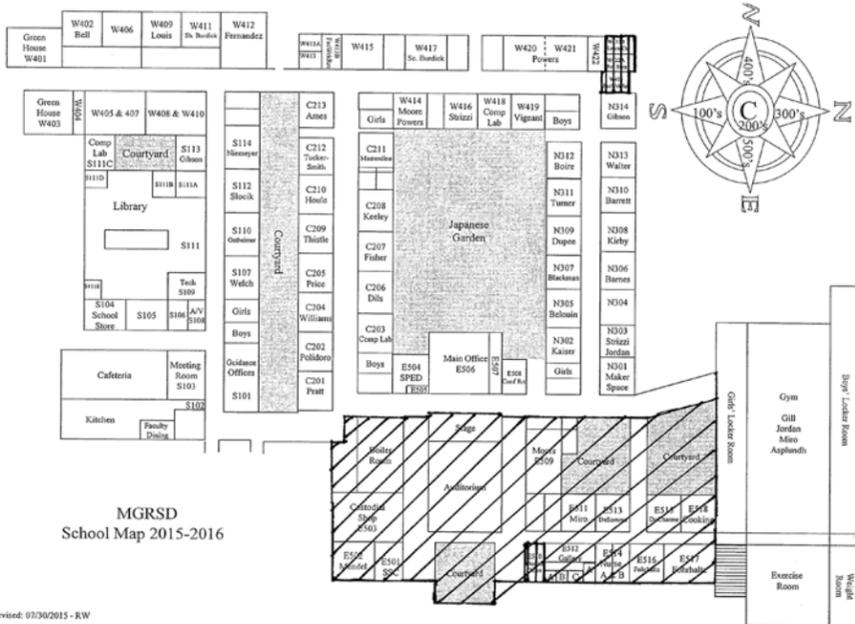


UPCOMING BUILDING CHANGES AT MT. GREYLOCK

By TENLEY SMITH ('18)



As students wander the halls of Mt. Greylock, they may notice teachers moving furniture or the occasional construction worker surveying the surrounding landscape. These changes are the direct result of the debt exclusion vote, passed by Williamstown on March 1 and Lanesborough on March 15. The passed debt exclusion vote meant that the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) and the School Building Committee could start to plan the timeline for the building's renovation and additions.

Phase One of the plan involves abatement of the front part of the building. Abatement includes stripping out all parts of the build-

ing that have asbestos to comply with updated building codes. "Starting June 15, right after school ends, we're going to move all the furniture out of the front part of the building," said Facilities Supervisor Jesse Wirtes. "All the asbestos has to be removed, and the goal is to finish that before school resumes again in the fall." The part of the school with diagonal stripes in the picture below will be completely cut off from student and faculty use. This means that classes normally held in that part of the building will be spread around the school.

Most notably, band and chorus classes will be held next to the kitchen in what is currently the

Continued on Page 2.

GREYLOCK ACTORS PERFORM YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU

By DILLON WHITLEY ('17)



On May 20 and May 21, Mt. Greylock held its annual spring drama, which was performed at Lanesborough Elementary School. This year's play, *You Can't Take it With You*, was a comedy-drama about the struggles of an out-of-the-ordinary family. The cast included seniors Molly Wilson, Anya Sheldon, and Adly

Templeton, along with performances by juniors Darren Bonneville, Adam May, Caroline Carolough, and Dan Schiek, as well as sophomore Grace Kelley and freshman Morgan Nottke. The play was directed by Nicole Rizzo.

The play takes place in the New York home of Martin Vanderhof, played *Continued on Page 3.*

2 in 650: An Interview with Hannah Fein and Ben Hynes

By ELIAS SEKKAL ('17)



Photos courtesy of Ben Hynes (left) and Hannah Fein (right).

Every year, two seniors are chosen to speak at graduation. One speaker is chosen by the faculty while the other is voted for by his or her fellow seniors. This year, the faculty chose Hannah Fein and the senior class elected Ben Hynes. The Echo sat down with these two seniors to hear some of their parting wisdom.

Echo: What is your favorite memory from high school?

Ben: It's really hard to choose my favorite memory of high school, there are so many great memories I made here. I think my favorite memory from within the actual halls of Mt. Greylock would be the last month of my contemporary issues class in which Ellie, Mr. Niemeyer and I bonded over somewhat educational Netflix.

Hannah: It's hard to pick just one, but a favorite experience to look back on is my participation in the school musical in 11th and 12th grade. Doing the musical opened me up to a new group of welcoming, talented, kind people, and it felt amazing to work so hard on a production and see it come together beautifully in the end. Seeing the support we had from the rest of the Greylock community in the audience was wonderful as well. I also love looking back at pep rallies; they are a great demonstration of just how much spirit and school pride we have when we come together.

Echo: What will you miss most about your class?

Ben: What I'm going to miss more than anything else is the great variety of people and personalities in my class. There's so many different and interesting people in my class I'm pretty numbed I won't get time to know them better.

Hannah: I think an incredible thing about our class is that everyone is very driven. We have so many people in our grade who are passionate about academics, theater, sports, and a huge variety of other activities. The best part is that everyone is supportive of that. Especially as upperclassmen, friend groups have grown to include people with all different interests, and everyone respects each other for putting time and effort into what they love.

Echo: What will you miss most about going to Greylock?

Ben: I think what I'll miss the most about Mt. Greylock itself is the view. I can't tell you how often I've almost driven off the road while looking at the view pulling into school. Greylock is in such a beautiful location and I encourage everyone to take notice of the scenic beauty surrounding us.

Hannah: Walking through Greylock as a senior, I know the building like the back of my hand, I have literally grown up with most of the people in my grade, and I have formed close relationships with many of my teachers. As much as I've dreaded waking up to go to school at 7:40 many mornings, it truly has become like another home and family to me. I'm going to miss being able to walk down the hallway and see all familiar faces of people who have known me at least since I was a tiny, awkward 7th grader. It's a beautiful thing to know that mostly everyone at the school knows you and is there for you.

Continued on Page 3.

PROM

Tenley Smith highlights Prom at Mt. Greylock.

See Page 2.

AP US HISTORY

Simon Kent looks at the current issues that surround the Advanced Placement United States curriculum.

See Page 5.

FAREWELL FACULTY

Senior Adam Hall bids goodbye to departing faculty.

See Page 3.

SENIOR REFLECTIONS

Long-time Echo writer Jasper Rosenheim shares his thoughts and memories of Greylock.

See Page 7.

PROM

By TENLEY SMITH ('18)

On May 31, Seniors and their dates descended on the Berkshire Hills Country Club for their Senior Prom. The theme for the dance was Candyland, which some people viewed as an unusual choice. However, Senior Class advisor and Math Teacher Crystal Williams knows where the theme came from. "People suggested Candyland, actually a lot of people did. I think that people were hopping onto Pinterest and looking at stuff they liked," said Williams.

Prom was followed by a Mt. Greylock tradition, After Prom. The location for After Prom this year was Greylock Bowl and Golf. The event has been held for over twenty years to, "provide a fun, safe night for the seniors and their guests after the prom," according to the After Prom website. The event was organized by the After Prom Committee, in collaboration with several parents of seniors. Said Williams, "They come up with activities together and fund-raise for it together." After Prom will run from half an hour after Prom finishes, at 11:00, to 6:00 in the morning that next day.

But, the actual Prom was only part of the prom festivities. The Prom fun started months before the dance took place, with Promposals. Promposals varied from private to overtly public and from funny to romantic interchanges between

couples. Many couples chose to "Prompose" in different ways, some waiting until the last minute and some jumping the gun in March. This year, Senior Bailey Duquette asked Junior Cameron Castonguay to Prom with the help of the entire girls track team. "We took all of the Girls Track teams' shoes and lined them up so they spelled out Prom in the wrestling room." When asked why she thought Promposals are so popular, Duquette said, "I think they're fun, like a one-time thing. They're adorable too, so that helps. Overall, it was another Mt. Greylock tradition carried on by the seniors as they prepare to leave Greylock. ♦

WANT YOUR VOICE TO BE HEARD?

We'd love to hear from you!

Contact us at: mountgreylockecho@gmail.com

The Greylock Echo is the student newspaper of Mt. Greylock Regional High School in Williamstown, Mass. Published periodically during the academic year, each issue is developed and edited by a team of student writers, photographers, artists and editors from grades 9 through 12. Any Mt. Greylock High School student is welcome to join the Echo staff.

Editor: Zach Armet
Old Editors: Anya Sheldon and Hannah Fein
Copy Editor: Sean Nemtzow
Sports: Elias Sekkal
Building Specialist: Tenley Smith
Photography: Ian Culnane
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

UPCOMING BUILDING CHANGES

By TENLEY SMITH ('18)

Continued from Page 1.

faculty dining room. Additionally, the Main Office will be housed in the current Guidance Office space, and Guidance will be moved to the Main Office. Said Wirtes, "This move is mainly for best security position and efficiency of the Main Office. This is because the main school's entry will be moving to the existing Guidance lobby.

But the move will not be a problem for Guidance counselor Beverly Maselli: "To me it's a means to an end. I'm perfectly happy to do what I need to." The District Office will be moved to the end of the North Corridor in what is currently a life skills space. The entryway near Guidance will be updated to be the new main entrance, and a new bus lane will be installed to drop students off closer to the new entrance. Phase Three of the plan is set to finish in April of 2018 with the opening of the new Academic wing. Phase Two will be the renovation of the gymnasium and the opening of public spaces, such as the cafeteria and the auditorium. Students are hopeful for the future despite the changes a new building requires, said sophomore Bella Bote. "I don't mind the changes that are going to happen because in the end we get a new school." ♦

What's Next for Seniors?

ANY SENIORS NOT LISTED BELOW DID NOT GIVE THE ECHO PERMISSION TO PUBLISH THEIR POST-GRADUATION PLANS

Hunter Abriel- Berkshire Community College

Brodie Altieri- Nichols College

Elizabeth Bernardy- Wheaton College, Norton Campus

Shalee Brazee- Berkshire Community College

Jacqui Byrnes- Keene State College

Alex Ciskowski- Elms College

Lilly Crolius- Boise State University

Bailee Duquette- Lasell College

Hannah Fein- Princeton University

Calvin Filson- Oberlin College

Holly Fischer- St. Lawrence University

Sophie Gerry- Bates College

Adam Hall- Gap Year

Mollyann Haskins- UMass Amherst

George Hedreen- Willamette University

Ben Hynes- Gap Year

Nicole Jones- Williams College

Gray Kaegi- Carleton College

Abbey Lauren- Endicott College

Sofia Lopez- Union College

Petrea Mannello- Trinity College

Benni McComish- Bates College

Lily Meisterling- Berkshire Community College

Nevin Nassar- Berkshire Community College

Maurice Nemtzow- Hudson Valley Community College

Luc Park- Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Tyler Rathbun- Lasell College

Haley Reinhard- Chapman University

Andrea Rice- Siena College

Jasper Rosenheim- New York University

Tara Shastri- Connecticut College

Anya Sheldon- Wellesley College

Megan Shultz- Union College

Maeve Shine- Loyola University

Grace Smith- Bates College

Melissa Swann- Williams College

Samuel Swoap- Tufts University

Julia Szczepaniak- Castleton University

Adly Templeton- Williams College

Arianna Walden- Western New England University

Emma Whitney- Ithaca College

Julia Whitney- Syracuse University

Ellie Williams- Hamilton College

Hope Willis- University of Washington

Molly Wilson- Northeastern University

Matthew Wiseman- Williams College

Hannah Witter- Westfield State University



love you, stay safe

not before 21...
not in northern berkshire



mobilizing for change on alcohol - northern berkshire community coalition

2 in 650

Continued from Page 1.

Echo: What has been the most important lesson going to Greylock has taught you?

Ben: The single most important lesson greylock has taught me is to trust myself even when I feel like I have no right to. There's been a lot of times when I've felt tremendously unprepared for an undertaking like theater tech, pit orchestra, or school work, but I just had to trust that I'd be able to do what needed to be done and I'd always feel great after.

Hannah: Aside from the academic skills Greylock has given me, one of the most important things Greylock has taught me is that simple acts of kindness go a long way and always pay off. It is always worth it to be a kind and caring friend or reach out and get to know someone new.

Echo: What is one piece of advice you would give for next year's seniors and rising Mounties as a whole?

Ben: The best piece of advice I can give anyone going into their last years at Greylock is to be yourself as much as possible. Coming out of your shell is an amazing experience. I've found in every instance where I see someone really being themselves that people here are really supportive. Don't ever be afraid to be openly enthusiastic about your passions.

Hannah: To new seniors, I would say every senior should really try to enjoy and relish their last year here as much as possible. Try new things, pay attention to the little joys, and avoid drama as much as possible to make your last year your best year. I'd tell all rising Mounties to try to go beyond their comfort zone. Join a new club, sport, or activity, talk to a new group of friends, ask teachers for help—it will always pay off.

Echo: What are you most looking forward to your future after Greylock?

Ben: I'm really excited about the amount of opportunity and all of the different things I can do. There's so many different jobs and fields of education to explore, it's mind boggling to consider how many different paths I could go down. I'm excited for all of the surprises I know I'll find attempting to follow my dreams.

Hannah: I'm looking forward to the experience of attending a school about 10 times the size of Greylock! I'm excited to expand my horizons and challenge myself academically while continuing to dance in college. And of course, I can't wait to see where all of my best friends from Greylock end up.

Echo: What is one thing every Mountie must do before they graduate?

Ben: Every Mountie must go for a swim in the school pond before they graduate.

Hannah: Every Mountie should ask Mr. Dils for book recommendations and try to make time to read them. The books we read for AP Literature were incredible. Oh, and every Mountie should write for the Echo. ♦

CLASS ELECTION RESULTS

Class of 2017 Officers:

President: Niku Darafshi
Vice-President: Kyle Bazonski
Treasurer: Kyle Alvarez
Secretary: Carly Munzer

Class of 2017 Student Council Members:

Grace Dodig
Dagny Albano
Manas Jain
Neel Patel
Simon Kent

Class of 2019 Officers:

President: Connor Daley
Vice President: David Falk
Treasurer: Luke Swann
Secretary: James Fisher

Class of 2019 Student Council Members:

Adam Cohen
Ella Dudley
Maddie Albert
Karen McComish
Jacob Fink

Class of 2018 Officers:

President: Jacob Hane
Vice President: Sam Edge
Treasurer: John Werner
Secretary: Connor McClannan

Class of 2018 Student Council Members:

Sam Dils
Gabby Orpin
Leah Majumder
Ethan Schoorlemmer
Josh Duncan

Class of 2020 Officers:

President: Maddy Art
Vice President: Nima Darafshi
Treasurer: Gabriella Alvarez
Secretary: Anna Welch

Class of 2020 Student Council Members:

Owen Tucker-Smith
Alex Morin
Molly Shine
Toby Foehl
Cole Filson

Coach Larry Bell gets Inducted Into MSTCA Hall of Fame

By SEAN NEMTZOW ('17)

On Sunday June 5, Mt. Greylock's Larry Bell, coach and biology teacher, will be inducted into the Massachusetts State Track Coaches Association Hall of Fame in Randolph, Massachusetts. MSTCA's Hall of Fame began in 1976 and has held an induction nearly every year since. Bell is the first Mt. Greylock coach to be inducted with a total of 38 years of coaching under his belt, beginning in the Fall of 1978. Bell has coached mostly running, but has also coached volleyball, soccer, skiing, and coached basketball out in the midwest, "I actually thought volleyball was a lot of fun to coach, although running, I would have to say, is my favorite because that's more of my wheelhouse," Bell says. The induction does not signal the end to his coaching career, but Bell is nervous how

it might change his image, "I'm terrified. I'm not retired yet, so to get an award like this it's a little scary to think that people might be looking at you and saying, 'why is he in there' or 'what a stupid thing he just did.' You know we all have moments we are not proud of as coaches, if we are honest with ourselves, so it makes me feel good that people thought over the long run I've accomplished something as a coach. It's a little scary to try to live up to something like that, but it's not something you would expect to receive."

In the Fall of 2015, Bell coached his Girls Cross Country Running team to a winning 9-2 season as well as runner up in Berkshire County and third in Western Mass. ♦



Photos courtesy of iBerkshires.com (left) and MSTCA.org (above).

SPRING DRAMA

By DILLON WHITLEY ('17)

Continued from Page 1.

by Bonneville, and is set in 1936. It follows the relationship between Alice Sycamore, Sheldon, and Tony Kirby, Templeton, and their journey to unite their polar-opposite families. Alice's family is a middle-class group of fantastic individuals, including a ballet dancer, a printmaker, a playwright, and a business-savvy grandfather, who abandoned his job in exchange for a happy life. Tony's, on the other hand, is an upper-class elite family, including his eccentric father, played by Schiek, and his mother, portrayed by Nottke.

A combination of not being able to find a director and the condemning of the Mt. Greylock auditorium, resulted in cutting the crew's practice time in half, to about a month. With this in mind, the play was the perfect choice for this year. The set was nearly constant with minimal props and, overall, was shorter than usual. The whole cast worked together to create a hilarious collision of two very different families, with lovers Sheldon and Templeton stuck in the middle. All three seniors were clearly seasoned theater vets with Wilson perfecting the embarrassing mother, Sheldon nailing the worried daughter, and Templeton filling the role of a consoling lover. And they were not alone, the other cast members, especially the surprisingly wonderful Carlough, brought each of their characters to life before the audience. ♦

COMMUNITY

Farewell to Departing Faculty

By ADAM HALL ('16)

As we have reached the end of the school year, we prepare to bid farewell to this year's seniors. Along with the seniors, this year we bid farewell to some faculty and staff members. Of the faculty moving on, we interviewed all four of those who were willing to share their departures with the Echo: Trudy Ames, Courtenay Gibson, Ray Miro, and Brandon Asplundh.



English teacher Trudy Ames retires after 25 years of teaching at Greylock. Photo courtesy of Ian Culnane



Math teacher Courtenay Gibson retires after 13 years of teaching at Greylock. Photo courtesy of Ian Culnane



After 17 years of teaching and 25 years of coaching, Ray Miro retires. Photo courtesy of iBerkshires.com



After teaching and coaching for 6 years at Greylock, Brandon Asplundh is prepared to become the Athletic Director at his high school alma mater. Photo courtesy of MassLive.com

Trudy Ames has spent her last 25 years at Mt. Greylock, teaching English in 9th through 12th grade. Through the years, some books have arisen as her favorites, primarily *The Scarlet Letter* and *Moby Dick*. *Moby Dick* is her favorite lesson, having students read through the book in sections and discuss the underlying themes and symbols. Ames says that she knew that she had officially become a teacher in her mind when during class, the latch on her skirt band unhooked she put it back on, said "oh well" and moved on with the lesson. Over the years, Ames has learned how "unbelievably important it is to write well. And it's not just because I'm an English teacher, I think that in life, in general, you have to write so much."

Courtenay Gibson has taught seventh and eighth grade mathematics at Mt. Greylock for the last 13 years. She loves teaching seventh graders because of their willingness to work and their outlook on life. "They are so crazy about life in seventh grade. So when they get here it's all interesting, it's all new," she said. "They're a lot happier in seventh grade. They're just happy and excited." Out of all her wonderful lessons, her favorite days were when she got to play gridlock with her students. Over the years at Greylock, she has learned that "it's important to step back and remember that it's not the most important thing in the world. Sometimes because I can get wrapped up in everyday life at Mt. Greylock and forget that a single day doesn't matter that much."

Raymond Miro has spent the last 17 years teaching health and physical education at Mt. Greylock, and an additional 8 coaching wrestling. He has taught the Peer Team class, physical education, and health. "There are so many memories that were just phenomenal. It's been really good." Through his years of teaching and coaching, "I think the one thing that changed for me was realizing that you're not going to change everybody. You can't fix everything, and you just be yourself and that's the best lesson I can share. And yeah, you have to modify things as you move along, but be yourself because when you are yourself nothing really changes. When you know who you are, you know how to do things."

Brandon Asplundh has taught physical education for 6 years at Mt. Greylock. In addition, he has been an boys lacrosse coach for the last six years, and has spent the last three of those years as the head coach. He has decided to further his career as the athletic director at his high school alma mater, the Academy of the New Church High School in Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania. During his time at Mt. Greylock he has learned much about "being a teacher, and the importance of having good relationships with students and everyone you work with." He continued by stating that "I am incredibly grateful to the physical education staff, the whole faculty, and all the students. I am really sad to go, but I have an opportunity that I can't pass up."

Along with the loss of the senior class, Greylock will also be saying goodbye to several community members who have truly made this school the wonderful place that it is. Whatever their post-Greylock plans are, the Echo wishes the departing faculty good luck on their next steps. ♦

The Reflections of a Graduating Senior

By JASPER ROSENHEIM ('16)

After six years, I have decided that it is my time to leave this school, and as a parting gift I will bring down the school with my passing, because, above all, I write these articles for the children. Behind the facade of faux confidence lies some genuine advice, but unfortunately I have to use sarcasm to convey my point. I struggled writing a reflection on my time at Greylock because I refuse to be a cynic. I have my fair share of problems with this school, but it is still the school I chose to go to, and it wouldn't be fair for me to focus on complaints instead of celebrating everything that I love about Greylock. So without further adieu, here is me giving advice while flattering myself.

I have noticed a huge uptake this year in Greylock of students, namely juniors, stressing out to the max over classes. "How many APs are you taking?" "What did you get on Tomo's test., I only got a 94, Bates will never take me now." The stakes in high school are low, not to demean the importance of doing well, but it is very easy to get caught up in the hype of college admissions, and the competition among your peers. It is imperative

to your mental health to realize that that much stress is not very helpful. Take a step back, realize that eventually you will get into the colleges you get into, which sounds tautological, but the decision will not ride on every point or on every quiz you take. Every senior I know didn't get into every college they wanted to, but I haven't found someone who isn't excited to go to on the path that they are going on.

Now that the classic "don't worry about grades" is out the way, here is some more niche advice. Don't let rules get in the way of you doing things that you think will benefit your education. Vaping in the bathroom perhaps is not an example of this, however there were several times this year I was sitting in class next to a particularly stressed peer. This unnamed man or woman simply stood up, left class, and texted me they were going to the Williams library to do work they felt they needed to do. The next day they said they got a lot of work done, felt they hadn't missed anything drastically important, and had gotten more than six hours of sleep for the first time that week. Am I advocating that you skip class? No. Is there perhaps a lesson

embedded in that story? Yes. Having an honest conversation with a teacher when you feel unprepared for big test could result in an extra day to study. I am not just telling you different ways to get out of doing work, rather understanding that often the weight of the world feels the heaviest when rules feel the most rigid. Teachers, even Mr. Bell, do not want to see you fail, they want to see you put in the effort and treat them with the respect they deserve.

A great example of bending the rules to be learn the things you actually want to learn is my experience with my college class. Greylock told me I could take one semester of a Williams class, no exceptions, they said that the class should be at max three days a week. I just finished my fourth semester of a class that met everyday. My class at Williams essentially bamboozled my GPA, I missed each of my AP classes at least two times a week, in addition to having a mountain of homework every night. This sounds like I'm bragging, but honestly I did all this work, but still failed my fair share of assignments, and received not the most attractive GPA. But I loved taking the class, it helped me

learn what a college environment is like, I made a bunch of new friends, and honestly, if you think you have a lot of work right now, go talk to a Williams student majoring in Computer Science.

In that vein, befriend the faculty and the staff at Greylock. I spend a lot of the day in the library, and Ms. Henry and Ms. Cher are, without a doubt, two of the best people at Greylock. They are so kind, and when you are getting romped upon by a slew of responsibilities, a simple "Hey Jasper!" and smile from Mr. Forsberg or a "Hey sweetie" from Mrs. Patsy can mean a lot. If you can believe this, teachers are people too; I know, I was surprised as well. And some of these people may have things like interests and hobbies, and some may even overlap with you. For instance Mr. Niemeyer likes cooking; I like cooking. A nice person with shared interests that you can go to have a conversation, well I'll be damned you've made a friend. And unlike high schoolers, teachers have things like experience and wisdom, and can add a fresh perspective, ever nuancing your world view. Love your school, love yourself, and thank you Greylock. ♦

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

Review of Dark Souls III

By LUC PARK ('16)



Photos courtesy of IGN.com

On April 12, Bandai Namco released the finale of the Dark Souls series worldwide. The third and officially confirmed last game in the series, Dark Souls III tries to bring together the stories and actions of the previous two games into a momentous finale.

From Software first released Dark Souls in 2011, and was immediately hailed as being one of the most difficult games in recent gaming history. Marked by its high fantasy style and filled to the brim with

hordes of the undead, Dark Souls focuses on third person combat with role-playing game mechanics inserted into the game. From start of the game, the player has near complete freedom in creating a character, and with enough patience, can make their character look like anything they want. After working through a complicated character customization, the player can choose their class, ranging between knights, sorcerers, and clerics. All these characters can be altered by leveling up in game stats and finding new equipment as the game pro-

gresses. Depending on what weapons the player wants, the character must be leveled up accordingly. Now this game's not your ma and pa's style hack n slash, if the player is not careful, any enemy can obliterate their character in a few hits. To succeed against these demons and gods, the player must master blocking, dodging, and attacking, all of which draw from a collective stamina pool. The game then shifts and becomes partly a management game: the player has to choose between attack speed and damage, armor and stamina recovery, and whether to use weapons or magic. All these attributes can be combined and are viable, as long as the player is competent. While there are certainly a lot of minor enemies, Dark Souls is really about the bosses. From greatsword wielding wolves, ancient heroes, fire demons, stone dragons, lightning gods, and even church congregations, every area ends with some sort of monster that will rip out your pancreas for a couple hours.

Since Dark Souls and Dark Souls II, From Software honed the game's combat and mechanics to a fine point. That being said, the game plays it safe by not changing much in terms of structure and reusing a fair amount of assets from previous games. Lore is a focal point of the

Souls series. As the player progresses, conversations and item descriptions illustrate the stories and events that have occurred in or have preceded the game. Through interactions with other characters and items, the player is able to build an understanding about this decrepit world. Each game has established characters and stories which Dark Souls III integrates into its body of work. As a game, Dark Souls III brings up a lot of references to the lore and story of the previous games, appropriating previous games armors, weapons, characters, and even bosses who have existed since the first game. The resurgence of old characters and themes seem like pandering to fans, which can be annoying, but Dark Souls III creates enough new lore that it stands alone as a gaming experience, and despite poking holes in the series' cannon, it is welcoming to see old friends and items return for one last hurrah. Dark Souls III tries hard to be the conclusive ending which is demanded by such a franchise, and though some points seem forced, the game exceeds the rest in pure performance and style that brings the series to spectacular end. ♦

Op-Ed: Revisionist History and the AP US Curriculum

By SIMON KENT ('17)

When Mt. Greylock students took the Advanced Placement United States Exam on May 6th, the test was the second in a newly designed format that had been created by the College Board in response to allegations that the curriculum was biased towards progressivism and that the exam rewarded students who were able to memorize miniscule facts about American History rather than being able to actually do what most historians do: use documents and other sources to find out about a previous era. I personally have followed the current conflict between some United States History teachers, who feel that the old curriculum mischaracterized "heroes" such as Thomas Jefferson or Ronald Reagan, and the College Board, which is committed to ensuring that the new exam does not cause the same controversy.

The controversy around the test began this school year in Jefferson County, Colorado, where conservative school board member Julie Williams established a committee to review the AP US Curriculum for liberal bias. The focus on what will happen within Jefferson County leaves the most dangerous part out; where have Williams' revisionist views of United States History come from?

Most of Williams' ideas

come from a critique of the 2014 curriculum authored by Larry Krieger, a former AP US teacher, where he argues that the AP curriculum emphasizes the negative impacts on American society over the story of American society. Krieger contends that "true" American history starts with the establishment of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, the Virginia company, and the settling of the Carolinas. Unfortunately, he fails to point out that this colonization was funded to compete with already established Spanish colonies in the New World. To fully understand the British colonies in New England and the Chesapeake Bay, it is critical to know about the many facets of the Spanish Empire's vast territories in Central and South America. One of the most important aspects of those colonies was the brutal and horrific treatment of the native populace, which caused a mass genocide, resulting in the importation of African slaves to serve as a replacement for those slaughtered directly and indirectly. English settlements, which Krieger seems happy to start with, were increasingly dependent on this importation of slaves, particularly in Virginia and the Carolinas, where they were soon vital to sustain an agricultural community. Krieger wants us to start with the exceptionalism

that America loves, rather than asking AP students to understand why the colonists who stayed when the entrepreneurial forces focused on other places rather than America went on to form the basis of American society.

I love to hate on the College Board for their ridiculous pricing and dubious status as a non-profit organization. Their role in controlling the entire curriculum of courses throughout America is at an unprecedented level. It pains me to defend this organization, but I find that there is no way to ignore what conservatives in the Republican National Committee and Oklahoma and Georgia State Representatives Dan Fisher and William Ligon respectively want: to rewrite American history to better suit their personal views. It doesn't matter that Manifest Destiny may not have been a purely idealistic movement and instead blatantly had some greed-fueled undertones. These ideas become twisted and used: Manifest Destiny is a crusade for true democracy, while Reagan is the epitome of a conservative despite having allowed Gorbachev to perform substantive reforms within the Soviet Union and the national debt to spiral out of control. Even in this piece, my personal bias shines through: I think that American his-

tory is filled with more important tragedies than with heroic figures and noble concepts.

We should reconsider our American History; both as a school and as a country. The College Board has put a further focus on increasing student's ability to analyze documents, but does not ask them to analyze the bias inherent in any textbook. A redesigned curriculum should draw from a variety of opinions surrounding U.S. history; let us read Howard Zinn's People's History of the United States and Justice Scalia's briefs on why the constitution must be interpreted literally. While Zinn makes his argument for a socialist future by displaying mistakes of the past, and Scalia wields his sense of constitutional interpretation to argue for the continuation of the founding fathers beliefs, we should encourage students to determine what they believe. Whether that is America is a true example of exceptionalism or of oppression should be up to the next generation. However, we must still remember that presenting America, whether critically or positively, must always reflect what truly happened, despite its impact on our own theories. ♦

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BOYS LACROSSE POWERS THROUGH REGULAR SEASON

By GRACE DODIG ('17)



Photo courtesy of Peg Ronnow

Junior Thomas Astle breezes by defenders with impressive speed.

The Mt. Greylock boys lacrosse team has been strong throughout the 2015-2016 season, heading into Western Mass with a successful 16-1 record. In terms of seedings, the boys received the first seed for their division and hope to go on and win their second Western Mass Championship in a span of three years for Mount Greylock.

Junior captain Patrick Storie recalled a vital and remarkable 7-6 victory against the Division 2 team, Northampton, which featured a game winning goal coming from sophomore Sean McCormack. Storie was particularly impressed following this game, "it really boosted our confidence and it showed that we can play with tough valley teams and that Greylock wins when it counts." Senior captain Cal Filson reminisced over other impressive wins against Burr and Burton, and South Hadley. Filson stated that the teams' "close loss to Westfield will

help us understand what we need to do in the future to beat good teams". Storie believes the key to the team's success is "transition offense and playing tough defense". He believes the team is very athletic, and "the key is to stay composed in the postseason and not get over our own heads".

Thinking ahead towards next season, both Storie and Filson have a lot of faith in the team. Losing just two seniors will still alter the team, especially the loss of Filson in goal, but the losses will not be detrimental to the great potential that the boys lacrosse team will continue to possess in 2017. However, this current season is far from over, as the boys expect to continue their run of success throughout the tournament. Expecting to receive a first round home game for Western Mass, the Mt. Greylock boys lacrosse team will be a sight to see as they begin their journey to the championship. ♦

BOYS TRACK'S EFFORT PAYS OFF

By TENLEY SMITH ('18)



Photo courtesy of iBerkshires.com

Seventh grader Corban Miller and sophomore Jacob Adams prepare for the 800 relay.

The Mt. Greylock Boys Track and Field team finished the season with a 6-2 record and a near miss for the Berkshire County championship. This was the first winning season for the boys in eight years.

The Mounties started off their season with a loss against Taconic, but a win against Mount Anthony in a dual meet at the Bennington high school. They continued the early contests of the season with big wins against Monument Mountain and Wahconah. After that, they took their 3-1 record to Drury to compete in a triple meet with Lenox and Drury. The boys beat Lenox and Drury, setting up a 5-1 record into the final meet of the season.

The final meet of the season would determine the Berkshire County champions. If the boys beat Pittsfield and Hoosac Valley, they would earn the title. The boys dispatched Hoosac Valley with a score of 86 to 55. How-

ever, the meet against Pittsfield came down to the last event of the day, the 4 by 400 meter relay. The first leg runners stood at the start line, knowing that whatever team won the relay would be crowned Berkshire County Champions. In the end, Pittsfield's boys came in first at the end of 1600 meters, and as they walked away, chants of "undefeated" filled the air from Pittsfield's team.

Despite the loss, senior captain Sam Swoap is still proud of the effort his team put in, "It was amazing," said Swoap, "even though we lost, I'm really proud of how hard all the guys worked throughout the season. We had a lot of really hardworking newcomers this year who put in a good effort to get us this far." Another senior captain, Tommy Kirby, agrees with Swoap, "This team has just been incredible this year. So many young kids stepped up to replace seniors. They just have good heart." ♦

GIRLS TENNIS STARTS TO GROW

By ADAM HALL ('16)



Photo courtesy of iBerkshires.com

Sophomore Cedar Keyes prepares to return her opponent's shot.

The Mt. Greylock Girls Tennis team recently finished its 2016 season. They ended with an 0-10 record. The team is young, with no juniors and seniors and only three sophomores. However they are heavy in the younger grades with six seventh graders and two eighth graders. Cedar Keyes, a sophomore, says that "We have mostly been working to enhance our skills and get the younger players ready for matches, therefore we haven't been incred-

ibly competitive." The past couple years there have been juniors and seniors who had the experience and were able to lead the team to victories, so now we are just trying to rebuild our team, and gain the experience. After all, the younger players are our teams future. I'm really hopeful for our upcoming years. Our team has so much potential, and has grown so much just this year." The future looks bright for the tennis team. ♦

SOFTBALL JUST MISSES PLAYOFFS

By ZACH ARMET ('17)



Photo courtesy of iBerkshires.com

Junior Fiona Kelley pitches a deadly fastball.

The Mt. Greylock Girls Softball Team, coached by June Blake, started the season strong by winning the first four games they played, but, due to an offensive drought, ended up with an 8-10 record for the season. On May 25, the playoffs just slipped out of the girls' grasp when they lost to Wahconah after 13 innings. Although not entering the playoffs, the softball team finished strong with an exciting 4-3 comeback against Hoosac on Friday, May 27 with junior Hai-

ley Guest batting in the winning runs.

Luckily for the Mounties, there are no graduating seniors this year on the softball team, so, next year, while other teams are trying to fill the vacancies left by their seniors, the Mounties will be ready with a full squad of veteran players. Junior Grace Dodig says, "we need to get better with hitting next year." She believes that with a stronger offense, the team "will go further and we all have confidence that we can." ♦

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GIRLS TRACK BRIMMING WITH TALENT

By SEAN NEMTZOW ('17)



Photo courtesy of iBerkshires.com

Junior Sydney Gurek leaps over a hurdle with 8th grade teammates Hannah Locklear and Gabriella Alvarex trailing.

The Mt. Greylock Girls Track and Field team claimed the County title on May 17 in a meet against Pittsfield and Hoosac. Their victory was the end of their undefeated season with a record of 8-0. However it was a very close meet against Pittsfield, boiling down to the very last event, the 400m relay, to determine the winner. The girls team is very strong on the distance front. Freshman Margot Smith took home 1st in the 1 and 2 mile, Senior Melissa Swan and Sophomore Mae Burris-Wells placed 1st and 2nd, respectively, in the 800m run, Freshman Maddie Albert placed first in the 400m run, and the girls 800m relay team topped both Hoosac and

Pittsfield. In the field events, Juniors Dagny Albano and Claire Whitaker placed 1st and 2nd, respectively, in the javelin throw and junior Serena Chow was 1st in high jump.

This year many girls qualified to move on to Western Mass team and individual competitions. Saturday 21st, both the boys and girls track and field team competed at team Western Mass at Mohawk Trail Regional High School. In the sprints, senior Julia Szczepaniak placed 5th both in the 100m and 200m dash, middle schoolers Hannah Locklear and Brandi Gill placed 5th and 8th in the 100m hurdles, respectively, and the girls 4x100m relay team placed 4th. The



Photo courtesy of iBerkshires.com

Junior Elizabeth Bartlett hurls a shotput as her teammates watch.

freshmen girls did exceptionally well in mid distance. Albert ranked 2nd in the 800m run and 4th in the 400m dash and Ella Dudley placed 6th in the 400m hurdles. The girls relay team for 400m and 800m placed 4th and 8th, respectively. Smith placed 5th in the 2 mile, also. In the field events Captain Senior Elizabeth Bernardy placed 5th in discus, junior Serena Chow placed 10th in high jump, and junior Dagny Albano placed 13th in both shotput and javelin.

For some, the season is still not over with Western Mass individuals coming up on Saturday 28th. Captain Bernardy was pleased with the energy of her team and is excited for the upcoming competition, "We have trained all season for big meets like Western Mass and the girls were definitely ready. Many of us finished with season bests which is what you always hope for. This team has a lot of heart which will carry them into this next meet where there will be many more personal records." ♦

GREYLOCK BASEBALL CONTINUES INTO THE POSTSEASON

By ZACH ARMET ('17)



Photo courtesy of iBerkshires.com

The Mounties are prepared for any challenge they may face in the post season

The Mt. Greylock Baseball team ended its regular season 10-10, 10-1 in its league, and qualified for the Division III Western Mass Tournament. The team still awaits its seed for the playoffs. Lead by the pitching of seniors Adam Hall, Brodie Altieri, Josh Jezouit, and Adam Petricca and juniors Brandon Condon and Nick Rondeau, the baseball team has had an exciting season with some impressive comeback victories as well as blowouts. While there is no clear player on the team's offense who dominates the plate, freshmen Cal Messina and Phil Guest, along with Altieri, seem to be on a hitting streak recently.

The team has high hopes for winning a Western Mass Championship. According to junior Neel Patel, "As long as we play clean game, both mentally and physically, we can rival any team out there." A Championship title would certainly be a great sendoff for the seniors, as well as a benchmark for next season's team. The baseball team has a lot of depth and Patel believes that "next year's team will work just as hard as this year's and with that hard work, success will come." ♦

BOYS TENNIS: AN UNSTOPPABLE FORCE

By LUC PARK ('16)

On June 2, the boys tennis team will go off to play in the playoffs. The team is made up of seniors Gray Kaegi, Matt Wiseman, and Benni Mcomish, junior Josh Narey, sophomores Sam Dils and Brady Foehl, freshman Jacob Fink, middle schoolers Toby Foehl, Owen Jones, and Gabe Gerry. The boys are coached by Steve Bryant. The team is 10-0 in the county, making it the fourth consecutive year of an undefeated boys tennis team. "[We have] been doing great this season," said captain Kaegi, "This is the best chemistry I've had on a team in a long time. We have a lot of kids who are new to the game and so it's really great to have older kids there to teach and give insight." ♦



iBerkshires.com 2016

Photo courtesy of iBerkshires.com

Junior Josh Narey serves the ball to his opponent.

EXCITING SEASON FOR GIRLS LACROSSE

By JOSH DUNCAN ('18)



Photo courtesy of Gabby Orpin

The Girls Lacrosse team recently won the Berkshire County Championships by upsetting the talented Wahconah team.

The Mt. Greylock Girls Lacrosse team lost a lot of key players in last year's senior class, however, they were ready for it with other players to replace them. The season came to a close on Monday, May 23. The team finished with a winning season with a record of 15-1. The motivation of the team has largely been attributed to the sense of com-

munity and friendship the girls have with each other. However, the team captains, seniors Maggie Rorke, Haley Reinhard, and Hope Willis, were essential to the team's scoring system. There was a question to whether or not Mt. Greylock would end up doing so well after their loss against Burr and Burton Academy, but in the end the team pulled through.

The final game of the season, on May 23, was really the deciding factor for the team and truly proved their dominance throughout Western Mass. Entering the meet with a 14-3 record and ranking seventh in Western Mass, the team faced off against Wahconah, with a record of 15-2 and were ranked sixth in Western Mass. In the end, the final game of the season came down to a close score of 10-8, in Mt. Greylock's favor. The team came together through the combined efforts of the captains and the

coaches. Sophomore Gabby Orpin remarked, "Overall we did really well, the only games we have lost were only by one goal so we could have won every single game, we just slipped under pressure." ♦



Photo courtesy of MassLive.com

MVP Sarah Stripp, a junior, takes the ball up the field.

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SUDOKU-EASY

1					5			4
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SUDOKU-HARD

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Crossword

By DAVID ROSIN

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ACROSS

- 1) Caught some Z's
- 6) Mood rings and hula hoops, once
- 10) Lawyer: Abbr.
- 14) Home on the range?
- 15) Baldwin of Prelude to a Kiss
- 16) Mets ballpark
- 17) Arctic or Indian, e.g.
- 18) Show of hands, perhaps
- 19) Shipbuilding wood
- 20) Part 1 of a riddle
- 23) Recipe direction
- 24) Modernize, as a room
- 25) One's life, in 25 words or less
- 28) Short scissor cuts
- 30) Grind, as the teeth
- 34) Make ___ meet
- 36) Pontiac model that titled a '64 pop hit
- 37) City that symbolizes middle America
- 38) Part 2 of the riddle
- 41) It comes from the heart

- 42) Ending with mater or pater
- 43) Word-mangler Berra
- 44) Bewildered
- 45) Up, in baseball
- 47) Sawbuck
- 48) L times V plus I
- 50) Radar blip
- 52) Answer to the riddle
- 59) Wrap for a rani
- 60) Hermes' mother
- 61) Please, in Potsdam
- 62) Photosynthesis "factory"
- 63) When Caesar is told "Beware the ides of March"
- 64) Composer Bruckner
- 65) Catch a glimpse of
- 66) Dates regularly
- 67) Ad lights

DOWN

- 1) Pack away
- 2) President Walesa
- 3) Fencer's sword
- 4) Anjou, Bosc, and Bartlett
- 5) Basic beliefs
- 6) #1 choice
- 7) Like a bump on ___
- 8) Discourages, as attacks
- 9) Public spat
- 10) Its researchers do lots of looking up
- 11) "Take ___ Train"
- 12) Greenish-blue
- 13) Chatters away
- 21) Inflatable raft
- 22) Gardening power tool
- 25) Strife-torn Lebanese valley
- 26) Motionless
- 27) Playwright Clifford
- 29) This: .
- 31) Running rampant
- 32) Military campaign
- 33) Entertains at home
- 35) Harangue tediously

Dear Reader,
I want to start this brief letter by saying thank you to all of the amazing writers who contributed to this issues. Thank you to Mr. Neimeyer who not only advised the Echo, but gave me guidance whenever I needed it. My final thanks go out to Anya and Hannah who were incredibly helpful and enthusiastic when it came to passing on the torch. That all being said, I would like to discuss some of the changes the Echo will face next year. The website is almost entirely managed by those who are in Newspaper Production during Block 6, but there will not be a class to maintain the website next year. This means that all members of the Echo will have to show extra dedication to the club next year. Many of us at the Echo still intend on keeping the website and expanding its network on social media. This would include the potential additions of an Echo Twitter and Snapchat account. There is always room for more writers at the Echo, so if you are even the slightest bit interested, or have suggestions for next year's procedures, you can contact us at our email:

mountgreylockecho@gmail.com

Sincerely,
Zach Armet, 2017 Editor

BRAINTEASERS

Forward, I am heavy, but backward, I am not. What am I?

What is always coming, but never arrives?

Tear one off and scratch my head. What was red is black instead. What am I?

How many 2 in. long blocks can you put into a 3 liter empty box?

What word in the dictionary is always spelled incorrectly?

Stumped? Find the answers on our website!