

HB

the hoofbeat

Sept.
2017

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

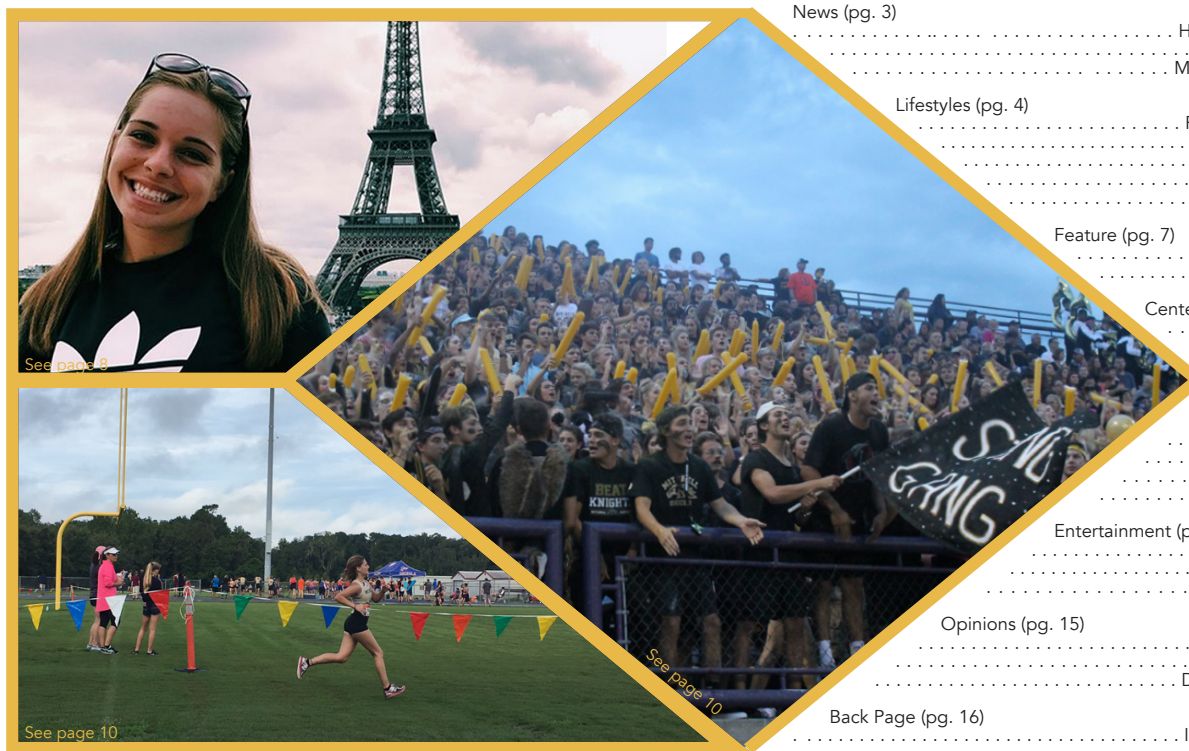
Issue 1 Volume 16



***The varsity football
team defeats rival
River Ridge for a
second year in a row.
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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.

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

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Staffer Feature



STAFFER: Sophie Sajecki

GRADE: 12

DESCRIPTION: Sajecki and Hannah Bruegger ('18) worked at the Rays on the Runway fashion show for the Children's Dream Fund on Aug. 6, 2017. Wilson Ramos of the Tampa Bay Rays served as a model.

Honey, you've got a big storm comin'

Hurricane Irma wreaks havoc from the Caribbean to the southeast United States, but forecasts predicted worse

RALEIGH ILLIG
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On September 13th, weather forecasters announced that the largest recorded hurricane to ever form in the Atlantic has taken a turn to hit the west coast of Florida. Hurricane Irma shocked forecasters with its category 5 winds and diameter of about 300 miles. With this level of intensity, it caused over two million Floridians to evacuate out of the state or to safer areas.

Courtney Kaelin ('21) and her family made the decision to

evacuate to Atlanta, Georgia after finding out that the eye of Irma had a projected path of nine miles from their house.

"We left at about 11:30 in the morning on Saturday and we brought a bunch of pictures that we didn't have digital copies of and a bunch of other random junk," Kaelin said.

Many other families around Florida evacuated to nearby shelters because their homes were no longer safe. According to the Pasco County School District, county schools were the homes of more than 22,500

people and 1,800 pets during the storm. Valerie Farrar ('21)

and Anthony Farrar ('19) evacuated to the Sunlake shelter on Saturday.

"We had a good experience at the shelter we were at because they provided food, allowed our pets to stay with us, and had a very positive group of volunteers," Farrar said.

As evacuations took place on the west side of Little Road,

many neighborhoods flooded even though they were not under mandatory evacuation.

"This time I don't know exactly how high the water was but in some places it was easily knee deep

Michael Wilkins ('18)

the rainwater that drains from other neighborhoods backs up and spits out of our drains, and

yet we are still not technically in a flood zone. This time I don't know exactly how high the water was but in some places it was easily knee deep," Michael Wilkins ('18) said.

The amount of damages that Florida received during Irma has been estimated at \$50 billion, with damage seen from the Florida Keys to Jacksonville. Efforts to help these cities are being taken by schools collecting donations of money, non perishable foods, and health supplies.

If you booze then cruise, you lose

New collaborations with Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) lead to more action against teen alcohol abuse

AVERY PHILION
STAFF REPORTER

According to Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, each year hundreds of teens get into car crashes caused by drinking and driving, whether they are the ones drinking or not. This year students and teachers do their best to prevent these tragedies, as well as the concerns over underage drinking in general.

Ms. Jessica Schultz (FAC) implemented new programs to encourage safe experiences during the school year.

"Over the past three years we

have had an increased number of alcohol and drug situations at Mitchell High School that have

caused us to think about what we can do in order to help kids make choices and to avoid not only consequences, from the school but also lifelong consequences, especially if something were to happen to them that is far more tragic than necessary," Ms. Schultz said.

This year, MADD joins Ms. Schultz and Cpl. Donald Greene (FAC) to address the issues facing teens.

"We basically just want to help students make good decisions, and watch out for other students making disruptive decisions," Cpl. Greene said.

To get the point across, Ms. Schultz came up with a way to

bring awareness and attention to students and parents, by holding dance meetings and making a personal podcast.

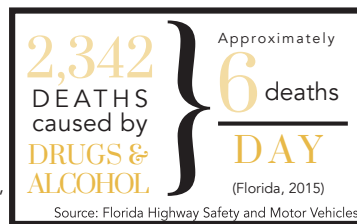
"So essentially we have done two presentations. Ninth grade got it during the Mustang U presentation and then sophomores, juniors and seniors are getting it during on October 6. On that day, we're going to have an assembly where we will do a similar presentation. What I am hoping is that this will solve some of the issues as to the number of kids drinking," Ms. Schultz said.

Homecoming will put all these precautions to the test.

Administration hopes students will help guide one another and keep danger at a minimum.

"Homecoming is going to be interesting. Hopefully everybody takes heed of the warnings and basically other students will help police each other and spread the word to be responsible," Greene said.

Attend the MADD class meetings on Oct. 6, to get more information. With this in mind, parents still need to go to a dance meeting or email Ms. Schultz (jschultz@pasco.k12.fl.us) for the online podcast.



Meeting new faces around the school

Learn more about the new teachers that you will see around campus and learn more about their backgrounds

MORGAN FLISS
EDITOR

A plethora of new teachers, including Mr. Alexander Glomski (FAC), previously an intern from Gulf High School, recently joined the Mustang community. Staff retirements and new job opportunities provided the need to hire ten new teachers from a variety of different backgrounds.

Among the new faculty is Mr. Scott Boulding (FAC), who started as a substitute teacher in Pinellas County while he finished his master's degree in education. The instructors that taught him in high school and college inspired him to become a teacher and now he specializes in Advanced Placement (AP) physics and loves everything about what he does.

"I love physics because it is the science that teaches you how the entire universe works. I have had a great time so far here at Mitchell. [My students] are dedicated and focused and are a great student body. I just love learning and I like to bring that love of learning to other people," Boulding said.

Another new face noticed around campus is Ms. Anna Butler (FAC), our current health science teacher. Butler was a Director of Nurses at a long term/skilled 109 bed nursing facility, before



MR BOULDING

coming to Mitchell and was inspired to become a teacher

through her own children.

"I have never taught high school before but was inspired by my daughter who is a teacher and son in law who is a principal in Carroll County, Ohio. The students here at Mitchell are totally changing my perception of teenagers in our country, much for the better. I am honored to be able to be a part of their lives," Butler said.

English teacher Ms. Jennifer Leavey (FAC) became a teacher by following in her parents' footsteps and determination to be just like them.

"Both of my parents were teachers in Illinois. They were



MS BUTLER

highly respected, award-winning individuals and although I thought it was annoying how everyone raved about them to me when I was young, I now appreciate their examples of being quality educators. I knew I had big shoes to fill but I continue to try every day,"

Leavey said. From Glomski in social studies, to Leavey in language arts, a variety of new teachers prepare

lessons to provide us with the knowledge for success everyday.



MS LEAVEY

NEW TEACHERS

Ms. Butler Health Science

Ms. Geller Special Needs

Ms. Leavey Language Arts

Ms. Hatfield Social Studies

Ms. Melione Mathematics

Mr. Boulding Science

Mr. Glomski History

Mr. Beil Social Studies

Pull up on my spot in the parking lot

Seniors explain the reasoning behind why they chose the designs painted on their own personalized parking spots

CHRIS WILSON
STAFF REPORTER



"My parking spot is the family crest of one of my favorite Star Wars characters, Boba Fett," Joey Weierheiser ('18) said.

"I got my inspiration for my parking spot from a Polaroid that I took in Malibu when I went on a yearbook trip a few years ago. That beach was one of my favorite places," Rebecca Roberson ('18) said.



"We did 'Friends' themed parking spots because we have been friends for years, so it fit the role. We wanted to do something that tied us all together," Hailey Bunker ('18) said, about the spots she designed with Taryn Kupczyk ('18) and Nicole Fellabaum ('18).

"I chose a big sun with the words 'radiate positivity'. I feel that it's so important to be positive and to always be optimistic and share kindness," Demi Asensio ('18) said.



Photos by Chris Wilson and Nick Piccione

Walking fast and I'm class bound

Sharing personal experiences, students give advice about the quickest ways to get around campus and get to class on time

KRISTINA JAUTZE
EDITOR

Although a five-minute passing seems like an adequate amount of time to make it to class, students still struggle arriving prior to or when the bell rings. The hallways allow for shortcuts and more efficient paths to get to each destination promptly. Seniors like Stephen Del Valle ('18) learned tricks to get to class faster.

"The back path behind blue really helps me get to class on time," Del Valle said.

Not only are students capable of finding new short cuts, but they also learn to manage their time appropriately. Students leave their former class upon the bell ringing, avoid distractions in the halls by chatting with a friend along the way, and bypass busy hallways throughout the day.

"I usually use the bathroom

before school starts so I do not have to go during passing. It would slow me down and I would not be able to get to class on time if I did not do that," Kris Morena ('19) said.

"The back path behind blue really helps me get to class on time
Stephen Del Valle ('18)"

For anyone, a new school strikes intimidation. Learning the laws of the land remains difficult and confusing for freshmen. These students struggle getting to

class as it is without knowing an accelerated path to get there.

"The freshmen could try a different way each time until they find the fastest one," Jordan Utterback ('20) said.

Many paths around school lead to a faster way to class. Each person constructs their own route that will work for that individual. Freshmen can ask teachers and classmates to help find the best way to arrive on time.

Let's taco 'bout the best taco places

Students give their opinions on where the best places to get tacos are and what makes that place their favorite

KRISTINA JAUTZE
EDITOR



"The best place to get tacos is Tijuana Flats because they offer a Taco Tuesdays meal which includes two tacos, chips, and a drink for six dollars. They have really good queso too," Danielle Fink ('19) said.

"My favorite place to get tacos is Taco Bell because they always have good tacos for cheap prices. They also have a bunch of other different food on their menu," Bryanna Philips ('18) said.



"My favorite place to get tacos is Zim Zari's because they do Taco Tuesday every week. You get a variety for a cheap price," Gilbert Gonzalez ('19) said.

Photos by Kristina Jautze

But first, aesthetic coffee shops

Buddy Brew Coffee, Buttermilk Provisions, and Havana Dreamers have become trendy through their aesthetic atmospheres

SOPHIE SAJECKI AND JESS MASON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AND EDITOR



Buddy Brew Coffee
2020 W Kennedy Blvd.
Tampa
buddybrew.com



Photos by Sophie Sajecki



Photos by Jess Mason



Buttermilk Provisions
2653 Bruce B Downs Blvd.
Wesley Chapel
813-803-7787



Havana Dreamers Café
3104 Town Ave #107
New Port Richey
havanadreamers.com



Photos by Sophie Sajecki

Finding faith in the summertime

Students share their church camp experiences that they took part in over summer and how they positively affected them

SOPHIE SAJECKI
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

While on summer break, students celebrate the long time off in various ways. Finding a deeper connection in her faith, Sydney Moore ('19) participated in her church camp, Clash Camp, with the Grace Family Church at Camp Kulaqua.

"I went to camp with Grace Family Church and it was a four day Christian camp. We did a

lot of activities like rock climbing and horseback riding, and then we have our daily worships. It was really fun and I met a lot of people," Moore said.

This had a lasting impact on her that followed even after she returned home.

"I felt like it was a really good experience and I needed it. We really got to focus on bringing ourselves grace and peace. I also feel like I came back a changed person. I had a lot going on

before but when I came back I felt a lot better and more cleansed," Moore said.

Savannah Ray ('20), also attended Clash Camp and saw the impacts from attendance not only on herself, but on others, too.

"What I took from the camp is to not judge people by how they look or act because they might end up being really cool people," Ray said.

Other students attended

different church camps. Louis Chianella ('21) attended the Warren W. Willis United Methodist Camp, and found a connection he had not originally found with his religious faith. "I learned that your religious faith and nature can be connected. The camp I went to had tons of outdoor activities to do and is a great place to connect with God," Chianella said.

Future campers include those interested in strengthening

their faith or in having a unique religious experience.

"My advice for someone thinking about going to the camp is to go for it, it was completely different from what I first expected. You're meeting new people and you're making new friends, you can take whatever you want from it. It's a good way to spend your summer and a good way to make friends that you can't leave" Ray said.

From *Japan* to Florida

Tatiana Clark moved from Okinawa, Japan to Florida for her senior year

SOPHIE SAJECKI
EDITOR - IN - CHIEF

When the 2017-18 school year started, Tatiana Clark ('18), moved to Trinity, Florida from Kadena High School located on Kadena Air Force Base in Okinawa, Japan to begin her senior year.

"My dad recently retired from the military so we decided to move back to the U.S. and settle down in Florida after living overseas in Okinawa, Japan for the past 5 years. My parents are always keen on making sure we live in areas close to great schools, and that's how we found Mitchell," Clark said.

Clark describes the similarities and differences from her new and old school, though they differentiate mostly through academic options.

"There's a common misconception that because I went to school in Japan, I must have gone to a Japanese school, but I went to a regular,

all-American Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDs) high school on an Air Force base. The only differences between my old school and Mitchell was graduation requirements and curriculum. For example, my old school didn't

said.

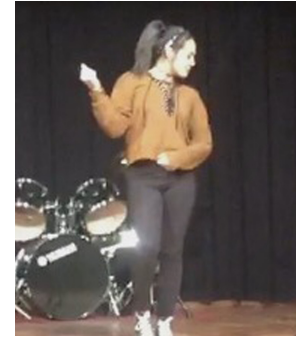
For Clark, fitting in and adapting in her surroundings made the school day more comfortable. The new start gave her some challenges and required positivity, yet she says that the welcoming students and teachers across campus made the transition easier.

"I was worried that, this being my senior year, it would be difficult for me to make friends, because you know by senior year everyone usually has their specific friends that they've known since maybe elementary school. But I haven't had that luxury, what with us moving every couple years. Everyone at Mitchell has been incredibly welcoming and so nice to me. It's really made this moving experience comforting, and I hope to make great memories this year at Mitchell," Clark said.

Clark proves that no matter where she goes, hard work and dedication make the equation for a successful year.



offer classes such as Marine Biology and AP Computer Science, and in order to graduate we didn't need to take an online class at all. Also, Mitchell offers three diploma options, but at my old school there was only the one standard diploma," Clark



Tatiana Clark participated in the talent show for her sophomore and junior year at Kadena High School in Okinawa, Japan, as well as taking a part in her school's band and other activities. "I do miss my old school a lot. It was a small school, but I liked that. I really do miss living in Okinawa. It was home for me, and to be honest, Mitchell was overwhelming at first," Clark said. Photos provided by Tatiana Clark

Douglas Mitchell is *Mister Fix It*

Douglas Mitchell fixes hardware and software problems in computers for friends and family during any of his spare time.

SOPHIE SAJECKI
EDITOR - IN - CHIEF

With technology surrounding every corner in today's advanced society, understanding what's behind the screen adds unique benefits. Douglas Mitchell ('18) applies his love for technology in a distinct way, by fixing computers free of charge in his extra time.

"I've grown up with computers in my everyday life, I've always been heavily invested in computers: whether it be playing games, or working," Mitchell said.

Mitchell fixes multiple different issues in computers to make sure they work to their fullest potential.

"Mainly I fix software in the computers, for example, if windows is corrupted it should be an easy fix. I also do a lot of hardware fixes as well, for instance, if a fan breaks in your

computer or if a motherboard is fried I can just order a new one, I can fix that and get the parts and then replace it," Mitchell said.

For most computer and technology fixes, large companies charge anywhere

from \$60-\$300, but Mitchell performs the fixes for free. Family members and friends benefit from this whenever they need it, because he is available to help out. This

comes in handy when visiting relatives who don't understand technology quite as well need help with an electronic device.

"Our older relatives don't really know what they're doing with their computers, and

they're constantly breaking something, or something's always wrong with their computers. When I go up to visit my grandparents in Kentucky I pretty much have to reinstall everything on my

grandfather's computer because he somehow either set up windows in German, or he's done something that has downloaded a ton of viruses on his own computer,"

Mitchell said.

Building a career based off of passions and hobbies brings bigger successes and personal gains. Mitchell's early experiences in this field can help him apply for other jobs

"I've grown up with computers in my everyday life, I've always been heavily invested in computers: whether it be playing games or working"

Douglas Mitchell ('18)



Douglas Mitchell stays after school to work on fixing a problem on one of the school computers around the campus. Photo by Sophie Sajecki

and universities in the near future.

"People who work [information technology] in large companies probably hate fixing so many computers, but I don't because I'm not getting paid for it. My favorite part is

seeing how inept some people are with computers, it's pretty amusing to me," Mitchell said.

By doing something he loves, Mitchell brings happiness to himself and other people as well as gaining personal experience.

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Around the world in 79 days

MAX TETTIN AND CHRIS WILSON
EDITOR AND STAFF REPORTER

Over summer vacation, culturally-interested students visited many foreign countries to see family and friends. Josh Velasquez ('19) visited Cuba while learning about its history and immersing herself in the country's culture.

"Our visit was spur-of-the-moment because the Cuban borders were recently opened. We saw pictures and it's beautiful, there — it's stuck in its time from the 1960s. The people there were really nice and there was a lot of history involved throughout

the trip," Anton said. Raina Norwood ('20) took a trip to Japan to view the culture from a first-person point of view. She decided to take this trip after reaching herself Japanese for the past two years.

Such as the Eiffel tower and the Colosseum. "I have a lot of family in Croatia and Serbia, and I went to the other countries to visit some cool landmarks," Norwood said. On a miss on trip with Generations Christian Church, Josh Velasquez ('19) went to Mexico to experience the Mexican culture.

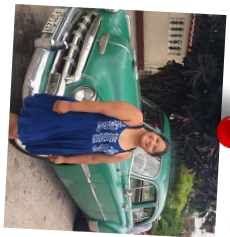
"When we were there, we participated in a youth and sports camp with a bunch of Mexican teens where we played soccer with them and learned about their lives," Velasquez said.

Slivee Yagop ('20) moved to America from Syria in 2013, and got separated from most of her family during the process. This summer she went back to see most of them for the first time in a while.

Over the summer, students visited many different countries, all for their own reasons but each of them brought back stories to share with others about their trip.



Josh Velasquez ('19)
Teotihuacan, Mexico



Josette Ahlman ('19)
Havana, Cuba



Angela Novakovic ('18)
Pag, Croatia



Raina Norwood ('20)
Tokyo, Japan



Slivee Yagop ('20)
Norrköping, Sweden



Chris Wilson ('18), Josh Velasquez ('19), and Bailey Gramenz ('19) at GHS took a trip to Teotihuacan, Mexico and visited the Pyramid of the Sun.
Photo provided by Josh Velasquez

Unprecedented spirit

Stang Gang encourages school spirit and drives athletic teams to victory

EMMA ROGERS
STAFF REPORTER

The sound of the chants, bells, and horns of Stang Gang filled the air in anticipation for the 2018 football team to take the field against the Anclote Sharks on Aug. 25. The sounds of chattering voices lowered as the referee blew his whistle. Mitchell's kicker, J.P. Watt ('18), ran up to the football and gave it a swift kick into the air. Gasps sounded throughout the stadium as the ball soared across the field and into the field goal, after a fumble recovery on the initial kickoff to an 86-yard touchdown. Excitement erupted through the stands as Stang Gang cheered for an amazing start of the game. Myles Megna ('18) and Robbie

Dawson ('18) high-fived as the team set up for the kickoff to the Anclote Sharks.

The student section, otherwise known as Stang Gang, attends sporting events by coming together as one with Mustang spirit in support of the school's athletes.

"Stang Gang to me is something that brings the whole entire school together and gets them excited to watch the teams play," Dawson said.

Join by going to a game, and start getting involved easily by cheering on sports teams. Start from the top of the stands to work way to the bottom.

"The people who have the most spirit just take ownership of Stang Gang so I guess that's why Robbie [Dawson and I] are leading it this year with Raleigh

Illig ('18) and Kaylee Strobel ('18)," Megna said.

For a school with over 2,000 students, Stang Gang offers an environment chock-full of fun. Being involved gives students the opportunity to participate in the sports events by cheering on the school's championship teams.

"Everybody just gets along because of the adrenaline from the game. Everybody around you and the yelling it just makes you really excited," Strobel said.

Students interested in joining should go to the sporting events and take part in the traditions. When joining, students bring an element of remembrance to their high school experience. Being a part of Stang Gang means giving athletes the confidence they need.



Stang Gang celebrates after a touchdown during the away football game against the school rival, River Ridge, on September 1st. The game resulted in a 14-3 win. Photo by Raleigh Illig

#KnightsOut

Looking back at the varsity records between J.W. Mitchell and River Ridge athletics since Mitchell opened in 2000 to present

BASEBALL



SOFTBALL



BASKETBALL (BOYS)



BASKETBALL (GIRLS)



FOOTBALL



VOLLEYBALL



SOCCER (BOYS)



SOCCER (GIRLS)



LEGEND

2 Wins
2 Wins

Updated September 1, 2017, Statistics provided by MaxPreps.com

Running to the rhythm of teamwork

Cross country runners push themselves to be the fastest they can be through inspiration from their team

BAILEY ILLIG
STAFF REPORTER

The all inclusive sport of Cross Country allows anyone to participate. The people that do train all summer and they work together to do their absolute best in this activity.

"I had a trainer and I ran everyday, a lot of mileage, a lot of training. It was nothing that I couldn't handle but I had to push myself everyday to try to get better, get faster. We started out easy; I ran twenty to twenty five miles a week. And by the end of the summer it was about thirty eight, almost forty," Isabel

Oliveto ('18) said.

The instructor of Cross-country, Coach Parmenter, tries to bond the team and help the freshmen learn their true strengths by pairing them up with experienced runners and teaching them the ropes of the sport.

"Coach Parmenter is encouraging the team to help out the freshmen, especially the people who have more running experience, who can give helpful pointers to the new athletes and have their running style, their distances, and their overall running capabilities improved buy our help and our

leadership," Logan Stephens ('20) said.

Not just the feeling of

accomplishment motivates these athletes, it is the love of the sport and the feeling they get went their teammates cross the finish line, that drives them to run everyday after school in the blistering heat.

"The love of running is what mostly gets me to do it because if I didn't enjoy

racing then I probably wouldn't do it and just the joy it brings teammates when you cross the

finish line, everybody is there for you, everybody is cheering you on. And it's exciting to cheer your own teammates on and you're proud of them when they accomplish

something," Oliveto said. Finishing the race and

accomplishing that goal that the athletes have set for themselves makes the team stronger and makes them feel like a single unit, always working together.

"The feeling of running, the feeling of having to finish that race and starting in the mindset and the dedication of it and how amazing it is to have a team that feels like a family supporting you and pushing you until the end of the race," Killian Morgan ('21) said.

This team works like a family, they go to every event and meet, they cheer each other on for all the hard work they put in to accomplish their primary goal.

It was nothing that I couldn't handle, but I had to push myself everyday to try to get better, get faster
Isabel Oliveto ('18)

Inspiring others through leadership

The swim captains help encourage their teammates to be the best they can by leading by example

JOSH WAGNER
STAFF REPORTER

In the warm, summer weather, the lukewarm water of the swimming pool refreshes those who dive in. Megan Stone ('18), one of the four captains, helped lead the swim team to victory at the first meet of the season against Hudson High School.

"It feels incredible to be a captain. Since freshman year I have hoped I would be a captain as a senior, so finally accomplishing that is so satisfying. I really hope I am someone the other team members look up to," Stone said.

The new captains' recently

acquired rank puts formidable pressure and responsibility on them.

"We have to make sure the team knows what's going on at dual meets. There's a captains' meeting before we actually swim, and they'll tell us 'We're doing fly over starts,' or 'You can't get out of the pool until I say you're done,' and if the team doesn't know that, we could get in trouble and maybe be disqualified in a relay or event," Abby Erickson ('18), another captain, said.

Being an upperclassmen on a sports team also puts the responsibility of being a role model to the underclassmen.

"I look up to our new captains

this year. They've set a strong presence of leadership and organization this year, and they

have a lot of energy on the team. I know many of the boys look up to one of our captains, Ben Davis ('18), an exceptional sprinter who's always enthusiastic and keeps things interesting in practice," Austin Erickson ('20) said.

"We never leave anyone out, everyone is together, we're one big family

Jenna Mendieta ('20)

The swim team captains strive to encourage and build up their teammates. The underclassmen on the team utilize the encouragement as a way to improve.

"My captains and coaches drive me to do my best during practice and encourage my fellow teammates. They all set a good example

on deck and make me want to do the same," Austin Erickson said.

New members of the team, surrounded by unfamiliar faces and unknown people, rely on experienced members to bond.

"We are a group that is really close together. We always do team bonding so you get to know someone throughout the year; we never leave anyone out, everyone is together, we're one big family," Jenna Mendieta ('20) said.

The swim team's next home meet is against Land O' Lakes High School at the YMCA from 6 to 9 o'clock at night on October 4th.

Football forms family

The football team forges a bond in order to achieve victory together

KAITLYN KLEIN
STAFF REPORTER

Kicking off the season with a 32-21 preseason win against Zephyrhills High School, the football team expects success in the upcoming season. The team currently holds a 3-0 record, with wins against Anclote, River Ridge, and Ridgewood.

"I think we can go as far as we want. The only team better than us is us and we can only beat ourselves. I also think we want to be the best team ever in Mitchell history and win another district championship," Adam Rogers ('18) said.

Rogers believes that, due to

their strong relationship as a team, they see the results they want to.

"We have been playing really well and it's because we are a brotherhood," Rogers said.

John Paul Watt ('18) believes in the team's aspirations to make the playoffs if they play to the best of their ability and their ability to finish the season with pride.

"Our team hasn't been playing to our full potential. We need to step it up if we want to make a three-peat for district champions. We will go pretty far this year. We have a lot of returning players and I believe if we play on our A game we can make some noise

from Pasco County," Watt said.

As a team, they get hype before games in the locker room. It appears as a simple pregame, but proves effective with the recent accomplishments the team shares.

"We all turn up and listen to music. Then we do a chant before we run out on the field," Chris Thomas ('18) said.

Knowing that competitors practice and play just as good or better, makes the team work harder and want to accomplish more. Seeing other teams play well is their number one motivator.

"It drives us for success that knowing there is always someone



Michael Lofton ('20) blocks a River Ridge player during the rivalry game. Photo by Raleigh Illig

out there working harder than you, and to be the best you gotta beat the best," Watt said.

With big goals this season, the football works hard to make it

far and hopes to see the district championships. Together as a team, they work hard to play the best they can, and make their goals a reality.

Bigs and littles

The varsity cheer team seniors pair up with underclassmen to help lead them and bond as a team at the beginning of the season



"Ash, you're the frosting to my cupcake"
Demi Asensio ('18) & Ashlyn Jackson ('20)



"We mermaid for each other"
Sarah Shannon ('18) & Jamie Scura ('21)



"Every bunny will be jealous of my little"
Jennifer Hessilberg ('18) & Isabella Richko ('20)

Thriving in the face of Adversity

LEXI CLARK
EDITOR



Stephaun Peters ('18), also known as Tank, overcomes adversity in his life through football. He came to Mitchell in search of higher hopes for athletics, academics, and college while leaving his mark on the football team's legacy.

“Football always kept me up when things were going bad with family. I always had to earn everything growing up and I just always stayed with the thing I loved the most, it was what separated me from everyone else and got me through the ups and downs”

Stephaun Peters ('18), a name that sounds new ringing between the walls of school, grew up in Florida, playing little league football with Mychael Hamilton ('18) and Kym-Mani King ('19) when he first started out. He attended Gulf High School before he moved to Savannah, Georgia in the middle of his sophomore year.

“I've faced a lot of adversity in my life, switching between multiple houses from my young teenage years to now, switching high schools and having to transition from one atmosphere to another. It's all been hard but, with being the youngest out of my siblings, one thing I learned was to never give up on

a situation and to keep fighting,” Peters said.

Peters' siblings proved to be highly influential in his success. When standing in the face of adversity, they stood by Peters and acted as his role models, teaching him valuable lessons and leading him down the right path. They also were a big part of the reason why he started playing football to begin with.

“They played sports before I did and once I got into sports I always stood out from everyone else in my age group. They were always harder on me than anyone else, pushing me to be great and not lazy, [and teaching me to have] a mental mind set that I can achieve anything. They

didn't do that well in school and they told me not to make the same mistake they did and that I have the potential to make something out of myself. Them pushing me past my limit was the biggest influence in my success,” Peters said.

Instead of letting his struggles get to him and lead him down the wrong path, he made the decision to pursue success regardless of his adversity and, thanks to the recommendations of Hamilton and King, transferred to Mitchell.

“I was having family issues in Georgia that weren't so great and I wanted go somewhere that best fit me for football, that wins, and put their kids in college.

Mitchell also is a great academic school so I thought it would be my best fit. I have become a way better player and I've never had great coaches like this in my life. They shaped me up as more of a team player and leader and I also have become a better person. They hold me accountable as a person and the football players have a big responsibility to keep our grades up, have good character, and it's preparing me for college,” Peters said.

Peters' move to Mitchell has helped better prepare him for college; he doesn't yet have any offers but his future looks bright.

“My dream school is Alabama but a lot of schools are looking at me. Georgia, Georgia State,

Georgia Southern, Kennesaw State, Mississippi State, Citadel, and NC State. I'm just focusing on football and school right now and I'll take all my visits once this season's over,” Peters said.

Peters' struggles in life have humbled him and allowed him to have a greater respect and appreciation for the game.

“I pray before and after every game that God leads the way and watches over me, my team, and the opponent's safety,” Peters said.

Although his circumstances have not been favorable, Peters persevered through and turned his adversity into strength and let it turn him into an exemplary player and person.

“When people think of the name Stephaun “Tank” Peters, I want them to remember a person that is hard working, smart, well-mannered, and someone that has achieved the goals he set as a young kid by not giving up and pushing past his limit”

Peters' Highlight Stats (Updated Sep. 19)

RECEIVING YARDS: 40

TOTAL TACKLES: 7

KICKOFF RETURN YARDS: 36

PASSES DEFENDED: 7

INTERCEPTION RETURN YARDS: 35

TOUCHDOWNS: 1

TOTAL ALL PURPOSE YARDS: 111

GAMES PLAYED: 3





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Korean pop music makes a debut

BTS, a new Korean pop band known as the Bangtan Boys or Beyond The Scenes, are making a presence in United States

MICHELLE CERVERA
STAFF REPORTER

BTS is an internationally acclaimed Korean pop sensation who gained massive popularity on social media and most recently at the Billboard Music Awards. The boy band goes by either the name Bangtan Boys or Beyond the Scenes, in the United States. In May, they won the title 'Top Social Artist' as well as the Teen Choice Award for 'Choice International Artist.' Since then, they have been recognized and praised by celebrities such as Charlie Puth, Ansel Elgort, The Chainsmokers, Halsey, Charli

CXC, Steve Aoki, Wale and more. A fan Sebastian Candelaria ('18) describes how content he is with the band BTS.

"I love how they are getting more international recognition. It really is not only beneficial for them but also paves the way for more international artists and creates more diversity in the American music industry. I think BTS totally deserves their success," Candelaria said.

This male idol group originated in 2013 under the label 'Big Hit Entertainment' due to their successes. BTS possesses 7 members: Jin (visual and vocalist), Suga (lead Rapper), J-Hope (also the lead rapper

and main dancer), Rap Monster (main rapper, leader), Jimin

(lead vocalist, main dancer), V (vocalist), and Jungkook (lead dancer, main vocalist). Their fan base name is A.R.M.Y an acronym for 'Adorable Representatives MC's for Youth.' They have released over thirteen albums as well as five Japanese albums. They gained unprecedented success with their latest full length album 'WINGS,' released

in October of 2016. Prosperous albums allowed them to win

awards like the winning artist of the year and best dance performance for their leading track 'Blood Sweat and Tears.' They received these awards at the Mnet Asian Music

Awards, the biggest award show in Asia. Later they sold out their American tour in April of 2017.

"I think that BTS will continue to gain popularity and get an

even bigger following overseas. I like them because they are new, young, and upcoming. Their music is also really fun to listen to and it's super upbeat. To someone that doesn't know who they are or to a new fan, please don't listen to their music with prejudice. Once you get past that you may really enjoy their music" Madeline Smyth ('20) said.

BTS prepares for their next album 'Love Yourself,' coming out in September. The music video for the track 'Her' will officially release Sept. 18, and album preorders start now. BTS is the start of international music throughout America.

"To someone that doesn't know who they are or to a new fan, please don't listen to their music with prejudice. Once you get past that you may really enjoy their music"

Madeline Smyth ('20)

Mar on the Street

Did you enjoy the new horror movies, Annabelle Creation, or IT and what was your opinion on them?



Photos by Alyssa Magilligan

"I have hope for the film, IT, and believe that the leniency on the actions that directors choose to take will be enhanced and presented in the final cut of this story."

Jake Hektoen ('18)

"The director connected the first movie and second together in such a smooth way. Annabelle Creation is probably one of the scariest movies but was interesting to watch."

Delaney Georgantas ('18)

"I like the overall themes of [the movie] IT. I also like how the kids worked together to solve a problem throughout the movie."

Gilbert Gonzalez ('19)

"Annabelle Creation was a really good movie. A lot of the movies in the horror genre nowadays are pretty predictable but in this one, nothing was expected."

McKenna Cooper ('18)

"[The movie] IT was a little weird, and it had parts that you wouldn't expect at first. But overall I liked it because it gave me a good scare and it had a good story."

Austin Wilson ('20)

Knowles singing her way to top

Rachel Knowles ('20) jump starts her future by exploring her passion for pop and alternative music

CAYLEIGH MAGHE
STAFF REPORTER

Rachel Knowles ('20), possesses a passion for singing and already enjoys a head start on her future. Knowles progressed from singing at her church to auditioning for the hit TV show, American Idol. She hosts worship at Grace Family Church, and sings in front of crowd filled with approximately 1,700 people.

"I'd love to sing in my future. I want singing to be a full time

job for me. I adore being on stage." Knowles said.

Her passion for singing started back in the eighth grade with her peers by her side. Knowles and her friend Kylie White wrote and sang music on the piano, before White moved on to Ireland.

"Singing is a freeing experience. Being on stage makes me happy while making others happy. My music helps people because it is relatable." Knowles said.

Her motivation comes from

Victoria Arvanitis ('18), who helps write her music and can be seen featured in one of her hit songs. Another source of her inspiration is Savanah Ray ('20), who also helps to compose Knowles' music.

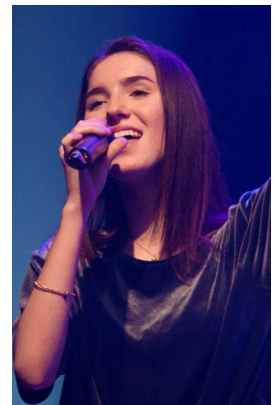
"I get a lot of my inspiration from personal experience. I have a song based around my friend Kylie, as you know she moved away," Knowles said.

Knowles plans to come out with a six to eight song album in 2018. Her music genre is

pop/alternative and some Christian. Most of her music on her album is about losing friends and coping with them moving away. The crowd that Knowles draws in are mainly teenage girls, and around that age group.

"Losing friends shapes you into the person you are." Knowles said.

She believes everyone should stick together and continue to do something they love. In the end, Knowles wants people to take hope out of her music.



Rachel Knowles ('20) successfully performs one of her hit singles in front of an enthusiastic crowd. Photo provided Rachel Knowles

New policies come with a new year

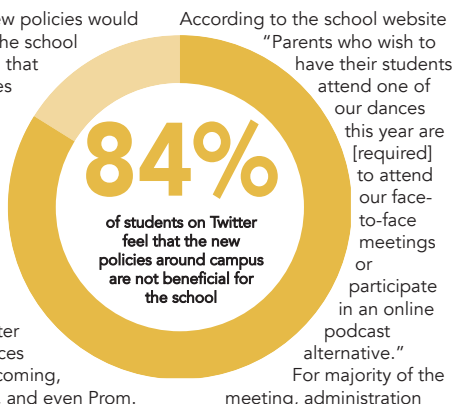
A staff editorial discussing the effects of new school policies such as the mandatory dance meetings and RANCH homeroom

With the start of a new school year, administration implemented new policies throughout the campus including RANCH, loss of privileges, and mandatory dance meetings that each student must attend before allowed to purchase tickets. The Hoofbeat staff believes that these new policies are not beneficial in helping the overall success of the school.

The Hoofbeat posted a Twitter poll asking students if the new policies improved the school or not. A total of 150 votes were cast from the participants on Twitter. Only 16% of the students

thought the new policies would help improve the school while 84% said that the new policies would not improve the function of school.

This year, administration added mandatory dance meetings for students to enter any of the dances such as Homecoming, Winter Formal, and even Prom.



and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) discussed the ideas of drunk driving and prevention. However, parents who already care, keep their children from drinking and driving.

In addition, administration included a homeroom class known as RANCH (Reaching Others Nurtures Community & Respect) that students are required to participate in. According to the presentation shown at the beginning of the year, the purpose of RANCH is to bond a group of students and teachers for four years and

teach about necessary life skills. Not only does RANCH take time away from core teachers, kids cannot build relationships with a teacher in only two hours a month. Moreover, students who care already exhibit strong character, and a brief presentation will not change the character of those who do not listen or want to change.

Administration needs to tear down these policies since they are not positively affecting the behavior and function of our student body.

Pasco rezone solves zip

Rezoning leaves Mitchell overpopulated with more students than last year

RICHARD DALEY
STAFF REPORTER

As students returned from summer vacation, they were greeted with the same burdens from the previous school year: overcrowding of hallways and classrooms.

The 2017 edition of The Stampede yearbook recorded student population for the 2016-17 school year at 2152 students. According to Data Entry Specialist, Ms. Peggy Platteborze (FAC), the student population for the first week of the 2017-18 school year was a

combined 2265 students; 113 more students than last year.

Due to the increase in student population, students have issues getting to their classes before the bell because of overcrowded hallways and limited walking room.

"I can't get to my class on time because there are so many kids in the way," Alex Treto ('20) said.

Not only does this increase in students affect campus life, but it also makes transportation to school difficult for students in rezoned neighborhoods.

"Since I live in Longleaf and we're zoned for River Ridge, it's made the ride situation quite

difficult. My mom is a full-time teacher at Longleaf Elementary so we do a lot of carpooling, since we don't have a bus this year for every kid in Longleaf that got school choice," Madison Maring ('19) said.

According to Edna Copeland at Transportation Services, students can request bus transportation to a school that is not within their zone, with a cap at 48 to 50 students per bus.

"The whole bus is starting to become packed to where it's really difficult to find seats in the mornings and afternoons because we are having to take kids who live in a completely



Bobby Nofsinger ('19) struggles to get to his next class on time in the midst of the overcrowded sidewalks found around campus. Photo by Richard Daley

different neighborhood," Chris Redfield ('20) said.

With the immense population, students wonder why so many people got school choice.

"Everybody that got school choice got accepted for a reason, but in the future I think it would be more beneficial to grandfather in people that have already gone here and let them

finish out their senior year here and then rezone the incoming freshman. It would decrease population size in the long run," Maring said.

Rezoning failed to help with overpopulation on campus. Until the district finds a solution to overpopulation, students must deal with a crowded school.

Don't save your spot, paint your spot

The price for painting senior parking spots raised, however students still pay to paint their spot to show interest in school

BAILEY ILLIG
STAFF REPORTER

Fifteen dollars to fifty dollars, no matter how high the prices go up, seniors show their school spirit through painting their designated parking spots. This new tradition came to the school just last year and the number of students participating in the event has double from the previous year.

"Last year was my first time driving to school, so having the fifteen dollar fee was not that

bad. However, this year we have more students so doubling the price seems pointless. Added onto the fact that we all had to buy our own materials, I ended up spending \$150 on the whole project. If they had supplied us with materials or made the parking fee smaller, I think that would have lessened the price and would have gotten more seniors to show their school spirit," said Rebecca Roberson ('18).

The prices of the parking tags come in from district and

administration does not have a say about how much they are.

However, the school comes up with the senior parking spot prices. This year it is twenty dollars to buy a parking spot and the money goes towards gifts for teachers during teacher appreciation week.

"I think it is good that

extra money is going towards something needed like teacher

"I saw so many kids paint incredible parking spots and it was something that brought us all together together"

Rebecca Roberson ('18)

appreciation gifts, although I would have liked to have not paid fifty dollars for a plastic tag to hang in my car and a parking spot," said Taylor Fox ('18). Students like Roberson, still go out and paint their spots regardless of how much the price

increased by.

"Painting parking spots is something that is important to our senior year so we all want to be a part of it. I saw so many kids paint incredible parking spots and it was something that brought us all together," Roberson said.

Even when the prices double, students still go out in the heat of the day to paint a parking spot of their choice. Just like a pep rally or a home football game, kids want to be a part of showing their school spirit.

Post up on the *gram*



Cierra Cangeme ('18)



Cierra Cangeme ('18)



Paulina Keim ('18)



Erica Mitchell ('18)



Victoria Arvanitis ('18)

Due to the release of Instagram stories, their reasoning on why they think Instagram stories are better than Snapchat stories

JESS MASON
EDITOR

In August 2016, Instagram debuted its new feature called stories which created competition for Snapchat. Although both story features are very similar, Instagram stories come with many different attributes.

Instagram's pen tool provides users with a large variety of color

and size settings, and 4 different pens; whereas Snapchat's pen tool options are limited to only one pen with fewer color choices.

"On Instagram you have access to a cute little pen to write notes. It has more pen options that you are able to write with," Katie Fitzpatrick ('18) said.

Instagram also incorporated the "boomerang" feature into their story release. According

to imore.com, a boomerang is a short and fast burst of photos that are stitched together to create a mini video that plays forward and backward continuously. This feature broadens Instagram user's options by allowing them to post different types of stories.

"Now you can upload boomerang gifs, which makes it more fun to use," Cierra Cangeme ('18) said.

Instagram discovered another way to stand out by creating the "hands-free" feature, which allows users to take a video without continuously having to hold down the record button.

"This allows me to take a video with myself in it, rather than having to be the one behind the screen all the time," Fitzpatrick said.

There were many new ideas that Instagram came up with

to differentiate the two apps from each other. The pen tool, boomerang feature, and "no-hands" video option are just a few of the things that make Instagram stories convenient for users; allowing for an easier and more effective story experience than Snapchat provides.

Post up on the *Snap*



Emily Fowler ('18)



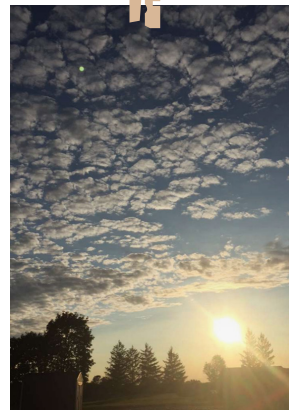
Chris Rabino ('20)



Kirsten Feldman ('19)



Gillian Olortegui ('18)



Brett Freese ('19)

Students explain why they think Snapchat stories are better than Instagram stories

KAITLYN KLEIN
STAFF REPORTER

Snapchat has reigned as the king of short, disappearing videos since its founding, but Instagram recently stepped in to take its place. Due to the few but prominent differences between the two apps, some people prefer Snapchat's stories over Instagram's.

"I feel like Instagram's stories are weird. Everything about

Snapchat stories just looks like how the 'story' idea should look," Gabby Galker ('18) said.

Sam Brykett ('19) believes Instagram shouldn't have stories as it does not fit the app's overall feel, making it an unnecessary addition.

"I like Snapchat stories more because sometimes there are snaps I send to people that I also want on my story and I never post a picture on my Instagram that I want on my story," Brykett

said.

Galker believes that users of Instagram's feature post uninteresting stories as compared to Snapchat's.

"With viewing other's stories, it's so much better on Snapchat. Most people post interesting things they're doing, cool food places they're going, or cute pictures of pets but on Instagram it's almost all either Boomerang selfies, telling people to like their recent pictures, and black

screens with their Snapchat on it," Galker said.

Snapchat user Danielle Sachs ('19) likes how Snapchat gives users the option to respond to others stories.

"I like how I can view someone's story and reply to theirs or vice versa. It's really simple to just swipe up and respond if you want. If I need help with homework, I post it on my snap and people always answer me to help," Sachs said.

Though both apps have a very similar concept, users prefer Snapchat's simpler design and feel. The few different features give Snapchat the edge in the ongoing social media app war.