



Manasquan High School

# The Blue & Gray

**Seniors Elle Vitanzo,  
Ciera Dunne and Eliana Ko  
Earn Impressive  
College Acceptances!**



*Winter athletes won division titles in Girls and Boys Swimming as well as Girls Bowling, while the Hockey team won the Winding River Holiday Tournament.*

**Warriors Represent!**



**February 2026:  
In this issue...**

**Engineers Excel in Samsung Challenge  
National Honors Society Inducts New Members  
Drama Club Performs at NJ Thespian Festival while  
Spring Musical *Little Women* quickly approaches  
Squan a thon is coming soon!  
Brrrrrrr it's COLD! Snow and Ice close school**



# The Blue & Gray Manasquan H.S. 2025-2026

## Issue Three

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# SENIOR SHOUTOUT!

## Seniors Elle Vitanzo, Ciara Dunne and Eliana Ko Earn Impressive College Acceptances

By: Jane Marks and Allison McCoy

As springtime gets closer, senior students are getting decisions back from various colleges or universities—and some big commitments are in!

With the arrival of these responses, many students have been able to select the institution where they will be pursuing their academic careers and have announced their commitments.

There are a few senior commitments that we would like to highlight—Ciara Dunne, Elle Vitanzo, and Eliana Ko—as



Above: (Left to Right) Seniors Elle Vitanzo, Ciara Dunne, and Eliana Ko

they are great achievements and deserve to be celebrated.

Ciara Dunne recently finalized her commitment to Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she will be majoring in computer science. Ciara said that she knew MIT was her top choice as early as eighth grade.

# Senior Shoutout!

continued from previous page

“I’ve been going to camps for years,” she said. “I really planned this one out. So, I’m glad I still like math and science after all these years.”

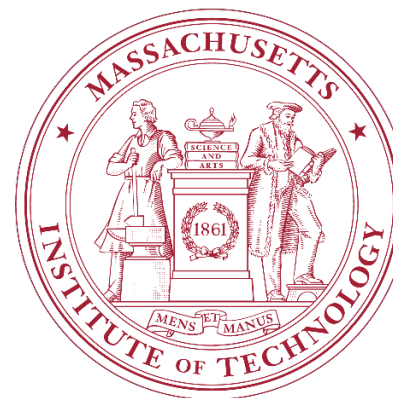
When questioned further about why she chose to major in computer science, Ciara told the Blue and Grey that she wanted to study something STEM related, while also doing something that “matters”.

“Overall, I want to help people. And that’s the main focus.” Ciara said.

Elle committed to Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, where she will pursue a degree in engineering. Although Duke was not initially at the top of her college list, a campus visit quickly changed her mind. Once there, Elle knew it was the perfect fit.

“Everyone just looked so happy to be there,” she said when asked what stood out most about the campus.

Reflecting on the moment she opened her acceptance letter, Elle explained that she had been stressed throughout the day due to that year’s low admission rates. “I opened it and started shaking,” she said, adding, “Then I started telling all my friends, who didn’t even know I had applied.”



Above: #2 ranked school in this year’s US News rankings, MIT,, where Ciara will attend her dream school

stu-  
she

could see herself succeeding in the next couple of years.

Eliana worked hard on her application with little help from others. For her essay, she chose to write about the duality of her identity, and how the different sides of her are represented by her professional name and her nickname, as well as used hotel metaphors to enhance her ideas.

Through her hard work and creative approach to a common essay theme, Eliana was able to wow the admissions counselors at BU and earned herself admission to a university that would have otherwise been “too expensive”.

Each of these senior students represents what it means to be a warrior: dedicated, hard-working, and—most importantly—true to themselves. The Blue & Gray and our Manasquan High School community wish the best for not only these three students, but the entire Class of 2026 as they continue working toward their futures!



Above: The crest of Boston University, where Eliana earned a full scholarship

Below: Duke University crest, where Elle found her perfect fit at the nation’s #7 ranked school



# Well-Earned Honors: Students Inducted to National Honors Society

By: Darcy Furniss

New students were officially inducted into the National Honor Society. During a ceremony held on Wednesday, January 21, in the Jack Nicholson Theater at Manasquan High School the national honors society welcomed new faces. The event welcomed 77 juniors and seniors into the organization, which recognizes students' leadership, service, and academic achievements.



Above: Students getting inducted

Family members, teachers, and friends attended the ceremony to support the students being inducted. The evening focused on recognizing the hard work students have put in throughout their years at Manasquan high school and the responsibilities they take on as members of the National Honors Society.

The National Honor Society, often called NHS, is an organization that honors students who meet high academic standards and are involved in their school and community. To be inducted, students

must maintain good grades and participate in service activities. Members are expected to continue helping others by getting service hours.

"My favorite part about the induction ceremony this year was seeing who each inductee chose as their mentor and why," said National Honors Society advisor Mrs. McHugh. "It was displayed as a presentation during the induction ceremony."

Senior Sophia Covert, who was inducted last year, said the ceremony reminded her of what it means to be part of the organization. "Being part of the National Honor Society means a lot to me because it shows that my hard work has paid off," said So-

phia. "It also motivates me to stay involved and give back to my school and community."

Junior Mary Heine, who was inducted this year, said the ceremony was an exciting experience. "It felt really rewarding to be recognized for all the effort I've put in," said Heine. "The induction made everything feel worth it."

According to Mrs. McHugh, the National Honor Society is an important part of the school community. "National Honor Society follows four main values: scholarship, leadership, service, and character," she said. "Our NHS students work hard in their classes, volunteer at school and in the community, and take on leadership roles."

Mrs. McHugh also shared how meaningful it is to recognize students during the ceremony. "I am honored to be a part of the Beta Omega chapter here at Manasquan High School and to recognize the hard work and accomplishments our students achieve," she said.

The induction ceremony ended with the formal welcoming of new members. As they move forward, the newly inducted students are expected to uphold the values of the National Honor Society and continue making a positive impact at MHS.



# MHS STEM Team Advances to Semi-Finals in Samsung "Solve for Tomorrow" Competition

By: Sydney Lynch



Above: Mrs. Edwards and her team "ReFlow EV"

This year, Mrs. Edwards and her team ReFlow EV advanced to the semi-finals in the 2025-2026 Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Competition, making it to top 100 state finalists in the competition!

The Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Competition is an annual competition that asks students to consider how science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) can be used to create change in their communities. Students can compete to win up to \$100,000 in prizes for their school with the help of their teachers, along with the opportunity to work with Samsung employees to develop their innovations. The MHS team won the competition back in 2022, which was the first year they competed in! And this year, Mrs. Ed-

wards and her team of talented students are successfully getting closer to winning again.

"It's a great opportunity, it's exciting and is really hands on, and is a great way to get a college scholarship," said MHS junior Matt Kutcher.

Students Matt Kutcher, Charlie Sheehan, Chris Rechner, and Owen Dunne

worked with Mrs. Edwards in their PLTW Capstone class to develop their team's application for the competition. So far, they've won \$10,000 worth of prizes for the

STEM academy program with their solution to minimize the amount of battery fire contaminated runoff water that enters our watershed during fire suppression activities.

"It's a solution that traps firefighter suppression water runoff," said Mrs. Edwards, our MHS STEM Academy Coordinator. "That water then can be disposed of properly, in an environmentally friendly manner."

Currently, the contaminated fire runoff water just drains into the ground and storm drains, where it enters the watershed. This battery fire runoff water contains higher concentrations of nickel, cobalt, lithium, manganese, and fluoride than conventional gas vehicle fires.

Congratulations to Mrs. Edwards and her team for making it to the semi-finals. We wish you good luck with the next stage of competition!

Below: Mrs. Edwards and her team with the local fire department



# Dancing for a Difference

By Susannah Patterson

For 12 hours straight, the lights stay on, the music keeps playing, and students never sit down. At Manasquan High School, Squan-A-Thon is more than a dance marathon it is a powerful fundraiser that brings the community together to support families battling pediatric cancer and serious illnesses.

Squan-A-Thon is preparing for its 16th year as it is coming around the corner on March 27th. To prepare for this event a lot of work is put in by the committee members. The members have lots meetings leading up to the event. They have been raising money for the kids since the summer by doing things like car washes, bake sales, tournaments and much more! Squan-A-Thon also raises money from the dancers who come to the event and anyone who wants to donate.

While the members are planning events to raise money, they also have to plan the actual day of the event. They make sure that the dancers will have something fun to do and something to eat all 12 hours! “We schedule every single minute of the night to make sure there is always something fun and interesting to do” said Mae-stra one of Squan-A-Thons Advisors.

Many people think of Squan-A-Thon as just a 12-hour dance, but it carries a much deeper purpose. Squan-A-Thon was created to raise funds for

**Pictured below: Dancers dancing for the kids!**



children battling pediatric cancer and other serious illnesses. Every dollar raised goes directly to these children and their



**Pictured above: Squan-A-thons committee members holding the amount they made last year!**

families, helping cover medical treatments and other essential needs, providing support when it's needed most. Mia Moore one of Squan-A-Thons commit-

tee members said “When I think about where the money is going it motivates me because I know the kids in need are getting what they need.” Through months of planning, fundraising, and hard work, students and advisors come together for one goal: making a difference in the lives of children and families who need it most.

Not only does Squan-A-Thon raise money for the kids it helps spread awareness. “A message I would share to the students about this event would be everything they do, every person they ask whether they are able to donate or not, every conversation they have is spreading more awareness.” Said Mrs. Basaman one of Squan-A-Thons Advisors.

Dancers were asked to describe Squan-A-Thon in one word here's what they choose: Inspiring, Extraordinary, Impactful, Motivating, meaningful, and encouraging.

Overall, Squan-A-Thon gives students the chance to be part of something meaningful. By getting involved, they are not only creating unforgettable memories, but also helping children and families who truly need support. Participating in Squan-A-Thon shows that even small actions can make a big difference. “For the kids!!”

# MHS Drama Club Performs at the 2026 New Jersey Thespian Festival

By Nicole Mendoza and Jessica Sancehz - Garcia

Bright lights, early mornings, costume racks, vocal warm-ups in hotel hallways — the 2026 New Jersey Thespian Festival was anything but ordinary for Manasquan High School. Held on January 17 and 18 in Washington Township near Rowan University, the annual celebration of student

theatre brought together some of the most talented performers from across the state — and Manasquan came ready to shine.

The Thespian Festival is a statewide event where high school theatre students compete in categories like improv, solo vocal performance, short film and full-length productions. But it's more than a competition — it's a giant, high-energy gathering of creative students who love the stage as much as they love a good inside theatre joke.

This year marked Manasquan's third time attending the festival, led once again by Ms. Schille, with Mr. Harvey joining her for the trip. Representing the school was no small moment. “It felt like an honor to be the person with them, and I was excited to watch them perform and compete,” Mr. Harvey said.



**Manasquan High School Students taking a group photo at the Thespian Festival this year!**

For Ms. Schille, the experience was especially meaningful. “It was definitely an honor because this is the festival I used to attend when I was in high school so getting to share this wonderful experience with my students is special.” She added that it's “a great opportunity for students who excel in the arts to showcase their talents and learn from the best of the best and be amongst the most talented students from New Jersey.”

Students performed a variety of pieces, including improv, vocal solos, short films and the school's fall play, *The Exceptional Childhood Center*. With only ten minutes to set up their set, introduce themselves and perform — and five minutes to strike it — teamwork was everything. “There was a lot of teamwork involved,” Mr. Harvey explained. Ms. Schille agreed, noting, “We

really had to trust each other and work silently under pressure.”

Preparation required independence and dedication. Many students chose and rehearsed their own songs, while improv performers Jane Marks and Paige Petruzzello relied on skills Mr.

Harvey had taught them the year before. They

ended up earning superior ratings and qualifying for nationals.

Of course, the weekend wasn't without challenges. Students had to be there by 9 a.m., with the group performing at 10:15. “You really have to be organized,” Mr. Harvey said, explaining that rest, food and managing nerves were just as important as knowing lines.

But perhaps the most important takeaway wasn't a score sheet. “It shows that our stage at Manasquan is but one small stage across the entire state and then across the entire country,” Ms. Schille said. The festival expands students' worlds, reminding them they're part of something much bigger.

For two days in January, Manasquan wasn't just a small-town theatre program — it was part of a statewide spotlight. And they made it count.

# Inside the Sound of the Manasquan High School Warrior Band

By: Myles Carstens

The Manasquan High School (MHS) Band is a long-standing part of the school's extracurricular offerings, providing students with opportunities to perform, learn, and develop teamwork skills. The band program includes a variety of ensembles such as the marching band, concert band, jazz band, and other groups throughout different parts of the year.

The marching band is particularly active in the fall, performing at football games, community events, and competitions. The concert and jazz bands usually have a focus on repertoire development, participating in concerts and festivals that allow students to showcase their musical growth and active performance through-

out shows during the year and music/band season. Additionally, the band is active during pep rally's and outside of school parades especially when a certain sports team wins a championship.

Base Drummer, Saxophonist, and Junior Josh Johnson says that his favorite part about being in the band is, "I've learned to play so many different songs and I've gained so many friends over the time I've been here. When you spend time with your friends doing something that you love, it helps you get better faster."

Josh has been a member of the band since he was a freshman, and he initially did it because his sister was a core member in previous years. As he has gotten older and more experienced with the band, he has experienced different instruments from the cymbals all the way to the base drum.



Above: Senior Owen Murphy as a drum major

Rehearsals with the band typically occur multiple times per week, with additional practice during lunch periods and weekends, especially in preparation for competitions, parades, and school events. Just like any other member of an extracurricular activity, students in the band skillfully balance academic schedules alongside their musical commitments and talents.

The band is led by Ms. Szakal who also teaches music classes to students in high school. Some music classes offered are intro to Music Technology, Music Theory, Jazz, and even Piano. Her constant surroundings of music in the school allows her to be a wonderful instructor and teacher to many kids and of course, a great leader of the Warrior Band.

Leader of the Warrior band and Music Teacher Ms. Szakal says

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Seen Above: Mrs. Szakal conducts the band

# MHS Spring Play Coming Soon!

By: Blake Daniels

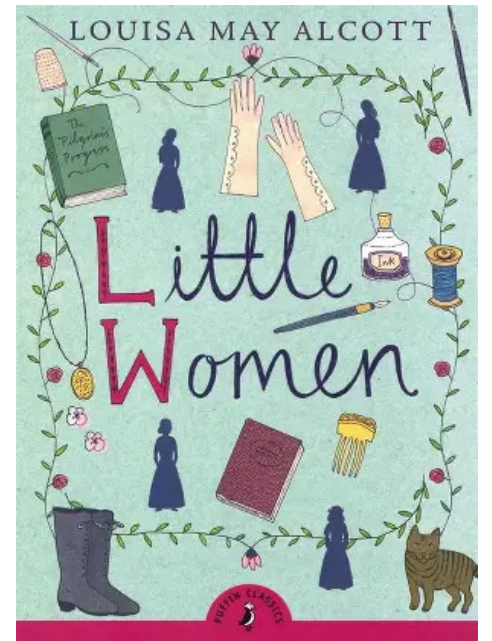
With midterms and the holidays at an end, it's time to begin looking forward to Manasquan High School's upcoming spring production of Little Women! While opening night is still a month away on Thursday, March 19th, the Drama Club is already hard at work preparing yet another fantastic show for anyone willing to come down to the Jack Nicholson Theatre.

Directed by Mrs. Schille and Co-Directed by Mr. Harvey, Little Women is an over the top, yet heartfelt musical adaptation of the famous coming of age novel by Louisa May Alcott. Taking place in a small, quiet town in Massachusetts, the story of Little Women follows the experiences of Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy March, alongside their mother Marmee while

their father is out serving in the army. "It's a more emotional show than you would expect," said Jane Marks. She continued, saying "It's been a lot of fun figuring out how we want to do, planning how we want to tell this story."

The main character of the play is Jo March, played by junior Mia Bramley. Jo is an outspoken, rebellious young girl who refuses to conform to the expectations given by the people around her. Jo, alongside her gentle and caring older sister Meg, played by Paige Petruzzello, and their younger sisters Beth and Amy, played by Jillian Eldredge-Silberstein and Allie Shaw, must tackle their father's absence, while dealing with their family's growing lack of money.

"We wanted to do something that was a bit more serious, since last year's show was a comedy," said Mrs. Schille. She continued,



"We really wanted a show that would reflect the size of the Drama Club, since so many seniors graduated last year."

Excitement is high among the Drama Club, with staff and students alike looking forward to March 19th's opening night!

## MHS Band

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the Warrior fight song before every game is iconic."

The team plays a huge role in the school spirit during the football season, with them being present in the school's student section, playing songs that they learn throughout the entirety of the different rehearsals that go on. The Warrior Fight Song and hand gesture that goes with it is visible whenever the football team plays, and it is a great tradition that has stayed with Manasquan for a very long time.

Drummer and Junior, Griffin Tomney explained, "My favorite piece to perform is Time Warp with Josh Johnson. We both have a solo at the end of the song, and we have so much fun when we play it together."

Griffin has also been a part of the band since freshmen year and has been learning more and more about many different instruments as he progresses through his music career here at Manasquan high school.

The Band will finish the winter strong with an up and coming Winter concert held at the school theatre. The winter concert will be held on Thursday, February 19 at 6:30 PM, in the Jack Nicholson Theater. Be sure to be there and hear great songs and see great talent!

that, "My favorite part of the season is definitely when we play during the fall for the football team. It's really fun for everyone and easy to enjoy. Also, doing



Pictured: Junior Drummer Griffin Tomney smiles while performing at the Pep Rally

# SNOW much fun!!

By Charlotte Leible

A winter storm swept through Manasquan, New Jersey, from Saturday through Tuesday, bringing snowfall, freezing temperatures, and school snow days across the area!

Snow began late Saturday, coating roads and sidewalks overnight. By Sunday morning, several inches had accumulated and the snow was still falling! Temperatures hit around 20 degrees Fahrenheit and there was around 8 inches of snow. Driveways were snowed in and the roads were covered. Local crews worked to plow streets and salt roads as snowfall continued through the day.

Manasquan High School students were already scheduled to have Monday off due to a teacher in-service, but the hazardous conditions led to the cancellation of all activities. Many local businesses also had to close, as travel became unsafe on the icy snow-covered roads.

The community, however, came together to help each other weather the storm. Neighbors shoveled driveways for those unable to do so themselves, while local plow drivers braved the icy streets to clear and salt roads.

By Tuesday, the snowfall had ended, but freezing temperatures of around 9 degrees Fahrenheit left behind slick patches across streets and sidewalks. School was closed for a snowy day! Instead of sitting in classrooms, students spent the day embracing the snow day in their own unique ways.

## SARA SIANO



Sara Siano is a freshman here at Manasquan high school and was so excited to hear that we had a snow day! She bundled up and headed outside to make the most of the winter weather, spending her day playing in the snow with friends and flying down hills on her sled. After a long day of fun, Sara warmed up by sipping hot chocolate and relaxing with her favorite movie!

## TRAVIS LEVY



Travis Levy is a sophomore at MHS and was relieved to hear that school was canceled, especially since he had been dreading his Microeconomics class. Instead of sitting in a classroom, Travis spent his snow day shoveling his driveway and his neighbors' as well. "My neighbors are old, so I like to help them out," he said, turning a snowy day off into a chance to give back.

## SAM PRICE



Junior Sam Price was thrilled to hear that school was canceled. "The weather was so bad, I just knew that they were going to cancel," she said. Although Sam enjoys delayed openings, she thought the snow day came at the perfect time, right after a long and stressful week of midterms! Sam spent her day hanging out with her friends in the snow and watching movies.

## JORDYN HOLLAWELL



Senior Jordyn Hollawell was thrilled to sleep in when she heard school was canceled. "I was so happy when I found out we had a snow day," she said. Even though she couldn't make it to basketball practice because of the snow, Jordyn hopped on an online call with her teammates and coaches to go over film. After the call, she spent the rest of the day relaxing.

# Freshman Impresses! Chelsea Garay-Jimenez wins Shore Conference Championship

By: Caitlin Young and Jazmin Rodriguez



Above: Garay slamming down Sottolare

freshman there," said Chelsea.

After her successful win, she ended her night with a little steak out. Chelsea is determined to continue training in wrestling for her college years.

Manasquan's wrestling team Coach Barowski is super proud of Chelsea and her achievement.

"We were so excited for her!

Below: Garay pinning the 1-seed



Chelsea Garay-Jimenez, a freshman at Manasquan High School, stunned the crowd with her win to proceed to the championship. Garay was up against Samantha Sottolare from Central Regional in the 185lb final during the Shore Conference Tournament for girls' wrestling. The tournament took place at Jackson Township High School on January 19, 2026.

Chelsea is one of the stand-out girl wrestlers on Manasquan's team and has made a significant impact on her earlier training at Belmar Elementary School. She was inspired by her sister and her cousin at an early age, looking up to them and being motivated by her family and friends to do wrestling.

Chelsea trains for at least an hour of her time wrestling and listens to her companion's positive motives. Overtime, she got 7 wins, including her latest win at the Shore Conference.

"It was amazing. I was really happy that I won the Shore Conference and I was pretty excited because it was my first time competing against juniors and seniors, so I was nervous. I was the only

as someone as someone that's good or bigger than her, she goes in with like, "I can win this!" I think it is something that I look up to her for because she never gets nervous or never cries after losing a game. She just looks up by saying, "I can do better" and just goes to win the next match," said Sophomore Sindy Olivera, a teammate to Chelsea.

Chelsea is known to take shots amazingly fast whenever she's in her moment. She takes care of her teammates even when they are down or injured. She is determined to take care of her teammates as much as possible even when they are having a bad day. Chelsea is very coachable and an extremely hard worker. She is a true ambassador for girls' wrestling and helps the other girls out during practice anyway she can.

"Keep working and dream big," said Coach Barowski to Chelsea.

We knew how much of a big deal it was and really showed how tough she is," said Coach Barowski "Chelsea has all the tools to be a state champion one day."

Chelsea has many people by her side. She is always there to help her teammates be strong and to never give up. Her friends play a huge part in her wrestling career by being there for her and going to every game.

"I think that because she's a freshman, she does not let that get to her. When she was up against a senior at Shore Conference, she didn't let that get to her head. Whenever she sees her opponent



Above: Chelsea Garay wins the Shore Conference Girls Wrestling Tournament Finals

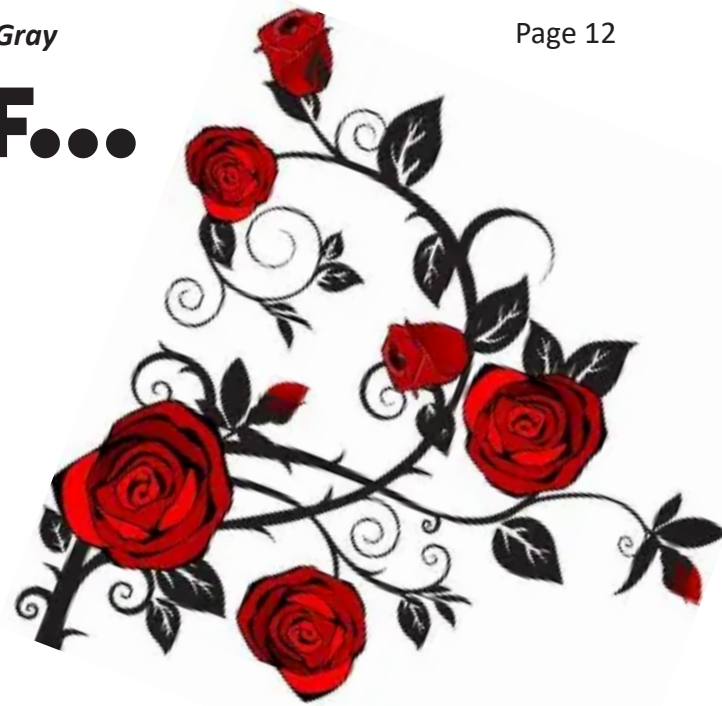
# IN MEMORY OF...

In 2025, the world said goodbye to countless lives, some widely known, others quietly cherished, all very meaningful. Each person who passed leaves behind a story shaped by love, struggle and hope.

Charlotte Lieble

Life is made up of experiences, relationships, and choices that define who we are. Death marks the end of those experiences, but not the end of a person's impact. Obituaries serve as a way to honor their lives by sharing stories, accomplishments, and the connections people leave behind.

Natalie Goble



## Here we celebrate a few people who died in 2025

### Rob Reiner



Rob Reiner, the famous American actor and director most famous for his career in genres ranging from comedy, drama, romance, , died on December 14, 2025. He was 78 years old when he passed.

He, along with his wife Michelle Reiner were found dead in their home in Los Angeles, with both receiving multiple stab wounds. While there is controversy over their murderer, their son Nick Reiner was charged with their murder.

Mr. Reiner caught his first break as Micheal "Meathead" Stivic on the beloved sitcom *All in The Family*. It was from there that he went on to earn two Primetime Emmy Awards. This kick started his career and led him to transition into a career in directing.

It was in this field where he discovered his true love for film-writing. He went on to introduce us to the wonders of *The Princess Bride*, *When Harry Met Sally*, *Stand by Me*, *Misery*, and *A Few Good Men*. Mr. Reiner captured not only just our attention, but our hearts as well.

He went on to receive many nominations for awards in directing such as multiple DGA Award nominations for Outstanding Directorial Achievement, Golden Globes, and Oscars.

When Mr. Reiner was not out directing, he was out advocating. Reiner was a liberal activist and co-founder of The American Foundation for Equal Rights. He found comfort in standing up for those that could not stand up for themselves.

His foundation then went on to initiate the court challenge against the California Proposition that banned homosexual marriage in his state that would abolish the ban.

"Everybody talks about wanting to change things and help and fix, but ultimately all you can do is fix yourself. And that's a lot. Because if you can fix yourself, it has a ripple effect," said Reiner.

Robert Reiner was born on March 6, 1947, and was born and raised in the Bronx of New York City. Mr. Reiner always had a soft spot for the arts, even at such a young age. His parents, Estelle and Carl Reiner, were both actors and his siblings went on to be writers as well.

Eventually, The Reiner's moved out to Los Angeles where Reiner would make his first television debut on the series *Manhunt* soon after. He attended Beverly Hills High School and then went on to study at

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# Farewell

Every year we must say goodbye to some of our favorite people, whether we knew them personally or just through a screen. Obituaries are a way of saying farewell while appreciating the life these people led, the change they made, and the lives they touched.



## Hulk Hogan, 71, The Face of Pro Wrestling

By Richie Conklin

Hulk Hogan, who was born Terry Gene Bollea, won the WWF world title and became the most recognizable professional wrestler in the world, died on July 24 at his home in Clearwater, Florida. He was 71.

The cause was a cardiac arrest and was later confirmed by TMZ.

On November 21, 1979, WWF debuted an unknown wrestler who would soon take over the sport of professional wrestling.

Hulk Hogan defeated Harry Valdez, but this would just be the spark that lit Hogan's career.

Hogan trained under Hiro Matsuda in Tampa, Florida. Matsuda was known for his extremely tough training style. Hogan often told a story about how Matsuda intentionally broke his leg during training to test whether he was serious about becoming a wrestler. He stayed training with Matsuda for majority of the mid 1970's, until his debut in 1979.

Hogan left the WWF in 1981 to pursue his acting career. During his time as an actor he starred in movies like Rocky 3. This role helped get public attention and helped gain popularity for his return to the WWF in 1983.

"The Hulkster", had one of his most memorable victories against The Iron Sheik in 1984. This win sparker his trademark, "Hulkamania" and set Hulk Hogan onto a new level of popularity. Hogan's reign as champion lasted until 1988, when he lost the title to Andre the Giant. By this time, Hogan had become a household name.

His persona shifted to an all-American hero with iconic catchphrases such as, "Whatcha gonna do when Hulkamania runs wild on you?" and signature moves like

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**Pictured above: Hulk Hogan staring as Thunder Lips in Rocky 3**

## Rob Reiner

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the UCLA Film School. After his schooling he went on to play little roles until he was *All in The Family* and began his rise to stardom.

In the arc of his career, Rob Reiner stood out as one of Hollywood's most versatile storytellers, moving easily from acting to directing and shaping some of the most memorable films of his generation. Whether making audiences laugh, cry, or think, he showed that strong characters and clear ideas matter more than genre. His work left a lasting mark on American film and television, and his influence can still be seen in movies made today.

"As you get older, all those dumb clichés, they're all true. You only have a certain amount of time left, and you should only spend it doing the things that you want to do."



## Jane Goodall, Famous Primatologist and Conservationist, Dies at 91

By: Stella Brady

Jane Goodall, an English primatologist and anthropologist best known for her work with chimpanzees and dedicating her life to wildlife and the environment, died on October 1st, 2025, in Beverley Hills, California. She was 91.

The cause was cardiopulmonary arrest, according to her death certificate.

Dr. Goodall rose to international fame in 1963 when her work was featured in *National Geographic*. This in effect led to her gaining international fame.

She was most well-known for discovering that chimpanzees make and use tools. This had previously been thought to be a skill only humans possessed, and Dr. Goodall disproved this idea.

Dr. Louis Leakey, the anthropologist Dr. Goodall was working for at the time, said, "Now we must redefine tool, redefine man, or accept chimpanzees as

humans."

In addition, Dr. Goodall began practicing giving research animals human names as she learned it was important to feel a connection to the animals you are studying. This contribution was very important as it changed the way scientists viewed research on animals and it was something Dr. Goodall was well known for beginning.

Dr. Goodall was also over-all known for her kindness and compassion towards animals.

She famously said, "the least I can do is speak out for those who cannot speak for themselves."

Valerie Jane Morris-Goodall was born on April 3, 1934, in London, England. She was the daughter of Mortimer Herbert Morris-Goodall, a businessman, and Margaret Myfanwe Joseph, a novelist.

From a young age, Dr. Goodall was fascinated by an-



imals, specifically those in Africa, and had a goal to move there and do research.

During childhood, Dr. Goodall succeeded at school and was very intelligent, despite having prosopagnosia, a condition which makes it difficult to recognize faces.

In young adulthood, she scraped together enough money from working as a waitress to go visit a family friend in Kenya right after school ended. Her determination and love for animals drove her to save every penny, showing the same patience and perseverance that would later define her research with chimpanzees.

It was in the 1960's when Dr. Goodall finally saved up enough money and made it to Africa and began to work in the field with animals.

While in Kenya, Dr. Goodall was introduced to a well-known anthropologist, Louis Leakey. She asked Louis if she could have a job, and he hired her on the spot to be his assistant and secretary in conducting work in the field of chimpanzees.

Eventually, through working with Dr. Leakey, Jane Goodall performed enough research to become a world-renowned primatologist and anthropologist.

In Jane Goodall's final interview, she emphasized the importance of every individual knowing

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**Pictured above: Dr. Jane Goodall writing reaserch in a notebook**

# Remembering Pope Francis: “The People’s Pope”

By: Kelsey Kalembo

Pope Francis, born Jorge Mario Bergoglio, the first pope from a Latin American country, died on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at Domus Sanctae Marthae in Vatican City. He was 88 years old.

The cause was a stroke followed by irreversible cardiac arrest, as announced by Cardinal Kevin Farrell, the Camerlengo, in a broadcast by Vatican Media and in a video statement at 9:45 on the same day.

Pope Francis first became known as the Pope on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013. He was known for reshaping the image and priorities of the papacy through humility, compassion, and a strong focus on social justice. He emphasized care for the poor and marginalized, repeatedly urging the Church to serve migrants, refugees, and the economically disadvantaged rather than focus on power or prestige.

Pope Francis was highly regarded for his simple lifestyle and approachable demeanor, rejecting papal luxury and speaking in a more informal, pastoral tone. He often made it a point to visit with the less fortunate. He was very compassionate and always made sure that everyone’s views were heard.

He was best known for making climate change a moral issue, especially through his 2015 decree *Laudato Si’*. This called on world leaders and individu-

als to care for the environment as a responsibility to the poor



and future generations. *Laudato Si’* taught that care for the environment is a moral and religious responsibility, not just a scientific



ic or political issue. Pope Francis argued that climate change is largely caused by human activity and that it harms the poor first and most severely.

In *Laudato Si’*, Pope Fran-

cis explains his stance by writing, “Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods.”

The decree also called for global cooperation, changes in consumption, and responsible use of technology, urging governments, businesses, and individuals to protect “our common home.” Overall, it emphasized stewardship, solidarity, and the idea that humans must live in balance with creation rather than dominate it.

In addition, while he upheld core Catholic teachings, he was known for calling for mercy over judgment. He famously encouraged greater inclusion and dialogue within the Church, an approach that earned him both widespread admiration and significant criticism.

In becoming the pope in 2013, he was the first Jesuit to hold the office and the first pontiff from Latin America, a choice that signaled a shift toward a more global and pastoral Church. One of the most important things he did in his time as pope was that he reshaped the College of Cardinals by elevating clerics from Africa, Asia, and Latin America, reducing the dominance of Europe and reflecting the Church’s changing demographics.

Compassion and inclusivity were Pope Francis’s main principles, and he made outreach to

# Pope Francis

*continued from previous page*

migrants, refugees, and the marginalized a central theme of his papacy. He often used symbolic gestures to reinforce his message of compassion and inclusion. He worked to expand dialogue with other faiths, including historic engagements with Muslim leaders, positioning the papacy as a force for global cooperation.

A quote from Barack Obama really sums up the kind of person Pope Francis was, saying, “Pope Francis reminds us that we are all God’s children — and that we have a responsibility to care for one another and for the world we share.”

Jorge Mario Bergoglio was born on December 17, 1936, in Flores, Buenos Aires, Argentina. His parents were Italian immigrants, and his father, Mario José Bergoglio, worked as a railway accountant, and his mother, Regina María Sívori, was a homemaker who raised their children. He was the oldest of five siblings, growing up in a modest household shaped by Catholic faith, Italian traditions, and an emphasis on hard work.

He grew up in a modest, working-class neighborhood of Buenos Aires, which exposed him early to economic inequal-

ity and everyday struggles. As a child, he went to catholic schools and was active in parish life, where he first felt drawn to religious service.

As a teenager, he worked small jobs, including janitorial and laboratory work, giving him respect for manual labor and ordinary workers. He has said that a confession experience as a young man was a turning point that inspired his decision to enter the priesthood.

He moved through the



Jesuit ranks quickly and was ordained as a priest in 1969. After becoming a priest, he quickly rose to leadership, becoming provincial superior of the Jesuits in Argentina in 1973, when he was just 36. In that role, he oversaw the order during the country’s violent military dictatorship, a period that later drew scrutiny and shaped his cautious leadership style.

After years in Jesuit administration, he shifted toward pastoral and academic work, serving as a seminary rector and later teaching theology. In 1992, he entered the Church hierarchy when he was appointed auxiliary

bishop of Buenos Aires, beginning a new phase of his career focused on direct ministry.

In 2001, Pope John Paul II made him a cardinal, giving him a platform on the international stage. He gained wider attention for his down-to-earth approach, concern for social justice, and critique of economic inequality, earning the nickname “the bishop of the people.” By the time of the 2013 conclave, after Pope Benedict XVI’s resignation, his reputation for humility, pas-

toral focus, and ability to bridge divides made him a consensus choice.

Pope Francis’s career transformed the papacy into a symbol of humility, compassion, and global moral leadership, emphasizing care for the poor, concern for the environment, and dialogue across faiths and cultures.

A quote that perfectly sums up his career and life comes from himself, “The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, and forgiven.”

Pope Francis is survived by his four younger siblings: Alberto, Oscar, Marta, and Maria Elena Bergoglio, who remain close to him.

He is predeceased by his parents, Mario José Bergoglio and Regina María Sívori, who passed away before him, and any other family members who died earlier.

# Robert Redford – The Godfather of Independent Film, Dies at 89.

By: Allison McCoy

Robert Redford, an Academy Award winning actor and director who founded the Sundance Institute and Film Festival, died on September 16th, 2025, at the Sundance Mountain Resort in Sundance, Utah. He was 89.

His death was announced by Cindi Berger, his publicist, who said that he passed in his sleep “in the place he loved surrounded by those he loved.”

Mr. Redford was a widely loved and celebrated actor who appeared in a string of celebrated films including *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* (1969), *The Way We Were* (1973), *All the President's Men* (1976), and *The Sting* (1973), where he starred opposite Paul Newman. Following news of his death, actress Meryl Streep paid tribute to him, writing, “One of the lions has passed. Rest in peace, my lovely friend.”

In addition to his acting, Mr. Redford won an Os-

car for Best Director for *Ordinary People* in 1980 and directed acclaimed films like *A River Runs Through It* and *Quiz Show*.

Mr. Redford was a driving force in The American New Wave as a young director-driven filmmaker and challenged traditional studio control.

As a man who had built his career from the



Above, Robert Redford after winning the Oscar for Best Director in 1981.

ground up, Robert Redford recognized the difficulty of entering the film industry—especially as a filmmaker. In 1981, he founded the Sundance Institute and later the Sundance Film Festival, which became a vital platform for emerging filmmakers and original storytelling.

Reflecting on that legacy, filmmaker Ava DuVernay later said, “Thank you for your dream. Your vision changed my life. Thank you for the rocket ship you built for all of us filmmakers.” He named both the institute and the resort where the festival is held after his breakout role, the Sundance Kid.

Robert Redford, born Charles Robert Redford Jr., was born on August 18th, 1936, in Santa Monica, California. His father, Charles Redford Sr., was a milkman who later became an oil company accountant for Standard Oil, while his mother, Martha Woodruff Redford, was a homemaker who supported his love for art and film. After briefly attending the University of Colorado, he traveled through Europe, studying art and developing an interest in performance before ultimately pursuing acting.

Redford began his career in the late 1950s with appearances in television dramas, slowly building a

## Robert Redford

continued from previous page

reputation for his charisma and natural screen presence. His early work on Broadway helped establish him as a serious actor, but it was his transition to film that marked the beginning of his rise to prominence.

In 1958, Redford married Lola Van Wagenen on September 12, in Las Vegas, just before his acting career took off.

Robert Redford's first acting role was on Broadway in the 1959 play *Tall Story*, playing a minor character, a college basketball player, a role he later reprised uncredited in the 1960 film version. Mr. Redford's first credited film role was later, in the 1962 movie *War Hunt*.

After some years playing smaller film roles, Robert Redford became a household name after portraying a charming outlaw in the movie *Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid* that came out in 1969.

27 years after their marriage, Redford and Wagenen divorced in 1985 due



Above, Robert Redford as *The Sundance Kid* in 1969.

to difficulties coping with the loss of their child. Later, in 2009, Mr. Redford married Sibylle Szaggars at the age of 72. They remained together



Above, Robert Redford posed with Paul Newman on the set of *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*.

until his passing.

Over the course of his decades-long career, Robert Redford became known as more than just a movie star. He was widely respected for his artistic integrity, environmental activism, and commitment to creative independence. Actress Jane Fonda, a longtime friend

and collaborator, said of him, “He meant a lot to me and was a beautiful person in every way. He stood for an America we have to keep fighting for.” His influence on the American film industry extended far beyond the screen, shaping generations of filmmakers and redefining what it meant to balance fame with purpose.

Robert Redford's final on-screen appearance was a cameo as an uncredited chess player alongside George R. R. Martin in the third season premiere of AMC's series *Dark Winds*, which aired in March 2025.

Robert Redford was predeceased by his two sons, James and Scott Anthony Redford. He is survived by his wife, Sibylle Szaggars, his daughters Shauna and Amy Redford, and seven grandchildren.



# Jane Goodall

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*Pictured above: Dr. Jane Goodall grooming a chimp*

the significance of their actions and working to help preserve our planet.

Some of the last words Dr. Goodall left behind were, "Do your best while you're still on this beautiful Planet Earth that I look down upon from where I am now."

Jane Goodall is survived by her son, Hugo Van Lawick Jr. and his three children, Merlin, Angel, and Nick. She was predeceased by her former husband, Baron Hugo van Lawick.



*Pictured above: Dr. Jane Goodall holding a chimp while conducting reaserch*

# Hulk Hogan

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as champion lasted until 1988, when he lost the title to Andre the Giant. By this time, Hogan had become a household name.

His persona shifted to an all-American hero with iconic catchphrases such as, "Whatcha gonna do when Hulkamania runs wild on you?" and signature moves like the leg drop, big boot and dramatic comeback. He

became the face of wrestling's national expansion.

In 1994 Hogan joined Ted Turner's World Championship Wrestling (WCW). He sent shock waves through the wrestling world in 1996 when he became the villainous "heel" Hollywood Hogan at the Bash at the Beach, where he formed the New World Order alliance with Scott Hall and Kevin Nash.

In his career Hogan headlined the first nine WrestleManias, drew massive TV ratings and sold-out arenas. Companies began to buy into his brand and started creating merchandise like shirts, action figures and even lunchboxes. Wrestling became family-friendly entertainment, largely centered around Hogan. He even helped in turning WWF into a global brand. He wrestled his final match on January 26, 2012 at a live event tour in the UK.

The 13 time world champion, Terry Eugene Bollea was born on August 11, 1953 in Augusta Georgia, to Ruth and Pietro Bollea. He was raised in Port Tampa, Florida, after his family moved there when he was young.

As a child, he was a strong athlete and excelled in baseball. He was heavily influenced by rock music and body-building culture. He had ambitions in music before even considering wrestling.

He attended the University of South Florida, but did not graduate. It was not until after this, that he was introduced to wrestling. While playing music with a local band, he was noticed by wrestling promoters Jack and Gerald Brisco. They referred him to Hiro Matsuda and soon debuted as Hulk Hogan.

Hulk Hogan essentially brought professional wrestling into a much bigger position than they imagined. From the rise of "Hulkamania" in the 1980s through the Monday Night Wars of the 1990s and beyond, he became one of the most influential figures in the sport's history.

He is survived by his wife Sky Daily, his second wife, and his daughter and son Brooke and Nick from his first marriage.



*Pictured above: Hulkamania running wild on you!*



# Boys Swim Cindarella Story: Division Champs!

By: Richie Conklin



*Pictured above: Michael Mcloughlin diving into the pool during a match.*

The Manasquan Boy Swimming team hopes to maintain and carry on their season's success into the state tournament.

Squan started off the season 3-0, defeating Ocean Township, Jackson Township, and Wall. They suffered their first defeat against Holmdel by a score 91-79.

After the loss, they went undefeated beating every other team. They beat big name teams like Shore and Point Boro.

They ended the regular season with a 9-1 record. They ranked third overall in the Shore Conference and were placed at number 4 in the state tournament.

On Thursday February 5, they swam against Neptune High School and won 118-51.

So far throughout this season, Manasquan had been nothing but dominant on all ends.

Junior stand out, Michael Mcloughlin has had a very successful season so far this year. He said, "So far my biggest self-achievement was placing third in 100 backstrokes at Monmouth County Champs". He also added, "Swimming had really helped with meeting new people and staying in shape".

Sophomore Jack Bryant has also had a fun

season this year. His favorite memory so far has been beating Neptune in the first round of states. Jack stated, "One of my big goals is swimming a 56 second 100 free style".

Coach Craig Murin has been satisfied with seasons outcome so far. Coach Murin said, "I am very proud of these boys and excited to see how far we can make it this season".

Coach Murin has been a very big mentor as Jack and Michael, both told me and has truly helped them be better people in and out of the pool.

The Manasquan Swim team has a lot of fire and will power as of late, and they seem to keep continuing their success.

Their determination and teamwork have helped secure 1st place in the A South Division.

They will look to take their dominant performance from Thursday and take it to their next match.

With their win over Neptune High School, they advance to the quarter final round where they will play the number one seeded Moorestown High School and pull off an upset against the top ranked team. Let's go Squan!

*Pictured above: Jack Bryant swimming against Neptune.*



# MHS Skates Through a Great Season



**Left: Senior Alexandre Mimaud and juniors Strider Carhart and Lucas Titner celebrate after a goal.**

By: Angelina Lomas

From close overtime wins to rivalry victories, the Manasquan High School ice hockey team has made this season one to remember.

The Manasquan High School ice hockey team has been having a strong season, holding a record of eleven wins, four losses, and two ties as of February fifth, 2026. Lead by head coach, John Costello, the Warriors have faced close games and challenging opponents, proving their ability to compete under pressure.

Their game against Hillsborough on Monday, December 15 ended in a 5-4 win to the warriors. Players said it was one of their hardest games to date because of how even the teams played skill-wise. Junior Strider Carhart led the game in goals, having three.

“We had seven guys out and we took a bus, like, an hour and a half away,” said senior goalie James Fogarty, “we scored with like, a second left to send it into overtime and then we won in overtime with four seconds left.”

On Thursday, January 29, Manasquan ended up winning

the rivalry game against Wall. Both juniors Nicholas Demarco and Lucas Titner got hat tricks. The final score was 10-3.

“I don’t think it’s as big as, like, the football rivalry or really any other sport,” said sophomore Owen Korth, “It’s just trash talk and stuff like that.”

“There were a lot of people there at the beginning,” said senior Landon Herbert, “but then a lot of them left early because it wasn’t really a close game.”

A difficult game for the Warriors was their game against Christian Brothers Academy on Monday, January 12. This one unfortunately ended in a 3-4 loss despite the score being pretty even until the third period. In the last couple seconds, CBA scored a game-winning goal.

“We played so well,” said James, “We probably played

**Below: Junior Strider Carhart skates to the goal.**



our best first and second periods of hockey and then they took us over in the third period. That one really stunk.”

James Fogarty has been a goalie on the MHS Varsity hockey team since his sophomore year. Throughout his varsity hockey career, he has a total of 1,091 saves with a save percentage of .888. This season he has 418 saves with an average of 30 saves a game. Outside of school, he used to play for the Jersey Shore Wildcats, but that season is over.

His favorite memory of Manasquan Hockey is when the team plays pond hockey together. His favorite team is the New York Rangers, and his favorite player is Henrik Lundqvist, a retired Ranger Goalie.

Overall, with the season almost over, it looks to be a successful year for the MHS hockey team.

“We have the same goal in mind,” said James, “We all like to pick each other up. Nobody gets on each other too hard for anything and there’s no, like, fighting on the bench or yelling at each other in the locker room. That’s probably the number one factor of why we’ve been more successful this year.”

# Grinding to Glory: Inside Girls Basketball



By Olive Orielly

The Manasquan Girls Basketball team is turning heads this season, quietly stacking wins while preparing for the challenges that still lie ahead.

The team has been dominating their season with a total of fifteen wins and two losses to Saint John Vianney and Red Bank Catholic. They are currently on their way to The Shore Conference on February 10<sup>th</sup> where they plan to be the third seed.

Their talent is undeniable with a starting lineup consisting of Senior Jordyn Hollawell, Junior Rose Latesta, Senior Shannon Looney, Sophomore Calista Vowteras, and Junior Paige Donnelly along with Sophomore’s Reece Rampone Molly O’Boyle, Abigail Dwyer, and Senior Logan McCarthy who are ready to step up and do whatever it takes to help the team win.

“We have an amazing team dynamic. One of our

strengths is how well we play off one another and create opportunities for

Pictured Below: Girl’s Team Seniors



each other” stated Jordyn Hollawell, senior guard, and American University commit.

On January 15<sup>th</sup>, Manasquan Girls Basketball had a tough match-up against Rumson-Fair Haven which ended in a 53-41 win for Squan. The Warriors were the pillar of consistency, out scoring the Bulldogs each quarter.

Erin Reid, a Brown University commit and one of Rumson’s top scorers, was shut down by Rampone

the entire second quarter and left scoreless.

But their season has not been all wins. Although their skill is unmatched by most in teams in New Jersey, Manasquan had one of their toughest games against Red Bank Catholic January 20<sup>th</sup>. The game ended with a 54-28 loss for the girls and yet their execution was still on point. Hollawell ended the game with a total of 10 points and four

rebounds.

“Although our schedule has been tough, we preserve and prepare for every game accordingly,” explained Junior Lily Johnson.

While the season has not fully come to a close, there are high stakes for the rest of the games to come. The girls are striving for championship season. I know I am excited to see where the rest of the season takes them!

# Manasquan Bowling Rolls Through Successful Season

By: Stella Brady

The Manasquan Bowling team had a great season filled with competitive matches and lots of fun! In fact, the girls enjoyed winning the A Central Division championship!

The girls' team, coached by Amanda Buttitta, consisted of freshman Crystal Weng, sophomore Annie Lomas, and seniors Ciara Dunne, Amelia Kennedy, Jane Marks, Allison McCoy, Molly Nixon, and Olivia Rochon. The girls had a great season, with so far a record of 9-6.

The boys' team, coached by Thomas Glenn, consisted of freshman Samuel Kuiken, sophomore Max Carlocke, juniors Curtis Porcello, Kai Lomas, Matt Kutcher, Evan Grosshandler, Richard Conklin, Myles Carstens, and Jimmy Beaver, and seniors Aidan Whitacker, Chris Rechner, and Owen Dunne. Despite having a fun season, the boys currently have a record of 2-14.

According to boys' head coach and science teacher at Manasquan High School, Mr. Glenn, both teams had memorable moments and lots of fun.



Above: Manasquan Bowling Logo



Above: Girls Bowling Team - Division Champs Winners

He said, "The girls won the Central A division and are heading to the Shore Conference tournament. And the boys had a lot of fun – if you judge our record on fun, we're a first-place championship team."

This year brought many new players to the sport of bowling, specifically upperclassmen who wanted an activity in the winter.

Sierra Dunn, a senior, was inspired to join the team after her friends told her what a great time it is.

"Bowling is a really good high school experience because you meet new people and have fun," she said. "It's not super competitive or serious. You're just hanging out and having fun. I think more people should join the team next year."

Sierra's words clearly emphasize the community that comes with the sport of bowling.

Similarly, senior Maeve Korth said she joined after hearing positive experiences from her friends and quickly grew to enjoy the sport.

"Bowling's a lot of fun, and

I'm having more fun with it than I expected," she said.

Additionally, junior Richie Conklin said he decided to join bowling in order to have something to do through the winter.

"Trying something new has been a really good opportunity," he said, adding that he hopes the program continues to grow in the future.

Another junior on the boys' team, Miles Carsons, also had a positive season.

"My favorite memory is team camaraderie and getting along with my friends," Miles said.

Boys head coach, Mr. Glenn, said one of his favorite aspects of coaching bowling is watching players improve and gain confidence. He highlighted Annie Lomas' standout 211 game as one of the season's most exciting moments and listed many bowlers who showed major improvement throughout the year.

With their seasons ending, it is clear the Manasquan bowling teams have demonstrated dedication, sportsmanship, and teamwork. With the strong team culture and blooming talent, the

# Manasquan Wrestling's Season of Success

By: Natalie Goble

The warrior wrestling team has hit the ground running so far this season. They stand at a record of 10-4 against some very tough opponents. Led by head Coach Justin Barowski, the rest of the season is destined for success. "Our goal is to get better every day, have fun, and use wrestling as a tool to navigate life," Coach Barowski said.

Manasquan wrestling fought hard in a rivalry dual against Point Pleasant Boro, earning a narrow 34-33 victory in one of the most competitive matches of the season. Manasquan had key performances

across the lineup, with JP Sanders, Abnel Roman Del-Rio, and Shea Tracey earning pins. Donovan Havard, Ryan McNulty, and Torrin Tracey all achieved decision victories to help the Warriors in the tight dual. "That was probably one of the biggest wins our program has ever had," Coach Barowski said, reflecting on the nail-biting rivalry.

Head coach Justin Barowski has been coaching wrestling for 11 years, six of those seasons at



Shane Kerstetter in the last bout

Manasquan. He has shaped the team through a focus on toughness and lessons that go beyond the mat. "I think God made me a coach

before I ever decided to be one, but my biggest influence was my head coach in high school," Barowski said. When describing his coaching philosophy, he kept it simple: "I'd describe my philosophy as hard-nosed,"

adding that toughness is the team's greatest strength. Ultimately, his message to his wrestlers emphasizes life lessons as much as wrestling success. "I want them to be able to



Manasquan coaches celebrating



deal with anything life throws their way," he said. Donovan Havard added, "My coach has molded me into the person I am today. He has pushed me to be more disciplined and confident both on and off the mat."

Standout wrestlers senior Donovan Havard and junior Shane Kerstetter have been key contributors this season. Havard said he was motivated by his dad and the challenge of being part of a tough team. "Not only did my dad motivate me, but I wanted to challenge myself and be a part of a tough team," he said. Kerstetter, in the final bout against Point Boro, earned a crucial decision victory, sealing the one-point win. "We knew the match was going to be close the whole time and come down to me. Pressure is a privilege, and I just focused on staying calm and giving my best," Ker-

stetter said. Havard reflected on the match as well, noting, "I treated it like any other match and kept the nerves low by chilling with the team."

Squan followed up the rivalry win with an outstanding performance against Brick Township, steamrolling to a 53-18 victory that showcased the team's talent. The Warriors opened strong, building a

lead with standout performances across the lineup. Ambrose Masenius, Pdraig Tracey, Torrin Tracey, Shea Tracey, and JP Sanders all earned pins to help Manasquan cruise past Brick Township. Havard reflected on the match, saying, "The team's positive energy made me more confident and motivated," and added that the dominant win showed how far the team has grown.

Looking ahead, Manasquan wrestling is building momentum and aiming for postseason success. The Warriors' toughness and depth have been on display, and the team hopes to carry that strong form into future matchups and stay on the road to the Shore Conference and Atlantic Coast tournaments. "Our goal is to keep improving every day and be ready for whatever challenges come our way," Barowski said.

# Winter Track's Record Breaking Season

By: Kelsey Kalemba

Manasquan high school's winter track team has had much success throughout the years, and this year is no different. Each meet has produced amazing results, and the athletes keep getting faster and faster.

At the Demerast Invitational on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, the team started the season off with a bang. At that meet alone, there were 3 school records broken. Junior Adam Rodricks set a record in the boys 300-meter dash, with a time of 37.95. Senior Cooper Griffin broke his own previous school record in the boys 3000-meter run, with a time of 10:41.47. To finish out the records, freshman Scarlett Schaad set a school record in the girls 3000-meter run, with a time of 12:28.10. This was her first indoor high school meet ever, and she certainly rose to the occasion.

When asked about how this school record felt, she explained, "It was so exciting and it was a great way to start off my Manasquan track career!"

The first meet set the tone for the rest of the season, which has been extremely successful so far. The success of this team has been greatly in part of its teamwork. The team culture is very encouraging and supportive of everyone, no matter how fast they are.

Assistant Coach Evan shared that his favorite part of being a coach was, "seeing people push themselves and achieving things they didn't think they could."

This reflects greatly the type of team that Manasquan is, and how uplifting the team is. The teamwork is amazing, which



is why there have been so many school records set by relay teams this season.

The team of sophomores Brenna Gordon and Susannah Patterson, junior Rose Healey, and senior Mia Moore set the school record for the girl's sprint medley relay, with a time of 4:29.81. Another girls' team consisting of Brenna, Susannah, Mia, and senior Gwen O'Connor set the record for 4x200m with a time of 1:51.19. On the boy's side, the team of freshman Shane Rosa, Adam Rodricks, and seniors Owen



**Above: junior Adam Rodricks who has been apart of 3 school records this year**

Murphy and Ace Etienne set a record in the 4x200m with a time of 1:37.22. One final record was set in the relay events in the mixed 4x200m, with a team of Brenna, Susannah, Adam, and junior Jackson McDonald. Their time was 1:43.70.

When asked about how it felt to be part of a record-setting team for the first time, Jackson explained, "It felt really good and it was really exciting. It was so fun to be able to set the record with such a great group."

This record-setting season has also been contributed to by some individual runners. Brenna Gordon set a new record in the girl's 200m dash with a time of 26.26. She had set this record earlier in the season and was able to improve by over a second faster than her previous time. Ace Etienne set a new record for the 55m hurdles with a time of 7.74. This is amazing because he was out for the first few meets of the season after being injured during football season, and he was still able to set the record. Finally, Gwen O'Connor set a record for the 55m dash, with a time of 7.45 at the Monmouth County Championships.

Aside from setting records, the team has lots of fun at practice but also works hard. They are in the weight room 3 days a week, training to get stronger. Junior Molly Reid, who has been on the team since her freshman year, explains that her "favorite part of the season is getting to spend time with my teammates at practice".

The team has been practicing especially hard for the remainder of the season, which includes some big meets. Coming up, the team has the Group 2 Central Jersey State Sectionals, the Group 2 State Championships, and the Meet of Champions. Based on how the season has been going, there is no doubt the team will do great things at these meets.

# Manasquan Girls' Swim Makes Waves This Season Through Teamwork and Motivation

By: Cameron McLaughlin



The Manasquan High School girls' swim team has shown all season that success in the pool comes from more than individual talent. Through tough practices, close meets, and strong team chemistry, they all have relied on depth and support to stay competitive.

Senior Katie Spalt, a long-time



**Above: Girls' varsity swim team smiling for the camera with coach Murin.**

swimmer, mentions how swimming comes with intense physical and mental demands. "Swimming is way harder than it looks from the outside," Katie notes. Still, she feels supported by her teammates, which helps make the hard work worth it. Even outside of the season, swimming is something the team con-

tinues to talk about, showing how close the group has become.

One of the most exciting moments of the season came during a meet against

Wall, a win that Katie says perfectly represents the team's effort this year. That same determination was shown when Katie helped win the 200-medley relay with a time of 2:24.20, according to The Coast Star. The breaststroke, her favorite stroke, has been a consistent strength for her throughout the season. When asked about team traditions, Katie mentioned decorating the coaches' houses, a tradition that brings the team joy through the load of practices and training they endure.

Senior Kaylee Porter has also had an amazing season. She says meet days are more exciting than stressful, especially because of the energy from her teammates and friends. "Talking to my friends always puts me in a good mood at meets," she adds. Kaylee credits Manasquan Assistant Principal and girls' swim coach Mr. Murin with helping her stay confident and motivated throughout the season.

Kaylee says she's surprised herself with some of her race results this year, including placing in her events at both counties and Shore Conference, moments that made her especially proud to be part of the varsity team. If she had to be

**Right: Kaylee Porter posing in a swimming pool.**



described in one word, boys' swim team member, Desmond Nuzzolo, would describe Kaylee as "athletic". When asked if she could go back and start high school again, Kaylee says she would "of course" choose to swim again.

Reports from The Coast Star mention how Mr. Murin highlight-

**Below: The girls at their swim meet.**



ed how important the team's depth has been, particularly during close meets where both teams were missing swimmers. "Our girls did great," Murin said. "We used our depth today...I am really proud of the girls."

With a team chant that declares "We are number one!" the Manasquan girls swim team has built a season around confidence, commitment, and teamwork, proving that their strength comes from swimming together, not alone.

# From Losses to Lessons: Manasquan Boys Basketball Rises

**By: Amelia Steger**



*Above: Sophomore Kennedy Larned cheering after a win*

Even though star player Rey Weinseimer has been out all season with a knee injury, the Manasquan High School boys' basketball team has been able to keep their winning record.

Currently the team's overall record is 9-5 and they are number 43 in the NJ state ranking.

"We've got a lot of battle scars, but we are persevering through and we are trying to learn and get better every game," said Rey when asked about the season so far.

At the start of the season not only did the team lose Rey, but they also lost Logan Cleveland due to an ankle injury. This did lead to a couple of losses in the beginning, although the team quickly began their winning streak again.

Early in the season during January, the team even put together four-to-five game winning streak.

To start off their January winning streak, the team

hosted their first ever Manasquan Warrior Classic showcase. Manasquan went against Rancocas Valley and won by a landslide with the final score being 48-28.

This was one of Logan Cleveland's first game back and he was ready, "Each day, especially in practice, I feel more comfortable getting back into shape," Logan told the Coast Star, "It was frustrating in the beginning of the season because that's when you want to get

team lost 46-50.

Most recently, on February 4 the team went back up against Rumson Fairhaven who they lost to earlier in the season. Senior Jack O'Reilly picked it up in the second half and got them within two points while sophomore Sean Bilodeau was on fire the whole second half scoring 12 points for the team. With more practice and games, the team took back their winning title and won 43-32.

"Going along with what my teammate Rey said, we lost a couple games early, but we turned losses into lessons," junior Jake Litzinger responded when also being asked about the current season.

Even though the team had a rocky start, like Jake said, the team is learning from them and improving every game.

Coming up on February 6, the boys will play CBA again in hopes of beating them. Go show them your support by cheering on Big Blue in the gym!



*Above: Senior Jack O'Reilly during their game against Rumson*

ramped up and comfortable." It took some time and healing, but he quickly got back into the flow of things and scored eight points for the team that night.

The team did suffer some losses this year including a close call against Christan Brothers Academy on January 20. By third quarter the win for Manasquan wasn't looking promising since the score was 37-27. Even with Logan Cleveland's 3-point play in the last quarter, the



*Above: Action shot of Sophomore Noah Matuch while playing against Jackson*