

The 18th annual Fall Festival of Shakespeare



MacBeth (Zack Sheppard) and young Seward (Megan Hiley) duel in this year's production of MacBeth. More photos on page 3.

Photo by Hank Gold

Charting MGRHS future?

Strategy workshop underway; ideas about alumni, China, summer

By The Echo Staff

The pace of activity is stepping up as officials chart the strategic and financial future of Mount Greylock Regional High School. And plans are afoot to launch an alumni association, a student exchange with China and the possibility of a summer school.

The school committee was scheduled to meet all day on Thursday and Friday in a strategic-planning session in unusual surroundings – Griffin Hall at Williams College – in a session involving members of the selectmen and finance committees from Williamstown and Lanesborough, a selection of school faculty and some community members.

The strategic-planning think tank is the first such meeting the school board has held in about eight years and involves a consultant hired from Rhode Island.

"It is really a brainstorm session," says School Committee member Sally White. "Without ignoring the immediate issues to take a look at the long term and what is the situation at the moment and what do different people from different aspects of the community see as our strengths and weaknesses and what can we build on and where can we go from Here."

The strategic-planning think tank is the first such meeting the school board has held in about eight years and involves a consultant hired from Rhode Island – Ralph Jaspardo – to manage the process. Jaspardo has managed similar sessions for the Williamstown Elementary School and his fees are being paid by an anonymous donor, White said. Officially, the two-day session is public to comply with the state Open Meet-

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JavaJive Sings the ABC's

Over \$650 raised in musical benefit for the ABC House

By Sean Peltier

The Greylock community united at the first JavaJive of the year and raised over \$650 for the local ABC (a better chance) House. The Auditorium was rocking on Friday November 2nd as a large crowd gathered to see students, teachers, and alumni perform for several hours.

Two Greylock ABC students, Senior Elianny Camilo and Junior Anthony Bellman hosted the show. Though they acts were eclectic, to say the least, they were thoroughly enjoyable and downright good. There was an excellent turnout, as many folks moseyed on down from the Volleyball playoff game held immediately before the show began.

Several slam poets, including Greylock alumni Jake Snow and juniors Ali Martin and Emily Baker-White performed their works to get things started. Interestingly enough these three artists appeared to have very different styles of this still developing art form.

Mr. Blackman, a middle-school math teacher entertained the crowd with his acoustic stylings and did

an excellent job of getting the crowd involved. Mr. Nelson, a new high-school science teacher also made an excellent impression with his guitar and vocal skills.

As the show wore on the crowd was entertained by even more quality acts, including two separate dance routines, one of Scottish highland dancing (complete with bagpiper). Also tap dancing was showcased in a fabulous routine.

Lizzie Fox and Mitch Galli wowed the crowd as Lizzie's beautiful voice and Mitch's skill on the piano created a beautiful sound that will not be soon forgotten. Junior Davy Payne was one the evenings more popular musical acts as he sang an original song and played guitar. The Mount Greylock dance team also performed with an impressive set of choreographed dances.

The musical hit of the evening was undoubtedly, "Those Guy's" a musical group consisting of Keyboardist David Rosenthal and Guitarist Dan Kleederman. They both amazed and entertained the crowd with an Alanis Morissette song. The crowd would not stop cheering until the emcees relented and al-

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PTO spotlights 'Internet addiction' in talk by counseling psychologist -- are you a victim?

By The Echo Staff

The Mount Greylock Parent-Teacher Organization is turning a spotlight on so-called "Internet addiction" with a talk on Monday by counseling psychologist Michael S. Goodwin, LMHC. Goodwin, who for six years ran the drug and alcohol abuse counseling program at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, says he has been studying the parallels between substance addition and chronic Internet use.

Goodwin will speak on Monday at 8 p.m. in the library at Mount Greylock. In a preview of his talk for The Echo, Goodwin said he will discuss the many legitimate reasons people use the Internet, as well as how people can sometimes use it as a way of dealing with pressures in the real world. "The Internet is appealing as a form of education, entertainment — and escape," he says. "You can get lost in the cyberworld."

Goodwin says he'll talk about YouTube, MySpace, Facebook and other social-networking websites. "I'll talk a little bit about how are you aware of the signs and how to interrupt some of the patterns."

Goodwin says students should ask themselves what they are getting out of their time on the Internet. If you are using it to talk to friends, he says, consider whether there are real-world ways to meet up. "If I were a student, I'd ask myself what the alternatives are and whether you are using the Internet to do things you are not comfortable doing in the real world."

Goodwin has a graduate degree in counseling psychology from Framingham State College and an undergraduate history degree from the University of Southern Maine. For the last two years, he has been director of development at North Adams Regional hospital. He is now in private practice.

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OPINION

Who's views should we use -- parents or teachers?

By Zachary Yarter

The views of our parents shape us when we are young — from how we should we perceive a situation to how we should vote. When we are of proper age is it the job of our teacher to try and influence our opinions with their personal views? Or is their job to teach the facts stated in our text books?

I believe that a teacher's job is to first teach the information that is required by the school, then and

only then would it be proper for the teacher to discuss personal views with his or her students. But to teach your opinion and discuss the proper materials is wrong.

Students should first be educated on the subject. At least be able to form their own personal opinions on the subject. Then if the students are willing to listen they can be involved in each other's views as well as the views of the teacher — not to influence the ideas of the students, but to inform the student

of other individuals' perspectives in addition to how they come to their conclusion and what evidence they use to support their thoughts.

So that is my opinion on the subject. Now that you have heard my opinion try to form your own.

Do you have an opinion on the subject? *The Echo* welcomes letters to the editor. Email all submissions to GreylockEcho@newshare.com

Milky way?

Over the summer, MGRHS senior Rachel Payne and junior David Rosenthal pilot "The Milker" down the Hoosic River. They constructed the raft of milk cartons.



Future

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ing Act and the public is welcome to attend, school officials say, but the idea is to try and limit speakers to a specially-picked group designed to be representative of the district. No students were invited.

Meanwhile, a "Mount Greylock Financial Planning Group" is meeting ever other Wednesday to try and figure out how the school will managing with stable or declining revenues as fixed costs — including pensions — keep rising. The Financial Planning Group (FPG), chaired by parent James Kolesar of Williamstown, and including Supt. William Travis, was set up last year at the request of the school board with the goal of studying the school's finances in comparison to other regional districts of similar size and demographics around Massachusetts, and to brainstorm ideas for increasing revenues or cutting costs.

At its Nov. 1, eight members of the FPG discussed enrollment trends, per-pupil reimbursement rates, and a schedule of a dozen or more meetings they are holding with community groups to try and alert the public to the school's financial condition. "I don't think we know how to thank the community enough for the support we get," Travis said. "The community is going to have to come up with some way to expand revenue in order to sustain quality," observed Keith Finan, a Williams College administrator who is among members of

the FPG. Finan, who also serves on the Williamstown Finance Committee, discussed what he saw as a lack of communication between the school and the FinCom which leads to a "retreat to assumptions."

The group discussed varying ways of assessing what it costs to educate a Mount Greylock student, and on what basis the school should be willing — or unwilling — to accept non-district "school choice" students. Per-pupil costs range all the way from an estimate of \$14,551 at the high end, to the \$9,800 paid by some tuitioned-in students, to the \$5,500 that the school gets from the state when a "School Choice" student enrolls. In addition, Travis observed in response to questions that when a MGRHS student transfers to the Berkshire Arts & Technology School in Adams, the state deducts \$7,500 from Mount Greylock's state aid. On the other hand, when MGRHS takes in a student, it only receives \$5,500 in new state aid.

The Williamstown Elementary School's enrollment figures were discussed. This year there are only 43 kindergarten students, 49 in the first grade, 41 in second, 63 in third, 57 in fourth, 60 in fifth and 61 in the sixth grade. This led to a discussion of how the possibility of gradually declining feeder-school enrollment might impact the cost-per-student ratios at Mount Greylock in the future.

There appeared to be confusion about historical enrollment figures, with Travis suggesting that older records didn't seem readily available. Mount Greylock teacher Drew Gibson described the enthusiastic response he's heard as he begins to form the outlines of a Mount Greylock Alumni Association. "I think people like the idea," he said. Gibson estimates there are somewhere between 5,000 and 6,000 alumni of the school and most of them are believed to live within a couple of hours of the campus. Gibson expects between 20 and 40 alumni will show up on Sunday (Nov. 19) at 3 p.m. at the Williams Inn to share cookies, juice and some ideas about the group in formation. Gibson says he's talked to at least 40 alumni in the last couple of months. "The purpose is to make another connection between the school and its communities," says Gibson. "It is a chance for another voice to contribute to the future vision of the school."

Gibson also talked about two other ideas he is pursuing — a exchange with students from mainland China, and the possibility of Mount Greylock hosting summer programs on such topics as media studies, firefighting, social justice, Italian, British ballads, voice, modern Middle East politics and other subjects.

Computer graphics teacher offers range of opportunities

By Sean Peltier

This is not your typical class, the kids trickle in, grab a hand out, and sit at their computers for one or more "thirty second info bursts" as the teacher, Mr. Michael J. Powers calls them.

In these he assigns work, previews what needs to be done for the rest of the week, and takes care of any other miscellaneous business. Then for the rest of the class, the pupils are left, more or less, to their own devices.

This must be one of the three Computer Graphics and Multimedia or two Video Editing Classes Mr. Powers teaches.

Now Mr. Powers is attempting to organize a night photography expedition.

As opposed to many teachers who simply feel that the budget prevents them from doing things, such as field trips, Mr. Powers goes out of his way to find whatever is necessary to properly educate his students regardless of the subject.

In order to pay for a presentation by renowned Adirondack photographer Mark Bowie Mr. Powers made arrangements for the nonprofit friends of the arts to pay the fees for his appearance.

Now Mr. Powers is attempting to organize a night photography expedition, pending approval this would take place Tuesday Nov. 21. See Mr. Powers for more details.

The Greylock Echo

The Mount Greylock Echo is the student newspaper of Mt. Greylock Regional High School in Williamstown, Mass. Published monthly during the academic year, each issue is developed and edited by a team of editors and writers. Any Mt. Greylock student may join the staff, attend meetings and submit articles.

Next news meeting:

Wed, Nov 29th Carlsonlibrary 2:30

Next issue: Dec. 15

Next deadline: Dec. 8

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ARTS

Photos From The Fall Festival of Shakespeare

All Photos by Hank Gold



Zack Sheppard and Sam Shuker-Haines



Rachel Payne and Zack Sheppard



Dan Weiner, Rachel Sheppard, and Chris Densmore



Zack Sheppard and Chris Densmore



Dakota Garrity, Gwen Tunnicliffe, Vanessa Dion, Lizzie Fox, and Faith Shuker-Haines



Davy Payne and Zack Sheppard



Rachel Payne and Zack Sheppard



Tess McHugh, Davy Payne, and Petra Mijanovic

Cross-Country teams defend WMass sectional championships

Boys' and Girls' Complete Undefeated Seasons

By Sean Peltier

The Mount Greylock Boy's and Girl's Cross-Country teams accomplished incredible feats at the Western Mass Championships in Northfield this past Saturday. The Mountie harriers captured their respective sectional titles, capping off a season in which neither team lost a single meet.

The Boy's team, though dominate in past years, lost several top runners, and was expected to have a hard time reclaiming a Berkshire county Championship, let alone a sectional title. However, led by captains Evan Dethier and Nick Fogel the team waltzed through the regular season defeating any and all comers.

The team grew stronger over the season, with various runners stepping up when necessary to preserve the third straight season in which the boys did not suffer a defeat. Both Fogel and Dethier were named to the all-county teams as was sophomore Patrick Joslin, a consistent top ten finisher in county races. Rounding out Greylock's top five were Juniors Zack Yarter and Freshman William Alimonos.

At western mass the team faced a stiff challenge from Mohawk Regional, but answered the challenge. Fogel was the first mountie to cross the line in second place behind Berkshire county foe Steve Ferro. Dethier was once again right behind Fogel in third place. Zack Yarter turned in perhaps the most impressive race of the day catching two Mohawk runners toward the end of the race to finish Seventh overall. Joslin finished 14th and Alimonos 27th to seal the victory.

The Mounties certainly have lots to look forward to in the years to come, Dethier is the teams lone senior and though his consistent performance and Veteran leadership will be missed, a crop of promising freshmen and middle-schoolers will look to keep the streak alive for years to come.

The Girls also ran the table during the regular season, making it look too easy at times as the so-called "sea of red" destroyed the competition. Coach Larry Bell indicated that the success was a combination of a strong returning core, some key new additions, and hard work. He went on to say "The regular season turned out to be more challenging to balance our improvement then to beat our opponent, we weren't always pushed as a team".

The team was lead by 8th grader Cate Costley who placed 1st in every Berkshire county race she entered this year. Finishing second nearly every time was sophomore Jackie Lemme. Junior Lindley Bell was also a consistent top five finisher. All three were selected to the all county team (Costley was named most valuable runner) they were joined by two other Greylock runners; Freshman Hannah Chenail and 7th grader Kayleen Lemme.

The Girls struggled somewhat at western mass, for only the third time in her life Costley did not win (she's never finished lower then 2nd place) she took second, followed by Lemme in 5th. Bell had to stop during the race due to an asthma attack and things were looking bleak., then the sea of red hit. Chenail, Mackenzie Hitchcock, and Laura Nolan all came in at about the same time and all caught several runners in the last stretch of the course. The final results showed the Mounties edging out Holyoke Catholic by a mere five points.

The Girls team is losing two seniors, but every member of their top ten will be returning, it looks as if Greylock Cross-Country will be dominate for years to come.

For the boy's team, after years of excellence, this was supposed to be the year when the mounties were mortal. But after a long season of hard work, they stood alone at the top of Berkshire County and Western Massachusettes.



Nick Fogel neck and neck with eventual winner Steve Ferro of Hoosac Valley. Fogel placed second overall

Photo by Sean Peltier

Fall sports wrap-up

Girls Soccer 3-10-5

The girls team though laden with seniors, struggled this year,, though when asked coach Cece was quick to point out a strong core of players who will return next year, coach Cece also pointed out that the team beat both rival Drury and top team Wacohnah. The team also earned two ties against a very tough Taconic squad.

Boy's Soccer 10-5-4 (lost in wmass semifinals)

Though the team started slowly, coach Dils' boys got hot at the right time, at one point reeling off 4 straight wins. The Team also had a great run in the post season before suffering a heartbreaking 1-0 loss at the hands of rival Wachonah. The team will graduate 2 seniors, Dan Lovett who missed the year due to injuries, and Captain Joe Baisch. Baisch, who Coach Dils singled out as a playmaker, a guy who made things happen, will also be missed for his veteran leadership. Coach Dils will be looking for contributions from freshman Taylor Foehl and Junior Ben Ogden to fill the cleats of their departing Captain. Coach Dils also praised the goalkeeping prowess of Sophomore Than Finan. Finan was always solid, and at times stupendous.



Evan Dethier battling with Hoosac's Mitch Beauchemin. They would finish third and fourth, respectively

Photo by Sean Peltier



Greylock's Ben Ogden carries the ball downfield during WMass action last week

Photo by Sean Peltier