

Headlight



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

2015-2016 Issue

www.mhsheadlight.weebly.com

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Election 2036

Amber Born, Junior
Reporter

The 2016 presidential election is almost a year away, but you'd think it was tomorrow. Politicians have been officially campaigning for months and unofficially for years. A few have already dropped out of the race. The fallen include Rick Perry, Scott Walker, Jim Webb, Lincoln Chafee, and Bobby Jindal. There are probably others, but I've forgotten them because they polled in the negatives. Half the Republican candidates have experienced brief stints as the front-runner. Trump's lead continues, though I'm not sure exactly who likes him, because even the Republican Party itself seems annoyed that he's still here.

Kanye West has already announced that he is running for president in 2020. You need to declare your candidacy very early if you want to have any chance of winning. And even if you announce your intention to run, first you need to form an exploratory committee, which is what Trump first did in 1999. Apparently they had a lot of exploring to do. Therefore, I would like to announce that I am forming an exploratory committee (my two cats and any of my friends who want to jump on the President Born bandwagon before it becomes cool) to consider the possibility of my running for president in 2036. This will be the ideal election for me to run in, mostly because I won't be eligible until then due to the presidential age requirement. Here's my 2035 announcement speech:

What's up, USA? I'm running for president.

America has lots of problems and it's terrible, but it's also the greatest country in the history of the universe. We're going to need to cut taxes, but in order to raise enough money to be able to do that, we're going to have to raise taxes.

I've been traveling all throughout our great, tattered nation, talking to the American people. I talked to Bob the Electrician, of Waukegan, Illinois, and he told me that America, awesome though it is, faces many problems.

Problems like the various crises in the Middle East. Well, I think we should stay out of other countries' affairs. We aren't the world's policemen. However, we need to protect the liberties, ideals, and freedoms that make this country great, and that probably means we should invade. I mean, sure, we've failed whenever we've tried to do that, but there's always a first time.

What shall we do about the deficit? Bob the Electrician asked me this as we ate breakfast in a diner, as normal Americans such as myself do. The federal deficit hit a gazillion dollars in 2034, so I propose that we shut down everyone's wifi and make them pay a billion dollars to get it back. The ensuing mass hysteria and national rebellion will make all of our other problems look much less severe. It's all about perspective.

So that's my plan for the presidency. Follow my campaign on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat. My campaign slogan is #bornleader. Let's do this, America!

A Concept That Makes Me Sick

Jack Krivit, Junior
Reporter

A runny nose, equally wet eyes, a violent hacking cough, and an inability to actually get any needed rest are all symptoms of a high school sickness. In middle school, running up an abnormally high fever and being excused from the lessons of the day was the most enticing alternative to actually going. But now, with the ever increasing burden of keeping up with my classmates weighing on me, being forcibly bedstricken for the day is a huge setback in my progress. Ironically enough, most of this sickness usually comes from the exhaustion of balancing hours of homework with extracurriculars. The pride of accomplishing everything after one exceptionally stressful week only makes a high school student think that it is okay to miss parts of the next, when in reality, these mindsets only create a cycle of stress.

Sick days always start out the same. You wake up at the same time you always do, but for some reason it just feels like so much earlier, so as you pull yourself from your bed and beg your equally groggy mother to let you go back to sleep, it seems like the day will be endless and without consequences. That is the first mistake made. Although it may seem like you have all the time you need to take the AP U.S. History notes you were assigned last class, time seems to slip away as you carelessly watch *Bob's Burgers* on an iPod screen. Trust me, I've been there.

Before you know it, it is 2:30 and school has already been released. While all of your friends and classmates are each one day wiser, you have accomplished nothing besides getting an extra hour of some still much needed rest, and perhaps learning what a "Whig" is. Perhaps. At this point in the day, as a feeling of unaccomplishment hits you, you start to realize that maybe missing school was not worth it.

"Ironically enough, most of this sickness usually comes from the exhaustion of balancing hours of homework with extracurriculars."

Although it may seem tedious and unnecessary, one of the most important things to do after missing school is to get in touch with your teachers. They might not all respond, but by letting them know that you care about what you missed, it shows your appreciation of what they do. So now, you not only have to make up the work you were planning on doing that day, but also everything new that was assigned. It is not impossible to do, but it can certainly be strenuous. Because although you might think it only takes one day to recover from missing school, it is never that simple. Before you know it, there will be so much piled on top of you that you begin to feel overworked. Then, severely exhausted. And finally, pushed to the extent of being under the weather, until you have entered an incessant, yet extremely ironic cycle.

Well Deserved Credit for *Creed*

Alicia Katz, Junior
Reporter

This past Saturday, armed with popcorn and a soda, I sat myself down in the movie theater at the Liberty Tree Mall and prepared to watch the sequel to one of the most famous boxing movies of all time. *Creed* is the story of Apollo Creed's only living son and his ambitious goal of continuing his father's legacy. Adonis Creed, who decides to go by Adonis Johnson during the beginning of the movie, enlists the help of Rocky Balboa, the final competitor to go against Apollo Creed. The two face parallel challenges and support each other in order to achieve their goals.

One of the main concerns most people have with watching a sequel to a famous franchise is the question, should they have seen the other films first? The short answer is no. At the film's core is the story of a boxer trying to make it in the boxing world. However, having the background knowledge of the original *Rocky* movies is far from a hindrance. As with any movie with multiple movies preceding it, extra information allows the audience to make connections and pick up on more subtle references that enhance the experience of watching the movie. I will say that I did attend the movie with someone who had not seen the previous movies and she did not express any confusion and thoroughly enjoyed the film.

I remember the first time I saw *Rocky* when I was younger. The fight scenes were so incredible to me. My heart raced, my palms were sweaty, and I became engrossed in the film to the point where I forgot I was watching anything at all. I found myself cringing and holding my breath at every kick, punch, and jab. So, walking into *Creed*, my only question concerned the fight scenes. *Would I have the same reaction? Would they hold up to the old ones?*

I am sure that many fans of *Rocky* shared the same concerns that I held. And, as I'm sure, they were as pleased as I found myself. There were three major fights in the film, each progressively more intense than the last. Each punch thrown left me cringing and gasping. The make-up was seamless and the sounds made me shudder. My high expectations were happily fulfilled. The dialogue mimicked the old films as well. There were moments of genuine laughter - something I did not expect. *Creed* was successful in making me laugh and keeping me on the edge of my seat.

I enjoyed *Creed*, though it was not a perfect movie. Some character relationships felt forced and tired, and the product placement was all too obvious, which, at times, was very distracting. Despite small complaints, the movie was overall engaging and satisfying. I highly recommend *Creed* to anyone looking for a good thrill.

SPUR Good Deeds

Becky Twaalfhoven, Junior
Editor-in-Chief

SPUR is a non-profit organization based in Marblehead that works to provide volunteer opportunities for members of the community, especially young people. Founded in 2014 by Jocelyn Cook, SPUR facilitates local events and services to engage volunteers and inspire good deeds. The organization's mission is "to SPUR youth and adults on toward good deeds that build stronger communities through hands-on community service and enrichment programs." This holiday season, SPUR took over the stocking drive from A Community of Friends and filled over 400 stockings. In addition to such seasonal events, SPUR organizes local volunteers every month to cook, deliver, and serve a meal at the Lifebridge homeless shelter in Salem, hosts enrichment workshops for children, and performs many different acts of kindness throughout the community every day. All of this is set in motion by charismatic founder Jocelyn Cook, who works tirelessly to expand her outreach and truly improve the lives of everyone around her. One key aspect of SPUR that makes it appealing and sustainable is that volunteers don't need to make a big commitment of time or energy; in fact, most of the volunteering is in 2-hour shifts at locations in and around Marblehead. Another special focus is on spreading kindness through simple acts of giving, especially amidst the craziness of everyday life. One of the projects SPUR created for individuals during the holiday season is the "Count Down with Kindness" calendar, a template for which can be found on the SPUR website. Here are the instructions and suggestions provided by SPUR:

Instructions:

Simply download one or all of the free SPUR kindness countdown templates and cut along the lines. Select the tags that work for your household and then fill your advent or countdown calendar with one tag in each spot. Every day select a new tag and reveal the day's suggestion to SPUR kindness and thankfulness this holiday season. No matter what your holiday or religion, we hope you join with us this holiday season to SPUR good deeds....and as you move through your countdown, feel free to share photos on our Facebook page to SPUR others into action.

Where to buy your own countdown calendar:

Michael's Crafts Store, Joann Fabrics, AC Moore, Marshalls, Christmas Tree Shops, Amazon, or make your own with clothespins and yarn!

Suggestions:

Make it a morning event - A lot of households enjoy reading their tag in the morning so that they have all day to find ways to complete it.

Don't have a countdown calendar? Don't worry! You can make an easy one simply and cheaply with yarn/ribbon and clothespins and then hang your countdown as holiday decor.

Not interested in posting a countdown calendar but still want to fill your season with kindness? Draw your tag from a bowl or hat each morning.

Spontaneity can be fun! Some households like to leave a few blank tags in their countdown - then fill out together on the day of. It's a great way to be creative and spontaneous and to look for a random way to spread some kindness throughout the day.

A project like this is the perfect example of what SPUR is all about: creating a positive community whose members are engaged and support each other in any way they can. As soon as I got involved with SPUR, I found myself quickly getting more involved in community projects and volunteering without having to sacrifice any time or commitments, and I encourage others to do the same.

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