



## National Green School Society's No Idling Campaign

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REPORTER

Marblehead High School's National Green School Society is working with Judith Black to spread awareness about the harmful impact idling is having on our world. Idling refers to when a vehicle's engine is running while the vehicle is stopped. The exhaust from the car adds pollution to the air and can be unsafe for children with asthma. There is an extensive list of negative impacts idling has on our community, and it is a growing issue. Often, during school pick-up, parents will wait for their children with their cars running. This leads to unnecessary pollution being added to our air because when parents are waiting they do not need to have the car on. It is causing more environmental issues that could be easily avoided. Also, now that winter is upon us, people will warm up their cars before driving, which is convenient but harmful towards the environment. The "no idling" group that is a part of the National Green



Society walked in the Christmas parade on December 7, 2019, with Sustainable Marblehead to begin spreading awareness for this problem. Starting Tuesday, January 14, the group will launch their campaign by standing outside in the Marblehead High School circle after school. Members will remind drivers that their engines are on and advise them about the hazardous factors that come from idling. This is just the first step of the campaign and the group has a strong plan on how to make Marblehead a cleaner and more environmentally friendly community.

## World War Z

Miranda Connolly, Sophomore  
OPINION EDITOR

As we all know, Qasem Soleimani was killed in a U.S. led airstrike on January 3, 2020. As a response to this, within minutes, World War III was trending on Twitter. An outcry of fear inspired by dread of the draft was heard across all social media. On TikTok, a trend began where girls started filming short videos of themselves and their attempts to avoid the draft by becoming housewives and reverting to a 1950s lifestyle. Similar things appeared on Twitter, with women and girls saying that they never asked for equal rights, or that they should be treated the same as men.

It is interesting to see how young people reacted to the threat of another World War; humor and satire seem to have become universal coping and bonding mechanisms across our generation, and using funny skits or captions on videos is a great way to make people laugh and feel more comfortable. For our entire lives, the United States has been at war, and our generation's sense of safety and security has been profoundly affected by the 9/11 attacks, even though they occurred before many of us were born.

It appears that when Generation Z is presented with news from the media that we have no control over, we decide to turn it into a joke or make satirical observations about our society. But it is also wonderful to see what our generation can do when we are presented with problems that we can help find solutions to. For instance, Australia currently has numerous forest fires ravaging all over the country, and many young people have rallied together to bring attention to the wildfires and raise money for the Australian Red Cross.

Overall, I think that we, as a generation, are able to use social media, when necessary, as a positive influence on our world. Last year, a YouTuber, who goes by the name Mr. Beast, raised over 21 million dollars to plant trees in an attempt to combat climate change. The riots and protests in Hong Kong were made more public by videos being posted on Twitter and other apps. Whether it is a political issue or an environmental problem, our generation has a way of coming together through social media and creating a funny, yet inspiring, response.

## 2019

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FEATURES EDITOR

It seems strange to think that the 2010s are over. In some ways, it is odder to think that the beginning of 2019 was a year ago. Some of the events of the final year of the decade seem like they happened ages ago. This is probably due in part to the fact that there were so many important stories and events throughout the year. From politics to science, here are some of the most impactful events from Marblehead to outer space.

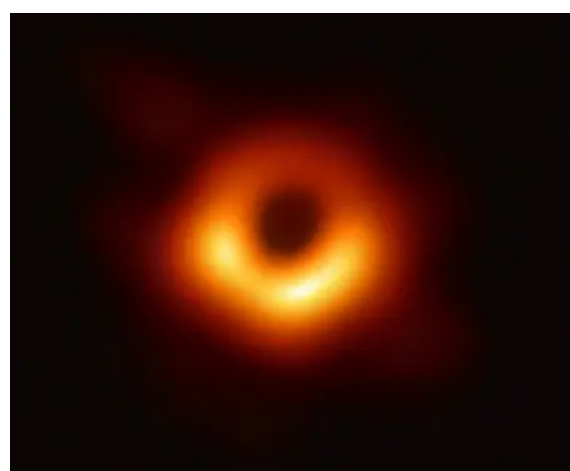
2019 was an important year in U.S. politics. The year started off with the continuation of a government shutdown, which ended on January 25th, 2019. It lasted for 35 days and was the longest government shutdown in U.S. history. Over the course of the year, there were many other important political events. In June, the first Democratic presidential debates included 20 candidates. There were three other candidates who did not qualify for this debate and have since dropped out, along with many of the candidates who did participate in the first debate. There are a few Republicans, such as former Massachusetts Governor Bill Weld, who are challenging the incumbent president in the 2020 primaries. However, the biggest political news came at the end of the year. On December 18, 2019, the House of Representatives voted to impeach the

president on two articles, the first of which was abuse of power and the second obstruction of Congress. The House has not sent the articles to the Senate, so the impeachment process is not over yet.

Despite the focus on national politics, there were also important changes in Massachusetts. Voter Choice for Massachusetts is an organization working to get ranked choice voting (RCV), a system in which voters can rank their choices of candidates, on Massachusetts ballots. In early December, they filed signatures in support of an RCV ballot question so that Massachusetts voters will be able to decide whether or not they want to implement RCV for state elections. On a more local scale, Marblehead decided to change Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day in the spring. In terms of Marblehead's public school system, the year was busy as well. Superintendent Maryann Perry, as well as the rest of the school department administration, resigned after a financial scandal. The town also voted to build a new elementary school where Bell School is now.

The climate crisis played a large role in the events of 2019. During August, news about the fires in the Amazon rain forest spread quickly, but unfortunately, the Amazon was not the only area to experience catastrophic fires. Australia is still suffering from a terrible bushfire season, which started towards the end of the summer. It is estimated that over 500 million animals have died because of the fires so far. On a more optimistic note, people across the world gathered during multiple climate strikes to demand legislation for a green future. This movement was led largely by climate activist Greta Thunberg, who recently turned 17. *Time* named her 2019 Person of the Year for her environmental activism that has had an impact on people across the world.

There was more positive news about activities in outer space. In April, astronomers revealed the first-ever picture of a black hole, located in the Messier 87 galaxy. The picture does not actually show the black hole itself but rather the light surrounding it. About a half a year later, Christina Koch and Jessica Meir left the International Space Station to fix a broken battery charger. Not only was this Meir's first spacewalk, but it was also the first all-female spacewalk. However, that is not the only important advancement for women in astronomy that happened in 2019. In May, NASA announced Artemis, a lunar exploration program. By 2024, they want to have American astronauts on the moon. One of these astronauts will be the first woman on the moon. Hopefully all of the 2020s will feature news as good as this.



First picture of a black hole  
(*The New York Times*)



Democratic presidential debate stage  
(*USA Today*)



Greta Thunberg as *Time's* Person of the Year  
(*Time*)

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