

# Headlight

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

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## The Boosters at MHS

Dan Rosenberg  
Editor-in-Chief, Senior

One of the most valuable resources at Marblehead High School is the MHS Boosters Society. As a senior at Marblehead High School, what the Boosters do is very important to me. They provide a number of scholarships to senior athletes who are going off to college, based off not only athletic success but also work in the community, and academic achievement. It's a helpful and valuable reward for students who have worked hard throughout their years in high school, not only on the playing field but also in the classroom.

Despite my gratitude towards the Boosters, I really didn't know much about them. I'd participated in their annual walk-a-thon fundraiser each year, going door-to-door receiving money for the organization, but I'd never really stopped and thought about who was running the show, how it ran, or even what else the Boosters did throughout the year. I decided to find out more, as the Boosters will have an even greater effect on my life this year than in years past. As a student-athlete, I've certainly reaped the benefits of having a society like the Boosters at MHS, but this final year is when they'll make the big-

gest impact on myself and my peers. I caught up with Gina Walker and Patricia Rockett, the co-presidents of the Boosters, to find out a little bit more about the society, and what it does for the community at Marblehead High School.

Q. Who are the MHS All Sports Boosters, and what do they do for Marblehead High School?

A. The Marblehead All Sports Boosters is a volunteer organization run by parents and supported by the Athletic Director.

Q. What do you do for the Boosters?

A. We (Gina Walker and Patricia Rockett) are Co-Presidents.

Q. How do the Boosters support MHS athletes?

A. We enhance our effort to support Marblehead student-athletes and coaches with donations and contributions directly benefitting MHS athletic programs and services including Scholarships, Equipment, Uniform and incidentals, Trophies and awards and Northeast Conference & State Championship team clothing.

Q. What sorts of events do the Boosters hold?

A. The Annual Scholarship Drive, we organize a group of volunteers to support the annual Special Olympics, the Boosters provide a snack shed for every home

football game.

Q. How successful have the Boosters efforts been? Very – we awarded 19 - \$1,000 Scholarships to student-athletes in 2013, provided all sports teams with all their trophies & awards and welcomed all incoming Freshman with a Boosters All Sports T-Shirt.

Q. What do the Boosters have planned for this year?

A. To fund, design, and build a snack shed.

Q. Are there any long-term plans that the Boosters are working on?

A. Increasing our fundraising efforts to further enhance our support of student athletes.

Q. How can MHS students get involved with the Boosters over the year?

A. By volunteering their time toward the Scholarship Drive and submitting stories and photos for our website

Q. How can parents and other adults get involved with the Boosters?

A. By joining the Boosters and volunteering time in the snack shed, with ad sales, and donations

Q. Why are the Boosters so important to MHS?

A. The Boosters is the only organization to award All Sports Scholarships as well as support every sports team at MHS

## Costume Ideas

Drew Faria  
Reporter, Junior

It's that time of year again; when department stores quickly shift from back-to-school supplies to candy and Halloween costumes. It's the same thing every year. But what if you've had enough of putting on the ol' white bed sheet over yourself for your parties, events, and of course, trick-or-treating? Aren't there enough devils, zombies, and Screams to go around already? Fortunately, Halloween will not be déjà vu for you! This article will cover some of the culture trends of 2013, and some clever ideas for costumes you definitely won't find anyone else with.

1. Cereal Killer- This was actually my costume a few years back. I received numerous laughs from dressing up in old cereal boxes and plastic weapons. The more you put on, the more obvious the pun looks. Add some red marker and cereal bits to the boxes for a gruesome effect. However, remember to go for M&Ms while trick-or-treating, and not some Raisin Bran!

2. Minion- The mischievous characters from Despicable Me will certainly get attention from your friends during Halloween, especially if you coordinate the look with them. Grab an old pair of overalls as well as some thick goggles to wear, and obviously, go crazy on the yellow makeup!

3. Walter White- The insidious icon of the AMC hit-drama Breaking Bad, villain Walter White leaves his enemies speechless; you can do the same to everyone you know with this costume. All you need is a fedora, dark shades, and a formal shirt with khakis. Some stick-on facial hair would help seal the deal too. If you know some of his famous quotes, practice saying them with a wicked tone and poof, you're Heisenberg!

4. Plastic Army Man- A crafty reference to Toy Story, this costume is instantly recognizable, and will be a hit at every event. Any cargo outfit and helmet will work. Of course, you will need to dye all of these items, and yourself, green, but that's all part of Halloween!

5. Halo- Every gamer's face is probably grinning with delight after seeing this. Who wouldn't like to dress up as a super soldier this year? Replicating the unmistakable battle helmet might prove challenging, so your best bet is probably buying that part. Other than that, some spray-painted lacrosse or football armor would serve you well to achieve the ultimate macho-soldier appearance.

6. The Joker- Do you want to know how to get these scars? Find a purple cloak and stock up on white and red face paint to match this villain's appearance. Some green hair dye would look convincing as well. Remember, the Joker is a clown, so add some pranks like whoopee cushions or joy buzzers and try them out on unsuspecting guests!

7. 50 Shades of Grey- Not exactly what you expect. Make a trip to the paint store and pick up those tabs that contain the range of a particular color for grey. Wear some grey clothes, grey makeup, and stick the tabs all over your body. It may look somewhat crazy at first, but it will only take a second before everyone understands your genius and begins cackling at your originality.

8. Dwight Schrute- Every TV lover knows this eccentric character from The Office for his hilarity on the show. What you will need is a business suit (with tie!), some large-lensed glasses, as well as a brown toupee that parts the hair down the middle of the head. To really sell the look, borrow some of his freaky and intense facial expressions too!

9. What Does The Fox Say?- A recent Youtube hit for its nonsensical song lyrics, this song features a man dressed up as a fox wondering what a fox's animal noise is. Find a headband that you can use to attach cut-out ears to, and dress in all red and brown. Then, use an old feather duster or the like and paint it to match your clothes. Finally, make a cardboard signreading "What does the fox say?" Tie a string to this, and hang it around your neck. If you want a hip, current costume, this one might just be perfect for you.

## A Transatlantic Halloween

Rebecca Twaalfhoven  
Reporter, Freshman

Estimated spending of American consumers on Halloween decorations, candy, and costumes is approximately \$6.9 billion. In the United Kingdom, the estimate is roughly \$485 million. In terms of the proportion of Americans buying special decorations for their homes, Halloween is second only to Christmas, with an estimated \$1.96 billion spent on specific decorations. Statistics aside, the United States places much greater cultural significance on Halloween than the United Kingdom, among other countries. Perhaps the proximity of the British holiday on November 5 known as Bonfire Night – a national holiday commemorating the historical failed attempt at blowing up the House of Parliament – plays a part in the disparity of celebrations compared to the U.S. Whatever the cause, one thing is certain: Americans love Halloween.

Although Halloween originated from a Christian holiday to celebrate the dead, today it is celebrated in a largely secular fashion. There are aspects of the general festivities that betray the historical roots of the day – ghosts and tombstones in abundance – but generally these features are not viewed from a religious standpoint, as is true with witches. Door-to-door trick-or-treating is hugely popular, and it is customary for residents to provide some form of treat for the wandering children. Other traditions include haunted houses, parades, parties, and some truly amazing residential displays. An article In BBC News describes the American practice of whole-house decorations as being at the "extreme end of the Halloween spectrum;" but it is "easy to gauge how seriously the U.S. takes Halloween" based on these radical decorations.

Yet the United Kingdom has not remained unscathed by our obsession. Britons used to carve turnips to make into lanterns. Now it's pumpkins. The British supermarket chain Waitrose has sold increasing percentages of decorations, pumpkin carving kits, and pumpkins. However, although the holiday has its roots in the U.K., Britain can no longer compete in terms of celebrations and importance. A cousin of mine in England lived in Houston, Texas for one year before moving back to England. She describes Halloween growing up as a fairly unimportant holiday – she never dressed up or went trick-or-treating. To many children in the United States, that is an almost inconceivable idea. She also mentions several classic Halloween traditions for us that many Britons do not participate in, such as house decorating and pumpkin-patch photography. During her tenure in Houston, as well as visits to Marblehead, she witnessed first-hand the spectacle of Halloween, especially relating to house decorations; one unforgettable memory is going for a walk in Marblehead and seeing "a house decorated with silver aliens all over it." As a young mother, however, she can sense a slight shift in popularity across the Atlantic. The nursery that her young child attends is having Halloween celebrations, and a costume is in order for her son, a new custom for many parents in Britain.

In general, the popularity of Halloween in the U.K. is slowly growing, likely influenced by America. As far as spending is concerned, that, too, is growing, although yearly fluctuations depend on the state of the economy. As in other aspects of our culture, the United States seems to have a love for exuberance; and when it comes to Halloween, compared to Britain, among other countries, we truly perform.

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