

MVRHS Parent Newsletter

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School

September 2014

Principal's Coffees



First Tuesday of the Month*
8-9:15am
Library Conference Room

The dates for this year's coffees with Principal Gil Traverso have been set... mark your calendar and stay tuned for more information about agendas.

** Note: there is no coffee scheduled for September.*

October 7

November 4

December 2

January 6

February 3 (in Culinary Dining Room)

March 3 (in Culinary Dining Room)

April 7

May 5

June 2 (in Culinary Dining Room)

Art, Design and Technology

The Art, Design and Technology department will be offering "Introduction to Fashion Sewing & Fiber Arts" which introduces the fundamentals of constructing garments and artwork with textiles and fibers, as well as "Introduction to Computer Architecture and Networking" in which students will learn about how and why computers work, including the fundamentals of computer architecture as well as the software basics that run a computer.

Chris Baer, Department Chair

Arts students from MVRHS are highlighted in short pieces throughout the newsletter... be sure to check them out!

Welcome Parents,

We look forward to another successful year in MVRHS filled with a positive school climate. Our expectation is that every student can achieve, and we are confident that this goal will be attained by our talented and energetic teaching staff.

The tradition of students graduating who are college and career ready will continue.

Collaboration and teamwork will be the emphasis as we work together with students, parents and the community.

Gil Traverso, MVRHS Principal



Cindy West Visits Argentina, Explores Exchange Opportunities



I am very excited to be starting the new school year after spending a month in Argentina this summer. I had the opportunity to polish my own Spanish conversational skills by attending classes with native speakers. I also made contact with Liliana Coppetti, a teacher from Argentina who is interested in re-instituting a student exchange program with Vineyard students,

which had previously been done with retired teacher, Lynn Ditchfield.

One of the other teachers in my program in Buenos Aires, Melody Rivera of the Wilbraham-Monson Global School in Wilbraham, MA, is also interested in exchanging conversation time (by Skype) between Vineyard students and her own students. Ms. Rivera spent the summer studying tango, and has offered to come visit us and set up a tango workshop!

I will keep parents posted on developments regarding the possible upcoming student exchange with Argentina students.

Cindy West, Spanish Teacher

Back to School Night Thursday, October 2nd at 7pm



Don't miss this opportunity to go through an abbreviated version of a typical day for your child. You'll meet the teachers and get an overview of the curriculum and expectations in each course.

Isabelle Crawford's Photograph Exhibited in Washington



Junior Isabelle Crawford's photograph, "Branches", is currently on exhibit in the tunnel connecting the House office building to the Capitol in Washington D. C. She won "Best in Show" in the annual Congressional Art Competition, so her photograph now represents the Massachusetts 9th Congressional District in a yearlong gallery show. Isabelle and her parents were brought to Washington in June to attend the national reception for the winners, where they also met with Representative Keating and were given a tour of the Capitol building.



Alex's Place Begins 4th Season

Alex's Place, the popular spot for teens at the YMCA will open its doors for another school year beginning September 3rd. There are many new and exciting programs and events on tap for what we hope will be the best school year yet. A regular list of events will always be posted on the Alex's Place Facebook page and we encourage all parents and teens to "like" it so they can receive updates and calendar additions. We also has our own website with an event page at <http://www.alexspplace.net> where folks can find current information and a huge archive of videos, photos and more.

Hours of Operation

Mon - Thurs 2:30 pm - 6:00 pm
Fri. 2:30 pm - 10:00 pm Sat. 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Homework Assistance: Need help with that Algebra or Geometry? Trying to research a topic for a paper? Need to create a video project? Homework Assistance can help! Teens should see Tony Lombardi to set up a time for special projects but can bring their daily homework any time and get help.

Tony Lombardi, Teen Center Director



Guidance Notes for Parents of Seniors

Senior Parents and Students College Application Night

Monday, September 15 PAC 6:30-8:30 p.m.

On **Monday, September 15** from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center the guidance department will be sponsoring a College Application Night. The counselors will review the college application procedure for seniors and their parents. It will be an informative night of questions and answers to help you move forward in the college application process.

Financial Aid Night for Senior Parents

**Tuesday, November 18
PAC 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

The guidance department will be sponsoring a financial aid night on **Tuesday, November 18th** from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the MVRHS Performing Arts Center. We will review the financial aid process and distribute materials necessary to apply for financial aid from private sources, public sources, and colleges. We will also discuss the local scholarship program and the process of applying for substantial monies awarded to our seniors and graduates from our own community.

Elliott Bennett Looks Forward to New Role



This summer I spent time with my family, in my garden and reading. I went back to work in August so I did not get a lot of fun time, but I did go to Chicago for my nephew's wedding and went to the Sonoma Valley for wine tasting and hiking. The California trip ended with a quick visit to my old haunts in Monterey where I went bird watching, saw sea otters, whales and elephant seals.

I am excited for my new position, looking forward to a positive year, and to working with Gil and Andy to help the teachers at MVRHS have a exemplary year focused on providing the best opportunities to their students.

Elliott Bennett, Assistant Principal



Jack Yuen in Chicago

Senior Jack Yuen had a great summer experience at **The Art Institute of Chicago**. One of his classes was called "Experimental Drawing". Students were encouraged to think about drawing in new ways.

Digital Connectors at the Y



This yearlong digital literacy program will meet at Alex's Place weekly on Tuesdays from 4:30-7:30 for teens interested in the digital world. Students will learn about Internet safety, computer operations, online research strategies, debate, public speaking, and will also work on a film project. Dinner will be included. It's sponsored by Comcast and is offered at no cost to teens aged 13-18. A commitment to the entire program, which runs through June, is required.

Register at Alex's Place, by emailing Tony Lombardi (tlombardi@ymcamv.org) or Ray Whitaker (punkwilliker@gmail.com), or by calling 508-696-7171 ext.128.

Where Have MVRHS History Teachers Been This Summer?

Ena Thulin traveled to **Bulgaria** and spent most of the summer there connecting with the culture and heritage of her children's grandparents.

Andrew Vandall visited **Ireland** to attend a friend's wedding. The beauty of the west coast of Ireland impressed him endlessly as did the amazing natural phenomena of Giants Causeway, but as a historian his favorite period is 1870 when most of the western world experienced an Industrial Revolution. As a colony of England, Ireland did not have that industrial development which was a little disappointing both for the people of Ireland in that period and for Andrew today. The culture of friendliness for which Ireland is famed was appealing, but driving on the left hand side of the road at 90 miles an hour was terrifying!

Corinne Kurtz and **Dana Moore** both spent time **reflecting and planning** for their classes. Summer is a good time to recharge those batteries and think about new ideas.

Olsen Houghton worked very hard as the **director of the Land Bank program** for the summer and still managed to spend some relaxing family time with his daughters both of whom will be students at the high school this fall.

Elaine Cawley Weintraub spent July in Ireland exploring those tall towers on the western coast that defended the monks from the Viking invasions for a thousand years and walking the Atlantic routes on Achill Island and at Downpatrick Head in County Mayo. Recent research has shown that the D Day landings were planned on those wild coastlines. The summer is always about finding new experiences that can be shared with the IRISH history class trip each year. Returning to the Vineyard meant returning to work on the African American Heritage Trail, which hosted visits from Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Congressman Gregory Meeks, Howard University and the Vineyard Odyssey.

The summer is busy but all that activity and reflection creates new opportunities for our students. We look forward to a productive and creative year and can't wait to welcome our new students to our classes.

Elaine Cawley Weintraub, Ed.D, History Department Chair



Freshmen Parents Night

Thursday, September 11 **Performing Arts Center** **6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

All freshmen parents are invited to attend this annual event. It's a great opportunity to learn more about the high school, get your questions answered and hear about things your student may not be sharing at home.

MVRHS Students Attend at Cal Poly Summer Programs



Senior **Aaron Teves** attended the **Cal Poly Summer Architecture Career Workshop**, a four-week program. He writes, "It was a fantastic experience to explore the possibilities of architecture through higher education and into its profession. The concept of

architecture was presented to us not as buildings or houses drawn on paper, but as spaces created for a specific purpose. We studied techniques involving the use of materials, the manipulation of light and creating environments. These concepts were done through various forms of architecture including engineering and landscape design."

Henry Gallagher and **Lee Faraca** attended **EPIC (Engineering Possibilities in College)** at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, a weeklong engineering camp.

Willa Vigneault in Jordan



Sophomore Willa Vigneault spent her summer in Jordan in an intensive Arabic language program as a participant in the NSLI-Y program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. This very competitive program provides merit-based scholarships for high school students to learn less commonly taught languages in overseas

immersion programs, as part of a U.S. government initiative to prepare American citizens to be leaders in a global world. Willa stayed with a local family in Amman, Jordan while attending school.

More at Alex's Place



7 Miles Out Digital Magazine: For teens interested in journalism, writing, photography, poetry, art, movie and music review, *7 Miles Out* digital magazine will be a hit. All teens are welcomed to submit their work. It will be published in an online page turning magazine in November 2014 (our second edition). There will be monthly meetings. The editor for the High School is Ian Shea and the editor for the Charter School is Isabella Quinones. We are seeking a staff photographer, proofreaders, and those interested in learning layout and design (Photoshop).

Alex's Kitchen: Alex's Kitchen will teach teens basic food preparation and nutritional information. Teens will prepare foods, desserts and more under the direction of chef Chanda Decker and mentors from the restaurant world. There is no cost for this program, which will meet on Friday afternoons beginning in October.

Alex's Ysters: Ysters is a monthly gathering of teen girls, which will feature professional women from the community and delve into topics of importance for teen girls. This program will begin in October. To sign up please contact Laurel Redington at moonwriter1005@aol.com or call 508-696-7171 ext.128

Courtney Howell



Courtney Howell had a very positive experience in the two-week "**Advanced Young Digital Photographers**" workshop at the **Maine Media Workshops** in Rockport. She writes, "I learned so many new techniques from the teacher, whether it was in Photoshop or just with some new equipment. We set up our own photo shoot with professional lights

and went to many different locations to take documentary pictures. Each day, our creativity was tested and each day we took many different types of images. Each of my peers at Maine Media was very creative and had very different styles or viewpoints. I learned so much from them, because they made me look at things in a different way. Here is the link to my class video, which showcases our work: <http://vimeo.com/101092720> "

Refrigerated Vending Machine and More from the Cafeteria

Welcome back students and parents...and greetings to the incoming new students.

We here in the cafeteria have been working hard this summer to process all of the local and gleaned food that has been arriving in our kitchen. We have also had some of the High School Garden produce filter in as well. Some of this benefitted the Martha's Vineyard Community Services Daycare program.

Last Spring we had a healthy snack initiative that was assisted by MA in Motion and vetted by the John Staulker Institute as well as Vineyard Nutrition. Based on those results, we will be offering some new choices throughout this fall and winter.

With the support of the Wellness Committee as well as the School Committee, we finally have approval for a refrigerated vending machine to add here at the High School. This will allow us to offer cold sandwiches, soups, salads, yogurts, fresh fruits, juices and veggies with dips in the vending machine all of the time which will be great for people who have after school activities. The machine has been ordered and we can't wait until it makes its journey all the way from Iowa!!!

Bernadette Cormie, Director of Food Services

MVRHS Graduate Interns at Thimble Farm



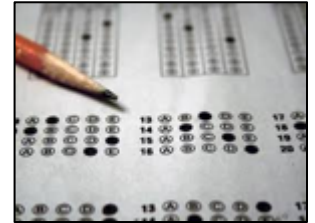
I recently toured the IGI Greenhouses at thimble farm and the manager couldn't say enough about **Ben Bilzerian**. Ben, a student at the Stockbridge School of Agriculture, just completed his summer internship with Thimble Farm. Keith Wilder had high praise for Ben and all of the

students he has hired from our Horticulture Program. Keith is looking forward to this winter when the brains and brawn in Mr. Wotjkeilo classes build out the last section of IGI's enormous greenhouse.

Jack O'Malley, Culinary Arts Instructor

Testing Dates to Keep in Mind

PSAT Testing Wednesday, October 15 Cafeteria 7:40 a.m.



PSAT administration will be on the morning of **Wednesday, October 16** in the high school cafeteria. Juniors are strongly encouraged to take the PSAT. The PSAT is a practice SAT and is also used to determine eligibility for the National Merit Scholarship Program. Sophomores who have completed the necessary math and English to be successful may also want to take this test.

Students can sign up in guidance beginning **Wednesday, September 17**. The cost of the test is \$15.00 paid by cash or a check made payable to MVRHS.

Visit www.collegeboard.com for more information. If you have any questions, please contact your guidance counselor.

SAT I and SAT Subject Tests Registration and Dates

You must register online (use your existing College Board account user name and password) or come into guidance and get the registration materials. Those students who will be taking the test with extended time need to see their individual counselor to receive the registration materials to meet the deadlines.

Registration Deadline	Test Dates
Sept. 12	Oct. 11
Oct. 9	Nov. 8
Nov. 6	Dec. 6
Dec. 29	Jan. 24

Vineyard Test Prep: PSAT & SAT

A private test prep service is offered at MVRHS at a reduced cost to our students. **Classes will be held in the fall and the spring on Wednesday nights from 6-8 p.m.** Please contact Doug Debettencourt at 508-693-1033 (ext. 178) or by email at DDeBettencourt@mvyeps.org.

The Performing Arts

The Performing Arts Department welcomes our new and returning students. We hope everyone had a wonderful summer vacation. We have a very busy and exciting year planned. Classes in guitar, piano, music theory, sound technology, piano, and theatre as well as performance classes – chorus, band, orchestra, jazz band, vocal ensemble – are open to all students. If your student would like to join one or more of our classes, the opportunity is still available. Feel free to contact Jan Wightman for information or if you have any questions.



After our department members made the decision to perform the Stephen Sondheim musical, 'Into the Woods' in February, Brooke Ditchfield, our new drama teacher, choral director Abigail Chandler, and department chair Jan Wightman went to see the production by the College Light Opera Company in Falmouth in August. We are all very excited about our musical. Auditions will be held in October. Our production of 'CATS' last year was very successful in part because of the involvement of many community members, parents, and graduates. Everyone is encouraged to become involved again this year!

We look forward to meeting our students' parents at Back to School Night October 2nd.

Jan Wightman, Department Chair



Musical Offerings at Alex's Place

Community Open Stage: This year, due to popular demand, Community Open Stage will take place on the first and third Friday of every month. The entire community is invited to join in. Teens can attend for free and the cover charge for adults is only \$5. Weekly signup can take place by phone (508-696-7171 ext.128), online at the Alex's place website or on the day of the show.

Current Music Club: This is a new program for teens interested in music. Discussions of various genres, and exploration of sound, recording and more will be part of this weekly program which will take place on Mondays beginning in October. This program is free.

Chris Aring-Sharkovitz at MIT

High school junior Christopher Aring-Sharkovitz spent the month of July interning for two MIT engineers. He worked out of a lab in Somerville, Mass. called the Pirate Ship and also at the nearby Artisan's Asylum, a collaborative maker's space. He worked on projects for Narwhaledu, an educational robotics startup created by several recent MIT alums. <https://www.facebook.com/Narwhaledu>. They created a product for swarming robots, and he helped out with their Kickstarter campaign.



Christopher on left, another intern, William Long, on right.

Chris Baer at iEARN

Chris Baer was one of five US educators to attend the week-long iEARN Education Conference and Youth Summit in Puerto Madryn, Argentina where he ran a workshop titled "Creativity and Collaboration: Brainstorming New Collaborative Classroom Projects" for educators from Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, the Netherlands, Peru, Taiwan, and the USA. He also toured a number of local schools in Puerto Madryn.



Chris Baer visited El Colegio Municipal de Pesca N° 2701, a public alternative vocational high school in Puerto Madryn, Argentina in which the whole curriculum revolves around the fishing industry.

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Core Values, Beliefs and Learning Expectations

NARRATIVE

We believe that our students need to be able to think independently, respect individuality, and act with integrity in order to thrive in a changing, digital-based, global economy. We believe that education should be personalized, and that our students should be supported and encouraged as they identify their strengths, challenges, and passions. We strive both to guide and challenge our students as they set individualized, self-directed goals within the context of a rigorous academic and extracurricular program. Members of our school and Island community join in providing an environment in which students may realize these core values and beliefs as they:

ASPIRE to discover meaningful work and to contribute to society in a positive way;
COLLABORATE to set and achieve self-initiated and self-directed goals; and
ENGAGE in experiences that allow for exploration of passions and interests.

LEARNING EXPECTATIONS

To achieve long-term goals and be active citizens in our global community, we believe that our students need to develop the following 21st-century skills.

Academic Competencies

Across all academic disciplines, our students will:

- Read critically.
- Write/communicate persuasively.
- Think and reason logically.
- Solve complex problems analytically.
- Explore ideas creatively.
- Evaluate solutions.
- Access and use information effectively.
- Take intellectual risks.
- Achieve content competency.

Social and Civic Competencies:

As they engage in our Island and global community, our students will:

- Communicate responsibly using technology.
- Prioritize, plan, and manage for results.
- Work within a group to achieve a goal or outcome.
- Know, understand, and appreciate cultural diversity.
- Contribute as an informed citizen.
- Adjust and adapt to changing environments.