

The Blue & Gray

Manasquan
High School

December 2016



Robotics Team Competes With the Best



in this issue



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Striving for States

By: Mike Rafter

It started with a school grant and an idea for a new school activity, and Robotics Club was born. Supervised by Mrs. Edwards and led by sophomore Chris Palangio, the team has one goal: compete in the FirstTech Challenge and move on to the state level.

Many challenges still face Cyber Blue, this relatively new team. With over 150 opponents, only the top half receives the opportunity to move on to the next round.

Members of Robotics Club meet after school to work on their robots, and discuss their progress in competitions. Chris explains "We do some practicing and building with robots, and also a little bit of programming."

If you are looking to join the club, just talk to Mrs. Edwards; they meet every Wednesday in the library.

The competition consists of creating a robot and programming it to perform a wide array of tasks, such as tests of speed, strength and agility.

All of these challenges earn your team points. For example, a team is given a ball. If they can raise it off the ground, they get points. If they can raise a certain height off the ground, they get even more points; seems simple enough, but when your robotic friend is composed of hundreds of delicate parts, anything can go wrong.

Further complicating things is the myriad stipulations teams must abide by. If another team's ball is somehow trapped in your robot, that team receives free points. Mrs. Edwards explains simply "There are a ton of rules you have to follow...they have this big binder they give you full of rules".

The team is still learning about some of the more bizarre rules, and as a result, the original robot, created in September, has been modified to a point of not being recognizable now. A hood was put on the robot to prevent the other teams ball from getting stuck. Even small changes to the wheels and wires add up over time, and the team plans to continue to work with their creation.

Mrs. Edwards went on to tell a story of how after driving ninety minutes with their team, they were almost disqualified for having the wrong brand of battery. Thankfully, another team was gracious enough to lend them one



Robotics team members (left to right): Kevin Lin, Chris and Matt Palangio, and Darren Zhou.

of the proper brand. They've now learned something as small as brand name is important.

Throughout the conversation, the word gracious came up frequently. In talking with Chris Palangio as well, a friendly yet competitive competition seemed to be at the heart of robotics.

Having opponents willing to work with and help you is great for a new team, but everyone still hopes to move on. When Chris was asked what his goal for the club was, he replied without hesitation "I want to make states this year". Recently, the club participated in a tournament consisting of over thirty teams and placed fourth, giving the whole team a big boost of confidence.

Another confidence boost is also on the way in the form of a new 3D printer. This new purchase will allow the club to create more delicate and elaborate parts, as well as engraving things and adding some style to their bot.

Overall, making states will be difficult; most of the teams there will be veterans of the field. But with a little bit of luck and a lot of work, the MHS robotics club hopes to build their way to the top.



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Third Time's the Charm? Administration Fights for More Money for Classrooms

Manasquan residents are set to vote on a newly proposed referendum January 24th, 2017. This new referendum calls for many aesthetic changes to both the elementary and the middle school.

For the elementary school, it calls for a renovation of the school field and parking lot, as well as a new playground for the 5th to 8th graders. Window replacement, brick pointing, and door access and monitoring are also parts of the plan, along with a gym divider curtain, renovations to the media center, HVAC construction, and replacing the fire alarm and security system. Residents would share 60% of the total costs of the renovation, adding up to about \$2.3 million dollars, with the state picking up the other 40% of the tab.

For the high school, the plan calls for science lab renovations, with the addition of a STEM science lab, a new science lab on the second floor, a greenhouse, and HVAC construction. Residents would be picking up the lion's share of the costs for high school renovations, paying about 73% of the costs, or just under \$6 million dollars.

In total, Manasquan residents would have to pay 69% of the costs, or about \$8.3 million dollars. The average Manasquan resident, with a house worth around \$620,000 would be paying at most an extra \$5.77 in taxes. That \$5.77 would decrease steadily, and even become negative (get paid back) after 2025.

The referendum comes at a critical time for the Manasquan School District, after the rejection of two referendums last year. The science labs, built during the Hoover Administration, look the same as they did in the 30s and 40s as they do now, and the now state-champion football team is the only one in the Shore Conference not to have a turf field. It's rather dire.

Superintendent Dr. Kaysan has been battling for support of the referendum since the beginning of his tenure here at Manasquan in 2014. In an interview with the Blue and Gray, he broke down some of the misconceptions that Manasquan voters have made about the referendum in the past.

He rallied against the concept that he could just put the costs into his yearly budget: "First of all, I can't put

By: Abby McHugh and
Jeff Petrulla

these costs into my capital budget, because it's capped at a 2% increase, or \$200,000 a year. This means I have to put it out as a referendum, so I can get voter approval and get help from the state."

In response to the common protest that other districts aren't contributing, he says "It's a state law- they can't contribute. What they do pay for, however, is the interest off of the loan, and the tuition that they give us in order to send their kids here, helps



Above: Dr. Kaysan in an outdated science classroom. Below (left): Dr. Kaysan in front of the old baseball fields; (right) Dr. Kaysan in Center Hall.



pay for the other parts of our budget."

Students coming back to Manasquan this fall noticed a marked change in the snack shack and the banners around the football field. Dr. Kaysan explains: "The Manasquan Football Club, and Manasquan Community Bank paid for those changes. We didn't put that in our budget."

In this proposal, he adds, "The only 'athletic' construction is the new playground for the Elementary school. Everything else, we really feel is essential for the school to be competitive."

You can see the need for these changes in your daily life at Manasquan. The constantly-changing temperatures

of classrooms- freezing in some, hot in others. The referendum calls for a new HVAC system. Dr. Kaysan highlights this, saying that "We are the only school in Monmouth and Middlesex county to use a chilling system. It doesn't even work anymore! We are 50 years' past repairing it- it needs to be replaced."

This is aside from the sub-par science rooms. The referendum calls for a second floor to be added to the science wing, with the renovation of the current science rooms along with an addition of a STEM science room. Dr. Kaysan notes the difference: "The STEM science room is what is really going to differentiate us from other public schools in the area. It's designed differently, to foster collaborative thinking. It's a huge step up from our current classrooms."

Last year, students noticed an odd smell emanating from the science rooms. Further investigation revealed an oil leak. Dr. Kaysan said it took him "almost a week to get repair crews down there. The kids lost precious class time."

Ultimately, Dr. Kaysan feels the changes are needed in order to keep Manasquan from fading into obscurity. "We are a school that is so entrenched in tradition, so entrenched on thinking 'let's just keep the things the way they are' but in the next five to ten

years, and it's already starting to happen, we are going to lose kids to other schools because they are going to see the state of our science labs, our classrooms, and decide to go somewhere else."

It has been a long, hard battle

for Dr. Kaysan for the passing for the referendum. The two ballots have been struck down by Manasquan voters twice. Although he says he has tried reaching out to local organizations around Manasquan to inform them before the vote, he says "they have all struck me down." In the end, he says, he will keep fighting for these referendums- because he knows it's what's best for the future of Manasquan.

The referendum is on Saturday, January 24th, 2016 at the school. See Mr. Harvey or Mr. Roach for any absentee ballots if you, or any of your siblings, are out of town for the vote.

Guest Speaker Visits World Language Classes

“Joe Leone” Promotes Awareness of Italian Disasters

By: Lauren Fielder and Rachel Irizarry

This year's Italian I class is lucky enough to have an energetic and fun teacher, Professoressa Russo, who teaches with passion and creativity. One student in the class is Bella Introna, the daughter of Joseph Leone Introna, or “Joe Leone”.

Mr. Introna, the owner of the popular and successful Italian specialty store “Joe Leone's” came to Manasquan High School on Tuesday, December 20, to talk to Ms. Russo's Italian class about recent events that have happened in Italy.

Prof.ssa Russo was very enthusiastic about Mr. Introna's visit. “It went very well,” she said. “He was so informative.”

Mr. Introna told the class stories about Italy. Back in 2009 the L'Aquila province of Italy was struck by a 5.9 magnitude earthquake that devastated the region. Buildings were left in disrepair, families were left without homes, and hundreds were killed. Since then, there have been several thousand foreshocks and aftershocks, some of which had a magnitude of over 3.5.

This past October, two more powerful earthquakes hit very close to the site of the initial quake. The first had a magnitude of 5.5, and the second – 6.1. Structures like the historic church of San Salvatore were completely obliterated. The town remained dark from loss of power as rescuers were forced to search for survivors solely from the sounds of their voices crying for help. Many of the affected towns weren't reachable until daylight. Countless victims displaced by the previous earthquakes have been



Above (top): Professoressa Russo's Italian I class; Above: A man walks through the rubble of a recently destroyed town; Below: The remains of the San Salvatore Church



forced to move, yet again.

Knowing the destruction and suffering in Italy, Mr. Introna wants to help those affected. Every time there is an earthquake he holds a fundraiser to support people in need. Mr. Introna buys things that are needed including generators, blankets, and even a TV so that they can watch and listen to things that have been happen-

ing in the area.

Many buildings were destroyed, since they are made of mostly clay. He has helped rebuild an orphanage that was destroyed by the earthquake. Even to this day, he still stays in contact with the nuns and other people that work there.

Prof.ssa Russo said that from Mr. Introna's talk she “hopes that [her students] can make a connection, not just to the Italian culture, but to things they have experienced in their own lives like hurricane Sandy... I want them to know they have a voice.” She also felt that Mr. Introna connected with the students, and made an impact on their understanding.

Bella too is involved in the aid of the people affected by the earthquake. She so far has been to Italy three times, including

a month ago over Thanksgiving break. Bella hopes that one day she can help people that are in need just like her dad.

Although Bella admits that it might be weird having her dad come in as a guest speaker, the students of Ms. Russo's Italian I class hopefully will appreciate and learn from his story.

Something to be TRULY Thankful for this Holiday Season

By: Amanda Karp

On Tuesday, December 6th, a concerning event occurred at Manasquan High School, and wound up turning into a testament of the students and staff for the actions they took.

One of the school's beloved substitute teachers suffered a cardiac arrest in the beginning of second block. The immediate actions taken by the students and staff were responsible for saving his life.

He was subbing for Mr. Lomas' math class when the events began to unfold. The class started at 9:05, and the substitute teacher was introducing himself to the class when he suddenly dropped his papers, and collapsed. The class took instantaneous action.

Faith Masonius, a sophomore, instructed the class to call the nurse, which Jane Antonucci quickly did, while Alec Monteverdi and Ryan Anderson left to get the nurse. On their way to the nurse's office, they spotted Mr. Read, the assistant principle, who told Mrs. Zdanowicz to call 911, and to get an AED, which is an automated external defibrillator.

At the same time, sophomore Casey Campbell ran to a nearby classroom, calling for help.

"I was scared and surprised," he said. "It could happen to anyone. [The staff] was really prepared, and since this is a small school, we were able to get help right away."

"We knew we had to do something," Faith explained, "He hit his head, and we worried that he wouldn't be okay."

"It was really scary," Jane said. "But I felt that the way we handled it was really mature, and not chaotic."

A Code Blue was quickly announced, which signals a med-

ical emergency.

Mrs. Crown- ing was the first teacher to arrive on the scene, and moved the class to the room next door. Mr. Read was the second person to respond, and immediately began CPR. He completed one cycle when Mrs. Bontales and Ms. Szenzenstein, the nurses, entered, followed by Math teacher Mr. Minutoli at 9:10.

Mrs. Bontales took over CPR, while Mr. Read and Mr. Minutoli set up the AED pads.

"It's very important that in an emergency, you stay calm, get help, and call 911," Mrs. Bontales explained. "[The victim] had a cardiac arrest, which is when there a deadly rhythm, in which the heart may be beating, but not functioning." She explained that this is different from a heart attack. "A heart attack is when there is an interruption of oxygen to a specific area of the heart for a specific amount of time."

Mr. Read said, "The students' response was incredible. It was as much a team effort as anyone could imagine. Everyone was impressed by the reaction time, the professionalism and compassion that everyone showed."

Within the next few minutes, emergency responders and police arrived at MHS. By then, the sub had been revived, and was brought to the hospital.

All of the events took place within fifteen minutes, the same length of time it might take to get to school or take a quick walk with your dog. It seemed to happen so fast, but in that time, the students and staff of Manasquan High



Above (left to right): sophomores Faith Masonius, Casey Campbell, and Jane Antonucci acted quickly and fearlessly to help save a life.

School were able to work together to save a man's life.

"I'm very proud of the way the students, as well as Mr. Read, reacted. Mrs. Bontales was very professional, and completed all the actions she was trained to do. The timing was crucial, with Mr. Minutoli grabbing the AED, and using it to save [the] life," said Mr. Hyland. Mr. Hyland, who provided a report for the school, also stated, "The paramedics and hospital later called and said that [the patient] was able to be saved because of the actions the students and staff took. Our staff was 100% equipped to handle the situation."

The events that day go to show how thankful we as a school should be. The people involved took immediate action in their response to an unexpected event, and helped to save a life. It shows that in the face of emergency, it's okay to go run for help, to grab the phone and use it, to break the rules, to not sit idly by.

When action is taken, you have the chance to do something great, and that is an important thing to keep in mind when an emergency occurs. The responses of the students, staff, and all other saved a life. The students and staff did an incredible job, and for that, our school should know that they are in safe hands if an emergency ever befalls us again.

New Fundraiser Helps Veterans in Need

By: Shane Connolly

If you've noticed an increase in the amount of blue, green, and yellow colored wristbands being worn around Manasquan High School, you might be wondering what that is all about. These wristbands are part of a new fundraiser by some of our students helping to raise money for our country's veterans.

The wristbands, which are rewarded to anyone who donates two dollars to the cause, depict the words "Warriors Helping Warriors" and "#Stop22" around them. The hashtag represents a movement that has gained publicity over the recent months, and is meant to raise awareness of the fact that on average twenty-two United States veterans commit suicide every day. This movement hopes to save the lives of these veterans by showing them the appreciation and respect they deserve for the sacrifices they have made for our country.

Senior Tyler Hobbie has been a leader, playing a large role in spreading awareness for the cause around our school. Tyler has taken the time out of his day to walk through the halls and sell the wristbands for two dollars to earn money to donate to the movement.

Tyler says that the fundraiser has been a great success, and he has helped to raise "a little over three thousand dollars." All of the profit from those who contributed will be put towards an end to the deaths of our brave veterans. He went on to explain that the money will be given to Project 22 and to Manasquan



These wristbands cost only \$2, and the profits will be donated to help #Stop22.

VFW, a local veteran's organization.

When I asked what inspired him to start this fundraiser, Tyler told me that while closely following the recent presidential election, he heard about "Stop 22." Curious, he read into it and became aware

of the astounding number of former servicemen and women that take their own lives each day. The fact struck a chord with Tyler, who says it was at that moment that he "decided [he] should do something." Since then, more and more students and teachers have also learned of this movement, and many have graciously donated their own money to the cause.

Though the campaign has already raised a great deal of money, Tyler says he does not plan on stopping any time soon. He plans to continue orchestrating future fundraisers and is looking to get the Manasquan High School basketball team involved. A member of the team, Tyler is interested in organizing a night where a portion of the proceeds from ticket sales and concession purchases are donated to the movement.

It's fantastic to see a fellow student making an impact in the community. Stop 22 is a great cause and needs as much exposure as possible. It's tragic that we lose twenty-two of our country's vets each day, yet it's redeeming that one of our peers is so willing to take some time out of his day in order to help make a change.





By: Rachel Irizarry

Recently health classes at MHS were visited by speakers from the program “Minding Your Mind.” Minding Your Mind’s mission is to “provide mental health education to adolescents, teens, young adults, their parents, and school administrators.” Their number one goal is to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health issues. These presentations occur during school assemblies, health classes, and workshops, and address issues including mood swings, suicidal thoughts, eating disorders, addictive behavior, self-harm, and bullying.

The first speaker to come to MHS health classes was Drew Bergman. Drew being a full time successful student at Temple University wasn’t always a bright child. Although he was a very talented athlete he had some issues in his family that would end up causing problems later on in his life. When Bergman was in seventh grade his parents divorced and he began to use some negative coping skills that would ruin his health, including self-harm. For some time, he would be able to hide these habits and continue to perform as an outstanding athlete.

This all turned for him when he was a sophomore in high school. Drew’s depression had gotten worse and with that he attempted suicide for the second time. But as time went on his depression lessened and his suicidal thoughts decreased. Drew delivered his first speech at his high school, talking about his battle with mental health and depression. He hoped to increase awareness of mental health among



Above: First speaker Drew Bergman.

his peers. The speech sparked an interest to engage other students and to continue to be a mental health advocate and public speaker. With all of this said, Drew was as some students say the best speaker out of the four that the health classes had.

A week later, health students had another surprise guest speaker. Her name is Katya Palsi. An MHS graduate, Katya was just fifteen years old when she was sexually assaulted. Afterward, Katya felt too ashamed of herself to get help and share her trauma. She suffered depression and anxiety. Now with a degree in advertising, she wants to let others know about the stigma that surrounds mental health issues and healthy relationships. The one goal that she hopes to achieve is to inform both males and females about the messages that are received from society.

During that same week Mariel from “Minding Your Mind” came to tell students her story. When she was a child she battled bi-polar dis-

order and feelings of insecurity. After developing an eating disorder and soon resorting to self-harm, she mostly spent her teenage years abusing alcohol and drugs.

Her addiction led to being homeless, incarcerated, and victimized. Mariel entered recovery in 2007, and has been able to maintain a continuous long term recovery since then.

Today she is a full time student at Kean University where she is trying to get a degree in public administration.

The last speaker from “Minding Your Mind” was Sammantha. A full time nursing student and nursing assistant, Sam was always thought to “have it all together.” This was not the case. From a very young age she struggled with low self-esteem and depression. On top of all of this she was diagnosed with dyslexia, which caused trouble learning. She felt different from all of her peers as early as elementary school. With all of this, she threw herself into sports. By high school Sam was a world champion powerlifter. Yet by the summer of 2013, her health got to a level where it was unbearable. She began her treatment for depression and eating disorder. Now she is able to share her story and create awareness of eating disorders and depression.

With all of these guest speakers, “Minding Your Mind” only had one goal. That goal I believe was reached. This was to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health. This was a great eye opener for all health classes. I hope that future health classes will get this opportunity to have someone share their story and how they overcame it.

Below left to right: Sammantha, Mariel and Katya pose for their profile pictures on “Minding Your Minds” website.



Manasquan Goes International: MES Students Experience Model UN

By: Jenn Forcillo

For the first time since Mr. Fagen started the Model United Nations program at Manasquan High School, he succeeded at getting a speaker from the UN to come to MHS. On Tuesday December 6th, the sending district elementary school Model UN came together in the Jack Nicholson Theatre. Sixth, seventh, and eighth graders from Manasquan, Spring Lake Heights, Sea Girt and Brielle all gathered to put on their own mock United Nations meeting, and got the chance to hear from an employee of the international organization.

The speaker was Felipe Queipo, a diplomat from Spain.

I am in Mr. Fagen's 2nd block AP Human Geography class, and for the last few weeks he has been throwing out the date December 6th trying to get my senior class to hang out with a bunch of middle-schoolers by promising food. Since this will be my first year attending the high school Model UN, I thought it would be interesting to see how it's structured, and of course eat the food.

As I showed up in the auditorium after school, I saw a few other Model UN and history club members, including Sarah Galvin, Jeff Petrulla, Dylan Lembo, Ally Vernaglia, Brendan Reilly, Spencer Westcott and of course, the Benjamin twins, Kyle and Nick. While we waited for Mr. Fagen to pick up the UN speaker from the train station we took note of the little children filing into the auditorium very loudly.

We tried our best to organize each group by country and spread them out evenly throughout the auditorium, it was soon time to introduce the speaker: Felipe Queipo from Spain. He has had a diplomatic visa from the United States for the last ten years after interning with the United Nations, stationed in New York City. He is part of the Outreach Department and focus-

es of NGO (Non-Governmental Organizations) Relations and Advocacy.

After Felipe introduced himself, how he got involved in the United Nations and what department he works in, he had some very interesting pictures to show all of us. As the pictures rolled across the screen he explained the significance of each room. It was really interesting how 196 countries come together in New York City, a short

the "louder it gets, the better. It means they're engaged, it means they care about what they are doing". While the issue at hand was Brex-it, many students jumped right into declaring war on each other and trying to start alliances.

Jeff Petrulla and Kyle Benjamin moderated the event and found it very hard to keep the kids under control. In contrast to Mr. Fagen's view, Jeff expressed frustration: "It went terribly. All they did was yell at each other trying to be funny. None of the teachers intervened and it was impossible to moderate that mess."

While the event was seen from two different perspectives, everyone was brought together at the end of the night by all the ethnic food each group brought that represented their country. Some of the food included Swedish Fish, pad thai, a giant chocolate bar, and baklava.

Leaving Manasquan High School late night, I was a little nervous for the real Model UN that happens March, hoping that no one would immediately declare war on my country. I was also very excited to see how heated it would get between high schoolers and how my group and country will emerge. Something to look forward to when March rolls around.

The flags of all the countries that are members of the UN outside the NYC location



The General Assembly room at the UN, where all 197 countries gather.

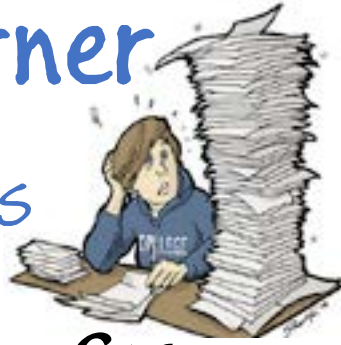
drive away, and it was very exciting to see the smaller rooms that only the super important countries are invited to.

Once his presentation was over, Sr. Queipo did a little Q&A with the audience and surprisingly, the elementary school children had a lot of questions for him, including some about college scholarships. He answered every question, and even went into depth about all the countries he has visited. From a student point of view, it was an amazing experience to get to listen to someone who has firsthand experience with international relations.

According to Mr. Fagen, the Model UN itself went just as well, even though it got very rowdy, very quickly due to a North Korea- South Korea conflict. Mr. Fagen insisted that

College Corner

ADVICE to SENIORS



The Benefits of Going to a Distant College

By: Amanda Karp

It's time for early decision and early action college applicants to get their (aptly worded) college's admissions decision back. Some students will choose to stay in state, near their families, while others will choose to move across the U.S. – even to a different country – to attend the college of their choosing.

Some people choose to remain in state, by attending their local community college or by going to a public or private college in the surrounding area. But some will venture even further from home, and the reasons motivating some students to leave behind what they know here in New Jersey, are very intriguing.

Senior Jackie Kurtz wants to study journalism, and has applied to the University of Maryland, Virginia, the University South Carolina, and Penn State – all



Above: The entrance into NYU's Stern building.



Above: SUNY Binghamton

to burst the bubble of the life they've lived in a small town.

Abby McHugh, a senior, has committed to Binghamton University in New York, otherwise known as SUNY Binghamton. She says, "I need a change of environment. I know that a different environment will push me out of my comfort zone and help me to thrive, and expand my horizons."

Clark Ellicott truly wants to go far from home. He is so bold, that he is also willing to leave the country to go to college. He has applied to a few universities in Canada, such as the University of Toronto. He has also applied to a variety of schools across the continental U.S. as well, such as New York University (NYU), and the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

He explained his decision, saying, "It's about the learning experience – the different culture and language," that he'd be exposed to. "I don't really care about the distance, I take it as a move towards independence and fending for myself," Clark added.

The positive experiences that come from traveling for college seem to outweigh the negatives. Leaving home is challenging, but learning to live on one's own, and becoming self-sufficient, are important parts of transitioning into adulthood.

Living without parents or guardians is an adjustment, but it's a large step in the lives of college-bound students, and one that will shape them as they continue to grow.

Moving away from home, whether it's to a nearby college in the county or one across the world, is experience. It will be tough, at times, but the life lessons that come along with it are well worth the challenges along the way.



Above: The University of Maryland

of which are four or more hours away from home.

"I've never travelled anywhere," she explained, "and I want to see somewhere else. Being independent is something everyone should experience."

Some students want the independence that comes along with leaving home. For others, they want

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Jarrett Birch-

Furman University

Devan Carroll-

Quinnipiac University

Caroline Carter-

DeSales University

Stella Clark-

Northeastern University

Liam J. Cuzzo-

University of Pittsburgh

Daniel P. Del Guercio-

Esat Stroudsburg University
 Flagler College
 Lynchburg College
 Saint Leo University

Madison Dettlinger-

Auburn University

John Devereux-

Rider University

Kelli Finn-

Mount St. Mary's University
 Pace University
 Xavier University
 Fordham University
 University of Massachusetts, Boston

Victoria Galvan-

University of South Carolina

Madison Harkness-

Albright College
 East Stroudsburg
 Susquehanna University
 West Chester University

Logan Harms-

High Point University

Annie Heenan-

University of Mississippi

Edited By: Abby McHugh**Emily McLaughlin-**

Northeastern University

Emily Magrini-

Misericordia University
 Seton Hall University

Addie Masonius-

Wagner College

Jack McCrink-

Rider University
 Susquehanna University
 Mount St. Mary
 University of Scranton
 Fairfield University
 St Joes University
 Coastal Carolina University

Abigail McHugh-

Binghamton University

Joseph Ostberg-

Fairleigh Dickinson University
 Nova Southeastern University
 Stephen F. Austin State University
 The Citadel
 University of North Carolina- Greensboro

Kathryn Petrone-

Florida State University

Abigail Rice-

Old Dominion
 University of Mississippi

Maddy Ryder-

University of Tampa
 Quinnipiac University
 Michigan State University

Shawn Saulys-

Augustana College

Brinley Schmidt-

Gannon University
 LIU Brooklyn
 Misericordia University
 Quinnipiac University

Jada Scimeca-

Flagler College
 Florida Atlantic University

Brendan O' Reilly-

Fordham University

Thomas Sheehan-

Notre Dame University

Paige Sierra-

East Stroudsburg University
 Seton Hall University

Carly Vodola-

University of Colorado- Boulder
 Valdosta State University
 High Point University

Ally Vernaglia-

Loyola Marymount University
 University of Delaware
 University of New Haven

Nick Howe-

New Jersey Institute of Technology

Jenn Forcillo-

University of Vermont
 St. Bonaventure University
 University of Delaware

Matt Forcillo-

University of Delaware
 University of North Carolina, Wilmington

Shane Connelly-

University of Pittsburgh

Riley Martin-

Lynn University

Early acceptances as of 12/20/2016. Please submit your acceptance letters to Guidance, or come tell us at The Blue & Gray, in order to be recognized in our publication.

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Leah Tilton-

Georgia Southern
University of South Carolina
Montclair State University
Salisbury University

Jeff Petrulla-

Providence College
Farleigh Dickinson University
Seton Hall University
Stockton University

Ally Johnson-

Providence University
Fairfield University
Catholic University
St. Joes University

Elizabeth Rooney-

Drexel University
Pennsylvania State University

Quinn Giblin-

Pennsylvania State University

Kyle Benji-

New Jersey Institute of Technology

Logan Roddy-

University of North Carolina Wilmington
Fordham University

Summer Farren-

Fordham University

Nick Benji-

Stockton University

So You've Been Accepted- Now What? Start looking for Scholarships!

It's that time of the year: students are hearing back from colleges, and getting their financial aid packages. Didn't get the scholarships or aid that you wanted or can afford? It's time to start applying for scholarships.

Scholarships are extremely useful – they award cash amounts, which is useful for buying books, transportation costs, and paying for school, among other necessities. Grants can also be awarded, but those are need-based rather

By: Abby McHugh

than merit-based like scholarships are. However, a plus for the both is that they are free money, which students do not have to pay back.

Grants are normally given by the government, whereas scholarships tend to be awarded through non-profits, private corporations, and other business, but can also be given through the government.

Scholarships can come in the form of paying yearly for tuition,

or as a one-time cash prize. Both which are incredibly useful when it comes to the high cost of college.

Filling out multiple scholarship applications can be boring and fatiguing: use websites like Scholar Snapp to apply to multiple scholarships with one application.

There are many reputable ways to find out about scholarships, some being from guidance counselors, financial aid officers, libraries, religious institutions, employers, and other local business.

A great place to find scholarships is under the "Services & Resources" tab on Manasquan High School's site. Under "Guidance Services", at the bottom of the page, there is a hyperlink opens up a page with a laundry lists of scholarships.

It's important to be wary of scams, and to make sure that the website offering money is legitimate before providing it with any information.

Scholarship Resources:

- **Manasquan High School Guidance:**
o <http://www.manasquanschools.org/Page/2092>
- **Scholar Snapp**
o <https://www.scholarsnapp.org/>
- **Fastweb!:**
o <http://www.fastweb.com/>
- **College board:**
o <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>
- **US Department of Education**
o <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/finding-scholarships>
- **Peterson's**
o <https://www.petersons.com/college-search/scholarship-search.aspx>

Academy of Finance Plays Santa for Kids

Toy Collection benefits Toys for Tots charities

Mr. Driscoll's Academy of Finance students have been doing some heart-warming charity in the name of the Christmas spirit this year. Students collected an astounding 351 presents for their 10th annual Toy Drive, marking yet another success.

The 351 gifts are worth approximately \$4,801 dollars, and all of them were delivered to Thurgood Marshall Elementary in Asbury Park on Wednesday, December 14th. A motorcade composed of Ben Barry, Chris Driscoll, Matt Kavanagh, Carly Steets, Karly Grogan, Kristin Lange, Devin Jensen and Peter Mills drove all of the way to Asbury Park during 5th block to personally deliver the gifts.

In a group interview with Ben, Matt, Karly, and Kristin, the

By Jeff Petrulla

happy reactions to their delivery was described. "The teachers there were both excited and surprised by the sheer amount of presents we had for them," AOF students said. We had to

Above: Members of AOF, sitting around a pile of donated gifts before the delivery. Good job, guys!



make three trips!"

The students seemed touched, and are eager to return to the school after the presents have been opened. "Mr. Driscoll said we could dress up as elves and go back. We're excited," said Ben.

The thing that matters most to the Academy of Finance is the smile on these kids faces when they finally get to see the sheer number of gifts that they received, and I hope they get to see it in their second visit. Underprivileged children tend to miss out on magical moments like these, and the fact that the AOF students were able to deliver them one is truly a beautiful thing.

Good job, guys!

The Holiday Daze

By: Amanda Karp

It's that most-wonderful-time-of-the-year again, which means putting up holiday decorations in the beginning of December (or earlier, if you're a holiday enthusiast like my neighbors). The biggest celebration in my household is Thanksgiving, which passed with delicious food and getting to see all of the family members that I've missed so much this year.

Right behind it is Christmas, which we celebrate with my mom's side of the family at my great-aunt's house. But the holiday I am fondest of, celebrated in a quiet way compared to Thanksgiving and Christmas, is Hanukkah.

My grandmother – Dad's side – and her sister mosey their way down from the other end of the county at least once during the eight days that Hanukkah is celebrated, and sit around the counter, trading stories as my mother makes latkes, which my brother and I scarf down, because she only makes them once a year.

We light the candles at sundown, and recite the prayer. The menorah where all the candles stand is coated in wax from the years and years of use. I remember once my brother tried to pick off some of the wax, and got in trouble for it.

It's always been one of my favorite holidays, and as I've grown older, I've learned to appreciate it more. It's like Thanksgiving and Christmas in that I associate Hanukkah with family.

When I was little, my family used to gather at my great-grandparents house, where my grandparents now live, and watch my great-grandfather play the organ while my great-grandmother sat in the kitchen to observe the festivities while talking with the rest of the family. I was always in the living room (unless it was time for dinner or dessert), playing with odd toys or trying to ring the gong on the wall (I was always foiled, *always*). I remember those times so fondly, and it makes me miss my great-grandparents so much.

But most importantly, Hanukkah has been a constant in my life, and more recently, a point of pride in being Jewish. We celebrate the events that took place two thousand years ago, and the places we have gone since then.

It is a holiday that settles in my heart, and leaves a warm feeling in my home. It is a holiday of remem-



brance and of family. It is a holiday about appreciation.

It is a way for me to remember my great-grandparents, and the impact they had on my life.

Holidays are important not only for what they symbolize in society, whether it be in a religious community, a national holiday, or otherwise, but for what they mean to the individual. If they are celebrated knowing all of the history that previously transpired or if it's something that's been passed down with little explanation, but with all the heart remaining.

It doesn't matter what you practice, or how much you know about its history. It doesn't matter if you forget to celebrate it one year. (That can be remedied next year.) What matters is that you appreciate those around you, and enjoy the holidays you celebrate with them.

Holidays Around the World Coming to MHS

By: Elizabeth Rooney

With the final week of school before winter break the French and Spanish National Honor Society have decided to add some holiday cheer to MHS. This year they will be hosting a Holiday Around the World Locker Decorating test.

Any student in a world language class is invited to participate in the contest along with members of the French and Spanish Honor Society. All you have to do is decorate your locker



in honor of a holiday or country of your choice from around the world. Lockers have to be decorated by Thursday and will be judged on Friday, with the winner winning a \$30 gift card to Playa Bowls.

If you have any questions, see Mrs. Eldridge. Have some fun in getting into the holiday spirit this year with the first ever Holiday Around the World Locker Decorating Contest.

Hey MHS: What do you want for Christmas?

by Jeff Petrulla and Nicole Zito



Dylan Wolfe-
"Ebonile
bowling ball"



Megan Cobb-
"Lumineers' tickets"
Camryn McTighe-
"GoPro"



Jenn Forcillo-
"A glasses case
and ankle
socks"



Amanda Karp-
"A bathrobe"



Kelly Negra -
"New Moccasins"



Greg Love-
"New basketball shoes"



Abby McHugh-
"New workout pants"



Adam Schreck-
"Astros hat"



Lauren Fielder- "Cookies,
stickers, and hot sauce"

Christmas Around The Globe

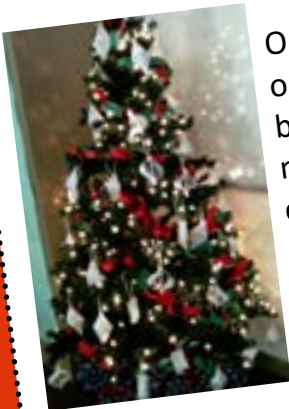
In Spain, after the midnight service, people walk down the streets carrying torches, playing instruments, and singing.



In Australia, Christmas is during the summer. People gather with friends and family and host barbecues at their house or on the beach!



Only about 1% of China celebrates Christmas. Paper chains, lanterns, and flowers are hung on plastic Christmas trees.



In Egypt, Christmas is celebrated on January 7th. For over a month beforehand, Christians don't eat any products coming from animals.





The perfect gift for the person in your life who...

Is Harry Potter Obsessed



"Where You'll Find Your True Friends" Wall Art

Loves to lay on the couch



Faux Fur Throw

Knows every line of 'Hamilton'



Young, Scrappy & Hungry Hamilton Stacked Stamped Pendant

Is a major fan of Queen-Bee



LoveYanz "I Slay" gold manta bracelet

Loves makeup



Soft Matte Lip Cream Vault

Is a fit- Junkie



Eat Drink Move Sleep: A Health Tracking Journal

Is your furry friend



Pipolli Dog Teepee

Is a neat-freak



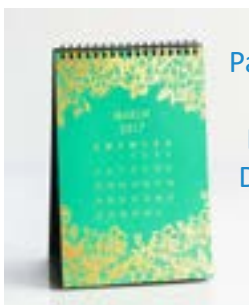
Jotblock Notepad Organizer

Always has the newest gadget



Copper Smart-phone Projector

You work with



Paper Source Gold Foil Desk Easel Desk Calendar

Can't put down their phone



Liz Claiborne Phone Charging Wallet

Just left for college



New Jersey "Homesick Candle" - The candle crafted to "create that feeling of home, wherever you may be"

Tis the Season for Christmas Cookies

By: Elizabeth Rooney

With the holidays around the corner, it's that time of year to start baking and eating your holiday favorites. As the popularity of websites like Pinterest continue to grow, holidays cookies have changed and advanced. Yet, while walking around the school and asking students their favorite Christmas cookies, it was still the classic cookies that came out on top. Whether you're a baker or a cookie-eater, the holidays are the time for you. Celebrate with MHS' most popular below.

Christmas Sugar Cookies

Sugar cookies are sweet and tender with crisp edges. They are a staple during the holiday season and are simply delicious whether they are sprinkled with colored sugar or frosted with royal icing. They can be round or shaped and cut-out into holiday shapes, like stars or Christmas trees. They're an all-time-favorite-sugary treat for anyone during the holidays.



Chocolate Chip Cookies

Everybody's favorite cookie, and an American classic since 1930. The taste and texture varies by recipe, with more people liking it soft and chewy. Commonly made with sugar, flour, eggs, and chocolate chips. A classic that is always a holiday favorite, best served with a glass of milk.



Gingerbread Men

Gingerbread is a holiday must-have during Christmastime. They can either be soft and chewy or hard and crunchy, depending on how long they are baked for. How you decorate the cookies is totally up to you - with popular options pressing into dough before baking, or decorating them with icing after baking.

Gingersnaps

Gingersnaps are sugar-coated cookies made with molasses, butter, brown sugar, and spices. The longer they bake, the crispier they are. How spicy the gingersnaps are depends on the amounts of spices you placed into the batter. A holiday favorite that most likely will appear at Grandma's house this Christmas, probably with a glass of milk.



Peanut Butter Cookies

Peanut butter cookies topped with a Hershey's kiss on top. The kisses are pressed firmly and gently on top of the cookie immediately after baking. These cookies have become an American favorite, but exactly where they originated is unknown. They are perfect during the holidays, enjoyed by both kids and adults alike.



What's Your Favorite

Movie?

Christmas

By: Jenn Forcillo

No other holiday is comparable to Christmas in terms of seasonal entertainment. However, it can get a little overwhelming trying to make sure you see all 25 days of ABC Family's 25 Days of Christmas, but everyone still has their must-see favorites that top all the rest of them. Personally, I could never decide between two excellent displays of the Christmas spirit and filmmaking: Love Actually and The Muppets Christmas Carol. Yes, I know these cheesy movies may not be classics, but to me they represent what Christmas means and they always get me in the Christmas spirit. In my opinion, the best part of this time of year is sitting yourself down with some hot chocolate or eggnog and reciting all the memorized lines to yourself silently while simultaneously getting in the Christmas spirit.



6

Votes



4



9



6



9



7



4

With all this spirit swirling in my head, I decided I wanted to know what Christmas movies gets MHS feeling jolly and happy this cold December. So, throughout the school day, I interviewed students and teachers alike, finding out what they're favorite movie is. Since there are so many movies to choose from I could only include films that recieved more than four votes, however some honorable mentions are as followed: March of the Wooden Soldiers, A Charlie Brown Christmas, A Year Without Santa Claus, Rudolph the Rednose Reindeer, Love Actually and How The Grinch Stole Christmas (remake).



Two Christmases, Twice the Family

By: Elizabeth Rooney

Ever since I was a kid Christmas has been my favorite holiday. It wasn't because I would receive gifts, I love Christmas because of my family. My dad is the youngest of six with four older brothers and one sister. My mom is oldest with one younger brother. They both have many relatives that sometimes you have no clue how they are related to you.

Christmas is a day that brings my family together, but is celebrated in different ways on each side of the family, giving me two Christmases to cherish.

My dad comes from an Irish family and my mom is Russian, so both sides of my family celebrate Christmas differently. For my dad's family we celebrate Christmas in December, but my mom's family celebrates Christmas in January.

The Christmas celebration as I like to call it starts on the day before Christmas Eve. That day my aunt and her family come up from Virginia, and my uncles come down from north Jersey, to Avon where my grandfather lives. We usually have pizza and wait for Santa to arrive on the firetruck where each grandchild receives one gift from Santa. It marks the first time seeing most of my cousins since the summer, and the beginning of the Christmas season for me.

The festivities continue on Christmas Eve. Christmas Eve is a relaxing day for my sister and I, but for my mom- not so much. On Christmas Eve she starts getting stuff ready to cook for Christmas dinner. Sometimes it's easier to not try to help, than to get in her way trying to help out. Then, at 5:00 my family starts to get ready for 6:00 Christmas mass in Avon, where we will meet my grandfather, my aunt, my uncle, and their families.

After mass we head back to Avon for our Christmas Eve dinner. My cousins and I slip into our pajamas and eat dinner in our pajamas. Not many days out of the year could

we get away with it, but on Christmas Eve it is acceptable. My dad reads *The Polar Express* and *Twas the Night Before Christmas* to us before bed. Even though we are now two eighteen and two twenty year olds, it continues to be so special hearing your favorite Christmas stories read to you like when you were a kid.

We wake up in the morning and open the presents under the tree. We have our usual Christmas



breakfast and go home to open the remainder of our presents. After the ripping of wrapping paper is over, my mom starts getting Christmas dinner ready and my sister and I hang out in the Christmas tree room, spending quality time together.

My dad's family comes over and we have Christmas dinner together. Laughter and stories are shared as we eat our dinner. Soon enough it is dessert time, when we unveil the many pies and cakes and cookies to choose from. My family has quite the sweet tooth, so most of

the dessert is gone instantly. We talk about our plans for the rest of break, and before you know it, Christmas is almost over as people get ready to go home.

As each family member says good night and leaves the warmth of our home, yet another Rooney Christmas comes to a close. A good time with tons of laughs and memorable moments, but for my sister and I, Christmas isn't over quite yet.

Christmas break comes to an end and we get back into a regular routine, but as the first week of January comes to a close, I have one more Christmas left to celebrate. January 6 is my mom's Christmas Eve and January 7 is her Christmas. This is the Russian way, of course. We don't do much on Christmas Eve anymore, but when I was younger it was special.

We used to go to my grandparents' house to sleepover, but now we wake up Christmas morning at home and go to church at 11:00. After church we go to my grandparent's house for Christmas lunch/dinner, or as my dad calls it "lupper".

After "lupper", we open our presents from our grandparents and uncle. We then have dessert, which is a special Russian cake, and many chocolate chip cookies. My mom helps my grandmother clean-up in the kitchen. We talk some more, and before you know it the sun has gone down and it is time for us to go home.

With the end of Christmas, I carry on the memorable memories that came with it. Christmas is the holiday I will continue to love, but not because of presents or time off, only because of my family. I am pretty lucky to have two Christmases where I get equal time spent with both sides of my family. Like the song goes: Christmas time for me is "the most wonderful time of the year." It gives me the chance to make Christmas memories with my family that I will cherish for years to come.

The Most Popular Christmas Gifts of 2016



iPhone 7

In this day and age, a new phone is one of the most popular gifts on the market. More specifically, the Apple iPhone 7.

Alarm Clock On Wheels

This alarm clock rolls itself onto the floor when it's time to wake up, forcing you to get out of bed and catch it in order to turn off the alarm.



Hot Chocolate Ornament

Just fill a plastic ornament with hot chocolate mix, peppermint, chocolate chips, sprinkles, or whatever else you want!



Concert Tickets

Who wouldn't want to see their favorite singer live in person? Now is the perfect opportunity to buy concert tickets for the upcoming year.



Fitbit

For the active person in your life, the Fitbit tracks exercise, sleep, calories, and gives text and call notifications from your phone.

Candy

One of the most popular gifts - their favorite candy. Reeses' Cups, M&Ms, or Skittles make great stocking stuffers.



By: Lauren Fielder

Students Tackle Issues in the World

The Blue & Gray Editorials



FAKE NEWS OR FREE SPEECH

Where do we draw the line between the right to speak and the right to be wrong.

By: Mike Rafter

Fake news is not a new invention, but it is running rampant now with the aid of social media. With accusations that Russia tried to influence the election with fake news, and deceitful articles like Pizzagate inspiring violence in Seattle, people are now asking the question: do you have the right to be wrong?

Free Speech lets you do everything besides yell "fire" in a crowded theater. In easier terms, inflammatory speech with the sole intention of being inflammatory is not covered by free speech. However, fake news is much like saying there is a fire in a movie theater down the street, just to scare the people who have family in that theatre, when there really is no fire.

In keeping with the metaphors, what would satire be? Satire would be saying they invented a wooden movie theatre that couldn't catch fire.

This is the main difference between satire news and fake news. Things like MAD magazine and The Onion are either obviously fake or are not seriously harmful. When they do exaggerate, satirists do not make an attempt to convince you that what they are saying is true.

An article saying Paul Ryan voted for Hillary Clinton in Mad Magazine is acceptable. It does not inspire violence and it does not try to convince.

Pizzagate, the most well known fake news story, is fake news that survives off people believing that it is true. It also wants you to believe everything it is saying is true, then go out on a witch hunt after the desired target.

People calling stories like this conspiracy legitimize their claims like they haven't been proven wrong.

So far, this has been a lot of anti-fake news talk, but do you have a right to say something you know is completely incorrect and inflammatory? Well, this is a gray area, so the answer is sort of.

You can't legally tell people what to think, so fake news does have some right to exist. However, they can also be sectioned off and put into their own corner and marked as fake in extreme cases.

Facebook is unveiling a new feature that allows you to flag articles considered phony, and while the plan is yet to be put into action, the plan has some major issues. There is a fear that articles that are controversial or opinionated will be marked as fake just because Facebook editors, or users, don't agree with the point of view expressed.

Using bots to flag fake news and mark them would not be perfect either since bots would not likely be

able to detect obvious satire.

The final and best option would be for the public to combat fake news. The realm of fake news is like a free market. If you want fake news to be eradicated, consumers of media need to be the ones to do it.

Deceitful articles should not be allowed to fester in the undergrounds of Twitter. They need to be brought to the surface and proven wrong. Readers also need to do more research. You may not like Clinton or Trump, and as much as you might want to believe they own a drug trafficking ring, they do not. Wanting something to be true does not make it true.

Again, fake news can't exactly be removed. Fake news pushes free speech and only certain extreme cases should be reviewed. A story like Pizzagate would be considered dangerous, in light of the actions some individuals have taken.

How fake news should be handled will likely be debated for the entirety of this generation. It is a big decision as long as people continue to fall for these inflammatory stories. If it can't be outright removed, then the next best thing would be embarrassing it to a point of non-existence. Whatever the next Facebook and Twitter will be needs to have users that fight to prove things wrong.



THE RETURN OF THE PROTEST SONG?

**Its popular to protest, and
music could follow suit**

By Mike Rafter

“A protest song is a song that is associated with a movement for social change and hence part of the broader category of topical songs (or songs connected to current events). It may be folk, classical, or commercial in genre.”

From the folk rock to punk rock to rap music, there has been a ton of protest songs written over the years. Social media has proven that this generation has a lot of opinions and a desire to say them, so protest songs would be perfect.

Songs like “Ohio” by Neil Young, “God Save the Queen” by The Sex Pistols, and “Born in the USA” by Bruce Springsteen all remain some of the greatest songs ever written. While they remain timeless, they can of course be updated. Immigration, economy, and civil rights are some of the biggest issues America faces, which is similar to the issues faced by America during the 1960’s and 1980’s, times when protest songs flourished.



Protest songs could easily make a comeback. All you need to write a protest song is an acoustic guitar and a message. As shown by Bob Dylan, you don’t even have to have a good voice, just a good message.

Again, this generation has shown to have a desire to take the easy way out, so its a perfect match.

So if the conditions are perfect, what’s stopping it from happening? One major issue is that it has already been done. Between the 1940’s, the 1960’s, the 1980, and the 1990’s, every type and style of protest song has been written and the genre has been starved for ideas for a while. Similar to classic rock, many people view the



genre as already having its hayday, and that time has come and gone.

There is also another issue: America is divided. For every person that hates Trump, there is a person who loves him. Some of his strongest supporters are among young adults, the group that often rebels, protests and steers the future of music. While many politicians argue that it is time for change, and try to rile up emotions, not everyone is on board.

Protest songs require a nation to be united against one common thing, and in reality, our nation is not. There is no topic like Vietnam or slavery that people can unite over; every controversial topic seems to have a 50/50 split. In a weird twist of irony, to protest and to not accept, you need to accept. If the country wants to get together and sing protest songs and work to solve some real issues, it requires us to unite and accept each other. Or maybe rap music is just better.



Bob Dylan, who recently won the Nobel Prize for some of his excellent protest songs written in the 1960’s.

Students Tackle Issues in the World

The Blue & Gray Editorials

Our Culture is Changing and Sports Can't Keep Up

By: Shane Connelly

The number of states that have legalized the use of medical marijuana continues to grow, and it's about time that today's sports leagues evaluate it as a real pain reliever for the athletes who put their bodies to the test for a living. The National Football League displays one of the most violent sports on television, but they still claim that they're doing what they can to help improve player safety. So maybe rather than pumping these players with Vicodin, the league should look into a safer alternative for pain relief.

On November 27th, the NFL announced that they were suspending Buffalo Bills offensive tackle Seantrel Henderson ten games for testing positive for marijuana. Henderson is a sufferer of Crohn's disease and has been prescribed medical marijuana in order to lessen the pain he constantly suffers. He has had two surgeries on his intestines to treat this disease. Now, the NFL tells him that he cannot play because he's using a medically-prescribed substance that's capable of providing relief.

This is Henderson's second



Former NFL Star Ricky Williams is a huge advocate for using medical marijuana for pain relief.

suspension for the same issue. He was first suspended for four games for a positive test, and his second failed drug test this year caused his harsh ten game suspension. He has appealed the ten game ban, but his case has yet to be settled.

Henderson's agent Brian Fettner told the media that Henderson "needs cannabis," and continued, "You can't take pain killers with the way his intestines are." The NFL, however, mandates pills as the only painkillers for athletes who are looking for relief.

Shortly after the news about Seantrel Henderson's wrongful suspension broke, the decorated coach of the National Basketball Association's Golden State Warriors, Steve Kerr, publicly stated that he has in the past used medical marijuana to help his chronic back pain. Kerr, a five-time champion during his time as a player, says that the NBA should look

into lifting the ban on medical marijuana for the sake of the players.

Kerr has seen both sides of the court. He had a fifteen-year career as a guard in the NBA and scored a job as the Warriors' coach in 2014. He's already led them to one title in his short tenure all while struggling with back problems he has dealt with since his playing days ended. Last season, he missed part of Golden State's season while dealing with his troubles. His back pain led him to give medical marijuana a try, and he has since become one of the most prominent advocates for marijuana in sports.

Steve Kerr joins a growing group of supporters that includes high profile figures such as Ricky Williams, Eugene Monroe, and Phil Jackson. All of these men know the rigors of the sports world, and they see firsthand how the big leagues hand out painkillers like candy just so star players can be on the playing field as much as possible. These outspoken individuals realize that if leagues like the NBA and NFL want to stay populated, they need to get

continued on next page



Tackle Seantrel Henderson is looking to get back on the field.



Warriors Coach Steve Kerr says the NBA should research medical marijuana's benefits.

Students Tackle Issues in the World

The Blue & Gray Editorials

Trump's Cabinet: A Synopsis

By: Jeffrey Petrulla

President-Elect Donald Trump has been busy since his victory on Election Day, particularly with vetting possible cabinet candidates. Thus far, Trump has nominated a multitude of cabinet members. Picks include Betsy DeVos for Education, James "Mad Dog" Mattis for Defense, Jeff Sessions for Attorney General, Andy Puzder for Labor, Rex Tillerson for Secretary of State, and Elaine Chao for Transportation. These are likely the most consequential picks for cabinet members, as they stand to shape some of Trump's largest policy points. All of these nominations do still have to go through the Senate and get confirmation, though.



Betsy DeVos

Betsy DeVos is a long-time member of the Michigan GOP, and an ever-present face in the fight over education. Though she lacks any experience in the classroom and has never sat on a school board, she has been a major contributor to private schools. Having gotten a private school education, she is an outspoken advocate for the value of private education over public education. Responses to her nomination have been mixed, with Jeb Bush calling her an "outstanding pick" but Democrats mostly unhappy with the selection.

James "Mad Dog" Mattis is a highly accomplished former Marine Corps General, and Trump's best cabinet pick. He served in most of America's modern Middle Eastern conflicts; from the Gulf War to the Iraq War. Even after retiring from the Marines, he has been instrumental in United States military action; he replaced David Petraeus as the head of United



Gen. James Mattis

States Central Command in 2010 and has been in countless positions of command. According to his colleagues, he's extremely well-read and has kept a collection of thousands of books throughout his career as a military officer. He served in the Marines for 44 years, joining in 1969 and leaving in 2013. The man certainly has experience in military, along with bipartisan backing, having been selected under the administrations of two different parties. We'll see if his continuation in leadership means a continuation in policy.

Jeff Sessions is a current Alabama Senator and a former Alabama Attorney General. Sessions was also nominated for the Supreme Court of Alabama, but his nomination became a major partisan fight. Democrats, backed by the NAACP, claimed Sessions was racist and had a past of discriminating against minorities. Though this was the 1980s, the charge still carried a lot of weight. It lost him the nomination, and remains as a mark on his reputation to this day. However, his Attorney General experience has caught the eye of Trump, along with the fact that Sessions was one of Trump's first endorsers from the United States Senate.



Jeff Sessions

Andy Puzder is best known for owning CKE Restaurants, a gigantic, multinational company that owns Hardee's and Carl Jr.'s. Puzder himself is even more well-known for his controversial positions; for example, being a staunch opponent to raising the minimum wage. He also tends to oppose anything concerning workers' rights, from new proposed overtime rules to healthcare and paid sick leave. He seems to fit right into Trump's the talk Trump broadcasted throughout his entire campaign, but he does stray from the path in one area: immigration. Puzder has said time and time again that he supports the path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, which puts him at odds with both Trump and the Republican-controlled Congress. His views tend to go in accordance with his self-interests, and



Andy Puzder

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Culture is Changing

continued from previous page

with the times.

Medical marijuana is now legalized in twenty-eight states. It has been shown to relieve pain in the head and nerves, soothe muscle spasms, reduce nausea from cancer treatments, and regulate diets for those with debilitating illnesses such as HIV. We're getting closer to a potential nationwide legalization of medicinal marijuana.

Obviously the growing acceptance of marijuana use is a very recent movement. The NBA and NFL have been around for over 60 years, so it's natural that some of their policies are out of date. However, both leagues still maintain that they are all about player safety, but neither has made any progress in researching the positives of medical marijuana usage in players.

The time is now for the NFL to open its eyes to the potential players they will be missing out on if they do

not act soon. They have gone from one of the most respected and innovative leagues to a near laughing-stock of sports. The League office needs to prove that they do listen and they do understand the problems people have with the controversial decisions they make. If the NFL feels the pressure and finally makes this move to lift the medical marijuana ban, we will see other leagues follow suit, and the medical marijuana movement will reach one of its largest milestones yet.



Secret Talent?

By: Rachel Irizarry



Left: Rebecca (left) and Rachel (right) posing while mom takes the picture.

From a very young age, my sister Rebecca and I always loved to sing. Whether this was at our birthday parties for family and friends, or in our room for one another, we were always singing. If singing in front of family wasn't scary enough, we never anticipated that would we be singing for our high school classes and be auditioning for America's Got Talent. This is where our lives would change forever.

This passion for singing began when we were about seven years old. Our older sister got us tickets to go see Hannah Montana live in concert, which was where the magic happened. After the concert was over, we knew that we wanted to be up on that stage singing in front of millions of people, and inspiring them with our music. Rebecca and I would never tell anyone in elementary school that we wanted to become professional singers.

That all changed once one teacher found out during our freshman year of high school. I walked into my fifth block health class on a regular Thursday in December and sat down at my desk. My teacher, Mr. Hyland told us he would be picking partners, then we would interview one another and share with the class what we had learned about the other person. I wondered to myself - why are we doing this? This was a health class, not English. Once we got our partners we started to interview each another.

One question that my partner asked me was what I wanted to be when I grow up. I said I wanted to become a professional singer, and this is where everything changed. When it was our turn to talk about each other my partner went first and talked a little about me. Once she finished talking, it was my turn to talk about her, but before I could even get a word out, Mr. Hyland asked me a question I didn't really want to answer.

"Rachel, I didn't know you could sing." Oh no, as soon as he said that, I immediately regretted telling my partner that I wanted to sing professionally. My stomach started to twist, and I felt the dread for what would inevitably happen next, which it did. I replied without hesitation that I do sing, but I have major stage fright and I am very shy. Adding onto that I told him that I only sang with my sister Rebecca.

This is where I need to learn how to keep my mouth closed. Once I said that, a stu-

dent said that Mr. Hyland should go get her and I yelled back: "No way!" I was terrified that Mr. Hyland would go get Rebecca, and we would have to sing right there, right then. I hadn't been ready to sing, and I felt I would never be.

He finally decided that Rebecca and I would have to sing acapella the following day in class. Once the students found out, I wouldn't be able to say no and disappoint them.

The only thing left to do was to break the news to Rebecca and that part was tough. If she agreed, we wouldn't have time to waste, because we'd be performing that next day. As soon as we got home, I told her. I told her that it was a funny story and that I made a deal with my class that we would sing tomorrow. Of course she didn't think it was a funny story, so she started to yell at me. I explained to her that it would be a good way to get rid of our stage fright, and a good way to get our singing careers started.

She finally agreed, so we sat down and started to choose a song to sing for my class. It wasn't that hard to pick a song since we already had a song that we practiced often, and felt we were good at. This was, "What Makes You Beautiful" by One Direction.

The next day, Mr. Hyland announced to the class that Rebecca and I will be singing "What Makes You Beautiful." Everyone was excited, except for me. I felt like I would pass out. Rebecca and I had never sung for more than ten people, and my class had about twenty-five students.

Before we started to sing, Rebecca had to face the board since she was nervous. On the other hand, I faced everyone because I wanted to see their reaction. We were both scared at first, but as we progressed into the song, I was becoming less anxious and happier.

Once we were done singing, students stood up and started to clap. Rebecca and I looked at each other knowingly, that that was what we were supposed to do as a career. Our faces were red from the excitement and the rush.

Mr. Hyland advised us, saying that we were good, but



Right: Hannah Montana/ Miley Cyrus Best of Both

Below Left to Right: One Direction members Niall, Louis, Zyan, Liam, and Harry performing on the 'Today Show.'



continued on next page



Above: America's Got Talent Judges left to right; Nick Cannon (Host), Heidi Klum, Simon Cowell, Mel B, and Howie Mandel.



Above: Justin Bieber performing "Down to Earth" on his world tour.





Secret Talent?

continued from previous page

we needed to slow down just a little. I was glad he gave us advice, because it would help us if we truly wanted to become singers. That piece of advice has stuck with me throughout my years.

Since we sang on a Friday, on Monday many people still were coming up to us and saying that we did a great job and if they had the ability to sing they would have never done what we did.

For the next three years, Rebecca and I would sing for at least three classes per year, because I never really learned to close my mouth about us singing.

Soon we took it beyond the walls of Manasquan High School. If it wasn't for Mr. Hyland in freshman year, I never would have had the confidence to audition for America's Got Talent. But two years ago, that's exactly what we did.

Although we didn't make it, that didn't stop us from trying. This year we will audition online again for America's Got Talent, and I'm also hoping that Rebecca will agree to go to the "open call" audition in New York in January. If she doesn't do it with me, I may have to just ride solo. This would be a big step since, like I said earlier, I always sing with Rebecca.

But if it does happen, I will at least

be a little bit prepared.

This year I have Mr. Hyland as a teacher again, this time in Emergency Clinical Care. Having him again as a senior I was sure he would make me sing in front of the class again. As it turns out, he didn't make me sing in front of the class. This time it was different. Because instead of him saying something, it was me.

As part of a class project we could bring in treats like baking or pizza, but for me, it was the power of my voice. I was very hesitant to raise my hand but at one point I just shot my hand up. Mr. Hyland called on me and I said I would sing in front of the class.

I could tell he was shocked when I said that. He knows that I am a very shy person and that I don't talk a lot in class. He said he would have to come back to me and sure enough he did. Just a few moments later he said I can sing for the class but there was an unexpected twist. Most of my class had already heard me sing, so it wasn't anything new. Rebecca isn't in the class with me so I would have to sing all by myself.

This made me feel nervous. Rebecca and I always sing together but this time – I would have to come out of my shell and do it on my own. On top of that, there was a twist. Mr. Hyland said I wouldn't know when I would have to sing. One random day he would come into class

and tell me that I would have to sing that day.

As days passed by I was very anxious and always trying to be on top of my game. I kept practicing every chance I got. I ended up choosing "Down to Earth" by Justin Bieber. This was because even though I had multiple songs, Rebecca wanted me to do a Justin Bieber song.

In October, the day finally came. He walked into class and announced that I would be singing. My face started to turn red and I was trying to think of a way out. But I finally got up, and stood in front of the class, and started to sing the song. The first thing I noticed was that I wasn't as nervous as I thought I would be. I had done this more than once throughout high school, and I was pretty comfortable with it. Once I finished the song, everyone started to clap.

Even though I always loved to sing, I never thought that I would be singing for multiple classes during high school. Looking back on it, if I had never sung for my health class, I probably would of never have auditioned for America's Got Talent. Now I'm thinking of even trying for The Voice.

If I ever make it onto TV, I will definitely owe it to Mr. Hyland for making me come out of my comfort zone.



Trump's Cabinet

continued from page 23

it makes sense that someone who employs thousands of immigrants takes these sort of views.

Rex Tillerson is the current CEO of Exxon Mobil, and soon to be our Secretary of State. Tillerson is known for having extremely close ties to Russia, which will prove to be interesting after Russia's alleged involvement in our election. He's so close with Russia that Vladimir Putin actually awarded him the Order of Friendship, an award signifying friendship to the country. Aside from the concerns about Russia, Tillerson has faced criticism over having never held public office before, and having



Rex Tillerson

no diplomatic experience. However, the man heads one of the largest American corporations in the world. He's spoken with many nations over the course of his career, and will hopefully fill the position well.

Elaine Chao is a trailblazer for Asian Americans; she is the first Asian American woman to be appointed to the President's cabinet, and the only cabinet member to be in George W. Bush's cabinet for both of his terms. She has served as both Deputy Secretary of Transportation under George H.W. Bush and Secretary of Labor under George W. Bush. She's also married to the Senate Majority Leader, Mitch McConnell. Though Chao is certainly a qualified pick, arguably the most qualified out of all the nominees, she brings some controversy. Many voters were behind Trump because he promised to "drain the swamp," or



Elaine Chao

clear out the public figures who remain in office while doing a poor job. Chao is viewed by many as a member of the establishment, regardless of how good of a job she does. This conflict between Trump supporters and Trump's establishment nominees should be interesting to watch, and it certainly will go on.

Cabinet picks are extremely important, as they're the head advisors to the president. Most will be almost completely in charge of policy in their respective field, so I'd hope that they all know what they're doing. Trump's current picks aren't awful, but keep in mind that they're not final by any means. They still have to be formally approved by the Senate in a vote. There's also more cabinet positions that need to be filled as of the time of this publication, which can go a number of ways based on speculation. However, Trump has proven time and time again that speculation is virtually pointless when it comes to his administration. Only time will tell who he picks for these positions.



Entering a Mellow State of Mind

By: Abby McHugh

When I first stepped into the Mellow Mushroom in Atlanta, Georgia, I was transported back to the 70s. Psychedelic art lined the walls as disco played in the background- the only remnant of modernity was the Monday Night Football emanating from the bar.

Mellow Mushroom pizza is a 70's themed pizza and sports bar that began in Atlanta, Georgia and is based primarily in the south. With a new location that opened on December 19th in Toms River, I decided on a recent trip to Atlanta to visit the original location and see what the buzz was all about.

Hoping to cool myself from the hot weather, I first grabbed a ginger ale and ordered my appetizer- or "munchies", as the restaurant prefers you call them. I chose the Muffaletta Cheese Bread and the Meatball Trio to start. The cheese bread was warm, fresh French bread topped with tasty mozzarella and parmesan cheese and a three-olive tapenade. Easily the best cheese bread I had ever tasted, I soon found myself entering the mellow state of mind they so expounded upon. Next was the Meatball trio, three meatballs grilled with fresh mozzarella on a bed of red sauce sprinkled with breadcrumbs. Although a bit heavy for the warm weather, it was still satisfying, although not as good as the cheese bread.



Next came the main course- the pizza! I started out with the basics- the pepperoni pizza was the perfect combination of tomato



sauce, cheese, and pepperoni. The buttery, cheesy crust was the perfect ending to an amazing slice of pizza. The Kosmic Karma pizza didn't disappoint was well- with red sauce, feta and mozzarella, with spinach, tomatoes and a pesto swirl, my taste buds were transported by a pizza I didn't know was possible. Although I had never had a veggie pizza before, I tried the Mega-Veggie, with tomatoes, spinach, peppers, mushrooms, onions, and black olives. Although I was not a fan of the black olives, people who care for them might deserve giving the oft-overlooked slice a second chance. I lastly ended with their aptly-named "Holy Shiitake Pie", with a base of oil and garlic base, button and Portobello mushrooms with caramelized onions, mozzarella and MontAmore cheeses, finished off with a garlic aioli drizzle and black truffle oil, garnished with fresh chives and parmesan. Although at that point I was saturated by pizza, the amazing ingredients in the slice still made it enjoyable.

Mellow Mushroom is a great mid-price restaurant to bring someone on a date or to go grab some pizza with friends for a fun night out. Overall, if I could choose one pizza to eat for the rest of my life, no question it would be Mellow Mushroom- I am a new devotee. Hopefully the Toms River store lives up to the standards of its counterparts so like-minded pizza-aficionado like myself have a new place to call home.

What's Your New Years Resolution?

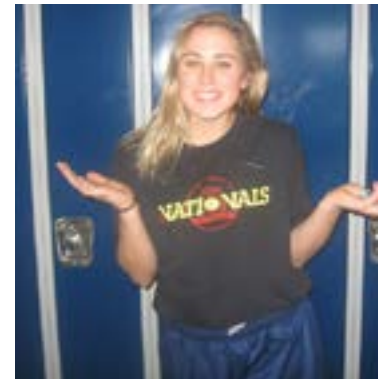
By: Nicole Zito and Leah Tilton

New Year's is a brand new fresh start. A page has been turned. A new chapter in life waits to be written. New questions to be asked, new people to be loved, and new faces to meet. An, of course, new goals waiting to be met. You have the power to create your world again. Start now.



Matt Kavanagh

I want to keep my grades up and hang with my friends before college



Addie Masonius

To be the happiest I can be and to stand on top of my world.

Annie Heenan (below left)

I plan on keeping my friendships strong and spending time together before we leave for college



Brendan Reilly (on Adam's back)

Avoid the disease known as "senioritis"

Adam Schreck (holding Brendan)

To get in shape for baseball season

Abby Rice

My main goal is to get in shape for my trip to the Bahamas for February break. Also I say every year intending for it to work, but to stop drinking soda.



Battlefield 1: A Must-Buy Historical Shooter

By: Jeffrey Petrulla

Battlefield 1 had my highest expectations out of this year's game releases, and it met all of them. Taking place during World War I, the game is focused around the devastation and pervasive death surrounding the war. Certainly a depressing theme, but the realism is refreshing for the first-person shooter industry. Call of Duty has become less realistic than Halo, which is literally a game about fighting alien life forms. Battlefield 1 has weapons that (roughly) fit the time period, a reasonable damage meter, and actual historical battles that occurred during WWI. As a history buff, I can't get enough of it.

Aside from the conceptual parts of the game, the gameplay is entertaining, the servers have been working exceptionally, and the graphics are gruesomely beautiful. I've been able to play with friends whenever I want; EA fixed the glitches in the frostbite engine with "Squad Join" (a feature that allowed you to join a game with friends, but occasionally put you on other teams). Now, you're always with your friends and in the same squad using the new "Party" system.

The new "Operations" game mode puts you in the shoes of a soldier partaking in an actual campaign undertaken by a WWI power. Your team is either attacking or defending objectives across 2-3 maps; attackers win when all have been taken, and defenders win when the attackers run out of tickets. The fresh twist on multiplayer has been widely welcomed, and for good reason. It's quick and intense, filled with action and memorable moments. Nobody will forget the first Dreadnought they sank, or the first Airship they grounded.

Single player, like most Battlefield games, is not the central focus of the product. Yet, I have no complaints. EA managed to create a compelling story, with dynamic characters packed into a few hours of action and missions. The spatial extent of the Great War is effectively displayed in these "War Stories," with missions from Lawrence of Arabia himself to the Battle of Cambrai in Germany.

My only true complaint is directed at Electronic Arts (EA) itself, the notorious winner of "Worst

Company in America" in 2012 and 2013. They managed to use Battlefield 1 as yet another cash cow. Usually, they use games like FIFA or Madden for this, but they've recently taken the step of pushing the greed on First Person Shooters. They dismantle content that should be in the base game, and offer it as paid Downloadable Content (DLC). Except this time, they've offered actual integral pieces of history as DLC instead of including it in the base game. It actually sets a rather unsettling precedent, considering historical video games offer their own historiographical perspective. When a company decides to shut out France and Russia, two of the most consequential participants in WWI, it's just wrong.

Not to mention that they put the United States on the forefront of their WWI narrative, which is just plain disrespectful to countries that were central to the conflict. In World War I, the Americans participated for one year, and lost about 100,000 men. Russia and France fought for almost the entire conflict (4 years, with Russia pulling out a bit earlier with the Brest-Litovsk Treaty) and lost around 2 million and 1 million troops, respectively. Blatantly ignoring history in favor of consumerism rubs me the wrong way. Though I must say, this is quickly lost on me after playing awhile. Battlefield attempts to show the brutality of the war, which is rather reassuring considering most first person shooters glorify violence. Either way, a game is a game, and it does its job.

My final verdict is that the game is definitely a must-have. I can't get enough of it since I've bought it, racking up an unnatural amount of hours in a short amount of time. I've only leveled up fifty times in the amount of time that I've applied to two colleges. I'll definitely be stepping it up. Hopefully, I'll be seeing all of you on the battlefield.



T. E. Lawrence, aka Lawrence of Arabia, makes a cameo in the campaign.





MANASQUAN FOR GENERATIONS

By: Leah Tilton and Nicole Zito



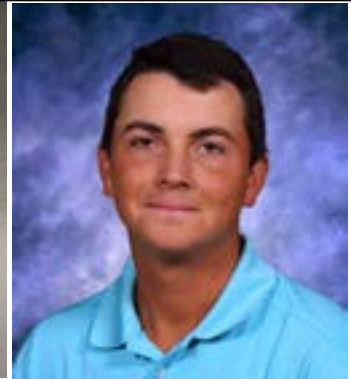
James Abbott



Kyle Abbott



John P. Devereux



John A. Devereux



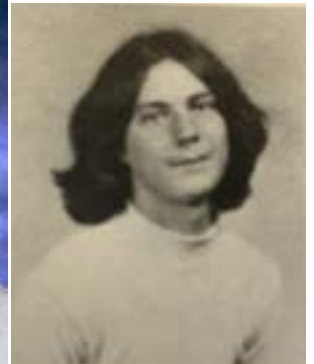
Carter Condoluci



Ralph Condolusci



Leah Tilton



Floyd Tilton



Robert Waldeyer



Jessica Waldeyer



Peter Schreck



Adam Schreck

See more
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Jack Nolan



Edward Nolan



Michael Lapoint



Jim Lapoint

Madden 17: A Step in the Right Direction

By: Shane Connelly

Electronic Arts has had the exclusive license of the National Football League since 2004, which means they are the only company that owns the rights to create a football game that contains real NFL players, NFL coaches, and NFL franchises. Without having any competition, the most recent releases of the Madden series have shown minimal improvements and a lack of attention to the requests of the community. The yearly release schedule makes it difficult to revamp the game completely, but *Madden 17* is a much needed step in the right direction for EA Sports.

Madden 17 was advertised as a game with a much larger focus on the Franchise mode of the series. Franchise mode allows the player to assume the position of owner, coach, or player on any of the thirty-two NFL teams. As an avid Franchise mode player, I admit that it has greatly improved from last year's game.

In the past, EA has made changes to Franchise mode, which turned out to be, quite frankly, awful. That all changed this season, as they added features that the community has repeatedly asked for. With the inclusion of features such as a practice squad, full player editing, and dynamic development traits, it looks like the developers are actually trying to please the fans for once.

When EA released Madden Ultimate Team

NFL rookie Jalen Ramsey appears in his first Madden game.



A cinematic screenshot of Antonio Brown (left) stiff-arming Von Miller (right).

mode in 2010, it turned into the central focus of the developers, and moved Franchise mode into the background. Madden Ultimate Team (or MUT) is a feature where players can purchase fictional football cards and build a lineup to play against others. Since this mode allows people to purchase these fake cards with real money, EA has favored Madden Ultimate Team over the other features in the game, in order to make the most money possible from customers.

MUT has remained stagnant over the past few years, as EA follows the old saying "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." This year is no different, as it did not receive any new features. They still have the same promotions they had last year, and it is still the same tempting money grab it has been since its creation.

The overall gameplay itself has gotten slightly better. EA toned down the ridiculous circus catches that plagued *Madden 16*, and they also improved the running game, so a poorly rated running back can't put up the same stats as Le'Veon Bell, the league's best back. Many have complained that there have been too many fumbles by quarterbacks this year, but that can be adjusted by sliders and I haven't run into that problem personally.

Overall, *Madden 17* is finally a step forward for the series after multiple disappointing releases in the past. If EA maintains focus on Franchise mode and continues to be active in the community, the game could continue its positive trend. Obviously, if you're a football fan like myself, you'll buy this game just to get your fix of simulated football, and if you're just looking to try out Madden for the first time, this game is a great starting point. It's the best edition of Madden in years, which isn't exactly saying much, but I'd urge any sports fans to give this one a try, especially when it inevitably goes on sale for the Christmas season.

HOROSCOPES

By: Amanda Karp

Aries

You will be approached by a six-foot man dressed in all black, with a silly-band in the shape of a phoenix sometime this week. Take his advice.

Taurus

The five small children that were in your backyard yesterday want you to know that it is safe to approach them. They will not bite.

Gemini

There has been a great disturbance within town recently. Do not go into the old shack behind the diner.

Cancer

The aliens are coming tomorrow, and want to know if they can make their base camp in your house.

Leo

You don't have to agree with your parents, just understand that it's for your benefit that you don't touch the octopus in the dining room.

Virgo

Small children are not to be trusted. Especially your neighbor's kid. He will steal everything you hold dear in a matter of hours.

Libra

The clouds parted the other day, and because you were on your phone, you missed the sign calling you. It left a message and wants you to call back soon, please.

Scorpio

Listen, there's a vampire that lives across the street. Do with this information what you will, but a garlic-infused dish would be a good idea for dinner tonight.

Sagittarius

There's a blinking red light somewhere, which needs to be shut off. Ask Old Man Arnold for further directions at the coffeeshop.

Capricorn

No matter what your younger sibling says, Friday Night Sacrifices should not become a thing. The gods won't be pleased.

Aquarius

If you decide to make cookies, do everyone a favor and avoid using the peppermint oil. We know that you go heavy on the stuff and it doesn't taste good.

Pisces

Look, we all know you're talented. But that doesn't mean that flamethrowing should be your first career choice.

Disclaimer: The above is not to be relied upon. The stars were unaligned and the moon was red.



BLUE & GRAY SPORTS

Page 32

Boys Basketball Starts 3-0, Looks for More Shore Conference Success

By: Abby McHugh

The Manasquan Boys' Basketball Team hopes to continue another year of dominance in the Shore Conference in its first game against Ocean Township on Friday, December 16th.

A season-opening victory over Ocean, by a score of 72-55, was followed by two more wins, the second a tough one over rival RBC. Three victories is a great way to start the season.

"We're really excited," senior Seamus Hogan said.

The team, led by seniors Tyler Hobbie, Devin Jensen, Seamus Hogan, and Jack Miles, is ranked 5th in the



One of the highlight's of last year's season: The WOMB Christmas Classic.

Shore Conference after finishing last year with a 24-4 record. The team made it to the state championship final, and the group semifinal, before falling to CBA and Bordentown, respectively. Although they had a successful season, their losses still linger in the player's minds.

Seniors Hogan, Hobbie, and Jensen look forward most to the opening night: "We love being at home, and seeing the crowd." Their games are usually packed to the brim with fans and rowdy students- last year, a playoff win culminated

with the bleachers in the student section being broken by the excited crowd. The boys say their number one goal

this year is to beat the teams that bested them last year: "CBA, Borden-

town- we want to avenge those loses," Hobbie says.

Coached by Mr. Bilodeau, the boys face a tough schedule this year, highlighted by games with RBC, Middletown South, Wall, Rumson, and St. Rose. The boys will also be playing in the ever-popular WOBM Christmas Classic later this month. The boys say they look forward most to these rival games: "That's when we perform our best, when there's the most pressure and the biggest crowds," Jensen explains.

The team lost numerous seniors last year, including Ryan Jensen and Jack Sheehan. Jensen currently plays basketball at Division III TCNJ, while Jack Sheehan plays baseball at Notre Dame. Devin Jensen says having a brother in college has given him perspective: "I've seen him play a bunch of times. It's really given me motivation for this season".

For the boys, their last season at Manasquan will begin with high expectations, tough games, and a large, rowdy fan base- and they wouldn't have it any other way.



Devin Jensen wins MVP of the Boardwalk Basketball Showcase last year.

Schedule:

12/16: Ocean Twp. @ Home
12/20: RBC @ Home
12/22: Long Branch Away
1/5: Middletown So. Away
1/7: Battle On the Boardwalk Away
1/10: Wall Away
1/13: Middletown North @ Home
1/17: Monmouth Regional Away
1/19: Ocean Township Away
1/21: Marlboro @ Home
1/24: RBC Away
1/27: Long Branch @ Home
1/30: Middletown South @ Home
2/2: Wall @ Home
2/4: Rumson FH Away
2/7: Middletown North Away
2/9: Monmouth Regional @ Home
2/11: St. Rose @ Home
2/12: Linden @ Roseeale Away

On~The~Rise Wrestling Team Blends Excited Newcomers with Season Veterans

By: Abby McHugh

Mansquan Varsity Wrestling hopes to get its season off to a good start on December 17th at Old Bridge High School.

Last season was a tumultuous one for the team. Although the team had a 5-19 record, it was also the first season since head coach Mr. Voskian's takeover of the team that the filled all 14 weight classes. Voskian says he is confident that is veteran roster will improve on their record from last year: "We really only graduated one senior this year [Kevin Pompilio, who now wrestles at Division III University of Scranton]. We'll be able to fill all of the weight classes again, which is a major accomplishment."

If one team doesn't fill the weight class with at least one person, they automatically forfeit points to the other team. For smaller schools like Manasquan, Voskian says, "Filling the weight class can be a struggle, and I'm happy that we can do it again." He adds, "We have some great seniors like Joey Ostberg and Frankie Faasen who are going to do well this year."

Voskian is especially excited for the only female wres-

training partner Shawn Saulys. She said she's most excited to "Kick some butt" this season, and has aspirations of "going



Junior Francis Faasen wrestles in a meet against Keyport last season.



The team practices before a meet last season.

tlar on the team, Bella Serrano. After an incredibly successful freshmen season, where she won 10 matches against boys in the 106-pound weight class, Bella has been training hard at Kurt Pellegrino's in Wall to make this season even better. She trains 6 days per week, every day except Sunday, and lifts with

undefeated". Her highlight from last year was placing 3rd in a field of 14 other boys at a late-season tournament. On wrestling, and being a girl, Bella says "It's almost an advantage. Last year, I had wins because people forfeited, they didn't want to wrestle me. I'm never uncomfortable- but they are, and that's already a mental advantage for me." In her 106-pound weight category, she mostly wrestles freshmen. She finds that this is another advantage: "There uncomfortable. They don't know what its like to be in the ring. And, they're wrestling a girl. For me, it's a great situation to be in."

Junior Francis Marshall, a football player, is joining the wrestling team this year after training for many years at Kurt Pelligrino's, the same gym as Bella's. He hopes to go undefeated this year in the 152- pound weight class, and said he is most excited about "starting to train with the Manasquan team. Practices started the week after Thanksgiving, and it's been going really well. I'm looking forward to the season to start."

The season preview on their website also hints at the season to come. The team has been moved into the B- North

continued on next page



BLUE & GRAY SPORTS



Page 34



By: Nicole Zito

The 2016-2017 Boys Ice Hockey team returns to take the ice for yet another year wearing blue and gray. The team is coached by Manasquan's very own, Jim Fagen. Mr. Fagen returns as the boys' varsity ice hockey coach for another year.

Manasquan started their season off playing Rumson-Fair Haven. The Warriors fell short, losing by a final score of 5-3. Nick Ventura scored the first goal for Manasquan, and after that Mitch Grogan poured in two more points. The loss against the Bulldogs didn't discourage the boys from playing their hearts out the next game. The Warriors faced Toms River North and fought hard, yet again were defeated by a final score of 7-5. Nick Ventura scored once for the Warriors, while

both the Grogan's added in one point apiece. Luke McNamara and Conor Murray both had an assist.

In the third game, the boys took on Ocean Township and swept the ice. Manasquan Senior Mitch Grogan scored the first goal of the game for the Warriors, followed by an additional goal added by Aidan Tolnai. Then Marc Grogan slid in another goal along with Luke Sepe scoring for Manasquan. The final score of that matchup was 4-2, with the Warriors taking home their first victory of the season.

The returning varsity seniors for this year are; Marc Grogan, Mitch Grogan, Nate Chapman, Evan Runfola, and Anthony Davila. Other key players for the Warriors include juniors Connor Tuzeneu and Nick Ventura. Sophmores; James Conte, Liam Farrington, Al Monterverdi, Ryan O'Leary, Ryan Scott and Aidan Tolnai.

Come see a game and support the team! We wish the boys best of luck with the rest of their season continue making Manasquan proud!



*Left: Squan player dominates the ice last year.
Right: Squan player goes airborne.*



On~The~Rise Wrestling

continued from previous page

division, which sets up matches against Wall, Long Branch, Middletown North, and Ocean, which is a "dramatic upgrade" for the warriors. Juniors Francis Faasen and Joey Ostberg, who combined for 35 wins last season, look to be one of the most fearsome duos on the 160-170 weight class this season. It also predicts seniors Jordy Martinez and Dylan Ownes to have "breakout sea-

sons" under their "wealth of experience".

The team starts off at the aptly-named Icebreaker Tournament in Old Bridge on December 17th, and open up their dual meet season home against Barnegat High School on December 19th. Look forward to reading more about Bella and the rest of the squad's matches this year in The Blue & Gray.



Winter Track is Coming

By: Shane Connelly

Winter is on its way, which means the 2016-2017 Manasquan High School winter track season is coming up soon. The team is already assembled and practicing, as their first meet is on January 4th at the Colts Neck Invitational.

This year's team is composed of sixty-five individuals competing in a variety of events such as hurdles, 400 meter, shotput, and pole vault. I was able to catch up with Ms. Zdanowicz, one of the track team's head coaches, and asked her about the upcoming season. She told me that this year is more of a "building year" for the team, as nearly half of the athletes have no prior track experience.

Though the team itself is young,

there are some returning stars who emerged last season. Ms. Zdanowicz complimented senior Brona Nielsen, sophomore Colin Flood, and juniors Meg Cobb and Dan Kelly. She pointed out that these athletes are the best of all the returning players, and they'll be looking for more of the same success this year.

The track team hasn't always been in the limelight at MHS, but this year the team has seen quite a large growth in numbers after many have observed the success they've had of late. Ms. Zdanowicz remarked that the team is "a lot larger" this year compared to last season, which is a good sign for the future of the team. With a lot of young competitors, the coaches will be able to develop the unexperienced athletes while those who have competed before will get their time to shine.

Ms. Z says that she's expecting "a successful season" despite the fact that the team is so young. The new additions to the team will be looking to gain much needed experience this year. The veterans will be looking to add some



Last year's award-winning relay team, (left to right): sophomore Grace Weber, Sophie Smith (graduated), senior Brona Nielson, and junior Meg Cobb posing with their medals.

more medals to their decorated mantles. Luckily, the track team has some time to practice and get organized, as their first meet is a couple weeks away.

MORE MANASQUAN FOR GENERATIONS



*Abby
Rice*

*Christine
Sciarappa*



*Christian
McCloskey*

*Robert
McCloskey*



continued
from
page 29



*Thomas
Reichy*

*Declan
Reichy*



*Karen
Redeker*

*Chris
Heilos*



WHAT CHRISTMAS CAROL ARE YOU?

START HERE

BY: JENN FORCILLO



WHEN DOES
CHRISTMAS
START

ONCE THANKSGIVING
IS OVER

DECEMBER 1ST



FAVORITE
SEASONAL DRINK

EGGNOG

HOT
COCOA



BEST WAY TO GET IN
THE CHRISTMAS
SPIRIT

BLASTING
CHRISTMAS MUSIC

ABC FAMILY 25
DAYS OF CHIRTMAS

WHATS BETTER,
GIVING OR
RECIEVING
PRESENTS

RECIEVING

GIVING

DO YOU HAVE A
FAKE OR REAL
TREE

FAKE

REAL

FAVORITE
CHRISTMAS COOKIE

SUGAR
COOKIE

GINGERBREAD

ARE YOU NAUGHTY
OR NICE?

NAUGHTY

NICE



END HERE

All I Want for Christmas Is You (Extra Festive) Mariah Carey

- Nothing gets you in the Christmas spirit more than this classic jam. You obviously follow in Mariah Carey's footsteps of being the biggest diva at Christmas by belting out every last note of this iconic hit. Of course it's also the perfect song to sing or lip sync on snapchat to your crush this season. It is impossible for you to not sing along once it's playing and you might not hit that high note but you're sure as heck going to try and no one will stop you!

Walking In A Winter Wonderland Dean Martin

-This classic is for all the snow lovers this Christmas season. It flawlessly describes how you feel when the snow is falling so beautifully, making for a white Christmas. Martin's smooth vocals make for the perfect to song to hum and sing along to under your breath while decorating your tree with the family. The 1959 throwback is most definitely on your parents playlists that plays continuously the 25th.

Baby It's Cold Outside Idina Menzel and Michael Buble

This melody is the perfect way to drop a hint to your crush and a shout out to all the flirts out there during peak cuffing season. If you love getting in the holiday season super early anything Michael Buble was made for you, but this special duet was made for people who adore spending the season with their significant other and a cup of hot cocoa. You're the best gift giver and don't mind tagging along during other people's shopping.

The Christmas Song Nat King Cole

-Nothing tops this holiday season anthem, especially by none other than Nat King Cole, and you are no doubt love everything Christmas. The smell of the tree, 25 Days of Christmas on ABC Family, candy canes and hot chocolate, giving and receiving presents- you were made for December. As the countdown to the 25th gets shorter and shorter your excitement can't be contained and you'll be subconsciously singing this song everywhere you go.