



## DEC-JAN EDITION, 2024

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### **Thanksgiving Feast** - by Layla Morrissey

This year at MANH, we continued on the long tradition of the Thanksgiving feast. On the Friday before Thanksgiving break, both the east and west campuses met in the gym for this annual tradition, with each class bringing their own dish. Before the feast, elementary and primary students sang a song and Erdkinder performed their Tom the Turkey play. We then feasted on a wide variety of dishes from turkey made by Mr. Balouch, to sweet potato casserole from the Erdkinder class, to fruit salad made by Upper Elementary. Students and staff had a wonderful time sharing a meal together and giving thanks for everything the school provides for them.



## Classroom Focus: Coach Pinson

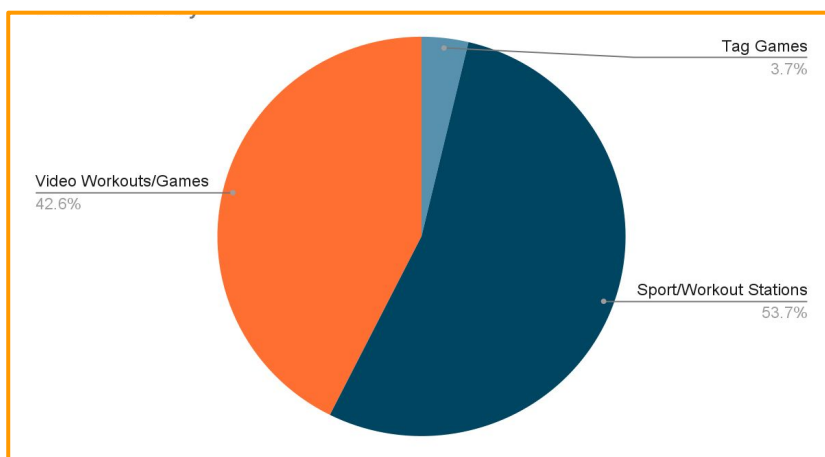
### **MANH Mavericks** - by Stella Frolick

This year marked the formation of the MANH Mavericks, the school's K-12 sports and after-school programs. The Mavericks are managed by Coach Craig Pinson, who says the goal of the program is to "give an athletic outlet for students to learn not just about a sport, but learn about teamwork, commitment, leadership, and resilience." It is very difficult to create a true athletic program in a school as small as ours. Coach Pinson is fully aware of that, saying, "the first year of Maverick Athletics is focused mostly on giving students a wide array of options to try in the intramural and club setting." Participation has been staggering, with 75% of elementary students participating in at least one activity, and 50% participating in multiple.

The activities so far have included track and field (a competitive team!), volleyball club, basketball club, and, most recently, the addition of the first non-athletic after school program, Pokemon club, which is run by Erdkinder students! Future activities are TBD at the moment, but Coach Pinson hopes to continue the intramural track and field team in the spring, and hopefully add more competing teams, as well as the continuation and creation of other non-athletic clubs.

### **PE Class** - by Layla Morrissey

At the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year, MANH remodeled their PE classes. Coach Pinson, our school's new PE instructor, has created a new gym course for students to participate in. This new course allows students to get a good amount of exercise, while also integrating fun games. Coach Pinson's classes consist of many different sports, such as basketball, soccer, dodgeball, volleyball, badminton, and many more! While students are exercising their bodies, they are also exercising their ability to work together in groups. Many of the games in gym class highlight the importance of teamwork. All classes on both the Freeman East and Freeman West campuses get to participate in PE class at least two times a week.



### **Survey** - by David Azaran

This month we held a survey for all elementary students to find out what is their favorite game to play in gym class. They were given three choices: Tag Games, Sport/Workout Stations, and Video Workouts/Games. Based on this survey, it is clear that they prefer Sport/Workout Stations and Video Workouts/Games in PE and hope to play many more of these games in the future!

## Meet the Erdkinder Students!

by Eli Nelson, Sergio Suarez, and Aleks Iwaniec

Ishaan Wu is a seventh grader who has been at MANH for 4 years. He lives in Hoffman Estates with his older and younger brothers, and his 2 dogs. He enjoys soup dumplings, the color green, and history. Outside of school he likes to play video games, basketball, and do digital art. A fun fact about him is that he has an extra bone in his foot.



Azadi is a new member of this community this year. She lives with her 2 family members, her mother and father. Her favorite class in school is literature. When Azadi is not in school, she loves to swim, dance, and skate. In her free time, she enjoys listening to pop music and watching movies, such as her favorite movie Spiderman. If Azadi were to travel anywhere she would pick Brazil.



Damien is a new 7th grader joining our Erdkinder community. He has many interests, including games and rubix cubes. He also likes macaroni and chicken strips. He considers himself quite tall, but feels that the people around him think he's short. He is very passionate about the trout population and global warming. We are all very happy to have him as a member of our community.



Sam Nelson is a seventh grader at MANH who has been here for 4 years. He lives in Bartlett with his parents and older sister, Eli, who wrote this article. He adores his dog, Banjo, who is a ten year-old black labrador. He enjoys history class in school, and outside of school he enjoys playing video games and cooking. His favorite color is black and his favorite food is filet mignon. A fun fact about Sam is that he once beat Untitled Goose Game in under 15 minutes.



## Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Location
12/21-1/5	Winter Break		
1/7/24	Erdkinder Feed My Starving Children	8:30AM-11:30AM	Feed My Starving Children
1/9-1/10	Erdkinder Student Led Conferences		Freeman West
1/10/24	Huntington Erdkinder Cafe	7:30-8:30 AM	Huntington
1/17/24	Erdkinder Cafe	7:30-8:30 AM	Freeman West
	Erdkinder Social: Game Night	3:30-7:00 PM	
1/20/24	Discovery Days		
1/13-1/17 and 1/21-24	Kindergarten Parents visit Elementary	4:30-5:30 PM	Freeman East
1/31/24	All campuses closed		

### Field Museum - by

Nick Gradle

On November 13th, Upper & Lower Erdkinder students went to the Field Museum to explore the “Cyrus Tang Hall of China” exhibit, the “Inside Ancient Egypt” Exhibit, and the “Grainger Hall of Gems” exhibit. All of the Exhibits were very interesting, although traffic made the way back rather long.

### Meet the Teachers + Staff! by David Azaran

This is Coach Craig Pinson’s first school year at MANH. He works as the PE teacher and Athletic Director. He has a bachelors in Physical Education, a masters in Athletic Administration, and is on track to receive another masters in Educational Leadership by May of 2025. He was born in Tinley Park, Illinois. He has lived in 2 other states in his life (Arizona and New York). Even at a young age, he knew he wanted to do something in athletics. His first ever job was selling tickets for a minor league baseball team, the Windy City Thunderbolts. In college, he drove an ice cream truck and made a lot from selling on campus. A very interesting fact about Coach Pinson is that he has never once had either banana or pie in his entire life. Today, he is married with 2 daughters (1 and 3 years old) and enjoys working at MANH; Coach P values the wide age diversity and various environments with each class. One day, he hopes to visit New Zealand as a dream destination due to its unique location and natural beauty.