



The High School View

The High School View is staffed and prepared entirely by students from the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, and published on their behalf by The Martha's Vineyard Times, with the generous assistance of the sponsors whose names appear below.

Gifted student teaches peers the art of frosting

By Katherine Donegan



PHOTO BY SHELBY FERRY

Max Moreis (far right) ices a cake in a demonstration for a culinary class. Left to right Raz Sayre, Sophie Petkus, Luke McCracken and Tim Roberts.

Some days Maxwell Moreis is a student. Other days he's a teacher. Last Thursday, the talented senior, working closely with Culinary Arts teacher Jack O'Malley, taught a class of younger students in the fine art of pastry making.

"I wanted him to demonstrate decorating a cake for my freshmen because I know he's had an interest in baking for a long time and he's very good," said Mr. O'Malley.

Cake decorating is a complicated art form that requires many techniques such as icing, piping, glazing, and writing. These techniques have become a passion for Max, though as with many other passions, cake decorating can involve

some stress as Max strives for perfection with every cake he creates. As Max said, "I want them to be perfect because cooking and baking is my passion. But this was really fun and I think students enjoyed themselves and the cake came out well."

In addition to learning how to decorate a cake, the students shared a valuable learning experience that connected culinary arts to real world food preparation.

"All the students were extremely enthusiastic and asked Max a lot of questions," said Chef O'Malley. "Max did a professional job responding to questions. And the students were impressed with Max's knowledge. I know I was."

Blood drive held in gym

By Lily Bick

March is Red Cross Month, and the regional high school is doing its part to get blood to those in need. Last Tuesday, a blood drive was hosted in the high school gymnasium by the Student Council and was open to students and faculty all day. Donors made their way through the hallways following "Blood Drive this way" signs to the gym, where they were able to donate one pint of blood.

On average, women have 10 pints of blood in their system and men have 12 pints. This number can vary depending on the person's body, which is why it is important that donors fit specific height and weight requirements.

Donors must be at least 16. Some students were not allowed to donate blood because they did not weigh enough, were lacking iron, or were sick.

This year was senior Jake Sudarsky's third time donating blood. Jake has always had good experiences donating blood. He said, "It's a great feeling knowing that my blood is helping someone who could be in critical condition."

Freshman Zana van Rooyen, a member of student council, helped out with the blood drive. After donors give blood, they have to eat something to prevent fainting. At the drive, Zana manned the refreshments table. She said, "I went there during a free period and asked what I could do to help. I

Committee reviews electronic device policy

By EmmaJean Holley

The telltale buzz of a received text is an illicit noise at the regional high school, but one that is increasingly difficult to prevent. The current electronics policy states that, generally, students may not use electronic devices like cell phones during the school day. The entire policy is now under review by the Discipline Committee.

In an attempt to understand the prevalence and dynamics behind these ubiquitous devices, teacher Ena Thulin's psychology class designed and conducted a survey for students and an interview for faculty.

"This project came out of a genuine interest from the students, but it's important to me as well," said Ms. Thulin. "I don't think that this is the epidemic a lot of people are afraid it is. I hope that we can integrate cell phones into academics so that there is an educational component as well as the social aspect."

According to data compiled by the class, 67 percent of the 190 students interviewed reported that they use their electronic devices during class. And 68 percent use their electronic devices during passing time. According to a separate survey conducted on Edline, while 72 percent of teachers enforce the current policy in their classrooms, only 15 percent enforce it outside of classrooms. Meanwhile, 47 percent of teachers don't agree that the policy is consistent with the core values of the school.

So why are so few students and faculty adhering to the rule?

"It's ineffective," said senior Alex Guest. "Basically, all students use electronic devices knowing the policy and its consequences. I think that no matter how hard the faculty or administration tries to pre-

vent the use of electronics, the reality is that they can't."

"I think that the policy would have been realistic five years ago, but technology is advancing every day," said senior Della Burke. "I think that teachers and administration need to come to terms with the fact that students have phones and they are going to use them."

This potential application of technology to an academic environment was one of the main concerns addressed by the psychology class. While some students shared Della's view that teachers should recognize the different uses of technology, such as text messaging versus actual research, others thought it was unrealistic to make this distinction.

"I personally do not believe that

discussed was the inconsistent enforcement of the rule among faculty members.

"It's never been a problem for me," said history department chair Elaine Weintraub. "If I tell a student to put the phones away, they usually do it. However, for rules to work, you need the consent of the people. If people are not consenting, it renders the rule useless and meaningless. And if you have one meaningless rule, the rest may become meaningless as well."

Senior Conor Smith is a member of the psychology class and the high school Discipline Committee, a group of teachers, administrators, students, and community members who discuss discipline issues. At a recent meeting, Conor addressed the committee on behalf of Ms. Thulin's class, presenting the results and conclusions of the student-conducted survey. The ensuing discussion resulted in a recommendation being made for potential modification of the policy at a later date.

"Teachers need the ability to run their own classrooms," Conor said. "There's no need to micro-manage and create more rules."

"There's no sense in banning electronics altogether," said assistant principal Andrew Berry. "Whatever we decide on, we want it to be something that makes sense and can be enforced. With that in mind, we want to

teach responsible use of these devices in a way that's consistent with our mission."

In the meantime, many students and teachers continue to ignore the policy. "In an institution where we are supposed to be educating students to make courageous and informed decisions," said Dr. Weintraub, "blanket obedience is never the way to go."



ARTWORK BY ANNA YUKEVICH

electronics can really be used in classrooms because we really only use them for communication, media, games, and music," said Alex. "I don't think they would want to use their electronic devices only for academic reasons, and then there would still be the problem of how to enforce the rule."

"The opportunities are limitless for how we could apply this technology to the classroom," said history teacher Olsen Houghton.

Another issue that was ad-

had to make people sit down and give them stuff to eat and drink." Even though Zana did not give blood, the part that she did play in the drive was just as vital. Said Zana, "It gave me a sense of how much people can give."

Assistant librarian Teri Brown donated blood for the 4th time. "I like donating blood. It's a good cause," she said. "They call you a

few weeks later and say thanks. It's nice."

There are, however, risks involved with donating blood. The amount of blood donated may be more than a tenth of the total amount of blood in the donor's system. Sophomore Isabelle Wadleigh donated blood, despite her fear of needles, and fainted. "I'm really afraid of needles but I

thought it would be nice for me to do," she said. "They finished and then I got really dizzy and nauseous and then there were a bunch of nurses around me."

Every minute of every day, somebody is in need of blood. The one pint of blood donated by just one person is enough to save up to three lives.