

Headlight



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

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Hometown Greatness

Grace Perry
Editor-In-Chief, Senior

On a bus ride to a field trip, I had 45 minutes to interview some of my peers to reflect upon growing up in Marblehead, MA and what makes it a great place to live in. Seeing as we were headed out of town, I figured it was ironic because most of us will in fact be leaving for college in a matter of months.

To tell you a little bit about myself, I am Grace Perry, Co-Editor-in-Chief of this school newspaper. I am proud to say that I am what some may call a small town girl. Born in Salem and raised in Marblehead, I know what the true meaning of tradition is. I am a townie. Generations of my family members have lived in this town, some have even lived in the same house I currently live in. My great grandfather was a true Marbleheader and was born in the Mary Alley Hospital. I have been born from Marblehead blood. Each of my ancestors attended Marblehead High School and

raised their own families right here in town. When I say I am a small town girl, I believe my small town roots have molded me into what I am today. And I realize I am not alone. As seniors at Marblehead High School, we have observed this town and have found its greatness to stem from its sense of community, historic feel, and summertime beauty.

Marblehead has a sense of community like no other place I have experienced. Our town has 4.4 square miles of land, but we have thousands of people living in it. Neighbors are family, and your friends are the friends you have known since pre-k. Gossip may spread like wildfire, but for the most part, we are a community that cares about one another. Emma Oliver, a senior at MHS, is a great example of someone who has seen this sense of community up close and personal. Oliver notes: "When I organize my team for the MS Walk, so many people willingly offered to help. So many people reached out and it felt amazing. I

am so proud of our tight knit community." Oliver organizes a Walk for MS, which raises money for Multiple Sclerosis. She is currently preparing for her MS walk this April and will be attending Alfred University in the fall.

Suzanne McCarthy, also a senior at MHS, believes Marblehead's greatness is because of the community alone. She said in our interview, "My favorite thing about Marblehead would have to be it's tight knit community. I've seen it through the football games and there is a shared united spirit. The spirit is contagious." McCarthy has lived in Marblehead her entire life and currently lives in the same house her mother grew up in.

Along with the sense of community, Marblehead's greatness lies inside of its capability to preserve its history. If one takes a walk downtown, he or she is bound to stumble upon something historic. Visit marblehead.com puts it perfectly, "Steeped in history, Marblehead is alive with over 200 homes and buildings that predate the Revolutionary War. Tour

several historic mansions with tales of rugged fisherman, intrepid mariners, enterprising merchants, skilled craftsmen, self-reliant women and courageous seamen—all of whom played a crucial role in America's struggle for independence." Yet, seniors at Marblehead High School believe it is not only Marblehead's historic places; it is the feel these places give off. Although the historic places are equally as significant, Marblehead has maintained the ability to preserve its local businesses and keep out commercial business and chains. McCarthy believes the one thing that makes this town special and different from the rest is its ability to keep big business out.

She notes: "There aren't a lot of commercial business here in town. Our only major chains are Starbucks and Dunkin Donuts, small scale compared to what could be present." McCarthy is unsure of where she will be attending college in the fall, and says, "Get back to me in two months," with a smile. By keeping large-scale com-

mercial business out, Marblehead is able to preserve its historic feel and local business, which contributes to what makes it such a great small town. Adler Smith, another senior at MHS, shared, "Marblehead has such a quaint nature. It has an old historic feel with a modern twist." Smith has also lived in Marblehead his entire life. He plans on attending Cornell University in the fall to study engineering.

Along with its sense of community and its historic feel, Marblehead in the summer time is also what contributes to make it such a great small town. Marblehead is drop dead beautiful. We have the land and we have the sea. What more could you want out of life? Paul Elder, also a senior at MHS who has lived in Marblehead his entire life, believes the best thing about Marblehead is the outdoors, "The ocean is nice and the summer time is the best. A typical day in the summer for me involves being a camp counselor at the Tower School summer camp, where I am constantly outside." Elder plans

on attending the University of Michigan in the fall to study economics.

Lauren Nohelty also agrees that summer time is best thing about Marblehead. She notes about the town's safety, "The best thing about Marblehead is that for the most part, it's safe. You don't have to be nervous about locking your doors. And the summertime is absolutely beautiful." Nohelty plans on studying business at Babson University in the fall.

All in all, Marblehead is a great place to live. It is not perfect, but it sure is a fantastic place to grow up. I encourage all who are reading this article to recognize its greatness. Don't just take it for granted. It has so much to offer and you have so much to gain. And to the seniors reading this article, I encourage you especially to appreciate the wonderful town in which we live. You will be leaving in a matter of months, so live in the moment and explore Marblehead to every end, one last time.

Have You Kept Your New Years Resolution?

Shanna Smith
Design Coordinator, Senior

It's that time of year again: winter break is a distant memory, you've grown accustomed to writing "2014" on papers, and New Year's Eve is merely a blur of history. This also happens to be the moment of truth of a year-long motivational game. Did you keep up your New Year's Resolution?

The first thing I notice as March kick-starts is I can actually find a parking spot during the crowded hours at the gym. Some people have already fallen to their inevitable laziness. I notice it during conversations too: people are a lot nicer and more truthful in January. Then, as January ends, they forget that they pledged they would treat others the way they want to be treated or be honest no matter the situation.

"I don't know if I've ever kept up my New Year's Resolution, because I've never checked in at the end

of the year," a Marblehead High School parent confesses. "I no longer make resolutions because they never work out for me," says another MHS parent. So why do people fail to maintain their New Year's Resolution?

The truth is it's a hard thing to do. It's a lot easier to plan change than to actually change. If the only reason why you are obeying your resolution is that it's your New Year's Resolution, you probably won't be motivated enough to last the whole year. One way to keep up a resolution is to find ways to increase your motivation. Finding multiple reasons why you want to follow your resolution and coming up with various positive results will help with motivation. If you cannot think of enough reasons or results, you should probably come up with a resolution you are more passionate about.

Lack of specificity might also be the issue. If your New Year's Resolution is

to "lose weight" or "get in better shape," it might be too broad. Getting in better shape can mean anything from losing five pounds to losing fifty pounds to gaining muscle mass to running a marathon. The more specific you are, the easier it will be to visualize your goal. Thus, you will be more motivated, and it will be easier to tell when you have succeeded.

Short-term resolutions might also be the cause. If you pledge to earn above a B on a math test and you achieve this in February, you will probably be one of those who has all but forgotten his resolution by March. That B might not have even helped your grade point average, if you fell back to your old study habits. Choosing a goal that will take time to achieve, but is not impossible, will increase the chances that you will stick to your resolution.

The Power of Film

Dan Rosenberg
Editor-In-Chief, Senior

One of the best things about movies is their ability to allow people an escape from reality. Motion pictures bring our wildest thoughts and fantasies alive, and are really the pinnacle of humanity's ability to combine the arts with science and emotion. But movies have another incredible ability, one that is perhaps more important than their ability to distract and delight. Movies have the power to bring moving and important stories to a broader audience. Movies can galvanize movements, and they can bring about change. The cinema has the power to inspire people to action, and that's a big part of what makes them so special. Both Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor went this year to the men of Dallas Buyer's Club.

That seems itself fairly unremarkable; it has certainly happened in the past. However, what is so incredible about this victory is the roles they won for. It is truly unbelievable that a movie addressing the AIDS crisis in America, as well as the struggle millions go through every day with sexual identification. Just a very few years ago, these subjects would have been taboo. These stories would have been covered up, and hidden in the shadows. But the movies have the power to bring stories like Dallas Buyer's Club to life. They have the ability to illuminate struggles and hardships that otherwise would have remained in the shadows.

One of the most moving moments of the Academy Awards came in Jared Leto's acceptance speech. Leto dedicated his award to people undergoing hardship and oppression everywhere,

and people who keep fighting for freedom worldwide. Steve McQueen echoed a similar sentiment in his acceptance of Best Picture. Frequently, movie stars and celebrities are in the news for the wrong reasons. We hear about their abuse of drugs, or alcohol, or social media. But this year especially, Hollywood showed its good side. Hollywood showed its ability and willingness to address important and controversial issues, and bring them to a bigger stage. It's really amazing to see the way cinema can incorporate risky topics, like AIDS, Somali piracy, and racial discrimination, into popular culture. It seems producers and directors have realized how powerful of a tool for change their films can be, and they should be commended for their willingness to take risks, and bring divisive stories to the silver screen.

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