

Headlight



Written by the students of Marblehead High School for our school and community

2016-2017 Issue

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A Whole Lot of Trouble

Jack Krivit, Senior
Editor-in-Chief

Driving is a privilege that many of us have only recently earned. But those students who need to bring their cars to school may want to find a new mode of transportation.

Marblehead High School has offered parking for student drivers for as long as any of us can remember. However, as of this year, the previously used "lottery" system has been replaced, and the current "first come, first serve" system has been the cause of many parking violations over the past four months. Out of desperation, students have been parking in spots allotted for teachers. According to Lynsey Page, assistant principal of the school, "Teachers are assigned their own spot numbers, so when students park in the spots meant for teachers, it's like a domino effect: the student parks in a teacher's spot, so the teacher has no spot and parks in one that is meant for someone else."

Those who risk parking in these spots have not gone unpunished. "The first offense is a warning," says Page. "The second is Saturday detention. A third will result in a one-month parking suspension, and a fourth will result in a permanent loss of parking for the student." Even though the intentions of the students may not be to cause any disruption, Page reports that, on average, between 8-10 students are brought down to move their cars every week.

For the students, these punishments may seem unfair. "Tardy students have trouble finding spots," acknowledges Page, "and students that are late tend to park wherever they can."

Many students have voiced their complaints about the issue. "It's just doesn't seem very fair," says senior Sam Thorne, "We all need a place to park, but only some of us can get one that early. No one wants to be punished for going to school, but we also don't want to be late."

As of now, the administration of Marblehead High School has not shown much urgency for changing these policies. So for those unlucky students, expect to hear your name over the loudspeaker next week.



90 spots in the Marblehead High School parking lot are reserved for students.

Take Care

Becky Twaalfhoven, Senior
Editor-in-Chief

It's the season of stress for most seniors, as college application deadlines coincide with family obligations, events, and the persistent cold plaguing the high school. Caught up in the whirlwind of essays, tests, work, and family, it is challenging, if not impossible, to balance responsibilities with taking care of yourself. Responsibilities come first, especially those with deadlines; yet in the midst of this exhausting race to finish, we forget one important responsibility: to take care of ourselves. It feels selfish to prioritize your well-being, but avoiding rest and good care backfires, often in the form of illness, emotional instability, decreased motivation, and overall poor quality of life. Keeping in mind the reality of what it's like to have no free time, I won't insult my peers by suggesting "more sleep"; but the following is a realistic list of ways for high school students (and adults) to take care of themselves in under 20 minutes.

1. Go outside. It's a cliché, and it's daunting in the inhospitable New England winter, but even just being outside helps; so take the dog and brace yourself.

2. Dance. Science has proven that dancing and listening to music improve your happiness, and most pop songs only last 3-4 minutes, so there's no reason you can't just press play and move.

3. Laugh. Smiling and laughter have also been scientifically proven to boost positivity, and this method is the perfect way to combine self-care with wasting time on social media. My personal favorite is late-night talk shows, because I can laugh and keep up with current events at the same time.

4. Organize. Cleaning, organizing, and getting rid of excess stuff can lift a weight off your shoulders, not to mention the boost of productivity that cleaning stimulates. At the same time, knowing what you have and where it is will remove the unnecessary stress of losing or forgetting things.

5. Unplug. I might be a traitor to my generation for suggesting it, but taking a break from the Internet and online communication, even for an hour, helps you focus and increases creativity. That "down time" of surfing the Internet or watching TV isn't the best way to relax, either, because your brain is still distracted and cannot fully digest information.

It might not be easy, but taking the extra time for self care is the only way to sustain a high-stress lifestyle without crashing and burning at the end. Hopefully the holiday break will afford more opportunities to pause and breathe.

What do I do for self-care?

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- Get plenty of sleep
- Enjoy sunshine
- Cook
- Write or draw (think loud)
- Talk to myself
- Cuddle cats
- Walk or bike (esp in a park)
- Tidy
- Read
- Read about people whose lives are more complicated
- Garden
- Get a hug
- Talk to select people

Chaos in Aleppo: Part 1

Sophie Mae Berman, Junior
Political Reporter

Aleppo is one of few urban areas to be held by the rebels, and prior to the war was one of Syria's largest commercial centers, a focal point of industry. The capture of Aleppo is a vital part of Russia's goal, the survival of a pro-Assad state. In the past, although the Syrian government and their allies have gained support from Russian air power, they have run out of aid: rebels backed by fighters around the city were able to attack. There is a possibility that this "pattern will repeat."

On Sunday two buses sent from Syria's Idlib province carrying injured and sick victims were burned by the rebels. Pro-government forces argue that people need to be able to leave the Shia villages, Foah and Kefraya, in order for the evacuation of East Aleppo to begin again. The UN Security Council agreed on a "draft resolution" that calls for UN officials to "monitor" evacuations from Aleppo. Russia, backing Assad, threatened to veto the document.

6,000 people have left eastern Aleppo with more than 300 wounded. Many evacuees are being transferred to provinces neighboring Idlib. The majority of people are living in temporary camps, while some stay with relatives. Those who have sustained serious injuries such as missing limbs, eye, and brain damage have been sent to hospitals in western Aleppo that do not have adequate supplies or number of doctors to meet the massive demand.



The current crisis in Aleppo

Rogue One: A Star Wars Disappointment

Amber Born, Senior
Editor-In-Chief

I went into *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* with high hopes. Sure, it isn't technically an official installment in the Star Wars saga. But I loved *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, so I fully expected to love *Rogue One*, too. Spoiler alert: I did not.

The film takes place prior to the events of *Star Wars: A New Hope*, the plot of which I won't ruin for you in case you still haven't seen the movie (but if you haven't...come on, it was released in 1977. If you haven't seen it by now, I don't think you're ever going to). The characters are trying to steal the plans for Darth Vader's Death Star. To me, the best parts of the movies were those with characters and references to the original trilogy. The newly introduced characters lacked the development and backstory of characters from the original trilogy, or even those from *The Force Awakens*. I formed no emotional attachment to any of the main characters, other than a funny droid (not C-3PO) and a wise blind man who had supernatural abilities because he was one with the Force and the Force was with him.

But I should give credit where credit is due. The special effects and CGI are fantastic, as you would expect of any twenty-first century Star Wars movie. Appearances by pre-existing characters led to cheers in the theater, as did familiar snippets of soundtrack. I do think everyone was a little disappointed that there was no classic exposition crawl at the beginning, but seriously, how helpful were the crawls in the first place, anyway?

I'm looking forward to Episode VIII, and I'm hoping to enjoy it more than I did *Rogue One*. But in the end, I can't really complain, because even a mediocre Star Wars movie is better than no Star Wars movie at all.

Headlight Staff

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