THE MUSTANG

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MUNDELEIN THEATRE PRESENTS: *DANCING AT LUGHNASA*



By Emily Luu
Features Editor

The curtain opens; the stage lights don't turn on immediately. Seven figures stand motionless, and once the lights brighten the stage, only one moves. His name is Michael Evans (played by Hayden Gates '28), and his vibrant Irish accent fills the auditorium.

This weekend, Mundelein High School's theatre department opened the season with the play *Dancing at Lughnasa*.

Written by Brian Friel, *Dancing at Lughnasa* is narrated by Michael Evans, who reflects on a particular summer in 1936 at his aunts' home in Ballybeg, a small town in Ireland.

The play focuses on his aunts, the Mundy sisters–Kate (Ellory Duval '27), Maggie (Ella Gallup '27), Agnes (Stella Buisson '27), Rose (Grace Wolinski '28), and Chris (Layla Trahan '28)–all unmarried and living in poverty. They juggle caring for little Michael and their brother, Jack (played by Finn Trackman '27), who has recently returned from Uganda as a missionary.



Photo Credit: Makenna Mazza / Sofia Cabachuela (Co-Photo Editors)



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The sisters fight, love, and passionately dance to their radio despite the harsh realities of life. But as the summer ends, change is thrust upon them when the family faces financial insecurity and fruitless pursuits for love, particularly between Chris, Michael's mother, and her father. Gerry Evans (Andy Gallup '27). The eventual breakup of the sisters and a foreseen future full of tragedy make Dancing at Lughnasa a story that captures the nature of human life.

What truly brought this play to life was the extraordinary acting. Out of the five Mundy sisters, Maggie brings the comedic relief. She always has a joke ready to share with Michael or a dance to pair with any Irish tune on the radio.

In one scene, the sisters entertain the idea of attending a harvest dance they used to go to when they were younger. Gallup's performance as Maggie stood out as she effortlessly sparked a wild, carefree dance among the girls, even drawing in Kate, the eldest and most strictly disciplined member of the family. Gallup's ability to shift tensions between the sisters to laughter with impeccable comedic timing, paired with a remarkable accent, left the audience with smiles on their faces.

If you're interested in seeing what else the theatre department has to offer, come out and see New Faces perform their fall play, 67 Cinderellas (no pun intended), from November 13-15!

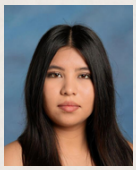


GET YOUR TICKETS HERE:

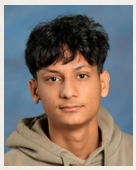
67 CINDERELLAS TICKETS



AN ESL AMERICAN TRADITION AT MHS: PUMPKIN CARVING



By Joana Juarez Mendoza
Reporter



By Raj Nayi
Photographer

During first period on October 30, 2026, about 60 students worked together to carve approximately 15 pumpkins. This tradition made Halloween more memorable for the ESL students at Mundelein High School. It also gave ESL students an opportunity to come together and create new memories.

MHS ESL students began carving pumpkins in 2018 with just five students and two pumpkins. Over the years, this tradition has grown, and it has become a day many students look forward to. Additionally, the event gives students from different countries and cultural backgrounds an opportunity to learn about American Halloween traditions.



Students Fernanda Sanchez Malagon (‘28), Ivanna Troncoso Lopez (‘28), Jhoana Luna (‘28), and Zalissa Koncobo (‘30), show off their pumpkin carving skills.

Photo Credit: Raj Nayi



The Bilingual/ESL teaching team was all smiles after another successful year of enjoying an American tradition: pumpkin carving!

From left to right: Bilingual Teacher Ms. Gamez, Bilingual Instructional Assistant Ms. Guadarrama, Bilingual Teacher Mrs. Valassis, Bilingual Teacher Ms. Ruiz, ESL Teacher Mr. Franklin, Bilingual Teacher Ms. Alvarez, Multilingual Division Chair Ms. Graef, and ESL Teacher Ms. Fansler.

Photo Credit: Raj Nayi



Nancy Macias Olmos ('28) poses with her pumpkin after adding the final touches.

Photo Credit: Raj Nayi



Edgar Nava ('28) is seen leaving first period with his pumpkin in hand.

Photo Credit: Raj Nayi





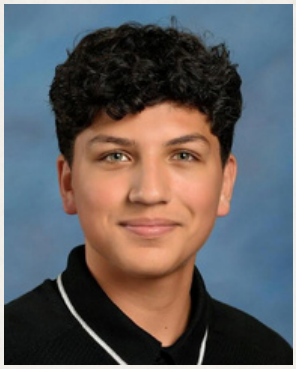
Leidy Vargas Martinez (‘28), Joana Juarez Mendoza (‘28), and Brithany Haeussler Velasquez (‘27) stop to pose for a quick picture with their pumpkin.

Photo Credit: Raj Nayi





This issue was revised and edited by **Shayla Agarwal**, Copy Editor.



Every “What’s Happening, Mustangs?” page is brought to you by **Levi Mondragon**, Managaing Editor.



This issue was edited, formatted, and approved by **Ms. Barbara Alvarez**, Journalism Club Sponsor.

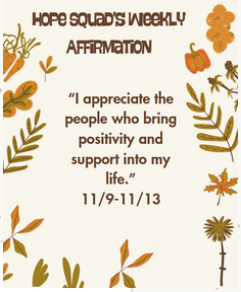
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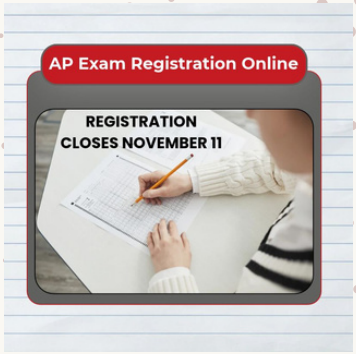
WHAT'S HAPPENING, MUSTANGS?

Weekly News For Students By Students

WEEK OF 11/9-11/13

SCHOOL-WIDE
ACTIVITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS





WEDNESDAY 11/11

AP EXAM REGISTRATION

AP exam registration & payment due **NOVEMBER 11** at **3:30.** View the AP exam letter on the MHS website for more information!

THURSDAY 11/12

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Thursday, November 12th in **the Principal's Conference Room**
Want to make your voice heard in our school community?Attend the Student advisory council for their meeting this Thursday in the meeting room by the principal's offic.

SATURDAY 11/14

TURKEY TROT

Saturday, November 14
Come join us for our second annual Turkey Trot held at **Independence Grove** at 9:00am. Please register ASAP in the MHS website.

THIS WEEK

MILTARY WEEK

THIS WEEK
Are you planning on joining the armed forces after high school? View the calendar for events about the military, held in the CCRC. Register in SCHOOLINKS







Want to share info about your event?
Scan the code!



MHS ATHLETICS HOME AND AWAY GAMES

MONDAY 10/9
- **NO COMPETITIONS**

TUESDAY 10/10
- **Boys JV/V** AT **Lake Forest** @4:45pm

WEDNESDAY 10/11
- **Boys JV/V** vs. **Grant** @4:30pm

THURSDAY 10/12
- **Boys JV/V vs. Stevenson** @4:30pm

FRIDAY 10/13
- **Girls Varsity Wrestling** vs **Lake Zurich** @ 5:30pm

SATURDAY 10/14
- **Girls Varsity Wrestling** AT **Niles West TBD**
- **Boys Varsity Bowling** AT **Lake Park** @10am