

# Headlight



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

The 2015 Senior Issue

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## An Appreciation for Veterans

Drew Faria, Senior  
Reporter-in-the-Field

Here it goes, my final Headlight article—one of several “finals” I have done over the past several months as a senior. I cannot think of a better way to celebrate them than with a long weekend. However, another big “final” is left: the Memorial Day Parade—one last time to heave a 50-pound drum across town for several hours, playing the same five songs continuously until my wrists break, having mirages of refreshments in the distance, and sweating heavily in a uniform far too insulating to be worn in 70°F. At last, I have come down to the last unchecked box on the list of tiring tasks in high school. I can almost picture myself throwing off the musical anvil that is called a marching snare drum with the last bit of strength I have after the parade and soaring all the way back to my welcoming bed. However, now having marched in this parade several times, I have more respect for what my job truly means.

Sure, the parade is by no means a jolly adventure, but I continue to participate in it for its significance. I would bet many of our veterans would have rather wielded a musical instrument in the protection of a base than a rifle while on patrol in a Humvee. So many speeches, blogs, and articles repeat the same idea, “honor our veterans,” to the point where it almost loses its impact. It is important, between mouthfuls of burgers and chips on our warm, Monday-evening barbeques, to think about how fortunate we are to live the way we do.

Playing my drum is the absolute least I can do to show my respect. As the Drum Captain, I play a big role in leading the percussion section and ultimately the whole band in the parade. The drums start “Star Spangled Banner,” I personally queue the band to play a new song, and I keep the band in sync with my steady rhythms. Pride and reverence have replaced the complacent attitude I used to feel about marching during the parade. I realize now how important of a role I play in this simple token of respect for those who put themselves in some of the most dangerous places in the world so that we might never need to face these dangers ourselves. We owe the quality of the lives we live and the freedom we have to our armed forces. By the time the band reaches Waterside Cemetery each year, my body is ready to give up, but I still stand straight and attentive throughout the ceremony. Undoubtedly, we have all heard this before, but repeating the message in this article helps me to come to terms with how fortunate I am. It is hard to think of a better way to end my Headlight career than with such an important tribute.

To all of the veterans, thank you for keeping all of us safe and free. We ought to make every day Memorial Day to honor what you have done for us. The only image we can muster in our minds of what your lives may have been like is through movies, which have been Hollywood-ized to show only the parts most of us find interesting. They do not show everything, things we would find too horrifying, so we cannot guess what these may have been like. My struggles are negligible to those you have faced or may still face. If you still serve, I pray for your safe return soon; but regardless of when you may have served, may your sacrifices never go unnoticed, and may God bless you all. He has certainly blessed us with the protection you provide.

## Four Years

Morgan Hardwick, Senior  
Reporter

At this moment, there are exactly two weeks standing between me and my diploma. *Two*. So, I’ve decided to, with the help of my good friend and fellow senior Jackie Burke, reminisce on the past four years at Marblehead High School.

**Q: If you could describe high school in one word, what would it be?**

**Jackie:** Entertaining.

**Morgan:** Tedious.

**Q: What is your best memory from the past four years?**

**Jackie:** That one time I received 98% on Mr. Ryan’s Tale of Two Cities quotes test, a.k.a. the hardest test known to Marblehead High School. It only took rereading the book three times and actually paying attention in class. Honestly, it is the most accomplished I’ve ever felt. I screamed “YES” when I got the test back, Mr. Ryan told me to be quiet and stop gloating.

**Morgan:** Getting into college. It made the tiring, strenuous four years at Marblehead High School all worth it. Or the time I got a 95% on my 8 page English paper, that was almost as exciting as getting into college. Almost.

**Q: What surprised you most about high school?**

**Jackie:** How different senior year is from freshmen year. I look back now to who we were as freshman and to who we are now, and am thankful we’ve all matured a little. It is truly shocking to look back at who we’ve all become.

## The 5 Things No One Tells You About Working in a Video Store

Riley Sugarman, Senior  
Reporter-in-the-Field

As some of you may remember, my first Headlight article was written about Chet’s Video. Since this is my last article at Marblehead High School I decided to finish where I started. There are many things no one tells you about working at a video store because barely any remain in business, but you’re in luck because I happen to be employed at one. If you are thinking about joining the work force via video store then boy do I have some tips for you!

**1. You’ll have to work on self-control.** If your store sells candy as well as movies, your sweet tooth will become a serious problem. I always liked to call myself a savory girl but have acquired a huge craving for all things candy since I started working at Chet’s in 2012. In fact, I’m eating some shoelace licorice as I’m writing this. My weekly splurge on candy quickly became an issue so I’ve learned to limit myself. It takes some work but I promise your sweet tooth will subside (mostly).

**2. You’ll constantly agree to disagree.** Not everyone has the same taste in movies, and you will meet people on a regular basis whose opinions are very different from yours. I’ve met my fair share of customers who disagree on the qualities of films, and that’s great; everyone is entitled to their own opinion. I like to say taste in movies is like taste buds: no one has the same taste. A downside to different opinions is that some people have very strong opinions and can’t accept yours. These are called movie snobs. These are people who have one set opinion that they force on every person, living or dead. If you encounter a movie snob the best thing to do is nod and smile, it’s not worth the fight.

**3. Your people skills will improve.** While I’ve always been extroverted, my conversational skills (especially with strangers) were lacking. Working in a store where I had to converse with new people constantly not only made me more comfortable in social situations, but it also forced me to improve my people skills. It’s impossible to work somewhere like Chet’s and not be a people person, so if you are I’m happy for you, but if not you will be eventually, so don’t sweat it.

**4. You will have more respect for employees.** I have been guilty of this many times, and I’m sure you have, too. We all remember being in some store – pick Target for example – and putting an unwanted item on a shelf where it didn’t belong. You picked up a tank top but ended up liking the boots better, so you placed the tank top on the shoe shelf thinking some employee would move it later. I cannot stress enough how infuriating this is to the employees of the world. Just yesterday I found *Beauty and the Beast* in the horror section and frequently find movies that should be with the “a’s” but somehow ended up in the “g’s.” See, here at Chet’s Video, we don’t have tracking numbers making it easy to find misplaced movies, we have to go searching. When that little girl comes in looking for *Beauty and the Beast* and someone had the great idea to leave it next to *Poltergeist*, I have to apologize and look like the idiot who can’t find a movie.

**5. You will wish every job is like this.** I can honestly say Chet’s Video and Candy Shoppe has been the dream job all high schoolers wish for, and it has prepared me for every job to come. I know how to handle money, interact with nice and not-so-nice customers, and control my newfound craving for candy. It has become my second home and popcorn has become my favorite food. Leaving Chet’s will be one of the hardest parts about leaving for college, and I hope everyone is able to have a job as amazing as I have.

**Morgan:** The person I became. I’m happy with where I am, academically and socially. My GPA is good, my friends are great, and I made it out of MHS.

**Q: What advice would you give to incoming freshmen?**

**Jackie:** Don’t limit yourself to what you know. Join clubs, join sports and meet new people. Branch out and make friends; you will have more fun and be able to find yourself. Challenge yourself academically and don’t rely on the opinions of others. Having the preset mind that you are going to hate a teacher or hate a class limits your opportunities.

**Morgan:** Freshmen year determines your GPA for your entire high school career and it is not easy to bring up after that. If there is a time to study your hardest, it is in the beginning, so don’t think freshman year doesn’t matter. It will set the tone for the rest of your four years in high school. And with that, be yourself throughout all of your time at MHS because it does fly by quickly and you will never regret the chances you took.

**Four:** Four years I spent learning and evolving in high school. Four years spent becoming the person I am and fighting for my voice, has all come down to the long awaited moment when I walk across the stage, hold my diploma in the air, and graduate. High school has readied me for the next four years of my life, where assumingly I will learn, evolve and change into a person I’ll be more proud of than the one I’ve already become. We all graduate from Marblehead High School leaving behind a small part of ourselves, for the better, and have come out thriving young adults ready to take on the opportunities awaiting us in the next four years.

## Headlight Staff 2014 - 15

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