

BMC BRINGS MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY TO GREYLOCK

By EMILY RUDD



Ashley Zamboni and Edward Gebara play with medical devices brought from BMC.



Photos courtesy of Harrison Dilthey

On Wednesday, November 6th, biology and anatomy students in science teachers Larry Bell and Rebecca Green's classes attended a technology presentation conducted by Berkshire Medical Center (BMC) staff. Hosted and organized by registered nurse and robotics program coordinator Gary Quadrozzi, the in-school field trip allowed students to participate in an interactive experience while learning about the technology and science involved in an operating room.

The demonstrators included John Cavalline, Mike McGill, Mike Arnold, Casey Hanifin, Bill Albertson, Rita Tassinari and

other staff members. The experiments ranged from freezing a grape in a piece of meat in order to research a cancerous tumor to using a balloon to explain sinusoscopy, the study of the sinuses, to viewing a live kidney surgery which used robotics. In each presentation, various types of equipment were used to explain the science behind different surgeries and procedures.

Dr. Jonah Marshall, a urologist, came up with this idea in order to create "a foundation in basic sciences" for high schoolers and as a way to build a relationship between Mt. Greylock and BMC. He also

wanted to get the students excited about using technology because "technology is becoming our future and students are a part of the generation that will use it the most." Marshall had tried to organize this project last year but due to scheduling problems and a busy year, it was delayed.

Junior Nick Darrow said of the event, "It was successful in the sense of showing people a sneak peak about how certain procedures are done. It's really cool that they do this every day."

Bell said that the goal of these demonstrations was to increase student awareness and curiosity in the variety of careers in the medical field because "there are so many other jobs in the health field besides just nurses and doctors that few know about."

Principal Mary MacDonald said, "The experiential learning aspect opened up other doors for students in learning more about the doctor or nurse position as well as new jobs in the technology and medical fields."

Students put their names in a drawing and ten winners will go to BMC later in the year to test drive the da Vinci Surgical System, a complicated robot used by surgeons to complete difficult procedures with minimal damage to the patient. BMC is the only hospital in Western Massachusetts to have such advanced technology.

MacDonald thought this presentation was a huge success and it is fortunate "that our community has so much to offer and can allow for great things such as BMC to come to the students." She, along with Bell, hopes that next year it can be open to the public and become a bigger event. ■■

1 in 650: An Interview with Stone Stewart

By EMILY KAEGI

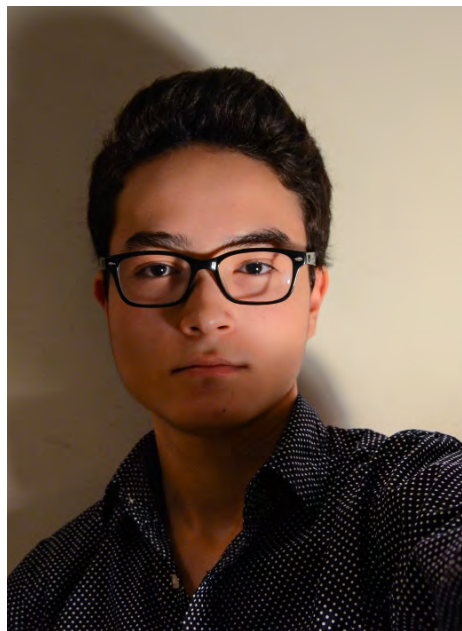


Photo courtesy of Stone Stewart

Senior Stone Stewart does not spend his school days in classrooms at Mt. Greylock. Stone is one of the few students who has taken advantage of the ability to be dually enrolled at both Mt. Greylock and MCLA. When he maxed out of math classes at Greylock and was already taking one college class in Japanese, he thought it was time to take the leap to a full college course load. While this side of his life is very interesting, the Echo staff learned that he had a new passion for creating digital music. The Echo sat down with Stone this month to learn about his unique skill and interest in a new branch of the music world.

Echo: We've heard that you are really into music. What type of music?

Stone: I produce a lot of electronic music just through my own laptop software. I started about a year or so ago and I did summer program at Brown University that was an intro to music production. It was three weeks long and I met up with a friend there. His name is Randy and he was really, really advanced in the topic. He contacted me about four months ago and he asked if I wanted to work with him. That's when I started to get more serious about the whole thing. Before it was more just like something I experimented with a little bit and I didn't really know that much about it, but, he was much more advanced than I was so I felt compelled to catch up. When we are working together, I don't want to have him be doing all the work while I leech off of his talent. After working with him for a little bit, I started to improve a little more and get more serious with it.

We've released about ten tracks and they got picked up by a small online label with about twelve artists. The manager of the label put out a post online on "readit.com." He was asking if anyone else wanted to start a small online label with intermediate-to-experienced producers and about 100 to 150 people entered their music and we were one of about twelve that were se-

Continued on Page 2.

SWEETBROOK VOLUNTEERS

By OLIVIA GRAVEL

Starting on November 4th, a group of students from Mt. Greylock volunteered at Sweetbrook Nursing Home every Monday after school. Both middle schoolers and high schoolers are welcome to volunteer at Sweetbrook, and the program will continue for the whole school year. Students were supposed to start the previous Monday, but needed tuberculosis shots so they would not get the residents sick. There is a bus to take the volunteers from Mt. Greylock to Sweetbrook at the end of the day.

The students stay between an hour to an hour and a half after school. When they arrive at Sweetbrook, there is usually a bingo game happening. Volunteers can assist with bingo or just sit next to and socialize with the residents. "They just want someone to talk to about their life, or the weather," says community service advisor Lisa Mendel. "Others would like somebody to read to them, the older women like to have their nails done, and they just want a little companionship."

Mendel and science teacher Sue Strizzi have been organizing volunteer opportunities for Greylock students for many years. When approached by sophomores Holly Fisher and Mollyann Haskins about volunteering at Sweetbrook, they thought it would be a good idea to find more volunteers from Mt. Greylock to help with the older residents. Fisher and Haskins liked the idea of helping out, and they knew it

Continued on Page 3.

WILLIAMS PILOTS MANDARIN PROGRAM

By MATTHEW KLEINER

The Mt. Greylock language department is slowly expanding its offerings this year with the addition of a Mandarin Chinese pilot course. Run through the Williams Center, the course was initiated through the combined efforts of principal Mary MacDonald, Williams Center coordinator Kaatje White and Williams professors Gail Newman and Li Yu.

Although the course only has three students in it, junior Cristina Butcher and seniors Kathy Ho and Alex Cheung and is taught differently than other language classes, it has been running smoothly so far. Three days a week the students learn material on their own through audio memorization and read from Basic Spoken

Chinese, a textbook by Williams professor Cornelius Kubler. Right now they are only learning spoken Mandarin by reading a Romanized phonetic alphabet called Pinyin; they will not start learning the incredibly difficult Mandarin character system until January.

The other two days of the week the students meet with either Professor Yu or one of two Williams College Chinese majors in a full immersion class. They are only allowed to speak Mandarin those days, which MacDonald says "helps both the Mt. Greylock students and the Williams students become more comfortable with

Continued on Page 2.

RAMBLEWILD COMES TO LANESBOROUGH

By JOSIE VERTER

A new form of excitement and adventure awaits bored Berkshirites. Ramblewild, an outdoor ropes course, is in the process of being built atop Brodie Mountain in Lanesborough. Its combination of zip lines, rope bridges and 140 aerial platforms ranging in heights offer trust-building activities for families, friends and students. Ramblewild hopes to educate the community about the nature on Brodie Mountain and help people get better in touch with nature.

A unique aspect of this aerial park is that it is built leaving the surrounding nature unharmed. Ramblewild is being con-

structed without any nails, drills, or other tools which would normally hurt the tree. Instead of nails and drills all of the platforms and structures are built around the trees to preserve the natural state of the forest as much as possible. Cables and protective padding help ensure that the trees will stay undamaged.

CEO of Ramblewild Tim Gallagher believes that the need for people to get into nature is increasing. As technology becomes more involved in our daily lives, it is even more important to stay in touch

Continued on Page 5.

MEET DANA REINHARDT

Miranda Dils talks to the author about her success as a novelist.

See Page 3.

THE HANGAR

Aaron Kleiner reveals the true history of the airplane hangar on campus.

See Page 5.

ENDER'S GAME

Nate Taskin evaluates Hollywood's adaptation of a beloved novel.

See Page 6.

PERA BISTRO

Hannah Fein and Anya Sheldon review Spring Street's newest eatery.

See Page 6.

MANDARIN PROGRAM

Continued from Page 1.



Photo courtesy of Aaron Ziemer

Alex Cheung (center) and Christina Butcher (right) with a Williams student during their Mandarin class in the library.

their spoken Chinese.” Butcher said, “We just talk and talk until our brains rot.” The students agree that the class definitely requires a large amount of work and effort, but they are moving quickly and learning a lot.

MacDonald is optimistic regarding the prospects of the class. “We’re pretty confident that we will be able to extend the course into a second year,” she said. “The idea is to have a two-year course for juniors and seniors.” She is also happy with how the class has shaped out. “We weren’t going to hire a new teacher, so the help of the Williams Center to offer another critical language was great,” she points out.

Other students are learning languages in independent studies as well this year. Freshman Mercer Greenwald, who is tak-

ing German, is also receiving help from Williams. She studies during her allotted independent study period in school and then again after school three days a week with a Williams student. “It’s hard because the class period is short,” she says, “but otherwise it’s going well.”

Latin teacher Amy Turner also hosts a language lab period every day for other students taking independent studies. Students are learning a variety of languages ranging from French to American Sign Language in productive sessions every day in the computer lab adjoining her room. Clearly, both help from the Williams Center and the interest of enthusiastic students and teachers are contributing to the success of new language-oriented independent studies this year. ■■

SPANISH STUDENTS MAKE TAMALES

By AMALIA LEAMON

On October 25th, students from Amy Kirby’s Spanish IV class created one of Mexico’s most traditional and well known foods: tamales. A Mexican tamale is made of seasoned meat, cheese or vegetables packed in cornmeal dough, wrapped in corn husks and steamed. The most common fillings are pork and chicken, with salsa or mole, a spicy chocolate sauce. Another traditional variation is a sweet tamal de dulce filled with raisins and other dried fruits. They are eaten at breakfast or dinner and often accompanied with atole (a hot corn-based drink) and arroz con leche (rice pudding). Tamales are a popular street food and are often eaten during festivities, such as the Day of the Dead and Mexican Independence Day.

Under the instruction of Brent Wasser, Manager of the Sustainable Food & Agriculture Program at Williams College, fifteen students had the opportunity to learn about the culture and history of the tamale and then make one for themselves. The students chose pulled pork as the filling which they kneaded into the dough and placed into a cornhusk “as if wrapping a present” said junior Sadie Sylvester. The students also created a delicious

mole sauce fashioned from ingredients including almonds, various spices such as curry, ground cinnamon sticks, chocolate and small pieces of bread.

As the students waited while the tamales steamed, Wasser explained that this event was one of many activities the college organized for the annual Food Week in the last week of October to recognize the significance of agriculture and sustainable foods. In addition to a program of events on the Williams campus, Food Week also extended to activities at the Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation at Sheep Hill and Wild Oats Market.

When the tamales were finished, the students and Wasser helped themselves to the traditional Mexican food. Sylvester reports that “the tamales were enjoyed by all, the only complaint being that the mole sauce was just a touch too spicy.” When asked about continuing the experience in the future Kirby, said “This was our first year making the tamales but I don’t think it will be the last. We have already discussed offering this experience to more students next year and perhaps learning how to make a dessert too.” ■■

YEARBOOKS ON SALE NOW!

Memories like this come once in a lifetime. Order your yearbook today! Yearbooks will be available at a reduced rate only through this offer.

Your yearbook will contain many photographs of your classmates and activities and will hold special memories of the year. Don’t miss this opportunity to reserve your copy. In the future years, when you gather at your class reunion to celebrate, you can open your yearbook to assess how much you and your friends have changed since the calendar year 2014, and you can read

the special messages that your friends and parents have written to you. You will not need any special technology to read it, just a desire to turn the pages and recapture those moments in time.

The 2014 Paedeia can be purchased for \$50.00 between now and December 13, 2013. Checks should be made out to Mt. Greylock Yearbook and mailed to Mt. Greylock Regional High School, ATTN: Rachel Slocik. The deadline for the early sales price of \$50.00 is December 13, 2013. ■■

1 in 650: Stone Stewart

Continued from Page 1.

lected in the small group. We’ve released a small EP with 5 tracks under this label. We are getting better and better with every song. It is improving slowly. Right now it is really a hobby, just something I like to do for fun. Maybe somewhere down the line, the better we get, maybe it will turn into something larger. Or maybe a career. But for now it’s just something fun we like to do.

Echo: Can you explain what goes into creating the music?

Stone: It’s a good blend between creative and technical, abstract and concrete. We are composing everything from the ground up. We are writing the melodies, the chords, all the progressions and then arranging the song from start to finish. We are also designing all the sounds, which are the more technical aspects. There are a lot of plug-ins and software that you have to know how to use, all the little subtle technicalities. With the knowledge of that and the creative talent for thinking up melodies and sounds, you combine the two and that’s how our songs are born. We think of what we want to do and then using the knowledge of these plug-ins that’s how we create everything.

Echo: What is this type of music called?

Stone: I guess the big umbrella term is EDM, electronic dance music. A subgenre which we focus on is trance or progressive house. I don’t get too into the terms. It’s all just music and we make what sounds good to us.

Echo: Has anyone used your tracks?

Stone: Dylan Goff, who graduated a couple years ago, is majoring in game design right now. He’s in the process of making an app with a couple other friends. He asked us if further down the line, once everything gets more established, if we were interested in making the music for it. That hasn’t started yet, but possibly in the future.

Echo: Have you made any profit from your label?

Stone: No, right now it’s purely promotional. It is very small and it is just starting. It gives us a name to put all our music under as opposed to just uploading it online.

Echo: What do you like about creating music?

Stone: As I said earlier, it’s a really good mix of the technical and the creative. I was always really into art at a young age and I bet my parents thought I would become an artist because all through elementary school I was painting and drawing. I was also really into science and math. Once high school started, it was harder to take an art class. It wasn’t as readily available.

I kind of lost that focus, but picking up this music has revitalized that old passion I had. It combines the science, because it is partially connected to math, and the physics with the characteristics of sound. It also requires the ability to think of songs and melodies from your own imagination. There are no rules strictly written about how to make music sound good. It is what appeals to you.

Echo: Despite taking all college classes, you are still connected to Greylock through the music club. Tell us about the club and how your music connects.

Stone: Gef Fisher and I started a club this year and we call it the Music and Arts Collaboratory. Essentially, it is just a big group of people talented in all creative mediums, whether it is music or graphic design or film making or photography. Our goal was that each of these creative areas work really well together, so when you bring all these people together with various talents, you have a lot of opportunities and a lot and different projects. For me, as a music producer, I thought it would be really cool to reach out to other musicians to make an album some day. We have people that can design covers, maybe design a website. We have the talents of me, as an electronic producer and my knowledge of my own laptop, but we also can reach out to live music to record that and integrate that into my own songs.

Echo: Finally, if you could design any course at Greylock, what would it be about?

Stone: I think one thing that is really, really crucial to high school that we don’t get to learn is finance. I know we have personal finance courses, but I think it would be really helpful if high school students had the opportunity to learn how the outside world works. I feel like once you are done with college, you are thrown out there and you have to know how to file taxes and mortgage a home and all of that. I just think that it comes as shock. Just suddenly you have to do all this stuff that your parents did for you. So I think something like that would be very helpful for seniors or upperclassmen.

Check out Stone as RMSS under the label Karma Collective at this link: <https://soundcloud.com/rmssmusic>

Interview has been edited and condensed. To nominate a student for 1 in 650, contact the editors at 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 High School student is welcome to join the Echo staff.

Editor-in-Chief: Zavi Sheldon
Associate Editor: Caleb Raymond
Business Manager: Pearl Sutter
Sports: Emily Kaegi
Arts: Kelsey Hebert
Opinion: Katelin Marchand
Perspective: Evelyn Mahon
Photography: Aaron Ziemer
Administrative Liaison: Pearl Sutter

Advisor: Peter Niemeyer
Printed by: Adams Specialty & Printing

Mt. Greylock Regional High School
1781 Cold Spring Road
Williamstown, Mass,
01267, USA

Questions? Comments? News tips?
Please contact:
mountgreylockecho@gmail.com

An Interview with Author Dana Reinhardt

By MIRANDA DILS



Photo courtesy of Jessica Dils

On October 22nd, Mt. Greylock welcomed author Dana Reinhardt. She is the award-winning author of six middle grade and young adult novels and currently lives with her family in San Francisco, CA. In the morning, seventh, eighth and ninth graders gathered in the auditorium to listen to a presentation by Reinhardt in which she told stories from her childhood and explained how they became material for her novels. Throughout the funny and relatable presentation, Reinhardt inserted pieces of advice and lessons for students such as “don’t be boring” and “your stories are happening to you right now.”

Later in the day, two breakout groups met with Reinhardt to participate in workshops on her books and to receive advice on writing. The Echo sat down with Reinhardt to gain insight into her childhood, inspiration for her novels and career as an author.

Echo: What was your family life like as a child?

Reinhardt: My parents divorced when I was about seven, which plays out in a lot of the books I’ve written. I think it’s one of those defining experiences that really impacts the way you see the world and family. I had two parents who loved me very much, but it still came with its set of challenges that I end up going back to. I have two older brothers who are really important to me. Also my grandparents were very big figures in my life. I used to spend my whole summers with my grandparents, which was sort of this magical time for me as a kid where I escaped everything. I es-

caped the idea of a broken family and got access to childhood freedom.

Echo: What did you after college?

Reinhardt: I went to Vassar College, and directly after, I stayed in the Hudson Valley for a year and that’s when I worked with adolescents in foster care, which I think gave me a lot of interest and background in teenagers and helped make me want to write for teenagers. Then I moved to New York City, and I strung together a bunch of jobs, mostly in publishing. Then I went to law school, and I didn’t come back around to writing until much later.

Echo: What inspired you to write your first book?

Reinhardt: I had always wanted to write. I’d always wanted to and always felt intimidated by the idea because I didn’t know how you were supposed to do that. I think for anybody, no matter what your interest is, it’s extremely daunting to just take a stab at something that feels so... unreachable. Almost saying I wanted to be a writer felt like saying I wanted to be an actress. It felt like something that you dream about, but you don’t do. So, the will and the desire to [become a writer] existed for a long time, and it took a lot of things, and one of them was realizing I had nothing to lose.

Echo: How many of the stories in your novels are based on real-life situations?

Reinhardt: Some percentage, which varies from book to book. There’s always something from my life in every single book. Sometimes it’s really small details. The description of a boy matches the description of someone I knew. And then there’s

loads of things that are totally untrue. It’s all a balance; some books are more autobiographical than others; some are not at all and only autobiographical in the details.

Echo: Do you think you have a specific writing style?

Reinhardt: I would. In a way, I think a reader is a better person to answer that question, but I write realistic teen fiction, coming-of-age stories. They’re all about teens who are at a crossroad in their lives or are struggling with grappling with discovering something. It’s a pretty basic formula, but it’s kind of what people write about. That’s what I do, it’s what I love, and it’s what I know. It doesn’t mean that I would never try a different style, but this is where I’m at home.

Echo: What are the biggest challenges of writing for you?

Reinhardt: Just sitting down and writing. There’s nobody to make you do it. There’s nobody who is evaluating you at the end of the day. Sometimes it’s very hard to motivate. There’s a lot of payoff at the end and nothing feels better than finishing and publishing a book, but that’s very far away.

Echo: What advice would you give to young writers?

Reinhardt: The best advice is to read and to write. There’s really no other way. Just try everything, read everything, read in different genres, read to know the one that speaks to you, and read to know the kind of writing you hate. And then you write, and you write and write and write and try different voices, and you just find where it clicks. ■■



Photo courtesy of Jessica Casalinova

Dana Reinhardt, center, poses with a group of 7th, 8th and 9th graders who met with her in a smaller group after her main presentation.

VON HOLTZ BECOMES CO-CURRICULAR COORDINATOR

By JACOB ROSSITER



Photo courtesy of Gianna Renzi

Former athletic director Lindsay von Holtz, now oversees all extracurricular activities.

Historically, athletics at Mt. Greylock have not only been a point of pride for our school but an example for other schools to follow. This has been due to not only to the excellence of Mt. Greylock’s student athletes, but also the hard work of coaches and our school’s former athletic director Lindsay Von Holtz, who has recently been appointed to the new position of co-curricular coordinator. Von Holtz was able to provide some insight into what her new position at Mt. Greylock entails for the future of the school’s athletics and other extracurricular activities.

When asked how the change came about, Von Holtz described how the Superintendent came to her with the proposal. According to Von Holtz, “we needed to look at small activities...[and] how they worked. We have many organizations, which led to some scheduling conflicts.” The decision-making and scheduling process desperately needed to be streamlined. Now that Von Holtz has greater control over decisions, she is confident that the change will bring about a better way to authorize decisions and settle scheduling

conflicts.

One significant addition that came about with the changes made to the extracurricular department was the Club Fair. The club fair hosted outside the cafeteria on September 24, was a new way for students, especially incoming middle schoolers and students new to Mt. Greylock, to get a feeling for what sort of extracurriculars are available. Each extracurricular club had a booth in the hallway outside the cafeteria to talk to interested students about their activities and made sign-up sheets available. Von Holtz expressed her satisfaction with the fair, saying it was “a great way to show what is offered [at Mt. Greylock] and what opportunities are available to those students who want to participate in what is offered.” The fair was a success, with many organizations. “The club fair was a great way to promote and advertise groups in the school” and was “definitely helpful.” If the opinion of Co-curricular Coordinator Lindsay Von Holtz is anything to go by, these new changes bode nothing but good news for the future of clubs and activities at Mt. Greylock. ■■

NHS INDUCTION MOVED TO WINTER

By JAKE KOBRIN

This December, a number of students will be inducted into the National Honor Society. This is a change from previous years, when the induction ceremony for new members was held in April. “I was inducted at the end of my junior year last year,” said senior Aaron Ziemer, “but I think the earlier induction date is better because it allows juniors to have enough time to get accustomed with how the organization works.” Senior Evi Mahon, another member, agreed. “It also helps fight against Senioritis; now juniors will be able to step up to the plate and help as well,” she added.

National Honor Society’s goal is to encourage enthusiasm in academics, provide community service, build character and promote leadership. The Juniors inducted into the society this December exemplify these traits and have a cumulative GPA of 3.7 or above.

Now the real test for the organization is to make it a real force for change as opposed to an honor to include on college applications. Although the group has only had two meetings so far this year, senior president Katelin Marchand has big plans for the future. “We are hoping to do lots of smaller community service activities, like helping the Berkshire Humane Society one day, then Sweetbrook the next,” Marchand said.

The National Honor Society also wants to help juniors with their college application process. Marchand suggested that, “the seniors in the group could talk to our Juniors one-on-one to give advice to them based on their own application experience.” Once they are done planning the induction ceremony, members of the NHS will begin to focus their efforts on making a positive impact at the high school and in the greater community. ■■

SWEETBROOK

Continued from Page 1.

meant a lot to the residents to have someone there for them. “I think that it means a lot to them,” says Haskins. “A lot of them don’t have family around here, and their days can get really boring.”

The students from Mt. Greylock can help the residents with arts and crafts or lead groups in games or activities. “We’re going to have a couple different options of what we can do,” says Fisher. “We can do one-on-one stuff where you just talk to them, lead groups in activities, and we can also help them with crafts like painting, because some residents can’t hold a paintbrush by themselves.” Any students interested in volunteering should contact Lisa Mendel or Sue Strizzi to get an application form. ■■

WILLIAMSTOWN HOLIDAY WALK

By EVI MAHON

This December 7, Williamstown will hold its annual Holiday Walk from 3 pm to 6 pm. Greylock students will be seen juggling, unicycling, and portraying the original curmudgeon, Ebenezer Scrooge. The Muse performing arts club (joined by high school choir members) will sing carols for passersby and The Grizzlies (everyone’s favorite pep rally band) will also entertain during the walk. Toy store Where’d You Get That!? will donate a percentage of its sales during the walk to the performing arts club. Along with hosting numerous creative Greylock students, the walk will also hold its reindog parade (following the holiday tradition of humiliating pets), and the Community Chest’s annual Penny Social. The 6th annual Craft Fair will be held on Sunday, December 8 from 9-4 in the Williamstown Elementary School gymnasium. It will include nearly fifty vendors, including woodworkers, jewelers, potters, quilters, among others. ■■

NEWS/FEATURE

ART CLASSES VISIT MASS MOCA

By SAVANAH BROWN

Stained glass instructor Lisa Mendel and art teacher Jane Ellen DeSomma decided to kick off the year by taking all of the art students in each of their classes to MASS MoCA on October 25. Each year DeSomma and Mendel take the art students to MASS MoCA to see the constantly changing exhibits. “We want to expose them to conceptual art and if we didn’t take them there is a good chance that a good portion of the students would not visit it.” said DeSomma. The students and the two art teachers set off to MASS MoCA and arrived at the museum as soon as it opened. “MASS MoCA is a museum of contemporary art and is really interesting and based on how different people see the world,” said Ms. Mendel. The 75 students were split up into about four different groups, and each one saw different exhibits. There was an early session and a later session. While one group was taking

the tour the other group was having their lunch. “One of the exhibits we saw was a phoenix that was about 100 feet long and was made up of all different parts from a construction site,” says Ms. Mendel. “It was really an interesting piece.”

Some of the students seemed to enjoy the trip to MASS MoCA and found it helpful with creating their own art. “At first I didn’t get the point of an art field trip,” said freshman Duffy Martin, “but then I realized it gave other students, including me, inspiration for their own art, a different view on what art is and how you can make it your own.” Freshman Amy Gates agreed and found the trip really fun. “I really enjoyed the field trip because it was fun to see other art forms, and it was really interesting to see art that you would never imagine doing or even seeing. I thought the field trip helped me in some ways with my own art and not in others.” ■■

So Your Government Shut Down...

By KATELIN MARCHAND

For 16 days, from the October 1 to October 16, the United States government shut down. National parks, monuments and museums closed and “non-essential” government workers were told to pack up their offices and head home. This year’s shutdown was the result of Congress grappling with the debt ceiling, which is a legal mechanism that limits the amount of national debt the United States Treasury can issue. Ultimately, a bill was passed to continue funding the government until January 15, 2014 and to extend the amount the federal government can borrow until February 7, 2014. The Budget Compromise Bill was passed under pressure from the Treasury, which told Congress that the government would run out of money to pay for national obligations within the day. Although the government shutdown has ended, the crisis has not been averted; Congress will have to deal with this issue during the beginning of the new year.

Originally, Republicans intended to use the budget crisis as a way to defund the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare) but President Obama refused to accept their terms. Obamacare mandates that every United States citizen must have health care and provides more affordable options. As conservatives’ poll ratings plummeted, Congress finally united to end the shutdown, which cost the

government an estimated 24 billion dollars. This is a victory for no one. All the deadlines to deal with the budget ceiling have just been pushed back. This means Congress will have to tackle this same issue in two months, which could possibly result in another government shutdown. Another issue with the government shutdown is that it is skewing the job reports for the economy. Economists will not be able to properly analyze job reports until December because the month of October will present a major decrease in jobs and November will appear to have a gigantic increase in jobs.

Now as a member of the Mt. Greylock community how will this brief shutdown affect you? Unless your parent is a government worker and they were temporarily furloughed, probably not much. Some government agencies, like the federal courts, could fund themselves for the duration of the shutdown. “The government shutdown shows a lack of ability to compromise and reach across the aisle,” said Drew Gibson, a history teacher at Mt. Greylock. Gibson also stated his opinion that “The House [Congress] has taken most of the blame, but there is also a lack of leadership in the White House. This shutdown also shows that we don’t need the government as much as we think we do.” ■■

An Interview with Miranda Voller

By IAN CULNANE



Photo courtesy of Miranda Voller

Junior Miranda Voller is a three-sport athlete, an important member of the soccer, basketball and softball teams here at Mt. Greylock. What some students might not know is that her softball season didn’t end at the conclusion of the regular season. She played on a Berkshire County team that went to the Softball World Series this summer. We sat down with her to learn about that experience and her love of the sport.

Echo: What got you into softball?

Miranda: My mom started me on a T-Ball team, which she coached, and she founded a softball team for Lanesborough Elementary School. She was the person who pushed me to play initially.

Echo: What position do you play?

Miranda: For Mt. Greylock, I play centerfield. I played first base at the beginning of last season, but moved to centerfield.

Echo: How do you improve your softball

skills year round?

Miranda: I play on another team called Berkshire Force. My old coach from Western Mass Shock asked me to play and he guaranteed me a spot on the team. On this team, we play in multiple tournaments.

Echo: Can you tell us about what the summer tournament is like?

Miranda: The softball tournament was equivalent to the Babe Ruth World series for baseball. So as you can imagine, it was really nerve racking at first. But once we started playing and got into the game it was better.

Echo: How did your team get to the softball world series?

Miranda: In order to get into the New England tournament they had to see if you were good enough. Then you had to get into the regionals through a series of games. After that, you would win the New England Regionals. The Babe Ruth staff was at that game and they told our team that we were going to North Carolina, all expenses paid, which was an amazing feeling.

Echo: How did you do in the Babe Ruth World Series?

Miranda: We did better than I thought we would. It was hard to keep up but we made it to the semi finals.

Echo: What has been the highlight of your softball career so far?

Miranda: Well, I won the golden glove award, which is an award in the World Series for the person who showed the best defensive play throughout the tournament. That was definitely the most exciting moment in my softball career.

Echo: Do you look to advance your softball career and how so?

Miranda: I would hope I could do a team like this again, but our team clicked so well this year and came together and I think that it will be hard to do this again.

Interview has been edited and condensed. To nominate an athlete, contact the editors at mountgreylockecho@gmail.com. ■■

Pearl Jam

By WILL WALTER



Eddie Vedder has long been known as a dynamic performer, but only in the 1990s, when Pearl Jam ruled the world of rock. After several years off between their last tour in 2010, which was not their best, rejuvenated band members Vedder, guitarists Stone Gossard and Mike McCready, bassist Jeff Ament and former soundgarden drummer Matt Cameron are back on tour and sound better than ever. Vedder’s once scratchy and sometimes angry screams have mellowed out (he turns 50 in December) but his overall singing has improved, while Gossard and Ament are still able to hold down the rhythm section with ease. Lead guitarist Mike McCready has found the fountain of youth, epitomizing the very essence of the name Pearl Jam

with long, weeping solos during every song. The backbone of the band, drummer Matt Cameron, has been steady behind the kit. After a dud of a tour in 2010, Pearl Jam has impressed the country so far this fall, backed by their new album “Lightning Bolt” with hits such as “Mind Your Manners” and the critically acclaimed “Sirens.” I witnessed the rejuvenated rockers firsthand when I attended their second concert in Worcester on October 16th.

I know most people that go to Mt. Greylock are not huge Pearl Jam fans, so just a list of songs wouldn’t excite them if they’ve never heard them. I guess the reason Pearl Jam and other great live band concerts are so great can’t really be described in words, but more in images. Imagine 12,000 people singing along to their favorite band, in pure joy. That’s what makes these concerts awesome.

I hopped in the car with two of my friends, Mt. Greylock alumni Derek and Jeff Romejko. After a 2 hour drive, we parked in the DCU Center lot in Worcester, Massachusetts and found our seats in the arena. Tickets were \$73 each. We sat in the first row of the third deck, to the right of the stage. After a long and anxious wait Pearl Jam finally came out on stage at about 8:20. They opened up with “Pendulum,” a slow song off of their new album. After playing “Low Light” from their hit album *Yield*, Pearl Jam went into

classics such as “Learning to Fly” and the crowd pleasing jam “Do the Evolution,” complete with mind blowing guitar riffs and crazy crowd participation. The crowd became even more wild as Vedder and Co. rocked to the hit headbanger “Mind Your Manners,” which was followed up by Vedder’s father tribute “My Father’s Son,” and Matt Cameron’s very own “Cropduster.” After a long night in Worcester the night before, the band was finally able to relax with the ballads “Wishlist” and “Sirens.” The song “I Am Mine,” was also played as a tribute to the Boston Marathon bombing victims. The calmness did not last when following “Lukin,” the band played their anti-TicketMaster masterpiece “Not For You,” written during their lawsuit against TicketMaster for overly expensive ticket prices. After playing “Down,” “State of Love and Trust,” the newly released “Lightning Bolt” and the 1991 hit “Porch,” Pearl Jam left the stage after only 12 songs. Everyone in the arena knew that they would come back onstage though, as they had been playing three hour shows and it was only an hour into the concert. Two minutes later, Vedder and Co. were back on stage with somewhat of an acoustic setup. Stone Gossard, Eddie, Mike McCready and Jeff Ament were all seated, and they played songs like the slow “Other Side,” the newly released “Future Days” and “Gone.” Then, to the crowd’s

delight, they played the rock breakup anthem “Black.” It was an amazing rendition of the song, and the crowd sang along.

At one point, instead of Vedder synchronizing to the guitar, the rowdy crowd (made up mostly of 25 to 50 year old adults) took up that responsibility for him, allowing the out-of-breath singer to wail his “we, we, we belong together, together, together” complaint to his ex-girlfriend. In my opinion, “Black” may be the greatest breakup song ever. The following nine songs were all PJ’s greatest hits and all fan sing-alongs. Although the entire concert was great, these songs were by far the highlight of the show. After “Black,” their anti-suicide song “Jeremy” drew applause throughout the arena, followed by massive hits “Daughter,” a sped up version of “Even Flow” and “Rear-view Mirror.” The final encore began with Vedder cooing “I’m gonna make you smile,” and then going into a harmonica-ridden “Smile,” which led into “Once” followed by grunge anthem “Alive.” Finally, Eddie Vedder strode out onto the stage with tambourine in hand and led the crowd in The Who cover “Baba O’Riley” as the entire auditorium shook with echoes of “It’s only teenage wasteland.” As the audience walked out the door, the wailing guitar of Mike McCready could be heard picking to “Yellow Ledbetter.” This show was definitely one of the best concerts of fall 2013. ■■

Editor's Note: The views expressed in opinion pieces do not reflect the collective views of this newspaper, but of the individual authors.

The Hangar

By AARON KLEINER



Photo courtesy of the Williamstown Historical Society

Mt. Greylock was the site of a small private airport before a school was built on the grounds.

Although it has stood on the same ground for almost 80 years, the hangar that lies to the east end of Mt. Greylock still puzzles many students to this day. Mysterious graffiti dating from 1963 to 2012 sprawls across its sides. Its old metal walls outdate any other edifice on campus by 50 years. The hangar's strange appearance owes to the fact that it does not fit in with the baseball and football fields typically found on high school grounds. Its battleship gray steel form seems to be from a different time period than the red brick architecture of the school building. In fact, the hangar is from another era, a time before education was the main use of this property. It is from the days of the Fairview airport.

Before Mt. Greylock was constructed, a small private airport occupied the grounds. Its single runway ran from the base of Appletree Hill to the baseball field. The tiny planes were stored in the hangar, now the last standing memento of this era. The hangar was first erected in the late 1930s when the runway was built on the site of Cole's Field, a large pasture. At first the airfield was just used by local pilots flying their privately owned aircraft (there were no commercial flights out of Cole's Field). However, a few years after the opening of the airport Williams College began using it as a base for its flying club. The club gave Williams men the opportunity to learn to fly for recreation and for possible military futures in the upcoming war. When the United States entered World War II in the early 1940s, the government closed all private airfields unless armed personnel were present at all times to secure the location. The flying club attempted to continue the use of Cole's Field by camping on the grounds 24/7. Unfortunately, the airfield was not properly licensed, so the club was forced to another small airport in

Cheshire to continue operations with the hope that they could return to the Fairview airport in the future.

The airfield was not reopened until 1944, the earliest it could get licensed for use again. A few years later a newly formed organization, the Mohawk Valley Aviation Corp., directed by George West, began their operations out of the Fairview Airport. In 1948 Mohawk Aviation moved again, to the recently constructed Harriman airport in North Adams. After the development of the larger Harriman airfield the use of the Fairview airport began to decline and eventually stopped altogether in the 1950s. After it stopped holding airplanes, the old hangar was rented out to community members as storage space.

In fact, that is how the 'quonset' building is used today. If one were to enter the hangar, he would see the vast space being used to store skis, theater sets and even catapults. The nordic ski team frequently uses the hangar throughout the winter, both as storage space for their skis and other equipment and also as a wax room. The theater tech crew also utilizes the space, placing old sets on the hangar floor. But probably the most interesting sight in the capacious building are Romanesque ballista and trebuchet siege weapons. Every October, the Junior Classical League rolls them out for their annual state-wide catapult contest.

Although the hangar's original purpose was far from educational, Mt. Greylock students can definitely put the space to use today. Without really knowing it, they are constantly in contact with a piece of local history. The Mt. Greylock grounds certainly look like a typical post-war New England high school campus, but the hangar is a constant reminder of the fascinating history lying beneath the surface. ■■

Dear Evi...

By EVI MAHON

Dear Evi,
I really like this girl, and I think she might like me back. What do I do?
Cautious Casanova

Dear Cautious Casanova,
Listen and listen well: never, under ANY circumstances, be yourself (take it from me-- I tried doing that once and it ended with me crying on a couch eating a pint of Ben & Jerry's while watching Star Wars). You've got to assess the situation first-- get some dirt on her. Find out what she likes to eat, where she hangs out, whether or not she's failing Geometry (it helps to have a friend in the NSA for this). Once you know everything there is to know about her (and you're still interested), tailor your personality to her subconscious criteria and boom-- dinner and a movie in no time. If you don't have close ties to the Federal government and really don't want to go out for the football team if you're more of a Dungeons-and-Dragons type, I suppose you could try the whole "being yourself" thing. It'll probably end with sobbing into an empty ice cream container, but you know what they say: it is better to have loved and lost than to illegally spy on a teenage girl all for your own twisted emotional benefit. At least, I think that's how the saying goes...

Dear Evi,
I'm a 7th grader, and walking through the

senior hallway really scares me. How can I avoid getting shoved around by upper-classmen?
Petrified Commuter

Dear Petrified Commuter,
The first part of your plan should be to find the biggest, burliest senior and befriend him (or her-- there are lots of strong, women in the class of 2014). That way, if any other person shoves or harasses you, a deus ex machina whirls in and sweeps you away to whatever class you have. Of course, if you're not fortunate enough to command your own gargantuan task force, take a page from my book. When pushed aside by towering upperclassmen (who, in their defense, usually don't notice anyone under 5'6"), have a list of witty come-backs in your mind. As a young Greylockian (Is that the term for us? It is now...), I myself was frightened of the long commute to the cafeteria. However, I found out that just by paying attention to where I was going and who I was sharing the hallway with, the jostling stopped. Now that I can speak as an upperclassman, I can honestly say that we don't try to push you around, it's just a hazard of trying to fit large groups of people into one hallway with no particular organization. Try to stick to the right side of the hallway and look up from your phones occasionally. You'll not only avoid collisions, but might also notice that someone is actually smiling at you. ■■

RAMBLEWILD

Continued from Page 1.

with nature. "We want [Ramblewild] to be a natural, unplugged experience," says Gallagher, "We want you to immerse yourself in the woods."

Nature Deficit Disorder, or NDD, is becoming increasingly common in the younger generations. NDD, as described by author Richard Louv, is the lack of nature in today's technology generation. Through his research, Louv has shown that lack of exposure to the natural world is directly linked to depression, obesity and other serious issues that are pressing today's younger generation. Despite how hokey it sounds, spending more time outdoors has numerous health benefits and increases your connection with nature.

Gallagher hopes for the project to be completed by February 2014. As well as the countless health benefits, Ramblewild will also generate taxes for the town of Lanesborough. ■■

At right: Builders continue to work on installing the aerial platforms at Ramblewild. Photo courtesy of Peter Niemeyer.



How to Keep Your Electronic Device Secure

By ANDREW WHITAKER

With the increasing number of expensive items brought by to school by students, it is becoming more and more important to keep valuables stashed away. The constant movement during an average school day can heighten the chances of having a device or wallet stolen. In response to the recent influx of reports of stolen valuables, teachers are more than ever urging the importance of locking possessions up when they cannot be supervised. Not only does this easy task deter thieves, it provides the owner with the piece of mind that comes from knowing everything is safe. As phones and computers become more useful as classroom tools, it is becoming more difficult to simply leave these devices home at all times. With that in mind, here are some programs to install on your device now so that you can track it down in the event that it is stolen.

The Runners-Up:

Android Device Manager (Free, Android)
Google has created something similar to the iOS 6 version of Find My iPhone with Android Device Manager. Included in a Google Play update, this program can lock, wipe or play a sound on your Android smartphone and track its location through the phone's GPS chip. If you have an Android phone, it would be worth it to check that you have the manager enabled. Keep in mind that the services require a network connection, not just GPS.

Prey (Free/Paid, All)

Prey is an open-source software designed to track all the devices you own. It provides similar services as other software, but if you do not have a network connection, Prey attempts to connect to the nearest unlocked

WiFi network. This is extremely useful on modern devices, where Prey can run in the background and help you retrieve your lost device. Pro Plans are inexpensive and allow you to add more devices.

The Big Winners:

Apple's "Find My" Suite (Free, Apple)
The best part of Apple's security software is that it is built in for all devices running iOS 5 or newer and on computers running OSX Lion or newer. The software is easy to set up and allows you to find, wipe or play a loud sound on a device in order to get it back. iOS 7 takes the security a step further, requiring a thief to know your password (or replicate your fingerprint) in order to wipe the device. It only allows connections to trusted computers. Be sure to set this service up if you have an Apple device,

but be careful with WiFi-only devices, as the service requires a network connection to function properly.

Lookout Mobile Security (Free/Paid, Android)

Lookout goes beyond the reaches of built-in software to keep your device safe. Along with tracking, wiping and playing sounds, the software can also take pictures of thieves with the phone's camera, sending e-mails of the photos when a thief fails to unlock the phone. The software also scans apps and web pages to make sure there are no viruses or identity theft threats. Lookout is a very strong product that has been around for a while and since it runs on Android phones you have a greater ability to tweak settings to keep the device safe. ■■

OPINION

Editor’s Note: The views expressed in opinion pieces do not reflect the collective views of this newspaper, but of the individual authors.

Enders’ Game

By NATE TASKIN



A scene from the film adaptation of Ender’s Game.

When I was young, I read a science fiction book called Ender’s Game by Orson Scott Card and so, I’m sure, have many of you. This is a book that meant something to me and many others. It was empowering in many ways, with its themes of unashamed intelligence, looking outside of the box, persevering against adversity and finding your own power through thought and action.

I walked into the film adaptation of Ender’s Game with zero expectations. I walked out with similar ambivalence. See, I used to be a fanboy. I used to get excited for things. I don’t anymore. I haven’t in years. X-Men Origins: Wolverine is the reason why. It makes sense that Ender’s Game would have the same director. In some way, it is almost reassuring to know that Ender’s Game was only mediocre, as

opposed to abysmal, but sometimes “meh” is more depressing than terribleness. It had all of the elements to be excellent (a superb cast and impressive visuals) but it finds itself weighed down by bad pacing, flaccid tension and foggy stakes.

For material aimed at younger audiences, Ender’s Game is admirable in that it raises the same mature and complex issues of its book counterpart, albeit in a disappointingly watered down approach. Director Gavin Hood clearly understands the material, the topics within it and the necessity of including them but he never musters the courage to interact with them. Given what the film tries (key word: tries) to convey in regard to the indoctrination of children and the pressures of authoritarianism, Hood barely tippy toes around the subject, as if he knew he’d face fallout

from deviating from the book but similarly feared opposition if he went all out. As a result, the themes stand dumbfounded and flat without much of anything in the way of comment. This unwillingness to flesh out ideas is the film’s Achilles heel. It comes across more as the Sparknotes version of the book rather than a genuine adaptation, as if the filmmakers just based their script off of a synopsis they read on the book’s Wikipedia page.

The film bafflingly chooses to jettison much of the action that takes place on Earth in a haphazard rush to get to the main body of the story. The first ten minutes are spent speeding through clunky exposition. As a result of opening on such a shaky note, Ender’s sister Valentine (Abigail Breslin), only a gets a few minutes of screentime despite her status as one of the few elements of humanity in Ender’s life. But worse still, Ender’s brother (Jimmy Pinchak) is only given one scene in the entire film, completely undermining Ender’s fear of becoming just as damaged as his sibling. Asa Butterfield (of Hugo fame!) does a fine job portraying Ender with all of his stoic intelligence laced with self doubt, but because we have been shortchanged on his emotional conflict, he is difficult to connect with, and this lack of attachment with the audience displays itself in all of the other aspects of the film. Harrison Ford seems invested in the material as the gruff Colonel Graff, but offers little besides looking grouchy and bulldogged. Ben Kingsley shows up in the middle of the third act to shout a great deal (to little effect) and disappears as abruptly as he entered. Viola Davis, playing the major studying Ender’s mental state, gives a fine performance but again is vastly underutilized besides providing that token nod to the book’s more multi-

faceted subject matter. It seems as though merely faithfully adapting the plot itself has taken precedence over the actual cast themselves, consequentially making the movie feel lifeless and rigid and greatly reducing any investment one can have for the story.

On a visual level, Ender’s Game is exceptionally well realized. This quality shines brightest during the battle room sequences, where cadets are pitted against each other in zero gravity. While the special effects used to achieve these scenes are spectacular, giving a great sense of space and weightlessness, this achievement only shows on a purely technical level. Actually watching these bits unfold is not nearly as impressive. These segments, which dominate the first half of the film, are entirely tension free because the audience knows that it is watching a simulation. There’s no sense of urgency or jeopardy as Ender and company slowly float around aimlessly.

Ender’s Game’s ultimate moral may be a relief from the bombastic jingoism of most Hollywood blockbusters, but it cannot make up for its faults. It brings to mind the film version of the equally troubled The Golden Compass. While it at least attempted to transfer the dark elements of the source material, it has no idea what to make of them. The strong cast of actors are given little to do because all of the characterization is lost trying to squeeze into a two hour runtime, permanently staining the film on a dramatic level. Towards the end, when the film jarringly cuts after introducing sequel, I could not help but sigh with exhaustion.

Final Judgment: 2 Buggers out of 4 (Oh sorry, Formics. Remember how in the book they were called the Formics? Remember? Ehhhhhhh?) ■■■

Pera Bistro

By HANNAH FEIN AND ANYA SHELDON

When you hear the phrase “Mediterranean cuisine,” what do you envision? Classic Italian foods like pasta or pizza? Maybe you think of Greece or Spain, but don’t really know what types of foods are popular there. It turns out that over 20 countries border the Mediterranean Sea: five in Africa, four in Asia and twelve in Europe. Can you name any dishes, let alone the countries in this region? Maybe it’s time to brush up on your geography and expand your culinary knowledge. If so, look no further than Spring Street in Williamstown, where you can find Pera Bistro, a recent addition to the growing list of restaurants in Berkshire County. We decided we should pay it a visit, so on a brisk November afternoon our enthusiastic party of diners seized the opportunity to explore what Pera has to offer.

Our group bypassed the higher tables with stools that were available for a table against the wall. From this position we had a glimpse of the kitchen and a view of the entire restaurant. The combination of the warm color palette, use of wood and brick and cheerful glow from the windows gave the interior a simple, welcoming feel, which was accented by soft jazz music. Only about a third of the tables were occupied, so the restaurant was fairly quiet and relaxed.

The menu showcased a wide variety of options, including numerous appetizers, salads, soups, pasta dishes, sandwiches and wraps, dinners and desserts. We ordered the Fresh Hummus Plate (\$6.95), Linguini Marinara (\$13.95), Classic Ceasar Salad (\$8.95), Penne with Gouda sauce (\$14.95), Shrimp Scampi (\$18.95) and Falafel Wrap (\$8.95). We noted that some of the prices were slightly higher than what we were used to seeing and we therefore rejected a few appealing but pricey dishes for cheaper options. This did



Linguini Marinara

not bother us, but if you have a tight budget Pera might not be your cup of tea.

First to come was our appetizer, the fresh hummus plate, which consisted of three scoops of hummus adorned with spices and greens and accompanied by a stack of warm pieces of Lavash bread. The only downside to this absolutely delicious dish was that there was not enough bread for five people.

In a short amount of time the entrees arrived. The Linguini Marinara was artfully arranged, with a large dollop of tomato sauce garnished with basil and cheese all on top of a steaming pile of pasta. The dish also came with three warm pieces of bread. While it was not amazing, the meal was satisfying and tasty.

Our third entree was one of the day’s specials, the Penne with Gouda sauce and it arrived in a bowl filled to the brim with



Penne with Gouda Sauce

cheesy goodness. Tender penne noodles were enveloped in thick layer of Gouda and the generous serving quickly became very filling. The creamy cheese sauce, complete with tomato pieces and a tantalizing topping of breadcrumbs, can only be described as extraordinarily delicious and rich. If you prefer light dishes to hearty and cheesy pasta this choice may overwhelm you, but for any cheese or pasta lover, this penne is nothing short of heavenly.

Falafel, a deep-fried, chickpea-based patty, is one of the most popular Mediterranean foods available in the United States. Often, American attempts at preparation prove to be mediocre. Pera’s falafel wrap, however, succeeded in capturing the dish’s authenticity with its high-quality falafel, which was wrapped in fluffy pita and complemented by cusabi dressing, ol-



Photo Courtesy of Anya Sheldon

Shrimp Scampi

ive oil and mixed greens. While the wrap was served warm and was bursting with flavor, it was almost, though not quite comparable to falafel served in Spain or the Middle East. A highly filling, nutritious and savory dish, the falafel wrap was certainly impressive and we strongly recommended it.

We left Pera in high spirits. The restaurant, although it has only been in operation for a short amount of time, seems to be flourishing. Pretty much everything was spot on during our meal-- the charming decor, friendly employees, quick service and, of course, delightful food. So next time you find yourself craving some Mediterranean cuisine--hopefully you know a little more about it now--check out Pera Bistro! ■■■

GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY

By SAM SWOAP

The Mt. Greylock Girls Cross Country had a successful season, beating Drury, Wahconah and Taconic in their final regular season meet to go 11-4 for the season. They finished third in the Berkshire County North Division. Top varsity runners include seniors Emily Kaegi and Amalia Leamon, junior Laura Galib, sophomores Grace Smith and Molly Haskins, freshman Niku Darafshi and 8th grader Emma Pumbo. Led by Kaegi, who came in first overall, they finished 4th at the Berkshire County Championships. Smith said: "The season went very well this year. Everybody showed a lot of improvement and everyone worked well together."

On Saturday, November 9th, a true underdog story occurred at Northfield. Heading into the race, the Mounties were not favorites to win. They had just come off a 4th place finish at the Berkshire County Championships and were expecting to fight for a spot at States. Top runner Kaegi was wearing a boot on her right foot to fight off tendonitis and no one knew what to expect of the team.

As Greylock runners began to finish, hope slowly began to spread. Shortly after, their win was confirmed. Greylock had scored 68 points, beating Lenox by 13 to take home the gold trophy. Of the win, Galib said, "It was amazing. We knew we had the potential to win, but we all had to just stay focused and not let the excitement of the race get in our heads. I think I speak for all the girls when I say that we're still



Photo Courtesy of Cheryl Sacks

Emily Kaegi leads the pack at the start of the varsity race at the Berkshire County Championships.

in shock, but it feels amazing to know that our hard work really did pay off." Kaegi won, Leamon finished 13th and Pumbo was 15th. Kaegi tied the course record with a time of 19:19, which would have also won the Division 1 race later that day. Said Darafshi, "We weren't sure how well we were going to do today and we knew that if we wanted to win or even make it to states

we would all have to run our best." Luckily for the Mounties, that's what happened.

Looking ahead to the 2014 season, the Mounties are looking strong. A talented core group of sophomores led by Grace Smith and Molly Haskins are ready to build on their talents and experience. Other key returnees will include Galib, Darafshi, Pumbo, and 7th grader Margo Smith. ■■

BOYS' SOCCER

By NYEIN SOE AND ECHO STAFF

The Boys' Soccer team has had a solid season. Their 11-3-4 record (only losses are to Monument, Amherst, and West Springfield) in the regular season earned the team the second seed in the Western Mass playoffs. These strong results came out as a surprise to the team since it lost key players last year. Junior captain and center back, Jake Foehl remarked, "We weren't expected to do nearly as well as last year [semifinals of Western Mass], but we held our own quite well." According to David Majetich, another junior captain, "[the team] was able to compensate, since new players like Sam Dils and Felix Kershaw stepped up their game this year."

In the playoffs, the team managed to defeat Wahconah in the quarter-finals pretty soundly (3-0) and pull off a clutch win against Monument Mt. in the semi-finals,

which ended in an intense shoot-out. "I'm really proud of how much we matured as a team throughout the season, in the middle of the regular season we lost a game we should've won because of some mental errors, so to come back from down 3-0 in PK's in the semifinals really shows how far we've come mentally" remarked senior captain, Tom Guettler when asked about the season.

On Saturday November 9th, the boys faced off against Belchertown for the Western Mass final and after a hard fought battle, came home with a second place trophy, having lost 2-0. Unfortunately for the boys, a number of their key players, including Kershaw and Eric Hirsch were sidelined due to injury from previous games. 8th grader, Sam Dils, despite trying to work through it, had to be taken out because of

an injury from a hard tackle early in the game. The team however put their best foot forward and worked with who they had. "It's never fun to end a season with a game like that, but we played our hearts out and left with our heads held high" said senior, Nick Bolognia.

The Mt. Greylock boys' soccer team, or as they like to call themselves, "football club" is one of the most close knit teams at Greylock. "It's really like having a second family, that's how close we are" said Guettler. Next year, prospects are promising. With a dominate senior class, the team will be ready. Coach Blair Dils said, "we will definitely go into next season hungry to get to the next level. I am also really proud of the seniors and their contributions to the program over their four years." ■■

FANTASY FOOTBALL

By BENNI MCCOMISH

Fantasy football is a common topic of conversation in the lunch room or in the hallways during the fall. Yet even with all the banter, many people around the school may still not know anything about this trending phenomenon at our school. So what is it all about?

Sophomore Cal Filson, a fantasy football enthusiast who has been playing for roughly six years, said, "I have always loved watching football and fantasy just added a whole new dimension to my love of football. When watching a game with players that are on my team, I am much more interested than if I didn't have a player in the game I was watching."

In fantasy football you manage a team with players from the NFL (National Football League). The fantasy team gets points based on the performance of the players in real life and the team is placed in a league of other fantasy teams. Typically the other managers are your friends who have formed a league to play each other each week. The best players to have on your fantasy team are the players who produce the most points. Different positions score points in different ways; but only the offense can score points individually. The defense and special teams score points collectively. For example, your defense would be the entire Jacksonville Jaguars' defense but you could have offensive players from several different teams. Offensive positions which can score points include quarterbacks, running backs, wide receivers and tight ends. But scoring points differs from league to league; it matters what scoring system you use. Some of these different leagues include head to head, standard or PPR (points per reception). Before the NFL season starts your league has a draft, where you have one pick for one player every 13 rounds.

Sophomore Matthew Wiseman is part of a new fantasy football league which started this season. "Before this fall I wasn't very interested in football, but now since I'm part of a fantasy league I watch a lot more football," said Wiseman. "I would definitely recommend it-- if you have the slightest interest in football then go for it, join a league. It will increase your interest in football dramatically."

Fantasy Football has become a huge and profitable online industry. Sites such as Yahoo! and ESPN run fantasy leagues and get a lot of traffic to their websites. These companies then sell advertisements to add to their bottom line. ■■

VOLLEYBALL

By ERIC HIRSCH



Photo Courtesy of Dana DiSantis

From left to right, seniors Kelsey Hadley, Jenna Markland and Mia Disantis have been important players

The 2013 Mt. Greylock Mounties were thrilled to qualify for the Western Massachusetts Division III volleyball tournament. They finished the season on a hot streak, and finally qualified for the tournament, when they soared over the Mt. Everett Eagles at the Eagles' nest. Their regular season efforts were enough for an 11-9 record as well as the 11th seed. Unfortunately they would have to travel to Mahar High School in the first round of the playoffs. A

senior laden team including Amanda Galib, Mia Disantis, Kelsey Hadley, Gianna Renzi, Makayla Duda, Abby Tague, and captain, Jenna Markland gave the Mounties' squad the experience it needed to succeed. Other key team members include junior captain Celia Bote, sophomore Hope Willis, and junior Josie Verter. Despite their leadership, the Mounties had few expectations for the upcoming playoff game. However, the team led by coach John Albano came into the Mahar game with a nothing to lose mentality. As it turned out, the Mounties would lose nothing that night and they came away with the upset victory.

Unfortunately for the Mounties, their hot streak came to an end vs. an overpowering Athol team in the quarterfinals. The loss was only a slight blemish to an otherwise successful season. It was not always easy for the Mounties, however. For the first part of the season, wins were hard to come by. Bote said, "With a new coach [John Albano] this year, it was great to have all the seniors who had been on the team for the past 6 years. They really carried us this year." The Mounties also had a key win over Monument on senior night. The Mounties star defensive player was libero, Markland who made a nice trio with strong hitters Willis and Verter. Despite the loss of the sizable senior class, the Mounties will return a strong core of players to next year's team. The Mounties have plenty to celebrate about this year. However, they also have a bright future to look forward to. ■■



BAKERY

1194 Cold Spring Road, Rt 7
(Look for the purple blocks)
Williamstown, MA
413-458-3600
Made with the Finest All Natural Ingredients

GIRLS’ SOCCER

By CAL FILSON



Photo Courtesy of Gray Kaegi

Members of the girls soccer team converge on the ball as they fight Hoosac players for posession.

The Mt. Greylock girls’ soccer team entered the postseason with an impressive 11-3-2 record, garnering them the second seed in the Western Massachusetts Division III tournament. The Mounties finished the regular season with a big 3-0 win against rival Hoosac Valley on senior night. In their first year of competing in the North Division, the county’s premier division, the Mounties finished second in the standings behind Pittsfield.

When asked about what went well for the team this year, sophomore midfielder Melissa Swann said, “We improved our control of possession and connected well from defense to offense.” Greylock’s post-season success all came down to “improving everyday as a team and as individuals,” said Swann. Greylock’s top three offensive performers, junior forward Kelsey Orpin, senior forward Sophie Leamon and Swann each averaged about half a goal per game during the regular season. Greylock’s defense, anchored by sophomore goalkeeper Charlotte Rand, was effective in shutting down opposing team’s forwards. The Mounties and Rand allowed an average of 1.3 goals per game during the regular season. Their success on defense was key in

each playoff game. Greylock’s quarterfinal matchup against the Athol Red Raiders was exciting to say the least, but the Mounties fell just short of their happy ending. The Mounties scored first, on a bar down rip from eighth grade forward Caroline Flynn. After a questionable call by the referee, Greylock let up the equalizer goal on a free kick from just outside the eighteen yard box. The Mounties continued to pressure Athol in the second half from all angles but struggled to finish. Some shots were blocked by Athol defenders and a few attempts went wide of the goal. After 100 minutes of play, including regulation and two overtime periods, Greylock and Athol went into a penalty kick shootout. The Mounties went one for four on penalty kicks to Athol’s two for four. Orpin was the lone scorer in the shootout for Greylock. It was not the way the Mounties would have wanted to go out, nor was it the way that Greylock fans expected them to go out. However, the 2013 season was anything but a bust for the Greylock girls’ soccer team, considering the team’s numerous accomplishments. ■■

FOOTBALL

By LUCY BARRETT

With high expectations for the 2013 Mt. Greylock football team, the Mounties finished the regular season with a solid 6-2 record. Led by senior captains Nick DiSanti, Daivon Clement and Matt Malloy, the team qualified for the Western Mass playoffs as the number three seed, having to face the number two Hoosac Valley in the first round. With one of the most intense, heart-racing games this season for both teams, the Mounties gave Hoosac a great run but fell just short, losing 17-16. The Greylock boys came back in the fourth quarter after being down 17-8, when junior Matt Hogan intercepted a pass from Hoosac Valley’s quarterback. Clement finished the drive when he punched it in from the four-yard line. Senior Rob Buffis completed the two-point conversion and with seven minutes left the Mounties still had a shot at a first

round win. Junior Michael McCormack came up with a big hit to help the Mounties hold the Hurricanes from a first down. The winner was not determined until there was a minute left in the game and Hoosac Valley recovered a fumble in the end zone for a touchback. Although the season ended sooner than the team had hoped, the Mounties always gave it their all. DiSanti said, “It was a successful season in my eyes, because we finished with a winning record and made western mass.” DiSanti, as a part of the Mounties three-peat, had hopes of clinching a fourth, but did not focus all of his energy on that. “It’s really tough not taking home the fourth Super Bowl, but we had fun, we had a good year, and we still have the last three years to look back at in glory,” he said. ■■

BOYS’ CROSS COUNTRY

By GRAY KAEGI

The day of the Western Massachusetts Championship meet looked perfect-- the sun was shining, the temperature was perfect and to top it off, the Mounties were dominant. The team headed into Saturday’s race with an undefeated season under their belts. They knew it was going to be a tough race because there are always fast teams outside of Berkshire County that attend Western Mass. However, the team was confident and was ready to perform at its best. Right from the start, Greylock had a key presence at the head of the pack. They stuck in strong groups and pushed each other to do their best, and this worked remarkably. All of Greylock’s seven runners finished within the top 25, which is practically unheard of in these high stakes races. Junior Carter Stripp had a stellar race, finishing just seconds after champion Tucker McNinch and beating Hoosac’s Travis Ciempa. Of his great race, Stripp said, “My plan, going in, was to run my own race and handle anything that came up. When I realized that Ciempa had gone out too hard, I knew that could take him.” Other runners with notable finishes included Tommy Kirby, Will Nolan and Sam Kobrin. These fantastic results powered Grey-



Photo Courtesy of Cheryl Sacks

lock to win the Western Massachusetts title by a whopping 28 points. This is the fourth straight year the team has won the title. “Our team performed outstanding overall, getting four runners in the top ten. Plus our fifth, sixth, and seventh runners pulled through again. They all did the job asked of them,” said Stripp. The team had their state race on Saturday, November 16. It was more of a test for Greylock than they faced all season, but if any team knows how to go into a race prepared to work their hardest, it is this boys’ cross country team. ■■

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18				19					
20					21		22				23			
	24				25			26		27				
				28				29		30		31	32	33
34	35	36			37			38		39				
40				41					42			43		
44			45			46					47			
48					49		50			51				
			52			53		54				55	56	
57	58	59			60		61			62				63
64					65					66		67		
68						69					70			
71						72					73			

- Across
- 1 Get ahead of
- 5 Dobbin’s diet
- 9 Georgia city
- 14 “Haus” wife
- 15 Affectionate attention
- 16 Publicity item, for short
- 17 Huckleberry ____

- 18 Sin
- 20 Genghis Khan follower
- 22 A potent beginning
- 23 Pitch-black
- 24 Unsmiling
- 26 Tel ____
- 28 Hidden supply
- 30 Degrades
- 34 Osso ____
- 37 Delivery by parachute
- 39 Peter ____Tchaikovsky
- 40 “Eureka!”
- 41 It’s spotted in a zoo
- 43 Fri. preceder
- 44 Donkey
- 46 Command on a submarine
- 47 Conductor Riccardo
- 48 Small crustacean
- 50 Bossa nova relative
- 52 Pod contents
- 54 Sleeping spots
- 57 “True ____”
- 60 Plant used in making poi
- 62 Satellite-tracking program
- 64 “The Hundred and One Dalmatians” author
- 67 Caravel of Columbus
- 68 Put up with
- 69 Chess conclusion
- 70 Road to Rome
- 71 Alpine call
- 72 Berth place
- 73 Geneva research ctr.

- Down
- 1 Fizzling-out sound
- 2 La Scala solos
- 3 ____ Domingo (Caribbean capital)

- 4 “The ____ Rises”
- 5 Autumn mo.
- 6 1922 D. H. Lawrence novel
- 7 Bygone London transport
- 8 1990-91 World Grand Prix champion
- 9 Fuel economy letters
- 10 Touchdown
- 11 Film maker Joel or Ethan
- 12 City on the Irtysh
- 13 A bit too interested
- 19 Hindu god
- 21 In post-career mode: Abbr.
- 25 Constituted
- 27 Annotation abbreviation
- 29 Indians of Arizona
- 31 In ____ (at the original place)
- 32 Authentic
- 33 Feng ____
- 34 Barbara, to friends
- 35 “Nope!”
- 36 Author John Dickson ____
- 38 Tenor Luciano
- 41 Capital of Togo
- 42 San ____ (Riviera resort)
- 45 Dangerous current
- 47 Kind of lodge
- 49 Butter bits
- 51 Good for Guillaume
- 53 Actress Emma
- 55 Commonplace
- 56 More level-headed
- 57 Aussie greeting
- 58 “____-Man” (1974 spy/sci-fi film)
- 59 “____ it my way”
- 61 100 dinars
- 63 “Drat!”
- 65 Conger, e.g.
- 66 Jitterbug’s “cool”