

Headlight



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

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March Madness Preview

Linda Fitzpatrick, Sophomore Reporter

It's that time of year. A time when young, athletic students' grades diminish as they prepare for the televised battles that will have them cheering for joy or yelling with disappointment. A time Americans call, fondly, March Madness. I know from family members that this month is a time of academic struggles for many basketball fans, as it was for my uncle as a child. His grades would truly plummet as he focused all his energy around the tournament. He even covered his basement walls with paper to create his own tournament brackets, which he updated after each game -- something we now have easy access to online. My uncle's level of enthusiasm for March Madness is but an example of the March Madness obsession nationwide. In fact, over six million brackets are made every year, according to "Smithsonian Magazine."

March Madness has become an American phenomenon, and whether you're a basketball enthusiast or not, this season can still be fun. For one thing, it can be a family activity. Every year in my family, the aforementioned uncle sends out an online bracket to every family member, and we compete to see who will come out on top, for bragging rights only, of course. This includes the many babies and toddlers in the family whose parents make a bracket for them. Things get pretty interesting when your grandfather is getting beat by your one year old cousin. If you're interested in a larger sense of competition, however, there are groups you can enter to win money if your bracket comes out on top.

Have no fear if you don't know a thing about basketball teams, as there are a plethora of ways to pick your winning teams. For some, the decision comes down to team statistics. For others, their favorite mascot drives their choices. Take it seriously or randomly test your luck; either way you're bound for some entertainment throughout the tournament. You don't even have to watch the games to have fun with the process: just seeing how good of a gut feeling, or guess, you've got is interesting enough. If you're a pro or a rookie, I encourage you to make your way over to ESPN and make a bracket yourself before the tournament begins on March 18th, and get a little crazy.

Recent Winners:

2012 - Kentucky Wildcats
2013 - Louisville Cardinals
2014 - Connecticut Huskies
2015 - ?

Zealous for Zombies

Jacob Keller, Sophomore Reporter

At some point you've probably heard of *The Walking Dead*. At face value, the series appears to be another mindless, zombie-fest drama that has only copied the copious array of post-apocalyptic fictional stories that have passed throughout the years.

With over four years under its belt, and a large-standing accumulation of fans, *The Walking Dead* would beg to differ. *The Walking Dead* has been nominated for many awards, including the Writers Guild of America Award and the Golden Globe Award for Best Television Series – Drama. Its fifth season, which premiered on Oct. 12, held a record-breaking 17.3 million total viewers. So, what really is *The Walking Dead*?

Initially, *The Walking Dead* focuses on the life of former sheriff's deputy Rick Grimes, followed by the plethora of people he encounters. After waking up from a coma in a hospital, Grimes is left to find a world ravaged, eradicated of life, and then appropriately ravaged again. With empty houses, rotting bodies, and seemingly no one to help, Rick has to quickly learn the ropes of this new world.

As the fictional life of *The Walking Dead* progressed, the strength of its characters did as well. Full of depth, variation, and balance, *The Walking Dead* provided many insightful personalities, as well as those who challenged our morality and true identity. We saw how humans react to an environment stripped of humanity: they either struggle with maintaining theirs, or shut down and lock into full-on survival mode, losing what it is to be human.

The thing is, *The Walking Dead* isn't focused on the zombies. The zombies become a tool of revealing true human nature and psychology as people are removed from the order and societal influences of civilization.

The show's unpredictability makes it realistic, and its focus on people--not horror--tells a tale that is relatable. Before you decide to dismiss another advertisement or water cooler conversation, consider these things and give *The Walking Dead* a try.

FYI:

***The Walking Dead* is found on the cable channel AMC and is broadcast on Sunday nights at 9 p.m.**

Course Selections: Why it Matters, but Not Really

Becky Twaalfhoven, Sophomore Reporter in the Field

It may seem early, but it is already time for teacher recommendations and placement for the 2015-16 school year. With this process, students start thinking about their own preferences and choosing potential electives. With the recent changes in graduation requirements, as well as a host of new electives offered, the possibilities and allowances are slightly ambiguous; however, the general idea is to make a plan for next year's individual schedule. Somehow, despite not knowing many details, students and guidance counselors are supposed to figure out how to simultaneously meet requirements and the desires of the student in a feasible manner that works with the school's class schedules, without over committing or overwhelming the student.

As a sophomore looking forward to junior year, I find all of this quite intimidating, especially since I am one of many who will be impacted by the removal of Independent Wellness. How do I decide which elective to sacrifice? Do I choose A.P. or Honors? Science with a longer or shorter lab? What credits do I still need, and how can I get them? All of these questions, and more, are looming large, and occupy a large portion of my brain. I know I am not alone in this: students and parents of every grade face similar dilemmas. Yet I have come to realize that the key to surviving and keeping a calm head is acknowledging that, though important, the decisions for course selection are not the deciding factor in your entire future. I have witnessed five older siblings ahead of me, and for most of them, their chosen courses were not indicative of their career paths.

It is important to remember also that every individual has a different experience in every class, which depends on a number of factors. Some classes are strongly influenced by the teacher, while others vary based on the attitude with which they are approached. Because of this, it is almost impossible to guess ahead of time whether or not the class will be enjoyable or worth it, and others' opinions, while sometimes valuable, can be deceiving. Some people know already what their passions are, and what educational path they would like to follow. I am not so lucky, and find myself in the uncomfortable position of having options and not knowing what I want. I have found that the best method is to approach selection with an open mind, knowing that decisions are not necessarily final, and much depends on chance. Choose courses that you actually are interested in and that you will take the most away from, keeping in mind your limits. Nobody needs extra school-related anxiety, so it is important to keep a broad perspective and be reasonable with next year's placement.

Marblehead "Back the Track" Fundraisers

Olivia Eddy, Sophomore Reporter

As many of you already know, the Marblehead cross country and track communities have been diligently working to raise enough money to replace the local track at the Village School. Purchasing a new track is a costly investment that requires significant fundraising and promotion. On Saturday, November 29th, 2014, supportive volunteers and participants were able to launch a very successful Back the Track 5K Race and Walk to help raise money and awareness. Olympic Bronze medalist Shalane Flanagan made a special appearance to support her hometown community. After the 5K, the community was able to reach the midway point of the final goal of \$575,000.

As of right now, the community has raised \$360,000 toward the final goal. Mino's Roast Beef has been very generous in the fundraising efforts. They have devoted large portions of their sales to support the replacement of the track. The next Mino's Roast Beef night benefitting the track is on Tuesday, March 10. Thank you to Mino's, New England Running Company, Marblehead Opticians, Palmers Restaurant, National Grand Bank, Nike, and the many other sponsors who have supported the "Back the Track" project.

This effort could not have been made without the support and assistance of the cross country and track coaches. Recognition is owed to: Brian Crowley, Tom Walsh, Kylvyn McKinley, Lou Spano, Brian Heenan, Jacob Evanter, and Andy Ernst. If you would like to support the fundraising for a new track, please make a donation to the "Back the Track" Fund through the Marblehead All Sports Foundation and keep an eye out for local promotions.

Mark your calendar for the MHS Senior Show!

When: March 18 & March 19, Wed./Thurs. @ 7 p.m.
Where: MHS Theatre
Cost: \$5
Hosts: Jackie Burke and Dan Gawrys

All are welcome to attend!!

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