

A Week of Merriment at MHS

-Danny Plunkett

Both students and faculty are still reeling from Marblehead High School's annual countdown to Thanksgiving: spirit week. The senior girls kicked things off early, dressing up differently every day for the week before their big powderpuff game against Swampscott on Saturday. They dressed up as MHS football players, and they also wore all black clothing, shredded Swampscott sports shirts, and army attire for the first four days of the week. They were excited to play after over a month of preparation, and their intensity reverberated throughout the school.

Spirit week proper, however, did not start until the Friday before the powderpuff game, which the student government chose to be jersey-day. Students and faculty alike came to school in their favorite team apparel. The powderpuff girls finished their week off by wearing their brand new red jerseys, braiding their hair, and running around the school screaming like banshees. Everyone was definitely excited to see what the next week would bring after a fun start.

The school week prior to Thanksgiving is only three days long, but it is the most fun week of the year. Monday is always class color day. Each grade is given colors to work with, and it is customary to choose a theme to go along with your colors. The seniors chose red, white, and blue (America of course), the juniors had green and orange (Ireland), the sophomores had black and yellow (Batman), and the freshmen were given pink and brown (pigs). Each class worked hard decorating their hallway on Sunday, and most students dressed up in their class colors on Monday. Body-paint was abundant.

Tuesday was a different matter entirely. Every year, Tuesday's theme changes to something new. For instance in past years we have had pirate day, superhero day, and pajama day. It takes a little more effort, but it's always fun. This year it was decided that Tuesday would be tropical day, so people came in to school wearing sandals, grass skirts, bathing suits, sunglasses, and floral shirts, a strange sight in November. Some kids really went all out, wearing snorkel gear and flippers, but they were few and far between. Unfortunately this years theme made it more difficult for widespread participation, but a respectable number took the plunge.

Wednesday was easily the most fun day of the week. On account of the impending holiday, it is always a half day, but it is no normal half day. There is a pep rally from eleven to twelve o'clock, leaving only three hours for academic classes. All day there is a feeling of excitement, unimpeded by the usual drudgery of tests and discussions. The entire school is united, wearing the Marblehead colors of red and black to support the football team at the pep rally. This year was great, and every grade was decked out in Marblehead regalia. The pep rally ended the week with a bang, fueled by rousing songs from the MHS marching band which was in top form. Each varsity sports team was recognized at the beginning, and then the grades competed in assorted events such as tug-of-war, musical chairs, and a relay race. Additionally, the cheerleaders performed and the powderpuff team briefly played against the football team.

Finally, the moment everyone was waiting for: the announcement of the spirit winners. A boy and girl are chosen from among the students to be crowned Spirit King and Queen, two faculty members are picked as most spirited, and a grade is also chosen for overall spirit throughout the week. Nolan Raimo and Sean Gibbons shared the title of Spirit King, Jen Taranto won Spirit Queen, and teachers Caroline Todd and O'Malley Barton (who was wearing roller

blades) were the winners among the faculty. As it usually happens (and to their delight) the seniors were picked once again as the most enthusiastic grade.

Spirit week is a ton of fun, and it is a great way to start the holiday season. The whole school appreciates the break it affords from the seriousness of high school, and taking a few days to smile and cheer is good for morale. May the tradition continue for years to come!

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