



The High School View

The High School View is staffed and prepared entirely by students from the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, and published on their behalf by The Martha's Vineyard Times, with the generous assistance of the sponsors whose names appear below.

Regional grad to coach Israeli national team

BY WILLA VIGNEAULT

Kelsey MacDonald, a 2003 graduate of the regional high school, will travel to Israel to coach the Women's National Lacrosse Team this February. She will be there for seven months in preparation for the European Cup in August.

"I'll be doing paperwork and setting up the youth programs for a few months. Then, in April, I head to Ashkelon [Israel], to begin training with the team." Ms. MacDonald said. She will also work towards finding a staff for the Israeli Women's National Lacrosse Team.

Israel Lacrosse was started in 2011 by American-born Jewish lacrosse enthusiasts. "Its purpose is to promote and develop the sport, as well as field competitive national teams for all World and European championships, with

the ultimate goal of making lacrosse the national sport of Israel," said Scott Neiss, a founder and executive director of Israel Lacrosse.

They launched the men's national team first, and "marketed the 'carrot' of competing on the international level to Jewish-American players." Recruited athletes relocated to the Middle East to serve as coaches for youth programs, which built the other end of the pyramid. Because Israel did not have a women's lacrosse program until two years ago, Ms. MacDonald said, "This team is made up of Jewish U.S. college graduates who have dual citizenship in the United States and Israel."

As well as coaching the National Women's team, Ms. MacDonald will help implement lacrosse programs for Israeli girls at youth and high school levels, and oversee

the National Women's team members in coaching these new programs. In regard to



Kelsey MacDonald at the Plymouth State Hall of Fame dinner in 2013.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARY MACDONALD

the girls youth programs, Mr. Neiss said, "We have consolidated our efforts in one city [Ashkelon], rather than spread across the country as

we had done with our men's developmental program."

Kelsey MacDonald started playing lacrosse in sixth grade. She played in high school, and later became

captain of the soccer, basketball, and lacrosse teams. She was known by coaches and teammates as being an intense and fierce competitor

— and a hard worker.

While in high school, Ms. MacDonald played center for Betsy Dripps, the girls varsity lacrosse coach at the high school, for four years. "Kelsey was a true leader on and off the field," Mrs. Dripps said. "She was one of the strongest players I have ever coached, and I am thrilled for her." According to Mrs. Dripps, MacDonald was an all-around team player. She had a strong shot, but is best remembered for retrieving ground balls. "We called her 'Hoover' like the vacuum," Mrs. Dripps said. "She would go into a group of six girls and come up with the ball in her net."

After high school, Ms. MacDonald went on to play lacrosse and soccer in college for four years at Plymouth State University in New Hampshire. There, she majored in exercise physiology: "I chose exercise physiology because I wanted to learn more about what happens to the body dur-

ing exercise because I was so involved in athletics." After college, she returned to her alma mater as an assistant lacrosse coach. Ms. MacDonald wanted to get back into coaching: "I really missed the sport and being part of a team, so I decided I wanted to get into coaching. Once I started, I realized it was something I really enjoyed doing."

After a year as an assistant coach at Plymouth State, MacDonald was an assistant coach for two years at Wellesley College before becoming head coach of the women's team at Fort Lewis College in Colorado, where she has been for the past four years.

The developmental program is a huge undertaking, and one MacDonald welcomes. She said, "These children spent their summer in bomb shelters. I want to give them an outlet. Lacrosse is an opportunity for these kids that American children take for granted." **HSV**

Actors bully actors on stage

BY LEE HAYMAN

The high school's Peer Outreach program presented its fourth annual bullying assembly for the freshman class. The objective of the assembly was to inform new students about the school and state policies against bullying.

Amy Lilavois, school adjustment counselor, has been

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an instrumental part of Peer Outreach. She said, "It's a Massachusetts state law that all freshmen are educated about bullying and the policies we enforce. Everybody's really tired of hearing about it through lectures and slide-shows, so Mike McCarthy

and I wrote a skit called 'Gym Class Heroes.' We include cyberbullying in it, and then we run through what the students in the building should do when they see bullying taking place."

Using students as actors depicts a realistic model of high school situations, and how to deal with them. Junior Aurora Sierra is a member of Peer Outreach as well as a participant in the skit. She stressed the importance of the skit being performed by peers: "It makes it more real. The freshmen see these upperclassmen as kids who they will actually be interacting with, having real issues."

Ms. Lilavois said, "I think the freshmen learn what the policies are, and having their peers be the ones presenting it shows the freshmen that the upperclassmen take it seriously. The only way bullying is going to go away in this school is through positive peer pressure." **HSV**

Coffeehouse readers receive rave reviews

BY ELIE JORDI

Junior Aquinnah Hill walked to the microphone. She looked up at an audience of 120 students, teachers, parents, and administrators. Then she began reading her short story: "There's a depth to me and I think I've dissected enough coffee-filtered daydreams to know what sweatshirt to wear on my bad days and what socks to wear on my good days." When she finished, she heard a thunderous applause. She had just completed her Creative Writing class final exam — a coffeehouse reading in the high school library. Twenty-two additional students read last Wednesday during the coffeehouse from their short stories, poems, and plays.

One by one students took center stage on the podium, leaning into the microphone, and each reading his or her favorite pieces.

Throughout the course of the semester, students have been learning about the art of writing creatively. A semester of hard work culminated in the opportunity for the



LEFT: Senior Alyssa Cimeno reads one of her stories to the audience. RIGHT: An audience of students, faculty, and parents watch the annual coffeehouse in the library.

students to present their best work. "We learned how to write different pieces the entire semester, but a week before the coffeehouse we each picked a few of our pieces and practiced reading them out loud to each other for a few days," said Aquinnah.

For some, speaking in front of the audience was the challenge. Aquinnah said, "I have horrible stage fright, and it was completely new to me. I never would have



PHOTOS BY MOLLY HOUGHTON

willingly read my poetry to an audience. But the fact that the people from my creative writing class knew that and helped me really get comfortable was great."

Senior Mac Sashin enjoyed the diversity in the pieces that were read. He said, "The fact

that we are a diverse group of people and our life experiences are so distinctive from one another means that our imaginations translate into very diverse ideas. For instance one person might read a poem about their relationship problems while another

would recite a play that is a metaphor for sex." Lori DiGiacomo, a teacher at the Charter School, came to see her daughter present her writing

at the coffeehouse. She said, "The students were amazingly brave to stand up to a microphone and share an intimate part of themselves." Ms. DiGiacomo said, "You could tell these students put a lot of time and effort into each piece." **HSV**

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