

## PAYNE-FUL GOODBYES

By REBEKEH PACKER

After eleven years at Mt. Greylock, principal Tim Payne will resign at the end of this school year and take the principal's position at Mt. Anthony Union Middle School in Bennington, VT.

Payne said that the opening at Mt. Anthony is "unique." It will bring him much closer to his home, and principal positions only open up about once every ten years. But Payne also revealed that he is "sad to leave Mt. Greylock. I really love this place."

Payne found it easy to identify what he'll miss most about his job at Mt. Greylock: "Without a doubt, the students at Mt. Greylock are the nicest, most energetic, school-spirited, supportive students I've ever worked with."

Payne's pride in his students came through in his description of last year's senior prank. One morning in May 2011, students and administrators arrived at school to find desks and chairs missing from most of Mt. Greylock's classrooms. The furniture had been mysteriously relocated outside the building—as far away as the old baseball diamond. That morning, Mr. Payne assembled the high school in the cafeteria and employed all the students in grades nine through eleven to move the furniture back into the school.

"I always felt he had a great sense of humor as a principal," said junior Crystal Haynes, and many students that morning admired Payne's willingness to take a joke. In turn, Payne admired "the way students behaved themselves, with no complaining, and we put the school back together in a little over an hour. How cool is this school? I can't think of another high school or middle school that would have said, 'Okay, we're gonna go outside and clean up.'"

"He accepts that we're teenagers," said

senior DJ Ross. "A lot of the kids at this school really respect Mr. Payne because he respects us." English teacher Janen Laidlaw said Payne is "a student's principal... he has always kept the best interests of students in mind." "Mr. Payne is always ready to spend time to get to know each and every one of his students," said senior Sophia Santore. "He's never too busy to say 'Hi,'" added sophomore Heather Tomkowicz.

Senior Wesley Davis said he appreciates how Payne "sits down and jokes around with kids." Davis explained, "I'm a boy scout, and I was under a lot of stress completing a merit badge thing on time. I was off sulking on a bench outside, and he walked up. Turns out, he's a scout too!" Payne certainly makes a point of being friendly and approachable. "I help set the temperature in the building," he said. "How I treat students and how I treat staff is really important."

Sophomore Connor Hadley said, "Mr. Payne is someone who will do anything to please the students. Dying his beard, letting people throw snowballs at him—that's the fun stuff he does to help support the school."

Over his years here, Payne has committed himself to all manner of strange undertakings. He allowed a winning class to choose a color for his beard as part of a can drive; he donned a ski helmet while a student threw snowballs at him as the prize for a raffle. During his first years here as a history teacher, he was required by his class to wear a Britney Spears shirt while teaching. "Bring it!" said Payne, "If it's going to get kids involved, then let's do it." Furthermore, who could forge his annual tradition of wearing a kilt to school?

Payne recalled taking a risk back when he taught at Mt. Anthony High School.

"I made a wager with my class (which I lost) that required me to wear a sundress to school. I did, and I pulled it off," Payne said with a grin. "I thought I was quite striking."

"He has a wonderful sense of humor," said librarian Sarah Henry. Her colleague, Kathy Share, added, "He has the most eclectic reading interests of anyone we've had to do interlibrary loan for. If you want something life-threatening and dismal, in a desert or a sea or the Antarctic, he will read it. He loves those things."

But despite the violence and terror in his favorite books, many at Mt. Greylock depend on Mr. Payne himself for consistency. "His calmness and his evenness makes him very easy to talk to," said English teacher Blair Dils. "He can always approach things with a calm voice and look at things rationally, which I appreciate."

Senior Hayden Barber said, "He's someone that I'll always remember as being cautious, always respecting the students, and watching out for everybody." Latin teacher Marjorie Keeley agrees: "He's a benevolent principal." Haynes adds, "He really cares about the students and us being successful."

Payne's respect for students extends also to the faculty, which he describes as fierce. "A vast majority of them are so committed to this building, putting in hours not only in their teaching but also in the activities they do, but they're also really fierce about their subjects."

Payne wants to reinforce for the community that Mt. Greylock "does amazing things." He remarks that, "This school has an amazing reputation throughout the Berkshires—throughout the state, really—and while we do

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## 3 in 650: An Interview with George Dilthey, Harrison Dilthey and Jenna Terio

By EMILY KAEGI



Photo courtesy of George Dilthey

Many Greylock students spend April break catching up on sleep, working hard at sports practices, touring colleges, playing Xbox, soaking up the sun on a beach and studying for upcoming AP exams. Senior George Dilthey and sophomores Jenna Terio and Harrison Dilthey spent their vacation differently than most. The three of them took a trip to Desab, Haiti, a village near the city Cabaret, to help kids less fortunate than themselves.

Q: Whose idea was it to go to Haiti?

George: I have been before. My older brother had gone two years ago and I went with him last year on his second trip. So this year I brought these two on my second trip.

Q: Did you go with an organization?

Jenna: Yes, The COTY [Church Outreach to Youth] Center in North Adams.

Q: What did you do in Haiti?

George: This time we went we taught kids. It was during the school year so in the compound there was a school.

Harrison: I was part of a Kindergarten class of probably six to ten-year-olds. We were teaching the alphabet in English and Creole [Haitians' native language] just so they could make the connection. We also taught numbers and colors. We worked with LEGOs too.

George: I was teaching older kids some basic science principles; some biology and physics.

Jenna: I taught a little bit younger kids than George, third grade. We were teaching them about weather and natural disasters and the human body. Just some common knowledge they should know.

Q: Are their permanent teachers at this school?

George: Yes. One of the coolest things for me was not only were we teaching the kids, but we were also teaching the teachers how to teach the kids. It was like a big classroom full of older kids and adults, and some of the translators we had. Even the translators were learning and getting excited about the things.

Q: Did this trip have any affects on you?

Jenna: Definitely. I think you just realize that we are such a sheltered society in America. We are so safe and have all these things that we take for granted. When you go over to Haiti you see these kids that just enjoy life and do whatever they want, basically. They run around, they play with rocks. They don't really have toys but they still enjoy life. Here, where all the kids are like, "I want this!" they can't have fun with just anything.

George: I think for me the coolest thing was that despite them having so little, they are very happy and are some of the happiest kids I've seen in a while.

Q: George, this being your second time, what was it like going back?

George: The coolest thing was that people remembered me. Both the kids and the adults. They'd come up and go, "Oh, I remember you!" It was fun to see that. I'm definitely looking forward to going again

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## CLASS ELECTIONS

By KELSEY HEBERT

This year, class elections were held on April 26 and voting and results were announced on April 27. Every year around this time, elections are held to choose the new officers and student council members that will represent each grade in the following year. Elections are run by the current student council, which organizes and administers voting, and then calculates and reports results.

Students at Mt. Greylock can run for one of five positions: class president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, or as a student council representative. In addition to these, three students ran for school council (a body of three students, three parents, and three faculty members which works to improve the school). A class president is in charge of anything pertaining to his/her class such as fundraising for senior week, setting up class dues and other similar duties. The vice president aids the president with these jobs and helps to make sure everything goes smoothly. The treasurer is in charge of a class's money (such as class dues) and gives advice to the other officers about fundraisers and the budget. The secretary takes notes during meetings and keeps track of dates for events and so forth. Student council consists of five students from each grade. The council as a whole, along with the administration, makes changes within the school. It also serves

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## A CLASSICAL EXPERIENCE

Photo: Aaron Ziemer



Charlie Sutter, Ned Kleiner and Alex Cheung, Mt. Greylock JCL members, participate in the chariot race at this year's State Convention.

By WILL WALTER

You are racing down the grass track, sitting in a miniature wooden chariot, looking behind you every ten feet to see where the competition is. The finish line is ahead, just 50 more yards, now forty, thirty, twenty... you've got ten yards to the finish line... and then your friend who is pulling you trips and falls, and you lose the race by about five feet. Instead of groans and disappointment, you break out

in hysterics, because this is no big contest, it is the annual Massachusetts JCL Convention.

On Friday, April 27th, members of the Mt. Greylock Junior Classical League converged on a coach bus and drove over four hours to Barnstable High School in Hyannis, Massachusetts, home of the 57th

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## TACO TRUCK

Food connoisseurs Alina Fein and Grace Singleton review the local Taco Truck.

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## SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Dr. Jennifer Michaels visits Greylock to talk about the dangers of substance abuse.

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## SENIORITIS

Evi Mahon investigates the arrival of a certain mythical disease at Greylock.

See Page 4.

## BOGGLER

Our puzzlemaster is at it again with a new type of puzzle this month.

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## ELECTIONS

Photo: Jonah Majumder



Pictured above, tenth graders gather in the auditorium and answer questions following speeches.

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as the “bridge” between the students and the administration. One recent outcome for which the student council was responsible was the introduction of the school store. In order to run for a position on the student council or as a class officer, a student must obtain twenty-five signatures from classmates and write a short speech to deliver to his/her class. After the candidates have

spoken, students vote during their lunch periods. Voting is completely confidential, and ballots are folded and put into a box for the student council to count later. This year there was an unusual occurrence in the race for tenth grade student council positions. Candidates Emily Rudd and Aaron Ziemer were exactly tied after voting had ended. The student council was forced to administer another election only between the two the next day. ■■

This year’s results are listed below, by current grade level. Elected students will assume their positions this fall.

### 8th Grade

President: Greta Savitsky  
 Vice President: Noah Savage  
 Treasurer: Dan Packer  
 Secretary: Lilly Crolius  
 Student Council: Katie Parks, Ian Culnane, Dan Finnegan, Petrea Manello and Cal Filson

### 9th Grade

President: Andrew Whitaker  
 Vice President: Alex Harrington  
 Treasurer: Celia Bote  
 Secretary: Sam MacWhinnie  
 Student Council: Carter Stripp, Miranda Dils, Jake Kobrin, Jake Foehl and Taylor Carlough

### 10th Grade

President: Emily Kaegi  
 Vice President: Zavi Sheldon  
 Treasurer: Heather Tomkowicz  
 Secretary: Pearl Sutter  
 Student Council: Niko Santore, Emily Rudd, Caleb Raymond, Evelyn Mahon and Tom Guettler

### 11th Grade

President: Margot Besnard  
 Vice President: Kat Chenail  
 Treasurer: Sophia Dastoli  
 Secretary: Rohan Shastri  
 Student Council: Hank Barrett, Jonah Majumder, Alex White, Nathan Majumder and Ben Krant

### School Council Student Representatives:

Caleb Raymond, Edward Gebara and Miranda Park

## 3 in 650

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in the future.

Q: Jenna and Harrison, would you go again?

Jenna: I’m going next year.

Harrison: I’m going next year.

Q: Wow, so is it an annual trip?

Jenna: There’s more! There’s February-

George: The group has gone ten times a year for the past thirty years.

Jenna: College students and adults go too.

Harrison: The high school trips are February, April and June.

Q: Is the group made up of all kids from this area?

George: Yeah, usually it’s Berkshire county, but this time we started branching out and I brought a couple friends from Boston.

Jenna: It is usually Berkshire kids: students from Greylock, Drury, Hoosac, Lee.

Q: Are you going to try to encourage your friends to come along next time?

Jenna: Kiara Garofalo already wants to go. She’s ready to fundraise and is like, “Where do I sign up?!” So that will be good.

Q: So you would encourage people to come?

Harrison: Yes.

Jenna: I mean, I had no idea it was going to be as fun as it was.

George: The thing about the group we went with is that over the years they’ve built up this complex where they go every time. It’s a very controlled and safe environment; everything you eat is controlled, everything you drink is filtered.

Jenna: I never felt endangered.

George: You are never not safe.

Q: George and Harrison are brothers, but Jenna, did your family have any concerns about you going?

Jenna: Well my mom had some concerns about what illnesses I might contract, but she talked to George and Harrison’s parents and they convinced her that it’s a great experience to be a part of.

Q: What is it like going on a trip like this with your sibling?

Harrison: I thought we would be much more attached to each other, but really we were just friends with everyone else.

The whole group was friends together. We didn’t really fight that much, or as much as I thought we would.

Jenna: George was really supportive when Harrison got sick.

Q: You got sick?

Harrison: Yeah, I got sick at one point. Probably from heat stroke. We went on a pretty long hike and I was feeling pretty bad.

Q: Once you got sick did they bring you to a hospital?

Harrison: It was just a kind of stomach bug so I was just rested. I threw up once pretty bad but just drank Gatorade to rehydrate. Nothing really serious.

Q: Is the country still feeling the affects of 2011 earthquake?

George: Yes, especially in Port-au-Prince (the capital) where we fly into. In Port-au-Prince you can see a lot of the damage. There’s less the farther out you go, but you can see rubble. We drove past the capital which has just fallen and it’s pretty incredible.

Harrison: There are surprisingly a lot of permanent houses that have been rebuilt in the hills right behind Port-au-Prince. So they are definitely making progress, which is promising.

Q: George, since you are going off to college next year, would you ever consider the Peace Corp?

George: Yeah, but this group also takes adult groups and college groups and medical groups. So I’ll likely go with this group again because I know it and I’m familiar with it. In the future I’m looking forward to the Peace Corp. and other bigger things like that.

Q: Final question, if you could have any superpower what would it be?

Harrison: Flying would be awesome.

George: I think I’d stop time.

Jenna: I’d read people’s minds.

If you have any other questions or want more information, talk to Jenna, Harrison or George.

Interview has been edited and condensed. To nominate a student for 1 in 650, please contact the editors at [mountgreylockecho@gmail.com](mailto:mountgreylockecho@gmail.com). ■■

The 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 student writers, photographers, artists, and editors. Any Mt. Greylock student is welcome to submit material or join the Echo staff.

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## The Taco Truck Returns

By ALINA FEIN & GRACE SINGLETON

The arrival of spring marks the return of El Conejo Corredo. Otherwise known as the "taco truck," the mythical, vibrant vehicle returned to the Williamstown culinary scene on April 5th. Although food trucks' presence in the United States was once generally limited to larger cities, the concept has gained popularity in recent years and spread to many rural areas. El Conejo's existence marks the official arrival of the food truck fad in Williamstown.

The brainchild of Brian Cole, Williams '11, the truck has a menu made up of familiar Mexican food favorites. El Conejo offers tacos, burritos and quesadillas, each with a choice of either steak, chicken or vegetables as a primary filling. Additional toppings such as beans, cheese, rice, sour cream and guacamole complement the meat or vegetables, combining to produce a memorable experience for one's taste buds. A selection of beverages, from basic sodas like Coke to fruity Jarrito beverages, is available to customers. Reasonable prices—\$6 for a burrito or quesadilla and \$1 to \$2 for a taco—combined with extremely generous

portion sizes and high quality flavor make the taco truck an attractive lunch option for anyone who happens to be on Spring Street between 11am and 2pm, Tuesday through Saturday.

Cole explained his decision to open the truck: "I didn't have anything else I wanted to do. A lot of my friends were going into consulting, banking and teaching in the big cities, but I hadn't figured out what I was passionate about yet... And I grew up in California, so I was sort of familiar with taco trucks. They're becoming all the rage now and people aren't scared of them like they used to be."

Under an agreement with Hobson's Choice, another Williamstown eating establishment, Cole uses Hobson's Choice's kitchen to prepare the food that is later served from the truck. The actual serving of food and operation of the truck involve, in addition to Cole, his friend Lance who works the window, Bob Tater who helps in the kitchen, and his girlfriend Beth who helps on the weekends.

The long lines and frequent crowding that

*Continued on Page 4.*

*If you're on Spring Street from 11 to 2 on Tuesday through Saturday, pick up a burrito or a taco from the Taco Truck!*

*Photo: Alina Fein*



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## PAYNE RESIGNS

*Continued from Page 1.* I'm not going to be here to miss him."

have things we need to work on, I would ask that the people of our community not lose sight of the fact that they have a really great school now. Come at it with an eye of, "This is what we could do that will make it even better."

When Payne first applied for a position at Mt. Greylock in 2001, history teacher Tom Ostheimer was on the search committee, which chose "overwhelmingly" to hire him. Payne spent two years as a history teacher before budget issues led him to apply for an assistant principal position. Ostheimer called Payne "a very capable administrator" and said, "He's seen the school through some difficult times and has managed things very well, and I think we are on a good track now."

"Mr. Payne has always been a pleasure to work with," said Share, and Henry added, "We wish him the best. He's going to be great." Davis, who is graduating this year, said, "I'm going to miss him, even though

Dils said he is "definitely sad that he's going to be moving on, but excited that he has a great opportunity in Bennington in the community that he's a part of."

Payne expects "new challenges" at Mt. Anthony Union Middle School, which struggles with issues of poverty and meeting state testing requirements, but he is excited to shorten his daily commute through Pownal and Williamstown. "I have dreams that I could actually ride my bicycle to work," he said.

Payne's last day at Mt. Greylock will be June 30, and he will start in Bennington

on July 1. Payne wants to thank the community, the Greylock faculty, and "all the students that have gone through this building in the time that I've been here. I have learned so much, and I feel so much better equipped to go forward. I'm very grateful for what Mt. Greylock has given me, and hopefully I've made a contribution to make this a better place for kids coming through the door." ■■

**"Mr. Payne has always been a pleasure to work with. We wish him the best. He's going to be great," said librarians Kathy Share and Sarah Henry.**

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# COMMUNITY/OPINION

## DR. MICHAELS SPEAKS ABOUT SUBSTANCE ABUSE

By ZAVI SHELDON

On April 4th, Dr. Jennifer Michaels visited Mount Greylock to educate students about the effects of drugs and alcohol on the teenage brain. She spoke to students of all ages as well as the faculty and staff during the school day, and then to parents that evening. The visit was made possible by the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, and more specifically, the nb21 project, which aims to reduce underage drinking in the community.

The presentation gave students and adults information about the mental, physical, and social effects of teenage drug and alcohol abuse. Dr. Michaels shared that the brain is not fully developed until about twenty-five years of age, which means it is easily damaged by substance abuse before that point. Alcohol abuse among high schoolers can cause memory loss, which can translate to a worsened performance in school.

Michaels has been educating people about teens and addiction for over ten years in schools all throughout Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island. She is an assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts Medical School as well as the medical director of the Brien Center, the largest provider of mental health and substance abuse services in the Berkshires. As a psychologist specializing in addiction, she says that her grandfather's death in a car accident caused by a drunk driver contributed to her interest in the subject.

Student reactions to the presentation were varied. Sophomore Ryan Kuhn said that he felt it provided good information, but that the presentation was geared towards younger audiences, who know less about drugs and alcohol than do to-

day's high schoolers. He went on to say, as did many other students, that even if the presentation itself was not effective, it started many conversations about substance abuse in health, English and even history classes. Freshman Sara Rudd said that she thought the presentation engaged those interested, but not those who weren't. Another freshman, Nick Darrow, felt that it would have been better if given by a familiar figure, such as a health teacher, making it more of a two-sided conversation.

The presentation was, however, certainly relevant, as according to statistics from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), approximately five thousand people under the age of twenty-one die of causes directly and indirectly related to underage drinking every year. An annual survey of American teenagers called Monitoring the Future finds that three-fourths of seniors, two-thirds of sophomores, and two-fifths of eighth graders have consumed alcohol. One of the biggest problems with underage drinking is that young people tend to drink intensively, a practice called binge drinking. Additionally, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), which collects information from student in grades nine through twelve, reports that in 2009, thirty-seven percent of high schoolers admitted to using marijuana at least once in their lives.

These statistics show the importance of educating students and the adults in their lives about the risks and effects of substance abuse. "My goal in giving these presentations is to help [teenagers] understand up-to-date science, dispel myths and provide the tools they need to make good decisions," says Dr. Michaels. ■



Photo: Jonah Majumder

Dr. Jennifer Michaels speaks to students at Mt. Greylock about the importance of "naturally turning on one's brain reward center."

## Taco Truck

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characterize El Conejo's business days demonstrate the novelty that the truck brings to Williamstown. Cole reports that the chicken burrito is the most popular item on his menu, but we recommend you

take advantage of the multiple combinations available thanks to three different kinds of salsa and many fillings. The exquisite flavor in the tacos, burritos, and quesadillas combined with the handsome devils who work the window make the taco truck an amazing experience for ALL the senses.

## JCL CONVENTION

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annual Mass JCL Convention. Over the course of a weekend, the students participated in many contests including foot races, a family eud, karaoke, a Latin acting contest, talent shows, chariot races, art contests and much, much more.

Twenty to thirty schools partake in the event every year, taking advantage of opportunities to make new friends through their love for Latin. Sophomore JCL member Katelin Marchand pro-

fesses: "[The convention] is really fun, and it is a great way to make friends because everyone likes Latin. And the activities are really fun, too."

Another important sector of the meeting is the elections. Different people run for state board, and elections are held. The winning candidate is then granted the privilege of organizing the next year's convention. It is always a lot of work, but like this year's, it becomes an incredible event when done right.

The JCLers stayed in the local

Holiday Inn on Friday and Saturday night and left on Sunday. One highlight of the Latin experience was the toga parade. All the schools come up with their own cheers, and they march around the school in togas. "It was just... awesome," said Marchand when asked about the event. "It was my favorite part." When asked what his favorite facet of the annual JCL Convention was, sophomore Aaron Ziemer replied, "Just seeing the people: nowhere else will you find the same concentration of sheer Latin awesomeness." ■

## A LIGHTER TAKE ON AN ANNUAL AILMENT

By EVI MAHON

As the end of the school year comes, so do feelings of procrastination and phrases such as, "I'll do that later." Experts say these feelings are symptoms of a disease prevalent among twelfth graders: the Senioritis epidemic is plaguing us once again.

Senioritis (Ignavus Discipulis) was discovered in a small high school lab by a group of seniors in 1947. Unfortunately, the students had already contracted the virus, and when asked by a teacher to document their results and write up a lab report, the leader of the group said, "Well, I could, but I'm already into Columbia University, so I don't really care." Hence, the true makeup of the virus was lost to the ages.

The virus comes back every spring, infecting high school seniors across the nation and making it difficult for teachers to get any work at all out of their students. "Junior year I worked really hard, and it was fine, and I got good grades," says senior Karl Mick. "Then I got to senior year and I realized that I only had a year left and most of my teachers didn't really care how much work I did, so I didn't do any work."

On school work, senior (infected with late onset senioritis) Maggie Crane said, "I don't do that anymore. I don't speak unless I have to." Many seniors are still attempting to do work, although they know it is futile. Even previously excellent students have been plagued by this awful disease. Logan Wilson notes, "I'm still telling myself I should do it, but I don't." Even Rebekah Packer, a once great student, finds herself slacking off. "Since I was in middle school I've been a very good student. I get straight A's and I used to work really hard just for the sake of learning," says Packer.

For many years, the top scientists in senioritis research have been trying to pinpoint the moment of senioritis infection. They have narrowed it down to two particular windows, which both seem to coincide with the arrival of college acceptance letters. "The whole college process completely changed the focus so that now everything is about college," noted Packer. "After I got into college, everything stopped mattering. That goes beyond all my school work to everything else in my life. I no longer want to do anything.

It's a disease. I didn't realize it's a disease."

Yet there are a few who have continued to do work and have developed a sort of immunity towards senioritis. Charlie Sutter, a survivor of the current plague, says, "I have done all my work and I'm still in overdrive. I'm not gonna lie. I don't have time for senioritis. It's awful."

Even those affected believe that senioritis is a terrible disease. Hallie Walker declares, "It's detrimental to my school work. It's always mentioned in a joking format is actually quite a serious disease. It's very harmful to teacher-student relationships. It's not a good thing."

If you or someone you know is experiencing symptoms such as loss of motivation, exorbitant time spent wandering the halls, an addiction to playing Draw Something or Temple Run during class, chronic late arrivals to school due to Dunkin Donuts, a tendency to miss student council meetings, prolonged laziness, procrastination, or absenteeism, please contact your schoolwork provider, as these may very well be symptoms of senioritis. ■

## GREYLOCK AFTER HOURS

By KATELIN MARCHAND

For five Tuesdays Mt. Greylock had to stay open until eight o'clock. You may be wondering: could it be for a special play rehearsal? Late-night tutoring? The Moby Dick read-a-thon spread out across five nights? End-of-the-season sports banquets? Five orchestra concerts? If you were to guess any of those above options, you would be wrong. The activity that went on at Greylock from 6:00 to 8:00 on Tuesdays was an SAT Class!

This course was offered by English teacher Matthew Fisher and math teacher Robert Thistle. The first SAT preparatory class was held on March 31st, bringing in a crowd of thirty to forty high school students, and the concluding session was held on May 1st. During each class, students spent the first hour in either math or English, and then switched to the other subject

for the following hour. Both Fisher and Thistle have experience teaching SAT classes, which prompted them to start this one. Thistle started an SAT course at Pittsfield High School, while Fisher taught SAT test-taking skills as part of a curriculum when he was teaching in New York City. "It's great to be able to make an affordable alternative for students," said Thistle. This class, as opposed to other SAT classes, was inexpensive, costing only seventy-five dollars, which also included Kaplan's book SAT Strategies, Practice, and Review.

In the math portion of the class, Thistle reviewed any homework questions assigned the previous week that had given students difficulty, and then had them complete a practice test in the remaining time. Fisher took a different approach, focusing on strategies. During his portion

of the course, students learned many new ways to tackle all types of English questions, both reading the book and doing practice problems. Fisher gave students new insight into the SAT test so that they would be able to detect subtle clues as to the correct answers.

These strategies aided students in learning the ins and outs of the SAT. "The English was really helpful," sophomore Nate Taskin commented. Another sophomore, Emily Kaegi, also reflected positively on her experience. "Throughout the five weeks I learned so much. I think that this class will improve my SAT scores." Kaegi was one of many students who expected a rise in scores, undoubtedly a tribute to Fisher and Thistle's success. Students who missed out can most likely expect to see another similar class next year. ■

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## SOFTBALL

By ALEX WHITE

A potent lineup backed by stellar pitching has placed the Mt. Greylock softball team in excellent position for a berth in the Western Mass tournament. With an 8-3 record in the tough North Division, the Mounties have placed themselves in third place in the North, right behind Pittsfield and Drury.

Senior captain Caitie Benoit leads the team with an astounding .640 batting average. She has managed to tally up four homeruns, fifteen runs batted in and twenty-one runs scored. With five other players hitting over .300, the widely accepted baseline for an impressive batting average, the Mounties' offense is based around getting runners on base and efficiently getting them around the base paths.

To balance the attack, sophomore pitcher Heather Tomkowicz has done her best 'Cy Young' impersonation, posting a 1.96 earned run average and an 8-2 record on the mound.

This includes a five strikeout performance against a league leading PHS team in which she gave up two runs, with only one of them being earned. The Mounties jumped on the Generals from the very first inning as captains Benoit and Michaela DiNicola collected hits to start off the game. Sophomore Kendall Frye ultimately hit a base-clearing double to put the Mounties up 4-0. The team never looked back from there, going on to win 9-2. Defensively, the Mounties came up big when they needed it and shut down any hope PHS had of a comeback. Benoit and DiNicola both went 3-for-4 at the plate and, characteristically, led the team both on the field and in the dugout.

With a challenging schedule—upcoming rematches with PHS and Drury—still to come, the season is far from over, but the Mounties look to continue their high level of play and earn a high seed for the tournament. ■■



Mounties' ace Heather Tomkowicz delivers a pitch in a recent game versus Hoosac.

## BOYS LACROSSE

By ROHAN SHASTRI

The Mt. Greylock boys lacrosse team is off to another fantastic start this season, opening with an undefeated 5-0 record in the county and currently sporting an eight-game winning streak. Their overall record, including out of league matches, is an unprecedented 10-1, with their sole loss against Brattleboro Union in a closely contested game. The majority of the Mounties' games have had them scoring high in the double digits and often limiting the other teams to a miniscule number of goals. They have clearly established their dominance in the league with scores such as 23-1 and 21-0, proving that they are the team to beat. Mt. Greylock names litter the stat sheets of the county, in both scoring and assists. Michael McCormack is second in the county with 34 goals. Noah Kelly follows with 28 goals, while Ethan Ryan and Brett McCormack fill in two more spots with 26 and 21 goals, respectively. The leader board for assists also features three Greylock players out of the top five, with Michael McCormack at number one, Brett McCormack following close behind and finally Ethan Ryan at number five. Other players such as Kent Hanson, Hank Barrett, and goalkeeper Pat Malloy have made an immense difference for the team, putting in equally important efforts in all of the team's wins.

The offense for Mt. Greylock has been phenomenal again this year. As Coach Jeff Stripp offers, "Our offense likes to share the ball a lot...when that is happening we're in pretty good shape and the boys love it. It makes it a little frustrating for defenses as far as how and who you defend." Greylock has clearly put on a show against opponent's defenses, exploiting weaknesses and applying relentless pressure. Part of their offensive success is due to their defensive strength as well, where players like Anthony Mazzeo and Niko Santore hold the zone. Hardly allowing players to get by or even attempt a shot, the defense has proved too much for other teams.

The Greylock Lacrosse team is off to what could be yet another county championship, and now a run deep into Western Mass. In its first year as a varsity sport, the team is certainly setting an elite precedent for years to come. ■■

## TRACK & FIELD

By JAKE FOEHL

### BOYS

On the boys' side, the season began with a win against Drury and a loss to Pittsfield on a dreary day in Williamstown. Last year's campaign ended with a trip to Western Mass where the team saw good individual results but no championship. The team did not graduate many seniors from last year's squad but they did lose two key performers, Matt Cheung and Josh Harrington. Still, the Mounties will continue to have a strong team.

This year, they are led by senior captains Nate Bishop, Quentin Anderson, and Matt Belouin with four other seniors Logan Wilson, Sean O'Connor, Josh Hadley, and Aaron Taylor. Following them is junior Will Kirby—one of the top distance runners. This winter's basketball star Tyrell Thomas also joined the team this year as a sprinter and a long jumper. With little practice, Thomas placed highly in his first meet events and won the long jump by a long shot. Also sprinting for Mt. Greylock are freshmen Ryan Benoit and Mark Messina.

All members of the team are working hard and training to peak at the end of the season in order to qualify as many athletes as possible for the Western Mass meet. If maximum effort and intensity are kept up throughout the entire season, there is no reason not to think that this year's team can be a competitive force in and out of the county. ■■

*Left: Senior distance runner Logan Wilson has been a key member of this year's boys track team.*



### GIRLS

The season for the Mount Greylock girls track and field team kicked off on Friday, April 27 when they opened up with a win against Pittsfield at the Williams College track. The girls team is coming off an undefeated 2011 season that culminated in another Division Two Western Mass Championship. And not only did they win Western Mass, but they also sent their '4 by 100' relay team to the state meet. The relay team placed third amongst tough competition from the eastern parts of the state.

Coach Brian Gill is confident that, this year, his team can once again be highly competitive in Berkshire County as well as in Western Mass. "Our toughest opponents this year will be Pittsfield and Wahconah, and we already beat Pittsfield so we should be highly competitive," Gill said.

The girls are led this year by captains Kaylene Lemme and Susie Shanley, who each participate in multiple track and field events that range from the mile to the javelin throw. This year, six seniors on the team will have

a chance to complete a six-year run without a single Berkshire County loss. Many of the seniors have also been members of the cross country and nordic skiing teams and carry the winning mentality from season to season. They will be helped by junior Alex Majetich running sprints and juniors Kat Chenail and Stephanie Adamczyk in distance events. Some sophomores and freshmen will also play key roles on this year's team, which is in position to make another run at Western Mass. ■■

## GIRLS LACROSSE

By BEN KRANT

In a difficult rebuilding year, the Mt. Greylock girls lacrosse team has had impressive success. The team graduated four key starters last year: Siri Mason, Kim Houston, Kristina Chesney and Christina Alayon. The loss of these key members has passed the important starting roles to many younger, less experienced players. Despite their lack of experience, many of these younger players have stepped up. Said senior captain Annie Flynn, "We have a pretty young team. Many of these girls are new to the sport, but some have made serious progress." Flynn and Kristina Wadsworth, both seniors, have taken up the role of being captains and mentoring the younger, less experienced varsity members.

The Mount Greylock girls currently have three wins and three losses, placing them third in Berkshire County. Flynn has 32 goals, the second most by any individual in all of Berkshire County. The new varsity program is coached by Coach Lindsey Von Holtz. Coach Von Holtz was once herself quite a lacrosse player and selflessly took up the position. "Coach Von Holtz is very nice and very cool. She knows a lot of new drills and skill building activities that have really helped the team," said Flynn. Look for these Mountie girls to excel in the last half of the year as they strengthen their bonds as a team. ■■

# TUNNEL CITY COFFEE

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## TENNIS

### BOYS

By BEN KRANT

The Mt. Greylock boys tennis team has started the year with a very impressive record. The team has strength in depth, as it did not graduate a single senior last year. The Greylock boys have an excellent record with nine wins and only two losses. Monument Mountain handed Greylock a big loss in a nailbiter earlier this season, in a match where each individual match had the potential to go either way. Monument may have won, but expect the Mounties to avenge this loss later on in the season.

Captains Jonah Majumder and Jesse Foehl lead the team. Said Foehl, "We're looking to build off last year's success and really make an impact at Western Mass." Junior captain Jonah Majumder hopes to "first, focus on

the regular season and play as well as possible, and then see what happens when we reach the ultimate goal of Western Mass." Both captains agree that the team is looking to secure a top-five Western Mass seed. "One of the best things is that while we may not have one of the best players in the county like other teams, we do have a lot of depth at positions like third singles and second doubles. That's the key to our success," said Jonah Majumder. Majumder plays first singles while Jake Foehl and Nyein Soe rotate in the second and third positions. Jesse Foehl and Will Nowlan play at the first doubles position. Alex White, Nathan Majumder and John Karabinos have all played in the second doubles pairing at one time or another.

The team's most recent match against Lenox came down to the second doubles match. After the Mounties and Millionaires split the first four matches, White and Karabinos played down to the wire and won in a super

tiebreaker. The win put the team in contention for the top spot in Berkshire County.

One unique aspect of this Greylock team is the diversity in age of the varsity lineup. "There's a pretty big mix of age groups on the team. Yet I believe this helps our chemistry. Everyone respects and challenges each other, which helps everyone to improve," said Foehl. The team has some big matches coming up, including a home match against Lenox, on May 24th, where they hope to have a great crowd turnout. ■■

### GIRLS

By ERIC HIRSCH

Off and running with a 6-3 overall record and a 4-3 record in league play, the Greylock girls tennis team is poised to make a deep playoff run.

Senior Sophia Santore said, "Our goal

heading into the postseason is to win Western Mass. We've lost in the semis 3 years in a row now." The Mounties, who are currently in the middle of the pack in Berkshire County, thrive on senior leadership. The four seniors in the rotation are Santore, Katie Swoap, Laura Nolan, and Natalia Renzi. They have been leaders throughout their careers and much of the team's improvement can be attributed to their efforts. Juniors Margot Besnard and Alexandra DeVeaux have also been essential new additions to the team.

While the doubles pairings have proved to be dominant, the Mounties' singles players have been banged up a bit due to missing players. The girls have six remaining matches in the regular season, which is hopefully enough time for the team to prepare to make a run at a championship. The members of the team certainly think they have good chance. They'll just have to make sure they're focused when it counts. ■■

## DR. KOALA'S BOGGLERS

### STUDENT DOWNFALL

A	D	E	N
B	N	D	I
E	S	M	N
S	S	E	T

- B\_\_\_\_\_ (5) - 1 pt.
- B\_\_\_\_\_ (5) - 1 pt.
- D\_\_\_\_\_ (5) - 1 pt.
- D\_\_\_\_\_ (5) - 1 pt.
- M\_\_\_\_\_ (5) - 1 pt.
- A\_\_\_\_\_ (6) - 2 pts.
- B\_\_\_\_\_ (6) - 2 pts.
- M\_\_\_\_\_ (6) - 2 pts.
- M\_\_\_\_\_ (6) - 2 pts.
- B\_\_\_\_\_ (7) - 3 pts.

16-Letter Bonus Word (12 pts.):

\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL POINTS: \_\_\_\_ out of 28

### MR. MONEYBAGS

I	L	L	O
M	I	N	I
T	U	E	A
L	M	R	I

- L\_\_\_\_\_ (5) - 1 pt.
- L\_\_\_\_\_ (5) - 1 pt.
- L\_\_\_\_\_ (5) - 1 pt.
- M\_\_\_\_\_ (5) - 1 pt.
- T\_\_\_\_\_ (5) - 1 pt.
- M\_\_\_\_\_ (6) - 2 pts.
- M\_\_\_\_\_ (7) - 3 pts.
- M\_\_\_\_\_ (8) - 4 pts.
- M\_\_\_\_\_ (11) - 7 pts.

16-Letter Bonus Word (12 pts.):

\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL POINTS: \_\_\_\_ out of 33

### SCHOOL EMPLOYEE

A	N	O	S
L	P	S	I
O	E	A	A
F	R	P	R

- \_\_\_\_\_ (5) - 1 pt.
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- \_\_\_\_\_ (5) - 1 pt.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (6) - 2 pts.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (6) - 2 pts.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (7) - 3 pts.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (11) - 7 pts.

16-Letter Bonus Word (12 pts.):

\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL POINTS: \_\_\_\_ out of 43

Using the rules of Boggle, form as many words as you can from the letters in the boxes. Letters must be touching, and you may not use a letter more than once in the same word. You may move diagonally to make words. No proper nouns. Only five-letter words (and higher) score points! The title of the puzzle is a clue to the 16-letter word. Can you name them all?