



# The KROB

Miller Place High School Newspaper



**Faith Torres**

## A "Peppy" Victory

Owed to the efforts of the student government, administration, and supportive staff, on Friday, September 16, 2022, after seven years the Pep Rally finally returns back to Miller Place High School (MPHS).

The Pep Rally was an annual tradition intended to celebrate school unity before the year 2015, when it all unfortunately ended. With school events, especially those that are student-led, there is always the possibility of certain troublesome mishaps- MPHS was not exempt from such challenges.

Mr. Slavin, Principal of MPHS for fourteen years commented, "Unfortunately, that last year there were two separate issues, one was massive amounts of substance use and the other was a lot of negative peer mistreatment." These two issues ultimately led to the termination of the Pep Rally for the several years.

Regardless of the situation, many of the high school staff members still look back fondly on the occasion. Mrs. Lynch, librarian of MPHS for sixteen years, says, "It was just so exciting, the kids were so vibrant and so alive, it was just amazing. I loved it." Although the Pep Rally has returned to Miller Place, it is not the experience as it was prior. "I felt like the energy was not what I remembered. I think that it's due to the fact that whether they were seniors, juniors, sophomores, or freshmen- none of you guys had ever experienced a Pep Rally, so you didn't know what to do." Says Mrs. Lynch.

Although people were eager to bring it back, the restoration of the Pep Rally was not an easy decision.



"Every year we discuss, are we ready to bring it back? Should we bring it back? And it just kinda kept getting pushed further and further down the line." says Mr. Slavin. Mr. Slavin and the administrative staff had discussed and reflected on these questions last spring and over the summer: "How do we get out of these last three years of Covid that ( in which) students had not had a great school experience? How do we reinvigorate student and staff morale? And what can we do to make this be the tipping point to push us to getting back to what we really have- a tremendous amount of pride in how the school operates."

The realization that this was the year that the Pep Rally would serve its purpose to the fullest, by creating an atmosphere that would help the students and staff recover from the effects of Covid. The timing was not the only consideration for the resurrection, trust played a factor as well. "After everything that you guys have been through over the last three years and the way that you handled it with such maturity and class and grace- we felt that this was the right time," says Mr. Slavin. This year's student body, especially the seniors, have proven to have enough perseverance that they get to be known as the class that brought the Pep Rally back.



## 🐾 Meet The New Staff! 🐾

Mia Amundsen & Claire Wagner



### MS. DEMITRIOU 🎵

Ms. Demitriou, the middle school 6th and 8th grade chorus teacher, is the newest addition to the high school music department. Once a day, Ms. Demitriou comes up from the middle school and teaches lessons at the high school. She is also the director for Vocal Jazz at NCR, as well as the Vocal Director and Assistant Director for the High School and Middle School musicals. This is her second year teaching in Miller Place.

After graduating from high school, Ms. Demitriou attended Ithaca College. She double-majored in Vocal Performance and Music Education during a 5 year program.

Ms. Demitriou has had a passion for music and performance for as long as she can remember. Since middle school, she says that she fell in love with singing and knew her career would involve music in some way. She says, "The best part about my job is watching how music students grow independently and as an ensemble from September to June."

In her free time, she loves to work out, travel, spend time with family, and during the summer, run a week-long music camp!

**"Music exists for the purpose of growing an admirable heart."**

*-Shinichi Suzuki*



### MS. MOODY

Ms. Moody, the new art teacher, is being welcomed to Miller Place High School. This is her first year in the district, but she has been teaching art for over three years with prior experience teaching professional development courses. In the morning she teaches Studio Art and Digital Photography for grades 9-12 here at MPHS, and goes down to the middle school to teach 6th grade Art in the afternoon.

After graduating high school Ms. Moody attended Pratt Institute with a major in Fine Arts and a concentration in Ceramics. She then went on to attend Adelphi University for her Masters in Art Education.

Ms. Moody loves everything about teaching art to her students. She says that art is essential in students' education while it not only helps them develop cognitively, but encourages them socially and emotionally. She says, "Art education also teaches students to see things from different perspectives and how to problem solve creatively! I chose art education because art is life".

Outside the classroom she is a full time artist, quite a busy mom, and looks forward to any free time where she can paint, make jewelry, or weave.



**"The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away"**

*-Pablo Picasso*





**"Above all, be the heroine of your life, not the victim."**

*-Nora Ephron*



## MS. SAULLE

Mrs. Saulle returns to the English Department here at the high school after spending time at a NCR middle school. She teaches 9th grade, 10 Honors, and AP Seminar. This is her 15th year teaching in the Miller Place District.

Mrs. Saulle went to Saint Joseph's College for Undergraduate and Stony Brook University for her Master's Degree. Her bachelor's degree is in Secondary English, and Masters in Liberal Arts.

Mrs. Saulle became an English teacher because of her love of reading. Also, in 11th grade she herself had a very influential English teacher. If she didn't teach English, she says Social Studies would be her next choice.

In her free time, she likes to cook, try new restaurants, read magazines, and play with her three kids. She also likes to travel and is always planning her next trip!

## MS. BODNAR



Ms. Bodnar is currently teaching in the math department here at MPHS. She is teaching Algebra 1 and Finite Math. In addition, she coaches MP Varsity Cheer.

Ms. Bodnar, a former MP graduate, attended SUNY Cortland for her undergraduate degree majoring in Early Childhood/Childhood education with a second major in Mathematics. She then completed her master's degree in Liberal Studies at SUNY Stony Brook. Ms. Bodnar decided to teach math because she likes being able to solve different problems. Math was always one of her favorite subjects in school because it was something that came easily to her. People think of math in a negative way and she wants to be someone to change students' opinions on the subject.

In her free time she enjoys spending time with her dogs, going on walks, going on hikes, sitting by the pool, or going on trips to the beach.



**"You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think"**

*-Christopher Robin*



**"You miss 100% of the chances you don't take"**

*-Wayne Gretzky*



## MR. OTTO

Mr. Otto is the new spark in the Business Department. He teaches Wall Street Investments, Sports Marketing and Computer Literacy at NCR and MPHS. This will be his fourth year teaching holding various positions.

Mr. Otto started his education at Cortland, and transferred to Oneonta to major in education with a focus in Social Studies as well as minoring in business and economics. He then took his education a step further when he graduated from Saint Josephs with an undergrad degree, then eventually went to Stony Brook where he received his masters. Mr. Otto admires the enthusiasm from his students as they are genuinely curious about the subject matter, making them involved and interested in the course. In his free time Mr. Otto enjoys anything to do with sports. He considers his perfect day off to be "surfing in the morning, golf in the afternoon, and watching sports at night."



# MR. MCGUIRE



Mr. McGuire can be seen in the Social Studies Department here at Miller Place High School. Mr. McGuire currently teaches Economics here, but also teaches 8th grade U.S. History at NCRMS. This is his 22nd year working at Miller Place. And, during his first year teaching, he taught 11th grade U.S. History.

Mr. McGuire attended Suffolk County Community College, Dowling College, and SUNY Stony Brook. He majored in Broadcasting, Business Management, and Secondary Education.

He has a business background and is also a certified Business teacher so when the idea of teaching came up he said, "it just made sense".

When asked what Mr. McGuire does in his free time, he responds, "What is free time?".



**"Always look on the bright side of life"**

*-Graham Chapman, Monty Python*



# MS. ANNICELLI

Ms. Annicelli is the newest member of the Science Department here at MPHS. Though this is her first year in Miller Place, she has been teaching for 27 years. Here at MPHS, she teaches Chemistry and AP Chemistry. Ms. Annicelli received her Undergraduate in Chemistry from SUNY Geneseo and her Master's from SUNY Stony Brook in Liberal studies with a concentration in Science Education. She also received an Advanced Graduate Certificate in Educational Administration.

Ms. Annicelli teaches Chemistry because she says, "Matter is all around us. The particles that make up matter and their interactions drive technological advances and modern medicine. I believe that students benefit from understanding the connection between what we learn in school and how we live each day. I also like to support students in developing the habits of mind needed for the study of Chemistry. It can be challenging to study particles that we cannot see directly, but it makes me happy to see students work hard, draw connections and leave the class feeling more confident in their ability to achieve their goals through effective effort." In Ms. Annicelli's free time, she likes to cook, travel, run, and stay healthy!



**"Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think."**

*- Albert Einstein*



# MS. RESCIA

Señorita Rescia is the newest addition to the foreign language faculty as a Spanish teacher at MPHS. This is her 2nd year teaching, having previously taught at Mt. Sinai. She currently teaches Spanish II, III, and IV.

Ms. Rescia, a Stony Brook graduate, received both her bachelor's and master's degrees in Hispanic Languages and Literature. Her love of exploring and learning about the languages and cultures of the world led her to pursue teaching a language. She has a great passion for teaching her students about how big the world really is. In her free time, Señorita Rescia enjoys cooking, reading, and spending time with her family and friends.



**"I'm still learning."**

*-Michaelangelo*



# SECURITY

## MR. HAYES



**"Leadership is not a position, It's a choice."**

*-Stephen R. Conveyo*



Mr. Hayes is a new addition to our security staff at MPHS. He is the newest security guard provided by Allied Universal Security and can be found monitoring the halls and grounds throughout the school day.

Prior to working here he was a Sergeant in the NYPD in which he served as the Lead Emergency Management Instructor assigned by the Police Academy's Supervisor school. He was the director of the course in police supervision where he created many training courses for the department: including the leadership course for new sergeants he was a master instructor and worked on patrol in Queens, Brooklyn and New York.

Mr. Hayes works as a security guard because he "likes his job." "I have been involved in Public Safety in some way or another since college."

When he is not acting as a taxi driver for his two kids, Mr. Hayes likes fishing, golf, gardening and history.

## MR. SHAFFER

Mr. Shaffer is the face of security as you enter the building at MPHS. He started his security guard position August 2022. Prior to working here at Miller Place he worked as a security guard at Stony Brook University Hospital.

According to Mr. Shaffer he enjoys "helping MPHS students and teachers feel safe and have a great start to their day." On his days off Mr. Shaffer's favorite hobbies include; fishing, hunting and even hiking.



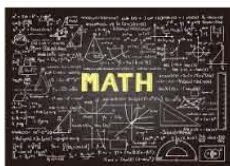
**"It's not whether you get knocked down, it's whether you get up."**

*-Vince Lombardi*



**"The key to success is failure"**

*-Michael Jordan*



## MR. AGOSTINO

Mr. Agostino spends most of his day at NCR Middle School where he teaches in the Math Department and joins us in the afternoon at MPHS for an Algebra I class. Besides teaching the steps to solve math problem Mr. Agostino breaks down and runs plays on the court as the Varsity Boys Basketball Coach. Mr. Agostino has chosen to remain an unsolved equation but we welcome him with open parenthesis.





## A "Peppy" Victory (continued from page 1)

The Pep Rallies triumphant return would have not been possible without the efforts of the student government. Alexandra DeAmario, the executive president of MPHS student government, had set up a meeting with Mr. Slavin last spring to discuss the Pep Rallies return.

She prepared a powerpoint with crucial reasons as to why we should bring it back. Although she originally had intended to present the powerpoint with just Mr. Slavin, he insisted that the higher-ups should listen as well. After Principal Slavin had further discussed it with our new superintendent, Mr. Lipshie, the Pep Rally would soon be approved.

Even after the approval, there was still a lot more work to be done. DeAmario also shared.. "The planning process was just messy, no one knew what was supposed to go on at one." The student government was given a folder of old itineraries of the previous Pep Rallies to help them compile the event for this year. "After looking over all the itineraries from previous years we finally made our final plan for the pep rally." says DeAmario.

The student government worked with haste and efficiency in order to create a fun and memorable 40 minute itinerary. "Everyone in student government was so cooperative and productive when it came to homecoming week and the help from additional students was a big help. Eileen Duffy and Gianna Benevides worked very hard as well and played a huge part in the whole thing." DeAmario says. The teamwork of the student body and the contributions of senior student government officers was the key to the success of the Pep Rally.

Now that the planning process was complete the next step was execution. On September 16th, 9th period at 1:10PM students would head outside to the football stadium class by class, starting with the upperclassmen.

Once everyone was settled the real excitement would begin.

The event started out with the seniors from each of the fall sports running down the track while the student sections cheered them on. The fall sports this year consisted of: cross country, soccer, tennis, volleyball, cheerleading, golf and of course, football.

After all the sports were announced, the tug of war game would begin. The first round was seniors vs juniors and sophomores vs freshman. The seniors and sophomores, as expected, came out victorious. In the final round, seniors vs. sophomores, everyone was taken by surprise. In an unexpected turn of events the sophomore class turned out victorious.

"We definitely thought we were going to easily win because we have the three strongest in our whole grade (Mike Nardi, Eddie Haeffer, Joel Spagnolo), as well as some of the strongest girls (Katie Doherty, Nikolette Scarfogliero)." Says Onjali Gomez, a senior who has participated in tug of war when it was still played during the homecoming game. "I'd say the two weaklings of the chain were me and Nicholas Bloom." She says. Unfortunately for the seniors first and last Pep Rally, they took a huge and embarrassing loss. Gomez says "I think that the loss to the sophomores was the biggest disappointment in my entire life."

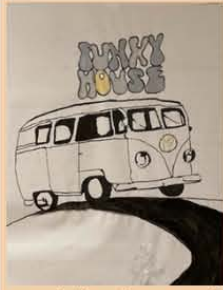
The next event was one that had everyone laughing, the pie eating contest. Participants, Robert Cunningham, Nick Olivia, Leo Lin, Gulianna Crafa, Jane Chamberlain accompanied by special guest Mr. Parillo, were required to eat a plate of whip cream with no hands. Unsurprisingly, Mr. Parillo, a former pie eating champion, won by a land-slide. (Mr. Parillo teaches history and economics, and has been a teacher here at MPHS for 22 years and was voted as one of the "parents" of the school last year.)

Students and teachers headed home but most would see each other the next day for the homecoming game. This year's Pep Rally will go down in MPHS history as a new beginning to an old memory. Although the senior class of 23' will only get to experience one, they will be known as the class that brought back the Pep Rally.



# Spirit Decorating the Hallways

Bianca Zou



The “Jenius” Juniors, Stellar Sophomores, and Funky Freshmen each decorated their hallways during Homecoming’s Spirit Week, held during the week of September 12th, while the Seniors chose the theme “Throwback TV Shows” for theirs. As the last bell rang, most students of Miller Place High School went to catch the buses, but some dropped their backpacks on the shiny floor and started wetting their paint brushes. The decoration of the homecoming hallways began on Monday, September 12th and ended on Thursday, September 15th.

The freshmen hung up disco balls and splattered a mix of glitter and gold paint onto white paper. Kaitlyn Lopez, the Secretary of the Freshmen Cabinet, says, “I was excited because I’ve never done it before.” The sophomores spread black paint onto space suits and dangled moon crescents on the ceilings. The Vice President of the Sophomore Cabinet, Taylor McHugh, says she was overwhelmed with how little time there was to finish decorating but reported that, “My cabinet and I were able to make the most of the week and had a good time.”

Emma Venegoni, a junior outside of the cabinet, worked on her hallway by painting characters and houses located in the Bikini Bottom. She stated that, “It was fun staying after school and painting is fun.”

The class of 2023 went “back to the 2000s” by referencing disney and nickelodeon shows. “I was excited because this will be my fourth year doing it. So it’s the last one best one,” Eileen Duffy, President of the Senior Cabinet, said.

Each member that participated in the homecoming hallways reported they found most of it exciting and fun.

While it was a good experience, Lopez said the freshmen could’ve been better notified about all the events going on during homecoming, stating that, “Advisors could use Remind or Group Me to tell us about things.”

All of the upperclassmen believed that they improved from last year, but still want more people from every grade to help with their hallways. Venegoni was able to help out even when she’s not in the cabinet because she “likes to paint and had time to do it before tennis.”

Apart from their own hallways, some students expressed their admiration for the other hallways. Taylor McHugh reported that she “loved the senior’s design because of the theme” but Duffy said she liked the Sophomore hallway.

Though the Homecoming Hallways turned out to be a success, it could be improved for next year by setting up better communication between the advisors and cabinet members. Additionally, cabinet members would appreciate more help with the hallways in the coming years. So, instead of running to catch a bus during Spirit Week, stay a while to donate items or even paint something special.







## The Death of Queen Elizabeth I

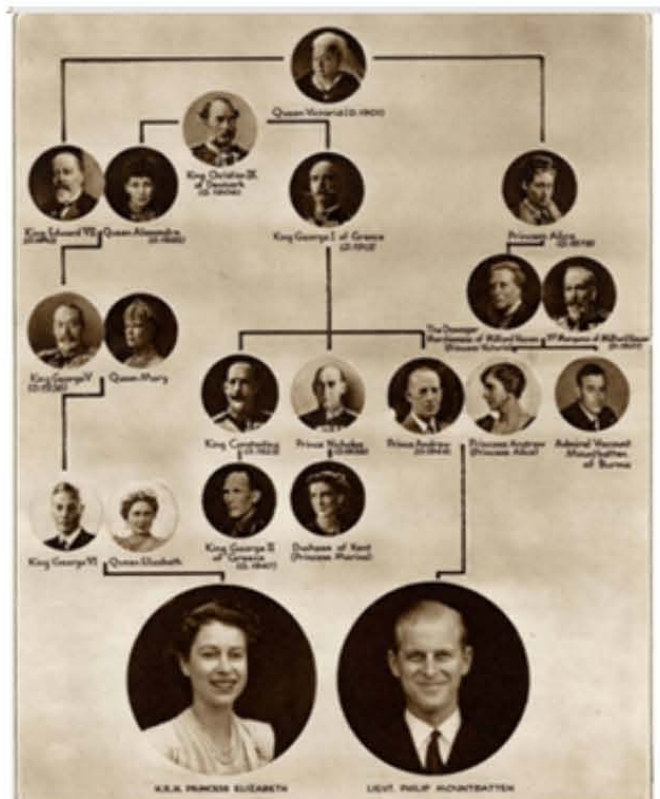
**PATRICK MILORD**

On the 8th of September 2022, Queen Elizabeth II was pronounced dead at the age of 96. The symbol of English pageantry that was Queen Elizabeth had much to live for. She was born on April 21, 1926 as Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor. Her father, Prince Albert, was the Duke of York. She was expected to become an overlooked royal: wealthy from the inherited fortune she amassed, but not wealthy in fame or relevance because her father was not the first-born child to her grandfather, King George V. Her uncle and his descendants were destined to become the kings and queens of the future United Kingdom. However, in 1936, her uncle stepped down as king to pursue an American divorcee, leaving her father to be the new monarch, and ten year old Elizabeth as the immediate successor.

During 1939 to 1945 World War II erupted while England was under the rule of King Albert. Thus, Elizabeth became heavily involved in war efforts and during this time fell in love with her distant cousin, Prince Philip. Soon after the war, in 1947, she and Philip got married. A year later, their son Prince Charles was born and they had three more children

from 1950 to 1964. On February 6, 1952, Elizabeth's father died of lung cancer and she became Queen of England at the age of 25.

Despite their historical significance, the monarchy of England have had very little modern-day power. During her reign, the Queen of England was most notably a symbol of British pride, history and stability. Queen Elizabeth devoted herself to the service of her English people for 70 years through modernizing the monarchy, guiding the creation of the commonwealth and amassing more than two billion dollars to various charities. Overall, the death of the British monarch is one to be remembered.







# Discussing 9/11 and Never Forgetting

**NATALIE CERVENKA**

On September 11, 2001, the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City were struck by two airplanes. On this day 2,763 Americans lost their lives fighting to protect others', 343 being firefighters/paramedics, and 60 law enforcement were also killed performing an evacuation of the buildings.

On the same day, another plane American Airlines Flight 77 hit the Pentagon in Virginia, just outside of Washington, D.C. In total, 125 military personnel and civilians were killed in the Pentagon, as well as all 64 people aboard the airplane from this targeted crash.

A third plane, United Flight 93 crashed in a field in Pennsylvania never reaching its destination. Passengers fought bravely against their attackers and all 44 passengers aboard were killed.

A total of 2,996 lives were lost that day, including the nineteen terrorists who caused all of the chaos.

Why did this happen and why do we still talk about it every year?

The events of 9/11 were the result of nineteen Islamic extremists associated with the terrorist organization al Qaeda. These people allegedly acted in retaliation for Americans' support of Israel and continuing military presence in the Middle East.

Although the tragedy that occurred on September 11th is not something that is easy to discuss, it is extremely important to remember the people who fell victim to such a detrimental act of terrorism.

To support and remember the Americans whose lives were taken on this day, you can visit these memorials (*locations spanning from California to New York City*).

- **Flight 93 National Memorial, Shanksville, Pennsylvania**
- **Reflect 9/11 Memorial Sculpture, Rosemead, California**
- **To Struggle Against World Terrorism, Bayonne, New Jersey**
- **First Responders Memorial, Oak Lawn, Illinois**
- **Postcards, Staten Island, New York**
- **Memorial Labyrinth @ Boston College, Massachusetts**
- **Moving Memories, Phoenix, Arizona**
- **9/11 Memorial, New York City, New York**







## Returning to the Stage

**NATALIE CERVENKA**

It has been years since our school's drama club has had the opportunity to put on two productions. But now, for the first time in what might feel like forever, we have been given the privilege of performing in the spring and fall! Fall rehearsals have been a blast for all of those involved, thanks to our wonderful advisors, cast and crew members. We are moving at a steady pace and continue to make good progress. Everyone is really starting to understand the motivations of their characters due to all of the hard work and studying they have put into this play. Watching my peers bring their roles in the performance to life on stage and backstage has been truly magical and I always find myself inspired by the immense amount of talent everyone brings to the scenes. A special thanks is deserved to Miss Ely and Miss Laudicina, the women behind it all. They have stuck with us through good days and bad days, never losing faith in our abilities even when things have been rough. With them around, working on this production has been all the more fun and stress-free. Thanks to everyone for giving their all and making this beautiful work of art possible!

"You Can't Take It With You has been a great experience to start out acting in high school! It's really fun to be working with the cast and crew on this production and I feel really comfortable with those I'm working with. Although I'm only in ninth grade and most of the cast and crew are upperclassmen, I've been able to make great friends with people who can help guide me through not only drama club but also high school and it's really cool to have mentors like that. I think we have a good show in the works and I can't wait to perform for everyone!" said *Vienna Sigismondi, Grade 9, who plays the role of Grand Duchess Olga Katrina.*

"I just recently took an interest in theater and was super excited when the opportunity to join this play came. I'm so happy that I was able to get a role and I'm super excited for the performance! I don't think we could've chosen a better cast for this play, as everyone is extremely talented and seriously some of the friendliest and most welcoming people I've ever met. This whole experience has been so amazing and I can't wait to see where this next month will take us!" said *Andrew Schofield, Grade 9, who plays the role of Tony Kirby.*

A couple of our returning sophomores give their insight: "So far it has been very fun and rewarding to watch the play and its characters slowly come together as everyone learns the ins and outs of their parts. I'm super excited to see everyone's reactions to the final product and I'm confident that everyone will go far beyond their expectations!" said *Antonio Bencivengo, Grade 10, who plays the role of Paul Sycamore.*

"I am so glad that this is the first year that we are bringing back the fall play! It is so great to have the privilege of doing two shows! I am so glad to be a part of such an amazing show with such amazing people. We spend so much time together so we have become very close with each other and each rehearsal is always so much fun! I can't wait to see the final result and perform it!" said *Claire Wagner, grade 10, who plays the role of Madame Kolenkhov.*

"Being involved in the play this year is such an exciting experience. As president of the drama club, the cabinet and I fought to get a second show done this year, alongside our musical, so we are especially thrilled about "You Can't Take It With You!" Since the cast is relatively small and intimate, we've all become very close. We even have a shared group Snapchat story! :)" said *Julianne Donohue, Grade 12, who plays the role of Willa C. Henderson.*







# LADY GAGA STRIKES BIG WITH HER RECENT TOUR: THE CHROMATICA BALL

## SCARLETT DENTON

Recently, Lady Gaga concluded her sixth headlining tour: The Chromatica Ball. It was originally scheduled to begin in July of 2020 but got postponed due to safety concerns surrounding COVID; It ended up taking place this past summer until late September. In total, there were 20 shows in 8 different countries. Though the final show of the tour ended abruptly due to weather conditions, it shouldn't be frowned upon, as the legacy is sure to carry on. The tour broke various records, two of the shows were their arena's highest-grossing show ever, the arenas being Hersheypark Stadium and Fenway Park in Boston. In total, the tour earned a total of around \$70 million dollars, and contained over 830,000 attendees. The visuals of the tour were absolutely stunning, taking a unique approach with Brutalist architecture.

It was used to convey Gaga's headspace while writing and living in chromatica. The architecture itself has a slight uneasiness to it but an operatic touch. "Chromatica", to Gaga, is to be representative of living in the moment, and embracing all living things. Gaga aims to send a message to her fans, or "little monsters" of being yourself, and showing unconditional love. Gaga's reach is seemingly unlimited, as she continues to constantly influence and inspire individuals; She remains an extremely successful pop icon.



## KROB STAFF

# PRIZED PUMPKINS

Halloween is a time to show your creativity with costumes, house decorations, and sweet recipes but we can't forget about the pumpkins. History shows that people from different cultures around the world carved "Jack o' lanterns" out of potatoes, turnips, beets then eventually pumpkins because they believed that the lanterns drove away the spirits of wandering ghosts. Art students at MPHS took a twist on the traditional carving by competed in a pumpkin painting contest displaying their amazing artistic abilities.







# Connecting with Artist from Long Island

## Mia Amundsen

Thursday, November 3rd marked the 4th annual Art Club field trip to The Heckscher Museum of Art in Huntington, NY. Ms. Stasi and Ms. Novak brought thirty students on the field trip where they saw a tremendous amount of artworks. The gallery was home to paintings of many mediums, sculptures, collages, photos and much more. The students were able to explore, photograph and take in the beautiful works of art created by Long Island local artists. Ms. Stasi believes that the trip “provides opportunities for students to participate in the 'Long Island's Best Young Art Competition'. As well as it being a fun experience, students get to see art and participate in activities with the curators of the museum.”



“Long Island’s Best” is the only juried exhibition on Long Island that offers high school students the opportunity to showcase their work in the Heckscher Museum. Each year students in grades 9 through 12 are invited to create a work of art inspired by artwork shown in the Museum during the school year and submit to this prestigious juried exhibition. Hundreds of works of art are submitted from schools across Nassau and Suffolk counties and approximately 80 are chosen for display in the exhibition. Students on the trip were given the opportunity to enter this contest and could have a chance to win



Edward Acosta, Commack  
**Lost on an Island, 2022**  
*Acrylic, charcoal on canvas*



Lauren Skelly Bailey, Hickville  
**Teetering, 2021**  
Glazed Ceramic







# CREATIVE COMPLEMENTS



## *Renaissance Man*

**NATALIE CERVENKA**

The ghost of you  
Rose from the ash  
Carrying a story I was never told  
In large dark arms preciously laced  
With Americana's grace  
The story of a man  
Stoic and loud and very proud  
A beautiful man, ever the fighter  
Familiar nose  
Familiar lips  
Eyes of gorgeous hazel  
A big and haunting smile  
I can't escape it with a dream  
Please just tell me what it means  
Your spitting image  
She says it's all the same  
I stay awake all day, all night  
You said not to worry,  
"We'll be alright"  
Tell me things I wanna know  
I miss you so, I miss you so  
Tell me who I'm meant to be  
Tell me what was left to see  
I'll never know, I'll never know  
That day  
The crash  
Why'd you go, why'd you go?  
This stranger, this fighter  
The fireman that sparked a flame  
Within my empty chest  
The fireman I know I love  
The man I'll never know



## A Sailor Sonnett

**NAILAH RAHMAN**



One day, I was on a ship that set sailed  
An interesting sailor smells the sea  
Turned around and saw that they had bailed  
My crewmates were no longer behind me

Blood was in the air, a smell, an alarm  
And a sea monster rose up from the waves  
As I drew my shining sword from my arm  
Stabbed the big creature and dug its red grave

Just another day for the old sailor  
Who had dealt with this many times before  
She continues, as the sky gets paler  
Time passed and just sailing became a chore

So she anchored in the cold land up North  
Where new, dreamy adventures were brought forth

## THE STRIKING SAILOR

**NAILAH RAHMAN**

Today was a fun day, up until now.

This morning, I found a gleaming piece of candy in the street.  
There was a small tear in its delicate red wrapper, so I  
unwrapped and ate it. This delectable treat had caramel on the  
inside of its milk chocolate shell. A minute after I finished the  
chocolate, my mouth went dry and suddenly, all I could taste  
was chalk. I think I passed out after that.

I woke up on a small ship in the middle of a restless ocean.  
After figuring out how to stand on the violently moving vessel,  
I looked out into the distance and saw another ship, heading  
straight towards me.

After about a minute, the ship had gotten close enough for me  
to realize that it wasn't a ship at all .

It was a sea-monster.

I ran as fast as I could to the other side of the ship, but when I  
got there, the scaly green creature emerged from the waves. My  
innocent brown eyes met the monster's huge, beaming red eyes  
and it let out a huge cry. I was unarmed and defenseless, so I  
did the only thing I could think of: run. Thankfully, the ship  
was pretty large, so I was able to run in circles for 5 minutes  
without getting too dizzy. I stopped at the helm in the back of  
the ship to catch my breath, when the monster appeared right  
in front of the bowsprit at the front. I was about to start  
running again when a bright figure appeared right in front of  
me.





## The Striking Sailor (Continued from previous page)

It was a sailor.

The sailor wore a typical sailor outfit, but had this light emanating from her that seemed...supernatural. She advanced towards the beast in big, inhuman strides, and stopped directly in front of a barrel. The sailor tornado kicked the barrel into pieces, and all sorts of goodies spilled out.

There were apples, bananas, some exotic blue fruit that I've never seen before, and even bread. The monster lowered itself to the deck of the ship and opened its mouth. The sailor placed all the goods in the fanged mouth of the beast. After devouring all the food, the beast closed its mouth and gratefully nodded at the sailor. The sailor waved, and watched the beast swim into the horizon.

She turned around and glared at me with her shining red eyes.

Before I could speak to her, I woke up...for real this time.

I'm now sitting in a hospital bed. About 10 minutes ago, when I woke up, I found a journal on the bedside table, so I decided to write my dream down. My stomach is churning, like the rumbling ocean I saw just a few moments ago. I'm really not looking forward to paying the hospital bill. I guess people are right when they say to not eat things you find on the street, even an unwrapped piece of candy.

-THE END-



BIANCA ZOU

## Glimpse

My heart closes in  
It doesn't fade- it escapes

It doesn't matter what I eat  
What goes in my body like a drug

Loopy eyes and half smiles  
It barely resembles who I am

Half of me is gone, anyway  
I gave you flowers

Tulips to make you laugh  
Roses to make you happy

But I never answered your question before  
I'm okay. I'm worse than okay but it's all I can say right now.

I'm not okay.  
I won't be okay.  
But I have to be okay.  
For you. For Amy.

The sweet, lovable child who you only saw a couple of times.  
I don't know. The memories are all fading  
Even the good ones are fleeting.

Now they're just a quick stab  
Something that closes my heart in  
That makes it disappear.

I saw you the other day  
Walking to the music store  
To pick up a newly rented clarinet

You brought the most expensive book for Valentina  
But also the cheap one, for yourself.

It was just  
A man with scruffy hair  
Rushing out of the store with two crumpled books  
And a case, I don't know what instrument.  
Sure wasn't a clarinet case.

I said this would be the last time.  
I had to replace the flowers, didn't I?  
That's what you told me.  
But you didn't tell that to yourself.

I miss you  
I love you  
I'll come back soon with more blooming plants.  
To decorate your already weathering grave.





## DRESS CODE: A NEVER-ENDING DISPUTE

**Scarlett Denton**

My goal is to indulge in the many opinions surrounding dress code policy. Dress code can be a rather heated debate; it has many pros and cons to consider. And I aim to approach this article considering a vast majority of them. Its main reason for development is “to promote an atmosphere conducive to learning and to provide our students with guidelines to facilitate appropriate decision-making skills”. The policy is implemented to students early on, but start’s to be put to more frequent use as they begin to enter middle school. You can find the policy, and its specific guidelines on the school code of conduct section of your agenda; or via the Miller Place school district website.

Dress code is a broad range, but there are some decisions regarding dress code a majority can agree on. For example, enforcement of wearing shoes, or bathing suits being prohibited; these are mostly self-explanatory though I’ll still explain. Shoes protect you, especially if you’re in a class that involves machinery, heat, or food. And, we don’t have any swimming opportunities at the school, so it’s not really necessary to wear a bathing suit. So, why does the dress code become a problem? Personally, I think it has a lot to do with expressing ourselves. Some people throw on whatever is the most comfortable, or convenient, and others aim for a more creative fun side. Along with the transition into adolescence, in which there really isn’t a dress code in the “real world”.

In my observation over the years, dress code mainly is an issue during the beginning and end of school. This makes sense, as temperatures are the highest they will be in the entire school year. The students publicly called out for breaking the dress code often feel humiliated, or even sometimes over-sexualized. It should be understandable why this may seem overdramatic to students. As to whether your tank top strap width is 1 inch or 5 inches, it shouldn’t determine anything about individual students, or their “disruptiveness”. The recent budget vote has resulted in the gradual installation of air conditioning throughout the schools may help target this common issue. These recent effects may cause students to dress more clothed, and thus lessening the occurrence of dress coding is to be expected.

Another scenario with the dress code is the promotion of violence through graphics. Certain graphics can consist of things such as drug endorsements, vulgar language, inappropriate symbols, etc. It can lead to a poor influence among schools or even potentially make certain groups feel targeted. However, there are exclusions for political statements being advocated on shirts, as students have a right to express those views. Although this can lead to a whole other argument on if students should be allowed to make such statements.

When it comes to the dress-code rabbit hole, it never truly ends. Some may argue in favor of the implementation of school uniforms, but just as many would go against it. Even if we were to eliminate the dress-code, there would still be further complaints. I leave you with the question: What would you do regarding the dress-code if given complete creative directory freedom?



**UNACCEPTED**







# ALL STALLS IN USE

**Nailah Rahman**

*(Bathroom Policy Changes at MPHS)*

As the first quarter of the 2022 - 2023 school year comes to an end, it is clear to see the many changes that have occurred thus far. New teachers, new classes, colder weather, and even a new policy that has taken the school by storm: the bathroom policy.

The new bathroom policy allows three people in the bathroom at once, instead of one. Many teachers, including Mr. Ruggiero, feel that this policy serves as a viable method for maximizing the amount of time students spend learning while they're in a school environment. Mr. Ruggiero supports this new system and says that it allows students to get back to class quickly without wasting time standing in a line. As an AP teacher, Mr. Ruggiero understands the implications of missing class time, even for as little as 10 minutes.

While many teachers support this new policy, there are some students that feel there are some downsides to this change. Maris Lynch, a junior, states that she doesn't mind the policy, but misses the days when you had the entire bathroom to yourself. "You could look at yourself in the mirror without the awkwardness of someone else standing right next to you", says Lynch. Overall, Lynch supports the practicality of this new system, as it allows students to get back into a learning environment as soon as possible, but misses the privacy she received back when only one student was allowed in the bathroom at a time.

Although the three in policy applies to most student bathrooms there is still the option available for students to use a one in one out bathroom to provide the necessary privacy when needed.

Since many generally support this policy, it's safe to say that it won't be changing anytime soon. This new system is more practical and reduces waiting time. What will be the next policy to change in Miller Place High School? Will it be as successful as the newly revived bathroom policy? Stay tuned for our Quarter 2 issue to find out.







# The Fire Keeper's Daughter



BOOK REVIEW

BY MRS. LYNCH

First, just take a look at the cover art on this book cover:

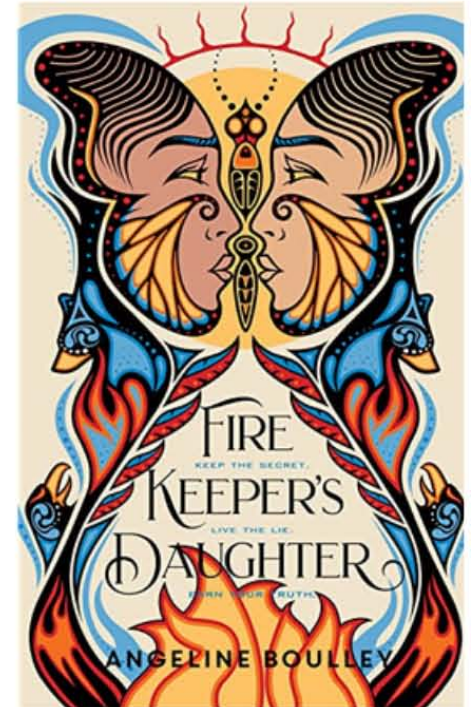
It is exquisite and breathtaking. The cover art contains some of the elements of the storyline and was created by a First Nations artist who worked with the author. The author is also Native American. As for the writing in this novel, it can also be described as exquisite and breathtaking. The main character, Daunis, is a recent high school graduate who intends to head off to college at the University of Michigan. Her plans are derailed after some family tragedy, but Daunis is really affected when she witnesses a murder. The book starts to take off from there as Daunis is recruited to help the FBI in an investigation into drug trafficking that is tearing apart her town and tribe. This story is part mystery, part romance, part coming of age, and part storytelling.

The plot moves so quickly, but what I loved was the education I received about customs related to the tribe of the author. There is so much culture and customs that the reader is exposed to while going along on the thrilling ride with Daunis. Daunis is a strong, intelligent female character who faces challenges and isn't quick to back down.

I loved this book and was disappointed when it ended as I didn't want to leave the characters and place where this story transported me.

This novel won the 2022 Printz Award for excellence in Young Adult Literature and has been slated for a Netflix series.

For now, you can find this book on display in the library with some other books celebrating National Native American Heritage Month. I don't know how long it will be there as I will continue to recommend it to all who ask about it (and even those that don't!)



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Angeline Boulley is a Chippewa author and has worked to improve education for Indigenous children. Her father is a traditional firekeeper, who strikes ceremonial fires at spiritual activities in the tribal community and ensures protocols are followed, while providing cultural teachings through stories told around the fire. Angeline has had a career in Indian education at the tribal, state, and national levels. She currently is a full time author who lives in Southwest, Michigan but will always call Bahweting (*the place of the rapids*) in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan her home.





# THE BEST IS YET TO COME

## ONJALI GOMEZ

Homecoming Day, September 17, 2022- The Miller Place Cross Country, Field Hockey, and Football teams competed, and instead of leaving Sunken Meadow and the Panther turf eager for their next game opponents- they left wondering where the season will bring them.

Athletes Maxime Tchoubar and Ryan Michalski participated in the 5k invitational at Sunken Meadow. The invitational teams consisted of: Bay Shore, Ward Melville, Mount Sinai, Rocky Point, Amityville, Sachem and many of our other top competitors. Tchoubar went into this race "ready for a personal record" and brought his team to a high standing in the Suffolk Cross Country ranks with a 18:23 (5:56 mile pace): 20 seconds better than his last race. Tchoubar constantly thinks, "Stay warm before the race" as his Coach Nielson once said to him. The team's energy on the course allowed them to have a significant number of personal records. Ryan Michalski, a senior on the team, says, "We have a solid team, with personal records every race, only good places to go from here." Michalski claims their key to success was "the pint of chunky monkey ben and jerry's ice cream," the night prior to the race while they snacked on "rigatoni ala vodka and oranges" on the bus and listened to the team's favorite hype up song, "Power by Kanye West."

During the Cross Country Invitational at Sunken Meadow, we also had a big game going on at our Panther Turf. The Field Hockey against Harborfields: the "biggest competition of the season," according to Ava Walter, a freshman on the varsity team. With many progressing players on the team such as "Casey Gilbert and Nikki Cappocci," according to Coach Matthew Timmons, we are "bound to have a good season soon to come."



With the end result not being where the team aspired to be, Timmons had them practicing "W and transitioning drills" hopefully showing the girls other ways to "get the ball and penetrate into the circle." Timmons feels the "dirty play" by Harbor Fields should have been called; as it almost hurt one of his players. In the play "the ball was very high, very near the players, and it was a safety concern." Because of the ref's inability to notice this almost harmful play, Coach Timmons heroically stood up for his team; yet got kicked out of the game for five minutes with a yellow card on the bench. Timmons "passion" for his team has come from his mother; who "played field hockey in college." As much as he loves Field Hockey, "Softball is my sport growing up and it's always been my passion. I relate to it much better than Field Hockey and of course I am Head Coach over assistant."

Later on Homecoming Day, a different game was played on the same well-known Panther Turf. The football team played against Kings Park. With the new season in play, there are new goals being brought to light: Winning the Suffolk County Championship. According to Joell Spagnuolo, captain of the game, "We are getting there, little mistakes can be fixed. Everyone has their head on straight." Spagnuolo brought his team to victory with three touchdowns, two-hundred and sixty running yards and is currently number two on Long Island for having the most running yards this whole season (349). With many goals set for this team, Spagnuolo is persistently showing it can be done. Jack Kiernan, a senior on the team, believes "this team is on the right track and we can win it all." Coach Nentwich has shown his team how to always keep working towards their goals. Jack Kiernan, a strong role model for his teammates, got 10.5 tackles in this game and currently has the most tackles on the team. The football team constantly living by their motto "Roll Thers."

With many teams upset by their performance, they remember there are many games to come; the athletes are ready to turn their season around and make it to the Playoffs and Counties.





# Powder Puff Game scores against Breast Cancer



**Nailah Rahman**

Football season, one of the best times of the year to show your school spirit, is accompanied by the changing seasons, the glow of the stadium lights, and the concession stand that makes Miller Place football games enjoyable for spectators. Many students attend Friday night football games with their friends, and grab a bite to eat after the game is over.

During the school year, there is one football game that stands out from the rest in major ways: the Powder Puff Game, which took place on Monday, October 17th. The Powder Puff Game consists of two rounds. In the first round, volunteers from the Senior class face off against volunteers from the Junior class. The winner of the first round gets to play the varsity cheerleaders in round two. Throughout the entire duration of the game, the Varsity Football team acts as cheerleaders for all players.

Olivia Bloom, a junior, had the opportunity to play in the Powder Puff Game. Although this was her first year playing, she had already had some background knowledge on this event after watching her sister participate last year. One thing that stood out to Bloom was the fact that there were significantly less spectators in the bleachers compared to last year's game.

Bloom states, "I enjoyed playing for a good cause. It was also a lot of fun going against some of my friends from different grades and the cheerleading team." This charity game gives junior and senior representatives who don't play football the opportunity to play a real football game against their peers. Bloom also said that the boys did an exceptional job with the halftime show, and really showed their support throughout the entire duration of the game.

The raffle held served as a great opportunity to raise money for breast cancer, however, Olivia feels that the Powder Puff Game would be an even bigger success next year if the game received more exposure on social media. Additionally, hanging bigger and more decorated flyers in the most populated areas of the school could give this event the advertising it needs in order to be an even bigger success.

The football players and cheerleaders in this pink event would appreciate more support from the Miller Place Community. Next year, consider attending the Powder Puff Game with friends and family in order to show your support for breast cancer and cheer on the juniors and seniors who help make this event come to fruition.



## A Bright Future for MP Soccer

**Owen Neyland**



Lucas Damon

Interviewing Lucas Aparicio and Lucas Damon, both center midfielders and Lucas Damon, a captain.

Both Lucas A. and Lucas D. strongly believed that the reasoning behind this 2022-2023 season's little success was a result of bad calls on the referee's end and a result of bad luck. This can also be directly pointed to as causes behind the little amount of success produced for the last few years. In spite of the Miller Place Varsity Soccer teams despondency and many losses this season, there was an outlier with the team having won a game, improvement from last year's team who didn't win a single game.

Will Nash had a statement to share being that the disillusionment of last year's Varsity Soccer team was a consequence of the team not having any seniors. This can be attributed to a pattern that can be noticed thereby the varsity team having to pull up kids from the JV Soccer team. The question is whether this will help the soccer team for the future as this could mean the soccer team having players with more experience than other school's varsity teams down the stretch.