



## Creative Art From Creative People By: Kyleigh Sierra

Since 1923, The Scholastic Art and Writing award ceremony has aspired to recognize the vision, ingenuity, and talent of the youth and make opportunities for creative teenagers. The ceremony awards are presented by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. The purpose of the awards ceremony is to identify students with outstanding art work and writings. There are 29 categories that students can choose to do and earn scholarships, and even have their artwork published.

Mrs. Mills poses with McDonald artists.



On January 26th, Youngstown State University held the regional division Scholastics Art and Writing Awards and Reception in Bliss Hall. This event was held for students that were recognized individually for their art work during the ceremony. Students are chosen by their art teachers to enter their work. All of the artwork is then juried by a panel of judges and awarded honorable mention, Silver Key, Gold Key, and special awards.

Artist Shelby Myers said, "The most memorable part is knowing that my art work meant something to someone else as much as it does to myself."

The students from McDonald who entered and won awards were: Shelby Myers with four honorable mentions, Angelina Estes with two honorable mentions, Ethan O'Connell with two honorable mentions and a silver key, and Trinity Hobbs with two honorable mentions, one Silver Key, and one Gold Key.

Artist Trinity Hobbs said, "My most exhilarating moment of the show was getting to see how much talent there was in the area and seeing the turn out. I thought it was awesome to see other people admiring my art work on display as well. Everyone did a great job and I'm very excited for the future art shows."



Trinity Hobbs poses with her art.

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### In This Issue

Creative Art From Creative People	1
Get Your Act Together Back to Attack	2
Career Exploration at TCTC Editorial: College Education	3
New Kid on the Block McMaster's Book Nook	4
The Trip Advisor-Cedar Point What Grinds My Gears	5
Featured Artists Hometown Star Get Warm for a Cold Month	6
Lending a Helping Hand Winter Prep What a Bop! Music Review	7
MHS Backpage Pics	8

# M Get Your ACT<sup>®</sup> Together

By: Ziad Aziz

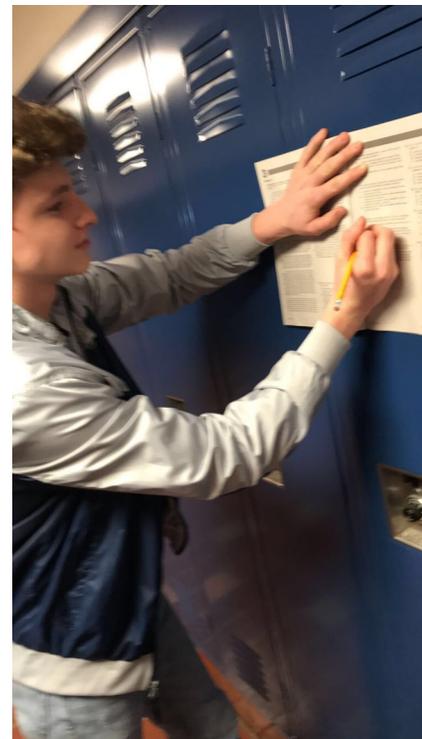
On February 20th McDonald juniors will take the ACT. For some students that may be wondering why this test is so important, it reflects the abilities of what students have learned throughout their high school career. This helps colleges gain a better understanding of students.

CCP classes can be a major factor for college and McDonald offers these classes in Math, Science, and English, but there are requirements for these classes. To get in you must have an 18 in English for the ACT and for Math you must get a 22. The ACT contains four multiple choice tests including the subjects of English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science.

For the ACT the standards are based on skills and knowledge of which could help students prepare for the next chapter in their career, or college. The ACT helps a lot with receiving scholarships which will pay for college if a student earns a high score on the the test.

Preparation is the key to confidence. Tanner Kilbourne said, "I'm going to take practice quizzes on the websites to help me. I most definitely will be including note cards to help myself study."

Good luck to the students that will be taking this test. Keep up the hard work!



**Tanner Kilbourne**  
practicing for the ACT



## Back to Attack

By: Bri Callow

On Saturday, January 26, the McDonald girls basketball team hosted an alumni game for old team members at 10am. Many of the players, some of whom graduated just last year, were pumped about coming back to their alma mater. The teams were set up by having the younger alumni go against the older alumni. The game was a close one with the younger alumni winning with a score of 38-35.

Some players returning to take part in the game and see if they still had their skills were Brittney Smith and her sister Hayleigh, Sara Joseph, and, of course, the Dolsak sisters Emily and Amy.

Brittney was thrilled to be back saying, "It's always so fun to come back and get to play the game that I love with friends. It makes you feel like you're still apart of the team in a way."

The girls basketball team was ecstatic to see their old teammates come back to play. Sophomore Sophia Constantino said, "I love when all the old team members come back because it really adds some excitement to our team to get to see everyone again and watch them play."

And there is plenty of excitement surrounding the girls team, who is crushing the competition this year. They are currently 18-1 and have clinched the title of league champs for their division. Celebrating a big win off of Western Reserve, the girls team is hoping to continue their winning streak throughout the rest of their schedule and go far this year in the tournament. Good Luck Lady Devils!



**Sara Joseph smiling**  
hard after winning  
her second alumni  
game

# Career Exploration at



By: Nikolina Drobnjak

A large group of sophomores visited the Trumbull Career and Technical Center (TCTC) recently as part of TCTC's Career Day. During their time, students visit three programs that they each selected through an online application earlier in the year.

When the sophomores arrived at TCTC that morning, they immediately went to the room of Mrs. Kunkel (McDonald's homeroom teacher at TCTC). When the first bell did ring, they reported to their first selected program and eventually visited the other two programs that they wanted to visit. After that, they ate lunch at the cafeteria where there was a raffle, smoothie stand, and hand massages from TCTC's cosmetology students and then they went back to the homeroom for an info session before they were dismissed.



The sophomores wait excitedly for the chance to visit their first selected program.

When I asked a few of the sophomores about what they thought about TCTC, they all said that the experience was fun and are now thinking about applying to TCTC. Melannie Smith is one of them. "I would go for Interactive Multimedia," she explained, "because when I went to the class it was really interesting and it [TCTC] seems like a cool and fun place to be."

As of now, the TCTC application is up on their website. If you are interested in applying, the priority date for your application submission is February 15, so that you will have the best chance of being put in the program of your choice. Students who wanted to have one last look at the programs before making a decision, were able to visit the open house that took place yesterday, Thursday, February 7 from 6 to 8 p.m.

## What did the students do at TCTC?

Teaching Academy	The Sophomores got to visit TCTC's preschool and hang out with kids.
Web Design	Students played around with programs like Unity and Photoshop
Cosmetology	Sophomore learned to do perms, nails, and eyebrows from the Cosmetology students.
Marketing Education	Students played around with the registers, made fruit baskets and sandwiches.

Here's a few of the programs and a quick recap of what happened during in those programs during Career Day.



## Editorial: College Education

How important is a college education? When approaching the end of high school, college is a huge life choice that students begin to think about.

Most people believe the notion that they cannot be successful without a college degree. However, not all career choices require a degree. For example, people who want to go into a trade and go straight to work do not need a college degree. They can still be successful choosing this path.

In no way am I demeaning the value of a college education, but it is not always necessary. A lot of career paths require a degree and schooling to learn about that area of work. In this case, getting a college education would be needed and would hold a lot of value.

For those students feeling the pressure to get a college education, my advice is to put more focus into personal goals and career paths. I say this because the college education may not be necessary, therefore, the pressure of pursuing it will be taken away.

# New Kid On The Block

By: Lauren Johnson

The Village of McDonald welcomes foreign exchange student Mattia Barbesino. Mattia is a student at Liceo Scientifico Curie located in northern Italy. He started thinking about coming to America when he was 15. Mattia chose to come to McDonald, Ohio after meeting Zach Rasile and his family when they hosted them in Italy while Zach was in a basketball tournament there.

Zach said, "Italy was fun and they served amazing Italian food like spaghetti and fish. They also had a Playstation, which I played 2K18 on with Mattia. Italy was also much different than America and had more trains than cars, which was pretty amazing."

Schools around the world are all different, which means that students who exchange will have to adjust. That is exactly what Mattia has to do while he is in America for the next six months. Some of the differences that Mattia faces in America are shorter school weeks, but longer school days, and being placed in a school that is taught all subjects instead of choosing a school that focuses in on specific topics. In addition to learning how the Americans act in school, he has to learn a new curriculum as well, while still doing work for his school in Italy so that he does not fall behind on their standards. Mattia wishes to attend college at Milan University and be a business manager.

Mattia said, "Objects in America are much larger than in Italy. For example, your ketchup bottles are huge; ours are tiny. You guys have big gallons of milk, we have small jugs of milk." However not only are household objects different here in America, but, "in Italy all houses have fences around them and there are a lot of mountains."

While Mattia is here and staying with the Rasile family he hopes to improve his English, better his basketball skills, meet new people, and broaden his horizons by learning the culture and different ways of living.

Thus far, Mattia has tried a few different foods including burgers and fries, but of all these he enjoys nuggets the most. Mattia said, "I enjoy the nuggets but food in Italy is way better than food here." He thinks Italian food is better because that's what he grew up with but in time he will get used to American food and culture.

McDonald High School has a past of welcoming foreign exchange students however Mattia has been the first since Hans Odegaard from Norway. Hans came from a military schooling background to the American life style, after a couple weeks he joined the football team and became the McDonald kicker.

Having foreign exchange students teaches more than just the Foreign exchange student the American life, but they also teach the Americans their way of life. Diversity is a huge part of life and sharing different cultures with different people opens many eyes into seeing how different people around the world live. As scary as it is for a foreign exchange student to come here, the Village of McDonald comes together as one to make the student feel as safe and comfortable as possible. Welcome Mattia. We hope your experience here with us at McDonald High School is memorable.



Mattia smiling after a game with his host family, the Rasiles.

# McMaster's Book Nook

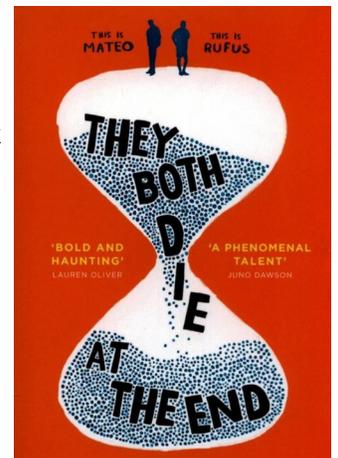
By Elise McMaster

This month I will be reviewing *They Both Die at the End* by Adam Silvera. This book is told in a few characters' points of view. It's mostly told by Rufus and Mateo, the two main characters. The book is about a world where people will get a call 24 hours before they die. The people who get the call in this world have just accepted that they are going to die and that they have to make the best of it. There is an app called Last Friends and it's where people get to meet a person that they can spend their last day with. This is where Rufus and Mateo meet and become friends.

I like how this book shows what family and love truly means. In life it's hard to deal with the loss of a loved one so the way the characters deal with their loss and the ones around them is nice to see. The world in this story is like ours, but also so different. It's interesting to see what a world would be if we knew what was going to happen in it. Another thing I like about this book is the different view points we get and how we get to see this world and how it works.

The only thing I disliked about this book were some of the characters, but there are always characters you dislike in a story. One character I dislike didn't seem to get that. If it was someone's last day then maybe they should be kind to them and let go of the grudge they have against them. Maybe that's just me. I mean sometimes there are people you don't like and an author just puts them into fiction.

I would say all in all this is a good story. It deals with living one's life the way you want to and not being afraid of living. We get to see Rufus and Mateo finally doing the things they wanted to do even though they were afraid but in the end it doesn't change that they both die at the end. So if you're looking for a good sad book to read I would suggest giving this book a try.



# The Trip Advisor- Cedar Point By: Ethan O'Connell

At the end of every school year the McDonald Band takes a trip to Cedar Point. We all get on one bus and travel six hours to Erie County, Ohio. Memories of that trip are pretty amazing. With hardly any lines, and five teenagers enjoying a little bit of independence for the first time. What could possibly be better to 14 year old kid?

In the words of Alyssa Strange, "Band kids are crazy." To be fair, maybe we did look a little bit crazy riding the Thunder Canyon Water Thrills four times with no change of clothes. Ride wise, I guess your diversity is limited to mainly Roller Coasters. High props to The Millennium Force and Wicked Twister. We rode both until the point of severe nausea. Featuring a record 71 rides, Cedar Point is formally known as America's Roller Coast, and for very good reason.

From a kid's perspective it was amazing and one of the coolest trips I have ever went on and been a part of. For the sake of parents or guardians, it is a safe environment for students to have some air and space to breath.

I've always chased this feeling of complete and utter blissfulness, thinking that somehow worry was unhappy and naivety was the joyous existence we all desired. Truthfully I still do, but looking back at this moment it doesn't feel blissful. Blissful is this baby blue and white mixed together. This memory is just a little bit purple, the tiniest bit of red, and canary yellow scattered everywhere you could possibly imagine.



## WHAT GRINDS MY GEARS

BY RYDER DYE

You wanna know what Grinds My Gears? When people who think they understand sports compare LeBron James and Michael Jordan in a conversation of who the GOAT is. Because spoiler alert people...YOU CAN'T COMPARE THEM!!

When in a debate about who the GOAT (Greatest Of All Time) is, I find it almost impossible to truly compare two of the greatest to ever play the game of basketball. The way it works when you dumb it down, these are both phenomenal players that have had more success than almost anyone in the history of basketball. But it's all a different time period. These guys are balling out in completely different times, not against each other.

While I can see both sides of the argument on who the GOAT is from the Jordan side or the LeBron side, lets look at facts for a second. Both of these players have dominated in the league in their own right during the time that they played. Winning championships, dominating opponents, and leading their teams to victory, posterising opponents, and leading their teams to victory time and time again.

Both players, when they entered the league, immediately became some of the most dominant players the NBA has ever seen. But there is just one key factor, LBJ came into the NBA in 2003, and MJ retired (for the final time) in the end of the season in 2003. Without a chance to ever play each other in their prime, this argument of who could be the GOAT is redundant and irrelevant without this matchup.



At this point in time, after seeing how LeBron plays and how incredibly similar his play and his dominance is compared to Jordan, it seems as if Jordan has set the bar for how players like LeBron James are not only supposed to play, but what they need to do to train to be at such a high level of performance. So the argument is not "Who is the GOAT?" but "Who is a more influential player?"

As we conclude, based on lots of arguments, you can't decide on who is the GOAT. It's almost impossible. Its like asking someone to decide on whats better, chocolate or vanilla ice cream? That, friends, is what Grinds My Gears.

# Featured Artist- By Ethan O'Connell

The featured artist for this week is Junior Angelina Estes. Angelina's work is bold and unafraid. There's pain unmistakable and alive, lovely and elegant. Her technique and use of colors is a wonder in themselves.

According to Angelina, "My artwork has a meaning to every piece, the first two are images created by the sadness and trauma from my life. These two paintings represent schizophrenia in someone, and how they might feel and see."

She continued, "The last picture is a portrait of my boyfriend, drawn in pen." Angelina's style, while maybe creepy and surreal, does in a way capture a bit of reality, a bit of the perception we all tend to forget.



**Girl In Hell- By  
Angelina Estes**

When we think of beauty, typically most people don't think of girls with horns or red eyes, but beauty exists in all forms, with pain the one people tend to ignore the most. Pain exists only as a testament to reality, a validation of existence, and everything it happens to entail. Helping express that, in honesty, in a way that for some people nothing else can is art. When you look at Angelina's work you see that honesty and truth that gets expressed through the hurt.

People in general have many different reactions to trauma or sadness. To me one of the most beautiful of those reactions is art, in whatever shape or form that happens to come.

## Hometown Star

By: Ali Hammond



Molly is the MHS Hometown Star this issue. Late in overtime, sophomore Molly Howard scored the winning point to clinch the league title against Western Reserve. The girls won 56-55 and this also kept the girls' undefeated season alive.

She is a two year starter and one of the leading scorers on the Lady Devils basketball team. Molly has been on the AAU travel ball team for the past two years, and she practices all year round for these types of moments.

Molly said, "We are kind of a young team with a lot of potential, but we have to work hard to find success."

## Get warm for a cold month By: Cailey Titus

### Ingredients:

- ~1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- ~1/2 cup sugar
- ~1/2 tsp salt
- ~1/3 cup water
- ~4 cups milk
- ~1 tsp vanilla

### Directions:

- ~Mix dry ingredients together
- ~Add water and bring to boil
- ~Add milk
- ~Take off heat and add the vanilla
- ~Stir and Serve

### Tips:

- Add peppermint sticks, whipped cream or marshmallows for flavor and fun toppings!



**Schizophrenia- By  
Angelina Estes**



**Portrait- By  
Angelina Estes**

# Lending a Helping Hand

By: Ali Hammond

The National Honor Society held a clothing drive for a week in January. Mrs. Ross and Ms. Rozzo helped lead and put this drive together with a goal to fill four bins.

Tanner Matig said, "The turn out was a bit slow, but after the first couple days and holding it at a few basketball games they made a lot of things happen." All four bins were full to the top and had bags of clothes laying outside of them, even the Elementary kids pitched in.

The clothes went to the Warren Family Mission and consisted of hats, gloves, coats, pants.



## Winter Prep

BY: RYDER DYE

# WINTER

**It's now that time of year again, friends. That awful period of snow, cold, and letting a groundhog determine what the future of the weather looks like. Winter is cruel and loves to make things difficult for you. With that being said, here are five tips and tricks for surviving in the cold.**

- 1. Roads are usually nasty and rather unsafe. Give yourself plenty of time to get to and from your destination.**
- 2. Start your car before you get ready to leave. This gives it time to warm up, so when you get in, it doesn't feel like an ice box anymore.**
- 3. Layer up. These winds are brutal and with the temps being in the negatives, hoodies and shorts just won't cut it this time of year.**
- 4. Keep your pets inside as much as possible. Just like us, our 4-legged friends don't like the cold so be conscientious when letting them outside.**
- 5. Salt your driveways. Even after shoveling your driveway, ice is still a big factor. When expecting snow or rough weather, always salt the your driveway to prevent injuries**

## What a Bop! Music Review

By: Elise McMaster



This month I will be reviewing *Narrated For You* by Alec Benjamin. This album was released on November 16, 2018 as Benjamin's second mixtape. One of his biggest songs on this album is "Let Me Down Slowly". It reached the Billboard 100 this year.

Alec Benjamin is an American song writer from Phoenix, Arizona, who started his music career back in 2013. He is beginning to gain more recognition and popularity with the release of this album and his collab with Alessia Cara on his song "Let Me Down Slowly".

Benjamin's music is mostly a mix of pop and rock. He is so different from many other artists. He got his start by going around and playing for people on the street, and still does this on his YouTube channel because he enjoys it and that's where he got his start.

What I like about his music is not only does it sound beautiful, but all of his songs tell a story that can relate to everyone. He talks about life and getting through it, break ups, bullying, abuse, and so many other things. Music helps people and reminds them they aren't alone and that they have a voice. So with him having so many stories and narratives in his music makes him someone special. If you're looking for something with a good story I would suggest giving him a listen.

# Back Page Pics

By: Cailey Titus

