



# The High School View

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## Teacher remembered fondly

By EmmaJean Holley

James Kresel, former regional high school chemistry teacher, recently passed away and left a legacy of dedication and integrity behind him.

Dr. Kresel began teaching at the high school in 1995, and was science department chair from 2001 until 2009, the year before he retired. He will be remembered for his optimism and his down-to-earth accessibility as a leadership figure for students and fellow faculty.

"I remember he was already teaching chemistry when I first joined the staff here, and he served as a mentor for me in learning to teach chemistry," said chemistry teacher Natalie Munn. "He helped me with my lab program, was there to answer my questions, and was overall very supporting and encouraging to me as a young

teacher."

"He was a friend to go to for advice, a good listener," said earth science teacher Jacqueline Hermann. "I will miss him dearly."

Dr. Kresel, who worked as a practicing pharmaceutical chemist before entering the teaching profession, brought his unique understanding of drug studies to the science department at the regional high school.

"Because of his background in pharmaceuticals, he had an important perspective to bring to students," said science department chair Elliott Bennett. "He really conveyed a wealth of knowledge in those



PHOTO BY NATALIE MUNN

Dr. Kresel at an earlier science fair doing what loved - helping students and judging projects.

areas, which isn't something every science student gets a chance to be exposed to."

"He came into teaching late, but he already had the necessary skills and ability to communicate - plus a love and understanding of his subject area. He was naturally gifted and it showed," said science teacher Michael Joyce. "As a colleague, he set an example for me as a science teacher."

In his earlier years of teaching, Dr. Kresel ran a stamp and coin club for young collectors. Later, he founded the chemistry club and advised outreach projects that were designed to raise awareness about environmental issues and ozone levels.

"He loved metallurgy and coins, and he cared deeply about environmental issues," said Mrs. Hermann. "He always strived to bring as much knowledge as he could to his students and incite interest in the kids."

Mr. Joyce said, "He was invested in the students on both an academic and personal level. He

had a lasting effect on his students as a man of great character - he carried himself exceptionally well in both a personal and professional capacity."

Even in his declining health, Dr. Kresel remained dedicated to his educational endeavors while maintaining his steady stream of optimism.

"He had polycystic kidneys, and I remember he came to talk to my biology class about what was happening to him and about his dialysis process," said Ms. Bennett. "The kids really learned a lot."

"I had Dr. Kresel in his last year, and he always was in good spirits. He would make light of his illness and continue to put the success of his students before anything else," said senior Allison McAndrews. "He put an emphasis on effort and rewarded us for what we could do. That was something that was rare to find in a teacher."

Mr. Joyce said, "He was very genuine, and that's what he was respected for. There was no façade."

## Spanish teachers rise to occasion

By Eva Faber

Some of the teachers in the World Language Department have begun teaching additional classes until a new teacher can be hired to replace Giovanni Cappai, a Spanish teacher who decided to leave during the December recess.

"Mr. Cappai was very pleasant and easy to be around," said senior Kyle Altieri. "He had a passion for languages and teaching students."

Justine DeOliveira, World Language department chair, and Spanish teacher Cindy West have each taken on two of Mr. Cappai's

classes, while Spanish teacher Karen Morosko took one class.

"We've been working very hard to catch up," said Mrs. DeOliveira. "We took the circumstances into consideration and found a fair approach to make the most out of the situation."

In order to help prepare stu-

dents for the upcoming midterm exams, Mrs. West plans to use some online learning tools such as self-tests. "It provides us a chance to help students practice using the language," she said.

"We are hoping to hire a replacement by the end of the week," said principal Stephen Nixon.

The most important thing, according to Mrs. West, is that students have a positive experience with a foreign language that will

encourage them to continue studying it after high school.

"I think the school has done a great job handling the situation," said senior Kunal Datta. "Everything was explained to us calmly and we've been catching up faster than I thought we would."

Said Mrs. DeOliveira, "The students deserve the most credit. They've been incredible and fully willing to put in the extra effort during this time of transition."

## Cafeteria expands breakfast

By Anna Yukevich

It's difficult—perhaps even impossible—for an empty brain to learn. The good news is that the school's cafeteria just started a new program to feed the empty brains of students who wander into the building in the morning without having eaten breakfast. The new breakfast menu will allow students to fill their brains with energy by ordering specialty omelettes before they go to class.

The program started last week and will continue for the rest of the year Mondays through Fridays. Students have a choice of three different vegetables, two meats, and cheese in their omelettes. If omelettes don't appeal to a hungry early bird, other breakfast items include egg sandwiches, ham and cheese crois-

sants, cereal, fresh granola, yogurt, and bagels with peanut butter or cream cheese.

"The omelettes are great," said senior Celia Mercier. "They're nice in the morning if I get to school early."

Since Leslie Floyd became the new food service director for Martha's Vineyard Public Schools in 2010, efforts have been made to improve the quality of food served in the Island's cafeterias. Focus has been placed on serving locally-grown foods.

Paul Sardini has been cooking professionally for 22 years and joined the cafeteria's staff as a cook in October of 2010. He estimated that numbers have tripled since he came to the regional high school. He said, "High school students are not kids. You can find kids at the elementary schools.



PHOTO BY DYLAN BROCKMEYER

Cook Paul Sardini prepares an omelette for a hungry student with a long day ahead.

High school students are little adults and need to be treated that way. I'm not going to let them eat something I wouldn't."

This expanded breakfast option

offers an alternative for students who might otherwise skip or skimp on breakfast.

"I like how they give you a lot of options. The omelettes taste good

and do a good job of filling you up," said freshman David Macias.

Mr. Sardini described his approach to serving food as educational and upbeat. "As I cook, I talk," he said, "It's about reaching out."

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