



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.

Democracy comes to life in Washington

BY AUGUST WELLES

Nine high school juniors met with Congressman Bill Keating and Senator Elizabeth Warren on their trip to Washington D.C. with the Close Up organization March 9 to March 14.

Close Up is a program that educates high school students from around the United States, giving them a look at how their government works. Students get the chance to ask their representatives questions and follow the steps of the democratic process. Students involved in the Close Up program also visit various monuments and memorials to gain a better idea of how this country was built and the changes our government has gone through.

The program left the Island students feeling better acquainted with their government and more informed about the issues affecting it right now. Junior Aubrey Ashmun said, "The Close Up trip revolved around educating students about the government and letting us get a close up view of what happens in our nation's capital. I went into this trip knowing very little about the

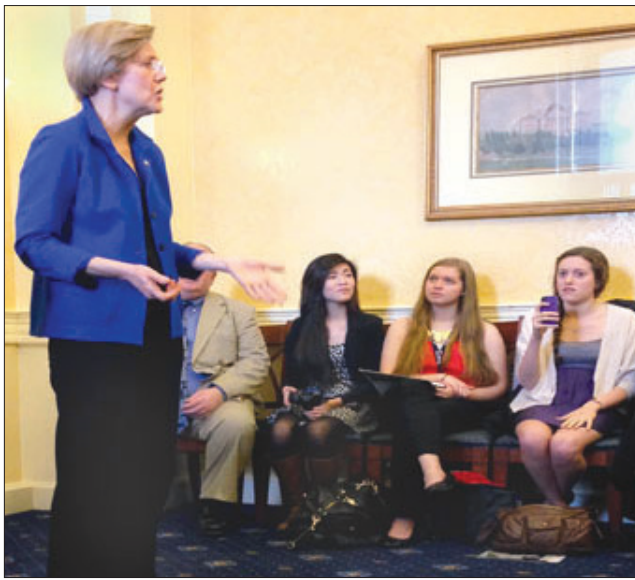


PHOTO BY KRISTINE HOPKINS

Students attending the Close Up trip listen to Elizabeth Warren, Massachusetts senator, speak about issues affecting the U.S. (Left to right) Hanna Kim, August Welles, and Galya Walt.

politics in our country and left feeling confident that I can use all of the information I gained to have a voice in the issues our country faces today in politics."

Students participated in a mock Congress on the third day of the trip. They experienced the difficulty of passing a bill and learned about the importance of everyone's voice in the process. Junior Galya Walt, who acted as a lobbyist in the Congress, said, "The mock Congress

was really well done and clearly showed how a bill makes its way to a Congressional hearing."

Because the students were so close to the action, many got an idea of whether or not they would like to pursue that career field. Aubrey said, "I learned how many opportunities there are in the field of politics and how our country's government operates. Before this trip I would never have considered going into politics, but after learning and

experiencing how the government works I am much more interested in this profession."

English teacher Kate Hennigan and history teacher Corrine Kurtz organized and led the trip.

"For me, the best part about the trip is seeing the kids engaged and excited about civics," said Ms. Hennigan. "When you add that opportunity to both the chance to dig into the historical richness of D.C.'s museums and also experience the political buzz on Capitol Hill, it's easy to see why Ms. Kurtz and I look forward to this trip as much as the students."

Ms. Kurtz said, "The best part of the trip for me was how the students asked questions on Capitol Hill day and were still excited about it on the way home."

Junior Hanna Kim said, "My favorite part of this trip was Capitol Hill day. It was so interesting to see Elizabeth Warren debating."

Close Up is a way to give students the confidence to speak up for themselves on debatable topics that affect their lives. It makes students more aware of the lengthy and at some times tedious nature of Capitol Hill, and reveals their abilities to make real change in our country and the world. **MSV**

Concert raises scholarship funds



PHOTO BY KRISTINE HOPKINS

(Left to right) Stephen Nixon and Ken DeBettencourt jam out at scholarship fundraiser last Thursday in the PAC.

BY NATHANIEL HORWITZ

Principal and former band leader Stephen Nixon rocked out last Thursday to fundraise for high school seniors in memory of David Brand. Mr. Brand, a science teacher who died six years ago, was incredibly popular among both students and teachers. "He battled illness for a long time," said Mr. Nixon's secretary Ruda Stone. "He was so enthusiastic, all about the kids." A former logistician for Doctor Without Borders, Mr. Brand was only 39.

The concert, held for the first time the year after Mr. Brand's premature death, originally raised money for his daughter Camille to

attend college. It has since evolved into the David Brand Scholarship Fund, a source of scholarship money for all Martha's Vineyard Regional high school seniors, raising thousands over the past few years, including a \$10,000 donation by Leigh Smith in memory of her husband, Procter Smith.

Mr. Nixon, lead guitar and singer, was accompanied by math teacher Kenny DeBettencourt on the piano, music teacher Michael Tinus on the guitar, high school drummer and future Berkeley School of Music student Hudson Bausman, history teacher Andrew Vandall on the drums, and several other student-faculty musicians. **MSV**

Shed heads to harbormaster

BY OLIVIA JACOBS

Students in the Advanced Building Trades class got out their saws and hammers for a useful community project—a new shed for the Menemsha harbormaster. On Monday, March 31, the frame for the shed was brought to Menemsha with a police escort. Building Trades teacher Bill Seabourne directed the project as part of the career technical vocational program.

He said, "The frame took two weeks to build, and the whole shed should be done by Memorial Day. The old shed was 8 by 6 feet, but the new one will be 16 by 12 feet,



PHOTO BY BILL SEABOURNE

The frame for the new harbormaster's shed awaits transportation from the regional high school to Menemsha.

so we will be doubling its size. The finished product will have cedar side walls and an asphalt roof to try to blend it in with the Menemsha landscape. "We couldn't

have transported it without John Keene, with Keene Excavation services. Hydraulics were used to move it with large fork lifts and a trailer." Mr. Seabourne said. **MSV**

Sam Potter wins at science regionals

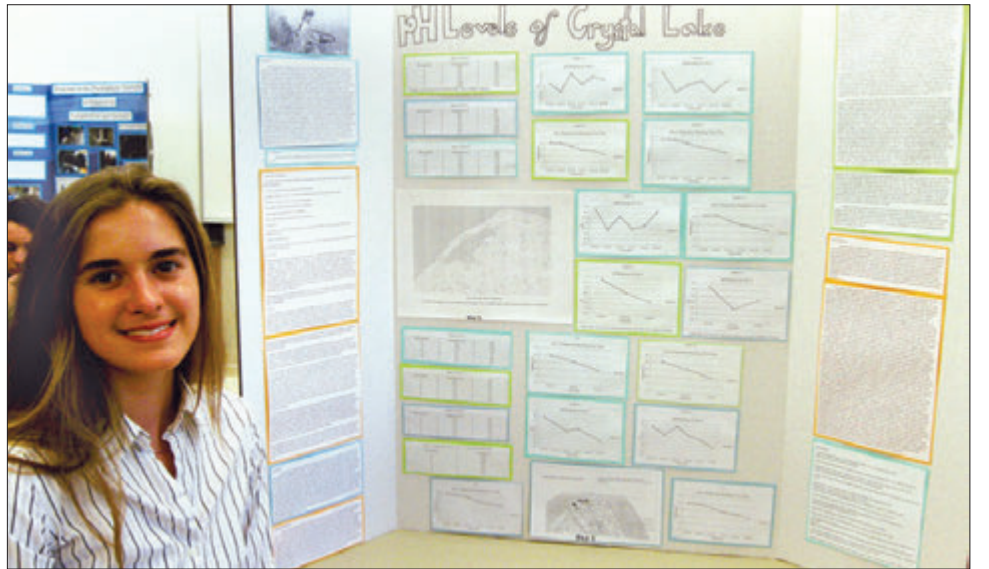


PHOTO BY JACQUELINE HERMANN

Junior Samantha Potter sits next to her third place winning project, 'pH Levels in Crystal Lake,' at the South Shore Regional Science Fair at Bridgewater State University. Freshmen Pearl Vercruyse and Patrick Best also attended the fair.

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