By: Saabri Jazmaal, Yearbook Staff
Photo Credit: Ms. Doni Parkinson, Yearbook Adviser

Living the Dream!

Dr. Richardson is literally living her dream while listening to Literary Ambassador Andrew Presser espouse his choice of a good read: Machiavelli’s The Prince.

Selected by his peers, Junho Kim chose to provoke interest in ambassadors for a book of their when students are encouraged students like Bryn Dowdell and Annabelle Webb to read Kathryn Stockett’s The Help about the complex role African American women played in the 1960s.

By: Destiny Caraway, Staff Writer
Photo Credit: Cady Studios

Good Grief! What a Show!

On October 26th, 27th, and 28th the theatre group performed You’re a Good Ma, Charlie Brown, a collection of scenes based off of Charles Schulz’s Peanuts, in the school’s auditorium.

Charlie Brown (portrayed by Evan Prescott) and Lucy (portrayed by Bailey Myers) perform an iconic Peanuts scene. Prescott explained, “I learned how much I laugh on a daily basis, and it was hard to have that sad, gloomy personality (of Charlie Brown) on stage.”

Myers has been performing on stage since she was thirteen. She said that this production was unusual

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In 2004, the principal, Dr. Donna Richardson, ramped up her focus on student reading. She awoke one morning after having a dream about students formally promoting books of their choice, which eventually led to the school’s annual tradition of the Genre Fan Fair. This year, the popular event was held in the Media Center on December 7th and 8th.

As usual, the build-up to the fair begins in October when students are encouraged to become literary ambassadors for a book of their choice (but one read since the beginning of school). During November, students pitched their books to their teachers, who in turn submitted their choices to the school’s Literacy Team, headed by English Department Chair Mr. Scott Price.

In December, 40 students were notified that they’d been selected to serve as literary ambassadors to their peers with a range of books representing a wide and diverse range of genres. During the two-day event, English teachers brought their classes to the Media Center where the Literary Ambassadors encouraged peers to read the books being presented.

During this traditional event, Dr. Richardson is ‘living the dream’. She said, “It thrills my soul to see our young people showcasing their favorite books at our Genre Fan Fair. It truly is just like I dreamed in 2004 when I began having students focus on reading in a formal setting. Sharing their novels emphasizes the importance of reading.”

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**Employee of the Year: Mrs. Susan Herndon**

By: Joshua Feig, Staff Writer

Photo Credit: Joshua Feig

Mrs. Susan Herndon has been a member of the Mustang Family for the three out of the four years she has been working for DCPS. “It is an honor. It feels definitely nice to be acknowledged,” she said.

Mrs. Herndon is committed as a hardworking secretary making sure that everything runs smoothly in the main office. She makes sure that teachers are notified when students are needed in the front office for a moment or to checkout.

Mrs. Herndon said, “I love all my coworkers and my administrators.” Mrs. Magloff-Wells, one of Mrs. Herndon’s coworkers, said, “She is sweet, helpful, and funny.”

Mrs. Debbie Hayes, who works side by side with Mrs. Herndon each day, said, “It is truly a pleasure working with Mrs. Herndon.”

**Our Administrators:** Dr. Donna Richardson (Principal), Assistant Principals Brian Holloway, Janetta Lucas (Principal’s Designee), Beth Pecarek (and lead Testing Coordinator), and Mary Flynn. This is the team dedicated to ensuring our campus is filled with scholars focusing on the goal of “Measuring Up To Excellence.”

**Our Guidance Counselors:** Mrs. Diane Dempsey (Department Chair), Mrs. Tanu Seymour, Mrs. Jenna Adair, Mrs. Linda Smith, Mrs. Amanda Chamberlain, and Ms. Erin Carroll. For the first quarter, the guidance counselors focused on senior graduation checks, ninth grade promotions, and credit checks for all students. They were also involved in leveling classes to ensure that students were as evenly distributed as possible among the teachers in such a way to meet every student’s need to earn the credits necessary to make this a successful academic year for all. Each counselor has a specific group of students they are assigned to help out. Mrs. Seymour works with AVID and students with last names beginning with A-C. Mrs. Chamberlain works with Biotech and students with last names beginning with D-K. Ms. Smith works with Medical and students with last names beginning with L-M. Mrs. Dempsey works with ESOL and students with last names beginning with N-T. Mrs. Adair works with AICE and students with last names beginning with V-Z. Ms. Carroll assists seniors meet their graduation requirements and assists Assistant Principal Beth Pecarek in the Testing Office.

**Athletics Director Brian Rado, Activities Director Daniel Wilcox, Yearbook/Newspaper Adviser Doni Parkinson, Reading Coach Kim Rolfe, Book Manager Paulette Mills, ESOL Para Christina Koontz. In addition to facilitating our athletic program, Coach Rado also sponsors the Student Athletic Leadership Team (SALT), runs our senior aide program, and handles graduation. Coach Wilcox not only teaches social studies, but also sponsors the Leadership Team and the senior class, to include the purchase of senior packages. Mrs. Parkinson teaches 12th grade English and is the advisor of both Yearbook and Newspaper, so if you have a story to share, please let her know. Mrs. Rolfe is our steely-eyed Reading Coach responsible for facilitating academic professional development for the faculty. As most of you have already found out, Ms. Mills works in the Media Center managing the distribution of textbooks and student IDs. Mrs. Koontz is our ESOL paraprofessional responsible for providing the assistance necessary to help students who are English Language Learners.”

**Dean of Students Rodney Tisdale, Dean’s Admin Assistant Kelly Davis, IESP Para Jessica Tobler, Head of Security Staff Albert Smith, Officer Jeffrey Woods, and Officer Christa Urban. All this team asks is that you show up to school and each class on time, comply with the dress code policy, make the teachers’ learning goals your own in each classroom, and be a positive role model for your fellow peers. Equally important, report behavior that compromises the safety of faculty and students.**
Living the Dream!

Continued from page 1

portance of literacy and this year we had 40 Literary Ambassadors of whom I could not be prouder. This is a wonderful event, and I hope it continues on for years to come.

Dr. Richardson went on to say, “Talking to the Literary Ambassadors is so exciting for me. I get to see and hear their enthusiasm as they relate their genres, the book plots, and all the interesting characters. They own these stories and present them in interesting creative ways, that it utterly delights me. I am so proud of these fine young people.”

The principal, who will be retiring at the end of this year, concluded by sharing her appreciation of those who facilitated the fair: “Scott Price, our English Department Head, has made sure we have the Genre Fan Fair. This was his eighth year organizing and spearheading this special event. I am deeply grateful to him for keeping this dream of mine alive, as I am to Kim Rolfe, our reading coach, who works closely beside Mr. Price to make sure the event is successful. “This project is a lot of work, but there is great cross-curricular cooperation, and all the students, presenters, and spectators seem to really enjoy the Genre Fan Fair. My hopes are that they all will become fans of reading and keep reading all their lives.”

Reading a trilogy is an excellent way not only to enjoy favorite story lines and characters, but also to build your vocabulary and by reading multiple books by the same author, readers receive multiple exposures to the same words, which helps them learn these words.

As a sophomore, Miller chose a classic piece of literature, such as Jane Austen’s Pride and Prejudice, shared by Mattson Hansen. As a former English teacher, Dr. Richardson is well-versed in classic literature, such as Jane Austen’s Pride and Prejudice, shared by Mattson Hansen. The five-part dystopian thriller series Hitchcock-Wizard by James Patterson was chosen by Anna Gebel to share with her peers and teachers, such as English teacher Michael Santana.

Offering safe insight into a predatory behavior that puts teenage girls at risk, Rylee Woods encourages peers like Vivienne Gutierrez to read Sharon Draper’s Darkness Before Dawn. Offering safe insight into depression and delving into Ned Vizzini’s It’s Kind of a Funny Story.

Number the Stars, which is about the Holocaust. Reading historical novels is an interesting way to make the events depicted in history textbooks come alive. As a junior, Miller chose a classic piece of literature--Amy Tan’s The Joy Luck Club, which demonstrates that she reads and enjoys a wide variety of genres. Tan’s book is also an example of how to experience cultural differences.

As a senior, Miller has read a number of different genres. She is an enthusiastic participant, and during each of the four years of her high school career, such as Ashton Miller. She reads about thirty books a year, so it’s no wonder that she’s an enthusiastic participant in the annual book fair.

As a freshman, Miller promoted Chanda Hahn’s fantasy trilogy, Iron Butterfly. Reading a trilogy is an excellent way not only to enjoy favorite story lines and characters, but also to build your vocabulary. Like all people, authors have a personal vocabulary and by reading multiple books by the same author, readers receive multiple exposures to the same words, which helps them learn these words.

As a sophomore, Miller moved to a more serious topic through Lois Lowry’s The Handmaid’s Tale exposes an important message that Mikala Dockery feels is necessary for peers to be cognizant of.

Looking for Alaska

Spreading the Love

By: Saabris Jaamal, Staff Writer

A number of students participate in the Genre Fan Fair during each of the four years of their high school career, such as Ashton Miller. She reads about thirty books a year, so it’s no wonder that she’s an enthusiastic participant in the annual book fair. As a freshman, Miller promoted Chanda Hahn’s fantasy trilogy, Iron Butterfly. Reading a trilogy is an excellent way not only to enjoy favorite story lines and characters, but also to build your vocabulary. Like all people, authors have a personal vocabulary and by reading multiple books by the same author, readers receive multiple exposures to the same words, which helps them learn these words.

As a sophomore, Miller moved to a more serious topic through Lois Lowry’s The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, is the book Thai Talley decided to encourage her peers to read. As a junior, Miller chose a classic piece of literature—Amy Tan’s The Joy Luck Club, which demonstrates that she reads and enjoys a wide variety of genres. Tan’s book is also an example of how to experience cultural differences.

As a senior, Miller has read a number of different genres. She is an enthusiastic participant, and during each of the four years of her high school career, such as Ashton Miller. She reads about thirty books a year, so it’s no wonder that she’s an enthusiastic participant in the annual book fair. As a freshman, Miller promoted Chanda Hahn’s fantasy trilogy, Iron Butterfly. Reading a trilogy is an excellent way not only to enjoy favorite story lines and characters, but also to build your vocabulary. Like all people, authors have a personal vocabulary and by reading multiple books by the same author, readers receive multiple exposures to the same words, which helps them learn these words.

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As a senior, Miller has come full circle by returning to the realm of fantasy fiction in a dystopian setting. This year, she endorsed Sharon Cameron’s Rook to peers. Through reading, Miller is able to expand her literary, cultural, and historical horizons in the comfort of her home.
Standing Out or Fitting In?

By: Kyeli Brennan, Staff Writer

Photo Credit: By: Kyeli Brennan, Staff Writer

Standing Out or Fitting In? Knowing that we could know, the most challenging class that I took this year is my first year at Mandarin High. As I walked through the doors of the auditorium on the morning of orientation, I was so nervous that I was crying in my seat. That was the first day of school, and I was so excited to start the year! The pre-AICE courses I took during my freshman and sophomore years are designed to ramp us up for the AICE courses we take as juniors and seniors. The focus is primarily designed to develop and hone our critical thinking skills, as well as teach us to be metacognitive—being aware of how we learn best. Sophomore Ashley Mojaic said, “The Pre-AICE courses are more in-depth, and I felt that I learned more during my freshman year than in all three years of middle school.”

A strong element of the AICE program is vocabulary building, because a wide vocabulary is necessary to both understand and articulate the concepts we expect to learn. Another strong element in the program is time management—both asking questions for clarification and contributing to class discussions. We’re expected to demonstrate a strong academic curiosity. Finally, we are not expected to allow our classes to be stressful; therefore, we must strike a balance between standing out and fitting in.

Students in the AICE program come from neighborhoods outside of our school boundaries. All AICE students are required to go through an application process, which includes completing an application form and earning a high GPA in middle school, as well as a high score on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. Once we’ve been accepted, we attend the Summer Bridge program during July preceding our freshman year. We participate in an induction ceremony in our freshman year, as well as printing ceremonies during our junior and senior years. These events—attended only by students in the AICE program and their families—go a long way toward forging a bond between us. That bond is strengthened by the fact that we attend most of the same classes together and that a small group of AICE teachers teaches each of these classes. For example, all AICE students have Mrs. Millstone for 9th grade Pre-AICE English, Mrs. Reed for 10th grade Pre-AICE English, Mrs. Nesselrode for 11th grade AICE English Language, and Mr. Price for 12th grade English Literature. Our teachers are trained by Cambridge so that they are all on the same page and set the same high level of expectations for us. They hold tutoring sessions before and after school, as well as review sessions at the end of the year to prepare us for exams.

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How do AICE students contend with the stress of this challenging program? They do so in a variety of ways that feed into their creativity and combine socializing with extracurricular activities. For example, AICE senior Katie Boykin also serves as the Personnel Officer for the school’s NROTC program. She الوقت صلاة الظهر is very fast and hard for the first time, it is very difficult if you do not know where you choose to be different. At Mandarin High, to me, seems as though no one is free to be whoever they want. You can rein- vent yourself year after year, find different friends, and make your own decisions. You can express yourself through your own clothing. There are so many options. As teenagers we complain about school, a lot. Even though a more expensive school might seem like the better choice, do not be fooled. There are so many things one can learn from living in an international environment. Social skills. It seems to me that kids at Mandarin High are much easier to hold a conversion with. The manner in which individuals carry themselves is different, even better.

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Time management is the key to striking a balance between academics, athletics, and socializing. However, some students have much more on their plate. For example, senior Eise Thompson has a job that she needs to fit into her busy academic schedule. Thompson said, “As some- one who works at least thirty hours a week, it can be a bit hard balancing school and work. However, it’s an advantage because I am able to gain experience and

life lessons that I wouldn’t have learned in school.” Senior Jessie Coop, a senior said, “Having a job while in school has taught me how to better balance responsibilities, and it keeps me focused on things that are important rather than lapping after school.” Senior Kessy McMahon, balances academics, a grueling combination of extracurricular activities and community service, and the responsibilities as the Chief Editor of the school’s yearbook. When asked to explain her experience in the AICE program, McMahon said, “I’m so glad to have decided to apply, even better.

Standing Out or Fitting In?

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I have always been different. I have never once looked at other people and said, ‘I can be just like them.’ And, as fun as it is being different, it is also a little more of a plight than anything. I like being different, I prefer it. I don’t like complaining. However, it does get me down sometimes. I have been the outlier in every experiment, the one that doesn’t fit in, and the blackest sheep in every herd. However, I have grown to like the attention that comes from my differences.

I always manage to catch the eye of people, and I can’t really say that it is on accident. I’m in dress code five days a week, I always have to wear the brightest colors, and occasionally get them down into my repertoire. I’m an attention seeker, but I don’t always mean it. I am not the person to sit quiet about something as wild as I am. My room and my laugh can be heard for miles, but I have come to love these obnoxious idiosyncrasies of mine.

Being different has made it harder to love myself, and that’s truly the only problem I’ve had to overcome. There will always be someone there to make fun of you and point out these differences, but you can ignore that long as you can find comfort in who you are. It may be a long time to realize that I am different, and that’s not necessarily a bad thing.

So learning to accept yourself isn’t a two-hour seminar that will make you feel better, it’s a never-ending road of ups and downs. I have had many downs in my life; some of them were caused by being too loud to remember. However, I have persevered, and so have countless other unique high schoolers. We contribute most of my differences to my sexuality.

By: Joshua Feig, Staff Writer
Photo Credit: Contributed by missionary participants

No matter what I did, I always was in the square in a room of circles.

I do good works? Think about the TV programs on a typical evening news more than 15 minutes of fame as a result of sexual trafficking. From the outside, I look like a kid trying too hard and showing off my successes. However, that’s not the case. While I do have an extensive collection of trophies and sashes, I don’t mean to appear too hard to be loved. I just want to do right.

I figured that if I was going to stand out, I might as well get an award for doing it. I never developed a way to cope with my trauma, but the closest thing to feeling good again was winning. For me, getting another title, or winning another award was more of a gateway drug, and it’s easy to get hooked.

I know how to love these obnoxious idiosyncrasies of mine. Being gay is a challenge in itself, but being gay in high school is something different all together. Everyone in high school struggles to find that perfect balance of imperfection. To be loud enough to be cool and different, but to be plain enough to fit in. I don’t think that balance exists. Rather, it’s the ideal status of everyone. I am the one who cares. I strive for but it’s not achievable. However, I do not think it’s hard enough to get hooked.

It’s hard to not want everyone to know my name, or see your face. I mean, it’s high school, right? Everyone wants to be popular or to fit in, or at least one mix of both. I had started off always being the one weird kid singled out, and picked on because I was overweight, or gay, or talked weird. And now here I am, as an officer of the National Art Honor Society. I know people would look at me, but I assured that if I could be fake, being like them wouldn’t eventually be it.

I try so hard to be a cookie cutter teen, and no surprise—it didn’t work. No one can fit in to a mold that doesn’t exist. No matter what I did I always was the square in a room of circles. I tried so many different cliques and fads and trends, drifting further and further from myself with every attempt. But I think that I have finally returned. At least most of me has. And while I may have changed a little bit from the dorky kid I was, I think he’s still in here. I still have my break and try fit in, but I think I’ve grown stronger.

I don’t think I’ll ever lose that little dork again. I think that may be what makes me stand out. Not the fact that I’m gay or that I try too hard, but that I will always be that little goofball once was.
Senior Superlatives

Best All Around: Sami Nafziger & Harrison White

Most Academic: Alexander Pappas & Morgan Gristivo

Most Artistic: Jennifer Hockett & Brenda Lecciones

Most Likely to Succeed: Maya Ayala & Kiersten Casadevall

Most Likely on SNL: Kasey Bond & Danny Seipp

Most Musical: Alexander Quinones & Ollie Mace

Most Popular: Joseph Torres & Hope Viller
Self Expression OR Self Absorption?

By: Mikaela Brown, Staff
Photo Credit: Mikaela Brown and Destiny Caraway

Taking selfies is a major part of our pop culture today which influences how we as teens portray ourselves. With social media apps such as Instagram or Snapchat promoting selfies, we have seen an immense rise in this trend. It is a controversial matter as to whether taking selfies is considered as self-absorbed, or simply expressing yourself. How society views you is something that matters deeply to you, so we are the ones who feel obligated to develop our own image to release into the world.

Maya Genesee, a popular influencer, said, "I believe selfies are self-expression, because they let you show who you are." Selfies are an indication of one’s personality and some of the traits that one may withhold. Today, especially as teens, we feel that we need to be "validated" by society to feel accepted. Genesis Epstein also pointed out that by using selfies, "you’re showing how you feel about yourself in general." Selfies not only portray your image, but they show that you are confident and aren’t afraid to show it.

Self-expression is showing who you are and conveying your individuality to others. You may do this through taking selfies. Selfies are a snapshot of who you are, which can be shown to those around you. Whether it is through your self-expression, you are showing your feelings, thoughts, emotions, or ideas. These are all things that shape who you are. By sharing these feelings, you are giving people a little insight to who you are as a person. Whether you are scrolling through your Instagram feed or clicking through snapchat stories, you can make your own judgements of others based on what they post. With "likes" and the ability to "swipe up" on a post, you can boost others' self-confidence, as well as providing them with a sense of validation. Hensley San-

Selfies not only show who you are now, but they also display how much you’ve changed over time. With selfies existing for a while now, people have been recording their lives through selfies for quite some time. Social media users vary from posting selfies all the time to only posting selfies once every few days. Some may even take the time to pose for the perfect angle before posting. Many of us show off our lavish lifestyles and can even become suicidal. Selfies reflect how people want to look.” Others believe that selfies are a form of self-absorption because “they’re trying to see how appealing you can look.”

"Selfies are a form of self-expression because they give us a chance to change that. People feel a sense of self-worth and empowerment by receiving positive reinforcement as others. Parker Blessing keeps a positive mindset towards selfies: “I feel like with social media there will always be a happy middle. While some may use it to placate their own vanity, others may use it as a form of creativity.” Selfies can be very paradoxical, as while they are used to express one’s image for positive reinforcement, there are those internet-surfers who like to stop by occasionally, to leave a negative or harsh comment. If you are a firm believer that selfies are simply a form of self-expression, you shouldn’t let others get to you. Standing out or fitting in has been something that has come to almost everyone’s mind at some point. This has perplexed us all, but it all comes down to the type of person you are. Whether you are the type of person who likes to follow the norm, or the person who doesn’t really care about what others do. Whether we want to follow the trends that have been set for us, or create the trends ourselves, selfies provide an outlet to do either.

Technology and social media have allowed the number of selfies to increase drastically, creating a trend that has been followed by many millennials. In all actuality, selfies are just a contemporaneous version of the art master’s self-portraits. Famous historical artists such as Frida Kahlo, Leonardo de Vinci, and many more have set the stage for a new generation of self-expressions.

Selfies allow you to see yourself how others see you, and have a journey of self-exploration.

As Albert Einstein said over half a century ago, "One becomes so time-obvious that our technology has exceeded human imagination. Technology has surpassed our expectations over the years, and continues to be an outlet for those whom want to express themselves through social media. It is only the matter of how we are now expressing ourselves that has made us millennials stand out from previous generations.

Selfies are a prominent part of today’s pop culture. Selfies often have connotations with being self-absorbed, egotistical. To many, selfies are selfish. Millennials and the generation Z are exposed to the selfies on every form of media, even books! Kim Kardashian, a popular reality star and app creator, released her self-help book Selfish, which consisted of 448 pages of her favorite selfies. It became a New York Times best-seller. This begs the question: Do selfies have a negative impact on today’s youth?

The most significant aspect of life in today’s society is appearance. Image is everything to the young population and selfies reflect that. Sophomore Garrett Rhoads said that selfies are a form of self-absorption “because you’re trying to see how appealing you can look.” Others believe that selfies reflect how people want to show off their lavish lifestyles and superior appearances. Many of us incessantly take pictures of ourselves— from ten to fifty a day—and choose the one we believe looks the best.

Self Absorption?

By: Destiny Caraway, Staff
Photo Credit: Mikaela Brown and Destiny Caraway

Selfies are a form of self-expression because they give us freedom to make us feel good about ourselves. How we are now expressing ourselves shows us who we are as people. According to one selfie lover, "Selfies are a form of self-expression because they give us freedom to make us feel good about ourselves.” Selfies are a form of self-absorption because they give us freedom to make us feel good about ourselves—something most people lost due to society.

The best thing for our society to do would be to change how we judge people and get to know people before forming an opinion. If we put aside our differences and our beliefs and values, we could save our future and ourselves. We do not need to give up selfies, we just need to give up our belief that image is an addiction. This is how YOU can help:

1. Spread joy and kindness, not rude and hurtful comments. These harmful comments could lead to low self-esteem and even depression or other mental disorders. This could all be caused by one selfie. If today’s young society continue to demonstrate this addiction to be liked based upon appearance only, no one will have the confidence they need.

2. There are some teens who find positive feedback from their selfies or who do not care what comments they get because they were not looking for anyone’s approval. However, this does not change the fact that there are cyberbullying searching for their next victim.

So, how can we fix this issue? The self-addiction became a problem during the age of millennials and generation Z, making it a problem for millennials and generation Z can fix. Millennials and the generation Z are the future and we need to ensure that our future is a bright one. To do this we need to change our priorities. Rather than judging people based on their image, we should get to know who people are. See their true colors. As Sophia Fil-

Selfies have been recording their own timelines for quite some time. They used to be. Do you ever look back at an old picture and laugh at how much you have changed? Or smile at a picture because you thought of the memories that occurred when taking it? If so, you can thank our modern day technology for making this possible. Were comfortable with doing so be-
Performing Arts

Good Grief! What a Show!

(continued from page 1)
to her because she’d “always performed with adults and was the youngest on stage, whereas in this play I was one of the oldest for the first time.”

Junior Shawn Stermer played the role of Snoopy, Charlie Brown’s creative pet dog, and Lily Thomas played the role of Snoopy’s sidekick Woodstock.

Behind the scenes, nineteen crew members entered the production as individuals, but developed into a family over the four months of tryouts and rehearsals. Genesis Telon said, “It was an honor to be the student director for such an iconic musical. This experience has definitely been one of the best ones so far.”

Anna Hebert shared, “Being stage manager allowed me to really appreciate all of the hard work individual crews go through to help bring a show together.”

Senior Emaleigh Pappy served as Set Chief. She shared, “Technical theater has played a huge role in my high school career and being able to help in this process is an amazing opportunity. I loved helping others; the hard work is well worth it when seeing the results.”

Emily Nolan and Shakil “Mendes” were also members of the Set Crew. Senior Marissa Ogden held the position of Props Chief and said, “working on this play was so rewarding, seeing the audience react was an amazing feeling. It was a super fun production.” Other members of the Props Crew were Hannah Alexander, Kathleen Powell, Andy Gello, and Rhiana Kirkland.

In addition to playing the role of Woodstock on stage, Junior Lily Thomas served as the choreographer.

The Lights Crew consisted of Elizabeth Robinson (Chief), Lisa Harmon, Andrew (“Andy”) Gelfo, and Rhianna Kirkland. Behind the scenes, the choreographer.

Junior Lily Thomas served as the Sound Chief for the production and was assisted by Colin Cates, Helen Strockland was Costume Crew Chief, and was assisted by crew members Mia Gutierrez and Madison Espling-Esquierdo.

Espling-Esquierdo said, “It was amazing and exhausting. I got to expand my theater family and make more friends. It was also nice to expand what I do in theater.”

Gutierrez said, “During my tenure as makeup chief I had a great time. I loved applying makeup to the actors and meeting new people.”

Ms. Brown, one of the adult directors for this play, decided that the best part of working on this piece was “watching the students grow as young performers. It’s always such a joy when the students are able to take everything you have taught them and captivate the audience. It’s definitely a ‘proud mama’ moment.”

Mrs. Brown added that the hardest part for her was “closing this production. The students put in so much time and effort to making this an incredible production, it was hard to say goodbye.”

Drama Director Mrs. Paolini, the second adult director of this production, explained, “My favorite thing about directing a play is watching the students develop from level to level over the course of the production process. Some go from beginners to intermediate, and some even go from advanced to superiors or.”

Mrs. Paolini went on to add, “We grow together, and, because of that, we become a family.”

In charge of publicity and the house, Chief Brianna Fred was assisted by members Jaidi Jackson and Jairo Hernandez.

Make sure to support your thespian peers on April 5th-7th at 7 pm to see the next production: 67 Cinderellas. Tickets are $10 each. Make it a date!

Although performed behind the scenes, the time and effort contributed by the nineteen members of the technical crews (stage, set, props, costumes, makeup, light, and sound) in bringing this iconic American favorite to the stage demonstrates the attention to detail and growth in technical ability. They were able to capture the essence of the Charlie Brown characters and environment with the precision that enabled the cast to simply step on stage to enter the world of Charlie Brown.

Lucy (portrayed by Bailey Myers) bats her eyes at Schroeder (portrayed by Alex Ramos) hits the keys on his piano. As usual, Schroeder is far too busy focusing on playing classical music to notice the unwelcome attention of Lucy.

Iconic scenes: Charlie Brown bunching with his kite; Snoopy (Shawn Stermer) as the Red Baron with Woodstock (Lily Thomas); and Linus (Grant Conley) with his blanket.

From left to right: Skyler Geer (Pigpen), Nehemiah Booze (Franklin), Victoria Martin (Peppermint Patty), and Allison Fisher (Marcie).

Skyler Geer said, “Pig Pen was a very fun role! Part of my daily costume check before dress rehearsals and shows included us finding a patch of dirt outside, a friend … would dump a bucket of water on the ground, and I would proceed to roll in the mud until thoroughly coated.”

Senior Grace Rogers, as Charlie Brown’s little sister, Sally, has contributed her thespian talents to MHS for four years.

From left to right: Choral Director Jennifer Brown, Drama Director Bethany Paolini, and Senior Emaleigh Pappy—the production Set Chief. The energy level of the adults involved in the Music Theatre emanates from them as they marched with the troupe during the Homecoming Parade days before the curtains rose for the performance.

The gang’s all here—except Charlie Brown who’s dreaming of getting his kite in the air. They are all watching with hope (except Lucy, who knows, of course, that he will fail).
Behind the Scenes of Charlie Brown

Photo Credit: Contributed by Crew Members

From left to right: Stage Manager Anna Hebert, Backstage Hands Colin Cates and Andrew Brown, Emily Nolan and Set Chief Emleigh Pappy.

Props Chief Marissa Ogden with Hannah Alexander and Kathleen Powell

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**Book Review: George Orwell’s 1984**

By: Ashlyn Lacey, Staff Writer

With the presence of a new president, many changes arise in a country. Specifically, with the induct-"1984"ion of President Trump, "1984" in the US is the foremost of public eye once again.

The dystopian novel, written in 1949, hits closer to reality with the dis-progress and the ideals the book portrays become a reality in the pre-sent age.

The book is centered on Winston, a 30-year old man, with low ranking in the party system in the nation of Oceania. The Party controls all aspects of life within the state and restricts individualism of all people. However, Winston recognizes the evil within the Party and decides to fight for his own type of rebellion along with another member of the Party, Julia. The two began to form a bond and loyalty between each other that defies all precepts set by the Party. The two search for safety and trust within a world of betrayal.

"1984" details these attempts to discover what truth is in a twisted, manipulative, and dystopian world. Parallels can be drawn between George Orwell's world and present-day America. With the current political climate involving what truths and lies in the media are, as well as the increasing advancement of technology pervading our lives, an almost exact replica of Oceania can be seen in some respects in our world today through the "fake news" and technologies that leave civilians with virtually no privacy.

This novel has certain aspects that a reader could look like this world’s own reality, to what our future could look like. Many readers in due to the reassurance. When people read, they usually are immersed in the world they are reading about. Read "1984" and that world may not look as different as one may think from our own.

These connections and the possibilities of a dystopia becoming our lives serves as an essential warning to readers to fact-check the information they are exposed to, keep the balance of our government in line, and most of all never stop seeking the truth. Truth is what alters our lives, and the center role it has in "1984" is any one reader should seek to understand the story and the idea behind this eye-opening novel.

“1984” opens eyes to issues of which their prevalence has only increased over the years. This carefully crafted novel forces readers to think about themselves and the world around them in a completely new light.

**Great Food & Atmosphere**

By: Rowan Vanhoof, Restaurant Review Columnist and Editor-in-Chief

Photo Credit: Rowan Vanhoof’s family member

Fuji Sushi offers a plethora of options in sushi and other Japanese dishes. While I do not like sushi, most of the people I went with do and we were satisfied with the sushi that they tried. Fuji Sushi 3 is located on San Jose Boulevard, in the same plaza as the Tree Steakhouse.

At Fuji Sushi, the food is served like a buffet with one fundamental difference. Instead of getting up to fill your plate you walk write down the numbers of the dishes that you want on a piece of paper and give it to your waiter. You can order as much food as you like, paying thirteen dollars per person for lunch but if you order sushi you are charged fifty cents for every piece that is uneaten.

On top of this, I only ever got one refill on my drink despite finishing it very early and asking for the refill after multiple servers came to our table and our food was already served. It was a little frustrating, all of this was understandable because it was during a busy time. We had to wait around twenty minutes to get our order and every time we placed it down. There were people waiting outside when we arrived and people waiting outside when we left. Due to this factor, it is understandable that the some of the waits were as long as they were.

The restaurant wasn’t necessarily noisy but I, would call it active. There are a lot of people in close proximity, so it can get loud but even on a busy day, its noise level never became obnoxious. There is a massive chandelier but other than that the atmosphere is like the food, it is above average and fantastic in some cases. Overall, Fuji Sushi 3 is a good place to eat with a large group of friends or family. There is mostly fair, and the food is generally better than the places by a varying degree. It had the potential to be great but the buffet style ordering allows for a group of people to spend a decent amount of time just talking and enjoying a meal.

**Music Review**

By: Treo Beaecher, Music Review Columnist

Khalid’s debut album “American Teen” was released in March 2017 and quickly became an R&B favorite. This album followed his song “Location” which hit No. 8 on Billboard’s Hot R&B/Hip Hop chart and No. 2 on the Hot R&B Chart. Just as noteworthy, he released “Location” before he’d even graduated from his high school in El Paso, Tex- as.

Why did he become so popular so quickly? It’s because he feels the way we do. He obviously not only knows how it feels, but also is able to articulate what he feels with his mellow acoustic.

For example, take his song, “Saved.” This song reflects the ending of an actual relationship he experienced when moving from Texas to New York to pursue his musical career. He was in a rocky relationship and had to make a choice—the girl or the music contract. He chose the contract but paid an emotional price he shared in his song “Saved.” He ties this cost in an authentically millennial way—with his cellphone as an anchor. The lyrics explain to her that while “all your stuff is gone... I erased all the pictures from my phone... I’ll keep your number saved just in case she ever needs him.”

In a recorded interview clip posted on the geni-us.com website, he explains that to his generation, “our phone is... our safety net and when your phone dies... you don’t know what to do...” He also explained that the “acoustic version of the song made it very personal.”

And it does. Although this title is on his debut album, American Teen, it’s quite possible that we’ll be listening to him as he matures while we’re maturing ourselves. Make sure to check him out—he’s worth a listen.
Cuphead: Don’t Deal with the Devil

By: Rowan Vanhoof, Chief Editor

The Mandarin Times, 12/15/2017, Page II

Cuphead: Don’t Deal with the Devil is a very difficult two-dimensional platformer that is an absolute masterpiece. The game is fun and challenging but what really stands out is the artwork and music. It is absolutely phenomenal. Everything about Cuphead is done fantastically and while it may have you screaming at the top of your lungs at player points, everyone who has played parts to the work of art that this game is.

Cuphead begins with a cartoon style introduction to the story and it seems like a silly kid’s game. After seeing Cuphead gameplay, players will quickly learn how difficult it can be. Cuphead is a two-dimensional platformer, meaning the player must navigate a two-dimensional world that is filled with obstacles that can only be cleared by either jumping or shooting. Without health upgrades, the player can only take damage three times (the enemies are enemies due to their total health, but it will increase the necessary damage to defeat each enemy, so it is usually not worth it).

Having such a low amount of health forces the player to be both accurate and smart in their actions. As soon as a player becomes greedy and attempts to get extra damage on whatever enemy they may be facing they have set themselves up for failure. In order to succeed in this two-dimensional world, the player must learn to master each obstacle that they come across.

There are two different level types in Cuphead. Most of the levels in Cuphead are boss fights. These bosses have different phases based on the amount of damage dealt, and the player has to learn how to survive each phase while taking minimal amounts of damage in order to be successful. These boss fights can be very difficult, some even forcing the player to complete multiple boss phases in order to even make it to the final phase. Some bosses require perfect reaction time to properly dodge attacks while some require perfect accuracy when moving the character away from obstacles. These boss fights are crafted well with an obvious emphasis on accuracy. Any wrong movement by the player can cause them to lose unnecessary health which usually results in failure.

The other type of level in Cuphead is called a run and gun. These levels are similar to boss levels in the way that players must master the obstacles and enemies so that they are able to survive, instead of fighting a boss the player must progress through the area. Overall the gameplay can be difficult in the beginning but once players get used to the process of mastering a level, it becomes seemingly easy. Each run and gun offers a unique gameplay element that is different from other run and gun levels. The run and gun levels also allow the player to obtain coins. These coins can be used to buy a variety of upgrades ranging from new weapons to better dodges and health upgrades.

It is obvious when playing Cuphead that every single encounter is meticulously adjusted until perfection. There are plenty of games that achieve unrelevent difficulty but there aren’t many that do it in the manner of Cuphead. While it may not seem like it at first there are few encounters in Cuphead where failure can be blamed on anything other than the player’s inability to navigate the encounters while taking the least possible amount of damage. Everything can be predicted and avoided if it is done right, leaving success up to the player’s ability to learn the mechanics of each encounter until they can perform it flawlessly. One of the most respected games in the community is Dark Souls, a melee-based adventure RPG that revolves around navigating and fighting through different levels and bosses. This is because everything in Dark Souls comes down to the mechanical skill of the player and their knowledge of the encounter they are in. Cuphead is the exact same way.

Cuphead has some of the best art and music that I have seen in a video game. It is stylized after the golden age of American cartoons from the late twenties and thirties. Every character transforms throughout the fight, each time the character changes they have a new set of nuances as the fight progresses. The developers did a very good job with the art style, truly doing justice to the old animations. To match the art style, the music and sounds made by the enemies in Cuphead sound just like the old cartoons, making a very unique experience.

Cuphead: Don’t Deal with the Devil is a flawless game that can be crushing difficult. The art style and the music contrast the game’s difficulty in a way that gives the challenging gameplay a more character. For only twenty dollars, Cuphead is one of the greatest games created and is a must buy for anyone who thinks they are good enough.

Game Review: “Cuphead”

Cuphead: Don’t Deal with the Devil

By: Rowan Vanhoof, Chief Editor

TV Series Review: “Stranger Things”

By: Sabrina Coward, Entertainment Review Columnist

With a bit of 80s nostalgia, a truly extraordinary cast and an epic storyline, the Duffer Brothers came up with the show “Stranger Things.” The show premiered in July of 2016 and has been a hit ever since, with fans expecting season three very soon.

Season 1 started out in the early 1980s when Will Byers, unfortunately abducted by a creature from an alternate dimension, known as the Upside Down, called the Demogorgon. Joyce, Will’s mother and Jim Hopper, the town’s police chief search for Will as Eleven, a young psychokinetic girl escapes from the laboratory in which she was raised and held against her will and is found by the boys; Mike, Dustin, and Lucas; in their search for their friend Will.

The second season, taking place a year after the events in the first season, begins will Will adjusting to new things after being rescued from the Upside Down. As the season progresses, the audience learns the events from the missing year, but they also learn that while Will is back home he is being influenced by entities from the Upside Down. Plus, Will’s family and friends find out that there is an even bigger threat to their universe from the Upside Down.

The show is quite addictive, and it is also a very short season, if you look at the number of episodes. Which leads the audience to watch it in such a short time, although the third season is expected to come out late this year or early 2019. So, if you are watching the show or want to start, just keep in mind that you might be waiting a while for season three.

“Stranger Things 2” makes reference to season one multiple times, but not nearly as many times as it makes references from the pop culture of the 80s. Some people might say that they are trying to pass overly familiar material as new, but others say that it’s a way to show a little bit of progression between seasons, while subtly acknowledging what the show has become. The best 80s blockbuster franchise that did not actually come out of the 1980s.

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Preparing for the MPAs

Organizations—Band & Chorus

The Mandarin Times, 12/15/2017, Page 12

**Band: From Centerfield to Center Stage**

By: Rebecca Kerr, Yearbook Staff
Photo Credit: Cady Studios

First there’s the fanfare during halftime under the Friday night lights during the fall season. Then winter comes and the band moves indoors and begins preparing for the annual Musical Performance Assessment.

As part of this preparation, band members provide a concert for the school to give them experience in front of an audience. This year the band concert occurred on December 14th at 7 pm in the auditorium.

As Ruben Gedlaman explains, “Concert band is not as physically demanding, and we focus more on musical expression along with phrasing, rather than following sets. Constant run-throughs are vital to ensure preparation of the music potentially to be performed.”

It can be tedious at times to work on developing precision with not only your own instrument, but also aligning your instrument to others in your section and the rest of the band.

In addition to preparing for the MPAs, 19 of our band members earned a chair in the prestigious District 17 All District Honor Band. This band is made up of high school musicians from Duval and Nassau Counties. Those who earned a chair are: Cassandra Bailey, Tiffany Black, Sara Curry, Daniel Daugherty, Kellen Edwards, Ruben Gedlaman, Jacques Guillaume, Evan Heeg, Katherine Kartsonis, Julienna Key, Katherine Lee, Jessica Mabrey, Brandon Magyar, Justin Marcotte, Eva Sluder, Claire Thompson, Emilio Valenzuela, and Julia Winston. Make sure to congratulate these talented fellow students!

The road to preparing for the MPA is a long one. The first week of school, singers brush up on skills such as sight reading and harmonizing as a group. Then the singers practice both in class and at home. In-class preparation provides them with feedback on which notes and pitches must be focused on. After so much practice, the chorus performs in front of their peers in the Winter Chorus Concert. They then continue to practice right up until the MPA evaluation in March. It’s a long road, but one that members of our chorus groups ultimately prevail in each year.

Concert Choir consists of both male and female singers. “I love working with my class. We get really close, and it is like our own family,” shared Keith Dillard.

Chorus Sings and Shines!

By: Alyssa Weaver, Yearbook Staff
Photo Credit: Cady Studios

In September, the Singing Stangs auditioned to participate in Disney’s Candlelight Processional, a holiday celebration in Epcot. Upon acceptance, the choir started singing pieces of music provided by Disney. Created last year, SOPAL (sopranos and altos) provides a choreographed performance. “Being able to create a show choir piece allowed me to show my creativity with dance,” explained Grace Rogers.

Women’s Chorale not only uses their voices, but also incorporates the use of their hands in an Estonian piece. “The piece was difficult to learn, but really fun and upbeat to sing,” shared Sophia Sowers.
Leader or Rank and File?

By: Ashlyn Lacey, Staff Writer

As the business of a hectic new school year begins to wind down into a consistent school routine, the NJROTC program has settled into its own flow of volunteering, competitions, and the annual Parris Island trip. Cadets can train for specific ROTC events, if they are qualified to, and through these opportunities cadets can shine through the ranks of the program, learn leadership skills, and overall improve their abilities as a cadet.

Parris Island is the NJROTC’s highlight venture, often of the entire school year, and a privilege to be able to attend by a few, hand-picked cadets. Admission into Parris Island, a real-life boot camp for military recruits, is very limited and very specific for cadets. One has to be excelling in all their classes, demonstrate leadership potential, be active in ROTC, and be in physical shape for camp tasks.

However, once arriving to Parris Island, even the strongest cadets are tested and broken by camp military officials. Cadet Colton Merritt recounts that the moment he laid eyes on the camp, he was extremely “intimidated. All of the Parris Island recruits were standing tall and strong and the drill instructors struck fear into us just seeing them.” Grueling training sets in the moment cadets step off the bus, and does not cease until the cadets leave the camp, events that demonstrate the hard work and determination that set apart NJROTC students from an average student.

The atmosphere and leadership on Parris Island remains intense through the entire stay, from rising in the early dawn hours to a rude awakening to lining up for meals heel to heel and only allotted a few fleeting moments to eat. Activities do not lessen the pressure, as they challenge and cadets mind, stamina, physical abilities, and teamwork. Cadet Katie Boykin captures the essence of the Island perfectly. “Parris Island is unique. The leadership there takes no prisoners; you either sink or swim. The Drill Instructors scream and insult you, but that’s their job. Recruits must be torn down to be built into Marines. This discipline is apparent the moment you step off the bus. The student leadership there did their best, but [one] can never be truly prepared to be a part of Parris Island.” Cadet Merritt shared a similar experience to Boykin by finding the camp “…intense and inspirational. [By] having the Drill Instructors breathe down your neck 24/7 kept everyone on their toes to do their best.” Both recruits held a stately, but fearful view of the camp and its ability to influence their lives over the course of the stay and even beyond it. The camp truly is a way for cadets to push their limits and test their strength in unexpected ways.

Parris Island is just one example of the hard work ROTC is putting into set apart their students from the general population. By teaching them important life lessons, discipline, physically and mentally, the camp is preparing cadets not only for the military, but for life.

By: Ashlyn Lacey, Staff Writer

Photo Credit: Chief Mathews, NJROTC Instructor

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Spotlight on Jake Kamins (Varsity Wrestling)

By: Ashlyn Lacey, Staff Writer
Photo Credit: Family & Cady Studios

High school is full of many different opportunities and expectations that trickle down to high school and the effects it takes extensive time and dedication. When describing practice, Kamins explained, “Training looks very intense. It is very structured. We run before practice, do wrestling drills, situational drills, and live goes. At the end of practice we are all drenched with sweat and about five pounds lighter.” Though the work can be tough, Kamins understands the importance of each individual part to his success, and therefore always puts in the effort in hopes of seeing the results he wants.

Another integral part of wrestling is the team bond that is formed through grueling practice and intense matches. This bond is what Kamins finds the most important and the most valued part of wrestling. “...the brotherhood. It is so much different than any other sport. You compete on the mat but as soon as the match is over you have gained a new friend...We are there for each other on and off the mat.” Kamins holds a special understanding of empathizing with his fellow wrestlers. Rather than just seeing them as an opponent to defeat, he sees the hard work and the development they put in to refining their style and abilities. This allows for a shared connection of a sport that challenges all aspects of a participant’s body and mind. This mindset sets apart Kamins from the wrestling team as a leader to his teammates. He hopes to use his influence to inspire “his brothers” in times of hardship and sacrifice to push through their obstacles and reach their full potential on and off the mat.

Kamins is more than just an athlete or just a student, not only does he balance the two, he balances them in a way superior to many others his age, and with excellence in each. A sure leader in both athletics and academics, Jake Kamins is a role model for many.

Spotlight on Joseph Travers (Varsity Basketball)

By: Kyeli Brennan, Staff Writer
Photo Credit: Cady Studios and a family member

Only a handful of students enjoy their school community through clubs, participate in athletics, and take top tier academic classes. These students accept the heavy workload, the busy club schedules, and the demanding athletic seasons. Senior Joseph Travers takes on all these responsibilities and more; Travers must balance a full load of AICE program classes and a pressing basketball schedule. As if his weekly routine isn’t laborious enough, Travers also participates in three different clubs: National Honor Society, Senior Men, and the Mandarin High School Student Council.

How does Travers do it? Just looking at his schedule, the demanding academic and athletic demands, and the heavy workload faced by the senior class, one can expect great science. Travers hopes to pursue a career that deals with stocks or computer programming and managing. He says that he looks up to role model Elon Musk “because he does not care about the money, but about making the world better.” Given Travers’ dedication and excellence as a high school student, one can expect great achievements from him in the future.
Spotlight on Whitney Fowler (Varsity Soccer)

By: Rowan Vanhoof, Editor
Photo Credit: Cady Studios

Whitney Fowler, Age 7

Soccer is a fast-paced game requiring drive, determination, and communication. Whitney Fowler is one of the players on the varsity team able to blend these attributes to the extent that she’s a co-captain of the team.

She’s played all four high school years on the varsity team, but not always in the same position. She explains, “In previous years I have played center back, but this year I played in the midfield.” Fowler added, “What I like most about center midfield is the freedom I have to move and go anywhere on the field.”

Teammate Nia-Nicole Rocourt shared her opinion of Fowler: “Whitney is a great player and captain. She makes sure we do our warmup on time, and you can tell she cares about her teammates. She is a nice person as well, which translates to how she acts on the field. And let’s not forget how great her soccer skills are. She is a phenomenal player, and she is a strategic playmaker.”

One aspect of ensuring the success of strategic play making is clear communication between players on the field during the heat of game play. Fowler said, “Communication is the basis of soccer. Without it, the game is pointless. It helps to keep the game organized for the team.” She underscores the importance of incorporating what each player brings to the team through their individual contributions.

In addition to her athletic schedule, Fowler carries her usual heavy dose of AICE courses this year: English Literature, Environmental Management, Global Perspectives, and Psycholology. What drives her, Fowler said, “Motivation for soccer is easy because it’s what I love and what I strive to be good at. School is a little harder, but I find the motivation in knowing that things I learn in school is what will help me later in life.”

Her AICE Psychology teacher, Ms. Jacqueline Bensen, shared, “Whitney Fowler works hard on the field and off. She is a leader in the classroom and dedicates her time to helping others. Whitney’s academics speak loudly; she always makes sure to work hard and do her best and her grades show! She has maintained a high GPA throughout her high school career. Whitney, while successful on the field, is an even bigger star in the classroom.”

Shining both on the field and in the classroom requires more than a fair share of people skills. Fowler’s Art History teacher, Ms. Kelly Bailey, said, “Whitney is wonderfully funny and talented in her studies. I only know her in a classroom setting, and she has always been one of the sweetest students I’ve ever taught.”

How does Fowler successfully navigate such a busy schedule? She explained, “I balance school and soccer with a lot of time management. I played very competitive soccer when I didn’t have a lot of free time, so I had to learn the hard way to not procrastinate and get things done.”

Fowler demonstrates what a well-rounded scholar/athlete is by showing that she can excel in sports while not only surviving but also thriving in the academic field. Although she plans to continue playing soccer recreationally, she’s decided to focus on academics while in college and work on her college’s soccer team.

1010XL Athlete/Scholar Week 10: Kyle Smith

By: Joshua Feig, Staff Writer
Photo Credit: Mrs. Tammy Tailey

The title of Scholar-Athlete of the Week is given to students in Duval County who have academic accolades, athletic accomplishments, and are active members in their community. There is a challenge at juggling school and sports, but Kyle Smith is able to balance being a star athlete and a star pupil.

Kyle Smith is a Senior with a very high GPA. He emphasizes a focus on being successful in sports and other extracurricular activities. In 2017, he went to the Prince-Cookman to play football, which had congressional Photography contest winner status. In 2018, he went to the Prince-Cookman to play football, which had congressional Photography contest winner status. In 2017, he went to the Prince-Cookman to play football, which had congressional Photography contest winner status. In 2017, he went to the Prince-Cookman to play football, which had congressional Photography contest winner status.

Smith is not only active in his school and athletic endeavors, but he also is active in the community by helping to clean up the Mandarin High School campus to make it cleaner and more inviting to students and faculty. He had a very impressive year as a quarterback. Smith said, “I started playing football when I was four or five. I came back because I was seven and just kept going from there.”

Smith was selected as the Jax Sports Radio’s first Scholar Athlete of the week for this 2017-2018 school year because of his athletic and academic accomplishments, extracurricular activities, and awards. He is involved with the National Honor Society and has to face other obligations like a commitment to studying before and after practice, showing how busy life can be as an athlete and as a Senior.

1010XL Athlete/Scholar Week 14: Morgan Mills

By: Joshua Feig, Staff Writer
Photo Credit: Mrs. Tammy Tailey

Morgan Mills is a senior who has impressive test scores and has been able to maintain a high GPA. She is excelling in sports and other extracurricular activities. In 2017, she went to the Prince-Cookman University to play for the Gifted Academic Team. She was selected by Jax Sports Radio for the 14th week of the 2017-2018 school year for her academics, sports, awards, and extracurricular activities. On the field, she is the center back for varsity soccer and the middle line-backer for flag football. Besides her academics and sports, she balances them with her extracurricular activities. She is in the Senior Women’s club, intern club, the AICE program, multicultural club, and National Honor Society, and she is the vice president of the Student Council. Mills said, “Balancing sports and school is very challenging, but it requires the effort and commitment from the student.”

Mills has won many awards including Scholar Athlete for Girls Soccer in 2016, Scholar Athlete for Flag Football in 2017, the Most Outstanding in Soccer in 2017, and the Ms. Photograph contest winner which had congressional recognition. In addition, Mills is also a model citizen with her community service. She has volunteered at the Humane Society of Jacksonville, where she helped with orientation and teachers during pre-planning week.

For college, she will be attending the University of Florida and majoring in Animal Sciences. Mills said, “I am really excited to see where my future takes me.”