



## New MHS Group Promotes Environmentalism

Sophie Hauck, Sophomore  
Assistant Editor

Madison Bates may be travelling hundreds of miles away for college next year, but the MHS senior is still focused on improving her hometown. With less than two months until graduation, Bates has established Marblehead's first chapter of the National Green Schools Society, better known as NGSS, a national program that organizes environmentally-conscious students to perform meaningful environmental service within their communities. By promising the incentives of an honors society, members are not only motivated to contribute, but those that are already completing environmental service can gain further recognition. In fact, MHS already has two organizations dedicated to supporting the environment: Recycling Club, which strictly maintains the school's recycling program, and Environmental Club, which operates the school's composting program, all while sparking an important dialogue on the school's environmental impact. Bates is a leader in the latter club, but she has established this NGSS chapter for the sake of increasing involvement. "I figured if we want more people to participate, then we should make a national honors society for environmentalism," Bates explains, "That way more is being done, because we don't have the manpower in Environmental Club."

NGSS has certainly attracted a large base; approximately 40 students were inducted into the chapter's first class of members on Tuesday, April 30. Bates admits that some of these students were likely motivated by the chance to boost their resume with participation in another organization, but she welcomes this possibility with open arms. "The whole goal of the Environmental Club is to make everyone more environmentally aware," emphasizes Bates. "It's awesome that we have people who want to further their interest [through NGSS]."

Connor Ryan, an English teacher at MHS and staff advisor for all three of the school's environmental organizations, agrees. "If at the beginning there needs to be an incentive to recycle, or to compost, or to remember to turn off the water when you're brushing your teeth... that's totally okay," says Mr. Ryan. To both Bates and Ryan, this incentive may be what makes the program so successful. After all, while students can count fairly simple lifestyle adjustments such as walking to school or drinking from a reusable water bottle towards service hours, they will also be tasked with organizing their own environmental service project. Mr. Ryan cites the structure of the organization as a means for this impact: "[NGSS gives] a really, really concrete set of reasons for students to participate in projects that we already had running, but that weren't really taking off."

Beyond the basic membership requirements of the group, Marblehead's NGSS chapter still has room to adapt its structure based on individual goals and interests. While Bates looks forward to guiding future officers through this process, she will be unable to see through many of her personal visions for the group, as she'll be graduating in June. Bates does think it will be important for members to focus on systemic environmental hazards, especially those that the high school presents. After all, while the school's newly installed LED lighting promises to cut energy consumption significantly, school lunches are still served on styrofoam trays, and many teachers print documents that could be shared online instead. Clearly, there is a lot that can be improved.

Public environmental interest comes in waves. There will always be a strong base of environmental advocates to sustain the ongoing movement, but the average American's dedication to protecting the environment is inconsistent. It is only when footage surfaces of an emaciated polar bear hobbling through a melted tundra, or of a sea turtle whose neck is wrapped in soda can rings, that we remember all that is at stake. In these moments, we look for clear paths of action, and we often end up focusing on simplified environmental enemies such as plastic straws or mylar balloons. This course of action is important, as it makes environmentalism accessible.

Of course, there are already students like Madison Bates, who care deeply about the environment and who seem to know exactly how to protect its condition. Bates will be attending Johns Hopkins University next fall, where she plans to study political and environmental science, with the hopes of becoming an environmental lawyer. This sureness is inspiring but potentially daunting for those that see NGSS as their first step into environmentalism. However, the defined structure of NGSS makes commitment like Bates's seem possible and worth working towards achieving. It's unclear what the future holds for this organization, but the group has undoubtedly reignited student interest, and with 40 new members to sustain this passion, Bates is hopeful for the future.

## The Mueller Report: An Update

Miranda Connolly, Freshman  
Reporter

The Mueller Report is back and bigger than ever. Is America ready for round two? According to "He told you so," from the March 30th issue of *The Economist*, the report cleared President Trump of collusion, but it has not healed our divided country. It seems that most Democrats still want Mr. Trump impeached, and most Republicans still approve of what he has done in office so far. The Republican Party wants payback for their opponents' attacks on the President and also wants the media and Democrats to apologize. Not to mention that Rand Paul still wants Barack Obama to be investigated. The only really incriminating information the report has provided is evidence that the Russians had interfered in the election by hacking and using disinformation to boost Mr. Trump's campaign. Nowhere, though, did it state that the President or his staff had ordered the Russians to do so.

Now that the supposed "happy pill" for Democrats turned out to be a lemon-flavored cough drop, they have turned their attention back to health care and jobs, while the Republicans are glad the 22-month investigation is over. It will be hard for the news media to find such perfect content for the 24/7 news cycle, since the never-ending speculation about the report gave them the chance to feed the public non-stop updates.

This is a great example of how the media rules over politics. When average people turned on their televisions, their phones, or went to a news channel or app, they were immediately treated with news on the Mueller Report. People were being interviewed and conspiracies concocted, but in the end, nothing was revealed that was not already known. Everyone seemed misinformed, and everything turned out to be a big mess that appears to be yet another excuse for the media to ladle out content for the upcoming months. But the American people should view this as a victory; if the President had really asked a foreign nation to help him get into office through illegal means, the country would plunge into chaos, for Republicans and Democrats alike.

The mistake that the left made was putting complete faith into the report. They believed that it would be enough to convict the President of treason and have him impeached. It is significant that a presidential candidate has called for impeachment, yet the Speaker of the House has rejected this call.



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## Indigenous Peoples' Day

Alexis Earp, Freshman  
Reporter

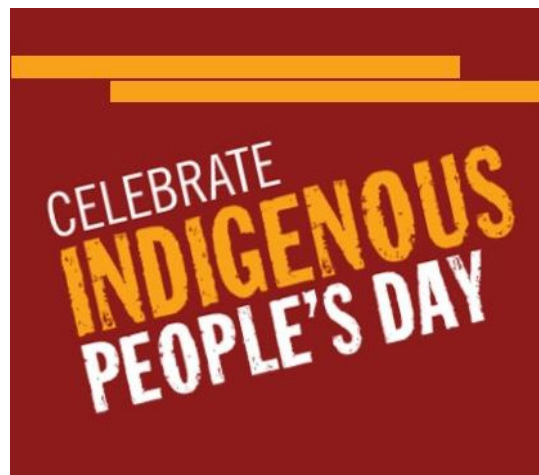
In 1992, Berkeley, California became the first U.S. city to celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day instead of Columbus Day. Since then, a handful of states and cities have changed the holiday as well. One month ago, New Mexico's governor signed legislation that officially changed the holiday. In Massachusetts, Cambridge, Amherst, and Northampton have switched to Indigenous Peoples' Day. At Marblehead's town meeting on May 6th, there was a vote on whether or not to make the change to Indigenous Peoples' Day. At the time of the writing of this article, the result of the meeting was not known. This movement is officially Article 19, and if it was passed, it will not change the day the holiday is celebrated, nor its status as a federal holiday.

It is important to know not just what the cause of renaming the holiday is, but the reason that it is so important. Columbus Day honors Christopher Columbus,

an Italian explorer, who never came to the U.S. He is credited with discovering the Americas, despite the fact that both North and South America were already inhabited and had been visited by other European explorers before he arrived there. Columbus' journey to America led to the colonization and genocide of Native Americans.

Native Americans have made major contributions to our society throughout history. I remember learning about how Native Americans taught the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock to grow food multiple times throughout elementary school. It is even portrayed in popular television programs such as the Charlie Brown special played at Thanksgiving. Massachusetts' name originates from the Massachusetts tribe, and there is a street in Marblehead named after Nanepashemet, the chief of a Native American tribe and a resident of the Neck for one part of his life. Still, Native Americans have been persecuted all throughout U.S. history.

The local committee that has been leading this effort can be found on Instagram and Facebook @indigenouspeoplesdayMHD. They also have a website where you can learn more about what inspired them to start this initiative. Their contact information is also located on the following page: [www.indigenouspeoplesdayma.org/marblehead/](http://www.indigenouspeoplesdayma.org/marblehead/). The meeting has already passed, but no matter what the result was, you should educate any friends and family about this issue to participate in the movement to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day!



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