

the INDEPENDENT

Volume XXV Number 5

Manchester Essex Regional High School 36 Lincoln Street Manchester, MA 01944

April 22, 2019

Senior class officers, adviser excited about prom venue

Hellenic Center in Ipswich to host event

By Eli Heanue
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Senior class adviser David Alger said the senior class has lowered the price of tickets and is hoping to add fun activities to this year's prom, which will be held at the Hellenic Center in Ipswich.

The main organizers for this year's prom are Alger and the senior class officers, president Sirine Benali, vice president Jia Mulvey, secretary Sophie Larson, and treasurer Bella Pomeroy.

The event will be from 6-10 p.m. on May 31. Benali said the senior class has raised enough money through fundraising to lower the cost of tickets for both seniors and underclassmen.

"We have a lot of extra money left over. The prices are lower, and now we're looking to add more items to the menu and a

photo booth," she said.

Benali said tickets for prom will be sold for \$20 for seniors and \$50 for underclassmen.

"We're getting school buses booked now to bring everyone there, and people should buy their tickets early," she said.

Mulvey said the event is being catered by Timothy Hopkins, a chef-owned catering company located in Essex, and the DJ is The Beantown Sound, the DJ from last year's prom.

Alger said he is excited about the venue for this year's prom.

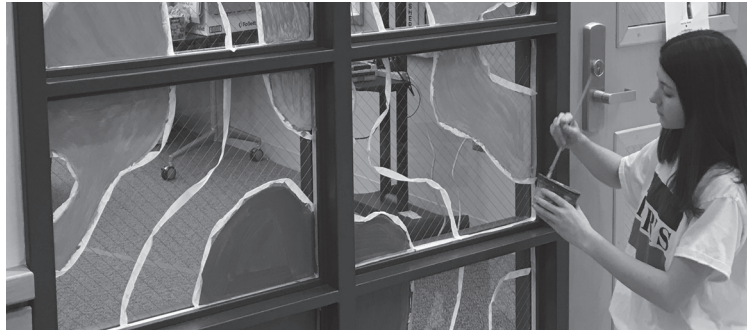
"It's a really nice spot. We had our prom there a number of years back, and they said it was great. I'm just hoping for nice weather that night, for the prom and also for the kids who take pictures at Tuck's Point beforehand," he said.

Mulvey said she is excited about the outdoors aspect of the Hellenic Center's venue.

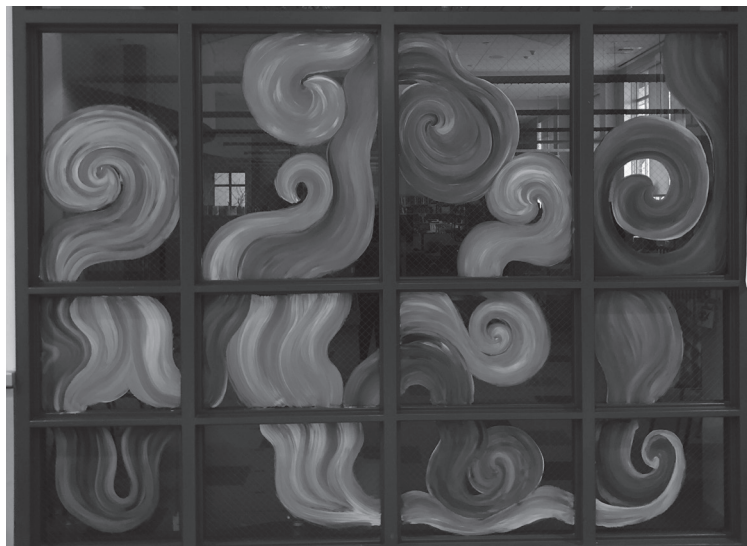
"They have a really nice courtyard in the back, and I think

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LEARNING COMMONS ARTWORK



MARY BUCKLEY-HARMON PHOTO



AUSTIN WOODMAN-PARÉ PHOTO



Sophomore Isabella DiPasquale (top) and senior Haley Wolfe (bottom) have been working on painting the windows in front of the learning commons over the past months. Wolfe's artwork was done first, and DiPasquale's portion was painted afterwards. See full article on page 11.

Administrators for coming school year to focus on behavior, athletics

By Sirine Benali
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Two new administrators were hired for the 2019-2020 school year: Craig Macarelli will be the new Academic/Behavioral Dean of Students and Jordan Edgett will be the new Athletic Director/PE teacher.

Principal Patricia Puglisi said this change will benefit the school environment in both academic and athletic areas.

"Both...are very eager to get started here. They are excited to be part of the MERHS community, and I think they will be great fits," she said.

Macarelli, the new Academic/Behavioral Dean, has a therapeutic background in education, working with high-risk social/emotional students, which will be helpful in his new position at



Craig Macarelli (left) will be the academic/behavioral dean, and Jordan Edgett (right) will be the new athletic director/PE teacher.

the school, Puglisi said. He is currently the Director of Therapeutic Programs at Peabody Community High School.

"I also think that his personality lends itself to really connecting with students, and that is such an essential part of that position... in his experience understanding educational law and the administrative side of the work, he has a great depth of knowledge and ability," Puglisi said.

Macarelli said he is excited to move from working in special education to working with a broader range of students and families in



COURTESY OF PATRICIA PUGLISI

a different way than he previously has in his career.

"It is an exciting move for me and aligned with my career trajectory and aspirations... Manchester-Essex Regional High School very clearly has a reputation of students finding success academically [and] athletically," he said.

Macarelli also said he is looking forward to meeting students and helping and empowering individuals with social/behavioral needs.

"It's a different time in schools
NEW ADMINISTRATORS,
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Sophomores take next-generation English Language Arts MCAS online

By Julia Kaper
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Although the change in the content of the MCAS essays was positive, students reacted negatively to taking the next-generation MCAS online on March 26 and 27.

English teacher Allison Krause said that the state changed the way they're assessing skills in English.

A narrative essay, an argumentative essay, and an explanatory essay have replaced the combination of the long composition essay and open response questions on the ELA MCAS.

Krause said she likes the new essays better than the old writing portion. "I think that it's a better assessment of student's writing when you're seeing them respond to a text that they have in front of

them," she said.

The transition to an online test also changed the responsibilities that the teachers and administration had to prepare for the test.

Krause said her class worked with an online test navigation

practice tool that the Department of Education created to practice going through the test and learning the different tools that were available, like highlighting and underlining.

Sophomore Lilly Coote said going through navigator practice in addition to taking a practice

test was useful. "It helped me know all the tools that we could use while taking the MCAS," she said.

Principal Patricia Puglisi said the switch to an online test changed the administration's

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'If I had to choose between doing an online or paper MCAS, I would choose paper MCAS in a heartbeat.'

- LILLY COOTE

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News Brief Local professionals present at Career Day

Sophomores and juniors attended a conference-style Career Day where dozens of professionals shared their career paths.

The April 10 workshops took place from 9-11 a.m.

Students chose three sessions to attend.

The professionals included a nurse turned private yacht captain and chef, a 401k administrator, local fire and police personnel, an immigration and criminal defense attorney, and various representatives from business and medical fields.

Class of 2011 graduates Molly Friedman and Maura Driscoll explained how their high school education contributed to their professional experiences.

Friedman is a baker and manager at Sandpiper Bakery in Gloucester. She previously worked as a marketing director for Saint Roch Market in New Orleans.

Driscoll is a political strategist and a deputy digital director for Governor Charlie Baker.

Principal Patricia Puglisi said students were engaged by the professional presentations.

"Hopefully, students learned there are many pathways to success. We are very thankful to all the professionals that gave us their time," she said.

Junior Kevin Hines said he saw the immigration attorney, entrepreneur, and pharmacist.

"I thought that each presentation I went to had a unique viewpoint on how they arrived at their job and how they got their position," Hines said.

ASR students gain research, presentation experience

Juniors secure summer internships

By Hannah Freeman
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Ten juniors in the ASR I class recently secured scientific research internships for this summer while one senior in the ASR II class presented her research on March 28 from her work in the summer of 2018.

The school's two-year ASR class allows students to learn about, conduct, and present scientific research. Juniors begin the program in ASR I, where they learn about the field and process of research. The 10 students in the class have acquired their six to eight-week summer internships, which they will complete in the summer of 2019.

"The first year is a year to learn about the methodology of research, research ethics, then thinking about the topics they are interested in, reading papers about that topic to learn as much as they can, then getting internships for the summer," ASR teacher Maria Burgess said.

Junior Bridget Miller said she will be completing her internship at the Tufts University engineering program in Boston where she will be studying the extracellular matrix and the development of scaffolding and nerve regeneration. She said she hopes the program will give her a better understanding of research.



COURTESY OF MARIA BURGESS

Senior Sirine Benali attended the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium of Southern New England on March 28 at Boston University. She presented her research on zeolite adsorption.

"I'm excited to have the opportunity to try something like this before I go to college. I think it will give me an idea of what research is actually like and will help me decide if it is something I'm interested in going forward," Miller said.

Junior Spencer Meek said he will be completing his internship at the Simches Research Center in Boston.

"I'll be working with Dr. Christopher Carr, who is a research fellow both there and at MIT. We'll be researching science and space, particularly focused on life detection in places like Mars," he said.

ASR II student senior Sirine Benali presented her research to the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium of Southern New England (JSHS) on March 28 at Boston University.

Benali studied zeolite adsorption refrigeration and its application in vaccine delivery in developing countries.

"I built a vaccine cooler device for the last mile of delivery between clinics and where vaccines are being delivered. We built an effective cooler using zeolite adsorption refrigeration, which is a cheap mechanism using a vacuum. We built a prototype, which

was able to cool the vaccines effectively from 21 degrees to -1.6 degrees, and it was successful," she said.

Following the internship, Benali spent the year in ASR preparing her paper and poster to present at JSHS.

"Completing the internship and presenting my work was a really useful experience for me because it showed me how STEM and bio will be like in the future, specifically about how poster presentations work, so I think ASR as a whole has helped me understand what I'm getting into in the future," she said.

Sophomore helps organize North Shore Rovers yoga event

Program encourages children with disabilities to participate in activities

By Madeline Lai
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Sophomore Domino Morris is working with the North Shore Rovers, a volunteer-based soccer organization for children with disabilities, to organize a yoga class event for the children and families involved in their program.

The event will run from 1-3 p.m. on May 18 in the high school gym and will include ice cream donated by Captain Dusty's and free T-shirts.

North Shore Rovers, founded in 2011, pairs high school soccer players with children who have disabilities, and each Sunday during the fall, they work on their social and athletic skills together while playing soccer at McGrath Park in Salem, Mass.

"The participants can have fun,

be active with their friends, and it's an opportunity they might not have all the time, where they can feel comfortable and safe," Morris said.

Gail Steele, the co-founder/director of the North Shore Rovers, is helping Morris with organizational details, funding expenses, and advertising the event to families apart of the North Shore Rovers community.

"We have created a safe, welcoming and totally judgment free environment so kids can just be themselves, make friends, get some exercise... and have a

great time," she said.

A total of 250 players and volunteers from 24 different communities, including many from Manchester Essex, participated



COURTESY OF GAIL STEELE

Sophomore Domino Morris partnered with the North Shore Rovers to organize a yoga event for students with disabilities. The event will run from 1-3 p.m. on May 18 in the high school.

this past season, Steele said.

"Our goal is to make sure each player is having the best experience possible and our volunteers are phenomenal at making that happen," she said.

Morris said, "I love working with the Rovers, everyone's so nice and helpful towards one another... it's a heartwarming experience."

This event will be the first volunteer-initiated event through their new program, Rovers on the Move, designed to allow volunteers to use their creativity and communicational and organizational skills to initiate more events for kids with disabilities,

Steele said.

"The wonderful outcome of the program will be new recreational opportunities for our players, the first being Domino's yoga class," she said.

Morris said she was inspired to initiate and organize this fun yoga day after she recently took a hot yoga class with a few of her friends.

"Hopefully the Manchester Essex community will join Domino for the event or just learn more about our program, and we may be lucky enough to sign up some new players and volunteers. We always love new people," Steele said.

Students participate in beach cleanup, collect waste

Litter removal helps environment, clears shoreline for future months

By Mia Cromwell
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

As a way to encourage students to be environmentally active in the community, Green Team president Annie Martin organized a beach and parking lot cleanup at Crane Beach in Ipswich, Martin said.

Following the pickup on March 24, the students had a better idea of what common trash items end up on the beach, Martin said.

"We had a survey sheet, and we marked off what kind of trash we were picking up, so that information can help us see what pollutants are most common and what to be aware of when you are throwing out your trash," she said.

Garlitz said the cleanup was a way to clear the beach of debris for the upcoming



Seniors Eve Feuerbach and Meredith Wolf clear trash from the brush surrounding Crane Beach Estate in Ipswich in order to remove plastic pollution from the area.

months.

"The purpose of the cleanup was to make the beach a safer, cleaner place for

the people that go there and the wildlife that live there," she said.

The organization, the Trustees of Reser-

vations, helped coordinate and set up the event, Martin said.

She reached out to the members of the Green Team and students in AP Environmental Science to participate, along with a few of her friends.

In total, the students collected seven bags of trash, including wrappers, cigarettes, plastic bottles, fragments, bags, and Styrofoam pieces AP Environmental Science junior Catherine Garlitz and senior Ryan O'Connell said.

O'Connell said the cleanup would prevent future animal illness as a result of the plastic buildup in their stomachs.

"[It was helpful] just to make sure that the animals that come on the beach don't eat the trash and don't... get sick," he said.

After the cleanup, Martin said she wants to organize more events similar to this through the Green Team.

O'Connell said a high rate of participation from students would allow for even more trash to be picked up.

"I think more people should go because it really helps out, and I feel like if everyone goes, it could really [be beneficial] for the whole community," he said.

New NHS officers plan to improve community service, recognition

Electees strive to make volunteering manageable

By Eli Heanue
INDEPENDENT STAFF

After being elected as National Honors Society officers, five juniors said they want to focus on the community service aspect of the organization.

The officers, who were elected on Feb. 12, are juniors president Catherine Garlitz, vice president Paige Swanson, secretary Annika Smith, community service director Sophia Pomeroy, and communications director Anton Kozyrev.

Garlitz said she hopes the students in NHS can improve their efficiency and plan more community service.

"I want to do a lot of fun community service projects and create more of a community. I think we could use our time at meetings more efficiently for planning," she said.

Swanson said she also wants to focus on improvement surrounding community service, and she hopes to get NHS members more active in volunteering.

"We always do a big project every year, and I'm hoping we can do one this year that people are a little more involved in. It's not

easy to get people to give up their free time for volunteering, especially if they already have their required hours," she said.

Pomeroy and Smith said they want to make community service more manageable for students.

"I would like community service to be something everyone likes to do and can manage around their schedules," Smith said.

Kozyrev said his goals next year are to maintain the quality work of the last communications director and make community service more fun for volunteers.

"There [have] been effective communications this year, and I'm going to try to keep that up. What I think is really important for next year is community engagement. What I think would be a great idea is to make community service more of a part of the actual community," he said.

NHS adviser Jennifer Coleman said she would like the program to get more recognition from students.

"I would like to see the National Honors Society as an organization that students are enthusiastic to join and participate in," she said.



NHS president junior Catherine Garlitz plans to implement more enjoyable service opportunities and improve the efficiency of meetings.



NHS vice president junior Paige Swanson strives to increase student's participation through the group's major project in the upcoming year



Secretary Annika Smith and community service director Sophia Pomeroy aim to better organize volunteering events for members' schedules. Communications director junior Anton Kozyrev intends to increase community involvement within National Honors Society's volunteering agenda next school year.



ELI HEANUE PHOTOS

Seal of Biliteracy to offer language opportunities, expand programs

By Anton Kozyrev
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

In order to broaden students' perspectives and opportunities for intellectual expansion, the high school foreign language department is incorporating a Seal of Biliteracy.

The certificate gets affixed to a senior's diploma by the Department of Education when he or she graduates and allows for students to receive recognition for being proficient in a language other than English.

"It's a designation that is given by the

Department of Education for students who achieve proficiency in two languages ... it's part of a push to make education more relevant on the global scale," Principal Patricia Puglisi said.

There are two primary means of obtaining the Seal of Biliteracy.

"Proficiency is met through a successful completion of various components of the aptitude test or through scoring a specific level on the AP exam," Puglisi said.

The AAPPL (Assessment of Performance Toward Proficiency in Languages) test is not mandatory for students to take, so it allows them to decide whether they

wish to challenge themselves with the exam.

"I chose to take it voluntarily ... I know a lot of other kids did too ... there wasn't really too much pressure [from the school

to take the exam]," senior Christina Calandra said.

The motion to implement the testing for the Seal of Biliteracy began in January, foreign language teacher Erin Fortunato said.

"We administered the test in late March - around the 22... and overall,

the students' reactions seemed positive," she said.

Calandra said that the opportunity to

achieve a Seal of Biliteracy allows for more opportunity for students who are not enrolled in foreign language AP courses.

"I really like it ... you can then take the Seal of Biliteracy and use it on your job applications in the future and maybe on your college applications as well," she said.

The Seal of Biliteracy is a nationwide recognition that was made available to Massachusetts students as part of an education law signed by Governor Charlie Baker in 2017, foreign language department head Michelle Magana said.

Its intent is to be incorporated by public schools in order to see how schools acclimate to this addition, she said.

"We decided to offer the exam to our seniors to get a sense of what it'll be like ... this is a brand new exam and we need to get familiar with it ... we'll be able to see just how proficient our students are on a state and national level," she said.

'Proficiency is met through a successful completion of various components of the aptitude test or through scoring a specific level on the AP exam.'

- PATRICIA PUGLISI

GSA elects new officers, hopes to involve more students

Club members want to work with teachers, create more accepting environment

By Paige Swanson
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Three juniors and one freshman will serve as the new officers for the Gay Straight Alliance, or GSA.

Junior Paige Mandia is the new president, Junior Genevieve Young is vice president, Freshman Gelsey McCue is communications officer, and Junior Mya Harmon is secretary, Mandia said.

The biggest goal of the club is recruiting more students, she said.

"Most of our members are seniors this year so we're going to lose a lot of members. I want to try to get [GSA] in the announcements and do other things to advertise for it more," Mandia said.

She said the members of the club also want to organize another presentation where the GSA talks to teachers about how to create a more inclusive environment in

the school.

"This year we organized a teach the teachers thing that we did at the teacher development day, so I want to try to do that again but possibly with the middle school," Mandia said.

Junior Naomi Franklin said she is excited about the new leaders because they are all passionate about the club's cause.

"They are all people who I know are very dedicated to the club. I know they care a lot about the issues relating to it, and I know they've done a lot in the past to work towards more acceptance in the school like

working with teachers and guidance and administration," she said.

GSA adviser, Joshua Wladkowski, said he feels the new officers will serve as effective leaders for the club.

"What makes them strong leaders is that they're willing to say what they feel

'What makes them strong leaders is that they're willing to say what they feel in a constructive way. They articulate what needs to be said.'

- JOSHUA WLADKOWSKI



PAIGE SWANSON PHOTO

Senior president Paige Mandia leads club meeting to discuss the group's goals for next year, including goals to advertise their club more and recruit members.

in a constructive way. They articulate what needs to be said... They bounce ideas off each other and they know how to filter in all the information they're getting," he said.

Mandia said she decided to run for presi-

dent of GSA because of her passion for the club.

"I've been in GSA for a few years now and it's something that I'm really passionate about and I want to try to make a change in the school," she said.

Newly elected Humanitarian League officers aspire to expand club

By Austin Woodman-Paré
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Four juniors, who were elected as the new Humanitarian League officers, said they hope to raise awareness of their group.

Juniors president Paige Mandia, vice president Genevieve Young, communications director Sarah Potter, and secretary Mya Harmon were elected on March 18.

Humanitarian League adviser Debra Isensee said the group holds fundraisers and drives, but said she hopes they participate in more action-based activities.

"We want to go and serve at the organizations we fundraise for. We work pretty closely with the Open Door food pantry in Gloucester, but we are hoping to branch out to other organizations like Beverly Bootstraps or Lifebridge Health in Salem," she said.

In addition to working with other organizations to benefit the community, Man-



AUSTIN WOODMAN-PARÉ PHOTO

Junior secretary Mya Harmon and former officer senior Sophie Larson discuss what topic to use for the Humanitarian League board during the month of April.

dia said she hopes to continue the school drives.

"We want to continue to hold more clothing drives, food drives, and fundraisers at the school so that we can give back to local organizations," she said.

Mandia said she wants to spread awareness of their group by hanging up flyers.

Flowers" program.

"[Former student] Faith Palermo created the Freedom Flowers program last year. The town has a budget for it, so we dye red, white, and blue flowers, and we place them on the graves of veterans. I'm really excited to do this program with the other officers again," she said.

Potter said she hopes she can keep the members focused during meetings.

"I want everyone to stay involved in each project we do. I know times at school can be really tough and busy, but I hope that we as new officers can keep everyone focused," she said.

Harmon said one of her goals is to get the bulletin board completed at the beginning of each month.

"We all sit and research ideas for the board, like whether or not the month is a particular awareness month or history month, and we write them all on the board. It takes about a week to put together," she said.

Isensee said she is looking forward to working with the new officers next year.

"The new officers are awesome. We have a great junior group coming up. We want to outreach to other students in the school," she said.

CONTINUATIONS

PROM
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

people will like that because it will be a great place for photos," she said.

Benali said she is happy with how the prom is coming together and hopes everyone enjoys the venue.

"I'm really excited for the prom. We've been planning it for two years, so it should be a really fun event to end the school year with," she said.

NEW ADMINISTRATORS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and education...students come to school with everything from mental health issues to physical and mental health disabilities. It's got to be treated as a holistic picture... That is something that I actually feel that

I am bringing to the table: a really strong understanding and exposure to dealing with those issues," he said.

Puglisi also said the administrative change will help the athletics department.

"I think that the athletic director is going to bring a real strong focus on educational athletics. Opportunities to really develop students as leaders is one of his goals... I think his enthusiasm for athletics and working with kids is going to be awesome...his ability to speak to educational athletics and his experience in running student leadership programs and overseeing athletic events stood out," she said.

Edgett, currently the Assistant Athletic Director at St. John's Preparatory School in Danvers, said he looks forward to starting in his new position, explaining his goals for next year.

"The first year, my goal is to more-or-less evaluate the program... A lot of what will be a challenge is seeing what needs

to change and what's already good and should stay...I'm hoping to bring structure to make everything more organized so that students know what to expect and there's no question marks or surprises through the season," he said.

Both new administrators will start over the summer, but Edgett said he hopes to connect with students and athletes before school starts in the fall.

MCAS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

responsibility from counting test booklets to making sure the technology would work.

To prepare for any issues, the school had 50 extra Chromebooks on hand, and when a small blip in the network occurred on one of the days, the school technicians, the Kwiateks, were able to fix it easily, she said.

Students mainly responded negatively

to taking the test. Coote said many students, including herself, would rather have taken the test on paper because having it on paper makes it easier to take notes and cross off answers.

"If I had to choose between doing an online or paper MCAS, I would choose paper MCAS in a heartbeat," she said.

Many of the students also reported being fatigued after staring at a computer screen for such an extended period of time, Krause said.

Sophomore Elizabeth Loring said she experienced an issue with her computer while taking the test that impacted her experience. While she was midway through one of the essays, the computer froze and deleted it, forcing her to get a new computer and rewrite the entire essay.

"This was super frustrating, and I took a lot of unnecessary time redoing it," she said.

Social Media

Are online platforms beneficial for teenagers?

Pro

Paige Swanson

Social media is beneficial for teenagers, as it allows them to connect with the rest of the world.

The social bonds that social media lets adolescents make are perhaps what is most beneficial.

Platforms like Instagram, Twitter, and Snapchat have become a main channel of communication for younger generations. Thus, being denied access to these applications can impair a teenager from making connections with others their age, and they may often find themselves feeling left out.

Social media is unique in that it allows those from all over the world to connect. Thus, teens are given exposure to lifestyles different from their own.

Features like the Instagram explore page exemplify how social platforms allow teenagers to learn about unfamiliar cultures and lifestyles, as it shows users a variety of posts they would not have otherwise seen.

This exposure to new ideas can serve as an important tool in breaking down cultural barriers and biases, leading to a more inclusive and connected world.

Social media's role in social movements is also notable, as it allows for a younger generation to be involved in creating social change.

The Body Positivity movement, Black Lives Matter, the push for gun safety, and many other groups who aim to create social change have used social media to involve the world in their cause. Without using these platforms, it is likely that their following would not have grown as large as they have, and adolescents may not have had the same involvement in pushing for change.

The use of social media to make social reform allows adolescents to become passionate about something bigger than themselves, creating a sense of purpose in their lives.

Social media creates the opportunity for connection with other people as well as with social movements and organizations, which can help teenagers find themselves and the things they are passionate about.

Con

Isabella DiPasquale

Despite the growing popularity of social media, it is harmful for teenagers in many ways.

Many people feel the need to use social media as a way to stay connected; however, this constant reliance on electronic communication decreases face to face communication skills, which are extremely valuable

According to a study from USC Annenberg School conducted in 2011, 34% of people reported spending less face-to-face time with their family due to social media.

Social media causes decreased attention spans and engagement, and while it can in some ways be used as an escape for teenagers, it has instead consumed a majority of their lives. Teenagers are distracted from participating in more productive activities, and students feel more stressed because it pulls focus from their schoolwork and facilitates procrastination.

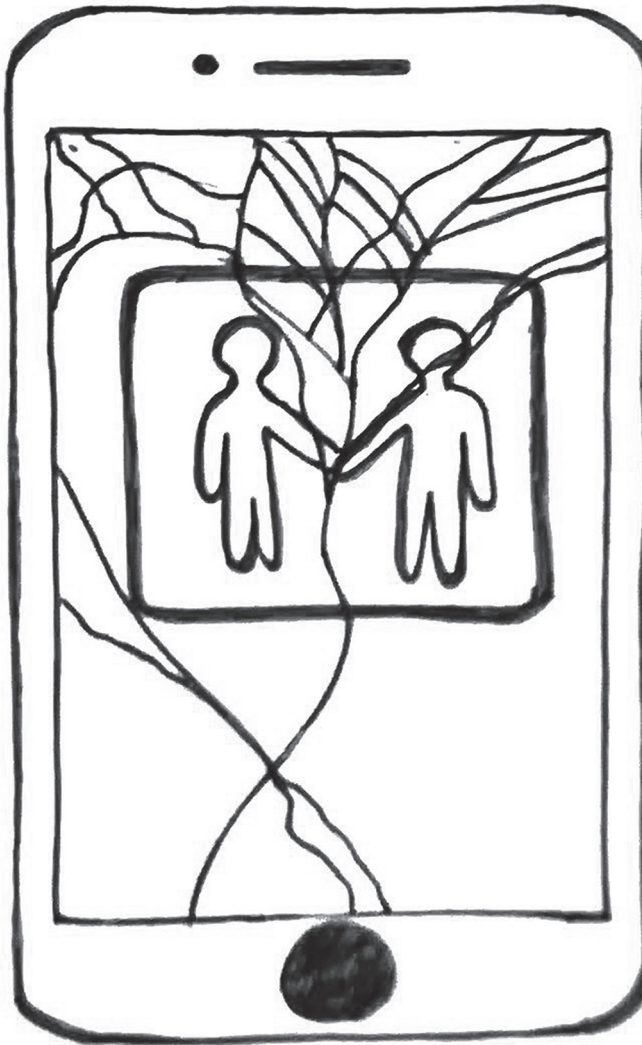
Social media can also be used as a tool for people to hurt others. Teenagers feel invincible behind their screens, and they often forget that there is another person on the other side. This can lead to cyber bullying, depression and low self-esteem.

According to a study conducted by the Statistic Brain Research Institute, 52% of students reported being the victim of cyber-bullying.

Social media can also cause unintentional harm, as ideas are often miscommunicated. This can lead to unnecessary arguments and misunderstandings that could have easily been avoided if the communication was done in person.

Teenagers often forget that social media posts can never entirely be deleted. This is an issue because although they might not see the consequences of their decisions at the time, their actions on social media could hurt them later on, such as when they are trying to get a job.

Social media provides people with a false sense of reality, and while it is powerful tool that could have been used for positive world change, it has instead become overrun with negativity.



SOPHIA LARSON ILLUSTRATION

Rising ocean temperatures cause coral reef bleaching, threaten biome

By Mia Cromwell
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

While ocean water temperatures are increasing, coral reefs are suffering, posing a threat to marine ecosystems.

Warming ocean conditions are a direct result of the high levels of greenhouse gasses being emitted into the environment that prevent heat from escaping the atmosphere.

If people don't take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere, the coral reefs will be destroyed, along with all species that rely on this vital marine biome.

The exploitation of natural resources that emit high levels of carbon, such as mining and the burning of coal, continues to worsen the climate issue and present dangers for coral reefs, specifically for the variety of species that reside within the invertebrates.

According to marineconservation.org, marine algae called zooxanthellae live inside of corals and provide them with energy through photosynthesis. This allows them to grow and reproduce.

However, the hotter, harsh ocean temperatures are stressing the corals, preventing them from surviving.

In response to the warm water, the corals drive out the algae, where a white, lifeless skeleton is left behind. This process is known as coral bleaching.

Coral reefs have the highest biodiversity and form the most productive biome of any ecosystem on the planet, according to coral.org. Their destruction poses



VARDHANPATANKAR/COMMONS.WIKIMEDIA.ORG

With water temperatures getting hotter each year, coral reefs are driving out the algae living inside of them, which causes the lifeless skeleton of the coral to be left behind.

a severe threat to marine and human life.

The reefs across the globe provide millions of people with food, medicine, protection from storms, and money through tourism and fishing, according to the World Wide Fund for Nature. They also serve as a home to 25

percent of all marine life.

As more corals bleach, more species are left to die without having a habitat to safely reproduce.

According to the National Geographic Magazine, the Great Barrier Reef, located in the Coral Sea off the coast of Queensland,

Australia, suffered a drastic coral die-off when two record-breaking heat waves, occurring in 2016 and 2017, bleached and killed more than half of the coral reef.

In an article by the Independent, Researcher Dr. Andrew Hoey said that before the mass bleaching occurred, there was a significant variation of fish species and a large abundance and diversity of fish within different communities in the Great Barrier Reef.

However, six months following the event, the variation was almost entirely nonexistent.

If people don't take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere, the coral reefs will be destroyed, along with all species that rely on this vital marine biome.

In an attempt to limit and prevent bleaching, communities can eliminate fossil fuels and transition to renewable energy as well as promoting the reduction of an individual's carbon footprint.

STAFF EDITORIAL

College admissions scandal challenges credibility of acceptance process

Students involved in the college admissions scandal took opportunities away from well-deserving, hardworking students who deserved acceptance to the college of their choice.

Diligent, less privileged high school students were denied admission to elite colleges such as USC, UCLA, Stanford, Yale, and Georgetown because of wealthy parents who bribed coaches and standardized test proctors in order for their children to unfairly be granted admission.

Not only were academic spots stolen by these parents, but also student athlete positions on teams were reserved for children who had never even played the sport before, therefore denying recruitment to other meritorious players.

News of this scandal calls into question the validity of the whole college admissions process, which is intended to be fair for students who come from all different backgrounds and upbringings, but is now being corrupted by privileged families.

This type of unfair bias in the admissions process could have



SOPHIA LARSON ILLUSTRATION

been prevented if schools thoroughly double-checked claims made by athletics coaches and applicants.

Admissions officers should be assured that reports from high

school coaches and standardized testing scores are accurate.

The parents accused of money laundering deposited their payments into fraudulent funds, so if colleges consistently monitored

these types of transactions, any abnormal donations or signs of scheming would have been discovered sooner.

A heavy dependence on SAT and ACT testing scores is another

flaw in the system that has allowed for the scam to operate unnoticed for so many years.

Admissions officers should take into consideration more than just standardized testing scores and athletic achievements when determining acceptance. The applicant's character, extracurricular activities, and leadership roles should be evaluated with just as much importance as academics and athletics.

If applicants were judged this way more consistently, the students involved in the scam would not have been so easily granted admission based on their fraudulent sports achievements and forged SAT/ACT scores.

Wealthy, privileged college applicants already have advantages over others who cannot afford tutoring or classes to help prepare for the SAT and ACT, but this type of blatant cheating crosses the line from accepted advantages that affluent Americans have to outright immoral acts.

News of the admittance scam truly brings to light how privilege majorly impacts acceptance to highly selective colleges.

School should strive to better educate students on sexual harrassment

By Katherine Fitzgibbon
INDEPENDENT STAFF

In order to provide support and services to sexual harassment victims as well as advocacy and education, the school should implement mandatory sexual harassment training for all students.

In a 2011 study conducted by the American Association of University Women, half of all students surveyed between grades seven and 12 said they have experienced sexual harassment perpetuated by their peers, and 87 percent of those students reported that it had a negative effect on them.

Approximately 39 percent of the students who admitted to sexually harassing other students claimed to have been joking. Six percent of students who harassed others did so because they assumed the person liked it, which supports the notion that sexual harassment is intentional.

Due to the fact that harass-

ers appear to be misconceived jokesters or students who are reluctant to understand that their words and actions may be hurtful to others, school administrators and educators need to address jokes that cross the line and constitute sexual harassment.

In a 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2.7 percent of all students surveyed between grades nine and 12 at the high school said they were physically harmed in a dating relationship, and 8.6 percent of all students surveyed said they were forced to engage in sexual activity in a dating relationship.

The school should appoint a Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention Task force comprised of staff, students, and outside experts to develop training requirements, in addition to providing online resources, enforcing sexual harassment policies, dis-

In order to raise awareness about sexual harassment, the school must implement a training program for students similar to this Title IX harassment module presented each year to teachers.

ciplining harassers, and allowing students to anonymously report problems.

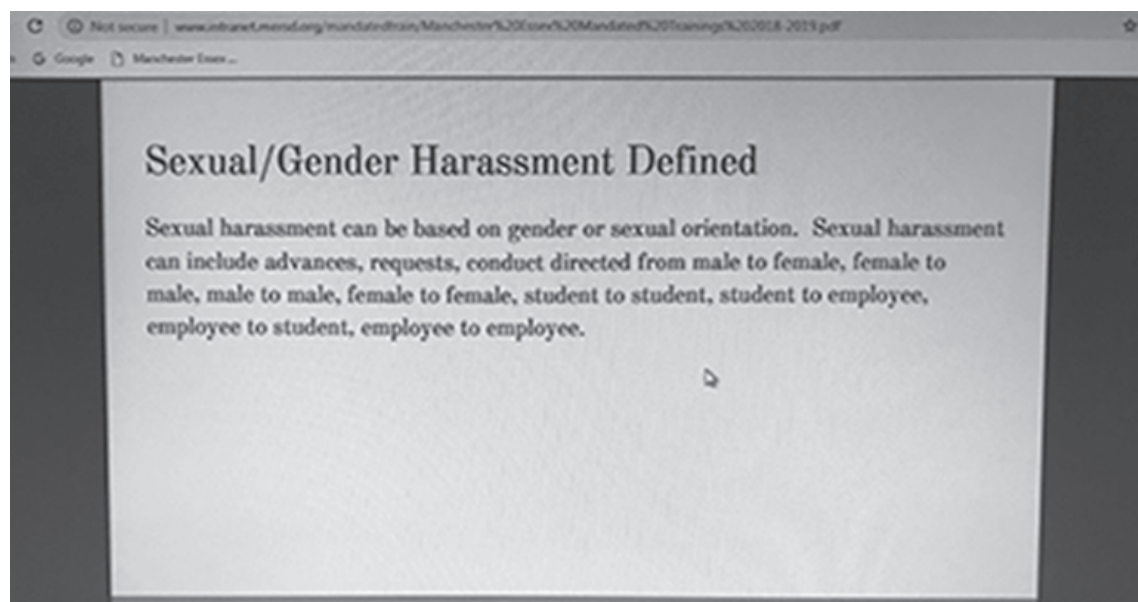
In 2016, members of the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS)'s feminist student organization issued a letter to their school administration demanding changes to the school's handling

of harassment.

In the three years since the students wrote the letter, CRLS has made several significant changes, including hiring an officer educated about the federal law prohibiting sex discrimination in education, Title IX.

In order to ensure that the en-

tire school community develops a full understanding of sexual harassment, all students should complete learning modules on the subject, and middle and elementary schools should be reviewed looking for their success at fostering and developing an environment of respect.



KATHERINE FITZGIBBON PHOTO

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The Independent is published monthly throughout the school year. It is a product of the Manchester-Essex Regional High School Journalism class.

Editorial space is available to all MERHS students, faculty, and community members. All submissions must be signed and put in the newspaper mailbox in the front office of MERHS.

The Independent reserves the right not to print letters and to edit the content for clarity and length. While letters can be critical of an individual's actions, they cannot slander or libel.

The staff editorial may be considered the opinion of the staff of The Independent.

By-line opinions are written by individual staff members and should not be considered representative of the entire staff.

The Independent staff hopes that all Manchester and Essex citizens will take advantage of this forum. The paper is meant to serve the school community, and we are open to suggestions to help it better serve its purposes.

School introduces student-led Anti-Defamation League program



PAIGE SWANSON PHOTO

“We had a good number of people interested in joining the group, and the people who did it were engaged, excited, and I think we formed a nice bond within that group.”

LAUREN DUBOIS
ADL adviser



PAIGE SWANSON PHOTO

“We had very thoughtful and self-reflective people, and we know that we want to continue doing this, and we are problem solving and thinking about what we can do better.”

JESSICA TRAN
ADL adviser



COURTESY OF SHANNON ADAMS

“There may not be a ton of ethnic diversity at our school, but building awareness and teaching tolerance, or even more than tolerance, acceptance, is the way to go.”

DAVID CONWELL
ADL adviser

What is ADL?

In the school, the Anti Defamation League is a group of students who teach freshmen classes about discrimination and bigotry. After 3 training sessions, and multiple group meetings, the group began their lessons to underclassmen. Nationwide, the Anti Defamation League is an organization that originally fought anti-Semitism and now fights discrimination of all kinds.

Goals for next year...

“What I would like to focus on [is] the logistics of creating spaces for conversation and making it feel like a conversation rather than like a lesson.” - Lauren Dubois

“Now that we’ve done [the program] once, we know the challenges we actually encountered, so now that we have experience, we can come up with activities in our peer training sessions.” - Jessica Tran

What to improve...

“We want to try to find ways to engage the students in the room more...facilitate discussions and have people feel safe sharing their experiences... [by] trying to figure out how we can better set it up just in terms of the logistics...I would like to focus on...making it feel like a conversation rather than like a lesson.” - Lauren Dubois

“[The ADL Mentors] were able to dig so deep because we devoted a whole day to it, not an hour. In my opinion, what was lacking [in the trainings] was a lack of depth and engagement on the student side...[the activities] are only engaging one way, and that’s if you’re sitting down and thinking deeply about societal issues.” - Lorenzo Venegas-Villa



SIRINE BENALI PHOTO

MADDY CURRAN
Freshman participant

“[The ADL training] was really about our community as a school and what we can do to be more aware of how we can hurt other people...It just gives you a different view of your classes and how people feel. A couple people opened up, so it was nice to hear their viewpoints on big things that are important today... I think they did a really good job with [ADL]...I think [some activities] were good but it was hard since not everyone was participating...so if it could be more interactive... that would be good.”



SIRINE BENALI PHOTO

LORENZO VENEGAS-VILLA
ADL mentor

“I really think that [ADL] is doing a great job so far. It’s definitely just about planting seeds ...the program [aims] to get these ideas into the minds of young students so that they can work over them, in my opinion, for years. These topics are...not easy to understand. They are very deeply ingrained issues in our society...[ADL needs to] see how students interact and really what can be improved year to year...I think that this first iteration has taught the ADL group so much.”



SIRINE BENALI PHOTO

THEO PARIANOS
Freshman participant

“I thought [the ADL training] was very helpful. It made me think differently about certain things, some big topics we talked about [included] being kinder [and] trying not to be offensive...we learned a lot. I personally liked how we did a lot of hands-on activities, like the agree/disagree [activity]. I think people liked that one the most... we got to be active [and] move around.”

“Murph” over the years



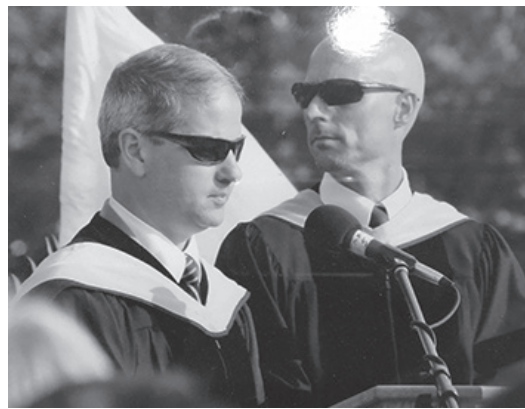
1997

2003



2009

2012



Murphy at graduation with former principal James Lee.

2017

Murphy pushes a garbage barrel to collect chewing gum from seniors prior to graduation.



Paul M

Assistant Principal Paul M at Rockport High School and the University of Maine in an administrative position at I held for 25 years.

“Dealing with the countless dealt with over the last 25 the best part of the job; it’s that I have with students,”

Sophomore Dede Rodier



“Mr. Murphy is really funny, and he always says hi

to me in the halls. He’s kind-hearted, nice, and never in a bad mood.”

Sophomore Will Kenney



“He’s just been here a long time, so he is someone who you

can always turn to. Whenever I see him in the morning, he is always super friendly to everyone.”

Junior Cagney Pallazola



“Mr. Murphy is just so friendly to everyone at the school.

He’s always saying hi to people, and he always puts everyone in a good mood.”

Student

What do you a
Mr. M

Teacher Speak



Murphy

Murphy was teaching after graduating from when he applied for his MERHS, which he has

less students that I've years has been by far s that daily interaction Murphy said.



David Alger

"There is no substitute for loyalty. Mr. Murphy has achieved legendary status during his 25 years as a member of the MERHS community. I'm always

running into former students and parents who ask about 'Murph,' and the feedback that follows has a consistent theme: He has always demonstrated a genuine interest in the well-being of each and every student and has made a positive impact on countless young people. Our school simply won't be the same without him."



Mary Lumsden

"What I look to Mr. Murphy about is how he develops relationships with students. He's all about the kids, and he looks out for the best interest of the kids. He wants to make

sure everything's set for them. He's a really good family man, and it's been a pleasure working with him."



Mary Buckley-Harmon

"In the 22 years I have been teaching here, Mr. Murphy has always been one of the few constants. When I see him in

the hallways, he always has something kind or funny to say. Through the years he has fostered staff camaraderie by organizing social events and making sure everyone feels included. MERHS will feel very different without him."



Robert Bilisbury

"He was here as a young administrator my first year teaching, and every single day, he does his job with his heart wide open. He loves the kids, really cares about the teachers.

I've always felt a special connection with him because you just kind of know that he's got your back, and he's a supportive person."



Elizabeth Edgerton

"I've known Mr. Murphy since I went here as a student and he was the assistant principal. He has always

greeted me with a smile and asked about my family. He really knows the people that work here. He is actually the reason that I applied for this job; he let me know that there would be an opening in the English department, so I really owe a lot to Mr. Murphy for thinking of me. He has always has a great sense of humor and is a lot of fun to be around."



Daniel Lundergan

"He looks at kids as so much more than their status as students or athletes, he wants them to become the best person they can be. He's a fantastic role model for

students and staff as well. I've often said, and others have agreed, that Mr. Murphy is the 'heart and soul' of MERHS."

Student Speak

What do you appreciate about Mr. Murphy?

Junior Olivia Mariotti



"I was new to the school last year, and Mr. Murphy really

helped try to integrate me into the school community. He is always friendly and says hi to me in the hallway."

Senior Dylan Wilson



"He's a genuinely nice guy, and he cares about all the stu-

dents. When he walks through the halls he always talks to us and says hi. You can tell that he cares."

Senior Abby Lantz



"I always appreciate his kind greetings in the hallways.

He's also always making a lot of jokes."

Independent study provides senior new experience with computer science

Student programs neopixel game

By Olivia Turner
INDEPENDENT STAFF

For his independent study in place of an elective, senior Casey Fackre undertook a programming project using neopixels, addressable LED color pixels which come in arrays or strips.

He said the game he created was an extension of a project from his first coding class, Introduction to Computer Science, in the first semester.

The final project for the class, Fackre said, solely required the use of the software the course had focused on.

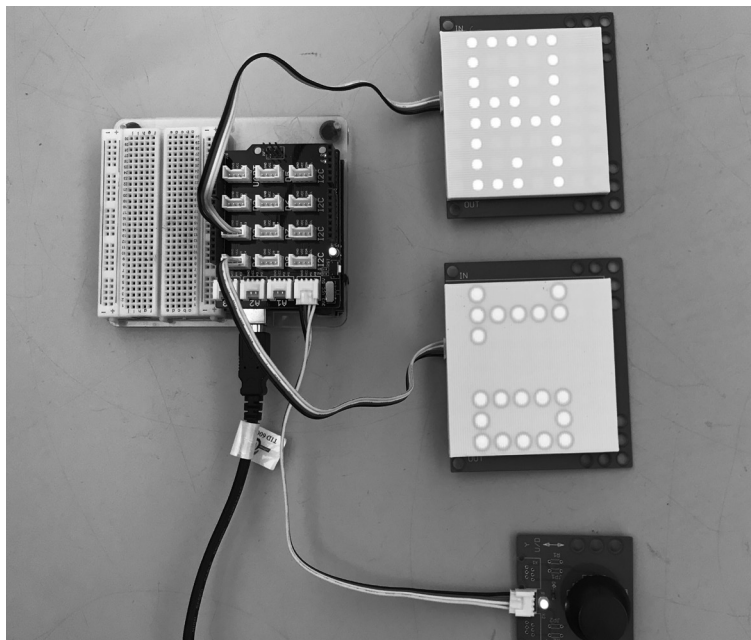
By the end of the course, Fackre said he had drafted a basic version of a program that utilized neopixels, which was more complicated than he had initially thought it would be.

He said he decided to continue to improve the project as an independent study.

Fackre compared the game to Atari's "Pong." A joystick mounted on a circuit board controls the virtual paddle, which is a blue two-pixel segment on the edge of a square 64-neopixel array that serves as a screen.

The objective of the game, he said, is for the player to increase the score, written in large, blue numbers on a separate array, by hitting the green ball repeatedly with the virtual paddle.

Few people know the true



OLIVIA TURNER PHOTO

Senior Casey Fackre created a LED color pixel game using the skills learned in his Introduction to Computer Science class.

complexity of the base-eight math and code required to create the game and its functions, he said.

Fackre said when he could not figure out how to code an element of his program, he would discuss it with computer science teacher Steve Cogger.

"We would try to meet our minds together to figure something out and map something out, and eventually that very specific part of the program would be done, and I'd move on to something else," he said.

Cogger said Fackre generated 2,000 lines of code in a span of seven weeks, working on the project during F block each day.

"I've had a lot of students do some really cool stuff, but just the tenacity and the persistence was commendable," he said.

Fackre said he appreciates the satisfaction of writing successful code for tangible functions.

"There have been times where I've been frustrated, and I just don't really want to do it anymore," but he said he enjoys its rewarding aspect.

Fackre, who will attend the University of Massachusetts next year, said he makes music but thinks he will continue to program beyond high school as a career.

"I feel like that's the most viable career path for me," he said.

New NAHS officers hope to increase member participation

By Austin Woodmen-Paré
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Newly elected National Art Honors Society officers are hoping to increase productivity in the group.

Juniors president Spencer Meek, vice president Penelope Rodier, treasurer Naomi Franklin, and sophomore secretary Isabella DiPasquale were elected on March 13.

NAHS adviser Tamera Burns said she hopes the new officers reflect the leadership skills of the previous board.

"It's evident that the officers dedicate a lot of their time to set up fundraisers, create projects, artwork, organize meetings, and I know that the new officers will have no problem following in their footsteps," Burns said.

Meek said he wants to create a collaborative sculpture with the Green Team, which would be made out of bottles and other recyclables and hang in the area above the entrance of the school.

"We never got to start that project with the Green Team.



AUSTIN WOODMEN-PARÉ PHOTO

Junior president Spencer Meek, vice president Penelope Rodier, treasurer Naomi Franklin, and sophomore secretary Isabella DiPasquale will be the NAHS officers in the following school year.

That had been a big goal for us, and one of my biggest goals for next year is making sure that gets done," he said.

Former NAHS president senior Haley Wolfe said the bottles hanging from the stairs outside the library currently are not a part of this collaboration.

"Unfortunately, we were not able to help out the Green Team with that project. The new officers will decide whether or not they want to do a separate collaboration," she said.

Rodier said the group has a piece of artwork due every month, and she said she wants the program to have them due more often.

"I think that students need to be more involved in the program, and I think the officers should

organize collaborative pieces for each of the members to work on during meetings. The pieces are really independent right now," she said.

Franklin said she wants the program to mimic the leadership of the past officers.

"I would say a goal of mine is to follow in the current president Haley's footsteps because she has done a really great job this year with having a lot of involvement with all of the members," she said.

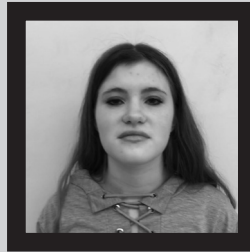
DiPasquale said she wants to paint the bridge that links the elementary school and high school.

"Because that bridge is so vandalized, I thought it would be a cool opportunity for the members to get involved, and it would be really fun," she said.



Freshman Theopholos Brown:

"My favorite restaurant is Dunkin' Donuts because it's cheap."



Freshman Cali Parkins:

"My favorite restaurant is Cala's because I'm friends with the people who work there."



Sophomore Philippa Cox-Stavros:

"My favorite restaurant is the Depot Diner because their breakfast food is iconic."



Sophomore Alexander Furse

"I'd have to say Hale Street because it's cheap and a family place, so I get to go there with my family, and we just relax."



Where is your favorite place to eat on the North Shore?

Junior Isabela Eliassen:

"I don't like fish all that much, so I'm more of a Five Guys or Tennessee's BBQ kind of gal."



Junior Henry Conway:

"I've got to go with Chipotle. It's a staple where you can get a nice burrito."



Senior Atticus Strack:

"My favorite restaurant is La Victoria Taqueria because it's cheap for the best Mexican food around."

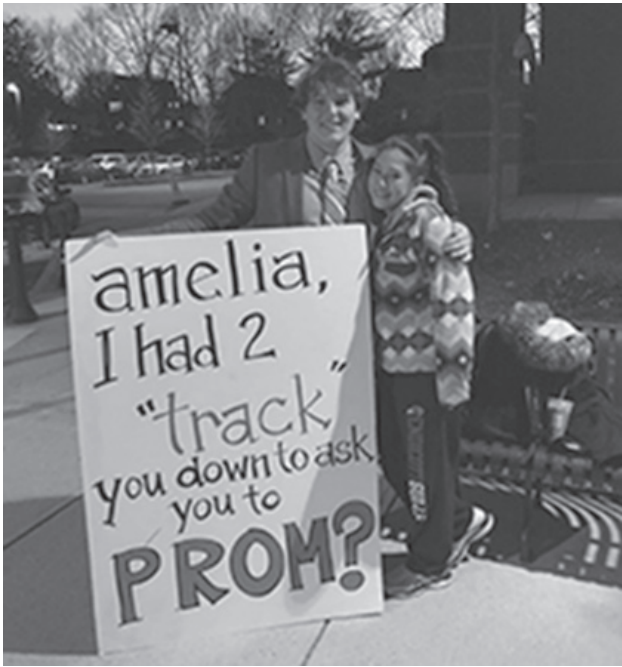


Senior Emily Andrews:

"My favorite restaurant is Not Your Average Joe's because they have diverse options on their menu."



Spring brings promposal season



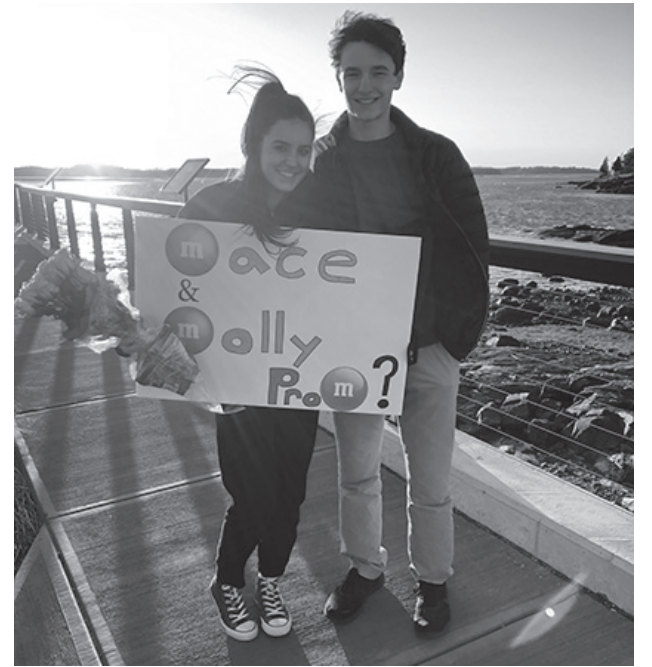
COURTESY OF OWEN COX

Junior Owen Cox asked sophomore Amelia Lee after her track meet with a sign that had a track pun on it. "I made a sign that said, 'I had to track you down to ask you to prom,' and I went to the school and waited for her to come back from her track meet," Cox said.



COURTESY OF WILLIAM POLLOCK

Junior William Pollock asked sophomore Julia Craigen at Tuck's Point in Manchester. "I made a sign and put it on the side of my boat, and then I turned the boat around when she came," he said.



COURTESY OF MOLLY BRADY

Junior Mason Paccone started the season of promposals by asking junior Molly Brady at Conomo Point. "I couldn't see him at first, but then I saw him with the sign, flowers, and M&Ms... I was super surprised, and it was really cute," she said.



COURTESY OF ABIGAIL LANTZ

Senior Jake Athanas asked senior Abigail Lantz on March 24 with a poster. "We were going to play lacrosse, and then he surprised me at Tuck's Point with a lacrosse pun on the poster and a lacrosse ball," Lantz said.



COURTESY OF TRISTAN NOVAK

Junior Tristan Novak asked sophomore Tess Eichenberger by planning it with her friends. "I made a sign and got flowers from Crosby's, and then I went to her house to surprise her while I had her friends take her to Dunkin Donuts," Novak said.



COURTESY OF SPENCER MEEK

Junior Spencer Meek asked sophomore Rachel Albertazzi with help from her mom's preschool students. "I made poster boards with each of the letters, and when I drove her home, the kids were all standing there with the prom letters," he said.

Students paint mural on learning commons's windows, beautify school

By Austin Woodman-Paré
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Senior Haley Wolfe and sophomore Isabella DiPasquale were chosen by the learning commons staff to create a piece of artwork to put in the commons.

Digital learning specialist Del Vollink said this program, called "Art in the Commons," began in 2017.

"We wanted to create this program so artists could showcase their art for a month. We wanted to make the space more versatile and more in tune with the 2000s," she said.

Wolfe said she decided to paint the windows outside of the learning commons after she was elected by Vollink to be the artist of the month.

"I felt like putting my artwork

inside the learning commons might disrupt the flow of students going in and out. I decided to paint the windows outside because I love painting, and I thought the windows would act as a great canvas," she said.

Wolfe said she has spent over 30 hours planning and painting the windows.

"I wanted to design something that resembled a Van Gogh painting. I think our school needs a little more color, so I wanted to create something that would bring life, color, and happiness to the learning commons," she said.

English teacher Gloria Tanner, who is working in the learning commons, said she randomly chose DiPasquale to be the other artist of the month.

"I asked the art teachers for a



MARY BUCKLEY-HARMON PHOTO

Senior Haley Wolfe paints a Van Gogh-inspired mural on the windows of the learning commons.

list of students who were serious about art, good with it, and who potentially have a future in it. I chose Izzy's name on a whim, and I had never seen any of her art before. I finally saw her piece of a screaming Puritan woman, and I knew that I had made the right decision," Tanner said.

DiPasquale said she wanted to

complement Wolfe's artwork and paint the other window.

"I wanted to do something that was more of a design for the window rather than a specific object, and I used Haley's color scheme but altered the colors. The windows are a great canvas because so many people look at them every day," DiPasquale said.

Tanner said she hopes more students can express themselves through artwork and put it up around the school.

"There are windows everywhere in this building that can be painted. I think it's wonderful that anyone in this school who wants to paint a mural or share their artwork can," she said.

Track team strives to make Nationals

Co-op program builds off winter season

By Jenna Cirella
INDEPENDENT STAFF

With a current record of 1-1-1, this year's goals for the girls' and boys' co-op track team with Gloucester High School are to improve from their winter season, coach Mark Dawson said.

"A lot of athletes do both, the indoor track season and the outdoor track season, so we try to capitalize on the momentum that we had. If we continue to practice smart training methods, then the win/loss columns will take care of themselves," Dawson said.

At practices, the team is using guided stretching and active drills during practices, which are often things that athletes tend to

forget, he said.

"We are making a conscious effort to boost the amount of awareness we have on these things. The overall fitness aspect takes care of itself if you follow successful methods from the past that have worked for athletes," he said.

'We are working hard throughout our workouts and pushing each other.'

- EVE FEUERBACH

Senior captain, Eve Feuerbach said the team's goals are for more people to go to All-States, win more meets, and have more boys participate in all-states.

"We had a girl's DMR team go to Nationals last year, and that would be great if we could go again. It would also be cool to have the boys be included. Winning a couple of meets would also be an accomplishment, but it is tough because

we are a small team," Feuerbach said.

The team is hoping to accomplish these goals by pacing the season and staying fresh for the end of the season when the meets become more serious leading up to all-states, Feuerbach said.

"We are working hard throughout our workouts and pushing each other, but we are trying not to burn out too fast, and don't kill ourselves too early into the season," she said.

The players to watch out for this season are sophomores, Will Kenney and Oli Turner from Manchester-Essex. Also, captain, Matt Carter, Feuerbach said.

The co-op program creates a good team dynamic between the two towns, captain Dean Campbell said.

"It creates a nice social environment, and you get to meet a lot of new people. I also feel like it helps our training a bit too," he said.



COURTESY OF OLIVIA FORD

Sophomores Tyler Erdmann and James Wendell practice at the Gloucester High School track in preparation for their next meet.

Girls' tennis emphasizes dedication, work ethic to defend state tournament championship

Players' chemistry, teamwork strengthens during season

By Hannah Freeman
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Following a victory in the state tournament and an 17-1-0 regular season in 2018, the girls' tennis team hopes to build on their success of previous years for a similar result this season.

Senior captain Andrea Rennie said her primary goal for the season is to return to the state tournament with the hope of winning it for the second year in a row.

"Last season we won the state championship, so our goal for the season this year is definitely to make it to the finals again, and to beat whoever is in our league," she said.

Coach Ken Rawson said he hopes to work with the team to be successful in the tournament and defend their title.

"Although anything can happen in a championship, I'm confident that the girls will work hard to make it to the final, and hopefully we can come away with the same outcome," he said.

Rawson said dedication and hard work will be a deciding factor for the team

this season.

"Everyone on the team has to make sacrifices if we want to be successful. It might mean skipping a party or putting extra time into studies to get ahead so that we can maximize the amount of

'Although anything can happen in a championship, I'm confident that the girls will work hard to make it to the final.'

- KEN RAWSON

time we can practice, but that hard work is what will allow the team to be competitive," he said.

Junior captain Christina Bullock said her goals for the season include

working together as a team to accomplish their performance goals throughout the season's matches.

"We really have a solid team this year. Teamwork is really important to be successful, and our team chemistry has been great so far this season; I'm looking forward to playing with such a great group of girls and performing at a high level to be successful," she said.

Bullock also said the team's main rivals this season, as usual, are Lynnfield and North Reading.

"They are always challenging teams to play against, but we were able to win last year, so our hope for this year is that we can build on that success and do the same," she said.



HANNAH FREEMAN PHOTOS

Senior Andrea Rennie and junior Christina Bullock seek to maintain strong bond with teammates.

Boys' tennis captains aim to promote sportsmanship, positive environment

Juniors lead team in absence of seniors

By Paige Swanson
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

With a record of 1-0 after beating Pentucket 4-1, the boys' tennis team's captains, juniors Nils Taylor, Thomas Birkeland, and Thymen DeWidt, are hoping to continue to improve the team's skill and create a strong team dynamic,

'[The] entire group is awesome and is showing the way for the younger kids in terms of how we play and how hard we work in practice.'

- ROBERT BILSBURY

Taylor said.

DeWidt said he is excited to be leading the team with two of his friends and is hopeful they

will be able to make a positive impact on the other players.

"The three of us are good friends, and we know what we're doing, so we can definitely help out the younger players... it's a good

opportunity to be a leader," he said.

Taylor said he's looking forward to promoting kindness on the team as well as creating a safe and positive environment for the players.

Developing skill and chemistry within the team in order to have a successful season is another one of the captain's goals, Birkeland said.

To achieve their goals, Taylor said he and his fellow captains want to be players the rest of the

team can look up to.

"I want to be a role model, because [the players] definitely look up to us. Having good sportsmanship, playing well, and being honest will help the team," he said.

Coach Robert Bilsbury said that although there are no seniors to lead the team, he is content with the junior leaders he has.

"This year we don't have any seniors, but we have a really good group of juniors, so that entire group is awesome and is

showing the way for the younger kids in terms of how we play and how hard we work in practice," he said.

Bilsbury said all of the juniors serve as leaders for the team but the captains are exceptionally good leaders.

"We had an election two weeks in [to the season], and all the juniors got votes, but [the captains] were the top vote-getters. I think Thymen, Nils, and Thomas just stood out a little bit more," he said.



PAIGE SWANSON PHOTOS

Junior captains Thomas Birkeland, Nils Taylor, and Thymen DeWidt work together as friends to create a welcoming, kind atmosphere for younger players and act as role models.

Boys' lacrosse team strives to improve record

Players aim to learn from mistakes, work together to make decisions

By Isabella DiPasquale
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Senior captains of the boys' lacrosse team, Jake Athanas, Bobby Beardsley and Logan Carroll, hope to improve their current record of 1-5 and make the playoffs in the upcoming season.

The team ended their season last year with a record of 13-7.

The team's main rivals this year are Georgetown, Newburyport, Hamilton-Wenham, and Gloucester. They faced Newburyport in their fifth game of the season, which they lost 11-10.

The team beat Haverhill 12-5.

Coach John McCavenaugh said that while their primary goal is to make the playoffs, he also

wants them to have fun and grow as a team.

Although the team started the season with a 15-9 loss to Bishop Fenwick, they are learning from their mistakes in order to improve for the rest of the season.

"[I discussed with them] the fact that no team can really come together or understand who they are until they go through some adversity.

That is really what we faced early on in the season, and I believe that will pay off for us in the long run," McCavenaugh said.

Athanas said he hopes to continue utilizing his

experience in his second year as captain. He said a big part of being a captain is helping the newer players and giving them advice.

'The team is mostly full of freshmen, so having a few [of us] that have some experience at this level helps get everyone up to speed.'

- BOBBY BEARDSLEY



COURTESY OF MARK DIPASQUALE

Senior captain Bobby Beardsley plays in a home game against Swampscott, which the team lost 5-4.

He said he gets along with his fellow captains and feels that they work together well.

"[The other captains and I] work together to make decisions, like we will have a vote if we want to do something," he said.

Carroll said his fellow captains

are both great leaders, and they strive to use their positions as team captains to help some of the younger members of the team to improve individually.

"It's nice to [be able to] pass on our skills and experiences to the younger [players]," he said.

Beardsley said he also enjoys sharing his knowledge of the sport.

"The team is mostly full of freshmen, so having a few [of us] that have some experience at this level helps get everyone up to speed," he said.

Sailing team starts season with two victories under new coach's leadership

By Charlotte Pick
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Under the leadership of new coach Anthony Leggett, the sailing team won the qualifier for the O'Day Trophy and finished seventh overall at the NESSA Fleet Racing Championship final, following wins at their first two regattas of the season.

One of his goals, to win the qualifier for the O'Day Trophy, was already accomplished by the team on Saturday, April 13.

Prior to coaching the team, Leggett sailed in college and worked on the America's Cup campaign for a year. He also prepared a boat for the 1977 America's Cup in Newport,

which Ted Turner won.

In addition to Leggett, the team is led by junior captains Hannah Freeman and Rowan Schanley.

"Our main goal for the rest of the season is to perform well at States, Mass Bay League Championship, and the Phebe King Championship this spring," Schanley said.

So far, the team has already achieved their goal of qualifying for the O'Day Trophy, but fell short of its goal to qualify for the Mallory Championship, placing 7th at the NESSA Fleet Racing Championship. This 7th-place finish qualified the team for second nationals, the Phebe King



COURTESY OF VICKI DONNELLAN

The sailing team takes to the water for practice in late March.

Memorial National Invitational Championship. The competition will take place in Annapolis, Md. on May 10-12.

"We didn't perform as well as we would have liked at the final, but we were still able to qualify for the Phebe King. We

hope we can perform well and place at that event," Freeman said.

Leggett said he hopes the team will qualify for and win several races and championships this season.

"I also would like to see the

girls on the team qualify for the Rebecca Herreshoff Trophy; this is a part of the New England High School Women's Championship, which is sailed in May in Bowdoin, Maine," Leggett said.

He also mentioned players who will impact the team.

"The names to keep an eye on are our top three skippers on the varsity team racing squad: senior Luke Quine and juniors Hannah Freeman and Rowan Schanley. The top crews this year are seniors Lena Brzezinski and Sirine Benali, and sophomore Ryan Clark," Leggett said.

The team has already achieved several victories this season, and Leggett hopes they will continue at this pace for the rest of the season.

"Luckily we will have two of the current top three skippers returning next year, which means if we can groom a third skipper, we will have a very experienced team for next year," he said.

New coach finds strengths in girls' lacrosse team

By Domino Morris
INDEPENDENT STAFF

New coach Nan Gorton joins the girls' lacrosse team this season with the hope of improving the team's skill from last year, senior captain Drew Charlton said.

Gorton said she is excited to coach and get back on the lacrosse field after last playing at Brown University in Division I.

She said she previously coached a varsity level team at Buckingham Browne and Nich-



COURTESY OF VICKI DONNELLAN

Freshman Ceci Mastendino plays in an away game against Marblehead High School. The team won with a score of 14-6.

ols Upper School in Cambridge.

Gorton said the transition from coaches must be difficult for the players, but she is im-

pressed by their motivation and skill.

"The work ethic [of the team] is unbelievable," she said.

The team last year reached the Division II North Finals in the tournament with a record of 17-4-0 but hopes to go even further this year and win their division, senior captain Abby Lantz said.

Charlton said she thinks improving the team's athleticism will help them achieve their goals this season.

"I think our fitness will be a lot better... as we focus a lot on conditioning during practice," she said.

The team is confident in their abilities, Charlton said.

"We have strong players in every position, so we don't have an apparent weakness for other teams to exploit," she said.

A large turnover of players since last year left 12 returning

varsity players, senior captain Brigid Edgerton said.

Lantz said the team is trying to find their "chemistry and flow on the field" with the new players as fast as possible.

Gorton said her goal as a coach is to "see progress every day as a team" rather than focusing on winning or losing a game. "If we do the little things... the wins will come," she said.

She said she expects the captains, sophomore Lily Athanas and senior Bella Pomeroy to act as leaders on the field.

Charlton said that Newburyport continues to be the team's rival. According to mascores.com, the team won 9-8 against Newburyport and is currently top of their league with a record of 5-1-0.

Captains lead baseball team, establish new goals for season

Players start their season strong, seek to win CAL tournament

By Thymen de Widt
INDEPENDENT STAFF

With a 4-1-0 record, the baseball team has beaten Swampscott, Rockport, Amesbury and rival Hamilton-Wenham.

Captains leading the team are seniors Bennett O'Leary, Dylan Wilson, Will Janowicz, Luke Leavitt, Harry Painter, and junior Lars Arnsten.

Wilson said the team has had one "really close," 6-10 defeat against another rival, Georgetown.

The team had an overall record of 13-8-0 last year and has developed new goals for the remainder of the 2019 season.

Coach James Weed said "[the team's main goal] is winning the day, every day, [and that they] are taking it one day at a time."

Leavitt said that they have been working on every different position in preparation for

upcoming games.

"We are working hard with batting practice, fielding rounds, and base running, largely because this is what it all comes down to in the playoffs," he said.

Painter also said the team has been training hard, and hopes that they will go far into the season.

"The entire team has been giving it 100 percent every day, working very hard to do well throughout the season, and get the CAL title," he said.

Wilson said the team entered the season strong, having won four of their five games and establishing the team's lineup for the remainder of the year.

"The team worked hard, and we played very well. We definitely got a feel for who we got on the team and what the lineup is going to be for upcoming games," he said.

The team lost four key players last year, but new players are



THYMEN DE WIDT PHOTO

Senior captain Luke Leavitt awaits an incoming pitch in a scrimmage against Salem Academy. He has consistently led the team in games, setting an example for younger players this season.

stepping up to fill in their spots, Weed said.

"We lost a lot of big bats in our line up this year, and we have some guys that are going to step

up to take their spots on the line up this season," he said.

Arnsten also said that the team has a few new players that have been performing well with a lot

of potential.

"We have a few impact freshmen on the team: AJ Pallazola, Von O'Leary, and Ryan Andrews," he said.

Softball gains young players, aims to make tournament

Captains help young players improve their skills

By Olivia Turner
INDEPENDENT STAFF

After undergoing changes to its varsity program, the softball team begins the 2019 season with a much larger roster than years prior.

Head coach Frank Sarro said in addition to eight returning players, the team has nine eighth-graders, who are now permitted to be on the varsity team.

The team lost its first game 12-0, against St. Mary's High School, on April 5, and lost its second game 6-3, against Newburyport High School.

Sarro said the team's main rival is Ipswich High School.

The captains of this year's

team are seniors Belle Graves and Molly Field and juniors Claire Gendron and Sydney Levasseur.

Sarro said the captains have exhibited strong leadership.

"It's not always easy because there has to be an extreme amount of patience, and they have to help the younger kids. They've just been terrific," he said.

Because of the team's youth this season, it has been focusing on preparing by practicing basic techniques, mixed with more advanced ones.

"Right now, we're trying to go through every situation and teach the younger kids where the ball's going to go and where they



OLIVIA TURNER PHOTO

Junior captain Sydney Levasseur has been helpful in showing the younger players new techniques for pitching during practices.

should be lined up," he said.

Senior captain Belle Graves said the team's eighth-graders

are still adjusting to playing on a varsity level, and high school athletes are learning to work

with the new players.

"It can be discouraging for [the eighth-graders], just because they don't have as much experience," she said.

Senior captain Molly Field said the team has experienced a significant shift but is adjusting well to the changes.

"We've been trying to do as much as we can to help the new girls make sure that they know pretty much what we do during games," she said.

Sarro said live pitching has been helpful in training eighth-grade players for the vigor of varsity games.

He said the team's main goal for the season is making the tournament, and he expects senior Michaela Edelstein, junior Sophia Pomeroy, and the four captains to be impactful this season.

"We're going to have strong pitching with Sydney... she was here last year and helped us lead to the tournament," Sarro said.

Addition of new players strengthens Frisbee team

By Katherine Fitzgibbon
INDEPENDENT STAFF

With the addition of several new players, including a record-breaking number of girls and sixth-graders, this year's ultimate Frisbee team hopes to have a strong season.

The team, led by coaches Catherine Heanue and Caroline Carlson, has a total of 40 players, ranging from sixth-graders to seniors, surpassing last year's total of 23 players.

Last year, the players ended the season with a record of 9-2-0, against Pingree, St. John's Prep, Rockport, and North Reading.

The team is led by sophomore



KATHERINE FITZGIBBON PHOTO

Sophomore captain Finn Carlson throws the disc past sophomore Connor McGrath during a practice at Coach Field turf.

captains Eli Heanue and Finn Carlson and freshman captain Finn Hawley.

The team has two victories

this season against Rockport and Pingree.

Working with young players can be difficult, the captains are

determined to not let the players' lack of experience get in the way of having another successful season, Heanue said.

"Most of the players are inexperienced, but they're learning, so that's all that matters," Heanue said.

The team is organized through the Manchester Parks and Recreation Department, so it is not affiliated with the high school. Catherine Heanue and Caroline Carlson are the official coaches of the team, but the captains do most of the actual coaching, Eli Heanue said.

"As captains, we take it upon ourselves to hold up all of the

responsibilities that come with running a team," Heanue said.

At practice, the captains help the younger players improve

'As captains, we take it upon ourselves to hold up all of the responsibilities that come with running a team.'

- ELI HEANUE

"The majority of our team is now new players, so they need to know how the game works. Scrimmaging helps them become familiar with the game," Carlson said.

Caroline Carlson said that she and Catherine

Heanue have decided to give the captains more ownership over the coaching process this year.

"Last year, Finn and Eli did a nice job and seemed to work well together. This year, we're giving them full rein on it... This is an excellent leadership opportunity for them," Caroline Carlson said.

Art teachers attend national convention in Boston

Educators learn from speakers, interactive sessions at conference

By Charlotte Pick
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Art teachers district-wide attended a National Art Education Association convention at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston to gain new skills to use in the classroom.

High school art teachers Caroline Hunt-Epp and Tamera Burns and middle school art teacher Mary Sullivan attended the three-day conference, which was made up of both interactive sessions and lectures by guest speakers.

The location of the convention changes every year; it was held in Seattle last year and will be held in Minnesota in 2020. Each conference is attended by around 6,000 art educators from across the United States.

Epp said there were many different speakers at the convention, one being the artist who painted Michelle Obama's official portrait, Amy Sherald.

In addition to this, Epp also said she was able to attend smaller sessions that pertained more to her area of teaching.

"The most interesting presentation I went to was run by a teacher at Swampscott High School who talked about a different way of grading: instead of grading on a project, teachers grade based on Harvard's Project Zero program; it grades kids on whether they are doing things that artists do like reflecting, persisting, and engaging," Epp said.

As Burns is on the board for the Massachusetts Art Education Association, she engaged in other activities in addition to attending the conference.

"I am a secondary division director, so I am a voting member for the board. In order to get ready for that I not only had to go to it and soak up all of the new ideas, but also help to plan the event for the state," she said.

Burns said the organization was able to make a considerable amount of money throughout the conference.

"We made a lot of money through T-shirt sales, and that money was in turn given out to other groups across the state,"



COURTESY OF TAMERA BURNS

Amy Sherald, the artist who painted Michelle Obama's portrait, was one of the main speakers at the conference, which included speeches from artists and interactive activities.

Burns said.

Sullivan, the art teacher at the middle school level, also attended workshops and lectures throughout her time at the conference.

"The best speaker I got to see was an elementary school teacher from Iowa who presented about developing empathy and creativity

in the art room; he had amazing lesson plans and really awesome ideas and ways to talk to kids in ways that get them to think independently," she said.

Burns said that the conference being held in Boston allowed the quality of Massachusetts' education programs to come to light.

"I came away thinking that I am really proud to be a teacher in this state. We live and work in a state that is a real leader in education. If you are a teacher, it is a fantastic state to work in because we are always at the cutting edge of new things in order to help students be successful," she said.

Sherry's Corner Cafe embodies Magnolia

Typical American restaurant serves breakfast, salads, soups, wraps

By Domino Morris
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Sherry's Corner Cafe in Magnolia is a small, homey restaurant which serves inexpensive, delicious breakfast and lunch food.

The restaurant's atmosphere is similar to a classic all-American breakfast place where breakfast is always an option, even in the afternoon.

A long counter looks onto the kitchen, which is the ideal place for a quick cup of coffee (\$2) and a freshly baked muffin (\$2.75).

Sherry's Corner Cafe features

a friendly staff and a modest seating area in a casual setting. The restaurant provides a 20 percent discount to active military, police, fire, EMS, and veterans.

The entire breakfast menu consists of items \$11 and under. The traditional short stack of two pancakes costs \$5, a plain omelette costs \$6.50, and various egg plates, served with toast and home fries, are all below \$10. Other meals include french toast, waffles, omelets, breakfast sandwiches, and house specials.

The various specials include creative combinations, such as the corn beef hash eggs benedict (\$11). This dish provides an amusing and delicious take on a timeless meal.

Serving sizes and portions at the cafe are ample. Another spe-



DOMINO MORRIS PHOTO

Sherry's Corner Cafe, located at 2 Lexington Ave. in Magnolia, is only a short walk from Magnolia Beach. It is the only restaurant in town that offers both breakfast and lunch.

cial, known as "The Hat Trick" (\$9.75), is made up of three eggs, three pancakes, and either three strips of bacon or three sausage links as a side.

The lunch menu is all under \$12, ranging from sandwiches, burgers, soups, salads, wraps, and more.

Orders are also available to

pick up for people on the go.

Sherry's Corner Cafe is also very welcoming to families. They serve children's breakfast meals all for \$4 with the choice of french toast, pancakes, or eggs. A children's menu is also available for lunch.

Since the destruction of the Magnolia House of Pizza in 2014, Sherry's Corner Cafe has been the best replacement.

The restaurant is the only breakfast and lunch option available in town, besides Dunkin'.

Sherry's Corner Cafe is located across from Dunkin' on 2 Lexington Ave. in Magnolia and is within walking distance from Magnolia Beach.

Hours:

Monday-Friday 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Saturday 6 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Sunday 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Students perform in concert, visit Boston's Symphony Hall

By Katherine Fitzgibbon
INDEPENDENT STAFF

In addition to holding the annual spring concert, the high school's music students attended a field trip to Symphony Hall, and the Sound Waves are preparing for their A Cappella Night.

The Spring Concert was held on Thursday, April 4.

The chorus performed four songs including "Make Them Hear You," "Ride the Chariot,"

"An Old Silent Pond," and "Sililiza."

The Sound Waves performed "Mr. Blue Sky," "Can't Help Falling in Love," "Carry on Wayward Son," and "Treasure."

The jazz band played "In a Mellow Tone," "Birdland," and "What is Hip?," and the band performed "Midway March," "Factory Riffs," "Appalachian Morning," and "Incantations."

In addition to working on different pieces in class, the chorus, Sound Waves, jazz band, and band all held a dress rehearsal on Wednesday, April 3 in order to prepare for the concert.

The students also attended a field trip to the Boston Symphony Orchestra on Thursday,

April 11.

They were able to watch a rehearsal with conductor Gustavo Dudamel, the music director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus.

Band teacher Joe Janack said Gustavo Dudamel is one of the most famous conductors in the world, and it is rare to be able to see him perform.

"To be able to experience that in Symphony Hall was an extraordinary opportunity for the

students," he said.

Sophomore Anna Whitten said witnessing Dudamel live was amazing.

"Dudamel was energetic,

bouncing around and moving with the music," she said.

Chorus teacher Donna O'Neill said that it is very important for the students to be able to hear a professional orchestra.

"We are lucky

'We are lucky to have such quality groups in Boston. It's important to expose our students to the cultural treasures we have in our city.'

-DONNA O'NEILL

to have such quality groups in Boston," she said. "It's important to expose our students to the

cultural treasures we have in our city."

The Sound Waves are preparing for A Cappella Night, which is Thursday, May 2.

O'Neill said that in addition to hosting a cappella groups from various schools such as Pingree, Rockport, Hamilton-Wenham, and the middle school, the Sound Waves are featuring Vinyl Street, a semi-professional group from Boston that performs in and around the Boston area.

"Because the Sound Waves performed with them several years ago and developed a nice repertoire with them, they are always eager to join us," O'Neill said.

New season of 'The Bachelor' sends misogynistic message

Dramatic episodes highlight show's sexist stereotypes, double standards for men, women

By Sofia Gillespie
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

This year's 23rd season of "The Bachelor" was one of the most dramatic seasons yet, as host Chris Harrison would say, but it also highlighted the show's clear misogynistic messages.

The season featured former NFL player for the San Diego Chargers, Colton Underwood, and his journey to find love and a wife. Underwood became famous and well-liked by fans in the previous season of "The Bachelorette" for his dashing looks, charm, and openness about his virginity.

Unlike previous seasons, Underwood's time on "The Bachelor" did not end with an engagement in the final episode, and at one point in the series,



ABC.COM

The long running television series "The Bachelor" starred former NFL player Colton Underwood this season as he chose from 30 women to potentially propose to on the final episode.

there were no remaining women left on the show as the final three women had all either left him or had broken up with him.

He was able to come back from this low-point in the show by chasing after the front-runner Cassie Randolph, a speech pathologist from Huntington

Beach, Calif. who had left him. The two ended the show together and are still dating.

Although the season was entertaining and dramatic for its viewers, it highlighted the show's sexist nature.

The season showed many "cat-fights" between female contes-

tants and especially highlighted a hateful feud between two pageant queens.

The profession of pageant queen already objectifies women and degrades them to their physical appearance, but the producers of "The Bachelor" capitalized on this by selecting two pageant

queens they knew would dramatically fight with one another on camera in order to emphasize certain stereotypes about women.

Producers of the season gave more camera time to the contestants who were manipulative and emotional in order to exaggerate these female stereotypes. Although there are good-natured contestants on the show, they are often not given the same screen time as the more dramatic women.

Additionally, in the first episode of the show, several women admitted to quitting their jobs in order to be on the show for a chance at a proposal.

This is not expected of male contestants of "The Bachelorette," showing the double standard that women are held to on this show.

Forcing 30 women to fight for a proposal from one man has sexist undertones to begin with, but this season especially highlighted the shows misogynistic messages by portraying women as manipulative, emotional, and petty.

'Manic Pixie Dream' conveys powerful messages of youth, love, growing up

By Olivia Turner
INDEPENDENT STAFF

In her indie pop EP "Manic Pixie Dream," 17-year-old Chloe Lilac immortalizes youth, love, and summer by setting fervent lyrics to dreamy, avant-garde beats.

Lilac, who left her high school in Brooklyn, New York and is now a full-time musician, has been steadily gaining traction in the music community. Her songs, odes to teenage ecstasy and heart-break, are ambient explorations of feelings that lie dormant in many.

For Lilac, these emotions are anything but dormant; she likes to say she feels everything, and this is central to her music, from

vibrant teenage anthems like "Summer" to deeply mournful ballads like "Jesus Couldn't Love Me."

"Summer," a track devoted to love and friendship in Lilac's hometown, perfectly captures the kind of rebellious, reverberant energy that is synonymous with that of teens in the heart of July.

Though some tracks are light-hearted, addiction and mental health are common themes of the album, building its mature tone. Lilac struggled with addiction in her early teen years, and her healing process had a powerful and lasting effect on her life and music.

Emotional lyrics like "Jesus

couldn't love me, even if he tried" from the track, "Jesus Couldn't Love Me," add layers of soulful maturity to the album, making her sound many years older than 17.

The track is hard-hitting from the first listen, pulling together themes of addiction and heart-break to create a chorus best described as a beautiful ache.

The album is a work of both lyrical and instrumental genius, combining piano, guitar, and synth-like instruments to achieve Lilac's signature otherworldly reverb.

On the album's title track, "Manic Pixie Dream," Lilac tackles an issue that she has said seems to follow her everywhere:



FLICKR.COM

Chloe Lilac, who grew up in Brooklyn, has said on social media that discrimination and objectification has affected her.

feminism.

Lilac addresses Hollywood's "manic pixie dream girl," a two-dimensional character in television and movies that perpetuates misogyny in real life.

Lilac's ability to pair compelling lyrics with robust beats sets her apart from the usual musician. The Live Nation website Ones to Watch first profiled her in late 2018.

'Peaky Blinders' presents complex antihero

By Sophia Larson
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Following a group of gangsters in 1920s Birmingham, England, the Netflix original series "Peaky Blinders" makes thrilling use of gang leader Thomas Shelby (Cillian Murphy) to create a complicated, Godfather-esque antihero.

Based on an actual gang called the Peaky Blinders which operated in this time period the show takes place on the backdrop of the poverty and the fresh trauma of WWI.

"Peaky Blinders" deftly uses the psychological wounds of war to enrich its characters' motiva-

tions and personality, frequently yet skillfully demonstrating how the war affected those who fought in it.

Thomas self-medicates and wrestles with nightmares while his brother Arthur Shelby (Paul Anderson) fights, drinks, and even attempts suicide.

The audience sees these seemingly ruthless gangsters as vulnerable and sympathetic through their trauma. The viewer understands that these are changed men who have been through hell and have brought a little bit of it back to Birmingham.

In this lies the crux of what makes "Peaky Blinders" so engaging to watch: it makes the audience root for, like, and sympathize with murderers and criminals, even as the viewer watches them commit heinous acts of violence.



NETFLIX.COM

The Netflix Original series "Peaky Blinders" follows a family of gangsters as they grow their organized crime business.

Thomas is clever and stoically confident, a man who has experienced trauma, who is suffering yet carries on trying to build a business, though that business might mean fixing horse races and taking a razor blade his to enemies on his road to becoming a legitimate businessman.

The audience automatically likes Thomas because he is not cruel for cruelty's sake. He always has a reason for doing something; he is not egotistical, he is not a bully, and the audience can't help but admire him for his quiet yet unmistakable strength.

On the opposite side of the law,

inspector Chester Campbell (Sam Neill) acts as Thomas' foil, ultimately in the right yet brutal and unlikeable in a way that Thomas is not.

Thus, no matter what Thomas and the Peaky Blinders do, the audience always roots for them to get away with it and for Campbell to fail because of the show's emotional appeals.

Even as Arthur is taken to jail for murdering an innocent boy in a wrestling match, the audience resents the police for capturing him and hopes for Thomas to break Arthur out, not because Arthur is free from guilt, but because the viewer wants Thomas to win.

"Peaky Blinders" not only presents conflict between characters but conjures a conflict within the viewer over their own concept of morality.