



Why Join the Newspaper?

Jillian Lederman, Junior
Editor-in-Chief

As Headlight's Editor-in-Chief for the 2018/19 school year, one of my primary goals is expanding the newspaper to attract greater participation and readership both within school and around town. This has involved posting flyers around the school, encouraging students to join via morning announcements, and creating an Instagram to both make people more interested in the club and to promote articles by sharing links to each issue of our paper.

As a club, we are also dedicating effort to increase the amount of content that we produce each week. We are so grateful for the opportunity to publish our articles in the Marblehead Reporter, but we hope to soon develop an additional school-distributed version that includes more student-focused pieces and increases the level of interest for the newspaper within school walls. The question, however, is why? Why are our goals important? Why should students be interested in participating in or reading the newspaper?

The primary component is every newspaper is its articles. The production of articles requires the use of a variety of skills, including knowing and correctly using grammar, piecing together words clearly and effectively, and adjusting the style of a piece depending on the intended audience. All of these comprise the subject of writing as a whole. And writing is perhaps the most important and widely used skill in professional life. According to a study sponsored by The College Board's National Commission on Writing for America's Schools and Colleges, 86 percent of teens and 80 percent of parents feel that good writing skills are vitally important for success in later life. While essays in English class help students achieve this, the school newspaper offers an additional outlet for practicing writing in a way that also encourages the development of other useful skills.

Not only do students who write for the newspaper learn better how to communicate ideas through words, but they also become more comfortable with other expectations such as submitting work on time, working well with other people, and being prepared to take on the role of a leader, all of which are aspects of a real work environment. The school newspaper is arguably a simulation of the professional world, and learning the required skills for this world will undeniably help us, as students, in our eventual transition into contributing members of the workforce. The newspaper is also a platform for students to develop and share their beliefs. Any student who is angry, proud, or feels an urgency about a specific issue in school or around the world is free to share his or her view, no matter if others agree or disagree with it.

This is why we are putting so much work into spreading the word about MHS Headlight. We want to create a greater awareness within school about the benefits of participating in the newspaper, which extend far beyond just writing more often. We hope that our actions will encourage students to join the club both to develop their own skills and to help us reach a greater audience both in school and out.

The Greatest Marathoner On Earth

Kristy Twaalfhoven, Senior
Reporter

In Berlin, on September 16th, Eliud Kipchoge of Kenya set the new marathon world record in a time of 2:01:39. This is over a minute faster than Dennis Kimetto's previous record set in 2014.

In the world of distance running, this shattering record is an important milestone in the quest to break the two hour marathon. Back in May of 2017, Kipchoge, along with two other runners named Lelisa Desisa and Zersenay Tadese, attempted to run a sub-two hour marathon as part of Nike's "Breaking2" Initiative. The project primed and prepped the three runners for a perfect sub-two marathon attempt, but the fastest time achieved was Kipchoge's run of 2:00:25. To break two he would've needed to run at a pace of at least four minutes and 35 seconds per mile. However, his time did not count as a new world record due to the nature of the Breaking2 project. The initiative focused on minimizing the factors outside of human potential which had limited previous attempts. For example, there were pacemakers who ran in a triangle formation to shelter the athletes from headwind. Regardless, Kipchoge's performance redefined what's considered possible. It made breaking the two hour marathon a conceivable goal.

Though he is still working towards the two hour line, Kipchoge now holds the world record after last week's Berlin marathon. The 33-year-old Kenyan spends half his time with his family living in his home in Kenya, and half his time with his teammates at a training camp 8,000 feet above sea level. According to a New York Times interview, Kipchoge rarely pushes himself past 80 percent effort during training. During track sessions he may push to 90 percent effort, but never 100 percent. He "reserves the best of himself" for race day. And, though he is a wealthy man, as the most-decorated marathoner, he lives a simple, disciplined lifestyle at training camp. He wakes at five am to run and spends the day training, doing chores like chopping vegetables for the camp, and reading. Kipchoge believes that "Motivation + Discipline = Consistency." Maybe we could all benefit from following Kipchoge's mantra in our lives.



Come to Marblehead Community Charter School on October 6, anytime from 10 am - 2 pm to experience eco-education! Efforts are being made across the country to protect the environment. Learn what you can do to help. Visit www.sustainablemarblehead.org for more information.

The Kavanaugh Controversy

Lily Morgan, Junior
Reporter

In October 2017, the #MeToo movement went viral over many different social media platforms when actress Alyssa Milano popularized the hashtag in her tweet: "If you've been sexually harassed or assaulted write 'me too' as a reply to this tweet." As of today, the tweet has 66,000 replies and 24,000 retweets. Men and women alike rallied to expose and prevent sexual assault and harassment. Celebrities such as Aziz Ansari, Harvey Weinstein, and Melanie Martinez were accused of sexual misconduct during this movement. Many people stepped forward to share their own experiences with sexual assault and tried to empower others to do so as well. The movement helped fight victim bashing and gave victims the courage they needed to call attention to the issue of sexual assault. Now, almost a year since #MeToo went viral, another sexual assault allegation has surfaced, this time in regards to Judge Brett Kavanaugh.

In 2003, President George W. Bush nominated Brett Kavanaugh as a United States Circuit Judge to replace Judge Laurence Silberman. The Senate debated the nomination of Kavanaugh for three years, and he was approved in 2006. Justice Anthony Kennedy swore him in on June 1, 2006, and he has served as a judge in the Appeals Courts ever since. This summer, President Donald Trump nominated Brett Kavanaugh to replace Justice Anthony Kennedy on the Supreme Court.

Kavanaugh's hearings began on September 4. Four days before a vote was expected to take place either confirming or denying Kavanaugh's position on the Supreme Court, Senator Dianne Feinstein from California shared an anonymous letter sent to her accusing Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct and attempted rape. Supporters of Kavanaugh criticized the allegation's anonymity, so Christine Ford stepped forward to identify herself as the woman who filed the complaint. Ford accused Kavanaugh of physically restraining her at a party in high school when she was 15 and Kavanaugh was 17. Ford says that Kavanaugh held her down, covered her mouth when she tried to scream for help, and attempted to remove her clothes. Ford says she did not mention the sexual assault to anybody until 2012, when she and her husband attended couple's therapy sessions. Notes from these therapy sessions have been released, and in them, Ford mentions being assaulted by boys from a preparatory school while at a house party in Maryland. She also states that the attacker grew up to be a high-profile citizen in Washington, D.C. Ford's husband says he remembers Christine mentioning Kavanaugh by last name in their therapy sessions, but the therapist's notes do not name the abuser.

In August, Ford took a polygraph test about the sexual assault allegations and reportedly passed. However, the test has raised many questions. Ford refuses to disclose who paid for the test or any details about the test. Polygraph tests are often inadmissible in court, because it is possible to have a false reading on a polygraph test. Many supporters of Kavanaugh found it strange that Ford took the test a month before her sexual assault allegations came to light. However, if the allegations are true, it is likely that once Ford heard about Kavanaugh's nomination in July, she made a plan to eventually come forward about the sexual assault and took a lie detector test as proof for when she would inevitably come under fire for the accusation.

Brett Kavanaugh and Christine Ford are set to testify on Thursday, September 27. Kavanaugh's confirmation as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court was delayed due to the controversy. The country is divided over the alleged sexual assault. Supporters of Kavanaugh believe the accusation is fake and that Ford constructed the story in order to prevent his confirmation to the court. Many others believe Ford's accusation and hope to see Kavanaugh's confirmation denied. In all cases of reported sexual assault, the same question arises: Who is telling the truth? If Brett Kavanaugh is found guilty of assaulting and attempting to rape Christine Ford, what will become of him? If the allegations are revealed to be true, will supporters still rally behind Kavanaugh despite a tarnished past? I believe they would. When footage was released of Donald Trump's "locker room talk," constituents still wanted him as their president. But what if the accusation is a fraud? Will Kavanaugh be confirmed as the newest Supreme Court Justice, or will people turn on him because they still believe Ford? By the time this article is published, both Ford and Kavanaugh will have testified, but their fates may still be undecided.



Brett Kavanaugh testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee

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