

# The Blue & Gray

## Manasquan High School

December 2016



## Warriors Win State

## Championship!

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**Spirit Week: Seniors Rule!**



*Junior Connor Morgan sprints for a touchdown in Manasquan's dominating 42-6 victory over Bernards*



# The Blue & Gray Manasquan H.S.

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Principal:  
Mr. Rick Coppola

Adviser:  
Mr. James Mawn

Staff:  
Shane Connelly  
Lauren Fielder  
Jenn Forcillo  
Rachel Irizarry  
Amanda Karp  
Abby McHugh  
Jeff Petrulla  
Mike Rafter  
Liz Rooney  
Leah Tilton  
Nicole Zito

## Key Club Food Drive: Another Year, Another Sweeping Success

By Jeff Petrulla

This week, the Key Club Annual Food Drive has hit Manasquan High School by storm. Mrs. Basaman and Mrs. Hoeler, the organizers of Key Club, have had extensive success this year. On November 18th, I entered the library 5th block in search of Mrs. Basaman for an interview, but was instead met by a sea of various food. When I finally found Mrs. Basaman, she said that there was a literal "truckload" of food in front of me; a pickup truck filled to the brim with food items dropped it off. This was all in addition to the stuffed garbage can you may have seen next to the library, all donated by members of Key Club.

The Food Drive's dona-

tions all go to local families that have expressed their neediness. Last year, an entire twenty-two families were supplied with food for Thanksgiving. These families all live within the sending districts and have members who attended or graduated from Manasquan High School. Some even go to MHS now.

Many of the families are also included in the Wish Tree Christmas fundraiser. This year, Key Club reached out to forty-five different families. Not all families will take the offered support, though. There's actually been less sent out than last year, as more elementary schools have developed programs to help feed

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***Food was first spread all about the library, then organized into boxes for each family on November 18th by a few Key Club members.***





# Museum: A Quirky Drama for MHS

By: Amanda Karp

The Drama Club's production of Tina Howe's *Museum* was performed at the Jack Nicholson Theater from November 3<sup>rd</sup> through November 5<sup>th</sup>. It was roughly an hour and a half of watching various characters cycle through the set and talk amongst themselves, while the audience observed the interactions that occur.

In the program's Director's Notes, Mr. Weisert wrote, "I'll bet you have thought once or twice about 'Someone should write a play or story about all these kooky people'" - which Tina Howe did, with relative success.

The play has no real plot, an odd premise, but what's important to remember is that many plays have strange premises. The many characters that make their way through the stage are as memorable as they are forgettable - in how they are presented to the audience.



Above: Tina Howe in 2014

When they are in view of the audience, the characters are displayed in an honest way; as realistic people with odd characteristics who will cycle in and out for the entirety of



Above: (left to right) Adam Dayton, Matt Dellegrippo, and Luke Morgan in MHS's fall production of *Museum*.

the play, as though actually visiting a museum. The one constant was the observation of the Guard, played by Adam Dayton.

The way in which characters entered the scene and began - or continued - their dialogue brought a fresh take to the show. Normally, when a scene begins, whether it be a play or a chapter in a book, the audience gets the full conversation, from beginning to end. But in *Museum*, the audience is often greeted in the middle of a conversation, which was interesting to see.

There were many memorable moments in the show. A major commotion was caused by round-headed clothes-pins, and the encounters between Will Willard (Connor Hughes) and Bob Lamb (Ryan Swanson), two snooty friends critiquing the art, each aiming to make themselves more in-

tellectual, and therefore more pretentious than the other.

There is also Tink, played by Delaney Heffernan, who has an unhealthy obsession with artist Agnes Vaag after a walk in the woods with her, collecting animal bones. Tink becomes increasingly obsessed with the sculpture that Agnes has put forth, going so far as to tear apart the work, much to the chagrin of the Guard, who is constantly pulled in different directions due to trouble-making museum goers.

There was one shortcoming in the show, the lack of plot, which sometimes caused some confusion. This took away some of the enjoyment from Howe's work. But besides that, the play was well done, as it had a great cast that was able to carry the dialogue and humor, and make it enjoyable.

Be sure to look out for the Drama Club's upcoming spring musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*, which will premiere March 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, and April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. Auditions will be held Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, the 6<sup>th</sup> in the auditorium.



## Key Club Food Drive

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the community, leaving fewer families in need for the high school to help.

The amount of food given to those families that Key Club does support is remarkable. Each large family gets a stuffed bin of food, in addition to a packed cardboard box. The donations are generous, to say the least. All leftover food is donated in one huge donation by Mrs.

Basaman to the Monmouth Food Bank, the largest food bank in our area. There's always so much food that she has trouble carrying the donation by herself, so it's safe to say that they're satisfied by the Key Club's work.

So, congratulations Mrs. Basaman, Mrs. Hoeler and all of the members of the Manasquan High School Key Club for having all of their hard work pay off in such a visible success. It makes me proud to be both a Manasquan student and a 4-year member of the Key Club. Good work!



*Above: Jersey Shore Medical Emergency/*

# Real Learning: A Trip Into The Medical World

By: Rachel Irizarry

There are many great reasons why you should take Mr. Hyland's Emergency Clinical Care/Sports Injury Management class. One reason is because students get to get out of class occasionally, to go on clinical rotations and field trips. You get to see real world experiences firsthand.

On Thursday, November 17th, 2016 our class took a trip to Jersey Shore Emergency Department/Trauma Center to have a tour. This would be a once in a lifetime opportunity for us students.

Coming up with the curriculum and teaching this class for several years, Mr. Hyland always wanted to put a trip together that was unique in many ways. Mr. Hyland explains that "It's important to see the different careers that the emergency department/trauma center has to offer."

Some students who want to go into the medical field may not have a direct path that they want to take, so Mr. Hyland tries to show students as many careers as he can during the semester. This is so to help those who are unsure what they want to do and steer them to make the best choice for their future. This a great chance to see what the emergency department has to offer.

On the other hand, some students knew already what they wanted to do before taking this class. For instance, senior Mike McGovern wants to go into criminal law or do something with medicine. Another student in this class, junior Gabby Popovitch knew before that she

wanted to go into the medical field because she had an interest in biology. After the field trip she says that "I am more interested in the medical field than I ever was. This was a great experience."

Students taking this course arrive at the emergency department around 11:45am. Following this, the doctor takes the class up to the helicopter pad. While I was going up in the elevator many things were going through my mind, such as "how am I going to handle seeing a trauma patient being rushed in?" and "how long does it take for the victim to get from the accident to the trauma center?"

One thing that shocked many people was how calm the trauma team was while going up to the pad, since a code red emergency was announced over the speaker. Once we got to the floor of the helicopter pad we waited a few minutes for the helicopter to arrive. Seeing the helicopter land on the pad was a once-in-a-lifetime chance. We arrived just at the right moment to see the team in action.

This part of the tour was definitely a crowd pleaser. Most of the class agreed that seeing the helicopter land was a favorite. Senior Kat Wynd, for example, said it was pretty cool to be able to have a look at what goes on when a trauma victim arrives by helicopter. After they transported the victim down to be evaluated we got the chance to see what was in the helicopter.

We headed out onto the pad and, man, was it high! If you are afraid of heights, DON'T LOOK DOWN! What shocked most of us was how small the inside of the he-

licopter was. The helicopter can only fit one victim, the pilot, and two or three medical trained professionals (Paramedics). One interesting fact about the helicopter was that there is a weight limit so if you go over, the victim has to either be transported by ground or by another helicopter that has a bigger weight limit and more supplies available. After we got to see what the helicopter looked like, we headed back downstairs to have a tour of the emergency department.

Since Jersey Shore is a Level Two trauma center, which means there are always two trauma surgeons on call. Trauma centers are rated by five levels of emergency. Level One being the best of all trauma centers, and you have a greater chance of surviving a catastrophic event. Level Two trauma center works in collaboration with the level one and provides comprehensive trauma care and supplements the clinical expertise of a Level One. Level Three doesn't have the full availability of certain specialties but does have the tools for surgery and intensive care of most trauma patients. Level Four trauma centers exists in some states where the resources do not exist for a Level III trauma center. They provide initial evaluation, stabilization, and then transfer patients to a higher level of care. A trauma-trained nurse is immediately available, and physicians are available upon the patient's arrival. Finally, a Level Five Trauma Center provides an evaluation but will eventually transport you to a higher level trauma center for care.

If one surgeon is in the OR (operating room), the other one can be in the trauma bay waiting just in case another trauma comes in. In the ER there are at least five doctors on

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# Manasquan Running Strong as the #1 Blood Drive Donor



By: Lauren Fielder

November 4th was this year's Manasquan High School fall blood drive, hosted by Mrs. Kozic's Health Career Academy and the Central Jersey Blood Center. Contrary to past blood drives, this year the school allowed people from the Manasquan area who weren't students to come in and donate blood too!

Participants reported to the gym throughout the day for their chance to give blood and for many of the donors, this was their first time doing so. To make the experience more relaxing, music was played and those donating were encouraged to chat with the people around them. Additionally, water bottles and a wide array of snacks were provided to keep everyone hydrated and feeling good.

"I was light-headed but I feel great knowing it's going to a good cause," said junior Jennifer Arias, shortly after giving blood. Throughout the day, the lines were longer than ever and the gym was filled with students waiting to make their donation. "THIS BLOOD DRIVE IS LIT!" yelled senior Rachel Irizarry while filling out some of the required paperwork and happily missing some classtime.

Students belonging to Mrs. Kozic's Health Career Academy helped run the blood drive. They stayed in the gym for the duration, giving out food and water and making donors feel more comfortable.

"My class is running the blood drive," said senior Annie Condoluci, "I'm interested in the health careers and I enjoyed asking the phlebotomist questions." Fortunately, the Health Career Academy students were there not only to make students comfortable, but also to keep anyone from passing out. "I enjoyed holding my friend's hand while she was donating and helping her afterwards," added Annie.

If you're interested in participating in the spring blood drive later this year, you must be 17 years or older and weigh at least 120 lbs. at the time of the donation. Students will be given the opportunity to sign up one week prior to the event.

Even with the long waiting times, many students and residents of the community came to support the cause, so it's safe to say Health Careers Academy fall blood drive was a successful one.



***Above (left): Seniors Salma Guzman and Dalia Gonzalez, students from the Health Career Academy advertising the blood drive. (Right): Senior Annie Condoluci and junior Gracie Harman collapsed on the floor later that night at work.***



# A Wonderful Night at the Theater: Students Inducted into National Honor Society

By: Abby McHugh

On the surface it seemed like an ordinary school night, but on Tuesday, November 15, some of Manasquan's best and brightest students gathered in the auditorium to be inducted into the National Honor Society. This year, 42 students joined as the new class was hailed as the largest group of inductees ever.



*Former member Sara Kirk speaks to the new inductees.*

The night started out with Sara Kirk, a former inductee, being honored a recognized alumnus. She told the new inductees about how her time in NHS has affected her: by discovering her passion for community service, she decided to major in public health at Franklin and Marshall University, and while at college she took part in many different community activities. Fresh out of school, and working at a media compa-

ny in Hoboken, Kirk says her beginnings in NHS helped her become the person she is today.

After that, each of the new inductees gave a short speech about a teacher that had affected them most. Honored teachers included Mrs. Radzinsky, Mr. Bryant, Mr. Voskian, and Mr. Fagen. There were also teacher representatives from such sending districts as Manasquan, Brielle, and Avon.

Junior Maggie Kelly's chosen teacher was Mrs. McHugh. "I've known her since 6th grade. She was my basketball coach. I knew as soon as I got in that she was my pick". For her summer community service project, she ran a summer basketball camp to raise money for pediatric cancer, pulling in \$600 in the process. She also volunteered at the Manasquan Girls' Basketball camp this summer. "I wasn't nervous for giving the speech" Maggie says, although she later admits she was flustered when "the microphone wouldn't reach my mouth!". She spoke about how Mrs. McHugh encouraged her to join basketball, a sport she loves and now represents Manasquan in.

Although Jenna Stanley, another junior, was nervous about giving her speech, she was comforted by her sponsor, MES science teacher Mr. Markovich, who she says "has always been there for her." She says she chose Mr. Markovich because "he was the one who got me really interested in science." Now, as a successful student taking classes honors classes and AP Biology, she credits her education at MES, and especially Mr. Markovich, with putting her on the path that led her to become the

inductee she has become today.

When recounting their favorite moments of the ceremony, both girls find the lighter moments to be the ones that will stick with them the most. "My favorite part of the ceremony is when Emily [McLaughlin], a senior and member of NHS, couldn't get the candle to light. It really broke the tension, and made me feel at ease," Maggie says. Jenna agrees, "When Savannah broke the microphone, that was really funny. It made the whole ordeal of giving a speech easier, knowing that at least I wasn't going to drop the microphone in front of everyone!". They also had a lot to say about the catering: "I had the BEST cupcake," Jenna remarks, with Maggie adding "The brownies were SO good!"

Teacher honoree Mr. Battaglia said he will remember the night as one that ran smoothly despite the obstacles: "Even with all of the inductees, the shortened speeches really made the night flow. It took the same amount of time as last years, even though there were almost double the amount of kids!"

Mr. B added the night is one of his favorites of the school year and credits National Honors Society adviser Mrs. Fenlon for running "a fool-proof operation".

Mrs. Fenlon remarks that she is "incredibly



*The new inductees hold up their candles to be inducted.*

proud" of the new inductees, and although she says she is "surprised" by the sheer amount of applicants and eventual members this year, she says "the quality of their work hasn't decreased. If anything, every year the projects keep getting better." She credits her new co-advisor Mrs. Jaeger with helping her out with the logistics of the evening: "she helped with food, decorations, everything really". The ceremony was the first for Mrs. Jaeger, who joined MHS last year: "I really enjoyed the evening" she says, saying that her favorite part was "watching the kids speak about their favorite teacher."

Former inductees have headed to such prestigious colleges as Princeton University, the University of Virginia, Cornell University, and other, high-ranking schools. More importantly, inductees have gone on to make real change in their communities, with many members in college taking part in events in college: students like Gill Black, a freshman at Penn State and former member, now takes part in Penn- State a thon,

*continued on next page*

# National Honors Society Induction

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*Mr. McCarthy speaks to the students to end the night.*

a charity that helps raise money for kids with pediatric cancer.

Overall, the night was a reflection of the type of teens who roam the halls of Manasquan every day: bright, motivated students dedicated to themselves and their community. The candles that the members held shone brightly into the night, just as the futures of Manasquan's best and brightest students.

## ***Congratulations 2016 Inductees, and Sponsors!***

### ***Inductee.....Sponsor***

Cassidy Turnbach, Kendall Grogan, Sara Lynch, and Bridget Walsh ... Mrs. Ward  
 Sarah Galvin, Dayna Van Pelt, Emily Magrini.....Srta. Radzinsky  
 Maggie Kelly, Lindsey White, Jessica Waldeyer.....Mrs. McHugh  
 Carlie Butz, Jessica Collinson, Phoebe Mervine.....Mr. Murin  
 Alyssa Juhasz, Lyndsey Starkey..... Maestra Griffith  
 Julianna DeGenova, Gracie Herman.....Mr. Minutoli  
 Erin Weber, Ally Vernaglia.....Mrs. Dougherty  
 Jessica Grable, Mikayla Keating.....Mr. Murin  
 Erin Nolan, Abby Kinneally..Mrs. Cardamone  
 Annie Butler, Hoa Huynh.....Mrs. Emerson  
 Madison Dettlinger.....Mrs. Eastmound

### ***Inductee.....Sponsor***

Daley McCallum.....Sra. Anderson  
 Sara Rupertus.....Mr. Roach  
 Cole Hallman.....Mr. Glenn  
 Madison Rydholm....Mr. Bryant  
 Sean Dickenson.....Mr. Freda  
 Bella Feldmann.....Sra. Eldridge  
 Colby Mallet.....Mrs. Kozic  
 Gabrielle Farneti.....Ms. Marco

### ***Inductee.....Sponsor***

Maximilliam Strapp.....Mr. Fagen  
 Marilyn Shaugnessy.... Mrs. Trischitta  
 Thomas Antonucci..... Mr. Lee  
 Kevin Lin.....Mrs. Edwards  
 Jenna Stanley..... Mr. Markovitch  
 Savannah Hobbie.....Ms. Caravella  
 Grace Brzozowski.....Mr. Abraham  
 Joseph Ostberg.....Mr. Voskian

## Medical World

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system where you can call another neurosurgeon in another state via facetime and have them do a consultation. This is a pretty neat thing to have on hand. During the tour the doctor explained to us that the ER rooms are in ABC order which makes it easier to find patients. She then explained that everything on one side of the ER is identical on the other, so that the staff doesn't have to run back and forth to find certain things they

need. Finally, the next thing we saw was where the CT and X-Ray machine were located.

Once we finished the tour, we said thank you and headed back to school to finish out the school day. This was a life changing experience for all of us who are taking this class. We got to see a different view of all the craziness that happens in an Emergency Room/Trauma Center. If you want to do anything in the medical field, or if you love Mr. Hyland as a teacher, I would sign up for this class. You get to see some amazing things and have some great opportunities that not everyone gets in high school.

# Squan-A-Thon Committee Visits Local Hospital

By: Abby McHugh



The students hear from Child Life Expert Sara Aubarch.

Members of the Squan-A-Thon Committee, along with advisors Mr. Battaglia and Mrs. Basaman, traveled to Jersey Shore Medical Center on November 18th to visit the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. The trip was a team-building activity for the Squan-A-Thon members, many of whom are working hard on making next April's event out of this world.

Senior and Communications Leader Jenn Forcillo says the trip "was really inspirational. It was rewarding to see what Squan-A-Thon actually does. When I saw what Squan-A-Thon donated to the hospital; it was awesome." The Squan-A-Thon team donated a new media center, complete with a Wii, computers, and I-Pads, to the teen media center in the hospital. The substantial donation helped fund the operations of the child life department at the hospital.

Sara Auerbach is a Certified Child Life specialist at the hospital. She credits Squan-A-Thon for delivering the much-needed iPads to the hospital, saying that "We don't get a lot of donations for 2-years and under and 13-and over. Teenagers like to use iPads- this is a big help."

Mr. Battaglia was also inspired by the trip as well. "We got some great ideas from the trip," he says, adding that "I can be the liaison for the committee to the hospital. The kids have a lot of ideas- with their help I think we can get a lot of fun stuff to make the kids stay a little bit better."

Squan-A-Thon is just around the corner for members of the committee, although the event, scheduled for April 17th, seems far away. Forcillo says that "she's already started working on stuff for Squan-A-Thon next year." She's made videos, held meetings, and helped spread the word about dancer registration. She advises people interested in dancing next year: "Make sure to pick up your dancer card, and start fundraising. If you want, there are canning opportunities available if you ask Mr. B."

Mr. B also offered advice to those who are unsure who to send a donation solicitation card to: "Send them to everyone! You may think your uncle in Montana might not want to donate, but you'd be surprised. We've had donations from every state in the U.S."

The next Squan-A-Thon money due date is 80\$, the day before Christmas break. Be sure to see Mr. Battaglia or Mrs. Basaman if you have any questions!

# MHS Provides Students Voice in Leadership

By: Rachel Irizarry

This past summer Manasquan Schools' superintendent Dr. Kasyan and principal Mr. Coppola sat down and talked about different ways to make MHS better for students. They decided to create a new group called Student Leadership Advisory Council.

This new council consists of administration and students. They will meet four times a year in the administrative conference room; Mr. Coppola and Dr. Kasyan want to give students in the council an opportunity to have a voice in the leadership of the school. Dr. Kasyan explains that this was the main purpose of the original discussion. Student Council Representatives from grades 10, 11, and 12 were invited to join the council, due to being chosen to be their class representatives.

Senior Ally Johnson, who is a part of MHS Student Council, was excited to join the new Student Leadership Advisory Council because she wants "to have the best senior year possible." She says that she wants to make her last year of high school fun for all of the seniors. She was excited for the opportunity to improve the school by meeting with Dr. Kasyan and Mr. Coppola.

At the four meetings throughout the year, the council will discuss a variety of topics. These can include any upcoming events, any concerns, and any policies that the students feel need to be brought to attention. For example, the council recently discussed how they can make spirit week, the homecoming dance, and pep rally day better than previous years. The council also had a part in creating this year's schedule for the day of the pep rally.

The goal of the Student Leadership Advisory Council is to provide a forum for the students to discuss anything they feel that needs to be noticed. With all of this said, Dr. Kasyan hopes that the new council will be a great success and help make MHS a better school.





# MHS Powderpuff

By: Nicole Zito and Leah Tilton



Seniors and Juniors went head to head on Sunday, November 20, battling each other on the Vic Kuba Warrior Field in the annual Powderpuff game. Though it was a hard-fought game, the seniors prevailed by a score of 16-14.

The game started with junior Harley Pilling taking a handoff from quarterback Camryn McTighe, running through the defense, and scoring the first touchdown of the game. But the seniors responded, as quarterback Jackie Kurtz tossed the ball to running back Nicole Zito, who ran the ball all the way to the one-yard line. The seniors set up for another play, and Kurtz ran the ball through to tie the score.



*Seniors Squad poses for a picture after their win.*



*Seniors celebrate their win by lifting Annie Heenan into the air.*

The juniors battled back though, with a handoff to Meg Cobb, and scored their final touchdown. Going into halftime, the seniors came together and decided to they couldn't let the juniors have the satisfaction of a victory. Out of the locker room they stormed onto the field, blasting "The Purge", and came back ready to win. In the fourth quarter, Kurtz handed the ball off to Zito, who ran it in, and the seniors were once again even. However, being tied was not enough. Senior Annie Heenan intercepted the ball to stop a junior drive, and then scored a safety by pulling Harley Pilling's flag in the end zone to give the seniors their first lead.

With the score at 16-14, controversy came. The seniors fumbled the ball, and while that causes the ball to become dead in Flag football, junior Gabriella Farneti picked up the fumble and attempted to run the ball in for a touchdown. The referee declared that the play did not count, and that was the game.

So the seniors came out on top in Powderpuff 2016. They played like true warriors one last time. Don't worry juniors, there's always next year!



*Senior Kelly Negra and juniors Cammy Carton and MaryLou Becker dive for the ball.*

## TRASH



## TALK

"We're going out Sunday, clear eyes, full hearts, can't lose"- Senior, Jackie Kurtz

"Keep your eye on the ball"- Senior, Kelly Negra

"Juniors are gonna win, obviously"-Junior, Arielle Falkinburg

"Watch your back, the seniors are coming"- Senior, Annie Heenan

"Juniors are all talk, no action"-Anon

"I'm nervous, but I've been excited about it since freshman year"-Junior, Annie Ragan

"Juniors shouldn't be so quick to talk, Seniors are taking the Dub"-Maddie Dettlinger

# Excitement, Creativity Rule the School During MHS Spirit Week

By: Liz Rooney

As Thanksgiving break came and went, so did Spirit Week and Homecoming here at MHS. Each grade level was able to show the school the hard work and dedication they put into their class themes as MHS prepared for the annual Thanksgiving game verse Wall. The colors stayed the same as freshmen were white, sophomores were green, juniors were yellow, and seniors were blue.

Students arrived at school at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 22 with tape in hand, ready to decorate. As they meet in their designated hallways student council representatives barked out orders handing off the decorations. Some students stayed in their hallway to help with the decorations there, while others migrated to the gym to start decorating their assigned bleachers. As the evening progressed the themes started to come alive.

This year seniors were "When You Wish Upon a Senior", with the theme being Disney. The seniors began the entrance of their hallway with a cardboard cut-out of the iconic Disney castle. Then as you walked down the hallway each locker was a VHS tape of a Disney movie followed by characters above the lockers on the wall from various Disney movies. Stars hung on the ceiling, there was a wall of senior wishes at the end of the hallway, and the Hall of Fame hallway was turned into the Mickey Mouse Clubhouse.

In paying tribute to MHS graduate Jack Nicholson the juniors decided to have a Hollywood theme as they became "Jack's Juniors." The lockers were decorated with golden Oscars and a red carpet was taped onto the floor for the first few feet of the hallway. On the wall were popcorn and movie tickets on black paper. There was a banner of Sunset Boulevard and signs about achieving your dreams. On the doors of classrooms were caution tape that read "No paparazzi allowed."

The sophomores chose a popular movie that most students know and love as they became "Soph Wars" this homecoming, a gesture to the popular franchise Star Wars.



Above: Seniors impressed with their castle-entry. Below: Juniors reference MHS's beloved Jack Nicholson in their Hollywood theme..



They opened their hallway up with a banner that read "Soph Wars" in the well-known Star Wars writing. Then in the hallway there was a green and black paper chain and the lockers were green lightsabers that said Jedi with every student's name on it. Above were pictures of the various characters from Star Wars and posters that read about beating Wall.

Freshmen decided to choose a well-known children's author to center their theme. From the illustrations and stories of Dr. Seuss they became "One Frosh, Two Frosh Red Frosh Blue Frosh." As you entered



Left: The freshmen impressed with their Dr. Seuss theme, but the sophomores won the competition with their highly original Star Wars theme (below).







*Above juniors participate in tug a war to defeat the sophomores*

the hallway it was red and black and was all about *The Cat in the Hat* with Thing 1 and Thing 2 posted on the lockers. The next section of the locker was then dedicated to *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* with one giant paper Christmas tree and wrapping paper covering some lockers. Then there were fish with students' name on them and trees that looked like they came from the pages of a Dr. Seuss book.

Some might have called it chaos in what was taking place that night, but to many it was tradition, as students plastered up their decorations and watched their hard work come together. Students were told to finish up decorating as last minute touches were made and the clock struck eight. The school was completely transformed in just a few short hours.

Entering MHS on Wednesday morning, November 24, it was not any ordinary day. For some teachers and students, it is their favorite day here at MHS. Students came to school with many being dressed in their class shirts that they decided to buy. The hallways and gym still decorated from the night before. Classes were short since it was a half day with a pep rally. Students by fifth block were ready to be called

down to the gym for the pep rally to cheer on their classmates as each grade and teachers went head to head.

Each grade level was called down to the gym separately. Bleachers filled up quickly as the entire student body and faculty migrated into the gym for the annual pep rally. Students and teachers alike were ready for the pep rally to begin.

After Mr. Coppola welcomed the students and urged Squan to beat Wall, Mr. Buss took over the microphone and called upon each grade level to make their presence

and dance line.

This year student council wanted to try something new - a school wide mannequin challenge. After giving grief to teachers for not being more creative in their poses, Mr. Buss told students and teachers were told to stop moving. The camera went around capturing students and teachers in their poses as MHS had successfully performed its first a school wide mannequin challenge.

The bubblegum pie contest and the balloon popping contest followed, as students got louder and louder in the bleachers. Juniors and seniors went back and forth with their chants. When the relay race began, it was clear that it would be a race between juniors and seniors. The final leg of the race came down to leap frog as seniors Riley Martin and Daley McCallum hopped their way to senior victory.

Then came what many will call the highlight of the pep rally; nerf

*Below Seniors compete in tug a war advancing to the next round against the juniors*



*Below the cheerleaders finish their pep rally performance*



known. Freshman and sophomore bleachers were loud when called, but not nearly as loud as the juniors and seniors. Students were wound up, but before the games began it was time to pay tribute to the fall sports.

As each sport was called, team captains came down to talk about their season and mention senior players. The fall sports were recognizable followed by a performance by the cheerleaders

football. Up first was freshman versus seniors which the seniors won without trouble. Then the sophomores and juniors went head to head and played hard, with the sophomores eventually winning. Then the seniors and sophomores battled back and forth. The seniors scored a touchdown then followed by a touchdown by the sophomores. The game went to overtime and then double-overtime, until the seniors finally scored a touchdown to take the victory.

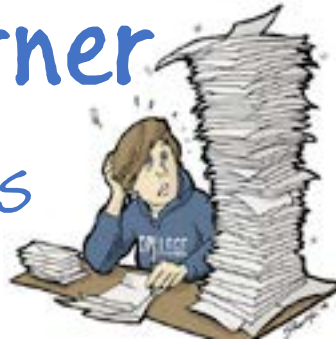
Finally the seniors went against the teachers in the last game of nerf football. The teachers tried their best, but were eventually handed the defeat by the seniors. The teachers however did find

*continued on page 19*



# College Corner

## ADVICE to SENIORS



### This Month: 9 Reasons to Go to Community College

By: Mike Rafter

**1. It's cheaper:** College is getting more expensive every year and student debt is growing rapidly. However, going to a community college relieves both of these issues and allows you to pay off whatever loans you take for college by the age of 30.

**2. An Ivy League degree is not needed in every profession:** Unless you are looking for a six figure job or highly competitive profession right out of college, your degree is not necessarily that significant. The fact that you have a college education is often more important.

**3. You don't have to go full time:** If you are working part-time, or not ready and willing to go to college full-time, community college has you covered. You can easily take a small number of classes at a time and go through the steps at your own rate.

**4. Convenience:** While many students like to travel and get away for college, there are also many students who do not want to travel. Going to community college and then transferring your credits to a state college is the best option.

**5. Personalized, less intense classes:** While most universities have massive classes with professors who have little time to connect to students, community college has more of a high school feeling in the way of size and student / teacher relations.

**6. Transfer to your college after:** Community college is only for two years, so you can always transfer to a school you want to go to. While not every school will accept the credits, many state universities will allow you to transfer. They also have transition programs with certain schools to make it even easier.

**7. Online classes are easy:**

In keeping with its simple theme, many community colleges offer online courses that students can take, meaning you hardly have to travel or leave the house to get an education.

**8. Something to fall back on:**

If you don't get into the school you want or are looking for something simple, community college has you covered. It is also easy to go to community college later in life without much hassle.

**9. Anyone can get in:**

Much like public school, they accept just about everyone. It is not a top level school, but it is still a college that gives degrees.

*special thanks to BuzzFeed Magentah*



# Congratulations, You Graduated from High School. Now What?

By: Lauren Fielder

During this time of year, high school students are normally finalizing applications or looking at colleges. Even after exploring different options, most are wary about the decision of what to do with the next four years of their life. Believe it or not, there is a place you can go for four years, get paid a full-time salary, gain invaluable career experience, and be offered endless opportunities to further your education – and it's not a university. It's the military.

Out of everything pressuring students today to go to college, whether it be parents, teachers, siblings, social expectations, or personal uncertainty, many forget that they don't have to follow the conventional college route. Not to mention, most people have no idea of what the Armed Forces has to offer.

There are many misconceptions about our military. You may have seen movies with soldiers doing crazy stunts, dodging bullets, or avoiding explosions at the last second, but the truth is most of what you see on TV or at the movie theater is inaccurate and unrealistic. Not everyone in the military is even involved in combat - in fact, about 80% of the jobs in the military are non-combat occupations. Ever wanted to be a photographer, chef, or veterinarian? What about a doctor, lawyer, or scientist? The military offers all of these jobs and more. Additionally, it is common for companies to seek out veterans for their leadership skills, training, and good work ethic.

So why might you do those jobs in the military

*Staff Sergeant Stacy Pearsall, aerial photographer, at the Charleston Airforce Base.*



*ROTC cadets participating in a training exercise at Buffalo State University.*

instead of in the civilian world? The benefits offered are different from normal civilian occupations. First off, you can't really get "fired." As long as you abide by your contract and don't do anything dishonorable or illegal, you're guaranteed to have a stable job with consistent pay. Secondly, the benefits are generous. You and your family are entitled to life insurance, along with medical and dental care for little to no cost. All active duty troops receive 30 days of paid vacation per year and are typically offered the option of living on-base or off-base with allowances for housing. While off-duty, service members can even travel to different countries around the world and stay on-base, absolutely free.

But what if you still want to go to college? Most universities offer ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps), a course you sign up for, just like any other class, where you learn about a certain branch of the military and participate in field exercises. If you plan on staying in the military for a few years after college, you can apply for an ROTC scholarship which offers payment for books, housing, and 100% of tuition. For someone who'd rather have the option of going to college after being in the military, you can use the G.I. Bill, a law passed for service members to pay full tuition and college fees, along with money for buying houses and other expenses.

Regardless of how you'd like to spend your time after high school, it is a good idea to consider a wide variety of options that may appeal to you. Unfortunately, the military is often overlooked or misrepresented to high school students, however, the more information you have, the better the chances are of making a decision that is right for you. Good luck!



# What's Your Number One?

*With college application season in full swing, the pressure is on to decide which college you're going to. You thought your family harassing you at Thanksgiving was bad? Imagine a Blue and Gray reporter asking you out of the blue and taking your picture to accompany it. These bold few stepped up to the plate; here's their college picks.*

**By Jeff Petrulla**



**Jenn Forcillo**  
"Tulane University"



**Kate Callahan**  
"John Hopkins University"



**Ivan Garcia**  
"Virginia Tech"



**Justin Condoluci**  
"St. Joseph's University"



**Logan Roddy**  
"Miami University" (Ohio)



**Maddy Harkness**  
"Albright University"



**Brendan Reilly**  
"Fordham University"



**Ben La Macchia**  
"Art Center College of Design"



**Spencer Westcott**  
Clemson University

***Good luck to all of you  
readers on getting into your  
Number Ones.  
Remember, shoot for the  
moon, and you'll be sure to  
land amongst the stars.  
And don't stress too much  
about Number One, because  
there's always Number Twos  
and Number Threes!***



**Kaitlyn Calabro**  
"Virginia Tech"





# Food Baby Season Is Upon Us

By: Jenn Forcillo



Thanksgiving is the best holiday for all foodies. This is a national holiday purely celebrated for the exchanging of food between the Pilgrims and Native Americans in 1621.

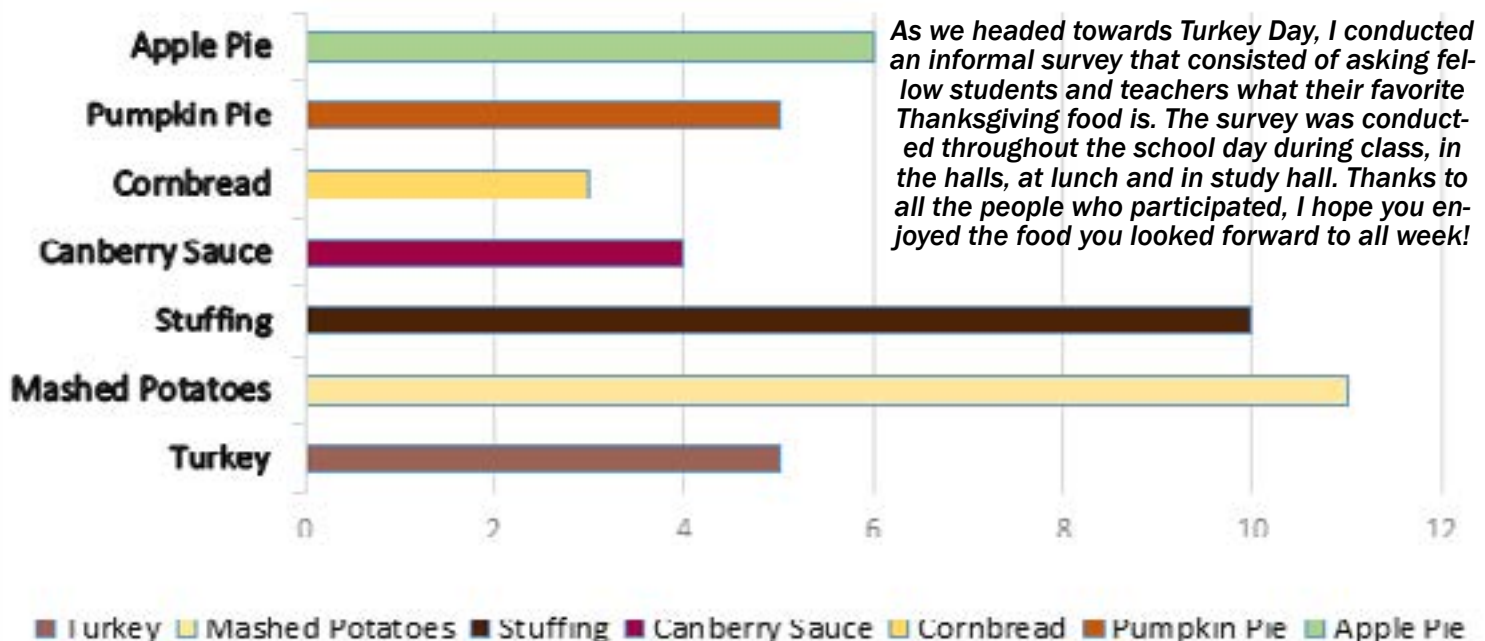
You can fast for a few days beforehand to make sure your belly is empty for all the food you're about to consume, or you can stretch it out by eating in excess for days before. Take your choice.

Whatever your preparation is, we all know there is one food, one dish, you cannot wait to gobble down. There's the classics of course, like Aunt Sally's mashed potatoes with gravy or Grandma Bertha's homemade pumpkin pie with a dollop of whip cream. So, we're ready to report on MHS's favorite Thanksgiving food that was eaten in gallons as leftovers the last couple days.

Mashed potatoes came away with the win with a total of 11 votes, while stuffing came in a close second of 10 votes. Despite Pumpkin pie being the poster desert for Thanksgiving, Apple pie beat it out with 6 votes compared to 5. Pumpkin pie tied the main dish of turkey with a total of 5 votes. Canberry sauce gathered 4 votes while cornbread tallied 3 lowly votes.



## Favorite Thanksgiving Food



# The Blue & Gray

## FEATURES

### The Curse is Broken: Cubs win World Series

By: Shane Connelly

History has been made. The Chicago Cubs have won the Major League Baseball World Series. After a hard-fought seven game series versus the Indians in which the Cubs returned from a 3-1 series deficit to take home the title. This is the first time in 108 years that the Cubs have finished the MLB season as the world champions.

The Cubs had the longest active championship drought in sports history before their remarkable 2016 season. The season started strong for the Cubs at 8-1, but so early in the season a World Series wasn't exactly in sight. In May, the team managed to generate their best start since 1907 by going 24-6, an impressive record, but nothing compared to what lay ahead.

The team reached their first big bump of the 2016 season when they approached the All-Star break, as they dropped 15 out of 21 games. The Cubs' record in July was 12-14, the first time since manager Joe Maddon was hired that the team was under .500 in a month. Despite this, the Cubs went into the month of August with a record of 63-41, still leading the MLB.

After a tough July, the Cubs rallied for a strong August, as they built up a 15 game lead in the Central Division. They continued the hot streak into September. At this point, the Cubs were absolutely looking like World Series contenders, and the playoffs were quickly approaching.

The Cubs won their division and went up against the San Francisco Giants in the National League Division Series, the Cubs first step on their



*Cubs teammates celebrated the victory moments after Anthony Rizzo caught the final out.*

road to the championship. The Giants previously won the title in 2010, 2012, and 2014, but they could not continue their biennial trend in 2016. The Cubs took the first two games by scores of 1-0 and 5-2 respectively. Game Three went to the Giants in a close 6-5 game, but the Cubs returned to take Game Four with the same score, this time in their favor, to win the series.

In the National League Championship Series, the Cubs faced off against the Los Angeles Dodgers. Chicago came in with confidence and got the win in game one at their home stadium Wrigley Field. The Dodgers had a minor resurgence, snatching games two and three from the Cubs, but the Cubs returned to form in a landslide victory 10-2 to tie the series. The momentum from Game Four carried on into Games Five and Six, and the Cubs advanced to the World Series.

The World Series was by far one of the best baseball championships of all time. The Chicago Cubs and the Cleveland Indians faced off in a historic series with nearly fifteen million people tuning in to watch history in the making. The series was long and hard fought, as the Cubs had to return from a 3-1 deficit in order to be crowned champs.

Just like it would be in a movie, the series came down to game number seven. Both teams were fighting for a long awaited title, and it was evident in this game. Chicago got a head start from a leadoff home run by Dexter Fowler. They held on to their

*continued on page 21*





# The Blue & Gray

## FEATURES



### Gone Fishing...

By: Nicole Zito

The Fishing Club at Manasquan High School dives into its second year with the fishing guru himself, James Freda. Along with Mr. DeMuro and Mr. Wasnesky, Mr. Freda hosts all of the club's meetings and is in charge of what comes next within the club. The club was originally created by sophomore Alec Monteverdi when he was a freshman last year at MHS, and Alec now continues his second year as president of the club.

When I got the opportunity to get the inside scoop about what the club discusses I had very eager responders.. Senior Jack Nolan said, "Usually we have meetings every week or so. During the meetings we usually discuss what type of fish has the best bite during that time of year and Mr. Freda informs us about upcoming tournaments occurring in our area."

Recently a few of the club members had taken part in the Striped Bass Tournament over the weekend and a few had placed, both on boat and up on the surf. Sophomore Alec Monteverdi, had taken first and second place aboard a boat this weekend, Senior Andy Beer

took first place in the surf, catching a gnarly 35-inch Bass weighing in around 15 pounds. Sophomore Keaton Fortney placed third out on the water.

With the upcoming year many of the members of the club are excited to get out

on the water and fish. Many of the students who are in the club also informed me that they work on fishing boats out of their towns and fish throughout the year. Seniors Andy Beer and Frankie Faasen work out of Belmar aboard the, Miss Belmar Princess, Junior Jared Nolan works out of Point Pleasant aboard the Queen Mary and Senior Jack Nolan works out of Brielle on the Jamaica II.

The Fishing Club is always welcoming new members to join. Whether you've had prior knowledge of fishing or want to begin learning how to do so, the Fishing Club will be active throughout the school year.



*Jared Nolan with his Bass*

*Senior Jack Nolan shows off his Striped Bass*



*Andy Beer catches fluke on the Jamaica 2*



*Anna Maraziti catches a pair of flatties*



# Students Tackle Issues in the World

## The Blue & Gray Editorials

## School, Sports, and Study Hall: Student Athletes Struggle to Maintain Balance

By: Abby McHugh

Brona Neilson starts her day at 5:30 a.m. After a quick shower and breakfast, she heads to school, arriving at 6:50. From there, she tries to cram her homework in before first block starts at 7:37, when her classes start: Honors Physics, AP Calculus, English 4 Honors, and Psychology. After a long day at school, she heads to her weekly winter track meet. She races the 800 meters and the mile, winning both. At 10:30, the bus pulls back into the horseshoe. Brona drives home and begins her homework, usually ending around 1 A.M. Tired, unshowered, and hungry, Brona falls asleep at her computer, waking up at 5:30 again the next morning to continue her routine.

Manasquan High School has always had a heralded history of athletics. From multiple football state championships, to the dominant girls' basketball team, and the current state-champion girls' bowling and swimming teams, Manasquan has developed a reputation as a New Jersey state powerhouse for athletics.

All of this is made possible not by the administration, or the boosters, but the STUDENT-athletes themselves. Notice the emphasis. STUDENT-athletes. Some of Manasquan's most prominent athletes are juggling more than their sports responsibilities- they are juggling AP classes, club commitments, and other responsibilities entailed with being a young adult.

After a full day of classes (AP Literature, AP Calculus BC, AP Statistics, AP Human Geography, and Entrepreneurship, to be exact), Quinn Giblin heads out to the football field. It's the team's best season in years, and he can't afford to miss any practice if he wants to play. From 3:00-5:30, he's in football mode. After practice ends, he scrambles home and begins his mountains of homework. But, he also has to get eight hours of sleep if he wants to perform well, so he goes to sleep at around 11. Waking up early the next day and getting into the library at around 7:10, he crams the rest of his homework between blocks and in other classes, missing out on key lessons.

Against popular belief, New Jersey public high school students are not required to take four years of gym if they meet these physical activity standards elsewhere. According to the New Jersey Athletic Conference bylaw 6A:8-5.1, the board of education may "permit a student or group of students to meet or exceed the core-standards in any subject area through alternative activities. These activities may be school sponsored or accomplished "outside the school." The "core-standard" for physical activity for New Jersey public high school students is 2.5 hours of exercise per week. For some student athletes, that's how much they get per DAY.

Junior Colby Mallet realizes this. She starts her day at 4:45 in the morning, when she heads to Jewish Community Center pool in Deal for her club team's practice at 5:30 a.m. After swimming for an hour and a half, she showers quickly at the JCC and heads to school, her hair pulled up in a messy bun and smelling of chlorine. After completing her full day of classes, with no lunch, that includes AP Calculus, AP Composition, Spanish 4 Honors, Nutrition, and others, she heads to the gym, where she works out with her trainer for an additional hour. Mallet has accomplished in physical activity in one day what the state says the average high school student should accomplish in five days: she works out for approximately 17 hours per week, 6.8 times the core-standard that the NJAC requires.

Other schools have already seen the stress some of their student-athletes are under, and reacted. Public schools like Wall, Monmouth Regional, and Rumson- Fair Haven all have programs that enable their student athletes to take an extra study hall instead of having to take another (unnecessary) physical education class.

Gym teachers have mixed opinions: While Mrs. Certo says she "understands the struggles of being an athlete, especially with all of the programs after school," she says that "every student should have four years of physical

*continued on next page*



*Student Athletes such as seniors Victoria Galvan and Summer Farren as well as junior Colby Mallet would benefit from added study hall time*

# MHS Spirit Week

continued from page 11



success in defeating the juniors in tug a war.

As the pep rally came to a close, students eagerly waited for the results of homecoming as student council advisor Mrs. Eldridge tallied up the remaining points. Mr. Buss was given the results and was ready to share.

First he announced the results for spirit week. Last place was freshmen, while the juniors got third, the sophomores second, and the seniors first. Results of the hallway were revealed next with seniors coming out on top. The hallway results were followed by the results for the gym. The seniors yet again came out on top. However, that wasn't the case for the t-shirt results. Sophomores won for the best t-shirts with juniors getting second for their shirts.

And finally, the overall standing were revealed.



For the winners, the seniors, it was their last homecoming and a week they will never forget. The juniors got to experience what it is like for upper classmen. Sophomores made their presence known, and freshman got a taste of what it is like to be a part of the school. With another pep rally ending it marks the end of what some call the best time to be a Warrior.



**Pictured above:**  
Darth Vader made an appearance in the "Soph Wars" hallway; right: contestants in the balloon popping competition; Left: DJ DeSomma wheelbarrows fellow junior Chris Black; top left: the band brought the energy and rocked the pep rally.



## School, Sports, and Study Hall

continued from previous page

education." Mr. Voskian agrees, stating that he believes "Every student should have access to a physical education."

While their opinions are valid, the gym teachers and other detractors of the plan fail to see from the perspective of a modern student-athlete. Mrs. Kozic stated that "My laziest PE students are the athletes." Colby Mallett agrees: "Yeah, of course athletes are the laziest students- we're sore and tired from practice and homework yesterday- why should we try to make ourselves more sore for the practice in the afternoon that really matters?"

When posing this same question to Voskian, he demurs again, repeating that "every student should have access to physical education."

The GPA required to play sports in high school is a 2.0. Over the years, Manasquan has lost some of their best athletes to because of their GPA, because the students simply have not had enough time to complete their assignments. The proposal is simple: give upper-

classmen student athletes, whose high school or club sport practices more than 2.5 hours per week, the opportunity to sign themselves up for study hall. They would be mandated to go to health class when it is in session with their gym class, and once their season ends and they no longer fulfill the requirement, their opportunity to sign out is taken away.

This is the best option because it gives students who want the study hall extra time to do homework or study, while giving other students who want the break from the classroom time to exercise and relieve stress. This would also benefit upperclassmen taking advanced-level courses and seniors applying for college. The students would also still get their state-mandated health class completed.

Manasquan had 10 students sign on Early signing day in November, the most in years. This high of a number was due to the student's hard work, in the pool, court, field and the classroom. If Manasquan wants to continue its reputation as one of the best public high schools on the Jersey Shore, while also maintaining its reputation as an athletic powerhouse, it should consider the idea that its student-athletes have more responsibilities than simply winning games.



# Students Tackle Issues in the World

## The Blue & Gray Editorials

### Has Diversity Lost its Meaning?

Walking along Atlantic Avenue and the tennis courts, I stroll past the line of cars parked in along the street: there's quite a variety. An early-2000s Prius, a brand-new Lincoln, a new- BMW Coupe, and a large, dirty SUV truck all perch next to each other. I continue on my walk, now past the line of cars, and headed into the student parking lot. Looking on both sides of me, I am greeted by new Jeep Patriots, an old soccer-mom minivan, a newer Corolla, and finally my car, a gigantic 2002 Toyota Land Cruiser. I climb into my car and maneuver my way out of the parking lot. As I pull out, I notice something- the nicer cars seem to be parked together. Closer to the front of the lot, the better spaces, the newer cars seemed to be grouped together. Soon, I see why, as a cluster of well-dressed girls and guys come frolicking for their cars. As I drive along Ocean Avenue and turn onto my street, I start to realize how diverse our school truly is.



Students enter Manasquan last spring.

We are filled with so many different socioeconomic groups, and this is a great thing. Yet, none of those groups seem to interact with each other.

When I came to Manasquan from Spring Lake, where my graduating class was all upper middle-class, I was shocked by all the different types of people I met here, and it made me love MHS even more. Yet now, as a senior, I view my four

By: Abby McHugh

years here as dominated by trying to find my group, and sticking to it. We all know the stereotypes. The Spring Lake, Brielle and sometimes Manasquan people hang out with each other. The Manasquan, Heights and Sea Girt people hang out with each other. And Belmar and Avon form their own, inter-town groups. There's the



A portrait of Manasquan High School.

rich girls and guys who only wear Vineyard Vines and love Donald Trump, the middle-class quiet groups who don't sit in the corner of the cafeteria but don't sit in the circle-tables either, the middle-class kids trying to become the rich guys and girls, the computer and band people who love to hang out in the basement, the goth and emo girls who we think are asking for attention but in reality maybe are emotionally struggling, the AP and Honors kids, the stoners who seem to be going nowhere just as fast as the AP kids are going somewhere, and everyone else.

This summer I was invited to represent the Manasquan swim team at a table at Freshmen Orientation. As Mr. Cahill gave a speech to the freshmen threatening them to not do anything bad, I realized what a cyclical process high school is- we never really leave high school. There has been, and always will be, a por-

tion of our souls here in the form of someone else. Looking at all of the freshmen, with the eager, naïve looks on their faces, I could already see the groups forming. I wanted so badly to get up onto the microphone, to tell them that high school is about pushing yourself out of your comfort zone, and by only making friends that are versions of yourself, you are entrenching yourself in the comfort zone.

Think about it. As seniors, soon we'll be headed off to college, or at least some of us will. Whether we do, or whether we don't, is another decision that is based on money. Will we go to a cheaper public school, or a 70K/year private school? This public high school is truly the last time we will be in our formative years, and in such a diverse environment. I want all of us to enjoy it.

I wish there was a way to tell the freshmen not to make friends based on what the other person is wearing. I wish I could go back to freshmen year, and tell myself not to judge people so harshly on their circumstances. I wish popularity was not so strongly tied to how much money your parents make, or what clothes you wear, or what model your car is. I wish that instead of the administration celebrating our diversity, they realized that diversity isn't so great if none of the different groups here actually talk to each other.



The graduating class of 2016.

# Students Tackle Issues in the World

## The Blue & Gray Editorials

### Broadway Debate at Hit Show Hamilton

By: Amanda Karp

*Hamilton* has made a great many waves in and outside of the theatrical community this year. From being nominated for 16, and winning 11, Tony Awards, to breaking box office records for earning \$3.3 million in a week for eight shows, *Hamilton* has been the talk of the town. But most recently, the talk centered on some controversy.

Vice President-elect Mike Pence attended a performance of *Hamilton* on Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, and was met with mixed responses. Many booed as he entered, along with his family, but then the show commenced.

The performance went smoothly, but there was a deviation at the end.

Brandon Victor Dixon, who plays Aaron Burr, acknowledged Pence's presence in the crowd, and asked for him to remain to hear what the cast had to say. He also encouraged the audience to pull out their phones to tweet or record the speech.

He began by welcoming and thanking Pence for attending the show, but quickly moved on to a different, more serious matter.

"We, sir, we, are the diverse America who are alarmed and anxious that your new administration will not protect us, our planet, our children, our parents, or defend us and uphold our inalienable rights," Dixon read, continuing, "But we truly hope that this show has inspired you to uphold our American values and to work on behalf of all of us."

Dixon gestured to the surrounding crowd, then looked to his fellow cast members. "All of us," he emphasized.

He concluded with the statement that *Hamilton* is a "wonderful American story told by a diverse group of men and women – of different colors, creeds, and orientations."

President-elect Donald Trump took to Twitter soon after, tweeting, "Our wonderful future V.P. Mike Pence was harassed

last night at the theater by the cast of *Hamilton*, cameras blazing. This should not happen!" and "The Theater must always be a safe and special place. The cast of *Hamilton* was very rude last night to a very good man, Mike Pence. Apologize!"

The following morning, Pence appeared on CBS's *Face the Nation*, and made a statement regarding the incident.

"I wasn't offended by what was said," Pence told interviewer John Dickerson.

The following day, Trump tweeted another complaint, "The cast and producers of *Hamilton*, which I hear is highly overrated, should immediately apologize to Mike Pence for their terrible behavior."

This was met with both widespread criticism and encouragement from both sides. Lin-Manuel Miranda, the show's creator, stated, "I really believe that theatre is one of the last places where everyone should feel welcome. That includes Trump, that includes Pence"

He continued "I think very respectfully we should say 'We hope you work on behalf of all of us, on behalf of all Americans.'" That's the goal: get in the room and find your common set of beliefs and start from there."

The event caused a stir, but most importantly, it caused a discussion between sides that often find conflict and animosity within each other. The key thing to take away from the speech and its following consequences is that people can be divided, but must learn to work with one another for the sake of the future and all that it holds.

**Read our *Hamilton* Review  
page 28**

## Curse is Broken

*continued from previous page*

lead and continued to build on it to keep the Indians from having any chance at coming back. However, the Indians rallied and tied the game at six to force extra innings.

A seventeen-minute rain delay held up the continuation of the game, but the action returned as the rain drifted away. The Cubs were up at bat at the top of the inning, and both Albert Almora, Jr. and Anthony Rizzo scored to extend the lead to two runs. The Indians needed to score, now losing in the bottom of the tenth. Cleveland's Rajai Davis, who previously hit the game-tying home run, singled to send

home a run, cutting Chicago's lead to just one. The Cubs maintained their composure, and with two outs in the inning, Cleveland's Michael Martinez stepped to the plate. The Cubs' pitcher Mike Montgomery stood ahead of him. On his second pitch, Martinez connected, hitting a soft grounder to Kris Bryant who quickly tossed it to first baseman Anthony Rizzo to get the game winning out.

The celebration was on in Chicago from that moment on. "The Curse of the Billy Goat" was broken. The fans finally had a true moment of pride as they watched their team end a 108-year-old drought. The moment and the memory for the fans, the people of Chicago, and sports fans worldwide is something that will never be forgotten. The Cubs are officially the world champions!



# Students Tackle Issues in the World

## The Blue & Gray Editorials

### How to Survive Dreaded Holiday Conversations

By: Amanda Karp

The holiday season is arguably one of the best times of the year – with a smorgasbord of holidays occurring right after another. This, of course, is good for seeing relatives you haven't seen in a while before the next year comes around. It's a welcome time, filled with those special people in your life.

One thing that always seems to change the positive balance of these highly-regarded family holidays is politics. Many of our relatives have different politics than we do, and if there's anything I know from previous experience, it's that some of our politics are polar opposites. I also know that, inevitably, somebody is always guilty of bringing it up and setting off a heated debate (admittedly, even I may or may not be guilty of this).

This time around, politics, thanks to the election, will be brought up with almost absolute certainty (again, I may or may not have a hand in this).

I am, unashamedly, someone who wants to argue with my relatives about their politics – not screaming matches – but simply to find out who they support and why.

I want to be able to have controlled, relatively calm discussions with my relatives about this, and other topics. And that involves asking them such questions as: who do they support, what won them over, the policies their candidates had, how they felt about the scandals that surrounded them, and how that may have changed their view.

But for some people, talking shop is something they absolutely want to avoid, which means doing anything under the sun to remain apolitical during the times of family reunion.

So, I've decided to compile some ways to turn the conversation around, in case you need them.

There are definitely positive ways to engage with family members in political debates, but if that's something you want to avoid this holiday season, try the following methods. If they work, then congratulations on a debate well avoided.

However, it's important to remember that we are people capable of respectful disagreements. If not, there's always next year.



#### 5 Tips and Tricks to Keep it Apolitical

- **Don't engage** – it may feel like losing, but if a relative is trying to bait you and you refuse to talk about it, they'll realize that trying to goad you into an argument won't work.
- **Talk to someone else** – excuse yourself from what could become a toxic encounter and go talk to that cousin you haven't seen in a while, and ask about her two beautiful cats, or your aunt and those home rearrangements she's done in the past year.
- **Distract** – come up with a different topic to talk about with your relatives, by asking about their art projects or nosy neighbors, anything that gets their mind off of hooking you in a debate of politics.
- **Tell them to stop** – it may feel rude, but being open and honest about how you feel may prove to be successful, your relatives will back down and respect that you don't want to talk about politics.
- **Escape** – if all else fails, and you wind up in a debate, find a way to excuse yourself, whether it be by escaping to the bathroom, swearing that someone called your name, or by saying that your pet needs attention and you *must* go pet them (clearly for their sake, not yours.)





# Students Tackle Issues in the World

## The Blue & Gray Editorials



### Double Trouble?

By; Rachel Irizarry

Being a twin certainly has its perks- from always having a built in buddy to always having sleepovers, but it can also be very challenging at times. I am a twin myself, Rebecca being my other half. We share a lot together, yet we have our own ways of doing things.

Sometimes being a twin can be very challenging. People get your name wrong. People ask you obvious questions. People always compare you to each other. These challenges are inevitable for any pair of twins. But it frustrates me tremendously.

The one most common every day challenge would be on a random day in school, teachers that Rebecca and I have had for a while still mix us up. We don't even look alike! Yes, it's understandable but it happens way too much. Even our friends that have known us since we were like five years old, still mix us up. It's annoying. Can you imagine how amazing it would be to never again hear "Good morning Rebecca" when, clearly, I AM NOT REBECCA!

Beyond mixing us up, this is probably right at the top of the list. It's the worst when people compare us to each other. This doesn't often happen to Rebecca but mostly me. Ever since fifth grade she has

always gotten better grades than me or she has always gotten on honor roll. I wouldn't have the best of the grades and I've never been on honor roll since fifth grade because of my

learning disability. Many people would say "Rachel, how come you aren't more like Rebecca?" and my response is "I am not her, just because we are twins doesn't mean anything." We are our own person and we have different ways of learning things in school. I am more hands on and



*Above Left to Right: Rachel and Rebecca Irizarry pose for Junior Prom 2016*

I can't really grasp things as quickly as she can. For me this is a daily struggle.

One more thing. When you're a twin, you get asked a billion obvious questions. These could include "Have you ever switched classes before?", "Are you twins?", "Do you share the same thing?", or "Do you have twin telepathy and your own language?" It's weird to think about switching classes. Every one of our friends want us to switch classes. Even to this day they ask us but we just don't want to get into trouble. Maybe one day we will switch, so look out teachers!

If we look alike or wear the same thing, this means we are most likely twins. We also share about everything from clothes, friends, and even have the same classes in school. If one of us doesn't like certain clothes and the other one does, we swap. Many people think twins have their own language, and in our case we did. As our mom puts it, we use to talk to each other and make up words that no one would understand. Many people had no clue what we were talking about. On the other hand, we do sometimes have twin



telepathy. For instance, we have the same math class this year, and on test days we usually don't sit next to each other but we end up getting the same grade and even the same questions wrong. Sometimes we even finish each other's sentences, or we would think of the same thing and get scared.

With all of these challenges about being a twin, none of this compares to the feeling that we will always have each other no matter what happens in life. We will always have a best friend to go to with our problems, secrets between the two of us that no one knows, and unconditional love. We really don't know any other way besides being a twin. We always thought we would go crazy if we didn't have the other in our lives. Even though we argue, in the end we truly love each other.

The one quote we live by no matter where we are in life is that we are "Sisters by chance, and friends by choice."



*Above Left to Right: Rebecca and Rachel*





# The Blue & Gray

## FEATURES

### The Language Lab

#### TIME TO IMMERSE YOURSELF WITH THE WORLD

By: Elizabeth Rooney

Most students are lucky enough to have at least one study hall during either third or fourth block. Students have their assigned study halls, but sometimes students have reason to spend it elsewhere. Whether you are meeting with a teacher for extra help, making up an assignment, getting some help on an essay in the writing lab, or having a pass to the library students have options on where they can go. And each year new options are becoming available to students. This year is no different with the addition of the language lab from the World Language Department.

Every day, in Room 112 during 4A, Italian teacher Professoressa Russo has students in there, working on projects and helping other students with foreign language assignments. The language lab is a place where students can go to immerse themselves into a language and culture of their choice. A student can go there to review languages they are currently studying at MHS, or even a totally different language he or she may be interested in.

According to Professoressa Russo, "The goal of the language lab is to immerse students in studying, engaging, and interacting in languages. We want to provide students with a multi-cultural, interactive, and engaging experience outside of the classroom."

Professoressa Russo loves everything about the language lab. She loves the fact that there are students involved in planning activities and events. She also loves the reward system that

encourages students to come to the lab. She says, "We came up with a really innovative way to earn reward points. Students will receive a worldly monetary currency used as a punch card and each time they come in they are credited reward points."

The World Language Department wants students to know that the lab is a place outside of the classroom where students can collaborate with others to plan and coordinate events, and to work on their studies. They hope students begin to utilize everything that the lab has to offer.

There have been announcements made about events that have been held in the language lab. There was a Friday when students were invited to "Come share your story day." The lab was filled with students and teachers who talked about their travels around the world and experiences in other countries. In October there was "Halloween around the world" for students to participate in a Scavenger Hunt. Most recently, Spanish teacher Mr. Napolitano came in to talk to students about Dia de los Muertos. More events are currently being planned for the holidays.

All this is just the beginning. In the future Professoressa Russo anticipates having language lab equipment with the capability of increasing student interaction in a foreign language with the world language department looking to advance their department and resources. More specifically, they are hoping to include Sanko technology in to the

language lab in the future.

According to Professoressa Russo, "Sanko is a language lab software program designed for students for all levels. With this program, teachers can monitor students' progress, provide feedback during activities with chat sessions, audio recordings, and classroom discussions." She then added that she likes the audio feature the most "where students can engage in stimulated conversations and authentic listening activities."

The language lab is a place where any student needing some help with foreign language class, or who has interest in learning more about a foreign language can come and do so. If you have study hall 4a it just might be a good idea to change things up one day and make a stop in the language lab instead.



# Students Tackle Issues in the World

The Blue & Gray  
Editorials

## The Donald "Trumps" Hillary Clinton in 2016 Election

By: Jeff Petrulla

As I'm sure everyone is aware of by now, Donald Trump is the new President-elect of the United States of America. He'll become the president on January 20th, Inauguration Day, followed by a speech and a glamorous inauguration ceremony. He is projected to have clinched 290 electoral votes in comparison to Clinton's 232. As for the popular vote, Clinton appears to have won by approximately two million votes. But of course, the electoral vote determines the result of the election, not the popular vote.

Discrepancies in the electoral vote and popular vote are not unheard of. This has happened in four past elections in American history: that of 1824, (where Adams won neither the electoral vote or popular vote) 1876, 1888, and most recently, 2000. This year may be the fifth, with Hillary having a sizable lead in ballots, but they're still being counted.

A few states, led by Wisconsin, have already begun a recount.

The lead in the popular vote may be the answer to why Clinton was expected to win. Media outlets didn't take into account the odd nature of how the electoral college works, and the concept of winning enough states. Many were broadcasting national polls, which genuinely don't prove anything if the numbers are remotely close to each other. However, even the organizations that polled specific states had incorrect broad-

casts. The only answer to that shortcoming is the unseen bias in polls; under coverage appears in polls taken in certain areas, and sometimes the poll sample size just isn't enough.

Trump frequently echoed the claim that he led the "Silent Majority," which certainly shines true when it comes to polling. They really didn't show up in



Final nation-wide electoral map by county for the 2016 election

the polls, but blew onlookers out of the water when it came to voter turnout. Not only that, many outlets took the polls to be political foresight, when in reality they're just a slightly more educated guess.

Even more shocking to the news and its followers was Trump's performance amongst demographics where most thought he would get virtually no votes. He said many offensive things on the campaign trail, and made enemies of multiple demographics. Yet Hispanics appear to have voted around 30% Trump, and 65% Clinton. Many expected him to get next to no votes from the Hispanic demographic. Though the Hispanic voter turnout was not anything that could completely change the election, it was a shock. An even bigger surprise was that 53% of white women voted for Donald Trump, the largest demographic in America. Most people assumed that women would not vote for Trump, judging by his history of alleged sexual assaults and conservative stance on women's issues like abortion.

Between the demographic surprise and poor polling practices, nobody was prepared for this result. Apparently, the stock market wasn't either. While the election results were coming through, the DOW fell almost a thousand points. It has since recovered and increased, but the shakeup showed just how much the world wasn't expecting a president Trump.

As unexpected as his win was, it's a reality, and he will shape American policy and society for the next four years. What he will actually do is unclear, but it is very clear that he will be a stark contrast to President Obama. Now that Republicans have a clear grasp on the Executive, Legislative, and soon the Judicial Branch, we'll probably see a lot of partisan action on the right, led by Trump himself. His cabinet will likely be composed of top donors and supporters, including former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, and possibly even former political enemy Ted Cruz.

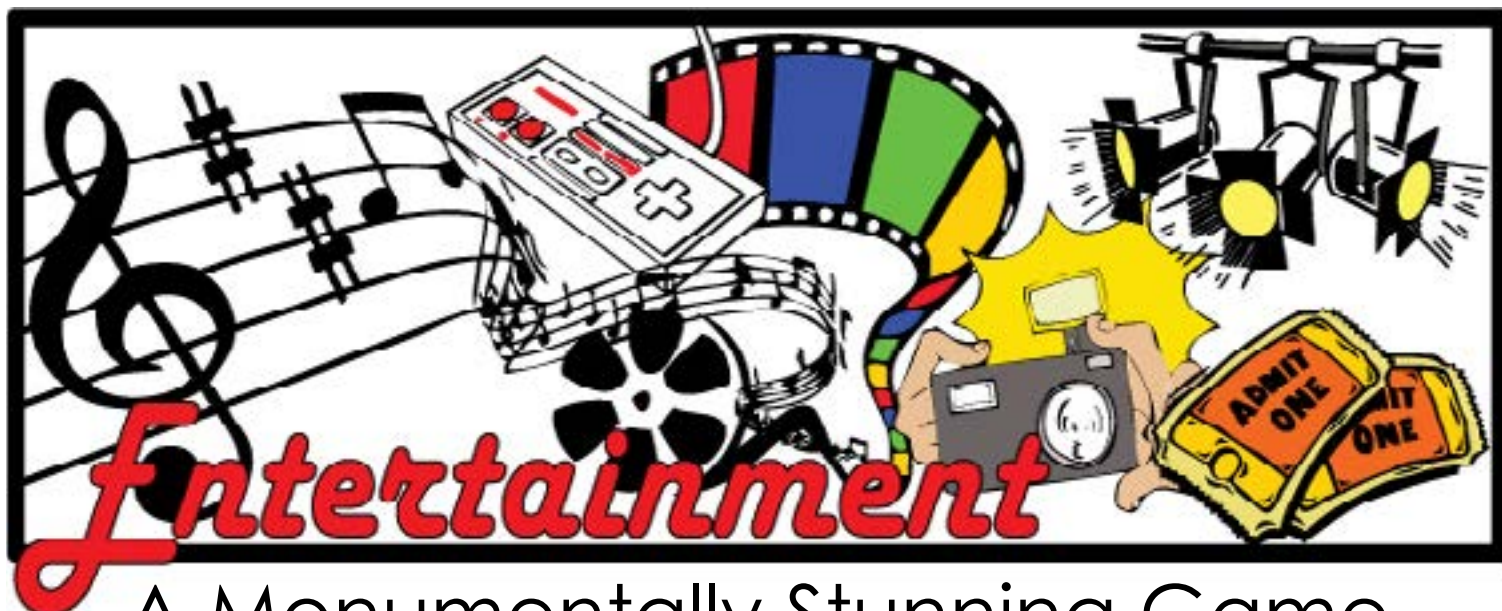


The new President-Elect of the United States, Donald Trump



Surprise loser of the election, Hillary Clinton.





## A Monumentally Stunning Game

By: Amanda Karp

Released in 2014, Monument Valley is a game created by ustwo Games Ltd., which features a rotating environment, calming background music and sound effects, and an intriguing, yet simple, storyline.

It's a game that can easily capture hours of attention, not only because of the overwhelming complexity of each level, or chapter, but because it is something to be enjoyed. However, some of the levels can be challenging if you don't know where to look. It is easily one of the best games I have played on my phone (aside from Solitaire) in years.

Inspired by Japanese art, as well as the work of M.C. Escher, it is beautifully designed, and employs an effortless stage that moves with you. The heroine you play is the silent princess Ida, who searches across



various monuments – for which the game achieves its title – for forgotten relics of geometry.

various monuments – for which the game achieves its title – for forgotten relics of geometry.

The music in the background sets a serene mood, with

no rush to complete a chapter. To get through a level, you must move Ida throughout the scenery, turning, stepping on, and avoiding pieces of the environment to complete the level.

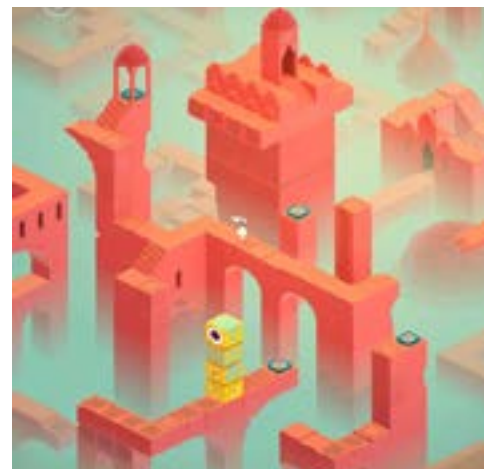
However, there can be no game without a supporting cast of characters. A notable hindrance includes the Crow People, who squawk at any attempts to pass them. There is help from an aptly named totem pole, named, you guessed it – Totem. As you wander through levels, solving puzzles, encountering the Crow People and receiving aid from Totem, there is a figure who meets Ida along her journey – a spirit-like, blue figure who questions Ida on forgiveness, which is ultimately what Ida seeks on her journey to the top of the monuments, to restore the relics of geometry to her world.

It is available across all app stores, from Apple to Kindle Fire. Monument Valley has received a plethora of awards, from the BAFTA

Video Game Awards for Best British Game and Mobile/Handheld Game to iPad Game of the Year by Apple, and it has surpassed 26 million sales on the App Store as of May 2016 – talk about a successful game.

It comes with a price tag of \$3.99, and there are also editions that can be purchased within the app to supplement any desire you might have to play more levels. It is rated 4+ on the App Store, perfect for all ages – though some younger kids might need help solving the puzzles.

Monument Valley is a visually stunning game, accompanied by a soundtrack that perfectly complements the scenery. The work done by ustwo Games is incredibly remarkable, and reflects in the quality of gameplay. If there is any game worth spending a few dollars on, it's Monument Valley.



# BACK TO THE FUTURE at MHS

From 1966...

...To 2016

By: Nicole Zito, Jenn Forcillo, and Leah Tilton



David Stone



Adam Dayton



Maria Pascale



McCay Mencer



Michael Maestrelli



Sean Dickenson



Adrienne Hoyt



Cammy Carton



Richard Rosemont



Charlie Thoma



Ann Maulbeck



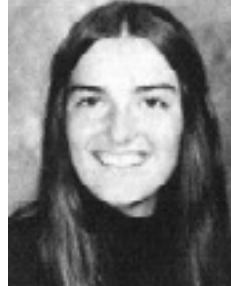
Alexis Floyd



David Rydinsky



Tim Moloughney



Kathleen Brophy



MacKenzie Baeszler



George Hay



Matt Thermann



Jenn Carvka



Amanda Karp





Lin-Manuel Miranda's work of genius, *Hamilton: An American Musical*, based on historian Ron Chernow's biography Alexander Hamilton focuses on the previously over looked founding father Alexander Hamilton has been called revolutionary by many and life changing by those lucky enough to see it.

The Pulitzer Prize for Drama winning musical has become a cultural phenomenon as it mixes hip hop with the winning of the Revolutionary War and building of a new nation. From beginning to end, Miranda uses rap to rewrite history, incorporating all of America's favorite founding fathers, like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison.

When my sister had first told me of this show I was far from intrigued. I had no intention of finding out more information about Alexander Hamilton or hip hop music, even though I was curious about the bold move of having only people of color in the cast, minus the exception of King George. A couple of short weeks later, I fell to the peer pressure and listened to the whole cast album on the drive to pick up my sister from college.

By the time I got to Maryland I was overwhelmed by tears and the feeling that my life would never be the same. Each song tells the scenes of the deciding moments of Hamilton's life while showcase Lin-Manuel Miranda's pure talent and ability to connect historical events to rap and hip hop.

I could literally write for days about my favorite songs and how blown away I am every time I furiously try to keep up with the raps in my car. But instead I'll simply share my all-time favorite lyric with you, future Vice President Aaron Burr has the most fire comeback to an insult from Angelica Schuyler that I have ever heard: "[Angelica] Burr, you disgust me / [Burr] Ah, so you've discussed me? / I'm a trust fund, baby, you can trust me!" Like I dare someone to try to find a rebound that is even remotely close to how bodacious Burr is in that moment.

It is moments like that when I'm jamming alone in my car or scream singing with my sister to the songs that made me pay an amount I'm embarrassed to write to purchase tickets for *Hamilton: An American Musical*. So after indebting ourselves to our dad, on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, we would finally get to see Hamilton rap battle Thomas Jefferson for the creation of a national bank and George Washington lead his soldiers to victory at the Battle of Yorktown, instead of just listening to the cast album on Spotify.

After patiently waiting four months from the time we bought our tickets, we were finally standing outside the Richard Rodgers Theatre, star struck as we saw all of the original cast walk in through the stage door quickly taking pictures with all of us outside. I was overcome with emotions and the whole day felt unreal. I had always begged my friends to listen to it but in reality I knew they never would,

and that's okay because as I being squished through the double doors to get into the theatre I knew I was surrounded by people just like me.

People who were inspired by Hamilton and Miranda's inability to put the pen down until the writing was perfect. People who were torn apart when Hamilton betrayed his family and wrote publicly about his own infidelity, America's first reported sex scandal. People who sobbed along as his son Phillip died in order to protect his father's name and then once again when Hamilton faced Aaron Burr in a one final duel.

I walked up to my nose bleed seats and looked down at the simple stage where very shortly, the best two hours and forty-five minutes of my life would happen. And then like that, my world was turned upside down for the second time. The lights dimmed and suddenly it was over as soon as it started. It was all I could've imagined and more, the cast brought such a liveliness to the songs I had previously only listened to, I had almost forgot they also told a story while also singing. I cried too many times to count and I was stunned by the presence every single performer brought to the stage and how well they all performed live.

It is easy to rap on a recording but it is much harder to do it while also dancing and acting, and honestly I'm not sure these people are even human. The only downfall to this was that the only thing missing from the cast album was one less than a minute scene with no music, and the intermission. I knew every word to the musical and while I pride myself in being able to recite fifty rap songs, I was slightly looking forward to getting to share a piece of the musical only me and other people in the audience knew about.

Despite this, I was blown away by every aspect of this experience and tell everyone I meet about being in the presence of a Pulitzer Prize winner and the genius cast. As much as I wish everyone could go see *Hamilton: An American Musical* live, there are too many circumstances to overcome, so instead I urge you to go on to Spotify or YouTube and just listen to the very songs that changed so many lives and changed America and the Revolutionary Era forever.



*Above: The cast performs the eloquently written My Shot on stage at the Richard Rodgers Theatre.*

# Deals of the Month

By: Jenn Forcillo and Jeff Petrulla

## Store-Wide Deals

### Forever 21:

**Sale:** 50% off all jewelry ordered online and lowered apparel prices.

### Free People:

**Sale:** 70% off end of season sale items, free standard shipping on all orders over \$100 or more.

## Video Games

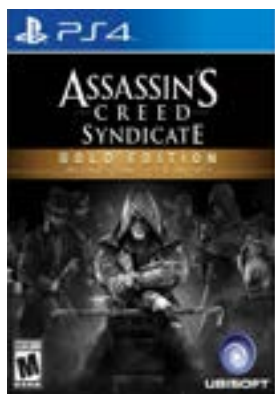
### Gears of War:

Ultimate Edition  
(Walmart)

**List Price** \$39.99

**Save** \$26.00

**Cost** \$13.99



Assassin's Creed  
Syndicate: Gold  
Edition (Walmart)

**List Price** \$89.99

**Save** \$42.90

**Cost** \$47.09

Xbox One with  
white controller  
and Battlefield 1  
(Sam's Club)

**List Price**

\$420.00

**Save** \$171.00

**Cost** \$249.00



## Electronics

### 40-inch LED Smart TV

(Target)

**List Price** \$399.99

**Save** \$100.00

**Cost** \$299.99



GoPro – Hero4 Action  
Camera

**List Price** \$449.99

**Save** \$100

**Cost** \$349.99

Jam- Plus Portable Bluetooth  
Speaker

**List Price** \$39.99

**Save** \$20.00

**Cost** \$19.99



## Bath & Body Works

### Hand Soaps

**Sale:** 6 for \$24 / 4 for \$20

**Cost:** \$6.50 each

**Save:** \$15/ \$6



### Signature Body Care

**Sale:** Buy 3, Get 2  
Free

**Cost:** average \$13  
each

**Save:** \$26

### Medium Candle

**Sale:** 2 for \$20

**Cost:** \$12.50

**Save:** \$5





# The Walking Dead is Bad and You Should Feel Bad

By: Michael Rafter

The Walking Dead is very popular. The show has rarely ever fallen under five million viewers and has not dipped under ten million views since Season 3 Episode 6. With how popular the show is, it is equally popular to poke fun at the



show. Similar to Call of Duty and the Kardashians, the series has become famous because it is famous and the only reason to watch it is because other people are watching it. The Walking Dead comics and video games are proof to the fact that this concept can work, but the writers are never able to make the transition to TV. The show no longer needs to try, and it does not. These are the reasons why the Walking Dead is not a good show.

## None of the Characters are well written

Many of the characters are not given any exposition or backstory at all. Worst of all, it is easy to predict when someone will die. If they are abruptly put into the spotlight and made interesting, they are going to get killed. The only role of the zombies now is to kill unlikable or specific characters.

## The story is predictable and formulaic

Find Shelter. Think the shelter is safe. The shelter is revealed to

not be safe. Some characters die. Characters run from the shelter. Shelter hunts down the characters. More characters die. Main characters win and go on the road again. It may as well be a cartoon.

## Things happen with no explanation or reason

Why does the Governor kill 27 of his own men after his daughter died? You may say he's insane, but that's what writers who can't write characters say. If he wants revenge in Michonne, why kill his entire army? In the end it doesn't even matter since he just gets another army from nowhere for season 4.

## The show is boring

This is the most subjective of all the points, but I do not look forward to watching an episode of the show. I watched the show a bit again to see if all my opinions stayed the same, and binge watching the Walking Dead is not something I would wish upon my worst enemy.

## The budget of the show is not handled well

For all the bad things that can be said about the show, the zombie designs are really good as well as some of the final battles in the season finales. However,



middle season episodes will show characters sitting around talking since they are saving everything for the end.

## The child actors are horrible

Carl, Sophia, and Lizzie are three of the worst characters on the show and it is no coincidence they are all children. Stranger Things proved that there are good child actors, the Walking Dead just needs to find them.

## The antagonists work better in a comic book

The Governor, Negan, Michonne, Merle, Ezekiel. All of these characters' work in a comic book or a video game, but they do not fit inside a TV show, especially one that tries to be serious other times. It feels like they are trying to jam a puzzle piece into the wrong puzzle.

## There are entire episodes with no action at all

When the writers have forty minutes to work with, you would assume at least something interesting would happen. You thought wrong. Characters sit around and talk about themselves, about each other, about the setting, and before you know it, the episode is over. Then a character will die, and they spend the next three episodes talking about it, then repeat.

## The setting

Remember when fans thought the characters were spending too much time at the farm? Well, the writers listened and they stayed at the prison for two whole seasons. It is an interesting metaphor, but not one that needed to take over twenty episodes to hammer home. The prison is not even enormous enough to explore or make it interesting, and is only exasperated by the fact that they hardly ever leave.



# Smile More

## 10 MILLION SUBSCRIBERS!!

By: Rachel Irizarry

"You're beautiful, you're one of a kind, smile more." YouTube star Roman Atwood says this quote to his "Roman Soldiers" at the end of each of his vlogs. From working in his parent's rope factory for many years to recently hitting ten million subscribers on his "vlog" channel and over nine million on his prank channel, Roman can conquer almost anything if he puts his mind to it. Atwood is best known for his pranks, vlogs, and his self-owned company called "Smile More."

After quitting his job in his parent's rope factory, Roman wanted to do something different with his life. He started a prank channel on YouTube in 2010 and was determined to make his mark. He earned his greatest success for the viral prank called "Killing My Kid" which was uploaded on November 30, 2014. He pulled this prank on his girlfriend Brittney Smith with the help of their son, Kane. During this prank Roman and Kane decided to buy a RV. Brittney goes to go get the check book and during this time Roman takes a fake Kane "look alike" and puts him on the RV. When Brittney comes back, Roman starts the RV and then let's go by "accident" and it takes off. The RV ends up going into the trees and blows up. Brittney starts crying, not knowing that Roman is pranking her, and she runs towards the fire to try to save her son. While this is going on Roman tries to hold her back. Eventually, Atwood reveals that Kane is fine. Brittney goes on to tell Roman he will be sleeping on the couch. She should be used to his pranking since Roman pranks her often and she knows what he does for a living.

For Roman a prank channel wasn't enough, he wanted to connect more with his fans, so he started a vlog channel called "RomanAtwood-Vlogs." This is daily videos that take you into his crazy life as a father and all of the crazy adventures they tackle. With Kane (his son), Noah (his son), Brittney, and his family behind his plan, they hope to change the world of YouTube. Atwood wants to show the world that wherever you live, you can make a difference. On November 13, 2016 his channel hit ten million subscribers. With ten million subscribers comes a special gift, and Atwood will earn a "Diamond Play Button."

There are three levels for a "Play Button" on YouTube. The first is once you hit 100,000 subscribers, you earn a "Silver Play Button." The next one is for reaching 1,000,000 subscribers, and for that you receive a "Gold Play Button." The last one is for 10,000,000 subscribers, and the "Diamond Play Button." The "Diamond Play Button" was introduced in 2015. Only 35 youtuber's in 2015 qualified, and now Atwood is the 36th YouTuber to hold this valued distinction.

Many Youtuber's don't get a chance to hit this number, so this was an honor for him. This was all done thanks to his "Roman Soldiers." Atwood explains during his vlog that without them sharing videos and subscribing, he wouldn't have reached this massive number. He and his family knew they would reach this at one point but never this soon. In January his channel was just at 60,000,000 subscribers and its now November and he just hit ten million, that is 40,000,000 subscribers in a little less than a year. He says that if it wasn't for us "Roman Soldiers", he would have never made it this far as a YouTuber.

Between vlogging, pranking, and family, Roman also manages a self-owned company. Starting the company in 2013, "Smile More" has become popular all around the world because of the meaning. He tries to implement positivity, and preaches never giving up on yourself. In most of his vlogs is says to try to think of only positive thoughts for a least an hour a day or until the end of his vlog. As Roman puts it, "You're beautiful, you're one of a kind, and don't forget to smile more."



*Above: Roman pranking his girlfriend Brittney in the prank called "Killing my kid."*



*Above: Roman Atwood posing for a picture for his company "Smile More."*



*Above: Roman, Noah, Brittney, and Kane pose for a pic for instagram.*



# Luke Cage is Marvel's Latest Netflix Series and It Does Not Disappoint

By: Shane Connelly

The latest Marvel Cinematic Universe television series has hit Netflix. *Luke Cage* is the third Marvel character to get his own show on the streaming service. Both *Daredevil* and *Jessica Jones* have received great reviews, so the pressure was certainly on for *Luke Cage* to do the same, and after finishing the first season I can affirm that it is fantastic.

The show bases itself in Harlem, New York. Luke Cage is an escaped convict who gained his superpowers from an experiment gone wrong. The scientists at Seagate, the maximum security prison, attempted to experiment on Cage's body, but when the hyperbolic chamber he was held captive in was tampered with by an angry corrections officer, a monumental reaction occurred. What was left afterwards was multiple dead people and a man with super strength and a bulletproof body.

Cage used his strength to escape the prison and made his way to the crime-ridden city of Harlem. He worked two jobs to make money but still struggled to make ends meet. He tried his best to hide his powers and just live life like a normal man, but when terror strikes those he cares for most, Cage has no choice but to take action.

The first season of many shows tends to be



*Luke Cage is the hottest new release on Netflix.*

slow, as the directors need to introduce the main character and provide information on his or her background in order for the story to make sense. While *Luke Cage* does at times feel slow-paced, the majority of Season One was so interesting that the pace was nearly unnoticeable. I ended up watching three or four episodes at a time despite each episode being one-hour long.

While it seems impossible for an extremely strong, bulletproof man to have any adversaries, season one does a great job at casting and writing formidable opponents for Luke Cage. The first villain introduced is Cornell "Cottonmouth" Stokes, owner of the popular night club "Harlem's Paradise." Stokes and his cousin Mariah Dillard, a councilwoman of Harlem, use their notoriety to purchase and distribute weapons and drugs to the people of the city to make money on the side.

We are later introduced to another main villain named Willis Stryker.

Stryker, who goes by "Diamondback", is a major arms dealer who has a bone to pick with Luke Cage. When he hears that Cage has been making a name for himself in Harlem, he decides that now is the right time to go after him. What comes of the battle is something that you simply have to watch in order to truly appreciate the greatness.

These villains are a great addition to a storyline that is already shaping up to be awesome. After learning about Cage's past, I found myself rooting for him even more than I previously was. The show as a whole has fantastic writing, which we can expect from a Netflix and Marvel Studios collaboration, and it made it easy to spend an evening running through a few episodes.

Overall, Season One was wonderful. It's absolutely worth watching whether you're a comic book geek or just a Netflix aficionado looking for another series to get lost in. With the way Season One ended, we can all look forward to an action-packed Season Two, which has already been confirmed by Netflix. Fans have speculated that there may be a long wait for the release of Season Two, so watch Season One now and get ready to enjoy the new season coming soon.

# *The Mike Rafter Album Collection*



## Recommend Albums:

Led Zeppelin 2

Revolver

Ziggy Stardust

Wish You Were Here

Van Halen

Dookie

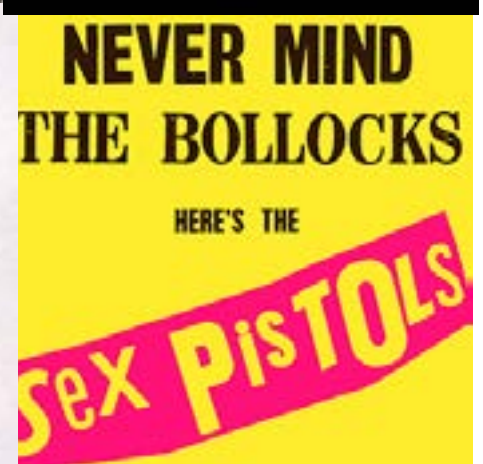
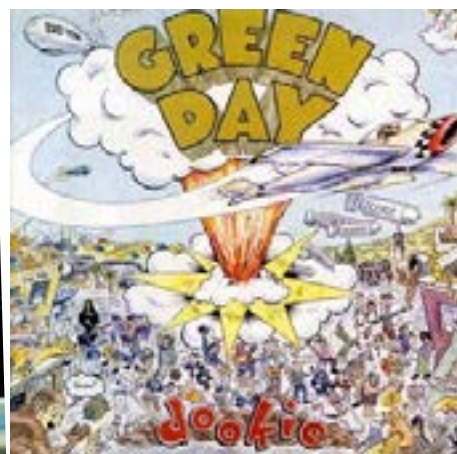
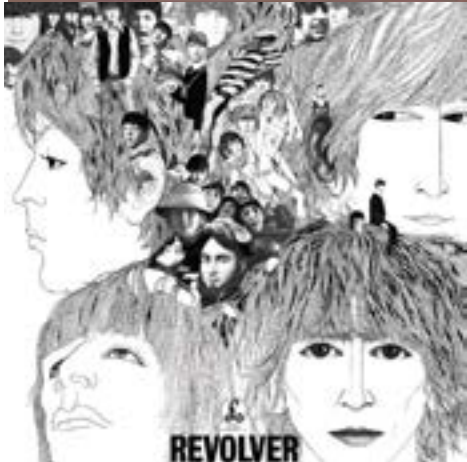
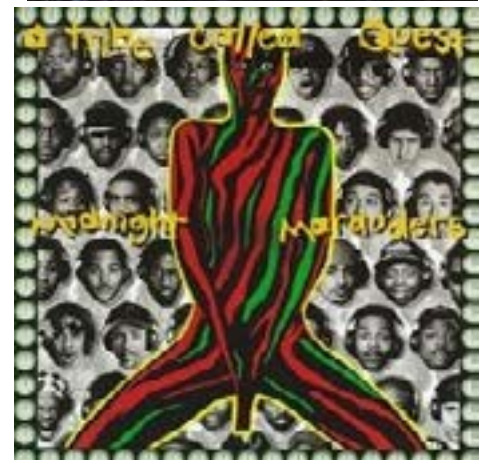
Adrenaline

Paranoid

Midnight Marauders

Apetite for Destruction

Never Mind the Bollocks



*From Bowie to Beatles and Green Day to Sex Pistols, it's a bit of everything*



# Horoscopes

By: Nicole Zito and Leah Tilton

## Aquarius

You will always notice an Aquarius because they stand out in a crowd. They're often imitated but never duplicated.

## Pisces

Pisces can read your thoughts and they've been observing your energy, mood and body language since you walked through the door.

## Aries

Aries hate sneaky people. They respect people who are straight forward, honest and direct.

## Taurus

Taurus will do anything they can do to get what they want but they won't hurt the people around them to get it.

## Gemini

When a Gemini is focused, nothing will stand in their way. It will be their two minds against your one and odds are not in your favor.

## Cancer

When a Cancer gets attached to someone, it is really hard for them to just let go. Unlike some people they will always care.

## Leo

Leos try to avoid confrontations, not because they are afraid of a threat, but of what they are capable of doing to that threat.

## Virgo

A Virgo takes everything to heart, so be careful with what you say to them.

## Libra

Always remember the little things you do for a Libra means the world to them. It doesn't have to be fancy, it's the thought that counts.

## Scorpio

For a Scorpio it's very simple: You can't control me and you can't beat me so it's best to just join me.

## Sagittarius

With a Sagittarius, what you see is what you get, there is no faking anything.

## Capricorn

A Capricorn is a true winner because no matter what you throw at them they will weather the storm and make it out on top.



# Seniors Sign with Colleges on Manasquan High School's Signing Day

By: Shane Connelly

Signing day is a crucial event for our student athletes as they choose where they will attend college and continue their academic and athletic careers. This year we had seven students sign with high profile programs thanks to their magnificence in the high school sports.

It is the time of year where sports channels like ESPN and FOX Sports are airing the decisions of future collegiate athletes, and we here at Manasquan were lucky enough to have a great group of athletes from our small town school who will now advance into their college careers. Manasquan High School historically has had great athletics, and the exposure continues to grow as our school still is a great source of strong talent from a wide range of sports. The signees from Manasquan High School this year include basketball players, lacrosse players, a baseball player, and a swimmer.

**Victoria Galvan is heading to the University of South Carolina for softball.**



Our principal Mr. Coppola remarked on this year's crop of talent, stating, "Seven students going on to major universities," and continued, "It was a great day." The day was certainly fantastic for everyone who participated, and it was most im-

portantly exciting for our students who were able to participate. Stella Clark, who signed with Northeastern to play basketball, said that she is extremely excited to play "at a higher level." Abby McHugh is looking forward to "being part of the team" at Binghamton, where she signed on to join their swim team.

The day itself has become a spectacle, as colleges patiently await the decisions of young student athletes, and fans eagerly hope for a kid who can make an immediate impact on their favorite team. In particular, Notre Dame baseball fans should be very excited for the addition of Tommy Sheehan. Notre Dame showed interest in Sheehan early on in his career at Manasquan High School, and his brother Jack signed with the team last year, so Tommy will be heading to South Bend for baseball.

Our school is so proud of the athletes who have signed with these programs to continue their careers. It is a true testament to all that they have accomplished in high school, and it's exciting for these individuals to make a long awaited college decision, something that all of our seniors are looking forward to doing. Be sure to look out for these soon-to-be alumni of Manasquan High School on Sportscenter, as they'll be looking to make an impact for their respective teams in the offseason.



**Abby McHugh will continue her swimming career at Binghamton University.**

**Tommy Sheehan signed with Notre Dame, where he'll play Division I baseball.**







# Warriors Roll Through Playoffs, Take Central Jersey Group 2 Title!

By: Shane Connelly

After a strong start to the season, the Manasquan Warriors began stacking wins as their championship aspirations came alive. This strong-willed team grew stronger and stronger since the first game of the year, and they've now shown just how dominant they are.

We left off with the Warriors standing at 4-1 coming off a win versus Ocean. What we did not know was that the win versus Barnegat in the fourth game of the year was the start of a seven game win streak for the team.

After the victory at home versus Ocean, Manasquan's second straight win, the team traveled to Middletown North High

School to face the Lions. The Lions came in with the same 4-1 record as the Warriors. Manasquan was able to hand Middletown North their second loss of the season as they left with a victory in a 31-21 effort.

Manasquan then returned home to face the struggling Huskies of Matawan Regional. The Huskies came into the game with a 1-7 record on the season, and many expected a Warriors win. While the game stayed close early on, Manasquan upped the tempo in the second half in order to secure a 29-14 win, their sixth on the year.

The return home was short lived as the Warriors were back on the road to face Red Bank Catholic. The Caseys were looking to slow down the storming Warriors, but were unsuccessful in their efforts. Manasquan brought with them a rowdy student section that was itching to see another win. The fans and the team left happy as Red Bank Catholic fell to



*Top row (left to right): Damaso Jaime, Tommy Meyer, Dylan Pacetti; Bottom Row: Kyle LeBlanc, Jack Mallett, Adam Schreck*

Manasquan by a score of 32-21, another impressive victory as the team continued the hot streak.

The next game for Manasquan was a playoff game at home against the Johnson Crusaders. Both teams came in confident as they looked to keep their chance at a championship. While Manasquan got onto the board first, Johnson took a close three-point lead into halftime. The Warriors returned stronger in the second half in order to secure

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*Left: Senior Adam Schreck rips through a tackle from an RBC defender. Right: Senior Ben Barry manhandles a player from Roselle.*





## Girls' Basketball Team Looks Forward to Another Slam-Dunk Season



As football season comes to an end and a championship trophy in hand, MHS has another dream team to look forward to. The girls' basketball team is by far the most successful sport team Manasquan has seen in a long time. For the last four years they have been consistently ranked as either the first or second team in the state, making it to the championship game in their division, Shore Conference and State tournaments, and the biggest accomplishment of all, making it the Tournament of Champions (TOC).

Last year alone, the young team comprised of mostly juniors and sophomores, won the division title, Shore Conference, the State Tournament and made an appearance at the TOC final game against longtime rival St. John Vianney. So this year is no exception to the expectations the school and coach Lisa Kukoda have for her team.

The Lady Warriors only graduated two seniors last year, Gill Black and Erin Howard, who were huge assets to the team. But being a younger team enabled the girls to gain valuable experience on and off the court that will benefit them this year as the season begins. A few of the returning players are Stella Clark,

By: Jenn Forcillo

Addie Masonius, Faith Masonius, Nikki Stevens, Dara Mabrey, Maggie Kelly, Emma McMenaman, Annie Heenan, Carly Giesler, and Jackie Kurtz.

Stella Clark has been part of the varsity team since her freshman year and usually plays point guard. Her four years on this team have taught her a lot, including that team chemistry is a huge part of what contributes to a successful season: "Last year I definitely learned a lot about my teammates and how important chemistry is among us. As a junior I also really got a chance to learn how to lead the team by example from my upper classmen," Clark

said. She adds that pasta parties are a great way to get the team hyped about a game and gives everyone a chance to learn more about each other that helps on the court too.

While Stella and Addie are seasoned veterans of MHS basketball, Addie's younger sister, Faith, was a starter and key player as a freshman last year. While coming into a new school is a lot to take on for anyone Faith says "the intensity of the sport, especially for the championship games, taught me how to focus. It was super weird as a freshman to be expected to get on the court with all those people watching, but I just had to get over it and get the job done for my team."

Coach Lisa Kukoda had a lot to say about the experience the team gained last year as well. "We were a younger team, and it's changed, we are now senior and junior heavy and we are definitely going to use that to our advantage," she said. Coach Kukoda explained the goals of this "all-star" team, goals that include four stages. "First, we want to win our division, it sets up ranks for Shore Conference and States so that is really important. Making it back to both Shore Confer-



*The 2015 team celebrates winning the Group Finals against SJV*



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# Squan Girls Swim Hopes to Make it a Three-Peat

By: Abby McHugh

After a near-perfect season last year, including an undefeated regular-season record, the Monmouth County championship, the Shore Conference championship, the division championship, and state championship, the 15th ranked team in the state, the Manasquan girls swim team looks to repeat its success this year.



The girls celebrate their first state championship.

After losing multiple senior scorers, the swim team looks to its upperclassmen to lead its team to victory once again. The team is led by club swimmers Kathryn Petrone, a county and conference champion in the 500 free, a Florida State commit, and Abigail McHugh, a Binghamton University commit, along with county and conference seniors Summer Farren, Summer Smith, Isabel Mead, and Kit Krieger.

Senior Summer Smith looks forward to “the bond we all have when we come together to win

The girls cheer each other on in a meet against Ocean City.



meets”, and the “meet atmosphere”. She says the toughest challenge this year will be “beating Trinity Hall” at counties and conferences, but still believes the Lady Warriors can do it.

There are also many juniors on the team looking to make more of an impact after incredibly successful club swimming seasons. Look to see Colby Mallet, a butterflyer, Sarah Brennan, a distance freestyler, and Marie Schobel, a backstroker, to make appearances on Manasquan relays this year, along with placing top 8 in their respective events at counties and conference.



Kathryn Petrone swims the butterfly in a meet from last season.

Underclassmen also seek to help the Warriors win their third county and conference championship in a row. Dynamic freshmen like Maddie Condon, a backstroker, will help Manasquan score points at county and conference this year. Although Maddie says she is “incredibly nervous” for this season, she says she has at least some experience: “I’ve been to counties before, so I know the pressure and big-meet experiences I’ll be having. I’m super excited”

In an unusual move, the team switched to a the A Central division this year, meaning that they will be facing more southern teams, especially in Ocean County. Coach Mr. Murin doesn’t doubt the

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## **Next Issue winter sports previews: Hockey, Wrestling, Track, Bowling Boys Basketball**

### **Girls Swim**

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girl's ability to thrive in a different environment: "There will be a lot of meets at OCY [Ocean County YMCA]. We'll be facing teams like Monsignor Donovan, Brick, Lacey, and other teams." But Murin is confident, and adds that he thinks this will make the regular season easier: "The teams, except Monsignor Donovan, are not as tough- I know we'll repeat our undefeated regular season record."

With a roster strong and deep as theirs, the girls will definitely be the favorites heading into the season. Look forward to watching your Lady Warriors crush the competition coming this winter!

### **Girls' Basketball**

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ence and State finals would be the next steps in our plans. If we win then we move on to the TOC (Tournament of Champions), and hopefully win there."

If all goes well, the team will play around thirty games, including a trip to Orlando, Florida to play at a national tournament at Disney World. Besides the national tournament and their division, they will also face rivals like St. Rose, Rumson-Fair Haven, and St. John Vianney. Dara Mabrey, Nikki Stevens, Stella and Faith all agreed that their biggest competitors this season will be St. Rose or SJV.

We wish the Warriors all the luck as their season begins and hope they can continue to hold up Manasquan High School's legacy of being one of the top teams in the state for girls basketball!

### **Football**

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a 33-29 victory and move on to the next round.

Roselle, New Jersey was the location for the next playoff game as the Warriors faced off against the Rams. The high scoring Rams were hoping to shred the Warrior defense, and they managed to put up 27. This wasn't enough to defeat Manasquan, however. With 14 points in the fourth quarter, Manasquan secured a victory and their spot in the championship game.

The annual Manasquan Warriors versus Wall Knights Thanksgiving football game took place at Manasquan High School this year. The rivalry between the schools runs deep. Manasquan's

young athletes are taught early on that the Knights are public enemy number one. This year's game did not fall in the Warriors' favor. Manasquan got an early lead thanks to a field goal by senior Adam Schreck, but failed to score any more points. Wall managed to score three times and held on for the 21-3 victory. They may have earned the bragging rights for this year, but Manasquan will be looking to avenge this tough loss next season.

Manasquan's final game of the season was on December 3rd versus Bernards for the title. Manasquan, the favorite, took a 14-0 lead into the half. The second was all Manasquan, and the Warriors took home the championship trophy with a 42-6 dominant win. It's the first state title for Manasquan High School since 2008. I speak for everyone in this school when I say that we are so proud of this team and all that they have accomplished in such a fantastic season. Congratulations, champs!



