Did you know the very first episode of The Simpsons was a Christmas special entitled "The Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire"?

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Can you find all 12 penguins hidden throughout the paper? The one above counts





December 2022 A Season In Review By Vinny LoPiccolo and Will Green



The JMHS Jaguar's football season came to an unfortunate end in the semi-finals, but that's not to say it wasn't a successful year for the program.

The season for the Jaguars in 2022 was an overall positive one. The Jags tied for first place with Colts Neck High School in the Constitution Division. After a successful season, the Jaguars placed third in the group four playoff bracket, with Hammonton, the first seed, and Millville, the second seed who eventually eliminated the Jags in the semi-finals. Jackson Memorial's regular season ended with a 6-2 finish, they added another win to the record after a 10-7 win over Manalapan High School in the first round of the playoffs. They also added a third loss against Millville, the eventual Constitution Division champs. The semi-finals final score was 34-16 in favor of Millville. The season had mostly ups, but some downs too, it also came with lots of promise and potential for seasons to come.



In comparison to this season, last season

were, he said, "Just overall kids buying in and maturing another year. A lot of the same guys that were playing last year on the field, but the biggest thing was buying into the off-season. Getting in the weight room, getting on the track to get faster and more athletic, and after another year of maturity and beating through the battles, fighting through adversity, and making big plays when it matters."



We then followed up with the question, was there any leadership changes from last season to this year, "We missed out on some big time leaders in Eric Ibe, Thommy Widawski, Robby Paneque, those guys did the right thing all the time, but we still had guys like Tai [Mann] and [Ryan] Fischer, and even Shaun Hubbard... They do the right thing in the hallways, in the classroom as well as on the field, so it's easy for the young guys to see that and buy into what they're selling as much as the coaches."



mentality to boost the team's success.

A special thanks to Coach Mistretta for the insight on the team.

Coaches, players, and fans have high expectations for the team next year, and with many returning players who have grown another year, the expectations are justified. With that being said, only time will tell.

Congrats on a great season, Jags!







was lackluster to say the least. The 2021 season nearly had the exact opposite record, 3-6. When senior offensive lineman Lucas Stahlnecker was asked who stepped it up this season he said, "I guess Tai [Mann] and Aidan [Sweeney], they are both really good at what they do. They are pretty good at making something out of nothing." Stahlnecker also put a lot of emphasis on how much the lower classmen from last year stepped up this year saying, "We put a lot of reliance on our juniors and sophomores from last year and now that they're a year older they were able to perform a lot better as they've grown of age." Even though this is his last year at JMHS, Stahlnecker has high expectations for the underclassmen next year.

We were fortunate enough to get to speak with Jaguars head coach, Vincent Mistretta. When we asked Coach Mistretta what the biggest changes from last season to this season Personnel changes are something the team deals with each and every season, but the younger players stepping up make the transition much easier. In addition, we asked Coach Mistretta what the biggest challenge for the team was. He stated, "The biggest challenges is learning how to win, after you start off 0-6 last year, and we won some games against some decent opponents, but to win real games against real good opponents you gotta learn how to win, and it's not easy to win a football game. To have that ability to start in those spots, you know, situations where you can win or lose, our guys found out how to win."

Many may have thought the biggest challenge would've been injuries or facing off against challenging teams, in reality it was an internal issue. Players need to have that winners

Senior players featured: #55 Lucas Stahlnecker; #1 Tai Mann; #5 Aidan Sweeney; #73 Ryan Fischer

Toyland



On December 3rd and 4th, Jackson Township hosted its annual Toyland event at the senior center next to the high school. It has solidified itself as an essential event for families and children, kickstarting the holiday season.

There were plenty of events to enjoy throughout the building, as it was formed into a winter wonderland. When families walked in, they were greeted with food, friends, and lots of fun activities. They could help themselves to an abundance of snacks and food set up on the table. There were hot dogs cooked in the kitchen as well as baked goods brought in for all to enjoy. Along with food, families could shop for knitted items, jewelry, ornaments, teddy bears, and more in a pop-up shop. There were plenty of things for everyone.

Stationed on the side of the main room was the National Art Honors Society, which hosted face painting and balloon animals. Kids came out with balloon animals in all shapes and colors, as well as little painted decals on their faces consisting of snowmen, candy canes, and more, gifting children with lots of joy.



By Megan Anderson Senior Gianna Masi, also president of the National Art Honors Society, volunteered to help with the event. She noted that, "The event was such a great time. Seeing the kids' reactions when they looked at their face paint in the mirror was enlightening." Further, when asked about some of her favorite parts of the event, she said, "I especially loved making balloon animals for the kids, as it's something we don't normally do. Seeing them run back to their parents holding their prize was very rewarding." Gianna, along with plenty of others, spent a total of twelve hours volunteering at this event. Along with having the pleasure of gifting kids a smile, she enjoyed "working and running the event alongside my peers [and] seeing the society come together to create such a wonderful environment that the kids will remember." With the power of art, the club was able to supply the kids with a long-lasting memory and make their day.



Beyond that was a little booth where parents could buy tickets so their children could meet Santa Claus. Stationed in a separate room sat Saint Nicholas himself, as well as a whole group of other fun characters the children could interact with. The room was set up as a walkthrough with painted backdrops where volunteers dressed up as some of the children's favorite characters. There was a Frozen station where kids could take a picture with Elsa and Anna, meeting some of their favorite disney princesses. Just across from that was Toy Story, where kids could meet Woody, Jessie, and Buzz Lightyear, as well as find all their other friends in Andy's bedroom. On the other side of the room, kids could meet superheroes such as Batman, Superman, and Elastigirl. Frosty the Snowman and Rudolph the Reindeer also walked around the room.



There was a train setup with a town, Santa's toyshop, and a mailbox where kids could send letters to Santa. Julia Joseph, a senior attending the event under the National Honors Society, dressed up as an elf and assisted Santa and a giant teddy bear. She recalled that "interacting with the little kids made me very happy, and I would definitely do it again. It was great to interact with everyone in the community." Her favorite part? "Giving kids high fives, taking pictures with them, and seeing their faces and how happy they were." Even some of the simplest acts were able to brighten the kids' days.

All in all, the event was a success. Families enjoyed their time together while passing around some Christmas joy. Students were also able to get in the spirit and get involved in their community in a positive way. Toyland really represents how strong the Jackson community is and how even the simplest things can go a long





Expectations For the 2022-2023 Wrestling Season

As winter draws near, so does the wrestling season. In an interview with Head Coach Douglas Withstandley, 2001 state champion, he communicated his high expectations for this year's wrestlers, and his confidence in the team's abilities and skill. He believes that this year, despite the prowess of other schools, our team has a good balance that will result in a good record,

By Isaac Ponte

and we have a good amount of depth where we have one or two good wrestlers at every weight class."

The effort the team has been putting in has led to great improvements for our wrestlers. While our placement last year in the shore conference was not as good as it could have been, the coach states, "I would hope that we would finish in the top five of the shore conference." Last year, we had an 18-8 record, which the coach hopes to do better than. "My goal is to definitely win fifteen matches, and we do have some tough matches scheduled, but that will only make us better for the end of the season." Last year, we did not have many home matches for the students to show up to, however this year the coach plans to schedule more matches here in the school, stating, "For home matches I'm definitely going to invite the Jaguar Nation and hope that they attend and hopefully we get good attendance on the home matches, especially during rivalry matches and the bigger matches. We do have in January two or three quads, where we have three teams coming in on a Saturday, so that should be nice for a lot of people to come watch and see a lot of wrestling. And our last duel meet of the year will be Senior Night, but I haven't established which

match that is yet." Getting good attendance on these matches could help in boosting the morale of the wrestlers, so anyone thinking of attending these matches should try and make it, as it would really help the wrestlers do just a little better in their matches.

Wrestling is a difficult sport, and while it takes skill and effort to become successful, it is a sport that can be greatly beneficial. The coach states that anyone thinking of joining, as well as anyone returning, should, "Stay positive and work hard. If you work hard and stay positive in wrestling then good things happen. It is a hard sport, and it's not easy. It's physically hard, it's mentally hard, but whether you win or lose as long as you just enjoy it, it can be very beneficial. There are a lot of benefits to wrestling. Organization, discipline, work ethic, and it helps build character, in my opinion, more than any other sport because it is so challenging."

and the training that the wrestlers have put in during the off season will pay off.

With the first match set for December 15th, our team is in for a long and difficult season. While this season will be filled with difficult matches, I am confident that our team will be able to win a vast majority of duels and tournaments, and while many matches will be difficult, I believe that the hard work the wrestlers put in training and getting better will work to our benefit, and we will be able to out-work the competition.

When asked if he was confident with this year's team's ability to win matches and tournaments, he responded, "Yes, I'm very confident. I think in the off season our wrestlers did a good job of attending practices, going to competitions, lifting weights, and working out on their own. So going into this season I think we do have a good team, we have good balance,



A Show Stopping Performance 🌧



Who needs New York City when we have Broadway right here in Jackson, New Jersey!

On November 2nd, 2022 the students of Jackson Memorial High School took to the stage and performed all different songs from Broadway musicals. This night marked the 100th annual Broadway Night that Jackson Memorial held.

The show was hosted by Riley Parinello and Darren Butler. Their personalities complement each other as their witty remarks and foreshadowing of the upcoming performance added to the show.

"I had the honor of hosting broadway night this year, alongside Darren Butler!" Says Riley. "There were so many amazing performances this year, many more than in past years. The audience turnout was incredible. Broadway night has always been this amazing thing where the theater kids could show off our talents. There are so many talented voices and wonderful people in the music department. Each and every one of the performers did an incredible job."



The support from the performers for their fellow peers was radiant. "The smiles backstage were contagious as we were all peeking through the

Written and Photographed by Rebecca Weisselberg

curtains cheering on our friends," Riley adds. "Thank you to Mr. Robertson for this incredible opportunity to let the theater kids have a night of their own."

The show consisted of solos as well as duets. Hours of practice was put into each performance and it showed that night as the singers took the stage and showed it paid off. The production was filled with a mix of humor, heart, and high energy performances.

GPAA student Lana Dubrow comments "It was super fun and I loved performing with one of my best friends!"

Broadway Night was an immense success with each and every performer shining in their own way. It was a night to remember for both the performers and the audience.



The night full of singing was opened by the JMHS Choir. Other performances included: When will my Life Begin? (Frozen) by Beatrix Morrel. Breathe (in the Heights) Hailey Martinez. On My Own (Les Miserables) Angelina Bolognese. Something to Believe (Newsies) Joseline Felipe-Huertero and Samantha Libby. Times Are Hard For Dreamers (Amelie) Emily Sinklers. My Grand Plan (The Lightning Thief) Katie Volltrauer. You'll be back (Hamilton) Matthew Harris. Dentist! (Little Shop of Horrors) Samirah Lee and Taylor Rachunok. Never Get Rid of Me (Waitress) Jonny Hughes. Out Here On My Own (Fame) Elizabeth Grasso. Journey To The Past (Anastasia) Elaine Afanador. Colors of The Wind (Pocahontas) Sarah Cooper. What Is This Feeling? (Wicked) Rachel Buchinsky and Lana Dubrow. You're The Top (Anything

Goes) Darren Butler and Riley Parinello. Gaston (Beauty and the Beast) Jameson Klinsky and Darren Butler. Carrie (Carrie) Joseline Felipe-Huertero. Say My Name (Beetlejuice!) Katie Volltrauer and Jonny Hughes. Someone To Watch Over Me (Crazy for You) Rachel Buchinsky. Love Is An Open Door (Frozen) Beatrix Morrel and Joseline Felipe-Huertero. Edelweiss (The Sound Of Music) Brian Cooper. I Dreamed a Dream (Les Miserables) Lena Smith. Who Will Love Me As I Am (Sideshow) Juliette Skvarenina and Emily Sinkleris. Hard To Be The Bard (Something Rotten) Sophie Cinquegrana. Waving Through a Window (Dear Evan Hansen) Bella Braun. On The Street Where You Live (My Fair Lady) Darren Butler. Anywhere But Here (Pretty Woman) Riley Parinello.



Day Parade Balloon Handler Thanksgiving I

This Thanksgiving, our very own Karen Knapp walked in the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Ms. Knapp is an administrative assistant here at JHMS, and I had the opportunity to interview her about this experience. She had the honor of being one of Papa Smurf's handlers. LK: How did you get involved in this huge tradition?

By Lexie Keil

Smurf" and all the kids and the crowd would get is so much flashing in front of you. into it. It was a lot of fun. It was a very touching experience.

LK: What does it mean to you, to be involved? KK: I felt honored that I was chosen. It was a great feeling to be part of such a special tradition and just to be part of the celebration of Thanksgiving and the kickoff of the holiday

Ms. Knapp also shared a fun fact she learned while there. "The weather was beautiful, and I did hear some horror stories when it wasn't. For instance, when it rains, the water gathers on top of the balloons and dumps on top of the people holding them."

KK: A friend of my family works at Macy's as an executive there, and he invited us. We were invited again next year, so I look forward to doing it again.

LK: How did you feel going into it? KK: I wasn't nervous at all; I was really excited, and the electricity of the crowd just amps you all

up.

LK: What was your favorite part about this opportunity?

KK: My favorite part was all the kids; they wanted you to give them high fives. They were yelling, cheering, and waving. When you said hello to them, their faces would just light up. They were just looking at this gigantic balloon, mesmerized, and we would stop along the parade route and people would cheer "Papa

season.

LK: What did the day look like?

KK: I went to New York; it was very exciting. We [friends and family] all met at the Hammerstein Ballroom. It was a big area that looked like the back of a fashion show; it was just filled with people in costumes.

[Then] you all have to go to your designated area and get your costume. [We were] bused over to the area of the parade where all the balloons were. When it was our turn to merge into the parade, everyone cheered and went crazy. It was just such an exciting and fun experience. Towards the end, when you turn the corner, you're on 34th Street, and there are cameras in your face. It feels like you are walking on the red carpet; you can't even see because there

The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is a wonderful experience whether you are watching it at home or making sure a balloon doesn't

get released into the sky.



Scrooge The Musical



With Thanksgiving over, and the holidays here, what better way to get into the holiday spirit than by going to Memorial's play! On December 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, the Jag Stage Players performed in Scrooge: The Musical from "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. The audience consisting of all ages got the opportunity to see Jackson Memorial's incredibly talented students put on a fantastic show. Consisting of singing, dancing, witty humor, and of course, acting, the play had it all.

Excitement was high for this play. The Jag Stage Players Executive board's president, Riley Parinello, who is in the choir and played Mrs. Cratchit, mentions "the whole drama club was so excited to perform Scrooge: The Musical as a great kickoff to the Christmas season! It's such a classic, and we were so beyond excited to add our own magic to this iconic Christmas tale." Written and Photographed By Rebecca Weisselberg Scrooge is a stingy rich man who exploits others out of their money. However, on Christmas Eve he receives an unexpected visit from his former partner Jacob Marley who warns him that he will have visitors in the ghosts of Christmas past, present, and future. In the course of just a single night, Scrooge is forced to face his faults and make amends with the townspeople. The play is set in 19th century London.



The play's set consisted of the town, Scrooge's office and house, outside the Cratchit home as well as inside of it, and a graveyard. All this was put together by the stage crew and set designers. "Being a part of the stage crew was definitely a lot of work. It took a lot of effort, motivation, positivity, and so much more" says Giselle Hubbard. "This year was my first year being a part of the stage crew and I was given the opportunity to be an assistant stage manager."



Students, family, as well as friends came out in droves to support the play. Riley comments "We had such high ticket sales and a wonderful turnout each night!" Beatrix Morrell, who played Christmas Past, adds " Scrooge has been my favorite Christmas movie since I was little and being able to play in my favorite role in the movie was an experience I'll never forget. Every single cast, crew, and choir member did a fantastic job at bringing this show to life and I'm so proud of everyone."

In Scrooge: The Musical, Ebenezer



Being involved in stage crew teaches students to work together for the common ε of making the set the best it can look. It provides an opportunity to socialize with other people who have common interests. Giselle adds, "being assistant stage manager has helped my leadership skills, time management skills, and my problem solving skills as not everything can go smoothly." Samantha Libby, the stage manager adds "To work with such a diligent group of people is such a rewarding experience. Everyone involved was dedicated to the show and enjoyed every minute of designing, painting, building, and moving sets." Before the play began, the JMHS Choir performed a Concert of Carols with five classic Christmas songs sung by carolers. Rachel Buchinsky, who played mother, wife of nephew, and was also in the choir, explained "it's not only learning what notes to sing but how to sing them, what vowels to use, where we place our voices and the amount of air we put behind us are all factors that could affect the whole choir's sound." Every note was sung with meaning. To harmonize, the choir has to correctly hit the notes.

Being a part of the set crew will live on with the performers who participated. It is a memory they won't soon forget. Senior, Bella Braun, who played as Isabel and was a part of the ensemble, comments "I've been a part of the shows since my freshman year and I always have a great time putting on the productions. Getting to know and grow with the cast has been such a great experience for me, and has really helped me improve my performance. I am beyond happy to have been included in such a wonderful group, and would love to see where it all takes me." Vice president of the Jag Stage Players, Joseline Felipe, adds to this, "Being a part of both stage crew and cast was definitely a moment I'll never forget."

"There were smiles on and off the stage. A show like this brings out so much joy, we are proud to have performed it on our stage this year!" Riley exclaimed.

If you are thinking of getting involved in school activities, consider joining the auditions of the next play announced for an opportunity to perform on the stage, or, by joining stage crew and help behind the scenes as well as creating the sets! The next play will be The Sponge-Bob Musical that will take place on March 10-12th. Tickets will be available in February.





JMHS Book Club

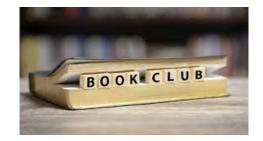
By Addi Licciardi

For the first time since the Covid-19 Pandemic, the JMHS Book Club is making a comeback.

While there are not a lot of details about the club's return, previously the club has read different genres of exciting books. In the case of the book The Martian by Andy Weir they read the book and watched the movie, then discussed the differences between the two. Other books that the club has read are Mrs Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children, A Thousand Splendid Suns, The Graveyard Book, and The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time. The club was held after school in the library and involved staff like Mrs. Novak, Mrs Forfar, Mrs. Wyer and students.

Going into January, the next book the club will be reading is going to be The Agathas. The Agathas is a murder mystery by Kathleen Glasgow and Liz Lawson. The book is about a teenage girl Brooke who goes missing. With the efforts of Alice and her tutor Iris, the two set off into danger while trying to uncover the mystery of Brooke.

When talking about the new club, Mrs. Silagy says, "It's going to be during common lunch," she added that she isn't sure that they will be watching movies about the books because of time restraints due to the shortened time.



The North Pole is a wonderful place this time of year. Bringing joy to everyone is what Santa is all about. Could you imagine being Santa for a day? Santa is super busy getting ready to make all the toys with his elves. He gets up early and checks his lists that the little boys and girls sent him. He tells the elves what toys to make that day. It is going to be long days and nights for Santa to fill the kids stockings but he always makes Christmas in time.

-Justin Subbotin

I know when I get a gift I feel so happy. I wonder how my mom feels when she opens a gift from me ? I think my mom would love videos as a Christmas gift. I will buy her cooking videos and wrap them with red paper and a green bow. She will smile when she opens my gift. My mom will be so happy this Christmas!

-Brian Murphy



The month of December contains three major holidays that are of great importance to their respective cultures and religions: Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ and a holiday celebrated by Christians, Hanukkah, a celebration of the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem that took place during the Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire celebrated by Jewish people, and Kwanzaa, a weeklong celebrated by those of the African Diaspora. You may know the history behind your

Views From C-Wing

Imagine what it must be like to be Santa during this time of year. First, he has to check the mail. He gets tons of letters from children all around the world. Then Santa talks to the elf leader to see if the toys are ready. After that, he feeds the reindeer and gets them ready for the long journey. Finally, he checks the naughty and nice list. After the long day, Santa gets some rest to get ready for the next long day.

-Alex Chanez

The best time of the year is when you give someone a gift. I'm getting my brother a Sonic Colors Ultimate on ps4. He will be elated. He will jump up and down with joy when he opens his gift.

-Jose Montes-Garcia





Tis The Season

Presented by the LEAD Club Written by Cole Tierney

is a large variety of Christmas traditions that originated in Pagan traditions, including Christmas carols, kissing under the mistletoe, and Christmas tree decorating, but it was not until 1870 when President Ulysses S. Grant officially recognized Christmas as a holiday.

The origin of Hanukkah has a less happy tale. Around 200 BC, the Land of Israel came under the control of Antiochus IV Epiphanes, who outlawed Judaism and forced Jews to worship Greek gods. In 168 BC was when he sent his soldiers upon the Second Temple of Jerusalem, massacring thousands and desecrating the temple by erecting an altar to Zeus in its place and slaying pigs inside the sacred walls. It was in 166 BC that a Jewish priest Matthias and his five sons led a wide scale rebellion, driving the enemy out of Jerusalem and reclaiming the Second Temple. Hanukkah is celebrated for 8 nights due to what is known as the "Hanukkah Miracle". When trying to rebuild the temple, it is said there was only enough untainted olive oil to burn a candle for one night, however the candles on the menorah continued to burn for 8 nights. As part of the Hanukkah celebration, latkes, or potato pancakes, and sufganiyot, or jam filled donuts, are fried in olive oil. Furthermore, families exchange gifts over the 8 days of Hanukkah and play games with dreidels, or 4 sided wooden spinners, to win chocolate coins. Celebrated from December 26th to January 1st, Kwanzaa examines African heritage This is a busy time of year for me. There are many things l still need to do. I have to check the reindeer and make sure they are ready to go. Ironing my red suit is on my "to do" list . The big meeting with the elves is tomorrow night. I hope they have their stuff together. Then I will be ready for the big night .Hope you are on the nice list! Santa Clause

-Jada Lewis

I'm so stressed out ! My name is Cricket and I'm the Elf Head Chef here at the North Pole. There are 100 Elves here to feed and they are hungry. They eat cake and candy canes each day at dinner. They demand all ingredients be organic. Do you know how hard it is to get organic andy canes in the North Pole? Almost impossible. Sometimes they have a huge food fight. Just a few more weeks and I can go to Hawaii on vacation.

-Amy Hawks



in African-American culture. In comparison to Christmas and Hanukkah, Kwanzaa is a relatively new holiday. Created in 1966, Kwanzaa was created in response to the Watts Riots in Los Angeles with the intention of bringing African Americans closer together. The holiday was created by a Dr. Maulana Karenga, who researched African harvest celebrations from holidays such as Ashanti and Zulu celebrations. The name Kwanzaa comes from the Swahili phrase matunda ya kwanza which means first fruits or harvest. Kwanzaa has 7 core principles: Umoja, or unity, kujichagulia, or self-determination, ujima, or responsibility, ujamaa, or cooperative economics, nia, or purpose, kuumba, or creativity, and imani, or faith. The principles are symbolized through the use of seven candles, as well as crops and the use of a unity cop. Like Christmas and Hanukkah, gifts are exchanged during Kwanzaa, specifically on the 7th day. It is important we educate ourselves on the importance of certain ideas and events from various cultures and religions. By learning about those around us, why they do what they do and why they believe what they believe, we may grow to be understanding, accepting, and most importantly, kinder, to those around us. It is through ignorance that people experience prejudice, but with education we may flood out ignorance.



respective holiday, but how much do you know about all of these holidays?

Celebrated on December 25th, Christmas commemorates the birthday of Jesus Christ. By the account given from the Bible, Joseph and Mary traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem and gave birth to Jesus in a manger. While today this is the reason for the celebration of Christmas, many of the traditions fulfilled on Christmas actually have Pagan origins. For example, Pagans originally gave gifts from December 17-24 to celebrate Saturnalia, a holiday in honor of the god Saturn. Furthermore, while our modern day image of Santa Claus, the jolly old man that delivers gifts to children on a sleigh pulled by reindeer, originates from the depiction put out by Coca-Cola in 1930, but the original idea of an old man giving gifts comes from the depiction of Father Christmas, or Saint Nicholas, who was led by Sleipnir, an 8 legged horse. There

Putting the Power In Powder Puff

By Rebecca Weisselberg

The tradition of Powder Puff began in the 1940's when men were going to fight in World War II and the women began filling in to play football games as the substitutes. Before adopting the name of Powder Puff, the two teams were originally called "Townies and Dormies." The Powder Puff game got its name back in the 1940's when girls would powder their faces when in public with a big fluffy brush which symbolized a stereotype of girls being fragile, put together, and "ladylike." November 8th both the seniors and juniors broke that stereotype when they showed their aggressive side on the football field as they took part in Jackson Memorial's annual Powder Puff Game.

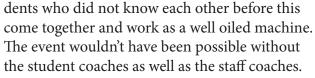
The purpose of Powder Puff is an opportunity for the girls to be the football players representing their grade and the boys become the cheerleaders. This gives both the boys and girls the opportunity to see what it is like on the other side of the field. A flag replaces the tackling that is seen in normal football. Having your flag pulled is the equivalent of being tackled in powder puff. Just like normal football, all the players had matching shirts instead of jerseys that had a number on the back.

While girls practiced strategies, techniques and learned the game, the boys learned the cheer routines that they would perform

during the game. "It was really frustrating at times because no one would listen but when the boys came together and listened we got so much done." Says Kelsey McCabe, coach for the junior cheerleading team. "It was such a cool experience to see us girls put together a routine and to see them perform it! It definitely took time but it was worth it!" There were two cheer teams both representing their respective class.

Weeks of practice led to the moment of the whistle being blown and the players face to face with their opponent. The seniors had the size advantage as well as the speed. Even when considered the underdogs, the determination of the juniors was shown with the final score. The game ended at a close 38-29 points with Seniors taking home the win. One of the coaches for the juniors Austin Comire comments "I think it was a fun experience for everyone. Nobody expected us to be close in that game, but we knew the talent we had. It was a new experience for all of us and now we know what we need to do to prepare for next year."

The game itself represents female empowerment. It shows everyone coming together with the common goal of being the winning team. Kids from other friend groups came together for this occasion. The event itself was more than just a game of football. It had stu-



Personal Opinion: Taking part in the game was such an amazing experience and I highly suggest that this year's sophomores take part in this event next year as juniors. I made some new friends thanks to this school event. It was such a memorable occasion. I loved watching everyone have the common goal of wanting to do the best we could. I want to thank the coaches for going out of their way to make sure we played the best game possible. Juniors may have lost but next year, when we are seniors, the victory will be ours!













November Seniors



of the

Month

Kamile Makselyte

Michael Cipriano