

HOOFBEAT

J.W. Mitchell High School's Student Newspaper
Volume 15 Issue 4



Taking care of business

Future Business Leaders
of America compete at the
district level

(Page 2)

FBLA Students mean business

Future Business Leaders of America take their skills and talents to district competitions

Morgan Fliss
Reporter

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) remains a club at school that teaches students about how the enterprise system works, as well as correct business etiquette. Students also gain important life skills such as leadership and responsibility. On January 19th, students in the FBLA club possessed a chance to show off their skills in a district competition.

"I feel I did very good in the

past competition. I believe the most successful part of my performance was my quotation and knowledge of facts [in my speech]. From this experience, I learned it is very important to be prepared going into a competition like this," Joey Madden ('18) said.

How students prepared for this competition varied greatly depending on the individual competitor. Some students

like Allison Kaelin ('18), took advantage of any extra class time to strengthen her projects.

"My topic this year was digital design and advertising. I had to pick a character that already exists, turn it into my own movie or TV show, and then create a bunch advertising products for it. Most of my teachers gave me class time to work on the project so I could perfect it and reach my goal, making it into the top

three," Kaelin said.

Other students, like Zhamal Hudson ('17), set goals of beating his last years scores by placing in a higher rank and working hard in school and out.

"My topic this year is public speaking. I have been taking creative writing classes to help improve my writing. Last year, I finished 4th place and all I wanted to do is get better than that," Hudson said.

A few weeks back, FBLA club members showed off their skills in a district competition. Any student interested in joining this club should sign up for any business class offered throughout school and then pick up an application from Ms. Aschell Graves (FAC) in room 316 by the beginning of next school year.

French club? C'est la vie!

With a lack of French classes on campus, the French club continues activities

Max Trettin
Reporter

In spite of the absence of Ms. Brenda Nelms, the prior French Club advisor, the French club came back this school year. Searching for a new advisor, Hailey Wise ('17), French club President, and Bri Seaberg ('18), French club Vice President, approached Ms. Karen Hall (FAC), requesting her help with the position, and she accepted.

Being experienced in French, both Wise and Seaberg accompanied other French club

members since freshman year.

"After Mrs. Nelms left, we had to find a new sponsor. We then approached Mrs. Hall, and asked her at the beginning of this school year if she would like to sponsor the club," Wise said.

As French club makes

attempts in embodying French culture, many of the traditional French celebrations and holidays are praised. These include Bastille Day, Saint Catherine's Day, Tour de France, and Pont des Arts.

"We celebrate a lot of French culture by celebrating all the holidays."

"We celebrate a lot of French culture by celebrating all the holidays. We also try to be as true to the culture as we can, and basically try to celebrate the holidays as they would celebrate them," Seaberg said.

French club also helps fundraise money for organizations fighting against disease and disruption of developing countries.

"We are going to host a crêpe day fundraiser to raise money

for Doctors without Borders, which is an organization to help war-torn regions affected by disease," Wise said.

If students show interest in joining the French club, they can ask Ms. Hall in Room 723, or attend one of the meetings which take place on the second and fourth Thursday of each month after school for more information on the club.

Editorial Policy

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

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

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

The 2016-17

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Kristina Jautze
c/o 2019

This staffer worked above and beyond to make her stories exemplary.

Read her stories on
pages 14 & 19

Friendly faces lend a helping hand

The Social Inclusion Club makes others feel included by creating new friendships among students

Savannah D'Avilla
Reporter

With a wide variety of clubs offered on campus, students interested in working with others may choose to join the Social Inclusion Club. In this club students hang out and get to know our Exceptional Student Education (ESE) students on a personal level. The Social Inclusion Club offers many activities that help ESE students fit in because they don't get

the same experiences as other students.

"We mostly do this to help our ESE students form relationships on a personal level," Ms. Andrea Boyce-Heavilin (FAC) said.

The club contains about 160 members and about thirty ESE students. They offer many activities such as bowling, trips to the mall, participation in Special Olympics, and other

activities throughout the year.

"My favorite part about being in the Social Inclusion Club is getting to know the ESE students on a personal level and taking them to the Special Olympics," Bianca Leigh ('18) said.

When Social Inclusion members take the ESE students on trips they each get partnered up with one to two individuals.

Usually the teacher picks the pairs unless a student picks a special buddy.

Club member Hannah Thompson ('18) transferred from Eastlake High School this year and joined Social Inclusion Club in hopes of getting involved and making a difference.

"My favorite member is Emma [because] she is just so sweet and is always fun to talk

to. Emma is always my first choice when we're picking our buddies," Thompson said.

Social Inclusion brings everyone at the school together helping make ESE students feel equal and involved. If interested in joining the Social Inclusion Club, see Ms. Andrea Boyce-Heavilin in room 130.

Saving the planet, one bottle at a time

Student Council students purchase new water fountains to help the school become more ecofriendly

Avery Phillion
Reporter

Thirty-eight million bottles are wasted every year in the United States. But thanks to Student Council, this can be prevented with the new water bottle filling stations installed on some of the water fountains around the school. The fountains are automatic, clean, and effective.

"We decided to get the refillable water fountains to save plastic and encourage students to reuse their water bottles," Shelbi Land ('17) said.

These fillers encourage students to reuse water bottles which increase health and save plastic.

"The original idea came from Ms. McNulty (FAC), she had mentioned it to me, and then I mentioned it to Student Council, and that is how we really started talking about it. So we looked

at the benefits of having it and people bringing in a thermos or water bottle. I worked with book keeping on it and ordered through book keeping. But there is one for each building and cafeteria," Mr. Braddy (FAC) said.

These convenient new machines make saving the planet easier for students.

"We use the Elkay to save energy and be more water efficient by using the sensor activated filter machine," Olivia Miller ('18) said.

Thanks to Ms. McNulty, Mr. Braddy, Student Council, and Ms. Janet Mendieta, the book keeper, students are able to find a refillable water fountain in every building around campus, including the cafeteria.

Students like Gianna Knowles ('20) utilize the new water fountains in commons areas at school.

Photo by: Sophie Sajecki



Making a PAWSitive contribution

The Art and Fashion clubs organize an animal supply drive for the Suncoast Animal League

Morgan Fliss
Reporter

Mrs. Donna Fulton (FAC) along with help from the Art and Fashion club, began hosting an animal supply drive that helps support the Suncoast Animal League located in Palm Harbor. This drive, running until February 14th, provides a great way for giving back and helping homeless shelter pets throughout the community.

"I think it's really important to give back to the animal community. By helping out the shelter, awareness is brought to the issue of several pets who don't have homes and are looking for their forever family," Theresa Garrison ('17) said.

Students' helpful and compassionate donations ensure that the drive runs smoothly and

successfully. Many homeless animals may be saved due to student's contributions. All donations go to good use by providing well-needed care to shelter pets.

"Students can help by simply donating animal supplies like toys and food, but they can also help by spreading the word about being able to help

[animals in need]," Fulton said.

Items included on the Suncoast Animal League wish-list are: Purina One dog and cat food, non-scoopable cat litter, dog crates, nyla-bones, leashes, and dog collars. The animal league also continues to look for students and their families to volunteer at the shelter, until each animal finds their forever

home. All donations should be brought to donation boxes placed in the office, media, and cafeteria, as well as room 333. Every animal appreciates even the littlest of gifts, so donate and help out the Suncoast Animal League.

Pick up the phone

Verizon

Retail customer base of 112.1 million
Verizon offers plans ranging from size small (starting at \$35 per month) to xxl; each plan increasing by \$10 per size.

Sprint

Retail customer base of 55+ million
Sprint offers a basic plan of \$20 per month, along with several other plans with ranging data amounts.

T-Mobile

Retail customer base of 67.4 million
T-Mobile offers a variety of plans ranging from \$40 to \$60 per month along with other basic plans.

AT&T

Retail customer base of 107.9 million
AT&T offers a basic plan of \$20 per month, along with several other plans with ranging data amounts.

According to statista.com, AT&T and Verizon continue to compete for the top position, both sitting comfortably above Sprint Corporation and T-Mobile U.S in terms of revenue.

One step ahead of the rest

Students share how the clubs they participate in prepare them for their future careers

Jess Mason
Reporter

HOSA, FBLA, ROTC, and Yearbook are just a small selection of clubs that offer students a first look into their sought-out career path.

In addition to clubs, some classes provide certification tests which put students a step ahead of the rest, as far as making early advancements in their future careers. Madelyn Hickey ('18), a Digital Design 2 student, is taking the Adobe Illustrator certification exam this year.

"Getting the Illustrator certification allows me to put that on my college resumé, which is unique, and makes me seem more diverse because most

people won't have that," Hickey said.

These clubs also improve the students' knowledge and skills in their chosen profession.

"Being in Yearbook has really improved my communication skills. When I first started, I was a staffer, so I did a lot of interviewing, which helped me to be in contact with other people. It also improved my writing ability because you do a lot of story writing, and time management because you have to meet a lot of deadlines,"

Kelvine Moyers ('17) said. FBLA member, Bailey Bodden ('17), has a similar outlook to

Moyers, believing that the things he does today will teach him how to be more equipped in the future.

"FBLA is going to help me later in life because it's taught me skills and networking communication, and just [how to maintain] relationships with other people. When I communicate with others, I know the skills to be professional in a business area, I know how to dress, and I know the certain things that are going to give me an advantage if I were to go into a job interview right now. I'm just learning business skills that are helping me day by day in order to

improve my future when I major in business," Bodden said.

Through these clubs, students are given the opportunity to work with a team and learn what it means to be a leader.

"HOSA, through many of the things we do, especially if you try to become an officer, will help develop your leadership skills," Hunter Tobey ('18) said.

Along with the previously mentioned, ROTC is a club that teaches basic discipline to its members.

"Being in ROTC has taught me how to respect people the right way. So if you go somewhere, you say 'Yes, sir' and 'yes,

ma'am'. It's also taught me how to stand up in front of a room and teach someone something," McKenna Cooper ('18) said.

Joining a club on campus is a way for students to open themselves up to future opportunities, and learn skills that will benefit them in the long run. HOSA, FBLA, ROTC, and Yearbook, are just a few of the clubs that give students the chance to take the steps necessary to put themselves one step ahead of the rest.

Rock out with your Crocs out

Students share how they wear the recent comeback shoe; Crocs

Avery Phillion
Reporter

Making a comeback from years ago; Crocs have become the latest trend among teens.

"I started wearing Crocs when I was seven. I now wear my pink or white Crocs to volleyball and to school once a week," Kamdyn Moore ('18) said.

Through a variety of colors and accessories called "jibbitz", one

can customize their Crocs to their preference. "Jibbitz" are rubber, clip on characters, or objects, that can be attached onto Crocs.

"Jibbitz just make Crocs more fun. You can literally find anything in the form of a jibbit. There are Jibbitz for everybody," Alyssa DiVincent ('19) said.

The reason behind the

Croc comeback stems from them being comfortable and customizable.

"Crocs are so comfortable, and you can wear them with most outfits so it's nice to be able to just slip them on and go. It's also fun to go out and buy jibbitz because there's such a variety and you can mix match them on

your Crocs," Tara Pirozzi ('19) said.

Crocs can be worn almost everywhere. With no laces or tightening difficulties, these comfy rubber shoes are simple to slide on while walking out the door.

"I wear my Crocs taking my dog out, running errands, or

anywhere I just need to slip a pair of shoes on," Sebastian Zieba ('19) said.

Crocs can be bought in many different places, but at the Croc store itself, the "classic clog" retails for \$34.99.

Easy, breezy, brows and lashes

Students share their opinions on false lashes, lash extensions, and brows

Sam Burchick
Reporter

A recent trend in the beauty world focuses on brows and lashes. People who are not happy with their eyelashes can get lash extensions professionally done, or they can glue on false lashes themselves. On the other hand, people not pleased with their brows can pluck, wax, or thread their eyebrows to help shape them.

Taylor Rodriguez ('18) started buying fake lashes because her natural eyelashes are short and

blonde. She invests a lot of time in makeup and believes that her falsies complete her look. She also believes that the cheap lashes work the best.

"I get Ardell or Kiss lashes from CVS. The maximum price is about seven dollars and I get maybe three wears out of them before I throw them away," Rodriguez said.

While having false lashes to put on yourself may be convenient to some, others go to professionals

and get lash extensions.

"I think lash extensions look great on. They last a long time, although they are difficult to maintain," Gracelin Gardner ('18) said.

Recently, people have gotten more particular on who does their eyebrows and how they are done. Some go to salons and have professionals do them.

"I get mine threaded in the mall because it lasts longer and makes my eyebrows less bushy.

Even though it hurts a lot, it is faster than plucking, making it worth it," Jocelyn Espinoza ('17) said.

Others find it more convenient to do it themselves.

"All I do is make sure that before I pluck them I fill them in, and fill them in dark so that I have a guide as to what to pluck and what not to pluck. I use the "Stay All Day Precision Glide brow pencil" by Stile," Rodriguez said.

As it is a recent trend, many places offer lash extensions and brow waxes locally. Both brows and lashes complement each other, so when working on either, be sure to do what is best for you.

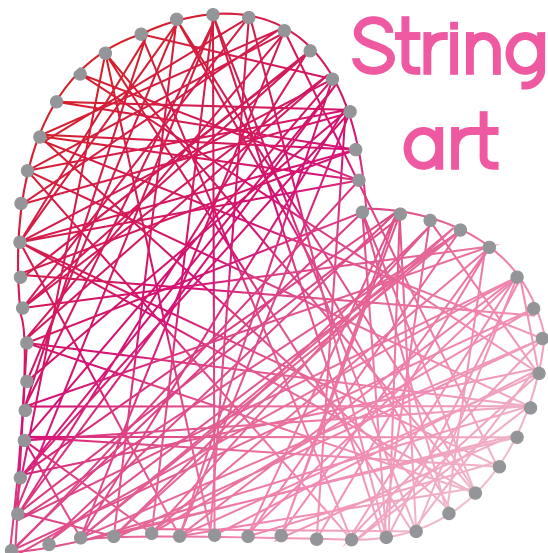
GIFTS FROM THE HE(ART)



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recipe
Mason
Jar



Pre-planned
date cards



String
art

Open-when letters



Step into my world

Student with virtual reality glasses share their thoughts and experiences

Josh Wagner
Reporter

Virtual Reality is a computer-generated, three-dimensional (3D) image or environment that people can view and physically interact with. It opens up an almost infinite range of possibilities for gamers and normal, everyday people to explore. Virtual Reality has taken the world by storm.

When the Full Sail University Bus Experience rolled into the school on Wednesday, January 18, Billy Dorkowski ('17) was

one among a handful of the students allowed access onto the bus; able to experience the technology inside, including virtual reality.

"The bus was really cool because it was all about game design, game development, animation, and virtual reality. It was great that we went because everything was hands-on. It was mostly game development and for anyone interested in that, it was really great," Dorkowski said.

To get the immersive experience of virtual reality right in your home, however, you may need to pull some extra dough out of your piggy banks. Oculus Rift is retailing at \$599 USD for just the headset, and PlayStation VR running at \$399 USD, not including the PS4. These high prices may lead some people with doubt on if the ensnaring experience is worth it.

"I got my [Samsung Gear VR] for free with my phone, but

they run retail \$100. I think it is worth it. I am glad I got it," Joey Weierheiser ('18) said.

Virtual reality allows you to view a multitude of videos and play games. Netflix, Youtube, and certain movies are some of the films you can watch. Seeing places such as Paris, Greece, and more has become just a tap away. "Batman Arkham VR", "I Expect You To Die," and "Until Dawn: Rush of Blood," are some games available on the

PlayStation VR store.

"Everything looked so cool, everything was so realistic, it was taking a tour through, I believe we were in France. Going through there was so cool. It is awe-inspiring (the technology that we have)," Dorkowski said.

Virtual Reality quickly became a new adventure that shows just how innovative and creative we, as humans, can be.

Fast food delivery: Good as it sounds?

Local restaurants and fast food joints start delivering food to hungry students

Josh Wagner
Reporter

As fast food companies try to find innovative ways to beat the competition, many chains are starting to bring the food to the customers with delivery services.

Popular food chain McDonald's selected 200 restaurants in Orlando, Tampa, and Miami to begin delivering food late January to consumer's homes using the UberEATS app.

Dunkin' Donuts, Starbucks, and Panera are some of the many corporations toying with the idea of delivery.

"I feel like this could bring in a lot of already occurring obesity

issues we have in America and it could make it even worse. It is easy enough to go through a drive thru, and get your food in about two minutes from the time you order to the time you pick it up," Katie Cox ('18) said.

With the addition of delivery services, even more stress may be put on fast food chain restaurants because of the influx of orders from a source outside of the local McDonald's.

"McDonald's, being a well-known fast food chain with many customers daily, the amount of people wanting deliveries to

their houses would be insane. Each McDonald's store may face a problem of understaffing. Also, once they get back from delivering, there would be so many workers in the store at one time," Cox said.

Although the idea of food delivered straight to our door may sound pleasurable, would the novelty wear off? Tabitha Gutowski ('18), employed at Dunkin' Donuts, which began delivery in Brooklyn and Manhattan early August of 2016 shares a similar opinion with Cox.

"It is already fast food. You

grab it and you go. It is on your way home, going to work, going to school, wherever you are going, it is there. It is supposed to be fast. As long as your employees are good and you know what they are doing and how to work, then there should be no issue. It is just a bagel with cream cheese and a coffee," Gutowski said.

With all these thoughts of food being delivered, students must keep in mind rules of delivering to the school.

"During school hours, we are a closed campus. They are not

allowed to deliver to school. It actually violates our Food and Nutrition Services policies. So, the rule during the day is that they cannot be delivered, because we are a closed campus. But, after school, I have no issue [with fast food companies delivering]," Ms. Jessica Schultz (FAC) said.

With the promise of delivery, fast food companies are under pressure to do it right, so we all can enjoy our Big Mac's without leaving our homes.

Frosty the snow makeup



Whispy Lashes

These Kiss false lashes give a wispy and voluminous effect; adding more emphasis to the eyes.

Faux Freckles

This NYC light brown eye liner pencil is a sufficient way to draw on fake freckles to fulfill the new faux freckles trend.



Vampy Lips

This NYX matte lip cream in Copenhagen is a vampy compliment to any winter look.



Monochromatic Eyes

These L'oreal La Palette Nude eyeshadow palettes are an inexpensive option for a high quality and pigmented palette to try out the new monochromatic eye shadow trend.

(Formal)ly introducing...

Choker can be
purchased at Forever
21 for \$5

Dress can be
purchased at
Windsor for \$35

Shoes can be
purchased at Target
for \$30



Camryn Freitag ('18)



Sam Walkwitz ('17)

① Shirt can be
purchased at Express
for \$70

② Bow Tie and Suspenders
can be purchased on
Amazon for \$20

③ Watch can be
purchased at Urban
Outfitters for \$100

④ Pants can be
purchased at Express
for \$60

⑤ Shoes can be
purchased at
Nordstrom for \$120

Can I have this dance?

Winter formal offered students the opportunity to dress up and hit the dance floor between Homecoming and Prom

Bailey Illig
Reporter

Winter formal happens annually in January and the crowd that turns up for this event rages with excitement.

The experience at the Winter Ball seems familiar to the Homecoming experience that everyone was talking about the week after.

"I expected everyone to be dancing and having a great time and getting tired to the point

where they needed water, [and it was a good thing] they had water out by the bathrooms along with cookies," Alexa McPherson ('20) said.

The students that participate in Winter Formal may not wish to buy a dress if it is possible to borrow one from a friend. Gabriela Chalela ('18) and Brie Chamberlin ('18) allowed the cheer team to borrow some of

their dresses.

"Knowing that we were going to have to get ready on the bus [on the way back from our cheer competition], and never knowing what I am going to wear at the last minute, I did not want to bring one dress and not be happy with it. I brought four dresses so that I could have a variety and have extra if anyone wanted to borrow a dress,"

Chalela said.

A student, Brian Spicer ('18), describes Winter Formal as an experience to remember. However, the negatives at the dance seem to stand out to everyone.

"There were similar tastes in music and dancing. The only thing different from homecoming was that there was a huge stage in the middle of the gym that

took up half of the dance floor and nobody really liked that," Spicer said.

Students may get their hair and nails done for this event but the tradition of getting a dress is a little different. The experience that happens at Winter Formal can resemble the events at Homecoming or Prom.

Say yes to the perfect dress

Find the perfect prom dress based on what flatters each body type

Savannah D'Avilla
Reporter

As prom season approaches, girls search for the perfect dress. Finding the right fit may be challenging if one doesn't have an idea of what they want. The typical prom dress is usually floor length and very elegant. However, some girls switch it up by wearing a short dress.

"This is only my first year going considering that I'm only a sophomore. I just really wanted to be different and stand out

with my dress," Lisette Anton ('19) said.

When picking out a prom dress, the style chosen should be one that fits the body type.

For girls with an hour glass figure, dresses that cinch in at the waist are the most flattering. Girls with more of an apple figure should look for a swing or empire-style dress; as it will flow over the mid-section for a flattering effect. For girls

with broad shoulders, known as the inverted triangle shape, dresses that flare out are ideal for balancing the body out. If a girl has an athletic body type, she should look for dresses with draping and ruching to play up the curves she has.

While searching for a prom dress, knowing the right place to go is key. There are many stores around that offer a wide selection of dresses. Nikki's Glitz

and Glam Boutique in Palm Harbor, Maria's Bridal Connection located in New Port Richey, and CC's Bridal boutique found in International Mall are sufficient places to go for dresses ranging from \$200 to \$2000.

"I love Nikki's. When I went there I had the best experience and the workers were a big help for me. I don't think that the price matters as long as you find your perfect prom dress,"

Gabrielle Roche ('18) said.

There are many places that have affordable prom dresses as well. Windsor, located in Citrus Park Mall, is an option for affordable dress prices. Another option is to either look in Macy's or Dillard's. Both stores have a wide selection of dresses at inexpensive costs.



Photos provided by: Stefano Mahairas

Tarpon Springs EPIPHANY

Stefano Mahairas ('18) participates in the annual Tarpon Springs Epiphany, an event celebrated by Orthodox Christians

Bailey Illig
Reporter

The religious event called the Tarpon Springs Epiphany represents the baptism of Jesus Christ in the Jordan River. The Orthodox Christians celebrate Epiphany on January 6th of each year. This religious event allows boys ages 16 to 18 participate only if that person is active in their church community and was baptized. J.W. Mitchell's very own Stefano Mahairas ('18) got the opportunity to participate in this event through the process of applying through his church.

"The application that we were required to complete with an essay that was to be completed and [the church] chose the divers based on this application," Mahairas said.

The most influential people in someone's life are their family. The people involved in Mahairas' life were a big factor in making his decision of participating in this event.

"I was encouraged to do this from my family and friends that have

done it previously that have told me about how wonderful and holy this experience is. I have joined the Cross Dive because I have grown up in this area and have heard from many current and previous divers what a great experience it is to participate in the Epiphany," Mahairas said.

The Epiphany takes place annually on January 6th and the crowd and participants for this religious event are ecstatic. The priest of the church throws a cross into the water as the contestants dive into the water as an attempt to retrieve the white cross. This ritual's goal for the young participants is that they learn the tradition of their church and that it helps form them into faithful Christians. Through all of the excitement of the Epiphany, the focus of the event remains on God.



That's one HEK of a movie

Jake Hektoen ('18), a current published author and a Marchman student, created the opportunity to work with a professional producer

Kaitlyn Klein
Reporter

For his Digital Cinema Production final at Marchman Technical College, Jake Hektoen ('18) will make a film, which he will enter into film festivals. Once it's completed and he has entered it in a few festivals, he will be putting it on his YouTube channel for anyone to watch. Film has always been something he enjoyed doing and has a major interest in.

"I love the potential of film and it's emotional impact on a person, and to be able to affect people in such way that makes them think differently about a situation or characters that they otherwise wouldn't have known about is something that I've always dreamt of," Hektoen said.

During the process of filming, Hektoen's crew made the task of reaching his goal much easier to tackle.

"The process of acquiring locations was difficult for me due to the process of introducing myself to the owners of each place and explaining my situation as a college film student. Shooting the film, though, has been extremely easy due to the magnificent crew who has been working extremely hard to produce

the best content possible. Without them and the cast, my vision would not be as shown in the clips we've gotten," Hektoen said.

Though Hektoen's production is high quality, he considers himself still on the path to professionalism, but not yet there.

"I wouldn't call myself a professional at all. At most a hobbyist attempting to become someone. I would be more comfortable saying the people I work with are professional because they give me the final product. I merely tell them how I want it to be done. A crew is all about teamwork, and I'd be nowhere without them," Hektoen said.

Hektoen and the crew wish for a successful outcome from his entry in the festivals. Following the entries, the film should be up on his YouTube channel, BirchhelmFilms, some time around February or March of this year. Until then, Hektoen continues to take part in his passion, in hopes of turning it into a profession.



All photos by: Mike Wilkins





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GET IN THE ZONE

The decision affecting students across the district leaves them in search for a way to stay in their school zone

Sophie Sajecki
Editor

As previously covered in Issue One of the Hoodbeat, the boundaries for J.W. Mitchell High School were redrawn due to the overcrowding, and new boundaries take effect in the 2017-2018 school year. The west side school boundary change for the 2017-2018 school year directly affects students currently living in Starkey Ranch and Longleaf that attend JWMHS. While this seems like only a small area affected, many freshmen and sophomores attending JWMHS face upcoming changes.

Other options prevail for the newly rezoned students. Students wishing to continue in attendance at JWMHS have the opportunity to apply for school choice. Students need an actual reason for continuing attendance JWMHS before applying for school choice, such as getting accepted into one of the many specialized programs offered on campus.

JWMHS has the Advanced Placement Capstone program. We're the only school on the west side of the county that offers the two-course sequence program that typically begins in junior year. Students can earn the Capstone Diploma by passing the Capstone exams and then 4 other AP classes of their choosing throughout their high school career. We also have the Medical Academy where students can earn their CNA or EMT certification in addition to a CMAA certification. Our Business Tech Academy includes several classes that also provide many certification opportunities. One new class we'll be offering next year will be Foundations of Programming that will better prepare our students for our AP Computer Science A course," Ms. Jill Cortier (FAC) said.

Signing up for a unique program offered at JWMHS may seem like an easy and simple alternative to switching schools, but those programs only accept those willing

to work their hardest and commit to the work for the entirety of the school year.

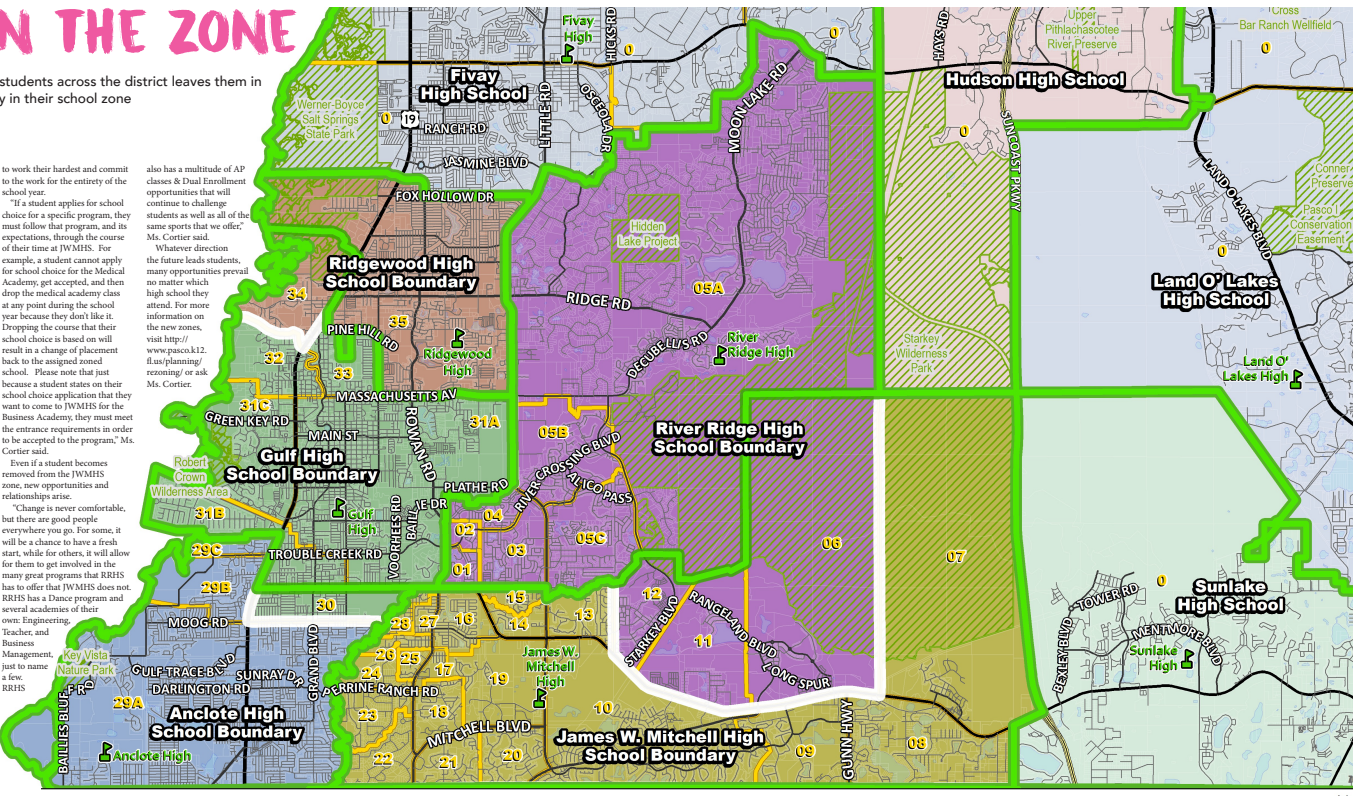
"If a student applies for school choice for a specific program, they must follow that program, and its expectations, through the course of their time at JWMHS. For example, a student cannot apply for school choice for the Medical Academy, get accepted, and then drop the medical academy class at any point during the school year because they don't like it. Dropping the course that their school choice is based on will result in a change of placement back to the assigned zoned school. Please note that just because a student states on their school choice application that they want to come to JWMHS for the Business Academy, they must meet the entrance requirements in order to be accepted to the program," Ms. Cortier said.

Even if a student becomes removed from the JWMHS zone, new opportunities and relationships arise.

"Change is never comfortable, but there are good people everywhere you go. For some, it will be a chance to have a fresh start, while for others, it will allow for them to get involved in the many great programs that JWMHS has to offer that JWMHS does not. RRHS has a Dance program and several academies of their own: Engineering, Teacher, and Business Management, just to name a few. RRHS

also has a multitude of AP classes & Dual Enrollment opportunities that will continue to challenge students as well as all of the same sports that we offer," Ms. Cortier said.

Whatever direction the future leads students, many opportunities prevail no matter which high school they attend. For more information on the new zones, visit <http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/planning/rezoning/> or ask Ms. Cortier.



All in for the national champs

Chris Wilson
Reporter

The 2017 College Football Playoff National Championship game took place on January 9th inside Raymond James Stadium, in Tampa, Florida between The University of Clemson and the University of Alabama. Clemson clinched the win in the last 6 seconds as quarterback Deshaun Watson threw the game winning touchdown pass to wide receiver Hunter Renfrow and Clemson won their first National Championship since 1981.

After his mom attended Clemson, Ryan DelNegro ('17) became a big Tiger fan, as he supported the school that his mom

once attended.

"It was a great feeling to be able to watch the game in person. It's a once in a lifetime experience to see a National Championship game in person and I will always remember it. I have seen many games in person but this one was special. There was no better feeling than to see my favorite team competing for a national title," DelNegro said.

Fans made the environment energized and for those who are not the biggest of football fans, they say they enjoyed the experience and will not forget it. "It was such a great experience

because I don't typically go to football games since my family is more of a baseball family, but it was great to see these college athletes putting in such hard work to get to this big game. It was definitely an experience I will never forget," Amanda Garcia ('17) said.

Band members such as Jenessa McGuire ('18) were given the opportunity of being on the field before the game started.

"It was one of the most exciting times that I have ever experienced. It was really cool to see [Raymond James] Stadium and all the seats filled up and being able to stand in



DelNegro poses with his family by their seats at the National Championship.

Photo provided by Ryan DelNegro

the Alabama End Zone," McGuire said.

Having the National Championship game in Tampa provided an opportunity for students experience the high energy environment. Watching

the game go down to the wire provided an adrenaline rush for the students, and especially the ones who were able to perform before the once-in-a-lifetime game.

MAN on the STREET

What's in your sports bag?



“

I keep a basketball in my bag that I write motivational quotes on and I read them before every game.

Samuel Adawonu ('19)

”

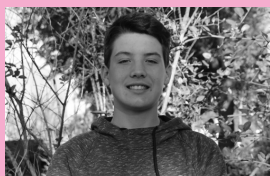


“

When I'm getting ready for a game I always keep my grandmother's ring in my bag as a good luck charm.

Sydney Britton ('18)

”



“

One thing for good luck is that I never put my baseball glove in my bag as a ritual after every game.

Jackson Miller ('20)

”



“

I keep sunflower seeds or beef jerky in my softball bag for good luck on making districts.

Hailey Profeta ('17)

”



“

I keep an American flag in my locker because both of my grandpas and my dad were in the military.

Robert Nofsinger ('18)

”

Holden all the new records

Holden Honor ('17) breaks several school records, all of which haven't been broken in over 10 years

Lexi Clark
Editor

The sound of metal clashing against racks and the grunts of determination fill the air as the weightlifting team wills their muscles to tear slightly and repair themselves in order to get stronger. Holden Honor ('17) does this with a specific goal in mind: to conquer. Honor competes in two weight-classes, alternating between 183 pounds for important meets such as districts, regionals, and states, and 199 pounds for most others.

The record of 280 pound bench, 250 pound clean and jerk, and 525 pound total for the 183 weight class hasn't been broken in 14 years, the record is currently held by Spencer Brown who broke it in 2003. The 199 weight

class record of 310 bench, 210 clean and jerk, and 520 pound total was set 11 years ago by Jeremy Riverra in 2006. Also, the overall school total record of 620 pounds has been held by Spencer Brown for 12 years; however, Honor intends on claiming all of these titles for his own this year.

"My personal weightlifting coach doesn't let me lift as heavy as I can, but the last time I maxed out on benching I hit 340 [pounds] and 300 [pounds] for clean and jerk, I know I could have done more though. With my current totals, I would have placed third at states last year. My goal is just to be as strong as I can possibly be and I can't really put numbers on that," Honor

said.

He perfects his techniques to help raise his currently estimated 640 pound total max five to six days a week in the gym, doing basic Olympic lifts of some form basically every workout and auxiliary workouts to target the specific muscle groups vital to those lifts; for example, doing dumbbell bench presses instead of benching. He competes individually with a personal weightlifting coach in addition to lifting in his free time and for the school.

"My [personal] coach has me on 12 week cycles. Earlier in the cycle I'll go lighter and later in the cycle I'll go heavier with less reps. There's one week in the cycle

where I'm working out for about three and a half to four hours every day," Honor said.

To maintain his physique in order to break the records, Honor finds motivation through his inspiration, Oleksiy Torokhtiy, a Ukrainian weightlifter.

"[Oleksiy Torokhtiy] does these training seminars called 'Warm Body Cold Mind' and that's how you have to prepare yourself for weightlifting. You have to be stone cold focus yet physically warmed up. [When I'm lifting and waiting for the judge to call press] absolutely nothing is running through my mind," Honor said.

Honor began working out in the eighth grade when he became unsatisfied with his appearance,

then became serious about weightlifting come high school. Just recently, Honor realized that his dream of becoming an Olympic weightlifter has the potential to become a reality.

"I just kept telling myself it was too crazy but [Oleksiy Torokhtiy] did a Q&A on reddit and reading how he went from starting late just like me to taking gold in 2012 really inspired me. There's nothing exceptional about me except the fact that I love what I do and I love working hard at it and that's something that I'm going to continue doing," Honor said.

This upcoming season, the records set by past weightlifters will be challenged by Honor's hard work and dedication.

Xoxo, Mustang lacrosse girls

The girls' lacrosse team reflects on why they chose to switch to the sport

Raleigh Illig
Editor

Although not yet a sanctioned sport in Pasco, lacrosse attracted new players to the club this year. As a fairly new sport to this area, not many people have experience playing the sport or know exactly what it is. Talia Diaz ('18) played soccer her freshman and sophomore year and decided to try lacrosse.

"I think I wanted to play just because it was a new sport to me; I'd never heard of it and I wanted to try something new," Diaz said.

Lacrosse started at Mitchell four years ago when the community had an interest in bringing this sport local.

With a new and exciting sport coming to light, many people who retired from a previous sport tried something new.

Taylor Fox ('18), a former softball player started playing lacrosse during her first year in

high school.

"I wanted to try something new, something different, and something that not a lot of people were already doing, so I thought lacrosse would be good to try," Fox said.

Raelyn Bellamy ('19) cheered for a majority of her life, and by watching friends play lacrosse, it sparked her interest to try

something out of her comfort zone.

"I feel that playing lacrosse serves me very well and that's one of the reasons I quit cheerleading. After playing for one summer and getting one-on-one time, it changed everything and I grew to love it," Bellamy said.

Making the transition from one sport to another can be a difficult task for an athlete, especially when each sport requires unique skill sets to excel. In lacrosse players need

good hand-eye coordination, speed, and quick reaction time.

"Playing soccer definitely helped me with my speed and footwork when playing lacrosse. If you already have those when you start playing you're basically golden," Diaz said.

Regardless of the fact that tryouts are over, the team will still be accepting interested athletes. Boys and girls should see Ms. Michele Chamberlin (FAC) in the CRC if interested.

Runnin' with the sticks and my bros

The boys' lacrosse team looks forward to playing in the stadium this season

Raleigh Illig
Editor

On February 15th, boys lacrosse takes the field for their first home game of the season against Palm Harbor University. For the first time since club lacrosse began in Trinity four years ago, boys and girls are now allowed to play their games on the football field. Korbin Smith ('17) has played lacrosse since his freshman year and looks forward to the changes that come this season.

"I think that it is a privilege to play on the football field

this year; we played on the middle school field last year but definitely playing on the football field will be a lot better. The football field is just a lot nicer and it has bleachers where as on the other field people had to bring pop-up chairs and risked getting hit with the ball," Smith said.

In recent years, not many experienced players joined the team, being that lacrosse is still such a new sport to the area. Despite that disadvantage, this

year's current team is expected to exceed their past reputation.

"I'm feeling pretty good this year. The team got a lot better this year from past years because we had a lot of new kids and then I think that a lot of the kids that just moved here this year have already played a few years so they're ready. I think we're going to go 16-0 this season and we're not going to take an 'L,'" Smith said.

Garret Hobbs ('18) has been

playing lacrosse for four years now and states that with all the new additions to the team it makes playing a lot more fun.

"I'm excited for just playing with my friends and having a good time out there and hopefully winning a lot," Hobbs said.

Each year the lacrosse team grows more and more and as a large team can be harder to train with it has its perks when games come around.

"I'm excited for this season,

we have a lot more people this year so we can rotate running throughout the games," Payton Risinger ('19) said.

With the boys' lacrosse season just beginning, the team works to maximize playing time for each member and finish with a winning record.

Superfans & superstition

Fans go to the extremes with their superstitions to support their favorite teams

Chris Wilson
Reporter

Super fans are people driven by a love and a passion for their team. Fans all have their own specific ways to cheer on their team as they hope that their team will make it all the way to the biggest game. Fans of the NFL, MLB, NHL and other leagues have their favorite teams and root for them no matter what.

"I'm a big Patriots fan and I enjoy watching them play. They are my favorite team because I have family that lives in Boston, so they're big Patriots fans too which makes watching them more fun," Tyler Wellington ('19)

said.

As fans got ready for the big game, they uphold pre-game rituals and superstitions in hope that it could help their team be victorious in the end of the game.

"I wear my lucky undershirt underneath my jersey whenever the Falcons are playing a game," Connor Farrell ('18) said.

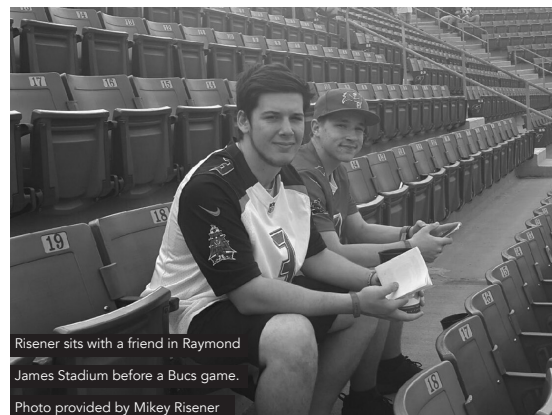
Even if their team fails to make it to the big game or even the playoffs, fans still go all out for their team, in hopes that next year will be even better than the last.

"As a fan of the Tampa Bay

Buccaneers, it was disappointing that we didn't make it to the playoffs this year, but we are getting closer each year. I enjoy watching us grow as a team and bonding so that we can get to the playoffs either next year or the year after that," Mikey Risener ('18) said.

When their teams succeed, it makes watching the games more entertaining for fans.

"As a Patriots fan I am used to us being really good, so it makes watching us play better. I love watching us blow out teams and at the end of the season come out on top," Wellington said.



Risener sits with a friend in Raymond James Stadium before a Bucs game.
Photo provided by Mikey Risener

Having a multitude of teams to choose from, if a person likes sports they are bound to have a favorite team and they support them in different ways. Whether their superstition is wearing a lucky shirt or even wearing the

team jersey at school the day before the game, everyone has their own ways of supporting their favorite team.

Let's **KNOCK**erball 'em

This is the first year that Knockerball has been brought to Mitchell. Mrs. Illig, Mrs. Fliss, and Mrs. Saterwhite are the class sponsor for the class of 2020 and thought it would be a new and exciting activity for students to try

Kristina Jautze
Reporter

For the first time, a Knockerball Tournament took place at the Mitchell stadium on January 23, 2017. Players paid \$15 each to participate and 14 teams competed against each other.

"It was a fun and good experience; I could see the appeal for the high school population. It was a good mix of legs and arms sports. It was fun attacking each other," Michael Mortilla ('19) said.

The basic rule of the game was to kick the ball into the goal while player wore an inflated ball. Teams played four at a time on two 50 yard fields, and the team who scored the most goals in a certain amount of time moved on to the next round.

"Going into Knockerball scared me cause there were bigger kids than me and everyone was getting hit and at first I didn't want to get hit. After the first game and getting hit a few times I wasn't nervous anymore and it turned out to be really fun," Chase Weitekamp ('20) said.

One team that got the opportunity to play were called the Crash Test Dummies. Timmy Dorkowski ('18), played for this 5 person team.

"Knockerball was possibly the most fun after school activity

ever. It was awesome. It was just fun to deck someone that was about to get lit up," Dorkowski said.

Later in the tournament, the final two took the field. Team captains Jordan Garcia ('18) from Boys from the Border, and Viraj Patel ('17) from Knockout, stood face to face.

"The last game was tough because we knew we had to play the second best team in the tournament. My team had just won 6 games in a row and we were very tired and worn down," Garcia said.

Boys from the Border won the game and earned the title of champions at the first annual Knockerball tournament. This team of juniors stated that they will be back again next year to defend their title.

"Knockerball is super difficult, so the fact that we beat a bunch of seniors made it that much better. We will be back next year with the same team and we're going to go back-to-back," Myles Megna ('18) said.

The days following the tournament, students complained of sore muscles from carrying the balls on their shoulders and bumping into each other.

"Just like the saying, no pain

no gain, in order to get the ball to the goal, you had to risk getting knocked down or hit. It was worth it in the end and was a lot of fun," Michael Risener ('18) said.

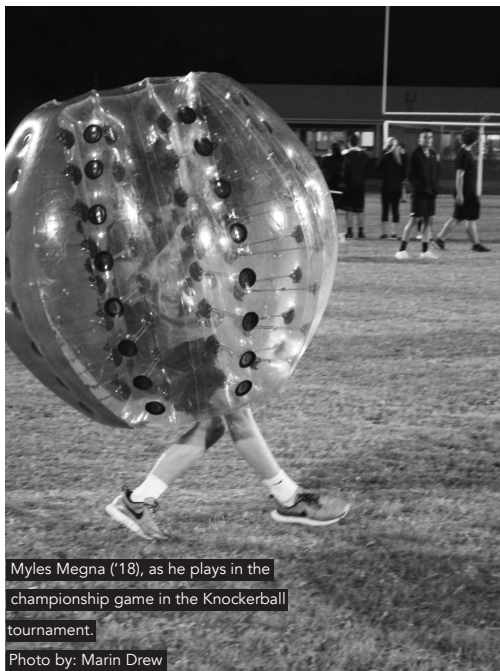
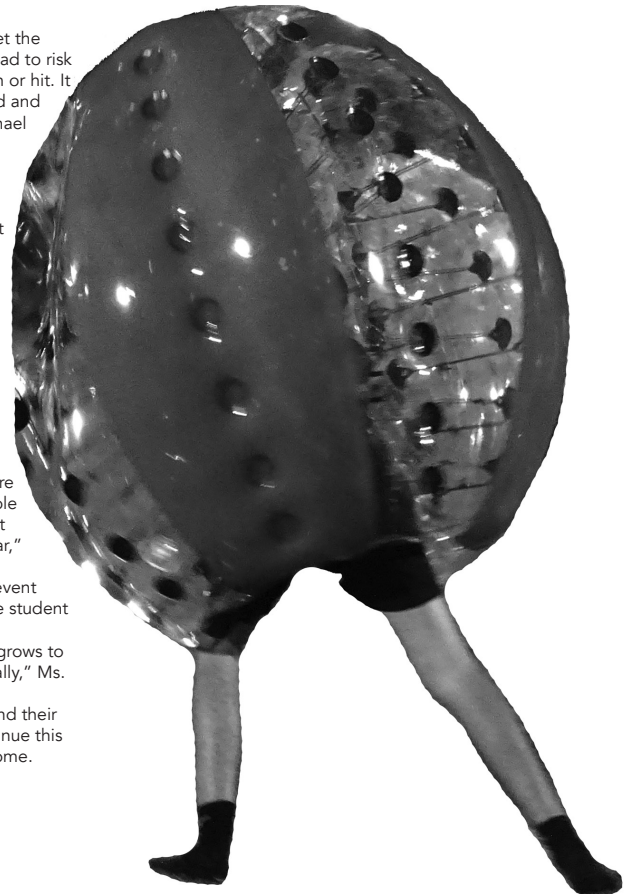
The Knockerball tournament raised \$190 for the Class of 2020 to offset the cost of prom and future senior activities. Vice President, Jordan Utterback ('20), felt that Mitchell should definitely do it again.

"It raised a good amount of money for Student Council, who planned it. It was well liked by the students and their attitudes were positive. A lot of people told me that they want to do it again next year," Utterback said.

Enthusiasm for the event spread throughout the student body.

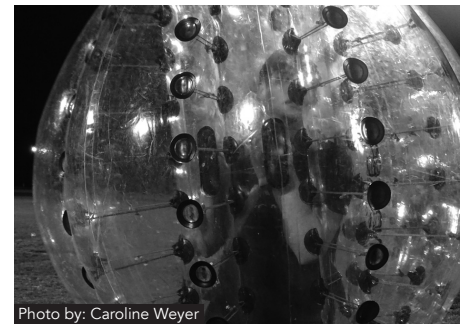
"We hope that this grows to be as big as Rodeo Rally," Ms. Tracy Illig (FAC) said.

The Class of 2020 and their sponsors plan to continue this tradition in years to come.

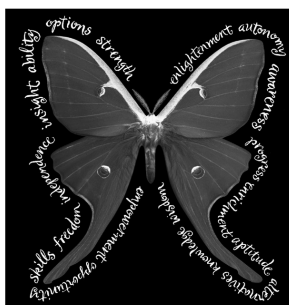


“ I enjoyed the experience because it fused soccer, a great workout with friends, and getting to hit people in big bubbles.

Viraj Patel ('17)



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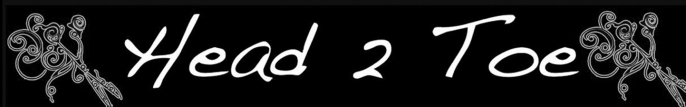


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20th anniversary of Princess Mononoke

Princess Mononoke has been brought to cinemas nation wide in honor of its 20th anniversary

Michelle Cervera
Reporter

Hayao Miyazaki, a Japanese film director, animator, manga artist, illustrator, producer, author, and screenwriter, co-founded the internationally acclaimed Studio Ghibli in 1985. In honor of his 76th birthday and the 20th anniversary of one of his many prized classics, Princess Mononoke, Fathom Events and GKIDS brought back the epic on January 5th (English subbed) and 9th (English dubbed) to cinemas nationwide, including AMC Woodlands in Oldsmar.

A fan of Ghibli films since she was young, Anna Johnston ('20) finds Princess Mononoke endlessly re-watchable by many

generations. Princess Mononoke addresses real life problems, such as deforestation.

"We should leave the forest alone and learn to live with it not against it. It's been 20 years and it's very surprising on how well that movie was made because everything is hand drawn. I really like that because it is very rare to see hand drawn animations. Now it's usually just computerized," Johnston said.

Miyazaki's anime feature films incorporate strong female lead roles, such as Lady Eboshi in the Princess Mononoke film, who encounters a young village prince, Ashitaka. While

protecting his village from a boar-god/demon gone berserk, Ashitaka is inflicted with a deadly curse. In order to cure the curse and to save his life, Ashitaka sets out on a journey to the forest in the west to find the deer god. Once there he witnesses the fierce clash between humans mispending and exploiting the forest's natural resources. Lady Eboshi leads the ironworkers that are misusing the resources to turn their guns against the gods of the forest. A young woman called San, also referred to as Princess Mononoke, tries to stop Lady Eboshi and save the forest. Ashitaka sees the good in both

of the conflicting sides and has the onerous task of trying to help.

"I feel that Studio Ghibli films are popular because they have this unique art style that's not too anime but not too cartoonish. They carry out what they do well. All of the films have a great moral or lesson; it's very inspiring to watch the characters because they are so relatable. You could watch them over and over and never get tired of watching them," Nicholas Tipton ('19) said.

The strong underlying lessons and messages in Ghibli films grab viewers and help them explore a different perspective

through art. Princess Mononoke famously depicts a war between humanity and nature, and touches upon current topics such as deforestation and climate change. The same war in Princess Mononoke occurs in real life. Climate change and deforestation remain political topics that often become pushed aside by politics. Princess Mononoke illustrates that the war humanity wages with nature is a losing one.



Passengers Passengers had a very unique story line that kept viewers engaged. Jim Preston (Chris Pratt) is a passenger on the ship and awakens 90 years too early because his sleeping pod malfunctions. He stumbles upon another passenger that he takes a liking to, Aurora (Jennifer Lawrence), the only problem being, she's asleep. As time goes on he decides to open her pod and things go great until she finds out that he woke her up early. After that, the ship starts to malfunction and they have to get together and figure out how to save the ship and everyone on it. Passengers was a very enjoyable film, the acting was outstanding therefore, this movie is highly recommended.



Patriots Day This movie is about the Boston Marathon bombing. Mark Wahlberg plays an officer that witnesses the bombing. This film is jam packed with action and is very suspenseful. Everybody did a fantastic job in acting and the directing was amazing. Mark Wahlberg (Tommy), Kevin Bacon (Richard), John Goodman (Ed) and the whole Boston PD and city get together to catch the two bombers, the suspense builds up and it creates such a great plot. Patriots Day is a highly recommended film. Overall, this movie was amazing.



Why Him Why Him is a laugh out loud comedy. James Franco starred as the character Laird, and played such a great part in this film. This witty comedy left viewers laughing so hard they couldn't breathe. Bryan Cranston's character, Nate, played an over protective dad that doesn't like his daughter's boyfriend. When Laird wants to pop the question, Ned, the father, starts to freak out. The story line was pretty funny but it could have flowed a lot better.



The Bye Bye Man The Bye Bye man was an extremely average movie. It seemed that the film was supposed to be rated R at first, but transitioned to a PG-13 movie. It felt as if the director took a cluster of parts out of the movie, making the plot not flow as well as it could have. This movie could have been a lot scarier and the actors were not outstanding. The actress that played Sasha (Cressida Bonas) played such a useless part in the movie. Her acting was very animated and overall hard to watch. One of the better performing actors in this movie was the man that played Elliot (Douglas Smith). His acting was decent and saved the movie.



We were born to make history

Yuri on Ice, a popular fall 2016 anime has attracted massive attention

Michelle Cervera
Reporter

Yuri On Ice, a Japanese sports Anime about figure skating, has attracted global attention since its debut in October of 2016. Directed by Sayo Yamamoto and written by Mitsuro Kubo. One of IGN's best listed Anime series of 2016 as well as the website Crunchyroll. At the Crunchyroll Anime awards, Yuri On Ice was awarded with titles such as: Best Boy (Yuri Katsuki), Best Animation, Most Heartwarming Moment, Best Couple (Yuri Katsuki and Victor Nikiforov),

Best Opening Theme, Best Ending Theme, and Anime of the Year.

"I was so impressed that they won so many awards, they probably didn't deserve all of them, but the Anime was extremely popular so it wasn't surprising," Chloe Hylton ('19) said.

Yuri On Ice follows the relations of professional figure skater Yuri Katsuki and his coach/idol figure skating champion Victor Nikiforov. After suffering

a pulverizing defeat during the Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final, Yuri Katsuki came to a crossroads, and went back to his hometown skate rink. There he perfectly mimics Russian ice skating champion Victor Nikiforov's elite routine.

When Nikiforov sees Yuri perform, he offers to coach him. As he battles against friends and rivals 15-year-old Yuri Plisetsky a young skater on the rise. A fan of Yuri On Ice Madeline Smyth ('20) claims that Yuri On Ice is very

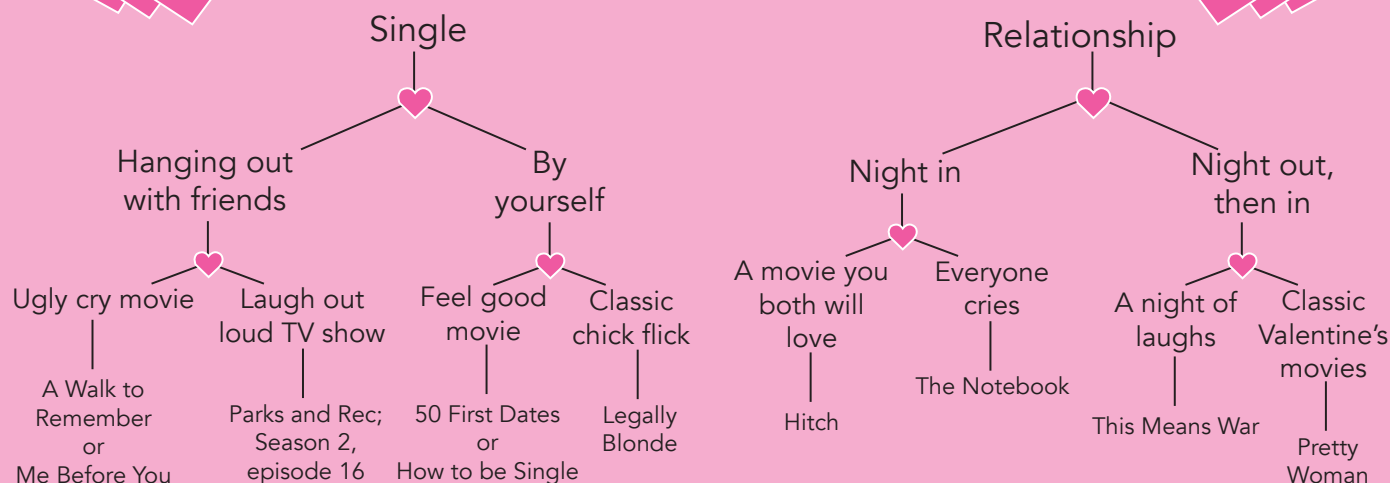
well animated and exemplifies Olympic ice skating very well.

"It's [Yuri On Ice] amazingly written, I think Yuri On Ice is so popular because of the fact of how it's such a nice example of a same-sex relationship. My favorite character is Victor Nikiforov because of his cute, quirky personality he makes everything funny he is a wonderful character. It's an overall wonderful story," Smyth said.

Since the last episode aired on

December 21, 2016, it has left fans wanting more. Many fans expect a season 2, yet as of now nothing has been confirmed. Although it could be a long wait for fans, the last episode did leave hints as to a potential season 2 displaying the words "See you next level!"

What to Watch on Valentine's Day?



New year, new shows

In this upcoming year, many old TV shows make a come back with new and exciting spin-offs

Kaitlyn Klein
Reporter

As the new year rolled around, so does the winter premiere of shows. This year many networks are airing spin offs of shows previously ended. One of the shows with a possible spin off is Disney Channel's Wizards Of Waverly Place. Though nothing has been confirmed, fans look forward to the possible show with excitement.

"It's really cool they are bringing Wizards of Waverly Place back. It was a show I grew

up watching, and now that I'm older I think it will be cool to see how they'll make it. Since it was a show targeted at a younger audience and their old audience grew up, I think it will be interesting to see what age group it's directed at," Ashley Bryant ('18) said.

Josh Park ('17), an avid watcher of FOX's old hit, Prison Break, looks forward to the new season about to start. Full of excitement, Park hopes the new show will

answer his questions.

"I only watched the series with my friend last summer because I heard it was coming back, and I liked it a lot. Seeing all the characters come back, I think it will be really cool, but I'm mostly excited because I think it'll answer the questions that the series finale left me with," Park said.

Though spin offs bring a new life to old shows, Max Sanders ('17) disagrees with the decision

to make them.

"I really liked the way ended Prison Break so I don't know why they are bringing it back and making another season. I thought the finale wrapped the series up really nicely, as series finales are supposed to do. Spin offs don't make a lot of sense to me," Sanders said.

Like Prison Break, FOX also decided to bring back the 24 series. The new series, titled 24: Legacy, aired February 5

after many months of anxiously waiting by fans like Riley Lincoln ('17).

"I've been waiting for this since 24 ended. I'm so obsessed with the entire series and I'm sure this new show will be great too," Lincoln said.

Spin offs are made to bring old shows back to life with new characters. Fans of the original shows grow excited for the new series and seeing the cast again in a new show.

Valentine's or Galentine's?

Students make the difficult choice of spending the day with friends or their significant other

Bailey Illig
Reporter

Students spend Valentine's Day in many different ways. Some spend it with their friends and others spend it with their special someone. Students exchange cards, candy, gifts, or flowers with their valentine.

Sarah Shannon ('18) prefers to spend this holiday with her boyfriend instead of friends.

"I really enjoy spending time with Jordan, we have a lot of fun and make really good memories," Shannon said.

Other students think of spending the holiday with friends, but ultimately choose to spend it with their significant other.

"I prefer spending Valentine's Day in a relationship because you can make memories and it is fun to have someone there for you, but it is also fun to spend the holidays with friends," Jordan Garcia ('18) said.

Some students go out for a romantic evening with their significant other.

"Last year my boyfriend bought me a Pandora ring and we went out for a nice dinner, it was really cute and romantic," Sara Stewart ('19) said.

Students whose significant other is away or traveling find other ways of enjoying Valentine's Day.



Kyle Lang ('19) and Sara Stewart ('19)

Photo by Sophie Sajecki

"One of my favorite shows is part of the inspiration of my celebrating Galentine's Day. Since my boyfriend is in college and is two hours away at the University of Central Florida,

my friends and I all planned to go out and get breakfast in the morning," Currier said.

On Valentine's Day, it does not matter who students spend the day with, as long as they

care about the people that they are with. Whichever the case may be, they can never go wrong on Valentine's Day.

Unseasonable Prom causes uproar

An early Prom date results in disappointed upperclassmen

Mackenna Shiver
Reporter

Five days after Spring Break ends, juniors and seniors will climb into limousines, dressed in formal gowns and tuxedos, on their way to Prom. Such an early date requires planning to begin in February, like hair appointments, make up appointments, dress purchases, and tuxedo rentals. Students agree that an early prom comes with both pros and cons.

Ideally, a promposal would occur at least a month before the dance, so that time allows

for coordination between dates. However, some students feel differently.

"You should do your promposals about a week in advance so you and your date can coordinate and match in some way before the dance so you both look perfect," Justin Rivas ('18) said.

"I would like to have prom close to graduation so everything is at one time and the seniors can go out with a bang"

Early prom affects students in different ways, some students want it at the end of the year so they have something to look forward to.

"I think early Prom won't be that great. I would prefer Prom to be later in the year. Just to end the year with one final dance,"

Rachel Schumm ('18) said.

Seniors think that all their events such as Water Wars, Grad Bash, Senior Breakfast, and Prom should occur in the final months before school is over.

"Being a senior, I would prefer to have Prom towards the end of the year because I would like to have it close to graduation so everything is at one time and the seniors can go out with a bang," Bryce Hill ('17) said.

This new schedule for prom also affects dress and tuxedo

shopping because of the time crunch. Procrastinators unaware of the earlier date of Prom might panic.

"I would prefer prom to be later since I'm a procrastinator myself but I think it's a cool idea to do it sooner, it's something new," Rivas said.

With the school year ending two weeks earlier than last year, an early prom was inevitable. Students must plan early to make the most out of their prom experience.

Stop ranting, start performing

Students debate the motives of celebrities voicing their opinions

Alyssa Magiligan
Reporter

Throughout Hollywood, plenty of celebrities become known for their long rants in the middle of concerts, political rants during acceptance speeches, and voicing their opinions in general. They feed off of the attention, which makes them believe that their opinion tops the average person even though they may not know the truth behind their rants.

"There are normal, everyday people who feel the same way,

but the celebrities are entitled to their opinions. I think celebrities use their platform to get issues out there," Elizabeth Stivers ('18) said.

Kanye West frequently stops his concerts to rant about whatever happened in the world recently. Because of these rants, fans who paid to go to his show get upset over it since they spent money to see West perform, not rant. His most recent slip up happened in November of 2016

in Sacramento, California, where he ranted about Beyonce and Jay-Z.

"Kanye is using his platform to make a political statement since that seems to be the 'cool thing' to do now. The fans who pay for the show just want good music, not rants," Connor Farrell ('18) said.

Due to the recent presidential election and the results, celebrities find their opinions more relevant because they

have the ability to get it out there more. This happened with actress Meryl Streep recently. While accepting her Golden Globe award in early January, she voiced her opinion on Donald Trump, implying that he should not be president.

"I think the election got more people involved and paying attention to what's going on in the world and how we need to start taking elections seriously. I think celebrities used the

election to bring more moral issues forward, like equality and different movements," Stivers said.

Overall, the main reason celebrities enjoy getting into events going on in the social world involves them gaining added attention to their already well known name.

Somebody's always watching you

A staff editorial regarding the new security cameras installed throughout the school

Just recently, security cameras emerged in many of the major hallways throughout the school. The Hoofbeat staff believes that security cameras should be used for the sole purpose of protecting the school and everyone in it, not to scrutinize over students.

The definition of discipline says to use punishment in order to correct disobedience. On the other hand, the definition of security states being free from danger or threat. Security cameras located throughout the campus should be used to

help prevent danger, rather than using cameras to punish sneaky students skipping class and meeting with friends.

Cameras used in homes throughout the community retain a sole purpose of making sure their house stays protected and no intruders stopped by to pay a visit. The cameras throughout the school should be used for that same intent. If a stranger comes on campus without having a visitor's pass or stopping by the office first, it poses a threatening situation to students. Security cameras located in

major hallways and entrances throughout campus spot those visitors and protect students from any possible danger.

Security cameras also help to save the school from vandalism. By making sure that no vandalism occurs the school can become a cleaner and safer environment for students to learn.

The cameras should not be used to watch and spy on students throughout the school day. According to David Rapp of Scholastic.com, security cameras promote an atmosphere of

distrust in the schools. Students begin to show frustration when watched over like a mischievous pet.

Furthermore, faculty and teachers implement other ways of controlling hallway behavior. They do this by using tardy passes and strict bathroom policies. Teachers also patrol the hallways during 20 of the 50 minutes throughout the class period. This way, teachers act as a much more efficient alternative to warning and disciplining students throughout the school day. Security cameras act as a bit

of an over extreme precaution for policies already in place.

In the end, the new security cameras added throughout the school act as a good protection system from unpredictable visitors but should not be used to watch and discipline students. Students' possess a right to their privacy and that should not change with the addition of new school-wide cameras as an extra set of eyes.

Choosing the best path to future success

Students weigh the pros and cons of graduating early from high school

Max Trettin
Reporter

The introduction of Dual Enrollment (DE) classes paired with the Pasco-Hernando State College (PHSC) make it easier for students eligible to graduate early or earn their associates degree while still in high school. Lexus Schumm ('17) plans to graduate with an associates degree, while Jacob Johnson ('17) works toward graduating a

year early.

"Although my original plan was to graduate as a sophomore, I now have decided to do a full dual enrollment to get my associates degree for free under the dual enrollment system," Schumm said.

Though the plan of graduating early or taking dual enrollment can help students succeed in

choosing a career, some believe that it can lead them away from the traditional high school experience.

"Negatives about early graduation are the possibilities of losing connection with your friends. Although I don't attend Mitchell anymore for academics, I continue to stay in touch with my friends everyday so I don't

lose them," Schumm said.

Students considering one of these paths during their high school careers should ask themselves if early graduation is actually worth the amount of work that they have to put into their academics.

"I believe early graduation is worth it, but it differs. It's something you can talk to with

your family, your guidance counselor, and if the pros outweigh the cons, then yes it's worth it," Johnson said.

Students interested in taking courses such as these should contact Mr. Jacob Crouch (FAC) by email or in his office in green guidance.

No bunny better test on me

Students share why they choose to purchase cruelty free products

Kristina Jautze
Reporter

Lately, the buzz about cruelty free makeup has been sweeping through social media platforms. Animal rights activists push makeup companies to stop testing on animals.

"Companies should not be putting lethal chemicals in any products. Animals should not be suffocated to death in perfume chambers to test safety for humans, it is a torturous process they should not have to endure," Elisabeth Mott ('17) said.

In spite of the harsh realities of animal testing, searching for cruelty free companies is not a priority for many teens.

"People are not informed on what cruelty free makeup brands are about. They just assume that it is okay to use [products tested on animals],

but don't put much thought into it," Olivia Hodgson ('19) said.

Well informed students find value in using cruelty free makeup.

"It is important to know if you are using makeup that does not test on animals because you need to know how your products are created from the start. Even down to the testing stages, which is the most important to know in this case," Lindsey Hoskins ('19) said.

Testing on animals hits home on a personal level. Students put themselves in the situation their pet would be in.

"It benefits animals more than it does people. If this happened to your animals, you would very upset. By using cruelty free makeup, you are

choosing not to harm the animals. When you look more into it, it is really disgusting what they put the animals through," Hodgson said.

Animal testing impacts products other than makeup. Guys also pay attention to whether or not their products get tested on animals.

"I care about where my hair stuff comes from because I don't want to use things that harmed animals in the process of making them," Cole Kunzman ('17) said.

Cruelty free brands affect the beauty community as a whole. Animal lovers can feel good about using their products when the label says "not tested on animals."

CRUELTY FREE MAKEUP BRANDS

Kat Von D

Too Faced

Urban Decay

Anastasia Beverly Hills

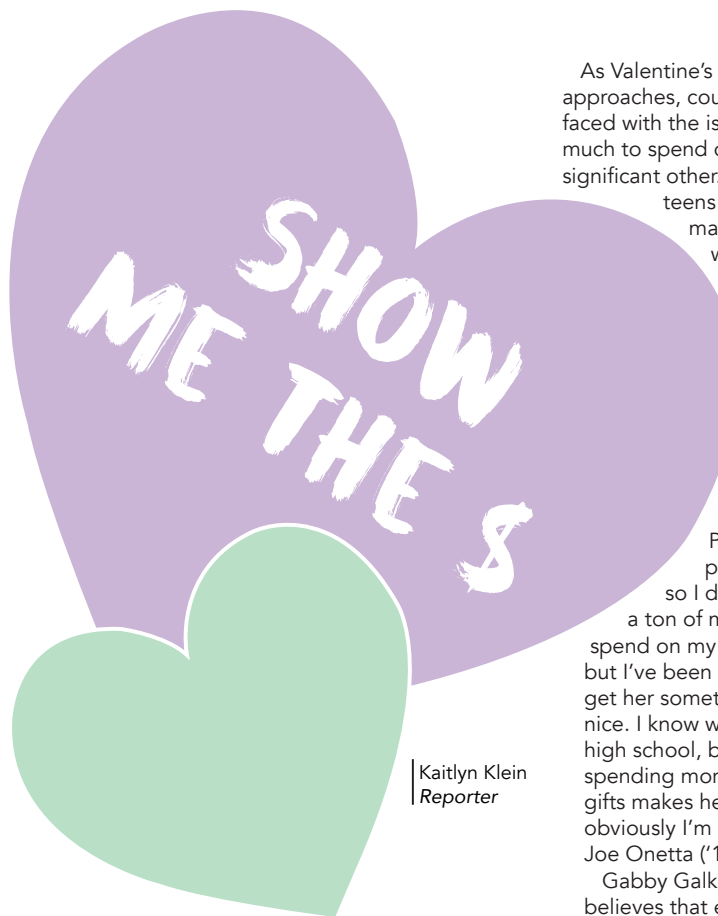


These are just a few of the many certified cruelty free brands from PETA.org

Smashbox

Lush

Stila



Kaitlyn Klein
Reporter

As Valentine's Day approaches, couples are faced with the issue of how much to spend on their significant other. While most

teens who work make minimum wage or just above, splurging on expensive presents is a sign of genuine love for the recipient.

"I work at Publix and pay for my car so I don't have a ton of money to spend on my girlfriend, but I've been saving up to get her something really nice. I know we're only in high school, but I think spending more money on gifts makes her happier, so obviously I'm going to," Joe Onetta ('18) said.

Gabby Galker ('17) believes that expensive

gifts show more affection than less expensive alternatives. She and her boyfriend exchange higher end gifts every year.

"I always try to splurge with the gifts I give because I think it shows my boyfriend I love him more than if I got him something cheap. I'm not buying him a car, just a higher end cologne, or watch, or sneakers. The extra 50 dollars is completely worth it, because I know he loves it," Galker said.

Though labeled "cheapskate" by his friends, Mark Forange ('17) always goes the extra mile on Valentine's Day.

"I normally hate spending money, but it's once a year for someone I love. It's not like an everyday, elaborate date sort of thing. It's a nice gift once a year for your significant other," Forange said.

Onetta believes that the time a couple has been

together dictates how much money should be spent on gifts.

"My girlfriend and I have been together for over two years so obviously I'm going to spend more money, but if we had only been together for a few months I probably wouldn't spend as much," Onetta said.

Galker believes to show the true spirit of Valentine's Day, one must spend the extra dollar or two.

"The point of Valentine's Day is to appreciate your partner, so if that means spending more money then do it. It happens once a year so why not," Galker said.

When people want to show how much someone means to them, they should not cut costs but instead, shun cheaper options and choose higher priced items in order to show that the purchase was made with love.

THE PRICE IS RIGHT

How much to spend on Valentine's Day depends on personal perspectives

Alyssa Magilligan
Reporter

During this time of year, people may scramble to obtain a significant other. For those who already possess one, they consider it hard to find gifts. These people may hold a budget which prevents them from purchasing the expensive items their significant other retweeted or liked on social media, or items they told their partner about. When finding the perfect gift, it should come from the heart, not the wallet.

In stores like Target, the Valentine's Day selection is not as broad as the Christmas or Halloween seasons' selections. These stores typically offer less merchandise than they do during the more popular

holidays.

"It seems like Valentine's Day is known for the same basic gifts every year like chocolates, roses, and teddy bears, while Christmas gifts are seen as way more versatile, meaning you can get anyone anything for Christmas that they might not expect to get any other day of the year," Bella Mann ('18) said.

The phrase "it's the thought that counts" comes in play for Valentine's Day. The reason the selection of gifts decreases during this time of year may be because boyfriends and girlfriends do not expect more expensive gifts.

"I think that when someone puts more thought into the emotional value, it is more impactful than the tangible value," Chelsea Smith ('18) said.

The quality of gifts during the Valentine's Day season often decreases at a variety of stores. Gifts transition from top-quality objects like mason jars full of cookie or cake ingredients and gifts sets full of items for the Christmas season to low-quality boxes of chocolates and small plush animals for the Valentine's season.

As Valentine's Day approaches, significant

others should try not to get their hopes up when it comes to gift giving or receiving. During this time of year, the thought should be what counts, not the price tag.

