

Headlight



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

2015-2016 Issue

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Nothing to Lose

Kyra Veprek, Junior
Reporter

Because I am a teenager in one of America's most tight-knit communities, it's no surprise that I need an escape from the town of Marblehead every once in a while. As a runner and a recently licensed driver, I find nothing more peaceful and therapeutic than driving to an unknown destination and pounding the pavement. Running provides an individual escape that requires no effort or coordination from anyone other than yourself. My time spent alone pushing through the roads of the North Shore allows me to clear my head and decompress from stressors without the influence of my peers' opinions. The uncertainty of the sights I'll encounter and the hills I'll trudge up leads to purpose and impulsion in each stride, knowing I'm on to something new. There is no escape from reality more perfect than a run.

Recently, my favorite run has become a 7-mile "out-and-back" that begins at the Red Rock in Swampscott and leads to a small loop in Nahant. Not only does it have the most beautiful views of Boston and Nahant Bay, but is exceptionally peaceful at sunrise and sunset, both of which take place on either side of the Nahant causeway. The wind is tolerable (although chilly at this time of year) and the attitude of fellow-exercisers is encouraging. Needless to say, the Nahant Bay run has become my addiction.

This past weekend I woke on Saturday feeling more blue than usual. Whether the stress came from school or friends, I knew there was only one option to fight the fatigue: attack. My drug of choice was to run, and for a morning as particularly sour as this I would travel the extra mile to my new favorite route. Like most mornings, I laced up, put my earbuds in, and hit the pavement. I had a drive to go fast and a need to go far and pushed myself miles from my parking spot. I had neglected to eat a good breakfast, however, and felt my muscles begin to ache. I needed sustenance, but wanted to break my time on the route and escape the thoughts in my head. But I miscalculated my strength, and at the end of Lynn tripped on my own leg and fell fast and hard onto the pavement. The wind was knocked out of me as I skidded onto the sidewalk, damaging my knees and dragging the skin off my palms. A couple walking past turned around to check how I was; I assured them I was fine but couldn't hold back tears. High on pride, I attempted to turn around and jog back to my car. My knees, however, were in no condition to do that as blood began to soak through my leggings. I was pissed; My personal nirvana was ruined.

Instead of mustering up the strength to walk back, I decided to call it quits and walked down to the beach. As I wallowed in the frozen sand, however, I became more aware of the happenings around me: a man and his dog playing fetch, the ducks riding the tide, the sun reaching its peak in the middle of the sky. I had run past this community tens of times, and only now was understanding the true beauty of how it functioned. I felt no defeat as I limped back to my car with my shattered knees; I finally understood that the path I ran did not revolve around me, but rather accepted me as part of its ecosystem.

Some run for exercise, some for therapy, and some simply for fun. It's easy to go through life in the way of running: with one ultimate goal. It's important to understand, however, that life will redirect you and put you in places you never intended to be. There's lessons to be learned everywhere you turn, regardless of whether where you are has anything to do with "your ultimate goal." Accept roadblocks rather than challenging them; they are there for a reason. You've got nothing to lose but the pride on your back and the skin on your knees.

Ski Resorts in the Berkshires

Emma Szalewicz, Sophomore
Reporter

Continuing on my Berkshires theme, I bring to you an article about all of the great ski resorts in the Berkshires. In less than three hours, you can travel from coastal Marblehead to the mountainous Berkshires. In my opinion, the best mountain in the Berkshires is Jiminy Peak, which is located at 37 Corey Road in Hancock, Massachusetts. It has 45 trails that are all always freshly groomed and 9 lifts including the six-person high-speed chair, The Berkshire Express. Most of the trails are lit as well. There are two ski-on-ski-off hotels and rental condos on site. Jiminy Peak isn't only a winter destination either. There is also an Aerial Adventure Park, Mountain Coaster, Alpine Slide and many more fun summer activities.

Next there is Ski Butternut, a ski resort in beautiful Great Barrington. Butternut is located at 380 State Road -Route 23- in Great Barrington, MA. Butternut has twenty two trails and eleven lifts: three quads, one triple, one double, four carpets, one poma and a carpet lift for a tubing hill.

MHS Kids Hooked on Crack Again

Kathleen Alexandrou, Sophomore
Reporter

...Trivia Crack, that is. The students of MHS are hooked not on cocaine, but on a quiz app known as Trivia Crack, which allows you to play people across the world in a quiz game similar to Trivial Pursuit. A year ago, in December of 2014, the app was the most downloaded app on the App Store, and anywhere you were in the school, you could hear students asking their friends, "What did the Mormon Church founder Joseph Smith prophecy that the moon would be inhabited by?" (6-foot-tall Mormons) or "Which country lies to the north of the USA?" (Canada). But Trivia Crack only lasted at MHS for a month or two. By late January, the app was essentially dead; if you still played it, you were considered a disappointment to humanity. For an entire year, the game was nonexistent, forgotten. Then, just a few weeks ago, the app came back. Out of nowhere, kids started re-downloading it. Trivia Crack had been resurrected.

Trivia Crack has six categories; sports, entertainment, art, history, science, and geography. Originally the app was titled Preguntados and marketed to people in Latin America, but as its popularity rose, the app was translated into English. Anyone who uses it can create questions, so while there are a few questions with dubious credibility - I was once asked "Which continent is the Hudson Sea located on?" As far as I know, the Hudson Sea does not exist. The Hudson Bay, yes; the Hudson River, of course. But no sea - most questions are surprisingly accurate, if somewhat random. You can challenge your friends and play a bunch of them at once, or you can play the "classic" version and have a one-on-one game. The app is available on iOS, Windows phones, Androids and Facebook.

Trivia Crack is also famous for its odd questions. In every category, you will inevitably get a question that does not fit whatsoever. There are simple questions like "What is Canada's leading sport?" (hockey), and there are more obscure ones such as "Which state has the only diamond mine in America?" (Arkansas). Trivia Crack also has what I call question trends. There are certain topics that come up over and over. For example, I have had countless questions asking me about Vincent van Gogh and the ear he cut off and sent to a prostitute. This is a very specific category, but the people who submit questions to Trivia Crack love asking about it. Question trends can vary depending on the day as well. Today, I've had a lot of sports questions concerning Canadian sports, but tomorrow the majority of my sports questions might be about chess.

As previously stated, Trivia Crack has only recently made its unexpected comeback. In the past few weeks it has exploded, at least at Marblehead High School. Last February, it was cited as the most downloaded app in the world. So far it does not appear to have regained that status. Trivia Crack does appear to be a December app; it's most popular during the holiday season. Perhaps there is a correlation between that and the fact that this is the period of time when students start losing focus on school and get excited for winter break. Perhaps - like Frosty the Snowman, who can return each year with the magical Christmas snow - we will see Trivia Crack return again next year to serve as a distraction from boring schoolwork as we approach the holiday season.

Ski Resorts in the Berkshires continued...

Third, try Berkshire East, located in Charlemont, Massachusetts, on the gorgeous Mo-hawk Trail. Berkshire East has six lifts: two Quad Chair Lifts, two Surface Lifts, one Double Chair, one Triple Chair, and 52 trails. There is also a zipline, tubing park and mountain coaster.

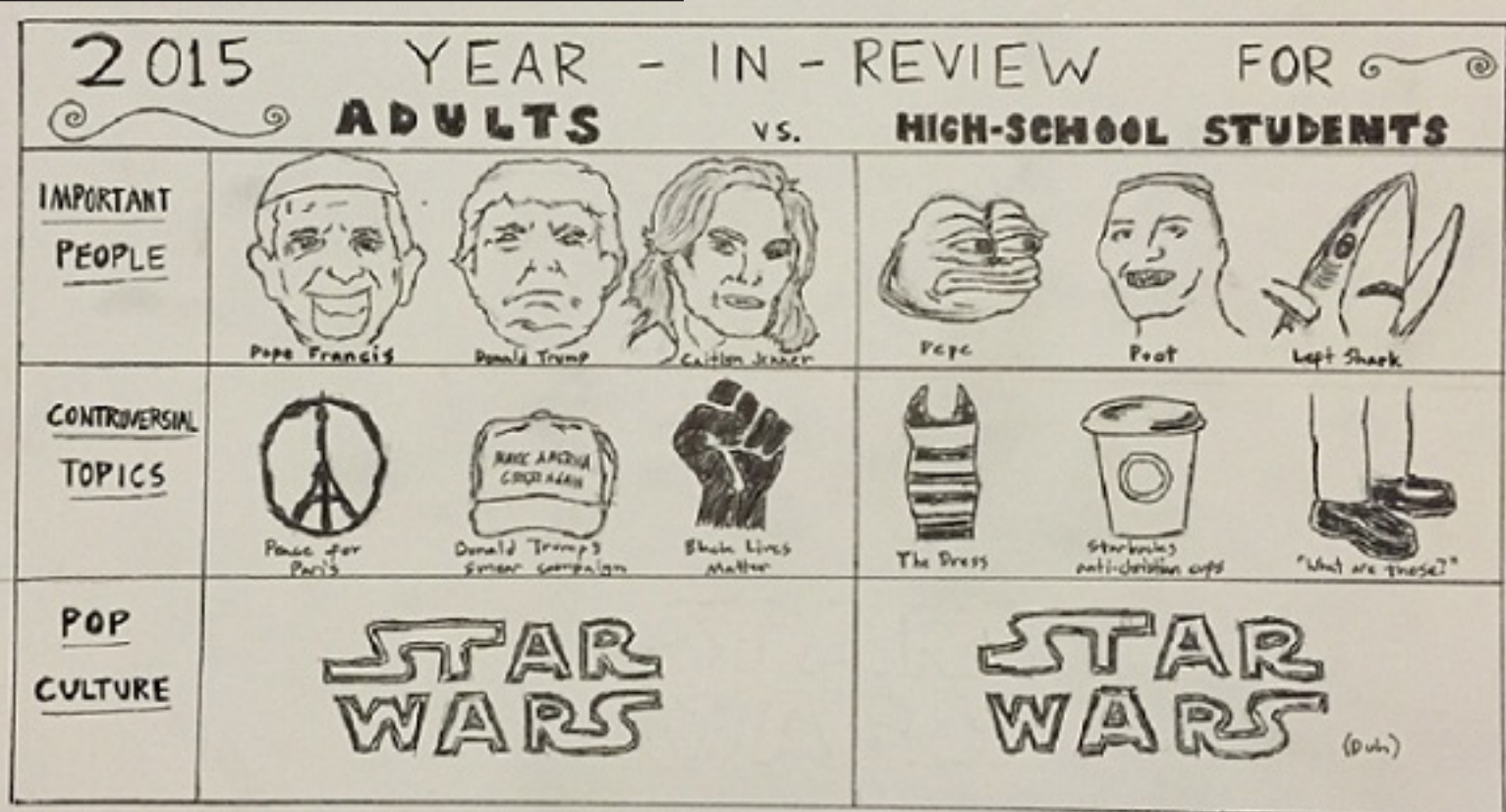
Fourth is the family friendly Bousquet Mountain located at 101 Dan Fox Drive in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Bousquet has 24 trails, three lifts and two magic carpets. Bousquet is a small, very family-orientated mountain that is lots of fun. In the summer they have mini-golf, a waterpark, and a ropes course. Bousquet may be small, but it's definitely worth a visit.

Last, but not least, is Otis Ridge Ski Area, located at 159 Monterey Road in Otis, Massachusetts. Otis Ridge is a family ski resort with three green trails, and four blue trails and three black diamond trails.

With a drive of no more than 45 minutes, you can also venture into nearby New York and Vermont to check out their great powder. In Vermont there is Mount Snow, Okemo, Stratton, Stowe, Magic Mountain and many more. In New York, there is Catamount, Mount Peter, Rocking Horse, Thunder Ridge and more. However, nothing beats the amazing skiing and snowboarding in the Berkshires.

A Year in Review Comic

Jack Krivit, Junior
Reporter



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