

HB

the hoofbeat

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J.W. Mitchell High School
2323 Little Road
New Port Richey, FL 34655

Issue 4 Volume 16

Joshua Cooney ('19), Daniela Silvera ('20), Livia Rosales ('18), and Kaylin Wilkins ('18) preparing for their Winter Guard competitions. (page 3)

Photo by Raleigh Illig

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HB 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.

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Staffer Feature



Photo provided by Alyssa Magilligan

STAFFER: Alyssa Magilligan

GRADE: 12

DESCRIPTION: Magilligan had the experience of a lifetime while in the presence of the National Hockey League's greatest and meeting her favorite players from the league.

Five subjects, five different clubs

Honor societies are beginning to put out applications in search for prestigious students who are interested in joining the clubs

MORGAN FLISS
EDITOR

As the end of the year quickly approaches, the opportunity for students to join an honor society arises. The clubs begin their search soon, in the hunt to look for students with a 3.5 GPA in tenth or eleventh grade. Ms. Denise Crabtree (FAC) obtains the position as adult sponsor for National Honor Society (NHS) and helps members review through acceptance applications.

"[This club] requires a member to be organized, responsible, self-sufficient, willing to work without the expectation of recognition or pay, and is an overall good student and

citizen," Crabtree said.

The school also offers the opportunity to join the Spanish National Honor Society, centered on the Spanish language and culture.

Prerequisites include being actively enrolled in Spanish 3 or higher with at least a 3.0 GPA. Students can visit Ms. Leyla Pitcher (FAC) in room 329 for applications and more information. President of the club, Parker Rendell ('18), explains his experience as a part

of this club.

"One thing that we do is tutor middle school kids every Tuesday who are having a hard time in

Spanish, and it's cool to see how our knowledge can help someone else," Rendell said.

Paulina Keim ('18), the president of NHS, explains the road to being accepted into, what many consider, the most prestigious club on campus.

"Many people believe that

"You should maintain good grades, an upstanding character, get involved in clubs and leadership, and complete community service hours."

Paulina Keim ('18)

you start thinking about NHS only during junior year, but you can start prepare during your freshman and sophomore years," Keim said.

Science National Honor members look forward to new receiving new applications from students who wish to boost their knowledge in science. Members of this club take part in helping out with science activities around the school and obtaining the opportunity to experience a university laboratory.

"Students should join Science National Honor Society because it promotes science across the school and community. As a part of this club, we [take part in] academic lunch tutoring,

promoting science fair, and exploring a university science lab," Sreten Dedic ('18) said.

As well as these, Math National Honor Society is also starting to pick out students that would be great in the club. Students can visit Mrs. Traci DeLeon (FAC) in room 742 or Ms. Jennifer Kaelin (FAC) in room 725 if they have any questions regarding information and applications. National Honor Societies are internationally respected organizations, and participation in these clubs builds your ability and confidence in important life skills.

A performance that gives butterflies

After making a new routine, Winter Guard plans to improve and win at larger competitions

SOPHIE SAJECKI
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The flying silks in the gym stand out brightly against the dark outfits worn by the Winter Guard members. This year's performance is titled 'Rollercoasters' and includes 24 different members working to make a beautiful show.

"Opposed to last year's love show, this year's show brings new elements to the table. Overall, this show is less about the rollercoasters itself and more about the feelings you get from riding them and how every twist turn and drop fills you with happiness and excitement," Alexis Mailhoit ('18) said.

With a new show comes new performance elements. Every detail circles back to the theme of the show.

"This year we are wearing a teal fitted body suit that has a big purple butterfly wing with a sheer full length sleeve that shows the 'butterflies' you feel in your stomach and something that matches the floor we use," Mailhoit said.

As each season goes on, winter guard members face differences between Color Guard and Winter Guard, and make preferences between the two.

"Winter guard is great because it's indoors with more interaction and connection with the audience and with each other. Winter Guard is more

secluded whereas marching season is more mixing in with the band," Livia Rosales ('18) said.

As one of the main captains, Rosales prepares to leave a legacy even after she graduates.

"Being a captain is also being a leader and an inspiration for the team. Leaving a legacy is important because guard is something that I will really miss when I go off to college," Rosales said.

The memories formed from being a part of the guard family for such a long time give seniors something to reminisce on.

"My favorite memory was getting first place in AA class when I was honestly expected to get maybe fifth. It showed that we put everything into that

performance," Mailhoit said.

New guard members find comfort in the close knit bonds formed through all the time spent together and look forward to their futures on the team as well.

"I love making new friends and getting to connect with them and to have something in common. It also gives me something to do in my free time and keeps me active," Daelynn Benitez ('21) said.

Winter Guard competes next on March 3 at East Lake High School, and works to improve since their last competition where they received sixth place with an Excellent rating.



Team captain, Livia Rosales ('18), and the Winter Guard team display their skills to the audience at Plant City High School on Jan. 20, 2018. Photo by Emma Rogers.

Look all you want, but don't touch

As sexual harassment allegations are still growing, students share their opinion on the effect of the #MeToo movement

ALYSSA MAGILLIGAN
STAFF REPORTER

Since October 2017, female celebrities began coming out and telling others about their sexual assault experiences. Beginning with scandals regarding Harvey Weinstein, his victims inspired other females in the industry to bring awareness to an issue that never received much attention until recently. They announced their allegations through the #MeToo movement, which reminds other women and victims of sexual harassment that they stand with others in the situation.

According to many actresses in Hollywood, sexual harassment comes up as an issue behind the scenes of movies they star in. Movie directors and actors, including James Franco, Matt Lauer, Woody Allen, and Kevin Spacey, all possess just over fifty allegations against them combined, according to USA Today.

"I feel like it's insane how many allegations have been made. I'm extremely happy these women have felt strong enough that they can talk about something like this, especially since the media can easily attack them about it," Alexis Wright ('21) said.

James Franco, although he denies it, gained an allegation of sexual harassment while on the set of one of his comedy movies The Disaster Artist. After winning

a Golden Globe for his work on the movie, actress Ally Sheedy went to Twitter, saying "James Franco just won. Please never ask me why I left the film business", implying she disagrees with the win due to allegations against him.

Actions take place to bring awareness to the large amount of women who came forward with sexual harassment stories. The 2018 Golden Globes helped

the issue gain more attention, due to the award show being such a large scale event. The theme of the show this year was #TimesUp,

which is a "unified call for change from women in entertainment everywhere" according to

timesupnow.com. Celebrities wore all black on the red carpet to shine light on the situation.

"I think that the attention brought at the Golden Globes was efficient, if people didn't know about people in Hollywood like Harvey Weinstein as they do now," Marilyn Patankar ('18) said.

As the years go on, women in Hollywood hope to make a difference through campaigns and social media presence in order to increase the amount of sexual harassment allegations in the entertainment industry.



Looking back at last year's hits

A recap of all the memorable events, binge worthy shows, and Billboard hits from 2017 as according to New York Times

MICHELLE CERVERA
STAFF REPORTER

The year 2017 brought adding new TV shows, chart topping albums, and critically acclaimed movies. According to Billboard's 'Best Songs of 2017,' Selena Gomez's "Bad Liar" took the number one spot on the charts for the year.

"The unlikelyness of 'Bad Liar' is a testament to the way in which always-evolving Gomez has matured her approach to pop. That said, the song wasn't

Gomez's biggest hit yet. 'Bad Liar' was the most interesting

and enjoyable song on top 40 radio this year," according to Billboard news.

"I think Selena was really emotional in her album. She never ceases to surprise me, I feel like her fans are growing with her as her music evolves, which

is something I really like seeing in an artist and their music," Maya

Patchin ('20) said.

As for TV, the second season of Stranger Things caused excitement to fans as the popular Netflix Original series has a huge

94% satisfaction rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

"Stranger Things is a really fantastic series, I was hooked the first season and was really excited when the second one came out. The story is really interesting I really love the aesthetic of the show and the story line," Sebastian Candelaria ('18) said.

In movies, the cinemas brought films such as the sequel Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle, released Dec. 20. Dana Chamberlin ('19), a fan of the series, compared the

sequel to its original.

"I really enjoyed the second Jumanji; I thought the cast worked well together and gave a comedic relief, rather than the first movie which was really intense. Overall I really enjoyed it; it's one of the best movies ever," Chamberlin said.

The best movies, TV and music of 2018 have yet to make the charts, and the hits of 2017 still reign.

"I think Selena was really emotional in her album. She never ceases to surprise me, I feel like her fans are growing with her as her music evolves."

Maya Patchin ('20)

Last minute DIY Valentine crafts

Instructions for DIY chocolate hearts and Valentine's cards that hide a secret message to give to loved ones in six easy steps

CAYLEIGH MAGHE
STAFF REPORTER



DIY CHOCOLATES

STEPS:

- 1 Place the heart cutouts on foil coated in oil
- 2 Melt half of a Hershey chocolate bar in the microwave until smooth
- 3 Slowly pour the chocolate into the heart cutouts until it's full
- 4 Take sprinkles and dust them across the chocolate while it's still wet
- 5 Place the hearts in the fridge for 2 hours
- 6 After cooling pop them out of the cutouts and enjoy!



Photos by Raleigh Illig

DIY CARD

STEPS:

- 1 Get your card stock and cut it 5x10 and fold it in half
- 2 Measure one inch on both sides with the open flap to the right
- 3 Draw a rectangle and cut it out on one side. Write your message in the opening so you can see through the cut area
- 4 Wrap a popsicle stick in paper and slide it in the card covering the message, glue half of the heart on the popsicle stick
- 5 Open the card and glue a piece of paper to the back of the popsicle stick to prevent it from popping out
- 6 Pull on the popsicle stick to make sure the heart moves and enjoy!

Reflecting on lasting memories

Couples shared the memories from their first dates, showing that the simplest dates can mean the world to one another

HAYLEY FLISS
STAFF REPORTER

As Valentine's Day approaches, couples reflect on their best first dates. For example, sophomore couple Justin Thompson ('20) and Lucky Duffy ('20) share how their connection has grown stronger since their first date. The basis of their "inside jokes" have stemmed from this first date experience.

"When we were in one of the department stores, [Justin] looked at a mirror and thought there was another person in the store that looked exactly like me. [To this day], we make jokes about that moment and how I have a twin

because he ran into a mirror." Duffy said.

Thompson continues to describe their first date as magical, and is willing to take Duffy on another date to the Citrus Park Mall.

"It was very magical because Lucky and I had this connection that was unbeatable. I would even have another date at the mall because there is so much to do like trying on random stuff, buying new clothes, messing around at Brookstone, and making the most of our day." Thompson said.

Duffy includes how the overall experience of her first date with Thompson as a couple was extraordinary.

"[What made our date so special] is that he gets amused by everything at the moment which

is why we had a good time [and since] we are both not that serious, we just made the best out of [our first date]." Duffy said.

In addition, Jordan Garcia ('18) and Sarah Shannon ('18) mention how one small conversation over breakfast sparked light into a new

relationship.

"Our first date is when we went to Christo's for breakfast, where it was very easy-going Jordan was easy to talk to, and we had such a strong bond. [From the beginning], I could tell we were going to have an unbreakable connection based on our conversations and I really loved his personality because it made me

"I could tell we were going to have an unbreakable connection based on our conversations and I really loved his personality."

Sarah Shannon ('18)

laugh. [At that moment], I knew I would fall for him," Shannon said.

Moreover, Garcia explains his favorite memory about their first date and how he felt their relationship would last.

"What I remember most is that I kept trying to push a date with her for the longest time, and she finally gave me a chance when she came back from Colorado. [The date] went really well and I had a feeling we would be together for a long time," Garcia said.

Whether it has been a few months to a few years, this Valentine's Day can bring back countless memories from couples' first dates.

What we should leave behind in 2017

Fashion and makeup trends that came about in 2017 leave many people with the opinion of keeping them in the past

AVERY PHILLION
STAFF REPORTER

As we said goodbye to 2017, we also said goodbye to the popular trends that grabbed a lot of people's attention.

Over the past year, every one different opinions became very clear, especially with the controversial events that occurred. With certain opinions also came hatred from people

who didn't agree.

"People need to stop getting so offended. I think we should all take time to understand that everyone has different views and we should leave the hatred out," Daniel Aguino (19) said.

"People need to stop getting so offended. I think we should all take time to understand that everyone has different views and we should leave the hatred out."

Daniel Aguino ('19)

2016. Although, now that 2017

Fashion trends were also a major part of 2017. Some were viewed as especially unique.

Crocs have been around for years, but made a big comeback in the end of

has passed, it seems as though some people think the Croc era is nearing its necessary end.

"Crocs need to stay in 2017 because they're so ugly, they're definitely not stylish, they look odd and weird on people, and honestly I see no point," Michael Sienna ('21) said.

The controversy was not only on the new fashion trends, but also the makeup trends.

Everyone has different shaped

eyebrows and styles them completely differently, but in 2017, the trend of the "wavy" brow came about.

"Wavy eyebrows are awful. It's not cute and does not need to continue into 2018," Elizabeth Ashley ('18) said.

Even though 2017 is in the past, the lasting impact those trends made will remain, making people cringe at the thought of some of those ideas.

What music are you listening to?

The use of headphones helps many students stay focused in school by listening to a variety of genres from rock to hip hop

RICHARD DALEY
STAFF REPORTER

Across campus, students wearing earbuds seems more common because of the impact of music on students. Students listen to music because it helps them do better in school.

"I wear earbuds because music relaxes me and makes me concentrate better. It helps me more in school. I think that people should use music as a way to help concentrate more when they are studying or learning in school," Gustavo

Maldonado ('19) said.

Students tend to listen to a certain genre of music when in school to make them work harder.

"Alternative rock helps me the most in school because it's relaxing and I can connect with it more. It makes me think of the happy times with my father and it makes me want to work harder to make him proud. So in a way alternative pushes me and makes me give it my all," Cameron Lambert ('18) said.

In school listening to music allows students to talk about

something and gives them something to relate about.

"Most students probably wear earbuds around school because

listening to music makes school more enjoyable, along with the fact that it is sort of addicting and music provides us with something to listen to or talk about while in school," Alec Bickler ('20) said.

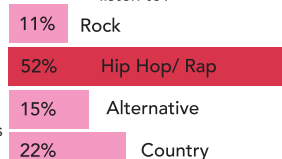
Music allows students to deal with their problems and earbuds allow them to do this in a healthy and portable way.

"I wear earbuds because it makes me feel free and like there is nothing holding me back. They are more hands free and easy to carry around. And since I was a kid my grandmother

was very close to me and she passed away but the thing my grandmother and I shared was music. So music makes me feel more connected with her. It also makes me forget anything bad that's going on in my life. I think everyone wears earbuds at school because it's an escape from all the drama that goes on. It helps them cope with things going on in their life," Lambert said.

Students wear earbuds because music helps them in various ways. The way students use music as a tool rather than a distraction shows impact of wearing earbuds on campus.

What is your *favorite* genre to listen to?



Wedding bells and familiar faces

Teachers and faculty share their old wedding memories for students to guess who is who, for answers see page 7



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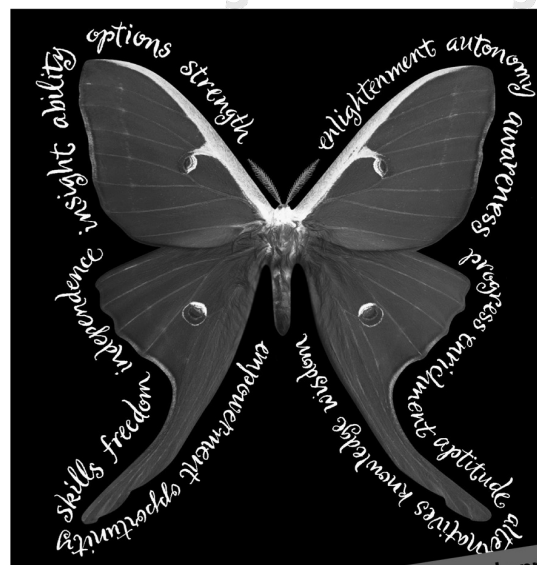
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All-State musicians *shine* in Tampa



On January 13th, Cece Duquette, Abby McNulty, and Emilie Pursel performed in the concert and symphonic bands at the 2017 All State Band competition at the Tampa Convention Center. Photo by Susan McNulty

Hard work paid off for these three students with their minds set on All-State

KAITLYN KLEIN
STAFF REPORTER

For months, student musicians across Florida practice every day for participation in the All-State Concert. The top tier of band members in Florida high schools are chosen to perform together, and this year three students from J.W. Mitchell, Abigail McNulty ('19), Emilie Pursel ('20), and Cecilia Duquette ('20), were chosen to perform with the best band students in

Florida.

McNulty, who has been playing percussion for five years, played with the All-State band last year as well. With prior first hand knowledge of how the event

works, McNulty still felt making it again was an incredible honor.

"When I was chosen I really couldn't believe it. Even though I made it last year, this year was so much more special because I was up against a whole bunch of new people who also auditioned, and they were juniors and seniors. It was a really special moment when my band director told me I made it again," McNulty said.

Pursel started playing the clarinet because its appearance and sound intrigued her. She practiced her instrument for five years before being selected for the All-State band.

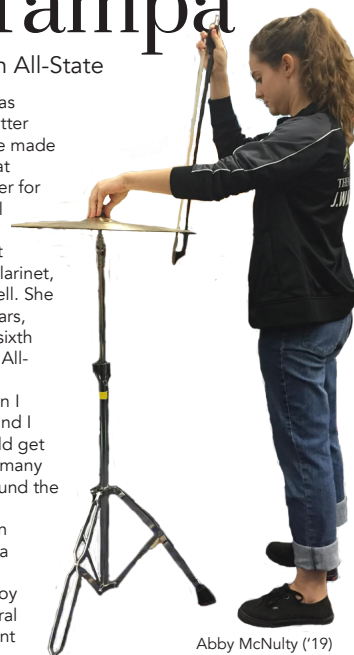
"It felt amazing to be chosen to play in the all state band. I was so grateful for the opportunity to play with very talented people from all over the state and to learn from them. Also, the music was a lot of fun to play. The best part is when you sit back and realize 'wow we really sound

good.' This experience was amazing and got even better when my best friend Cece made it too. It's definitely a great experience I will remember for the rest of my life," Pursel said.

Duquette chose clarinet because her mom plays clarinet, inspiring her to play as well. She played clarinet for five years, starting when she was in sixth grade, before joining the All-State band.

"I was so surprised when I found out that I made it and I was so excited that I would get to meet and play with so many amazing people from around the state," Duquette said.

The concert was held on January 13th at the Tampa Convention Center. Over 1,500 people went to enjoy the music, including several Mitchell students who went to support their friends.



Abby McNulty ('19)

Genetically *identical*

Identical and fraternal twins describe their experiences with a twin in high school and how they handle their likenesses and differences

MICHELLE CERVERA
STAFF REPORTER

On average 1 out of every 50 babies born are a twin. According to CNN in 2014 33.9 twins born for every 1000 births. On a world scale the percent of twins that make up the population surpassed 3 percent in 2001 and hit 3.3 percent in 2010. Twins are notorious for their identical looks and contrasting personalities.

Camden Dorsett ('21) has an identical twin sister that claims she doesn't like the confusion that sometimes arises from being a twin.

"That's what we are known for, people mix us up and it's really annoying. All through elementary and middle school we had the same teachers and they mixed us up a lot, they would just call us by our last names," Dorsett said.

Although at times twins feel like their sibling is a burden, Joseph Gillespie ('21) says that he likes being a twin, and describes the benefits of having one.

"There is always someone there for you, you always have a friend when you need it. Although at home we make a lot of stupid comments to each other we



Fraternal twins Joseph and Tommy Gillespie ('21), share what it's like to be a twin in high school. "People don't mix us up really. It's okay having my brother here cause we don't get in each others way so it's good," T. Gillespie said. Photo by Bailey Illig

bicker a lot. At school we are very competitive. We always like to see who gets the better grades, and if we have the same teacher we always like to see who likes us better," Gillespie said.

On the contrary his brother Thomas Gillespie ('21) thinks being twins comes with a lot of disagreement.

"We don't share a lot of things but the things that we do share

there is a lot of conflict over it. At home we are pretty mutual, we aren't really mean to each other. We are somewhat close, just like normal brothers nothing really special," Gillespie said.

Although being a twin may come with hardships and annoyances from each other and friends, the perk of having a life long friend outweighs them.

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Teacher Wedding Photo *Key* (pg5)

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| 3. Mrs. Illig | 7. Mrs. Mattos |
| 4. Mrs. Hinmon | 8. Mr. Goluba |

For more throwback wedding photos, visit our Twitter page @jwmhshb

10 steps to finding Love

Photo by Raleigh Illig

1 Always be *Polite*
"You probably won't end up with that person if you're not polite. Always open the door for them, always be nice and respectful to them. Guys should always pay on the first date, that's just how it works. Always be polite to her family because if you're not nice then it is not going to go well and everyone's going to end up hating you. For however long you are dating, always be polite no matter what."
Ben Davis ('18)

2 Show your *Personality*
"Showing your personality really brings out who you are and why you would want to go out with them and be with them. If you're acting fake and you aren't going to be yourself just so you can impress them, then that person isn't right for you. If someone doesn't like you for who you are then that's okay because there is someone else out there for you."
Isa Desiante ('21)

3 Always be *Honest*
"Well, being in a relationship of four years I have learned that it is key to be truthful and honest. In my opinion a relationship filled with lies will only break in the end. It is also very important to have communication, and being honest, no matter how much you love the person leads to strong communication."
Briana Hasley ('18)

4 Be *Yourself*
"You should be yourself because you want the person to see the real you. If you are fake to the person you aren't being yourself, which will hurt you in the long run. Someone should like you for you. If they don't then that saves you from a toxic relationship and one that won't last."
Jadia Hall ('20)

5 Find someone who *Values you*
"If that 'significant someone' makes it seem like all they want is sex, they are not the right person. Find the person that wants to know your favorite color, food, number, and movie. Make them prove to you they value you as the amazing person you are before making such a risky move."
Sengja Hobles ('20)

6 Be *Confident*
"So being confident is good because if you show that you are insecure about yourself then they are going to have reason to think that you are not as good as you actually are."
Lauren Wright ('19)

7 Use *Pick-up lines*
"Pick-up lines are an innocent and subtle way to show someone you like them. It helped me because the person I asked laughed, and being funny is a quick way to anyone's heart."
Devin Daniels ('19)

8 Show *Interest*
"The other person wants to see that you are engaged in the conversation and they want to see that you are interested and paying attention to what they talk about and what things they like."
Logan Sheu ('20)

9 Don't be *Shy*
"You should be bold when you're trying to get with someone because you want to make a strong and lasting impression."
Emmay Chofero ('20)

10 Don't *Stink*
"It's important to have good hygiene on the first date because you want the person to know that you are really trying hard to impress them."
Timmy Dorkowski ('18)

Hopeful for the future on the court

Basketball players on the JV boys' and girls' teams discuss future goals as they work towards making varsity

LEXI CLARK
EDITOR

JV boys' and girls' basketball serves as a gateway for young athletes to harness their skills and improve their game play before making varsity. JV consists of mainly underclassmen, freshmen and sophomores, and the athletes work hard toward their aspirations of being pulled up.

"I would like to make varsity next year so I can play for Coach St. Charles and all my friends. Also, I like competition and challenges and varsity would

bring that to the next level," Nicholas Fairbank ('21) said. In order to be noticed by the

varsity coach, JV athletes have to put in the work at practice and on their own time so that their skills transfer on to the court in games to showcase their talent.

"I feel that if I make smart decisions, good passes, and run the plays

correctly that really helps the coaches see who is good enough for varsity. If you're a JV player

and your game is at a varsity level that's something they notice," Isabella Wright ('21) said.

Varsity athletes, mostly juniors and seniors, have more experience under their belt in regards to the game along with the ins and outs of the team and how the coach usually tends

to run things. JV athletes use their relationship with the varsity players to their advantage to become acclimated before they achieve their goal of varsity to make the transition smoother.

"The relationship [between under and upperclassmen is] really good, and I [personally] have a great relationship with the guys that I played football with that also play basketball," Fairbank said.

Instead of dwelling on the fact that they didn't make varsity, JV athletes utilize their time on the team to improve their skills are learn more to become the

best athlete they can possibly be before moving up to varsity. This proves itself as an advantage because the athletes get more time to grow and gel into the program before they get pulled up, and it gives them more motivation to work harder than everyone else to earn their spot on varsity the following season. Although this season has ended for JV basketball, anyone interested in trying out is encouraged for next season.

"I feel that if I make smart decisions, good passes, and run the plays correctly that really helps the coaches see who is good enough for varsity."
Isabella Wright ('21)

Showing spirit for the Super Bowl

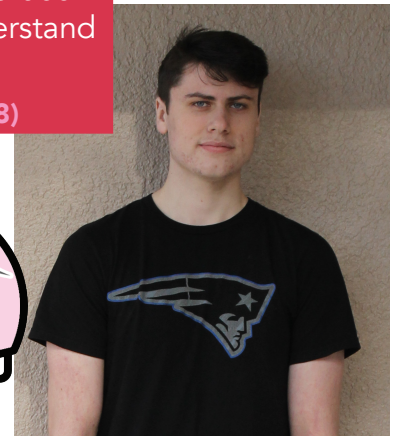
GIANNA KNOWLES
STAFF REPORTER

It's good to see a team like the *Eagles* that's gone through so much adversity get to the Super bowl

Chase Heckroth ('18)

I've been supporting the *Patriots* since I've been old enough to understand football

Braeton Deptula ('18)



Crossin' up on the competition

Girls' varsity basketball players prepare themselves mentally and physically for the regular season and upcoming playoff run

JOSH WAGNER
STAFF REPORTER

The girls' varsity basketball season began on November 29 of 2017 with a win against Wiregrass Ranch. The team is 13-8 overall as of Feb. 1, 2018.

They improve off of their playoff run from last year, when they lost in the first round of districts.

"The team has been good so far this season. We lost to some teams we should not have, but we are playing better than ever and can make a run in the playoffs if we continue playing

like we are right now," Selena Dinovo ('18).

The team is confident in their ability to make a playoff run, if everything goes right.

"As long as we make good passes and play together as a team, our team can make a good run in the playoffs. If we do that we can be unstoppable," Dinovo said.

Throughout the season, the girls work on many aspects of their game to make sure that they are prepared for anything.

"We need to improve on our passing, we need to also improve on slowing down the pace of

the game when we have a lead late in the game. At practice we do a lot of drills to improve on that," Katie Cox ('18) said.

At the end of the season, the team will have to say goodbye to the eight seniors that will be moving on.

"[Saying goodbye to the seniors we have on the team] is going to be hard, because I have been playing with them for a

whole year now, for the regular season and also the offseason.

"As long as we make good passes and play together as a team, our team can make a good run in the playoffs. If we do that we can be unstoppable."

Selena Dinovo ('18)

"My favorite memory playing with the team is hard because we have been playing with each other since seventh grade, but I

would have to say it was killing River Ridge by 41 points last year in our home gym. That was an amazing feeling, and we played really well as a team," Dinovo said.

Winning games is not the only part of playing for the team that the girls will miss.

"[My favorite memory was] just enjoying my teammates, and enjoying my last year with them. This is our seventh year together for most of us," Catie Whitehead ('18) said.

Lift, wrestle and cheer like a girl



Hailey Sidders ('19)
Received 9th place at states in the 110 lb. weight class, and is the second girl in school history to make top 10 at states

Maria Zalivaka ('19)
Received 9th place at states for girls wrestling



J.W. Mitchell Varsity Competitive Cheer
Received third place at States, moving onto Nationals on Feb. 11

Pinning the detours for success

Wrestlers this year continue hard work despite the difficulties that come throughout the season

JOSH WAGNER
STAFF REPORTER

The wrestling team is amid another season, and the last season for some of them.

Seniors on the team enjoy their final season competing in wrestling meets for high school.

"My focus this year was to have fun. Just being part of a great team, having fun and enjoying my last year of this sport," Bruno Colon ('18) said.

Despite the looming end to his high school career, Colon still looks forward to the playoffs.

"I want to make it to regionals again this year like I did last year. It is a really fun experience," Colon said.

First year wrestlers like Braxton Lavigne ('20) share what motivated them to join the sport.

"What made me want to do wrestling is that anybody can do it. You can be small, large, wide and still do wrestling since you are up against someone the same weight as you," Lavigne said.

Wrestlers need to constantly work on many aspects of the sport to ready themselves for the mat.

"I need to improve on a lot of things, but the main thing I want to work on is my defense and endurance."

I practice sprawls and other defensive moves in practice and run a lot to work on my endurance," Lavigne said.

Improving for aspects for on the mat is not the only obstacle that wrestlers face throughout the season.

"[A challenge I had to

overcome this year was that] maintaining my weight has been

hard this year, but I think I have finally got the hang of it and I am back on track," Colon said.

Underclassmen and first year wrestlers look to many veterans and returning members for

advice and help on how to get better and achieve their goals.

My focus this year was to have fun. Just being part of a great team, having fun and enjoying my last year of this sport.

Bruno Colon ('18)

"Everybody in the wrestling room is kind of like a mentor to me, since you can learn a lot from everybody, but the person who helped me a lot in my first weeks of practice was Matt Mitchell," Lavigne said.

The many challenges that the team has to wrestle throughout the season, from rookie struggles to maintaining weight, can be pinned down through hard work and dedication.

Leaving it all on the basketball court

The boys' varsity basketball team preps for another district championship

CHRIS WILSON
STAFF REPORTER

At the start of this season coming off of a district championship win against Land O' Lakes by a score of 44-42, the boys' varsity basketball team trains and works to be able to bring another district championship home to the school.

"We have had a few tough games this season, going along with a very tough schedule this year, and it hurt us a little bit but I think we will bring another [district championship] home," Brandon Tang ('18) said.

The team's record as of January 29th is 9-10, but even though they have more losses than wins,

the team still works hard to get the job done.

"Our record does not reflect our work on and off the court at all. We work hard every day but we have the toughest schedule out of any other team around here, and we have competed in every game even when we have played some of the top teams in the Tampa area," Rocco Black ('20) said.

After having four seniors graduate and last year's starting center Alec Sherman transferring to Ridgewood, new players have had to step up and fill in roles as well as returners stepping into leadership roles.

"JP, Rob Magnuson and I have stepped up as leaders of the team this season after having

the seniors leave, but with Alec transferring we have been doing just fine. Yes, he was a big factor on our team and a game changer but other players have stepped up to fill in his role.

He is probably one of the best players in Pasco, we all know that but we don't dwell on it, what's happened has happened and we are a good team with or without him," Jordan Frontera ('18) said.

With the season wrapping up, as the seniors graduate the underclassmen fill in the roles on next year's team and are needed to show what they can bring to the team this year so they can fulfill the roles left behind by this year's seniors.



J.P. Watt ('18) pulls up for a shot during the 2nd quarter of the game against Fivay High school. The boys ended up losing the game 67-66 but score does not reflect the boys hard work on the court. Photo by Chris Wilson

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The *new coaches* in Mitchell's corral

Profiles on the four head varsity coaches new to JW Mitchell this year, their high school and collegiate backgrounds, and opinions of them from their athletes

LEXI CLARK
EDITOR

Howard Chittum

BASEBALL

Coach Chittum played baseball at Ridgewood High School and had the "Howard Chittum Coaches Award" named after him. He played at Lake City Community College before transferring to Martin Methodist College. He was an Associate Scout for the Cincinnati Reds for 5 years and was the assistant baseball coach at Ridgewood for 17 years. "He's a great coach with prior experience at another school. He's exactly what we needed for the program," Sebastian Zieba ('19) said.



Linsey Hoskins

GIRLS' LACROSSE

Coach Linsey played tennis for Mitchell HS, earning an All-Conference distinction before moving on to play Division II college lacrosse at Saint Leo University for 3 years, igniting the program and being one of the first players in the school's history as a sophomore. "It's nice to have a coach who can relate to us from experience and she knows how to work us," Taylor Fox ('18) said.



Jennifer Mitchell

CHEERLEADING

Coach Mitchell was a 3 year varsity cheerleader in high school in Ohio, earning squad captain her senior year and being an NCA All-American all 3 years. Her coaching background is extensive, with experience at Bryan Stanton High School, Tates Creek High School, AmeriCheer, and Xcel 360, where she serves as cheer director. "Coach Jen is so dedicated to our team and loves us all so much. She is always making sure we feel confident. She is so encouraging and I know I can talk to her about anything. I'm so happy she was my coach for my senior year," Brie Chamberlin ('18) said.

Ethan Quinlan

BOYS' LACROSSE

Coach Quinlan played club lacrosse for five years and graduated high school in New York. He moved on to play college lacrosse as an attack at the Division III level his freshman year at Emmanuel College and his sophomore year at College at Brockport. He then transferred to Division I University at Albany for his junior and senior years. "Coach Quinlan is cool because he's young and he can relate to us," Garrett Hobbs ('18) said.



And let the March Madness begin

Monday: 3/12

Color Day: 9-Pink, 10-Yellow,
11- Red, 12- Blue

Activity: FBLA Talent Show



Tuesday: 3/13

Twin Day
Activity: Class of 2021



Wednesday: 3/14

Generations Day:
9- Kindergartners, 10- College
Students, 11- Stereotypical
Parents 12- Senior Citizens
Activity: Battle of the Sexes
Volleyball Tournament



Thursday: 3/15

College Day
Activity: FCA Dance Off Competition



It's not really a small world after all

Allison Kaelin ('18) describes her past experiences at some of the other Walt Disney Parks found around the world

ALYSSA MAGILLIGAN
STAFF REPORTER

The creation of the iconic Mickey Mouse in 1928 inspired Walt Disney to shape his imagination into one of the most successful monopolies of all time. After the opening of Disney land Resort in Anaheim, California in 1955, Disney's dreams took flight. Since 1955, six different Disney parks opened for people around the world to visit and enjoy.

The six parks are located

in the United States, France, Japan, and China. Allison Kaelin ('18) visited four separate parks last year, including the ones in Orlando, California, Paris, and Tokyo.

"Out of the ones I have been to, my favorite was Disney land Paris because of the similar feature to the Magic Kingdom in Orlando," Kaelin said.

Each park possesses different qualities unique to the country it resides in. The Hong Kong, Shanghai, Paris, and Tokyo Disney land resorts all contain

special touches that reflect the country's culture. Doing this

allows tourists to experience a different way of life and brings in more visitors as well.

"In Tokyo, the food is [different because] they did not have your basic burger and fries like Disney parks here do. They had sushi and fish

and other traditional Japanese foods," Kaelin said.

Out of the ones I have been to, my favorite was Disneyland Paris because of the similar feature to the Magic Kingdom in Orlando

Allison Kaelin ('18)

A major concern about taking a trip to a foreign country to go to Disney is the price. A ticket in Orlando can cost up to \$110 per person, but experiencing Disney's interpretation of a different country's culture proves to be worth it.

"I like exploring new places and I wanted to visit all the Disney parks. Being around a new culture is an adventure in itself, and since I went to four parks last year I want to go to the last two so I can say I've been to all of them," Kaelin said.

As the Walt Disney company gains popularity, more students plan trips to go visit the parks. With more options other than Walt Disney World resort in Orlando, opportunities to learn more about other cultures become available.

Making memories at *Winter Formal*

"It was really fun. I enjoyed going with my friends and being able to spend the night with them. even though there wasn't as many people as homecoming it was still a lot of fun," McKensie Myers ('20) said.



Photos by Gigante Productions



"I was looking at that suit and just thought it looked really sexy on me to be honest. Winter formal was pretty awesome, I loved it and thought it was cool. I went with a large group of my friends and we all had a good time, it was great," Tyler Suarez ('20) said.

"I had such a great time with my friends. The DJ was better than homecoming in my opinion. I recommend that more people go next time because even if you don't show up with a group of friends you'll end up having a blast with everyone around you," Kassandra Hernandez ('20) said.

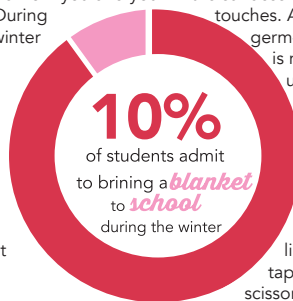


Blankets are not the new jackets

A staff editorial discussing the negative effects that bringing a blanket to school instead of a jacket, can have on your health

As the cold weather continues, leave your blankets at home where they belong. Any blanket can hold bacteria and if it sat long enough, it could form an actual disease proved by Thomas Brown, who worked on the experiment, Did the U.S. Army Distribute Smallpox to Indians? Fabrication in Ward Churchill's Genocide Rhetoric. During the experiment the U.S. Army distributed blankets to the Native Americans that were contaminated by smallpox. Once they started to use the blankets, the bacteria transferred to them, giving them all smallpox.

Blankets absorb skin cells and other bacteria from you and your home. During the "cold" winter in Florida, about 10% of Mitchell's students that participated in the Twitter poll said they brought a blanket to school. Fortunately, 90% of students recognize the risk of



catching a sickness from all the surfaces that the blanket touches. Avoiding these germ-causing sicknesses is nearly impossible unless you leave that fluffy blanket at home. Although custodians clean the floors and desks at the school, they do not clean things like staplers, books, tape dispensers and scissors. Everything that you touch transfers onto your blanket, and the germs that

your blanket touches transfer to you. Any sickness that floats around school could force its way through your immune system faster than the blink of an eye.

As students go to each class, their blankets also tend to drag on the ground, adding to the number of germs on the blanket.

In a school, there are about 2,000 to 15,000 germs, depending on the location and use of a specific item according to Romper.com. During one of your many classes, you may start to feel parched, so you go to the water fountain with your blanket over shoulders. Touching that

water fountain transfers about 2,335 more germs onto you then without a blanket, according to research by Robert Donofrio for ABC News.

You may be reading this and thinking, "who cares?" Well the one system you have to fight sickness is your immune system, and if it is constantly fighting off germs it is going to get tired out. Thousands of germs living in the school are waiting for you to be their organism to invade. Just stop bringing blankets to school so that we do not spread more sicknesses and are able create healthier high school.

Man on the Street

What is your number one wish on your bucket list?



“My number one wish on my bucket list would be to travel the world to places like Hawaii and Paris because it would be interesting to see other places.”
Danielle Galoto ('21)



“I have always wanted to become a major league baseball player.”
Brody Sweigart ('20)



“My number one wish on my bucket list is to go skydiving with my dad because it's something we've always dreamed of doing together since I was young.”
Courtney Kaelin ('21)



“My number one wish on my bucket list is to pursue my dream of joining the military.”
Devin Chapman ('19)



“My number one wish on my bucket list would be to go bungee jumping because it would be fun and give me an adrenaline rush.”
Mallory Coleman ('18)

Photos by Hayley Ellis

Hard to stay neutral about the net

Student's opinions about the fiery debate on whether or not we should keep net neutrality in place for our country

RICHARD DALEY
STAFF REPORTER

American citizens continue to fight for net neutrality in the hopes that Americans might access a free internet, without the threat of internet service providers (ISPs) abusing their authority. Students that believe net neutrality should not be repealed see it as an important principle that protects the rights of American citizens.

"I believe net neutrality is important because it allows for the equal treatment of all data going in and out of the country

or from anywhere in the country. It is important because it allows equal opportunity for everyone using the internet. This could be competing websites, people wanting to create their own website, or people wanting to share their beliefs," Jeffrey Divincent ('19) said.

People who support net neutrality fear that if it gets repealed the internet will no longer be the same, due to internet service providers not having these restrictions.

"I think the ulterior motive is just profit because ISPs benefit from it because they can treat some people differently whether

it is to push their own services, like if a company like Comcast

wanted to post Hulu over Netflix or even something as the extremist news reports it as completely shutting out websites they disagree with. Do I think it will happen? No, I think it will be too sudden and be a risk for ISPs but the point is there's nothing

really stopping them. With net neutrality gone they can do

whatever they want," Divincent said.

On the other hand, students who agree with the net neutrality repeal think not much will change and that it will help Americans.

"Honestly we didn't have net neutrality until recently and repealing net neutrality is not going to destroy the internet or

jack up prices at all, it's just going to be a small change. I don't think these large companies will be raising prices immensely to use certain websites, and even then you still could see benefits by that. If they were to create specialized plans, which I don't see happening, that could benefit people rather than hurting them," Brian Horsburgh ('18) said.

Net neutrality holds an important place in the United States. It causes a debate as to whether Americans need rules to protect the internet, or if internet service providers are trusted to not abuse the rights of citizens.

“I believe net neutrality is important because it allows for the equal treatment of all data going in and out of the country or from anywhere in the country.”
Jeffrey Divincent ('19)

MAX TRETTIN
EDITOR

On January 9, parents who live in Pasco County voiced objections about the popular Valentine's Day matchmaker, Matchomatics. The Class of 2020 used the matchmaker this year to raise money for Prom. The uproar began in a Facebook chat group for people who live in Trinity and surrounding areas. Although many parents stated their views that the matchmaker is all for fun, the popular fundraiser actually violates the students' right to privacy. The question on sexual orientation concerned Katie Ross Beckett, leading her to create the post.

"That alone is over the line in my mind," Beckett wrote, while talking about the gender preference question from the survey.

A similar controversy over Matchomatics arose at Enka High School in Candler, North Carolina in February 2015 when the same survey was distributed to the student body. The survey became a concern among parents when the matchmaker asked a revealing question on sexual

orientation.

"These are your student leaders that are instigating these projects, and I really hate it's come to this. I don't want them to feel bad about something they had good intentions with," Laura Roberts, adviser of the Junior Civitan Club at the high school, said to the Citizen Times.

Deb Herbage, a mother who does not have children at Mitchell but often speaks out on county issues, expressed concern that some of the questions were intrusive and inappropriate.

"They can't ask questions like that. If they do, they have to most

definitely get parental permission," Herbage said, as quoted in the Tampa Bay Times.

Herbage also pointed out the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (1978), that was enacted to protect the rights of parents and students to ensure that schools make instructional materials available for parents and to ensure that schools obtain written parental consent before minor students are required to participate in any ED-funded survey, as explained by the U.S. Department of Education. As parental consent was not provided, one parent was concerned with this distribution of the survey.

"I learned today that [our daughter] was prompted to participate in a survey which asked deeply personal and, in our opinion, inappropriate questions," Jim Stanley wrote to Ms. Jessica Schultz (FAC) in an email.

Another reason to create the post, Beckett explained, was to protect the privacy of the students, as the same survey was distributed in Minnesota's Minnetonka county in early 2015, which led to a data breach.

"This survey looks like fun, but

all that data can easily be 'lifted' by unaccountable third parties," Anne Taylor said while writing for the

Minnesota Advocates and Champions for Children, an advocacy news website based in Minnesota.

Before the end of the school day, teachers and staff in Pasco County were told to immediately bring remaining surveys to the front office to be disposed of because Superintendent Kurt Browning was unaware of the actions promoted by students and staff as fundraisers.

"It's inappropriate and should not be done," Browning said, according to the Tampa Bay Times.

Although the Class of 2020 matchmaking fundraiser meant to be all in good fun, the debate raged between parents and several students on whether or not the matchmaker violated the students' privacy. The Matchomatics fundraiser crossed the line, and there are better ways to raise money.

Alone for Valentine's Day

"Matchomatics" fundraiser
shut down after Pasco
parents bring
controversy to
Facebook

KRISTINA JAUTZE
EDITOR

Mitchell has been under attack in the local newspaper due to some recent matchmaker surveys that went out to students during RANCH periods. These surveys are annually conducted around Valentine's Day as a fundraiser for the class of 2020. The optional surveys asked a series of questions relating to the likes and interests of individual students who chose to take the survey. They were set up as a fun activity to create friendships and help to build community within the school. The results of the survey provided information as to which students are compatible with one another based on their personality and traits. It costs two dollars to obtain the results to the survey, the money that

was raised was given to the class of 2020. These surveys also asked questions including "who do you like?", "what is your hair color?", "what hair color do you like on others?", or "what is your gender?" Many parents and guardians found these questions to be very personal and much too inappropriate for students to answer without a parent's supervision. Some were even irritated with the survey.

"I think parents who were upset about the survey overreacted and caused a fuss before they even knew all the facts about how the survey was distributed and what was on it," Mackenzie Fuhrman ('18) said.

However, many students and

parents argued that people overreacted to the surveys and proposed that the surveys contained only fun and really were not to be taken so seriously.

"I believe parents overreacted by saying they were intrusive, they were optional, no one was forcing you to take them," Jillian Peters ('18) said. Peters has done her own surveys in the past for her studies for her AP Capstone class, where students are required to compose and conduct a survey for a research paper.

"I think it is important that surveys are welcomed in academic environments," Peters said, taking into consideration the positive effects of her own

surveys.

The matchmaker surveys have been going on for a few years consecutively. Not once has a parent complained about the survey before this year.

"To be honest I don't think the match maker has ever been a problem before and I don't see why it should be now," Peters said.

These surveys are not intended to be a deceptive, malicious, ill-minded tactic used to get inside students' personal lives. Many students chose to not fill out the surveys; this was a perfectly acceptable response to the survey because filling them out was optional. Many students fill out the surveys as a joke using fake names and fake

answers.

Towards the end of the school day as tensions rose, superintendent Kurt Browning ordered the surveys to be stopped and for all of the results to be shredded and no data to be entered. Browning also suggested that the students find a different, more suitable method of raising money without using these personal surveys. Some parents and guardians did not accept this as a misunderstanding and many people were not satisfied with this conclusion.

Overall, parents should not be overreacting about this situation at a high school level.

What hair color
do you prefer on
others?

What gender
are you more
attracted to?

What do you
look for first in
others?