



## Beware of Slips and Trips

By: Riley Myers

Snow is continuing to fall and stick on the ground. Many upperclassmen are learning that driving can be a dangerous thing during the winter time. But that's why there are going to be some tricks and tips to tell you how to be safe while you're on the road.

If you are a new driver, here are some tips for you to help make driving in the snow a little less hazardous. According to AAA, "Keep a bundle of cold-weather gear in your car, such as extra food and water, warm clothing, a flashlight, a glass scraper, blankets, medications, and whatever you feel like you need." You can never be too prepared.

When asked about some of his best tips for driving in the winter, sophomore Michael Woloschak explained, "Don't power up hills. Applying extra gas on snow-covered roads will just make it more difficult to traverse the icy road up the hill." Michael also explained if you lose control of your steering, stay calm and follow procedures accordingly. In addition, avoid driving on bridges as they freeze over faster than other types of roads.

Sophomore Max Terranova explained, "You have to be mindful of the snow and ice on the ground and how it affects your traction and braking time." These are some useful things to take with you on the road.

Junior Ryan Henry has more experience as a driver and loves every moment of it. When asked for some of his best tips, he suggested, "The best tip I have for driving in the snow is to stay alert and reduce your speed. You always want to give yourself more time to react to possible situations."



Emily Leskovac prepares to drive after a winter storm. Photo Credit: Bri Callow

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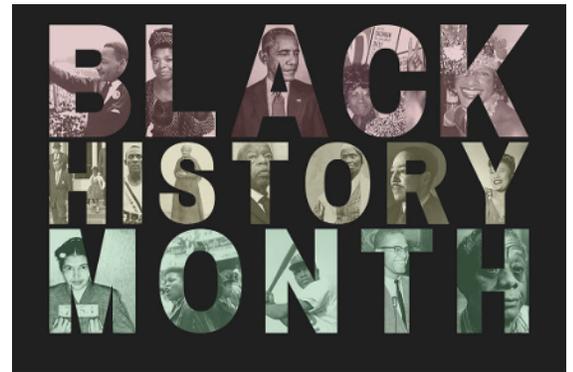
*continued...* Like Max, Ryan recognizes the dangers of less traction and losing control, "You have to pay attention to your brakes, because when you're sliding your brakes can lock up. You want to pump the brakes in a slide. Luckily for us, new cars have ABS which pumps the brakes for you."

There are plenty of people who drive in the snow at our age and you don't have to be afraid to drive in the snow, just extra cautious and careful. Follow laws and drive at the speed that you feel safe at. Be safe and have a great winter. Happy Safe Driving!

# Editorial--Are We Doing Enough to Recognize Black History?

By: Hannah Werle

February has come! Along with this month comes many things: candy hearts, endless romcoms, and teenagers crying as they eat dollar store chocolates. Valentine's Day isn't the only event that happens in February, however. February is also celebrated as Black History Month and as social issues have come into mainstream attention, we are more clearly seeing how moments like these are being celebrated--or not at all.



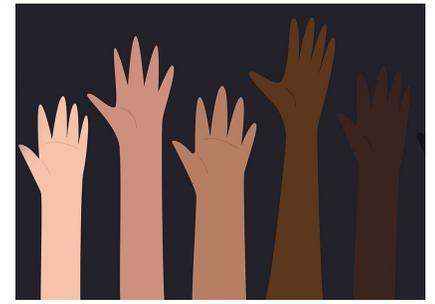
Now, without delving into sociopolitical views, the recent protests have brought matters regarding racial injustice and abuse to the attention of the public. As we see these issues being brought to the forefront of society's view, there have been many questions and criticisms that arise. Cancel and call-out culture is sparing no one from repute. The idea of performance activism, or publicly allying oneself with a party or group in hopes of getting praise from fans and other influencers, has become a smoking gun for many of today's keyboard warriors.

That being said, is performance activism the only activism we're actually seeing anymore? A lot of posts, articles, and reports about black history and its influence on America have been coming out recently, but one must ask if it's all just a marketing campaign. Companies like Target have made clothing lines and collections that highlight the creativity and art of black creators. On the surface, this is a beautiful idea, but there's more to it. Are the profits from these collections going into programs that will help BIPOC [black, indigenous, people of color]? Will the line be cut as soon as February ends? Are we truly educating ourselves about Black History or are we merely applauding the purple prose of an eloquently put press release?

The key to recognizing Black History is about actually learning it. Although they were monumental figures, MLK and Malcom X were not the only people who fought for civil rights. There are many events in time that are not spoken of in traditional education programs. For example, the Tulsa Race Massacre was an eye-opening moment, but its tragedy is not often taught in schools. Putting forth effort towards education on these matters can be a monumental advancement in how we see Black History and more than that, American History

Then when you revisit the social media posts and the commercial campaigns, you can assess whether or not these releases are truly helpful in advancing their cause. In addition, if you find yourself looking to donate or give to help POC, look into small, black owned businesses that might be benefited from your purchases. There are plenty of social programs and charities dedicated to low-income, LGBTQ, and/or women of color that could use extra funding.

**continued...** Not everyone is in the right position to give monetarily or participate in civil activism like they'd like to, but everyone can make a conscious effort to change themselves and the way they think about things. Happy Black History Month!



# McDonald, Briefly--

**By: Theresa Greathouse**



**Photo Credit: Mr. Williams**

Recently, three McDonald players signed with the universities of their choice to further their academics and football career. Hunter McCombs signed with Muskingum Univeristy, Dominic Schadt signed with Ashland University, and Kaden Crown signed with Baldwin Wallace University. Kaden said, "I am very excited to start the next chapter of my life with a great University and football team!"

**Photo Credit: Roz Gadd**



McDonald Village Girl Scouts Troop 80172 were awarded "Hometown Heroes" on February 3rd and were featured on WYTV. Troop Leaders Jaclyn Kuntz and Jenna Evans also spoke on how they love helping others and how they want to leave an impact on the world. This Spring, make sure to keep an eye out for an Easter Egg Hunt hosted by them. Keep up the great work



**Photo Credit: Hannah Werle**

On February 3rd, McDonald High School held the induction for new members of National Honors Society. The NHS ceremony was live streamed on Facebook and for students in the high school so we could stay socially distanced. Students that became part of this prestigious group were Anna Airhart, Brooklyn Bokan, Elle Airhart, Lea Gabrelsik, Leah Scala, Lucy Wolford, and Michael Porter. Great job MHS students and keep up the good work!

**Photo Credit: WKBN**

This week's student athlete is Sophia Costantino, who scored her 1,000 point on the court February 4th against Springfield. She said, "It's really cool because my two aunts also scored their 1,000 points on the court at Springfield."

Sophia has been playing basketball for as long as she can remember because her dad has coached teams. She said she started to really get into Basketball in 7th grade, "The passion that I had back then has carried with me through High School. The work ethic that I learned from Basketball has seeped into other areas of my life, and I attribute a lot of my success (both athletic and academically) to the lessons I learned through Basketball." Keep up the great work Sophia and great work!



# Being a Effective Leader By: Theresa Greathouse

When talking about an effective leader most people think of a super hero like Superman or Wonder Woman, but a leader does not always have to be necessarily a hero. A leader could be considered a hero, but that doesn't mean they have to be wearing a cape. If someone looks up to their teacher they could also be considered a leader; anyone can be a leader. Some common traits include someone who is selfless, caring, kind, courageous, diligent, loyal, and many more things. Now, it's easy to follow a path that is already paved, but wouldn't it be nice to create your own path? To do things that you want to do in this world to make a change, and to leave your impact on the world?



One way someone may be able to get involved is volunteering. There are many places that are always in need of a helping hand. Though COVID-19 has made it a challenge, it doesn't hurt to ask if you can volunteer and lend a helping hand. Try staying safe by helping others such as shoveling a neighbor's driveway, take their trash to the curb, or ask if they need any canned goods. These are just some ways to lend a helping hand during this time that is still passing by, but below are available resources and groups/clubs you could possibly join to flex those leadership muscles.



One of the available organizations here at McDonald High School is National Honors Society (NHS). NHS is a group that really makes fellow students try hard and challenges them to do more as far as having many hours of volunteer work, playing many sports and being involved in clubs in and out outside of school.

For students to be considered, they must make sure they obtain a certain grade point average and have the requirements needed to be accepted into the prestigious group. But if you don't think this is something you want to do there is another resource, which is Trumbull Career and Technical Center. TCTC is an available resource for freshmen looking to do more for their Junior and Senior years. TCTC offers many vocational classes such as beauty, robotics, engineering, mechanics, medicine, and many more. Trumbull Career and Technical Center allows hands-on work and allows students to get experience while also being fun at the same time.

**Cosmetology working hands on. Picture Credit: Janessa Virola**

Student Janessa Virola is attending Trumbull Career and Technical Center. At TCTC she is in a program called Cosmetology and does many hands-on projects and assignments. Janessa said, "This program allows me to get hands-on experience and learn a lot about the hair, skin, and nails.". Janessa says she is excited for the future.

## What Grinds My Gears- "No Offense"

By: Riley Myers

"No offense, but this paper isn't all that great." Are you kidding me? Why do people tell you no offense after they offended you? I feel like humans take advantage of this phrase. This phrase is for people to seem not as mean. No, I feel like it makes people look silly. The person that came up with this phrase probably said to themselves, "Hmmm, maybe if I say no offense, then they're not gonna be offended because I offended them after saying no offense." Now, reread that and tell me how silly that sounds. Exactly. It doesn't make any sense just like the phrase "no offense." Jeez!



**Definition of No Offense - Don't be offended.** That is and was the clearest definition I have ever seen in my whole life. So an insult shouldn't be an insult if you say no offense. Makes perfect sense. So why keep saying it? This phrase is getting nowhere in life whatsoever. Just saying no offense is an offense so why continue to say it? It can hurt others' feelings because others look over that no offense and they can feel really hurt about what you said after no offense. *The Villager*, February 19, 2021 page 4

# Sweet Heart's Cake by: Elise McMaster

With it being the month of February that means that Valentine's Day is coming up. Now whether you're in a relationship or not you can enjoy this Valentine's Day cake recipe to either enjoy it yourself or you could use it to impress your friends and those around you.



1. Preheat oven to 350°F . Spray two 9-inch cake pans well with nonstick cooking spray, line the bottoms of the pans with parchment paper, and set aside.
2. In a mixing bowl, whisk together the cake flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, and salt.
3. In an other mixing bowl using a mixer, cream together the butter and sugar on and then add the eggs and then mix in the oil, red food color, vanilla extract, and vinegar until mixed. Then mix in the dry ingredients in additions alternating with the buttermilk
4. Evenly distribute the cake batter between the two prepared cake pans and spread the batter around into one even layer. Tap the pans on the counter to remove any air bubbles from the cakes.
5. Bake at 350°F for 28-32 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center of the cakes comes out clean. Then place on the wire rack to cool completely.
6. While your cake is cooling you can make your frosting by beat the softened butter for a minute add the 3 cups of powdered sugar and turn your mixer on to the lowest speed add the vanilla extract, salt, and 2 tablespoons of cream and beat for 2-3 minutes until it is whipped
7. You then and make a horizontal line and a vertical line on your cake that meet at the middle. Then you use that to cut a small triangle from the top and just round out the edges and you got a heart that you can frost and decorate however you like

Cake recipe by Danielle: <https://www.livewellbakeoften.com/the-best-red-velvet-cake/>

Frosting recipe by Alice Currah: <https://savorysweetlife.com/buttercream-frosting/>

## Ingredients for buttercream frosting:

- 1 cup or 2 sticks softened unsalted butter
- 3-4 cups confectioners sugar
- ¼ teaspoon table salt
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- Up to 4 tablespoons heavy cream, half and half, or milk

## Ingredients for the cake:

- 2 and 2/3 cups flour
- 1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter softened
- 1 and 3/4 cups granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup canola or vegetable oil
- liquid red food color
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon distilled white vinegar
- 1 and 1/3 cups buttermilk

# Song of the Month: "Happier" by Marshmello ft. Bastille

By: Elle Airhart

Hey, it's that time again! Time for another Song of the Month. Woohoo! This time, I'm tackling the wholesome song, "Happier" by Marshmello and featuring everyone's favorite guy, Bastille. His voice, man. I swear it gives me chills every time (and it's a part of the reason this song has been chosen, but you didn't hear it from me). So, let's get started.

This song originally came out in 2018 and probably has the best music video I have ever seen, which came out the same year. When I tell you it was the best, I mean it. It had more plot and plucked more heart strings than most movies nowadays. Bold of me, but if you haven't watched it, do it! It is so good, even though it gets sad. According to [SongMeaningsAndFacts.com](http://SongMeaningsAndFacts.com), the song is about a break-up. The lyrics tell a story about a relationship quickly falling apart, however, one still wants to hold on to their significant other. Of course, this would be absolutely heartbreaking and this song captures that feeling perfectly.



However, we already have a lot of doom and gloom going around so we don't need an extra reason to start crying in the middle of class (unless that's your thing; if so, to each their own). So, like usual, the meaning I find more fitting is the one that is displayed in the music video. It is still a little sad, but if you squint, maybe turn your head to the side, and keep a growth mindset, you'll be able to see the meaning I'm considering.

The music video starts out with a little girl who is having a rough time. To fit the cliché, no one wants to come to her birthday party. Poor girl! However, the day brightens a little with the gift of a cute little puppy. The rest of the video depicts the girl growing up with her best friend and furry pooch. Just when you get super happy and warm inside, the director crushes you. The bridge shows the dog at the end of his life and the girl, now all grown up, has to let go of her best friend and a member of her family. It is just as heartbreaking--maybe even more so if you like animals more than people.



But, I chose to look at the brighter side of the video. The girl's dog was the light of her life and the dog adored her in the same way. They had a great, loving relationship and cared about each other. While, the dog didn't get to stay with her forever, it did get so many beautiful years with her while it could. Sometimes that's all you can take to heart. Sure, loss hurts A LOT, however, instead of dwelling on that hurt and sadness, take a few moments to look back on the person/pet that you lost and the good memories you got to share with them. Celebrate the times you had with them and what they have done to shape you into what you are now. The meaning is backed up by the end of the video where what we have to presume is the girl, now as a mother herself, giving her own lonely daughter a cute puppy on her birthday. Her experiences with her own precious pup led to her passing that kind of joy and love that comes with a furry friend.

That is what I believe this Song of the Month is really about. Hopefully this maybe lifts your spirits. Maybe even makes you "Happier".

# People on the Street: How Has Covid Affected Your Life?

By: Sage Mason

As we come close to reaching the one year mark of living in the pandemic it is clear that the way we go about school has really changed, but how has it affected the personal lives of students at MHS? I was able find some students and get their thoughts on how Covid has affected their lives.



"Covid has made me realize how helpful masks are to keep you warm in the winter. I wish I had been wearing them during the winter all along!"  
-Carley Stitt



"It has been odd this year not having as many fans in the stands while cheering, but I am happy I still get to cheer no matter the size of the crowd."  
-Jordyn White



"For the most part the only thing that has changed for me is having two cohorts during school. Other than that there haven't been many differences."  
- Ryan Smith



"Life has been a lot different not getting to see the other half of my grade and not being able to be with my friends as often."  
-Madi Nolf

## Horoscope of the Month

### Pisces

**February 19 - March 20**

**Day - Thursday**

**Element - Water**

**Ruler - Neptune and Jupiter**

**Color - Lilac or Green**

**Lucky Number - 3, 9, and 15**

**Strengths:** Compassionate, Artistic, Gentle, and Musical

**Weaknesses:** Fearful, overly trusting, can be a victim or a martyr

**Pisces Likes:** Being alone, sleeping, music, and swimming

**Pisces Dislikes:** Know-it-all, being criticized, cruelty of any kind

**Overall -** Some things may be frowned upon, but they have their place in the world and you cannot imagine the collective consciousness rising any quicker than it already is. The place is real, and you belong where you are, with your own role among the many.

**Words you should say to yourself:** "I am free from limiting beliefs."

**Source:** <https://www.astrology-zodiac-signs.com/zodiac-signs/pisces/>

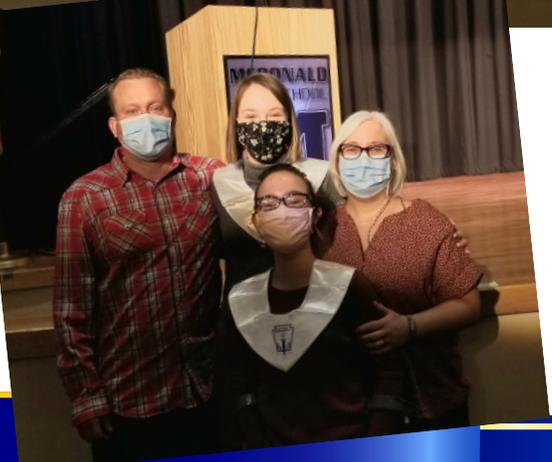
By: Riley Myers





# Backpage Pics

By: Hannah Werle



## Wednesday, February 3, 2021