



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.

New assistant superintendent begins helping schools

BY OLIVIA JACOBS & CHRISTOPHER ARING-SHARKOVITZ

New Vineyard Public Schools assistant superintendent Matthew D'Andrea has received numerous positive reactions for his work from his Island colleagues.

Prior to his arrival on the Vineyard three months ago, Mr. D'Andrea had many valuable job experiences. "I started as a 5th grade teacher, and then I was an assistant principal in Marion, Massachusetts. Before coming to Martha's Vineyard, I was the principal of Old Hammond-town School, grades 4 to 6." Superintendent of school

Mr. James Weiss said, "The assistant superintendent is responsible for the curriculum and instruction areas for all schools on the Island and is the second in charge of the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools. He attends all school committee meetings and handles many of the administrative responsibilities involved in running a school business that has 550 employees and budgets of over \$49 million."

Mr. D'Andrea elaborated, saying, "I'm in charge of everything that is being taught in the Island schools, making sure that all of the subjects build on each other and are going along with Massachusetts state guide-



Assistant superintendent Matthew D'Andrea stopped by the High School View office last Friday.

PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER ARING-SHARKOVITZ

lines. I also make sure the right materials are being

used in the schools, teachers are getting necessary train-

ing, and overseeing grants."

Mr. Weiss said, "Other candidates who applied for this position worked for other school districts on the Cape and eastern Massachusetts as well as the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Mr. D'Andrea was selected because he has building leadership and curriculum experience and has excellent interpersonal skills. He has a doctorate and has completed both the superintendent's and school business manager's programs."

Regional high school principal Stephen Nixon said, "In the short amount of time I have known Mr. D'Andrea, I like him a lot. He's a good

listener, a hard worker, and well prepared. He does anything from making sure we are complying with state standards to helping new teachers so his work has a direct impact of the classroom. As soon as you meet him you can see the passion he has for the job—he's a major benefit to the school system."

"My plan is to come into the job and get to know the people, see what the needs of the district are, and make the necessary improvements and changes. The end result would be a better education system," Mr. D'Andrea said. "Everyone has been very welcoming and friendly here on Martha's Vineyard. It's a really great place and I've been enjoying it tremendously." **HSV**

Student leaders organize meetings with administration

BY SARAH ORTLIP-SOMMERS

Regional high school student leaders are helping to organize monthly meetings between students and members of the administration, specifically principal Stephen Nixon. Seniors Mary Ollen, Katherine Dorr, and Isabelle Wadleigh came up with the idea and have been involved in planning the meetings.

"It's still in its planning stages but the hope is to better the communication between administration and students," said Katherine. The meeting idea came about after several

students asked their leaders about ways to improve relations between students and members of the administration. The issue became particularly prominent after an incident last month. Some students expressed concern for the way the situation was handled and the communication across all members of the school community.

"I don't think the faculty and administration see eye-to-eye, and I'm positive many students don't see eye-to-eye with the faculty or administration," said senior Lily Lubin.

"Our school is such a small school in such a close com-

munity, you would think that our students and our administration would have an open communication, but we don't," said Isabelle.

The meetings will be similar to the principal coffees that are held monthly for parents to speak with Mr. Nixon. "We are planning to organize a monthly coffee for students to be able to voice their opinions and concerns and get to know the principal better," said Katherine.

"Hopefully it will give the students the opportunity to get to know Mr. Nixon better and to feel more comfortable speaking to him," said Mary,

student body president. In addition to improving communication, the three seniors hope that the coffees will give students the opportunity to express concerns and offer solutions to problems within the community. "During the coffees we are trying to get the students to talk with Mr. Nixon to tell him how they think things are going in the school," said Isabelle. "The students are such a huge part of our school, and we wanted to make sure that they had opportunities like the coffees to voice their opinions and really give their point of view on how everything is going."

Said Katherine, "The hope is that students will feel like they have more voice in our school and the administration and students can start to work together."

To help organize these coffees, Mary, Katherine, and Isabelle are enlisting the support of members of the student government. "We're asking student government for help with organizing the coffees so it actually becomes a student-driven activity," said Mary. "We want students to feel like the important, influential members of our community that they actually are."

According to Mary, the meetings will be open to all students. The students also hope to appoint student rep-

resentatives to attend each coffee. Said Katherine, "We are still working out all the logistics, but we are figuring out a way to vote in student representatives, hopefully changing each month, who will be able to speak on behalf of the student body."

"Many kids wouldn't go straight to the administration if they had a good idea about something or an opinion, so I think these coffees will really help," said Isabelle. "After these coffees we are really hoping that the administration sees and really hears the things that the students are saying and that they act upon them so that a change is really made." **HSV**

Sudden storm forces early school closure



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER ARING-SHARKOVITZ

Students and faculty fled the building at noon on Monday due to a sudden raging snow storm. Science teacher Jackie Hermann (left) had to scrape the heavy snow off of her car to safely leave the school. Several students had difficulties leaving the school. "The student parking lot was a death trap," said senior Mary Ollen. "I almost hit my own house. It was that snowy." **HSV**

School science fair next Saturday



PHOTO COURTESY OF J. HERMANN

Last years science fair.

Many of the high school's most accomplished young scientists will

present their work this Saturday, February 8, at the high school's 15th annual Science and Engineering Fair, which will be held in the school's cafeteria and library. Organized by science teacher Jackie Hermann, more

than 100 students will be presenting their investigative and engineering projects to the fair's 35 judges from 9 am - 11 am. Junior and senior physics students will compete in the wind turbine competition that tests both their design and the turbine's electric output. Judges include both scientists and engineers from Island and off-Island communities. The Fair will be open to the public from 11 am to 12:15 pm, with award presentations beginning at 12:15. **HSV**

EDITORS IN CHIEF: Sarah Ortlip-Sommers, Nathaniel Horwitz, G. Galen Mayhew ACTING EDITORS IN CHIEF: Olivia Jacobs, Christopher Aring-Sharkovitz ART EDITOR: Thorpe Karabees
PHOTOGRAPHY EDITORS: Willow Wunsch, Kristine Hopkins MASTHEAD ART: Eva Wilson FACULTY ADVISER: Dan Sharkovitz

JOHN KEENE EXCAVATION

Monday-Friday, 7:30 am-5 pm Saturday, 8 am-12 Noon
Old Stage Road, across from Takemmy Farm in West Tisbury
508-693-5975 or 508-693-0025

H.N. Hinckley & Sons, Inc
ACE Hardware
Beach Rd., Vineyard Haven
508-693-0075

High School View
Get recognition for your public support
Call 508-693-6100

MARTHA'S VINEYARD MUSEUM
Exploring Island History
59 School St., Edgartown
508-627-4441 www.mvmuseum.org

Edu Comp
Computer Sales & Service
Office & Art Supplies & More
4 State Rd, VH • 508 693 0803
educompvh.com

PRIVATE!
It's between you and us - we promise!
Family Planning of MV
517 State Road, VH • 508-693-1208
friendsoffamilyplanning.org

mv
martha's vineyard insurance
508-693-2800
mvinsurance.com
Vineyard Haven · Edgartown · Oak Bluffs

GEORGE B. BRUSH
Attorney at Law
459 State Road,
West Tisbury
508-693-7733

George A. Santos, Jr. O.D.
Adult & Children
Vision Care,
Vision Therapy
Contact Lenses
638 Main St., Vineyard Haven
508-693-7222