

Headlight



Written by the students of Marblehead High School for our school and community

www.marblehead.com/schools/mhs/headlight

An Archaic Standard

Daniel Rosenberg
Editor in Chief, Junior

Everyone is a different type of learner. No two students are the same, and every student comprehends and understands material in his own unique way. It is impossible to judge the intelligence of every student on the same scale. It is like comparing the athleticism of a tennis player and a basketball player; both have unique skills that help in their respective sports, but might not transfer over to other sports. That is the basic problem with our system of standardized testing. There is just no way to fairly grade every student on the same scale, because every student is so different. Should someone be admitted to college because they handle a testing situation better than someone else? If we are really committed to preparing students for the real world, then that is not the way to go. A 2400 on the SAT, while very impressive, is not even close to a full measure of academic aptitude.

There is no art section, or music section, or even a science section on the SAT. Is a test that my parents took decades ago still even relevant to a modern student? With all of our progressive learning styles, and advanced technologies, how can we still be dependent upon a test that has a similar format as the one from the 1970s?

The simple answer is that colleges still insist on elevating the SAT, as a beacon of academic performance. While volunteering, sports, and other extra-curricular activities are still important, as is having a variety of classes, universities and institutes of higher education across the country still place so much significance on standardized tests. And I think it needs to change. I took the SAT. I've taken subject tests in sciences, languages, and history subjects, and I just don't think they do an adequate job of evaluating students. Make no mistake; I don't think we should eliminate the standardized test from the college process. However, it's time for an update.

First of all, with all of the modern technologies at our disposal, there is no excuse for not administering digital tests. Not only would it expedite the grading process, but it would allow for more frequent testing dates as well. Second, with the increased importance schools are placing upon the arts, how is there still not even an SAT subject test related to art? In order to make sure students are becoming not only skilled at math, but also well rounded in life, we need to find a way to evaluate artistic skills along with scientific and logical skills. The SAT is important. Important, yet flawed. And it's time for us as an academic community to find a way to fix it.

Have a fantastic December Break!

Vacation begins this Friday, Dec.21st.

School returns the 2nd of January.



Marblehead High School Updates:

Here are some updates to keep you in tune for the next following weeks.

Job Opportunity-Snow Shoveling!

Local business person needs two reliable and dependable students to shovel this winter. Route includes many shop-fronts in town. Information is in the Office.

Powder Puff DVD's for Sale! --- \$20

Make checks payable to Town of Marblehead, and bring to the Main Office. Mr.Christensen will re-print a copy for you upon request, before the holiday!

Toys for Tots Annual Holiday Toy Drive

Please bring an unwrapped gift to school. A collection box will be in the lobby. Ends December 23rd.

Dear Readers,

We wish you a happy, warm and safe holiday season! We hope that you have enjoyed our issues/articles this year and encourage you to view our website at www.marblehead.com/schools/mhs/headlight. Thank you for taking the time to read our issue(s)! Happy Holidays.

Sincerely,

The Headlight Staff



A New Year

Morgan Hardwick
Headlight Staff, Sophomore

People of all cultures and creeds celebrate New Year's Eve all over the world. From eating and drinking with friends to observing time-honored traditions, everyone celebrates the ending of one year and arrival of another. It may be the excitement of counting down the last ten seconds until midnight, or making irrational resolutions too difficult to keep, but New Year's is exhilarating like no other holiday.

According to record, the Babylonians were the first to celebrate New Years around 4,000 years ago. Differing from today though, the Babylonians had their New Year on a day late in March or April, following the first new moon after the vernal equinox. Once that day hit, the Babylonians had a massive celebration, much like we do today.

All around the world fireworks explode and songs are sung to welcome the New Year. The tradition of making resolutions can even be tracked back to the Babylonians, who made promises to earn the favor of their gods and start the New Year off well. Although nowadays New Years Eve isn't as religious as the Babylonians celebrated it, the enthusiasm of festivities is still there and thriving.

In the United States we celebrate with one of the most iconic new years traditions, the dropping of the ball in Times Square. Millions of people around the world tune in to watch the 12,000 pound ball drop at the stroke of midnight.

The tradition has taken place almost every year since 1907 and just as the scope of celebration has grown so has the size of the ball; initially 7000 pounds, it's packed on 5000 over the past 100 years. Up until recently, Dick Clark hosted the televised showing of New Years Eve in New York City. He became just as iconic to the holiday as the celebrations were. For 39 years, Dick Clark's New Years Rockin' Eve has been presenting the famous ball drop and showing of live musical performances from some of the year's best artists.

The excitement and thrill of New Years isn't in just New York; countries all around the world have their own traditions for the annual holiday. In Spain and other Spanish speaking countries, when midnight hits, people down twelve grapes to symbolize their hopes for a good year ahead. Food plays a big role in the holiday, representing the hope for wealth and prosperity. In Cuba, Austria, Hungary, Portugal and other countries, pork is featured as a meal for many families, because in their cultures pigs signify progress and prosperity. Legumes resemble coins and future financial success, and are eaten throughout the night. Regarding dessert, circle cakes are eaten to round off the night in the Netherlands, Mexico and Greece. My personal favorite tradition is Scandinavian; an almond is hidden in one of many rice pudding cups served during the meal, and it is said that whoever finds the nut is granted with twelve months of good fortune.

Celebrated by so many different people, New Years Eve is a joyous time all over the world. It's one of my personal favorite holidays as well. On behalf of everyone at Headlight, I wish all our readers another healthy and happy year!

A First-Time Nutcracker

Meredith Piela
Headlight Staff, Sophomore

This Wednesday, December 19th, will not only mark my first time going to see Boston Ballet's The Nutcracker at the Boston Opera House, but my first time seeing The Nutcracker in general. Mikko Nissinen, the director, plans for his revised performance of the play to bring a lavish and sophisticated change to the traditional formula, that he not only hopes will improve the play, but will make it more accessible to everyone. Many people are very interested on seeing how these changes affect the show. Although I am new to the show, I'm very excited to see how it turns out.

Anna Barrell, a sophomore at Marblehead High School, has been going to see The Nutcracker since she was in preschool, and has already gone to see this year's version. When asked about her initial reaction to the new version, she told me, "I wondered what they would improve on, since it was already a great show. Once I saw the changes, I liked the new scenery because it is very detailed and well thought out." Rose Kanarick, also a sophomore at Marblehead High School, used to be a part of

Boston Ballet's show, but is now dancing for the Brookline Ballet School. When asked about her reaction to the new version, she said, "I was not surprised about the changes because I knew it would happen eventually." When asked about their favorite part of The Nutcracker, Barrell shared, "I like how they incorporate younger dancers because it brings a little more life into it, and I like how it always gets me and my mom in the Christmas spirit." Kanarick added, "I like the first act because it tells the story of Clara, but I also really like the second act as well."

When I go The Nutcracker on Wednesday, I am looking forward to seeing the whole performance in general and getting to hear the superb music. As a first-timer, I feel that I will be able to look at the new version of the show objectively. Instead of a comparison, it's important to look at the show as a standalone, a completely new and innovative performance. The Nutcracker is a show that really exemplifies the Christmas spirit, and is the perfect performance for this time of year.



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