

The Student

MHS NEWSPAPER



MHS SPEECH AND ACTING GOES TO STATE COMPETITION

by Claire Treece

February 15th and 16th, some of the best speakers in the state gathered in Peoria to compete at the IHSA State finals. Marion High School sent two representatives from its Speech & Acting Team: Bwalya Mwansa and Connor Rice.

Speech works a little differently from most other competitive events; competitors compete individually or with a partner, with the performances of other members having no effect on their individual scores. The process of qualifying for state remains the same as other groups, with each competitor having to qualify through regional and sectional rounds by placing in the top 4 and the top 3, respectively. 9 people from MHS qualified to go to sectionals, where the competition was fierce. Eventually, Bwalya and Connor both placed second in their events, qualifying them to go to state.

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HOW TO SAVE MONEY ON VALENTINES DAY: A SATIRICAL ARTICLE ON LOVE

By Jordan Bloodworth

There are a handful of ways to save your hard earned dough on Valentine's Day. Like going to a less expensive restaurant, limiting yourself on the price of gifts, or maybe just staying home and making dinner yourself for a change. These are all great ways to save, however, there's even more than that!

The first great way to save money is, in my opinion, the absolute best! It's also the most simple. Anyone could do it! The trick is this: just be single! Yeah, that's it! Just dump your date and say no to that unnecessary expensive dinner and gift. Hey, if getting rid of that girlfriend or boyfriend will save you \$100, why not just try it. You know what you can do with a Benjamin? Put that sucker in a savings account! Use that money for college or something, not that dumb significant other!

The second awesome way of saving money on Valentine's Day is a little harder than the first. It involves becoming something only 1% of Americans are... Rich! If you're rich, you don't have to worry about money! You can spend \$6,897 on a fancy dinner and show for your mate and your bank account won't be screaming for help afterwards. Plus, if you're rich, you might just have more than one date. We all say we're good people, but money turns us into animals! So get started on that awesome business idea you had. Though, I suppose you could just commit some kind of fraud?

The last and third most-best way of saving money on Valentine's Day is... just don't! Valentine's Day is a time for you and your significant other to get just a little closer. But not too close, capeesh? Just let go on the idea of saving. There's no point in sacrificing your happiness over money. You're young (or old) and you should just live your life to its fullest. So go ahead, take him/her to that fancy restaurant you've always wanted to go to. In the end, you'll realize it was all worth it!

Happy Valentine's Day, guys!

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MHS DANCE COMPETES AT NATIONALS AND STATE

By Victoria Shore

On January 31, the MHS Varsity Dance team embarked on a trip to compete at UDA Nationals for the first time in 16 years, the last team to compete being in 2002. Boarding a bus at 4 am on Thursday morning, the group of 18 girls made their way to Nashville to board a plane to Orlando, FL. The team landed in Disney with a competitive mindset, something that was vital to their success, considering they were to be the very first team to dance on the floor. Kicking off the entire UDA competition, the MHS Dance team competed in the Kick division at 9 am Friday morning. The team placed 9th in their pool of 25 and were 6 points away from the first place recipients. Following the competition, girls had the opportunity to visit Disney's Animal Kingdom and Hollywood Studios during Extra Magic Hours.

This trip was a culmination of many things for the team. A solid year of hard work and personal perseverance, the dance room often occupied 4 times a week for hours at a time (and often snow days and weekends) while they perfected their routines for the Nationals floor. This is no easy feat either, it being both mentally and physically challenging. Senior Ryley Gooch tells us, "Practices have been way more intense and have taken a lot of dedication. The team has definitely pushed themselves to a different level." But their hard work paid off, the team competing on Saturday morning in the Pom Dance category where they placed 11th in their pool of 24.

After their time to compete had passed, the team was rewarded for their successes at Disney parks! Not only did the team have fun at Magic Kingdom and Epcot, but they just so happened to be there at the same time Tom Brady was celebrating his 6th Super Bowl win. Some of the girls had a front row seat to the Super Bowl parade, which excited many at home and on social media.

Not only did the team compete at Nationals, but the very same week they arrived home at 2 am on Tuesday morning and performed at a MHS Boys Basketball game, PLUS competing at IDTA State that weekend. It truly goes to say how resilient and strong the team is as a whole when you look at their accomplishments. The team became 14 time state champs on Saturday night when they beat 2 teams in their division in kick, becoming State Champions in Double A Kick. Not only did they win 3rd in Pom Dance and 4th in Lyrical, but they beat their second place competitor in kick by 25 points!

Congratulations to the entire MHS Dance team. Not only to the dancers, but to coaching staff as well: Coach Laura Sanders, Assistant Coach Amanda Lynn and Lauren Cacioppo. Coach Sanders has such a positive influence on the girls she coaches and as her dancer, I can truly say there is no way we would've performed like we did without her guidance and encouragement. Congrats!



MHS WRESTLING GOES TO STATE

By Adriana Baysinger

The Marion High School wrestling team just recently attended their State competition. Wrestling is a highly entertaining sport to watch and doesn't get much attention from the high school student body, which is unfortunate since it requires major physical and mental discipline. Many people, such as myself, don't know much about wrestling and what it takes to be a successful wrestler. To find out more information about the teams successes at State, I spoke to Kota Triplett, a senior member of the wrestling team. Kota recounts that wrestling is a huge part of his life and now that his final season is over, he feels like part of him is missing. This is a testament to the dedication that wrestling takes. Gaige Owens won his first match by pin fall in the 3rd period, his second match lost 3-1 and his last match lost 5-4. Wrestling member Nate Dampier won his first match by disqualification due to being slammed on his head during a mat return. Nate was unfortunately unable to compete in his next match because he suffered a concussion from his slam in the previous match.



ART FIELD TRIP

by Madi Hood

The 45th annual Scholastic Art awards trip, consisted of viewing the scholastic and permanent displays at cedarhurst center for the arts in Mount Vernon Il. The winners include but not limited to Jordan Bloodworth: John R. and Eleanor R. Mitchell Foundation Administrative Counselor Scholarship,

Two Silver Key Portfolio
 Reed Absher: Silver key Portfolio, Gold Key Award
 Arah Camer: Honorable Mention Portfolio,
 2 Gold Key awards
 Ryan Palmer: Gold Key Portfolio
 Ana Cuartas: American Vision Award Nominee,
 2 Gold Key Awards,

Logan Owens: Gold Key Award
 Alexis Wagner: Gold Key Award
 Lawrence Mitchell: Gold Key Award
 Andrew Bishop: Gold Key Award

These talented students have shown their dedication to the arts with these pictures, paintings and portfolios. Fantastic job Marion High School Artists!



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

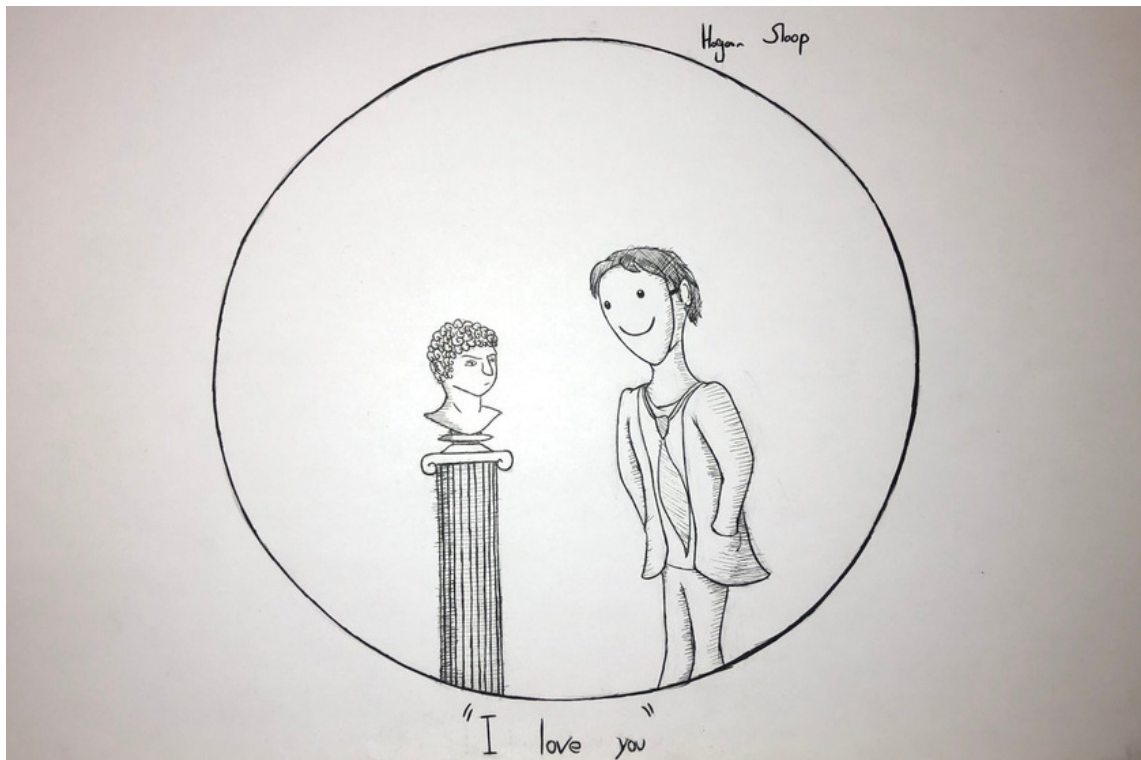
By Claire Treece

This month, I chose to better get to know Noah Cash. Noah, among other things, is the treasurer of National Honor Society, the vice-president of the Young Conservatives Club, the co-chair of entertainment for FBLA, and president of the PBIS Club. He is also an accomplished bowler, where he notably placed second at the 2019 regionals, has made first team All-Conference twice, was the Marion Star Athlete of the Week, and is co-captain of the MHS Bowling Team. Outside of school, Noah is an intern for the Mike Absher and John Stoecklin campaigns, a writer for Right Tusk Media, and works at the Miners Stadium. He is a student pilot, and the Cadet Commander with Civil Air Patrol. After graduation, Noah will likely attend Ole Miss in the fall, majoring in International Studies. He plans to join the Air Force after college, with the eventual goal of working in the government.

To younger students, Noah advises that they get involved with the Marion Maniacs. He told me that while he only participated this year, he regrets not doing so sooner, as it is a lot of fun. Good luck for the future, Noah!



A COMIC BY HOGAN SLOOP



FBLA WEEK

By Fallon Heady

Every year FBLA holds a spirit week to celebrate their club and get members excited for the state conference in April. Members kicked off the week with a pajama day on Tuesday and had a pizza party in Hawaiian apparel Wednesday. On Thursday our future business leaders could be seen walking around in their brightly colored club t-shirts and Friday they were decked out in blue and gold, supporting MHS and the colors of the FBLA banner. In an interview with Tessa Bradley she talks about her support of the club. "FBLA is an amazing opportunity for students to learn more about their local businesses and how business affects us in our daily lives. We get to go to so many different fun retreats and conferences where we always have a blast. I highly recommend people joining next year to join in on the fun."



A FOLLOW UP ON LIBRARY ACCESSABILITY

By MHS Newspaper Staff

In our November edition of The Student, we featured an op-ed about the accessibility of the MHS Library to students. We are happy to say that the library is now open before school, from 7:35-8:00, and has been for several months. This opens up new chances for students to check out books, use the computers, and just hang out before school if they so choose. However, this is a temporary fix. The library is currently being supervised by MHS faculty who need supervisory hours for their continuing educational opportunities. After completing these hours, they will no longer be supervising the library before school, and it will again be closed. Students, if this is important to you, be sure to go to the library before school in order to show your appreciation!



FFA WEEK

by MHS Newspaper Staff

Celebrating National FFA Feb 18-23 is a fun and exciting experience for all members of FFA! With fun themes such as pajama day, hat and boot day, as well as educational activities for the members. On Thursday members were able to meet State Vice President, Eliza Petry. Friday was Flannel day and the annual FFA lunch cookout, and Saturday was the FFA Alumni and Chapter Blue and Gold 5k, as well as their pancake breakfast! One student said, "It's a really great way to show off FFA spirit especially considering a lot of kids don't know what FFA is." This week is meant to spark an interest with students who are unacquainted with FFA, and bring a week of unity and fun for current members!



SPEECH AND ACTING GOES TO STATE (CON)

By Claire Treece

Out of the 14 different events, Bwalya competed in Original Comedy, and Connor competed in Original Oratory. Both of these events have original content, so they both wrote their scripts themselves. Bwalya's was a comedy about college applications, and Connor's speech is about his experience with sepsis. Ultimately, Bwalya ended up 13th and Connor ended up as 15th in the state, both beating 5 other people.

Talking to Bwalya, she said "It was really cool to see the level of talent there, not just in my event. I was really proud of the people who qualified from our region. The caliber of people who were competing was very exciting for me to see, and made me want to continue in college." She also wants to thank the team's coach, Elizabeth Hileman, who helped her and Connor accomplish such an achievement. Congratulations, Bwalya and Connor, on state!

