

# Headlight



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

2017-2018 Issue

www.mhsheadlight.weebly.com

November 2, 2017

## The Real Boat Season

Kristy Twaalfhoven, Junior Reporter

If you're a true boater, you know that there's nothing worse than stepping outside on a beautiful day wishing that you could just go for ONE MORE boat ride!

For many people, boating season is between Memorial Day and Labor Day weekend. For others, it's the two months of summer break. If you consider boating season to be only this two to three month period, I encourage you to consider otherwise.

Indian summer is a period of unseasonably warm, dry weather that sometimes occurs in autumn in the Northern Hemisphere. Unbeknownst to many boaters, Indian summer is the prime feature of the Massachusetts boating season. So far this fall, Marblehead's Indian summer has featured relatively mild temperatures, ranging from low 50s to high 70s (degrees Fahrenheit). Predictably brisk mornings give way to sunny, breezy afternoons. Better yet, there is little boat traffic, because many of Marblehead's summer-dwellers have returned to Florida or wherever home is for the winter, and many people are busy at school or work.

Considering the costliness of winterizing boats, it's slightly ridiculous to only keep your boat in the water for a few months of the whole year. If you divide the total cost of buying, maintaining, and winterizing a boat by the number of times you actually use your boat during those three months, you may as well just rent a boat each time! By keeping your boat in longer, you are making the cost much more worthwhile - getting the "bang for your buck."

The only threat is the Atlantic hurricane season. Many boaters fear that keeping a boat in the water past Labor Day puts the boat at risk of storm damage. However, so far this fall, even the most exposed areas of Marblehead and Salem harbors did not experience anything that a securely-tied or moored boat can't handle. In the years when the North Shore was hit harder by storms in the fall hurricane season, it is true that the (exposed) smaller boats can be put at risk. But, don't let this fear hold you back - taking a small boat out of the water for a few days is a rather simple task. The ramps at Little Harbor Lobster Company or Riverhead Beach are public spots where you can drive that vulnerable 15-foot Boston Whaler straight onto your trailer and out of the water in minutes, leave it in a boatyard, garage, or parking lot for a few days, and plop it back in the water once the storm has passed.

If you're more daring, and launch your boat rather early (April), then you can enjoy a lengthy seven month boating season, rather than the disgustingly brief three month season that many boaters consider sufficient. My family always launches our boats in early April, and we keep them in until at least Halloween. This past weekend, we enjoyed a sail around Misery Island, and a motor-boat trip to Manchester by the Sea for a quick lunch. Except for a few other crazy sailors, we had the entire ocean to ourselves! Not only was the quietness a sweet escape from the hustle-bustle of our school and work lives, but the red and orange foliage along the shore provided the most beautiful scenery as we sailed. Moral of the story? Plan to launch your boat in April next year, and leave it in until October. Remember...  
"a bad day on the water is better than a good day at work."

## Halloween

Clara Rapoport, Freshman Reporter

I've been waiting for this night  
This Halloween will be quite a fright  
This halloween will be the scariest of all  
The 31st, a day of the fall

You see all the leaves falling down  
While walking around the good ol' town  
The candy will be good and all of the costumes too  
But the evil creatures you see will seem untrue

The witches fly past,  
on their brooms so fast  
The ghouls passing through doors,  
and then the floors

The mummies walking slow,  
but the zombies walking slower  
The skeletons prancing down the street,  
on their skinny, bony, wobbly feet

Oh look at all these monsters looking so mean  
Oh no, it looks like it must be Halloween

## Quote of the Week

*"Change is the law of life and those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future"*  
- John F. Kennedy

## Keep Calm and Compost On

Sophie Hauck, Freshman Reporter

In early September, Marblehead High School students were educated on the importance of composting. Now, in early November, students have been disposing of their food waste in composting containers for more than two months.

The program's success is very much dependent on the students and whether they volunteer to empty the bins each day, or if they throw non-compostable items into the bins. However, the program is not completely student run. Michelle Gottlieb, Board of Health member, and Andrew Petty, Board of Health director, sustain the program through monetary support from the Board of Health. If not for this support, the program would be unable to afford essential materials such as bags to put in the composting containers. Without bags, people cannot dispose of their food waste, as shown by the spotty coverage of composting over the last few weeks.

Recently the bins have not always been in the cafeteria, forcing students to dispose of their food waste in the trash can. This can be traced back to the bag issue. The program did not realize how often they would need to stock their bag supply, so by the time they ordered more bags, they had already run out of their existing supply. Until the bags were restocked, students couldn't compost at the school.

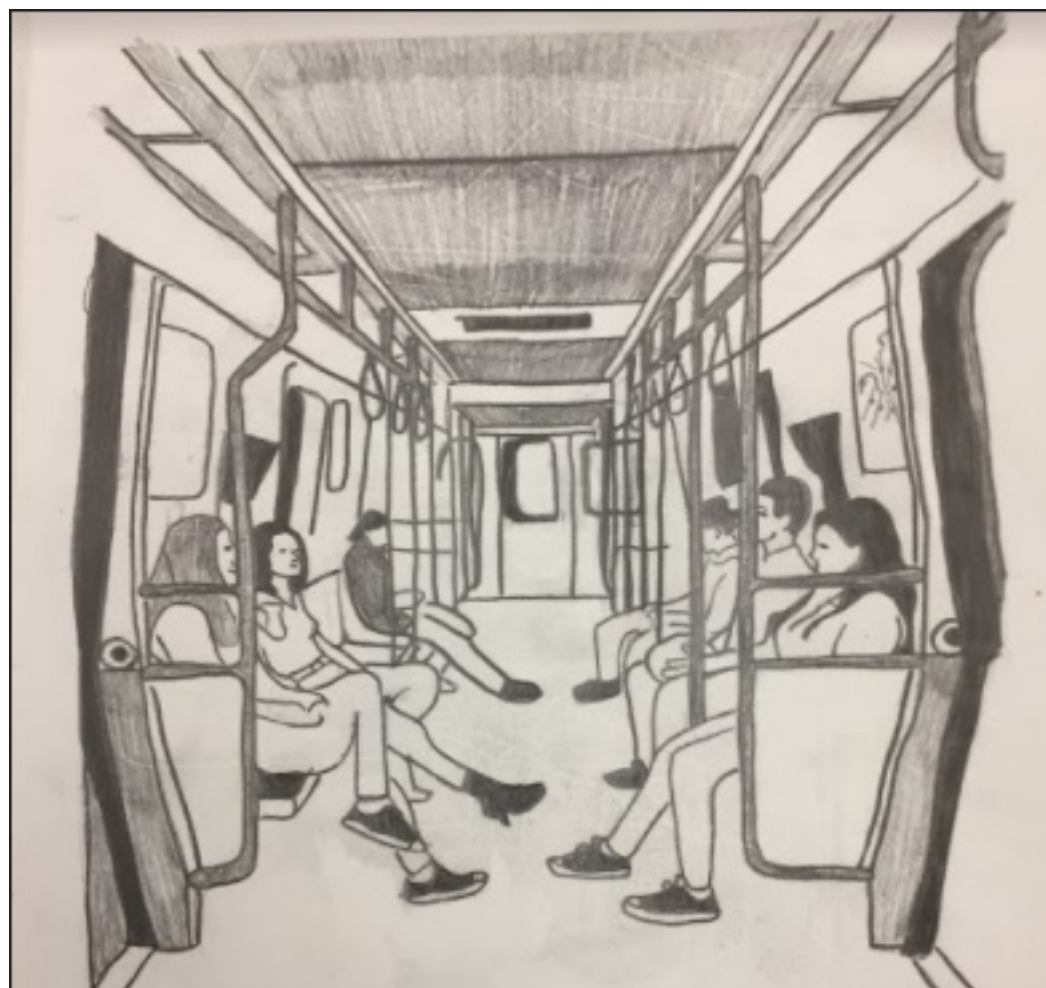
Many may believe that the program is adult mandated, but when the students couldn't compost, they cared. "Where am I supposed to compost my sandwich?" one student can be quoted saying. Others weren't even aware of the composting bins in the first place, or wish they were more accessible. "I just use the trashcan closest to the tables," says another student.

Despite the flaws in the program, the students have done a great job in the pilot year of the program. "We had tried to implement composting a handful of times but it never worked," said composting club advisor Connor Ryan, crediting the success of this attempt to the students. "The students were involved and followed through with what they wanted to see happen."

It is clear that the program's future is still up to the students, and not only those who volunteer. If anyone has suggestions for the program, they should contact Connor Ryan. After all, it is important to make sure that composting is running as smoothly as possible, if not for the school's benefit than for the planet's.

## A Day on the T

Kate Lothrop, Senior Reporter



## Headlight Staff 2017-2018

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF: Sophie Mae Berman, Emma Szalewicz, Lilly Tapper

REPORTERS IN THE FIELD: Shelby Casimir, Sophie Hauck, Paul Heffernan, Jillian Lederman, Alix Livermore, Clara Rapoport, Michael Simmons, Kristy Twaalfhoven, Adri Ustick

FACULTY ADVISOR: Thomas Higgins