



# 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.

## English teacher journeys into the wild

BY KATHARINE JOHNSON

Regional high school English teacher Keith Dodge has hundreds of children. And when he retires in June from a job he has loved for 26 years, he'll also be saying goodbye to the memories of all of them.

"I chose to teach high school because I remember it being one of the toughest times of my life. I thought that maybe I could help kids survive it and make it a place that students looked forward to," said Mr. Dodge. "I enjoy teaching all levels. Before I became a restaurant manager, I was a waiter. One day I'll never forget, a man said to me, 'You are one of the best waiters I have ever seen, not because you are the fastest or better than anyone else, but because you have the ability to wait on a group of New Bedford fishermen and a group of Wall Street or New York Bankers and make them all feel comfortable.' This stayed with me because the same goes for teaching; I have gained just as much from every class level I have ever taught."

"The island picked me. From the moment I saw it on the ferry, I wanted to live here," he said.

Throughout his teaching career, Mr. Dodge has been active in student extracurricular activities. He coached the junior varsity basketball team and the girls' tennis team. He was the faculty advisor for the National Honor



PHOTO BY CHARLOTTE HALL

Mr. Dodge teaches his Honors English 12 class in his classroom. Behind him, seniors Kelsey Dandeneau and Martin Aranzabe sit alert and enthusiastic.

Society for nine years and worked with current English department chair Dan Sharkovitz on the school newspaper for two years. Mr. Dodge was also the English department chair for seven years.

"I will never forget Mr. Dodge's personal generosity towards me when I first started teaching at the high school," said English teacher Bill McCarthy. "He went out of his way to include me and invite me on school trips. I admire the Zen demeanor that he has. It allows him to teach efficiently and focus on others."

History teacher Corinne Kurtz, who joins Mr. Dodge on a lot of school field trips, said, "We've traveled together on the English Exchange trip many times. He, [English

teacher] David Wilson, and I have been going to the same graduation parties for years. He has a huge impact on the students and his school trips to places like Walden Pond really inspire students."

Senior Gage Rancich, who had Mr. Dodge for his AP English class last year, said, "Mr. Dodge's retirement is unique because even though he is leaving his teaching career, he is not done teaching. He will still be a mentor to anyone who seeks his aid."

Once he retires from teaching, Mr. Dodge is looking forward to more time to read. He also plans to travel and see the five continents that he has yet to explore. Mr. Dodge is already planning a trip to India in November.

"I am meeting up with old

friends from England and we're going to the Pushkar Camel Fair, and then winging it from there," he said. He is also planning a trip to the Galapagos Islands next March. In addition to his plans to travel, he wants to work with the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation. "I also want to set up a scholarship for students who excel in English. It is important to give back to the community."

Mr. Wilson said, "He's one of those exceptional teachers who uses his entire professional focus for the betterment of his students. He and I have commuted to school together for many years. I'm going to miss his presence, his integrity, and the chocolates that he keeps in his closet."

Senior Clare Boland said,

"I had Mr. Dodge for my junior year and I'm sad that other students won't get to have him. He has a great teaching style that involves a lot of class participation. He taught me more than I realized."

Mr. Sharkovitz and Mr. Dodge both organized many school trips to England to see Shakespearean plays at the Royal Shakespeare Company. "One night after seeing Hamlet, I was talking to Keith in the hotel room. We were both excited about the play we'd seen and the positive reaction that the students had to it; they just loved it. They had talked about it on the subway ride from the theatre to the hotel. I remember Keith saying, 'Isn't that part of the miracle about why we teach?' and I thought, here are our students, it's almost midnight, they've got to be tired, and yet they can't stop talking about the play they had just seen. Keith was just so selflessly happy that he'd had a part in organizing the adventure and creating this experience for students," said Mr. Sharkovitz.

"Later that week during the same trip, we were in the hotel late at night after seeing another play. Keith asked me what I liked to teach in the AP curriculum since he was

going to teach a section of the course during the next school year. This amazed me. So important is the teaching life to him that at midnight, in another country, with the class six months away, he was asking me about the curriculum. That's who we're losing. The good news is that we had him."

Math teacher Ken DeBettencourt said, "Mr. Dodge is a nice, quiet person. I never knew he was an avid Celtics fan until just last weekend when I bumped into him at the Clippers game. He's the only teacher who has as many ties as I do. I admire his enthusiasm. On the first day of Red Sox season he's got his Red Sox tie on!"

"I actually met Keith Dodge on South Beach one summer, said guidance director, Michael McCarthy. "A lot of people don't realize how much he takes advantage of the island. He goes to all the beaches, swims and kayaks. He is very outgoing and we bump into each other a lot. My own children had him for a teacher and they loved him. I appreciate him as a friend and as a teacher; he strives on both ends."

History department chair Elaine Weintraub, who has worked with Mr. Dodge on many interdisciplinary projects said, "What I always admired and respected about Keith is that he always looks for the good in every student."

Mr. Dodge said, "I hope that my retirement is as Alexandre Dumas Père said, 'One's work may be finished some day, but one's education never.'" **HSV**

## Science fair catalyzes education

BY OLIVIA JACOBS

The Science Fair, postponed from last weekend by the blizzard, will be held in the cafeteria and library at the high school on Saturday, February 16.

Science fair coordinator and science teacher Jackie

Hermann said the science fair has three purposes.

"First, for students to experience real data collection and analysis. Second, for students to have the opportunity to talk with a real scientist about the data they collected, and third, to reward students for academic achievement."

Cash prizes and special awards will be presented after each project is judged twice. Most of the judges are local or retired scientists. Many of them have been judging for as long as the science fair has been going on.

About 150 students will participate this year, enter-

ing a total of 80 projects. The projects will be entered into one of the categories: biology, engineering, chemistry, physics, or environmental science. Students in physics classes are assigned to build a windmill for a class project and have the option of submitting it into the science fair.

Physics teacher Dana Munn said, "As we got more

and more grades involved in the fair, by the time many students reached senior year they had already done two of three research projects. So we created the wind turbine project as an alternative to the research projects."

Freshmen Molly Houghton and Lindsay Dario tested the effect of eelgrass on tunicates, a marine animal. Their project took three months to

finish, and they even enlisted the help of a scientist from off-Island. Ninth graders Maisie Jarrell and Aurora Austin also worked as a team to conduct their experiment. Aurora said that while they only spent a small amount of time on their project, "We are excited to see other students projects and hope to win an award. We worked hard on the topic." **HSV**

EDITORS IN CHIEF: Lily Bick, Julia Cooper ASSISTANT EDITORS IN CHIEF: Sarah Ortlip-Sommers, Nathaniel Horwitz ASSISTANT EDITOR: Galen Mayhew ART EDITOR: Victoria Sadowski PHOTOGRAPHY EDITORS: Dylan Brockmeyer, Charlotte Hall FACT CHECKER: Katie Johnson WEB EDITOR: Sterling Meacham MASTHEAD ART: Bradley Carroll FACULTY ADVISERS: Dan Sharkovitz, Al Mahoney

**George A. Santos, Jr. O.D.**  
Adult & Children  
Vision Care,  
Vision Therapy  
Contact Lenses  
638 Main St., Vineyard Haven  
508-693-7222

MARTHA'S VINEYARD  
MUSEUM  
Exploring  
Island  
History  
59 School St., Edgartown  
508-627-4441 www.mvmuseum.org

**Edu Comp**  
Computer Sales & Service  
Office & Art Supplies  
& More  
4 State Rd., Vh - 508 693 0803  
educmpmv.com

**miv**  
martha's vineyard  
insurance  
508-693-2800  
mvinsurance.com  
Vineyard Haven · Edgartown · Oak Bluffs

Island Alpaca Co.  
GIFT SHOP  
OPEN DAILY  
1 Head of the Pond Rd. 508-693-5554

**GEORGE B. BRUSH**  
Attorney at Law  
459 State Road,  
West Tisbury  
508-693-7733

**H.N. Hinckley & Sons, Inc**  
Ace Hardware  
Beach Rd., Vineyard Haven  
508-693-0075

**JOHN KEENE EXCAVATION**  
Mon.-Fri., 7:30am-5pm • Sat., 8am-12noon • Old Stage Road, across from Takemmy Farm in West Tisbury  
508-693-5975 or 508-693-0025