



The High School View

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School musical premiers next week

BY OLIVIA LINGREN

Next Thursday is opening night for the high school's big annual musical—The Secret Garden.

The Performing Arts Center will be home to the musical theater department's production, a play about a young girl named Mary whose parents have died, played by sophomore Katherine Reid. She travels from her home in India to live with her uncle, whose wife has also died, in Yorkshire, England. Mary is haunted by her dead parents and people from her life in India.

First-year director Betsy Hauck has been working hard for months with dozens of students and many adults to create a breathtaking musical. "It has been a very positive experience," she said. "Our show's motto is, 'Okay, we will make it work.' Whenever something goes wrong, that is what we say. Through all of the difficulties, students, teachers, and parents have all stepped up to support us. It is fabulous. "The show is in excellent shape and viewers will be pleasantly surprised." Betsy also said, "There will also be some surprises that the high

school has not seen in a very long time."

Sophomore Kayla Goldman plays Alice, Mary's mother's best friend. Kayla said, "We have had so much fun and have worked so hard. Betsy has done such a great job for her first year directing here."

Freshman Megan Piche plays a dreamer. Megan said, "Being able to work with people you normally wouldn't work with and becoming so close with them is definitely my favorite part. We all know we are a family."

Betsy agreed. "I know it's a cliché, but this show is like



PHOTO BY CHARLOTTE HALL

Seniors Gage Rancich and Olivia de Geofroy (left) dance during rehearsal for The Secret Garden musical, which premiers next weekend in the high school's PAC.

a family," she said. "It is not about each individual actor or singer, it is about the

whole team."

Along with students, the musical has received a lot of

help from adults around the Island. High school music teachers Jan Wightman and Abigail Chandler are the lead musician and conductor, respectively. Peter Boak and Anne Davey will accompany them as guest pianists. Bob Brown will assist with sound technology, Alix deSeife Small in costume design, and Lianna Loughman with choreography. Charlie Esposito is the PAC director. **MSV**

There will be three performances: Thursday, February 14 and Friday, February 15 at 7 PM and Saturday, February 16 at 4 PM. Admission \$10 for adults, \$7 for students and seniors, and \$25 for a family.

Young potter finds his center

BY LILY BICK

Senior Jake Hart loves clay, and he's found his niche in the Crafts and Sculptures elective, in front of a potter's wheel. With clay, he creates functional pieces that he uses, gives away as gifts, and sells.

"When I was a kid I had a cheap wheel at home that my mom got," Jake said. "Looking back, at that young age I still remember being really interested in spinning clay. That's probably why I got into it so much in high school—I had that long-lasting desire to see what it was all about."

Jake has been working on his art since freshman year, when former art teacher Scott Campbell ran the crafts room. Jake said, "Mr. Campbell really inspired me to get into ceramics on the wheel because I would sit down at the wheel and start to throw and ask for assistance and guidance, and he wouldn't help

me. He'd tell me to learn on my own, so I just stuck with it as a hobby."

Said crafts and sculptures teacher Brendan Coogan, "I have seen Jake's work evolve and become more refined.



(Left) Samples of Jake's pottery on display in the school's Library Conference Room. In these pieces, Jake experimented with the basic structure of pottery, as well as with the glaze that covers the pieces. (Right) "For this piece, you've got to center it first," said Jake. "The centering process is the most important in my mind because it keeps the piece in line when it expands into the universe. After you drop the center hole you form the bottom of the piece by running your fingers across the bottom." He is working in the school's crafts studio, which offers supplies and tools to students.

He is very self-directed."

Jake started out creating small pieces, like cups, in order to learn and perfect throwing techniques. This taught him to understand the structure of the clay, which has allowed him to move on to larger pieces.

Mr. Campbell encouraged Jake to pursue pottery at Featherstone Center for the Arts, in Oak Bluffs. Featherstone offers art lessons and provides a free studio in which artists can work without the distractions and noise at the school studio.

"What attracted me to

pottery, or ceramics, is the fact that the material I was working with was just a mixture between sediments and water. The simplicity of the combination and what you can make with it really pulled me," said Jake.

Pottery can have positive

consciousness in the problems I encounter."

Mr. Campbell retired after Jake's freshman year. Since then, he has had guidance from Mr. Coogan. Jake said, "Mr. Coogan is great because he has so many ideas flowing and he wants to share them

all to try to inspire you."

"He is one of the most technically accomplished potters," said Mr. Coogan. "He is in the studio every chance he gets."

Crafts classes teach students about a variety of crafts, from pottery to stained glass. Students review each other's

pieces and offer advice and criticism in order to improve. "Watching other students and the way they were throwing has made me want to get better," Jake said. "Having people around me who have more experience built determination because it was a sign that you can make real things."

In the hallways around the high school, student work is displayed. "It gives you a chance to show everyone else in the school what you've been doing with your time," he said. "It makes you feel proud as an artist that it made it out there and people are able to compliment you. It keeps me going."

Junior Jason Gruner is one of many who have observed Jake and his art in the school. Jason said, "Jake is a treasure of our school. He is always doing some sort of honor-



PHOTOS BY CHARLOTTE HALL

able work. He is one of those people who gets things done and doesn't take credit."

This winter, a Mug Show was held at Mocha Mott's coffee shop. Student-made mugs were hung from the ceiling and sold as part of a silent auction. In the show, Jake sold two mugs. "There are people in the world who own something I made," he said. "That's really cool."

"I want to stick with it throughout my life because it's helped me to stay calm through all the monstrosities of the world. I want to focus on going to college and learning about renewable energy along with sustainable agriculture. When I'm not studying, I hope to be throwing pottery." **MSV**

MVRHS Science Fair Saturday, February 9

The fair will be open to the public for viewing from 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM

Awards will be presented at 12:15 PM

Projects include biology, chemistry, sustainability, engineering, and more.

Cash awards will be given to the top three projects.

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