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Large class sizes pose problems for students, teachers

With tight budget, administration struggles to hire more staff

By Rebecca Lynch
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

With 35-40 new students this year, increased class sizes have challenged teachers and students.

"I have so many huge classes. They become overpowering. I find it really difficult to concentrate because the teacher's attention is so divided with a large group of people," senior Christine Walder said.

Other students have also noticed the abnormally large class sizes this year.

"It's different because last year my grade had fewer people, and we were all pretty close. Now we have [124 people in our grade, and a lot of my classes have 30 kids. It's hard to get your opinion in during a discussion because so many other people are raising their hands too," freshman Ellie Zwart said.

According to Principal James Lee, the increase in class size results from different factors.

"The primary reason is an increase in students. This year we have 35 to 40 new kids, and each grade has gotten larger. The increase plays a huge piece in shaping the larger classes," he said.

Lee said the addition of the sixth grade creates scheduling conflicts among the teachers, especially

LARGE CLASSES, page 3



MOLLY FRIEDMAN PHOTO

An honors Spanish class fills up every available classroom seat. Since 35-40 new students enrolled this year, class sizes have increased significantly, with some reaching 30 students. New teachers were hired in order to help the problem, but the budget is already tight, so it is difficult to add even more staff, according to Principal James Lee.

New superintendent strives to familiarize herself with students, faculty

By Kaitlin McDonagh
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

After former superintendent Marcia O'Neil's retirement, the school district hired Pamela Beaudoin last summer to replace her as superintendent. Beaudoin's last position was the curriculum and technology director at North Reading High School.

Graduating from Simmons College with an undergraduate degree in political science and a graduate degree in education and teaching, Beaudoin worked in Peabody as the assistant principal and in Andover as the program adviser of the high school before her last job in North Reading.

According to Beaudoin, what made her want to apply for the job as superintendent was the opportunities she could create for the students.

"So many schools are caught in this cycle of trying to just satisfy MCAS and just have that as their ultimate goal. Here we're in a position to really reach beyond and

give opportunities to kids that other districts would take much longer to get to," she said.

"Ms. Beaudoin stood out as the candidate with the necessary vision, skills and passion to lead the [school district]," chairperson of the school committee Anton Giedt said. "She is a very talented and effective administrator and it is a pleasure to work with her."

Beaudoin's main goal this year is to understand the needs and opinions of the students, faculty, and community better.

"I think it's really hard when you're new. People want you to have a lot of answers, but I feel like I need to have a good knowledge of who we are and who we

want to be before I can really help give informed responses," she said.

Although she wants to understand the district better, Beaudoin is already impressed with what she has learned because the district has a reputation as a "top notch organization."

"What's really stood out to me is that people are just really warm and friendly," she said. "The way students interact with the adults and the adults with students is just a very pleasant, welcoming environment."

Even though she is looking forward to the months ahead, Beaudoin said the large class sizes and budget are the two issues she wants to address. "That's going to be our big job this year

SUPERINTENDENT, page 3



NICK BOUWER PHOTO

Superintendent Pamela Beaudoin converses at a recent meeting.



MOLLY FRIEDMAN PHOTO

School librarian Cathy Hunt is one of the several new advisers.

New adviser program leads to greater faculty-student bonds

By Molly Friedman
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Introduced by James Lee, a newly formed adviser program will help students connect with teachers and peers.

According to Karen Lucas, the school's adjustment counselor and member of the adviser board, students and faculty will meet six times per year to catch up and talk about schools, grades, and take part in group bonding activities.

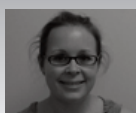
The adviser groups consist of about six to 10 students and one faculty member. Lucas believes that a small group size allows for a more personal connection between students and will allow every student to have at least one adult that he or she feels comfortable approaching.

One major goal of the program is to "make sure every student has an adult to trust and know on a more personal level and feels calm going to this teacher during a good or bad time," she said.

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BRIEFS

MERSD selected as one of best high schools in Boston Area

In the September issue of Boston Magazine, MERHS was selected as one of the top public high schools in the Boston Area. The magazine rates each public high school by reviewing enrollment, student-teacher ratio, per pupil spending, MCAS/SAT scores, graduation rate, percentage of students that continue to college, and extracurricular activities. The magazine then rates the top 50 high schools from the data; MERHS was rated number 13 in the Boston Area.

Library Happenings

According to librarian Sue Krause, the library held “Banned Book Week” in an effort to make students aware of various books that have been challenged and removed from some libraries. Some of these banned novels include “Twilight” and “Harry Potter.” A display was held from Sept. 25-Oct. 2 showing the books that have been banned, complete with an explanation for each.

The library is sponsoring a Halloween Scary Tale Contest. Students are invited to come to the library and see the picture of a haunted house, and write a one-page story anytime from Sept. 25-Oct. 25. The winner of the contest will receive a gift certificate to Nick’s Roast Beef.

New club to host acoustic concert

Barakat, a new club founded by senior Molly Friedman, works to support women’s literacy in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India. The club will be hosting its first fundraiser on Oct. 17. The community is invited to an acoustic concert held at Masconomet Park from 1-4 p.m. The event will include a raffle with various prizes, food, and drinks.

Spaulding Trust to host “Night of Stars” talent show

The Spaulding Education Fund will be hosting the “Night of Stars” Talent Show on Sunday, Nov. 7 from 4 to 6:30 p.m.. They are currently selling tickets for \$15 per person and \$10 per performer online at spauldingeducationfund.org, and tickets will be sold at school beginning Oct. 28.

NEW TEACHERS:
Donnelly strives to make history fun
Teacher aims to get to know students, raise school spirit

By Melissa Moore
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Intelligent, knowledgeable, and reflective, Abby Donnelly was the most qualified history applicant for the job, department chair Daniel Jewett said.

Donnelly teaches US History II and World History II.

“Ms. Donnelly is very knowledgeable and has a good sense of humor,” Jewett said.

“I hope students will see her passion for teaching history,” he said.

Donnelly grew up in Haverhill and attended Brandeis College before returning to her hometown to teach at Hunking Middle School in Haverill for two years. Teaching at Hunking gave her experience before

teaching at Manchester-Essex, which has helped her, junior Jamie Rynkowski said.

“At first students tested her,” Rynkowski said, “but she knows how to handle students.”

“I really like her class discussions because my class has a lot of opinions,” she said.

Donnelly’s classes consist of class discussions in which she writes notes on the board to help students comprehend the information, Rynkowski said.

She hopes to get to know her students, raise school spirit, attend games, and help students learn as much as they can, she said.

“I want to make history a fun, interesting class students look forward to,” Donnelly said.

Donnelly wanted to be a fiction writer when she was

younger. Her favorite movie has not changed from “Sleeping Beauty.” She said it always makes her feel better despite the fact that her celebrity crush, Brad Pitt, has no role in it.

“I just love him [Pitt],” Donnelly said.

FAST FACTS

• Favorite Movie: “Sleeping Beauty”

• Celebrity crush: Brad Pitt

• Favorite holiday: Halloween

• Favorite book: “The Blue Castle”



NICHOLAS BOUWER PHOTOS

Donnelly utilizes class discussions with her notes on the board to teach her history students and share opinions.

Former special education aid teaches history

By Morgan Kennedy
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Former special education assistant James Wallimann has joined the history department following the departure of teachers Jeff Carovillano and Kyle Grady.

Wallimann joined the school district in 2007 as a special education teacher’s assistant at Manchester Memorial. In 2009, he joined the high school staff as a special education teacher’s assistant and a long term sub.

This year, he is teaching history for the first time. According to Wallimann, he passed the history certification test last year and is ready to take on his new classes.

“It’s been exciting. There have been new challenges,” he said.

Wallimann is teaching three freshman World History classes



INDEPENDENT STAFF PHOTO

James Wallimann hopes to incorporate his film background into his history classes.

as well as two junior U.S. History II classes.

Freshman Sophia del Valle enjoys having Wallimann as a teacher.

“He is very relaxed in class; it’s easygoing” she said.

Wallimann grew up in Schenectady, New York, and first came to Massachusetts to attend Endicott College where he received a bachelor’s degree in video production.

He also has a film degree from CDIA at Boston University and is currently working towards a master’s degree in history from Salem State College.

Wallimann enjoys independent filmmaking and screenwriting, and he is director of the film club.

“I would like to incorporate my video making background into lessons that I teach in history,” he said.

Junior Savannah Repucci has a positive outlook on Wallimann’s class so far.

“He’s really nice, and he doesn’t just spit out facts all the time, so I think I’m going to really enjoy his class,” she said.

Wallimann said he is enjoying his first weeks of teaching.

“I love it so far,” he said. “It has been challenging getting used to it and getting my feet on the ground, but I am very comfortable with the decision I made.”

FAST FACTS

• Favorite food: Spinach

• Favorite Band: The Grateful Dead

• Favorite Place: Wherever I am

• Favorite Book: “The Power of Now”

• Graduated from Endicott College

• Has a film degree from CDIA at Boston University

• Working towards a master’s degree from Salem State

History teacher brings enthusiasm, personality to class

By Laurel Edington
INDEPENDENT EDITOR



NICHOLAS BOUWER PHOTO

Coleman is currently teaching US History I and II.

FAST FACTS

• Describes herself as energetic, hardworking, committed

• Favorite Memory: she went to England to visit her friend, took the Eurostar to Versailles

After the departure of history teachers Jeff Carovillano and Kyle Grade, Jennifer Coleman, a University of Maine graduate, was hired..

Coleman grew up in Salisbury, Mass., and got her Bachelor’s Degree in secondary education with a concentration in social studies and a Master’s Degree in curriculum assessment and instruction.

History department chair Dan Jewett said they hired Coleman because “she was clearly the most intelligent, energetic, and self-reflective person we interviewed.”

“The day that I was here to accept the job, I met with Mr. Jewett, Ms. Dubois, and Mr. Grady. I thought I would fit in well, and I

was very excited to get to know the people here,” Coleman said.

Coleman is teaching four sections of US History I and one section of US History II.

Working at Manchester is not her first teaching job; last year she worked at Newfound Regional High School in Bristol, N.H.

Students enjoy her animated personality.

“Ms. Coleman is really fun and energetic. She is always excited to teach, and she brings awesome energy to the classroom,” sophomore Mackenzie Lindland said. “She is very enthusiastic, so it’s

effortless to follow along and pay attention to what we’re learning.”

Likewise, Coleman enjoys the teaching environment.

“I love it here so far. The students are absolutely amazing. They are really fun to work with and are hard-working students

that care about what they are learning. The staff is excellent as well,” she said.

Coleman also works at another history-related job.

“While working here, and during the summer, I work at Minute-man National Historical Park in Concord, Mass,” she said.

‘I love it here so far.

The students are absolutely amazing.’

-JENNIFER COLEMAN

Special Education department acquires inclusion specialist

Cohen enjoys her first public school experience in English, history classes



ELLEN BURGESS PHOTO
Jackie Cohen, who attended BU and Bank Street College of Education, has taught at various prep schools. The special education inclusion specialist is working mostly with freshmen.

FAST FACTS

- **Food junkie**
- **Vegetarian - no poultry, red meat, milk, eggs, fish**
- **Favorite restaurant: Oleana in Cambridge and La Capania in Waltham**
- **Enjoys operas**
- **Favorite movie: “Ice Storm”**

By Ellen Burgess
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Jackie Cohen was hired as the special education inclusion specialist, a newly opened position as of mid-September.

Cohen lives in Concord with her daughter. She attended Boston University for her B.S. in communications, and Bank Street College of Education in New York City for her M.A. in early childhood education.

She previously taught high school students at various prep schools, including Brewster Academy in Wolfeboro, NH; Chapel Hill Chauncey Hall in Waltham, Mass.; The George

School in Newtown, Penn.; and The Ross School in East Hampton, NY.

At these schools, her titles ranged from learning specialist to instructional support specialist to learning center teacher. She also ran dormitories, was a community service liaison/director, and a gay-straight alliance adviser.

Cohen said the students were very similar to the students here.

She spent the past four years working at a nursery school.

“I really needed a change,” Cohen said.

Although she really enjoyed working with young children, Cohen missed working with high school students and wanted to work with teenagers again

“This is my first public school experience,” she said. Cohen said she is still learning because she has only been in the district for a few weeks.

In her new position, Cohen will be co-teaching two classes: English 9 with Dan Koughan and grade 9 history with James Wallimann.

English teacher Mary Buckley-Harmon has been mentoring her.

Cohen has been working in the special education department with mostly freshmen in small groups.

The students and faculty have been so warm and welcoming, Cohen said.

“I love it. I’m having a blast every day,” she said.

Former engineer, technician joins science department

By Nicholas Bower
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

A new science teacher, Steve Cogger, has joined the faculty. Cogger teaches CP 12 Physics, Robotics, which is open to all high school classes; and engineering, a middle school exploratory.

Cogger was born in Massachusetts and grew up in Reading. He graduated from Reading Memorial High School.

Having the experience of teaching middle school for three years, Cogger is excited to be now in teaching middle school and high school classes.

“I really like the transition into

high school because of the opportunity to work with students further along in their development of understanding in science and engineering,” he said.

With a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from Cornell, a master’s in business from Rutgers and in the process of receiving a master’s in STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) education at Tufts, Cogger didn’t begin as a teacher.

“I first worked for 10 years as a design engineer in range of different places within the areas of Massachusetts and New York. I worked with a lot of different companies from start-up to multi international. I got tired of the routine of traveling so much, and I stopped doing that to become a

certified BMW technician at BMW Peabody. I then worked with the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) LEGO robotics team for kids at Andover High School and was a coach there, and that’s when I decided to go into education,” he said.

Cogger enjoys working with a new staff and students.

“So far it’s great. The staff has been really accommodating and helpful, and I enjoy working with the students because they want to learn,” he said.

According to students, Cogger is a likable mentor who makes class interesting and fun.

“He tries hard as a teacher to make sure everyone understands, and I respect that,” senior Eddie

Neal said.

“I think because of Mr. Cogger, this year of physics will be great. I’m glad to have him as a teacher, and I know this year will be fun,” senior Dylan Parlee said.

FAST FACTS

- **Favorite color: Blue**
- **Memorable moment: Hacking the language lab in high school**
- **Favorite Bands: Hot Tuna and the Grateful Dead**



NICHOLAS BOWER PHOTOS
Steve Cogger enjoys working with a new staff and students. “So far its’s great,” he said.

Advanced Placement students maintain or exceed last year’s scores

By Caroline Wood
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Advanced Placement test scores from the previous year increased overall for most subjects, AP teachers Debra Isensee and Lauren DuBois said. Scores were exceptionally high in history, foreign language, and English, teachers said.

Advanced Placement courses are

introductory college courses, proving that students who receive a 3, 4, or 5 are qualified, DuBois said. “Students did very well,” DuBois said. “They were above national average in every category.”

According to AP Spanish teacher and department chair Michelle Magaña, the AP Spanish Language scores were the highest they have ever been. The Spanish average was a 4, while the French av-

‘4s and 5s are hard to come by; students scored pretty high.’
-MICHELLE MAGAÑA

erage was a 3.5. The foreign language exams consisted of four parts: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

“4s and 5s are hard to come by,” Magaña said. “Students scored pretty high.”

Many of AP history scores were high, DuBois said..

“The vast majority of AP history scores were passing,” DuBois said.

Advanced Placement classes require lots of work in order to be well prepared for the exam, DuBois said, adding that organization is key.

According to English department chair Isensee, for the AP literature scores there was a higher percentage of 4s and 5s than previous years, and AP language scores were the same or better than last year.

CONTINUATIONS LARGE CLASSES

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concerning electives. Fewer high school teachers are available, and the conflicts are solved by putting more students into one available class.

The disadvantages of a large class are also felt by teachers.

“From a social studies perspective, it makes it more difficult to do different things. Group work, activities, and discussions are [affected]. It’s harder to have a discussion when there’s not enough time to allow everyone to contribute,” social studies department head Daniel Jewett said.

“Coming from an English standpoint, it’s not an issue of class management. There’s less opportunity to do writing assignments because it’s hard to have to grade so many papers and return them,” English department head Debra Isensee said.

According to Lee, administration has started working to solve the problem. For example, three teachers were hired this year for the history department, but the school budget poses the most difficult problem.

“The budget is already tight, which makes it difficult to add hiring more staff on top of everything else,” Lee said. “But because it is [a concern] for the

students, we have to work it in.”

Lee said other solutions include evaluating the teacher-student class selection process in order to reduce the number of students whose schedules are altered at the start of the year by changing the level of a class.

SUPERINTENDENT
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[making] ends meet,” she said.

“I’m kind of hoping in January, as the result of all my meetings, I’ll be able to put all my ideas out on the table of what I think we should do,” Beaudoin said.

ADVISER GROUPS
continued from page 1

Lucas said as the years progress, the staff will be able to build this program and the bonds with their students.

She said if the program was already developed and had strict guidelines, it would not be the same, but since the idea is a new small and simple one, teachers are allowed to add in their own ideas.

Cathy Hunt, school librarian and adviser, said this program is a new way to meet students.

“It’s a nice opportunity to meet the new freshmen and other students I didn’t already know,” she said.

Both Hunt and librarian Sue Krause are happy with the size but wish for weekly meetings and regular check-ins.

Senior Grace Gillette prefers how the groups are of a mix grades rather than all students from one year. “I would not have had the chance to meet some of the people in my group.”

“Mr. Lee is not a teacher I regularly see, so this gives me the opportunity to connect with him in ways I could not have before,” she said.

Junior Connor Booth said he is excited to see how the group progresses over the years and the relationships he will build with fellow schoolmates.

Health Matters



Simple changes to improve diet

Healthy choices are easier to follow than they seem

By **Piper Browne**
INDEPENDENT STAFF

The word “diet” usually conjures up an idea of painful deprivation and weeks of longing for food you tell yourself you can’t have. The truth is, a diet doesn’t have to be painful or boring. It’s simply about making better choices and re-learning some interesting stuff about food.

Diet is merely defined as “a person’s usual food or drink.” Here are some simple tips to help you improve your diet so you’ll have more energy, better health and a healthy weight without obsessing about food and going on crazy diets that, in the end, prove to be unhealthy.



JUICY234/FLICKR.COM

Eating healthy foods such as fruits, vegetables and whole grains every day will improve your energy and keep you more focused.

Tip No.1

Food is energy for our bodies, and we need a lot of energy to take care of business: school, sports, relationships, etc. Make sure you’re giving your body the best fuel possible. Concentrate on fruits, veggies, whole grains, low-fat milk products and protein.

If you eat these first, you’ll be less likely to crave unhealthy snacks. Don’t deny yourself completely, or you’ll feel unhappy and could react by gorging yourself. Treat yourself occasionally with some “junk” food, but concentrate on healthy stuff.

Tip No.2

Never skip breakfast. It’s the most important meal of the day and it gets your metabolism revved-up for the rest of your daily activities. If your metabolism is working as it should, you’ll be burning more calories simply by partaking in normal activities.

You can have something as simple as a piece of whole-wheat toast with some melted cheese or peanut butter, a quick bowl of healthy cereal with fruit, or some yogurt with granola. Eat it on your walk to school if you have to, but do not skip breakfast.

Tip No.3

Give up sugary drinks and sodas. If anything is a complete waste of calories, it’s sugar-loaded drinks. Nobody needs them and most people, particularly teens, would be stunned if they actually added up how many calories they consumed in one day just from what they drink.

Drink water or beverages with a low calorie count, like 100% fruit juices or smoothies, and save those important calories for something that’s good for you, or at least for a snack that has some substance to it.

History curriculum expands to global studies

By **Melissa Moore**
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

AP Comparative Government and Current Global Issues, both taught by history chair Daniel Jewett, were new additions to the history curriculum this year.

According to junior Casey Weld, who takes AP Comparative Government, the class is slightly hectic yet enjoyable.

“It’s interesting to learn about the world,” Weld said.

AP Comparative Government prepares students for the AP test by comparing different politics and governments of six different countries, Jewett said. These countries, selected by the AP Comparative Government curriculum, are China, Russia, Nigeria, Britain, Mexico, and Iran.

“Since the class is new, we’re still figuring out the curriculum,” Weld said.

The class of 12 is divided into two groups of six, senior Olivia



NICK BOUWER PHOTO

History teacher Daniel Jewett teaches the new AP Comparative Government and Current Global Issues classes.

Rice said. Two class members study each country, so each group has one member from each nation. Students then blog about current events occurring in their countries.

“I really like it,” Rice said, “Mr. Jewett is the best.”

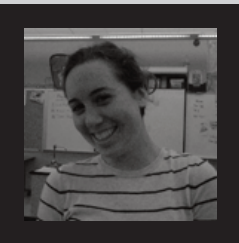
According to Jewett, it has been a challenge to contrive a completely new curriculum; however, the foundation has been set for students to teach each other through the blogs.

“Though it was last minute, I hope for it to become more popular in coming years,” Jewett said.

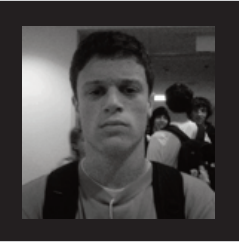
Current Global Issues is the honors version of AP Comparative Government, he said. The countries studied, however, are different. Students in Current Global Issues selected their nations, which are China, Afghanistan, Japan, North Korea, Australia, Nigeria, and Mexico.

“Since there is no AP test, we have more liberty to focus on events and countries students are interested in,” Jewett said.

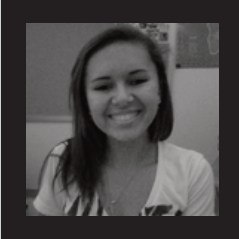
“I’m excited to learn more about this country [USA] and others,” Weld said.



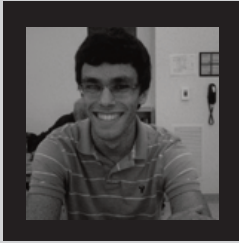
Senior
Olivia Rice:
Mac n’ Cheese



Senior
Danny Oliver-Munn:
Buffalo Chicken Pizza



Junior
Kathelyn Carr:
Pineapple

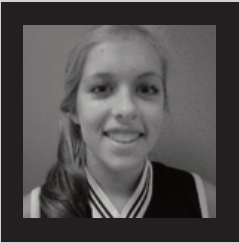


Junior
Sam White:
Chipotle Burritos

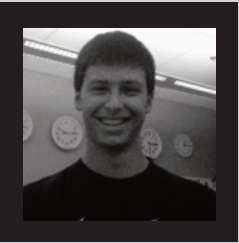
Student Speak

If you could eat only one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?

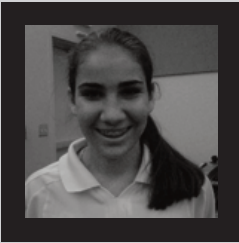
Sophomore
Megan Jones:
Ice Cream



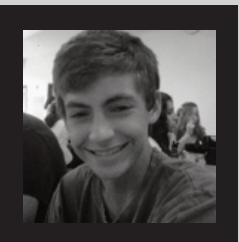
Sophomore
Dylan Estes:
Subway



Freshman
Molly McCoy:
Pizza



Freshman
Sam Nesbit:
Chinese Food



BY MORGAN KENNEDY

Manchester-Essex nominated for Greenest School in America, resulting from Green Team efforts

Green Team boasts record number of members, leading initiatives to help school stay eco-friendly

By Marian Siljeholm
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Maintaining efforts to sustain eco-friendly practices and encourage new green initiatives, the Green Team has played an essential role in working towards a nomination for Greenest School in America 2011.

Led by Eric Magers, this year’s Green Team is larger than ever with 141 students and 18 staff members working on new programs.

Junior Simon McIntosh works at one such new initiative, “edible schoolyard.” The organic garden, which is sponsored by the Enrichment Fund and is located under the cafeteria deck, supplies green beans, beats, spaghetti squash, summer squash, tomatoes, cherry tomatoes and cucumbers to the school lunch program.

With an increased focus on food, the Green Team is looking to expand the amount of food composted.

Due to concern regarding the odor surrounding meat and dairy composting, these food items are not composted. Magers hopes to change this.

“We have done tests, and the smell issue we thought we would find with those products is not as large as we thought; therefore, we believe we will be doing our own composting by the beginning of next school year,” he said.

As well as helping the environment, green initiatives raise money for the school in several ways. Overseen by owner Linda Moulton, Gas-By-The-Sea is a program that gives money for every ton of used clothing donated.

“TerraCycle” is another green project giving back financially. Named for the sponsor company, the program refunds the school in exchange for such typically unrecyclable products as empty chip bags, gum containers, candy wrappers and cell phones.

Magers also hopes to get the whole school involved by promoting district-wide initiatives such as “10.10.10,” a 24-hour zero waste producing challenge complete with school waste demonstration to stress the importance of proper waste sorting.



NABILA MAHMUD PHOTO



MOLLY FRIEDMAN PHOTO

After work with Building Committee director Sarah Creighton to plan the new school in an environmentally friendly

way, Magers now hopes to ensure the district purchases only recycled sustainable materials and biodegradable cleaning products.

The Green Team offers a variety of possibilities for students looking to get involved.

Besides joining the team, students can become Green

Team interns, and assist Magers in solving district-wide solutions with green initiatives or participate in the Green Scholar Apprenticeship program, lead by Magers and apprenticeship director Mary Rerisi.

The program is one semester long and allows students to receive full course credits for independent eco-friendly projects.

The new ‘edible schoolyard’ (top) features an organic garden. Sponsored by the Enrichment Fund, it provides a variety of fruits and vegetables. The ‘Terracycle’ Bins (left) offer an outlet for products that are not normally accepted for recycling, ranging from chip bags to cell phones. The Green Team is pioneering these and other efforts in hopes to become the Greenest School in America 2011.

LATEST PROJECTS

- Organic garden.
- Compost expansion to include meat, dairy.
- Working with ‘Gas-By-The-Sea’ to raise money for donated clothing.
- ‘TerraCycle’ for typically unrecyclable items.
- A 24-hour zero waste challenge.
- Working with the district on buying eco-friendly products and biodegradable cleaners.

Student Profile

Felix Köhler



NABILA MAHMUD PHOTO

By Nabila Mahmud
INDEPENDENT ASSISTANT EDITOR

Where did you move from?

Berlin, Germany.

What brought you here?

My stepfather got a new job in the States.

What was your first thought when you came here?

It’s not that different from Europe, but the food is very different.

What is your favorite American food?

The taco.

What is your favorite American T.V. show?

Southpark.

Who is your favorite recording artist?

Eminem, even though I may not agree with everything he has to say.

Who is your favorite teacher so far?

Mr. Brown.

Do you play any sports?

Yes, I play soccer.

Did you do anything different in Germany?

I played a lot of field hockey but decided to pick up soccer here because field hockey is considered a “girl” sport.

What is the difference between German kids and American kids?

Kids here are friendlier and more welcoming.

Did you have any expectations?

From the movies, it seems like the people here were ignorant and fat, but that’s not the case.

What is your favorite aspect about life here so far?

I like being a part of the high school and just the culture in general.

If you had to pick, Germany or the U.S.A?

I like Berlin better than the U.S, but I like the U.S better than Germany.

English department revamps curriculum

Freshmen undergo Grammar Boot Camp, sophomores learn American literature

By **Caroline Wood**
INDEPENDENT STAFF

To ensure that future English students have the same knowledge of certain grammar concepts, freshman English classes have now installed an “intense” Grammar Boot Camp, ninth and tenth grade English teacher Allison Lane said.

Along with the change, sophomores are taking American Literature as opposed to British Literature.

“English departments from grades 6-12 talked last summer to work on an informal grammar program.” All freshman English teachers are going to try to stick to a schedule that they came up with at the beginning of the year, Lane said.

According to Lane, the teachers assigned grade levels and for the years in which teachers will introduce the material, practice, and then reinforce it.

“At the beginning of the school year, we gave a diagnostic test to see the strengths and weaknesses of the students,” she said.

According to freshman Neil Henry, the test was easy, and now he is learning more grammar than he has before, but some of it can be review.

“The Grammar Boot Camp is an intense grammar curriculum, given to freshman students, for the whole first quarter,” Lane said. “By the time this year’s sixth graders are ninth graders, we will still have some version of the boot camp, but it will be less of a review and more introduction of new material,” she added.

Along with the new boot camp, the English curriculum is switching the sophomore English class from British Literature to American.

“The purpose of the switch is to align the sophomore English class more closely with the history curriculum,” Lane said. It made sense to allow the students to read the literature from the time period that they were learning about in their history classes.

“It seems to be really effective. I’m already seeing kids bringing knowledge from their history classes and applying it to English. The alignment helps



NABILA MAHMUD PHOTO

English teacher Allison Lane teaches a lesson on verbals to a class of freshmen. During the summer, all English departments in the middle and high school developed a new grammar program.



Sophomore Brian McAuliff studies American literature. Current sophomores will study British literature during their senior year under the new English curriculum.

kids connect to the time period they are studying and help better understand the culture,” she said.

Sophomore Vikki Gosner agrees that she can tell she is bringing what she learns in his-

tory class to her English classes. Sophomores will learn British Literature as seniors, Lane said.



MOLLY FRIEDMAN PHOTOS

During the first quarter, freshmen classes focus solely on improving grammar through a Grammar Bootcamp.

Student Council arranges more events to ‘give back to students’

Members organize blood drive, raffle, new mascot, free lunches in order to make school ‘more homey’

By **Laurel Edington**
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Members of the Student Council are already planning multiple events for this school year.

The group is organizing two different blood drives, two or three Spirit Weeks, and a community service day to help increase school spirit.

According to club adviser Sarah DeLuca, “We are hoping to do more events this year” than last year.

Senior president Olivia Peterson said, “We’re hoping to make our school feel more ‘homey,’ like the old school did. We’re trying to run events in a more traditional way.”

The group’s dynamic is also going to be different than last year.

“It’s going to be more independent and student-run. We’re offering a lot more, and we’re giving a lot more back to students this year,” Peterson said. “Ms. DeLuca is stepping back, and as president, I will be running the meetings with the help of the student representatives of each



Student Council members Rachel Daley and Sarah Lewiecki sell raffle tickets to freshman Sophie Neligan. Tickets were sold last week for a variety of prizes. Students could purchase tickets before school, during lunch, and after school.

class.”

Among other projects, members are trying to get more rights for seniors.

Senior vice president Darcey Babikian said one of her goals is to “hopefully add more senior privileges.”

The Student Council, with help from the senior class, is purchasing a mascot outfit for the school.

Peterson said, “We are working

with the senior class to get a new, official mascot for the school. We’re having a lot of fun picking it out.”

The group has already scheduled multiple events for the upcoming weeks.

According to DeLuca, Student Council was in charge of the club fair a couple of weeks ago, the raffle, and a blood drive, which will be held on Oct. 8.



NABILA MAHMUD PHOTOS

STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICERS

- **President:** Senior Olivia Peterson
- **Vice Presidents:** Senior Darcey Babikian, Junior Sam White, Sophomore Ellie Mortillaro, Freshman Peter Cottingham
- **Secretary:** Junior Maddie McNamee
- **Treasurer:** Sophomore Adam Bailey

Men of Twilight

Edward vs. Jacob

Edward

Piper Browne

The question that presses the mind of every teenage girl in today’s society is simply: Edward or Jacob?

What seems like a simple question is, in reality, the cause of much distress in the lives of “Twilight” fans. So here are some clues to help encourage making the right decision, and that decision is Edward.

Edward’s winning personality can be attributed to a number of characteristics. To start, he is the epitome of a gentleman.

Wherever Bella and he go, he puts her first. Whether opening doors, buying meals, or getting Bella home by curfew, Edward is always making sure that Bella and those around him are happy and respected.

Edward practices amazing self-restraint because of his un-dying love for Bella and for the good of humankind. He and his family hunt animals instead of humans, and although Edward is attracted to Bella’s scent more than anything in the world, he does not harm her. His love for her conquers all and saves not only her life but also the lives of others. For example: Jacob.

Jacob is Bella’s best friend who happens to be in love with her. Edward could be selfish and jealous; he could even kill Jacob, but because he knows how much Bella cares about Jacob, Edward keeps him alive, and lets the two see each other.

He knows that Bella would be crushed if anything were to happen to Jacob, so Edward lets go of his green-eyed feelings for the werewolf and does not hurt him.

Edward is willing to accept that Jacob is a significant part of Bella’s life whereas Jacob is stubborn and won’t accept compromise.

Jacob has many alluring attributes, including his rock solid, shiny abs, but he does not sparkle in the sunlight like Edward does. He lacks the control that Edward has and has no anger management, which often leads to him phasing into a werewolf at inconvenient times.

Edward puts others before himself. In “New Moon,” the second book, Edward leaves Bella for almost the entire novel. Although it caused him the most pain he had ever felt, he did it in the interest of Bella because he knew that he was putting her in great danger whenever they were together and even when they were not. He distanced himself in order to protect her.

Edward Cullen is what most would describe as the perfect boyfriend. He is intelligent, beautiful, caring, helpful, talented, and much more. Although he is a vampire, he does what he can to lead a normal life and encourages Bella to do the same.

Jacob

Rebecca Lynch

Extremely good looks and incredible muscles aside, Jacob Black is a character of passion, determination, and caring demeanor. These qualities make him preferable over the other ‘Twilight’ hunk, Edward Cullen.

Edward, the vampire, battles Jacob not only for the protagonist, Bella, but also for fans’ affections. Edward’s strongest quality is his unrelenting love for Bella, but everything he does is defined by his love for her, or his condition as a vampire. He exhibits no other strong traits. He is a constant gentleman who is respectfully concerned about others, but how does that compare to the multilevel personality of Jacob?

Jacob provides humor, charm, and optimism. His personality is laid-back, and he is a comforting presence. His slightly cocky attitude is balanced by his consistent loyalty and sincerity balance.

Vampires versus werewolves is a different debate altogether, but in terms of living with the condition, Jacob again beats Edward. A strong muscular body that is 108.9 degrees is preferable over a stone-like body with skin as cold as ice.

Vampirism defines Edward’s life, and he is constantly fighting the temptations of attacking those around him. While he can sparkle and read minds, the costs of living as a vampire outweigh the benefits. On the other hand, Jacob can mostly transform as he pleases and does not require blood as sustenance. He is just as fast and strong as a vampire, but he does not have to live with the consequences.

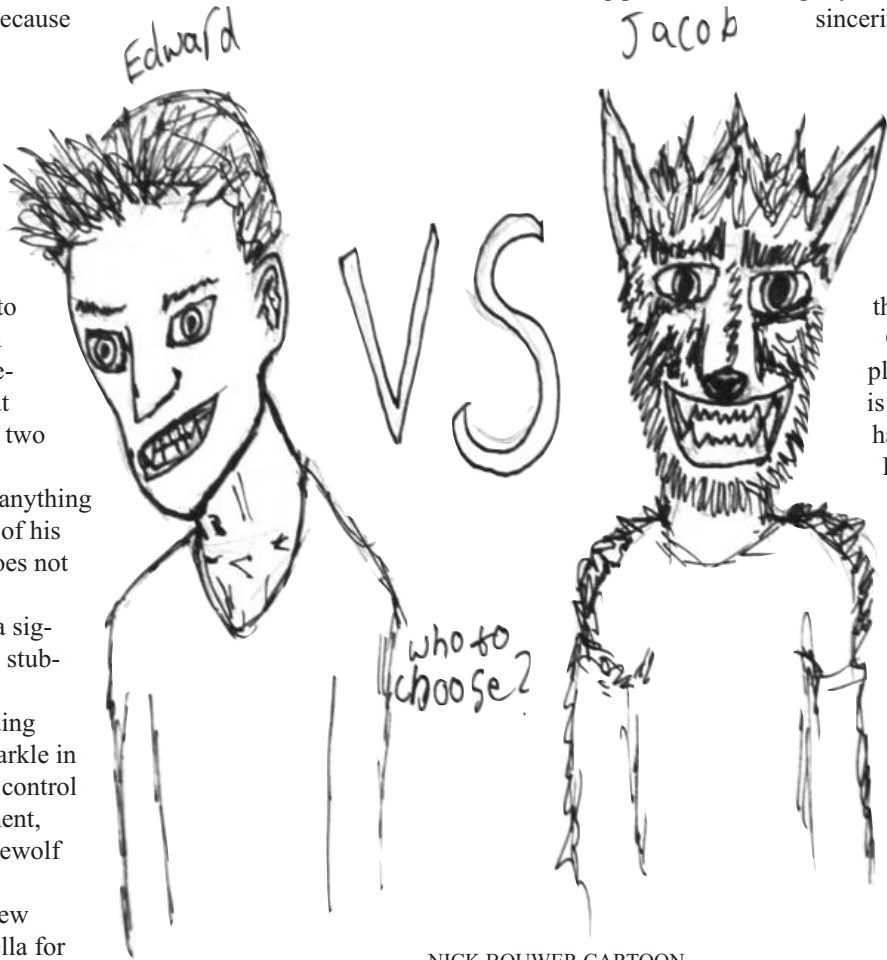
In defining someone’s character, one must look to how he treats others. Jacob spreads his wonderful personality to not only Bella, but to all those around him, garnering close friends before and after his transformation. He is close with his father and his Native-American heritage.

Edward lives with a coven of vampires, but besides his family and Bella, he has no friends. Being a vampire makes interacting with humans difficult, but he could make more of an effort, especially when he starts dating Bella.

Bella is often the central focus of the debate between these two characters. Further evidence supporting Jacob’s character is in his treatment of Bella, even though he does not win her in the end.

While Bella is recovering from Edward’s idiocy in abandoning her, she and Jacob become very close. Without him, Bella’s depression might have turned suicidal.

Even though Jacob develops an intense love for Bella, he remains respectful of her relationship with Edward. After Edward returns from Italy, Jacob fights relentlessly to win her over. Jacob’s perseverance yet eventual acceptance is admirable, especially compared to Edward, who is often over-protective and possessive.



NICK BOUWER CARTOON

New fire drill solves crowd issues, improves student safety

Small, organized groups with advisers on turf relieve chaos, confusion

By Morgan Kennedy
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Recent changes to the fire drill system have created an easy and organized evacuation plan for emergency situations. The new system requires students to exit the building at the sound of the alarm and walk to the football field.

Under the old system, most students exited the building into the upper parking lot, where they pushed each other through parked cars to get to the back of

the lot. The enclosed, spacious football field relieves this chaos and congestion.

On the field, students split up and report to assigned positions according to yard lines where they meet their adviser along with nine other students.

Teachers are in charge of 10 students, rather than an entire class, making it easier to keep track of students and recognize who is missing.

According to Principal James Lee, once students report to their assigned positions on the field, four teachers circulate with a master attendance list. The attendance list makes its way to each group where the adviser holds a sign informing whether or not all students in the group are ac-

counted for.

If a student is missing, the attendance list will tell whether he or she needs to be located or is absent from school.

In the case of an absent adviser, one of the four teachers with the master attendance list checks the group for missing students.

The small entrance gate on the field causes some difficulty in quickly getting students away from the building.

According to Lee, the faculty is currently working on solving this problem. They are looking into the possibility of installing one large gate to accommodate more students at one time.

The new system allows to easily account for students in



NICK BOUWER PHOTO

Students meet their advisers at their assigned yardlines on the football field during a fire drill.

lunch or in the library who may be without a teacher.

The new drill also improves

safety conditions by clearing the parking lot for fire engines and emergency vehicles.



Expensive college application fees not worth the possible rejection

MAURA DRISCOLL

Unfortunately for high school seniors, paying their tuition for college isn't the only cost they have to worry about.

Not only will they be paying thousands of dollars to attend the college or university of their choice, but if they choose to live on campus, students will also need to pay for room and board. But the most absurd cost that is burdened upon students is the college application fee.

Regardless of whether or not they are accepted to the school to which they are applying, students must pay a ridiculous fee just to apply. It doesn't matter if the applicant is accepted, rejected or deferred; he or she must pay a high fee just to be able to be considered for admission.

Imagine applying to the school of your dreams, and being rejected. Not only is your spirit crushed, but you just essentially paid an institution to tear you down and eliminate any hope you once had of attending that school.

Paying an application fee is essentially like providing a bribe, which is comparable to slipping your interviewer \$20 when trying to get a job.

Understandably, every college and university does have bills to pay, financial aid to award and other costs to cover; however, with the thousands of dollars these institutions are already sucking out of students, shouldn't they be financially secure?

Although a \$50 application fee may seem minute and inconsequential, for some students it is the difference between applying to and overlooking a school, not to mention that it can dictate to what schools they will apply.

If a student applies to 10 schools, he or she must attach a check with every application. With the average application fee costing \$40, a student could pay \$400 just to be considered for admission. Many fees will run anywhere from \$30 to \$100, making for a ridiculously costly application process no matter what.

For example, a student who is applying to Boston College is required by admissions to pay the \$70 application fee, but if he or she is accepted, he or she will be paying up to \$54,000 to the school by means of all other expenses. With all the money an admitted student will pay to a college over the course of four years, is an exorbitant application fee truly necessary?

STAFF EDITORIAL

Cafeteria staff promotes healthy eating through first lady's 'Let's Move' program

In order to promote healthy eating, food services will implement Michelle Obama's beneficial healthy eating educational program, "Let's Move."

Starting this year, the program will invite a local chef to come into the dining hall and work with the staff to add diversity and a new routine to the lunch menu, according to food services director Sheila Parisien.

After attending a conference last spring, Parisien said she learned about the program and signed up for it in the school's best interest.

The program enters the school into a large database, and a chef is assigned according to the school's location. Parisien said she was contacted in July and was informed that a local chef from Gloucester, Denis McAlary, would be working with the school.

The staff was at first unsure about Parisien's decision, she said, but they soon embraced the program.

"We are still in the baby



NABILA MAHMUD PHOTO

stages," Parisien said.

McAlary has visited to look over the current menu and talk to the staff from all three schools in

the district. Parisien and McAlary are still working out a day where he will come and talk to the students and watch the

staff make lunch.

The new school inspired the cafeteria staff to incorporate fresh food, including low sodium meats and local produce from Brooks Farm in Peabody, Parisien said. This will improve the health and eating habits of students.

The goal of this program is to encourage healthy eating habits in students so that they will grow to be healthy adults, Parisien said.

According to Parisien, the middle and high school menus are flexible in order to incorporate room for changes as soon as possible.

Parisien said any students with thoughts or questions about the program should come see her or the lunch staff. Students should take advantage of this opportunity to improve their eating habits and ensure a healthy adulthood.

Parisien and the cafeteria staff have done an excellent job improving the food options and quality of school food.

Teaching assistant positions, study halls banned from the same schedule, upsetting students

By Molly Friedman
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Department chairs and members of the administration have agreed that students are not allowed to be teachers' assistants and also have a study hall.

The number of TAs tripled from two years ago, leading to the adjustment. The administration wants students to choose more rigorous electives rather than be TA, as the workload a student is

given as a TA varies with the teacher, Principal James Lee said.

To graduate, students must fulfill 30 core class credits per year. Administrators said that being a TA while having a study hall may complicate this requirement, as unlike a study hall, being a TA provides 2.5 credits.

Students who already have enough credits should be able to be TAs, regardless of if they have a study hall in their schedule. Obviously, if a student does not have the required credits, they should not be eligible for both courses.

What may seem as an appropriate decision ended up causing many issues for those who planned on being TAs.

Agreements that had already been made between students and teachers had to be cancelled due to the new rule.

A student interested in becoming a teacher may rely on being a TA for the experience of a career in education.

If a student can't be a TA, he or she may be forced to take a 2.5 credit elective but may have no interest in said class.

As a time used to do homework, study halls are beneficial to the student body.

Being a TA comes with certain responsibilities and duties that require students to be mature and productive.

Allowing students to have study halls and be TAs improves their transcript and gives them experience in a field of interest.

Students with the required of credits should not be penalized for wanting to take on extra responsibility while also having a study hall.

the **INDEPENDENT**

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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.

Girls’ varsity basketball coach awarded Division 4 North Girls Coach of the Year

DuBois’ dedication results in team unity, success

By Marian Siljeholm
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Out of 29 other Division 4 coaches, Manchester Essex varsity coach Lauren DuBois has been selected by the Massachusetts Basketball Coaches Association to receive the annual Division 4 North Girls Coach of the Year award.

DuBois, now 28, began playing basketball when she was 9 and continued throughout her time at Beverly High School and Bates College.

These years of experience have given her an extensive knowledge of the game, said senior varsity basketball player Abbi Biggar. “Because she knows so much, it never feels like she’s criticizing you, only that she really wants you to get better,” Biggar said.

‘Coach DuBois is well deserving of such an honor. She pours everything she has into the team and each player.’

-SARAH DELUCA

DuBois’ coaching career and position in the history department

‘She [Lauren] is an exceptional role model to not only the girls in the basketball program but to all Manchester Essex students.’

-KELLY PORCARO

DuBois has never felt overwhelmed. “I have been able to



PIPER BROWNE PHOTO
DuBois and player Piper Browne eat lunch before the state final game at the Garden.

coach with some really incredible coaches like Coach Stephan and Coach DeLuca, who have taught me a ton about both basketball and teaching,” she said.

This respect is mutual between DuBois and her peers. Junior varsity coach Sarah DeLuca remarked, “Coach DuBois is well deserving of such an honor. She pours everything she has into the team and each player.” Despite the challenges that accompany a small school, DuBois is thoroughly impressed with her players. “We have made the tournament four out of five years, played in the Division 4 North Finals three times and in the Division 4 State Finals at the Boston Garden twice,” DuBois said.



COURTESY OF JULIA MARTZ
DuBois motivates team against Cohasset in the Division 4 state finals at the Boston Garden last season.

While proud of these accomplishments, DuBois said, “The best part has been the team itself. The girls are dedicated to basketball and to each other and are a lot of fun to be around.”

This feeling of camaraderie extends not only between players but also to DuBois, junior Leanne Ciccone said. “In addition to our coach, she’s our best friend,” she said.

Athletic director Kelly Porcaro

said, “Lauren is a very dedicated coach with a great deal of knowledge to share about the game. Her teams are always well prepared and play with heart. She is an exceptional role model to not only the girls in the basketball program but to all Manchester Essex students.”

The award will be presented along with a ceremony and banquet at The College of the Holy Cross on Nov. 21.

New trainer passes knowledge to athletes

By Rebecca Lynch
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

A recent graduate from Endicott College, Carl Gentile now fills the position of athletic trainer.

According to Gentile, he received other offers including North Reading and a couple New York schools, but he felt most comfortable here.

“I really like it. The kids are good, and the staff and coaches are all nice. It’s great to be in a new facility,” he said.

Gentile studied physical therapy at Endicott College and participated in internships at Harmeling Physical Therapy and Sports Med North.

Athletes appreciate his educational background.

“He’s a very good trainer. He’s knowledgeable and really knows what he’s talking about,” junior Eliza Rohner said.

According to Gentile, his interest in physical therapy stemmed from a love of sports. His favorite sport to watch is football, and he played hockey and baseball in high school.

“I actually blew my shoulder in high school, and I had to go through extensive rehab for that. The process sparked my interest in physical therapy,” Gentile said.

Although he enjoys physical therapy, Gentile said he is contin-



MOLLY FRIEDMAN PHOTO
New trainer Carl Gentile assists Ben Zwart to help prevent injury. After studying physical therapy at Endicott College and participating in internships, he came to work at Manchester-Essex.

uing his education to eventually become a physician’s assistant.

In the trainer room, Gentile’s personality has made an immediate impact.

“He’s friendly and laid back. It makes going to the trainer effortless,” junior Aryanna Tiberii said.

“The knowledge and comfort level he offers makes everyone trust him more,” freshman Rachel Daley said.

Gentile has treated many athletes so far.

Tiberii, a soccer player, received a concussion during a game earlier this season.

“[Gentile] was able to diagnose my concussion right away. He told me exactly what I needed to do to heal and I was able to play again in a couple weeks,” she said.

Rohner, also a soccer player, experienced hip tendonitis last year, and it carried over to this year. The tendonitis requires daily treatment.

“The transition from last year and this year was very easy. [Gentile] does all of the same treatments that I went through before, but he added some of his own which have helped a lot!” she said.

Team Schedules

Field Hockey:

Oct. 5 @ Pentucket 3:45
Oct. 7 Amesbury 7:15
Oct. 11 Newburyport 10:00 AM
Oct. 13 Ipswich 7:15
Oct. 15 @ North Reading 3:45
Oct. 19 @ Lynnfield 3:45
Oct. 21 @ Hamilton-Wenham 3:45
Oct. 27 Georgetown 7:15
Oct. 29 Rockport 3:45

Girls’ Soccer:

Oct. 4 Amesbury 3:45
Oct. 5 @ Ipswich 6:15
Oct. 7 Georgetown 3:45
Oct. 13 Hamilton-Wenham 3:45
Oct. 15 @ Triton 3:45
Oct. 19 Masconomet 6:15
Oct. 21 Greater Lowell 6:00
Oct. 25 @ North Reading 3:45
Oct. 27 Lynnfield 3:45
Oct. 29 Rockport 5:00

Football:

Oct. 8 Lynn Vo-Tech 7:00
Oct. 15 Ipswich 7:00
Oct. 22 North Shore Tech/Essex Agricultural 7:00
Oct. 30 @ Greater Lowell Tech 1:30
Nov. 6 @ Whittier RVT 2:00
Nov. 12 Sawsheen Valley Tech 7:00
Nov. 25 Georgetown 10:00 AM

Boys’ Soccer:

Oct. 5 Ipswich 7:00
Oct. 7 @ Georgetown 3:45
Oct. 13 @ Hamilton-Wenham 3:45
Oct. 15 Triton 3:45
Oct. 19 @ Masconomet 3:45
Oct. 21 @ Whittier 3:45
Oct. 25 North Reading 7:00
Oct. 27 @ Lynnfield 3:45
Oct. 29 Rockport 7:00

Cross-Country:

Oct. 13: Lynnfield 3:45
Oct 13: Pentucket 3:45
Oct 20: @ Amesbury 3:45
Oct 20: Georgetown @ Ames. 3:45
Oct. 26: @ Wilmington 3:45
Oct. 26 Ipswich @ Wilm. 3:45

Golf:

Oct. 5 @ Lynnfield 3:30
Oct. 7 @ Hamilton-Wenham 3:30
Oct. 8 @ Rockport 3:30
Oct. 12 Ipswich 3:30
Oct. 13 @ Ipswich 3:30
Oct. 13 Rockport @ Ipswich 3:30
Oct. 21 CAL Open 9:00 AM

FIELD HOCKEY



Olivia Dumont



Kyle Marsh



Vicki Grimes

Coach: Andrea Slaven
Captains: Seniors Olivia Dumont, Kyle Marsh, and Vicki Grimes
Record so far: 9-0-0
Players to watch: Dumont, Marsh, Grimes, seniors Tatiana Lyne, and Hannah Beardsley
Goals for this year: Cape Ann League Champions, beat rival Watertown
Coach’s quote: “Their strengths are definitely their camaraderie and their passing on the field. We also definitely have a lot of speed. I think one of our challenges is being as good on grass as we are on the turf.”

FOOTBALL



Matt Wescott



Alex Carr

Coach: Mike Athanas
Captains: Seniors Alex Carr and Matt Wescott
Record so far: 0-3
Players to watch: Seniors Alex Carr, Matt Wescott, and Calvin Cook, and juniors Maverick MacEachern and Paul Pennoyer
Goals for this year: To help the freshman improve
Coach’s quote: “We did well last year, but 17 seniors graduated, so we’re left with younger kids. We just need to make an identity for ourselves.”

BOYS’ SOCCER



Ben Zwart



Drew Gosnell



John Houston



Will Curatolo

Coach: Rob Bilsbury
Captains: Seniors Ben Zwart, Drew Gosnell, John Houston, and Will Curatolo
Record so far: 3-5-2
Players to watch: Seniors Zwart, Gosnell, Houston, Curatolo, and sophomore Chris Xavier
Goals for this year: To have a record of 7-7-4, the best record Manchester-Essex soccer has ever had
Captain’s quote: “We are truly playing as a team rather than many individuals.”

GIRLS’ SOCCER



Rebecca Lynch



Abbi Biggar



Rachel Jones

Coach: Ayman Ali
Captains: Seniors Rebecca Lynch, Abbi Biggar, and Rachel Jones
Record so far: 1-6-1
Players to watch: Lynch, Biggar, Jones, and freshmen Casey Cook, Sophia Guerriero, and Rachel Daley
Goals: To get the team to progress each practice and teach them the proper way to play soccer
Coach’s quote: “I’ve seen the most improvement from them out of all the teams I’ve coached. They want to learn and work hard, and I’m just glad I got the opportunity to coach them.”

CROSS-COUNTRY



Ben Girard



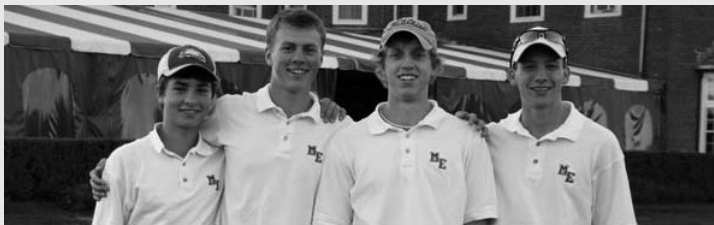
Max Rodier



Fiona Davis

Coach: A.J. Migonis
Captains: Seniors Ben Girard, Junior Max Rodier, and freshman Fiona Davis
Record so far: 0-5
Players to watch: Girard, Rodier, Davis, seniors Nate Jermain and Zach Sergeant, and junior Jeff White
Goals for this year: To improve upon last year’s record of 6-7
Coach’s quote: “We have a core group of high schoolers and a huge group of middle school kids, so the challenge has been being patient with the seventh-graders and pushing them to new limits, while challenging and pushing the veteran members of the team as well.”

GOLF



COURTESY KIMBERLY CAFFERTY

Josh Christopher Alex Porter Connor Howlett Corey Barstis

Coach: Jane McConnell
Captains: Seniors Connor Howlett, Alex Porter, and Corey Barstis, and sophomore Josh Christopher
Record so far: 4-5
Players to watch: Howlett, Porter, Barstis, Christopher, freshman Petey Morton, and 8th grader Will Burgess
Goals for this year: Make the state tournament
Captain’s quote : “This is the best golf team our school has ever had. We all worked hard over the summer, competing with one another to make each of us a better player.”

Drama Club

New format focuses on workshops, mastering of theater skills

By Kyle Marsh
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Instead of performing a fall production this year, the drama department decided to take a new approach to theater this season, according to English teacher Gloria Tanner.

This year students showed a particular interest in hosting Drama Fest, she said.

The school was named a preliminary host site this week.

“I told them it would be very difficult to do a fall play and Drama Fest, so I decided to meet as a drama club in the fall and offer workshops to students to work towards Drama Fest,” Tanner said.

The workshops are held on Wednesday nights in the auditorium and will specifically work on theater writing and improvisational skills, as well as makeup and costumes, she said.

Senior club president Maura Driscoll said the club is also welcoming to “techies” and stage managers.

“There will be a technical side as well, where everyone can learn how to operate the lights, sound

FAST FACTS

- Held in auditorium.
- Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00.
- Welcome to actors, techies, stage managers.
- Workshops and theater games.
- In place of fall production.
- MERHS confirmed as preliminary host site for Drama Fest.

system and curtains,” Driscoll said.

Tanner said the club is very low pressure.

“The club is a way to challenge yourself without trying out. It’s a fun group; [the students] are very dedicated and joyful. There is no pressure, and there is so much to



NICK BOWER PHOTOS

Brendan Powers, an actor from the area, contacted English teacher Gloria Tanner about the Drama Club. He presented a workshop with the students called “The Mighty Ensemble,” where each group had a topic (right.) A group performs “Noah’s Ark” during the workshop. Other topics included a car crash, child birth, a wedding, the movie theater. Then they had five to come up with a scene that was given to them on the spot (left.)

learn,” she said.

Members agree that the group’s chemistry created in the former plays is advantageous for the club, but the new students add excitement.

“It’s great having people in the club who have been doing shows together for a while; it gives us the freedom to be goofy,” junior Leanne Ciccone said.

“The comfort level is definitely useful, but we have about 10 new kids. The more people we get in, the more options we will have,” Tanner said.

The club will continue to meet until Drama Fest, and then the drama department will still host a spring musical, according to Tanner.



COURTESY OF DONNA O’NEILL

The Sound Waves performed at the Stoneham Theater before the show Perfect Harmony, which is what “Glee” is based on.

A cappella group opens

show at Stoneham Theater

By Laurel Edington
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Perfect Harmony, now playing at the Stoneham Theater, is about competing vocal groups, and was the inspiration for “Glee.”

On Sept. 16, the a cappella group the Sound Waves opened for the show.

According to a cappella director Donna O’Neill, Perfect Harmony “decided to open these shows every night with an a cappella group from the Boston area.”

O’Neill heard about the opportunity from Cape Ann Radio Station. When they contacted her, she sent the group’s CD from last year.

The members who were in the

group last year performed songs from the CD, such as “Fix You” (Coldplay) and “In My Life” (The Beatles).

“I think we performed really well. A couple of our members were under the weather, but we were able to work together as a team and push through,” junior Katerina Eichenberger said.

Opening the show was a new experience for the group.

O’Neill said the group gave a professional performance, adding that it was “fun to be on such a reputable stage with a whole different audience.”

“It was an awesome experience for all of us. The fact that we got to be the opening act for such a great play was pretty thrilling,” senior Danny Oliver-Munn said.

New photojournalism class creates MEMO website

Online magazine brings awareness of daily school activities to community

By Kaitlin McDonagh
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

With the idea that the community should be informed about daily activities in the school district, art teacher Caroline Epp created a new photo and video journalism class.

The class is in charge of a new online magazine which will show photos and videos of school-related events and will have links to The Independent, the school newspaper. The website, Manchester Essex Multimedia Online (MEMO), can be reached at www.memo.mersd.org.

“MEMO is more visually based while [the paper] is more in-depth,” Epp said. “They are a good complement to each other.”

According to Epp, the students will be reporting on the day-to-day events of the school district.

“I like how the students have control of what goes up on the website for everyone else to see,” junior Aryanna Tiberii said.

Before any content is published, students are focusing on taking newsworthy photos and writing correct captions. Students use their own or school cameras to cover their assigned events. When the class begins



NABILA MAHMUD PHOTO

Senior Will Gladden is taking notes on a slide show that will be on an online newspaper during his photojournalism class. Students are learning to take newsworthy photographs and write captions.

studying video journalism, students will use the school’s point and shoot camcorders.

The main goal of the class is for the students to learn about the field of photo and video journalism as well as editing.

According to Epp, the biggest challenge is trying to get the students to act like photojournalists.

“[The students] are trying to balance not getting into people’s faces with wanting to get good shots,” she said.

In order to combat this problem, Epp created MEMO press passes so people understand why the students are taking photos. “Hopefully they will give the kids more confidence to get what they need,” she said.

The class originally started with eight students, but it “quickly swelled up,” according to Epp.

Senior class member Maggie Cellucci said she joined the class because it seemed interesting and informative.

“I love the class so far because it’s different than any other classes. It has a whole variety of people and is based more on aspects of art to capture an event more than with words,” she said.

‘[The students] are trying to balance not getting into people’s faces with wanting to get good shots.’
-CAROLINE EPP



Filmmaker Andrew Jenks is shooting his documentary with Chad, a 20-year-old living with autism. He is showing different stories and perspectives of different people across the country. His show can be found on MTV on Mondays at 10 p.m.

MTV’s ‘World of Jenks’ encourages refutation of stereotyped groups

By Hannah Daley
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Different from the typical MTV shows such as “Jersey Shore,” “The Real World,” and “The Hills,” “World of Jenks” actually has the potential to change how people stereotype each other. With the aspiration of showcasing different stories and perspectives of life, the 24-year-old filmmaker, Andrew Jenks, travels around the country, shadowing a generally misconceived person. Viewers may think that they know the subject’s life; however, Jenks’ week-long experience with that person refutes their judgments. In the premiere episode Jenks delves into the life of rap super-

star, Maino, who shows Jenks some of his typical hobbies, which consist of partying until he almost dies, performing at sold out shows, and visiting his impoverished childhood neighborhood in Brooklyn. Although viewers may surmise that Jenks merely shadows the subject of the episode, he actually becomes so passionate about living the reality of that person’s life that he actually gets into arguments. For example, Jenks and Maino quarrel when Jenks questions whether or not Maino knew that the people at his concert at whom he was cursing and flipping off consider him a role model. Along with getting a glimpse of a rapper’s life, Jenks also follows Chad, a 20-year-old living with autism, and helps him push his

boundaries such as overcoming the nonstop noise of New York City. Throughout the rest of the season, Jenks will experience a variety of different lifestyles, including that of a cage fighter, a poker player, an NFL cheerleader, an animal rescuer, and a homeless person. With a great soundtrack that includes artists from T.I. and Akon to Tokyo Police Club and the Spinto Band as well as a relaxed documentary style, the show provides an entertaining hour of stories that Jenks calls “personal but contain a message that is universal.” If you enjoyed the humor and sometimes solemnity in MTV’s “The Buried Life,” check out “World of Jenks” on Mondays at 10 p.m.

Bloated with predictability, monotonous gags, ‘You Again’ fails to impress

By Maura Driscoll
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Not even the beloved Betty White, in all her sassy, grandmotherly glory could save “You Again” from becoming a miserable failure of a romantic comedy. This supposed comedy about reformed nerd Marni’s (Kristen Bell) mission to reveal her brother’s fiancée, Joanna (Odette Yustman) for the mean girl she really is, proves to be about as funny as the flashbacks to Marni’s victimization and torment during high school. Stuffed to the brim with poorly executed slapstick, predictable storylines, and cringe-worthy moments, “You Again” fails to even scrape the surface of the comedy genre. Directed by Andy Fickman, the terrible writing and a plot filled



The new movie “You Again,” starring Kristin Bell has a talented cast but fails to impress the audience. It is a comedy about a girl who is trying to expose her brother’s fiancée as a mean girl. The film contained slapstick comedy and predictable storylines. with holes make for both a confusing and boring movie, as “You Again” jumps from one subplot to another, without resolving many aspects of the movie. Introductions to storylines such as Marni’s unrequited love for her brother’s best friend, Charlie

(Sean Wing), a promotion requiring Marni to move to New York from California, and why exactly everything works out in the end all remain unanswered. Even the revered, veteran actors featured in this film such as Sigourney Weaver (Mona), Jamie Lee Curtis (Gail), and Victor Garber (Mark) all flounder as a result of forced jokes and a script comparable to the mess that Marni and Joanna make in a predictable, lackluster food fight. Despite these talented actors, the horrible miscasting of “You

Again” was the only laughable aspect of the film. Yustman was nothing more than a pretty face, evidenced by her unbearably awkward and emotionless performance as Joanna, and the usually effervescent and delightful Bell also fell flat in her role. With such a talented cast, “You Again” had the potential to be an entertaining and heartwarming comedy about putting the past behind us; however, it simply couldn’t meet those standards. Needless to say, “You Again” featured far too many uncomfortable and tiresome attempts at comedy, and far too little Betty White.

With such a talented cast, “You Again” had the potential to be an entertaining and heartwarming comedy about putting the past behind us.

Menomena brings experimental rock to Boston

By Nick Bouwer
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Experimental rock group Menomena’s new album is called “Mines,” and on Thursday, Sept. 30, the epic tones of their new LP made it clear they were not going to stay under the radar for much longer. Even though the band played at the small Royale club in Boston, with an incredibly cheap \$15 general admission price, the high energy of the crowd was equivalent to one of a significantly larger venue. Originally from Portland, Ore. the group plays rock-based music, which experiments with the basic elements of the genre and pushes the boundaries of common composition and performance technique by using

custom-made instruments and dramatic changes in tempo. The 220-minute show was inviting and elaborate, with smooth transitions between the finely calibrated 15-song set list that included nine epics from “Mines,” and six from their two previous albums “Friend and Foe,” and “I Am The Fun Blame Monster.” Each member of the band charmed the audience, cracking jokes between songs and punctuating crowd favorites like “Mus-

Menomena also took time to praise the crowd and the opening bands, an experimental rock group called Tu Fawning and a psychedelic disco/new age NY band called Suckers.

cle N’ Flow” and “Wet And Rusting” with improvised guitar and drum solos as well as many lyrical flights conducted by each member at one given point or another. Well-rehearsed doesn’t even begin to describe the way the band carried out its works of art to the crowd. Whether it was Brent Knopf unleashing his fingers on his keyboard, Justin Harris throwing down on his bass or sax, or Danny Seim tearing up the drums in a solo, Menomena left its crowd awestruck. Menomena also took time to



Menomena, an experimental rock band from Portland, Ore. played nine songs from their new album “Mines” and six from their previous two albums “Friend and Foe” and “I Am The Fun Blame Monster” during their concert in Boston on Sept. 30. praise the crowd and the opening bands, an experimental rock group called Tu Fawning and a psychedelic disco/new age NY band called Suckers. Menomena mentioned their appreciation for the groups and the Bostonian crowd multiple times. Each of the opening acts were equally spectacular, with one hour given to each band, preparing the audience for their main event and enlightening the ears of many to the elegant fluidity of Tu Fawning and the high energy of Suckers.