

# Headlight



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

www.mhsheadlight.weebly.com

March 19, 2015

## International Relations

Julia Stockwell, Junior  
Reporter

I believe there are few traits that are more important than being a worldly person. Recognizing and learning about the cultures that fill our world, outside of the United States of America, is helpful when accepting our neighbors. People should open their minds and spend time recognizing a culture's beliefs, morals, and customs. When they compare these beliefs, morals, and customs to their own, they will not only see these cultures in a different light, but they will see how similar yet different we all are.

People should learn about a culture's language and remember its words for *hello*, *goodbye*, and *good morning*. They should learn to prepare the popular meals and take notice of how many set their tables. I am sure all people would benefit immensely from this diverse knowledge, which could potentially alter their own beliefs, morals, and customs. Of the 6,300,000,000 unique human beings on our planet, we are all part of one culture or another. It is impossible to know each person, but it is inevitable that we will take passion in something new that others have discovered.

Whether someone is passionate about fashion, cuisine, religion, government, or geography, traveling is extremely beneficial. But international travel is not an option for all. At Marblehead High School, we are luckily given the opportunity to attend school with students from multiple countries. Through this, we hear their languages, see their styles, learn about their educational systems back home, and are given a taste of their lifestyles.

During my sophomore year at MHS, 2013-2014, a German exchange student stayed with my family. Louise and I, being the same age, created an unbreakable and lifelong friendship. We both unconsciously compared ourselves and changed our own morals, beliefs, and even our fashion senses. In the end, we both became better people. I then immersed myself in her culture with a visit to Germany. In reality, Germany is very different and more amazing than what I had previously imagined. The world seems to be a much smaller place now.

Informing ourselves about the planet we live on will only improve the way we live and allow us to accept the people around us. We must not close off our homes to our neighbors before we see the inside of theirs.

## SAT Subject Tests

Ben Birnbach, Freshman  
Reporter

It is recommended-but not required-for honors Biology students to take the Biology SAT Subject test. Should we actually take it?

Subject tests are not even required by most colleges. Yet, it is still worth taking. The first reason is that if you do poorly on the test, the colleges to which you applied do not see it. They will only see your results if you do well. If you do not score well, you can retake it multiple times.

The colleges that require subject tests are some of the elite colleges, which include Harvard, MIT, and Princeton. If you want to go to one of these top schools, you will need to take these tests.

Taking the SAT on a subject you are taking currently is the best way because the information is still fresh in your mind. Also, taking it before Junior year will help prepare you for when you take similar tests. If you are interested in taking the Bio SAT there is a study club in the lecture hall every Friday from 2:40-3:30.

## MHS Senior Show: Two Nights of Comedy, Music, and Talent

Meredith Piela, Senior  
Editor-in-Chief

If you ask Alex Kerai, a manager of the Senior Show and a co-editor of Headlight, what he thinks of the annual student-run talent show at Marblehead High School, he says "Senior Show is a talent show where we get to hear and see a lot of amazing students at MHS perform, most in ways we wouldn't expect by just looking at them. It showcases the hidden talents at our school and also functions as a major fundraiser for the senior class." If you ask me, a performer in the show, I'd say it's a night full of music and comedy, as well as an opportunity to showcase my not very well known talents. At this year's Senior Show, Headlight's Editors' Assistant, Joanna Rosen, and I will take the stage on Wednesday, March 18th, to perform the song "A Step You Can't Take Back" made popular by Keira Knightley in the movie "Begin Again."

Last year, I attended Senior Show for the first time. Not only was I laughing so hard that tears were streaming down my face from all of the jokes made by the performers and hosts (Graham Jackson and former Headlight editor Dan Rosenberg), but I was also amazed by the musical talent at MHS. After the show, I remembered how exciting it was to perform in front of a crowd of people, so I decided that I would audition for the next Senior Show. I asked Joanna to accompany me in the performance, since she is a very talented singer (and actress), and can add some beautiful harmonies to the song. For several months, I thought about possible song choices, and if I should learn a new song on guitar, or go with one I had previously learned. After I watched "Begin Again" and fell in love with the soundtrack, I ultimately decided on "A Step You Can't Take Back," and our practicing commenced.

Fortunately, this won't be the first time Joanna or I perform in front of a large crowd. Compared to her other performances, Joanna says that Senior Show will "probably be more relaxed. I think one way that it compares with theatre is how during a performance like this (where we're performing for our peers) we're trying to relate to the audience. In theatre we usually try to make the production as relatable as possible so that the audience can relate to us." Since the fourth grade, I have been in the band, so all of those band concerts have gotten me used to performing in front of an audience, and all of the halftime performances at the high school football games make everything else a piece of cake! At the end of freshman year, I performed at a relative's wedding, which was a major moment. Since this was a formal event, I wasn't focused on relating to the audience, but rather trying not to mess up. My last performance where I was actually focused on relating to the audience was when I performed at the MVMS talent show in eighth grade. Hopefully, this Senior Show performance will be a chance for people to be reminded of my talents, or discover them, as well as learn that I've moved out of my Taylor Swift phase.

I hope this year's Senior Show will be a success, and it will be exciting to see all of the different acts, as well as hear all of the jokes. Make sure to support Headlight members and come see the talented students at MHS!

**Mark Your Calendar  
for the  
JUNIOR CLASS AUCTION  
Friday, March 27, 7 - 10 p.m.  
at the Salem Waterfront Hotel  
-- Silent & Live Auctions  
Tickets: \$25/30 door**

## Losing Labs?

Alicia Katz, Sophomore  
Reporter

Course selection is finally here. This means students are given the opportunity to select which classes they will take next year. In order to graduate high school, you must earn certain credits by taking some of these courses. Usually this process goes fairly well, but sometimes a few students run into scheduling conflicts. In order to combat some of these issues, the administration has chosen to offer a new option for course selection. Students now have the option to take a science with or without a lab block.

In standard practice, science classes usually implement lab blocks in order to reinforce the notes that have been taken in class. Some would say the lab block prohibits additional courses to be taken, and as a result some students struggle to fill their requirements. I question the validity of this argument as it lacks a sound base. Each year I have spent at the high school, the required courses have changed. Some classes that I have already taken are no longer necessary for me to graduate. This means by the end of this year, I plan to finish my extra requirement credits as a sophomore. Most students I know have not run into a problem with fulfilling their requirements.

Guidance counselors can provide direction and advice for the student. From freshman year all the way to senior year, the same guidance counselor is there to help students with problems stretching from difficult teachers to planning for college. Part of the college plan is, of course, graduating high school and thus meeting the credit requirements. On paper, this idea is great; in practice, there are five guidance counselors to cover four grades. Because of this ridiculous ratio of students to teachers, students often struggle to find a time to meet with their individual counselor beyond the five minute meeting that is scheduled once a year to discuss course selection.

On Wednesday, February 11, an assembly was held for sophomore students. At this assembly, principal Layne Millington presented to the student population his solution for this scheduling "problem." His solution is to offer the same science courses with or without a designated lab block. Normally I would not oppose this, but he had said something that got me thinking. He argued that if science was not your thing, you would not need to take the additional lab block. This statement is completely untrue and misleading. In fact, I argue the opposite. The extra lab block is an opportunity to reinforce difficult concepts that have been discussed in class in a way that most students will understand. Science is a course that allows the student to experience learning rather than sitting behind a desk. The student that struggles in class is not harmed by additional classroom time. But rather the 10,080 extra minutes that the lab block provides helps that struggling student understand a difficult concept in a way that cannot be explained by using words.

My advice to fellow students is, if science is "not your thing," do not be confused about what to do next year. I urge you to take the additional lab block because it will help you in the long run and improve your high school science experience.

**2015 - 2016  
Course Selection  
closes on the Aspen Portal  
March 20, 2015**

## Headlight Staff 2014-15

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF: Alex Kerai, Meredith Piela, and Liam Reilly EDITORS' ASSISTANT : Joanna Rosen

REPORTERS IN THE FIELD: Riley Sugarman, Drew Faria and Becky Twaalfhoven

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