

the *INDEPENDENT*

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DJ BALL PHOTOS

The new school is 58 percent complete. The spaciousness of the library (right) and the fourth floor (above) has impressed department heads. See page 4 for more photos.



First Impressions: Department heads visit new school; communal work spaces impress teachers

By **Julia Melamed**
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

As the new school building reached 50 percent completion, the department heads explored their new workplace for the first time.

Principal James Lee, Assistant Principal Paul Murphy, and the

department heads went on a 45-minute tour of the entire school on Oct. 7.

Science department chair Erica Everett was pleased. “[It was] much more spacious than what we have now,” she said. “There were lots of windows, especially in the offices... really nice circulation to the building.”

Math department chair Dan Lundergan was also excited about

the new school.

“There was a common work room for high school teachers, which will make it easier for math teachers to share resources and ideas,” he said.

The teachers were also enthusiastic about the public gathering locations in the building.

“I think the most impressive aspects of the building are the common areas, like the library, the

auditorium, and the meeting spaces,” history department chairman Dan Jewett said.

Other features include a balcony off the cafeteria with tables overlooking the football field and areas in the building that open to lower levels.

Although the building impressed Everett, she had one concern: “All of the departments except science have been allotted

a very nice work space for teachers to work in while they’re not in class,” she said.

“At this time a narrow corridor is being considered the teachers’ work space – no windows. They sit next to where the chemicals are stored.”

Lee is trying to find an alternate area for the science teachers.

The building will be open in September.



MOLLY FRIEDMAN PHOTOS

Both government and statistics classes used results from a mock election as part of their studies.

Obama wins 54 percent of vote in mock election

By **Annelise Eaton**
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

For the first time in recent school history, students participated in a mock election that included realistic voting booths and actual ballots.

Barack Obama and Joe Biden won the election, which was held in the three days prior to the actual

election, with 57.4 percent of the vote compared to McCain and Palin’s 25.5 percent.

According to history teacher Kyle Grady, who organized the election along with government teacher Dan Jewett, preparations included speaking to the town registrar to get ballots and voting boxes, coordinating with Principal Jim Lee to choose a time when

students would be able to get out of class to vote and asking custodians for help with setting up the voting booths.

“We also had to coordinate with every history teacher in grades 7 through 12 to make sure students were knowledgeable about the candidates and issues one, two and three,” he said.

ELECTION, page 2

Winter dance adopts club theme

By **Stephanie Smith**
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

For the past two years, the class of 2008 has sponsored the winter semi-formal dance as a class fundraiser; after their graduation DECA has taken control of the event, according to DECA adviser Dean Martino.

Despite this change, the dance will still be held in the Essex Room at Woodman’s Function Hall in Essex. Tickets will be on sale in room 2 for \$15 until Dec. 10, or for \$20 at the door. The dance will last from 7 to 10:30 p.m., and complimentary food and drinks will be available, according to DECA chapter officer senior Jordan Biggar.

Biggar said one major change is the dance’s new “club” theme. The class of 2008 had adver-

tised the dance with a winter wonderland theme. This year, DJ Max Baun will bring intelligent lighting to the dance, according to Martino. This led to the new theme of “Winter Spectacular: The Most Extreme Holiday Dance Ever.”

“The intelligent lighting is going to have two separate light towers that will project a myriad of lights onto the dance floor,” Martino said. “It’s going to be more of a dance club atmosphere.”

Biggar agreed. “We want to tie in the club effect that’s going to come from the lighting,” she said.

Senior Taylor Rogers is excited about the new theme.

“I am so pumped because I just love dances, and I love the new club theme. That makes it all the better!” she said.

NEWS

Green and White Breakfast
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FEATURES

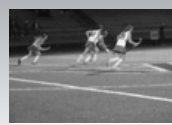
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OPINION

Consumers afraid of holiday spending
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SPORTS

Field hockey reaches Div. II North Finals
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ARTS

‘All in the Timing’ wins over audiences
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BRIEFS

Media Center hosts book fair

On Dec. 1-5 the library will host a book fair for the middle school and high school.

The fair will take place during school hours in the media center. Books will be appropriate for every grade level, librarian Sue Krause said.

Though new books will be available, old favorites and classics will also be on sale.

The Book Shop in Beverly Farms provides the books and proceeds will benefit summer reading purchases.

Two juniors to participate in govt. day

Eliza Cody and Daniel Scarafoni are attending Student Government Day which is sponsored by the Department of Education on April 3.

The program, which is located at the State House in Boston, will entail a mock congress style debate on proposed laws.

The students will meet Constitution Officers, members of the Supreme Court, and members of the General Court.

Debate holds forum at Brooksby Village

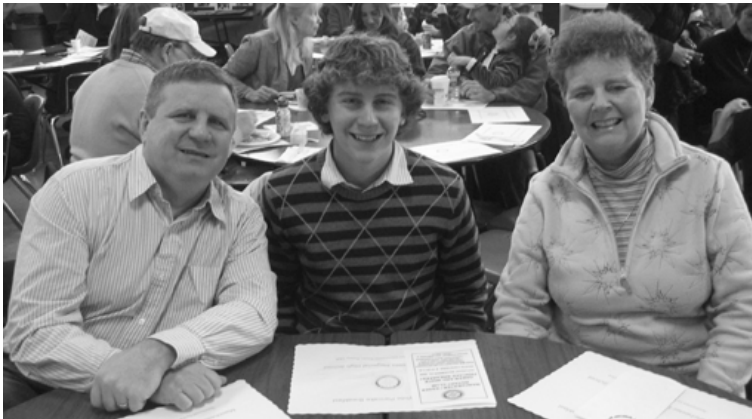
The Jerry Levy Memorial Community Debate was held on Nov. 20 at 2:15 p.m. at Brooksby Village.

Two teams of debaters including Max Elder and Luke Elder held a public forum style debate on the November Public Forum topic discussing health-care. All residents of Brooksby Village were invited.

Violence specialist will speak to AP psych. class

According to Karen Lucas, AP psychology teacher, Dr. Rory Anscombe, assistant clinical professor at Harvard Medical School, will speak to senior psychology students. He deals with violent psychotic patients and has written several works on psychology, including psychological thrillers.

The psychology class will also have clinical, sports, and school psychologists visit throughout the year



DJ BALL PHOTOS

Graduate Matt Cain sits with his parents at the Green and White Breakfast where he won the Rotary Club Scholarship (top). Local jazz musicians Nat Simpkins and Henri Smith, along with local student musicians, provide music for the event (above left). Sophomores Laurel Edington, Kaitlin McDonagh and Maggie Cellucci enjoy their pancakes, bacon and sausage (above right).

Student Council
Lee approves in-school field trip forms

By DJ Ball
INDEPENDENT ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Student Council, with adviser and English department chair John Stuart, has directed their attention to changing the current rule on in school field trips.

Prior to the Student Council’s meeting with principal James Lee, Stuart discovered that some of his students were unable to see author Matthew Pearl speak on his novel “The Dante Club” because certain teachers would not allow students to leave classes.

“It surprised me that students were unable to attend because of certain faculty members making it difficult for them after I notified such faculty members a few weeks in advanced as well as the day before the presentation telling them that those students would not be able to attend [their class],” Stuart said.

Stuart brought this subject to Student Council members, and they agreed that a change was needed.

“It is important for students to have the option to go to in-school field trips because they bring a unique experience for learning,” junior Amanda Azadian said.

Azadian also said that all students should be able to see guest speakers presented by the ASR

class because “they offer insight to things some students that aren’t part of ASR are interested in.”

Senior Emily Randall, who was told she could not go to the field trip, also stressed the importance of letting students go.

“If teachers are informed, you should be allowed to go,” she said.

At a recent meeting with Lee, Stuart and other members presented an in-school field trip request form that would allow students to go to these trips.

The old rule simply required teachers to inform others of when presenters would be coming to the school; whereas, the new rule requires students and teachers to sign a form.

If a teacher refuses to sign the student’s form, the student can go to Lee for an override. Lee approved this new in-school field trip form.

The new forms will be available in the main office.

FAST FACTS

- Available in main office.
- Requires student and teacher signatures.
- Principal can override teacher refusal.

Continuations
ELECTION
Continued from page 1

After receiving info on the three issues, 72 percent of students voted against abolishing the income tax, 56.8 percent voted to legalize possession of a small amount of marijuana, and 72 percent voted to abolish dog racing.

Grady hopes the mock election let students feel they could partic-

ipate in this historical process.

“I think students generally feel disenfranchised because they don’t have the opportunity to vote,” he said.

According to senior Spencer Lange, the mock election gave students a deeper understanding of politics.

“It prepared students for the future when they will be voting and gave them a better understanding of the whole election,” he said.

Senior Ross Frazier agreed but

Rotary honors student leaders

Club celebrates event for fourth year running

By Laurel Edington
INDEPENDENT STAFF

From class presidents to sport captains, nearly 100 students attended the fourth annual Rotary Club Green and White Pancake Breakfast to be honored for being in leadership positions.

According to sophomore Olivia Peterson, the Interact Club is an offshoot of the Rotary Club and runs the breakfast with the Rotarians.

Junior Monique Costello, a member of the Interact Club’s Green and White Committee, helped organize the event. “The Interact Club is a junior version of the Rotary Club” and helped the Rotarians, who supplied the food, with the breakfast, she said.

The breakfast’s purpose is to recognize students who are leaders in extracurricular activities.

School presidents, officers, captains, newspaper editors, and club members were among those who were honored.

“I [appreciated being recognized,] I know that all the parents especially thought that it was a great event...Monique [did] such an amazing job” said junior Kara Thomas, who was recognized for being in three leadership positions.

The Rotarians provided free raffle tickets to everybody who came to the breakfast. The tickets were later pulled for prizes including iTunes, the Windward Grille, the Kitchen Witch, and Shaw’s gift cards. They also announced the Interact Club’s turkey raffle winners.

Local jazz musicians, Nat Simpkins and Henri Smith and local student musicians, played live music for the crowd.



EMILY HAMMOND PHOTO

On Nov. 7, PALS members and their elderly guests enjoy eating the apple pies that PALS members baked the day before.

PALS throws apple pie social for seniors

By Kaitlin McDonagh
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Local senior citizens attended an apple pie social put together by members of PALS, a group in which high school students tutor middle school students.

Middle school principal Eliza-beth Raucci started a PALS group when she worked in the Groton Dunstable school district, where it was a success, so she proposed the idea to seniors Annelise Eaton and Bethy Cunningham.

According to Raucci, the goal of PALS is to create a sense of community between the middle and high school students. “It breaks down barriers and lets the students get to know each other,” she said.

Sophomore Phoebe Thorne agreed. “It’s a good way to meet

some of the younger students,” sophomore she said.

“It makes the transition from middle school to high school better for the kids,” Cunningham said.

According to Eaton, PALS acts as a kind of Big Brother Big Sister program, but on a smaller scale. “The middle school students can get the advice that we wish we had,” she said

Raucci said that the apple pie social was the first attempt to create a relationship with the elderly in the community. “It gives them an opportunity to get to know the youth,” she said.

The students used apples donated by Russell Orchards to bake the pies, which were popular with the seniors and students.

“They were delicious! They were nice and thin,” Manchester resident Louise Maceachern said.

noted that forced voting made the election unrealistic.

“I think it gave the school a better understanding of what the voting demographic was,” he said, “but I think it would have been more accurate had we not forced students to vote since that does not happen in a real election.”

Math department chair Dan Lundergan used results from a prior election survey in his statistics class, which is studying sampling and margin of error.

Various history classes completed the survey asking students about the most important issue in the election, their greatest source of information regarding the election, how often they digest political information and how many debates they watched.

Grady said he and Jewett hope to organize another election. According to Grady, Jewett played a key part in the election by registering students each day and preparing for the event.

Tierney stresses importance of responsibility to veterans

By Bobina Vander Laan
INDEPENDENT STAFF

In honor of Veterans Day, students heard U.S. Congressman John Tierney speak in an assembly on Nov. 7. Tierney spoke on the history of honoring vets and how the tradition should be important today.

Tierney said respect for veterans decreased between World War I and the Vietnam War; his experience through his veteran father and brother gave him insight into honoring former soldiers. He emphasized that political leaders were responsible for war, and the veterans should be respected for bravery shown in war.

Tierney concluded that the debate over respect to veterans is over, and that citizens continue to offer help to those that suffer emotionally and physically.

“We do it for Memorial Day. We do it for Veterans Day. We do it every day,” he said.

He added “We ask a lot of people in the military, so we naturally have a responsibility to them.”

Two veterans, part of the America Legion Post 113, attended the event. Physics teacher John Chiffer, a Navy veteran, was recog-

nized before the band performed.

Commander William Bell, who served in the Air Force in Grenada, said honoring veterans was an important factor to reaching the end of war.

Another veteran who served in the Korean War, Adjutant Starr Lloyd, said Veterans Day was important for him because he came from a military family, spanning from the American Revolution to his daughter in the ROTC.

Both commented on the great performances done by chorus and band throughout the assembly.

Sophomore Piper Browne sang the National Anthem. The high school and eighth grade chorus performed “America the Beautiful” and “God Bless America.” Pre-calculus teacher Stephan Levinson accompanied the latter on the piano. The band performed official military songs, one in honor of Chiffer.

Freshman Jamie Rynkowski said Veterans Day was important because she had a lot of family who have been in war.

“We would have a different country,” she said.

While Rynkowski enjoyed hearing Tierney and the event, she would have preferred to hear the experience of a veteran.



MOLLY FRIEDMAN PHOTO



MOLLY FRIEDMAN PHOTO

The high school and eighth grade chorus perform at the Nov. 7 Veterans Day assembly as chorus teacher Donna O’Neill leads them and pre-calculus teacher Stephan Levinson accompanies them on the piano (above). The high school band also performed at the event.

U.S. Congressman John Tierney (left) addresses the assembly on the subject of veterans. Tierney said Americans should help veterans. “We ask a lot of people in the military, so we naturally have a responsibility to them,” he said.



EMILY HAMMOND PHOTO

Senior Julian Morris-Haaker, sophomore Eliot Duff, library aide Cathy Hunt and juniors Justine Kane and Jasmine Bailey mix it up at lunch on Nov. 13.

Diversity Alliance: Mix It Up Day challenges students to break social barriers, cliques

By Maura Driscoll
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Mix It Up Day is a nationwide event, the goal of which is to promote diversity in schools every November 13.

Every year, the Diversity Alliance sponsors this event.

M’Lena Gandolfi, head of the Diversity Alliance, said the purpose is to “encourage kids to be brave enough to break the social barriers that exist in schools, even if for only one day.”

Known to many students as

the day when you sit at different tables in the cafeteria, Mix It Up Day’s goal is more than just eating lunch with different people.

Gandolfi hopes kids will “step out of their comfort zone and make a new friend or be with a new group to learn what other kids are about.”

The Diversity Alliance has sponsored this event to raise awareness for the past six or seven years.

Despite its significance, not all students consider the day effective, and not all take it seriously.

“I think it’s a great idea, but

I’m not sure if it works,” senior Eliza Blatchford said.

Although encouraged to sit with other students, some students ignored the importance of the day by not participating.

“I didn’t mix it up,” Blatchford said. “I don’t think the day makes a difference because everyone will just go back to their same tables and groups the next day.”

Unlike Blatchford, Gandolfi said the day does make a difference.

“You find out that even though we are all different, we are still the same,” she said.

U.S. History I: Field trip exposes sophomores to shipbuilding history on Cape Ann

By Rebecca Lynch
INDEPENDENT STAFF

After learning about local shipbuilding, U.S. History I classes went to Salem to charter the Fame, a replica of the schooner built in Essex during the 19th century.

According to history teacher Jeffrey Carovillano, H.A. Burnham Boat Building and Design built the replica in Essex in 2002.

The original schooner was a privateer in the War of 1812 and part of the boating revolution in Essex, Manchester, and other local towns, Carovillano said.

“It was interesting to learn how the ships were made and used right here in Essex and Manches-

ter during the war,” sophomore Paige Ward said.

The students, chaperoned by Carovillano and Assistant Principal Paul Murphy, sailed on the Fame for two hours along the Cape Ann coastline.

According to sophomore Sarah Kirker, Captain Michael Rutstein told naval stories, taught sea chanteys, and described the history of the war to the students.

“Going on the boat was another way of learning. It reinforced what we learned in the classroom and gave us a more hands-on ex-

perience,” she said.

Before going on the field trip, the classes watched a documentary on constructing the original and replica schooners.

“Both were built by hand, and it was really cool to learn about the process they went through,” sophomore Eddie Neal said.

The temperatures were low, but both classes benefited from the trip, Ward said.

“We had a good time, and I would encourage anybody who’s interested in sailing or local history to go on the trip,” Carovillano said.

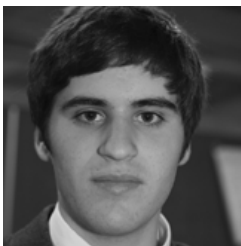
**‘It was really cool to learn about the process.’
-EDDIE NEAL**



COURTESY OF JEFF CAROVILLANO

Students in U.S. History I enjoy a tour of Cape Ann’s coastline from Essex-built replica schooner the Fame. The tour started from Salem Harbor and lasted two hours. Sophomore Paige Ward, enjoyed the trip. “It was interesting to learn how the ships were made and used right here in Essex and Manchester during the war,” she said.

Before



COURTESY OF
CAROLINE EPP



DJ BALL PHOTO

After



DJ BALL PHOTOS

Senior Jeff Kimball Asst. Principal Paul Murphy Senior Cam Doane

Math teacher David Alger organizes “No-shave November.” This is the third year that Alger has organized the event, which challenges participants not to shave their facial hair for an entire month.

November beard-growing competition creates ‘male bonding’

By Stephanie Smith
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

When most people think about November, they think of Thanksgiving and turkeys, Election Day and Veterans Day.

Here, they think about facial hair.

“No-shave November” has been a school tradition for three years. According to math teacher David Alger, contest sponsor and organizer, members of the then-senior class approached him with the idea.

This is the first year participants have done “before” pictures. According to Alger, Epp offered to take pictures of the participants so voters will be able to compare the

before and after pictures.

Voting takes place on Dec. 1. Last year, then-junior Cam Doane won in the best student beard category, and history teacher Kyle Grady won in the best faculty beard category.

Alger said he might expand the categories to include worst beard and most scraggly beard. The winner of each category receives a small prize.

Despite the expanded categories, the lure of prizes and the flyers and announcements

advertising the contest, Alger said participation decreased this year.

“We’ve got about 20 students, six teachers this year,” he said. “As of Nov. 6, a couple of people had already dropped out. They

can’t stand the pressure. It’s the itch factor.”

Physics teacher John Chiffer decided not to participate in the contest because of the itchiness of growing a beard.

“I can’t stand not to shave. It gets all scratchy and everything,” he said.

Senior Jake McIntosh is wholeheartedly participating in the contest.

McIntosh listed reasons for participating: “One: I hate shaving because it hurts my face. Two: competitions are fun. Three: I like the feeling; I really hate being clean-shaven,” he said.

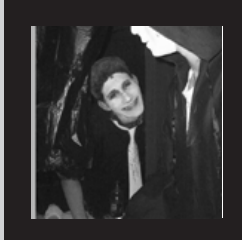
Assistant Principal Paul Murphy is also participating in the contest because “I can grow a beard better than anyone else in this school, and I challenged Mr. Grady this year.”

“We love doing it. It’s a bunch of fun,” he added. “It’s good, male bonding.”

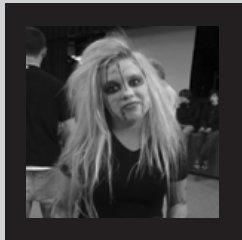
**‘We love doing it.
It’s a bunch of fun.
It’s good male
bonding’
-DAVID ALGER**

RULES

- MUST BE CLEAN SHAVEN ON OCT. 31.
- MUST NOT SHAVE ANY PART OF THEIR FACE DURING NOVEMBER. (NECK SHAVING IS ACCEPTABLE.)
- MUST PAY \$1 ENTRY FEE.
- MUST HAVE PHOTOGRAPHY TEACHER CAROLINE EPP TAKE “BEFORE PICTURE.”



Guess who?
Haunted House
2008



PHOTOS COURTESY OF
CAROLINE EPP

An inside look at the new school, continued from page one



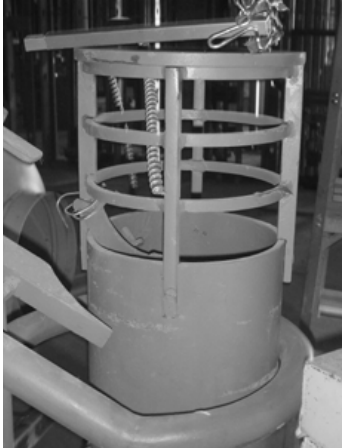
Hallways (above) feature sky lights.



The cafeteria features that overlook the gymnasium.



The new auditorium will seat 500 students.



JULIA MELAMED PHOTOS

Among the decorative elements will be a lighthouse at the base of a stair railing.

British junior joins student body

By Brittany Edwards
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Junior Caitlin Parker has adjusted to the American lifestyle and brought cultural diversity with her while remaining close to her friendships in England.

“Ever since I was a little girl, I have been coming to America every summer to visit my grandparents in Rockport. For my freshman and sophomore years, I went to England for an all girls’ boarding school, but my mother wanted me to go to an American school. I never was freaked out by American customs because I visited my grandmother in Rockport so many times. That made the transition really easy,” Parker said.

As a junior, she is looking at colleges. “I’ve wanted to go to an American college. I’m looking at colleges in California, Virginia, and Connecticut,” Parker said.

In addition to school hunting, she balances a love of art and soccer. “I love ceramics! I hope that I can fit it in for my senior year. As for soccer, this is my first year playing ever, and I was



DJ BALL PHOTO

Junior Caitlin Parker moved from England to Rockport this past year to attend American schools. She also plans to attend college in America.

on the junior varsity team. Soccer is a fun sport, and it helped me meet new people,” she said.

When managing school, soccer, and new friends, Parker also remains close to her English friends.

“The main reason why I even use the Internet is to keep in touch with my friends from England. They mean a lot to me,” she said.

Parker has advice for students joining the school. “My advice to new students would be to join a club or a team because that is the easiest way to meet people and make friends,” she said.

Health Matters

Specialists suggest five tips for clear skin

- According to Ezinarticles.com, the most important thing to do to avoid breakouts is to wash your face twice a day, once when you wake up, and once before you go to bed.
“I’d suggest using a dermatologist-recommended Neutrogena face wash with a soft washcloth that won’t irritate the skin,” Skin Care Reviews owner Kenny Back said on Ezinarticles.com
- Along with washing your face, another tip for avoiding breakouts is to reduce stress by exercising.
Seventeen said that stress causes hormone levels to change, which makes oil glands go into overdrive and clog pores.
Exercising will help reduce this stress and will also help cleanse pores through sweating, as long as the excess sweat is wiped off in the shower, according to Streetdirectory.com.
Although the reduction of stress will help avoid breakouts, using caution with the hair products you use will also help.
- Be careful with leave-in conditioners and oil treatments because they can drip onto your skin while you sleep, causing you to break out, according to Seventeen. They suggest that before you go to bed you should wrap a scarf around your hairline to protect your skin.
- You should also change your pillowcase once a week, Seventeen said.
“Oils from your hair and skin seep into your pillow while you sleep. Opt for one that’s 100 percent cotton, which won’t irritate your skin,” Seventeen recommends.
This prevents oils from seeping into your skin; however, cleaning your cell phone also prevents oils from getting into your pores.
- According to Seventeen, dirt can build up on your phone and get into your pores as it is pressed to your ear. You should disinfect it with an antibacterial wipe at least once a week.



By Hannah Daley, Independent Editor

Student

Carina Taliaferro

Profile



DJ BALL PHOTO

By Hannah Daley
INDEPENDENT STAFF

- Grade:**
10
- Favorite song currently:**
“All My Loving” by the Beatles
- What would your ideal day consist of?**
Going surfing in Hawaii with an instructor.
- One celebrity you’d love to meet:**
Kevin Garnett
- What is the most embarrassing thing that has ever happened to you?**
Spraining my ankle in gym class by jumping over hurdles.
- Zac Efron or Chace Crawford?**
Chace Crawford
- If you could move anywhere right now, where would you move?**
Kingston, Jamaica
- Favorite Thanksgiving food:**
Mashed potatoes
- Nick, Joe, or Kevin Jonas?**
Nick Jonas
- What is your favorite clothing accessory?**
Bracelets
- What is one thing you regret?**
Wearing the clothes that I wore to elementary school.

Local jobs offer fun atmosphere, flexible hours

High school students are always looking for ways to make money. For those who possess a desire for extra cash, the following jobs offer flexible hours and fun environments that can work with a student’s busy schedule.

Tim Hopkins Catering	Russell Orchards	Dunkin’ Donuts	Woodman’s Seafood	Crosby’s Marketplace
THCATERING.COM PHOTO				EMILY HAMMOND PHOTOS
Location: North Shore, headquarters in Essex Salary: \$15 per hour Hours: Eight to 12 hours per event, weekends Responsibilities: Serving food, setting up tables and cleaning up at events such as family dinners, corporate galas, and weddings From an employee: “They cater really fun parties, and the best part is the free food.” - Senior Elizabeth Geer, Pingree High School	Location: Ipswich Salary: \$8 per hour, 50 cent raise each season Hours: 20 hours per week, depending on schedule Responsibilities: Baking and register From an employee: “It’s so much fun.The best parts are the free cider and cider donuts, good discounts on store items, and that there are lots of kids working there.” - Senior Emily Randall	Location: Cape Ann area Salary: \$8 per hour, 50 cent raises every six months Hours: Seven hour shifts Responsibilities: Preparing and serving coffee, making bagels, cleaning From an employee: “Whenever I saw people around town, I felt like I knew a little secret about them,” she said. “I’d say ‘oh, she likes a medium hazelnut ice coffee with cream and one sugar.’” - Senior Bethy Cunningham	Location: Essex Salary: \$8.25 per hour, yearly raises Hours: Five to six hours per shift, number of shifts per week vary Responsibilities: Cleaning restaurant, serving food, ice cream From an employee: “The best part was that it went by so fast on busy days that it didn’t seem like I was there for very long. You also make really good tips.” - 2008 graduate Matt Cain	Location: Manchester Salary: \$8 per hour, 25 cents raise every several months Hours: Six hours per shift, up to 18 hours per week Responsibilities: Stock shelves, cash registers, bake, serve in deli From an employee: “We do get breaks,” he said. “If you work a six-hour shift they give you a 30 minute break and a 15 minute break.” - Senior DJ Ball

By Annelise Eaton, Independent Editor

Kruger Park, one of the true wonders of South Africa

By Nick Bouwer
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Editors' note: Sophomore Nick Bower traveled to South Africa, his native country, for a family reunion. One of the many places he visited was The Kruger National Park.

The Kruger National Park is the largest game reserve in South Africa and one of the largest wild life sanctuaries on the planet.

According to the Kruger National Park website, Kruger is roughly the same size as Israel and spans 12,871 miles, extending 217 miles from north to south and 37 miles from east to west.

The park was founded by Paul Kruger in 1898 and originally called the Sabi Game Reserve. In 1926 it was enlarged and became a National Park.

In 2002, the park became part of the Great Limpopo Trans-frontier Park and was linked to the Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe and the Limpopo National Park in Mozambique.

Kruger is comprised of six biomes: Baobab sandveld, contains the famous Baobab trees of South Africa with their distinctive thick trunk and spindly branches; Mopani scrub, is characterized by the mopani bush that Elephants favor as food; Lebombo knobthorn-marula bushveld is inhabited with marula



NICK BOUWER PHOTOS

Sophomore Nick Bouwer traveled to his native country, South Africa, for a family reunion. On his journey, he visited The Kruger National Park, which is one of the largest game reserves and wildlife sanctuaries in South Africa.

trees which were made famous in a scene from the movie “The Gods Must be Crazy” when animals ate the fermenting fruit and became drunk.

The fourth biome is mixed acacia thicket which is a dense bushland. The fifth is made up of Combretum-silver clusterleaf woodland on granite where browsing game are usually found, and the sixth is the riverine forest, which offers

very good game viewing because of the proximity to water.

The park website says Kruger is a showcase of the vast biodiversity in Southern Africa. It has 1,982 species of plants, 517 species of birds, 120 species of reptile, 52 species of fish, 35

species of amphibians, and 147 species of mammals.

Kruger was created solely for the purpose of protecting the great expanse of wildlife South Africa holds but is now also a major tourist attraction.

Out of the large variety of animals found in the park, the main attraction for tourists are the big five game animals of South Africa: lion, leopard, rhino, cape buffalo, and elephant. These animals are often very difficult to spot, particularly the predators, because they are either resting in shade, or stalking animals

A large part of the Kruger Park covers areas that are plagued by the dangerous mosquitoes that carry malaria. Tourists are advised to take medicine and sleep under mosquito nets to avoid being infected.

There is another dangerous insect called the Putzi fly, which lays eggs on any clothing that is

left outside. When the eggs come into contact with human skin, they hatch, and their maggots burrow into one’s skin, which then develops boils where the maggots grow. Fortunately, most tourists are warned of these hazards and can take precautions against them.

A Safari trip lasting three to five days for a family of four providing food, a private cottage, and a tour of the park costs roughly \$1,500. Three to Five day lodging for a family of four not providing food, a private cottage, and a safari guided tour of the park costs roughly \$400.

Tourists who go to South Africa don’t go for the cities, industries, and businesses. They go for the wildlife, scenery, and the experience the South African bushland offers. The Kruger National Park shows them the true wilderness of South Africa right through the window of a car door or one of the park’s many safari trucks.



FAST FACTS

- **Founded by Paul Kruger in 1898.**
- **Originally called the Sabi Game Reserve.**
- **It became a National Park in 1926.**
- **In 2002, it became part of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park.**
- **It is comprised of six biomes.**
- **It has 1,982 species of plants, 517 species of birds, 120 species of reptile, 52 species of fish, 35 species of amphibians and 147 species of mammals.**

Small ways the average person can save BIG money

By Hannah Dumont, Independent Editor



Buy in bulk:

By buying in bulk, you will get a larger discount on the product, thereby saving you money in the long run. For example, according to www.prosperityjunky.com, a 5.1 oz bottle of shampoo costs \$6.30 (\$1.24/oz) where as a one gallon (128 oz) bottle of the same shampoo costs \$66.50 (\$.52/oz). That is a 58 percent savings.

\$

\$

\$

Turn off the lights:

Don’t waste energy by burning lights in rooms that you’re not occupying.

According to www.stretcher.com, on average, people who shut off the lights when they were not in use saved \$3 a month or \$36 a year.

\$

\$

\$

Buy no-name products:

Brand names cost more simply because of advertising costs. They aren’t necessarily any better tasting or healthier. For example, a 28 oz. jar of Wal-Mart brand peanut butter costs \$1.94 (\$0.07/oz) and a 28 oz. jar of Jif peanut butter costs \$2.82 (\$0.10/oz).

\$

\$

\$

Drive the speed limit:

Instead of pushing the pedal to the floor to save a few minutes, set your car’s cruise control and go the speed limit. In the average car, you can save about one mile per gallon by just driving like you should. If you have a 20 gallon tank, that amounts to 20 extra miles you can drive on that tank. It’s like paying \$2.85 per gallon instead of \$3, said cardata.com

Hit the library:

Instead of buying books, CDs, DVDs and even magazines that you barely use, check materials out of your neighborhood library. Also, be sure to look into free community events which are usually posted at libraries.

Make your own coffee:

Avoid spending a few dollars by making your coffee at home. According to www.cafemom.com, with a one-time investment in a coffee maker, you can make coffee at home for as little as 60 cents per 12-ounce cup. That is a lot cheaper than the \$3 per cup you’ll spend at a café. The difference for those buying a daily coffee at a café instead of making it at home is an average saving of \$72 a month.

Don’t shop hungry:

When hungry, people tend to buy more, things they don’t need. On the other hand, don’t shop when full because you will not buy enough, and you will end up later purchasing the items at a local convenient store, which is generally more expensive.

Go see a matinee movie:

Matinee tickets are a fraction of the cost of the regular price tickets. For example, at AMC Loews at the Liberty Tree Mall, matinee tickets cost \$8 whereas regular tickets cost \$10.

Bottle your own water:

An average person drinks roughly 120 bottles of water a month, gatherlittlebylittle.com said. A 24-pack of Dannon water runs \$3.99 - \$4.99. That’s five packs per month at the cost of \$19.95 - \$24.95 per month, or \$239.40 - \$299.40 per year spent on water bottles alone. Invest in a reusable water bottle such as a SIGG water bottle that can be purchased online at www.mysigg.com for \$21.99-\$24.99.

Holiday Decorations

Early holiday displays lighten moods, cause cheer

Pro

Annelise Eaton

Early each November, those who are un-spirited and Grinch-like begin to attack Oldies 103.3 for their excess of holiday cheer.

The nonstop holiday selection begins the week immediately following Halloween. Truly, the radio station deserves to be commended.

Some people seem genuinely disgusted by this outpouring of cheer before the season has truly begun.

On the other hand, the festive citizens who adorn their houses with lights in early November believe that a season that unites families, fosters hope and causes a great deal of charity can never begin too soon.

For a child, no time of the year is more magical than the holidays, in which store windows light up with glittery displays, traditions are recollected, and people begin to focus more on dreams than on reality.

While a belief in Santa Claus or any other holiday myth fades with time, the excitement surrounding the season does not die with age.

Although “Frosty the Snowman” no longer enralls teenagers, the cheer surrounding holiday decorations and songs calls out positive traits in people of all ages.

The excitement of the holidays causes people to forget about the perils of their own life and leads them to focus on the betterment of others. Food drives receive successful turnouts, people collect toys for those in need, and students reflect on the ways in which they are lucky.

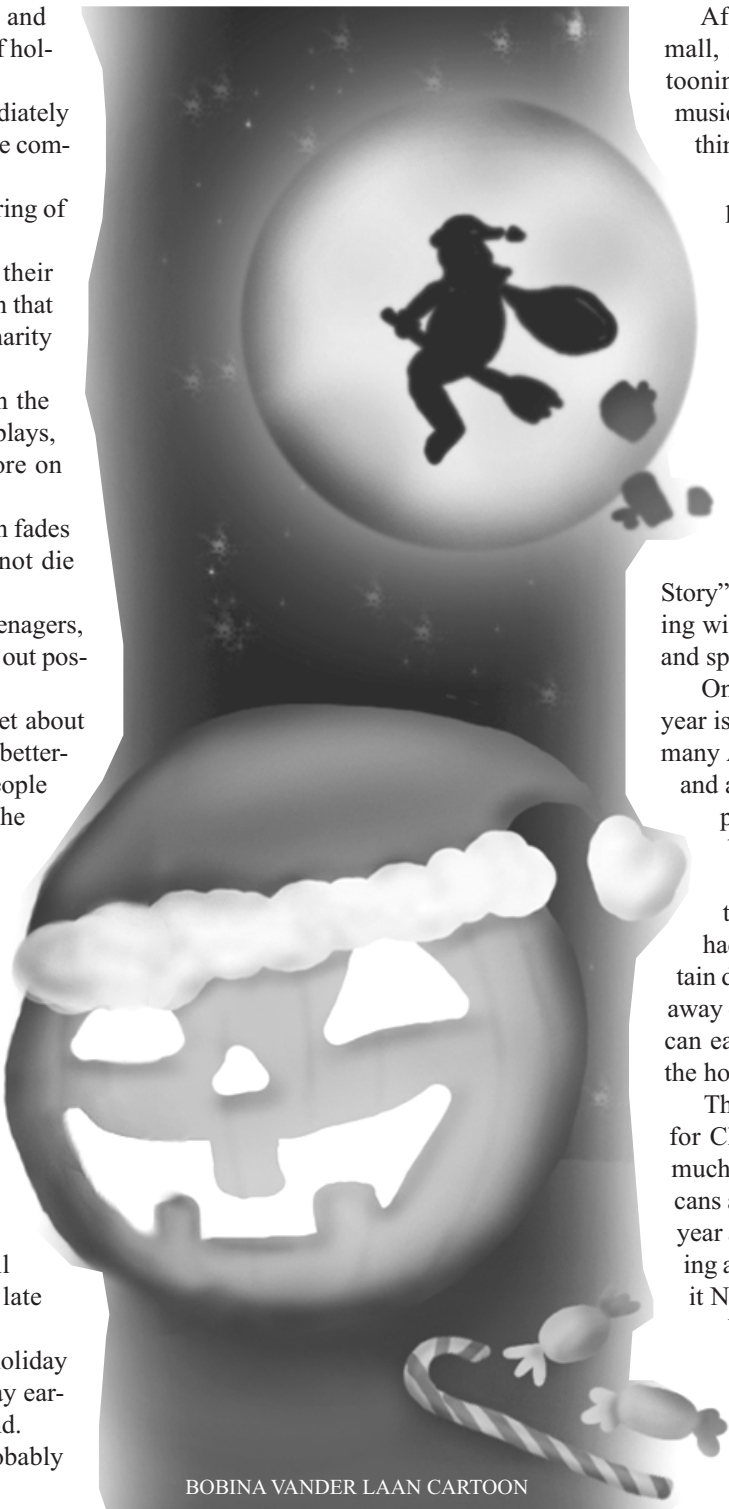
For many Americans, the December vacation is one of the few times each year when the whole family can be together. Often the values of the season inspire people and they find themselves more willing to connect with their family and old friends.

Some who oppose an early display of holiday cheer are not against the season, but instead fear that if decorations are on display in early November, they will no longer be exciting by late December.

These fears can be mitigated by the fact that excitement regarding the holiday always grows exponentially as the date nears. While there may be some displays in early November, the town tree will be lit and nearly all houses or store windows will have some decoration by late December.

A taste of excitement a couple of months before the holiday only increases the anticipation. By focusing on the holiday earlier, people find it to be a bigger event once it rolls around.

Even if Nov. 1 is not exactly the holiday season, it probably will not kill anyone to hear “Jingle Bells” on the radio.



BOBINA VANDER LAAN CARTOON

Con

Stephanie Smith

After a month of hearing “Ho, ho, ho!” from Santa at the mall, seeing Christmas trees, ornaments, and garlands festooning all of the stores, and being blasted with Christmas music while shopping, the magic of Christmas has worn very thin by Dec. 1.

Christmas is a fun and delightful holiday, full of surprises, cheer and gorgeous decorations.

As the years go on, however, the Christmas season has become increasingly commercialized. Christmas ads start as early as Halloween, and stores proudly display Christmas cards, Christmas music, wrapping paper, ornaments and Santa impersonators by Nov. 1 at the latest.

This is a fairly recent development; even as recently as a decade ago, Santa didn’t come to the mall until the day after Thanksgiving, and one wouldn’t hear Christmas music on the radio before then, either.

For example, the classic movie “A Christmas Story” tells the story of a young boy’s Christmas dreams starting with a visit to Santa at the mall—after Thanksgiving — and spans the two or three remaining weeks until Christmas.

One purported reason for starting Christmas earlier this year is the economic downturn. With the slumping economy, many Americans may feel unable to afford the same quality and amount of gifts they have purchased in previous years, prompting them to start shopping earlier to search for bargains.

The credit crunch aspect of the economy is leading to the increase in popularity of lay-away options, which had all but died out since credit cards became easy to obtain during the 1980s. Of course, buying something on a lay-away option requires a purchase further in advance, but stores can easily advertise lay-away options without bringing out the holiday garlands, music and decorations.

The stores don’t share this opinion and want to advertise for Christmas as early as possible so they can bring in as much money as possible. Businesses are aware that Americans are less likely to spend lots of money on Christmas this year and are concerned, so they’re gearing up their advertising and effectively putting Christmas on steroids by starting it Nov. 1.

With all the worry about buying gifts and all the trappings of Christmas being displayed as early as Halloween, much of the magic of Christmas is being lost to advertising and consumerism; after all, Christmas is only special because it comes for one day, once a year.

Stores desperate as ailing economy affects holiday spending

By Laurel Edington
INDEPENDENT STAFF

With the Christmas season quickly approaching, worries about the economy will affect holiday purchases because the public is afraid to spend money.

Consumers are cutting their budget and aren’t going to buy as much as in previous years, so stores are coming out with new ideas and old systems to attract buyers.

In Kohl’s and other department stores, the long-forgotten idea of layaway has come back. Customers may buy items and pay over an established period of time, thus making desired products more affordable and paying for

products less stressful.

According to MSNBC, Burlington Coat Factory’s layaway sales have made up 5.3 percent of their business in one month, but customers are using their credit cards less, meaning they still aren’t purchasing as much.

Prices are also decreasing on popular holiday products.

The old version of the MacBook is now \$999 instead of the former cost of \$1299, but expensive items like this computer are still too costly for the financially struggling public.

In the mall and online, companies like The Gap are offering holiday discounts and bigger doorbusters three weeks earlier in the season than in previous years because they need more business than they’re getting.

Some online stores are now offering free shipping and financing options to relieve the financial burden.

Other sales include buying items and getting another free or discounted and complimentary customizing of products. Stores are using manipulation to attract their now conservative customers.

USEconomy.com said that in the past six years, the value of the dollar has dropped 40 percent. The dollar is worth so little in the United States that foreigners are coming to buy what they need. Americans are finding that foreign items will be too expensive to buy because it takes more American dollars to equal the foreign currency.

As the Christmas season approaches, stores need to continue



DJ BALL CARTOON

to invent creative ways to mitigate buyers’ fears so that the economy isn’t further destroyed during the holiday season.



Obama transcends America’s racial history

DJ BALL

Years ago our country was in a time of hate, a time where race determined who you were and who you would become. Segregation was a way of life, and no one would ever dare cross the race barrier.

From the slave rebellions in the slave trade to the race revolution in the 1960s, African Americans have fought for equality, and finally it seems as though the gap has been breached.

“Yes we did” were the sounds heard round the world on Nov. 5. The day had finally come when Americans voted for change rather than old guard tactics, and Americans believed that there was still hope left in the world.

Optimistic and on the precipice of a new age, American citizens should take a moment to

The day has finally come when Americans voted for change rather than old guard tactics.

recognize what this election signifies for our country.

We should all acknowledge those who have fought for change and have devoted everything to it, the individuals who believe that hope still exists.

Rosa Parks denied moving to the back of the bus though threatened with a prison sentence. Martin Luther King Jr. was thrown into prison because he fought for racial equality. The Little Rock Nine walked through the jeers and animosity of white families to their new high school.

While watching the election results, I watched a clip of Bull Connor unleashing attack dogs and city hoses to stop protesters in Birmingham. Teenagers seem to forget that these events did not take place a century or so ago but rather while the majority of their older family members were alive. Remember what it cost to get our country this far.

We have entered the new era of race. Though some may say that this “end of racism” is specious, the fact is, when Barack Obama enters the White House, millions of American parents of all ethnicities and economic backgrounds will go to sleep thinking that their child one day could become president. Truly, we may have found the end of racism.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Small town life gives unappreciated security

In Manchester and Essex, size is a constant point of contention. Our tiny school, coupled with downtown areas that can be walked through in the course of five minutes, have that small-town feel bursting from every quaint storefront on Main Street and every brick in the school walls.

Frequently, students complain bitterly about how tiny this community is.

Kids can always find something to harp upon, whether it’s diversity or lack of choices. What are not commonly discussed are the benefits of living in a small community like Manchester or Essex.

Every parent has concerns for his or her child. Wear a helmet, be home at 10, always drive the speed limit: these are just a few of the things students are con-

stantly reminded of.

One of the wonderful things about where we live is that one of those concerns does not have to be for their children’s safety. Sure, the common-sense ideas of “stranger-danger” are firmly instilled in the mind of most 3-to-5-year-olds. But in most cases, they will never have to use that information.

Children can run around outside, after dark, without the fear of being harmed. People can walk from house to house safely. And after midnight in Manchester, the streets are so peaceful and quiet

that anyone would be safe walking about.

We see just how little we appreciate these benefits when someone from the outside comes in, with unfamiliar fears and reservations. This past October, members of debate teams from places like the Bronx or Brooklyn came to stay with students at the school as part of the annual tournament. Several students noticed the debaters held a fear of the outside world.

Some of them would be afraid to leave the house after nightfall, even if it was to just go out to the car. Others were amazed that someone could have a friend over

at 7 p.m. and that the friend could leave again at 11 without fear of being kidnapped on the walk home.

Through the eyes of others, we can fully appreciate the life which we lead here. The almost total safety of such small communities is something that is so often taken for granted because most of us haven’t known anything else.

But when we compare the way we live to the way people in more hazardous areas live, we can see that our ultimate safety is something that shouldn’t be taken lightly and needs to be treasured.

As the holidays come upon us, take some time to pause and reflect upon how maybe our lack of exciting activities and limited diversity can be tolerated, if it gives us the security that so many others desperately wish for.

Through the eyes of others, we can fully appreciate the life which we lead here.

Environmental consciousness should be a lifestyle, not a trend

By Emily Hammond
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Have you noticed how being green is suddenly the new trend? Everywhere I go I see environmentally conscious signs, stickers, clothing and bags. I wonder how many people actually are aware of the carbon footprint, compared to those who act like they do in order to fit in.

Being green shouldn’t be a trend. It should be a lifestyle. Saying that you’re green isn’t going to change the world. You actually have to put in effort to make an impact.

Lately, every store sells their version of a reusable bag. If you buy it, use it. Remembering them isn’t that hard. Many people buy the bags but never use them when they go grocery shopping. Just owning them doesn’t make you green. Keeping them in your car and coming out of a store

with 50 plastic bags makes you the opposite of green.

The biggest part of being green is recycling. If you don’t recycle, you can’t say you’re environmentally conscious. Recycling is easy, especially lately, with all the recycling bins on streets and in the school.

According to recycling-revolution.com, at Stanford University one year of recycling saved the equivalent of 33,913 trees. Imagine if every school campus, worldwide, made recycling a priority. The world would be a different place.

Each person counts when it comes to recycling. By simply recycling your water bottle everyday, you are making an impact. You are being green.

Don’t say you’re green just to fit in. Say it because you mean it, because you are. If you’re going to wear a shirt about recycling, make sure you actually recycle. The same goes if you’re going to



DJ BALL CARTOON

put a recycling bumper sticker on your car. Do it because it’s the truth, not because everyone else has one.

Being green should be the

new way of living, not the latest trend. If the current state of the earth is going to change, then we are going to need to be green for life.

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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Field Hockey: Season ends 1-2 in overtime with loss to Watertown in Div. II North finals

By Skylar Coons
INDEPENDENT STAFF

After defeating Wayland and Lynnfield in the playoffs, the field hockey team made it to the Division II finals for the second year in a row, losing to Watertown in overtime.

Last year, in double overtime, they lost 2-3 to Winchester.

Coach Pam Grant expected Watertown to be really strong for the final game. “They are always really strong but also beatable. They play similar to the way we play,” Grant said.

The last practice before the big game consisted of pretending to be Watertown who use a lot of trickery. Grant wanted them to be able to play smart.

On Saturday, Nov. 8, the game was 1-0 at the half with the goal from senior Lee Stroman. In the second half, Watertown scored, which led the teams into overtime.

Only seven players per team



COURTESY OF HANNAH DALEY

Junior right wing Amelia Cohen (right) carries the ball up the field in semi-final game against Lynnfield. The team defeated Lynnfield 2-1. They later faced Watertown in the Division II Finals, losing 1-2 within the first four minutes during overtime.

play during overtime, and the first team to score wins the game.

Watertown scored in the overtime within four minutes, which won them the game 2-1.

“They had a lot of experience

playing in overtime. The only reason they won was because of luck,” junior Amelia Burke said.

“It was top notch field hockey. It was an exciting game, but a sad loss,” Grant said. “I think it’s

going to go really well next year because they know how to get close, they know what it tastes like, and they’re going to be hungry to win,” she said.

Players said that next year, they

will get where they got this year and win. “We have a lot of young players, so next year we’re probably going to be in the same situation and win,” Burke said.

“I want to congratulate the girls for a great season,” Grant said.



COURTESY OF LEO DALEY

Senior Spencer Lange runs to maintain his lead during a meet against Hamilton-Wenham. Seniors Eric Kimball and Caroline Martin, and sophomore Ben Girard competed in States recently.

Cross country wraps up season 7-5

By Maura Driscoll
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Wrapping up the year with a record of 7–5, the cross country team experienced their best season yet.

In the second to last race of the season, the cross-country team competed in the state-qualifying race.

The team placed 7th overall out of 39 teams racing in Division IV. “The team as a whole did very well,” senior Leo Daley said.

Last year, the team placed 9th overall, so they have improved as a team and individually.

Before the meet, coach A.J. Migonis said, “This is the meet that we have been working for this season. We saw a number of personal best times and we are very excited to have three indi-

viduals qualified for the state meet this weekend.”

Senior Eric Kimball placed 13th and sophomore Ben Girard placed 17th in the boys’ race. In the girls’ race, senior Caroline Martin placed 13th.

All three team members qualified for the State Championship race at Franklin Park in Boston. At the state-qualifying race last year, only Kimball and Martin qualified.

Martin placed 32nd out of 148 of the top female runners in Massachusetts. Girard placed 31st out of 150 of the top male runners in the state, and Kimball placed 55th.

According to senior Leo Daley, “[Girard] should be one of the top runners in the entire state of Massachusetts next year.”

“I’m very proud of how hard this team has worked this season,” Migonis said.

ALL-STAR, ALL-LEAGUE PLAYERS

Girls’ Varsity Soccer All-Stars:



Juniors Julia Martz, Sky Coons

Both play multiple positions

Selected captains for 2009 season



“If I didn’t have either one, it would have been a long season. They both add depth to whatever we do,” coach Keith Gray said.

Boys’ Varsity Soccer All-Stars:



Senior Captain Peter Gudonis

Position: Center Striker

“Peter is an incredibly hard worker. His work had coaches saying he was a solid player,” coach Rob Bilsbury said.



Senior Captain Cam Doane

Position: Sweeper

“Cam is excellent at containing plays and not allowing the other team to get past. He is good at guiding them to the sideline,” Bilsbury said.



Junior Matt Graves

Position: Goalie

“Matt works really hard at his job,” Bilsbury said. Plays for Olympic Development team

Golf All-Stars



Senior Captain Erik Ferm

According to coach Jane McConnell, strengths include consistency, grasp of solid fundamentals, and the ability to stay calm on course



Senior Captain Mike Dodge

According to McConnell, strengths include power, the ability to choose the right shot for situation, and his short game



Senior Zeke Gillette

Strengths include his positive attitude and ability to stay focused on goals, according to McConnell

Varsity Field Hockey All-League Players:



Senior Meredith Crofton

Position: Center halfback

“Take her intensity and add to it her extremely deceptive stick work finished by a solid choke hit and you have the reason for her success as center halfback.”



Junior Amelia Cohen

Position: Right wing

“Amelia Cohen has been on varsity since she was a freshman and the change to turf this year was a great advantage for her. She is a very clean turf style player who has so much speed; she zips it up the right wing over and over again,” coach Pam Grant said.

“Amelia has such a fast hit that she was placed on the offensive corner team as the main striker,” she said.

Varsity Field Hockey All-Stars



Junior Amelia Burke

Position: Left wing

“Amelia Burke had big shoes to fill becoming the new starting left wing. She took over for three-year starter

and high scorer each of those years, Molly Foye. Amelia mimics much of what Foye did, which has contributed to her success,” coach Pam Grant said. “She uses her link to pass back and switch fields, but she also has a tremendous strong stick and reverse stick scoop to carry it up the left side many times,” she said.



Sophomore Patty Wright

Left halfback

“Patty Wright is just a sophomore, but she shows great maturity on the field. Patty plays right halfback but took

over at center halfback while Mere [Crofton] was out with a concussion. She has grown as a player and now masters the block tackle and the scoop,” coach Pam Grant said. “Patty was put as the rusher on defensive corners because of her one-on one-tackle success,” she said.

Students make track and field new option for winter sport

By Kaitlin Donagh
INDEPENDENT STAFF

A new track and field team has been created as another option for winter sports by cross country team members sophomore Nate Jermain and seniors Eric Kimball and Leo Daley.

Jermain, Kimball, and Daley realized a track and field team was needed here when they ran with the Gloucester High School team last winter.

They spoke with former PE and health teacher Janda Ricci-Munn and athletic director Hardy Nally about forming an indoor track team. Originally, Ricci-Munn was to be the coach, but he

no longer works at MERHS because he wanted to pursue his career as a professional athlete.

Ricci-Munn contacted John Barbour, a former women’s distance running coach at Emory University, last spring and told him about the position. Barbour was interested and accepted the position in August.

There is no set location for practices, and the meets scheduled are not definite. “I’m confident that it will happen,” Barbour said regarding the schedule.

Barbour was impressed by how student-driven the making of this team was. “It’s a grassroots movement, which is terrific,” he said.

As a track and field coach and former cross country coach, Bar-

bour has helped students improve. “He was my eighth grade cross-country coach, and I had my best year with him,” Jermain said.

“I see myself in the role of a facilitator; someone who’s fighting to share an experience, an experiment, and a project. If I can bring some of my background and knowledge and help people get connected to this wonderful sport, I consider that a privilege,” Barbour said.

Barbour and team members are excited for the future. “It would be great to have a lot of people qualify for the state meets,” Kimball said.

“My goal is to get it started. Just as long as we’re running track, I’m happy,” Jermain said.



DJ BALL PHOTO

Senior Eric Kimball, sophomore Nate Jermain, senior Spencer Lange, and senior Leo Daley helped make track and field a new winter sport. John Barbour was recruited as the coach.

Barbour said he was most excited to find out their schedule and where they will be practicing.

“I’m confident we’ll have access to competitions. Daily training is the challenge right now,” he said.

Football team advances to Div. IV playoffs for third year in a row

By Hannah Dumont
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

For the third year in a row, the varsity football team is in the Division IV playoffs.

To advance to the Super Bowl at Gillette Stadium, they must win Tuesday, Dec. 2 against O’Bryant High School.

According to assistant coach Cosmo Pallazola, who works with the offense and the running and defensive back, O’Bryant is a very fast team. To win the game, the team will have to slow the game down and maintain ball control, he said.

Junior running back Brian Ciccone is also excited about going to the playoffs, but he said he will not be satisfied until they win the Super Bowl.



EMILY HAMMOND PHOTO

The football team lines up before starting a play in recent game against Northeast Metro. They are undefeated with a record of 9-0. Advancing to the Division IV playoffs for the third year in a row, assistant coach Cosmo Pallazola is confident that the team will advance to the Super Bowl after playoffs.

“We are pumped to make it to the playoffs, but it’s not enough. Our goal is to make it to the super

bowl,” Ciccone said. According to Pallazola, key players have been Orlando, senior

captain Max Quirk, senior captain Clayton Morrissey, Ciccone, junior running back Ben Kekeisen

and junior wide receiver Doug Kenerson.

“They are the super seven, our seven weapons,” Pallazola said.

Ciccone and Orlando in particular work very well together, he said, and have been huge assets to the team.

Orlando has 21 touchdown passes, and Ciccone has over 800 rushing yards and 17 touchdown passes.

Pallazola said the key to their success is how complex and dimensional the team is. “We do things on offense that other teams just can’t stop.”

He is confident that the team will advance to the Super Bowl because they are “one year stronger, one year faster, and have one more year of playing experience together.”

Fall Sport Award Winners

Varsity Girls’ Soccer

Offensive/Leadership:
Midfield/Leadership:
Defensive/Leadership:
Determination:
Perseverance:
Aggressiveness:
Spirit:
Tenacity:
MVP:
Most Improved:
Coach’s:

Alex Doyle
Hannah Dumont
Jordan Biggar
Lauren Green
Carolina Merrow
Dawn Kerrigan
Megan Kackley
Elsa Keefe
Skylar Coons
Rebecca Lynch
Chandler Kennedy

JV Girls’ Soccer

MVP:
Most Improved:

Leanne Ciccone
Elizabeth Kirker

Varsity Boys’ Soccer

MVP:
Coach’s:
Outstanding Attacker:
Outstanding Defender:
Most Improved:
Hornet:
Hornet:
Hornet:

Cameron Doane
Jake McIntosh
Peter Gudonis
Carter Davis
Luke Elder
Colin Rosso
Nick Congdon
Bryan Reed

JV Boys’ Soccer

MVP:
Most Valuable Offensive Player:
Most Valuable Defensive Player:
Linchpin Player:
Sportsmanship:

Danny White
Patrick McDonagh
Erik Keefe
Ollie Spaulding
Sam Cushing

Golf

Most Improved Player:
Coach’s:
Coach’s:
Bobby Jones:
Masters:
Masters:
MVP:

Connor Howlett
Alex Porter
Tyler Gothie
Sean Golden
Erik Ferm
Mike Dodge
Zeke Gillette

Varsity Field Hockey

MVP:
Coach’s:
Coach’s:
Most Versatile:
Intensity:
Team Player:
Dynamic Duo:
Dynamic Duo:
Most Improved:

Meredith Crofton
Jordan Berger
Sylvan LaChance
Eliza Blatchford
Taylor Rogers
Emily Randall
Jen Bishop
Lee Stroman
Anne Osborne

JV Field Hockey

MVP:
Most Improved:
Coach’s:
Rising Star:
Sportsmanship:
Most Versatile:

Hannah Daley
Corey Bradley
Maddy Huleatt
Olivia Colpoys
Amy Fraser
Piper Browne

Freshman Field Hockey

MVP:
Outstanding Offensive Player:
Outstanding Defensive Player:

Taylor Coons
Caroline Bernier
Kelly Dodge

Coach’s:
Coach’s:

Kathleyn Carr
Morgan Kennedy

Cross Country

Excellence:
Excellence:
Most Improved:
Coach’s:
Coach’s:
Rookie of the Year:

Eric Kimball
Caroline Martin
Ben Girard
Matt Corwin
Jessy Appellofft
Zach Sergeant



DJ BALL PHOTO

Cousins senior Cam Doane and junior Skylar Coons both were awarded MVP by their varsity soccer coaches.

Five unique scenes create memorable production

By DJ Ball
INDEPENDENT ASSISTANT EDITOR

With a talking washing machines and a new language, “All in the Timing” by David Ives was a fantastic show that children and parents could enjoy.

The drama club, under the direction of English teacher Gloria Tanner and with help from debate teacher Jonathan Peele, put the audience in a world of mystery where the line between reality and a world of chaos was hard to interpret.

The play was made up of five scenes that were all unrelated to each other. Though this may seem annoying to the audience because there was no story-line to follow, each play had its own interpretation of time and human existence.

Each scene brought the audience to a new memorable experience. “Soap Opera,” a parody involving a repairman (senior Jeff Kimball) and in love with his washing machine (junior Tavia Pomazon) was one of the many entertaining scenes.

“The Philadelphia,” starring a

depressed debby downer (junior Monique Costello) who is trapped in what her friend Alice (sophomore Maura Driscoll) described as a “Philadelphia,” added to the plays unique style.

Kimball, who played a main part in four out of the five plays, brought enthusiasm and something new to every scene. The only male in the play, Kimball excelled at every character he transformed into.

“Universal Language” was an example of this when Kimball spoke an entirely different tongue that represented each world language. Not only did he nail all his lines, but every single facial expression fit perfectly.

Kimball was not the only actor that shined; the entire cast brought something fresh and exciting to the audience.

Freshman Allie Freed who played a saucy news reporter in “Damn Yankees” brought the same zest and humor to her new roles. From stuttering Dawn in “Universal Language” to a singing and dancing shopper in “Philip Glass Buys a Loaf of Bread,” Freed pleasantly proved to be a fantastic addition to the drama club.

In “Sure Thing,” junior Lisa Goddard who played Betty, a



The cast and crew of the school’s fall production, “All in the Timing,” posed for a group photo during the set strike on Nov. 17 (above). Freshmen Allie Freed and Katerina Eichenberger played various roles in this year’s production (above right). The performance included five separate short scenes which director Gloria Tanner combined to form the play.



COURTESY OF TAVIA POMAZON



COURTESY OF NICK KIMBALL

Cast members take their final bows after a production of this year’s fall play, “All in the Timing.”

Local Exhibit Art teacher shows work at Sovereign

By Sophie Hagberg
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Art teacher Marion Powers is showing her artwork at the Sovereign Bank in Manchester. Her show is titled “Manchester and the Sea: Painterly and Minimalist Works,” and is a new interpretation of sites and landmarks around Manchester.

Powers created a number of different pieces inspired by Manchester. All of these pieces, according to Powers, are either mixed media or paintings.

“The pieces I create are conceptual,” Powers said. “The idea is looking at everyday objects and turning them into art.” Powers made both three-dimensional and two-dimensional art, and worked with a variety of materials: most notably, a piece made out of leftover staples.

“I took all of the broken, leftover staples that can’t fit in the stapler anymore, and put them together in a frame,” Powers said.

Powers has 24 pieces on display, including 16 paintings and



EMILY HAMMOND PHOTO

Art teacher Marion Powers is showing her conceptual work at Sovereign Bank from Nov. 5 to Dec. 5.

mixed media, and eight conceptual works. Most of these are for sale. Out of these 24, 16 are based off of Manchester and the surrounding area, and the remainder are conceptual and mixed media art pieces not based off of the town.

Through her show, Powers looks to promote the school’s art department.

“I want to draw attention to the Manchester Essex art department through my work,” Powers said. “I think it could really help us gain some publicity.”

In addition, students in Powers’ art classes have been assigned to write a critique of one of the pieces in the exhibit.

The show runs from Nov. 5 to Dec. 5 at the Sovereign Bank at 17 Union St. The bank is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

‘Edge of Darkness’ filmed locally

By Molly Friedman
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Partially filmed in Manchester, “Edge of Darkness” directed by Martin Campbell and starring Mel Gibson, is the second movie to be filmed at Ray and Dawna Ozzies’ house.

“What’s the Worst That Could Happen,” starring Martin Lawrence and Danny DeVito, was the first movie to be filmed at the Ozzies’ house.

After this film, Dawna Ozzie said she did not think she would allow another movie to be filmed at her house. “It was very invasive and lots of people were in and out of the house. Mostly everything was exposed, and you feel like that was fun and everything was great, but never again,” she said.

Ozzie said the people from “Edge of Darkness” were much nicer and easier to get along with, so she and her husband agreed to allow them to film at their house.

“The people were so nice, and the three day shooting period seemed reasonable. My friends are all into movies, and meeting



MOLLY FRIEDMAN PHOTO

“Edge of Darkness,” directed by Martin Campbell, is being filmed at Ray and Dawna Ozzie’s house in Manchester.

new people was great,” she said.

The Ozzies’ house is an old red brick mansion, surrounded by an iron gate, with a circular driveway leading to the front of the house. The driveway is one of the settings for a murder scene. On the other side of the house is the ocean, which is the setting for the final scene.

Along with the nice people on set, the director was also a pleasure to work with, Ozzie said. “Campbell was a nice guy, more focused, and disciplined than the director of the other movie,” she said.

Three different scenes were filmed in the house. The grand stairwell in the main hallway and the circular driveway were used to create dramatic death scenes. The final scene was shot near the ocean, but the result cannot be released until the movie is.

Gibson plays the part of a homicide detective, Thomas Craven, who investigates the death of his daughter. As the story goes on, more evidence is uncovered to reveals ghastly secrets.

The Ozzies will donate all proceeds from the film company to the Enjoyce Foundation, which was created by Dawna Ozzie and a few of her closest friends who enjoy giving back to the community. The 12 women on the board will meet to discuss how and where to donate the money.

‘My friends are all into movies, and meeting new people was great.’
-DAWNA OZZIE



SUMMIT ENTERTAINMENT PHOTO
‘Twilight’ stars Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson.

‘Twilight’ thrills with romance, action

By Rebecca Lynch
INDEPENDENT STAFF

One of the most anticipated movies of the season, “Twilight,” managed to capture the story into a well-developed movie while still staying true to the immensely popular book by Stephanie Meyer.

In two hours, director Catherine Hardwicke and the perfectly selected cast tells the story of the unfathomable relationship between a human girl and a vampire.

The movie starts with a voice over from Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart), speaking lines directly from the book. Bella is moving to live with her father in Forks, Wash., after her mother remarries.

When Bella meets Edward (Rob Pattinson) in high school, there’s a lot of tension. Edward’s a vampire who eats only animals, but it takes all of his self-control to keep from eating her.

Bella’s attracted to Edward but can’t figure out why he avoids her. The actors play their parts well, but their constantly solemn expressions are monotonous.

The supporting cast was surprisingly engaging. Bella’s father, Charlie (Billy Burke), had fun

lines, and Bella’s schoolmates provided great comedic relief. Taylor Lautner portrayed family friend Jacob Black with charm, setting up the character for more involvement later in the series.

After Bella discovers Edward is a vampire, they become more comfortable. The two actors made the relationship believable with their expressions and interactions.

Bella and Edward’s love is initially an intense obsession; one kissing scene helped determine the PG-13 rating.

The movie turns from romance to action when a tracker vampire, James (Cam Gigandet), begins hunting Bella. The chase ensues, leading to a final showdown where Bella fights for her life.

Gigandet captured the easy-going evil of James, especially while he tortures Bella. Stewart performs best during these scenes, displaying pure pain but not overdoing it or seeming weak.

The battle between Edward and James was effective yet short, and made the small \$40 million budget apparent. The setting was creatively integrated.

The soundtrack features Paramore, Muse, and Linkin Park, adding freshness to the score.

Up-close cinematography and direction overall gave the feel of a more personal film rather than a blockbuster.

• Running time: 2 hrs
• Rating: PG-13 for violence and a scene of sensuality
• Playing at: Loews Cinema in Peabody

Ceramics classes visit MFA
Students learn different cultures through art

By Emily Hammond
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Ceramics students had the opportunity to visit the Museum of Fine Arts on Nov. 19 to widen their knowledge of historical and contemporary art.

According to ceramics teacher, Tamara Burns, 40 students, many of which had never visited the museum, went on the field trip.

The students were split into four groups, and tour guides were assigned to each group to take them through the museum.

“I felt that the guides were very knowledgeable of the museum,” senior Hannah Gurley said. “They knew why we were there and showed us what they thought would interest us most.”

According to Burns, ceramic students were able to see work that was related to what they do in class.

“We saw many different wheel thrown pieces and a lot of glazing techniques that students could identify with. It’s terrific for students to have an opportunity like this,” Burns said.

Students were guided through the Asian wing, where pieces were laid out as a historical timeline.

“I really liked the Asian wing because there were pieces from 400 AD to the present. It was really cool to be able to see how much their art has changed over the years,” Gurley said.

According to Burns, students learned about the differences between cultures through their art. The Greek used a lot of people in their art, as did early American ceramics. China and Japan based their art on na-



PHOTO COURTESY JESSICA APPELTOFFT
Ceramics students visited the Greek, Asian, and photography exhibits in the MFA on Nov. 19.



PHOTOS COURTESY THE MFA

ture. “In the Asian wing we learned that they painted each piece in a certain way to make it feel like

you’re looking at nature,” sophomore Matthew Bouwer said.

“There was one vase that caught my eye. My tour guide said they painted the scene going up and

around the vase to make the viewer feel like it was a wave. I think it’s really cool that they would think of that while making it,” he said.

‘It was really cool to be able to see how art has changed over the years.’
-HANNAH GURLEY

Teachers’ Thanksgiving Recipes

The Lundergans’ Favorite
Pork Tenderloin

2(ish) pounds pork tenderloin
Bacon
Honey
Jack Daniel’s barbeque sauce



1. Wrap uncooked bacon around the tenderloin. Wrap it around from top to bottom (so that there is bacon ALL parts of the pork).
2. Mix 2/3 cup barbeque sauce with 1/3 cup of honey.
3. Baste the bacon-covered pork with the honey and BBQ sauce mixture.
4. Bake for 1 hour at 350 degrees.
5. Baste again after 1 hour and bake for an additional half hour.

Mrs. Hunt’s
Famous Chicken

Chicken Breast (1 per person)
Italian Bread Crumbs
Can of diced tomatoes
Can of artichoke hearts
Can of black olives
1 small can of Hunt’s tomato sauce
Garlic
Garlic
Olive Oil



Put ¼ c. of olive oil in a frying pan. Add diced tomatoes and a small can of Hunt’s tomato sauce and cook for five minutes. Drain artichokes, black olives and put that with the diced tomatoes. Put as much garlic as you like through a garlic press. I usually use 2-3 cloves. Cook for another 5 minutes. Fresh or dried basil can be added at this point. Slice the chicken into cutlets. Dip the chicken in olive oil and then in breadcrumbs. Place on cookie sheet and bake at 425 degrees five minutes on each side. Arrange chicken on plate and let your guest put as much sauce as they like on top. This can be served with roasted potatoes or pasta.

Mama Priolo’s
Incredible Califlower

Quart of water
Pinch of salt
Head of califlower
3 eggs
2 tablespoons grated cheese
1 pepper
Bread crumbs
Olive oil



Boil a quart or so of water and add a little salt. Break up a head of cauliflower. Put it in water and cook it just enough so that a fork can go through it. Beat 3 eggs with two tablespoons of grated cheese, pepper, and a pinch of salt. Dip cauliflower in egg mixture and then in breadcrumbs. Fry until brown in about a 1/8 of an inch or more of olive oil