

Headlight

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

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NHS at MHS

Dan Rosenberg
Editor-in-Chief, Senior

The National Honor Society at Marblehead High School is an important piece of academic life at the high school. But it's much more than that as well. The really great part of the National Honor Society is the service component. In his address to the Society during the Fall Induction, Marblehead High School Principal Layne Milington described the members of NHS as "elite." The members of the society are some of the best and brightest Marblehead High School has to offer, not only intellectually, but in terms of leadership as well. The goal of the society is to involve students in the greater community, as well as the school, and provide opportunities for service and mentoring to a select group of students.

This year, NHS is especially focused upon service to the community, both inside and outside of the high school. This year, there are more members than ever before,

with nearly 25% of the senior class as participants. President Alex Conn, in his address to the congregated members of NHS on October 16th, asserted that this increased membership will allow the society's chapter at MHS to reach even greater heights, as there will be even more members available for tutoring, and various service endeavors within the community. In fact, they have already begun on at least one major service undertaking.

On Sunday, September 15th, dozens of NHS members converged in South Boston, representing Team Suzanne at the Ovarian Cancer Coalitions' walk to raise awareness for Ovarian Cancer. This group of teenagers, along with other members of the Marblehead community, exceeded even the most optimistic of expectations, raising over \$15,000, and becoming the top fundraising team at the walk. Every single National Honor Society member was involved in this effort some way; some woke up early in the morning and walked, or ran, to support Team Suzanne. Others donated their time to sell t-shirts

and collect donations during the school day, raising hundreds of dollars through that route. Still others helped to raise more money at events like back-to-school night, in early October. Suzanne Wedel, for whom Team Suzanne was named, said of the occasion, "It was an honor to walk side by side with so many remarkable teens."

It really is remarkable to see such a large number of students coming together on such a benevolent endeavor. That's the great part about the National Honor Society, it gets many teenagers involved in service opportunities they might never have otherwise had. The word "elite" often has a connotation of rising above; the students of NHS certainly exemplified this idea, and showed that teens can make a huge difference in the world if they just set their minds to it.

The Climate and Sports

Ryan Callori
Reporter, Freshman

The winter sports industry is a huge part of American culture, especially in the Northeast. Generating close to 12.2 billion dollars annually and serving as the livelihood of many, the business of snow is an important one. Rising temperatures and decreased snowfall are beginning to pose a serious threat to both casual skiers and resort workers alike. More and more winters are gathering less and less snowfall, causing an almost 1 billion dollar decline this past decade. Along with this decline, there have been anywhere from 13,000 to 27,000 jobs lost in decreased snow seasons. These concerns are not without attention, though; groups like Protect Our Winters and the National Resources Defense Council have called upon industry leaders to help slash greenhouse gas emissions, the main cause of global warming.

Without action, snow depths in the Western U.S. could in the coming years decrease by at least 25 percent, and temperatures could rise 4-10 degrees by the end of the century. Evidence of these changes is already being seen today, with the 2012 snow sport season being one of the driest in recent history. This resulted in 50 percent of resorts opening after their originally projected date, and 48 percent of resorts closing earlier than expected. The coming warmth affects not only our Northeast, but the entire United States. Here, the average number of days with snow cover is projected to decrease by 50-70 percent with warmer temperatures. In the Cascades and Sierra Nevada mountains, the snowpack may also decrease 40-70 percent, while temperatures in Alaska may rise 8-13 degrees, which would further squash the snowy season.

Across the Southwestern U.S. and Rocky Mountains, ski resorts will be hammered by shortened seasons, decreased snowpack, and lower snow depth. The results of these effects will be immediate and serious. For example, the economic impact of low vs. high snowfall in New Hampshire was measured in the 2011 NSAA (National Ski Areas Association) Economic Analysis report. In a single New Hampshire low-snow year, skier visits were down 17 percent, ski resort revenue was down 54 million dollars, and 658 jobs were lost. Without action, we could soon be witnessing the decline of a vital part of American culture, and a valuable asset to the United States economy.

Source: Climate Impacts on the Winter Tourism Economy in the United States

Hand Me Downs

Meredith Piela
Student Affairs, Junior

I love having an older sister with great style and clothes that are about the same size as mine. Why? Because it means I get hand-me-downs, and LOTS of them. Since my sister is in college, I rarely get the piles of her unwanted clothes (though I admit, I do borrow the clothes she left behind from time to time), but when I do, it's the most exciting thing. After watching her wear certain clothing items that I wish I owned, it's the greatest moment when I see them sitting in a pile outside my room, waiting to be tried on (and usually claimed) by me. Whenever she's home and decides it's time to do a big clothes sort out in her room, I know that it means there will be a large stack of clothes waiting for me to dive into.

As much as I love hand-me-down clothes, I don't feel the same excitement when I receive other hand-me-downs, such as phones or a car.

I'll admit, I have a bad habit of losing and breaking phones. I got my very first cell phone in 6th grade, and since then, I've owned six more phones. Of course, only three of those phones were originally mine. A few years ago, it didn't seem like a big deal to me that I had to use either my mom or my sister's old phone when I lost mine, because they were nicer phones. The last phone I got was in 9th grade, and that lasted until this past February. Since then I've had two replacement phones (both were my

sister's), and my current one (which is a replacement) is a BlackBerry. I know I should appreciate having a working phone, even though it's not the newest or most popular one around. But let's be realistic - I'm a 17 year old who's never had a super fancy phone. Obviously I want an iPhone! Since I know I'll have to wait a little while until I can get one, I'll just appreciate the used one that I have right now, and try not to lose or break it.

Over the summer I obtained my learner's permit, so in at least six months, I'll be able to get my license and drive by myself. When that time comes, instead of buying a new car, I'll be using my sister's car, an older Toyota Highlander, which used to be my mom's. Even though it's a hand-me-down, I'll still be excited when I get to have it as my car. I can't complain. Besides being an automatic that's in good condition, I didn't have to save up my money to buy it. More importantly, I'll be driving around in a car that has stories behind it and memories inside.

These hand-me-downs may seem like ordinary things to other people, but to me, there is sentimental value in all of them. Hand-me-downs are part of who I am, and they will always have special meanings. Pretty soon I'll be driving around in a used car, with a new phone, and a mix of new and old clothes. When this happens, I'll be perfectly content, because that's who I am.

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