



Mar News

ISSUE 5

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Farewell, MN Retirees!

By Mr. Williams and Lauren Silvestri

As you may have heard, a significant number of MN teachers are retiring this year. Not only have they been here for many years, but they have all contributed something special to the MN atmosphere. They will be leaving us after June to enjoy “the good life,” but their mark on MN will always be here. These excellent teachers deserve some recognition, and Mar News is delighted to provide that.

First and Foremost....

Mr. Williams himself gives a tribute to the retirees:

Deborah Bonder. English. The question is: What hasn’t Deb Bonder done? She has been advisor to The National Honor Society, Variety Show, and led the HiQ team to multiple championships. She is widely respected as one of the smartest people ever to grace these halls. I am lucky to be her friend, and she is the only person here that I might fear over the Scrabble board.

Tom McHugh. English. MN Drama owes its soul to Tom. He has been The Man in countless plays, and he has advised the One Act Play Festival like no other. Tom is a living Internet and he knows more about anything and nothing than anyone. His knowledge of James Joyce’s work is unmatched. Positive attitude is his forte. A fun-loving Irishman, but do not cross him, or you’ll get the “The Mead Haul.” Irreplaceable.

Barb McHale. English. Former MNEA Teacher of the Year. Miss Sunshine of the Sunshine Fund for many years. I consider her “The Heart of MN.” The world should have more people like her. Her knowledge of British Lit is unmatched, as is her kindness. With a great sense of humor and fantastic teaching skills, she occupies a special place in the lives of so many students who have gone through here. We were lucky she taught here.

Mitch Itzko. History. The motivating force behind Student Council, and he has influenced a myriad of events in this school for decades. His easy-going and intelligent style has made him a favorite of the students and teachers forever. He is amazingly knowledgeable and skilled as a teacher. His experience and personality are absolutely irreplaceable.

Eva Kaufmann. Foreign Language. The consummate professional. Former MNEA Teacher of the Year. Tireless worker for Junior Initiative. Eva is a leader by nature and by example. She is always ready to help the school in a wide array of ways. She is kind and generous, and she should be a real role model for younger teachers. Our profession was/is enriched by her presence.

Thom Williams. English. I don’t know what they’re going to say about me, but I’d like it to be that over four decades the school and the lives of the students I knew were made better because of me. Here, I will exit quoting Hamlet, “Things standing thus unknown, shall live behind me.” Goodbye, MN.

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Good Friends and Fellow Teachers Also Have Something to Say...

Mrs. Jenkins on Mrs. Kaufmann: “She is a miracle! She teaches here and at Immaculata, is head of the department, and is very well-organized. Not to mention she also has children and grandchildren, and is a fantastic friend.”

Ms. Friedman on Mr. Williams: “People who he truly cares about are privileged.”

Mrs. Johnson on Mrs. McHale: “She is one of the most incredible teachers and the most fabulous, caring, person I’ve ever met. The entire school will miss her.”

Dr. DeLuca on Mr. McHugh: “As my mentor and friend, Mr. McHugh has contributed greatly to who I am today.”

Various social studies teachers on Dr. Itzko (gathered by Mrs. Craig): “Mitch’s time, energy and devotion in student council has made the program the success it is today,” “He was always willing to explain the most complex economic/political issues in terms everyone could understand,” “He helped in mentoring new teachers,” “Mitch was always available for those who needed advice on a variety of issues.”

Mr. McHugh on Ms. Bonder: “She is the best, as a teacher, friend, and mentor. Irreplaceable.”

And Now a Word from the Retirees Themselves...

I had the fortunate opportunity to ask these wonderful people some reflective questions before they leave Marple:

1. How has the school system changed since you began teaching?

Williams: The more things change, the more they stay the same.

McHale: There have been new mandates from the state, but Marple has always been above the standards. The technology has changed, but not the students.

Itzko: Students are more preoccupied with technology such as cell phones and ipods, they are reading less and enjoying more movies and more television channels! But the students haven’t changed their attitude; they still want to do their best, the only thing is that there are more distractions.

Bonder: I have learned that change is constant.

McHugh: So much has changed, the curriculum is more diversified and technology has advanced, the students are busier outside of school and more involved. This is only scratching the surface!

Kaufmann: We expect less of students today.

2. What is your favorite part about teaching?

Williams: Making a difference in the lives of people.

McHale: The students and British Literature.

Itzko: The interaction with the students.

Bonder: Encouraging and supporting student participation.

McHugh: The interaction with the students and sharing the love of literature. I love when students share their love of literature and writing; it’s not all about grades.

Kaufmann: When you see in a student’s face that he/she finally gets it.

3. What are you going to miss most?

Williams: I’m going to miss all the people who have made my days.

McHale: I’m going to miss teaching Macbeth, I’ll have to teach it to my husband!

Itzko: The interaction with the students and faculty.

Bonder: The individuals who have made my day year after year.

McHugh: The interaction with the students and faculty, it has been stimulating and rewarding.

Kaufmann: All the people here are fabulous— the students, faculty, and administration.

4. You are all wonderful, successful teachers wise with age. What advice would you give a naïve Marple student as they enter the “real world”?

Williams: Work hard, be appropriate.

McHale: Follow deadlines, ask questions, and listen even if you're not interested, because it will become useful to you.

Itzko: Learn to accept that things are not going to be perfect in your life. Work with what you have and try to improve it.

Bonder: Work hard but be kind.

McHugh: Other than doing your best, make sure you are not selling yourself short. Make sure whatever you do is a good match for you, the rest will take care of itself.

Kaufmann: I would recommend to keep a good balance in life between personal and work. Also, maintain a sense of humor, because without it, you can't survive!

**When you retire, think and act as if you were still working; when you're still working, think and act a bit as if you were already retired. ~Author Unknown*

**Don't simply retire from something; have something to retire to. ~Harry Emerson Fosdick*

**Retirement is like a long vacation in Las Vegas. The goal is to enjoy it the fullest, but not so fully that you run out of money. ~Jonathan Clements*

Prestigious Citizenship Award Given to Hannah Hewes!

By Lauren Silvestri

Congratulations to our own Hannah Hewes! Hannah is the this year's recipient of the Philadelphia Inquirer Student Citizenship Award, which is given to a Senior in each of the 116 local high schools. In order to receive this prestigious award, the recipient must have an impressive array of both academic and community service achievements. This is an award that you must be recommended for, and Hannah was nominated by her counselor, Ms. McCool, and the administration agreed. She was "extremely surprised" by the nomination, but her school record shows she deserved it. Hannah is an honor

student and very involved, participating in clubs such as National Honor Society, Softball, Renaissance Leadership, Interact, and vice president for Amani.

To celebrate, Hannah attended a breakfast at the National Constitution Center on March 12th, which was "such a nice event and a great time." Along with the breakfast, she received a medallion, \$100 gift card, and a plaque to display at Marple. As she heads to Temple University for nursing, Hannah recalls her days at Marple with gratitude. She thanks the school for giving her opportunities to get involved and to meet great

friends she will keep after graduation. For all you underclassmen, this is an outstanding award to be presented with, and it can happen to you if you work hard to make a name for yourself at Marple.



Hannah being rewarded at the ceremony

Virginia = Victory for MN Music By Alyssa Fingerman

The Marple Newtown High School Band and choir traveled on a six hour bus ride to Virginia Beach to compete in the Heritage Festivals. On the day of competitions it was hot and sunny but worth living through. Concert Choir performed first. We took the stage in a hall that was empty except for the band there to support us and the three judges. Our unbelievable pianist Ryan Coleman was nothing short of a seizure from his nerves. But he came through and played beautifully as Mr. Vogel conducted. The choir sang with great emotion to come in third place beating out many others for the award.

Next our Select Choir graced the audience with their presence on stage, singing with honest expression in front of a filled auditorium. They were vic-

torious winning first place in the Select Choir group. The Marching Band then suited up to do a short track loop while being judged from the stands. Despite that we were wearing black uniforms under a beating sun, we performed sensationally and received First Place Marching Band.

After marching, we headed to a beautiful auditorium and performed three pieces conducted by Mr. Massimo for three more judges, performing our very best to receive First Place again in Concert Band. Next, the Jazz Band arrived on the scene to knock the judge's socks off. They walked away smiling receiving another First Place for the Marple Newtown

Band. Last but not least, the Color Guard performed with pizzazz in the gym to wrap up our Friday of competitions.

After a long day Saturday at Busch Gardens, we traveled to a hall where the award ceremony would take place. We received our awards with pride and modesty, one First Place after another, as other schools received their awards as well. Then, the overall champs were to be announced.

They held the enormous trophy in the air and said, "Marple Newtown Band!" and we sprang to our feet, modesty out the window, but filled with pride. This trip was a success that our school was wonderfully acknowledged and the band and choir will never forget.



Speech States Spectacular By Alyssa Fingerman

On Saturday March 28th, a team made a hilarious road trip, in a bouncy van, to Susquehanna University for their final competition this year...The Speech Team! Amanda Borson competed in Prose, Sophia Reji in Humorous Interpretation, Zach Ceitlin in Extemporaneous Speaking, Josh Pcsyolar in Radio Announcing, Jasmine Ko-

jouri in Impromptu, and last but not least (I hope), myself in Persuasive Speaking.

After our long but so worth it ride in a van driven by Mr. Karpyn, our director, we tired of the hillbilly scenery and arrived at the university. The auditorium was a sea of suits, ties, pencil skirts, dress pants, and two bowties worn by Josh and Zach in honor of Mr. Karpyn. Outfits were accessorized by briefcases and scripts that were being reviewed profusely by every nervous competitor. If there is any comfort blanket a speech competitor brings with them, it is their crinkled speech glued to their hands.

At the end of a long day competing, we waited in the university cafeteria for the results. After no victory was shown for anyone else, we eagerly awaited the Prose results for who made it to Semifinals. Amanda's name showed on the screen and we cheered with glorious joy. She went to the Semi Finals, then the Finals to win Fourth Place in Prose. This is no small feat. Congratulations to everyone for a great competition, and especially to Amanda for representing Marple Speech Team.



Our awesome Speech Team finalists!

Columbine: 10 Years Later By Lauren Silvestri

People remember April 20th for a couple of things, but this year the 10th anniversary of the infamous Columbine shootings was the main concern for most people. One of the bloodiest and most shocking school shootings ever, Columbine forced America to examine its youth and question the morality and culture of the modern teenager. But did we handle this tragic and fragile situation appropriately?

Well, let's just say we could have handled it better. For summer reading entering AP English Language, I was required to read *Geeks: How Two Lost Boys Rode the Internet out of Idaho*, by Jon Katz. The nonfiction book is about two introverted teen nerds obsessed with computers in a dead-end town on the outskirts of society who are persuaded by Katz to move to Chicago where they can put their computer-savvy skills to work. In one chapter, they talk about the then-recent Columbine tragedy. What I did not realize about the Columbine tragedy that the book brought my attention to is that school officials and the media were blaming the "geeks" because of their odd clothing and their Internet obsessions. Schools started "geek profiling" and students who wore black clothing, trench coats, strange makeup, or were rumored to have played violent video games such as Quake and Doom were ordered into counseling or to *change*.



Columbine was one of the most tragic events in US education history

Change?! Is this what some (certainly not all) people thought, that ordering people to change would decrease violent threats? It does exactly the opposite and makes those students feel more repressed and angry. The root of the problem is bullying, and also prejudice of people who are different than the "majority." Jesse, one of the "geeks" in the book I read, recalls, "You start to get angry, then you start to hate. They just slice away your humanity, piece by piece, and the hate becomes bigger and bigger, until there's nothing left but hate. If you don't have good friends or a teacher or a parent to talk to, then one day, there's just no humanity left...And so you snap."

Unfortunately, I have seen hurtful bullying done at our own Marple Newtown, and it disgusts me. No one has the right to talk down to anyone. The solution to all of our problems is love, acceptance, and trust of others. Patrick Ireland, a victim of the Columbine shooting who escaped by falling out the window, said during his valedictorian speech, "When I fell out the window, I knew somebody would catch me. That's what I need to tell you: that I knew the loving world was there all the time."

Brooks Brown was a senior at Columbine when the shootings occurred and a friend of the gunmen. He understood their isolation and was not harmed in the attacks because of his connection, but after the incident he received death threats and school officials asked him not to come back. He finished out his senior year on his own and has spoken publicly against bullying, claiming it was definitely a cause of the shootings. He calls Columbine "the largest learning experience anyone can have."



If anything positive can come out of this tragedy, it certainly can be called a "learning experience." After the hysteria of blaming every outsider in the school calmed down, schools began to focus on the bullying problem and started facing it younger. My fourth grade brother in fact just finished a school project identifying the bad effects of bullying. There are also more programs at the high school level, including our own LINK, an organization dedicated to learning

how to respect others. Many schools have also increased the amount of security they have, but honestly, this won't help much if there are angry, depressed students roaming about. Bottom line? We could have all the security we ever wanted. If we don't respect others, we will **always** be in danger.

The Best of Times and the Worst of Times

By Chelsea Banes

Senior year is one of the best years of your life, but if you think about it, it's also one of your worst. Everyday you sit there saying, "Get me out of here, only 40 days till I'm done for good." However, it's also the actual 40 days of you left being a kid, having the same friends being all together in one neighborhood, convincing your parents to let you do whatever you want, and trying to find the best parties. You're with the same people you have been for

your whole life. It's time for you to realize to start saying "goodbye" to all your friends and to have the last fun you can have. Also, it's the last time you're going to be held down from your parents and having rules. You're going to miss having someone pushing you all the time, telling you when to come home, attempting to ground you. You are not going to have that feeling of someone always being there, making sure you

are okay once you're gone for college. Even though you think you're almost done school because you're graduating, it just gets harder. So have the most fun you can have now while you're in high school, and never regret having what you have now, because it will never be the

same and you only get to live it once.



True Beauty by Alyssa Fingerman

"If you truly love nature, you will find beauty everywhere."
-Vincent Van Gogh

Van Gogh could not have been more correct. Nature is beauty, true beauty. Nature can not wear a mask, trees can not adorn fancy clothing, and flowers do not wear makeup. Nature is real. A meadow with tall grass that flows and waves in the wind, a blooming flower, a rippling stream, the power of the wind, the strength of the sun, a ballerina



stepping into the spotlight, the glow of the moon; these are real beauties; true beauties. A girl is not at her most beautiful on prom night, in a dress, wearing jewelry and makeup. A girl is beautiful when wearing nothing but a sundress; no makeup or jewelry, perfume, or shoes; completely true. A NASCAR race is not beauty. There is beauty in the speed of a horse jockey working with the horse

as one, no whip required, muscles rippling, stretching to the finish line. Humans have lost touch with this true beauty. The fact that anyone can walk by blossoming trees and not notice their beauty shows how we have detached ourselves from what we are; a part of nature. Try to listen to Van Gogh, a man who portrayed beauty in so many ways. Truly love nature, and you will find true beauty. This is why we must not lose nature, because we will lose something true.

Hot Shoes for this Summer by Jess Mattern

It's that time of year again, when the layers come off and everyone begins to show a bit more skin. The socks are put away, and the sandals come out! The shoes that a person wears during the summer is the key to making a tan look awesome. Metallic colors are a great way to do this. Metallic shoes are great because they are so versatile and can be worn with just about anything. But maybe color is not a person's preference to choosing a great shoe, maybe it is its texture. Snakeskin is very in this season; it's being shown on everything from jackets to stilettos. Snakeskin can also be very versatile. If the color is a

neutral, than it too can be worn with almost everything.

If you are a person who needs height, cork wedges or heels with wood details are great for this summer. These details give shoes a very natural and summer appropriate look. They are great for laid back parties or barbecues in which you want to make a bit more of a statement. But if you are one of many who cannot walk well in heels or cannot stand the pain, then "boater shoes" may be a better option. Thanks to *Gossip Girl*, almost every girl out there wants cute and preppy accessories. Not only are boater shoes nautical and very summer appropriate, but they are

also very comfortable.

This summer, a person does not necessarily have to spend money on new shoes to be considered fashion forward. Many trends from last summer are still wearable for this summer. For example, gladiator sandals and shoes in neon colors are both very fashionable. By recycling shoes from previous seasons, a person is able to save money and avoid blisters from the process breaking in new shoes. No matter what shoes you choose this summer, one thing is for sure. The temperature will be hot, and so will you in your sizzling hot summer shoes!

The Impact of a Newspaper By Lauren Silvestri

In a society where creativity and self-expression are being pushed aside by standardized tests and an overwhelming curriculum, a school newspaper is needed more than ever. A newspaper provides a haven for not only the natural-born writers, but for people who just want to express themselves. I love Marple's own *Mar News* because it's open to anyone at anytime and can be anything it desires—there are no limits to what it can contain. On one page, I may have written about something current going on in the school, and on the other, there's an article I wrote about a concert.

Ask anyone who has had the pleasure of working on *Mar News*, and I'm sure they'll admit how it has helped them gain important career skills. My

writing and research skills have dramatically improved, as I have searched high and low for a good story, and the opportunities I have received for meeting unfamiliar students and staff is priceless. Learning how to handle deadlines is also needed to run a newspaper.

An integral part of a newspaper is the teacher advisor, and I couldn't be happier with Mr. William's direction. It was through his Creative Writing class that I discovered *Mar News*, and I am forever grateful that he helped me find a true passion somewhere in the school. He will be greatly missed when he leaves next year.

"Not only is it entertaining, but a newspaper represents the entire school—the events and students and staff in it."

Even though he is leaving, however, it does not mean that the newspaper should leave with him. Not only is it entertaining, but a newspaper represents the entire school—the events and students and staff in it. *Mar News* has been a huge part of my high school career, and I know it is and will be in other students'.

As the school years get more hectic and technology continues to further its course, let us please remember how it is still important to take a moment to relax and read the works of our own students in the paper.



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Chelsea Banes, Jess Mattern

About Lauren Silvestri-

She has single-handedly brought *Mar News* back to life. She has shown awesome leadership by doing the whole paper herself at home when our ancient technology finally died. She gets my ultimate respect and I'll always be loyal to her.

- T. Williams



Last Thought.....One day in my room I was listening to this song and it literally brought tears to my eyes. I may not be a Senior, but I'm already thinking about graduating and leaving behind all that I have known. And since (I know Mrs. McHale is just dying right now as I start my sentence with a conjunction) this is a season of saying good-bye to our 2009 seniors and many of our excellent faculty members, I thought this song was perfect to share. This song does not have to be about losing a lover, but can simply be about leaving your hometown, your friends, or a great teacher who has changed your life.

In My Life

By The Beatles

*There are places I remember
All my life though some have changed
Some forever not for better
Some have gone and some remain
All these places had their moments
With lovers and friends I still can recall
Some are dead and some are living
In my life I've loved them all*

*But of all these friends and lovers
There is no one compares with you
And these memories lose their meaning
When I think of love as something new
Though I know I'll never lose affection
For people and things that went before
I know I'll often stop and think about them
In my life I love you more*

*Though I know I'll never lose affection
For people and things that went before
I know I'll often stop and think about them
In my life I love you more
In my life I love you more*

Good luck to the Seniors and the new retirees. Have a great summer!

Sincerely,

Lauren Silvestri, Editor in Chief

Life is a Mistake by Chelsea Banes

People always say things like, "I regret that, I just made the biggest mistake ever." Mistakes make you **who you are** today and every time you make one, just remember whatever doesn't kill you makes you **stronger**. If you take chances your whole life, you will eventually realize that that is what life is all about, taking chances, making mistakes, and not knowing what to do. If the chance you take turns into your "mistake," then you just have to **move on** from it and forget about it. The past is the past and *you can't change that*. You can only **change the future**. It's in your hands. Your mistakes might also make someone or something better for the long run. If there is an opportunity, **take it**. It could be one of the biggest regrets you had or have, but it *beats the hell out of never trying*.