

Headlight



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

www.mhsheadlight.weebly.com

June 5, 2014

An Ode to Marblehead

Grace Perry
Editor-in-Chief, Senior

If today were your last day on this earth, what memories would flash upon your eyes in your final moments? What would you cherish the most? If today were my last day upon this earth there are thousands of memories that I would see. Most, if not all, would be from my high school career. Four years may seem like a lot of time, but when you look back, you realize it seems like four years happened in a blink of an eye. All you have left are memories that I, for one, will cherish for the rest of my life. And when it is my last day on earth, whatever day that is, I will remember.

It's funny what high school boils down to. When I am old and raisony, I won't remember the endless cramming of information or the non-stop assigned textbook readings. I most likely won't remember the reading, writing or studying. I'll remember the fun of high school -- the moments where I felt most alive.

My boyfriend constantly makes fun of me for saving simple memorabilia. Yes, I am that weirdo that saves everything. What can I say? I love memories. I like saving items like invitations and birthday cards. Ticket stubs and receipts. I save things that serve as condiments to my memories. They are the ketchup and mustard to my cheeseburger of memories. I hope one day when I can no longer recall memories, my item saving will serve me well and help me remember.

My high school career is filled with millions of memories. Memories are valuable; they are how we measure our lives. Without

them, life is simply meaningless. I know how cliché this sounds, but it is true. Four years do fly by so fast. If you blink, you just might miss them.

It seems like yesterday, when I was a freshman in Mrs. Clough's Honors English classroom, struggling on grammar tests and reading Shakespeare aloud. I remember my first meeting of Headlight as a nervous sophomore. I never thought three years later I would be sitting here writing my last article as co-Editor-in-Chief.

I think of my best friend Sophia's face. I see us walking through the halls, laughing to the current joke of the week. I remember feeling safe and confident as I walked next to her, greeting friends and familiar faces as they passed. I will remember sitting down in the cafeteria, eating my school lunch of circular pizza and pasta, surrounded by people I have known since pre-school. We were always the loudest people in that cafeteria, laughing through the entire period.

You have to go out and find the things that you are good at. You have to put yourself in awkward situations to find the best situations. You have to be open to Marblehead High School and all it can offer to you. And I did just that.

"I never thought three years later I would be sitting here writing my last article as co-Editor-in-Chief." - Grace Perry, outgoing Headlight Editor

Adversity Overcome

Dan Rosenberg
Editor-in-Chief, Senior

High school's been a whirlwind four years for me. It is unbelievable to think that I will be graduating and moving on to the next phase of my life this Sunday. It is a cliché, but it really does seem like just yesterday that I was at Step-up Day, worrying about what I was going to do in such a large and unfamiliar place. I joined the newspaper and started writing for it my freshman year, and back then there were only five or six other people consistently writing. It is pretty wild that we have a staff of over 20 people now, and there are a lot of times we have a surplus of articles. That certainly was never a concern when I was a freshman.

Since I joined the paper, I have been thinking about what I wanted to write in my last article. It is the high school version of a swan song; the last word I will have as a student at Marblehead. After my sophomore year, I thought that the thing to do would be to lambast the administration. There was so much turnover and in-fighting; it was a sad state of affairs honestly. But the more I thought about what that article would be, the less I wanted to write it, for a few reasons. The first is that the article would cast the amazing accomplishments of this senior class in a negative light. The fact is, we have done incredible things; we have put dozens of kids into great schools, won tons of awards, and produced some fantastic tangible work, in fields from art to history to math, and we have done it all in spite of the instability of our administration throughout our four years of study.

The second reason is that it would diminish the stellar work our teachers have done. They have faced a lot of adversity as well, but the one constant among the teachers of Marblehead High School is that they have never wavered in their commitment to helping students. Amidst all of the uncertainty at the top, in all of my four years I have had teachers who really and truly care about their students, and who are ready and willing to go above and beyond the call of duty to help and nurture their charges. These are people who deal with teenagers on a daily basis, which is a serious undertaking in and of itself. Lost in all of the compliments and accolades given to the students is the recognition these teachers deserve, and I think it is much more important to put them on a pedestal than tear into

the administration.

Finally, I think it is important to recognize that while there has definitely been some upheaval this year, things are starting to settle down in Marblehead. I think Superintendent Perry should be commended for the work she has done so far; she has been connecting with students, and she has also done a good job in smoothing out the issues our school committee had. Is Marblehead High School totally fixed? By no means. There are going to be some more rough times ahead, especially since the class sizes for the next couple of years at Marblehead are going to be even larger than the last couple. But, I think that some stability at the top will certainly help things move in the right direction.

What is important is that everyone understands two things about Marblehead High School. The first is that things are not perfect, and there are clearly issues that need rectifying. But secondly, and far more importantly, is that the students and teachers at Marblehead can weather any storm. Through some tumultuous times, they have shown, and will continue to show, their fortitude and ability to adapt. In an ironic turn, the most valuable school lesson we will take away from MHS is that even in times of great uncertainty, with focus and determination, it is possible to achieve at the highest levels.



Thank you to Dan Rosenberg and Grace Perry, our Editors for the past two years! We wish you both the best of luck in the future!

Finally Here

Alex Kerai
Webmaster, Junior

Three years ago, I was preparing for my impending freshman year at Marblehead High School by looking at the clubs that were offered. There was one club that I knew immediately I wanted to join: Headlight. At Charter, I had been a part of the literary magazine and newspaper that we had, and I knew that I wanted to continue my writing in high school. So when I got to the high school, I kept a lookout in the Daily Bulletin for a mention of

a Headlight meeting, and the first chance I had I went.

It is crazy to think that back then there was only a small group of us (eight in fact) that would consistently write. Now we have a massive staff that produces varied articles each week. I remember looking up to Matt Lieberman, our editor then, and thinking how cool it would be to have his job and edit the newspaper for our school. With that being said, I cannot believe it has already been three years, and here I am, a week away from being a high school senior. Two weeks ago I was named Editor-in-Chief of Headlight with Liam Reilly and

Meredith Piela. I am very excited to be continuing the tradition of Headlight next year. I have enjoyed every minute that I have been a part of this staff, and I hope that as we continue next year, Headlight continues to inspire students as it did for me and the other staff members.

Getting published with Headlight was a dream come true. The feeling that you get seeing your work in the newspaper is incredible. To any aspiring writers out there, join Headlight! The joy you will receive from working and collaborating with fellow writers, and then seeing your work in the Reporter and online is fantastic; it is a very

unique opportunity for high school students.

I know that this is Dan and Grace's last issue as Editors, and I want to say thank you to both of them. These past two years have been great. They both brought new ideas to Headlight that Liam, Meredith and I will be sure to continue. We are all grateful for their guidance these past two years and wish them both the best of luck in future endeavors.

"To any aspiring writers out there, join Headlight!" - Alex Kerai, Webmaster

**MHS Class of 2014
Graduation Ceremony
Sunday June 4, 2014
Doors open at 1 pm
Ceremony begins 2pm
All are welcome!**

Thank You & Good Luck to Our Class of 2014 Headlight Staff!

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF: Dan Rosenberg (2014) and Grace Perry (2014) EDITOR'S ASSISTANT : Becky Twaalfhoven

REPORTERS IN THE FIELD: Michael Simmons (2014), Alix Segil, Joanna Rosen, Linda Fitzpatrick and Drew Faria

DESIGN COORDINATOR: Shanna Smith (2014) WEBMASTER/REPORTER: Alex Kerai ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR: Liam Reilly

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

STUDENT AFFAIRS: Darby Neuss, Cassidy Alla, Lily Frontero, Olivia Eddy, and Caroline Hooper (2014) FACULTY ADVISOR: Thomas Higgins