

Headlight

Written by the students of Marblehead High School for our school and community
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MHS Seniors Set to Head Out on Senior Project

Matt Lieberson
Editor-in-Chief,
Senior

As the weather starts to heat up in early spring, the seniors' interest in classes at MHS begins to cool down. Conveniently enough, for most seniors, real classes end on April 13th. After April break, the seniors don't report to MHS (except for AP classes as exceptions). They report to various locations throughout the community, as Senior Project begins.

According to the Marblehead High School webpage, "Senior Project allows students to have a voice in their own education by pursuing an independent study of their own design. It is an excellent opportunity for students to prepare for college, the workplace, a special interest, or community service." The program allows an outward-looking group of seniors to follow their own interests and work in a special program that they create, working with local lead-

ers in business, art, and other fields.

Pat Casey, who will be attending Cornell next year, is working with chemistry teacher Ms. O'Reilly on organizing a chemistry outreach program. "[Headlight editor] Danny Plunkett and I are going to be organizing a program for high school students to go out to local elementary schools and do experiments for kids. I'm very excited," Casey said. Casey participated in a similar program last year. "Danny and I did this last year with Ms. O'Reilly in our chemistry class, but this year we will be running the show." Casey was excited by the proposition of leading this effort this spring. "It's a great opportunity to gain experience managing an organization, especially with something I enjoy such as chemistry. Plus, it's also good to spend some extra time with one of my favorite teachers, Ms. O, before I leave the school."

Ryan Forsyth, who is off to Northeastern next fall, has a much different style of Senior Project. "I'm

going to be creating EDM [electronic dance music] using a software called Reason 6. I couldn't be more thrilled that I get to do this all spring!" Forsyth, an electric bass player, has always had a passion for electronic music, and producing it himself is an opportunity he couldn't pass up. "Music has always been a part of my life, and it's cool to incorporate a technology aspect to my project. I get to learn more about the genre of music I'm working with, the software I'm using, what goes into producing a song, and how to stick with a self-made schedule. It should be really fun, because I love this kind of music."

Seniors throughout the school are excited for Senior Project. It's a great way to get experience with a personal passion without such a structured curriculum. But the hallways start to feel empty with the seniors gone, and it's always weird with seniors not in the school.

Even when we leave, the juniors still better not park in the lot.

Woods, McIlroy, Other Top Golfers Set for Masters

Joel Katz
Sports Editor,
Senior

This Thursday, the greatest event in golf returns again. The best golfers in the world gather at Augusta National in Georgia to fight for the most prized possession in professional golf: the green jacket. Speaking of green jackets, four-time winner Tiger Woods is in the field looking for a win. Woods hasn't won at Augusta since 2005, and his last victory at a major was his dramatic win over Rocco Mediate in the 2008 U.S. Open. However, Woods seems to have returned to form after his victory two weeks ago at the Bay Hill Invitational.

Besides Tiger, there are several other storylines waiting to play themselves out during this year's Masters. Can Rory McIlroy, golf's youngest sensation, recover from last year's collapse? McIlroy has commanded attention in the sport after racking up wins and top five finishes over the past year. Some people are calling him the Tiger of a

new generation.

Other golfers in this year's field include three-time Masters Champion Phil Mickelson, and the number one ranked player in the world, Luke Donald. Mickelson has proven his excellence at Augusta, and fans would be surprised not to see him in contention this year. Donald has been somewhat overlooked for a world's number one golfer, but has shown he is a force to be reckoned with. With strong finishes early in the year, including a win the WGC-Accenture Match Play, he has earned the right to his number one ranking.

But the most compelling player in this tournament has to be Tiger Woods, hands down. Plagued by injury and engulfed in scandal, Woods has really not been himself since he was still winning tournaments in 2008 and 2009. And at 36 years old, it is a fact that Woods' age is a factor in making a possible return to dominance much more difficult. Some critics say that Tiger's window for breaking Jack Nicklaus' record

of 18 Major victories has already passed. Woods currently has 14 of them under his belt and you can be sure that he is dying to have another.

To put these golfers' chances of winning in a different perspective, Vegas has Woods as the favorite with 4-1 odds. Next is Rory McIlroy at 5-1, followed by Mickelson hovering around 10-1. Tiger's win heading into the Masters, and just his participation in the event itself, helps the sport of golf tremendously. Woods is an icon in the sporting world and, let's face it, TV ratings are astronomically higher when he's playing. However, injury appears to be much more of a concern for the aging superstar. Woods has shown inconsistency in the past few years; he could dominate the field or crash and burn any given day. But if Tiger stays healthy this week, he is poised to make a dramatic return to greatness. Look for him near the top of the leaderboard Sunday—after all, he is Tiger Woods.

MHS Sailing Team Primed for Success

Alex Kerai
Webmaster,
Freshman

March in Marblehead. The cold weather has reappeared and the harbor is empty. It's a sad beginning to spring. Look closer though, there are some white sails in the distance, a boat or two on the horizon! Suddenly there are eight boats racing in the harbor, and it looks as if spring might be closer than it appeared earlier. Even though warm weather is weeks away, the Marblehead High School Sailing Team is already out on the water practicing and racing, with their first regatta last weekend.

Expertly coached under the talented Nick Burke, the Fishwagons have become one of the

most successful sports programs at MHS. Under Coach Burke's direction for the past twenty years, the Fishwagons have won six state titles and have placed in the top three for the state sailing championships every year except for two years. But that is not what Mr. Burke hopes that sailors will get out of the team. Instead, he says, "So many teams are winning this and winning that, but we're not about that. We're about learning, even if that means through losing and how to be a better loser, then a better sailor. At the end of the day, if you come away learning something new, then you've won. The losers are the ones who don't learn anything."

This season has the biggest sailing team in recent memory with over twenty sailors, all of whom got

the chance to sail this past weekend in the first regatta of the season. For the regatta, Marblehead hosted Mt. Desert Island High School and George Stevens Academy (both from Maine) in a team racing extravaganza which frequently would come down to very close finishes. By the end of the weekend all three teams were exhausted and were vying for first place (at time of writing rankings had not yet been released, but it is believed that George Stevens Academy and Marblehead were tied for first place) after around five hours of sailing each day. It was an outstanding weekend with surprisingly wonderful weather and wind.

Although the season is just getting started, Marblehead has already

won a team racing regatta against St. John's Prep (which occurred on Thursday, March, 29 with Marblehead winning five races and SJP winning one) and is preparing for their next regatta which should be in the next few weeks. The team is already looking strong with captains Nick LaChance and Ryan Hoey leading the way. As always they hope to do well at the state championships in May, but that is months away and as Coach Burke says, "Learning is key in sailing. If you don't learn, how do you expect to win races?"

Thanks to the Marblehead Reporter and Marblehead Patch for their articles on the sailing team that were referenced.



A photo of some MHS sailors on the water.
Photo from Alex Kerai.

HEADLIGHT STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: MATT LIEBERSON

CO-EDITOR: PAIGE KELLOWAY PHYSICS CONSULTANT: DANNY PLUNKETT

SPORTS EDITOR: JOEL KATZ EDITORIAL MANAGER: ALEX STEIN

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