

HB

the hoofbeat

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

Issue 5 Volume 16



One of many track athletes to break records this season, Nabil Koney-Laryea ('20) currently holds sixth place in school history for 110 and 300 meter hurdles. (page 11)

Photo by Bailey Illig

A look inside Issue five



See page 11



See page 14



See page 5

News (pg. 3)	March to the Beat of that Drum
	Teacher of the Year Making History
	Pasco County to Rezone Schools Again
Lifestyles (pg. 4)	Acting Out and About at States
	What is the Best Part About Prom?
	Indoor Percussion Gets Cabin Fever
	Springing Back from Spring Break
	Life: it's a Race Worth Running For
	The Insightful Message of Godspell
Feature (pg. 7)	They're Taking Things to the Next Level
	Brain Brawls
Center Spread (pg. 8)	A Night in the Rustic Garden
Sports (pg. 10)	Skills for the Strongest Swings
	Mitchell Hoops Creates History
	Tennis Players Perfecting Practice
	Baseball Hit The Top Step Running
	History Made on the Lacrosse Field
	Lifting Their Way Up to the Top
	You Couldn't Catch them if you Tried
Entertainment (pg. 14)	A Glowing Tradition
	It's a Hope World - and We're Living in it
	Lights, Camera, Action
Opinions (pg. 15)	Test Taking in a Standardized Fashion
	Watch out for the Next Generation
	New Grading System Doesn't Benefit Us
Back Page (pg. 16)	In Memory of the Parkland Shooting Victims

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.

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Staffer Feature



Photo provided by Kristina Jautze

STAFFER: Kristina Jautze

GRADE: 11

DESCRIPTION: Over spring break, Jautze went with her family on a Norwegian cruise. The photo above is Jautze in Roatán, Honduras.

March to the beat of that drum

The Marching Mustangs traveled 1,180 miles to stroll through the streets of Chicago for the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade

EMMA ROGERS
STAFF REPORTER

Watch out Chicago, Mitchell's band is marching their way down the skyline. Every other year the band takes an out of state trip to showcase their students in a national event like the St. Patrick's day parade. Two years ago, Mitchell participated in the Cherry Blossom Parade based in Washington D.C. After their performance, the Marching Mustangs were invited to participate in the largest St. Patrick's Day Parade in the U.S. Marching this parade gives a huge accomplishment to Mitchell's band because it will be a new experience for everyone in the crowds as well as the students taking in new sights.

"[The St. Patrick's Day Parade] will be really fun and enjoyable to do. We did a parade in D.C. two years ago and that was an

amazing trip and an amazing experience for everybody from freshman to seniors," Jenessa McGuire ('18) said.

Compared to past parades that Mitchell has participated in, Chicago's is the most renowned for going all out. From thousands of attendants to dyeing the Chicago River green. Being in another state, the band took five charter buses up.

"Driving was my favorite, sitting in a bus that rocked back and forth, for hours on end. I couldn't think of a better way to bond with the people I went on the trip with," Jocelyn Fry ('20) said.

The road trip up to Chicago took the Marching Mustangs a day and a half to make it to their destination. Being a long trip up, the band director, Joel Quina (FAC) planned activities for the students attending, such as going to the movie theatres.



The Marching Mustangs pose in front of the Chicago skyline on March 17, 2018, after marching through Grant Park past Buckingham Fountain in the St. Patrick's Day parade. Band director Mr. Joel Quina (FAC) arranged the trip for the band, organizing visits to Navy Pier, the Bean, and the Chicago Symphony. Photo provided by @JWMHS on Twitter

"Definitely the tilting windows over the streets [was the most memorable], I couldn't stop screaming or shaking it was utterly terrifying," Connor McFadyen ('21) said.

After this journey to and from Chicago, the students remember it as an amazing experience to participate in. The band marched on the main streets of Chicago most known roads such

as on the Chicago Riverwalk. From this accomplishment after Washington D.C., the band intends to grow as better players to pursue bigger parades.

Teacher of the Year making history

Journalism teacher, Ms. Susan McNulty, is the first teacher from Mitchell to become Pasco County's Teacher of the Year

MORGAN FLISS
EDITOR

At school, every teacher strives to be recognized as the best teacher of J.W. Mitchell High School for their hard work throughout the year. This year, Ms. Susan McNulty (FAC) was awarded as teacher of the year for our school, but her success did not stop there. She went on to become teacher of the year for Pasco County, and is in the running to become the teacher of the year for the entire state of Florida.

"[McNulty] definitely deserves this award because she has

such a positive attitude towards everything and everyone. Being new to the school this year, she was nothing but welcoming and helpful. She always points out the bright side in things and she is a great person to look up to because of that," Kayleigh Ross ('20) said.

McNulty's ability to relate to students at a personal level continues to leave an imprint on many students and staff.

"She truly puts her heart into helping make the yearbook and newspaper the best it can be and helping make us the best people that we can be," Emory

Cherry ('18) said.

Other teachers and staff

members feel honored by the opportunity to work with McNulty because of her great attitude and willingness to handle any situation.

English teacher Ms. Joanne Valk-Kerr (FAC) talks about the

experiences she has working with McNulty.

"She always points out the bright side in things and she is a great person to look up to because of that

Kayleigh Ross ('20)

"I love working with her because she sets such a high standard for herself and those around her, but she is never overbearing in her position. I always learn something when I work with her. She

is a both friend and colleague who is always willing to listen

to a new teaching idea and provide her considered input as to whether it would work, and she always offers input to make things better. Mrs. McNulty takes pride in being a teacher and considers it a calling rather than being just a job," Valk-Kerr said.

The finalists for Florida teacher of the year will be announced in May of this school year, and the state winner will be announced in June. McNulty not only made an achievement for herself, she made school history as being crowned the first Pasco County Teacher of the Year from Mitchell High School.

Pasco County to rezone schools again

The second rezoning by Pasco County Schools brings new questions and worry to possibly affected students and parents

JOSH WAGNER
STAFF REPORTER

The Pasco County School District rezoning in 2017 that sent students away from our school has been invalidated.

Judge Kimberly Sharpe Byrd voided the old rezoning in January 2018 after committee members privately emailed each other, which violated Florida's Sunshine laws. In one meeting, the committee split into two groups and held private

conversations, which violated Sunshine laws.

Students who were forced to transfer could either stay at the school or return to the previous school they had to leave.

The newly proposed rezoning map can be found on the Pasco County Schools website. If approved, these changes will go into effect at the start of the 2018-19 school year.

"[The rezoning process] is pretty stressful, especially having to go through it a second time. I

was very concerned and worried about the first rezoning and now it is happening again," Alyssa Babcock ('20), a Longleaf resident, said.

According to the "Questions and Answers" document on the website, the district explains how to attend a school outside of your zone.

"A special school choice window will be offered only for boundary impacted students. Once the Board has set the boundaries, impacted families

will be notified of the web address for on-line application submission for consideration to attend a requested non-zoned school. Every eligible application will be reviewed before ANY decisions are made for boundary impacted schools," the website states.

Being forced to change schools can be difficult for students out of the zone, and can lead to taking steps to ensure their enrollment at our school.

"I am involved in many

clubs, sports, and the business academy at our school. It would be very disappointing to have to be enrolled in a new school where not many people know me. I have already put classes on my schedule for next year to help ensure that I get to stay," Babcock ('20) said.

The School Board will be holding an open hearing on April 10 at 5 p.m., where speakers will have three minutes to voice their opinions and ideas to the board.

Acting out and about at states

Theatre department showcase at Florida State Thespians Festival 2018 for "Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind"

JOSH WAGNER
STAFF REPORTER

The school theatre department was chosen to showcase at the Florida State Thespians Festival 2018 in Downtown Tampa. Their production, "Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind" is a compilation of 30 Neo-Futurist plays in only 60 minutes.

"I feel like the audience will really enjoy our production because it is really interactive and funny. The show also tackles many topics and issues that the audience will find relatable," Carolina Madriz ('18) said.

The invitation to the Festival

was the highest honor a school theatre department can achieve, the largest theatre festival in

the world for high school students, in front of a looming crowd of over 9000 high school theatre students.

"I think our cast will perform well under the pressure of such a large audience. I think they will be able to feed off

the energy of the audience very well," Madriz said.

The audience is going to be much larger and more aware of the workings of the production.

"At the Straz Center we are going to be performing in front of theatre kids, theatre enthusiasts, theatre teachers, so I

expect their expectations to be higher, they will analyze what we

do. They will be able to tell much easier if we make a mistake on stage," Joey Madden ('18) said.

With 30 plays, the crew has been challenged to be prepared for their multiple roles they will need to know.

"We split up the cast so not every member is in every one of the plays, but every member does have several plays they do have to memorize. They have to understand their number, their placement, what they need to grab before they go out on stage," Madden said.

The audience is able to interact in a unique way to add a unique pressure to the crew during the

production.

"[The plays] can be in any order the audience wants, so it is very demanding in its own special way," Madden said.

Individual cast members like Madriz are nervous because of the complexity of the production.

"This show has so many moving parts and it moves very quickly, so I need to be calm and focused. I just need to focus on the job at hand and be confident in my ability to do my job," Madriz said.

The Thespians look to break a leg and please the crowd at States on March 15 at Ferguson Hall at the Straz Center.

“

This show has so many moving parts and it moves very quickly, so I need to be calm and focused.

Carolina Madriz ('18)

”

Mar on the Street

What is the best part about prom?



“The best part about prom is getting ready, because it's so exciting knowing that you have a big night out.”
Tabitha Gutowski ('18)



“The best part about prom is the big food buffet and the nice atmosphere.”
Millennia Mejia ('18)



“The best part about prom is definitely after prom and going places with your friends.”
Christopher Thomas ('18)



“The dancing is really fun and the music is really good.”
Garrett Wiwi ('18)



“I think the best part about prom is going with your friends to pick out a dress.”
Olivia Miller ('18)

Photos by Hayley Friss

Indoor Percussion gets cabin fever

Led by alumnus Logan Sharpe ('14), a group of percussionists competed in WGI events around the state for the first time

KRISTINA JAUTZE
STAFF REPORTER

Competition season did not end completely for the band. Indoor percussion is a new addition to the competition scene and the school in general. As its first year in appearance, the percussionists have already reached high status in their performance category.

"Mitchell is a school that tries to do a lot of new stuff in the musical standpoint that is new and exciting. Ours is a new type of indoor and it is called Concert Open and we were number one in the world for our circuit," Craig Moore ('21) said.

Indoor percussion is a

competition division strictly for a drum line or front ensemble where different schools compete in competitions such as FFCC and WGI. This ensemble provides an opportunity for students to perform and compete once the fall competition season is over.

"Indoor percussion is a percussion activity involving front ensemble instruments like mallet and keyboard as well as auxiliary and electronic components such as synthesizers. It is a lot of fun to put together because there are so many elements," Jordan Utterback ('20) said.

"Cabin Fever" is the name of their premiere show for this season. It was composed by

alumni, Logan Sharpe ('14), who has been writing percussion pieces for various other performances such as Prism. This show includes not only a featured front ensemble, but also theatrical elements.

"He has a lot of involvement with WGI and so he thought it would be really cool to give a percussion ensemble for those looking for a more intense competition to participate in the spring. He does include things other than just percussion such as acting to make the performance more exciting," Moore said.

In the coming years, this group is projected to continue and grow larger as the musicians participating currently have



Percussionists perform their piece, cabin fever at the WGI competition on February 24. Photo by Susan McNulty

shown a great acceptance and love for the new addition to the program.

"I enjoy the challenging music and that you get to perform and see other groups that have very interesting shows," George Nessium ('18) said.

Although the indoor percussion competition season is coming to a close, they have achieved a highly respected status already. This group will continue to create and perform and construct a new tradition at the school.

Springing back from spring break



Jacob Unger ('20)

"I'm excited to visit Iceland and to experience a new culture, and it will be my first time leaving North America."

Emily Sajecki ('20)

"I visited my best friend in Louisville, Kentucky over break and finally got to see the new town she lives in. It was really good to catch up with her again."



Sofia Aguayo ('19)

"Chicago reminds me of New York City but with more space so it makes it more enjoyable."

Alina HERNY ('21)

"Over spring break, I'm going to visit my sister in Jonesboro, Arkansas, I like it there because it's open and it isn't crowded, and it feels more like home to me than Florida does."



Life: it's a race worth running for

To help continue the research to find a cure for cancer, volunteers and everyday people gather at Relay For Life

KAITLYN KLEIN
STAFF REPORTER

Relay For Life is the signature fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, staffed and coordinated by volunteers in thousands of communities across 27 countries. Volunteers, including high school students, give of their time and effort to stand up to cancer and raise money for research to find a cure.

"I am going to Relay For Life to stand up to cancer and hopefully my stand will raise money to help with cancer research. I've never known anyone who had cancer, but my family, friends, and I

always have a tent at Relay For Life and have for about five years now," Emma Gleason ('19) said.

Clubs including the National

Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, and English National Honor Society hold booths at Relay For Life. Students

who are apart of these clubs get to experience Relay For Life by working at the stands these clubs have.

"I am going because the National Honor Society is going and I want to be a part of their booth. This is my first time going to Relay For Life,"

Johnathon Moglia ('19) said.

To some, the event holds a greater meaning. Moglia will attend to remember

those who he know that are fighting the disease.

"My best friends mom recently went into remission for breast

cancer, so I wanted to go to show support for her and the women that have to go through what she went through," Moglia said.

Like Moglia, McKenna Sanchez ('20) attends to honor those she knew who lost their life to the disease. She also goes to show support for those she knows that are still fighting.

"I am going to this years Relay for Life because cancer has had a huge impact on my life. Two of my aunts had cancer, one just got diagnosed and the other beat it a few years ago, and my grandmother died from it before I got to ever meet her," Sanchez said.

Sanchez and her family attend

the event every year when they know someone fighting. It is a way for them to show their support as well as donate to research for a cure.

"I went every year that my aunt was fighting years ago, and this year I'll be showing support for my other aunt. We always go when a family member has [cancer] because, to us, it means a lot," Sanchez said.

Relay for Life will be held on Friday, April 13 until Saturday, April 14 at the track between J.W Mitchell High School and Seven Springs Middle School. Anyone can go to the event, which will have several tents selling different items to raise money for cancer research.

"I wanted to go to show support for her and the women that have to go through what she went through."

Johnathon Moglia ('19)

The insightful message of Godspell

The theatre department prepares for the production of their annual school musical titled, Godspell

RICHARD DALEY
STAFF REPORTER

As the end of the school year approaches the production of this year's school musical, Godspell, begins. Godspell offers an interesting look into the life of Jesus and his Disciples.

"Godspell is about the New Testament of Christianity. It portrays the life of Jesus Christ with a retro hippy feel tacked into the plot. With a fresh new look to the life of Christ, this is a different yet fresh interpretation of the gospel," Sebastian Candelaria ('18) said.

The reasoning behind why cast members auditioned for the show

gives people a unique look at the message Godspell delivers.

"I decided to audition because I have been apart of other productions and I really like to perform. I especially wanted to be in this

play because I am Christian and I thought it would be a great opportunity," Joshua Smith ('19)

said.

The relationship between the cast of Godspell presents an interesting dynamic for the audience.

"This cast is so small it's really more just a group of friends having fun together doing what we love. We're

always having such a blast throughout rehearsal, this is honestly such a fun show. Being a part of this cast has been such an awesome experience," Baylee Roberts ('19) said.

The director's prior experience with Godspell proved highly influential in its selection as the school musical.

"I was involved in Godspell when the high school I attended it produced the musical my senior year. The role of Judas had come down to me and another student. The director told both of us that whoever could grow a beard first during

Christmas break would get the part. Unfortunately, the other actor could produce a five o'clock shadow by noon and I could barely grow peach fuzz. I ended up being the sound engineer for the show and I fell in love with the musical," Mr. David O'Hara (FAC) said.

The upcoming school musical Godspell offers an entertaining musical of biblical proportions for audiences to enjoy. Godspell performances take place 19, April through 21, April at 7:30 p.m. and a matinee performance on April 22 at 2 p.m.

"I especially wanted to be in this play because I am Christian and I thought it would be a great opportunity."

Joshua Smith ('19)

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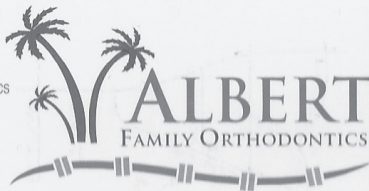
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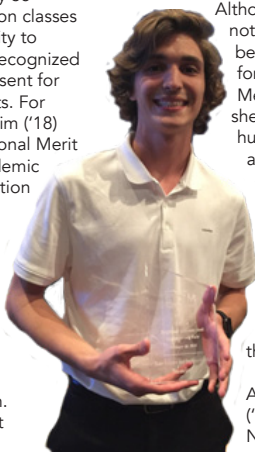
They're taking things to the *next level*

Adis Kukuljac ('18) is being recognized for his superior Regional S.T.E.M. Fair project and Paulina Keim ('18) received acknowledgement for her brilliant academics

MAX TRETTIN
EDITOR

With approximately 35 accelerated education classes on campus, the ability to become nationally recognized for academics is present for hundreds of students. For instance, Paulina Keim ('18) applied for the National Merit scholarship, an academic scholarship competition for recognition and university scholarships, and was notified by the administration in February of last year that she was recognized as a finalist for the scholarship program.

"I honestly did not expect to become a



National Merit finalist. I knew it was a long shot, so I didn't get my hopes up and I was pleasantly surprised," Keim said.

Although Keim was not expecting to become a finalist for the National Merit scholarship, she was elated and humbled when the announcement came.

"I am very grateful for all of my teachers and the administration for supporting me through this," Keim said. Furthermore, Adis Kukuljac ('18) received the Naval Research

Science Award and the Ed Braddy Outstanding Chemistry Research Award at the Regional S.T.E.M. Fair at River Ridge High School that allows him to attend the upcoming Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in May 2018 in Pittsburgh, PA.

"I knew that I had a good project but I wasn't expecting to go to International Science Fair because there is a lot of competition at both the Regional and State science fairs," Kukuljac said.

With his project that involved developing a three-dimensional model through protein crystallography that makes bacteria resistant to antibiotics, he is anticipating the imminent fair.

"I am very excited to compete and meet new people that have



Paulina Keim ('18) is being recognized for her brilliant academics as she is a finalist for the National Merit scholarship

amazing projects," Kukuljac said.

As both of these students are being nationally recognized, Keim plans to attend the

University of Virginia this fall, while Kukuljac plans to attend the University of South Florida for biochemistry.

Brain Brawls

Mitchell Navy Academic Team takes on nationals

ALYSSA MAGILLIGAN
STAFF REPORTER

Annually, the Secretary of the Navy sponsors a Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps National Academic Exam. This exam consists of one hundred questions, with sixty-five of them relating to anything in high school curriculum, twenty-five ACT and SAT style questions, and ten current events questions. This year, a total of 1,814 teams participated in this event and the Mitchell Navy academic team finished in the top 1% of the contest and they placed twenty-second in the United States of America.

"The National Academic Exam is a test that schools from around the country take, and the point is to get the highest score," Aaron Wise ('18) said.

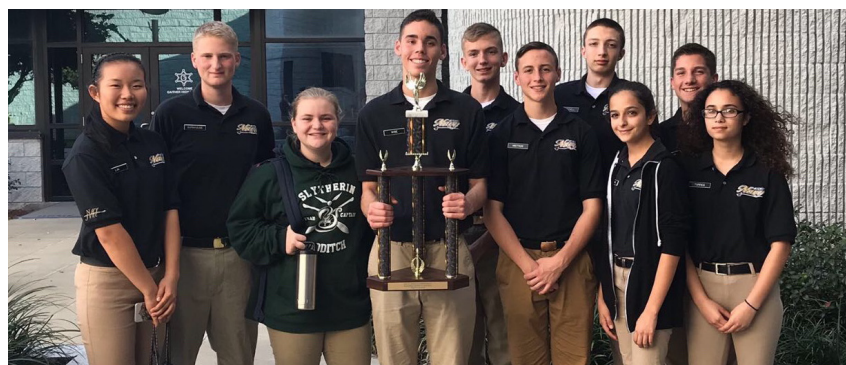
The questions in this test range from topics all about ROTC, history, naval welfare, survival and health, to current events, according to Wise.

Team members, which this year consisted of Wise, Austin Jerome ('18), Douglas Mitchell ('18), Noah Midthun ('20), and Benjamin Horvath ('21), worked hard to prepare themselves for this test. And they wanted to win for the school.

"Every day during the school year the cadets on the teams would come in at seven in the morning, and we would go over naval knowledge and leadership characteristics," Jerome said.

Earlier in the school year in September, the Mitchell Navy Academic Team possessed two sets of teams with five people on each team in order to compete in a "Brain Brawl", which is similar to the game show Jeopardy according to Mr. Steven Okun (FAC).

"Both teams did an exceptional job, finishing first and fifth place out of thirty-two teams. The Mitchell Navy cadets actually beat two teams who have competed and placed in the top five in the competition over the last five years. The



The Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps placed twenty-second in the country in the National Academic Exam and also finished first and fifth place in the "Brain Brawl".

cadets' efforts earned both teams a bid in the NJROTC Brain Brawl state championship," Okun said.

The Brain Brawl and the National Academic Exam required a high amount of preparation in order to do well for the events. Cadets studied

and practiced with one another in order to do their best in these events and to live up to their individual potentials.

"The main point is to study the general maritime knowledge and history to get at least one of the teams in the top three so that we can go to the states

competition," Midthun said.

These events mainly improved the cadets hard working skills, their determination, and their dedication to their teammates in order to showcase academic skills in current events and their knowledge of ROTC related scenarios.

"We would quiz each other and retake exams from the past to train our brains."

Austin Jerome ('18)

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Get Ready for a night in the Rustic Garden

As the annual prom inches closer, couples find ways to ask each other to the dance in a way that is unique from all other students. On the right are a surplus of photos that show some of the promposals that were caught on camera.

Photo by Morgan Fliss



Garrett Joseph (18) and Jani Clark (18)



Sarah Shannon (18) and James Carter (18)



Zoe Pollard (18) and Alexa Hamilton (18)



Isabella Kwon (18) and Brandon Tang (18)



Logan Stephens (20) and Jessica Hulse (19)



Mackenzie Furman (18) and Noah Seg (18)



Dylan Young-Lipari (18) and Christina Floet (18)



Dylan Young-Lipari (18) and Christina Floet (18)



Kaitlin Whitt (18) and Madison Burt (20)



Kaitlin Whitt (18) and Madison Burt (20)



Kaitlin Whitt (18) and Madison Burt (20)

History made on the lacrosse field

As the first season of FHSAA approved lacrosse in school history begins, players share excitement and hopes for the season

RICHARD DALEY
STAFF REPORTER

As winter comes to a close the lacrosse season begins anew with strength and determination from both the boys and girls teams. This is the first year in school history that both boys and girls play as FHSAA approved athletes, which gives a deeper meaning to players whether they just began on the team, or if they have been playing for years.

"From when I first started playing lacrosse to where we are now, we have made a huge difference. We have gone from being a club team to being an approved school sport. It feels really good to be on an official school sport, especially with it

being my senior year," Taylor Fox ('18) said.

New seasons come with new chances for success, and the boys team looks to improve their record after breaking even last season.

"I think we'll do fairly well this season. Lacrosse is a newer program with some new guys. Last year we went 6-6 as a club so I'm hoping we can do better than that. The teams we play are good this year so we have to be better. We definitely have potential," Tanner Wojchowski ('20) said.

The boys lacrosse team consists of several new players who have room for improvement. Experienced players on the lacrosse team along with new

players work diligently in order to work better as a unit and improve their skills.

"In order to improve as a team we are scrimmaging a lot against each other so when it comes to the real games we know what to expect and be ready for it. I'm new to the team as well as some other kids and it's getting easier to play and learn the game with the help of the kids who are experienced," Jorge Pagan ('20) said.

On the other hand, the girls hopes soar as they continue to do well as a team.

"I have really high hopes for our team this season. We have a new coach and a lot of fresh players. It started off a little rough playing against some



Dylan Grubert ('20) heads into the 12-meter to prepare to make a goal against Steinbrenner High School on Feb. 28. Photo by Richard Daley

of the toughest teams in our area, but now we are all coming together. We've grown so much just in the past few games," Fox said.

The boys and girls lacrosse teams continue to improve their gameplay and look to challenge their competitors in the near future.

Skills for the strongest swings

By pushing their limits on and off the field, the girls' varsity softball team works towards an opportunity for a district win

SOPHIE SAJECKI
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Running through the clay, the players on the girls varsity softball team work hard to get the win they deserve against Wesley Chapel on March 8, dominating with a score of 15-3, leading to a 6-2 overall lead in the season standings. This win comes to the team due to the way they bond on and off the field, which helps them connect.

"One of the ways that the team has really bonded this year is that on our bus rides we all play music and sing along together. When we win we all scream and chant while taking

Snapchat videos and post them everywhere," Taylor Platt ('18) said.

By picking up old skills, Marina Rao ('20) benefited personally and also helped the team in areas where they needed more expertise. Players that allow themselves to be more flexible with their positions on the field take up bigger advantages in the long run for the season.

"I quit pitching after last high school season. I hadn't pitched since

then, but my coach pulled me aside recently and told me the team needs more pitchers to work with. I stepped up and pitched in games this season and that has been my best accomplishment," Rao said.

"I stepped up and pitched in games this season and that has been my best accomplishment."

Marina Rao ('20)

Practices and games provide an outlet for girls on the team to get their minds off of things going on in their lives. This strengthens their commitment and makes the girls more comfortable on the field.

"Softball means everything to me, ever since I was little it was always my go to. Whenever I'm stressed or upset I always turn to softball and it helps me forget everything because I'm so focused on the game," Platt said.

Working hard in everything they do, the girls push towards a strong goal of winning districts for the second year in a row.

"One of the best memories I had on the team is when we

were in the district championship game. We played 15 innings and won. It was probably the most intense game I have ever played and I loved the rush it gave me. This year I hope we can bounce back from the hard losses we have had and show those teams what we are really made of and win districts again," said Platt.

The next home varsity girls softball game is on April 10 against Clearwater High School. Watch the girls show how much hard work and commitment takes them as they secure their spot in the districts standings.

Lifting their way up to the top

The boys' weightlifting team works hard as a team to achieve goals independently and collectively

CHRIS WILSON
STAFF REPORTER

The boys' weightlifting team, a team consisting of mainly sophomores this year, works hard to lift more than they did in the previous season and meet. Even with the despair between the number of seniors and sophomores, the seniors still provide an example for the sophomores to look up to.

"Seniors are a good example to us underclassmen in the fact that they show you what could

be done and it helps us gain experience so that when we are seniors we can do the same for underclassmen," Nabil Koney-Laryea ('20) said.

Jake Lewis ('20) is one of the key lifters on the team and enjoys how the season is going so far. Hard work and determination help to attribute to this outcome.

"This season so far we have gotten 1st place in every meet without hardly any competition. I would say, Mason Rendulic ('20), a ton of football players, and I

are the key lifters on the team this year," Lewis said.

As the season goes on, and as more meets finish, lifters on the team transition their focus to regionals and states.

"I won districts [on March 12] and since I won I moved onto regionals which took place on March 21st," Justin Crispino ('18) said.

For upperclassmen weightlifters that get past regionals and move onto states there is a choice they have to make. Lifters choose to go to prom or compete in states,

as prom is on the day of states competition.

"I will have to see what I choose when that day comes. Of course I would want to go to my senior prom, but I also would want to compete in states. It is definitely going to be a tough decision that I'll have to make", Crispino said.

Boys looking to join the weightlifting team in future years should see Coach Chris McFarland (FAC) or email him at cmcfarla@pasco.k12.fl.us.



Justin Crispino ('18) benches at one of the teams many meets of the season. Photo by Stephanie DeVliger

Baseball hits the top step running

The baseball team hones their skills to become top competitors in every aspect of the game for the season

LEXI CLARK
EDITOR

The sound of aluminum hitting leather rings echoes throughout the field as varsity baseball warms up to take on their opponent. In addition to warming up, the boys also utilize this time to focus in on the task at hand. Baseball proves itself as more of a mentally challenging sport than physically challenging.

"Pitching is more mentally challenging than physically; you need to have a good mind-set with sharp focus going into the game and be prepared for the challenge. When I'm on the

mound I just relax and focus on getting ahead in the count to set up the batter," Jakob Mattos ('18) said.

Although the sport's difficulty lies mainly within the mentality of the players, the coaches ensure that the boys remain at the peak of their physical ability throughout the season to optimize their endurance and playing ability by incorporating a large amount

of conditioning into everyday practice.

"We do a lot of conditioning at practice and it helps get our legs and body in shape for the long season that we have, and it raises our endurance to help us stay in top shape throughout the entirety of our games," Sebastian Zieba ('19) said.

Physical and mental ability

"HTTSR always reminds us to hustle and to be energetic while we play."
Michael Risener ('18)

are vital to success in baseball; however, gelling as a team and having chemistry with each other proves itself as an important aspect of the baseball team's regimen. They accomplish this by staying focused on their goals and coming together under one mantra: HTTSR. The acronym can be seen sewn into the backs of the baseball players hats, and it stands for Hit The Top Step Running.

"One of the most important parts of our game is our hustle on the field and HTTSR always reminds us to hustle and to be energetic while we play. For me, it gets me excited as I run out to

my position and before games or after a bad at-bat hustling out takes my mind off of it and helps me focus on what's next," Michael Risener ('18) said.

So far this season, the baseball players' devotion to these concepts has proven effective as they currently hold a record of 8 wins and 1 loss, with their most recent win triumphing over district opponent Northeast High School with a score of 14-3 (as of March 15th). Their next game takes place on April 3rd at home against Clearwater High School and their schedule for the rest of the season is available on maxpreps.com.

You couldn't catch them if you tried

Girls on the track team dominate as the season progresses, making strides towards new personal records in each meet

BAILEY ILLIG
STAFF REPORTER

The sport of track and field depends on both a team and individuals to put forth their best efforts. Athletes on this team worked their hardest and continue to set new records in the history of this sport for the school.

The girls 4 by 100-meter relay team set a new record this year at the beginning of the season at their track and field meet located at King High School. Kiya Lamb ('19), Aja Graham ('19), Jordan Carson ('20), and Haley Lewis ('19) are the newly set team which broke this all time school

year this season.

"We kept having to change our first leg of the race because we did not have a strong starter as an option all the time," Graham said.

The old record set last season in 2017 had the time of 51.74 seconds; the time set this season is 51.04 seconds. This accomplishment was not set without its challenges. The 4 by 100-meter relay team constantly alternated their athletes, causing for different results every time the race was run.

"Being fair for who is in the four by one and making sure that everyone is happy with the team that was chosen was one of the

most difficult things we faced so far this season," Lamb said.

The practices take place from 3:10 to 5:30 each day ranging from running eight 400's at their top speed each time to doing block starts the whole practice. The team tries their hardest no matter how hard or easy the workout for the day is. When meet time rolls around, they use all this effort to be the best they can be and they let it all out on the track.

"Once we all heard we broke the record, it was a really exciting and accomplishing moment for us," Lewis said.

Graham continues to set records in our school's history



Aja Graham ('19) starts in the new girls 100-meter relay at the track meet at King High school. Photo by Bailey Illig

as she broke her 12.95 second 100-meter dash record from last season with a time of 12.85

seconds at the track meet located at Berkeley Preparatory on Feb 24.

Tennis players perfecting practices

A new season of tennis encourages players, new and old, to step it up and perform to their best abilities

ALYSSA MAGILLIGAN
STAFF REPORTER

As the new tennis season begins, players on both the girls and boys teams practice in order to better themselves and their teams. This year both varsity teams plan on making it farther than previous years. With new members and returning ones, players of both teams aspire to better themselves and their teams.

To bring both teams far this season, coaching improved along with the amount of training players dedicate their time to.

"The coaching has improved because we spend a lot more

time conditioning and working on technique rather than the win," Lexus Schumm ('18) said.

Different drills and conditioning practices also help both boys and girls teams prepare for matches. These drills include high speed and consistency, which are both crucial in order to gain skill and win matches they play in. These drills help develop the players with the physical and mental help they need to be their best.

"I've worked with my coach outside of school so I could work on my shots and general tennis skills. I really want to work on my consistency throughout

the season and in matches, so I can play harder against better players and not worry about inconsistency," Aidan McCall ('19) said.

Adding in more practice time during the week also provides players with the opportunity to better their skills. The amount of time players spend on practicing reflects positively in their matches and motivates

them to do even better.

"I've been practicing at least three times a week year round.

"We spend a lot more time conditioning and working on technique rather than the win."
Lexus Schumm ('18)

I hope to use the skills I've learned recently to perform better than ever in my matches," Kayla Douglas ('20) said.

Working on drills during practices in order to better themselves physically and mentally plays a

big part in order to win matches. Using unique styles of play and

skills not normally seen helps them improve both teams' games overall.

"Our coach, Ms. Hinmon, takes a different approach to each practice and has emphasized the importance of working on our weaknesses. To improve, we have been working on a lot of control to play strategically and halt self-defeat," Austin Jerome ('18) said.

Both girls and boys varsity tennis make it a priority to better themselves in the game that they play, and use skills they learned to make it far in the season.

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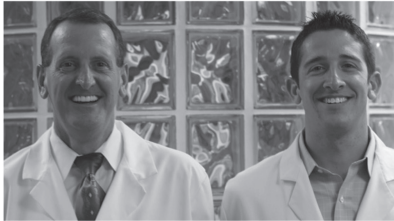
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Mitchell *hoops* creates history

GIANNA KNOWLES AND LEXI CLARK
STAFF REPORTER AND EDITOR

The girls varsity basketball team made history this season by accomplishing new achievements and breaking records by making it to playoffs for the first time ever. The accomplishment was a product of dedicated players, a talented coaching staff, and a fire to go where no other girls varsity basketball team at this school has ever been.

"The feeling of making it to playoffs was unreal, I believe we deserved to go farther than we did but it was an amazing feeling. Especially since it is my senior year, along with many of the varsity players, we left a legacy. We also achieved accomplishments that don't seem so big but were a big deal to us," Katie Cox ('18) said.

The varsity team possessed a mixture of motivation, dedication, commitment, passion, good coaching, and pure talent that enabled them to accomplish their goal of making it to playoffs. Mackenzie Jones ('18) describes how she felt the team played this season and how this season went for her personally.

"Our team chemistry took us a long way, we had our ups and downs, but it was by far

the best year of my basketball experience. This year all of us individually stepped up and realized what we needed to do to win," Jones ('18) said.

The team changed up their practice routine, upping the time and effort put in at practice and increasing the difficulty of their drills to improve their quality of play. The work put in at practice

translate to how successfully the girls perform on the court. Cox describes the different drills they worked on.

"We ran endless superlaters (running drills), loving every one of them knowing that they're making us better. Also accepting input from other coaches to gain different perspectives on how to beat opponents," Cox said.

Behind all the practices where the girls come together as a team, each player individually puts in work on their own time to even further improve their own skill of play for the benefit of the team as a whole.

"As a team we have worked harder than anyone I know, and came over so many obstacles,

The girls varsity basketball team makes history as the first ever team at Mitchell High School to accomplish their goal of making post-season playoffs. The girls reflect on their season, how they achieved their goals, and the legacy that the seniors are leaving behind

it was amazing to see it finally come together. Playing basketball at Mitchell has taught me so many things, and it has given me so many memories that will last forever," Jones said.

The varsity players have carved the path in history for future squads to follow in their footsteps, and the departing seniors have left behind a legacy that will withstand the weathering of time as they have accomplished what no other varsity girls basketball team has: making playoffs for the first time in school history.

"Playing basketball at Mitchell has taught me so many things and has given me so many memories that will last forever. Mackenzie Jones ('18)"



(Top) Cathryn Whitehead looks down the court as she dribbles the ball toward the opposing hoop. Photo provided by Emmersyn Chefero (Bottom Right) Alizea McClanahan dodges a Sunlake defender. (Bottom Left) Teammates on the bench erupt in cheer as an amazing play is made on the court during their final game against Sunlake. Both photos provided by Stephanie DeVlieger



Statistics top three leaderboard

HANNAH BASSETT #25

Games Played

11.1

Total Points

166

Points Per Game

11.1

Assists

19



KATIE COX #10

Games Played

9.7

Total Points

184

Points Per Game

9.7

Assists

44



SELENA DINOVO #12

Games Played

13.6

Total Points

258

Points Per Game

13.6

Assists

47



All statistics were recorded directly from the Mitchell Girl's Varsity Basketball maxpreps.com page as of February 23rd.

A glowing tradition

A recap of the annual Rodeo Rally tournament on March 9

BAILEY ILLIG
STAFF REPORTER

Rodeo Rally took place on March 9 on the football field; after five hours of playing glow in the dark volleyball starting with a total of eighteen teams, it came to a stand off between the student team named "Paki and Pupa Productions" and the teacher team named "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly".

This all senior glow in the dark volleyball team had determination to win and that was shown through the people they chose to be on their team and all the practice they did.

"We practiced every Monday and Wednesday at a Catholic church with a beach court behind it and we did that five or six times. It helped having the volleyball girls on our team," Dalanie Guerra ('18) said.

The teacher team only obtained five people while the student team they faced was made up of eight people. This did not unbalance "the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly" from performing their best to succeed in dominating the night.

"The teacher team was pretty good and they already won all their other games which were double elimination games, but it was kind of sad that we couldn't

beat them," Guerra said.

Even while "Paki and Pupa Productions" organized their team in the best way that they could, that still could not prevent their team from losing one of their games.

"It felt pretty cool when we went up against the teachers because we went in knowing that we were going to do good and we got a reality check when we lost for the first time so it was really cool when we got to come back from that," Kennedy Deluca



The winning student team "Paki and Pupa Productions", had a record of 7-1 in the Rodeo Rally tournament, and took second place behind the teacher team "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly". Photo by Bailey Illig

('18) said.

Overall, the whole night went from eighteen teams to two for

the final showdown. They played their hardest and in the end, the teachers took first place.

It's a Hope World and we're living in it

New music by J-Hope released on March 2, excites fans as they follow the band for most awaited announcements

MICHELLE CERVERA
STAFF REPORTER

Lead dancer and rapper of BTS, J-Hope, released his long awaited mixtape 'Hope World' on March 2. The album features seven tracks and a music video for song 'Daydream' and 'Airplane'. Fans were quick to listen and stream the music videos. In under 24 hours the Daydream music video received over 2 million likes and took over #1 on iTunes charts in over 70 countries upon initial release.

"It's really amazing, I'm so proud of him.

He has really worked hard on it for a long time trying to find his own style. I'm just happy to see that he really expressed his bright personality in it," Chelsea Smith said.

J-Hope one of the seven members of BTS and the third member to individually

release a mixtape, produced 'Hope World'. Elements of Trap, EDM, tropical vibes, and futuristic funk soul beats are frequent in the album. The creation was a two-year process that kept fans on their toes as to when it would finally be released. According to an

interview with TIME Magazine the artist would put his team projects with BTS first.

"I tried to make time in the hotel room, on the airplane, and whenever I could find a few minutes," Raisabrugner, TIME Magazine.

A fan of the mixtape Adriana Rivera- Melgar ('20) who has been a fan for two years says that she expected nothing less from the singer and is proud of his progress so far.

"I think it's really unique. The beat, the rhythm, everything is amazing and it's new which is

one of the reasons why I like it so much. It's also fun to listen to songs in a different language. It leaves you guessing about what they were saying and then you finally look it up and it turns out to be deeper than you thought it was," Rivera- Melgar said.

As far as purchasing 'Hope World', it is available for purchase on Apple Music and download on Spotify. Also due to J- Hope's notion of 'Music Before Money' the whole album is completely free to listen to on SoundCloud.

"I think it's really unique. The beat, the rhythm, everything is amazing and it's new which is one of the reasons why I like it so much."

Adriana Rivera- Melgar ('20)

Lights, camera, action

The annual Talent show allows students to show off their talents

AVERY PHILION
STAFF REPORTER

The annual Talent Show gathers a generous crowd at the beginning of every March Madness Week. Whatever talent someone has, is eligible to be in the talent show. Tryouts were two weeks before the show allowing for a few rehearsals, for the young artists before taking the stage in front of the student body. The talent show is a great opportunity for all students to have a time to shine.

"I've been performing in the talent show for three years now. I think if you have a talent and you want to do it, you should. Just

be confident," Eryelies Gonzalez ('18) said.

The talent show is the one time a year anyone can show off any type of talent they have. Although it is not looked at as a competition because such diverse talents cannot be judged the same way, there are second and first places based on crowd reaction and performance.

"I would recommend anyone doing the talent show. I get a little nervous but overall it's a very fun experience," said Marina Santangelo ('18').

A wide variety of talents including some sort of music enters the talent show every year. Instruments are a common act

and seem to get the audience extremely interested.

"I am doing a guitar montage that contains a bunch of different modern and classic pop songs," Jacob Hudgson ('18') said.

No matter what talent a person can have, all is welcome in the annual talent show, to express who and what a person is and what they can do.



Jacob Hudgson ('18) plays his guitar to a mashup of different songs, ranging from modern to classic pop songs. He's played guitar every time he's made an appearance in the talent show. Photo by Elsi Vega ('18)

New grading system doesn't benefit us

A staff editorial on how the new proposed grading system for Florida schools will not benefit students grades in their courses

The state of Florida has proposed a new grading system to be implemented in schools called Standard Based Grading. This new system is designed to encourage students to reach the standards set in each subject independently. Also in this new grading system, the grade you get in the class is determined by assessments given, no participation or classwork is counted toward the overall grade.

In a classroom of thirty students, each individual is at different places in understanding the material during the lesson, indicated by a scale. According to the new system, the teachers are to address the class as a whole going through each level of the standards. Then develop lessons that guide students through a progression of learning until they master the standards. The flaw in this piece is that not every student sitting in the classroom is at the same understanding level as another.

As the teacher moves forward with the lesson and gets higher on the learning scale, groups of students are "left behind" throughout the lesson to independently master the curriculum while others have mastered the standard and are ready to move on. The teachers are to act as facilitators in the learning process and are not supposed to lecture the class as a whole. Their role is to encourage independent learning to master set standards. Teachers are to work with the students at the lower end of the scale to move them up to a mastering level while students who mastered the standards work on the next lesson, independently. For students to be more successful in this grading style a suggestion would be to arrange students that are at the same skill levels so that teachers can address a class of students at the same level of comprehension.

With grades being solely based on how well a student does on

a test or assessment, it could hurt the average student more than helping them because many teachers give credit for participation or completion. For those students with learning difficulties, mastering a standard could take much longer which means they would not master all the standards in a subject in a timely manner. This will hurt their grade as well.

EOC Assessments measure how well you can apply information and are heavy in reading comprehension. Students with low levels of reading comprehension may not be able to decipher and understand what is actually being asked on the test but they may understand the content they mastered in class. This would not be fair to the student because their true understanding of the material is not being accounted for because they have poor

reading comprehension and can't understand the test.

The last flaw in the standards based grading is that you simply cannot change a student's will to want to learn material. If the student does not want to be in school and learn, they will not apply themselves to be able to learn what is required. With the lack of effort shown by many students, they will have a difficult time succeeding.

Standard Based Grading may not effect some students who prefer independent learning, because they can understand material easily. They also have a higher reading comprehension to aid them in understanding and taking tests. The question is, what is the goal of an education? Are we looking to ask teachers to get kids to pass tests or are we looking to ask teachers to inspire students to want to learn more?



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Test taking in a standardized fashion

An overview of all the steps you should take to prepare for a scholarship and standardized testing

CHRIS WILSON
STAFF REPORTER

The SAT, ACT, and many others are considered "Standardized tests". These tests are how students get into colleges, depending on students scores they can get into bigger colleges. With their scores students may also be available to apply for different scholarships, such as Bright Futures.

In order to receive the Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) part

of Bright Futures, students must achieve at least a 1290 on the SAT, and/or a 29 on the ACT and must have at least 100 hours of community service. For students to receive the Florida Medallion Scholars part of Bright

Futures, students must achieve at least an 1170 on the SAT, and/or a 26 on the ACT and must have at least 50 hours of community service. (All information received from [http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/ssfad/PDF/BFEligibilityAward](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/ssfad/PDF/BFEligibilityAwardChart.pdf)

Chart.pdf).

Each student has their own way of studying for these tests, but there are a few ways that helps students study the best.

"The best way for students to help themselves on these tests is to practice. Students need to be familiar with the format of the test," Mrs. Michele Chamberlin (FAC) said.

Students can take the tests as many times as they want as long as they can afford the \$46 without the Essay for both tests,

and with the essay it is \$60 for the SAT and \$62.50 for the ACT.

There are many opportunities to take these tests and you can find the dates through these websites, for the SAT check out this website: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/dates-deadlines> and for the ACT check out this website: <https://www.studydrive.com/ed/act-test-dates/>.

The best way for students to help themselves on these tests is to practice. Students need to be familiar with the format of the test.

Mrs. Michele Chamberlin (FAC)

Watch out for the next generation

Freshmen should be able to prove they deserve a spot on varsity without disputation if they benefit the team

HAYLEY FLISS
STAFF REPORTER

As the year progresses, coaches continue to introduce freshmen to varsity sports teams. Varsity Swimmer and Diver Tiffany Cain ('21) explained how the involvement of freshmen in varsity sports organizes a positive outcome.

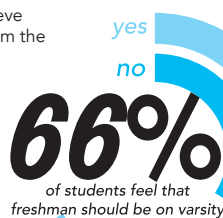
"Freshmen should be allowed on varsity teams because it gets them more involved in the school with sophomores, juniors,

and seniors rather than being on JV (Junior Varsity) with other freshmen" Cain said.

In agreement with Cain, Varsity Cheerleader Bella Richko ('21) suggests freshmen deserve a spot on varsity by showing their drive for the sport rather than raw talent.

"I think it is fair for freshmen to earn a spot on varsity team because every student has a talent and if students can prove their desire for the sport, they deserve to be on the team".

Expert Steve Pacheco from the Daily Times Chronicle shares what coaches are looking for in a valuable team player. "Other coaches won't even look at a player's grade. They



want the best players in the school on the varsity regardless if they are a budding star 9th grader who might steal the spot of a junior who just doesn't appear to ever be a varsity player."

Additionally, Mr. Mooney (FAC) confirms there is no rule preventing freshmen from trying out for varsity teams.

"There is no rule saying that freshmen can not play varsity teams. It is up to the coach to decide whether they make the team or not." Mooney said.

Therefore, freshmen should be willingly invited to varsity if they meet the coaches standards. What matters to the coaches is not age, but having the strength, mental stability, team effort, talent, and drive for their sport.



JAIME GUTTENBERG



CHRIS HIXON



LUKE HOYER



CARA LOUGHNAN



GINA MONTALTO

In memory of the Parkland shooting victims

The memory of this tragic event and the unsuspecting victims will never be forgotten

KAITLYN KLEIN
STAFF REPORTER

In light of the recent events in Parkland, Florida at Stoneman Douglas High School, J.W. Mitchell High School began to make the school a safer place and prevent tragedies from happening. Teachers reintroduced students to the Active Shooter (ABC) threat plan during RANCH classes and Student Council met to discuss new changes to the school's safety policy.

"We have had a couple of meetings since the Parkland shooting and we discussed some procedures we can take in order to keep the school safe. Switching all the locks into the classrooms instead of outside will give teachers an easier

access and take a lesser risk of going outside the class in an emergency. Keeping the doors locked during classes will ensure safety. Another idea would be keeping the purple gate locked full time; that would be a great step in providing safety in our school," Tabitha Gutowski ('18), Class of 2018 Secretary, said.

Sixteen students, led by Ms. Heather Daniel (FAC) decided on a unique way to honor the victims. Those involved held up a photo of a victim they felt connected to and wrote down what ways they related to that student.

"Basically to honor each of the students who passed away we made a list of the things the students were involved in or were going to do in the future and Ms. Daniel let people pick a student

who they felt a connection towards," Anna Dumovich ('18) said.

Victim Nicholas Dworet, a senior at MSDHS, earned a swim scholarship to a college, and Dumovich picked him because she secured a softball scholarship to Flagler College.

"We took a picture with the quote we wrote on a piece of paper saying how we will honor them with whatever it is that we have alike," Dumovich said.

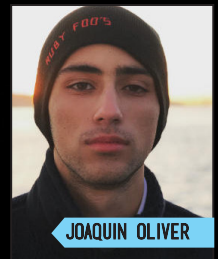
Since the shooting, J.W. Mitchell High School students participated in a "white out" to honor the victims and two walk-outs to protest gun violence. As well as honoring the victims, Mitchell took initiative to become a safer place, including taking every threat against the safety of its students seriously.



AARON FEIS



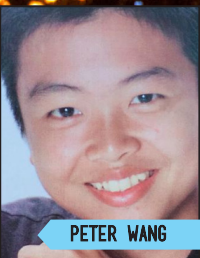
NICHOLAS DWORET



JOAQUIN OLIVER



ALAINA PETTY



PETER WANG



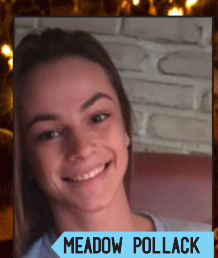
CARMEN SCHENTRUP



ALYSSA ALHADEFF



HELENA RAMSAY



MEADOW POLLACK



MARTIN DUQUE ANGUIANO



SCOTT BEIGEL



ALEX SCHACHTER