

HOOFBEAT

J.W. Mitchell High School's Student Newspaper

Volume 15 | Issue 5

Going for the win

Varsity Girl's Soccer team
after qualifying for the
Final Four round at States
(Page 11)



March Madness Week Schedule

The dress up and activity schedules for March Madness week

3/10

FRI

Battle of the Sexes Volleyball game

Pep Rally Schedule

Volleyball game in gym

3/13

MON

College Day

Wear your favorite College shirt/dress as a college student

Activity Schedule

Corn Hole Tournament

After school: Powderpuff tournament at 5pm

3/14

TUE

Mathletes vs Athletes Day

Dress up today as either a math lover or as a sports lover

Pep Rally Schedule

Staff vs Student Basketball Game

3/15

WED

USA Day

Dress in Red, White, and Blue and show your patriotism

Pep Rally Schedule

Talent Show

3/16

THU

Class Color Day

Seniors = Blue

Juniors = Green

Sophomores = Purple

Freshmen = Red

Pep Rally

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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Michelle Cervera

c/o 2020

This staffer turned in quality work for every deadline for this issue, and even stayed after school for interviews.

Read her articles on
pages 6 and 15

Stampeding their way to Seattle

The Stampede yearbook celebrates awards won from last year's book, 'You Know'

Samantha Burchick
Reporter

Throughout the years, the Stampede yearbook shows that innovative designs and hard work pay off. The yearbook staff takes what they do seriously, and for good reason. Prestigious awards won in the past include National Scholastic Press Association Pacemaker (NSPA), Columbia Scholastic Press Association Silver and Gold Crown (CSPA), and Florida Scholastic Press Association All Florida (FSPA). Being part of the yearbook staff is more than taking pictures writing stories. It is a community of people who care for each other and want the book to become better, not only for the students but for themselves.

"The best part about winning all these awards for our book is getting to see something that you worked hard on and stressed out over all year get recognized and appreciated by these big journalism companies. It reminds me that it was all

worth it. It makes me feel super accomplished and proud to know that I helped publish that," Trinity Heller ('18) said.

As a part of the yearbook, staff gets to showcase their creativity and innovation in the book. Rebecca Roberson ('18) has been nationally recognized (NSPA) for her design work because of the exposure the yearbook gets. These things boost her resume and give her a competitive edge if she goes into a job dealing with design work.

"Being a part of this award-winning yearbook is really rewarding because you get to see your work appreciated and shared on a national scale. Also it opens up doors that normally I wouldn't be able to open, because I have the opportunity to take well-respected courses and programs for design. It places the responsibility on me to create something am I proud of which pushes me to design

better," Roberson said.

Every year when new staffers come aboard they see the legacy the yearbook carries and they push themselves to make the book better. As a part of the yearbook the staff must put in a lot of dedication to it and in the end it pays off.

"Our yearbook is an award-winning book because we put a lot of sweat and tears into it. Students think we just take photos and write stories for fun. But it's way more than that. We make sure that all of our content is perfect before we publish it. From the grammar, to the title of stories, picture angles and lighting, and most importantly: the theme of the book. For us, everything must be error free. On deadline nights, most of our editors stay after school until one am correcting stories and finalizing the book," Kelvine



Stephanie DeVlieger ('19) works on her yearbook spread to meet a deadline.
Photo by: Sophie Sajecki

Moyers ('17) said.

The yearbook wins awards because they put everyone in it and find story angle important to the students. These little touches make our yearbook unique to our school and the designs make the book competitive against other schools nationally.

"I think the yearbook keeps winning awards because we have stuff full of motivated people determined to make the best

book possible, along with Ms. McNulty as the advisor, who keeps going," Jessie Colegrove ('17) said.

With every new year comes a better book for the students to experience, and every year it goes above and beyond. Yearbook members go to Seattle for the NSPA convention from April 6th-9th to see if they win the NSPA Pacemaker for the third time.

Taking science to states

The Regional Science Fair leads students to States or Internationals

Max Trettin
Reporter

The upcoming State Science Fair, a three-day display of science projects, led students to be preparing for the competition and work on their projects daily, to hopefully get first place. Sreten Dedic ('18) received the Naval Science award, leading him to the International Science Fair this summer. Bruno Colon ('18) and Gaby Chalela ('18) also got first and second place in their categories at the Regional

Science Fair, so they are joining competition for Chalela, Colon, and Dedic is the State Science Fair at the end of March.

"My science fair project was about ocean acidification and its effects on shellfish," Chalela said.

The next step in the

"I go to Lakeland for about two days and my project gets judged by professionals, rather than volunteers."

volunteers. Hopefully, I'll qualify

to go to Internationals," Colon said.

The International Science Fair, hosted in Los Angeles, raises excitement and also stresses the required amount of work necessary for presentation.

"I'm very excited for Internationals. It is in May, after all my AP exams, so it'll be fine if I'm missing school. I have to do more work on my project, in terms of math, so I can have

it easier to explain because my judges are going to be chemistry judges, rather than just volunteers," Dedic said.

Students can visit The State Science Fair, in Lakeland, Florida on March 29th, to show support for Mitchell High School participants or to see other projects and maybe even get some ideas for next year's science fair.

Pie for math and for dessert

Mu Alpha Theta fundraises by selling pies to students celebrating Pi Day on March 14 (3.14)

Sophie Sajecki
Editor

Pi day, celebrated on March 14th, provides a perfect way for Mu Alpha Theta to fundraise to students around campus. Members distribute pies to those lucky students celebrating in their math classes.

"For the Pi Day celebration we

ask for donations to our club and in return students can choose from three different types of pie for their math classroom to use on Pi Day. The donations are used to give graduating members scholarships to help offset the cost of book or

supplies for their first semester of college," Ms Kaelin (FAC and Mu Alpha Theta advisor) said.

Students celebrating Pi Day get a different day in class, eating pies in celebration of math. Parker Rendell ('18) faced a unique experience when

celebrating Pi day last year.

"Last year was Ms. Imperatore's final year teaching before she retired, so sharing her final Pi Day experience at school with her was really special. She made the entire year fun and it was nice to celebrate something

so fun with her," Rendell said.

With the pies being eaten and the experiences being made, those who celebrate Pi Day come across a treat. If interested in joining Mu Alpha Theta, visit Ms. Kaelin in room 725 and pick up an application.

Where to celebrate St. Patrick's Day



At 11 a.m. on St. Patrick's Day, the O'Keefe's Family Tavern and Grille in Clearwater has their annual tent party with live music, traditional Irish food, and entertainment

The weekend after St. Patrick's Day, take a trip to the Renaissance Festival at MOSI between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. to experience old-time Irish activities



The Raglan Road Irish Pub makes for the perfect Irish set up on St. Patrick's Day with storytelling, dancing, and Irish food and activities at Disney Springs

Cadets, it's time for the Brain Brawl

Students share their experiences on the recent ROTC Brain Brawl

Max Trettin
Reporter

This year, the Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) participated in the Brain Brawl, an annual academic competition competed by the top NJROTC's in the state. The NJROTC academic team, led by Austin Jerome ('18), prepared each morning for the competition that was held at Gaither High School on February 25th. Two teams partook in the competition. Team one consisted

of Aryn Butler ('17), Hailey Wise ('17), Douglas Mitchell ('18), Noah Midthun ('20), and Brendan Blackwell ('19). Team two consisted of Paige Logan ('19), Aaron Wise ('18), Landus Moser ('18), Brandon Tang ('18), and Dylan Gesling ('20).

NJROTC also competed in a similar competition in September, which allowed them to qualify for the State Championship that happened at

the end of February.

"All the top schools are competing now, so it's definitely going to be a lot harder for us, but we can do it," H. Wise said.

"Brain Brawl is essentially a game of Jeopardy, where you get asked a bunch of random questions and you compete against other teams," A. Wise said.

Before the competition, the teams would prepare each

morning to become more experienced and comfortable with the competition.

"My team and I are preparing by going over questions [about naval science]. We bought the equipment that was used at the last Brain Brawl that included a buzzer system. We've been practicing by using the same equipment and asking each other the same questions that we have experienced, to get

comfortable," Jerome said.

Now that Brain Brawl finished, the NJROTC are looking for ways to be more prepared for next year. The representatives from Mitchell's NJROTC ended up receiving fourth place at the state competition, which means that they might qualify to go to the National Championship.

Staffer tries The Mini Doughnut Factory

Staffer goes to The Mini Doughnut Factory and shares her opinion on it

Kaitlyn Klein
Reporter

The Mini Doughnut Factory, a small doughnut shop in Tampa, offers a wide selection of inventive and creative doughnuts. From some of the exotic flavors on the menu, to the option to create your own flavor, you can create any doughnut your heart desires. The factory is usually quite busy, for good reason. However, to avoid the long line, you can call in an order and pick them up.

On the menu, they offer 16 different flavors with their classic vanilla cake base. Their most popular flavors include: Anti-filled (a vanilla cake doughnut with powdered sugar and a raspberry center), Birthday Cake (a vanilla cake doughnut with a vanilla butter cream icing and rainbow sprinkles), Homer

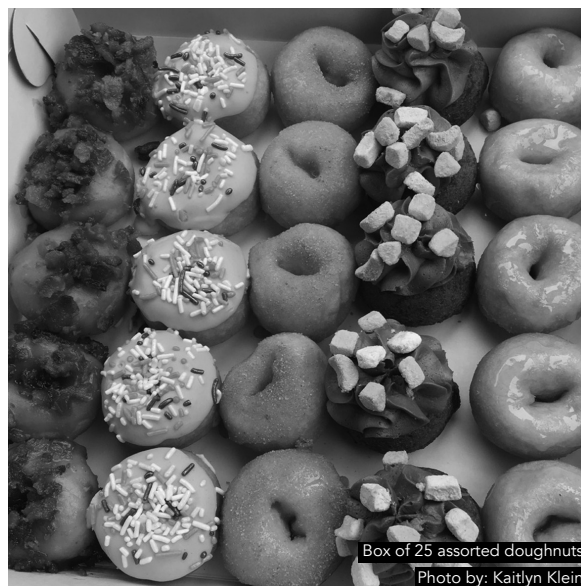
Simpson (a vanilla cake doughnut with strawberry icing and rainbow sprinkles), French Toast (a vanilla cake doughnut with glaze and cinnamon sugar), and Sweet Pig (vanilla cake doughnut with maple icing and bacon). Employees call "Sweet Pig" an intimidating flavor, as people normally don't pair doughnuts and bacon together, but rest assured it is just as delicious as any of their other menu items. However, if nothing on the menu is of interest to you, you can create your own doughnut. Create any flavor you have in mind by ordering a doughnut with any icings, toppings, and drizzles.

In addition to the classic vanilla cake doughnut, the factory offers a chocolate cake doughnut on

weekends and blueberry cake doughnut on Sundays. For gluten free customers, they serve gluten free vanilla cake doughnuts every day.

As well as serving delicious mini doughnuts, the factory brews their own coffee and make doughnut shakes and sundaes to pair with the doughnuts.

Paired with delicious mini doughnuts and WWW coffee is amazing service. The employees want your order to meet your expectations, as they ask to make sure they made the correct doughnuts before handing them to you. All in all, from tasty treats to outstanding service, anyone with a sweet tooth should take a visit to the The Mini Doughnut Factory.



Box of 25 assorted doughnuts

Photo by: Kaitlyn Klein

Whatever floats your boat

Students who often go boating give their opinions and tell what they like about it

Alyssa Magilligan
Reporter

Whether on a warm summer day or a cloudy spring day, students interested in the activity often find a way to get out on the water and go boating. Boating is an easy to access outlet for students to participate in outdoor activities, such as fishing and snorkeling.

"I grew up boating, so I love to be on the water," Lauren Levake ('18) said.

Besides the physical activities,

boating also provides an opportunity to see new places off the coast of Florida, and is a sufficient and fast way to get from beach to beach rather than encountering the traffic that comes with driving by car, especially in places like Clearwater beach.

"When I go out with family and friends I usually go to Three Rooker Island, and my favorite thing about boating is how fast it

can go," Levake said.

When students go boating, they are given a chance to hang out with a group of friends or their families. Students may share a common interest in fishing or being on the water with their close friends, which leads to plenty more boating trips in the future.

"When I go out on my boat I bring some friends along with me and we all just have a really good

time. We try to go out as often as we can," Michael Gonzalez ('20) said.

Florida is known for having extremely sunny weather, and students use these days to go out on their boats.

"Boating in the rain is fun but dangerous of course. Sunny days are the best days to go boating though because you really get to see more of what's around you and out towards the horizon,"

Gonzalez said.

Typically the sun is shining when students take advantage of the weather to go out on the open ocean on their boats. Frequent boat trips may lead to a new hobby or interest for many students as well, and boating provides for new opportunities to make more memories with their friends and family.

Around the world in 18 days

Students who are a part of the Travel Club share their experiences on past trips and look forward to future trips

Morgan Fliss
Reporter

Children dream of being able to travel the world and experience life in other countries. Sponsored by many different teachers throughout the school, the Travel Club allows student club members to adventure through this once in a lifetime opportunity. Students raise money, through fundraisers, to help offset the cost so they get to travel to different countries and experience their cuisine and everyday lifestyle. Student

Reighan Ussery ('20) is trying to raise money to go to Italy and Greece in the summer of 2018.

"I joined the travel club because I love to go to different places and see different things. I recommend students to join the club because you get to experience the world and go with people you know," Ussery said.

In the summer of 2016, travel club members visited European cities such as London, Paris,

Florence, Swiss Alps, and Rome and reported that it was a positive experience. They were able to learn and adventure throughout the countries, as well as make new friendships.

"During my trip [to Europe], we got to go up in the Eiffel Tower and ride on the London eye. I liked being able to experience these countries with my fellow classmates, and getting to create other friendships from having to spend fifteen days together in

foreign places," Shelbi Land ('17) said.

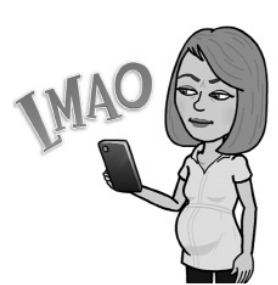
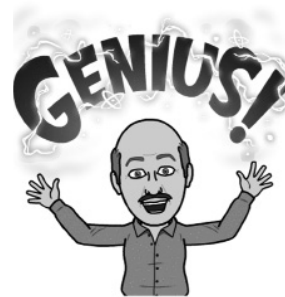
Mrs. Illig (FAC), one of the teachers in charge of the travel club, feels that the travel club is a great thing to join because it gives students a chance to experience unbelievable pieces of history that students read about.

"Students should join the travel club so that they have the opportunity to experience the things that they see in textbooks,

in classes like art, world, and European history," Illig said.

Altogether, the travel club is offered here at school to give students the adventurous trip of a lifetime to unfamiliar countries. Students are more than welcome to attend one of the upcoming travel club meetings to learn about the different trips being planned. For even more information, visit Mrs. Illig in room 809 before or after school.

GUESS WHO?



See answers on page 14

SNEAKERHEADS

Students make their own small businesses off of buying and reselling expensive shoes

Michelle Cervera
Reporter



Mazin Shehayeb ('18) shows off his new Yeezy's

Sneakers are transforming from a subculture hobby to a mainstream lifestyle, fashion trend, and tradeable commodity. With thousands of sneakerheads across the nation and millions of shoe retailers such as Nike, Adidas and Puma pioneering the industry and paving the way for a newfound sneaker culture. Within this 55-billion-dollar industry and thousands of shoe models to choose from there's something for everyone. Angelo Doran ('20) who has been collecting sneakers since 2013, buys and resells shoes such as: Supreme, Jordan's, Nike, Adidas uses social media sites such as Instagram (@ad.kicks) to handle business.

"Social media is the best way to conduct business because you can reach out to so many people and gain a big platform for your business. Many people can contact you over it easily and see the product through pictures," Doran said.

Another method of reselling shoes is participating in sneaker conventions including Sneaker Con that was on February 11th at the Fort Lauderdale Convention Center. Mazin Shehayeb ('18) sells brands such as Yeezy's Jordan's and NMD's says that it's fairly easy to make profit. "You can usually make a lot of money off conventions because there

are a lot of traffic a lot of kids and parents getting their kids shoes," Mazin Shehayeb ('18) said.

Through sneakers people make connections and bonds over the common interests. Glorify them and put real meaning into solely just a shoe. The journey to grab the newest kick used to be more challenging. Consumers used to have to travel miles in order to buy the latest release, there would also be a limited number of shoes produced increasing the value of the shoe and boosting its value. But today consumers purchase their shoes online and resort to resellers. Companies are also mass producing their shoes thus causing the shoes value to decrease because of how accessible the shoe is.

"Everyone is buying up everything that they possibly can and not making it able to give it to the people that would actually wear it. That's not how it used to be it used to be everything was in store. Companies are making more of the shoes they have now making everything less limited and less special," Doran said.

As of now major shoe brands such as Adidas have received huge success with their collaboration with singer Kanye West. Collaborations are in the air as brands such as Supreme and Louis Vuitton unveiled at Paris fashion week.



Angelo Doran with his inventory
Photos provided by A. Doran



Claws and STILETTOS

Alumna Alyssa Adams graduated in 2008 and now runs a successful nail business in New Port Richey

Caroline Weyer
Editor EIC

Alyssa Adams the nail technician of her business "Claws and Stilettos," graduated from J.W. Mitchell in ('08). She took OJT [On The Job Training] in high school which helped her begin a career. She did not anticipate pursuing a career in the nail industry.

"OJT helped me start working at a young age and really learn how hard you have to work to make even a small amount of money. So after high school I already had two years of work experience and was able to get a good paying job right out of high school at a veterinarian office when I was in college," Adams said.

After figuring out that she did not want to work as a veterinarian, Adams decided to turn her hobby into a career.

"I got into doing my own nails in high school because I was tired of going to the salon and not getting what I wanted. In high school I never thought I could have the type

of career that allows me to build my own schedule and travel while making money. Now that I have that, I could never go back to a regular job," Adams said.

A career in the nail industry allows Adams to be herself and do what she enjoys most. She gets to make the rules since she owns her own business.

"I love my job because I get to be creative and am able to work whenever and wherever I want because I am not tied down to a salon. I'm also allowed to dress and look how I want because I work for myself. I think it's really important to stay true to who you are and not be forced to change because of your job," Adams said.

Adams worked quickly through beauty school to get her license, allowing her to get her new career started.

"It only took me about a year to get my license, I took morning and

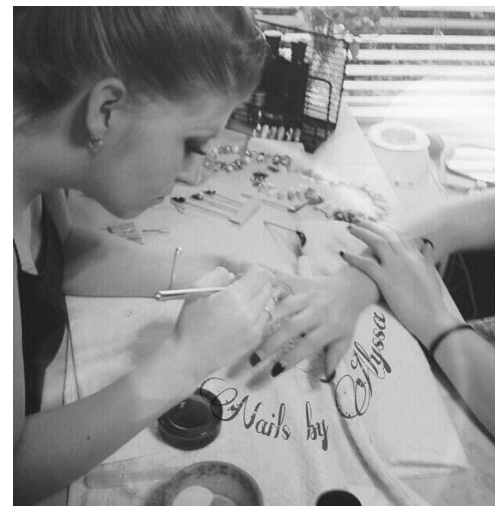
night classes constantly because I wanted to get started on my business fast. I went for full specialty, so I am also licensed to do facials, body wraps, waxing, and makeup. However I primarily use my license for nails because I enjoy doing it the most," Adams said.

Adams takes pride in her work, making sure to use certified products that protect her clients nails.

"Many nail salons use the wrong products and drills that cause burns and damage to nails, which should not happen. Every product I use is made in the United States and up to



Alyssa Adams with Khadiyah
Photos provided by A. Adams



code because I want to make sure my clients nails are done with safe products," Adams said.

The business name "Claws and Stilettos," happened on accident for Adams and holds a personal meaning for her.

"I really liked stiletto shoes and before stiletto nails were a thing I called them claws because they looked like cat claws. When I told people that at nail school they looked at me like I was crazy, but

now it is a popular shape for nails," Adams said.

Since graduating Alyssa Adams career has enabled her to travel while doing what she loves. Owning her own business allows her to set her own schedule and be herself. Students interested in nail services from Adams can contact her through her Instagram, @claws_and_stilettos.



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INTROVERT

EXTROVERT

Personality types differentiate the comfort zones of students

Morgan Fliss
Reporter

Students who consider themselves introverts would rather sit at home with nothing but a bucket of popcorn and a movie, while extroverts prefer to party all night and socialize with friends. Introverts tend to talk less and keep to themselves, while extroverts who tend to talk more and exhibit their feelings to other people. AP Psychology teacher, Mr. Steven Burnes (FAC) discussed these personality traits in class.

"An introvert is going to be more of someone who waits to talk. They think more to themselves and more about the situation before they are quick to act on it. So I would say that introverts are less impulsive. They are more likely to write things down and not say them out loud. An extrovert on the other hand, is somebody who is going to be quick to talk and quick to make friends," Burnes said.

For Demi Asensio ('18), the comfort level that she feels with a particular group of friends influences whether or not she may be viewed as an introvert and extrovert.

"I define myself as both an introvert and extrovert, because it depends on the situation. With personal situations, I keep to myself and do not go out of my way and share with others. I'm also very outgoing and not really shy around people. But in situations that open with my personal feelings," Asensio said.

There are positive and negative habits inherited from introverted and extroverted personalities. To Brianna Felicetta ('20), the assets of being both an introvert and extrovert outweigh the downsides.

"Being an extrovert is an advantage because it allows you to communicate with a large amount of people and you are able to get out there more, but it can also be a disadvantage because students can be too talkative. Being an introvert is an advantage because you are able to most likely work better independently and are comfortable being alone yet it could be harder to make friends," Felicetta said.

According to Burnes, when communicating with introverted or extroverted personalities, it is necessary

to approach people differently. Being able to read a person's emotions is a key factor to successfully holding a conversation.

"An extrovert is going to be very quick to show their emotions. So by them showing their emotions, you're going to have to learn to read them fairly quickly. Introverts on the other hand, do not show their emotions very easily but introverts are really good at being able to judge another person's emotion. So it may take time for introverts to warm up to people, so that is a really big thing," Burnes said.

The student body is made up of a copious diverse group of personalities. Some examples include the gregarious or the reserved although not everyone can be classified as an introvert or extrovert, but as a mixture of both.

INTROVERTS quietly observe others and are hesitant to share ideas with others

“Introverts tend to be quiet and keep to themselves, not exhibiting a lot of outwardly to other people, especially strangers they don't know.”

EXTROVERTS speak out and enjoy socializing in large groups

“Extroverts are very talkative and outgoing, they are also quick to make friends.”

WHAT'S YOUR TYPE?

Take the test to find out your personality type
<https://similarityins.com/cognitive.html>

PERSONALITY TYPE KEY

Introversion (I)	Thinking (T)
Extroversion (E)	Feeling (F)
Sensing (S)	Judging (J)
Intuition (N)	Perceiving (P)

ISTJ	ISTP	INTJ	INFP	ESTP	ESTJ	ENFP	ENTJ
quietly systematic, factual, organized, detailed, conscientious, analytical, responsible, critical, efficient	logical, quietly adaptable, curious, problem-solver, exact, hands-on, adventurous, independent, practical	vision oriented, insightful, creative, sensitive, seeks harmony, serious, inspiring, loves language and symbols	quietly caring, compassionate, pursues meaning, creative, idealistic, empathetic, inquisitive, independent, adaptable	enchantment seeking, active, pragmatic, direct, assuring, observant, concrete, efficient, analytical, experiential	active organizer, logical, assertive, fast minded, decisive, analytical, systematic, take charge mentally, common sense	imaginative, energetic, creative, future-oriented, insightful, optimistic, open, playful, individualistic	actively sociable, expressive, warm, possibly-oriented, insightful, tactful, conscientious, appreciative, cooperative
ISFJ	ISFP	INTJ	INFP	ESTP	ESTJ	ENFP	ENTJ
quiet, friendly, factual, sympathetic, dependable, organized, thorough, realistic, stable, helpful, caring	gentle, quietly caring, compassionate, modest, idealistic, observant, loyal, realistic, spontaneous	quietly innovative, insightful, conceptual, logical, seeks understanding, critical, decisive, independent, determined	logical, conceptual, analytical, objective, detached, critical, complex, intellectually curious, independent, understanding	energetic, sociable, practical, friendly, caring, expressive, open, enthusiastic, resourceful, hands-on, generous	Active sociable, warm, caring, enthusiastic, people-oriented, orderly, cooperative, loyal, appreciative, responsible	energetic, inventive, abstract, theoretical, verbal, change oriented, global, independent, logical	driving organizer, planner, vision focused, decisive, initiating, strategic, assertive, critical, pursues improvement

Making a racket on the court

The Boys Tennis team dedicates themselves to improvement and reaching their goals

Mackenna Shiver
Reporter

With each new season in tennis, it brings new people, but in small numbers. Because tennis is not a widely practiced sport locally, the team is relatively small. This year there are seven boys on the Mitchell Varsity team. Although they are a small team in numbers, they bring their best to the court each time.

"Having a smaller team this year allows for her [coach

Hinmon] to focus on each of us more and we also get more practice time," Carson Whicker ('17) said.

Brett Howard ('17) has played tennis for three years and has dedicated long hours to becoming a better athlete and excelling in the sport. His Junior year he was able to play at Districts and came in second place to East Lake in the final

match.

"I hope to go to regionals this year and I hope that as a team we get second in districts so we can all advance," Howard said.

Newer additions to the team like Aidan McCall ('19), has played tennis since he was four years old and joined the team this season to play with kids his age and at his competitive level.

"I try to help the team get

better by motivating them in drills when I'm not playing and they're playing, and motivate them by cheering them on," McCall said.

This team of seven strives to get closer with each other and make it further than the team has in previous years.

"I am looking forward to getting closer to my team mates and having a great time as we all

get better," Howard said.

With the season just beginning, this small team of hard workers and high achievers plans to go undefeated the rest of the season and sustain the Conference and District Champions title.

Waving their flags high

Winter Guard prepares for their upcoming competitions

Kristina Jautze
Reporter

The Winter Guard is a team of students who attend indoor competitions unaccompanied by the band. They perform to a pre-recorded piece of music with various types of equipment such as flags and rifles. The effort put into the rehearsals shines through in how they perform.

"They are not as rigorous as people may think. However, they are not easy. When it comes to rehearsals where you have to leave everything behind and be ready to practice. We focus on learning new techniques," Christina Decker ('18) said.

These performances contain many different elements to

them. The performers use different apparatuses to enhance and boost up the score.

"We use things like flags, sabers, rifles in Winter Guard. There are a lot of tricks you can do with them like spinning and tossing. I am a dancer, so I learn the new dances," Madison Marring ('19) said.

Competitions are a main part of Winter Guard. The team travels to different schools in Florida to compete against other teams in circuits like the Winter Guard International (WGI).

"The competitions are stressful if you are not prepared. If you get ready for it, you will be fine and have a lot of fun. The team

gets to bond and have a good time with each other," Ally Klein ('19) said.

To become a member of the Winter Guard or Color Guard, you must be ready for rigor and dedication. It offers opportunities to learn how to work with a group of people.

"I recommend doing Winter Guard because it is a great way to meet new people and learn new things. You make some good friendships throughout the years. We also get serious and learn hard routines," Decker said.



Members of the Winter Guard compete at Gaither High School. Photo by Rachel Lane

The Winter Guard will be attending the competitions on March 4th at Seminole High School and on March 11th at

Durant High School. Anyone can go and it costs \$10 to \$20.



Gabby Gopie ('17) serving in her second match against Gulf High. Photo by Raleigh Illig

Prepare to meet your match

The Girls Tennis team bonds with each other while aiming big

Raleigh Illig
Editor

On February 15th, Varsity girls tennis took the court against Ridgewood High School. The team of 15 girls played their single and double matches and came home with the first win of the season. Izzy Bradley ('18) has played tennis for ten years at first just as something to relax herself and hang out with friends, to now being one of Mitchell's star players. Last season she and her doubles partner got best

records for single and doubles on the team, and was also the Conference Champion.

"This season I plan on pushing myself to become a better team player on and off the court. I hope to find more passion in the sport and have more bonding with my team. I'll be working hard to improve my shots and become more competitive, all the while keeping a smile on my face and continuing to make friends with everyone I play," Bradley said.

Bradley hopes to attend college after graduation and be

able to continue playing at the next level. Gabby Gopie ('17), also one of Mitchell's top players, got the chance to play in the District game last season.

"I have been number one since I was a sophomore and it's hard sometimes to play the other best players in the district. Something I accomplished last season was maintaining my number one rank and still being able to play in districts despite my injuries," Gopie said.

Along with the competitiveness in the sport, it is also fun and relaxing for the team members.

Each match the team orders pizza and while they are waiting to play their game, they hang out and make the best of a long match.

"For the matches we encourage each other by watching the singles matches and the doubles matches and we bring a lot of healthy snacks to share while we're waiting to go on the courts," Chandler Crawford ('18) said.

The next home match for the girls team is March 16th against Anclote High School at Anclote at 3pm.

Kicking it to states

The Girls Soccer team makes school history

Chris Wilson
Reporter

The 2016-2017 varsity girls' soccer team writes their name in the record books, as they become only the second team in school history to make it to the state Final Four, the other being the 2012-2013 team. The past few years the girls have lost in regionals, and each year added a little more fuel to the fire.

"Making it to the state Final Four was such a great feeling. Not making it in the past years really motivated us as a team this year. Winning in penalty kicks in the regional finals was very stressful, but when Morgan Weldon made the final kick to win we were all so happy,"

Kendra Hoffman ('18) said.

Going into PKs the girls sent up Sabrina Wagner ('17) to take the first kick, but the senior missed. Melbourne then missed their penalty by save from goalkeeper Pilar Eguino ('19). Gabrielle Zeigler ('19) made the next penalty giving the girls a 1-0 lead. Eguino then saved the next Melbourne penalty to keep the lead at 1-0. Next up to kick was Kendra Hoffman ('18) and she made it to increase the lead to 2-0. The next kick for Melbourne was again saved by Eguino keeping the PKs at 2-0. Needing to make this PK to win the game the girls sent up Morgan Weldon

Alise Singletary ('17) knees the ball in the game against Creekside.
Photo by Raleigh Illig

('20). She stepped up and made the PK winning the game and sending the girls to the State Final Four.

"It felt awesome to make the kick, I felt like I really helped the team by doing so," Morgan Weldon ('20) said.

The team won regionals against Melbourne High School on February 3rd by a score of 0-0 then secured the victory with

a 3-0 score on penalty kicks.

The girls had a tough test on February 10th against Creekside High School in the state Final Four. The game ended with a score of 4-1 in favor of Creekside which knocked the girls out, ending the high school career for the senior girls on the team.

"It was really upsetting to lose, especially because I'm not going to continue with soccer.

All I could think about is what we could've done to pull out a win, but I was happy to have gone farther than we have in my four years," Chandler Dempsey ('17) said.

Tumbling into West Virginia

West Virginia University commit Sydney Marler looks to the future of her gymnastics career

Bailey Illig
Reporter

Knowing that we will all leave and move on with our lives past high school is a difficult thing to imagine. Sydney Marler ('17) cannot wait to leave and start her career in the sport she loves, gymnastics.

"[The scholarship that West Virginia University offered me] is going to impact my career a lot because everything is paid for and I don't have to pay for anything else in college except for clothes and food, but the scholarship pushes me

to learn from gymnastics and having the opportunity to get a scholarship is amazing and that is my motivation," Marler said.

Knowing what she wants in life pushes her to excel in the sport that she loves and motivates her to accomplish her goals in her career.

"I want to do gymnastics in college but I also want to go to the Olympics, except it may be a little late now and I have back injuries, so I don't know if it is possible now and it is a lot of

work and I want to focus more on my college career then a career in the Olympics," Marler said.

Her ambition toward gymnastics inspires her to work as hard as she possibly can to do her very best and leave all of her hard work on the

floor.

"I am very serious about this sport, I have been doing it for 13 years now, 4 hours a day for 5 days a week, and I have a full athletic scholarship

to West Virginia University so I am going to be one of their

team members," Marler said.

Students can learn from Marler to work as hard as they can and do everything possible to do their very best and to succeed in life. This opportunity was not handed to Marler, she poured her heart out on that mat in order to get the scholarship.

Stepping into new shoes

The Step Team participates in competitions for the first time in school history

Bailey Illig
Reporter

For the first time in school history, the Step Team is participating in competitions. The club's first rivalry against other schools and teams takes place on March 11th at 6:00 p.m. in Orlando, Florida. If students wish to participate in step team before the competitions occur there is still a way to get engaged in the club. The captain of step team, Nurah Koney-Laryea ('17), never participated in a tournament for this kind of event before.

"We do tryouts every semester,

so at the beginning of the school year you can tryout and if you do not make it, you can come back the next semester and tryout again. The tryouts are held in the purple commons," Koney-Laryea said.

The step team-taught the cheerleading team at Mitchell a step routine, and the cheer team successfully performed the routine at a pep-rally last year.

"Originally cheer could not because of their competitions, but now that it is over I think that we might, and that we will also

teach the dance team a routine," Koney-Laryea said.

Maria Asanza ('17), the co-captain of step team, never participated in a competition before for step team and can not wait until the team gets the chance to step foot on the competition floor.

"Step team is really excited for the competitions because they have never done them before, and that makes them push harder, practice harder, and just put a lot of effort into preparing for it," Asanza said.

The step team developed through the years, from having only a few members when they first started to now participating in a competition against other schools. Step team tryouts happen twice in a school year, so students that feel interested in doing the sport would be able to get engaged in the sport.



Maria Asanza ('17) promotes step team at freshman orientation.

Photo by Nurah Koney-Laryea

Mitchell HOOPS

reign district champs

Chris Wilson
Reporter

In the Boy's Basketball District Championship this year, the varsity boys' basketball team faced Land O'Lakes in a rematch of last year's District Championship where Land O'Lakes was crowned district champs. This year, however, the story changed as the boys became the new district champs by a score of 44-42.

"The feeling of winning districts was unreal after losing to Land O'Lakes last year and coming back to beat them was one of the best feelings you could endure," JP Watt ('18) said.

After beating Land O'Lakes, the boys faced their opponent Chamberlain High School in the Elite Eight of regionals. The game went back and forth with the boys coming out on top by a score of 54-48 and moving on to the next round.

"It was an exciting game, and it's always nice to get

a win against a very good team, so, it was a great feeling, especially when the stakes are so high," Jimmy Eannel ('17) said.

After beating Chamberlain the boys played at home on February 21st against Hillsborough High School champions of their district in the regional quarterfinals. The game was close the entire time, with each team playing strong defense but hardly any offense, as the game ended by a score of 37-34 favoring Hillsborough which knocked the boys out of regionals, meaning the last game for the seniors on the team.

"I got to play with my brothers and tie for the longest playoff run in school history, so it was a pretty successful season, even though it is my senior year, I wouldn't trade this season for anything" Eannel said.

Throughout the entire

game the crowd went crazy anytime the boys scored, and the players noticed it, and used it to their advantage.

"It helped having a home crowd to play in front of. We love playing in front of a crowd and as the gym got loud the team fed off of it, and I know we all appreciated the support we got," Alec Sherman ('18) said.

The boys finished the season with a 21-8 record, a district championship, and a trip to the regional quarterfinals. They look to take this year and build on it for next year.

"For next year, the team has got to bring the same intensity as this years team. Also some younger players are going to have to fill the roles of seniors like Jimmy, Mason Castricone, and Justin Marquez, who are all leaving this year," Watt said.



Jimmy Eannel ('17) shoots a free throw

Photo by Chris Wilson



Mason Castricone ('17) makes a lay-up

Photo by Chris Wilson



Justin Marquez ('17) and JP Watt ('18)

Photo by Tom Mewborn



Jimmy Eannel ('17)

Photo by Chris Wilson



Alec Sherman ('18) shooting a free throw

Photo by Chris Wilson

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Staffer's FAVORITES



Hottest shows for your Spring Break

Hoofbeat Newspaper poll reveals what shows students are interested in and what shows would be good to watch over this upcoming Spring Break

Josh Wagner
Reporter

According to the Hoofbeat poll, 49% of students who participated would be interested in watching "Superstore." Superstore is a comedy television show that revolves around the lives of employees at a supersized megastore. The show was created and written by Justin Spitzer, who also is known for his work on "The Office." The show returns on March 16, 2017 and

airs Thursdays 8/7c.

With 24% of the votes, "Colony" is another show students are interested in watching. Colony is an American drama, Sci-Fi show that centers on a Los Angeles family fighting for survival in the midst of an invasion by mysterious alien forces. With a 90% on Rotten Tomatoes, Colony is a must watch for anyone interested in

an interesting and action-packed Sci-Fi. Episodes air on USA Network Thursdays at 10/9c.

If Comic Books are your thing, you may be interested in Iron Fist, which gained 16% of the votes in our poll. The show follows comic book character Danny Rand, who trained for years in the mystical city of K'un Lun, becoming a master martial artist, and also developing

powers of an "iron fist" by focusing chi into his hands. The show is in the same universe as "Daredevil", "Jessica Jones" and "Luke Cage", other superhero action shows. The TV series is only available on Netflix, and it premieres March 17.

11% of students who voted in the poll voted on being interested in "Six", a military combat drama that premiered

January 18 on the History channel. The show follows members of Navy SEAL Team Six and their disastrous mission to eliminate a Taliban leader in Afghanistan. "Six" is inspired by real missions and gives an insight to the lives of members of the military group, and the meaning of being in SEAL Team Six. Season 2 is due to begin production this summer.

"We ain't no cheerleaders"

Thespian Troop 6272 selected "Bring it On" for their annual spring musical performance, a play based on the popular comedy released in 2000

Alyssa Magilligan
Reporter

Every school year, the drama department puts together a musical that always prove themselves successful. This year, the spring musical choice involves the show Bring It On, which is about a girl named Campbell, who is a cheer captain at Truman High School and transfers to Jackson High School, who lacks a cheer team. Campbell then tries to find a way around this situation.

"The Acting 2+ class had a project last year where we had to

take what we knew about people from the show and basically make a list of possible ideas for the musical, and we decided on Bring It On because it's very girl heavy and we have a lot of girls in our program," Emily Mitchell ('17).

A musical is heavily focused on the musical numbers involved, and Bring It On possesses a variety of upbeat songs to perform for the show.

"The music is written by Lin Manuel-Miranda who also wrote

Hamilton. We have rehearsals Monday through Saturday from after school under six, and Saturday from ten to three," Mitchell said.

With performing, comes a way to get outside of one's comfort zone and to try something new as well. The drama department is known for having welcoming people as members, and their goal is to make sure everyone is included and comfortable with the performance.

"Anyone who didn't audition

this year should definitely audition next year. Shows are a fantastic way to meet new people, work together to create an amazing product, and just have a ton of fun," Mitchell said.

If seeing Bring It On sparks your interest, shows take place April 20th to the 22nd at the Center for the Arts at River Ridge, and times will be later announced.

BITMOJI ANSWERS



Top row: Mr. Burnes, Mr. Chittum, Mr. Alas, Mr. Braddy, Mr. Scott
Bottom row: Mrs. Bakomaholis, Mrs. Illig, Mrs. Cortier, Mrs. Desiante, Mrs. DeLeon

Put down the phone

A staff editorial about how serious the issue of texting and driving is to all students

Every day, 11 teenagers die as a result of texting and driving. The speed limit on Little Road is 45 miles per hour and 30 on Photonics Drive, both of which are the only two ways to enter school in the morning and leave in the afternoon. When travelling at that rate a full football field can be travelled within a time span of five seconds, five seconds being the minimal amount of time attention is taken away from the road while using a phone.

According to www.textinganddrivingsafety.com, texting and driving begins as an issue from a young age when children watch their parents risk the lives of everyone inside the vehicle. Years later when the

children grow into teenager and begin driving, they gain a sense of invincibility from witnessing their parents and peers be "okay" while texting and driving and follow the dangerous and careless suit of using their phones behind the wheel. Not only does this risk the lives of the driver and the passengers whose lives the driver is responsible for, it selfishly endangers other innocent drivers on the road. The state of Florida ranks number one according to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles in the polls for distracted driving; therefore, putting the drivers at our school in even higher risk. Especially with the congestion of traffic

after seventh period everyday due to everyone leaving three parking lots at once combined with Seven Springs Middle School traffic and buses, any added distractions serve an elevated risk to yourself, those driving around you, and even students walking to their cars. Ultimately, texting and driving remains a matter of life or death,



and students must realize the reality of the risk and how it causes a great impact locally nearly every day. Texting behind the wheel has the ability to take away someone's parent, sibling,

or friend forever, so seriously consider before you answer that text or check that snap behind the wheel, do you want to contribute to one of those 11 teenagers?

Privileged students: Stop destruction

The daily destruction of school property by a few students taints the reputation of the school

Michelle Cervera
Reporter

The recent disturbances within the rest rooms have developed into an overwhelming problem, causing certain rest rooms to be temporarily locked as a form of punishment because of disobedient behavior from students. The offences committed by the student population dramatically exceeds the typical "bathroom graffiti". Students are immaturely vandalizing school property and carelessly depositing trash

wherever they please, destroying ceiling tiles, ripping out toilet seats, clogging the sinks with toilet paper and spreading feces all over the walls, and yet have the audacity to say "the custodians never clean in here."

The reality is that these occurrences need to stop. They are a poor reflection of the school, its students, and staff. Tony Chistakis (FAC), a custodian, thinks that when kids fail to clean up after themselves that they don't care

about the school, and expects the students to be a little more responsible.

"We basically spend a lot of unnecessary time taking care of damaged things and that disables us from spending the time on the things that would promote a better school. It would be helpful if the students that see things, say things. In some cases they may be intimidated not to do so or afraid to do so. We have over one hundred and twenty classrooms

plus bathrooms that we have to hit every night. It's a lot of ground that we have to cover," Chistakis said.

Students have also been upset by the way school is treated. Dakkoth Vannorman ('20) thinks that students are selfish and inconsiderate to vandalize the school.

"School is a place to learn and get an education, not a place to damage and destroy. My peers should be more respectful towards

the school because we are the school. And we should be proud and happy to have the opportunity to go to such a great school," Vannorman said.

The small contributions such as picking up pencils, throwing away your trash at lunch, and picking up stray crumpled pieces of paper are ways to be helpful and courteous. The privilege to use certain bathrooms can easily be revoked. School is a place to learn, not damage and destroy.

Phones: A useful tool or distraction?

Students obsession over their phones have been changing their everyday lives and school

Josh Wagner
Reporter

Many of us may believe that we cannot live without our smart phones. We tweet, snap, post, send, play, and watch on our phones.

But when students take it too far and they begin to interfere with classroom activities, our devices become a distraction that is negatively impacting the student body.

"[Students] use them to text people in class and for social media. In daily life people use them while driving and not paying attention," Korbin Smith ('17) said.

In an age where talking amongst each other has become "ttyl,"

"lol," "hmu" and "smh," social communication skills are decreasing with every new smart phone hitting the market.

A study by the online casino "Yazino" uncovered that one out of four people spend more time communicating online than in person. Also, according to Pew Research Center, 88% of teens 12-17 that have cell phones are text-messengers, and 54% of them are daily texters.

"People who communicate over the phone often forget about, or just do not care about, what they are saying or how they say it, they just

type. Understanding emotion and face to face [communication] is lost." Brian Horsburgh ('18) said.

Phones have changed students heavily in the classroom, too. According to a study by Dr. Chris Bjornsen, a Longwood University professor, students with a 3.0 GPA or higher used social media an average of 2.9 times per class, and students with a lower GPA of 2.0-2.99 used social media 3.8 times per class.

This data indicates that devices have begun to impact classrooms and, at least in some cases, leading to a drop in grades and overall GPA.

"[Grades can slip] because

people get so distracted [in their phones] that they are losing the criteria in what they are learning," John Martinez ('20) said.

There is no doubt that, statistically, phones and social media has begun to influence student bodies, in negative ways. However, phones are still a versatile tool that can function very well for academic purposes.

"I think it goes both ways, positive and negative. With negative, people are using phones too much, [and] that it is destroying how they are learning at school. But it is good to use phones to look up resources and look up more detailed things about

what you are learning" Martinez said.

Phones, paired with social media, have begun to change students in a way that is affecting daily and school lifestyles. Although our phones are capable of so much, we seem to be using them for purposes inappropriate for school, and that is influencing communication and grades. Whether harmful or helpful, these pocket devices have changed us indefinitely.

WITH A DATE

Kaitlyn Klein
Reporter

Prom night remains hyped as the most memorable night of a high school career. With expectations so high, it may seem like a tough battle to meet them. However, attending the dance can be more enjoyable with a date.

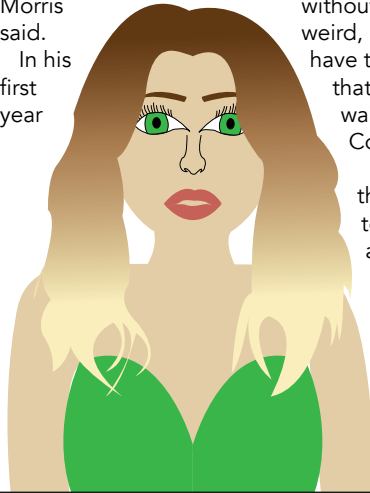
"I went with my girlfriend at the time my sophomore year, and went with a few friends last year, and I definitely had more fun my sophomore year with a date. It was like 100 times more memorable too," Ethan Felch ('17) said.

Michelle Morris ('17), who went to prom with a date the past two years, thinks having a date to prom sets it apart from the other dances high school offers.

"I think it makes prom a more memorable experience, going with

a date. I haven't gone to any homecoming dances with a date and I think if I were to go to prom alone it would feel a lot like that. Homecoming is fun, but prom is supposed to be different and more elegant, which is how it feels with a date," Morris said.

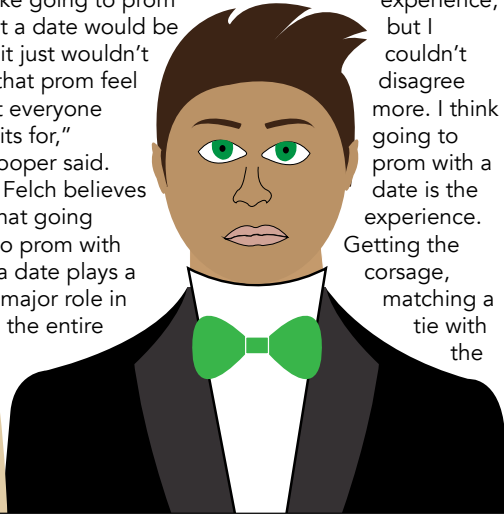
In his first year



being able to buy a ticket to prom, Justin Cooper ('18) chose to ensure he has a date to accompany him.

"I think if I didn't have a date I wouldn't go this year, I probably would've just gone my senior year. I feel like going to prom without a date would be weird, it just wouldn't have that prom feel that everyone waits for," Cooper said.

Felch believes that going to prom with a date plays a major role in the entire



prom experience. He believes without the extra effort that goes into having a date, prom would feel just as homecoming does.

"A lot of people don't like going to prom with a date because apparently it takes away from the

experience, but I couldn't disagree more. I think going to prom with a date is the experience. Getting the corsage, matching a tie with the

dress, it's what the idea of prom is about. People like to go alone so they can dance with whoever they want, but that's what homecoming and winter formal is about," Felch said.

Alternatively, prom goes on can attend with friends. However, Cooper believes going with friends would turn into a disaster.

"I think it'll be nice to go with a date so you're not alone. Honestly friends ditch you so fast at school dances, and then you're awkwardly alone, but a date wouldn't ditch you," Cooper said.

To maximize the prom experience, the magical night, that many look forward to in their high school career should be attended with a date.

WITHOUT A DATE

Jess Mason
Editor

Since the first prom was established, students attending their school's prom have brought along a date. However, contradicting common tradition, flying solo or going with a group of friends rather than a date became more popular throughout the last several years. Attending prom without a date not only avoids a boring time sticking by the same person, but also allows for a more independent experience.

"This is my first year going to prom, but I've been to homecoming [without a date], and it was nice not having to stick by the same person and be bored," Taylor Platt ('18) said.

Attending prom without a date means less time worrying about what the other person wants to do, and more time partaking in what one wants to do for themselves. Along with allowing for a more unconstrained experience, flying solo at prom also makes for more time to spend with friends.

"I think it'll be fun to go without a date and just hang with friends who you can build memories with," Platt said.

Following the high school years, friends and close-knit groups commonly drift apart due to distance and a number of other factors. Spending that short amount of

time given at prom with those people makes for a better and more beneficial experience, as they are the ones who will be remembered as most important in the future.

Going to prom without a date also prevents hundreds of dollars from escaping the bank account.

"If you go to prom alone,

you don't have to pay for their ticket," Ben Davis ('18) said.

According to visual.ly, an infographic-based data site, residents of the southeast region of the United States spend on average \$1,047 on prom per person. By taking part in prom without a date, a huge portion of that number could be eliminated.

Attending prom without a date can make for a more independent experience and a greater amount of time to spend with friends, all at no cost. In order to have a more memorable and overall enjoyable experience, prom should be attended without a date.

WILL YOU GO
TO PROM WITH
OR WITHOUT
A DATE?