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Booking It To English Festival

By Kara Meehan

The English Festival was held at Youngstown State University for 10th-12th graders on April 18th, and 7th-9th graders on April 19th.

The English Festival is a program where students get a chance to read, write, and participate with other students from different schools in a variety of activities such as book discussions and literary games. Students come from schools all over Trumbull, Mahoning, and Columbia counties.

Other activities that students participated in were meeting with visiting authors, impromptu writing contests, writing games, and a variety of poetry, prose, and journalism workshops.

This year's guest authors included Kekla Magoon, Laurie Halse Anderson, and festival staple Chris Crutcher.

Students who wish to participate in the English Festival must read all seven books they are given. Students in grades 7-9 read *Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes*, *Chains*, *The Impossible Knife of Memory*, *The Rock and the River*, *Shadows of Sherwood*, *The Family Romanov*, and *Orbiting Jupiter*. Students in grades 10-12 read *Scythe*, *The Family Romanov*, *Winter Girls*, *Whale Talk*, *Deadline*, *The Impossible Knife of Memory*, and *X: A Novel*.

Senior Rachel Ward said, "This is my third year participating in the English Festival, and my favorite part is getting to meet new people from different schools all day while we go to our sessions." She also said that her favorite book was *Rose Under Fire* by Elizabeth Wein, a book from the 2016 English Festival.

Freshman Katie Gardener said, "I have been in English Festival for two years and my favorite part is getting to read lots of books. My favorite book is *We Were Liars* from 2017."

This year was my participating in English Festival, and I was very excited and nervous for it. I had a great time and everyone had fun. It was really cool to meet new people and read a variety of books from different genres. My favorite was *Scythe* by Neil Shusterman because I thought it was original and it always had me on the edge of my seat.

Several students brought home awards including Alyssa Lynch, Jordyn White, and Destiny Leskovac in Impromptu Writing, and Emma O'Connell, Jessica Stamp, Katie Gardner, and Sage Mason in Poetry Writing. In Not So Trivial Pursuit, Sophia Constantino took first place, and in Writing Games, Bri Callow took an honorable mention and Hannah Alcantar placed first.



Sophomores, juniors, and seniors participated in English Festival on April 18.

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A Blast From the Past: The '60s and '70s

By: Rocco Pascarella



Times were changing once again for MHS in the '60s and '70s. In the '60s some yearbook pictures were starting to be shown in color. This was mainly reserved for the graduating class. Our school had classes like business to help students interested in new career fields understand what they could expect in that profession. We also had the GAA, which is short for The Girls Athletic Association, to allow girls to participate in sports such as volleyball and basketball. There was also a home economics class that taught students how to take care of their homes and how to cook and take care of their family.

The '70s were a time of peace, disco, and bell bottom pants and our school saw it all. This was also the time where teens fought for the voting age to be reduced to 18. Senior classes also did fun things for their class photos like going to McDonald's and hanging out of the school windows as well as taking pictures at the football field with class banners that they made. Academically, we added reading classes that helped students gain comprehension skills. The MHS band went to Niagara Falls to play in the

MHS Takes on Earth Day

Every year on April 22nd, the world comes together to help end pollution by celebrating Earth Day.

In 1962, Rachel Carson released the New York Best Seller *Silent Spring*. It was one of the first books to raise awareness for living creatures of all kinds, the environment, and the way pollution affects public health. This inspired many, like Gaylord Nelson.

According to earthday.org, after the 1969 oil spill in Santa Barbara, California, Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson was inspired to create a day to spread awareness about air and water pollution. On April 22nd, 1970, 20 million people took to the streets to promote a healthy and stable environment. By the end of 1970, Earth Day had caused the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passing of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts.

Today at MHS, it is easy for students and staff to help the environment in small ways around the school. There are recycling bins for plastic set up in the main hallway, and smaller bins in each classroom for recycling paper. NHS member Jenna O'Neil said, "I feel that recycling around the school is very helpful, not only for the Earth, but also keeping our school and community clean."

Also, every other year MHS participates in Positive Impact Day, which is a day when the students help out the village by doing small tasks, like picking up trash or planting flowers in the park to make a big difference. This year, Positive Impact Day is on May 9th.

When asked about what he does to help stop pollution, senior Nate L'Heureux said, "Sometimes when I see garbage that people have thrown outside, I try to do my best in picking some up." Helping our beautiful planet is easy.

Blossom Festival and the Art Club was new.

Mrs. Smith, who graduated from MHS in the '70s, said, "My family grew up here I went to school here. My dad went to school here, and my son went to school here. It's like a family tradition. I'm proud to be a Blue Devil and I'm proud to be a McDonald Alumna."

MHS went through a lot during these two eras seeing the peace and love fade into rebellion. These halls have tons of history and it is interesting to find out what the school went through. People change and so do time periods, but the halls of MHS are built with memories that last forever.



Pictures of various activities, associations, and class pictures from the '60s and '70s. Art Club 1971, McDonald's Senior Picture 1973, GAA 1966, and Senior Chorus 1960

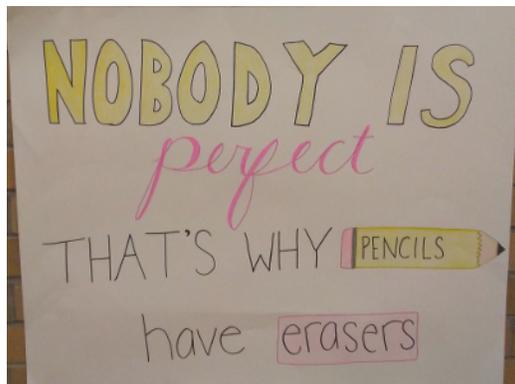


Jenna Simmons and Mikayla Smith recycling for NHS.

Students can help by using the recycling bins around school, or simply trying not to litter. Small help goes a long way.

Good Vibes and Positivity

By: Jessica Stamp



"Don't count the days, make the days count" is just one of the signs that are spreading positivity around the school. Spreading positivity can be hard sometimes when you have a lot of things on your mind, but

doing just one small good deed can change someone's whole day. Encouraging others, being positive, saying hello, or complimenting people are some ways to spread good vibes and positivity. Sophomore Gabrielle Martin said, "I spread positivity by smiling in the halls and saying hi to all the teachers."

Encouraging others can make people feel positive and

Baseball and Softball Seasons Start With a Walk

By Lea Brown

It's the beginning of spring, which means baseball and softball are in session. However, both baseball and softball schedules have been greatly altered due to weather conditions, causing for over ten canceled games. However, with spring finally approaching, and the weather becoming more manageable, more games are finally possible.

Softball has started their season with a 2-1 record, with their loss being to Cardinal Mooney High School. Sophomore Megan Ward has been working very hard, and was able to hit an over the fence home run at their game against Waterloo.

Junior Sierra Schrader said, "This year we are faced with the difficulty of losing many seniors from last year, but we also have a lot of very dedicated upcoming athletes, which will make a large impact on our team."

Baseball is starting their season with a 2-3 record. Junior Zach Nolf said, "This year our biggest challenge is having a young team. All of the upcoming underclassmen are very talented, and I'm excited to work with and watch them improve over

confident about themselves. People feeling this way encourages others to be around them. It brings people up and boosts their feelings and makes them believe that they can succeed at what they are doing.

8th grader Shelby Myers said, "I try my best to help other people stay positive by reminding them how awesome they are, by reassuring them, helping them, and cracking jokes." One way to encourage others is to smile when meeting someone. This can make them feel welcomed and put them in a positive mood.

Being optimistic can spread positivity because you're not giving a negative vibe. 7th grader Eryn Dean said, "I stay positive by not letting others bother me. No matter what it is, I know the real me."

One thing you don't want to do is complain too much because it can bring people down and make you look negative. Looking at things from a positive perspective can make the outcome of whatever you are doing positive as well.

Believing in yourself is one of the most important things when it comes to having a positive mindset. When you believe in yourself, the negatives in life don't seem so rough. So remember, positive mind, positive vibes, positive life!

this season and next year also."

Senior Nate Ifft added, "I'm happy to see that everyone is working really well with each other, and that we are able to work towards goals successfully."

With the weather finally breaking, be sure to check the teams' schedules and come out for a game to cheer on our Blue Devils!



The softball team poses for a picture after their win against Waterloo, taken by Coach Rusinowski



What is your favorite fast-food place?

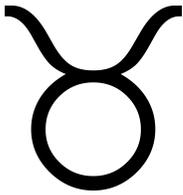
By Victoria Hall



McDonald's	7
Burger King	8
Taco Bell	23
Wendy's	30
Chick-Fil-A	50

Everyone enjoys the quick, yummy fast-food taste that we all crave once in a while. It is just so warm and greasy that no one can resist, but I guess McDonald's is just too greasy for MHS.

Wendy's chicken is good but it can never compare to the yummy taste of Chick-Fil-A nuggets. So grab your friends, sit down at Chick-Fil-A and try the yummy number 3 meal.



HOROSCOPE

BY CERINA THORNE

TAURUS

APRIL 20TH - MAY 20TH

Friendship: Virgo, Scorpio

Relationship: Aquarius



Lucky Numbers: 1, 10, 33, 77, 8

Facts about Taurus

It's time to bring levelheadedness and perspective to the table. Stand up for what you feel is right for yourself and don't be scared to hurt other people's feelings because you fear what is not going to happen. You'll save yourself future stress and drama. Just be yourself and live a happy life.

For more facts go to:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taurus_\(constellation\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taurus_(constellation))

- The Taurus sign is a representation of a bull for their strong personalities
- In Greek mythology, the Taurus was identified with Zeus
- Taurus is represented in a cave painting at the Hall of the Bulls in the caves at Lascaux (dated to roughly 15,000 BC)

Outstanding Staff

By Autumn Mason

Mr. Mooney is this issue's Outstanding Staff and he is well-known for teaching Reading and Science. He cares about all his students and encourages them to do their best. Mr. Mooney will laugh and joke with students as long as he gets the attention he needs to teach his lessons. He is also the one that created the eighth



grade field trip to Washington, D.C., which a lot of students have enjoyed. I asked him the following questions to give you a little bit of an inside look:

1. How long have you been teaching?

I am finishing up my 9th year (or 90th if you ask my students).

2. What's your favorite part of teaching?

My favorite part of teaching is interacting with my students and helping them reach their learning goals.

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

I never wanted to be a teacher growing up, but as I got into college I realized how rewarding of a career it would be.

4. Who inspires you?

I am inspired by my family and my students. The long hours and extra work are to try to give them a better life.

5. What is one unique fact about you?

Apparently I'm not unique at all. I've been told I remind people of Ross from *Friends*, The Man in the Yellow Hat, and a young Brad Pitt.



THE DEVIL DEBATE

Team Cat

By: Autumn Mason

Okay, I am going to start off saying I do not hate dogs, I love them; but someone has to stand up for the feline nation. A lot of people stereotype cats and think that they are evil creatures, but this is far from the truth.

Cats can be even more cuddly and protective than a dog. Also, believe it or not, cats often have a bigger personality than a dog. Sure dogs do funny things and they like playing with toys and running around, but so do cats.

They're also very personable. Some of them love stealing your food and some love fuzzy blankets. They are cuddly with not only their owner, but will often snuggle up with each other. Cats will grow very angry if they want love and snuggles and do not get it.

Felines are funny, and are also easily entertained. Give your cat a plastic bag and they will leave you alone for an hour; give it to a dog and it looks at you like 'what do you want me to do with that?'

Lastly, when you are petting your dog it doesn't purr like a cat does and what is cuter than a purring kitten?

Team Dog

By: Kobie Baker

Does this actually have to be debated? Cats are just fur-balls that occasionally get scared by cucumbers for a viral video. If you cut a cat's whiskers, it will run into every wall possible.

Dogs have such a better reputation, and it's not even from stereotypes. Dogs love chewing bones and digging in the ground, while cats stare at the fish tank and choke on a yarn ball.

Yes, cats are cute when they are born, but an hour later it turns into a demon. Cats are some of the meanest things you will come across. Oh, you wanted that mug on that coffee table your mom bought you last Christmas? Not anymore. Your cat has just used its paws to knock it off the table and shatter it. Your cat may be cute, but it's evil. There are actual TV shows dedicated to the mischievous species.

I will never resort to dealing with the hassle of having a cat, not to mention I don't want to look at a litter-box full of poo every time I go to do my laundry.

MUSICIAN OF THE WEEK

BY CERINA THORNE



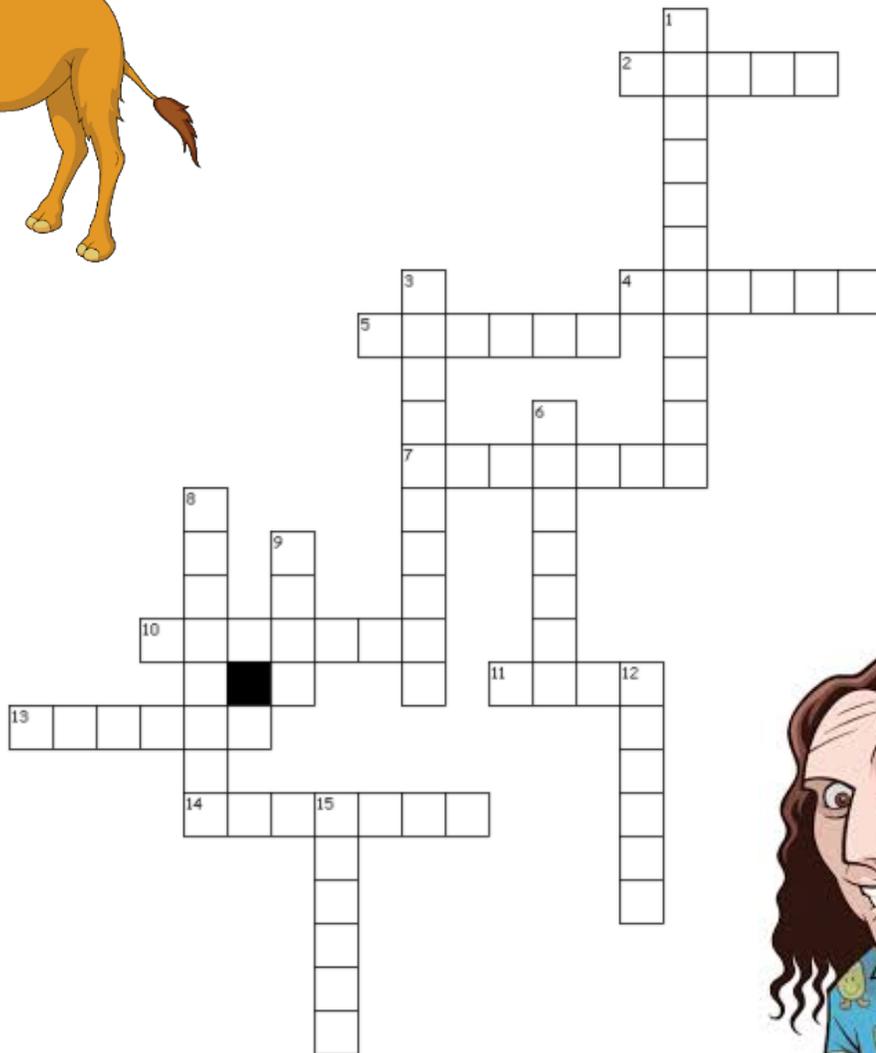
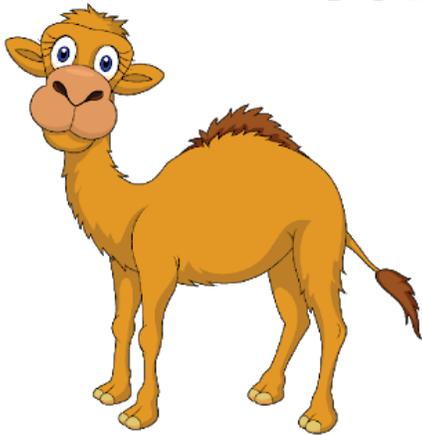
HANNAH ALCANTAR

- HANNAH PLAYS THE SAXOPHONE IN MARCHING AND CONCERT BAND
- SHE HAS PARTICIPATED IN BAND FOR 4 YEARS
- HANNAH SAID, "MUSIC REALLY INSPIRES ME TO BE HAPPY BECAUSE WHEN I'M IN MARCHING BAND I'M SURROUNDED BY MY FRIENDS AND ALWAYS HAVE FUN"
- SHE PLANS ON KEEPING MUSIC A PART OF HER LIFE OUTSIDE OF HIGH SCHOOL FOR A THING SHE JUST HAS FUN DOING.

GUESS THE STAFF MEMBER

(Last Name Only)

By: Kobie Baker



Across

2. They worked at a heavy metal t-shirt shop while in college.
4. They went to the bottom of the ocean in a submarine.
5. They have seen Weird Al Yankovic in concert 4 times.
7. They were a "marching animal" and played baritone.
10. They taught marine biology.
11. They made it to state in three different sports in highschool.
13. They can bowl equally as well with both their left and right hand.
14. They met 90s rapper, Coolio.

Down

1. They nearly got their finger bitten off from a stray dog they were helping.
3. They played college football at Walsh University.
6. They hit a camel with a Humvee in a desert.
8. They have been to 26 states and 9 countries.
9. They can fluently speak backwards.
12. They were obsessed with and met the Goo-Goo Dolls.
15. They broke their nose at 4 years old when they fell into a fireplace hearth.

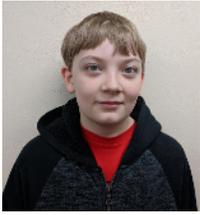


People On The Street

By Victoria Hall



What is something you and your family do every year?



Brandon Weiss
7th grade

Every summer my family and I go to Waldameer.



Gia Pascarella
7th grade

Every summer we have a family reunion.



Rylin Jividen
Junior

Every Christmas my family and I go to my step-dad's parents' house.



Tyrese Johnson
Senior

Every Christmas my family and I go to my sister's house.



Editorial: AIR Testing- Is it Necessary?

By Marisa Carusso

This month students in grades 7th-11th will be taking AIR Tests.

According to their website, The Ohio Department of Education requires all students to take these tests. They worked with volunteer educators and the American Institute of Research (AIR) to create the tests.

State testing is required everywhere, but that does not necessarily mean that a student is only as smart as that single test score. The state tests help to show where a student is at with their education, but it does not determine their full ability like some may think.

Some students do not do well with the idea of being tested. Therefore, a poor test outcome may

come from fear or anxiety. This is why a test can't show one's full ability.

Even if a student is the type that worries about testing, proper preparation is necessary. Getting enough sleep and eating something with protein, like eggs, will give more energy to the brain and body. With more energy, a student may perform better.

State testing gives the public and faculty data to help them see what steps they need to take to continue preparing future students.

While it may not show the full ability of a student's intelligence, a certain amount of points are required for graduation. Therefore, it is important to still try.

McDonald, Briefly...

By Victoria Hall



Mackenzie and Mr. Jones with her plaque (Photo by Mr. Carkido).

On March 28th, fifth grader Mackenzie Sambroak received recognition by the Board of Education for her win at The Vindicator's 85th Annual Regional Spelling Bee! She is now on her way to the 91st Scripps National Spelling Bee, which will be held in Washington, D.C. this spring!



Students at the Trumbull County Art Show (Photo By Mrs. Mills)

On Wednesday, March 28th, several students had their art displayed at the Trumbull County Art Show. Trinity Hobbs and Nick Helco earned Honorable Mentions and Emily Gilligan won a scholarship.

Mr. Carkido giving a pep-talk to the 7th and 8th grade.



On Friday, April 6th, Mr. Carkido gave a pep talk to 7th and 8th grade students about the upcoming AIR testing that began April 9th. Mr. Carkido gave some words of wisdom saying, "Do your best, not just for MHS, but for yourself...Take your time, it is not a sprint!"

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MHS BACKPAGE PICS



By Marisa Carusso

Spring

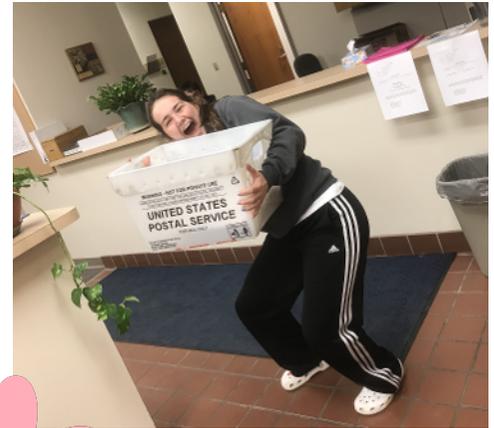


Photo Cred: McDonald Track & Field Twitter Page