

Headlight

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

<http://mhsheadlight.weebly.com/>

A Review: The Imperial Mandarin

Grace Perry

Editor-in-Chief, Junior

As a “local,” I am satisfied with the simple things. All my life I have lived in this small town of Marblehead, Massachusetts. Just like anyone, I have certain places in Marblehead that I absolutely love. Places that I often escape to and places that have grown to be a part of my life. One of these places happens to be The Imperial Mandarin, otherwise known as The Mandarin, my favorite Chinese restaurant in downtown Marblehead.

About four years ago I decided to make the switch to The Mandarin, and let me tell you, I am so much happier. Although, we indeed have some really great dining options inside Marblehead, The Mandarin has been my go-to restaurant for a few years now.

I decided to give The Imperial Mandarin a try simply out of curiosity. My go-to restaurant is located on the top level of the Village Plaza. In my opinion, it has quite an awkward location. There really isn't much advertisement besides the sign out front. Therefore, I can see why many people do not know about The Mandarin or choose to dine elsewhere.

Although the Mandarin is awkwardly placed on the upper level of the Village Plaza, it has a great atmosphere. Right when you walk in, it feels as if you have just entered a completely different world. It is cheesily decorated with some interesting décor. But trust me, in the end the décor doesn't matter, the food served on your plate makes the entire restaurant. The food is simply scrumptious and very well priced. I love the Mandarin because I can get a lot of great food for a great cost. The house fried rice, peking ravioli and scallion pancakes, are my ultimate must haves. I have also found that they do not take forever to make their food; I have not waited more than 15-20 minutes for a meal, which to me, is perfect. I don't mind waiting, but I also love to eat, so the sooner the better.

On weekdays, the Mandarin can look to be empty. Yet, this is not for their lack of business, it is because of the layout of their restaurant. The Mandarin has a split restaurant, one area for close dining and another area for parties.

There is also a small quaint sushi bar and regular bar as well. Depending on whom I bring to The Mandarin, I usually sit in the farthest booth. I love being separated from other people also enjoying The Mandarin. This creates a really intimate atmosphere. In other restaurants, I sometimes feel like I am literally dining with the people sitting next to us, simply because the layout of the restaurant is so squished. At The Mandarin, I never have that problem. Sometimes, during the weekdays, The Mandarin looks too empty. You may even ask yourself, “How do they stay in business?” The answer is this, takeout and deliveries. Americans are lazy-Chinese-food lovers. And yes, the Mandarin delivers. See why I love this place?

Along with interesting decor and great food, I have found an abundance of great service. Because I visit so frequently, many of the waitresses recognize me as soon as I walk in. There is also never a waiting line, and I am seated almost immediately. This can be really great, especially when you are in a rush to eat. The servers always seem to be in a good mood, always friendly with a smile on their face. If I worked at/ owned a hidden gem of a restaurant, I would probably have a smile on my face, too!

Not only have I introduced friends to the Mandarin, I also have introduced many family members as well. And yes, they have also found a love for The Mandarin. Whenever my dad comes to visit from South Carolina, it is the first place we go to. You can find us catching up in the back booth eating fried rice and scallion pancakes.

Take it from my grandmother who recently went to the Mandarin with her fellow lady friends, she asked me: “What's the place called downtown above the laundromat?” I answered: “You mean the Mandarin, Nana?” She stated: “Yes! That place is UN-BELIEVEABLE!” So take it from my grandmother and me, go check it out for yourself. I promise if you walk in there with an open mind and an empty stomach, you won't be disappointed. Good luck, and I told you so.

Look out for more review articles written by Grace Perry in future issues of Headlight.

Swamplehead

Peirce Law

Reporter in the Field, Junior

With the leaves changing and the air colder, we are closer and closer to the ultimate Marblehead versus Swampscott Thanksgiving game. And with this game comes our biggest rivalry in history. The key event in our Marblehead history that sparked such a rivalry is shrouded in mystery. When did the Capulets and Montagues decide that they didn't like each other? When did this bloody feud begin, and when will it end?

As a person who has both lived in Swampscott and Marblehead, I find it ridiculous. We are only trying to better ourselves by beating each other. The two towns are much more similar than either of them realize. We, as students, learn the same things in school and even share a successful wrestling team. These prove to be perfect examples of our underlying similarities.

For some, this rivalry has been a show of sportsmanship and with the plethora of competition between each of the school's sports, a healthy drive to do better than the other. But that may just be the source of our rivalry. It can be such a toss-up for whomever wins the infamous Thanksgiving game, therefore, we strive to beat each other one year after the next.

This year will mark the 107th Thanksgiving game between the two towns. Over these one hundred and seven years, this rivalry has turned into a bloody feud. It has become difficult for either of the sides to restrain themselves when in each other's presence. What was once taking place on the field is being pushed farther and father off.

What was once a fun game of football has turned into something else entirely. This has proven to be true inside our very own basketball games. The basketball games consisted of large crowds of students from both Marblehead and Swampscott. As the athletes put an immense amount of intensity into the game, the event became tense as immense aggression was felt on both sides.

Many students take this rivalry too seriously. After a brutal, one-sided brawl, three Swampscott kids were sent to the hospital with serious injuries. One Swampscott student once stated: “I think it made kids take a step back and think how ridiculous the actual rivalry is, and that kids are just taking it too far.” I completely agree.

A rivalry should be an encouragement to do better, not to do harm. A rivalry should bring laughs later on in life from both sides of the table. Yet, I am sure we should enjoy our Thanksgiving game, nonetheless. From the first kick, to the final whistle, may the best team win.

PSAT Registration Info:
October 1st through the 12th is the registration period for the **October 20th** PSAT. Please register with Mrs. Wilson in the Guidance office before school, after school, or between periods. The fee is **\$28**. Cash or personal checks (made out to Town of M'head) will be accepted.

Fashion and Individualism

Mady VanDussen

Current Events, Junior

Do you ever wonder what you would wear if there were no such thing as judgment?

There are hundreds of ways to express oneself. Whether it is writing, music, art, or food, individuals find unique ways to express who they are, what they believe in, and whatever else they want to tell the world. One form of expression is fashion. Fashion has been around for as long as anyone can remember. It never fails to be a prominent part of most cultures, permeating many communities.

In some cultures it is vital to a community. It is a timeless form of creativity, for fashion itself never goes out of style. It often plays an important role in how people are viewed, treated and most important of all, accepted. Often times the pressure of acceptance proves to be so great that individualism through fashion is stifled or suppressed.

Anything that an individual wears on his or her body is fashion. Fashion is a statement, whether they are aware of it or not. Keep in mind that not everything a person wears is fashionable, or currently trendy. For example, take my Dad's favorite white New Balance sneakers. They are a type of fashion, although not fashionable, contrary to what he may believe. Nevertheless, his sneakers are a statement. Some choose to take advantage of this and others do not.

What I find interesting is why some individuals do not take more advantage of this easy opportunity. It is necessary (for most of us) to dress ourselves in order to present

ourselves to the world. In this case why not wear what you truly like, even if it is something that may not be popular?

I have begun to observe a few common trends in Marblehead High School. To name a few, there is a plethora of cozy Ugg boots, fuzzy North Face jackets, sleek Lulu Lemon pants, and wayfarer Ray Bans. To remind you, I have nothing against these popular trends. The problem is the community that surrounds teens.

People are constantly going through changes. High school is harsh. Judgment of peers and oneself has proven to be prevalent and ruthless, even if unintentional. Due to this, a “norm” is developed. Something outside that norm may be looked upon differently, sometimes with criticism. I believe that this idea of “norm” can hinder creative dressing for people, myself included.

Oftentimes, looking on a peer's Instagram or Tumblr, high fashion photos are “liked” or “reblogged.” Yet the individuals' style proves to be fairly simple and or different to what they may post. This may be nitpicking. Don't get me wrong, I do not in any way suggest or expect the students of Marblehead High to come to school dressed head to toe in Marc Jacobs or Miu Miu. Nor am I asking people to keep up with the newest trends. I simply want to encourage and remind others to wear what they please, regardless of what others may think. This is cliché, I know. Yet, in order to realize the wonderful individualism inside fashion, one must go crazy with it.

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