



The High School View

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New drama teacher takes center stage

BY LILY LUBIN

Behind each great theater production, there is a director working to make it a masterpiece. This year, that director is the regional high school's new theater teacher Betsy Hauck. She was appointed when the school's previous theater teacher, Kate Murray, took a leave of absence to travel to Nashville to pursue other interests.

Betsy's involvement with theater started over 20 years ago when she volunteered at her own children's school productions. When she moved to Martha's Vineyard from Kingston, NY, in 1994, she began her job at the Edgartown School as a sixth-

grade history teacher. Betsy continued her participation with musicals by helping out with costumes, tech, and even by being a backstage mother. After meeting Kate at the Island Theater Workshop, she started to work alongside Kate in its productions. The two also worked together at the Edgartown School, where Kate had served as a student teacher.

Later, in 2009, Mrs. Hauck helped with *Rent*, the high-school musical theater production. The following year, she started a part-time job working with Charlie Esposito, director of the Performing Arts Center (PAC).

"I want to ensure that kids know I am neither Kate

nor Kate's fill-in," said Mrs. Hauck. "I want people to see me as 'Betsy.'"

"I love Betsy's classes. They're relaxing, but we still learn," said junior Lexi Willett, who has taken theater classes all three years of her high school career.

"I like Betsy's class because she has had so much experience backstage and stage-managing. It's great that Betsy helps you see the big picture of theater and doesn't focus so much on just acting," said junior Hartley Sierputoski.

The performing arts department staff has also welcomed Betsy. Charlie Esposito said, "She's awesome. I've worked with her for the



PHOTO BY CHARLOTTE HALL

Betsy Hauck speaks to some of her students to discuss some of the details of rehearsal for *The Secret Garden* after school in her classroom, room 405, in the regional high school.

last couple of years, and she thinks in spaces I haven't. We work as a team."

As for this year's musical, *The Secret Garden*, rehearsals have begun. Said Betsy, "I am so excited about this show. We have an incredible cast full of amazing talent, an equally-talented tech crew, and committed and enthusiastic adults."

Betsy is also directing *Reflections*, a student-written play that will be performed at the Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild (METG) Festival competition. She hopes to bring its small cast to semi-finals, like last year, and perhaps even beyond.

She said, "I hope to continue loving what I do and surrounding myself with such extraordinary and phenomenal talent."

New roof may be in high school's future

BY KATHERINE DONEGAN



ILLUSTRATION BY AOIFE ESTES

This summer, the childhood song "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head" will cease to be applicable within the regional high school. A plan to replace the high school's roof has been designed and

approved by the Land Use Committee and now awaits approval by the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) Committee, which will meet in December.

The majority of the

current roof is 18 years old and the remainder has been in place for about 25 years. Said Building and Grounds Manager Greg Hines, "The roof has seen it's life. It has been leaking a lot recently, and we want to try and stop the water before it causes permanent water damage to the structure."

The estimated cost is \$1.9 million for the 125,000 square feet of roofing that will be needed. This new roof will have a 30-year warranty, which will include both labor and materials, and will be funded by bonds that will be included in the high school's budget. "We are hoping to start and finish building the roof this summer," said Mr. Hines, "The timing is ideal because the high school's Performing Arts Center's bonds will be paid off in 2014, thus creating a space

in the budget that the new roof can fill."

Staff and students alike are excited about the idea of a new roof for the next school year. History teacher Corinne Kurtz said, "The prospect of a new roof this summer is very exciting. It will be great to help preserve the interior structure of the high school, and it

will also be nice not to be forced to dodge buckets in the hallway during a rainstorm anymore."

Junior Sam Permar is also looking forward to having the roof replaced for next year. He said, "The custodians are doing a great job trying to keep the school as dry as possible, but it will be nice to have a new roof for my

senior year and a consistently dry education."

Within the next month, a structural engineer will be coming to the school to determine whether or not there is structural damage from past leaks. If the MVRHS Committee approves the plan in December, a new roof will securely be in the high school's future.

Holidays come early



PHOTO BY AARON TEVES

Vocal Ensemble students serenade the residents at Windemere with songs of the holidays earlier this month. From left: senior Gage Rancich, sophomores Josh Boucher, Shannon O'Connor, Caley Bennett, juniors Josephine Kelly, Emelia Capelli, sophomore Erik Faber, seniors Sam Valley, Kathryn Antonsson, sophomore Aaron Teves and senior Clare Boland.

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