

the INDEPENDENT

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Class of 2014 graduates among family, community Speakers impart life advice to seniors, students reflect on many achievements

By Hannah Riordan
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Clad in green and white caps and gowns, 118 seniors proceeded across Highland Field on Friday, June 6, marking the beginning of the 2014 Commencement activities.

Flanked by the high school band on their right and the faculty and staff and School Committee on their left, the Class of 2014 took their seats in the sun facing the stage.

Assistant Principal Paul Murphy gave the opening remarks, praising the students for bettering the lives of "so many."

"Each of you is fully prepared for an eventful life in which you can make a difference in your community and beyond," he said.

Following Murphy, Superintendent Pamela Beaudoin delivered her address, noting that 2014 marks the 13th annual graduation ceremony since Manchester and Essex regionalized.

Beaudoin urged students to take



MARY BUCKLEY-HARMON PHOTO

Following a ceremony celebrating the seniors' achievements in several fields, students honored the tradition of tossing their graduation caps in the air to represent their completion of high school.

pleasure in the more nuanced side of life and to value love of friends and family over material wealth.

"Happiness and success are defined by the individual, not Facebook. Set your own course. Be authentic," she said.

Students soon got to join in,

as class officers Erik Rajunas, Evanthia Boling, Billy Burnham, and Alyssa Shepard proceeded to thank class adviser Jennifer Coleman and present the class gift: landscaping and a set of chairs with folding desktops for the newly completed outdoor class-

room. During the next portion of the ceremony, class president Erik Rajunas, salutatorian Madeline Dahlin, and valedictorian Lindsey Duff spoke to their fellow classmates. All three students emphasized the unity that best characterized their class.

"Although everyone is distinctly unique, we can come together for a common end," Rajunas said.

"Throughout it all, it was the compassion of our teammates and classmates that pushed us to succeed when we were frustrated," Dahlin said.

Duff remarked on the welcoming social landscape of the class, noting that they avoided the cliched high school practice of labeling students as "nerds, jocks, and drama queens."

Principal Patricia Puglisi took the stage to speak and award over \$100,000 in scholarships. Her speech, broken up by each month that she spent during her first year as principal, detailed all the lessons that the Class of 2014 taught her.

Finally, as what Murphy called the only person "standing between" graduates and their diplomas, faculty speaker Daniel Koughan delivered the Commencement address.

Drawing on his experiences as an English teacher, Koughan

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MERHS ranks 18 in state

By Charlie Davis
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Recent rankings from U.S. News and World Report place Manchester-Essex 18 overall in the state and 118 in the country in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Last year the school was not included in the rankings, as Manchester-Essex did not meet one of the first standards the U.S. News and World Report uses to make its rankings, according to high school Principal Patricia Puglisi.

"They look at how well your identified [special education]

students are achieving versus your non-identified students are achieving, and they should be growing at parallel rates," she said.

After passing this initial standard, the rankings are mostly based off of test scores, Puglisi said. After considering this criterion, the school ranks 18 in the state.

"A big chunk of their ranking is AP test scores, so that would be the number of students that actually take AP courses, and also the number of students who score a 3 or better on the exam," Puglisi said.

In addition to the overall state rankings, Puglisi said that MERHS was nationally recognized for its performance in the STEM fields. In this category, Manchester-Essex ranks 118. She said that this is a very impressive feat, considering the number of schools in the country.

The prestige that the new rank

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13 DECA students attend competition in Atlanta

By Natasha Statz-Geary
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

After returning home from the International Career Development Conference that was held in Atlanta, 13 DECA members are now celebrating their achievements and reflecting upon insights they can share with the rest of the team.

The team was in Atlanta from Fri, May 2 to Wed, May 7.

"I am so proud of all my teammates for their performances in Atlanta and am grateful for my experience at ICDC. I learned helpful tips that I hope I can share with my team to help them succeed, too," ICDC competitor junior Breanna Arnold said.

Arnold won a First Place medal in Quick Serve Restaurant Management for her Role Play in Product Service Management and was among the six DECA members who received honors at the competition.

"Teammates Troy Ciarametaro and Devon Towle, as well as teammates Jack Hennigan and Christopher Carr competed in Sports and Entertainment Team Decision Making. All four earned



COURTESY OF DEAN MARTINO

Before competition days began, DECA students attending the International Conference visited the Atlanta Olympic grounds.

the prestigious Award of Excellence by meeting all standards in each of the role play events placing them in the 97th percentile of ICDC competitors," DECA coach Dean Martino said.

Additionally, senior Alexandra Leventis competed in Apparel and Accessory Marketing and scored a First Place medal in her written exam, which, according to Martino, is considered to be the most difficult exam in DECA's history.

"I am continually surprised at my students' maturity and behavior on these trips, and overall the team did exceedingly well in a hard competition. They amazed me both in and out of competition," he said.

When the team wasn't competing, they had the chance to explore parts of Atlanta and relax.

The team toured the Atlanta Aquarium, the Olympic Park

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National tournament results show promise for debate team

Three high school debaters travel to Chicago for tournament along with debaters from across the country

By Ethan Andersen
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Junior Nicholas Albertazzi and sophomores Oscar Heanue and Charles Davis traveled to Chicago, IL, over Memorial Day weekend where they earned winning records at the National Catholic Forensic League national tournament.

At the event, Albertazzi advanced passed the preliminary rounds to the break rounds, which held the top 32 debaters in his event. Heanue and Davis had a 10-5 record, but did not advance to break rounds.

The National Catholic Forensic League national tournament took the top six debaters

from each district, according to Albertazzi. This was Albertazzi's third time attending the tournament in Lincoln-Douglas debate.

"In my first break round, I lost to the best debater in the country, Danny Debois, on a 2-1 decision," he said.

The loss resulted in Albertazzi being eliminated from the tournament.

'I was proud of our result. I think we gave it a great effort and the fact that we were so close to advancing proves our efforts were a success'

-OSCAR HEANUE

Albertazzi said that he enjoyed his time in the competition. "The experience was great because everyone there was talented in my event. Not one round felt boring, and I got to debate competitors

from all over the country," he said.

Albertazzi explained that judges at the tournament were different than at local competi-

tions because they relied on different argument styles.

"The judges are actually traditional in the sense that they prefer to hear solid and unique analytical arguments opposed to an excess of evidence," he said.

Heanue and Davis, a pair in Public Forum debate, expressed their satisfaction with their performance at the competition.

"We did a great job in my opinion. We had a winning record in the preliminary rounds, but unfortunately we were one ballot away from advancing on to the break round," Heanue said.

This was the pair's first experience at the national tournament, after qualifying at a local tournament, but they still had ambitions to perform well.

"We went in to the tournament with high hopes that we could match up well against some of the toughest competition in the nation," Davis said.

"I was proud of our result. I think we gave it a great effort



COURTESY OF JENNIFER COLEMAN

Sophomores Charlie Davis (left) and Oscar Heanue (right) and junior Nick Albertazzi pose for a photo at a popular Chicago Tourist site. After long hours of competitions over Memorial Day Weekend, the debaters enjoyed seeing sites such as this sculpture around Chicago.

and the fact that we were so close to advancing proves our efforts were a success," Heanue said.

The group, accompanied by debate coach Jennifer Coleman,

also had some fun in Chicago after the tournament.

"We got to walk around Chicago and just see the city, which was really fun," Albertazzi said.

Select sophomores participate in test run for new standardized test



COURTESY OF PARCCONLINE.ORG

Students participate in the trials for the new PARCC assessment.

By Connor Senay
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Looking to possibly replace the MCAS exams, the school randomly selected 27 sophomores to be given the PARCC (Partnership for Assessment

of Readiness for College and Careers) exam on June 5 and 6 in order to provide data for the development of future tests.

Principal Patricia Puglisi spoke on why the test was taken and how it differs from MCAS. "Pearson is the developer of the PARCC exam. The goal is for

students to take the test online if possible since there is a paper and pencil version. The PARCC exam is more performance-based than MCAS," she said.

The reasoning behind the creation of the exam is based on the country's recently developed Common Core State Standards.

Scott Morrison, Director of Curriculum and Instructional Technology, said "States who adopted the Common Core Standards felt as though they should have an exam that measures those common standards as opposed to the individual state exams that exist now. It is their first take at a possible MCAS replacement."

"Although the exam does not benefit MERHS, it will provide valuable data to Pearson and the state of Massachusetts. It should

be noted that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has not yet fully adopted PARCC for state mandated testing," Puglisi said.

C and E block English 10 Honors classes in the high school took the exam, and these students will be some of 75,000 students being tested in grades 3-11 in Massachusetts.

The test was given as a trial run full of questions from the Department of Education and Pearson, meaning the exam is implemented by the state. It was scheduled to be taken after all of regularly scheduled MCAS exams and came shortly after the finishing of the biology MCAS.

Half of the students took the exam on iPads, and the other half used computers. Sophomore Zack Even spoke on his use of the iPad to take PARCC. "It

was nice to take a break from the computers; however, after a while, the screen started to hurt my eyes," he said.

Sophomore Jarrod Young also used an iPad. "The exam was definitely harder than MCAS. I felt that many of the questions were open to multiple interpretations. It wasn't too confusing though, although the layout and such could be made a little cleaner," he said.

Puglisi is undecided about the implementation of PARCC. "I don't yet have an opinion about the exam. There is not enough data to make an informed statement," Puglisi said.

"In 2016, the decision-makers at the state and federal level will make some determination as to whether or not we will take the PARCC," Morrison added.

Annual summer reading program approaches, bringing a variety of new books

By Sarah Williams
INDEPENDENT STAFF

With the school year coming to an end, summer reading is about to begin.

The books to choose from will be a wide variety according to the librarian, Sue Krause. "I think that we're going to have some exceptional books this year," high school Principal Patricia Puglisi said.

"There's a lot [of books], but I don't want too many to get out yet because it's kind of like a surprise when they're unveiled," Krause said.

Just for a little sneak preview, Krause said some of the books would be "Stronger" by Jeff Bauman, which is about a young man who lost his legs in the Boston bombing.

The selection also includes "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" by Sherman Alexie which is about a cartoonist growing

up on an Indian reservation.

"I Am Malala," an autobiography by Malala Yousafzai talks about a how Malala stood up for education and was shot by the Taliban because of it.

"The Kid: The Immortal Life of Ted Williams" by Ben Bradlee, is about the baseball player Ted Williams and his career.

"The Happiness Advantage" by Shawn Achor focuses on how to have success.

Another option the, "The Hobbit," by J.R.R. Tolkien about a small hobbit that goes on a big adventure.

"Boys in the Boat" by Daniel Brown is about an American rowing team at Hitler's 1936 Berlin Olympics.

"I know there are several people sponsoring books around finding balance because we're really concerned about our students' stress levels. We want to promote some reading that might provide assistance on how to find balance and reduce anxiety," Puglisi said.



COURTESY OF AMAZON.COM

"The Hobbit" is one of the summer reading choices.

With a similar structure to last year, the book list will be coming out right at the beginning of June.

Krause has set book sign up so that it will be online, and clicking on the book will allow students to go to the Ama-

zon page in order to purchase or read a review about the book.

Krause will also buy the books in advance in order to let students come at look at them in the library.

Something that has been changed is how the assessments

will be given. In the fall, the new tests on summer reading will be on a standardized level so that the grade is weighted equally the same for every class and the tests will be all structured the same, too. "It was kind of inequitable between different groups this past year," Puglisi said.

There will also be new accommodations for special needs students so that any accommodations the student already has will be applied to the summer reading test as well.

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Interact Club starts up again after one-year absence

By Devon Musgrave-Johnson
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

After over a year without Interact Club, the organization is making its way back to the school with the help of business teacher Dean Martino and Rotary adviser Josephine McCullough.

The club's main goal is to help students become more deeply involved with community service both within their own communities and across the globe, according to McCullough. Interact Club has 11,000 factions across the country and is sponsored by local Rotary organizations.

"Interact is a great way for students to find something that they are passionate about in terms of community service. It allows them to find one charity or organization that they can connect with and really stick with it," Martino said.

Interact Club will be governed



DEAN MARTINO PHOTO

The Interact Club, which aims to motivate students to participate in community service, will return following a year off. Seventeen students have already joined the group, helping the Rotary Club host an auction to raise money for scholarships to be received by future Manchester Essex students.

mainly by students with Martino and McCullough acting as guides. According to Martino, officers are not yet in place, but

by the end of the year the club will have a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and specific committee heads.

The 17 students who have joined have already aided the Rotary Club's auction to help benefit five seniors from Man-

chester or Essex who will receive scholarships through the rotary.

"The Interact Club and the Rotary Club are very intertwined. Every Interact Club in the nation is sponsored by their local rotary club, and we often find events and fundraisers intertwining," McCullough said.

According to Martino, in the earlier years of Interact, the club was one of the largest in the school, spanning over 50 members in 2008. He expects that Interact Club could one day reach these numbers again.

The group is currently forming a promotional campaign to encourage middle school students to get involved with community service at an earlier age and to bring them into Interact club as soon as they enter the high school.

"Interact Club is such a great group, and I can really see it growing in the future because it is fun and helps get community service hours in," junior participant Hayley Malloy said.

Annual Memorial Day ceremony honors fallen soldiers

By Zack Even
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

To celebrate Memorial Day and honor veterans who have lost their lives in battle, the school had its annual assembly on May 23.

Assistant Principal Paul Murphy chose

a close friend of his, Brian Sullivan, to be the main speaker at the event. Murphy graduated Rockport High School with Sullivan and has been friends with him for years.

According to Murphy, he chose Sullivan as the event's speaker because he is articulate and is familiar with teenagers.

"He has children in high school, so I knew he could relate to the student body."

Sullivan's speech was all about honoring the soldiers who

have given up so much for our country.

"If we can do anything for Memorial Day, it should be to find some inspiration from those sacrifices and incorporate them into our daily lives," he said.

Nathan Evans, a sophomore at the school who played with the band during the assembly, found the speech inspirational.

"The assembly was a nice way to get the school together and be thankful," he said.

A number of veterans attended to the ceremony to be honored as well as to pay respect to their comrades, including Commander Sullivan, Legionnaires Jack Buckley, Art Secker,

George Nicholas, and Brian Hersey, as well as World War II nurse June Sullivan.

The veterans sat at the front of the auditorium alongside the podium where Sullivan gave his speech and were serenaded by patriotic songs from the high school chorus, the Soundwaves, and the high school band.

"The veterans who come to the school always comment on how well behaved the students are. They're also very impressed by the music selection," Murphy said.

"It really meant a lot to the veterans who were there," said Evans, who was honored to play in the band. Just as Sullivan explained in his speech, Memorial Day is all about reflecting on and respecting veterans who have fought for our freedom.

"It's important for us as grateful citizens to pause during Memorial Day," Murphy said.

'It's important for us as grateful citizens to pause during Memorial Day.'

-PAUL MURPHY

'The assembly was a nice way to get the school together and be thankful.'

-NATHAN EVANS



CASSANDRA GONSER AND JENNY BEARDSLEY PHOTO

Commander Brian Sullivan spoke at the ceremony, explaining the sacrifices soldiers make to protect our nation and the importance of honoring those who have given their lives for our safety.

CONTINUATIONS

GRADUATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 discussed life lessons from literary works that all seniors had read.

"I found Mr. Koughan's speech to be clever and funny, yet inspirational," graduate Neil Henry said.

After all 118 students marched across the stage, shaking hands with administrators, they partook in the classic ritual of throwing their caps in the air to signify their departure from high school.

RANKING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 ngs carry should help when applying to college, according to guidance counselor Karen D'Amour.

"The admissions representatives at colleges can see that our students have been successful, so it's a plus to have Manchester-



CASSANDRA GONSER AND JENNY BEARDSLEY PHOTO

Assistant Principal Paul Murphy introduced speaker Brian Sullivan at the Memorial Day Assembly.

Essex students going there," she said.

Sophomore Jenny Cochand

agreed, saying that she believes the rankings will make students' applications more appealing.

"Having a record of academic achievement at a rigorous and challenging school shows that a

Manchester-Essex student is a good candidate for almost any college or university," Cochand said.

Although the school was highly ranked this year, Puglisi said that the school will always look to move up in the rankings in the future.

"We can always improve, and we will continue to offer our courses to as broad a range of students as possible," she said.

DECA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 and CNN, and throughout the trip they enjoyed warm, sunny weather.

"I can't even describe how much fun I had on this trip. I made lifelong, amazing friends and cannot wait for next year. I especially loved the time we spent at the Atlanta Aquarium," junior Andy Creighton said.



Dylan McClure receives his diploma and shakes hands with Superintendent Pamela Beaudoin.



Graduating seniors Molly Carlson, Michael Chlumecky, Perry Burnham, and Abby Buck gather in the gymnasium for pictures before graduation.



Seniors Michael Phelan, Chris Pellegrini, Hannah Parker, and Julia Paccone pose for pre-graduation photos.



Seniors at the graduation ceremony applaud the speakers.



Ellie Higgins receives her diploma during the graduation ceremony.



Graduating senior Fiona Davis smiles as the class took their seats.



Valedictorian Lindsay Duff laughs as she delivers her speech to her senior classmates.



Seniors Chris Dumont and Jeff Durkin pose in the Manchester Elementary School gymnasium prior to the ceremony.



Senior Emily Arnsten showcases her floral design on her graduation cap.



Graduates Ella and Mia Rodier pose for a picture before they leave for Hyland Field.



The senior Soundwaves sing the National Anthem at the beginning of the ceremony.



Graduates wait to be seated before the opening speech after marching in to the processional.



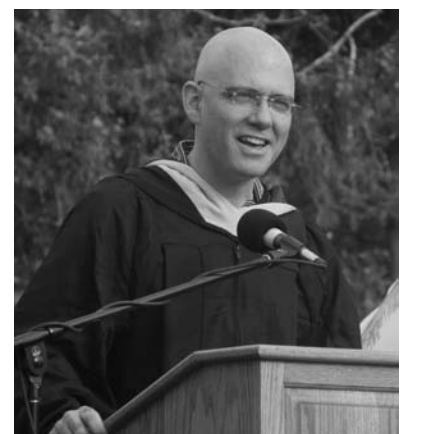
Principal Patricia Puglisi speaks at her first Manchester-Essex graduation ceremony.



Morgan Fraser approaches Superintendent Pamela Beaudoin on stage during the ceremony to obtain her diploma.



Assistant Principal Paul Murphy introduces the ceremony with a small speech to the graduating class.



English teacher Daniel Koughan causes students to laugh while delivering his speech.

Students, teachers reflect on success of prom night

Students cherish pictures, food, venue, dancing

By **Natasha Statz-Geary**
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

In the weeks since the 2014 prom, both students and teachers have been raving over the success of the night, giving high praise to the venue, food, music and other aspects of the event.

The dance cost \$25 a ticket for seniors, \$50 a ticket for juniors, took place at the Black Swan Country Club in Georgetown and ran from 7-10:45 p.m.

As usual, many students gathered at Tuck's Point in Manchester before the buses left to take pictures, and the impending rain ended up holding off until after pictures.

"When we first arrived, I was worried it would start raining, but the bad weather didn't start until we were at the actual dance, which basically saved the night," junior Molly Crehan said.

As for popular styles for the night, most in attendance agreed that white, blue and red were the most common colors for dresses.

"All the girls looked so elegant in

their dresses. The styles were all just so beautiful, and I particularly loved many of the red dresses," Spanish teacher, prom chaperone Michelle Magana said.

At the actual dance, the night started off with drinks being served and some time for students to settle in, socialize and try out the free photobooth.

Next dinner was served, which included Caesar salad, roasted vegetables, roasted potatoes, chicken piccata, steak tips, and bread rolls.

"The food was surprisingly good. I really wasn't expecting much, but everyone I talked to enjoyed the dinner," junior Lucas Martz said.

After dinner the dancing began, with the DJ, previous Manchester-Essex teacher Colin Cook, playing songs such as "Teach Me How to Dougie," which resulted in one massive dance circle with students taking turns "dougying" in it.

"The dance went really well I think. I liked that we could go out onto the deck to cool off when we needed to, and I think everyone had fun," sophomore Charlotte Freed said.



MARY BUCKLEY-HARMON PHOTO

Seniors Zach Trembowicz and Isadora Decker-Luche pose before the prom.



Juniors Eric Fossa, Christiane Noriega, Gaby Sortwell, and sophomore Bennett Strayton at

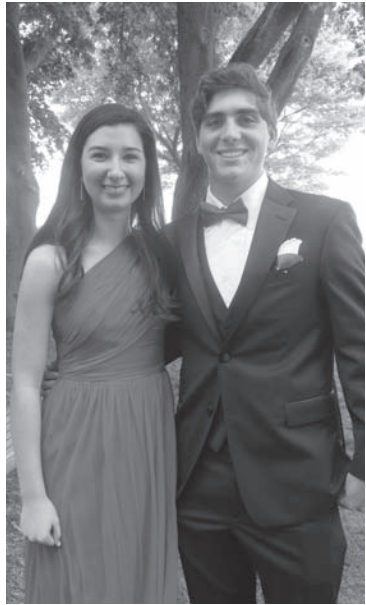


OLIVIA PAINTER PHOTO

Juniors Natasha Statz-Geary, Olivia Bonaccorso, and Olivia Painter at Tuck's Point in Manchester before the prom.



Siblings Fraley Morton, Gutierrez pose for photo



MARY BUCKLEY-HARMON PHOTO
Juniors Hannah Riordan and Michael Fuca pose for pictures.



MARY BUCKLEY-HARMON PHOTO

Seniors Mike Loebelenz, Ed Siquiera, and Tao Sardonicus at Tuck's Point before the prom.



MARY BUCKLEY-HARMON PHOTO

Seniors Liam Logue, Julia Paccone, Erik Rajunas and his date Anthony.



MARY BUCKLEY-HARMON PHOTO

Seniors Emily Arnsten, Kelly Moore, Rachel Daley smile for photographs at Tuck's Point before going to the prom.



MARY BUCKLEY-HARMON PHOTO

Seniors Sophia Guerrero and Lila Hughes before prom.



Juniors Troy Ciara



CAROLINE EPP PHOTO

Seniors Ellie Zwart, Peter Cottingham and Alyssa Shepard smile for a picture in between dancing at the Black Swan venue.

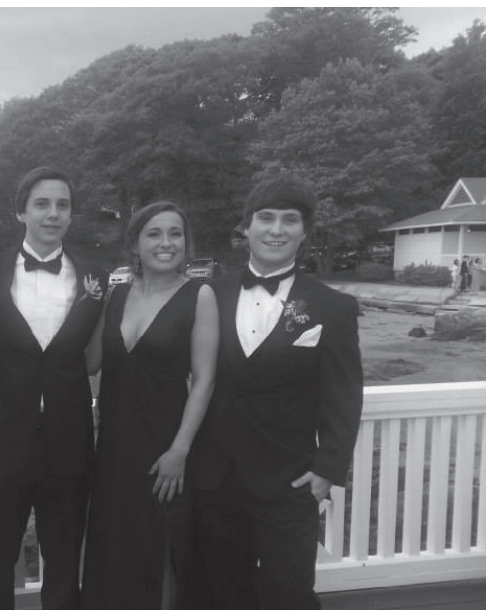


CAROLINE EPP PHOTO

Juniors Delaney Byrne, Alexandra Marshall, Phebe Biggar, and Samantha Kane enjoy the dancing portion of the prom.



Seniors Sarah Lewiecki, Ella Rodier, Alexandria Logue on the dance floor at the Black Swan Cou



CHRISTIANE NORIEGA PHOTO

Small, Samuel Koufman, Sophia Tuck's Point before the prom.



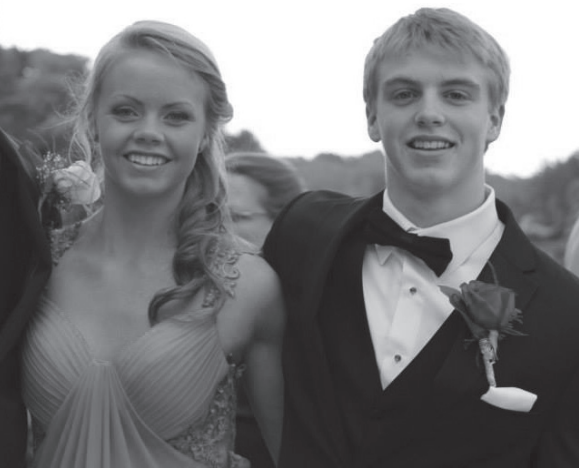
MAYA HEATH PHOTO

Juniors Maya Heath, Samuel Koufman and Lauren Coogan at prom.



MARY BUCKLEY-HARMON PHOTO

Seniors Ellie Higgins, Chris Dente and Abby Ranger.



SEAN GUTIERREZ PHOTO

junior, and Petey Morton, senior, and senior Sean photographs before attending the prom in Georgetown.



MARY BUCKLEY-HARMON PHOTO

Juniors Parker Malarkey and Avery St. Saveur at Tuck's Point before prom.



MARY BUCKLEY-HARMON PHOTO

Seniors Taylor Meek, Billy Burnham, Alex Valenti, Liam Logue, Perry Burnham.



MARY BUCKLEY-HARMON PHOTO

metaro, Katie Furber, Alex Rice and date, Lila Etter, Nick Wigglesworth.



WINSTON FEUERBACH PHOTO

Juniors Ben Alger, Lucas Firme, Parker Edington and Winston Feuerbach at Tuck's Point pre prom.



CAROLINE EPP PHOTO

a Stasiak, and junior Eliza ntry Club in Georgetown.



MARY BUCKLEY-HARMON PHOTO

Seniors Sarah Beckman and Evanthia Bowling at Tuck's Point to take pictures before going to Black Swan venue.



OLIVIA PAINTER PHOTO

Juniors meet at Tuck's Point before the prom to take pictures and see all the dresses.

Students receive accolades for academic achievements



Yearbook editors Courtney Kaner, Sarah Lewiecki, and Julia Paccone officially dedicate this year's yearbook to Paul Murphy.



Junior Sam Creighton receives Excellence in Spanish IV.



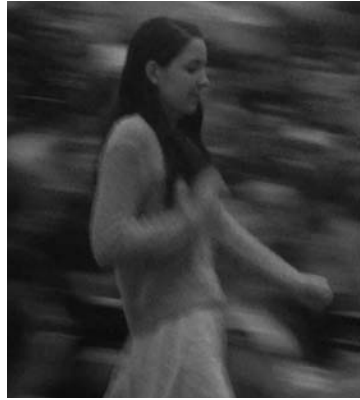
Junior Leonardo Gallo receives the Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award.



Junior Tucker Evans receives Excellence in AP Biology.



Seniors Taylor Meek and Brittany Smith, varsity lacrosse captains, are rewarded for their commitment to helping others.



Junior Lila Etter receives the Brown University Book Award.



Green Scholars receive recognition for their work over the year to spread environmental awareness and make the school greener.

DEVON MUSGRAVE-JOHNSON PHOTOS

TOWN OF MANCHESTER SELECTMEN'S CITIZENSHIP AWARD: Evanthia Boling
 TOWN OF ESSEX SELECTMEN'S CITIZENSHIP AWARD: Erik Rajunas
 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY ROTC SCHOLARSHIP: Erik Rajunas
 SUPERINTENDENT'S AWARD: Lindsey Duff
 MASSACHUSETTS ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT/ LEADERSHIP AWARD: Julia Geswell
 HERFF JONES PRINCIPAL'S AWARD: Julia Paccone
 LIBRARIAN'S AWARD: Molly Carlson
 BROWN UNIVERSITY BOOK AWARD: Lila Etter
 CLARKSON UNIVERSITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: Patrick Byrne
 CLARKSON UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP AWARD: Parker Malarkey
 CORNELL UNIVERSITY BOOK AWARD: Samuel Creighton
 DARTMOUTH COLLEGE BOOK AWARD: Tucker Evans
 HARVARD PRIZE BOOK AWARD: Hannah Riordan
 UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA BOOK AWARD: Katherine Furber
 SMITH COLLEGE BOOK AWARD: Kathryn Glidden
 ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY BOOK AWARD: Natasha Statz-Geary
 ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE BOOK AWARDS: Troy Ciarametaro, Abigail Martin
 WELLESLEY COLLEGE BOOK AWARD: Alexandra Rice
 YALE UNIVERSITY BOOK AWARD: Ariana Jackson
 MAGOON BOWL AWARD: Hope Kincaid
 DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: Alyssa Shepard
 JEWISH WAR VETERANS GOOD CITIZENSHIP: Maya Shneider
 MASSACHUSETTS GIRLS STATE PROGRAM: Ariana Jackson, Hannah Riordan
 MASSACHUSETTS BOYS STATE PROGRAM: Jack Hay, Parker Malarkey
 MANCHESTER ESSEX SENIOR SCHOLARS: Madeline Dahlin, Rachel Daley, Fiona Davis, Isadora Decker-Lucke, Lindsey Duff, Jeffrey Durkin, Rebecca Even, Jacob Freed, Courtney Kaner, Vanessa Kelley, Landon Komishane, Kendall McCormick, Taylor Meek, Peter Morton, Erik Rajunas, Alyssa Shepard, Alexander Taliaferro, Samantha Taylor
 MANCHESTER ESSEX JUNIOR SCHOLARS: Nicholas Albertazzi, Benjamin Bichet, Patrick Byrne, Troy Ciarametaro, Samuel Creighton, Lila Etter, Tucker Evans, Katherine Furber, Kathryn Glidden, Bailey Graves, Cameron Holley, Ariana Jackson, Olivia Lantz, Parker Malarkey, Abigail Martin, Lucas Martz, Alexandra Rice, Hannah Riordan, Natasha Statz-Geary
 GREEN SCHOOLS GREEN DIFFERENCE AWARDS – Commitment to Greenovation: Justin Eichenberger, Cameron Holley; Project in Climate Resiliency: Kathryn Glidden, Abigail Martin, Natasha Statz-Geary; Project in Conservation: Madeleine Pomeroy; Green Student: Isabella Hickey, Sarah Reed
 NATIONAL GREEN SCHOOLS SOCIETY: Rachel Daley, Jacob Tyler
 RESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH AWARD: Ruby Aldrich, Meghan Conway, Lauren Coogan, Molly Crehan, Rachel Daley, Justin Eichenberger, Kathryn Glidden, Isabella Hickey, Cameron Holley, Kristen Kaneb, Samuel Koufman, Olivia Lantz, Abigail Martin, Jacqueline Otterbein, Sarah Reed, Natasha Statz-Geary, Hannah Thorne, Jacob Tyler
 GREEN SCHOOLS AMBASSADOR: Ruby Aldrich, Meghan Conway, Lauren Coogan, Molly Crehan, Rachel Daley, Justin Eichenberger, Kathryn Glidden, Cameron Holley, Kristen Kaneb, Samuel Koufman, Olivia Lantz, Abigail Martin, Christiane Noriega, Jacqueline Otterbein, Sarah Reed, Natasha Statz-Geary, Hannah Thorne, Jacob Tyler
 OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN GREEN INTERNS: David LaForge, Eden Silag Stearns
 EXCELLENCE IN THE VISUAL ARTS FOR MIXED MEDIA: Hannah Thorne
 STEIGLITZ SPIRIT OF FINE ARTS: Madeline Shaw
 EXCELLENCE IN THE VISUAL ARTS FOR FINE ARTS: Sarah Lewiecki, Julia Paccone
 JAMES NACHTWEY SPIRIT OF PHOTOJOURNALISM: Athena Venetsenakos
 EXCELLENCE IN PHOTOJOURNALISM: Phoebe Schwartz
 ANDREAS GURSKY SPIRIT OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Annie Alfano
 EXCELLENCE IN THE VISUAL ARTS FOR PHOTOGRAPHY: Molly McKeon
 GRAPHIC DESIGN SPIRIT AWARD: Ainsley McLaughlin
 EXCELLENCE IN THE VISUAL ARTS CERAMICS: Molly Crehan
 EXCELLENCE IN THE VISUAL ARTS PRINTMAKING: Devon Musgrave-Johnson
 NATIONAL CHORAL AWARD: Lindsey Duff, Tucker Evans
 CHORAL DIRECTOR'S AWARD: Evanthia Boling
 OUTSTANDING MUSICIANSHIP AWARD: Nikolas Janowicz
 BAND DIRECTOR'S AWARD: Rachael Gallagher

WOODY HERMAN JAZZ: Campbell Fackre
 JOHN PHILLIP SOUSA BAND: Jeffrey Durkin
 LOUIS ARMSTRONG JAZZ: Dylan McClure
 EXCELLENCE IN WORLD HISTORY II: Jillian Furber, Julia Prezesiek
 EXCELLENCE IN US HISTORY I: Jennifer Cochand, Kara Hersey
 EXCELLENCE IN US HISTORY II: Lila Etter, Jackson Haskell
 EXCELLENCE IN US GOVERNMENT: Jeffrey Durkin
 EXCELLENCE IN GLOBAL ISSUES: Elizabeth Higgins, Taylor Meek
 EXCELLENCE IN PSYCHOLOGY: Adrienne Young
 EXCELLENCE IN AP PSYCHOLOGY: Molly Carlson
 EXCELLENCE IN AP US HISTORY: Tucker Evans
 EXCELLENCE IN AP COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT: Fiona Davis
 EXCELLENCE IN THE GARDNER PROJECT: Peter Cottingham, Alyssa Shepard
 EXCELLENCE IN DEBATE: Zachary Even, John Hay, Meehan Irose, Landon Komishane,
 ENGLISH EXCELLENCE 9: Jillian Furber
 ENGLISH EXCELLENCE 10: Zachary Even
 ENGLISH EXCELLENCE 11: Hannah Riordan
 ENGLISH EXCELLENCE 12: Lindsey Duff
 HERBERT HAHN MEMORIAL BOOK: Tucker Evans
 WINDHOVER FOR EXCELLENCE IN WRITING: Tasha Statz-Geary
 THE INDEPENDENT MOST VALUABLE STAFFER: Fiona Davis, Kendall McCormick
 THE ROBERT MCCAMMON PRIZE: Caisi Calandra
 MOST IMPROVED ENGLISH 9: Evan Williams
 MOST IMPROVED ENGLISH 10: Devin Depaulis
 MOST IMPROVED ENGLISH 11: Jackson Haskell
 MOST IMPROVED ENGLISH 12: John Bruce
 THEATER PERFORMANCE: Neil Henry, Charles Hoff
 FRENCH II EXCELLENCE: Madeleine Conway
 FRENCH III EXCELLENCE: Charlotte Freed
 FRENCH IV AP EXCELLENCE: Ariana Jackson
 FRENCH V EXCELLENCE: Jeffrey Durkin
 SPANISH II EXCELLENCE: Genevieve Duff
 SPANISH III EXCELLENCE: Zachary Even
 SPANISH IV EXCELLENCE: Samuel Creighton
 SPANISH IV AP EXCELLENCE: Tucker Evans
 SPANISH V EXCELLENCE: Peter Morton
 SPANISH V AP LITERATURE EXCELLENCE: Madeline Dahlin
 THE DAVID DOOLEY LANGUAGE AWARD: Carly Tofuri
 THE NICOLE SHERF STUDENT LINGUIST AWARD: Courtney Kaner
 THE VIRGINIA MACDONALD FOREIGN LANGUAGE AWARD: Lindsey Duff
 THE RENSSELAER MEDAL: Samuel Creighton
 OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN QUANTITATIVE REASONING: Alyssa Shepard, Adrienne Young
 OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN ALGEBRA I: Amber Paré
 OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN ALGEBRA II: Jennifer Cochand
 OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN CALCULUS: Lindsey Duff
 GEOMETRY EXCELLENCE: Jillian Furber
 OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN PRE CALCULUS: Samuel Creighton, Tucker Evans
 MOST VALUABLE MATHLETE: Dylan McClure
 OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN MARKETING: Christopher McAuliff, David Reid
 OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: Breanna Arnold
 2014 ICDC DECA AWARD (1ST PLACE WRITTEN EXAM) – Alexandra Leventis
 2014 ICDC DECA AWARD (1ST PLACE ROLE PLAY) – Breanna Arnold
 2014 ICDC DECA AWARDS – Christopher Carr, Troy Ciarametaro, John Hennigan, Devon Towle
 PHYSICS FIRST (9TH GRADE): Madeleine Conway
 EXCELLENCE IN GRADE 10 BIOLOGY: Alexei Goldsmith-Solomon, Benjamin Wolsieffer
 HIGHEST CUMULATIVE AVERAGE IN CHEMISTRY: Tucker Evans
 HIGHEST ACHIEVEMENT IN ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY: Michael Loebelenz
 HONORS PHYSICS: Lindsey Duff
 AP BIOLOGY EXCELLENCE: Tucker Evans
 AP PHYSICS ACHIEVEMENT: Vanessa Kelley
 BAUSCH & LOMB HONORARY SCIENCE AWARD: Leonardo Gallo
 ROBOTICS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS: Samuel Creighton, Dylan McClure, Benjamin Wolsieffer



Promzilla attacks high school dance, no fatalities

By **Natasha Statz-Geary**
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

As I struggle to calculate the molarity of the acid during my chemistry test last block, all I can think about is prom.

Prom had slowly but surely consumed my life for the few weeks leading up to that one fateful night, but I strived to keep my cool, to not spend too much money, and to at least pretend to be relaxed about it all.

Finally, on the day of prom, all of the sought-after-sangfroid I promised myself I would have had disappeared, along with my sanity and \$500. Oops.

After getting close to no sleep the night before due to nerves, my promzilla transformation began that Friday morning.

I rolled into school resembling something out of "The Grudge" and composed myself similarly.

I drove a solid 90 miles an hour on the highway to make it to my salon appointments on time, and in my futile attempt to parallel park, my car was the sacrifice to the promzilla gods as I smashed into the curb and other obstacles repeatedly.

If my car was the material sacrifice, then my hair stylist and makeup artist were the human sacrifices.

After telling them they made me look like the offspring of a prostitute and a hedgehog, they adjusted accordingly, fearing the wrath of promzilla.

After verbally assaulting basically everyone around me, I ripped my dress at the actual dance and sweated off all of the makeup and hairspray that my minions had worked so hard on.

I woke up the next morning looking like a raccoon with a throbbing headache and three hours of cleaning up ahead of me and yet with a feeling of accomplishment.

Prom means nothing and everything at the same time.

Nowadays, with all these campaigns urging girls to feel beautiful, prom helps serve as an outlet for this.

My friends and I rarely wear makeup and don't have amazing self-images, so it was somewhat amazing to actually feel pretty for once, but this isn't to say that we've exaggerated the importance of prom.

We all woke up the same people. I went to bed as Tasha, and I woke up as Tasha. I still have all the same flaws.

But for just one night, I could forget about all of this. Once the promzilla in me died, I shed my insecurities and actually felt confident for once, and I venture to say that this is priceless.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Editors-in-Chief express gratitude for experience

At first, journalism was one of the most challenging classes, continuously pushing us out of our comfort zone as sophomores.

People would constantly ask why we even bothered taking a night class with so much extra work.

As sophomores we were often intimidated by Ms. Buckley-Harmon's tough grading procedures, especially the minus ten for every spelling mistake.

We were caught up with trying to understand journalism jargon such as "dummies" and "decks."

But we soon came to appreciate journalism class for an opportunity to work with our amazing fellow staff members and our fantastic teacher Ms. Buckley-Harmon.

Some of our best high school memories are of staying late on Monday nights, eating some yummy baked goods, and solving whatever layout crisis has arrived this week. Usually, this involved calling Lila late at night to find out where she had saved her page.

Another struggle we had



MARY BUCKLEY-HARMON PHOTO

Nine seniors from the journalism class pose with teacher Mary Buckley-Harmon. Senior Sarah Beckmann not pictured.

to overcome was finding some more boys to keep Landon company, but luckily a group of little cupids stepped up and joined our journo inferno family.

Ms. Buckley-Harmon never failed to keep us amused with her witty and sometimes unintentionally inappropriate comments.

Ms. Buckley-Harmon was so committed to us that she took us on two field trips a year, where

we learned about journalism and made fun of the other geeky schools. While we couldn't compete with large schools like the infamous Newton North, we held our own and won numerous awards since we have been here.

By the end of three years, we had so much enthusiasm for journalism that we even ordered sweat-shirts, stealing another school's slogan: "We've got issues."

Some of our best high school memories are of staying late on Monday nights, solving layout crises.

Ms. Buckley-Harmon is one of the best teachers we have ever had the pleasure of learning from, and we are certainly going to miss her so much. She always took great pride in helping us create the best newspaper we could, making sure that we all achieved our full potential and had a fun time in doing so.

At least now we can friend her on Facebook and have a journalism senior breakfast.

For all potential journalism members, we cannot stress enough how amazing of an experience this was both academically, socially and in every other way.

Thank you all so much for reading and keep in mind that journalism is the best class ever.

Sterling justifiably punished for racist comments

By **Oscar Heanue**
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

2014 will be remembered by many basketball fans as the year of the best NBA playoffs in history. With more first-round matchups going a full seven games than ever before, there has been plenty of excitement on the court.

However, an off-court scandal has dominated headlines across not just the NBA, but the sporting community as a whole. A TMZ tape revealing shocking racially prejudiced comments made by Clippers' owner Donald Sterling had fans, players, and even fellow owners wondering what could be done to save the league's reputation after such an awful incident.

In response, rookie com-

missioner Adam Silver made his first major decision as head of the NBA, banning Sterling for life. In addition, Silver used everything in his power, fining Sterling the maximum allowed \$2.5 million as well as urging the fellow owners to vote to force a sale.

The extremity of this punishment left some fans debating whether or not Sterling had gone too far. Many feel that Sterling's comments were not as inflammatory as the media blew them up to be and that the punishment

he received was designed for more serious offenses. In reality,

however, Sterling's removal was absolutely necessary. Sterling, who has made his wealth in a number of fields, including real estate, has consistently been one of the most controversial figures in the NBA, starting with a scandal from the early 2000s in which it was revealed that he had refused to lease property to

Black, Hispanic, and Asian families.

Sterling has faced a number of accusations of workplace racism in the past, including an unsuccessful lawsuit by NBA legend and former Clippers GM Elgin Baylor. While some may argue

that such incidents are in the past, one cannot forget that a new

scandal will simply bring back memories of all of Sterling's seemingly forgotten misdeeds.

If Sterling were to remain in the league, it would tarnish the NBA's good reputation. Plus, financially, it would be a horrendous business decision to leave Sterling as an active owner. With advertisers pulling out and players threatening to refuse to play, the Clippers would lose millions of dollars in revenue and would essentially be a non-functioning team without this funding or support.

The National Basketball Association has had a longstanding reputation as one of the most diverse and welcoming organizations in professional sports. Silver did what had to be done in order to maintain the good name of the National Basketball Association.

Silver did what had to be done to maintain the good name of the National Basketball Association.

the INDEPENDENT

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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.

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Ethan Anderson
Oscar Heanue
Connor Senay

Staff
Tess Hosman

Faculty Adviser
Mary Buckley-Harmon

SAILING: State Tournament Champions

Record: 15-2

Coach: Kevin Dooley

Captains: Senior Quinn Andersen and Junior Cam Holley

Impact players: Seniors Quinn and Luke Andersen, juniors Will Kiley and Andy Creighton, and sophomore Ethan Andersen.

Coach's quote: "We put in a serious effort towards our goals, and that's why we were able to win the Mass Bay League Championship."

Captain's quote: "I think there's no doubt that this was our best season to date. We had some challenges just like any other team, but as a whole, we performed the best that I've seen." - Junior Cam Holley



COURTESY OF SARAH CREIGHTON

The team celebrates their win in the Massachusetts Bay League Championship meet.

GIRLS' TENNIS



COURTESY OF KENDALL MCCORMICK

Members of the girls tennis team after their advancement to ICAL semifinals.

Record: 14-4

Coach: Philip Logsdon

Captains: Seniors Liz Warren and Kendall McCormick

Impact players: Seniors Kendall McCormick, Rachel Daley, and Molly Carlson.

Coach's quote: "The Lynnfield match was a hard fought battle, with many long points and many multiple deuce games. First doubles team Maura McCormick and Chanel Bullock were key in the match."

Captain's quote: "This year everyone knows that they have to work harder, and I think that has made us closer as a team." - Senior Kendall McCormick.

BOYS' TENNIS

Record: 17-1

Coach: Robert Bilsbury

Captains: Seniors Jeff Durkin and Seth Cohen and junior Michael Fuca.

Impact players: Juniors Michael Fuca and Justin Eichenberger, seniors Jeff Durkin and Seth Cohen, sophomore Jake Rich, and freshman Dewey Komishane.

Coach's quote: "The depth of the team was phenomenal all season long. This was one of the best seasons yet and there was an awesome group of kids. It was a tough loss, but a great season."

Captain's quote: "It was a competitive season with a great group of athletes." - Michael Fuca.



SARA STANTON PHOTO

Junior Michael Fuca winds up to serve to his teammates during a late-season practice doubles match.

GIRLS' LACROSSE



SABRINA PALLAZOLA PHOTO

The girls' varsity lacrosse team huddles up and performs a cheer before one of their final games.

Record: 9-7

Coach: Sarah Holch

Captains: Seniors Taylor Meek and Brittany Smith

Impact players: Seniors Taylor Meek, Brittany Smith, Lila Hughes, Sophia Guerrero, and junior Maya Heath.

Coach's quote: "Although we didn't have the record we would have liked, the girls still did awesome and should be proud of how they played."

Captain's quote: "This team is by far the most closely knit lacrosse team I've ever played on and maybe even the closest knit team in general." - Brittany Smith

BOYS' LACROSSE

Record: 7-12

Coach: John McCavanagh

Captains: Seniors Chris Dumont and Austin Keating

Impact Players: Seniors Chris Dumont, Austin Keating and Chris Pellegrini

Coach's Quote: "One of our goals was to make States, but on the whole, we were just looking to improve."

Captain's Quote: "We really picked it up at the end of the season, and although I wish we could have played like that all year, it was great being able to finish off strong in the way that we did." -Chris Dumont



COURTESY OF QUINN DUNBAR

The boys played their senior night against Shawsheen Tech winning 9-4.



COURTESY OF HANNAH ROY

Manchester-Essex takes the plate in a home game.

BASEBALL

Record: 5-15

Coach: Robert Garrett

Captains: Senior Kevin Carter and Junior Craig Carter

Impact Players: Seniors Kevin Carter and Liam Logue, junior Dominic Cirone, and sophomore Brandon Bartlett

Coach's Quote: "We started learning the game and coming together the second half of the season to really play well. We hit the ball a lot better. We did everything better in the second half."

Captain's Quote: "I think the season could have gone better. It took us a longer time than we would have liked to find out what kind of team we are." -Kevin Carter

SOFTBALL

Record: 11-9

Coach: Mike Harrison

Captains: Seniors Samantha Taylor, Rachel Gallagher, and Paige Zaval

Impact Players: Seniors Rachael Gallagher, Paige Zaval, Samantha Taylor and Sarah Beckmann, and juniors Sam Woodman and Nina Manzo

Coach's Quote: "When I look back on this successful season, I will remember the girls' spirit, positive attitude, and the improvements they made."

Captain's Quote: "I'm very proud of our accomplishments this season. I'm glad we were able to improve upon our performance last year and produce a record that displays our hard work." -Paige Zaval



COURTESY OF ISABELLA HICKEY

Senior Captain Paige Zaval bats at an away game vs Rockport.

CO-OP TRACK

Record: 2-4 and 6-0 for girls and boys respectively

Coach: Jeff Destino

Captains: (From Gloucester) Seniors Wyatt Ronan, Josh Rudolph, Kaci Quinn and (from Manchester) Fiona Davis

Impact Players: Senior Fiona Davis, junior Olivia Lantz, and sophomore Megan Clark

Coach's Quote: "The [girls'] record doesn't dictate how good they actually are."

Captain's Quote: "Team building activities such as a bowling night and restaurant night created unity and helped us perform at our best." -Fiona Davis

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Record: 7-8

Coach: Eric Magers

Captains: Seniors Sam Nesbit, Neil Henry, and freshman David LaForge

Impact Players: Seniors Mike Davis, Sam Nesbit, junior Parker Edington, and freshmen David LaForge and Tyler Malik

Coach's Quote: "I saw a lot of improvement in the middle school players. Sam Nesbit became the backbone of the team, and David LaForge became a pinnacle focus point."

Captain's Quote: "It's all about teamwork, collaboration, and communication. We get really close and get to know each other a lot." -Sam Nesbit



Freshman Hannah Parker painted this landscape in Mrs. Powers' s painting class.

Student artwork displayed around school

By Emily Jaworski
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Art pieces from students in different classes covered boards in the high school lobby as the annual art show took place.

Students had their art displayed for the high school art show from Mon., May 19 to Mon., June 9.

Students in all different art classes including Ceramics, Photography, Graphic Design, Painting, Drawing, Printmaking, Mixed Media, and Portfolio had their artwork displayed with at least one of their pieces for the art show.

"It's nice to see we have so many mediums like Graphic Design, Ceramics, Photo, Drawing, and Painting. It's great for the middle school to look at the high school work and become inspired, and it is the same for the high school students to look at the middle school art and be amazed at the quality," art teacher Marion Powers said.

All three art teachers like to submit certain pieces from all of

their students that reflect the student's best work. The selection process varies slightly with each teacher, according to Powers.

"I have a folder on the computers, and the kids put in what they think is their best work, and then I look at the several photos they

chose and then decide which one goes in," Photography teacher Caroline Epp said.

The art show also allows for the teachers to see another side of the students that isn't based solely around academics.

"I always like the feedback. I like when the teachers look at the artwork and see another side of the students, and they don't know what they can do in the arts and it's nice to see another part of the students from their perspective," Powers said.

For all of the art teachers, the art show is about con-

veying the artistic abilities that students have achieved throughout the school year.

"The art show celebrates the artistic achievements of students, and I'm proud of my students and am interested in seeing the work students have made

in other areas of art," Epp said.

According to Powers, her students say that they enjoy seeing other students' styles and how the artwork doesn't look like it's from

the same assignment because the students are encouraged to go in their own directions.

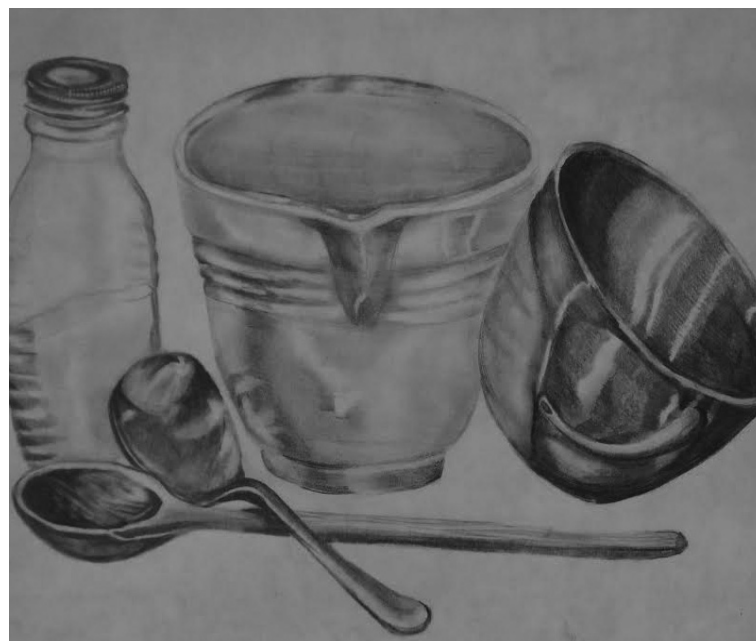
"It's about creative learning and how art is an important part of education and you can see the power of that within the student art show," Ceramics teacher Tamera Burns said.

'I'm proud of my students and interested in seeing the works of other students'

-CAROLINE EPP



Various ceramic pieces were displayed throughout the school on tables to be admired during the student art show.



EMILY JAWORSKI PHOTOS

Sophomore Maddie Shaw produced this still life drawing.

Freshman awarded Scholastic National Gold Key

By Connor Senay
INDEPENDENT EDITOR



WOLF HAHN PHOTO

Wolf Hahn's black and white photo was submitted to the Scholastic Art Awards and was ranked nationally.

With a black-and-white photo titled "End of Day," freshman Wolf Hahn was awarded a Regional Gold Key and a National Gold Key by Scholastic for the Art and Writing Awards in the category of digital photography. His piece was one of 250,000 submissions, and he was one of 80 who won a gold honor in the category of digital photography.

"I had a Photo 1 project due, and the topic was a portrait. I just wanted to prove that can be a great photographer," Hahn

said when asked about his inspiration for the photo.

18 students from both the middle and high school won recognition, but Hahn's photo advanced the farthest.

'I just wanted to prove that I can be a great photographer'

-WOLF HAHN

Photography teacher Caroline Epp explained the submission process. "At the end of the semester, everyone puts their best work into a folder, and I select what I feel is the best of their best. I submitted 20 photographs to the Scholastic Art Awards this year, and I included Wolf's piece because I think it is an outstanding photo."

"Ms. Epp loved my photo, so we entered it into the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. On March 17, I got an email saying that I won a gold medal nationally," Hahn said.

Junior Olivia Painter, another student enrolled in photo, gave her view on Wolf's photo. "I thought the photo was a fantastic piece of art. I love how he made the picture black and white. Also, centering the

photo instead of using the rule of thirds adds a unique twist to it."

This award has given Hahn motivation to pursue photography for an extended period of time. "Next year I won't be able to take photo because I have to take gym and two science classes, but I will definitely take it as a junior and senior, and maybe beyond," he said.

He was invited to the Boston Globe to be recognized for his achievement on May 4, but he had a conflict which made him ineligible to attend. On Friday, June 6, he attended the official ceremony at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

"I received a gold medal, saw my work on the jumbotrons, and listened to a speech by Nick Cannon," Hahn said. His photo, along with the other 650 award recipients' pieces of art, was displayed in Times Square.

Seniors produce and direct a musical revue for S.C.O.R.E.

By Tess Hosman
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

For their SCORE project, senior Molly McCoy directed and senior Evanthia Boling co-directed a musical revue called, "How to Succeed in Show Business without Really Trying."

A revue is "a show that is only musical numbers from a variety of different musicals," McCoy said. according to McCoy. "There is limited speaking, and it's not a connected plot line," she said.

They held auditions on April 2, giving roles to freshmen Jillian Furber, Robert Carter, Kevin Hiselman, Bella Schmidt, and Axel Fougere; sophomores Melissa Schuh, Alex Buck, and Chelsea Rose; juniors Tucker Evans and Courtney MacDougall.

The shows were held on May 23 and 24 with over 200 people at opening night. "We didn't have as much time to prepare this show as you typically would, but we got it done," Boling said.

"The show had a lot of enjoyable moments," audience member Alyssa Shepard said.

The cast practiced every

day after school for two to four hours, according to MacDougall. "The rehearsals were hard on all the cast, but our two amazing senior directors knew what they were doing because we had an amazing show," she said.

Drama club director, Elizabeth Edgerton, was there to provide help to McCoy and Boling.

"I gave them notes at the end of each practice, more towards the actors. Just little things they could do to improve their performance," she said.

They raised money for the drama club from suggested donations, according to Edgerton.

"We made it so donations were accepted," she said. "We raised over \$600 for the drama department. That is a huge deal considering we don't get funded," MacDougall said.

McCoy and Boling both learned how to direct and work with a cast. "I learned a lot about working with people and certainly about directing a production from this experience," Boling said.

McCoy realized "it's much harder to be a director." "I don't think it could have gone better. We had a fabulous cast and an overall fantastic show," Boling said.

'The show had a lot of enjoyable moments'

-ALYSSA SHEPARD