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## Walk Out To Honor Douglas High School Victims By Lea Brown

On March 14th, our school participated in a nationally organized walk out to honor the students and families that were affected by the school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

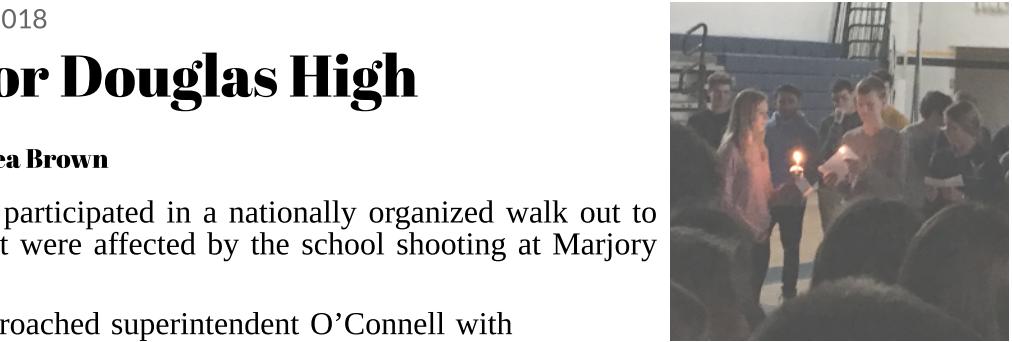
Student council officers approached superintendent O'Connell with the idea of having a memorial service for the victims of the Parkland, Florida shooting.

Senior Student Council President Braden Rupe said, "We wanted to do this to honor 17 innocent people's lives. These were kids just like any of us who were involved in activities and service in and out of school. They were searching for colleges and looking forward to their futures, but all of that was taken from them. Many of them died trying to save others."

Student council co-advisor Ms. Conway added, "It's important whenever there's a tragedy, especially when lives are lost, to come together and show support for the victims and all those affected. Showing love and compassion prevents hatred and violence."

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*Student Council officers lead the assembly and light a candle to honor each victim.*

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# Is the Internet Safe?

By Kara Meehan

Internet safety is very important, whether you are a child that is just learning about the internet or a teenager who has experience with it. Cyber-bullying is a huge problem for millennials and with more websites and apps it is getting worse. Parents and teachers try as hard as possible to keep students safe from getting cyberbullied or giving out personal information, but the students also need to be accountable.

There are many ways to be safe with the internet, such as not giving out personal information, watching out for dangerous websites or apps, or simply securing passwords. Senior Zach Stevenson said, "Internet safety is very important because most people today keep large amounts of their personal information stored on their personal devices. If people cannot reliably store their information, this would create enormous problems."

If you are not safe on the internet, it could hurt you or someone else mentally or physically. According to statistics from the I-Safe foundation, over 25% of teens have been cyberbullied and 1 out of 3 people have been threatened on the internet.

Junior Caitlynne McMinn said, "I think that students should be nice because even if you don't think you said something that didn't hurt someone, it still may have hurt them."

Here are some tips from WebMD.com to stay safe online:

1. Keep your online identity a secret. Don't tell anyone your name or address. You never trust a stranger or what they will do with your information

2. Be nice online. Treat others the way you want to be treated and don't send hate emails or hack someone's computer.
3. Be careful what you upload. Never post anything you will regret because even if you try to delete it, it will never go away.
4. Always watch out for what websites you are using. If you are unsure if the website is Okay, ask a parent or a teacher.



One of the many posters in the high school halls promoting internet safety.

## April Fools Rules!

By Emily Gilligan

Whether it's water balloons, a whoopie cushion, or maybe just a cheesy joke, April Fool's Day is the perfect day to play a harmless prank on your friends or family. Junior Emily Treharn saw a funny prank on TV and got inspired to recreate it. She said that on April Fool's Day last year, she saran-wrapped the door for her dad to walk through later. "It was hilarious," she said.

We all know and love this day, but where did it come from? Surprisingly, the origins of April Fool's Day are a mystery. However, there are many speculations on how it could have originated.

According to History.com, some historians speculate that it was tied to the vernal equinox, the first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. It was on this day when Mother Nature fooled people with changing, unpredictable weather.

Another speculation is that April Fool's Day started at an ancient festival called Hilaria, which was celebrated in Rome at the end of March and encouraged people to dress up in disguises.

The day's modern popularity comes from the 18th century in Britain and Scotland. They celebrated a two-day event where fake tails and "kick me" signs were placed on people's backs.

Since then, the pranks have just gotten crazier and crazier. In 1996, the fast food chain Taco Bell announced

they were going to buy the Liberty Bell and rename it "the Taco Liberty Bell", which fooled people all throughout the US.

Senior Jenna O'Neil said that a few years ago, she and her brother had taped the detachable sink faucet to the wall, so when her mom turned the water on, she got sprayed. "My whole family laughed for days. We still tease my mom about it," she said.

So, if you plan on pranking your friends this April Fool's, keep it safe, have fun, and spread some laughs!

Source: History.com



Junior Emily Treharn, reminiscing on her prank and laughing

# Blast From the Past: '40s and '50s

By Rocco Pasarella

This issue of Blast from the Past is about the eras of the '40s and '50s and what was happening at this time at our school. During this time our school saw World War Two in the 1940s as well as the Cold War in the 1950s. Our school had classes that were about the war and what to do if you were drafted. We also had a driving class to teach students how to drive for free.

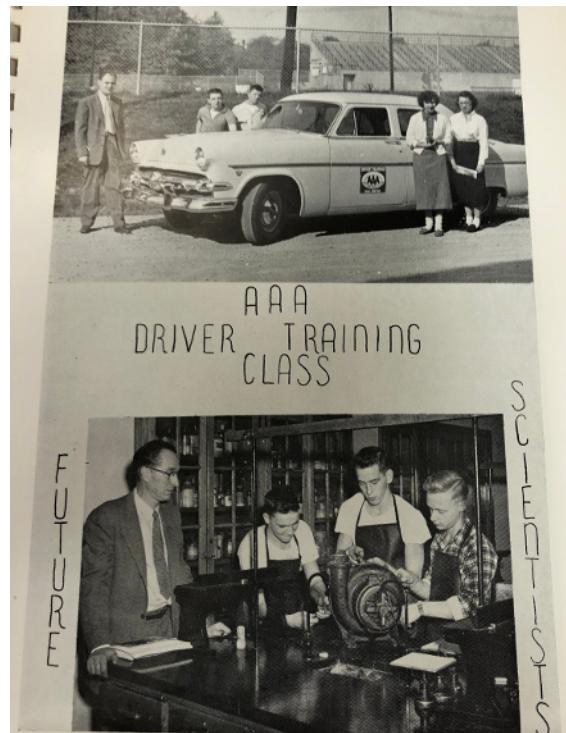
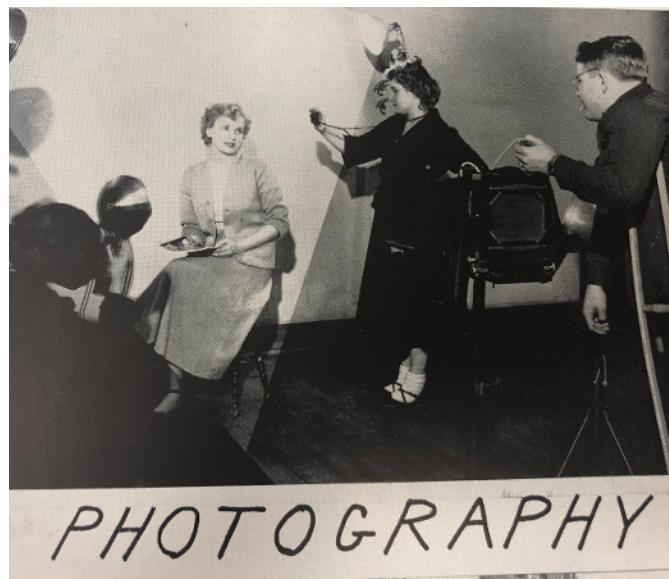
During the 1940s, our school went through World War Two and had classes that taught young men what to do if they got drafted into the military. The school also had a program called the McDonald Service Boys, where they dressed up like soldiers and helped around the community. There was even a drafting class to help young men who were being drafted learn what would happen and what they would go through.

During this time we also had a military Jeep ceremony that showed the students saluting the soldiers and showing that we care about our armed forces. The '40s was a time that our school and community came together. We also had male cheerleaders who helped rile

up the crowds at football and basketball games.

The '50s was a hopping time for our school and our community. The school offered classes like woodshop and photography where students got to express themselves by building things and take pictures that captured specific moments important to them. There was also the Babe Ruth Award that was given to students who showed real leadership in school on and off the field. Students could also work in the library to help the librarians repair broken books so they could be put back onto the shelves. McDonald High also offered driving classes to teach young drivers the rules of the road.

These two eras showed how far our school came from being one small building with only a few kids in a class to two separate buildings and an increase in student enrollment. Mrs. Lobaugh had this to say about our school's history, "I think so many of us feel a sense of pride here at school because of the long history of traditions that has become synonymous with McDonald High."



Above are pictures from the '40s and '50s including cheerleaders from 1941, Photography class from 1950, and Driver's Ed from 1955.

# Bad Habits No More

By Jessica Stamp

Having bad habits can be hard to get rid of. From cracking your fingers to not eating breakfast in the morning, trying to stop these habits can be tough to break.

One way to help stop these habits is to set goals for yourself. Setting goals like going day by day can help improve your success and get rid of those nasty habits.

If you are trying to stop procrastinating on your school work or studying for a test, you can ask a friend to help get you motivated to pass that test. Another way you can try to stop bad habits is paying a friend or family member every time you do that bad habit.

Freshman Ethan O'Connell said, "Staying up too late is my bad habit. It was affecting my grades, so I try not to." Some tips that you can use to help you go to bed on time is to limit your time on your phone or how long

you watch television. If you stay up because of school work, as soon as you get home from school, start your homework.

Sophomore Abby Sampson said, "My bad habit is biting my nails. I try not to do it because it is bad for your teeth and can hurt the nail really bad." You can try to stop biting your nails by making them look nice. If your nails are nice, it would make you not want to bite them. Another way to stop biting your nails is to chew gum or eat mints. Chewing gum or eating mint can keep your mouth busy from biting your nails.

Stopping bad habits can be difficult, but if you are really determined, then you will. Deciding you want a change is the first step to bettering yourself. Staying positive and motivated can help you succeed in overcoming your habits.

## McDonald, Briefly... By Victoria Hall



**NHS students Abbie Matig and Abby Pratt show X-Rays to elementary students.**

On March the 9th, NHS helped at COSI at Roosevelt all day with a variety of hands-on activities involving science and technology.



**Isabelle Beres and Rachel Ward created a crystalized flower. (Photo By Rachel Ward)**

In CCP chemistry class, students had a crystal growing competition where each group created their own lab to implement.



**Students and community leaders enjoy the Civics Day luncheon.**

Students in government classes were able to sign up for Civics Day. Lea Brown, Mikayla Smith, Hannah Sperati, Elliot Gibbons, and Gabby Hoskinson shadowed a variety of staff including Mrs. Domitrovich, Mr. Carkido, Mr. O'Connell, and Mr. Arbie for a full day.

# MUSICIAN OF THE WEEK

BY CERINA THORNE

GABBY HOSKINSON



- JUNIOR GABBY HOSKINSON PARTAKES IN BAND, CHOIR, AND FLAG-LINE
- THIS IS HER FIRST YEAR PLAYING THE BASS CLARINET FOR CONCERT BAND AND PEP BAND
- SHE HAS BEEN IN CHOIR SINCE HER SOPHOMORE YEAR AND ALWAYS ENJOYS IT
- GABBY HAS ALWAYS LOVED MUSIC; SHE CONSIDERS IT ONE OF HER FAVORITE HOBBIES AND WILL CONSIDER OTHER MUSIC IDEAS IN THE FUTURE



## People On The Street

By Victoria Hall

**What is your favorite thing about school?**



**Nathan Sierra**

7th Grade

My favorite thing about school is being apart of the track team because I enjoy running.



**John Welker**

Freshman

My favorite thing about school is getting to be apart of the football team.



**Gabrielle Martin**

Sophomore

My favorite thing about school is my biology class because we are always learning something new.



**Jenna O'Neil**

Senior

My favorite thing about school is being apart of the band because I enjoy being around my friends and playing percussion.

# WHERE IN MHS?

By: Kobia Baker

A.)



B)



C)



**ANSWERS!**

C.) Library

B.) Band Room

A.) Art Room

## Outstanding Staff

By: Autumn Mason

Mrs. Ifft is this issue's Outstanding Staff. She is well-known for teaching the Geometry and Accounting classes. Mrs. Ifft is a very dedicated teacher and she cares about each student. If you have ever been in one of her classes you have probably heard her say that she teaches the way she wants her own kids to be taught. Mrs. Ifft spends a lot of time explaining everything and making sure her class understands what she is teaching. I asked her the following questions to give you a little bit of an inside look:

1. How long have you been teaching?

This is my 28th year teaching. I taught 2 years in Garrettsville, 9 in Niles, and 17 here.

2. What's your favorite part of teaching?

My favorite part of teaching is when I see a student get excited because they really understand something I am teaching.

3. When did you know you wanted to be a teacher?

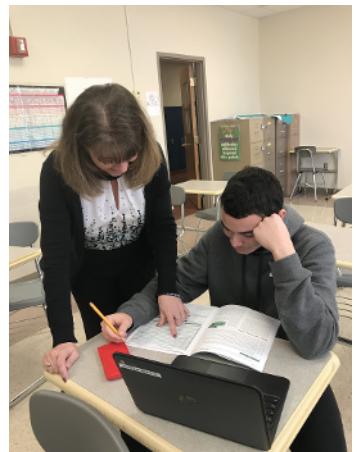
This was a process. I considered becoming a teacher in high school, but then I decided to become a chemical engineer. Two years into college, I decided math was my strength so I finished my degree in Mathematics Education. I taught for 2 years and then left teaching to become an actuary (mathematician) because I wasn't sure I really wanted to teach. That's when I realized how much I missed teaching math so I resigned from my job and got a teaching job and never looked back, knowing that I was doing what I was meant to do.

4. Who inspires you?

My high school Geometry/Algebra II teacher inspired me to teach.

5. What is one unique fact about you?

One unique fact about me is on most big occasions in my life, there was a natural disaster. My graduation from high school was postponed due to a tornado that ripped through Niles and there was no electricity for my grad party. On the day of my wedding shower, there was a huge snowstorm and by the time people tried to leave the parking lot, they had to be shoveled out. Even the mall closed! On my honeymoon in Cancun, Mexico, there was a hurricane. Since then, all has been good.





## Editorial: Spring Break Fun

By Marisa Carusso



Spring Break is quickly approaching.

The break isn't long, so few people go out of town for it. However, because March is a full month with no short weeks and such, it is nice to end the month with a long weekend.

Spring Break really kicks things right into the end of the year. Once students return to school on April 3rd there are only a couple months left, which will fly by.

The break is also nice for seniors because once they come back they have even less time left in school. For seniors, the year goes even faster after break, so

it's important to make the most of every day.

The break used to last longer years ago, but now that the school year ends at the end of May instead of the middle of June, the break is short.

Some good ways to spend Spring Break would be to catch up on things for school, or to get prepared for the end of the year. Also, relaxing is a good way to spend the break so that everyone is feeling cool and calm when returning to school.

Have a fun and safe Spring Break, MHS!

### **Team Book**

By: Autumn Mason

Books are almost always better than movies. Yes, I know if you sit down and watch a movie you don't have to do any extra work, but when you're reading a book it lets you imagine what is happening and you get sucked into your own little world.

Books are far more descriptive than movies. You get more of the story because when someone turns a book into a movie there's no way that they can include every single detail. Sometimes, movies also ruin books if someone doesn't make the movie in the way you saw it in your head. That can ruin a book.

Books also get you connected to the characters in a different way than a movie does. Books will rip your heart out, but it's hard to make that same emotional connection when you're watching a movie. Movies often times make you unsure of characters, but nine times out of ten you know if you're going to like a character or not in a book.

Not to say that movies are always bad. Occasionally, when a book gets turned into a movie it only makes you like the book more. In the grand scheme of things ,though, books are better and open your mind a little more than a movie.

### **THE DEVIL DEBATE**

### **Team Movie**

By: Kobia Baker

I love using my free time to stare at a dead tree with words...NOT! Why would you ever want to sit down and read about an action scene when Johnny Depp can act it out for you? Also, a movie is two hours, while books take at least a week to read.

Movies are also better for snacking, and who doesn't like snacks? You can sit down with your bowl of extra buttered popcorn and have a blast, but if you try eating that buttery stuff while reading a book you will just ruin all of the pages.

The best part of going to the movie theater is the end of the previews where the lights dim and the video plays and you get to pretend to be on a roller coaster. No book reader will even know what I am talking about.

Another valid argument I have is that going to the movies is a common date for many couples. I'm pretty sure no couples read a book together for their anniversary. Last statement, what channel is the *Book Awards* on? Oh, wait- they don't exist. Tune into the MTV Movie Awards every spring, because movies are actually interesting!

### **Aries**

by Cerina Thorne

March 20- April 19

**Friendship : Taurus, Leo**

**Relationship: Capricorn**

**Lucky Numbers: 4, 19, 46, 75, 88**

Being the first zodiac sign, there are lots of interesting events in your life. You make future plans involving people you want to be surrounded with rather than making plans you truly want.

However, you will make time for you and won't be so confided to a group of people. You will expand your horizons and do so many things you never imagined yourself doing.



# MHS BACKPAGE PICS



## $\pi$ Day

By Marisa Carusso

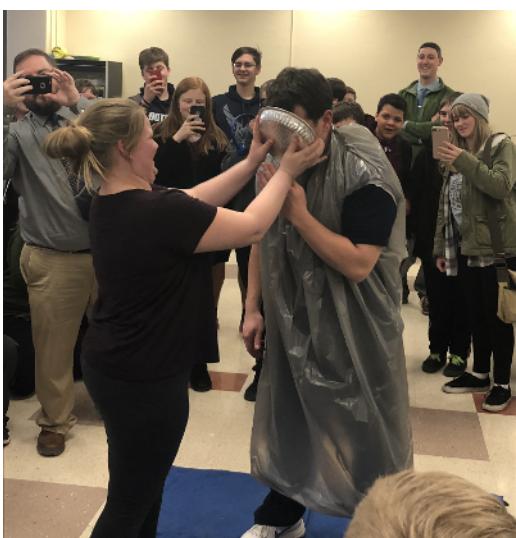
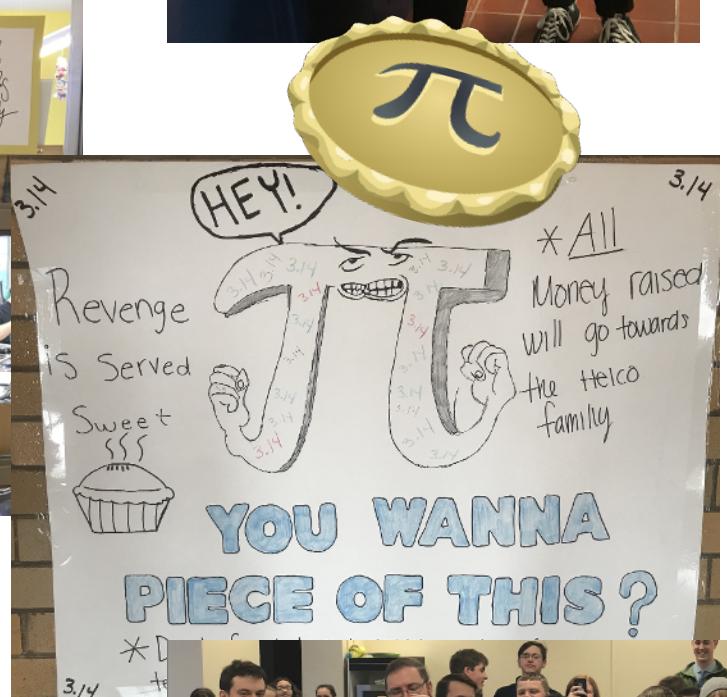
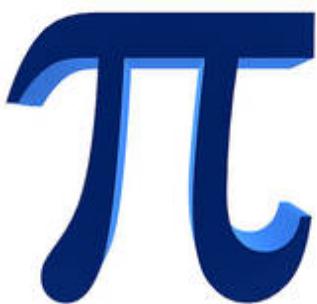


Photo Cred: Rocco Pascarella

