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BLUE & GRAY



MANASQUAN
HIGH SCHOOL



MR. READ RETIRES!

STUDENTS LINE
THE HALLWAYS
FOR A
MEMORABLE
“CLAP OUT” ON
HIS LAST DAY

MRS. MARTUCCI
NAMED TEACHER
OF THE YEAR!





The Blue & Gray Manasquan H.S. 2023-2024

Issue One

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Mrs. Martucci Wins Teacher of the Year

By: Peyton D'Andrea



Mrs. helps students in math lab during unit lunch

The Teacher of the Year award is awarded to a teacher who inspires students of all backgrounds. A teacher who has the respect and admiration of students, parents, administrators and colleagues.

This year, that teacher is Mrs. Martucci.

A math teacher here at Manasquan High School., Mrs. Martucci has been teaching for 29 years. In February it will be her 20th year at MHS. Throughout these years Mrs. Martucci has had a wonderful impact on so many students in and out of the classroom.

Mrs. Martucci de-

serves this award after all of her dedication and effort she puts into her students' success. Since coming to Manasquan, she hasn't had a chance to get involved in many things outside of the classroom, because she also has to take care of her three children at home.

"I put all my professional energy into the classroom so I could be a mom outside of the classroom," she says.

The first chance Mrs. Martucci had to get involved out of the classroom was 2 years ago, when she and Ms.

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Farewell Mr. Read

By: Angelina George

Although at some schools a vice principal may be seen as a mean, dismissive authority figure, at Manasquan High School that is far from the case.

After a long career of 30 years at MHS, Vice Principal Mr. Read has made the long-awaited decision to retire. He has been thinking about it for a while and decided that it's time. As he is getting older, he wants to have more time to spend time with his wife, kids, and grandchildren.

Mr. Read's career at MHS began in 1991 when he coached football with the legendary coach Vic Kubu. In 1993 Read began teaching at MHS. He started by teaching history, business, and economics classes. In 1999 Mr. Read and Mr. Driscoll started the Academy of Finance, in hopes of inspiring young minds into a finance career.

"Starting the Academy of Finance has been one of my big-

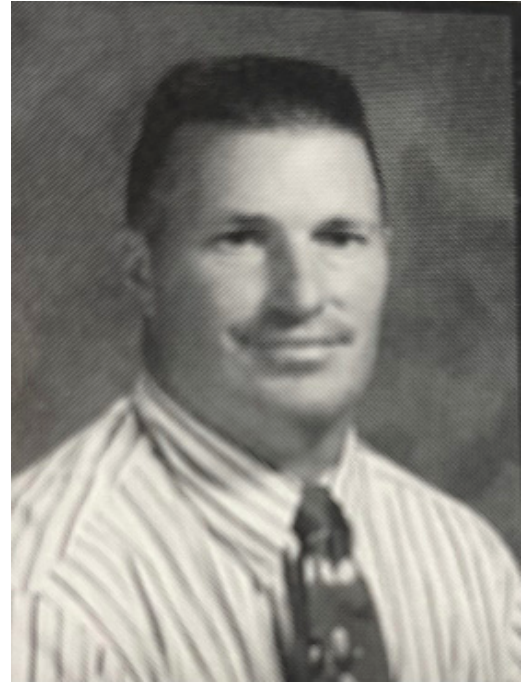
gest accomplishments here at MHS. It really means a lot to be able to implement something so resourceful for the kids," explained Mr. Read.

In 2010 Mr. Read was promoted to Vice Principal. He admires the challenges and experiences that have come with both jobs.

"Both jobs have taught me a lot. They're very different. When you're a teacher you get to know the 90 or so kids that you teach really well, but when you're Vice Principal you get to know 1,000 kids, and you get to see them in a whole different light," said Mr. Read. "I've learned to embrace the challenges that come with Vice Principal. Everyday there is something new; just when I think I've seen it all, there's a new surprise."

Mr. Read is known amongst the Manasquan community as a kind, understanding, wholehearted person. He views every student in a positive light and approaches every situation presented to him with an open mind.

"I experience bad migraines a lot in the mornings so sometimes I have to go into school late. Mr. Read was very understanding about the situation and was able to excuse the lates for me," said junior Sasha Manno.



Above: Mr. Read's photo in the 1995 MHS Yearbook

Mr. Read is very excited to see what the future holds. He would like to travel the world and visit as many places as possible. He plans on continuing to coach track and field here at MHS (with his daughter), and football at Ocean Township High School (with his son).

"It's such a unique experience to be able to coach with my dad, who helped to coach me," explained girls Track and Field Coach Michaela Read.

Although Mr. Read is known to all of us as an amazing Vice Principal, among that he is also a coach, a friend, a colleague, a father, a grandfather, and a husband. He has poured his heart into making this school a better place for everyone; and for that everyone should express their gratitude towards him. Mr. Read will certainly be missed, and all of his accomplishments will be remembered at Manasquan High School.

Below: Mr. Read today



Math Honors Society Induction

By: Angelina George and Sophia Evans

Many students aren't too fond of math class as it can sometimes be confusing, but these MHS students take tremendous pride in the subject.

On Tuesday November 28th, 21 kids were inducted into the Math National Honors Society here in the MHS Auditorium. To be accepted into the Math Honors Society is a feat of its own. Students had to maintain an A average in all math classes taken at MHS, get a letter of recommendation, and write an essay on a given topic.

Math Honors Society is run by teachers Mrs. Zdanowicz and Mrs. Martucci. All of the students inducted were exhilarated and proud of their accomplishment.

"It feels really good to be a part of something bigger than myself," explained junior Sasha Manno.

Not only were the students happy with their accomplishment, but so were the advisors. "It is a proud moment knowing that these students are the top math students in

Manasquan High School and will continue the legacy of Mu Alpha Theta," explained Mrs. Zdanowicz.

In order to maintain the honor they have received,

members must attend the monthly meetings, volunteer time in math lab during unit lunch, participate in fundraisers run by MNHS and help out at Math Night with the sending districts. Out of the 21 kids inducted for the 2023-24 school year, 9 of

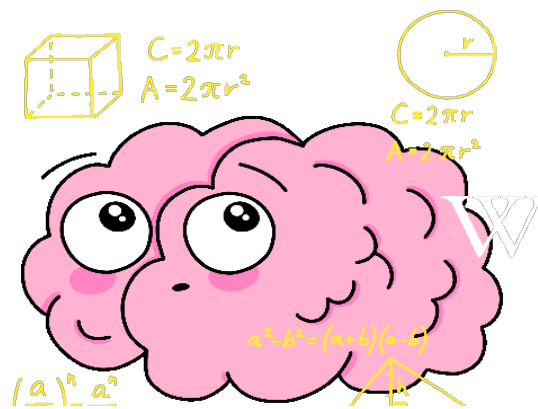
them are juniors and 12 are seniors. The juniors will have the opportunity to continue their membership during senior year, as long as they follow the previous list of rules and meet the requirements.

Math National Honor Society is seen to inspire interests in mathematics, develop strong scholarship in the subject, and promote the enjoyment of mathematics in high school. The name Mu Alpha Theta is a transliteration of math in Greek. This Honor Society was founded all the way back in 1957 and it is amazing to see that it is still alive today and people are still participating.

The Math Honors Society is excited to continue expanding, and helping people. Congrats to all of the new and current inductees on achieving such a highly academic award!



Above: Students being inducted into Math National Honors Society take a photo after receiving their certificates!



Academy of Finance Toy Drive Delivers Presents to Kids in Need

By: Ellie O'Shea

Everybody deserves a gift on Christmas day, and the Academy of Finance did just that. The Academy of Finance has made it a goal of theirs to supply children all around the community who might not be able to get gifts on Christmas with gifts for Christmas.

The Toy drive took place from November 26th to Friday December 8th. Kids in the Academy of Finance would stop by Mr. Driscoll's classroom and place all the toys they bought under the tree located in the back of his room.

On Wednesday December 13th the toys were brought to Thurgood Marshall Elementary School students in Asbury Park. The ages that these toys go to are from 1st grade to 5th grade. Making young kids' day with presents that they might

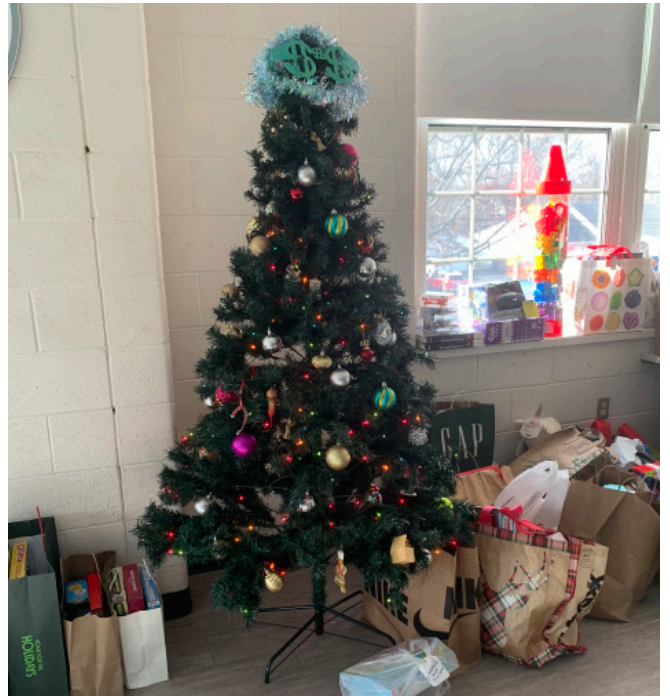
not have been fortunate enough to receive is the best wish that they can ask for.

On the day before Christmas break the students were brought down to their elementary school gym for an assembly, where they were given presents!

Students from Manasquan High School like Anthony Chermack and Rylie Eldridge delivered the presents, along with the Academy of Finance advisor Mr. Driscoll.

"We're so excited to be able to make a positive impact on kids who might not be fortunate enough to receive Christmas presents," said Anthony.

The Academy of Finance Toy Drive is an amazing event that



Above: The gifts displayed under a tree in Mr. Driscoll's classroom

happens every year. It brings joy to children who may not have much. It is also heartwarming to see all the young kid's bright smiles when they receive a new toy.

These Toy Drives also teach high school students the importance of giving back and helping those in need. They bring communities together fostering a sense of unity and compassion. These types of events remind us that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference in someone's life.

Below: Academy of Finance members show their certificates



Key Club's Festive Activities

By: Sophia Evans

Each year, Key Club steps up and runs special activities for the Holidays. This includes Thanksgiving and Christmas. Students involved in Key Club are encouraged to bring in goods and donate them for families in need during these tough times. They also must sell at least five holiday wreaths.

For Thanksgiving, students are encouraged to donate any Thanksgiving food items they can bring in. This includes frozen turkeys, stuffing, cranberry sauce, gravy, and other canned items. The food is donated to families in our community. Mrs. Prime, whose daughter Regan is a sophomore and



Above: seniors, Ellie O'Shea and Peyton D'Andrea, show off a Key Club wreaths

son Kevin graduated last year, helps set up the baskets for the food drive. Once the baskets are ready, then Mrs. Basaman sets up either delivery or pick-up at the school. The food that is not made into baskets is taken to the local food pantries and donated. This Thanksgiving, there were approximately twenty frozen turkeys donated by Key Club members and people of the community.

For Christmas, Key Club sells wreaths and sets up a Wishing Tree that provides gifts for families. Students are not permitted to purchase gifts. The staff is provided with a link to the Wishing Tree,

which includes the gifts, along with the sizes that the family would like to receive. The families receiving gifts are people of our community and all the sending districts.

Junior Angelina George says, "It feels really good to give back to the community and be a part of something bigger than myself."

A requirement for Key Club members is to sell five or more wreaths each year. There are four different options: large decorated, large undecorated, small decorated, and small undecorated. When they were delivered, they were more beautiful than ever, and the smell of so many wreaths really brings in the holidays.

With the donations of food and gifts, students and staff are taught a good lesson on how to give back to the community. Key Club aims to support families in need, taking away some stress during these times, and giving them an enjoyable holiday. Mrs. Hoeler and Mrs. Basaman do a great job of organizing activities, and the families are very grateful and excited to celebrate the holidays!



WORLD OF DANCE

MHS Dance Program performs for the holidays

By: Yami Urbano

Dance seems to be a big passion for many students at our Manasquan High School. Many students at our school started dance at an early age and continue to get better. By taking Mrs. Galano's dance classes, students who love to dance get to have a fun class and do what they love!

On December 7th Mrs. Galano hosted the Winter Dance show. All tickets to the dance were sold out! Some dancers were nervous to perform, but with a great audience and the greatest dance teacher around, they knew they would manage to get through it.

The dance show had many students of different experience levels per-

forming mixed dances. The reactions of those who saw the show were all super positive!

Many in the audience said that the dancers were talented and even outstanding, and that the songs were so catchy they did not want the show to ever end.

Mrs. Galano, our current dance teacher, was inspired by her theater director Mr. Joe Russo at Red Bank Regional when she was in high school. Mrs. G says that he inspired her to dance professionally and follow her dreams.

Once she became a teacher, Mrs. G realized that she also wants to inspire students the way her theater director did. "He was the best!" states

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Above: the dancers perform for staff members after school the day before the show.



Senior Spotlight

Squan Seniors Kiki Noe, Holden Becker and Rylie Eldridge Run the Philadelphia Marathon

By: Rose Behler and Payton Siano

For many people, running a marathon is a bucket list item, a goal that might take a lifetime to accomplish. Recently, three of Manasquan High School's very own seniors took on the challenge, and did it!

On Sunday, November 19, Holden Becker, Kiki Noe, and Rylie Eldridge ran the Philadelphia Marathon, completing it in five hours and thirty minutes! They can check that one off their bucket list.

Holden, Kiki and Riley after the race



The Philadelphia Marathon is an annual sporting event that has been held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on the third Sunday of November each year since 1954. It ranks among the top ten in the nation's largest marathons, with a course that is professionally certified and over 30,000 runners, 60,000 spectators and 3,000 volunteers. The runners come from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and over 42 countries. In short, it's a big deal!

Their inspiration to run the race started with Kiki. Her mom has run three marathons, so that motivated them to do it.

Kiki and Rylie had previously convinced a lot of other friends to run with them, but "Holden was the only one to follow through," Rylie explains.

To prepare for the race, the runners did some "minimal training," according to Rylie. Rylie says that she ran six miles per day on a consistent basis. Kiki



Senior Rylie Eldridge taking a selfie of the running trio

trained with a bunch of ten mile runs, and Holden had a bit of an advantage because he is a cross country runner for the school's team.

The morning of the race, the runners had to wake up bright and early to start their day. Rylie woke up at 3:45 AM and left her house at 4:30. Talk about early! On the shuttle bus on the way to the race, they agreed that they would stick together and run the race as a team.

"We were a little nervous for something bad to happen, but it was good and overall smooth sailing," Holden and Rylie said.

The first heat consisting of elite professional runners took off at 7am, followed by waves of runners every ten minutes. Kiki, Riley and Holden left at 7:30.

continued on next page

Welcome Mr. Mason!

By: Gavin Duque

Manasquan High School made some new additions to their staff this year, and one is the addition of Mr. Mason!

After former MHS Law and Public Safety teacher Mr. Fagan left last year, MHS was in need of a replacement. Mr. Mason swooped in and got the job.

Mr. Mason has been teaching Law and Public Safety

statewide for up to 13 years. He comes from Linden, New Jersey (Where I happen to be from as well!). While growing up in Linden he attended McManus Middle school and Elementary school Deerfield School #9. (Both of which I also attended before moving!) He then attended Union County college for his Criminal Justice degree, followed by Rutgers to achieve a degree in engineering. Later he

attended Saint Peters University to earn his teaching degree.

Prior to becoming a teacher, Mr. Mason served as a Detective in the Linden Police Department for 26 years. After retiring from the police force, he moved to teaching as a senior instructor at the Police Academy, which allowed him to teach at many other various schools and academies statewide. He ran a four-year law

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Philly Marathon!

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They described the beginning as quick and easy.

"We genuinely had so much fun," Rylie said. They ran through the city of Philadelphia and then along the river and out to the suburbs.

The group notes that Manayunk was their favorite part. "It's like the Hoboken of Philly," Rylie said.

Along the way, the runners had plenty of support from fellow competitors and big crowds cheering them on.

Impressively, they ran most of the way, and only walked two and a half miles. "Miles 1-21 we were chilling, but after that it got a little intense," they said. To marathoners, that 20 mile mark is where you often "hit the wall".

The duration of the race is obviously very long, so the runners had to push themselves and stay energized. Prior to the race, "we had to learn a lot about the fueling process," Holden remarks. "You are supposed to eat something every forty minutes." Since they didn't want to waste any time on eating. The runners tried something called "Gu's." Gu's are little capsules of pudding that you snap open and consume on the run. They are quick and easy to eat while on the move. "It was a pleasant surprise that we didn't want to throw those up because they actually tasted pretty good," Holden adds.

The aftermath of the race wasn't as fun as the actual thing. Rylie shares that "Each of our toes had their own blister, and stairs were very difficult the next day." The girls strongly showed up to school the following day, but Holden took the day off.

Overall, their experience was great! "We are all really happy that we did it now and proud to say that we ran a marathon at seventeen," Rylie revealed. She wants to continue running and hopes to someday complete the New York Marathon during or after college. Everyone felt very accomplished by the end of their race, and now they can say that they ran a marathon!



Kiki Noe(Left) Holden Becker(middle) and Rylie Eldridge(right)

FEEL THE SPIRIT

MHS traditions on display once again for Spirit Week

Some teens love dressing up and participating in Spirit Week, while others don't really get into it. At Manasquan High School we try our best to boost everyone's excitement for Thanksgiving with traditions including dress up days, hall decorating, and a pep rally.

Spirit Week officially started one week before Thanksgiving, with the seniors facing the juniors in the flag football Powderpuff game after school on Thursday November 16. The next day, Friday 11/17, was Pajama Day and that night, the annual Homecoming Dance.

Monday was Hawaiian Day and that night, members of each class returned to school for Hall-

By: Yami Urbano and Gabby Bouquel



Right: School Spirit being shown by Myles Carsten and his friend wearing favorite team jerseys!

Mr. Mason

continued from previous page

and public safety program/academy in Morris County New Jersey and ran a similar program in Mercer County New Jersey.

So far this school year, Mr. Mason says he feels very welcomed by the students and staff here at MHS. "I wish I came here 13 years ago," he said. "I Really love it! I enjoy the atmosphere and the energy of the students. The students I have here are amazing, they're very respectful and see the value in what I'm teaching."

Mr. Mason loves the process of teaching and the results that come with it. "I



Below: Mr. Mason then (left) and now (right)



want to take this program to places that are achievable for the students, I also want them to have fun in the process," he said. "My focus is being an effective teacher to all my students and passing on all that I know with my experiences. Bottom line is I want my students to succeed in law and public safety."

Overall, Mr. Mason is a very respectable and experienced teacher. He has been all over the state in regards of teaching Law and Public Safety, from

instructing state troopers in various police academies to teaching law and public safety to students here at MHS. He is a very accomplished teacher and will continue to be appreciated by students and staff here at MHS.

Spirit Week *continued from previous page*

way Decorating. Then Tuesday was Bloutfits and Groutfits, meaning you could dress in a "blue-outfit" or "gray-outfit" to honor our school colors.

On Wednesday November 22nd Spirit Week really got exciting. It started with class t-shirt day and shortened classes leading into the Pep Rally.

Student Council adviser Mrs. Eldrige, who organized much of the pep rally, said, "The Pep Rally gives a recap of all of the Fall Sports Teams, followed by an introduction of the Football Team and the Cheerleaders. Next, the classes participate in Relay Races, a Nerf Football game, and Tug of War."

As the MHS band rocked the gym, the Pep Rally began. Maeve Korth one of our band members said,

Below: Junior Connor Volksen dominates the nerf football games with 5 touchdown passes!



"It was fun, and I was able to boost our school spirit."

The Pep Rally started off with the sports team recaps to honor students that played well during fall sports season. Then the fun amped up, with a balloon pop game, then the pie eating / bubble gum contest and the relay race. Here, a new event required running across the gym while balancing a tennis ball on a racket instead of the old scooter races. This was followed by the 3 legged race, cartwheels, the wheelbarrow run and leap frog. The teachers ended up winning, although they may have cheated!

This lead up to the nerf football games, starting with the Juniors smashing the Sophomores and the seniors defeating the fresh-



Above: Mr. Buss livens up the Pep Rally with his humorous commentary!

man. Next round was the Juniors vs Seniors, and the juniors were proud to say that they wrecked the Seniors by a score of 14-7. Lastly, the Juniors played the teachers, which ended with a tie.

The last event was the tug of war. It started with the Seniors humiliating the freshman. Mr. Buss had the crowd dying of laughter by teasing the freshmen, saying it was "like pulling a bag of feathers!" and "not even entertaining!" After that, the Sophomores came in with the win, surprising the juniors, before losing to the mighty seniors. The pep rally ended before the seniors and teachers battled it out.

Our pep rally is a way to gather up all the students and teachers and have some fun, and to be thankful for our school in the spirit of Thanksgiving! Thanks to the hard work and of support Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Eldridge, the pep rally is fun and hypes up our big Wall vs Manasquan football game!



Right: Seniors show their strength by crushing all competition in tug of war

Transforming MHS Halls in a Single Night

Hall decorating is a fun tradition to keep alive

By: Fernanda Morales & Kelly Mezza

One of the biggest traditions here at MHS is the hallway decorating that takes place the week of Thanksgiving. Many students here at MHS participate in this event, and it takes hard work. But all that work is worth it when students walk in the next morning and see the hallways have transformed.

On Monday evening November 20, students and teachers arrived at school to help decorate the hallways, "Last year there were a lot of class participation from the class of 2026, and it was good seeing that transfer over to this year. I know that students made an amazon Wishlist to gather things they needed from parents or students," said sophomore class advisor Mrs. Onorato.

Along with individual spirit week themes, the class themes are the biggest and most important part of spirit week. This year's themes were: "Festive Freshmen, Soph-s'mores, Jubilee Juniors, and Southern Seniors". Picking out the theme is a lot of work, and it takes a lot of creativity. There was a lot of planning and class meetings during lunch, but each grade has elected representatives to get the ideas up and running in which selected themes voted in the class meeting get sent out to the grade and students get to choose

Southern Seniors:



Jubilee Juniors



Soph-s'mores



Festive Fresh-



which they like the best.

As a representative I think coming up with the ideas individually is the easiest part but then you have to think about your classmates. There were many ideas out there; I think we had three or four different themes like Sci-fi sophomores. But Soph-smores was the most voted so it got elected.

Along with picking out the class themes, each grade has a certain color, with freshmen being white, sophomores being green, juniors being yellow and seniors being blue. The most fun part about decorating is designing the class shirt. We spoke to representatives Jackson Bramly and Delia Gilmore, who designed the class shirt for the Soph-s'mores.

"I wanted to make something that felt clever to last years. Delia was doing the other design for the shirt, which was originally going to be on the back. We had two designs we worked on together," said Jackson Bramley.

Delia added, "I had seen Jackson's design before creating mine, and I decided to emphasize camping in the part I designed. We had everyone vote. Student council had agreed that Jackson's should go big on the back and mine should be small on the pocket area of the front".

In the end, the contest for the best hallway decoration went to the Juniors.

First MHS Cornhole Tournament Spices up Spirit Week

By: Gavin Duque

On Wednesday November 15th, Mrs. Eldridge and Mrs. Anderson held the first MHS Corn Hole tournament as part of the lead up to Spirit Week. There was a lot of excitement and many close matchups, including the final four teams that battled for victory.

In the end, juniors Brandon Kunz and Parker Harms won it all, without a single loss along the way. They were challenged by the sophomore runner-ups, Maddux Basaman and Michael Murphy. Teams Mino-holi and Lominators played very well too, but unfortunately did not make it into the finals.

All 20 teams that participated put on a great show. All agreed that Brandon and Parker had an incredible performance.

Brandon had this to say about the tournament, "Me and Parker had no doubt going into the tournament. We've played our entire lives and have practiced daily over the summer with our fathers. It was a fun tournament all around and I hope for it to happen again."

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Above: tournament winners Parker Harms and Brandon Kunz show their Squan pride



Homecoming Dance Kicks off Spirit Week

By: Peyton D'Andrea and Rose Behler

Friday, November 17th was Manasquan High School's Homecoming! During the school day, students sported their favorite pjs for pajama day, and then spent the rest of the day getting ready for the big night.

Homecoming provides an opportunity for connecting and socializing with people, having a good time and for the girls to show off their latest fashions. The boys are less enthusiastic about dressing up, but they do anticipate going to the homecoming dance with the girls. For students, homecoming is special because that is when we can take a break, have fun with friends, relax and not worry about other drama going on in the school.

Each school has its own traditions for celebrating homecoming. Manasquan's includes an annual powder puff football game, spirit week, and hallway decorating.

Homecoming Dance this year was a success! All grades attended, with seniors making up the majority. According to the students, the DJ was not that great this year but did play a few good songs that kept the crowd alive.

Payton Siano, a junior attendee of the dance, said, "It was a great time, and everyone was talking and dancing together."

Manasquan senior, McKenna Karlson, said that she was very excited for homecoming because "it's always so much fun and I love seeing everyone dressed up." McKenna did not get to attend Homecoming her freshman year due to Covid and its restrictions, so going to the dance her senior year made it extra special for her and her grade. McKenna said that the themes and snacks were the best part of homecoming.



Above: Senior boys before the dance.

This year's homecoming King and Queen were seniors Liam Starkey and Talia Blum. The winners of homecoming court were freshmen Gabby Restivo and Kieran Schnieder, sophomores Seton Iglay and Jack Ornelly, and juniors Bridget Freeman and Dylan Vowteras.

Overall, the night was filled with fun and festivities! Students describe the night as "super energetic" and "a good time." Homecoming is a great way to rally up school spirit and get ready for the Thanksgiving game.

Below: Huge group shot of students enjoying the Homecoming Dance



Seniors Win Powder Puff Game!

By Ellie O'Shea and Payton Siano

The annual Powder Puff flag football game was held on November 16th at 3:00 pm on the turf. The game was played against the seniors and juniors. There were 4 touchdowns total, where the seniors scored 3 and the juniors scored 1. Which made the score 20-7 since the seniors missed both extra points. But then got a 2-point conversion.

In the first quarter the seniors were on top scoring a touchdown. Kat Keefe ran 50 yards to score the touchdown which led to a hug pile of seniors running up to her and cheering.

This was a very competitive game and Kat Keefe was not going to let the seniors down. "I knew I could make it to the endzone so I ran as fast as I could, it was really fun seeing everyone so excited," said Kat.

In the second and third quarters there was a touchdown from both the juniors and seniors. The first touchdown was from the juniors,

where Ella Condon ran from the 20-yard line to the end-zone. Her team ran over with excitement, and all cheered her on as they walked off the field. It looked good for the juniors!

Right after that play, senior Madison Daughton handed the ball to Belle Porrazzo, who ran through multiple junior defensive players to get the touchdown. Then



Above: Junior Joey Presbrey gets ready to hike the ball

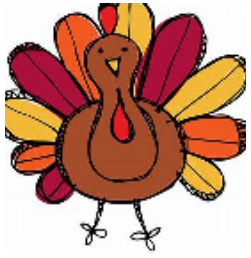
instead of going to the extra point, coach Ryan Mulvaney thought it would be smart to go for a two-point conversion. The seniors succeeded. "Being up 5 it was the obvious move to trust our offense and go for 2 to make it a 7-point game," he said.

In the fourth quarter the seniors and juniors were going back and forth between who was on offense and defense, but with two minutes left, the senior coaches took a timeout to create a play to increase the win even more. When the timeout ended Madison Daughton said hike and sprinted to the left side. She passed by multiple juniors trying to get her and ended up in the end-zone.

This was the final score of the game which led to the seniors winning. Everyone was filled with excitement, even the disappointed juniors, after the game.

Below: Junior Joey Presbrey gets ready to hike the ball



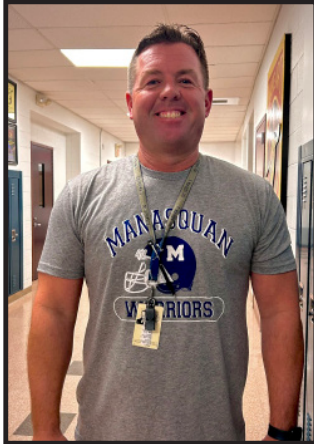


What are you thankful for?

Students and Teachers at MHS Give Thanks...



By: Fernanda Morales



"I'm VERY thankful for my family and all the people around me and working here at Manasquan with all these lovely students" - Mr Lee



"I am thankful that my family is in good health and that we have aswome students and teachers at MHS"
- Mr Murin



"I am thankful for my fam-ily, and my friends" -
Jasmine Olmeo



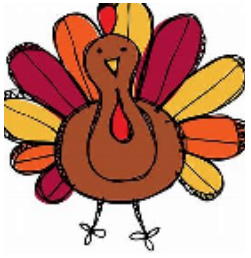
"I am thankful for my friends and my family but I am also thankful for the beautiful summer we had"
- Rylie Eldridge



"I am thankful for my friends and my family"
- Alex



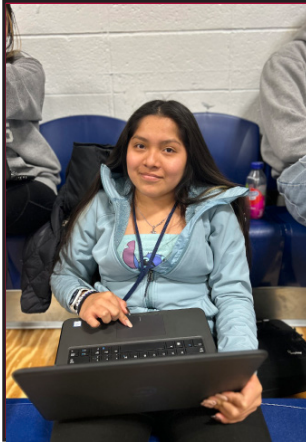
"I am very-thankful for friends and family" - Amy



What are you thankful for?



Students and Teachers at MHS Give Thanks...



"I am thankful for family and friends"



"I am thankful for wrestling, friends and family" - Chris



"I am thankful for family, friends and everyone that has helped me become who I am today" - Matt Ahern



"I am thankful for friends and family" -Edwin



"I am thankful for friends I met and the nice teachers here at MHS" - Blake



"I am thankful for family and friends" - Abdi

Mrs. Martucci is Teacher of the Year

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Zdanowicz started the Math Honors Society. The main goals of the honors society is to inspire keen interest in mathematics, develop strong scholarships in the subject, and promote the enjoyment of mathematics in high school.

Mrs. Martucci gives students the opportunity to come into her classroom during lunch for any extra help they might need.

One of Mrs. Martucci's pre-calc students, Olivia Wanner says, "Mrs. Martucci is always in her room for extra help during lunch and this helps me so much for my upcoming tests."

Her favorite grades to teach are juniors and seniors. "I love having an impact on kids this age, learning to grow. I know math is a difficult subject for a lot of people, but it was always my favorite. I hope that being able to do some unique fun things in the classroom can bring that love to people," she says.

In junior and senior year its important for kids to have a mentor to look up to before attending college.

Mrs. Martucci has helped me so much this year in my math class. I have always struggled with math, but this year I am doing best I have ever done; thanks to her and her dedication to her profession.

Corn Hole

continued from page 13

Brandon's teammate Parker added, "Brandon and I had the best time, and it was so awesome to win the first Squan cornhole tournament. Playing all summer with our dads helped prepare us for sure. Can't wait for next year."

The tournament was planned and set up by the Student Council advisers Mrs. Eldridge and Mrs. Anderson.

Mrs. Eldridge commented on the idea for the tournament. "The idea for the cornhole tournament came from a Student Council meeting. Everyone who participated in the Spike ball Tournament last Spring had a great time, so we wanted to have a similar event in the Fall."

Following the tournament's success, Mrs. Eldridge added, "We had so much fun, and it looked like everyone who participated had a great time. There was a fun, yet competitive atmosphere with a little bit of trash talking of course."

With the tournament being without a doubt a success, students are wondering whether there will be another fun little tournament in the future. Mrs. Eldridge says, "Absolutely!! We hope to keep building it up and adding more teams. We're also going to run the Spike ball Tournament in the Spring again as well."

In the end, the Homecoming cornhole tournament was a great success, bringing students together from all different grade levels for a fun com-

Dance Show

continued from page 7

Mrs Galano.

One dancer, sophomore Gabby Garray, was in the opening set of Chrstitmas songs that included "Step into Christmas", "Christmas in Hollas" and "Santa Claus is Coming to Town". She gave Mrs. G a lot of credit for inspiring her.

"Without Mrs. G's motivation I don't think I would be where I am right now," Gabby said.

Many students also say that they might not thank their dance teacher enough every day, but they are grateful for her every day.

Although it wasn't easy, Mrs. Galano was very happy with how the show turned out. "It was definitely a lot of work getting all the costumes together and putting the program together," she said. But it was worth the effort. Her favorite thing was the way students bonded together through hard work and practice.

Sophomore Fernanda Morales, who attended the show, summed it up best. "It was a really good show, I enjoyed it!"

petitive tournament. It showcased the skill and sportsmanship of everyone competing. It's safe to say the upcoming spike ball tournament will also be a success and enjoyed by all involved.

Santa's Favorites

BY: ANGELINA GEORGE

* Special Holiday Section *

Best X-MAS Cookies!

(Based on Votes)

1. Pillsbury Holiday Cookies

2. Peanut Butter Blossom

3. Frosted Sugar Cookie

4. Dark Chocolate Peppermint

5. Snickerdoodle

6. Gingerbread

7. Italian Cookie Assortment

8. Chocolate Chip



WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE GIFT... EVER?

By: Peyton D'Andrea



Ellison O'Shea:

"My favorite gift was in 8th grade when I got my apple watch. I wanted it because I work out all the time and it is helpful to see how hard I'm working. It is also helpful for school because it tells me the time and I can text my parents in the case of an emergency."



Holden Becker:

"My favorite gift I have ever received was my first fishing pole in kindergarden. I still have my rod and I use it to fish with my grandpa. We still catch big fish just like we did when I was younger. I am happy I got this pole because it gave me quality time to spend with my grandpa"



Rylie Eldridge:

"My favorite gift was a bright blue bicycle I got in 1st grade. This was the second bike I have ever had, and it was my first big girl bike."



Lucas Farkas:

"My favorite gift I have ever received was a Segway my siblings and I got. This was the hottest gift of 2015, and everyone wanted one. They were expensive and controversial because they were known for malfunctioning, but I had a great experience with mine."

Colin Tracy:

"My favorite gift I have ever received was my trampoline. This allowed my brother and I to spend time together while also having a great time. I woke up Christmas morning, so excited to see this in my backyard... it felt like the best day ever."



Mckenna Karlson:

"My favorite gift was stilts. These were so much fun to walk around in and it gave me the ability to be taller than everyone."

Christmas is in Town

By: Yami Urbano

When it comes to Christmas, of course it is the most beloved holiday by children all over the world. And it happens to be mine. It brings a lot of joy and happiness to both little kids and adults.

Christmas to me is a celebration which includes spending quality time with my family

is so much fun. My two cousins, mom, aunts and myself always decorate the inside of the house each year, while the boys and men do the outside. My mom has so many indoor decorations that they usually all don't get displayed.

When it comes to shopping it happens to be my favorite thing

during the Christmas season. I love seeing everyone receive their present with joy and excitement. The stores are also always so beautifully decorated and very festive.

You can feel the spirit by looking at every shop's window. I have loved the celebration of Christmas since my very early childhood. I still enjoy decorating Christmas trees and simply walking around the streets looking at the decorations of the buildings and the trees around the city.

My favorite tradition about Christmas is having Christmas trees in our house because me and my family

gather up to decorate it and it makes me feel such a big connection with everyone. All I see is smiles and laughs come from each and every one of my family members. We also put the presents under the tree and it gets everyone more excited.

But really the best thing about Christmas is that special feeling in the air that is giving every person happiness and hope for a better future in the next year. During the Christmas season people are usually more friendly and gentle to each other, they try to leave all the bad behind in the year that is passing by. When there is joy in the air, the heart of everyone wants to celebrate along with the mind.



Above: Lots of laughter and smiles With Family

and loved ones, decorating the entire house inside and out and shopping for people I love. Doing this with the people I love is what means so much to me.

Spending Christmas with my family is very important to me. We usually gather and celebrate at my aunt's house or at mine. We spend the day baking cookies, playing board games and preparing a big Christmas dinner before opening our gifts.

Decorating for Christmas



Above: A beautiful Christmas Tree

Hanukkah Foods: A Flavorful Journey

By: Rose Behler

Surprisingly, most people don't know the meaning behind the fan favorite holiday—Hanukkah. The origin story of Hanukkah is based on events that took place in the Middle East more than 2000 years ago. Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, is a Jewish holiday that celebrates the ancient Jews' recclamation of their temple in Jerusalem after occupation by the Syrian-Greek empire.

As the story goes, the Jewish Maccabees reentered the temple and found only a tiny bit of oil—barely enough to burn their lamps for one day. Instead, the oil burned for eight days—a Hanukkah miracle.

Since Hanukkah typically falls in December, it's often considered the Jewish version of Christmas. But Hanukkah is a minor Jewish festival—far less significant than the Jewish High Holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Still, Hanukkah is a fun winter celebration—and it doesn't hurt that it's associated with lots of good food.

People that celebrate the holiday commemorate the holiday by playing games and eating delicious foods. Since oil is a



Above: The famous combo: latkes paried with applesauce.

big part of the Hanukkah story, special foods prepared in oil are on the holiday table of many Jewish families.

Classic dishes like latkes (crisp potato pancakes) sweet *sufganiyot* (doughnuts), crunchy *mandelbrot* (almond bread), and flavorful *rugelach* (filled pastry) are favorites across the country. Some foods even coordinate with the traditional games played during this holiday, such as Gelt. Gelt refers to wrapped chocolate coins that are used to play dreidel, an established Hanukkah game. A dreidel is a top with four sides, each with a different Hebrew letter. Each letter represents a word in a Hebrew saying that means “a great miracle happened there” (referring to Israel, where the Hanukkah story took place).

Personally, my favorite Hanukkah food is Latkes. Dipping them in apple sauce contrasts the savory and crisp taste of the pancakes with a soft and sweet sauce. It's quite difficult to pick a favorite food to eat at this time, but some students around Manasquan

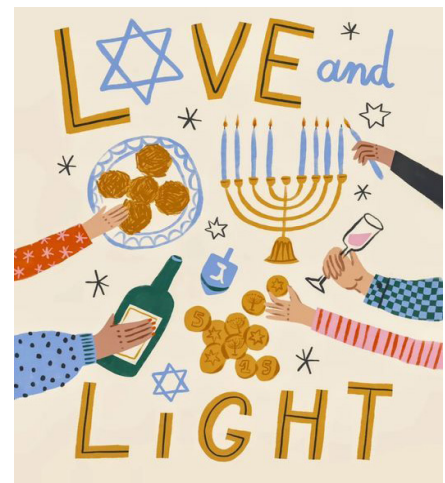
made the tough decision of narrowing their top meals down to one.

Ozzy Canarick, a junior, said that his favorite food is the jelly donuts, “because the jelly is so good.” It's a difference from many of the savory foods made during this time. Richard Kyan, a junior at Biotech but Manasquan football and lacrosse player, agrees with him. “My favorite part of the donuts is the powder,” he said.

Not everyone likes the sweets, though. Junior Summer Even-Esh said that she likes the “potato pancakes best,” because her “Grandma makes them so good.”

The traditional foods of Hanukkah, such as the students' favorites, latkes and sufganiyot, are more than mere culinary customs. They represent the oil's significance in the Hanukkah story. These foods are a delicious way to engage with history, offering a sensory experience that connects us to the festival's themes and helps to pass traditions to future generations. Eating all of these delicious delicacies helps the community to celebrate and remember the positivity and light that this holiday brings with it. Hanukkah Sameach!

Below: Delicious sufganiyot (aka jelly donuts.)



CHRISTMAS STO-

By: Gabrielle Boquel

Manasquan high school Christmas break is less than a week away. Students here at MHS are preparing by ending the school year finishing up chapters and getting in those last-minute tests. The only thing on students minds these past few weeks have been the much-needed break from school. Many students have chosen to either stay in New Jersey for Christmas or go someplace to visit family and friends.

The past month here at Manasquan high school has been filled with lots of different winter events from the MHS dance show production to the Winter Chorus concert. All of which were sold out shows that brought in the performer's family and friends. These shows could be found at the Jack Nicholson Theatre.

We asked a few students here at Manasquan high school where they would be spending their Christmas break and with who. "This year, I'm flying to Los Angeles to see my Uncle, I was upset knowing that we wouldn't be able to go skiing but the warm weather makes up for it." Explained a sophomore named Ella.

"For Christmas break, I'm staying in New Jersey and plan on spending time with family and friends." Yami Urbano explained. Many students have chosen to stay in New Jersey while family comes and visits while others are planning to flee the state to go visit family or to just get away from it all.

Many students that were going away, said that they would be heading someplace warm or going up north to go skiing and snowboarding.

Students are excited to spend this break with family and friends and catching up on the much needed sleep.



What is your favorite thing to do over Christmas break?

By: Ellie O'Shea



Peyton D'Andrea

I love baking cookies with my mom and getting to spend quality time with my family. I also love seeing family that I don't see as often and getting to catch up with them.



Matty Koenig

I enjoy hanging out with my family over break and go snowboarding with them in Vermont. I also get to see my friends that are in college and hangout with them over break.



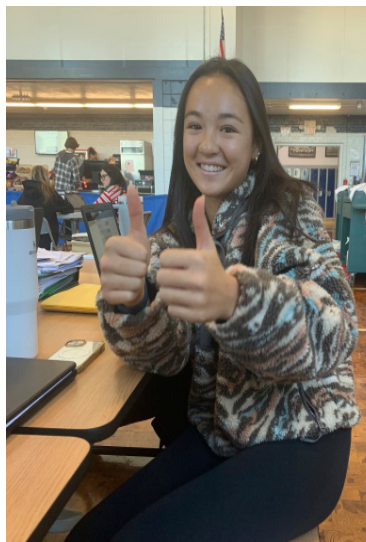
Layla Keelan

One of my favorite things to do over Christmas break is spending time with friends that I don't see as much. I will be going to New York over Christmas break to spend time with my friends and go shopping.



Anthony Chermack

I enjoy hanging out with my friends over the long break and being able to spend time with my brother who is home from college.



Talia Blum

I am going to Florida with my family over Christmas break. I am excited to spend time with my family over vacation and be with my sister who is in college, and I do not see often.



Liam Starkey

My favorite thing to do over break is hangout with my friends. I get to see my cousins that I don't see often and hangout with them, which I am really looking forward to doing.

The Importance of Christmas Music

By: Payton Siano



*Sounds
of the
Season*

As the holiday season approaches, the familiar sound of Christmas music fills the air, creating a festive atmosphere and spreading joy to people of all ages. The importance of Christmas music goes beyond mere entertainment, as it plays a significant role in shaping traditions, fostering a sense of community, and bringing people together during this special time of year.

The tradition of Christmas music dates back centuries, with carols being passed down through generations. These timeless melodies and heartwarming lyrics serve as a reminder of cherished customs and values that are deeply ingrained in our cultural heritage. From "Silent Night" to "Jingle Bells," each song carries with it the nostalgia of holidays past and the anticipation of creating new memories.

One of the most significant aspects of Christmas music is its ability to evoke emotions

and create a sense of togetherness. Whether it's the joyous "Deck the Halls" or the reflective "O Holy Night," these songs have the power to elicit feelings of warmth, love, and gratitude. They serve as a backdrop for family gatherings,

festive celebrations, and community events, uniting people in a collective experience of merriment and goodwill.

Christmas music has a profound impact on mental well-being, particularly during the holiday season. Studies have shown that listening to familiar and nostalgic music, such as Christmas songs, can reduce stress, elevate mood, and enhance overall happiness. In a world filled with hustle and bustle, the calming and uplifting melodies of Christmas music provide a soothing reprieve, allowing individuals to embrace the spirit of the season.

Christmas music serves as a vehicle for charitable endeavors and acts of kindness. Many holiday music events and fundraisers are organized to support charitable causes, ranging from feeding the hungry to providing gifts for underprivileged children. Through the power of music, communities come together to make a positive impact,

embodying the spirit of generosity and compassion that defines the holiday season.

I asked students at Manasquan High School what their favorite Christmas song is. Many students said their favorite song was jingle bells because it brought them so many childhood memories. Student Emma Frankin stated, "I love the song ***I don't want a lot for Christmas*** by Mariah Cary." She then said "The song is just really catchy and very upbeat, every time I hear the song it reminds me that Christmas is coming."

The importance of Christ-



mas musi cannot be overstated. From its role in preserving traditions to its impact on emotional well-being and community spirit, Christmas music continues to hold a special place in the hearts of millions. As the holiday season unfolds, let the timeless melodies and uplifting harmonies of Christmas music inspire a season of goodwill, compassion, and festive cheer.



MHS favorite Christmas memories

By Kelly Meza

Everyone has a memory about Christmas, and in these memories there is laughter and joy on Christmas day. The eagerness to open a present, the smell of freshly baked chocolate chip cookies, the delicious scent of hot chocolate in the air. Watching Christmas movies and listening to Christmas music. Being able to spend time with family on Christmas day is the most important part as you are creating memories with those who you care about.

Edwin Valazquez Roman's favorite memory of Christmas was when in 2020, he went to New York with his parents, siblings, and cousins to see the ginormous Christmas tree in Rockefeller Center! "It was not crowded since it was during quarantine," Edwin said. He added, "I like this memory because when I saw the tree it was very pretty, the lights, it was decorated very nicely."

Senior Jocelyn Bautista says, "When it was Christmas day my cousin and her family came over to my house. We were dancing, laughing, and watching TikTok's." At around midnight they opened the presents. Jocelyn said this was her favorite memory of Christmas because it is when her relatives come and celebrate with her and her family. She says that it is a great time when everyone is around for Christmas.

When Jose Eli Gonzales was five years old, he received a present from his dad on Christmas day. When he opened the present in front of his family, he saw what was inside. The present inside contained a toy car. "I remember I was very excited since the toy car was able to drive with the remote control



*Above: Edwin Valazquez Roman;
below: Senora Mulroy*



that came alongside with the toy car, I thought the gift was very cool," said Jose. He added, "This was my favorite memory because that was the only gift that costed a lot of money."

Nicole Mendoza Garnica talks about her favorite memory from Christmas stating, "My favorite was when I got a new iPhone as a gift." Nicole said

when she got her iPhone she was beaming with excitement, as it was her first brand new phone.

On Christmas day when Gabriela Esmeralda Caballero Quiroz was a child, she received a brand-new laptop for Christmas. She was happy since she did not think her parents would give her a laptop. Since she was young, she was "not educated with technology" so she remembers at first she did not know how to use it.

Mrs. Mulroy talks about her favorite memory of Christmas, when she was 9 years old, and her relatives came over to visit. Her aunt gave her a gift, a little monkey that played the drums. She said it was cute because it would walk around. At the time it was a rare gift to receive in Nicaragua.

Mrs. Mulroy says, "There were a lot of people outside their homes, you could see the lights, the excitement of Christmas plastered on people's faces." Around midnight is when everyone goes to church. After Church was over, they would return home and open one or two gifts. You did not get a lot of gifts, just a couple of presents. Then you would eat dinner with family, everyone was happy and getting along with one another, and they would dance until five or six in the morning.

Happy holidays and Merry Christmas to everyone at MHS. I hope everyone at MHS has a nice winter break!

Santa's Favorites

BY: ANGELINA GEORGE

Best X-MAS Movies!

(Based on Votes)



1. Elf

2. Home Alone

3. Love Actually

4. Die Hard

5. Polar Express

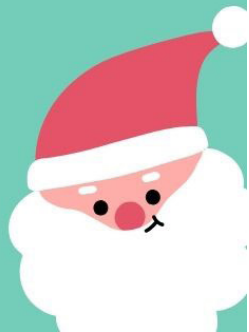
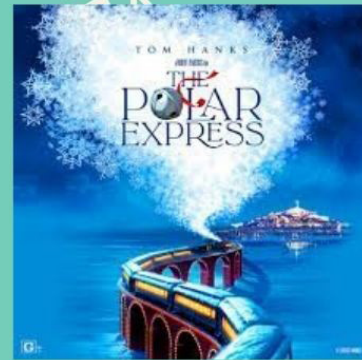
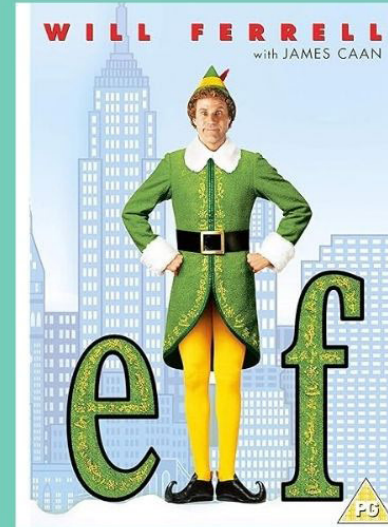
6. The Santa Clause

7. Christmas Vacation

8. A Christmas Story

9. The Grinch

10. The Elf on the Shelf Movie



MANASQUAN WINTER SPORTS WARRIORS

