

Headlight

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

Paige Kelloway
Co-Editor,
Senior

Students of Marblehead High School have accepted Rachel's Challenge.

In two separate assemblies in early October, each grade of the high school watched a presentation led by Luke Towle on Rachel Scott, the first victim in the Columbine High School shootings on April 20, 1999.

Because of her immeasurable acts of kindness and compassionate spirit, Scott's family and friends started the "Rachel's Challenge" foundation. After her tragic death, her family came across her six personal diaries as well as school essays.

Among the many statements she made, Scott wrote, "I have this theory that if one person can go out of their way to show compassion, then it will start a chain reaction of the same...My codes may seem like a fantasy that can never be reached, but test them for yourself." This statement has become the basis of "Rachel's Challenge"

The Rachel's Challenge program, sponsored by Friends of the Marblehead Public Schools and Marblehead Cares and coordinated by Loren Weston, includes a one hour school presentation and a 90 minute training session for both adult and student leaders during the school day, along with a powerful presentation for parents and other community members in the evening. As

stated on their website, their mission statement is "to inspire, equip and empower every person to create a permanent positive culture change in their school, business and community by starting a chain reaction of kindness and compassion."

Scott's powerful impact continued from the school assembly to the training session. Almost one hundred students met and shared a time in which they needed "a Rachel."

Senior Susie Likins, who participated in the session, shared her experience. "People went up to share a time we could have used a Rachel and after that it didn't matter who you were or weren't friends with in that room because we were basically like one big family and it definitely gave me hope for the years to come at Marblehead High School. I knew it was a powerful training when even days after Rachel's Challenge we would see people in the hallways and give each other the biggest hugs because we knew things about them that we would have never known before."

As a senior at Marblehead High School, I was fortunate to attend the Rachel's Challenge assembly. After the presentation, I was inspired and hearing her story made me reflect on my own personal high school years. In just an hour, I learned of such a special, one-of-a-kind person who was wise beyond her years. I immediately

signed the banner, marking my acceptance of Rachel's Challenge. I admire her endless forgiveness, tolerance, and love, and I have made the promise to be more like her. A piece of her writing that struck me from her school essay was "Look hard enough and you will always find a light, and you can even help it grow, if you don't walk away from those three impressions first." I think the most important thing that I have learned in high school, and what I would pass on to those entering or just beginning their high school career, is to put side judgments. I have learned to always seek the light in people before you base your decision on what they look like, who their friends are, or how they dress.

On the back of one of her journals, Scott traced her hand and wrote "These hands belong to Rachel Joy Scott and will some day touch millions of people's hearts." Whether in some way she knew the extent of her impact or if this was just a far away dream, her statement has come true. Her story touched my heart and I know it did the same for the students sitting around me, as well as students across the country who have experienced the same presentation.

I now have her essay hung up on my bedroom door as a constant reminder to be honest, compassionate, and look for the best in every person. I have accepted the challenge. Will you?

Halloween Fever Haunts Marblehead High School

Grace Perry, Headlight Staff, Sophomore
and Matt Lieberson, Editor-in-Chief, Senior

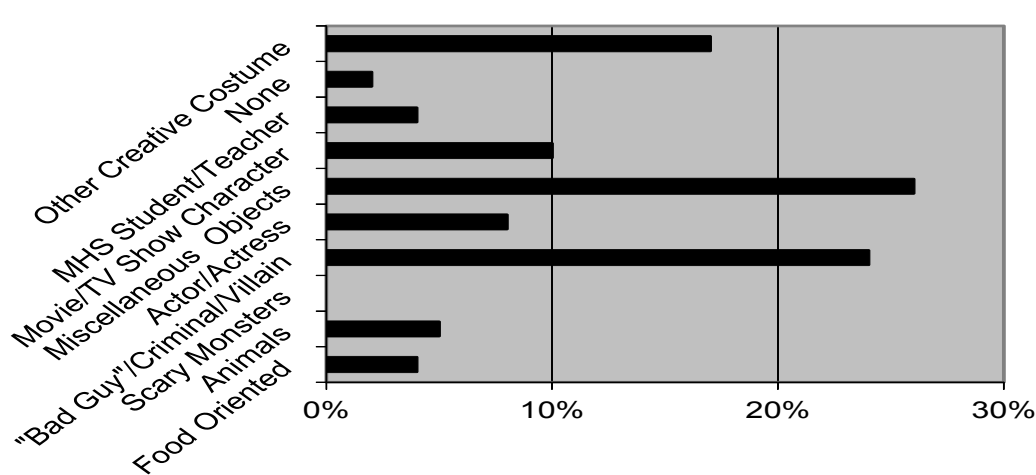
Every year there is always a buzz (not Lightyear) going around the school on who-is-wearing-what for Halloween day. A poll was taken from 50 students throughout all grades, to see what costumes were to be worn on Monday, here is the data collected.

Costumes Worn Throughout MHS on Monday

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Food Oriented: | 4% |
| Animals: | 5% |
| Scary Monsters: | 0% |
| 'A Bad Guy', Villain or Criminal: | 24% |
| Actors/Actresses: | 8% |
| Miscellaneous Objects: | 26% |
| Movie/ TV Characters: | 10% |
| MHS Student / Teacher: | 4% |
| Not Dressing Up: | 2% |
| Other Creative Costume : | 17% |

Perhaps the most anticipated aspect of Halloween at MHS would have to be what theme the English Department would take on. In past years, the English department has been literary characters and Monty Python. This year, they took on the theme of villains. "We're committed!" Mrs. Todd explained. "We're a united department!" Mrs. Todd was a quite convincing Evil Queen from Snow White, while Ms. Jones rocked an orange tracksuit and a whistle to be the Glee villain, Sue Sylvester. When implored about the orange tracksuit, Ms. Jones said "This was \$30 when I saw it, and it was too good to pass up." Luckily, Ms. Jones didn't act as Sue Sylvester might and "make offensive statements to my students all day." Mr. Ryan had to balance allegiances with his department and his wife, an art teacher at MHS. He and his wife dressed up as candy corn, while he took on the evil persona of high fructose corn syrup while in the English wing. Ms. Sholds was fantastic as Darth Vader, but the mask left questions on how she would teach throughout the day. Ms. Feins was the teacher from the Pink Floyd album "The Wall." Mr. Dillon was Scrooge, from "A Christmas Carol," and Ms. Clough was Cruella DeVile. Sadly, Headlight's own Mr. Higgins didn't partake in the fun. "I'm not much of a dresser-upper," Mr. Higgins said with a laugh, "but I love seeing how creative everyone else can get." Like Mr. Higgins said, everybody gets extremely creative during Halloween, and both teachers and students get in the spirit. But on November 1, everybody goes back to their normal selves, and the costume-wearing has to wait for another year.

MHS Halloween Costumes



Survey Shows In Age of Media, Most Feel Out of Touch

Katarina Bishop
Headlight Staff,
Freshman

Every day teenagers are being impacted by different types of social media. The strive to fit in and be accepted is a struggle for most. Everyday people talk about new music, the last gossip, Facebook, and the coolest trends. Even if you could care less about most of these topics you hear other people talking, and it could come up in a conversation.

Social media impacts most teenagers lives in a significant way, who you're friends with, what you talk about, and what you do. Teenager in general are very focused on the latest gossip, the song everyone is talking about, or type of hat or logo everyone

is wearing. Look at the people around you. Everyone has similar outfits. Even the people with their "own" style don't wear something so outrageous because they would feel self conscience, different. Even though social media has its down sides, it's not all that bad. It allows us to be informed on what's happening here and around the world. But is there too much information?

I conducted a survey asking people if they like to be updated with the latest music, gossip, news feed and trends. Twenty eight people participated in this survey. 90% like to be updated with the latest trends, 75% for music, gossip 70%, news feed 60%. Then they were asked if they have ever been left out of a conversation due to these types of social media. 100% said they felt left out because of gossip, 80% for music, 80% for news feed and 30% for trends.

During one of the interviews someone said that they only listen to pop music, kiss 108, because everyone else does. This proves my theory that people only do certain things because others do it, and they want to fit in. Based on these results, social media has a profound influence on all young people, one way or another. The more people pay attention to social media, the more it affects their lives. Kids today are so addicted to Facebook and learning everything that's happening that it can completely distract them. For example, have you ever been doing something and then wanted to check your Facebook quickly, and when you look at the time a half an hour or hour has passed. I'm not saying this is bad, but that Facebook and every other trend has a way of making people fixate and care so much about it. Whether it be to fit in or enjoy it for yourself, we all take part in social media, and depending on how we use it can effect in

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