

Winter 2016
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Colt Chronicles

The Memorial Middle School Newspaper

Behind the Scenes of *The Music Man*

Matthew
Crandall
was...

"...great! He did such a great job! There were a few hard moments, but he was always focused and was very good at staying in character."

-Gianna Franco

"...great! I loved his acting. He really thought about the character of Harold Hill. His singing was great as well. I could not stop tapping my foot to 76 Trombones!"

-Owen Hahner

With every great show, there comes a lot of hard work to go with it. The best things that really happen are the things that the audience doesn't see. There is always going to be behind the scenes gossip about everything, like how our costumes look and how we say our lines. In our productions, most of the smaller and bigger scenes went off with no problem; however, some needed work. One scene I can say that needed work was the big kissing scene between Marian and Harold. The first time we tried this scene, we both started laughing and couldn't do it. However, we got through it and the scene went along smoothly.

There were a couple other scenes that needed work to be done or redone. One scene that was added was the scene where Harold is trying to talk to Mrs. Shinn (the mayor's wife) about taking up his offer to be the chairman for the ladies auxiliary for the classic dance. What was added to the scene was the part where Harold fell over from being hit by Mrs. Shinn. This was added because since my sixth grade year, I have fallen over in every play. Of course, Mrs. Restine and Mrs. Gordon wanted to keep that tradition going. Some gossip that was going on behind the scenes included Harold and Marian's kissing scene. This led to other cast members saying that we were in love in real life. Now, most of it was jokes and it was funny.



Nonetheless, they did try to make up some names for us. However, I assure you that we are just good friends. Lastly, I think I speak for all of the eighth graders when I say that we leave Mrs. Restine and Mrs. Gordon heavy hearted because it was our first show here. It was also Mrs. Restine's first show to direct, which was *The Wizard of Oz*. We give you both a big thanks and we hope that you come to see our first show and eventually our last show at Spotswood High School.

Written by:

Matthew Crandall

Teacher of the Year: Ms. Koppel



Congratulations to our Teacher of the Year, Ms. Koppel! Ms. Koppel has been a teacher at Memorial for nine years. What Ms. Koppel loves most about teaching is working with kids and playing games with them. What she loves most about Memorial is the enthusiasm of teachers and students. Some of her hobbies include playing sports and listening to the Backstreet Boys. In fifty years, Ms. Koppel sees herself enjoying retirement and having fun!

When Ms. Koppel was asked to think about her best teacher, she remembers the teacher's ability to make things interesting and relatable to her life. This is something that she strives to do in her own teaching. Laci Brown, a sixth grade student, emphasized that Ms. Koppel is "funny, athletic, and likes soccer." Not to mention, she is "fun, makes learning exciting, and is kind. I am excited to have her as my soccer coach when I get to Spotswood High School."

We are so proud of you, Ms. Koppel! Thank you for all that you do for the students and staff of Memorial. If you see Ms. Koppel, please congratulate her on this amazing achievement!



Guess Who?

In each issue of the Colt Chronicles, you will find this column. "Guess Who?" will provide clues about a teacher at Memorial. Your goal is to use these clues to discover who this mystery teacher is. The answer will not be revealed until the next issue of the Colt Chronicles. Good luck!

Clues for mystery teacher #1:

- This teacher used to work in a law office.
- This teacher is one of seven children.
- This teacher taught in New York City.

Clues for mystery teacher #2:

- He likes cheese.
- He acted in a play titled "The Official Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."
- He collects Rock & Roll records.

Educational Services Professional of the Year: Mrs. Shkolar

Congratulations to Mrs. Shkolar on this notable achievement! Mrs. Shkolar has been a nurse at Memorial for twelve years. Before being a nurse here, she worked in an operating room for fifteen years. What Mrs. Shkolar loves most about Memorial is being with the students. What inspired her to become a nurse was that she wanted to help others and to give more to others. Outside of being a nurse, Mrs. Shkolar loves to go sailing, kayaking, climbing, hiking and being outdoors. In twenty-five years, she sees herself sailing somewhere warm!

Mrs. Shkolar always encourages us to stay our healthiest! She recommends that we get enough sleep, eat healthy, exercise regularly, and to see our doctor yearly. What would we do without her?

Sarah Osborne, a sixth grade student, adds that Mrs. Shkolar is "so nice and respectful to everyone." Not to mention, "Whenever I am not feeling well, she is very gentle with me and takes her time with me." Mrs. Shkolar, you are such an important part of Memorial. Thank you for all you do for the staff and students of Memorial.

Community Cares



Another fun club at Memorial is Community Cares. Community Cares helps students earn service hours, raise money for charities, and become more active in the community. All Memorial students are invited to join! Community Cares is a perfect club for students who care and want to become a part of something larger. Many of

Memorial's students are already talking about how much fun they are having and how rewarding it is. This past November, Community Cares visited the Spotswood Food Pantry and donated more food than the Food Pantry received all year!

Community Cares meets every other Wednesday and is currently looking into assisting in the local soup kitchen. The club is also initiating a district-wide endeavor, to prepare and ship care packages, to an 11 soldier unit living in what was an abandoned base in Afghanistan. Come out and join this amazing club! You will have no regrets! For further information, please see Mrs. Glassen or Mrs. Shkolar.

Would you rather...

- be able to make life go in slow motion or fast forward?
- have the whole school have alligator tails or elephant ears?
- always have sticky hands or sweaty feet?
- live on a boat or live in an RV/motor home?
- talk like Yoda or breathe like Darth Vader?
- stop war or world hunger?
- get stuck on a broken ski lift or on a broken elevator?
- get locked in school over the Holiday Break or sleep half of the summer?
- live in a world of glass or a world of stone?

Review of Memorial's school play: *The Music Man*

The costumes were beautiful. I give the costumes a 4 out of 5 stars.

The props were amazing and creative. I give the props a 5 out of 5 stars.

The songs were fantastic. I give the songs a 5 out of 5 stars.

The performance of each actor deserves a 5 out of 5 stars.

Great job cast members, stage crew, and directors! You did a wonderful job. I give you all 10 stars.



Math Club

MATH
1 + 1 = 2
Makes YOUR
Life ADD UP!

There are many clubs here at Memorial: all of which were highlighted in our previous issues. One of the clubs is Math Club. In this Club, you play fun math games and play in math tournaments. Some of the games include Checkers, Chess, Blokus, Monopoly, Chinese Checkers, Othello,

Katamino, Mastermind, 24, and Risk.

Even if you've missed the few meetings, please come join us. This Club will run throughout the rest of the year.

If you like math, Ms. Bromberg's room is the place to be after school

on Wednesday's. Be sure to join or stop by the Math Club soon! See you in Room 2!

Homework Club

Homework Club takes place Monday through Thursday after school until 3:15pm. All students can get help on any assignments, including group projects, studying, and getting organized. On some days, juniors and seniors from the High School are there to help out. All students are welcomed and encouraged to attend Homework Club. Please see Ms. Leidy if you have any additional questions about Homework Club. We look forward to seeing you there! Just imagine, there will be no homework for you to bring home, if you attend Homework Club!

Robotics

One of Memorial's most innovative clubs is Robotics. Robotics meets on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. The purpose of this Club is to learn to work together towards a goal/specific outcome. Students should join if they are looking to work hard and work together. A sixth grade student emphasizes that "It's entertaining to watch a robot that you built or programmed." Come check it out!

Congratulations to our Students of the Month for December!

Credits:

Rodriguez, Ricky
(Editor-in-chief)
Longmore, Shannon
(Editor-in-chief)

Buffalino, Chloe
Casper, Megan
Chasan, Emily
Cicchetti, Alyssa
Crandall, Matthew
Fenner, Jada
Ferreri, Lindsey
Franco, Gianna
Genthe, Frannie
Kim, Lauren
Presswala, Alefiya
Osborne, Sarah
Rivera, Leandra
Silwanes, Marie
Socoloski, Breanna
Spicuzzo, Joey
Stankowitz, Joey

Advisor: Ms. Hansen

We love Memorial.

6th grade: Joseph Wright, Melody Dzergoski

7th grade: Robert Alongi, Ashleigh Krefski

8th grade: Daniel Catananzi, Miranda Wells

Highlights from Memorial's Art Club

Arist: Alma Ventura



Arist: Chelsea Dipple

Important Dates

Parent/Teacher Conference	February 11 th 6pm
President's Day Weekend	February 12 th – 15 th (No School)
Spring Picture Day	March 24 th

How to Build Positivity in your School.

It is undeniable that we are all not going to get along at ALL times. What's important is how we support each other and be there for one another. The Golden Rule is very important to follow in school and in life: "Treat others the way you want to be treated." We also need to be empathetic towards others. Someone may be having a bad day or feeling especially sad. Be a friend to him or her and try to listen if he or she opens up to you. On the other hand, if you are having a bad day, try using an "I" message to share your feelings. For example, "I feel angry when my mom makes me late for school." With an "I" message, you can communicate your frustrations in a healthy, more direct way.

As everyone knows, bullying can be difficult to define and identify. Not everything that is mean is considered bullying. I've come up with a list of ways that we can address mistreatment together:

- If you are being mistreated, stand up and speak up.
 - Tell a parent, a teacher, or a trusted adult.
 - If you see someone being mistreated, say something.
 - Don't let the aggressor see that his/her cruel words or actions are getting to you.
 - Remember, you are NOT alone and you should not feel embarrassed.
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Favorite Quotes (selected by our Editors-in-Chief)

- "If you don't go after what you want, you'll never have it. If you don't ask, the answer is always 'no'. If you don't step forward, you're always in the same place." -Unknown
 - "No matter how educated, talented, rich or cool you believe you are, how you treat people ultimately tells all. Integrity is everything." -Unknown
 - "Be nice to everyone, always smile and appreciate things because it could all be gone tomorrow." -Ed Sheeran
 - "Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything." -Unknown
 - "Surround yourself with people who push you. Who challenge you. Who make you laugh. Who make you better. Who make you happy." -Unknown
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