

The Blue and Gold

maldenblueandgold.com

Malden High School
Volume 109 Edition 2

77 Salem Street
December 2023

CO'24 Repeat Pep Rally Champs



Pep Rally on page 12-13

136th Annual Thanksgiving Game



Continued on Page 22

Keith Knight Gives Malden Something to (Th)ink About



Keith Knight holds his book *I Was A Teenage Michael Jackson Impersonator*. ZACHARY NEDELL

Haset Tesfaw
Lead Reporter

Zachary Nedell
Lead Reporter

“The most important thing to do is to tell your story. If you don’t tell your story, someone else is going to do it and they’re going to get it wrong,” cartoonist Keith Knight stated during his presentation at Malden Public Library.

On Thursday, November 16th at 6:30 PM, Knight was invited to speak at the Malden Public Library during an event hosted by Malden Reads in collaboration with Malden Arts.

The host Jodie Zalk said that “Keith has been involved in the Malden community with the Malden Art Line, so he’s still in touch with folks here... he always supports the library. So when we reached out to him, he was very enthusiastic about participating.”

Even before the start of the event, everyone was welcoming and interacted with each other. Right off the bat, participants could feel the excitement in the air. There was a huge community present—whether they were family, friends, or fans of his work—whom were all ready to listen to Knight’s presentation.

“I have known Keith since seventh grade and I follow his art, I collect his books, and he’s taught me a lot. He’s very funny and kind, and I just love him as a person. I want to support him,” Jane Dannenberg-

Continued on page 9



Dodgeball om page 9



Spirit Week on page 11



Pep Rally on page 12



A Return to the Writers’ Den

Mack Keating
Head Copy Editor

The Writers’ Den at Malden High School has provided students with an inviting space for collaborative and creative writing since its implementation more than seven years ago. In this student-led program, students can share their passion for writing with peers along with furthering their skills to become better writers.

With one of last year’s advisors, Isaac Wilde, graduating from Tufts University, the position opened up to a new leader, and Jonathan Ramirez has stepped up to the plate. The program was originally founded in 2016 by current co-advisor Yahaira Marquez and previous advisor Sean Walsh. Walsh taught at Malden High School as an English teacher and was Head of Theater for 13 years, but is no longer working at Malden High.

“The Writers’ Den is a space at the school that is dedicated to providing an area that fosters students’ creativity and their writing skills, whether it’s creative writing or academic writing,” Marquez explained years prior for a previous article of The Blue and Gold detailing the Writers’ Den. Ramirez agreed with this sentiment, commenting, “I want to learn from the students; I want their voices to be heard and seen in this room.”

To do this, Ramirez already has plans for the space: “I’m offering an Open Mic Poetry on December 13th and January 10th for the Joy Block sessions.” He further detailed that his plans include “bringing in different forms of writing to students to experiment with,” which Ramirez noted is the aspect he is most excited about.

Ramirez, a Tufts student like incumbent Wilde, heard about the program via his major advisor at Tufts, who helped him decide that this job would be “the perfect place to be in.” Ramirez detailed that he is “interested in working with high school students and in teaching English and writing. As the Writers’ Den intern, I get to do both, while also continuing my own studies.”

Both for his internship and personal experience, Ramirez furthered that he is “looking forward to learning what it’s like to work at a school, as well as learning what it takes to build a community of writers who feel passionate about their work.”

“In the past, I have worked with high school seniors, teaching them about college and the obstacles/opportunities that come with that,” Ramirez addressed. “I worked primarily with students

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Advisor: Ryan Gallagher

who were first-generation, low-income, or folks who were undocumented.” Although the experience is not exactly the same as it will be at Malden High, “doing this job helped give back to the community,” Ramirez proclaimed. He continued, “It’s also given me the tools I can use here at Malden, as the Writers’ Den intern: communicating with younger folks, staying organized, and on top of an ever-growing task list.”

Ramirez is excited to meet any aspiring authors or writers at Malden High, or any students who may want some help with anything writing-related. The Writers’ Den is located in the back right corner of the Malden High Library and has times available Monday, Wednesday, and Friday every week. On Mondays, the Den is open 9am until 12pm, as well as 1pm until 2:30pm. On Wednesdays the room stays open 9am to 2:30pm, and on Fridays the room is open 10am to 1pm. For more information about the Writers’ Den, any questions can be directed to Ramirez at joramirez@maldenps.org, or at the Writers’ Den during any of the above times



maldenco2025

CLASS OF 2025 MERCH



Rainbow Lions Sweeten Up Malden High School with Candygrams



Jaslie Fang
Reporter

The hallways of Malden High School are abuzz with festive cheers thanks to the Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA), better known as the “Rainbow Lions.” Their “candy cane-gram” posters, designed by junior Megyn Ta, are eye-catching, inviting, and encourage students to spread holiday cheer with their friends and classmates.

For just a dollar, you can send a candy cane-filled care package to someone special in your life. The proceeds from the fundraiser will support the GSA’s ongoing efforts to foster a more inclusive and welcoming environment for all Malden High School students. Junior Lumi Leshane, a member of the GSA, commented that the profits will “likely go towards more club events, though we have also talked about donating to LGBTQ+ organizations at some point.” Ta elaborates further, emphasizing how the fundraising enables more Pride events in June, during Pride Month, and how it boosts the club’s visibility, helping to recognize the strong LGBTQ+ community at Malden High.

With every candy cane-gram purchase, students are not only bringing joy to their recipient but also making a positive impact in the school community. Their contribution will help the GSA continue to organize events, raise awareness, and advocate for LGBTQ+ students at Malden High School.

Candy grams were available for purchase during lunch from December 11th to December 15th. These delightful treats will be delivered to homerooms on December 18th, so make sure to be at homeroom on the day of!

Connect with the Rainbow Lions on Instagram at @the_rainbow_lions or attend their meetings held in Jean Jones’s room (B230) every Friday at 2:15 after school. Whether students are looking to spread some holiday cheer or make a difference in your school community, the GSA welcomes them with open arms.

What is the Fair Share Amendment?



A view of the seats in the Massachusetts State House. AIDEN LUCIANO

Aiden Luciano
Lead Reporter

Passed in the Massachusetts Senate in November, Massachusetts Senator Jason Lewis thinks that the Fair Share Amendment is a home run for the state of Massachusetts.

What is the Fair Share Amendment?

Created by Lewis, who represents the people of the Fifth

Middlesex District of Massachusetts—which includes the cities and towns of Malden, Melrose, Reading, Stoneham, Wakefield and parts of Winchester—this amendment would not only tax those who make a million dollars or more a year, but also allow Massachusetts residents 25 or older to be able to attend community college for free. The Amend-

ment has already provided 62 million dollars in financial aid to 25,000 students.

The amendment also rids students and families from paying for school breakfast and lunch by making it no longer income-based. It is simply free for all.



Massachusetts Senator Jason Lewis.

Additionally, the Fair Share Amendment is trying to cover public transportation but needs more money. According to NBC Boston, analysis shows that 25 billion dollars is needed to repair the MBTA system.

Senator Lewis, who was born in South Africa in the early 70s, has grown a strong foundation for social equality and justice. With that, he’s also expressed the need for housing within Massachusetts to help combat the rising housing crisis, stating, “We are short at least 200,000 housing units.” However, Senator Lewis has a goal to build more affordable housing to accommodate those with financial need.

To address the Massachusetts housing crisis, lawmakers are attempting to pass bills and amendments to better the state, which can be accomplished by citizens who exercise their political voice.



View of the stained glass mural in the rotunda of the State House. AIDEN LUCIANO

Senior Year:

A Race to the Finish Line

As high school seniors, one might consider this point in our academic careers the most important of all; the very few months in which every individual decision we make helps to shape the future that we will soon live in.

With every supplemental we write and every application we fill, we feel our future coming closer into our grasp. We feel the possibility of so many different outcomes surging through our veins, and most of all the possibility for things to change in an instance.

Slowly, as people around us begin to commit to the school that they will attend for the next four years, or confirm which job or trade school they will pursue, our futures become more clear. We are done at Malden High School, we will be done with high school in just six short months.

And then, just like that, we will be let out into the world. Honestly, when I look towards that day in the future, I cannot help but be scared of what comes my way. Will everything that I have done throughout my life be enough to prepare me for the future that lies ahead of me?

Unfortunately, there is no way to know if you are truly prepared until you are thrown into the deep end, and have to see whether or not you can make it through to the surface.

Even now, as I sit here writing this editorial, I have fears when it comes to my future; I have no idea where I will end up. And because none of my college results have come back yet, I might not know for a while.

But as I continue to fill out applications I cannot help but worry that maybe I am not going in the right direction. Maybe college is not for me. Maybe the major I have chosen is not for me. It is hard to know at this point in our lives, how the decisions that we make now will have effects on our lives in the future.

In fact, with every additional application that we fill out, we become more and more overwhelmed with the prospects of our futures, overthinking how many things we should have done differently from the very beginning of freshman year until now.

However, the one thing that has kept me and many others sane is the realization that things will turn out okay no matter what. No matter what happens now, no matter what decisions I make, and no matter what things do not go as planned, I will end up where I need to be.

We will all end up where we need to be as long as we do

our best to make our dreams happen. Although it may be hard to comprehend it now in our current situations, we will be okay in the future and will be able to look back at this time in our lives, as a time that allowed for our growth and that we enjoyed with our peers.

Now, when everything seems to be uncertain, the one thing that we know for sure is that we are leaving Malden High School with at least a small sense of what we want to do with the rest of our lives, even if our paths are not 100% figured out.

When you look back on high school and your last few months you want to be able to look back with a sense of both accomplishment and satisfaction. You want to be able to say that you made the most of your time with those you love.

So try something new, make new friends, and have the high school experience of your dreams. There's only so much you can do in four years, so make sure that you make every moment and memory count.

When I look back on high school I will know that I made the most out of my time. I grew so much as a person over the past four years and made so many friendships that I know will last me a lifetime. When reflecting on my time here it is safe to say that not only did I learn so much, but I was able to laugh, cry, and be happy in the comfort of my peers.

In the next few months, I have made a vow to myself to go outside with my friends and try new things like ice skating, karaoke, and playing sports to do my best to make as many memories as I can. With only a few months left it's so important to make these last few months feel special by spending time with our loved ones and making fun memories at school, outside with friends, and most significantly at prom.

So, as you submit your next college application, do not forget that no matter what happens, the next couple of months will not dictate the rest of your lives. There will always be the option to grow, change, and redirect your life. And though it may be hard with adulthood creeping up so close behind us, remember to make the most out of these next few months, make memories that you know you will want to cherish for the rest of your life.

Hadjar Yousfi

Editor-in-Chief

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The Blue and Gold



The Malden Blue and Gold



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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.

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

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MALDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY HIDDEN GEM

Chouaib Saidi
Lead Reporter

Thomas Tierney
Reporter

Many people have heard of the Malden Public Library (MPL) located across the street from Malden High School and in the center of Malden, but it is less known that it has its own museum. The MPL museum features a variety of artistic items that showcase Malden’s historical past and demonstrate how the Malden Public Library operated in the 1800s. It even displays historical artifacts from the Converse family, who started the globally recognized “Converse” shoe company here in Malden.

Ryan Reed, a local history librarian at the Malden Public Library, shared some information regarding the library’s history. “It was built in the 1880s, and it was built as a memorial to Frank Converse. So, his father, Mr. Converse, was sort of the first Mayor of Malden, and he owned a shoe factory here, a very rich man. And Malden didn’t have a library at the time, so he had this built.”

The tale of the creation of this museum is not all pleasant, however.

Reed commented that “It was in memorial of his son, who was shot in the first fatal bank robbery in the United States, which happened right down here in Pleasant Street. We actually have the clock that was standing right behind him when he was killed. So it’s sort of the only witness to the crime. So it’s sort of that history. And then, you know, the newer part of the library was built in the nineties. So up until then, from the 1800s until about 1995,” Reed explained.

The Malden Public Library still contains some features that were present back when the library first opened. “It’s very ornate. If you look really closely, you can see all the different types of carvings and things like that. These [light bulbs] used to all be gas, and when they redid them they did them as exact replicas,” Reed explained.

The artwork that is presented in the Malden Public Library consists of old factories of Converse when it was in the works and it shows how simple things were back then and how they have changed from a small shoe factory to a universal industry of shoes that millions across the world own and wear daily.

The Local History hours at the MPL are available for everyone and you can check to see the times on the Malden Public Library website, <https://maldenpubliclibrary.org/>. For those who have known about this museum or if this is their first time finding out, it’s highly recommended to check it out! Visitors might learn a thing or two about Malden’s history!



Old Converse shoe box and newspapers. THOMAS TIERNEY



Old pair of Converse boots. THOMAS TIERNEY

Old pair of Converse shoes. THOMAS TIERNEY



Art given to the old Malden Public Library - THOMAS TIERNEY

CO ‘26 Thanksgiving Meal Raffle

CO '26
THANKSGIVING
meal raffle!

**1 TICKET FOR \$1,
6 TIX FOR \$5!**



GET A CHANCE TO WIN A **WHOLE FOODS \$100 VALUE MEAL** WHEN ENTERING OUR THANKSGIVING RAFFLE! MEAL INCLUDES A ROAST TURKEY W/ TURKEY GRAVY, GREEN BEANS, MASHED POTATOS, STUFFING, AND CRANBERRY SAUCE. SECOND PLACE WINS A PIE!

CONTACT '26 STUCO MEMBERS, MS. WENTWORTH IN THE GYM, OR MR.CORNETT @ H314 FOR PURCHASE.

Hadjar Yousfi
Editor-in-Chief

After a competitive election, the Class of 2026 finally has class officers prepared to make this year an exciting experience for all. In order to start off their term, the officers decided to host a Thanksgiving Meal Raffle with the help of their advisors, Nancy Wentworth and Christopher Cornett.

Students were given the opportunity to buy a one-dollar raffle ticket for the chance of winning a Thanksgiving meal worth 100 dollars. “We as the Class of ‘26 chose to host this raffle to make an opportunity for students to engage in the class activities and to bring home a warm surprise for their families,” said Eldu Abrahame, the Class of ‘26 president.

Sarah Fontaim, one of the social media coordinators, explained that she felt that this was the perfect first fundraiser for them as “it’s a good way to raise money and also a good prize to win.” Vice President Rashmi KC agreed and said, “who doesn’t love a warm lovely meal?”

Though this event was a simple, fun one to get the ball rolling, the officers are already hard at work adjusting to their new positions and planning future events for the Class of ‘26. “It feels so amazing to be president! I’m so thankful for this role and I believe that I will be able to continue pleasing everyone,” Abraham explained. “I look forward to making everyone happy and allowing all students to feel happy and excited to come to school every morning!”

When considering what exactly it is that the officers want to do, KC has expressed that “for this year, I would like to make sure that we do continue on raising money. Focus on any main situations or concerns being raised.”

Due to the council being so new, there is not much that can be said about their plans at the mo-

Continued on page 7

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Malden High Boosts Literacy Skills with New Hire Meghan McCormick



Meghan McCormick having a meeting with a teacher on her computer.
EMILLY WEIHRAUCH

Emily Weihrauch
Reporter

Malden High School this year welcomes a new addition to the faculty: Meghan McCormick. Transferring from Chelsea's Browne Middle School where she taught 7th grade English, it is safe to say that she is taking a big step in the direction of change.

Graduating from Cornell University, she moved to Massachusetts in 2016 and has lived in the state ever since. She first lived in Brighton, then moved to Stoneham, where she currently lives now. During her interview, Mr. Mastrangelo believed that she was an excellent candidate and stated "I said 'we shouldn't even interview anybody else' and we didn't and she's out in the hallway." She was district-hired for her great qualifications, as well as for the positive energy and knowledge she immediately brought to the interview.

McCormick has taken quite a liking to Malden High, despite only being here for a short few weeks. She also emphasized Mastrangelo and had a good impression of him right off the bat. She stated that "his and the school's emphasis on community is really great." McCormick has stated that despite settling in nicely to this new environment, she still has to get used to some changes, such as the difference in the ethnic population. She became accustomed to speaking Spanish and being around an 85-90% Spanish-speaking population. However, she has to get used to the predominantly Portuguese and Haitian creole speaking environment.

Ever since she started working at Malden High, she has formed her own opinions on the students and the place at which she has been hired. She can already tell subtle

Dr. Charles Daniel Redmond Makes an Enthusiastic New Addition to the English Department



Kamani Gomes
Reporter

Dr. Redmond enthusiastically teaching his students. KAMANI GOMES

When Dr. Charles Daniel Redmond switched to Malden High School as an English teacher he brought a unique energy that could not be matched.

Redmond was born in south Mississippi, but has lived in New England for the past 16 years.

He started off his postsecondary education getting his Undergraduate Degree at Millsaps University in Jackson Mississippi. Soon after he got his Master's degree in philosophy at Southern Mississippi University. When Redmond was done with his Undergraduate and Master's degree in 2004, and following his mother's passing, he left his home state.

Starting off his new path in Vermont, he graduated with a Masters in English at the University of Vermont in Burlington. Then, when he was finished he moved to the Medford-Malden area in 2009 to begin work on his PHD at Tufts University in English. After finishing his education he finally became a teacher. Now, Redmond teaches a variety of different English Language Arts classes at MHS.

This is not Redmond's first experience teaching however. Redmond claimed he really enjoys working with the students at MHS, due to the "diversity," that

he sees not only in his classroom but all throughout the building. As a teenager he also attended public school and hence why he was more interested in working in a public school. Redmond expressed how he wanted to show the public school students that a high education is available to anyone. Redmond did not resonate with his experience at a different school that he taught at which was a private school, as he felt as though he did not relate to the students as well as he did to the students at MHS.

Redmond appreciates the fact that working in a public school allows him to see more diversity, "Malden is the most diverse school district in Massachusetts, and that level of diversity excites me."

Redmond also feels that along with the switch from College to the High School level, came a lot of challenges, that he hopes to attend to soon, as he gets a proper footing at MHS.

MHS principal Chris Mastrangelo and English teacher Jennifer Clapp said that they can tell that Redmond actually loves doing what he does, and enjoys helping students grow.

Even as a teenager Redmond always strived to acquire a high education. "I love studying litera-

ture and talking about books, and even when I was in high school, as early as age 15 I said I wanted to get my PHD in English."

When choosing Redmond for the job Mastrangelo noted that it was clear that "he knew all his stuff."

Mastrangelo said that "he had really great energy," and that "he brings an amazing light into the building."

Students Camila Haro and Jana Wanas mentioned how they feel about Redmond's classes, the common answer was "he's really funny and he makes class entertaining." That's the goal Redmond was looking for.

Redmond describes himself as a funny, witty and sarcastic person. He has a cat named Sir Peaches and Cream and they enjoy spending time together. Redmond is also a member of The Boston Gay Men's Chorus. The group currently has over 300 members and has been directed by Conductor Reuben Reynolds for over 20 years. The group is heard by over 10,000 audience members per season and has performed across the globe.

As the school year comes into full swing Redmond is ready to take on new challenges, as he adjusts to this new environment.

differences between the behaviors of the different grades. She believes that seniors are more settled and

laid back, compared to freshmen who are more energetic.

"I'm just really excited to be

here and to meet more of the amazing students."

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Martin Berryman's Return to Malden High School like "Hitting the Lottery"



Berryman wearing a science pun shirt. The shirt reads "I wear this shirt periodically" and includes imagery of the periodic table. CHELMIE HYPPOLITE

Martin Berryman has made an exciting return to Malden High School. Berryman, a chemistry teacher, was previously a teacher here at Malden High School for 14 years, but switched to Lincoln Sudbury High School for a change. All in all, Malden is happy to have him back. With all his knowledge of chemistry, great personality, and teaching style, he will add a well-needed spark back to the school.

When Berryman was in high school, he had a passion for theater and acting. He originally thought that he would go into acting, so he went to The Juilliard School. He said that during that time he also had a passion for science, so he worked at a

pharmaceutical company for a while in Cambridge and enjoyed it. Berryman mentioned that he worked as a bench chemist, so he would perform different reactions and do different types of prep work. He soon liked it so much that changed majors to take chemistry full-time and eventually got his degree in chemistry.

Berryman comes from a family of educators, as his father and mother were both school teachers. His father was a high school teacher and his mother was an elementary school teacher, which provided a bridge between his own interests and those of his parents. Berryman related teaching to acting in that they both have objectives they

try to reach, and how you have to think about ways to be engaging. Berryman explained, "So just as in acting you think about all the different ways that a particular character might try to get something that they want. As a teacher, you think about all the different ways that your student might be interested in learning, and then try to design lessons to meet those needs."

Katherine Haskell, a fellow chemistry teacher at MHS, has known Berryman since 2011: "He's incredibly positive. He's very uplifting to both students and staff. He's a great person to just have here. He always has a positive word to say about everyone." She continued to go on about how passionate Berryman is about teaching and chemistry.

Haskell also explained how easy it is to approach Berryman and how supportive he is of the students as well as the teachers. "He's a phenomenal teacher. So hands down, he elevates all of our teaching just by having him here. He really helps. He brings a lot of benefits to the school in terms of teaching but also like I said, the morale and kids really enjoy him. So he brings a lot of mental health benefits to the kids and to the staff. We all feel his really good personality in general like fun energy," Haskell said.

Jessica Webber, a biology teacher at MHS, said that the science department at MHS is "so happy to have Mr. Berryman back at MHS. He is an incredible educator and a wonderful person and we are so lucky to have him here!"

Berryman mentioned numerous times how special Malden is and how special the students are here at MHS. He feels that he learns a lot from students at MHS, especially culturally. He believes that the learning can be transformational.

Berryman is a caring heartfelt teacher that puts his all into everything. It is evident that MHS is glad he is returning and bringing back his well-needed energy.

Brunelli House Office Welcomes New Adjustment Counselor Sally Zhang

Ja'shaylah Davis
Reporter

This year, there is a new addition to the Brunelli house office: Sally Zhang, who has joined as the new social worker. "She's a great new addition to the staff; she comforts the students," Brunelli House Principal Ewald Charles explained.

Charles was delighted to add her to the staff this year. "Ms. Zhang is a great fit for MHS because she connects with the students, which creates a safe space for them."

In previous years, Zhang was a student at MHS, and graduated as a part of the Class of 2018. Once she graduated from MHS, she attended Boston College. After graduation, she did an internship at Goodyear Elementary School and at Woburn Memorial.

This is Zhang's first official time being a counselor at a high school. She was so excited to assume this role as a counselor and was proud to finally achieve her goal. "My family motivates me... I have a lot of determination," Zhang explained. She feels as though when considering her goals, her family is the first to motivate her.

Zhang feels more comfortable at MHS because of the diversity of the school. Another thing that makes her comfortable is that she was a student at MHS before, and a lot of the teachers that she had as a teenager still work here. Zhang finds it very exciting to work alongside people that she once studied under.

Part of the reason that Zhang wanted to be a counselor was because she felt that she as a student was impacted by the counselors she met. "When I was growing up, I had the chance to meet with a counselor. And I thought that if it wasn't for them, I wouldn't have been so confident now it was very meaningful to me so I wanted to give back," Zhang expressed.



Berryman assisting students at a lab table. CHELMIE HYPPOLITE

CO '26 Thanksgiving Meal Raffle

Continued from page 5

ment, however, treasurer Oscar Luc hinted at the fact that they are looking "forward to many many more events, especially during the Christmas time!"

Ultimately, the officers share a similar goal as they all hope to encourage a sense of community within the class. "I'm just super excited to work with the council, it's a great and supportive group. And we are aiming to make the Class of

'26 not just a group of students, but also a community of friends," Luc expressed.


"I think the most exciting thing is the fact that I can do what I love, being on social media, and post about things that directly impact me and my class," Fontaim expressed.

The officers are all excited about the opportunity and cannot wait to get into the swing of things. "It feels amazing to be an officer for the Class of '26. I am very grateful for this opportunity to help represent my grade," KC expressed.


After a week of collecting raffle tickets for said Thanksgiving meal, which were being sold at one for a dollar, and six for five dollars, the winners were announced. In first

place receiving the full meal was sophomore student Adan Earle. In second place receiving a pie was physical education teacher Mary-Jo Urquhart, and in third receiving another pie was senior Jackson Gordon.

With the end of this successful first fundraiser, the officers are prepared for what the future has in store for them. "I'm excited to dig into the budgeting of many events and dances, and hopefully raise the most money as a class for a better prom in the future," Luc said foreshadowing the next months of planning and work that will be put into planning for their senior prom.



See if you can find the hidden Nedlam in this issue of the paper!



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There wasn't a seat open at Dave's Hot Chicken during their grand opening. RYAN COGGSWELL

Dave's Hot Chicken Celebrates Extravagant Grand Opening with Patriot Stars

Ryan Coggsell
Editor-in-Chief of Web

Driving up Route 1 Northbound on Friday night, one might have seen two lines out the doors at Dave's Hot Chicken. The fast-casual restaurant chain celebrated its grand opening in Saugus with a bang, inviting New England Patriots players Marcus Jones and Ja'Whaun Bentley in for a meet-and-greet.

Rick Soltes, the restaurant's director of training, was extremely excited about the turnout. "We had so many people coming out here [for an autograph]. If they want one, I just need a review or a slider," he chuckled.

In 2017, the first Dave's Hot Chicken opened in Los Angeles, CA. Since then, the chain has opened up over 100 locations in four different countries across the globe. An industry research firm "Technomic" named it 'America's Fastest Growing Restaurant Chain.'

"Just based on this grand opening, you can see how much this means to people," Bentley explained. "I'm just glad I had the opportunity to chip my face in and play a part in all of this." The 27-year-old has emerged as one of the top linebackers for the solid Patriot defense over the past few years.

The menu is straightforward, offering just four different meals consisting of only tenders and sliders. There is a two-slider, two-

quality chicken, but they also offer seven different "heat" options. This allows customers to decide how hot they want their chicken to be. The seven choices are: no spice, lite mild, mild, medium, hot, extra hot, and reaper. The reaper spice is made with one of the hottest chili peppers in the world, the Carolina Reaper,



A custom mural with art for Route 1 and Hockeystown USA. RYAN COGGSWELL

and even requires a waiver to order.

So, fans of chicken and the Patriots flocked to the restaurant to get a taste of the excellent food and meet two football players while they were at it. There were two lines flowing into the parking lot, one for the food and one for the meet and greet. While customers waited to get an autograph or a picture with Jones and Bentley, restaurant staff came out and took their order, even offering a free milkshake to buyers who reviewed them highly.

"I am just happy that Dave's Hot Chicken is coming out here. It's just good food and a great community," Jones expressed. "I am glad to be here and be a part of this opening." The young cornerback was named first-team all-pro with New England last season as a punt returner but will be on the sidelines for the remainder of this year with a torn labrum.

Four-time Pro Bowl linebacker Matthew Judon was planning on attending but had issues with travel. To make it up, he decided to come the next day for a meet-and-greet with influencer Marc Lewis, who also attended on Friday. This brought in another huge wave of buyers that allowed the chain to thrive for a second consecutive day.



MHS student Chad Robertson and Patriots Player Ja'Whaun Bentley. RYAN COGGSWELL

Soltes and Bentley both described the sliders as "fire", with Soltes being a big fan of the medium spice with cheese. Jones also noted that the "fries were bangin'" and to "make sure you get the sauce."

It could not have been a better start for the business, looking lively as ever within those first two days.

The genius idea to bring in a few Patriot defensive stars paid dividends and brought in hundreds if not a thousand customers to help support the newest Route 1 attraction. If they continue to bring in the chicken lovers, it is safe to say that Dave's Hot Chicken will be around in Saugus for a long time.



Dave's Hot Chicken Sign. RYAN COGGSWELL

tender, slider & tender, and single-slider combo. All are served with fries, but they offer a few other sides including mac & cheese, kale slaw, and cheese fries.

With such limited options, how are they so successful? Not only does the restaurant serve high-



MHS student Chris MacDonald and Patriots Player Marcus Jones. RYAN COGGSWELL

Continued from page 1

Foley, a person who attended, explained.

When the presentation began, Knight showed a picture of angry white people trying to stab a Black person with an American flag and explained what it meant to him. He talked about how he saw it often and how it represents how Black people are treated in America.

Keith is a comic artist who shares the experiences he goes through so that other people can relate. His goal is to educate people about ways Black people are treated by society in a way that will also entertain people, which is why he adds a lot of comedy to his work.

He also aims to create graphic novels where the main characters “look like him,” as he never saw books like that when he was in school. “I was never assigned books where the protagonists look like me. I got more books where animals were the heroes and not people of color,” Knight explained.

Knight talked about how he would always draw with a Black teacher and that meant a lot to him—the fact that he had someone who looked like him and also shared the same interests as him. That teacher impacted him a lot and those experiences that he had with him are something that he still carries with him today.

He then continued to share comic strips that expressed the frustration of being told so many things about how a Black person should act his entire life.

His next topic was how many people tend to avoid the conversation of racism. He then continued to talk about microaggressions. An example he gave is when white people say, “I don’t care if they’re green or purple people,” but there are no green or purple people. He expressed how it “drives [him] crazy” when people say they do not see color, but people should be happy about looking around and getting to see so much diversity and so many different cultures.

“The greatest thing about comics is that they take complex things and they simplify them,” Knight continued. Something a lot of people do not realize is that comics have been around for a very long time, and that is what Knight was telling his audience. He explained how hieroglyphics are comics because they use symbols, meanings, and pictures, and they tell a story.

“I hope to share my passion for creating comics with people and just to show that everybody here can do it too. They may not want to do it for a career but I think it’s a great way to write notes down, as far as just writing words down, create notes. I do graphic reporting for businesses, where I’ll sit in meetings and draw notes, it helps people retain what they’re talking about better,” Knight explained.

He then shifted the topic to the military and how Black people were mistreated there at different times in history. They were sent overseas



Jodie Zalk poses with George Takei’s book *They Called Us Enemy*. ZACHARY NEDELL



Event attendee holds a piece of art by Keith Knight. ZACHARY NEDELL

to save people and give them the rights that they did not even experience themselves.

The graphic novels *March*, *They Called Us Enemy*, *I Saw It*, and *Maus*, are all books that highlight people’s stories and what they went through.

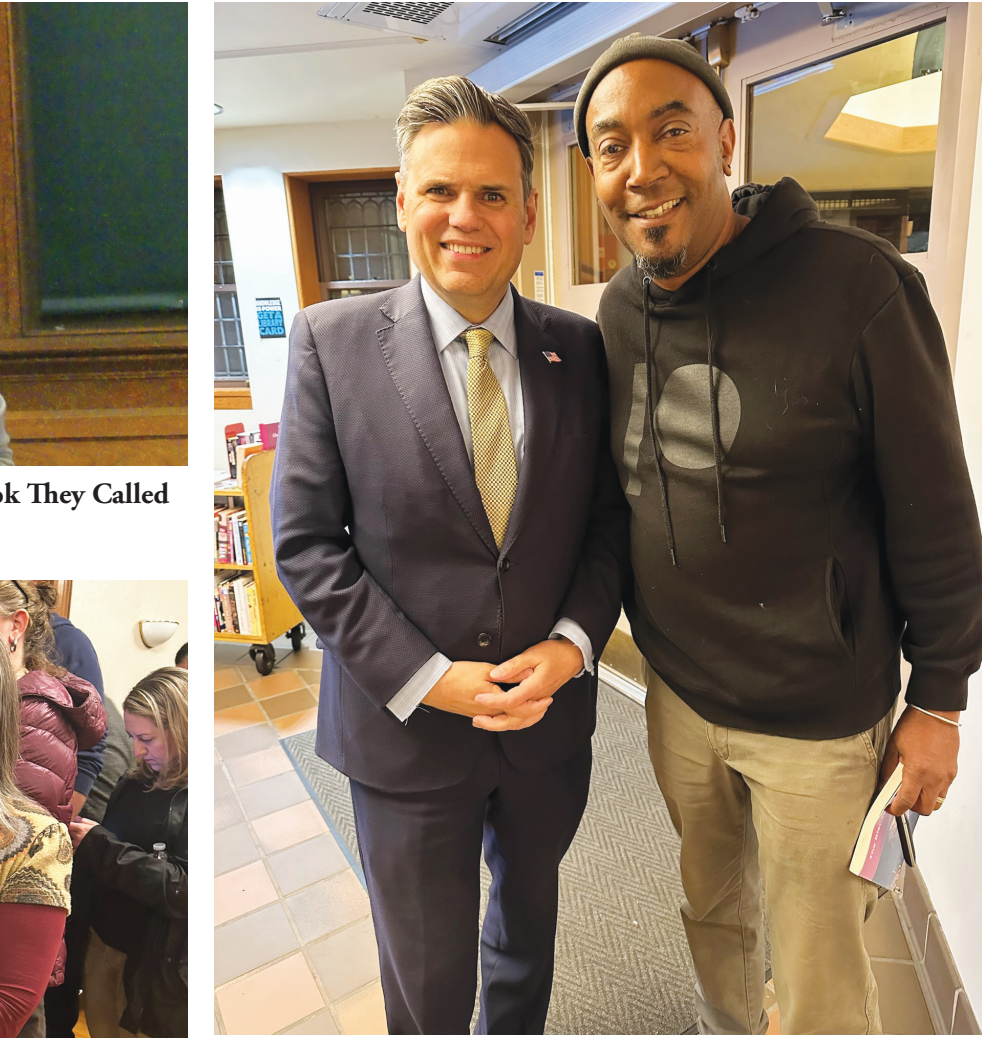
In the graphic novel *Maus*, the author illustrated the mice as the Jews and the cats as the Nazis, which Knight found interesting. Something he enjoys about comics is how people never question things while reading, even if they are extremely unrealistic. Even though it might not look real at all, people still get drawn to comics.

When the presentation neared the end, he shared his TV show “Woke” on Hulu. While he made sure to emphasize that it was “not for kids,” he went through pictures of him while he was on set and described them as his favorite moments on the show. “I was always encouraged by friends and family,” Knight said. The audience could tell that he is passionate about what he does through his energy while speaking about his show.

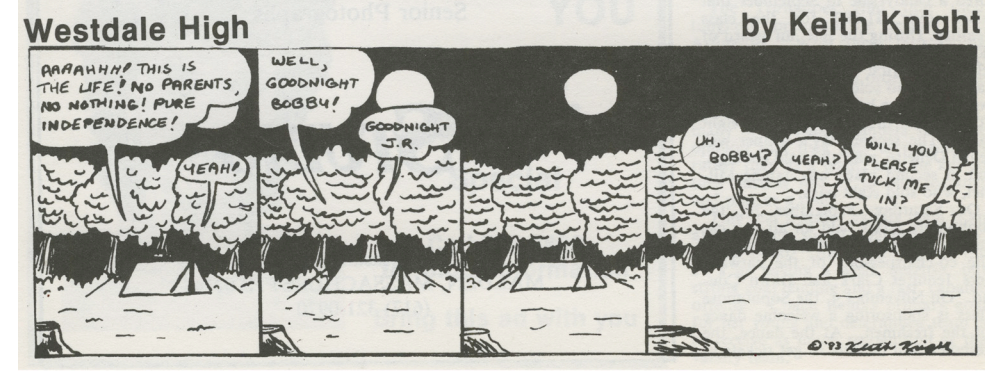
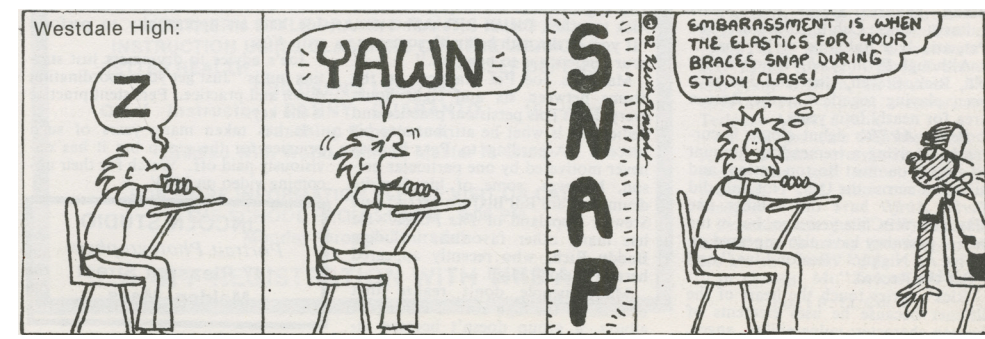
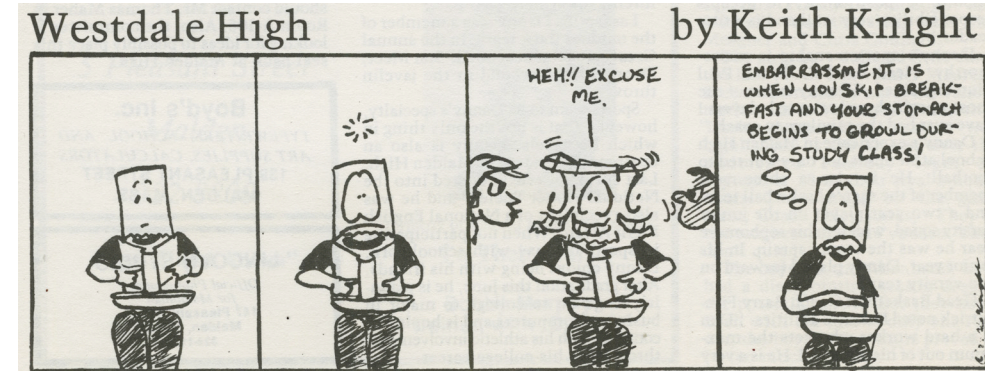
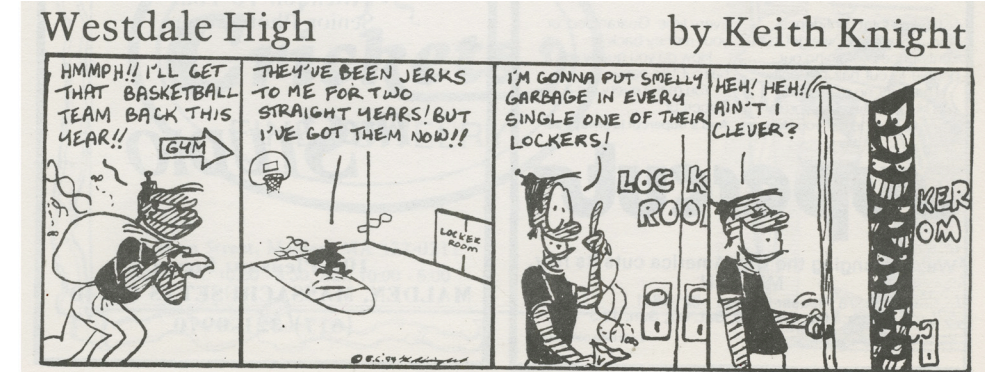
Finally, he mentioned before the presentation came to a close a story behind his “black mugshot” trend. He started this trend when he posted a picture of him holding a black mug and hashtagged it “black mugshot”. Soon enough, it quickly spread, and many people started posting pictures of themselves holding a black mug.

“That’s what I want to show up when ‘black mugshot’ is searched,” Knight explained. One might probably wonder, why?

Well, mugshots are illegal to post in a lot of countries; but in the United States, they post them “like crazy” Knight emphasized. If you try to get a job, apartment, or even date someone, that mugshot



Keith Knight and Mayor Gary Christenson pose for a photo together. Submitted by Mayor Christenson



Comic Keith Knight drew for the Blue and Gold during his time in High School. ZACHARY NEDELL

could ruin all of your chances. This is something that especially affects Black people. Police would post people’s mugshots to prove to people that they are doing their jobs without thinking much of it, but it

actually destroys people’s lives. That is why he decided to start the “black mugshot” trend.

“Let’s learn the true stories instead of learning fairytales,” Knight stated.

MTEC Fosters Loving Community



Left to right: The hangout/chill room; the auditorium room. VICTORIA DOMICIANO

Victoria Domiciano
Reporter

The Malden Teen Enrichment Center (MTEC) is a special place in our community where Malden teens can discover more about themselves and build friendships with their peers. MTEC brings together opportunities and connections for young people in Malden. The Center plays an important role in the lives of many teens in the city of Malden.

To some, it may look like MTEC is just a building with teenagers

teenagers could go to, leading Mac to eventually become the founder of MTEC. "This eventually blossomed and grew until what we now know as Malden Teen Enrichment Center itself. It's been running for ten years," Ortiz said.

Sheena Lapia, another Youth Leader, says that MTEC was open during her years of high school. She ended up getting a job as a teen and she continues to work there today because she hopes to be able to help teenagers stay out of trouble and have a safe space to come to after school instead of following the

wrong crowd.

MTEC mainly gets hectic right after school comes to an end, as all the teenagers are hungry and restless after a long day attending classes. Throughout the day, kids come in, enjoy some free food, hang out with friends, and get their work done.

With the many activities and programs MTEC provides, students mainly enjoy being in the library which is filled with many books, board games, video games, card games, table tennis, pool, and a couple of pianos.

Additionally, Ortiz runs the guitar program as well as the boxing program. In addition to the guitar and boxing programs, MTEC also hosts an art program, cooking and baking classes, and a variety of other activities. "We are planning on starting overnight camping trips starting up in February around New Hampshire or the general area in Boston.

Continued on page 14

"Not everyone has a good home life, so ideally this would be a hangout even if it's just to come by and talk for a couple of minutes, at least they feel comfortable enough to even show up."

JAY ORTIZ

tired from their day at school, but MTEC is more than just a physical building: It is considered a home away from home to some teenagers in Malden.

From the moment a student steps through its door, they are met with a loving energy. With the encouragement of self-expression and personal development, MTEC empowers teens to envision their future selves and to always pursue their dreams.

Jay Ortiz, a Youth Leader, explains how in his sophomore year of high school, he and his friends always wanted a space to hang out and chill after school. The Malden Public Library was their hangout place, but you can't be too loud in the library. The students contacted Cathy Mac—who shared the same thoughts about wanting a place



The library where students can watch movies, read, hang out, and more. VICTORIA DOMICIANO

SDG Nourishes Their Success



Chelmie Hyppolite
Reporter

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Club at MHS has had a successful year and hopes to keep its good streak going. The SDG club is a place where students can share their ideas on how they as students can have a positive impact on not only issues in Malden or Massachusetts, but also internationally.

The club hosted a bake sale a few weeks ago on November 8th, where they brought in over \$200. President Saia Hussain of the club said, "The bake sale was organized as a 'donate to a fundraiser of your choice' where we had a Google Form with options to donate to five different organizations. These organizations varied from Planned Parenthood, Save the Children, The Trevor Project, and more."

Hussain elaborated that "different amounts will go to different organizations because people who donated got to choose where their money went to. So I would say that is our biggest success so far."

The SDG Club has many things they hope to accomplish soon. "Our biggest goal is to organize an Earth Day event, a really big city-wide one, and maybe connect with the city of Malden for that. We plan to make it an annual recurring event. This has always been one of our club's major goals," said Vice President Angelina Feng.

Secretary of the club, Sarah Machado, mentioned that they hope to find more ways to do fundraising since they have only been successful in two areas. They found bake sales to be beneficial in generating funds as many other student organizations have.

Another success for the club has been recruiting new members which has helped the club grow. "This year the biggest difference is that we have more members. Last year it was mainly just five of us, but this year we were able to recruit a lot of freshmen at the club fair and get more members. So I think that also made it easier for us to organize more events," said Hussain.

Machado added that the more people they can get involved in the club the better, "that way the club can continue to grow because then they can become officers and we can continue this," after the officers graduate.

Malden High Students Take Part in Spirit Week

Ruth Jean
Reporter

Malden High went into the four-day Thanksgiving break with Spirit Week, the time when many students come out to participate and show their school spirit. Spirit Week is an exciting time that brings out the competitiveness within each grade at Malden High School, allowing students to forget about their academics and simply have fun. It started on November 15th with the first theme being Culture Day and ended on November 22nd with the Pep Rally, where students gathered in the gymnasium to have fun and watch their fellow students compete to win the Pep Rally for their grade.

The first day of Spirit Week was “Culture Day.” With the great diverse community of Malden High, many students came out to represent their culture. As students walked through the halls, they could see all the different flags being waved around with pride. Many came wearing their cultural, native, or religious clothing. Some students even did face paint to further showcase their culture. “Honestly, being able to see all the different flags and different cultural clothes being worn by students taught me about different cultures I didn’t know about and it further showed the diversity at Malden High,” explained freshman Camila Haro. With the incredibly diverse student body of Malden High, it was amazing to see the many different cultures.

Malden High went into the second day of Spirit Week with “Anything but a Bag Day.” This day allowed students to show their creativity and have some fun. This day broke away from the usual boring bags and allowed students to carry their items in boxes, crock pots, buckets, and even kayaks. “I think it was a nice fun way for students to express themselves



in a way that is not harmful and creative,” Emily Duong added. Brought back from last year, the third day was “Twin Day.” Students enjoyed showcasing their friendship by being seen twinning with their friends. People could be seen walking side by side with their twins through the hallways. For those lucky enough, they could have even spotted some twins matching together—taking twin day to another level. Students returned for the con-

tinuation of spirit week on monday with “Pajama Day.” Arguably, this was the best day considering that some students already come to school in pajamas on a regular basis. “This was one of my favorite days because I already come to school in pajamas, so it was just a regular day for me,” freshman Emma Parlee stated. “Decades/Wacky Tacky Day” was the fifth day of Spirit Week where people could be seen wearing the classic 90s/2000’s style. The clas-

sic baggy jeans and bandanas were sported by many students. Some people took the chance to wear some of their best eyesore-inducing outfits. Loud colors and tutus were worn by some brave people who were not scared to show off their wackiest tackiest outfits. Overall, Spirit Week proved to be an enjoyable time for students and staff alike, which was perfect for kicking off the long weekend.



Seniors Take the Win at the Annual Pep Rally

Kamani Gomes
Reporter

The seniors of Malden High School have once again won the annual Pep Rally with a score of 44.5. The class of 2024 became triumphant over the series of various challenges and have contributed to their grade's reputation of remaining victorious against the other classes.

The National Honors Society (NHS) hosted Spirit Week, which included Pep Rally Day as one of the events. It took a lot of hard work and time, but with the help of advisor Paul Marques keeping everyone organized, everything happened accordingly. "It takes a lot; it takes many hours to do everything... but it has to get done," Marques explained.

"I enjoyed brainstorming how we were going to send out the information to sign up for the pep rally," Vice President of NHS, Alejandra Fernandez, commented. "Our brainstorming process consisted of using whiteboards to list the athletic teams and the people we should reach out to. There was a lot of teamwork in this process, and it was fun to bring new ideas to the table and discuss them with all the officers."

This school tradition holds great importance to the school as it is considered one of the most anticipated events of the year. It allows groups of students from all grade levels to participate and shine in their respective sports. Not only so, but they also get to enjoy music, performances, and show off their athletic ability and teamwork skills.

Makeila Scott, President of NHS, stated that "although I do face some obstacles as president, the support of the rest of my council makes everything a much smoother process, though some obstacles I face as president would definitely

be trying my best to ensure everyone is heard and content with different events/policies." She found it "difficult making sure that every member, every council member, and the advisor are all on the same page when it comes to planning certain events or coordinating with outside organizations, so I try to be as attentive as possible to everyone's concern and carefully weigh the right to approach to address them."

As the years go on, this annual commemoration continues to remain relevant in the school's atmosphere, and it has yet to lose its appeal and excitement. It is a large part of the Malden High School experience. Each year, more and more students get involved and get to help run and be a part of this event. An example of the students' involvement would be the Step Team, the size of whom's members has changed drastically since the team's earlier years; in 2015, it had merely ten members—compared to the present day where its member count has more than doubled since then.

"Being a part of the Pep Rally is fantastic because you get to show school spirit and support your class. I was honored to have been selected to be part of the team because of my love for sports and games. I met new people and got to collaborate with individuals that I typically don't encounter on a regular basis," junior Ivana Marinkovic noted.

Before everyone made it to the gym, there was a volleyball game between all four grades. The first team to make it to 15 points won. Since volleyball is a very popular sport at the school, it made many students eager to sign up and play. The seniors won that game and they were very enthusiastic about beating out the other grades.

Once everybody made it into the gym, everyone took a moment of silence to let the Malden High School's choir perform the National Anthem.

After the choir's performance, the Malden High School Cheerleaders took their mats out and prepared

to perform. They showcased their talent and produced a great performance by giving it their all. Following an annual tradition of the football players going up to dance with the cheerleaders, the crowd of students cheered super loud when the cheerleaders were doing their stunts as they looked flawless.

Following the cheerleaders, the Step Team began their performance. Some of the cheerleaders were also on the Step Team. They came out in unison wearing a pink jersey, jeans, and white shoes. They performed beautifully and the rhythm was like no other.

Although there was a little difficulty with the music not starting, the performance turned out to be perfect otherwise. "In the beginning, they messed up the speakers because we were going to play a song, it threw us off a little bit, but other than that I think we did a very nice job," freshman Beyonce Pierre Rene laughed.

The game to start the day was tug of war. The first grades to go against each other were the freshmen and sophomores. Even though the sophomores gave their best effort, the freshmen team crushed them. "We beat the sophomores in tug of war which is kind of crazy," Raquel Ferreira laughed. The game continued with the seniors dominating against the juniors.

The next game was basketball free throws, with the goal of the game being to put the most balls in the hoop. The seniors had a rough start after missing 12 baskets in a row. However, at the end, they

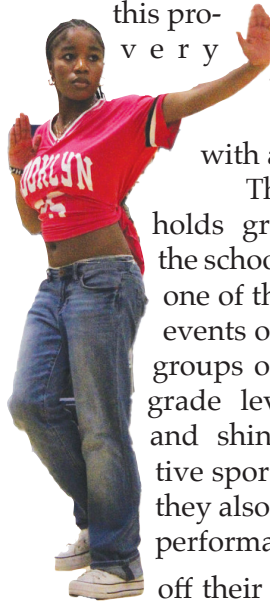
ended up tying with the freshmen at eight points. The sophomore team ended the game with seven points, meaning juniors led with 13 points.

Following basketball was the pushup contest—the longest-lasting game. This was played in grade order starting at freshmen to seniors. The boy for the freshmen boys team did 40 pushups and the girl for the freshmen girls team did 16. Then, sophomores did 80 pushups altogether, but the juniors set a record high of 160 pushups combined—winning first place as seniors came in at second with 103 pushups.

Following the pushup contest was the human pyramid. The freshmen had a rocky start and took the longest amount of time, coming in last place. The sophomores went second and came in second place. Then juniors came in 3rd place as before they could have a successful pyramid, a teammate fell over at the last second. Seniors came in first place once again for building their pyramid the quickest.

Finally, the last game was the tug-of-war finale, much different from the first game with it being seniors against juniors. Once more, the seniors dominated and came in first place in just under ten seconds..

After all the points were calculated, everyone was able to see who the true winners of the 2023 Malden High Annual Pep Rally were. Unsurprisingly, the seniors came in first place with 44.5 points in total, juniors in second with 35.5 total points, freshmen in third place with 26.5 points, and sophomores in the last place with 20.5 points in total.





Harmony in Diversity

Muslim Student Association Celebrates Year Two with a Focus on Building Community

Aundrea Orozco Cifuentes
Reporter

With the immense diversity seen at Malden High School, a group of students wanted to start a Muslim Student Association (MSA) as an NHS service project to support their community of Muslims. They hoped to foster a sense of community for the members by allowing them to connect, share experiences, and celebrate their diversity. The founders behind this club are alumni Zineb Laghzaoui, and Editor-in-Chief of The Blue and Gold Hadjar Yousfi.

The club aims to educate others on Islam and allow others to get closer to it. "There's also been a misconception on the religion itself which we also hope to clear up and just educate others on it," said Ali Zoulgami, Vice President of the club.

On November 21st, the MSA had its first meeting of this school year. The club is hosted in room B336 with the advisor being Italian teacher Alessia Guglielmi.

During this first meeting, they

introduced their officers and gave an overview of the goal and different information about the club. They also shared a dua, a special prayer, to bring everyone together. After introducing everyone to the club, they did a couple of icebreakers before ending the club on a fun game of Would You Rather.

The club officers know that not many people know about the MSA, especially among Muslim students. So, they are taking action to spread the word. They have done this by putting up posters around the school as well as by promoting their club on social media on their Instagram @maldenmsa.

The officers did this in the hopes that whether you see a poster in the hallway or scroll through Instagram, you will know there is a place where you can be a part of something fun and share your thoughts with others.

The MSA has made it their mission to pursue an environment that helps people understand Islam better by clearing up any misconceptions about it.



On the other side was a group who was disagreeing. AUNDREA OROZCO CIFUENTES

Sabrina Kharkhach, the Event Coordinator of the club, explained that "people have misconceptions that you have to be Muslim to be a part of the community or learn more about it, but that's far from the truth! One of our goals is to promote a better understanding of Islam after all!"

They do this by planning different educational activities. They aim to create a friendly community

for students, where everyone feels welcome and supported, regardless of their background, and have left the club open to everyone—not only Muslims, but anyone who is interested as well.

Freshman May Ihiri, a new member of the club, explained that she, "wanted a chance to get closer to Islam and get more information on it. I also wanted to gain more Muslim friends and educate them and others on information they possibly don't know about either."

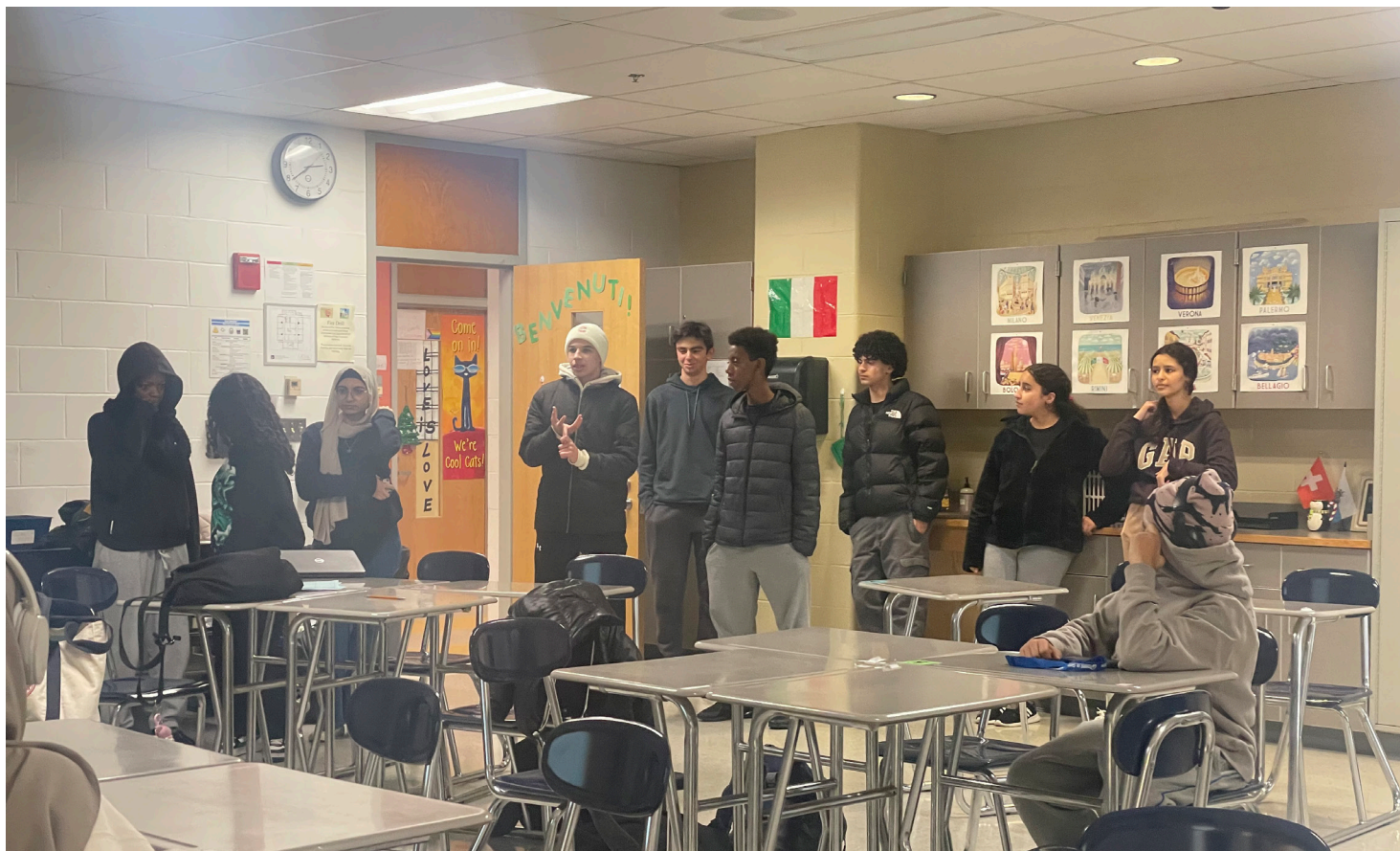
"There's also a lot of fun games to participate in and enjoy with fellow Muslims," Imane Agoumad, a freshman, added.

"I like the community feeling it gives for all of us as well as the activities we do, it feels natural and just the overall vibe," Kharkhach added.

Multiple members have also stated how this club has allowed them to voice their experiences and opinions, Yassir Halaissi said, "this club lets us share our experiences on a bunch of topics that regard Islam."

Secretary Shiza Zahid added that "I wanted to be able to connect with a group of people who had similar beliefs to me, to be able to meet more people."

Ultimately, the MSA is off to a great start of their second year active at Malden High School and they cannot wait to make a bigger impact on the community.



Ali Zoulgami shares his opinion on their prompt questions. AUNDREA OROZCO CIFUENTES

MTEC Fosters Loving Community

Continued from page 10

Not a lot of kids have ever gone out and slept on a tent overnight," Ortiz explained.

The MTEC is also planning on going on a snowshoeing trip to New Hampshire during Winter Break and staying at a lodge for days. In fact, this is a trip they happen to take annually. "This is pretty much just a free, safe space for kids to come in and relax and they can take part in any of those activities and programs.

A lot of kids feel like this is home," Lapia detailed.

Not only does MTEC consist of programs and activities, it also includes a variety of college opportunities, with partnerships at Malden Catholic. Lapia explained, "we are looking into financial programs, like how to balance finance when you are an adult and different life skills," as well as the opportunity for warm meals every day. "Not everyone gets the chance to eat at home, so we try our best to have a warm meal at least once every day," Lapia said.

Generally, there is not a schedule students have access to, but the MTEC tries their best to provide

calendars every month so that teenagers can see the activities and food options ahead of time. Ortiz noted how they are working on having separate calendars every month and some weekly schedules so that the kids can see what they are participating in every day.

"Not everyone has a good home life, so ideally this would be a hangout even if it's just to come by and talk for a couple of minutes, at least they feel comfortable enough to even show up," Ortiz said. "I just want kids to feel like they don't have to be pressured to be a certain way."

The MTEC has switched to multiple different buildings over

the years, but now they are located at 7 Washington Street. Due to them changing buildings so frequently in the last couple of years, they have had trouble reaching newer high school students. "We are going to try our best to be at the high school at least once every week, just so we can show our faces more," Ortiz stated.

It is clear that the Malden Teen Enrichment Center is more than a physical building; it is a community that invests in their students' thriving future and believes in the safety of teenagers. With a free open space for every Malden student, everyone is welcome to feel safe.

Malden Bands Together to Run 5k for Palestine

Sana Elshafey
Meriam Bouchtout
Reporters

The ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict has affected people worldwide, leaving them to wonder how they could help or show they care.

A group from Malden hosted the 5K Run for Palestine, and approximately 200 people from Greater Boston showed up sporting their immense support, even though the weather was not pleasant, the event was held on the morning of November 18th. Participants were passionate about showing their support and respect for the Palestinian people who have been killed or affected by the current conflict in Gaza.

“Seeing injustice anywhere is something that, as Muslims, we have to stand up [against],” said Fatima Benmimoun, an attendee at the event.

“For me, I wanted to be involved because the kids that I taught reached out to me and I was like, ‘you know what? I have to do my part. I have to be involved and that’s why I’m here today.’” - Jabir Ducasse

As the conflict continues, it is estimated that somewhere between 14,000 and 15,000 Palestinians have been killed, 10,000 of which are women and children, according to The New York Times and Al Jazeera as of the end of November.

“Even though I’m not influential, nor am I the richest person in the world, I want to do what I can, and ‘Alhamdulillah’ [‘praise be to God’], this is something I can do so I try my best to show up when I can show up,” said Fatima Benmimoun.

Attendees agreed they wanted to use the event as a way to advocate for Palestinians from afar.. “For me, I wanted to be involved because the kids that I taught reached out to me and I was like, ‘you know what? I have to do my part. I have to be involved and that’s why I’m here today,’” said Jabir Ducasse.

Throughout the event, runners and supporters from ages differentiating between five to 50 were waving Palestinian flags, speaking up for Palestine, and helping each other out while facing the messy weather conditions. The runners ran through the bike path and around Malden, a loop that is 3.1 miles. The volunteers received snacks and water, free for everyone throughout the day, as well as pizza.

Ducasse also believes that Palestinians need more action from people around the world to support and bring awareness to them. “I think worldwide, people should



Volunteers posing for a photo. MERIAM BOUCHTOUT



Volunteers running to finish line. MERIAM BOUCHTOUT



Kid holding Palestine flag. MERIAM BOUCHTOUT

definitely recognize the conflict in the West Bank, and they should do a little more because I feel like there’s a lot of silence throughout social media,” Ducasse said.

As people express their feelings and ideology on the matter, Susan Hassan, a Palestinian, thought to share a few words about what she feels about Palestine’s current situation. “It’s just heartbreaking what’s been happening in Gaza over the past few weeks, and I think it’s important to just support as much as possible, call for ceasefire, and be the voice for the voiceless and that’s truly why I came because I really sympathize with this cause and my brothers and sisters that could have easily been me,” she said.

“While everyone has been focusing on Gaza, the IDF (Israeli Defense Forces) soldiers have gone into the West Bank, have kidnapped people, have killed people, and there’s illegal settlements there and that’s been going on for years and years,” said Hassan.

She also added, “There’s only one true side to this conflict, that it’s an occupation and not a conflict between two equal sides. And that there are people who are being targeted, that there’s a genocide occurring, and that those people need support and need a voice to stop the apartheid that’s happening right now, and has been happening in the



Runners joyfully run the race route. MERIAM BOUCHTOUT

past 75+ years.”

As the event continued, a few people wanted to share their thoughts on the event as well. Nour Chouiki, a former MHS student, stated, “I really liked it, it brought awareness... There are innocent people dying, including kids, and I want to do something to help.” Chouiki expressed that she “decided to support Palestine” after she learned about what’s happening in the West Bank. “I think that people should pay attention more to the conflict,” she said. But as she solely expressed, her purpose for joining

the event was “to support humanity.”

To add a few more words about the people’s thoughts, Hassan said, “You can’t say that Hamas are terrorists without saying the IDF isn’t a terrorist organization... and there’s illegal settlements [in the West Bank] and that’s been going on for years.”

“We see that people are dying, and a high percentage of those dying people are kids... How can you justify killing kids and think that’s ok? There should be an uproar,” Ducasse expressed.

maldenblueandgold.com

Nick Duggan Senior Profile



Nick Duggan running. ZACHARY NEDELL

Chelmie Hyppolite
Reporter

As the winter sports season begins, the indoor track team is continuously at hard work. Nick Duggan, a senior this year at MHS, is an essential part of the Boys' Indoor Track Team. As captain of the team, Duggan has showcased not only his great athletics but also how committed, genuine, and caring he is.

Duggan is also the captain of the Boys' outdoor track team as well as the Boys' cross-country team.

Duggan began running at the end of his freshman year and since then his passion for running has increased tremendously. "Running is something that I have taken to do as both a hobby and competitively. With running being added to my life, it has been relied on as a way to



Nick Duggan posing for a picture. ZACHARY NEDELL

release stress," he said.

Distance Coach Meghan McCormick, who has started coaching this year already has many positive things to say about Duggan. McCormick says, "I've only known the track team for a short period of time, but Nick has already come out as someone who is an incredibly hard worker. He's incredibly persistent, really considerate, and a really thoughtful captain."

Coach McCormick continued by adding an example, "The other day when we were running to the outdoor track as a group, he made sure everyone was crossing safely

Nathaly T Hernandez
Reporter

In mid-November, the Dodgeball Tournament, hosted by the Adventure Club and its advisors, Shauna Campbell and Sarah Jones, took place in Malden High's gym, inviting many students from all grades to play against each other.

The event was a dodgeball tournament in which many students were able to come together to participate. Not only did students come from different grades, but teachers even took part in the event against students to raise the anticipation level.

This tournament was a fundraiser for the Adventure Club, and every year the club hosts this event in November.

There were a variety of different teams that played against each other in a bracket format, which narrowed the teams down to see who was able to move on to the next round. Certain teams lost because of certain flaws, such as turning their backs or underestimating the opposing teams, resulting in their elimination.

Throughout the game, many students and teachers threw balls at each other with no hesitation and pure competition in their eyes. The games were fueled by vigorous passion that was clearly seen by those in attendance.

Both sophomores Eli Horton and Joey Isles were part of one of the teams that made it to the final game. Horton spoke on his mindset during

ADVENTURE CLUB GOES BALL-ISTIC IN DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT



Sophomore Elijah Horton attempts to dodge a volley of throws. NATHALY T HERNANDEZ

the games; he was very competitive and made it clear with sharp movements and a confident manner that reflected how much he wanted to win. "I was giving it my all and made sure to have enough confidence to pull me through it and the possibility of a win," Horton said.

As teams were eliminated, the rivalry and intensity heightened.

Little altercations were apparent in the game and they would usually be about how one team felt about the points and who received them. These were quickly forgotten as the game went on and brought teams to the final round.

Advisor Campbell had many thoughts about this tournament, as well as reactions.

"We were looking for a fun fundraiser that was sports-related but didn't require being on an official sports team—just gym skills

and that anyone could participate," Campbell said.

When asked about her initial thoughts and what she wanted to include for the tournament, Campbell stated that "I was excited that students coordinated their outfits and were excited to play; the trophy was something we really wanted to include and hope to have a club and events trophy case at school at some point."

Campbell generally thought of being inclusive for all participants and wanted them to enjoy themselves more than anything.

At the end of the tournament, the student team had won, and everyone in the gym raised and cheered on the team, finishing off the event with a unique prize: a trophy that helped commemorate the win and celebrate the Adventure Club's event.



Sophomore Sean Retotal preparing a hit from Nicholas Li. NATHALY T HERNANDEZ

without me even asking... checked in on everyone in the back [and] everyone in the front to make sure we were all together."

Duggan's kindness clearly is an important part of keeping the team together. Rolando Meija, one

of Duggan's teammates, said that he "is passionate about improving his and others running. Nick just exudes positivity and leadership."

"As a captain, Nick is really supportive of our teammates. He is responsible and holds us account-



The winning team poses with their trophy after the tournament. NATHALY T HERNANDEZ

able in our workouts," Meija added.



Junior Kimberly Tropnas sprints with the ball to get a touchdown for the juniors. ALEXIA LIMA

Alexia Lima
Evelyn Ruan
Reporters

Before Thanksgiving break on Tuesday, November 21st, the annual tradition of the Powderpuff flag football game, between the junior and senior girls, returned to Macdonald Stadium in full force as both classes were hungry for the win.

The Powderpuff game has always been a commemorated and valued event throughout the Malden High community that brings students and staff closer together by incentivizing some friendly competition. “I think that upholding fun traditions like Powderpuff, junior varieties, and spirit week are what make high school the most memorable,” Courtney Braz, one of the junior class advisors who took part in the planning of the game, shared.

On its third year back at Malden High School since the tradition was revived in 2021 after a break because of Covid, the excitement that anticipated the game was unmatched and the girls wanted to put their best foot forward out on the field. Being an all-girls game, Powderpuff contributes to the representation of women in a male-dominated sport and has become a favored tradition because of this. “Girls can do anything guys can do and it’s something fun for everyone to enjoy right before break,” Braz added.

Last year, the juniors demolished the seniors in an 18-0 win and allowed that experience to fuel their performance this year, as many of them wanted to play again as seniors. “I think that we’re going to win since we won last year, so it’s looking good. I’m not worried,” Giselle Dessert, a returning player who is now on the senior team, exclaimed.

Before the game got started, senior class advisor Shannon Votaw said, “I think it’s going to be fun, I



Junior Abigail Lee running with the ball. ALEXIA LIMA



Senior class poses for a picture after a victorious win against the Junior class. ALEXIA LIMA



Malden High cheerleaders cheers for the Senior and Junior teams. ALEXIA LIMA

think both classes, the juniors and seniors, are excited to play.”

As the game began, students and teachers cheered for their favored team. Both classes came close to scoring the first touchdown of the game, but by the end of the first half, the seniors ended up taking the lead 7-0.

The seniors felt confident and chose to mostly celebrate their small victory instead of taking strategizing seriously like how the juniors were during halftime. “I hope seniors win, if we don’t win it’ll be kind of embarrassing,” Marianne “Mari” Rivadeneira, a participating senior, commented before the game resumed for the second half. “We have a plan now and we’re making movement,” Ina Tolete, a participating junior, stated during halftime.

Just when the juniors were starting to lose hope, they were able to score a touchdown and tie their score to the seniors’. Neither side seemed to be satisfied, resulting in each team scoring touchdowns one after another to tie the score once again at 14-14.

Time was running out and the tension on the field grew heavier, but with a last minute play, the seniors were able to secure a touchdown and win the title of Powderpuff champions.

Both teams celebrated the results of the close game and showed excellent sportsmanship by speaking highly of each other’s performances and congratulating each other.

“It’s really important to maintain these events because it contributes to the culture of the school and it contributes to building community by making everyone feel like this isn’t just a place to learn academically, but you’re learning emotionally,” Braz concluded.

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“Love at First Slice”

Malden High School Badminton Club Hosts Competition Against Melrose High Badminton Club

Nathan Dean
Editor-in-Chief of Print

In an amazing final match, surrounded by fans from both high schools, Malden's Rin Hoang and Kevin Lin were able to beat Melrose's Andy Wang and Zixi Zhou in an intense 16-14 match.

On October 17th, the Malden and Melrose High School Badminton Clubs met in the Finn gym for an amazing competition. The competition would see around 16 doubles from both Malden and Melrose compete in a single-elimination bracket. All matches were best of one set, meaning the first team to earn 21 points wins, unless the opposing team has 20 points in which case a "win by 2 rule" was in place. However, some games were changed to first to 15 in the interest of time.

The competition was open to groups of all skill levels, and as such there were some pretty uneven pairings to begin the tournament. Nonetheless, beginner teams enjoyed learning the game and playing in a more serious setting. However, as teams were eliminated, the matches quickly became more competitive.

The second round would see a nail-biter match between Melrose's Andy Wang and Zixi Zhou and Malden's Agambir Singh and Editor-in-Chief of Print of the Blue and Gold Nathan Dean. Wang and Zhou had quickly garnered support from Melrose fans as the best Melrose team, but Singh and Dean were able to take advantage of mistakes and maintain a lead for much of the match. The game would eventually end up tied 14 all and go into sudden death win by 2. A series of good spikes would allow Wang and Zhou to win the match 17-15.

Wang and Zhou would again need to face another tough opponent in their semi-final match, Malden's Jason Chen and Khai Nguyen. Chen and Nguyen, had proven themselves to be strong underdogs capable of battling with some of the best Malden teams. However, the match would need to be played on a different court. This small change seemed to throw Chen and Nguyen off, as



The Malden and Melrose Badminton Clubs pose for a group photo after the competition. NATHAN DEAN

both players hit many shots long. The game would end in a 15-3 win for Wang and Zhou earning them a place in the finals match. "The court was way too small," said Chen, "it wasn't really fair. If we played on a bigger court, we would have been the one destroying them".

Favorites to win the tournament, Malden's Rin Hoang and Kevin Lin, quickly breezed through the bracket. In each game, the team fooled around and laughed and won almost without breaking a sweat. Within no time, they had earned themselves a spot in the championship match.

Now, it was time for the final match. In a lucky stroke of events, it had ended up Malden vs Melrose to win it all: Wang and Zhou vs Hoang and Lin. Fans from both high schools stood and cheered on opposite sides of the court. The game started slowly with some out-of-bounds hits but quickly heated up with some massive spikes from both sides. For the first time in the tournament, Hoang and Lin were forced to put their game faces on. For a while, Wang and Zhou maintained a consistent lead. Then, it seemed like Hoang and Lin had finally warmed up and quickly closed the gap. Both

teams jostled for the lead going back and forth with hard and well-placed shots to the enjoyment and cheers of the onlooking spectators. The game would eventually go to a win by 2 tie breaker. However, a quick two points from Hoang and Lin would seal the win at 16-14. "I feel great," Hoang said after the game, boastfully adding, "because the game was so easy". Lin would show a more modest reaction, "I could have done better". Both players were also not afraid to point out their mistakes, saying that their communication could have been a lot better.

The whole event was thanks to an out-of-the-blue email from the Melrose High School Badminton Club President Cadence L'Heureux to Malden High School's advisor Joshua Sellers. L'Heureux, Sellers, and Malden Badminton Club President Susila Wong were able to communicate over email and set the event up and all of the logistics.

"Overall the event went really well," said Sellers, "There was a nice mix of kids playing just for fun and kids playing competitively and I think everybody kind of had a chance to do whatever it is they wanted". Looking forward to the future, Sellers is working on setting up another badminton tournament, "Fingers crossed we'll be able to do something similar. We're hoping we'll be able to take our club over to Melrose and have a rematch

maybe."

As this was the first time the Badminton Club had competed against another school like this, things were a little chaotic. "While it was a lot of stress and did take a lot of planning, it was definitely worth it," Sellers explained.

Other than cross-school competitions like this one, the Badminton Club at Malden High will continue to host meetings in the gym whenever it is available and is looking into creating a competition for only Malden High students.



Jason Chen spikes in his match against Melrose's Wang and Zhou. NATHAN DEAN



Kevin Lin (right) and Rin Hoang (left) in their finals match against Andy Wang and Zixi Zhou. NATHAN DEAN



Andy Wang (in green) dives to save the rally. NATHAN DEAN



Nathan Dean
Editor-in-Chief of Print

Slade Harding (left) and Ivana Marinkovic (right) pose with their medals. NATHAN DEAN

Coming off a solid season, the Malden High Cross Country Team moved into the Greater Boston League (GBL) meet on Friday, October 28th. Competing against Somerville, Medford, Lynn English, Lynn Classical, Chelsea, Everett, and Revere. The boys' team reached third place while the girls' team achieved sixth.

Juniors Ivana Marinkovic and Slade Harding both managed to place in the top 10 in their groups at eighth and fourth respectively. With a new personal record of 14:55 minutes around the 2.8-mile course in MacDonald Park in Medford, Harding also qualified for the State Tournament which will be held on November 11 at the Gardner Golf Course.

The course, which is shorter and more flat than the standard high school route, garnered mixed feelings from the team. Senior Captain Emma Spignese-Smolinsky described the course as, "pretty easy in relation to the other courses," which she liked. However, Senior Captain Rolando Mejia disliked the course saying it was too paved, and that he would have preferred it to have more hills. "It's not cross country, it's just running," he stated.

Leading up to the races, the Malden team could be seen joking around, having fun, and listening to music. This fun atmosphere was highlighted by Mejia, "The environment is just so happy. It's so nice".

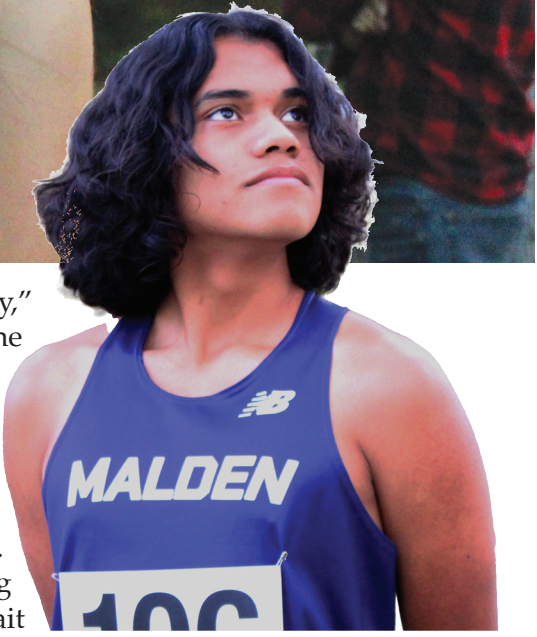
As the races began, expectations and hopes were high. In the end, many runners performed well and ran new personal bests. Coach Michael Nicholson described the meet as "amazing", citing the top three finish for the boys' team and Marinkovic and Harding's top 10 finishes. It was a "great day," he added.

When asked about his outstanding performance that day, Harding said he felt amazing. The result was "a little better than I expected. I was thinking I would get around sixth or seventh," he mentioned, but was glad to have placed higher. "I had to push myself really hard," he continued, "there was a lot of competition, they all did really good too."

For all of the senior runners, this meet was the last of their high school career. Coach Sean Weldon, who has coached the team for five years now, is sad to see so many members of the team go especially after knowing some of them since

seventh grade at Beebe. "It's crazy," he said while recalling all of the memories he has with the team.

Looking forward to next year, the team holds high expectations with many underclassmen expecting to return to the sport again in their next season. With so many promising young athletes, Malden High cannot wait to see how they do next year.



Captain Rolando Mejia. NATHAN DEAN



Captain Emma Spignese-Smolinsky sprints at the end of the race to finish ahead of a Chelsea runner. NATHAN DEAN



The team poses after the meet. NATHAN DEAN

Girls' Basketball Ready to Begin a Promising Season

Gustavo Pereira
Reporter

Caroline Santos
Reporter

After many games, practices, and hard work, fall sports have come to an end. The winter sports are about to begin with many new players and opportunities. While students cannot be sure of what is about to come, upcoming players can definitely make predictions and set goals. The girls' basketball team is eager to start their season and already have many goals they are planning on achieving.

Sophomore Olivia Rodrigues is eager to get back on the court and start the season. Much like other players, she hopes to continue building bonds with her teammates and while playing alongside them.

Many of the girls have been playing in the off-season and staying in shape in preparation of the season. They have expressed how important it is to stay in shape before the season starts as it is key to playing better. These offseason practices have been said to improve the girls' performances and they have been really focusing on their mistakes and weaknesses.

Rodrigues seems to be really proud of their improvements; they did not just improve on their own skills, but as a team as well. Rodrigues also expressed how she would like to see more support from the students. "I think everyone mostly focuses on the boys' sports and forget about us," knowing her team can do many great things.

Junior Ina Tolete, much like Rodrigues, expressed great excitement for this season: she believes that they have grown bonds together and gotten to know each other pretty well. While a lot of people have been doubting them about their hopes of winning the GBL title, according to Tolete, she wants to prove them wrong not only for herself, but as a team.

Tolete expressed how she is excited for more bonding and great times with her team. Other remarkable goals for Tolete are consistency: she thought last year was an inconsistent year for her playing, stating how she was not satisfied with her performance as it lacked consistency, "but this year we've all improved really well." It is amazing to see how as a team they have grown together.

Their bond with each other is surely great, but what benefits did it bring? Tolete expressed that they have all gained a "sense of how we all kind of play with each other, doing more team bondings to boost our morale and kind of learn to take criticism from one another." This was a great example of the benefits of creating bonds with teammates, not only was Tolete's pride and content feelings while saying this



Cheerleaders posing together. Photo Submitted by Haylee Seeley.

Delina Yohannes
Lead Reporter

As the final raising of their pom-poms nears, the Malden High Cheer Team approaches the end of their season with only one performance left. Regardless of the outcomes of the games they performed at, the cheerleaders' energy and drive resulted in them delivering amazing performances each and every time.

As the final raising of their pom-poms nears, the Malden High Cheer Team approaches the end of their season with only one performance left. Regardless of the outcomes of the games they performed at, the cheerleaders' energy and drive resulted in them delivering amazing performances each and every time. As someone who's been on the team for a long time and has seen the team go through lots of changes, "being on a team with a whole bunch of girls without much drama and lots of love always motivated me to return," Kennedy continued. A healthy sisterhood among the girls also was a big factor in their success throughout this season.

Alecia Louigene, a sophomore, was originally the Cheer manager during her freshman year, but eventually joined this year. She describes

it as "a big family where you always feel safe as they always have your back regardless."

The teammates' relationship with each other reflects in all their performances as almost all of the choreography that is produced is created by each of the girls. "Regardless of everyone having different individual goals in terms of stunts, they're able to come together and combine all their thoughts and ideas into a routine that everyone is comfortable with," explained Dessert. One of their personal favorite choreographies is called the "whip

it" dance, which they performed during halftime at one of the football games.

Moving forward, Malden High's Cheer Team continues to grow and develop whether they are under the bright Friday night lights or not. As their fall season comes to a close, that has not limited them for the things they are capable of next year. Dessert mentioned one of their biggest goals for the next season, which is "to compete after years and we're hoping [to put] Malden back on the map."



Cheer Captain Isabella Oliveira posing for a picture. Photo submitted by Haylee Seeley



Cheer Captain Giselle Dessert posing for a picture. Photo submitted by Haylee Seeley



Tori Gammon gets up after a hard foul by a defender. BO STEAD. Photo from the 2022-2023 season.

shown how much they have come and grown, regardless of their ups and downs.

In their upcoming games, Tolete states how she is eager to play against Revere, while she and her team will also be facing Everett, she is most eager to go up against Revere as they have been "feeling highly of themselves," and she has certainly felt more tension between Malden and Revere this year than

with Everett.

Sophomore Jenesa Perez Sims believes her team can improve a lot compared to last year. Communication is essential when it comes to team sports: "we will do good as long as we communicate and prepare." Perez is very enthusiastic about her team this year, she believes they will do great things and have an outstanding season.

What stands out amongst all

the players is their eagerness and willingness to improve together. They have always thrived to conquer their next goal or challenge ahead of them.

Senior captain Victoria Gammon is confident in her team and knows they can do well. Gammon is very passionate about her sport and hopes her teammates put in the hard work. As a captain, Gammon has to not only set herself as an example, but also make the girls want to strive for improvement and have a good outlook on the game. While preparing for the upcoming season alongside her teammates she stated, "it's like we are all one machine." The girls hope to make it to MIAA playoffs and to advance in it. They also want to win and earn the GBL champions title.

While these are big goals to achieve, the girls' basketball team seems like it is going in the right direction with their eagerness to play and already achieving multiple goals before the season even started. This team is prepared and ready for what is about to come next and they are excited to start.

After 42 Years, Malden Wins GBL Golf Title



Thomas Tierney
Reporter

Malden Golf Team (Missing: Saul Kruckenberg and Joe Hatch) SHUYI CHEN

Throughout the season, Malden High's golf team faced many adversities with either personal struggles or struggles as a team. But through this struggle, they came out on top for the first time in over four decades.

A big part of the team's success came straight from practices. Junior Dante Federico noticed throughout the season just how important it was. "This year we had to be competitive amongst each other in practice, and at the highest level; in doing so we kept our team hungry for the knowledge of the game and the chance to end our drought in the GBL," Federico said.

The team, instead of practicing single skills in practices, decided to face each other, bringing consistent competition and the need to be consistent as players.

Despite all of the positives, the team still faced struggles. Junior Chris MacDonald talked about their struggles as a team but also his personal struggles during the season. MacDonald brought up how they

struggled to close matches and struggled to stay consistent through those matches, but also how when they played harder competition and that they showed heart in those games staying so close.

That heart came and swooped into the team's final match of the season. In a match against Lynn Classical to win the GBL title the team didn't know just what the outcome of their season would be until the final hole. MacDonald expressed his feelings about how he and the team felt in that moment saying, "It was one of the greatest feelings ever."

It wasn't just beating Lynn Classical, it was also putting a better record out than any other team in the league and it was very close. Malden won with an outstanding record of 8-1-1 while second-place team Lynn English finished with another impressive record of 8-2. But, in the end, it was Malden's team who showed up to take the title home.

With this being the first GBL

title for the Golf team in years knowing that this team sent the seniors off with a bang felt great for the seniors. Senior captain Saul Kruckenberg talked about this season and shared his opinion on it: "I am so glad that this is how we were able to close out my last year in this program. With the amazing family we built as a team, this is such a great way to get sent off."

But it was also a great feeling for the underclassmen. MacDonald was just as proud of his team for sending their seniors off as well as they did. "Knowing that we sent the seniors off with one of the biggest and best accomplishments we could've had for the season is a great feeling simply because we all know they will never forget this season because of how it ended on such a high note," MacDonald said.

There is no question that with the heart, time, and chemistry the team put in, they deserved everything that came their way.

**MALDEN FALL
GBL ALL-STARS**

FOOTBALL
JERRELL CALIXTE
EARL FEVRIER

BOYS' XC
SLADE HARDING

GIRLS' XC
IVANA MARINKOVIC

BOYS' SOCCER
BEN JEAN BAPTISTE

GIRLS' SOCCER
AMELIA BERLINER
ADDISON MCWAYNE

GOLF
CHRIS MACDONALD

FIELD HOCKEY
ASH CULLITY
LILLEANA DESANTIS
ANTHONY FORD
DANIEL O'TOOLE

GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL
CHLOE CHEN
KEIRA LIN

Malden High School seniors that participated in fall sports were interviewed about their final season. To watch that video, scan the QR code below.



Bo Stead taking a long putt. SHUYI CHEN



Junior Dante Federico lines up his shot on hole 7. SHUYI CHEN

136TH ANNUAL THANKSGIVING FOOTBALL GAME



Malden fans of all ages filled with excitement during the game. SHUYI CHEN

Daniel O’ Toole
Editor-in-Chief

Elijah Etienne
Lead Reporter

Amongst the busy preparations of stuffing the turkey and mashing potatoes, Malden High was preparing for their 136th Thanksgiving Day matchup against the Medford Mustangs at Hormel Stadium.

Since their game during the spring of 2021 in the pandemic-shortened season where the Golden Tornados lost 24-21 on a missed, last-second field goal, Malden had won two in a row— including a convincing score of 34-15 at Fenway Park last year. Going into the game, Malden was riding a seven-game win streak against the Mustangs dating back to 2015 for Thanksgiving day games.

For the first time since 2019, the game returned to Medford due to schedule changes from the pandemic and the aforementioned game at Fenway Park, so fans from both teams made sure to pack into the stands even 20 minutes before kickoff.

After the initial kickoff by Malden sailed out of bounds, the rekick was bobbled by the Medford returner and recovered on their 13 yard line. This looked to be another dominating start for the Golden Tornados, but those feelings were soon unraveled by the Mustangs with their powerful run game which opened the opportunity for deep passes. The opening drive that lasted nearly eight minutes was capped off by a rushing touchdown by Luiz Barbosa. An unsuccessful two-point conversion would keep the score at 6-0 for Medford.

With little time remaining in the first quarter, Malden finally got their opportunity on offense, which was stifled by Medford’s strong front seven. With no luck upfront, the Golden Tornados fumbled and lost the ball just outside of the Mustang’s territory which would

soon become a common trend in the game.

Fueled by his strong desire to get Malden back into the game, senior captain Karl Lange sped his way off of his blocker and stripped the ball right out of quarterback Jack Lombardo’s hands, but the ball was recovered by the offense. Still, the



Senior Karl Lang sacking the Medford QB. SHUYI CHEN

play was just what Malden needed as the Mustang’s offense came to a halt and they punted the ball back to Malden.

In need to kickstart their offense, junior quarterback Aidan Brett dialed up a 47-yard strike to wide receiver Nathan Sullivan, which got the offense running. After marching all the way down to Medford’s goal line, a missed pass on fourth down crushed all hope for Malden to get their first touchdown of the game.

The first half ended unceremoniously with an unnecessary roughness and a personal foul both being called on Malden during the next drive; even after Malden got the ball back with seconds remaining, Brett was picked off with a short return by Medford.

Although the offense had not possessed much luck, the defense had kept the Golden Tornados in the game being only down one possession, so when Malden came out of

their locker room, they looked fired up. Back to back running plays of 15+ yards each had Malden in the driver’s seat, but the engine to their offense ran out of gas after penalties pushed them back to their side of the field. Yet again, the defense proved to hold strong by generating another three and out to give the offense excellent field positioning.

Senior Davian McGuffie and junior Marcus Pierre kept exposing the now weakened Medford front seven and kept fighting for every single yard. One play after extending their drive on fourth down, Brett found Sullivan on a beautiful post route and caught a 33-yard touchdown over two defenders. As the extra point sailed through the uprights, the Malden crowd exploded as they now led 7-6 over their bitter rival.

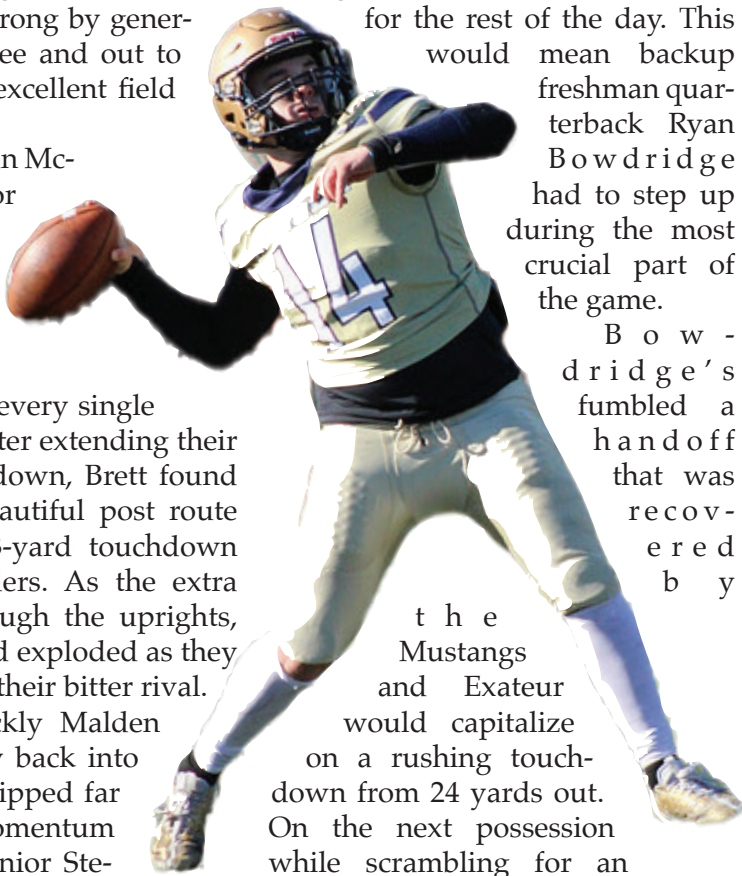
Just as quickly Malden clawed their way back into the game, they slipped far off after all momentum was halted by senior Stevens Exateur as he took an

88 yard kickoff to the house to make the score 12-7 and the Medford fans exploded in excitement. As the end of the play wrapped up, all eyes were on the sidelines as Brett was injured during special teams coverage and would not see the field for the rest of the day. This

would mean backup freshman quarterback Ryan Bowdridge had to step up during the most crucial part of the game.

Bowdridge’s fumbled a handoff that was recovered by

the Mustangs and Exateur would capitalize on a rushing touchdown from 24 yards out. On the next possession while scrambling for an open receiver, Bowdridge lost the



Malden linemen get set against Medford offense. SHUYI CHEN

ball and was picked off by one of the defensive lineman. Barbosa slammed the door shut by sneaking into the endzone on a designed quarterback run, leaving the score at 24-7.

Even with the game out of reach, Malden would not quit as Bowdridge hit his tight end Earl Fevrier on an out route and would break through his defender to score a 65 yard touchdown. Junior Robert Fernandes’s extra point would make the score 24-14, but even after a fumble that would give Malden the ball back around mid field, Bowdridge’s pass was tipped at the line of scrimmage to a Medford defensive back which would be taken all the way back for a touchdown, ending the game with a final score of 30-14.

Head coach Witche Exilhomme spoke on the week leading up to the game and mentioned how, “preparation was good going in, until about the day before the game. We found out that we wouldn’t be having at least 10 players, six of them being starters, due to grades. That forced us to reshuffle the deck in practice that we had been preparing for about two weeks.

“I believe with the time we had, we did a great job. Even in the game you can tell. It was 7-6 late in the third quarter,” explained Exilhomme.

Reflecting on their season, Exilhomme noted how, “we did not have a good year this year due to various adversities that this team had to face with injuries, players falling off, and losing track of our goals. One thing after another for this year, but with 25 seniors coming back, we’re looking forward to the next season, and we’re gonna hit the ground running doing what we do.”

Ask anyone about what they believed the biggest downfall of the team had been this season and the answer most likely heard would be the injuries: “[The injuries] definitely did hurt the most. Now you have to put other players in there who are not familiar playing those positions. There’s a lot of communication that has to be ‘downloaded’ within that amount of time and the team were planning to adjust to the staff based on information and players that we had in place.” Exilhomme continued, expounding, “We couldn’t predict what defense or looks that the defense would give us based on how we lined up because there’s new players, new personnel in place really messed us up.”

With a long offseason now ahead of the team, there is now added motivation to come back with a vengeance to prove that this was just a down year. Losing starters like Lange and McGuffie who have been staples of the team over the years will hurt, but new faces will step up to the moment and help direct Malden football back to their winning ways.



Principal Mastrangelo and former House Principal Marta Cabral pose for a photo. SHUYI CHEN



Senior Giselle Dessert being tossed. SHUYI CHEN



Junior Nathan Sullivan goes up for the ball over two defenders. SHUYI CHEN



Junior Aiden Brett hands the ball off to senior Davian McGuffie. SHUYI CHEN



Malden making impactful game changing plays to fight for victory. SHUYI CHEN

Field Hockey Advances to Round of 32



Left to Right: Freshman Anthony Ford shoots the ball off of a corner. Coach Souza gives a speech to the team before the game. NATHAN DEAN

Nathan Dean
Editor-in-Chief of Print

The Golden Tornadoes Field Hockey team advanced to the preliminary round of The Division Two State Tournament in a dominant 4-0 victory against Milford Hawks on Thursday, November 3.

The 6-6-2 GBL Champs went into the match as the 33rd-ranked seed competing against the 2-14-2 Milford team ranked as the 32nd seed with both teams vying for a chance in the Round of 32 against the first-ranked team in Reading Memorial the following Saturday. Malden would go on to lose the game to Reading Memorial 8-0.

On the last day of November 3rd, the Golden Tornadoes braved the hour-long bus ride to Milford and began to warm up.

As the game started, Malden quickly pulled away with an early goal from freshman Anthony Ford off of a corner only five minutes into the game. Malden would continue the early pressure with Ford scoring another goal not too long after.

With the end of the first quarter, though, Milford turned the tides, and put on a strong second quarter, but good defense from the Malden side kept the score 2-0 in Malden's favor.

The third quarter was more even, but only Malden was able to capitalize with a third goal from Junior Kevin Chen.

A fourth goal from Malden late in the last quarter from junior Kyle Huang would seal the deal for Malden.

"I feel on top of the world," said Captain Daniel O'Toole, Editor-in-Chief of The Blue and Gold, after the win. Ford echoed O'Toole's emotion saying he "feels great."

Coach Tiffany Cane emphasized that both coaches were really

proud of the team. "They've really come together," Cane added, "This game was a phenomenal game; they played their heart out. This is the farthest that Malden Field Hockey has gone since we've been coaching." Both Coach Cane and Coach Samantha Souza began coaching in 2018. This is the second time under their leadership that the team has made The State Tournament and the third time that the team has been GBL champions.

"We had some really good practices leading up to this game," Coach Souza mentioned, "We played like we practiced, and that really made us successful today." "Everybody was in control, we were playing great defense and had some great shots on corners and penalties," O'Toole added. "Our communication was pretty good," senior captain Pampam San continued. "We really pulled through. It was one of our best games yet," senior Sandra Tang said.

Moving into next year, the team

is looking to recruit more athletes as many members will be graduating. For those interested in joining, information sessions will be held in the spring, and captains' practices will be held in the summer. Coach Cane describes the team as "very family-based" adding that "everyone is really great friends." More information can be found on the team's Instagram page @maldenfieldhockey.

In addition to these recruiting strategies, Coach Souza and Coach Cane are also looking to develop a middle school field hockey program. "There's no experience before they play in high school. Literally, everyone is picking up a stick for the first time," Souza explained.

Lastly, the coaches wanted to congratulate the team's seniors: Yara Escobar, Daniel O'Toole, Zachary Nedell, Pampam San, Lilly Desantis, and Sandra Tang. "They're irreplaceable," Coach Cane said, "I'm so happy for them."



Sophomore Audrey Nguyen speaks during a huddle. NATHAN DEAN



Junior Kevin Chen dribbles in front of the Milford fans. NATHAN DEAN



The team poses for a photo after the game. NATHAN DEAN