

Headlight

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

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

Peace, Water, and Wisdom

MHS Interact Club
Special Contribution

Scores of Marblehead students, their families and friends, are expected to turn out Sunday, October 28, to walk and race for Peace, Water & Wisdom. The event is a fundraiser for The BARKA Foundation which works with local communities in the US to raise water consciousness and implement water initiatives in Burkina Faso, Africa, one of the poorest and most water-stressed nations in the world.

The 5km "Peace, Water & Wisdom Race/Walk" around the Marblehead Neck is being sponsored by the Interact Club at Marblehead High School with support from Endicott College. Endicott students are helping MHS Interactors with marketing, outreach and publicity. MHS Interact students are affiliated with Rotary. Rotary Clubs in Marblehead and Swampscott are working with BARKA Foundation to support a forthcoming water project in a village in Burkina Faso where women walk 7km for water every day. The event is also being coordinated with the Student Environmental Action Committee (SEAC) of John Bapst High School in Bangor, Maine which established the Peace, Water & Wisdom Race/Walk in Bangor last year.

Earlier this year SEAC students from Bapst High School reached out to Marblehead High School's Interact Club as a result of both groups working with BARKA Foundation for the past three years. Joan Stomatuk, Jim Nye, and Jack Attridge serve as liaisons between Marblehead students, BARKA Foundation and local Rotary Clubs. "After speaking with student leaders from Bapst High School, I presented this opportunity to the MHS Interact Club and they were excited to expand the race to Marblehead," said Joan Stomatuk, Interact Club Advisor.

Kelly Roland and Brian Hough, Co-Presidents of the Interact Club, say, "When we returned to school we hit the ground running. The club decided to take this on because we believe in the cause and BARKA's ability to use the funds we raise to make people's lives better in Burkina Faso." The club has set its fundraising goal for \$5,000. Funds are raised through sponsorship, individual donations and event registrations.

"The truly remarkable thing is the way we see young people stepping up to take on their role as leaders to bring positive changes to the world," said Ina & Esu Anahata, BARKA's co-founders. Students are already signing up sponsors and participants to race or walk. The race takes place at Devereux Beach beginning at 10 am (on-site registration begins at 9 am). Registration is also available online at www.peacewaterwisdom.org.

Burkina Faso is a landlocked West African country which has a 20% infant mortality rate largely due preventable water-borne illness. Money collected will be used to provide the community of Lampiadi with a new well and basic hygiene education. Earlier this year, BARKA drilled a well and constructed composting latrines in a small rural Burkina Faso village partly through funds raised by Marblehead students and community members. The BARKA Foundation is an UN-affiliated 501(c) 3 charitable organization. "Barka" is an African word of gratitude, blessing and reciprocity. More information can be found at <http://www.barkafoundation.org>

To be a sponsor, make a donation, or register for the Marblehead event please email stomatuk.joan@marbleheadschoools.org. Registration and sponsor forms are also available in the main office of Marblehead High School, 2 Humphrey Street, Marblehead, MA.

A Harsh Reality

Dan Rosenberg
Editor-in-Chief

An injury is no laughing matter. For many athletes, an injury can mean the end of a career, or even a life. Just last year, Eric LeGrand, a player for Rutgers' football team, was paralyzed due to an injury on the field. The players of every sport are often regarded as machines; gladiators who are battling on the field. That's a wrong idea, and it needs to stop. Athletes are humans, with emotions, people who make mistakes just like the fans who watch them. So when an athlete is injured, and the fans begin to cheer for his injury, a line is crossed.

Just a couple of weeks ago, Matt Cassel, an NFL quarterback who plays for the Kansas City Chiefs, was knocked out of a game with a head injury. The fans in the stadium, the fans of the Kansas City Chiefs themselves, cheered as he was knocked out of the game. This is a travesty, and it should never happen again. It does not matter what your opinion on the player is. It does not matter whether he is playing well or poorly. Cassel suffered an injury that has been proven to cause permanent damage to the brain, but the NFL fans put their own interest ahead of his safety. Oblivious to the danger of what had happened; the fans cheered and mocked their own quarterback. It is time to realize that it's just a game. Nothing more than that. But a man's livelihood, a man's life was altered on the field that day, and no one seemed to care. For whatever reason, the players of many sports have been dehumanized, seen as tools for an end instead of people.

Perhaps this new trend is caused by the phenomenon that is fantasy football. Fans begin to see players as nothing more than points and statistics instead of people. Maybe it is because of video games, in which players seem to be nothing more than graphics on a screen. Whatever the reason, it needs to stop. The NFL needs to wake up to the reality that players are not only being injured, but are dying because of their contributions on the field.

Former Patriots player Junior Seau most recently committed suicide due to post-concussion syndrome, a disease caused by receiving an inordinate amount of concussions. Post-concussion syndrome causes the build up of an unnecessary protein called Tau in the brain. There are many other players who have been affected as well. Former players have filed over 3000 lawsuits against the NFL claiming that they were not made aware of the dire risks to their mental and physical health caused by the sport of football. If Americans cannot see that these people on the field are risking their bodies and minds every single play, then maybe we can't handle watching football. Chiefs' lineman Eric Winston put it best.

"We are athletes. We are not gladiators. This is not the Roman Coliseum... there are long lasting ramifications to the game we play."

Headlight trivia question of the week

How did Marblehead get the colors red and black?

Email your answer to mhsheadlight@yahoo.com along with your name and grade, if you are a student

The winner will have his/her name posted in next weeks issue of Headlight!

Boosters Drive Another Great Success

Shanna Smith
Reporter-in-the-field

It's that time of year again: the MHS Boosters Drive. Marblehead athletes from every sport just groaned when they heard this. It's certainly a hassle, walking around door-to-door raising money for equipment and other necessities. However, while it might not be so fun, this fundraiser is an integral part of MHS fall sports.

The Boosters Drive is an essential part of Marblehead High School's generous reputation because it provides scholarships to the phenomenal MHS athletes who deserve it. And it is always a massive success. Last year, the Boosters Drive collected more than \$16,000 in donations to give as sports scholarships to deserving MHS athletes. Meeting this number took a small amount of work from each participant, but with so many people working hard the end result was astounding. It's important for students to realize how much taking only a few hours out of their day can help dozens of families.

Many athletes hesitate to spend three hours on a Sunday afternoon walking door-to-door to collect donations. Not only was it cold this year during the drive, but it was raining as well. But, as the day went on, I began to realize how

important and valuable the Booster's Drive really is.

The first thing about the drive that struck me was the faculty managing the Drive. When I walked into the cafeteria, I was greeted by a warm smile from everyone. The faculty made sure that volunteers weren't hungry or thirsty while they were walking around door-to-door; every year they provide pizza and water that each volunteer can take for free. MHS gives back to the students who donate their time and effort.

One thing I find about the Drive that makes it different from any other volunteer work is that I know that I am helping people that I am already acquainted with. Yes, it is incredibly rewarding to help those who are homeless or severely ill. In fact, volunteering at a hospital may sometimes feel a lot more rewarding than the Booster's Drive. However, it is an incredibly good feeling to know that by spending three hours in the rain, I benefited someone that I've known for years. This gives every athlete a personal reason to participate in the Boosters Drive.

MHS makes sure to give every volunteer credit for helping these athletes win a scholarship. So, there really is no good reason to skip the Booster's Drive because everybody wins.

The PSAT will be taking place at Marblehead High School on Saturday, October 20th at 7:45 in the morning. Students who have signed up must bring a calculator, a number two pencil, a snack, and a water bottle.

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