
WARRIOR SPEARHEAD

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Welcome to the Spearhead

It has certainly been a long time coming, but we are proud to (finally) announce the unveiling of the official Manasquan Elementary School newsletter!

What to expect

Our wonderful staff of contributors will be submitting content about our school and student body, along with movie and book reviews, poems and other original content, opinions, surveys, games, and more!

We are so looking forward to sharing all the amazing things to come!

To become a contributor, you need only ask! Email Ralee (2445@manasquan.k12.nj.us) or Lucie(23664@manasquan.k12.nj.us) to find additional info and dates of newspaper meetings!

Matt Driscoll's Quote of the Month



"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."

-Winston Churchill

This quote means to know when to speak and when not to speak. It is important to speak up when you believe in something even when it goes against the majority. It is equally important to know when to keep your mouth shut and listen to what is being said. This can be difficult at times and it could take a while to learn, but when you *do* learn, you will use it for the rest of your life.
By Matthew Driscoll

"Midnight Serenade"

Slumbers are whispering
Rest is begging
But you long to see the flying colors of 12am

When the Grandfather chimes 12

The rings leave splinters in the suppressed silence

Everything is hysterical, nothing is alright

And the red and blue haze makes it hard to see
clearly

Everywhere are cries

Everyone confesses
In the midst of all this

You realize you're blessed For being here, alive

Grandfather cries, "One!"

And you agonize over your past, present, and future
Seeking "Why" and "What" and "What if" You
despair for problems that don't exist
Or ones that no longer matter
You wish, you wonder

And you pray that the darkness will keep your se-
crets

When you can't bear the weight of exhaustion upon
you eyelids any longer

You doze into a dream at 2am
With tears in your eyes
And I am unsure if they're gleeful or mournful

You wake the next morning

With last night's problems

Now forgotten

By Brigid McCarthy

ART CORNER

The Spearhead art corner is a way to showcase young talent in our school. If you would like to submit, email Lucie at 23664@manasquan.k12.nj.us



Pieces on left by Liz Roberts.

Pieces on right by Lucie Chantepie



Books and Movies

Book Review- *We Were Liars* by E. Lockhart

Back on her Grandfather's private island 2 years after the accident that left Cadence with no memory of what happened, head splitting migraines, and a feeling of a broken brain, Cadence Sinclair tries to get down to the bottom of what happened the night no one will speak of anymore.

Every summer Cadence travels to her grandfather's private island with her mother. There they spend the entire summer with her grandfather, two aunts, her cousins Mirren and Johnny, the little ones, and her Aunt Carrie's long time boyfriend's nephew Gat. This summer, summer 17, is different than the rest, the aunts are hugging more than usual, the old Sinclair house that her grandfather lives in is rebuilt, and the little ones speaking of the houses on the island being haunted. Now 17, Cadence and the other liars: Gat, Mirren, and Johnny are together as usual, sneaking around, going to the beach, hanging out at the house Cuddledown, one of the four houses on the island. As the liars summer takes off Cadence discovers through the other liars what really happened the night of Summer 15 when she woke up on the beach half-dressed, by herself, and with no memory of what previously happened. Find out the ultimate lie and the real reason no one is talking about the night of Summer 15.

You'll be hooked on the first page! We get to go inside Cadence's brain as she lives through head splitting migraines, the phantom limb of Summer 15, and her life with the liars. I highly recommend this book if you want a suspenseful mystery that you can't put down and will eventually throw across the room in the middle of class. If you thought Summer 15 was crazy, get ready for Summer 17.

-RaLee Wall

Book to Movie Adaption Rating

The Hunger Games by: Suzanne Collins (all of them)

As reader I loved all the books so when I went to see these movies, I had pretty high expectations; I was not AT ALL disappointed. These movies have a fantastic cast. They also stuck to the books, you can pick out, as a reader specific lines and quotes. The next movie *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2* came out November 20 and is the final movie in the franchise.

***If I Stay* by: Gale Forman**

If I Stay's cast, first off is not nearly as good as The Hunger Games series' cast. Although the actors aren't as good, it does follow the book as well. Its format is the same as the book because it goes back and forth between real time and flashbacks. It's a fantastic read but the movie just isn't as good. There is a second book *Where She Went*, it is very different from book one. It is from Adam's point of view on where Mia now is. I was excited when I started reading this book because when "If I Stay" ended abruptly and I had a lot of unanswered questions. *Where She Went* answered them all, but I doubt they will make it into a movie.

By Jillian Moran

SHORT STORIES

Written by MES's own future authors.

"The Mystery Note"

It is just a typical Tuesday. Little did I know, Katie and I had something very unusual about to happen to us. It was the beginning of the day and I was just standing at my locker. Then Katie walks into school and opens her locker, which is next to mine.

"Jenna, look at this," she says and seems flustered.

"What is it?" I ask curiously.

"A note. I just found it in my locker and I have no idea where it came from," she answers.

"Oh really what does it say?" I ask.

"It says, 'you may not know it but I secretly love you,'" she reads.

"Oh my goodness, you have a secret admirer," I squeal.

"Or it could just be a joke. Really, who would like me when there are girls like Lindsay and Cara in our grade," she says.

"Way to be a party pooper," I stick out my tongue, "You know looks aren't everything." She doesn't answer and I decide to just let it go. If someone really did like her enough to leave a note in her locker then they will probably tell her eventually. Or someone else will find out and tell her. Either way I think she deserves to have someone like her.

The rest of the day is normal and I almost forget about the note until study hall. Marcus taps my shoulder and I turn around.

"I overheard you and Katie talking this morning, and I think I might know who put that note in her locker," he whispers to me.

"Really who is it?" I ask eagerly.

"I saw Robert by Katie's locker before you came in, and it might have been him," he tells me.

"Well, why didn't you ask Robert, if you saw him put it in her locker? I really want to know who likes her," I question.

"Why don't you ask him? You are the one who wants to know so badly," he suggests.

"I am not asking him. He would never tell me because I am Katie's best friend, and it is obvious that if I know someone likes her I would tell her," I reply.

“Fine I will ask him, but you owe me,” he says as he gets up from his seat. When he finally comes back he has a very curious look on his face.

“Was it Robert?” I ask.

“No he said that he put it in her locker for someone else,” Marcus tells me.

“And who wanted him to put it in there?” I remark.

“He wouldn’t tell me that, but he did say that he was really surprised when this person asked him to do it. He said that it wasn’t someone who usually likes the shy girls,” he explains.

“Well that means it is probably one of the popular guys,” I say.

“I have a feeling it might be Dylan,” Marcus suggests.

“Why would you think that?” I raise my eyebrows.

“Because Robert and Dylan have been best friends since kindergarten. That means they would trust each other enough to tell the other who they like. And Dylan normally dates the popular girls. He has never dated a shy girl before. The other day at lunch I saw him looking at our table,” he rambles.

During this moment, I become really excited for Katie. She has liked Dylan for a really long time. They were even friends when they were little, but when we got into middle school Dylan started hanging out with the kids on the basketball team and just left her behind. Now I have to find out if the note was from him. I can’t tell her though because if it isn’t she would be devastated. How am I going keep this from her?

A few days go by and nothing happens. I have no ideas as to how I am going to find out if it was Dylan. After a few hopeless days, I walk into school and only three kids are in the hallway. Guess what! One of them is Dylan! I gather the courage to walk up to him. Don’t judge me for being nervous. I haven’t talked to him for a few years, and I’m an awkward person. I walk over to him and clear my throat. He turns around and smiles at me.

“Oh, hi Jenna,” he says to me. At first, I was surprised he remembered my name, but then I shook it off.

“Hi Dylan. I have a question for you,” I stand tall.

“Alright, ask away!” he replies nonchalantly.

“Well, um, you might think this is a weird question but...um, have you by any chance put any notes in anyone’s locker lately?” I quickly blurt out. He seems pretty surprised by this, but opens his mouth to speak.

“Well that is a very interesting question, but uhhhh-”

-Emily Scranton

Sports

Swim- Athlete of the Issue

A future Olympian is in our midst here at MES. Maddie Condon, current 8th grader, is on the rise to the top of the swimming world. Maddie first started swimming competitively in 3rd grade on the TAC Riptide team at the Atlantic Club. Maddie has been to the Junior Olympics four times and has placed every time. Maddie has qualified for ten events in the Junior Olympics this year, but she cannot go due to qualifying for a bigger meet, States. This is Maddie's first time qualifying for States! Maddie is top 10 in New Jersey in 13-14 year old females. In 2014 she was the National winner of the Open Water Swim. Teammate DJ DeSomma described Maddie as, "Hardworking, diligent, and precocious." Maddie is having a rough year due to her just coming out of a knee injury, but that doesn't stop her from continuing to qualify for everything!

-RaLee Wall

Inside MES

7th Grade STEM Class takes it to Court

On January 20, The Manasquan Elementary School 7th Grade STEM class went to Manasquan Borough Hall and held a mock trial. The students wrote up a script from scratch, based on the students' knowledge of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, specifically the Fourth Amendment. The Fourth Amendment states that there shall be no searches and seizures without a warrant judicially sanctioned. The case was presented to Judge Mark Apostolou.

The case was between a fictional Cherry Blossom High School and the student, Travis Smith (Gavin Tuite). Travis Smith claimed that his Fourth Amendment Constitutional Right was violated by his U.S. History teacher, Ms. Norah Solo (McKenzie Ramire). Travis was defended by three attorneys, Jack Hamilton, Brigid McCarthy, and Peyton Rydholm. Ms. Norah Solo was defended by two attorneys, Connor Walsh and Ali Presbrey.

The story said, on October 17, Angel Robinson (Makenzie Wiseman), a student in Ms. Solo's history class, had her phone on her and it buzzed in her pencil case. Angel was visibly shaken, almost in tears. Ms. Solo took the phone and saw an inappropriate message that worried her. The message implied that Ms. Robinson should go jump off a bridge, to commit suicide. "There is a bridge in town, you should go put it to good use. And don't spend any money on a funeral because you have no friends and no one

would come anyway. If you don't take this advice, we will make your life a living hell." Ms. Solo then asked all of her students to take out their phones. She proceeded to search every phone, to find out that the sender of the message to be Travis Smith. Mr. Smith was expelled from school and kicked off of the school baseball team. Travis' attorneys were in court to prove that Travis' Constitutional rights were violated and that he should be reinstated at Cherry Blossom High and should be on the baseball diamond, playing with his team. Ms. Solo's attorneys were in court to prove that what she did was in her legal constraint and that Travis should not be reinstated.

There were many highlights for the prosecution and their witnesses. Brigid McCarthy touched on the idea that love is an addiction, saying, "He [Travis Smith] is just suffering under the influence of a powerful drug called love." Strengthening the argument was Peyton Rydholm, who explained that the idiom in the text, "Jump off a bridge" was taken literally. "Mr. Smith did not want Ms. Robinson to hurt herself; he just wanted to get her attention as many boys want from their high school crush." Jack Hamilton discussed the fourth Amendment and Mr. Travis Smith's Constitutional rights. He said, "...You may not search any individual's property without a warrant or consent. Neither was given when Ms. Solo searched Ms. Angel Robinson's phone."

There were countless highlights for the defense attorneys. Connor Walsh heatedly addressed Coach Parker [Joseph Battaglia], Travis' baseball coach. He felt that the coach was lying for his star player. "I can't trust a man who contradicts himself, and neither can the jury. Why should we believe you?" In response to Brigid McCarthy's closing statements and her scientific explanation of love, Ali Presbrey said that wasn't the real reason we were here, and also said that as parents, "Ms. Solo is the teacher we want our kids to have, for she quite possibly saved a student's life." Connor Walsh's closing statement requested the jury to put themselves in the shoes of Angel Robinson's parents, and to think about what would happen if that was your child being cyber-bullied during school.

The jury was compromised of ten parents and grandparents. Judge Apostolou explained that they needed to remove any emotion and focus on the facts that were presented. After the case, the jury deliberated in the Judge's Chamber and discussed over whether or not Travis Smith should be reinstated at Cherry Blossom High School. The jury did not come out with a verdict for 40 minutes. During the jury deliberation, Judge Apostolou shared his wisdom, his most memorable cases, and answered any questions we had about the judicial system. The jury was ultimately decided based off of facts about legal constraint and whether the school is allowed to assume the role of a parent. They asked Judge Apostolou three questions to try and get all the information they could, about teachers' parameters and school rules; the judge went into the Judge's Chamber to discuss with the jury and answered questions they had to help them decide the verdict. When questioned, the jury foreman explained, "After a long discussion, we, the jury, have decided that Ms. Norah Solo had a reasonable cause to take and look through the phones based upon the law 'loco parentis' which states the school has the right to act as the parent in that situation. However, we didn't agree with the punishment of expelling Travis; we would have liked to make it a suspension, but we could do nothing about it due to the jury nullification." The jury's verdict expressed that bullying is a serious crime that should not be taken lightly or tolerated.

Mrs. Kristine Yellovich, the history teacher for 7th and 8th grade, and Mrs. Andrea Trischitta, the English teacher for 7th and 8th grade, set up this project for the students to expand on. The STEM class worked on the scripts and the camera set up for over a month. Court reporters interviewed attorneys and defendants prior to the trial. The court reporters were Nick Peebles and Sally Becker. The camera crew created a movie out of the court case. The crew included Haley Griffith, Luke McHugh, Stephen Schmeider, Andrew Scranton, Ethan Willis, and Alex Vreeland.

-Mackenzie Ramire

What's Going on down by Pod A?

Mrs. Mead's 2nd Grade Class

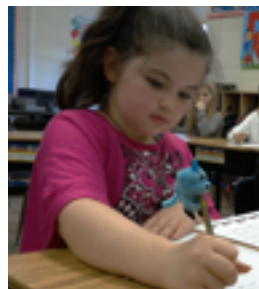
Before February Break this year, Mrs. Mead's second grade class was up to some Valentine's Day mischief. The second grade class was busy making Valentine's Day cards for the cadets of The Air Force Academy that hail from New Jersey. The Air Force Academy is located in Colorado Springs, Colorado. A long way from home!! The Parents Association of New Jersey made care packages and asked the teachers of MES if their kids would make cards to go in the packages. A total of 60 care packages and over 500 Valentine's Day cards were sent to these cadets.

One cadet emailed Mrs. Marshall after he received the cards and wrote, "I cannot thank you and your students enough for their thoughtful cards! I could truly feel the love – there's nothing cooler than hand-made crafts. Please let your students know that here at the Academy, we appreciate the support."

Mrs. Femenella's class received a heart-warming thank you video from another cadet at the Academy, he even answered their questions, and the thank you videos and notes just keep rolling in. During the class's card making, I was able to interview a hand full of kids. Here's who each child wrote to and one question they asked:



Julian: Writing to Nathan:
"What do you do [in the



Elizabeth: Writing to Brendan: "What are you learning in the Air Force Academy?"



Lucas: Writing to Issac: "Can you send me a picture of something in the air force?"



Sadie: Writing to Anne: "Are you happy being in the Air Force?"

Along with Mrs. Mead's class many other classes participated in making over 500 Valentine's Day cards:

Mrs. Eastmond's class

Mrs. Marshall's class

Mrs. Reichey's class

Miss McMullen's class

Mrs. Kehoe's class

Miss Woytowicz's class

Miss Collins' class

Mrs. Sliwoski's class

Mrs. Snel's class

Miss Gliddan's class

Mrs. Taft's class

Mrs. Femenella's class

It was a great Valentine's Day for those who received the cards and those who helped warm their hearts!



MHS Spotlight

Former MES Students Inducted into NHS

Recently former MES graduates were inducted into National Honor Society. The advisor of NHS, Mrs. Fenlon, also a teacher at Manasquan High School, filled me in on what it takes to become a NHS inductee.

The requirements:

1. Students must have a cumulative average of a 93 in order to qualify for the application process. (They may apply during their incoming junior year)
2. They must complete 80 service hours, as well as a 40 hour leadership role. Overall, 120 documented hours are needed.

Overall nine former MES students were inducted. Here are several of them and their service projects.

Beau Bradley: "I led a Soccer Clinic for children ages K-3 to raise money for Pediatric Cancer research. I managed to raise about \$2,000 for the foundation."

Karly Grogan: "My service project was called "MES Introduction Tours." What I did was provide an information session and tour for new incoming students to Manasquan Elementary School. I set up appointments for all interested new families and gave them information about the opportunities at MES and what makes MES such a great place. After that I showed them around the school so they would feel more comfortable on the first day."

Jack Long: “My NHS project was a sports equipment drive to benefit underprivileged kids who do not have the same opportunities to participate in sports due to lack of gear.”

Shannon Kirk: “For my NHS project, I made 50 placemats for the kids in the Children’s Hospital at Jersey Shore University Medical Center. I cut and pasted different puzzles, games, and coloring pages and I created different themed placemats for different age groups. This would give the kids something to look forward to so they wouldn't be afraid to eat after an operation.”

Elizabeth Rooney: “My project was that I went to KinderCare every week for 10 weeks and taught art projects to the preschoolers there.”

Ally DeForge: “I ran a toy drive for the pediatric center at CentraState Medical Center. It was called ‘Ally and Her Feel Better Friends’. All the toys donated were wrapped for the children to take home after their visit or play with during their visit. I wanted to make a hospital visit a little less scary. We raised hundreds of toys, got money to buy festive holiday decorations for each season for the pediatric department. And, of course, made a bunch of kids super happy. It is definitely something I recommend for the eighth graders. As cheesy as it sounds, community service and helping people is such a good feeling.”

I then asked each student to share advice to MES 8th graders.

Beau Bradley: “I would tell current 8th graders to come up with the NHS service project idea and start early. If you cram late in the summer then the project will not be as perfect as you want it to be.”

Karly Grogan: “The advice I would give 8th graders is to take advantage of every opportunity offered at MHS. Play sports, join clubs, make friends from other schools, anything you can to get involved because it is what will make high school fun. Advice for NHS is that you should realize that it is a lot of work to be selected into the club, but once you get all the work out of the way the service project is a fun and rewarding experience. It is a great honor to be a part of NHS and definitely worth all the hard work!”

Jack Long: “My advice to 8th graders that are interested in doing National Honor Society would be to do something close to your heart. Pick a service project that will be fun and that you want to do, don't just do it because you have to.”

Shannon Kirk: “My advice to the current 8th graders would be to enjoy elementary school while you can. I know that going to high school is exciting, but you don't want to wish away the time that you have left in MES. Before you know it, you will be graduating! Enjoy all of the perks of being an eighth grader, like the Gettysburg trip and the dance. Take advantage of every opportunity because it goes by fast!”

Elizabeth Rooney: “My advice to 8th graders would be to continue to work hard and to push yourself. It pays off. Don't be afraid of taking harder classes. I didn't know what I was really capable of doing academically until I pushed myself.”

Ally DeForge: “My recommendation is just to concentrate on working hard and your grades and to do community service whenever you can. Trust me, it’ll make you smile!”

The former MES students also chose a teacher who positively impacted and influenced them. Some of the students chose MES teachers! Shannon Kirk selected Mrs. Judy White, former eighth-grade English teacher. Karly Grogan chose Mrs. Carrie Eastmond, sixth-grade math teacher. Jack Long chose Mrs. Andrea Trischitta, seventh and eighth grade English teacher. Quinn Giblin chose Mr. Marc Reid, eighth-grade math teacher.

Congratulations to all the former students and teachers!

The Feathered Phantom

Just imagine yourself in the swamps of Arkansas, paddling down a gentle stream in a small kayak. You’re here for a single purpose- to find the bird of your dreams. It’s not the source of good fortune, nor is it the most beautiful of all birds. This bird is simply just intriguing. When you’ve nearly lost hope, a large black figure streaks across the sky. At first, it looks as it could be any other woodpecker, but the large white shield marking on its back is unmistakable. An awestruck sensation passed through your body as the bird continues its flight.

That’s what it feels like to find an ivory-billed woodpecker

The ivory-billed woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*) is a large, elegant North American woodpecker. In fact, it’s the largest known woodpecker of North America, measuring an incredible 20 inches long and sporting a wingspan of 30 inches. To most people, this appears to be an average woodpecker, nothing that extraordinary. However, to birders, this bird is the single most important mystery when it comes to birds. Its elegance and mystery intrigues birders. Ever since the woodpecker’s disappearance, birders have been desperate to somehow find it again. However, most of the searches ended in failure.

Ivory-billed woodpeckers inhabit- or used to inhabit- the hardwood woods of the Southeastern United States. They were abundant in number, as are the common American robin and the house sparrow. However, due to the rampant rate of deforestation, the birds practically all disappeared, along with much of their habitat. With its disappearance, Ivory-billed woodpeckers were virtually forgotten. They were classified as extinct for many years, just like the dodo. That was, until there were sightings.

An ornithologist by the name of James T. Tanner was birding back in the 1930’s, when the bird had been thought to be confirmed extinct. He was sent to pursue the bird by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, his alma mater’s organization. Tanner went to a forest in Louisiana known as Singer’s Tract, not expecting to find anything. However, he found the “Lord God bird” (a term coined by his mentor,

Arthur Allen) on both expeditions! The first time, in 1937, Tanner found not one, but three Ivory-Bills- a nestling and its parents! He watched as the parent fed the nestling high up in a tree. The ornithologist then went a second time, the very next year on his 24th birthday. This time, he saw another nest, and decided to tag the nestling inside of it. But, when he went to tag the little woodpecker, it flew out of the nest and into a “tangle of vines, where he clung, calling and squalling”, as recalled by Tanner. He handed the bird to his guide, and then took the last known photographs of the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker. But later, Tanner himself had dejectedly concluded that the species had gone extinct.

For sixty years, no one had seen the Ivory-Bill anywhere. Of course, there were all searches, but they all came back negative. There were people who claim to have seen an Ivory-Billed Woodpecker. Those sightings, whether true or not, raised short-lived hopes of ornithologists across the world. One by one, less people believed in the bird's existence. They assumed the same thing thought of in the 19th century- that the Ivory-Bill was gone for good.

Then, another miracle happened in 2004, when a kayaker spotted what he described to be "an unusually large, red-crested woodpecker flying towards him and landing near the base of a tree 20 meters [about 22 yards] away." He had noticed the bird's markings, and was able to tell right away that he had seen an Ivory-Billed woodpecker. After that, there was a barrage of sightings within the year, including a shaky video. "It's a pretty crumby video, yet remarkable and historic," John Fitzpatrick, director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, "It had all the necessary ingredients for a definitive identification." However blurry the footage was, Fitzpatrick and his team have been able to figure out for certain that it was, in fact, an Ivory-Bill.

Despite these sightings, the bird hasn't been seen since 2005.

New and old ornithologists alike are searching for this bird. It's been a bit of time since the last one was spotted, and it's stressing out bird organizations. Again, the status of this once-abundant bird is unknown. Is the Ivory-Billed woodpecker gone for good this time? Some top ornithologists, such as David Allen Sibley, author and illustrator of multiple field guides, don't believe so.

However, there are those who still believe. They believe the Ivory-Bill is still out there, just somewhere we haven't searched. The Nature Conservatory has put up a \$50,000 reward for any additional sightings of the bird.

But is it out there, or not? That remains a mystery to this very day.

-Megan Lisk

MMDA

Hello Everybody! A few months ago, I looked around Manasquan for new businesses that I liked and/or would want to write about. My criteria for this was: the business had to be relatively new, it had to be interesting, and it had to be willing to let me

interview its employees and customers. I was taking a walk, just pondering my existence, when I stumbled upon... MMDA! I myself, am I loyal MMDA-goer, and I know first-hand how welcoming and fun this place is.

For those who don't know, MMDA, (Manasquan Music Dance Academy) is a music/dance school, located in the CVS plaza. It is extremely clean and its staff is so welcoming and friendly. I'm involved in the music department, and MMDA provides everything from mics, to amps, to recording equipment, along with frequent gigs around the Shore. This place is so committed to helping kids do what they love, and the sense of camaraderie and family is astounding, I can't say it enough.

The founder and director of this amazing facility, Mr. Steve Bryant, agreed to let me interview him.

Lucie: So why did you decide to open MMDA?

Mr. Bryant: Because I'm a local teacher in the area, and I started a record company in my school, I started a lot of different things in my school; a jazz band, concerts with my record company, put bands together, recorded them, and there's nothing like this in the area. And there's a real need for it. We were looking to open someplace, and Manasquan was close to the train station, and the idea was to bring in artists from New York, so they can come in and out easily, and there was nothing like it. Music is my passion, I love working with students, and that's how it happened.

Lucie: I'm grateful.

Mr Bryant: (chuckle) Thank you, we're grateful that you're here. It's awesome!

Lucie: So, how do you think music benefits kids?

Mr Bryant: Music benefits everybody. There's no doubt about it. In fact, if you go to things like language acquisition, and you look Venn diagram, the skill set you use to learn a language that is so big: that's music's, and then some. There's so much research now [about what it does for the brain.] Did you know that music is the only thing that stimulates the entire brain?



at a

Lucie: -I believe that

Mr Bryant: It's the only thing. You can read, you can write, you can run, you can do whatever, but music is the only thing. And then there's the other thing; the hidden curriculum. Self-esteem, teamwork,

discipline, stick-to-it-iveness, all those things that you can learn in other areas, too, like sports, but music is different. Where, with sports, you always have people playing with you, with music you actually have to sit by yourself, and be disciplined and goal-oriented. You have to do it on your own. You learning how to play guitar? You're practicing by yourself. And then you get to do it with a group.

Lucie: So what's your background in music? Like bands you were in, stuff like that.

Mr Bryant: I was in rock bands through high school. And after high school, I went and joined the Navy band. I played in the United States Navy band for 6 years. I played guitar for the government. So I left that, and I played in a rock band in the Bronx, I toured, I played with groups in Nevada, Vegas, Reno, and Atlantic City. And then I played in a rock band called The Outcry. We toured with Spin Doctors... a lot of different bands, like Third Eye Blind, Candlebox. We toured all through the country, we had a record out on Polygram. We used to be the house band for the Stone Pony for about two and a half years, and drew around five or six hundred people every week. Yeah, in the heyday, we would bring in like, four or five hundred people every Thursday night. It was fab at one point. That was probably 1989 to 1998. And then I went to school and got a Bachelor's degree in Music Education and a Supervisor's certificate in Fine Arts. And I've been teaching and playing all the local Shore clubs, like the Boathouse and the Osprey, once I stopped touring. And I stopped touring because I wanted to settle down.

Lucie: Is there anything you want to say to and aspiring musicians, or anyone even half-way interested in music?

Mr Bryant: Oh absolutely! Surround yourself with people that are going to support you. If you wanna be a musician, you wanna play music, maybe not for a living, but still want to experience it, you need to be around people that are going to support that. That aren't going to put you down, that aren't going to tell you it's bad, because if you're doing music like that, especially if you're writing songs and performing, you're pretty vulnerable. 'Cuz people are looking at you like, "Are they gonna stink? Are they gonna be good?" And you're really putting yourself out there, it's like you're naked, so you need to surround yourself with the right people. That's why people love MMDA, because we understand that.

So if you're an aspiring musician, get involved, play with different people, get involved in a community of musicians like MMDA, musicians that are going to support what you're doing and push you further. Read as much as you can about other bands, and how they did things. Connect with different kinds of people, don't be judgmental about somebody's music taste. Music is about what people love. Yknow, I might love classical music, and you might love reggae, but all music has value, you just have to be open-minded and tolerant, and surround yourself with good people.

I want to thank Mr. Bryant for letting me interview him, and MMDA for being so awesome. MMDA is really going to be one of the best things to happen to the musicians and dancers of this town. MMDA offers lessons for a wide range of instruments and dance styles. If you would like to get in touch with MMDA, call [tel: +17322232121](tel:+17322232121)

Lucie Chantepie

Some Final Words

That concludes the first issue of the *Warrior Spearhead*! Our school newspaper is a fabulous way to get updated on what's going on in our school, as well as a great way to share your talents and interests. Newspaper club is so much fun, and anyone with an idea can join.

If you would like to join, email Ralee (2445@manasquan.k12.nj.us) for meeting dates, held in Mrs. Trischitta's room (303)