

# Headlight



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

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March 5, 2015

## Khan Academy Promotes Technology Skills in Schools

John Faria, Freshman Reporter

The Marblehead High School math teachers have challenged their students to complete a Khan Academy course in order to raise money for the high school. Khan Academy offers a non-profit website devoted to providing “a free, world-class education for anyone, anywhere.” The money is being donated by Google, and the company wishes for “every student to have the opportunity to study computer science, so that the world's most talented and diverse people have access to this great field.” In order to qualify for a donation to the high school, a student must join their teacher’s class on Khan Academy and complete the “Intro to JS: Drawing & Animation course” before March 17, 2015.

For every student who completes this course, \$100 will be donated to the Marblehead High School Technology Fund. The course is expected to take 15 hours, with the high school earning \$6.67 per hour. The money donated to our school will go to boosting the budget, which was last updated on March 25, 2009, almost six years ago. The district is still progressing towards the Massachusetts D.E.S.E. Guidelines and the National Educational Technology Standards. As of January 2013, the school’s five year technology plan claims to require \$49,000- \$110,000 for the high school alone. By donating \$100 per student who completes this course, Google and its partnership with Khan Academy could greatly ease the strain of this budget, while teaching students valuable technology skills.

## Finding Kittens Their “Fur-Ever” Homes

Abby Schalk, Sophomore Reporter

Despite the crazy winter we’ve had this year, spring is on its way. At the Marblehead Animal Shelter, spring season is kitten season. The Marblehead Animal Shelter (FOMAA) is a non-profit organization run by volunteers and supported by donations. In springtime, there is an influx of kittens at the shelter, and the shelter can use all the help it can get. All of the kittens that come to the shelter have to get vaccinations and be spayed/neutered before they can be adopted. This is paid for by donations, so any contribution made to the animal shelter will help to make the kittens healthy, happy, and ready for a new home.

Another item that the shelter needs help with during kitten season is finding a house for the felines. There is only so much room at the shelter, so most litters of kittens are sent to foster homes until they are adopted. Plus, it is better for the kittens and their mother to be in a home for the first few weeks rather than the shelter. One can volunteer to foster kittens until they are ready for adoption, which is usually about 6-8 weeks. A litter of kittens would stay in the foster home with their mother until they are ready to be separated from her. If the shelter rescues a pregnant cat, it will usually put her in a foster home and have the kittens delivered there. I volunteer at the Marblehead Animal Shelter, and while I have not personally fostered kittens, I've heard that it is a really fun and fulfilling experience.

If you are interested in fostering, adopting, or donating, please call 781-631-8664 or email at fomaa44@gmail.com. You can also go to their website <http://www.marblehead-animal-shelter.org> or their Facebook page, Friends of Marblehead’s Abandoned Animals. Finding the animals their “fur-ever homes,” as they say at the shelter, is the number one priority, and to be a part of that is a very humbling experience.

## Fifty Shades of Red

Morgan Hardwick, Senior Reporter

After reading the notorious *Fifty Shades of Grey* trilogy this past summer, I went to see the hotly anticipated movie adaptation during its second showing at the Warwick Theater here in Marblehead. I went into the theater with low expectations for the movie and came out more than disappointed with my viewing experience. The *Fifty Shades* film itself met my expectations; it was visually appealing with immaculate set designs, featured spot-on acting from both Dakota Johnson and Jamie Dornan, and included humorous moments that aptly fit the film. However, theatergoers posed a distraction while I was trying to focus on the film. I have never been as disappointed after leaving a theater as I was when walking out of the Warwick.

Between the nonstop chatting of two women directly behind me, the incessant getting-up-and-down of the man sitting next to me (who clearly wished he was somewhere else), and the woman a chair over showing her husband text messages on full brightness, I left the theater still distracted. I found myself sitting in on a 40-year-old women’s social hour, with phones ringing, wine glasses clinking, and maybe even a photo or two snapped. To top off the evening, before the movie credits even hit the screen, a woman sitting front-and-center stood up, turned to the crowd and yelled, “Terrible! Just terrible!” You could say this was the moment my jaw dropped. I turned to my three friends and remarked on how this experience was not worth the price of the tickets I had prepaid for.

I found myself pondering whether this behavior was due to the fact the Warwick allows alcoholic beverages to be served, an uncommon attribute for a theater, or if the moviegoers just disrespected the E.L. James adaptation itself. Either way, I would suggest renting the *Fifty Shades* movie in the silence of your own home, so you can talk, laugh, make phone calls, or just sit as silently as you wish.

## Did you miss the chance to see Amadeus last week? Don't fret!

MHS moved on to the semi-final round of Drama Fest, which they will be hosting on March 14 at the MVMS Performing Arts Center! *Amadeus* will be performed at 1:30 p.m., but come for the whole day and watch five more shows!

**Admission is \$10 and supports the Marblehead Theatre Program and the Massachusetts Educational Theatre Guild.**

## 15 Going on 50

Julia Stockwell, Junior Reporter

On the second day of March in 1965, 20th Century Fox released the first on-screen adaptation of the famous Broadway musical *The Sound of Music*, starring Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer. The film was produced by the Academy Award winning director, producer, and editor Robert Wise. This famous

motion picture, which won five Academy Awards and has entered many of our hearts, just celebrated its 50th anniversary this past Monday, March 2nd. 2015 seems to be the birthday year for *The Sound of Music*, as it will be celebrated over the upcoming months. This year, the film has already been remembered, including Lady Gaga's tribute at the 2015 Oscars on February 22nd. On April 19 and 22, the hills will come alive once more and better than ever, when the restored version of the film is shown in over 500 movie theaters across the United States. It's never too late to revisit this wonderful musical and the memories it created.

## Whiplash Review from a Drummer's Eyes

Drew Faria, Senior Reporter in the Field

“There are no two words in the English language more harmful than ‘good job,’” states Terrence Fletcher, the insanely meticulous and brutal jazz instructor from the Oscar-winning film, “Whiplash.” The words “good job” anger Fletcher, played by J.K. Simmons, because he knows compliments and feelings of accomplishment will hinder students from pushing themselves. He coerces his students to their musical, mental, and physical limits in order to maintain the school’s legendary status. One drummer in particular, Andrew Nieman, dreams of tacking his name alongside history’s most legendary drummers, such as Buddy Rich and Gene Krupa. Andrew’s perseverance and

Fletcher’s disapproving mindset furiously ignite as the two go head-to-head to make a powerful statement about music and raw determination. As a drummer, I felt obligated to see the movie as soon as possible!

“Whiplash” has definitely earned its Oscar for best sound editing. My drumming senses detected how the drum hits were in perfect sync with the sounds they made, and the drums themselves sounded authentic.

The movie shines a light on the importance of practice in order to achieve proficiency—something I appreciate. I practice the drums every day and I can relate to Andrew’s hour-long struggles to execute certain exercises, as well as the sense of achievement that comes when they are perfected. It is always satisfying to see hard work (especially towards something so close to me) lead to success.

On the other hand, some parts of the movie did not align with my beliefs as a drummer and a musician. Andrew sees music as a way to achieve fame, often drumming until he bleeds profusely. Not once

in the entire movie did he look happy while playing the drums.

I play music for fun, not recognition. There is nothing more powerful than performing with your best friends, glancing at each other at the height of an epic keyboard solo, not knowing how to react to the happiness you’re experiencing, and contorting your face in ridiculous ways that look like you just ate the world’s hottest pepper mixed with a goofy smile to show that you’re in a whole other world.

Although I side with Fletcher’s concept of diligence towards an instrument, I would certainly not use some of his extreme teaching methods! I believe that musicians deserve a “good job” at the end of a strong performance. While these students may strive to be the next Charlie Parker, they put smiles on peoples’ faces, which is what music is all about.

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