



RIZZ QUIZ

Do you have rizz? Sometimes it's tough to self-assess, so head to **PAGE 8** to take our "Rizz Quiz"!



DYNAMIC DUOS

To see some of our school's most dynamic friendships, turn to "Dynamic Duos" **PAGE 10**!



THE OUTLET

The Outlet is back! Check out **PAGES 6 & 7** to see some exceptional student art work.

## THE INLET

Vol. 11, No. 3

SHELTER ISLAND SCHOOL

MARCH 2023

# ROHAN MURPHY A UNIQUE GUY WITH A UNIQUE STORY

BY THE INLET STAFF

On March 2nd, Shelter Island School secondary students had the exciting opportunity to listen to youth motivational speaker Rohan Murphy. Murphy was born with a birth defect that ultimately led to the amputation of his legs at age four. As a child, he underwent a score of surgeries and spent years in and out of the hospital. Murphy did not attend public school until 3rd grade due to his medical needs and it was when he first entered the classroom that he truly understood he was different. Challenges ensued, but Murphy told students how through the struggles, he found purpose and triumph. Murphy's message to his audience: "No excuses. You want something out of life? Go earn it."

The turning point in Rohan Murphy's life came in 8th grade. "Listen," he told students, "teachers and administrators have the power to change your lives for the better." For Murphy, it was his 8th grade physical education teacher whom he affectionately calls "Coach," who changed the course of Murphy's life. Murphy had long admired athletes and yearned to be involved in sports, but did not know if it was possible due to his physical limitations. Coach first made Murphy the middle school soccer team manager, then after seeing his dedication, made him the wrestling team manager that same winter. After some thought, Coach pushed Murphy even further, telling him, "you could wrestle like anyone else." Murphy was in disbelief at the time, but, as he explained, "Coach did not give up on me, even after I said no many times." Murphy's mother was hesitant, as he explained,

"She was worried about me getting hurt. She told me, 'you'll be at a huge disadvantage.'" One thing about Murphy is clear however, when he is underestimated or told he can't, it fuels him to succeed. As he told the audience, "I can never tell someone I can't do something because I am disabled, because I don't have legs." So began Murphy's wrestling career. At his first practice, Murphy removed his prosthetic legs in front of his teammates for the first time. He had worn prosthetic legs in school daily because, in his words, "I was so ashamed of being different, of being who he was." When he removed his legs and hit the mat, a new confidence emerged. He realized "wearing prosthetic legs was like wearing shackles." Today, Murphy does not wear prosthetic legs.

Wrestling became Murphy's passion. After a losing season his first year, he sought out the most rigorous and punishing wrestling camp in the country and attended a 28 day program at the University of Minnesota designed to build skills and mental and physical toughness. Murphy excelled and then returned to the varsity wrestling squad and ended the next season with 25 wins and only 6 losses. Successes on the mat fueled bigger dreams for Murphy. Despite an infuriating session with a school counselor in which she suggested he "go on disability after graduation and seek out vocational programs," Murphy stuck to his ultimate goal: to attend Penn State University and wrestle for a D1 program. Upon meeting the Penn State wrestling coach, Murphy was offered a managerial position on the



PHOTO BY MR. THEINERT  
MEMBERS OF THE INLET STAFF (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: LUCA MARTINEZ, LEONARDO DOUGHERTY, SOPHIE CLARK) AND ROHAN MURPHY SMILE FOR THE CAMERA AFTER MURPHY'S DYNAMIC PRESENTATION.

team. He clarified he wanted to wrestle, not manage. The coach admitted he "was skeptical," but offered Murphy a tryout. "To make a long story short," Murphy chuckled as he told his audience, "I went to Penn State and I wrestled D1 for them."

Students and teachers alike were rapt as Murphy detailed his life's journey so far. Social Studies teacher Mr. Brennan remarked, "I thought it was an impressive presentation and was very glad to see how engaged our students were. I especially liked his question and answer portion." Students gasped when Murphy shared that he can bench press 350 pounds and do over 100 handstand push ups in a row. These physical feats, though impressive, were not at the heart of Murphy's message. What he wanted to communicate was clear: "A lot of people

take things for granted in life. From here on out, appreciate the little things in life." Reflecting on his own experience, Murphy said, "I think some people, when they see me in public, look down on me. They think I have been dealt a bad hand, but I know that just because you are dealt a bad hand doesn't mean you have to fold." Students heard his message loud and clear. Junior Kat Austin shared, "I thought it was inspiring how Rohan pushed through adversity." Junior Kaitlyn Gulluscio agreed, adding, "Rohan overcame obstacles and rose above everything and is living a great life he is so happy with—that is inspiring."

Rohan Murphy is doing his "dream job" speaking to kids and sharing his story. Murphy is proud of the independent life he leads: he drives, travels all over the

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Shelter Island U.F.S.D.  
P.O. Box 2015  
Shelter Island, New York 11964  
[www.ShelterIsland.k12.ny.us](http://www.ShelterIsland.k12.ny.us)  
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## 20 REASONS WHY

BY SOPHIE CLARK

Since I have attended Shelter Island School my whole life, I have gotten to know quite a few peculiar quirks that make our school very unique. Shelter Island School, due to its small size and relative seclusion, is quite different from other public schools. Students here, by nature, are close-knit, we have opportunities and experiences that we probably wouldn't get the chance to have if we attended a different, more typical/larger school. In the spirit of embracing how special and unique we are, here are twenty reasons how S.I. School is a standout...in a good way (in no particular order):

**1.** No one cares what you wear. Want to wear pajamas to school on a daily basis...go for it!

**2.** One on one time with teachers isn't rare...it's a regular thing. Whether it be about an assignment or a personal chat, they always have time for us.

**3.** Our teachers give us SNACKS! Lollipops, bagels, pretzels...they hook us up and keep us full and motivated at the same time.

**4.** Upperclassmen hang out with underclassmen with no regard to age differences. In another school a 10th grader hanging out with a senior might be weird, not here! We need to span grades to have enough friends.

**5.** Teachers and students can get away with playfully teasing one another. (It's all in good fun and we know it.)

**6.** Our teachers love our tangents. We might lead the class discussion astray now and then, but they enjoy going along for the ride.

**7.** We know our teachers' kids...either because they tell us stories about them over the years or because we find them on social media and make them our friends.

**8.** It is impossible to avoid seeing our resident island teachers out and about.



**9.** Our teachers have some very close friendships with each other and will wander into each other's classrooms and join in on lessons.

**10.** We had "Mystery Mondays" to lift our spirits.

Enough said.

**11.** Teachers encourage our interests and engage with us outside of school. Teachers have met us at the movies, brought us to plays in the evenings, and helped us when we might not have had the funds we needed for activities.

**12.** Our Superintendent makes a cameo in every school play.

**13.** Our school building educates students ages 3 through 18!

**14.** We remind message

or text teachers in the evenings to ask for help with homework and they respond!

**15.** Some of our teachers have taught our parents.

**16.** Our teachers often teach 6 different classes a day. That is way more than most!

**17.** Our superintendent calls us every Friday night. (It's a prerecorded message, but still.)

**18.** Students will leave their car keys in their cars and often borrow each other's cars during the day.

**19.** You might be a senior, but if you walk down the hallways, you could pass by your kindergarten or first grade teacher any day of the week.

**20.** Graduates keep in touch. Former students will often text their former teachers for advice in college, help with an assignment, or just to check in. The bonds here are strong and we don't take them for granted.

**CORRECTION:** In our last issue, we neglected to mention that Freshman Lauren Gibbs was a Science Fair Senior Division Medal winner. Congratulations to Lauren and The Inlet apologizes for this oversight.

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](mailto:devon.treharne@shelterisland.k12.ny.us)  
**EDITORS:** Sophie Clark, Leonardo Dougherty  
**FACULTY ADVISOR:** Devon Treharne

**STAFF:** Luca Martinez, Charlie Murray, Hayden Rylott

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SENIOR THESIS TOPICS: 2023

BY HAYDEN RYLOTT

It’s that time of the year again where the seniors are working on their thesis paper. Check out this year’s variety of topics self-selected by the seniors.

**Steven Pacheco Silverio:** While there are skeptics who believe humans cannot communicate with animals, there is evidence that pet psychics/animal whisperers are legitimate, and provide multiple benefits to animals and humans alike.

**Madison Springer:** The widespread prescribing of opioids by medical professionals has led to an addiction crisis in the U.S. Alternative treatments must be pursued to alleviate this crisis.

**Margaret Schultheis:** Among the many treatments for alcoholism, psychedelics administered in a clinical setting are proving to be a viable treatment option.

**Jeremy Sabatel:** The positive impact that video games possess, and how the media and others misinterpret the benefits they provide for individuals.

**Sebastian Romero:** It is crucial to assess the mental health/presence of trauma in K-6 students and its implications on students’ school performance long-term.

**John Febles Torres:** The physiological and psychological impacts of coffee consumption, and how we must re-examine our relationship with it and our overreliance on it.

**Luca Martinez:** The evolution of affirmative action, the controversies surrounding it, and how affirmative action is critical to minorities who have experienced generations of prejudice.

**Mary Gennari:** Honeybees are essential to agriculture, the environment, and the economy, and urgent steps need to be taken to help preserve them.

**Hayden Rylott:** Films and tv

shows provide entertainment, social connection, and escapism. They provide social and moral lessons that can be used in the real world. On the small and big screen, audiences meet characters they can relate to, be inspired by, and motivated by through “virtual” connections forged between viewers and characters.

**Sebastian Quigley-Dunning:** Gambling addiction in young people, particularly of college age, has increased exponentially. Sports betting in particular is prevalent on college campuses, with many even contracting with online casinos to attract their students. Young people must be educated about the dangers of gambling and regulations and oversight must be tightened.

**Elijah Davidson:** People battling the disease of addiction should be provided with individual care

plans instead of traditional A.A. meetings or 12-step programs. Individual care plans are more efficient than other methods of support/rehabilitation for a myriad of reasons.

**Alex Burns:** Music affects us both mentally and physically. It is important to understand how deeply music can impact us on a daily basis to better understand how to use music to our advantage, rather than disadvantage.

**Andrea Napoles:** Children of alcoholics often struggle to realize just how deeply affected they are by their parent(s) disease. Children of alcoholics bear emotional baggage and predispositions to repeat their parent(s) struggles. Particularly in a culture where social drinking is so acceptable, young people must be conscious of repeating the generational cycle of addiction and seek support.

COLLEGE TALKBACK



Photo by Mrs. Colligan  
Members of the Class of 2022 including (from left to right) Valeria Reyes, Dayla Reyes, Myla Dougherty, Olivia Overstreet, Ariana Carter, Francis Regan, Pacey Cronin, and Evan Schack returned to high school school to share tips and insights on the college experience with this year’s junior and senior class. Students and teachers alike were grateful that our alumni came back “home” to share everything they have learned so far.



# STREETWEAR at the SPRMRKT

BY LEONARDO DOUGHERTY

I remember coming to the first day of this school year and being amazed at how many people, including myself, had SPRMRKT Sweatshirts. This small streetwear store inside our local grocery store has become an image of Shelter Island style, so let's learn a bit about the creator of SPRMRKT, Anthony Peronace.

## What's your name, and where do you live?

"Anthony Peronace. I currently live on Shelter Island, New York."

## What is SPRMRKT and how and when did it start?

"SPRMRKT is a brand that I started inside of my parents' supermarket here on Shelter Island. I've grown up working for them and was always into fashion, so creating a brand in the supermarket was a natural progression in my mind. It allowed me to do my own thing and be in the grocery store for my family."

## What about SPRMRKT makes it special to you?

"It's authentic, the juxtaposition of a fashion brand having a store inside a grocery store, it wouldn't make sense for any other brand to do this, but with my background it makes perfect sense."

## Can you tell me about when and how your interest in clothing started? Did you study design formally in any way, if not, do you have a degree in anything else?

"I've been interested in fashion as far back as I can remember. I would always look at designs and think to myself how I could have done them differently. I always loved shopping and

collecting pieces that felt special to me. I got my Bachelor degree in Food Marketing at St Joseph's in Philadelphia."

## What sort of clothes do you make and where do you get inspiration for your graphic designs?

"My inspiration starts with myself. I've always loved fashion and often use myself as a filter when I design. Asking myself 'Will I wear this?' That filter has allowed me to be the right amount of broad and narrow as I design each capsule."

## How do your clothing drops work? We have seen the "SPRMRKTLAND" collection, are you planning on doing more collections?

"There are definitely more drops on the way, I'm looking forward to putting the next one out, it's going to be very different from everything else."

## You have worked with THE FACE and Repeller, how did these collaborations come about and have you seen SPRMRKT grow?

"Most of the collaborations have been with customers who come to the store and like what they see. SPRMRKT is growing fast and I'm very happy with the results of what the collaborations have done for my brand."

## SPRMRKT has also collaborated with other local businesses such as Corkbuzz and had a pop-up at Sunset Beach. Are there any future collaborations or other businesses you hope to work with?

"I'm working on a few collaborations right now that I hope to announce soon. Stay updated by following our Instagram @thesprmrkt or by checking our website thesprmrkt.com"

## What does your target customer look like?

"SPRMRKT is unique in its target market because of its location. The grocery store brings in a wide range of people, some coming directly to SPRMRKT to check out the latest drops and some buying groceries who browse and find something. Each drop I release has a variety of pieces, so I can best serve a wide variety of people."

## What are you most proud of either in your clothes or accomplishments so far?

"I'm proud of the strides we're making as a company and I'm proud of every single garment we put out. If I'm not proud of it, it doesn't leave the workroom."

## Are you planning on expanding SPRMRKT outside of the IGA store?

"Yes, we're always looking to expand and bring our vision to more people. Currently I'm reaching those customers via our ecommerce site and through Instagram."

## Lastly, who has inspired you (inside or outside of fashion) and why?

"I grew up watching and working for my parents which instilled a strong work ethic and entrepreneurial spirit in me. That environment inspired me to start creating my own custom designs. I envisioned a brand where I could offer these unique graphics on a variety of garments for an affordable cost and that was how SPRMRKT launched."

## A last word from Anthony Peronace:

"We encourage all to come by the SPRMRKT to check out our newest collection and enjoy the creative space I have built right here on Shelter Island. Check back with us in a couple of years because we're just getting started."



Photo provided by Mrs. Colligan

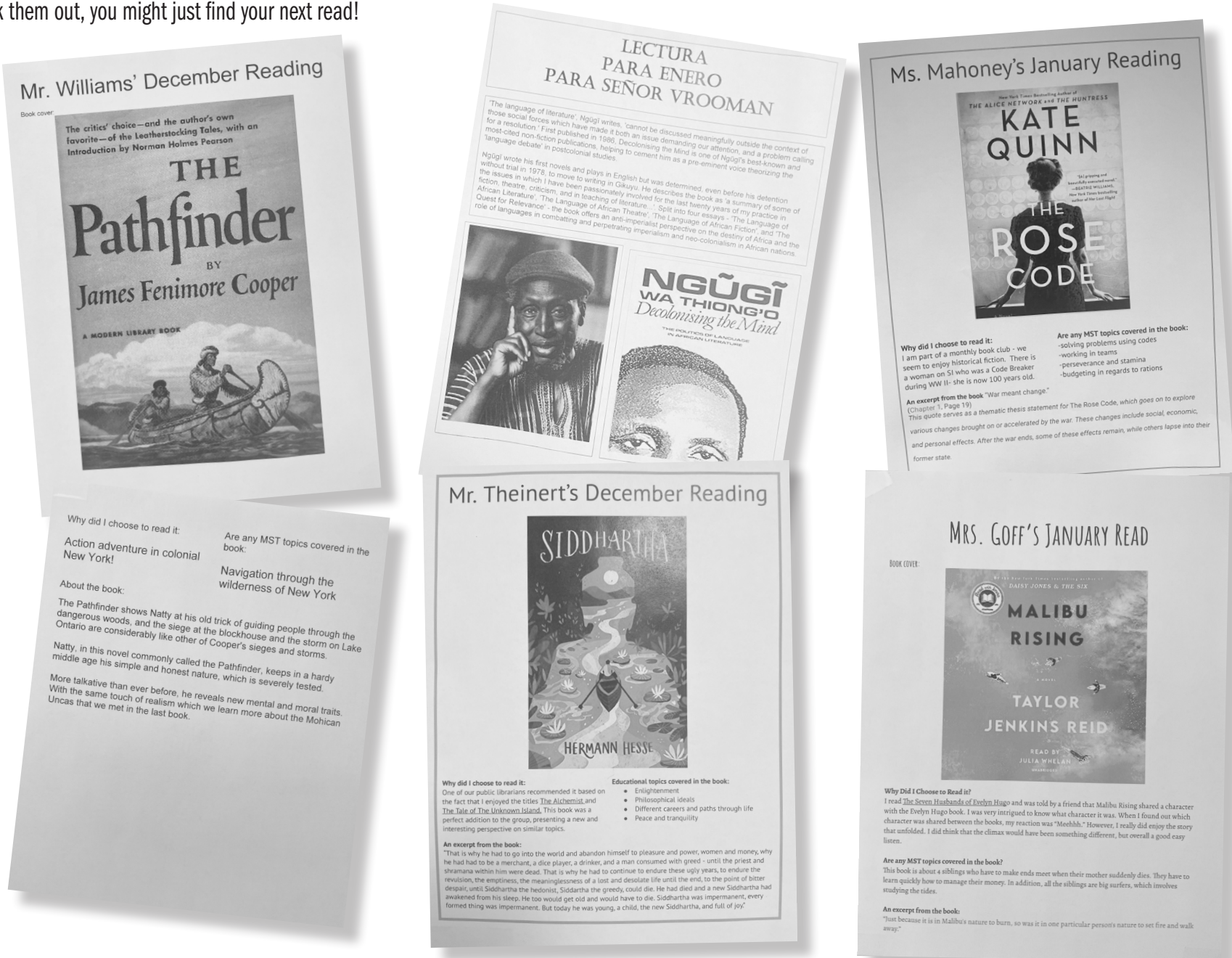
"Hey Mom...isn't that your student?" Mrs. Colligan and her daughter Kelly (class of 2016) took a trip to Toronto over the winter holiday break. They were visiting St. Lawrence Food Market when they ran into senior Madison Springer and her family, who happened to be in Toronto after having visited Niagara Falls. It is a small world indeed!

# COLLIGAN & SPRINGER MEET UP



MATH, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND BOOKS!  
BY LEONARDO DOUGHERTY

This year, the MST (math, science, and technology) department decided to show off their “humanities side” by posting a new book they are reading outside their doors each month. Their latest book rundowns are listed below and include: why they chose to read the book, if any MST topics are covered in the book, and an excerpt from the book. Check them out, you might just find your next read!



THE MUCH-NEEDED MORALE BOOSTER: THE WORLD CUP  
BY LUCA MARTINEZ

The pandemic had a massive effect on the morale of our student body (spending 2 years apart and wearing masks every day will do that) and to help us out, our amazing adminstration and faculty came up with “Mystery Mondays” surprises. This idea was a great one and brought a lot of smiles to students’ faces, but were the surprises bonding us? Not really. Then, however, it began. The World Cup. This year’s World Cup brought students and teachers together in ways we had not been in years. We gathered in classrooms, hallways, and the gym to cheer on teams, bicker over winners and losers, and debrief on afternoon games.

The World Cup is a tournament played every 4 years amongst 32 international teams. For a team to qualify for the World Cup, they have to compete in the “World Cup Qualifiers,” in which they compete against teams in their regional

soccer confederations. For example, the U.S.A. men’s national team is part of the CONCACAF (The Confederation of North, Central America, and Caribbean Association Football), which consists of, Canada, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, and the United States. Out of these 8 countries, the top 3 move on to the World Cup (the only exception to this is the host country). The World Cup traditionally takes place over the summer, however, due to the extremes of Qatar’s hot climate, the World Cup had to be changed to the cooler months of November and December this time around. This made for the perfect “Mystery Monday,” extra... games might not have been on Mondays or been a mystery, but the soccer games sure did boost morale.

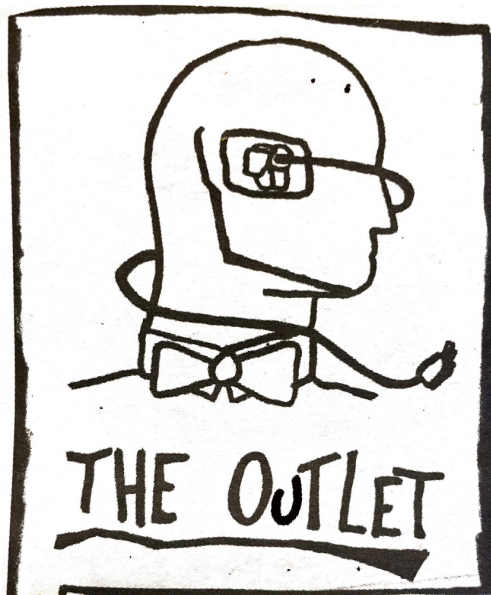
During the early stages of the World Cup, most games would happen during school hours, which

meant a crossover: World Cup x School. Soccer isn’t popular in the U.S., however, during this tournament, EVERYONE was a fan. You would see students and teachers alike walking around on their phones watching the World Cup while making their way to the next class. Some teachers would even put the games on their smartboards, and kept it on during their lessons. When asked if he believed the World Cup brought us closer together, history teacher Mr. Brennan said, “Yes, it was nice to see students of all ages and interests getting together to talk and watch the World Cup games.” The school staff had been looking for the perfect morale booster, and suddenly it was here, in the form of the World Cup. The day of the World Cup game finals unfortunately fell on a day off of school. However, sophomore Jaxson Rylott took it upon himself to secure the auditorium for a World Cup final watching party. Math teacher

Mr. Theinert opened up the school and allowed a group of students to witness history, as Argentina beat France in penalty kicks: arguably the best World Cup game of all time. This World Cup was the last for Lionel Messi, who was only missing the World Cup to finish his stellar career, and he achieved greatness with Argentina. This World Cup also highlighted for fans the future of soccer talent, such as Kylian Mbappe, who made history by being the second player ever to score a hat-trick (3 goals) in a World Cup final game.

The World Cup brought light to our school community, and it was great to see how it brought everyone closer together. Sometimes something surprising happens and to experience that joy with classmates, teachers, and friends, after years of suffering from the pandemic, was the biggest win of all.

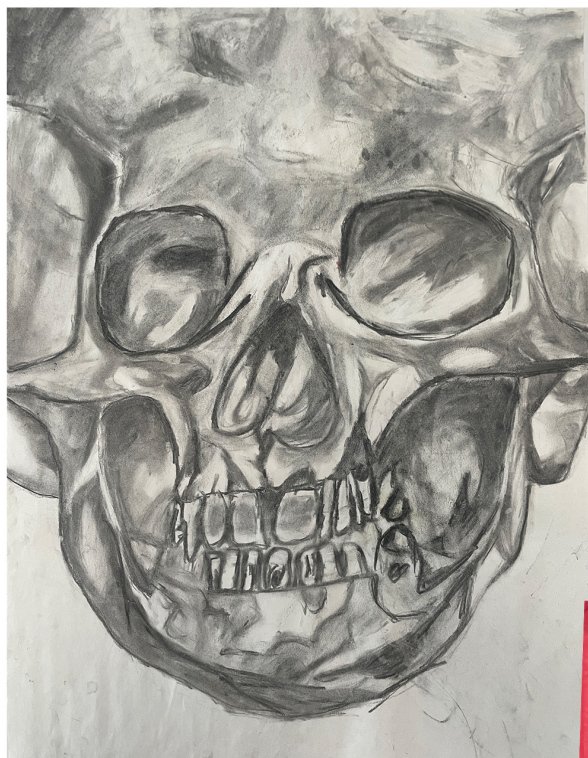




# THE OUTLET

BY LEONARDO DOUGHERTY

For this issue of The Inlet, we decided to bring back our arts page, The Outlet. The Outlet is a space for our school's talented artists to share their work outside of the art room whether it be drawings, paintings, poetry, or something completely different. Let our staff know if you would like to submit something for the next Outlet!



**Page 6 artists clockwise from top: Alfie Brigham, Margeret Schultheis, Hayden Davidson, Leonardo Dougherty**





Page 7 artists clockwise from top: Sophie Clark, Leonardo Dougherty, Alex Burns, multiple artists, Susie Kane, Kaitlyn Gulluscio



RIZZ QUIZZ  
BY LUCA MARTIEZ

It seems there is always a new trending term popping up, and the most current one is “rizz.” Rizz is a synonym for “game.” If a person has rizz, they can charm everyone around them...girls, guys, teachers, moms, you name it. I wanted to know how much rizz people have in our school, so I created the “Rizz Quizz” to rate the rizz of some of Shelter Island’s finest. (Parts of the following quiz are informed by my own personal opinions.)

1) You see someone cute, what's your pick-up line?

- “I would’ve said “God bless you” after that sneeze, but it looks like he already has.” (+1 rizz)
- “Are you from Tennessee? Because you’re the only ten I see.” ( -3 rizz)
- “Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I saw you from there and I thought you were cute, can I get your, \_\_\_\_\_ (preferred social media, or phone number) (+2 rizz)
- “Go out with me, PLEASE, I BEG” (-4 rizz)

2) You’re taking a person out for the first date, what's the date?

- Out to the movies. (-3 rizz)
- Out to a fancy dinner. (-1 rizz)
- Go to a grocery store, shop for ingredients, and cook dinner together. (+3 rizz)
- Casual hangout at their house, or your house. (+1 rizz)

3) Do you play sports?

- No, sports are lame. (-3 rizz)
- I play basketball. (+1 rizz)
- I play baseball. (+1 rizz)
- I run track. (-1 rizz)
- I do multiple sports (track doesn't count) (+3 rizz)

4) What would be the best song to play while in the car with your date?

- When I Was Your Man - Bruno Mars (+1 rizz)
- Literally any Brent Faiyaz song (+2 rizz)
- Static - Steve Lacy (+1 rizz)
- Family Ties - Baby Keem (-3 rizz)
- Break From Toronto - PARTYNEXTDOOR (+3 rizz)
- Any Bladee song (-5 rizz)

5) How do you describe your style?

- Comfort over anything. (-2 rizz)
- Glamorous (-1 rizz)
- DIESEL (+3 rizz)
- Average (+1 rizz)

6) Do you ask people what their zodiac sign is?

- Yes (-5 rizz)
- No (+1 rizz)

7) You come to pick up your date, what do you do?

- I'll honk the horn (-2 rizz)
- I'll send them a text (-1 rizz)
- I'll call them (+1 rizz)
- I'll go and knock on their door (+3 rizz)

8) You get a person’s phone number, what's the first thing you text them?

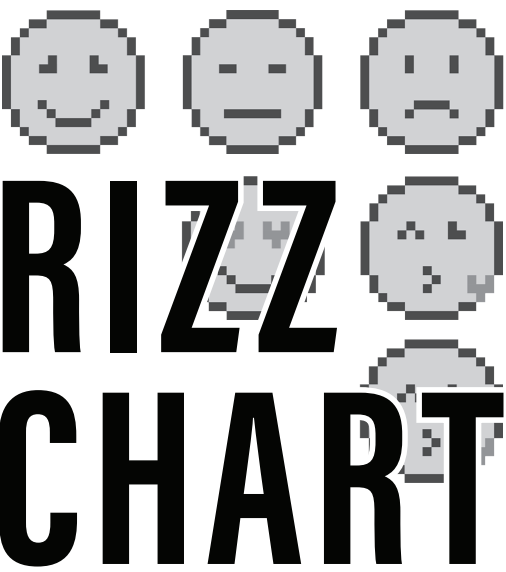
- At 2 a.m: “U up?” (-3 rizz)
- “Hey, it was so nice to meet you. I’d like to get to know you better...” (+3 rizz)
- “Yo” (-1 rizz)
- “Hi it’s \_\_\_\_\_” (+1 rizz)

9) It’s Valentine's day, what do you buy your significant other?

- A heart necklace (-5 rizz)
- A box of chocolates (-1 rizz)
- A curated playlist = +3 rizz)

10) You see a person that you like in the hallway, what do you say?

- “Where’s my hug at?” (-5 rizz)
- Say nothing and nod. (-1 rizz)
- Make conversation with them, if possible. (+1 rizz)



15+ POINTS	Rizzard of Oz	Dre Ealy
14-10 POINTS	Teaches Quantum Rizzics	Sebastian Romero, and Hayden Rylott
9-7 POINTS	Rizzly Bear	Rizzly Bear
6-0 POINTS	Rizzly Cub	Hayden Davidson, Elijah Davidson, and Sophie Clark
-1 TO -5 POINTS	Get some advice from the Rizzard of Oz	Mae Brigham and Bazzy Q-D
-6 TO -15 POINTS	Consult your Rizzologist	Harper Congdon
-16 TO -20 POINTS	Enroll in Rizz University, NOW!	Alfie Brigham
-20+ POINTS	There's no Rizzportunity for you	Daniel Hernandez

ROHAN MURPHY: A UNIQUE GUY WITH A UNIQUE STORY  
BY THE INLET STAFF | CONTINUED

country to speak (he only has 8 states left to visit!), and he owns his own home; all of which make him proud. Murphy still deals with people who stare at him in public and acknowledges that may never end. When asked what Murphy would do if he had legs for just one day, he said, “I would love to go someplace in public and walk around and know and experience what it is like to not have every person stare at you...just once.”

Though this would be his wish, Murphy does not allow other people’s “curiosities,” as he frames them, get him down. “Being happy isn’t a scavenger hunt...you have to find it,” he told his audience. “You have to make your life happy. Happiness is a choice.” Murphy has no regrets and no ill will towards anyone who doubted him in the past, saying, “I don’t feel like I have anything more to prove: I am happy, I don’t look back and feel mad at doubters, they

gave me extra motivation.” So, what’s left for Murphy to accomplish? He has a book in mind: Dark Days, Bright Nights is the working title. He also hopes to one day visit Tokyo, Japan, the pyramids in Egypt, and attend some more professional sporting events in person. After spending just an hour with Rohan Murphy, there is little doubt he will do all three. At the beginning of his presentation, Murphy defined himself as “a unique guy with a unique

story.” This may be true, but that humble self-definition only scratches the surface. His unique story and its delivery left kids in the audience scrambling for autographs, handshakes, selfies, and workout tips. For often hard-to-impress teenagers, many still in the melancholy haze of Covid-19, Murphy was a clear antidote. Shelter Island School is lucky to have been inspired by him and reminded “You want something out of life? Go earn it."



## AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: A NECESSARY POLICY

BY LUCA MARTINEZ

On October 31st, 2022, the Supreme Court decided to hear two cases challenging Affirmative Action at the University of North Carolina (UNC) and Harvard University. In both cases, the SFFA (Students for Fair Admissions) argued that both Harvard and UNC violated Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, and national origin in any program that is receiving federal financial assistance. The plaintiff argued that said schools intentionally discriminated against Asian American applicants, which led the SFFA to challenge *Grutter v. Bollinger*, which in 2003 resulted in the landmark decision by SCOTUS that “race-sensitive” admissions programs which consider race as only one factor and give individual consideration to each applicant, is lawful.

“Affirmative action” is a term you might not be completely familiar with. The Encyclopedia Britannica defines affirmative action as, “An active effort to improve employment or educational opportunities for members of minority groups and for women.” Affirmative action makes an active effort to try to help people who have been historically overlooked or discriminated against, which is a crucial initiative in my opinion. Some people fail to realize why affirmative action is

necessary. The answer is clear: to help minorities and women who have suffered from generations of discrimination and injustice reach a better education and/or job which will pave the way for future generations.

As a minority nearing college, it is scary for me to think that this policy which works for more equity in educational opportunities could potentially be disbanded. I am so lucky to live in a place like Shelter Island and attend Shelter Island School; I know it has given me all the opportunities that I need to be prepared for my next chapter. I was not born here, but my parents settled here and worked hard for me to have these opportunities available to me. It raises the question in my mind: What if I wasn’t so lucky? Unfortunately, for a lot of people, this isn’t a question, but a reality.

Although most students receive the same basics of education, not all of them receive the same quality of education, and this is due to discrimination. Non-white school districts are heavily underfunded compared to their white counterparts, which is affirmed in an article by NPR: “For every student enrolled, the average nonwhite school district receives \$2,226 less than a white school district.” Why does this happen? It happens in part because our school districts were determined by geography. This

makes the fact that old discriminatory practices such as redlining (a practice in which lenders and the federal government alike would look at a map and draw a red line around neighborhoods they would not invest in based solely on demographics) determined the fate of many future minority students long ago. The fact that nobody wanted to invest in these redlined neighborhoods, resulted in the prices of the homes there being worth significantly less than their non-redlined counterparts. In an article written by Tihanne Mar-Shall which discusses the effects of redlining on the education system, he explains how, “Economic and racial lines divide public school districts. The quality of a public school tends to increase in proportion with the zip code’s income bracket.” Hence the fact that redlining significantly affects the pricing of the homes in its neighborhoods, which then leads to the average income of a person living in the said neighborhood to be lower, and also results in poor funding for its schools. Ultimately, poor quality of education in areas with a low income can be traced back to redlining, which has a disproportionately lasting effect on minority students. Underfunded schools have fewer opportunities to offer their students and substandard facilities, leaving students who attend them behind their peers fortunate enough

to go to school in more well-funded districts. This is where affirmative action can help to “level the playing field,” so to speak. The government assists those who had lesser opportunities with more opportunities to reach higher education, or a better career path, which will potentially lead future generations to have a leg-up over their predecessors.

Although the Affirmative Action Policy may seem like it gives minorities an advantage over other candidates, it’s actually there to promote equity. The possibility of affirmative action being discontinued is disgusting to me, and speaks volumes about the ignorance that our nation has towards the myriad struggles of being a minority in America. Affirmative Action policies were implemented to try to fix generations of injustice, disbanding it would affect not only our generation, but many more that come after us. This policy has brought hope to those who never thought they could seek higher goals, and gave an opportunity to students in particular who had no power over their less-than-ideal educational beginnings. If the Supreme Court decides to remove affirmative action, that will be 10 steps backwards in the name of one day reaching true equality.

## HAYDEN’S HOT LIST

BY HAYDEN RYLOTT



**“M3GAN”** “M3GAN” is the latest horror/sci-fi movie that’s in theaters now. The movie is about a toy company that designs a robotic doll that’s designed to be a child’s best friend. The main designer of the M3GAN doll gives a prototype to her niece, but this unfortunately leads to dire consequences. The movie has a blend of horror and humor that works nicely. The movie isn’t as scary as most horror movies, hence why it has a PG-13 rating. The movie was enjoyable to watch and the plot was well-written, bringing up moral and ethical topics. Unfortunately, I found the ending of the movie to be very quick and abrupt.

**RATING: 4 / 5 STARS**

**“PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH”** This new animated adventure movie is one of the best movies I ever watched. The movie follows the legendary Puss in Boots who has used up 8 out of his 9 lives. Now that he’s in his last life, he has lost his passion for adventure and lives in fear now that death is right on his tail. Puss in Boots decides to set out to search for the mythical Last Wish so he can wish for his 9 lives back. I loved this movie...I mean it’s about a sword-fighting cat! The animation style was phenomenal. The plot was very well-written and so were the characters. For a PG movie that’s targeted towards kids, the movie was still very entertaining for older audiences. The movie has many different themes and moments that are a bit intense for kids and will go over their heads, but those same moments keep adult audiences laughing. So, if you think “Puss in Boots: The Last Wish” is a cheesy children's movie, think again.

**RATING: 5 / 5 STARS**

**“STAR WARS: THE BAD BATCH”** This is the newest “Star Wars” show on Disney + and it follows a clone squad with unique abilities as they try to survive in the galaxy that’s now ruled by the Empire. The second season of this show has just been released, so if you are into “Star Wars” this is a show to check out. This show introduces new factors into the Star Wars universe that are cool and unique. For example, the first ever female clone trooper. As great as the show is, it does include a few filler episodes each season that do stray from the main plot.

**RATING: 4 / 5 STARS**

**“VIKINGS: VALHALLA”** This historical fiction show follows the path of Vikings as they try and make their way in the world. The storyline of this show is very interesting, as most of it is inspired by historical events. However, the show is not completely historically accurate which may bother some viewers, but this allows for a new and unique story to be told. For those who are into medieval/historical fiction shows, I recommend this show to watch. The story is different from anything else out there and the characters each have unique backgrounds.

**RATING: 4 / 5 STARS**



# DYNAMIC DUOS

BY LEONARDO DOUGHERTY

We all know those friends who seem to complement each other perfectly; they remember each others birthdays, know their favorite song, etc. In this article 3 “Dynamic Duos” try to answer a 12 question quiz based on what they think their friend would chose. Quiz your friend an find out if you are a Dynamic Duo!

- What's their middle name?

What's their favorite food?

What's their birthday?

What's their favorite movie or tv show?
- What is their favorite song?

What are their hobbies?

What do you imagine as their future job or life after high school?
- What's their zodiac sign?

If they could go anywhere in the world (vacation or to live) where would they go?

If they had a time machine
- What time period would they go to?

What's a funny/bonding moment you two had together?

When did you meet each other?



Harper and Andrea seem to always be by each other's side but how well do they really know each other? I've come up with some questions to test their friendship, out of 11 questions, Harper got 5 right about Andrea, and Andrea got 3 correct about Harper. Results-wise it seems like there is still a way to go, but we all know true friendship isn't confined to a quiz in a newspaper. Here are some highlights from their friendship feedback: Harper was spot on with Andrea's middle name Magdalena, but Andrea

mixed up Harper's middle and last names. Harper thought that Andrea's favorite food would be tuna fish of course, but it turns out she really likes soup. They both knew each other's birthdays by heart as well as their dream vacation in Japan, however, their time travel plans were way off. Andrea would go back to when Jesus was born so she could drink wine with him, and harper would go well into the future. After high school, they both seem keen on going to the city, sadly Harper will be far away from her

favorite food, Baguettes from Vine Street. She plans to go into nursing and Andrea into flying planes and having many possums!? We'll see how that turns out. According to Andrea, Harper's only hobby is hanging out with her, although she does like to hang out she also likes to knit and play basketball. They both remember the first time they met in 5th grade vividly as Andrea brought along Lio and he started hugging trees, after that, they say "it was all just a blur".

Hayden Davidson and Dre Ealy have been close friends for a year or so now, so it was time to put their friendship to the test. It seems like Dre has some work to do getting to know Hayden; Hayden scored 5 out of 10 points on his quiz about Dre, while Dre scored a measly 3 out of 10. It seems what these two definitely have in common is their interests (girls) and their hobbies (girls)...these two questions

they could both agree on and answer accurately for each other. Other than that, Dre only knew Hayden's birthday month and zodiac sign, while Hayden knew Dre's favorite food (pizza), favorite song ("Sure Thing" by Miguel), and future occupation ("actor"). Their misses were also entertaining: Dre said Hayden likely wants to be a "future Zach Mundy" and coach basketball, when in reality, Hayden is interested in

Sports Management or becoming a detective. Hayden also was off the mark when he said if Dre could time travel he would definitely head to the 1990s. Dre, however, would prefer to go WAY back to prehistoric times to check out some dinosaurs. At least these two can agree on sports and girls.



This Dynamic Duo has been besties since Prek3. William Marshall and Johnny Gurney are both true island boys who love everything about hunting and fishing.

William got 4 questions right about Johnny and Johnny got 3 questions about William.

Their favorite foods include Lobster flamane (you'll have to ask William for the recipe), Steamers, clams,

scallops, and "fish from where the sand dunes and big waves are". After high school, Johnny could imagine himself going to college and then becoming a farmer, fisherman, or hunter. William also wants to go to college and sees himself as a future Mr. Becker. Their music taste differs as William is a fan of Lil Baby and bass-boosted songs whereas Johnny likes "The Arch Illager Rap" (a rap song about a Minecraft

character). One of their favorite memories together is when Johnny flipped his go-kart and another when William stood up to a bully. If they couldn't live on Shelter Island William would head to North Carolina and Johnny to New Hampshire. If they could time travel, William would go to the 90s and johnny to when they first met (aw).

## WHAT'S YOUR COMFORT SONG?

BY SEBASTIAN ROMERO

Everybody has a comfort song, don't they? It's that song you can return to again and again to put you in a good place or a happy mood. I wanted to know what songs other people find comfort in, so I decided to ask. Some of the answers surprised me, so I decided to make it a matching game. Try to see if you can match the person to their comfort song. (Find the answers on page 11.)

- Participants:**
1. Ms. Mulrain
  2. Leonardo Dougherty
  3. Mr. Vrooman
  4. Byron Rodas Vasquez
  5. Mr. Conrardy
  6. Hayden Rylott
  7. Marlon Huertas
  8. Nurse Mary
  9. Sophie Clark
  10. Mr. Brennan
  11. Harrison Weslek

- Songs:**
1. "Wolf Totem" by The Hue
  2. "Feather Indians" by Tyler Childers
  3. "J" by Ivan Cornejo
  4. "Vincent" by Don McClain
  5. "Panbowl" by Sturgill Simpson
  6. "Country Roads" by John Denver
  7. "#3" by Aphex Twin
  8. "Young and Beautiful" by Lana del Rey
  9. "Currents" by Drake
  10. "You've Got a Friend" by James Taylor
  - 11) "Sorry Not Sorry" by Bryson Tiller





WHAT IF?: TEACHERS AND SCHOOL PERSONNEL RECONSIDER THEIR CAREERS

BY SOPHIE CLARK

With college majors and career discussions looming amongst seniors, the options for our futures seem endless...and overwhelming. This got me thinking about how our teachers knew what they wanted to do...and what if they could do something else, what would that be? So, I set out to ask some of the adults in our school, “If salary did not have to be a consideration and you were not a teacher and could have any other job of your choosing, what would it be?” See below for their interesting responses.

**Mr. Theinert** (Math teacher): “I would be a white water rafting guide or ski instructor, something along those lines.”

**Mr. Brennan** (Social Studies teacher): “I would be a Major League Baseball groundskeeper.”

**Mrs. Colligan** (English teacher): “I would travel the world and work as a food writer. That would combine two things I truly enjoy.”

**Mrs. Treharne** (English teacher): “I would love to own a little cozy book-shop. It would be so fun recommending titles to others and creating a little community. A bookstore fireplace would be mandatory.”

**Mr. Miedema** (Social Studies teacher): “I would be a politician.”

**Ms. Mulrain** (P.E. teacher): “I would love to work with one of my favorite professional sports teams (UConn Basketball, Chelsea, Warriors, UNC Lacrosse) in any capacity (water girl, photographer, social media, trainer, etc). It would be such an interesting experience working with the best athletes and professionals in that sport.”

**Ms. Yirce** (5th grade): “If I could have any job, regardless of salary, I would choose to be a food critic because I love to try new foods and flavors and to eat at new restaurants, or I would choose to be a librarian because I think it would be fun to talk about books and help others connect to new books that they will love.”

**Mrs. Jacki Dunning** (Secretary to the Supt.): “I would want to be the owner of a quaint bake shop. I would primarily sell cupcakes and add a few of my other baked specialties to the menu. The shop would have seating for patrons to enjoy their baked goods and on some nights I would offer social events such as game night and open mic night. I would also share my love of pasta making and offer pasta making classes. I envision the shop being a welcoming and inclusive space that brings people together -- a gathering spot for all ages. This would be my dream job because gathering people together to share food and fun fuels my soul.”

WINTER SPORTS: THAT’S A WRAP!

BY SOPHIE CLARK

As the winter sports season comes to an end, this year’s teams have made improvements since last season. The girls and boys basketball teams focused primarily on developing fundamentals. As captain Harrison Weslek explains, “This season, we aimed to help and develop the younger kids to push the program forward and to win games in the future.” With a limited roster on the JV boys basketball team and injuries plaguing players, a few games this season were canceled, but

players took every practice and game opportunity available to them to work hard on improving shooting and sharpening ball handling abilities for next season. The girls varsity basketball team faced a rebuilding year after not having a team at all last season. With so many new players starting this year, the team focused on teamwork and the basics. Coach Mulrain says, “The goal is to create/leave a legacy and for me to build the program in my own way. I want the players to

continue to be dedicated and put in the work in the off-season and also to love the sport as much as I do.”

Boys varsity winter track runners have been running since the summertime. Running year round ensures members Noah Green and Jackson Rylott continuously improve. Jackson and Noah both achieved multiple personal records this season alone. The girls varsity track team, although young, has also racked up personal

records for its youngest members, especially. The cheerleading program, although small, has brought school spirit to the sidelines and supported basketball teams this season with new and enthusiastic cheers. Congratulations to all winter athletes; hope to see you out there this spring!

NHS INDUCTEES

BY HAYDEN RYLOTT

On January 25th, four sophomores students were inducted into the National Honor Society at the Ram’s Head Inn. Robert Beckwith, Nathan Cronin, Johanna Kassik, and Jaxson Rylott were welcomed into the academic service organization for their service and scholastic achievements. Congratulations to the National Honor Society’s newest members!



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MRS. JANINE MAHONEY  
NHS MEMBERS NEW AND OLD GATHER FOR A PICTURE AT THE RAM’S HEAD FOLLOWING INDUCTIONS.

STUDENT COUNCIL CORNER

BY HAYDEN RYLOTT

Student Council continues to work hard on behalf of the student body. Student Council President, Harrison Weslek, reports: “The Student Council gave a successful presentation

at a recent school board meeting regarding starting a soccer team at the school. It looks like there will be one next school year!” In addition he shares, “The vending machines will hopefully be

replaced next year with new machines run by the Student Council. That would give us more control and profits. Also, there’s a possibility there will be a school dance, but only if the students want

one, so let us know. In the spring, we are looking forward to a Field Day for the high schoolers.”

GUESS THE SONG KEY:

1. MS. MULRAIN: 2) “FEATHER INDIANS”  
2. LEONARDO DOUGHERTY: 7) “#3”  
3. MR. VROOMAN: 4) “VINCENT”
4. BYRON RODAS VASQUEZ: 3) “J”  
5. MR. CONRARDY: 6) “COUNTRY ROADS”  
6. HAYDEN RYLOTT: 8) “YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL”
7. MARLON HUERTAS: 9) “CURRENTS”  
8. NURSE MARY: 10) “YOU’VE GOT A FRIEND”  
9. SOPHIE CLARK: 1) “WOLF TOTEM”
10. MR. BRENNAN: 5) “PANBOWL”  
11. HARRISON WESLEK: 11) “SORRY NOT SORRY”



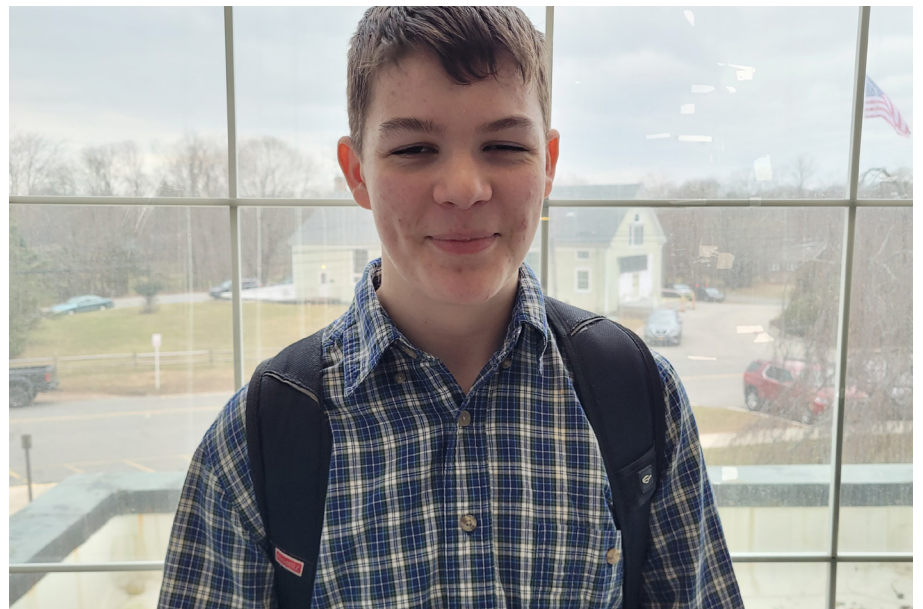
## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

BY CHARLIE MURRAY

WE FINALLY GOT THROUGH JANUARY, SO IT IS TIME TO CHECK IN AND SEE IF PEOPLE MADE RESOLUTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR AND HOW THEY ARE GOING SO FAR.

**MS. CORBETT (TEACHER):**

"MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION IS TO START EATING MORE FRUIT AND VEGETABLES. SO FAR, I AM STILL ON IT, BUT I DO COUNT VEGGIE STRAWS SNACKS AS A FULL-OUT VEGETABLE, SO MAYBE NOT."

**HARRY CLARK (GRADE 9):**

"I WANT TO GET BETTER AT HUNTING DEER AND THINKING MORE ABOUT FREEDOM! IT'S A PROCESS."

**LUCA MARTINEZ (GRADE 12):**

"DO LESS PROCRASTINATING. MY TEACHERS WOULD PROBABLY TELL YOU I NEED TO TRY A LITTLE BIT HARDER ON THIS."

**MR. THEINERT (MATH TEACHER):**

"GO FOR AN INTENTIONAL WALK EACH DAY. SO FAR I HAVE KEPT AT IT EVERY DAY!"

**ABIE ROIG (GRADE 8) :**

"I WANT TO GET TALLER. WE'LL SEE HOW IT GOES."

**DANIEL HERNANDEZ (GRADE 9):**

"I WANT TO GO TO THE GYM MORE AND GET BETTER AT BALL. I'M STILL TRYING."