

# Headlight



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

The 2015-2016 Editor Issue

www.mhsheadlight.weebly.com

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## Your Future

Linda Fitzpatrick, Senior  
Editor-in-Chief

It was a humbling experience for me to inspire kid's creativity this summer. I was a counselor at an all girls camp for seven weeks in Maine and had the opportunity to write and direct a play. Upon the camper's arrival, I had no idea what ages would sign up for my activity hour. So, when I walked into the theater, I was a little overwhelmed to see I would be working with eight girls, all drawn from the youngest age group. They struggled reading and had hardly acted on a stage before. But they were determined, energetic, and ready to begin. That was infectious. Especially since I had to rewrite a sixty page play, which I had crafted over the months leading up to camp, and prepare a nine page, simpler, version for the girls to perform. Had I had all day for several days straight to work on the play, this wouldn't have been a big deal. I was, however, a full time counselor and had very limited hours to sneak off to my computer and type something up before my next activity. Throughout the summer, there were many difficulties, so I was always left on my toes trying to think quickly and act accordingly.

The half hour before the curtains went up were filled with a rollercoaster of emotions. One girl didn't want to show up, which was a form of stage fright I had not handled before. Two girls were arguing and that sent one into panicked tears. Due to a couple last minute issues, there was no one to handle the lights and I needed to be on stage, as did most of the other actors, for the entire show. Much of the play hadn't been run through with everyone at once due to camp schedules, so the main event was pretty much our one full dress rehearsal. While I was trying to handle things, I needed to keep in mind that I had to open the show and be presentable. Though it was crazy, when those curtains opened and the girls got on stage I was blown away by their courage, persistence, and showmanship. Campers who had long and challenging lines recited them perfectly in front of the audience. And, to my humble surprise, the crowd responded to the show with joy and excitement.

All of the emotions and effort that went into this show taught me a very valuable lesson about life and what I am embarking as I enter senior year and college is on the horizon. That it will be emotional, and sometimes it might feel like getting up on a stage with not a clue of what to do, but the show must go on — and it will. For six weeks, these eight year olds put so much love and energy into something because it was what they wanted, not what they needed to do. Sometimes it is so easy to get focused on all of the things that make up a traditional life, when in reality, we should all take a step back and ask ourselves what in life would make us truly happy and why aren't we striving towards it? I strongly believe we should live our one life the way that will make us most satisfied, because only then can we do best for our society. For seniors, whether it's the college you choose, the major you embark on, the city you enter, or the alternative path you journey down — do it with pride and regret nothing. This is your year and your future. Love passionately and widely and never be ashamed of who you are and what you do.

For the rest of the community, maybe you can't reroute your whole life right now, but you can adjust things. Carve out a few hours of your day to take part in something that makes you happy. Cross off an item on your bucket list. Be spontaneous, or be incredibly organized — whichever suits your personality better. The trajectory of your life lies in the moments you act upon now. These are the decisions that will live with you forever. Do yourself proud and don't be afraid to get on that stage and improvise.

I am delighted to be back as co-Editor-in-Chief for the 2015-16 year of Headlight and look forward to capturing Marblehead's future for you.

## A Life Made for Living

Jack Krivit, Junior  
Reporter

Over the summer, thirty-three hours of my vacation were given to my driver's education program in order to prepare me for my permit test. A couple days later, another summer morning was lost to the line at the Registration of Motor Vehicles in Revere. After countless hours of waiting in the overcrowded, overheated government building, I was finally able to receive what I had spent so long taking practice tests and watching *Fast & Furious* to get: my permit. Almost three months later, with my permit off the checklist and already a few hours of driving with instructors completed from the summer, I should be coasting easily towards the date six months in the future where I'll hopefully receive my license. But in reality, my route is blocked by truckloads of homework, buses of fellow team and club members, and roadblocks created by my parents.

Before being able to learn how to drive, the real difficulty is finding the time. It is suggested by instructors to drive any time when in the car with a parent, just for the sake of practicing. The most frequent example of how to improve is by driving to the high school in the morning (which would most likely be beneficial if you don't live two blocks away like me). After school, most students have clubs to attend or teams to practice with, which only takes away more time. And as soon as they get home, they begin their homework and finally finish when the sun sets and parents believe it is unsafe to go out. Free time usually only opens up during the weekend, and even then, it is still a struggle to convince a parent to just sit in the car and watch. Because of these problems, a student is only able to practice after scheduling a driving hour. But without constantly going over the correct way to turn or understand traffic signals, the precious sixty minutes are not as beneficial because of all the simple (yet important) mistakes being made.

Besides using the toilet, learning how to drive is probably one of the most useful things a person can do, and just like any other skill, it requires a lot of practice. So, how can this problem be solved? Students who are reading this, I strongly encourage you to find within your busy schedules the time to practice and constantly remind your parents of the six months that are quickly passing. And parents (including you, Mom and Dad!), please remember that your children are depending on you to improve. Because the only thing scarier than wasting money on a failed license exam is for your child to be licensed without the proper amount of experience. Once you have successfully reached your destination at the end of the six month journey, it will be easy to turn on your blinker, make a successful right hand turn after waiting for the light to change, and continue on another road leading to something else.

## Unwitting Role Models

Becky Twaalfhoven, Junior  
Editor-in-Chief

Junior year is notoriously "the big year." This is the year when who you are and what you do starts to be important for your future after high school, and the stakes are high to start gaining experience for the world and not be left behind. The ensuing competition can be exhausting and life-consuming. In the push to secure a future, everything that happens, and every decision you make, is significant in determining the outcome. But the choices you make and the attitude you have don't just determine your future; they have the potential to change the path of people around you, whether you know it or not. Whatever you choose, somebody is always looking to you as an example, sometimes in surprising ways. In the high school, younger students watch everything and often mirror it themselves. Classmates, too, see your approach to schoolwork and subsequent results and compare them to their own. In school and out, people pay attention to how you treat other people, deal with adversity, and challenge yourself, as well as other aspects of your character. Ultimately, nobody goes through life without being noticed, and attention breeds imitation.

Role models come in all forms. Throughout our childhood, role models change from family members to famous figures to popular celebrities, with varying degrees of emulation. But nobody ever mentions the people in everyday life who act as subconscious role models to us: the people whose names we hear for their accomplishments, or whose reputations are known in school or the community. It is these people who can truly have an impact on our futures. The word role model has positive connotations, but in reality addresses both positive and negative influences. For example, a senior who was accepted into a prestigious school may be a role model who impacts the work ethic of a freshman student hoping to do the same. At the same time, a senior who skips class and enjoys having free time and partying rather than focusing on school may be a role model for a freshman looking to make friends and decrease academic pressure. Neither older student makes their choices with the intent of inspiring younger students; nonetheless, these choices can determine the choices of people who notice them.

This point should serve as a reminder that the decisions you make for yourself have impacts far beyond you. One individual has the power to be a positive or negative influence in somebody else's life without consciously doing so. In the same way, everyone has examples who they look at for different characteristics and reactions to compare or apply to themselves. It would be impossible to take into account every possible way that a decision affects other people, and attempting to do so would add unnecessary pressure and complications. However, it is important to consider that what you do and how you approach situations has the potential to change not just your life's path, but many others. As a junior, there are hundreds of tiny decisions to make, but it is the responsibility of being a role model that makes this year "big."

## Waitress: A Refreshing Take on the Human Condition

Maeve Reilly, Junior  
Reporter

On Sunday night, the curtain closed after what was the final performance for the Cambridge, MA run of the brand new musical, *Waitress*. The stage production brings the story of a young woman working at a diner, originally told in the 2007 indie film of the same title, into a new light with the fresh, lively, and emotional score composed by singer-songwriter, Sara Bareilles.

While Bareilles has been nominated for a Grammy, a judge on the TV show *The Sing Off*, and has achieved great respect in the pop world, this is her first time ever composing for musical theatre. However, with the captivating score of *Waitress*, Bareilles has exceeded all expectations. Between the enchanting and soulful songs and the heartwarmingly honest story, it is no wonder that *Waitress* has had overwhelming success, both in selling out all tickets and in receiving glowing reviews.

In a post-show Question and Answer session with the cast, Keala Settle, playing the role of Becky, explained that this show is special because it portrays the human condition in an authentic way; it shows that there isn't always the happy ending you'd expect, and that's okay.

*Waitress* tells the story of Jenna, a young woman who, despite her undesirable life circumstances, finds comfort in baking pies. The story is a mixture of humor, tragedy, love, and new beginnings all in one. This musical is not a fairytale with a typical boy-gets-girl type of ending, rather it redefines what it means to find love, to feel fulfilled, and to be truly happy, and that is why *Waitress* feels surprisingly refreshing, and why it has been met with such widespread appreciation.

After over a month of successful performances, the musical will be hitting Broadway this April. With both funny and beautiful music enhancing the story - particularly the show-stopping, powerful ballad, "She Used to Be Mine" - *Waitress* is sure to be received with just as much, if not more, love when it resurfaces in New York this spring. Through laughter, and maybe even a few tears, *Waitress* has and will continue to move audiences, leaving everyone on their feet by the end of each performance feeling as though they've experienced something incredibly one-of-a-kind.

## Best of the Week

(According to Rotten Tomatoes)

### New Television:

The Grinder (Season 1) - 96 %  
Quantico (Season 1) - 80 %  
Blood & Oil (Season 1) - 64 %  
Code Black (Season 1) - 64 %  
Granfathered (Season 1) - 55 %  
Heroes Reborn (Season 1) - 43 %

### New Movies:

The Martian - 94 %  
Sicario - 92 %  
The Walk - 80 %  
Black Mass - 75 %  
Everest - 73 %  
The Visit - 61 %

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