

Four Years of High School Done, 4,400 Miles To Go

MFS Graduate Embarks on a Charitable Bike Ride

By Maura Aleardi

This summer, David White, Moorestown Friends alum and previous WordsWorth editor in chief, will be participating in a 4,400 mile bike from Baltimore to Portland to raise money for cancer. He is part of a team, which consists of sixteen others who will be joining him in the trip. There are also teams in San Diego, San Francisco, and Seattle.

White said, "I decided to participate in the 4K for cancer because I want to do what I can to combat the terrible disease." He first discovered the event on the Johns Hopkins campus, at an information table.

Over the course of 70 days, White will bike 50-130 miles per day, visit cancer patients, and conduct workshops to inform people about the disease. While thinking about the upcoming journey, White said, "I'm probably most worried about missing all

of the friends and family I won't be seeing for the 70 days I am gone, but I know that I'll survive without them."

For this trip White will need to bring standard biking gear, a helmet, a water bottle, food and a razor. In preparation for the ride, White is biking 50 miles a day and plans to increase the distance as the ride nears.

Each member of each team is raising money for the cancer fund. White has set a goal to raise \$10,000. White said he will be "raising money through fundraisers, telemarketing and beggar's emails."

In regard to biking, White said, "[It] is my favorite exercise method, so the biking aspect definitely makes this a more fun endeavor. But the charity is the core of my decision."



Photo by Alex Knowlton

MFS Alumni Alex Schoifet, David White, Tyler Knowlton, and Devin Massaro

Sandy Hits Home

by Breanna Riddick

Hurricane Sandy's destruction has affected millions on the east coast. Specifically in New Jersey, there was a huge amount of damage done, including the destruction of many boardwalks and beaches. The MFS community has not been immune to Sandy's effects.

Middle and Upper School math teacher Karen McHugh explained the damage to her town, Manasquan, and the town where she grew up, Belmar. In Manasquan, NJ, everything east of the train tracks is relatively fine. However, there was huge amount of electricity loss. "We had no electricity for eleven days," McHugh stated as she looked through pictures of the devastation. McHugh went on to say, "The kids had off [from school] for about 2 weeks because there was no electricity." McHugh also explained that for many days following the hurricane, there was gas rationing, and that without hot water or electricity in her home for eleven days, she had to go to a neighbor's house for basic needs like taking a shower.

"It seems like everything west of

the tracks got hit pretty bad; everything is destroyed. We're talking about multi-million dollar vacation houses completely destroyed," McHugh explained. McHugh also shared how the Arcade on the boardwalk was completely demolished. Sand now fills the streets of Manasquan and many of the boardwalks there.

Aside from the general destruction in Manasquan, McHugh's family was affected directly. "My mother had about three feet of water in her house, so she has been staying with friends. The house is ruined though, the house I grew up in." As McHugh continued on the damage in Belmar, she shared her feelings on the unfortunate loss of landmarks that she grew up with: "It's sad."

Though the devastation was horrible, there is hope. There are many groups and associations, including Moorestown Friends, that have been donating their time, money, and supplies to rebuilding the shore and other areas affected by Hurricane Sandy. "Everybody's pulling together," Mrs. McHugh said with hope in her voice.



Photo by The Borough of Manasquan

The aftermath of Hurricane Sandy on the Borough of Manasquan.

Parsley, Sage, Rosemary... In Time?

By Callie Cramer

The environmental club has announced plans to plant a garden on school property. The garden, tentatively titled the "MFS Sustainable Vegetable/Herb Garden," will be located either on the path to Hartman Hall or by the lower school. It will grow herbs such as oregano and basil that could be potentially used in school lunches.

Scott Krasner, environmental club co-president, talked about his roots in sustainable farming.

"When I was in elementary school," he said, "I had to take care of a goat... we also had a little garden."

When he came to Moorestown Friends and saw that there was nothing similar, he brought this idea to environmental club.

"When I started going to environmental club and we became more focused on green initiatives I was really excited." Lauren Brill, Environmental Club co-president, said, "We've been discussing it for a while now; it was sort of a perfect opportunity when we realized no one was really doing anything with the space there."

Plans for the garden are still being finalized. The club is gaining support from the school faculty and deciding on the location of the garden. There are two potential locations: the south side of the playground by the time capsule or by the path to Hartman Hall.

Hartman Hall is the more likely spot. Brill said, "It would be where there used to be tangled weeds and wildflowers; we were going to do something more organized." Krasner said, "Hartman Hall would probably be a better place. People can see it as they walk by, it's more open, and there's not as much shade so we would have sunlight coming in."

Once the location is finalized and the garden is approved, the environmental club will start preparing to construct the garden. "Hopefully in the spring, probably the end of April we will be getting ready to plant," said Krasner. The club will use feedback from students and faculty to guide the construction of the garden.

The environmental club hopes to involve the lower grades in this project. Krasner said, "You see a lot of elementary schools doing this because kids love playing with dirt, but also it's an interactive way to learn about plants and botany. I think that aspect could be brought to the lower school or maybe the middle school."

Although the Environmental Club is sponsoring and taking time to maintain the garden, Krasner urges the rest of the school community to help out. He said, "If you want to get involved please do because we love enthusiasm, even if you're not part of environmental club." For those that do not know how to garden, the club plans to offer informational sessions about gardening.

In this issue:

Meeting for Worship Controversy
By Lauren Lowe

A Scathing Review of The Twilight
Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2

Katie Gregory -- This Month's
Player to Watch

Eye Opening Opinions

By Lauren Lowe

“Sit up straight, please.” Those four words have never been as sharp as when whispered by an always kind but nevertheless stern Priscilla Taylor-Williams. They are usually preceded by a narrowing of the eyes and a tired sigh before she pushes herself up out of her seat to quietly rouse sleeping Upper Schoolers from their mid-Meeting for Worship slumbers. But what if the student she is waking up was never asleep in the first place?

Admittedly, many students take advantage of the forty-five minutes they have in the Meeting House every Wednesday to get in a quick nap between class periods. However, there are students who sit with their eyes closed without ever falling asleep who still find themselves getting scolded by teachers. They do not deserve to get in trouble when they aren’t really doing anything wrong. Different people deal with sitting in silence for an entire period in different ways and some choose to meditate with their eyes closed.

If you look around, you can sometimes spot a teacher or two sitting upright with their eyes shut; yet there is no reason to suspect that the teacher has fallen asleep.

So perhaps it comes down to posture. It is fairly obvious when students are sleeping; they most commonly nap in groups, passed out quietly with their heads resting on friends’ shoulders and slumped in their seats. There are other students, though, who remain perfectly upright, simply resting a hand on their chin with their eyes closed. With many adults in the room doing something similar, who’s to say that these students aren’t asleep and are just meditating? It seems unfair to assume that they are sleeping and to consequently scold these students when they aren’t distracting in any way. If the adults in the room can sit peacefully with their eyes closed, then students should be allowed to do the same. They aren’t violating any unspoken Meeting for Worship etiquette either, so it seems fair to just let them be.

Skating on Thin Ice

How the NHL Has Destroyed Itself

By Edward Gelernt

The National Hockey League’s Collective Bargaining Agreement, which sets the guidelines for salary agreements and division of pay between owners and players, expired over the summer, leading the owners to lock their players out of the facilities. The alliance of team owners decided that the monster contracts into which they entered with players were exorbitant, and that they consequently would not pay their players the money which they had promised.

The most important moment in the lockout so far was the cancellation of the Winter Classic. Each year, two teams are scheduled for this nationally televised game that takes place on one of the first days of January—outdoors. The game is watched by viewers nationally, and even internationally, the way no other hockey game is watched. All of those people whose interest for the sport stems from the Winter Classic will likely be turned away from watching hockey this season.

And so this is my analogy: the NHL is Sisyphus. It has worked tirelessly to gain support and popularity, increase advertising, and develop new events, and has been tremendously successful. It has come so close to breaking the threshold of inferiority, only to come tumbling back down the hill that is the hierarchy of American sports. The NHL better turn around and start pushing that rock back up the hill very soon, before it is inevitably crushed.

The Art of Fine Lining

By Jared Edelstein

Moorestown Friends School’s food service provider, Choice Foods, Inc., implemented new changes in the Dining Hall this year. Most notably, a debit card system was put into place in an effort to alleviate the congestion caused by slow cash transactions. At the start of the year, all upper school students were issued debit cards, which are also used by students in the contract lunch program. However, the addition of debit cards required that computers be installed in all cashier lanes, replacing the cash registers used in previous years. Even when using cash, the transaction must be recorded in the computer. It was anticipated that many students would participate in the debit card system; however, cash usage still seems prevalent in the Dining Hall. Cash transactions were quicker and easier to process when using a normal cash register. Recording these transactions on the computers increases waiting time in lines for the many people who still use cash to pay for lunch.

The changes implemented in the Dining Hall this school year have made lunch line congestion worse. Two entree lines were created to decrease time spent waiting to get food; however, because

cash transactions are taking longer than in previous years, lunch line traffic now occurs near the cashier lanes. As most Upper School students know, that area is also where the sandwich line and Grab-and-Go foods are located. This creates even more confusion and chaos as people try to move through the sandwich line to get to the cashiers.

Off the top of my head, I can suggest a few modifications to ease the traffic issue in the food service area. Firstly, cash transactions could be simplified. Is it really necessary to have records of everyone’s cash purchases? There haven’t been any in prior years. Secondly, get rid of the contract-only line and allow contract transactions in every line. This would reduce the backup caused by people waiting in a cashier line; it would also make better use of the contract lane, which never has more than three people in line.

The modifications made this year to the lunchroom service, meant to speed up the time spent in line, did more harm than good. However, it’s by no means permanent and I’m sure some more modifications to the logistics of our lunch service will rectify this matter.



The busy Dining Hall during Upper School Lunch.

Photo by Austin Harris

iKnow Where You Live

Editor-in-Chief’s Column
By Austin Harris

Global-positioning systems (GPS) have been around for a long time, however, it wasn’t until a few years ago that smart phones were able to use this technology. On one hand, it is great that smartphones can use GPS technology. As long as I have my phone, I can rarely ever get lost; and if I lose my phone, I can use iCloud to help me figure out where it is. But on the other hand, if you really think about it, the idea that my phone can track its exact location is kind of creepy. Has our technology gone too far?

While this thought has been in the back of my mind for a while, it really came to the forefront earlier this year. Now, I knew that ever since Facebook changed to the Timeline format, people were able to “check in” and tell their friends exactly where they were; but earlier this year I noticed that, whenever I posted a status or picture via my phone, Facebook was updating my location whether I wanted it to or not.

It scares me how open Facebook and Apple (and probably other major technological companies as well) are about the fact that they have access to this private

information. Clearly they’ve had it for a while, and it frightens me that I wasn’t even aware of this until recently. I’m not the only one who finds it creepy either –



there was so much backlash against Facebook’s “Find Friends Nearby” app that they pulled it.

While Facebook and Apple do offer users the opportunity to change their privacy settings, it seems like the settings keep changing on their own. Slowly, things like telling people where I am when I post pictures are

going from being optional to being mandatory, and recent updates like the ability to see who has read my posts or messages and at what time don’t have the ability to be shut off.

This technology has gone too far. While it can be convenient at times, it could also lead to problems. Do I really want all of my Facebook friends knowing where I am? For instance, if I post a picture from my phone from Pennsylvania, any friend-turned-burglar (or person with unauthorized access to my profile for that matter) would know that my house is potentially empty and vulnerable.

American citizens are guaranteed a right to privacy, and our technology has started to invade this privacy. I just hope that at some point soon, there will be a big enough movement against this trend that we see Facebook, Apple, and other technological companies back off a little bit. Be cause if things don’t change and there is an Apple- or Facebook-run dystopia, we’d all be toast.

What’s In A Name?

By Jake Adamson

Baustin Parris, Mateo Brown, Lauren Lo Mein, Joe the Plumber—Moorestown Friends students have been getting more and more creative with their Facebook names. There are many reasons to change names, but it can make it hard to identify who a person is. The names often have some vague resemblance to a person’s real name. Annie O’Donnell, a senior, changed her Facebook name. “I heard it was a smart thing to do when applying to colleges and felt I should play it safe, even though I didn’t have anything I was trying to hide.”

Kristina Shah, goes by “Kri sti na” on Facebook. “A bunch of my friends were doing it, so I was like, why not?” She also said, “I didn’t really change it

because of colleges. I honestly don’t think colleges have time to look up every single applicant.” According to a 2012 study by education company Kaplan, 26 percent of admissions officers checked Facebook as part of the applicant review process. Kaplan found that, of these officers, 35 percent said they discovered something that negatively affected the applicant’s chances of getting into the school. Officers also used Google to do more research on the applicant. Social media is not limited exclusively to Facebook; it also includes Twitter, a website where most profiles are made public. MFS college guidance counselor Meredith Hanamirian said, “I think it’s more important to

make sure what you’re putting on Facebook is appropriate, whether you have your exact name or a different version of your name. When you post things you need to make sure what you’re posting you would be comfortable having your parents see and having college admissions officers see.” She wasn’t sure if students should be changing the names on their profiles. “It’s an idea, or an option, to change your name so that colleges aren’t able to find you as easily as they would be if you used your actual name, but that being said, even if you’re using a fictional name or a version of your name, you need to be careful about what you post on Facebook.”

Breaking Yawn

A Twilight Movie Disappoints (Again)

SPOILER ALERT: CONTAINS MAJOR PLOT POINTS

By Emily Tatum

When I went to see the final Twilight movie, Breaking Dawn: Part 2, I had hope for it. I had read the book and thought it was the best in the series, because it focused less on Bella and Edward Cullen’s relationship. The second half of the book was primarily about vampires from all over the world coming together to challenge the rule of the vampire’s leaders, the Volturi. This part of the book brought a much-welcomed change of pace from the beginning of the book which was all about the newly married Edward and Bella Cullen. But just like all the others, this movie ended up being a let down.

The movie skipped many important parts of the book and so, I imagine, viewers who had not read the book would be confused about many things that occurred. For example: why did the Cullens and their friends go camping in the middle of a field to meet the Volturi? Some one who had not read the book would unable to understand why this was happening.

At the end of the movie, there was a seemingly pivotal fight scene between the

Cullens and the Volturi. The scene was detailed, lasted about twenty minutes, and was the most exciting part of the movie. The audience screamed and cried every time a character they loved died. The only problem with this scene was that it never happened. The scene never took place in the book and, in the movie, the fight turned out to be what Alice Cullen was imagining might happen between the Cullens and Volturi. Having a scene similar to this would have been fine if it had been much shorter. The fighting went on for so long that I really believed it was happening and was disappointed when I realized that none of it had taken place. Instead of a fight, the Volturi decided to leave peacefully and the movie had a “happily ever after” ending.

Overall, I thought the movie was overdramatic and rushed. Too much time was spent focusing on Edward and Bella, and I thought some scenes would be confusing to viewers who had never read the books. At least Kristin Stewart acted less awkwardly in this movie than in her others. Don’t waste your time or money seeing Breaking Dawn.

Cures for the Common Cold

Michele DiMarino, school nurse, offers tips to avoid catching a cold this winter

By Jackie Sackstein

- o Wash your hands.
- o Cover your mouth when you sneeze or cough.
- o Stay home if you feel sick or have a fever.
- o Get at least eight hours of sleep every night.
- o Increase your fluid intake (especially water).
- o Eat more fruits.
- o Eat more vegetables.
- o Eat breakfast every day.
- o Eat more fish to help boost your immune system.
- o Eat more foods containing vitamin C.
- o Wear a coat and dress appropriately for the weather.

Photo by Austin Harris

Photo by Reena Karasin

Book Reviews by Reena Karasin

This Month: *The Casual Vacancy* by J. K. Rowling

The Casual Vacancy is J.K. Rowling’s long-awaited first novel for adults, and her first non-Harry Potter related story. The novel is set in a small English town named Pagford, where everyone we meet is vengeful and plagued by secrets – everyone, it seems, except Barry Fairbrother. The story begins with the death of this Parish Councilor, a death that in some way affects everyone in the town. We meet characters that were his friends, his family, his enemies, and his political opponents. The novel depicts the ripple effect caused by Barry’s death, and what it means for the people of Pagford – as well as for his political cause.

One of J.K. Rowling’s strengths as a writer is her ability to craft realistic, three-dimensional characters. She showed this skill in *The Casual Vacancy*, but, perhaps

purposefully, failed to make them likeable. The picture-perfect town of Pagford is wrought with conflict; every character is in some way dark, resentful, or spiteful – again, excepting Barry Fairbrother. While this choice did provide an interesting plot, I missed the lovable characters that Rowling is more than capable of creating. Her character set produced a much more cynical, gritty novel than her previous works.

Rowling also chose to introduce the reader to twenty or so characters within the first forty pages. This was very confusing, as every few pages the narrator would shift; it was difficult to keep track of all the characters and their relationships to each other. However, as the story progressed, I began to appreciate how Rowling expertly wove the townspeople

together so realistically. It allowed me, as a reader, to really get a sense of the tightly-woven, almost incestuous community of Pagford.

In an interview with J.K. Rowling that I watched, she explained how the “embarrassing” region of poverty that exists in Pagford’s limits grew out of her own experience. She lived in destitution for many years, relying on government assistance. She is a success story, just like Barry Fairbrother. From her past grew inspiration for her new novel’s overarching conflict.

The most important thing to keep in mind while reading *The Casual Vacancy* is that, while it is indeed written by J.K. Rowling, it is not Harry Potter. Rowling’s new novel is cleverly crafted and intriguing, but we must keep it separate from the Harry Potter series in order to enjoy it as its own, stand-alone story.

The New Guard

By Jade Ernest

The boys basketball team will face quite a change this upcoming season since they will have a new head coach. Coach Colin Haynes is a Moorestown High School and University of Maine alum who will bring a vast amount of experience to MFS. While Haynes may be new as a head varsity coach to the MFS team, he is not new to coaching. He has served as a freshman basketball coach at Bordentown High School, as well as an assistant/JV coach at both Burlington City High School and more recently at Moorestown High School. Haynes is quite prepared for the task. His love for the sport, ability to identify with his players, and coaching skills will allow him to develop the Foxes and give them the necessary tools to have success on the court. In discussing the expectations of his new role, Haynes said, “As a Head Coach, it is my job to ensure that the team is improving each and

every day... The best part of Coaching is always working with the student athletes. Coaching at Moorestown Friends School is an added bonus because of the caliber of student athletes that represent the school, the strong values that the school holds, and the entire educational environment. I feel very fortunate, and proud to represent Moorestown Friends School as their basketball coach.” As a player, Haynes’s accomplishments speak for themselves. Haynes played varsity basketball for the Moorestown Quakers for three years, won the South Jersey championship his senior year, and went to the University of Maine on a full basketball scholarship. He is said to be not only a great coach but also a great player. Haynes’s role as a player and his experience on a championship-winning team is expected to help the Foxes and lead them far this season and in seasons to come.

Girl’s Basketball: Few Numbers, Big Impact

By Jailene Jaquez

This season there was a decrease in the number of people who signed up for girls basketball. Many students are buzzing about how the lack of players will affect the junior varsity team, and if it will even exist this year. Michael Brunswick, head of the girls varsity team, said, “I really don’t know what’s going on. I don’t know why the numbers are low.” In regard to the future of the junior varsity team, he said, “I honestly don’t know what the outcome of the team will be but there are two field games scheduled, but other than that I’m not sure.” However, not everyone is worried. Freshman Breanna Riddick said, “It is about quality, not quantity. If they have good players, which I heard that they do, then it really shouldn’t matter the amount of players they [have].”



Photo by Jailene Jaquez

Michael Brunswick, girls varsity basketball coach

Player-to-Watch: Katie Gregory

By Alex Creighton

This season, Katie Gregory is the only freshman girl playing basketball. She said that she is looking to improve her basketball skills during this season and is “excited for the team bonding.” Katie said that she plays “pretty much every position” but thinks she will play guard for the Foxes. Katie has been playing basketball since fifth grade. Before Moorestown Friends, she played for her church, the CYO Chargers, and then on the MFS middle school basketball team. “My favorite basketball memory is when my CYO team won the championship,” she said. Currently Katie is suffering a back injury, but said, “It’s not that bad. I can’t really run, but I think I’ll be back before the season.” She added, “The Foxes have a great group of girls this season, and we are playing really well. It’s gonna be a great season!” Katie is a hardworking freshman player, which is why she is our player to watch.



Photo by Emily Tatum

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DECEMBER EVENTS CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9	10	11	12 Soul Food Fest Buttons On Sale US Winter Concert	13 Winter Play Auditions Today and Tomorrow	14 PRIDE Club Faculty Photo Shoot for No H8	15
16	17	18	19 Soul Food Fest	20 Winter Break	21 Winter Break	22 Winter Break