

Headlight

Written by the students of Marblehead High School for our school and community
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College Advice from the MHS Guidance Department

Dan Rosenberg
Headlight Staff,
Sophomore

For high school seniors, the period starting for some as early as October 15th is the most stressful in their academic career. This, of course, is college season; when students are sending in their applications and discovering where their future in education lies. An integral part to the application process is the guidance office, which helps guide prospective college students navigate the murky waters of application season. Lead counselor Meredith Reardon heads the guidance office at Marblehead High School. I sat down and talked with her about guidance's involvement in the college application process.

For a lot of students, applying to college begins with early applications, where a student will apply to one college early, and if they get in will automatically commit to that school. For some students, this application goes out on October 15th, but most send it out on November 1st. The stress begins now. For those who don't do early application, they will not find out whether or not they got into their dream college until March or April. Thus begins the

waiting game, which can be hard to deal with. Mrs. Reardon says that guidance does what they can to try and help relieve stress. She says that they talk to the students, and are realistic about their prospects, so that there are no major surprises. But even before the application process, there is a lot that goes in to choosing a school.

One major question that many juniors and seniors have to deal with is the SATs versus the ACTs. Reardon says that Marblehead is an SAT school, as is much of the East Coast, but it's entirely up to the student which to take. They have minor differences; the ACT has science in it, for example, but there is not a major divide between the two. Interestingly enough, counselor Reardon tells me that for some schools, the standardized tests are losing their relevance. "A lot of colleges out there have shifted to a more holistic approach." This means they that are starting to focus more on the transcript and extra-curricular activities of their applicants than their SAT or ACT scores. But, she says, she expects that no matter what, the elite tier of colleges will always place a lot of importance on standardized tests.

Another way guidance helps with the preparation before applying to college

is with the Naviance program. Naviance is a data driven web program that tracks a student's progress through high school. It also tracks success rates for students getting in to certain colleges, helping to lead students to choose the right schools to apply to. Guidance uses this to help deliberate what schools a student should apply to, and also incorporates a student's transcript, and a list of criteria that the student would like their college to meet. For instance, a student can tell guidance what size school they would like, what area of the country they'd like to live in, etc. Mrs. Reardon says that she recommends students apply to 8-10 colleges, but with the convenience of online applications many apply to 10-12 schools.

Finally, Mrs. Reardon has some advice for students who feel that college is so far away. It's not, she says, and it can be very hard to bring up that GPA after a bad freshman year, and it's a major let down to get into a college because of a poor first year in the high school. But, she says, don't take on courses that you can't succeed in. Take courses that challenge you, but still allow for success.

All Eyes on MHS: High School Gears Up for Security Cameras

Davis Gold
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Freshman

Being a freshman in high school I am faced with plenty of changes, both academically and socially. Little did I know, while I was adjusting to these changes, MHS was preparing itself for another.

I'm sure people have heard that MHS received a grant for \$44,000 which the school matched to buy and set up security cameras around the perimeter of the MHS building. No doubt this is a controversial topic throughout the town. The letters to the editor section of the Reporter reflect this, and several articles have been written on this subject asking the opinion of the school committee, faculty, and district leaders.

Starting to see a pattern here? There has not been

one article asking the opinion of the people most affected by this decision: the students.

I've wondered about it myself and wanted students' opinions heard. According to an article from the September 28, 2011 issue of the Reporter, there will be 23 cameras placed around the perimeter of the school. The purpose of the cameras is to secure the building from strangers and to prevent students from vandalizing, skipping class, and carrying out illegal activities.

Senior James Wigglesworth offered his opinion on the matter, "I think this a lot of money to spend on a project like this."

Sam York, a sophomore at MHS, gave his perspective, "I think that it's a good approach to stop vandalism, but definitely a little over the top and kids will always find a way around

it." I agree with Sam that the vandals will inevitably find a way around the cameras, which makes me wonder if, ultimately, the cameras will have any positive effect.

I asked Principal Weinstein a few questions about the cameras, including where they will be placed. He responded, "We don't know yet but certainly the exterior doors will have cameras as well as the cafe and field house where most of the damage takes place on a weekly basis." I was also curious about who will be monitoring the cameras. "We really cannot monitor them all day. People are much too busy for that," responded Mr. Weinstein. "Perhaps when one of the assistant principals is at her desk, she might take a look."

Only time will tell if these cameras are a good safety precaution or simply an invasion of privacy.

TRIVIA!

Congratulations to Jon Johnston,
who won our last poll.

Look our for more trivia soon!

Final Fantasy: One Man's Night of Fantasy Football Trauma

Matt Lieberson
Editor-In-Chief,
Senior

It's addicting. It's confusing. It's thoroughly maddening. And, frankly, it has made me detest the NFL more than I ever thought I would. Yes, it's fantasy football. There was no night of fantasy football in any league that was nuttier than this past Sunday in the MYFFL, the Marblehead Youth Fantasy Football League.

For those who don't know, fantasy football is an online game where participants pick certain NFL players on their team, and get points for their team based on their stats. Each week your team will play against another team in

the league, and whoever has more points gets the victory. It has become a craze that now has pundits predicting stats, websites devoted entirely to it, and football fans across the country in a tizzy.

I have always considered myself an avid fantasy footballer. Since seventh grade I have been helping my dad with his team, but in ninth grade some friends and I created a league of our own. Nine other current MHS seniors and I had our inaugural draft, and the league began. It took time to evolve to what it is today. In the early onset of the league, there were struggles. Some owners never checked their team at all and were playing players who had torn ACLs. But this year, our league hit a new level of competitiveness.

Fast-forward to this past Sunday. Two playoff spots were locked up, with Quigley and John Merriegan having clinched their places in our postseason. There were two spots left with five teams in contention. I had to win, and I was in. Seems simple enough, right? Well, not exactly.

I was playing MHS senior and Powderpuff Coach Zach Kovner's team, led by gutsy QB Tim Tebow. My team (aptly named "The Injured Reserves") had faded down the stretch, with four top players on my team out with injuries. But I still had a shot to continue my season. All I had to do was beat Kovner.

At around 7:30 on Sunday night, I was five points down. I had hope, though. My hope rested on the Cowboys (Miles Austin, DeMarco Murray, and the

Cowboys defense) and Jason Pierre-Paul of the Giants. Zach had Ahmad Bradshaw and Hakeem Nicks of the Giants left to play.

With about four minutes left in the Sunday Night Football game, I was losing by 7 still. Pierre-Paul had three sacks, gaining me 10 points, while Austin had done nothing. Living up to the team name was DeMarco Murray, breaking his ankle and leaving the game in the 1st quarter. But then my luck changed. Miraculously, Miles Austin caught a touchdown pass with three minutes left. I was down by half a point.

The scene that follows caused me more emotional trauma than any computer game ever should. It eerily mirrors the Red Sox' collapse down the stretch

this season. The Giants marched down the field and scored, losing me points because I had the Cowboys' defense. I was down 6 with a little hope. Austin caught another ball, and I was down 5. With 36 seconds left, Miles Austin went deep, and he was wide open. He just flat-out dropped it, and with it fell my hopes of playoff glory. But I had one final outside chance. As the Cowboys lined up for a game-tying field goal, I needed kicker Dan Bailey to make it and the game would go to overtime, leaving me more chances for a comeback. I was down 5. The kick was up, and it was blocked! I was in sheer shock. What added to the pain was that the kick was blocked by Jason Pierre-Paul, which got me 3 points, not the 5 I needed. Pierre-Paul sabo-

taged his own team (well, not his real team).

Confused? I am too. I realized how impossible it is to watch a game when stats and numbers are all that matter. Yes, it is heart-breaking to not go into the playoffs after I ended up on the short end of a four-way tie. But I can finally watch NFL games that are inconsequential to me without stress.

The MYFFL will live on. The playoffs begin next week, and I wish luck to the teams with more heart than mine. The Injured Reserves will be back with a vengeance for 2012, even if it is unhealthy for me.

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