

MVRHS Parent Newsletter

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School

May/June 2015

Principal's Coffees



Please join us for the final Principal's Coffee of the year.

June 2nd 8-9:00am, Library Conference Room
(with coffee, tea and baked goods)

Russ MacDonald Set to Retire

As the school year closes next month the Physical Education department staff would like to say thank you and best wishes to Russ as he is stepping off to retirement. Russ has been a part of so many students' and families' lives with his rich history here at MVRHS; 14 years as a PE teacher, 7 years as the Athletic Director, and the Girls Varsity Soccer coach from 2001-2008.



For the past several years Russ has also been along side the MVTV video camera for most MVRHS athletic events doing play-by-play and filming.

Students and staff alike will miss Russ's passion for physical education. Thanks Russ and enjoy your next chapter in life!

Kathy Perrotta, PE Dept. Chair

MVRHS Students Compete at MIT



Freshmen Harrison Dorr and Jared Koster - Acceleration of a Magnet Through a Copper Pipe

MVRHS was well represented at the Massachusetts State Science & Engineering Fair (MSSEF) held May 1st and 2nd at MIT in Cambridge. Nils Aldeborgh, Christopher Aring-Sharkovitz, Harrison Dorr, and Jared Koster competed with more than 300 students from across the state. Students presented their projects to five different judges during the day on Friday,

attended a banquet on Friday night, campus tours on Saturday morning, as well as a career opportunity program followed by lunch. The students then showcased their projects to the public on Saturday afternoon with the award ceremony to follow.

Christopher received the following awards: the 2015 Harvard University Press Book Award; the MSSEF Science & Technology \$100 Award; the 2015 MSSEF 2nd Place Award and the Frederick P. Fish Patent Award, which includes legal services to file a patent application. (This is the same law firm that once represented such luminaries as Alexander Graham Bell and Thomas Edison.) In addition, he was chosen as a finalist to represent Southeastern Massachusetts at the International Science and Engineering Fair 2015 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on May 10-15. *(See page 8 for more about the Pittsburgh fair.)*

Christopher has also been recognized by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs with a Secretary's Award for Excellence presented at a formal award ceremony at the Massachusetts State House.

Jackie Hermann, Science Teacher & Science Fair Coordinator



Christopher Aring-Sharkovitz demonstrates his Augmented Reality Sand Table.



Nils Aldeborgh setting up and getting ready to meet his judges.

Evening of the Arts Showcases Students' Performing and Visual Arts

Don't Miss this Annual Showcase of Performing & Visual Arts!

Wednesday May 20. Doors open at 6:00 PM

Enter through the Performing Arts Center Foyer

Free Admission

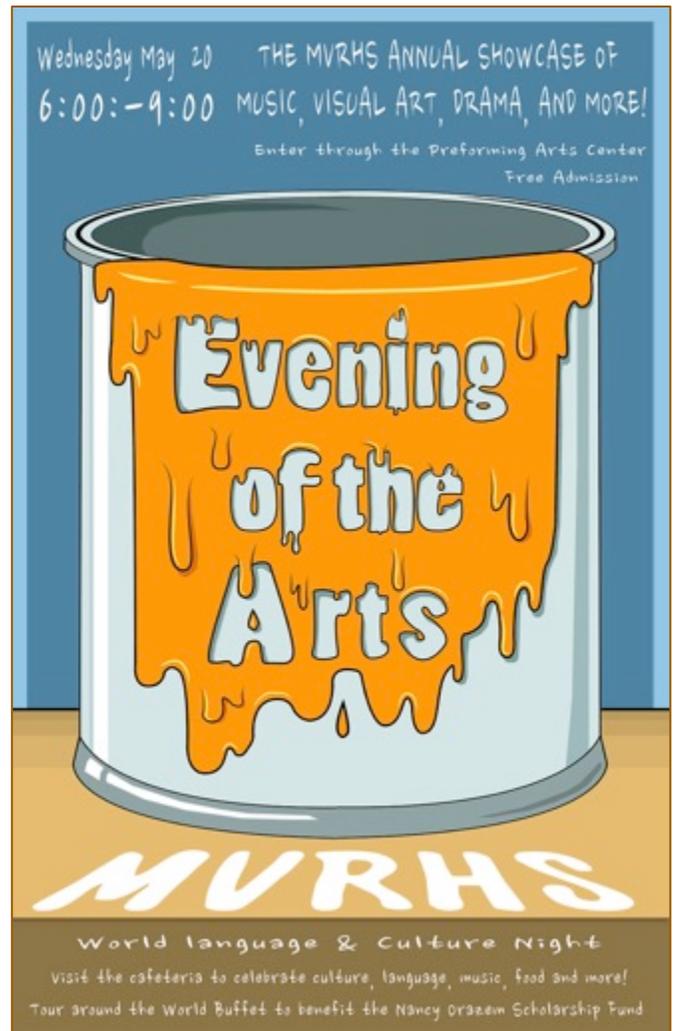
Drawing • painting • photography • ceramics •
architecture • sculpture • video • animation • design •
graphics • video games • invention • fashion
Instrumental and Vocal Music • Theater • Dance

Soloists and small group performances will feature original choreography and dance, "SoundWave" (a guys' acappella group), songs from Broadway, classical piano, pop, and original work. Our year-end concert will feature Combined Chorus, Orchestra, Band, and Jazz Band. A separate "Coffee House" venue will feature solo acts, music, and a Shakespeare scene, in an intimate setting.

See the student-made animation "The Sweetness of Savings", models and drawings of the Pergola Project, the winners of the 2015 Scholastic Art Awards and Mass Photo Challenge, an Arduino-controlled maze-playing ball game, an oil cooled computer in a fish tank, gigantic origami, a magnetically levitating solar powered motor made from 3D printed parts, a preview of the Vineyard Conservation Society's "The Art of Conservation: Water – An Island Treasure" art competition, a Vietnam-Martha's Vineyard photography exchange project, award-winning posters, music videos, 3D prints, highlights from the MV Museum's student "then & now" photography show, handmade handbags and scarves, screen prints, and much more!

Also: World Language & Culture Night and the Tour Around the World Buffet, celebrating culture, language, music, food & more! (*Tour Around the World Buffet to benefit the Nancy Orazem Scholarship Fund.*)

Chris Baer, Photography & Graphics Dept. Chair



The Yard: "Making It" in PE Class!



The Yard, with Jesse Keller, Director of Island Programs and education, joined our spring PE class bringing a new level of moving, learning and creating experience to our students. 12-15 freshmen and sophomore students participated in a 4-week program designed to foster learning and experiencing movement in a whole new way. This new opportunity allowed for enjoyable self-expression, development of diverse, challenging movement skills, critical thinking skills and overall a chance to use music and movement in a physical education setting. During two sessions, guests Sokeo Ros and Joseph Henderson from Providence, Rhode Island shared their passion for Hip Hop. This type of movement experience is just one example of the wide variety of opportunities available within the Physical Education department.

Kathy Perrotta, Phys Ed. Dept. Chair

Summer in El Slavador

The **American Youth Leadership Program (AYLP)** is a leadership training exchange program for U.S. high school students and adult mentors sponsored by the **US Department of State**. Participants travel abroad to gain firsthand knowledge of foreign cultures and to examine globally significant issues, such as the environment and climate change, food security and nutrition, the role of the media, and science and technology. Programs involve home-stays with local families, language lessons, leadership training, and community service opportunities. Participants implement a follow-on project in their communities once they return home.

Five of the 18 students chosen for the **El Salvador AYL Program** will be coming from MVRHS: **Nina Harris, Sarah Thomas, Sarah Felix, Lucy Ulyatt and Danielle Hopkins**. Spanish teacher **Cindy West** has been chosen to be one of the adult mentors.

The students, along with three teacher/escorts and the program director will have an opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge about life in El Salvador and to focus particularly on the challenges to food security and good nutrition. For three weeks this summer, students will investigate the social and environmental causes of food insecurity to gain a better understanding of the whole problem. While in El Salvador they will meet academics, agricultural experts, NGO leaders, urban social workers, small farmers, community leaders, social activists and others. Through structured weekly study circles and facilitated discussions with their Salvadoran student peers, the U.S. and Salvadoran students will reflect on their experience and develop small projects they will then apply to their own communities and school back home.



In early May participants met on the Vineyard for the first team-building weekend, which included an afternoon at the Ropes Course, facilitated by Major Bob Ogden of the Dukes County Sheriff's Department.

Cindy West, Spanish Teacher

Chatting in Spanish



Cristina Dominguez, originally from Spain and a new addition to our island community, has been coming to visit Spanish IV classes to share her language and culture with the students. This has been an incredible opportunity for our students to both use Spanish in an authentic way and to share their own culture. They have had a wonderful time talking with and learning from Cristina. The students are so excited to practice their skills with a native speaker and she has been very impressed with their ability to communicate in Spanish!



Justine DeOliveira, World Language Dept. Chair

A Reminder From Guidance

SAT Tests will be on June 6 at MVRHS

Transition Time in the Sped Department



The Special Education Department is getting ready to transition students off to life after MVRHS, as well as welcoming new 9th graders for the next school year. We are so excited for our seniors and their next steps into the "real world". They have worked hard and are ready to go! We wish them all the best!

Transitioning students with IEPs, from 8th grade to MVRHS, has been in the planning stages since the fall. The 8th grade special education teachers have been meeting and planning with the MVRHS Special Education Department monthly. New to the process

this year was a parent "meet and greet" night. Julie Schmidt and Jeff Caruthers, 9th grade special education teacher, John Fiorito, 9th grade guidance counselor, along with many other special education teachers, introduced themselves and shared information. We were pleased with the turn out, about 60%, and expect next year's to be higher!

For the past two weeks MVRHS hosted parents, students and Special Education teachers at individual meetings to share information and hopefully alleviate any worries. It seems like a terrific class and we are ready and excited for them to join us in September! Have a great summer and welcome to the class of 2019.

Nancy Dugan, Director of Special Education

History Department News

It has been a very busy month in the History Department. Plans are being made for the Irish History class to teach their last class of the year at the West Tisbury School and visit Chappaquiddick to honor Irish immigrants shipwrecked at Muskeget at this time of year when we remember those who made the path we walk.

AP tests in Modern European history, World History and US history are all happening in May.

The Brazilian History & Culture Class received national recognition with an award for their annual Brazilian American Friendship Lunch from the Teaching Tolerance Institute of the Southern Poverty Law Center. The award honors MVRHS as a model school. The citation states that "the lunch, the school's fourth, led to important discussions about stereotyping and misperceptions, and is contributing to a more unified school community". Check out the Teaching Tolerance website to see our citation and a photograph of 2014's luncheon.

A group of motivated students invited Holocaust survivor and inspirational speaker, Sami Steigmann, to come talk to the student body. His presentation addressed issues of history and the horrific crime of the Holocaust and included advice for students about taking pride in their own heritage and standing up against bullying and victimization of any kind. Students had originally met Sami at the Museum of Tolerance when they visited New York with the One World Club and had invited him to visit us. Sami donated his time and skills to present three student assemblies on May 12th to attentive students whose teachers had signed up to attend. It was a truly moving experience to hear Sami, who had been sent

to a Nazi labor camp at the age of 18 months and had been subjected to medical experimentation, urge students to find forgiveness in their own hearts for the wrongs they had endured and to always be willing to stand up whenever anyone is mistreated. The students who had organized the visit made tee shirts and banners to celebrate Sami's presentation and were actively engaged with him throughout his visit. Plans are underway to invite him again.



Organizers of the Sami Steigmann Assemblies
 Back Row from Left: Michael Morris, Patryck Nascimento, Elaine Weintraub,
 Jason Lages, Gabe Nunes.
 Front Row from Left: Jr. Teles, Sami Steigmann and Thomas O'Shaughnessy.

MVRHS Engineering Students Share Their Expertise

For the last three years, students from the high school have offered engineering clubs at local elementary schools. The first two years we worked with the Tisbury School. This past year, participating students wanted to expand the project, so we worked with all five elementary schools in our district. We did all of the organizing and recruiting of volunteers, etc, through the MVIronment Club. A team of 35 students ran the clubs. A leadership/design team designed activities to run four weekly sessions at each school, contacted teachers, prepared materials, etc, and arranged for groups of 5-10 high school students to work each week with each club at each school. This year, the teams led 3rd and 4th graders through making pinwheels, a grabber, a musical instrument, and an LED flashlight. All sessions were themed around energy and completely student-organized and run. Our program reached over 100 elementary students on the island, and the elementary teachers and schools were all extremely receptive and ready to collaborate with us.



Zachary Bresnick and Casey McAndrews, the project leaders, created a portfolio of the project and entered it to be considered for a National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project's Youth Leadership Award. We recently learned that we have been chosen as the Massachusetts Senior Level School of the Year, which is the top honor for high schools in the state. We have been invited and are hoping to attend the NEED Energy Conference and Awards Ceremony Washington DC at the end of June.

Participants in the project and the liaison teachers are listed at the right so feel free to congratulate them on this exciting acknowledgement of their volunteer work.

Natalie Munn & Anna Cotton, MVIronment Club

Our amazing team of volunteers . . .

Iris Albert
 Chris Aring – Design Team
 Caley Bennett – Design Team, Edgartown School Leader
 Zach Bresnick (2nd year volunteering) – Design Team, Project Leader
 Emma Caron (2nd year volunteering)
 Ben Clark
 Marcelle De Sousa Alves
 Connor Downing
 Lucas Dutton
 Olivia Green-Lingren
 Samantha Hargy
 Jackie Hegarty
 Courtney Howell
 Gabbie Hoxsie (2nd year volunteering)
 Olivia Jacobs
 Maisie Jarrell – Design Team, Tisbury School Leader
 Tisbury School Leader
 Katrina Lakis (2nd year volunteering)
 Jared Livingston – Design Team, Edgartown School Leader
 Matt Luce
 Casey McAndrews (2nd year volunteering) – Design Team, Project Leader
 Madeline Moore (2nd year volunteering) – Design Team, Oak Bluffs School Leader
 Ben Nadelstein
 Julia Neville
 David Packer – Design Team
 Sara Poggi
 Ellie Reagan – Design Team
 Nelly Katzman – Design Team, Oak Bluffs School Leader
 Andrew Ruimerman
 Max Santos
 Brahmin Thurber-Carbone – Design Team, Chilmark School Leader
 Pearl Vercruysse
 Willa Vigneault
 David Webster – Design Team, Chilmark School Leader
 August Welles – Design Team, West Tisbury Leader
 Charlie Whalen
 Kyra Whalen (2nd year volunteering)

And a special thank you to teachers who helped coordinate at each school . . .

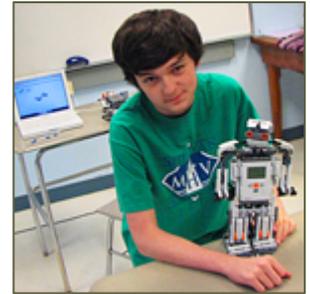
Jackie Guzulak - Chilmark School
 Lauren Keaney Serpa and Laura Edelman - West Tisbury School
 Jen Bausman and Leah Dorr - Oak Bluffs School
 Robin Moriarty - Edgartown School
 Anne Williamson (2nd year coordinator)-Tisbury School

Senior Projects: An Exciting Option



Senior students at MVRHS may choose to do an educational project during the second semester of their senior year. Three blocks are scheduled which students dedicate to working on original projects that bear some significance to them. Once the project is defined, students choose two mentors. One is an in-house teacher who guides the student through the project by assisting with its planning, process and eventual presentation. The other is typically someone from outside the school who currently works in the particular field and can provide relevant and applicable knowledge for the student. As in years past, this year's collection of projects is both diverse and intriguing.

Panel presentations will be taking place from May 18th through May 26th. Parents are more than welcome to sit in the audience to hear about the amazing projects these students have done.



For more information about Senior Projects contact Elliott Bennett, Senior Project Coordinator or your student's guidance counselor.

STUDENT	PROJECT TITLE	DATE, TIME & LOCATION
Aaron Teves	Creating a Community Through Architecture	Monday, May 18, 9:00 LCR
Galya Walt	Full of Ourselves: Addressing the Body Images of Middle School Girls	Monday, May 18, 10:00 LCR
Charlie Mornao	Evolution of Hydrofoil	Monday, May 18, 11:30 LCR
Kayla Goldman	How Performance Affected My Life	Monday, May 18, 12:30 LCR
Jack Yuen	Art	Tuesday, May 19, 9:00 LCR
Brian Montambault	Computer Coding Python	Tuesday May 19, 10:00 LCR
Sophie Petkus	Portraits	Wednesday, May 20, 9:00 Culinary Dining Room
Caley Bennett	Mental Illness Portrayed by the Media	Thursday, May 21, 9:00 LCR
Eli Jordi	Journalism	Friday, May 22, 9:00 LCR
Eli Hanschka	Spearfishing	Friday, May 22, 10:00 LCR
Nick Termini & Josh Bouchard	Training to Be A Seal	Friday, May 22, 11:30 LCR
Anne Ollen	Humans of Martha's Vineyard	Friday, May 22, 12:30 LCR
Katrina Heilbronner	Training for Dressage	Tuesday, May 26, 9:00 LCR

Envision This: The MVRHS Global Learning Center

The goal for the future of the library, as laid out in the school improvement plan, is to evolve into a 21st-century space and program. Last year we had a series of interviews, surveys, and focus groups among staff and students related to the library. These, along with site visits to school libraries and learning commons around the state, and research, formed the basis for the [recommendations](#) that were submitted to the school council and school committee at the end of last school year.

Our focus this year has been to turn the recommendations into a design. To help us to this end we hired Fielding Nair International, an education/architectural design firm. They visited on Wednesday, April 28th to tour the building and meet with a focus group of students, teachers, administrators, parents, and adult education leaders.

After architect Jay Litman gave an [overview of the kind of work FNI does](#), we looked at 20 learning 'modalities', considering the many ways we teach and learn.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Independent Study | 8. Peer Tutoring | 15. Team Collaboration |
| 2. 1:1 learning with a teacher | 9. Project-based learning | 16. Lecture format – Teacher directed |
| 3. Tech with mobile computers | 10. Distance learning | 17. Internet-based research |
| 4. Student presentation | 11. Performance-based learning | 18. Seminar-style instruction |
| 5. Interdisciplinary learning | 12. Naturalist learning | 19. Social/emotional/spiritual learning |
| 6. Art-based learning | 13. Storytelling | 20. Design-based learning |
| 7. Team teaching/learning | 14. Play-based learning | |

Many schools typically don't have access to the types of spaces that support these learning modalities. FNI believes that teachers should have access to diverse spaces that can maximize creativity and connect to the world. This is what a 'Global Learning Center' will provide for our school. While still functioning as a library, it would also allow teachers to provide this critical variety of learning opportunities for their students. The GLC will have the added benefit of providing the island with a learning space for adult education, to support distance learning, have multiple groups meet at once, and be flexible enough to support any of the other learning modalities we identify.

Last week, a group of teachers and students met with Jay online via Webex to go over initial drawings. These served as a starting point for discussions toward a vision of the space. The latest version is below.... stay tuned over the coming months for further developments!

Kevin McGrath, Librarian



New from Alternative Ed

The 9th grade Alternative Program science class, focused on biology, has been working on a semester long growing systems project. In addition to an already existing raised-bed annual garden, we have grown and harvested indoor mushrooms in hydroponic grow towers and planned and installed an edible perennial forest garden.

A perennial forest garden incorporates low-maintenance plants that mimic woodland ecosystems, incorporating fruit and nut trees, shrubs, herbs, vines and perennial vegetables. We started this project with a visit from Kevin Brennan, who has planned the orchard at Thimble Farm. Kevin introduced us to the concept of "restoration agriculture," which works to imitate nature in form and function while still providing for our food, building, fuel and other needs. The students then researched and chose crops that would be appropriate for our climate and provide food and other resources that could be used in the school. We learned about landscape design with Elsbeth Todd, the architecture teacher, and drew out our plan.

Our work in the garden started with planning and digging a keyline irrigation channel based on the contours of the garden. This keyline channel or "swale" collects water when it rains. The trees are planted on the lower side of



the channel, so that the water from the swale will reach them. The students planted two varieties of Paw Paw trees and elderberry bushes with wine-cap mushroom mycelium around them. We will also be adding strawberries as ground cover in the coming weeks.

*Anna Cotton, Alt. Ed.
Science Teacher*

The Intel International Science Fair

Chris Aring is having a wonderful time representing our state and our school at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair this week in Pittsburgh. The trip is fully funded by the MA State Science Fair program (he was invited based on his wins) and fosters sharing of excellent work as well as connecting with other amazing science students from all over the world. Wishing him luck!

Natalie Munn, Science Dept. Chair



Christopher with some members of Team Brazil

Performing Arts News

The Performing Arts Department is wrapping up a most successful year in both performing and non-performing classes. Most recently, the Minnesingers returned from an amazing performance tour in Spain and presented their Spring Shows to their favorite audience - the Island community. The first Shakespeare Workshop was held 'in the round' in the Performing Arts Center under the direction of Brooke Ditchfield and Chelsea McCarthy. The cast presented 'Twelfth Night' to three very appreciative audiences.



The last event of the year will be participation in graduation on June 14th at the Tabernacle. The Performing Arts Department faculty and students wish everyone a wonderful summer and look forward to starting another year in September.

Jan Wightman, Performing Arts Dept. Chair



DISTRACTOLOGY 101

A Crash Course on Distracted Driving

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SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DRIVE DISTRACTED.
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FEATURED ON
THE TODAY SHOW

HOSTED BY:



WHERE: MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

WHEN: TUESDAY, MAY 26TH - SATURDAY, MAY 30TH

TIME: 7:45a - 3:45p (APPTS EVERY CLASS PERIOD & AFTER SCHOOL)

TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT, PLEASE SIGN UP AT LUNCH WITH THE VINEYARD AUTO SCHOOL DURING THE WEEK OF MAY 11TH - 15TH (5/12 AND 5/15 SIGN UP IN ROOM 307 AT THE BEGINNING OR END OF B, C, F OR G PERIOD) OR CALL 508-696-3748

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