current NHS president is senior Bennet DeVincens. She led with the flag salute for a successful evening where all current chair holders lit the ceremonial candle starting with Bennet. Current senior Sofia Wall, NHS vice president led

with Scholarship. Then, senior Jackson Gardener, NHS Treasurer, followed with Service, then senior Emma Brown NHS Parliamentarian with leadership, and lastly Ryann Bannerman NHS secretary, with character.

These four traits are highly looked upon by the new members and they should all take pride in their accomplishments.



Above: Current NHS Chair holders standing in front of the ceremonial candles.



Above: Mr. Critelli reading out loud the ceremonial speech. This speech officially allows the inductees to be official members of the National Honor Society.

Key Club Food Drive Helps Those In Need

By: Niky Li



This Thanksgiving weekend, many families are celebrating without much food to feed their family. Key Club Members resolve this by creating Thanksgiving food baskets.

Members of Key Club in Manasquan High School is mostly composed of Manasquan students and a few teachers who supervise. They perform community service activities such as cleaning up parks, collecting clothing and organizing food drives. Linda Hoeler and Ryan Basaman are both advisors for Key Club. They are the ones who organized the food drive and provided technical knowledge and information relevant to the club.

The food is mostly obtained through the Key Club Members and some are from MHS students. Students are informed about the food drive at the start of November and the cut-off date is November 21st.

Two bags will be handed out to each family that are in need of food. The first bag includes Thanksgiving meals like stuffing, mashed potatoes, canned goods, turkey, cornbread, vegetables, and other Thanksgiving foods. The second bag includes everyday food

items such as pasta, cereal, crackers, and more.

After they are donated, they are later given to the local community like families and sending districts by Mrs. Basaman. "I love giving the families the meals because its meaningful for the families and its one way for the students in the school to do community service that is needed and meaningful to the members," said Mrs. Basaman.

President of Key Club, Eddie Gunell, has an important role to complete. His role is getting the word out to Key Club members and any students willing to participate in the drive.

Everyone in the club is excited that they are contributing to the effort and happy to help those in need. "I am happy to have my position in this drive because it is great to facilitate people coming together to work for a cause that helps make the world a better place," stated Eddie.

Food Drives are so important, they help keep food charities keep their shelves stocked as well as raise awareness about the hunger in the community and encourage others to help. Every community is affected by hunger, but many are too privileged to realize it.

After the food drive has come to an end, leftover foods are not discarded but are put to another use. "Left over food goes to the Presbyterian Church," said Mrs. Hoeler.

Above: Food drive box in center hall at MHS for students to drop in their donations.



Below: Piles of Food that are going to be donated to families.

Health Careers Hosts Blood Drive

By: Lindsay Fuller and Finley Nielsen



Students at Manasquan High School are giving more than just presents this holiday season. Instead of shiny toys wrapped with a bow, students are giving something worth much more. Blood!

The blood drive took place on Wednesday, November 30 in the MHS fieldhouse. This year's blood drive was hosted by the Academy of Health Careers and was open to eligible students and volunteers of the community.

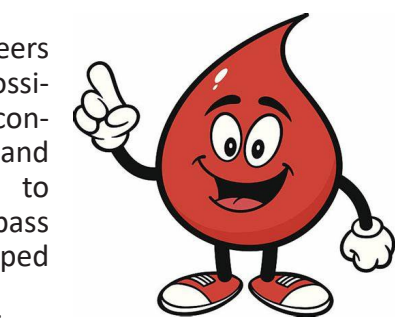
Donating blood is quick and easy but there are a few requirements to obtain eligibility. You must be at least 16 years old and weigh at least 110 pounds. You also must be in good health.

Donating blood means saving lives. One liter of blood can save up to three lives.

MHS teacher Ms. Kozak has been running the blood drive for 16 years. This year, around fifty students from both Dynamics of Health classes participated in the blood drive.

Senior Nutsa Merabishvili was the student coordinator of the blood drive this year. She donated 500 ml which is about a pint of blood. "I got kind of sick afterwards, I felt exhausted and pale," she said.

Above: Tommy Martucci and Nutsa Merabishvili help sign people in; Below: MHS students helping out with the Blood Drive.

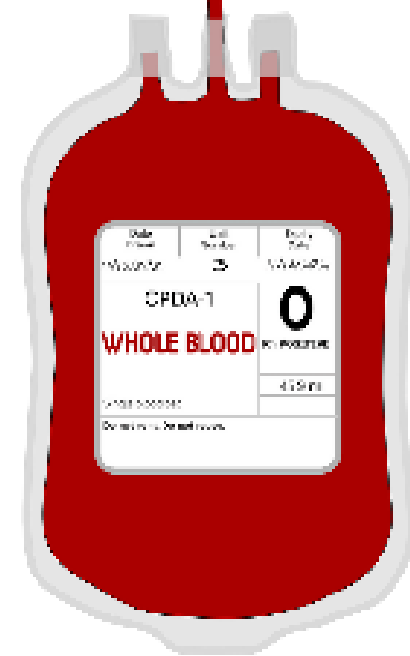


Student volunteers made the blood drive possible. They were a major contribution. They helped hand out snacks to people to make sure they do not pass out. Students also helped sign people in.

All blood donations go to the New York Blood Center and from there, the center distributes the blood off to different hospitals.

The blood drive was successful as usual with a huge turnout. If you were not eligible for the blood drive this year or did not get a chance to donate, no need to worry because you will have a chance in the Spring!

Why to donate? You can save thousands of lives within 10-12 minutes. Giving someone a second chance at life is more than enough! So, if you do not know what to give for the holidays, consider blood.



AOF Toy Drive Helps "Tots" Enjoy Holidays



By: Niky Li

Holidays are a cheerful and fun time for most. However, for struggling families, it only brings stress and anxiety. Though they are barely getting by, they still want their children to experience the joy from getting toys. This Christmas, children throughout the community can enjoy the holiday with a variety of toys donated by Manasquan High School.

Toy drives are one of the most popular holiday charity events where people donate toys and books which are later given to children and teens in need. Organized by the Academy of Finance at MHS, this year would be the 16th year of doing this event.

Everyone is encouraged to donate. Most years both students and teachers outside of the Academy also donate a generous amount of toys. Toys like dolls and cars are being donated the most. However, toys that are used are not accepted.

The last day to donate

will be Friday, December 9th and MHS students will deliver it to Thurgood Marshall Elementary School on Monday, December 12th. It will given to the guidance department for them to distribute themselves.

The age group for the toy drive are students from Pre-k to 3rd grade. The purpose is for the school to distribute the toys to the students and provide them with at least one toy before they leave for Christmas break.

John Driscoll, advisor of Academy of Finance, states how giving to the kids that are less fortunate is very rewarding and probably his favorite part of the toy drive. "Sometimes toys from the toy drive are the best toy or only toy that the kids are getting for Christmas," said Mr. Driscoll. Knowing this, organizing an event like this every year is very important.

Student Mary Breen, is a member of Academy of Finance, and participates in the toy drive. "My favorite parts of the toy drive are the ability to make someone's Christmas and



Above: The Toy Drive Box in Center Hall At MHS

giving back to the community," said Mary.

Student Taylor Hamarich, also a member of Academy of Finance, will be delivering it to the school. "My favorite part of the toy drive is seeing students bring in toys and being able to deliver them to kids who may not be getting a gift underneath the tree without our donations," said Taylor. "It is really rewarding to know that I am helping someone, especially during the holiday season!" It is nice to see both students excited to give to the community, even though they don't benefit from it.

Thanks to the generosity of the students, teachers, and parents, MHS has been able to give away hundreds of toys to families in need over the past few years.

A Day Full of Commitments!

By Ainsley Price



Senior Alexandra Evans signing with her family around her.

The future is always uncertain but these three MHS seniors are one step closer to figuring it out.

Jack Dawson, Alexandra Evans, and Matthew Porazzo have all committed to D1 colleges for their respective sports. All three of the athletes hope to do great things in their sports while they further their education.

Jack Dawson committed to Lafayette College on November 9th to play D1 baseball. Jack is a right-handed pitcher for our MHS team. Last season, Jack pitched a total of 67 times, and everyone is excited to see what he is going to do this season.

"I loved the campus and the coaching staff. The big thing for me though was the return on investment that comes with getting a degree from Lafayette," Jack explains on why he chose Lafayette.



He mentions that he must put in a lot of work in the off season and next summer to get himself ready to play in the next level.

Along with baseball he has decided to major in economics because he wants to do "something with investment portfolios or trading jobs" if baseball does not work out. But everyone is rooting for Jack to succeed.

Overall, Jack is excited to start something new and meet his new teammates. He says that they become your family that you compete with over the four years of college.

Alexandra Evans committed to Duquesne University to play D1 lacrosse. Ali plays midfield for our MHS girls lacrosse team and signed her commitment on November 9th.

"It was exactly what I wanted in a school with the city life and everyone on the team is so welcoming," Ali comments on why she chose Duquesne University.

She says that she is excited for her awaiting adventures in college. She is most looking forward to meeting everyone and getting a chance to compete and the next and higher level.

At Duquesne she plans on majoring in education and has goals in either being a learning impaired teacher or middle school teacher.

Ali is very excited for the new chapter of her life, and we are all read to see what Ali does.

Matthew Porazzo committed to Monmouth University to play D1 lacrosse. Matt plays attack on our MHS boys' lacrosse team, He signed his national letter of intent on November 9th.

"Growing up so close to the school, I had the ability to create a great connection to the school by going to sport games and even school trips. That also made me fall in love



Senior Matthew Porazzo signing with his family around him

with the campus, location, and surrounding areas," Matt says on his commitment to Monmouth.

He said it was the perfect fit for him. With the great academic programs it offers, he can set up a future for himself. He was also drawn to the "family mentality" that Monmouth builds through its players.

With the unknown future, he is "more excited than nervous". The unfamiliarity that comes with the first couple of days will be there, but Matt is excited and eager to get on campus.

Alongside lacrosse, he is majoring in Business with a concentration in real estate, which is the field he wants to work in down the line. With real estate, he thinks it would also be "awesome" to coach lacrosse and "pass down the knowledge to younger generations playing the game."

Overall, Matt is looking forward to building lifelong bonds with his teammates and coaches. He is excited to learn in an environment that is designated and words hard to make the players succeed.

All three of these athletes have bright futures that they are excited for. Everyone hopes that they do well and play hard.

X 2022 MLI Signees



CLUBS

MHS Environmental Club Keeps Community Prosperous

By: Sydnie Chek

Manasquan High School Environmental club helps keep our area healthy, green, and flourishing.



“Activities vary year to year,” says Mr. Glenn, one of the club’s advisers. “This year we are focusing mainly on community service.” Members of the club participate in many different activities like beach cleanups, gardening, moving mulch, and more.

Juniors Jackie Stewart and Lukas Nordell say the beach cleanup is their favorite Environmental Club activity. “It’s nice to get together with friends over the weekend and do something fun while helping the community.” Said Jackie.

The club is also very flexible. Lukas says, “It’s not only fun, but it’s also not a huge commitment.” This

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Key Club Holds Wreath Sale!

By Lily Hendricks

The holiday season is a great time to give thanks and to help your community, just like the Key Club. One of the many clubs here at Manasquan High School is the Key Club. Here at MHS there are 250 kids involved in Key Club.

“Key club is a national organization that focuses on community service and is dedicated to improving neighboring towns and the community.” Mrs. Hoeler said.

The Key club is run by Mrs. Basaman and Mrs. Hoeler. They are involved in various events and fundraisers; they also help the concession stands at basketball games and wrestling matches.



Every year around the holiday season, Key Club does a wreath sale. This year the Key club sold 1,443 wreaths.

There were a variety of wreaths that were available to buy, larger or smaller wreaths were available. They were also available decorated or undecorated. The prices of the wreath varied on what wreath was purchased. The prices ranged from 17\$ to 23\$.

Students in 9th grade and 12th grade were instructed to pick up their wreaths on December 6th. Students in 10th and 11th grade picked up their wreaths on Thursday, December 8th. Students picked up their wreaths at the tennis courts.

The wreath sale was a great way to help the community and to get into the spirit for this holiday season.

CLUBS

Book Club Starts with the Turn of a Page!

By: Julia Fahy

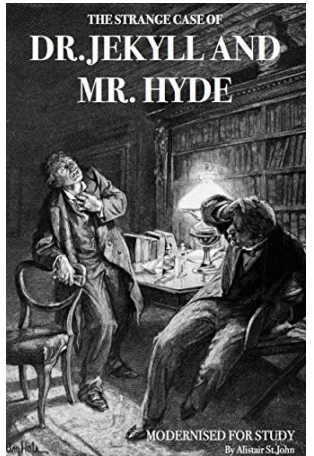
Mystery, drama, science fiction, and many more genres are all part of Manasquan high schools book club. Manasquan’s book club is managed by English teacher Mrs. Hillman whose goal is to make sure students are encouraged to read for enjoyment and have fun doing it. She makes sure that she involves

many different genres so students can experience what they like. They meet once a month to read and discuss the book. “Students can recommend books themselves; I love to hear recommendations” says teacher Mrs. Hillman.

It is a very flexible club. “Read what you can, when you can” says Mrs. Hillman. This is important

in making students feel more comfortable with reading on their own time and for themselves. After reading they talk about opinions on the books, characters, and “what we would change about the book if we were the author” says sophomore student Molly Bennet.

Another member of book club, senior student Ava Vukovich says, “Book club is something that can get someone into reading. We do not read boring books and Mrs. Hillman also loves to hear what we all want to read. It truly is so much fun and I enjoy it so much!” The next book the club plasn on reading is “Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde” by Robert Louis Stevenson. Molly Bennet recommended “librarian of Auschwitz” by Antonio Iturbe and also hopes to read



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REC ●

MHS Through a Camera Lense

By: Ronnie Whille

Photography club is a place where many MHS students express themselves through their shared love for taking pictures. Mrs. Larkin, the club’s advisor, assigns a monthly themed challenge. Students submit their photos, and they vote on the best ones. There are also volunteer opportunities throughout the month such as going to the school concerts, the tree lighting, etc.

At the end of the year there is an exhibition of pictures by students in the club that are open to be viewed by everyone in the school. The pictures taken for this club are used in the MHS newspaper, yearbook, webpage, and more.

New member, freshman Jaiden Dragone, says she loves how creative everyone is in the club. She was inspired to join by her sister who used to be in the club, “she would come

home with big assignments, and they were always such an interest to me”.

Jaiden also said that she has met some of her best friends from photography club. Her favorite so far assignment was the fall/Halloween theme. For that assignment members had to take three photos of anything fall or Halloween related.

Below: A picture by freshman Jaiden Dragone.



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Horvot Wins Striped Bass Tournament

By: Austin Griffith



Nick Horvot holds up his 47-inch, first-place striped bass.

Fish On! Fish On! Another great annual striped bass tournament was in the books for the Manasquan High School Fishing Club. The tournament started on October 1st and ended November 27th. Plenty of huge fish were caught, which made for an exciting derby.

The tournament was a boat and surf fishing derby, but the top three bass were all caught on a boat. Each club member battled for two months for the first-place spot in the tournament. Looking for schools of smaller fish, using the right bait, members strategized every cast in order to put themselves in the best situation possible for the catch. Even with great odds, there was no guarantee that members would catch any fish at all. But all it takes is one cast and a hook set.

In third place was fishing club co-president and MHS junior Parker Sowul who caught his 38-inch striped bass on a boat around a mile offshore. "I had not been fishing that much this fall" Parker said, "but I was

happy to connect with a big bass to get on the podium."

Just in front of Parker, co-president and MHS junior Alex Schmieder caught a monster 42-inch bass for second place in the derby. "It felt great to be hooked up to a giant striper" Alex said, "my adrenaline was pumping."

And the winner of the



Alex Schmieder holds up his 42-inch, second-placed striper.

annual striped bass tournament was junior Nick Horvot. Nick works on the Queen Mary, a party fishing boat out of Point Pleasant where he reeled in his prized fish. Just a week after the tournament started, on October 9th, Horvot spotted a school of bunker getting chased by bass off the coast of Spring Lake. Using a weighted treble hook, Nick snagged a bunker from the school and put it on a circle hook on another rod. He casted out into the school and waited for around 5 minutes before he hooked a massive striper. "The fight lasted about ten minutes as I hooked the fish on a lighter rod setup" Nick said, "it was awesome!" Finally, Nick brought in his monster 47-inch striped bass to the side of the Queen Mary where it was netted and welcomed aboard.

The annual striped bass tournament is not the only fun event that the Manasquan Fishing Club participates in during the school year. If you are an MHS student interested in fishing, go talk to Mr. Freda and join the fishing club today.



BY LUKAS NORDELL

When most people think of sports, dribbling a basketball on the courts, kicking a soccer ball into a net, or running the bases after hitting a homerun usually comes to mind. However, recent years have shown that video games can also be played competitively in teams affiliated with ESports.

On October 24, 2022, the Manasquan High School ESports team attended the Battle Academy Invitational ESports competition in Atlantic City for Rocket League, a game where players compete in soccer matches, except they're driving gravity-defying cars. From 9 AM to 1 PM, MHS ESports contenders played in a bracket-structured tournament against six other teams in which they would come out on top against Long Branch.

"It was such a cool moment seeing our team, of all the teams, win the tournament," said MHS ESports President Tyler Sims. "It was really fun meeting people who also shared the same experi-



Above: MHS ESports team plays at Rider University during the 2021-2022 school year.

ences and interests as us."

MHS ESports player Tyler Collinson played at the invitational, making it his second LAN (Local Area Network) competition. He played every game of the bracket,

and in his own words, "killed the competition."

The MHS ESports team meets 1-2 times a week in room 464, right next to the media center. The team often competes in games such as Rocket League, Overwatch, Valorant, Super Smash Bros, Mine-



Above: The MHS ESports team holding the prize belt of the Battle Academy Invitational.

craft, etc.

"It's really fun and it definitely brings the best out of people," expressed Tyler Sims. "We work as a team and we're all very passionate about what we do."

In addition to practicing, the team also holds weekly events and community get-togethers that are welcome to both aspiring professional players and casual players alike. Just like other sports team, the MHS ESports team has positions for varsity and junior varsity, so players of all skill levels can participate.

However, there are incentives to playing competitively. Scholarships are available to those who are serious about ESports,

and many schools offer programs to those who may want to pursue careers in the industry.

MHS engineering/technology teacher Mrs. Edwards is the advisor of the ESports team. "My biggest responsibility is coordinating the matches against other schools," said Mrs. Edwards.

"It's worth it because I love seeing these students whose interests aren't usually recognized get to do what they love on a scholastic level," she says, illustrating her enjoyment in organizing the program.

Although acting as a coordinator and overseer of the team, the ESports team is entirely student-run. This is especially admirable when taking into consideration that the Manasquan High School ESports team was dubbed the "2020 Rocket League State Champions" during the 2020-2021 school year. After attaining such a title, it's no surprise that they played so well in the Battle Academy Invitational in October against the many other schools competing.

The MHS ESports team has once again proven themselves worthy of success, and as is apparent from their past experiences, there will be many more victories to come.

Right: MHS ESports President Tyler Sims posing after one of the team's events.



Hats Off to Homecoming At MHS

By: Morgan Mechler

Sparkly dresses, groovy dance moves, flashing lights, fun music, and friends make up one of the best nights of the year: homecoming! On Friday November 18th, Manasquan High School held its annual Homecoming dance in the gym. The Yearbook committee oversaw planning, decorating, and making sure the dance was a hit. Students dressed up in elegant dresses or sharp bowties to dance the night away. Epic dance circles were formed and MHS students had a blast!



Above: The 2022 Homecoming Court smiles with bouquets after being honored.

about the decorations for the event. "The main colors for the dance were white, gold, and silver," Ainsley said. Ainsley also mentioned that outside of the gym there was a photo booth with props that students could use throughout the night.

The 2022 Homecoming Queen and King were seniors Maddie Jackson and Danny Colon! Other members of the court include seniors Kevin Prime and Emma Shropshire, and juniors Amber Farrington and Cormac Lawrence.

Homecoming is a tradition for students of all grade levels. After being cancelled in November 2020, the 2021 and 2022 homecoming dances had a terrific turn out. Everyone was excited to be able to dress up and spend a fun night dancing with their friends after missing out on the dance in previous years.

Junior Isabella Juska thoroughly enjoyed her time at the dance this year. "I had fun watching everyone confidently bring their best moves to the middle of the dance circle," she said. Isabella mentioned that she attended the 2021 dance and that both years she got together with friends before the dance to take pictures.

"The homecoming dance was very fun, and you could see everyone dancing and having a good

time with their friends!" senior Brynn McDonald said. Brynn attended the MHS homecoming her freshman, junior, and senior year since her sophomore year the dance was not held due to COVID-19 restrictions. Brynn said the three years that she went to the dance, she ended up having a blast and will remember the nights

forever.

The MHS homecoming dance has always been a part of the annual MHS spirit week that occurs in November on the days leading up to the Thanksgiving Day Game and Thanksgiving break. To stir excitement about the dance and the game, MHS students dress up for certain themes during the week, whether it be jersey day or pajama day. The Homecoming dance brings students a sense of togetherness and school spirit.

The Homecoming dance at Manasquan is just another one of the many beloved and cherished traditions here at MHS. The dance will continue to be one of the only things bringing students back to school after 2:24pm on a Friday, where kids can spend time with their friends in fancy outfits and make memories

Below: Juniors meet up before Homecoming to take pictures with friends.



Above: Juniors and seniors pose for a picture in the middle of the dance floor.

This year, the MHS 2022 Homecoming was disco themed. The Yearbook committee stayed after school on Friday, arrived early before the dance, and even stayed late after the dance to help set up and clean up decorations. They hung string lights along the bleachers and had a snack table for students. Junior Yearbook committee member, Ainsley Price shared more

Manasquan Dancers Stage Holiday Performance

By Jess MacKown

Presenting "Sleigh the Holiday" a wonderful dance show performed by students in Manasquan High School dance classes and the dance club! On Wednesday, December 14, dance teacher Mrs. Galano and her students embraced Christmas, with a show filled with ballet, jazz contemporary, hip-hop, tap, and so many more types of dances. And of course, Christmas music.

For the dancers, this was the first big show of this year at the Jack Nicholson Theater. Junior dancer Jessica Slovak said, "We (dancers) performed for the Pastosas Tree Lighting, but this was our first official show of the year."

Jessica has been dancing since she was two years old and competing for nine years. This is her third year of doing MHS dance club. She loves, "that you get to dance with people who aren't in your regular dance class and meet new people who are also a part of dance at MHS!"

"We also allow people who don't take a dance class at MHS to participate in the show once you join dance club," she added.

Dancer Mattie Pettrone, a senior, was fantastic in her dances. Mattie has been doing dance for MHS since she was a freshman. "I'm in the dance performance class so I'm a dancer on stage and in 7 dances in the show," she said.

Dance teacher Mrs. Galano has nothing but fantastic things to say to all the dancers. She loved adding a new Hanukkah specific dance. This is the first time that they are doing this and are very happy that



everything is becoming more inclusive and welcoming to others! "This is the biggest dance show we have ever had!" she stated.

Mrs. Galano has been an amazing inspiration to dancers since coming to MHS a few years ago. "I was two and a half when I started dancing and I've done it ever since," she said. "I did my first solo when I

was six and I was very serious and begged my parents to do as many dance classes as I could. Then I was a dance major in high school at RBR and I majored in Dance in college. Then, I danced in New York City professionally and now I'm here!"

She is so proud of her dancers and excited to share her experience with each new student who joins the program. She cannot wait to put on more shows for MHS.

The holiday show was a great success, and the dancers absolutely cannot wait to do it again. Follow the dancers on Instagram bio @mhsdance. And don't worry, you can support the club- there will be chances to donate and help the Dance Club with some bake sales and fundraisers in the near future possibly!

Pictured above: scenes from last year's dance show at the Jack Nicholson Theater.

MEET THE STAFF OF THE BLUE AND GRAY: Christmas Edition

Junior Morgan Mechler

My favorite Christmas memory over the years is from when I was three years old when I received my dog, Maisy. I had opened all of my gifts under the tree and thought Christmas was over. Later that night, my mom walked down the stairs with a brand new puppy. She is the best gift I have ever gotten!



Senior Chiara D'Apolito

My favorite Christmas memory was from when I was in third grade. My sister and I were waiting on the top of the stairs like we always do on Christmas morning when all of a sudden, we heard barking. Immediately we ran down the stairs and were greeted by our new puppy Rosie!

Senior Casey Bennett

My favorite Christmas memory was probably when I was around 7 years old. It was Christmas morning and at the time we had a blizzard a few days before. After we made breakfast and opened presents, me and my mom went outside, and I jumped into the snow on my back and I sunk into the snow and I couldn't get out because it was so hard to move cause of all the clothes I was wearing.

Left: Junior Reagan Scime

My favorite Christmas memory is competing with my sister and cousins to find the pickle on the tree for a present!



Right: Junior Jacquelyn Stewart

My favorite Christmas memory was three years ago when my little cousin came to visit from Virginia. We had so much fun and it was my favorite Christmas I've celebrated!



Left: Sophomore Ronnie While

The best part about the holidays for me is Christmas morning. My siblings and I wait for our grandparents to come over to go downstairs and we all open our presents. Then we have a big Christmas breakfast with my aunt, uncle and cousins.

Right: Sophomore Sydnie Check

My favorite Christmas tradition is decorating Christmas cookies with my mom. I love seeing my family on Christmas and waking up early that morning.



Above, Right: Junior Hudson Gorham

Every year my family and I go up to Vermont to go skiing around the holidays. We love to decorate the tree outside with lights because it looks pretty in the snow.

Above, Left: Sophomore Angelina George

My favorite Christmas memory is being 9 years old and spending all of Christmas Eve with my Grandma making homemade lasagna and baking Christmas cookies. We spent the whole day baking, cooking and watching Christmas movies with the anticipation of Christmas morning.

Left: Sophomore Lindsay Fuller

My favorite Christmas memory is when my aunt came back from Hong Kong and surprised me on Christmas morning!

Right: Sophomore Finley Nielsen

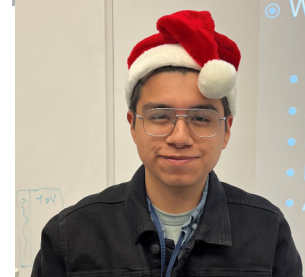
My favorite Christmas memory is when my brother and I stayed up and built a fort to catch Santa. Even though our plan failed and we both fell asleep, it was such a memorable experience that I'll never forget!



MEET THE STAFF OF THE BLUE AND GRAY: Christmas Edition

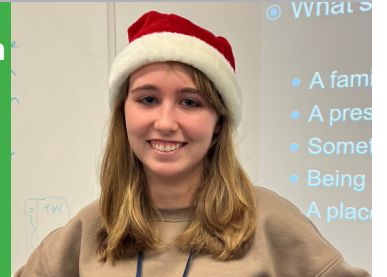
Senior Christan Jose

My favorite Christmas memory was when I lived in Mexico for a year and around Christmas time, I showed everyone what a traditional Christmas was all about.



Sophomore Jess MacKown

My favorite Christmas memory is getting to see family that lives far away and giving gifts.



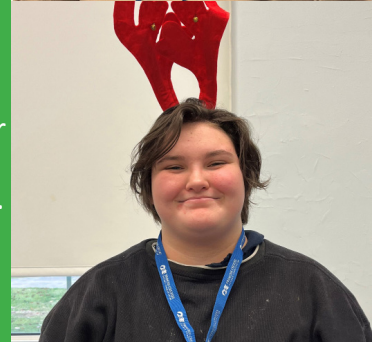
Junior Ainsley Price

My favorite Christmas memory/tradition is going to iPlay America every Christmas Eve with my dad and then having Christmas Eve dinner with my mom, grandparents, aunt, and cousins.



Sophomore MJ Murray

My favorite Christmas memory is watching Rudolph the Red Nose Reinder (1964) with my dad and my sister on Christmas Eve. This movie was so beautifully done and it always makes me happy.



Junior Teddy Campi

My favorite holiday memory was driving to Newark Airport to pick up my puppy when we got her in 2016.



Sophomore Lily Hendricks

My favorite Christmas memories are when my cousins come over for breakfast and we make monkey bread.



Junior Lukas Nordell

My most fond holiday memory comes from 2020's Christmas season. On Christmas morning, we all went to our grandparents' house and did one of our Christmas traditions: find the pickle ornament in the Christmas tree. My sister and I looked for about 10 minutes and I finally found the pickle. Rather than keep it to myself, my sister and I shared the reward: a giant Hershey's Kiss.



Junior Niky Li

My family and I don't celebrate Christmas but last year, my siblings and I decided that we wanted to experience what everyone else did during Christmas. My sister came home from college for break and we decided to make gingerbread houses and exchange gifts because it is something we never did. It was my favorite Christmas memory because we sat at the kitchen table, laughing and talking while making gingerbread houses.



Sophomore Julia Fahy

Every year I wake up my siblings at 7 and then wake up my parents to go open presents. My dad always makes porkroll, egg and cheese sandwiches for us every year for when we finish opening gifts. After we are done with that, we go to my grandparents' house to exchange with grandparents' aunts and uncles. Christmas is by far my favorite holiday.



Junior Austin Griffith

When I was younger, my family and I would always go to a farm to cut down our Christmas tree. We would walk around for hours searching for the perfect tree. Once we found it, we went back to the storefront to tell the workers who would cut it down for us. My sister and I would get to ride on his cart and watch him cut down the tree. Then, my dad would tie it to the roof of the car, so we could take it home and decorate. One year, the tree even fell off the car on the way home.



Former MHS Student Chris Pinella Donates Concert Money for Theater Renovation

By: MJ Murray

The year is 1931. The Empire state building has just been completed and the Star-Spangled Banner is the new national anthem of the United States. But in the town of Manasquan, the big news is the new theater that has just been constructed and is ready for students to use. Renamed the Jack Nicholson Theater in, 1990s, the old theater is ready for an upgrade.

Chris Pinnella, an alumnus of Manasquan High School and member of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, has come back again to MHS to perform a solo concert. This concert happened on Saturday, December 3 and had an amazing turn out.

"I want to bring it [the auditorium] to the 21st century," Chris said. His plan? To donate money from the concert to help renovate the ailing theater.

This concert was extremely energetic. Beautiful visual effect from the lights, adding atmosphere to each song along with the beautiful vocals and instruments from Chris Pinnella and his 8-piece band, 2 of which were also alumni from Manasquan high school. This band had a bass, 2 guitarists, a saxophone player (who played a baritone and alto sax, and a clarinet) and a trumpet player, along with the MHS band members that preformed at the concert.

The crowd was very active, participating in the sing-along section and giving many songs a standing ovation. They were especially excited when the MHS Choir preformed with Mr. Pinnella, once before intermission and once after. All members of the audience and MHS students participating were invited to



Above: The MHS Choir singing with Chris Pinnella

the intermission that offered variety of cookies alongside and option of coffee, de-cafeinated coffee, and tea. There was two ticket options offered to the public, a VIP ticket that included an open bar, food, and Meet-&-Greet with Chris Pinnella, which costed \$100 and a general admission option that was \$40 dollars.

Mr. Pinnella and the former Choir teacher, Mr. Weiser, had come up with this idea in 2019. They performed that same year and raised a good sum of money but the following performance in 2020 was canceled because of the pandemic.

Thankfully, He reached out to MHS's new Choir teacher, Mrs. Schille in 2021. Money raised by the show will go to a new state of the art sound system that is being installed and grand new seating, which

of the biggest changes the student body will see.

As any student whose sat in the auditorium knows, the room leaves something to be desired. Many of the current seats have arms that can come off or are missing completely. The front row of seats make it impossible to have a live band playing during performances. New seats are overdue, and these changes would come with removing the front row of seats or making them removable for occasions like concerts or musicals. These new seats will be installed over the summer.

That was only the first phase of this rehabilitation process. This year's proceeds are going to the multiple parts of the room. The lights of the room being one of them. The lights are from the 70s and 80s, making them faulty at best and a fire hazard at worst. They also are a danger to change and with the new lighting system, it would be much safer and easier with just the click of a button. This is because the new lighting rig would have led lights instead of the blubs that are used currently. The curtain is also being replaced and the room is also being acoustically treated, which will enhance the performances in the theatre.

Chris Pinnella did beautifully on stage. His amazing performance and lively demeanor made this concert worth the money, with supporting the Music and Arts Department an added bonus. Next year, Mr. Pinnella wants to include more of the arts department. This would mean the possibility of an art installation done by students in arts classes and an increased number of members from the MHS band performing. This year's concert raked in a great sum of money for the arts department and hopefully, this tradition will continue. Not only for the monetary value, but for the value of performance.

Below: Chris Pinnella with the MHS Band



MEET THE STAFF OF THE BLUE AND GRAY: Christmas Edition



Senior Isabella Lopez
My favorite Christmas tradition is when my little sister and I bake cookies and cupcakes the night before Christmas for my family!



Senior Natalie Gallagher
My favorite family memory of christmas would have to be when I was 12, We were all playing charades in front of the fireplace!



Senior Percy Yesenchak
I once got so excited to open my presents on Christmas morning I jumped off the stairs and slammed my forehead into the ceiling. That was in Pennsylvania, and we've decided to keep the hole in the drywall. I spent Christmas morning unconscious.

CHORUS CONCERT Sings in the Holiday

By: PJ Yasenchak

On Wednesday, December 7th, an incredible performance was put on in our own Jack Nicholson theatre by Ms. Schille and the MHS Choir. Hundreds of hours of practice across all students lead to one night. And the best part? Tickets were completely free. In preparation for the night, students not only practiced in their class, but during lunch, after school, and had smaller performances at 6 other venues before the concert. As a choir that can perform an astonishing 8 parts of harmony at once, they're nearly at a collegiate level.

Over the course of the night, exciting favorites like "Believe" from The Polar Express, the original theme from Elf, and a mashup of "Rockin' Around the Christ-

mas Tree" and "Jingle Bell Rock" were sung in perfect harmony. Other Christmas favorites were sung too, like "White Winter Hymnal" by Pentatonix, and "A Joyous Carol of the Bells." Students Percy Yasenchak and Ashley Lara performed vocal solos, while Kane Chapman, Quinn Chapman, Brad Chapman, Percy Yasenchak, and Anthony Bisazza performed instrumental accompaniments. "Roughly half the music we're singing is acappella," Ms. Schille said. "The rest is being accompanied by either our pianist or our student performers!"

Teachers and students that attended were overall thoroughly impressed. "There weren't enough people there," Mr. Wasnesky, one of the science teachers at MHS said. "If I could turn back time, I would've invited everyone I know to come see. I mean that was amazing, it should be as big as the musical." Many were especially impressed with the unique talents of the soloists and instrumentalists, for tying the pieces together and excelling in their art. "Chills went down my spine," said Jocelyn Fajardo, a junior at MHS. "I can't wait for the spring concert!"

Over the course of the school year, the MHS choir will perform multiple times at many locations, culminating in the Spring concert. They hope for an even bigger turnout at the event, and an even more impressive show!

MHS THANKSGIVING FAVORITES



Senior Topher Lynch's favorite Thanksgiving tradition is going to his grandparents.



Mr. Critelli: "My favorite Thanksgiving tradition is watching the Manasquan Warriors beat Wall in the annual Thanksgiving football game. Go Big Blue!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

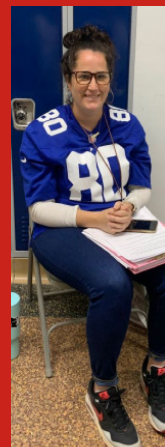
Junior Peter DeBenedetto's favorite Thanksgiving tradition is watching the football game, and his favorite dessert is cheese cake.



Freshman Marlo Iglay's favorite Thanksgiving dessert is apple pie!



Freshman Gianna Zazzarino's favorite Thanksgiving tradition is going to her grandma's house.



Mrs. Larkin: "I go to the football game, and walk in the parade the night before."



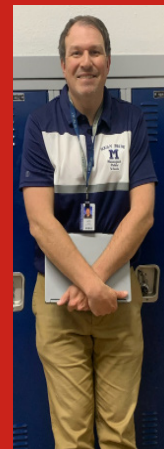
Sophomore Emily Black (Left): "I love how it's a prologue to Christmas and I like to just hang out with my family and eat good food."

Sophomore Maggie Cohen (Right): "My favorite Thanksgiving is going to see the wall Squan football game."



Junior Renee Herbert's favorite tradition is watching the big parade and the football game.

Mr Glenn's favorite Thanksgiving tradition is doing chemistry experiments for his family.



Sophomore Rylan Dwyer's favorite Thanksgiving dessert is chocolate ice cream.



Freshman Quinn Juska's favorite Thanksgiving food is turkey ith gravy.



Mrs. Onorato: "I love seeing my kids get excited for Santa at the end of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade."

SENIORS TAKE THE DUB

By: Chiara D'Apolito



Once each 20-minute half was over it was official as the seniors came out with a victory! Liza Krasowski ran in the game winning touchdown with less than a minute left in the game.



Pictured Above: seniors celebrate after defeating the juniors

Some say this game is more competitive than the Wall vs. Manasquan Thanksgiving Day game. On the freezing day of November 20th, 2022, the Senior and Junior Girls of Manasquan High School went head-to-head in the annual powder puff foot-

ball game.

Coaches from each grade came ready with plays on deck. While the cheerleaders, consisting of guys from the senior and junior class, tossed each other in the air to celebrate each small advancement.

feeling to win the game for everyone, we all wanted to win so badly for our senior year!" she said. Liza was greeted by the whole senior class including coaches and cheerleaders who stormed the field to celebrate to 14-7 victory!

Pictured below are powderpuff coaches, cheerleaders, and players getting ready for and performing at the big game!



We've Got Spirit, how 'Bout You?

SPIRIT WEEK

Friday 11/18: Jersey Day & DANCE

Sunday 11/20: Powerpuff Game

Monday 11/21: Adam Sandler

Tuesday 11/22: Bloufit and Groufit

Wednesday 11/23: Class T-Shirt & PEP RALLY

Thursday 11/24: THANKSGIVING GAME VS WALL

By Ainsley Price

Manasquan has spirit flowing out of the doors of the school and through the students. The week leading up to Thanksgiving, there is never a dull moment between the students, teachers, players, and the town.

This year Manasquan High School's Spirit Week was from Friday, November 18th through Wednesday the 23rd. Friday was Jersey Day. Students could wear their favorite sports jersey. To go with the theme, Sunday the 20th was the yearly Powderpuff game. Monday was Adam Sandler Day. If you've ever seen a paparazzi picture of him, he is always in basketball shorts and a baggy t-shirt, so obviously, dress your best.

Tuesday was "Bloufit and Groufit" day.



Above: the junior hallway

Student could wear all blue outfits or all gray outfits. Wednesday students would wear their class shirts and cheer on their peers during the pep rally.

Along with the individual day themes, the class themes are arguably the biggest part of spirit week. This year the freshman class theme was "Famous Freshman". The sophomore theme was "Spooky Sophomores".

For the upperclassmen, the junior class theme was "Groovy Juniors". This year's Senior class theme was "Sail Away Seniors". All the themes are thought up by the student representatives and voted on by the individual classes.



Above: the entrance to the winning senior hallway

To show class pride, each class has a different section of the hallways to decorate along with a side of the gym to deck-out anyway they choose.

"I am the biggest spirit week fan. Yes, 100%!" junior Kylie Spalt said. She shares her excitement by dressing up like Adam Sandler and wearing her "groufit" during the day and going to the big Thanksgiving game.

Something many look forward to is the homecoming dance put on by the yearbook staff. This year the theme was disco, and there was a big turnout. There was a DJ, snacks, and even a photo backdrop.



Pictured above: the 2022 Homecoming Court

To go with the week of Manasquan spirit, the Powderpuff game is always a favorite. The class of 2023 girls against the class of 2024 girls. This game is coached by the junior and senior boys on the football team.

Many girls look forward to it and this year the seniors were, as always, favored to win.

"My favorite part was when we rode the boat after my touchdown," junior Mae Stoll commented. Mae scored the one and only touchdown for the junior girls which allowed the game to end in a 12-6 score in favor of the senior girls.

Leading up to Thanksgiving was the town Thanksgiving Parade. The football team leads the parade with the homecoming court riding in the iconic convertible. There is always music with the band, spirit from the cheerleaders and even performances from

local dance studios and music programs. Each class has their own float decorated with their class theme. They will throw candy from their float, chant, and have a load of fun.

And as always, arguably the most exciting part

of Spirit Week was the Thanksgiving Day football game. On Thursday, many locals come to support the football team with their "Go Squan, Beat Wall!" shirts, their cowbells, and endless cheering. This year it was on our home turf, so there was a lot of pride at stake and pressure riding on our team to win.

"Yeah, for sure. We've been preparing for the last week and a half," junior Austin Griffith explains the team's preparedness.

He shares that it feels like a sense of normalcy because the team hasn't played in a while. He said it feels good to be back on the field.

There is almost never a dull moment during the week of Thanksgiving. From Adam Sandler to homecoming dances, to football games, everyone always looks forward to spirit week.



Pictured above: Members of the senior Powder Puff team

What are you thankful for?



Juniors Parker Sass, Mae Stoll, and Brooke Price: "We are thankful for food, friends, dogs and Brooke!"

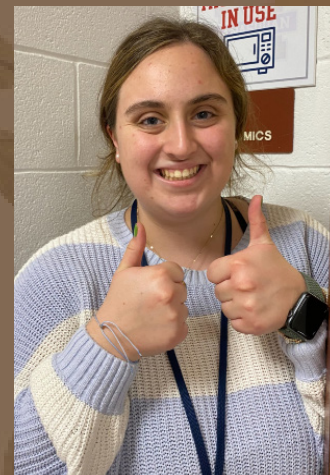
Continued



Junior Jocelyn Fajardo answers that she is thankful for her friends and family.



Juniors Parker Sowul, Brian Dettlinger, Max Salerno, and Xavier Morgan: "We are thankful for life and our friend Xavier"



Sophomore Emily Black: "I am thankful for my family, my friends, Harry Styles, and a roof over my head"

Junior Kylie Spalt: My friends, Family, and coaches.



Senior Jonathon Kane shares that he is grateful for having a good way of life.



Freshman Christopher Rechner: "I am thankful for having a family that supports me and the teachers at this school for educating me and for having a positive environment around me"

Mr. White and Mr. Clayton: "We are thankful for my family, health, friends, and God"



Sophomore Keegan Hertel: "I am thankful for thanksgiving football, my dogs, and my baseball team"



Mr. Murin: "I am thankful that I get to work with amazing athletes on the swim team and my family"



A Season of Reconnection in the Manasquan Community

By: Teddy Campi

'Tis the season to be full of traditions, community, and a passion for giving back.

This year, the Manasquan Tree Lighting and Candy Cane Hunt attracted 20 student volunteers from the high school to engage in aiding the efforts to make this holiday tradition memorable for the younger members of our community. At the tree lighting, there are many festivities including the Candy Cane Hunt, visits with Santa, and hot chocolate to drink on a cold December night.

The Key Club at Manasquan High School led by teachers Mrs. Basaman and Mrs. Hoeler noticed the Candy Cane Hunt as an opportunity to engage students in an important community tradition. They hosted a sign up for kids to help out and supply the town with some much-needed help to assure the event went smoothly.

MHS teacher and co-key club leader Mrs. Basaman said, "It's important for our job as high school teachers to educate students not just in the classroom, but also to be good citizens in our community."

Mrs. Basaman continued with explaining that Key Club's efforts, especially with this event, are to allow students a space to become active participants in the Manasquan

community, not just within the high school. "In Manasquan, students went to the tree lighting as children," she said, implying that students are now given the opportunity to return to the tree lighting with the intent of giving it the same magic they felt when they were little.

In addition to getting students involved in community efforts, Mrs. Hoeler, another MHS teacher co-leading the key club stated how it's important for students to "see how the community functions outside of the school." Real world experiences the community, especially where there is charity involved, is crucial to the maturation of students.

MHS Junior Charlotte Stroff, one of the student Key Club volunteers at the event stated that the Tree Lighting and Candy Cane hunt are "important traditions that bring everyone into the holiday spirit."

Student volunteers at MHS realize the importance of these events, and that they are not just devoting themselves to aiding in the efforts, but also helping to sustain a meaningful

tradition within the community they are surrounded by.

In addition to the moral benefits that volunteering at the Candy Cane hunt provides, there is also a sense of engagement with other people that has been renewed through these events. Mrs. Hoeler explained this benefit.

"Students need to be more social and engaged with each other and the community, especially after Covid-19," she said.

Covid-19 took away many popular events that build communities like ours, but in events where volunteering is needed, there is also a need for people to come out and engage with the effort. The Key Club recognizes the necessity of these events to rebuild connection after the pandemic, and as events like the

Candy Cane Hunt are reintroduced to the community, there are more opportunities to reintroduce socialization as well.

As more volunteer opportunities arise, try and outreach to see how you can get involved. Helping the community reconnect with events like these is crucial to its success for generations to come. In the future, more events will be reintroduced, which means that there will be so many more opportunities for active involvement in the MHS community!



The Top 10 Christmas Movies to Put You in the Holiday Spirit

By Cristian Jose

Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year with so many fun things to do and what is the one thing that really kicks off the Christmas fun? Christmas movies. All those classics you only watch during the holiday season. If you are having trouble deciding what to watch here are my favorite Christmas movies.

1) **It's a Wonderful Life (1947)**

It's a Wonderful Life is an American film Directed by Frank Capra the film is set in New York. We follow Gorge Bailey who is not really appreciative of the things he has in life until his taken on an adventure of past events to see that his life is truly a wonderful life.

2) **A Christmas Story (1983)**

A Christmas Story is a Comedy. We follow different stories on Ralphie Parker and his family as they try to enjoy the best Christmas ever. The film is a classic to watch during the holidays leaving you with the joy of being a kid on Christmas.

3) **The Guardians of the Galaxy Holiday Special (2022)**

Everyone's favorite galaxy heroes are back in a new holiday special with a sweet story with the guardians trying to make their leader, Peter Quill happy during the holiday season by getting him the greatest gift of all...Kevin Bacon? It has all the Christmas fun with a rocking Soundtrack and though it's new but already a classic.

4) **Home Alone (1990)**

Home Alone is produced by John Hughes. Kevin McCallister is your typical 10-year-old troublemaking boy whose family is getting ready for a Christmas vacation. After a family fight Kevin wishes for his family to disappear getting his wish it's all fun and games at first until, two burglars try to break into his home, Now it's up to Kevin to protect his house while he's home alone.

5) **Love Actually (2003)**

Love Actually isn't a typical one-story Christmas movie. It's an anthology film where you follow a bunch of characters in their happy life or depressing life. *Love Actually* is definitely for the romantic movie fans but still does the job on feeding you the Christmas joy.

6) **How the Grinch Stole Christmas (2000)**

The grumpiest guy in Whoville: The Grinch. He hates Christmas so much, the presents the lights and the Christmas love, all of it. He's had enough so he decides to steal Christmas and ruin the cheer, but eventually sees what Christmas is all about.

7) **Elf (2003)**

Buddy the Elf never really fit in his home in the North Pole. So he embarks on a quest to see why that is and is led to his real home in New York City to find his father. He learns the way of a regular person and not an elf. This is a Christmas story, but the main core is a story about a father and son.

8) **A Muppet Christmas Carol (1992)**

This classic story has been done many times but this time by Hollywood's famous Muppets. This movie is similar to the all the other versions but the Muppets bringing a cheery and fun side to this classic story with some really good music too.

9) **The Polar Express (2003)**

We follow a boy named Hero Boy who isn't sure if he believes in Santa but after going to bed, he wakes up to see a train that is heading to the North Pole. The movie delivers a nice message on believing in what you want to believe in.

10) **Santa Claus Conquers the Martians (1964)**

Yes, it sounds crazy, but this 1960s film is the most fun time you will have during Christmas. This film follows the jolly red-white guy after being taken by Martians. He



Senior Year Bucket List

By Natalie Gallagher



As the 2022 year comes to an end and 2023 comes closer, here are 10 things that all seniors should do before the school year ends.

1. Get a class grade average of 90 or above to be exempt from finals. Senior Bella Lopez shares "no one wants to do finals!" Senioritis makes it hard to find motivation for some classes, so this goal makes sure to end the year in a good way academically.
2. Go to Prom. Whether this is your first year going or second, Senior prom is a monumental part of high school as a whole! You can get ready and look spectacular for a night filled with music, dance, and fun with all your closest friends.
3. Speaking about Prom, the next thing seniors should do is volunteer for decorating the school! What better way to show school spirit than to walk into all the creative decorations you put up.
4. Squanathon of course! This 24 hour fundraiser lets

students raise 200 dollars for the chance to stay up all night and party in the school! This good cause gives money to good causes that really make other people's lives better!

5. Get a Walter Buck! These "dollars" are given out from our superintendent for one free chocolate chip cookie in the lunch room, yum!
6. Speaking about cookies, Senior Danny Colon says it's a must to try the chocolate chip cookies!
7. Attend a show that the school organizes! Whether it be for the Dance club, Drama Club, Choir, or Band, these students have worked hard to give you a night to remember!

8. Speaking about clubs, join one that you never thought you would! Senior year is a great chance to broaden your horizons!

9. Apply to colleges! After this year is done, you may want to continue with your academics and go to a University or College! The first step is to apply to the college of your choice.

10. Finally, the last thing that all seniors should do before the school year ends is Graduate! You've all worked so hard for this moment, and covid did not make things much more easy so give yourself a pat on the back and savor that moment while it lasts.

It might feel bitter-sweet to do all these things while senior year lasts, but you'll be so glad that you did it in the future. Have fun every day and even do ONE of the things on this list, you won't regret it! From the Blue and Gray, happy holidays everyone!

CLASS OF
2023

Manasquan Surf Team Shreds at States

Surfers win 9th straight state championship

By: Casey Bennett and Cameron Lonergan

Manasquan High School's Surf Team has done it again! For the ninth year in a row the Warrior Surfers have taken the states title under their belt. On October 30th in Atlantic city, they won the NSSA Northeast Surf Championship. With extreme skill and amazing performance from all members of the team there was no chance in stopping the powerhouse of the shore.

Ocean city scores stood at 138, Wall at 117 and Manasquan held 158 points to secure the win. James Bonavita and Audrey Iglay both won their competitions, as James secured first place for longboard, and Audrey won girls shortboard!

James described his feelings on winning the state championship. "It was an exciting day winning the ninth title and will be something I will never forget," he said.

The coaches, Mr. LaCarubba and Mr. Hoffman, are filled with pride and joy from the elite team they've creat-

ed and connected with. Mr. Hoffman said, "It was a great season. The team surfed well all season and they really stepped it up during the last few weeks to claim the state championship."

As for the tournament, most of the team felt very comfortable and confident getting ready to triumph over the competition. One surfer in particular, James Bonavita, had a strong mamba mentality walking in.

"I felt good going into the tournament. I knew we could win if we all surfed to the best of our ability. We grinded all year round and surfed even when the waves weren't even good," James said.

James looks back on his senior season and recounts, "I enjoyed my last season and was glad that I came out with a win in the longboard division. I knew that if I put in the work, I would be happy with the outcome."

"Probably my favorite memory of the season was be-

ing at states with all my friends and teammates," he added.

One of the main coaches, Mr. Hoffman, a Spanish teacher at MHS, describes the season as awesome. The seniors have performed their last dance and are heading out the door, leaving speculation of who will be the next hidden talent.

Mr. Hoffman shared his thoughts on the topic, "This senior class has a lot of talent that will be missed. It is always hard to replace seniors that have been important to the program for four years. Going forward, we hope to see all the underclassmen to take a big step forward next year to defend the state title."

Mr. Hoffman added, "Henry Hall had a good season, and he won the Fall Classic contest held the week before the state contest. Freshman Seton Iglay is continuing the family tradition at Manasquan and will look to compete on the varsity level next year. Seamus Waltsack competed at the state contest and made it to the quarterfinals as a freshman."

continued on page 34



WARRIOR



SPORTS



one Last Ride

THE 2022 FOOTBALL SEASON
COMES TO A CLOSE

By: Austin Griffith and Hudson Gorham

Football has been a huge sport at Manasquan High School for decades. MHS has had a variety of losing and winning seasons; But this year the team lost the first few games but had a comeback with a winning streak of four games but lost in the playoffs. The team got fairly beat up after losing the Point Boro game but had a strong comeback shortly after.

After losing their first three games of the season the Manasquan Warriors traveled to Manchester Township on September 30th hoping to bounce back after a rough start. Hungry for a win, Squan came out hot as senior running back

Jhamier Howard returned the opening kickoff 78 yards for a touchdown. After a defensive stop, the Warriors got the ball back and cruised down the field. In the redzone on second down, senior quarterback Brett Patten found Howard for a 13-yard touchdown pass to bring Squan to a 14-0 lead. The Warriors were back on defense and took advantage of the struggling Manchester offense. On just the second play of the drive, junior linebacker Noah Mammeri returned an interception for a touchdown. Only two plays later, Howard received an interception of his own and ran it back for a touchdown to bring Squan to a 28-0 lead at the end of the 1st quarter.

With a big lead early on, the Warriors did not let up as Patten threw to senior

receiver Jack Dettlinger for a 30-yard touchdown pass on a slant route up the middle of the field. Once again, the Squan defense held Manchester to another three and out to get the offense back on the field. With the second quarter coming to a close, Patten found senior receiver Cael Driscoll for a 28-yard touchdown pass to make the score 42-0. The Warriors walked back to the locker room after a dominating first half knowing they had completely shut Manchester down. Squan did not score at all in the second half, but still secured the 42-7 win over Manchester.

“We were thrilled to get our first win” junior cornerback Luke Ramire said, “we needed to get in the win column and start rolling.”

Coming off their first win of the season, Squan took on Holmdel at home for week 5. On their first drive, Patten connected with Howard on a 57-yard touchdown pass. After a quick defensive stop, the Warriors tacked on to their lead with a 27-yard touchdown pass from Patten to Dettlinger to make the score 14-0. The defense dominated the first quarter with another three and out which put Squan back on offense. A huge 50-yard pass from Patten to Dettlinger set the Warriors up at Shore’s 5-yard line. On the next play, Howard

Senior Matt O'Donnell leads the Warriors out to Vic Kuba Warrior Field for their home opener against Raritan.



FOOTBALL

continued from previous page

ran it in for the score, which put the Warriors up by three touchdowns. Both teams marched down the field for touchdowns on their next drives to make the score 28-7. Then, Dettlinger put the nail in the coffin with an interception, which set Squan up for their final score. The Warriors were happy to bring home their second win by a score of 35-14 over Holmdel.

With a 2-3 record, Squan was not yet satisfied, and they were determined to go out with a winning record. The Warriors swept the rest of their regular season schedule with wins against Shore Regional and Monmouth Regional. These wins granted Squan a home playoff game against Highland Regional in the first round of the state tournament. Unfortunately, the Warriors lost 32-7 to a good Highland team, but their season was not yet over. They would go on to face Long Branch in an exhibition game to prepare for their rival, Wall, who would come to town on Thanksgiving. Squan fought Long Branch to the fourth quarter in a close game, but lost 28-21. After an intense battle with Long Branch, Squan needed to regroup and take

the next two weeks to prepare for the biggest game of the season. Thanksgiving might not mean anything in terms of statistics or rankings, but it means everything to the players and the communities that rally around them.

The Manasquan vs. Wall game has been a tradition for many years. Wall is MHS’s biggest rivals and is generally the biggest game of the season. The upcoming game takes place on Thanksgiving at 11am, this year the game is also home and at the Wigwam. This year is the 23rd year of this tradition taking place.

The two towns are neighboring and border each other, so most of the kids on both teams have known each other since they were little. But when it comes to the being on the field, they both get very competitive. Both towns have been getting more and more excited for the upcoming rivalry game of “Friend or Foe”.

“It’s our last game of the season and the last game for most of the seniors’ lives” junior lineman Brian Lee said, “we have to give it everything we got and get the win. Thanksgiving is our one last ride as brothers.”

Warriors defeat Wall on Thanksgiving.
See story page 37

ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

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makes it easy for students to be a part of something without having to be tied down.

Lukas and Jackie joined this club this year during club rush. They joined so they could become more in-

involved.

This club also gives students the opportunity to meet other students and professionals who share the same care for our community and environment.

This club takes off during the wintertime, with nature sleeping, but will kick back up again in the spring with helping the Women’s Sea Lavender club’s Earth Day plant sale.

BOOK CLUB CLUB

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“Gone with the Wind” by Margaret Mitchell.

“You can find some amazing friends in books” and “It’s in my top 3 clubs” says Molly. Students seem to love it and have a good time while learning and getting into a new hobby. It is a great way to read about so many interesting things and to find something your good at or really enjoy. Reading is a very important skill and a great way to expand your knowledge!

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

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Junior Amber Farrington has been in this club since her freshman year. Her favorite part is sharing her photos with everyone. Her favorite assignment this year is the holiday theme.

Clubs like these are good for helping students find what they are passionate about. Amber expresses that she would like to be a photographer when she is older. This club is a great way for her to get there.

This club continues to inspire students with the fun and open to creativity assignments. “It is really fun, and I am excited for coming assignments.” said Amber.

WARRIOR SPORTS

Bowling Team Grabs Division Lead

By Cristian Jose

Bowling is a game where you roll a ball and try to knock down all ten pins- what is so hard about that?

Well, it's harder than you might think. Just ask anyone who is on the MHS bowling team, run by Mr. Glenn, who is also a science teacher.

The team recent started its season. They already won their two first games: one vs Asbury Park High School and another vs Neptune High School.

Then they faced one of their toughest rivals, Ocean. They won in a close match, to take over first place.

Junior Zach Friedman is having fun on the team. "It's fun and its even more fun when you become competitive in the game," he said.



Above: Ryan Rose about to score.
Below: Zach Freidman about to score.



Zack thinks the MVP on the team is clear so far. "It has to be Charlie Mawn. He is the best bowler on the team and has the highest average on the team," Zack said.

But Zack is also really good. Mr. Glenn complimented Zach for helping lead the victory against Ocean. Rich Pokorny, Brian Matuschat and Ryan Rose have played key roles as well.

Bowling itself goes way back in our history back to B.C where sure they might not have used the correct bowling shoes and fancy pins but they would collect and place objects in certain ways and have one goal to knock as many of them down. Over years it changed, eventually turning into what we know now. But it is crazy to think this game has been around for so long, and still gets people excited in these days today.

Winter Sprinters

By Lukas Nordell

Manasquan High School sprinters, throwers, pole jumpers, and hurdlers alike are taking the competition indoors for the 2022 – 2023 winter track season. Similarly to spring track, winter track offers a multitude of athletics that help each player to focus their efforts in which category they excel

in, the only difference being the time of year. Starting on November 28th, 2022, winter track athletes began preparing for another year of success.

This season presents a variety of new faces to the team as well as many returning athletes from all different grade levels.



WARRIOR SPORTS

Manasquan Cheer Team! By: Casey Bennett

Manasquan Cheer is not done just yet, as the football season came to an end the cheerleaders prepare for the winter sports season. The cheerleaders are responsible for cheering on both the boys and the girls' varsity basketball teams at Manasquan High School.

The coach of the cheer team is Mrs. Warncke also referred to as "dubs" by her cheerleaders. She teaches the team dances, cheers, and the routine that is performed during halftime at the games.

Athings will be run differently. She continues, that due to the high number of cheerleaders, there are two different teams, the grey team, and the blue team. The gray team is made up of mostly freshman and sophomores while the blue team consists of returning varsity cheerleaders. They will be splitting up the girls and the boy's



games evenly and alternate attending.

Junior Morgan Mechler has been doing cheer since her freshmen year. She loves the sport with all her heart and hopes nothing but the best for this season.

She claims, "doing basketball cheer is very important because it shows your commitment to the team and the sport, which is taken into high consideration for when captains are chosen next football season!"

For Manasquan, be ready and look out for the cheer squad on the court.

First game is December 15th Thursday and the cheer squad encourages for the whole schools attendance.



Above: Cheerleading squad takes the field beore a game; Below: Cheerleaders Kiki Dap and Morgan Mechlcer

Winter Sprinters

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One new face being sprinter Lily Nordell. Joining winter track with the intention to improve her running ability for soccer, Lily found her love for the sport in the short time she has been a part of the team.

"I've only been a part of the team for about two weeks, and I already feel a lot more confident in my athletic ability," expressed Lily.

Lily's satisfaction is a shared belief amongst the other athletes. "I've been in track since my freshman year, and I feel like I've been in better shape ever since I've joined," said returning sprinter Declan Murphy. "I compete in the 400-meter sprint, but I want to try the 15-meter hurdles and the high jump."

Declan's ambitions for this year's winter track

season can provide some insight to the success of the athletes. Last year alone, the Manasquan track teams broke 8 school records, such as the times for the 400-meter sprint, and the boys & girls 3 by 400-meter hurdles.

In preparation for a successful meet, Manasquan winter track athletes focus in on which events they will be participating in in the days prior.

"Right before a meet, I have to put myself in the right mindset, removing self-doubt from the picture," Declan shared. "At the point where I'm about to begin my event, I'd have already been ready days ago."

Whether it's long-distance running, throwing a discuss, or pole vaulting, Manasquan High School winter track athletes and the many new additions to the team are preparing for yet another season of record-breaking and milestone-setting.



Time to Shoot Some Hoops!

Boys open season with win over St. Patrick

By: Chiara D'Apolito

Just as Manasquan wins the Thanksgiving football game to wrap up the fall sports season, it's time for winter sports to



high, as senior Quinn Peters explains last season's record was 25-6.

Similar to most opinions of the players on

the championship game of last year's Shore Conference. Practices, led by head coach Mr. Bilodeau, began November 28th in order to prepare for the first scrimmage on December 7th and ultimately the first game of the season on December 15th vs. The Patrick School.

Ryan Frauenheim, starting point guard, proclaims his hopes for this season are, "just to win as many games as possible and achieve our goals as a team." These goals are set

the team, Jake Heilos, a senior, expresses confidence. "No one is a rival, it's not a rivalry if you win every time," Jake said.

This quote was inspired by the wise words of Coach Bilodeau. The team expects to win every time they take the court. However, there are still some



begin!

One of Manasquan High Schools most competitive teams, Boys Basketball plans to make their comeback after losing in



Pictured at top: the team is pictured posing together for picture day; above: Junior Ryan Frauenheim last season in action; to the right: The team having some fun at practice while preparing for the season.



Diving Into Swim Season

By: Morgan Mechler

Giddy up! Manasquan Swim Team is diving into the 2022-2023 winter sports season with their first meet right around the corner! The team is ready for a successful season full of hard work and fun. The Manasquan swim team is made up of swimmers from both Manasquan High School as well as Point Pleasant Beach High School. The team is comprised of many motivated, hardworking, and talented swimmers,



Above, the 2022 swim seniors are recognized at their Senior Day.

took home the win in states and ended up placing second in the Shore Conference. "This season the girls are focusing on defending our county and state championship titles," Coach Murin explained.

The boys lost a lot from last year, but Coach Murin plans on rebuilding the team and is eager to see the

had a very successful season, making waves and winning lots of titles. A few seniors who graduated from last year's team include Caroline Ireland, Matt Dettlinger, Peyton Sorino, and Kellen Drawbridge. They really helped to push the team to victory last year, and current seniors know they have to step up this year and fill their places.

progress they make. "We're gonna learn a lot this season about how good we can be," Coach Murin said. He is not worried about losing last year's seniors because he knows that the entire team will step up to



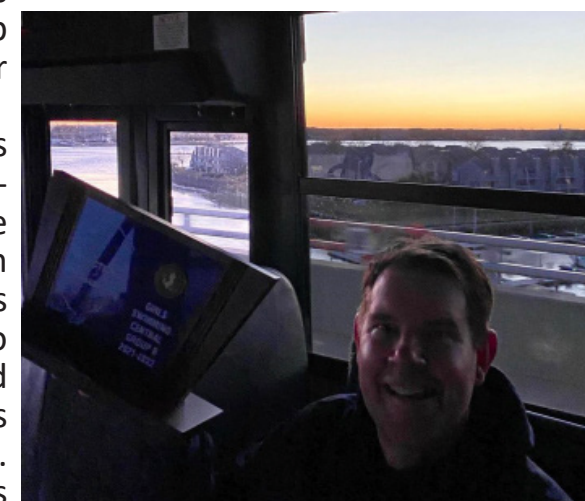
Above, the 2022-23 swim team members pose for a picture at practice at the bubble.

making the 2022-2023 season look bright!

Last year, the swim team

Coach Murin is very excited and confident about both the girls and the boys team this season. "The girls team is fortunate to have a lot of talented swimmers again this year," Coach Murin said. Last season, the girls

Above, Coach Murin smiles holding the Girls Group B State Championship trophy.



WARRIOR SPORTS

Boys Basketball

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Boys Basketball Is Back In Action

ambitious games. Ryan reports how Roselle Catholic, who comes to MHS on December 23, will be Squan's hardest game, considering they are a top team in the country. Moreover, Quinn expresses how St. Rose has upped their game this season with several new players transferring in, giving MHS even more competition.

Quinn further describes practices have been around two and a half hours every day, and though it is hard work they have been pretty exciting. From practices it is predicted that the starters this year will include, Ryan Frauenheim, Darius Adams, Griffin Linstra, Quinn Peters, and Alex Konov.

After losing some graduating seniors, Jake expresses his feelings how this season is different from last year because there is no one to look up to. He and the other seniors are now the leaders of the team as they play their last season in high school. Another senior and key player, Jack Dettlinger, declares, "I'm pumped up about [the season], I can't wait!"

Overall, this season is projected to be very successful, Ryan discloses how the team has high expectations for themselves.

Surfing Champs!

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Bonavita complimented another freshman with a promising future. "Jake Miller, He's a good starter for the team and especially as a freshman he's a good addition to the team."

At the end of the day, the surf team took the win in states and brought home more than just trophies, they built a community. Going forward we hope to see them take a step closer to the tenth championship. For now keep shredding.

Swimming

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the plate to continue their winning streak.

Juniors on the swim team include Cade Saito, Ryan McLaughlin, Dylann Eldridge, and Kylie Spalt. Cade swims the 100 fly and the 100 back and is excited for more chances to compete. "The hardest meets are in the beginning," Cade said. He is confident they will be able to learn what they need to do to win after just a few meets.

Returning seniors include Zack Martin, Caroline Height, Caroline Finnegan, and Eddie Gunnell. Eddie swims in the individual medley and freestyle events. "I'm very excited for my senior year of swim. We have great teams this year, and although we got a late start to the season, our coaches have helped us get in shape quickly," Eddie said.

Everyone on the team is pumped up for a great season and more chances to win. Overall, the team is looking forward to a great season full of defending victories and earning titles!

WARRIOR SPORTS

Girls Basketball Shoots For Another Winning Season In 2022-2023

As the door to the basketball season opens, the Manasquan girls' basketball team looks to carry last year's winning season into the new season. However, they need to do some rebuilding as they lost 4 out of their 5 starters from last season.

Junior Hope Masonius is the sole returning starter for the squad, but several key players are stepping up to the plate to meet their goal of being a top team in the Shore Conference and state bracket. The senior class is small but mighty, only composing of Mollie Bodnar and Rylyn Orlando. Juniors McKenna Karlson and Katie Collins will be additional leaders as they have had varsity playing time in the past. Sophomores Grace Love, Olivia Shaughnessy, Shannon Heine, and Shea Donnelly will also be a dynamic part of the team as they were challenged by the graduated seniors last season who have gone on to play college basketball. Lastly, the new incomers include junior transfer Carlie Lapinski as well as freshmen



Above: Junior Hope Masonius, the only starter from last year still on the team, is a preseason pick for All-Shore; Below: Senior Rylyn Orlando speeds upcourt with the ball in a game last year



Jordyn Hollawell, Lily Johnson, Ava Frith, and Logan McCarthy.

This solid group of girls will challenge their competitors as they battle for each win. The beginning of the season has started off strong as the Warriors have gone 2-0 in their first two games with wins over Archbishop Carrol of Pennsylvania in the She Got Game Classic, with a score of 55-45, and Ranney, the score being 62-40.

Their upcoming schedule is no task to underestimate as they battle teams such as St. Rose, Sparta, Point Pleasant Boro, Paul VI, Archbishop Wood (PA), Neptune, Wall, Camden Catholic, Shawnee, Chatham, Trinity Hall, and Ewing.

Not only will the girls grow together, but the bumps in the road will lead to something better in the end. The energy and competitiveness the team exerts will be a problem for schools looking to beat the Warriors, but the girls of Manasquan won't let that happen. Their eyes are on one thing and one thing only: winning.

WARRIOR SPORTS

Wrestling On The Rise

By: Angelina George

Spit, sweat, blood and pounds are what the Manasquan High School wrestling team will be shedding in the coming weeks.

It has been a rocky couple of years spent building up on the program for the boys wrestling team, but after last year being their best year in decades, they are ready to make more noise and turn some heads in the shore conference.

“Right now, we are a program that is getting respect around the shore conference. We aren’t where we want to be yet though, and still have a lot of hard work to do” said head Coach Borowski.

The team that several years ago consisted of only 7 kids has built its way up to having about 50 boys this year. Between the boys and the coaches, they

have been expanding the program tremendously through positive energy, hard work, and the support system from administration, parents, and alumni.

Sophomore Michael O’Connor one of the key wrestlers has been working hard to make his goals a reality. After qualifying for regions last year and getting out in the quarter finals, Michael has been ready for redemption.

“I’d say my biggest goal for this season is to qualify for state, it is definitely doable if I put in the hard work” quoted O’Connor.

The wrestlers and the coaches all agree that having their own section in the field house has helped substantially in making the program more respected. The boys all agreed that having their own complex also helps to make them more dedicated.

Although he has only been coaching at MHS for 3 years

Borowski has made a significant impact on not just the program but also on the boys.

“Mr. Barowski has really helped me to be a better wrestler. He’s shown me the right way to do things; he’s a great coach,” said junior Max Salerno.

With their season starting very soon everyone is setting big goals. The team’s goals are to win the division, state section, maybe even win a group 2 title, send numerous kids to regions and qualify someone to states.

Their first match is at Ocean 12/15 – this is a big match divisional matchup, that will show where the team is at this year. Other big matches include Point Boro Friday night 1/6, Wall Friday 1/20, and Long Branch home 1/25, so be sure to come out and support the boys wrestling team as they aim to have their best season ever!

Below: The wrestling team takes a photo on the first day of preseason!



Squan Defeats Wall in Rivalry Football Game

By: Hudson Gorham

The Manasquan vs. Wall game has been a tradition for many years. Wall is MHS’s biggest rivals and is generally the biggest game of the season. The game usually takes place on Thanksgiving with the kickoff at 11am. This year the game was home at the Wigwam. This year is the 23rd year of this tradition taking place.

The two towns are neighboring and border each other, so most of the kids playing have known each other since they were little. But when it comes to being on the field, both teams get extremely competitive. Even the neighboring

towns get very excited leading up to the event. The game is often called the “Friend or Foe” game.

“It’s our last game of the season and the last game for most of the seniors’ lives,” junior lineman Brian Lee said. “We must give it everything. We’ve got to go out and get the win. Thanksgiving is our one last ride as brothers.” This game was most likely the biggest game of each seniors’ football career at Manasquan High School.

The Warriors took the lead of 21-0 into halftime before senior defensive back/wide receiver Dalil Suluki recorded a 38-yard interception scoop-and-score in the third quarter of the game, then making his

team lead a score of 28-0.

Will Burns finished with five solo tackles and assisted on 10 for Manasquan while Dettlinger also had five solos and assisted on seven.

The Knights would not go down without a fight! Their quarter back Andrew Olsen made a screen pass to Mason Adams who ended up scoring about halfway through the third quarter. Senior Anthony Gartz also ran one in late in the fourth quarter, but by the time they started to catch up with the Warriors it was too late for them to make a full comeback to win the game.

The Thanksgiving game was a good way for our team to end the season with a win. A con-

Warrior

Sports

Winter

