

Headlight



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

2015-2016 Issue

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Artist to Watch: Shawn Mendes

Maeve Reilly, Junior
Entertainment Editor

If you're someone who listens to the radio, you've likely heard - and probably even know many of the lyrics to - the hit song "Stitches" by Shawn Mendes. But did you know that the artist behind the song has an entire incredible album? And that he is only 17 years old? Shawn Mendes, the young and talented musician in question, took home the People's Choice Award on January 6th for Best Breakthrough Artist. Mendes, originally from Ontario, Canada, got his start by posting 6-second covers on the social media app Vine. He burst onto the mainstream music scene in 2015, when Taylor Swift asked him to be one of her openers for her 1989 World Tour. Since then, he has continued to soar in increasing success.

Shawn Mendes is an artist that all music lovers should keep their eyes on.

This past spring Mendes released his debut album, *Handwritten*, featuring 12 tracks, most of which were co-written by Mendes himself. The album was then re-released in November with four added tracks and live versions of preexisting songs, under the title of *Handwritten Revisited*. The music on the album is catchy, feels lyrically genuine, and has a stripped down quality (unlike much of what is on the radio today). It's no surprise that people have taken such a liking to the acoustic and refreshing feeling of Mendes's songs. Mendes sings with a rich and strong tenor voice, creating a soothing and listenable sound reminiscent of 2000's pop star Jesse McCartney but with more power and purity in tone. Some of the highlights of the album include "I Don't Even Know Your Name," "Kid In Love," and "Air," all of which are lyrically driven and show off Mendes's impressive voice and wide range.

2015 has been a big year for Shawn Mendes. He released his first album, scored his first number one single, reached the number 10 spot on the Billboard Artists' 100 List, and proved his talent to live crowds of over 60,000 during the 1989 World Tour. Thanks to all these achievements, Mendes began 2016 on a high note when last week he received the People's Choice Award for Best Breakthrough Artist. Assuming he continues on this same upward trend, 2016 will bring even bigger things for 17-year-old Mendes. A headlining tour? Another album? More collaborations? Who knows! Watch out Justin Bieber and One Direction; Shawn Mendes is on his way to the top.

This I Believe Essay

Ellie Rogers, Freshman

Don't you just hate having to make your bed? As you eat breakfast, you hear your mom's voice yelling, "Come upstairs and make your bed!" You don't want to get in any trouble, so you go upstairs and make your bed. What if I told you making your bed helps you achieve more throughout the day? Would you make your bed more often? In 2014, U.S. Navy Adm. William H. McCraven spoke to the senior class at the University of Texas. He said, "If you make your bed every morning, you will have accomplished the first task of the day. It will give you a small sense of pride, and it will encourage you to do another task, and another, and another. And by the end of the day that one task completed will have turned into many tasks completed."

Imagine this: you are around 5 to 6 years old, you walk out of your house with your mom and dad behind you. The sun shines brightly, the birds chirp and it's a beautiful day outside. Your mom helps you put on your helmet, knee and elbow pads, and your dad brings your bike to the street. You sit on your bike and put your feet on the pedals, while your dad takes a hold of your bike. He gives you the thumbs up to start and you begin pedaling. Faster and faster you go, having your dad run with you holding your bike, so you don't fall over. You keep going faster and faster, until your dad lets go and you're riding by yourself. It's not until you look back that you realize you're riding alone. You want to stop. You want to slow down, but you can't. Stopping isn't an option because you don't know how. You fall over and you scrape your knee. Your mom runs over to ask if you are okay. You say that you're fine, and then you stand back up. She then congratulates you for riding your bike. You get that great feeling inside when you accomplish something big or get a good grade on a test. To you, riding a bike seemed impossible. Now you feel like you can accomplish any task and any challenge.

I believe that success comes within you.

It doesn't just come to you.

To me, hitting the ball in softball and scoring a goal in soccer are small tokens of happiness. Completing these accomplishments gives me a boost of energy and pride. In a softball game, warming up before the game is like when my mom yells at me to come upstairs and make my bed. When I go upstairs to make my bed, it's like walking onto the field to start the game. I strap on my helmet, put my batting gloves on and walk up to the plate. A ball flies by me and the umpire calls "Strike!" My coach looks at me, and tells me I am ready to hit. I wait for the perfect pitch, and then I hit the ball. I run as fast as I can to first base and wait for the umpire to call it safe. At that moment my heart is racing and the crowd is calling my name. I feel accomplished, which has all started that morning when I made my bed.

Completing the littlest obstacles in life helps conquer bigger and greater barriers. I believe that success comes within you. It doesn't just come to you. You need to earn it. You have to want it. If you want to succeed in this world, you need a positive attitude. "If you want to change the world, start off by making your bed" (Navy Adm. William H. McCraven). Once you have completed that first task of the day, you are ready to take on the world. This I Believe.

This essay was read at the 2015 8th grade graduation.

What's on the Headlight Board: Quote of the Week

"There are many ways

of going forward, but only one way of standing still."

-Franklin D. Roosevelt

The New SAT

Amber Born, Junior
Reporter

January 23 is your last chance to take the current SAT. So if you plan on doing that, go online to the College Board and register right away, though at this point the only remaining available test center is probably in Kansas.

The SAT is changing, with the redesigned version beginning in March. The scoring scale is different, with a maximum possible score now of 1600 instead of 2400. So if you got a 1600 on the current SAT, just tell everyone that you took the new SAT and they'll think you're a genius.

Unfortunately, the testing room restrictions are likely to be the same for the new SAT. Make sure you still bring snacks, a drink, every (SAT-approved) calculator you own, and at least six forms of identification on testing day. You're technically forbidden from bringing your phone into the testing room, but practically everyone breaks this rule, so your testing room will have a bin for confiscated phones. You'll look more suspicious if you don't bring a phone than if you do. And don't wear a hat. I don't think there's a rule against hats, but hat-wearers are eight times more likely to get in trouble for taking someone else's SAT than non-hat-wearers, according to a statistic that I made up but could easily be part of a math question on the new SAT. "If hat-wearers are eight times more likely to get in trouble for taking someone else's SAT than non-hat-wearers, how many paper cranes can Ayesha and Ishmael make in 1/2 the time it takes the ski team to drive to Atlanta at 30 mph?"

The new SAT has never been seen by the public before, so it won't necessarily be perfect (not that most people's SAT experiences are perfect anyway). PSAT scores from October only came back last Thursday, so I think the Scarily Awful Test administrators might have been working out some details. Like, why was it scored out of 1520? What kind of number is 1520? At least it wasn't 1517. There could be some similar issues with the new SAT. Maybe there will be a typo and they'll have to throw out a certain question, making the maximum score 1590 instead of 1600. Maybe a page that "has been intentionally left blank" will be unintentionally not left blank and everyone will have to take it again.

But don't worry about the new SAT yet. Worry about the current SAT on January 23rd. Actually, don't worry about that, worry about midterms, which are the week after. Speaking of which, could we possibly push midterms back a week so everyone can spend that week recovering from the SAT? Maybe we should all write the College Board and demand they move the January SAT to February. That might be easier than convincing the high school to change things.

Junior Year at MHS

As Told By a Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich

Georgia Sullivan, Junior
Reporter

Comparing the life of a junior at MHS to the classic lunch of a peanut butter and jelly sandwich is easier than you would think.

Let's start off with the bread. My personal favorite for a nice PB&J is classic white. Although necessary, the bread can often be bland. I like to compare the white bread to the classes I am taking this year. I must take them; without them, would school even be considered school? And thus, without bread would a PB&J even be considered a sandwich? White bread is a classic, necessary if you will, and without it, the sandwich just wouldn't be the same.

Up next is the peanut butter. I prefer the smooth kind. I like to think of the peanut butter as my friends, holding the whole school experience together. Everyone has bitten into a PB&J hoping to get the perfect ratio of bread, peanut butter, and jelly, but has been surprised to find it mostly peanut butter. In my case, I love that bite! Much like seeing my friends is my favorite part of school, peanut butter is my favorite part of the sandwich. Additionally, when you get a peanut butter overload, it's stuck in your mouth, leaving you severely overwhelmed by the other parts of the sandwich. This overpowering peanut butter encounter relates perfectly to spending a little too much time with friends and not enough time on school work. Although temporarily enjoyable, it puts you in a bad place.

Moving on to the jelly. Jelly, I think of as homework. I'm not a big fan of jelly. Homework is not something I want to do, but if I want the full junior year experience, I'm in for a lot of homework. If I want the full PB&J experience, I need to eat the "J."

Whether the sandwich is cut in pieces or not is a personal preference. Cutting up a peanut butter and jelly sandwich is like dividing your time amongst clubs and sports teams. When I was in elementary school my mom would cut up my PB&J much like she divided my time among activities. But as I have aged and received more freedom, I now choose how to spend my time and how to cut my sandwich.

Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are a common lunch at school, but much like junior year experiences at MHS, no two are ever the same.

What's on the Headlight Board: Current Events

Madaya, Syria: Aid convoy enters besieged town

An aid convoy has begun entering the besieged rebel-held Syrian town of Madaya with enough food for 40,000 people to last a month, the UN says.

Residents have been trapped there for six months by a government blockade and have received no aid since October.

The UN says it has received credible reports of people dying of starvation. Simultaneously, aid lorries entered two villages besieged by rebel forces in the northern province of Idlib under a deal between the warring parties.

The situation in Foah and Kefraya is also said to be extremely dire, with an estimated 20,000 people trapped there since March.

A BBC Arabic correspondent who is with the convoy saw the first of the lorries entering Madaya.

The BBC's Lyse Doucet in Beirut says some 20 lorries have now entered and, with darkness falling, the aid agencies will distribute food through the night.

Source: BBC World News

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