

# Headlight



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

2015-2016 Issue

www.mhsheadlight.weebly.com

January 28, 2016

## Driving Distractions

Jack Krivit, Junior  
Reporter

Two weeks ago I successfully passed my license test, meaning that I could finally drive on my own. For the days that followed, I took my parents' cars on joyrides all over town simply because I could. But as I was driving, I realized that one of the biggest threats to the safety of not only me but other drivers came from inside my car. More specifically, tucked in the right pocket of my jeans.

As teenagers learning to drive, we are constantly drilled about the importance of our choices and how greatly they can affect the people around us, so much so that we forget how important this point actually is. While driving, it is extremely easy to be distracted by your own electronic device. In fact, I am confident that every person reading this article who has driven by themselves has checked a phone or changed a song on their iPod at least once while driving.

When your eyes are anywhere other than the road, it is very difficult to tell what is happening around you. Not only this, but you are putting your own life, among the lives of anyone around you, in danger by doing this. I myself have found it difficult to pay complete attention to the road while driving, not because I'm bored, but because there are so many other things that need my attention. When my phone rings, I feel the need to fish it out of my pocket and answer. And when a song that I don't want to listen to plays on my iPod, I find myself mindlessly changing it while only one hand holds the wheel. I don't do this often, but I do it enough that it got me thinking. I am a young driver, meaning that I am more cautious than people who have driven for years. If it is difficult for me to keep my eyes on the road and I have the sense enough to remind myself to stop, how much more likely is it that an experienced driver will do this simply because they have so much more confidence? Probably very.

There are no 100 percent successful alternatives to looking directly at your device while driving, mainly because they would all require you to pay attention to something that isn't the road. There are ways to limit the amount of time you are distracted, but ultimately they are still distractions. If you absolutely need to get in touch with someone, I would recommend calling them instead of typing, however this should still only be done if you can drive with one hand. It is impossible to pay absolute attention to one thing, and even when you are driving, your attention is constantly moving around based on what moves in front of you. It is important to remember that with all the things a driver has to pay attention to outside of the car (which is literally everything), there's no room for any other distractions inside the car. So drivers, be responsible, not only because it's illegal not to be, but because you might save a life, including your own.

## All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten

Lilly Tapper, Sophomore  
Reporter

Sometimes high schoolers can forget the simple lessons that we learned over ten years ago. They have continued to master some ideas, but some have been forgotten. The most important year of our lives was kindergarten, because we learned everything that we will ever need to know.

*"These are the things I learned (in Kindergarten):*

1. *Share everything.*  
There are peanut allergies, so do not share food, but share everything else!
2. *Play fair.*  
In sports, there is one winner. We need to play equitably in order to prove the true champion.
3. *Don't hit people.*  
Friends will always fight, just remember to make up later.
4. *Put things back where you found them.*  
It is not yours, you know where it came from, so put it back.
5. *CLEAN UP YOUR OWN MESS.*  
It is not your house and your mom does not go to school with you, so stop leaving the cafeteria tables piled with your trash.
6. *Don't take things that aren't yours.*  
Some people need to work on this.
7. *Say you're SORRY when you HURT somebody.*  
Be sympathetic when someone is hurt. Maybe you do not understand how they feel, but you can still help. Stop standing on the sidelines waiting for someone else to step in.
8. *Wash your hands before you eat.*  
If the sinks actually worked and each bathroom had soap, maybe high schoolers could do this.
9. *Flush.*  
We have mastered this.
10. *Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you.*  
Everyone loves those warm and delicious cookies in the cafeteria.
11. *Live a balanced life - learn some and drink some and draw some and paint some and sing and dance and play and work everyday some.*  
We have to be well-rounded to get into college. Get good grades, do community service, play a sport, and be a part of clubs. But remember to leave time for friends and family.
12. *Take a nap every afternoon.*  
We have so much homework, sometimes we just need a little break.
13. *When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands, and stick together.*  
Look both ways in the hallways and be kind to those trying to cross.
14. *Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the Styrofoam cup: The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that.*  
We learned how to wonder in Kindergarten, now we learn the reasons behind the fascinations.
15. *Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the Styrofoam cup, they all die. So do we.*  
We all are going to go into the world after high school. There are going to be some friendships that we keep and some that drift away.
16. *And then remember the Dick-and-Jane books and the first word you learned the biggest word of all LOOK."*

Look in the hallways, look in class, and look out for others.

— Robert Fulghum, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*

## Summer Journalism Workshop

"For the 29th year, the New England High School Journalism Collaborative will hold an all-expense paid summer workshop for students interested in journalism.

The workshop this year will be from June 25 to July 1. Students selected for the program will be housed at Regis College in Weston, Mass. and will operate out of their own newsroom at The Boston Globe.

They will work with professional reporters, photographers and designers from New England news organizations, including The Globe.

Students will learn to report, wire and edit for a newspaper, and produce multimedia projects for a website. They will be sent out on assignments in the Boston area and will be exposed to working on a deadline to create their own newspaper.

Interested students can apply by filling out an online application at: <http://nehajc.org/summer-workshop/> Students also need to send a hard-copy transcript and teacher recommendation by mail. The deadline for applications is Feb. 15.

Material should be mailed to:

NEHSJC  
c/o New England Newspaper and Press Association  
370 Common Street, Suite 319  
Dedham, MA 02026

For more information on our organization, please visit our website at:

[www.nehsc.org](http://www.nehsc.org).

We are looking forward to the opportunity to help train the next generation of journalists. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need further information."

## This I Believe

Elsa Richardson-Bach, Freshman  
Reporter

Happy.

It's such a simple emotion. Perhaps you could say jubilant, or rapturous, or euphoric. They all sound a bit more detailed, a tad more exciting. But in the humblest, meekest terms, all those words mean happy.

I used to wonder when happy started to be not an emotion, but a trophy. Something that I had to claw and scratch my way to, cling to with sinuous hands once I'd found it. Was it back in fourth grade, the year learning became a chore? Or was it in sixth, when people changed? I agonized over it, suffered through fantasies where I did one thing differently, where I was just a tiny bit prettier, smarter, better. Of course it didn't work; I was digging myself deeper while dreaming of the fresh air on the other side.

Be happy. I'm sure everyone recognizes this, from a song, or a postcard, maybe a faded bumper sticker. I had seen it in enough flowery fonts to want to hurl the letters into the sun – because how can you just "be happy?" It doesn't work like that; someone can't just choose to be happy. Unless they can.

I remember standing in the local CVS, staring at the bright, gaudy pair of flip-flops with the peace signs and smiley faces and the block letters that spelled out: "BE HAPPY," and I remember thinking, I am going to be happy today. I am going to think of positive things about what I see. I like the color of that nail polish on the shelf. That woman's hair is curled very nicely.

Because the only way out of the hole is up, and I was digging down with the hot sun on my back, but maybe, maybe if I turned to look at it I might think the light wasn't scorching. I might think that the warmth on my face was welcoming.

I bought a candy bar for my brother that day. Kind of mild, not thrilling, but he was excited at the prospect of a sugary snack when I offered it to him. He was happy, and it made me happy. Such a small thing – a thing that wasn't even for me – and it made happiness.

I believe there are many things that I do not have a choice over. Tomorrow is another day, and clouds might be covering up the sun. I believe there are things I do have a choice over. Rain makes a rather cordial noise if you're willing to listen.

I believe that happiness is not a trophy, it is a product; it is created. I can create happiness, if not for myself then for others – and somewhere along the line, it will come back around to me. I believe that happiness has no limit; it is one of the renewable resources in the world. I can be happy today and I can be happy tomorrow.

I believe that happiness is different for everyone – whether it's a candy bar or a bright, gaudy pair of flip-flops with two simple words on them – and I believe that everyone can be happy.

## Headlight Staff 2015-2016

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF: Linda Fitzpatrick, Becky Twaalfhoven

REPORTERS IN THE FIELD: Kathleen Alexandrou, Amber Born, Alicia Katz, Jacob Keller, Jack Krivit, Ginny Naughton, Abby Schalck, Georgia Sullivan, Emma Szalewicz, Lilly Tapper, Kyra Veprek

WEB MASTER: Aaron Terentiev ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR: Maeve Reilly

FACULTY ADVISOR: Thomas Higgins