



Volume 06, Issue 10 | Date: March 17, 2023

By: Lyric Culp

## Springing Into Action

It's hard to believe that we are in the final sports season of the year. We have seen a lot of success throughout our athletic programs between football and cross country all the way to bowling and basketball, and now we have our spring sports in their preseason action.

The boy's bowling team competed at districts last weekend. They placed as a team with only one advancing to the state match. Sophomore Zachary Bregar bowled a phenomenal game with a final individual score of 300. He competed in the State championship on March 3rd and 4th.

While at state, Zach competed against over 200 other bowlers and ended up placing 38th out of 201. Over the course of 3 games he racked up a total score of 565.

As for the Lady Bowlers at MHS, only one was able to advance into the district final. Junior Grace Srock competed in the district match on Saturday, February 25th. She did not perform as well as she would have liked despite her strong effort.

Unfortunately, Grace did not move forward to the state championship, despite her strong efforts.

Our competitive cheerleading team had a spot at the state championship. They competed at Big Walnut High School with some of the top teams in northeastern Ohio.

On March 5th our competition cheer team competed in the state championship against 11 other teams. With their best performance of the year, they were able to place 5th on the big stage.

The girl's and boy's varsity basketball teams wrapped up their seasons earlier in February. Unfortunately, the Lady Devils had a first round exit against the Newton Falls Tigers with a final score of 43-38.

When asked what the team can do better to make a further playoff run next year, Sophomore Anabela Merola said, "We are a young team and we just need to build better connections with each other and work on our weaknesses in the off-season."



The competitive cheer team at the state send off

In This Issue	
Falling Into Sports	1
Springing into Action (Continued) State Tests Prep	2
Discover more with a college visit	3
Editorial Weird History: The Pirate Queen	4
Recipe: Peanut Butter Blossom Cookies	5
Game Review: Little Nightmares	6
Music Review: The Family Jewels	7
Backpage Pics	8

**STAFF LIST**

**Editor Staff:**  
Veda Agler  
Mirryn Hobbs

**Staff Writers:**  
Adam Parker  
Annabelle Smith  
Jasmine Coots  
Aniya Depaul  
Meegan Dockery  
Lyric Culp

**Editor in Chief:**  
Mr. Backur



Article continues on page 2

However, the boy's team went into the tournament with one thing in mind, win and advance. The first round was a breeze for the Devils as they faced the Chalker Wildcats. Being ranked the #30 and #33 seeds in the division 4 bracket lead everyone to think this game would be down to the wire. The team ran away without looking back with a final score of 54-18. The second round would be a dog fight between the Devils and the Warren JFK Eagles. Our offense wasn't strong enough as the Eagles got out to an early lead and maintained it for all four quarters. Their season ended with a 84-43 loss.

With the closing of winter sports opens a door for our spring athletics. Recently, the baseball and softball teams have begun mandatory practices and conditioning while the varsity track team is sprinting into action. The junior high track program has also kicked off their seasons swiftly. There are a lot of exciting things to come with these teams.

When I asked Senior Mackenzie Regelman how she feels with her final track season arriving, she replied, "I'm excited for this season but it's gonna be sad when it comes to an end."

# State Tests: How to Prepare for Success

## By: Meegan Dockery

State testing for McDonald High School is just around the corner. Do you know when your test(s) are? Do you know how to study and do your best on them? What about eating and sleeping? These are all critical questions you should be asking yourself as we gear up to take tests.

Eating habits? There's no better way to start your exam day than by eating a filling and nutritious breakfast. Breakfast is necessary to give your brain the strength and power to properly function, as well as to allow you to do your best. When asked what students at McDonald High School think is the best breakfast food, junior Lily Smith said, "French toast with ooey gooey regular syrup is the best way to go."

Not only is breakfast important on test day, but lunch is just as essential. By eating breakfast you're empowering your body with nutrients and brain power to do well, but to keep that power up for Part 2 of your test, you need a good lunch as well. Since McDonald students are able to go home for lunch the options are almost endless.

Eating properly isn't the only thing that students need to succeed on their tests. Studying is a great way to not only feel prepared, but also give yourself every opportunity to succeed. Studying is definitely not the most fun thing to do, but it is for the betterment of you, your knowledge, and your overall success.

There are many ways to effectively study that still allow you to have fun. One of those ways is group studying. Not only are there ways for students to study on their own, but teachers also spend all year preparing students for these tests.

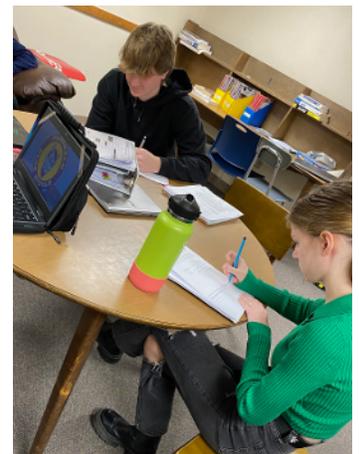
Science teacher Mrs. Sanson said, "Some of the tools I use to prepare my students for state testing are the Restart Readiness Checkpoints and Benchmarks, Study Island, and Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning (POGIL) Activities."

One of the best ways to effectively study is to get with a group of friends to go over the material. Being with a group allows everyone to bounce ideas off of each other to gain different perspectives, as well as receive well-rounded views that can help you answer questions on the exam.

Another way to effectively study is to write down information whenever you have time. Writing creates muscle memory and allows students to better retain information that they learned in class.

A third effective way is to create flashcards or make a Quizlet for smaller questions or vocabulary you want to brush up on. By making flashcards you get the muscle memory from writing them down, but also the quick memorization from being able to flip through them. Quizlet acts in a similar way and is also a more portable method that allows learning from anywhere.

There are so many different approaches you can take to studying for these tests. 7th grader Kennedy Holmes says, "Recopying and rereading over notes is the best way to do well on State testing."



**Students studying hard to keep up with their school material.**

# Discover more about a College with a Visit

By: Aniya DePaul

There's no better way to find the college that best fits you than scheduling a campus visit. College visits can offer students a number of resources that can help them succeed in their new life path.

College visits offer students insights into what their college life and experience will be like. These opportunities can really help students find the college that best suits them and the life path they want to take and follow and allow applicants to make meaningful connections with what the university offers and the campus.



There are numerous ways that students can prepare for college visits. When asked how she prepared, senior Giavonna Pascarella said, "I started by Googling and searching for the colleges that best suited me, what I was interested in, and my needs."

Students can start off by exploring official college websites that interest them. Exploring these websites help inform students about what the college offers, information about the college's mission, and overall facts about the campus and university. Students can also explore the map of the college and make notes of buildings they want to visit, and where the admissions office is located. Students should also compose a list of questions they plan to ask both students on campus, and some of the professors that work at the university.

**Junior Bri McCombs at Ashland University on a college visit.**

Students should go into these visits open minded and be ready to explore all the possibilities and opportunities that the university offers. Students should also take full advantage of talking to on-campus students, and the staff provided at these visits. These individuals are there to help and provide all the information needed about the University and campus.

There are a lot of tips that students can use to have an effective college visit and experience. Students can start by evaluating the campus and university and making sure it is the right place for them. Students should go into these visits knowing what to expect on the tour and what they are going to see. Evaluating a budget is essential to make sure you do not spend an excessive amount of money on these trips or go into debt attending the school.

Student centers are a great way to get a feel for the atmosphere of the campus and university. When asked about her experience, junior Bri McCombs said, "I visited Ashland and Mercyhurst. I liked how they were far enough from home, but not too far, that I could go see my parents if they missed me. I also liked their softball programs and the coaches they had."

Every student should take the time to plan and visit a college. These trips are essential in helping students find the college that is just right for them.

## Should young kids be allowed to have their own phones?

By: Veda Agler



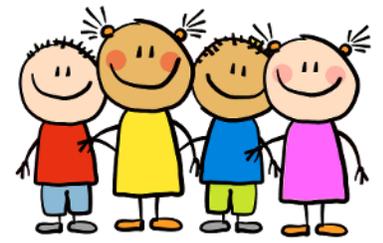
shutterstock.com · 1050945248

Phones are a great way to get in touch with someone and a great way of entertainment you can take everywhere with you. However, many parents are starting to give their young kids a phone. Now some parents have a reason why they should have one while other parents are giving their kids phones for entertainment only.

Parents should have different forms of entertainment for their children as it's now very hard to keep kids entertained for long periods of time. When out in public children tend to get very antsy and won't sit still without having something entertaining on an electronic device to calm them down.

Allowing your own child to have devices all to themselves shouldn't be allowed because this may lead them to act out and become more aggressive toward others, especially when having to share something they may not want to share. Until they show maturity and are at an age when they can learn to respect the responsibility of having a device.

When I was younger the first ever electronic I was given was in third grade and was a mini iPod that you can only play music on. Nowadays, some parents are giving their four or five year old's fully working phone as their first electronic device, just to have one for games and entertainment.



Other parents are giving their kids phones of purpose to use only as safety and tracking devices. For example, some parents have babysitters and work an hour or so long after their children get out of school. So giving their children a phone to be able to track them and make sure they get home safely is great.

Although giving a young child a phone, only for the sole purpose to keep them entertained, should not be normalized. Now keeping children entertained can be a struggle, but allowing them to play on their parent's phones or simply watch TV is more significant than having a huge responsibility of their own.

Giving a child this young a huge responsibility like a phone can be a good or bad idea. If the child is very mature they may make the right decisions and make sure this phone is safe and in good hands. If a child does not show much responsibility they may not be best to receive such a sacred gift. It is not just putting this responsibility on a young child, some children may become way too attached to their phones. This may lead to behavior issues and greediness.

Now giving a child a phone is seen differently in many households and ways, but allowing your child to have a source of screen time as well as normal playtime time can be a good step in their development. Keeping kids' minds young and healthy is very important and allowing a child to have their own phone to use and keep may not be the best decision.

## Weird History - Zheng Yi Sao: The Pirate Queen

By Adam Parker



Born by the name of Shih Yang in 1775, Shih Yang lived a humble life. In 1801 she met and married Zheng Yi, a well known pirate, and was named Zheng Yi Sao by the people of Guangdong. This sparked the beginning of a chain of events leading to the most notorious, efficient pirate empire in all of China.

Zheng Yi hailed from a family of well-known pirates whose roots traced back to the Ming dynasty. He also had an adopted son, Zhang Bao, who had been abducted by Zheng Yi in 1798 at the age of 15, and pressed into piracy. In 1802 Zheng Yi acquired his cousin Zheng Qi's fleet after his execution. With the help of Zheng Yi Sao, who happened to be a very capable organizer, Zheng Yi was able to unite his newly enlarged crew into a confederation with the signing of an agreement in July of 1805. According to worldhistory.org, this confederation consisted of six fleets distinguished by colored flags- black, blue, white, yellow, purple, and red, the largest fleet, which Zheng Yi commanded.

In 1807 Zheng Yi fell overboard in a violent storm and passed away at the age of 42. Zheng Yi Sao soon took over her husband's operations, and according to atlasobscura.com, with the support of Zheng Qi's son, Zheng Anbang, and Zheng Yi's nephew Zheng Baoyang, as well as the leader of the black flag fleet and Zhang Bao, who was commanding the red fleet after his adopted-father's death, she was able to unify the numerous factions in the confederation. Zheng Yi Sao also inherited her husband's informal command over the Pirate Confederation. While Zhang Bao was officially the commander of the red flag fleet, he still followed Zheng Yi Sao's orders and consulted her before taking actions.

As Zheng Yi Sao rose to power, the Pirate Confederation became significantly more active and, in desperation, China enacted the Blockade of Tung Chung Bay. After months of fighting (November 1809 - early 1810), the Pirate Confederation surrendered to Chinese authorities. However the pirates, realizing the bargaining power they had, were able to negotiate with authorities out of punishment. With the Government desperate for their scourge of piracy to end, they legitimized the confederation's bargaining power in exchange for the pirates' retirement.

Somewhere between ascending to power and retirement Zheng Yi Sao and Zhang Bao married and after retirement Zhang Bao acted as a colonel in China's navy. In 1813 Zhang Yi Sao gave birth to a son, Zhang Yulin. After Zhang Bao's death in 1822, Zheng Yi lived a relatively peaceful life as the proprietor of an infamous gambling house somewhere around Guangdong until her eventual death in 1844

Despite her death, Zheng Yi Sao's legacy goes on, as one of the most active, influential, and efficient pirates to ever sail China's waters.

## How to Make Peanut Butter Blossom Cookies

**By: Annabelle Smith**

1  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups of flour  
1 teaspoon of soda  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons of salt  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of sugar  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of firmly packed brown sugar  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of shortening  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of peanut butter  
1 egg  
1 teaspoon of vanilla  
2 tablespoons of milk  
48 Hershey kisses

Mix sugar, brown sugar, peanut butter, and shortening in a bowl until thoroughly mixed into a cream. Add egg, milk, and vanilla and mix well. Then add flour, soda, and salt and mix again. Roll them into balls and then roll into sugar to coat all sides. Place them on an ungreased cookie sheet and bake for 8 minutes at 375 degrees. Then, quickly take the cookies out and add the Hershey kisses to the center. Then bake for 2 to 5 minutes. Let them cool in a pan for about 2 minutes and then place on a cooling rack until they are completely cooled.

This was another one of my grandmother's recipes. She used to bring a box of these cookies as well as some cinnamon rolls when she came to see me. During the holidays, I would go over to her house to help her bake all kinds of cookies and other sweets. My favorite part was decorating the cookies and she had tons of different icings and other decorations I could put on them. She loved baking and cooking and always made sure to make it fun.



# Game Review - Little Nightmares

By: Adam Parker

Developed by independent development studio, Tarsier Studios and published by Bandai Namco in 2017, *Little Nightmares* is a third person horror-platformer, a rare mixture in gaming. The game follows a little girl, only known as Six, as she traverses the large ship, The Maw, pursued by monsters of enormous size as she tries to manage a way out of the ship.

*Little Nightmares* has a very linear story, making your way from one area to the next in sequential order of each other. The game is separated into 5 different chapters – The Prison, The Lair, The Kitchen, The Guest Area, and The Lady's Quarters, each with their own enemies occupying them. The Prison and Lair are occupied by The Janitor, The Kitchen has The Chefs, The Guest Area has The Guests, and The Lady's Quarters has the player finally face off against the mysterious Lady who's been a looming figure throughout the game. The Chefs and The Guests play rather similarly, but The Janitor's lack of sight makes the player have to be very aware of the noise they make as his long, lanky arms can reach just about any space you may try to hide away. The Lady plays interestingly, not really coming after you herself until the end, when you have to use an old mirror to ward her off.

The game plays similarly to your standard 3D platformer, with puzzles and a lot of climbing, but also with a different style of enemy than what platformers typically have. This adds a lot to the gameplay. In standard platformer games, like the *Super Mario* games, the enemies are more so just inconvenient obstacles that don't pose any real threat if you're careful, but in *Little Nightmares*, every enemy completely looms over you and poses a real threat to Six's safety. *Little Nightmares* also handles tension really well. Typically horror games are played in first person perspective, relying on cheap jumpscare to scare the player. *Little Nightmares*, however, is in third person, leading to it relying heavily on the buildup of tension and just a generally unnerving air to the world.

Lending to that unnerving energy is the visuals. The game has a warped, almost Dr. Seussian art style with long, stretched objects and oblong character designs. I think the best example of this is The Guests in the fourth chapter, who's misshapen bodies and almost rabid, hungry grabbing at you really lends to an uneasy feeling as the player is making it through The Guest Area.

*Little Nightmares* is a refreshing take on indie horror, who's interesting visuals, gameplay, and use of third person platforming elements adds to an experience completely unique from the rest of the genre. The game also acts as an interesting look at how two, seemingly incompatible, genres can work around each other to make something new.

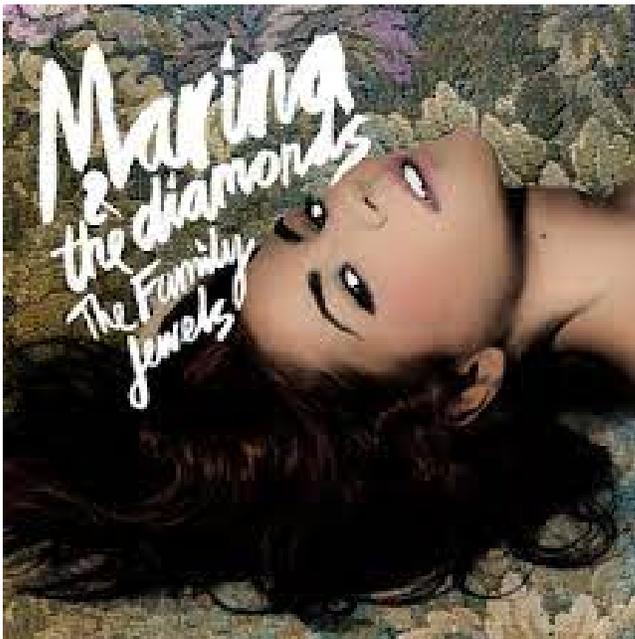


# Music Review: The Family Jewels by Marina

**By: Annabelle Smith**

In February of 2010 the artist named Marina released an album titled *The Family Jewels*. The indie pop artist used to be known as Marina and the Diamonds, but she later shortened it to Marina. The most popular songs from the album are “Hollywood” and “Hermit the Frog”. Throughout many of the songs, Marina talks about how the her family and the media treats her as well as some references that relate to mental illness.

There are tons of things to like about *The Family Jewels*. My favorite song has to be “Are You Satisfied?” but “Oh No!” is a close second. In many of the songs, she seems to call out other people’s faults, as well as her own. She also addresses a lot



of mental health things like feeling detached and isolated. For example, in “Numb” she references depression and talks about how she's reaching for a golden light that represents happiness. The light seems out of reach, however, and so it passes by her and she loses her chance at happiness.

Although I enjoyed most of the songs, there were a few that felt a little off. The song “Mowgli’s Road” is undoubtedly the weirdest song in the album. It was definitely my least favorite out of all the songs. “Guilty” was also not one of my favorites. I like how the song approaches accountability, but it is really dark and it isn't enjoyable to listen to.

I would rate this album a 7/10. The whole album seemed to be a hit or miss- I loved some of the songs and hated others. Her style of music and her voice are so unique. I can’t wait to check out her other music and hopefully find some new songs to add to my playlist.

# BACK PAGE PICS

By: Lyric Culp

