



# The High School View

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## High school teacher wins award

By Alyssa Adler

Chemistry teacher Matthew Montanile this past week received the Dawn Sather Outstanding New Teacher Award from the Massachusetts Association of Science Teachers.

This annual award recognizes a new addition to a school's faculty who has gone above and beyond expectations as a teacher.

Mr. Montanile moved from New York to Martha's Vineyard when he was nine. He attended the Tisbury Elementary School as well as the regional high school, places where his interest in the sciences was cultivated.

"I was definitely more of a math person in high school, but I also really like science," Mr. Montanile said. "I actually wanted to be a pilot when I was older." After graduating from the high school, Mr. Montanile attended Bridgewater State University in Massachusetts where he earned a B.S. degree in



PHOTO BY TRUDA SILBERSTEIN

Mr. Montanile demonstrates proper safety in his classroom while preparing a Chemistry lab experiment for his students.

Biology, ultimately returning to the Vineyard in search of a post-grad-

uate job. "I heard about an opportunity to teach as a long-term sub-

stitute at the high school, so I applied for the job," he said. Realizing how well he connected with his students, he decided to take on the job full time for the 2010-2011 school year.

Currently, Mr. Montanile teaches Chemistry and serves as an emergency medical technician (EMT) and Island paramedic.

"Matt has a good background in both academics and hands-on experience, as he is a certified EMT," said Natalie Munn, a high school chemistry teacher, colleague, and former teacher of Mr. Montanile. "His experiences brings depth to his teachings, and kids are able to

relate to him."

"Matt did a good job last year getting to know each one of his students, resulting in effective and personal teaching techniques," said one of his former students, senior Rilla Hammett.

Tisbury Elementary School science teacher Lynn Gatchell nominated Mr. Montanile for this competitive award. "This award is designed to recognize and encourage young teachers who really go the extra mile to inspire and connect with students, and that is exactly what Mr. Montanile is. He's responsible and he's organized, but he's also energetic and warm-hearted. He really is a very deserving candidate for this position," she said.

An awards ceremony banquet will be held in mid-November to honor Mr. Montanile and other award recipients from Massachusetts. "I was excited to learn that I received the New Teacher Award," Mr. Montanile said. "It was really surprising; I had no idea it was coming. I feel very flattered, very honored. It's nice to be appreciated."

## New club cleans up

By Bradley Anastacio

It's no secret that in this growing age of industry and oil consumption, our planet is plagued with a myriad of environmental problems that need to be solved.

This year, a new club was created under the guidance of computer sciences teacher Al Mahoney that works to address these urgent issues.

Junior Jack Wallace, founder and president of the club, recognized these challenges and wanted to make a difference. "Greenhouse gases, water pollution, beach erosion, and trash disposal, are all current issues that aren't going to go away soon," he said. "I saw that there wasn't a club in the school that tackled, or at least attempted to maintain, the issue of environment and conservation on Martha's Vineyard."

"MVIronment is a new club which is just taking shape with

proposals and discussion on direction and priorities," said Mr. Mahoney of the club's early goals and accomplishments. "In general, the club strives to make a difference in the Island environment. We do this

club have an urge to get outside and make a difference, no matter how small. "Some even would like to be environmental studies majors," said Jack. "For kids interested in possibly pursuing this area as a career, this club is a great outlet."

The MVIronment club is for those who want to maintain the environment on Martha's Vineyard. "Right now the club is starting small, like the beach cleanup that happened Saturday," said Mr. Mahoney. "These projects are for now the main focus; but larger goals are developing."

Such developments will include planting more trees on campus during the springtime, helping towns and organizations preserve their habitats, more beach cleanups, and studying beach erosion.

The MVIronment club meets on Thursdays in room 503 and is always looking for new members and ideas. For further information, contact Mr. Mahoney or Jack Wallace.



PHOTO BY DYLAN BROCKMEYER

Juniors Charles Ashmun (left) and Justin Smith help pick up trash on State Beach.

through projects as simple as beach cleanups, erosion recording, and introducing plantings to various environments."

The students who are in this

## Ask Zelda



Ask Zelda will be an occasional column. Zelda responds to questions received in the Newspaper Office.

Dear Zelda,

I'm a junior guy and all my friends are trying to find prom dates. Every girl is going to be taken before I can even ask. What do I do?  
Sincerely, Dateless

Dear Dateless,

The scramble for prom dates seems to get more hectic every year! What I would like to tell you is to wait until everything settles down. To me, the logical time to begin the asking-out process is March. Relationships can certainly change over time. You don't want create a potentially awkward situation for yourself. However, I understand your distress, and in this situation suggest you grab a girl ASAP. Ask a crush, ask a friend, get rejected, ask again! You're not the only one in this ferry. Keep an

open mind and don't let the pressure of creating the perfect prom get in the way of what really matters--having fun.

Dear Zelda, My friend just broke up with her boyfriend (who she really enjoyed being with) because he was using prescription drugs. Was this a good enough reason to break up with him?

Sincerely, Dazed and Refused

Dear Dazed and Refused,

Different people have personal philosophies about relationships. It's up to each couple to be open and talk about what they expect from each other.

Even though your friend enjoyed spending time with her boyfriend, she could have felt that his drug use was complicating their time together. In some cases, a girl or guy feels compelled to help whomever they're in a relationship with. But it's hard to change people, and attempting to guide a girlfriend or boyfriend through a "rough patch" can add stress and guilt to a relationship. Often, change doesn't happen, and it's better to let go.

Keep in mind that there could be more complicated reasons behind her breakup and be sensitive to what she's going through.