

# The Mustang

Leading the stampede with award-winning coverage



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## AI in schools: enhancing the future of education

Shrushti Shah  
Staff Reporter

Thirty three teachers joined an AI pilot at MHS to investigate the use of AI platforms Brisk Teaching and Magic School. Teachers can use AI to provide students quick feedback, make lesson plans and much more. The purpose of the pilot is to determine which platform works best for teachers and students.

English teacher Colin Franklin, who is involved in the AI pilot, shared that he has already been using AI for a year and half. He explained, "I started out by using Claude for feedback and it slowly morphed into a thought partner, so if I have an unfinished idea, I put it into Chat GPT for a full lesson plan idea."

Brisk Teaching is an exclusive platform for teachers. It helps teachers with lesson planning, timely feedback to students, AI checking, leveling readings, making quizzes.

Franklin said he has more experience with Brisk and loves everything it does, but has not looked into Magic School as much so far.

He explained that in an active class, it is difficult for a teacher to reach all students in one period for feedback while AI can generate quick feedback which students can utilize earlier on and allows them to have time for editing.

Franklin acknowledged, "It pushes students further than they are able to go which sometimes frustrates them."

However, he mentioned that he allows students to disagree with the feedback it provides with a reason; students are not required to implement the feedback.

English/EL Bilingual Department Chair Diane Covert shared, "AI certainly can help teachers provide timely feedback for first drafts in the writing process. It is impossible, for example, for a teacher with three of the same classes to read and hand back drafts with comments in one day. Whereas teachers who use either Brisk or Magic School can provide AI feedback for all students in a very short period of time. AI can also be a partner in lesson planning and creating creative lessons to increase student engagement."

While there are some teachers in favor of AI use in class like Franklin and Covert, some other teachers and students are more hesitant in using it in a school environment.

English teacher Ernie Billittier has not implemented AI in his classes because he has not had a chance to explore different AI platforms enough to be comfortable with having it be a part of his class.

He shared his thoughts on AI in school: "For my personal reflections, I have conflicting ideas, every new technology has brought anxiety with it; now that we have

technology that can do the work for us, the question is what really is learning."

According to Billittier, learning is the "liberation of self." He explained that learning means growth, accumulation of skills and critical thinking and if AI takes over those processes, people would not be learning the same way.

Billittier explained that every class has a different atmosphere because of the creativity of each individual teacher. If the same AI plans lessons for each class, he fears that classes would lose their uniqueness.

He added that he enjoys the connections with his students. If the AI started doing work for the teachers, like giving feedback, it would reduce the time teachers have with their students which they could use to build better relationships with them. Although Billittier is hesitant to use AI, he agrees with Franklin and Covert that timely feedback is important when students are drafting papers in the writing process.

Both Franklin and Billittier described "a good and bad faith way" of AI use.

They agreed that if a teacher makes AI grade a whole student paper without taking a look at it, that is the "bad faith way;" however, if they use AI to look at some key points while grading and use those suggestions to help with their decisions, that is the "good faith way" of using it.

Covert added, "We don't want teachers

to use only AI to provide final grades for papers. Nothing should replace teachers reading and providing guidance on final drafts."

Franklin mentioned that AI can be really beneficial if people use it in the good faith way.

Along with integrity, data security can be a concern with AI in school.

Daniel Crowe, the D120/D75 Chief Information Officer, assured that, "Both Brisk and Magic School have entered into formal agreements with the district to ensure that no personally identifiable information is shared with any other outside third-party vendors."

Crowe suggested that AI users should review the policies of the AI provider and its reputation to check how their data might get used and how it is stored.

Crowe suggested to, "limit as much as possible using any personal identifiable information, be selective when determining what files you upload, do not use any documents that contain sensitive data, and look for any options that let you opt out of collecting your data....use strong passwords and two-factor authentication whenever possible."

If implemented correctly, AI can enhance personalized learning, resources which will outweigh the other concerns of academic integrity, privacy and data protection.



photo courtesy of Shrushti Shah

Mr. Franklin's Honors English 2 class. Mr. Franklin has begun to integrate AI into his classroom using programs like Magic School and Brisk Teaching for quick feedback to students.



photo courtesy of Shrushti Shah

Mr. Billittier's AP Literature class. He has not yet integrated AI into his classroom. He is seen here building connections with students through individual and whole class discussion.



### Mundelein Varsity Dance Team makes MHS history

Lia Koski  
Editor-In-Chief

The Mundelein Varsity Dance Team has made history! On Feb. 13-17, for the first time ever, the team embarked on a trip to Orlando Florida to compete in a national competition hosted by Dance Team Union. Not only was the dance team able to compete at a national level, but they excelled at it too.

The team's Varsity Coach, Maya Gold, said, "We were honored to get the opportunity to share the stage with various teams from all over the country at this prestigious event."

Gold added, "At this event, we competed in the Large Varsity division in both hip hop and jazz. Both our routines made it to the Semi Finals Round with our jazz routine advancing to finals. After getting the opportunity to perform at finals, our team placed 17th in the nation!"

Competing at nationals was an especially special experience for the seniors on the team.

Senior and captain Emma Kisselburg said, "Since my freshman year it has been my dream to go to nationals and actually getting there this year was a dream come true. Then, when we found out we made it to finals, for our first time going to nationals, it filled me with such pride and joy. The bonding I shared with my team, the accomplishments, the hard work, and the perseverance shown by my team while we were there was something I will never forget and something that will continue to



*MHS varsity dance team after they performed and found out that they were continuing on to compete in the final round at nationals.*

inspire me for years to come!"

Senior and captain Rose Madison also described the experience to be "a dream come true." She said how making it to finals at nationals was such a rewarding experience.

A specific moment to remember was, "Immediately after we found out we made it to finals, everyone went running around the convention and jumped in the pool fully clothed," said Junior Anna Hulls and junior captain of the dance team.

The hard work and dedication of the dance team paid off at nationals, but some members described how the season had challenges, and it was difficult to stay motivated until nationals.

Hulls said, "Our season started well, but

we lost a little bit of motivation when we didn't make it to the State IHSA competition."

Another team member and junior Ava Erickson, explained that it was nice to get a different perspective of judges who weren't just from Illinois to watch the dance.

Hulls added that one reason the team stayed motivated was because of their positivity. "It's helpful having a positive coach who is always there for us," she said.

Furthermore, Hulls and Erickson, both juniors, agreed that another source of motivation for working hard for nationals was for the graduating seniors on the team.

Hulls said, "Having nine seniors gave me a lot of motivation to do well for not only myself but for them."

As one of the graduating seniors on the team, Madison said, "I'm sure I can speak for all the seniors including myself when saying that it was a bittersweet time, as it marked the end of our season; however, I am so grateful to have been able to spend this amazing experience with my amazing teammates and best friends!"

Gold added how while the motivation and positivity of the team certainly enabled them to do well at nationals, the whole endeavor would not have been achievable without the help and support of MHS and the community.

"We were so grateful to get to perform at finals, and to place amongst these amazing teams from across the nation. This experience would not be made possible without the support of the Athletic Department, MHS administration, our sponsors and our team parents who helped us fundraise to attend this event," said Gold.

Gold added how the team has benefited from competing at nationals. "Nationals allowed us the opportunity to learn from a variety of teams from all over the nation and to have the chance to compete at a national level!," she said, "we have absorbed information about performance, the choreography process, and creative execution—that we brought back with us to challenge the level of artistry and athleticism of our program. It was an amazing experience for such a special group of athletes. We are so grateful to have had this opportunity!"

### Gymnast Lexie Ede represents Mundelein at IHSA Girls Gymnastics competition

Darby Schwerman  
Staff Reporter

For state qualifying gymnast Lexie Ede, this season has been one for the books. Lexi finished thirteenth overall, eleventh in bars, and qualified for finals in vault, taking eighth place.

It wasn't just her individual feats that fueled Ede's success, it was her team as a whole. Her most memorable moment was seeing her team do well when MHS hosted sectionals, "We started on vault and Ella and Isla both went before me and landed both their vaults for the first time ever this season. The energy was super high and everyone was so excited and it was extra special because I got to see the hard work they put in behind the scenes in order to achieve their goals," said Ede.

Ede's motivation was necessary to keep the ball rolling. Though she went to state her freshman year, she dedicated her time solely to the club level her junior year, so getting back into the swing of the high school season was a big shift. "The biggest challenge for me this season was pac-

ing myself. In high school gymnastics we compete in around 12 meets a season with some of them being twice a week. Going from club gymnastics where I compete around five times a year is a big jump. So being able to pace myself in order to stay healthy throughout the season was a big challenge," said Ede.

Gymnastics is full of ups and downs, "My state meet didn't go as planned. It wasn't my best meet of the season but that definitely motivates me to come back even better next year," said Ede.

Another difference the state meet presented was the atmosphere. Compared to the uplifting energy of her teammates when they were together, seeing that energy replicated by other teams made it difficult for Ede to maintain the headspace necessary. Ede described the state meet as "really different from any other meet of the year, it's super loud and there's a lot going on at the same time," she explained, "the 8 qualified teams are super energetic, and it's hard to channel that energy as an individual qualifier."

It requires an acute awareness of mental

health, physical health, and personal motivation to be able to gauge how much one can push in a sport so individually reliant, but Ede emphasized the positive impact the supportive MHS environment surrounding her has fostered. "Staying motivated during a long season can be difficult, especially during the winter season but having a great group of supportive coaches who were willing to listen and work with me not only helped me in my gymnastics but motivated me to want to be better for my team," said Ede.

Along with the support and skill, Ede's mindset throughout the season that gave way for her accomplishments. The impact of her attitude was reflected not only by her own sense of accomplishment, but by her performance, "I tried going into this season without setting any expectations for myself and it led to me accomplishing some things I've never done in the sport before. I set personal records on every single event this year and my all-time high all-around score. This led me to many titles at invites, conference, and sectionals."



*Lexie Ede is shown above celebrating with the team after competing at a home competition.*

## Order and justice with the MHS Mock Trial Team

Shrushti Shah  
*Staff Reporter*

The MHS Mock Trial Team recently placed second at their Lake County regional.

Club member, Riley Demko, explained that team members learn about legal processes and courtroom procedure during pre-season meetings. They study practice cases to make members feel comfortable with reading case materials, writing statements and answering questions until they receive the case they present at the state competition.

Senior Lia Koski, the club president explained that they review the case for state competition inside out. The Mundelein Team is split into prosecution and defense and each side has certain people playing

each role. The focus is how well they know the law. For the invitationals, they have to represent their side of the argument sometimes in front of a real judge.

The club is certainly for those who aspire to pursue pre-law, but it is also for those who do not want to go to law school. The club infuses skills like thinking in the moment and public speaking.

Demko explained that the club is competitive and has improved over the years. She emphasized that everyone encourages each other to do their best and have fun; there is a place for everyone in the club.

“I joined the club being a shy student that feared giving a presentation in front of my classmates and I can confidently say I am leaving as a student with the drive to become a lawyer and can speak in front of

current judges and attorneys with confidence,” shared Demko.

Nicole Malham, the club supervisor, always looks forward to the meetings. “It is a great group of kids... they are so fun and hardworking,” she said.

Malham added that out of the 21 people on the team, 17 are women; she loves that Mock Trial is a place at MHS for women to be strong and intellectual powerhouses in a court.

Koski established the club as a sophomore with the support of the club supervisor, Nicole Malham who started to coach again after ten years. The club has had an average of twenty members each year.

“The club is my legacy... I cannot wait to show up at their competition next year and cheer for them,” Koski said.

## Spring break vacation spots for every type of traveler

Blake Guenther  
*Staff Reporter*

For many people March means spring break and a vacation to an exciting destination. Some travelers venture off to beaches, others enjoy trips to the mountains. Destinations may also be determined by budgets, climate, food, and amenities. But, the question remains, what is the best spring break vacation spot?

For the traveler who likes impressive international food, according to a February 2025 article in the New York Times, the best place is Nice, France. The New York Times reported, “This perennially sunny city, the largest on the French Riviera, is home to sumptuous outdoor markets (open year-round), excellent seafood and countless inventive bistros (like Peixes and Olive & Artichaut).”

As you can see the quaint city of Nice has plenty to offer when it comes to food, but as New York Times describes it, “the art scene is just as prodigious.” You may be wondering though where can I stay if I decide to travel to Nice, well as New York Times describes it there are, “now, two old winter palace hotels that have been resurrected with splashy new occupants — the 151-room Anantara Plaza Nice Hotel, from a Thailand-based luxury brand (from about \$360 a night), and, down the street, Maison Albar’s Le Victoria, with 132 rooms and a marbled spa (from about \$370 a night).”

There is no shortage of places to stay in Nice.

For the traveler who enjoys crashing waves and soft sand below their feet, according to the New York Times, the best place to travel is none other than Turks and Caicos. The New York Times reported, “When it comes to the Caribbean fantasy of powdery sand and translucent sea, few places deliver like Turks and Caicos, even

if it isn’t actually in the Caribbean. The British territory, a cluster of nine inhabited islands and dozens of islets and cays, sits southeast of the Bahamas in the Atlantic, within easy reach of the U.S. mainland.”

The islands of Turks and Caicos make for a great trip destination. The New York Times reports, “That’s why the old-guard hotels that line Grace Bay, on the main island of Providenciales, tend to book up quickly in winter and spring. Jill Taylor, a travel adviser at Jetset World Travel, says the area is particularly well-suited for avid swimmers and families with young children: In spring especially, ‘the barrier reef keeps the water really calm.’” If you’re interested in traveling to Turks and Caicos and are looking for a place to stay, New York Times states, “For more modest rates, she steers families to the West Bay Club, an oceanfront condo hotel (from about \$660 a night). The newer Rock House, down the beach and evocative of a Greek island retreat, is arguably a better fit for couples or broods with older kids (from about \$1,040 a night).”

As you can see, not only is Turks and Caicos close enough to the U.S. to make it willing enough to make the journey but it also has a lot to offer for families who are looking for a nice vacation spot making it the perfect destination for a beach vacation.

The final two destinations interest travelers who enjoy the outdoors and spending time with family.

The first of the two destinations is Asheville, North Carolina. Although some might be hesitant to visit North Carolina after Hurricane Helene tore through Asheville last year, according to the New York Times travel guide, most sections of the Blue Ridge Parkway, the 469-mile scenic drive that cuts through town, should be open again, along with the majority of the

area’s hiking trails (check with the tourism office for updates).”

The New York Times then describes a place to stay when traveling to Asheville, “Downtown, where the center of Asheville’s celebrated restaurant scene is, are two newer boutique hotels: the pattern-happy Blind Tiger (from about \$150 a night) and Zelda Dearest, which moved into four 19th-century buildings around the corner from the popular Indian restaurant Chai Pani (from about \$200 a night).” As you can see, Asheville’s nature is a great reason to travel down to North Carolina and enjoy a beautiful nature filled community that is perfect for a traveler that loves nature.

The next destination is actually a student recommendation as MHS freshman Tommy Dunaway has suggested Lake Delavan in Wisconsin as a perfect destination for a person who enjoys spending time in nature with friends and family.

Dunaway shared, “Lake Delavan has a great natural landscape and I really enjoy spending time up there fishing and spending time with my friends and family.”

Dunaway spends his time at Lake Delavan in a lake house, but shared that there are various airbnbs on the lake that anyone could look into to rent for a vacation up to the lake. He shared, “I feel that a perfect spring break is really centered around who you are spending the time with and that a perfect vacation is one that is spent with the people you care about the most.” He shared that he also feels that Lake Delavan is a perfect place to do just that.

Whether that’s spending time enjoying some delicious food, running up and down white sand beaches, driving through thousands of wildflowers, or spending time with the people you care about most, hopefully whatever you decide is the perfect spring break vacation destination for you.

### The Mustang Staff

The Mustang is a student-produced publication published in print about every six weeks and also online by the journalism students of Mundelein High School, 1350 W. Hawley St., Mundelein, IL, 60060, phone (847) 949-2200. The Mustang provides accurate and objective coverage of events and topics that are interesting and relevant to high school students. The staff welcomes signed letters from readers for possible publication. These letters can be submitted to the Journalism Room A101.

**Editor-In-Chief**  
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## Hot Take: Why having months dedicated to diversity is important

Lia Koski  
*Editor-In-Chief*

**AGREE:** Dedicating months to celebrate different cultures and minority groups is essential in our society and educational systems. We will never have a society that is fully informed on all of the cultures that make up our country, so having months dedicated to some of the larger minorities can be a door into learning more about other perspectives different from your own.

I recognize the counterargument that we don't need months dedicated to minority groups because we should always be celebrating and learning about different cultures/historical perspectives. However, these national months create an opportunity to spotlight one culture at a time, and it's about what people do when faced with this opportunity that should be discussed.

National historical months are more important than ever considering the recent executive order by the Trump administration to "terminate, to the maximum extent allowed by law, all DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) programs," as stated by Trump himself in the executive order published on Jan. 20.

Since Trump's executive order, numerous businesses have eliminated or altered in some way their DEI programs. These businesses include: Target, Amazon, Disney, Google, PepsiCo, McDonald's, and more.

Junior Ella Novotney stressed the im-

portance of having national months dedicated to honoring and spreading awareness about different minority groups. She said, "From a young age, we were taught to treat everyone the same, no matter the gender, race, or ethnicity, we are all equals. But this was not the case for most of our history. We sometimes forget about this and these months help us remember and recognize the contributions [minority groups] have made."

Additionally, Senior Danielle Saweh agreed that "it's incredibly important; it draws attention to cultures and experiences that not only build up the foundation of our country but the foundation of our national culture," she said.

Novotney added how MHS takes advantage of these national months to teach students about the historical importance of the minority group.

"At Mundelein, we do a great job at recognizing everyone, since we are grateful enough to have such a diverse community. It gives everyone the chance to learn about different racial, gender, or ethnic backgrounds that we wouldn't have experienced without it," Novotney said.

Saweh herself has participated in events at MHS to honor national months including Black History Month.

Saweh said, "Most recently, Mundelein just hosted a panel of successful Black individuals in several different fields, and I was able to emcee the event. It was a great opportunity for our student body to hear diverse and personal stories from Black firefighters, mayors, and even DJs."

Shrushti Shah  
*Staff Reporter*

**DISAGREE:** Women's History Month, Black History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month.

Senior Ronan Gardner believed that history months "undermine the goal of an integrated understanding of history."

He explained that these months split history into multiple pieces rather than keeping it cohesive. When people are separated from the broader American history, the idea of separation is fostered over the idea of togetherness.

He added that schools and companies mostly touch base on historical figures instead of truly dedicating some time to educate people about their history.

He shared that the fact of the matter is that these special history months have devolved into a fruitless and superficial way of telling these groups of people "Hey, you are important too."

While Senior Damian Harrison did not agree that history months are becoming "fruitless" or "superficial," he explained that celebrating or not celebrating them does not make a big difference.

He said, "I get that history months spread awareness, but I just never do or see anything much different happen during those months so it does not really change anything."

Although the celebrations may not be as widely celebrated like Harrison mentioned, there are existing organizations that work

to keep these history months relevant to today. For example, the National Women's History Alliance adds a new touch to women's history month each year. This year, in 2025, the theme of women's history month is "Moving Forward Together: Women Educating and Inspiring Generations" to celebrate the women dedicated to education, mentorship and leadership.

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"I get that history months spread awareness, but I just never do or see anything much different happen during those months so it does not really change anything."

-Damian Harrison

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Despite the themes being unknown to most people, they do exist; the celebrations do exist and highlight, in this case, different groups of women. This year it is teachers, who have worked hard to come to the position of more or less equality with men.

## Hot Take: School dances aren't fun, and they're not worth your time

Dan Stricklin  
*Staff Reporter*

**AGREE:** Low participation in dances leads one to believe that interest in school dances and events is low. The cancellation of Turnabout reveals that something needs to change with school dances. It seems that students are only wanting to take pictures, go out to dinner, and hang-out with their groups, with no care about the dance.

Junior Anna Hulls said, "I only really wanted to take pictures and go to dinner for turnabout and never planned on going to the dance because I didn't know of anyone that was going."

Even students leave homecoming early. Junior Emilia Harrison said, "I think that the environment that the school dancers are put in is awkward and it feels very forced when you're there and it feels uncomfortable to have fun when you're in that type of."

The mosh pit is just not fun. Everyone in it is very sweaty and gross and very

compact and also a lot of germs are getting spread around. Once you're in it there's no going back, and if you handle compact spaces there's no point to even going to the dance.

Maybe the school should try and move dances outside. It isn't as hot and there's more room for people. Plus there could be other activities if students get bored like bags or other games.

Mundelein has had dances outside before for COVID-19. Senior Lia Koski said, "It wasn't as hot as what it is inside in the gym which was really nice, it was easier to cool down and less congested."

Even some students have complaints about prom. Senior Eric Beauchamp said "I thought it was pretty boring. It's fun to be around friends and dance but the music is just so bad and nobody knows when to mosh. And the steak was dry."

One good thing that Mundelein does is the themes and decorating they do for the dances. With close to 2,300 students we should be able to sell out dances, but currently that doesn't seem to be the case.

Darby Schwerman  
*Staff Reporter*

**DISAGREE:** If school dances are stupid, why do people still go to them? Hate as much as you will, there are plenty of reasons to enjoy school dances. They bring the school together, give an excuse to get dressed up, and keep high school traditions alive.

"It's like a right of passage," said senior Gracie Greenfield, "Honestly, it's for tradition. They're things that some students look forward to every year. Younger students going into high school hype it up in their heads."

No matter how silly it may seem when you're at the dance itself, just being there and experiencing it is part of being a high schooler. "This is the only opportunity you're gonna get to have this specific experience," said junior Allison Rogers.

We're only surrounded by the people we've grown up with for so long. It's fun to let loose and be together while we can. "I honestly think that anybody who doesn't

like a school dance just doesn't have the right people to be with. The people that you're with really make all the difference at least to me," said Greenfield.

Even for those who don't have a solid group to go with, it's not hard to find value in going. "The school dances are only as fun as you make them. If you think it's going to be lame, it's going to be lame, if you think it's going to be cool, it will be cool, it's your mindset," said Rogers.

A key factor that comes to mind in these memories is the mosh, something people either love or hate the most. "It gets old fast, but when you're in the mosh pit and you're singing to random people, you can pick a random person out in the crowd and they're usually pretty chill," said Greenfield, "If you don't love being up close and personal with people then you're not gonna have fun. I understand that it's not everyone's thing."

In the end, like Rogers said, school dances are what you make them. If you go into it with an open mind, you're bound to have fun.



## Hot Take: LeBron James is the best basketball player of all time

Xavier Hilgart  
Staff Reporter

**AGREE:** Ronaldo vs Messi. Brady vs Mahomes. LeBron vs Jordan.

The GOAT debate is one of the most popular debates in all of sports, and the Jordan vs LeBron debate is certainly one of the most controversial.

The Chosen One, Captain LeMerica, The King. The nicknames can speak for themselves; however, this is why LeBron James is the GOAT.

LeBron is unarguably a top two player of all time: four time NBA finals champion, NBA finals MVP, regular season MVP, 21 time all star, 20 time all NBA team member, 03-04 Rookie of the Year, multi-year olympic champion, and six time defensive team member.

Now what about the debate. Those accolades are nice and all, but we're not here to copy and paste his wikipedia page. No. How does he compare to Jordan?

To start, Michael Jordan has his own impressive list of accolades, including his six championships, six finals MVPs, and five regular season MVPs. Those both are more than LeBron has; however, basketball, and almost all sports in general, are never as simple as a team record.

The debate mostly boils down to what is perceived as more important: a dominant, unmatched prime, or being the best for a period of time, doing what no person has done before.

For LeBron, there are two primary points that define his case.

The first one has to do with LeBron's number one trait: longevity. Currently in year 22 and his age 40 season, LeBron is doing things no basketball player has ever done. He started earlier than almost anyone in the history of the league, and now he is pushing to keep playing longer than anyone ever has. That combination of early arrival and late departure has never been seen before, and maybe never will again.

This argument can be shown simply through the facts.

LeBron has officially become the youngest and oldest player in NBA history to score 40 points. In fact, in all of NBA history, only one time has someone over 40 scored 40 or more points. LeBron has already done it... twice.

In the 28 games he's played since turning 40. LeBron is averaging 26.4 PPG, 8.2 RPG, and 8.1 APG. To most those are just numbers, but when put next to his 2011 MVP season, 26.7 PPG, 7.5 RPG and 7.0 APG, which he did almost 14 years ago, it reveals that he is not just battling against father time, he is winning.

The second is the era in which he had his successes. LeBron James had to play in the single most skilled and deep era in NBA history. Now this is not to say Jordan was playing against plumbers, he had to play some very, very good basketball players, and he is probably the reason some of them are not more well regarded.

However, by LeBron's first finals, he was faced with the daunting task of defeating the Tim Duncan led Spurs, an insurmountable task when surrounded with Zydrunas Ilgauskas and Sasha Pavlovic, his primary "help" on the team. Former NBA player and competitor against LeBron also said in a tweet, "If you gave Jordan or Kobe those Cavs teams, they wouldn't have made the playoffs."

Furthermore, after he left Cleveland in 2010, his road only got tougher. From the 2010-11 season until the 2017-18 finals, LeBron made the finals every single year, an incredible accomplishment in its own right. However, the fact that he managed to win even three of those is a major testament to his ability. In that eight year span, he faced off against the Stephen Curry led Golden State Warriors four times, who many call the greatest team ever, mainly due to them actually having the best singles season record of all time in 2016, where they went 73-9. He still managed to beat them once, winning the 2016 finals in cinematic fashion, leading a comeback from down three games to one to defeat the greatest basketball team ever assembled.

That is greatness.

Ashton Salski  
Staff Reporter

**DISAGREE:** Michael Jordan the certified GOAT shouldn't be in question.

Jordan has played in all 82 games of the NBA season nine times in his career. LeBron has only completed that once. Longevity can be questioned, but Jordan had only six seasons with less than 82 games and three of those were within four games of a whole season. Jordan was a ten time scoring leader in the NBA while LeBron only led one season. According to ESPN statistics Jordan averaged 37.1 points per game in the 1986-1987 season and has had a defensive player of the year award while averaging 30 points per game which has never been done before.

LeBron has been on three different teams in his whole career winning a championship in each city. LeBron has played with many great teammates in that run helping him win multiple championships. Players such as a still healthy and good Anthony Davis, a great Kyrie Irving, Dwayne Wade, Chris Bosh, Ray Allen who saved the NBA Finals for LeBron by hitting a clutch three. You also can't forget about Zydrunas Ilgauskas who is the second leading scorer for the Cavaliers all time.

Michael Jordan had Scottie Pippen, his best teammate throughout his years at Chicago, but he certainly was not on the level of the current stars that play with LeBron. Other than Pippin you have Dennis Rodman who never put the ball in the basket and took on more of a Kevin Love role. Jordan is known to be 6-0 in the NBA Finals and earned those six rings with little to no help compared to LeBron. According to hoopshype.com during May 2020 Shaquille O'Neal said, "I'm going to have to say Michael Jordan because Michael paved the way for all the great guys that we have now. And 6-0 in the Finals without a legitimate big man. Went through a lot. Took a year off. Came back and won three in a row. He's definitely the greatest player."

A new saying that many young individu-

als have used on social media is "We're done with the 90's." According to Sports Illustrated reporter, Shandel Richardson in May 2024 NBA player Tracey McGrady said, "I think this we done with the '90s, I don't disrespect the guys that paved the way for me to play this game of basketball." McGrady also stated "I think there's lots of disrespect to those types of players," McGrady said. "If you look at it, Tim Duncan played in the '90s. Kobe [Bryant] played in the '90s. The Spurs, when they beat the Miami Heat [in 2014], the '90s was still representing in the era that y'all say is weak. It makes no sense but I get it. It's all for social media. All good but those '90s players were some bad \*\*\*\*\*."

In the 90's, hand-checking and aggressive post defense led to a higher steal and block number. In the 90's strict zone defenses were used to stop teams and many players, while now NBA teams switch man to man defenses. Michael Jordan playing in a more physical defensive era proved how his efficient scoring was excellent for the time. Teams are now overall more skilled offensively and players are getting better and better. Teams use advanced technology to help them game plan ahead of games and come up with schemes that were not known in the 90's. Jordan played in a rougher era defensively and was able to play both sides of the ball efficiently. Defensively, Jordan was great, but offensively Jordan was even greater than everyone else.

According to Hoopshype during September 2024 Muggsy Bogues said, "In terms of the skill set. Michael did not have deficiencies in his game, fundamentally." Jordan had no flaws to his game and had a hall of fame defensive career but also a hall of fame offensive career. Jordan played in a great era along with many NBA greats such as Hakeem Olajuwon, Karl Malone, John Stockton, and Shaquille O'Neal just to name a few.

Jordan should go down as the greatest of all time and his complete skill set and career accolades show it. 6-0 in the finals.



LeBron performing his iconic "chalk toss" before a playoff game in 2008.



Jordan's iconic 23. LeBron chose the number 23 in honor of Jordan.



# Winter sports wrap up a successful season

Daniel Stricklin  
*Staff Reporter*

With winter sports coming to an end, it's time to look back at all the great accomplishments from this past season.

Starting with boys bowling. Early in the season they broke their single match pin record putting up a total of 1241. Throughout the season they added a tournament win and conference championship to their season of accomplishments. They also had a state visit and a day two appearance finishing 11th in state.

Senior captain Winston Petri said that he "will miss the great memories he made with all the people on the team and all the relationships he built along the way."

Girls bowling had a very successful season taking home first place at the Antioch Invite for the second straight year. The girls had multiple top five finishes at bowling tournaments. They also took Conference and Regionals on their way to making state and finishing 21st at state, capping off a very successful season.

Senior Reena Photopoulos said, "This season we've had great communication and energy as a team. It led us to first in conference and regionals this season along

with qualifying for state."

Boys wrestling had a successful season with three wrestlers making it to the post season. Christian Saucedo, Ethan Banda and Abisai Hernandez all made it to state for their weight classes, with Hernandez placing sixth.

Saucedo said, "I think our team this year was really strong and definitely the best team I could have ever asked for. That night we beat Libertyville was really testament to how strong Mundelein is getting. We all push each other and have a very deep bond with one another to push all of us to improve. I'm incredibly proud of my two other teammates, Ethan and Abisai, who got to go down state with me this year. This is only the beginning."

Boys basketball had a tough season with multiple injuries. Senior guard Evan Salvador stepped up when senior guard Derek Bishop was injured, dropping 30 points against rival Libertyville. Salvador was able to surpass 1,000 points in his high-school career this season and also won Chicago Tribune player of the week.

Salvador said, "Our team is a family and the way we play is a reflection of our bond that we have for one another. It brought us close throughout the ups and downs during

the season."

Girls basketball fell just short of a 20 win season, but still had a good year posting their best record in 14 years finishing 19-14. Earlier in the year the girls fell just short of winning their Thanksgiving tournament, but were able to brush it off and have an amazing season after that.

Senior Captain Adrianna Lesniak stated, "I'm going to miss this team a lot because of all the great memories we made together and how well we got along. We pushed each other to be better players and people."

The dance team started off the year with a first place trophy at UDA camp, while they received third place in their first competition. They performed twice on day one at nationals and made it to day two, ultimately taking home 17th place at nationals.

Senior Captain Emma Kisselberg said, "This past season on the Mundelein Dance Team has been unforgettable. It's not only all the accomplishments this season that have made this unforgettable, but the bond and the sisterhood that we have cultivated that will stay with me and I will cherish through my whole life."

The cheer team finished top five in their first cheer competition. They made it to state for the first time in years, placing

24th.

Senior Captain Allie Senise stated, "As a team we have overcome many obstacles and have made it to state for the first time in years. MHS cheer has taught me accountability and leadership and I loved being on this team with these girls."

Girls gymnastics had state qualifier Junior Lexi Ede place 13th all-around and finish eighth on vault. The team also beat Stevenson in regionals to end the year on a positive note.

Ede said, "Although we might not have put up the highest team score or won many competitions this year, our team did have a lot of personal growth throughout this season. From the first meet to our last meet, we improved our team score by over 11 points and we had three individual event qualifiers for sectionals Isla Rehm, Ella Kessel, and myself which is the most we've had in a couple of years."

Boys swimming and diving member Jack Hansen was the only swimmer to make it to state this year placing 27th.

Senior Xavier Hilgart said, "This season we pushed ourselves and each other to beyond what we thought capable while chasing our lofty goals."

# Get out and run community races

Blake Guenther  
*Staff Reporter*

When the weather gets nice after a long winter people like to go outside. A great way to get exercise during the spring is by running a 5k. Whether you travel to a big race in a major city to run a competitive race or just run one locally to support a local business, charity cause, or as a fundraiser there is no doubt running a 5k is a great experience. Here in the Chicagoland area there are many great places to run a 5k and this article will be going over a handful of them.

The first 5k is the Deer Park St. Paddy's Day 10k and 5k. Finishers of these races receive a unique St. Patrick's Day gift of a 18 oz finisher stein and a shamrock sugar cookie. There is also premium race gear available for purchase. To register to run the event visit [allcommunityevents.com/deerparkstpaddysrun](http://allcommunityevents.com/deerparkstpaddysrun) and click on the register now button. The registration prices are as follows, \$39.99 for the 5k run, \$44.99 for the 10k run, and for kids (13 and under) \$12.99. There is also a kids 100m run for free and virtual running options for the 5k and 10k but the prices are the same. The registration closes on March 12th. The race will be held at 20506 N Rand Rd. Deer Park, IL US 60010. Race packets can be

picked up earlier and to find out how you can visit the same website as you would to register. The times for the races are as follows 5k and 10k to 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and the kids 100m race from 8:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. This race is a perfect event for friends and family and it supports a great cause in WINGS. WINGS is spreading awareness about domestic violence and you can donate to the cause on the website listed above. As you can see this event is not only for a great cause but it is a really fun experience that you and your friends or family can really enjoy.

The next race is the Loop the Lakes 5k in Vernon Hills. The Loop the Lake 5k is a great race as it is open to everyone and is a great way to have fun with family and friends. It is not the most competitive race, but there are still some awards for the best male and female times as well as the top 3 for age groups. The race will take place on April 27th from 9 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Century Park Pavilion, 1400 Indianwood Drive, Vernon Hills. The race will support the Vernon Hills Park District Scholarship Fund and will wind "through the picturesque Century Park Arboretum while both runners and walkers alike can enjoy the beautiful sights and sounds of nature as they loop around Big Bear and Little Bear." To register for this great event visit [vhparkdistrict.org/event/loop-lakes-5k-](http://vhparkdistrict.org/event/loop-lakes-5k-)

[runwalk-2/](http://vhparkdistrict.org/event/loop-lakes-5k-). The registration price varies depending on when you register, if you register before April 14th the fee is \$30, from April 15th-27th the fee is \$35, and if you register the day of the event the fee is \$40. Additionally if you register for this event you will receive a race shirt and race packet. If you are considering this event as a fun way to hang out with your family and friends while still getting a good workout you can find any additional information needed on the website listed above.

The final upcoming 5K, 10K, and 15K locally is the Bunny Wabbit Run in Libertyville. This run is centered around the spring holiday of Easter. The race will take place on April 19th at Independence Grove near the Visitor Center, 16400 Buckley Rd, Libertyville, IL, 60048 with packet pick up starting at 7:00 a.m. and the race ending at 12:00 p.m. The festivities of the race will include 200m kids dash at 7:30 a.m., an egg hunt (8 and under only) at 7:45 a.m., the 5k, 10k, and 15k races at 9:00 a.m. To register for this event visit [ultrasignup.com/register.aspx?did=115145](http://ultrasignup.com/register.aspx?did=115145). The prices for the races are as follows and include tax and fees, 15k \$92.81, 10k \$71.56, 5k \$60.93, and the 200m kids dash \$39.68. Registration closes on April 17th. Swag bags are included for those who register and contain race shirts and medals but can also include a plaque if you finish in the top 3 for either

male or female in all three races.

One person who is attempting to win a plaque this year is MHS freshman Jacob Matyasik. Matyasik has been running 5ks for 3 years now as he ran both track and cross country in middle school. His favorite 5k however is the Bunny Wabbit Run as he really enjoys seeing the community come out and enjoy being with each other.

Matyasik says that, "I really enjoy running because the feeling of satisfaction when I finish is a feeling unlike any other," he then added, "this year my goal for the Bunny Wabbit Run is to finally win a plaque after I have come so close in previous years." Matyasik also shared that running a 5k is a great way to get in shape and bring out your competitive edge.

Additional information on this event can be found on the website listed above. With all the Bunny Wabbit Run has to offer, it is a great run if you, your family, or your friends are looking for a way to spend some quality time together over Easter weekend.

If you are ready to get out and run or walk, there are plenty of races around Lake County that are perfect for you and your family or friends. Hopefully you can get out there this spring and get a workout while also having fun.

## A future for basketball: the successes of the underclassmen teams at MHS

Ashton Salski  
Staff Reporter

After a 17-6 season for the freshman basketball team, the future looks bright for this Mundelein sport. Henry Judge, the coach of the freshman basketball team, is a first year coach and led the team to multiple hard wins over the course of the season.

Judge said, "At the start of the season, we were a group of players that were learning to play together. By the end, we were a cohesive unit that valued perseverance and accountability. I saw players develop confidence and leadership skills that will serve them well beyond high school."

The freshman team handled much adversity this year as the roster changed up towards the end of the year and injuries took away multiple players during the year. Ethan Mason, a freshman basketball player said, "I think what our team did best was adapting to certain situations and staying composed in tough situations helping us win a lot of games."

The team won a lot of close games which showed the teams grit. Judge believes how the team continued to stay composed was their biggest improvement. By the end of the season Judge feels that the team built a bond that went beyond the basketball court where they would support and trust each other. Judge shared, "They learned to put the team before themselves, and how to be a part of something bigger than themselves."

Mason shared, "I feel like I had a very good relationship with my teammates on and off the court which made playing together in practices and games fun."

The freshman team had many great things to their season. Judge said, "Our biggest strength was our work ethic and resilience. No matter what situation we faced--

whether a close game, a tough opponent, or team injuries-- we never backed down. We learned how to stay focused, battle through challenges, and grind until the end."

Mason shared, "I think overall our team improved enormously, such as running our sets, taking better shots and moving the ball around."

With that Judge said, "An area we can continue to grow in is being more detail oriented. The best teams and the best players separate themselves by consistently doing the little things right. Whether it's executing a play correctly or recognizing defensive rotations, these adjustments can have a huge impact. Continuing to build this mindset will help develop them into great players."

Judge knows this team has a bright future ahead of them on and off the court. He believes they can continue to grow through the program and work hard to be successful at the varsity level. Most importantly he hopes that they can take the values of commitment, perseverance, and accountability into their lives off the court.

When asked about his enjoyment this season Judge answered "What I enjoyed most was building relationships with the players and watching them grow into disciplined young men. From the very first practice, this group brought a level of excitement and passion that made coaching them a blast. Whether it was the intensity of a close game, the competitiveness in practice, or the moments of camaraderie in the locker room, there was always a positive energy with this team."

The next level was frosh/soph where some freshman and sophomores combined to create a team. Elliot Morrison the coach of the frosh/soph team thought the season went well and saw the players' confidence as a group take leaps of develop-

ment throughout the season. On improvement throughout the season Morrison said, "Cohesion between the two class groups. It's often hard to build chemistry between groups that have played separately for so many years. We were able to build trust and work really well together by the end of the season."

Penetration was the team's biggest strength, with that the team could work on scoring consistently from penetration and knowing when to swing the ball while knocking down shots with it.

A little over midway through the season the team lost three players who moved up and within the last two games two players got injured. The team still continued to power through finishing 3-3 in their last six games. With a loss of three starters and two other players the team played some of the toughest teams in the conference and won.

Morrison said, "I think the bond was pretty strong by the end. It was based on trust on the court and knowing each other off the court. Practices had goofy moments where players got to bond on a personal level, and leadership roles were established in games. Oftentimes it was our freshman who set the tone on defense while sophomores were able to exert their influence in how to move the ball on offense."

The team had to deal with many struggles within the season but ultimately finished strong and with confidence in each other by the end. Morrison enjoyed the team's personalities and the bond that he saw build between two different grades. Morrison shared, "I see a deep group that will hopefully make each other better over the next couple of years. Iron sharpens iron, hopefully that leads to a successful varsity season when they become upperclassmen."



Photo courtesy of Ashton Salski

*Mundelein freshman boys basketball team celebrates after their Thanksgiving tournament win at Wheeling High School.*

## The secret behind Mundelein's baseball and softball successes

Xavier Hilgart  
Staff Reporter

One of the most telling signs that spring is here is the crack of the bat; however, here at MHS, instead of the crack, it's the PING of the ball hitting metal. Baseball season has defined the start of spring for over 100 years.

Baseball and softball are two defining sports at MHS. Having an incredibly well regarded baseball program, brought to light by former coach Todd Parola and carried on by current coach Randy Lerner, baseball has been a successful program for a very long time.

However, the success of the baseball team does not diminish or overshadow our other accomplished spring program of softball. Both programs have had a top four finish in the IHSA state tournament in the 2020's,

and have a history of strong placements in the past.

With the baseball program boasting multiple MLB draft picks, including current MLB reliever Ryan Borucki, and countless division one commitments from both programs, the success goes way beyond the high school level.

Now the question is: why are they so good?

There are many factors that go into it, ranging from experienced coaching, strong feeder programs and just overall luck with the talent that has come through the program.

But the one reason that seems to be a major trend in influencing their success is the feeder program, which happens before they even get to high school. MBSA, the Mundelein Baseball and Softball Association, runs travel baseball programs every

summer and a yearly 'house' league in spring. Ranging from ages from 5 to 14, the experience offered from the program is invaluable to developing all the young players for their time in high school and beyond.

Offering the unique opportunity to not only compete against local talent in the house league, but also compete against the best players in the region, state and nation, the MBSA prepares outstanding players for high school competition.

Players in the league play in regular season games and then get seeded into playoff brackets, where every kid gets a chance to play in meaningful, pressure packed situations with a chance to win it all.

The softball side is very similar, offering girls softball at an early age and having a similarly structured spring league.

However, MBSA's summer offering is

its highlight. It is the most meaningful and impactful reason why our young ball players enter high school prepared to play ball.

The travel baseball and softball leagues, with the baseball side open from ages 8-12, and then a feeder travel league from 13-14, and the softball side going from ages 9-18, with ages 15 and up being available when they are not in high school season, are vital to the high school's sustained success. Many, if not all, of the top players on this year's team's played travel baseball or softball with MBSA at some point.

Former member of the high school team Max Villaraza commented on how the feeder program affected him, "The feeder program did a really good job, they're a consistently dominant program and let me get a taste of what high school baseball is like from the feeder program."



## Green around the globe: St. Patrick's Day celebrations

Blake Guenther  
Staff Reporter

On March 17th everyone is a little bit Irish. On this day, people from all over the world come together to celebrate the international holiday of St. Patrick's Day. People travel to other countries, head down to a major city, or even just gather at a friends or neighbors house to celebrate. Celebrating this holiday is a tradition not to be missed.

The first place we'll look at is none other than Dublin, Ireland. It is no secret that Ireland has a rich history and deep connection to the holiday of St. Patrick's Day, so it is no surprise that there are some big festivities planned. The biggest spectacle of all these festivities, however, is the National St. Patrick's Day Parade. This parade will take place on March 17th.

The parade website describes the event as, "the centre of the world on St. Patrick's Day," and one that has "over 4,000 parade participants including marching bands from all across the globe in a thunderous display of music and pageantry, extravagantly dressed performers, troupes of colourful, cascading dancers and a spectacular display of extravagant floats as they wind their way through the historic streets of Dublin."

Apart from the incredible display of music the parade has to offer it also has a special pageant that is held which will

celebrate 40 years of Pavee Point. Lastly, the theme of this year's parade is Eachtraí, the Irish word for adventure. This theme represents the unique essence of Ireland and of Irish people. The St. Patrick's Day festivities in Dublin are a tradition unlike any other and are a bucket list destination for those who want to experience the real history of the holiday.

The biggest celebration in this area is none other than the Chicago St. Patrick's Day river-dyeing and downtown parade.

The river dyeing is one of the most famous celebrations as people come all over the world to see the river turn green. The process will take place at State and Columbus at 10 a.m. Boats will spread the dye throughout the water until the river is completely green. If you can't stop by for the river dyeing that day - don't worry; you'll still have a chance to see it dyed green. The color will last for at least a month.

After the dyeing of the Chicago River, St. Patrick's Day weekend festivities will continue with the 70th annual Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade. As in years' past, the parade will likely kick off at Balbo and Columbus Drive and proceed north to Monroe Street. The parade will start at 12:15 p.m. The parade is historically sponsored by Chicago's Plumbers Local 130 UA, which is responsible for turning the river green. Additional information on this event can be found at Tripster.com.

Many people enjoy this celebration and one

of those people is MHS freshman Ethan Mason. Mason expressed, "I especially enjoy the celebration of the city because it is fun to not only see the river become green but also to see the community come together and celebrate" Mason also shared, "I really like to spend time with friends and family down in Chicago during St. Patrick's Day weekend because it is one of my favorite holidays and a great way to spend quality time with both my family and my friends." As you can see Chicago is obviously a great place to spend time during St. Patrick's Day weekend.

There are also various parades and other celebrations scattered throughout the city for the holiday weekend. Two of these parades are the Archer Avenue St. Patrick's Day parade and the Chicago St. Patrick's Day parade. According to NBC Chicago, the Archer Avenue parade is "a celebration of Chicago's working families, the Archer Avenue St. Patrick's Day Parade is also scheduled for Saturday, March 15. Parade-goers will be able to line up along Archer Avenue as the parade travels from Oak Park to Narragansett. It is slated to start at noon." This fun parade that celebrates not only the holiday but recognizes the hard work and dedication of families in Chicago is a representation of character along with pride. Additional information on these events can be found at fabf.org.

The next celebration is taking place in the Village of Lake Villa with the St. Patrick's Day parade and luncheon. The parade will be taking place on March 15th with the parade starting at noon and the luncheon immediately following the conclusion of the parade and will last until about 2 p.m. The half-mile long parade will include bagpipes, floats, wagons, and much more. According to visitlakecounty.com, "The loop will start at Palombi School and run for a half mile ending at the Lake Villa train station. Immediately following the outdoor festivities there will be an Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Luncheon at the Lake Villa VFW Hall." As you can see this parade is a great way to spend a Saturday with family and friends for the St. Patrick's weekend. Additional information can be found at visitlakecounty.org.

Now for a more local celebration. The Timothy O'Tooles restaurant chain is celebrating the holiday from March 10th - March 17th with a special St. Patrick's Day menu. The menu will consist of Corned Beef & Cabbage, Corned Beef on Rye, Guinness Beef Stew, Fish & Chips, Reuben or Shepherd's Pie. There will also be green beads and special Irish themed drinks available. This celebration and special menu is a great way to go out to dinner with friends and family while celebrating the holiday. More information can be found on timothyotooles.com.

## Leprechaun lore: the history of St. Patrick's Day

Hannah Roberts  
News/Features Editor

The story of Saint Patrick and the holiday named in his honor is a tale filled with everything from kidnapping, nationalistic fights from the Irish against the British, to mythical creatures that like to collect their money in cauldrons.

According to an article written by Britanica about Saint Patrick, he was born in the fourth century in Roman Britain where, at age 16, he was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave. St. Patrick managed to escape but returned to Ireland in 432 to convert the Irish to Christianity.

The chosen date of St. Patrick's Day is March 17th because that's the day the Saint died and after years of work establishing monasteries, schools, and churches, Irish people believed he deserved to be celebrated. However, after the first celebration for St. Patrick, he wasn't widely recognized again for thousands of years when Irish immigrants to the United States popularized the day with the first parade in St. Patrick's honor was held in Boston in 1737. From there, the holiday has grown into the one most people know today.



*St. Patrick's Day celebration at Temple Pub in Dublin, Ireland, home of St. Patrick.*

St. Patrick's Day has many traditions that each have an interesting history behind them. The color green is widely associated with St. Patrick's Day. While both Irish and non-Irish people commonly wear green to celebrate, this color has an interesting history.

According to an article written by the History Channel, the original color for the holiday was designated as blue by the English.

Using the color green was actually an act of nationalism and defiance from the Irish against the British. The color green isn't only associated with Irish nationalism, there's also a mythical being associated with the color.

Leprechauns were associated and intertwined with Irish tales for thousands of years before they ever became a part of St. Patrick's Day.

According to an article written by World Atlas leprechauns are, "crotchety, solitary, but mischievous creatures." They are supposedly shoe-makers who hide their profits in pots and cauldrons and hide those pots around lush green forests and at the ends of rainbows. The small creatures are also associated with good luck.

Another thing associated with luck and St. Patrick's Day is the four leaf clover. According to an article written by Woodlands Online, an online newspaper, the four leaf clover became a symbol of luck hundreds of years ago in Celtic Ireland.

The four leaves were associated with faith, hope, love, and success. These clovers are rare as there are about 10,000 three leaf clovers for every one four leaf clover. Despite this fact, Ireland has the most four leaf clovers in the world which led to the popular saying "The luck of the Irish".

Today, St. Patrick's Day has many traditions such as wearing the color green and handing out little pieces of gold wrapped chocolate in honor of the leprechauns that love to hide their wages at the ends of rainbows. These traditions are fun to celebrate and participate in but it's also important to understand the history behind them.