

GUYS AND DOLLS CAST GRACES '62 CENTER STAGE

By ANDREW WHITAKER



Photo courtesy of Emily Rudd.

Nathan Detroit, far left, and cast perform a scene from "Guys and Dolls."

On the evenings of March 7 and 8, the cast and crew of *Guys and Dolls*, this year's Mt. Greylock musical, were treated to a unique experience--the opportunity to perform on the main stage of the Williams College '62 Center for Theater and Dance. The play was well-attended both nights as students, families and community members turned out to enjoy the performance and admire the performers' hard work.

Guys and Dolls is a story set in New York City in the early 1950s. It features infamous gambler Nathan Detroit, played by senior Steven O'Brien, who needs to find the money necessary to hold an undercover crap game. He tries to get this money by betting "Sky" Masterson, played by junior Jacob Paul. Detroit challenges Masterson to take missionary worker Sarah Brown, sophomore Nicole Jones, on a date. At the

same time, Detroit is pressured by Miss Adelaide, his fiancée of fourteen years, to get married. Evi Mahon played the role of Adelaide. The melding of these conflicts leads to comedic mishaps, heartfelt solos and, as always, a happy ending.

The Mt. Greylock theater group faced many unique challenges, most notably the condition of the school's auditorium. As the school has aged, certain parts of the stage, specifically the fire curtain, have been deemed unsafe for theater performances with costumes and moving scenes. Fortunately, Williams College stepped up to fill the need for a venue by offering the '62 Center.

"It was so wonderful that Williams was generous enough to let us use the stage," said Mahon, her gratitude reflective of that of the other cast members. "Everything was better than we could have wished for."

"I honestly thought something would break at times," said Nicole Jones. "Everything was so professional; it was all amazing!"

The stage performers weren't the only ones who enjoyed working with the play. "It was a thrill for me to direct the pit at the Center," said Mt. Greylock Band Conductor Lyndon Moors. "Working in this state of the art facility looks great, sounds great, and I believe [it] motivated everyone to do his/her best. We got things, like an actual pit, that we don't have at the school. It's a great experience for the performers, the crew and everyone involved."

This year's cast was smaller than average, and this initially shocked many of actors and actresses. Junior Jacob Paul ad-

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1 in 650: An Interview with Chloe Hughes

By IAN CULNANE



Photo courtesy of Ian Culnane.

A young, upcoming generation of students attends Mt. Greylock as members of the middle school, many of whom participate in exciting clubs and extracurricular activities. This month, the Echo turned to seventh grader Chloe Hughes to learn about her experience as a middle schooler and how she keeps busy at Greylock and beyond.

Echo: What was it like coming into Mt. Greylock as a 7th grader?

Chloe: At first it was really scary; I was absolutely terrified. I had never had to change classes, and I forget everything. After my first week of being here, I was really excited. I loved that there were so many things that we had the opportunity to learn. It was just a brand new adventure.

Echo: What are some of the things you do in the school?

Chloe: I was influenced to go out for a couple of sports teams, but overall it just came down to what I wanted to do. I wanted to be part of a team that could benefit our school. And I wanted to do something with the language I was learning. So I signed up for a couple of clubs like Students Organizing Change (SOC) and Junior Classical League (JCL). I'm still kind of getting used to middle school.

Echo: What is your favorite activity that you participate in?

Chloe: If I had to choose a favorite, I would definitely choose SOC because I am doing something that affects our school and our community. And I love that there is something I can do to help. One thing that [SOC] is doing right now is teaming up with my brother Cole Hughes, who is organizing Pennies for Leukemia. In all the math classes, and in Mrs. Barrett's and Mrs. Kirby's rooms, there are boxes where you can donate spare change or dollars, whatever you feel like putting in. And that money goes to patients who have cancer. We are trying to promote this throughout the middle school and get everyone to donate at least 50 cents. There are about 600 kids in this school, which would make us \$300 dollars.

Echo: Is there any specific reason you and Cole are doing this?

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2014-2015 PROGRAM OF STUDIES

By MOLLY WILSON

Spring: the time of year when mud appears, days get (slightly) warmer, and students choose what courses they will take in the coming school year. A point of interest every year during course selection is which new courses will be added to the program of studies.

This year, students can expect a variety of new options to select from, especially in the Latin departments. Beginning next year, students above the Latin III level will have the option to choose between going directly to AP Latin, or taking either a Latin Prose or Latin Poetry class. In addition,

students who have taken AP Latin can elect to take one of the two new courses. This new structure allows for more flexibility. Two other new options include the ability for ninth grader students to take Latin I, a previously unavailable opportunity. Also, a semester course in mythology will be offered to all levels of high school students.

Another department facing changes is the science department facing changes with a different selection of Advanced Placement courses. As always, AP Chemistry will follow its two year rotation with AP Phys-

ics, which has two courses lined up for the coming year. The first, AP Physics II, will be equivalent to a second semester college course based in Algebra II. The other, AP Physics C, will be based in calculus and focus on electricity and magnetism. The latter is designed to benefit students interested in engineering or medicine.

The Art and Performing Arts departments also have two new courses to offer. A mural painting class will be one new choice, partly inspired by the suc-

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SOPHOMORES ATTEND HEALTH PRESENTATIONS

By KELSEY HEBERT



Photo courtesy of Gray Kaegi.

Tina Tartaglia points to a video during one of the substance abuse presentations in the auditorium.

Recently, sophomore students at Mt. Greylock met with Brien Center clinician Tina Tartaglia to discuss and learn about substance abuse and prevention. Mt. Greylock's Student Support Team asked Tartaglia to visit the school to talk to sophomores in order to supplement the curriculum of the Health classes that sophomores are already required to take.

Jacob Schutz, Assistant Principal at Mt. Greylock, addressed that the talk was organized to address the growing local and national issues regarding substance abuse. One large presentation in the auditorium was held for all sophomore students who took their health class requirement in the first semester. This presentation focused on binge drinking, addiction and withdrawal, early use, refusal skills and healthy coping skills. Similarly, Tartaglia spoke to small groups of current health class students about alcohol, marijuana and tobacco addiction in addition to skills talked about in the large presentation.

Alicia Boudon, also a clinician at the Brien Center, currently meets with selected

students each week to talk about substance abuse and prevention. Students for these groups can be referred by their peers, parents, teachers or the administration to address a variety of topics within the field of substance abuse. These talks can focus around how to cope with the involvement of drugs by friends or parents or more fundamental knowledge of substance use and abuse.

Rachelle Smith, the health teacher here at Mt. Greylock, said that, "Most teens and adults don't think substance use and budding addiction are a real issue at Greylock, but we are not immune to national trends." Smith also said that in addition to the talks, further actions should be taken to sustain information about substance abuse in students' minds. "We need to figure out how kids can stay connected with friends and social gatherings without drinking, drugs, etc. Continuing this education, possibly with real talks with people who have struggled with addiction or people who have chosen not to participate in substance use at all, is really important," said Smith. ■■

PATHWAYS DISCUSSION

Read Nicole Jones' account of the visting business owners' presentaion.

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SPRING SPORT PREVIEWS

Find out how Mountie teams are shaping up for the season.

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NEW LAPTOPS

Emily Rudd reports on a generous gift to the middle school.

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THE WIND RISES

Katelin Marchand reviews the Japanese film director's latest work.

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A Note from the Editors:

This issue is our first as the editors of the Echo. We wanted to offer a brief collection of the real news stories of the month. As this is our first issue, we are still learning and look forward to improving as the months progress. We'd like to mention that we did not include all of our usual advertisements due to limited space, but next month we will be back on a regular schedule. If any of you ever have questions, ideas or tips, or if you would like to contribute to the paper, we are always open to new suggestions and members. Expect the next issue out in May!

Sincerely,
Miranda Dils and Jake Foehl

1 in 650: Chloe Hughes

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Chloe: A couple of years ago a friend of mine was diagnosed with Lymphoma. When I found out what my brother was doing, I asked Mrs. Barrett if we could help out the cause because it affects a lot more people than anyone realizes.

Echo: What else do you do outside of school?

Chloe: Three days a week after school, I assist the music teacher with the play at the Williamstown Elementary School. This year they are putting on "The Little Mermaid," and I have been doing the costumes portions of the play, which has been really exciting.

Interview has been edited and condensed. To nominate somebody for 1 in 650, email the editors at mountgreylockecho@gmail.com. ■■

BOYS' TEAM ROOM LOCKED

By NAJLA NASSAR

It is common knowledge among Mt. Greylock students that the school's administration has recently increased security throughout the building. The newest development in a series of new protective measures is that the team room area of the boys' locker room will now be locked during the day. Students are aware that, as part of Greylock's security plan, all doors should be locked when rooms are unattended. When entryways are not shut properly or locked, the safety of the building is compromised. As a result, Principal Mary MacDonald met with Vice Principal Jacob Schutz and together they made the decision to lock the boy's team room.

Several factors influenced this security

measure. On multiple occasions the door was left open, resulting in several thefts. Locking the team room will hopefully prevent this occurrence. Also, the new measure makes it easier for the gym teachers to supervise and minimize the traffic in and out of the boys' team room. Besides ensuring building safety, limiting thefts and facilitating students, locking the boys' team room was only fair in the sense that the girls' team room is always locked.

"If we are looking at equity as well, the girls' team room is only used during practice after school. So it just made sense to lock [the boys'] door," said Schutz.

Locking the gym team room has and will have minimal impact on students

and has not caused any problems thus far. Male athletes now have to put their belongings or equipment in the team room before it is locked. Boys are not affected during gym or after school practices because they still have the ability to change in the regular locker room. The added security will remain in place for the rest of the year, and, unless a compelling argument or issue is posed, the door will permanently be locked. The security decision regarding the boys' team room was logical according to the administration as part of an ongoing attempt to ensure the safety of the school. ■■

50 NEW LAPTOPS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

By EMILY RUDD

On Tuesday, March 11, Mt. Greylock received fifty new laptops to replace the five to six year old ones in the middle school carts. This \$32,250 gift is from the Jeffrey family, who has supported Mt. Greylock through the Williams College Fund for many years.

The new computers are not in place yet as it takes a long and tedious process to program them. Rob Wnuk, the technology director, says that he will spend four to five hours on one of the new laptops so that he can put the right programs on it. Then he will duplicate the hard drive and reassemble it to each computer. His goal is to complete it by April vacation, a task that he says is meant for the summer.

Technology Committee members include Wnuk, Kate Brown, Kathy Share, Pat Blackman, Peter Niemeyer, Blair Dils, Marty Walter and Richard Scullin. Replacing the new laptops have been on the committee's "to-do list" for about two years before being chosen. Wnuk describes that the items have a "pecking order" so that the choosing can be fair. After receiving

the donation from the Jeffrey family, the committee had to put it officially before the School Committee where, in turn, it was graciously accepted.

Wnuk says that the current laptops "have seen better days." Some of the problems with them range are slow Internet and missing keys. The old laptops are going to be salvaged so that the ones in better condition can be recycled for the use of clubs or other activities. The decision is still being made.

The Jeffrey family and other donors have supported Mt. Greylock through the Williams College Fund with a cumulative amount of \$767,250. Principal Mary MacDonald says that a limited number of public schools have received such a generous donation and have had the ability to be in charge of where the funds go.

MacDonald adds, "the financial support, especially the recent gifts, reflect the donors' support and respect for the efforts faculty and staff make daily to strengthen Mt. Greylock's culture of teaching and learning." ■■

GUYS AND DOLLS

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mitted that "the cast was so small, and we were practicing in [the chorus] room and the cafeteria that at first, it didn't really seem like a real play. But as we approached the performance, it all came together."

Sophomores Molly Wilson and Jack Hydon participated for the first time in a musical at Greylock. Wilson said, "Everybody stepped up and became flexible as we practiced more and more, and the directors were amazing to work with."

Head Director and esteemed Mt. Greylock history teacher Jeffrey Welch also noticed the small cast. "I knew it would be a challenge when I picked this musical, and I was confident that these actors would arise to the challenge, which they did." Younger actors and actresses were able to fill in the shoes of valuable seniors lost last year.

Seniors leaving this year had their own words to say about this year's musical. "I'm certainly not leaving theater; *Guys and Dolls* is just the beginning for me," said Mahon, who was accepted this year into the Williams College class of 2018. "I'll be back at the '62 center next year, so this is just a taste of what is to come. It was fun to play in such an intense show with such talented new faces. It was a great musical to end with."

O'Brien had a similar opinion. "The [cast's] loyalty to the program is impressive, and most of them will stay with it through senior year. The theater is certainly in good hands."

The seniors were not the only ones reminiscing after the conclusion of the performance. Director Welch noted after the experience his own reasons for looking back on "Guys and Dolls" with fond memories. "My grandmother always came to see the plays, and she passed away last year after *Oklahoma!* After picking this musical, I remembered that she used to sing 'A Bushel and a Peck,' and it brought back some good memories."

Just as the school year isn't over, these performers still have more to do. "Don't forget, there's still the spring drama!" added O'Brien. Watch for this performance, coming up soon. ■■

PATHWAYS PANEL DISCUSSION

By NICOLE JONES



Photo courtesy of Ian Culnane.

Students listen as local entrepreneurs share insight into their business careers.

On March 7, the Pathways Business Program held a panel discussion for local entrepreneurs to talk to Greylock's seven business classes about exploring a career in business. The panel featured a large variety of speakers, three of whom were Greylock alumni, ranging in profession from contracting to criminal justice. The discussion began with each of the speakers sharing a little bit about themselves and their work, followed by a Q&A in which students were given the opportunity to ask questions about running a business in a rapidly evolving market.

The idea for the panel discussion first came up in September when Greg Shine, owner of Shine Wire and leader of the panel, was looking for more ways to get involved in Greylock's business program.

"He really set the whole thing up," said Greylock Intro to Business teacher Lisa Mendel. "He conferred with other business owners he knows and helped to pick people for the discussion."

The overall goal of the discussion was to expose the students to the many different professional opportunities available to them.

"It's okay not to be sure what you want to do," said Ms. Mendel. "Many of these business owners have varied pasts."

Robert Abel, President and CEO of True North Financial Services, emphasized the importance of hard work and learning from failure in order to be successful, explaining how "the most successful people in business often failed many times before hitting it big. It is during these difficult times that great people do great things."

Shine suggests that students start trying to gain experience in a work environment during free time in order to learn as much as they can about business. "Begin to improve your work ethic and dedication," noted Shine. "Take advantage of internships, traveling abroad and never give up on your dreams." ■■

PROGRAM OF STUDIES

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cess of the mural which was painted in the school library this past summer. Also, American Musical Theatre II will be offered in the spring of the 2014-15 school year as a continuation of the American MusicTheatre I course that will continue to be offered next year.

No major changes can be expected in either the History or the Math departments. However, the course that is currently known as Holocaust will be renamed to "A Look at History and Ourselves" and cover a broader range of topics.

With numerous options tailored to teachers' and students' interests, Greylock scholars can look forward to an interesting and academically rigorous year to come with exciting new courses. ■■

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.

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Miyazaki's *The Wind Rises*

By KATELIN MARCHAND

As award-show season has come to an end with the Academy Awards, many movie buffs are reflecting on the 2013 season. Big names such as "Gravity," "Dallas Buyer's Club," "American Hustle" and "12 Years A Slave" swept the Academy Awards, and most are aware that "Frozen," the hit Disney animated feature of the year, won the award for Best Animated Feature. Another nominee for the Best Animated Feature was "The Wind Rises," written and directed by Hayao Miyazaki. For those that are not familiar with Miyazaki's work, he is a Japanese film director, producer, animator and screenwriter, who has a love for flying machines and a fondness for creating strong female leads. In 1985 Miyazaki co-founded Studio Ghibli, a Japanese animation film studio, which is the home of his work that he produced over the years. "The Wind Rises" was Miyazaki's last film, and unfortunately did not win an Academy Award, but some of his work has won in the past, namely "Spirited Away," which won Best Animated Feature in 2003.

"The Wind Rises" is the fictionalized biography of Jiro Hirokoshi, a nearsighted

boy who is growing up in Japan during the pre World War II era. Because of his vision problems, Jiro is not allowed to fly aircrafts, so he takes his love of planes and creates the fighter planes that the Japanese used during World War II, the Mitsubishi A5M and the Mitsubishi A6M Zero.

As soon as the movie was released in Asia, there was a lot of backlash because many critics felt that Miyazaki was making light of the deaths Hirokoshi indirectly caused. Also, two months after the film came out, Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe proposed the biggest expansion of the national military since World War II. Miyazaki, a pacifist, wrote a scathing op-ed piece that further fueled the controversy over *The Wind Rises*; nationalists called the movie unpatriotic. Despite the backlash, *The Wind Rises* was still Japan's highest-grossing release of 2013, which shows Miyazaki's popular place in Japanese culture, for better or for worse. From March 28 to April 3, "The Wind Rises" played at Images Cinema in Williamstown, and it is a must see film that evokes beauty as well as good conversation. ■■

FITNESS CLUB

By DULCE REINHARDT

Greylock has many students who want to stay in shape and prepare for their respective seasonal sports. This winter and early spring, many students went into the weight room asking for assistance from Coach Gill, Coach Asplundh and math teacher Nolan Pratt on what kinds of exercises to practice. Most of the interest for the unofficial fitness "club" came from the students. Once a few students started coming, it led to them bringing more people. From the students' enthusiasm, the idea for the fitness club became a reality.

A variety of students went to the weight room after school, but the majority of them were not involved in a winter sport. The students involved either had participated in a fall sport and now wanted to stay fit, were involved in a winter sport but were getting ready for a spring sport, or just students who wanted to get a workout in.

Coach Gill said that he wanted to give the students working with him "a broad fitness; the things we [did] are all power related [because] we wanted to focus on application of power in their sport." Exercises included dead lifts, metabolic conditioning and even some gymnastic movements.

Some find it hard to motivate themselves to go to the gym everyday, or even every other day, after school. Being in a group can help keep the motivation required to get started. Students learned skills that will help them stay prepared for their sports seasons. ■■

GIRLS' LACROSSE

By BENNI MCCOMISH

In its third year of being a varsity sport, the girls' lacrosse team at Mount Greylock looks forward to a promising 2014 season. Senior captain Alana Chensey states, "We have the strongest varsity and JV lineups so far." Positive outlooks and strong returning players from last year will be crucial in preparation for the upcoming season.

Key returning upperclassmen include seniors Chensey, Mackenzie Flynn, Paige Willis and Rachel Clement and juniors Kelsey Orpin, Lucy Barrett and Emily Sabin. Sophomores Julia Whitney and Maggie Rorke, and freshman Sarah Stripp will lead a skilled group of underclassmen. Important newcomers and first year players include seniors Miranda Bucky and Sophie Leamon, who were both stars on the girls' soccer team in the fall and hope to add their athleticism to the team.

Last year, the girls made Western Mass. but lost in the first round to Northampton. Their record during the regular season was 11-6. Coach Lindsay von Holtz says, "We will do well in Berkshire County but because Central Mass. is now merged with Western Mass., it will be tough to be successful in the tournament this year. But we are strong, so I believe we will do well."

The Mounties had a strong first win against Chicopee Comp on April 7, scoring an impressive 14 goals to Chicopee's three with many players contributing multiple goals each. Looking ahead, the girls' next home game is against Pittsfeild on April 26. ■■

SEE FUND TELETHON HITS GOAL

By CHARLOTTE RAND

On March 13th, the annual SEE Fund Telethon and Quiz Bowl were held in Mt. Greylock's cafeteria and meeting room. SEE stands for "Sustaining Educational Excellence," and the committee is an integral part of financial support at the school.

Students, teachers and community members can apply for grants to such as a trip to New York City for a Broadway show or a box of new calculators for a math class. Through the financial support of the SEE Fund, countless events, tools, field trips, and projects have made their way into the classroom for students to take advantage of and use to heighten their learning experience. Since its inception in 1997, the SEE Fund has awarded over \$180,000 in grants. This is the second year the Quiz Bowl accompanied the telethon, and it continued its now two-year streak of providing viewers at home with a good reason for tuning in and learning more about what the SEE Fund does and how they themselves can help.

For over fifteen years, the SEE Fund, has changed the way that certain amounts of money are distributed throughout the Mt. Greylock community. Senior Alex Delano, who has been on the board for three years, says that applying for a grant is simple; all you need to do is go to the "SEE Fund" section on the Mt. Greylock website, and there you can fill out an application and send it in right online. The applications are either approved or disapproved in April.

The Quiz Bowl, hosted by Blair Dils, brought an interesting and fun aspect to the event. Seven teams of students and one team of teachers competed in four rounds of the trivia game, which covered everything from George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion* to presidents who never graduated from college to Euclid, the father of geometry.

The telethon "helps [increase] awareness about the SEE Fund, and gets people interested in what it is," says Delano. This year, due to generous donations, the goal of \$5,000 was reached, with a grand total of \$5,268 going directly to the fund. This money will be able to aid students, teachers and community members and help enhance learning opportunities and initiatives both inside and outside of school. ■■

BOYS' TENNIS

By SAM KOBRIN



Photo courtesy of Jessica Dils.

Seventh grader Aidan Duncan takes a shot during practice at the Williams courts.

The tennis team does not rebuild, they reload. Even though the Mount Greylock tennis team lost key seniors from last year such as Rohan Shastri and Nathan Majumder, junior Will Nolan said they "have their eyes set on Western Mass." Many juniors and sophomores will be taking leading roles this season, such as junior Will Nolan and sophomore Gray Kaegi.

Many informal preseason matchups have occurred as top-players vie for the three available singles slots. Juniors Nolan, Jake Foehl, and Nyien Chen Soe, are predicted to be this year's singles players but an upset could be in the works placing sophomore Gray Kaegi in a singles position. Alex Cheung, Kaegi, and Matthew and Aaron Kleiner are prepared to be very strong doubles players. After last seasons Western Mass. title and undefeated regular season, the tennis team has big shoes to fill. "All of the players this year are fairly equally matched" points out Nolan "Losing Rohan last year was certainly a big loss, but we can adjust and still shoot for Western Mass." ■■

STUDENTS PARTICAPTE IN MODEL UN

By JAKE FOEHL

This year, from March 14 to the 16, the campus of UMass Amherst saw the thirteenth edition of its version of a Model United Nations, in which delegates from a range of high schools all across Massachusetts gathered to simulate scenarios involving international relations.

Students at a Model UN experience the same type of debate and cooperation that go into the real world version, while also getting a chance to handle crises that are presented to them. This year, Mount Greylock sent its own delegation of students to the event. Junior Carter Stripp, seniors Evelyn Mahon and Thomas Guettler and freshman Mercer Greenwald, all members of the Student Council, participated in the weekend.

Stripp went to the convention representing the nation of Cuba as part of the Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Affairs Committee, which discussed, debated and passed resolutions concerning human rights. Topics discussed were the situation of migrant workers and the present day Crimean conflict. Stripp saw the experience as being bigger than just international role playing. "I did not know much about the Crimean conflict going in, but when I started discussing it and actually debating it I learned so much more and was able to see all the different sides to the problem... it's a great way to learn about the world."

Freshman Mercer Greenwald played the part of a doctor taken during the Peruvian hostage crisis. The Crisis Committee ended up securing the release of some of the hostages, including Dr. Greenwald, but she was then unexpectedly assassinated and

came back as an MRTA terrorist. The ability to see a problem from both sides and to take action as new information is presented in are both features of Greenwald's experience as well as abilities the Model UN attempts to foster.

The reason behind this group's trip to the Model UN stemmed from Greenwald's proposal to the rest of the council to send a small group of students to the event. All four students attended the Model UN to gather background for how such a gathering is put on with the idea that Mount Greylock could hold its own Model UN.

Along with its obvious academic benefits, a Model UN may be the most effective way to keep the student body at Mount Greylock informed on current events. Stories such as the complex situation in the Crimea between Russia and the Ukraine and the devastating civil war in Syria tend to fall through the cracks as high school curriculum can leave no room for discussion of modern day topics. A study done by Pew Research Center showed that only 20 percent of people ages 18 to 29 are aware of what is taking place in the world today; it goes on to say that teaching current events could breed a future generation that is more knowledgeable about the world.

Over the next few weeks, the Student Council will gauge the responses of the delegates and will also reach out to the rest of the school to see if the interest is there to hold a Model UN. As Stripp said, the Model UN is "A great way to learn about the world," as well as being a fun addition to a classroom discussion. ■■

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GIRLS' TRACK

By JAKE KOBRIN



Photo courtesy of Laura Galib.

The girls' team warms up with running drills in the school parking lot.

This year, the girls' Track and Field team faces a number of technical challenges. One of the most popular spring sports at Mount Greylock will be left without a place to host home meets, as the Williams College track area is being renovated. This means fans will be forced to attend away meets in order to watch them compete. The team will also not be able to spend any time practicing on an actual outdoor track, especially important in hurdling and shorter distance events. However, head coach Brian Gill has used his famously inventive brain to come up with a training regimen that makes the best of the situation at hand. By combining regular running workouts with the intense plyometric and core routines that have become a staple of the track team, Gill is grooming the girls for success.

Senior Jenna Phelps said, "we lost a lot of talent this year in losing our seniors." Two of these important losses include Kat Chenail and Alex Majetich, who were both an integral part of the teams success from last season with Majetich continuing her

career in sprinting on the collegiate level. Both Jenna Phelps and Emily Kaegi mentioned that the team is "trying to rebuild and reload". It will be an uphill battle for the team, but through determination and hard work the team hopes to uphold the Greylock standard of sports dominance.

The seniors on the team will have to face yet another challenge, as they will have to choose between attending their own graduation or going to the state meet. Both events occur at similar times on the same day. Kaegi said, "it's a huge disappointment" that she will not even get to think about competing in the state meet.

Look out for key returning members such as seniors Celestine Lockhart, Jenna Phelps and Maddie Gaskill in the shorter distance events and freshman Niku Darafshi, junior Laura Galib and Kaegi in the longer events. Unfortunately, the team will not have a strong presence in the field.

The team is ready to face these challenges, as the whole team is looking forward to yet another successful spring season. ■■

BOYS' TRACK

By ERIC HIRSCH

As spring weather approaches, so does the start of another Track and Field season. The boys' squad is excited for another year, however, the season will not be without several challenges. Due to the renovation of Weston Field at Williams College, like the girls, the boys' team does not have a home track. This itself presents several obstacles for the team. First off, the team will have to practice indoors in the Herbert Towne Field House on the Williams College Campus. The indoor track is about half the size of the normal outdoor track. Distance runners will be forced to make turns almost twice as much as they would otherwise have to. At the same time, sprinters will have to make unnecessary turns that they would not have to outside.

In addition, the team does not have the space or resources for sufficient practice in field events. The team will just have to work harder to be competitive and victorious on meet days with league meets.

The Mounties have a thin roster depth-wise, which will hurt them against deeper teams. This will not stop the best athletes from showcasing their talent, and representing the Greylock "G" with pride and class.

Senior Richie Astle and Junior Carter Stripp will captain the Mounties in the upcoming season. Both bring years of experience from the Cross Country team, which won its fourth consecutive Western Massachusetts Championship this fall. As a result, Astle and Stripp are no strangers to success.

The distance team features Stripp and fellow juniors Jake Kobrin, Sam Kobrin and Tom Schoorlemmer, as well as sophomore Tommy Kirby. The sprinters include Astle and fellow senior Edward Gebara as well as juniors Ryan Benoit and Taylor Carlough. Kent Lemme returns as the boys' head coach, while Nolan Pratt and Tim Bornt are assistant coaches. When asked how the team dealt with practicing in the Field House, Carlough said, "It's really not that bad. It gets a little cramped, but we've been keeping certain groups like [throwers and distance runners] at Greylock to make their workouts more useful and efficient." The Mounties will not make excuses and will, in fact, make the best out of their situation. ■■



Photo courtesy of Laura Galib.

A pack of joyous faces takes advantage of the opportunity to run outside.

BOYS' LACROSSE

By NYEIN SOE

The Mount Greylock boys' lacrosse team has a lot to look forward to this season, after finishing last year with an 18-2 regular season record as well as an appearance in the semi-finals of the Western Mass. Tournament.

When asked about the team's postseason run, junior Matt Hogan said, "We are happy but not satisfied with the result." As always the goal is to make it back to the final four, and win a title. Given the current status of the team, that goal seems feasible."

The biggest difference this year is the change in coaching personnel. Head coach Jeff Stripp stepped down as the Greylock boys' coach after coaching for both of the high school's varsity seasons as well as five years of coaching the club team. Gym coach Brandon Asplundh, known by most students as "Coach A," has replaced Stripp as the head coach while Williams College player Ryan Prokesch has become the new assistant and junior varsity coach. Normally, Prokesch would be playing on the Williams team, but because of injury, he has decided to help the Greylock team instead this season. Hogan, and the rest of the team, believe the two will have a positive impact on the team this season: "Coach A is very knowledgeable, and it has been an easy transition for him to head coach. Our new assistant coach is also very knowledgeable."

Additionally, most of the key players from last year are back, which further increases the chances of the team having a successful season. Returning seniors include defenders Niko Santore and Daivon Clement, as well as midfielders Matt Malloy and Cole Jackson. A strong group of returning juniors will compliment the seniors nicely. These players are attackers Michael McCormack and Cole Hughes and defender Matt Hogan. According to Jackson, "We have a lot of guys who gained good experience last year and are ready to play confidently, so we should have a great season." ■■

GIRLS' TENNIS

By SAM SWOAP

After a successful 2013 season, the Mounties girls tennis team looks to use last year's experience to gun for a title this spring. The Mounties went 7-4 in the regular season and made it to the semifinals in Western Mass. This spring, they will have to play without Margot Besnard, a major contributor for the past two years, who graduated a year ago. However, strong play and depth will be key in the coming year. Key returnees from last year include seniors Tyra Nurmi, Melina and Mariza Sfakianaki

and sophomores Charlotte Rand and Tyra Shastri. The girls return five of their starters from last year, and that experience to go along with the depth will be a key factor in success. The Mounties' depth will help them control first and second doubles, which is where they should be strongest. Add to that sophomore phenom Tara Shastri, who will be a tough competitor in the first singles position, and the Mounties should be on track to go far this year. ■■

BASEBALL

By CAL FILSON

The 2014 Mt. Greylock baseball team is poised for another successful season. A core group of seniors has returned for their final season as Mountie baseball players, accompanied by a solid juniorclass.

Greylock is captained by pitcher Robby Buffis, outfielder Jack Thistle and catcher Nick DiSanti. In his 23rd year at the helm, head coach Steve Messina and his team will seek the same championship his team won five years ago in 2009. Considered one of the best coaches in Western Massachusetts, "Coach Messina does a tremendous job," said Jack Thistle. Coming from Pittsfield High to Mt. Greylock I quickly learned the high level of faith he puts into his players, which can be a difficult thing for a coach to do, especially during a short, twenty-game season like ours. He is the leader behind the long running success of Mt. Greylock baseball."

Success in 2014 for the Mounties will come in part from the pitching rotation. Buffis has pitched his way to the top of the rotation in the past three years, and it is no surprise that he will hold the top spot this year. Other key starters in the pitching rotation include juniors Ian Brink, Eli Holland and Jake Benzinger, accompanied by sophomore Brodie Altieri.

The team chemistry this year might be

at an all-time high. Both the juniors and seniors on the team have been playing together for many years, which is a clear advantage according to Buffis. DiSanti has been catching for Buffis since third grade, making their pitcher-catcher bond practically inseparable.

The team, eager to continue its consistent success, takes the field for the first time this season on April 3rd at Mt. Everett. Until then, the Mounties will be hard at work preparing for that first game.

Regarding the overall picture of the season, Buffis said, "This year we think we have a solid chance to continue Mt. Greylock's winning [tradition] and hopefully win the Western Massachusetts tournament and possibly a state championship. It's sort of sad that it's my senior year here, but there would be nothing better than to go out on top after six years in the program." ■■

SOFTBALL

By GRAY KAEGI

After a solid performance last year, finishing 11-11, the Greylock softball team is looking forward to the upcoming season. Led by head coach June Blake and returning seniors and captains Meredith Dezieck and Kendal Frye, the team's main goal for the seasons is to qualify for the Western Mass tournament.

"We have a lot of seniors on the team this year and making it as far as possible into the Western Mass tournament would be a great accomplishment for all of us," said junior Miranda Voller.

The team does not have much knowledge about the rest of the teams in the county. However, one team stands out on the schedule; Drury. Last year, Greylock played Drury in a marathon of a game, which took 16 innings to determine a winner. In the 16th inning, Drury pulled away from the Mounties to win 4-3. That heart-breaking loss has fueled the Mounties, and they look forward to their upcoming games against Drury.

With numerous seniors on the team this year, the team definitely has the experience and skill to have a successful season.

Voller said, "being able to play with the seniors who have made softball the best experience possible is something I am looking forward to."

Having a team with such a big age range should translate into a solid season for this year, as well as years to come/The Mounties' first game was against Drury on April 8 at home, and the next three games are at the Mountie diamond as well. ■■

Interested in becoming the Business Manager or Administrative Liasion for the Echo? We are looking for a rising junior or senior to fill these positions. Please contact the editors at mountgreylockecho@gmail.com or talk to our advisor Mr. Niemeyer.