

The High School View

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Purple goes green

By Dylan McCarthy

As the leaves on the trees get greener with the approaching spring, so does the regional high school. Purple went green the week of April 21. Green Week offered many ways for the students and faculty to get involved in helping the school become more environmentally aware.

Throughout the week, composting and recycling were promoted in the classroom and the cafeteria. A raffle for 100 stainless steel water bottles and awards for biking, taking the bus, or carpooling to school were offered during the week.

On Thursday the entire school was shown the movie "Flow," which discussed the issue of limited fresh water around the world. On Wednesday, MV Energy Project hosted a panel of eight Islanders

who are involved in green careers. The panel informed students about greener options for their future and let them know what they could do to get involved. Throughout the week, recycled art was displayed in the halls to promote the fundamentals of Green Week.

"The Student Council's goal for the entire year was to get the school more green," said Council president, senior Max Nunes. The success of Green Week is a huge step in the right direction for an entirely green school. "I had a lot of help from the other students. It's been a lot of work, but a lot of fun," said Max Nunes. "We have all bio-degradable products in the cafeteria donated entirely by Eco MV."

Many at the school hope for more Green Weeks in the future. Senior Lisa Wilson, the head of the student garden, has these hopes. "It should be a part of regular

school life," Lisa said. She credits much of the progress in making the school more environmentally friendly to proactive faculty. "We can thank the teachers that have become environmentally aware, and have inspiring many students," said Lisa. Assistant principal Carlin Hart says that the students did a great job with organizing Green Week.

"I have never seen a program with so much support," said Leadership teacher Olsen Houghton. Mr. Houghton has been involved with the project since it began. Green Week is the combined effort of the Leadership team and the student government. "They want to get the whole student body together to know what they could do to help the cause," said Mr. Houghton. Green Week isn't only beneficial to the environment, but it also helped the school save some money because "it turns out that we were spending a lot of money on garbage," said Mr. Houghton. "We have the right people in charge, and a lot of motivated students."

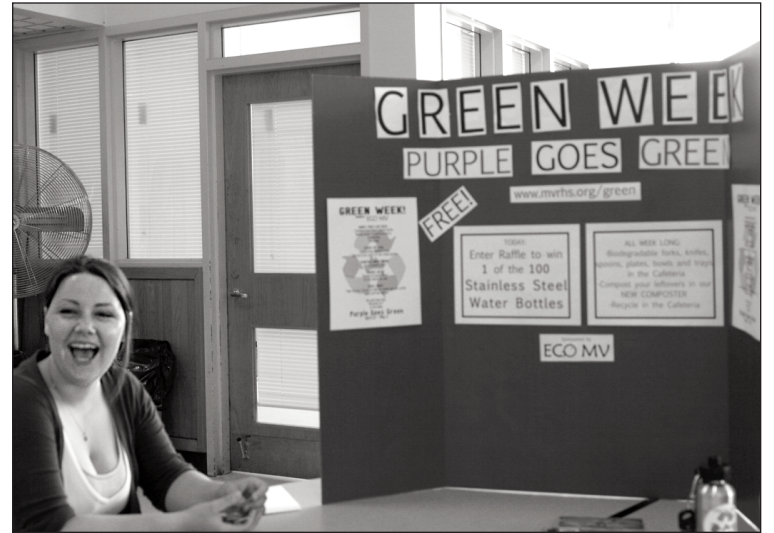


PHOTO BY HALEY KOORSE

Lisa Wilson, President of the Garden Club and major contributor to this year's Green Week, smiles while she sits near the Green Week's display at the entrance of the cafeteria. She spent the week in the cafeteria promoting Green Week with a raffle and merchandise giveaways. She also helped maintain the compost and recycling bins.

"We hope that this week will get people interested in a greener movement at the high school," said Max. "We set up a website at www.mvrhs.org/green for students

who want to continue to be involved after Green Week ends."

Said Mr. Houghton, "I hope this is only the beginning."

Seniors personalize last semester

By Caitlyn Clark

Preparation time is continuing to dwindle down for both judges and seniors who are preparing for, and participating in, the annual regional high school's Senior Project presentations.

This May 18, high school seniors will give formal presentations, which will be composed of a semester long research component, journal entries, and real life experiences, to a panel of five judges.

"Senior Project was first brought to the school two years ago. The first year we had two seniors participate to pilot the Project. Last year we had four seniors participate. This year we have 18 seniors," said Carlin Hart, assistant principal.

Some high schools around the country require seniors to participate in the Senior Project in order to graduate. At the regional high school it's just an alternative education for seniors to finish out their last semester of high school.

"By senior year, most people already have enough credits to graduate early, or they have a lot of free periods to take a bunch of electives that they're not enthused to take," said Mr. Hart. "Instead of those options, we give seniors a

menu of optional choices to take the place of electives."

In order to meet with their mentors every other school day, students must have at least three free periods in their schedule. Senior Project also helps with the transition from high school to college. It helps seniors to understand what a schedule in college would be like. Since the Senior Project has a wide time frame to complete the assigned tasks that go along with it, the elements and the composition of the Project benefit the seniors with experience before they head off to college.

"The work that some of these students can produce is incredible. It's amazing to see a 17- or 18-year-olds create paintings or drawings and then sell them in art galleries," said Mr. Hart. "The work they put into their projects really benefits their experience before college."

"Since the Senior Project requires a lot of work, students who choose to be involved in it are usually dedicated to what they're doing," said Michael McCarthy, director of the guidance. "Senior Project is only limited to students who have completed all their credits and requirements, or else they don't have the space in their schedules to fulfill the time need-

ed for the project."

"My project goal is to learn ten different types of songs, and then perform them at the end," said Rosie Bick. "I've been working with my mentor Janis Wightman, and I've been studying the musical scores I have, practicing the music, translating the songs from different languages, and researching the differences of the five genres I'm covering."

Seniors choose the topic of their project on something personal they want to continue learning at a more professional level. The students work with two mentors who meet with them, teach, and guide them through the steps of their projects.

"I hope to become a theater teacher or a theater manager, so I thought learning to run a small theater as my senior project was a good fit," said Ashley Willoughby. "I spend some days working with Kate Murray in the theater room and PAC center learning the ins and outs of running a theater, maintenance, how to set up for events, and how to book events. During my high school career, I have been a costumer, running crew members, props mistress, assistant director, and an actress for shows."

Along with Ashley are the rest of

the 16 seniors who are involved in the process of pulling together their projects as well.

"Essentially, I'm doing a psychology study on the effects of rape on victims, how it affects their day-to-day lives, and relationships and friendships," said Kat Monterosso, who is also collaborating with the Island group, Connect To End Violence.

"I needed to learn how to sew before I started my senior project," said Theresa DiMattia. "I'm going to college for fashion design, so for my project I'm learning how to make and design a Christian Dior inspired gown with my mentor, Lorraine Parish."

The race to gather up the remaining pieces that go along with the formal process of the project is coming to a close as the due date nears. Seniors will put together a 10-page paper, involving the steps and processes of their projects; give a 20-minute presentation in front of a panel of judges; and provide a portfolio regarding their thoughts and opinions throughout the course of their projects.

"May 19 through the 21, and May 26 through the 28 are when the presentations will go on," said Mr. Hart. These days will determine the grades of the seniors' work. Each of their graduating diplomas will rely on the pass or fail grades they receive on these projects.

Thanks

By Eliza Gowell and Sophie Lew

As our school year comes to a close, so does the High School View. We thank everyone who has contributed to make this year's View possible. First, thank you to the Martha's Vineyard Times for providing us with the ability to project our voices across the community and beyond, and for guiding us with limitless bits of wisdom to help us grow and improve.

Thank you to all the Island businesses that have stuck with us and kept faith despite the tough economic times. To our staff, thank you for the hours of play, discussion, and perseverance for never leaving a desk unturned for the best story to print.

Also, thank you to the faculty and administration for sitting through hours of interviews and contributing all of the juicy stories.

We also shout out to the custodial staff at the high school, who keep us company deep into the night as we toil on our reportage. Lastly, thank you to our readers, because in the end, it is your interest in our high school that keeps our keyboards typing and strengthens the commitment to honest journalism. Thank you.

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