



## “History of Christmas”



Though Christmas is a religious holiday in which Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, there is a lot behind how it is celebrated today. Even though people celebrate Christmas on December 25<sup>th</sup>, this date is not the actual date of Jesus’s birth; his birth is, in fact, unknown. The decision to celebrate Christmas on December 25<sup>th</sup> was made during the fourth century by Roman Bishops. The reason for this was that many cultures in the Roman Empire had begun to worship the sun instead of the one true God. To celebrate their dependence on the sun’s yearly course, they held feasts around the winter solstice in December. The church leaders in Rome decided to celebrate Christ’s birth during the winter solstice in order to try and Christianize these pagan celebrations. Unfortunately, these attempts to conform them failed. As a result of this attempt, we now are left with a mix between Christian and pagan elements that characterize the way we celebrate Christmas today. One of the best things about Christmas is giving and receiving gifts! But why exactly do we give and get gifts? The reason for this is that when Jesus Christ was born, three wise men, who were kings from the east, traveled a great distance by following a certain star in the sky. The name of this star was the Star of Bethlehem, which is why some people place a star on the top of their Christmas trees. The three wise men had given Christ three gifts, including: gold, frankincense and myrrh. You also may be wondering where the popular Christmas figure Santa Clause came from. The history of Santa is traced back hundreds of years to a monk named St. Nicholas, who was very much admired for his kindness. It is said that he gave away all his wealth and traveled the world helping the poor. In fact, the image that you think of when you hear the name Santa is not what it always has been. In other countries, he wears traditional bishop attire; however, in the U.S. Santa is depicted as wearing a red suit and hat with white trim and boots. The depiction of Santa Clause was actually designed by a man named Haddon Sundblom. The first time this image of Santa was debuted was in a Coca Cola advertisement in 1931.

## “Snowball”



On Saturday, December 14, MHS will hold their annual snowball festivities. The Varsity and JV boys will play against Portsmouth Clay. This year's male candidates for seventh grade are: Logan Hayslip, Landon Conn, and Dylan Colvin. The girls are: Annie Estes, Abby McFarland, and Josie Campbell. Eighth graders running for snowball are: Ethan Pennywitt, Jamie Combs, Mason Bilyeu, Brooklyn Freeman, Katie Sandlin, and Kareemiah Brooks. Running for Prince are: Bryan Young, Arturo Toodle Hernandez, Jase Thatcher, Colton Thornburg, Rickey DeAtley, Sean Frost, and Gabe Horsley. The Princess candidates are: Kylie Lucas, Shyanne Tucker, Summer Grundy, Morgan Johnson, Randi McFarland, and Summer Wilbur. These are all freshmen and sophomores, as king and queen spots are held by juniors and seniors. This year's king could be Nick Hoskins, J.D. Stamper, Ryan Palmer, Tommy Denning, Kore Newman, Zach Slatton, or Cole Hensley. Queen candidates are: Samantha Aldridge, Brooke Grooms, Brooke Butcher, Keisha Palmer, Jaylynd Boyd, Haven Hopkins, Katelyn Johnson, and Kayla Bennington. All candidates make cans and set them out at different locations for people to put money in. After they turn in all their money and it's counted, the winner is determined by whichever person has turned in the most. The winner of each category, junior high, prince/princess, king/queen, will be announced at the conclusion of the JV game, before the beginning of the Varsity game. At the conclusion of the Varsity game, MHS will hold their annual snowball dance with D.J. Dustin Rideout. All proceeds raised by snowball candidates and admission of the dance will go to the MHS Cheerleaders for new uniforms and other necessities. So on Saturday night, come out, support our basketball and have some fun!

Tiffany Ricketts

## “Girls’ Varsity Basketball”



There are high hopes for the girls’ varsity basketball team. The members of the team that are seniors include: Jaylyn Boyd, Hannah Rideout, Haylee Adams and Rainelle Casey. Sophomores include: Summer Wilbur, Morgan Johnson, Bethany Sweeny, and Montana Hamilton. Freshmen members include: Raeanna Stamm, and Kylie Lucas. Tess Burns is the only junior. The last game the girls played was against Fairfield. The team did a fantastic job, winning by a landslide. Every girl puts forth all their effort and works very hard to be the best they can be. The team plans to put higher numbers up and to have a winning record. Every team member has a positive attitude and willingness to do whatever it takes to succeed. When asked if there is anything she would like to say about the team, Jaylyn Boyd said, “I think we’ll have a great season if we continue to play together and work hard.”

## “Boys’ Basketball”



The Greyhounds’ basketball season has just started up, and everyone at MHS is excited to see our boys play this year. I talked to one of the players (Justin Aldridge, who is also a member of the MHS Music Department) to get the opening season stats.

The varsity team has won one game; the final score was fifty-eight to sixty-two. They’ve lost to two teams so far, but Justin seemed optimistic for improved stats in the future. The junior varsity has only played one game this season which, sadly, they lost to West Portsmouth.

Both JV and Varsity have the potential for great seasons this year, working hard at practice to be a “small team that plays a fast pace.”

Emerald Proffitt

## “Jr. High Boys’ Basketball”



Our seventh grade boys have played two games this season, both coming home with a loss from West Union and Whiteoak. Isaiah Redmon says the team’s goal this year is to make it to the championship game. When asked about outstanding players, Redmon mentioned himself, of course, and Landon Conn has played very well. He thinks Coach Brewer is great and he has taught the team a lot. He treats them all with respect. This year our eighth grade boys have recently begun their season playing Whiteoak and West Union, unfortunately the boys didn’t come out on top in either game. Brennen Boyd says their team goal this year is to have a winning season and to improve from last year. He says there isn’t a player that is better than the rest; they all have their good things and bad. He says, “I personally think our coach is a good one. He stresses himself trying to figure out how to make the team better. He will stay up late just to watch game film to see what their weak points are.” He says they play good when they actually listen to coach, but it’s hard because they are all hard headed. He thinks one flaw is everyone thinks they know more than the coach, but they really don’t and they need to realize that.

## “MHS Academic Team”



The Academic Team’s season finished December 5<sup>th</sup>. Our first two matches were victories on November 5<sup>th</sup> at Peebles, against Peebles and White Oak. After a sweet taste of victory, the season took a sudden turn, which left a bitter taste in our mouths. We traveled to Eastern on November 12<sup>th</sup> for a single match against Eastern, in which we lost by a few points. After Eastern, we traveled to West Union on November 18<sup>th</sup>, where we played against North Adams and West Union. Once again, we lost by only a few points. We had our final matches on December 5<sup>th</sup>, here against Fairfield and Fayetteville; we tried very hard, but victory just slipped our grasp. Mr. Crask led the team to a 2-5 season this year. Though we lost five of our matches, we tried very hard and all of the matches were very close matches, where we lost by a difference of 2-4 points, which is one to two questions for those who are unfamiliar with the Academic Team and how it works. The seniors of the HS Academic Team consisted of: Team Captain Mason Jones, Kore Newman, Marissa Osman, Devon Blythe, and Zachary Slatton. . Congratulations to the Academic Team for another season in which they worked very hard!

## “FFA Update”



On Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Manchester Officer Team and members traveled to Peebles High School to participate in the Parliamentary Procedure team for the second year. The team included the following officers and members: Ryan Palmer, Delaney Young, Leah Dryden, Miranda Schiltz, Brook Grooms, Samantha Hanson, Haley Grooms, and Randi McFarland. The team placed fourth out of five teams, beating Georgetown and falling short by just a couple of points from a tie for third place with Peebles High School and getting to move on to regional Parliamentary Procedure contest. The team would like to thank Mrs. Karen Schiltz for chaperoning our team while Mr. Sparks was judging other teams.

Delaney Young

## “MHS Music Department”



It's Christmas time! The time for snow, presents, holiday cheer, and, of course, music! During this time each year, the Manchester Music Department puts on a fantastic Christmas concert, and this year was no different. This year's concert was on December 10<sup>th</sup>, and it took place in the Manchester High School cafeteria. As it was called “Sounds of the Holiday Season,” the students of the music department put on a great show of Christmas songs that the crowd very much enjoyed. This year's performance was under the direction of Mr. Kevin Sucher, and he was accompanied by Elaine Collins. Performing this year was the junior high, high school, and honor choir, followed by the junior high and high school band. The junior high choir began the concert by singing “The Night before Christmas.” Soon after, the high school choir sang, “Carol of the Drum,” “Where are you Christmas,” and “Let It Snow! Let It Snow!” Last, but not least, the MHS honor choir sang “The First Noel,” “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas,” “Dirait-on,” and “Christmas Bell Carol.” After the choirs were finished with their singing, the junior high and high school band were up next. The junior high band performed five songs: “Feliz Navidad,” “Up on the Housetop,” “Winter Wonderland,” “The Little Drummer Boy,” and “The Angels Mix.” Once they were applauded, the high school band moved in to play “What Child is This?”, “Angels We Have Heard on High”, and “A Holly Jolly Christmas”. For it being Mr. Sucher's first Christmas Concert here at MHS, he and the students did a very good job on performing. Everything went smoothly, and the three choirs and two bands sounded great.

Courtney Shirey

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Profiles



The first eighth grade profile is Mason Bilyeu. Mason was born on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 1999, making him fourteen years old. Mason is currently dating Morgan Johnson, so sorry, ladies! His favorite Christmas movie is *Home Alone*, and he asked for shoes and clothes for Christmas. His favorite senior is Tiffany Ricketts. You could probably find Mason watching his favorite television show, *Ridiculousness*. Mason's favorite teacher would happen to be Mr. Mantel. His best friends are James Applegate, Kaige Cox, Bradley Adkins and Tyler Brummett. He enjoys listening to "We in This 1.5" by DJ Drama. He would like to end by saying, "The bigger they are, the harder they fall."



Our second eighth grade profile is Zoie Storer. Zoie was born on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2000, making her thirteen years old. Zoie is currently single. Her favorite Christmas movie is *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*, and she asked for an iPhone for Christmas. Her favorite senior is Jessie Robertson. You could probably find Zoie watching her favorite television show *Zoey 101* or her favorite movie *Fast and Furious*. Zoie's favorite teacher would happen to be Mr. Mantel. Her best friends are Allison Fite, Olivia Back, Autumn Blevins, David Miller and Dakotah Mingee. Her favorite song is "Someday" by One Direction. She would like to end by saying, "Christmas is awesome and I love Christmas; it is the day Jesus was born, and I would do everything to get the poor kids some gifts for Christmas."

## “Sophomore Profiles”



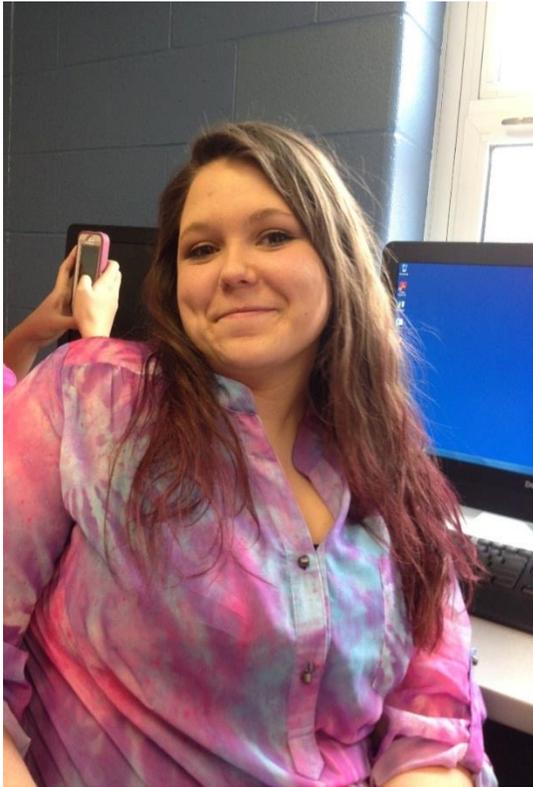
The first sophomore profile is Jordan Freeman. Jordan was born on February 26, 1998, making him fifteen years old. Sorry ladies, Jordan is in a relationship with Tiffany Ricketts. When he was asked what he wanted for Christmas, his response was, “I didn’t really ask for much, but I want a bean bag chair!” In his free time, you could probably find Jordan watching his favorite movie, *8-Mile*, or playing Xbox with Mason Bilyeu while eating some cheese sticks, which happens to be his favorite food. He also enjoys spending time with his girlfriend or hanging out with his best friends, Leevi Francis and the others. He spends his school day looking forward to his favorite class, gym. However, his favorite teacher is Mrs. McFarland. His favorite senior is, of course, his girlfriend, Tiffany, and best friend, Delaney Young. Jordan’s favorite colors include purple, white, blue, and orange. He would like to end by saying, “Never rest until your good is better and your better is best!”



Our second sophomore profile is Miss Morgan Johnson. Morgan was born on July 30, 1998, making her fifteen years old. She is currently in a relationship with Mason Bilyeu. Sorry guys! When she was asked what she wanted for Christmas, she said, “I asked for clothes, a life proof case, and shoes.” Morgan doesn’t have much free time because she’s so involved with sports, basketball being her favorite, but when she can she likes to watch her favorite movies, *The Lucky One* and *The Hunger Games*. She also enjoys spending time with her best friend, Summer Wilbur, or going out with family to enjoy some of her favorite foods, steak and hot wings. She enjoys school when she is in Spanish class or English class, which happens to be taught by one of her favorite teachers, Mrs. Lovejoy. Her other favorite teacher is Mr. Knauff. Morgan’s favorite seniors are Hannah Rideout, Haylee Adams, and Tiffany Ricketts. Her favorite colors include lime green and sky blue. She would like to end by saying, “My favorite thing to do is to play basketball. I love hanging out with friends and having a good time. I’m outgoing, and I like to meet new people. I love my family and friends. I wouldn’t trade them for the world!”

Tiffany Ricketts

## “Senior Profiles”



Our first senior profile for the December newspaper is Miss Alyssa Spires. Alyssa was born on the greatest day of her life, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1995, making her eighteen years old. You can normally find her watching her favorite movie, Big Daddy, or her favorite television show, Breaking Bad, while eating her favorite food, chicken fajitas. Sorry guys, this girl is in a great relationship with food! For this Christmas, Alyssa asked for gift cards and books. Her favorite class would happen to be Drama, but her favorite teacher is Mr. Ted Gifford. Her favorite color is purple, and her best friends are: Tera, Taylor, Dan, Whitney, Hannah, and Delaney, which is why her favorite underclassman would happen to be Miss Tera Himes. Alyssa would like to end by saying, “It’s better to burn out than fade away” –Kurt Cobain.



Our second senior profile is Mr. Zachary Slatton. He was born on March 25, 1996, making him seventeen years old. You can always find Zach enjoying his self in his favorite classes, yearbook or honor choir, and the latter is taught by his favorite teacher, Mr. Sucher. Zach’s favorite food is anything that is safe to eat, and his favorite movie would happen to be The Amazing Spider-Man. Ladies, this nice young man is SINGLE! So snatch him up while you can! For Christmas, Zach asked Santa for the movies Man of Steel and Iron Man 3. This young man loves to spend time with his best friends: Daniel Brinker, Derek Minge, Denny Blanton, Billy Streetman, Trey Brooks, and Emerald Proffitt. He would like to end by saying: “May the force be with you, young Padawans.”

## “Brinker Benefit”



On December 14, 2013, at 4:00 P.M. MHS hosted a benefit for one of our own seventh grade students who was diagnosed with stage one Leukemia. Miss April Brinker was diagnosed in November with Leukemia at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital. Many of Manchester High School’s extracurricular activities and sports teams came together to donate and participate in hosting this benefit. Participating organizations included: FFA, Beta, National Honor Society, Junior Beta, Basketball, Cheerleading, Music Department, Writing Club, Art Club, Yearbook, and Football. There was a potluck chili supper with chili, chips, pop, and hotdogs. There was also an auction and donations were accepted. The money raised went towards helping with her treatment and other expenses for the family. Many local businesses and citizens came together to help raise money and also donate items to auction and food for the supper.

Angel Rigdon

## “Christmas Attractions in Southern Ohio”



As everyone knows, we are getting closer and closer to Christmas! I’m sure you all are as excited as I am. With Christmas comes many local attractions. An attraction many people like to attend during Christmas time is the PNC Festival of Lights. It is located at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens. It was established over twenty years ago. Over the years, it has become one of the region’s most exciting and top Christmas events. It has 2.5 MILLION lights for you to go see! There is also a lot of entertainment going on there, including: carolers, children’s activities, reindeer, train rides, and seasonal fare. All of these things have made this event a family tradition for many people. It can help bring in the holiday spirit! This will be going on from mid-December through January 1<sup>st</sup>. It will be closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day as well. Make sure you take a trip down to the Cincinnati Zoo to see these fantastic events!

Hannah Rideout

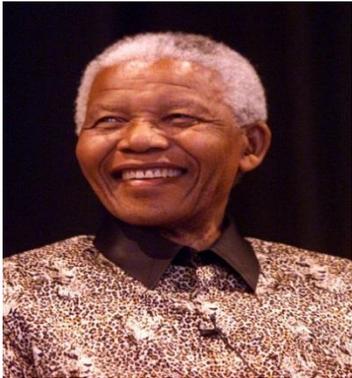
## “Tis the Season of the Ugly Christmas Sweater”



Winter is the season for ear muffs, hot cocoa, and Christmas decorations, but it seems it may also be the season for the dreaded ugly Christmas sweater. Every time you turn around, there is a new sweater waiting to be worn at another Christmas party. In recent years, the crazy sweaters have become quite common within the United States. When you were a kid, your parents made you put on the itchy, embarrassing Christmas sweater, and in your older ages, you still put on the sweater despite the itchy embarrassment. What's the big deal with the ugly, festive sweater? The sweaters have crossed into our culture and have been popular since the 1980s and began to resurge in 2010. Many believe that the phenomenon started in Vancouver, Canada, as a symbol of sarcasm. The sarcastic jokes lead to high brand stores all around the world producing the winter decorated sweater and they have made quite the revenue. As more stores produce the sweater, the invitations for “ugly sweater parties” are sent and more people buy them for their up-coming Christmas party. What's so great about the party?

The ugly Christmas sweater party is for friends to get together, have fun, and make fun. The best thing about the party, other than the food, is the ugly sweater contest. The contest is to prove who has the most embarrassing sweater of them all. The ugly Christmas sweater party is always on my “To-Do” list of Christmas fun. Grab your grandmother's Frosty the Snowman sweater or go buy a reindeer sweater and have fun with your friends and family this Christmas season!

## “Nelson Mandela”



On December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela passed away at the age of 95. He was the former president of South Africa; he served from 1994-1999. Mandela was Secretary General of the Non-Aligned Movement from 1998 to 1999. He was the first black South African to hold the office and the first elected in a fully representative democratic election. He was repeatedly arrested for seditious activities and, with the ANC leadership, was unsuccessfully prosecuted in the Treason Trial from 1956 to 1961. In 1962, he was arrested, convicted of conspiracy to overthrow the state, and sentenced to life imprisonment in the Rivonia Trial. Mandela served over twenty-seven years in prison. In 1990, an international campaign lobbied for his release. Nelson Mandela held one of the greatest movements of all time to take a stand against racism and end Apartheid. When he took office in 1994, he ended all segregation. While continuing the former government's liberal economic policy, his administration also introduced measures to encourage land reform, combat poverty, and expand healthcare services. He received more than 250 honors, including the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize, the US Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Soviet Order of Lenin and the Bharat Ratna.

## “A Powerful Storm Claims Eight Lives in Europe”



Hundreds of people in Britain cleaned up flooded homes after a storm hit northern Europe, causing hurricane-force winds, floods, and snow. The storm caused evacuations along the eastern coast, leaving at least 1,400 properties flooded and nearly a half-dozen communities at high risk of high and large tides. Only two people were killed in storm-related accidents. Britain's Environment Agency said that sea levels were above the flood that happened in 1953, which caused the death of a hundred people. Accidents that linked to the storm went across Europe and killed at least eight people, from Britain to Sweden, Denmark and Poland. Train service was cancelled in many parts of Sweden, and thousands of people were without electric. Flights were cancelled on Thursday. They were open for business on that Friday, but they were cautioned because of the wind and the snow.

## “Fast and Furious 6”



The sixth installment of the Fast and Furious movie franchise was an even blend of a new storyline with shocking, creative twists and the elements that viewers have come to expect from the movies. Everyone who has seen the movies is more than familiar with the dynamics of Dom and Letty, and it is a nice revisit to the things that made them who they are with a unique spin on the story. The movie starts with Brian and Mia with the newest addition to the family – their baby boy, who they plan to spend the rest of their normal, street racing-free life spoiling with the money they received from Hobbs for helping in the previous movie. We are also given summaries of the lives of the rest of the team; they have all moved on to bigger and better things when Dom calls them in. Hobbs needs Dom’s team to help him track down a group of people that are pulling off car heists on a completely new level than what any of them have seen before. To convince Dom to help, Hobbs shows him a picture taken from a security camera: it’s Letty, alive and well, and she is apparently working on the thefts under a man named Shaw. This is more than enough for the team to decide to help Hobbs, and the entire team (excluding Mia). Hobbs, the team and a woman named Riley attempt to track down Shaw and his crew. The movie is a thrilling blend of plot twists and character development, explosions and gunfights abundant, only adding to the thrill of the races. The cars are beautiful, the visual effects are stunning, and the fight scenes were perfectly choreographed, some of which included moves Dwayne Johnson (the actor who played Hobbs) has used in the wrestling ring before under his persona “The Rock.” Fast and Furious Six’s cast gave brilliant performances, per usual. I found myself emotionally invested in the rescue and return of Letty; I cried once or twice during the movie, much to my mother’s amusement, and I nearly fell out of my seat due to unbridled excitement at one point. One of the things I was most excited about was the fact that Gina Carano was in the film (playing Riley), seeing as the MMA fighter is one of my idols. The storyline was easy to follow, even if the viewer hasn’t seen all of the movies, but there are also more subtle references to the previous films that are hidden like treats for old fans among the dialogue. One thing I have always loved about these movies is that they take place in a scene where women are generally objectified for the male racers’ amusement and then thrust an independent woman into the center of attention. Letty has always been her own person, not defined by her appearance but by her skills as a racer. She’s held her own in every film and this one was no exception. Gisele, Mia, and Riley were also there to remind every man in the film and the audience that females can more than fend for themselves. To summarize, Fast and Furious Six is an action-packed thriller that I would recommend to previous franchise fans and people who have never even heard of the films. Paul Walker gave what was arguably his best, most emotional performance in the film, and it was a nice conclusion to the legacy he has left.

Emerald Proffit

## “Gaming Systems”



As we all know, both the Xbox One and PS4 were released. These gaming systems have several differences and the PS4 seems to be the favorite of many. Devin Cantrell, a fellow student and avid gamer, says he would rather have the PS4 because the PS4 has 7.7 processing power and the Xbox one only has 7.6, which allows the games to run at a faster frame per second. I completely agree. While both are good systems, the PS4 also has newer released games coming out, such as *Titans Fall*, *Destiny*, *Watch Dogs* and *Uncharted 4*. While these are just our opinions and others are entitled to theirs, many MHS students would rather have a PS4.

## “MHS New Year’s Resolutions....”

To get straight “A’s” and meet new friends-  
Marissa Gulley

To continue being a role model- Randi  
McFarland

To be Mr. Sparks- Mr. Sparks

Pass my college physics class- Brett Himes

Stop Drinking Pop- Kylie Lucas

To find out what the fox says- Gabe Horsley

To get straight “A’s”- Miranda Schiltz

To head butt a llama- Jeff Young

To cut back on pop- Mr. Krauss



