

The Pond Street Press

A Publication of Cohasset Middle School Students



December 2021 Issue

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School News

Mask Decision Postponed to January 18th

By Declan Bergan

Students have been wearing masks for a year and a half now. Many have even reached the point of asking, “Will we ever be able to take them off?”



In an email from Cohasset Superintendent, Dr. Sullivan, he stated, as of Nov 30, 2021, both the Cohasset High School and Middle School have exceeded the 80% vaccinated mark. This means that over 80% of the staff and students are vaccinated. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has approved that fully

vaccinated high schoolers will have the option to not wear masks.

At last night’s School Committee Meeting, the Cohasset School Committee voted to move the date for approval for vaccinated individuals at the middle school to unmask until January 18, 2021. According to Dr. Sullivan, “Waiting two weeks after winter break allows us the opportunity to view infection rates in our community and in the middle school population (which is still has a lower vaccination rate than our high school community) before allowing vaccinated individuals to unmask. Waiting two weeks after winter break also allows younger middle school students who may not yet be fully vaccinated, but whose families want them to be fully vaccinated, the opportunity to have more time to reach full vaccination before allowing vaccinated individuals to unmask.”

(Image Credit: The Momentous Institute)

CMS Morning News Crew Visited by WCVB Reporter

By: Sari Reyes

On December 1st 2021, CMS's morning news crew was able to interview and share their experiences with a very special guest! Channel 5 news reporter Doug Meehan joined the CMS morning crew via Zoom to share his experiences and answer questions about live reporting! Doug explained the beginnings of his career, his past experiences in live reporting, and his most important tips and tricks for different situations in live reporting.



Everything starts somewhere, and for Doug Meehan, his career began at a very young age. From day one, Doug looked for ways to get his face out to the world. At age 12 he found an agent and was featured on "Gamebox".

"I think television may have chosen me," he told the morning news crew.

(Photo courtesy of WCVB-TV)

Throughout college, Doug tried a couple different majors, including criminal justice, however, he ended up majoring in communications and following his dream of being on television. From a young age, Doug admitted his only wish for his future career was to be on TV!

Throughout his career, Doug has gathered many tips and tricks for live reporting. Doug's main tip in live reporting is "Just try to be yourself." However, more tips including emphasis and speaking with energy were mentioned.

Doug also explained what goes on behind the scenes on live television. Have you ever wondered how reporters always know what to say? Well they have teleprompters. Teleprompters are used when reporters have a specific speech or certain lines to say on TV. A small screen with words, controlled by a teleprompter operator, keeps the words at your perfect speed to ensure that you won't stumble.

Meehan also shared his take on the different stories he has covered. He admits that some of his stories have gotten him a little emotional. Sharing others' brave and heroic stories warm many hearts including Doug's!

Doug's overall experiences are truly newsworthy! Make sure to listen in on the morning announcements and see if you can notice the tips that Doug mentioned, and don't forget to watch the WCVB Morning News Crew's Eyeopener show on Channel 5!

End of Term One

By Ciaran Bergan

The end of term one means different things to different students. The term ended on December 3rd and report cards came out on December 10th.

The end of the term is a crazy time! Some students are relieved that it is almost over, but for some this is a very stressful time trying to bring up their grades before the term ends. It can be a nerve racking time for students who worry that a bad grade will be their forever grade. For other students this is the best time of the year because their hard work usually ends up paying



off.

The sixth graders are getting their first letter grades which is both exciting and a little nerve-wracking.

As sixth grade student Luke Hurley says, "I'm excited for the end of the term because it shows where you are in your subjects." Luke reported that he was not stressed, and was happy about trying a

new special.

The good news is that term two is a clean slate. You get a fresh start if you were disappointed in your first term grades, or can repeat your success if you did well. At the end of the year, you will earn a final grade which is the average of all three terms, so keep working hard!

(Image Credit: perrylocal.org)

Cohasset Rec Center Gets in the Holiday Spirit

By Sari Reyes

With the holiday season approaching, many are filling up their time with decorating trees, spinning dreidels, and searching for perfect gifts to give their loved ones. While these components are

crucial to getting into the holiday spirit, the Cohasset Rec Center is proposing an even more jolly event that is sure to put that holiday smile on your face.

On December 17, 2021 grades 6-12 are welcome to go to the Cohasset Rec Center for their first ever holiday party! This event will feature a showing of “The Grinch” and a gingerbread house competition!

A number of people will receive a gingerbread house making kit on the week of the party. Those people will then be able to create their own jolly gingerbread house which will be judged against others in a gingerbread competition. At the party, attendees will get to vote on their favorite gingerbread house! The houses are due on December 17, 2021, however, you can drop yours off at any time. The winner of the competition will receive a special and secret prize!

The gathering will begin at 5:30 and end at 9:00 pm at the Rec Center (behind the Red Lion Inn). In order to participate in this jovial event, you will have to become a member of the Rec Center. The fee is only 49 dollars for an entire school year, so don't forget to sign up now on the Cohasset Recreation website!

The Rec Center holiday party is not the first gathering held at the Rec Center. At the beginning of November the Rec Center hosted its first ever ribbon cutting ceremony. To celebrate the occasion, the Rec Center was filled with pizza, laughter and fun! In total 50 people attended this ceremony and indulged in Peel's Pizza's delicious pies. Rec Center workers, Liam Tam, Alexandra West, and Milo Sheffield helped hand out everyone's favorite pizza flavors and hangout with the attendees.

Alexandra, Milo and Liam are all staff members for the Rec Center, and recently we have acquired two more workers to add to the Rec Center family! Tessa Curatola and Bella Picot are officially part of the Rec Center staff! The Rec Center Committee has been in deep planning mode for the past couple of weeks trying to make these events the best experience a student can have!

Come on down to the Rec Center for some holiday fun! Everyone is welcome, just don't forget to sign up!

Every Culture Counts

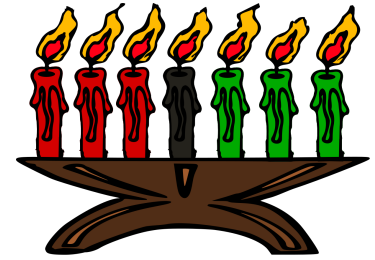
By: Malone Yemini

It is true that most of the students at Cohasset Middle School celebrate Christmas, so that might be the first holiday that comes to mind around winter time. However, some kids do celebrate other holidays around our school and it's important that that is recognized. I went around and interviewed lots of teachers about what they do around the holidays and they try to incorporate many festive celebrations.

The first teacher I interviewed was the 6th grade math teacher, Mrs. Hathaway. She hands out fun worksheets where you plot the coordinates to get an image! Some of the images were

holiday themed such as the gingerbread man, Christmas tree, and a dreidel. Some of the papers aren't specific to any holiday such as snowmen, minions, and pumpkins. Her celebrations are fun and inclusive!

In art, Mrs. Swartz designed a creative project for the 6th and 7th graders. They can choose to use a holiday design for any holiday they choose. If they don't want to do something holiday themed they can just go with a fun wintery design! The winter projects sound like a lot of fun!



In the high school band, they don't play a song specific to any holiday. The high schoolers learn about each holiday and play songs for all of them. But in the concerts, the students don't play a song specific to any holiday because they don't have time to play a song for each holiday so they don't want any students to feel like their traditions aren't as important. It's really nice of Mrs. Moriarty to make sure every student feels included!

In the 6th grade English room, Ms. McLaughlin will be decorating with lots of festive decorations! She plans on putting up Christmas lights along with decorations for Kwanzaa and Hanukkah! She, like many other teachers, is doing an amazing job of making sure students from all different cultures feel included this holiday season!



In the French class, students will get to do a few different holiday activities. One thing they get to do is write holiday songs to friends and family. They can choose whatever holiday they want. If time allows students can translate holiday songs into French and then sing them. It sounds like a lot of fun and students can choose whatever holiday they want which will keep everyone feeling included!

In the 6th grade Spanish class, students will be learning about the holidays in Spanish speaking countries. They recently celebrated the Day of the Dead! They will also be learning about the holidays that are widely celebrated in Spanish speaking countries.

A possible winter dance is in the works and it will not be holiday themed. It will just have more of a winter theme. The rule was that the planning committee can't do a holiday themed dance because not everyone here celebrates the same holidays and everyone should feel included.

In conclusion, our school is doing a great job celebrating that everyone is different and we all have different origins and different ways of celebrating our cultures!



StuCo Updates

By: Grace Kiernan

On November 9th, the Student Council had their first kickoff meeting. According to 8th grader Press Secretary, Mia Peebles, Student Council members started the meeting with a small pizza party and played an icebreaker game. They also discussed sub-committee ideas for the future. Some ideas that were brought up in the meeting were Diversity Committee, School Dance Planning Committee, Environmental and Climate Awareness Committee, Video Game Tournament for Fundraising Committee, Field Trip Committee and History Committee.

On November 16th, the 8th Grade Student Council had their second meeting and discussed a few things that could possibly be accomplished this year. Some of these ideas include a Winter Dance, a spare change collection, candy grams during the winter season, a clothing drive before winter and a Community Service Day.

On November 30th, 8th Grade Student Council discussed many things and one of them was how to encourage donations to the food drive. Some ideas were going from class to class informing and reminding everyone to donate, a possible competition between utility classes to see who can raise the most donations, or prizes for people who donate. Another idea discussed at the StuCo meeting was a movie day before winter break. Some possibilities include, different movie choices, a vote to see the most popular movie to watch, a different movie time slot for each grade and having the movie after lunch, and then games until the end of the day. The last topic discussed was the winter dance. StuCo was debating whether it should be a formal or semi-formal, prices for the dance, such as \$4, location for the dance (probably the gym), and the option of separate nights for each grade.

The 7th Grade Student Council has been discussing many ideas of things to do at school as well. According to 7th grade Press Secretary, Molly Campbell, ideas discussed include the winter dance, the lunch schedule and location, fundraisers, movie days in December, and a holiday theme week. The Student Council was thinking of having a theme week on the last few days before winter break, from December 20th to the 22nd. They were thinking of ugly sweater day, holiday pj day, festive hats and headband day, holiday movie character day, holiday inclusion day and many others. They were also discussing ways to get the word out for the food drive, and next steps towards planning the winter dance. They talked about price, decoration, location, food, time, etc. They decided that January would be the best time for it, and are still discussing what day works best for everyone. A Friday would be fun, but people who go skiing every weekend wouldn't be able to make it, so they are still deciding.

The Student Council has had an eventful and exciting start, and CMS can't wait for what's to come this year.

Sixth Grade StuCo Reps Loving Leadership

By: Max Ly

This year is the first year for 6th graders to have leadership opportunities and have a voice in the community because of the Student Council. Some members of the Student Council are Quinn Kearney as President, Max Ly as Press Secretary, Stephanie Williams and Ashley Wagner as Student Ambassadors, and Dominique Vecchiolla as Communications Officer.

The sixth grade student council members are delighted that their fellow grade members voted for them.

President, Quinn Kearney, said, "I'm excited to be a part of StuCo because it's a very unique environment to change the school for the better."

I am also a part of the 6th grade student council as the Press Secretary. I agree with Quinn that this is a great opportunity to change the school for the better and that we could do that in a fun way.

Afterschool Enrichment Takes the Cake (Literally)

By Saoirse O'Duggan

After school enrichment clubs are a fun way to educate yourself on a new topic, make or hang out with friends and maybe even bake a cake.

A few clubs held after school are photography, robotics, beast mode fitness, cooking, choir and jazz band. There is an afterschool club for everyone. After reading this article, you will find a club you love.

We interviewed Grace Kiernan about the after school club she participated in. Grace told us that she did choir last year, "So I thought I'd do it again."

Grace also informed us that unlike last year, the choir club will get to perform at the holiday concert this year.

If singing isn't your thing, then maybe you'd like the cooking club. In the cooking club they make food that they are able to take home afterwards. Still not interested, what about the photography club? In this after school program you learn

photography tips and participate in fun projects. You can also learn how to take professional-looking photos and get to work with 13 cool camera equipment. If nothing has caught your eye, there are many other clubs that we're sure will spark your interest. The school offers so many more interesting clubs that are sure to grab your interest and present great opportunities to showcase all of your skills.

CMS Students Donate to the Food Drive!

By: Georgia Royston

From November 28 through December 12, CHS student Lucy Royston organized a Cohasset food drive! The collection boxes were placed in the CMS school office, CHS school office, and CMS school entrance.

"I received around 20 - 25 full bags and boxes of food which were donated to Wellspring in Hull," Lucy reported.

Students contributed pasta, peanut butter, canned tomatoes, soap, spaghetti sauce, canned soup, canned tuna, deodorant, shampoo, granola bars, cereals, canned veggies, toothpaste, and toothbrushes.

8th Grade Research Presentation

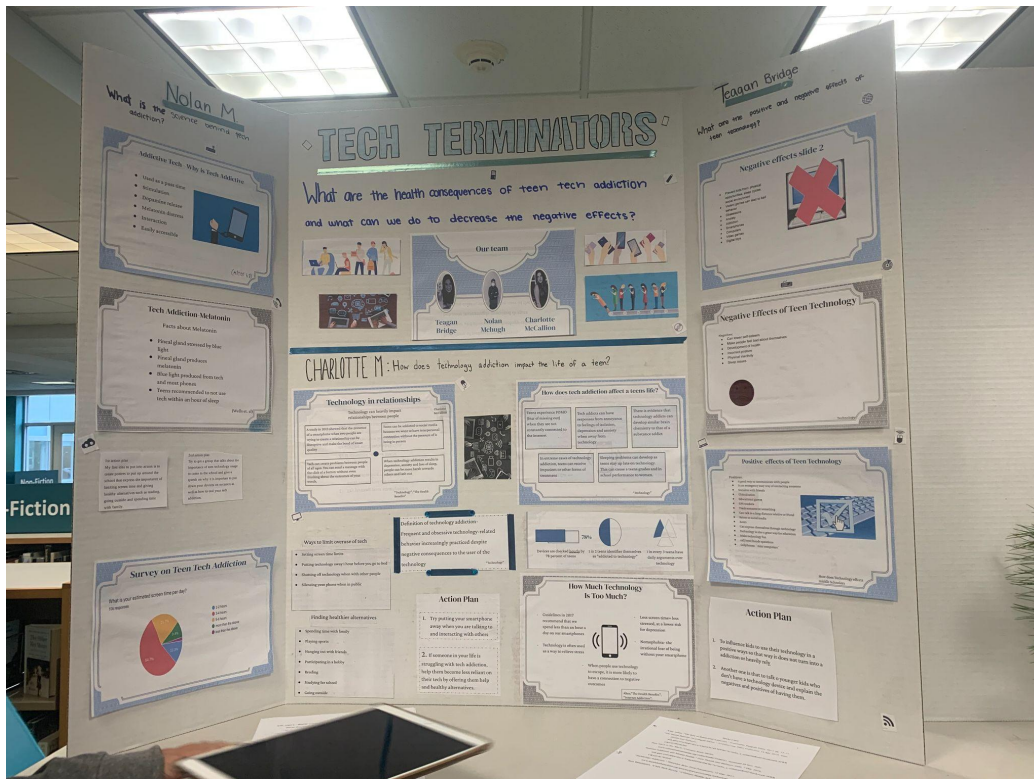
By: Emme Cuning

The 8th graders take an Introduction to Research class for one trimester taught by Mrs. Cerruti. This class prepares students for future research projects and high school. This term the students had to do many projects, but their last project was called the Sustainability Project.

On Monday, December 6th families and friends were invited to see the final products of the amazing projects the students have been working on. Some of the topics included : Balancing Housing Development and Wildlife Habitat, Coastal and Ocean Pollution, Plastic vs. Paper Bags, Bees and Colony Collapse Disorder, Wildlife and Landscape of Early Cohasset, Storm Water Runoff, Youth Sports Injuries, Teen Stress, and Teen Technology Addiction.



This poster about pollination was made by Natalie Laird, Grace Doyle, and Mia Peeples.



This poster was about Tech Terminators. It was made by Teagan Bridge, Charlotte McCallion, and Nolan McHugh.

Struggles With Holiday Shipping

By: Sienna Marshak and Eva Harries

As we're getting closer to the holidays, ordering gifts has become even more of a struggle because of shipping delays. On top of that, we are still in the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, there has also been a recent shortage with Christmas trees. We asked a couple local businesses if they were experiencing any problems or delays.

First, we interviewed Kennedy's Country Gardens, the supplier of many local Christmas trees, to get their point of view on this situation. Mr. Kennedy, the owner of this business, told us that there has been recent struggles with getting enough Christmas trees. "We have to work a lot harder, because our sources aren't selling their usual amount," stated Mr. Kennedy. "We usually get around 1,600 trees from one of our sources, but this year, we have only gotten around 350."



Next we interviewed the owner of Anchor and Sail General Store, Megan Fales. The business is located in Cohasset Village and supplies healthy food and other goods. Ms. Fales told us that there have been recent struggles with getting shipping. She said, "There are delays with shipping and lots of products are not coming in time. There's tons of overall shortages."

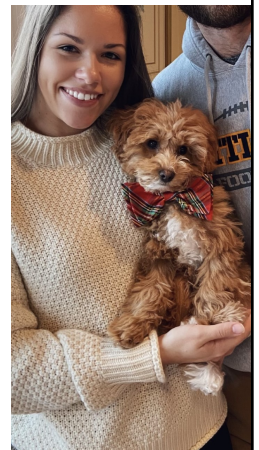
In conclusion, many local businesses are experiencing delays just like you may be for your own holiday shopping. Other small businesses that use local sources are thriving.

Teachers' Pets

By: Katie Kenealy

Did you know pets may decrease stress, improve heart health, and even help adults and children with emotional and social skills? After a long day of teaching at CMS, I asked a few of our fantastic educators to tell us about the pets they come home to.

Our 6th grade English teacher, Mrs. McLaughlin, has a one-year and four-month old dog named Teddy (pictured right). Teddy is a Havapoo, a mixed breed between a Poodle and a Havanese. Mrs. McLaughlin says, "Teddy gives me the best greeting when I come home from school and always runs around the house at least ten times with excitement!"



A fun fact about Ms. Weisslinger, our 6th grade World Geography teacher, is that she has four birds! (See photo left) She has Bridget (Twelve years), Leo (Nine years), Franky, and Dustan (six years). Leo has special needs and is a Lovebird. A Lovebird is known to be a cuddly and social type of bird. Franky loves to say, " Hi, I am Franky, I am cute!" Dustan, a Cockatiel, copies Franky and says, "Hi I am Dustan I am cute!" Ms. Weisslinger says the birds let her bathe them and like to be

wrapped up in a bit of towel to dry off.

Madame Sanges, our 6th-grade French teacher, has chickens and two ten-year-old Vizsla dogs named Zeus and Frida. Frida has been known to chew a blanket or two when she gets excited. Vizslas are a breed from Hungary and are known to be happy, affectionate, and intelligent.



Mrs. Melia, our 8th grade English teacher, has a seven-year-old Poodle mix named Izzy. She also has another dog recently given to her by her son. His name is Walter, and he is 100 pounds! Walter is two and came from a shelter in Houston, TX where her son lived for three years. Although Izzy is blind, she can navigate her world with the help of her sense of smell and her love for following Walter. Mrs. Melia's dogs will often go to work with her husband while she is at school. (see photo left)

Mrs. St. Peter, our sixth grade science teacher, wins the prize for having the most pets! She has a dog named Norman and he is six years old. Her cat is fifteen years old and is named Johnny Hal Mittens. She also has a twenty year old horse named Elliot (see picture right). Next she has five cattle named Mario (six years), Fabio (6 months), Marylou and Stabuck (four years) and Redbull (one and a half). Last but not least are her five chickens, all named Gladys.



Editorials

Diversity Club Up and Running

By Nora Khan

Last year I wrote an editorial about the lack of a forum for students to come together and discuss justice and diversity. I'm happy to report that we now have a space to discuss such issues.

In the modern day and in our school district, we must expand education on diversity and consider all individuals with different backgrounds. At Cohasset Middle School (CMS), a utility club for diversity is held weekly to discuss how we can strengthen our school as a whole and be more inclusive and supportive. The teachers who lead in the discussions are Ms. Pearce, the middle school guidance counselor, and Ms. Hegland, the middle school chorus teacher.

During a global pandemic, our school district has had to overcome many difficulties, such as online learning and maintaining social distancing. Throughout the ongoing pandemic, it's been hard to exhibit concern for global issues and social injustices. This year, the new diversity club allows

students to widen their perspective of the world and share our experiences in our school environment.

During the catastrophes and world events that are occurring every day, Diversity Club is a good place to communicate strong opinions. The club is also an outlet to strengthen the student voice and shine light on the issues we face as students and people.

Our school community is making an effort to create change to positively impact our curriculum in order to help students feel included. As one of the people who stepped up to bring the diversity group to life, our main focuses this year are to influence students' views and education positively. We wish to be able to not only speak on injustices going on around the world, but to act on them as well.

Global issues that come up during conversation are racism, sexism, homophobia, the struggle with ethnicity, and discrimination that certain people receive. We want to be able to understand what people endure, and how to fix these injustices to make a difference in our school and the world.

Even small changes can lead to big differences, allowing us to not only understand people but ourselves. As a school that doesn't tolerate discrimination, we must show our care for those who receive it. Our differences must be embraced. Cultural differences, race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, and sexuality should all be respected. These topics will be talked about as they are major in society and in our school. These social issues should be discussed as they are very important for not only the future of CMS, but the world.

CMS Arts

Winter Concert

By Clarissa Gleason

On December 9, 2021, students in grades 6-8 at CMS performed at the Winter Concert, the first in-person musical performance in over a year and a half. This was something very exciting to look forward to!

Before the concert, Middle School Band Director Mr. Ewell said, "I feel the grades are all working really hard to get the pieces perfect! With it being our first concert in years, I'm sure there will be nerves and I am sure we will make some mistakes. But, if we are out there trying our hardest and we are putting the work in, we can have a product we can be proud of and build off of going forward into our next concert."

Chorus rehearsed around 5:30. They performed at 6:00, before the bands performed, so technically there were two concerts. There was even a kazoo band performing along with the chorus!

At the Winter Concert, the 6th grade band played “Concerto for Pots and Pans.” This song has its name because it features percussion soloists, who play pots and pans instead of usual percussion instruments, specially for this song.

The beginner band also performed on December 9th, along with the 6th grade band and the chorus. The beginner band is made up of students who are new to band, or are taking up a brand new instrument. They played two familiar songs, “Jingle Bells,” and “My Dreydl.” The 6th grade band also joined the beginner band in playing these two pieces.

The 7th grade band also played two songs, the first called “Afterburn,” and the second was “Up on the Housatop.” The 8th grade band played “The Abominable Snowman” and “Sleigh Ride.”

Finally, the last to perform at the Winter Concert was the Jazz Band. The Jazz Band normally rehearses after-school on Wednesdays and is open to anyone. At the concert, the Jazz Band played “White Christmas.”

By the end of the concert, most grades were proud of themselves for performing at a concert. For some grades, it had been a year or two since they had a concert, and for others it was their very first. Most teachers, parents, and family members of students in the concert say they were glad to finally see students in CMS getting to show their talent.

School Sports News

CMS Cross Country Finishes Strong at Championships

By Robert Blanchard, Ian Henry, and Lukas Stefan

The Cohasset Middle School Cross Country Team had a championship meet on November 3rd at Hanover High School. Led by coach Nick Sullivan and parent volunteer coach Nicole Henry, many Cohasset runners flew through the 1.7 mile woods, grass and pavement course and finished in the top of their division.

The boys team placed 3rd overall out of 13 teams competing. Eighth-grader Robert Blanchard placed 6th out of 90 runners in the boys' championship race with a time of 10:14. In the girls' division, 7th-grader Molly Campbell, earned an appearance at the podium, finishing an impressive 3rd out of 97 runners.

All of the runners ran their hardest! You could see the look of dedication on their faces as they ran by.

Top finisher, Robert Blancard reported, "It felt like the fastest I have ever run. The finish is the fun part though. When you see the finish line you cannot help yourself but smile but at the same time, you are still sprinting your heart out trying to out stretch your opponent."

In the girls' championship race, 7th grader Libby Struzziero placed 5th and Suzie Frank, Maddie Campbell and Summer McDonough also finished near the top of the 97 runners. In the boys' race, Ciaran Bergan, Paul Chapman, Rylan Hurley, and Lukas Stefan finished in the top third of the 90 runners competing.

In the boys' grade 7 and 8 division, Aidan Donnelly placed 4th, Ian Henry placed 5th, and Jack Kearney placed 12th out of 94 runners. In the girls' grade 6 race, Regan Brinzey placed 5th and Isabella Cambi and Myla Pimpare were strong finishers out of 100 runners. In the boys' grade 6 race, Liam Baker placed 6th out of 97 runners.

The middle school runners have certainly set up a bright future for CHS Cross Country. As for the eighth graders, they will hopefully be moving on to run more for the CHS team and continue their

journeys as runners. (Pictured below: Molly Campbell and Robert Blanchard. Photo courtesy of Mr. Mills)



Climb Aboard the Fan Bus Middle School Rides to Gillette to Watch Football Win

By: Janet O'Carroll

The Cohasset High School Football team traveled to the Superbowl at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro this year with their middle school fans in tow. On Wednesday, December 1st, right after school, a fan bus full of 56 cheering Cohasset students loaded up in the middle school parking lot and headed straight for Gillette. The fan bus left at 3:15pm and came back at 9:00pm.

It was well worth the ride. Cohasset won the game 27-12, earning the title of Division 7 State Champions. After the victory, when the bus came back, there was a police escort to celebrate.

The Pond Street Press Staff

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