



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.

Islanders in France react to attacks

BY KAEA VECCHIA-ZEITZ

The superstition surrounding Friday the 13th became all too real for Paris when it was attacked on Friday, Nov. 13th. The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) claimed responsibility for the horror, saying it was an act of retaliation for France's airstrikes on ISIS targets in Syria and Iraq. Many Islanders have connections to Paris and the country of France. A few regional high school students are living abroad there for the year.

Junior Willa Vigneault is living as an exchange student in Mont Saint Michael, France. She said, "I was on a field trip with other exchange students when the attacks

happened. We had a candlelight ceremony in memory of the victims the next night. When we got home on Sunday night, you could tell it was on the forefront of everyone's minds. All of my teach-

liberties to ensure our safety. At noon, the entire school gathered for a moment of silence with the country. From where I was standing, you couldn't hear anything. No cars in the streets, no noise



Junior Willa Vigneault holds the American flag in Mont Saint Michael, France, while studying abroad.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WILLA VIGNEAULT

ers addressed the attacks the next day at school, and most focused their class on that. In history we had a debate about the aftermath and whether the government had the right to withhold or obstruct our

from the elementary school next to the high school. Everyone was respecting the moment of silence."

Junior Pearl Vercruyse is living in Rennes, France. She said, "As an exchange

student, I've pretty much abandoned my comfort zone from home, so I've gotten close to France fairly quickly. The week of the attacks was intense, even though I wasn't in Paris. I feel that hearing about these kinds of events secondhand puts a fair amount of distance between people and what's happening; having this happen a few hours away from me in a country I've just started to understand is much more real."

Senior Hadley Chapman spent her junior year living and attending high school in Paris. She said, "It's disturbing to hear about the attacks because I'm so far away, but I know so many people living in Paris. The city was my home for a year, and it became a part of me. Seeing these terrible things happening in a country I would consider my own is heartbreaking."

Islander Kendra Mills is a freshman at the American University of Paris. She said, "It has been incredible to see the messages of solidarity over the past few weeks. Of course people are afraid, but

for the most part, I've seen people coming together to comfort one another and share their grief rather than their fear. I think what is most extraordinary is that Paris has not changed. Parisians are extraordinarily proud of this city and everything that it stands for. Diners are requesting to sit outside on the terraces of restaurants to show that they are unafraid. There have been huge memorials for the victims, despite warnings against public gatherings."

French President Francois Hollande called the attacks an act of war.

Kendra said, "There are several ways in which France could address terrorism more effectively. Right now, I believe, France has produced the largest number of Western homegrown terrorists. Terrorism and Islamophobia are huge issues in France."

Hadley said, "There is no easy answer to prevent this from happening in the future, but I don't believe that a stricter border control or security will do anything because the attacks were committed by French citizens

who have ties to ISIS."

Pearl said, "Generally, I believe that aggression isn't a good response to a problem, but I also recognize that the rest of the world can't just sit there passively and let these attacks keep happening. I think the most important thing that we can do is ramp up global education. The problem behind all of this is ignorance; the real threat of extremist groups isn't their numbers, but their warped education and misunderstanding."

"I don't know the political unions and ramifications country to country," Lucia Hayman, a MVRHS parent, said, "but globally we have got to figure out this division and hatred amongst human beings. I am a bit of a Buddhist, so for me more love is always the answer. I wouldn't hold up too well in Washington. We are all more alike than we are different, and the distortions in that fact by varying beliefs has created this dualism — them versus us. People will only stop killing one another once they all feel connected instead of threatened." **HEV**

No pass, no class

BY OLIVIA JACOBS

A new hall pass system has provoked controversy among students, teachers, and administrators. The policies, developed last year, were spearheaded by faculty and administrators who felt the former system was ineffective.

This year, class sign-out sheets are more detailed in terms of defining where students go. Teachers are required to bring the sheets to the front office every day.

Assistant Principal Andrew Berry said, "The old system required teachers to write too many passes, and it interrupted the flow of the class. So we asked teachers to develop a system that would allow us to meet the requirement of the law to know where students are in

the building for safety purposes, minimize disruptions to instruction, and recognize that there are legitimate reasons for students to leave class. Now students can sign out for the bathroom and for a drink of water. Passes are written for everything else, essentially."

Library teacher Kevin McGrath was on the committee that formed the new policies. He said, "The elimination of passes for students who need to go to the bathroom or get water is a much easier method. Teachers aren't interrupted in the middle of a lesson to fill out an entire pass for one student."

If students are found wandering without a pass, they will immediately be taken to in-school suspension (ISS).

Assistant Principal Elliott Bennett said, "The new sys-

tem is all about pass etiquette. The 80-minute periods are long, but the expectation is that students will leave at appropriate times, and come back as soon as possible in order to limit missed class time. Some would say the ISS consequence is extreme, but I believe it's working. The kids don't want to wander again once they've sat there for a whole class period."

Senior Hadley Chapman said, "This policy isn't preventing kids from wandering the hallways because many teachers are biased. If frequent roamers are seen without a pass, teachers are more likely to punish them than if an honors student was in the same position."

Sophomore Audrey McCarron agreed. She said, "Students shouldn't be sent straight to ISS. That feels like an extreme consequence. There should be a more moderate consequence

between being stopped and being sent to ISS."

Alana Morris, also a sophomore, discussed the negative effects of ISS on students: "Why would someone punish a student with even more missed class, when the reason they were stopped in the first place was because they weren't in class? It compromises their learning and begins a downward spiral for the student's academic achievements."

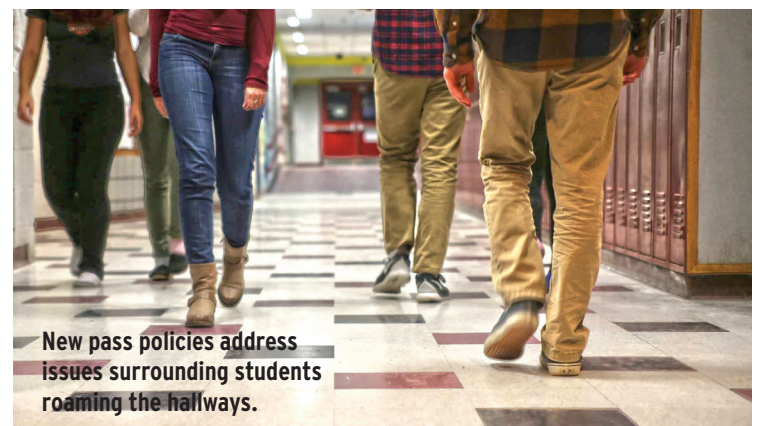
During the first and last 10 minutes of class, students aren't permitted to leave for any reason. Senior Olivia Green-Lingren believes this rule to have negative effects on her productivity. She said, "I'm not allowed to go to the library and use the resources

it offers for the first 10 minutes. It forces me to wait in my study hall classroom, delaying my time for homework. Students should be able to go straight to the library when class begins."

Mr. McGrath explained

comply in the library while they wait in study halls, and this helps them stay on task when they arrive."

Ms. Bennett said, "Our role as administrators is to educate the students on why the need a pass — for



New pass policies address issues surrounding students roaming the hallways.

PHOTO BY MOLLY HOUGHTON

the reasoning for the short delay: "The 10-minute rule eliminates the chaos of the hallways during these times. Students are asked to write down what they want to ac-

safety and responsibility. We trust students to do the right thing, and the majority of them do; we're talking about a small minority who buck the system." **HEV**

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