



The High School View

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Wordsmiths gather for first Writers Week

BY ELIE JORDI

Writers Week was an exciting new event held at the high school to promote and celebrate writing beyond the classroom. Island poets, novelists, and journalists visited last week to share their love of writing.

Over the course of the week, 24 writers attended over 35 classes. English teachers Emma Mushnick, Spencer D'Agostino, Elaine Hays, and Christine Ferrone organized the event, with help from other English department teachers.

Ms. Ferrone hoped that the students would gain something from the experience. She said she wanted them to take away "inspiration, a broader understanding and awareness of how writing

can play a role in one's life, a sense of themselves as writers — not just students of writing."

Novelist Lara O'Brien was invited to present in Dan Sharkovitz's English class. She spoke about her struggles with writing and what prompted her to become a novelist. She enjoyed working with many of the high school students. "It was very interesting and eye-opening to sit and engage and listen to high school students," she said. "As an author, it was fascinating to view each class, the energy level, interest and amazing young creative minds."

Mr. D'Agostino was impressed with the success of Writers Week. He said, "I

think bringing authors into the classroom is important



An audience of 120 students, teachers, and administrators gather to listen to Island writer Emma Young (right), West Tisbury poet laureate, read several poems during the coffeehouse.

because it helps make the entire concept of being a writer more tangible and real to students."

Senior Lee Faraca enjoyed

having a writer come to his English class. "Nancy Aronie came to our class. I'm happy that we had her, because though she was an

opportunities, and life."

In addition, senior Dunovan Belisle found it a worthwhile experience. "Bill Eville was our featured writer. He

share our writing. It was a genuine experience."

Justen Ahren, an Island poet, loved working with high school students. He

said, "Being a writer isn't necessarily an occupation, but a way of living your life, as witness and participant. It is a way to represent yourself in the brief time you are being, and say this is what I did, what I saw, and how I loved what was mine."

Gauging the responses of the students and the guest writers, the first-ever Writers Week was a successful schoolwide event. Between daily writing activities, such as one-line "exquisite corpse" stories that occurred during lunch, and the guest speakers, Writers Week inspired many to explore the possibilities of the written word. **HSV**



PHOTOS BY KRISTINE HOPKINS

Library redesign moves forward

BY SOPHIA MCCARRON

Representatives of Fielding Nair International (FNI), an architectural design firm that specializes in educational facilities, will come to the high school soon to make a plan for library renovation.

Most students and staff cannot remember the last time the library was redone. However, judging by the fluorescent lights, mostly outdated computers, and retro furniture in the current library, it is safe to say that it was a very long time ago. That's where FNI comes in.

FNI representatives aim to accommodate everyone who will use the library in their design. Librarian Kevin McGrath said, "The big philosophy for this project is being able to change the space and make it available for a variety of uses." Last year, Mr. McGrath sent surveys to every homeroom in order to get data on what the students feel the new library needs. Better computers were frequently mentioned in the surveys, as well as open access to Wi-Fi,

and improvements to the space and furniture.

Sophomore Alison Daigle said, "I would look for a welcoming and inviting place where it's easy to find books, and more comfy seating areas. Also, more Chromebooks would be useful, so classes and students

The new library hopes to facilitate global learning for students.

in learning centers can both have access to them."

On the other hand, English teacher Bill McCarthy is more of a traditionalist, in favor of a library with traditional books as opposed to electronic books. "I represent the old guard for libraries. I was definitely the stick in the mud."

Not only will the new library be a home for paper books and their technological counterparts, but it will also serve as a hub for the community at large. Sam Hart, executive director of Adult and Community Education

of Martha's Vineyard (ACE MV) looks forward to the new opportunities that come with the renovation. He said, "ACE MV currently uses the library for night classes. We would like to expand our offerings so that we can hold dual-enrollment classes during the day and open it to both high school juniors and seniors as well as adults."

The new library hopes to facilitate global learning for students. Mr. McGrath said, "The space would be for the whole Island. It should be a community center — and by becoming a global learning center it would connect the school with the rest of the world."

Although better Wi-Fi and computers are high on the list for students, their stomachs always take priority. That's why there has been a request for a café. People could snack while they study, and maintain a healthy blood sugar to boot. With completion slated to be anywhere from 2016 to 2018, many current students stand to miss out on a pretty fabulous new edition. But if plans hold true, future students will have the world at their fingertips. **HSV**

Exchange grows new friendships

BY WILLA VIGNEAULT

Forty-three female lacrosse players and their five coaches from St. Helen and St. Katharine in Abingdon, England, spent two nights with the families of the regional high school's girls lacrosse team. On March 26, the team had flown into Washington D.C., and continued to make their way up the East Coast. They played games in Washington, D.C.; Baltimore; Philadelphia; Long Island, N.Y.; Martha's Vineyard; and Boston.

"It was by far the largest group they have ever brought, but we were happy to take them," said regional high school coach Betsy Dripps.

On Thursday, April 2, the players arrived and joined the MV girls team for a potluck dinner in the school cafeteria before being intro-

duced to their host player and taken home. After leaving the potluck, some of the MV players took their girls on a quick tour of the island. Senior Captain Emily DeBettencourt said, "After we left the potluck, Lee [Hayman] and I took our girls to



PHOTO WILLA VIGNEAULT

From left: English exchange student Riki Auton, MVRHS sophomore Willa Vigneault, and English player Ella Windsor-Lewis pose for a picture before the players depart.

Menemsha for the sunset. It was really nice, and they seemed to really like it."

Ella Windsor-Lewis, a visiting player, said, "My favorite part of the tour was visiting

a couple of the lighthouses situated around the island. It was my first time in a lighthouse, and the views from the top were incredible."

Martha's Vineyard girls lacrosse has been participating in this exchange for 18 years, with two different schools in England, St. Helen and St. Katharine, and Westonbirt school. Each school comes

every three years, with Westonbirt scheduled to come next year, and the girls Martha's Vineyard team goes to England to play both those teams, as well as a few others, every two years. "It's so great to have this opportunity for our players to realize that there are people everywhere who play lacrosse and love it like we do," coach Dripps said.

Junior varsity goalie Samantha Hargy said, "I think it's great that lacrosse can bring different cultures together and that we can connect with people from other countries who play the same sport we do and see how it differs from how we play it." **HSV**

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