

Issue 6
FEBRUARY 2016



NEWS YOU CAN USE...

RED HAWK REPORT

February Calendar of Events:

5th: Winter Dance 8:30-11:00 pm

15th and 17th: Parent Teacher Conferences 4:00—8:00 pm

25th: Early Release—11:00 am

26th: No School

Family Access Mid-Term & Report Card Release Dates:

Grading Period	Release Date
Mid-Term 3	2/26/16
Qtr. 3	4/08/16

E-mail notification will be sent to parents after grades have been posted to Family Access.

Milton High School
114 W. High Street
Milton, WI 53563
Main Office: (608) 868-9300
Activities Office: (608) 868-9565
Attendance Line: (608) 868-9340
Counseling Office: (608) 868-9560

MILTON



ACHIEVEMENT - OPPORTUNITY
COMMUNITY

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

2016 is off and running and February is shaping up to be a very busy month at Milton High School. As students get settled into their 2nd semester classes, we are already starting to look into a great deal of planning for next school year. Thank you for reading the February Edition of the *Red Hawk Report*.

Changes for 2016-2017 Course Selection

The way students select their classes will be very different going into next year. Starting on Friday, February 4th, **students will be able to log into Skyward Student Access to select their courses for next year.** On Feb 1, 2, and 3, counselors will be meeting with students in classes to give them directions on how to choose their classes. Students will have until February 18th to complete their selections.

In the past, course selection was done in a one on one meeting with a teacher. I encourage you to still sit down with your student to talk about their course selection. Also, counselors and teachers will be available to help with questions students and parents have during the parent teacher conferences. This will be an additional level of support for this new process.

Please see the article from the Counseling Department in the February edition of the *Red Hawk Report* for more details.

Parent Teacher Conferences February 15 and 17

Another change for this spring is the addition of spring Parent Teacher Conferences. In the past, the February sessions were for course selection. With many semester classes, and some teacher changes for year long classes, we wanted to offer another opportunity for parents to meet with their students' teachers. I strongly encourage you to come to one of the two conference nights, both of which are held from 4:00 - 8:00 pm in the cafeteria.

As noted above, the counselors will be available on these nights to answer questions regarding course selection. This will be support for both parents and students prior to the February 18th deadline for course selection.

Update on Facilities Discussion and Building Tours

Over the last three weeks, I have been giving tours to the community on Tuesdays at 10:00 am and 6:00 pm. These have been in an effort to give our community an up close look at our facilities. While the school board has chosen not to put a question to referendum for facilities in April, there is much work being done to clarify district facility needs for a potential future referendum.

The tours will continue in February. I strongly encourage you to consider attending one of them. Not only will you get a behind the scenes look at our high school - you will get an opportunity to hear more about the programming and opportunities students have at MHS. Please contact the District Office (868-9200) to sign up for a tour.

Have a great February, Go Red Hawks!

J. Jeremiah Bilhorn

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AP ENGLISH NEWS

Again this year, MHS English Teacher Jeff Churchwell, AP-English Language and Composition instructor, taught 83 juniors and seniors to write short essays either directly or remotely related to America's favorite sport, football. These 83 were then whittled to nine select essays which were shaved down to the Final Four. Congratulations goes to all those students motivated enough to take such a difficult, yet helpful and beautiful, high school course. The essays can also be found in past and upcoming editions of the Milton Courier.



Kate Vickerman

Double Safety Standard

In a society where every injury is someone else's fault, it is confounding that football, whether it be pee-wee, high school, college, or NFL, is still permitted in America.

Children are strapped into a rear-facing car seat at birth, a forward-facing car seat at two, a booster car seat at eight, and a football helmet at nine. If a car seat fails to restrain a child in the case of an accident and the child concussed as a result of whiplash, then the car seat is taken off the market, and the makers most likely sued. If a child gets a concussion in a football game, it's shrugged off because it's just part of the game. According to the *Minnesota Post*, children between the ages of nine and 12 average 240 head impacts in a single season. Since the brains of these young players are still developing, a concussion or even just a minor hit can have much more damaging effects than that of an older player. A study led by Boston University School of Medicine explains, "All children and teens playing football are at risk of long-term brain damage — even when the child appears to have fully recovered from a concussion."

At 51 years old, former Packer Don Majkowski has strapped his children into both a car seat and a football helmet. It is unfortunate today, however, that he is unable to coach his son's football team because he is in such bad shape as a result of all the injuries he sustained during his football career in the NFL. Fox Sports reports that "The list of Majkowski's physical problems is lengthy and includes everything from degenerative disk disease in his neck and back to post-concussion syndrome. But his issues started with his left ankle. He's had 11 surgeries on it, including back-to-back fusions after the first attempt didn't work." After 20 surgeries, Majkowski actually considers himself lucky because he, unlike many of his former teammates, is financially secure and able to pay the medical expenses, as stated in *The Washington Post*.

A survey sponsored by the University of Michigan found that 10% of former NFL players under the age of 65 need surgery that they cannot afford. Professional football players' careers are short, about 3.3 years on average. They do make a considerable amount of money, but, if players suffer an injury, then their career and paycheck is cut short. Former NFL players are often unable to hold a job after their careers because of football related injuries, so they are left with medical bills without a job to pay them.

Safety is just as important for workers in America as it is for children in America. My father owns a small construction company, and I often hear about the great expense of liability and workers' compensation insurance. Workers' compensation insurance is required to be carried by employers to pay employees for any injury occurring at the workplace. Although safety is stressed, any painful cut, sensitive bruise, sore back, or achy joint can be the consequence of a job-related injury resulting in a workers' compensation claim for benefits. And, if a company has too many claims, insurers will not cover the construction company, and other businesses will not hire the company to build for them.

Kate Vickerman continued on next page...

AP ENGLISH NEWS CONTINUED ON PAGE 3...

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...Kate Vickerman continued

In a profession where an injury is not a bruise or a cut, but rather a neurodegenerative disease or catastrophic spinal trauma, it seems only reasonable that players should file for workers' compensation benefits. In California alone, 3,000 NFL players claimed compensation for long-term damage from concussions and other brain injuries in 2014 alone, according to Berman More Gonzalez Attorneys at Law. With so many claims, it's a wonder that the National Football League is allowed to exist simultaneously in a time when safety remains the uppermost issue in America.

We go to great lengths to protect children from the rarest of injuries, but when will we protect them as adults from the lifelong injuries of football?



Nicholas Bartlett

Uncontested Champions and the Downfall of America

"And introducing the World Champions: the New England Patriots!" How pathetic! "World Champions?" I'm not sure about the rest of the country, but I, for one, took geography class in fifth grade. I sat there in the back of that classroom and stared at the maps displayed on that rickety, old projector. Fifth grade me, with his doofy grin and bowl haircut, stared at that map and saw that the United States of America is "really, really large," as I'm told I ever so eloquently phrased it. 11th grade me, with my intellectual thought and teenage sense of supremacy, stares at the very same map and sees that America is, indeed, massive, but appears as a mere ant to the colossus that is the rest of the world.

"World Champions!" How audacious we Americans are to think that we have the right to claim ourselves champion of a world whose population we only comprise about 5% (roughly 4.38 before rounding and percent error to appease the ever-wary statisticians out there). "But we're a first-world country!" one might irately respond. "We're just better at football than everyone else!" another might ignorantly claim. But if I may once more delve into the realm of factual analysis, allow me to point out the flaws in this reasoning. The US State Department recognizes roughly 194 countries as legitimate, self-governing bodies around the world. Out of all of those countries, only two have established professional (American-like) football leagues: the United States of America and our neighbors to the North, Canada. This means that, out of 194 countries around the entirety of the planet Earth, only two play the sport of football professionally. Only two. And, even then, our beloved National Football League never outright plays the Canadian football league over dominance of the Northwestern Hemisphere in our beloved game of "Champions."

Calling the United States "World Champions" in the game of football is tantamount to calling five year old Jimmy Jimson the world champion of the game of "Splickenbocker," a game he'd made up only five seconds prior to play during recess. Technically speaking, it would not be an incorrect claim, but it sounds ridiculous to deem someone champion of a game that is so esoteric and convoluted that no other part of the playground attempts to join in on the festivities and fight for the title. Is this the American way? Recognizing victories on a national and microscopic level as that of global importance as if we're the only country that matters? Is the ego of the nation truly that massive? Apparently, yes, yes it is.

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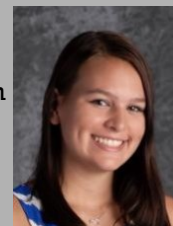
Nicholas Bartlett continued...

Unfortunately, the issue of over-glorification is not solely linked to the game of football. In fact, the NFL conundrum stems from the presence of the new, technological American society. For all of the wonders that technology has brought to the American people, humility and the seclusion of one's personal life are not included on this list. In our new, advanced society, everything that the average Joe does is perceived to matter, and this is because our society gives us no reason to think that it doesn't. Each and every post on a social network site is not met with disdain or apathetic ignorance, but with a flurry of likes and unnecessary support. Harsh comments of "What is the point of this?" or "No one needs to see this!" fall on ears deafened by the overly-protective mitts of the American populace. Criticism is negligible and rude, as our society draws a firm, but baffling, line between what is and what isn't one's business. Allowing everyone in the world to view what one does no longer makes it the right of everyone in the world to form opinions on one's lifestyle, and this creates a difficult problem. We find ourselves so quick to protect the feelings of the individual that necessary criticism often goes neglected. Thus, we have created the generation of participants, the generation where every kid gets a trophy, yet no trophy is more worthwhile than another.

And so the problem with football persists. We have a generation of children that are so caught up in being labeled as a champion that the thought of not achieving such a description is crippling. How could we not be the best? This isn't fair! Accordingly, the NFL deems their victors "World Champions" because America feels the need to be the best; we're always the best. The only that that is allowed is success. And the glorification of second and third place emphasizes the fact that there aren't losers anymore, just people who win less. At this point, our society cares more about the label and thought of being "champions" than actually being the greatest at our craft. Our abysmal performance in the categories of education, when compared to the rest of the world, illustrates this.

We're not the best, not anymore. But, hey, at least we have those shining golden awards labeled "participant," and get to watch our favorite football teams fight for dominance of a world whose reigns we don't even realize that we are losing control of. Here's to the "World Champions," whoever they are.

Amanda Nielson



Too Much for a Touchdown

To most Americans, football means fun. It means watching Sunday games with our family and eating our favorite game-day foods. It means spending time with our friends, cheering on our favorite hometown, college, or NFL team. It means we wear their colors and learn the names of the star athletes. It means we learn from an early age that those players are special, set apart from regular people. It means football is the most watched sport in the United States, and the Super Bowl is the most watched event in the world. It means the NFL brings in an annual revenue of around \$10 billion dollars. And unfortunately, that means trouble.

Although it's just a game, we Americans do not take our football lightly. We place bets on games, enter football pools, and draft Fantasy Football leagues. In fact, in some ways we may be too obsessed. According to a recent study conducted at Berkeley University, an unexpected loss in an NFL game leads to a 50-100% increase in reports of domestic violence. As beer cans pop and bets are placed, many women are forced to seek refuge in women's shelters. The study also found that children, pets, and even men can also be victims of domestic violence related to football games.

Amanda Nielson continued on next page...

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Amanda Nielson continued...

This link between football and domestic violence should not surprise anyone who follows the NFL players. According to an article published in 2014 by NBC news, "Domestic violence and related incidents rank among the NFL's biggest off-the-field problems, with 87 arrests involving 80 players over the last 14 years." Tony McDaniel, Kevin Williams, Brandon Marshall, Dez Bryant - stars who are "role models" for millions of young people - have all been arrested for domestic violence or similarly related charges. But they are all still on the field with millions of fans cheering them on each week.

We have idolized these players to the point where they are not held accountable for their illegal behavior. High schools, universities, and even the NFL itself have all been caught trying to hide instances of abuse by star athletes. Both we and the NFL have turned a blind eye to the violence off the field because we have so much invested in the players being on the field. This is not the fault of the game. This is the fault of us as individuals who have created a society that tolerates this behavior whether it be from fans, players, or coaches.

Football is a great game, but we can make it better by holding players accountable for their behavior. If we stop tolerating their domestic violence and remove them from the game, not only does it punish those players, but it also sends a powerful message to fans and younger athletes that this kind of behavior is not acceptable. Nobody has the right to hurt or threaten others, regardless of one's athletic abilities. And for all those who care about football with such a passion that they could hurt the people they love over it, they need to learn that lesson as well. Domestic violence reports related to a football game would be a lot lower if we realized it was just that: a game. For too long, we have overlooked too much for a touchdown.

Claire Cullen

***Scoring on Sunday***

I sit in the backseat of the car with three others and look out to the side of the street as our car comes to a halt in the hectic, Arizona traffic. I see bars and pubs glutted with groups of middle-aged men with beer guts who have clearly had too much to drink even though their night is just getting started. As the traffic starts rolling again, we pass the grocery store and see women carrying bags full of chips, hamburger buns, and containers of potato salad to their cars. All across the country, there are housewives cleaning their home and slaving in the kitchen getting ready for a party. It's Super Bowl weekend, our most "profitable" weekend of the year.

When we arrive in the downtown area, the car jerks to a stop, and we know what this means. I, along with the three other young girls, immediately get out of the car and disperse in different directions, as if we have never met before. I walk along the busy street of this foreign city listening to the sound of the cat calls and whistles. I do not dare talk to anyone until I get to my landing place. I know that I'm being watched. I'm always being watched.

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Claire Cullen continued...

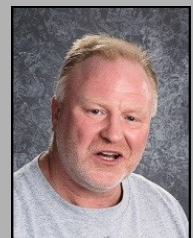
I arrive to the corner of 1st and Main, the place I was assigned. I see a police officer about 20 yards away and, just like every other time, I pray to God he'll catch me which will end this torment that has been happening for over a year now. An older man comes up and asks me "how much?" I tell him the price which has been raised because of the high demand that comes along with this weekend. Hoping the cop heard me, I turn and instead see his attention on two men in opposing team's jerseys who are getting into a heated debate about Sunday's predictions. Another cop is nearby; but, instead of patrolling the streets stopping crime, he's playing catch with a young kid at a family's tailgate.

"I've got to make my quota" is all that goes through my head as the improbable idea of freedom slowly slips out of my mind. National spectacles such as the Super Bowl are a pimp's dream but my worst nightmare. I think of the other girls. I've seen too many corrupted before they even got to experience high school. "I wonder what would happen if people opened their eyes and saw that human trafficking has been happening right in front of them the whole time" is the new thought that crosses my mind.

The hotels I'm led to during events such as this weekend are much different that what I am used to. Instead of being escorted to shabby traphouses, I experience five star, lavish hotels with banners stating "Go team," a neutral statement that won't send off any guests. I still feel a sting in my heart when I see the wedding ring of a man on the bedside table. I leave 30 minutes after my arrival knowing my days will be a constant repeat of what it already has been.

A day later, my body feels limp and debilitated like I've been running non-stop for hours. I'm hungry and thirsty, I doubt that I will get anything to eat anytime soon. Sadly, this is a feeling I've become very accustomed to day after day, week after week. As people across the country are laughing, cheering, and praying that their favorite team will survive their fight, I'm hoping I will survive mine, as well. As people are laughing at the million dollar commercials that are airing on their TV, I'm feeling helpless as I make my way back to my "home" where I know I will get beaten, drugged, and raped, where all of my earnings will be pinched from me. All across the country they're paying attention to the superficial game that consumes one's life, and I'm just hoping I can get out of this forced lifestyle that has consumed mine.

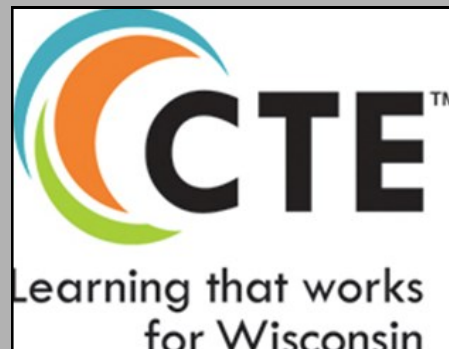
Mr. Churchwell,
MHS English Teacher



CAREER AND TECH ED NEWS



February is CTE Month!



In case you didn't know, February is CTE Month! CTE stands for Career and Technical Education and comprises the following departments at Milton High School: Agriculture Education, Business and Information Technology Education, Family and Consumer Education, and Technology Education.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, almost all high school students take at least one career and technical education course, and one in four students take three or more courses in a single program area. Consider which career and technical education courses complete your program of study.

Do you have a Twitter account? There's so much to learn about Career and Technical Education simply by following @WisconsinCTE and @WisTechColleges on Twitter or look up WisTechColleges on Facebook. Following the colleges on Facebook and Twitter will provide you with a lot of valuable insight as you begin to pursue your after-high-school options.



Ms. Kenyon,
MHS Business Teacher

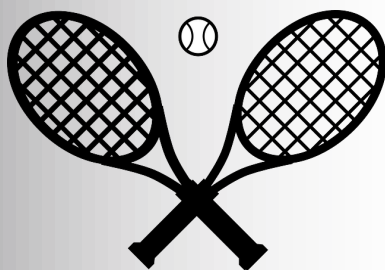
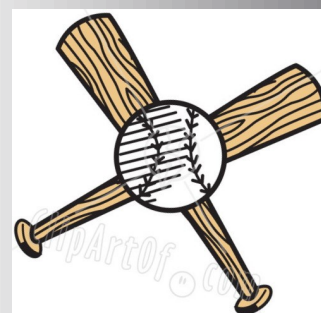
COUNSELING OFFICE NEWS

Please note*

In years past, MHS Counselors would meet with students in the spring of their sophomore year for their Individual Planning Conference. Parents were invited and encouraged to attend this important meeting which covers academic, college and career planning. These meetings will now take place with all **Juniors starting in the Fall of 2016**. Meetings will take place in October, November, and December for the Class of 2018. We are excited for these future meetings as we'll cover college planning, career goals, the upcoming ACT, and also review your student's Academic and Career Plan. Please do not hesitate to call us with any questions or concerns at any time! Thank you!

ACTIVITIES OFFICE NEWS

Milton High School will be hosting it's Spring sports meeting on Sunday, February 28. All first time MHS athletes and parents are required to attend the 6:00 general meeting in the auditorium. The sports included in this meeting are Girls/Boys Track & Field, Softball, Baseball, Girls Soccer, Boys Golf and Boys Tennis. All Spring athletes and their parents are required to attend the sport specific meetings at 7:00. All paperwork and fees that are required prior to practicing will be collected that night beginning at 5:30. Forms may also be turned in to the MHS Activities Office. If you have any questions, please call the Activities Office at 608-868-9565.



MHS DAILY BELL SCHEDULES

NON-PLC DAYS: MONDAYS, TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS

Warning Bell	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5		Period 6	Period 7	Period 8
7:30	7:35-8:23	8:27-9:15	9:19-10:07	10:11-11:01	Lunch 1 11:01-11:27	5B 11:31-12:19	6B 12:23-1:11	1:15-2:03	2:07-2:55
					5A 11:05-11:53	Lunch 2 11:53-12:19	6B 12:23-1:11		
					5A 11:05-11:53	6A 11:57-12:45	Lunch 3 12:45-1:11		

PLC DAY: WEDNESDAYS

Warning Bell	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5		Period 6	Period 7	Period 8	PLC Time
7:30	7:35-8:18	8:22-9:05	9:09-9:52	9:56-10:41	Lunch 1 10:41-11:07	5B 11:11-11:54	6B 11:58-12:41	12:45-1:28	1:32-2:15	2:19-2:55
					5A 10:45-11:28	Lunch 2 11:28-11:54	6B 11:58-12:41			
					5A 10:45-11:28	6A 11:32-12:15	Lunch 3 12:15-12:41			

HOMEROOM DAYS: 1ST AND 3RD THURSDAYS

Warning Bell	Period 1	Period 2	Home-room	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5		Period 6	Period 7	Period 8
7:30	7:35-8:18	8:22-9:05	9:09-9:45	9:49-10:32	10:36-11:21	Lunch 1 11:21-11:47	5B 11:51-12:34	6B 12:38-1:21	1:25-2:08	2:12-2:55
						5A 11:25-12:08	Lunch 2 12:08-12:34	6B 12:38-1:21		
						5A 11:25-12:08	6A 12:12-12:55	Lunch 3 12:55-1:21		