



# 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.

## Generations share stories at prom

BY SARAH ORTLIP-SOMMERS

It is rare for senior citizens and high school students to have the chance to socialize. The National Honor Society's (NHS) "senior prom," held last Sunday at Windemere, provided Windemere residents and regional high school NHS members this unique opportunity.

The members of NHS began organizing the senior prom many months ago. The idea for the event developed when the students decided they wanted to focus on one, large community service project for the 2012-2013 academic year instead of many smaller projects, as the group had done in the past.

NHS director Jean Neble suggested organizing an event at Windemere, but all the planning was done by the students. They organized themselves into committees for music, decorating, trivia, movies, and invitations. Each NHS member had a role in

making the prom a reality. "Our goal was to bring some joy into the community and give the residents [of Windemere] a fun-filled experience," said NHS co-president, senior Julia Cooper.

Activities at the prom included dancing, a movie, and a trivia contest. The theme of the event was 1940s, and the event was called the "Spring Swing."

"We decided to make the theme 1940s because we thought it was an era that many of the residents of Windemere would want to relive," said junior Bradley Carroll.

Students brought a record player and 1940s records to help recreate the decade. Prom-goers participated in a competitive and difficult trivia contest, in which winners received antique pins as prizes. The joyous event concluded with a showing of the movie "Bringing Up Baby," starring film icons Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant.

"I had a great time doing

trivia. I even won a prize. I am currently living in the hospital, not Windemere, but it was a great experience to come down here for this event," said Sally Williams, hospital resident and prom attendee.

Unfortunately, even with careful planning came small obstacles. At the start of the event, it became apparent that the record player that was brought to play the vintage records had a fault. The music that it played wasn't loud enough for many prom guests, especially some who had hearing impairments, to hear. In a rush, NHS member and se-

nior Dylan Brockmeyer drove home to get an alternative source of music. However, instead of allowing the problem to become a major issue, the students began conversing with the senior citizens, ask-

"I had a great time. It was good to meet and see everyone from the high school," said prom king Peter Barnes, "It feels excellent to be king."

"It was almost good that we had technical difficulties

because we got to know the residents even better," said senior Bella Bennett. "It was so great to get to meet and spend time with the Windemere community. I wish we had started doing service projects like this sooner."

NHS members especially enjoyed meeting and talking to 100-year-old Sophie Silverman. Ms. Silverman, who

oni with a smile on her face. "The Windemere residents were really looking forward to the prom. It was amazing just seeing how happy they were," said NHS director Jean Neble. "It has been a wonderful experience, and I am so proud of all of the NHS members."

For the high school seniors, the prom was their last NHS service project before they graduate, but Ms. Neble and the junior members hope that this event can continue.

"The prom was a great way to finish my involvement in extracurricular activities at the high school, which have given me a lot of joy over the last year that I've been in leadership positions," said NHS co-president, senior Maddie Webster.

Said Ms. Neble, "We can make it that much better for next year by learning from the experience. It should be an annual event."

The National Honor Society would like to thank Jardin Mahoney Garden Center for their generous donation of plants used at the senior prom. **ISV**



PHOTO BY DYLAN BROCKMEYER

Senior Fionnuala Howell dances with a Windemere resident at the National Honor Society's senior prom.

ing questions to get them talking about their lives while they waited for Dylan's return.

apparently rarely leaves her seat, danced with NHS member and senior Marc Natichi-

## Have your cupcake and eat it too

BY JASON GRUNER

Last Friday, entrepreneur and owner of the Johnny Cupcakes franchise, Johnny Earle, paid a visit to the regional high school for an inspirational and comedic presentation.

For the second time in three years, Johnny came to speak at the high school. He told the story of his business in order to inspire the students to be more competitive in the business world.

During his school years, Johnny sold candy and toys to make money, always refining and expanding his business to earn more. Johnny said that he was making more money than his friends who were selling, not toys, but drugs. Johnny emphasized that commercial success is possible without the use of drugs. Johnny said



PHOTO BY WILLOW WUNSCH

Sophomores Hanna Kim (left) and Sabrina Reppert posing with Johnny Earle.

that at the age of 30, he has never had a sip of alcohol.

Senior Kevin Burchill said, "It was a lot better than last time. He focused on how to start a successful business

rather than his own story."

Johnny's life changed dramatically when he casually designed a shirt with a cupcake and crossed bones on it, reminiscent of the well-known skull and crossbones image. Johnny took advantage of the newfound

opportunity and launched an online t-shirt shop, which ran out of his parents' attic.

Some of the business advice that Johnny had for the students was, "Try to think

of 10 things that will set you apart from everyone else. Strange is good; you want to stand out."

Johnny next went on to rent his own shop. Within a year he went from renting a \$700 per month shop to a \$7,000 per month shop. He was able to hire his mom and other relatives, and made three months worth of rent on his first day opening.

He emphasized the importance of branding and packaging. Because he focused on making the details of his product special, the social phenomenon surrounding Johnny Cupcakes reached cult classic status.

Business teacher Leo Frame said, "I think the assembly was inspiring for young budding entrepreneurs and next class we will go farther in depth about his teachings."

Johnny said, "Real success is being happy doing what

you love." Johnny told the students about how he had been traveling around the country and world for years now, opening new shops, getting inspiration for his

business and learning along the way. Johnny emphasized that his success is a possibility for each and every one of the students who attended the assembly. **ISV**

## German language explored on overseas trip

BY ADDISON GEIGER

Five German students took off for Germany and Austria during April vacation. The trip was made up of a private tour organized by German teacher Alison Aguiar.

"I wanted the trip to be an enriching experience for my students," said Frau. Aguiar. "Bringing the classroom out into the real world is important for the understanding of a language."

Using the knowledge that they learned in class, students were able to order food, ask

questions, and communicate with the locals. If retailers spoke English, they were asked to speak to the students in German instead.

Students also tested and expanded their cultural understanding by visiting a number of cities, such as Berlin, Munich, Füssen, and Potsdam in Germany and Vienna and Salzburg in Austria.

"I liked being able to use German in an actual German environment and see how people speak it in day-to-day life," said sophomore Lena DeMoe. **ISV**

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