

# Headlight



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

[www.marblehead.com/schools/mhs/headlight](http://www.marblehead.com/schools/mhs/headlight)

## The Next Generation

Grace Perry  
Editor in Chief, Junior

As teenagers and high school students, we are the next generation. We continue to show leadership as we grow into better students, and hopefully better individuals. Yet, as high school students and teenagers, our leadership has limitations. We definitely can't just wake up one day and lead a devastating protest on history homework. We are confined to the fact that we are mere teenagers, not quite yet adults. However, there are some of us who are pushing on those limitations and breaking free of the apparent bounds of teenage leadership. Being "high school students" has not stopped Jamie Ehrlich, a transfer student from Pingree, and Emily Ricker, juniors at Marblehead High School (MHS.) Both are using their leadership skills to not only get involved, but to also make a difference in and outside our community.

"Even if we are high school students I think it is still really important to be proactive in supporting a cause whatever it is, and it's really not in my nature to stay on the sidelines," Jamie said, as we progressed further into our interview. Both Jamie and Emily have risen above the expectations set before them. As President and Founder of the newly formed Junior Statesmen of America club (JSA), Jamie has begun to influence her friends and peers in early Tuesday morning meetings, when students discuss political issues and topics pertaining to both Mar

blehead and beyond. When discussing her club, Jamie confidently noted: "It's really important for young people to get active in the political climate that we are in. Inside JSA, we promote political awareness and involvedness in the world around us."

Along with JSA, Jamie has participated in two major political campaigns, those of Elizabeth Warren for U.S. Senator and her mother, Lori Ehrlich, for Massachusetts State Representative. When asked, "Who is the most influential leader in your life?" Jamie replied, "My mom. She stepped in as a new representative and worked very hard to get to where she is now, I really look up to her." Regarding the same question, Emily also replied without hesitation, "Similar to Jamie, my dad has definitely influenced the tendencies in me to get involved." She reminisced on one certain memory when her father brought her to their neighborhood council to debate issues such as deforestation.

Now, Emily has moved on to a broader political spectrum. Emily's leadership skills are present in several organizations such as the Massachusetts and North Eastern Regional Student Advisory Councils, where she participates as a delegate and member. She gives back to her community in groups such as Student Government and our Marblehead School Committee. Emily has even found an interest in Jamie's very own JSA, "JSA has helped me so much; it has helped me get back to what I really love. It has helped me develop a big picture."

When asked what their major driving force behind their leadership is, Jamie recalled an event in which she was given the chance to work with her mother while the bullying bill was being drafted. On the day of the bill signing, Jamie answered an incoming phone call in her mother's office. The phone call was from a little boy who cried with joy as he expressed his compassion for the policies in the bullying bill and the overall support and devotion to the signing of the bill. The boy's openness towards Jamie inspired her and gave her the chance to see the good brought from her actions. "For me, at the end of the day, the driving force behind my leadership is how a lot of the stuff that I do changes people's lives," Jamie believes that her influence on leadership and politics came from her own upbringing. "What has become me is because I grew up sitting downstairs with my parents, watching the news, instead of going upstairs and watching Keeping Up With the Kardashians." Jamie said, "It's a common thing, really going out there and doing stuff that affects people. And, of course, it affects me."

When asked about Marblehead High School, both Emily and Jamie agreed that all students are given leadership opportunities whether in a club, sport or classroom. Jamie even mentioned, "I have more opportunities here than I did at Pingree." A sense of tradition inside Marblehead also contributes to leadership opportunities for young adults. For example, Emily noted, "Even those committee meetings that I would go to when I was about eight years old, I would just get this feeling like I was in my own government."

Within her leadership, Emily has found a love for compromise. She enjoys listening to people and solving problems

that are favorable to all parties. During our interview, Emily was asked about the political climate of our modern world. She responded, "Everything is so crazy in today's political climate, it's as if no one can agree."

As the 2012 political campaigns come to a close, we look towards a new year with changes for the better. Yet, as we meet these incoming years with a sense of fear and curiosity of what will come, I now can have a sense of hope. Our generation is filled with greatness. We can accomplish anything that we put our minds to. Already, as juniors in high school, students like Emily and Jamie are influencing and leading their fellow friends and peers. We are already making a difference and working today for a better world tomorrow. In Jamie Ehrlich's words: "No matter who you support or where you come from, don't sit on the sidelines, find a way to get involved in your future."



**Pictured above:** Emily Ricker (left) poses with Jamie Ehrlich (right) inside a Marblehead High School classroom. Picture taken by Grace Perry.

## 2012: The Year in Music

Liam Reilly  
Headlight Musician, Sophomore

Another year has come and gone, leaving us to reflect on what has transpired over the last twelve months. This December ends the final year marked by the Mayan calendar, and even if you are not superstitious, there is a sense of time fleeting and a desire to seize the day. This feeling has engrained itself in the music industry in the last year, with a barrage of new and fresh sounds. These new and fresh sounds have been the driving force for much of the best music seen this year. Here are my end of the year awards for music in 2012:

**Best Album:** Some Nights by Fun.

Spending forty-two weeks on the Billboard Top 200 with Some Nights, Fun. has been a dominant force this year. The New York based indie/pop trio first came together in 2008, and the band's first album, Aim and Ignite, made little noise in the music industry. Three years later, the first single off of Some Nights, a duet with Janelle Monae called "We Are Young," provided Fun. with the exposure needed for Some Nights to become a much anticipated pop release. Some Nights is a wonderfully crafted pop-driven album with memorable piano and guitar riffs and catchy melodies reminiscent of Queen. Aside from the immensely popular single of the same name, Some Nights boasts several other noteworthy tracks, including "Why Am I The One" and "Carry On." Some Nights and Fun. are deserving of the six Grammy nominations received for their work this year.

**Best New Artist:** Frank Ocean

After making cameo appearances in 2011 singing hooks on Jay-Z and Kanye West's Watch the Throne, and appearing in the occasional track for his rap group

Odd Future, Frank Ocean came into his own in 2012 with the release of his first solo album, Channel ORANGE. Since coming out in September, Channel ORANGE has spent twenty-two weeks on the Billboard Top 200, peaking at number 2. Ocean's semi-autobiographical lyrics complement the slow-tempo synthesized arrangements of each track, and the album leaves little to be desired. Channel ORANGE also is effective in showing off the dynamic nature of Ocean, particularly the track, "Pyramids," which is a ten minute long piece beginning as a synth-funk track, and the closest thing the album has to a dance track, and ends as a silky-smooth R&B track. Like Fun., Frank Ocean has been nominated for six Grammys for the upcoming Grammy Award ceremony.

**Best Song:** "Call Me Maybe" by Carly Rae Jepsen

Although not the most lyrically or musically profound song that came out this year, "Call Me Maybe" had a lasting effect that transcended the music industry. Carly Rae Jepsen's ridiculously catchy pop song has spent forty-two weeks on the Billboard Hot 100, including nine consecutive weeks atop the chart, and was the most purchased song on iTunes this year. Outside of the music industry, this song could be seen almost anywhere this year, from the Harvard baseball team, to the University of Chicago, which wrote the following in a letter encouraging a student to apply: "I know that we just met you, and this is crazy, but here are our numbers (statistics about the school), so call us, maybe?". Along with the previously mentioned accolades of the Canadian pop star Jepsen, "Call Me Maybe" is Grammy nominated for Song of the Year.

So after experiencing what 2012 had to offer musically, it is time to look ahead at what 2013 might bring. I believe that something to look for in 2013 is a significant rise in the popularity of electronic and dubstep music. Even now, this genre of music is slowly becoming more mainstream, with many pop songs over the last few years containing electronic elements. The success of electronic artists such as David Guetta and Calvin Harris in pop music is a testament to the genre's growing popularity. As well, the use of electronic and dubstep music in television commercials and movies bodes well for its integration into popular music in the near future.

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