

The Villager

MCDONALD HIGH SCHOOL

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MHS WELCOMES NEW MENTOR GROUP

BY: THEO COLLINS

The Blue Devil Bridge Mentor Group was created for seniors, juniors, 7th, and 8th graders to help build leadership qualities and give 7/8th graders more school spirit.

The Blue Devil Mentor Group was founded this year by Mrs. Bosheff and Ms. Watson, who then invited staff volunteers to help facilitate the meetings and other roles, such as emotional support for the students included. The current staff volunteers are Mr. Backur, Mrs. Ronghi, Mrs. Mills, Nurse Srock, and Miss Getsy, our ALTA representative.

The program includes 7th and 8th graders to build leadership qualities and include them in all the exciting opportunities to show off their school spirit. Applications went out to the juniors and seniors through email. They then looked at teacher recommendations, relationship skills, and leadership for the 7th and 8th graders.

When I was talking with Mrs. Bosheff, she told me that the students are excited for the program. In fact, the juniors and seniors really heard the call with one anonymous mentor's application saying, "I want to be able to help someone younger than me become the best version of themselves."

A few weeks before the first meeting, Ms. Watson explained to the juniors and seniors the importance of their roles as mentors to our junior high students. They also established that the juniors and seniors would be called the Big Devils and that the 7th and 8th graders would be called the Little Devils.

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Senior Chesney Sierra and 8th Grader Ryan Blake show off their gift cards for winning the Candy Scoop.

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During the first meeting on February 5, the Big and Little Devils got to meet and get to know each other. They did this by playing “Would You Rather?” while eating a provided lunch of pizza and chips.

Afterward, they played other team-building games, such as a race with toothpicks where students had to move marshmallows and other candy to build trust and bonding between the Big and Little Devils with the winners getting gift cards to The Village Creamery. The Big Devils also wrote personal letters to their Little Devils during this meeting.

Big Devil Mentor Addison Grewell enjoyed the experience, “I had so much fun at the meeting! It was nice to be able to meet my Little Devil and get to know them.”

When Little Devil mentee Lina Hamdan was asked about her favorite part, her response was, “My favorite parts of the meeting were every single moment!”

The rest of the meetings will be during lunch and happen once every month, with the next one scheduled for February 19. There are some fun activities planned for the future for students participating to look forward to.

Grewell continued, “I am looking forward to future meetings. We have a lot of exciting events planned that will be fun to do with everyone. I also love getting to know who everyone is and gaining tons of new friends.”



The Mentors with their littles at the first meeting
Photo Credits: Ms. Watson



The mentors and their littles doing their first activities together.
Photo Credits: Ms. Watson



Finishing Up Winter Sports

By: Leah Evans



Our winter sports are coming to an end with athletes in girls and boys bowling, indoor track, swimming, and basketball giving it their all these past few weeks. So let's end their seasons on a high note and come out to support them.

Boys basketball has had a very impressive season. On February 3rd they played our rivals, the Ridge Rams. They ended up winning, bumping their record to 19-0. Their next game is February 20th against Lake Center Christian at Lake Center Christian. Good job boys and keep up the outstanding work!

Girls basketball has also been working hard on the courts. On January 2nd the girls traveled to Springfield. The ending score of that game was 33-32, with another Blue Devil victory and bringing their record to 12-7.

When asked about her biggest accomplishment, sophomore Baylee Bosheff stated, "Playing really good defensively and making more shots." A lot of work goes into preparing for the season. Bosheff continued, "A lot of practice such as running, shooting, and conditioning." Good job girls on an amazing season.

Boys Bowling has been giving it their all this season with a lot of new faces in this rebuilding year. Their current record is 0-20 and will come to a close after sectionals. They are excited about regrouping and learning from the season in anticipation of a rebound next year.

Girls Bowling has been also giving it their all this season. Their current record is 3-17. Their season has come to an end after participating in sectionals. Good job girls on your season.

Our McDonald swimmers have had an impressive season with swimmers Madison Martig, Selene Massaro, and Aliyanna Venable giving it their all. Their next meet is Sectionals on February 27th at Akron University. Good job girls and keep up the great work.

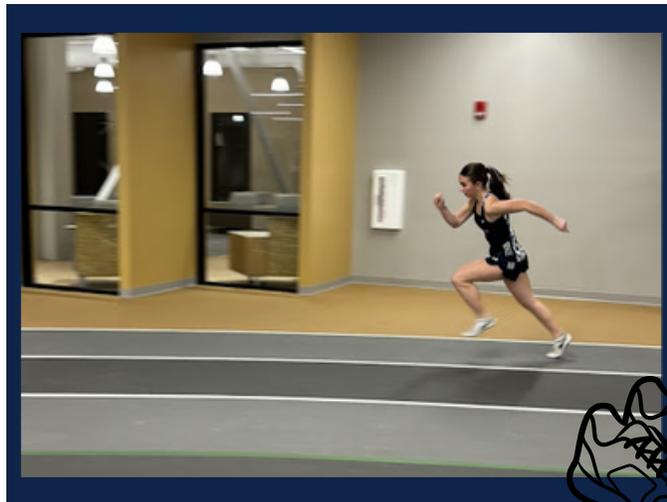
Indoor track has been putting in tremendous effort to PR in their sports, whether they compete in throwing or running events. The team works hard to improve their skills by lifting in the weight room and practicing at facilities like Warren G Harding and our new facility.

When asked how specifically she and the team improve, freshman Addison Callow stated, "Our team plans to improve by taking different actions towards certain events like eating healthy, taking certain protocols to make sure no injuries happen, and showing up to practice and putting in the work but not too much to where we're burnt out. We also plan to practice and work on improving our skills."

Also when asked to talk about her experience at her first indoor meet Addison said "My first meeting went great. It was a good experience for runners and throwers to be at." They do not currently have a record. Come out and support our indoor athletes as they finish up their season!



Drew Zajack jump ball against Mineral Ridge



Senior Rita Domitrovich, competes in open 200 during an indoor meet. Photo Credits: Emma Bundy





How are Snow Days Decided?

By : Richard White



There's not one kid in the building who doesn't sigh in relief when they get a phone call about our school being closed for snow days. However, deciding whether or not to close school is not a decision made lightly and the guidelines are surprisingly strict.

According to the official Ohio school system guidelines, usually a snow day is decided by ice accumulation, snowfall accumulation, wind chill temperature, or a combination of all three.

Significant accumulation of black ice, ice that's hard to see and can be confused for a wet road, can be a factor for deciding on a snow day, as it's very dangerous for the drivers to navigate and could cause accidents and wreckage. With lots of walkers in the village, black ice can also pose a challenge because it may cause students to slip and be injured if not careful.

Accumulated snow can also be very dangerous for driving and can cause less traction and more slipping on backroads and the highways. Often, where there is snow there may be ice, especially if there are several snow storms close together and this can cause compounded hazardous conditions.

Furthermore, dangerous and sustained wind chills in negative double digits can be dangerous for walkers and if they are underdressed or unprepared for the brutal temperatures. When the wind chill hits these thresholds, it can often mean frost bite in a half hour or less and an emergency in these temps can cause hypothermia to set in quickly.

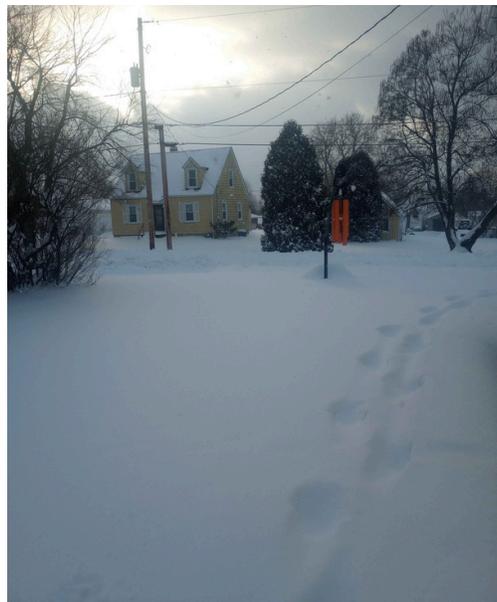
Recently, students found out that multiple instances of bad weather can cause cancellations when a snow storm dropped 10+ inches on the area and was followed by plummeting temperatures of -15 and lower. During this week, the weather only broke for Thursday, with the first half and latter being all snow days.

If students find they have a snow day, the opportunities seem endless for what to do. Often, students like to sleep in and enjoy the extra rest. If the snow is the right consistency, it can be fun to let loose and go outside for a snowball fight with friends or build a snow man.

It's also a great opportunity to offer service to others in their neighborhood. This may mean shoveling a neighbor's driveway or clearing the sidewalk for walkers. These tasks can be really beneficial and don't need to be completed alone. When several students get together to shovel a driveway, it goes much faster.

When stuck inside because it's simply too cold or treacherous, students often like to play video games, read books, or catch up on work they know needs to be completed.

The main takeaway is snow days should never be expected and always enjoyed to their maximum potential with an opportunity to make memories.



Editorial: The Conversation Around AI in the



Classroom By: Bella Morgan



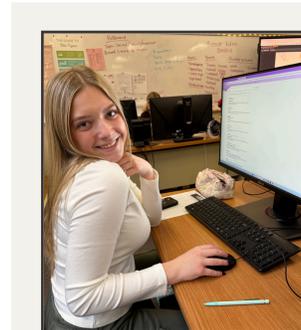
In the classroom, there is constant innovation. Anytime the word AI is brought up, the terms “cheating” or “plagiarism” follow right behind. However, AI can be used in a positive, impactful way if the user’s intentions are noble.

Artificial Intelligence can be used for learning from your mistakes faster than our teachers can get to us by giving instant feedback on assignments. AI can also provide quick research information to help students get the materials faster, which can lead to potentially more useful resources. AI can also help breakdown information that students may not understand when uploading it to the engine of their choice.

For teachers, the classes we take have many students, which can make it hard for the assignments to be personalized for the individual needs of each student. AI can be used to make the assignments more engaging and personalized to get the best for each student.

AI is more broadly seen in this negative manner because of the constant cheating that can take place in the classroom environment. Using AI platforms to completely do an assignment for you is not beneficial and is still plagiarism. The constant use of AI can also make students reliant on technology and it’s not always accessible in the work environment outside of the classroom. Another huge issue is the lack of protection of student data. A lot of the student data is collected and not protected the way it should be and that’s a bigger deal than you may think.

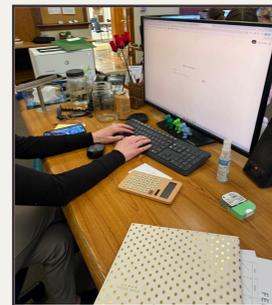
As you can see, AI can help you in the classroom and come close to wrecking your grades and critical thinking prowess. It’s important to understand and operate AI systems responsibly to reap legitimate benefits.



Junior Emma Fynes using AI to help her come up with creative ways to help her study
Photo Credits: Bella Morgan



Senior Grace Schriener using AI to help her with quick feedback
Photo Credits: Bella Morgan



Mrs. Napolitano using AI to help personalize assignments for each student
Photo Credits: Bella Morgan



BOOK REVIEW: THE OUTSIDERS



By: Ilumina Kuhley

Set in the 1950s, *The Outsiders* is a novel by S. E. Hinton known as a coming of age story that focuses on the lives of two rival groups, the Socs and the Greasers. The story is narrated by the main character Ponyboy Curtis, a young Greaser who is struggling to find his place in a world divided by social class. Throughout the novel, Hinton explores themes of identity, loyalty, and the consequences of violence. The book shows how social status and a person's upbringing can shape the characters' lives and choices, which often lead to conflict and misunderstanding.

Personally, I enjoyed how realistic and emotional the novel was. The characters were easy to connect with, especially Ponyboy. His thoughts and feelings felt relatable and honest throughout certain points. Hinton also shows the importance of friendship and family, particularly with the Greasers, who often go to each other when they need help or support. The novel also effectively shows the idea that people on both sides of a social divide experience pain, even if they feel it differently.

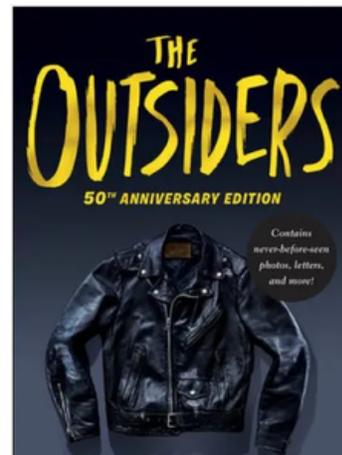
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That said, some parts of the novel can feel intense or heavy, especially due to the violence and number of more serious situations the characters have to go through. Certain events happen very quickly, which can make it harder for some readers to fully process. Because the book is set in the 1950s, some of the language and attitudes towards specific things can feel outdated or unfamiliar to current readers.

Overall, *The Outsiders* is an important and engaging novel with powerful themes that are still very relevant today. While it may not be for every reader and can be emotionally challenging at times, it delivers meaningful messages about empathy, class division, and staying true to oneself. *The Outsiders* is a memorable piece of American literature that encourages its readers to look beyond labels and understand others more deeply.



**Susan Eloise Hinton
with her horses.**



***The Outsiders* 50th
Anniversary Edition
Published in 2017.**



MOVIE REVIEW - CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE WINTER SOLDIER



By: Christopher Pupin

Captain America: The Winter Soldier takes place in 2014 when Steve Rogers is on a hostage rescue mission given to him by S.H.I.E.L.D. While undertaking this mission Director Nick Fury is ambushed and almost killed by the Winter Soldier and Steve is blamed by S.H.I.E.L.D. and branded a fugitive. Over the course of the movie Steve seeks out the Winter Soldier and attempts to stop the secret infiltration by Hydra to prevent the organization from regaining its former power.

The movie is really good and sets itself apart from its predecessor *Captain America: The First Avenger* by incorporating more stealth elements and political espionage into the story while still having good fight scenes and action sequences. The movie also serves as a good continuation of the first movie's story by bringing back Bucky Barnes in the form of The Winter Soldier and forcing Rogers into multiple confrontations with his former friend/brother figure.

While the movie is great, it sometimes feels like there's too much going on at the same time. For example, while you're trying to focus on the A plot with Natasha and Steve there's also the B plot with Fury and even a C plot with Hydra experiments, which can sometimes make the movie seem a bit crowded. This isn't helped by the fact that the movie seems to be trying to set up multiple story lines at the same time. First, you have Bucky Barnes's story and then you have Hydra with Loki's scepter and so on.

Overall, I think this movie is one of the better ones within Phase 2 of the Marvel saga. It would be a great family watch with some minor exceptions. The weight of themes such as government corruption and false convictions of criminal acts can make the movie less suitable for young audiences. Additionally, since it is a sequel movie, it's practically a requirement that the first *Captain America* movie is seen first as without it you would miss a lot of context.





Recipe: Cinnamon Apple Donuts



By: Ilumina Kuhley

This recipe comes from [TheForkedSpoon](https://www.theforkedspoon.com) (Note: the website said to bake the donuts, but you can deep fry them too!) This recipe is great for a sweet treat! Though the apple flavors aren't too noticeable, I think it really elevates the donuts' flavor. If you fry them be careful of oil splatter and hot oil. The hotter the oil is the faster these donuts will cook, so keep the temperatures low (about 150°F to 200°F). But, this is a recipe that I would definitely make again with just a few added tweaks.

Ingredients:

For the batter

(for frying) Vegetable oil

4 cups flour

4 teaspoon salt

½ teaspoon of baking soda

2 tablespoons ground cinnamon

4 tablespoons cooled butter

2 large eggs

2/4 cup granulated sugar

½ teaspoon of nutmeg

½ cups buttermilk

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 cup unsweetened applesauce

1 ½ cups of apples

For the cinnamon sugar coating

2 tablespoons salted butter

1 cup granulated sugar

1 ½ tablespoon ground cinnamon

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375°F (191°C). Alt; Preheat a pot of oil to 350° F (176.67°C). Grate apples until 1 ½ cups is filled.
2. In a medium sized bowl, add the flour, baking soda, and ground cinnamon. mix until combined
3. In a larger bowl, whisk the butter, eggs, granulated sugar, buttermilk, nutmeg, and apple sauce until combined. stir in the grated apples.
4. Add the dry ingredients into the bowl of wet ingredients and transfer the batter into a large ziplock baggie. Squeeze out as much air as possible and cut off a corner after sealing. (Note: twist the top of the bag for a better seal.
5. Pipe batter into a donut pan or piece of parchment into the desired shape. If you are frying the donuts, cut up parchment paper into squares and pipe the batter individually.
6. Bake the donuts for 12-14 minutes, fry until golden brown.
7. As the donuts are baking, mix together sugar with ground cinnamon and melt the butter. If you are frying the donuts, wait until they are cooling on a drying rack. Do not take your eyes off of hot oil.
8. Brush the melted butter lightly onto the donuts after they've had a few minutes to cool and toss in the cinnamon sugar coating.



Pictures of the donuts being made
Photo Credits: Ilumina Kuhley

HAPPY

VALENTINE'S

DAY



Backpage *Pics*



Fun Fact - This is a picture of Mr. and Mrs. Rose on their wedding day!