



By: Annabelle Smith

Stay Safe and Be Prepared!

It only takes one reckless decision to cause chaos. Being ready to react when catastrophe hits is one of the most important things to do to survive. You have to be prepared for bad situations like shootings, fires, and robberies. No matter where you are or what you are doing, something terrible could happen. Being ready, having a plan, and taking your environment into consideration are all things that will help you survive.

While every situation is different and fluid, there are some things you can do to ensure that you make it out alive. First, be aware of your surroundings and pay attention to the people around you. Knowing where exits are and where a threat may be can help you be ready for disaster.

Sophomore Kylie Flere said, "I learned to find many exits for where you are." Knowing your potential escape routes will make sure you won't be flustered and confused.



"Go" buckets in every classroom.

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McDonald High School has multiple resources and plans to keep students safe. In all of the classrooms there are maps of your location to give you an idea of the exits near you. This can help you and your peers escape to safety. There are also "go" buckets in every classroom. They have things like a first aid kit, hammer, rope, and flashlight to aid in a variety of situations. In addition, there was recently an assembly to educate students on the importance of safety through ALICE training.

Many teachers also have their own personal plans for different situations. Mrs. Evans said, "Within my classroom, I always talk to my students about the realistic possibilities of these types of emergency events happening. We discuss hypothetical situations, methods to avoid or counter danger, and community evacuation/lockdown procedures." It is important to be educated and aware in emergency situations.

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If you are stuck in a situation like a school shooting, one unlikely advantage is your environment. In ALICE training, students were instructed that things like textbooks, scissors, notebooks, and other mundane objects could potentially be used for self defense. You could even use your shoes as weapons and throw them at the shooter. This will distract them and give you a chance to act. The tables, chairs, and bookcases in your classrooms could also be used to barricade the door shut, keeping the intruder out.

Nobody ever thinks they will be in a shooting or traumatizing situation like that, but sadly these things happen and you have to be ready to act. Your life is in your hands and sometimes you have to be the one to save yourself. This can be scary to think about, but it'll be scarier if something unexpected occurs and you have no plan. Be ready.

ACT Boot Camp

By: Adam Parker

The ACT is coming up later this year and so, as it does every year, ACT Boot Camp has started up again to help students better prepare themselves for the exam. With the course for math this past weekend, the one for English the weekend before that, and the one for science approaching, it could be helpful to understand better the importance of preparation and knowledge when it comes to the ACT.



ACT

The ACT, or American College Testing, is a nationwide exam that intends to help students with college admissions and has been in operation since 1959. The ACT tests students' abilities with English, reading, math, science, and writing, though that one is optional. The test is often regarded with high importance due to its nature as a college admissions test and, though it doesn't necessarily make or break your chances of getting into desired colleges, it comes with quite a lot of stress.

McDonald began offering ACT Boot Camp a few years ago as a means of helping the students better prepare for the ACT and manage the stress that comes with it. Boot Camp covers the topics of English, science, and math and usually begins near the beginning of November.

Since beginning ACT Boot Camp, student scores have seen real improvements. Mr. Hecker, administrator of the English course, said, "[ACT Boot Camp] is absolutely something I would recommend to anyone taking the ACT. We've seen massive improvements in ACT scores since beginning the program just a few years ago."

Sophomore Gavin Simms said, "I felt ACT Boot Camp was a huge help. I felt more prepared going into the ACT than I think I would have otherwise."

The ACT can be an important test to many people and taking it is often the first step in getting into a good school followed by a good career. Allowing oneself the chance to do well is in everyone's best interest and so if you are able to next year, the one following, or even after that, I greatly recommend attending ACT Boot Camp so you can enter that test prepared and ready to do well.



ACT Boot Camp

Students find ways to stay engaged

By: Jasmine Coots

With the cold months approaching, some students may have the inclination to hibernate for the winter, but not those at McDonald.

On November 12, the junior/senior Powder Puff game took place after weeks of tough practices. In the end, it was the seniors who once again emerged victorious.

The juniors fought hard to bring home the victory, but just didn't block enough, which allowed the seniors to run the ball too many times. When asked about defeat, junior Isabella O'Brien said, "We were all upset, but we thought we played well and there wasn't much we could do about the one touchdown they scored."



Art Club Field Trip

Senior Coach Cameron Greaver was confident going into the game that the girls knew what they were doing. Greaver said, "It was a good win with the seniors playing outstanding defense."

In other news, Mrs. Mills was able to take her Art Club students to Pittsburgh on Wednesday, November 9 to see many sites.

One of the first places they visited was The Mattress Factory, which has since been converted into an art museum filled with installation works and sculptures. A short walk away, they moved on to Randyland, which was full of colorful artwork and they had a chance to meet founder Randy Gilson.

Student Violet Smith said, "Randy is an amazing, bright, and unique person."

After lunch, students visited The Frick Pittsburgh where they toured the house, made an art collage, and explored the Folk Art exhibit. To end the day, students went to IKEA to eat and shop. Violet Smith added, "Overall, it was a fun field trip."

Is It Too Early for Christmas?

By: Mirryn Hobbs



As we finally reach the month of November, Halloween decorations are coming down and Christmas decorations are going up. As the weather gets colder many ponder the question, when is it time for Christmas?

A common argument is that festive decorations should only go up once Thanksgiving is over. Many people will say that it isn't right to just skip over Thanksgiving. They think

December is the month that should be dedicated to holiday songs and ornaments.



Art Club Field Trip

I do think it is important to appreciate and enjoy Thanksgiving. For the people who celebrate it, it is a crucial time to bond and be around family members.

On the other hand, Christmas is commonly known as the favorite holiday by a large number of people. For some, just one month is not nearly enough time to enjoy the anticipation of the 25th of December.

Personally, I do not think it is too early for Christmas in November. I have always associated the months of November and December with festive decorations and hallways filled with holiday music and laughter.

Over the years, my family has put up our decorations for Christmas closer and closer to Thanksgiving. We had always been against the idea of celebrating too early until we realized, why not have the best of both worlds?

Thanksgiving and Christmas are both very enjoyable times to spend doing fun activities, cooking good food, and bonding with family we do not always get to see.

You can still enjoy Thanksgiving while decorating earlier than usual. To me, having the extra holiday decor makes Thanksgiving that much more exciting.



McDonald Briefly

By: Mirryn Hobbs and Veda Agler

On Friday, November 18th the class of 2023 got to take a trip to Youngstown State University (YSU) for Penguin Preview Day. This is a day many students can attend to see the campus as well as viewing all of the different majors YSU has to offer. Most of the senior class attended this event and had a blast. When you first sign in you are given a name card with what your major is under. After you're split into a group, they will then go through a presentation and tour. At the end of the trip, students were able to enjoy a lunch together on campus. Thanks to Penguin Preview Day, many of our seniors now have a better idea on what their future may look like!



Photo Credit: Nolan Agler

Movie Review: The School for Good and Evil

By: Aniya Depaul

The School for Good and Evil, A fantasy film directed by Paul Feig illustrates the stigmas between "good" and "evil" through two contrasting best friends. Agatha, portrayed as being gloomy and rude, and Sophie, who is seen as beautiful and noble. While these girls were very unlike, they shared one thing in common, they were misfits in the village of Gavaldon.

Tired of the mistreatment they faced and a longing for a fairy tale life, Sophie wrote a letter to The School for Good and Evil, hoping they would save her from her miserable life. When there was no response, Sophie decided to put her fate in her own hands and escape the city of Gavaldon. Agatha found out about Sophie's plan and tried to stop her in the woods until a shadowed entity pulled them away. The girls got flown to The School for Good and Evil, but to Sophie's surprise she was dropped in a lake at The School for Evil while Agatha was dropped in a bed of roses at The School for Good.



While the movie was good, it lacked a plot. The movie tried to fit too much information that it seemed to be crammed and started to lose its plot towards the middle. The movie was filled with major detail that held no meaning and wasn't significant to the story.

This movie would be a good watch for someone who enjoys chaos, but if you have read the books you may be disappointed since there is a considerable amount of missing action from the movie that was seen in book series. All in all, the movie is still well developed and well executed even with missing details found in the books.

SPORTLIGHT

BY LYRIC CULP



NAME: ALIVIA MORRISON

NICKNAME(S): A, LIV

WHAT SPORTS ARE YOU INVOLVED IN?: BASKETBALL AND SOFTBALL

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE HYPE SONG?: "FAMILY TIES" - BABY KEEM

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE ATHLETE?: NONE

FAVORITE MOMENT SO FAR?: MAKING IT TO STATE DURING MY SOPHOMORE YEAR

WHAT IS ONE GOAL YOU HAVE FOR THE SEASON?: SCORE 300 POINTS FOR THE SEASON AND MAKE IT BACK TO THE DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP

MATCH UP YOU'RE MOST EXCITED FOR AND WHY?: WESTERN RESERVE BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN A RIVALRY FOR YEARS AND ITS ALWAYS EXCITING

NAME: LANDON LUNN

NICKNAME(S): NONE

WHAT SPORTS ARE YOU INVOLVED IN?: CROSS COUNTRY, BASKETBALL, AND TRACK

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE HYPE SONG?: "REMEMBER THE NAME" - FORT MINOR

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE ATHLETE?: MICHAEL JORDAN

FAVORITE MOMENT SO FAR?: PIZZA AT PRACTICE

WHAT IS ONE GOAL YOU HAVE FOR THE SEASON?: SCORE OVER 30 POINTS IN A GAME

MATCH UP YOU'RE MOST EXCITED FOR AND WHY?: SOUTHLINGTON BECAUSE IT IS MY OLD SCHOOL AND IT WILL BE A GOOD GAME



BAD DAY TO BE A TURKEY!

BY: MEEGAN DOCKERY

EVERY YEAR ON THANKSGIVING FAMILIES AND FRIENDS GATHER AROUND TABLES TO ENJOY A HUGE MEAL. TURKEY, HAM, MASHED POTATOES, CRANBERRY SAUCE, STUFFING, AND ROLLS ARE ALL JUST A FEW OF THE FOODS MANY ENJOY OVER THE HOLIDAY.

1. CHEESY POTATOES

THE BEST FOOD ON THANKSGIVING IS DEFINITELY CHEESY POTATOES. THE WAY THE GOOEY CHEESE WITH THE GOLDEN CRUST JUST LIGHTS UP YOUR MOUTH WITH THE JOY AND THE WARM FUZZY FEELINGS OF THE SEASON TO COME.

2. HAM

HAM IS THE WAY TO GO WHEN IT COMES TO ENJOYING A THANKSGIVING MEAL, ESPECIALLY A HONEY BAKED HAM THAT JUST MELTS IN YOUR MOUTH. YOU CAN'T GO WRONG.

3. ROLLS

YOU CAN'T HAVE THANKSGIVING WITHOUT ROLLS. ROLLS ARE THE BEST TO SOAK UP THE GRAVY OR ANY OTHER LEFTOVERS ON YOUR PLATE. THEY ARE ALSO GOOD ON THEIR OWN WITH A LITTLE BIT OF BUTTER.

4. BAKED MAC N' CHEESE

TO HELP EVERYTHING GO DOWN SMOOTHLY THE CRISPY GOLDEN CRUNCH OF BAKED MAC N' CHEESE FRESH FROM THE OVEN IS A MUST HAVE FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER.

THE DISH THAT JUST MISSES THE TABLE...

5. CANNED CRANBERRY SAUCE

MANY WELL DEVELOPED DISHES ARE PRESENTED ON THANKSGIVING. A FAVORITE IN MOST HOUSEHOLDS IS CANNED CRANBERRY SAUCE. BUT HOW CAN SOMETHING BE SO LOVED WHEN IT COMES OUT LOOKING LIKE JELLO? CANNED CRANBERRY SAUCE JUST MISSES THE MARK!



OUTSTANDING STAFF – MRS. LOBAUGH

By Lyric Culp

Mrs. Lobaugh is the backbone of our school without a doubt. There is a lot that she does for everyone that can go unnoticed at times, whether it is answering phone calls or making sure students are where they need to be.

Prior to her time here, Mrs. Lobaugh was a hairdresser for 33 years and also raised her children in that time. She has been at McDonald High School for eight years, with her ninth anniversary being next month. Before her current position in the office, she substituted for five years as well.

When asked what the best part of the staff is, Mrs. Lobaugh said, "The VERY BEST part about being a part of our MHS Family is that I am continually impressed at how dedicated, creative, and involved our teachers are with our students. It is truly a gift to be even just a small part of the magic."



She is also very helpful to anyone who needs it and truly believes "It takes a village" sometimes. Throughout the year she has helped struggling students with their daunting college admissions paperwork as well as started an Academic Coaching program to help younger students adapt to high school life. These hand-picked students help with opening lockers, organizing binders, and showing how to use a school planner effectively.

When asked what she likes about Mrs. Lobaugh and her role in the school, Addison Edwards replied, "She helps me with directions around the school and gives me guidance with my classes and she is a very kind and helpful person. I'm thankful we have someone like her here at McDonald."

She really enjoys the camaraderie she has with the staff and students and believes McDonald is a special place. Mrs. Lobaugh added, "I really enjoy being apart of this team with everyone. They really are the best. They actually want to be here and that isn't something you see often in employees these days."

Aside from all of the helpful things she does for us here at McDonald, she keeps busy outside of school, too. She likes to stay healthy by walking or jogging and often reads 3-4 novels a month. Her favorite things she looks forward to the most are big family dinners around the table with her husband, kids, and grandkids.



Horoscope- Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

By: Aniya DePaul

Element: Water

Colors: Scarlet, Red, Rust

Day: Tuesday

Rulers: Pluto and Mars

Lucky numbers: 8,11,18,22

Strengths: Resourceful, Brave, Passionate

Weaknesses: Distrusting, Jealous, Manipulative

Likes: Truth, Passion, Being Right

Dislikes: Dishonesty, Superficiality, Small Talk

Personality Traits: Bold, Creative, Determined, Mysterious, Mystical, Passionate

Famous Scorpions: Frank Ocean, Leonardo DiCaprio, Emma Stone, Ryan Reynolds, Winona Ryder



JUNIORS VS. SENIORS!

By: Meegan Dockery

