

Headlight



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

2016-2017 Issue

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MHS Dodgeball Tournament Is A Success

Jacob Keller, Senior
Reporter in the Field

This past Thursday, the Jefferson Forum club, a community service club at Marblehead High School, hosted a dodgeball tournament to raise money for the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Salem. I interviewed Dan Doherty, a high school junior who is co-president of Jefferson Forum; Dan Bauer, the Principal of Marblehead High School who was on one of the dodgeball teams; and Anita Lamby, faculty advisor for Jefferson Forum, to get an idea of their perspectives on the event and its organization.

Interview with Dan Doherty

What was it like organizing a dodgeball tournament for the first time?

"It was pretty difficult to figure out all of the logistics, but with good communication and a bunch of good help from the rest of Jefferson Forum, it made it easy."

What was it like during the event as the games were going on?

"It was a lot of fun. It was pretty hectic and I had a lot of people shouting my name while I was trying to figure things out, but, we were able to work everything out and it ran pretty smoothly."

Overall, how do you think it went?

"I think it was a very successful tournament. We got 12 teams to sign up and we did pretty well with the amount of spectators that came. We also sold concessions this year which went well. All in all, I think it was a success."

What were the different teams like?

"There was the largest number of senior teams, followed by junior, sophomore, and freshman. It was great to see a lot of involvement from the entire school."

Interview with Principal Bauer

How did you play in the game?

"I was asked to be on a team, and I was shocked that I was invited to play on a team. I'm not sure why anybody would want the old guy to play, but I was honored and I knew it was going to be fun and there was great school spirit. Getting out there made me realize how old I am and how young and athletic they are. But it was a lot of fun seeing the school spirit; that was cool. There were a lot of kids who came out and watched the teams participate. It was really fun and it was a good day for Marblehead High School."

Were there dodgeball tournaments in Beverly?

"They had a volleyball tournament, but they never had dodgeball, I'm not sure why. I think the dodgeball was a lot of fun, but it made me realize that I was out of my league. I think they took pity on the old guy."

Interview with Anita Lamby

How much money did the tournament make this year? Was it successful?

"Yes, it was very successful. In the end, after covering our expenses, we ended up making enough money to donate \$500 to the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Salem."

What was it like last year?

"We had about the same amount of teams last year. We had 13 last year and 12 this year."

How many times has Jefferson Forum run dodgeball tournaments?

"This is our fourth year. After this year we will have donated \$2500 to the Boys and Girls Club. We're very proud of that, and they actually recognized us this year for our dedication to the organization. We will absolutely do it next year."

What was organizing this event like?

"I felt like Jefferson Forum really came together as a team. I think everybody worked as much as they could, and if we didn't do it as a team, our dodgeball tournaments couldn't exist. It was really all hands on deck as far as the officers of the club. As for faculty members who volunteered as referees, I can't thank them enough. We had 6 this year, which is more than the 4 we've usually had. I'm very thankful for them."

Anything else you'd like to add?

"It's a lot of work, but it's well worth it in the end. We all had a good time."

Congratulations to "The Pods" for their win!

Important News For Seniors: Scholarship Deadline!

The application deadline for Marblehead Dollars for Scholars is Saturday, April 1. Seniors who demonstrate financial need are encouraged to apply for a scholarship by visiting the following website and creating their on-line profile: www.marblehead.dollarsforscholars.org

Questions can be directed to the High School Awards Committee Chair Patricia Rockett at 781-258-6184 or prockett@comcast.net.

Weathering the Storm

Becky Twaalfhoven, Senior
Editor-in-Chief

When brainstorming article topics, I decided that one topic in particular is especially timely and relevant to Marblehead High School seniors at this moment: college admissions. A flurry of admissions decisions beginning last week has developed into a full-blown snowstorm, with many colleges sending thousands of letters – all electronic now – to students across the country, all of whom hope to some variant of those fateful first words: "I am pleased to offer you admission..." As all New Englanders know, however, the glittering wonderland of a snowstorm inevitably brings a muddy aftermath, and the mess of this past winter pales in comparison to the certain drama that will unfold in the coming months. Already, our grade has experienced its fair share of confusion and resentment over certain decisions in the early applications; certain notorious college aspirations were dashed. Competitions between students reached peak intensity as the results named winners and losers, and even friendships were tested in this ultimate battle for success.

Unfortunately, December was just the tip of the iceberg. The majority of regular decisions arrive at the end of March, including spots at the coveted Ivy League schools; already, my classmates have expressed emotions ranging from nervousness to dread at the thought of these seemingly life-altering results. There is a prevailing attitude at our school that where you go is a reflection of your intelligence or potential for success, in which case these next few weeks could make or break your entire future. Needless to say, it's a little stressful. The reactions I have seen from my peers, however, makes me wonder: is this true? Is admission to a "competitive" and "accredited" college really the deciding factor in your future? Can you be successful without a degree from an elite school? To cope with my fears and find out the answers to my questions, I searched the following: "How to survive the college admissions drama."

The search results were all the same. In March of 2015, The New York Times published an article titled, "How to Survive the College Admissions Madness." Since then, the article has been circulated on blogs, other news sites, and college forums for both parents and students. The article, written by columnist Frank Bruni, begins with the stories of two high school students who took different college paths and ended up at the same coveted job for a consulting firm. Bruni also touches on another student who "had everything" for an elite school, but got rejected; after attending her "safety," she ended up with Teach for America before opening up her own charter school. One interesting inclusion within the article was the list of alma maters for the chief executives of the top ten Fortune 500 corporations, which included Auburn, Texas A&M, University of Kansas, and University of Nebraska. Bruni ends with an excerpt from a letter that two parents wrote to their son to read at the time of his admissions decisions, which reminded him that his accomplishments and worth as a person did not depend on those few results.

Since my first time reading the article a few months ago, I have quoted it countless times to friends, peers, and even to myself, as a constant reminder of the truth. It is arguably absurd to let your self-esteem ride on an email from someone who knows nothing about you, the result of which is based mostly on numbers and statistics that you have little control over. If you surround yourself with a good support system and can motivate yourself to do the work that you are passionate about, the buildings you do homework in are somewhat irrelevant. I urge all seniors who are in my position to consider this: if you knew you could achieve your goals through any of the paths available to you, would you be so intent on attending that one elite "dream school"? If the answer is yes, I wish you the best of luck and sincerely hope that the result is in your favor. If the answer is no, take a deep breath and remember that whatever happens, you will be okay.



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