



MANCHESTER REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Good News Newsletter

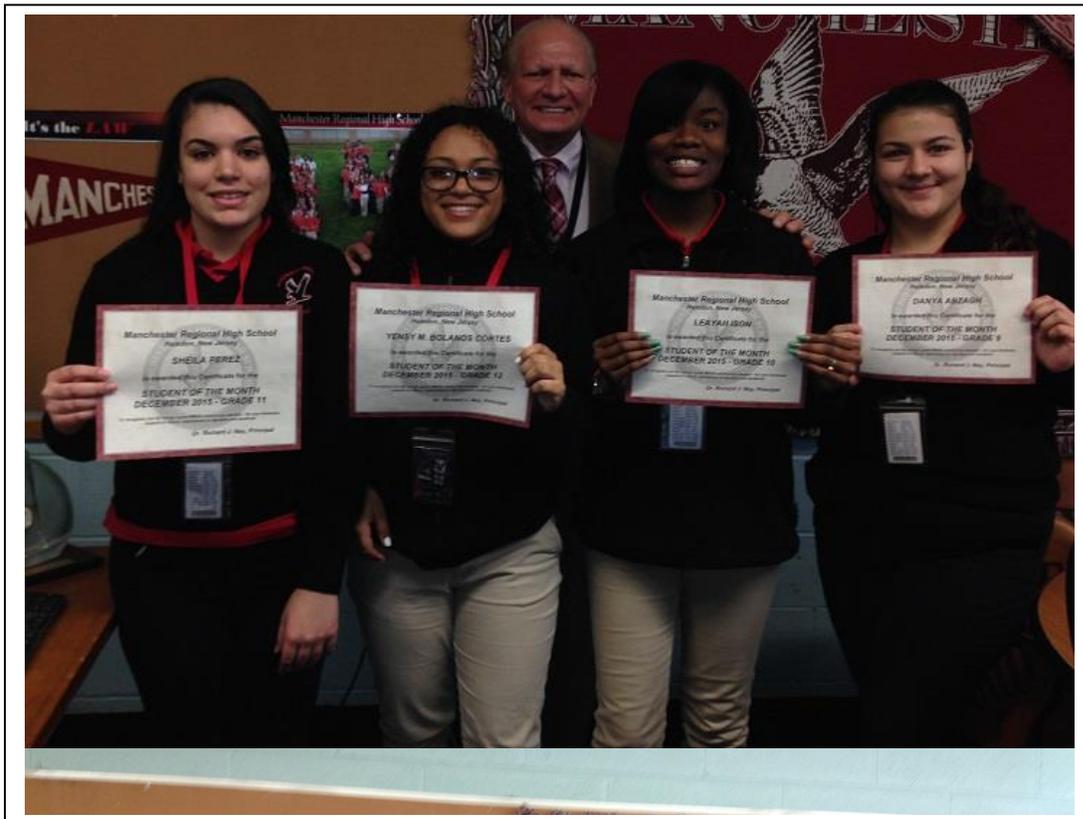


Volume 2

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[December 2015 Students of the Month](#)

December Students of the Month were honored this week for their kindness, support of others, and for helpfulness to teachers and students. They are (left to right) Sheila Perez, Grade 11; Yensy M. Bolanos Cortes, Grade 12; Leayah Ison, Grade 10; and Danya Abzagh, Grade 9. Congratulations for being great members of the school community!



Poetry Out Loud Recitation Contest

The Manchester Regional High School's Poetry Out Loud Recitation Contest was held on Monday, January 11, 2016 in the library media center. Classroom competitions were held prior to the winter break by Mr. Bamford, Ms. Greene and Ms. Pandya-Provenza. Ten students were selected to compete in the school-wide contest with each student reciting a poem from memory in each of two rounds. Contestants were Elijah Mathew, Dali Khalaf, Summer Watkins, Nicole Lazic, Adam Zadeh, Edna Olmedo, Shannon Baer, Yasmin Jelahej, Dante Apaestequi, and Wandy Ojea. All of the students' performances were

wonderful! The school winner was Shannon Baer, a sophomore, and the runner-up was Dali Khalaf, also a sophomore. Shannon's poem selections were "Enough" by Suzanne Buffam and "The Properly Scholarly Attitude" by Adelaide Crapsey.



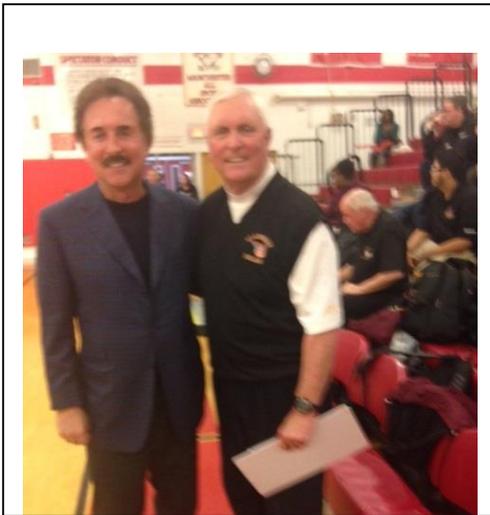
The Poetry Out Loud Contest is a national competition established by The National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation in conjunction with state arts agencies. Baer, the winner of our school-wide competition, will compete at the regional level in early February. Twelve finalists then go on to compete at the state level. The state winner receives a \$200 cash prize and an all-expenses-paid trip (with an adult chaperone) to Washington, DC to compete at the National Finals. The winner of the national competition receives a total of \$50,000 in awards and school stipends. Mrs. Morstatt would like to thank all the people who helped make the event a success: Mr. Wacha, Ms. Hedges, Ms. Masci, Ms. Krafft, Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Gabriele, and Ms. Gencarelli. Thank you to all the students who participated. Each and every one did a great job. Finally thanks to the teachers who introduced the program and held the class competitions, Mr. Bamford, Ms. Greene and Ms. Pandya-Provenza. The entire MRHS Community wishes Shannon good luck in the next round!



Shannon Baer

St. Anthony – MRHS Basketball Shootout Packs House

Last Tuesday evening, January 12, the St. Anthony High School boys' varsity basketball team from Jersey City traveled to Manchester Regional High School for a shootout with our boys' varsity basketball team. St. Anthony's is coached by the nationally known Bob Hurley who has 27 state championships and over 1,000 career wins. He is one of only three high school coaches to have been inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame. St. Anthony's is ranked number one in the state and eighth in the nation. It was an exciting evening, and the game was played to a packed house. It was a decisive win by St. Anthony's, but our Falcons played well and improved their skills by playing such an accomplished team. Falcon Coach Richard Sponzilli took last year's varsity boys' basketball team to their first ever sectional state championship.



Coaches Richard Sponzilli and Bob Hurley



Junior Achievement

The Junior Achievement programs continue to build momentum. Business teacher, Mr. Carl Morelli, is coordinating the Junior Achievement Heroes program for kindergarten through eighth grade in all three of our constituent districts, Haledon, North Haledon, and Prospect Park. The Junior Achievement Heroes program uses trained Manchester students to teach financial literacy to elementary and middle school students. The program incorporates pre-prepared kits that are age relevant i.e. kits that include Monopoly money for younger students. Sixteen Manchester students are being trained by Junior Achievement. In addition to teaching younger students, our Heroes also benefit through learning the importance of teamwork, presentation skills, people skills, leadership skills, critical thinking skills, communication skills, empathy and awareness, preparation, patience, assertiveness, courage, responsibility, helping and coaching others, organizational skills, and time management.

Professional Development

On Monday, January 18, school was closed for Martin Luther King Day, but faculty participated in a full day of professional development activities. The morning session centered on Positive Behavior Support in the classroom. It was a three hour workshop led by Mr. Tony DiCesare, a Board Certified Behavior Analyst from the consulting firm of Brett DiNovi and Associates. The morning session was funded by a grant through the EIRC (Educational Improvement Resource Center). The afternoon session featured our new special education attorney, Nathanya Simon from the law firm of Schwartz, Edelstein and Celso. She led a workshop for special education teachers from Haledon and Manchester as well as Manchester co-teachers. The focus was on writing IEPs and legally defensible PLAAFP goals and objectives. Teachers not involved with the Child Study Team presentation worked in their professional learning communities.

