

# MVRHS Parent Newsletter

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School • Spring 2017

## CALENDAR

Thursday, May 4, 7 p.m. PAC  
**MVRHS Pops Concert**

Saturday, May 13, 7 p.m. PAC

Sunday, May 14, 3 p.m. PAC

**Minnesingers  
Spring Concert**

Saturday, May 20

Lola's, Oak Bluffs

**Junior Prom**

Weds., May 24, 6-9 p.m. PAC

**Art Show | Coffeehouse  
World Language Night**

Thursday, May 26, 6 p.m. PAC

**Honors Night**

Friday, June 9, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Tabernacle, Oak Bluffs

**Class Night**

Sunday, June 11, 1:30-3 p.m.

Tabernacle, Oak Bluffs

**Graduation  
Class of 2017**



Detail from a new Art Club mural near the school's front office

## 25 Senior Projects: A New MVRHS Record

This spring, 25 motivated students have embarked on senior projects, also known as Capstone projects. During the second semester of senior year, a Capstone allows students to apply their learning skills toward an in-depth project of their choosing.

It offers students an opportunity to investigate a real-world challenge, perhaps similar to what they will encounter after high school, in college, or in a career, or perhaps something they've wanted to do, but never had the time to do before. Each project requires an original idea, an inquiry-based research paper, a journal, and a presentation of their work.

This year's senior project presentations will be held May 15, 16, 19, and 22-26, and are open to the school community. Don't miss the chance to hear students explore such diverse topics as pottery and poetry, autism, deafness, entrepreneurial ventures, fashion design, early childhood, and music.

All MVRHS students are encouraged to consider and apply for a Capstone project during their senior year. Accepted proposals should show evidence that the project is original, feasible, and allows for significant personal and intellectual growth.

For more information, [click here](#).

## Schedule Flex Blocks Next Year

The high school will change its scheduling structure next year to include a daily flex block that will enable students to get academic support from their teachers and allow for enrichment opportunities during the school day. Look for more details this summer.

## Life Skills Volunteers

*Shannon Levesque and Alana Morris, juniors who volunteer with the MVRHS Special Education classes, write about their experience.*

Currently we help out in gym class with teacher Lisa Knight, and in academics with teachers Sally Callahan and Mary Austin. We find it so rewarding to work with the high school's Special Ed kids, and watch them surpass our expectations. In gym class we bring them into gym with a larger group of students and participate in warm-ups. It is so great that they can be a part of the class with everyone else – they fit right in. We also go swimming with them over at the YMCA, have gone ice skating, and much more.

In their academic classes we sit down one-on-one with each student and help them with reading, math, or science. Recently we've started working on sign language as well. Some of them know it and catch on even faster than we can. Working so closely with each person gives us the chance to develop close bonds with them, and we get to know each of their unique personalities and talents.

It's an honor to be teacher's assistants for the Special Education program. We have watched the kids grow on an educational and physical level throughout the year and are beyond proud of what they have achieved.



Above, left to right: Alana, Bella, Grace, and Shannon have worked together throughout the school year in academic classes, gym, and extra-curricular activities.

# CALENDAR

May 1-12

## AP Exams

Tuesdays, May 2 + June 6  
8-9 a.m. and 5-6 p.m.

Library Conference Room

## Principal's Coffee

Informal Q&A with principal Sara Dingley

Saturday, May 6 + June 3

## SAT tests

Register at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org).

June 16-22

## Finals

Every Tuesday, 2:15-3:30 p.m.

MVRHS Library

## Peer Math Tutoring

## Yoga + Mindfulness

Tuesdays 2:15-3 p.m., Room 401  
Mindfulness with Elliot Dacher

Wednesdays 2:15-3:30 p.m., PAC lobby

Thursdays 2:15-3:30 p.m., LCR

Yoga classes with Vanessa Kent,  
Lucia Hyman, or Kansas Brew

(These after-school offerings are open to all.  
They can be used for serving a detention,  
and yoga can make up a missed gym class.)

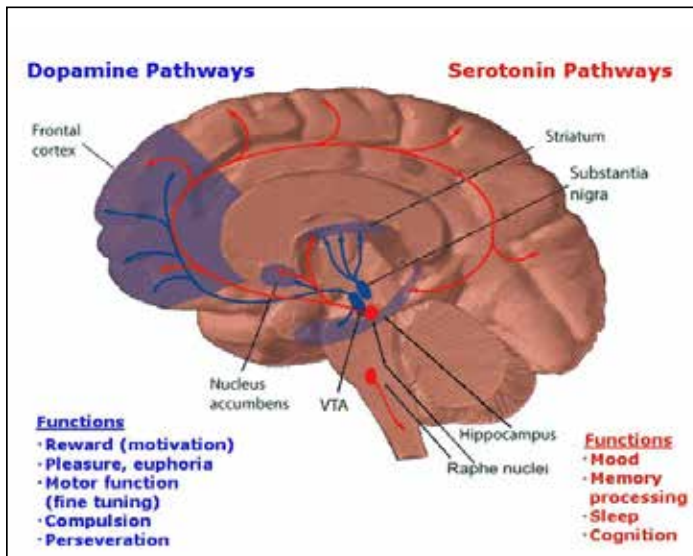
Tuesdays 3:15-5:15 p.m., Room 401  
Mindfulness for MVRHS staff  
with Elliot Dacher

## Drugs and the Teenage Brain

Dr. Ruth Potee, a nationally renowned family physician who specializes in addressing the opioid epidemic, spoke to the island community and students in March about the effects of drugs and alcohol on brain development.

She discussed risk taking and addiction among teens and how teen brains are still “under construction.” A person’s genetics, early exposure to addictive substances in a developing brain, and a history of childhood trauma are the three most important indicators of potential addiction, she said, with mental health issues as an additional factor.

Addictions begin by the age of 24, Dr. Potee explained, with alcohol, marijuana, and (less frequently) cigarettes as the most common entry-level substances.



Watch [Dr. Potee's talk with MV parents](#), which was sponsored by The Island Wide Youth Collaborative in collaboration with the Youth Task Force.

To continue the conversation with students, [click here](#) and download the Marijuana Talk Kit, or pick up a copy at the school.

## Standing Against Rape

Student training is underway for Stand With Everyone Against Rape (SWEAR), a bystander education program developed at MVRHS last year by Kaela Vecchia-Zeitzi ('16) as her senior project. SWEAR was formed to educate young men on the myths, stereotypes, and repercussions of sexual assault and rape. This year's student participants will make a presentation to all juniors at an assembly on April 28.



Vito Aiello's *Investigation In Apple Preservation* earned first place honors.

## 2017 Science + Engineering Fair

Seventy-four student projects were showcased at this year's MVRHS Science Fair, the school's 18th annual gathering of investigative science projects. The Grand Winners, sponsored by Tisbury Waterways Association and presented in honor of a former president, Dr. James H. Porter, are:

### First Place Grand Winner:

Daniel Gaines: Constructing Adeno-Associated Viruses to Express tBid Exclusively In Cartilage Tissue

### Second Place Grand Winner:

Rose Engler & Katharine Roberts: Solely Solar

### Third Place Grand Winner:

Nathaniel Packer: Paddle Wheel Air Compressor

*See last page for more MVRHS Science Fair winners.*

## Job and Volunteer Fair

Saturday, April 29, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

MVRHS Cafeteria

Open to the island community, adults and teens, Martha's Vineyard employers and those looking for seasonal and year-round work, along with nonprofit organizations and interested volunteers. Plus the chance for teens in grades 9-12 to learn valuable customer service skills, through CEO's Customer Service Certification program. For details, contact [info@iamaceo.org](mailto:info@iamaceo.org).

HS juniors and seniors...

Intern with the Trustees!

Paid summer internship, two days/week

Contact Molly Peach, [mpeach@ttor.org](mailto:mpeach@ttor.org)

*Learning and discovery in the natural world • [ttor.org](http://ttor.org)*







Senior Kylie Hathaway's photograph *Finger Faces*, a first-place winner in the Cape Cod Times "Classroom Times" photography contest. Annabelle Cutrer's photo was another first-place winner.

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## How Sweet the Sound

Sophomore Christian Schmidt attended the 2017 MMEA All-State Music Festival in Boston this March, after he auditioned and was selected for the 200-voice choir of high school students from across the state. They performed together at Symphony Hall – glorious music by exceptionally talented kids in a beautiful performance space.

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## Sharing Gap Experiences

Recent grads exploring new territory this spring include:

**Wilson Redfield** ('17) graduated in January, and will hike the 500-mile Camino de Santiago de Compostela across northern Spain in April. Next fall he will attend St. John's College, Annapolis, where he will study the Great Books program.

**Liam Cosgrove** ('15) is studying marine science through a ten-week program on Andros Island in the Bahamas. His course focuses on coral reefs, where students get biology and research training. Liam has received open-water and advanced open-water diving certificates, and is currently working on his rescue dive certificate. He has led fish identification tours and seen sharks, and hopes to get a master dive certificate before heading home later this spring.



For more information about the many opportunities for gap experiences, [click here](#).

## HS Store to Open in May

Young student entrepreneurs are making real life business decisions, working as a team to open a new school store. They are sourcing vendors, securing financing, scheduling and overseeing buildout, doing marketing research, creating a product mix, setting markups, and operating within an actual cash budget. A ribbon-cutting is planned for May, pending real-world delays. If you own or manage a retail store or have retail expertise in visual merchandising, we could use your help on our Community Resource Team. Call Brian Jakusik, Marketing Instructor, 508-735-5500.

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## Designing Island Businesses

Intro to Business students are envisioning their own real life "tourist traps." The students are researching viable business opportunities and developing customer profiles using geographics, demographics, psychographics, and behavioral traits. With a \$50,000 imaginary budget, their assignment is to secure retail space at current-day square-footage rates, budget for inventory, and project labor, advertising, and overhead costs. The concepts are unique and inspired!

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## Minnesingers: Viva Italia!

The Minnesingers, chaperones, and costumer travel to Milan, Verona, and Venice over April break to perform a Friendship Concert with two Italian choirs. At the military base in Vicenza, they'll present portions of their dance and choral programs, and will also participate in a Mass at St. Mark's Cathedral in Venice. In addition to these formal concerts, they will sing informally at a variety of venues. Other activities include sightseeing, a boat trip on Lake Garda, a cooking lesson, and attendance at the Verona International Choral competition concerts.

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## Photo Contest Deadline May 5

The Vineyard Conservation Society's fourth annual "Art of Conservation" competition is underway, and the 2017 contest theme is "Discovery." We invite students to seek out what they haven't noticed or experienced before on Martha's Vineyard, and to share what they find through their work. Deadline for submissions is May 5. For more info, contact Chris Baer at [cbaer@mvrhs.org](mailto:cbaer@mvrhs.org).

## Engineering Challenges

Want to learn some crazy new science skills and have fun with your friends? Check out the monthly after-school Engineering Challenge organized by science teacher Natalie Munn and other faculty.



## Confetti Launcher

In January, students were given cups, cardboard, paper, rubber bands, balloons, tape, and other basic materials to create a device to launch confetti so that the confetti would be spread out to cover the largest area possible. The launchers were tested in the hallway, and the designers with confetti landing on the most number of floor tiles were declared the winners.

### Top confetti-flying honors went to:

First place: David Packer and Mitchell Chaves, 79 tiles

Second place (tie): Melissa Puello and Isabel Robertson, 64 tiles; and Garrett Zeilinger, Ben Tillman, and Evan Sauter, 64 tiles

Third place: Graham Lewis, Matteus Scheffer, Patrick Dutton, 50 tiles



## Mini Popcorn Popper

Seltzer water cans, a small tealight, string to create extra wicks for the candle, and aluminum foil create a mini popcorn popper. Students preloaded their poppers with oil and corn kernels. With three minutes to pop as many as possible, all popped kernels counted as one, and popped kernels that were successfully channeled into a bowl counted as two.

### Top corn-popping honors went to:

First place: James Kelliher, Coltrane Leport, Brahmin Thurber-Carbone, 226 kernels

Second place: Evelyn Medeiros, Marissa D'Antonio, Garrett Zeilinger, 105 kernels

Third place: Mitchell Chaves, David Packer, 5 kernels



*Top left, Melissa Puello and Isabel Robertson work on a confetti launcher, while Evan Sauter, bottom left, demonstrates his team's device. Above, James Kelliher, Coltrane Leport, and Brahmin Thurber-Carbone collaborate on their corn popper.*

The Challenge provides 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.

*Thank you to Elsbeth Todd (Art/Technology), Dana Munn (Science), Michael Lavers (Math), and Chris Connors (Art/Technology) for working with me as a team to plan and provide these opportunities.*

-Natalie Munn



## Seniors: Credit for Life Fair

April 26, 9:30-noon, MVRHS gym

Calling all seniors! Get some expert advice on managing your finances and budgeting for life-after-school at the Credit for Life Fair, an interactive event where students select different career options and practice managing personal budgets based on the projected monthly income.

Students will visit booths staffed by real estate agents, bankers, insurance reps, retailers, and other community members, and make financial decisions about what they want, what they need, and what they can afford. The "Reality Check" booth presents random but realistic events that could result in unexpected costs.

The Credit for Life Fair helps students better understand the financial decisions they will make when they are on their own, without parents or guardians paying the bills and covering their costs for food, clothing, shelter, and entertainment.

This event is funded by the State Treasurer's Financial Education Innovation Fund and the Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank, with support from the MVRHS Business program and the island business community. For more info, contact Barbara-jean Chauvin at [bchauvin@mvyps.org](mailto:bchauvin@mvyps.org).

## Looking at Lyme with MIT's Dr. Kevin Esvelt

May 24, 12:45 p.m.

MVRHS Library

In May, students in Dr. Fyler's AP Biology course will study tick-borne disease and its effects on the residents of Martha's Vineyard. Course work will include studying tick-host interactions, tick evolution, tick identification, and pathogenicity of *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the bacterium responsible for Lyme disease.

Dr. Kevin Esvelt, assistant professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, helped develop CRISPR genome editing and invented CRISPR-based gene drive systems capable of altering wild populations. He and his colleagues propose to disrupt the ecological transmission cycle of tick-borne diseases by heritably immunizing populations of white-footed mice on Martha's Vineyard. The May 24 discussion of his work is open to the community.

## Earth Day Beach Clean-Up

Saturday, April 22, 10-11 a.m.

Grab a few friends and head to your favorite beach, where volunteers will provide collection bags, gloves, and trash pick-up for the 25th annual VCS island-wide beach clean-up.

Afterward, join fellow volunteers at the Harbor View Hotel in Edgartown for some great food and a free raffle, and talk about ocean plastics with Tyson Bottenus and Athena Aicher, who worked with Save Our Sea Foundation.

This event is sponsored by the Vineyard Conservation Society, with a grant from Martha's Vineyard Savings Bank, and food donated by Lucky Hanks, Josh Aronie, and the Scottish Bakehouse. For more info, contact Lorraine Wells at [lwells@mvyps.org](mailto:lwells@mvyps.org).



Advanced Photo/Graphics students have been exchanging virtual reality documentary experiences with students in Taiwan, and soon with Karachi, Pakistan. Above, Walter Greene's virtual reality image of the MVRHS crafts and sculpture room in action.

## Pops Concert Extravaganza

May 4, 7 p.m., PAC

The MVRHS Performing Arts Department is gearing up for its year-end concert on Thursday, May 4. In years past, the Performing Arts teamed up with the Art Department to present Evening of the Arts - a visual and performing arts showcase. This year, it's time for an exciting new format!

The Pops Concert will feature all of the high school's multi-talented musical groups (Chorus, Vocal Ensemble, Orchestra, Jazz Band, Concert Band, Minnesingers, and Sound Wave) performing amidst solo and small group acts, theatrical presentations, original choreography, and more. The concert begins at 7 p.m. in the MVRHS Performing Arts Center.

# Scholastic Art Awards

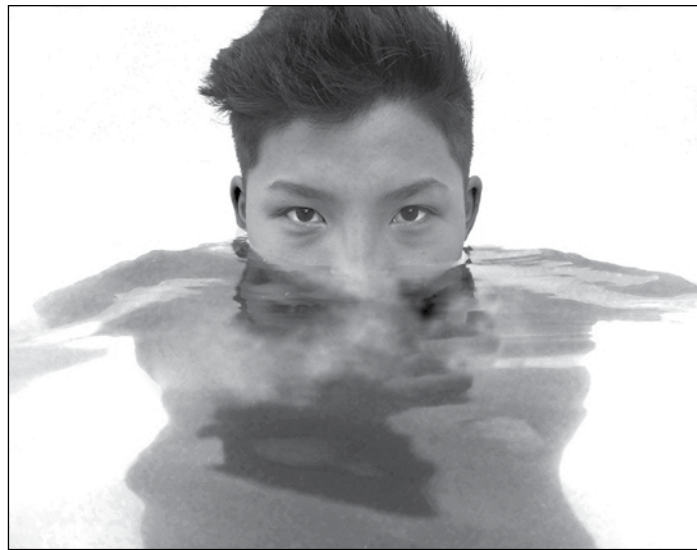
The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, the nation's longest-running and most prestigious scholarship and recognition initiative for creative teens, has been held annually since 1923.

Past winners have included Richard Avedon, Truman Capote, Stephen King, Sylvia Plath, Robert Redford, Andy Warhol, Richard Linklater, and Zac Posen, among many others.

Our state-wide, regional competition is sponsored by the Boston Globe. Last year more than 17,500 submissions were reviewed by more than fifty judges. Congratulations to the following MVRHS students for winning 2017 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards!



Olivia Knight, Gold Key, eight-piece art portfolio, *Behind the Masks*



Davin Tackabury, Gold Key, photography, *White Water*

## Gold Keys

- Ben McMahon, Grade 10 - Video game, "Untitled 4"
- Olivia Knight, Grade 12 - Art Portfolio, "Behind the Masks"
- Ava Thors, Grade 12 - Painting "Fight for Intangible Reason"
- Isabella Chimes, Grade 12 - Personal Essay/Memoir, "The Garden"
- Emily Gazzaniga, Grade 9 - Photograph, "Papa's Daily Crossword"
- Davin Tackabury, Grade 9 - Photograph, "White Water"

## Silver Keys

- Elizabeth Dourian, Grade 12 - Photograph, "Grace"
- Molly Baldino, Grade 9 - Photograph, "Mirror, Mirror, on the Wall"
- Tianna Rambonga, Grade 9 - Photograph, "Screaming"
- Higor Mota, Grade 10 - Photograph, "T.I.M.I.D"
- Opal Wortmann, Grade 11 - Photograph, "What Could Have Been"
- Isabella Chimes, Grade 12 - Personal Essay "Grace"

## Honorable Mentions

- Nicholas Chapman, Grade 12 - Art Portfolio, "Mother Nature"
- Emma Baldino, Grade 12 - Art Portfolio, "Relevé"
- Donald O'Shaughnessy, Grade 12 - Ceramics (Donald won two Honorable Mentions for pottery in this category)
- Patrick Best, Grade 12 - Digital Art, "Blue Period Self-Portrait"
- Nolan Pavlik, Grade 10 - Animation, "Among the Shadows"
- Thea Keene, Grade 9 - Photograph, "Bubble Man"
- Lena Hanschka, Grade 12 - Photograph, "Mom meets Dad"
- Kya Maloney, Grade 9 - Photograph, "Raked"
- Alexis Hughes, Grade 11 - Photograph, "Sternocleidomastoid"
- Savanna Aiello, Grade 12 - Poetry "Adieu"
- Ava Thors, Grade 12 - Photograph, "Bradford Beaver Yogi"
- Emily Gazzaniga, Grade 9 - Photograph, "Seahorse of Sengekontacket"
- Davin Tackabury, Grade 9 - Photograph, "Children Crossing"

## 2017 Outstanding Vocational Technical Student of the Year

Gavin Leuenberger, active in the MVRHS horticulture program and the school's cooperative education program, will be honored April 13 at Mechanics Hall in Worcester by the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators and the Massachusetts Vocational Association.



He worked this year at Thimble Farm's hydroponic food-growing operation, and volunteers at several island community organizations. The award recognizes students whose scholastic and vocational technical achievements have significantly contributed to their local school district. Gavin will continue his studies at Northwestern Michigan College, Traverse City, Michigan, in the Landscape Management Program.



# More MVRHS Science + Engineering Fair Winners

## First Place Awards

Katharine Roberts & Rose Engler: Solely Solar  
Curtis Fisher & Annika Schmidt: A Community Connection: Utilizing Nodal LoRa Modulation and Optimized Network Latency Reduction  
Nathaniel Packer: Paddle Wheel Air Compressor  
Vito Aiello: Buy Less, Save More: An Investigation In Apple Preservation  
Daniel Gaines: Constructing Adeno-Associated Viruses to Express tBid Exclusively In Cartilage Tissue

## Second Place Awards

Catherine Cherry: Is the Rate of Fermentation Different with Different Fruit Juices?  
Katherine O'Brien & Megan Zeilinger: How Salt and Sand Affect the Health of Grass  
Alexis Condon & Addy Hayman: Engineering A Biodegradable Marker  
Benjamin Tillman: Solar Charging Station  
Jason Davey & David Krauthamer: Passwords: How to Make One that Works

## Third Place Awards

Cathal Robinson: CO2 Removal  
Luiz Oliveira & Julian Herman: Manual Cell Phone Charger  
Skylar Eddy: The Effect of Watering Plants with Grey Water  
Julia Gomes & Peter Burke: Investigation of How UV Radiation Affects Algae Growth  
Owen Farreau & Spencer Pogue: The Effect of External Temperature & Insulation on the Consistency of Internal Temperatures  
Ayanna Fhagen-Smith: Will You Ever Drink Anything Again?

## Honorable Mention

Charlie Whalen: The Use of Temperature Gradients to Charge a Cell Phone  
Alex Nagle: Hybrid Stirling Engine  
Matteus Scheffer & Theo Gallager: Hydroponic Grow Box  
Hannah Rabasca & Emily Gazziniga: Effect of Pollution On Algae  
Violet Cabot & Amelia Craig: Got Lactose Carbohydrates?

## Wind Turbine Competition

First Place: Mitchell Chaves & Sam Rollins  
Second Place: Lizzie Williamson & Maggie Burke  
Third Place: Katharine Roberts & Rose Engler

## Special Topic Awards

**The David Brand Award:** Owen Farreau & Spencer Pogue: Effect of External Temperature & Insulation on the Consistency of Internal Temperature  
**Island Grown Initiative Award:** Belle Hattingh & Mia Pagliccia: The Regrowth of Vegetables  
**Lagoon Pond Association Award:** Curtis Fisher & Annika Schmidt: A Community Connection: Utilizing Nodal LaRa Modulation and Optimised Network Latency Reduction

## Marine and Paleobiological Research Institute Award:

Nathaniel Packer: Paddle Wheel Air Compressor

## Martha's Vineyard Surfcasters Association Award:

Jackson Pizzano: How Fossil Fuels Affect Sea Life

**Sustainability Award:** Katharine Roberts & Rose Engler: Solely Solar

**Sheriff's Meadow Foundation Award:** Katherine O'Brien & Megan Zeilinger: How Salt and Sand Affect the Health of Grass

**Biology Award:** Daniel Gaines: Constructing Adeno-Associated Viruses to Express tBid Exclusively In Cartilage Tissue

**Physics Award:** Benjamin Tillman: Solar Charging Station

Consulate General of Brazil in Boston  
**II EDUCATION FAIR**  
*Martha's Vineyard edition*  
April 22, Saturday, from 10am to 4pm

Join us and learn about:

- ✓ ENCEJA (Brazil's elementary and high school equivalency exam)
- ✓ Portuguese and English Language courses
- ✓ Online education in Portuguese
- ✓ US College and University Admission
- ✓ Worker's rights
- ✓ Immigration and health topics

We will also offer \*free legal counseling\* and \*consular services\* for Brazilian citizens!

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School  
100 Edgartown Vineyard Haven Rd, Oak Bluffs, MA 02557  
For more information: [csf.boston@itamaraty.gov.br](mailto:csf.boston@itamaraty.gov.br)  
Organized by: Consulate of Brazil in Boston  
Supported by: Martha's Vineyard Community Services

Junte-se a nós e informe-se sobre:

- ✓ ENCEJA (antigo supletivo)
- ✓ Cursos online
- ✓ Cursos de português e de inglês
- ✓ Acesso às universidades americanas
- ✓ Direitos do trabalhador
- ✓ Imigração e temas de saúde

E mais: atendimento jurídico gratuito e serviços consulares