

# Headlight



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

www.mhsheadlight.weebly.com

July 3, 2014

## The MHS METCO Program

Kareem Beckles & Mosheh Tucker  
Special to Headlight, Graduates

*The following article was submitted to Headlight as part of Kareem Beckles' and Mosheh Tucker's senior project. It is a reflection on their personal experience at MHS as part of the METCO program.*

The day we seniors have been waiting for is upon us. As METCO seniors, it seems as though we have lived in two realities: one showing us the ups and downs of being an urban Black youth in a small suburban town called Marblehead, and another teaching us how to survive in the inner city of Boston. An experience like this can make you or break you. If you make it, you will come to the realization that it has molded you into the young man or woman you are today.

The first day we heard that we were enrolled into the Marblehead school system, we automatically became aware that this would be a new experience, and we knew it was going to be a strenuous task attending this school for the next four years. From kindergarten to eighth grade we were in Boston public schools. We never sat in a class with a Caucasian student before we came to Marblehead. Not only was it going to be a new town, and new people, but also a whole new culture to us. It seemed as though these cultural differences would affect us in many ways. We felt it may be harder to make sports teams and get good grades. Once we were enrolled at MHS it was a challenge meeting people outside of the METCO program. It took us four years to finally become comfortable with school.

As METCO students we were often treated differently, and the biggest issue is the fact that we weren't recognized. People stared and made us feel unwanted. It seemed as if we were sometimes in a zoo, being stared at in curiosity of what our true environment was. These things took a toll on us. A first experience for one of us at the high school occurred

when a class was watching a movie in English, and a Black man appeared on the screen. Being the only Black student in class really made him feel nervous, but having people look at him and laugh, because he shared that one similarity with the man in the movie, made him overwhelmed with discomfort. Something all we METCO students experienced sooner or later is a movie about slavery. Seeing your classmates stare and laugh at people of our kind enslaved really made us feel like maybe we didn't belong, like maybe they did not want us here.

Most of what we learned about Black people in school was that we were enslaved. And most of what we learned about leaders like Malcolm X was that they were radical and hostile people. This education is something not taken into consideration. Teachers and students must realize it's the small things like this that make us stay amongst ourselves. We noticed that students who had been in the METCO program since a very young age did not know Frederick Douglass, or W.E.B. Dubois, or even Stokely Carmichael.

In Boston, during Black History Month, every day we would learn about a Black leader or inventor. Yet Black students in Marblehead knew very little of themselves, and what they did know was either degrading or basic. In history we were told that Marcus Garvey was a "lunatic," but after doing some research we learned that he was man of great intelligence. Can we learn about Black inventors or people like the Buffalo Soldiers? African-American history is just as valuable as the history we are taught in class. If anything they are one in the same, American History. We want to learn more than a couple of good things about our history. We want to feel more connected to the school and the community.

It is these things that make the METCO program a constant struggle. A lot of us remain quiet about our difficulties and keep it to ourselves, but every once in a while someone will rise up and ask, why? We just hope their questions will be answered.

## Reflection of My Four Years at MHS

Michael Simmons,  
Reporter in the Field, Graduate

I am Michael Simmons, and I just graduated from Marblehead High School. I really enjoyed my four years as a student at Marblehead High School. I leave with many fantastic memories.

My favorite memories from high school start with my involvement in sports. I thoroughly enjoyed being on the football team for four years. We had many great coaches and I made lots of great friendships with my teammates. I also really enjoyed being a part of the MHS track team. Coach Crowley and Coach Rudloff, along with their staffs, were great to have as leaders of their teams.

I also have really enjoyed being a team manager for the boys' basketball team over the last four years. Many thanks to

the coaches: Gavin Softic, Wayne Hanscom, Dave Pliner, and Mike Giardi and his staff. I have known Mr. Giardi for about ten years. He has been a good role model for me.

I have been a member of two clubs that I really enjoyed. Best Buddies has been an awesome experience for me. I also spent parts of the last two years on the "Headlight" school newspaper staff. Mr. Higgins and the other members of the staff have been great to work with.

Mrs. Wales, who heads up the Transitional Program, has been my primary teacher over the last two years. She has taught me a lot about life skills and has helped me build my vocational and banking skills. Ms. Thornton, who heads up the Academic Skills Program, has helped me a lot in building my educational skills. As part of my academic program, I have had a number of opportunities for job internships over the last couple of years. I have been fortunate enough to work with Mr. Tarmey, the Athletic Director. I have

## A Letter to Ms. Roeder

Joanna Rosen  
Reporter in the Field, Junior

Dear Miss Roeder,

On behalf of the entire choral community at MHS, I would like to say thank you. You have worked so hard to make our program the best that it could be. You have helped us to fulfill our potential as a musical ensemble and you have been such an inspiration over the years.

Not only have you been a musical mentor to us, but you have also served as the rock of the music department here at the school. You have kept us grounded and focused for over a decade, and we could not be more appreciative.

There is one defining event that I will always connect with the MHS chorus: the Boston Marathon bombing. On April 15, 2013, I remember being absolutely devastated by what was reported on the news. During the following school week, everyone seemed slightly dazed and confused. It was only in chorus that the horrifying bombings were addressed. You took the time to stop our rehearsal and speak with us; ask us what our opinions on the attack were; check in to see if we were all right. In this respect, I will always connect the Marathon bombings with the community that you gave us here at MHS.

The fact that you took the time to just talk with us meant quite a bit to me. Many teachers would not feel the need to, or would not take the time. That you did proves your devotion to us as individuals and as a community.

Thank you so much for all the years you have given to the MHS choral program. You will be sorely missed.

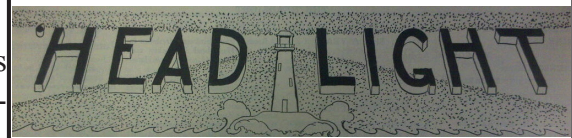
*"You have served as the rock of the music department here at the school."  
- Joanna Rosen, junior*

## Good Night School

Amber Born  
News Coordinator, Freshman

Good night rules  
Good night school  
Good night mnemonics and learning tools  
Good night cafeteria cookies  
Good night strange desserts in plastic cups  
Good night crumbs on the table tops  
Good night NEASC  
Good night Yik Yak  
(Just because I mentioned it doesn't mean that I have it)  
Good night procrastination, good night books  
Good night iPhones hidden in textbooks  
Good night Candy Crush (until tomorrow)  
Good night Flappy Bird  
Good night Powder Puff Game (we should have won)  
Good night water bubblers with the weirdly colored water  
Good night ants crawling in through the windows  
Good night teachers, good night staff  
We did our best learning while in study in the Cafe  
Good night assemblies, good night tears  
Good night SATs and finals fears

**Join Headlight!  
Be part of the 2014-15 Staff!  
See Mr. Higgins or an Editor  
in September.  
We meet every Monday @ 2:45  
Be a part of the legacy...**



Above: Headlight's logo from 1953!

**The Headlight Staff wishes everyone a happy and restful Summer!**

learned a lot working with Mr. Tarmey and am very thankful to him for all the time I've spent learning how to be an athletic director. I've also spent a big part of my senior year working at the YMCA in Marblehead. Ricky Roland has been my job coach and I have also learned a lot from him. Additionally, I completed part of my senior project through working at National Grand Bank. I have loved working at the bank. The people I've worked with are such nice people. I got to work closely with Matt Martin, who I used to know through Youth Football. He has been wonderful to me! I am so thankful to Mr. Nye, who gave me the opportunity to work there. I will always have positive memories of the bank.

Some of the most important things I learned are dealing with stress, anxiety, and disappointment. I would like to thank Ms. Snow, who helped me in getting into Riverview School.

Through all these sports and clubs I have made many great friends. In particu-

lar: Dylan Cressy, Matt Millett, Crandall Maxwell, and Peter Tully have become great friends to me.

Based on all my experiences at Marblehead High School, I have learned things like to be on time for events, to be a team player, to accept change, to be a good friend, to work hard, and to always be nice to others.

*"I also spent parts of the last two years on the Headlight school newspaper staff. Mr. Higgins and the other members of the staff have been great to work with."  
- Michael Simmons, graduate*

## Headlight Staff 2013-14

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF: Alex Kerai, Meredith Piela, and Liam Reilly EDITOR'S ASSISTANT : Becky Twaalfhoven

REPORTERS IN THE FIELD: Michael Simmons, Alix Segil, Joanna Rosen, Linda Fitzpatrick and Drew Faria

WEBMASTER: Alex Kerai

NEWS COORDINATORS: Morgan Hardwick, Amber Born, and Riley Sugarman

STUDENT AFFAIRS: Darby Neuss, Cassidy Alla, Lily Frontero, and Olivia Eddy FACULTY ADVISOR: Thomas Higgins