



GRACIAS POR TODOS LOS RECUERDOS

Senorita is retiring!! Grab a tissue as we wish her a fond farewell on **PAGE 8**.



SHELTER ISLAND TRAIL GUIDE

Looking for a new way to get out and enjoy the springtime weather? Take a hike! Turn to **PAGE 9** for a rundown of great local hikes.



SOCIAL MEDIA CHEF

Turn to **PAGE 7** to see how some trending social media recipes turned out in real life for one of our reporters!

THE INLET

Vol. 9, No. 4

SHELTER ISLAND SCHOOL

APRIL 2021

Students' Artwork: EXHIBITING & INSPIRING

BY VALERIA REYES

The annual student exhibition, a 60-year tradition at the Parrish Art Museum in Watermill, NY, features the work of more than 1,000 young artists from schools on Eastern Long Island. Here at Shelter Island School, students from PreK-12 worked with art teacher Mrs. Brigham to create artworks using different mediums and focusing on different skills. PreK 4 and kindergarten focused on line and color. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd painted baby Emperor Penguins. 4th, 5th, 6th created a tar beach inspired by the book Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold. Students in grades 7th-12 exhibited and used elements and principles of art as their focus. And lastly, 13 students from the high school created

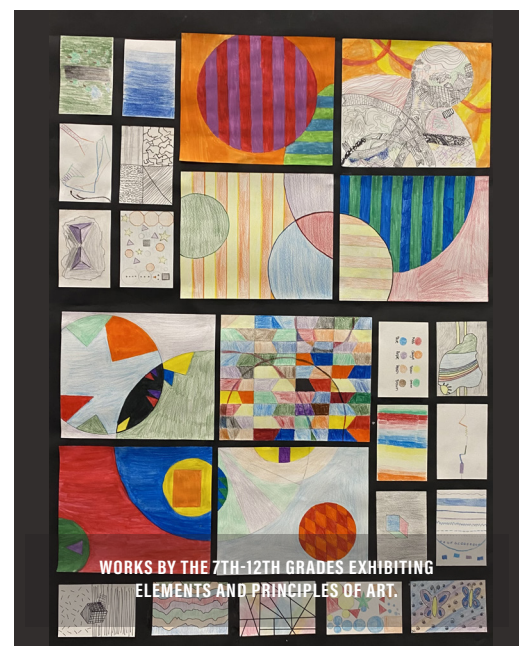
individual works up to 20 x 24".

Shelter Island high school art students also participated in the MLK Portrait Project with East End Arts. Each student completed their own panel to complete a large-scale portrait of MLK Jr. Kathleen Rusick from East End Arts came to help

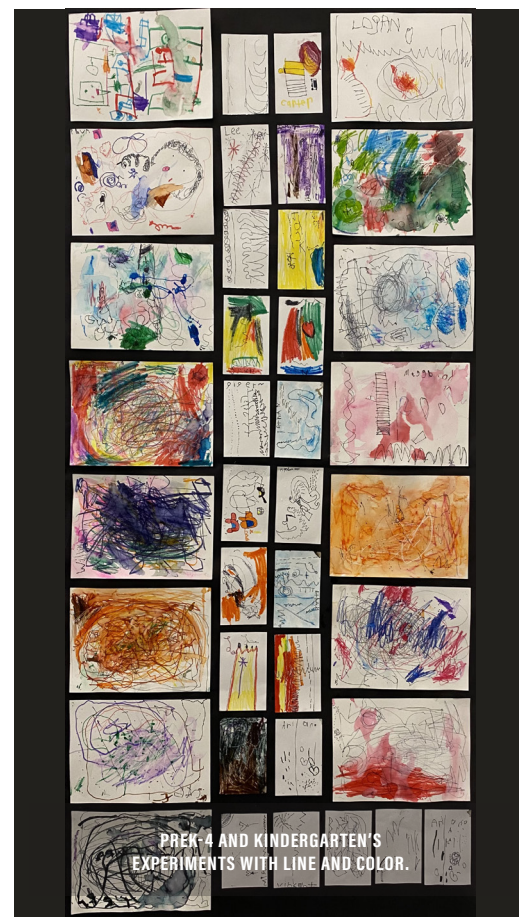
assemble the large portrait and hang the work. The project was created to engage talented student artists across the East End of Long Island and to honor Martin Luther King Jr. during Black History Month. The MLK Portrait Project was also symbolic, as only when each individual panel work is put together to create the whole, does the unified vision of King come into focus. Each panel may be in a different style, but when unified, the vision is complete.



PHOTO BY VALERIA REYES
THE MLK PANEL PORTRAIT CREATED BY SHELTER ISLAND SCHOOL ART STUDENTS.



WORKS BY THE 7TH-12TH GRADES EXHIBITING ELEMENTS AND PRINCIPLES OF ART.



PREK-4 AND KINDERGARTEN'S EXPERIMENTS WITH LINE AND COLOR.



THE 1ST-3RD GRADE'S ILLUSTRATIONS OF BABY EMPEROR PENGUINS.



INDIVIDUAL WORKS BY STUDENTS IN GRADES 9-12 AT THE PARRISH ART MUSEUM.



A COLLABORATIVE TAR BEACH INSPIRED ARTWORK CREATED BY THE 4TH-6TH GRADERS.

Shelter Island U.F.S.D.
P.O. Box 2015
Shelter Island, New York 11964
www.ShelterIsland.k12.ny.us
BOXHOLDER
SHELTER ISLAND, NY 11964

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
PERMIT NO. 6
Shelter Island, NY 11964

SHELTER ISLAND'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: GET INVOLVED!

BY MYLA DOUGHERTY

As young people, we are always trying to make our voices heard. Our generation has been vocal about many subjects, and been very involved in the fight for equal rights. Living in the small community of Shelter Island, some of the bigger issues that we are passionate about can seem far away and difficult to affect change in. But, as we have seen this past year, it is possible to make big changes at home. Shelter Island students and alumni organized the first civil rights protest on the island, and were able to change our school's mascot. It's important to see that voicing your opinion can have a big impact on the future. After the wave of action this summer, some of us are left wondering how we can continue to make a difference and improve our community. Shelter Island Town's Comprehensive Plan offers an opportunity to change the future of the island for the better and ensure that our generation has a say in what Shelter Island will look like.

So what is this comprehensive plan? What does that even mean? A committee of volunteers from our community, along with a professional consulting firm, are creating guidelines for the town's future. These guidelines and goals will outline a long term plan that the town government and public can refer to in order to make sure that we are on track with the vision of the future we want. Hopefully, these guidelines will reflect the opinions and desires of the community. There was an

online survey conducted by the town that asked questions to determine what residents of the island think of our town: what they like, what they want, what works, and what they think is broken. Some students may have participated in this survey, I know I did, as well as many other friends of mine. It was a great way for me to reflect on what I really think about Shelter Island, and to start to imagine the possibilities for making change.

Why is it important that our generation voices our ideas in this process? As students, we make up a large part of the island and are a central element and life force of the community. Despite having such a large impact on community decisions, our age prevents us from being able to vote, and therefore restricts our ability to have a say in what happens in our town. The comprehensive plan, however, is open to the ideas of all residents of Shelter Island. In this case, our voices and messages are welcome, and there's an opportunity here for us that we should take advantage of.

I'm sure that many people my age have wondered about their future here on the island. Some may never want to leave, others want to go and never look back, and even others think about going away and settling down on the island later in life. We all ask ourselves similar questions: Could I imagine myself

living here when I'm older? Would I want to raise my children here? Could I even afford to live here? Will rising sea levels make it impossible to live here? Our concerns for the future of the island are important, because we are the ones who are ultimately going to be living here. Shelter Island is often perceived as a retirement community, and has a large population of elderly people who influence the decisions made by the town. But, looking ahead towards the future, we should be thinking about what we as a generation want from Shelter Island, and how we can make it a place we would want to live or settle down. The comprehensive plan is a perfect way to address our desires for a better Shelter Island, because it is going to build the framework for the next ten years, and could change the environment we live in.

What are some of the possibilities that we would want included in the plan? There are some facilities in the town that are meant to be there for the use of young people, but are not being used to their full potential. The skate park could be one of the most popular areas on the island if it was fixed up or in a different location. As addressed in a recent SITV episode, skateboarders had been skating around the school, and had to be banned from doing so. If the skate park was in better condition, this might not have been a problem. The youth center,

while providing programs for younger children, doesn't have anything available for older kids. Is this something we want to change? Our beaches are one of the most beautiful things about the island, but could they be even better? Perhaps more events or facilities such as beach volleyball could be provided. This is a time for us to express our wildest dreams and visions for the island. For example, could we be a totally green island, making our own power? The world is our oyster.

So, how can we get involved? There will be a public "visioning workshop" zoom meeting April 22nd, where community members can express their thoughts for the comprehensive plan. The details for joining the meeting can be found on the town website. I encourage everyone, but especially students, to join and make your voices heard. Comments can also be made at any time on the town website, and you can sign up to be updated about all comprehensive plan matters via email. We can't vote, but we can weigh in on the comprehensive plan by attending meetings, completing surveys, and sharing our ideas for the Shelter Island we want.



GET INVOLVED!

We would love to hear from you!
To contact **THE INLET** call
631-749-0302 x144

Email letters to the editor to:
devon.treharne@shelterisland.k12.ny.us
EDITORS: Myla Dougherty
FACULTY ADVISOR: Devon Treharne

STAFF: Jalill Carter, Sophie Clark, Victor Costa, Daria Kolomogorova, Caleb Lambert, Emma Martinez, Zeb Mundy, Aroldo Pantaleon Castro, Francis Regan, Valeria Reyes, Jane Richards, Mackenzie Speece, Emma Teodoru

THE INLET is a publication by Shelter Island High School Journalism participants with the support of Dr. Brian Doelger and the Board of Education.

THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION STUDENT DEBT RELIEF PLAN: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

BY JANE RICHARDS

Future and current college students, along with recent college graduates are going to be seriously impacted by President Biden's plan for student debt relief. As of right now we are still in a waiting period because the plan is still being constructed. Here's what we know so far: The president has asked Congress to send him a bill. Progressives think that Biden should use his executive position to completely cancel student debt. They want forgiveness of as much as \$50,000 per person, however the Biden administration has underlined \$10,000 as its target.

On January 8th, officials reiterated the president's support for Congress to "immediately" cancel \$10,000 of federal student loan debt per person as part of COVID-19 relief. Then, in February, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki affirmed Biden's support for some kind of cancellation, but gave no further details about the specifics of the plan. Instead, Psaki posted on Twitter, "Our team is reviewing whether there are any steps he can take through executive action and he would welcome the opportunity to sign a bill sent to him by Congress."

On February 16th, Biden explained

his mindset during a CNN Town Hall, he said "I am prepared to write off the \$10,000 debt, but not \$50,000, because I don't think I have the authority to do it." NerdWallet reports, "That could wipe out debt completely for nearly 15 million borrowers who owe \$10,000 or less, according to federal data. The majority of student loan borrowers (roughly 67%) have more than \$10,000 in debt." The debt relief will be paid for by increasing taxes on the super wealthy and eliminating the "stepped-up basis" loophole (a tax law that applies to estate transfers, it reduces or even eliminates capital gains tax on the sale of inherited assets), according to the campaign. Supporters say that student loan cancellation will stimulate the economy, increase family formation, encourage new businesses, improve retirement savings, and promote homebuying.

This proposed debt relief is not for everyone, there are certain requirements each individual must meet to qualify for the relief: the first requirement is that you must attend a public college or university and the loans must be for undergraduate tuition, loans taken out for graduate school will not be cancelled. Those seeking debt

relief must also earn \$125,000 a year or less.

An alternate proposal discussed by the Biden Administration is that student debt would only be reduced for those who attend two years of community college or high-quality training programs. The reasoning behind this is that two free years of community college would cut four year education costs in half, since students could transfer their credits to complete their college education. Jill Biden explained to NBC news "What means the most to me is that it [the plan to lessen college tuition burden] comes from listening to educators and students, not telling them what we think they need. It goes beyond tuition and supports a holistic approach to retention and completion."

That's what really makes a difference in my students' lives."

Biden's plan has a couple of other amendments to it, as well. It would forgive outstanding student debt for those who have responsibly paid it back for 20 years. Those who hold careers in national or community service, like teaching or non-profits, would receive \$10,000 student debt relief annually for up to five years for each year that they stay in that job. As with any new bill in Congress that may lead to sweeping change, the debate over college debt relief will likely take years of edits and back and forth to see a plan enacted to help past, current, and future college students.



COVID TESTING FOR ATHLETES, VACCINES FOR ISLANDERS

BY VALERIA REYES

With sports seasons starting back up, athletes are required to get COVID tested for sports participation by the N.Y. Department of Health. Testing for Shelter Island athletes takes place every Monday at 7am at the Legion Hall when school is open and in the school lobby during school break weeks, with the help of Nurse Mary, Todd Gulluscio, and Mrs. Orgass. Testing on Mondays was a purposeful choice because if anyone tests positive, contact tracing goes back 48 hours (which would be to Saturday morning), and then the district would not have to contact trace school exposure. Regarding the testing procedures, Nurse



Mary explains, "Students are not allowed to go into the school building until they get the results--the reason being that if they test positive, they have not exposed anyone in the building." You may wonder what the protocol is if someone does test positive. "They will be sent home and followed up by their medical professional," according to Nurse Mary. Nurse Mary is very happy to be able to provide testing for the student-athletes so that they can participate and compete. Surprisingly, she is not worried about exposure while conducting COVID tests, she adds, "It comes with the profession. Nurses are always exposed to potentially infectious agents in their normal, everyday work. As long as there is proper PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), and proper handling of testing equipment is done, I feel very comfortable."

Shelter Island School also had the chance to become a vaccination site on Friday, February 26th (first doses) and Friday, March 19th (second doses) "through

the hard work and perseverance of Town Supervisor Gerry Siller who lobbied our state officials regarding the special situation of our senior citizens," Nurse Mary explains. The vaccine distribution was a coordinated effort of many groups as well, such as: S.I. Town Hall, S.I. Senior Center, S.I. School, S.I. Police Dept, and Stony Brook Hospital. The process to get this going took a "lot of hard work to get 'the powers that be' to recognize our unique island situation, it was an enormous logistical event. To contact over 500 eligible people in less than 48 hours, then call them all again with appointment times was monumental. Then to set up vaccine delivery, the POD (point of distribution) planning and then set-up Stony Brook staff and volunteers, all the paperwork, etc. It was a very daunting process that required an enormous amount of manpower and coordination," stressed Nurse Mary. However, the vaccination dates "went spectacularly," she says. Not only did 503 people get the potentially life-

saving vaccine, but the event itself offered a small mental health boost for many in attendance when they got a chance to see community members whom they had not been able to see due to the pandemic. "There were many, many smiles and sighs of relief at finally receiving the vaccine," Nurse Mary reports. And, apparently S.I. residents were not the only ones impressed. "Stony Brook Hospital administration, who had run several PODs before ours, stated, time and time again, that our event was run the best so far (and we were giving more vaccines than Stony Brook had ever given in one event before)," Nurse Mary proudly shares. It is so special when our island community comes together to help each other; the vaccinations of student-athletes and community members to keep us all safe and healthy are something we should take pride in.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?: SHELTER ISLAND ALUMNI QUINN HUNDGEN

BY JANE RICHARDS



The phrase “I want to live in a place where I will not fit in” is not common to hear, nevertheless Shelter Island School alumni Quinn Hundgen not only spoke these words, but also followed through on them.

Quinn Hundgen graduated with the Class of 2014. He originally came to Shelter Island when he was in middle school and remembers feeling welcomed by the community. During his time at Shelter Island School, Quinn established many close relationships within the school, “from my teachers like Mrs. Treharne, to the staff, like Jose Montalvo. It’s a really caring place,” Quinn shares. After graduating, Quinn attended the University of Richmond in Virginia and he majored in Psychology, which was of great interest to him. In fact, Quinn recommends “everyone take an Introductory Psychology class. It can teach you a lot about yourself and how other people think and behave!”

In 2018, following his college graduation,

Quinn wanted to challenge himself by living in a place where he “would not fit in,” so he moved to Tokyo, Japan. Quinn’s choice to move to Japan was partially inspired by his interest in Japanese music, art, and literature, he explains, “writers like Haruki Murakami and musicians like Shiina Ringo are really unique and unlike anything in the United States.” Quinn quickly learned that, “In some ways, Tokyo is like NYC--big buildings, busy streets, and everyone is always in a rush. But, the culture is totally different. People have different values and think differently than Americans.” There are pros and cons of moving to a place with a culture that varies greatly from one’s own. Quinn says, “Since moving, he has learned that Japan has a really good quality of life... there is great, affordable food and a super convenient transportation system. And every day brings a new and interesting experience here.” In addition, Quinn admires how the

Japanese are “forward thinking” and they value taking care of everyone in their society, they also try to be polite and considerate of other people. However, there are some cultural differences he struggles with. Despite a focus on manners and respect of others, Quinn explains that in Japan, “they are a bit more conservative when it comes to gender issues. Women encounter a lot of sexism in the workplace. I feel that women are as compassionate and capable citizens and leaders as men are (if not more so), so I tend to disagree with people [here] on these issues.” Quinn also mentions a personal challenge he faces is that Japanese is an incredibly difficult language, “I can speak a bit, but reading and writing is pretty impossible. It has three different scripts. And the country loves paperwork. Imagine if you tried to apply for university in Japanese! It’s like that whenever I have to file for a visa or my taxes.”

Quinn has not returned to Shelter Island since 2018 and anticipates staying in Japan for at least another year. He acknowledges, “I haven’t been back to the U.S. in a few years...a lot has changed in that time.” During his time in Tokyo, Quinn has weathered the pandemic. He explains, “I think Japan is a good contrast to the U.S. as far as the COVID response on the part of individual citizens. The initial response to COVID by the U.S. federal government was terrible. The Japanese government didn’t do much better. The difference was the people here in general are much more careful and conscientious. Mask wearing is normal, and people wear masks anytime they might

be sick for the sake of protecting other people. This is different from the U.S., as many people don’t consider the well-being of society so much. This consideration of individuals led to Japan having much fewer cases. So, here, daily life has been able to carry on much more so than in the U.S.”

In Tokyo, Quinn works at an English conversation school teaching students and adults looking to improve their English. His favorite part of the job is that, “It’s a great way to learn about Japanese culture firsthand from my clients.” He really enjoys teaching and in the future, he wants to go back to school to study psychology further and become a university professor. He adds, “I love learning and it’s really fulfilling to help other people to learn too!”

After looking back on his time in high school and reflecting on his life after graduating, Quinn’s advice to current Shelter Island students is to “try to leave Shelter Island, even if it’s just for a bit. Go to university, join the military, try to live somewhere else. You get a broader view of the world and you’ll learn to appreciate the island in a new way. Also, don’t worry about what other people think about you! Lots of times, we let this stop us from trying new things or being ourselves.” Quinn’s global adventure is truly inspiring and we are so thankful for his contribution to our “Where they are now?” series!

MR. CONNOR RICE: UNEXPECTED SUB

BY FRANNY REGAN

When Connor Rice first graduated Shelter Island High School back in 2016, he never thought that he would be back in these walls just 4 years later. His plan was to go to UAlbany, major in economics, and find a job in economics after he graduated. However, due to the pandemic, things did not go as planned for Mr. Rice. When Connor first started at UAlbany, he says, “There was a bit of a learning curve.” He went from his small Shelter Island class of 19, to a class of 5,000. However, he quickly learned how to navigate in a larger school setting. Unfortunately, Mr. Rice’s senior year of college was cut short due to COVID. He had to complete his last year at UAlbany online, at home on Shelter Island. He had a virtual graduation in June, that he does not regret not attending. With COVID on the rise after he graduated, Mr. Rice was having trouble finding a job in the field that he wanted. It was then a matter of chance that at the

same time he was looking for a job, the school was desperate for substitute teachers coming into this school year. Working in a school was not Mr. Rice’s original plan, so he was reluctant to try it out. However, he found out that is not as bad as he thought it would be. His current co-workers are now his old teachers, whom he still calls Mr. and Mrs., saying, “It’s a hard habit to break.” It is interesting for Mr. Rice to be on the other side of things, and in fact he likes being a teacher way better than being a student. His favorite co-worker is Mr. Miedema because “it’s just like being in class with him, nothing has changed.” However, other things about the school have changed for Mr. Rice. Besides the elephant in the room, COVID, there have been a lot of staff changes, many teachers have retired, new teachers have replaced them, students have graduated, new students have replaced them, and Mr. Rice admits to not recognizing any of the

students below the 10th grade.

For Mr. Rice, math has always been his favorite subject to teach because, “it’s what he’s good at” and he feels like he can actually help out, whereas in other classes, he has no idea what he is doing. In his free time, he likes to take care of his dog Boo, play Xbox with “the homie Adrian Sulahian” and come up with ideas for his new app. He likes watching “Breaking Bad,” “Star Wars: The Clone Wars,” and is a big fan of “Gordon Ramsay’s Kitchen Nightmares.” He also searches for the sasquatch, but he doesn’t count this as free time, it is hard work. He also works as a delivery person for The Islander restaurant on the weekends. Mr. Rice’s immediate goals for the future are still up in the air, he is just going to wait and see how things play out, but for his sister Angelina’s sake, he might stay here on Shelter Island until COVID is over. As for longer term plans though, Mr. Rice laughed



and said, “by the age of 35 I plan to invent my own app, become a millionaire, waste all my money by age 38, then spiral into homelessness.”

PELTON, PAINTING, AND BLUEBERRY PIE: A DONNA CLARK PROFILE

BY SOPHIE CLARK

Mrs. Donna Clark is coming up on her 20th year in the Shelter Island School district. She has had a few different roles, but is currently the office assistant for Mrs. Jennifer Rylott who is the director of Pupil Personnel Data and Instruction. Mrs. Clark also takes care of school registrations. Previously, Mrs. Clark “used to do guidance work, I also did some business work in the beginning, and I worked with Mr. Gulluscio.” Mrs. Clark’s days are never dull and she recounts one particularly funny time when “A little girl came into the office looking for Nurse Mary because she said her heart had stopped beating. She was standing right in front of me telling this.”

Mrs. Donna Clark is a Shelter Island School alumni from the Class of 1979. She attended school with her husband Kenny Clark after moving to Shelter Island permanently with her family at nine years old. The Clarks have three children and Mrs. Clark says “I am most proud of my kids.”

Working in our school was perhaps an unexpected career path, seeing as Mrs. Clark majored in drawing and painting at

Long Island University. She says that art is still one of her greatest loves; in fact if she were to change careers, she would love to have it be a creative pursuit which would use her talents in drawing and painting. In her free time, Donna Clark enjoys “riding my Peloton bike and spending time with my grandson.” She also loves cooking and baking and is very interested in her family’s genealogy and tracing her family’s roots. “The family blueberry pie and clam fritters” are two of Mrs. Clark’s favorite recipes. When asked to share the famous blueberry pie recipe, Mrs. Clark laughed and replied, “It’s a secret! I would go missing and never be found if I gave it out.” Too bad for us.

Mrs. Donna Clark has a few adventurous future goals: “I want to ride a mule down the side of the Grand Canyon and drive a race car down a race car track,” she says. “I also want to go back to Germany.” It does not sound like she is slowing down anytime soon! Thanks to Mrs. Donna Clark and all she does to keep our school running smoothly!



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MRS. DONNA CLARK
MRS. DONNA CLARK, WITH HER SONS TYLER (LEFT) AND MYLES (RIGHT),
DAUGHTER BELLA, AND HUSBAND KENNY.

THE INSIDE SCOOP ON LYDIA SHEPHERD

BY FRANNY REGAN

You may have heard recently that Lydia Shepherd sustained quite the injury on the volleyball court. Despite having to get 12 stitches in her ear, Lydia is still smiling and can’t wait to get back onto the court. Lydia’s bubbly personality and positive approach to everyday make her a lot of fun to be around. Lydia is a senior this year and looking forward to graduation, but sadly, the halls might just be a little bit quieter without her.

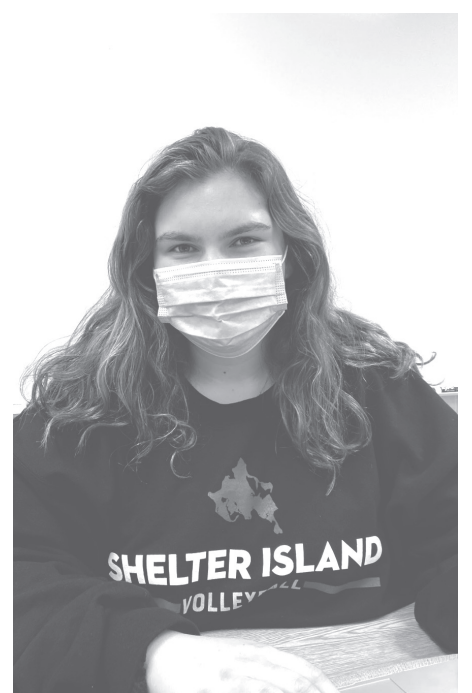
Lydia has lived on Shelter Island all of her life and started school here in preschool. With the exception of a short half year of homeschooling when she was in first grade, Lydia has always been a member of the class of 2021. “Homeschooling,” Lydia shares, “wasn’t for me...my parents realized I needed a more structured education.” Lydia comes from a family of four children—older brothers Tyler (24) and David (23)

were homeschooled and sister Emily (10) is currently attending Shelter Island School. There is no mistaking Lydia’s younger sister Emily; she looks exactly like Lydia and Lydia says, “pictures of us at the same age are crazy, you can’t tell us apart.”

In her free time, Lydia enjoys going to church youth group and shopping. She loves shopping, saying, “I can’t go to TJ Maxx without spending at least 200 bucks.” She also gets her nails done at least every 2 weeks. She journals and likes to go for walks on the beach with her friends very often. In the fall, you will find Lydia on the volleyball court. In the winter she participates in dual sports, so you will see her both cheering for the basketball teams, while also playing basketball. And she finishes off the year with softball in the spring.

On top of it all, Lydia works multiple jobs.

She works at the Shelter Island Historical Society all year round on Saturdays, and she is available to babysit all year round, as well. In the summer you can see her scooping ice cream at the Tuck Shop. And to top it all off, she also mows lawns for her dad’s company! (How does she find the time to go to TJ Maxx?) Lydia’s greatest fear is having to live on her own. However, she plans on going to college after she graduates this year and conquer that fear. She is unsure of what her ideal college will be, but Lydia wants to either become a dental hygienist or a neonatal nurse. In 10 years from now she will be 29 and she says, “Hopefully by that time I will be happily married and my second kid will be on the way. I hope to have 5 kids, 3 girls and 2 boys.” If anyone has the energy to keep up with that busy family plan, it’s Lydia!



THE OVERSTREET FAMILY GROWS BY ONE

BY JALILL CARTER



PHOTO PROVIDED BY OLIVIA OVERSTREET
BABY PRIMROSE SKYLAR WITH HER MOM, TRAMESA, AND HER
BIG SISTER OLIVIA.

On January 23rd, 2021, Shelter Island’s Overstreet family welcomed new baby girl, Primrose Sky Overstreet. Until that day, it had been 11 years since parents Tramesa and Scott Overstreet brought home a new baby. Little Primrose’s unique name was chosen by Mrs. Tramesa Overstreet and is inspired by the beautiful Primrose flower which can be many different colors. For Primrose’s siblings, 11th grader Olivia Overstreet and 5th grader Nathaniel Overstreet, a new baby was both an exciting addition and a game changer in their household. Olivia

jokingly calls the age difference between her and Primrose “almost creepy,” but it is also that age difference which offers the Overstreet family a perfect built-in babysitter in big sister Olivia.

Olivia is very excited to take on the role of being a role model for both of her younger siblings. Her favorite part about bonding with Primrose is just holding her; she describes quiet times with Primrose as “mesmerizing.” Olivia plans to be a big support to her parents. She says, “I plan to help by babysitting whenever my parents are at work or just need a break.” That does not mean it

is all easy, however. Olivia explains, “it’s an adjustment because I have to balance out schoolwork and taking care of my little sister.” Big brother Nathaniel loves having a new baby in the house and says, “I feel great [about Primrose being with us] and I’m happy to have a new little sister.”

As for Mr. and Mrs. Overstreet, they acknowledge that “taking care of a child is very tiring, but at the same time rewarding,” and they are loving their newest addition. Congratulations to the Overstreet family!



Islanders celebrate "Spirit Week"

By Daria Kolmogorova

This year's "Spirit Week," coordinated by Student Council, took place during the first week of March. "Spirit Week" is a way for students and teachers to connect, support school athletics, and participate in fun week-long activities that show off school spirit. Seeing teachers and students participating is always fun and has made this year's late winter drag more bearable. The schedule for this year's "Spirit Week" was: Monday/Pajama Day, Tuesday/Twin Day, Wednesday/Meme Day, Thursday/Throwback to the 70's day, Friday/blue and grey day.



PHOTO BY DARIA KOLMOGOROVA
THE 4TH GRADE DRESSED UP FOR THROWBACK 70S!



PHOTO BY DARIA KOLMOGOROVA
BRANDON VELASQUEZ DRESSED UP AS THE ROCK FOR MEME DAY. SPOT ON WITH THAT FANNY PACK!

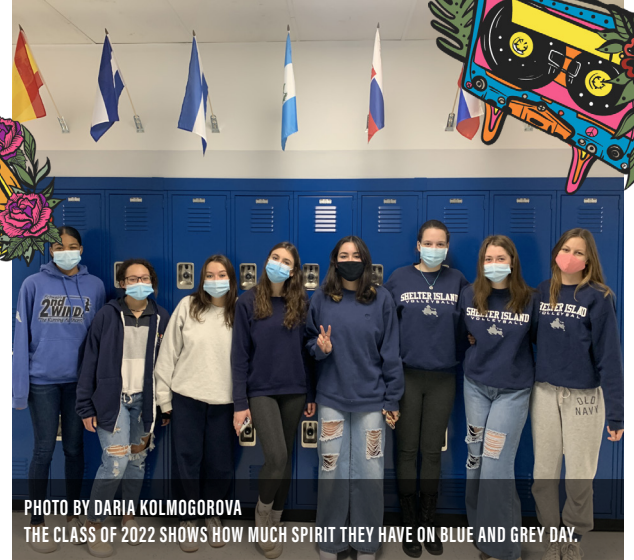


PHOTO BY DARIA KOLMOGOROVA
THE CLASS OF 2022 SHOWS HOW MUCH SPIRIT THEY HAVE ON BLUE AND GREY DAY.

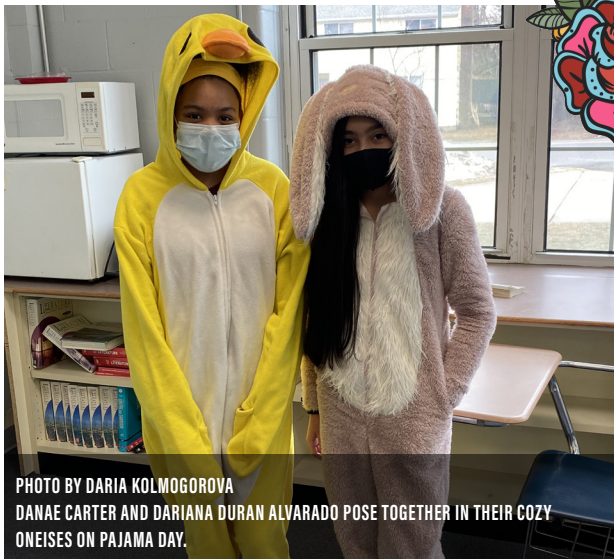


PHOTO BY DARIA KOLMOGOROVA
DANAE CARTER AND DARIANA DURAN ALVARADO POSE TOGETHER IN THEIR COZY ONEISES ON PAJAMA DAY.

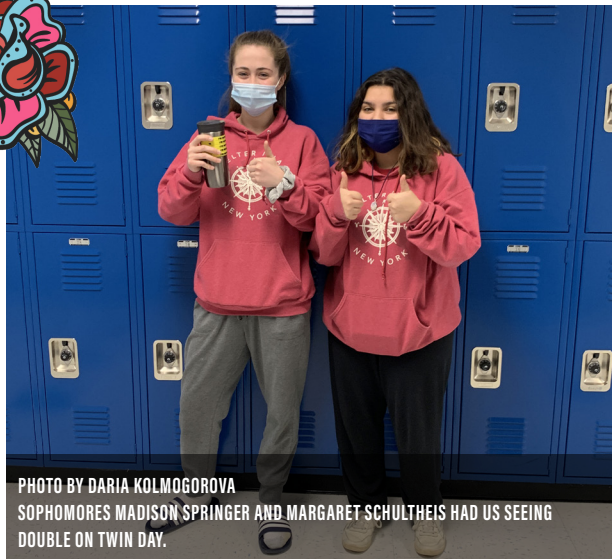


PHOTO BY DARIA KOLMOGOROVA
SOPHOMORES MADISON SPRINGER AND MARGARET SCHULTHEIS HAD US SEEING DOUBLE ON TWIN DAY.

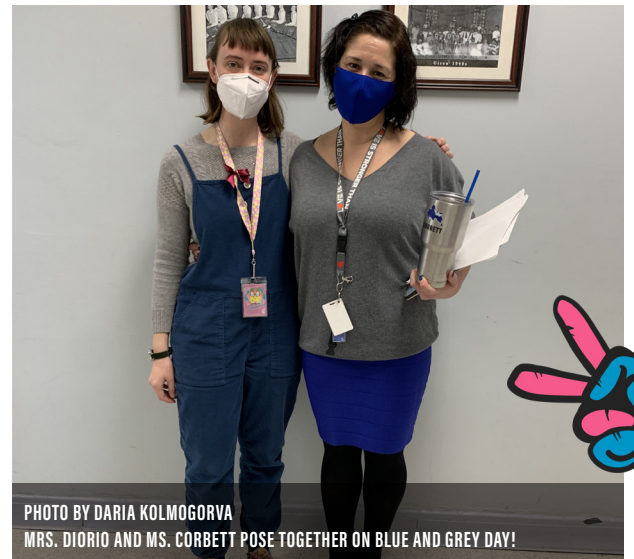


PHOTO BY DARIA KOLMOGOROVA
MRS. DIORIO AND MS. CORBETT POSE TOGETHER ON BLUE AND GREY DAY!

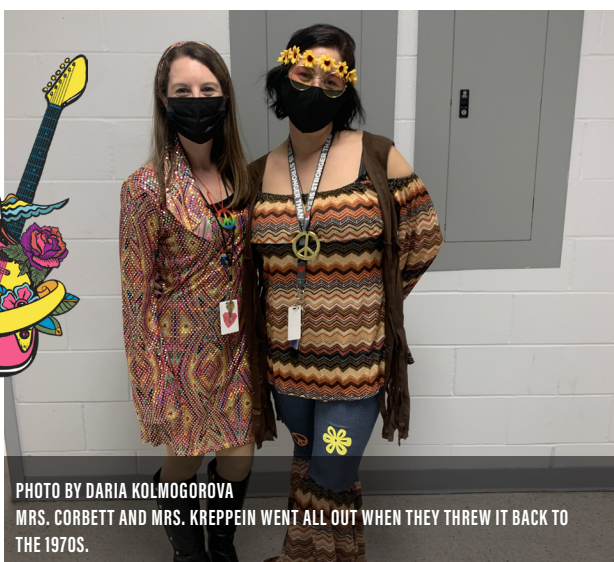


PHOTO BY DARIA KOLMOGOROVA
MRS. CORBETT AND MRS. KREPPIN WENT ALL OUT WHEN THEY THREW IT BACK TO THE 1970S.

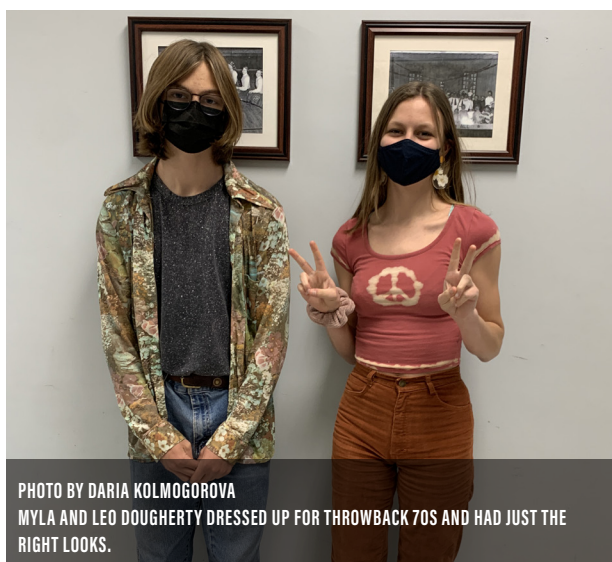


PHOTO BY DARIA KOLMOGOROVA
MYLA AND LEO DOUGHERTY DRESSED UP FOR THROWBACK 70S AND HAD JUST THE RIGHT LOOKS.



PHOTO BY DARIA KOLMOGOROVA
SENIOR NICHOLAS MAMISASHVILI AND HIS LITTLE SISTER NATALIE DRESSED UP TOGETHER FOR TWIN DAY! HOW SWEET!!

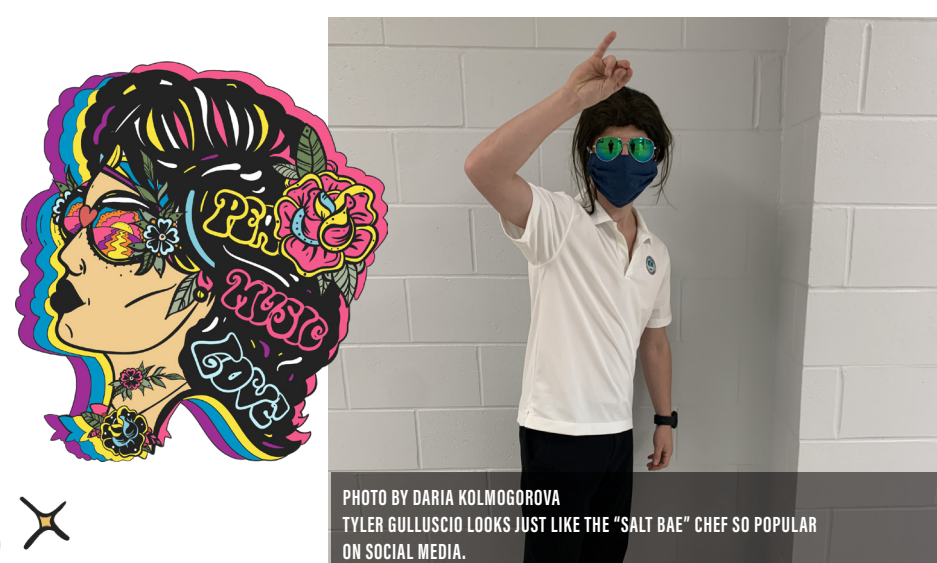


PHOTO BY DARIA KOLMOGOROVA
TYLER GULLUSCIO LOOKS JUST LIKE THE "SALT BAE" CHEF SO POPULAR ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

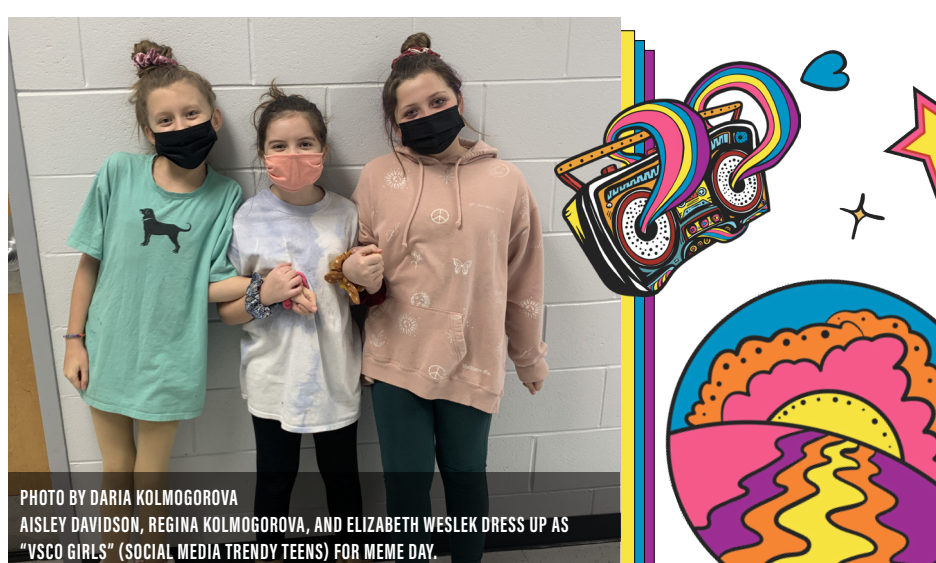
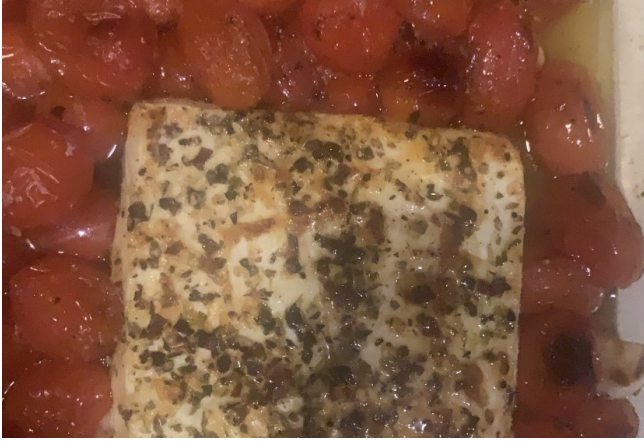


PHOTO BY DARIA KOLMOGOROVA
AISLEY DAVIDSON, REGINA KOLMOGOROVA, AND ELIZABETH WESLEK DRESS UP AS "VSCO GIRLS" (SOCIAL MEDIA TRENDY TEENS) FOR MEME DAY.



Social Media Chef

By Sophie Clark



- 1.** The feta/tomato pasta trending on TikTok: This simple pasta dish has gained so much popularity that grocery stores are reporting feta cheese shortages! It must be good if people are going that crazy to try it, right?

THE RECIPE: Cover a baking sheet with cherry or grape tomatoes, then put a block of feta cheese right on top of the tomatoes in the middle of the baking sheet. Add olive oil, garlic, salt, pepper, and basil and oregano seasonings if you want to. Put the baking sheet into an oven preheated to 400 degrees. Bake for about 30 minutes until the tomatoes have burst. While baking, put a pot of water on the stove and boil your choice of pasta. When the pasta is cooked and the tomatoes and feta are done baking, combine into one pot and stir, creating a creamy sauce. This can also be made with vegan cheese if necessary.

MY RATING: I give this recipe a 9/10. It was very yummy, but go light on the olive oil. I used what the recipe called for--a ¼ cup--and it was too much, you only need a drizzle. Overall this was a delicious cheesy and creamy dish with nice bursts of fresh tomatoes.

- 2.** Pinterest's delicious looking brownies/oreos/chocolate chip cookies for the sweettooth who can't decide whether they want a cookie or a brownie.

THE RECIPE: This recipe calls for a simple layering job. First, prepare a batch of brownies from a box recipe. (You can make these from scratch, but who has the time?) Set the brownie mix aside. Then, either prepare a batch of chocolate chip cookie dough (from a mix or from scratch) or you can buy 2 tubes of the premade chocolate chip cookie dough. Now, the layering starts: grease a glass cake pan and spread the chocolate chip cookie dough in the pan as the base. Then, top the cookie dough with a layer of oreo cookies. Finally, pour the brownie batter on top of it all and put it in an oven preheated to 350 degrees for 30-40 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

MY RATING: I give this a 10/10. (Did you have any doubts?) It is really decadent and rich with the soft oreos and the gooey and oozing brownies.



- 3.** Tik Tok's split tortilla trick: This healthier dessert or snack option for the person who does not even want to turn on an oven! It doesn't get easier than this.

THE RECIPE: Take a flour tortilla and slice it into thirds, but NOT all the way to the middle. Then, fill each 1/3rd of the tortilla with a thin layer of a different filling. I chose to spread one third with Nutella, put strawberry slices on another section, and bananas in the last. After the sections are filled up, simply fold the tortilla over onto itself 3 ways, creating a clean triangle with all of the fillings inside. Then, put the folded tortilla on a warm pan on medium heat and toast it. This recipe can be used with sweet or savory fillings.

MY RATING: 8/10. I found this dessert refreshing, but I need to remake it. There was something a little off about my first attempt, but is worth revisiting.

CLOSET CLOSET CLOSET

Staples
BY DARIA KOLMOGOROVA

Everyone has a favorite item of clothing they wear all the time, an item that is essential in their closet. Check out some of the staple items S.I. students just can't go without.

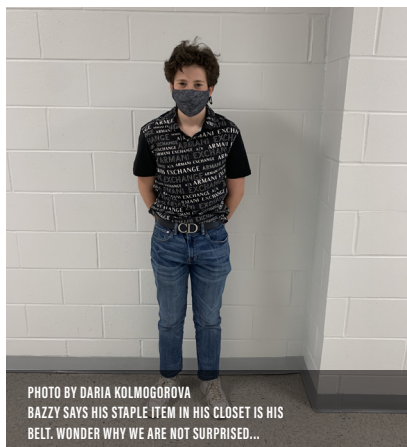


PHOTO BY DARIA KOLMOGOROVA
BAZZY SAYS HIS STAPLE ITEM IN HIS CLOSET IS HIS BELT. WONDER WHY WE ARE NOT SURPRISED...

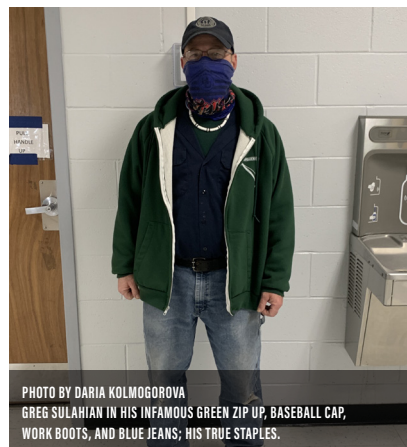


PHOTO BY DARIA KOLMOGOROVA
GREG SULAHIAN IN HIS INFAMOUS GREEN ZIP UP, BASEBALL CAP, WORK BOOTS, AND BLUE JEANS; HIS TRUE STAPLES.

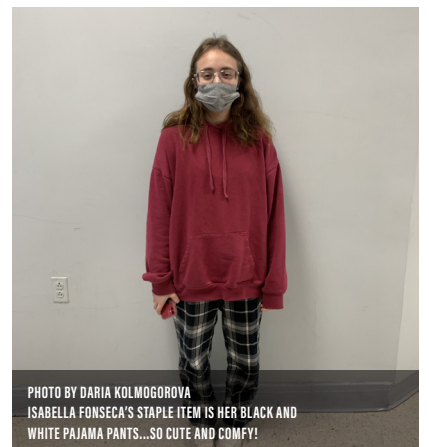


PHOTO BY DARIA KOLMOGOROVA
ISABELLA FONSECA'S STAPLE ITEM IS HER BLACK AND WHITE PAJAMA PANTS...SO CUTE AND COMFY!

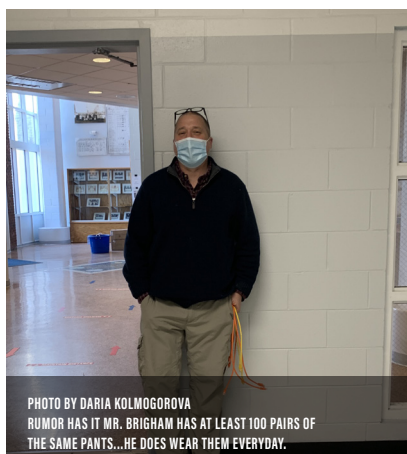


PHOTO BY DARIA KOLMOGOROVA
RUMOR HAS IT MR. BRIGHAM HAS AT LEAST 100 PAIRS OF THE SAME PANTS...HE DOES WEAR THEM EVERYDAY.



PHOTO BY DARIA KOLMOGOROVA
SOPHIE CLARK'S STAPLE ITEM IS HER SHORTS, SHE WEARS THEM ALL YEAR ROUND. NO MATTER WHAT THE WEATHER!



PHOTO BY DARIA KOLMOGOROVA
VALERIA REYES'S CLOSET STAPLE HAS TO BE HER URBAN OUTFITTERS GREY SWEATPANTS. THEY LOOK GOOD WITH ANYTHING AND ARE SUPER COMFY!

GRACIAS POR TODOS LOS RECUERDOS (THANK YOU FOR ALL THE MEMORIES)

BY EMMA TEODORU

As if this year has not been hard enough, Shelter Island High School has recently been informed that one of our dearest teachers will be leaving us. After eighteen years of teaching here, our iconic Spanish teacher, Senorita Laura Leever, has decided it is her time to retire and start a new chapter. Although Senorita has definitely made her mark here at Shelter Island School, she reveals that teaching high school was not what she had initially planned to do. She shares that she originally wanted to become an elementary school teacher, however in the state of California during the 1970s (where she lived in that time), she was required to become bilingual in Spanish in order to land any kind of teaching position. Knowing this, Senorita majored in Spanish when she went to college and quickly picked up on the language. When she was twenty years old, still in college, Senorita spent six weeks in Cuernavaca, Mexico studying at a language institute. She also spent another six weeks studying in Madrid, Spain while obtaining her Master's degree.

Senorita Leever's first teaching position was as a fifth grade bilingual teacher in California in 1982. She recalls being very excited and having lots of energy when she first started and how she didn't face any major challenges. Twenty years later was when Senorita officially became a Spanish teacher for the first time, as it was the only teaching job available in the Hamptons where she was living. Then, in 2003, Shelter Island High School welcomed Senorita Laura Leever to the family. Senorita Leever says she has absolutely loved her time here and is extremely thankful for the "very friendly" and "good hearted" atmosphere the faculty, staff, and students have provided. Not only has she appreciated the school itself, but the drive to get here, as well. She loves taking the ferry commute because it "gives me the opportunity to appreciate all the

beauty within nature."

Over her 18 years here, Senorita Leever has seen the school go through many changes, and she deems most of them to be for the better. She explains how "the rooms and classes have been reconfigured and reassigned a lot over the years" and "areas such as the hallways, lobby and even display cases have been spruced up with wonderful artwork." Yet, more importantly, Senorita says, "there has been actions to be more inclusive and respectful of issues important to our students like the LGBTQ club and the genderless bathrooms, not to mention the changing of our mascot." For Senorita Leever, seeing the evolutions in the school has been positive.

The school is not the only thing that has changed over the years. Senorita herself has made some changes as the years have gone by. She says for the past several years she has followed the motto, "less is more." Why is this? Senorita has taken notice of the rising stress levels in kids nowadays and she doesn't want her class to add stress onto kids. I think I can vouch for every high school student when I say this is very much appreciated and highly considerate of her, and one of the many reasons we all love her. Senorita Leever recounts some of her favorite memories here at Shelter Island, including: "Restarting the Spain trip, the senior cruise to the Bahamas with the class of 2009, going with students to help in the Rockaways after Superstorm Sandy, the fun videos students would create, and the amazing skits classes would put on for 'Anything Goes.'" "But," Senorita says, "my fondest memories are the everyday interactions with the students when we could laugh and connect and have a good time together." There are many things Senorita Leever will miss, as well. For one, she is going to miss being current with modern day teenage slang. She explains, "I won't know the latest expressions to say

like, 'Your fit is lowkey fire.' My favorite one was 'Spill the tea, sis.'" And, on a more serious note, Senorita will miss "witnessing the process of little 7th grade children maturing into young men and women--that is really amazing!" she shares. We have grown up with Senorita Leever nearby for our middle school and high school years and it was a gift for us to have her with us through all of our changes as we have gotten older. She will be dearly missed!

We were surprised to hear that Senorita would be moving on this year, and in fact, it was not her original plan. She explains, "my plan was to retire in two more years, but your plans aren't always what's best for you in the long run, they don't always work out the way you want them to." So, what did influence her decision to retire a bit earlier than she had originally planned? Well, there are a couple of reasons. "COVID definitely has had an impact, the only way I know how to teach is in person and it's really the only way I enjoy it. Also, technology is becoming a huge source of teaching and I don't understand it enough to make it a useful tool while I teach. Beyond all that, even though I planned to teach for another two years, my body is telling me it's time to move on and start a new chapter in my life. I was very nervous at first because I've worked since I was sixteen, so the idea of not being employed is very different, but I have a ton of outside interests so I will keep myself occupied." So, what are Senorita's retirement plans? She would like to, "travel mostly in the United States at first. I'm considering perhaps getting a van and traveling around the country to National Parks or spending winters in the southwest. I just want to be out in quiet, beautiful nature." With a nod to the perpetual Hampton soundtrack, she laughed and said, "someplace with no helicopters and no leaf blowers!" During her travels, Senorita says,



PHOTO BY EMMA TEODORU
SENIORITA LEEVER IS ALL SMILES
CONTEMPLATING RETIREMENT.

"I want to do community service, I want to be useful in any way that I can." She looks forward to finding the time to spend on things she would like to do and pursue, as she puts it, "what doesn't get done will just get put off until tomorrow because I will have all the time in the world. I'm looking forward to the adventure aspect of it all...what will come up in the years to come, maybe things I haven't even thought about. I'll have more time to visit family and friends."

On a personal note, and I am sure I speak for so many current and former students, I am very grateful to have had Senorita Leever throughout my years in middle and high school and I'm glad to be graduating now so that I can end it with her, and her only, as my Spanish teacher. There are no words to describe how much the entire school will miss her. Her constant positivity, her warm heart and her "Holas!" will be so missed. Although this is a very hard goodbye for us, it's an exciting new journey for her. We all wish you happiness, lots of love, and the best wishes as you embark on your new chapters. You will never be forgotten here...got that, "sis?" Until next time, Adios Señorita y gracias por todos los recuerdos.

SHELTER ISLAND ELEMENTARY MARKS 100 DAYS OF SCHOOL

BY MACKENZIE SPEECE

February 24th was our 100th day of school and the elementary school celebrated it in style. It is hard to believe that the 100th day of the school year has come and gone. Before we know it, this year will be over. The 100th day of school is a big deal for the elementary school. They went all out with decorations and everything. Third grade teacher Mrs. Knipfing explained that the festive vibe began as soon as kids entered school. She shares, "As the children entered the elementary hallway, they were greeted with a huge banner and balloons. Classes took pictures in front of the banner" all day. Each elementary

class participated in a variety of 100th Day themed activities throughout the day. Mrs. Knipfing's third graders were "given 100 second challenges," which she explains were "quick, silly challenges for them to do. Some of the challenges consisted of how many times could they touch their toes in 100 seconds, how many times they could stick out their tongues in 100 seconds, how many times they could write their names in 100 seconds, and many more." The winners even earned fun prizes.

First grade teacher Mrs. Woods also had a fun day in store for her class. The first graders "measured 100ft

with a measuring tape and made a chalk snake 100ft long on the black top," Mrs. Woods shared. "They also predicted how many Cheerios were in a single container and with the help of a hundreds grid, they counted them." (For those curious, they discovered there were 200 in a container.) Finally, they got artistic and "fingerpainted 100 gumballs on a gumball machine." The elementary sure got creative marking the 100th day of school this year!

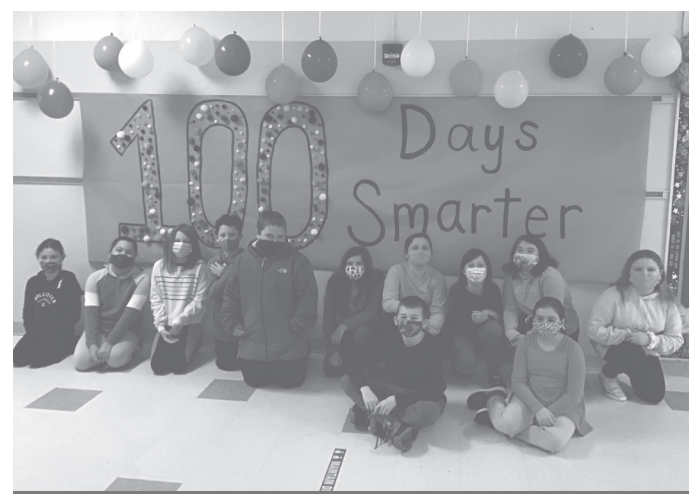


PHOTO PROVIDED BY MRS. KNIPFING
STUDENTS POSE IN FRONT OF THE CELEBRATORY 100TH DAY OF SCHOOL BANNER
IN THE ELEMENTARY HALLWAY.

SHELTER ISLAND TRAIL GUIDE

BY MYLA DOUGHERTY

There are many things that make our island a special place and attract summer visitors, including the beaches, unique ferry rides, woods, wetlands, and wildlife. While everyone knows about Mashomack Preserve, the beautiful nature preserve that makes up one third of the island, there are public trails and open spaces all over Shelter Island that some may not know about. Here is a list of ten of my favorite places to walk and enjoy nature here on Shelter Island! For a full list and map of public spaces, you can visit the town website.

SACHEM’S WOODS

This trail can be entered on North Midway Road, and hikers can follow it along a loop, exit the trail on 114 next to the Islander, or on 114 across from the Quaker Meeting Place. The trail goes through oak and beech trees, and is a good place to search for the edible chicken of the woods mushrooms. The centerpiece of this preserve has to be the giant white pine tree that sits in a clearing in the middle of the loop.

GARDINER’S CREEK PRESERVE

Adjacent to Route 114 and the Quaker Meeting Place is Gardiner’s Creek Preserve. Two stone pillars make the entrance to the open field scattered with a few trees, and the short path up a hill. The preserve is right at the end of Gardiner’s Creek, which can be seen through the trees and reeds, and which connects out to Second Bridge and Dering Harbor in the distance. This park is a great place for a short walk or a picnic under one of the white pine or cedar trees, and in the summer is a prime spot to see butterflies, who flock to the orange butterfly weed that covers the meadow.

SYLVESTER MANOR

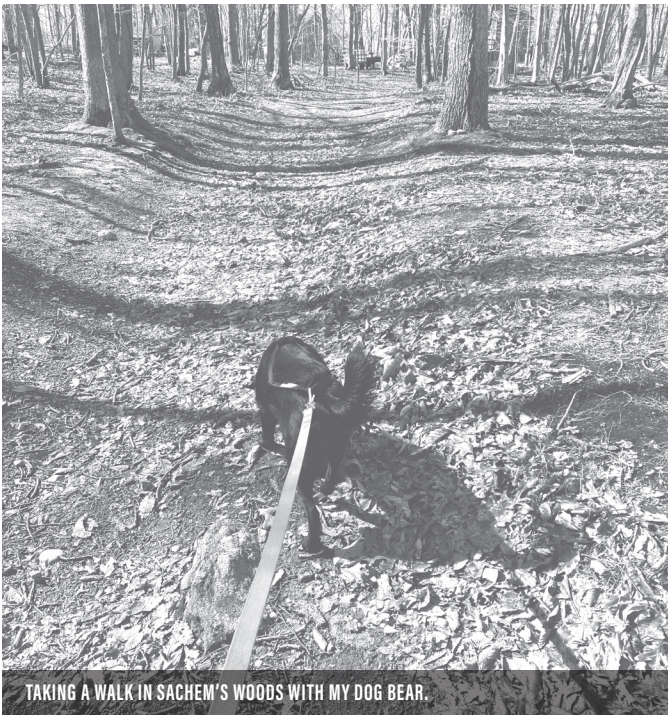
Besides being an educational farm and historical site, Sylvester Manor also opens up their hikeable trails and grounds to the public. Hikers can enter the manor grounds from the Quaker Meeting Place and walk on a trail surrounded by white pines to get to the manor lawn, from which they can enjoy views of Second Bridge across the water and sit under the shade of the ancient red beech tree. From there they can walk out on the manor’s driveway to 114, walk across the land bridge onto trails that go along Gardiner’s Creek and lead out to Second Bridge, explore the garden, or walk onto the farm trails that follow the cow fields and go to the farm portion of Sylvester Manor. There you can pay a visit to the farm stand, look for the pigs and chickens, or admire the newly renovated windmill!

CRAB CREEK PRESERVE

The tall grasses that make up the meadow portion of this preserve can be seen from Brander Parkway, which is another great place to spot butterflies looking for milkweed. A path through the meadow leads out to the woods, which don’t have a clear trail, but can be explored. From the woods hikers can see views of Crab Creek, and search along the water’s edge for wild blueberries in the summer.

MILDRED HIRD PRESERVE

This somewhat recently opened preserve on Manhasset Road has an eastern and a western side. On the east is a trail loop that travels through a gorgeous oak and beech forest. The path is wide and clear with ferns growing alongside it, and is easy to hike. On the west is a short path that provides views of Julia Dodd Creek, a mossy wetland area with more abundant beeches, and a treasure trove of old bottles for those brave enough to trek into the muck.



OLD NURSERY WOODLANDS PRESERVE

This preserve can be accessed from St. Mary’s Road, and has multiple trail loops that wind through various types of trees including bamboo that are left over from the nursery that used to be there. One highlight of these trails is the strange twisty tree that makes for good climbing.

OLD LIMA BEAN FIELDS PRESERVE

A bright red tractor on the corner of Cobbett’s Lane and Manhasset road points out the entrance to the Old Lima Bean Fields Preserve. The tractor is a part of this preserve’s history as a lima bean farm, which is now an area of natural woods as well as rows of trees leftover from when the land was a nursery.

ICE POND PARK

This park is a fantastic spot in all types of weather. The open field and picnic bench make for a good place to sit and eat while enjoying the view of the water, but visitors can also walk the short loop that goes around the pond, where they can search for turtles, birds, and frogs. The old tower is also a cool piece of history to enjoy. In the winter (if it gets cold enough) adventurous people can even ice skate on the pond!

WEST NECK PRESERVE

This newly acquired preserve that used to be a tree nursery was just cleared, and now is a large field littered with a few leftover locust and evergreen trees that will be good for picnics or just enjoying nature. Situated across the street from Bootlegger’s Alley, visitors can go to the beach and also the woods within a few minutes of walking.

FOXEN POINT TIDAL WETLANDS

Accessed from a dirt road off of North Cartwright Road and South of Burns Road is this New York State owned preserve. The tidal wetlands are protected, and cannot be accessed, but hikers can walk along the dirt road and into the woods to see views of Coecles Harbor and Congdon’s Creek, and can walk along the beach out to Congdon’s Point.

Ranking Shelter Island Beaches

BY EMMA MARTINEZ



#1 WADES BEACH



#2 CRESCENT BEACH



#3 HAY BEACH



#4 SHELL BEACH



#5 BEACH CLUB

Looking for the perfect spot to place your beach towel in the summer? We asked some of the students, parents, and community members what their favorite Shelter Island beaches were from favorite to least favorite, and here is what the majority said:



WADES BEACH - a fun place to take your friends and family to relax and sunbathe or to splash around and have a beach party. Bonus points for a killer sunset in the summer.



CRESCENT BEACH - although similar to Wades in its fun aspect, crescent can fill up pretty quickly. But you have to admit, an exhilarating game of beach volleyball is a great way to spend a day at the beach.



HAY BEACH - a nice, peaceful beach where not many people go. It’s a perfect place for people who enjoy relaxing with not too many people around.



SHELL BEACH - this beach can be fun to walk on with your dogs, but there are just too many boats around sending waves your way.



BEACH CLUB - although it comes with a swing set and a basketball court, this little piece of sand is not the ideal place to chillax on a hot summer day.

MODERN SPIRITUALITY

BY EMMA MARTINEZ

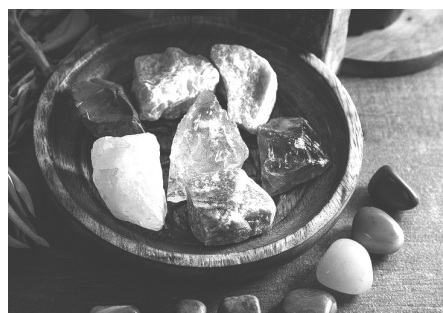
Recently, modern takes on spirituality have become popular amongst young people seeking a peaceful and stress-free life. The meaning of spirituality has developed and expanded over time, but it essentially means the recognition of a feeling or sense or belief that there is something greater than yourself, something more to being human than sensory experience, and that the greater whole of which we are part is cosmic or divine in nature. Spirituality can come in all shapes in forms, whether you are religious, you meditate, you use crystals, or other methods. Let's take a look at the different ways many young people start their spiritual journeys.

Crystals are believed to promote the flow of positive energy and allow the body and mind to rid themselves of negative energy for physical and emotional benefits. Historically, crystals have been used as ancient forms of medicine, with philosophies borrowed from Hinduism and Buddhism. In Hinduism, crystals are a part of something called gem healing, or Jyotish, which is a Vedic astrological system.



Jyotish believes that crystals are related to the various planets of our solar system and produce a balancing effect to counter specific diseases. Jyotish was studied and used for physical, mental, and spiritual healing. Today, crystals are being used for similar reasons, only for more mental and spiritual healing rather than physical. Some mainstream crystals include amethyst, which promotes stress relief, protection, and encourages you to open your Third Eye, rose quartz, which opens the heart to hold more unconditional love for yourself and others and to practice empathy and trust, clear quartz, which allows focus, good luck, success, and growth, and citrine, which encourages joy, abundance, and transmutation. Some choose to wear the crystals as jewelry, some rub them around an area that requires healing, and some meditate with them. Crystals can be recharged with moon water, incense, sage, or himalyan pink salt. But remember, research which crystals can and can't go into salt or water!

Another common practice of spirituality is meditation. Meditation is a technique used to clear the jumbled thoughts from your brain and allow you to focus on the present moment. It can reduce stress greatly, lessen anxiety, lengthen attention span, and improve sleep. Personally, I enjoy finding a calm, quiet place with a nice view to meditate. I'll set up a blanket, have a bottle of water with me, bring my favorite crystals, and maybe even some incense. Meditating helps erase the everyday



stress of my busy student life, encourages me to work on my breathing, and makes me feel more at peace when I am finished. Some people also choose to chant out loud. Many use the Sanskrit word "shanti," which means "peace," but you can also choose a word from your own religious or spiritual tradition.

Still not convinced to start broadening your spiritual horizons? I asked some Shelter Island students about their own spiritual journeys, how it started, how it's going, and their favorite crystals. Olivia Overstreet, a junior, shares, "I started with crystals last summer. I was looking for some Zen. I often wear an amethyst crystal around my neck for protection and it absorbs negative energy. Bella Springer made it for me." Bella Springer, also a junior and a well-known crystal collector among the spiritual student community, wire wraps different crystals and turns them into jewelry to be worn by the friends she gifts them to. Lily Page, a junior, opens up about how crystals offered "self-healing" while she was in quarantine and that her favorite crystal is rose



quartz because she is "a romantic person and it represents love." Lily also practices tarot card reading, which is the practice of using tarot cards to gain insight into the past, present, or future by formulating a question, then drawing and interpreting cards. Angelina Rice, a junior, says, "My favorite crystal is malachite because it's good for setting intentions and balance, which is a super difficult thing to achieve especially this year. It just makes me feel more confident in things I'm trying to accomplish. A close second is amazonite because it's good for encouragement, which is also something I've been needing a lot of this year." Learning about something you are passionate about makes you feel happy and confident, especially if it is centered around self-care like spirituality is! The last piece of advice Angelina leaves us with is: "Don't force anything, and doing your own research is super important. You can definitely interpret certain things differently than other people, so it's good to form your own opinions on wherever it is by researching first."

OLD BUT GOLD: THE JOYS OF COMFORT TELEVISION

BY EMMA TEODORU

You find yourself tossing and turning in the middle of the night, unable to fall asleep. So, what do you do to fix this? You turn on the TV and put on a show that will help you sleep better. You're becoming stressed with the amount of work you have to do in such a short amount of time. So, what do you do? You put on that same show to help ease your mind while you're working, it somehow directs your focus even though you aren't even watching the show. You just got home from a long tiring day and the first thing you do is turn on the TV, to that exact same show you always do. Why is this? Why do you always redirect the television to that one specific show every single time? Even after you've probably seen the series about a dozen times? It is called "comfort TV." Having a "comfort TV show" means you have attached yourself to a certain series based on the vibes and feelings it provides for you. People feel a sense of warmth, safety, and, well, comfort while watching their comfort

show of choice. It eases their minds, distracts them from any built up stress, or simply elevates them to a higher level of relaxation. One's comfort show is a show that you can never get tired of, even if it's constantly on, one that you'll always appreciate and one that will always have a special place in your heart. For me, my comfort show is, and always will be, the series "Friends." "Friends" has been my go-to for about five years now, and while people think I must be getting tired of it, I'm not, and don't see that ever happening. "Friends" is a very lighthearted series filled with characters that are easy to fall in love with. The series does a very good job with character development and always provides an entertaining storyline. To this day I always turn on "Friends" when I want to relax.

I wondered if I was in the minority having a go-to comfort TV show, so I asked around. Here are some comfort shows Shelter Island students turn to in their times of need: Senior

Lydia Shepherd shares that her comfort TV show is "Gilmore Girls." She likes how it's "super mellow and how nothing intense happens," so she can always count on the calm atmosphere it provides. Junior Valeria Reyes throws it back to the popular 2004 Nickelodeon sitcom, "Drake & Josh" and explains how she finds it to be "the funniest show ever made and how she is able to get anything done while it's playing on her TV." Senior Wyatt Congdon tunes into, "Kitchen Nightmares" starring the iconic Chef Gordon Ramsay. Wyatt says "I just like watching people get yelled at by Gordon Ramsay, it's really funny." Senior Brandon Velasquez curiously states that his "comfort" TV show is the crime thriller "Criminal Minds." He says, "I've always been into crime shows. It's just something to put on even if I'm not paying attention. It's a great show to binge because every episode is a new story." Senior Jane Richards and junior Franny Regan both experienced a comfort TV

nightmare when their original comfort shows were taken off of Netflix! (Jane's was "How I Met Your Mother" and Franny's was "The Office.") Both ladies now find comfort in "New Girl." Franny likes how, "It's always had happy themes and can always make me laugh," while Jane admits that at this point, she knows most of the dialogue on the show and can even quote it. Senior Nicholas Mamisashvili, always an original, does not have a comfort TV show, but admits he finds comfort in watching Mario Kart Wii videos on YouTube. "The attitudes of the videos are very infectious," he explained with a smile.

Comfort TV is just one way to help ease anxiety and feel like you have an old friend nearby. No matter how many times you see "your show," it will always manage to put a smile on your face. I, for one, am not giving up on my "Friends."

THE RETURN OF MINECRAFT

BY CALEB LAMBERT

Minecraft is back! Minecraft is a "sandbox" video game. A "sandbox game" is an open world game, which means you can freely move around and do what you want within the world of the game itself. Players can travel and explore new biomes and fight mobs of creatures such as spiders, skeletons, and more. Players can also make potions and travel to different dimensions like "the nether" or "the end." Minecraft can be played on iPhone, Android, PlayStation, Xbox, PC, Nintendo Switch, Wii U, and more, making

it very accessible to anyone who wants to try it. Minecraft originally came out in 2011 and was very popular for many years. After first trending, the game did not get as much attention, but Minecraft has made a major comeback over the last couple of years.

So, why is Minecraft back and often being played by older teens? One key reason why Minecraft has come back is because it is a very social game and has been a great way for kids and teens to communicate with each other during days of social distancing

and lockdowns. On the game, you can play with friends or join servers with other people, enhancing the social experience. Maybe surprisingly, 43% of the player base for Minecraft is 15-21 year olds.

The goal of Minecraft is to survive mobs, explore different biomes/caves, and build communities. Players can be as creative as they want and the game never ends, so it can be played for as long as one wants. If in Minecraft you "die," you just respawn...you may have to start over in some way, but it

does not have to end. Minecraft has been the perfect antidote to boredom, stress, and being stuck inside during a pandemic; and now that the player base has grown so much, it shows no signs of slowing down. Senior Emma Martinez says "I love Minecraft because it encourages you to be as creative as possible, and teaches you the fundamentals of time management, programming skills, teamwork, and problem solving." Minecraft has a lot to offer and if you have not played or took a break, you should check it back out.

WINTER SPORTS ENDING, SPRING SPORTS BEGINNING

BY JALILL CARTER

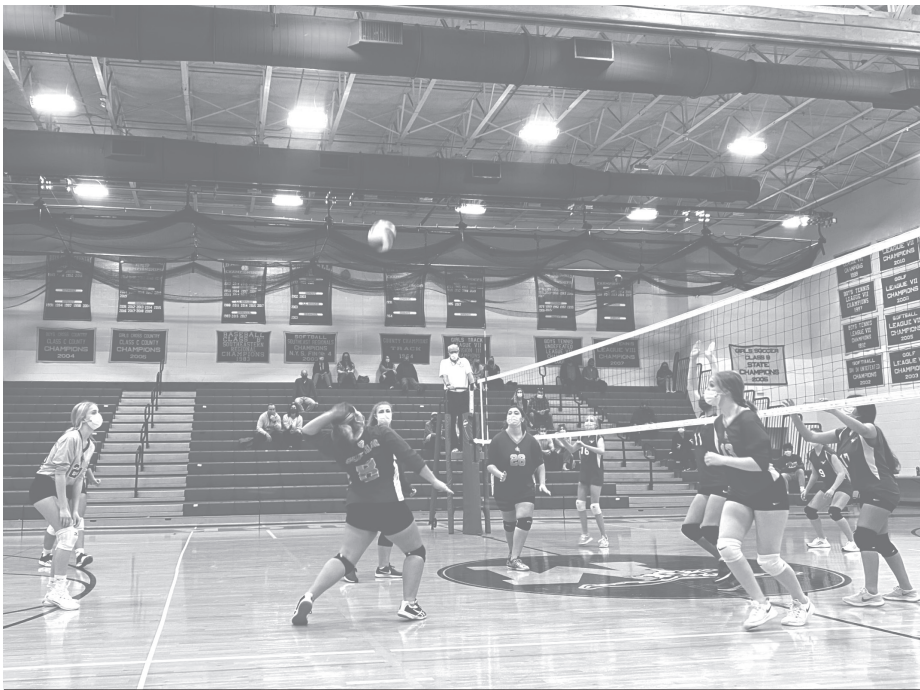


PHOTO BY MYLA DOUGHERTY
MARGARET SCHULTEIS WINDING UP FOR A HIT IN THE JUNIOR VARSITY VOLLEYBALL TEAM'S GAME AGAINST MATTITUCK.

Sports this year have been quite different overall, and with shortened seasons, winter sports went by in a flash and spring/fall sports have started up. Fall sports like golf, cross country, and volleyball have been moved into the spring, making the environment a little different. On a positive note, in recent weeks limited spectators (two per athlete at home venues only) are now able to watch games/meets in person. Spectators need a pass to verify they are watching athletes at a home course/gym. And, if you are not lucky enough to score a

pass, there is still the option to keep up with sports on the NFHS network system. It might not be the "same," but at least our sports are back, which is a great thing for athletes and coaches alike.

This year the winter track season was quite an experience. Even with winter track designated a "low-risk" sport, the county and school teams still had to follow safety guidelines for Covid-19. The rules were not really that hard to follow; all students had to do was wear masks until their event started, and stay socially distanced. The hardest part

was that all events were outside and it was very cold. Usually students would be indoors during the winter track season, and some students felt the weather posed a conflict with their athletic performances. Senior Jason Green shares, "It was often very cold and windy and some days the weather would really affect our performance." So, for some, the season was a tough one, but overall athletes were thankful just to be able to participate on this year's winter track team. Basketball is one sport many doubted would come back. It is a close contact sport and athletes were overjoyed when the country gave hoops the green light. Both the ladies' and men's Islanders teams fought hard on the courts this year. The boys basketball team had a great short season with a record of 4-4. This last season felt somewhat emotional for some of the seniors because it was their last year and the season did not last very long. Senior Junior Gil says "I was glad we had the opportunity to have a final basketball season, but I wish we would have had the chance to practice for a longer time." With such a short season, games dominated the basketball schedule, leaving little time for practices in between. The Lady Islanders did not have a successful season in the wins column this year, but that doesn't

mean they didn't go all out. Junior Valeria Reyes comments, "I was still very satisfied with being able to play with other teams, even though our season was cut short. I was glad I had something to do rather than being home."

With winter sports over, "fall in the spring sports" have started up. Golf, a low risk sport, is in full swing and despite masking rules, our golfers are looking to have fun this year. Senior Bradley Batten is excited to hit the links and shares, "It's a miracle we are able to come out here and have fun and (Coach) Bob would really like it if we all became golfers."

Girls volleyball has also gotten back on the court. As of presstime, varsity girls are riding an impressive winning record, with captain Jane Richards "very happy at how the team has come together this year." Junior varsity volleyball is also racking up the wins and player Olivia Overstreet is happy to be a part of the team, saying, "It is really fun. My favorite part is diving for the ball. I skipped a season and did cross country instead and now that I am back in volleyball, I regret that choice and I wish I had kept going with volleyball all along." Best of luck to all of our Islander athletes as they finish out their current seasons!

DECA CLUB UPDATES

BY MYLA DOUGHERTY

Like many other events this year, DECA (a national business and leadership club), moved online. In December, students from Shelter Island in the DECA Club took multiple choice tests online on different branches within business, such as marketing, entrepreneurship, finance, and more. DECA is the largest club at Shelter Island School, made up of almost half the high school. From the 31 students in the club, 4 students qualified to move on from the regional (Suffolk County) competition, to the state competition. While state competitors would normally travel to Albany to attend states, this year they stayed home and participated remotely. In the state competition, students

had to take another multiple choice test, and also record and upload role play scenarios in which they provided solutions for different business problems. Senior Tyler Gulluscio competed in Marketing Communication, junior Emmett Cummings in Entrepreneurship, sophomore John Febles Torres in Financial Consulting, and junior Myla Dougherty in Human Resources Management. Myla and John both made the top ten in their categories, and Myla will be competing at the national level in April. DECA Club will be continuing this year with events for its members, including alumni speakers.



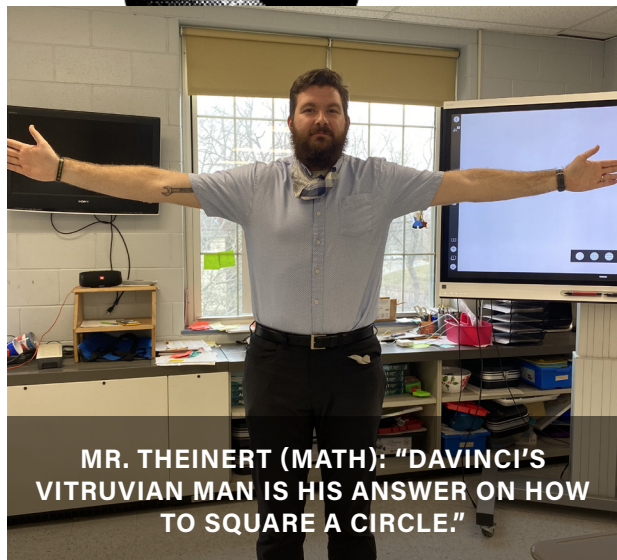
PHOTO COURTESY OF MRS. TUTHILL
MEMBERS OF THE DECA CLUB POSING FOR A YEARBOOK PHOTO.



Odd Facts Edition

BY AROLD0 PANTALEON-CASTRO

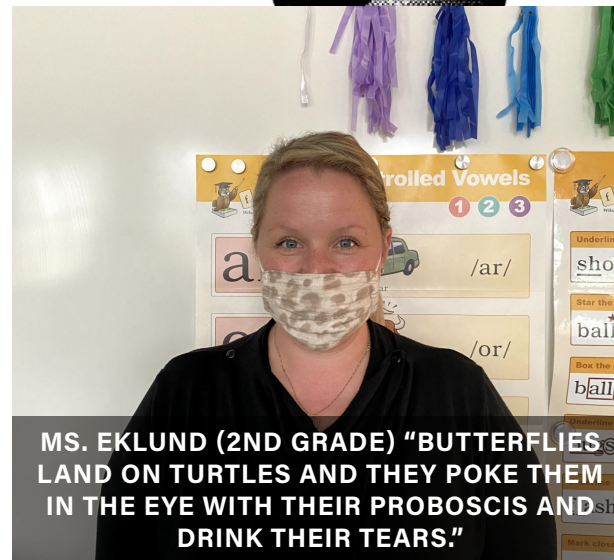
FOR THIS ISSUE'S "AROUND THE HALLS," I ASKED:
"WHAT IS THE MOST RIDICULOUS FACT YOU KNOW?"



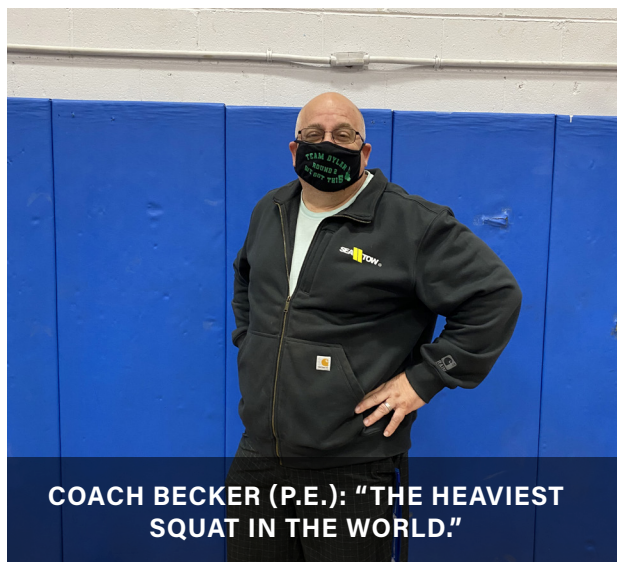
MR. THEINERT (MATH): "DAVINCI'S VITRUVIAN MAN IS HIS ANSWER ON HOW TO SQUARE A CIRCLE."



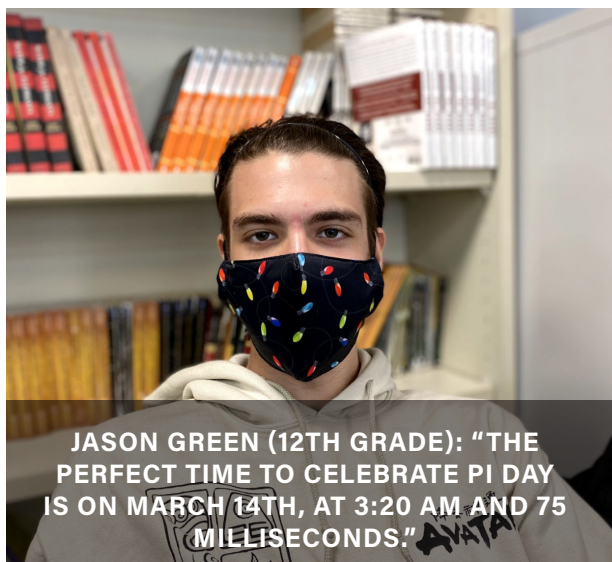
JALILL CARTER (12TH GRADE): "MALE SEA OTTERS ARE EXTREMELY AGGRESSIVE."



MS. EKLUND (2ND GRADE) "BUTTERFLIES LAND ON TURTLES AND THEY POKE THEM IN THE EYE WITH THEIR PROBOSCIS AND DRINK THEIR TEARS."



COACH BECKER (P.E.): "THE HEAVIEST SQUAT IN THE WORLD."



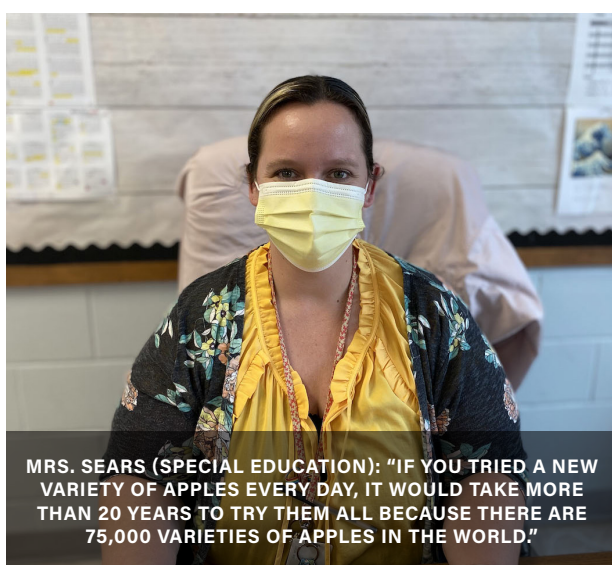
JASON GREEN (12TH GRADE): "THE PERFECT TIME TO CELEBRATE PI DAY IS ON MARCH 14TH, AT 3:20 AM AND 75 MILLISECONDS."



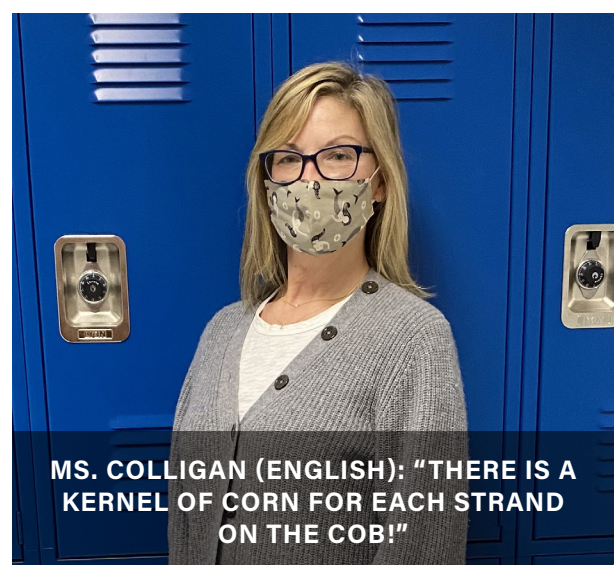
JANE RICHARDS (12TH GRADE): "SLOTHS SLEEP FOR 20 HOURS A DAY."



MS. ALBANO (SOCIAL WORKER) "THE MOST RIDICULOUS FACT IS THAT I DON'T KNOW A RIDICULOUS FACT."



MRS. SEARS (SPECIAL EDUCATION): "IF YOU TRIED A NEW VARIETY OF APPLES EVERY DAY, IT WOULD TAKE MORE THAN 20 YEARS TO TRY THEM ALL BECAUSE THERE ARE 75,000 VARIETIES OF APPLES IN THE WORLD."



MS. COLLIGAN (ENGLISH): "THERE IS A KERNEL OF CORN FOR EACH STRAND ON THE COB!"



MS. MAYO (ENL): "KANGAROOS CAN'T JUMP BACKWARDS."



OLIVIA OVERSTREET (11TH GRADE): "IF YOU DON'T CLEAN YOUR LINT OUT THE DRYER YOU CAN CAUSE FIRE."

