At right: Students eat at the Harvest Party.

Eventually, I decided to shift the schedule accordingly. Students wouldn’t be in session. Apprentices Alana Gardiner, a senior in the Youth Environmental Team. Kaatje White, the Coordinator for the Greylock garden BoaStS a productive Summer

The Mount Greylock Garden, an organic farming project frequented by the members of the Youth Environmental Squad and Mrs. Green’s Environmental Science Class has been upkeep the summer. Kaatje White, the Coordinator for the Williams Center at Greylock started the Garden Apprentice program to maintain the garden during the months that school wouldn’t be in session. Apprentices Alina Chesney, Sam Joy, Miranda Dils, and Sophie Leamon met with two Wilbraham students twice a week to plant, weed, mulch, and harvest from the Greylock Garden and together spent thirty hours a week gardening. With the help of Jesse Wirtes, gardening. With the help of Jesse Wirtes, students twice a week to plant, weed, mulch, and reports of slippery floors in the West corridor had become common knowledge.

At around 11:00 am, administrators were “already aware of the possibility” that they might need to close school, said Principal Mary MacDonald. Since weather-related closings are an unprecedented occurrence in September, the administration was reluctant to close the school, and did so only when they felt “what else we could do.” Superintendent Dr. Rose Ellis was called in when the possibility of an early dismissal became more realistic. “I toured the building with Shannon and Ellis, and we concurred that a dismissal was necessary,” remarked MacDonald. First, of course, the bus companies had to be called. Since the Williamstown Elementary School had a half day, the feasibility of bussing all the students home and making it to the school in time was questionable. Luckily, the bus companies were able to shift the schedule accordingly. Students were dismissed by hallway, starting with the Middle School, at 12:45. By the time administration was sure that all the students were safely out of the building and transported home, the hallways had gotten worse.

Such a strange occurrence seems rare, but during the week of July 4th this past summer, the building had to close completely because of humidity. That week...
ATTENDANCE POLICY SEES CHANGES

By MATTHEW KLEINER

Throughout the first week of school, Assistant Principal Jacob Shutz had the job of answering the school’s new attendance policy to each Mr. Greylock class. This new policy took many students by surprise and offered a clear change from the relaxed enforced policy of previous years. The main points of the new policy center, however, were the consequences and finality of the new policy. The main issues are students who are absent on a daily basis and those who are absent for particular reasons, such as illness confirmed by a doctor’s note or on a phone call from a parent. The main advantage for Mrs. McDonald is that “the matrix offers clarity for students, teachers, and administration to understand the consequences and the policy.” The guidelines now enforced offer discipline as teachers and administration can no longer be subjective with their punishments. For example, a first bullying complaint would receive a warning, while a second would be a suspension.

Students entered a much more colorful library this year thanks to a group of students who spent a few weeks over the summer painting an extensive mural.

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. Mt. Greylock High School student is welcome to join the Echo staff.

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Mt. Greylock staff after 13 years to teach

Ms. Smith (Health and Peer Team):
S: I always try to achieve a mutual happiness in
my teaching. That's what makes it fulfilling? I really want to live in a way
where you have millions of
people to love and care for.

Echo: Getting this schedule under control!
T: Outside of Rome or the Netherlands.
Echo: What motto do you try to follow?
S: I'm excited to be teaching in
Elmira, New York. I always try to achieve a mutual happiness in
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people to love and care for.
An Interview with Assistant Principal Jacob Schutz

By SOPHIE LEAMON

Echo: Where were you before? Schutz: I worked at Hoosac Valley for the last seven years doing “metting,” and closed services. I was a supervisor for the entire district: Cheshire Elementary, CT Plunkett and Hoosac Middle and High School. Before that I was the director of a Special Ed Program for kids with disabilities.

Echo: What brought you to Mt. Greylock? Schutz: Believe it or not, the whole theme of the school is pretty inspiring. I feel like I have to know that a school district, a school district, and a community, has a vision as a whole. They have something to strive for, they’re going towards it and the things they want to achieve are very inspiring. That’s the main reason why I wanted to come here.

Echo: How do you see your role? Schutz: I see my role as assistant principal as defining expectations, making sure guidelines are followed, and dealing with those expectations with either the consequences or rewards that come with them. I see myself also as a resource for teachers, to better reach students in their classrooms.

Echo: What do you like about Mt. Greylock? Schutz: If we’re talking about something concrete, I like the idea that there’s a director of athletics and clubs. I think that is a tangible piece of evidence that describes the way that Greylock looks at students from a holistic approach. They care about the student in many different areas, not just academics, not just athletics and not just social, but they’re looking at the whole approach.

Echo: What’s something interesting that no one would know? Schutz: I was in the service but I think a lot of people know that. People might not know that my latest trip with the service was to Paraguay. I was down there for about a month and I got to meet some school children, some locals and some officials down there. I like to travel and that’s the last place I was.

Echo: What should students know about you? Schutz: Students should know that I’m here to help. For them this is their first time through high school. I’ve been through this a lot of times. I’ve helped a lot of kids through high school. They may be not used to this issue that’s unique to them but more than likely it’s something that I’ve dealt with before. I’d like students to know that we have an open door policy so they’d like to come in and talk, my door is always open.

Echo: Anything Else? Schutz: I’d like to say that I’m looking forward to meeting all the students. So far it’s been different because I’m not in a classroom and so everyone is brand new to me, so I’m learning faces and names and slowly putting them together. I’ve been going to all the athletic and club events so if there are any events or activities that anyone specifically wants me to do I’d like them to let me know so I can try to attend. ■

WET FLOORS ATTRACT NATIONAL ATTENTION

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The Best and Worst Film of Summer 2013

By NATE TASKIN

The Greylock Echo
September 30, 2013

The picture above is a still from the movie The World's End, which reviewer Nate Taskin calls the best of the Summer 2013.

Best: The World’s End

The weight of anticipation is an overwhelming pressure in meeting that same high standard. Having so much work cut out for it, it feels satisfying to watch a film that at least pales in comparison to those already titanic expectations.

While it is unclear where the movie ranks amongst its predecessors, The World’s End, if anything, largely places itself as a mix of Shawm of the Dead and Hot Fuzz and comes out somewhere in between.Helmed again by Edgar Wright and Simon Pegg, the pub setting, splatter humor and focus on latent maturity certainly brings to mind Shawm, but the scale, small town setting and tone closely mirrors Fuzz. On the other hand, it displays a very different angle from these previous films. Without giving any main surprises away, many hallmarks of their work and past make appearances literally and figuratively here, including the circular dialogue that rewards repeat viewings.

Edgar Wright’s direction, production values and special effects also demonstrate more maturity, avoiding the ostentatious Britishness that endures him to so many. His experience with Scott Pilgrim vs the World particularly shows in the way Wright handles major action set pieces where the characters do battle. Impressive ly choreographed, funny and exhilarating to watch, these moments alone rank higher than many action sequences in previous “Superman” franchises. (Including a certain red-caped “hero,” who will get to later).

What makes the movie refreshingly different this time is that the core, iconic friendships between the Simon Pegg and Nick Frost characters is crucially fractured by the time the film starts, in one of the many ways the film plays against expectations. While Pegg is typically portrayed as the straight man to Frost’s cuddly monotone, the dynamic here is instead switched with volatile results. Pegg’s Gary, who never passed an inch from his teenage glory days, is an obnoxious loudmouth not above manipulation to get what he wants. Frost holds not only takes his character in that direction, but fully commits to it. Frost takes an even more drastic change, with his reserved and begrudging demeanor vastly different from any role he’s taken before. Pegg-Frost dynamic remains in the background for the most part until the end however, because the stellar supporting cast of Martin Freeman, Paddy Considine and Eddie Marsan are all thoroughly pitch perfect in their respective roles and given plenty of time to shine.

End is a film about midlife crisis and the pitfalls of being an adult. The creators are getting older, but rather than attempting to hide as they child again. Since we view these events out of order, we cannot see this character grow, only jump to him as a fisherman. Then he’s 12 and needs such embellishments. The moral of this story is that everything is incomprehensible. Seriously, because the camera is shaking so much the film devolves into such pointless exhalations. The downward descent does not even refer to itself as a Superman movie. The world is seen as the worst roller-coaster ride. The Superman stories are never going to be as popular as the novels anymore, but certainly aren’t as exciting, either. The World’s End’s greatest flaw, its conclusion, feels so misjudged and unnecessary that it serves to undermine much of what defined the movie. Given its radical tone shift and overall bleakness, it feels especially jarring and out of place.

Worst: Man of Steel

The only positive angle one can glean out of Man of Steel is to take it as a three hour commercial for Prozac. It acts like a simulation of the world’s worst roller-coaster ride. The downward descent does not even refer to itself as a Superman movie. Watching it feels like watching a thesis about a film you’re never allowed to see. Dialogue consists constantly of speech after speech about what it “means” to be Super man. The end is a film about the meaning of Superman, and ends the trilogy on a relative high. The weight of anticipation is an overblown expectation. Given its radical tone shift and overall bleakness, it feels especially jarring and out of place.

The picture above is a still from the movie The World’s End, which reviewer Nate Taskin calls the best of the Summer 2013.

Summer News: What to Catch Up On

By KATELIN MARCHANT

Spent the summer at camp in the wilderness? Here’s what you need to know.

Egypt:

On July 3, 2013, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi staged a military coup d’etat that ousted Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood.Currently, a committee of fifty members is drafting a new constitution that will be presented in two months, followed by elections. Egypt’s Siani Peninsula, which borders Israel, is also in turmoil. Fearing increasing terrorist activity, the Egyptian government has periodically taken military action in Sinai. It recently took action again. Egypt is becoming increasingly unstable as the country deals with their developing democratic process and Islamic militants in Sinai.

Syria:

It has been a two and half years since the Syrian civil war started, and the situation is only worsening. Over 100,000 people have been killed so far. Although Syria has been in the news since the war’s start, it has dominated the media recently because of the suspected use of chemical weapons. In 2013, Obama stated that if chemical weapons were being used the United States would intervene. Russia does not support Obama’s decision to intervene. Vladimir Putin, Russia’s president, opposes Obama’s choice, and even wrote an op-ed piece for the New York Times. Some action seems to be imminent, either diplomatic or military.

Anti-gay laws in Russia:

In June, Vladimir Putin, Russia’s president, signed a law that prohibited “homosexual propaganda” from being distributed to minors. This law brings into question how gay athletes will be able to comply with the obligations of the Olympic charter, many fear that openly gay athletes will be discriminated against. The anti-gay laws have led to an increase in homophobic vigilance. Gay teenagers are being targeted by groups like Occupy Paedophilia, which assault openly gay teenagers.

Pope Francis’s visit to Brazil:

On Sunday, July 28, 2013, Pope Francis gave mass at Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which drew a reported five million people. This is one of the largest turnouts for a pope in recent history. Following the mass in Rio, Pope Francis is reported to visit Brazil to see gay priests should not be marginalized. Although he is not openly calling for support of gay priests, he did make a huge step for the Catholic church. Since the start of his papacy in March, Francis has rejected the stigmatization clothing that Benedict wore, which set a new tone for the Church. Francis’ fresh approach has been a boon to his papacy and has left many hopeful for the future of the Catholic church.
Why You Should Stop Complaining About the New Electronics Policy

By EVELYN MAHON

If you’ve been reading this paper for news, you already know about the new electronics policy. If you’ve only been reading this paper for the crossword and playing Wordfinder, you realize that the new rules concerning cell phones were implemented. It’s noticeably different in a real space, having a real conversation with each other. Imagine that. People aren’t just texting, but actually talking to each other. Sometimes, it’s nice to not be interrupted by someone’s smartphone.

The Dumbest Generation and professor at Emory University, says that today’s society focuses on multitasking, flip-flopping between tasks to complete a larger project. Instead of thinking about one issue at a time, we think about many issues at once. This may seem like a useful way to get things done, but it’s actually detrimental to our ability to focus on one issue at a time.

There is a lot of research that shows that thinking about more than one thing at a time is actually detrimental to our ability to concentrate on one thing at a time. This is called the “attentional blink.” The attentional blink is when we are unable to focus on one thing at a time because we are thinking about too many things at once.

In conclusion, the new rules concerning cell phones are a good thing. They force us to communicate with each other in a real space, having a real conversation. This is important for our ability to concentrate on one thing at a time. It’s not just good for us, it’s good for the people around us. So, let’s all please put our phones down and have a real conversation. It’s much more satisfying than just typing on our phones and pretending to have a conversation.

FIRE DRILL

Continued from Page 4.

The evacuation begins. The students exit the classrooms and head to the main building. The fire drill is conducted every two weeks to ensure that the students and faculty are prepared for any emergency. The students are taught what to do in case of a fire, such as how to get to the nearest exit and how to quickly and safely leave the building.

The fire drill is an important part of the school’s safety procedures. It is conducted regularly to ensure that the students and faculty are prepared for any emergency. The students are taught what to do in case of a fire, such as how to get to the nearest exit and how to quickly and safely leave the building.

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Despite losing a large group of key senior players, the boys’ soccer team has opened with a great start to this season. Led by junior captains Jake Foehl and David Majetic and senior captain Tom Guettler, the team has been playing tremendously.

Players who graduated last year, key losses include leading scorer Nathan Majumder and goalkeeper Sean House- ton. However, players on this year’s team have quickly taken the place of these two graduates. Cal Filson has assumed Hous- ton’s place in goal, and has already made numerous saves. Nathan Majumder’s role as a talented scorer has been filled by a number of players on the team. It is assur- ing to see a wide range of players scoring.

The list of those players includes juniors Jake Foehl, Dan Flynn, Grant Raphael and Eric Hirsh, sophomore Benni McConnell, freshman Felix Kershaw, and eighth grader Sam Dils.

Last year the team went 16-4-2, and they made it to the Western Mass semifinals. So far this looks like a promising season for the Mounties, with key victories against Lenox, Burr and Burton Academy and Hoosick, to name a few. If they keep play- ing like the way they have been, the team should make the Western Mass Tournament.

A good point to note is that “Every year we come out and our first goal is to qualify for the Western Mass Tournament, and then to win the Berkshire County North title. Once we get into the tournament we try to take it one game at a time, and we are hoping to get at least as far as last year.” This is an exciting team to watch and one definitely to keep your eye on as the season progresses. — 

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

By CAL FILSON

The boys’ race starts quickly at the first home race of the season on September 18th.

Rich tradition and dominance describe the culture of the Greylock boy’s cross country team. Their history of regular and postseason success dates back to the early 1980s. Last season saw the team go 13-2, winning themselves yet another Western Mass. title. They capped of the year plac- ing fourteenh at states.

The 2013 Mounties are back at it again with the same championship goals as last year. Captained by seniors Archer Green- halgh, Caleb Raymond, Derek Wood and Richard Axile, the team has hit the ground running, literally. The Mounties won their first two meets with ease. A hot start to the season is something the team has grown accustomed to. They look to continue their usual success throughout the season.

The Mounties look to capitalize on the loss of Will Kirby, now a collegiate runner and one of the team’s top runners last year.

Greylock will use its sophomore and junior classes to its advantage. Juniors Carter Stripp, Sam Kobrin, Jake Kobrin and Will Nolan and sophomore Tommy Kirby, all top seven runners, will return even faster after this year. Head Coach Bill Stripp is excited, as always, for another cross country season. When asked about goals and expectations for the year, he noted, “My main goal is to have everyone improve as a runner. Whether that’s a couple of seconds off their time or moving up from JV to Varsity.”

Rarely does a team compete for a cham- pionship year after year, and with success like that, motivation might be hard to come by. “Our motivation is on the winning tradition that has come before us so our names can be remembered and to go down with the greats. There is noth- ing more special than seeing your year on that banner in the gym, knowing you were a part of it and that future generations will be reminded of the greatness that came before them,” noted Stripp when asked about the team’s motivation.

Like always, the Mt. Greylock boys’ cross country team has plenty of ingredi- ents for another successful season. The team is led by seniors Archer Greenhalgh, Caleb Raymond, Derek Wood and Richard Axile, the team has hit the ground running, literally. The Mounties won their first two meets with ease. A hot start to the season is something the team has grown accustomed to. They look to continue their usual success throughout the season.

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One would think going 0-15 last year would discourage the Mt. Greylock Golf team. However, the team proved in a match against Wahconah that they aren’t going to give up. Coming strong off their first win in two years, the Mounties golf team is young and hungry for another win. They have dropped at least 25 strokes on every course they have played so far. No seniors graduated last year and Coach Lucas Polidoro is feeling confident in the team’s chances of success. Five of six starters return from last year, led by sophomore Matt Wiseman and senior Nick Dastoli, who rejoined the team after a year away. The team has a lot of confidence in their abilities. “We are better now, we’ve just got to get out there and prove it,” said Polidoro. He sees a 300 season well within grasp. “A 300 season is challenging but if the whole team comes together, it is doable,” said Wiseman. A problem the team is facing is the potential loss of their home course Waubeeka. Waubeeka will close if the owner doesn’t find a buyer by the end of the season. The practice facilities there are incomparable. Taconic in Williamstown and Donnybrook in Lanesborough are both being considered as new home courses, but neither have practice facilities like those at Waubeeka. The loss of those facilities could provide a serious, but solvable problem to the team next year.

Although they will lose three starters this spring to graduation, the Mounties are looking strong for the future. Freshman Kyle Alvarez and sophomore Gray Kaegi look ready to step up and take some of the load. Plenty of middle schoolers are eying the three starter spots left open by graduating seniors and competition for the spots will be fierce. Next year, with another season of experience under their belts, they will be a force out on the golf course.

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**GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY**

By BENNI MCCOMISH

Last year, the Mount Greylock girls’ cross country team went 10-3 and finished seventh in the state. The team is hoping to build on that success because many key runners are returning from last year’s team, including seniors Emily Kaegi and Amelia Leamon, junior Laura Galib, freshman Niko Dzurdbi and eighth grader Emma Polambo. They will need to fill the void of two of their top five, Kat Chenail and Sophia Dastoli, who are now collegiate runners.

On August 31st, the team hosted an intra-division meet and ran against most teams in the league and some from further afield. On September 22, two their top five, Kat Chenail and Sophia Dastoli, who are now collegiate runners.

Eighth grader Emma Polambo and sophomores Molly Haskins and Grace Smith race to strong finishes in Greylock’s first home race of the season.

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**GIRLS SOCCER**

By ERIC HIRSCH

The Greylock girls soccer team is off to a tremendous start in the 2013 season. For the first time in seven years, the girls’ team is competing in the Berkshire North Division. The Mounties are in both boys and girls traditionally boasts the strongest teams in Berkshire County. Coach Tom Ostheimer, now entering his seventh season at helm of the Greylock squad, has achieved success in the South Division, both qualifying for and winning a Western Mass game in each of the last three seasons. As a result, the team has moved back into the north where they will have to face the likes of Wahconah, Lenox and PHS twice a year. After losing star goalkeeper Margaret Besnard to graduation, many fans were unsure of how the 2013 squad would fare, especially against the tougher competition.

Perhaps the best news for Greylock is the emergence of sophomore goalkeeper Charlotte Rand. Orpin said, “Charlotte has stepped up in goal after replacing Margaret Besnard. She has been doing great.” Leading goal scorer Leamon said, “I think we were a lot better than we were last year. Our forwards have a lot of experience and are feeling confident in the team’s chances of success. Five of six starters return from last year, led by sophomore Matt Wiseman and senior Nick Dastoli, who rejoined the team after a year away. The team has a lot of confidence in their abilities. “We are better now, we’ve just got to get out there and prove it.”

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**CROSSWORD**

Across
1 Urged (on)
6 Air apparent?
10 Sift’s subordinates
14 Lovely, as a signorina
15 One of Henry’s Catherines
16 Christmas
17 Wilson of the Beach Boys
18 Court doings
19 South Pacific boat
20 Quarter of a denarius
22 Seraglio

Down
1 Fades away
2 “Pretty Woman” star
3 Dramatic piano passage
4 Makes jubilant
5 Anglo-Saxon tax
6 “The final frontier”