



## MHS's *Peter/Wendy* Makes it to Dramafest Semi-finals

Martha Heffernan, Freshman  
REPORTER

On February 29th, Marblehead High School's drama club competed in the Massachusetts Theater Guild Festival at Winthrop High School. They went against seven other high schools, including Rockport High School, Melrose High School, Salem Academy, Medford High School, Salem High School, Winthrop High School, and Lynn Classical High School. For Dramafest, there are many rules that schools must follow to not be disqualified, such as putting up the set of the production in five minutes or less, and the running time of the play has to be under 40 minutes.

There are three judges who watch all of the plays and, at the end of the festival, decide which three schools go through to semi-finals. Margaret Mancusi-Ungaro, Eleanor Small, Will Ricker, and Ian Wanger all received individual awards from the judges. Marblehead High School performed the production of *Peter/Wendy*, which is a twist of the original Peter Pan story everyone knows today. There are flying people and a sword fight sequence that the cast worked long and hard on. Eventually, the judges came to a consensus on which schools to send to the semi-finals. Winthrop High School and their powerful and artistic production of *Fallen*, as well



as Melrose High School and their impressive adaptation of *Lord of the Flies*, made it to semi-finals. The third school that was announced to make it to the semi-finals was Marblehead High School's *Peter/Wendy*!

The cast and crew will compete in the semi-finals at North Reading High School on March 14th. This is Marblehead's third year in a row making it through the preliminary round. They will go against Wayland High School, Georgetown High School, Peabody High School, North Reading High School, and Tyngsboro High School. The entire cast and crew has worked extremely hard on this production and have been working on it since the fall. Good luck at semi-finals!

## The Sun Is Also a Star: Movie Review

Zoe Gast, Freshman  
REPORTER



After finally reading *The Sun is also a Star*, a #1 New York Times bestseller written by acclaimed author Nicola Yoon, I understood the hype surrounding it. This novel is the perfect hopeless romantic fairytale that also tackles topical issues like deportation and racial prejudice. It is told from many perspectives, from the bus driver to the immigration lawyer, but mostly stays between the two main characters. This already is a hard format to morph into a movie, but I was still hopeful and excited to watch.

It starts out similar to the book, with the audience being introduced to the people of importance. First we see illegal Jamaican immigrant Natasha Kingsley who, after being discovered by the government, is being deported back to Jamaica the following day. In a pitiful last attempt to stay, she sets up a meeting with an immigration lawyer in New York City, which is where she lives. Growing up aware of her imminent deportation, she has no belief in the unquantifiable, also known as love. We also meet first-generation Korean immigrant Daniel Bae. He is on his way into the city to attend an alumni meeting for a prospective college, where he is to study and become a doctor. He, however, has his true passion tucked away in a poetry journal he keeps in his jacket pocket. This is the overall story of how these two opposite personalities fall in love, only to be taken from each other the next day.

Now comes the first major change in the film adaptation. In the book, they meet while busting Natasha's ex-boyfriend when he is stealing a record. As they go to leave, Natasha says goodbye but Daniel, infatuated with her, claims they will meet again. Then, outside the store, Daniel saves Natasha's life by pushing her out of the way of an upcoming car. This is the first clue

that the universe truly wants them to be together, as well as a cute first meeting. In the movie, however, the record scene is skipped altogether, and their first interaction is when Daniel saves her from traffic, which seems a little weird that they would start hanging out afterwards, considering they have never talked before.

The next most important adaptation in the movie is the overall timeline. In the book, Natasha is set to be deported that day, but in the movie, she meets Daniel a day earlier. This means that the movie has a lot, maybe even too many, montages of them falling in love, including a sleepover in a park, which does not occur in the book. The movie focuses more on the falling in love part than on the various secrets and prejudice in the story.

Lastly, the ending in the book is a real cliffhanger that causes readers to troll online forums trying to find answers to their questions. In the film, the basic resolution stays the same, but it is a lot more complete than in the book. This does make the viewer more satisfied, but there are also not as many questions that cause reflection on the entire plot.

Overall, I rate this movie a 4/10 stars, while I would rate the book a 9/10. Since Natasha and Daniel have such different outlooks on life, it is important that the chemistry between them is prevalent, so as not to make the interactions awkward. Personally, I believe the book hit this on the nose, while the movie made me cringe during some of the scenes where they are on dates or walking around together. I also think that the movie score is a little awkward in some places where the background music doesn't quite fit the mood.

Is the movie a worthwhile watch? It is, if you're a die-hard fan of the book, otherwise, I wouldn't recommend it.

## A Way for Good Deeds to Get Around

Miranda Connolly, Sophomore  
OPINION EDITOR

As we all know, giving back to our community will help everyone in the long run. One town-based organization that strives to better our community is SPUR, an organization of people who are dedicated to making a visible difference in the lives of everyone in our community. They are extremely passionate about volunteering and wish to inspire the next generation of leaders and volunteers.

This organization was created by Jocelyn Cook in 2014, and it has been a thriving volunteer group since then. Students can volunteer at the Sew Good Sessions on Wednesdays. The next two are from 9:30 am-12:00 pm, on March 11th and 25th. Students can also participate in Sew Good Night Sessions on March 25th from 6:30 pm-8:30 pm. There are also multiple Lifebridge Meal Services that students can volunteer at. Another interesting volunteer

opportunity with SPUR is their Community Roots garden which was created in 2016. Its purpose is to grow fresh foods which are then donated to community programs and food pantries. The garden is currently located in St. Andrew's Church.

SPUR is a wonderful organization that strives to reach out not only to our community, but also to others. I strongly encourage anyone who is looking for volunteer options to start by going to SPUR's website, which is <https://www.spur.community/>. They have numerous volunteer options in a variety of fields and are truly trying to make a difference. Through SPUR, you will make new connections and friends; you will also get to experience the joy of giving back to your community.

March at MHS						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 MHS No-Idling Campaign Kickoff	3 SUPER TUESDAY	4 Ski Team wins big!	5 Math Team Meet - 2nd place!	6	7 Best Buddies goes bowling!
8 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME	9	10 Class recommendations open up on Aspen	11 Senior Show NIGHT ONE DECA Chipotle fundraiser	12 Senior Show NIGHT TWO	13 IMPROBABLE PLAYERS Assembly Grades 9 & 10	14 Dramafest semifinals
15 NAHS Art Show	16 Spring sports start!	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18	19 FIRST DAY OF SPRING	20 22 Sophomore Semi!	21
22 Environmental Club Beach Cleanup	23	24 ELA MCAS DAY ONE	25 ELA MCAS DAY TWO NHS Panera fundraiser	26	27 RYLA Applications due Junior Class Auction	28
29	30	31				

A Typical Month at MHS: Check out this calendar to find upcoming events at Marblehead High School during the month of March!

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