

# Headlight



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

2016-2017 Issue

www.mhsheadlight.weebly.com

May 18, 2017

## A Brief History of Mother's Day in the U.S.

Kristy Twaalfhoven, Sophomore  
Reporter in the Field

Mother's Day is the second Sunday of every May, in the midst of Spring. Though it sounds like a straightforward, simple holiday, Mother's Day has surprisingly complex roots.

In the United States, mother Ann Reeves Jarvis of West Virginia started "Mother's Day Work Clubs" in the 19th century. These were clubs to teach local women how to best care for their children. Ann Jarvis then organized a "Mother's Friendship Day," when mothers gathered with former Union and Confederate soldiers in an attempt to unify the post-Civil War country. Another Mother's Day forerunner was Julia Ward Howe, who wrote the "Mother's Day Proclamation" in the late 19th century; she later campaigned for a "Mother's Peace Day" calling for mothers to take action in promoting world peace.

After Ann Reeves Jarvis died, her daughter Anna designed a Mother's Day aimed at honoring the sacrifices mothers make for their children and promoting female achievements. She organized the first Mother's Day celebration at a church in West Virginia. Many states and cities followed her example, adopting Mother's Day as an annual holiday. Finally, in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed off to officially establish the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

Anna Jarvis objected to the commercialization of Mother's Day. She had designed it to be a day of personal celebration for mothers and families, and she disliked that industries used it as a source of profit. Anna campaigned against the commercialization of Mother's Day, and ironically, she eventually sought to have it removed from the American calendar. However, her campaign failed, and the modern Mother's Day was born.

## Vaping at MHS

Izzie Castineyra, Sophomore  
Reporter in the Field

For her senior project, senior Jenny Norcross is working with Wellness Teacher Kylyn McKinley. She recently conducted a survey as part of a weekly lesson on vaping, a newly popular trend at MHS. I interviewed her to find out more about the subject and the results of her survey.

**What is vaping, and what are the medical problems (if any) associated with usage?**

Vapes are technically electronic cigarettes intended to wean someone off of real cigarettes. There are many chemicals in vapes which have been linked to cancer and can spark nicotine addiction in kids that would never have smoked cigarettes.

**Why did you decide to conduct this survey as part of your senior project?**

The survey was a small part of one weekly lesson I was doing. I thought it would be interesting to see how many kids were actively vaping in MHS, as it has recently become so popular.

**What questions did people have to answer on the survey?**

1. Have you ever vaped?
2. Do you own a vape?
3. Have you ever vaped in school?
4. Are you concerned about the health effects of vaping?
5. Have you ever smoked another nicotine product?

**How many people took the survey, and what were the results?**

Around 200 kids took the survey. About 80% of kids admitted that they have vaped. Around 40% said they have in school, and only around 10% were concerned about the health effects.

**Why do you think the results turned out as they did?**

I think that vaping has become a sort of taboo trend and kids are simply doing it to be cool.

**What do you personally think the appeal is in vaping for high school students?**

First off, kids think they look cooler for doing it and have no regard for any health problems. Some people say it gets you "buzzed" and relaxes you. It's also easily accessible and easy to hide.



A typical vape pen, which can be supplied with flavors ranging from cotton candy and glazed donut to rootbeer and pizza.

## Romeo and Juliet: A Job Well Done

Jacob Keller, Senior  
Reporter in the Field

This past weekend, Marblehead High School senior Ronnie MackRosen directed the MHS production of *Romeo and Juliet* for his senior project. I interviewed him to get an idea of what his experience directing the play was like.

**Have you acted in many of the school's productions?**

I've been in all four musicals, two Dramafest productions, and one Shakespeare play at Marblehead High School.

**What is it like being a director instead of an actor?**

Being a director is both similar to being an actor and also drastically different. It's all the same things that you'd have to do as an actor, like knowing where you have to stand and move to and what to say. But you have to trust that the actor will follow your directions instead of you just doing it. And in this case it's me trusting nineteen people to follow my direction."

**Has being a director been what you expected?**

It's about what I expected, if not a bit harder. It was not as easy to get my ideas across to my actors as I wanted, but I managed to get it done.

**What has being a director taught you?**

Being a director has taught me to stick to my instinct and focus on what I really want, rather than having someone else put a doubt in my mind.

**Does being a director change your perspective on acting?**

Directing has definitely made me see acting in a different light. I now know how important it is for the director to trust the actor and vice versa; the trust has to go both ways for the show to be successful.

**Do you think acting in prior productions has helped you direct?**

I knew which directors worked best for me and what their styles were, so I could take that experience and use it on my actors. I think it worked pretty well."

**Do you think a student director is very different than a theatre teacher or someone else directing?**

Being a student director made me more willing to listen to my crew. I have a fully student crew and a student set designer. I know they know what they're doing. I think some other directors try to completely control every aspect of the show, but for me there are some things I just don't know enough about to make a decision on. For example, I don't know about lighting or set design, but I do have a few ideas, so I let my lighting designer Kathleen Alexandrou and my set designer Niamh Sullivan do what they wanted with my ideas and I think it turned out great.

**How did you decide your creative direction?**

I set the play around 1920 when Prohibition started because I imagined Lord Montague and Lord Capulet as mob bosses. Also, we already had a bar counter prop, so those two things together established my direction.

**What was it like giving orders to your friends?**

That was a big issue. I think it was hard sometimes for some of the actors to separate me talking as a friend and me talking as a director. I would tell them something and they would have a different idea, or they had something they were super passionate about and I would say no and they would get mad and fight me on it. But we would always get to a good place with it in the end.

**What was it like figuring out logistics for the production?**

I had so much help with this show from outside sources. Tom Saltsman worked with Niamh to build the set; Janet Neely came in and helped with acting; Greg Dana always made dealing with technology so easy. I also owe a lot to my incredible crew, my assistant director Meredith Fein, and my own parents, who came in on the last night to sell tickets. Everyone made sure that things got done and got done well.

**Would you have done anything differently now that you are wrapping up *Romeo and Juliet*?**

I would have been a bit more relaxed and stuck to my guns more.

**Would you suggest that a junior do this for his or her senior project when the time comes?**

I would, but they should know that it is exhausting. I haven't just been working on this for three weeks, this all started in November or December. Also, they should just let the crew do what they're going to do. Give them an idea and answer questions they have, but in the end trust your crew.

Congratulations to Ronnie, as well as the cast and crew of *Romeo and Juliet*, for a successful show!



Headlight Staff

2016-2017

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF: Amber Born, Jack Krivit, Becky Twaalfhoven

REPORTERS IN THE FIELD: Kathleen Alexandrou, Izzie Castineyra, Jacob Keller, Alix Livermore, Kate Lothrop, Emma Szalewicz, Lilly Tapper, Kristy Twaalfhoven

ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR: Maeve Reilly POLITICAL REPORTER: Sophie Mae Berman

FACULTY ADVISOR: Thomas Higgins