

# Headlight

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

www.marblehead.com/schools/mhs/headlight

## Question This

Dan Rosenberg  
Editor-In-Chief, Junior

The question of whether or not school adequately prepares us for employment in a variety of fields is an interesting one. Many students leave high school and instead of attending college, they choose to entire the workforce. The skills they have learned in high school may be the only ones they have at their disposal while working. And yet while in school, there is no training for manual labor, there are no courses on landscaping, and perhaps the biggest travesty is the lack of classes related to interpersonal interactions. The fact is, no matter what field one chooses to enter, whether it be immediately beginning full-time work, or attending college, interactions with other people will shape and guide everyone's lives. More than English or mathematics, how one can communicate with others is the most important skill. What's the use of creating a great product if you can't explain it to customers?

And yet, nowhere in high school is there an opportunity to learn how to converse with and interact with others. There are no classes on how to handle a job interview, or how to please an employer or customer.

And if we are really trying to prepare students for successful, productive lives, aren't these skills the most important ones to impart of all? Marblehead High School has such a wide litany of electives and optional classes, all of which cater to different interests. And yet there is not one that manages to teach the most important skill of all, especially outside the realm of school.

All the time we are shown disturbing statistics by the media, statistics that show that America is "falling behind" in education compared to the rest of the world. And I would agree, that perhaps our math and science testing has been a little lackluster in recent years. But maybe the area that Americans can excel, the field that we can rise above China and India in, is interpersonal relationships. Perhaps we, as Americans, can learn to communicate, clearly expressing our intentions. An understanding of math is an incredibly valuable skill, but not one that will leave a lasting and positive impression on a prospective employer. And if, as an educational unit, we begin to focus on that, America will once again return to the front of the pack.

## A Lookback

Peirce Law  
Reporter in-the Field, Junior

This February vacation, I went on a cold, frigid, but yet still enlightening college trip with my dad. It was a classic road trip: get in the car, drive to a college, get a tour, get back into the car, and keep driving. From Monday through Friday, a five day span, I visited seven colleges from Washington DC all the way to New York City. I had a few favorites when it was all said and done, and I came to realize what I did not know about myself, and what I wanted before I left.

My trip started with a six hour train ride from South Station in Boston to Union Station in Washington DC. I was meeting my dad, who was already down there for work, and I got to stay at my best friend's house, who lives in the suburbs of DC. Not even a day into my weeklong college adventure and I was already exhausted. But my anxiousness for the road ahead stemmed my exhaustion as I woke up bright and early to visit my first and second schools of the trip, Georgetown University and George Washington University. Although easily confused, these were two very different schools that stuck out in many different

ways. Georgetown, which was on the more suburban side of DC, seemed to be an oasis of knowledge that separated itself from DC quite well while still remaining within miles from the center of downtown. George Washington on the other hand, seemed to focus more and more on the fact that they were in fact in downtown Washington DC. Though it seemed to have an excellent program, it just was not my cup of tea. Both a bland information session and tour gave the school a dry and unfulfilling aura, making it seem like they were trying to sell the school rather than educate those who attended.

Just a short time into my trip, and I already had a pretty good idea of what I did not like in a college. I had taken my first real steps on the road of my application to college and boy was it exciting. With each step I take I wait for the next with anxious anticipation to conquer it with practiced ease.

## Music and Influence

Liam Reilly  
Entertainment Editor, Sophomore

A famous Disney song once said, "It's a small world after all". True, and yet it is getting smaller all the time. This is because in the twenty-first century, we as a globe have truly become digital. The Internet proves to be a magnificent pool of information. Information can be conceived from anywhere on the planet, and still end up on one's own computer monitor. As a globe, the spread of ideas has become rapid. Thus allowing for data, particularly music to be shared and appreciated quicker than ever before. Music making has become a digital as well as a global discipline.

"Con las terroristas... Do the Harlem Shake". If you have a computer, than you have heard these words. Most likely these words have sprung out towards you only seconds before viewing a barrage of the strangest and most quirky dance moves that you have ever seen. These are the only lyrics, excluding a growling lion, of the YouTube sensation, "Harlem Shake" performed by electronic/hip-hop artist Baauer. This song has been danced to by millions of Americans. Yet, this song's dance can be considered a cross between an flash-mob and a riot. Creating these videos has become very "in". Dance videos to this hit song have been made by numerous celebrities,

from Jimmy Fallon to the Miami Heat basketball team, to Justin Timberlake and the Saturday Night Live cast. Due to the YouTube popularity the song, "Harlem Shake" has shot to number one on the iTunes charts, and has become a catalyst for the debated change in Billboard's policy. Now when ranking songs in the Hot 100, Billboard takes into consideration the YouTube popularity of a song, as well as its sales.

"Harlem Shake," is a testament to the value of the Internet in the promotion and success of musicians. Although becoming the song in February of this year, "Harlem Shake" was originally released as a free digital download in May of 2012. It was not until the song became a YouTube hit, that Baauer and "Harlem Shake" were able to enjoy commercial success. Had it not been for its promotion via the web, "Harlem Shake" would still exist anonymously. "Harlem Shake" is only the most recent in a long line of internet-driven successes. "Gangnam Style" by PSY, "Friday" by Rebecca Black, "Bed Intruder Song" by Antoine Dodson, and many others, all can attribute their success to viral videos that were later spread by social media. Viral online videos not only provide up-and-coming acts with their initial fame, but also are able to revive old songs and give them a new found audience. However, viral videos are not the only avenue for an artist looking to utilize the power of the Internet. Simply releasing music

via social networking websites can garner musical acts success. Of the five nominees for best new artist at the Grammy Awards last month, three of these acts originally caught the attention of their respective record labels through releasing music online. Using the Internet has done more for prospective musical talent than handing out flyers and playing at the old café could ever do. Digital distribution of music gives artists exposure to the entire Internet-using globe, all at once.

If you heard about my trip to Los Angeles in my last article, than you may remember the unsigned and unknown rappers pushing their demos all along Hollywood Boulevard. In my opinion, this method of self-promotion, along with other methods of a similar nature, will become outdated in the music industry over the next few decades. As more and more musicians realize the potential of the Internet in the promotion and distribution of their music, the more musicians you will find on Tumblr, Facebook, and other social media sites. So next time you are online, take a look at some of these sites. Who knows, you may stumble upon the next "Harlem Shake".

## MHS Updates

### Sophomore Semi Tickets \$50 each

Tickets will be sold during lunches through 3/15. Make checks payable to Town of Marblehead.

**Senior Show Auditions** in the MHS Theater Auditions open to every students and staff at MHS 3/7 @ 3pm and 3/14 @ 3 pm

### Marblehead's Got Talent is Back!

Sponsored by the Marblehead Rotary and the MHS Interact Club invites you to participate in this great event. Open auditions will be at 7pm at MHS on:

3/12 Freshmen  
3/19 Sophomores  
3/26 Juniors  
4/9 Seniors

The Semi Finals will be on 4/23 and 5 finalists will be chosen for the May 3 show at the BYC. Great prizes!

### Marblehead Teen's Job Fair @ Park & Rec 3/12

### Acappelloza!

Concert will take place on Friday, march 15 at the MVMS PAC. This year's concert will feature our four a cappella groups, marlborough High School's A Choired taste, and the Boston-based professional group Redline. tickets on sale now. GA seats are 7\$ for students and seniors and 10\$ for adults.

### St.Patrick's Day Polar Plunge at 10am-3/17

Devereux Beach. Brave the cold and jump into the ocean! This is to raise \$\$ for interact Club. Everyone is invited to attend this fun and chilly event. Hot chocolate and coffee will be available.

**Congrats** to the cast and crew of Candide for winning the preliminary round of the METG High School Drama Festival!

**Upcoming Homeroom dates,** 3/18  
4/1  
4/22

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