



Volume 06, Issue 08 | Date: February 10, 2023

By: Aniya DePaul

Lights, Camera, Con!

Our drama club students have been working hard in rehearsals to perfect their 2023 play and can not wait to perform.

These hard-working students have been practicing every Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday, where they and Mr. Gavitt, the drama club advisor and director, put in their best efforts to ensure a show you won't forget. There are students in every corner going over lines, acting out scenes, working on lights, and working backstage. A big show like this takes hard work and effort, two of the many things the drama club has.



Drama club members acting out scenes in rehearsals

Freshman Brendan Lunce said, "I love the amount of effort everyone puts into it. The play itself is fun and pretty interesting, but the people make it ten times better." The play is called "The Con" and is about a comic book heist that takes place at a comic convention.

When asked how the play was chosen, Mr. Gavitt said, "I chose 'The Con' because I like superheroes, comic books, anything pop culture related, and I know it's something many high school students enjoy too. I also thought that this would be a good show because it has mystery involved. Who is the mastermind behind the heist?" This show has never been performed at McDonald before, making it even more of an excitement to watch.

The Drama Club cast and crew has grown since last year, something Mr. Gavitt is extremely excited about as it allows more students to express themselves through theatrical arts.

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When asked what they enjoy about their part in the show, freshman Maddie Hall, who plays the role of Charlie said, "My character Charlie is the antagonist in the play and I enjoy playing this role because of that. I see my character in myself and getting to express that on stage is empowering."

Mr. Gavitt and the drama club have done an exceptional job preparing to put on an entertaining show. Senior Rachel Moxely said, "If you like comic cons and superheros and different comic characters, you'll enjoy this show. It's funny and I think people will like it as much as we do."

The show dates for "The Con" are April 14th and 15th at 7pm. Mr. Gavitt said, "The directors had a lot of fun and I hope everybody enjoys this brand-new show!"



Single? Taken? Doesn't Matter!

By: Meegan Dockery



Valentine's Day is often celebrated with candies, flowers, and cheesy cards. Many take it as a day for couples to profess their love for one another with lavish things while singles wallow for not having a significant other. But this is not the case as many people enjoy being single on Valentine's Day and realize it's not just for couples. It can be for sisters, brothers, best friends, or whoever. Either way, there are plenty of ways to celebrate the holiday and enjoy yourself, whether you are single or in a relationship.



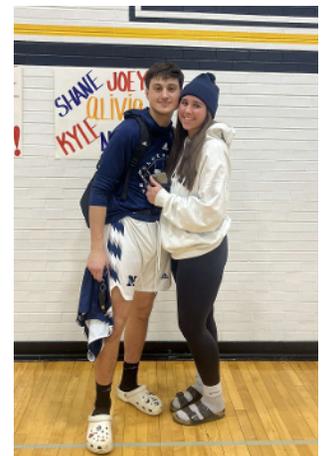
Best Friends share a different kind of love. "Galentine's" is a great way to spend the holiday.

Most couples for the holiday of Cupid go out to fancy restaurants, buy lavish gifts, and give flowers, or chocolate, to their significant other, but it is the same for high school students.

There are a few successful relationships around McDonald High School. When asked what he does to celebrate this holiday, junior Antonio D'Avanzo explained, "I'm excited to be spending our first Valentine's together so I am planning something special. I am going to cook, get her favorite flowers, and a stuffed teddy bear." Love is in the air and our students are making big plans.

Not everyone feels like they need to be dating someone just for the sake of the holiday. There are multiple ways for singles to also participate in the love of the holiday. Valentine's Day is for love, whether that be a couple or the love between friends or kids and their parents. Some singles said they enjoy buying themselves gifts, but junior Bri McCombs said, "I like to buy my friends gifts because it's nice to show them I care and they usually get me gifts so I don't think it's necessary to buy them myself." There are so many different types of love and love between friends is one of the strongest.

Valentine's Day is a holiday for everyone to enjoy. Whether it be with your best friends or with your significant other, there are so many ways to enjoy it. Happy Valentine's Day!



One of McDonald's sweet couples prepared for Valentine's Day!

Winter Sports At Their Peaks

By Lyric Culp

Winter sports have hit their peaks in their seasons. With playoffs right around the corner, each team has to play to their full potential each game in order to make a run for a title.

The bowling team is doing very well in the midst of their season with a current record of 8-1 for the boys and 6-4 for the girls. They have a few non-conference match-ups coming up within the next few weeks against Campbell, Crestview, and Brookfield. The team will look to improve their record as they venture on to the rest of the season.



Seniors Nolan Agler and Greg Costantino playing defense against the Blue Jays

When asked how she feels the team did this year and what they can do to improve for the 2023-2024 season, junior Bri McCombs said, “I think we did pretty good this year, we just need to execute how we knock down pins better.”

Basketball season is going smooth as the varsity boys just rolled right over our rivals, the Mineral Ridge Rams. With an intense game and a thunderous crowd, the Blue Devils started strong and finished similarly. The boys were able to walk away with a final score of 57-47.

So far, they have kept their momentum going as they faced the Waterloo Vikings on January 24th, another game that was down to the wire, but the team managed to pull through. Unfortunately, in their most recent MVAC matchup against the Jackson-Milton Blue Jays it came down to last seconds yet again. This time, though, their press was not enough to hold the Blue Jays offense as they fell short 78-70. They faced Lowellville on January 31st.

The girls varsity team has fought a lot of adversity recently. Their second game in the series against the Rams came down to the final seconds, but unfortunately came up short again with a final score of 40-39. On January 23rd the girls team traveled to Waterloo and were looking for an upset, but were unable to hold the Vikings offense. The Lady Devils also played Lowellville on January 31st.

Junior high basketball is entering tournament territory here within the next few weeks. The 7th and 8th grade girls have recently found themselves victorious over the Waterloo Vikings. The boys have also had success over the Vikings. Both teams will begin their playoff runs during the beginning of February.

When asked how she felt about the team’s performance going into tournaments, 8th grader Selene Massaro replied, “We’re doing good right now, so I hope we can still play the way we are whenever we start tournaments.”

Good luck to each team as they prepare to make a run during play offs.



Should school sports be mandatory?

By: Veda Agler

Sports are a critical part of many schools besides academics. Although many schools encourage students to get involved in sports or clubs, more students should get involved and participate in school activities.



Personally, I think all schools should encourage students to participate in a sport, but not mandate it. Although not all students may enjoy the sports their school has, if they don't enjoy a sport I feel they should participate in at least a club.

Some students participate in sports outside of school such as dance, competitive cheer, travel baseball, softball, basketball, and more. I feel if a student participates in a sport their school does not have they should not be mandated to participate in a school sport. Getting involved is important too, so if a student doesn't participate in a school sport they should try to join a club and get involved in another way.

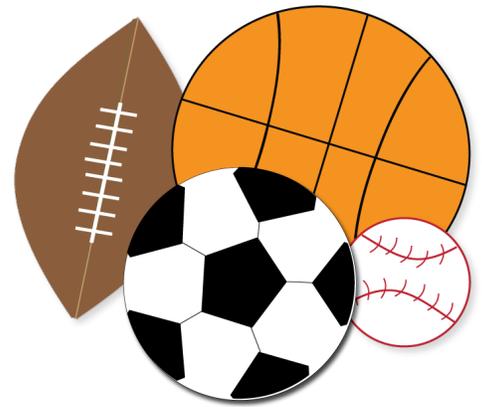
Almost all schools have a variety of clubs a student can join. Some of these clubs include art, math, and foreign languages. There are many more clubs that spark a certain interest in the different students, which they can join.

Getting involved in school is a great way to gain a great group of friends and heighten your education. School sports should never be mandatory, although encouraging every student to participate in a school sport or club is a great way to help students get involved.

Up until my ninth-grade year, I did not participated in any sport or club inside of school. Since I joined majorette in my ninth-grade year, I have never been happier to be in a group with many amazing people.

After joining I have made an amazing group of friends younger and older than me and continue to talk to most of these friends I have found Being involved in a sport or club shows the many friendships one can create and how happy one can be when involved in school activities.

As for mandating a student to participate in a sport, I feel a school system shall not force a student to do a school sport. But should encourage them to get involved in some way. This will help students flourish over the years they are in school, and create many friendships that will last a lifetime.



WEIRD HISTORY: THE BEAST OF GÉVAUDAN By: Adam Parker

In 1763 France signed the Treaty of Paris, ending the Seven Years' War and leaving France in an era of economic downturn. Few in France were hit as hard by this as the village of Gévaudan, whose rocky terrain made farming difficult, relying heavily on livestock. On June 30, 1764, 14 year old Jean Boulay was tending to her family's sheep in the hills around the East of Gévaudan. She soon came face to face with the beast and when she was found, her nobody thought anything unusual of her death beyond believing the tragedy was she was attacked by hungry wolves.

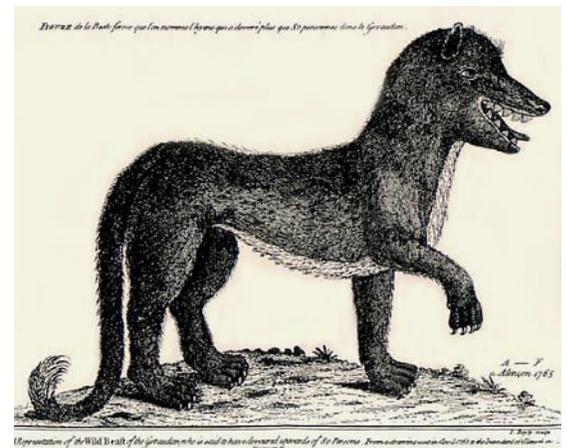
Attacks continued, however, throughout the remainder of 1764, with at least 4 more young workers being found while working in the fields. Government official of Gévaudan, Etienne Lafont, began organizing hunts for whatever beast was causing such mayhem, but efforts fell flat as most citizens were afraid to venture too far into nature without an experienced hunter. And such, attacks continued. on October 7th, a 20 year old woman was found and in the following days up to 6 more teenagers were attacked.

By November, *The Courier d'Avignon*, a local newspaper had begun publishing reports about the deaths. The editor of the paper, recognizing the attention-drawing nature of the beast, began sensationalizing reports of the attacks. Stories about the beast grew so popular that they were being reported all over Europe.

According to descriptions of the time from History.com, It was as large as a calf or horse with reddish gray fur and a long, strong panther-like tail. It was described to have a long muzzle and fiery eyes, too. Eventually the descriptions became more supernatural, with the creature reportedly being bulletproof and could walk on its hind legs. *The Courier d'Avignon* reported it gave a boy a fever just by looking at him.

With all of Europe now hearing reports of the beast ravaging the French populous, the French government decided to intervene. Lafont, joined by Captain Jean Baptiste Duhamel, organized a military hunt for the creature. Now equipped with some actual firepower, 30,000 men volunteered to hunt this scourge. This task proved difficult and after many attempts and increasingly theatric attempts, King Louis XV sent Francoi Antoine, his personal gun bearer and bodyguard, to deal with the beast.

Antoine tracked through the unforgiving terrain with his team and in September of 1765, they finally came upon what turned out to be a large wolf. Antoine shot and killed the beast, as well as its mate and cub. After over a year of living in fear, the villagers of Gévaudan could finally live in peace. However it was not truly over and the attacks continued for another 18 months, claiming another 30-35 lives, before eventually settling in 1767. It remains unknown even to this day if the wolf Antoine slew was the real 'Beast of Gévaudan' or even what the beast truly was.



Recipe: How to Make Pineapple Upside Down Cake

By: Annabelle Smith

Before starting the cake, preheat the oven to 375 degrees and then put a 13x9 pan with margarine in it into the oven until it melts. Then, remove it from the oven and sprinkle brown sugar evenly over the margarine and smooth it with a spoon to soak it. Cover the entire bottom of the pan. Drain the pineapple and arrange them on the brown sugar into a flower-like shape. Put the cherries into the center and then set it aside.

Cake

2 ¼ cups of flour

1 ½ cups of sugar

¾ cups of shortening

¾ cups of milk

3 eggs

2 ½ teaspoons of baking powder

1 teaspoon of salt

1 teaspoon of vanilla extract

½ teaspoon of almond extract

Toppings

2 cups of firmly packed brown sugar

15 oz of pineapple slices

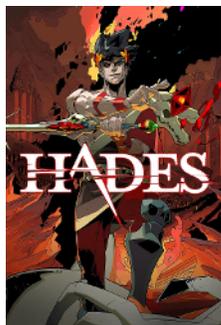
1 jar of cherries



At a low speed, constantly mix all ingredients until well blended. Beat at medium speed for 5 minutes and pour batter over brown sugar and pineapple arrangement. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes. Cool in pan for 10 minutes. Then, place a container over top of the pan and flip the cake into it. Serve cake warm or cold.

This recipe is my aunt's favorite recipe because she is able to enjoy a cake even with dietary restrictions. My family usually makes it for her on special occasions like her birthday. This is the best recipe for those who have some restrictions when it comes to sweets or for anyone who prefers fruit.

Game Review: Hades by: Adam Parker



Hades is a roguelike-rpg released by independent game development studio, Supergiant Games on Windows, MacOS, and Nintendo Switch in September 2020 and later released on Playstation 4, Xbox One, and other next gen consoles.

Hades follows Zagreus, the son of Hades, as he fights his way through the underworld to escape and reach Mount Olympus. The player is randomly bestowed gifts from the other Olympians, such as Zeus, Athena, Artemis, and more, which grant the player a variety of upgrades to get through the ever shifting chambers of the underworld. Every time you die the map resets and is different, shifting from different rooms, with different gifts, and different enemies, and such.

As probably evident, the game adapts Greek mythology in its characters and world. However, the developers made the interesting decision to use a more obscure god, Zagreus, as the main character. This decision was reportedly made so the game could have its own original story, without having to be too dependent on actual Greek myths.

The game features a vast array of figures appearing in Greek myth, such as Zeus, Poseidon, Hades, Athena, Ares, Aphrodite, Nyx, Charon, and many, many more, all voiced and illustrated phenomenally. As well as looking and sounding good, they're also well written portrayals of the Greek pantheon, reflecting a likable, yet deeply dysfunctional nature. The game is from Zagreus's point of view, but the Olympians are still prone to the aggression and violence seen in their mythological roots, often sending enemies and attacks at the player if their gifts aren't taken. This, though frustrating, does adhere to the moral bankruptcy of the gods in many myths.



The release of *Hades* was met with high critical acclaim, with critics praising its story, characters, soundtrack, and visuals. *Hades* was nominated and won a great deal of awards such as "Best Indie" and "Best Action" at the Game Awards, a Nebula award, a Hugo award, and even being nominated for Game of The Year, though it was beat out in the end by *The Last of Us II*.

Hades is a fantastic game with fun combat, interesting story and characters, excellent visual and audio design, and a clear love for the mythological source material. That said, however, the best part of the game is certainly getting to pet Cerberus, the three headed dog.

Music Review: *AM* by Arctic Monkeys

By: Annabelle Smith

On August 1st of 2013 the indie rock band Arctic Monkeys released their album *AM*. This album had some of their most popular songs, like "Do I Wanna Know?" and "I Wanna Be Yours". The band consists of vocalist Alex Turner, drummer Matt Helders, bassist Nick O'Malley, and guitarist Jamie Cook. You may recognize the band from some of their other albums, including *Favorite Worst Nightmare* and their newly released album *The Car*.

There are a lot of good things about this album. First, I like almost every song on it. The album is a bit different from their usual style, but it's a nice and refreshing change. Second, Turner has a very good voice and all of the songs are unique. The lyrics all flow really well and sound nice together. Each song has its own distinctive story to tell and overall it is just a great and polished album that is hard not to love.

Not every song in the album is amazing, however. I honestly think "Mad Sounds" is way too slow and is the worst song on the album. The song feels incredibly out of place and like it was just thrown into the album last minute. The song "Snap Out of It" also seems a bit out of place for some reason, but on its own it is still a good song. The rest of the songs all flow nicely and compliment each other; it is just those few odd balls on the album.

I'd rate this album a 9/10. Although one of the songs wasn't to my liking, the good majorly outweighs the bad. Almost all of the songs were excellent and really the entire album was a major success for Arctic Monkeys. I will definitely be adding most, if not all, of these songs onto my playlist. I recommend giving *AM* a listen and, who knows, maybe you'll like it as much as I do.



Back Page By Jasmine Coots



Pics

