



# Headlight



Written by the students of Marblehead High School for our school and community  
2018-2019 Issue

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## Perfecting the Present

Kristy Twaalfhoven, Senior Reporter



Each year, as December rolls in, I'm faced with another round of giving Christmas presents. Why is this demanding? I have six siblings, two of them married with kids. In an average year, there are over 100 presents under our Christmas tree. When brainstorming present ideas, I try my best to be creative and genuine, while also staying within a reasonable budget. After many years of experience, I'm ready to share my favorite ideas, that are guaranteed to bring a smile to the face.

1. Become a jeweler: Just recently, I discovered Marblehead's downtown bead store, Eos Designs Studio. It offers a beautiful variety of jewelry-making material, including a big selection of stones and beads, strings, and kits. You can buy materials to make several homemade pieces of jewelry for the price of one store-bought necklace. I love to visit the bead store, selecting colors and designs that I think the wearer will like. Even more so, I love spending time being the jeweler!

2. Goodies: The most classic food to give during the holidays is decorated cookies. But I like to be adventurous. Last year, I made a large batch of my favorite ginger-molasses granola recipe, and divided it up into glass mason jars to give to my granola-loving sister. This year, I plan to make a few jars of homemade nut butter and small packages of homemade herbal teas to gift. Everyone loves to receive a yummy treat, so why not take on the chef role, and make enough for yourself to keep some too! Just make sure that what you're going to make will stay fresh under the Christmas tree, at least overnight.

3. Excursions: Since I don't get to spend time with my older siblings very often, my favorite part of Christmas is the chance to hang out with my family. So, to further this enjoyment, a great gift is the chance to do something together. This could be a real ticket, maybe to a play or other event. Or, create a homemade coupon to take someone on a fun excursion, such as a hike, a shopping spree, or out to a favorite restaurant.

4. Poetry: Cheesy? Maybe. Meaningful? Absolutely. Writing poems isn't for everyone. But you may surprise yourself with how naturally a poem flows from your hands. Pick a topic you feel passionate about, describe a scene in nature, or focus on the highlights of your relationship with the recipient. Don't worry about sounding like Robert Frost; simply let your appreciation for the person shine through your words. Remember, it's the thought that counts!

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Everyone at **Headlight** wishes you a very Happy Holiday with family and friends. We will return in 2019!

## Academics and Sports

Miranda Connolly, Freshman Reporter

A lot is happening in high school. Between classes, homework and studying, it can be hard to keep up with everything. To top it all off, with sports, the time after school can get disorganized. Keeping up with everything can become almost impossible if time isn't handled properly. If you've ever struggled with keeping up with your school and sports schedules, the following tips will help you out.

1. Use your planner. In the beginning of the year, the school gave every student a planner. Use it to write down upcoming tests or tournaments so that you are aware of their dates and you will be prepared for them.

2. Pack your bag the night before. If you have practice tomorrow, pack your bag now. Make sure everything you need is there so that tomorrow you can have a little extra time to do other things.

3. Prepare in advance. If you know you have a test on Tuesday, and you don't have anything going on over the weekend, use your time wisely and study. If you do have a game on the weekend, you can use the car ride to brush up on some notes if possible.

4. Use your study halls. If you are fortunate enough to have study halls in your schedule, use them! Don't let the hour or more go to waste. Start your homework assignments that have already been given to you, or study for a test. As long as it is something productive, you will have less to worry about when you get home from practice.

5. Don't procrastinate. It sounds simple enough, but when the deadline approaches, fighting back procrastination can be extremely difficult. Avoid procrastination by focusing completely on what you are doing and what you are going to do.

6. Finish assignments the night they are given. Again, it may sound tedious, but finish all your homework the day that it is given to you. Even if the next day you drop math class and have a study hall the first two blocks, finish the homework now so that you can use the study halls for studying.

7. Limit distractions. When doing your homework, get rid of anything near you if you know it will be tempting to use it (this means your phone!). People aren't on their phone during sports practices, so why should they be on them while doing homework? The best way to finish your homework thoroughly is to put all of your energy into it; this may even help you understand the lesson more.

8. Study smart. Don't just sit at a table and reread notes; make a study group or a quizlet. Some textbooks have chapter reviews and chapter tests at the end of each chapter; use those to accurately test your knowledge on the subject.

9. Prioritize. If you know you have a really hard chemistry test the next morning and that you need to review the material, don't go to the movies with your friends. You may have missed a great movie, but you can see it later. You can't retake tests if you don't like the result.

10. Don't be afraid to ask for help. If you're struggling in a particular subject, ask the teacher for help. Asking a teacher for help, whether it be for study tips or questions about the material, will only benefit you in the long run and help your overall understanding of the class.



## Students From Spain Come to MHS

Lily Morgan, Junior Reporter

This year, students enrolled in Spanish Four and Five at Marblehead High School have the opportunity to participate in a cultural exchange with students from Bilbao, Spain. 26 students from Marblehead and 16 students from Bilbao signed up to participate in the exchange. The Spanish students came to Marblehead first; they arrived on Saturday, December 1, and left before school on Thursday, December 13. Over February break, the Marblehead students participating will go to Bilbao for a little over a week to stay with the families of the students they hosted.

I am one of the students participating in the exchange and one of the people from Marblehead who hosted a student. The past two weeks have been crazy. The students from Bilbao are all around sixteen years old, and have a few more years of experience speaking English than the majority of the Marblehead students have speaking Spanish. For many of them, English is their third language- their first being Basque and their second Spanish. My exchange student told me that she began learning Spanish at age four and English at age ten but prefers Basque out of the three. Bilbao is located in the Basque Country, where people speak Basque as their first language. Basque does not have Latin roots like Spanish does, and it is not linguistically similar to other European languages. According to the students from Bilbao, their classes are conducted in Basque; how the Marblehead students are going to understand their teachers on days that we accompany them to school, I do not know.

It was very interesting to see the students' English improve wildly in the short time they were here. From drawing on my limited knowledge and the vast knowledge of Google translate, my exchange student was able to learn many new words in English. Likewise, it was a wonderful way for the American students to improve their Spanish skills before going to Spain. I personally learned many new words in Spanish and feel more confident speaking the language with my exchange student and her friends than I did before this experience.

We were all sad to see our new friends leave on Thursday. While students may have fallen behind on their homework and sleep, the memories they made were worth it. People brought their exchange students to Jingleball, to LaserQuest, to Casa Corona, to Boston to ice skate, and even to Market Basket and Walmart. I watched as my exchange student and her friend discovered the wonders of Dunkin Donuts, and I tried my best to prevent them from eating a half-dozen in one sitting.

French students have had the opportunity to participate in a week-long cultural exchange for years, and I am thrilled that the school has extended the opportunity to Spanish learners. The past two weeks were incredible, and I think that we are all more than excited to go to Spain in February.



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