

New Initiatives Address School Culture

By NAOMI LACHANCE

Imagine a place where everyone is comfortable and feels accepted, regardless of religion, race, appearance, sexual orientation, economic background, or anything else. A bastion for people everywhere, and a place where tolerance and empathy rule.

Well, Mt. Greylock is not that place. Yet.

Improving the school culture through raising levels of tolerance and respect for differences is on the agenda for the rest of the school year according to the Mt. Greylock administration.

"If you were born and raised here," asked Payne, "how much exposure do you have to people who are different?" He ascertained that this problem is present among both students and teachers.

"Students don't understand what they don't know," said Ms. Penna.

Dealing with diversity in its many forms is a core focus of the new culture initiative.

Over December break, Payne met with "a community member connected with the ABC House who has experience in diversity training," he said. They have discussed possible programs.

Diversity at Mount Greylock does not merely refer to ethnicity or race; it covers a broad spectrum of different sexual orientations, religions, backgrounds, and beliefs. As Ms. Penna said, "We're much more diverse than we give ourselves credit for."

Payne concurred that there are ways in which Mt. Greylock is indeed diverse. "There's a whole range of economic backgrounds and home situations," he said.

Different personalities also make Mt. Greylock diverse. "I've always felt proud that students could be themselves and not get razzed," said Payne. "That doesn't mean that students don't make a rude comment now and then when I'm not looking, but it's not as blatant as when I was in high school."

"Culture here is very positive and generally kind," said English teacher Kellie Houle, who is leading an initiative with the ninth grade. "It's my favorite place I've been to teach," she said.

The ninth grade initiative is about "feeling a part of community, feeling invested," said Houle. It also sets up common expectations to bridge transition between middle school and high school.

There are eight advisory groups with 11 to 12 students per group and one teacher, in order to, according to Houle, establish a more personal connection with an adult.

The groups meet every half day to "touch base with individuals and do community building activities" such as a football tournament or relay races. "It is fun just to interact with students in a different way," said Houle. "Ideally we'll meet monthly, but scheduling is an issue."

There is also a new corresponding freshman wellness curriculum starting next semester that will focus on service, community

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BRINGING HAITI A LITTLE CLOSER TO HOME

By PATRICK MADDEN

On Tuesday, January 12th, Mt. Greylock alumnus Peter Kapiloff missed his flight into Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and it might very well have saved his life. Two weeks later, Kapiloff spoke to an auditorium full of Mt. Greylock students about his experiences in Haiti before and directly after a magnitude 7 earthquake left the country in chaos and over 200,000 dead.

Kapiloff embarked on an entirely selfless sojourn to Haiti in September of 2009.

leave the country, the very next morning, he traveled into Port-au-Prince, and his video footage from that morning is some of the earliest (if not the earliest) footage of conditions on the ground there. Kapiloff showed the student body photos and video from directly after the earthquake in the heart of Port-au-Prince and gave first hand accounts of the devastation he witnessed in the hours and days following the disaster. It is easy for students in the U.S. to grow



Peter Kapiloff shares his first-hand account of the damage in Haiti with an engaged Mount Greylock audience.

Photo: Patrick Madden

His aim was to help the Haitian people by starting micro-enterprises in the north, or businesses that could eventually be run by Haitians, such a small poultry business that Kapiloff successfully got off the ground. He also worked extensively at the Hope for the Children of Haiti Orphanage and School in Port-au-Prince. Kapiloff started off the assembly by describing social, economic, and political conditions in Haiti before the earthquake, and he made one thing quite clear: Haiti is one of the absolute worst possible places for such a sweeping disaster to have occurred.

Even before the earthquake, the orphans at Kapiloff's orphanage could expect only 5-6 meals a week, and basic human services were extremely difficult to come by. As Kapiloff put it, "Haiti didn't have enough doctors for Haiti before this earthquake." He described a population with immense needs and a government ridden with corruption and largely unable to meet those needs. Kapiloff educated the audience about corrupt elections in Haiti's past, and how the U.S. has and has not intervened, as well as describing the deeply corrupt tax systems. The January 12th earthquake not only killed thousands, but it also obliterated an already teetering governmental framework, instantly crippling relief efforts and leading to conditions on the streets too horrific to imagine.

At the time of the earthquake, Peter Kapiloff was in northern Haiti, having missed his flight to Port-au-Prince earlier that day. Rather than staying put or attempting to

quickly removed from foreign conflicts, especially once those conflicts drift off the daily news cycles, but Kapiloff's presentation gave everyone in the room a clear and shocking view straight into the heart of a crippled nation, a view that will likely stay with his audience members for some time.

Aside from many personal dangers (including almost being kidnapped, mobbed, robbed, crushed by falling debris, and more), Kapiloff discussed nation-wide pain and suffering the likes of which many students had never seen before. The video of the ride into Port-au-Prince showed gradually deteriorating buildings until Kapiloff was surrounded mostly by twisted heaps of concrete and other rubble. Kapiloff described how three quarters of the government had died, along with many of the UN workers in Haiti. The video footage actually captured people looting stores in the ensuing chaos. In Kapiloff's own words, "The city became a free-for-all." He described how difficult it is to distribute the thousands of tons of international aid pouring in each day, because there is no security in the city. When he left the country, there were only 5 food distribution points for a city of over 2 million people.

Kapiloff also described the unthinkable wave of death, injury, and disease that followed the earthquake. He helped treat the wounded, but there were so few doctors and so many direly injured that they had to turn hundreds away and crudely treat many

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1 in a Million: An Interview with Mr. Steel

By NATE NURMI



Photo: Katie Rathbun

In this issue's 1 in 650, The Echo gets a peek into Mr. Steel's life as an educator, volunteer, sailor, skier, and much more.

Q: What is your role at Mt. Greylock?

A: I help, or try to help, students who need help. I have seven periods a day, five days a week, and they come here and we go over homework or discuss anything that they're doing. That's what I do. Try to help them have as good a record as they can.

Q: Why did you choose to volunteer your time here?

A: Well... in 1991, I retired from teaching at Pine Cobble School, and I just missed it. Then I came here and asked if they would like to have me tutor. And it was funny, because they said, "No, no, we'll call you." And as I was going out the door, I turned and said, "I don't want any money for this, I just enjoy tutoring." they said, "Ohhhh" and the next day they called me, and I've been doing it ever since.

Q: You said that you taught before you came to Greylock, did you do anything else?

A: Mainly a teacher. But during the war I was a personnel counselor in a factory making airplanes. It was World War II, and no it wasn't World War I.

Q: What is your fondest memory?

A: When you're as old as I am you have so many memories, it's hard to figure out the fondest. I think probably, or at least this would be well up there, I won the world class sailboat regatta with my daughter as my crew in Quincy, Massachusetts. That was probably the best.

Q: Do you have a favorite subject to tutor kids in?

A: Everything. I taught in most, practically all, middle school subjects (6th, 7th and 8th grades) and the other teachers in

Mr. Steel, Continued on Page 5

**The Echo is
RECYCLABLE!
Please do NOT
throw it in the
trash when done
reading.**

THE BOOK WORM

Isabel Kaufman reviews *Better than Running at Night*, by Hillary Frank

See Page 3.

Welcome Iris!

Rebekeh Packer gives some background on the revival of the Mount Greylock literary magazine

See Page 4.

Brigadoon Preview

Mount Greylock thespians are busy transforming the auditorium into the Scottish Highlands

Read about it on page 4.

Youth Center now has presence at Mount Greylock

Haley Mahar reports on all the new opportunities available from the Youth Group in the middle school

See page 3.

Crossword

Mr. Dils has created another crossword- this time with a secret message encoded inside.

See page 6.

Sports

The Echo sports writers keep you up-to-date on athletic events.

See pages 5 and 6.

NEWS AND EVENTS IN BRIEF

Introducing Greylock Cooks!

Sponsored by the Mt. Greylock PTO.

We have some great cooks in our community, this is not a secret! So, our PTO has developed a way that we can all share our fabulous recipes and, at the same time, raise a little money so that the PTO can continue to fund their efforts to support our school and our school community.

We have developed a web site (greylockcooks.com) where we will be collecting great home made family recipes and compiling them into the first “Greylock Cooks Family Cookbook”. The book will be a very affordable downloadable cookbook that you can have at your fingertips anytime you want. We will also be producing a hardcopy cookbook. Pricing will be announced when we get closer to production.

We’ve made it easy to get involved and add your favorite recipes to the collection with our easy on-line recipe submit form.

In addition, the Mt. Greylock PTO will be holding several tastings, dinner parties and cooking classes all geared towards supporting Mt. Greylock Regional High School. Our first two events (Feb. 27th and March 27th) are detailed on the web site. You can make reservations and pay for your seats and the cost is totally tax deductible.

So, visit www.greylockscooks.com TODAY!

6th Annual Food of Love

The 6th annual Food of Love: A Celebration of Shakespeare, Love, and Chocolate will be held on Sunday, February 7 at 4 p.m. at the Williams Inn. The fundraiser includes a chocolate banquet, prepared by the Williams Inn chefs, and scenes from some of Shakespeare’s most famous love stories. The ten graduating Greylock seniors involved in the Fall Festival of Shakespeare will be appearing in the “Very Tragical Mirth” of Pyramus and Thisbe from A Midsummer Night’s Dream. An original scene by senior Sam Shuker-Haines will also appear. Tickets are \$15 for students and \$20 for adults and are available at Country Tack, Wild Oats and Where’d You Get That?. The proceeds will go towards the Fall Festival of Shakespeare at Mount Greylock Regional High School.

Raffle For Celtics Tickets!

Both the girls and boys basketball teams are holding raffles for Celtics tickets. The girls’ tickets are for the Celtics vs. Pacers game on March 12th. Raffle tickets are \$5 apiece. The winner will be chosen at the February 15th home game against St. Joe. To purchase tickets, talk to Liza Barrett in Room N-35, at ext.169 or at lbarrett@mgrhs.org. The boys’ tickets are for the April 10th Celtics vs. Cavaliers game. They are also raffling off gift certificates to five local restaurants. Raffle tickets are \$5 for one or three for \$10. The winners will be drawn at the boys’ basketball banquet on March 11th. To purchase tickets see any member of the boys’ basketball team or Donna Rioux in the Guidance Office, at ext. 163 or at drioux@mgrhs.org. For more information check the school website.

School Union Open Forum

An open forum to discuss the possibility of forming a Superintendence Union among the Williamstown, Lanesborough and Mount Greylock school districts will take place on February 9th at 6 p.m. in the Mount Greylock meeting room. The School Committee is expected to make a decision on the union at their March 16th meeting at 7 p.m.

Haiti, Continued From Page 1

wounds they did not have the proper equipment for. He talked of amputations, burns to the bone, basketball courts covered in blood, hospitals falling down and killing hundreds of children, escaped prisoners, and mass graves. He said he could not even describe the smell after two days as the bodies lining the streets began to rot in the sun. For students in attendance at Kapiloff’s talk, hearing an account of the sights and smells of Port-au-Prince straight from someone who had witnessed them mere days before was far more horrific and humbling than reading about it online or in the paper. As the Haitians became more and more desperate, Kapiloff became a security risk to the people around him because of his resources and heritage, and so he had to leave, but not before getting over 14 of his companions out of the city and helping as many as possible on the streets in the days following the earthquake.

When asked by a student in the following Q&A session if he was at all hopeful for Haiti’s future, Kapiloff responded, “It’s hard to be optimistic because the problems are so broad and so deep,” and stressed that “Haiti needs foreign influence and foreign help. This is a long-term project. It will take decades to rebuild Port-au-Prince, and only then can they fix things like unemployment.” But Kapiloff also cited the international Haitian relief effort and the people currently in Haiti working hard every day and said, “It’s definitely something we can do, if America is committed to Haiti.”

Kapiloff plans to return to Haiti as soon as it is safe enough, probably in the next couple of weeks. Miraculously, although the HFC orphanage collapsed, all of the orphans survived, but they are now stuck in Port-au-Prince living on the street with hardly any food and no way of leaving. Kapiloff is hoping to raise money to relocate them and to sponsor other projects, including the continued education of Haitian students in the coming months and years. Donations specifically to Kapiloff’s cause can be sent to the Community Bible Church of Williamstown and marked for “Peter Kapiloff and Haitian Relief Efforts.” 100% of all donations will go toward Kapiloff’s specific

relief projects.

S.M.I.L.E. leaders and seniors Perry Ostheimer and Jessi Payton, along with the rest of the student body, were moved by the presentation and started planning directly afterward. Payton remarked, “It was shocking. We think the footage really affected a lot of the school.” Ostheimer

added, “We hope that this presentation will help to motivate a lot of our peers to get involved.” They have already started planning an initiative for groups of students to sponsor HFC orphans and students in \$50 packages, and they are hoping to create a system of correspondence between Greylock and Haitian students. Some audience members walked up to Kapiloff after the assembly and personally gave him money, and directly after the talk, student council mem-

bers unofficially offered Kapiloff 500 dollars from council funds.

Even in the days preceding Kapiloff’s presentation, Greylock students were active in the relief effort. The sophomore class raised over 600 dollars in a week by placing collection cans in classrooms, and many students have already donated privately and/or purchased the “Hope for Haiti Now” celebrity album on iTunes (100% of proceeds go directly to a variety of relief organizations). In an age of Facebook groups and texting, monetary activism in the wake of a disaster like the Haitian earthquake has become relatively easy. Kapiloff’s presentation, however, made the current situation on the streets of Haiti incredibly real for Mt. Greylock students, and he provided a donation option with direct results for specific children in the city of Port-au-Prince, something which many students at the presentation were immediately drawn to, enough to give over their lunch money without a second thought.

While words cannot express the pain, sorrow, and chaos unraveling in the January 12th earthquake’s aftermath, hope lies in the response from the international community, and, for that matter, the Greylock community. If in the face of such an event, people can show the bravery and resolve that Peter Kapiloff demonstrated and if communities of all ages begin to display the kind of compassionate citizenship that many Greylock students have already shown following the earthquake and Kapiloff’s presentation, there may be hope yet for a Haitian recovery.

Mount Greylock Launches Iris

By REBEKEH PACKER

A literary magazine is an outlet for creativity – a venue for writers and artists to be published, as well as a convenient way for lovers of literature to get their hands on something to read. Years ago, a Mt. Greylock English teacher named Richard Dodds started a literary magazine at Greylock with a group of student volunteers. The magazine ceased publishing a few years ago, but now it is being revived.

Liz Costley, a former English teacher and mother of two Greylock students, took the initiative to restart the magazine. “I believe that there are a lot of good writers here at Mt. Greylock,” Ms. Costley said. She sees the magazine as “a great opportunity for those people who enjoy and are good at writing, be it poetry or fiction or essays ... to yet again showcase the talents that Mt. Greylock students have.” She and about a dozen Greylock students are working together to get the magazine going.

The new publication has been christened Iris, and is currently collecting submissions for a February 8th deadline. Iris is soliciting poetry, short stories, essays, and creative nonfiction, as well as visual art. Students, teachers, and other staff members are all encouraged to submit. Ms. Costley said that Iris is hoping for many kinds of submissions so that “the whole community can be represented.”

The previous incarnation, Gemini, was edited by a selected student editor and a teacher advisor. The name Gemini made reference to the “two faces” of the magazine

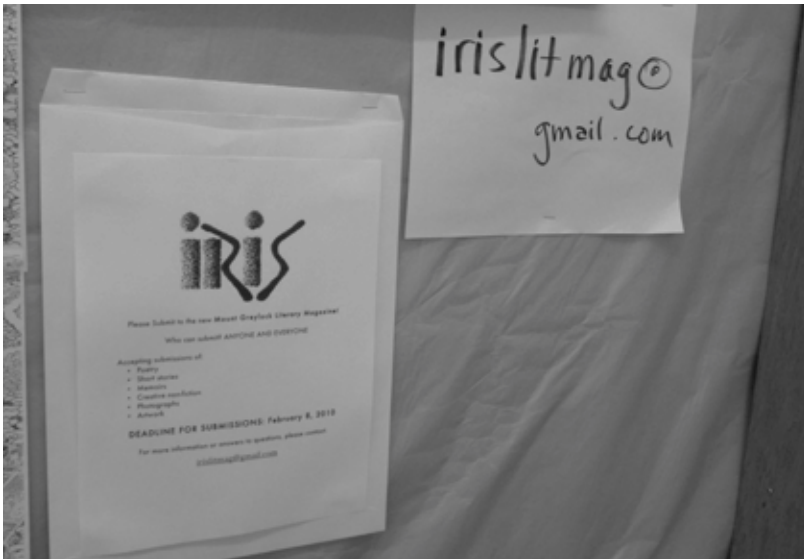
– the writing and the visual art. The first advisor was Mr. Dodds, and later teacher editors included Trudy Ames and Cindy Bradley, also English teachers at Greylock.

The magazine held great respect in the Greylock community for over thirty years. “I came here in 1985,” Ms. Bradley said, “and [Gemini] was a big part of the school before that time.” About four years ago, however, the students involved in the magazine seemed to lose interest. “In the end,” Ms. Bradley said, the teacher editor at the

time “was doing all of the typing, she was doing all of the stuff herself ... and it just stopped being done.” Robin Lehlitner, a Greylock English teacher in 2006, tried to restart the magazine, but student interest wasn’t high enough. A teacher named Mr. Cabinol – “Cabs” to his students – volunteered to take over, but left the school for health reasons before he could get Gemini going again. “I agreed to take it up and finish it,” Ms. Bradley said,

“but nobody had gotten started, and so it went nowhere.”

From the beginning, Gemini was a group effort – a board of editors headed by a student editor and a teacher advisor. “The editor pretty much ran the bag of beans,” Ms. Ames said. “But in the end, the editor and Mr. Dodds would go through all of the writing and the pictures and make sure



Look for Iris envelopes hanging in all English classrooms in order to submit your writing and artwork.

Photo: Katie Rathbun

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Panel 1: A man looks at a box labeled "PUZZLE!" and "AGES SIX AND UNDER". He thinks, "HMM... I'M ABOUT THREE TIMES THE SUGGESTED AGE. THIS WILL BE A SNAP!".

Panel 2: 45 minutes later, the man is jumping in frustration. A speech bubble says, "THEY ALL LOOK THE SA-A-A-A-A-A-A-A-ME!".

Panel 3: The man is still jumping. A small figure asks, "DO YOU NEED SOME HELP BK BROTHER?".

Panel 4: The man is walking away, looking at a completed puzzle. He says, "B WHOO - OOOO - OOOO ~".

COMMUNITY

Brigadoon Hits the Mount Greylock Stage

By KRISTA MANGIARDI

The Mt. Greylock stage is transforming into a more magical land than ever before for this winter's musical, Brigadoon. The magical land only appears once every hundred years in the highlands of Scotland bringing with it catchy Scottish songs, plenty of dancing, and its' own unique collection of characters just waiting to tell their story.

Brigadoon, with a book and lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner and music by Frederick Loewe, originally opened in 1947 on Broadway and was then made into an MGM film in 1954. The musical begins with Tommy and Jeff, two hunters from New York, who have gotten lost in the Scottish Highlands. They end up finding a town that doesn't seem to appear on their map, and quickly notice upon traveling there that the town's people appear a bit odd; it appears as if the town is stuck in the 1700's. The men stay in Brigadoon for a while before they can try to find their previous destination and end up exploring and meeting new people. Before long, Tommy falls in love with the lovely Fiona and increasingly desires to discover the secret of the town. Throughout the day the hunters learn more about Brigadoon and become invested in the town's events, but then have to deal with the consequences of loving someone in the wrong place and time. The audience will get to travel with them to the busy fair on MacConnachy Square, a magnificent wedding of Fiona's sister Jean to Charlie Dalrymple, through an intense and high-pressure chase scene, and more to discover the magic of Brigadoon and the power of love.

The cast of about thirty students is hard at work putting several elements together

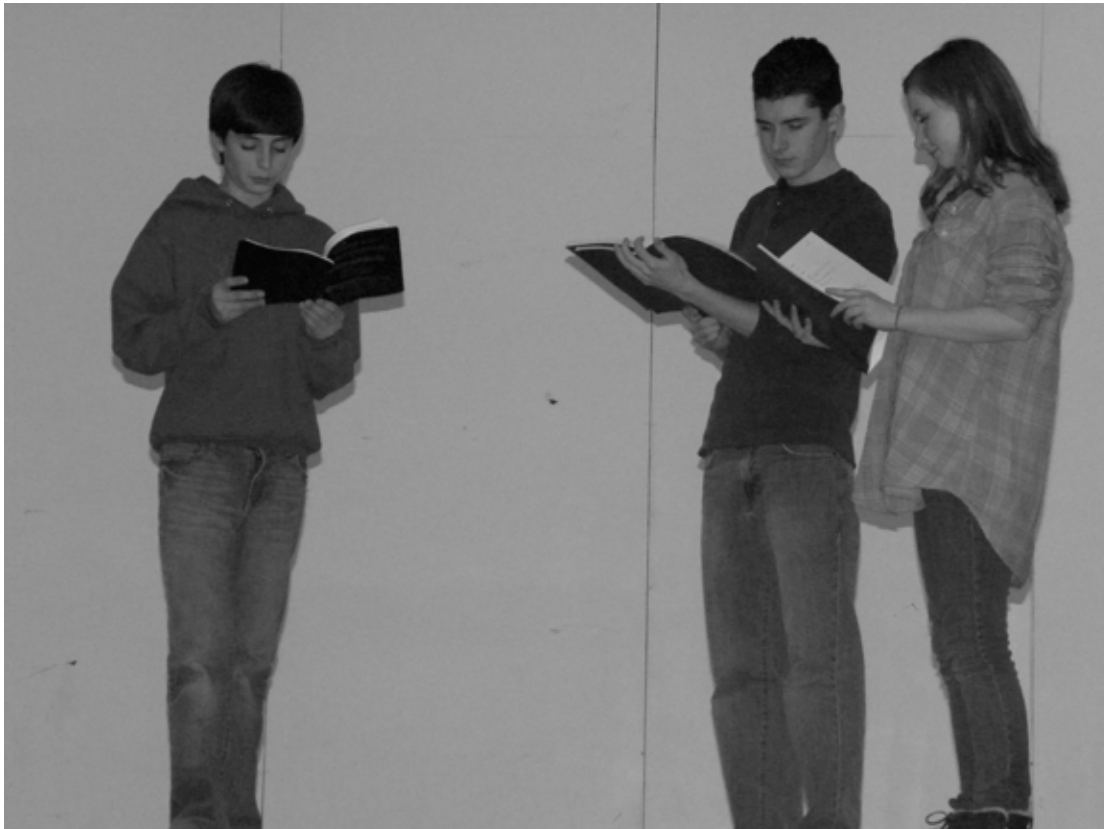
to create the show. They work with a director, music director, choreographer, and dialect coach to develop the many skills necessary for the performance. Then, they

songs shared between singers and the orchestra, and several complex dance numbers. The dancing will be unique with this year's show breaking away from tap dance

ferent styles."

More aspects will come into play closer to the performance as well, such as the technical arts, the set, and costumes. Anyone is welcome to get involved and could also volunteer to help Friends of the Arts with tickets or the bake sale. Talk to the director, Mr. Welch, if interested. Everyone already involved seems to be enjoying the hard work and learning and developing a variety of skills on a daily basis. Sophomore Peter Iwasiwka is experiencing this first-hand: "It's an interesting process to watch music, dance, and acting come together to form one heck of a splendid show." Cast-mate Thalia Rossitter seems to agree, "everything from Mr. Welch's quirky comments to the amazing workout we get dancing makes me love the musical."

The curtains will open on March 4, 5, and 6 at 7pm to present Brigadoon. Everyone is excited to not only show off the results of hours of hard work, but also to introduce the Mt. Greylock community and beyond to the magical and entrancing town of Brigadoon and the entertainment and stories it offers. Director Mr. Welch assures that, "we have a lot of new talent...lots of singing, dancing, and romance." Sophomore cast member Katie Rathburn also insists that, "Hard work and dedication has shaped this musical to become one worth seeing." The show plans to attract a variety of audiences with its romantic and dynamic story and entertainment value. As Mr. Welch puts it, "It's cheaper than the movies, and a lot more fun!"



Alex Krell, Patrick Madden, and Gwen Tunncliffe work on a scene from the upcoming spring musical Brigadoon.

Photo: Katie Rathburn

will add the pit orchestra, conducted by Mr. Moors to add even more dimension. With about eight weeks of rehearsals, students will work through a 113 page script of lines spoken in the Scottish Highland dialect, 31

and moving into Celtic and ballet. Senior cast member Gwendolyn Tunncliffe says of the choreography, "We've stepped up our dancing level, every year we get more complex, and we're integrating many dif-

Youth Group Hopes to Energize Middle School

By HALEY MAHAR

The after-school programs at Mt. Greylock cover a wide range of interests. The bevy of opportunity accounts for almost everything academic to athletic, adding theater, music, community service and even environmental squads. Some student groups, such as the Student Council, are specifically for high school students. Now there is a new group in town that meets Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays after school, and it is focused just on the middle school. It's also like no other group at Mount Greylock.

In a collaboration that started in the beginning of the year between the Williamstown Youth Center and the middle school, the Williamstown Youth Center/Mt Greylock Youth Group is not the average after-school program. It offers "creative, strategic, and outdoor activities plus free space to hang out, do homework, etc." Yet the bright flyers that advertise the Youth Group could not possibly begin to describe the range of opportunity that awaits middle school students. While there are pre-arranged activities open in which to participate, the possibilities are limitless. Any activity from knitting to basketball to origami can be incorporated into the program. The Youth Group also offers middle school students a place to hang out after school and relax. Cooking on most Mondays, found art projects, creative arts and writing, nature walks and season games, or just sitting down to do homework are all options. While video games and Facebook can easily occupy the time after school, the real adventures occur with the Youth Group. As Williamstown Center Youth Group Co-Coordinator Danielle Nicholas says, "This is not a place where we sit down and bore you."

Along with the Youth Center and Greylock working together, another institution

has also been thrown into the mix. Williams College students have volunteered to run two exciting programs. One is based around the game RISK!, a strategy board game where the goal is world domination. Another program is Orienteering, and is highly anticipated by its coordinators. Students will learn to find their way through

start on February 4th. Bernadette Archibald, mother of a 7th grader, says, "Orienteering is fun, challenging, and can be a valuable skill to learn. I believe that once these students hear about it and try it...they will love it!"

The group meets on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays after school and while the

leaving at four, leaving at five, or being picked up somewhere in between.

The Youth Group has had somewhat of a slow start, but hopes for the group are still high. Co-Coordinator Danielle Nicholas has been working with Youth Center Director David Rempell and is very excited about the program, saying "When you go to school for seven hours a day, you really need an energy outlet." The group is a chance for middle school students to do exactly that; relax after a long day of sitting in the classroom. They have the option to go outside, work on an art project, bake cookies, or just relax. Once the group really gets up and running, there are ideas for even greater improvements to the program. With Williams students acting as mentors, the hope is that the Youth Group can host specific programs. For example, one mentor may lead a cooking section while another mentor is in charge of a soccer block and yet another teaches karate. Possibilities are, as Nicholas says, "Anything students want to bring to the table."

As the program is run through the Williamstown Youth Center as well as the school, a \$50 dollar registration fee covers all of the activities for each term. The fee allows students to come as often as they would like. However, for families that need it, financial aid and installments are also offered. The fee is flexible to the capability of each family, and adjustments can be arranged through David Rempell, the Youth Center Director. As Nicholas says, "If a student wants to be here, they can come."

In addition to middle school participants, the Youth Group is also open to high school volunteers, making the program accessible to a range of ages. From the home base of the Foods Lab and beyond, the collaboration is creating unique a opportunity for anyone who chooses to participate.



Students and instructors work together at the new Youth Center at Mount Greylock.

Photo: Katie Rathburn

the woods using a compass and a map, participate in activities like scavenger hunts, and enjoy the nature around the school. The program will be in the good hands of a professional Orienteer who has competed in championships all over the world and has gear that will really allow the program to take off. The Orienteering program will

program goes until 5 p.m., students are encouraged to drop in whenever fits into their schedules. Since after-school tutoring is on the same days, homework can be attended to with the aid of Williams students before adventuring outside with the Orienteering group. The schedule is as flexible as students need it to be, whether that means

Iris, Continued From Page 2

that it was appropriate.” There was a ban on all swear words, and pieces were edited very carefully for grammar and spelling.

Sam Shuker-Haines, one of the student’s involved in *Iris*, said that in the new magazine, possibly offensive material would be examined “on a case-by-case basis. People should send in their work in the style they think best tells the story, and if it’s too much, we’ll work with people to edit it.” The board of editors for the new magazine is entirely democratic, although Ms. Costley said she expected to assign a single student editor next year.

Ms. Ames was delighted to hear that the Mt. Greylock literary magazine would be back in business. “I hope a lot of people join in,” she said. “I remember the first time I ... had a poem published,” she said. “It was so exciting to see one of my poems in print.”

Ms. Costley agreed that being published was of great value to young writers: “While [writing is] a personal process, I feel ... it’s

a great thing to share with people, both for the writer and for other people in the world. They’re enriched by other people’s thoughts and the way [other people] put words together.”

Naomi LaChance, another student on *Iris*’s board of editors said that she thinks it is “empowering to see your name in print. And it’s also a good opportunity, because most of your time, you turn [a paper] in and just your teacher sees it, but this is the whole community.” LaChance decided to work on *Iris* because she is interested in the artistry of literature and “the power of words”.

The name *Iris* was chosen for the ideas evoked by its various meanings. The reference to the Greek goddess *Iris* ties the name to the same classical origins as the name Gemini, and fits a literary publication: *Iris*, in the myths, carries the words of the gods to Earth. An iris can also be a flower or a part of the human eye, both of which connect to the visual part of the magazine.

Iris is hoping for photographs, paintings, and drawings to give it more diversity

and make it more compelling to read. Ms. Ames said she hoped that the editors could get enough artistic submissions: “I think it’s great to have artwork along with literature. I think that’s an important element.”

Sarah Robinson, another student working on the magazine, is helping to connect the magazine to the art department. Robinson is a talented artist herself, and agrees that art will be an important part of the publication. “Art’s not just pretty pictures,” she said. “You have to be more observant. Art has many ways. Art can tell a story, or teach people what an actual situation is like...or [express] a person’s feelings.”

Iris is having some difficulties getting enough submissions for its first issue. “We’re still up and coming, and people might still not be really aware of us yet,” said Ms. Costley. The editing team plans to revamp their publicizing efforts with posters in English classes and an event on the social networking system Facebook. Photography teacher Michael Powers and art teacher Jane-Ellen DeSomma are encouraging their pupils to submit work to *Iris*,

and English teachers are working to convince talented students to share their writing. Kellie Houle is offering extra credit to any students who submit.

Ms. Costley is hoping for about twenty pages in *Iris*’s first issue. “We’re still talking to printers and figuring out exactly how much financial support we have from the school,” she said. “The administration has been very supportive.” The magazine will be released in June. Copies are free for anyone who wants one.

Many people expressed the hope that Mt. Greylock students would make full use of the opportunities *Iris* offers. “I would really encourage people to submit,” Ms. Ames said. “You have nothing to lose, and you might get published!”

Submissions can be emailed to irislitmag@gmail.com or printed out and left in the marked manila envelopes in English classrooms. The editors ask that each submission be labeled with a name and email address, but all work will be judged anonymously. The deadline is February 8th, 2010.

SPORTS

Boys’ Hoops

By ALEX WHITE

The Mt. Greylock boys’ basketball team is currently riding a two game winning streak to improve their record to 6-8. The Mounties have five out of their six wins on the road, including the most recent victories over Mt. Everett and McCann on back-to-back nights. Both games featured runs from each side, but in the end the Mounties’ consistency and defense resulted in victory.

Leading the team in scoring are sophomore Mike Geanellis and senior Will Alimonos, who score the majority of their points from behind the arc. Spencer Rioux, Brandon Decelles, and Tyler Picard play big inside the paint, contributing five to ten points a piece per game. Also, three-point threat Hank Barrett gives the bench depth. Complementing the offense are defensive specialists Jason Pilot and Tommy Dils.

Earlier this month, Alimonos’ buzzer beater lifted Greylock over a skilled Monument Mountain team for a much needed South victory. Tough losses to league leader Hoosac and southern division leader Lenox set Greylock back, but they are looking to ride their winning streak to close out the season and edge out a playoff spot. In order to make the playoffs, the team has to go 4-2 against quality opponents St. Joe, a physical Drury team, Monument Mountain, and Lee.



Photo: Katie Rathbun

Girls’ Hoops

By TOM DILS

The Mt. Greylock girls’ basketball team has faced tough competition in the last few weeks and responded. Most notably, the Mounties demolished Hoosac, a team that they had lost to in overtime earlier in the season, by a score of 59-40. Led by Sarah Brink’s 19 points, Annabel Barrett’s 11, and Erin Manner’s 10, the girls gained momentum early and never looked back. This victory pushed the Mounties into second place in the southern division with a record of 4-2 against South opponents. Three days later, the girls faced off against Lee, a team that destroyed them earlier in the season. However, Monday night was different, as the Mounties played excellent defense to hold Lee within ten points until the very end of the contest, which ended in a 51-38 Lee victory. Sarah Brink dropped a season high 22 points with Barrett adding eight of her own. The loss put Greylock at 5-8, but as long as they stay in second in the south, they will make the playoffs.

Besides Brink and the two seniors, Kim Houston has contributed on the offensive end, joining Siri Mason as two of the team’s top defenders. Kaylene Lemme and Susie Shanley add depth and get good minutes off the bench.

The Mounties have been playing well as of late, and they are looking to use the games against Hoosac and Lee as confidence builders so that they can qualify and hopefully make a deep playoff run. Their final games will be incredibly exciting, so show your support as they wrap up their season.

Hockey

By TOM DILS

In Berkshire County hockey this season, two teams have stood out among the rest, those being Mt. Greylock-St. Joe’s co-op and Wachonah. Right now the Mounties stand in a definitive second place with a 7-3-2 record. Their entire season comes down to January 27, when they face Wachonah in the rubber match of their three game season series. Greylock won the first match up 7-4, but lost later in the season by a score of 6-3. The game will give the winner a huge advantage in the quest for the county title.

Greylock’s leading scorer is Andy Budz, with Matt Roach, Jesse Foehl, Gus Colona, as well as Ricky Salvano from St. Joe’s, contributing often. Between the pipes is Andrew Leech, who has proven to be one of the county’s top netminders. Recent wins have come against Drury and Mt. Everett twice, including a 2-1 victory where Leech had 27 saves. The team is playing well, and as Jesse Foehl said, “[We’re] rearing to go as we head into the end of the season.” Let’s see if they can capture the Berkshire County title.

Wrestling

By ALEX WHITE

Mt. Greylock wrestling came into the season as defending Western Mass champs and look to hold onto that title. The signs are looking good that it is within their grasp. The team is 20-2-1 after a solid weekend at the Mike Baker Essex Classic where they placed seventh out of 38 teams. This dominance is also present in Berkshire County where they are currently 4-0. Leading the team are captains Sean Derby-Kilfoyle, wrestling at 125 pounds, Eli Coniglio, 152 pounds, and John Carvalho, 160 pounds.

The lineup is filled with sophomores Dylan Hilchey, 114 pounds, Josh Hadley, 130 pounds, Dylan Walker, 145 pounds, Zach Bontle, 171 pounds, Jake Whalen, 189 pounds, Anthony Carvalho, 171 pounds, and Sean O’Connor, 130 pounds, a future core of grapplers that will be a force to be reckoned with.

Follow the Greylock wrestling team as they continue their pursuit of the Western Mass crown and beyond to States.

Mr. Steel, Continued From Page 1



middle school would teach what they wanted to teach and I would take whatever was left. This meant that I had experience teaching a lot of subjects, I love teaching them all.

Q: Are you originally from the area?

A: Well, I went to Williams but mainly I’m from the Midwest, around Chicago.

Q: From Williams did you stay around here?

A: No. I did a lot of teaching before coming back to Williamstown, because they have such good skiing. I was living in a place where the skiing wasn’t good at all. We had to go too far and I liked Williamstown and I liked Williams.

Q: Downhill or cross-country ski?

A: Downhill. Cross-country is too dangerous.

Boys' and Girls' Nordic Skiing

By LUKE COSTLEY

The tradition of excellence that is Nordic skiing at Mount Greylock continues this year, and although new skiers have stepped into the spotlight, new coaches have pitched in, and new members of the team have begun to flourish, the end result is the same. The



Photo: Katie Rathbun

team has hammered out five consecutive sweeps in the league races, winning both the boy's and girl's varsity competitions each weekend. Although that in its self is an impressive statistic, more astounding still is the team's depth. Regularly, all eight varsity athletes place in the top twenty of the league and on more than one occasion, the first five or six places on junior varsity also are taken by Greylock. All in all, the team boasts a roster of about seventy-five, ranging from seventh graders to seniors.

In some ways, though, the final league races of the season serve as a mere warm-up for the biggest test of the year: the Massachusetts State Championship. Despite winning the past four consecutive titles, the boy's squad is facing a daunting challenge in defending their

crown. In order to do so, captain Jordan Tuboly, sophomore Luke Costley and junior Greg Karabinos will have to have big races, but the keys to victory will lie in the hands of their fourth man. Nate Nurmi, Caleb Pudvar, Josh Harrington, Aaron Taylor or Matt Chueng could step up to fill that void as they have all season long.

The girls' prospect of taking their third straight state title is much less bleak; led by sophomore Mackenzie Hitchcock, they have been invincible in the county and have few obstacles in their way to hinder them from here on out. Behind Hitchcock, Cate Costley has been consistent in second place, Laura Nolan in third, and Haley Mahar, Allegra Robertson or Amy Santella round out the scoring in fourth for the team.

As the year is drawing to a close, look for the Nordic Ski team here at Mount Greylock to continue their winning ways until winter ends and hopefully, by that point, they will have hoisted another pair of state trophies.



Photo: Katie Rathbun

CROSSWORD: "YOU'RE BEING WATCHED"

By BLAIR DILS

ACROSS

- Glare reducer
- Pilsner alternative
- Overnight flight
- John or Ringo
- Bagel spread
- ___ aries, scientific name for domestic sheep
- Diatribes deliverer
- Sticky stuff
- Washing place, in Barcelona
- "___ by land, ..."
- More attractive
- Insect at the bottom of the bottle
- Copper, for one
- "___ of Exploding Mangoes," Mohammed Hanif novel
- Charlotte Bronte heroine
- Menino's title
- Lost concentration
- Shaq is one
- Bread made into chips
- Way kind?
- Occasion for "Auld Lang Syne"
- Long time
- Absorbs (up)
- Help
- Salad choice
- Strunk and White's area of expertise
- Mesoamerican civilization
- French 101 verb
- Piercing site
- Gruel
- Peruvian tourist desti-

- nations
- Oteri, formerly of "SNL"
- Apply brakes fully
- "___ Once, Then Something" – Frost poem
- Make lighter
- Skiing or Boarding starter
- Lennon's wife
- Lee ____, stared in "The Omen"
- Make ____
- ___ Diego
- Dirty look, with "the"

DOWN

- Piercing site
- College football analyst ___ Cook
- Narrow road, with "one"
- Occasionally
- G or C follower
- Jill ___ Conway, author of "The Road from Coorain"
- Pond scum
- Bird on Maine's license plate
- Bk. about Moses's departure from Egypt
- 1987 movie about Enforcement Droids
- Actress Saint and others
- Eats (out)
- The one dilapidated house in the neighborhood
- Middle Ages power, for short
- "The ___ Hey Kid," –

- Willie Mays' nickname
- Prolonged test
- Craving
- Actress West who said "Anything worth doing is worth doing slowly."
- 2009 James Cameron flick
- ___ Angeles
- Enero to Diciembre
- Product not seen during the 2010 Super Bowl, for the first time in 23 years
- 50s actress Charisse
- ___ the line
- Common linker
- Youngest woman to play in a PGA Tour event
- The Scottish Robin Hood, Rob ___
- Get ready, with "on"
- Sushi alternative
- "Get ___ Ya-Ya's Out"—1970 Rolling Stones live album
- Rainey and Joad, for examples
- Type of lens
- Starts the pot
- Scandalous company of 2001
- Admit
- Dirt Devil rival
- Conjunctivitis
- Space ships
- Gaels of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference
- Guitarist Atkins
- Randy Moss and others, for short

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