

TOM-TOM

Volume 64 Issue 7

Mahwah High School

June 2026

CONGRATS CLASS OF 2026!



Art by Jenna Bofford '26

A Legend Retires

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A Legend Retires

By Emilia Cole and Keira Sarkisian

After 39 short years at Mahwah High School, the *Tom-Tom's* annual retirement article tradition recognizes the hard work and dedication of our beloved principal, Mr. Pascale. Mr. Pascale, throughout his extensive tenure at Mahwah, has left behind a legacy like no other and truly created a meaningful impact on the town, school, and lives of students and staff alike. Now, as he gracefully moves into retirement, he was able to sit down with us at the Tom-Tom and shared with us his thoughts on retirement, plans, and a message to the school.

Mr. Pascale has indubitably spearheaded positive change in countless ways at Mahwah, yet he explains that his two proudest achievements here are the Thunderbird Think Tank and the creation of the Career Pathway Internship and Externship Programs. He explains

that these programs created opportunities for students to broaden their horizons, explore STEM territory, and become more career-oriented.

In regard to his personal leadership, Mr. Pascale hopes that across his expanse of time at Mahwah High School, he allowed students and staff to feel supported in all of their academic, athletic, and extra-

curricular activities, something that we are sure every student can attest to as having been the case. He explains that he hopes “people felt that I took time to listen to them and hear their perspective before making any decision,” in order to be aware and understanding of what is best for both students and staff.

Considering Mr. Pascale’s

time at Mahwah has taken place over nearly four decades, it is undeniable that the high school environment has evolved. Mr. Pascale deliberated that when he first started in his position, there were “very few cell phones, no computers, and no email, so if [anyone] wanted to talk to me, they had to physically show up in my office during school hours.” In this respect, Mr. Pascale explains how technology has significantly changed the way schools work and influenced communication between students and teachers. Despite this intense change over the years, Mr. Pascale’s leadership has been amazing, whether during more analog times or the digital age of today. Thank you greatly for no Yondr pouches!

Just how Mr. Pascale will be so missed, there are plenty of things about his daily routine here

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Mr. Pascale With Mahwah High School

Tree Planting Around The MHS Campus

By Abby O’Malley

Notice any new trees around the MHS and JK campus? Recently, the Mahwah Board of Education applied for a Sustainable New Jersey tree planting grant and was awarded funds for this special purchase. The funds will go to the installation, care, and management of these trees. Mahwah is well known for its mountains and verdant trees. The famous poet Joyce Kilmer wrote a poem called “Trees” in regard to Mahwah. At the time this poem was written, Joyce Kilmer lived in Mahwah, New Jersey, on Airmount Rd. In this particular poem, Kilmer’s famous line is, “I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree.” Kilmer’s insight on the trees in Mahwah goes to show how ethereal Mahwah’s nature is.

This new project is producing approxi-



First Tree Planting 2026

mately 80 small and large trees. This project is currently in action, and these trees will continue to grow. The small trees will be 10 feet tall, and the large trees will be 50+ feet. The trees being used for this project are indigenous to New Jersey and are acclimated to the local climate and soil conditions, which call for a healthy general group of trees for our campus. These indigenous trees will provide a significant benefit to the school grounds by giving support to the wildlife and will serve as an important source for pollinators. Our Mahwah High School campus already contains many trees, but these new trees are additional to those and are being planted in open spaces, away from the current trees. These trees will also be away from overhead power lines and underground utilities, keeping the Mahwah High School environment a safe place.



Tree Planting 2026

Habitat for Humanity’s Annual Volleyball Fundraiser

By Mckenna Grudzien

On June 18th, the Habitat for Humanity club hosted its annual volleyball fundraiser in the Mahwah High School gym in an attempt to raise money to continue the construction of a house for a family in need.

The Habitat for Humanity club focuses on a variety of community service/community service projects. Some of which include Access for All events, Miles for Marcus, the Snow Angels, who help shovel the elderly’s driveways and or walk ways during snow storms, helping out with, or supporting, people who are participating in events in our school in addition to the other schools in the district, and of course, the annual volleyball fundraiser. “Members in the club have the opportunity to sign up for different events that they are able to attend and help out with.” Miley Mikhail, a member of Habitat for Humanity explains. Miley also says that “the volleyball fundraiser is a really smart way to raise money for a really good cause.” This year, the Habitat for Humanity club has two-hundred active, and involved members.

To go into further detail about the different options the club offers to students who are looking to participate in community service, the Habitat for Humanity club also works with Access for All. Which is a separate organization that works to host events for individuals with disabilities and or special needs. Access for All’s most recent event was a half way to Halloween

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Go New York Go! Knicks Win First Championship in 53 Years

By Kieran Hetzel

Jalen Brunson and the Knicks were overlooked going into the start of the NBA season last October. Many people were calling Brunson ‘too short’, and many were doubting the team’s success with new Head Coach, Mike Brown. However, the Knicks proved all the doubters wrong when they went 12-3 in this year’s playoffs and defeated the Western Conference Champion San Antonio Spurs in 5 games in the NBA Finals. The finals were very close despite the Knicks only losing 1 of the games. The Spurs lead the games over 70% of the time, with the Knicks quickly falling behind in all 5 of the games. In Game 1 the largest lead by the Spurs was 14 points, before the Knicks ended the game on an 11-0 run and defeated them by 10 105-95, Game 2 was a battle to the end, back and forth shooting by the Knicks and the Spurs ultimately ending with a Victor Wembanyama missed shot as the final score was 105-104. Game 3 was the only loss

for the Knicks in this series as the Spurs used a strong second half to bounce back and win 115-111 in the NBA finals’s return to Madison Square Garden.

started to go the Knicks way with Brunson and Anunoby leading the charge the Knicks had out-scored the Spurs 26 to 14 in the 3rd, and 32 to 16 in the 4th. The turning point in the game was



Knicks Win 2026

with seconds left in the game, when Jalen Brunson rimmed a long 3 point shot, and OG Anunoby with a miraculous tip in shot, to clinch the game for the Knicks. Brunson scored 36 points while Anunoby scored 33 in the historic comeback victory, Game 5 returned to San Antonio with everything on the line. The Spurs again got to a hot start in the game only allowing the Knicks to score 13 points in the first quarter. Jalen Brunson didn’t want to play another game. He scored 45 points in the series clinching game to take the lead and lead the Knicks to victory for the first time since 1973.

Game 4 was a pivotal point in the series at MSG and the Spurs game out shooting, leading by at 29 at one point in the game with Wembanyama having 24 points and Don Bosco Prep Alum Dylan Harper having 21 points on the bench. In the 3rd Quarter, things really

Knicks fans all around New York, New Jersey and around the world are elated for the Knicks’s victory. New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani announcing shortly after the Knick’s victory that the team’s first Tickertate Parade will be held on Thursday, June 18th at 10:00 AM

Mr. J’s Tom-Tom Senior Farewell 2026

By Mr. Jankowski

It is with a very heavy heart that *Tom-Tom* says farewell to some very special Senior Editors and consistent contributors. Editors Emilia Cole and Samantha Sonders have come to be more like good friends over the past few years than just *Tom-Tom* journalists. In my 15 years supervising *Tom-Tom*, Emilia and Sam have been some of the best contributors I have had the pleasure of working with.

Emilia and Sam have been invaluable members of our staff for most of their high school career and we are going to miss them dearly. From a journalistic perspective, these young women are the most talented, acute, hardworking, dedicated, and creative editors that the *Tom-Tom* has had the pleasure to have on the staff. Both established themselves as credible reporters with eyes for accuracy, knowledge of MHS’s culture, and seamless organization during their tenure. Emilia has completed some of the biggest stories over the years including covering the MHS Sports Hall of Fame night and countless interviews of newsworthy subjects. Sam took over the layout responsibilities

with ease and developed her always unique voice while writing her articles. They both grew into editors and writers of fortitude and integrity through challenges, and I will miss them both dearly, but I know how successful they will become in the real world, which consoles me. We all wish them the best in their next journey and we are confident in their continued success.

I also need to say a farewell to two valued senior contributors in Keria Sarkissian and Aarush Borker, who have been consistent and talented writing contributors for several years. I know they will also find more success in their future careers in any field they see fit. *Tom-Tom* thanks them for their practicality, their voice, and their dedication to the school newspaper.

I will miss all my conversations, laughs, struggles, and successes with these very distinct, hardworking senior contributors. The entire *Tom-Tom* staff and I wish all our senior contributors a future filled with newsworthy W’s, strong leads, vivid captions, and plenty of by-lines. Enjoy the next section of your story seniors, it’s sure to be a heck of a headline.



Tom-Tom

Senior Destinations

Brian Abysalh
Joaquin Acevedo
Myles Aden
Eric Adoni
Lillian Alesio
Nicholas Alfano
Barbie Alfisi
Joseph Alfisi
Daniel Almash
Ryan Altinis
Anna Amir
Damian Andino
Rachel Ansardy
Jenna Araujo
Jacob Arsala
Ashley Asterita
Nicholas Avella
Teagan Baraty
Wade Barton
Dilan Basaran
Derek Bellin
Jenna Bofford
Aarush Borker
Cole Boruta
Riley Bosticco
Charlotte Brentnall
Lina Brodeur
Josie Brown
Willie Brown
Skylar Bubko
Gabriella Bueno
Victoria Burgess
Anna Burns
Geovanny Cadmen
Carter Cardine
Summer Cardine
Anaya Castillo
Kaira Castillo
Anthony Catrini
Gavin Cattiny
Caden Cavaliere
Joline Chait
Kelvin Chan
Alisha Chatterjee
Elias Chi
Leonidas Chimboraz
Jeane Chun
Abigail Clark
Emilia Cole
Ava Comer
Wilson Conde
Aidan Contin
Jax Covello
Alexander Crissey
Avril Crowe
Charles Cunningham
Ronin Czukkermann
Shane Daruwala
Jayden Davis
Dylan Deleon
Bhadra Desai
Veer Desai
Luke DiCecco
Elijah Dickson
Ethan Durand
Peyton Egg

Thunderbird LifePath Program
Fairleigh Dickinson University (Metropolitan)
The Ohio State University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Quinnipiac University
Palm Beach Atlantic University
High Point University
Employment
Penn State University
Ramapo College of New Jersey
Ramapo College of New Jersey
Lincoln Technical Institute
Pratt Institute
Montclair State University
Bergen Community College
James Madison University
University of Tampa
Bergen Community College
Brigham Young University
Sacred Heart University
University of Delaware
College of Charleston
Columbia University
University of Michigan
Fairfield University
The College of New Jersey
Iowa State University
University of Alabama
Trade School
Lynn University
Pace University (New York City)
Fairleigh Dickinson University (Metropolitan)
Pace University (New York City)
Bergen Community College
Ramapo College of New Jersey
Stony Brook University
Bergen Community College
Bergen Community College
Ramapo College of New Jersey
Thunderbird LifePath Program
Employment
Syracuse University
Syracuse University
Rutgers University
Northeastern University
Bergen Community College
Rutgers University
Fairfield University
Bard College
Clemson University
Sacred Heart University
Bergen Community College
Fairfield University
University of South Carolina
Rutgers University
Quinnipiac University
Trade School
The College of New Jersey
Rutgers University
Montclair State University
Rutgers University
Rutgers University
Fordham University
Montclair State University
Susquehanna University
University of Tampa

Claire Falero
Grace Fear
Liam Fitzgerald
Owen Fitzgerald
Grace Flynn
Christopher Foreman
Nicholas Fuchs
Connor Fullam
Marin Gaslow
Shawn Giles
Simar Gill
Robert Gourley
Daniel Grullon
Elena Hart
Yaritza Hernandez Osorio
Kieran Hetzel
Christopher Hoerauf
Christopher Howard
Alexander Huang
Marissa Jansen
Ryan Jarous
Kimi Jativa
Anna Jensen
Alyssa John
Emma Jordan
Gabriella Kaplan
Tanishi Kapoor
Kudrat Kaur
Lucas Kayal
Daanish Kazi
Umair Kazi
Abbey Kempkes
Saidal Khan
Kaylee Kopec
Paul Kopec
Casey Kunisch
Victoria Laddy
Jillian Lalonde
Jessica Langenmayr
Yesum Lee
Nicholas Lencsak
Evan Lerman
Adrianna Lifrieri
Isabella Lifrieri
Kellany Louis
Veronica Luque
Rodolfo Marchesi
Nicholas Maretzo
Megan Marrone
Daniel Martinez
Mariia Matveeva
Matthew Mazzoleni
Payton McCarthy
Luke McCue
Jaquelin Melendez Chavez
Sarhad Melkonian
Reese Mellish
Simon Melnyk
Lily Merryman
Rozalla Merturi
Zaria Mian
Alison Migliacci
Sebastian Miller
Sienna Miller
Chiara Mirante
Hope Monks

Ramapo College of New Jersey
George Washington University
Villanova University
Quinnipiac University
SUNY Fashion Institute of Technology
Rochester Institute of Technology
Fairfield University
Sacred Heart University
Binghamton University
Lincoln Technical Institute
Rutgers University
Fairleigh Dickinson University (Metropolitan)
Ramapo College of New Jersey
Loyola University Maryland
Bergen Community College
Binghamton University
Stevens Institute of Technology
Quinnipiac University
Rutgers University
The Ohio State University
Rutgers University
Bergen Community College
University of South Carolina
University of Wisconsin (Milwaukee)
Virginia Tech
Drexel University
Boston University
New York University
University of Scranton
Penn State University
Penn State University
High Point University
Bergen Community College
SUNY Purchase College
Bergen Community College
Virginia Tech
Southern Methodist University
University of Scranton
Sacred Heart University
Ramapo College of New Jersey
George Washington University
Rochester Institute of Technology
Marist University
Centenary University
St. John’s University (New York)
St. John’s University (New York)
Sacred Heart University
St. Thomas Aquinas College
Northeastern University
Bergen Community College
Brandeis University
New Jersey Institute of Technology
Seton Hall University
Bergen Community College
Bergen Community College
Middlebury College
Pace University (New York City)
Penn State University
University of Delaware
Rowan University
Rutgers University
University of South Carolina
Virginia Tech
Stony Brook University
University of Miami
College of the Holy Cross

Senior Destinations

Trevyn Monson
Regan Montegari
Timothy Morris
Dylan Moskowitz
Nicholas Mule
Aidan Muller
Abigail Murphy
Jack Newman
William Nixon
Dylan Nizza
Kendra Nizza
Ethan Northrup
Ava Novello
Jedidiah Olumurewa
Nathan Orozco Arce
David Ortiz
Elettra Palombo
Grace Pardo
Connor Park
Saad Parvez
Amari Patel
Jiya Patel
Sade Patterson
Vanessa Pavlou
Nicole Pertuz
Avery Petersen
Shamair Petty
Kasey Pieklo
Vermarr Pitts
Ishan Prabhu
Vidya Prasad
Trisha Rajamoorthy
Zuzanna Reuter-Gargol
Payton Roark
Cameron Robator
Luis Roque Ovalles
Scott Rosenblatt
Yosef Saad
Erin Salazar
Corinne Salzman
Elisse San Antonio
Keira Sarkissian
Mia Sblendorio

Brigham Young University (Idaho)
Bergen Community College
Ithaca College
Lynn University
Villanova University
James Madison University
Savannah College of Art and Design
Colby College
Ithaca College
University of South Carolina
East Carolina University
Saint Michael’s College
Wilkes University
Temple University
Bergen Community College
Bergen Community College
Ramapo College of New Jersey
Virginia Tech
Rutgers University
Ramapo College of New Jersey
Thunderbird LifePath Program
Rutgers University
University of New Haven
San Diego State University
University of Connecticut
Villanova University
Bergen Community College
Georgia Tech
Kean University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
University of Washington
George Washington University
Fisher College
University of Tennessee
St. Bonaventure University
Bergen Community College
Penn State University
New York Institute of Technology
Thunderbird LifePath Program
Quinnipiac University
Rowan University
Hamilton College
East Carolina University

Julianna Schrek
Faith Schulz
Devin Shea
Bhavishya Shishodia
Avery Siegler
Akshat Singh
Brandon Sklar
Sophia Small
Jackson Smith
Connor Soha
Samantha Sonders
Lucas Speer
Ryan Sumner
Shaan Suri
Veronika Szubryt
Nitya Tandon
Dylan Taylor
Tyler Theolen
Tiernan Thompson
Bruno Tovar
Taylor Tremblay
Brandon Tsu
Hailey Tsu
Hamza Uddin
Murtaza Umer
Hannah Van Natta
Hattie Vanderbeek
James Velkas
Nishtha Vyas
Alex Wang
Olivia White
Ian Wilczynski
Alex Wong
Sophia Worth
Samantha Yager
Mandy Yazidjian
Connor Yturregui
Chase Yun
Jacob Zaky
Anthony Zampino
Lucas Zhagui
Arnold Zhang
Derek Zisa
Luca Zuniga

University of Scranton
Endicott College
Bucknell University
University of Maryland
Sacred Heart University
Rutgers University
University of Delaware
Montclair State University
William Paterson University
Penn State University
Boston University
New Jersey Institute of Technology
William & Mary
New York University
Montclair State University
University of Florida
James Madison University
The College of New Jersey
SUNY Rockland Community College
Bergen Community College
University of Connecticut
The College of New Jersey
The College of New Jersey
New Jersey Institute of Technology
University of Colorado (Boulder)
Binghamton University
The College of New Jersey
Bergen Community College
University of South Florida
Fordham University
University of New Haven
Stevens Institute of Technology
Stevens Institute of Technology
Rutgers University
William Paterson University
Rutgers University
The Ohio State University
University of Massachusetts (Amherst)
Fairleigh Dickinson University (Metropolitan)
Bergen Community College
Montclair State University
New Jersey Institute of Technology
University of Mississippi
Lycoming College

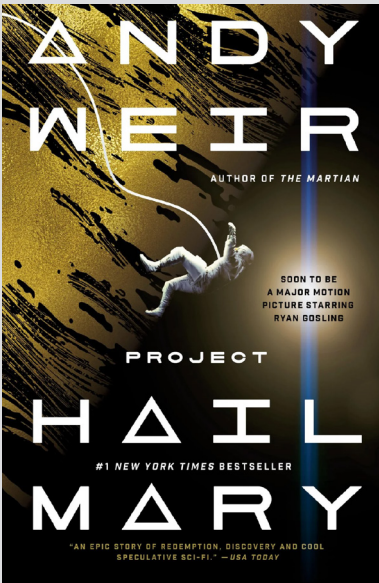


MHS’s English Teachers’ Summer TBR List

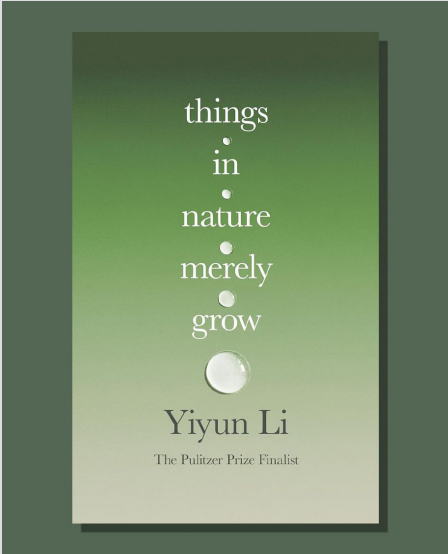
By Gloria Zhan

As the ‘25-26 school year comes to a close, it’s time to look towards hobbies and ways to pass time for the summer. For the Tom-Tom Senior Edition, we went around and asked MHS’s very own English teachers about their summer reading lists! Whether you are interested in what your English teachers are reading or simply want some new book recommendations, you are certainly about to be introduced to some very alluring books!

Ms. Lontine is currently



Project Hail Mary

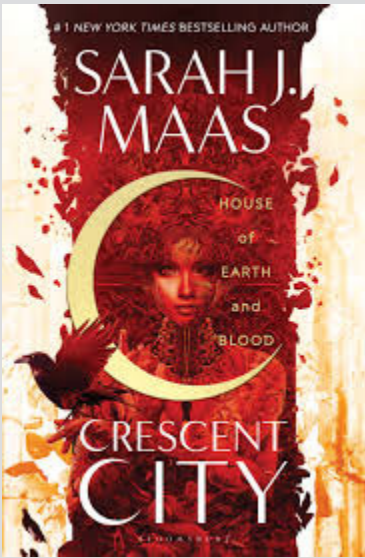


Things in Nature Merely Grow

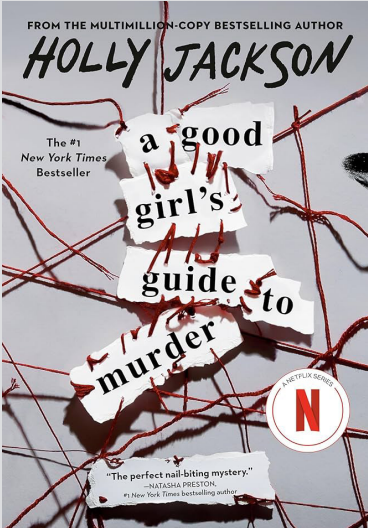
listening to the audiobook of *Project Hail Mary*, written by Andy Weir and read by Ray Porter. This novel follows a molecular biologist who wakes up on a spaceship, discovering he is the only hope of saving Earth from a sun-eating microorganism. She specifies how she recommends the audiobook to “anyone who enjoys listening to stories.” Ms. Lontine mentions how Porter’s rendition of the narrative had her “laugh out loud many times and cry once or twice” while listening. Furthermore, she is planning on reading *Things in Nature Merely*

Grow by Yiyun Li, who won a Pulitzer Prize for the memoir this year. This memoir follows Li’s painful and moving experience in dealing with tragedy, and many reviews incur that she oftentimes revealed her heart throughout the novel. Last but not least, Ms. Lontine plans on trying the *Crescent City* series by Sarah J. Maas, which follows a half-human, half-Fae girl navigating a modern and tech-heavy world ruled by tyrannical figures.

Similarly, Mr. Dalessio is also planning on diving in *Project Hail Mary*, written by Andy Weir.



Crescent City



A Good Girl’s Guide to Murder

He illustrates how he has heard great things about the novel. Afterwards, he plans on reading a poetry book his daughter gifted him for his birthday. Mr Dalessio plans to read these books once summer break begins, and exclaims how he likes to “get into books and not get interrupted.”

Ms. Lefford is looking to read the Holly Jackson series, a murder mystery that follows 17 year old Pippa Fitz-Amobi as she investigates secrets in her small town. The series contains three main novels: *A Good*

Continued on pg 9

Habitat for Humanity’s Annual Volleyball Fundraiser (cont.)

party, where the attendees had dressed up in costumes, danced, and ate pizza. The members of Habitat for Humanity go to help with both setting, and cleaning up in addition to making sure the attendees are having a good time. Additionally, Habitat for Humanity hosts Homework Club throughout the duration of the school year on Tuesdays and Thursdays in order to ensure that both the elementary, and middle school students get the necessary assistance on their school work/homework by having the volunteers sit with either one or two kids and having the volunteers instruct them on how to do their assignment, making sure they stay on task, or helping correct any mistakes.

Going back to the fundraiser, in regards to teams, there were eight teams competing this year. Additionally, in regards to participants, Mrs. Guzinski, the club adviser, and also this



Volleyball Fundraiser Signs

month’s Top Soaring Thunderbird, clarifies that “the teams are made up of a mix of Mahwah High School students from all grade levels, including freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors.” Mrs. Guzinski also explains that an additional goal of this fundraiser is “to bring students together while supporting a great cause.”

As for where the raised money is going, and what it will be used for, all proceeds are going to be donated to “the Bergen County chapter of Habitat for Humanity.” Mrs. Guzinski declares. The funds anticipated to be collected from the fundraiser will assist in subsidizing the continuation of construction on a house for a family in need. Although the family has yet to be chosen, the Habitat for Humanity club is working diligently to ensure that the family that is chosen will be given a home that is able to provide both adequate, and pleasant living conditions. However, the opportunity to volunteer for this specific cause does not end after the volleyball fundraiser. After all of the proceeds are both collected, and donated, any club members who are at least nineteen and are a part of the senior class at Mahwah High School may have the opportunity to go to the construction site of the house and assist in the building of the home, allowing for tons of hands-on involvement in addition to developing a new understanding of what it means to provide community service.

As of last year, the Habitat for Humanity club was able to raise \$60,000 to put toward



Fundraiser Face Painting

the construction costs of a home for a family in Oradell. Notably, as previously mentioned, as a result of the huge success regarding the amount of money raised, the club had allowed for any member who is above the age of eighteen to go to the construction site to facilitate the construction process.

In regards to this year’s winner, the Birds of Thunder had taken the win after competing in three consecutive games against a variety of other teams which include The AI Masters, who the Birds of Thunder had actually faced off in the championship game and, of course, won with a score of 25-13.

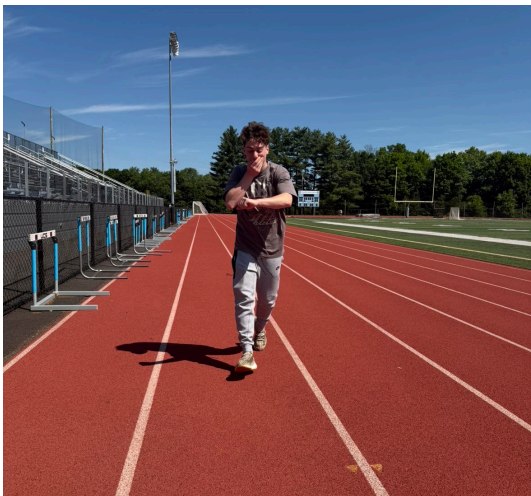
So, make sure to keep an eye out for further information in regards to the progress being made in regards to both construction, in addition to choosing a family who the house will be built for.

Prom 2026



Senior Superlatives

Most likely to be late to graduation



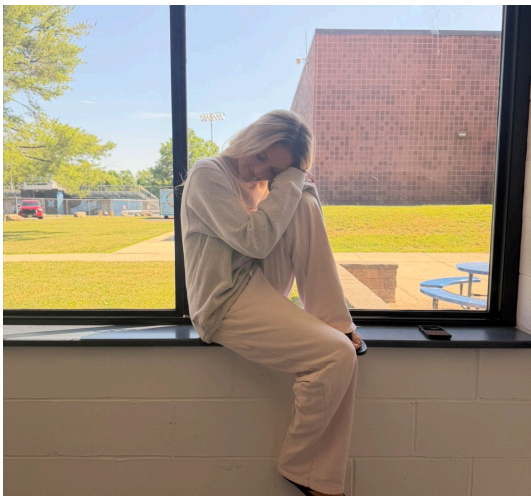
J.J Alfisi

“Best dressed”



Jacob Zacky

Worst case of senioritis



Zuzanna Reuter-Gargol

Most likely to be everyone’s “emer-
gency contact”



Avril Crowe

Shortest/Tallest Duo



Owen Fitzgerald and Liam
Fitzgerald

Most likely to be a famous celebrity



Charlie Cunningham

By Valentina Moreno

A Legend Retires (cont.)

at Mahwah High School that he will miss in turn. Generally, he’ll miss getting to interact with all of our talented students here, whether he’s joining them in the classroom, accompanying them on the field, or joining them on excursions outside of Ridge Road. I’m sure I speak for all of the student body when I say that it’s always exciting to get a visit from Mr. Pascale, and I couldn’t imagine any other principal showing as much genuine care for their students. He’s also loved getting to see both the behind-the-scenes passion that teachers, coaches, and advisors have and the final products, like our shows, concerts, games, and publications. It’s clear to all of us that so much of Mahwah’s success, whether academic, athletic, or artistic, has been due to Mr. Pascale’s unwavering support.

Most importantly, Mr. Pas-

cale certainly has a great retirement to be looking forward to! He plans on spending more time with his wife, who is also retiring from being an educator this year, and using the first few months to simply relax, get to know each other again, and maybe go and travel.

He also plans to use all that S.E.L. learning has taught him and focus on his self-care, something we can all take notes on. A fun fact about Mr. Pascale is that he’s a long-time subscriber of the New York Times Cooking publication, and will be using his newfound free time to get

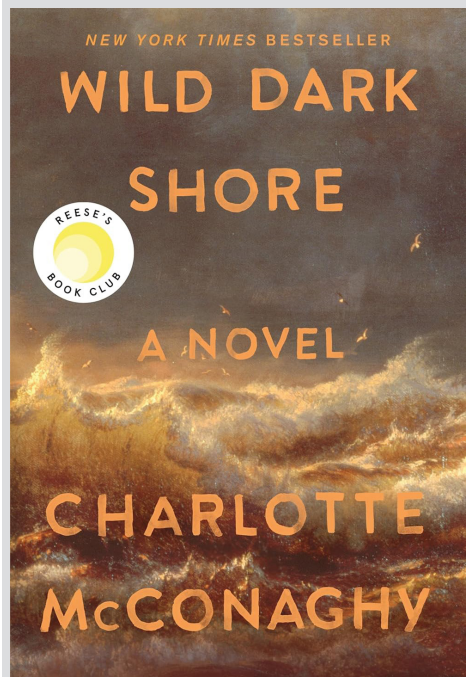
in the kitchen and try out some new recipes. We can’t wait to see what he makes!

After 39 years as an integral part of the Mahwah High School community, Mr. Pascale has some final words he’d like to pass down. He hopes that everybody finds a career that they love over anything else, something that doesn’t even feel like a job. He explains that being principal has felt like “his life, his calling,” something that is certainly obvious by just how much he cares about our school. He still feels like he’s just arrived here yesterday for the first time, and he can’t believe he’ll almost be walking out for the final time. He’s been so satisfied getting to see generations of success and Thunderbird pride, and while he’ll be sorely missed, we know he’s off to incredible things. Congratulations, Mr. Pascale!



Congratulations Mr. Pascale

Summer Books (cont.)



Wild Dark Shore

Girl's Guide to Murder; Good Girl, Bad Blood; and As Good as Dead. In the series, Pippa starts a podcast throughout her investigations. Ms.

Lefford likes this series as it contains mixed-media with text messages, “interviews, pictures, and legal reports.” In addition to this series, Ms. Lefford also plans on reading *Five Survive*, another murder mystery novel by Holly Jackson.

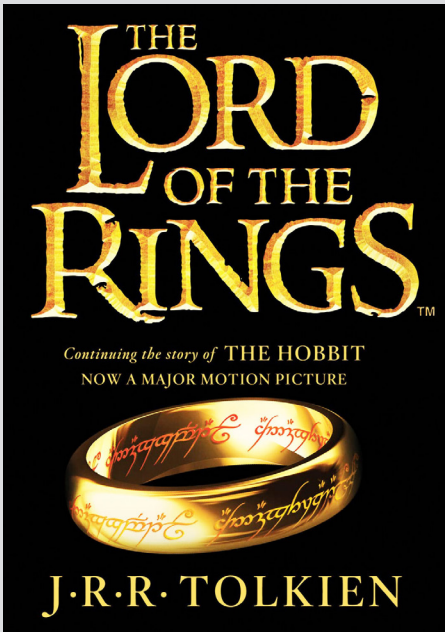
Ms. Cording projects to read *Wild Dark Shore*, a thriller novel by Charlotte McConaghly. This fiction novel follows the Salt family, the only humans who live on Shearwater, a tiny island not far from Antarctica. The family plans on leaving the island, but when a woman washes ashore after a terrible storm, the family nurses the woman back to health. As the family begins to develop a connection with the woman, the reading learns that both the Salt family and the woman are holding personal secrets. Additionally, Ms. Cording wants to read *Yesteryear*, a novel by Caro Claire Burke. The

novel follows Natalie, who lives an old, traditional lifestyle despite nannies and modern equipment surrounding her. Then, one day she wakes up transported to 1855 and is forced to live the traditional lifestyle. Ms. Cording chose these books to try “something different.”

Last but not least, Mr. Torosian intends to finish *The Lord of the Rings*, by J.R.R. Tolkien, beyond the trilogy. Exploring beyond the trilogy explores the Fourth Age and the expanded history of Middle-earth. Mr. Torosian explains how he likes fantasy, and “what you can’t find in the real world.” He has been drawn to fantasy his whole life, even so that he has a wizard figure sitting in the front of his desk. Mr. Torosian likes “the sense of escape and adventure” that he can find in fantasy.

Hope these book lists could

introduce you to some new books, and a glimpse of your English teachers’ reading plans! The Tom-Tom wishes you an amazing summer and a happy time reading!



The Lord of the Rings



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