



The High School View

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Courtyard transformation coming

By Alyssa Adler

One of the regional high school's courtyards, long locked away in the center of the building, will soon have an exciting new purpose.

Working with Island Grown Schools coordinator for the high school Kaila Binney, three seniors, Natalie Poole, Jessie Chandler, and Caitlin Serpa, have been planning a garden in one of the courtyards. There, students will grow various fresh vegetables, fruits, and flowers that will be used in both the cafeteria and the Culinary Arts vocational program.

Island Grown Schools is the Vineyard's farm-to-school program, where coordinators such as Ms. Binney have been working with the elementary schools and the high school in order to bring locally

grown food to the cafeterias and to educate students about the benefits of growing their own food and going local.

"The plans for the garden are to be decided by the students," Ms. Binney said. "Last week my mentorship students surveyed their student peers during lunch about what they would like to see in the garden. We received all kinds of suggestions, including many for strawberries."

Though students in the past have made efforts to create a school garden in various locations, such as Woodside Village, there has been a growing desire to establish one within the school itself.

"It's nice that the students are collaborating with Island Grown Schools this year because students have struggled in the past to main-

tain a school garden," said history teacher Ena Thulin. "Plus, my classroom window will be overlooking the garden so both my classes and I will benefit."

As the high school has recently been including more ingredients from local farms in the cafeteria food, the school garden will soon be able to provide students with a wide variety of fresh vegetables and fruits grown outside their classrooms.

"Food has essentially become poisonous, especially when it's so far away from the source," said history teacher Corrine Kurtz. "The garden is going to be great because living on our own little Island we have the opportunity to eat local food as well as use it as a teaching tool, and what's more important than that?"

Though the garden will mainly be used for food production, Ms. Binney

plans to use it as both an outdoor classroom for all academic subjects and an ongoing community service project opportunity.

"When students return from April

vacation we will hopefully have the soil ready," said Ms. Binney. "Over the summer I will be leading weekly workdays for students to come and learn about growing food as well as harvesting and bringing home their own produce from the school garden."

Last Wednesday night a local dinner fundraiser cooked by chef Chris Fischer, with help from the Culinary Arts department, was held to raise money for garden supplies. About 60 persons came, helping to raise \$1,200.

"The garden will be a great new addition to our school and will be extremely beneficial to both future students and our local environment," said Natalie Poole, one of the seniors who has been working on the garden. "The local dinner was a great start in gaining support from the community around us and we hope that students in the oncoming years will be just as excited as us to help out with the garden."



PHOTO BY DYLAN BROCKMEYER

(Left to right) Seniors Natalie Poole and Jessie Chandler transplant kale seedlings for the school garden.

Vineyard falls to Falmouth



PHOTO BY SHELBY FERRY

(Left to right) Seniors Nelson Dickson and Spencer Booker prepare to meet Falmouth attackers during a home game last Saturday, April 7. The Vineyard lost 10 - 6.

When money buys happiness

By Caitlin Serpa

Many high school students worry about paying for college. But the average student on Isla Mujeres, an island off the coast of Cancun, Mexico, struggles to pay the necessary fees just to get through high school. For almost five years now, regional high

school custodian Donald Searle and his wife, Judy, have been providing \$50 every month to ensure that Abdiel Hernandez Felipe, a student of Isla Mujeres, is able to continue with his secondary and university educations.

"We go to the island every year and wanted to do something to give back to the community," said

Mr. Searle. During high school, Felipe studied at La Gloria English School. Like Martha's Vineyard, Isla Mujeres is heavily dependent on tourists for its livelihood; for this reason, many natives must speak English in order to make money. When Maggie and Tom Washa, founders of La Gloria English School began visiting the island in 1991, they discovered the need for an English school to provide necessary language skills. After years of planning, hard work, and investing their own money, the Washas opened the school in 2004. Today, volunteers teach the English classes that Felipe was once enrolled in.

During high school, Felipe's life

as a student was difficult. Living in a house with corrugated metal walls and without running water, Felipe had to connect a fluorescent light to a car battery to study once the sun went down. Mr. and Mrs. Searle began funding Felipe when they learned of a program through the La Gloria English School in July of 2002.

The Searles met Felipe and his family for the first time in March of 2003. Upon the first meeting, Felipe's mother gave Donald and Judy, the honorable titles of "padrino" and "padrina" – godparents. "We've been close with his family – mother, father, and two brothers, said Mr. Searle. "We help them whenever possible. It's about

loving every minute of the experience and connecting with them. They are very warm, gentle people," Mr. Searle added.

Although Felipe had his struggles in certain classes, just as any other high school student, he retained the mandatory marks to stay in the funding program and completed his secondary education. In August of 2010, Felipe began studying Communications at a university in the city of Valladolid in Mexico. He is currently in his second year of University. In 2011, they visited Felipe. "We stayed at a nice hotel in this beautiful colonial city," said Mr. Searle.

Mr. and Mrs. Searle continue to fund Felipe to this day.

Prom fundraiser promises fun

By Lily Bick

Tomorrow night, April 13, from 7-9 P.M., students will be singing, dancing, and telling jokes in the school's Performing Arts Center during the talent show, which is being held to help raise money for the junior prom.

Junior class representative Taylor Poggi came up with the idea while brainstorming for fundraiser ideas. She immediately took control to make her vision a reality.

"Taylor was really great about it. She gave us all a job to do and made it happen," said junior prom committee member Sam Oslin.

Some of the acts include junior Cord Bailey's stand-up comedy, junior Madeline Webster's recitation of pi, and senior Amalie Tinus' singing. Sam is singing "Make You Feel My Love," by Bob Dylan. "I'm excited because I like singing and it's working towards a goal to give us all an awesome prom," he said.

Sophomore Tully McDonough will accompany Maddie Webster while she recites the digits of pi. At every 33rd digit, Maddie will throw a pudding pie at Tully's face. This is the sort of untraditional act that the prom committee was looking for when planning the variety show. "We were nervous that the show would be just people singing, but there are a lot of cool and different things, so it will be really fun," said Julia Cooper, a junior prom committee member.

Tickets will be sold at the door for \$5 dollars.