



The High School View

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Musical extravaganza *Into the Woods* opens tonight

BY ELIE JORDI

Fantastical creatures will crawl onto the regional high school's Performing Arts Center stage tonight with the opening of the musical *Into the Woods*.

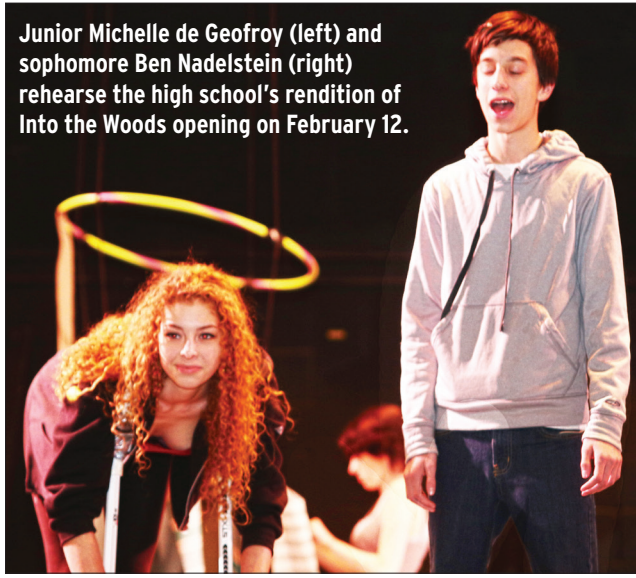
Into the Woods is a part of the Brothers Grimm fairy tales in a musical format that blends together the tales of Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk, and Rapunzel.

The play is directed by Brooke Ditchfield, head of the theater department. "Brooke brings a young, vi-

brant, and creative eye to the performing arts at the high school," said junior Miles Thornton.

Senior and lead cast member Aaron Teves said, "Brooke's creative insight when it comes to stage design is profound."

Into the Woods is a challenging play that requires countless hours of rehearsal. "It will most likely be the most difficult play these students will be in," said Ms. Ditchfield. Brooke is confident that the cast is prepared and ready for the show. "All the cast members



Junior Michelle de Geofroy (left) and sophomore Ben Nadelstein (right) rehearse the high school's rendition of *Into the Woods* opening on February 12.

PHOTOS BY MOLLY HOUGHTON

are very dedicated to understanding and performing their roles to their best ability," said Miles. "Even on the snow days we congregated at coffee shops and homes to run through our lines." "The students showed their true colors when they got together and rehearsed on the snow days," Ms. Ditchfield said.

This play has been a community project — incorporating carpenters, artists, and choreographers. Geoff Patterson, a father of one of the cast members, helped build the elaborate set. In addition, Jesse Keller, a choreographer from The Yard, worked with the students

on their dance numbers. "The help from the community has allowed us to make this the best performance that it can be," said Ms. Ditchfield.

Senior Anne Ollen is excited to see the final result. She said, "I saw the recently released movie, and I enjoyed it. I'm curious to see how the show compares." **HSV**

The production runs February 12, 13, and 14 at 7 pm at the high school Performing Arts Center. There will be a shortened, children's matinee on Sunday at 2 pm. The cost of admission is \$10 for adults, \$7 for students and senior citizens, and free for children 8 and under.

Young scientists showcase work

BY SOPHIA MCCARRON

Over 260 students, judges, and teachers crowded into the cafeteria to participate in the annual science fair last Saturday morning. Students, some groggy from pulling all-nighters, and some armed with cups of Mocha Mott's coffee and Dippin Donuts signature sugary confections, sat in front of boards displaying anything from the fizziest bath bomb to a homemade snowboard to Island erosion.

Judging started around 8:45 and the room was soon filled with laughter and inquisitive conversation. While some waited anxiously for their judges' scrutiny, others were excited to present their projects. Freshman Curtis Fisher said, "It was really fun, and the judges were really nice. It was interesting to see all of the people coming around to look at the projects."

Judge Anita Hotchkiss said, "It really is an honor to see the variety of projects and the involvement of students in the work they're doing. You can certainly see the work that people have done. I appreciate a well done project, and there are many of them. I love it."

At the end of the day,

numerous awards were given in categories including engineering, investigative science, a variety of special awards, and the wind turbine competition, an annual challenge organized by Mr. Munn's junior and senior physics students to create a wind turbine which produces the highest energy output. This year's winners were Zachary Bresnick and Nina

"I appreciate a well done project, and there are many of them. I love it."

Harris. Grand prize went to junior Nils Aldeborgh for his engineering project of a three-dimensional light cube. Second overall was awarded to juniors Ellie O'Callaghan and Arden Bezahler for their creative project involving the effects of different soap bases. Third prize was given to junior Olivia Jacobs for simulating an artificial pancreas.

Jacqueline Hermann, regional high school earth science teacher, organized the event. **HSV**

Teen views of school drug culture

BY RUSSELL SHAPIRO

This is part one of a two-part series. The second part will appear in the March 5 issue.

Drug and alcohol usage is on the decline at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, according to recently released data from the Youth Task Force's Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Marijuana, alcohol, and cigarette use has decreased since 2012. However, there are still significant issues with regard to substance use among high school students. While the use of traditional substances like marijuana and alcohol is declining, the level of marijuana use is still above the state average, and there has been a significant rise in the level of prescription drug abuse.

According to school administration data, from the 2010-2011 school year through the 2012-2013 school year, the number of incidents of use or possession of drugs, including tobacco, in school decreased from 15 to 11 to seven. In the past school year, though, there were 25 incidents, approximately half of which were tobacco-related. Through Feb. 9 of this year, there have been seven incidents.

These facts come as little surprise to many students. Senior Tim Roberts said, "For high schoolers in general it seems that marijuana is the main problem, although I've also heard of some students doing other drugs. I think it is a serious problem, as maybe half of all students participate in drug use of some kind, and despite what many people say, I do believe marijuana can be a dangerous drug."

Senior Erik Faber believes the substance issues among students don't expand much beyond marijuana and alcohol. He said, "Weed and alcohol are all you really hear about in school. It's not like kids are shooting heroin." Students have heard of prescription drug abuse. Junior Kyra Whalen said, "I believe Adderall is the new thing a lot of people are doing. People use it to pull all-nighters, and I know people snort it to get high."

Though there are many anecdotal stories such as these, students at MVRHS do not believe there is a serious hard drug usage issue

at the school. "I actually haven't heard of any hard drugs being used," said Kyra. Senior Ellie Reagan believes hard drug usage is a rarity. "Nobody's really into crazy drugs. I'm sure there are kids that snort coke or do whatever you do with heroin but those are outliers."

Erik described his knowledge of hard drug usage

a dangerous aspect whenever people are involved with drugs. Their senses are impaired, which makes driving extremely risky. Even if they aren't driving, being under the influence can still pose risks by changing the way they think."

Though there has not been a serious incident involving a high school student driving under the influence in recent years, it is still a concern among students. "What I really worry about is kids driving drunk, because it does happen. Split a cab with your friends or call SafeRides, because it's selfish and endangering," said Erik.

Ellie also commented on driving under the influence. She said, "It's drilled into us that drinking and driving is bad, and I think the majority of high school kids wouldn't do it. There are definitely some that do though, and that's a problem."

Though the statistics indicate marijuana use is on the decline as of 2014, many students still believe it is highly prevalent. "I'd say a little more than half have smoked," said Ellie.

There is a concern that the underclassmen grades are seeing a rise in marijuana use. **HSV**



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