

December 2013



Stella Mrowicki



Deja Nelson and Bryce Nelson

Taylor Solomon with Megan Hoyt and Pearl Polito



Robby Watson



Gabe Carvahlo of Acquiescence

Memorial Idol

By Larissa Scanlon
Staff Writer

All Photos by
Dylan Miller

After personally watching Memorial Idol, I can say that Jackson Memorial High School is nothing short of a talented school. Each person who sang on December 6th brought something new, personal, and edgy to the table. Each contestant, who must have been filled with nerves, kept a brave face and presented a powerful performance. The hosts, Randy

Masco and Alexa Alchevsky, maintained a fun atmosphere with their cool personalities and delightful hosting skills. Their interaction with the judges, Mrs. Heather Connell, Mrs. Jaclyn Kerrigan, Mr. David Wilson, and Mr. Joseph Pienkowski, was nothing short of unforced humor. Performing to their fullest capabilities were Amanda Lewis, Marley Anders, Zahar Alao, Deanna

Sparling, Stella Mrowicki, Deja Nelson, Grace Guippone, Jernice Morton, Taylor Solomon, Robby Watson, and Tara Peary. All of the contestants showcased outstanding renditions of the songs they chose to sing. Many sang in the accompaniment of an instrument or back up dancers/singers, keeping the show very entertaining. Although all contestants displayed undeni-

ably immense talent, only four were voted into the second round: Stella Mrowicki, Deja Nelson, Taylor Solomon, and Robby Watson. After listening to each of their second performances the audience was faced with a tough decision - who was to be the winner? After a short delay, hosts Randy and Alexa delivered the results. The audience had chosen the second Memorial Idol,

Deja Nelson. Deja exemplified exactly what a Memorial idol is: powerful, talented, and full of spirit. Deja walked away with a bouquet of flowers, a \$100 Visa gift card, and a title well deserved. To all of the contestants, you were truly amazing to watch and proved a lot by getting on the stage and performing your hearts out. Congratulations, Deja, on your sensational performance!



Marley Anders, Zahar Alao, Deanna Sparling, Grace Guippone, Jernice Morton, Tara Peary

Jackson Memorial Artists Attend National Portfolio Day

By Ashley Flora
Staff Correspondent

Students in the AP Studio Art class nervously twiddled their paint-stained thumbs last month as the most anticipated day of the year for artists, National Portfolio Day, approached.

Hundreds of aspiring art students show up every year to National Portfolio Day to display their artwork that they spent days, weeks, and sometimes even months to complete. The Honors and Advanced Placement Studio Art students of Jackson Memorial and Liberty High Schools attended the event at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York City. Mrs. Bobbi Allaire, the Art Fundamentals, Honors Studio Art I&II, and AP Studio Art teacher at Memorial High School, escorted her students to this event on November 17th.

The National Portfolio Day Association was started in 1978 and is the only organization of its

kind, a program specifically for visual artists and designers. This year, 50 schools – both liberal arts colleges and art schools - from all over the globe will be sending their representatives to review and critique students' artwork and answer questions about professional careers available to students with a fine art education. They also explain and discuss admission to their colleges and scholarship programs, which are both influenced by the student's art portfolio and sketchbook.

As every art student of Mrs. Allaire knows, their portfolios absolutely must have at least 12-20 pieces of artwork to be taken seriously by a potential art college at National Portfolio Day. It must reflect the artist's personality and their interests, but must also show that the artist can maintain control with some of their pieces. Jackson



Scott Wedgeworth

Memorial artists, and any other

artist, must present a variety of media, technique, and a mastery of different art skills and styles to get noticed by these accredited schools.

Mrs. Allaire speaks highly of her students, as she feels they will get excellent responses from many schools. She said that Jackson Memorial High School has a great fine arts program that most other schools do not offer and a long standing reputation of our art stu-

dents having creativity and strong portfolios year after year. The Honors and AP Studio Art classes have been preparing for a year and a half now and have been completing college level work, she said.

Although acknowledgement and good feedback are what every student is hoping for, it does not happen easily. After years of attending Portfolio Day, Mrs. Allaire says it is possible that a college does not approve a student's portfolio. Usually, they will advise the artist as to what can be done to their portfolio to improve it. She says that they may even suggest elimination or remaking of piece and urge and artist to present new ideas to help supplement their content. Many people walk away from this experience with regret and disappointment, but Mrs. Allaire advises her students that it is inevitable and to look upon it as an opportunity to gain a positive

perspective. She wants them to use their disappointment to look at the experience objectively so that they will have a better chance of success in admissions and scholarships to art colleges. She thoroughly believes that if a student gets a review with no criticism, then that student was not critiqued honestly.

She believes her students still have a lot to learn, but Mrs. Allaire thinks any student going to National Portfolio Days greatly benefits them. Their body of artwork is reviewed only by professionals and is compared to other artists on the same level as them. If a portfolio is great, then a student can even receive admission to a school, which requires them to send in images of their work after the application deadline, but this only occurs on occasion. Just last year, several of Mrs. Allaire's AP students were accepted to one or more schools at Portfolio Day.

PS4 vs. Xbox One

By Dylan Miller
Staff Writer

Now that the dust has settled and the smoke has cleared, it’s time to take a look at both of the next-generation gaming consoles, the PS4 and the Xbox One, and see how they truly compare, free of fanboys, fangirls, and bias. For full transparency, I do not own either console, but I do own an Xbox 360, if that makes a difference. I will be listing the Playstation 4 (PS4) first because it falls first alphabetically.

First, a lot has changed since the last generation of consoles began. Social media has exploded, digital downloadable content has become the norm, and probably most prominently, people want everything done now, resulting in user-interfaces becoming much faster.

Let’s look at the PS4 first. It comes in at \$399.99, the cheaper of the two consoles, and includes a new version of Sony’s Dualshock controller, along with many other new features. The controller is slightly larger than the older controller, has a six hour battery life, and has a touch pad across the center of it. It also has a “Share” button, which allows the user to take whatever he or she just did and post it on social media. Technically speaking, the PS4 has a 50% more powerful GPU, having the potential to run better at peak performance. Finally, to the games. Some of the PS4 exclusive games that are either released or scheduled for release are: Drive Club, Infamous Second Sun, Killzone: Shadow



Fall, Knack, Order 1866, and Planetside 2. In all, the PS4 is the console for gamers, with its slight technical superiority and lower price point.

Next up is the Xbox One, pricing at \$499.99, and comes bundled with Microsoft’s revamped Kinect camera. The Kinect is a required component of the Xbox One, occupying 10% of its GPU, lowering its graphic capabilities, but not hindering its processing speed. The Kinect can be disabled in the settings of the console, if you feel it impedes on your privacy, because it is a camera after all. Besides being used for motion controlled games, the Kinect also features vocal command recognition. This means you can shout at your Xbox, “Xbox! Netflix!” and it should bring up Netflix. Speaking of watching shows and movies, Microsoft has set out to “win the living room” and have the console be your “one” entertainment system, maybe even more so than your gaming console. The One also allows the user to have two applications open simultaneously, meaning you can have YouTube and Call of Duty open at the same time, side-by-side. The One also has the ability to act as TV box, allowing you to watch your favor-

ite shows on your console. When it comes to gaming, the One does hold its own, however. It features a new controller that is reportedly lighter, smaller, and less bulky than the 360’s. When it comes to games, the One has a pretty similar line-up compared to the PS4’s, with such games as: Dead Rising 3, Forza 5, a new Halo, Ryse: Son of Rome, and Titanfall, which is on both the One and PC. In summary, the Xbox One is the console for a family that wants an entertainment center in one system and doesn’t mind shelling out the extra cash.

In conclusion, the PS4 and the Xbox One as very similar to each other when it comes to gaming. Both consoles are scheduled to host games such as: Assassin’s Creed IV: Black Flag, Battlefield 4, Call of Duty: Ghosts, Destiny, Kingdom Hearts III, FIFA 14, Just Dance 2014, Madden 25, NBA 2k14 and NBA Live 14, Watch Dogs, The Division, Minecraft, and many more in the future. Both consoles go toe to toe with each other when it comes to technical superiority, and both offer ways to continue your account so you can keep your achievements/trophies. In the end, people who already own one console will more than likely not jump ship and switch console families, staying with their Playstation or Xbox, but you never truly can predict what will people will do! It will be very interesting to look at the consoles a year from now and see what’s happened!

Nelson Mandela -
Remembering an Icon

By Kenneth Bradley
Staff Editorial Writer



As over 4,000 people looked on to the 95 candles burning to represent each year of Nelson Mandela’s life, a legacy was not mourned but celebrated. People and leaders from all over the world traveled to South Africa to be in attendance.

Mandela became one of the most world renowned leaders for his efforts and success in ending apartheid in his country. And when it appeared that blacks and whites South Africa would never learn to live in peace, Mandela turned to the nation’s rugby team to bring the country together. Despite opposition from his supporters, Mandela convinced the country’s blacks to support the team, traditionally viewed as a vestige of the white apartheid government. Because of Mandela’s success, the people now had one common interest. This unified the country during the rugby world cup.

However, all of this came after decades of suffering. Mandela was jailed

for 27 years because of his efforts to put an end to apartheid. After being released by the last white president of the era, F.W. de Klerk, in 1990, the country went into chaos because of the intense racial division. In 1993, Mandela and Klerk together won the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to end the racial violence in South Africa.

The next year, in 1994, Nelson Mandela became president at 75 years old. He retired in 1999 when he was 80. Although Mandela set a precedent for how the country should be controlled, his successors did not follow in his footsteps which caused some of the old problems to return.

Today, many children may not even know who Nelson Mandela is, or what he did, but he was a man of determination and commitment. In today’s society we should all follow in his example of forgiveness and togetherness. This will be the best way to represent his greatness.

Call of Duty Ghosts Review

By Dylan Miller
Staff Writer

(Note: Review needs to be broken up into different headings because of the nature of the game having extremely different modes)
Call of Duty: Ghosts is the newest installment in the weakening gaming-juggernaut series, Call of Duty. It was developed by a skeleton of the former Infinity Ward team, Raven Software, and Neversoft, and was published by Activision. For full disclosure I played this on the Xbox 360.

SINGLEPLAYER: The Call of Duty series is not known for its single player campaigns (story mode), but the previous installments of the series have featured legitimately enjoyable single player experiences. However, this game is not that at all. Ghosts takes place in a crippled United States after an unimaginable, catastrophic event, causing the “Federation,” a South American military empire, to invade the U.S. Before this, however, the U.S. military had been creating the elite “Ghosts” squad, to take care of the Federation. Now, if you are in love with crazy, over the top explosions, not epic action moments, just explosions, then this game should already be in your possession. That is somewhat cool, but eventually becomes boring and not very interesting. The plot had an immense amount of holes (why would the U.S. put giant rockets in space?) and an even greater amount of clichés, no “spoilers” (if you can call them that). Even the dog, the non-intentional, emotional mascot of the game, isn’t used very much, nor does anything exceptional! Finally, the villain: usually

the Call of Duty games feature an antagonist that you vehemently despise and cannot wait until the final mission to defeat the bad guy, but not this game. The antagonist is not menacing and doesn’t have a strong, evil backbone that the other villains of the series had. In all, the Call of Duty: Ghosts single player campaign felt very tacked on and thrown together, and wasn’t as good as it could have been given the circumstances of the game.

MULTIPLAYER: Now to the meat and potatoes of the series. The multiplayer experience of Call of Duty: Ghosts does many things previously done wrong, right, and many things previously done right, wrong. One thing done right was that the game is very balanced; you can do well with any weapon if you know how to use it. Another thing done right is that the game is very smooth and movement is very fluid; the new sliding mechanic is very fun and sometimes useful, but not always. Something done wrong is that the game is very slow for you and very fast against you; you die very fast and kill very slowly. Another gripe with the multiplayer is the maps, both in aesthetics and play style. You get a choice of brown rubble and gray rubble for your maps, and have not clear traffic patterns and flows of where people will be. My final dislike of the multiplayer is the atrocious spawns. You can get a kill, turn around, kill them again, and then get killed from behind by someone who just spawned in behind you when you turned around! In conclusion, I do like the multiplayer of

Call of Duty: Ghosts, don’t get me wrong, it’s just that there are many improvements to be made and I only selected a few of the major ones to try and keep this short.

EXTINCTION: This is Infinity Ward’s interesting attempt at creating a new, unique Call of Duty survival experience, but forgetting the new and unique part. Extinction is a survival game mode in which you play as a member of a squad having to fight aliens. You get to choose what type of squad member you are, such as a medic or heavy type role. I have only played this mode once, but from what I have heard, the game type is either a love or hate, depending on who you are. Be forewarned, however, this is not Zombies from previous games. In the end, this game mode may or may not be enjoyable, I have yet to see a clear, defined opinion from a majority. All in all, Call of Duty: Ghosts had a lot of potential to be the best in the series, but was not executed properly. If I had to make a final verdict, I would say if you only get one or two games a year, and one of them is usually Call of Duty, then get this game, because it is Call of Duty after all. If you are waiting for the next-generation consoles, it’s up to you, I am not intending on getting either just yet, but I would say try some of the new games, but if you love Call of Duty, then get it because many people are getting it for the next-gen consoles. Thanks for reading and have a great day!

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Fall Sports Wrap Up

By **Jill Parinello**
Sports Editor

The stress of back to school is always alleviated by the unwavering success of the Jaguar sports teams. 2013 was certainly one to remember for all of our fall athletes.

Football: The football team completed one of their best seasons in years. Being undefeated in A-South clinched the boys their first A-South championship since 2005. Senior **Kenny Bradley** was named New Jersey’s Best Defensive Player by highschoolsports.nj.com.

Field Hockey: Led by a strong, resilient senior class, the girls had a dominant season. Prior to wreaking havoc upon their local opponents, the Jags went undefeated in KSA Classic in Disney World. Finishing up with a solid 13-3-3 record, the field hockey team earned respect from many by making a close run for an A-South championship.

Volleyball: Led by senior **Brianna Roath**, the volleyball team finished the season with a 16-6 record. The team’s determination was revealed by its going from being unranked in the preseason to defeating the number one ranked team, Southern Regional.

Boys Soccer: Senior leadership fueled the Jags to a good run at A-South. Finishing 11-6-2, Coach Bado accomplished his 100th win.

Girls Soccer: Camaraderie was key in prevailing through a competitive 2013 schedule. The girls worked together and pulled off a 22-11 record.

Girls Cross Country: Yet another team led by the strong class of 2014. These girls made it to sectionals, and then went on to groups. Senior **Alivia Carlton** qualified for the Meet of Champions.

Boys Cross Country: Senior **Tom O’Brien** led the boy’s cross country team to a successful year. The boy’s hard work was represented with **Ryan Rafferty’s** 16:56.37 time and Tom O’Brien’s 16:58.39 time in the 5K at the Shore Conference Championship.

JAGventures

ABOUT TOWN

Kudos to all JMHS homerooms for their food drive efforts: Mrs. Bunce gleefully reports that we raised 675 bags or 14.5 shopping carts of food. (Free lollipop to anyone who can convert that to pounds!) Mrs. Shavel’s and Mrs. Wyer’s homerooms tied for a first place bagel party...Look for signs and sounds of early spring because the cast of the spring musical- Les Miserables (or Les Miz, as it’s commonly called) is hard at work....Congratulations to the 84 brand-new National Honor Society members and to Mr. Cafara for being hon-

ored as their teacher of the arm...MORE congrats are deserved by the JMHS Marching Band for winning Nationals... Baby Jags on board: congrats to Mrs. Fecak, Mrs. Oake and Mrs. Cassliano who are all expecting!!!...JMHS seniors are breathing and sleeping easier now that college applications and SATs are behind them; next comes decision day on May 1st...heads up, juniors: this is you a year from now! And super congrats are in order for Jaguar Journal’s own Mrs. Shavel for being honored as JMHS teacher of the year-we love you, P-Shev!

Jackson Memorial Drama Club Shines Again

By **Alex Gamboa**
Staff Writer

This weekend, the annual Fall Plays were available for all to see. That’s right, plays. Instead of the traditional single act play, the Jackson Memorial seniors directed their own shows. Mrs. Jaclyn Kerrigan, who supervised the shows, allowed any student who signed up to direct and act, offering a unique experience for fellow students and parents.

Seniors “directors” were Deshaun Williams, who chose a comedy. Other

shows included First Blind Date, directed by Shane Smith; Check Please, directed by Ashley Rakow, and the sentimental play Dog Pound, directed by Jeavonne Thompson. Another eerie and exquisite show was taken from a Twilight episode titled “Masks”; this was directed by Randy Masco. Lastly, the psychological play Overtones, directed by Grace Sharpe, allowed the audience to experience what the characters onstage

are thinking. The student-directors adapted these plays from the interesting scripts that they had come across on the internet.

Auditions for these fall plays took place during the end of the preceding school year. Since the second day of this school year, the talented young actors have been practicing, reciting countless lines, and rehearsing these six plays.

Director and actress in JMHS drama club, Ashley Rakow, has been a part of

drama since her freshman year. She said she likes the fall plays and the musical for different reasons.

“I like the fall play because the cast is smaller and more like a family, but the musical because we get a better audience and reception,” she said. And although the contrast in attendance of the two events is quite different, there

is an advantage to a smaller audience. This year the drama club has experimented with “Black Box Seating” with three rows of seats posed directly in front of the set of the play.



Cast and Crew of the Fall Plays take a bow

The Honor of Being a Part of NHS

The lights are shining as you walk across the stage with a smile on your face. You bend your head ever so slightly as a peer gently places a hood on your robe. As you make your way across the stage, you take a sigh of relief. Although you cannot see them, your parents are somewhere in the dark crowd, beaming with tears in their eyes. On November 14, I had the pleasure of experiencing such a groundbreaking event. It was one that marked a stepping-stone in my high school career; I was one of the 86 juniors and seniors inducted into the

Jackson Chapter of the National Honors Society (NHS).

Membership into N.H.S. is based on four characteristics that a student must exhibit. These include service, leadership, scholarship, and character. Attaining a grade point average of 4.0 or higher brings a student to the first level of candidacy. In accompaniment of their academic accomplishments, students must also demonstrate a continual interest, effort, and achievement in volunteer work and extra-curricular activities. After students have submitted their

application, the Faculty Council meets to review the candidates. This review involves consideration of each student’s leadership skills, service, and character, based on his or her application. Then, a majority vote is taken place by the council for selection. Membership into NHS is a monumental privilege, as scholars are selected based on outstanding performance in areas that will guide them throughout their educational and professional path.

NHS requires rigorous effort to get in and to stay in. Members must play an

active role in the Honor Society, offering their time, resources, and services to better the school and community. The organization is also involved in the annual food drive in which the whole school donates to the Jackson Food Pantry. Another contribution NHS members make is peer tutoring – aiding underclassmen who are struggling in some of their classes. In addition, NHS is participating in Adopt-a-Family. Members are split into three groups and each group donates gifts to three families in the Jackson community who are facing economic

hardships. These are just a few of the many opportunities that members have, which allows them to gain points and also to provide his or her services for the benefit of the school and community.

As someone who has gone through the application process, I cannot deny the amount of time and thoroughness that is required to create the final product. However, being on that stage with some of the brightest and most intelligent students in the school made the process undeniably worth it.

By **Sophia Samuel**
News Editor



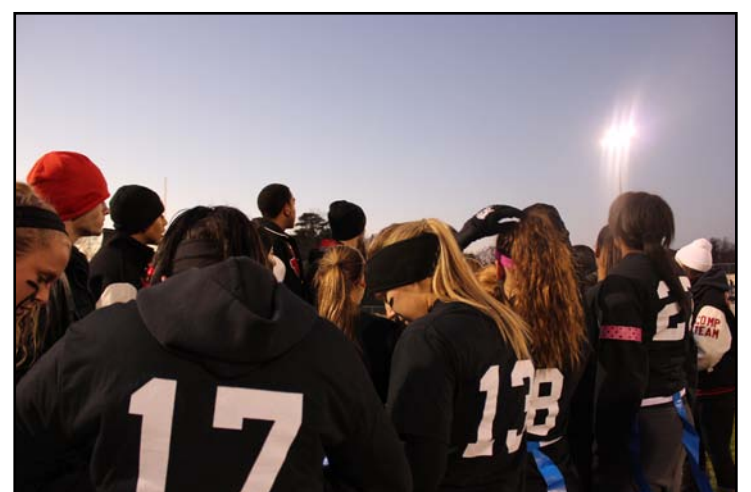
BIG CAT GAME

Photos by Dylan Miller



POWDER PUFF GAME

Photos by Dylan Miller



HAPPY HOLIDAYS