



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.

No ball? No problem. New sport catches on.

BY HARDY EVILLE

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) offers athletes the chance to play many traditional sports, including hockey, football, basketball, softball, baseball, and lacrosse. Now, thanks to the pandemic, a new sport has been created: noball.

Due to COVID-19, all sports that involve passing objects between players pose a threat of viral transmission. Sports like hockey and lacrosse can partially mitigate this risk through use of sticks, but the safest way to play is to remove the ball entirely.

"[The coaches] met via



HARDY EVILLE

Keep your eye on the noball.

Zoom, and devised noball as a safe option for our athletes," said John Fiorito, MVRHS' first noball coach.

"I've coached hockey for 20 years. COVID has been tough on so many levels, but at least it gave us this sport."

In addition to wearing a mask, face shield, and full pads, athletes who play noball must also remain socially distant from one another at all times. Some students have chosen to wear hospital gowns for extra COVID-19 protection while they play. While this may seem cumbersome, the game itself is simple, and involves players running around a field thinking about scoring points with an invisible ball.

"I don't know why all these other sports ever needed a ball or a puck — it only complicates things. Having no ball is a no-brainer," Mr. Fiorito said.

Like any new sport, the rules of noball are constant-

ly evolving, which has led to some confusion during practices. At first, the invisible noball was thrown overhand, but a recent change requires underhand pitches to slow down the game and give players more time to think. Referees play an important role in noball by enforcing social distancing and mask compliance.

Not only is noball the safest sport right now, it is also proving to be both physically and mentally demanding. Sophomore Nellie Long has found the experience to be very competitive, and has felt driven to play hard.

"As an athlete, I want to constantly work as hard as I

can. Noball has given me an area to grow and improve as a student athlete, since it's such a mental game," she said.

Nellie is not alone. The FamilyID page for noball received more sign-ups than any other sport this season. Not one to turn people away, Coach Fiorito will not hold tryouts, and will accept anyone interested.

"It's been a tough year, but it feels good to play a team sport where I can make varsity without knowing any of the rules," said junior Atlas Zack.

However, the rise in noball's popularity has caused issues for the other sports that share the spring season.

"I've heard from other coaches that they are struggling to even put together a team this year," said Coach Fiorito. "Everyone wants to play noball." **HSV**

Hugging hysteria hits home

BY THEO FAIRCHILD-COPPOLETTI AND HARDY EVILLE

With an increasing number of students entering the building due to the hybrid learning model, a spontaneous movement of mass hugging has swept through the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS). Students have been seen hugging in groups of two, three, four, and up to 18.

Senior Rachel Salop is a member of the Community Positivity club, a group which has promoted the hugging movement as a way to keep people happy during a difficult year.

"In times like these, hugging is more necessary than ever," said Rachel. "Our club wants a world full of hugs."

The sight of students hugging has become all too common in recent

weeks, to the point where it is challenging to find a place that hasn't been tarnished by the activity.

"The other day I saw people hugging behind the horticulture building," said freshman Huck Moore, who has been impacted by the excessive hugging, and is working to raise awareness about its dangers and ability to spread COVID-19.

One junior student was even spotted hugging a tree, which may seem innocuous, but is still in violation of the administration's zero-tolerance policy on hugging.

The new campaign, "Hugging Hurts" is the successor to the "Dare to Resist Hugs" program, which was spearheaded in responses to the second measles outbreak of 1989.

On Friday, the administration announced that hugs would be banned indefinitely to reduce the

spread of COVID-19. "It's for the good of the community. The less you hug, the more likely it is we can all be together again," said MVRHS Principal Sara Dingleddy.

"It was quite beautiful. But also very wrong. I had to report them."

For punishment, a tiered system has been implemented. A first offense results in restorative work, and a second will land you a week of cohort D. If a third offense is committed, the student will permanently remain in cohort D.

With this zero-tolerance policy in effect, hugging has had to go underground, literally. Custodial staff recently caught

three students hugging in the catacombs beneath the school.

"I didn't think anyone knew about these passageways," custodian Leon Hawksley said. "But there they were, hugging away. It was quite beautiful. But also very wrong. I had to report them."

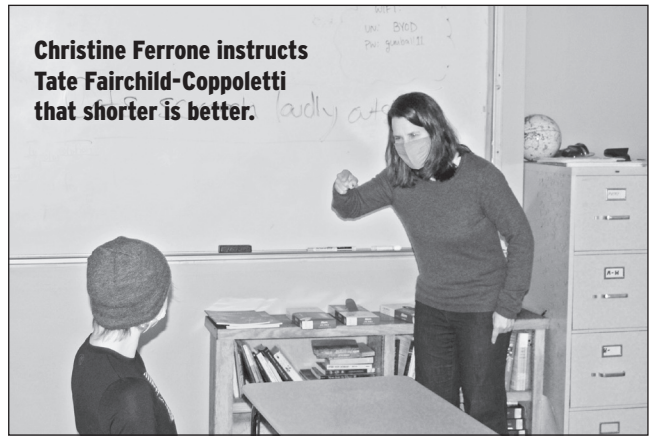
Students have also taken to hugging in bathrooms, closets, lockers, and anywhere away from the prying eyes of their teachers.

"I strolled into the bathroom one day, just minding my own business," Huck said. "And students were hugging everywhere."

While the long-term effects of hugging on COVID-19 cases are still unknown, the "Hugging Hurts" program hopes to minimize any potential impact it may have. "We want a hall pass to be a hall pass, not a hug pass," said Ms. Dingleddy. "Hugging really does hurt." **HSV**

Four is the magic number

Christine Ferrone instructs Tate Fairchild-Coppoletti that shorter is better.



HARDY EVILLE

This past week, the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) English department released a statement declaring four-word sentences to be the best form of writing for essays and stories.

"Adjectives and adverbs are generally overused," said English department chair Christine Ferrone. "We'd like students to prioritize nouns and verbs."

Some students are protesting the new requirements by turning in essays with sentences longer than four words. One essay even took the form of a single, 600-word sentence.

Despite this, the teachers are holding firm. Ms. Ferrone said, "In a world increasingly defined by aesthetics of excess, we're pushing back the only way we know how. Four-word sentences, not only on the page, but in life." **HSV**

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