

Headlight

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

www.mhsheadlight.weebly.com

A Summer of Sailing Comes to a Close

Alex Kerai
Webmaster, Sophomore

Is it just me or does it seem that each year summer goes by faster? It's eleven weeks every year, but for some reason it seems like it was more like five this year. It's not like I was busy every day, running from this activity to another. No, it was more relaxed: I'd work in the mornings, eat lunch at home, and bike to Pleon to sail. It seemed that all my time revolved around sailing, the sport seemed to consume my summer. Not that it's a bad thing.

People who know me know that I love to sail. It's all I do from March to the end of October. I just love the freedom that the water gives me, I can go anywhere by boat (be it to Manchester for ice cream or around a mark for a race) and it can be a whole day event. Sure, it's a pain when the wind dies and I'm stuck floating in between Manchester and Boston, but that's why there are motor boats. The only time I'm ever thankful for them is when I need a tow. Windless days frequently came during our practices right outside the Marblehead Harbor. We, the Pleon 420 Race Team, had incredible weather. It was sunny with the perfect temperature, not too hot but not too cold. However, the wind, the very key to successfully sailing, was uncooperative. We had an average of five to ten knots of wind per day, which isn't a lot, leaving us, as the saying goes, up the creek without a paddle. Often it would barely reach five knots; those were the true lazy days of summer. But we still went out, we still tried to sail, and on those days when it did hit over ten knots, it was the most incredible experience. Sailing in a 420, a certain kind of boat, when the wind picks up to a reasonable amount, the boat will start to

keel to leeward side (the same as the sail), it becomes imperative to try, at all costs, to keep the boat flat on its hull. So, when the wind gets up high enough, the crew jump outside of the boat – hooked on by a wire that connects to their harness and then to the boat – and they use their body weight to even the boat out. It's a surreal, out of body, euphoric experience, and I highly recommend it. As a crew I had the opportunity to trapeze a few times throughout the summer, and after getting over the initial fear of hovering above the water, connected only by a thin wire, it was the most fun I had sailing in the summer. Its closer to flying than anything else in daily life, which is a good enough reason to sail right there.

I sailed everyday, and in the process raced in Marblehead Junior Race Week and traveled to Hingham and Anisquam for the Hingham Junior Regatta and the Junior Olympics, respectively. With so many regattas and practices, it seemed like the end of summer snuck up on me. I didn't see it coming, but in an instant the school year was here.

Yeah, after I got over the fact that school was starting fairly soon, and that my summer of relaxing and doing nothing (except for sailing) was coming to an abrupt close, I started to welcome the idea of school. I was hesitant, but my schedule looked good, and my teachers sounded great, so why shouldn't I be happy? I was excited to see my friends again and ask how their summers were. I was eager to get started on the year and learn new things again. Sure, I could do without the tests, but if that's what it takes, count me in. And for some reason, I was glad to be back. Maybe it's just that it hasn't yet sunk in. Maybe in a few more weeks I'll be counting the days until summer, until freedom. But right now, there's something I'm just realizing. I'm a sophomore.

A Love for Headlight

Grace Perry
Editor-in-Chief, Junior

Ahhhhh, high school, how I have missed you. Your classrooms. Your long hallways. The smell of homework, stress and sweat lingering in the air. It is funny how time flies. I remember feeling so little and fluorescent as I walked, step by step into my freshman year. My red hair falling straight on my back. Now, two years have passed and I am technically a 'big kid'. I am officially a junior. Almost grown up. Yet, I have to admit, Marblehead High School would be a very different experience if I weren't apart of Headlight.

I am apart of Headlight for many reasons, but the one thing that really pushed me to join the club was my love for writing. Every since I can remember, writing has been a hobby of mine. As a writer, I am given the chance to explain myself in order to unmask my many ideas and thoughts. I can't explain the sense of satisfaction felt after seeing my articles published in the Marblehead Reporter. I sometimes find myself doing a double take as I acknowledge my own words blending in little black font.

Along with this sense of satisfaction, there proves to be a sense of belonging. Every Monday inside room A303, Headlight members meet and plan our next week's issue. Every week is different from the week before. Our articles are constantly changing. Not only are our articles changing, as individuals we are changing as well. This change occurs as we develop throughout our high school careers. In Headlight, we grow together as writers and as people. We are not only a club, we are a team. We are united based on our love for writing.

Being a member of Headlight not only keeps me writing, it keeps me connected. For many of my past articles, I have had to interview and talk to people inside our community in order to learn more about myself as a writer and the topic presented in front of me. By interviewing and learning more about certain topics, I have been able to learn on an entirely different level. I love the independence and freedom that comes with being a member of Headlight. While writing an article, there are no rubrics, formats or organizers. Writing articles for Headlight is the product of our individual experience and creativity. I love it.

I have to admit, I am excited to see where this year will take me. Headlight is sure to be extremely successful this year. We officially have a total of eleven members who are just as excited as I am. The gun has gone off and we are in a full sprint. Hopefully, we are sprinting towards success. Many have warned me of the stress and demand of junior year, but I am ready. I promise to write every step of the way. More soon.

We're so excited to be back!

We hope that you are excited too. Headlight will be publishing weekly until the end of the school year. So get ready for some fantastic journalism from our fabulous staff!

-Dan and Grace

Leaving a Legacy

Dan Rosenberg
Editor-in-Chief, Junior

Back to school; it's the time of year that students across America dread. The beginning of September signifies the end of the summer, and the beginning of another school year. For millions across the country, last week was their last week. It's a rough time to be a kid for sure. It seems like ages since the last time the inside of a classroom was fun. Every important lesson on math, history, or science seemingly disappeared from almost every adolescent's mind. And so, the daily grind begins again.

The last week of summer is spent frantically trying to complete work that probably should have been done a long ago. September means stressing about who will be in one's math class, or lunch, or study hall. It means wondering whether the workload of the year will be too much. It means praying that one's teachers are not too strict, and don't give too much homework.

However, the beginning of the school year means more than just education. Returning to school provides the opportunity to rekindle friendships with peers that haven't talked in months. There are new clubs to be joined, and sports teams to try out for. There are dances

and fundraisers and many school run activities to attend. Yes, school is not all about learning and books. It's a time to make and maintain friendships, and to make plans for the weekends. It's a time to laugh and a time to talk. It's all of these things, and that's why school is such an important, if hated, place for kids. Because while the future holds many things, it is all built off of our time right here, right now, in Marblehead High School.

When we eventually leave college, and look back on these years, we'll fondly remember them as our golden era. As adults, we'll forget the stress and hard work that we put into algebra and biology, and just remember the fun times, the times with friends, and not with teachers. That's why we all, as we return to school, need to make the most of our time here. So that we can leave a legacy to be proud of. So that we can gain the skills we need to succeed in the future. But most of all, so that when we are 30, looking back on our years of high school, we'll be proud, and remember these years as the best of our entire lives.

We are always looking for new members, who are interested in writing, and are looking to be published. If you are interested in joining the Headlight Staff, come to A303 next Monday, the 31st, to learn more. We'll see you there!

HEADLIGHT STAFF

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF: DAN ROSENBERG AND GRACE PERRY REPORTER IN THE FIELD: SHANNA SMITH

EDITORIAL MANAGER: MATTHEW FELSENTHAL DESIGN COORDINATOR: CAROLINE HOOPER WEBMASTER: ALEX KERAI

FACULTY ADVISOR: THOMAS HIGGINS