

# Headlight



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

2016-2017 Issue

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## Senior Show: A Success

Becky Twaalfhoven, Senior  
Editor-in-Chief

Senior Show was one of the few highlights in an otherwise stressful week of school last week. The show took place on Wednesday and Thursday night, and each night followed the same pattern. The show began with a video, directed by Olivia Rietti, which featured Mr. Bauer, hosts Katie Picariello and Stephen Girard, and various students and teachers who took part in the plot to discover who had hacked Mr. Bauer's Twitter account. I won't spoil the ending, but the video, which can be found on YouTube, touched upon some of the most widely known facts about certain students and teachers that were relatable to all students, senior and otherwise. The hosts then introduced the show with some opening jokes before handing off the mics to the acts, which included bands, solo musicians, a rap battle, and a big game of Kahoot (a popular mobile quiz game), among others. Between every act, the hosts took the stage and told the customary "good-natured" jokes about our senior class and the school in general.

Having never attended a senior show, I was pleasantly surprised. Some of the musical acts were nearly professional in sound and appearance, and the audience was vocal and supportive of each brave student who took the stage. The opening video was very well put together, with some surprisingly good acting and a satisfying resolution. For me, the highlight of the show was the hosts, Stephen and Katie, both of whom are naturally comedic and expressive; their delivery and reactions were spot-on, and added a level of humor to what could have been some seriously insulting jokes. One inherent problem with Senior Show is that it is a school event, and therefore every aspect had to be approved by the administration and staff, as well as every person who was mentioned in the show. Some students believe this lessens the humor of the event, because many of the notorious occurrences within the senior class are not mentionable in school. However, these restrictions are not only necessary to ensure appropriateness, but are also not as strict as many seniors believe. I was personally amazed at the leeway given in the approval process, as some of the jokes which made it into the show were suggestive and borderline rude. That said, I enjoyed the show and congratulate Senior Show organizers Jake Abrams, Kyra Veprek, and Margaret Ross on a job well done in organizing the Senior Show, which brought laughter and camaraderie to MHS.

## Composting at MHS

Emma Szalewicz, Junior  
Reporter in the Field

The high school now has a composting program that is sponsored by the Marblehead Board of Health and the Marblehead High School Environmental Club. The composting program started at the beginning of February, and it will hopefully continue indefinitely. New this year to the school is the MHS Environmental Club. Since September, the club has aimed to establish a composting program in the school. Not only does composting help the environment, but it also helps the school save money by reducing the amount of waste that the school has to throw away in a landfill. Furthermore, composting helps students become aware of the amount of food they are taking versus how much food they are actually eating.

There are compost bins located in the cafeteria during all three lunches, and there are also bins in all of the teachers' lunch/prep rooms. Environmental Club members bring the bins out for each lunch, and empty the bins in the teachers' rooms after school.

All of the compost collected by the school is picked up during the week by Black Earth Compost. Black Earth is a composting company based in Gloucester, MA that specializes in residential and commercial compost pick-up. Once the food waste is decomposed, the school also has the opportunity of getting compost back. This nutrient-rich compost could help to bring life back to the school's gardens.

Black Earth Compost can compost most food and plant based products including:

- Dairy products (yogurt, cheese, etc.)
- Meats and bones
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Tea and tea bags
- Seafood and shells
- All fruits and vegetables
- Grains
- Paper napkins and towels
- Anything designed to be compostable

Black Earth cannot compost:

- Waxed cardboard
- Milk cartons
- Paper cups
- Plastic bottles, plates or cups
- Wrappers or straws
- Styrofoam trays
- Yard clippings

Please help to spread the word about Marblehead High School's composting program so it can be as successful and beneficial as possible!

## The Dining Room

Kathleen Alexandrou, Junior  
Reporter in the Field

If you were at the high school later than 4 p.m. during the past few weeks, you may have noticed a full dining room set and some aggressively large plants floating around the first floor. No, those weren't hallucinations - just the extravagant set pieces from MHS's most recent show, *The Dining Room*.

*The Dining Room* was Marblehead's entry into the Massachusetts Educational Theatre Guild's Drama Festival (commonly referred to as Drama Fest). What is Drama Fest, you might ask? Put simply, Drama Fest is competitive theatre, almost like a sport. The competition works in the same way that most sports competitions work: there are different levels of competition, with winners and losers, spectators and judges. For example, runners might compete in a local track meet. If they perform well, they might move up to a statewide meet. From there, they could go to a regional meet. Drama Fest is similar in that each "team" (school) performs its play hoping to move on to the next level. Schools around the state host Drama Fest, putting innumerable hours of work into ensuring the festival runs smoothly. In the preliminary round, eight performances are put on at each host school; three of these are then selected to move on to the semi-final round. Two schools of six are chosen from the semi-final round to move on to finals. Lastly, there are three winners in the final round. At all rounds, each performance must be under forty minutes long, and the set for each production must be put up and taken down in under five minutes.

The first (and, sadly for MHS, the last) round of Drama Fest took place the first Saturday of March, at Acton-Boxborough Regional High School. Marblehead's show was the first of the day, at 9 a.m. *The Dining Room*, directed by Henry Dembowski, is a period piece providing a look inside the lives of WASPs (White Anglo-Saxon Protestants) living in the 1950s. The show is comprised of a series of unrelated scenes taking place throughout the day in a dining room; the first scene takes place at breakfast and the last at dinner. Most members of the cast had to play multiple different characters, some even aging decades between scenes. The show covers things from a simple dinner party, to an old man planning his funeral, to a woman coming out to her father, and everything in between. A timeless classic and a wonderful show, *The Dining Room* was first produced by MHS in 1985, under the direction of Dembowski then as well, and won Drama Fest that year. Although MHS did not come out of the preliminary round this year, three acting awards were presented to Olivia Gentes, Ilana DeAngelo, and Stephen Girard for their respective roles. Niamh Sullivan and Tomas Hancock were presented by ABRHS's stage manager with Stage Manager's Choice awards as well.

*Despite a very strong performance by MHS at ABRHS on March 4th, The Dining Room faced serious competition at Drama Fest.*

Regarding our competitors, most of their shows dealt with something incredibly controversial, be it racism, mental disorders, or even just the challenges of human emotion. Because each production had something unique that gave it that extra "wow" factor, at almost every closing, shows received a standing ovation. However, theatre kids are generally less competitive than students you might find at other competitions. For many, Drama Fest represents a day of seeing good theatre, meeting people with similar interests, and most importantly, discovering new techniques and ideas to try in their next show.

MHS's next show is *Romeo & Juliet*, directed by Ronnie Mack Rosen. We are lucky to begin the rehearsal process directly after concluding Drama Fest, so all of the wonderful theatre we saw is fresh in our minds. As part of the creative team, I can tell you right now that this show - set in NYC during the 1920s - will be an interesting take on the Shakespearean classic. Make sure to mark your calendars for May.

## Upcoming Events

### Mark Your Calendar for:

#### Sunday, March 19:

Together in Harmony Concert (2:00-4:00 PM, Salem High School)

#### Tuesday-Thursday, March 21-23:

MCAS testing at MHS (delayed start: 11:00 AM)

#### Thursday, March 23:

School Committee Meeting (7:00-10:00 PM, Coffin School)

#### Friday, March 24:

Junior Class Auction (6:30 PM-9:30 PM, Salem Waterfront Hotel)

#### Tuesday, March 28:

All Strings Concert (7:00 PM-9:00 PM, MVMS-PAC)

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## 2016-2017

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