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Induction Time has Arrived

by Marisa Carusso

The National Honor Society, America's oldest student recognition program, welcomed its newest 11th and 12th grade members in the induction ceremony on Thursday, December 7th in the high school auditorium.

During the ceremony, the achievements of candidates selected were read aloud and a senior member of NHS tapped out those who joined the ranks while students from ninth grade and up watched. Those selected had the opportunity to sign their name to the book of McDonald members and select a trait for which to focus on.

Membership in the NHS is based upon the traits of scholarship, leadership, service, and character. When an inductee lights their choice of candle during the ceremony, the colors of the candles reflect one of those four pillars.

While one of the most decisive factors for membership is a GPA of 3.4 or higher, there are many other factors to be considered an exemplary candidate. Adviser Mrs. Ross said, "Being a member demonstrates the student has the ability to maintain good grades while providing positive leadership, volunteering to help in the community, and staying out of trouble by not raising any questions about their character."

Students who have a GPA that qualifies them for NHS are given a rigorous application and time to fill it out. To be considered, they must have documentation of community service hours from their first two years of high school, activity points, submit a resume, and complete a questionnaire.

Being a part of NHS has many benefits including helping students find a place in the college of their choice and opportunities for scholarships as well. Mrs. Ross said, "When students are applying for colleges and scholarships, the colleges/universities understand the hard work involved in being a member of NHS."

Students inducted this year include seniors Jenna O'Neil and Braden Rupe as well as juniors Zavier Bokan, Lea Brown, Jack Bucan, Macey Guerra, Hayden Mason, Tanner Matig, Logan Shields, Jenna Simmons, Mikayla Smith, Julianna Srock, Julia Williams, and Tyler Worrell.



New inductees recite the NHS pledge.

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A MOMENT IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BY CERINA THORNE

2017 is coming to an exciting end down at Roosevelt with staff changes, the spelling bee, and Santa's Workshop.

Many new things have been happening down at Roosevelt. One of the biggest changes for the elementary is a new principal. Mr. Eric Jones is a graduate of Niles High School and Youngstown State University. He brings with him thirteen years of experience as a teacher in Niles as well as three years as an assistant principal with Austintown Schools.

On his new experience with McDonald, Mr. Jones said, "I'm blessed to be in McDonald and grateful for the opportunity to serve. I loved getting to know the students, staff, and families here."

Sadly, at the end of this year Mrs. Justice will be retiring after teaching for 26 years, 14 of which were here in McDonald. She taught kindergarten through third grade and was a literacy coach for eight years at Warren City Schools. For the past seven years she has been a Title 1 reading teacher at the Elementary.

Reflecting on her reason for being a teacher, Mrs. Justice said, "Reading and helping students develop a love for reading is my passion."

The spelling bee was held December 5th at 9am in the high school auditorium with contestants from grades four through six spelling words such as "pause," "team," "slumber," and "vanish."

The pronouncer was Mrs. Rupe and the judges were Mrs. Conley, Mrs. Fedyski, and Mrs. Justice. In the first 20 minutes only two students



An elementary student about to spell the word "pause"

were out from spelling words such as "bead." It's a strong spelling group of kids, but as time went on the words got harder.

The winner of the spelling bee will represent Roosevelt in the Trumbull County Spelling Bee at Champion High School and the Youngstown Vindicator spelling bee at YSU.

From December 12th-14th PEGS held Santa's Workshop at the elementary school. One second grader said, "I can't wait for Santa's Workshop! I like all of the cool stuff there to play with, or sometimes secretly get my family presents."

An 8th grader added, "I remember Santa's Workshop from when I was in second and third grade. Everyone would always find the toys fascinating no matter what they were; it was always exciting."

SLAM DUNK WITH THE DEVILS BY AUTUMN MASON

Winter sports including basketball and bowling are starting up again.

Basketball is underway with the girls' first game on November 30 where they won against Maplewood. Following up this success, the boys won their first game of the season as well on Friday, December 1 in a fierce matchup against Maplewood.

The girls play their next game at home on Monday, December 18 against Sebring at 5:30. The boys are up tonight at home against Springfield starting at 5:30.

When asked about her feeling on the season, team co-captain Britney Smith said, "The practices are going well, the team is working really well together and we are all close, which I feel will help a lot in the games. I think this season is going to be a good one. We have a team goal and our goal is to win districts."

The boys are led this year by returning seniors Braedon Poole, Matthew Beedle, and Riko Rodriguez. The team is hoping that they will make it to districts and win as well.

Freshman Dominic Carkido said, "The practices are going well so far; I have confidence

in my team. The varsity team is doing really well and so is the junior varsity team. I think overall it will be a good season."

The bowling teams are also off to a fantastic start to their season as well. At press time, the girls were undefeated while the boys hold a record of 2-1. The girls team captain is senior Ashley Dean and teammate Jenna Simmons has been dominating with several games above 200. Their next matchup is Monday, December 18.

Good luck to all the winter sports teams!



Tanner Matig jumps to block the ball from an opponent.

Winter Concerts Are Here!

By Kobie Baker



The Guitarists practicing their tunes before the concert comes.

The choir, guitar ensemble, junior high, and senior high band perform their first concert on next Tuesday, December 19th at 7pm in the Gamertsfelder High School Auditorium.

This year, the choir will open with a selection of songs from *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, "Carol of the Bells", and "How Far I'll Go" from the Disney

Don't get S.M.A.S.H'ed **on the Highway** BY VICTORIA HALL

On December 18th SMASH representatives Kaitlyn Johnson and Jenna Simmons are promoting safe driving by passing out motivational cards to the sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

One of the sayings on the card that Jenna and Kaitlyn came up with says, "Be a Smarty and Buckle Up!"

SMASH, or Students Making A Safer Highway, is a student-driven organization where students from all over Trumbull county meet once a month to discuss different ways to encourage safe driving. This is McDonald's sixth year participating.

The program has four areas of focus including wearing a seatbelt, the dangers of speeding, the distractions caused by texting and driving, and the impact of drunk driving.

Kaitlyn Johnson said, "I love being apart of this program because I like to educate my peers on the dangers of distracted driving and how to stay safe."

movie *Moana*. Comprising of 19 members, this is the largest choir in the last eight years at MHS.

Following the choir will be members of the new guitar class performing a few Christmas songs. After they perform, the junior high band will play a series of selections from the scores of legendary composer John Williams including themes from *Indiana Jones* and *Jurassic Park*.

The senior high band will round out the evening playing different Christmas songs including those from *The Polar Express* and "I'll Be Home For Christmas."

Sophomore percussionist Corrado Terranova says, "I'm so excited for this concert. I can tell it will be so fun! Practice has been going great and we sound really good."

Fellow percussionist Vincent Rexroad adds, "It's going to be a blast with all of these songs. I love being able to go straight from marching band to concert band with all of my friends."



Kaitlyn Johnson gives Cheyenne Harris a motivational note to remember to drive safely.

Making sure students understand the dangers of impaired driving is important. In the spring there will be a school assembly to discuss the perils of drunk driving.

Jenna Simmons said, "I am glad we are doing an assembly for our school so we can explain how bad drunk driving can affect someone's life."

HELP GIVE HOMELESS VETERANS CARE PACKAGES FOR THIS WINTER SEASON

By Lea Brown

This holiday season, our student council held a collection for donated goods to help homeless veterans in Mahoning and Trumbull counties. Ms. Lariccia and Ms. Conway collaborated to help veterans in need enjoy the holidays a little more.

Ms. Lariccia was inspired by her mother, who was recently involved with helping local veterans, and the idea clicked when she was informed about the homeless veteran population in our area. On average, there are 37,500 veterans who are homeless, and 1.4 million who are at risk of becoming homeless. Many of these veterans suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome, which causes them to have an extreme shortage of affordable housing, livable income, and access to healthcare.

Students and staff members helped by donating goods to provide veterans of Mahoning and Trumbull county with care packages for this holiday and winter season. Ms. Lariccia said, "These are men and women who sacrificed themselves for our country. It is important to donate because most of these veterans are men whom returned from the Vietnam War only to be unwelcome."

President Claire Hoffman says, "Everyone should at least make an effort to bring in a few items to help out, because most of the students that go to our high school are fortunate enough

to have parents who provide them with a comfortable living style."

Some suggested items to bring in are toiletries, such as body wipes, lip balm, lotion, tooth brushes, tooth paste, bandaids, combs, deodorant, and tissues. Also, snacks such as beef jerky, applesauce, pudding, trail mix, and chewy granola bars are welcomed. Along with toiletries and snacks, socks, gloves, hats, scarves, and undershirts are needed for the winter season, which is quickly approaching. Other accepted items include new blankets, washcloths, fast food gift cards, reusable bags, plastic silverware, and also monetary donations. All donations can be dropped off in the main office or in Mrs. Lariccia's room.

Vice President, Abby Pratt added, "It is important to make an effort to donate, because we don't understand the struggle of living without a home, so little things such as toothpaste and gloves help them out so much, especially since they once helped us by fighting for our country."



Student council president Claire Hoffman and coordinator Ms. Lariccia

Christmas Tunes

By Kara Meehan

This issue I will be reviewing the album *A Pentatonix Christmas* by Pentatonix to get into the Christmas spirit. This album came out in October of 2016 and has sold 1,400,000 units worldwide. This year, a deluxe version was released due to popular demand. This is the second Christmas album they have made as a group, but if they decide to make more in the future they will have to make it with one less member. On May 12, 2017, Avi Kaplan announced that he was leaving Pentatonix to pursue a solo career. One of the most popular covers on this album would be "Hallelujah," and the music video on Youtube has over 200 million views.

Personally, I love the album and my favorite song is also "Hallelujah" because of the music video. Even though the song is older, they give it a new and modern feeling. The music video is very strong and it is very powerful to me. I love the group itself because they are very unique and I have never heard of another accapella band, especially as cool as they are.



Wintertime December

By: Jessica Stamp

Birthstone: Turquoise

Zodiac: Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

- : are open-minded, enthusiastic, and curious
- : most compatible with Aries, Leo, and Aquarius
- : least compatible with Virgo and Pisces

Events: World AIDS Day (Dec. 1)

: National Cookie Day (Dec. 4)

: Christmas (Dec. 25)

: National Chocolate Day (Dec. 27)

Fun Facts: Nobel Prizes are awarded this month

: Dec. 28 is considered the unluckiest time of year

: Santa Clause was originally called Saint Nicholas

: Spiders and spiders webs are considered good luck on Christmas



Rocco's Book Corner

By: Rocco Pascarella

The book I'm reviewing this issue is *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green. This book is about two teens who meet in a cancer group at a local church. They end up becoming friends and build a relationship, which leads them to becoming more than just friends.

What I liked about this book is the fact that they meet in a place where people have the same problem. Even though they have cancer, they still have fun and get to live normal teen lives. They know they are dying but that doesn't stop them from trying to live life to the fullest.

What I didn't like about the book is how sad it got towards the end. The words brought tears to my eyes as I kept reading the end chapters. Even though they are dying, they really are trying to have fun, but it makes them weak. The weaker they are, the harder it is for them to move and have fun. I didn't like the way the book ended because I thought that they would finally get to live a normal life and just be themselves, which was certainly not the case.

The Fault In Our Stars is a good book because it leaves the readers wanting more. We as the readers want to know how the other character lives their life without the relationship that they formed with the person who passed. I think they should make an addition to the series to see how the surviving character does move on and also if they stay alive or they die. If you're looking for a drama as well as a good read then this book is worth checking out.



TOP 5 HOLIDAY DRINKS

By Jessica Stamp

1. *Hot Chocolate*
2. *Egg Nog*
3. *Peppermint Tea*
4. *Hot Apple Cider*
5. *Christmas Punch*



Sitting back and relaxing around the holidays with these drinks will warm up your mood after shopping for gifts or cooking a big meal. These top 5 will sure cheer you up and keep you in the holiday spirit. Enjoy some rich hot chocolate while curled up by the fire, or have some tangy Christmas punch to delight yourself at a holiday party.

JUNIOR AND SENIOR "SPORTLIGHT"

By Lea Brown

Braedon Poole



He's a senior that has played Basketball for 6 years

Braedon enjoys playing basketball because it's fun

His goal for this season is to win state

Kevin Durant is his role model because he helps his team a lot during games

The part of this season he is looking forward to most is tournament time

Lea Gabrelcik



Lea is an 8th Grader who has played basketball for 8 years as a forward/guard

She plays basketball because she likes the fast paced games and working as a team

This season her goal is to win the championship, average more points, and really value defense such as steals, and blocked shots

Tim Duncan is her role model

She's waiting for tournaments because she "can't wait to play with an awesome team and kick some butt this year"



Olivia Perry

She's a Junior who has played basketball for 5 years as a point guard

Olivia said she plays basketball because it's nice to work together as a team and strive for the same goal

This year her goal is to be league and district champs

She looks up to Lebron James because he's a great player and also a great person."He never stops competing for what he wants and makes the people around him better too."

Olivia is most excited about getting through the regular season starting tournaments

Tyler Tamburro



He's an 8th grader who has played basketball for 4 years

His goal for the season is to win the championship and go undefeated and have a great season

Lebron James is his role model because he is a smart player, and knows how to handle the ball

He looks forward to the upcoming basketball season



Editorial: Giving Toys a New Meaning

By Emily Gilligan



The holidays can be a stressful time for families who are not as fortunate as others. The United States Marine Corps Reserve's *Toys for Tots* Program collects thousands of new, unwrapped toys for children whose families are less fortunate, and distributes them to the community in which the campaign is being organized.

The goal of *Toys for Tots* is to deliver a message of hope to the less fortunate children through a brand new toy. These toys may help them become well rounded and generous in the future by showing them how powerful a

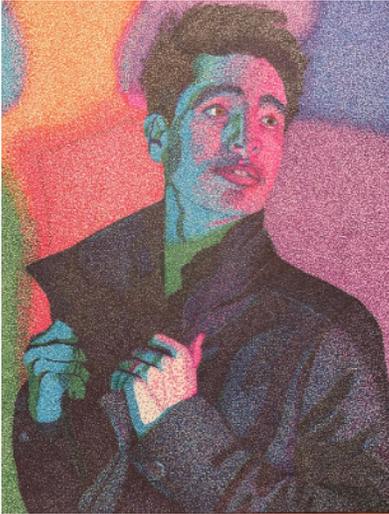
donation can be and how easy it is to make someone happy. Local Campaign Coordinators whip up a ton of activities throughout the year like golf tournaments and races that raise money for *Toys for Tots* outside the holiday season.

If you are feeling generous this holiday season, consider donating a new, unwrapped toy to *Toys for Tots*. The nearest *Toys for Tots* drop site is located in the Toys "R" Us in Niles. If you would like to donate a toy, the deadline is today, December 15th. If you would like to donate money, the deadline is December 24th.

Featured Artist: Rachel Ward

By Emily Gilligan

This issue, our featured artist is Rachel Ward, a senior in the Independent Study with Mrs. Mills. Her favorite form of art is Photorealism. Her preferred mediums are colored pencil, sharpie, and acrylic paint. Rachel likes art because it is calming and it is the one period of the day when she doesn't have to



Rachel said, "Brendon Urie from Panic! at the Disco was my inspiration for this piece. It is the best piece of art I've ever made. I absolutely love it. "



Rachel liked project because she got to work on mixing paint to get the right shades.



The message Rachel is trying to portray is to help others.

Holiday Oreo Treats By Kara Meehan

Holiday Oreo cake balls are a great treat for all parties this season. They are really simple to make and are *very* delicious! These are one of my favorite desserts and I want to share the recipe with everyone.

Ingredients:

- 8oz brick cream cheese(softened)
- 36 Oreo cookies(crushed finely)
- 4oz white baking chocolate(melted) *add food dye for color!*

Step 1: Mix cream cheese and 3 cups of oreo crumbs until blended.

Step 2: Shape into 1 inch balls, freeze for 10 minutes, dip them into melted chocolate.

(add sprinkles or other toppings if wanted)

Step 3: Place in single layer in shallow waxed paper-lined pan.

Step 4: Refrigerate 1 hour or until firm. (www.kraftrecipes.com)



Backpage Pics

By: Rocco Pascarella

