



The High School View

The High School View is staffed and prepared entirely by students from the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, and published on their behalf by The Martha's Vineyard Times, with the generous assistance of the sponsors whose names appear below.

Superintendent retires after decade of service

BY AUGUST WELLES

James Weiss will be retiring in June after 10 years as the superintendent of Martha's Vineyard Public Schools.

Previously, Dr. Weiss worked as a superintendent in two districts in New Hampshire during the course of 16 years. However, his love of beaches and the Island community convinced him it was time for a change. He went on to take a job as superintendent on Martha's Vineyard. Ultimately, he has dedicated about 46 years of his life to education.

Dr. Weiss has worked hard to make Island schools more accommodating and progressive. Dr. Weiss commented on several of his accomplishments as the superintendent: "I am proud of many developments, including the eighth grade honors algebra program and the vocational program for nursing assistants at the high school — and working with the broader Island community, which is so supportive, to help get the YMCA built. Also, working with the baseball group to establish the Sharks has also been a pleasure for me."

Senior Mac Sashin spoke of Dr. Weiss' involvement in

the school. He said, "I always remember his speeches at graduation. Even though he was such a busy man, he would always take the time to say hello. He had the best interests of students and teachers in mind whenever he

always supportive of every student activity across the schools. He attended everything! He demonstrated a strong commitment to all students," he said.

Director of Guidance Michael McCarthy said, "I liked

closely with Dr. Weiss when he took part in the Principal Search Committee. He said, "He seemed to value all of the committee members' opinions and took them into consideration when it came time to choose a new principal."

Mac Sashin also had a personal memory about Dr. Weiss. He said, "I remember when I was at a lacrosse game a couple of years ago and I sat next to him for the whole game and talked about a host of things, like my future and respecting other people. A lot of students valued the way Dr. Weiss listened to our voices."

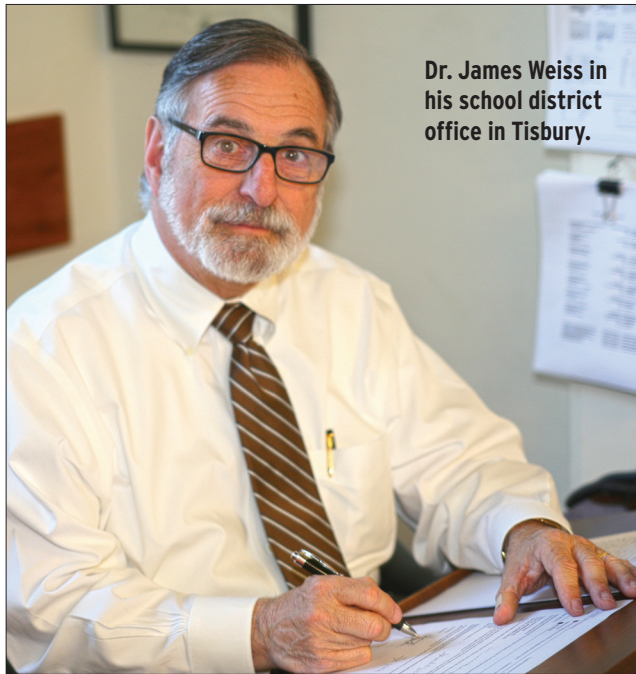
Senior Charlotte Potter said, "I remember passing him in the hallway, and he always took the time to talk to me and ask how I was doing. I also remember him being very vocal about special education and making sure that everyone was involved in the school and no one was left behind, which was a point of view I admired."

Current Assistant Superintendent Matt D'Andrea will take over as superintendent in July. He has made an impression among the high school community already because of his role as interim high school principal last year.

Mr. McCarthy said, "Working closely with Mr. D'Andrea

tional program, Dr. Weiss is looking forward to his retirement. He said, "I plan to remain on the Island, relaxing, reading mysteries, kayaking whenever I can, and not attending any more school meetings."

Josie Iadicicco commended Dr. Weiss' devoted attention to the students. She said, "He has the ability to make you feel like you're truly important. It's amazing to think he is in charge of thousands of kids but can still smile and greet each student like they are his one and only priority. His personality combined with his ability to successfully run five elementary schools, the high school, and the charter school is what makes him an admirable leader and all-around great person." HSV



Dr. James Weiss in his school district office in Tisbury.

PHOTO BY MOLLY HOUGHTON

made a decision. One thing I know he did well for the schools was take into account everybody's learning style and understand that everyone has different preferences."

Assistant Principal Andrew Barry appreciated the way Dr. Weiss treated the students. "Dr. Weiss was

that Dr. Weiss took an interest in our students and was always excited about their successes. He was visible in our community attending numerous activities. It was clear he supported our students and had a vested interest in their progress."

Senior Liam Smith worked

Take time to think, twice

BY ERIK FABER

Last Friday, teen motivational speaker Jeff Yalden spoke to the student body. Mr. Yalden helps teens through his speeches, books, and his radio show/podcast. He has spoken at schools in every state, as well as every Canadian province.

With a focus on teen depression, mental health awareness, and suicide prevention, Mr. Yalden used his past experiences and stories to teach teens how to overcome various personal issues and help

friends who are struggling. Mr. Yalden spoke of his past

struggles with self-esteem and depression, and how he learned to not let the past negatively affect his life going forward, despite a



Motivational speaker Jeff Yalden addresses students and faculty in the high school gymnasium on March 1.

PHOTO BY MOLLY HOUGHTON

recent diagnosis of Bipolar II disorder. "In high school, I wasn't the good-looking guy who could date the pretty girl," Mr. Yalden said. "I wasn't the athlete who could start on the football team or basketball team."

"I thought he got his word out clearly," said senior Kyle Dostal. "He is a pretty remarkable guy, and he was very straightforward, which is important when you're talking to teenagers."

Mr. Yalden continually reinforced his "Take time to think" motto, encouraging students to be mindful and separate themselves from unnecessary distractions like social media. HSV

Writers wander at Walden Pond

BY SOPHIA MCCARON

Last Thursday, 12 students in David Wilson's senior English class piled onto a school bus bound for Walden Pond in Concord.

Mr. Wilson has a personal connection to this idyllic piece of nature where Thoreau lived and wrote for two years: "When I was a

Concord and had us read *Walden*, and it really affected my life. I hope my students got a similar experience."

The seniors hiked around the pond and found the original cabin site. Senior Charlotte Potter said, "We had a lunch by the side of the pond. And we got to hike, and the views were beautiful. It was so great to have a change of scen-



PHOTO BY CHARLOTTE POTTER

(From left) Gordon Moore, Colin Cameron, Caley Bennett, English teacher David Wilson, and Eleah Caseau stop to take a photo at the house of Henry David Thoreau on April 30.

sophomore in high school, my English teacher, Leroy Hazelton, took my class to

ery and get some fresh air. Everyone on the trip got along, and everyone loved it." HSV

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