



Monomoy Regional Middle School

The Monomoy Citizen

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Animal Rights Club Works To Protect All Living Creatures

by Jillian Stevenson

Animal Rights Club (ARC) is a MRMS after school club that focuses on helping animals, organizing animal-themed events, and creating fundraisers. It has a total of 21 members.

“It’s great that it makes a large impact on our school,” Ella Baum told us. ARC meets every Thursday with the exception of half days.

One of the fundraisers that ARC did was the Pets of Halloween photo contest. This is a contest where people enter photos of their paw-some dressed up pets and the school votes on the best picture. The winner of this years contest was Rosco the Guinea pig.

Last winter, ARC walked the beach and looked for cold-stunned turtles and is planning on helping turtles again this year. That is the

purr-fect way to help someone for the holidays! There are a few simple steps to saving a turtle’s life. First, never assume that a turtle is dead. Then, follow these steps:

Move the turtle above the high tide line. Never grab or hold the turtle by the head or flippers. Cover it with dry seaweed or wrack. Mark it with an obvious piece of debris—buoys, driftwood, or branches. Call the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary hotline at 508-349-2615 ext.6104.

ARC is important in many other ways. They are currently working on the Skip the Straw project. The Skip The Straw project is where you take the pledge to not use a plastic straw. ARC is working on persuading more restaurants to take the pledge. ARC is also working on getting MRMS to take the pledge.



Members of the MRMS Animal Rights Club.

Straw Poll

Do you use plastic straws? Maybe you’ll reconsider using them after you read this information.

Most plastic straws are made of oil harvested from deep inside the earth’s crust. So when you are drinking out of a plastic straw, you are drinking out of dead plants and animals. Eww!

Plastic takes a VERY long time to break down, so if you want to wait a million years for your straw

to be completely gone, then you would need to be a superhuman!

Melting plastic releases harmful gasses into the air such as dioxins and furans.

If you’d like to help us ban plastic straws MRMS, please fill out the following form and bring to the office. We will publish the results in the Spring edition of The Monomoy Citizen.

Do you use plastic straws?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Do you want to ban plastic straws?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If you don’t use plastic straws, what straws do you use or do you not use straws at all?

How can we ban plastic straws in our school or encourage them to be used less?

Please clip this out and drop it off at the office in the box. Don’t feel guilty! It’s never too late to switch over to paper or metal straws.

Friends Of Rachel



Members of FOR working on a project.

by Tessa Gingras

The FOR club, or Friends of Rachel, is an international club which is a club entirely about creating or fostering a school culture made entirely of kindness and compassion and following Rachel’s challenge. The club was born out of Rachel Scott’s kindness which was discovered at her funeral when her friends spoke of her acts of kindness.

Rachel’s challenge is to stop bullying and spread kindness throughout the world and on a much deeper level connect students. The club’s main goal is to complete this challenge by doing events and spreading acts of kindness. One event they did last year was the domino project.

Also this year they have done Free Five Friday on Oct. 19th and Nov. 16th. During these events the club spreads kindness in different ways. For example, on Free Five Friday the club would give high fives to students and the students would give someone else a high five, starting a chain reaction and teachers joined too. Also we had a special event called Thankful Thursday for Thanksgiving.

Rachel Scott was a high school girl who wanted to spread kindness and did in many ways. Rachel said that you should not judge someone by your first three encounters you have with them. She also helped a girl who never had a friend by saying hello to her in the hallways every time

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Your Trip To Truro

by **Ethan Seufert**

The NEED Academy stands for National Environmental Education Development. It is also known as the seashore program. The seashore program gives a chance for fifth grade students to be outside learning and having so much fun at the same time.

The Need Academy is located at the old Pamet Coast Guard Station in Truro near Ballston Beach. Every fifth grade student at Monomoy Middle School will spend five days at the NEED, and you will take hikes every day! You will hike in every type of weather. So bring clothes appropriate for when and what season you go in.

You get to sleep in a room with 10 of your friends! Everybody will be unplugged because you are not allowed to bring your phone, music player or any other electronic devices. You can bring

a small camera to take some beautiful pictures. You can also get thirds of every meal so don't worry, there will be plenty to go around.

You might feel a little nervous before you get to the NEED but when you get there you will forget you were even nervous. You are allowed to bring a stuffed animal or something that comforts you when you are sleeping.

Everybody has a great time. Jillian said tacos on taco Tuesday at the NEED were great. She said her favorite part of the Truro trip was climbing the Pilgrim Monument. Jillian's favorite hike was going to the White Cedar Swamp. At the White Cedar Swamp they learned about plants and animals that live there.

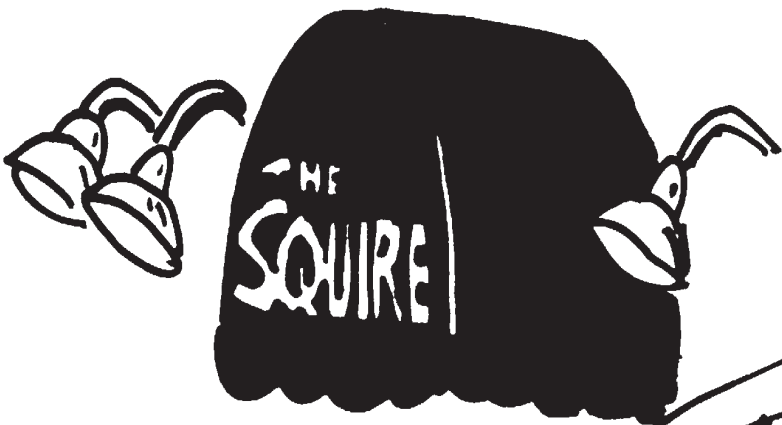
These are some of the awesome experiences you will have when you go to the NEED Academy.




A view of Truro NEED Academy from an observation deck. PHOTO COURTESY OF AMY MAJKA



Caitlyn Porter, Natalie Spence, Payton MacRoberts, Mae Naas, Ava Larocco, Sophia Lapointe, Mya Bates, Jillian Stevenson and Sophia Sparrow with Miss Bloch discussing the rules. PHOTO COURTESY OF AMY MAJKA






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Enjoying some downtime after a long day outside. PHOTO COURTESY OF NEED ACADEMY



Getting settled into their bedrooms for the week. PHOTO COURTESY OF NEED ACADEMY

Introducing Monomoy Middle School’s New Staff

We caught up with some of the new teachers and staff that have joined the Monomoy Middle School staff this year.
All newspaper staff members contributed to this story.

Mr. J. Wyatt Sullivan grew up all over. But North Eastham is my home. I was born in Harwich but moved to Eastham when I was in first grade. I then moved to Florida in fifth grade, then Winston-Salem, North Carolina when I was fifteen. I then moved back to Eastham where I ended up graduating from Nauset.

Where did you go to college? I attended Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. How did you get interested in teaching? I have always loved reading and writing. Being able to communicate in the written form is an invaluable skill. I love showing students what they are capable of in English class. Why did you want to teach at MRMS? This school is special. I became aware of that last year when I worked as a instructional assistant. People here are kind and courteous. Monomoy Middle School is a really great school with great teachers, support staff, and students. I am lucky to be here. What do you like best about MRMS? I love the sense of community here. We, much like Chatham, Harwich, and other towns on the Cape, are tight-knit. We look out for one another and we care about each other’s well-being. You don’t find that too often. What are your favorite bands, movies, books? Oh boy...Well my favorite band would probably have to be not a band, but a singer. Van Morrison. He may be my favorite, although it is difficult to choose just one. My favorite movie would probably be the original “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle” movies. They were a big part of my childhood. My favorite book is definitely “In the Heart of the Sea,” which tells the story of the whaling ship “The Essex,” which departed from Nantucket. It was destroyed by a sperm whale and inspired “Moby Dick.” My favorite hobby is going to the beach and surfing. I do both year round.

Mr. Adam Legg grew up in York, Maine and later attended at Endicott College. How did you get interested in teaching? I have always been interested in fitness and nutrition and as a camp counselor enjoyed working with kids so PE/Health teacher seemed like a good route. Why did you want to teach at MRMS? Chatham is a great area and it presented a good job opportunity. What do you like best about MRMS? The students and my co-workers. What are your favorite bands, movies, books? Favorite movie is “Batman The Dark Night” and “Star Wars: episode III”. Also a big House Of Cards fan on Netflix. I like working out, cooking, athletic competitions, swimming, surfing. Hanging with friends is great too during these activities. I have lifeguarded for the last couple years in York and am considering applying for the Cape Cod National Seashore. Stay safe in the water!

Mrs. Buckley If you grew up somewhere else loved the beach and had the chance to move to Cape Cod would you take it? Mrs. Buckley, a new MRMS special education teacher, grew up in Holden, Mass. She went to college to become a special education teacher. She decided she wanted to move to Cape Cod with her husband and son so they could be closer to their family.

She loves Cape Cod’s beaches where

she takes walks with her dog Hank and the rest of her family. She currently helps supervise the Friends of Rachel Club and started the Best Buddies club. One of the reasons she likes working at MRMS is the positive atmosphere and the fact that there are a lot of volunteers.

Mr. Nickerson’s first day at Monomoy Middle School as the new art teacher for 5th & 7th grade was great. His favorite color is green. His favorite subject is art because, he said, Art is the only subject where you can learn everything in it, and it’s fun. If Mr. Nickerson could go only one place in the world it would be The Pyramids of Egypt. His pets are two fish named Backpack Jeff and Little Tuna. Where did you grow up? I grew up here in Chatham. Where did you attend college? I went to The University of Georgia for my BFA and Bridgewater State for my Masters. How did you get interested in teaching? I’ve always enjoyed being creative and making things, and I enjoy the versatility that art allows in regards to the subject matter being taught. In art we learn math, science, and history, only in a fun and creative way. Why did you want to teach at MRMS? I went to school here in 7th and 8th grade, so in a way this is kind of a homecoming for me. Plus, my kids are at Chatham Elementary so it will be fun to have them in my class eventually. What do you like best about MRMS? I love the connection that the faculty and staff has with one another, it really feels like a family here and I think that feeds into the students enjoyment of the school. What are your favorite bands, movies, books? I’m a big Bruce Springsteen fan, I love the Marvel movies, and Stephen King is my favorite author. My biggest hobby is playing golf.

Mrs. Susan Whitcomb has lived on the Cape for 32 years. She enjoys reading and taking walks on the beach with her black lab named Blue. She also has a cat named Batman. Mrs. Whitcomb likes the happy atmosphere of MRMS as a guidance counselor. Last year she worked at MRHS (Monomoy Regional High School). Where did you grow up? I grew up in Fishkill, New York. Where did you attend college? I went to Middlebury College in Vermont undergraduate. I have a masters in Public Health from Columbia University. I have a masters in social work from Boston University. How did you get interested in this work? I realized when I was working at an administrative job in New York City that I really preferred working with people. That led me to return to school for my MSW and start working with young people. What do you like best about MRMS? I like the friendly atmosphere and the staff and students at MRMS. What are your favorite bands, movies, books and hobbies?

I like to read and walk on the beach. I like mysteries, but my all time favorite book is probably “Prince of Tides” by Pat Conroy. I like old movies.

Mr. Jack Turnbull. Where did you grow up? I was born in Boston and grew up in Ipswich, Massachusetts. It was an idealistic childhood. I had the beach, endless woods,

a downtown, but also the commuter rail to go into Boston when I got old enough to venture off into the world by myself and my pals. Where did you go to college? For undergrad, I went to RISD (Rhode Island School of Design) in Providence, RI. For graduate school, I went to the Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston. How did you get interested in art? I was a very late reader. Reading felt very abstract. It was frustrating. Then one Christmas, my godmother bought me “Destination Moon” by the Belgian cartoonist Herge, which is a part of his Tintin series. The drawings in the book were so enticing and exciting, I WANTED to read. Drawing is a universal language, so they helped me gradually learn how to read as I tried to make connections between the words and the pictures. I remember this experience very, very fondly and my beat up copy of “Destination Moon” still sits in my bookcase. From there, I started getting more and more interested in picture making and drawing, and art started becoming the way I communicated with the world at a very young age. So I’ve always been interested in art because it is how I interpret, communicate, and make sense of this world. Why did you want to teach at MRMS? I have roots on Cape Cod. My grandparents retired to Brewster. My mother has lived in Brewster for almost a decade. I’ve spent my whole life coming down here in the summers to visit family. In many ways, it has been a second home, so teaching here at MRMS was, in a way, feels like coming home. What do you like best about MRMS? When I applied for the job, I was blown away by the resources; a robotics lab, a green screen, a ceramic kiln ... MRMS presented a lot of opportunity that wasn’t available to me at other schools. What are your favorite bands, movies, books? Do you have a hobby? My favorite book of all time is probably “Moby Dick”, but my favorite author is Thomas Pynchon.

His books are extremely challenging to read, but also very rewarding. They’re almost like poetic puzzles. I also love Ursula K. Le Guin, who was a female science fiction and fantasy author who had an incredible imagination. Her book “The Dispossessed” is a favorite of mine. My favorite band is Lightning Bolt, a local band from Providence, Rhode Island. I say that because the two members of that band are also artists, and their music and art both inspired me deeply, as they set an example for me on how to be a functioning artist in our current day.

I have many favorite movies but my favorite animated movie is “Princess Mononoke” by the Japanese Director Hayao Miyazaki. As for hobbies, I play guitar, a little piano, I love playing Dungeons and Dragons, but my favorite hobby is skateboarding. I started skateboarding seriously when I was 30. I came very late to the craft, but it is one of the most rewarding activities I’ve ever taken part of. It is so HARD! For example, people usually attempt ollieing (which is jumping with your skateboard in the air) 1,000 times before they actually land the trick. As a result, skateboarding teaches you engagement and persistence. It can be frustrating, irritating, but if you believe in yourself and if you want it enough, you can do it. Being able to physically do things you weren’t able to do a month before hand is so empowering and it has given me a joy greater than any ice cream sundae or video game could. it’s hard to explain unless you do it. I strongly suggest wearing pads if you want to undertake skateboarding as it is a high impact sport and you get hurt a lot if you don’t wear protection. Getting injured will slow down your progress, so it’s in one’s best interest, especially when you’re starting. There are also a lot of great skateparks all over the Cape, which is a great resource.



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for supporting us by helping with printing costs.

The Bluebird Of Happiness



From left: Sadie Hunter, Hannah Kurz and Emma Burnie played "Light." ELLA BAUM PHOTOS

by Tessa Gingras and Jillian Stevenson

The play “The Bluebird of Happiness” put on by the MRMS Drama Club, was based on a Russian folktale that taught the lesson that happiness can only be found among family and friends.

The humorous play features Mytyl and (Sophia Sarabia) Tytyl (Annalise Langelier) who go on a journey with their loyal dog Tylo (Suzanne Sheeran) and their evil cat Tylette (Chloe Jones) to find the bluebird of happiness for the Fairy Berylune’s (Erin DeSouza) sick daughter (Chloe Duarte). The journey takes a year in total and they visit numerous places like the graveyard.

Overall the play was funny and there were 13 laughs from the entire audience. The music and sound effects were great. The costumes were beautiful and fit in with the story. The director (James P Byrne) did a great job directing this wonderful play.



James P Byrne directs ‘The Luxuries’ during a rehearsal.



Caleb Neal and Camden Jolibois in the banquet scene.

Students From China Visit Monomoy Regional Middle School



Students from China and their American siblings and friends went bowling at Ryan Family Amusements.

Six students from Beijing, China, spent a week in Chatham Dec. 3 to 11. The students stayed with five local families. During their stay in this country, the students toured Boston, Cambridge, New York City and Sandwich. They

also went shopping and bowling. While with their host families, the students learned about American life, food and traditions as well as the history of the area and hung out with their American siblings.



On the boardwalk in Sandwich.



Students spent two days in New York City.

FRIENDS OF RACHEL

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she saw her, developing a friendly atmosphere, something the girl had never experienced. Rachel also believed that compassion was something different then the Webster’s Dictionary meaning, which is a feeling of sympathy for another’s misfortune. Rachel’s definition is forgiving, loving, helping, leading and more. A video of Rachel’s story was shown to schools around the world. It changed so many lives, and decreased a number of bullies in schools.

Every day, 160,000 students skip school for fear of being bullied. Kids’ lives have changed through schools when they heard Rachel’s story and as said before decreased the

number of bullies in the world.

They plan as a group together with little adult influence and are dependent on creative ideas from the students. However they enjoy group participation. They are a school service when they spread kindness. They welcome new members into the club warmly. They have different jobs. One is welcoming new students into the school. Think about being bullied; think how much a little kindness could change students’ lives.

If you are shocked about how many students get bullied then spread kindness to those who need it. If you do then you will start a chain reaction to help those in need.



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