

The Pond Street Press

A Publication of Cohasset Middle School



June 2023 Issue

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School News

Spring Fling

By Isaac Stevenson

On Friday, June 2 Cohasset Middle School students danced (or jumped!) in the school gym for an hour and a half. There was actually an absurd amount of jumping to the beats from the DJ. The most popular songs were definitely the Taylor Swift songs which caused students to sing over the music at the top of their lungs. Shadow boxing and congo lines were also popular pastimes Friday night.

Snacks and drinks outside the gym kept everyone's energy up. The snacks and drinks were donated by parents.

Mr. Ayers had a photo booth inside the gym and students could get their pictures taken with their friends.

Thank you to the CMS Student Council for a fun night!

Photo right: The Student Council and Student Council Faculty Advisors Mrs. Ryan and Mrs. Jewell pose in the photo booth.

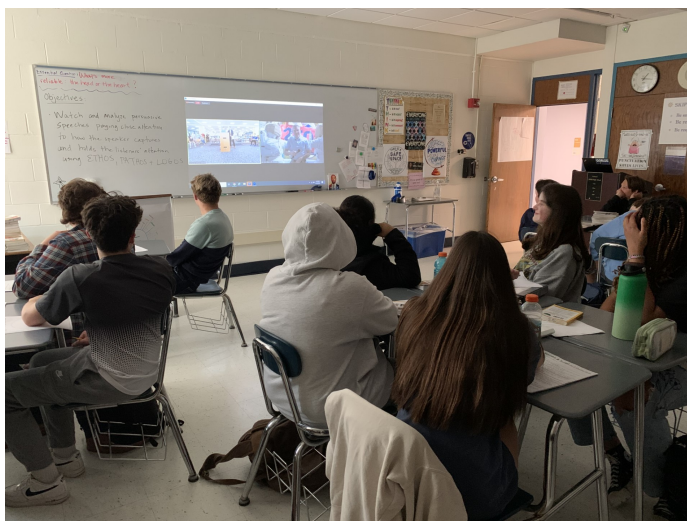


(Photo Credit: Mr. Ayer)

Visitor from Space

By Ciaran Bergan

In late May, Cohasset students throughout the district had an out-of-this-world experience video conferencing with Astronaut Stephen G. Bowen (Captain, U.S. Navy, Ret.) who was on the International Space Station. Students from all four Cohasset schools asked Commander Bowen questions as he floated in outer space.



In response to student questions, Commander Bowen explained his daily schedule and what it's like to sleep and eat in space. In space, there are 16 days/nights in a 24-hour period. Bowen said the coolest thing about space is that people are living in space and how cool it is to work with astronauts from other countries like UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Russia who all speak different languages. When asked how they get water into space, Commander Bowen explained that the space station recycles sweat and urine.

Commander Bowen had a Cohasset 250th banner with him in space. He is a graduate of Cohasset High School and said he had a "great education" in Cohasset. Bowen was the first Submarine Officer to be selected as an astronaut by NASA. Bowen launched to the International Space Station as Commander of NASA's SpaceX Crew-6 mission aboard a SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft on March 2, 2023 and successfully docked on March 3, 2023 (NASA).

(Photo Above: Students in Grade 8 watch the livestream interview with Commander Bowen.)

Cohasset Schools Will Add Electric Bus to Fleet

By Flynn Jansen

A fair amount of students take buses to get to and from school. Most of us have taken a bus at least once in our life. For most, it's the usual diesel powered ones, but for Cohasset that's about to change.

Electric buses have been an idea across the country for a few years now. Boston has already put millions of dollars into an electric school bus fleet and Cohasset may do something similar. According to Superintendent Sullivan, we are adding one

electric bus to our existing fleet right now. The bus should be operating this summer.

Superintendent Sullivan also stated that this bus will serve as a prototype for future electric buses.



The bus is being procured in collaboration with the town's Alternative Energy Committee as an environmental initiative. Superintendent Sullivan announced the bus will come with a high-level charger and will be the same size as our current buses. The new bus will not have seatbelts. Along with this, Superintendent Sullivan claimed that they are renewing the eight buses we currently have.

As of December 2022, there are now 1,398 electric buses operating, delivered, or ordered in the US alone. The Environmental Protection Agency has also awarded \$900 million for more than 2,400 electric school buses in their Clean School Bus Rebate Program. All 50 states currently have some type of electric school bus commitment (Source: EPA)

Electric buses will also have huge benefits on our physical health as well as the environment. Daily exposure to diesel buses may cause asthma and other respiratory diseases. Studies show that children are very susceptible to these impacts. This is a big reason why the U.S. is working to get more electric buses on

our country's roads. Electric school buses also have significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions than diesel buses which would help fight climate change.

I asked some students what they thought of this decision to buy electric buses. Sixth grader Brody Fitzgerald said, "They will be quiet. The ones we have now are very loud and this will hopefully make a difference."

This would be a major improvement, as the buses we have right now can get pretty loud. Sixth grade student Bode Phifer also liked the idea of buying electric buses when he said, "It's very unique. I think it's better for the environment."

Lastly, I interviewed sixth grader Ben Ramsay who claimed, "I think it's a good idea because it won't affect the environment as much."

Students are clearly excited about this decision and we will hopefully get more in the future.

(Photo Credit courtesy of U.S. PIRG)

Back in August! Students to Start School Before Labor Day

By Flynn Jansen

Don't shoot the messenger, but you have to be back in school in August!

As of now, we are getting out of school on June 16, and with winter behind us, not much is going to stop us from doing so. It's not all good news though, because we are starting the next school year on August 30. This is a much earlier start than prior years. For as long as anyone can remember, we have gone back to school after Labor Day.

The earlier start comes with some pros and cons. On the bright side, we will get out of school very early next year. The bad news is that we won't get all of August off, which is really disappointing for many students.

2023						
AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Sixth grader JP Shuell claimed, "I think it's pretty crazy that we start before Labor Day. I had to cancel a lot of my summer activities because of the early start."

Sixth grader Mac Reardon also did not like the early start when he stated, "I think it's a really bad idea. I think any time in September is fine to start, but taking away some of August is not okay."

Lastly, I interviewed sixth grader Andrew Askjaer who had a different opinion when he claimed, "I feel good about it because we will then get out of school earlier."

This change will be an interesting one to say the least. While some like the change and others don't, we'll just have to wait and see how it all plays out.

The 8th Graders Step Up!

By Gabby Madden

For the past couple of months, eighth graders have been preparing for high school in all sorts of ways: choosing their classes, parents-night, etc. The transition to high school felt very real on May 25 when eighth graders "stepped up" to freshman and toured the halls of Cohasset High meeting their new teachers along the way.

Along with this, students were able to discover a wide array of sports and clubs that high school brings.



Some examples of clubs that underclassmen may join are ACHOpella, Diversity Club, Green Team, and Investment Club. Plus, there are over 20 varsity sports to play!

High school is coming and so is a new you! As many have recommended, try something new!

Who knows what may be in store for you?



Romeo and Juliet **Grade 8 Field Trip**

By Gabby Madden

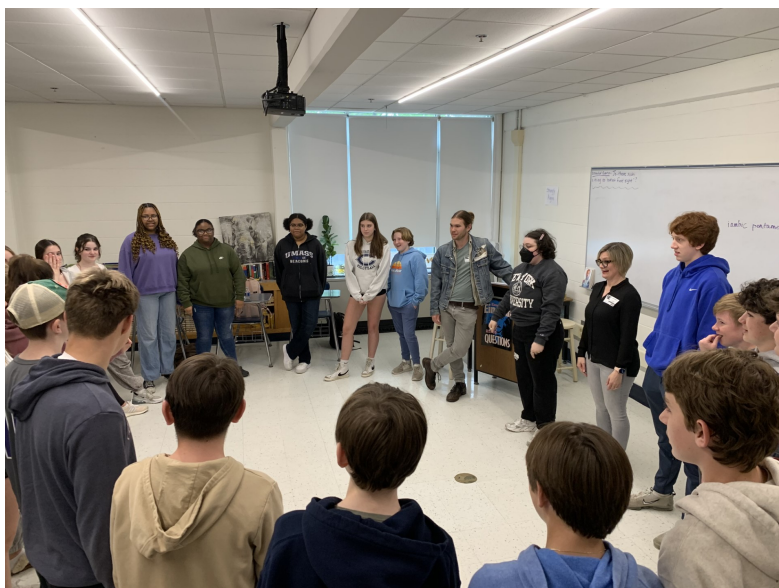
To be or not to be, anyone? On May 16, the eighth grade traveled to Boston to see Commonwealth Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* with a twist.

Directed by Bryn Boice, the play was meant to be a sci-fi spinoff of the classical play. Famous scenes, such as the kissing scene, did not have actual, well...kissing involved. This was done in order to keep the actors safe during COVID-19, but it

provides a fun spin to the original, right?

Prior to attending the play in Boston, the eighth graders were also lucky enough to meet some of the cast when they conducted workshops in their ELA class (see photo right). John Blair (Mercutio, the Prince, and Sampson) and Bella Harris (Nurse and Gregory) taught students

how they prepared for their roles and changed roles mid-performance. Along with meeting the actors, students even got to meet Boice who led rhythm and acting exercises to give the students insight into



what performing and reading Shakespeare is like. The workshops were possible thanks to a generous grant from the Cohasset PSO.

French Students Visit Quebec City

By Dylan Jewell and Grant Wilson



From May 11th through May 13th, a group of nine students from Cohasset, as well as 39 students from Scituate, had the opportunity to travel into Canada and go sightseeing in the historic city of Quebec. Each student was able to experience the unique culture and cuisine of Quebec and test their speaking skills by communicating with local people.

The students stayed at Le Concorde, a wonderful hotel in the Heart of the city. Each

student shared a room with their friends where they could peer out the window and view the city of Quebec. Each day students toured the city with their friendly tour guide, Alec. After some time of following his lead and listening to his stories, the students were given time to explore the city on their own, allowing them to dine in local restaurants, purchase souvenirs at local shops, and roam the beautiful streets of Quebec. The trip seemed only too short when Saturday came and the students had to return home. However, the experiences they gained is something that will never be forgotten.

Day one of the trip started with a grueling eight hour bus ride. Once we arrived in the city, we went to a local Quebecian restaurant/maple shack called Érablière du Cap(Cape Sugar Bush) where we sampled traditional Quebecian food (including tons of syrup) as well as try our luck in some interesting dances. As you can imagine, at this point, despite all the added sugar in our system, everyone was exhausted, so after dinner we made our way back to the hotel. Once in their rooms, everyone unpacked their luggage and settled down. Some swam in the pool and

others just rested, however everyone had made their way into bed and got some rest before the big day they had ahead of them.

On day two of the trip to Quebec, the students' morning commenced with a tour of the city and delicious croissants and chocolate chaud from Le Petit Café Latin, a quaint café in the old city walls. Breakfast was followed by a stop at the city's tallest building: l'Observatoire de la Capitale. After sightseeing at l'Observatoire de la Capitale, the students had hours of free time in old Quebec to explore, grab a bite to eat and do whatever they pleased. After exploring old Quebec under the hot sun, the students hopped on the bus and were given the opportunity to explore the Montmorency Falls. They delighted in crossing the suspension bridge over the waterfall, savoring the breathtaking views that unfolded before them. Concluding an exhausting afternoon, we stopped for dinner at Chez Victor, and kept the energy up, on a dance boat cruise, the S.S Louis Julliet. The boat toured the Saint-Lawrence river and blasted tunes for everybody to dance to. After a very long day the students headed back to the hotel and rested up for their last day in Quebec.

The final day started with a buffet breakfast at the hotel followed by a tour of some of the historic towns inside Quebec, getting a chance to go to the little cafes and shops. Soon after, the students got a chance to see Citadelle de Québec, North America's largest British fortress. After taking in the of the fortress, students boarded the bus and began their trip back home. On the way, the bus stopped at the Galeries de la Capitale, a massive mall with lots of shops, attractions, and fun! As the trip was coming to an end, the bus stopped for pizza and each student had hours to talk to their friends, play games, and reflect on their trip.

Madame Sanges said she loved seeing her students outside of class engaging in real world activities, adding that she enjoyed seeing her students experiencing a different culture and practicing their French and what they've been working on for the past three years." She said that this year she had a great group of students who were all very respectful of the trip, and with this group she is very inclined to do the trip again next year.

Eighth grader Eren Tiryaki said, "I enjoyed walking in the nice city and visiting the Montmorency Waterfall."

Grand Canyon Trip

By Isaac
Stevenson



Over April Break, forty eighth graders and several teachers ventured across the country to see The Grand Canyon. The trip was chaperoned by Mr. Mills, Mr. Erlandson, Seniorita Lima, Miss LaPanne, and Miss Johnson. The group did not just see The Grand Canyon. They visited other national parks

and even spent time at a Paiute farm where they listened to some Paiute beliefs and songs. At Bryce Canyon, they hiked for several hours up and down the steep inclines in the canyon and at Zion they enjoyed the beautiful waterfalls. They visited Glen Canyon where they rafted along the Colorado River and took a Jeep tour to Peek-a-Boo Slot Canyon. Many students also raved about stopping at In-and-Out Burger. Yum!

I interviewed Mr. E. who coordinated the Grand Canyon trip.

Me: What was your favorite part of the trip?

Mr. E: Rafting was my favorite part, even though the water was freezing. It was warm out, so we all jumped in.

Me: What were some of the things you did there?

Mr. E: We listened to a storyteller from the Paiute tribe and learned about the Paiute beliefs on how the Grand Canyon is there. We also listened to Paiute songs and the history of their tribe.

Me: What were some of the famous places you visited?

Mr. E: We went to Bryce Canyon, Zion National Park, and two other national parks. We also went to a Slot Canyon which is a super narrow canyon formed by water. Lastly, we went to see the sand dunes.

I Also decided to interview two 8th graders (Drew Karlovits and Nicolas Askjaer) on two different questions.

Inaugural CMS Color Run

By Ciaran Bergan

On Wednesday, April 26th, CMS celebrated our very first "Color Run." This was a PSO-funded activity and both the high school and middle school participated.

At the starting point, each student was given a white shirt and a gator and sunglasses to prevent them from inhaling the dust as well as it getting in their eyes. As students ran through the course, which was around the outside of the Middle/High School, parent volunteers sprayed them with pink, yellow, green, blue and orange "dust" which covered their heads and clothes.



Students finished the course on the front field. After all three grades were finished, chaos broke loose as kids were scavenging for the pouches filled with the

colored powder. Once everything was under control, each grade was told to sit on the hill leading down to the front field for a color-filled class picture.



Principal John Mills shared, "It was inspired by the Fun Run and for future years we could possibly merge the Color Run with a field day."

All in all, this year's first ever Color Run was a success and we will hopefully see more in the future.

Editorials

Cohasset Crime has Kids on Edge

By Gabby Madden

This year has been disturbing for the residents of Cohasset. Just a few years ago, the news was filled with uplifting stories of local families and events; nowadays, turn on the TV and you will see Cohasset blaring in flashing lights. As a student and resident of Cohasset, which has always been known to be a safe place for families, I share the concern of my fellow students and residents.

For those who do not know, there have been many recent crimes in Cohasset: the disappearance of Ana Walsh, the chainsaw and hostage situation, crypto mining, and a sudden death on the street in this town. Furthermore, the crime escalated extremely from 2019-2020, with a 101% increase and 268 crimes compared to the 133 in 2019.

Frankly, I myself as a student am worried for the future of this town, and I fear personally that many other students are as well.

One student shared, "It is increasing at a very rapid pace and there has been a lot in the past year. Cohasset has been known for years to be an extremely safe place to live, but from an outsider's point of view, they may not think that anymore."

Another student added, "I am deeply concerned about the newly found crime in Cohasset."

I hate to be grim, but as I look at the towns around us and the challenges that they are facing, none of them seem to have the stain of crime on their backs quite like Cohasset. Just by searching "News Cohasset" vs. any other South Shore town, you get very, very different responses, which makes me wonder, has Cohasset fallen from grace? Is it just an off year? For now, we do not know, and will not know for a while. But, as a student, I hope with all my heart that us as a school and community can stop this change, hopefully, and bring Cohasset to its former glory.

Help the Performing Arts

By Ava Kisler

The performing arts need your help! You can help performing in the theater, it not only supports the theater, it gives you self confidence. You get to have fun, and you can meet new people. You never know what role you can get - from ensemble to the lead. If you do not want to be in the scenes, you can go behind the scenes and be part of the backstage crew, where you get to paint sets, make costumes, control lights and sound, and you can just hang out with friends during the show.



But if you don't want to actively participate, you can donate, which can help provide money for costumes, set design and other costs associated with a performance. One more way you can help the theater is to go to your



local theater shows. It is not just helping the theater, it gives you a good time.. Helping the theater out is so awesome, and you would be helping out your community. In conclusion, the theater needs to be saved and you can help it in many ways.

Sports

Ultimate Frisbee Celebrates Successful Season

By Jay Naples

This spring, CMS eighth graders and CHS freshmen participated on the Cohasset Ultimate Frisbee Team coached by Stephen Sheffield and Jim Willis. The team's current captains are freshmen Toby Carpenter and Will Alberti. The team's roster includes Aidan Donnelly, Brayden Bestick, Sawyer Williams, Paul Chapman, Brandon Chapman, Brandon Ford, Jack Roach, Hendrix Gustafson, Ben Elfner, Blake Marshall, Charley Gainey, Jackson

Wahlberg, and Ryan Iandoli.



The team competed against other high schools on the South Shore and finished the season with a 6-4 record, often overcoming older and bigger teams and improving a lot over the course of the spring

season. The motivation of the team is what led them to so many large wins over teams that held seniors of all heights.

Captain Will Alberti claims, "This is more than the best possible season I could've ever imagined."

With a season that the team will look back upon as a starting point for an incredible future, it will not be forgotten by any of the coaches, captains, or players.

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