



## Letter from the Editor: Looking Ahead

Miranda Connolly, Junior  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear *Headlight* readers,

My name is Miranda Connolly and I have been selected as next year's Editor-in-Chief. I wanted to take a moment to talk about some of the plans I have for next year. Our current Editor-in-Chief, Sophie Hauck, did an amazing job bringing everyone together and having lots of members participate this year. It is one of my goals for next year to follow in Sophie's footsteps and keep *Headlight* as a fun club, where people can write about a wide range of topics. Next year, there will also be many more writing competitions that all *Headlight* members and students will be welcome to join. Each competition will have its own theme that will somewhat correspond to the month it is taking place in. I also want more than just writing to be included in next year's issues. I know there are many talented students at this school and I would love for their artwork, poetry, or any other creative endeavors of theirs to be featured in *Headlight*.

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I would like to thank this year's leaders, Sophie and Sophia Piper, our Lay-out Editor, who did a wonderful job maintaining *Headlight* this year. Without them, the club would not have continued; we should all be grateful for this. They were both able to navigate through several school schedule changes as well as a whirlwind of extraordinary events, and I think it is most commendable.

I would also like to thank Mr. Higgins for all that he has done this year and years previous; he makes *Headlight* a welcoming environment and embodies everything great about the club. Mr. Higgins is the secret ingredient for making the club such a wonderful place.

Thank you to all of this year's seniors for all of your hard work. We wish you the best of luck in college and beyond.

See you next year,  
Miranda Connolly

## Keeping it Clean and Green since 2019

Sophie Hauck, Senior  
OUTGOING EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Two years ago, Madison Bates, MHS Class of 2019, established a Marblehead chapter of the National Green Schools Society, a national environmental honor society dedicated to incentivizing environmentalism in schools. Now, two years later, 70+ participating Marblehead students reflect on our chapter's growth, most of which has occurred during the pandemic. Take for example our weekly clean-ups, which were born last summer out of desperation for social interaction during a distant season. Since then, we have met every week to consistently clean over ten Marblehead parks and beaches, as well as all school grounds in the district. Each clean-up challenges students to honor the natural beauty of our town, but members did not stop there, realizing that our team cannot prevent pollution by hiding it inside of plastic trash bags.

In partnership with Sustainable Marblehead, an adult environmental task force, we launched a recycled art initiative to make use of these items found at clean-ups. In the fall, we led eight recycled art-making workshops for students grades 2-12 to repurpose this waste, hosting these events at the headquarters of Spur, a local volunteer network that empowers do-gooders of all ages. We then conceptualized and organized a gallery of this student recycled artwork, which currently lives at MacRae's Sustainable Goods in Old Town. The theme of the exhibit? "#ICareBecause," challenging viewers to identify their personal connection to

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environmental action. For many NGSS members, this reason to protect the planet is so strong that it will direct their future educational plans, inspiring multiple graduating students to pursue an Environmental Science major in college. For the rest, this reason grounds the everyday choices they make, including the responsibility of monitoring the outdoor cafeteria waste station during lunch, or the decision to swap a plastic shampoo bottle for a packaging-free shampoo bar.

On graduation day, sixteen Marblehead High School students received their diplomas while wearing a recycled NGSS stole, which the club will continue to pass down until the back of each piece of fabric is covered with signatures from years of graduated environmentalists. These sixteen are students who have fostered an inclusive, energetic, green community at Marblehead High School, one that could not have been possible without the support of many valued MHS staff members. Mr. King and Mr. Lavoie, thank you for guiding us in our effort to place sustainability at the center of MHS waste management systems. Principal Bauer, thank you for endorsing our service efforts in and out of the building. Last but not least, Mr. Ryan, thank you for seeing the best in this club and its members. Your dedication, ingenuity, and mentorship is life-changing.

## The Anti-Glory Days

Sophia Piper, Senior  
OUTGOING ASSISTANT EDITOR

Growing up, we are taught to view high school as some sort of golden age. Whether it be our parents' stories of football games, the High School Musical franchise, or Mac Miller's extremely popular song "The Spins," everyone seems to hype up these four years. And there is certainly merit in that. For many, high school is the last step before picking up adult responsibilities, a time to relish in freedom and late-night Neck runs without having to worry about student loans or rising rent prices. Peaking in high school, though often joked about, is not uncommon—just listen to Bruce Springsteen's "Glory Days." If you really go all-out on the American experience, it can definitely be hard to beat. But for those of us who didn't have a coming-of-age movie experience the past four years, high school is more of a springboard, something to inspire us to reach even greater heights in the future.

Because neither of my parents are from Marblehead, and I am coincidentally the eldest of five children, I was the one who had to figure out MHS traditions (spoiler alert : I didn't). I went to approximately one football game the entirety of my time at the high school. I didn't participate in Senior Sunrise (frankly because I didn't wake up in time) and I didn't play in Powderpuff.

*"I'm glad that my experience was, from an outsider's perspective, underwhelming."*

Class of 2022, by the way, please get the dub next year. I wasn't the girl you'd see partying every weekend or constantly out at the local restaurants. All those things aside, I didn't feel like I was missing out on too much, either. I made a great and fairly drama-free friend group who I hope to keep in contact with throughout college. I enjoyed most of my classes and extracurricular activities—shoutout *Headlight*—without feeling like I needed to be in every single honor society or club. I will forever be grateful for the entire staff of MHS, because they were truly key to my success. And though my junior year and much of senior year were ruined by a pandemic, I still got to go to Prom, Senior Show, and graduation in the same week,

which rounded out the entire experience in a classic high school movie-like fashion.

So did I witness "the triumphs and defeats, the epic highs and lows of high school football," that Riverdale's Archie Andrews is so often quoted

reminiscing? Absolutely not. Do I wish I had? Absolutely not. I'm glad that my experience was, from an outsider's perspective, underwhelming. Because it was underwhelming in the sense that I know I haven't peaked yet. There is no part of me worrying that I won't be as cool or as popular or as fashionable in college because I never felt like I had to be those things in high school to have a worthwhile experience. I'll definitely look back at my years at MHS in a positive light, but not one that will outshine the accomplishments I have yet to achieve.



*Although Prom was held in the MHS parking lot, we were able to go mask-free and use the dance floor.*



*To celebrate the end of the school year, Headlight enjoyed delicious mochi ice cream and presented commemorative pins to each senior staff member. Seniors, thank you for your water fountain reviews, April Fool's satire, and uplifting leadership each week!*

*Pictured left to right: Seniors Kate Gardner, Muriel Owen, Sophie Hauck, and Caroline Johnson. Not pictured: Sean McLean, Sophia Piper.*

## See you next week for our final issue of the 2020-21 school year!

## Headlight Staff 2020-2021

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Sophie Hauck

ASSISTANT EDITORS: Miranda Connolly, Sophia Piper

OPINION EDITOR: Kate Gardner

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR: Olivia Spell

REPORTERS: Sydney Armini, Nora Bekkai, Ila Bumajjn, Benny Burns, Alison Buxbaum, Saylor Caruso, Katherine Cronin, Alexis Earp, Olivia Gardner, Zoe Gast, Mona Gelfgatt, Julia Greenway, Martha Heffernan, Katherine Jenkins, Caroline Johnson, Sean McLean, Madeleine Molinari, Evangelia Nickolas, Muriel Owen, Talia Schwartz, Katherine Simcoe, Evelina Thibodeaux

FACULTY ADVISOR: Thomas Higgins

Last Week's Meeting!

