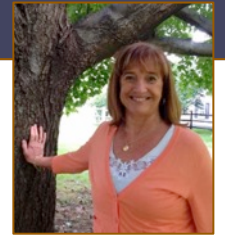


MVRHS Parent Newsletter

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School

April/May 2016

From the Principal's Desk: On Opting Out of Testing



SUSPENSION OF THE CA HIGH SCHOOL EXIT EXAMINATION

Senate Bill (SB) 172 (Liu) was signed by Governor Brown on October 7, 2015. This law suspends the administration of the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) and the requirement that students completing grade twelve successfully pass the high school exit examination as a condition of receiving a diploma of graduation from high school for the 2015–16, 2016–17, and 2017–18 school years.

The law also requires local educational agencies (LEAs) to grant a diploma to any student who completed grade twelve in the 2003–04 school year, or a subsequent school year, and has met all applicable graduation requirements other than passage of the high school exit examination. The law will not take effect until January 1, 2016, at which time LEAs shall be permitted to issue diplomas to eligible students.

Parents opting to have their children opt out of mandated testing reminded me of the sophomores at Tamalpais High School in Mill Valley who snuck a copy of the state graduation exam out of their classroom, set it afire, and danced around it in the quad as a protest to standardized testing in California. This was five years before any student was denied their diploma for failing.

Nearly twenty years later California finally enacted Senate Bill 172 recently suspending this test as a graduation requirement. More amazingly, the bill also allows local educational agencies to provide diplomas to all graduates after 2004 denied their diploma because of these test scores.

State testing was never designed to help students learn better or achieve more; instead, it was a test designed to measure schools by how well they taught the “curriculum” to all students, not just the elite. To this end, it has been a very effective sorter of middle-class, low-income, non-English speaking, special education, minority, and high needs students. The Race to the Top has reinforced American schools as Selectors of Those Ready for Future Success while denying diplomas to those who fail to succeed. This philosophy has outlived its usefulness. Other states should also discontinue standardized testing as a requirement for graduation. Where once school districts may have underserved low income-high needs students through a watered-down curriculum, they have more recently adjusted their curriculum. Consequently, testing in Massachusetts since 2004 has shown steady improvement in achievement across all groups. Unfortunately though, some schools identify individual students early and fast as “MCAS alternative test takers” denying them a chance for a diploma four years in advance of their graduation. By freshmen year, some low-income and minority students have already been informed they “will not graduate in 2019.”

Keep the state testing in place if it is useful; however, the scores must measure the quality of the high school not the hopeful graduate. Let us serve all our students, measure the gaps in understanding between those with advantages and those with high needs, and most importantly, utilize these scores not to punish but rather to improve our high schools.

Peg Regan



A Special Principal's Coffee

8-9:15am
in the Culinary Dining Room

Tuesday, May 3rd: For all Parents of 9th Graders Who Wish to Visit MVRHS and Meet Staff Along with Veteran Parent.

casual format – come late or leave early if you need to

Some Dates to Be Aware Of

MCAS Testing, Grade 10
MATH - May 17,18
BIOLOGY - June 1,2

SAT Testing
May 7 / Regular Registration Deadline - April 8
June 3 / Regular Registration Deadline - May 5

Alternative Ed Students & Teachers Reflect on Their Accomplishments

When we assembled the Alternative Ed students for the month of March and took a look back, we realized how busy we have all been during the year! Here are a few highlights:



- At the end of the month the students reviewed their work for the year in student led parent-teacher conferences. While leading these conferences they shared their goals, anticipated obstacles, what they have learned about

their strengths and weaknesses and themselves as learners in all of their classes.

- The staff in the Alternative Program began integrating the SMARTS executive functioning curriculum into all our academic subjects this year. We were chosen to present our work at the 31st Learning Differences Conference at the Harvard School of Education in March.

- In math the sophomore class designed and created symmetry tiles related to their study of transformations. The tiles were put mural display. As part of their study of quadratic functions and parabolic flight the juniors built and tested a catapult. MVRHS graduate and financial analyst Chris Flanders talked to the seniors about investment and long term financial planning prompting a lot of talk about 401K and a visit to a financial planner.

- For the last two weeks of December the students had their choice of three, student designed interdisciplinary seminars. Animal Welfare, 3D Art and Health and Wellness. The Wellness group surveyed the school, documented through an Instagram account to share what they saw around the building, talked to community members working for student wellness and shared their work at the February meeting of the MVRHS Wellness Committee. 3D Art went to the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston to see the Black Mountain College exhibit and used their inspiration to work on projects for the remaining time. Animal Welfare visited the Boston Aquarium and studied various animal welfare issues that they presented at the project showcase in the library.

Anna Cotton, Alt. Ed Dept. Chair

Technology in World Language Classrooms

Many language classes have been using Quizlet, an interactive website, to practice vocabulary. The site provides many engaging and fun ways to reinforce new words and has recently added a "Live" feature where students form teams and compete against one another in real time. Students ask to play every day and the level of collaboration and engagement is wonderful to see!

Justine DeOliviera, World Language Dept. Chair



Portuguese I Students Playing Quizlet Live



Health Assisting CTE Program Visits Island Health Care Sites



Freshmen walked to meet Dr. Campbell at his office, before he saw patients. They got a full tour and introduction to his career as a chiropractor.

After a visit to Hospice of Martha's Vineyard, students said, "I didn't know a place like that existed." "I learned what bereavement is." It was a great visit and gave us lots to build upon.

Thank you Terri Young!



Mary Vivian, CTE Health Teacher

Have You Heard?



Jay Blake, racecar driver and motivational speaker, will talk to the high school students on May 11 in the Performing Arts Center. He is bringing his racecar over on the boat and parking it in the front of the high school that Wednesday for students

to visit during their lunches. Jay was blinded in an explosion, and so he speaks on overcoming rather than succumbing to adversity.

Peg Regan

Special Olympics



Excitement is in the air for the Special Olympics! Our High School athletes have been training all year for the various events. We participate in running, relay races, softball throw, frisbee throw, soccer kicks, beanbag toss, and parachute. The day is filled with laughter, smiles, high fives, and dancing. From the opening ceremony to the medal presentation for all athletes at the conclusion of the events, our athletes represent the Island Schools with dignity, respect, and sportsmanship that we should all be very proud of. The Special Olympics will be held at Mashpee High School on May 26.

Stay tuned for pictures and results!

MVironment Club Receives 2016 MA Secretary's Award for Excellence in Energy & Environmental Education for its *Engineering for Sustainability* Program



Some of our Club Members at the West Tisbury School Session

For the last three years, the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School MVironment Club has volunteered in local elementary schools to offer energy-focused engineering clubs to young students on Martha's Vineyard. This year, the MVironment Club wanted to focus on the value of locally grown food in terms of conserving our energy resources. The group researched hydroponic system construction with help from our Horticulture Teacher, John Wojtkielo. They also researched hydroponic design techniques with Keith Wilda at Thimble Farm, which is part of the Island Grown Initiative Program. The MVironment Club came up with a small, passive hydroponic system design, as well as an energy-efficient LED grow light, and offered workshops to build these at four of the island elementary schools.

Additionally, the club interviewed teachers to see what would work best for a large, pumped water design for a classroom, and

then ran a workshop at Thimble Farm for 24 middle school level students (from four different schools on the island) to be able to build a system to bring home to their respective schools. Over 100 students participated, including the 3rd and 4th graders at the elementary schools, 5th-8th graders at the middle school level, and



Oak Bluffs School Session

10th through 12th graders at the high school level. All lessons were designed by the high schoolers and were meant to be exciting engineering opportunities for the younger students. The focus of the work was on the energy value of not having to ship food over long distances, and the pros of growing in a controlled environment like a greenhouse, in terms of energy savings, water conservation, etc.

Natalie Munn, Science teacher



Tisbury School Session



News From the Performing Arts Department

As the year draws to a close, the Performing Arts Department continues to be busy and involved! Classes are working on 4th quarter materials, perfecting skills in Piano, Guitar, Voice, Theatre, and Theory. AP Music Theory students are in the last weeks of preparing for their AP exam. Class Voice students will be presenting a recital in June and Theatre II students are rehearsing Shakespeare scenes for an in-school performance later in May. The Musical Theatre Production class is preparing its second Cabaret, which will be held at Alex's Place on June 3rd and 4th at 7 pm.

For their senior project, two members of the department, Darby Patterson and Miles Thornton, have written an original musical, 'Gaslight' which is about the Greenwich Village folk revival scene in 1961. Performances will be in the Performing Arts Center May 13th at 7 pm, May 14th at 2 pm, and May 15th at 7 pm.

Minnesingers are in final rehearsal days for their Spring Shows on May 7th at 7 pm and May 8th (great Mother's Day gift!) at 3 pm. Tickets are available from any Minnesinger and at the door, \$10 for seniors and students, \$12 for adults. The theme is year is 'Kaleidoscope', with both choral and dance programs celebrating the many and varied styles found in choral and vocal music. In addition to large group numbers, there will be individual and small group performances by members of the Minnesingers.

The Evening of the Arts (May 25th) is a celebration of the talented visual and performing arts students in conjunction with World Language Night. Auditions have been held and there is a program of singers, instrumentalists, and theatre students who will be performing in the PAC as well as in the Coffee House. Doors open at 6:00 pm; admission is free. In addition, performance classes will present their year-end concert during the evening in the Performing Arts Center starting at 6:30. Performances in the PAC will begin shortly after the department year-end concert and Coffeehouse performers will begin later in the evening. The halls and lobby will be overflowing with amazing artwork from the Art, Design, and Technology Department. Join us for this wonderful evening of art, music, and theatre entertainment.

The final event of the year will be the department's participation in the graduation ceremony for the class of 2016 held at the Tabernacle on June 12th.

Jan Wightman, Performing Arts Dept. Chair

Alt Ed Enrichment Students Work to Improve Their Space

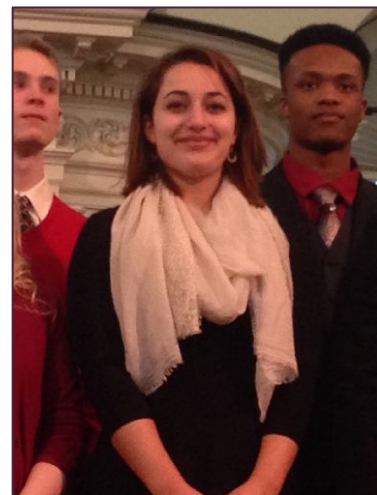


In addition to independent projects the F block Alt Ed enrichment class has been focused on improvements to our barely year old space and everyone is loving the addition of our blackboard walls.

MVRHS Student Competes in Poetry Out Loud State Finals

Amadine Muniz competed in the Poetry Out Loud State Finals in Boston last Sunday. She did a fantastic job and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The young man on her right, Courtney Farrell, was named the Massachusetts POL Champion. He will compete in the national competition in Washington, DC in May.

Peg Reagan



Science in the Alternative Education Program



In science the freshman Alt Ed students studied plants by chaperoning the Martha's Vineyard Community Services Preschool to Thimble Farm. They also collected native, wild seeds they this fall. They planted them with the Chilmark School students and have been growing them in the horticulture greenhouse. We will be selling some seedling and planting some in our Native Plant Habitat Patch at the State Forest Headquarters. The seniors in physics led lessons on simple machines and how they are related to force for the Martha's Vineyard Community Services pre-k students.

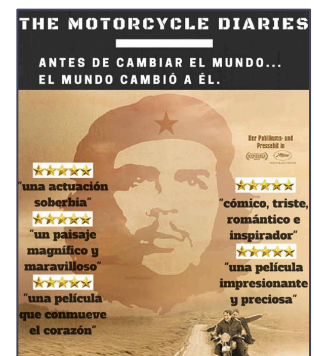
Anna Cotton, Alt Ed Dept. Chair



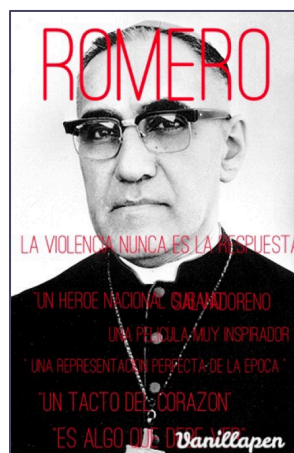
Historic Heroes

To conclude a unit on heroes and historical figures in AP and Advanced Spanish each student selected a film about a different historical hero of the Spanish-speaking world. Before viewing the films, using sources in Spanish, students researched their selected heroes and prepared presentations to share with their peers. After watching their films students then added personal reflections and reviews of how well the films reflected the person, their historical importance and the historical social/political conditions. Next, students created their own movies posters including original tag lines and reviews/critiques. Students carefully considered the images and wording to be sure that they accurately conveyed their thoughts about the film. Finally, after seeing their peers presentations, students had to pick two historical figures that their peers presented on and prepare an oral presentation comparing and contrasting the two figures. Students had a great time using film to learn and then teach their peers about significant people that they were not familiar with.

Justone DeOliviera, World Language Dept. Chair



Original Movie Posters Created by AP & Advanced Spanish Students



Presidential Candidates and the Latino Vote

Marco Rubio
Por Lee y Jerald

En General
Es un precandidato republicano a presidente para las elecciones presidenciales de los Estados Unidos de América. Es un cubano de Miami y un senador por Florida. Es hijo de inmigrantes y su abuelo fue el primer cubano nacido en Estados Unidos.

Posiciones

- Imigración**: La posición de Marco Rubio acerca de la inmigración es compleja. Él apoya una vía de ciudadanía para los inmigrantes legales en los EE.UU. pero cree que los inmigrantes ilegales no deben ser aceptados. Él quiere hacer pasar un programa de inmigrantes temporales. Su posición es más dura en lo que respecta a los inmigrantes ilegales. Su posición acerca de la inmigración es más dura que la de los otros candidatos.
- Educación**: Marco Rubio quiere que se mantenga el sistema de educación superior en los EE.UU. Él quiere aumentar la inversión en el entrenamiento vocacional y profesional. Él ha prometido crear un sistema de gratificación de estudios en la carrera que sea más atractivo. Él quiere crear una comisión de estudio para determinar si se debe mantener el sistema de admisión en la educación superior en los EE.UU.
- Trabajos**: Marco Rubio quiere crear un programa de impuestos y subsidios que ayude a las empresas a contratar y a los trabajadores a encontrar trabajos. Él quiere que se mantenga el salario mínimo. Él no quiere un aumento del salario mínimo. Él quiere que se mantenga el salario mínimo. Él quiere que se mantenga el salario mínimo. Él quiere que se mantenga el salario mínimo.
- Asistencia Médica**: Marco Rubio quiere que se mantenga el sistema de asistencia médica. Él quiere que se mantenga el sistema de asistencia médica. Él quiere que se mantenga el sistema de asistencia médica. Él quiere que se mantenga el sistema de asistencia médica.
- El Medio Oriente**: Marco Rubio quiere que se mantenga el sistema de relaciones internacionales. Él quiere que se mantenga el sistema de relaciones internacionales. Él quiere que se mantenga el sistema de relaciones internacionales. Él quiere que se mantenga el sistema de relaciones internacionales.

Students in Spanish IV researched presidential candidates in Spanish, they then worked with partners to create info graphics about the candidates in which they highlight their candidate's position on immigration, education, jobs, and health care. On the info graphics students had to

indicate if the candidates would earn support from the Latino community for each topic and overall. After sharing the info graphics with their classmates each student prepared an oral presentation titled "If I

TED CRUZ
en los ojos de los latinos

Cruz quiere... a Los Latinos

- Imigración**: construir una muralla, deportar a los ilegales, fortalecer las políticas. **¡NO!**
- Asistencia Médica**: revocar Obamacare y dar permiso a comprar seguro médico. **¡NO!**
- Trabajos**: terminar el IRS, quitar los beneficios de desempleo, reducir el salario mínimo. **¡NO!**
- Educación**: revocar Common Core y dar el derecho a los padres de elegir los planes de estudios, y terminar DACA. **¡NO!**

¡NO!
los latinos no votarían por Ted Cruz

Opiniones de los hispanos sobre: HILLARY CLINTON
By Keila and Sara

- Imigración**: Hillary Clinton quiere reformar la inmigración. Ella quiere ayudar a los inmigrantes y hacerlo más fácil conseguir la ciudadanía. Clinton quiere mantener los juntos inmigrantes y sus familias. **¡SI!**
- Educación**: Hillary Clinton quiere hacer la educación excelente disponible a todos los niños estadounidenses. Promete apoyar a los profesores y a los estudiantes. También, Clinton quiere enfocarse en ayudar a los estudiantes con discapacidades. **¡SI!**
- Trabajos**: Hillary Clinton quiere aumentar el salario mínimo. Ella quiere que todas las personas tengan buenas condiciones de trabajo y los salarios justos. También, Hillary quiere enfocarse en ayudar a los estudiantes con discapacidades. **¡SI!**
- Asistencia Médica**: Hillary Clinton quiere que todos los niños tengan cuidado de salud. Ella quiere que el aborto sea legal aunque debe ser seguro y debe ser raro. Hillary mantendrá el Ley de Asistencia Accesible y se basará en él. **¡SI!**
- El Medio Oriente**: Hillary Clinton comparte las mismas ideas con la mayoría de los hispanos y pensamos que los hispanos se votarían por ella. **¡SI!**

were Latino, I would vote for." In the oral presentations students used advanced grammar and cited specific points from the info graphics to support their argument.

Justine DeOliviera



"Best Buddies" is Coming to MVRHS

We're excited to announce that Best Buddies is coming to the High School! The process has been a long one, but we're hoping to have the program in place for the beginning of the 2016-17 school year.

Best Buddies at the High School level is in over 900 schools worldwide. Each chapter is a registered student organization within their school. The program matches high school students with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities. Stay tuned for upcoming meetings and information!

Laura DeBettencourt, Special Education Teacher

Freshmen Life Skills Class Learns About Earth Day



The 2019 freshman life skills class has completed a unit on Earth Day. We read a book called Caring for Earth and learned about recycling, reusing, and repurposing. We have been contributing to the school garden by starting herb seeds then planting them along with other things like peas and sunflowers. We have learned about composting and saving our lunch scraps that get put into the compost pile in the garden. We will end our unit by going on a field trip to clean up Owen Park.

Sally Callahan



Starting Seeds in Baggies



Learning and Working in the School Garden

Spring Engineering Challenges

Each month, our students have the opportunity to compete in our after-school Engineering Challenge competition. Below are the results of the March and April Challenges.

The **March Madness Challenge** was to **create a ball launcher**. A "backboard" and "hoop" was made with recycled boxes, and students had one minute to launch as many balls as possible to try to "score." Students were given 45 minutes to create launchers from cardboard, wood sticks, rubberbands, foam, plastic, or tape, etc. The group that "scored" the most points was named the winner.



*First Place = 20 points
James Kelliher, Brahmin Thurber-Carbone, Chris Aring*



*Second Place = 16 points
Casey McAndrews, Samantha Hargy,
Zach Bresnick (not in photo)*



*Third Place = 11 points
Adam Bilodeau, Anders Nelson, Lucas Dutton*

The final challenge of the year was the **April "K-Cup Composting Challenge."** In the spirit of Earth Day, the goal was to use some recycled materials to **create a device to extract coffee grounds from as many K-Cups as possible** in a one-minute time frame. The device had to include a method to puncture the foil top and remove the grounds, but keep the foil separate from the coffee grounds so that the grounds could be added to our school garden composting bin. Students were given 45 minutes to construct an extraction device, and each group had one minute to process as many K-Cups as possible. The group who created a device that processed the most K-Cups in the time frame was named the winner. The results of the K-Cup Composting Challenge are listed below. We will be putting the winning device in the teacher's room by the Keurig machine for you to try out, and thank you to everyone who helped us collect K-Cups for the challenge!

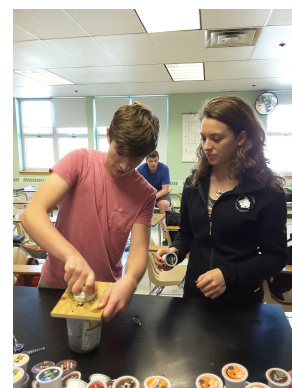
First Place = Dylan Wallace, Ben Tillman, Evan Sauter with 8 K-Cups processed in a minute! The screen in the middle was to catch any foil, and the grounds were collected in the bottom recycled yogurt container. The top was removable.



*Second Place Tie =
David Packer,
Nathaniel Packer*



Second Place Tie = Louis Neville, James Kelliher, Brahmin Thurber-Carbone



Third Place = Curtis Fisher, Savanna Aiello

Additionally, this was the last challenge of the year. Students who placed in any monthly challenge have accumulated points over the course of the year, and the winners for the 2015-16 Engineering Challenge are:

1st Place: Samantha Hargy, James Kelliher, Casey McAndrews, Brahmin Thurber-Carbone
2nd Place: Savanna Aiello, Adam Bilodeau *3rd Place: Lucas Dutton, Elizabeth O'Brien, David Webster*
Honorable Mention: Zach Bresnick, Anders Nelson, Benjamin Tillman Garrett

Natalie Munn, Science Teacher