



The Monomoy Citizen

Volume 4-Holiday Edition

December 28, 2017

Newspaper of Monomoy Regional Middle School

'Tis Better to Give than Receive, Here & Everywhere

(that's not saying it's not nice to receive too--we all like that!)

Reporters: Christie Beckley & Emma Burnie

The holidays are right around the corner! Everywhere around the world, people are celebrating, spending time with family, giving, decorating, and having fun. Whether it be Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Yom Kippur, or Yalda, it is the time for spending time with family and appreciating life. It is also the time for giving!

Not only do people give through presents, but also through charities. As citizens of Monomoy Regional Middle School, we certainly portray that. Two members of our Newspaper Club: Christie Beckley (seventh grade) and Emma Burnie (sixth grade) decided to go talk to the Principal of MRMS, Mr. Wilson, about the ways MRMS gives out to both the community and each other.

The first question was quite a hard one: "What is your ideal outcome or vision of these giving charities, activities, and events?" Mr. Wilson then answered, "We'd like all of our students to recognize that there are people around us that could use our help and to make sure that they have an opportunity to provide that help." Between all the different charities MRMS participates in (environmental clubs too,) I know that my classmates and I are certainly aware of the community and its needs. During classes like Media Literacy, Social Studies, and Wednesday Wars, we also learn about the many things that are going

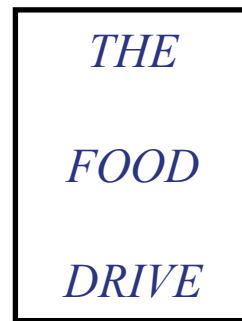
on in the world. We learn about issues from world hunger all the way to decolonization, dictatorship/communism, human and animal rights, local environment, and the plight of refugees. All of these topics not only make students aware of world politics and issues, but also inspire them to make a change. The charities we are exposed to in school and lessons we learn in the classroom (indoors and outside) all help students to become better citizens because - as Mr. Wilson then added - "when you give to others, that's often when you grow the most."

The second question was: "Is there one activity, or two, that stands out to you as being the most representative of what we are doing at MRMS to help other people while fostering our culture of helping and good citizenship? Why?" Mr. Wilson then responded with two answers. The first one being, "The Monomoy Market and the Food Drive, they help to solve food insecurity, and, at the same time, the food is being collected by our chorus students. The kids get to sing, and, collect non perishable food items, which is a two-in-one benefit. It also gives the students the chance to recognize, by direct experience, that they are a big help to the people out there in need."

Mr. Wilson went on to add, "The Shark Tank Cafe is doing 'microloans' where the funds they collect goes to people who need some money for the basics of eating,

or finish a project, and they need that extra boost by us to finish the project that they started." The Monomoy Market and the MRMS Chorus partnered with big grocery stores in the area to address the issue of food insecurity. The 5th grade members would take bags donated by Stop and Shop and pass them out to students so that families of MRMS can decide to contribute. We also give food to people in the school. This way we can give food to the community and, families in the MRMS School District.

The Shark Tank Cafe works to loan the money they collect to places both inside and outside the United States. They are working with a program called Kiva.org and the program just



recently decided to send money to Puerto Rico through the UNICEF Emergency Relief Fund. Not only does it help the people receiving the loan, but it also gives the students working at the Cafe important lessons regarding running a shop.

Intertwined into the MRMS curriculum, are opportunities to be kind and to reach out to the community. This is part of our education. Whether it be doing environmental work at Muddy Creek and other local wetlands, candy cane kindness messages, food drives, micro loans, or just offering your fellow students encouragement, every action makes a difference, and we *are* making a difference! Thank you to everyone who helps make our school, our community, and even our world, a brighter place with more hope and better opportunities for all!

Monomoy Closes the Gap Between Oceans

By: Jennie Grogan

A couple months ago I, and my family, had the wonderful experience of being able to house a child from China. Our exchange student's name was Sunny. Sunny and her fellow students were here for 10 days, and those days were some of the most fun and insightful days I have ever had. From being able to host Sunny and get to know her.

I learned so much about the Chinese culture, from their way of life to beliefs and even fashion. While she was here my family and I found some things difficult with the cultural gap, but by the end those difficulties were barely noticeable. I have learned so much by having Sunny here that it is crazy. I loved how the school and my friends ac-



cepted her and the rest of the exchange students without a hiccup. My younger brother learned a lot too and he had as much fun as anybody. I hope that the next time we get the chance to host another exchange student, more people will volunteer so they, too, can experience the spectacular outcome of hosting an exchange student. I know I will!



Spirit of Beijing

By Ella Adamsons



WE ALL SPEAK THE SAME LANGUAGE BY DREW RYAN

In our school we might not all speak the same language. Yes, we take Spanish and Latin. But imagine not understanding much of what people are saying in your school, only bits and pieces of it. Ughh. ELL students face that challenge, especially when they first start at a new school. We decided to talk to some of our ELL classmates and find out more of what the experience is like.

The ELL kids in our school are strong, they come in everyday not knowing a lot of English but trying as hard as they can to learn. MRMS has ELL students from countries far and near: Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Spain, etc. Each person is an individual of course, but we are all part of

the world community.

K. said she loves school but that at first it was hard to get know other kids or even to understand her teachers. It was frustrating. Then she said that everyone, with a capital E, was so kind to her and wanted to help her to learn. Next we talked to Y. who started at Monomoy in 2nd grade. He said he doesn't remember a time when he wasn't included and that he got a lot of support from teachers.

We also interviewed Mr. Schaeffer who teaches the ELL students. He talked to us about how the students feel. "They feel home sick and left out at first. Some days they come in annoyed and afraid. So we ask ourselves: Could we as a com-

munity help them feel more inclusive? The answer is Yes! Within a few months most kids have made friends and are doing regular classwork with some assistance. Nobody feels left out, or in left-field for long."

At our school we might not speak a specific language as well as others, but we all know the language of understanding, the language of friendship. The language of hardships and good times. The language of learning to forgive and give. The language of feeling lonely or wanting to shine! Big and small--WE ARE ALL PART OF the COMMUNITY. We understand each other without words. You just have to be willing to listen with more than just your ears. Be the one to understand!

Truro, November, 2017
5th Grade



Another amazing experience for us fifth graders at the Need Academy in Truro. We heard it would be fun and fantastic and that was how it was--maybe better!

During our week adventure one of the big things we learned about was how to get along with each other living in bunk rooms! It was a great way to get to know our classmates better and understand respect for privacy. The most fun stuff was all the exploring we got to do outdoors, and the games of course. The staff promised that we would learn a lot but have so much fun that we wouldn't really notice. They were right: learning hands-on is a great way to learn. We were in the water, in the woods, on the hilltops, on the trails, everywhere listening, learning, and having fun!



Learning about coastal eco-systems.

GIRL POWER AT MONOMOY MIDDLE SCHOOL

By Alexis Aruda and Talia Perez

Not everyone thinks of "Girl Power" or a feminist movement, as a big deal in Monomoy Middle School, because both genders are given amazing opportunities such as sports and theater, as well as many more. But gender equality is still extremely important, and examples of sexism in the world are still almost everywhere you look. Although we've come a long way since the early 1900's, when women weren't even allowed to vote, misogyny is still a huge problem in our society and millions of women in America, and across the globe, are oppressed.

Most of the world is under a patriarchy, which means that in many places, men are valued above women. Some examples of this are evident in the film industry, where male actors are often paid more than female actors. Until just this year, women

in Saudi Arabia were not even allowed to drive.

For this article, we interviewed about twenty five girls at MRMS and while sorting the responses (there were five questions), we saw that in order for a girl/woman to feel confident in herself, she needs important things like support, encouragement, and good opportunities. Though those things are given here, they might not be in different parts of the country, or the world. So let's not take for granted what we have here or just assume all girls have that kind of support and encouragement.

When writing this article, we wanted to not only explore feminism in the world, but also explore feminism in our own school. We were a little surprised by our findings. The truth is, after interviewing those girls, we discovered that almost none of them

feel that they are at a disadvantage as 'a girl'. No one said they thought that boys had more opportunities or were better. Some girls did say that they weren't really confident and wished they had more self-esteem and more friends. But most feel empowered by the people they love, and they feel they are given good opportunities at this school.

Although sexism is a terrible thing, and it still occurs around the world to this day, in Monomoy, and probably in lots of other good schools, it is less of a problem about gender and more of a problem about yourself, and finding confidence within yourself.

Note: We wrote letters asking for interviews to Michelle Obama, Beyonce & Sonia Sotomayor, a Justice for the Supreme Court. Hopefully we will hear back from them by our next edition!

THE SHARK TANK CAFE

BY SHARK CITIZEN, EMMA BURNIE

The Shark Tank Cafe is the place to be, open from 3:30 to 4:15, the busiest hour and the best hour. Shark citizens grade 5th-7th are allowed to ask Mrs. Armstrong to attend (work) the cafe. You might only be in middle school but that doesn't mean you can't get some work experience.

Everything is for sale for only one dollar, except for hot chocolate which is two dollars. Kids can stop by and grab a snack or they can get extra help in the library with math teacher Mrs. Johnson.

The extra help can give you more confidence to tackle those harder math problems.

Kids also like to get a chance to talk with some friends while having an afternoon snack. Don't worry there are lots of snacks to choose from. While you are snacking and chatting you can sit in comfortable tables and chairs.

All donations go to people in need all over the world so please come by-- you have fun while you help other people. Everyone is invited so come take a look and visit for awhile.

MRMS-ARC PETS OF HALLOWEEN

BY ELLA ADAMSONS & KAYANDRA Watson

MRMS-ARC Pets of Halloween is a fun way of showing your pets freaky and cute side of this scary holiday. Pets were dressed as dragons, superheroes, pumpkins and just about anything else you can think of, like a ghoulish goblin or a sparkly princess!

The MRMS -ARC Pets of Halloween contest raises money that is donated to the animal shelters. The Animal Rights Club gives all the money raised to animals in need.



A Fan Favorite! What a cutie...

It is a super fun event and helps a lot of animals who we know are so grateful for a second chance.

Our World and Global Change: A Middle Schooler's Perspective

By Christie Beckley, 7th Grade

As middle schoolers, our world is focused on our families, friends, school work, sports, and hobbies. Most of us are worried about dances and Instagram... At least that is our parent's point of view... In the past generations, lots of people have been stereotypical about us kids. What most people don't know, is that sometimes, we actually focus when our parents turn on the news...

Hurricanes. Forest fires. Earthquakes. Flash flooding. All of these natural disasters are getting bigger and stronger by the second. We all know about the bad Hurricanes recently... Well, some may argue that there was an even bigger storm than Maria perhaps ninety years ago. The thing is, the bigger storms are forming more and more often. The questions are: Why exactly are they becoming deadlier? Why are we getting so many of them? What can we do to stop or slow-down these extreme weather events?

The answers to all of these questions is the rising of temperature across the globe and

how to slow it down. The climate is changing - and rapidly. Some may disagree with this claim, but the thing is: There is proof! NASA has released plenty of evidence and information on climate change and the greenhouse gases that are causing it.

The world is heating up for many different interesting reasons. One of which, is the release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Fossil fuels are nonrenewable resources such as oil, natural gas, or coal. The problem is, after we burn these resources, we get greenhouse gases back. Greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, water vapor, methane, etc.) trap the Sun's heat. This means that if we have too many of them, the world will obviously increase in temperature. These resources cannot be used more than once and we sadly heavily rely on them.

Open your closet door and take a look. How many pairs of jeans do you have? Our standard of living today takes more energy and we have to be mindful of that. The clothes on your back and the things that you own are all tied to climate change and that's why it's important to recycle things that we use in our

everyday lives through charities or consignment stores. Recycling is something we do at MRMS, and so is donating to charities.

Global warming is not only affecting the climate, but is also causing the poles to melt. If the poles melt, sea levels will rise. This means that someday we may lose our coastline as the water rises. As a coastal community we should be particularly concerned about rising water levels.

Fracking (high-volume hydraulic fracturing) is a process used to extract oil from Subterranean Rock and not only does it endanger the environment from high risk of oil spills but it also has a similar effect on the Earth as drilling: creating stresses and makes the ground more subject to earthquakes.

Fracking and Drilling take place in states such as: North Dakota, Colorado, Texas, and California. Luckily, some states such as New York and Vermont are prohibiting things like fracking and drilling. This is one of the many steps forward the country is taking to protect the environment.

Thankfully, many other measures are being taken to protect the environment as well. To deal with their poor air quality, China is developing a Smog Vacuum. It is currently located - and being tested in - Beijing, China. Tests have shown that it can clean about forty-five percent of surrounding air within twenty meters of the vacuum. Though it is still a work-in-progress, it holds promise. People are also trying to "switch to renewables." Thanks to the spectacular engineers, scientists, and activists working towards this goal, we have introduced many other inventions such as the electric car, solar panels, wind turbines, water bottle fillers, household recycling, and much much more. Just public awareness itself is showing improvement! Bringing awareness is a big reason I wanted to be part of the newspaper team.

In conclusion, whether it be something as complex as a Chinese Smog Vacuum or something as simple as a school water bottle filter, everything we do as a nation and a community will help preserve the world for future generations... but will that be enough? It's well worth the effort to try!

CAPE COD CLIMATE CHANGE

By Drew Ryan, 7th Grade

Climate change on Cape Cod is very serious, the geology on Cape Cod is changing and so are our waters. Cape Cod is a very diverse and enticing place. The Cape is facing some important problems due to Climate Change, Bluff erosion/ Coastal erosion and Ecosystem Change are very serious issues. Erosion is the gradual destruction or diminution of something. Usually erosion happens because of wind, water, or other natural causes.

The erosion in the dunes spanning from Eastham to Truro are eroding about 3+ feet each year. North Beach (Lighthouse Beach) is eroding from 3-19 feet a year. That is an insane amount of erosion a year. All this sand that we are losing is going to Provincetown and Monomoy island. The cuts off of Chatham are creating major waves coming from the Atlantic. Chatham was saved from erosion because of George's bank off of Cape Cod. When George's bank went underwater all the huge waves started to hit Chatham.

If the sea levels keep rising in the next 50 to 100 years the Cape will look very different. In October we went on a field trip to Coast

Guard beach in Eastham. We learned about sand movement; that because of the tides the sand is either sent to Monomoy Island or Provincetown. Specialists say that more sand will make Provincetown separate from the Cape and become an island. The rest of the sand will hit Monomoy which will become larger than Chatham.

Ecosystem Change is very important because we are part of the Ecosystem. With Climate Change more tropical organisms are coming to Cape Cod. This means that fish that have been around for years will leave, fish like the Cod. The fishermen will not have business in Chatham or around the Cape. In an interview with 7th grade science teacher Mrs. Forist, she explained how she felt on the matter. "Living in a coastal community we have to be aware of the changes that are occurring and do what we can to protect our environment."

Changes are occurring with a source called "Blue Carbon." When Blue Carbon and other greenhouse gases are released into the atmosphere it adds to global warming which is causing rising sea levels on Cape Cod. We should all be aware of our changing home and take care of Cape Cod!

Monomoy Human Right's Academy

By Drew Ryan



What are Human Rights? Human Rights are the rights that every last one of us have. People in our world don't think much about these rights, some take them for granted, and some people ignore other's rights. This is a problem, we all have certain rights but sometimes we turn a blind eye when it is someone else who is not being treated fairly. We can ask: If no one should be a slave how come there are still slaves, or why are there hungry and homeless children?

We have a right to speak our mind but yet there are still people who are ridiculed or thrown into jail for such things. This is an issue that can be fixed. You can make a change if you join the Human Rights Academy. Join to fight for Human Rights.

Human Rights Academy:
Giving Back - One Right at a Time

VERNAL POOL YEAR TWO

Reported by Kristina Tomasco



Two years ago...



Now...

Year two and the Vernal Pool continues to amaze us with its growth! After two years we are seeing more plant growth and more frogs and other vernal pool dwellers. Everything seems to be thriving. Classes go down once a month to track progress and make scientific data entries. Once again, stay tuned for more updates and pictures of this incredible ecosystem that is right in our "own backyard."

'Tis the Season of Holiday Concerts

By Alexis Aruda, Staff Reporter (and musician)



If you didn't get a chance to see this year's holiday band concert, then please, do yourself a huge favor and go next year. The 5th grade band sounds like a high school band just about, and the 6th and 7th grade band is phenomenal. The musical selections covered a wide range of music, from fanciful and lively, to serene and even majestic. Mr. Napier did an incredible job of getting his bands in tip-top performance shape. The audience loved the show and all the kids in the band were proud and very happy to be a part of such awesome, and awe-inspiring, entertainment. Not to mention that the stage was lit up like a Christmas tree and the musicians were in their holiday finery. Check it out, just copy and paste:

Link: <https://goo.gl/eHWCdN>

Halloween Dance

By Emma Rose Burnie & Ella Adamson

This year's 3rd Annual Halloween Dance was a blast! Everyone's costumes bounced off the roof, when you walked in kids were talking with friends and showing off their awesome wardrobe and wild costumes. Into the gym, the lights were off and strobe lights overpowered the darkness. Popular songs way back when Michael Jackson was alive to 2017 hits. Thriller, Cha Cha Slide and New Rules blasted out of the speakers. The night was packed with snacks and drinks provided by the class of 2017.



Halfway through the dance the lights came on and everyone walked in a circle for the halloween costume contest. The winner was dressed as an inflatable cow. Thing One and Thing Two was a popular costume that night. Besides the costume contest, Molly Funk and Annalise Langelier, Animal Rights Club members, were taking votes for the Pets of Halloween costume contest.

Overall the dance was a success and everyone had fun. We can't wait for the next Halloween dance next year!



Pics of Monomoy Middle School Chorus and

"The Further Adventures of Nancy Tickle, Fairy Tale Detective"



Lights, Camera, Action in "The Heights"

Musical Review by Kristina Tomasco

On Tuesday, November 7th our Monomoy Middle School family was invited by the Wheelock Family Theatre for the musical "In The Heights". "In The Heights" is one of the first of many shows the popular, actor, writer and musician Lin-Manuel Miranda starred in. This was the school's second visit to the theatre, and oh boy do we want to go back!

This is a great honor for our school and we as a community have shown this theatre our best behaviour, our best sides in the name of MRMS. When stepping into the Wheelock Family Theatres' stadium, you saw that it had everything except the kitchen sink. Throughout the show I kept noticing more and more, including the braille on the sides of the seats. Wow! When the lights dimmed, the crowd picked up on the chatter, buzzing with excitement...the stage light switched on to Graffiti Pete and we all settled-in to enjoy the performance. The stage was beautifully set, like a real street corner with shops and apartments alike. The story explores the life of a latino neighbourhood--the Barrio--in Washington Heights, New York City- a very poor place in a rich city. It takes place over a three

day period, July 3rd, 4th, and 5th. In this time a college student named Nina Rosario, comes home for what she thought was the last time. Nina gets together with her parents & old friends she grew up with, like Benny, who now works at Nina's father's dispatch and who dreams of opening his own business and also of a future with his life-long crush Nina. As well as the salon owners Daniela and Carla, who work with Vanessa--the most stunning girl in the Barrio-- who has dreams of moving into the limelight of New York city and will never give up her dream to fly. She's also the lucky lady that captures the hearts of all - including Usnavi de la Vega. Usnavi is a immigrant from Puerto rico who owns the local bodega he inherited from his late parents and co-owns it with his cousin Sonny. Then there is Abuela whose kindness and love is really at the heart of the story. This close-knit group go through many good times and hard times together and in the end they help each other to succeed in life. (Don't want to give away anymore because this is a musical you want to see)! We laughed, we cried or wanted to cry, we were angry- and we loved it!

A Day in the Life of Daisy and Daffodil

Excerpt from an original play by Chloe Jones (Opening Scene: bedtime)

Daisy: Yay! Here she comes, my mom. Oh, nope, it is just my grandma-- great.

Daffodil: I hope she has food. Oh food, I love food. Soooo much.

Daisy: She is bringing me medicine, evacuate the premises. What I mean by that is Runnnnn!

Daffodil: Ha ha! You have to get medicine and I get to lay around and watch the show begin, of you running and she chasing you. Ha ha.

Daisy: That is true but at least I get more food than you do. So ha ha to you too.

Daffodil: I am going to take a nap. Oh no and here comes Colby. Stop it leave me alone. Don't put me on your back! I am not just some backpack I am a living breathing thing!

Daisy: Now you know why I always run from him so he thinks I don't like him.

Daffodil: Well that is a good idea but I am not much of a runner. You should know this by now.

Daisy: Yeah you are right I should know that. We have been "Sisters" for over a year now.

Daffodil: Well since it is night time we should get to bed and make our mom happy. (Lights Out)

Original Music

By Alexis Aruda

Spiral Galaxies Hey He
They have lots and lots of stars
They consist of gas and dust
and have multiple arms
The Earth is in the Milky Way,
hey isn't that bizarre
The center is far away you
can't drive there with a car
Spiral galaxies are cool but so
are irregular
(chorus):
The universe is very cool--
Use information we learn
as a tool
The universe is very cool
Learn a little more and you
won't be a fool
They're rare and uncommon
They have no regular or distinct
shape-- hey isn't that fun
Scientists have a hypothesis
about these
They used to be spiral or
elliptical galaxies
(chorus)
This one is our last
Elliptical galaxies are really
common and rad
They are smooth and round and
they look kinda like an egg
Thanks for learning about
galaxies with me