

MVRHS Parent Newsletter

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School

March 2016

Save the Date

Don't Miss It...

2016 MVRHS Evening of the Arts



Wednesday
May 25
6-9pm

Interested in Work- study or Mentorship?

Sophomores! Juniors!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Work-study or Mentorship
paperwork for Sept. 2016 is
available in the CTE office on
May 15.

YTF Invites You...

Senior Parent Dinner

April 6, 2016
6:00-7:30pm
Culinary Arts Dining
Room



*The Youth Task Force invites parents
of high school seniors to a FREE
evening of food and an opportunity to
have a conversation with other
parents.*

From the Principal's Desk

***"The academic awakenings of students include finding
their own paths to purpose."***

-Will Damon



What if the purpose of a high school was to awaken students to their "Path to Purpose" or what teacher Will Damon calls, "the moral North Star on their route to excellence." The purpose of high school is not simply passing tests and getting good grades; instead, an education must offer a steady beacon to inspire and direct students' best efforts in life. By discovering personal meaning in their schoolwork, students will apply their efforts with focus and imagination.

In a recent California study at Stanford University, only 20% of high school graduates could articulate the purpose of their education, express if they had any meaningful direction in life, or explain if they were better people for having graduated from their school. As parents and teachers at MVRHS, we can do better than that.

In our School Advisory Council we are examining the nature of a rigorous education. What does it look like in a classroom? Is it the science-fair project? The award-winning essay? The lead role in the school play? The mastering of an instrument?

For practice yourself, think about a time when you experienced rigor in your life. What was the nature of it? What did it feel like? Perhaps it was playing an instrument, developing a new business, writing something amazing, or achieving something you never imagined you could do.

Crockett Cataloni delivered a speech to the student body last week in the library about his experiences leaving the high school and attending the Chamberlain School to reform his life. The most poignant aspect was his description of being excluded from high school and finding his way to community service at Thimble Farm alone and isolated on this island. It underscored how significant a role we have as one of only two education providers for adolescents. Without school this is a place without direction.

For this reason and for many others, we need to help students construct meaning for themselves, engage in inquiry and thought, probe deeper into the questions we pose, connect school lessons to larger world issues, analyze the reasons for their studies, and contribute to the wider world outside school.

So that's our challenge – to create a high school for all students where education translates into purpose and character, where everyone finishes their year with positive reasons for coming to high school, and finally, where everyone knows they are a better person for having graduated from here.

Peg Regan

MVRHS Students Bring Home 25 Scholastic Art Awards

Nineteen MVRHS students won a total of twenty-five awards in the 2016 Boston Globe Scholastic Art Awards. Six students; Tom Irwin, Opal Wortmann, Lia Potter, Pia Ohlsen, Amber Medeiros, and Elizabeth Dourian - won "Gold Keys", the contest's top prize. Their work is on exhibit at the EF Gallery in Cambridge until March 20. National winners will be announced March 14.

Opal Wortmann: Gold Key and Honorable Mention, Photography

Elizabeth Dourian: Gold Key, Photography

Amber Medeiros: Gold Key, Photography

Pia Ohlsen: Gold Key, Photography

Lia Potter: Gold Key, Photography

Thomas Irwin: Gold Key, Art Portfolio; Honorable Mention, Ceramics & Glass

Courtney Howell: Silver Key, Art Portfolio

Rya Baird: Silver Key and Honorable Mention, Photography

Isabelle Crawford: Silver Key, Photography

Olivia Knight: Silver Key, Photography

Maggie Mayhew: Silver Key, Photography

Kayla Oliver: Silver Key, Photography

Donald O'Shaughnessy: Two Honorable Mentions, Ceramics & Glass

Ava Thors: Honorable Mention, Drawing and Illustration

Sophie Bonneau: Honorable Mention, Digital Art

Dayanna Middleton: Honorable Mention, Digital Art

Astoria Hall: Honorable Mention, Photography

Emma Herrick: Honorable Mention, Photography

Margaret Joba-Woodruff: Two Honorable Mentions, Painting, Poetry



Opal Wortman



Tom Irwin



Elizabeth Dourian



Pia Ohlsen

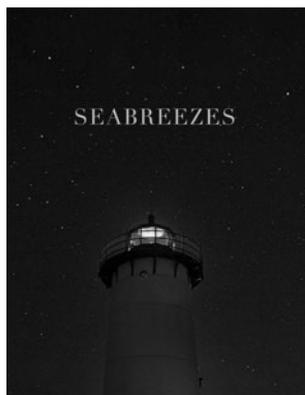


Lia Potter



Amber Medeiros

Seabreezes Is Coming Soon



Stay tuned for the 2016 edition of SEABREEZES, the MVRHS art & literary magazine, due in late May or early June. We are still accepting submissions; send them to seabreezes@mvyps.org or share with "MV Seabreezes" from Google Docs.

Congratulations to MVRHS students Salem DeGeofroy, Dayanna Middleton, Caroline Roddy, Sophie Bonneau, and the rest of the 2014-2015 SEABREEZES team for achieving the top tier "Superior" category in NCTE's 2015 PRESLEM (Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary Magazines) award!

Chris Baer

APPLY NOW

FOR A HIGH SCHOOL

SUMMER INTERNSHIP WITH THE TRUSTEES!



- Environmental Education
- Shorebird Management
- Stewardship
- Public Interpretation

Environmental Training Internship

- In-depth learning and leadership opportunities for high school juniors and seniors interested in outdoor environmental work.
- 8 week paid internship, 2 days/week (July 5-August 26)
- Only two positions available!

For full job description email:
Molly Peach
Island Educator
mpeach@ttor.org

Applications due by April 15



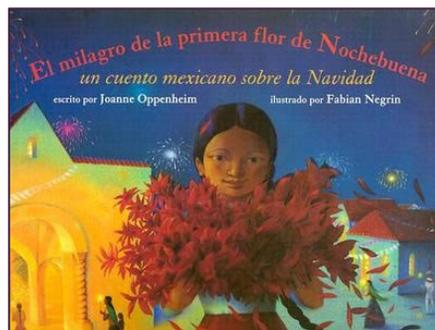
trustees

thetrustees.org

Spanish IV Students Learn About the Spanish Speaking World

In December, Cristina Dominguez, a native Spanish speaker came in to talk with Spanish IV students (in Spanish) about holiday traditions in Spain.

Students then continued to learn about the culture of the Spanish speaking world by reading *El milagro de la primera flor de Nochebuena: un cuento mexicano sobre la Navidad*, this time learning about traditions in Mexico. From there students researched holiday traditions throughout other Latin American countries.



Based on their research they wrote original children's stories in Spanish that highlighted the traditions of the country that they researched.

Students were most surprised by and excited to share the following fun facts from their stories:

Guatemala - The Burning of the Devil

Everyone gathers trash and burns it in their yards to purify for the celebration of Christmas and the new year. The government is trying to control the tradition as it contributes greatly to pollution.

Argentina - Bath time!

All of the children take a bath on Christmas Eve. While the kids are taking a bath, their parents put presents under the tree!

Colombia - Costumed beggars

Kids wear masks and costumes and go to the streets begging for money so that they can buy firecrackers.

Puerto Rico - Camels instead of reindeer!

No carrots for reindeer in Puerto Rico... For three kings day children put grass underneath their beds for the camels that bring the three kings.

Bolivia - Shake, shake, shake

Kids find materials to make their own maracas and on Christmas day they run through the streets playing their homemade instruments!

Justine DeOliveira

Thoughts About Prom Night from the YTF

The Youth Task Force encourages parents to stay involved and support their children in having a safe prom experience.

- Talk to your child about making good decisions and let them know your expectations for the Prom
- Exchange names/phone numbers of friends your child is attending with and their parents
- Speak with other parents about their rules and expectations for the evening
- Check in with your child at designated times throughout the evening
- Have a plan in place with your child should they encounter a situation on prom night in which they feel unsafe



Is your child taking a limousine bus to/from the Prom? *Some thoughts to consider:*

- Speak with the Limousine Rental Company about their underage drinking prevention policies.
- The majority of limousines travel from off-island. The drivers often have travelled a long distance, are very tired when they arrive and are unfamiliar with the Vineyard.
- Speak to the limousine driver and ask them if they have a plan to prevent underage drinking, drug use, and sexual behavior from occurring on the bus.
- Have a discussion with your child about your expectations for their behavior when on the limousine bus. Have a plan for your child to call you/family member for a ride or call a taxi if they want to remove themselves from a situation they feel is unsafe.
- Limousine buses are unsupervised, mobile underage parties. In the past, many parents have insisted that the limousines stop and check in at designated times throughout the night. This ensures that a responsible adult can see that students are safe and can intervene before situations get out of hand.

**Talk to your child about attending the After Prom Party at the Y!
This once in a lifetime experience will be sure to create lasting memories!**

Last year over \$5,000 was donated to the After-Prom event from generous community members and businesses! Raffles prizes, delicious food, games, photos, midnight swimming, trivia, DJ dance party and inflatables from off-island (Velcro wall and sumo wrestling) helped make the night a huge, FUN success!

A Few More Scholastic Art Award Winners

Olivia Knight



Margaret Joba-Woodruff



Maggie Mayhew

Performing Arts Department Update



Although the Island seems to quiet down in the winter months, the Performing Arts Department keeps busy! Thanks to the enthusiasm of our students, the second semester began with two classes – Class Voice II and Musical

Theatre Production – added to our schedule. Band, Orchestra, Advanced Placement Music Theory, and Chorus continued as yearlong courses, and our semester classes in Piano, Guitar, Theatre II, Theory II, Music Exploration, and Jazz Band began with a new group of aspiring musicians and actors.

In January, six students performed in the Southeast District Music Festival, and two of them performed at Symphony Hall in the All State Concert. Twenty singers participated in the All Cape and Islands concert in February, singing in both the mixed and treble choirs. February also brought the MVRHS production of 'CHICAGO' to the PAC stage, with three packed houses. Students, Island staff members, parents, and community members collaborated to make this year's musical a resounding success.

On March 3rd, the All Island Choral Festival brought Island 7th and 8th graders to the high school to meet and talk with the high school choral students, rehearse, and enjoy a pizza lunch. In the evening, the combined 7th-8th grade choruses, the high school Chorus, Vocal Ensemble, Sound Wave and the Minnesingers performed, and the concert culminated in a combined presentation of Spring Song and The African Processional. Island music teachers prepared their students and participated as conductors, accompanists, and percussion ensemble!

Groups are now in rehearsal for their year-end concert, which will take place during Evening of the Arts, May 25th. Don't miss this annual showcase of visual and performing arts. It's one of the highlights of our year. Orchestra and jazz band students continue to provide entertainment for the senior lunches in culinary arts, and the members of Vocal Ensemble will be singing at Windemere and some of the senior centers. The Theatre II class is working on a Shakespeare unit, which will culminate in several public performances later in the spring. The Musical Theatre Production class will present its 2nd cabaret at Alex's Place, also later in the spring. And speaking of Spring – it's almost here!

Jan Wightman

Student Presents Hydroponics Design at Thimble Farm

On Saturday March 5th Casey McAndrews presented her hydroponics design work as part of a Home Hydroponics Workshop offered at Thimble Farm.



Casey has been working both with the MEnvironment Club and on a senior project focused on home hydroponic design. As part of both interests, she worked to create a small hydroponics system made in part from recycled materials. She and the club have had significant help from our horticulture teacher John Wojtkiolo and from Keith Wilda at Thimble Farm.



For the workshop, Casey presented a design she had built, including a spec sheet with pricing and directions. This design is one that will be used as a model for a workshop offered by her and the MEnvironment Club to middle school students later in March.

Note that the system she built using red recycled buckets costs just over \$100, compared to a similar commercial system in white that costs over \$500!

Natalie Munn



Please join us for a public screening of
the HBO Documentary

HEROIN CAPE COD, USA

Discussion to follow with Producer
Lise King and a panel of
addiction specialists

MARCH 17, 2016

7:00pm | CHILMARK COMMUNITY CENTER

An unvarnished look at the heroin
epidemic sweeping America's small
towns and communities, focusing on
eight young addicts in idyllic
Cape Cod, MA.

Reserve Free Tickets at:
<http://tmvff.org/heroincapecod>

PANEL PARTICIPANTS

Lise King is co-producer of *Heroin: Cape Cod, USA*.

Alexander Walley, M.D., M.Sc. is an assistant professor of medicine at Boston University, an addiction medicine specialist at Boston Medical Center, and the director of the Boston University Addiction Medicine Fellowship Program.

Charles Silberstein, M.D. is a psychiatrist board certified in general and addiction psychiatry. He was previously on the faculty of NYU's School of Medicine and ran Bellevue Hospital Center's Detox and Rehab Program.

Lt. Pat Glynn is commander of the narcotics unit and special investigations at the Quincy Police Department. He partnered with the MA Department of Public Health and in 2010 brought Narcan training to officers.



THE MVFF
Martha's Vineyard Film Festival



VINEYARD



GAZETTE

MVRHS & Island Grown Schools Launch On-Site Composting Program



MVRHS students in Building Trades constructing our food recycling system!

In early September, Island Grown Schools Program Leader Noli Taylor, IGS High School Coordinator Kelsey Head, and MVRHS CTE Director Barbara-Jean Chauvin started talking about food waste at the high school. According to UNEP, it is estimated that \$161 billion dollars worth of edible food goes to waste each year, causing major economic and social impacts, while also contributing to the largest volume of material in our landfills (accounting for 21% of the waste stream). Currently, food scraps at the school are discarded into trash bins, while the school vegetable garden (located in the second courtyard) always needs new inputs of nutrient-rich soil. We realized that the problem of school food waste could become the solution to the needs of our garden, and could help in abating our national food waste dilemma.

With the support of our Principal Peg Regan, we set out to develop an on-site composting system to turn food waste into rich garden compost. In January, Kelsey brought Building Trades teacher Billy Seabourne's class to visit Tom Turner's wood mill in Katama. IGS purchased Tom's locally grown and processed lumber to begin construction of a pest-proof, 4 bay compost bin, modeled after a successful system used at Quabbin Regional High School in Western Mass for the last 8 years. Just a month later, the Building Trades students finished building MVRHS's very first on-site compost bin.



This fall, students in Garden Club made salsa with vegetables they grew in the school garden with our beautiful school-made compost!

To prepare for the use of the new system, Kelsey will collaborate with students to lead a school wide assembly in April to teach students, staff and faculty about the ecological and economic importance of recycling our food waste, and the logistics of the composting program here at MVRHS. We are planning to launch the new system after the assembly this spring.

Our goals for this project are to help reduce waste on Martha's Vineyard, save waste removal costs for the school, and engage students in their own waste reduction efforts here on campus. The bins can provide not only academic learning opportunities (from collecting qualitative data collection and rates of decomposition for math projects, to studying nutrient cycling and soil structure in science classes), but can also provide the opportunity for students to be leaders in their school community and in the wider community. As ambassadors for reducing waste and growing food locally, they are supporting the Martha's Vineyard local food system and a sustainable future.

Kelsey Head, IGS



MVRHS's vegetable garden, located in the second courtyard.

Carnaval!

In January Cristina Dominguez returned to talk about Carnaval in Spain with Spanish IV students and a new visitor, Lorena Crespo, originally from Ecuador, also came to share her traditions. Students enjoyed using their Spanish skills to converse with native speakers and learn about their cultures.



Lorena not only talked with Spanish students about her culture, but also returned for a few visits to teach them the dances of Carnaval. She

worked with Spanish IV students teaching them various steps from all over Latin America, and also visited with Portuguese I students to teach them the samba. We are so grateful to have these members of our community come in and work with our students, giving them an authentic way to practice their language skills and learn about other cultures...a great time was had by all!



Justine DeOliveira



Portuguese I students learn the Samba.

CTE Health Assisting Volunteers for MSF

CTE Health Assisting I and II classes have been introduced to the concept of world health through studying and participating in the efforts of humanitarian aid organization, Doctors Without Borders, MSF. The French-founded non-governmental organization is best known for its projects in war-torn regions of the world. MSF's philosophy of "talking about people and not politics" inspired instructor, Mary Vivian to get her MVRHS Health Assisting students involved with this global health initiative.



Contacting the organization's New York office with a fundraising idea led to an invitation to participate in the *Missing Maps Mapathon*. *Missing Maps* is powered by volunteers around the world who map underserved regions for humanitarian activities and provide international, national, and regional, and local aid agencies geographical data to better respond to crises.

Using the Open Street Map platform, all data collected will be shared free of charge. High schools all over America are helping with the project. A bulletin board in the CTE hallway displays local students' work in mapping specific countries. Ms. Vivian and her students hope to find and invite a MSF speaker later in the spring to kick off their Mapathon. Fundraising ideas are also being pursued.

Barbara Jean Chauvin

MVRHS Guidance

MCAS Testing, Grade 10

ELA - March 22,23,24

MATH - May 17,18

BIOLOGY - June 1,2

SAT Testing

May 7 / Regular Registration Deadline is April 8

June 3 / Regular Registration Deadline is May 5



From the Horticulture Department:

Be on the lookout for information regarding our

ANNUAL Plant Sale

Pho Fundraiser Was A Hit!



Culinary Arts teacher and Chef Jack O'Malley and Chef Dan Sauer of 7A Foods working with MVRHS students to prepare food for the event.

On Wednesday, February 17th, guests shared family style seating in the Culinary Arts dining room to enjoy a hot bowl of pho (a traditional Vietnamese broth based soup) served in one-of-a-kind student made ceramics. The event raised funds for all three collaborating programs: MVRHS Culinary Arts, MVRHS Ceramic Arts and the MVRHS garden (run by Island Grown Schools).

On behalf of our three programs, we would like to thank Dan Sauer of 7a Foods for donating his



Natalija Lakis, Farm Project member serving pho.

talent, time and energy to work with Culinary Arts students in creating such a beautiful, locally sourced dish, as well as our local farms for their wonderful food, including Morning Glory Farm, the Good Farm, and Beetlebung Farm Meats.

We would also like to show our gratitude to the students who made this possible, from Brendan Coogan's students in Crafts for making and donating beautiful pottery, to Jack O'Malley's students in Culinary Arts for making the dish, to Kelsey Head's students in the Farm Project for prepping and serving the dish at the event. But most of all, we would like to thank our guests for the wonderful support they give to our programs. THANK YOU!



Ava Thors



Donald O'Shaughnessy



Courtney Howell



Margaret Joba-Woodruff

Jay Blake: Inspirational Speaker and Blind Mechanic Speaks

Ken Ward, instructor of Automotive Technology in the CTE Department, is proud to announce that Jay Blake, NHRA drag car team owner and the only blind crew chief in motorsports, will speak to students and staff on Wed., May 11, 2016. After a shop accident left him without sight, smell, or taste, Blake became more determined than ever to follow his dream of owning a professional racing team.

Following surgeries and rehabilitation, he mortgaged his house on Cape Cod and persuaded his brother to help him find the right car. Hiring a driver and a tuner, he discovered he could still diagnose and repair engines, and the team was born; he became the first and only blind crew chief in racing history. Blake's success has led to sponsorship by Permatex, entrance into the top national races and competing in six Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series events this year.



In addition to his achievements in the world of motorsports, in 1999, Blake established a non-profit 501(C)3 organization to deliver his message of positive thinking, self-determination, and teamwork through motorsports. In addition to his inspiration talk, Blake will display his prize-winning dragster.

Barbara-Jean Chauvin

Fire Extinguisher Training



The Oak Bluffs Fire/Ambulance Crew provided fire extinguisher training to students. Capt. Gonsalves, Capt. Wildanger and Paramedic/Firefighter Mike DeRosa assisted students as they practiced using the fire extinguishers outside of the Automotive Area. They reviewed fire safety and gave first aid tips in the Health Assisting class.



Barbara-Jean Chauvin

Gastronomique News



Austin Morley, 2015 graduate of MVRHS in the Culinary Arts Program, and a current student at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York, has been selected from among hundreds of applicants to “stage” at some of the most prestigious restaurants in NYC.

Students submit resumes and work histories to qualify for “staging” during which they are invited to observe food selection, preparation, and service of the newest offerings of the gourmet world. Among the restaurants accepting Austin were *11 Madison Park*, *The Modern*, *Daniel*, and *Le Bernardin*, rated in the top 10 on the Zagat website. “This is the result of talent, coupled with a strong work ethic”, says Chef Jack O’Malley, Austin’s mentor for four years in Culinary Arts.

Barbara-Jean Chauvin

iEARN Photography Challenge



Photo By Andrea Guyther

Congratulations to MVRHS photography students Andrea Guyther and Lena Hanschka, who, together with Raad Hamoud Mahyoub Mohammed Al-saeed of Yemen, shared first place in the 2016 iEARN Photography Challenge.

Chris Baer



Photo By Lena Hanschka

Valentine’s Day in Spanish IV



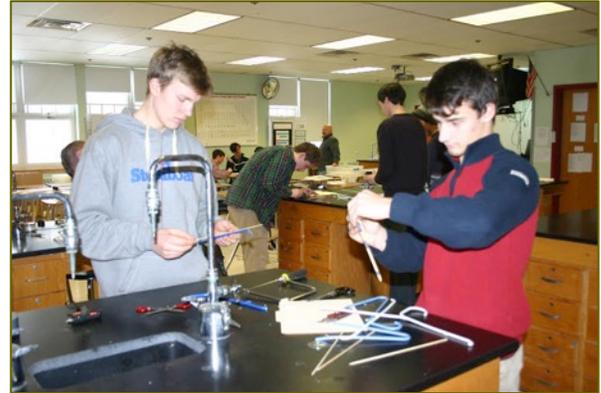
For Valentine's Day and as part of a unit on Heroes and Historical Figures, AP and Spanish IV students researched a variety of influential Hispanics through history. They each randomly selected two people and after researching they had to decide if the pair would make a good couple or not. Presentations were very entertaining!

Justine DeOliveira

The February Engineering Challenge



First Place = 110 points
James Kelliher, David Webster, Brahmin Thurber



Second Place = 105 points
Adam Bilodeau, Anders Nelson

Each month, our students have the opportunity to compete in our after-school Engineering Challenge competition.

The goals of the Challenge include providing students an opportunity to:

- 1) experience authentically and firsthand the process of engineering as they work as engineers to complete a design challenge
- 2) work as a group to collaborate and communicate to achieve a common goal
- 3) compete as an academic team in a different type of competition than our yearly science fair, thus expanding the opportunities for students to gain recognition for their accomplishments in science and related STEAM disciplines.

The February "Cupid Challenge" was to create a mini bow and arrow and use it to accumulate points based on how well the arrows hit a target "heart." Students were given 45 minutes to construct the bow and arrow from plastic coat hangers, wooden skewers, lightweight cardboard, fishing line, tape, and other basics. Each group was allowed five tries to hit the pink heart target, Cupid-style. They could get 5, 20, 30, or 50 points per hit, provided the "arrow" stuck to the target. The group that accumulated the most points based on accurate hits was named the winner.

Thank you to Anna Cotton (Alt Ed Science), Dana Munn (Science), Michael Lavers (Math), and Chris Connors (Art) for working with me as a team to plan and provide these opportunities.

Natalie Munn



Third Place = 40 points David Packer, Nathaniel Packer,
Auguste Pizzano, Garrett Zeilinger



and a few fun candidals...

**MARCH
2016**



OPEN DAILY FROM 2 PM (CLOSING TIMES VARY) OPEN FRIDAYS UNTIL 10 PM

WEEKLY CLUBS AND GROUPS!!! GET INVOLVED!

ALEX'S SISTERS - FOR TEEN GIRLS

4 PM MONDAY FEB 29TH AND MAR. 14 & 28TH

ANIME CLUB

WEDNESDAYS AT 3 PM

NINTENDO & MAGICK CARD CLUB

THURSDAYS 4:00 PM

ART CLUB WITH RBARR

FRIDAYS 3:00 PM

KONNECT FOR BOYS

SATURDAY MARCH 5TH & 26TH 5 PM

SPECIAL EVENTS!

IMPOSTERS COMEDY IMPROV LIVE!

SATURDAY MARCH 5TH 8PM

OPEN MIC NIGHT ADULTS AND TEENS

FRIDAY MARCH 4TH 8 PM

AMP JAM WITH ADAM HANJIAN

FRIDAY MARCH 25TH 7:30 PM