## MVRHS Parent Newsletter

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School

March/April 2015



### Principal's Coffees

Tuesday Morning April 7<sup>th</sup> 8-9:00am Library Conference Room

(with coffee, tea and baked goods)

Tuesday Evening
May 5<sup>th</sup> 5-6:00pm
Library Conference Room
(with sparkling water and light snacks)

Tuesday Morning
June 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-9:00am
Library Conference Room

(with coffee, tea and baked goods)

#### Yearbooks Still Available

Attention MVRHSers! Yearbooks are still available! \$50 each. Order forms are online on the MVRHS website: <a href="http://www.mvrhs.org/wpcontent/uploads/2015/03/Student-Order-Form-Revised.pdf">http://www.mvrhs.org/wpcontent/uploads/2015/03/Student-Order-Form-Revised.pdf</a> OR in Ms. Todd's room (404). Get yours today! - Yearbook Staff

#### Writer's Week April 6-10

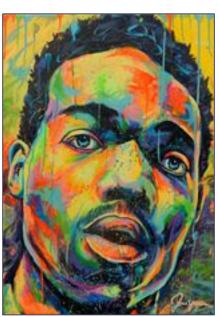
Writer's Week is an exciting new event taking place at MVRHS to promote and celebrate writing beyond the classroom. Sponsored by the English Department, the featured event will be two days, April 9 and 10, during which writers from our community will come to MVRHS to share their writing and work with students. The week will also include various activities and opportunities for students to explore writing.

Elaine Hayes, English Teacher

#### Jack Yuen Wins Two National Silver Medals

Congratulations to MVRHS senior Jack Yuen for winning TWO national silver medals at the national Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. There will be a ceremony later this month at Carnegie Hall. His two awards are for a digital illustration – "Nautical Spirit" – and a painting, "Acid Rap".





# MVRHS Teachers Support Each Other in Health Challenge



A group of 20 MVRHS teachers are taking part in an eight week Health and Weight Loss Challenge sponsored by the Health Council and the Sunshine Committee. Teachers support one-another to earn daily points for a variety of different things including: drinking water,

exercising, eating fruits and vegetables, avoiding sweets, and keeping a food journal. A big thank you goes out to Cronig's, who donated eight gift cards for a weekly raffle for participants!

#### Calling All Sophomores!

#### CLOSE UP

Students from the 2015 Close Up trip have just returned from Washington, D.C. brimming with enthusiasm for the city, the program, and the nation's politics. Highlights from this year's trip include cultural visits to Washington neighborhoods, the Smithsonian museums, meeting Senators Warren and Markey on a visit to Capitol Hill, and participation in current-issues debates and a mock congress with students from far away lands such as Texas, Michigan, Arizona, and Puerto Rico!

March 2016 will be your opportunity to get an "up close" look at civic engagement using Washington, D.C. as your classroom. See Ms. Kurtz or Ms. Hennigan if you're interested!

Corinne Kurtz, History Teacher; Kate Hennigan, English Teacher





#### MVRHS Students Win Art Awards

Congratulations to the following sixteen MVRHS art & design students for winning 2015 Boston Globe Scholastic Art Awards:

Jack Yuen - 3 Gold Keys (painting, digital art, and drawing)

Kristine Hopkins - Gold Key (photography portfolio) Gordon Moore - Gold Key (ceramics); 3 Honorable Mentions (drawing and painting portfolio, ceramics portfolio, ceramics)

Sequoia Ahren - Gold Key (photography)

Aaron Teves - 2 Silver Keys (architecture); Honorable Mention (painting)

Henry Danielson - Silver Key (drawing) Kanika Datta - Silver Key (ceramics)

Donald O'Shaughnessy - Silver Key (ceramics)

Mia Arenberg - Honorable Mention (photography) Andrei Bernier - Honorable Mention (drawing) Lee Faraca - Honorable Mention (drawing) Emily Kleinhenz - Honorable Mention (ceramics portfolio)

Courtney Howell - Honorable Mention (photography) Michael Morris - Honorable Mention (ceramics) Katherine Reid - Honorable Mention (painting) Tessa Whitaker - Honorable Mention (photography)

Work by four of them - Jack Yuen, Kristine Hopkins, Gordon Moore, and Sequoia Ahren - won Gold Keys, which means they also competed in the national contest.

Chris Baer, Art Dept. Chair

#### Kudos to Two Award Winning MVRHS Coaches



MVRHS football coach Donald Herman will be inducted into the Massachusetts High School Football Coaches Association Coaches Hall of Fame on April 26<sup>th</sup>

#### Read more at:

http://vineyardgazette.com/news/2015/03/22/vineyard-football-coach-receives-hall-fame-honors?k=vg5496db2de1519

MVRHS girls varsity basketball coach Maureen Hill will be inducted into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame on August  $8^{th}$ .

#### Read more at:

http://www.mvtimes.com/2015/03/19/maureen-hill-elected-to-new-england-hoops-hall-of-fame/



# Cape & Islands Transition Conference & Resource Fair

Are you a student with a disability? Transitioning from High School?

Or: A parent or professional?

# Join the Cape & Islands Transition Team @ Cape Cod Collaborative 418 Bumps River Road, Osterville

**Saturday, March 28, 2015 Cost: Free 9:30-3:00pm** 

Registration: Tina.Napolitan@state.ma.us

**Vendors Contact:** jessica@cilcapecod.org (Jessica Whelan)

9:00 9:30	Arrival and Registration Preparing all Students for Success After High School: Understanding Secondary Transition In Massachusetts
10:30	Overview of Break Out Sessions
10:45	Break/visit resource tables
11:00	State Agency Presentations: DDS (Dept. Developmental Services), DMH (Dept. Mental Health), & MRC (MA Rehabilitation Commission)
11:45	Lunch
1:00	Workshops Special Needs Planning: Fred Misilo Esq. Successful Employment-Ted Mello, AREA DIRECTOR, MRC Cape & Islands Social/Recreation Opportunities, Kelvin Ing
2:00	Workshops Legal Emancipation Issues: Fred Misilo, Esq. Benefits 101-Marilyn Reale, MRC Benefits Specialist Life After High School-Panel
3:00	Wrap up/Evaluations

#### Lyme Prevention Peer Health Ed Program Comes to Big Screen

Students and parents should check out the newly released education program created by the spring sections of health class in coordination with Martha's Vineyard Boards of Health. The video was professionally produced by Martha's Vineyard Productions and is accessible on the MVBOH web site. Our MVRHS students shined as they used their education on Lyme Disease and put their creative genius talents to work becoming health educators in all four elementary schools last spring. The support of the MVBOH, Dr. Weiss, and every school's principal made this project a reality. Check out the link below to view our efforts.



https://vimeo.com/mvproductions/review/117395370/742a3f5185

Kathy Perrotta, Health Teacher

# How Much Do You Know About Senior Projects?

Students, who are planning their senior year, if they have completed their requirements for graduation, can choose to complete a Senior Project in place of other electives. These are projects designed by each student that allow them to independently explore a topic of their choice and interest for a full semester. Students connect with mentors in our community, both in and out of school, and create a capstone project that is presented in May to the school and island community. Some past senior projects have been forensic facial reconstruction, composition of a violin concerto and writing for a newspaper. This year our seniors' projects include "The Great American Novel", learning how to create using python, java script and html programming, "Humans of Martha's Vineyard" and a comparison of how mental illness is portrayed by the media with how mental illness can actually present in real life. We also have two budding architects, one of whom is creating her dream home, another who is designing a community... and there's more!!

Senior projects will be presented May 18th -22 and Juniors should start thinking about what their interests are and what they might like to do for their senior project. They should express interest to their guidance counselor while planning their senior year.

Elliott Bennett, Assistant Principal

# Travel & Cooperation a Theme in the History Department This Month

- Corinne Kurtz and Kate Hennigan led a group of students to study US government up close in Washington DC for a week. (See page 2 for more about this trip.)
- Elaine Cawley-Weintraub, Andrew Vandall, Josh Burgoyne, Spencer D'Agostino and Nina Ferry led a group of 45 students from the One World Club and the Business Club to take part in the fourth annual cultural exchange with the High School of Economics and Finance. Old friendships were renewed and New York's ethnic and cultural diversity provided some great food and memorable experiences. We look forward to welcoming our New York friends when they visit us in June. While in New York, we met Sami Steigmann at the Museum of Tolerance. Sami is a Holocaust survivor, one of the few left, and we made plans for him to visit the school and lead workshops and assemblies with the students.





The Irish History class concentrated on travel from an earlier era, tracing the lives of survivors of the Great Famine who traveled to the Vineyard. It was a tragic story of shipwrecks, poverty and struggle but those early immigrants eventually flourished. The class exhibited their work at the Vinevard Museum where it will stay until April 17th. They are justly proud of their work and grateful to everyone who donated shoes, which they used as a metaphor for travel and immigration.

Elaine Cawley-Weintraub, History Teacher



#### Spanish Students Work with Island Grown Schools

AP and Advanced IV Spanish students worked on a month long unit with Island Grown Schools. Our students worked with Island Grown School's coordinator Claire Lafave to compare and contrast farm systems and local diets of the Spanish-speaking world and Martha's Vineyard. The project included researching farming systems of the Spanish-speaking world and presenting their findings in Spanish. The project ended by visiting island farms, and then preparing and sharing regional dishes from the Spanish-speaking world and Martha's Vineyard. We had a native speaking guest, Cristina Dominguez, join us for lunch to speak to the students in Spanish and share her culture! Here is what the students had to say:

"The best part about this project was tasting all of the diverse foods and getting to meet Cristina. It helped me to know what level of Spanish I am at by speaking to someone from Spain, and hearing about the differences in cultures was fascinating." - Marcelle Alves

"The project with Island Grown Schools was instrumental in understanding the differences between agricultural systems in America and the Spanish-speaking world. Having a first-hand experience made it easier to learn about our community and relate it to the global scene." - Charlotte Potter

"I thought it was amazing to get to experience the regional dishes. I felt like I had a little taste of a Spanish-speaking country's real culture!" - Taynara Goncalves

"The best part of this project was visiting the farms, because seeing them made me realize how much food is actually available locally." - Ellie Reagan

"Claire inspired me to think about where my food comes from and the people behind it." -Josie Iadiccico

"I really enjoyed the project with IGS because we got to learn about the island and all of the wonderful local food and products that are available to us." -Amadine Muniz

"The best part of this project was going to the farms and asking the farmers questions. I loved seeing how passionate they are about local food and how their lives are centered around creating a fresh product." - Courtney Howell

"Through this project I learned what foods are available around me. It was eye opening to realize what some food goes through in order to make it to my plate. I knew what processing and manufacturing were, but it had never hit me that it took place on such a large scale, and that the small bit of food on my plate was part of it." - Emma Carron

"Through this project I learned a lot about the production of local food and how it benefits our island community. I was able to relate it to our knowledge of systems in the Spanish-speaking world and the global food community. It was a really informative and eye-opening experience." - Charlotte Potter















#### Performing Arts Department Update

Members of the Performing Arts Department are preparing for *Evening of the Arts* auditions. Make sure and mark your calendar for this annual event, which celebrates the students' accomplishments in both the visual and performing arts – May 20<sup>th</sup>. In addition to the amazing artwork displayed around the school and performances by music and theatre students, the evening will open with Concert Band, Jazz Band, and Choruses presenting their year-end concert. Doors open at 6:30, admission is free!

Classes are moving into the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, perfecting skills in piano, guitar, and music theory. Theatre II students are preparing Shakespeare monologues and in Theatre I they are writing and directing their own original scripts. In addition to the upcoming *Evening of the Arts*, the choral and instrumental groups are beginning to rehearse for graduation.

Minnesingers are singing and dancing, getting ready for their concert tour to Spain the end of April. They will present four formal concerts in their travels, including singing at a Mass at the Cordoba Cathedral. They will bring their show, 'An American Songbook', to their favorite audience – the Island community – on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm and May 10<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm. The choral portion will include spirituals, jazz, folk, and contemporary genres; the dance show celebrates Oscar winning songs over the last 9 decades. Keep an eye out for further information.

Individual students are excelling at many levels: performing at the All State Music Festival at Symphony Hall; auditioning for the Boston Pops Young Artist Competition; performing for the senior citizens' luncheons in Culinary Arts.

Jan Wightman, Performing Arts Dept. Chair

#### Connect to End Violence

The staff and volunteers of Connect to End Violence, MVCS, brought a lesson of communication and self-advocacy to our sophomore classes recently. During our unit on sexual health the content of the lesson was consent. In activities and discussions Connect staff provide guidance on talking points, safety issues and legal issues related to relationships and consent. Supporting healthenhancing communication for teens is a skill to be practiced in a safe environment and was well received by our students.

Kathy Perrotta, Health Teacher

#### Business Club Visits NYC



The Business Club partnered up with the One World Club to visit New York on the annual *Islands of Tolerance Exchange* with the NYC High School of Economics and Finance (HSEF) from March 8<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup>. Forty-five students and six chaperones went on the trip.

Highlights of our visit included:

- Meeting new people in a business-themed magnet school on Wall Street and attending classes/workshops at the HSEF
- An afternoon boat tour of Manhattan aboard the Circle Line
- Visiting the 9/11 Memorial and Times Square at night
- Touring Big-Four Accounting Firm PwC and meeting Partner and fellow Vineyarder, Paula Smith
- Visiting Wall Street and seeing the Museum of Finance
- Participating in a job shadow event with HSEF students at U.S. Bank
- Traveling to Brooklyn to see a Nets game at the Barclay's Center

We look forward to hosting the HSEF in June.

Josh Burgoyne, Business Education Teacher





THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS AND DONORS



#### L3D Cube Comes to MVRHS

Recently, Alex Hornstien visited the classroom of Mr. Connors at MVRHS. He and his wife Hannah demonstrated the L3D Cube, his new invention and product, to the Programming, and Invention & Technology classes. During his three periods and an afterschool session, students heard about and worked with the LED cubes, which show information, sound, movement and animations on an array of 3

color lights. Over sixty students from Programming, Architecture, Chorus, Business and Entrepreneurship, Robotics and Math classes participated along with teachers Chris Connors, Elsbeth Todd, Marylee Carlomagno, Jan Wightman, Josh Burgoyne, Mike Lavers, Ty Hobbs, Chris Baer and Kevin McGrath. Students participating included: Kate Sudarsky, Cal Howard, Chris Aring, Brahmin Thurber Carbone, Matt Luce, David Webster, Marcol Oliveira, Corey Vanderhoop, Patrick Perzanowski and Auguste Pizzano.

Chris Connors, Computer Technology Teacher

#### MVRHS Students Advance to State and International Science Fairs

Three winners from the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School's Science & Engineering Fair, accompanied by Science Fair Coordinator and teacher, Jackie Hermann, competed at the South Shore Regional Science Fair held at Bridgewater State University on Saturday, March 14.

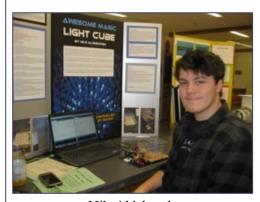
Students presented about 110 projects from 24 different schools. Martha's Vineyard Regional High School was well represented by the following students and their projects: juniors Nils J. Aldeborgh - 3D Light Cube; Christopher J. Aring - Augmented Reality Sand Table; and freshman Rose E. Engler - Determining the Impact of Shellfish Decomposition on the pH Levels of Brackish Water.

Nils Aldeborgh was awarded a 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Award and is eligible to continue on to the Massachusetts State Science & Engineering Fair which will be held at the MA Institute of Technology from April 30-May 2.

Christopher J. Aring was awarded a 1<sup>st</sup> Place Award, the first ever for the Martha's Vineyard High School, as well as the highest award of the day. Christopher has been awarded the honor to represent the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a Finalist at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF).

As a finalist, Christopher will travel as part of the Massachusetts State Science & Engineering Fair Official Party to this annual event, which is being held this year in Pittsburgh, PA from May 10-15 where more than 1700 high school students from 70 countries, regions, and territories will display their independent research. Christopher also has the option to compete at the State Science & Engineering Fair even though he has already been invited to advance to the ISEF.

Jackie Hermann, Science Fair Coordinator



Nils Aldeborgh



Christopher Aring



Rose Engler



# Vineyard Conservation Society Announces Annual Contest

Vineyard Conservation Society is pleased to announce a call for submissions to the second year of the *Art of Conservation*. Starting in 2014, *The Art of Conservation* was launched as an effort to offer space and opportunity for student's artistic response to environmental inspirations and issues that we face locally, here on the Island, as well as more broadly around the world. If an image is worth a thousand words then this contest opens a broad and deep discussion amongst the generation charged with inheriting the successes and failures of the current environmental movement.

Water: An Island's Treasure is the theme of this year's contest. Any high school aged artist is invited to share their thoughts about this subject through their paintings, drawings, photographs, sculptures or in other media. Students do not need to be currently enrolled in an art program at school to participate.

Entries are due on Thursday, May 14 and will be judged by a panel made up of local artist Hannah Moore, Ann Smith, Executive Director of Featherstone Center for the Arts and Brendan O'Neill, executive Director of Vineyard Conservation Society. Similar to last year, all winning works of art will be hung or displayed as part of an art show in The Feldman Family Art Space at The Film Society building in Vineyard Haven. The show will kick-off with an awards ceremony and opening reception on Sunday May, 24th.

A second mid-summer showing will also be hung at a location to be determined. Vineyard Conservation Society is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> year of working to conserve the environmental features of Martha's Vineyard that make our island a unique treasure. For more detailed information about this year's theme as well as for entries please go to: vineyardconservation.org

# Kudos to the Talented Students at MVRHS!

Congratulations to Cailin Drew-Morin, Aaron Teves, Sofia Degeofroy, Dayanna Middleton, Amadine Muniz, Taylor Maciel, Michaela Piche, Willow Wunsch, Claudia Taylor, and the rest of the 2013-14 Seabreezes staff for winning a "Superior" ranking in the NCTE's 2014 PRESLM "Excellence in Student Literary Magazines" awards for MVRHS's literary and art journal, "Seabreezes"! This year's Seabreezes is due to be released in late May or early June. Stay tuned!

- Congratulations to Isabelle Crawford, Ewellen Carlos, Grace Kenney, Hailey Rogers, Jessica Sonia, Nicholas Chapman, Sequoia Ahren, and Amber Medeiros for winning awards in the 2015 Cape Cod Times' "Classroom Times" photography contest. Their work was featured in a special section of a recent Cape Cod Times.
- Congratulations to Ewellen Carlos for having her artwork chosen for the cover of the upcoming 2015 Oak Bluffs Town Report.
- A number of students participated recently in an exhibit at Featherstone Gallery: "Take a Seat: The Chair Show" it featured chair designs by Advanced Architecture & Design students Emerson Mahoney, Eleah Caseau, Austin Chandler, Nick Vukota, and Jullyo Lima; and photographs by Curtis Fisher, Savanna Aiello, Jessica Haynes, and Caroline Roddy *Chris Baer, Art Dept. Chair*



Photo by Nicholas Chapman

Many More Photos on the Next Page...

#### More Samples from Award-Winning Students at MVRHS



Photo by Olivia Pate



Photo by Grace Kenney



Photo by Jessica Sonia



Photo by Ewellen Carlos



Photo by Isabelle Crawford



Photo by Amber Medeiros



Photo by Sequoia Ahren



A Few Chairs from the Featherstone Show



Photo by Hailey Rogers



OB Town Report Cover by Ewellen Carlos

## Come Celebrate Success!

The Academic Support Team cordially invites you to its 26<sup>th</sup> annual

# LEARNING DIFFERENCES AWARENESS PRESENTATION

Wednesday, April 8, 2015
Tilden Arts Center
Studio Theatre (Lower Level)
10:00 – 11:00 AM
Optional free lunch for students & staff
starting at 11:00 AM at 4C's cafeteria

A panel of support group members will share their personal experiences and strategies for success in college. Learn how our students cope with the challenges of daily academic life. Members of the panel will represent students with LD, Asperger's Syndrome, traumatic brain injury, ADHD, and others. Stay for lunch – experience more of the college and continue discussion with one of our students.

Please RSVP to (508) 362-2131, Ext. 4317 or email <u>rsommers@capecod.edu</u> if you plan to attend, indicating the approximate number of individuals, and if you plan to join us for lunch.



#### 2015 Model UN

The MVRHS Model UN Club attended the 40th Annual NHSMUN Conference from March 4-7 in New York City. Students in attendance included: Zach Bresnick, Daniel Costello, Ellie Hanjian, Josie Iadicicco, Cole Leuneberger, Sohia McCarron, Luke McCracken, Emily Rose Moore, Maddy Moore, Julia Neville, Matt Perzanowski, Charlotte Potter, Samantha Potter, Ellie Reagan, Russell Shapiro, Lucy Ulyatt, Pearl Vercruysse, Willa Vigneault and August Welles. Also in attendance were 3,800 students from all over the United States and from 23 different countries.



This year our students represented the country of Bolivia and had a Mission Briefing with a representative of the Bolivian Delegation to the United Nations. The students debated complicated and relevant topics such as, "Analyzing and Developing Solutions Towards Int'l Terrorism", and "Climate Change's Impact on Global Economy". Closing ceremonies were held in the General Assembly Hall of the United Nations, which had been closed to us for the past three years due to reconstruction. We were pleased to have Amy Lilavois, and Armen and Vicky Hanjian along as chaperones. Our students prepared diligently and performed amazingly well in their committees!

Cindy West, Spanish Teacher

# Story Time with Portuguese III Students



Students in the Honors Portuguese III for Heritage Speakers Class recently collaborated with the pre-school kids at Community Services. We held the very first bilingual story hour for the children in the library here at MVRHS. Our theme for this gathering was body parts. We read and sang Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes in both English and Portuguese. Afterwards, we did a fun activity in smaller groups with post-it notes and had the children label themselves with the Portuguese words. After practicing the words and singing it a few times we all sat down and tried various Brazilian snacks. The kids tried Brazilian fruit juices, cheese, guava jelly, homemade Brazilian carrot cake (not the same as American), and also a not-very-easily-translatable cracker-puff made from yucca flour. The kids tried most everything and, surprisingly, all preferred different things. The high schoolers had a truly wonderful time sharing their knowledge with the younger kids and did a superb job. We have another story time scheduled for next week and plan to do this regularly as part of our curriculum in the future.

Jane McGroarty Sampaio, Portuguese Teacher

#### Testing Dates to Be Aware Of

SAT I and SAT Subject Tests Dates for Juniors
www.collegeboard.com

Test Date Regular Registration Deadline

May 2 April 6 June 6 May 8

MCAS Test Dates for Sophomores

Math May 12,13 Biology June 2,3

#### The March Engineering Challenge



First Place Team = 7.55 lbs kitty litter Tim Roberts, Gordon Moore, Lee Faraca



Second Place Team = 7.15 lbs Zach Bresnick, Jared Livingston, Connor Downing



Third Place Team = 4.85 lbs Andrew Ruimerman, Kevin Montambault, Willow Wunsch



Almost Tied for Third Place Team = 4.74 lbs Emma Caron, Arden Bezahler, Kyra Whalen

Each month, our students will have the opportunity to compete in our after-school Engineering Challenge.

The goals of the Challenge include:

- 1) providing students an opportunity to experience authentically and firsthand the process of engineering as they work as engineers to complete a design challenge
- 2) providing students an opportunity to work as a group to collaborate and communicate to achieve a common goal
- 3) providing students an opportunity to compete as an academic team in a different type of competition than our yearly science fair, thus expanding the opportunities for students to gain recognition for their accomplishments in science and related STEM disciplines.

The **March Challenge** was to create a **functional broom**. Students used a PVC pole, hay, cardboard, string, and tape to create their brooms. They then had to sweep kitty litter that had been distributed over a 3 ft x 12 ft area into a dustpan, and transfer the kitty litter to a container. Only the hay portion of the broom could be in contact with the kitty litter during the sweeping process. Also, the sweeper had to hold the broom at the top of the pole, forcing teams to secure firmly the broom bristles. The teams had 45 seconds to sweep and collect the kitty litter, and the winner was chosen by determining which group swept up the largest mass.

Thank you to Anna Cotton (Alt Ed Science), Dana Munn (Science), Michael Lavers (Math), and Chris Connors (Art) for working with me as a team to plan and provide these opportunities.

-Natalie Munn



Crafting a Well-Built Broom