

New 'extended' policy set; still no answer for clubs

By Lucy White

Last year, the Student Handbook allowed students to leave their half-hour extended learning period to go to a club meeting or get extra academic help.

Students could only do these activities if they had a pass signed by a teacher to leave their respective classes. This year, however, the extended policy has changed.

This fall, teachers could not let students out of their extended to go to other classes. Most students disagreed with the new system. Those who had jobs or after-school activities were unable to make up missed tests or get help after school. People involved in clubs such as student council and JCL had a hard time meeting as well.

For students who disliked the new policy, there is some good news. After two meetings of delibera-

tion over the issue, the School Council decided unanimously on Wednesday, November 3, to endorse changes proposed by Mr. Payne. (The School Council is a group made up of teachers, students, and local citizens.

It mainly deals with issues regarding the student handbook, and in revises it during the year). The Council decided that students will be able to go to other classes to get academic help, but only with a pass. Also, third-period teachers have the right to veto the pass and keep the student in their extended if they believe it would benefit the student more. Students who abuse their privileges by lingering in the halls or misbehaving can lose their privilege.

No decision was made, however, regarding clubs. The School Council believes that extended should be solely an academic period. As it currently

stands, clubs can only meet after school or before school.

The School Council's proposal will be implemented soon.

Students are generally upset because they believe that this new rule contradicts the school's mission statement: to create good citizens in an educationally challenging environment. Young adults who wish to partake in citizen-building activities cannot find time to excel academically.

Isa St.Claire, a sophomore at Mount Greylock, states, "Student Council has only been able to meet three times this year. The problem is that many Council members have sports practices that coaches will not let them miss."

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Clockwise from back: Leo Pucklis, Tory Brenner, Chirag Patel, and Kejia Tang
Photo Courtesy of Evadne Gianini

Class reps named to facilitate strong interest in 'service learning'

By Leo Pucklis

Last year, Mt. Greylock RHS students volunteered over 4,000 hours of their time to the betterment of the communities surrounding the school. Students volunteered their time through community clean-ups, house building, assistance to many community non-profits, as well as providing assistance to seniors, children, and the disabled.

But the new restrictions set on extended and the ability to freely go to the Service Learning office, also known as the College and Career Center, has made it impossible for the service learning coordinator to at-

tend to each and every student's individual interests in volunteer service. To accommodate for this, representatives from the junior and senior classes meet on the first Thursday of every month in the upper portion of the library during extended to discuss possible service learning opportunities as well as receive new information on volunteer service from the service learning coordinator.

In 11th grade, the coordinators are Carl Kubler, Kejia Tang, and Jen Rosenthal. the senior coordinators are Lara Moody, Emily Stinson, Leo Pucklis, and Chirag Patel. Sophomores and freshman are by no means excluded. If anybody in high school would like to get involved in volunteer service please contact one of the coordinators or ask Ms. Henry in the library for a pass to the College and Career Center on the first Thursday of every month during extended.

Upcoming service learning opportunities include a food drive for the Western Massachusetts Food Bank that will be orchestrated by SMILE (Students Making an Impact Locally on Everyone). To participate, bring in nonperishable foods and drop them in the decorated boxes distributed around school. To find out more about possible volunteer opportunities, contact any of the coordinators and come to the meetings.

School offers \$\$\$ estimates for water options

By Carl Kubler

What will it be: jugs, wells, private water or a 16-inch water main along Cold Spring Road?

In one of the hottest political controversies in years, Williamstown voters are debating whether to reconsider their rejection of a \$875,000 bond issue for a water line. On Tuesday night, the Mount Greylock regional school board made public estimates of the costs of various short- and long-term solutions to the school's water woes. The estimates were provided by Supt. Mark Piechota and Business Manager Marti Mellor. (See Page 4 for details)

A Williamstown couple is petitioning for a second town meeting to reconsider funding a municipal water line down Cold Spring Road to Mount Greylock Regional High School. The petition of Daniel and Mary O'Connor of Hawthorne Road launched the effort and received over 500 voter signatures in support of holding a second town meeting on the issue.

Although most voters attending the first special town meeting approved funding the water line, supporters failed to meet the two-thirds majority required. The final vote was 463 in favor, 253 against.

Some 139 of the 852 citizens registered to vote that night left early, without casting their votes, due to the late hour. Had the measure passed, the town would have been authorized to borrow \$875,000 for the \$3.4 million project.

Additionally, the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute had pledged at least \$1,500,000, the

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Team sizes, single booster club discussed at PTO; next Dec. 13

About 30 parents and coaches attended the November Mount Greylock PTO meeting, where the primary topic of discussion was fundraising for sports and the possibility of creating a single athletic booster club to work together for all sports at Mt. Greylock (along the lines of the Friends of the Arts model).

Also discussed was the system that puts a large burden on the parents of team captains, the disparity of team sizes (e.g. cross country and track vs. basketball) and how that affects the fundraising ability of each team, the possibility of using participation fees to even out funding somewhat, and the idea of joining forces on concession sales.

Several people volunteered to spend some time studying the concession issue further. Interested parents may contact Lisa Hiley (lisahhiley@adelphia.net) or Anne Hogeland (hogeland@adelphia.net).

The next PTO meeting is set for Monday, Dec. 13, at 7 p.m. at the MGRHS library.

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NEWS/ARTS



The High School Orchestra, conducted by Ouisa Forhaltz

'Get Acquainted Concert' kicks off new year

By Shannon Young

Every once and awhile our school auditorium fills with the excitement and euphoria that beautiful music brings.

On Oct. 27, middle- and high-school students performed in front of teachers, parents, and fellow students for the first school concert of the year.

The concert began with the middle-school orchestra playing Morning from Peer Gynt Suite by Edvard Grieg. They did a wonderful job performing and engaging the audience.

After the middle school orchestra was finished playing, the high-school orchestra opened with Fiddler's Stew, a collection of famous American folk tunes, and a challenge for the audience to name all of the tunes within the song. At the end of

Fiddler's Stew, the concert proceeded with the full high school orchestra's rendition of Variations Of Hayden.

It was most gratifying to see the orchestra performing on stage after budget cuts eliminated the program in June. Ouisa Forhaltz, as well as many parents and students alike worked very hard over the summer and were able to have the program reinstated.

Once the applause from the crowd died down, the sounds of the middle school-chorus filled the auditorium.

They performed, *The Clouds* by Cynthia Gray, and the familiar tune of *Finnegin Fugue*, by Frederick Silver.

When the middle-school chorus finished performing, the high-school chorus took the stage. They began with a beautiful A Capella piece, *My Heart Doth Beg You'll Not Forget*.

They concluded their performance with *Long Time Ago*, by Aaron Copland.

After the last vocal note ended the middle-school band performed *On a Spring Morning* by David Shaffer, and *Vivoranda* by Albert O. Davis.

Finally the high-school band ended the concert with *Minuteman (Concert March)* by Robert H. Pearson and *Just a Closer Walk With Thee* by Don Gillis

Applause rang throughout the auditorium for a final time as the high-school band students took their bows. Proud parents, teachers, and students were all agreeing that this concert was a wonderful way to begin a year of music, and so they now are all anxiously waiting for the next concert to come around.

Calendars for rural literacy now on sale

This holiday season give with the gift of giving! Buy a calendar as a gift for volunteers of the Rural Literacy Project (RLP) and support the creation of libraries in rural Latin America.

Each month has two photos from the RLP's library work over the past five years in Central America. The faces of students, along with volunteers worldwide, are shown with Honduran and Guatemalan children.

Calendars are selling for \$12 a piece and proceeds will support future library work in Guatemala, Nicaragua and Peru. Any support you might lend us will be appreciated by many.

See Zoe Remillard, Liz Windover, Emily Stinson or Molly Mackin or call Sue O'Riley 458-9285 or write to sue.oriley@verizon.net to purchase one or more of these calendars.

PTO's auction yields \$3,000 for GAP

On a busy weekend with many competing events, the PTO's first fundraiser was counted a great success by those in attendance. The small crowd enjoyed bidding on over 75 wonderful services and items donated by parents, teachers, students and community members and some people even danced.

The evening raised about \$3,000 for the PTO, putting the organization on sound financial footing for future events and allowing for a donation to the GAP Fund (to be discussed at the next meeting, Dec. 13). Event planners Lisa Hiley, Denise Spencer, Paula Machado, Carol Stein-Payne, Beth Goodman and Cynthia Payne extend thanks to all the people who generously donated their time and talents to making the auction a success.

Thanks also go to Marianne McDonough Real Estate for helping to underwrite costs, to Joe Loholdt and Kelly Phillips of Tupelo Honey Marketplace for the great food, and to Cynthia Payne for offering her home for the evening.



As Ashlin Moors looks on, background, Peter Bergmann, left, and David Thier talk during Shakespeare & Co. performance of *Pericles* Nov. 12 at MGRHS. For more photos by Hank Gold, go to the Greylock Echo area of the MGRHS website.

The Greylock Echo

The Mount Greylock Echo is the student newspaper of Mount Greylock Regional High School in Williamstown, Mass. It is published once per month during the academic year. Each issue is developed and edited by a team of editors and writers. Any Mount Greylock student may join the staff, attend meetings and submit articles.

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OPINION

Great divide? The Lanesborough-Williamstown dilemma

By Rachel Payne

To an outsider, the Greylock student body is strikingly homogeneous. The vast majority of Mounties are white, upper-middle-class, Christian -- and hail from small mountain towns.

However, the 180 days that teachers and students spend annually on the Mount Greylock RHS campus have acquainted them with deep divisions within the regional school system. Glaring gaps appear to exist between the levels of academic achievement of the various towns that feed into the school. Of course, the most visible divide exists between Williamstown and Lanesboro -- the two towns that dominate the school's enrollment. Williamstown's grip on the higher-level courses is so long established that the need for change has become clear. But what should be done? Is this an issue worth discussing?

That Lanesboro students, as a whole, are not meeting the same successes as Williamstown kids is painfully apparent. Tara Young, a Lanesboro junior, recalled that "In my (honors) English class one day, (students from Williamstown) were like 'Oh, look around and notice, there are only three kids here from Lanesboro and the rest are from Williamstown.'"

What comes to mind as an explanation for Williamstown's disproportionate dominance is the incongruity of the various elementary curriculums. Amy Moore-Powers, while teaching middle-school science, has found that she "... can't plan the seventh grade curriculum around what was done in the two elementary schools," because the basic science courses taught in those towns "are not similar." Yet, more than the alignment of Williamstown and Lanesboro elementary curriculums is required, because, disturbingly, the division between students seems to grow greater with time.

Despite a gradual social integration between the various towns, teachers observe that, time and again, Lanesboro students are leaving upper level courses. "I don't think the problem is curriculum,"

says teacher Robin Lehleitner. "I think it's much more socio-cultural ... I think Lanesboro kids have this unstated idea that they can't do as well as Williamstown kids, that they're not as smart, (and) that they don't have as much stuff ..."

Ms. Lehleitner notes that many Lanesboro students begin their six years at Greylock in honors level classes, in numbers comparable to Williamstown, but that most have dropped off the honors/AP track by senior year. What can a school district do when, as Lehleitner noticed, "for the most part, the kids who are in AP or honors classes at Mount Greylock are the kids who come from the wealthy, intellectual families ..."?

What can a school district do when, as Lehleitner noticed, "for the most part, the kids who are in AP or honors classes at Mount Greylock are the kids who come from the wealthy, intellectual families ..." ?

Can there be equal achievement in schools where there is diversity? Even the small degree of economic and cultural variety existent between Williamstown and Lanesboro has created dramatic contrasts in academic achievement. Lehleitner expressed faith in the ability of her Lanesboro students to compete academically with Williams-town, if provided with an even playing field.

Williamstown sophomore Evan Dethier voiced his doubts over the possibility of such equality. "I think that the environment in Williamstown is much more conducive and much more active towards promoting school and education," and added with a wry smile, "but maybe that's just my biased, rich, Williamstown opinion."

I share his skepticism. To me, it appears difficult, if not impossible, for the school to bridge the cultural division between Lanesboro and Williamstown in the name of equal opportunities. However, as a social service, it is the obligation of public schools to spend tax dollars with a goal of general success, rather than the production of a few outstanding students.

"The teachers have been saying for a long time that what we really need is a unified district, K-12, so we can do things like coordinate curriculum and consolidate costs," said Moore-Powers. Such a plan would ensure that each graduating Mountie has the benefit of an education with the same price tag, rather than the differing amounts of taxes put toward elementary schools in Williamstown and Lanesboro.

Senator Andrea Nuciforo has awarded the Mount Greylock School Union \$15,000 to examine the possibility of a single school district from kindergarten through high school for Hancock, Lanesboro, New Ashford, and Williamstown. The creation of such a large and inclusive district would demand a new unity and sense of trust amongst the four townships, because the pooling of tax dollars translates to the donation of a chunk of Williamstown's larger tax base toward the youth of other towns.

Such a drastic reorganization would be exhausting and would require funds that Mitt Romney has deprived us of. Yet, as it stands, Lanesboro kids are repeatedly convinced that they are unable to perform on par with students from Williamstown. It must be the goal of a public school to reconcile the differences of the nation's children in the name of general academic achievement. There is no assurance that, even at such high costs, a single K-12 school district could overcome the cultural divisions between Williamstown and Lanesboro, but the effort must be made.

The author is a sophomore at Mount Greylock Regional High School.

The allure of paintball -- invigorating yet safe

By Paul Bergmann

Imagine walking through a silent forest waiting to ambush or be ambushed with .68 caliber paint-filled projectiles, simulating bullets, soaring at speeds of up to 200mph. This is the invigoration one feels at the beginning of a paintball game.

"Paintball is perhaps the manliest sport in the world; a mixture of getting hit in the face, intense moments of pain, and shooting things," says paintballer Jesse MacDonald.

Paintball may seem like a crude, dangerous sport supporting the use of guns at an early age. Although it can be violent and intense, enthusiasts say that after it is all said and done, there are no hard feelings, and friends are made. They say paintball has a higher safety rating than bowling.

Wearing heavy clothing and facemasks, paintballers protect themselves from serious injury or



the game and make calls. The advantage to going to a paintball field is the variety of playing areas, great cover, and safe, fair game play. The disadvantage to going to a paintball field is that it costs money and that you are sometimes required to use only the site's own overpriced paint.

Most paintballers on a budget and far away from any fields play on their own with a group of friends. Most play in forests and fields near where they live. When playing in the woods and in fields, there is never enough cover to stay in one place, so the best paintballers never stay in one place for long. By moving around, you increase your chances of finding or sneaking up on your opponents, and you become less reliant on your teammates to do the attacking. Playing in the woods forces you to be aware of your surroundings, work as a team, and be strategic.

The only disadvantage playing without supervision is less attention to safety. Without a referee, it's hard to make fair calls without argument. Also, many times avoidable accidents, caused by careless actions not acceptable at paintball fields, may occur. However, usually, every paintballer cares enough for the safety of himself to look out for the safety of his peers.

Whether playing at a certified paintball field or at your friend's Christmas tree farm, the rules are usually the same. If you are hit by a paintball, and it breaks, you are out.

Some paintball fields call you out if you have a paint mark the size of a quarter or bigger, regardless of whether you were hit or not. Usually teams equal in size and skill are made and are sent to their separate bases, or checkpoints.

If at a field, a referee starts the game, and if on your own, each team usually shouts when it's ready. You can either play the regular way, where each team tries to take out the other team with one-shot "kills", or you can play by different scenarios and rules. Common examples are capture-the-flag, speedball, and military-style scenarios.

Speedball is the same as the regular style, except

"Enthusiast say that paintball has a higher safety rating than bowling."

that it takes place in a small space and is faster.

Regardless of whether you are a beginner or pro, play at a field or in your backyard, or have a pump gun or automatic, paintballers alike share the same values. Paintball is a sport of strategy, wit, mobility, and skill.

But to quote a saying from a paintball field, "I would rather see a thousand lousy players with great attitudes than one great player with a lousy attitude."

Paintball is a game of courage and speed, but also a game of heart, sportsmanship, and teamwork. Canadian paintballer Phillippe Langlois comments, "Paintball is a fundamental of teamwork, perseverance, and dedication."

"Paintball is a fundamental of teamwork, perseverance, and dedication."

death. Many arm themselves with semiautomatic guns that shoot nickel-sized, plastic balls of paint propelled by CO2. An average gun is set up with a "hopper" (loader) of about 200 rounds, a medium-sized semiautomatic setup, and a CO2 tank of varying size. When the projectiles hit a player, they splatter on clothing, showing the player "hit."

Paintballers play in many different places. One can either pay to play at a certified paintball field, or one can play on his or her own with a group of friends. Paintball fields often have indoor and outdoor fields with bunkers, houses, and pre-made cover. Paintball fields also have referees that watch

SPORTS/ NEWS

Girls' volley gets MG closer to Title IX compliance

By Emma Brooke

Some students are concerned and confused about a new addition to the fall varsity sports schedule -- women's volleyball -- at a time when funding for athletics is minimal. Despite this, the sport made significant headway and proved to have some of the most devoted fans in Berkshire County.

Volleyball was introduced this year because Mount Greylock no longer complied with the second clause of law governing federal anti-discrimination-in-college sports -- Title IX.

"It was an opportunity to start a program at a very low cost to the school, and comply with Title IX," said athletic director Lynn Jordan. The money used to institute the new sport came from a past gift to Mount Greylock athletics, to

be used as the athletic director saw fit, and did not take away from the funding of any other sport. Volleyball will have to be factored into the budget next year.

Volleyball is one of the fastest growing athletic programs in Berkshire County. The league was comprised of four teams last year, grew to six this year with the addition of Lee and Greylock, and will expand to eight by next fall when Lennox and Drury join.

Title IX says participation opportunities, including both number, selection, and level of competition of sports, must effectively accommodate the interests and abilities of members of both sexes. As Greylock offers a few more sports for males than females, the participation stands unequal as well, with last

year totals at 274 girls and 363 boys. Volleyball increased female sports participation by about 35 people.

Several students have questioned why volleyball was chosen over a sport like lacrosse. This is because transportation for lacrosse would cost additional money, due to the fact that most games would be played out of the county. It would also have to be offered to both boys and girls, which would not help the equal participation of sports that Mount Greylock seeks.

Perhaps one of the most positive aspects of volleyball is the spirit that has brought both the team members and the fans together. Ms. Jordan spoke in particular of the last home game, in which Greylock fans ran wildly across the baseline, sliding into the bleachers, and

playing drums and guitars to work up the crowd. Only remaining quiet for the serves, fans went wild in between. It must have been some true inspiration, as the girls also won their first game of the season.

Lynn Jordan explained: "Our last home game was so wonderful and so enthusiastic that at the end of the game the officials came up to me and said, 'You don't have to pay us. That was worth being here for.'" Not only did we have awesome fans, but also a team that improved vastly over the season to earn us a win.

When asked about what made the sport great, team member Hope Ross summed it up simply: "Volleyball is a very addicting sport, and I think it's what the school needed."

Pep rally cheered, but some question appropriateness

By Shan Wang

Despite effort by seniors to organize this year's pep rally, teachers and students are giving strikingly opposite comments and mixed reviews about its quality. Students filed into the gymnasium during the last period of the day on Oct. 29, 2004, congregating with their grade under large signs bearing their respective graduation year. A flood of seniors, led by Ryan Flynn-Kasuba, made for their reserved balcony seats in mimicked slow motion.

"It was hard to organize, but it came together in the end ... magically," said co-president of the class of 2005, Mary DeMatteo. "I know that sounds corny, but that's really how it happened."

The pep rally tradition of mocking Mt. Greylock's age-old rival school "Drure" caused some controversy among teachers regarding the appropriateness of the acts. In one scene several stu-

dents dressed as Drury cheerleaders (complete attire, short skirts and tight tops) performed hilarious antics that were admittedly provocative.

"It's silly for them to crack down on our Pep Rally when the years before were just like ours," said DeMatteo. Mockery and rudeness, however, were not the focus of most of the teachers' criticisms.

"Students need to learn what a pep rally really is. Since I've been at this school, Pep Rallies have been closer to a variety show," said Latin teacher Mrs. Keeley, "It isn't supposed to be."

English teacher Mr. Dils had a similar but more nonchalant point of view. "When did [pep rally] become more of a variety show? I'm not saying that's necessarily a bad thing, but it used to be more of a 'ra-ra' school spirit event. I took a nap for about 10 minutes and woke up to see Max and Pat's walk-

off," said Mr. Dils.

"Seniors are awesome," stated senior Paul St. Clair plainly, in response to the disagreements surrounding this year's rally.

In another act students dressed as former vice-principal Dr. Davenport and current vice-principal Mr. Payne engaged in a "rap-off" under the scrutiny of another student dressed as Officer Hernandez. Mr. Payne emerged as the clear victor to cheers from the audience as Dr. Davenport was "arrested."

Mr. Payne himself was not offended by any of the acts and readily forgave the seniors for putting on a "variety show." He said: "One of the students made a really good argument about it. They've based their pep rally on what they've seen in their previous years, and this kind of pep rally is what they've known."

This year's Pep Rally was also filled

with acts deemed generally more wholesome by teachers. Sarah Whatley, as Ms. Rinehart, amused the audience in an experiment that "made the dinosaurs come back." Gilles Heño-Coe, clad in a gold suit, discoed away as Austin Powers, accompanied by several senior girls. The act surprised the audience as it began with the same West Side Story musical introduction used at the previous year's pep rally, but cut immediately to the Austin Powers theme song as the dancers whipped off their leather jackets. The Mount Greylock cheerleaders followed, the one unquestionable "ra-ra school spirit" act.

"To me, the highlight of the pep rally was unquestionably Rory Brenner's cheerleading—that was hot," said sophomore Rachel Payne. Despite some controversy, the majority of students agreed that this year's pep rally was equally hot.

Here is an analysis of some water options with cost estimates as provided by Supt. Mark Piechota and Business Manager Marti Mellor at Tuesday's Mount Greylock school board meeting. These estimates apply to the current school building and well configuration.

Items No. 1 through 3 would solve the school's current perchlorate-pollution problem indefinitely; Items 4 through 7 are only required if the school intends to renovate, triggering current regulatory requirements for sprinklers and well location -- or if the current wells cannot for some reason be filtered or used. The renovation options assume construction of a underground storage tank to supply water for sprinklers and firefighters in an emergency at a cost estimated at between \$750,000 and \$1,000,000.

The accuracy of some of the estimates is disputed by opponents of a plan to build a town water line which would serve Mount Greylock.

To view a PDF of the actual documented distributed at the meeting, go to the Greylock Echo area of the school website.

1. BOTTLED WATER OPTION -- \$6,500 per year for bottled water and \$3,900-\$4,500 for testing and monitoring wells for non-drinkable water. Additional custodial labor moving bottles; "constrained cafeteria program."

2. WAIT FOR PERCHLORATE STANDARD -- If the state approves a perchlorate standard higher than the current standard of 1ppm, the school could resume using the current wells and would continue to expend between \$3,900 and \$4,500 a year for testing and monitoring of them. Meantime, used bottled water.

3. FILTER CURRENT WELLS -- An estimated one-time cost of \$60,000 for two perchlorate filtration systems and between \$27,560 and \$72,760 per year for maintenance/replacement testing of two wells. State standards for perchlorate are in flux. It is disputed whether current technology can meet evolving standards.

4. DRILL NEW WELLS ON MGRHS PROPERTY -- \$70,000 to \$100,000 per well for drilling and testing. Additional costs for piping and hookup. Might require landscaping to create new playing field. An assumption is made that new wells could be found which provide drinkable water of sufficient flow rate to meet the school's daily usage needs.

5. CONNECT TO WAUBEKA SPRINGS -- Would require "significant capital outlay" for 10,000 feet of piping and a pumping station -- "approximately \$2 million." Waubeeka Springs owner Pamela Weatherbee has offered the water at no charge to MGRHS, however, MGRHS school board member Chris Kapiloff said there is some question about whether she, or the Waubeeka Springs water association members, would have final input on use or fees.

6. DRILL WELL ON RICHARD SABOT PROPERTY -- Would require "significant capital outlay" for drilling a well and 9,000 feet of piping and pumping station -- "approximately \$1.6 million" -- and a cost for purchasing or leasing the well site. An assumption is made that a new well could be found which provides drinking water of sufficient flow rate to meet the school's daily usage needs.

7. CONNECT TO TOWN WATER LINE -- If an \$875,000 bond issue is approved, adopt one of solutions No. 1-3, above, and wait approximately two years until a proposed 16-inch municipal water line along Cold Spring Road (U.S. Route 7 south) is constructed and reaches the school.

Water Line

Continued from Page 1

Williamstown Art Conservation Center \$350,000, and Northern Berkshire Health Systems \$200,000. MGRHS had secured a \$286,000 state grant toward the waterline, and a private citizen, described as a retired executive closely tied to the Clark, was willing to contribute an additional \$300,000.

Its wells contaminated with at least 1ppm of perchlorate, the school currently is spending at a year rate of \$6,500 on purchasing bottled water for its students.

Supporters and opponents of the proposal naturally hold differing opinions about whether a second meeting should be held. Supporters cite the packed conditions and lengthy delays that caused many voters to leave early, while opponents stress that the petition was begun by private citizens, not one of the four parties primarily involved.

If a second meeting is held, as is likely, it must be done no sooner than 14 and no later than 45 days after the petition's certification by the town clerk. Since Clark Art Institute Director Michael Conforti has said that he plans to present a construction proposal for the institute's new facility at a board meeting on Dec. 3, a decision regarding the possible construction of the water line must be reached soon.

Extended

Continued from Page 1

At the first School Committee meeting of the year in September, some students arrived to plead their case. The chairman of the Committee, Robert Petricca reminded all townspeople, teachers, administrators, and students to try to remain positive during a time of financial strain, water issues, administrative reorganizing, and teacher negotiations. But Dan Hogan, a senior said, "The new system creates a lose, lose situation for many students involved in other activities."

The new extended rule was added in order to help teachers who last year pointed out that students were taking extended learning for granted. Many were roaming the halls, socializing, and going wherever they wanted to go, without passes. With the new system, some teachers can choose to continue teaching their classes without having to worry about most of their class heading out the door. Mrs. Keeley, a Latin teacher likes it: "It's more safe than last year."

The band teacher, Mr. Moors, believes that this year's rule is, "less disruptive. I expected to dislike the changes, but found that this far into the year, I like not being rushed at the end of classes."

This is the first of a two-page online special addition to the Nov. 19, 2004 edition of the Mount Greylock Echo. It carries photos of the Mount Greylock Regional High School production of Shakespeare's "Pericles" – at the high school on Nov. 12 and 13. All photos are copyright, 2004, by Hank Gold. Thanks Hank!



This is the second of a two-page online special addition to the Nov. 19, 2004 edition of the Mount Greylock Echo. It carries photos of the Mount Greylock Regional High School production of Shakespeare's "Pericles" – at the high school on Nov. 12 and 13. All photos are copyright, 2004, by Hank Gold. Thanks Hank!

