

HB

the hoofbeat

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

Issue 2 Volume 16



***Kaylee Dechelbor ('19)
demonstrates school
spirit through festive
Halloween makeup.
(page 4)***

Photo by Avery Phillion

A look inside Issue two

See page 11

See page 9

See page 5

News (pg. 3)

..... Will drum for money

..... It has nothing to do with babies

..... From teaching math to fixing lives

Lifestyles (pg. 4)

..... That's what makes you bootiful

..... Spook-it-yourself

..... A terrifying tale of family torment

..... Shady, sketchy, and framed

..... Return to the Halloween towns

..... So many pumpkins, which do I pick?

Feature (pg. 7)

..... New year, new orchestra

..... Colorgaurd evolution

Center Spread (pg. 8)

..... All around the world homecoming

Sports (pg. 10)

..... Gettin' in the groove

..... Thinking pink out on the court

..... Tee'd up toward the goal of states

..... Helpful tips before joining a sport

..... Football triumphs over Berkeley Prep

..... The green team is the dream team

..... Die hard fans support hometown heroes

Entertainment (pg. 14)

..... Gamers look ahead to new favorites

..... Man on the Street

..... Spooky, scary Halloween throwbacks

Opinions (pg. 15)

..... Dear teachers, give us our weekends

..... Students left hungry in sixth lunch

..... How old is too old to trick or treat?

Back Page (pg. 16)

..... Take a knee for the land of the free v. Take a stand to defend our land

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. Send to: thehoofbeatnews@gmail.com

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Staffer Feature



Photo by Avery Phillion

STAFFER: Avery Phillion

GRADE: 11

DESCRIPTION: Phillion does Homecoming makeup for students in early October to get them ready for one of the biggest nights of the year.

Will drum for money

The Marching Band and Colorguard collect money for their trip to Chicago

RICHARD DALEY
STAFF REPORTER

Band students continue to raise money for their trip to Chicago to perform in the 63rd Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. A popular method for students trying to raise money involves their musical capabilities and the generosity of convenience store shoppers.

"Basically what people do is they go out with their instruments and play music, or if they're in Colorguard they bring their flags and do routines while collecting money. The people who participate get their share

of the money after the fact," Connor Sherman ('19) said.

Sponsorship letters also contribute significantly towards raising money for the students' trip.

"I am trying to do sponsorships between my family members and my parents' friends. I think the sponsorships are very effective because it gives people options for how much money they want to donate and people who want to donate can specify an amount that they feel comfortable giving," Sreten Dedic ('18) said.

Also, the Yankee Candle fundraiser provides students with yet another profitable form of

raising money.

"The Yankee Candle fundraiser is a way to earn money in late September and October for our upcoming band trip. We are given a package with a scratch and sniff magazine and order forms. The magazines show everything from candles to wall plug-ins. The fundraiser has been very effective towards reaching my goal because my family and friends really like candles. Also, unlike any other school related fundraisers, Yankee Candles are popular and receive more revenue per item," Emily Pursel ('20) said.

Band students trying to go on



Band students (from left to right) Riley Smith ('20), McKenzie Morin ('18), and Bella Cortier ('20) play music on buckets as they collect money for the annual Marching Band and Colorguard bucket collection outside of Sam's Club on Saturday, Sept. 14, 2017. "While playing music or doing routines, we have buckets out so people can make donations," Connor Sherman ('19) said. Photo by Richard Daley

the trip to Chicago use various methods to raise money towards their trip. This experience and

the work students put into it will stick with them as they become aspiring musicians.

It has nothing to do with babies

Thespian Troupe #6272 prepare for weeks to perform the Neo-Futurist play, "Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind"

MICHELLE CERVERA
STAFF REPORTER

This fall, Thespian Troupe #6272 recreated a play written by Greg Allen called "Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind." This year, the price of a ticket is determined at the door: the audience would roll a die and the number that it lands on is the amount the ticket costs, ranging from \$1.00 to \$6.00. The Neo-Futurist play consists of 30 performances in under an hour.

The cast rehearsed every day for more than a month before the first performance. As the stage manager, Carolina Madriz ('18) put together a report for every rehearsal so the cast knew what exactly happened each day.

"It's important to record [rehearsals] because we don't really know what scene will happen next. That's the audience's part. So whatever scene the audience calls out next is the one we will have to do. It's a challenge for me because we

have to be perfect about transitioning," Madriz said.

The play is dependent upon the audience's participation, and has proved to be a hit. Around ten years ago when drama director, Mr. David O'Hara (FAC), performed



the play with Blake High School's (Tampa, Fla.) Magnet program.

This year, it was determined to bring it back due to promising new Thespians he had encountered the previous year with the act "Bring It On".

"Unlike other shows

where it's telling a story for an hour, hour and a half, or two hours, we are telling thirty stories in about an hour. The upside to that is the idea that they are actually playing themselves not characters," O'Hara said.

Catch a performance of "Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind" on October 26 through Sunday October 29 at the Center for the Arts at River Ridge (11646 Town Center Road) in New Port Richey, Fla.

From teaching math to fixing lives

Mr. Lee temporarily resigns from teaching as need for relief in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands arise

CHRIS WILSON
STAFF REPORTER

When Hurricane Irma's destructive path hit the Caribbean Islands and the United States, millions of American citizens lost power. With over a month since the hurricane, thousands of Puerto Ricans are still without power or running water. Mr. James Lee (FAC), an Algebra and Geometry teacher, and member of the United States Coast Guard, was called to action as needs in Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands arose. He will be stationed in various places in Puerto Rico and St. Croix until November 23, providing the people of Puerto Rico with food,

and water as well as helping the island get back on its feet. While he is away, there will be a substitute teacher put in place of him to make sure the students keep learning this year, and so that they do not fall behind.

"My current job is to inspect all of the USCG regulated waterfront facilities, including their power plant. These are crucial for maritime commerce. There is currently no power (except by generator) and limited cell service, which is hard since I rely heavily on the internet. St. Croix is a beautiful island with very friendly people. I'm very honored to get the opportunity to help them get back on their feet," Lee said.

As students come to class every day they await the return

of Mr. Lee so they may resume normal class and learning with their teacher.

"It's really sad that we don't have a really good math teacher now. [Our substitute], Mrs. Herdell, is trying her hardest but we only had Mr. Lee for a month so it's hard to not have a real teacher that can go more in depth with the different subjects in the class," Meghan Davison ('20) said.

As the school year continues, the students continue to learn and push forward with the substitute, even though they can not go intense and in depth as they would with an actual teacher. As the days get closer and closer everyone awaits the return of Mr. Lee back to school and to teaching.



Mr. Lee poses in front of the damages caused by Hurricane Irma in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. "St. Croix is a beautiful island with very friendly people. I'm very honored to get the opportunity to help them get back on their feet," Mr. Lee said. Photo provided by Mr. James Lee (FAC)

That's what makes you *bootiful*



Photo provided by Hannah Farrell ('18)

1

Products:

Eyes: Colourpop Super Shock Shadow in Central Perk, Anastasia Beverly Hills Modern Renaissance Red Ochre, Nyx Soft Matte Lip Creme in Monte Carlo or Copenhagen, Nyx Face and Body Glitter (in #06), any other face glitter
Lips: Burt's Bees Lip Crayon in Napa Vineyard, and Colourpop Ultra Matte Liquid Lip in Friday

Steps:

1. Prime your eyelid & tape the outer corner of your eye for a sharp crease edge
2. Apply the Central Perk shade with a soft brush to crease & evenly blend. Reapply w/ Red Ochre.
3. Apply Red Ochre to bottom lash line
4. Draw out blood droplets with the Nyx Matte Lip Creme in red shade. Apply glitter.
5. Apply too faced glitter primer to lid & tap Nyx silver glitter to lid until evenly covered
6. Draw a line w/ primer on crease & repeat step 4 with red glitter
7. Apply Napa Vineyard by to the center of lips & blend outward. Repeat w/ Friday by Colourpop

Products:

Look Latex, Flowing Fake Blood, Scab Blood, Face Paints, Spirit Gum, Tartiest Pro Eyeshadow Palette, any foundation, any face powder, and toilet paper

Steps:

1. Glue a thin layer of toilet paper on your face with spirit gum
2. Layer liquid latex and toilet paper on top of each other until there is a thick layer of the two
3. Pull apart the latex and toilet paper to create the cut
4. Apply foundation and powder over the cut
5. After the foundation is set, paint your skin and use eyeshadow to add depth and shading to the cut
6. Apply fake blood

2



Photo provided by Reighan Ussey ('20)

Spook - it - yourself

DIY costumes gain popularity among students due to cheap expense

KRISTINA JAUTZE
EDITOR

Spooky costumes and decorations are back as Halloween rounds the corner. Halloween DIY's substantially grow in popularity because they exist as a cheaper alternative to store bought costumes.

"Halloween costumes at the store are over priced a lot, but if you do it yourself, you can just use materials from your house to make your own," Madison Pagan ('20) said.

Around this holiday, people already enjoy DIY's such as pumpkin carving or painting and doing scary makeup. The

fun aspect of making your own costume and decorations keeps the activity alive.

"It is more fun to make DIY costumes because you can personalize them however you want. You can control what you are going to make and you can be unique with it," Madi Williams ('19) said.

Although "do it yourself" costumes obtain more prevalence, people still continue to buy their get-up in stores due to convenience.

"People buy more costumes in store because Americans are lazy and do not have time to just make a costume. They want it right then and there without any

time or actual effort," Landon Sidders ('21) said.

Students bear prior experience with making their own costumes. They do not obtain enough time to follow through with DIY's like they fulfilled at a younger age. However, they still recall past costumes and reminisce.

"My cousin did a voodoo doll costume where she got material to make it look like a paper bag dress. It had a heart with stitches in it and then stitches along the sides of her stomach," Pagan said.

DIY costumes always contain a different look and flourish each year they are created.



Madi Williams and her brother pose on halloween with a successfully spooky DIY costume. Photo provided by Madi Williams ('19)

A terrifying tale of family torment

After the death of his sister Laura, a young boy moves to a new house where he starts to experience painful nightmares

KAITLYN KLEIN
STAFF REPORTER

It all began when we moved here. My big sister Laura was killed in a car crash a couple months back, and my parents decided to move somewhere new. I felt like they were too anxious to get away, and that they weren't giving Laura her proper treatment. I knew Laura would agree with me, especially since I was about to

start 7th grade.

Our new house was creepy; it was too big for the three of us, leaving an eerie silence anywhere you were. I started getting headaches every day after the move.

A few weeks after the move, I sat up in my bed and opened my bedside cabinet, searching through it until I found Laura's bracelet. I rubbed the little cage again and hid it back in my drawer, before going to switch

my light off.

When I woke up I checked my little clock on the cabinet and saw a glowing 12 staring at me unblinking. I felt another headache begin, this one more painful than the last, leaving me gasping as I curled up into a ball on my bed.

A small clink brought my attention to my wrist, where Laura's bracelet was clasped around it. I frowned; I'm sure that I put it back in my cabinet.

I walked down the hall to my parents bedroom, my right left hand traced the wall carefully. I took a step outside my parents' room and the felt damp beneath my bare foot. I looked to my feet and saw that the carpet outside my parents room had gone dark, but by what, I couldn't tell. I looked up through my parents' open doorway and saw a figure, a girl, standing by their bed. She looked up at me and I gasped. "Laura?"

"Hi, Jimmy," she responded.

"Last night, Mr. and Mrs. Murphy were found dead in their home in what looks like the most gruesome murder we've seen in a decade. Their son James, has been reported as missing. The police say there appears to be no forced entry in the home. If you have any information of the boys' location, please contact authorities. David Hopkins, FNN News."

Shady, sketchy, and framed

Art class plays a significant role in these students' lives by inspiring and influencing their everyday activities

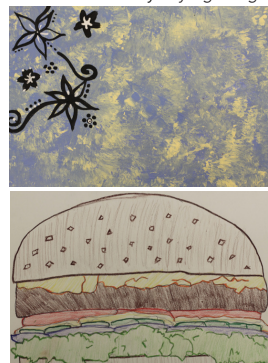
CAYLEIGH MAGHE
STAFF REPORTER

Artwork takes ideas from one person and brings inspiration to another. Cali Burkart ('18) expresses her dreams through her artwork. From Burkart's own personal experience, art has helped her deal with stress and understand things a bit better. "I have never successfully taken notes without a little doodle to the side. You can give me one million ideas to draw, but if you told me to draw the same exact one twice I'd call you crazy," Cali said. When Andrew Sidorov ('20) is away from his art class and

projects, he is eager to get back to work. Art allows him to express himself and in addition to painting, Sidorov expresses himself through creative writing. "When I get older I want to write books. I want to be able to paint out a picture with words," Sidorov said. Kehaulani Evans ('20) believes art can be beneficial. It allows her to destress and express her feelings. Sharing feelings with someone that has the same issue can act as a stress reliever for the artist and the person examining the art. "Art isn't just painting, it can be considered photography, singing, playing an instrument, or

even writing," Evans said. Art club students host meetings in Ms. Donna Fulton (FAC)'s room, 333, on Mondays after school from 3 to 4 p.m. Currently, students are creating art for a mental health organization hosting a competition for artwork for their offices. The club also provides an opportunity for students that want to do art but don't take an art class. "The students get to feed off of each other and get ideas from each other, which I think is a really good thing when you're an artist. It's good to bounce your ideas off of each other," Ms. Fulton said.

Art pieces clockwise from left: Kehaulani Evans, Cali Burkart, Kehaulani Evans, Andrew Sidorov. Photos by Cayleigh Maghe



Return to the Halloween towns

Howl-O-Scream, Halloween Horror Nights, and Scream-A-Geddon serve as popular attractions during the Halloween season

ALYSSA MAGILLIGAN
STAFF REPORTER

Every fall season, students search for events to attend to get in the Halloween spirit. Popular attractions include haunted houses to walk through in order to receive a good scare. Places like Busch Gardens, Universal, and Dade City provide the scariest houses in the Tampa Bay area, according to the Tampa Bay Times. Howl-O-Scream, Halloween Horror Nights, and Scream-A-Geddon offer different themed houses for thrill-seekers of all kinds. Annually, Busch Gardens decks out certain areas of the park

with houses and scare zones. Howl-O-Scream often changes the theme of their haunted houses, with a couple of the themes this year being Demented Dimensions and Undead Arena. Howl-O-Scream never fails to be a favorite amongst students every year. "I'm going to Howl-O-Scream this year and I am excited for it because I'm expecting different haunted houses and scare zones

than previous years," Trevor Fortney ('18) said.

"I got cornered last year and had to be saved by a friend, so I recommend Scream-A-Geddon. Lydia Dubeau ('18)"

A much cheaper option that recently gained popularity among students takes place in Dade City. Scream-A-Geddon features six different haunted pathways. Themes of these houses remain the same each year, but the scares change so everyone gets a new experience. Scream-A-Geddon

implemented a new pathway titled Infected: Ground Zero, where guests age eighteen and older are able to be pulled away from their groups. "My favorite part is the infected house. I got cornered last year and had to be saved by a friend, so I recommend Scream-A-Geddon. I mean, it's clearly not as high profile, but for the price it's totally worth it," Lydia Dubeau ('18) said. Universal Studios in Orlando possesses an "alter ego" of their theme park during the Halloween season as well. Halloween Horror Nights offers guests a variety of houses that reflect popular horror movies and TV shows such as

American Horror Story, Insidious, The Purge, and more. "My favorite parts are the scare zones, because the people would scare by actually chasing and following you. I've never been to Howl-O-Scream or Scream-A-Geddon, but from what I've heard, Halloween Horror Nights is scarier than those two," Jaida Hall ('20) said. Horror theme parks gained popularity over the past several years. Every year, students search to find different haunted places to go to in order to take part in an exhilarating Halloween experience.

So many pumpkins, which do I pick?

Local church pumpkin patches provide the community with pumpkins of a variety of colors and sizes to choose from



First United Methodist Church
5901 Indiana Ave, NPR, FL, 34652
(727)-842-7674



Hope United Methodist Church
2200 Little Rd, NPR, FL, 34655
(727)-372-4689



Holiday Community Fellowship Church
5144 Sunray Dr, Holiday, FL, 34690
(727)-944-4773

Photos by Josh Wagner

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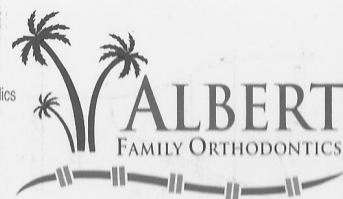
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New year, new *Orchestra*

The creation of a new orchestra program this year gives students more musical opportunities

RALEIGH ILLIG
EDITOR - IN - CHIEF

When Zoe Deitzler ('19) lived in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, she participated in her elementary school's orchestra program playing the cello. Due to the lack of an orchestra program, Deitzler joined the choir. Mr. Ryan Herring (FAC) worked with the band director Mr. Joel Qunia (FAC) in the idea to bring an orchestra into the music program. "Once I heard we were having

an orchestra program here, I jumped at the idea to improve my skills," Deitzler said.

School band and choir programs reign victorious in competitions and implemented orchestra in their success.

"Orchestra has always been something that I wanted to teach anywhere I go. I believe to have a well rounded music program you need a band, orchestra and a choir and that's one of the reasons we started the program was to have a well rounded music program," Herring said.

Kobe Phillips ('20) has played the String Bass for 9 years and started at a school in Alabama.

"I love playing the String Bass; I joined the orchestra so that I could help people learn how to play the instrument. I'm excited for this program to grow and expand because now it's a small class and it's going to grow into something so much greater than that,"

Phillips said.

Orchestra members like Gillian Olortegui ('18) did not have an orchestra background, but previously had been playing the guitar.

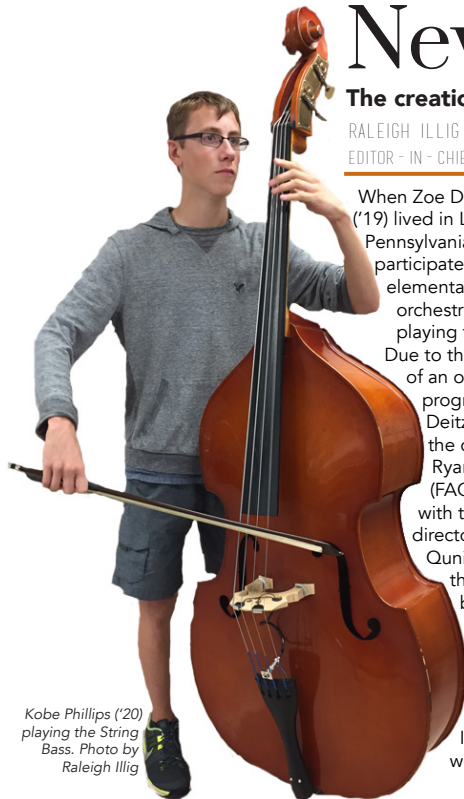
"I could never get my hands on an instrument because they are really expensive. So when the school brought up the orchestra program I was really excited. When I got into orchestra there were already a bunch of Cello players so I got stuck with the Double Bass, but I love it and it's also really pretty," Olortegui said.

Next semester the orchestra program will start performing at

outside functions, and Seven Springs middle school will be joining the high school orchestra to create a larger group of musicians.



Gillian Olortegui ('18) and Zoe Deitzler ('19) warm up before class. Photo by Raleigh Illig



Kobe Phillips ('20) playing the String Bass. Photo by Raleigh Illig

Colorguard *Evolution*

As years progress, our Colorguard team continues to expand and improve

EMMA ROGERS
STAFF REPORTER

Colorguard began when the school opened in 2001. Flag, sabre, dance, and rifle include all equipment colorguard spins while putting on a show. Over the years, colorguard took the world by storm with competitions and an ability to construct complex shows. Since then it has become intense yet popular, in

and out of the sport. The guard grew a lot over the past four years, starting from a petite group in 2001 to a considerably large team with 45 members this year.

Colorguard escalated around 2014 due to receiving a new coach, Tony Perez (FAC), with past experience in this sport. An ample amount of new freshman joined not expecting much, but soon had a change of heart including Kaylin Wilkins ('18) who shared her experiences about her freshman year.

"I was tricked into it because

I wanted to do JROTC, but my mom said to try colorguard. I fell in love with it even though I cried every day [at first]," Wilkins said.

Four years ago the guard was in B class, the first and lowest class guards compete in. By working harder every year the team grew bigger and more extensive. The group practices the skills needed to create a show, allowing them to compete with other schools and

independent guards.

"Watching the show progress is one of the best parts of being in band or colorguard.

When you start out it's this small show. It actually looks nothing like the completed version because there's a basic concept. As you go through the season things change and you see those character moments develop and grow into something different from when you first start," Delaney Peterson ('18) said.

Colorguard offers more than

competitions and activities.

Future members make life-long friends to have a shoulder to lean on when times are rough. As the year's pass, future members develop a better character and work ethic to apply to their lives.

"I've learned maturity from it and how to grow as not only a person but how to depend on other people also," Dabria Lang ('19) said.

Colorguard gives more than what meets the eye, offering maturity and friendships for their futures as well as responsibility for one's items. Being a sport, colorguard has many competitions for both marching season and winterguard, giving them opportunities to meet other guards to review what they need to do to improve as a team. Their next show for marching season is Nov. 4 at Hernando High School. Winterguard auditions start Nov. 9 for those interested in joining the ever-growing team.

"As you go through the season things change and you see those character moments develop and grow into something different from when you first start."

Delaney Peterson ('18)



A new season means new uniforms for the colorguard team. The uniforms consist of black velcro pieces to go with the theme of the show "Painted Black" as well as a silver skirt for an extra twist in the performance. Putting all of this together, they show the transition of painting the field black. Photo provided by Ms. Joell Keim and Ms. Summer Flores

Halloween Throwback (page 14)
Answers from left to right:
1. Kennedy Deluca ('19) and Kaman Eckelbarger ('19); 2. Giselle Craman ('18); 3. Emily Lawrence ('19); 4. Kns Morena ('19) and Demi Asensio ('18); and 5. Chandler Crawford ('18)

M 'Merica Monday



Homecoming week kicked off on Monday Oct. 9 with the first dress up day 'Merica Day. During the week everyone reported to their RANCH classes to count for final dress up points then out to the courtyard for the daily parades. Tristen Andra ('18), Levi Boler ('18), and Myles Megua ('18) dressed in their powderpuff jerseys and American flag shorts for the performance later that night. At the powderpuff game, the senior girls and sophomore girls battled it out for first and second place. Seniors took first place in both boys and girls powderpuff. Photos by Avery Philson and Raleigh Illig

Girls and Boys Powderpuff *Winners*

seniors	seniors	1
sophomores	freshmen	2
juniors	juniors	3
freshmen	sophomores	4

Tu On Tuesdays we travel



On Tuesday's we Travel, students reflected their culture in their outfits for the day. Devin Chapman ('19), Mina Melyo ('19), and Brandon Abdelshahid ('19) reflected their cultural background by dressing up as Egyptians. Sam Adawonu ('19), Jacobie Gray ('19), and Ms. Tanya Waterman (PAC) dressed as African tribe members. "I dressed as a West African Chief cause my parents and my family are from there," Adawonu said. In the afternoon, the Hooribest sponsored the annual Rock, Paper, Scissors tournament. Nicole Granda ('21) won, the juniors took second, sophomores in third, and seniors placed last. "I'm pretty surprised that I won. It feels good and I'm proud I did that. I would do it again and it was fun," Granda said. Photos by Avery Philson

W Wide World of Sports Wednesday



Wide World of Sports Wednesday kicked off when a group of seniors people called the "Trophy Boys" walked on stage during the parades. Zach Henderson ('18), Henry Faber ('18), Jakob Mattos ('18), Nick Bogdan ('18), and Brandon Moss ('18) painted themselves and sports accessories in a shiny gold paint to simulate life-size sports trophies. "Zach looked up a picture and sent it in our group chat and we decided to do it. Lots of people were taking pictures of us and complimenting us," Faber said. That afternoon NHS took the spotlight at the NHS Showdown and Clash of the Classes Knockoutball Tournament with the seniors coming in first place. Photos by Avery Philson, Ms. Susan McNulty, and Ms. Tracy Illig



Western Thursday



Dressed in flannels, jeans, boots and cowboy hats, Ms. Tracy Illig's Biology class got together for a group picture. "I just used what I had and I went all out with my jeans, flannel and hat. I thought the western day was really fun," Leila Surjanen ('21) said. Rodeo Games took place in the afternoon. Nabil Koney-Laryea ('20) participated in the limbo for his second year in a row and finished runner up for the sophomore class both years. "Every year I go against some limber senior. There must be some sort of factor that allows them to bend that way and my back really hurts after I finish. I don't know what's going on but it's impossible to win," Koney-Laryea said. Photos by Avery Philson and Brittney Kubasa



The conclusion of the week featured Mustang Nation Spirit day where students dressed in black, gold and white from head to toe. "I borrowed some of my friends' stuff, like the headbands with the pom poms on it, and I wore a lot of black and gold beads with my Stang Gang shirt," Madison Pagan ('20) said. In the pep rally in the afternoon, the senior class won the homecoming spirit stick with 108 points and the sophomore class of 2020 finished right behind them with 92. In preparation for the game later that night, the cheerleaders put together a "Beat Barkley" chant and signs for Stang Gang. At the end of the game the final scoreboard showed 12-9 with Mitchell taking yet another win of the season to remain undefeated. "Going into the game I knew we were going to kick some booty and have a good game. I wasn't worried cause we beat Clearwater pretty good and destroyed them. I felt good after winning the game but as a team we didn't play good football cause we only got 12 points on the board but we'll improve next game," Mike Lofton ('20) said. Photos by Ms. Susan McNulty

Spirit Stick *Winners*

4	freshmen	68 pts
3	juniors	82 pts
2	sophomores	92 pts
1	seniors	108 pts

"Being able to win King feels good and I love my school and being involved with everyone and winning makes it even better."

"I really wasn't expecting it so when my name was called my mouth dropped. To think that my peers think this highly of me and I'm so thankful."

Jordan Garcia ('18)

Dani Asensio ('18)

Senior Court
Queen Demi Asensio
Princess Raleigh Illig
Tabbi Gutowski
Brie Chamberlin
Brie Zinger
Katie Fitzpatrick
King Jordan Garcia
Princess Austin Jerome
Levi Boler
Jake Hektoen
Evan Acevedo
Bruno Colon

"It's nice to see my class mates recognize me and nice to see familiar faces out here and it's an awesome night. To get prince feels great."

Austin Jerome ('18)

"It felt really great to win. I wasn't expecting to get princess. It felt great to have my peers at the school think of me so highly and in the way that they'd vote for me."

Raleigh Illig ('18)

Tee'd up toward the goal of states

Boys golf aims to accomplish their goal of reaching states this season against tough competition

BAILEY ILLIG
STAFF REPORTER

In 2016, Mr. Lou Gamboa (FAC) led the boys' golf team into a second place victory at regionals which secured them a place in the state match. This year, he hopes to prepare his young new team for the same path. Inspiration to play comes from many aspects of someone's life, whether it is their family, friends, teachers, or even a friendly rivalry.

"My friend from the year before who played as a senior

and was also the captain of the golf team told me everything about the team, how matches go, and how it is fun to play with classmates and students from other schools," Sean Orso ('20) said.

Although golf is a relatively small sport amongst high schools, there is tough competition throughout the season. Striving to achieve more, Orso works to improve his skills to become a better athlete.

"The competition against the players from other schools makes me motivated to play because

I want to be the best one when playing against the other schools," Orso said.

Some kids may start a sport for the first time when they enter high school, but in the case of Nick Gabrelcik ('20), he went out on the course with his dad and the love for golf began.

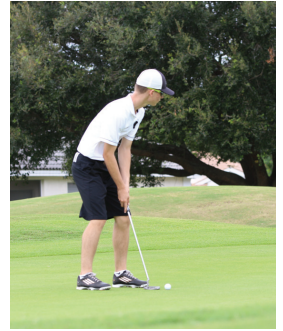
"My dad took me out to play [golf] one day and he saw a lot of potential in me; ever since then, I started to enjoy playing," Gabrelcik said.

Many students in high school have no idea what they want to do when they become an adult.

Gabrelcik on the other hand, knows exactly what he wants to do and he is making sure that he gets there through hard work and dedication.

"I hope I get a scholarship for golf, and one day, when I grow up, become a professional golfer," Gabrelcik said.

The boy's golf team's victory of first place at the district's match helps them to continue onto regionals, and then the states match is just down the road.



Chris Swanhart ('18) prepares to putt the ball on the green with sharp focus toward the hole. Photo by Nick Piccione

Getting in the groove

The dance team bonds with each other through fun and hard work

SOPHIE SAJECKI
EDITOR - IN - CHIEF

As the Dance team walked out onto the gym floor at the homecoming pep rally, the girls grin and nod to each other, excited to perform in glow in the dark accessories in front of the entire school. The deep connection formed between each of the girls on the team made them work harder to perfect routines and dances in order to be ready for the pep rally. As a third year dancer, Gabriella Squillante ('19) enjoys the time spent with teammates.

"This year we have been hanging out with each other a

lot more outside of school and it has been really fun, practices are really fun and before the games we all eat dinner together, hang out and get ready," Squillante said.

The girls get close throughout the school year and through practicing and critiquing each other, they become better dancers individually and as a group.

"Senior year has been the best year for me because I'm more included, and more involved because I'm making the music, organizing team bonding, doing different things like freeze dance at practices and working together to make each other

better and making our dances really strong," Eryelies Gonzales ('18) said.

Making the dances and music involves lots of extra work from the captains. Gonzales, a new captain, spends extra time to ensure perfection in all aspects of the team events.

"It's really fun but also stressful because I have to come up with all of the dances and organize everyone in the dances and make formations and music, but it's also fun because I get to know people in a different way," Gonzales said.

Watch the dance team perform at their senior night and see how hard work pays off.



The dance team illuminates the gymnasium with white shoes, glowstick glasses, and other glowstick accessories during the black light pep rally on the Friday of Homecoming week, helping to hype up the school for the football game while also showcasing their choreography and their talent. Photo by Sophie Sajecki

How to join a sport

The best tips and tricks for joining a school sport any time throughout the school year

- 1 Have at least a 2.0 GPA for ALL sports



&



- 2 Complete a physical and paperwork on the school website under Athletics

- 3 Turn in paperwork and money for dues for each sport, (\$60 for first, \$40 for second, free for third sport)



- 4 Practice and condition on your own time before tryouts to make sure you're prepared



- 5 Attend conditioning and tryouts with the proper equipment and practice clothes for the sport, and always bring lots of water



Thinking pink out on the court

Varsity volleyball supports breast cancer while fighting their way to a district championship

CAYLEIGH MAGHE
STAFF REPORTER

Music danced around the gym as players began serving the volleyball to each other during warm-ups at the Springstead game on Oct. 3. The team sported pink jerseys in honor of breast cancer awareness, specifically to honor Melody Dixon, wife of Joe Dixon, the first volleyball coach at the school.

"I did know of Melody Dixon, I have talked to her before, I coached volleyball over at River Ridge when Joe Dixon was the

coach here. She was always a happy face," Coach Heidi Michaels (FAC) said. Volleyball requires speed and stability. They participated in two tournaments this fall and, although they did not remain undefeated in the tournament, the players recognize the benefits of competition.

"In the tournaments, we see a lot stronger competition than what we face in our regular season. So the tournaments really helped our team experience a higher level of play," Mallory Coleman ('18) said.

With 10 seniors on the team, returning players bring experience and talent.

"To me district tournaments and tournaments are drastically different because the tiny mistakes are magnified in district," Jessie Mooney ('18) said.

The team remained undefeated in the regular season until Oct. 12, when Fivay won 3 sets to 1. Two players suffered major injuries in the loss.

"First Mariella Haines ('18) came down wrong and we think she tore her ACL. Two plays later Morgin Tew ('18) landed wrong

on her ankle and sprained it. We did what we could to finish the match, but it was hard with them in the back of our minds," Abby Fenech ('18) said.

Springstead hosted the district tournament on Oct. 17 and 19. The different schools from the district, Mitchell's biggest rivals being Land O' Lakes and Springstead, competed for two days, all striving toward the ultimate goal of earning the district championship title. Mitchell triumphed over Land O' Lakes with a final score of 3 sets to 2, advancing to regionals



Kennedy DeLuca ('19) spikes the ball toward the opposing team in the game against Springstead High School. Photo by Cayleigh Maghe

Football *triumphs* over Berkeley Prep

Mustang football reigns victorious over Berkeley Prep in the homecoming football game on October 13th

MUSTANGS



BUCCANEERS



Mitchell's Game Stats:

Passing yards: **65**

Tackles: **50**

Fumble recoveries: **3**

Rushing yards: **154**

Interception yards: **34**

Touchdowns: **1**

The green team is the dream team

Girls golf athletes put in work on their own time and strive to live up the legacy left behind by past players

CHRIS WILSON
STAFF REPORTER

As the golf team starts another season, the girls' team works toward another successful season as seniors Chloe Brennan ('18) and Jill Peters ('18) graduate at the end of the year.

"We are working towards winning conference again this year as we placed first last year," Brennan said.

The girls finished last season winning districts and making it into conference, as they play this season, they work toward bettering their record and making it farther into conference and into states.

"I put in about 3-4 hours a day, which is about 25 hours a week, to better myself and make sure I am there to help the team as a leader," Peters said.

Playing hard is something the girls do every day as they are almost always out on the course playing rounds of golf or just out on the range hitting balls.

"We practice everyday after school for a few hours and then on the weekends I will go out to different courses and play 18 holes to make sure I'm bettering myself," Peters said.

As her brother Mike Spinger ('16) and his legacy loom over her, Haley Spinger ('20) continues to practice and play more to live up to it.

"Knowing how big my brother's legacy is as a golfer here at school, makes me want to work harder and harder knowing I have this on my shoulders, makes me want to play better all the time. I go out all the time whether it is in the backyard, or on an actual golf course with my dad to better myself at the game," Spinger said.

The golf team uses many different ways to get better through practice and hard work during games.

"As a team we go out to different golf courses for practice to better prepare ourselves for upcoming meets that we have," Peters said.

As the golf team drives their

way into states they play hard and work hard to achieve the goal of winning states and achieving a better record than

they did last year especially after winning districts. Their next match is State Competition from October 31st - November 1st.



Jill Peters ('18) swings for distance as she watches the ball she drove sail toward the green. Photo by Emmersyn Chefero

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Die hard fans support their hometown heroes

Super fans go above and beyond for their favorite sports teams

CHRIS WILSON
STAFF REPORTER

Die Hard fans are people who are driven by a love and a passion for their team. Fans all have their ways to cheer on their team as they hope that their team will make it all the way to the biggest game (of each sport). Fans of the Bucs, Lightning, and other teams have dealt with struggle over the years, but many keep hope.

Since the age of 12, Bruno Colon ('18) has been a fan of the Lightning and hasn't stopped.

"I stay a Lightning fan because the sport brings an excitement that other sports do not and I love supporting my hometown team," Bruno Colon ('18) said.

As Agustus Capille ('19) gets ready for each game, they have their pregame rituals and superstitions that they complete in hope that it could help their team come out victorious in the end.

"Every day that the Bucs play, I wear a windbreaker jacket before

the game, and during the game no matter what the temperature is," Capille said.

If their team is really good, fans such as Mikey Risener ('18) enjoy how good their team is doing and it makes watching their team more fun and they want to do it more often.

"I started watching the Bucs about 3 years ago when they drafted Jameis Winston, and I was really ecstatic to see the young core and good players play because even though we were going through a rough patch it was going to be fun to watch them play," Risener said.

Some people like teams from other states but sometimes a favorite team can be just down the road.

"I am a Cubs fan because I am from Illinois, and I remember going to Wrigley Field at least 5 times a year and watching them hit home runs, which was my favorite part of going. I love how they always put up a fight in the games, and how they don't give up easily. I also love how they keep old traditions such as

the "Go Cubs Go" song or rally towels," Cameron Graham ('20) said.

On each team there are many players, and each of them is looked up to by so many people even if they do not realize it.

I look up to players on the Bucs such as Mike Evans and Jameis Winston because they have achieved a lot in their lives and play on a good team to where they can achieve even more," Capille said.

When a student has a passion for a sport, they are bound to have a favorite team and they support them in different ways, whether it is wearing a jacket or even wearing the team jersey at school the day before the game. Everyone has their own ways of supporting their favorite team as a diehard fan.

*Cameron Graham
proudly represents
his home team, the
Chicago Cubs.*



*Mikey Risener and his dad
stand in the Luxury Suite and
look down on the Tampa
Bay Buccaneers game in
anticipation*



*Bruno Colon and Keegan
Phillips stand with Tampa
Bay Lightning player
Mathieu Joseph*



Gamers look ahead to new favorites

Upcoming new and improved versions of favorite video games have student gamers growing anxious for their release

ALYSSA MAGILLIGAN AND
KATLYN KLEIN
STAFF REPORTERS

Video games tell stories like no other form of entertainment. The most creative people in the industry constantly push the limits of available technology and their own imaginations to find new ways to tell a tale. For instance, the new Call of Duty features a creative game mode that video game players like Mariah Valentine ('18) look forward to.

"I'm excited for the new Call of Duty to come out because

I've enjoyed most of the past games and the new zombie game mode coming out with it looks amazing," Valentine said.

Set to release in early 2018, players look forward to Red Dead Redemption 2. For Olivia Brown ('18), the excitement stems from a love for the first game of the series.

"A new game coming out called Red Dead Redemption 2 is one that I'm looking forward to because the first one made me fall in love with it, and it is supposed to be really expensive," Brown said.

Recently released, Middle-

earth: Shadow of War grabbed video gamers' attention as they released commercials

to advertise themselves. The commercials got the attention of video gamers, who waited for the release.

"Middle-earth: Shadow of War just got released and I can't wait to finally get it. It's a brand new game that I saw commercials for and it looked really awesome

so I became excited to get it. It seems to be challenging, which I like," Josh Kennedy ('20) said.

The tenth major installment in the Assassin's Creed series comes out Oct. 27, making fans who enjoyed the series anxious.

Some fans, like Matthew Daigle ('19), waited nearly two years for the release.

"I'm excited for the new Call of Duty to come out because I've enjoyed most of the past games and the new zombie game mode coming with it looks amazing."

Mariah Valentine ('18)

"They haven't made a new Assassin's Creed game since 2015, so I've been waiting for Assassin's Creed Origins for a while and it comes out this month. I waited so long that I even pre-ordered it," Diagle said.

More video games such as The Evil Within Two and South Park: The Fractured But Whole, launched in mid-October of 2017. Video games fill the free time of several students around campus and with the releasing of these new games, players fill up with anticipation for the new technology.

Man on the Street

Do you prefer newer or older Halloween movies?



Photos by Michelle Cervera and Sophie Sajceki

"I haven't seen many classic Halloween movies, but I think they are cheesy. So I would have to say for the actual thrill factor, I like the newer ones. But the older ones are more authentic."

Raina Norwood ('20)

"The Nightmare On Elm Street is my favorite Halloween movie because it was a different concept that went on a more interesting route than most."

Danny Rosario ('20)

"I prefer older Halloween movies, because they are the classics. My favorite Halloween movie is The Nightmare Before Christmas, because I love the way they did the animation."

Richard Vari ('18)

"I prefer older Halloween movies, because I like the old and retro aspect that makes it spookier. I think they are directed a bit better [as well.]"

Emily Ulmer ('19)

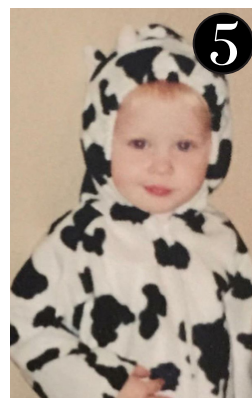
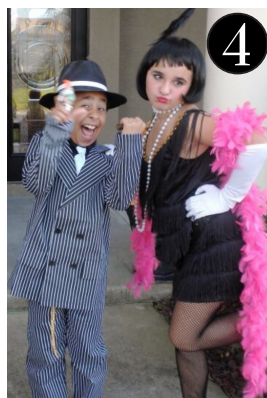
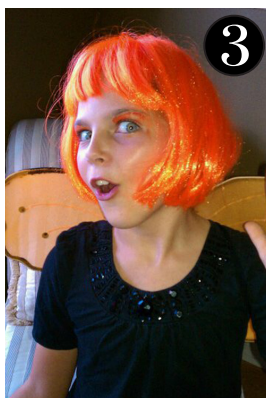
"I like the Michael Myers movies because I like the older movies. The older they are the creepier they are. Plus they are really cringey and its just so funny."

Drew Hartshorn ('21)

Spooky, scary Halloween throwbacks

Can you guess each student in these Halloween throwback photos? (Find the answer key on page 7 in the newspaper)

KRISTINA JAUTZE
EDITOR



Dear teachers, give us our weekends

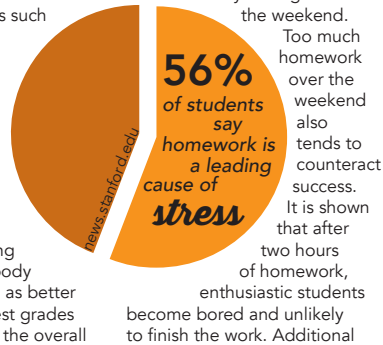
A staff editorial discussing the negative effects that excessive amounts of weekend homework can cause to our student body

As students progress in grades, homework seems to consume more and more time, including over the relatively relaxing weekend. An anonymous student reports that she receives an average of seven hours of homework every weekend. Defeating the purpose of an unwinding weekend, the growing amount of weekend work provides negative health effects to students while being counterproductive.

When given large amounts of homework, students' daily routine becomes out of sync, creating overbearing amounts of stress throughout the week and

over the weekend. According to an experiment done by Stanford University, too much homework leads to health issues such as headaches, sleep deprivation, weight loss and stomach problems. Students take their weekends to do homework, leading to exhaustion. Getting the proper amount of sleep is the key to success, influencing essential brain and body development as well as better concentration and test grades from students. Thus, the overall

health of our student body would increase with limited amounts of busy work given out on the weekend.



time spent on homework turns ineffective because students fail to make academic gains. According to greatschools.org, "If given more than two hours a night, academic success flatlines." Furthermore, students don't always gain knowledge when completing more than two hours of homework, even if it's assigned during the weekend.

Lastly, too much homework over the weekend causes students to give up on extra curricular activities. During the week, many students don't participate in rigorous after school activities because of studying or homework. But

with the increasing amounts of homework given out over the weekends, students never obtain the opportunity to participate in time consuming clubs or sports outside of the week.

Students look forward to the refreshing weekend where they zone out for two days and not worry about the stress that school causes. However, with a lot of busy work given out during the weekend, students do not possess that opportunity. After all, homework provides negative health effects and large amounts of stress, hindering the development of learning that it's known for.

Students left hungry in sixth lunch

Fewer options for lunch in the cafeteria leave many students frustrated by the end of the day

MAX TRETTIN
EDITOR

More than 1,500 students eat school lunch every day, whether it be good and nutritious or overpriced and unhealthy. With much of the school eating school-provided hot meals daily, it leads to a scarcity of many of the meal options by the time that sixth period lunch rolls around.

"School lunches are sometimes good, but most of the time it could be better," Matthew Beeg ('20) said.

According to Pasco County Schools' Food and Nutrition

Services, a standard school lunch at a public high school is \$3.25. Students such as Madelyn Hickey ('18) are left frustrated because of the price of meals.

"The quality is not the worst but it is overpriced for how much students get. Right now, you can get fruit but it's super expensive. Many people would rather pay \$0.75 for a bag of chips than \$2.50 for a fruit cup," Hickey said.

The long lines created by the lack of multiple food options by the end of the last lunch anger a large part of the school. On Oct. 18, 2017, all lines in the cafeteria

during sixth period were open with approximately 30 people per line in the first half hour of the lunch period. In the first 20 minutes of the period, 2 out of the 4 lines providing hot meals closed because they ran out of food.

"In sixth period lunch, all of the options that are said to be provided are not always provided and leads to waiting in long lines for food for much of my lunch period," Beeg said.

Furthermore, according to the Pasco County Schools' Food and Nutrition Services, a standard school lunch consists of a milk,

fruit or fruit juice, vegetable, grain, and protein.

"Sometimes, [the cafeteria] just puts random food out, like bread with cheese on it. It's not very good or nutritious," Brandon Felmley ('19) said.

The student body chooses the chicken sandwich as the go-to option in the cafeteria. Although they seldom run out of this option, both the Pasco County School Board and school administration should consider the nutritional, quality, and price factors of the food provided in the cafeteria for K-12 students across the county.



Photo provided by Ashlyn Jackson ('20)

How old is too old to trick or treat?

As Halloween creeps closer, students argue about how old they feel is too old to continue going trick or treating

HAYLEY FLISS
STAFF REPORTER

On Halloween night of 2013, Ms. Susan McNulty (FAC) accompanied her daughter trick-or-treating throughout the Foxwood neighborhood. As they walked from house to house, McNulty noticed multiple teens from the school out trick-or-treating. One particular couple stood out from the rest because of their unique costumes.

"They were dressed as Hugh Hefner and a Playboy bunny. I couldn't believe that students old enough to dress up like that

thought they were young enough to beg for candy door-to-door. It was ridiculous," McNulty said.

This story raises the question, how old is too old to continue trick-or-treating? Students around campus such as Emmersyn Chefero ('20) and Colin Dempsey ('19) argue that a person can never be too old to trick or treat.

"I feel if you want to [go trick-or-treating], it is a personal choice, and if you get a group to go with you, it can be fun no matter what; so you can never be too old," Chefero said.

Dempsey recognizes that some teens opt out of trick-or-treating

as they get older.

"[Students may not go trick-or-treating because of] a few things [like] peer pressure, parents are

not into it, not liking the holiday, it could be anything, really," Dempsey said.

Students like Brooke Minaca ('21) feel there is an appropriate age limit to when a person should stop trick or treating.

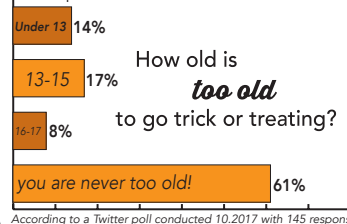
"I think when you get out of high school you are too old [to go trick-or-treating] because Halloween is for the kids and you

are still a kid when you are in high school, but when you go to college, you grow up," Minaca said.

Students like Chefero may or may not trick-or-treat, but still find other ways to enjoy the holiday.

"I love going to all the haunted houses like Howl-O-Scream and Halloween Horror Nights; and I am looking forward to all the fall festivals [including] having Halloween parties with a few of my friends, carving pumpkins, [and enjoying] all the activities I can do with my family," Chefero said.

Whether choosing to dress up and go door-to-door in search of free king-sized candy bars, paying admission to local haunted houses, or staying home to watch horror movies, students find ways to continue to enjoy the Halloween holiday this year.



Take a knee for the land of the free

NFL players exercise their First Amendment rights by kneeling during the National Anthem

RICHARD DALEY
STAFF REPORTER

Across the United States, professional athletes started to kneel during the national anthem in response to President Trump's absurd statement that players who kneel during the national anthem should be fired. Kneeling allows individuals to express themselves peacefully while simultaneously bringing awareness to their cause.

"I, personally, don't have a problem with kneeling. Its an example of free speech and the players that participate in kneeling are just expressing how they feel by taking a knee. I do think there are other ways

of protest but others have not drawn as much attention as taking a knee," Myles Medina ('20) said.

Kneeling during the national anthem offends some people who see this as a sign of disrespect towards the flag and soldiers. When players kneel they do not mean disrespect towards the flag; they are trying to be as respectful as possible.

"After hours of careful consideration, and even a visit from Nate Boyer, a retired Green Beret and former NFL player, we came to the conclusion that we should kneel, rather than sit, the next day during the anthem as a peaceful protest. We chose to

kneel because it's a respectful gesture. I remember thinking our posture was like a flag flown at half mast

to mark a tragedy," Eric Reid, safety for the San Francisco 49ers, told the New York Times.

A majority of people see kneeling during the anthem as a publicity stunt, but individuals who kneel during the national anthem see it in a very different way.

"Kneeling during the national anthem has become a symbolic way of showing dissatisfaction

in the way our country is being run and the way our society is ignoring issues that have to do with inequality. I see kneeling as a form of patriotism towards equality and

a united nation that believes every human, no matter what race, gender, sex, sexual orientation, or ethnicity, is

equal. In no shape or form is it to disrespect or offend anyone, especially those of service in the force or a veteran. I am proud of our servicemen and I respect every one of them deeply. Kneeling for the national anthem has nothing to do with that," Isabel Bradley ('18) said.

Many Americans took offense to kneeling when professional athletes knelt during the national anthem because people cherish the flag, despite the fact that the flag is just a representation of what the United States stands for. If anything, kneeling shows America that citizens are worried about it.

"I see kneeling as a form of patriotism towards equality and a united nation that believes every human is equal."

Isabel Bradley ('18)



Take a stand to defend our land

The protests of kneeling by NFL players is both disrespectful and ineffective, and should not be practiced or encouraged

JOSH WAGNER
STAFF REPORTER

On September 22, President Trump said, "Wouldn't you love to see one of these NFL owners, when somebody disrespects our flag, to say, 'Get that son of a ***** off the field right now, out, he's fired. He's fired!' His comments led to backlash from football players and citizens.

In response, during week three of the National Football League (NFL) season, approximately 180 players around the league knelt during the Anthem in protest. These protests sparked their own storm of controversy on the ethics behind these protests, since the American flag is known as a symbol of freedom and liberty. Some students believe

that this is ineffective.

"Even though you do not like the President, I do not think that

it is right that you disrespect your country like that," Kelsey Rivera ('21) said.

The American flag is a symbol of the soldiers in the Armed Forces who have fought and given their lives for United States citizens.

At military funerals, service people drape the flag over the coffins of men and women who have served, honoring their memories.

According to a Navy Seal quoted on theblaze.com, "I served 21 years as a U.S. SEAL.

The flag and what it represents go far beyond an object for me. It represents honor, service, and sacrifice. I have

watched it drape the coffins of

too many others who fought for the rights of people to protest."

Despite the efforts of these protests, what have they truly accomplished? Has it been

effective in solving the racial injustices that the NFL players argue they are also kneeling for? Or has this just caused a whirlwind of controversy that intensifies with every kneel or every tweet? Despite their intentions on peacefully protesting racial inequalities, it feels like it has backfired and caused way more harm than good.

"I think it has caused more controversy. You are not changing anything by kneeling during something that is supposed to be respected. My cousins are in the army so I think it is super disrespectful to the flag," Hallie Young ('19) said.

Professional football players, who make millions of dollars, can protest in ways that will not

cause as much controversy. They could use their public image, and their image as a role model for some citizens, in a more effective manner.

"They could be using different platforms and raising awareness somewhere besides football and sports, they are not being paid to do that," Young said.

These professional athletes began kneeling as a protest of racial injustice in the United States of America. However, they unintentionally formed an ethical debate on whether or not this is disrespectful to the flag, citizens, and veterans and the military. These protests failed to accomplish what they tried to achieve. NFL players should protest in another way, one that can have more positive results.

"You are not changing anything by kneeling during something that is supposed to be respected."

Hallie Young ('19)