

Headlight

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

www.marblehead.com/schools/mhs/headlight

Much More than Art Appreciation

Caroline Hooper
Design Coordinator, Junior

Last Monday, the arts program at Marblehead High School took a well-deserved field trip to view some of the finest fine art in the world. I was one of sixty art students who were fortunate enough to attend this field trip. The bus ride there set the tone for the astounding art we would see that day. The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston was our destination that morning. We could not have asked for a better day, it was a crisp autumn morning decorated with colorful New England foliage. Fierce oranges, bright yellows and bold reds whirled around the streets and clung to the trees despite the wind. The light blue sky gradually blurred into deeper shades of blue as it stretched higher and made a dramatic contrast with the leaves. I sat wide-eyed on the bus taking in the natural beauty of New England in autumn.

We arrived in the parking lot, unloaded from the bus, and broke up into smaller groups of five or six. A few steps into the museum and I could feel a whole new atmosphere. The museum radiated respect and creativity. At least it felt that way for me. I had never before been to this museum. Every inch of wall space, floor space and even the ceiling was strategically arranged with artwork.

All of the art students knew the schedule: Ancient Greek then Native American ceramics. The goal was to get ideas for our own ceramic unit that was coming up in Studio I. We sketched pieces of pottery that could serve as possible inspiration. We made note of who created it, when it was made, and what the symbols on the artwork meant. The beauty and complexity of the antique pieces astounded me; the ingenuity of the craftsmen in their design was stunning. I thought about

the historical significance of the pieces, and how all this artwork had been delicately preserved. It felt, in a way, wrong to quickly snap digital pictures of ancient masterpieces with my iPhone. The pictures just don't do the works justice.

As the ceramic viewing part of the day wrapped up, we ambled along finally coming to the Contemporary Art wing. It really was an explosion of color, it reminded me of a Jackson Pollock painting. Neon signs hung from the ceiling and were mounted on the wall high above us. Strings of glittery gold beads hung down from a tall wide doorway. A yellowy armchair with thousands of black squares on it was seemingly haphazardly thrown in. A life size painting of shelves filled with miscellaneous objects was right next to a framed piece made of produce stickers. It really demonstrated how many forms art can take, and how much one can learn from another person's expression of creativity. There is no way to take in everything in one visit, the museum assaults too many senses.

Some of the artwork really confused me. I read the short explanations on the wall and thought I'd find my answers. I didn't. I began realizing that sometimes, it's better not to understand the art, and just appreciate it for what it is. When so many things in life are concrete, art doesn't need to follow any cookie cutter rules. Sure, there are techniques that will improve a painting or sculpture but I think it's up to the imagination, and one's own interpretation. It's a valuable lesson, that art is not a form of analysis, it doesn't need to be structured; instead art is just a method of expressing one's own inner mechanisms. And that's why it's so important.

A New Hangout for Teens

Alex Kerai
Webmaster, Sophomore

Last Thursday, I sat down with Ms. Molly Williams, the executive director of "Marblehead for Teens," to talk about the new teen center that she helped to pioneer for Marblehead. She told me the idea came "eight years ago when parents were asking what was missing from Marblehead. The parents agreed that the kids needed something to do with their free time and the teens needed a hangout." That's where Marblehead for Teens comes in. The non-profit organization plans to build a brand new teen center across the street from the fire station where Sundance preschool used to be. But Marblehead for Teens is structured very differently than the YMCA, or the JCC. Instead of having everything be run by adult boards with adult supervisors who decide the activities and schedules, Marblehead for Teens is completely teen run, with minimal adult supervision, and instead using college students to run activities and supervise. Williams compared the program to Pleon Yacht Club, where the kids run the club and the kids decide what they want to do.

Williams explained that the goal is to have a Leadership Council "made up of teens from the High School who volunteer time and help to run the center. It would be a council of thirty or so kids representing many ages, groups, and ideas." Williams enthused that any ideas that the kids have would be taken to the leadership council. This ensures that everyone's ideas are heard, and as many as possible are put into action.

The center would be open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 2:30 until 6:00 pm, Friday from 2:30 until 10:30 pm, and on Sundays 3:00 until 10:30 pm, and would always be staffed by two adults. The building has room for a café and lounge, game room, music and art

room and space for dances or concerts on the weekends— but it is all up to the kids! The teens decide what they want to do with the building. The Teen Center is also within walking distance of the middle school and high school. It's also quite close to the fire and police stations, so it is safe and secure.

Williams and I eventually got to talking about how the money would be raised for the teen center, as there are lots of expensive things that the kids want to do with it that require money. She said that to start there would be a campaign, hopefully run by the Teen Leadership Council, to raise awareness for the Teen Center and to also raise money. Then, once the Teen Center has begun operation, memberships will be available: \$50/year with a \$10 café voucher for High School students and \$15/year with a \$5 café voucher for 7th-8th Grade students. In addition to memberships, guest passes would also be available for \$5/day.

Over the course of an hour and a half conversation, Williams told me how she hopes that the Teen Center will come to represent a "home base" for teens in Marblehead, spawning collaborations with the YMCA and JCC. More importantly, she hopes that the Teen Center will be a fun, safe place for kids to go and hang out. "Right now," Williams told me. "I am just focused on getting my Teen Leadership Council together and getting the programming going."

If you are a student at MHS and want to learn more at Marblehead for Teens please visit Mrs. Norman in the front office. If you have more questions about Marblehead for Teens visit marbleheadforteens.org or email Molly Williams at molly@marbleheadforteens.org

A Love for Headlight

Shanna Smith
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October comes with many excitements, leaves falling from trees, cold weather, and, of course, Halloween. Every resident of Marblehead knows what Halloween means: Haunted Happenings.

There are many ups and downs to Salem's Haunted Happenings that persist throughout the month of October. One of the main causes of these mixed feelings is the endless traffic. Despite Salem's popularity, this month irritates many Marbleheaders, especially those who commute through Salem. As someone who drives through Salem four days each week, I understand why every parent dreads the October festivities in Salem. A few days ago, I sat in an unmoving car for fifteen minutes due to a gridlock at a main intersection.

However, even with the ceaseless traffic and parents' complaints, I am always excited for Haunted Happenings. Salem is one of the only places where anyone can walk around in a ridiculous costume two weeks before Halloween and no one will say anything negative. Ever since I was younger, I have always loved driving through Salem and deciding which costumes were the scariest or the most over-the-top.

Another source of excitement is the festivities themselves. One of my favorite things to do in October is walk around Salem. The uniqueness of the city is the most prominent around Halloween and what solely gets me in the Halloween mood. Everything about Salem is intriguing: the costumes, the haunted houses, and the dark history. People come to Salem from all over the world just to see Haunted Happenings. Some of us might find this odd, since we take it for granted that the town bordering ours has such festivities. However, this shows that Haunted Happenings is important to people throughout the country, and living near it decreases the small-town feel of Marblehead.

Haunted houses are my absolute favorite part of the festivities. Like many other Americans, haunted houses are essential to my celebration of Halloween. This year especially, I thought they were extremely well done. One thing that is admirable about Haunted Happenings is that there is a range of haunted houses from mild exhibits for small children, to terrifying displays, such as Frankenstein's Castle. These haunted houses have relatively fair prices (\$10 estimate per haunted house), and although the lines that fill the streets seem long, I have never waited for more than an hour.

Haunted Happenings also exposes history to us in a fun, exciting way. Every day in October, people take guided tours around Salem to learn about its distinctive history. Most people, including me, are fascinated by the stories of the Salem Witchcraft Trials because they give a tangible feel to history since the trials occurred in a place so close to home. In addition, there are museums and historic homes available to learn more. As someone who generally finds history boring, I was ecstatic to discover that throughout my childhood, I had unknowingly been learning about history.

Even though I find the crowding of Salem in October irritating at times, I recommend that you immediately overlook this problem. Instead, plan ahead and visit Haunted Happenings for the experiences that you can gain, for they are just another reminder that we live near a town with such historical significance.

Submit your advice questions anonymously to Headlight! Ask us anything, and our highly trained advice professionals will give you the answer you need. Submit anonymously to mhsheadlight@yahoo.com, and we'll answer as many questions as we can in the next issue!

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