

The Blue and Gold

maldenblueandgold.com

Malden High School
Volume 107 Edition 6

77 Salem Street
April 2022

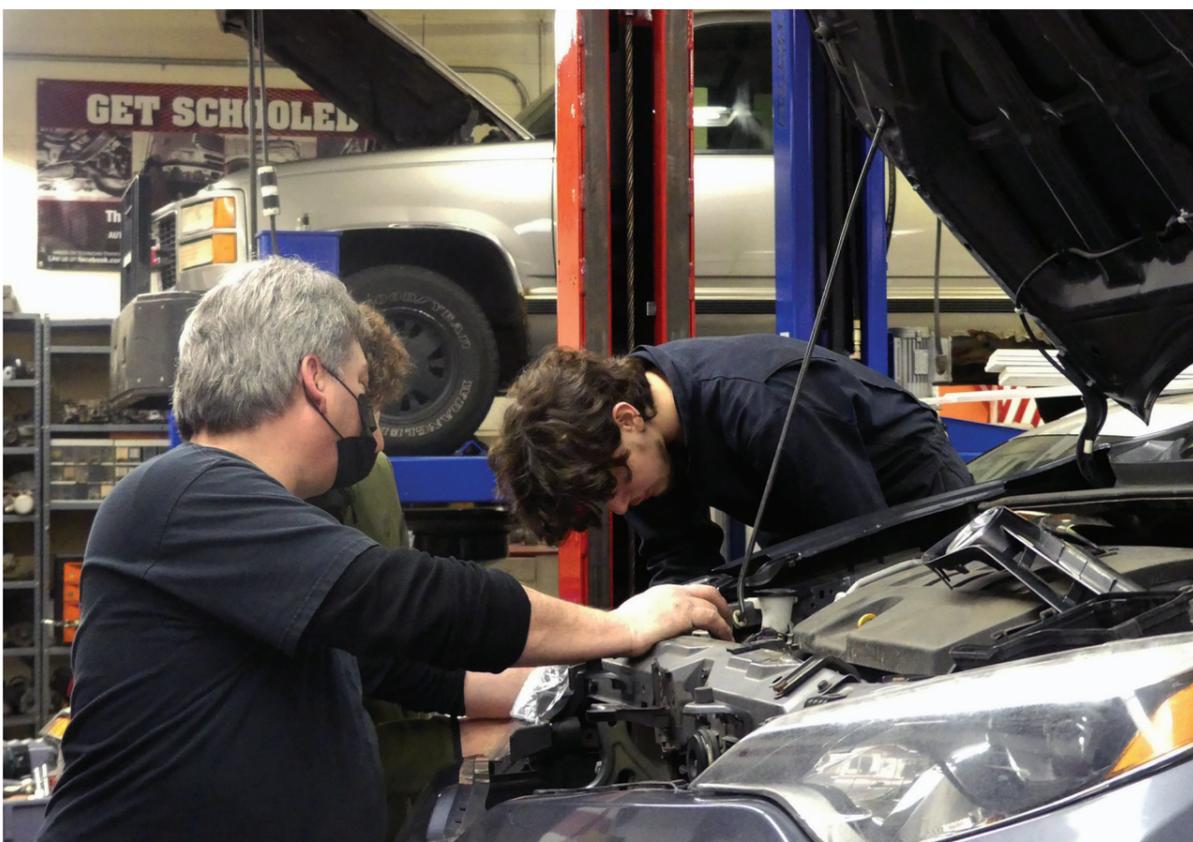
A MARVEL-IOUS NIGHT



STUDENTS AND STAFF VOICE OPINIONS ON NEW PHONE POLICY

Jessica Li
Gabiella Ilebode
Joy Lugo Morales
Reporters

A LOOK INTO MALDEN HIGH SCHOOL'S AUTOSHOP CLASS



Bazzinotti assisting his students on a car. Photo by Nora Hounain.

Nora Hounain
Dorothy Michel
Gianna Lally
Reporters

A little-known fact about Malden High School is that they have an auto shop course where students learn how to fix and repair cars. This class is taught by Chris Bazzinotti and his room is located on the first floor of the Holland building.

The automotive class has three levels. "Level one is [the] beginner level, and we teach kids about the

automobile," Bazzinotti said. "It's a very basic level."

"We have all kinds of kids that have taken it. I have beginner kids that are in the ninth grade and beginner kids that are in the 12th grade. So, my classes are made up of freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors," Bazzinotti continued.

Bazzinotti teaches about the automobile and the different sciences that are associated with it. For example, Bazzinotti will teach

a lesson about how hydraulics work. He teaches students about the cooling system, the fluids in the engine, how water boils and how they can manipulate the boiling point of water.

"We teach kids how to measure things, and we teach kids how to use a few machines," he said. The students also learn about oil changes, front ends, auto shop safety and industrial safety.

Continued on page 14

Returning to full in-person school after a year of remote learning and half-year of hybrid education proved a difficult transition for students and staff alike. One of the main struggles among them was the increased use of cell phones during school hours.

To help with the transition, Malden High School administration created a new phone policy. Under it, students are barred from using their phones during class. If they are caught with their phones the first time, they will have it taken away until the end of the day. The second time they have it taken away, the students receive a phone call home, and should it keep happening, it can even lead to a suspension. As a result, this has created a lot of tension between students and staff. As of now, the phone policy exclusively affects 9th grade CP students.

Freshman Jaden Huynh said that on his way to class, his peers "were already talking about it. A teacher pulled up the slideshow and everything; it was a Powerpoint [shown by] my teacher for math."

"I found out through Snapchat, which is odd, but then we talked about it in homeroom when our homeroom teacher brought it up. It was just a screenshot of the email that one of the teachers sent out," freshman Huong Ly stated.

Continued on page 12

Model UN Returns to Malden High School

Fatima Dahbani
Reporter

After two years, Model UN has returned to Malden High School and both teachers and students were excited.

This year, simulations were held in the gallery and the library at MHS. In total, over 300 juniors and seniors participated in the simulations. There were five different simulations, each with 60 to 70 students representing 25-35 countries.

Each year, the students are assigned a global issue that needs to be solved. This year, the issue was fair educational access in a post-COVID-19 world. The students formed groups to represent a nation, many of which were European, African or Asian.

History teacher Haley Mallett explained that the department already had a good understanding of how the United Nations works because it is "such a critical and central topic to modern world history, to figure out how these countries stood on the issues and take on that role to bring to the floor of a mock United Nations." As a result, they spent roughly a month researching, writing and practicing speeches in class.

Jessie Belfer, another history teacher, said, "the MHS Social Studies department works together with the United Nations Association of Greater Boston (UNAGB) to pick a topic for each year's Model UN Simulation and set dates when UNAGB staff members can come into our school to lead simulations for Modern World History classes."

Mallett expressed that some students were really interested in Model UN and others not as much, which was to be expected. "There were definitely more students who were engaged and not, for example, part of the simulation. Eventually, countries get to start passing notes to each other, kind of secretly. So I can definitely tell there were more students who were interested in engaging in the process fully than others. But everyone was engaged in some way more or less."

Prior to COVID, a multi-school simulation would be hosted at Northeastern University. Malden High School, along with a number of other high schools in the region, would send a group of students to Northeastern University to participate in the full-fledged Model UN simulation. However, it was a virtual event this year. The school had around 30 students elected to participate in the virtual conference

MEET THE BLUE AND GOLD



Editor-in-Chief:
Julie Huynh '22



Editor-in-Chief:
Lauren Mallett '22



**Editor-in-Chief of
Print and Design:**
Carlos Aragon '22



**Editor-in-Chief of
Web and Mobile:**
Lulu Harding '22



Managing Editor:
Sandra Li '22



Managing Editor:
Karen Rivera '22



**Managing Editor of
Art and Photography:**
Brandon Wong '22



Class Advisor:
Ryan Gallagher



Head of Sports:
Juliana Luong '23



Head of Sports:
Kaoutar Wakaf '23



Head Copy Editor:
Chaimaa Assli '23



Head of Local:
Kayley Glavin '23



Head of Local:
Krishany Marius '23

Reporters

Lead Reporter: Nathan Dean '24	Ashton Calixte '25	Dani Licon-Cruz '25
Lead Reporter: Gabriel Fesehaie '23	Fatima Dahbani '25	Joy Lugo Morales '25
Lead Reporter: Courtney Fitzgerald '22	Nora Hounain '25	Dorothy Michel '25
Lead Reporter: Zachary Nedell '24	Gabi Ilebode '22	Lily Nguyen '25
Lead Reporter: Desiree Nong '23	Mack Keating '25	Vanessa Ramos '24
Lead Reporter: Daniel O'Toole '24	Gianna Lally '25	Ruka Truong '25
Lead Photographer: Liam O'Toole '22	Sophie LeBlanc '25	Samara Valencia '25
Lead Reporter: Hadjar Yousfi '24	Jessica Li '25	Divina Wembi '23

for additional credit, and they were able to interact with students from different schools across the state, with several MHS students winning awards for their participation.

"My favorite part of the simulation was the final stage where students worked together to draft

resolutions. They did a great job bringing their assigned countries' interests into the resolution writing process and collaborating with students from other classes," Belfer said.

Overall, the simulations went great. The students gave

opening remarks for their own nations, debated educational inequalities throughout the world and collaborated to create UN-style resolutions to solve the global community's concerns.



Graphic By Fatima Dahbani.

The Lost Years: Middle School Graduation to Freshman Orientation

Daniel O'Toole
Lead Reporter

Returning to the building should have felt nostalgic, and I would remember our graduation party and the field trip to Canobie Lake Park that I'd been waiting for since sixth grade. Instead, I think about that last day before we left for the short two week break which would eliminate the risk of this "COVID" thing. As we all know, two weeks became a month, which lasted until June, which didn't end until just before the end of last year around March.

That day felt like a dream; it couldn't be what was actually happening. I looked at my phone during the last recess time I'd ever had, to see that the NBA player Rudy Gobert, who had made fun of COVID-19 at the end of his press conference in March 2020, tested positive for the virus and infected his teammate Donovan Mitchell, too.

This was coming off from the night before, when NBA Commissioner Adam Silver canceled the Utah Jazz at Oklahoma City Thunder game due to a belief that someone on either team tested positive for COVID-19. Later that night, the league announced that the season will be suspending play until further notice.

Everyone was confused and worrying about what could happen to us. Vice Principal Kevin Kilbride came into my history class that day and we asked him questions about COVID and what would happen if students tested positive. He didn't have a clear answer at the time, nobody did. This was going to be an experience that wrecked millions of lives.

Hours after we got home, everyone received the call from the school system saying that in order to protect everyone against the rising threat of COVID, we would be taking a short two week break. It

didn't seem bad at first. Just a quick two week break in March and then we would return back to school and take MCAS, finals and then we would participate in all of our graduation events.

That never happened.

The country entered a global pandemic and everything was shut down. We all became isolated from each other, the people we went to school with, the faces that would pass by in the halls, all of it was gone. My parents soon rushed to

the grocery store to grab everything and anything they could for food because we didn't know how long we'd have to be inside our homes.

By the middle of April, the school found a way to keep everyone active and the teachers were holding optional google meets. It was nice to see the teachers again. Seeing their different backgrounds along with everyone else's, though it didn't feel like we were having face-to-face conversations.

When I heard of the

opportunity earlier this year that we could drop off newspapers to the middle schools, I jumped at the chance that I would be able to see my old teachers and step foot in the school that I hadn't been to in about one and a half years. It was very surreal at first, since I was finally back to the school I attended since I was five years old. Now I'm 16 and almost done with my sophomore year of high school.

Continued on Page 5

April Trivia!

We at the Blue and Gold have put together 10 Malden related trivia questions for you to answer! Good luck!

1. Why is Nedlam a lion?

2. Which NFL player attended Malden High?

3. How old is the Blue and Gold?

4. Who was the principal before Mr. Mastrangelo?

5. Which teacher won the national teacher of the year award?

6. Which stairwell are students not allowed to pass through?

7. What used to be on the fifth floor?

8. What is located in the basement of the school?

9. What animal used to roam around Malden High in 2018/2019?

10. Which middle school is the largest?



From the Editor's Desk:

On Recent Events

The feeling in your chest when a cop walks into your school with a hand on his gun is irreplicable. Your heart sinks into your stomach and races faster than it ever has before. In the past, there have been a number of threats of violence against our school, but for as long as any of us seniors can remember, there has never been a time when one of those threats was actually acted on.

However, that all changed on Thursday, April 7th, 2022. Malden High School held its breath for nearly an hour, going into lockdown after a violent act occurred in the school and a student was injured.

Students were in classrooms or the lunchroom with doors locked, teachers paced and whispered into their walkie-talkies, the lights from an ambulance flashed through the windows and everyone was stuck in a state of oblivion as to what was going on.

With most people having access to phones and technology, it was not long before most students had a general idea of what had happened, but that did not stop the feelings of anxiety and fear that coursed through us. Messages from group chats began popping up as people checked in with their friends. "Is everyone okay?" "What is going on?"

After the incident, there was a noticeable shift within the school. The event that occurred that day shook many students, but nothing was as disturbing as the response we observed from the student body. The laughter, the gossiping and the eagerness that came

as people watched a peer be wheeled out on a stretcher was disgusting.

We've been back in person for over a year, when are we going to stop making excuses over the lack of maturity permeating the student body and blaming it on quarantine? Where do we draw the line?

While a number of students were concerned with the safety of the students involved and the mental state of the school, others continued to share a video of the incident, making a joke out of it and taking away from the severity of the situation. Some even went as far as lying about their age and grade level to simply be on the news and gain their 15 seconds of fame, inserting themselves into a horrifying occurrence in a sad plea for attention.

As high school journalists, we value integrity, honesty and morality in our reporting. Yet, local news outlets stood outside the main entrance, waiting for students to exit in order to get interviews with minors who had just undergone a traumatic experience, seemingly without regard for the students' mental states.

With all the issues that have gone on this year, from skipping classes to the issues plaguing the bathrooms, it is almost unsurprising that it has escalated to this level. There has definitely been a huge shift in school culture from when we were freshmen in 2018. While we were far from perfect, none of us remember any problems as egregious as some of the incidents we've witnessed this year. Even just the lack of basic empathy and respect toward others students as well as teachers is exhausting to watch.

Students continue to skip class,

with Principal Mastrangelo having to remind kids in the morning that when the bell rings, they have to go to class. Is this elementary school? Why do some students need to be reminded to go to class? The faculty shouldn't have to be babysitting students, yet it has become a necessity at this point. It should not be the responsibility of teachers to chase students down to do their homework or attend class when they should be fully capable of doing so on their own.

We hear that people want to make the transition back to how things were before, but as we continue to blame misconduct on COVID and justify bad behavior, these behaviors become the new normal. At this rate, in a few years, there will be more students in the hallways than in classrooms, more students failing from their absences rather than their academic shortcomings, and a decrease in school spirit. Malden High used to be a place where education was a priority, students were welcoming, and teachers were respected, but the current culture is a terrible representation of who we are as a student body.

As we prepare to leave this school in just a few short weeks, we can only hope that the culture in the building will shift and return back to the Malden High School that we know and love. A school where students can feel safe walking down the halls, where compassion and empathy exist, and where community is valued.

The Blue and Gold Editorial Staff

Follow Us on Social Media!



@theblueandgold
@_humansofmhs



@MHSBlueandGold



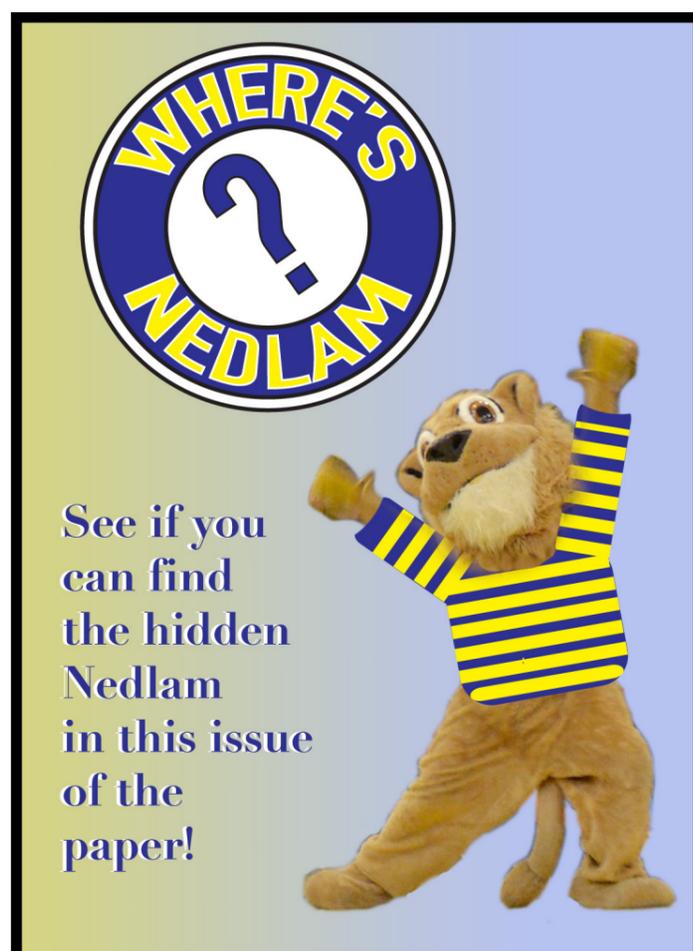
@maldenblueandgold



The Blue and Gold



The Malden
Blue and Gold



Editorial Policy

The Blue and Gold is an open forum for student expression. It is produced by students for the school and the community. The views presented in this paper are not necessarily those of the advisor or the school administration. The views presented in the editorials are those of the editors-in-chief or guests. The goal of *The Blue and Gold* is to inform and entertain students as well as the community regarding issues that we feel are important.

We strongly encourage readers to respond to material printed in the form of signed letters to the editors. No libelous, malicious, defamatory, obscene, or unsigned material will be printed. *The Blue and Gold* reserves the right to edit the letters. Names may be withheld upon request. Not all letters will be printed.

Although *The Blue and Gold* appreciates the support of advertisers, we may refuse any advertisement that violates the above policy or that promotes products questionable to student use.

Any correspondence concerning this publication should be directed to Mr. Ryan Gallagher's room in J387 or to his mailbox in the main office.

The Blue and Gold
c/o Malden High School
77 Salem Street
Malden, MA 02148

Op-Ed: Hypocrisy in Media Coverage

Brandon Wong

On February 24th, 2022, Russia launched an internationally condemned act of aggression against Ukraine. This act of aggression came as what Putin called a “special military operation” to “demilitarize and denazify” Ukraine, with both airstrikes and land invasions occurring shortly after his announcement. As of the writing of this editorial, international news agency Reuters reports that roughly 24,000 people have died since the invasion occurred nearly two months ago, with 11 million displaced by the conflict and 1.8 thousand buildings destroyed, causing \$568 billion in property damage.

Russia has never formally declared war against Ukraine, but that is precisely what this is—a war. Ukrainian refugees flood European borders, entering neighboring countries like Poland, Romania, Moldova, Hungary, and Slovakia, displacing millions of refugees. Social Media such as Instagram flood its users’ feeds with stories of families forced to separate, separated at the border of their neighboring country with the hope of their children finding peace. My Instagram page is filled with reels of Ukrainian citizens rallying together in Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, to raise their spirits through a concert.

The world rallies in support of Ukraine’s fight against Russian tyranny. Countries around the world launched sanctions against Russia in hopes that it ends their war on Ukraine due to a crippled economy. Six hundred companies such as Apple, Dell, HP, and McDonald’s have suspended their services and operations in Russia. As I write this editorial, Grammarly asks me to support the people of Ukraine’s resistance against Russia. My PayPal prompts for my donations towards Ukrainian refugees, waving their standard transaction fee if I do so. As I walk down Boston Common, protesters line its edges, asking for an end to the war in Ukraine. The world rallies itself around Ukraine, asking for a stop to the invasion by Russia.

Though my heart and support go to the Ukrainian people, I have to ask. Where was this level of support for the rights of all people when Israel illegally and militarily occupied Palestine?

Since the founding of the state of Israel and the Nakba of Palestinians or loss of historic Palestine to the Zionists, the tragedy of Palestine is a stain on the conscience of humanity, relations have been strained due to both peoples being promised the land of Palestine by Lord Balfour in his infamous Balfour Declaration of 1917 in which a European western colonial power, promised a second European people the Zionists a land that belonged to a third people, the natives or Palestinians. The Allied powers post World War I, divided the Middle East in a famous treaty leaked after the Bolshevik Revolution called Sykes-Picot, the original sin and crime against the peoples of the Orient. According to TRT world, Israel has roughly 170 thousand active military personnel while Palestine has roughly 30 to 50 thousand troops.

In 2021, Hamas launched 3440 homemade rockets on Israeli targets in retaliation for the Sheik Jarrah ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from their homes in occupied East Jerusalem, killing 10 people. Most of the rockets were intercepted by Israel’s missile defense system known as the Iron Dome. Israel responds by launching 15 hundred airstrikes on Palestine. This event barely made a blip on my social media feed for about 3 days

before it was buried under the never-ending feed Instagram provides me. 200 people died under the airstrike. I don’t remember seeing Grammarly asking for me to stand with Palestine. I don’t remember seeing a donation page for the people who became disabled following the strike on my Paypal. PayPal went as far as to deny Palestinians access to their services in Palestine while allowing Isreal citizens continued access to their products. Why is that?

In 1967 Israel launched a surprise preemptive attack on Egypt, Syria and Jordan expanding, militarily occupying the West Bank and several other regions including the Golan Heights. The West Bank was previously a land given to Palestine. Israel civilians began moving into the West Bank without any permission from the government, however, were reeled in by the United Nations who stated that the settlements had “no legal validity and constitute a serious obstruction to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the middle east” in UN resolution 446. Despite this, growing public and political support for Israel’s expansion into the West Bank grew with permits being granted by the Israeli government to build in the West Bank. A network of roads was built, connecting parts of the West Bank directly to Israel as Israel slowly encroaches upon Palestinian land. These practices continue. There was global condemnation of Israel for its expansion in 1967. Why isn’t there any today? I don’t remember Grammarly asking me to stand with Palestine. I don’t remember any company condemning Israel’s airstrike the same way they did with Russia and Ukraine. Although the world’s citizens condoned Israel’s airstrikes on Palestine, our government did not.

As the world focuses their attention on Ukraine and Russia, Israeli soldiers shot dead anti-settlement lawyer Mohammed Assaf when he watched Isreali soldiers disperse deadly Arab attacks in Israel. His death occurred in the West Bank. Undercover Isreali forces shot, injured and arrested a Palestinian young man outside of Khaduri University in the West Bank. Why were Isreali forces in the West Bank when the West Bank is Palistian land? Why do news publications such as CNN and the Washington Post put out live news update in the situation in Ukraine when the death of Mohammed Assaf and the arrest of a Palestinian young man outside of Khaduri University both occurred in the same day, April 13, 2022. Just 3 days previously, Israel occupation forces shot dead 21 year old Mohammad Ghnaim in Al Khadir village and Ghada Sbatin, a mother of 6, was killed by Isreali occupation forces near the village of Husan. Why is there a live news update for Ukraine and not Palestine when Isreali occupation forces illegally invaded Palestine, killing civilians along the way.

I don’t understand why there is such a difference between how our media covers the 2 conflicts. At the end of the day, this is a human rights issue. People are dying. People are suffering. Their loved ones are being forced away from their homes as airstrikes rain down on them. Children have to say goodbye to their mothers and fathers who were killed by Isreali occupation forces. Civilians are being kidnapped by Isreali undercover forces. Two governments are illegally taking over another’s land and yet why is there such a difference in the coverage of both cases in the media. Why are we deafening the cries of one group of people while giving a megaphone to another?

The Lost Years: Middle School Graduation to Freshman Orientation

Hadjar Yousfi
Lead Reporter

Going back to our middle school for the first time since the pandemic was certainly a moment to never forget. Not just walking or driving past it. But stepping through the front door, as though you still attended. As though you had never left.

Those feelings were especially strong as we walked through the building, which now seemed a complete mess, with the classrooms moved around and the walls freshly painted. Standing there, looking around the now small-to-me building that used to feel so large, made the world feel so different.

As if we were stuck as our eighth-grade selves, while the world continued to change around us. As everything we had ever known had changed, even we had. But when you stand in a place you are so used to and that you could never seem to let go of everything somehow seems to come flooding back.

Being a high school student two years later is certainly a new feeling. We grew up in a small building down the street, and now we are in a huge building with over 400 students in our grade. Yet, we will always be those same middle schoolers when we step back into that building because we never really got to say goodbye.

Seeing our classmates in the hallways of this new school has not felt the same. You see people, some of whom you haven’t talked to since 8th grade, and now in 10th grade, it feels as though they are not the same people. Not even close. Seeing your old classmates with new classmates is like turning over a leaf.

Entering high school should have been something to remember. I should have remembered having the honorary walk down the huge staircase of my school. I should have remembered all of our end-of-the-year activities. And the thing that pains me the most is that I don’t remember my first day of high school. It was all just a blur. One Google Meet after another for months.

The leap of transition towards high school should’ve been flipped over slowly with the guidance and help of others in your life, and yet. Instead, that leaf was ripped out by a storm that came out of nowhere. Though it’s still tough to adjust now, even two years later. But I hope when I’m older I’ll be able to look back at the pandemic as something that I had grown from.

PISA PIZZA
781-397-7777
133 Pearl Street
Malden, MA 02148
Joseph Crowley, Owner
Cell: 617-943-7105
joe@pisapizzamalden.com
www.PisaPizzaMalden.com See us on facebook

Levent
Restaurant
12 Pleasant St. Malden, MA 02148
781 605 1863
FAMILY OWNED MEDITERRANEAN CUISINE

STUDENTS ADVOCATE FOR MORE LANGUAGES AT MALDEN HIGH SCHOOL

Hadjar Yousfi
Lead Reporter

It is no secret that schools in the United States tend to teach Romance languages, or Latin-derived languages. Did you know that as of 2017, only 15.56% of language programs in the USA are not Latin-derived? When it comes to Malden High School, which currently only offers Spanish, French, Italian and American Sign Language (ASL), a new group of students are arguing that this needs to change.

Around 74.5% of Malden High School's students are non-white, are the children of, or are themselves, immigrants. So, it is not exactly uncommon to hear people talking in their native languages in the hallways, but why are none of these non-Latin-derived languages taught at Malden High?

Chinese Mandarin was once offered at Malden High but ended up being dropped shortly after due to enrollment issues. Sharon Kalagher, Teacher Leader of the World Languages Department, explained that at the time, "we needed to introduce Chinese for heritage speakers," and she noted that many people now would also like to learn Chinese more in-depth and connect with their roots.

For many years now, the World Language department has been trying to advocate for new

languages to be made available. Only this year have they begun to offer ASL. Kalagher described that she feels Malden is a district where things only happen when the parents become involved, and unfortunately in Malden "parents don't get involved very much, which is too bad, because I believe that if they did, it would change," she explained.

With the same goal as the language department in mind, a group of students, the MHS World Language Association, have started to advocate for the addition of new languages at the high school as well. They are currently advocating for Arabic, Chinese and Portuguese. The group consists of sophomore Jun Li, junior Jason Chen, freshman Stephanie Wong, junior Allison Yu and sophomore Nick Duggan.

For the past three months, they have been developing a way for students' voices to be heard higher up on the ladder so that the district may work towards adding more diversity in the language department.

According to Li, they first came up with the decision to advocate for Arabic, Chinese and Portuguese after "judging population and ethnicity charts for the data of Malden High." With this information, they were able to settle on these three languages.

Malden High Introduces Seal of Biliteracy Award

Julie Huynh
Editor-in-Chief

The Malden Public Schools district is piloting the MA Seal of Biliteracy award for Malden High School juniors and seniors this spring.

The Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy was established under the LOOK Act of 2017 and is administered by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

According to the Massachusetts DOE's website, "The Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy is an award provided by state-approved public schools and districts that recognizes high school graduates who attain high functional and academic levels of proficiency in English and one or more other world languages by high school graduation. The State Seal of Biliteracy takes the form of an insignia that appears on the transcript and/or diploma of the graduate."

Since the seal's establishment,

Director of School Counseling and Testing Erin Craven has been working on bringing it to the high school, but the start of the pandemic in 2020 put a halt on their progress. This year, she is working with the Director of World Languages & Fine Arts, Diane Brookes, to finally offer the unique opportunity to juniors and seniors.

The school will pilot the project in six languages: Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, Mandarin and Haitian Creole. Craven expressed that the goal will be to expand this list to include any and all interested languages by 2023.

Craven explained that in coming years, they would like to offer the seal to all underclassmen, focusing on sophomores and juniors, with the idea that the award would be achieved by senior year.

There were changes made to the award requirements for the Class of 2022 seniors this year, as many would not have been able to take the required ELA MCAS due to the pandemic. Legislation passed in



Advocating for more languages poster distributed around the high school.

As of right now, this group of students have set up a Google Form with a few questions that students can answer about their preferences. You can access it here or by scanning the QR code above from their poster.

These posters can be found all over the high school, one code takes you to the Google Form while the other one takes you to their petition on Change.org.

Eventually, when they have gathered enough responses, the results will be given to Principal Christopher Mastrangelo to hopefully further this project and see results for next year.

History teacher Amine Yakine expressed his thoughts about the discussion of new languages being taught at the high school. "I think

that Americans should definitely devote themselves to learn more, not only about Mandarin, and Cantonese, but also about Chinese culture, history and civilization," he explained. Yakine said that this is why he so strongly supports Li and his friend's decision to advocate for this movement. "So I applaud him, I encourage him, and I fully support him," he stated proudly.

The advocacy group believes that with more students coming to the United States every year, expanding the language curriculum can fit the needs and the population of Malden's students. This is why they think it is so important to sign petitions, reach out and spread the word.

December which now allows 2022 graduates who earn the modified competency determination (scoring at least "meeting expectations" on the MCAS) in ELA to also satisfy the English language criteria for the award.

The State Seal aims to encourage students to study another language, provide universities and employers with a method of identifying people with language and biliteracy skills and prepare students with a skill that will benefit them in global society.

"I think utilizing the seal of biliteracy as a formal recognition for students' capacity to communicate in multiple languages is a good way for MPS to show students and families that communicating in

multiple languages is a great skill, both in school and in life," stated Craven.

The deadline to register for the test was March 11th, and it will take place on April 27th during Flex block. This opportunity will be offered once again in spring 2023 and for years to come.



Seal of Biliteracy logo courtesy of the Massachusetts Seal of Biliteracy website.

Malden High's Mock Trial Team Concludes Their Season

Course Selections Held in Gallery

Joy Lugo Morales
Lead Reporter

Karen Rivera
Managing Editor

Lauren Mallett
Editor-in-Chief

After many months of preparation and three rounds of performance, the Malden High Mock Trial team has finished their 2021-2022 competition season.

The team did not make it past the preliminary rounds this season, winning two of the three trials they competed in. The first of which was against Methuen High, who they beat 96-82. After that was Pioneer Valley Performing Arts, which resulted in a score of 74-85, then the final trial against Thayer Academy, ending the season with a score of 83-82.

Looking back on previous seasons, advisor Richard Tivnan noted his pride in the team. "I got a little spoiled a couple of years ago. We went on a little run where we would go to the regional tournament every year; we would win all the preliminary trials and we made it to the final 16 in the state. That is always my goal, but where we are at now compared to where we were last year, I am thrilled with how it went, to win two out of three, especially against two private schools."

For senior Captain Armani Dure, this year was different. "My first year of Mock Trial, we had a civil case...and then the year after that we had a [case, but] it wasn't official: it wasn't given by the Massachusetts Bar Association, it was an independent person because COVID was happening, so this is my first year doing an actual criminal case from the Mass. Bar Association."

The team started preparing for the competition back in September of 2021 by teaching the new members all the rules of Mock Trial.

"I think we probably had one of the better years, if not the best year, of the new members picking it up very quickly. It is a lot to learn, there are a lot of different rules, procedures and all that stuff, but the new ones really picked up on it quickly," Tivnan stated. He continued on by saying, "there is still obviously a lot of work to do, it takes years to learn how to do it, but with the new ones coming in, it was better than expected."

Dure's primary goal for this year was to set the team up for success in the coming years. "I wanted to ensure that the sophomores we have would be able to come back and teach the younger people how to conduct themselves in a way that would ensure that we would get further in the tournament, and basically rebuild the team to a point where we could reach the top 16 in the state like we did a couple of years ago."

Each member played a key role in the trial. "Yasmine, Christelle and Emma went toe to toe with the witnesses, they were awesome. After all the arguments are written and the questions are written and the rules are understood, it does become a performance. You kind of have to deliver it and make it look real and those kids did a really nice job on that," Tivnan said.

Tivnan felt that "the results were better than I thought, especially after the last two years with COVID. Last year was a total disaster. They did everything they had to do, but we didn't have enough people."

"Last year we had a lot of seniors leave, like Tonijoy Pimental and Jason Ashworth, and it was kind of hard. I was kind of scared going into this year because we

didn't know how many people we were gonna get and how hard we were gonna have to work to catch everyone up," Dure said. "I think that the sophomores that we got this year were very confident in the way they acted and they honestly went above my expectations and they performed at a level that I did not expect from them and, to be honest, were better than when I was a sophomore myself."

Dure added that the team was "scattered" last year. "We had only a handful of people to perform and it made things very, very difficult to get everyone together. We had to pull in a lot of people from previous years who technically were not in the class to help out, and then this year again recovering from the fact that we had so few people was difficult in its own way."

Overall, Tivnan feels good about the team's performance this year. "There was a lot to learn and they did great. I'm looking forward to the future."

Dure has a similar sentiment: "I'm proud of them. I didn't know what to expect coming in so seeing everyone grow along the way and get better with objections and refine their performance...it was very warm to see everyone do their own thing and get better at their own performance...I think overall the team is in really good hands and I'm really excited to come back in the next couple of years and see these sophomores be seniors and try to get us further on in the competition, maybe to a spot that I personally haven't seen."

Applications for the 2022-2023 school year have closed.

Course selections have started up. Malden High School counselors began the process of calling students down to the gallery to help them pick out their courses for next year.

During course selection, students choose what classes they will be enrolled in for the next school year. There are many interesting courses and electives that students can choose from. If they pick something that they end up not liking, students have the option to change the course by talking to their counselor within the first two weeks of the next school year.

Course selections used to be held in offices. Some students did not particularly like the arrangement due to the massive lines and the long wait times. Due to the amount of difficulty with choosing courses in the offices, many students decided not to go and, as a result, ended up with classes that they did not want. Now that course selections are being held at the gallery, a lot of students and counselors seem to enjoy it more than the offices. "I enjoy this a lot because this is my second year doing the course selections, so it's nice to have some of my colleagues here together to bounce some ideas off of. Plus, it's just a beautiful space with a lot of natural light so I enjoy meeting with all the students in-person here," Guidance Counselor Jessalyn Brown explained.

On the other hand, some people were not so sure about having course selections in such a public area.

"I mean it is more spacious than having it in the office, but again I feel like people can overhear... my business, but I'm fine with it," Junior Hilda Chacon said. She feels like privacy could also be an issue for some people. Due to the amount of space the gallery offers, it allows more students to be in one space at the same time, which could make some people feel uneasy about talking about their course preferences.

Junior Joanne Tang disagreed with this because she says "I am pretty sure everyone is focused on their own thing so I wasn't worried about that." She also stated that being in the offices was harder because it was harder to think about what courses you wanted to take. Not only is the gallery way more spacious than an office, but it also makes students feel a little more comfortable and free in their choices and it has a very nice view that can be seen through the windows.

With students still heading into the gallery all this week, hopefully everyone can find a class that is perfectly catered to their preferences.



2021-2022 Mock Trial Team. Photo submitted by James Valente.

A MARVEL-IOUS NIGHT WITH THE CLASS OF 2023

Continued from page 1.

Carlos Aragon
Editor-in-Chief of Print

With a lightning-fast turnaround and a lack of fanfare that rivaled pre-pandemic levels, many upperclassmen were curious as to how the Class of 2023 would fare hosting their Junior Varieties with most underclassmen still lacking an understanding of the time-honored tradition. With the odds stacked against them, the Class of 2023 successfully hosted their Junior Varieties on March 11th and March 12th.

The show opened with a news report telling the audience that a villain was scheming to ruin Junior Varieties. The villain was revealed to be Loki (played by junior Peyton Lightbody). The heroes, Spider-Man (Mak O'Brien) and Iron Man (Saura Rathore) jump onto the stage before introducing Senior Yusra Tafraoui (who many students know from Gypsy back in December), who sang "Feeling Good" followed by performers Kiana Tse and Nashalyn Rubert who did a hip hop dance.

The heroes continued to search for clues in an attempt to find out which villain was plotting to ruin JV's, while the Class of '23 President Kyle Lee confirmed reports of a villain lurking on school grounds, followed by Giselle Dessert, Saniah Charles, Taisha Balan, Soleil Mathurin and Erikah Macharia in an Afro-Caribbean dance mix. The group's moves were met with incredibly loud cheers from the crowd.

Afterward, the heroes ran into Aquaman in a comedic exchange before introducing senior Nicholas Ramos, who sang "Die for You" by The Weeknd. Ramos stated that he was nervous because this was his first JV's ever. While Ramos had previously gone up on the stage in Gypsy back in November, he still felt intimidated by the crowd. "During opening night, there were a lot of people... I almost blacked out for a moment, but after breathing in and out I performed the song easily."

After Ramos' performance, the heroes discover that Loki had attempted to foil the show by replacing the microphones with faulty ones, followed by juniors Alyssa Littlejohn and Liam Bloom performing a piano and electric guitar rendition of "A Mad Russian's Christmas." Once the duo wrapped up their festive classical-rock blend, Loki came onto the stage, taunting the audience, and was promptly met with boos, followed by the heroes introducing senior Melissa Calixte, who performed an original rap.

Calixte had previously rapped at JV's back in 2020, and she writes songs recreationally. "I already

wrote a song to that beat, but I had to clean it up a little bit... I was just walking one day and I was thinking about the beat, and the words just came to me."

Once Calixte wrapped up, a mysterious "creature" was spotted at McDonald's stadium before sophomore Matthew Castano performed Chopin's "Winter Wind." Afterward, senior Roxane Leon went on stage to perform a contemporary dance to the tune of "Try A Little Tenderness" by Otis Redding. After Leon's dance, the heroes accidentally ingested a poisoned cup of water, rushing off stage, allowing for an ensemble to perform the earworm "We Don't Talk About Bruno" from Encanto.

After Bruno, the last act before the intermission was the Jazzy Lunch Table's improv jazz piece. Senior and Band Member Donald Ford stated that the act came naturally for the quartet, composed of Ford, Kaique Gomez, Joao Bereta and Finn Sedan. "It was really easy... everyone had a good understanding of music theory and knew how to connect their instruments to the other instruments... we all knew how to put it together and make music."

The quartet would often play in band teacher Erin Mazza's room which is how they realized their musical chemistry. "When we would play in Mazza's room, she told us that we sounded really professional, [even though] what we were playing was made up two seconds ago... once we learned we could do that, we decided to do it for JV's."

Once the Jazzy Lunch Table wrapped up Act 1, the step team started off Act 2 with a bang. Senior Captain Micaela Henry stated that she and Myrvline Gilles came up with the steps, with the performance this year also carrying oversteps from last year. "We had steps from generations before and steps from previous generations... we put our minds together." The team was adorned with outfits featuring Killmonger and T'Challa from Black Panther to go with the Marvel theme.

After the step team finished their routine, the heroes realized that Thanos may be working with Loki to ruin the show. Even so, the show went on with junior Mindy Nguyen singing "I Don't Wanna Be You Anymore" by Billie Eilish and dueting Christina Aguilera's "A Thousand Years" alongside freshman Kimberlee Smith. In between the songs, Alyssa Littlejohn played Schubert's "Drei

Klavierstücke D. 946 No. 1."

Littlejohn's third and final act of the night was alongside junior Michelle Dang, for "Stay" by Rihanna. Afterward, Smith returned to sing "Till Forever Falls Apart" by Ashe.

Before the final act, Loki tells the audience about how much they wanted to be on Broadway, but they were rejected. The heroes empathize with Loki and allow them to introduce the final act, which was junior Juliana Luong dancing to "Never Thought You'd Leave In Summer."

In the final scene of the show, the heroes and Loki reconcile and Thanos, played by Principal Christopher Mastrangelo, makes his much-anticipated performance, reciting the motto MHS students know all too well: "You are not alone," before snapping his fingers to end the show.

Class of 2023 Advisor Michael Lightbody stated that this year differed from other years in the fact that the auditions started much later than usual. "Normally, we probably would've started earlier in December, but I think that with the help of the joy block... that helped a lot."

O'Brien's performance as Spider-Man was instrumental to the plot of the show, however, the story behind it is quite simple. He stated that "everyone just told me that 'you're the awkward white man of the group, why don't you play Spider-Man'" and I said "okay!" O'Brien added that he had a lot of fun running around the auditorium. "I feel like it fits my personality... It was so fun to play."

Class of '23 Treasurer Allison Yu admitted that there were a lot of rumors regarding the show's quality. "I think we really pulled through... originally rehearsals and the process of getting the show going weren't doing the best, but once everybody started putting in their time we really gained confidence."

O'Brien added that "everything felt

very jumbled at first... it was hard for us to get the hang of it because it was happening so fast." Despite this, he feels that the show turned out to be "chaotic in the best way possible."

O'Brien said that the group discussed postponing JV's in order to help with the initial confusion and difficulties with rehearsals, but decided against it for the sake of the freshman and sophomores. "I think they would've been more confused as time went on."

When asked about his performance as the Mad Titan, Mastrangelo simply stated that when he heard about the Marvel theme, he knew somebody would come his way, even if he personally does not see the resemblance. "The greatest strength somebody can have is the ability to laugh at themselves."

The Class of 2023's Junior Varieties was a great success, selling a little over 600 tickets across both nights and setting high expectations for the Class of 2024 to meet.



All photos by Chaimaa Assli.



Seniors on the 2022 College Admissions Process

Julie Huynh
Editor in Chief

After seeing the Class of 2020 and 2021 lose so much of their high school experience, this year's seniors thought they were in the clear. With a return to in-person learning and the lifting of the mask mandate, the Class of 2022 were thrilled to be back at Malden High School and ready to conquer their senior year.

As they worked diligently on their college applications with counselors and advisors, many had high hopes for where they would attend college in the fall. Unfortunately, no one could have predicted the astronomical rise in college applications and the consequent decrease in acceptance rates.

For instance, Northeastern University received over 91,000 applications (compared to last year's 75,000) and admitted approximately 6,000, making their acceptance rate just 7%.

Similarly, Boston University had over 80,000 applicants this year with only 14% being admitted. Columbia's acceptance rate was a mere 3.73%, admitting 2,253 out of 60,377 applicants.

The reason for these numbers? While there has yet to be conclusive evidence, it is reasonable to say that schools going test-optional had some part in this year's acceptance numbers. With higher institutions allowing applicants to waive their test scores, more students were encouraged to apply to said schools, making the applicant pool more competitive.

Senior class Vice President Sarah Oliveira expressed that since so many students ended up applying to schools they normally would not have, it "ended up screwing over the students that should have been getting in without a problem."

"I feel like a lot of us were robbed of the chance this year to get into the schools that we should have gotten into," she stated.

Now, whether SAT scores should continue to be required for colleges is another debate. However, it is worth mentioning that MIT has announced they will reinstate SAT and ACT mandates for next year's applicants, making them the first prominent university to reverse a suspension of the requirement that was put in place because of the pandemic.

Another reason as to why the college admissions process was so competitive this year could be the over-admittance of students from last year's class. According to The Huntington News, last year, Northeastern had to renew and create new contracts with Boston hotels in order to accommodate their increase in first-year students.

Senior Leslie Rodriguez explained how she was admitted to Northeastern this year into their NU Bound program, where she would be living off-campus for her first year. Though this program was established in 2007, Rodriguez believes that more students than usual are being admitted into it because the school admitted too many students from previous classes, leaving less space for incoming first years.

Jana Elshafey, another senior, shared similar sentiments, "We are paying the consequences of [last year's issues] when we did absolutely nothing."

Senior Kayleen Denis brings up another disadvantage that the graduating seniors faced, "We didn't get the workshopping that we usually should get [during] junior year and we also were thrown into things like essays and financial aid forms without really knowing what they were."

The Class of 2022 experienced a majority of their junior year, arguably the most important year of high school, remotely. It was not until late second semester that the hybrid option became available. This made it harder for counselors

to administer time to prep juniors for the upcoming college application process before their senior year.

Denis described the process as being "tedious and annoying at times," adding that "I had to deal with hearing statistics being thrown my way and also wondering if college was even the right option considering how costs have skyrocketed and how my work ethic has completely depleted since COVID happened."

Originally, Oliveira would not have agreed that the Class of 2022 had any sort of disadvantage this year when it came to college applications. Each year, "everyone gets disappointed, that's just how college is. You can't expect to get into all of your schools."

However, after the last of decisions came out for most schools on April 1st, she said that the outcome was "incredibly unexpected."

"I think the majority of students were only getting into their safety schools or schools that had generally higher acceptance rates, and the schools that they considered to be targets, or strong candidates for... did not happen."

She continued, "It doesn't feel like there [was] a meticulous plan of who gets accepted and what [colleges] were looking for because these schools were rejecting students that were more than qualified... people with languages and extracurriculars and commitments that made them excellent candidates."

Aside from being class vice president, Oliveira holds leadership positions on the swim team and Science National Honors Society as well. She has high aspirations for herself and has shown it through her persistent commitment and dedication to extracurricular activities and in school.

"I tried really, really hard in school and got so disappointed along the way, that where I am now is never where I would have thought

I would end up." She said this in no means to downgrade where she ends up attending, just to express that she imagined herself choosing between entirely different schools.

Looking back, Elshafey wishes that she would have focused more on herself and less on schoolwork. "I think I sacrificed way too much time talking to my guidance counselors [and] forced into all these AP classes that I took for absolutely no reason, I just took them so I could be admitted into a good college, but I ended up with nothing..." she trailed off.

Oliveira joked that if anything, she wishes she had just been "born earlier" so she could have applied during another application cycle.

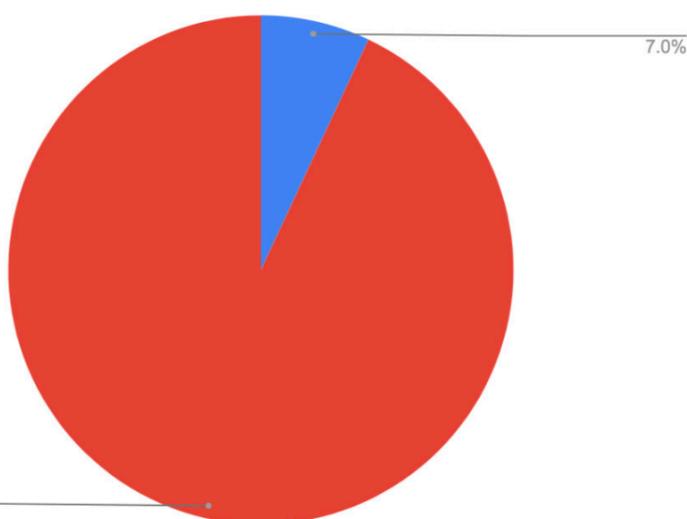
In all seriousness, Oliveira would have spent more time with her friends and had more fun in the past four years.

"You think that [getting into college] is what makes it all worth it. When, in reality, we were so disappointed that if this was the only thing you were working for, you feel like there's absolutely no point to life anymore because you're not where you thought you'd be.

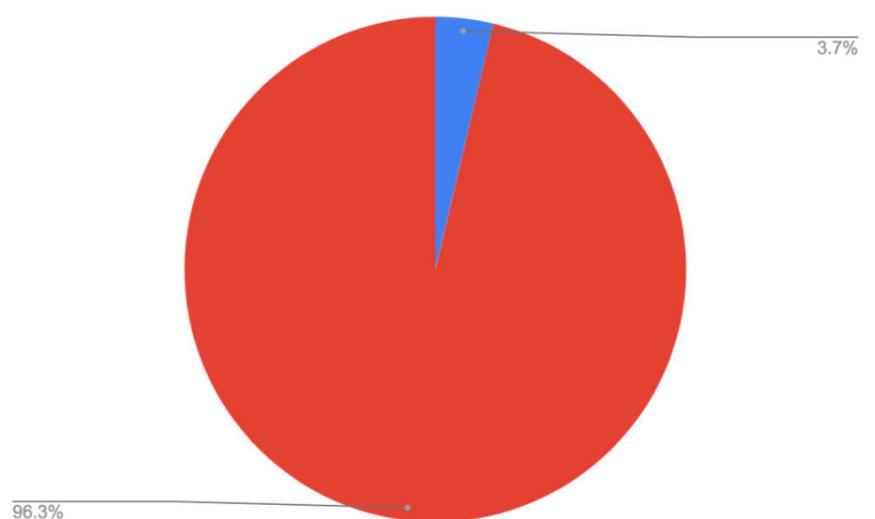
So, I do think that if I would have taken off the stress of a test or a quiz, and I didn't have my entire future riding on my shoulders... if I had just prioritized a little bit different now that I know that it's not just about college... I could have been a little bit happier, and less stressed, and enjoyed life more, and gone out to eat, and hung out with my friends, and watched a movie, instead of stressing about what now is so pointless."

The past few years have been tough for everyone, but especially for high schoolers that are still trying to navigate life in a world that is constantly changing. However, one thing remains constant and that is the perseverance and resilience that students across the world have demonstrated and continue to do so despite the obstacles thrown in their path.

NORTHEASTERN ADMISSIONS



COLUMBIA ADMISSIONS



Rejections in red, admissions in blue. Graphic by Carlos Aragon.

Play Production Class Hosts Student Scripted and Directed Play "Can You See Me?"

Juliana Luong
Head of Sports

The Play Production students at Malden High School (MHS) work hard each year to produce well-scripted and directed plays, with the help of class instructor Leanne DeRosa and MHS staff member Kayla Morello. However, "Can You See Me?" was a play created solely by the students themselves.

The student-run event was held during the Joy Flex Block, free of charge, and open to all students on March 21st.

The Play Production students originally brainstormed the topic of love, an idea students could relate to in many ways. The idea of "Can You See Me?" was introduced by senior member Yasmine Alayan, who worked on the concept, including the ghosts and graveyard setting.

The play is set in a graveyard, constructed together by Morello, and begins with the main character Daffy Robinson, played by Alayan, cleaning graves. The play continues when she meets ghosts who help her overcome her social fears and herself.

The play was titled "Can

You See Me?" after the line that had been repeated in the play itself. Not only was the play an astounding accomplishment for the hardworking students but a subject that all of the MHS student body could connect to.

Throughout the play, Daffy Robinson met different ghosts which helped her experience strong personalities different from her own. Alayan said "Daffy took them as weird... but they just understood being who you are is normal when everyone is doing it."

She added that "Daffy gets in her own way and by then it does not matter, to go to the party, to not go to the party, it was just more important that she finally saw herself."

"We get in our own way sometimes... we let ourselves... our thoughts distract us from the potential that we have." - Yasmine Alayan



Ketshaly Philome plays Ruby walking away from the crowd. Photo by Juliana Luong.

Main character, Daffy Robinson, played by Yasmine Alayan. Photo by Juliana Luong.

STUDENTS AND STAFF VOICE OPINIONS ON NEW PHONE POLICY

Continued from page 1

Biology teacher Michael Berman explained that cell phones are “definitely a problem,” adding that “I tell students on the first day of class that I’m also on my phone and it’s really important to learn how and when to use it appropriately and when not to use it and when it’s a distraction. And for a lot of kids in their freshman year—it’s really distracting.”

Lucia Musilli, an English teacher, who was also involved in the process of informing students about the policy, said “right now, the way I kind of interpret it and use it in my own classroom is that I give a warning out if I notice that there are students who are using it—even though it’s only... the second real full week where we’ve had it in place—I’ll say, ‘remember everybody, there’s a cell phone policy. You shouldn’t have your phones out’ and normally, I think kids respond right away and put it away. There are a few kids that might take it out again [but] I give them a second warning.”

She expressed mixed feelings about the policy, “as the policy states, we’re supposed to let the principal know in the moment, as it’s happening, and, I just—there’s too many students, too many needs to stop the class and refocus it around a behavioral issue that I think could be handled in the moment between teacher and student—especially in February because we’ve all established relationships with each other.”

“We know each other; I know my students. I know when they might be acting out or when they might be taking things too far. I don’t think that creating such a huge conflict and involving a third-party authority figure is necessary all the time.”

English Teacher Lucia Musilli

Musilli also mentioned that there is talk next year to ban the use of AirPods.

She believes the best approach would have been to implement it at the beginning of the year, “I feel like



Student on their phone during class. Photo by Joy Lugo Morales.

you can’t throw in a big mandate like that midyear for anyone.”

Berman brought up another idea, suggesting that products similar to the Yondr pouch - which locks in supplies for a set amount of time—be distributed, so kids could hold onto their phones but would not be able to access them until the end of the day.

“Or, if when they enter class, they can put their phone in the little thing on the door with a number so you know where your phone is,” he elaborated.

“I think for a lot of kids, it stresses them out not to have their phone and it supports them and their anxiety and, you know, it was just about not seeing their phone during the day,” Berman remarked.

“I think it’d be good to have something like that where it’s not just on the teacher to figure out what to do because currently, or at least before this new phone policy was enacted, it was just teacher discretion where some teachers were really loose with phones, and some teachers were really strict,” he continued.

Berman disclosed that the students reacted strongly. “Initially, they were really against it. Some of my classes were really upset and I was, like, ‘great. You should complain.’ You know, their voice matters.”

Having found out about it through his teacher, freshman Alex Van voiced his opinion: “It was very out of the blue, it was very random. I do not think that the cell phone policy [will] be effective. It isn’t reasonable.” Ly added that “in

today’s society, it’s like our personal stuff, it’s something that we need to have around. It makes us feel safe, and without it, it just makes us very self-aware of our surroundings.”

Senior Jasmine Luc also gave some perspective on what she thought about the situation, “I think that the policies are put in place because of the time spent being virtual. There’s such an issue with phones now because we were so used to being on our phones while being virtual, so now in class we have low attention spans and just want to be on our phones. I was a freshman before COVID happened, and I don’t remember it being such a problem.”

Another issue with this policy, from the seniors’ perspective, is that the policy fails to stay consistent. Sometimes it is enforced and sometimes it is not. Senior Sammi Nie believes “these policies will last but [will not] be enforced equally. They [will not] be removed but they will die out and come back at random times.”

She also finds that the school policies have gotten more harsh. “Even during freshman year



Jessica Li pretending to have her phone taken away. Photo by Joy Lugo Morales.

the seniors at the time had their privileges [of leaving the building] revoked, and now students and even teachers get yelled at because students do not have a hall pass in their hand.”

While the use of cell phones in school is undoubtedly an issue that grew within the past year, the manner in which it was handled by Malden High administration has created its own controversy. It begs the question of whether there will be more changes in the near future.

“At the very least, it’ll be good to have the students’ opinion on things like this in general because we are the ones directly affected by the problems of this school,” said Luc.

BATMAN MOVIE REVIEW

Gabriella Ilebode
Reporter

DC of Warner Bros recently released a new movie for their most popular superhero, Batman. By March 4th The Batman movie was released and became the second-highest-grossing film since the COVID-19 onset. Unlike other Batman movies, director Matt Reeves decided to take a different approach; it wasn't another traditional backstory. The movie is almost three hours long, which is approximately the length of other DC movies.

I was excited about this movie for a few reasons: Batman is my favorite DC superhero, and there hasn't been a Batman movie that I haven't enjoyed. I like some Batman movies over others, but overall I think the Batman franchise has been really great, and only seems to be getting better over time.

They made a big decision when it came to casting: originally Ben Affleck was casted as Batman in 2020, before the pandemic, but because the movie kept getting delayed, he decided he was no longer going to do it. So, instead, Robert Pattinson was cast, which created a lot of backlash. Even I was hesitant about their casting decision, not because I think he is a horrible actor, I just think it is harder for an actor to expand their career once they are known for something like Pattinson who starred in Twilight and Harry Potter.

But with all that in mind, I gave the movie a chance. I saw it on a Tuesday night and was

honestly excited: even though my expectations were kind of low going into it.

As soon as the movie started I was intrigued. I think that this was one of the best Batman movies, besides The Dark Knight, which came out in 2008. I felt that it gave a new look into the characters that we really haven't seen before.

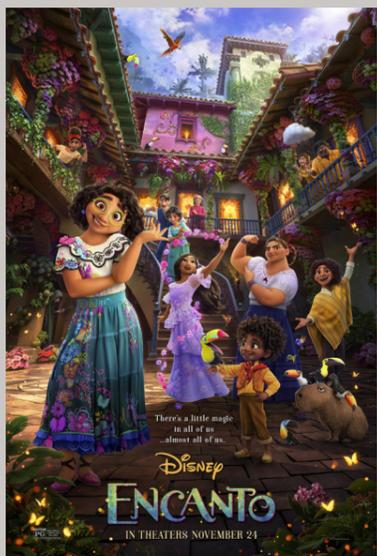
Usually, directors and screenwriters focus on the backstory of Batman and his relationship with the Joker, and hardly anyone else. But this time it was different. We got to see a side of Gotham that we really have not been able to see. It focused mostly on politics and how it is affecting the "new" villain- the Riddler. I think that they did a good job not just focusing on one specific plot, as he was working on multiple different things in the movie that were all interconnected to each other.

In the past, DC would make a Batman movie that would just focus on one specific issue and it would get kind of boring halfway through, while this movie was focused on a few different things. Catwoman had a pretty impactful but also discreet relationship in the movie. I thought that because she was shown in the trailer so much that she would be in the movie more, but really she wasn't seen much.

I definitely am excited to see what they do with the next movie; I know there will (very likely) be another movie because there are usually a few movies set when a new person is cast as a character.



Malden Public Library Plays Encanto for Family Movie Night



Ashton Calixte
Reporter

On Wednesday, March 30th, 2022, the Malden Public Library held its first in-person family movie night since the start of COVID-19, presenting the movie Encanto. The time of the screening was from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Encanto is about a family who lives in a village hidden in the mountains, a magical place that gifted the children of the family with extraordinary gifts. Everyone in the family except Mirabel receives

a gift, and throughout the movie, the young girl finds herself and learns about her family in the search for what makes her special like her family members.

The family movie night was for anyone interested in joining the community in this screening and it was free to watch. The movie is child friendly and rated PG.

Now that the Malden Public Library is starting up family movie nights, there can be more to expect

in the future.

"This event took a lot of time to get planned because of COVID-19 and we did not want anyone getting sick so we delayed family movie night for a while until everything died down a little bit," stated Jodie Zalk, co-founder of Malden Reads.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact the Malden Public Library at 781-324-0218 or email: info@maldenpubliclibrary.org.

A LOOK INTO MALDEN HIGH SCHOOL'S AUTOSHOP CLASS

Nora Hounain
Dorothy Michel
Gianna Lally
Reporters

Continued from page 1

"I give them a good course and teach them about safety, as far as industrial safety," said Bazzinotti. This is in the hopes that students will know what to do when they go out to work somewhere, whether that would be identifying areas that are wrong or being experienced in knowing how to act. "Some of the kids that have been in here that actually go off to the world of work are better served when they get there."

"So what I try to do is I try to put everybody at ease with those types of things. So they're not afraid to look at stuff. Some kids participate at such a level that they could actually move up and go to the intermediate level class and we're taking apart engines," he explained.

Bazzinotti gave an example about an orange truck that the class is working on. "The engine went bad. It's just an old truck, but the engine had a problem... We could do



Bazzinotti's old truck with a broken engine. Photo by Nora Hounain.

"I take my job personally. I love all my students."

- Chris Bazzinotti

all kinds of stuff to learn. But what I try to do is I try to keep it interesting, and I try to keep it informative, and I try to keep it a little humorous. I have a lot of experience because I was an auto technician at a Chevrolet dealer for a long time."

"I take my job personally. I love all my students, but at Malden High School, we're very lucky to still have the automotive program and it would be great to bring back a couple of other programs so we could get more kids involved," Bazzinotti explained, emphasizing the importance of hands-on classes.

During COVID and remote learning, Bazzinotti was not sure how he would run the auto shop course. However, he adapted quickly by figuring out a good system. What he would do was find specific cars that had problems with them, and the students would have to search up the model, when it was created and problems it would have, as well as other details.

"If there is a problem with those cars, all we have to do is type in the year of the model of the car and what the problems [were], and we can search on the web for problems that



To watch a video of the Auto Shop Class, scan this QR code:



exist with these vehicles," Bazzinotti said.

Senior Jordan Rodriguez, one of the students working in the auto shop, shared why he joined the auto

shop. "My interest in cars [grew from] dirt bikes so I have always had an interest in anything with a motor."

Rodriguez believed that

COVID caused a huge shift while working in the auto shop. "It definitely made a change in a way" because a lot of the students in the course, he noted, were "more hands-

Malden Celebrates Stop The Stigma Day



Ashton Calixte
Reporter

Stop the Stigma graphic design by Chaimaa Assli.

Is there anyone in your life that suffers from addiction? There are so many different ways a person can get addicted to substances. In this day and age, a person might face stigma and receive hate as a result.

Stop the Stigma Day at Malden Public Schools is held annually on March 9th. Stigma can be defined as having negative feelings and giving cruel opinions against groups of

people. Negative attitudes and judgment toward substance abuse and disorders are prevalent in the world today.

It is important to know that when someone is experiencing stigma, it can worsen the disorder they have and cause them to hide it from people. They can then end up avoiding looking for treatment because they feel guilty and

shameful, which is why Stop the Stigma Day was first created.

"It means bringing the community together to raise awareness and removing the stigma around addiction. Thanks to Malden Overcoming Addiction, this day plus all the other events they work on throughout the year have helped us battle the other pandemic known as substance use disorder," stated Mayor Gary Christenson.

He continued on by saying that if he met anyone who suffered from addiction, the first thing he would try to do is to "get them resources. One resource is putting them in touch with Malden Overcoming Addiction who in turn [will] their expertise and determination to get them the appropriate services."

If you are a victim of stigmatized substance abuse, the best option is to get help as soon as possible

because the sooner you get help, the better the outcome will be. According to HaveThatTalk on YouTube, there are four steps that will help to stop the stigma. For the people who do not suffer from these issues, try and follow these steps to not hurt others.

1) Think about how you feel about addictions and mental illness: are you biased and do you judge

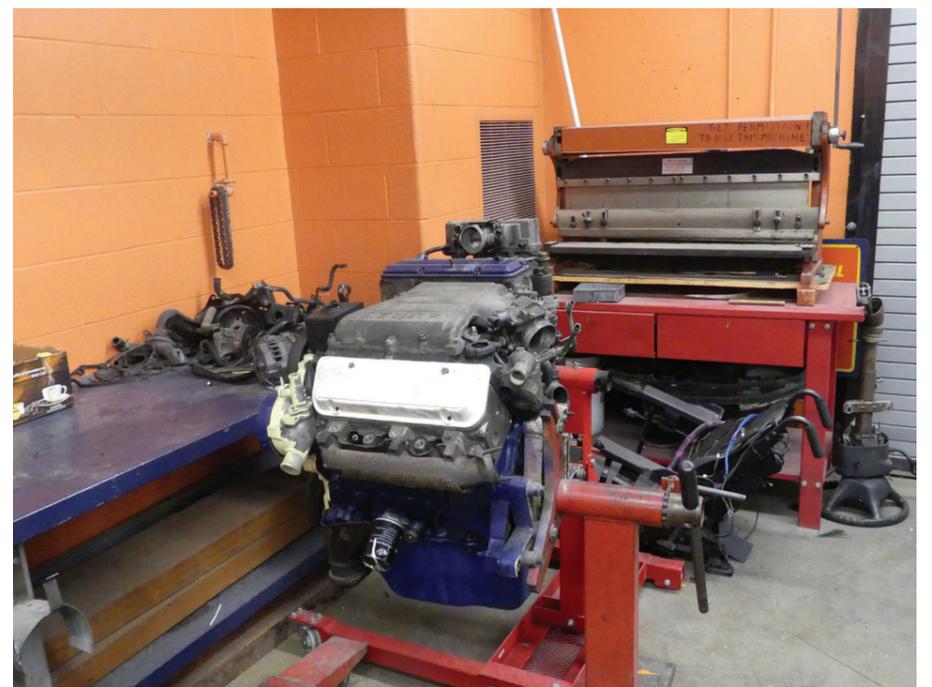
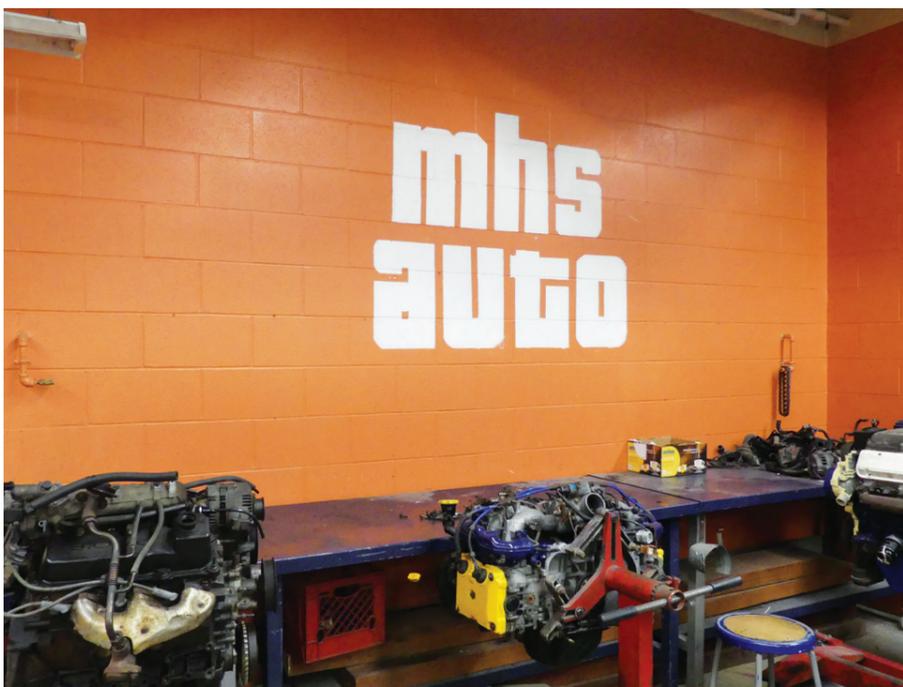
people?

2) Be careful with the words you are using and avoid using words that can hurt someone, try to avoid derogatory language.

3) Learn more about mental illnesses and learn what people can be going through with certain disorders that they have: that can show why they act the way they do.

4) Explore friendships with people with disorders or mental illnesses. You should not just think, "Oh they have an issue they are not going to be good friends" just because people go through certain struggles does not mean that they will not be a good friend. You will be surprised at how many genuinely good people there are Christenson's view on reducing stigma is to "continue to dedicate as many city resources as we can. For example, we now have a dedicated resource in Paul Hammersley working full-time for the city on this issue and there are also two part-time recovery coaches employed by our Health Department."

For people who are being targeted, the Mayor of Malden wants you to know, "Don't listen to it! There is hope, there are resources and you are important to our community." And for the ones doing the targeting, "We can all do a better job of decreasing stigma around drug addiction. We need to remember that it can happen to anyone in our circle of friends, family and acquaintances so we need to remain compassionate and kind."



From left to right: Auto shop sign in Bazzinotti's classroom; Engine from car in auto shop. Photos by Nora Hounain.

on." Senior Omar Abdalla, another student in the auto shop, said "I've always been interested in cars. I've been trying to get this class since freshman year but didn't get it until this year."

Another senior in the class,

David Higuera, shared, "As we did online repair orders, we got good at it. We got good on the technology side, but we were not learning the physical side. We did car repair orders online, and it was pretty good. We learned a lot, but I would definitely say it's easier to learn

while you're in the shop."

While talking about the environment the auto shop creates, Bazzinotti shared how "it's always kind of been like that." He expressed how "groups usually tend to work together and they make friends. Those kids all like to get along pretty

good and they form new friendships in those classes that last a lifetime. A lot of friendships get formed in this room. Once kids start talking to you, they are friendly and giggling. The next thing you know, a friendship forms."

TIA JOHNSON IS A NEW FACE IN THE MALDEN HIGH ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Lily Nguyen
Sophie LeBlanc
Reporters

Recently, former AP English Language and Composition and English teacher Maggie Giberson applied and was selected to assume a new position as the Literacy Coach at Malden High School. This opened more room in the English department, and it would not be long before her successor arrived.

Hence, as students entered Malden High after February vacation, so did a new face: AP Language and Composition, 11th grade English teacher Tia Johnson, as she excitedly made her way up to room J378.

Johnson's middle school self would not have shared such excitement when entering an English classroom. "I have always enjoyed reading and writing, but in middle school I had a tough time in school and did not think of it as my main priority. I was more into playing sports and my social life," Johnson reminisces.

However, it was during Johnson's freshman year of high school that she rekindled her passion for the subject. "I had a teacher that made the class enjoyable by presenting different activities and reading options, stressing the importance of education and developing strong relationships with the students in a way that made each of us feel like we could and would excel moving forward in high school," she recalled.

"I began to picture myself as being an English teacher and decided that that is what I could become... and I worked diligently to meet my goal. I knew that if I was to become a teacher, I needed to be as knowledgeable as possible."

Her future envisioned, Johnson received a bachelor's degree in English at UMass Amherst and then a master's degree in Secondary Education at Merrimack College. Once out of college, she entered the education field heavily equipped with knowledge.

Among her first teaching experiences, Johnson worked at North Andover High School, where she balanced librarian duties and taught Media Literacy & Health Promotion, which she noted was "a bit of a different experience." She also gained English teaching

Teachers Narrowly Beat Students by Two Points in the Annual Student and Staff Basketball Game

Lulu Harding
Editor-In-Chief of Web and Mobile

Nathan Dean
Lead Reporter

This year, the teachers won the first student vs faculty basketball tournament held in two years by a narrow two points.

With no trips planned for the Tornadoes Travel Club, the group that usually hosts the tournament, the senior class willingly took over the event. They were able to raise around \$500 to go towards their prom for their endeavors.

The 12 teachers including Witche Exilhomme, Daniel Jurkowski, Jonathan Copithorne, Caitlin Quinn, John Frigo and seven others went into the game as the underdogs. "I think the students always underestimate the staff. They think that we are old and out of shape so they are always a little surprised when we come in and can still play a little bit," remarked Holland House Counselor Caitlin Quinn.

Despite their loss, the students managed to maintain an uplifting attitude. Freshman Aiden Brett, who plays on the boys basketball JV team, thought that the game went well overall and was fun to be a part of. "The student teammates were great and I loved the atmosphere... Everyone did great and had a lot of fun." Quinn also conveyed this feeling, stating that she was "really excited that it came back...it is always a lot of fun."

Quinn attributes their win to the fans and spectators who she says "are really into it" and "bring a lot of energy into the game, which is just what the teachers need." On the other side of things, Brett confesses to some mistakes. He stated "I think I could have played a little bit better, passed the ball more and gotten my

experience at the Lynnfield and Watertown High Schools.

And here, everything fell into place: Principal Christopher Mastrangelo explained that he noticed Johnson teaching at the aforementioned Lynnfield High School and mentioned her to his friend and assistant principal there, who "raved about her... doing an amazing job at teaching."

Consequently, Mastrangelo discovered her to be "confident" and "a good fit" for the English department. Then one thing led to another until Johnson was finally selected to become the new AP Language and Composition and



Top: Coach and teacher Witche Exilhome and Evan Mauser block a student from taking a shot. Photo taken by Lulu Harding.

Left: Johnathan Copithorne with the ball and a student on defense. Photo taken by Lulu Harding.

teammates the open shot more often. I forced some shots up that weren't needed, and I made some offensive mistakes as well."

With the game being so close, it was fun for all the players and the spectators as well and they can not wait till next year.

11th-grade teacher at Malden.

Upon transitioning into the school, Johnson noted that Giberson was "extremely helpful" in providing "insights, ideas and materials... I would have had a much more difficult time without it."

Understandably, AP Language students were surprised by the transition in the middle of the school year. Senior Ariana Peguero believed that at first, the news was "very abrupt." Like many others in the class, "I had not heard about the news of a change in position, and I was worried that this change would put a pause on preparations for the

AP Lang exam."

However, Peguero quickly noticed Johnson's teaching and professionalism. Although it has only been some time since she joined their class, the senior noticed that Johnson was "very insightful" and "had many thoughtful comments and questions... that would expand on our proposals and ideas."

Peguero also measured Johnson's friendliness and compassion, which the teacher demonstrated by "going around and making small talk with the students... to get to know us and find ways we can all relate to one another." Ultimately, "this left a very



Top: Faculty and students join together for a pre-game photo.

Above, left: Junior Peyton Carron dribbles the ball.

Bottom left: Senior Ronaldo Nguyen and coach Daniel Jurkowski. Photo by Lulu Harding.



Above, right: Coach Daniel Jurkowski with the ball and Senior Ronaldo Nguyen defends.



Bottom right: Witche Exilhomme shoots a free throw. Photo by Lulu Harding.

All photos by Lulu Harding.

great impression on me, and I am sure on the other students as well."

While she finds herself in no other profession, Johnson explained that there are quite a few challenging aspects of the job. "I have a hard time when a student is doing poorly," she said. "I want all students to do their best and to succeed and feel confident in the work they put out, so I do get upset when a student is not doing well."

Additionally, she elaborated on how "it can be easy to just teach the classic texts that have been taught for years and there are a lot of different ideas for how to teach those texts and what activities to do;

but it is more difficult, however, to introduce a new text because it is almost like you have to start from scratch and you do not know how everyone will respond."

Nevertheless, Johnson is fixated on the goal of "trying to bring in newer perspectives, voices, and texts to the classroom" as "it is important and I am willing to do the work for the sake of what is best for the students taking my classes." She feels more at ease with this welcoming atmosphere at Malden High which makes her "eager to get to know everyone and start working on interesting course material."

While adapting to the

transition at Malden, Johnson also works outside the classroom as a part-time florist—a job she has had since 14 years old. There, she helps to create floral arrangements and set up weddings.

As for her hobbies, Johnson reads intensely, explaining that "reading is connected to my job in a way, but it is still a way I like to spend my time." She also loves a good shoe moment, attributing to her love for fashion and shopping.

Additionally, Johnson is family-oriented, considering she chooses to spend as much of her time with her family as possible. "I have a few siblings that are much

younger than me," she said, "so I spend time with them helping with their school work, watching movies, doing puzzles, etc. at least one night a week." When active, she is often with her Australian Shepard, Koda, who certainly has a fair chance at winning the Cutest Pet Contest currently circulating in the school.

With both a strong work ethic and magnetic personality, Johnson appears a great fit for the English department. Looking forward, students and the administration are pleased to see what she will bring to Malden High—and for her, experiencing all it has to offer besides the building's "intimidating" size!

CO'22 Rally Up Funds with Volleyball Tournament

Dani Licona-Cruz
Reporter

Attaining enough money to host a fruitful prom has remained the purpose of CO'22 fundraisers for much of the school year. March's volleyball tournament, a part of their "March Madness" events, was an extension of this goal.

"We had the first tournament which was in the fall, and the kids loved playing and so they kept asking for another one," volleyball coach Daniel Jurkowski stated, "I decided to have a second one before the boys season started."

Both fundraisers proved successful, according to Jurkowski, "[it is] not a lot of cost to do this; we [do not] pay for anything. So basically anything that we do and charge for admission is just more fundraising for the seniors."

Held inside Malden High's Finn gym, attendees purchased tickets for \$3.00 to spectate players bump, set and hit competitively for two hours.

60 players—ranging from freshmen to seniors—were split up into two divisions: seven varsity and three junior varsity teams.

Those in the varsity division

included the following:

Team Milkmen: Cyril Jeremie, Lisette Curran, Linda Le, Aiden Tham, Alina Dao and Edward Mei.

Team Powerpuff Girls: Eric Mei, Kevin Lin, Jason Li, Kenton Nguyen, Riley Strano and Yuki Yang.

Team Keira and Friends: Kingson Chen, Ivan Tao, Timothy Du, Rachel Lin, Shuyi Chen and Keira Lin.

Team Goombas: Kelly Le, Kyle Lee, Abigail Lee, Kim Nguyen, Jason Ong and Victor Desouza.

Team Bubble Guppies: Ramneet Chahal, Lovely Gerochi, Alex Martins, Meryem Hakkaoui, Erick Rodrigues and James Dion Joaquin Jose.

Team Burma Heat: Yoji Yonetani, Collin Thant Kyaw, Van Nguyen, Possible Ojo, Ryan Dalencour and Lucas Rogerio

Team Notorious D.I.G.: Stephanie Larrieux, Marla Candido, Melissa Calixte, Ashly Rodrigue, Jadelini Mora and Daniel Jurkowski.

The JV teams were the following:

Team FWYP: Sarah Pham, Jeslyn San, Alex Van, Gordon Zeng, Huong Ly and Saul Yaffe-Lee.

Team Tiny Bones: Kevin Lin,

Johnny Nguyen, Joao Victor Santos, Adin Chen, Phillip Li and Ethan Chen.

Team Higor's Goons: Kauan Da Silva Coelho, Gil Lawson, Gilberto Linares, Higor Oliveira, Derick Aldana and Bruan Memeus.

There was a mini-championship for the JV teams, and the winner would go on to play in the varsity bracket. As for the varsity teams, if they took two losses, they would be eliminated.

The games were only one set that went up to 15 points. Halfway through the set, teams switched sides. This is a common rule of the game to show that one side does not have any hidden advantages.

The championship game came down to team Goombas versus team Keira and Friends. Though the former was made up of good players, many thought there was a lack in communication.

Team Keira and Friends seemed to take the competition in a more fun way and in the end that is really what earned them the win. They communicated with each other and had great cooperation skills.

Though the game was close, in the end, team Keira and Friends won. There were lots of hoorahs, but

also boos from upperclassmen who had been rooting for the Goombas. Team Keira and Friends were overjoyed and seemed to relish in their victory.

Jurkowski added that the Class of 2022 recently "got a significant donation from a Malden business owner at Townline, so that was a huge help to us because the buses that we need for transportation for students to and from were a little more expensive than we anticipated."

"And then we did the Krispy Kreme again, and we did a volleyball tournament and we did the student and staff basketball game," he continued, "fundraising has been pretty steady throughout the year... the goal was to get down to \$75. So, we're right there."

Around \$1,000 was raised from both fundraisers with all of it going towards prom.

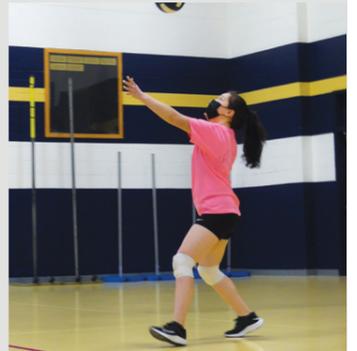
"So that's probably it for volleyball tournaments. I think one [we are] discussing now is possible a three-on-three basketball tournament or dodgeball tournament in the gym. So as far as sports fundraisers, that would be one of those two things," Jurkowski concluded.



Senior Cyril Jeremie (Powerpuff Girls) aces. Photo by Jessica Li.



Freshmen players (left to right): Lovely Gerochi, Huong Ly, Jeslyn San, Sarah Pham, Abigail Lee. Photo by Dani Licona-Cruz.



Winning JV team, Higor's Goons, from left to right: sophomores Gilberto Linares, Gil Lawson, Kauan Da Silva Coelho, Bruan Memeus, Derick Aldana, and Higor Oliveira. Photo by Jessica Li.



Tim, Ivan, Kingson, Shuyi, Rachel, and Keira pose for a team photo after their team Keira and Friends swept the varsity bracket. Photo by Nathan Dean.

Photos taken by Nathan Dean and Dani Licona-Cruz.



BOYS VOLLEYBALL PREPARES FOR THE UPCOMING SEASON



Volleyball players gather to think of a game plan. Photo taken by Desiree Nong.



Varsity player Kyle Lee serving. Photo by Desiree Nong.



Malden High's Varsity Volleyball team discussing their plays. Photo taken by Desiree Nong.



Senior Ivan Tao from Keira + Friends rejects sophomore Victor Desouza's ball. Desouza mentioned, "I've only participated in the last tournament that we played before, where the same team I'm playing with now—the Goombas—made the team finals and lost to Milkmen... This time, we are playing in the finals and we are on against Keira + Friends for the championship." Photo by Jessica Li.



Sophomore Victor Desouza hits against Burma Heat's wall. He enjoyed "getting to play in a friendly 1-on-1 match with all my friends. I know most of the people playing today, and it was fun getting to verse them." Photo by Jessica Li.



Captain Yoji Yonetani serving. Photo taken by Desiree Nong.

Daniel O'Toole
Lead Reporter

With the end of the winter sports season at Malden High School, next comes the start of the spring sports season. With tryouts looming ahead, to get the boys volleyball team ready for the season, the coaches and captains held optional practices that were open to all who were interested in playing and trying out for the team this year.

Practices were originally held on Saturday mornings from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm starting February 12th, but with the end of both the Boys and Girls Basketball seasons later that month, two more practice days were added each week, Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting around 3:45 pm and ending at 5:00 pm.

The practices covered core aspects of volleyball that players would finetune to be able to compete for a spot on either JV or varsity. The beginning of these practices would include playing 3v3, and sometimes 4v4, making sure that those playing in the back row can receive and get the ball to the setter. After a while, players would split off to make teams of six to play in games that resembled real game action.

One half of the gym was for varsity players, which was aided by Coach Daniel Jurkowski, and the other half was managed by the new JV coach, Joshua Sellers.

Coach Jurkowski talked about the goals for the volleyball team this upcoming season, saying that "the goal for the team this year is to just build upon what we accomplished last year. Last year we qualified for States and we won our first ever States game in the first round. So the goal would be to at least match what we did last year and hopefully make it past the second round."

Jurkowski has no concerns about the team's two senior captains, Kingson Chen and Yoji Yonetani, over their ability to lead the team this year. "They are very experienced, they know what's expected. They are very excited about this being their last season and they have high expectations, so I have no concerns whatsoever about them being able to lead the team and motivate our players for what we're trying to accomplish."

The impact that the practices

Continued on page 20

Track Team Looks to Win GBL Title



Krishany Marius
Head of Local

Outdoor track players at captain's practice. Photo submitted by Leslie Rodriguez.

The weather is getting warmer and daylight savings has begun. This also means that Malden High's track players are preparing to jump hurdles and run sprints as the outdoor track season opens. The team seems ecstatic after having a successful indoor track season, and they have no doubts about what this season will bring for them.

Although the team seems to be losing people to other spring sports, they have also been gaining new people because the winter season is over. Coach Michel-Le Meranda said, "it seems like we have a really young team."

Meranda is excited to harbor

their talent and work with them for the next three to four years. She believes that this season will be a lot better, as last season they only had 20 players in total.

"This season is the 'let's just see what happens' season," said Meranda.

Senior Leslie Rodriguez, who is one of the captains, hopes that this year more people can come to the meets as she generally just wants things to be back to normal. Rodriguez wants to communicate with the team whether that be on Google Classroom or Remind in order to "make sure that they know what they are doing and making

sure they're doing it right." She also hopes that the students who are not new to the rules of track could teach those that are not familiar with it.

Senior Marcos Ruiz, another captain of the team, feels that some people need support. Some people prefer to be left alone so they can train and he expressed that he should be there to "listen and to help" in understanding that some people on the team may need different necessities.

Senior Jelani Garrett, another captain, explained that he is always willing to help anyone on the team. Garrett wants to make sure that "everything is in order and makes

sure everyone gets along." He hopes to help anyone who is having any trouble because the team has "a lot of new people that do not know what they are doing."

He further wants people to be able to feel comfortable when he is teaching certain steps. They have "a lot of people joining [who] have a lot of energy," just looking at the current players they have, he expressed that they have a good group of long-distance runners.

"Never a doubt," is a phrase Ruiz loves to say because as they achieve and strive for the GBL title, everything they do now is going to be successful throughout their season. Ruiz is not expecting any less, in fact, he is pretty confident about how well his team will do this season.

On the other hand, Rodriguez believes that there are doubts anytime when it comes to sports. "Anything can happen really, but I am optimistic, I am staying positive," she said. Though this is Rodriguez's last year, she wants to make the most of it and just have fun when doing this sport.

It is important to all of the seniors to have their final best run with their team. Garrett stated, "if we don't get a lot of people as excited to do track, then over the next few years track might die down."

The team may be young, however, it does not stop the captains and veterans of the team to teach and help the underclassmen be successful in the coming years.

Volleyball Continued from page 19

hold is huge. "Not only for the returning varsity kids because they know what the deal is, but I think it was very beneficial for the younger kids, especially some of the kids who might not have known if they want to try out for real or not," said Jurkowski.

Coach Jurkowski mentioned that he thinks the senior class that the program has built up over the years will step up in a large way this year. "We have to replace both of our setters from last year. Kingson will be one of them, but we generally play with two. I'm sure he's capable of doing it, but he's never actually played setter in a varsity game before. Between Aiden Tham and Timmy Du, we have to find one more setter. That is going to be very important between the two of them to see which one can do it, but I think they will be able to set up for the challenge."

Senior Captain Kingson Chen

played a lot of club volleyball during his offseason and hopes to "bring what I learned from outside to the volleyball program so that I can help everyone else improve as a player because we have a lot of new people this year." He gave an example of this, "our setter, [Aiden Tham], is in his second year, but his first year of varsity, so we want to teach guys like him everything so they can improve as a player themselves."

Chen thinks that the practices helped "see what players we have for next year and the future years on. These practices helped us start preparing before the season in case no one knew how to play volleyball so not every kid who walks into tryouts was confused on what they are doing."

Sophomore James Jose talked about his personal experience playing on JV last year during COVID. "It was a lot of fun playing last year with everyone, I got to meet new people and go through the feelings of winning and losing games, but throughout every game

or practice it made us all improve and made the year more fun. Seeing the people I played with last year move on to varsity due to age differences, I have to work with new people and also teach those who haven't played or need help, and I find I like to gain more experience by playing with more people."

Jose wants the team to win this season. He explained that regardless of the losses the team might face, they will "push us harder to win. Not everyone is able to learn as quickly or be perfect, but I want everyone to have fun, and improve as a whole to get ready for the years to come." He thought the practices "have immensely helped everyone. It gave people new to the sport time to learn and progress more in how to play and returning players a chance to get back into playing."

Jose looks forward to seeing the people he thinks will be able to improve and take him on by surprise. "I think my teammate Brian Vences has improved the most, he is a hard hustler, and great at what he does. I

think that our new coming freshmen like Kenton Nguyen, Edward Mei, Kevin Lin or Gordon Zeng, I've seen a lot of potential in these four during practice."

Jose mentioned the differences between this season and last year along with how he thinks he can improve from the changes, "last year we only went against four teams twice, making it eight games total. This year, there's a lot of competition now that COVID has quieted down and these new teams will teach me new things I can improve on. Through the offseason my physical condition is now better which will allow me to compete at a higher level compared to last season."

"They are a great group of kids, and they encourage their friends to come play. We try to have fun as much as possible and we expect to win since we hold ourselves to high standards. At the same time, we know that having fun is important too, so we try to build a culture around being inclusive to everybody," concluded Jurkowski.

GYMNASTICS TEAM HAS SUCCESSFUL SEASON



Gymnastic team in uniform for meets. Photo by Juliana Luong.

Juliana Luong
Head of Sports

The Malden High School gymnastics team ended their season on a good note. Compared to the previous season with COVID, gymnastics coach Katie Bowdrige said “this year was much better than last year,” with returning gymnasts and new ones.

While the season showed

satisfying outcomes, the hard work came from the athletes and gymnasts themselves. Senior Nathan Weng expressed that, “the hardest part of the season was getting back into routine and practicing every day after school.” Returning to the schedule was not the only struggle as Weng also shared his weakness of stamina and how he worked through that obstacle by using repetition for long time periods.

As athletes have tried their best to bring normalcy to sports, masks and restrictions still came into play. Bowdrige described how “floor routines are especially difficult,” seeing as the routines are a minute and a half long with continuous motion and determination to seek perfection with a mask on. Bowdrige also found it difficult when spectators were forbidden to attend meets in certain venues.

Unlike previous seasons, the gymnastics team started this season with no team captains, leaving less time for stretching, conditioning and preparation. However, the gymnasts were able to prioritize school, because school-related tardiness to practices was excused.

Despite facing some hurdles in the transition back from last year, Malden High’s gymnastics team powered through.

Disappointing End to Boys Basketball Season



Boys basketball members on their senior night. Photo submitted by Jason Ong.

Krishany Marius
Head of Local

That’s a wrap for the winter season, folks, as the Boys Varsity Basketball team reflects on their season. The team fell short on their

preseason goals as players faced many injuries, missed players on the court, and not being able to qualify for the state tournament.

“We were very unlucky in that sense. Some seasons you have very minimal injuries, but this

focus on our offseason program... We need to learn from last season to make sure it doesn’t happen again.” Both Jurkowski and the team do not want the same mistakes being made next season.

Though the team did have

season we had plenty,” Daniel Jurkowski, coach of the boys basketball team stated.

“It is hard knowing that your best players are hurt, I got hurt too,” Junior Justin Bell, one of the captains, said.

The team realizes that there are many changes that need to be made. Jurkowski said, “we need to get kids in the weight room and really

its lows, they made up for the fact because the players got closer and got to know one another a little better, building strong connections. “I also want it to be fun,” Ryan Dalencour expressed. Dalencour goes on to say how he wants to lead by example, to show his players that they can bring their full potential to the games and still have fun while doing it.

Throughout the season, they had brought in some of the freshmen and sophomores to get ready for play, which will be a benefit for the team in the future.

“They gained some valuable experience and will be counted on for next season,” Jurkowski stated. He is confident and counting on both Bell and Jonald Joseph to lead the team next winter season.

“I know they are very determined to have a successful final year and leave their mark,” he said.

The team did not win as many games as they wanted to win, due to disruptions during their season. This puts them in a position where a lot of people are doubting them, but they are willing to work harder and do better next season.

MALDEN'S WINTER BASEBALL CLINIC

Courtney Fitzgerald
Lead Reporter

As an introduction to their newest season, the Malden High Baseball team took part in Malden's citywide baseball winter clinic on Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 8:00 at the Salemwood school.

The baseball clinic contained batting cages where the players were able to practice their hitting. The baseball team brought with them a portable pitching mound for the pitchers to practice their skills.

Baseball team member and attendee of the clinic, Senior Shai Cohen, found the clinic beneficial to his training. "I was able to get in the reps I needed to prepare myself for the upcoming season," stated Cohen. He added that "it was nice to see all of the new faces and get acclimated to the atmosphere we are trying to build."

Junior Brandon McMahon agreed with Cohen that "building chemistry with the team and being with the guys and having fun playing baseball," was something that was beneficial during the clinic. McMahon also found that being able to "work on baseball even when the season hadn't started," has prepared him for the season's beginning.

While Cohen has played baseball before, he believes the clinic was also beneficial to those who were just starting out playing baseball. "We have older players practice together and the rookies working with coach Phil Cook, who teaches them the fundamentals." The clinic was open to Malden residents of all ages, and the attendees ranged from the fifth to 12th grade. Coach Stephen Freker added that he believes "everyone who took part got better in their skills and also got better prepared for the upcoming season."

Along with other skills to develop their baseball playing abilities, the coaches and the team focused mainly on hitting drills and reps revolving around being up at bat. McMahon believes that because of this focus, "hitting is gonna be really good this year."

In the six years that Freker has participated in this event as a baseball coach for Malden High, he found that this year had "been a good one" in regards to the participation and efforts put forth by the players who attended the clinic. He added that



Junior Brandon McMahon hitting a pitch. Photo by Liam O'Toole.



Salem Academy pitching. Photo by Liam O'Toole.



Senior Shai Cohen pitching. Photo by Liam O'Toole.



Sophomore Zeke Noelsaint catching behind home plate. Photo by Liam O'Toole.



Junior Brandon McMahon at-bat. Photo by Liam O'Toole.

"we had gotten players from all over the city of all ages and skill levels and they had been very enthusiastic and committed to attending each Wednesday evening."

Freker noted that they "started out slowly and grew in numbers every week." Ending the clinic, there had been around 30 players who attended. He went on to say that "it's hard to guess how many players will come, so [the coaching staff is] happy with the turnout."

While the COVID-19 pandemic is still around, Freker mentioned

it did not have much effect on the operation of the baseball clinic, "since the participants were familiar with the CDC, state and city safety protocols," regarding the pandemic. In January after winter vacation, the Department of Recreation decided to take a break from all activities held inside the school buildings, which put the clinic on a two-week hiatus.

Freker mentioned that the team is "grateful to have the support of the Malden Recreation Department and coordinator Joe Levine, and

his staff Laura Perez and Mike Boyd, for allowing us use of space at the Salemwood School," for the baseball clinics that took place over the winter. He added that the team "also thanks Malden Public Schools Director of Athletics, Charlie Conefrey, for his support."

After two and a half months of baseball training through this winter clinic, the baseball team is officially starting their season on March 21st. Their first game of the season will be at home (Pine Banks Park) against Everett High on April 2nd, 2022.

MALDEN HIGH SCHOOL CREW TEAM MAKES A COMEBACK THIS SEASON

Sophie LeBlanc
Reporter

There are many factors that go into a successful after-school activity, whether it be the number of attendees, the advisors, or the time a group meets. There is one very important factor, however, that many people fail to remember: funding; it is what supplies extracurriculars with all of the equipment and accessories they need to be successful.

Unfortunately, many after-school activities around the globe fail to acquire the funding they deserve. This applies to the crew team at Malden High School, which has recently begun to fundraise for a more... comfortable season.

Coach Tiffany Cane elaborated on this, explaining that the team's boathouse has been neglected for the past two years since they "were unable to participate due to water conditions." As a result, "many items from around the boathouse have become [unusable]. Many boats have holes or tears, [are] missing motors, and [have] structural damage." On top of that, the floor of the boathouse was covered in trash.

"We currently have no motor for the big boat," Coach Kevin Isaza added. The team is also in need of new uniforms, the ability to repair items, and new racing equipment. It is important to mention that crew is a very expensive sport because of the equipment involved, in comparison to a sport like track which may only need new uniforms each year.

Crew member Ethan Dong, who has been on the team since freshman year, remarked that "a lot of the rowing machines are dead, so practice isn't as efficient as it should be." Dong has done field hockey and soccer during his high school career, and he admitted that "the crew team's need of funding is worse," than he has seen.

"Our motto this season has been to 'work with what we have,'" Cane sadly admitted.

In need of a change, the team turned to a fundraising platform called SnapRaise, which had proved successful for the girls' soccer team

Malden High's Girls Lacrosse Team Prepares to Conquer All this Season

Hadjar Yousfi
Lead Reporter

Finally, after a year-long wait, the MHS Girls Lacrosse team is back with high hopes for the season. The girls are excited for this new season to come to an official beginning with their first game this afternoon April 6th, against Revere.

This year's captains are sophomore Abigail Morrison and junior Ava Conroy who will be working alongside their coach Rachael Rennie, to work towards helping their new students to learn how to play lacrosse since many of their players this year are first-time players.

Morrison mentioned that "we're doing more basic things, but I can already see everybody improving." As a captain this year, she is really hoping to help the team grow while also working on her own skills.

Most of the team this year consists of freshmen, meaning a lot of new faces were added to the team for returning players. In spite of that, it has been going well for the girls and they all feel that they have been improving fast with games approaching.

Despite the wonky weather, the girls practice through all kinds of conditions to build endurance for all circumstances. Sophomore Belen Quispe Almendro commented that "when it was like 20 degrees we still had to go," which proved to be quite tough for the team, but has shown its benefits since their practices are later than most sports, starting from four to six pm every day. Players even have Sunday practices every week.

Hajar Azegza, a freshman player on the team this year, has now started playing the game after a long two-year break. Azegza confessed that she felt she was "finally getting back in shape. And I'm like, kind of regaining that passion." She mentioned that since it has been a while it felt weird to be back on the field preparing for a game, but "it feels normal," as though she was

years prior. It is an online website that helps many different clubs, organizations, sports, and other causes raise money. The team has printed over 400 copies of the QR code for people to scan and donate to the cause.

In an attempt to spread the word across, the coaches have been in touch with major outdoor industries, such as Helly Hansen. Cane stressed that "every dollar counts, and it takes everyone's

participation to make this work." She encourages the team to work together and leave flyers around the school, talk to their friends and teachers about the cause, and maybe even spread the word on their social media. Isaza added to this, vocalizing "the importance of getting emails and placing the message across," that the team is in need of these supplies.

Even with the team's financial struggles, Dong still finds joy being



Coach Rachael Rennie demonstrates a drill by shooting on sophomore Julia Rodrigues. Photo by Nathan Dean.



back in fifth grade. When it comes to future games, the girls are going to do their best to stay prepared by practicing and communicating well with one another throughout the season. Morrison described paying attention to a lot of the tips and new skills that coach Rennie has been developing for the team this year.

Almendro started playing Lacrosse this school year and is excited to start attending games. She feels as though "most of the team is actually really good." Though many of the players are on the younger side many of them have played lacrosse before hence they are already all quite knowledgeable when it comes to the game.

With that being said the Girls Lacrosse team has been working very hard to start off their season on the right foot as they will surely conquer all this season.

on the crew team. He emphasized that "everyone gets close with each other," and that "it's a great way to exercise."

The future looks bright for the crew team, as the coaches will be meeting with the design team this week to discuss the plans for the new boathouse, and will hopefully see the building process start this summer or next year!

maldenblueandgold.com

Karen Rivera
Managing Editor
Lauren Mallett
Editor In-Chief

The Malden High School Boys Lacrosse Team is moving in on a new season. With tryouts as well as their season officially starting on March 21st, the team is ready to hit the ground running.

This is the team's first normal season since the start of the pandemic. With this in mind, Boys Varsity Lacrosse Coach Jonathan Copithorne stated that he really hopes to "rebuild the program, and get the numbers back up."

Copithorne's ultimate goal for the season is to win the GBL Championship: "I want to win the GBL; that's always my goal, that's what I want to see happen...I hope that we can establish ourselves as a perennial GBL favorite." The team made the tournament in 2018 and Copithorne hopes they can work their way back up to that level.

"The way I go about [achieving our goals] is to look for improvement."

"I can't wait until the season starts to see what we are capable of."

ETHAN HEON

If everyone gives their best effort regardless of skill level, and as long as they continue to improve, that's what I really focus on. I never shame someone for not being as talented or skilled as someone else—it's all about who's putting the work in," Coach Copithorne stated.

Seniors Ethan Heon and Gary Luo have been named the varsity captains for the 2022 lacrosse season.

Coach Copithorne expressed that he selected Luo and Heon as captains because "they've been here since their freshman year. They've demonstrated leadership on the field. Both of them are very hard workers, they're responsible in the classroom and they sort of do everything that you want in a captain."

Both Heon and Luo expressed a common goal for the season: to finally beat Medford.

"I'm looking forward to the Medford game because we have yet to beat them and they are one of my least favorite teams to verse," stated Heon.

But in order to achieve that, Heon said the team needs to "put our best effort forward." Luo added that they need to "stay tough and tenacious," reminding his teammates that "ground balls win games." He also said that he will be "getting on the new players" to keep them motivated throughout the season.



Malden High School Boys Varsity lacrosse team chanting at the start of the second quarter. Photo by Lauren Mallett.



Senior Captain Gary Luo running off with the ball. Photo by Lauren Mallett.



Senior Pete Cegobia getting ready to Faceoff against Lynn. Photo by Lauren Mallett.



Junior Takai Landrum receiving a throw. Photo by Lauren Mallett.



Attackmen fighting for a groundball. Photo by Lauren Mallett.

The team has already started setting up captains' practices. Heon finds it important to get a head start. "I want to make sure that the inexperienced players learn so that they can help us on and off the field and try to win as many games as we can, and make sure everyone shows up to practice."

"They've been really active all year in making sure that we're ready for the season," added Copithorne.

Copithorne expressed his gratitude, explaining that he is "pleased with what they've done," and that "hopefully, with all their hard work that they've put in for the last four years, they'll be able to be proud of how we end the year. This is their legacy, this is their work

they've put in and I'm just here to facilitate it."

Both Luo and Heon are hoping to bring their best qualities as captains. Luo stated that he "wants to be understanding towards the players in order to help them further their skills." Heon added that he wants to focus on his leadership skills, specifically with "motivation and keeping people in check to make sure they are doing what they need to be doing."

Overall, they are all happy for the season to start, with Luo expressing he is "excited to see where the season goes" and hopes to help rebuild the program.

Download the Saturn
Scheduling App!



maldenblueandgold.com

Malden High School
Volume 107 Edition 6