



# The High School View

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## As technology use grows, Internet access slows

BY CHRISTOPHER ARING-SHARKOVITZ

The Internet is dead. Or maybe dying. Or so it seems, at least for now, at the regional high school. At times during this school year, many teachers and students have been unable to use the school's wireless Internet productively due to non-educational use by some faculty and students.

The guest WiFi was opened up to students and faculty earlier this year. The school's technology director, Woody Filley, said, "I hoped students could access the Internet on their devices under the terms of the school's Acceptable

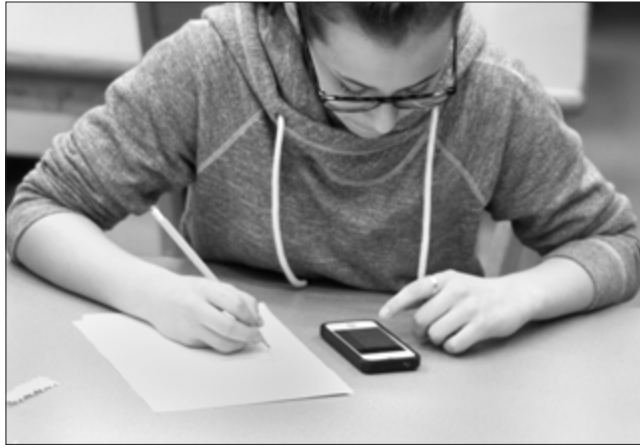


PHOTO BY AUGUST WELLES

(Left) Junior Emily DeBettencourt studies in the library using the school's WiFi on her cell phone. (Right) A student uses one of the library's computers during a study hall.

Use Policy and in the spirit of supporting teachers who wanted students using technology in their classes for

educational purposes." According to technology coordinator Rich Hammond, the problem has to do with



PHOTO BY KRISTINE HOPKINS

bandwidth. With so many persons connected to the Internet at the same time, access slows or ceases completely. Mr. Hammond said, "Bandwidth has to do with the amount of information that can come into the school at a time." Videos have been among the most bandwidth-consuming content viewed at the school.

The problem creates complications for teachers trying to show educational content

from the Internet, or use one of the school's mobile writing carts. "If a teacher has a good section of a movie and too many others are using the Internet, it can make the video jumpy and hard to watch," said Mr. Hammond.

Students have also experienced many occasions of slow Internet, preventing them from doing their assignments. "Whenever my class uses the computer carts, the WiFi is slow and it makes me not want

to use them because it takes so long to do the simplest task," said sophomore Kyra Whalen.

Some teachers have suggested that the school simply revert to previous policies which completely banned all cell-phone usage during school hours. But other teachers and students feel that the school should first try educating all students and teachers about the bandwidth problems.

English teacher Bill McCarthy said, "I would like to see a school advisory or two to educate the students, give them the facts."

Teachers believe that once everyone in the school understands the difficulties, most will stop using bandwidth for non-educational purposes.

Technology is becoming a larger part of many peoples' lives, and students are certainly no exception, making the current issue even more relevant. Assistant principal Andrew Berry said, "The purpose behind changing the policy was because we believe that high school would be a good place to learn how to use [technology] responsibly." **HSV**

## New artwork revealed

BY OLIVIA JACOBS AND AUGUST WELLES

Sophomores Molly Houghton and Maisie Jarrell just completed a painting of grapes in the 400s hallway.

The art began as a memoir for the class of 2016 when they took part in an elective Crafts and Sculpture course last semester. After working together to paint the purple fruit, the pair found sophomore students in various classrooms to write their favorite quote, word, or phrase inside each grape.

"Molly and I started working together when we came up with the idea to trace people's profiles. We realized we wanted to make something that would include our whole sophomore class, and we started to think about putting art in the hallway," said Maisie. "Then [Crafts and Sculpture teacher] Mr. Coogan helped us to come up with the grape idea and we thought that would be great because, in a way, it's our school mascot."

Emerson Mahoney, a sophomore, was one of the students who participated in the project. He said, "They are quotes that can help motivate and inspire

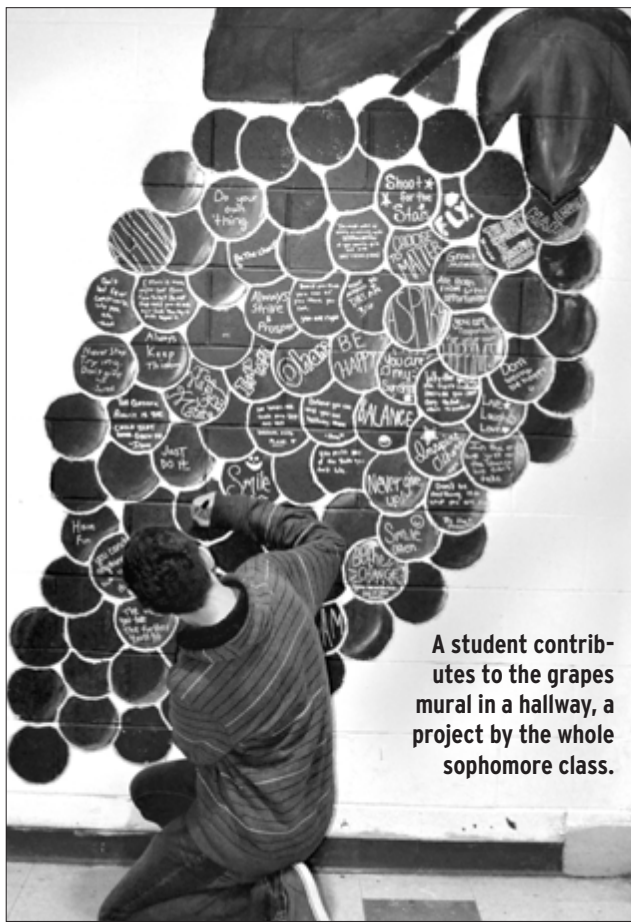


PHOTO WILLOW WUNSCH

A student contributes to the grapes mural in a hallway, a project by the whole sophomore class.

people. If you want some motivation you can go to the wall!"

Sophomore Lee Hayman was also chosen to write in the grapes. She said, "I haven't seen any murals that students in our generation have done. It was a

great way to incorporate everyone in the sophomore class. It brought us all together."

Said Maisie, "We hope to create a memory of our sophomore year, that we can visit years later." **HSV**

## Vacationers travel far and near

BY NATHANIEL HORWITZ

From Florida beach trips and college visits to 42 hours of intense theater rehearsal and grueling preparation for the basketball state title, February break presented myriad opportunities. Over the past week, students snowed in the Colorado mountains, lounged on stretches of Caribbean sand, played their last game of ice hockey as a Vineyarder, and explored their roots from as nearby as Canada to as far away as Ireland.

For freshman Ashley Wood, break was hardly a vacation at all. Each year, the Massachusetts Educational Theatre Guild (METG) Drama Festival gives high school students a chance to present an original performance in competition with other schools. This

year, senior Alexis Willett and junior Aaron Teves wrote "HUSH," a play about a bartender and his interactions with his patrons. "The whole cast and I had seven-hour rehearsals every day during break to perfect the play," said Ashley. "The competition took place at the Bourne High School, where we watched amazing productions and met tons of amazing people."

Other students made more of a vacation out of the break. "Every year my family and I spend a couple weeks at a resort in Turks and Caicos," said senior Tony Breth. "It's a good time to relax."

Senior Lily Lubin had a more active way of taking time off. "I visited my brother in Colorado and went hiking and snowshoeing in the mountains," she said. Although, she admitted, she also let go a little.

"I also became best friends with Netflix," she said.

This year, the high school sent student groups to Spain, England, and Ireland. The trip to Ireland, an annual expedition led by history department chair Elaine Weintraub, gave some students an opportunity to explore their past. "It was incredible," said junior Katherine Reid. "It was like going back to my homeland. The whole time we were there, I felt so comfortable and safe. The views, too, were absolutely beautiful. It was one of the greater experiences of my life."

Other students playing on the ice hockey and basketball teams stayed home for tournaments and playoffs games and practices.

And others stayed home to work, sleep, and have fun hanging out with friends and family. **HSV**

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