

# Headlight



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

2015-2016 Issue

www.mhsheadlight.weebly.com

May 12, 2016

## Springtime Kittens

Abby Schalck, Junior  
Reporter

Despite the on-and-off winter we've had this year, Spring is now finally here to stay. At the Marblehead Animal Shelter, Spring season is kitten season. The Marblehead Animal Shelter (Friends of Marblehead Abandoned Animals - FOMAA) is a non-profit organization run by volunteers and supported by donations. At this time of the year, there is an influx of kittens at the shelter, and the shelter can use all the help they can get. The kittens that come to the shelter need to be vaccinated and spayed or neutered before they can be adopted. These are paid for by donations, so any contribution you make to the animal shelter will help to make the kittens healthy, happy, and ready to go to a new home.

Another need of the shelter during kitten season is finding a place to put the kittens. 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. You can volunteer to foster kittens until they are ready for adoption, which is usually about six to eight weeks. A typical litter of kittens stays in the foster home with their mother until they are ready to be separated from her. If the shelter rescues a pregnant cat, they usually will put her in a foster home and have the kittens delivered there. I personally volunteer at the Marblehead Animal Shelter, and everyone who has fostered kittens has told me that it is a really fun and incredibly fulfilling experience.

Of course, the best option for the cats and kittens at the shelter is for them to be adopted. If you are interested in fostering, adopting, or donating, please call 781-631-8664 or email at [fomaa44@gmail.com](mailto: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 a safe and happy home is the number one priority at the Marblehead Animal Shelter. Being a part of finding pets a home is a very humbling experience.

## Censorship in Theatre Part 2

Kathleen Alexandrou, Sophomore  
Reporter

Every time a school committee makes the decision to censor a school performance, they simultaneously hold students back from their passion and teach them that there are certain topics that are taboo. If we're told that we can't put on a production of *Cabaret* because it deals with anti-Semitism and sex, isn't that teaching us that it is not okay to discuss topics like these? Should shows that reach out to the darker, more mature side of theatre really be banned to protect our innocence? In 2013, 47% of high school students reported that they are sexually active; adults cannot pretend that students don't know what "sex" is. So is the argument "there's sex in it, it's too racy for high schoolers" really even valid? I speak to fellow high school students in particular: if you claim the answer to that question is a vehement yes, or any kind of yes for that matter, then you must not have an issue being treated like a young child - because that's what's happening. First they'll say we aren't old enough to handle sex, what will they say next, we're too young to form our own opinions? Too young to swear?

The answer, unsurprisingly, is yes. That is exactly what they said next. In Connecticut, Enfield High School's production of *American Idiot* was cancelled for the language and the intense themes of the show. I can tell you from experience, even just walking down the hallway between classes I hear (and read, profane language is used just as much in texting if not more) almost as many swears as are used in the entire show. Last summer, Marblehead Little Theatre put on a production of *American Idiot*; I helped with it and had friends in the show, and I saw it quite a few times. I have to say, the loud music and flashing lights in the opening number shocked me far more than the language. As for the themes being too intense and mature for us to handle? *American Idiot* focuses on three teenagers who are each trying to discover themselves, with varying degrees of success. If this content isn't okay for us to show in high school, does that mean we shouldn't try to find ourselves until we're more grown up? It seems to me that banning *American Idiot* for that reason would be akin to telling us that we shouldn't try to learn about ourselves.

I've said this before and I'll say it again: censorship in theatre is inappropriate. It destroys creativity. Censorship plants seeds of racism, sexism, and homophobia and shelters adolescents from exploring basic parts of life. If we censor theatre, we shut off the fountain of imagination.

## Mark Your Calendar!

### 1. Friday and Saturday, May 13 & 14: MHS Drama Club presents *Twelfth Night*.

Show Times: 7:30 p.m. in the High School Theatre Tickets: \$10 at the door

*"If music be the food of love, play on;"*

### 2. Monday, May 16: MHS Senior Art Show Opening Reception

Venue: Abbot Public Library

Time: 5 - 7 p.m.

*"O, had I but followed the arts!"*

## The Jungle Book Review

Kyra Veprek, Junior  
Reporter

A new revitalization of a childhood classic, *The Jungle Book*, directed by Jon Favreau, brings life to Rudyard Kipling's beloved book. Primarily following the plot line of the book rather than the 1967 film, the movie follows the journey of Mowgli (Neel Sethi), a young boy raised by wolves in coexistence with the jungle life. After Shere Khan (Idris Elba), a menacing lion who plays the role of Alpha in the jungle community, threatens the peace of the jungle if "the man cub" is not removed, Mowgli is forced to leave his jungle life and find his way on his own. Supported by a level-headed panther and free-spirited bear, Mowgli makes his way through the jungle while finding out more about himself on his quest for peace.

It is inarguable that Favreau's most impressive feat are the visual effects that brought the film to life. Accustomed to the one-dimensional images of the first children's movie, I find the enhanced animation, save the story, a different atmosphere over all. Unlike the whimsical feel of the original, the new movie boasts highly-detailed, hyper-real animals and settings, making Mowgli's journey appear to be more of an action/adventure film. Although the graphics are impressive, they can be too much at times. For example, King Louie, a childish character I remembered for foolishly being tricked by Mowgli and Baloo, is presented as a real *gigantopithecus* and rendered as colossal and grotesque. This image is not only threatening, but also makes his scenes overly scary and suspenseful. Although I understand that this was most likely the effect Favreau was looking to achieve, I do not find it to be fitting for the movie, and therefore it was not enjoyable to watch.

Furthermore, the classic score, including songs such as "I Wan'na Be Like You" and "The Bare Necessities," is poorly integrated and out of place. Lacking the whimsical tone the original movie carried throughout its entirety, this latest adaptation is, unexpectedly, a musical. "The Bare Necessities," although not successfully woven into the plot, is not a complete failure. With Mowgli sitting and singing on Baloo's stomach as they float down a river, Favreau was able to achieve a sense of happiness which the movie otherwise lacked. However, my liking to this scene may simply be due to my love of Bill Murray, who voices Baloo. Less successful, however, is "I Wan'na Be Like You," which is outright menacing. Favreau turns a number which was fun and playful into a threatening attack on Mowgli. As King Louie coos the song to Mowgli, his frightening image rocks excitedly in place, while the presence of his monkey minions creates a feeling that Mowgli is about to be jumped. Besides creating a new frightening tone, it is also poorly incorporated. The threatening stature of the monkey and the direness of Mowgli's situation do not present a suitable setting for a musical number.

Although *The Jungle Book* is a visual spectacle, I was put off by the film because I could not identify the target audience. The intensity of the animation presents the idea that the film was produced for a more mature audience, for some of the images are simply not appropriate for small children. On the other hand, the plot is at a basic enough level that it became boring. Would I recommend it? Maybe. However, if you're looking for a fun family movie, I would check out *Zootopia* instead.

## Humanity over Social Status

Luc Wortman, Freshman  
Reporter

Forest fires. Rising sea levels. Warming of the Earth. Just an increase of two more degrees is all that is needed for the harmful effects of climate change to take place on this beautiful world that our species is destroying. I hate to say it like that. I wish I didn't have to, but I do. For people to start caring, people have to really feel within themselves that climate change is serious, especially to your children and their children.

Rising sea levels is just one of the effects from a warming of the earth. Here in America, there is money. We are a technologically advanced country, with the capability of fixing a lot of the problems that we create. It's the underdeveloped countries that are in the most danger. We have to care about them, as if it were us in those countries.

I'm sure you have heard what has been happening in Canada in the last week. There have been massive record breaking forest fires. The fires have already covered over 602 square miles. According to CNN, this fire is around the size of Hong Kong. It has forced over 90,000 people to abandon their homes, their communities, and their friends. It has been proven that this massive blaze is due to an increase in temperature in our world. The "fire season" is starting early and becoming unpredictable. If this hasn't scared you yet, these fires, because of their intensity and size, can create their own weather. Yes, you heard me correctly: Fires that can create their own weather patterns and lightning. The intense heat that these fires produce causes massive mushroom-like clouds that are scientifically called "pyrocumulus" clouds. That is not something that we want to see from a forest fire.

These forest fires are not normal and are a product of our recklessness and greed. The day that our species realizes that we are all the same under the skin and that money is only temporary is the day we become a united and a peaceful world. We are facing a question today of our integrity as humans, and whether we deserve to live on this planet or not. This is not a light subject. This is as serious as it gets. Life or no life. Climate change is something that is not just affecting the poor people and minorities; it affects everyone, regardless of social status or net worth. Once we realize that we must put our children in front of our money and humanity over our current generation, we can fix these problems. If we ditch fossil fuels between 2050 and 2100 there can be hope, but if we keep up this trend, there will be no hope.

## Headlight Staff 2015-2016

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF: Linda Fitzpatrick, Becky Twaalfhoven

REPORTERS IN THE FIELD: Kathleen Alexandrou, Sophie Mae-Berman, Korey Cohan, Jake Emerick, Alicia Katz, Jacob Keller, Jack Krivit, Matthew Messinger, Ginny Naughton, Abby Schalck, Emma Szalewicz, Lily Tapper, Kyra Veprek, Luc Wortman

ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR: Maeve Reilly POLITICAL REPORTER: Amber Born WEBMASTER: Aaron Terentiev  
FACULTY ADVISOR: Thomas Higgins