



PTSA Teacher of the Month

Please join me in congratulating the PTSA January Teacher of the Month, Myrcee Cullen. Some of the comments from students are: amazing, listens to her students,, responsible, awesome, love her!, the Best!, very cool! Thank you Mrs. Cullen, and again, CONGRATULATIONS!



Students of the Month

January students of the month were honored this week for being great community members for kindness, support of others, and for helpfulness to teachers and students. They are (left to right) Sheila Perez, Grade 10; Nicholas Zeitlinger, Grade 12; Catherine Mendez, Grade 11; and Julian Caceres, Grade 9. Congratulations!



### Winning Games – Gaining Respect

The Manchester Regional High School basketball team is on a roll. They got revenge against Garfield who they lost to last month by only two points. Last night (Thursday) they had a decisive victory beating Garfield on our home court 78 to 58. Here, Coach Sponzilli is talking to star forward, Alex Morales, who is averaging 18 points and nearly 14 rebounds per game.



### Jorge Dyksen

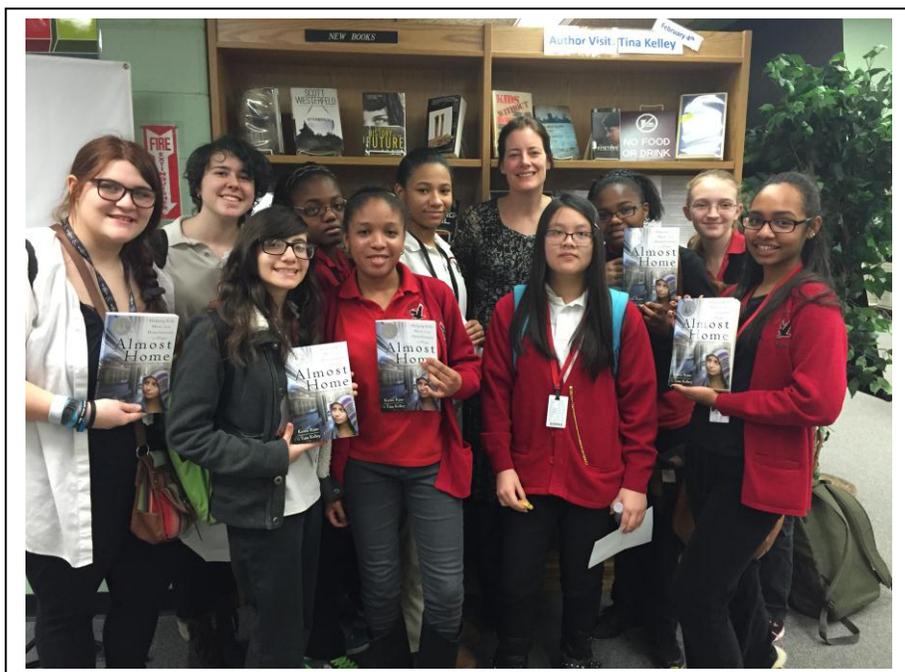
The Bergen Record did a feature story on Manchester senior Jorge Dyksen, saying that he can roll a bowling ball as if it was thrown by a talented left-hander, with a biting left-to-right hook! On January 22, he shot a team best 152 for him. Way to go Jorge!



## Author Visit

Wednesday, February 4th was The Manchester Library's 8th Annual Author Day. This year author, Tina Kelley, who co-wrote the book, *Almost Home: From Homelessness to Hope* with Kevin Ryan, the president and CEO of Covenant House International, was our featured guest. Tina Kelley is a former New York Times reporter who shared in the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service Journalism, along with the New York Times Metro staff, for their coverage of 9/11 in a series of articles entitled, *Portraits of Grief*, she is also a poet. Ms. Kelley left the Times in order to work at Covenant House and write this book. A national best seller, *Almost Home*, chronicles the struggles and triumphs of six homeless teenagers as they face exploitation, addiction, human trafficking and pregnancy. Covenant House is one of the largest charities in North and Central America serving homeless, trafficked and sexually exploited youth and they are hoping to increase awareness of these youth through the book, *Almost Home*.

On Wednesday Ms. Kelley spoke to over 500 MRHS students, telling them about the work that Covenant House does and most importantly about the individual lives of the teens she wrote about as well as others that she has met over the years. She also discussed her career talked about the writing process in general. Thanks to their English teachers, many of the students attending the presentation had already read one or more of the stories in the book. Ms. Kelley also had lunch with twenty students and graciously answered any and all questions that the students asked. The students were thrilled to interact personally with Ms. Kelley and asked her a range of questions from what it's like to spend time with a homeless teen to how she controls her emotions when dealing with so many tragic situations. They also asked questions about how they can get their own work published and what they can do to help make a difference in the lives of other teens in less fortunate situations. Overall it was a tremendously successful day and Mrs. Morstatt would like to help all the teachers that were involved as well as Mrs. Gabriele for all her help behind the scenes.



## [Making A Difference](#)

The Make A Difference Club went hammering for Habitat for Humanity in Paterson on January 31 for Hammering 4 Habitat. They took 2X4s with them that had been donated by students, faculty, and staff who signed the donated 2x4s so that their names would be built into the homes. MAD also collected \$500.00 to give to Habitat for Humanity to aid in their future building of homes for people who would never have the opportunity to buy a home without the help of Habitat.



## [Jeans for Teens](#)

The National Honor Society is participating in Jeans for Teens. New or gently used jeans are being collected for four weeks. These jeans will be delivered to any Aeropostale store and will then be distributed to disadvantaged teenagers across the country. We will accept donations until February 15 from any student, faculty or community member who wishes to participate.

## Snowballing

Student Council hosted the first annual Winter Snowball on Friday, January 30th from 7-10 pm. Faculty advisors Ms. Masci and Ms. Falzarano worked with Student Council members to transform the cafeteria into a winter wonderland with various decorations, many of which were kindly donated by Mr. Mercadante. Mr. Perez provided music as the event's DJ, and a number of faculty members offered to chaperone the event, including Mr. Macias, Ms. Hedges, Ms. Cochran, Ms. VanderGroef, Mr. Sposato, Mr. Ala, Mr. Savastano, and Mr. Cruz. Students enjoyed a variety of snacks and refreshments, many of which were kindly donated by faculty members and local business including pizza from Domino's and cheeseburgers from Metro View Grille. Students got into the donating spirit as well, with many taking part in an optional food drive at the door, which resulted in over 50 cans of food to be donated to a local shelter. Towards the end of the night, the winners of the Snowball Court were announced, with Frank Caraccio and Apolliana Rowe crowned as the King and Queen, and Amyre Rosario and Victoria Pereira crowned as the Prince and Princess. Ms. Masci and Ms. Falzarano would like to thank all students and faculty members who made this event possible!



Frank Caraccio and Apolliana Rowe crowned as the King and Queen

## Orange Day



Tuesday February 10<sup>th</sup> is "Orange Day". We encourage everyone to wear orange in support of Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.



### **Students Overcoming Substance Abuse**

On Tuesday February 3rd, SOSA Leaders facilitated the app game "Heads Up" during lunches. Danny De Los Santos created a substance abuse prevention category within the game to help bring awareness to students.

