



Climate Change Might be Real After All

Madison Morris, Junior
Reporter



Each year, the number of sea turtles dwindles. Worldwide, six out of the seven species of sea turtles are listed as threatened or endangered. Sea turtles are one of the many animals whose populations are suffering due to the warming of the earth. When CO2 levels rise, the atmosphere heats up, warming the entire globe. In the ocean, global warming warms the temperature of sand. When sea turtles lay eggs on beaches, the temperature of the sand surrounding the egg determines the gender of the offspring, which is known as temperature-dependent sex determination. Warm sand causes sea turtles to be born female, whereas cooler sand causes them to be born male. In ideal conditions, the eggs that are laid deeper in the sand would be all males, and the eggs closer to the surface of the sand would be female, creating an equal number of male and female turtles.

As the sand heats up, almost all the eggs in sea turtles' nests are being born female. This large population of female sea turtles is detrimental for the survival of sea turtle species because without many male turtles, the number of mated pairs of turtles has dropped significantly. This causes fewer and fewer eggs to be hatched each year. Out of every nest of approximately 300 eggs, only one or two sea turtles actually survive to reproduce. If the temperature of the surface of the earth continues to rise, sea turtles will eventually become extinct as no more males will be born.

When asked about the fourth national climate assessment, which is a 1,500-page two-part congressionally mandated report by the U.S. Global Change Research Program, President Donald Trump stated, "I don't believe it." Many Republican officials have agreed with Trump, giving explanations such as "the climate is always changing," "many scientists are driven by money," and "if climate change is real, it is not caused by man-made pollutants."

The rapid change in the percentage of male versus female sea turtles alone shows that the temperature of the earth is rising. Other evidence of climate change is demonstrated in shrinking glaciers around the world and ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica. A Global Climate Change article published by NASA states that "data from NASA's Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment show Greenland lost an average of 281 billion tons of ice per year between 1993 and 2016, while Antarctica lost about 119 billion tons during the same time period." In the Arctic, declining amounts of sea ice caused by the warming of ocean temperatures threatens many populations. For example, during their first six weeks of life, Harp seals use ice to rest and nurse on, and young seals find their food along the edges of the ice. As the ice melts, these pups are forced into the water, where they are at risk of hypothermia and starvation.

Climate change is a real, serious problem that will continue to affect many populations. To help slow the warming of the earth, people can help emit less CO2 into the atmosphere by recycling, unplugging devices when unnecessary, driving less, and using public transportation. Even though it seems like a minor contribution to a major problem, each person can have an impact and can help to save these populations threatened by climate change.

New Year, Same Students

Sophie Hauck, Sophomore
Assistant Editor

11 days can change a lot. Throughout Marblehead High School's winter vacation, students understood the potential of 11 days. In this week and a half, many were accepted into college, traveled the world, or simply caught up on sleep. Yet while most people's personal lives shifted to some extent, this change has yet to affect the students' collective conscious.

On the day after vacation, many boasted new items: gifts from the holidays they celebrated. Beneath this shiny exterior though, students still felt discontent. Walking into the building on the first day back, there was one common sentiment; vacation never happened. Instead, people stayed inside the building and simply dreamt the experiences of the past 11 days. Of course, this was not the case. But while 11 days can feel endless at the beginning, this time flies by quickly, and few had something to show for it. There were some with elaborate tales from their vacation: trips to exotic locations or exciting memories made with friends. For most of us, however, vacation was uneventful and ultimately unsatisfying. Sure, most of us connected with our families or read that book we'd always wanted to read. Yet somehow these stories mean nothing when countered with the heavy weight of school. After all, even though many students enjoy school, it's hard to return to something when it feels like you never left.

New Year's was an opportunity to change things. A promising resolution can invite a year's worth of opportunity into someone's life, allowing him or her to approach school, or any responsibility, with a fresh mindset. No matter potential resolutions though, student culture appears the same: expectant. Students are constantly waiting for something, whether it be lunchtime, the end of the school day, or the point at which they can go to bed. In most classes, people pack up five minutes before the bell, even though the next block features a dreaded geometry test. At the end of lunch, many will even leave as early as ten minutes before the bell just to stand outside of their next class. This cycle continues as students count down to larger milestones: vacation, summertime, graduation. It is as if we expect something magical to occur once these points are reached. When nothing does, we immediately focus on the next opportunity. This expectant feeling is not unique to MHS. Throughout December, countless young adults used Twitter to express their readiness for 2018 to end and 2019 to take its place. When a year is tainted with negative experiences, it's clear why many are ready to move on. Yet when January first arrived, many were quick to joke that they had already ruined 2019 and were looking forward to the fresh start of 2020. Unfortunately, New Year's is just another day. Positive change does not inherently come with this date. If people truly seek transformation, they must actively pursue it. The same can be said for vacation at Marblehead High School. While the date of this article's publication may be January 10, the culture of MHS can still undergo its own transformation. We can resolve to wait for the bell to dismiss us at lunchtime, or to cherish the last few years with our peers before graduation.

It's easy to feel like we are entitled to change during the 11 days of vacation. No matter this time though, we will always be the same students: tired yet motivated, indecisive but passionate. Despite this standard, we can continue to improve, and above all else, persist. After all, it's a feat within itself to make it through the first week back from vacation, and we've already done that. Just imagine what we can do next.

Why Do Older Generations Hate Us?

Sophia Piper, Sophomore
Reporter

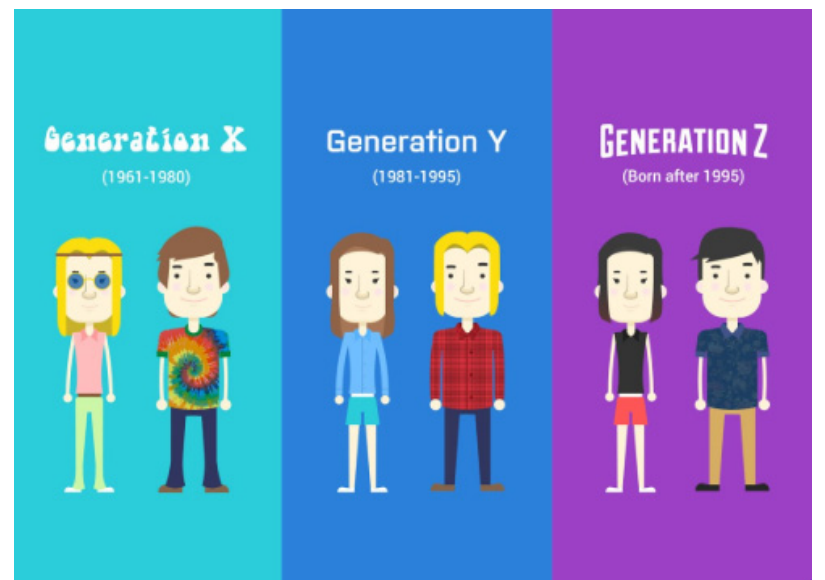
"The kids these days are so lazy! What has the world come to?" For generations, adults have expressed this sentiment towards the younger crowd. Especially towards millennials— we've all seen the articles titled "Millennials are Killing the Diamond Industry!" Diamonds, real estate, bar soap, golf, department stores— if you can think of it, millennials are destroying it. Although no student at MHS is a millennial, as the cutoff is around 1996, growing up and witnessing the endless attacks on the generation before us is slightly intimidating. Even now, the articles on our age group, the "Gen-Z's," are beginning. Most of us are still mere children, but according to crabby forty-year-olds, we have been causing problems.

We're addicted to our phones and computers, staring into blue artificial light and scrolling for hours on end. However, the generations before us— specifically Generation X, most of our parents— spend equal or even more time on social media than those a little younger than them. Millennials spend around six hours per week on social media, while Gen X spends nearly seven. However, it is certainly true that Gen-Z, often called the "iGeneration," blows both of these statistics out of the water, with around two hours and forty-five minutes of social media usage per day. But is this as apocalyptic as previously thought? Is society doomed to become mobs of mindless, screen-hungry monsters? The answer is no. If one uses the internet to their full advantage, they can gain knowledge in mere seconds that would have taken a library trip and hours of reading to find fifty years ago. We as a generation are exposed to current events the instant they happen thanks to our rapid-fire Instagram feeds, although "fake news" is certainly a menace that needs to be combated. What needs to happen now is for us to not just repost a video, but to research what's behind it and do something that really makes a difference.

Perhaps the scariest thing to older generations about Generation Z is that we are willing and motivated to change.

Did any of our parents stand up in front of the United Nations at the age of fifteen to combat climate change, like Greta Thunberg of Sweden? No, probably not. Did any of them have to watch and hide in terror as their schoolmates were massacred, again and again, month after month? Again, no.

Maybe the reason kids are trying to make a difference is because the issues that are prevalent right now will affect us the most in the future. Climate change is a small concern to most middle-aged people— its major effects will barely come to fruition within their lifetimes. School shootings? The people deciding on those matters graduated college long, long ago. The reason we are so passionate about these matters is that the outcome will affect us drastically, for better or for worse.



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