



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.

BSAC established to promote social justice

BY CHLOE COMBRA AND SARA CREATO

The newly formed Black Student Alliance Club (BSAC) at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) had its first meeting on January 7. Founded by junior Emmett Favreau and sophomore Graysen Kirk, BSAC was created to provide a forum for the school community to address issues of systemic racism and inequality through discussion and social justice activities.

"I had been hoping to start something like [the BSAC] at school, because I feel like there's a lack of education in general across the country and [Martha's Vineyard] is not really an exception," said Graysen. "It's important to create a safe space for people of color in the schools and create a place where white people can be educated."

Emmett said, "As we saw this summer, there definitely is a need for some sort of [student] group or initiative that goes on all the time to talk about issues that happen and are still happening. So I wanted to establish that."

At the first club meeting of BSAC, members introduced themselves and talked about their reasons for joining. They then independently answered questions in a Google Form about their racial identity, and shared their interests in the club's future plans. The meeting culminated with a discussion about the events at the Capitol.

Emmett first asked members, "Do you think that racism exists here [on the Island]? Do you feel safe here?" The majority of people said that although they experience racism on Martha's Vineyard, it's not common and they feel relatively safe.

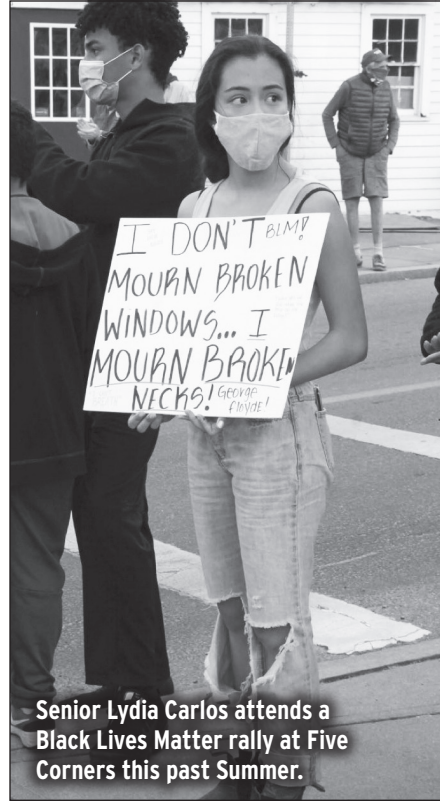
Dhakar Warren, the administrator of student affairs and faculty advisor to BSAC, helped Emmett and Graysen start the club and spread awareness of it to the student body.

"There are issues of racism and discrimination that we need to address," said Mr. Warren. "[BSAC] is a real opportunity for students to step up, take charge, and say we are not going to allow these things to percolate and perpetuate and we are going to move forward in the hopes that we create an environment that's inclusive of everyone."

Mr. Warren stressed the importance of enabling students with the opportunity to find, educate, and celebrate their identity: "[BSAC] is fundamentally about providing a safe space for students of color, who are in many cases are underrepresented, to engage

in conversations and work while also engaging in advocacy efforts that promote equity, inclusion, and fuel cultural proficiency throughout our school community."

Mr. Warren also emphasized eliciting participation from students from all demographics at MVRHS. "Getting engaged in this work is so important, and allyship stems from us coming together regardless of background, race, ethnicity, creed. It's not just about black students," he said. "Our Brazilian students, our West Indian students, anyone who feels



Senior Lydia Carlos attends a Black Lives Matter rally at Five Corners this past Summer.

KAYLEIGH BOLLIN

underrepresented and culturally excluded. I hope more students of color take the opportunity to participate just once and join in this effort and come to the

table to share in that experience, and that more white students come to the table to be advocates and allies."

Senior Kaya Seiman joined the club on account of her friendship with Emmett and for the opportunity to discuss issues she is passionate about. "I wanted to become educated and hear from different perspectives. I really respect Graysen and Emmett. What they do for the Black community is incredible. I wanted to figure out more ways I can help," she said.

For people who aren't sure about joining, Graysen has a message: "I just want to say that everyone's welcome and to not feel unsafe. We are trying to be hypersensitive to everybody's perspectives, ideals, and everything. So if you just join with your camera off and listen to the meetings or email me before or send a chat to me saying what you want to be voiced in the club, that's great. Come join and make a change." **HSV**

Freshmen move into school for the first time

BY LILY SEBASTIAN, HARDY EVILLE, AND SARA CREATO

On January 11, the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) transitioned from fully remote to hybrid learning, and for most freshmen, hybrid learning represented their first time entering the building and navigating all the firsts, like finding their way around the school, connecting with teachers face-to-face, and making new friends.

Though the transition from a smaller elementary school to the bustling high school is always challenging to begin with, transitioning from remote learning to in-person school adds another layer of confusion.

Arrows have been placed on the floors of each hall-

way, for example, to help guide students during passing time when foot traffic is allowed to flow in only one direction. Freshman Olive MacPhail said, "The most challenging thing has definitely been trying to find my classes and having to walk a certain direction in the hallway. I have gotten lost a few times, but the maps are really helpful."

The social aspect of high school is something freshmen have not been able to experience at all until hybrid learning began. Being able to connect in person with staff members and classmates brings a bit of much-needed normalcy to this school year.

"I feel like I have been able to connect a lot more with my teachers since we are in person and not over Zoom,"



PARKER BRADLEE

Photography teacher Christopher Baer teaches freshmen online and in-person simultaneously.

said freshman Padriac Mullen, who found it hard to focus remotely.

Most students are content with going in only two times a week, as it allows them to see their friends. For freshman Ali Dyke, not seeing her friends had been one of the most challenging parts of the school year. "Now that I'm going into the building for hybrid, I've seen some of them, which has been really

nice," she said.

Others wish that there was more time for socializing. "We aren't in person fully," Olive said. "I haven't been able to meet as many people as I was hoping."

In a normal year, freshmen would have a number of meetings with guidance counselors and parents to get them prepared for high school. They would also take part in the annual STING (Students Transitioning Into Ninth Grade) orientation program and have an extra half-day before the school year started to become acquainted with the school building. This year the meetings were limited and online, and that early half-day could not happen.

"In September we were able to do an in-person modified orientation with kids in the building," said freshman counselor and

Guidance Director John Fiorito. "When we got closer to welcoming freshmen into the building for hybrid, we sent out emails inviting them in to do individual tours with [school adjustment counselor] Amy Lilavois and me," he said.

The brief glimpse of normalcy that hybrid has so far brought has many students hopeful for the future. Freshman Samantha Caldwell imagines an ideal school year: "I think we would all be happier and more cheerful," she said. "Clubs could meet in person, and we could eat lunch all together again."

The nationwide distribution of the Coronavirus vaccine is also making students hopeful.

"Just knowing that everything is going to be better soon has been keeping me motivated," Ali said. "I know that it's not always going to be as hard as it is now." **HSV**

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