



MANHATTAN  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

# Connections

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden...In the same way, let your light shine before others."

Matthew 5:14 & 16

MARCH 2024 ISSUE 6 VOLUME 24

**Join Us Friday, April 5!**



Dinner, Dutch Dancing,  
Live and Silent Auctions,  
Opportunities to Serve, and  
More! Read all the details  
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## Teaching for Transformation:

A Formational Learning Experience (AKA FLEX) is real work that meets a real need for real people. MCS practices this through service projects and Senior Projects.

# R O T A R Y

## student of the month

Please join us in congratulating March's Rotary Student of the Month, Jocce Ruffatto! Jocce was chosen by her teachers because she is known to display high character, leadership, and community mindedness both at and away from school.



**Meet Manhattan Christian Senior,  
Jocce Ruffatto**

**How long have you been at MCS?** I have attended MCS since 5th grade; I went to Amsterdam until that point.

**What extracurriculars have you been involved in during your time here?** I play volleyball and golf, and am a part of the chapel band.

**What awards have you won during your time in those extracurriculars?** As a team we won State Volleyball the two years that I played on varsity. Also as a team we won State Golf and I placed 16th individually.

**What have some of your favorite classes and teachers while at MCS?** I've really enjoyed all my science classes, especially with Mrs. Leep. I've also loved ethics. Ethics really challenged me in a lot of good ways and pushed me to think deeper about my faith and everything. My favorite teacher is Mr. Kimm because he makes math seem so simple and explains it so well. He also is very understanding and a good role model while pushing everyone to do their best.

**What are some of your best non-academic memories?**

My favorite memory would either be Expedition Yellowstone in 8th grade, the year we grew closer as a class and experienced unforgettable memories, or winning the volleyball State Championship this year. Our team was absolutely amazing and fun, we worked so hard for it and at the tournament my team and I played the best we had played all season, the energy was high and the atmosphere was so fun and unforgettable!

**What goal have you set for yourself during your senior year?** To finish strong and go out with high hopes and goals for my future.

**What are you working on for your Senior Project?** The goal and main idea for my senior project is to show as many people as possible why the next generation is so important and why teaching them about Jesus and showing them who He really was in so important, and why we shouldn't overlook them because they are the future, coming from someone who is still youth. So I will be writing a sermon for my youth group and preparing a Sunday school lesson for the kids ministry. As well as help plan and prepare, then go on a missions trip to Mongolia to teach leaders and children's pastors why investing in the next generation is so important and how they can teach kids and tools to equip them with the ability to do so.

**What are your plans for after graduation?** I'm going to Canvas College, a ministry school to hopefully become a youth pastor.

## Dutch Supper Details

Jackie Van Dam, Co-Head of the Dutch Supper

Krentje Brij? Kippen Soep? Pot Eten? Amandel Taartjes? If you aren't familiar with any of these words, join us at the Manhattan Christian School Dutch Supper on Friday, April 5. Dinner will be served from 4-7pm. Prices for dinner are as follows: \$20/adult • \$10/ages 6-14 • \$50/family • FREE for 5 and under

We are less than two weeks away from MCS' Annual Dutch Supper. If you are going to fall off your Spring diet wagon, this is the event that will make it worth a few extra laps around the Tulip Mania Auction! Enjoy dishes such as Kippen Soep (chicken soup), Snert (green pea soup), and Roggebrood (rye/graham bread) served with imported Kaas (Dutch Cheese). Of course there will be Pot Eten/Stamppot (combinations of potatoes, carrots, kale, ham, sausage, etc), Klont (dark steamed pudding, with bacon drippings and all), Saucijzebroodjes (PIGS IN A BLANKET), Grauwe Erwtten (imported Dutch peas with more bacon drippings, mustards and syrup), Zoepen Bruij (buttermilk soup with barley and syrup/honey), and Krentje Brij (raisin and barley soup, with sugar & currants).

If you can't get enough yummy sounding Dutch Delicacies, than we have our Dessert Table filled with Oliebollen, Amandel Taartjes (almond tarts), Kringler & Soezen (cream puffs), BladerDeeg Gabakje (almond puff pastries), Amandel & Boter Koek (almond & butter cakes), and of course, our Chocolate Dipped Strawberries.

This rich Heritage-filled event is one to definitely put on your calendars. In the week leading up to the dinner, many hands will be peeling potatoes at the Churchill Retirement Home, and also chopping, rolling, boiling, stirring, spreading, and gearing up in the school kitchen for the delicious dinner!

To make this event happen, we are calling for more hands, more hearts willing and able to learn about this heritage. We have Roggebrood, Poffert, Brij(breads and soups) and more that all need to be made before this dinner. If you already know how to make one of these Dutch Delicacies and would be willing and able to do so for our dinner - please call Jackie Van Dam (406-404-9451) or Rachel Kamerman (406-581-3828). We are also in need of a few more volunteers to wash dishes, serve Dutch specialties, window servers, and concessions managers. Please call the office if you'd like more information on any of these positions, and the office ladies can give you more details. We want to keep this beautiful, rich tradition of the Dutch Supper going and want all who are a part of our MCS community and family, and the greater Montana community to know all about it!

## Tulip Mania Auction

Silent Auction Opens at 4pm • Live Auction Begins at 7pm

**Auction Admission is FREE**

Watch our school Facebook and our website for the auction catalog to go live.

# MIGRATION

**RATED PG / FREE ADMISSION**

Showing for kids during the Live Auction

Movie starts at 6:45pm in the High School Band Room





# Lady Eagles Basketball Re 'JOY' ce After '23-'24 Season

First-Year Head Coach, Rod Triemstra

*"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:4-7*



The Lady Eagles chose the theme re'JOY'ce this year along with the verses from Philippians 4:4-7. I can say with confidence these girls reflected our theme and took these verses to heart. As a first year coach, I'm thankful for their patience with me, their willingness to take on and tackle each drill, new offense or defensive scheme I came up with... and more so, I'm thankful to have spent time getting to know each of them and seeing them mature on the court and in life. We didn't get to move on in the post season as was our goal, but I did see substantial growth throughout the season as well as the girls' willingness to keep fighting through tough losses, injuries, rotation changes, and all the challenges that were thrown at them. They also welcomed these challenges with grace and joy that made me proud to be their coach.

We had 10 games decided by 10 points or less, including two overtime games. Later in the season, we welcomed three 8th graders, who stepped up to high school level in practices and contributed in some JV and Varsity games.

Our district was tough this season, with the top 3 teams placing in the top 3 at the divisional tournament as well. The girls are ready to fight and put in the work to move on further in post season next year! Our seniors, Gracie and Miranda, led with attitude and effort, and I know God has great things planned for them in the coming years. Thanks to our senior manager, Brenna, for helping at practices and at the games. She was a great asset to us all. I am especially thankful to Jeanette Walhof, our JV coach, for all of the support she gave me, her love of these girls and our school, and all the time she puts into the program. Thank you to Whitney Lott for her years of dedication to our basketball program and these girls! Her passion for the game, knowledge, and help with coaching has been so appreciated. Thanks also to Justin Skillman for stepping in this year as well. Helping at practices, taking the time to assist in whatever was needed, and helping coach all the girls individually was so appreciated. I am looking forward to working with the girls this summer and next season! Go Eagles!

## Boys Basketball: Class C State Runners Up

Head Coach, Layne Glaus

Success defined by John Wooden is not defined by wins and losses. He said, "Success comes from knowing that you did your best to become the best that you are capable of becoming." Our boys know that our greatest success comes from glorifying the Lord through his beautiful game, whether during adversity or comfort. Each season offers plenty of opportunity for both and though we fail to do this at times, I felt there was a collective focus and effort from the team to keep the real reason we play in perspective. (Read more on page 5.)

Photo Courtesy of Dan Chesnet, Post Game Gallery on Facebook





## Expedition: Yellowstone 2024



*Mallory Brown, Middle School Teacher*

Expedition Yellowstone was an absolutely incredible weekend, packed with so much learning, laughter, growth, and community. This was my first year that I had the privilege to go, and I was blown away by the eighth grade students and their ability to dive fully into whatever moment was at hand. We spent many hours outside snowshoeing, learning a ton about the park, testing different thermal features, and playing games, but those hours on snowshoes were also spent learning to slow down, listen, and enjoy creation.

The students also exemplified their willingness to serve, whether it was finding joy in small tasks of cooking meals and washing dishes for each other, or the afternoon where we set them loose on chipping layers of ice off the boardwalks in Mammoth. Their effort in clearing off ice was above and beyond, wanting to clear off as much as possible and make the park safer and more enjoyable for others. A favorite moment of mine was in the classroom as the rangers were teaching, when suddenly there was a herd of bison right outside the window. Next thing we knew everyone was huddled around the windows, in awe watching the bison herd meander through. This weekend of joy, curiosity, and community building was so refreshing and sweet.

## 2024-'25 Tuition Assistance & ACE Scholarship Updates & Deadlines

Manhattan Christian partnered previously with TADS to evaluate financial need information for families applying for tuition assistance. ACE Scholarships partners with **FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment** for their application processing. In an effort to streamline the tuition assistance application for our families, Manhattan Christian will be utilizing **FACTS** for our application process as well.

ACE Scholarships will accept applications through **11:59 p.m. on April 15th**. The application must be completed in its entirety by the deadline (including uploading required tax documents) for students to be eligible. New MCS students whose families meet income qualifications and students renewing ACE scholarships will be given priority for award. Please follow the ACE link at [manhattanchristian.org](http://manhattanchristian.org) to apply for a scholarship.

Beginning in early April, families applying for MCS tuition assistance must complete a FACTS application and submit necessary supporting documentation. The deadline for the first round of awards is April 19, but MCS will accept applications throughout the summer. Once the portal is open, a link will be provided through our website at [manhattanchristian.org](http://manhattanchristian.org) or directly at <https://online.factsmgmt.com/aid> (MCS Institution ID is #20375).

## Opportunity to Serve: Harvest Festival Auction Heads

We are still in search of one or two people to fill the need of Harvest Festival Auction Heads. Please let the office know if this is a role you would be willing to fill. Thank you!



## Boys Basketball (Continued from page 2)

Photo Courtesy of Dan Chesnet, Post Game Gallery on Facebook



(Continued from page 2) The end of the season offered a unique stage and opportunity to stay grounded in why we play, and I was very proud of how the boys handled it through the pain of a lost accomplishment. The boys selected John 3:30 as their team verse, "He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less." What a fitting verse for the game of basketball. Basketball at its best has the individual to sacrifice to the group. In a world that says you need to look out for yourself first, it was a joy to coach a group of boys that put the team ahead of themselves at the C Squad, JV, and Varsity levels!

I am truly humbled that I get to coach at Manhattan Christian. I am so thankful for all of the support--A big thank you to my assistant coaches, Ryan Ruffatto and Tyler DeVries for all of the time, passion, and energy they commit to our program. To their families, too, for supporting them as coaches throughout the year. Thank you to all the parents, grandparents, and other loved ones in this community for your continued, relentless support! We greatly appreciate our loyal fans that stand behind us; the environment in the Four Seasons on Saturday night was unforgettable. Most of all thank you to my beautiful wife for your sacrifice to allow me to coach; she had the tough job this year: wrangling my tiniest fan at all the games.

We are looking forward to another off-season of hard work, including another trip to birthplace of basketball!

## Spring Sports at MCS are Underway!

Golf and track for both middle and high school have begun! Find all necessary paperwork, schedules, rosters, and team pictures on our website under athletics and spring sports. Please note that these schedules are subject to change (Montana spring weather, right?), so checking our Google calendar for updates is always a good idea! Go Eagles!

senior  
project  
SPOTLIGHT



### Samantha VanDyken



For my senior project I built a dining room table for the non-profit organization Family Promise. I built it because I love working with my hands. I had built a night stand for my 8th grade presentation but never got to present it due to covid. I had contacted Family Promise to see if they had a family that would accept my table and a few months later I was able to deliver my table to a family of three. I loved every moment that I had the opportunity to help out a family.

## Join our Team at Manhattan Christian School

We have a number of open positions for the 2024-2025 school year. Find them on the next page or visit our website.

# WE'RE HIRING!

## Open Positions for the 2024-'25 School Year



- Head of Concessions
- Bus Drivers
- Janitor
- Early Learning Center Director
- Early Learning Center Staff
- Transportation Director
- PK-8 Principal
- Spiritual Life Director/ Chaplain
- Elementary Teachers
- Special Education Director
- Middle School Math and Science
- K-12 Spanish



**Apply Now or Share These Positions with a Friend!**

*Visit our website:* [manhattanchristian.org/employment/](http://manhattanchristian.org/employment/)

## Manhattan Christian School Foundation

***Our Mission is to Lower Tuition!***

### What Can YOU DO for the Manhattan Christian School Foundation?

- You can make an annual cash contribution (dues).
- You can make a bequest in your will.
- You can give a memorial gift.
- You can give stocks, bonds, & securities.
- You can give real estate or an interest in real estate.
- You can give life insurance proceeds.
- You can give cash, antiques, automobiles, or any item with determinable value.

### What can the Manhattan Christian Foundation Do FOR YOU?

- Give you the satisfaction of knowing you have assisted in strengthening the cause of Christian Education at Manhattan Christian School as a result of your contribution.
- Provide a reduction in your taxable income.
- Eliminate or reduce your estate tax at little or no loss to other beneficiaries.
- Receive confidential counsel on estate planning and general contributions.

Contact Ron Hoekema at (406) 581-1460 with any questions or for more information about the Foundation.





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**SCAN HERE**

to view the MCS Google Calendar  
with all sporting events, locations,  
and times!