

The Pond Street Press

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Table of Contents

School News - Pages 1-8

CMS Arts - Page 9

Editorials - Page 11

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School News

End of Year, End of Career

By Grace Kiernan, Eva Harries, Saoirse O' Duggan

As the school year is coming to an end, we are sad to announce that two very beloved teachers, Mrs Noble, the 7th grade World Geo/Ancient Civ teacher, and Mrs Hathaway, the 6th grade Math teacher, are retiring. We interviewed both teachers about their teaching experience and their favorite memories.

What is your favorite part about teaching?

Mrs. Noble told us that she loves coming to school everyday and said, "The fact that I wake up every morning and am so excited to come to work."

Mrs. Hathaway said that she loves seeing all of her students and having a "happy face saying good morning" every day.

What was one of your favorite or most memorable memories from teaching at CMS?

Mrs. Noble told us a funny story about her first day of teaching here. "It was the first day of school and I was teaching 6th grade. A student came up to me and said, 'Mrs. Noble, can you help me open my locker?' So I went into the



hallway to help him and all of a sudden I heard a voice from inside that said, 'Can you open it a little faster Mrs. Noble.'

Mrs. Hathaway told us that one of her favorite memories is last year in period 7, when we would play "Silent Ball" with a small stuffed pumpkin. The students enjoyed competition, while also being inclusive.

How long have you been working here, and what grades have you taught?"

Mrs Noble said that she has been working here for 18 years and has taught 6th grade for 12 years, 7th grade for 8 years, and 8th grade for 3 (7 and 8 overlapping for a few).

Mrs Hathaway told us that she has been working at CMS for 15 years and has taught high school for one year, a specialist called "mathlab" for 2 years, and 6th grade for 12 years.

What was your most memorable or favorite year/grade to teach?

Mrs Noble told us that her favorite grades have been the Class of 2019, who she taught in 2013/2014, and her 7th grade class right now, the class of 2027.

Mrs Hathaway said that her favorite grade was last year, also the class of 2027, because she got to know kids better because of the small class sizes and cohorts.

What will you miss most about teaching" and "What emotions are you feeling relating to retiring/leaving CMS?

Mrs. Noble said that she will miss the students and interactions with them the most, and that she feels sad leaving but also is grateful to have taught in this district. She also mentioned that she felt that she never got teaching quite right, and felt there was always something that she could have done a little better.

Mrs Hathaway told us that she will miss the kids and her friendships with colleagues. She also said she was happy to be able to retire and spend more time with her family, but will miss seeing everyone and the support from them.

What are your plans were for retirement?

Mrs Noble told us that she and her husband are moving to Virginia, and that she might work at a school there, instead of retiring.

Mrs Hathaway said that she is looking forward to spending more time with her family, especially her dad, and her grandson and new grandchild, who will be born in July.

The last, and maybe our favorite question we asked the teachers: What's your favorite motto or words to live by?

As most of us know, Mrs. Noble's favorite motto is "Pick up the pieces of your shattered life and move on" which is a phrase that teaches resilience.

Mrs. Hathaway also has an interesting favorite quote which is "Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving" - Albert Einstein.

Mrs. Noble and Mrs. Hathaway were both wonderful teachers who made an impact on the students around them. We will miss them dearly as they leave CMS, but we are so lucky to have been taught by such amazing teachers. On the behalf of CMS we wish you both a happy retirement and move.

Speaker Kelsey Tainsh Inspires CMS Students

By Luke Hurley

On May 24th, the middle school students gathered in the auditorium to listen to Kelsey Tainsh, an inspirational speaker. Kelsey's life has been very hard. When she was only 5 years old, she had a brain tumor. Then after 10 years it came back, but when she woke up she found out that she had a stroke too, but what she noticed was that she is probably having a better day than other people. And she thought that her life was over. But then she started to be happier and learn new things. One lesson we all learned is that don't get mad or sad or anything bad over small things. Another lesson is that don't think you're having the worst day of your life because most times someone else is having a worst one. So think positive and everything is going to be OK.

8th Graders Visit National Parks During April Break

By: Tucker Bliss, Gus Greene, and John Wallingford

Over April break, the 32 CMS 8th grade students had the choice of taking a once in a lifetime tour through Utah, Arizona, and Nevada. Mr.

Erlandsen, Mr. Ewell, Miss Gibbons, and Senorita

Regueiro were our

chaperones. The first day of

the trip we checked into our first hotel in Kanab, Utah and took a short hike

through the beautiful cliffs in Zion National Park. Then we got to see the native

lifestyle of Kanab while eating dinner and hearing

some funny ghost stories. The next morning we woke up bright and early and

took a bus to Bryce Canyon. At Bryce Canyon, we took a long hike through the nature made sculptures. The next day we woke up early and took a bus

ride to the Colorado River and took a long boat ride. We made a few stops at some beaches and got to swim in the river. The next day we split into groups

and got to take a hike down into The Grand Canyon. We rode bikes along the edge and had a great time on a beautiful day. Our last stop was an In and Out

Burger in Phoenix. Then we took a flight home back to Boston. Overall it was a great experience and a great way to spend our break with friends.



Recycling Game

By Emme Cunning

The Cohasset StuCo put together a recycling event during the utility of May 23. They made up a game for everyone to play. The game focused on recycling and as utilities they had to run out one person at a time and sort the trash.



Students liked this activity because they felt it was fun to be competitive against each utility. The game lasted the whole utility. The utility winners for the eighth grade were Mrs. Melia and Ms. Gibbon's homerooms. This game put smiles on students' faces as they ran quickly to tag their teammates to win the race. (Photo below: 8th grader Max Monahan during the recycling game on the front field.)

8th Graders Visit Quebec

By Julia Joyce

We started our journey to Quebec at St. Anthony's Church and after driving 8 hours, we arrived in the old city of Quebec! There, we met our tour guide and started our exploration. We strolled for a bit, looking around the shops, and practiced our French with the locals. After familiarizing ourselves with the old city of Quebec, we drove to the Sugar Shack, one of the many

places that produce maple syrup in Canada! We learned a lot about the history and production of maple syrup (or sirop d'érable in French) and also ate a delicious traditional lunch!

The following day, we awoke at 7:15 and drove to our breakfast in the upper part of the old city. After finishing our croissants, we had a tour of the historical sites and stunning churches with an additional local tour guide. We finished our walking tour at the Plains of Abraham Museum where we learned about the battle between France and Great Britain, and afterwards we discovered even more that the city had to offer by walking around to the many restaurants and shops! Amanda Fox, a CMS student who participated in the Quebec trip, commented on this activity as, "Fun sightseeing that helped me learn more French." Walking around and talking with the locals made us pick up on things that we wouldn't normally pick up on in the classroom as it allowed us to actually use our French skills in real situations, not ones just in a textbook. Afterwards, we got on the bus yet again and drove to a copper museum where we learned all about the origin and art of copper. We also were able to make a small copper decoration that could be used as a souvenir for this remarkable trip! While driving back to our hotel, we stopped at the Montmorency Falls. This incredible waterfall stretches 30 meters higher than Niagara Falls, and holds stunning views of the Saint-Lawrence River of Quebec! But the day was not yet over, as we ate dinner and headed to our final destination of the day, the Le Bunker De La Science. This "bunker" is a creepy yet fun escape room where participants have to use science skills to find a suitable area for living in Quebec City after an apocalyptic war. Amanda Fox also commented on this activity, saying, "I thought it was a very fun and interesting activity that not only allowed us to use our French skills, but our science ones as well!"

At the start of our final day in Quebec we ate at the hotel, and then parted to play a French scavenger hunt in a local grocery store! My group won, and received prizes from our tour guide. Afterwards, we visited La Citadelle de Québec, an English fortress built in the 1820s in order to protect the inhabitants of the Quebec territory from an American invasion. After

learning of the history of La Citadelle, we got on our bus to drive to the Galeries de la Capitale.

The Galeries de la Capitale is a gigantic shopping mall in Quebec with many attractions including an Amusement park in the center! Sadly, the Galeries de la Capitale was where our journey ended, but we parted Quebec city with new memories and skills that we won't forget thanks



to our amazing teachers Madame Sanges and Sra. Regueiro, our bus driver, and our tour guide Adrienne!

Safe Harbor Event Brings Awareness to Substance Abuse

By Sari Reyes

On May 10th four panelists came to the public and talked about their experiences with drug abuse and alcohol use. Michael Duggan, Kristen Esson, Annemarie Whilton and Greg Taylor/ Officer Taylor, joined a crowd in the auditorium talking about family drug experiences, their use with drugs and more!

This event wouldn't have been possible without the Safe Harbor Youth Ambassadors who sponsored/ led this event. Safe Harbor Youth Leader, Laila Al Rashid and Nicole Balashi said a few words before each panelist took their time telling the audience about their experiences.

The four panelists took their places and began speaking. Each panelist had 15 minutes to talk to the crowd. Then they had a couple more minutes to answer any and every question from the audience! The auditorium was nearly filled with people listening to the panelists and asking driving questions about their experiences.

2021-22 A Sweeping Success for Rec Center

By Sari Reyes

Throughout the year, the Rec Center has certainly made a splash. Parties, events, newcomers, and movies makes this year a year to remember. Although this year may be hard to top, the Rec Center is working hard to make next year just as memorable.

On June 10th, the incoming 6th graders/ current fifth graders from Deer Hill Elementary school, came into the Rec Center and got a feel of what the Rec Center is all about! The sixth graders came into the Rec Center and were greeted by food, games and lively music! Incoming 7th grader, Liv Reinig directed musical chairs and watched as the fifth graders enjoyed the game, pizza, desserts and vending machine snacks! This end of the year event left fifth graders and their families ready to sign up!

With the year coming to a close, the Rec Center is grinding in order to get ready for the next year. With the success of the past year, the sign ups for this coming year have changed. Go to the Cohasset Rec Department website to find the new sign up information! The next coming year will be filled with exciting events so look out!

With the success of this past year, the Rec Center and Rec Center Committee plan for another great year. More memories of the Rec Center are to come!

CMS ARTS

To Kill a Mockingbird Broadway Play Visits Boston

By Ben Elfner

Last month I went to the Opera House in Boston with my family to see the play *To Kill a Mockingbird*. It is based on the novel by Harper Lee. It was perfect timing because I was reading it in ELA so it was great to be able to see the characters I read about in class come to life. When I saw the play we hadn't finished reading it in class so I was eager to see what happened.

The story takes place in a small town in Alabama in the 1930's. The narrator is a young girl named Scout Finch. Scout's father, Atticus, is a lawyer who defends an African American man, Tom Robinson, who is wrongly accused of raping a white woman which was a problem because there was a lot of racism in the town.

Even though the play was over two hours, it flew by. I thought that the performance was excellent and the actors did an amazing job. I thought that the courtroom scenes were really intense and the sets were great, too. I would definitely recommend seeing the play. If it comes back to Boston I think it would make a great field trip for 8th grade next year.

Max Ly Wins Fire Prevention Poster Contest

By: Luke Hurley



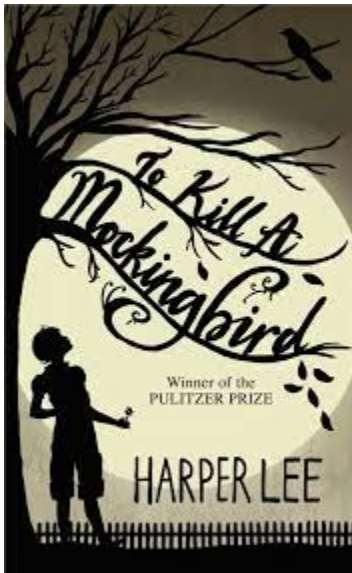
Sixth grader, Max Ly, won the annual Fire Prevention Poster Contest. See his creative work above.

Editorials

Should *To Kill a Mockingbird* be Taught in School?

By Nora Khan

Should your teachers shield you from any material that makes you uncomfortable? At many points while listening to or reading *To Kill a Mockingbird* 8th graders felt discomfort, but is that reason not to teach it? At a time when the United States and other countries around the world are reckoning with systemic racism, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee should be taught, and analyzed in school to better understand the severity of racism globally. Although many may argue that the depiction of African Americans and the offensive language present in the novel is a reason why it should not be introduced to students, I argue that this book should continue to be in the hands of students to further understand the severity of racial prejudice present during a time period of white supremacy, which is currently still alive.



To Kill a Mockingbird expresses the harsh realities of what it was like to be African American during a time where oppression was normalized, and active in American society. By continuing to teach this book we can further understand our flawed past that encouraged systemic racism. Suad Mohamed the Co-Editor in Chief of her school's online newspaper gives her opinion on why *To Kill a Mockingbird* should not be banned in schools in her editorial "Why Banning TKAM is a Bad Idea" by expressing, "The book does not condone racism and other immoral acts, it denounces them" (Mohamed).

For the past two months of 8th grade, students have evaluated the prejudice present in *To Kill a Mockingbird* thoroughly by deeply analyzing the novel. This analysis has created, and spread awareness about systemic racism among a predominantly white school, and has allowed students to be able to recognize racial prejudice in their environment. As a school that strongly believes in inclusivity, students were given the opportunity to actively learn, and discuss racist matters talked about in the novel.

The offensive language and depiction of African Americans should be recognized rather than ignored because it allows people to reflect on the indifference, and oppression that our society held. It further expresses inequality, and gives readers the discomfort that lets them acknowledge how disturbing, and racist language was during the Jim Crow Era. The danger and harsh topics in the book empowers the values readers are supposed to capture from the novel. Some may strongly believe that *To Kill a Mockingbird* should be banned because of the racist aspects in the book, but I believe this gives an opportunity for students to hold empathy for those who have struggled racially.

Schools in Burbank California have banned *To Kill a Mockingbird* because of racist remarks that were said to students in minorities after reading other books revolving around racism. (Lock) As a person of color, I hold great sensitivity for those who have faced racial prejudice in their school environment. The struggle of being in a minority is a challenge that is often faced with backlash, and biased comments that come from those with opposing viewpoints and a lack of proper education revolving around racial prejudice. By reading *To Kill a Mockingbird*, students who are willing to indulge in the topic of systemic racism will be able to call racist behaviors out. It may create the same sensitivity in students that I feel when I see racism in my own environment. I believe it is incredibly important to continue teaching, and learning about injustice because of the continuation of it in everyday life. By not teaching students about racism, we are hiding them away from our society's troubles, and leaving them to be ignorant in a sense where they are not aware of the negative effects our nation's system has had on people. To create inclusive communities we must continue to educate, and understand the extent of hatred people held, and still hold for those in minority groups.

To Kill a Mockingbird has effectively confronted racism through facing history, and stressing the violence that comes with identity. The book itself has greatly impacted, and influenced American culture, and has given readers a perspective through a novel that allows us to acknowledge racism. The book has encouraged

adults, and children to call out injustice, and become more aware of our past issues which we still encounter in our modern society.

Through the teaching of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, we can also continue strengthening communities, and changing our outlook on our future. An article in the New York Times by Sona Patel provided numerous opinions, and reactions of people who have read *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Sarah Twiest a reader of the novel referred to *To Kill a Mockingbird* by relating, that it “also also leaves us with a sense of hope that with a clear heart, things may change. This message was relevant in America in the 1960s, and it continues to be so important today in the face of continued and persistent injustice in our nation.” (Patel) *To Kill a Mockingbird* has given an opportunity for students to actively work against racism, and hold passion to battle prejudice present in society.

To grow as a society we must understand the extreme difficulties that our nation puts onto people of color. We have to reflect and stop our history's flaws from repeating. *To Kill a Mockingbird* creates a deep reflection of our past, and allows us to build our future. Racism is a huge battle worth fighting, but we must be willing to make change, and recognize those who have tried. As a world we all must work together to create an anti-racist society, and finally equilibrium.

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