



MANHATTAN  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

# Connections

"When anxiety was great within me,  
your consolation brought me joy."  
Psalm 94:19

MARCH 2025 ISSUE 6 VOLUME 25

## Our Favorite Spring Tradition!



# 2025



# Tulip Mania & Dutch Supper

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

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

**Auction Admission is FREE**

Dinner will be served from 4-7pm

Dinner Prices are Listed Below

\$20/adult • \$10/ages 6-14 • \$50/family • FREE for 5 and under

**8000 Churchill Road • Manhattan • MT 59741**

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MARCH 2025

# ROTARY

student of the month:  
Rance Hamilton



**Meet Manhattan Christian Senior,  
Rance Hamilton**

**How long have you been at MCS?**

I have attended MCS since preschool.

**What extracurriculars have you been involved in during your time here?**

Basketball, football, track, National Honors Society. I was part of the school play one year. Outside of school, I was involved in 4H from 9 years old through my eighth grade year. I raised pigs and steers.

**What awards have you won during your time in those extracurriculars?**

Track state champions and basketball state champions, Academic All State, All State in track, All Conference in basketball and football, and I was selected to play in the 8 man All Star Football Game.

**What have some of your favorite classes and teachers been while at MCS?**

Its hard to pick a favorite, I really like all of my teachers. They have helped me with school as well as grow in my faith and character.

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

I have lots of good memories, but the senior football retreat was a ton of fun.

**What goal have you set for yourself during your senior year?**

Finish well, have fun, make good memories.

**What are you working on for your Senior Project?**

For my senior project I am building a press box for the football and track programs at MCS. The structure provides a place for the NFHS & Huddle cameras. The structure also provides a vantage point for the score keeping and announcer to announce from. This project has taken a lot of time and money. Thankfully everything has been donated! Kenyon Noble donated all the lumber, hardware, doors, and windows. Great Northern Metal and Jones Painting donated the siding and roofing and hardware for that. Elevated Concrete donated the concrete and forms. D&D Trucking donated gravel and trucking, TD Hamilton Excavation donated the excavation and equipment necessary to complete this project as well as pay for the electrical portion of the project. Kevin Scott, Tate Hamilton, and my dad all helped with a lot of gravel raking and other miscellaneous help as needed. Without Terry Sinnema this project would be impossible! While I'm so thankful for everybody that has contributed, I especially want to say a big thanks to Terry for spending a ton of time working with and teaching me how to build a building. He has been a wonderful mentor for me. I'm excited and proud of how well it's turning out!

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

Attend MSU Northern to study diesel technology and play football.

**What is your favorite Bible Verse?**

Colossians 3:17

## Six MCS Students Feature Art at the Capitol Art Show

Six of our Manhattan Christian students were chosen to display their original artwork this month at the Capitol art show in Helena. Way to go, MCS artists! Thank you, Mrs. Swanson, for this cool opportunity!



Holland Triemstra (6th)



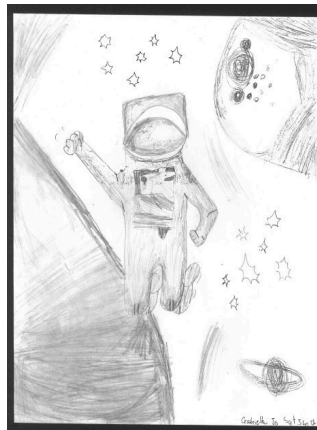
Jenae Young (8th)



Alex Straatman (4th)



Eden Forsythe (9th)



Gabriella Sytsma (4th)



Alexa Vankley (9th)

## Fulfilling Work, Great Environment; Join our Team!

As we expand some of our class sections and say goodbye to some of our dear staff members at the conclusion of this year, we will be hiring the following positions for the 2025-2026 school year. The more complete job postings and the employment applications are linked on the homepage of our website.

- ☐ Bus Driver\*
- ☐ Part-Time Technology Coordinator
- ☐ School Counselor
- ☐ Kitchen Staff\*
- ☐ Elementary Teacher
- ☐ Elementary Music Teacher
- ☐ Middle School Teacher

\*Position open now for immediate start.



## From the Board

As we look ahead we are grateful for Joel Westa's dedication over the last few years as he has decided to step away following this school year. If you see Mr. Westa in the halls, or out and about, please say a word of thank you for his brief but productive years here at MCS. We are also grateful for how God has provided strong leadership with both Lacey Kutyllo as PreK-8 Principal and Nathanael Hope as 9-12 Principal, both assisted by Micah Forsythe in the new role of Spiritual Life Director. This past year Mr. Hope has also shared some of the Head of School responsibilities and we are excited to have him move into the role of both Head of School and 9-12 Principal this next year! We are grateful for the many varied ways Mr. Hope has served MCS already giving him a broad view of both our strengths and weaknesses and we look ahead aiming for many years of consistent and strong leadership from our administration team! Please pray that they would work well together to execute the shared vision for education at MCS. A few words from Mr Hope looking toward the years ahead...

## Mr. Hope

It is both an exciting and challenging role that God has placed ahead of me with the position of Head of School. God very clearly led our family to Manhattan Christian back in 2021 and I was eager to grow as a school leader in the 6-12 Principal role. What I did not know then was how God also brought us here for this new role as well. I can now look back over the path God has led myself and my family on and see rather clearly that He was getting us ready for it. We love this school and this community and are eager to be part of it for as long as God will allow! I long to see Manhattan Christian continue to fulfill and grow in its mission to "inspire students to live God-glorifying lives by teaching Christ's lordship in faith, learning, and living." There is a repeated phrase in the book of Jeremiah that always stands out to me when I read it. That phrase is "then they will know that I am the Lord." Its context is in the actions of God and His people being such that the people of God and the world know that He is the Lord. My dream for MCS is that we are a school that whenever anyone interacts with us, they will know who the Lord is and say, "what an amazing God they have!"

## Building on our Blessings: Phase One Funding Update



**\$9,335,000**

Phase 1 Estimated Cost

**\$1,510,968**

Pledges and Gifts Received

**\$7,824,032**

Balance to Raise

**16.2% Funded**



Big or small, scan  
here to give now!

[www.manhattanchristian.org](http://www.manhattanchristian.org)  
[jwesta@manhattanchristian.org](mailto:jwesta@manhattanchristian.org)  
(406) 282-7261



by the MCS Theater Department

**March 27 at 7pm**

**March 28 at 7pm**

**March 29 at 4pm**

**Tickets available at the door: General Admission \$15 / Student \$10 / Families of 5 or More \$55**

Peter and the Starcatcher upends the century-old story of how a miserable orphan comes to be The Boy Who Would Not Grow Up (a.k.a. Peter Pan). From marauding pirates and jungle tyrants to unwilling comrades and unlikely heroes, Peter and the Starcatcher playfully explores the depths of greed and despair... and the bonds of friendship, duty and love.



## Dutch Supper

Jackie Van Dam, Head of the Dutch Supper

**Manhattan Christian School Dutch Supper Friday, April 11.** 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

Fuel up for the Tulip Mania Auction with all the authentic dishes from the annual Dutch Supper! 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!

As always, to make the dinner a success, we are calling for more hands and 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) . We are also in need of a few more volunteers to help make Pot Eten (potato dishes) early Friday morning and a few other areas for dinner. 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 Auctions

Auction admission is FREE and there is something for everyone! Watch our webpage and Instagram for the auction catalog to go LIVE early in the week. The silent auction begins at 4; the live will begin at 7. Send your littles to the free movie in the band room while you outbid your neighbor!

## Fifth Grade Dutch Dancers

The Dutch dancers have been giving up their recess times and working hard to get all their steps in line under the direction of Julie Bussis. Catch their performances between your bidding at 4:30, 5:15, 6:00, and 6:30!

## FREE ADMISSION for the Wild Robot

2024 hit film, *The Wild Robot* will be showing in the Band Room at 6:45pm with adult supervision provided. Rated PG for all audiences; clip your ticket below! (Actual ticket not necessary for entry.)







- **HS Music Tour: March 30–April 4**
- **Donkey Basketball: April 15**
- **3-on-3 Basketball Tournament: April 19**
- **UPDATED MS AND HS Spring Program: May 14**
- **Elementary Fun Run & Elem Half Day: May 16**
- **Grandparents Day & Elementary Spring Program: May 21**
- **Senior Project Community Night: May 27**
- **Graduation: May 30**

## Girls Advance to State Tournament; Boys Finish Second to the Bears

Congratulations to our boys and girls basketball teams for finishing another successful basketball season. After challenging to advance to Divisionals and huge comeback in their challenge to State, the girls faced two tough opponents, but fell by only four in their loser-out game Saturday morning at the Civic Center. The boys gave us our money's worth for the second year in a row in a championship rematch against Box Elder, but fell in the final minutes. Civic Center Staff complimented both teams on their sportsmanship throughout Divisionals and State. Read a recap of the season from Coach Triemstra and Coach Glaus in the April Connections next month.



## Don't Wait to Register Your Team: Annual 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament, Saturday, April 19

*Additional 3 Point and Free Throw Contests + MASSIVE prizes*

**Enter by April 14. \$50 late registration fee**

**60 team limit / 3rd-12th grade / 3-5 players / no co-ed**

Questions? Contact Kendal or Jeanette Walhof Ph.# 406-580-2282 or 406-539-9515

Email: [kendal@churchillequipment.net](mailto:kendal@churchillequipment.net)

No paper registrations will be accepted this year. Please register and pay using the online links.

# senior project

**Sierra Flikkema**

For my senior project, I am running a baby clothes closet with ZoeCare. Previously, all of ZoeCare's clothes donations got put into bins and brought to a storage unit for when a mom needed something. I have revamped the space, making it more user-friendly and appealing to the eye. I have it open multiple times a month for moms using ZoeCare's resources to come get what they need.

## New Spring Coaches for Track and Golf; Welcome Mark and Garret!

The MCS Athletic department is excited to welcome two new head coaches for our spring sports programs! Garret Nielson joins us to take on our golf team, and alumni, Mark Eekhoff is thrilled to be back on the Eagle track. Read more about our spring sports and athletes in coming issues of the Connections.



## A Heartfelt Thank You to our Custodial Staff & Student Helpers

Our teachers and staff are so thankful for the tireless (and often thankless!) work done by our custodial staff. Thank you, Nancy, Garret, Eden, Ethan, and Madison for your dedication to keeping our school looking its best! If you see these wonderful people in the hallways, make sure to show them your appreciation for their work!

# Free Community Concert: Caroline Cobb

Brought to you by the MCS Artist Series in Partnership with Local Churches



Caroline Cobb in Concert

with Guest Artist Paul Demer

**Tuesday April 8, 2025 7:00 PM in the Manhattan  
Christian Reformed Church Auditorium**

Admission is Free with a love offering being taken  
to help cover the event costs.

Caroline Cobb is a singer-songwriter and author who loves to tell God's Story, helping you rehearse and respond to it as you go about your everyday life. Caroline has released five "Story-telling" albums, including Psalms: The Poetry of Prayer, and she recently published her first book, Advent for Exiles: 25 Devotions to Awaken Gospel Hope in Every Longing Heart. Her work can be found at Christianity Today, The Gospel Coalition, The Rabbit Room, Risen Motherhood and more. Caroline and her husband Nick live in Dallas with their children Ellie, Harrison, and Libby.



## Manhattan Christian School Foundation

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I wish to join the MCSF in the category listed below.

- ☐ \$100 Maintaining Level
- ☐ \$500 Sustaining Level
- ☐ \$1,000 Embracing Level

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Manhattan Christian School Foundation

***Our mission is to lower tuition!***

**The key to the success of our Foundation is to bring our 40  
& 50 year olds on board!**

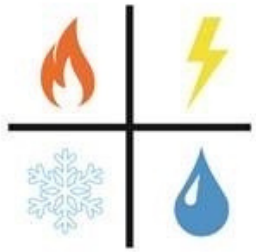
Are you ready to pay your blessings forward? Please consider including  
MCS Foundation in Your Planning.

**Want more information  
on the Foundation?  
Scan the QR code to hear all  
about it on our school's  
podcast!**



**Become a member today by filling out the form to the left or visiting our  
webpage at [Manhattanchristian.org/support-mcs/mcs-foundation](http://Manhattanchristian.org/support-mcs/mcs-foundation).  
Contact Ron Hoekema at (406) 581-1460 with any questions or  
for more information.**





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