

# The Student

MHS NEWSPAPER



## MHS MADRIGALS

by Victoria Shore

The MHS Choir's annual Madrigal dinner took place on December 7 & 8. A flashback to the 1500's, this event held at MHS was a blast to the past, reminding the audience of simpler times. Filled with singing, laughter and great food, attendees were transported to the Renaissance period for the night.

Jazz Choir members spent months preparing for this event, holding 2-3, two hour practices a week to perfect their music for up to two months. Madrigal music is much different than concert or Broadway arrangements, challenging the members of the ensemble to increase their musicianship and understand new forms of music as they rehearse.

With each couple dressed in Renaissance attire, the group attended multiple community performances the week of their show. From nursing homes and Rotary Club meetings, to WSII for Sounds of the Season, this group was keen to share their love of music with others this Christmas season. (con page 3)

**INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:**

**CANNED FOOD  
DRIVE (page 2)**

**MADRIGALS  
(page 3)**

**WINTER SPIRIT  
WEEK (page 5)**

# MHS GIVES BACK

By Claire Treece

With the holidays just around the corner, many people are feeling the spirit of giving. There are several charitable drives going on around MHS, all with the intent of helping others. One such drive that just ended is the annual food drive. Every year, students band together in the name of the giving spirit (and the name of getting those bonus points right before finals) in order to gather cans for several local organizations. This year, there were a total of 3139 cans collected from the entire student body.

These cans were distributed across 5 organizations: The Salvation Army, The Promise, The Lighthouse Shelter, Marion Ministerial Alliance, and the MHS Food Pantry. In addition to the food drive, there was also a toy drive for Lutheran Social Services, a coat drive, a drive for items for children in Heartland Regional Medical Center, and a drive for pet items for Saint Francis Medical Shelter. Thanks to everyone who gave, and for helping those who really need it this holiday season.

# ILLUMINAE BOOK REVIEW

by Corey Bruce

Two authors means twice as good of a book, right? In the case of *Illuminae* by Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff, that is mostly the case. This book tackles practically everything a futuristic novel could, covering space, the ships that brave her, artificial intelligence, deadly viruses, and good old morality. The single most intriguing part of *Illuminae* is its format. The entire story is told through a compilation of ship logs, medical reports, chat rooms, websites, and even a crazed A.I.'s semi-mind. The sense of dread and suspense the story creates is only boosted by the individual strengths of both authors, and the fact that innocent people are being forced into this situation helps *Illuminae* to be a wonderfully intense sci-fi thriller, held down only by the authors' fear to commit to an ending.

*Illuminae*'s story is alone not excessively interesting, but it is told brilliantly through the formatting of chapters, pages, and even words. The whole story is shown to us through casual chat rooms, surveillance video reviews, and formal captain notices. As the book progresses all of these slowly break down into more dire and mad ramblings as people try to maintain their humanity. The most unique and memorable of the format arguably comes from the ravings of AIDAN, who slowly gains its own sentience, and whose memory logs are the most entertaining to read out of all the parts of the book. When the lines follow their standard pattern, AIDAN is stable, but when they become unique and bent, AIDAN is "malfunctioning".

Newspaper Sponsor:  
Mrs. Neal

Editor: Victoria Shore

Copy Editor:  
Claire Treece

Media Editor:  
Fallon Heady

Lead Writer: Madi Hood



MHS The  
Student  
Newspaper



@mhsnews  
paper



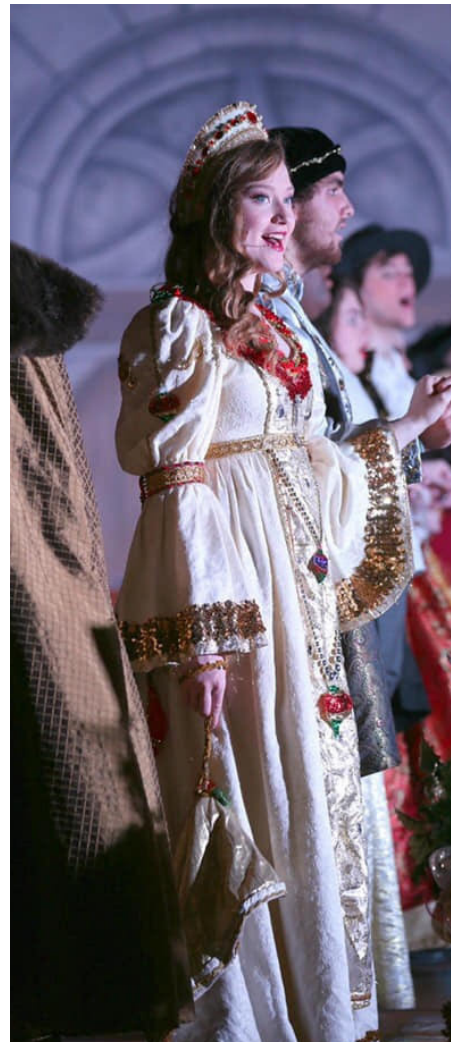
@mhsnews  
paper1



## MHS MADRIGALS (CON)

King Ty Williams and Queen Olivia Morris, both seniors this year, led the group with grace and strong leadership. Olivia was even recognized by children from elementary schools the group visited throughout the week. She says, "... my favorite memory of being queen was when a little girl stopped me in Kroger and asked if I was a part of the madrigal group that came to her school." Olivia inspired this little girl, "She told me she wanted to be in madrigals one day."

The Madrigal performance is a event that many members in the community look forward to every year, both shows sold out to people wanting to get into the Christmas spirit. Bravo to the MHS Jazz choir on their spectacular performances!



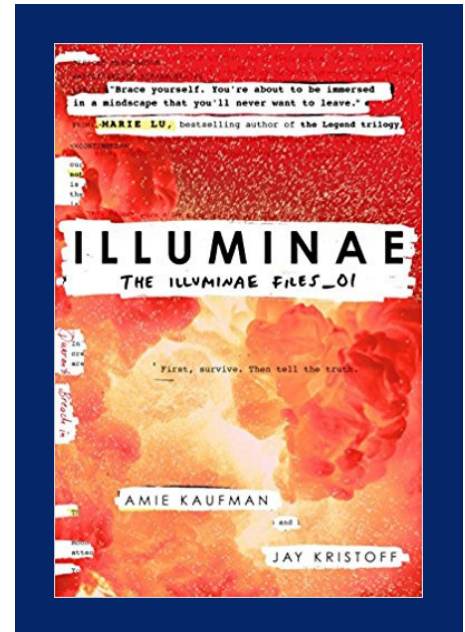
# ILLUMINAE BOOK REVIEW (CON)

If there is a “best part”, then there can be a second best. And for Illuminae that second best is the Phobos virus, a rapidly evolving disease that gives everyone weaponized insanity. Well not literally, but it is a nice variation of the zombie virus trope. Whereas most zombies are mindless, shambling idiots, Phobos zombies retain all of their intelligence. The only difference between who they were and who they are is their insatiable bloodlust and an oddly frightening hatred of eyes. Towards the second half of the novel, the Phobos virus runs rampant, and watching people flee from their former comrades is terrifyingly intense. And we get it all from AIDAN, whose apathy is rivaled only by the madness of Dorian, an ex-commtech worker. The aftermath is described beautifully:

STARING AT THE BODY SHE HAS MADE,  
KNOWING THEY WILL HAVE HEARD THE SHOTS.  
NO TIME FOR PRAYERS OR LAST WORDS  
OR TEARS. NO TIME TO EVEN CLOSE HIS EYES.  
DON'T LOOK AT ME.  
WHAT ELSE CAN SHE DO? (399)

The biggest flaw of the book comes from the ending, in which there was obviously conflict between the authors. The book sets up for a bleak ending, and does a wonderful job doing so. But everything is quickly broken down into a feel good “everyone makes it out alright and then had popsicles”. This is likely because Kaufman always goes for the happy ending, and Kristoff despises them. This contradiction removes all emotional investment in the characters of the story, and leaves a bitter taste in the mouth of the reader.

Nonetheless Illuminae manages to do almost everything right, only really failing at the end. The themes of morality and fear presented by the authors holds strong through the whole novel. Kaufman and Kristoff work together incredibly well, and I would recommend Illuminae to anyone who enjoys fiction of any kind. Even if the basic premise of the book doesn't appeal to the reader, there is something for everyone to enjoy, and I would easily place Illuminae by Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff among my favorite books I have ever read.



## COREY BRUCE

Cory Bruce is an MHS Sophomore who wrote the above book review for his Honors English II class. Corey is an excellent writer, avid reader and impressed his teacher so much that she selected his book review out of all classes to be featured in the paper. Well done, Corey!



# SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

By Claire Treece

his month's Senior Spotlight is about Sailor Morris. This year, you may see Sailor acting as the president of the Future Business Leaders of America club. He is also the saxophone section leader for marching band. Although he is currently searching for a job, he worked for the David Lawler campaign before the election. After high school, Sailor plans to go to college for business entrepreneurship somewhere in the St. Louis area, with the eventual goal of having his own business. To him, the best part of high school has been getting to know other students and making lifelong connections with them. For underclassmen, Sailor says that his advice is that "getting involved is the best thing you can possibly do for your high school career." MHS Newspaper Staff wishes Sailor a successful future!



# WINTER SPIRIT WEEK

By Aubree Ketring

Winter Spirit Week is just before the annual Christmas Break, as well as Marion High School finals. Students get the opportunity to dress up each day of the week that expresses the typical Christmas ideas, from ugly sweaters to classic movies. Students are anxious to get off for break to celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah or other holidays one would take part in. One thing that stands in front of them is the finals, which is what everyone dreads. However, Spirit Week gives students time to relax, and loosen up before taking their exams.

Each day of Spirit Week had a different theme. Monday, being Candy Cane and Elf day, featured Buddy from Elf as the most notorious. Tuesday was Christmas Tree and Character day. Wednesday gave people the option of wearing their favorite sock toboggan and scarf combo plus Christmas socks, or to dress up as Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Thursday was Christmas Sweater day, with the majority wearing ugly sweaters or ones with funny cliches. In addition, there was Friday, which was Class Distinction day. Students were divided up by their class: Seniors were Hawaiian, Juniors were pajamas, Sophomores were Red and Green, and Freshman ott to wear flannels. Everyone dressed up to show Wildcat Pride!



*Spirit Week!*  
**UGLY  
SWEATER  
DAY**

# FBLA & FIC LEND A HELPING HAND

By MHS Newspaper Staff

In the true giving spirit, two clubs at MHS decided to give a helping hand at our local Ministerial Alliance. FBLA and FIC participated in the annual boxing of Christmas dinners this month, an event ran by volunteers that packages meals for families in need. Freshmen through Seniors helped out at this event and were more than happy to, this volunteer opportunity being one of the favorites among students in these organizations. FBLA and FIC were very happy to have been invited to help out and give back, something we all must remember to do this time of year.

# WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS TO ME



By Kamryn Madinger

It's Christmas. Which means presents, cookies, music and even more presents. But most importantly family; something so irreplaceable. Traditions are carried on from generation to generation. Whether it be memories made around the Christmas tree, in the kitchen cooking with the older members of your family or doubling over in fits of laughter, this time of year is one to remember.

Some of my favorite memories are of my grandma and I making sugar cookies and decorating them together. Though, I know it must have driven my grandma crazy, she never said anything about the imperfections or the silly designs that we would come up with. Of course, one of those silly cookies would always end up on the plate left for Santa with a glass of milk.

Traditions are something that you can connect with during the holidays. If you have traditions during Christmas that have been brought down from years before you, you are able to feel the same joy others have throughout this time of year. Their smiles and happiness are something that can never be beat. In my family we have two major traditions.

The holiday season is a time to rejoice and celebrate, laugh and sometimes cry. So let's do just that. Laugh with your grandparents, joke with your sibling's and celebrate with our loved ones.

# *Spirit Week!* CHARACTER DAY



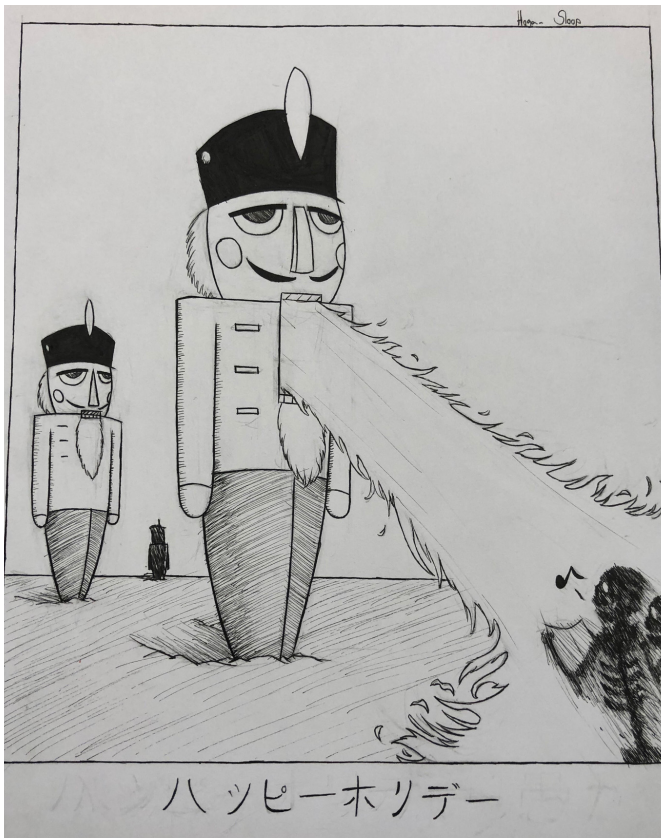
# WINTER SPORTS



By Adrianna Baysinger

As it gets colder outside, this is one of the Wildcats favorite time of year, the season lending to lots of school spirit and activities. As sports begin and games are being played, the Marion Maniacs are getting wild and excited to attend these competitions! MHS athletes have been training and getting ready for these games diligently and we are all excited to see what they have in store for us this year. Winter sports consists of basketball, wrestling, and bowling. There is so much excitement to come and we are just getting started. We wish the best of luck to everyone that will be competing for the blue and gold, let's make Marion proud!

# CHRISTMAS GIFT INSPO



By Brenda Findley

Christmas is right around the corner, meaning that products are flying off store shelves. If you are running late for a gift idea for a friend, relative, or more, here are a few popular presents to choose from! The new Amazon Echo Plus (second generation), VicTsing Shower Speaker (Wireless Waterproof Speaker with 5W Drive, Suction Cup), along with The Noise Cancelers: New Bose QuietControl 30 Noise Canceling Wireless Headphones, and, of course, gift cards are just a few popular ideas. Some students, such as freshman Braxton Cusic, want the new iPhoneX for Christmas. Karris Rhine, who is also a freshman, has asked for Bose Headphones. As for Jacob Foster, a sophomore, he wants a light bar for his 2002 F150 Truck. Senior Dylan Coles is asking for a new MacBook Pro. These are all great gift ideas for someone you may shopping late for.

**- a christmas comic by Hogan Sloop**