



The High School View

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Laura Gliga will retire in June

By Katherine Donegan

After 26 years at the regional high school, Special education director Laura Gliga will be retiring this June.

After receiving her major in Social Work, Ms. Gliga became involved in the field of education by working with handicapped students. In 1986, she joined the high school staff. Since her arrival, the special education department has grown to have twice as many teachers and three times as many students.

"She brought a great deal of organization to the department and created an atmosphere of colleagues working together," said special education teacher Jeff Caruthers.

"She makes everyone feel at ease and treats them like gold. She treats colleagues and students alike in a hugely friendly and non-threatening way," said special education teacher Leah Mercaldo.

Ms. Gliga's dedication to each student has affected not only the individual students, but the entire special education department. "Her compassion for all types of students has supported the special education program at the school



PHOTO BY TRUDA SILBERSTEIN

Laura Gliga works in her Special Education Department office at the regional high school, where she often holds meetings with parents and teachers.

and gives opportunities to special education students in all classes," said special education teacher Kim Garrison.

The Special Education Department is composed of approximately 25 percent of the student body and encompasses the STAR and Rebecca Amos programs. The department serves students with learning disabilities, students with English as their second language, and students with mental and physical disabilities. Every student is unique and poses different challenges, but also skills and potential. "No one should ever take his or her gifts and challenges for granted. Sometimes it takes kids a while to figure out what they're good at," said Ms. Gliga.

As a teacher, Ms. Gliga has been key in assisting students' journeys in realizing their potential and supporting their families along the way. "She's a teacher and an administrator with heart. She really cares about the kids," said colleague and friend Paul Brissette,

chairman of the Art Design and Technology Department.

Though she helps kids shape their futures and develop their skills, Ms. Gliga is impacted as well. "It makes me happy to be around students. They're honest and joyful," she said. She will miss being around kids on a daily basis. "I learned so much from them--jokes, struggles, the way they dress. They're so talented. It's what we're all here for."

Although Ms. Gliga will be retiring, her mark on the Special Education Department will remain. "Her legacy will be a reminder that each student is an individual and a person. It becomes easy to get caught up in the laws and technicalities that accompany teaching a special education student," said Ms. Garrison. "Ms. Gliga's voice, as well as her skills, will be missed."

"One of the things anyone can and will remember about Laura is her walking down the hallway and filling it with her gorgeous singing voice," said Mr. Caruthers.

So far, Ms. Gliga has not made any plans for her time after retirement from the high school, but she has considered becoming a tutor. As a tutor, she would be able to stay involved with students, adding to the 30 years she has dedicated to the education field.

Student scientists advance to state fair



PHOTO BY JACKY HERMANN

Junior Jack Wallace shows off the iPhone app he designed that won him 3rd place at the South Shore Regional Fair. Six students from the regional high school traveled to Bridgewater State University last Saturday. Ninth graders Lee Faraca and Gordon Moore and Jack Wallace were invited to move on to the State Science and Engineering Fair held May 3-5 at M.I.T. in Cambridge.

Boys basketball team plays valiantly

By EmmaJean Holley

The boys' varsity basketball team lost in the championship game of the Division II South Sectionals at UMass Boston on Saturday, March 10, by a score of 70-65.

"We started out slow. We were losing by 18 points in the first quarter, and that was our fatal flaw," said coach Michael Joyce. "When you're that far behind it's hard to get over the hump and back in the game again, but they played their hearts out and we gave it our best shot. Undoubtedly, some of these kids played the game of their lives and I'm extremely proud of their hard work."

"Obviously, we weren't happy because we thought we were going to win it all," said senior Peter Keaney. "But you can't deny the success we had up until that point."

Even with Saturday's loss, the team finished the season with 22 wins, one of the best records in the school's history.



PHOTO BY EVA FABER

Junior Izak Browne goes for a jump shot in the 89-69 win over Westwood High School on March 7.

"We had a tremendous season overall," said Peter. "We were suc-

cessful in what we did, and we had a lot of fun doing it."

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