

# Headlight



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

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## A Reflection

Drew Faria  
Reporter in the Field, Junior

Omaha- the unofficial most-promising tight end Aaron Hernandez. Vince Wilfork and Jerod Mayo, two key defensive players, have been out for the season due to various injuries. Others like Aqib Talib and Rob Gronkowski have missed portions of the season for injuries, too. These players left big shoes to fill for the inexperienced rookies. Jamie Collins and Aaron Dobson stood out as filling these shoes the best. With all of these setbacks, it shocks me that they earned a spot in the playoffs, let alone the AFC Championship. The question now: what will New England have in store for next season? I believe that the Patriots will still be a strong opponent to be reckoned with come next fall. With all of the old faces back in good health (maybe even Gronk), the lineup will look much sharper. Julian Edelman and LeGarrette Blount will certainly be offered big contracts after their performances this year. Of course, Tom Ter-rific is here to stay as well. The newcomers and reserve players from this year will get more time to apply their new skills in the offseason as well. The media dramatized this championship game by saying that it was the last time in a while that the Patriots or the Broncos would earn such high playoff spots due to their senior quarterbacks. The Patriots still have quite a lot of young talent in them that will keep them up with the top competitors for quite a bit. He may never show it, but Bill Belichick is likely smiling in his sleep.

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## In Support of the Arts

Alex Kerai  
Webmaster, Junior

On January 23, a unanimous vote by the school committee led to the diminishing of one of the most successful programs at Marblehead High School. The Arts program at the high school has garnered numerous awards for its visual and performing arts; in addition, many distinguished alumni have gone on to study art at the collegiate level. Just last weekend, the Marblehead High School a cappella groups swept all four special awards at N.E. Voices, and Luminescence was one of the top three groups at the competition. Although Principal Layne Millington said that he “sees the changes as a way to increase the choices for students... bound for MIT or pre-med programs who are doubling up on science classes in high school,” what about the students who would not otherwise find the arts? If MHS forces students to take four years of science and four years of math (as was just approved), along with the standards already in place for four years of English and four years of social studies, how will they be able to find the time to take an arts class and discover something that they may love?

One school committee member, among others, said at the meeting that increasing the graduation requirement from three to four years for both math and science brings Marblehead in accord with the state standards. But not all of the state standards. The Massachusetts Arts Curriculum Framework applies to the study of dance, music, theatre and the visual arts, and, according to the Framework, in those arts “people express ideas and emotions that they cannot express

in language alone.” Therefore, MHS should not be requiring students to study mainly concrete principles. “The arts are what make us human and are worth being studied in their right,” Ms. Amanda Roeder, the choral teacher and Department Head at Marblehead High School, observed to me. Even Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, in a piece entitled Reinvesting in Arts Education, agreed: “Education in the arts is more important than ever. In the global economy, creativity is essential. Today’s workers need more than just skills and knowledge to be productive and innovative participants in the workforce.” In the arts, students have the power to determine the outcome of anything they are working on – be it a piece of visual or performing art – and those decisions result in a tangible product that prepares students for the decisions they will have to make in the job force that cannot be solved by an equation or proven principle.

As one student noted to me, students should not be forced to take two years of art classes when they would prefer to take an extra science course. But by flipping the requirements, isn’t that exactly what the school committee is doing to the arts students by forcing them to take four years of science classes when they want to take extra art courses? Massachusetts Core Standards do require four years of mathematics and only one year of an arts program, but they also only require three years of lab-based science. The Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Framework only specifies five high school introductory courses, all of which were previously taught under the requirements that were in place up until this vote. One of the courses is Technology/En-

gineering, which was covered under the business/computer/technology requirement at the high school ... which was just removed. So why add an extra year of science, while cutting the business/technology requirement, when it was possible to meet state requirements with three years of science and one year of business/technology?

Although Principal Millington and Superintendent Maryann Perry said there will not be a reduction in the arts budget or its teachers, Ms. Pascale Queval, an art studio teacher and Department Head, noted that “rising inflation coupled with the same budget each year makes it difficult to operate on a consistent level without cutting teaching positions or classes.” In 1999, Secretary of Education Richard Riley wrote, “If young Americans are to succeed, they will need an education that develops imaginative, flexible and tough-minded thinking. The arts powerfully nurture the ability to think in this manner.” Yet in the last fifteen years, we have not been adding arts programs, as we should be, but instead cutting programs that once flourished. We need to reinvest in arts education and realize the potential of the arts. An arts education teaches students to “problem solve, collaborate, and develop multiple perspectives when looking at a problem, skills that will be helpful to 21st century workers,” Ms. Roeder noted. The arts are an integral part of a student’s academic experience and their funding should not be challenged; rather, legislators should unanimously approve funding because the arts, as written in the Massachusetts Frameworks, allow students “to understand the range and depth of the human imagination.”

## Beatles' Legacy

Meredith Piela  
News Coordinator, Junior

It’s amazing to think that fifty years ago, the popular band of four boys from Liverpool, known as The Beatles, made their famous appearance in America, starting “The British Invasion.” The Beatles were admired and successful in England at the time, and people knew they would be a hit in the U.S., but no one knew how big of a hit they would be. February 7th, 1964, was the day the Beatles arrived in New York City, but February 9th was the day they performed on “The Ed Sullivan Show.” Their memorable performance of “I Wanna Hold Your Hand” was watched by about 73 million viewers (about 34% of the American population),

and according to biographer Jonathan Gould, it was “the largest audience that had ever been recorded for an American television program.” Fifty years later, it is incredible how the music of the Beatles is still appreciated and considered better than that of a lot of bands today. I can’t explain why I love the Beatles, or why their music is so great; maybe it’s their sound, harmonies, etc. All I know is that for me, and many others, it’s hard not to smile when hearing “Here Comes the Sun,” “Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band,” and of course, “I Wanna Hold Your Hand.” This year at the Grammys, the two surviving Beatles members, Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr performed a terrific rendition of Macca’s “Queenie Eye.” Their performance lacked the wild-

ness that the Beatles’ performances had back in the day, but it was still energetic and sounded wonderful. Although I was not alive when the Beatles were around, I have listened and thoroughly loved the Beatles’ music for the past ten years or so. To say that I am a Beatles fan is a bit of an understatement. I own (actually, my family owns) many Beatles’ albums, and on a family vacation to London nine years ago, my sister and I tried to re-create the famous Abbey Road crosswalk picture and happened to see George Martin, the Beatles’ producer, drive by Abbey Road Studios. Although my favorite bands are constantly changing, there is one band that will forever be my absolute favorite: the one with the four boys from Liverpool, simply known as The Beatles.

## How the 56th Grammy Awards Should Have Gone

Liam Reilly  
Entertainment Editor, Junior

Two weeks ago we saw the 56th annual Grammy Awards come and go at the filled-to-capacity Staples Center in Los Angeles. As is the case with every Grammy Awards, there were winners, losers, snubs, and heavyweights in each category. Here are some of the major categories and winners from Sunday night.

### Best New Artist

**Who won:** Macklemore & Ryan Lewis  
**Who should have won:** Kacey Musgraves

Clearly the Academy has a looser definition of the term “new” than I do. Four of the five nominees in this category released their first album in 2011 or earlier (Kendrick Lamar, Macklemore & Ryan Lewis, James Blake, and

Ed Sheeran). Thus, being the only nominee who actually was new to the music scene in 2013, Kacey Musgraves is the clear choice for the best new artist. She isn’t a bad musician either. Although I am not one for prolonged listening to the country music genre, Musgraves’ performance of her song “Follow Your Arrow” seemed refined and powerful.

### Best Rap Album

**Who won:** Macklemore & Ryan Lewis, The Heist  
**Who should have won:** Kendrick Lamar, good kid, M.A.A.D. city

In a category full of worthy albums, Kendrick Lamar’s latest release stands out as superior. Fairly early into his career, Kendrick can already tell stories in his songs in a way that most other rappers simply can’t. Lyrics paired with sound bites

at the end of each song narrate the real struggles faced by Kendrick and many others growing up in a crime-ridden city. My second choice for album of the year.

### Best Electronic Album

**Who won:** Daft Punk, Random Access Memories  
**Who should have won:** Disclosure, Settle

There is no doubt that Daft Punk went home with a myriad of hardware, so wouldn’t it be nice to share the love with some other acts? If we pretend for a moment that Daft Punk were not in the running in this category, the next best electronic album comes from the British brothers and duo Guy and Howard Lawrence, otherwise known as Disclosure. The songs on Settle are catchy, sleek and sophisticated. If you haven’t heard the album, check out “Latch” and “Help Me Lose My Mind.”

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