

Compliments Program Keeps Up Positivity

By NIKU DARAFSHI ('17)

When browsing Facebook or reading the back wall of the cafeteria, students, teachers and faculty members at Mt. Greylock might come across a compliment in their honor. These shout-outs are part of a new program, Greylock Compliments (GC), that the Peer Team created to brighten up the community at our school by promoting positive interactions among students.

At first, members from Peer Team posted on the GC Facebook page, but now the compliments are also displayed on a board in the cafeteria. The program has become a way for people to give shout-outs to their peers while staying anonymous.

Math teacher Nolan Pratt, whose received a compliment praising his clothing style, loves the idea of the new program but warns about the potential risk. "Overall, I think Greylock Compliments is a good idea, but it must be carried out carefully and filtered for harassment through back-handed compliments. If done in the right way, it could be a good way for students to support each other at Mt. Greylock." Peer Team inspects every compliment before they post to make sure that they will not offend anyone. Humorous shout-outs are appreciated, but they must be appropriate and sincere.

Freshman Sam Edge, who was complimented about his majesty, after reading what was written about him said, "It made me feel pretty good because someone had the time and effort to sit down and write something about me." Recently, the com-

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International Diplomacy Comes to Greylock

By ZACHARY ARMET ('17)



Photo courtesy of Sara Rudd ('15)

Some of Greylock's MUN Members gather in the library.

This year, many Mt. Greylock students have taken the initiative to found a Model United Nations (MUN) club. The MUN is an international organization that focuses on debate and speechcraft in the form of a mock United Nations conference. Its goal is to teach students how to be good leaders through negotiation, rhetoric and strong writing. The club also broadens students' world view by making them look at all sorts of issues from different perspectives.

In a conference, a student is asked to assume the role of a diplomat of a particular country or political body. Then, the new diplomats must research the country's ideals, societal values and ideology so that

they can truly master their role by accurately depicting their political faction. The student is then given an agenda of resolutions that would be suitable to the body that he or she represents. It is the duty of students to use strong debate and powerful rhetoric in order to sway their fellow delegates in the conference in favor of their resolutions.

The Model United Nations tackles a wide variety of topics and situations in its conferences. Some conferences are based on past events in which diplomacy and debate played an integral role in maintaining healthy international relationships. An ex-

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1 in 650: An Interview with Caroline Carlough

By NICHOLAS DARROW ('15)



Photo courtesy of Dakota Lane ('16)

Sophomore Caroline Carlough, a caring and motivated student, enjoys creating passionate drawings in her spare time. The Echo decided to get to know Carlough and find out what inspires her to create. Along with questions about her art, the Echo also asked Carlough about other activities she has dabbled in, accompanied by a few spontaneous questions.

Echo: When did you start drawing?

Carlough: It was one of my first memories, drawing in preschool, so I've been drawing ever since I can remember...basically my whole entire life (chuckles).

Are they mostly portraits, or do you draw other things as well?

I draw other things as well, but it's mostly portraits of people.

I did hear that your peers sometimes request portraits from you on Instagram.

Yes, they do. After the first picture I put out there I was wanting to find out what I could draw next, but I had absolutely no idea I was a good drawer. I was expecting one or two requests; instead I got ten, so it caught on a lot better than I thought. I was really excited about that.

I've also heard that you helped manage a team.

Yeah, I took stats for the volleyball team.

Can you tell us a little more about what you did?

I kept track of the players' serve attempts and how many aces they got so basically all the records of what they did.

As far as your art, do you wish to pursue a career in that field, or is it just a hobby?

Well, I've thought about pursuing it as a career, but there are so many other things in my mind, so for right now it's a hobby.

What are some of those other things you have in mind?

I kind of want to go into the medical field. Maybe a veterinarian, mathematician of some sort, pharmacist, those kinds of things.

What is your favorite class that you are currently taking?

Probably Algebra II.

What's your main goal for this year?

My main goal is to just improve my drawing skills and get more involved in school activities

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Shakespeare Troop Seeks Help with Transportation

By MADISON VANDEURZEN ('18)



Photo courtesy of Cecelia Hirsch

Here is the photo that Sherri Wilson submitted to Ellen DeGeneres's program.

On November 24, 2014, a group of students involved in this fall's Shakespeare production of The Winter's Tale staged a photo shoot in front of the Mt. Greylock sign at the front of the property. The photo was submitted to Ellen DeGeneres's website where Ellen has posted some questions asking for stories about schools that could use her assistance.

Sherri Wilson, a parent of Greylock junior and theater participant Molly Wilson, started the process of submitting the appeal to Ellen's website. "I came up with the original idea a couple of months ago to ask

the show for fire curtain removal and replacement when I saw [a blurb] on Ellen's website" said Wilson. The opportunity on the website said, "Does Your School Need a Hand? Does your child go to school that could use some help? Is it a little behind on technology? We're looking for schools that could use some support. If you think your teachers and administrators would know how to best use extra resources, write and tell us why." Wilson then approached Principal Mary MacDonald with the idea. Af-

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Student Government Helps Promote Greylock Way

By MELISSA SWANN ('16)

On November 6, members of the student government, which includes both the students on Student Council and the class officers, met with Principal Mary MacDonald to discuss the promotion and incorporation of the new Greylock Way into the culture of the school community. The Greylock Way, a list of characteristics that Mt. Greylock students and faculty strive to embody, now consists of integrity, respect and perseverance.

MacDonald started the meeting by explaining that the School Council changed the Greylock Way from accountability, respect, integrity, stewardship and excellence, also known as A.R.I.S.E., because it did not have any student input. "In making the new Greylock Way," MacDonald said, "students and faculty took part in the same brainstorming process. The School Council collected the data and sent a survey to parents, who gave feedback as well. With a narrowed list of choices, the School Council came up with integrity, respect and perseverance as the characteristics members of the Mt. Greylock community should strive to encompass." She continued, "The next step is promoting the new Greylock Way. Several members of the Student Council are working on this task.

Senior Carter Stripp, one of the Student Council members planning the promotion

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An Interview with Lilly Crolus

Najla Nassar sits down with a student to talk about her art gallery.

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Interstellar

Jasper Rosenheim reviews Christopher's Nolan latest film.

See Page 4.

Holiday Food Poll Results

Hannah Fein and Anya Sheldon turn to the Greylock population to investigate holiday food trends.

See Page 4.

ISIS Conflict

Read Joey Gais's opinion piece on the implications of ISIS.

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Greylock Way Rollout

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of the Greylock Way, said, “We are trying to find ways to incorporate the new core values. We are going to create a logo to represent the new Greylock Way. At this point, we are looking at each of the three words individually and discussing how the schoolwide celebration of these words can improve the school’s academic culture. For example, in order to eliminate cheating during tests, students first need to embrace academic integrity.”

Middle school teachers have already started to reward students who embody the Greylock Way. Science teacher Amy Moore-Powers said, “When teachers see a student acting with integrity, respect or perseverance, they sign a slip that the student enters into the raffle box in the main

office.”

Seventh grader Alex Falk further explained, “Every month, Mrs. Moore-Powers draws a name from the raffle and awards the winner with a prize, like movie tickets. At the end of each semester, one student in the raffle receives a big prize of Ramblewild tickets.” This award system is a way for teachers to encourage seventh graders to incorporate the Greylock Way into their daily routines.

Mt. Greylock’s incorporation of the new Greylock Way into the school’s culture remains a work in progress. As students and faculty begin to celebrate the new core values of integrity, respect and perseverance, the school will hopefully become a more close-knit and successful community. ♦

Model United Nations

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ample of this is the Japanese hostage crisis in Peru in 1996 when socialist Peruvian terrorists stormed the Japanese embassy and took the ambassadors hostage with the hope of forcing political reform. Other conferences consist of topics that the real United Nations is discussing currently, such as the prevention of organ trafficking. Also, MUN clubs have been known to hold conferences in fictional settings, such

as the popular world of George R. R. Martin’s books and the subsequent HBO series Game of Thrones.

Last year, four Mt. Greylock Student Council members journeyed to UMass Amherst to participate in a conference which discussed the Russian invasion of the Crimean peninsula. While two of the delegates no longer attend Mt. Greylock, the remaining two decided to use the experience to begin their own MUN club. Sophomore Mercer Greenwald and senior Carter Stripp run the organization at the school and partner with Williams College students Amaris Sanchez and Jack Greenberg, who are the coaches of the club.

Greenwald, who organizes the club’s events, said, “We have been meeting at 2 p.m. on Sundays at Williams, and people have been doing an amazing job participating in the practice debates.” The club consists of students in grades nine through twelve.

On December 7, the Mt. Greylock Model United Nations had its first formal conference on the subject of the Japanese hostage crisis. Greenwald said, “In the future, we are looking forward to participating in MUN conferences at neighboring colleges with other schools. Mt. Everett has expressed interest in joining us one day for an interscholastic conference.” The MUN seems to be on its way to becoming a permanent institution at Mt. Greylock, offering students new opportunities to hone their leadership skills and prepare themselves for the future.” ♦



Photo courtesy of Mercer Greenwald

Members of the MUN meet at Williams on December 7.

1 in 650: Caroline Carlough

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So now, some silly questions: your favorite holiday food?

Favorite holiday food, that’s a hard one! I love them all, but probably for Thanksgiving I love the stuffing, absolutely love it.

Favorite animal?

It has to be a tiger; I love tigers.

Very cool, so do I! Your favorite song?

It’s probably Paramore, “Still Into You.”

Nice. Now back to the art: what is something that you hope people take away from your art, and is there any underlying message within it?

Maybe that with practice you can do great things because I know I’ve been practicing drawing my whole entire life. And don’t doubt yourself because you know you can be really good at whatever it is that you want to pursue.

I think that’s a great message. Since this is for the December issue of the Echo, do you have any specific goal or resolution for the year of 2015?

Again, just probably improving my artwork. ♦

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



This pencil drawing of Benedict Cumberbatch is the first that Caroline posted on Instagram. Caroline encourages her peers to keep the requests coming!

Shakespeare Plea

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ter some time and meetings, Wilson was asked to change the plea to ask for help with transporting students to and from performance spaces. “The thought is that replacing the curtain would be a waste of money as the hope is that a renovated space or new building would consist of a modern fire suppression system,” said Wilson. Working with a group of other parents of theater students, she began the process of writing the plea.

Along with a written appeal, submissions can also include photos, so Wilson orchestrated a photo shoot, hoping to obtain a photo to submit that shows the theater department “on the move” to other performance spaces. “I wanted to show the need of the theater kids, as well as tell the story that they need a stage to practice and perform in order to keep the dramatic arts program alive at Mt. Greylock,” said Wilson. “With funds to travel to other stages or with another creative idea...the theater department would be more likely to survive the years of waiting for the building project process to be completed.” ♦

Greylock Compliments

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pliments board in the cafeteria fell down. Some students aren’t aware of this board, but many students, such as Sam Edge, enjoy the new addition to the cafeteria. “It’s fun to see the creative ideas people come up with,” he said. The creators of GC hope to make and hang a permanent board, which will last for years, and let students put up their own compliments during their lunches.

So far, the idea of bringing joy to everyone at Mt. Greylock has gone from a theory to a successful reality. The Peer Team has posted almost 100 shout-outs so far, which covers less than one seventh of the student body at Greylock. The Peer Team urges the Greylock community to keep up the complimenting. ♦

Implications of School Employee Fingerprinting Law

By BELLA BOTE (‘18)

Mt. Greylock has started the process of fingerprinting its teachers and other employees, such as bus drivers, for national background checks. This policy was implemented by the state government as a way to further ensure student safety. The fingerprints will be sent to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and for the first time schools will be able to see criminal histories from jurisdictions from any state. Fingerprints will be collected by the company MorhoTrust, who will then process the information and forward it to the FBI.

Lyndon Moors, band teacher and president of the Mt. Greylock Educators Association, said, “I understand the need to verify the background of school employees today. I also feel a little less put upon to learn that all the other states already have a similar requirement.”

Previously, local districts only had access to Massachusetts criminal records through the Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) system. The state will continue to use CORI checks in addition to the new database.

For an unknown reason, Massachusetts was the last state to start fingerprinting school district employees. Governor Deval Patrick and the state legislature approved the law in January 2013 that made fingerprinting public and private school employees and child care workers legal. At the request of the FBI, Governor Patrick signed follow-up legislation that made corrections to the existing law.

The goal of the state government is to have all fingerprinting done before the start of the 2016-2017 school year. Moors explained, “The state has created a staggered schedule based on an employee’s last name so that all fingerprints can be taken before school starts in Fall 2016.”

In addition to being fingerprinted, licensed educators must pay a fee of \$55 dollars and unlicensed employees, such as paraprofessionals, must pay a fee of \$35 dollars. According to the Boston Globe, the Massachusetts chapter of the American Federation of Teachers is pushing legislation that would have the school districts or the state pay the fees instead.



Echo File Photo

Employees of Greylock are going through the process of having their fingerprints done.

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: Miranda Dils
(‘15)

Associate Editor: Jake Foehl
(‘15)

Business Manager:
Ian Culnane (‘16)

Sports: Eric Hirsch (‘15)
Photography: Ian Culnane
(‘16)

Administrative Liaison:
Melissa Swann (‘16)

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 Budding Artist Lilly Crolius

By NAJLA NASSAR ('17)

Junior Lilly Crolius has had the opportunity to display her watercolor artwork in Mt. Greylock's "Half a Dozen or So" gallery in the east corridor since November 3. Diverse pieces created by students in Greylock's art classes always adorn the bulletin boards and windows in the front lobby and hallways, but few students get their work featured in an exclusive gallery. Crolius's work in the showroom is primarily abstract watercolor face portraits. This is not her first art showing, however. In August, Crolius displayed similar portraits in a gallery in Los Angeles, California. She included ten paintings in the show; she sold eight. Perhaps the most striking information about Crolius is that she has never taken an art class despite her prodigious talent. We sat down with her to learn about her gallery experience and love for art.

Echo: When did you become interested in art and watercolor?

Lilly: Well, I started out just as everyone else, drawing stick figures with crayons, only drawing the sky at the top of the page and using fingerpaints. Then, I gave up on art and only did an occasional doodle here and there. My mother is very artistic, and she helped buy me the supplies I needed and supported me when I started to experiment with different styles. Also, a couple of teachers at Greylock helped me get back into art. Mr. Niemeyer really showed interest in my work from the very beginning and is still helping me with ideas today. Mr. Thistle saw me doodling in his class one day, and, instead of telling me to pay



Photo courtesy of Anthony Evip

Crolius displayed her art in a gallery in Los Angeles in August.

attention to the board, he ended up introducing me to Ms. DeSomma. It was only around March or so [of last year] when I started playing with watercolor. I haven't been able to stop since.

How did you get the opportunity to have your work displayed in an exclusive gallery at the school?

After Mr. Thistle introduced me to Ms. DeSomma, she asked if it would be alright

I'd like to say that I'm so thankful for everyone who supports me in this and that I feel there are so many artists in the world, and in the school, who deserve this more than I do. I am truly honored to be where I am today.

if she hung up my most current work in the school's gallery. I was thrilled that she found interest in my work and gladly said yes.

How does it feel to have your artwork displayed in a gallery, and how does this gallery compare to the one in Los Angeles?

It's a real honor. Having my work displayed in the school takes more confidence for me because it's shown in front of my peers rather than strangers. It feels great, and I'm just as honored to have my paintings shown here as I was when they were

in California.

Where do you spend your time creating watercolor masterpieces?

I keep all of my supplies in a shoebox in my room, and whenever I feel the urge to paint, I just sit on the floor and listen to music or talk with friends while I paint.

What is the inspiration behind your art? That's a good question! Emotion really drives me to express myself through painting. Whenever I'm really stressed, or just upset in general, I find that art really comforts me. It allows me to kind of blank out for a while, and it's really nice.

You have never actually enrolled in an art class before. Do you ever plan to take one?

I hope to take an art class next year when my schedule is more free. I'd also like to take some classes in college.

Are you planning to try any new forms of art?

I was thinking of starting to dabble with ballpoint pen sketches soon. I've seen a few around, and I think they're really interesting and complex, and I do love a good challenge now and again.

How would you characterize your personal style?

If I had to put a name to my style, I'd say "abstraction-fauvism-expressionism."

What can you say about this whole experience of having your own gallery?

I'd like to say that I'm so thankful for everyone who supports me in this and that I feel there are so many artists in the world, and in the school, who deserve this more than I do. I am truly honored to be where I am today. ♦

Seventh Graders Enrich Learning with Trip to New York City

By EMMA SZALEWICZ ('18)

"The overarching question is, 'How can physical evidence be used to construct a picture of the past?'"
-Ellen Kaiser

On Tuesday, November 25, cars poured into the Mt. Greylock parking lot at 5:30 a.m. as the entire seventh grade prepared to depart Williamstown and head to New York City for the day. The class traveled to the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) on a field study that provided enrichment to the curriculum of seventh grade science classes, taught by Amy Moore-Powers, and social studies classes, taught by Ellen Kaiser. The seventh graders spent the day at the museum and also visited Central Park.

Moore-Powers explained the projects that the students make progress on while at the museum. She said, "I call it the Extinct Organism Evolution Project. Each pair of students gets a different organism to research while they're at the museum for the first hour. Students have to find answers to basic questions about the organism's niche, locomotion and basic adaptations that allowed it to survive."

Before the trip, students were asked to trace the heritage of their organism. While

at the museum, they had the task of finding their organism and its ancestors in one of five halls. Two halls were devoted to dinosaurs, one to early mammals, another to early vertebrates and the last to human ancestors.

Kaiser explained, "The field study to the AMNH is designed as an introductory research opportunity for students' science projects on evolution. The overarching

question is, 'How can physical evidence be used to construct a picture of the past?'"

After spending the first hour researching, the class toured the museum, saw a show about the Big Bang at the Hayden Planetarium and completed a scavenger hunt.

Seventh grader Rose Gotlieb shared her opinion about the trip. She said, "The trip was fun and interesting. My favorite parts of the museum were seeing the giant tyrannosaurus rex and doing a treasure hunt around the museum after we were done researching our organism. We went to different rooms in the museum and had to find different facts about different species. It was really cool."

Her fellow classmate Charlotte Rauscher added, "I really liked going to the planetarium in the museum. The show was so interesting."

Overall, the trip achieved its purpose of furthering the education of the class in an unconventional and fun environment. Moore-Powers summed up the day with, "I think the trip was a big hit!" ♦

Healthy Relationship Presentations

By ORIANA VANSLYCKE ('18)

Middle school girls attended a "Healthy Relationships" program in November held in the meeting room during their Directed Study. Volunteers from the Elizabeth Freeman Center came to Mt. Greylock to hold the workshops and lectures.

Senior and Peer Team member Jackie Van Slycke, said, "The goal of these meetings is for the students to understand what a healthy relationship looks like. This is the first year that this topic has been introduced to the students. I think it is convenient for the girls to have good examples on what a good relationship should have. Peer Team girls participate in the workshops and lectures with the students. Also, Peer Team is available for any further help students might need."

Eighth grader Katelynn Williams adds, "The program has helped me know what to look for in a healthy relationship." These meetings were supposed to go on for a week; unfortunately, the volunteer who runs the program was unable to come to the last two meetings, so the middle schoolers are scheduled to attend two more makeup meetings. ♦

A Calculated Look at Greylock's Academic Schedule

By SABRINA TEMPLETON ('18)

Recently, Williams Professor Steven Miller assigned his students in the Operations Research Mathematics course to apply mathematics in real life community situations, so they found a math application in looking at Mt. Greylock's academic schedule. The students created seven models, keeping in mind all the different variables, such as Department of Education requirements, which state that students must attend 990 hours of school spread out over 180 days. They also created two surveys, which were taken by students and teachers. The surveys were given to students during math classes, with over 100 student results, as well as over 30 teacher results.

Principal Mary MacDonald said, "It's likely that [the schedule] will be reviewed in spring 2015 so that proposed changes could be considered during contract negotiations for the following year." The cur-

rent schedule is not in need of replacement although there are challenges that come with any type of schedule, another aspect the students had to keep in mind while creating the models. Sophomore Ailsa May observed, "[The current schedule] should be easy to memorize, but somehow people can't figure out the pattern."

MacDonald explained the main reason for the desire of a new schedule She said, "It is essentially good practice to reflect on a school's structures every three to five years. Last year we took a look at the Academic Expectations, Social/Civic Expectations and the Greylock Way and made some changes based on student, faculty and community input. With regard to the schedule, administration wants to address students' and teachers' perspectives on what kind of day will maximize learning and teaching." ♦



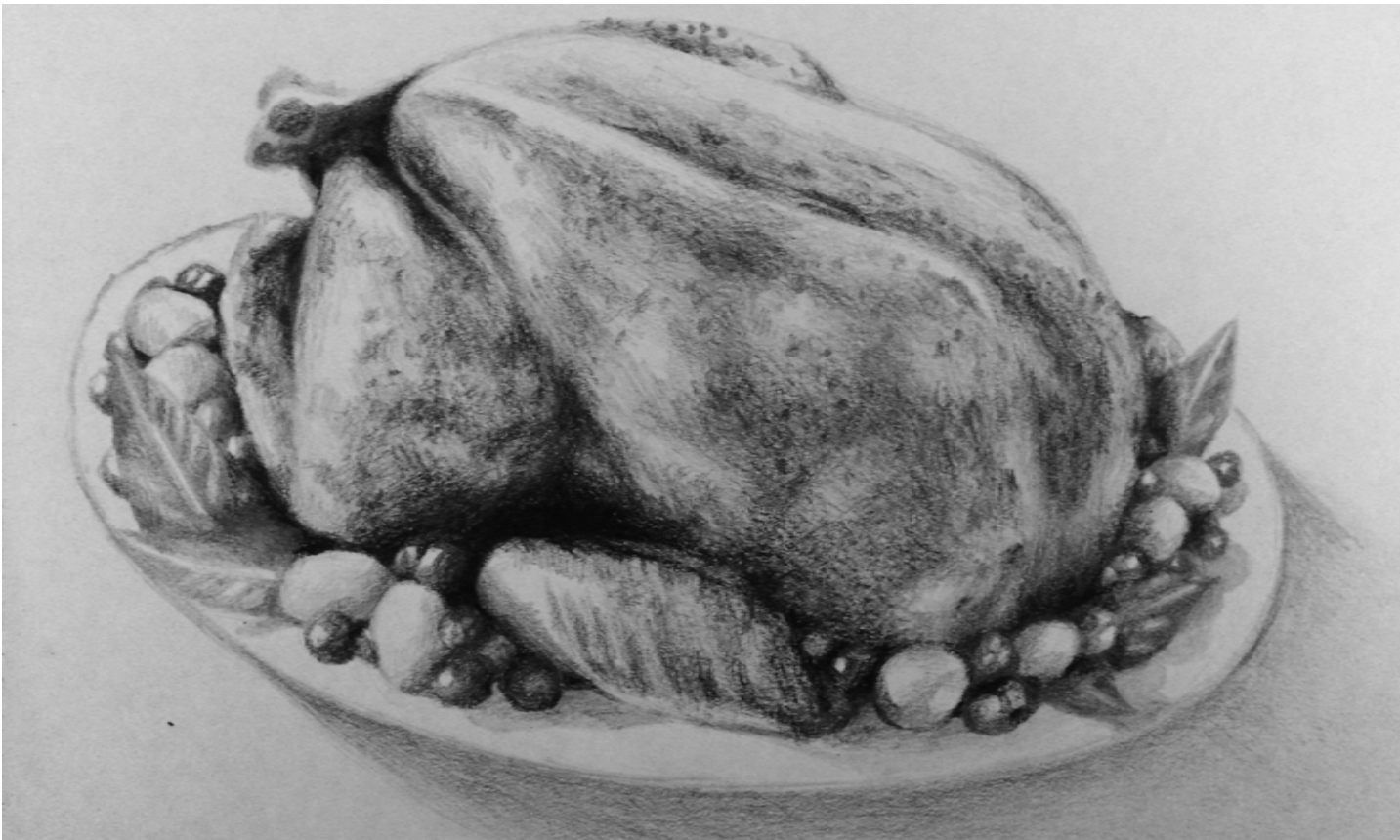
Artwork by Lilly Crolius ('16)

News/Opinion

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

Results: Holiday Food Poll

By HANNAH FEIN (‘16) and ANYA SHELTON (‘16)



Artwork by Anya Sheldon (‘16)

When it came time for our monthly restaurant review adventure, we decided to spice things up a bit. Instead of going our classic route and offering our “expertise” as restaurant and food critics, we decided to turn the tables and hear from the Greylock population itself. We wanted to know just what a holiday meal means to students in our school, and through our survey, which you hopefully answered, we were able to do just that.

We first asked the members of the Greylock community if a big meal is a part of their winter holiday celebration. Though the vast majority said yes, specific answers beyond that affirmation were varied, with 51% of those surveyed having a big dinner, 20% having multiple big meals and the remaining answers split evenly between

breakfast and lunch. Concerning entrees at this main meal, nearly all answers tended toward meat dishes, especially ham and turkey, which garnered 40% and 18% of the submissions respectively. A number of unexpected answers also came up, such as macaroni and cheese, eggs and chili, making it clear that not every family opts for a traditional main course.

When asked about a favorite side dish for the holidays, 28% of those surveyed responded with potatoes while rolls collected 18% of the vote. The most deeply despised side dishes included casserole (25%) and stuffing (23%), the latter of which surprisingly earned spot number three on the favorites list as well. Clearly, stuffing evokes some strong opinions! Other notable answers for hated dishes included brussels

sprouts and herring salad.

The most popular beverages for the holidays were all close contenders, with hot chocolate receiving 30% and sparkling beverages coming in a narrow second at 25%. We had included eggnog at the last minute as an option in our survey, assuming that few would vote for this concoction based on our own distaste. On the contrary, however, almost a quarter of those who participated in the survey selected eggnog, so we now must admit to a newfound respect for the drink.

As we composed the survey, our enthusiasm for the dessert section led to a rather lengthy list of enticing options, so we were intrigued to see which the Greylock population would crown king. The responses were extremely varied, and though we

requested only two responses per person, one responder seemingly couldn’t hold back and offered six favorites. In the end, apple pie emerged victorious with 19% of the vote, while sugar cookies (15%), gingerbread (11%) and candy canes (10%) followed close behind. Pie fans might like to know that behind apple came berry, chocolate and finally, pumpkin. In all, we received few answers straying from our suggested traditional options, indicating that most families indulge in at least a few classic holiday desserts, though one solitary response of “chicken” broke the norm of desserts entirely. Although we included a question open for slamming any least favorite desserts, few people responded at all, affirming the common love for nearly all things sweet. However, those who did declare an aversion to a dessert gravitated toward “the dreaded fruitcake,” as one survey-taker put it. Other least favorites included pecan pie and candy canes, but these answers were few and far between.

We also asked several questions regarding foods generally associated with the holidays, which generated some interesting results. Though classics like ham, cranberries and potatoes comprised a good chunk of the answers, we received a wide variety of foods that were not repeated among those surveyed, including oysters, cinnamon, chestnuts, walnuts and grits. Although most people answered with Christmas traditions in mind, when also asked about foods specifically associated with Hanukkah, nearly all replied with the beloved potato latke. In reply to a final question inquiring about family-specific holiday traditions, one person described innovative oyster shell DIY ornaments, while others highlighted holiday foods unique to their families, like Chinese food on Christmas Eve and “monkey bread” (look it up—it looks incredible!).

Thanks to all who participated, we’ve been able to compile the general trends (or lack thereof) of the Greylock community’s holiday meals, and now you can compare the foods you and your family enjoy during the holiday season to the results. Mouth watering yet? ♦

Hangar Deemed Unsafe

By SAM J. SWOAP (‘16)

Teenagers bustle around the room. Electronic dance music and various remixes blast out of the speakers. Laughter rings throughout the air, and Mark Santella shouts encouragement at anyone within sight. This is the wax room in the hangar.

This spring, Jesse Wirtes, the facilities supervisor at Greylock, deemed the hangar unsafe due to structural problems, holes and leaks. This lack of safety was not communicated to the ski team until just before the season began. The Nordic Ski Team received a notice from the administration in early November that the hangar is deemed unsafe for students to enter. The hangar is a remnant from Greylock’s days as an airport. In the past, the hangar was both a storage and waxing space for the ski team.

Many ski members enjoyed the Friday ski waxing in the hangar. Matt Wiseman, a junior on the ski team, says “What I love most about the hangar is that it fits almost all of the team, and that makes for a great atmosphere.”

For the coming 2014-2015 ski season, the ski team is restricted to only using the waxing space on predetermined days, the days prior to race days. Nordic Ski Coach Hilary Greene has been searching for a replacement waxing space for the ski team in the future. Until then, the ski team is still using the wax room. The nordic team is currently considering fundraising for a new waxing and storage space.

This decision will also affect other students. JCL (Junior Classical League) uses the hangar to store supplies for building catapults and other building materials. ♦

Review: Interstellar (2014)

By JASPER ROSENHEIM (‘16)

tagline was, “Mankind was born on Earth. It was never meant to die here.” Oh my god that’s badass! I imagined fights, lasers and awesome twists and turns. Instead I got parent conferences and Anne Hathaway’s garbage acting. That is not to say I disliked every part. I loved the shots of the planets with the incredible underscore. I liked Matt Damon. The producers cleverly kept him off all the posters and out of all the trailers, so I was genuinely surprised when I saw that handsome man come out of a bathtub. His rebellion was also a neat spin, perhaps a bit of a stretch, but it made enough sense to be interesting. But if we are talking about twists, I have to mention the twist at the end when it turns out everything is solvable, and space is magic, and he can talk to his daughter by being a spooky ghost in the fourth dimension, and then he survives and reunites with her!?!?! That legitimately ruined the movie for me! Nolan clearly did it to please the target audience. Besides making zero sense, it threw the small amount of believability the story had provided out the window.

Finally, the coup de grâce of this film was the dialogue and performance. Even if you somehow don’t directly notice how bad the dialogue is, it still pulls away from the effect and emotion of the film, and it shows how lazy Nolan is when crafting some of his works. Nolan’s characters are often dumbed down and need everything explained over and over to make sure the audience gets it. Explanations are necessary in a movie, but why would a NASA expert and the “best pilot ever” need someone to explain to him a gosh darn black hole? I learned about that in ninth grade



Echo File Photo

physics.

I don’t believe in number scores; everything is contextual. You can’t sum up all parts of a movie in just a number. So I’ll just say some more words. I did enjoy most of Interstellar. The movie was jumbled, poorly written and poorly acted, but the idea of the movie was really solid, and it was beautifully shot and scored. I would recommend it to a friend unless they are well versed in good cinema, then they would think less of me. ♦

Apocalypse in Iraq?

By JOEY GAIS ('15)

While on a September 14, 2014 talk show, South Carolina senator Lindsey Graham warned Americans that if ISIS, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, was not dealt with, then it would “open the gates of hell to spill out on the world.” He went on to say, “This president needs to rise to the occasion before we all get killed back here at home!”

To be fair, ISIS has certainly earned a reputation. Its human rights violations are well documented, with recruiting videos glorifying its deeds. There have been at least 120 public beheadings of a mix of Kurds,

Syrians, Iraqis, Americans and journalists from various places. ISIS has executed, kidnapped or harassed thousands of non-Sunni Muslims in the territory it controls. In addition, ISIS has imposed an extreme form of religious law, forcing women of all religions to wear full-face veils and banning any existing form of free expression. With ISIS takeover came a wave of sexual violence against women as well as forced recruitment of child soldiers. There is no doubt ISIS represents a major threat to human rights in the Middle East.



Echo File Photo

Isis fighters march in Raqqa, Syria.

But the apocalypse? That seems like an overestimation of the power of some 30,000 fighters in Iraq and Syria. According to hawkish congressmen, like Lindsey Graham, the Islamic State is an existential threat to America with the means to attack us at home. Following that belief, the hawks see the need for a land war on the same scale as the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Any misstep can seriously harm whatever stability is left in the Middle East. Right now, a broad coalition of countries including Iran is willing to work side by side with the United States in repelling ISIS. If the United States goes too far in its response by sending masses of troops in, this coalition could fall apart as countries begin to see the US response not as a defense of worldwide human rights and regional security but as a power grab for more control of the Middle East and its oil.

In order to make lasting progress in Iraq and Syria, we need politicians capable of seeing the long term situation that underlies the instability. For example, a large portion of otherwise moderate Iraqis—Iraqi Sunni Muslims that supported the United States not long ago—now feel the need to support ISIS. It’s not because these Iraqis are violent jihadists bent on global Islamic domination but rather because they do not believe the current Iraqi government represents them. They instead consider the Iraqi government to be a puppet of the United States as well as Shia dominated. Worryingly, lack of knowledge about the situation stemming from hawkish fear-mongering as in the case of Lindsey Graham is spinning public opinion. Polls conducted by CBS and CNN show that a growing segment of Americans believe

ground troops should be sent into Iraq. It’s concerning that the public can be influenced so heavily by politicians, considering that not many Americans seem to know much about Middle Eastern conflict. Famously, in 2006, the heyday of the war in Iraq, six out of ten Americans could not even find Iraq on the globe. A poll I conducted of 21 random high school students at Greylock similarly shows a lack of knowledge about ISIS. Even at a relatively high-performing school, only 48% of students could correctly identify that the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria claims to represent the religion of Islam, and 67% did not know that ISIS has recently gained power in the wake of the Syrian Civil War and War in Iraq. Certainly, high schoolers that cannot vote do not necessarily need to be aware of major world issues, but soon they will be voters whose decisions will shape US foreign policy. Moreover, the vast majority of soldiers fighting on the front lines are young.

So maybe ISIS is not necessarily an issue of American national security but instead an issue of worldwide human rights. In that case, the United States needs to be clear that its involvement in Iraq and Syria goes only as far as ending the the tragic loss of life and rights ISIS has brought about. Simply destroying ISIS in an onslaught of American firepower could just cause another radical Islamic sect to gain power in the vacuum that would remain. Perhaps we should also try to learn more about the situation before overly aggressive military actions bring us closer to an actual apocalypse. ♦

The Heartbreak of Sports

By JAKE FOEHL ('15)

Heartbreak is universal. It’s a feeling that has been around since the human brain became developed enough to feel emotions. Chances are everyone has felt some sort of anguish over a loss. Maybe you’ve had a family pet that has passed away, or in the literal sense, a love that has broken your heart. Regardless of what or how it happened, the feeling is the same, and the loss is imprinted on you for the rest of your life. It will be a part of you forever, a moment that you can’t change no matter how much you would like to. When you are reminded of it, the frustration, the guilt and the pain, all come rushing back. When the Mt. Greylock Boys’ Soccer team lost to Belchertown in the 2014 Division III Western Mass Final, the whole team, including myself, felt all of this and more.

Coming off a loss to Belchertown in the 2013 Western Mass Final, we had one goal in mind: win. We worked toward this goal all season. We poured hours of dedication and sweat into making this dream a reality. We covered countless miles running around our practice field, whether that was with a ball or if Coach Dils decided we could use some fitness.

As the season went on our confidence grew as we cruised from success to success. Our 12-1-3 regular season record included a Berkshire County North Division title and a number one seed in the Western Mass tournament. Those accomplishments, ones we were so proud of at the time, seem almost meaningless now. We forgot that sometimes hard work does not pay off. Sometimes, especially in sports, it all comes down to luck.

The score remained 0-0 after 80 minutes of regulation and 20 minutes of overtime, during which we outplayed Belchertown, if only by a slim margin. But that didn’t matter anymore. When a game goes into penalty

kicks, all bets are off. I watched helplessly as our team had five chances to win. Five shots failed to cross the goal line. Last year I watched as Belchertown ran onto the field in celebration. This year I lay down, hands over my head, face in the turf, and cried. I cried for many reasons, but most of all I cried because the last moment of playing a sport that I have loved since I was four years old was the worst moment of all.

It’s irrational that a silly game could make a person feel this way. I have never had to deal with the loss of a family member, but I imagine when the time comes the feelings will seem familiar because of this experience. Sports have a way of wiggling their way into your heart just deep enough to crush it. But we come back to them because for all the emotional torture, the heartbreak and the occasional triumph, sports serve to bring people together. On a high school level, sports bring a team together for one season. This extraordinary group of athletes will never step foot on the field together again, a depressing thought I am still trying to comprehend.

Soccer dumped me. It wasn’t a nice break up either. It was the kind that leaves a scar, haunts you forever and also one that I and the rest of my team are going to have to get over. As we move further away from the game, the bad memories will have to make room for new ones, occupying a smaller amount of our brains. People have repeatedly said how proud of me they are, and I’m sure this is true for the rest of the team. That doesn’t change the heartbreak. Nothing will ever completely fix that. Our dreams died and were replaced with very real, very painful memories. After having to live it, I wouldn’t wish this feeling on anyone. ♦



Photo courtesy of Celia Bote ('15)

The Boys’ Soccer team prepares to play in the semifinal game against Southwick. The boys went on to beat Southwick 5-1 to advance to the finals against Belchertown.

Sports have a way of wiggling their way into your heart just deep enough to crush it. But we come back to them because for all the emotional torture, the heartbreak and the occasional triumph, sports serve to bring people together.



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Girls' Nordic Skiing Eyes State Title

By NYEIN SOE ('15)



Photo courtesy of Rich Wiseman

Sophie Gerry will be a crucial to the success of this year's girls' team.

The 2014-2015 winter appears to be another season in which the Mt. Greylock Girls' Nordic Ski team will stride past the competition. Last year, the girls' team went undefeated in the regular season and came in second place at the State Championships to a very strong Lincoln-Sudbury team. This season, prospects do not look any different for the varsity team this season. Most team members from last year's state runner-ups will return for the 2014-2015 season.

A lack of competition in Berkshire County will once again allow the Mounties to set their sights on a State Title. Last year, Greylock went undefeated in county and return junior Grace Smith, last year's Berkshire County MVP. Smith almost went undefeated herself, winning all but one of the races in which she competed. The main attribute that carries the Greylock nordic ski team far is the dedication top skiers have to helping improve the less experienced

ones. This quality has created a depth which is most evident on the girls' team. As the younger skiers get training experience with the veteran skiers, they improve rapidly and become better prepared to race at a high level.

In the 2013-2014 season, key skiers included Abby Wiseman, Grace Smith, Sophie Gerry, Greta Savitsky, Christina Butcher and Zavi Sheldon. Despite the loss of Sheldon to graduation and Wiseman to boarding school, Greylock should be able to fill their boots. "We still have a ton of varsity skiers who can fill the gap," said senior Laura Galib. Gerry, who spent three weeks at a training camp in Norway and Sweden, also mentioned how well prepared the team is, saying, "The majority of the top 10 trained hard over the summer, and we've gotten valuable training hours in." As always, the Mounties' will strive to attain their ultimate goal every year: a state title. ♦

Boys' Basketball off to a Strong Start

By DAN FLYNN ('15)

Coming off of the 2013-2014 season in which this year's senior class saw substantial playing time, the 2014-2015 Mt. Greylock Boys' Basketball team will have plenty of varsity experience. The Mounties ended last year with an 8-12 record, just missing out on qualification for the Western Mass Tournament. Although the team was disappointed to not qualify last year, it adds incentive to get back in the tournament this time around. With a newly waxed court comes a new year.

This Greylock team has the ability to shock Berkshire County with its talent. Said senior captain Ian Brink, "Since we didn't have the season we had hoped for last year, teams will look past us, but that will be their mistake." It will all come down to the heart of this team and the intensity and effort the players put into their practices and games.

The senior class, consisting of Brink, Hirsch, Jake Benzinger, Emmett Shepard, Taylor Carlough, Michael McCormack and Jesse Dilego will lead the team. Underclassmen such as sophomore Patrick Storie and juniors Zach Ronnow, Aaron Ronnow and Cal Filson will provide the Mounties with much needed depth. Head Coach Bob Thistle is at the helm for the fourth year.

The Mounties started the season at home on December 16 with a 62-54 victory over county foe Taconic. Senior Emmett Shepard paced the Mounties with 19 points, while Eric Hirsch drained four clutch three-pointers and tallied 16 points. On December 18, Greylock beat the Hoosac Valley Hurricanes 61-60 at home with Hirsch hitting a three-pointer in regulation to send the game into overtime. Shephard sunk another trey in overtime to push the Mounties to a victory. Greylock's home stretch will continue with games against the Wahconah Warriors and the McCann Tech Hornets.

Senior point guard Eric Hirsch said, "It is always so hard to get going in the first few weeks in the season. However, we feel



Photo courtesy of iBerkshires

In a game against Waconah last season, Jake Benzinger looks to score while teammate Ian Brink prepares to rebound.

that we can surprise some teams early on that may overlook us. We are really excited to get into the swing of the season."

A combination of senior leadership, experience and depth should help Greylock improve upon last season's disappointing final record. "With a senior heavy roster, filled with talent, this is as good a year as any to win Western Mass," said Brink. ♦

Wrestling Squad Solid Under Miro's Leadership

By CAL FILSON ('16)

Coming off of a disappointing third place finish at the 2014 Western Mass Tournament, head coach Ray Miro and the Mounties wrestling squad look to return to the top in the 2014-2015 season.

On Saturday, December 13, Miro collected his 600th career win, an impressive milestone to say the least. Greylock, who co-ops with McCann Tech and Hoosac Valley, has been a force to reckon with in past years. They have won numerous Western Mass championships, including 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012. One might wonder how Miro grooms the team to become contenders year after year; he does it with his motivational coaching style. The Mounties wrestling team is notorious for being hard-working individuals who thrive together as a team.

The Mounties return some key wrestlers for the 2014-2015 season, including senior Travis Hilchey, juniors Hunter Abriel and Cayman Mead, sophomore and defending Western Mass Champ (138 lbs.) Devin Pelletier and freshman Jude Rorke. Together, these team leaders seek to propel their squad to a Western Mass title and a run at states in 2015.

"We've got a good group this year. I believe these guys could really step it up and should be thinking about placing in the state tournament this year," said Miro. Miro's expectations are always high although he doesn't want to set his goals too early. "I'm probably like any other coach who doesn't want to make too many predictions. I think we could be in the hunt depending on how hard the guys work. It's a matter of putting everybody together and getting everybody in the right weight class."

Each Greylock wrestler hopes to make a positive individual impact this winter. In terms of the team, the individual efforts of some key wrestlers will hopefully propel the Mounties to the Western Mass Tournament and ultimately the State Tournament. ♦

Girls' Basketball Hopeful for Another Successful Season

By IAN BRINK ('15)

In the 2013-2014 season, the Greylock Girls' basketball team went 16-6 under head coach Paul Barrett. After losing five seniors but only one starter, the Mounties return most of their starting lineup and look to be as strong as ever. This season, a duo of seniors, Lucy Barrett and Kelsey Orpin, look to lead their squad as captains to the Western Mass. tournament.

"I expect us to have a winning season and to make it further in the tournament than we did last year," said Lucy. "Since we have most people returning, we already have a head start on the team dynamic and working together well on the court."

Last year, the season ended with a road loss to Hoosac Valley in the Western Mass quarterfinals. The team was one win away from a semifinal game at the Curry Hicks Cage on the campus of UMass Amherst. The Mounties look to return to the quarterfinals with a chance to advance to the final four in 2015.

Lucy believes that a strong group of underclassmen should play a huge role for the Mounties this year. "We have some good underclassmen that will help our team this year. Jenna [Benzinger] for sure is one." Benzinger, a sophomore who stands at 6'3", will play a vital role on the team and returns as one of the leading scorers from last season. Along with Benzinger, junior point guard Arianna Walden will be essential to the Mounties' success this season.

The Greylock girls will search for someone to step up and become an offensive threat to fill the shoes of guard Mackenzie Flynn. The goal for the Mounties is to win Western Mass, according to Lucy, who eclipsed the one thousand point mark for her career at Lenox last season. Under head Coach Barrett, the Greylock girls look to continue their success and hope to assert their dominance in Berkshire County and Western Mass in the 2014-2015 season. ♦



Photo courtesy of iBerkshires

The small but talented girls' basketball team combines experience and youth.

"I expect us to have a winning season and to make it further in the tournament than we did last year. Since we have most people returning, we already have a head start on the team dynamic and working together well on the court."

2014 Fall Sports Recap

By ERIC HIRSCH ('15)

The Fall season brought plenty of team and individual success but also some disappointment for Mountie Athletics. Boys' and Girls' Cross Country, Boys' and Girls' Soccer and Golf all qualified for the Western Mass Tournament. Only Boys' Cross Country came through with a Western Mass title. Here is a quick glimpse of each team's performance in the Fall.

Boys' Cross Country (11-2): Coached by Scott Burdick-

-Berkshire County Invitational Champions
-Western Mass Champs
-4th Place at States
-Western Mass Individual Results --
Tommy Kirby (4th), Carter Stripp (5th), Will Nolan (6th), Sam Kobrin (15th), Jake Kobrin (19th)
-All-County Selections: Tommy Kirby, Sam Kobrin, Will Nolan, Carter Stripp

Girls' Cross Country (12-2): Coached by Larry Bell

-4th Place at Western Mass
-Niku Darafshi and Emma Pumbo qualified for States
-Western Mass Individual Results --
Emma Pumbo (6th), Niku Darafshi (20th), Margot Smith (23rd), Laura Galib (24th), Bella Bote (30th)
-All-County Selections: Laura Galib, Emma Pumbo, Grace Smith, Margo Smith

Boys' Soccer (14-2-3): Coached by Blair Dils

-Captains: Jake Foehl, David Majetich, Grant Raphael
-Berkshire North Champions
-Western Mass Finalists (#1 seed)
-All-County Selections:
First Team: Eric Hirsch, David Majetich, Benni McComish
Second Team: Dan Flynn, Jake Foehl



Photo courtesy of Crow Brennan ('17)

Hope Willis, a key member of the volleyball team this fall, sends the ball over the net.

Girls' Soccer (13-6): Coached by Tom Ostheimer

-Captains: Lucy Barrett, Kelsey Orpin, Miranda Voller
-Western Mass Quarterfinalists (#4 seed)-
-All-County Selections:
First Team: Lucy Barrett, Kelsey Orpin, Sarah Stripp, Melissa Swann
Second Team: Elena Cerveira, Caroline Flynn

Golf (8-7): Coached by Brian Gill and Brandon Asplundh

-Team: 3rd Place at Western Mass Meet at Taconic Golf Club
-Matt Wiseman: 5th Place at Western Mass (81)
-Kyle Alvarez: 7th Place at Western Mass (83)

Football (2-7): Coached by Shawn Flaherty

-Captains: Jake Benzinger, Matt Hogan, Michael McCormack
-Wins over Commerce and Drury
-2014 MIAA Football Team Sportsmanship Award Recipient

Volleyball (13-7): Coached by John Albano

-Captains: Celia Bote, Sam MacWhinnie
-Western Mass Semi-Finalists (#5 seed)-
-All-County Selections:
First Team: Celia Bote, Hope Willis
Second Team: Dagny Albano



Photo courtesy of Rich Wiseman

The Greylock look to defend the state title this winter. Above, the Mounties start a race at Waconah last season.

As most of us start to settle in for the long winter and brace ourselves for the cold, one team at Greylock fully prepared for the harsh temperatures is the Boys' Nordic Ski team.

Last year, the Mounties won the Massachusetts state title for the fourth year in a row and its eighth in the past nine years. This season, the team looks to add yet another piece of hardware to its extensive trophy case.

The 2014-2015 team will be lead by five senior captains: Jake Foehl, Will Nolan, Tom Schoorlemmer, Joey Gais and Jake Kobrin. Nolan believes the team has stood the test of time due to the size of the roster. "The team's size has been a big contributor over the years," said Nolan. "Because it is an endurance sport, it is the obvious choice of winter activity for cross country and track athletes. But even for non-endurance athletes, the ski team allows them to stay fit when it is cold, and sitting inside is the easier option." Skiers on the team span every grade, giving Greylock what seems to be an infinite amount of talent for the future. Just when it seems all of the top skiers have graduated, new stars take shape.

That talent is developed over the years by a dedicated and experienced coaching

staff, and this trend will continue in the 2014-2015 season. "We owe a lot of our success to Mark Santella, Hilary Greene and Hiram Greene, who have led the team for many years. Their experience and [loyalty] motivate the team to work harder and prepare for every race," said Nolan. Each coach has a different area of expertise. Santella prepares various strength and endurance workouts for the team. Hilary Greene focuses on teaching technique to the skiers. Hiram Greene takes care of the logistics of ski transportation and grooming the trails. "Without them, none of our success would be possible," said Nolan.

The Mounties lost only a few seniors from last year and look as strong as ever. Seniors Will Nolan and Jake Foehl as well as juniors Matt Wiseman and Ian Culnane are expected to continue their dominance in races. Jake Kobrin, Tommy Kirby and Joey Gais also look to be key performers for the team. Gais even spent part of his summer training in Norway, a holy land of Nordic skiing, in preparation for the winter season. With its focus on another state title, and with a devoted coaching staff by its side, Greylock is surely ready to defend its throne. ♦



Photo courtesy of Ian Culnane ('16)

Matt Wiseman returns to his golf bag.

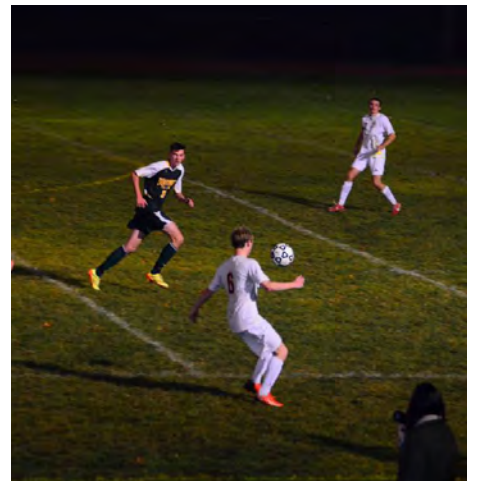


Photo courtesy of Celia Bote ('15)

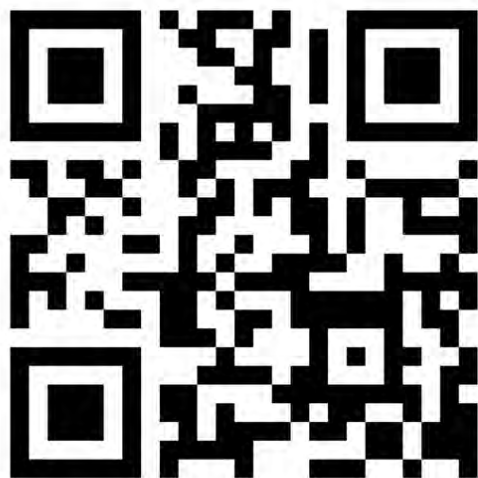
Taylor Carlough controls the ball.

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Fun and Games

Sudoku

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Ugly Sweater Day

To ring in the season, Peer Team encouraged students to come to school on December 17 wearing their favorite ugly sweaters. Students adorned in gingerbread men, reindeer, animated fire scenes and more roamed the hallways. Here are some of the highlights of the day. All photos courtesy of Celia Bote ('15).

