

Headlight



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

www.mhsheadlight.weebly.com

A Shocking Discovery

Morgan Hardwick
Student Affairs, Junior

A wave of anxiety rushed through Marblehead High School on November 1st; only a day after the newly hired physics teacher was arraigned for serious charges filed against him in Rhode Island. "I never thought something like this would happen," shared Danielle Finestone about her former physics teacher. "He was always so kind." With a police investigation under way and news reporters just off school grounds, students were worried that their education was being put on the back burner. Although MHS administration assured them that they were searching for an experienced substitute as quickly as possible, students still feared they would be teacher-less while finishing off the last week of the quarter. "A week is a long-time in the school world. You learn a lot, and you miss a lot," Danielle said about the absence of her teacher. Other students nodded along in agreement. Students decided to take their education into their own hands, tossing around ideas for solutions to the loss of their teacher. Some agreed that having after school or weekend sessions with an already present physics teacher would help keep their education flowing. Others

thought that splitting up and placing the students into new physics classes would work as well, although scheduling conflicts would most likely occur. Luckily, in the last few days of the quarter, MHS was able to find a qualified physics teacher. It is hoped that this staff person will be a permanent replacement and new addition to the school. Even with a new teacher before them, students still worry about their education at hand. "I'm nervous that my physics class is falling behind," Danielle voiced about the situation. Other students, along with Danielle, expressed their stress over midterms and finals, and worry their lack of knowledge in certain areas will show through. The administration, however, is confident that with the new physics teacher in place these classes will be up to speed with the others before midterms even approach. Along with any instance of loss, comes a time of readjustment, and the situation here is no exception. I hope that the affected physics students will have a quick time of adjustment, and that they will fall back into their daily school habits with ease.

Headlight Kingdom

Alex Kerai, Webmaster
Liam Reilly, Entertainment Editor
Juniors

The following is a poem created by Alex Kerai and Liam Reilly. This is PART ONE of the poem.

A deep dark night surrounds a full moon
As the Bard begins his tale.
A man and his horse wander along a path
In the light of the moon so pale.

Never before was a man so born
As brave and valiant as he,
Sir Thomas Higgins, our glorious hero,
Arrives upon a kingdom by the sea.

On a sturdy steed he rode, as
The faint noise of hollow coconuts
Rings across the road.

MHS Powderpuff Game This Saturday

Meredith Piela
News Coordinator, Junior

Every year, the Marblehead High School senior girls take on their Swampscott High School counterparts in the Powderpuff game. If you don't already know, Powderpuff is girls' flag football. The annual game is held before Thanksgiving, and it alternates between Marblehead and Swampscott. This year's game will take place in Swampscott, at Blocksidge field this Saturday, November 23rd. For years, I've looked forward to running around dressed in Marblehead colors and cheering for my senior friends playing Powderpuff, and in two weeks, I will finally get to do that. Obviously I'm excited for next year when I actually get to play, but I can't wait to take part in the junior girls' festivities. In the past several years, the junior girls would run around in their class sweatpants and matching sports bras and paint the letters of

the Powderpuff cheer on their stomachs. This year, the sports bras are being replaced with tank tops. I and several other junior girls designed the tank tops that we will be wearing at the game. Although it's difficult moving on from the old ways, it's time to accept change and come up with something new. It will also be great to show off the new tank tops! If the weather is nice on the day of the game, no one will have to sit or run around in the bitter cold. In order to find out more about the excitement of Powderpuff for both a junior and a senior girl, I asked one of our editors-in-chief, Grace Perry, a couple of questions. When asked what she's looking forward to most for this year's game, Grace responded, "I'm looking forward to the spirit. I already can feel the great energy of our class and I am so excited for it all to increase and come together during the game. I'm looking forward to winning and playing, too, even if it's for a minute." I also asked Grace what her favorite part of cheering as a junior

was last year, since that's what I'll be doing this year. She said, "My favorite part was seeing the initial unity that our class had. I also led about thirty girls onto the field to celebrate the win of the seniors. It was insane! Total rush!" I hope my experience is as exciting, and I hope the seniors have a great game. The Powderpuff football game is always exciting, and it is a great tradition that Marblehead and Swampscott carry. I can't wait to see the junior girls come together and cheer on our senior girls, since we will be in their position next year. If you're interested, you should definitely come and watch our Magicians take on the Big Blue! When you're there, be sure to cheer on our Headlight senior girls, Maddy van Dussen, Caroline Hooper, Shanna Smith, and Grace Perry. Also, our other co-editor in chief, Dan Rosenberg, is one of the coaches on the team. Hope to see all of you readers at the game!

A Turning Point

Sarah Oliver
Editor's Assistant, Sophomore

For the first time, scientists have discovered a chemical that prevents brain tissue death in the neurodegenerative disease, Prion disease, which is similar to Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and Huntington's disease. Roger Morris, a professor at King's College in London, stated: "This finding, I suspect, will be judged by history as a turning point in the search for medicines to control and prevent Al-

zheimer's disease." Science Translational Medicine published the study, in which mice with Prion disease were treated with the chemical. Without treatment, the mice would die within 12 weeks. With the treatment, not only did the mice survive, but also they "were absolutely fine," according to Professor Giovanna Mallucci, the lead researcher. Although side effects include diabetes and weight loss, this breakthrough marks the starting point for preventative drug therapy. Most neurodegen-

erative disease research focuses on misfolded proteins specific to a disease (the alpha-synuclein protein for Parkinson's, amyloid and tau for Alzheimer's, and the Huntington protein for Huntington's disease) that cause the body to respond in ways that harm itself. This "breakthrough" chemical targets the cells' response to the misshapen proteins, giving it potential to combat a wide range of neurodegenerative diseases. A very close relative, my grandmother, was recently diagnosed

with Alzheimer's. This is incredibly hard on my family since we're beginning to see the effects of the disease on my bright, kind, and affectionate grandmother. Although a preventative drug is probably too far away to benefit my grandmother, any progress towards an Alzheimer's cure means a lot to me. Even still, the potential drug gives me hope my family and I will not have to suffer if we were to inherit the disease.

The brave knight wore armor of the
Finest quality, beneath a cardigan of cotton,
With a flag of victory in his hand
Of a quest that is not forgotten.

'Twas a fortnight before the present day
When Sir Higgins had proved victorious
In the face of a grizzly fray,
Against the kingdom of Contours.

Oh, that solemn day, when the kingdom
Of Contours laid siege. Laid to waste
And laid to rest the brave that
Sir Higgins did lead. While many
Had perished the kingdom did not,
But cause this journey it did.
As the valiant knight without those
To lead, sought out new friends to his plight.
A shadow upon Sir Higgins did grow
As the gate of this kingdom unknown

Approached. Reaching the gate, a hard but
Tentative knock was given on the gate by
The knight, as to not surprise his unknown host.

"Who goes there?," came a voice from over the wall,
A reply to the knock given by the knight. "tis I,
Sir Higgins, I come not to harm," a response
Heard in the night. Considered sufficient
An introduction, the gate was opened. Through
The opening our brave knight came. On the
Other side to greet him, the light of a
Single flame. "What kingdom is this?"
The brave knight asked, "I need lodging and
Food for the night." Replied the gatekeeper,
"Welcome to the kingdom of Headlight."

PART TWO of this poem will be featured in Headlight's next issue on Thursday, November 28th.

Headlight Staff 2013-14

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