



HB

the hoofbeat

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

Issue 3 Volume 16



**The annual Wiregrass
Symphony in Lights
Christmas festival began on
Nov. 11 and ends Dec. 31.
(page 5)**

Photo by Raleigh Illig





A look inside Issue three

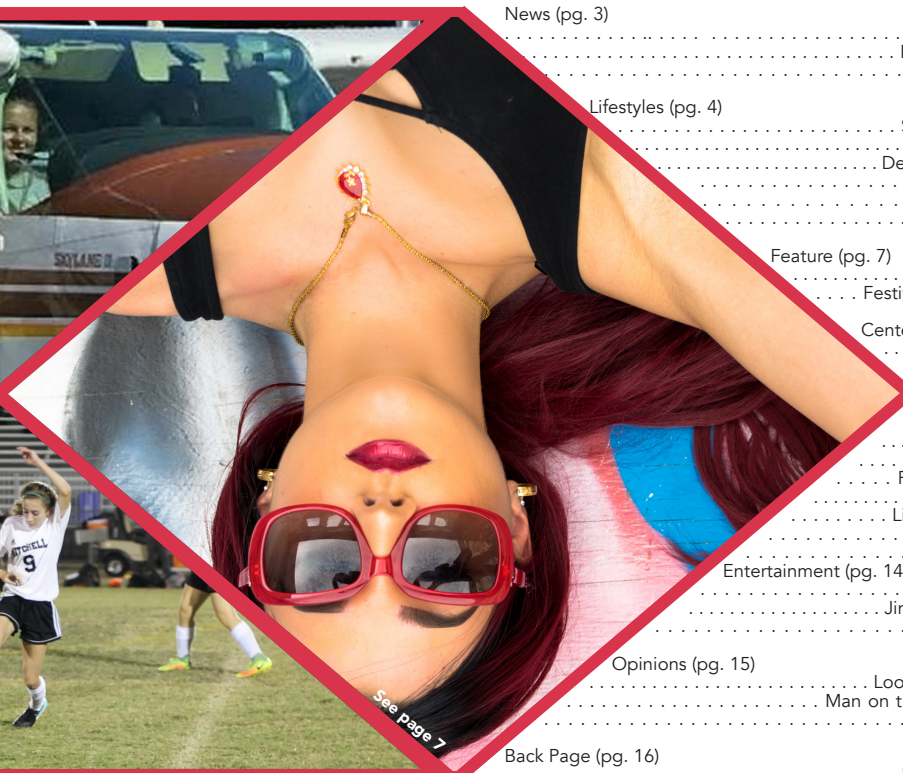


News (pg. 3)

See page 3



See page 11



See page 7

Lifestyles (pg. 4)

Work for a Cause Not an Applause
Rockin' Around the Fine Arts Center
Flyin' Towards Success

Feature (pg. 7)

Sopping Around the Christmas Tree
Giving Thanks After Thanksgiving
Deck the Halls with D.I.Y. Winter Decor
Santa Tell Me Songs to Play
Light up the Holidays
All I want for Christmas is Makeup

Center Spread (pg. 8)

Hope for the Holidays

Sports (pg. 10)

A Season to Remember
Lifting Spirits and Raising the Bars
Setting Their Sights Towards Varsity
The Kick Back Come Back Team
Running to the rhythm of teamwork
NHL All-Star Game comes to Tampa
Living up to the Legacy of Greatness
History in the Making
Hatching into an Osprey

Entertainment (pg. 14)

Tis' the Season for New Releases
Jingle Ball, jingle Ball, Jingle Ball Rock
Just in Time for the Holidays

Opinions (pg. 15)

Look Beyond Your Group Chat Answers
Man on the Street: Angel v. Star on the Tree
Musical.ly Takes Over Pop Culture

Back Page (pg. 16)

For gun Control v. No Gun Control

HB Editorial Policy

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

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

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

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In Memoriam Mr. Chris Gamel



Photo provided by Gigante Productions

"I surprise myself all the time with how often I recall lessons from his class, which I consider a testament to his teaching. He would spark interest by making history come alive inside and outside of the classroom. He will be dearly missed."

ANTHONY CILLUFFO, CLASS OF 2012
Research Assistant, Pew Research Center
Washington, D.C.





Work for a cause, not an applause

Clubs organize fundraisers to give back to the community and gain money for their events

BAILEY ILLIG
STAFF REPORTER

Science National Honor Society, sophomore Student Council, and Youth Beats hold fundraisers in order to gain money for their clubs and for organizations that their clubs are supporting. The most recent fundraisers are candy grams, Knockerball, and the selling of tea and coffee.

Science National Honor Society sold holiday themed candy grams from Nov. 27 to Dec. 11 and distributed on Dec. 15. Each member spreads the word through telling friends and the classes that they are enrolled in.

"This fundraiser is for our field

trip that we are planning on having in the spring semester. We plan on going to USF to look at a few labs in their science department. If there is any extra money it will go towards the end of the year ceremony for the new incoming members and the graduating seniors," Sreten Dedic ('18) said.

The sophomore Student Council held a Knockerball fundraiser on Nov. 16 and their next one is on February 16, 2018. The money raised will go toward senior activities for the class of 2020.

"Currently, there are flyers around the school for Knockerball and also, there are sign up forms in Mrs. Illig's (FAC)

room," Nabil Koney-Laryea ('20) said.

Youth Beats put together the tea and coffee fundraiser that will be sold by the members of this club. They have paired with the Giving Bean Fundraiser through givingbean.com and 60% of the income goes back to the coffee and tea organization and the rest goes to Youth Beats.

"The money earned goes towards club shirts, hosting readings, putting together our literary magazine, and being able to attend outside events," Rachel Lane ('19) said.

Whether it be fundraisers for field trips, senior events, or raising money for club events, candy grams, Knockerball, and



Knockerball teams compete on the field before Thanksgiving break to raise funds for the Class of 2020. Another Knockerball tournament is planned for the spring. Photo by Bailey Illig.

the selling of tea and coffee are just a few ways that clubs in our school fundraise. To find

fundraisers going on later in the school year, visit <http://jwmhs.pasco.k12.fl.us/>.

Rockin' around the Fine Arts Center

Band members began their preparation in anticipation of the Prism concert quickly approaching

KRISTINA JAUTZE
EDITOR

As winter approaches, productions of arrangements begin in the band. Music sheets stay thrown about to the students in preparation for their Prism concert, a winter showcase. Generating small groups starts the beginning of the process.

"We usually get a bunch of kids together and say 'Hey lets do a group!' and we begin rehearsing to perfect the piece. It's a lot of practicing, especially for our actual class pieces. We have to know them like the back of our

hand," Thomas Panopoulos ('18) said.

The creation of small groups and ensembles require rehearsals. Groups typically practice two times a week at school to help them learn their music.

"The rehearsals are run by the students themselves. We usually have them on Mondays and Wednesdays, which are days that we do not have practice after school or a football game. They will start right after school and go anywhere from 4 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.," Madison Maring ('20) said.

The students prepare their

group and class music early on in the school year. Students took

approximately anywhere from one to three months to learn or memorize their pieces. Rigorous and continuous practice help get the group to high standards.

"Each of the sections has to take time out of the marching season for rehearsal. Sometimes

class time is spent on different pieces or ensembles. Practices

Practices really dive in on every element of the piece and tend to get a little hard. It's all worth it in the end.

Michael Mortilla ('19)

really dive in on every element of the piece and tend to get a little hard. It's all worth it in the end," Michael Mortilla ('19) said.

One new feature at this year's Prism was an opener called "Stool Pidgeon"

with percussionists playing on wooden stools.

Students debuted their pieces

along with many other new elements of the show.

"This year we are playing our new marching show entitled 'Painted Black'. Every year each of the sections does a new arrangement of a popular song or artist so people will sing alone," Mortilla said.

Prism preparations take time and effort to put on a great show. With the new added elements and group pieces, the show kept the audience's attention for both nights of the concert playing to a packed house, even turning away people at the door.

Flyin' towards success

NJROTC cadets have the opportunity to take control of a plane mid-flight

JOSH WAGNER
STAFF REPORTER

People usually experience a plane ride from the average passenger aircraft cabin, letting the pilots do all the dirty work. But some Navy Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps (NJROTC) members go above and beyond and are becoming their own pilots with the help of the Young Eagles program.

"The Young Eagles Program allows pilots and students to connect, and then students can actually fly the plane," Nathan Bright ('19) said.

The program was founded

in 1992 and is aided by the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) and their network of volunteers. They have flown over two million kids age 8-17, and they are the only mission of their kind.

The program gives the students the chance to learn how to operate an airplane, and during the flight the students are allowed to take the controls.

"You fill out a few forms and that allows you to fly with the pilot. You do not get to do all of the flying but you do get the chance to fly," Bright said.

Flying an aircraft takes years of training to conquer, but in the

Young Eagles program students did not have much control over the plane. They could turn left or right, but that was about it.

"It was a small plane, we probably went two to three thousand feet in the air, [the flight] was probably about fifteen minutes long. You were not doing anything crazy," Aaron Wise ('18) said.

Although the students did not perform any difficult maneuvers, the flight was still memorable for the participants.

"It lets you do something that kids dream about. It gives you an opportunity to get inside of a cockpit and fly a plane, which



NJROTC cadets get ready to take control of an airplane while at the Young Eagles flying trip through the EAA on Nov. 4. "It was something on my bucket list and to check that off was really cool," Mathews said. Photo provided by Olivia Trancho ('21).

is not something you get to do everyday of your life," Wise said.

Flying a plane is a rare experience that many people, including Nicole Mathews ('21), had dreamed of being able to fulfil.

"It was something I wanted to do, something on my bucket list,

and to check that off and accomplish that was really cool," Mathews said.

If you are interested in becoming a Young Eagle yourself, you can find more information through the EAA website to get in touch with a local Young Eagles coordinator.



Shopping around the Christmas tree

These trendy gift shops provide a variety of unique and one-of-a-kind holiday gift options for your loved ones

Photos by Emma Rogers



Mike's Jewelry // 10720 SR 54, Trinity Village Center // (727) 375-1727

Giftly Chik // 10720 State Road 54, Trinity Village Center // (727) 203-3290



Dream Bubble Shop // 5730 Main St. (727) 816-9141

Antique Center on Main St // 5730 Main St. // (727) 845-3280



Giving thanks after Thanksgiving

Local community churches provide students with the option to volunteer their time and give back during the holiday season

KAITLYN KLEIN
STAFF REPORTER

Between batches of holiday cookies and marching through a gift list, students often volunteer during the holiday season. Hectic travel schedules and frenzied last-minute shopping make the holidays more stressful than necessary, so rather than getting caught up in what gifts to buy, many spend their time giving back to those who are less fortunate.

"I volunteer at Metropolitan Ministries during Thanksgiving time and Christmas time because that's when they need the

most volunteers. Metropolitan Ministries helps people who don't have a lot of money, and the holiday season is when people need help the most," Matthew Edwards ('19) said.

At Metropolitan Ministries, Edwards and his family help shoppers pick out food and gifts for their families. Edwards and his younger sister

typically give out turkeys and hams to shoppers.

"Volunteering at Metropolitan Ministries has been something my family and I do together for the past few years. It helps me get in the Christmas spirit because we've done it for so many years around the holidays, it like reminds me that Thanksgiving or Christmas is

coming up," Edwards said.

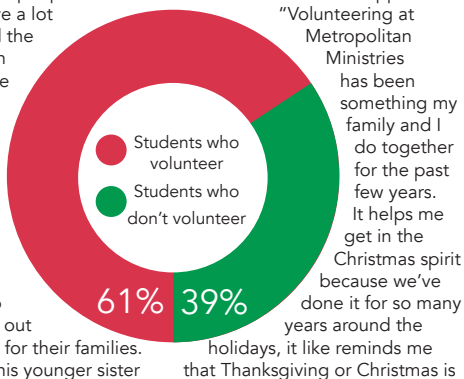
Volunteering year round, outstanding senior Austin Jerome ('18) finds serving the community fulfilling. He accumulated over 300 hours through Key Club, NHS, and the U.S Tennis Association.

"The reason I volunteer is because I feel the need to give back to the community, since it has given to me for so many years. Also it makes me so happy that I have the opportunity to help others. There isn't anything more rewarding than knowing you left a positive impact on the life of another person," Jerome said.

With plays, drives, and other activities, churches often need volunteers to help them out. Alisha Jones ('19) volunteers with her church every holiday season.

"My church, Saint Ignatius, needs volunteers every holiday season so I always try to help out," Jones said.

During the holiday season, places like Metropolitan Ministries, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, Hope United Methodist Church, and others look for volunteers.



Deck the halls with D.I.Y. winter decor

Step-by-step instructions for alternative inexpensive ways to put your personal space in the holiday spirit

HAYLEY FLISS
STAFF REPORTER

Photos by Hayley Fliss



Ornament Bowl

Materials:

- Glass bowl
- Ornaments
- Ribbon
- Pieces of holly
- Hot glue gun

Instructions:

1. Fill bowl with ornaments
2. Glue ribbon around the top of the bowl
3. Glue pieces of holly around top of bowl



Centerpiece

Materials:

- Plate to put bottles on top of
- Wine bottles or mason jars
- Twine
- Sugar, fake snow, Coconut flakes, etc.
- Glue
- Small white candles
- White spray paint or regular white paint

Instructions:

1. Paint all wine bottles and or mason jars
2. Glue down any fake snow, coconut shavings, or sugar of your choice for a snowy illusion
3. Wrap twine around the top ring of each bottle and jar
4. Arrange each piece on the plate as you wish





Santa tell me songs to play

These songs found on Apple Music, Spotify, and SoundCloud provide holiday spirit to all users

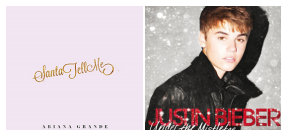
KAITLYN KLEIN AND JESS MASON
STAFF REPORTER AND EDITOR

Holiday spirit comes about during this time of year in many different ways. Among the festive decor, bright lights, cold atmosphere, and Christmas movies, music plays a huge role in the essence of the holidays. In fact, according to guinnessworldrecords.com, White Christmas by Bing Crosby remains the highest selling single in the world to this date.

Apple Music, Spotify, and SoundCloud, all provide users the opportunity to experience

the holidays at maximum enjoyability. Not only does each music platform have an extensive variety of songs to choose from, but also pre-made holiday playlists for every different person, mood, or time-frame that there is. Blue Christmas by Elvis Presley, Santa Claus is Coming to Town by Frank Sinatra, and It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year are just a few of the best selling classic Christmas songs dating back to the 1950's and 1960's. In contrast, Santa Tell Me by Ariana Grande, Mistletoe by Justin Bieber, and Baby It's Cold Outside by Idina Menzel ft.

Michael Buble are a few of the more recent Christmas hits. To find playlists full of these songs and more, search "Christmas Playlists" in either of the music platforms previously mentioned or take a look at the playlist created here for some inspiration on which songs to play during the holiday season.



Light up the Holidays

Places all over the Tampa Bay area provide their community with free and fun Christmas activities and light shows

JOSH WAGNER
STAFF REPORTER

Photo by Raleigh Ilija



As the year's end approaches, students begin to experience the Christmas spirit and may be looking for festive activities to participate in.

Symphony In Lights

"The Symphony In Lights" festival is a Christmas festival at Wiregrass Ranch mall that features an amazing holiday light show, choreographed to recorded music by the Trans-Siberian Orchestra and music selections from guests. It also includes décor and "snow" too. Olivia Miller ('18), who danced at the festival for three years, said, "it was really fun, because everybody was in the Christmas spirit, so being able to dance was really fun. Seeing people smile was really why you do it." The festival began on Nov. 11 and continues

every night until its final showing on Dec. 31.

Busch Gardens Christmas Town

Another event is the "Busch Gardens Christmas Town" event, where the park is transformed into a Christmas wonderland. The event began on Nov. 19 and continues up to Dec. 31. It features a wide variety of live shows, lights, yuletide shows and carols, a "Christmas village", holiday foods, a train ride for kids, and shopping.

Safety Harbor Holiday Parade

The "Safety Harbor Holiday Parade" is on December 16. The parade is located on Main Street and features floats, old fashioned cars, "Shriners", and Santa Claus. A Rockapella Christmas

If you are looking for some Christmas music to get you into

the holiday spirit, "A Rockapella Christmas" is the place to go.

The music group travels the country performing their original takes on classic holiday music. The group will be performing at Capitol Theatre in Clearwater on December 21 at 7:30 PM. Ticket prices start at \$30.

Largo's Annual Holiday Stroll

If you are looking for a relaxing holiday event, "Largo's Annual Holiday Stroll," is the place to go. You can watch a movie at the park, partake in a craft fair, play in the "snow," and take a walk around the park to see over a million lights in the holiday displays. The walk takes place on Dec. 16, at 6:30. The event is free.

All I want for Christmas is makeup

These Sephora holiday makeup sets are filled with winter tones and provide buyers the chance to get more for their money



Contour & Strobe Set
\$25



Highlighter Hotshots
\$18



Lipstick & Lip Matifier Set
\$25



Glow For It
\$40



Peace, love and *photography*

The story of Brooke Parry ('18), a young and aspiring photographer

CAYLEIGH MAGHE
STAFF REPORTER

Brooke Parry ('18) is an aspiring photographer. When she was in sixth grade she had to make a powerpoint on whatever she wanted, so she chose photography for no particular reason. She has loved it ever since. Two



of her most inspiring artists from Instagram are Lebanese American Jessica Kobeissi and Toronto photographer Peter McKinnon.

Parry photographs friends and family, practicing her skills at poses and lighting.

"When I'm posing people I just try to make them as comfortable as possible, or I tell them to look forward," Parry said.

Parry's photos are mostly fashion and people. Hannah Farrell ('18) has had her picture taken by Parry. Farrell and Parry traveled to Tampa in steaming hot weather in an attempt to get memorable pictures. Parry took portraits, full body, and head

shots. The process took quite a few hours.

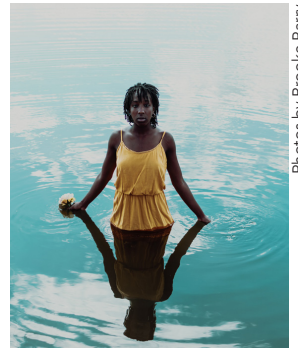
"Parry's work is so good. Once she takes the pictures it looks professional already, but once she touches them up they look even better," Farrell said.

Parry's favorite type of picture to take is portraits because there's a lot of variety; everyone has unique features so no single picture is the same as another. When Parry is preparing to take pictures of someone, she takes a good look at the model and decides on how she's going to dress and pose them. When she is taking landscapes she feels



more peaceful and the process is a bit easier. Parry focuses on the subject matter rather than the equipment she uses.

"If I had to encourage someone to try out photography I would say that gear doesn't matter, you can totally take out your phone, go out and shoot whatever you want," Parry said.



Photos by Brooke Parry

Parry aspires to have her work printed with professionals and currently is consulting with the popular Volant Magazine, who is going to publish two of Parry's shoots. The first one should be coming out soon, and the second one should come out in January. For more of Parry's work go to brookeparry.myportfolio.com

Festival of lights on *eight* bright nights

In the month of December, some students celebrate a Jewish holiday, Hanukkah, and tell about the memories from years ago

GIANNA KNOWLES
STAFF REPORTER

Andy Williams sang the now famous quote "it's the most wonderful time of the year". Although the song is geared towards Christmas celebrations, Christmas isn't the only holiday around this "wonderful time". Hanukkah, a Jewish holiday is celebrated on the Hebrew calendar date of 25 Kislev, 2017. Hanukkah 2017 is celebrated on the evening of December 12 and ends on the evening of

December 20. These eight days of celebration center around thankfulness, celebration and just being together with family.

"Just like any other holiday it's a celebration of togetherness with your family. We typically have a larger dinner with traditional foods like latkas



and manichevites," Natalie Goldstein ('18) said.

A symbol of the holiday is the menorah, a candle holder where a family member gets to light a new candle every night. This symbol is why Hanukkah possesses the nickname, the festival of lights. Each of the 8 nights of Hanukkah, children are given gifts, small or big, and sometimes the children even get to light the special menorah.

"I usually have dinner with my family and play dreidel and light the menorah. Usually everyone gets their own menorah, it's fun and we also get presents," Jessica Jonas ('20) said.

Hanukkah or the festival of lights is a holiday filled with a lot of traditions that create memories for children to always look back on. Goldstein shared memories such as her first Hanukkah, or remembering lighting the menorah for the very first time.

"I was allowed to light the

menorah when I was younger, and I think my earliest memory is lighting the menorah for the first time when I was 10 years old," Goldstein said.

For more about Hannukah events in Tampa Bay, visit Chabad Jewish Center of West Pasco at www.chabadwp.com or discover other Hannukah festivities at www.tampabay.com/things-to-do.

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Suicide

Signs leading to suicide:

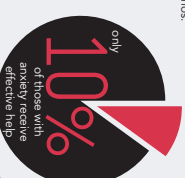
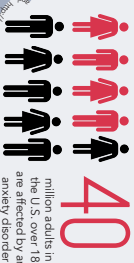
- Talking about feeling hopeless or having no purpose
- Talking about wanting to die or kill themselves
- Increased use in drugs and alcohol
- Always feeling anxious
- Sleeping too little or too much

If you or someone you know is experiencing these thoughts, please talk to a trusted adult immediately.



Generalized Anxiety Disorder

People with generalized anxiety disorder display excessive anxiety or worry for months about different things and scenarios.



HOW TO GET HELP

Majority of people that try and get help make a full recovery! Find a trusted adult, whether a teacher or parent, and talk to them about what you are feeling and what they can do to help. Finding a trusted adult allows you to tell them exactly what you feel, making it easier to get help.

PLACES TO GO FOR HELP AT SCHOOL

School Psychologist: Melissa Winhold (available Mondays and Fridays) room 736
School Social Worker: Karyn McGuire (available Mondays and Thursdays) room 736
Any guidance counselor on campus Monday-Friday



HOTLINES

National Alliance on Mental Illness
Helpline: 1-800-950-6264
Teen Line: 1-310-855-4673
Suicide Depression Hotline: 1-800-273-8255
Eating Disorder Hotline: 1-800-931-2237

Depression

A common and serious medical illness that negatively affects how you feel, the way you think and how you act. It causes feelings of sadness and/or a loss of interest in activities once enjoyed. It can lead to a variety of emotional and physical problems and can decrease a person's ability to function at work and at home.



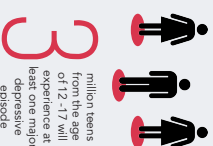
PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS

- sad mood
- feeling of hopelessness
- feeling worthless
- thought of suicide
- difficulty concentrating



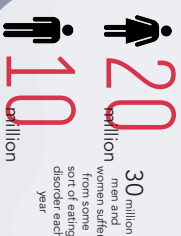
PHYSICAL EFFECTS

- loss of interest in activities
- talking/ moving slowly
- feeling worthless
- difficulty sleeping
- aches and pains without clear cause



Eating Disorders

Any of a range of psychological disorders characterized by abnormal or disturbed eating habits. This could be eating too much or eating too little, both can do harm to your body.



<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/eating-disorders.shtml>

Shope at the *Sholidays*



Lifting spirits and raising the bars

The girl's weightlifting team sets their sights on new goals and is dedicated to achieving them

LEXI CLARK
EDITOR

Weightlifting requires more than just physical skill and fitness; a strong mindset, motivation, and determination prove themselves to be vital factors when lifting. Regardless of the work put in at practices in the weight room, without the right mentality, hitting a new personal record becomes a significantly more difficult task.

"I just breathe and relax because my adrenaline is already

running so I try not to psych myself out [in order to] get the weight up," Bayley Williams ('18), captain, said.

Although physique and repetitive workouts remain essential to lifting more weight, none of that would be possible without the motivation and dedication to put in the time required to become stronger.

"[Coach Regina Dixon (FAC)] keeps me motivated by helping me and telling me what I'm doing wrong to help me get my lifts. I'm also motivated by my

lifts in the previous meet so I can see what [weight] I have to beat next time," Olyvia Cayer ('18), captain, said.

Properly preparing for meets involves working in the weight room to build muscle and doing cardio to cut weight. Cutting weight allows lifters to compete in the lowest weight class possible so they have the best opportunity for success.

"[Leading up to a meet] throughout the week I normally eat clean foods such as salads and grilled chicken,

but my workouts stay normal. Sometimes I'll run a few miles at night," Cayer said.

Cayer and Williams lead the team by acting as a positive example for others to follow, motivating underclassmen to always work harder toward reaching their goals.

"The captains inspire me to always think positive and to never stop working toward my goals," Donasia Green ('19) said.

The work required to be successful in weightlifting appears overbearing, but lifters

make time to put in the extra work in order to strive toward greatness and their overall goals of being able to compete and be successful in post-season meets. Last year, Williams achieved 3rd place in regionals. This year, she sets her sights for states.

"Every day I work harder than the day before to shoot for my new personal records," Williams said.

The girl's weightlifting schedule is available on maxpreps.com, their next meet is on December 15th at River Ridge.

A season to *remember*

VOLLEYBALL

District Champions, Regional runner up, and finished the season 22-9

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

4th place in Districts, qualifying them for states. At the State meet they came in 22nd place.

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

District runner up, and 9th place at the Regionals meet

GIRLS GOLF

District Champions, and 3rd place at the Regionals meet

FOOTBALL

District Champions, new school and District win record 11-1. Myke Hamilton ('18) breaks the school records with 1,602 yards and 22 TDs this season. For the career school record with 4,100 yards and 62 TDs.

BOYS GOLF

Nick Gabrelcik ('20) 5th in State, Western Conference player of the year

SWIMMING AND DIVING

For the Swimming and Diving recap, see page 13.



Setting their sights toward varsity

JV boys and girls soccer work to improve their skills in order to make varsity the following year

CHRIS WILSON
STAFF REPORTER

The junior varsity girls soccer team and the junior varsity boys soccer team start another season looking to achieve the ultimate goal of making varsity.

"This year I will play my hardest, never give up, and put everything I have on the field in hopes that it is enough to make it on varsity either later this year or next year," Jolie Babcock ('20)

said.

Returning sophomores act as leaders on the team because they know the expectations and lead by example.

"To make sure that everyone knows that they have something important to contribute to the team is essential to any successful team," Alyssa Babcock ('20) said.

Even though the JV girls team only plays 12 games, JV players

make the most of them to get noticed by the varsity coach.

"We have to make sure we play as hard as we can and communicate well with others, as well as having good enough skills to play on [varsity next year]," Arianna Finazzo ('20) said.

JV boys also looks to make their mark and get pulled up.

"Upperclassmen are very important to the team, they show us how to be better players and

better people off the field," Ruhan Alam ('21) said.

Tough competition pushes the JV players to improve their skills.

"We have to practice harder, play smart, and play as a team," Chase Weitekamp ('20) said.

As the season continues, the boys train hard and play hard so that they can achieve their goals of success.

"We are working hard this year and especially prepare more

intensely and tactically to be able to play well against our toughest competition in Jesuit. They always have a good team so we hopefully can play well against them," Mike Beckett ('20) said. The girls are 4-2-0 this season with 6 games left to play, their next game is 12/19 at home against Ridgewood. The boys are 3-0-2 this season with 10 games left, their next game is 12/21 at home against Fivay.





The kick back come back team

The boys varsity soccer team looks beyond the struggles from their previous season to strive for a better future

CHRIS WILSON
STAFF REPORTER

Following last season's loss in the regional finals against Nature Coast 3-2 in golden goal (overtime), the boys' soccer team works towards beating last year's feat and making it past regionals into states.

"To better ourselves this year we need to work harder on playing as a team and learning how to use each other to better one another," Zach Wilson ('18) said.

Ethan Winship returns this season after having to take off

last year's school season due to prior commitments at his club soccer team, Clearwater Chargers. He played in the Development Academy there, and being in the DA, they do not allow their players to play for their school teams.

"The DA season has no break

in the middle of it like other clubs do, and the amount of games we

played were so great that they didn't want us to overplay and get injured or fatigued during high school season," Winship said.

As new members file into their places on the team, they figure out their roles and how they help make

the team better.

"The new varsity players we have added this year are going to be a big part of our team's success by providing good players to come off the bench when needed. They can improve themselves by taking more of a leadership role, which will lead to a bigger role on the team," Brennan Breuer ('19) said.

Throughout their 29 games this season, the boys work hard and mesh together as a team to achieve their goals.

"The team's looking good

and I think if we can continue working as a team, and shoot the ball and increase our scoring opportunities we can do really well this year," Wilson said.

The boys so far this season are 5-1-1 and have 22 games left this season. With a lot of time left in the season it gives the boys more time to grow closer and continue to win games. Their next game is 12/19 away at East Lake.

"The new varsity players we have added this year are going to be a big part of our team's success"
Brennan Breuer ('19)

NHL All-Star game comes to Tampa

Fans of the NHL and the city of Tampa Bay prepares for the All-Star game at Amalie Arena

ALYSSA MAGILLIGAN
STAFF REPORTER

Every year, National Hockey League fans count down the days to watch their favorite players come together to compete in order to find the best players in each division. The NHL chose Tampa Bay as the city to hold the annual All-Star Game, and the city of Tampa previously spent the last seven years prepping the city for the important event.

To determine the players who go to the All-Star Game, players from each of the four divisions of the Eastern and Western Conferences are selected for

fans to vote on. Two games take place during the All-Star weekend: the skills competition on January 27th and the game itself on January 28th.

"I can't wait to see the young kids like Nico Hischier play in their first game," Alex Majerczak ('18) said.

The skills competition allows NHL players to showcase what they do best, whether it be speed, goal scoring, or hardest shot.

"Speed, in both skating and shooting the puck, allows for some opportunities for a breakaway or to stop an odd man rush or a breakaway,"

Tristen Gesler ('18) said.

Bob Buckhorn, the mayor of Tampa, and Tampa Bay

Lightning owner Jeff Vinik put forth over \$90 million in renovations to Amalie Arena since 2010 to help prepare the city for the possibility of another All-Star Game, following

a successful one in 1999.

Changes for the team in general proved positive, and the Lightning put the Industry Growth Fund in place, which provides hockey lessons and gear for children around the Tampa Bay area. The actions overall labeled Tampa as a true

"The Lightning ownership have done a really good job at creating a devoted fanbase and a great atmosphere in Amalie Arena, which definitely helped to bring the [All-Star] game here," Gesler said.

Fans of NHL teams through every division show their excitement for the All-Star Game and continue to support their favorite team and their favorite players as they go to compete for the highest titles in the league.



Living up to the legacy of greatness

The girls varsity soccer captains look to live up to the legacy left behind by the class of 2017

RICHARD DALEY
STAFF REPORTER

The girl's varsity soccer team looks to improve off last year's playoff run as the new season kicks off. The girls lost in the state final four last year, but this year the girls look to go all the way.

"We are practicing more and really focusing on the shape of the team. We also implemented a new formation and I think it's working better than last year because it solves some of the problems we have in our lineup," Alyssa Sanchez ('18) said.

Losing five seniors who played key positions on the team left a

gap for returning players and this year's seniors like Aja Graham ('19) to step up and help lead the team to achieving their goal. Since the team constantly works on bonding, Graham believes that they will overcome their difficulties and become a more unified team.

"We all have fun together and work really hard so that we're basically a family. We do a lot of team bonding exercises and practices so we get used to playing with one another and make sure we do well as a team," Graham said.

One of the team captains, Dalanie Guerra ('18), helps lead the team through many ups and downs the season may

hold.

"As a captain I'm trying to be the best leader I can be and teach them that no matter the outcome of a game, there's always a way for us to learn and grow. We are a new team so we really need to work together in order to live up to the standard Mitchell soccer has set throughout the years and get good results in every match," Guerra said.

With 14 games on the schedule, the girls hope that they win as many of the games as possible to achieve their goal of getting back to state final four and emerging victorious.

"We lost some really talented seniors offensively, so as long as we can work together



Olivia Phillips ('20) kicks the ball as she runs across the field toward the Freedom High School goal at the home game on Dec. 1. Photo provided by John Henges ('20)

to efficiently score goals and keep a solid defense, I believe we will make it to regional

finals again and hopefully back at state for another round," Guerra said.



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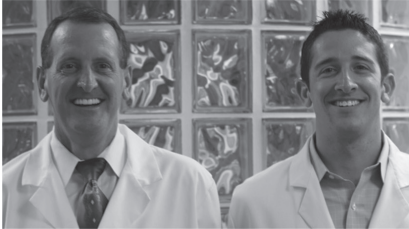
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History in the making

Swimmers and divers set five new school records in one season

RALEIGH ILLIG
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On October 9th Colin Dempsey ('19) dives into the pool at the Pasco County Conference meet finishing his final dive. As the awards are announced to conclude the meet, Dempsey was announced first place in the Pasco County Conference with a score of 383.20, shattering the 12-year-old school record for the boys one meter 11 dive meet that was previously held by Zack Ciccone ('06) with 278.40.

"At first I didn't realize that I broke the record, it was a really good meet for me and when Coach Kelly told me that I did I was happy and thought it was pretty cool I had a school record," Dempsey said.

One week later at the Districts meet, Bethany Bradshaw ('20) broke the 100-meter back stroke record with the support from her fellow teammates and coaches.

"Back stroke is by far my favorite event and I was very excited and happy the rest of the meet. It gave me motivation

to do better in my other events throughout the day," Bradshaw said.

On top of Dempsey breaking the boys diving record and Bradshaw breaking the back stroke record, at the FHSAA Swimming Regionals on October 31 at FGCU, an additional three school records were broken by the swimmers. One record being the girls 200-meter freestyle relay with Julia Walkup ('19), Veronika Trtik ('19), Sarah Helgeson ('19), and Bradshaw with a time of 1:43.65.

"Til' the last second, we didn't know that we broke the school record. We were cheering on our anchor Julia, ending up first in the heat. Everyone did an incredible job. I was so happy that we broke the record together with my good friends. We were hugging each other and celebrating the moment," Trtik said.

Carson Kruger ('20), Bradshaw, and Walkup have all competed at the state level in past years of their high school swimming career. Last season, Walkup broke the 200-meter freestyle



Colin Dempsey ('19) at the FSPA invitational meet in Stuart, FL. Photo by Raleigh Illig

record as a sophomore, and this season again by 2 seconds as a junior at the Regional meet with a time of 1:54.45.

"I was really surprised when I found out, I knew when I hit the wall that I was good but when I looked up and saw the time I was just so excited I got out and hugged everyone," Walkup said.

On deck all the swimmers were confident in their performances and anticipated the races they had left. With a time of 4:45.65, Kruger set a new record in the



Bethany Bradshaw, Veronika Trtik, Coach Kelly Erickson, Carson Kruger, Abby Erickson, Julia Walkup, and Sarah Helgeson sport their "State team" shirts before leaving for the State meet on Nov. 11th. Photo provided by Veronika Trtik

Julia Walkup swimming the 200-meter freestyle at the FHSAA State meet on Nov. 11th in Stuart, FL. Walkup finished in 11th place in this event. Photo provided by Julia Walkup



500-meter freestyle that hadn't been touched in 11 years.

"I wouldn't say I like swimming the 500 but I do like being good at it, swimming it is kind of painful and takes a long time, it's like a really long sprint, but it is what I am really good at. It's cool knowing that I will probably be holding a record for a long time," Kruger said.

At the FHSAA State Swimming meet on 11th Nov. Bradshaw, Walkup, Helgeson, and Trtik swam the 200

freestyle relay and placed 16th. In Walkup's individual events, she placed 18th in the 100-meter freestyle, and 11th in the 200-meter freestyle. Kruger made it to the finals at states as well in his individual events finishing in 19th in the 500-meter freestyle, and 24th in the 200-meter freestyle, and recieved Swimmer of the year in Pasco. This young team of record breakers all plan to return in the future seasons with their goals to improve their skills.

Hatching into an Osprey

Kendra Hoffman ('18) graduates early to pursue her collegiate soccer career at UNF

MAX TRETIN AND CHRIS WILSON
EDITOR AND STAFFER

For months, a prestigious soccer player anticipated her transfer to the University of North Florida (UNF) in Jacksonville. Kendra Hoffman ('18) verbally committed on Aug. 29, 2015 and recently signed to attend UNF on Nov. 9, 2017. Taking three classes this semester to earn her final credits for graduation, she plans to start classes at UNF on January 8. Going without much nervousness, she already knows many of the girls at UNF who she used to play with in previous years.

"When I get to UNF it is the spring season so we begin by playing exhibition games against other school throughout the state, and occasionally out of state. We mainly do this to get in shape and practice as a team to prepare for the fall season," Hoffman said.

Compared to other incoming

freshman, she gets to build a better chemistry with her teammates. However, anxiety builds up because of leaving her family and friends months before graduation.

"Upon arrival to UNF in January, I will be the only one on the team who graduated early from high school. I am cherishing the last few months I have left with my friends and family because I will miss them very much," Hoffman said.

In December 2015, Hoffman was challenged mentally and physically, but she gained support from her head coach, Robin Confer, and all of her teammates.

"When I tore my ACL, lateral meniscus and medial meniscus, it was the hardest thing I have ever had to go through. It made me feel great to know that my team believed in me that I could come back and play better than ever," Hoffman said.

Becoming frustrated with her



Above: Kendra Hoffman at her UNF signing officially making her the newest member of the Osprey soccer team. Below: Hoffman shows her progress as a soccer player throughout the years as a young child to a graduating senior. Photos provided by Kendra Hoffman

injuries earlier in the year, she began to truly play again in January 2017.

Going through ceaseless hours of physical therapy, she began to overall become aware of the limits that she can reach. For the past fourteen years, Hoffman has been working hard to play soccer for the rest of her life. Now in 2017, she has finally fulfilled one of her dreams and begins to get ready to play for college girls soccer in Jacksonville for the fall season.





'Tis' the season for new releases

25 days of Christmas on Freeform

Tune into Freeform to watch a new Christmas movie at a different time every night!

Dec. 15th	'The Search for Santa Paws' at 9 p.m.
Dec. 16th	'The Polar Express' at 9:45 p.m.
Dec. 17th	'Frozen' at 9 p.m.
Dec. 18th	Elf at 9:50 p.m.
Dec. 19th	'National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation' at 8:55 p.m.
Dec. 20th	The Santa Clause at 8:50 p.m.
Dec. 21th	Toy Story that Time Forgot at 6:20 p.m.
Dec. 22th	Jingle all the Way at 8:55 p.m.
Dec. 23th	Disney's A Christmas Carol at 6:45 p.m.
Dec. 24th	Scrooged at 11:55 p.m.
Dec. 25th	The Year Without a Santa Clause at 4:35 p.m.



Jingle Ball, Jingle Ball, Jingle Ball rock

The jingle ball has sold out the past few years, and with an impressive lineup full of new artists, they hope they can do it again

ALYSSA MAGILLIGAN
STAFF REPORTER

Every Christmas season, the popular radio show 93.3 FLZ hosts their annual Jingle Ball, where singers and artists perform for fans in the Tampa Bay area. Every year proves success for the radio station, as they nearly sell out tickets to every concert.

This year, 93.3 FLZ collected a group of artists who they think will sell out the show. This year's lineup includes Zedd, Nick Jonas, Camila Cabello, Liam Payne, Sabrina Carpenter, All

Time Low, Charlie Puth, and Why Don't We.

"I'm mostly excited to see All Time Low just because I've been hearing their songs forever," Seth Johnson ('20) said.

93.3 ensures so all ages will get the experience they paid for. To guarantee this, they invite artists that will appeal to all groups, both young and old. Sabrina Carpenter and Why Don't We prove to be popular

with younger kids and teenagers because of their starts on the Disney Channel. Carpenter plans on performing her singles titled

"Eyes Wide Open" and "Smoke and Fire", while Why Don't We plans on performing "Something Different" along with others hit songs.

"I guess having more artists for younger kids is a good thing and a bad thing because they'll

hear songs they like, but the singers for older audiences will sing songs they really shouldn't hear at her age even though they should sing the clean versions of songs for events like Jingle Ball," Maria Smith ('19) said.

Other artists, however, might not be quite suited for younger audiences. Liam Payne, although he is an ex-member of One Direction, and Nick Jonas both transitioned into creating music for an older audience with more mature themes and lyrics. Payne plans on performing "Strip That Down" along with other songs,

and Jonas plans on singing "Chains", "Jealous", and a new single that came out this year titled "Remember I Told You".

"I think this is a good lineup because it includes a few artists that have been famous for a while and some who are just getting started," Johnson said.

This year's Jingle Ball plans to bring in a variety of fans of the different artists performing. With changes made from previous years, 93.3 FLZ hopes this concert attracts more people than ever before.



Just in time for the holidays

Katelyn Zegan looks back to the day when her dad surprised her by coming home

EMMA ROGERS
STAFF REPORTER

The Zegan family went through ups and downs, as their beloved father and husband was deployed in Afghanistan for ten months as his part in the military. Katelyn Zegan ('20) thought about seeing him many times during his deployment, hoping he would come home sooner. They were planning on seeing him again for the holidays in 2014, but nothing was official. Her father had been away for

months and she was ready for him to come home.

"In seventh grade, he was away in Afghanistan for ten months and we'd been talking about him coming home and surprising us cause he's been away more times than that, but it never occurred to me that he would actually surprise me," Zegan said.

To her surprise, the principal, at Seven Springs Middle, Dr. Dunning (FAC) helped out. He introduced a "special guest" to the class. At first Zegan did not

know that it was for her.

"I was sitting in Spanish, when Dr. Dunning came in and said 'we have a special guest', I thought it was for the Great American Teach-in so, when he came in at first it didn't hit me that it was my dad it took me to see my mom to actually recognize him," Zegan said.

Her father had come home a month early to surprise his family and to celebrate that Christmas holiday with them. Many tears were shed as the family reunited once again. This created a really

memorable holiday for the Zegan family that year.

"My holiday instantly became better and it was the best gift I got," Zegan ('20) said.

For this military daughter, her favorite gift was not under the tree but rather the one that came home for her and the family. In

the end, the Zegan family was reunited by the homecoming of her dad, just in time to celebrate Christmas and the new year.



The Zegan family celebrates the homecoming of their dad from Afghanistan, just in time to celebrate Christmas and the New Year. Photo provided by Katelyn Zegan





Look beyond your group chat answers

A staff editorial discussing the reasons why students feel the need to cheat and how cheating will harm your overall grade

In a society where school is more competitive than ever, students struggle when it comes to academic integrity. Studies from the Ad Council show that cheating among high school students has risen dramatically during the past 50 years. This increase in cheating raises a red flag and reminds students to turn in work to the best of their ability no matter what.

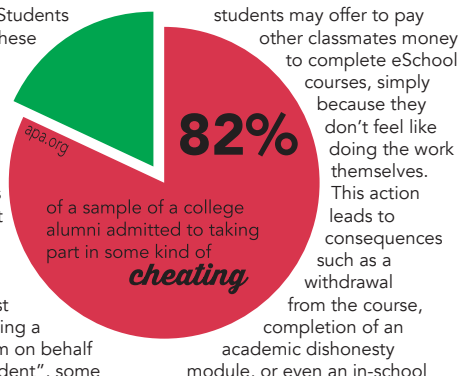
The Pasco County School's Student Code of Conduct lists seven different examples of Academic Dishonesty that will result in disciplinary action.

These examples include: cheating, plagiarism, altering grades, using electronics while testing, submitting work purchased or taken from a third party, lack of citation, distributing test or assignment questions or answers, and willfully taking a course or exam on behalf of another student.

From this list, some examples occur in the everyday life of a high schooler. As students, we text in group chats for answers on assignments and use websites like slader.com or answers.com for the answers we can't

seem to find. Students that perform these acts face the risk of major punishments. Even these things lead to punishment in school such as reduced credit or a schedule change.

One of the worst of the list is "willfully taking a course or exam on behalf of another student", some



Cheating takes up many different forms but proves harmful with the many consequences in school. By doing work individually without help from the internet or other students in group chats, students will solve the cheating problem and might learn something along the way, too.

Man on the Street

Should an angel or star go on top of the Christmas Tree?



Photos by Kristina Laurze

“I prefer an angel [on top of the tree] because it's our tradition. My family is Christian and we believe in angels.”
Hallie Young ('19)

“[We put up] a star because it's what my parents and I have always done and it's what I have in my attic.”
Nicolas Thurston ('19)

“[I use a] star because it's just more universal than an angel.”
Danielle Cappola ('18)

“We put a star on the tree because it's a family tradition. We have always done it and never put anything else up. I think it adds to the tree.”
Zach Smith ('20)

“[I would rather use an] angel because I'm Christian and that's just what I've always done. It just makes sense with my religion.”
Cylee Heid ('21)

Musical.ly takes over pop culture

Students reveal how they feel about the app Musical.ly, and whether or not they feel it is worth all that it is hyped up to be

MICHELLE CERVERA
STAFF REPORTER

Musical.ly, a Chinese social media app, free to download, allows users to create 15 second to 1 minute videos of themselves lip syncing the words to songs of their choice. Users can view others' works as well as look up songs or genres by searching their hashtags. As of May 2017, Musical.ly reached over 200 million users. Sydney Supanik ('21) uses Musical.ly for fun and explains why she is a fan of Musical.ly.

“You can do whatever you want with it; you can make music videos and go live on it, Face Time your friends on it. I don't use it all the time, but it's really fun to use when you're bored,” Supanik said.

Stars like Jacob Sartorius got their big debut on Musical.ly and now enjoy a music career. Sartorius

rose to fame by posting lip-syncing videos on the app, and this boosted the app's popularity. “I think people use Musical.ly because there are famous people on it and, they admire them. So they want to be something like them,” Supanik said.

Although students like Supanik are pro-Musical.ly, some are anti-

Musical.ly and don't think that it's worth the hype that it has received since its initial release in August 2014. Henry Fuchs ('19) who has never used the app before, thinks Musical.ly is a weird app overall.

“Musical.ly, is just awkward. People dance around in their room. I see cringey things on Twitter about it. It's wack,” Fuchs said.

Jillian Misemer ('21) who used Musical.ly in the past describes Musical.ly as embarrassing and not really necessary anymore. “Whenever I look back on it

I remember how bad I was at it and how ridiculous it looked when I watched the videos. My friends always made fun of how bad I was at them. It comes back to haunt me for sure,” Misemer said.

Musical.ly became a popular mainstream application that made its way into devices and continues to capture the attention of many youth. Though many observers have no clue what's actually going on, Musical.ly provides a good time to bored people.

“Whenever I look back, I remember how bad I was at it and how ridiculous it looked when I watched the videos. My friends always made fun of how bad I was at them. It comes back to haunt me for sure.”
Jillian Misemer ('21)



Guns don't kill people, people do

As gun control becomes a constant argument among citizens, many believe that gun control should be more regulated

JESS MASON
EDITOR

Over the last several years, gun law restrictions comprised most of the discussion in recent government debates. The hot question remains as whether or not gun laws and restrictions would minimize crime.

According to debate.org, 75 percent of people asked believe that the government's control on the right to bear arms would not minimize the nation's crime rates.

In agreement to this statement, gun control would not minimize crime rates because, simply stated, criminals are criminals. Any human being looking to commit a crime using a firearm is aiming to break at least one law. Therefore, a restriction in gun use of United States citizens will not prevent criminals from getting their hands on a gun. If they are willing to break a law as major as homicide, basic knowledge would lead anyone to believe that they are also willing to break a law such as theft in order to get their hands on a gun. A person with such a lack of moral values who would purposely aim to harm another innocent person's life or put people in danger by using a firearm as a threat will disregard any type of law

or restriction no matter how protected or engraved the law may be. Criminals will always remain with the same intentions, regardless of whether or not the government prohibits gun use. The removal of the Second Amendment would not benefit the lives of this country in any way.

In addition, this problem not only means that criminals remain armed, but also that victims would have no efficient weapon of defense, and may be powerless in the face of a life-threatening situation. According to the law school of Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, the Second Amendment states that a well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, and the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed. This means that the Constitution directly agreed that the right to bear arms is a basic and justified right of every United States citizen in order to maintain the security and safety of the nation. Taking away a person's right to keep guns will create an immense decrease in defense mechanisms for victims of violent and life-threatening crimes. The removal or alteration of this amendment gives an upper-hand to criminals involved in gun-related crime and a disadvantage to those victimized and affected.

People at fault for criminal injustice will remain in the possession of armed weaponry regardless of the gun law restrictions put into place, creating a deficiency in defense for victims of violent attacks.

Stop the hate, stop the guns

Gun regulation laws are seen as extremely important when preventing mass shootings in the U.S.

AVERY PHILION
STAFF REPORTER

The only time that there may be minor setbacks in buying a gun is when buying from a real gun store, this is because of background checks and waiting periods which are generally inadequate, ranging from 60 to 150 days. When you buy from a private seller, there are almost no setbacks at all. It is easier to get a gun than a driver's license, a passport, a divorce, or even a

pet. If it is easier to buy a gun than it is to buy a puppy, society should make some changes to the background checks and loopholes. Background checks only check to see if someone has been convicted of violent misdemeanors, juvenile offenses, or a history of severe mental illness.

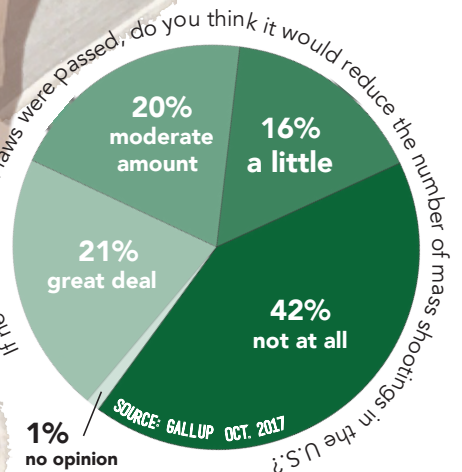
"With the recent events in Las Vegas and Texas, I think we seriously need to re-evaluate who we are letting have possession of firearms," Holden Queensberry ('19) said.

However, the federal law does not prohibit people who are suspected terrorists. According to the Giffords Law Center in San Francisco, individuals on the terrorist watch list tried to buy guns and explosives a recorded 2,477 times between 2004 and 2015. Of those, more than 90 percent of the instances were able to make the purchase. The amount of people able to get their hands on a gun needs to be decreased, which would prevent many issues dealing with guns that could have been prevented

in the past.

"Honestly there's no need for people to have control over a machine gun. A handgun I can understand, but what do you actually need to do with a gun with that much power," Rylee Kaiser ('21) said.

Although we have the Second Amendment to protect the right to bear arms, it still should have its limits. It is understood that if someone really wants to kill people, they will find a way, but laws and enforcements should be placed to slow down the



aggressor.

"I think a lot of mass shootings could have been prevented or at least held off, if the terrorists had had a more difficult time getting possession of a gun," Jos Corrow ('19) said.

If more laws are enforced, with more extensive background checks, then many mass shootings and other gun related situations could be prevented.

Artwork by Melissa Fleischmann ('18)