



# Good News Bulletin

## December 2023

### DECEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH:

We are proud to announce The Students of the Month have been selected for December 2023. They are:

**Freshman – Samara Weinstein**  
**Sophomore – Delilah Updale**  
**Junior – Cristian Fama**  
**Senior – Celeste Cruz**

The above students have met the following Criteria:

1. Must meet high academic standards in class.
  2. Exhibit positive character and influence on class/school, dignity, respect, trustworthiness, responsibility, caring, and citizenship.
  3. No unexcused lates of any kind for the month.
  4. No discipline referrals in the last month.
- Congratulations to all of you!

### WIND ENSEMBLE



On December 7th, MTHS Wind Ensemble performed a concert along with the Rutgers University Symphonic Winds. This event was held in the Nicholas Music Center on the campus of Rutgers University in New Brunswick.

## AVID 11 Elective Class

Students in Mrs. Holmes AVID 11 class applied W,I,C,O,R strategies (writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading) to compete in a festive performance assessment. Students were placed into teams of two for their task to collectively build and write about a "Winter Home for Holmes". Students worked as a team to create this house and were judged by their guidance counselors. By utilizing AVID techniques and strategies for this performance assessment, the students learned the importance of enhancing their knowledge and skills with 21<sup>st</sup> Century team building experiences.

The winners of the best "Winter" home for Holmes were:

- Overall winner: "Pinkalicious" by Avery Lipton, Hannah Cascio and Stevie Albert
- Best Story: "Caesars's Palace" by Joshua Shumsky and Jacob Moskowitz
- Honor mentions: "House of MacBeth" by Justin Volkmann and Cameron Massy / "Party House" by Ava Fahy and Shethra Grende / "Elf BnB" by Lia Palella and Stephen Barbera





## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Over two decades ago, a small group of activists in Poland initiated a 24-hour letter-writing marathon in observance of Human Rights Day (Dec 10th). This concept evolved into what is now globally recognized as 'Write for Rights,' the largest human rights event in the world.

On December 5, 2023, the Amnesty International chapter at Monroe Township High School hosted a Write for Rights event. Numerous students gathered to compose letters advocating for human rights, addressing them to both local and international governments. The club focused on cases involving victims who had been unjustly killed for opposing corruption, individuals subjected to flawed legal proceedings, and groups fighting to protect ancestral lands.

In total, Monroe Township's Amnesty International successfully drafted and sent out over 250 letters during the event.





# NEWSLETTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Paws for a Cause Club*  
December 2023

*By: Amber Smilen*



## Pet of the week

Jasmine Khemchandani's dog - Gigi  
Breed - Golden Doodle  
Age: 3 years old  
About me - Loves to play fetch and cuddle

## Staff Pet of the week

Mr. Virelles's cat - Artemis Starfire  
Breed - Tortoise hair cat  
Age - 3 years old  
About me - Named after Greek goddess, loves to play with her catnip mouse and loves treats and cuddles.

Pet of the week form



@PAWS\_FOR\_A\_CAUSE2023

Meetings Announcements and Events -  
December -

Pet supply drive in the commons

Have a great winter break!!

## Holiday treats for cats and dogs

By: Madison Roberts

Christmas is a month of celebration, love, and laughter between your family and friends. However, the pastries have to be the best part. The sweet smell of pie and other delicacies through the house that no one can resist. However, what about the family pets? While feeding them table scraps may be tempting, seasoning and extra flavoring can be extremely toxic. Homemade treats are great for pets as they don't contain the preservatives found in store-bought treats. Christmas is about friends and family, and since pets are family members, there is no reason why we shouldn't incorporate them in the Christmas spirit.



# PET TREATS & REINDEER

*Paws for a Cause Club*  
*December 2023*

*By: Amber Smilen*



Holiday treats for cats and dogs continued

By: Madison Roberts

## Cat Treats

### Important Notes

- Keep the treats small so the cats can safely eat them (Use a bottle cap as a cookie cutter)
- If you decide to substitute any of the ingredients in these recipes make sure they're not harmful to cats
- Store treats in a sealed container to keep them fresh

### Harmful Food

- Raw Egg
- Chocolate
- Grapes
- Raisins
- Onions / Garlic

Cat Treat Recipes : [Homemade Cat Treats Link](#)

## Dog treats

### Important Notes

- Store homemade peanut butter dog biscuits in an airtight container in the refrigerator, for up to 2 months
- Dog treats can be stored in the freezer for up to 8 months
- To prevent treats from sticking in the container, place them in a pan and put it in the refrigerator for about an hour. Then transfer them to an airtight container.

### Harmful Food

- Chocolate
- Macadamia nuts
- Avocado
- Cooked Bones
- Corn on the cob

Dog Treat Recipe : [Homemade Dog Treats Link](#)



## Reindeer Fun facts

Reindeer live in the Arctic tundra and damp forest in the areas of Greenland, Scandinavia, Russia, Alaska and Canada.

North American reindeer are called Caribou.

Both the males and females have antlers, but the male's can grow to 1.4 meters tall.

They can live up to 15 years in the wild and 20 years in captivity.

Reindeer spend 40% of their lives in snow and have developed countermeasures to the cold like cloven hooves and hollow fur.

The reason people hear clicks when they walk is because of a tendon in their foot passing over bone.

They live in herds of anywhere between 50,000-500,000.





## Cherry Hill VEX Robotics Competition

On Dec 9th, 2023, three Robotics teams from MTHS participated in the first competition of the season at Cherry Hill East High School.



Team Monroe Alchemy (96138A), Monroe Magnetic (96138B) and Monroe Catalysts (96138C) competed along with 20 other teams

Team A and C made it to the Quarterfinals.

Team photo with the robots, trophy and advisor Mrs. Vanitha Gaurishanker

Team A's alliance with a team from Delaware continued and after a well fought final (match had to be replayed due to technical reasons), won with a final score of 105-88.

Winning Alliance teams -

Monroe Alchemy & BrandywineBOTS: Harold



Pictures of the winning robot and the trophy  
(first time Tournament Champions!!!)

Thank you to all at the district and parents for all their support.

We are hosting 2 regional VEX Robotics tournaments (Jan 27 and Feb 17) at MTHS.

*Please reach out to Mrs. Vanitha Gaurishanker [vgaurish@monroe.k12.nj.us](mailto:vgaurish@monroe.k12.nj.us) if you or anyone you know is interested to volunteer at the event*

# Sugar Rush VRC Signature Event

Hershey, PA Dec 15 & 16, 2023

Continuing the fantastic start to the season, Team A Monroe Alchemy (96138A) participated in their maiden Signature Event\* - [Sugar Rush at Hershey, PA](#).



80 teams from across the country participated in this national level tournament.

| Qualification 86 |        |                |  |
|------------------|--------|----------------|--|
| Rank             | Team   |                |  |
| 53               | 2072X  | Cloudelicious  | Montclair, Virginia, United States         |
| 45               | 955R   | Imbossible     | New York, New York, United States          |
| 21               | 6121C  | The Pioneers   | Berwyn, Pennsylvania, United States        |
| 41               | 96138A | Monroe Alchemy | Monroe Township, New Jersey, United States |
| 130              |        | 139            | Autonomous Winner                          |



## ROBOTICS CLUB CONT'D

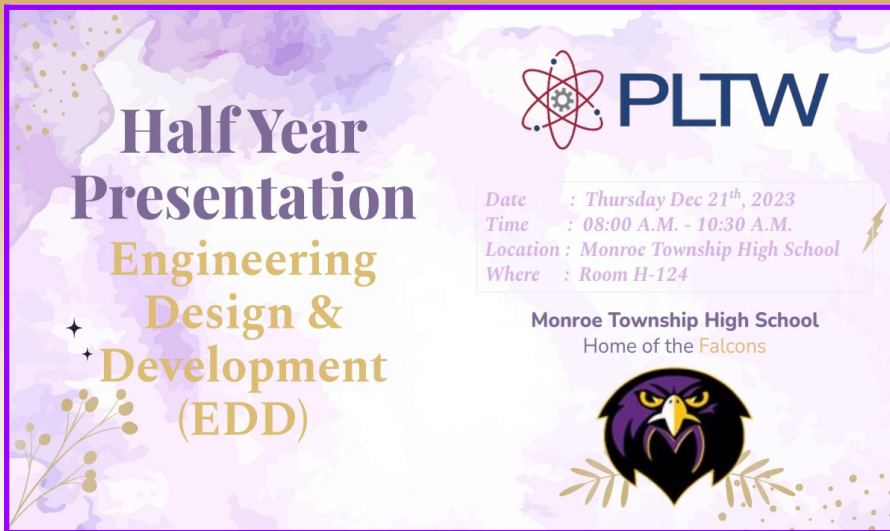
A great learning experience and take away for the team was impressing the judges by clearly articulating the process of engineering the robot over the past few months to be awarded the CREATE Award - presented to the team with the most creative engineering process showing an ambitious and creative approach to game play. [Video Announcement](#) | [Receiving Award on Stage](#)



*\*Signature Events give students the opportunity to play at a "World Class" tournament that provides a special and unique team experience. Signature Events have a level of technical expertise, production value, and overall event quality that is above and beyond that of a standard tournament.*

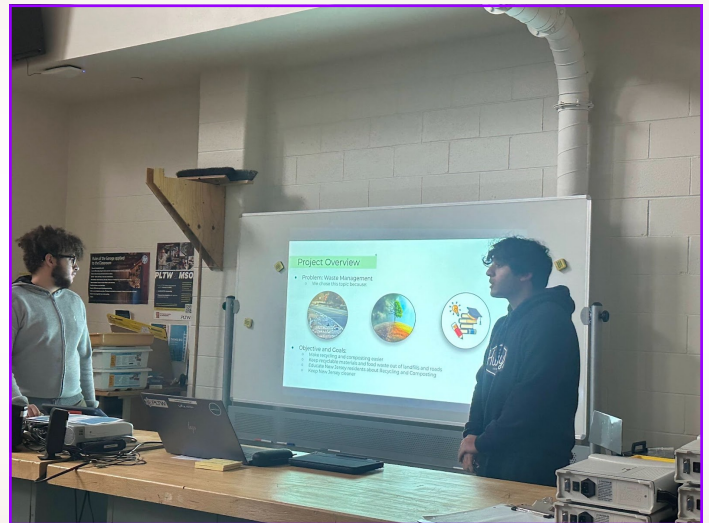


## MTHS Engineering Design and Development (EDD) Honors Capstone Class Half Year Presentations (2023-24)



**The official half year presentation for our Engineering Design and Development class held on Dec.21 was a great success.**

The first step in preparing for the presentation was to conduct a trial run.



Alumni students pursuing engineering degrees at prestigious universities like Carnegie Mellon, Georgia Tech, Northeastern, Purdue and Virginia Tech came back to listen to trial presentations and give constructive feedback.

Students used their comments to make changes to their projects, such as refining the project focus, working on their presentational skills, and improving the overall presentation. This was a great learning experience, as it allowed them to get valuable insight from people who had already gone through the same course while studying at MTHS.

This geared them to be ready for the actual mid-year professional presentations on Dec 21.



## E.E.D. CONT'D



We are very appreciative of the district and school administrators (Dr. Layman, Dr. Higgins & Mr. Morolda) who took time out of their busy schedules to attend a few of the 6 team presentations and show their support.

The problem topics addressed by the students:

Disability Assistance - “The Scoop”

- Windshield Defrosters
- Recycling the Idea of Recycling
- Solar Savers
- Anti-smash and grab theft
- Smart Sip



The students did their mid-year justification presentation in front of district administrators, professional engineers from JAKTOOL (*a company that makes prototypes for a living, something that our students aim to do over the course of the year-long capstone course*) and alumni students from Georgia Tech and Purdue Universities.

The next steps in the design process of EDD projects is to work on designing and creating a working prototype to solve their choice of problem. They will showcase their prototype and present their solution at the year end presentations and the annual STEM / PLTW Night in June, 2024.

*We are very proud of all of our students and their accomplishments!*

