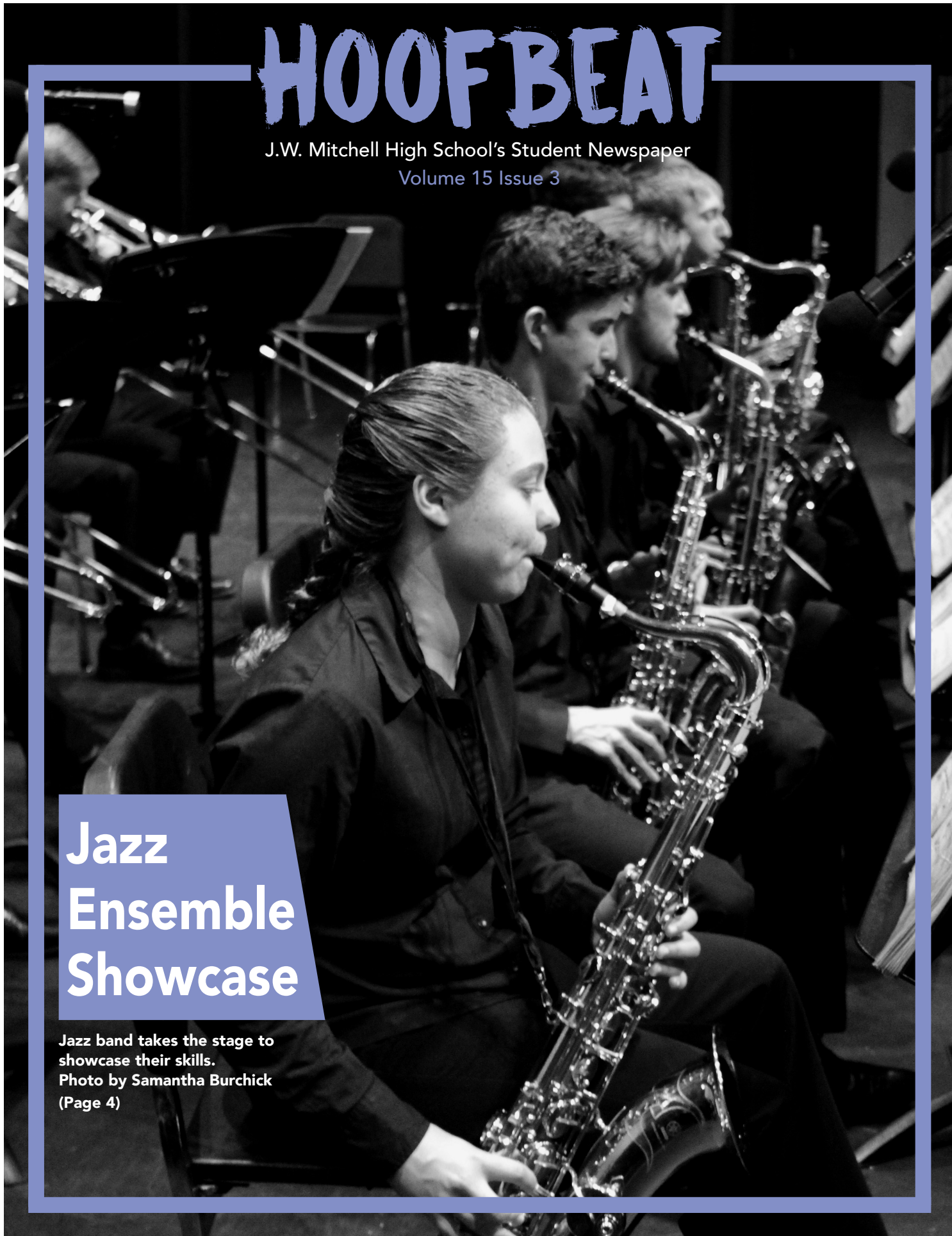


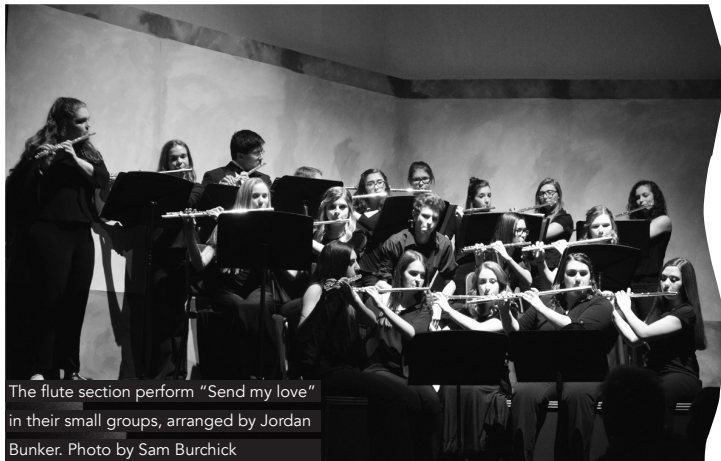
HOOF BEAT

J.W. Mitchell High School's Student Newspaper
Volume 15 Issue 3

Jazz Ensemble Showcase

Jazz band takes the stage to
showcase their skills.
Photo by Samantha Burchick
(Page 4)





The flute section perform "Send my love" in their small groups, arranged by Jordan Bunker. Photo by Sam Burchick



The funk band performs "Brick House," arranged by Parker Marchant. Photo by Sam Burchick

Banding together in holiday celebration

The annual Prism concert performed by the JWMHS Band, Colorguard, and Chorus shows off the hard work accomplished all year

Sam Burchick
Reporter

Every December the band, chorus, and color guard put on a show titled Prism, where they showcase their talents to fellow students. Prism started out as a one day production, but due to the extreme turn out from the students and community in previous years, the band now puts on a two-day show. This show leaves no seats unoccupied, filling up both nights with excited viewers.

"Prism is different from our other concerts because it features small and large groups

that are continuously playing. The music literally doesn't stop. As soon as one act is finished, another starts to play," Noemi Rivera ('17) said.

One way this concert is made special is that it gives the band members a chance to be a part of a side acts. All members get a chance to get a group together and perform a piece they work on.

"The student-run groups and music is also unique; the kids even write their own music sometimes. The band directors

only choose the music and rehearse the full group band performances. There's also not only Christmas music and instrument performances; some students sing, there are dancing and color guard performances, and some kids play guitar or piano," Julia Walkup ('19) said. The side acts make this show unique, giving the audience a never-ending music experience. For some of the band members this concept remains a favorite part of band.

"Being part of band and prism

at Mitchell is so exciting, I feel that I'm a part of something really impressive, and I'm so proud of my fellow band members for making these programs the best they can be," Walkup said.

To the members of band all around the school knowing they are supported makes their performing special. Each year they get better and better due to their director putting the extra effort. This show appeals to everyone no matter the age.

"It feels great knowing that

this event is supported by not only the band and band family, but those who have nothing to do with band. It's something for everyone to enjoy," Russell Kahn ('17) said.

This show has now become part of the band's legacy and improves every year. The band grows and grows each year and this show highlights the dedication of the members and pure talent they all possess.

Editorial Policy

Published six times a school year, the student newspaper of J.W. Mitchell High School is a public forum with its student editorial board making all the decisions concerning its contents. Unsigned editorials express the views of the majority of the editorial board.

Letters to the editor are welcomed and will be published as space allows. Letters must be signed, although the staff may withhold the name upon request. The paper reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and clarity, and all letters are subject to laws governing obscenity, libel, privacy and disruption of the school process, as are all contents of the paper.

Opinions of letters are not necessarily those of the staff nor should any opinion expressed in a public forum be construed as the opinion or policy of the school administration, unless attributed.

The 2016-17

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Sam Burchick
c/o 2017

This staffer strived for excellence in making all stories perfect for this issue.

Check out her work in this issue: 'Prism' on page 2, 'Bathrooms' on page 18 and 'Jazz Band' on page



Bailey Illig
c/o 2020

This staffer made major improvements in writing skills in stories written this issue.

Find her stories 'Interact to help give thanks' on page 3 and 'A taste of fall' on page 4.

No matter the subject, we can help

National Honor and Honor societies across the campus help students by tutoring to achieve the best grades possible

Chris Wilson
Reporter

All of the National Honor Societies offer free tutoring in designated rooms to help students gain assistance in their weakest subjects. Jerry Ferreira ('20) goes to science study sessions to understand his biology material better.

"Science is my most difficult subject so being able to sit in a room with my teacher, seniors, and sometimes juniors helping me is a really cool experience and I like it a lot," Ferreira said.

All of the National Honors

Societies provide tutoring for each subject and each of them tutor on specific days for students who have signed up for tutoring that day or just show up because they need the help.

"We have club members there every day from 8:00-8:30 and they are there the whole time whether there are students there or not because we want to show that we want to help students and be there for them even if no one shows up," Myers said.

Most of the Honor Society

groups only help students in one subject and only on certain days, but National Honor Society has other ways of going about tutoring.

"In Spanish Honor Society we show up Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:00-8:30 and in the afternoon from 3:00-3:30. People sign up to help students who need Spanish help and we tutor in the media or in room 329," Cynthia Seide ('17) said.

Every club tutors students in their subjects and help students

gain the ability to get better in the subject that they come to the honor society for.

"We want each student who comes to the tutoring session to walk out of the room understanding that subject better than they did when they walked in the room," Seide said.

Students, such as Ferreira, can go to the specific meeting places during the days that each Honors Society to get help on subjects, with anything from biology, to algebra, to Spanish.

Hopeful for each and every student to be knowledgeable about their subject matter, members and advisors of the all the National Honor Societies work hard each and every day to fulfill a student's confidence about a subject.

For tutoring dates and times, view the school calendar on the website at jwmhs@pasco.k12.fl.us

Thespian Troupe 6272 takes superior

The numerous accomplishments of Thespian Troupe 6272 show their greatness

Meghan Borom
Reporter

On November 11-12, Thespian Troupe 6272 competed at River Ridge High School in One Act Plays. During this event, fourteen troupes from the district competed against each other. Each troupe created a performance and presented it to a panel of judges.

"All the different Thespian troupes from our district met up and each troupe put on a different performance and

judges rated us. We were awarded either excellent, superior, or critic's choice. Whoever is awarded critics choice gets to go to the state competition," Ammie Morelli ('19) said.

Troupes were judged on technical aspects, like lights and sound, as well as acting. There were a total of four judges, two for acting and two for the technical aspects. At the end

of the event, Troupe 6272 was awarded excellent, only one point away from a superior title.

Thespian troupes in District 14 gathered again for the Thespian Individual Event Festival at Wesley Chapel High School on December 3rd. During the event, troupes competed in individual events like singing, acting, and play writing. Nicole Conkel ('17) competed in five events, placing Critic's Choice on a student

directed scene.

"It's a good time to not only seen your troupe succeed but to also watch other schools do things. At the end of the festival, we have a showcase of everybody who did the best thing in each category. It's amazing to watch people from your own school go up there and make everybody stand up in the audience. But its also cool to stand up for other people's

schools just to see the talent that there is," Conkel said.

Success at both events Troupe 6272 experienced at the Individual Event Festival, Troupe 6272 received the highest number of Superior titles than any other school, with 18, and earned three Critics Choice Awards.

March into Holidays

The Navy Junior Reserve Officers' Training corps marches in a holiday parade

Max Trettin
Reporter

Beginning in 2001, it has been an annual tradition for the Navy Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (NJROTC) to march in the Downtown Holiday Parade in New Port Richey. With the starting point being at Gulf High School, the march through New Port Richey for decorative floats and parade-aficionados around Pasco County is anything but a hassle. The parade includes colorful floats and music, and the organizers of the parade invited the Mitchell NJROTC to participate in it, year after year.

"Everybody has the opportunity to participate and we usually get over 100 people to participate," Hailey Wise ('17) said.

With the involvement that the NJROTC has in the community, they gained popularity when the parade committee chooses who marches. The Mitchell NJROTC, one of the most popular units in Pasco, is an easy decision for the organizers of the Downtown Holiday Parade because the NJROTC is always looking for ways to get involved in the community.

"Throughout the years, a lot of veteran organizations look out to local NJROTC units and we just got involved that way," Aaron Bruegger ('17) said.

During the parade, NJROTC cadets march from beginning to end, grouped together to represent the entire NJROTC.

"We form up in a big platoon and we march as a unit in the parade and we usually call some military cadets to relate to the Navy," Wise said.

The parade, held on December 10, included complex features between the marching of the

cadets with their rifles in hand, to the yelling of fans from excitement.

"I am very excited to see the whole unit participate in a fun community event," Wise said.

Students that missed the Downtown Holiday parade

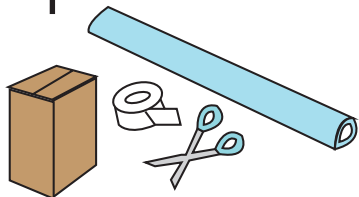
also have an opportunity to catch the NJROTC during the Area Manager Inspection in January. This event is where a Commander visits The Mitchell NJROTC and inspects the entire unit and in appreciation, the unit performs a parade.



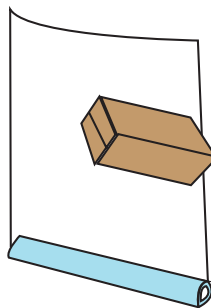
ROTC Cadets march in the Downtown Holiday Parade on Main Street, New Port Richey.
Photo by Max Trettin

Wrapping things up

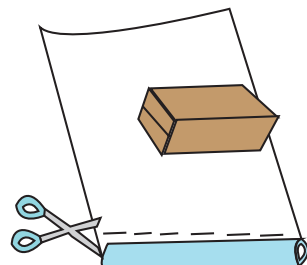
1 Gather supplies.



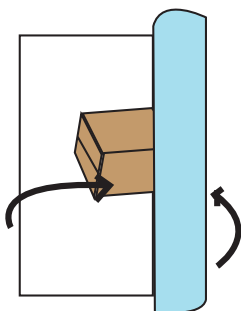
2 Roll out the wrapping paper on a hard surface. Place the gift in the center of the paper. Before cutting, wrap the sides of the paper over the gift to make sure it fits. The paper should overlap. When in doubt, cut more than you think you will need.



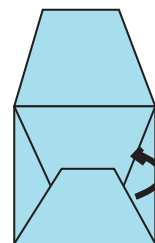
3 Cut the paper off the roll as straight as possible.



4 Center the gift on the paper. Bring the paper up the side of the gift and halfway across the top, securing it with a piece of tape. Bring the other side up and over the first. Secure with another piece of tape.



5 At one end, fold the top paper down, leaving two wings. Tape into place. Fold and flatten both wings on the box so that there are two triangles facing inwards. Secure the folds with tape. Repeat at the other end.



6 Top it off with a bow or ribbon.



The experience of Bethlehem

Students and faculty share their Hope United Methodist Church Bethlehem event experiences

Morgan Fliss
Reporter

On the first weekend of December, students had the opportunity to experience what the city of Bethlehem was like many years ago. Hope United Methodist Church involved 300 members to build the city. "The [rebuild] city of Bethlehem shows that Christmas is not just about giving and receiving gifts from people. It is about the experience of Jesus Christ, who

Christmas is really about," John Williams ('19) said.

Visitors came to experience the city and see live animals, like donkeys and sheep roaming around. Children, teenagers, and volunteers experienced the town of Bethlehem, like Mitchell student, Joshua Smith ('19). This year, Smith welcomed people entering the city of Bethlehem.

"I really enjoyed seeing the

surprised faces of different people when they waked through the city and it was different than what they [originally] expected," Smith said.

Visitors help out the community by donating canned goods to families in the area. They conclude their visit with cookies and hot chocolate served by volunteers. This year, teacher Ms. Berry-Guth (FAC) wasn't able

to volunteer, but still donated cookies and hot chocolate to the event.

"Students should come [next year] because it is such a great outreach, and any of the canned goods that people bring are donated to a food bank. It is also such a great activity and community event that everyone should participate in." Berry-Guth said.

This year, 5,800 guests participated in Experience Bethlehem and over 6,700 pounds of food was collected for local food banks. This event ran due to the helping hands of many Mitchell students and teachers. Experience Bethlehem was a success and something students can look forward to for next year.

Jazz ensembles perform classics

Mitchell's jazz ensemble holds fall showcase and other local gigs

Sam Burchick
Reporter

On Wednesday, November 30, the jazz ensembles held their Fall Showcase at the Center For The Arts At River Ridge. The Jazz Ensemble II performed first, with five numbers, including the classic Fly Me to the Moon.

First year Jazz Ensemble trumpet player Alexander Himonetos ('20) played in the piece, demonstrating skill in a musical genre that previously he had no experience with.

"It's exciting to have the chance to play music in that way and it is a great experience to be a part of

[jazz band]," Himonetos said.

The Jazz Ensemble II consists of 23 members playing 11 different instruments. This year the band was directed by Ryan Harring, a guest conductor and student at Florida State University. Harring, a 2012 graduate of Mitchell, returned as a part of his senior year college requirements.

"I think it was good having Mr. Harring come in to the Jazz II class because it was a different face and he was super helpful with preparing for our first gig at Burger Fi. He was super kind and

knew much about what he was doing. He definitely made the gig at Burger Fi possible and made it a great experience and even though he wasn't there, he prepared us," Nicholas Watson ('18) said.

The Jazz Ensemble I, made up of 12 seniors, 4 juniors, and 5 sophomores, performed next.

The band, led by Director of Bands Joel Quina (FAC), provides an opportunity for the

most talented jazz musicians to showcase their art.

"I love being in jazz band because it is another outlet for me to play music that is different. It is really cool to be able to go out in the community and share my love for music with others. Also to teach people

about the jazz style of music. I've met some great friends while being in jazz band too," Laury

Jazz Band is another outlet for me to play music that's different.

Smith ('12) said.

In addition to the Fall Showcase, the Jazz Ensembles perform throughout the Tampa Bay Area at various events. In mid-November, the Jazz Ensemble I performed at the Festival of Jazz at Clearwater Beach Sand Key Resort. The Jazz Ensemble II performed at Burger Fi at Mitchell Ranch Plaza on December 2. Jazz Ensemble requires dedication, devotion, and skill. Catch the next performance of the Jazz 1 band on February 13th.

Light 'em up, up, up

Students around campus experience different local light shows and holiday-themed entertainment

Raleigh Illig
Reporter

Every year around Thanksgiving time, many different places set up Christmas decorations that start to get people in the Christmas spirit. Malls, parks, and public areas display trees, accompanied by bright lights, ornaments, garland and ribbons. In addition to the decorations, the venues often put up light shows for entertainment. Amanda Garcia ('17), went with Anthony Moe ('17) to the Shoppes at Wiregrass light show.

"Christmas is my favorite holiday. I thought it'd be a cute date idea for me and my boyfriend and a great way to kick off the season. We got Starbucks and then sat down and watched the live group they had performing and then we watched the light show," Garcia said.

This show at Shoppes at Wiregrass remains one of the most popular tree lightings near Trinity. Wiregrass displays a giant tree in the center of the mall with smaller decorated

trees surrounding. Each night the lights around the center will dim down and the tree lights will flicker according to the music played. For some people like Maya Bertig ('20), going to Wiregrass has become a family tradition.

"Wiregrass has always had great decorations and they have a really big light show that they do every year, so me, my mom, and my sister normally go every year and see it and it's just a lot of fun," Bertig said.

For those willing to travel, Light up Ocala in Ocala, FL began on November 19th. The city sets up a garden of trees for people to walk through while music is played and the lights flicker to the beat of the music. Downtown Ocala glows with lights, garland, wreaths, bows, and more. Booths provide places for people to stop and eat food while enjoying live entertainment. When Taylor Rodriguez ('18), along with her mom, aunt, and cousin took a trip to Ocala, they heard about

the decorations and decided to take a look at what Ocala had to offer.

"We took cute Christmas pictures, walked through all the decorations. They put a bunch of trees and lights up and they just light it all up to the music played and it was so pretty to look at," Rodriguez said.

For those looking to see the lights this holiday, visit connect.pasco.k12.fl.us/jwmhsnewspaper for a link to the top light displays in Tampa Bay.

I won't be home for Christmas

Students share their annual holiday travel traditions

Savannah D'Avilla
Reporter

As Christmas break approaches, many families plan holiday trips. A lot of students and teachers travel out of state or even out of the country as a tradition.

Brandon Moe ('18) has been traveling with his family to Chicago for 13 years.

"Every time we go up to Chicago our family visits the

Sears Tower and we go up into the glass room and look at the city," Moe said.

This holiday break, Ms. Joanne Kerr (FAC) will travel to Zurich, Switzerland with her sister, her daughter, and her daughter's boyfriend. They plan to sight see in Zurich and around the country. Last summer, Kerr and her sister traveled to Europe together, and

this winter break they plan to return to Lucerne, Switzerland, a favorite due to Lucerne's typical Swiss architecture. The city sits on the banks of Lake Lucerne, formed by melted glacial water, so it is crystal clear.

"Our plans include going up the Eiger, which is a mountain in the Alps. I love traveling with my sister because she is

fun, adventurous, and she'll try almost anything except the Paris subway," Kerr said.

Spending quality time with family is a tradition of many. Kaleb Hussain ('18) loves to visit his family in Connecticut for the holiday.

"My favorite part is seeing my cousins because for the past 3 years there has been a newborn

[cousin] every time we went up," Hussain said.

The traffic-filled highways, crowded airports, long security lines, heavy bags, and ear pops on the airplane remain worth the effort when travelling with family over the holidays.

All I want for Christmas is makeup

Soap and Glory
Pink Pamper
Set \$25



Tarte Sculpted Cheeks
Deluxe Amazonian
Clay Blush Set \$35



NYX Cosmetics Liquid
Suede Lip Cream
Vault Set \$49.99



Laura Geller So
Scrumptious 6 Piece
Beauty Collection \$59



Tarte Kissing Squad
Limited Edition
Lip Sculptor Quad \$34



Too Faced
Sweet Peach
Palette \$49



Too Faced Naughty
Kisses and Sweet
Cheeks Palette \$36



Urban Decay
Naked Ultimate
Basics Palette \$46

Built, not bought

Students elaborate on their passion of fixing cars

Caroline Weyer
Editor

The roar of V8 muscle cars and the hiss of turbo sports cars storm the campus at the beginning of each day as their drivers get to class. However, after school, these car junkies return home to indulge in their passion. These students dedicate their free time to making their cars as fast and aesthetically appealing as their budget allows.

"I bought my '96 Mazda Miata for \$1,850, and since then have spent about \$4,000 in upgrades and improvements. I rebuilt the engine, fixed the sound system, plasti-dipped the front, and am saving up for a turbo," Vincent Raciborski ('18) said.

Raciborski takes his car to various Japanese Domestic Market shows (JDM) and drift

meets (where drivers race on a track and drift on the bends) to feature his hard work.

"Car shows are great because you can meet tons of people who share the same passion as you, everyone there knows what it's like to love the money pit that your car is," Raciborski said.

Nicholas Allen ('19) owns a '91 Honda Civic DX hatchback and spends most of his time after school working on it.

"I work on my car just about every day of the week, making small adjustments like oil changes, installing new spark plugs, and putting in a new motor," Allen said.

For 1983 Hurst-Oldsmobile owner, Devin O'Dell ('18), choice of car runs in the family.



Vincent Raciborski ('18) with his

'96 Mazda Miata. Photo by Caroline Weyer

"My father used to own one when I was younger, but then sold it one day. I've wanted to build one of my own ever since," O'Dell said.

Passionate student mechanics work hard to fix and improve their cars every day. This lifestyle breaks the bank, but proves worth while in the end. Car

lovers enjoy the time spent on their prized possessions and will continue to do so in the years to come.

When I grow up I wanna be...

Students give reasoning behind why they want to pursue their dream career

Bailey Illig
Reporter

Throughout high school, students start figuring out what they want to pursue in life.

Briana Armenia ('17) wants to travel to third world countries that are in poverty and help form a government and implement environmental policies.

"I want to implement these policies so that [poor countries] can already have those laws, teachings, and practices from the start," Armenia said.

Students may follow in their parents' footsteps and pursue the same occupation. For Viraj Patel ('17), the family, friends, and teachers in his life influence his career choice in the best way.

"Both my parents are pharmacists so they are tied into my job choice, but also a lot of my family members are doctors and I see how passionate they are with their work and how much they love it. It takes a lot

of time and it is a hard job to do, but if you have the right passion for it, it can pay a lot of dividends," Patel said.

The classes that students take help them get a step closer to the career that they want to follow in the future. Some students like Jake Hektoen ('18), already are following their childhood dreams.

"I go to Marchman Technical College where I study Digital

Cinema Production which involves every aspect of film production in the digital age. Film and writing has always been a dream of mine, so to be able to contribute to that flow of work and produce my own art is an absolute dream," Hektoen said.

For students trying to discover what they wish to become when they get older, MyCareerShines.org helps them with their choice. Ms. Michele Chamberlin (FAC),

the career specialist, holds sessions on MyCareerShines.org for students who want to find a job that suits them. In these sessions the students take tests and assessments on their personality and their likes, and the network narrows it down to a job that best fits that student. These meetings start in January, the week after Winter Break, in room 617.

The welfare of warfare

Information on the benefits students receives for going into the military

Alyssa Magilligan
Reporter

When thinking about the military, people might think of camouflage uniforms and eating food out of a bag, but it means much more to those who enlisted. For months of their lives, they dedicated to waking up early every morning and pushing themselves both physically and mentally.

"Being woken up at 5 every morning was difficult to get used to but you knew it was coming, so you'd be prepared for it the next day," Chad Dautzenberg ('12) said.

Getting through basic training

is a benefit on its own. A majority of recruits quit in the beginning or even halfway through due to being pushed too hard or simply because they miss home.

"Being away from home was a huge change. Many people are scared to leave behind family and the comfort zone of home, but starting my life at a young age was the best choice I could have ever made," Dautzenberg said.

When they enlist into branches like the Army, or the Coast Guard like Dautzenberg, the recruit receives a military I.D.. With this

identification, military personnel and families may receive discounts if a store offers it.

"I think that more places should be more generous towards the military. I have come across a lot of places that don't offer anything. Not asking for much but at least a 10% discount would show some appreciation for our service men and women," Dautzenberg said.

If college is an option for a recruit, the branch gives them an option about paying for college. The military pays for semesters so the recruit is not required



to. This may be the sole reason someone joins the military in the first place, because money is tight or paying for education just is not an option on their part.

Although being a member of the military comes with benefits, the biggest benefit involves risking your life for your country to make it a better place.

Winter trends

Abbey Cole ('17)

Joey Platania ('18)

- ① Chokers:
Add a choker to
your outfit to tie
it all together.

- ② Sweater Dresses:
The perfect piece
to throw on to
stay warm.

- ③ Boots:
Throw on a pair
of boots to add
the winter vibe
to your outfit.



- Flannels Jackets: ①
Easy to throw on
and adds a winter
vibe to any outfit.

- Combat Boots: ②
Add a pair of
boots to tie the
whole piece
together.

Posing in designer clothes

Students express their individuality with the designer clothing of their choice

Mackenna Shiver
Reporter

Students express their personality through their choice of clothing. Some people stick with a specific designer that suits their personality the best. Fashion gives the person wearing it a sense of distinction, making them feel special in their own way.

"I really like fashion because it's a way for people to express their individuality. My fashion inspiration usually comes from [magazines] British Vogue and Elle because I think Europeans

are always ahead in fashion," Mia Seibert ('18) said.

Different designers have their own inspirations and patterns and they try to incorporate today's trends in with their own twists. A lot of individuals choose to go with the flow and wear what everyone else is wearing, but there are those who stand out in the crowd and they express who they are through clothing. Seibert shops at BeBe when looking for special occasion dresses.

"I found my homecoming dress at BeBe and fell in love with it because I love floral designs and it included all of my favorite colors. I wanted to be unique in having a designer dress rather than one from a department store," Seibert said.

Fashion is a way to get to know someone before you even meet them because you can automatically tell what kind of personality they have. If a student is dressed in all floral print clothing with bright colors,

then that student is most likely a very cheerful person with a bubbly personality.

"My outfits reflect my mood on a daily basis. Some days I'm tired and wake up five minutes before I leave for school and I'll throw on leggings and a T-shirt with sneakers. Some days when I am feeling in a more upbeat and proactive mood, I'll spend a little extra time putting together a presentable outfit," Jillian Kirkpatrick ('17) said.

Seibert and Hannah Farrell ('18)

both express themselves with a simple but bold European look.

"I really like the brand Lazyoaf because their designs are very original. The only drawback is that they are a little pricey," Farrell said.

Walking around campus, students wear different styles, and the impact of fashion varies, showing the uniqueness of each individual.

Different hair, don't care

Students with different hairstyles share what they use for their hair and how they style it

Avery Phillion
Reporter

Every year guys and girls change their hairstyles. New products and trends come out and lots of people decide to try them. But not everybody likes to stay on trend, lots of people flow with whatever hair they've got.

"Normally I wear my hair naturally everyday, it is literally a lion so I have to tame it. I use "Not Your Mothers Sea Salt Spray" and I spray it on and scrunch my hair and volumize it

with hairspray," Cierra Cangeme ('18) said.

Girls are not the only ones grooming their hair. A large amount of guys use products and styles on theirs too.

"I wake up, take a shower, slick my hair back and let it fall naturally. Occasionally I'll use a hair dryer on it and pretty much just make sure it looks good," Josh Corrow ('19) said.

There is controversy on

using heat on hair and using extensions, but everyone has different preferences and different types of hair.

"I don't really like applying heat to my hair so I just try to use other methods so my hair doesn't get damaged," Cangeme ('18) said.

Kaily Bredemier wears extensions often. She curls her hair at night to save time in the morning, and so it creates a

more effortless look.

"I curl my hair with a curling iron and then put it up in a bun, wake up, take it out and I'm ready to go. Also the night before I curl my hair extensions and put those in the next morning for added volume," Bredemier ('19) said.

One well known hairstyle this year has been for guys to "frost" or bleach the tips of their hair.

"I went and got my hair dyed

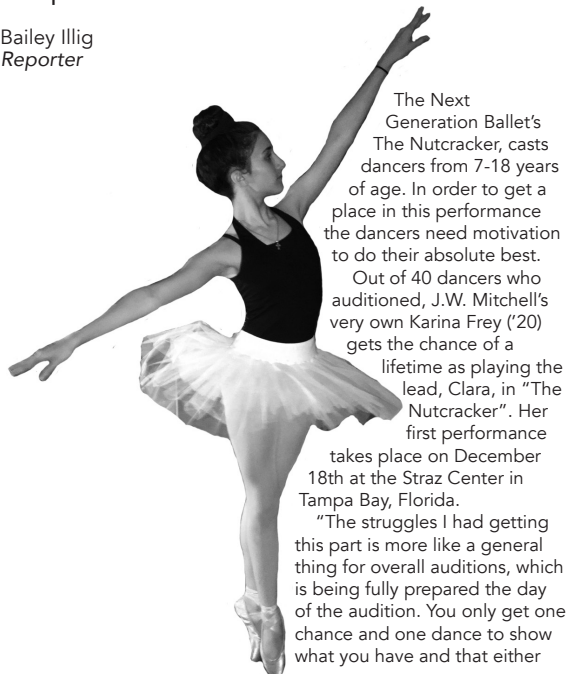
at a salon, I like it personally because it is different, you don't see it every day... well you didn't. Now it is more popular," Mazin Shehayeb ('18) said.

Hair comes in all shapes and sizes and not one person's hair is the same. Every year girls and guy hair styles differ and change.

DANCE 'till you drop

Karina Frey ('20) auditioned for a role in the Nutcracker and got the lead position as Clara

Bailey Illig
Reporter



The Next Generation Ballet's The Nutcracker, casts dancers from 7-18 years of age. In order to get a place in this performance the dancers need motivation to do their absolute best. Out of 40 dancers who auditioned, J.W. Mitchell's very own Karina Frey ('20) gets the chance of a

lifetime as playing the lead, Clara, in "The Nutcracker". Her first performance takes place on December 18th at the Straz Center in Tampa Bay, Florida.

"The struggles I had getting this part is more like a general thing for overall auditions, which is being fully prepared the day of the audition. You only get one chance and one dance to show what you have and that either

makes you or breaks you," Frey said.

The rigorous process of getting ready for the auditions sometimes overwhelmed Frey. The pressure to performing her best rests on her shoulders as she dances in front of an audience.

"It was very difficult working up to this because you basically have to train your whole life to be very technical and good with the quality of your movements and other dancers would know that pointe is not an easy form of dance," Frey said.

This opportunity opens many windows for Karina in future performances. She has been training her whole life at Broadway Dance Company, and all of her hard work has finally paid off.



Karina Frey ('20) and Jason

De Ballo, practicing for their Nutcracker audition.

Photo provided by Karina Frey

“Being the lead in the Nutcracker has always been my dream since I was three years old, I always loved to be on stage and to tell a story through movements and acting

KARINA FREY ('20)

Playing their way into HISTORY



Abby McNulty ('19), practices her Marimba for the All-State Concert on January 14, 2017.

Photo by Raleigh Illig

For the first time in Mitchell history Abby McNulty ('19) and Anna Dorey ('17) make it to the All- State Concert

Max Tretin
Reporter

For months, student musicians across Florida have worked vigorously leading up to the auditions for participation in the All-State Concert and Symphonic Bands. The best of the best in Florida are chosen to perform together. Two particular students from J.W. Mitchell convinced the judges that they have what it takes to be in this concert. With the concert getting closer and closer, Anna Dorey ('17) and Abby McNulty ('19) feel the excitement for this special moment.

"I am more excited to meet all the great musicians around Florida, have the experience to play with them, and just have an overall fun week," McNulty said.

Both Dorey and McNulty were excited and surprised that they got selected to play in the concert. Each year only a few or no local students at all are accepted to perform so an acceptance is highly valued.

"It felt really great. I didn't

think I was going to make it because I was really upset with my audition, but I made it anyway," Dorey said.

Dorey and McNulty are currently making school history. Dorey is the first student in Mitchell history to be accepted into the All-State Orchestra three years in a row. McNulty is the first percussionist in Mitchell history to be able to perform in the All-

State concert.

"It feels really good [to make All-State]. Not only because of my self achievements, but also because of making school history," Dorey said.

Both of these musicians practice day-in and day-out to prepare for the concert, as it is one of the biggest occasions of their high school careers.

Anna Dorey ('17), plays the French Horn in preparation for the All-State Concert on January 14, 2017.

Photo by Raleigh Illig





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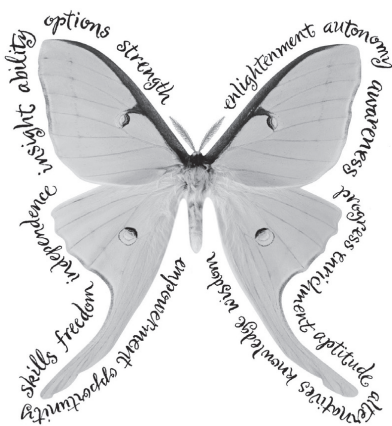
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SPEND A DAY IN THEIR SHOES

Lexi Clark
Editor

The bells sound throughout the school and the stampeding sound of footsteps fill the hallway and eyes scan the floor, looking for the next pair of trendsetters.

Shoes, throughout the past few years on campus, have become a platform of expression and individuality for students. They give students an opportunity to stand out from the crowd.

"My friends make me stand out because not many other people wear heels to school and they're all a reflection of my attitude that day," Sarina Hamme (18) said.

For Savannah Vacca (17), Crocs represent her uniqueness with personalized jibbitz that she chooses to specifically reflect her personality.

"I think that my Crocs represent my personality because they're so different in a unique way and out of the norm. People either love or hate them," Savannah Vacca (17) said.

Shoes also transform

negative self-consciousness into that of positivity. Noah Karzon (18) feels like a better version of himself when he wears his Thursday Boots, with boosted self-confidence and self-assurance and lowered insecurity.

"They make me stand up straighter and give me better posture which makes me more respectable to others," Karzon said.

Karzon also takes great pride in the shoes he wears, comfort and styles being objects that inspire him in his everyday life.

"I wear a different pair of Thursday Boots every day; they're not mainstream, they're comfortable, and they have good ankle support. They're not a new style or anything, they're timeless. It's a style that never dies," Karzon said.

Wearing unique shoes may have the effect of portraying false perceptions about the students wearing them; however, their motives, more often than not, are not mindful of the opinions of other

students. Auste Treksa (18) frequently wears heels to school, yet she does so simply for personal satisfaction.

"People might be intimidated when I wear heels but in reality I don't worry about what other people think. I'm not trying to impress anyone," Treksa said.

Students' day-to-day shoe selection represents them as individuals and act as a form of expression while representing their unique personalities to set them apart from the rest in the school halls each and every day.

Shooting the way to success

The girls varsity and JV basketball teams start the season out strong

Josh Wagner
Reporter

The 2016-17 girls basketball season officially began November 15th and 16th, and both of the teams came out strong and prepared.

The varsity team rebounded from their season-opener loss, and won five straight games in a row in late November and early December, with a 66-58 win over Frank W. Springstead High. Catie Whitehead ('18), a center, along with the rest of the team changed their approach to the game after two early losses.

"Winning [changed our mind set after the rocky start.] We hate to lose and want the district championship to be ours this year," Whitehead said.

The team trained during the weeks before the season in their pursuit of the title of "District Champs," putting in hours in dedication to bring their best this winter.

"We've been doing a lot of conditioning, working hard at practice, lifting weights in the weight room, and working on plays," Aleyah Proper ('17) said.

Lifting weights and conditioning only gets someone so far, teamwork and staying mentally focused can play a large role in any sport. Laurny Smith ('17), the team captain, knows hard dedication to the team and staying focused are important aspects of playing well.

"We need to stick together during tough times, when we are losing or when we are down. [We need to] stick together, stay together, encourage each other all the time," Smith said.

Junior Varsity came out red hot at the start of the season, going 4-0 in their first four games. After a close 35-30 win over Nature Coast Technical High November 29th, Charlotte Vari ('20) acknowledged why the team began the season so strong.

"What has been working well for us is that we have really good defence and all the girls are working together as a team. [So far] it has been just working well," Vari said.



Selena Dinovo ('18) goes in for the shot against Nature Coast.

Photo by Josh Wagner

The JV team, however, is short a player, Clara Makkdessi ('19), and have been trying to manage during her absence.

"She is one of our best bigs, one of our centers, and she has been a big part of what we have had for the past three years, and this is the first year without her so

it is a little hard playing without her," Zoe Licono ('19) said.

Both varsity and junior varsity set big goals for this season. Catch both the girls teams at the home gym tonight against Land O' Lakes High, starting with JV at 6:00.

We've got to work, work, work it out

Students pursue healthy lifestyles through working out and exercise

Kaitlyn Klein
Reporter

Whether they train for weightlifting, soccer, or just to be healthy, students recognize that a good workout routine remains the most important aspect in a healthy lifestyle.

Holden Honor ('17) works out to get ready for the Olympic weightlifting and power lifting competitions, which he plans to compete in. So she can stay in shape for soccer, Dalanie Guerra ('18) sometimes works

out at the YMCA, but the soccer field is her main gym.

"I have practice 3-4 days a week and then 2 games every weekend, but on top of that when I get a chance in my free time I like to go workout and lift to get a better tone on my body, and run to keep up my endurance. Gaining muscle and improving my body shape is what motivates me because the work that I put into the gym

and soccer reflects my results," Guerra said.

Seeing other people reach their goals motivate Samantha Burtt ('18), who got inspired by seeing other people working out.

"I workout because I want to be as healthy as I can be. When I see someone else reach their goals, it pushes me to keep working harder and keep working. It makes me think that I can do it and to never stop

pushing for my goal. I want the same satisfaction and to feel confident in myself," Burtt said.

Trevin Valdes ('17) works out at the YMCA, and he tries to make it there five days a week.

"I work out because I enjoy the feeling of accomplishment I get after a good workout, and when my friends and people point out my gains," Valdes said.

Honor, who started working out in eighth grade, now benches

350 pounds, which is a 255 pound increase from the 95 pounds when he started.

"At first when I started at 14 it was for looks, but now I care about strength more than anything," Honor said.

Raising the bar of expectation

The girls weightlifting team achieves new personal records through hard work

Alyssa Magilligan
Reporter

With the weightlifting season beginning in early November, the girls of the Varsity team plan to make it big this year. Students spent a long offseason in the weight room or in different gyms across the area to help make themselves better to lead the team to victories in the coming matches.

"I improved this offseason by spending a lot of my time at the gym, and my goals this year are hopefully to make it to states and achieve a total of 300 [pounds]," Abi Williams ('17) said.

For a majority of girls on the team, weightlifting is a way of life. After participating in the sport for a while, it began to stick with them and became part of their daily routine.

"I have been doing weightlifting for three years now and it has become a big part of my life. It really inspired me to stay fit and to take care of my body," Victoria Mahairas ('17) said.

Weightlifting also brought personal accomplishments to the team. The sport caused them to strive to meet their goals, and it made them want

to be the best they can.

"My biggest accomplishment is that I have broken and held the school records for my weight class, which is 101, on bench and clean and jerk," Mahairas said.

The last two meets of the girls weightlifting season are the County Meet on December 21, and Districts on January 10.

"The girls worked out over Thanksgiving break, and we are lifting heavier weight and doing less repetitions to get the girls ready for these meets. Also a lot of girls have gym memberships so they do extra



Alex Moreno ('17)

Getcha head in the game

The boys varsity and JV basketball teams begin season with a successful start

Josh Wagner
Reporter

Boys basketball began late November, and the boys varsity and junior varsity teams began training weeks before, preparing to dominate the 2016-17 season.

"We've been in the gym a lot, every day until six or seven o'clock. We need to just keep working hard, keep getting into the gym, keep drilling, practicing as a team, we'll gel as the season moves on," Jimmy Eannel ('20) said before the season began.

The varsity and JV season got underway with a home game against Frank W. Springstead

on December 2nd. In the fast-paced action the team put up 84 points to get the season opener win, with a final score of 84-62.

"We knew they were going to press us, so we had to get the ball up the middle. They ended up denying the middle, so they left the sidelines wide open, and we just had a whole bunch of easy lay ups all night," Alec Sherman ('18) said after the victory.

Starting off a season with a victory puts the varsity team in a position to loosen up and prepare for the rest of the

season.

"It feels really good [getting this strong season-opening win], it helps us get a little buffer at the start, getting 1-0, and gets us ready for the next game," John Paul Watt ('18) said.

Junior Varsity also came ready to play December 2nd, playing against Springstead's JV team, putting a tick mark in their win column with a 60-29 win.

"The game plan was to keep the ball moving, to stay focused, and to execute. We were supposed to run our plays

that we have been practicing for a long time. We did what we had to, we worked hard, and stayed focused in the game," Sam Adawonu ('19) said.

Just like varsity, the team got hyped with the first win, but knows the season is just beginning.

"It feels good at first, but you know I'm not satisfied, I still want to win games. The season is not over, it was just our first game," Adawonu said.

For freshmen, playing in a basketball game representing their high school finally became

a reality.

"It was so exciting, I knew it was going to be first one of many, and I was really hyped in the beginning," Jake Donaldson ('20) said.

At the end of the night, the scoreboard lit up in our favor for both teams, an occurrence the teams look for more of in this 2016-17 season. Both varsity and junior varsity play at Land O' Lakes High tonight at 6:00.

Making history on the mats

The wrestling team takes on the first ever female additions to their roster

Chris Wilson
Reporter

With a new season about to begin, the wrestling team welcomes a few unfamiliar faces to the team. Lauren Sawyer ('17) and Destaney Moses ('19) officially make history as the first girls to wrestle since the school opened.

"Honestly it feels pretty great, because the guys don't specifically tailor the moves to make it easier for me, they are more realistic and they put up the fight that they would with another guy," Sawyer said.

Being the first girls on the team, provides a change from an all boys team

to being a mixed boys and girls team. It also gives an advantage because then the guys get to wrestle only other guys and not girls.

"I had to wrestle a girl last year at districts. [Wrestling a girl] is like fighting your sister, you do not want to let her win

but you also do not want to hurt her. Having girls on the

team this year will improve the team a lot," Ryan Ryel ('19) said.

With plenty of meets over the course of the season, newcomers like Sawyer and Moses have the chance to prove their place on the team by doing well at the meets.

"I have to really work hard

since I'm working against boys so I always have to put in my best effort," Moses said.

Before this year no girl ever made it on the team so this year with two girls being on the team gave the boys something to think about.

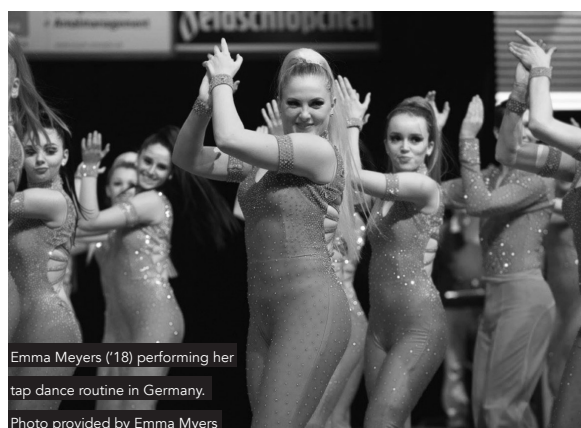
"We have never had girls on our team before so having them this year helps the team get better and provides diversity for the team," Bruno Colon ('18) said.

With meets coming and going fast, the members

of the team work hard, and wrestle hard to win their meets. There are only ten meets total in the season with a county championship at the end of it all.

Come see the team at their next meet on January 14th at 10:00 a.m., the cost to get in is five dollars.

Tapping into a world of opportunity



Emma Meyers ('18) performing her tap dance routine in Germany.
Photo provided by Emma Myers

Emma Meyers travels to Germany to compete nationally for tap dancing

Meghan Borum
Reporter

Beginning at the age of three, Emma Meyers ('18) stepped into the dancing world of tap/ballet classes. Since then, she has danced every style to become one of the best in the world. She traveled to Germany twice in the past year to compete as the only Floridian out of 85 people on the team.

During her time in Germany, she improved her skills and met new people. When traveling to another country, it can be difficult to understand others.

But through the tap world she found a universal means to communicate.

"If you don't speak the same language you still speak the same language with your feet. We are one community and we're the tap world and everyone's united," Meyers said.

Meyers competed in the junior category last year, but this year, she moved to the adult category. Meyers performed for the judges with two dances, placing fourth in formation. This year there was

a total of 36 countries, while last year there was only 32.

"It was a lot more intense and everyone was just as good or even better than they were last time," Meyers said.

While in Germany, Meyers learned new things and met more people. This proved to be easy when everyone around her shared the same passion. Meyers is able to be whoever she wants to be and make her own music with her feet.

'Tis the season of Signing



Sophie Sajecki
Editor

Signing season approaches for student athletes committing to play their favorite sports in college. With the number of student athletes enrolled in J.W. Mitchell, group signings occur each quarter in recognition of students who receive these scholarships.

On November 10th, three student athletes were recognized and signed their National Letters of Intent: Maddie Bell ('17), for a scholarship to Catawba College for softball; Stefanie Guizar ('17) for

a scholarship to Wingate University for golf; and Alexis Zegan ('17) signed to Coker College for lacrosse. The transition to a new college offers different opportunities to excel as team players and as individuals as well.

"I am definitely looking forward to being able to have access to the great coaches, courses, and resources that my school has to offer so I can reach my full potential. I really hope to accomplish becoming a better more well rounded

golfer, winning collegiate tournaments, and helping my team in a successful season," Guizar said.

In contrast to other students that signed, Alexis Zegan is J.W. Mitchell's first student to receive a scholarship for lacrosse.

"Over the summer, a college coach came to watch one of my teammates during a tournament for my summer lacrosse league, and she told my coach that she liked my overall speed and enthusiasm, so after

the tournament I emailed her and she wanted me to play for her team at Coker College and it just went from there," Zegan said.

With lacrosse being such a new sport to the area, and with the Mustang lacrosse team only being able to play on the J.W. Mitchell fields this year for the first time, a scholarship for Zegan was a tremendous accomplishment.

"What got me into lacrosse was seeing the school team, Trinity Thundering Herd at the time (now Mustang

Lacrosse), practice while I was at track. The sport of lacrosse fascinated me and I instantly knew I wanted to play it. I have been playing lacrosse for only one year now," Zegan said.

Being signed to play for a college team makes the hard work over the years more meaningful. After gaining recognition from college coaches across the country players become more motivated in accomplishing excellence for years in the future.

ABOUT THE SIGNEES

ALEXIS ZEGAN

College: Coker College; Division II

Competitive team: Mustang Lacrosse

Years playing sport: One

Why Coker? Smaller school

MADDIE BELL

College: Catawba College; Division II

Competitive team: Next Level Softball

Years playing sport: Nine

Why Catawba? It's like a family; Pre-Law

STEFANIE GUIZAR

College: Wingate University; Division II

Competitive team: Individual

Years playing sport: Six

Why Wingate? Great coach and facility



Maddie Bell ('17)



Alexis Zegan ('17)



Stefanie Guizar ('17)



Zegan signs her letter of intent to play collegiate lacrosse at Coker College.

Photos by Lexi Clark

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Next Big Thing greets The 1975

A recap of 97X's Next Big Thing annual concert

Kristina Jautze
Reporter

The 16th annual 97x radio station's Next Big Thing concert occurred on December 3rd at the MidFlorida Amphitheater. NBT is an all day music festival that holds performances from bands that play on 97.1 and has about 20,000 people who attend. The line-up consisted of two local bands and twelve popular bands with the headline band being the 1975.

The day began at 10 A.M. with the two local bands called Miroux and The Infinite Eights. These bands had to submit auditions and win the most votes for them to be chosen to play at the concert. Every year, they select two different local bands to give them an opportunity to grow a larger fan-base.

"I think it's cool that they have local bands playing in the concert. You can find new upcoming bands to listen to instead of the famous ones that everyone knows about," Danielle Fink ('19) said.

During the day, at the second stage, bands such as 888, Weathers, Lewis Del Mar, and Judah and the Lion played sets comprised of their most popular or hit songs. They all had a lot of energy and kept the crowd interested. Lewis Del Mar's singer interacted with the audience in a fun way by stepping off the stage and dancing with them. He sang with emotion and genuinely enjoyed his time at the show.

At the main stage, before the headliner, were the bands COIN,

The Naked and Famous, Bishop Briggs, Capital Cities, Kongos, Phantogram, and The Head and the Heart. These bands had fans on their feet jumping in anticipation of their favorite songs. They played sets 40 to 60 minutes long since they were larger (in fan-base) bands. Capital Cities played one of their most popular songs called "Safe and Sound" and that had almost everyone singing along and cheering them on.

By the end of the night, everyone was anxious for the 1975 to come on. When "Love Me" starting playing, screaming could be heard from all over the amphitheater. Their set consisted of songs like "UGH!", "Somebody Else", "Loving



Photo provided by Cole Mazalewski

Someone", "The Sound", "Girls", and "Chocolate". The crowd sang all of the songs in harmony and some were emotional as this is their favorite band.

"I had such a fun time and it was a great experience. I would definitely go again just for the atmosphere because everyone was so laid back and having a

great time," Darius Far ('20) said.

Overall, the concert had amazing energy and lots of happy people that made the experience much better. There's no doubt that I would recommend checking out NBT next year.

Office Christmas Party Office Christmas Party is a R-rated, roll of the floor comedy, that will have people gasping for breath in the theater. This movie is about Carol Vanstone (Jennifer Aniston), the CEO of the company her brother, Clay Vanstone (T.J. Miller) and Josh Parker (Jason Bateman) work at. She wants to shut down the branch Clay and Josh works at but Josh is not going to let that happen. Josh throws an epic party to try and close a deal with a potential client that could save his branch. Jason and Jennifer are laugh out loud funny in this very unusual flick. I give this movie a perfect rating because of the humor and edge it gives.



The Edge of Seventeen The Edge of Seventeen is a R-rated comedy about a teenage girl named Nadine (Hailee Steinfeld) that is going through a rough patch in her junior year of high school. Nadine is not a popular girl and she has her one best friend, Krista. Every thing was going okay until she found her best friend and her brother together. Nadine wasn't able to accept the fact her brother and Krista were together. Nadine can slowly see her best friend changing before her eyes. To make things worse, Nadine accidentally texts the boy she is in love with a very embarrassing text message. This movie will have people leaving the theater with tears of laughter running down their faces. I give this movie 3 out of 5 stars because of the humor and its great representation of teenage lives today, but it lacks a strong story line.



Incarnate, a PG-13 rated thriller, has audiences on the edge of their seats. This horrifying movie is about an 11-year-old boy that is possessed by a demon. The family tried to bring in a priest to perform an exorcism, but things take an unexpected turn. A strange gentleman goes to the family and has his own way of getting rid of demons. Aaron Eckheart plays the scientist that goes into the subconscious to get rid of the haunting demon that is inside of Jake, played by Emjay Anthony. This movie is very chilling but not too scary so I give it only 2 stars out of 5.



Almost Christmas Almost Christmas is a PG-13 rated, drama that has many people worried for poor Walter. This movie is about a retired man named Walter Meyer, that recently lost the love his life. This coming Christmas is his first Christmas without his wife. Walter thinks it is a good idea to have his 4 kids over for Christmas but it doesn't turn out the way he was hoping it would. All the children do is fight back and fourth with each other. Walter, played by Danny Glover doesn't know if it's possible to get through 4 days in the same home. This movie had some humor throughout but overall was not as good as the trailer perceived it to be, therefore I only give it 1 star.



You can gaze into the future

One of Disney's most popular shows "That's so Raven" returns to the big screen as a spin off called "That's so Raven 2"

Alyssa Magilligan
Reporter

In the beginning of 2003, Disney Channel aired the first episode of a show about a high school student with visions that enabled her to see into the future called "That's So Raven." Now in the works, the producers at Disney Channel decided to make a spin-off show, once again starring Raven Symone.

With no set air date on Disney Channel yet, the show's plot includes the main character,

Raven Baxter, as a divorced mother with twins of her own. One of them sees glimpses into the future, similar to what Raven dealt with as a teenager in the original series.

"The plot is creative and I don't think it has been done recently. Especially with the twist of someone being able to see into the future," Delaney Georgantas ('18) said.

In the past, spin-offs of older

yet popular shows proved themselves slightly unsuccessful. For example, when the hit show Friends came to a tragic end, NBC wanted to make up for the loss of views. The producers at the station decided on giving the character Joey Tribbiani his own show, and it ended after just two seasons due to lack of viewers.

"A lot of the time, the original show is better than the spin-off a company decides to make,"

Georgantas said.

Despite the original "That's So Raven" series' success, fans of the show still prepare for the worst, and hope disappointment stays away as they want to enjoy the show and the returning characters.

"Hopefully the spin-off version doesn't disappoint. The hints toward the new show is making it sound really interesting," Georgantas said.

Even though the spin-off to "That's So Raven" lacks a release date, the announcement of the show itself brought excitement to those who religiously watched the original series, and previous viewers hope Disney Channel creates a better version of their favorite childhood show.

The Wizarding World continues

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find them is the prequel to the Harry Potter series and is predicted to be a five part series

Josh Wagner
Reporter

After five long years, the Wizarding World finally returns on the silver screen in the new movie "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," which already surpassed the 500 million dollar mark at the worldwide box office.

This story follows the British wizard, Newt Scamander, a magizoologist (person who studies magical creatures), as he travels throughout 1926 New York City hunting down

escaped creatures.

"I felt wonder struck by this new interpretation of the Harry Potter universe. It was amazing to return to Harry Potter with a new perspective and new characters," Austin Erickson ('20) said.

Although it links to the Harry Potter we all know, the movie follows completely unique characters and a fresh story line that grabs the attention of long-time Harry Potter fans, and the

newer generation.

"There were a lot of references to Harry Potter, but it's an entirely different time period and story. You don't need to know any background knowledge to understand the movie, but it could help with some smaller details," Kaylee Strobel ('18) said.

Some fans, like Jenna Mendieta ('20), were curious to see if the movie would be too disconnected to the Potter

universe.

"If you are looking for a prequel to Harry Potter, if you expect it to have the plot points of the [Harry Potter] story, then no [you might not want to see this movie.] But if you are looking for another escape into the Wizarding World that J.K. Rowling has created, then I highly suggest it," Mendieta said.

Although mixed reviews have floated throughout the media,

as with any movie, viewers should see the movie to create an honest opinion and review.

"I would rate this movie a solid 9/10. It was suspenseful, exciting, and left a little more to be desired," Erickson said.

With J.K. Rowling pushing for four more films, the Wizarding World clearly is not done with cinema, and the fans are not either.



Raina Norwood ('20), took this picture of

Melanie Martinez on her "Crybaby" tour.

Photo provided by Raina Norwood

Singing her way to the top

Melanie Martinez, newest pop artist making her way to the top of the charts

Michelle Cervera
Reporter

songs talk about her family life, who she is, her love life, personal experiences and takes you through the emotions Crybaby feels. Attention has been raised for her unique music style and deep core song meanings.

"Melanie's music is relatable for people that are going through or have gone through the things that she is singing about. The way she mixes pop music with alternative lyrics makes a new sound that is appealing for people with different music tastes, she is also very motivating. The music gives me hope and reassurance that everything is going to be fine

and that I'll live." Caitlyn Powell ('19) said.

The Crybaby album debuted at number 6 on the Billboard Top 200 and features 12 songs. One of the songs "Carousel" was the feature song for FX's American Horror Story: Freak Show trailer. It's obvious Melanie Martinez's individual fashion sense is unique and surprising.

"I love her fashion choices, I love her hair and the way she does her make up mixing darker colors with bright pastels, I think it's awesome that she is confident in who she is. I like Melanie because she is different from other artists her songs

are relatable, it's not like the mainstream songs out there singing about love or hip hop songs her style is dark without being dark. I love how she sings so metaphorically she's telling a story but all of her songs have a darker hidden message I've always thought it was interesting in trying to figure out what she was suggesting in her songs," Raina Norwood ('20) said.

Martinez's plans for her next studio album is to continue with Crybaby's story line and place her in a Creepy town, the songs would continue from Crybaby's perspective.

Melanie Martinez a 21-year-old American singer/song writer/ and director from Astoria, New York City, got her start in 2012 on season 3 of NBC's The Voice. After being eliminated on week five Atlantic Records scouted Martinez and signed her. She continued her career in music producing her debut song "Dollhouse" The song was said to be about a family that looks

perfect from the outside but has problems going on in the inside. The music video released two years ago currently holds 86 million plus views on YouTube.

She released her debut album "Crybaby" on August 14th 2015, the entire album is based off a character named: "Crybaby" Martinez created and coordinated the songs to go along with Crybaby's story. The

If its broken, please fix it

Students discuss ways school bathrooms need to improve

Samantha Burchick
Reporter

Students stuck at school for eight hours a day typically need to use the bathrooms. Students believe the bathrooms get dirtier every year and need to be paid closer attention to. One student took to social media to share her concern of the uncleanness of bathrooms and had photos to back it up.

"I originally tweeted the pictures of the bathrooms because I was upset at how it had been months since the toilet seat was broken and who knows how long since the door actually fit the lock. There are custodians who clean the bathrooms every day, so why weren't these problems being addressed in a timely manner?"

People really underestimate the amount of power social media holds. Making a problem like this public jeopardizes the school's image. Two days after I tweeted the pictures the toilet seat was fixed," Elisabeth Mott ('17) said.

When students go to use the school bathrooms they do not want to go in and find garbage on the floor, overflowing trash cans, no toilet paper, and no soap. These bathrooms need to stay clean to maintain the health of all students. The school should take better care of the bathrooms because they reflect the school as well.

"The school can fix these problems by having custodial staff make sure toilets are cleaned

and functioning properly every day, checking soap dispensers every day and refilling them when necessary, and ensuring that feminine waste baskets are properly secured in their place and are changed daily," Mott said.

Bathrooms need to be clean because many students throughout the day pass germs

through them. These bathrooms need to have a code of cleaning standards for everyone to use.

"Do your business and clean up after yourself, don't leave the bathroom dirty because other people also want to be able to use a clean bathroom. Right now the school bathrooms are nasty, people write all over it and they are always so dirty," Riya Gandhi

('18) said.

By cleaning up after themselves and speaking up when something does not function properly, students can go a long way to keep our bathrooms presentable and operational.



Liz Mott ('17) posted this photo of an uneven bathroom lock on twitter, it was then addressed by admin and fixed immediately.

Students can hardly stand the wait

Winter Break starts later this year, causing controversy among students and faculty

Morgan Fliss
Reporter

As December nears its end, students' Christmas spirit begins to grow. Students and staff become excited to enjoy time with their family and celebrate the holidays instead of sitting at a desk grading or doing schoolwork. Unfortunately, this year students begin Christmas break on December 23rd, only two days before Christmas.

"I think that we should have more time for winter break so students can enjoy Christmas plans with

their family because Christmas is time that should be spent with family [not at school]," Tori Eurell ('20) said.

With the break so close to Christmas, students and staff, like Rasheeda Meta ('19) do not get to enjoy much of the holiday spirit.

"I do not like that break starts so late because it feels like Christmas isn't going to happen. Christmas is going to start so early and be over before we know it. We won't really

have time to celebrate," Meta said.

Although numerous students do not agree with the fact that Christmas break is so late, the district had a philosophy behind their choice.

According to TBO.com, "In order to get in enough first semester class hours, the district would have to end the semester after winter break — something most officials did not want to do. The District School Board of Pasco

County liked the clean break of the semester at winter vacation, that way students could start fresh in the second semester without having to study over the holidays."

Advanced Placement Human Geography and World History teacher, Ms. Heather Daniel (FAC) weighs the pros and cons.

"I believe there are pros and cons to having the break being split or not being split. When exams are after break, students

have extra time they could use to study. However, it could also just be extra time for students to forget the content," Daniel said.

Holiday spirit may seem short this year because students and staff will be at school finishing semester exams until December 22nd, but on the bright side, students will not have to cram studying into their family and holiday time.

Medically legalized in the sunshine state

Students weigh the benefits and downsides of medical marijuana

Kristina Jautze
Reporter

On November 8th, the voters of Florida passed Amendment 2 which allows the usage of medical marijuana under a legal doctor's prescription as a treatment. Four years ago, citizens voted down the same law. Since medical marijuana is now legal, students worry about the abuse rate of the drug increasing.

"Sadly, there are a few people in this world that will do anything to get high. There will be people that abuse this law greatly, but I do believe it will do enough beneficial work to stay legal," Brian Fink ('20) said.

The state monitors precautions towards preventing the abuse of this law. Doctors, by law, must not prescribe medical marijuana to any patient that asks. There must be a specific problem scientifically proven to be helped by marijuana in order for that patient to receive a prescription.

"Improper use can be monitored by the dosages given to a patient. If any patient requests additional marijuana, there should be a checkup to see if they actually need it. Also, whenever any kind of drugs are given to a patient at home, they should be required to get

a background check to make sure they do not have a history of drug abuse," John Henges ('19) said.

This law carries the potential to help people with severe anxiety, cancer, PTSD, epilepsy, and many others. It will not cure these problems, but it can make them more tolerable.



"I believe passing this law was strictly to help people who have certain illnesses and make them feel better," Camryn Freitag ('18) said.

The future of medical marijuana is vast. Students believe that legalization will spread across the entire nation.

"I think the future of medical marijuana is it being legalized in all states. People will start using it in the correct manner instead of using it with bad intentions. This will leave an overall improvement for our country," Fink said.

Florida took a big step by legalizing medical marijuana, as the 26th state to pass the law. With responsible implementation, the law has the potential to benefit thousands of patients.

Dear JWMHS, keep the rainbow walls

A staff editorial regarding the school's decision to paint over buildings' colored stripes

Red, orange, green, blue, and purple create the many colors of the buildings throughout campus. However, administration decided to remove these colors from all the buildings and rename them by building number. The Hoofbeat staff believes, that the school should not remove the buildings' interior colors because some students do not know them by their numbers.

For example, students know the

buildings as the red building and orange building, rather than the five hundred or three hundred building. Confusion among students may rise without the use of colors for the buildings. It is important to keep the colors throughout campus so students easily find their way from class to class on time. Also, with two 700 buildings on campus, changing the colors would take make it confusing for students

to differentiate the buildings. Seniors, juniors, sophomores, and most freshmen have a habit of calling the buildings by their color names due to what they remember. The Hoofbeat believes that the school's colors should not be changed because leaving them will be easier for everyone based on their habits and preferences.

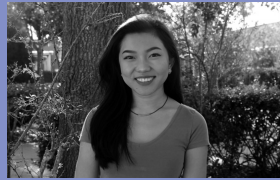
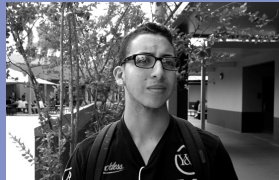
The website www.td.org states that colors actually help the brain

learn to recognize details, and aid pattern recognition. With more students noticing the different colors of the buildings, as they walk in them every day, they become more attentive to small details around them and the school. Also, colors aid short-term memory over a period of time. In fact, something so simple such as a building color actually helps students to perform better in school.

Unfortunately, school administration decided to paint over all the building colors around campus. Many students and faculty did not have a say in the decision but prefer to reverse it. To help enhance student's learning and experience at school, the memorable colors should remain around campus.

MAN on the STREET

How do you break the stereotypes?



“

People joke and say blondes are not smart, but I break that stereotype by taking advanced classes and maintaining a high GPA.

Chandler Dempsey ('17)

”

“

Some people call me a terrorist, I just laugh at that because it is such an ignorant way to think and it is offensive to hear people say things like that.

Branden Abdelshahid ('19)

”

“

When people first see me they think that I'm going to be really intelligent or that I will have an accent because I'm Asian, but I consider myself average and don't have one.

Thuyen Truong ('18)

”

“

People always ask my brother and I if we play basketball because we are so tall, they judge us by our appearance at first. But in reality we both play baseball.

Travis Edling ('17)

”

“

Some kids work harder than others and people don't see that so they assume that our parents just buy everything for us. In reality, I worked for my things.

Sam Grosseibl ('17)

”

Without a struggle, there is no progress

AP Capstone and Research students debate the difficulty of the class and its benefits

Max Trettin
Reporter

The Capstone program presented in 2015 by the College Board gained recognition from universities and colleges. The entire Capstone program is based around class involvement, strengthening your argument, and learning how to properly research in a college setting. The two-year program includes a year of advanced placement (AP) Capstone Seminar and a year of Research, granting students a special diploma at graduation when completing and passing

the courses as well as other AP courses of a student's choosing.

"I find the class really interesting; it is challenging, but I like how it is a different class than just regimented curriculum," Maddie Nessler ('18) said.

However, other students find it more challenging due to the research necessary to pass the final exam.

"The hardest thing for me is to actually get up and present in front of the class because I do not like presenting and confidently

talking to the class about my research," Riya Gandhi ('18) said.

The first year of the course teaches students how to strengthen their argument, and the second year of the course helps dive into a "yearlong research-based investigation on a topic of individual interest," as the College Board website states.

"It indirectly teaches you how to argue in a polite way, as well as speaking in front of a group of people much more comfortably; it got me out of my comfort zone,"

Sreten Dedic ('18) said.

Although the students involved in the program have mixed emotions about the course, they do not regret taking the class.

"Even though I [have] lost a good amount of sleep, it was mainly due to me slacking a bit and I eventually got [the work] done, it was worth it," Dedic said.

To these students, the time it takes to pass and gain the skills is worth surrendering. The course prepares students for the college workload and helps them expand

their horizon in public speaking, arguing, and researching. The leaders of the program, Ms. Beth Seletos (FAC) and Ms. Jamie Orrego (FAC), continually work hard to benefit both the students and themselves.

Students interested in AP capstone must see Ms. Seletos or Ms. Orrego for details.

MORE IS BETTER

Jess Mason
Reporter

In October 2010, the well-known website and phone app, Instagram, took off as the newest social media to post trendy photos. Since then, different media platforms like Snapchat and Twitter have taken over the teen community's app favorites. However, Instagram recently made a comeback through the new and popular craze, finstas.

A finsta is a fake Instagram account used to post funny photos and videos, or things that one would not post on their regular Instagram account.

"On my finsta, I usually post rants, goofy pictures of me, and sometimes even advice on certain things," Kelly Meehan ('17) said.

Many finsta users believe that finstas should be private accounts with very few followers. However, there are a multitude of reasons to back the idea that finsta accounts should have more followers, rather than less.

Finstas are an effective way

of getting to know people on a personal level who you did not previously know.

"I like having a lot of followers on my finsta because it helps me find out more about my friends or people I don't fully know yet. It helps you get to know more people and see others' funny moments and issues," Katie

Fitzpatrick ('18) said.

In addition to finstas being an opening to learn more about people, they are also a platform to post funny photos and make people laugh.

"I feel like it's good to have a lot of followers on finsta because it's funnier when a lot of people see embarrassing pictures or funny captions

rather than limiting followers to just your close friends," Fitzpatrick said.

Users also use finstas as a way to vent and get advice from their followers.

"Having more followers on my finsta allows me to vent on my account. I feel better about certain situations when people give me advice, so

it's helpful to have a lot of followers for that reason," Fitzpatrick said.

Additionally, students like Myles Megna ('18) believe that it is beneficial to have more followers for another reason. Rather than finding out by word of mouth, finstas allow quick and easy access to news and events happening on campus.

"It is up to you if you want to have a lot of followers or not, but I think finstas should have more followers because it's a good way to see all that's going on around the school," Megna said.

Finsta users should allow more people to follow their account. By introducing opportunities to get to know new people, sharing funny content, being a gateway for advice, and spreading news, having an open finsta makes for a better overall experience.

LESS IS MORE

Kaitlyn Klein
Reporter

Instagram, a highly popular social media app, celebrated its sixth birthday just two months ago. Since the initial release in 2010, the content posted by the users of the app went through many phases. From monthly photo challenges, to predominantly selfies, to artisanal coffee and scenery pictures, the app's material matured with its users, with the latest trend being finstas. These private accounts capture something rarely seen by people who follow these same users on their main accounts: reality.

"I have a lot of family that follows me on my main account so I really have to monitor my account, but

on my finsta I can make jokes and complain and do whatever I want. I can rant and say anything because the only followers are my close friends," Ally Jones ('20) said.

When finsta started to become popular, users kept their follower numbers in the low double digits, which allowed people to post funny pictures of themselves for an audience made of solely their closest friends. However, since then, users started to accept anyone who requests to follow them, diminishing the original purpose of a finsta.

"I keep my finsta very

private and only accept my friends because I post embarrassing stuff. If I accepted everyone I would just post the same kind of stuff that I post on my real Instagram," Jones said.

In an effort to be the funniest she can be, Gabby Bradson ('18) keeps her finsta closed off, so only those who she frequently talks with can follow.

"When I post something I know exactly who can see it, and I like that a lot. I feel like controlling who can follow me allows me to be funnier than I am on my regular account. The kind of funny

that everyone is around their friends, but only around their friends," Bradson said.

Charlie Fabrizio ('20) likes how his finstagram allows him to express the true him. To him, finsta is a place he can post without feeling judged. He feels obligated to post certain things on his real Instagram, that live up to an expectation people have of him.

"I'm a funny person, but I'm really shy so my funny side isn't exactly what people think of when they think of me. Because of that, on my regular account I am very artsy and post scenery

pictures without captions. Since I only have like 20 followers on my finsta, and they are all my friends, I know I can be my funny self," Fabrizio said.

Rather than allowing anyone to follow him, Fabrizio pays close attention on who requests him.

"There is no way finsta would be as fun if just anyone followed me. Everything these days is about follower counts and amounts of likes, but you can't care about that on finsta. It defeats the purpose," Fabrizio said.

Having a closed finsta undoubtedly results in a better finsta experience. Allowing for more reality and funnier posts, users who keep their finstas very private, enjoy the real purpose of a finsta.

