

# Headlight

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Written by the students of Marblehead High School for our school and community. Find us online at mhsheadlight.weebly.com

## Give

Linda Fitzpatrick

Reporter-in-the-Field,  
Freshman

Now that the hectic holiday season is behind us all, let's take a moment to step back from our lives to recall that not everybody is in the same position as us. It can be difficult to separate ourselves from the advertisements that capture our attention and distract us from the true meaning of the holiday season. Suddenly, wallets have no bottom to them. Shops are constantly selling to happy customers with armfuls of bags. Each gift is bought in hopes of making a family member, friend, or even oneself, joyous.

But, on the special day, in a matter of hours, all the presents are unwrapped from under the tree and tossed back into rooms along with other presents from previous years, right? Every year, precious smiles are expressed while receiving gifts from one another in our homes. In the moment, most of us do not think about other families who may not

be as fortunate. Typically, our minds are focused on our own family and the gifts we have received and given. However, I urge everyone to remember that there are families with drastically different lives than the ones we may currently live.

For instance, as news of the recent Nor'Easter started, the first thoughts that I presume came to many of our minds were of what provisions needed to be bought, and what condition the roads would be in. It's tough to remember that these concerns pale in comparison to those of the less fortunate: finding a warm place to take shelter in or providing your family with warm winter clothes to last the night in the treacherous weather.

You see, not everyone is as fortunate as those of us in Marblehead may be; this time of year is crucial for all of us in town to do our part. In fact, all throughout the year it is important to think of others and help out to the best of our abilities. By simply donating an old childhood winter jacket or hat, we could help in changing a life. We all have piles of belongings tucked away in our homes

that we may never touch or find use for again. Now is our chance to get rid of them without throwing them away in the trash. Give anything that you may never use again away to someone who may be able to use it now and may not be able to afford it. Whether those items include clothing, appliances, or toys, there is someone out in the world, far from Marblehead, or even next door to your family, who needs them. Rather than watch it collect dust far back in your basement or closet, give it a proper home.

The winter season is one in which awareness for donating becomes raised to another level because of the holidays and weather. We must all take it upon ourselves to take action this year instead of merely listening to the pleas of others. If it were each of our lives, I'm positive we would all want somebody to help you out. Give a coat. Give a dollar to a charity. Give a pair of socks. Give a card game. Give some love. Whatever you choose, give to your acquaintances in life and the energy you put out into the world will come straight back to you in time.

## Oversized Sweater

Riley Sugarman

News Coordinator, Junior

Now that we have received eighteen inches of snow here in Marblehead, it has finally sunk in that winter has officially begun. Even though winter technically starts on December 21st, it is hard to transition from fall without a snowstorm; at least that's how I see it. Time to cue the snow days, ski trips, and snowball fights. I'm already prepared with my oversized sweaters, are you?

Many things happen to come along with winter, including Christmas, New Year's, vacations, and sometimes Hanukkah (if, as usual, the eight crazy nights start later than this year). Other things are also delivered with the winter package: the Starbucks holiday drinks (pumpkin spice, caramel brulée, gingerbread, and more); cozy clothing is available everywhere; there is an excuse to sit by the fire with a mug of hot cocoa and be anti-social; and indoor track begins. Sometimes I wish the teeth-chattering cold would stay around longer, but unfortunately, all good things must come to an end.

With the many upsides to winter, there certainly are a few pitfalls(to some, at least). This is the season of the gym for runners, and even though the gym is pretty close to my house, the real issue isn't convenience. I, like many outdoor runners, get extremely bored on the treadmill. This poses a problem for me and my running buddies because the only other option is dashing through the snow, literally. When we attempted to run down the

causeway, we were not aware that because of the lack of traction we would be falling on top of each other for a mile. Another precaution is similar to the last: beware of ice. The ice-covered snow is treacherous, especially in front of the high school. I almost face-planted a few times, and I have witnessed, and heard about, many complete wipe-outs.

Other things about winter, more how other people deal with it, I just do not get. A few years ago in Boston I was bundled in boots, gloves, jeans, a long-sleeve, and down jacket, and was still cold. Somehow half of the girls I saw on the street were wearing miniskirts, heels, a tiny jacket, and didn't look the least bit cold. It really boggles the mind. A down jacket couldn't stop my lips from turning a scary shade of blue, but still, some people can thrive wearing their summer clothes. Sometimes I leave the house without five layers, but only if I'm going to be inside. Another thing that makes no sense, to me at least, is fingerless gloves. I happen to own a pair but now that it's really cold, I see no point in them. I suppose many fashion trends don't have the most practical applications.

It's not just the oversized sweaters and presents that make winter so special: it's the holiday cheer. Christmas music, gift giving, parties, and a month when people come together. To prepare for the season of cold and snow you have to beware of ice, plan your runs ahead of time, update your closet, and buy lots of hot chocolate and marshmallows. With that, let the true winter begin!

## Resolutions (For Others)

Amber Born

Reporter-in-the-Field, Freshman

YouTube: If you can buffer quickly when I'm trying to watch a video for school, then you can buffer quickly when I'm trying to watch a video of a sneezing panda. Resolve to be more efficient.

Fire drills: Could you maybe not happen during lunch when it's cold and windy? Thanks. We're grateful for the distraction you provide, but not when it's twenty-five degrees out. Resolve to be less annoying.

Lockdowns: Please only happen in drill form, and preferably during tests. Resolve to be safe and convenient.

School Wifi: You work fine in all the classrooms which forbid phone usage. Could you possibly spread out a little to the cafeteria? Resolve to travel more.

NBC: I know that no one seems to be watching Community, but please don't cancel it this season. Resolve to keep good comedy on the air.

Twitter news feed: I'm glad to that Macklemore ate lunch today, but I'd appreciate it if my news feed consisted of... you know, news. Resolve to present more newsworthy items.

Tests: Be evenly distributed throughout the school year rather than all on Thursdays. Resolve to have more considerate timing.

Phone: You have an unfortunate tendency to lose half of your battery power when I'm not using you. Resolve to conserve energy.

Midterms: Resolve to be less scary.

## Resolutions (For Me)

Meredith Piela

News Coordinator

1) Run a half-marathon - As a cross country runner, I've been able to run several miles (about seven), and it would always be cool (yes, cool, because I don't think 'fun' is the best word to describe this) to run more. I am planning on running a 10 mile race on March 1st, so why not run a few more miles after that?

2) Become better at French - Although I have been studying French since the 7th grade, I will really need to improve before next fall, when I will have a French student staying with me for a week. Next year's AP 12 French class at MHS will be participating in an exchange with a class from the Alexis de Tocqueville high school in Grasse, France. They will be staying with us in November, and we will be staying with them in April. "Excusez-moi (excuse me)" and "je ne

comprends pas (I don't understand)" can only help so much, so I will need to improve my French in order to have a successful exchange.

3) Visit someplace new over vacation - I have been to a lot of the same places for my vacations, such as Prince Edward Island in Canada, and the U.K., which is always nice, but it's time for a change. Hopefully this year I can go someplace new, and hopefully someplace warm!

4) Get my driver's license - Alright, it's time to get serious with my driving. It's time to stop those loops in the high school parking lot and hit the roads if I want to get my license before senior year.

5) Have a happy, healthy, and successful year - As cliché as it is, it's always important. Seriously, who actually wants to have an unhappy, unhealthy, and unsuccessful year? No one. I'm not saying 2014 has to be the best one yet, but I still want it to be great.

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