

The Blue and Gold

maldenblueandgold.com

Malden High School
Volume 109 Edition 5

77 Salem Street
April 2024

84th Annual Junior Varieties



Left to right: Brian Vencies of Bottom Bunk sings “Santeria” by Sublime; Sarah Machado sings “Desafinado” by Joao Gilberto and Stan Getz; James Jose of Baby Powder plays the guitar to “From the Start” by Laufey; Sami Jeudy readys for the Afro-Caribbean Dance Team’s performance; Kayla Ortiz performs “Without You” by Mariah Carey; Slade Harding of Bottom Bunk strums the guitar to “Santeria” by Sublime; Nathan Morelli of Aromatherapy plays “Bags” by Clario; Bertha Jean Louis, Sarah Boucher, and Erikah Macharia step to the beat in the A.O. Step Team’s performance; Khuong Nguyen of Galxc dances to “Mago” by GFRIEND. Photos by SHUYI CHEN. Collage by JESSICA LI.

Chouaib Saidi
Lead Reporter

Elijah Etienne
Lead Reporter

Junior Varieties is an annual tradition at Malden High. It is a fundraising event hosted by the junior class to showcase students’ different talents and skills. To participate, students had to enter the auditions

in December and be selected onto the list of participants in January by the advisors, Spanish teacher Robert Grinnell and history teacher Courtney Braz. This year was the 84th consecutive installment of the longest-running JVs in the nation.

The show took place across the span of two nights, March 15th and

16th, in the Jenkins Auditorium. Both nights had the same 16 showcases split into two acts.

“I’m looking forward to it. I feel like everything’s starting to come together. There’s a lot of moving parts to it and it’s a lot more work than I had anticipated. We began

Continued on pages 12-13

Student-Faculty Basketball Game



Members of the track team supporting their coach Meghan McCormick by holding a decorative banner. NATHAN DEAN

From Dreary Weather to Clear Skies, Tornado Travelers Fly Down to Costa Rica

Nathaly Tejada
Reporter

In previous years, Malden High School has been able to take trips internationally from China, Belize, Puerto Rico, and more. Advised by Shauna Campbell, Sarah Jones, & Chris Giordano, the Tornado Travelers were able to go to Costa Rica, arriving in the country over the February break.

For this year’s trip, the Tornado Travelers and its members were able to take a trip to Costa Rica, flying out from Boston all the way to Costa Rica for eleven days, exploring part of the country with the help of locals.

The planning of the trip was made with ease, and no troubles were met along the way after setting the date back in 2022 when the trip was first introduced to students.

“We offered it up to the students about two years ago to say, hey, in 2024, we’re going to be going to Costa Rica; if you want to sign up, come to our meetings, talk to your parents, get yourself signed up and place your deposit,” said Giordano.

As these trips are set in advance, Giordano explicated the importance of that time period in between for students to be able to raise the money over time, rather than having to pay upfront at once.

Once everyone had gotten to Costa Rica, the fun was set in motion as the Tornado Travelers were booked and busy with trips intended to explore a large portion of the area.

Upon arrival, the club had stayed in Liberia, where they had gone snorkeling. Not only that, but the club also got the chance to take a riverboat tour through wildlife preservations, getting to see certain wildlife such as crocodiles, birds, lizards, bats, and “lots of other cool animals,” as Giordano described.

Other places that were visited on the trip included volcano

Continued on page 17



Action shot of white water rafting. Photo from @tornadotravelers Instagram.

Possible Changes Made to the Course Selection Process

Alexia Lima
Reporter

As the school year quickly comes to a close, the excitement and anxiety of course selections for the following year linger in the air. Students have the opportunity to academically challenge themselves and earn college credit by taking college-level Advanced Placement (AP), classes. These classes require a large amount of commitment and students are advised to thoughtfully consider their decision when selecting to take one.

"With AP classes, counselors will meet with students, recommendations are made by teachers, and it's a very long thought out process with a lot of input from everybody involved. We take that very seriously, teachers put a lot of thought into that and we hope that students also put a lot of thought and care into the classes they are selecting for themselves," Ann O'Connor, the upperclassmen Jenkins house Guidance Counselor, recalled.

Therefore, when a record-high number of students attempted to drop their AP classes past the withdrawal date, administrators and teachers alike knew that something needed to be done.

"The amount of kids who were asking out of AP classes this year just surpassed anything we've ever had before. So we started having conversations with other administrators, with the AP teachers, with our school counselors and basically we came up with this," Principal Christopher Mastrangelo explained.

To combat this issue, "every student who signs up for an AP class before they leave in June is going to have a meeting with the person that's teaching that AP class to lay out what the expectations are," he elaborated.

One of the administration's main concerns is that students are not being properly informed about all that is being asked of them when they join an AP class. This has resulted in many students dropping out of their classes and changing their schedules, a very complicated process for everyone involved.

Malden High has an add/drop policy that allows students to make adjustments to their schedule within the first two weeks of school, and teachers have two more weeks after this initial period to ensure that they will be able to handle the class.

"What ends up happening, sometimes, is if a student drops an AP class and goes down to the honors level, what that ultimately does is create a ripple effect. All of the spots for a class are generally spoken for come the beginning of the school year, once you start messing around with the schedule it becomes really difficult for both the counselors but also for teachers to keep getting more students

MEET THE BLUE AND GOLD



Editor-In-Chief:
Daniel O'Toole

Editor-In-Chief:
Hadjar Yousfi

**Editor-In-Chief of
Print and Design:**
Nathan Dean

**Editor-In-Chief of
Web and Mobile:**
Ryan Cogswell

Head of Sports:
Bo Stead

Head of Local:
Lily Nguyen

Managing Editor:
Jessica Li

Head Copy Editor:
Mack Keating

Reporters

Lead Reporter: Ashton Calixte
Lead Reporter: Elijah Etienne
Lead Reporter: Aiden Luciano
Lead Reporter: Jenayah Moreno
Lead Reporter: Zachary Nedell
Lead Reporter: Gabriela Parini Cordova
Lead Reporter: Chouaib Saidi
Lead Reporter: Haset Tesfaw
Lead Reporter: Delina Yohannes
Reporter: Charlens Barboux
Reporter: Meriam Bouchtout
Reporter: Victoria Domiciano
Reporter: Jordan Caplis
Reporter: Shuyi Chen
Reporter: Emily De Farias Weihrauch
Reporter: Adan Earle

Reporter: Sana Elshafey
Reporter: Jaslie Fang
Reporter: Abigael Fesehaie
Reporter: Jacob Fuentes
Reporter: Kamani Gomes
Reporter: Chelmie Hyppolite
Reporter: Ruth Jean
Reporter: Alexia Lima
Reporter: Gilles Eikawei Ndagha
Reporter: Aundrea Orozco-Cifuentes
Reporter: Gustavo Henrique Pereira Batista
Reporter: Evelyn Ruan
Reporter: Caroline Santos
Reporter: Nathaly Tejada Hernandez
Reporter: Thomas Tierney



Junior Natasha Ferraz discussing possible course option with her counselor Kristy Magras. HADJAR YOUSFI

added to a class," Kurtis Scheer, Social Studies Teacher Leader and an AP U.S. History teacher, shared. This ripple effect can academically harm students because as class sizes increase, students will not always be able to get personal assistance from their teachers.

The administration wants potential AP students to know everything they can about the classes they are interested in joining, which is why this new course selection procedure is being put in place. "It's not

a negative thing. One of the things I looked at this year with all the kids that were opting out, I looked at it like 'what do we need to do better?'" Mastrangelo commented.

"We're doing something wrong here if this many kids are asking out. This policy was really about doing a better job at communicating from the school side with the kids so they have a better understanding of their expectations," he elaborated.

Students will now have multiple thorough opportunities to

learn about the AP courses they are being offered in hopes that they will confirm their schedules for next year by the end of this year. "I think this is a really good move because students have three opportunities to see if they want to take this AP-level course. The first opportunity is the conversation they have with their current teacher right now, in March. Then they have another conversation with their guidance counselor about three weeks later," Scheer clarified.

To further this motion, "we also make it even more possible because, by the end of the year, all of the AP teachers will host an after-school overview, and if after that meeting you feel like you want to drop it you still have the opportunity to drop it. There are really three chances before the next school year happens to decide if you want to take this class. This way it helps us plan better, it helps the school run more efficiently, and it ultimately helps everybody here keep class sizes to a manageable size," Scheer continued.

All of these precautionary measures are ultimately going to help prevent students from drop-

Continued on page 3

maldenblueandgold.com

STUDENTS UNABLE TO STUDY IN STUDENT STUDY CENTER



A mix of students socializing and attempting to do school work in SSC. JASLIE FANG

Kamani Gomes
Reporter

With a growing shortage of teachers, the number of people in Malden High's Student Study Center (SSC) increases daily. SSC was established as the designated spot for students with absent teachers and no substitutes, but it has turned into a place where people do not have room to think.

"There are so many people in SSC you can not concentrate, you will be very crowded, and everyone is bumping into you. We have too much freedom, so everyone ends up doing nothing. And because it's on the first floor it takes way longer to get to any other class," detailed freshman Ryleigh Morrow.

SSC provides a space to do work when teachers are absent, but many people take advantage of that time and choose to make it harder for others to get work done. "When I look at the absent teacher list and see that I have SSC, I already know that no work is going to get done because of the environment," explained sophomore Waina Coles.

One of the biggest conflicts with SSC being so difficult for people to concentrate on is there is almost always a large number of students crowded in a room that doesn't hold the space needed. "A lot of times, there isn't enough space and we have to send students to the cafe and the gallery," Karen Bogan, the attendance supervisor in SSC, commented.

Another reason why SSC is always filled with many people is because when teachers are absent,

there is most likely not going to be a substitute due to the growing teacher shortage. "When I see that my teacher isn't here for the day, I know immediately I have to go to SSC because there is no one there to cover for them," said freshman Danabelle Alceus.

In Malden High specifically, school-based substitutes are contractually paid \$17 per hour, as of March 15th, 2024. Depending on certifications, pay can vary for per diem substitutes. Retired Teachers with DESE Certification are offered \$135, teachers with a DESE Teaching Certification are offered \$125, and those without certifications are offered \$100, all per day. Compared to other suburbs of Boston, Lowell's public schools offer \$147.50 to 177.50, Chelsea offers \$125 to \$185, and Salem offers \$130 to \$150. With a national teacher shortage, substitutes are less likely to take a position at a lower pay.

The increasing cause of the teacher shortage is most likely because the new generation of students' poor conduct is making teachers not want to do their jobs anymore. With some students fighting, vaping, and skipping class, teachers are losing motivation to put up with this behavior. At Brockton High School, teachers feel that their environment isn't a safe place for them to work. The other issue with the lack of teachers is the lack of resources. Teachers have the responsibility to pay for everything in their classroom on top of having to pay for personal everyday items.

"The shortage isn't just because of students' behavior, I think it's



SSC Monitor Karen Bogan signs in a student on the absent teacher attendance list. JASLIE FANG

a matter of resources, and in some communities, they are not paying their teachers," said Dr. Charles Redmond, an English teacher at Malden High School.

When SSC is not overpopulated, it is a great way for students to get things done; even though SSC can get very chaotic, it is also very convenient for students. Although SSC is often overfilled and understaffed, it still is a place where work can get done. It allows students to have freedom over the work they need to accomplish.

Also, when students finish with school work it could be a place to socialize with their peers without being distracting to others. "I think that people just want to have fun

and talk to their friends, I just don't enjoy it when it gets too loud," explained Leica Naceus.

Despite the fact SSC has its issues, it also has positive aspects: it essentially allows students to get their work done when their teacher is absent. It might take a while for SSC to become a more relaxing environment for students, but it gets the job done.

"I try to give the students some space to talk with their friends, to work together if they need to work together; I try to be fair that if they can keep the volume down and be respectful of the people around them, I think that SSC can be a place where they have fun," said Bogan.

ping their classes next year and stop the endless schedule troubles this causes the administration. "I think it's going to benefit students, it's going to help our students make a more informed decision. I'd be lying if I told you it wasn't benefitting us administratively, it's benefitting us too because we want to get as many of our students and as many of our teachers set before they leave in June," Mastrangelo expressed.

Due to these adjustments in the AP course selection procedure, the administration has started a conversation revolving around

what changes they could make to the add/drop policy at the beginning of the year. If students are being properly educated about their AP class before they join it, they are considering enforcing a stricter process for a student to be able to drop a class next year. This could mean not being able to drop the class at all, unless for unique circumstances. "I feel that this shift in the add/drop policy will be painful at first, but ultimately very successful," Scheer remarked.

Some students have shown concern about this potential new

policy, and their fears have not been misplaced. "I understand the trepidation around that, I understand that when you hear the end result that you can't get out of a class, people [freak out]. But I think it's a better process," Mastrangelo expounded.

No final decisions have been made yet about whether or not the two-week add/drop period will be allowed for incoming AP students. "Change is often met with worry and concern. But the change with this procedure is coming from a lens of let's make sure the kids are really

well informed so they can make a well-informed decision because taking an AP class is a big deal; it's hard but it's rewarding," Mastrangelo concluded.

Students with concerns or suggestions on how to improve any course selection procedures are encouraged to reach out to either their guidance counselors or teachers because not a single voice will go unheard. At the end of the day, the decision will be made collaboratively with the best interest of the students in mind, since it does not only affect faculty, but everybody.

Four Years Post COVID-19: Hindsight is 20/20

On March 10th, 2020, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker declared a State of Emergency to respond to COVID-19. Following that, on March 13th, President Donald Trump declared a National Emergency; on March 15th, the governor announced an immediate shutdown of schools for three weeks; and finally, on March 18th, Mayor Gary Christenson announced a state of emergency that would effectively shut down Malden for the foreseeable future.

I was ecstatic: I still remember coming home from school and seeing the announcement of my upcoming two-week break. I was so excited to play more video games and not worry about school. Sure I would not see my friends in person for a while, but it was worth it to not have to go to school. I met up with friends whom I hadn't talked to in years and made friends with people I never would have met if not for a global shutdown.

It took about a week before I started to lose track of days as experiences blended. The promised "two weeks" had been long gone and on April 21st, Baker announced that schools would remain remote for the rest of the academic year.

Around this time, I still understood very little about the current situation. I knew people were sick and dying, but I had not known any of them; I knew people were suffering, but no one close to me was. My parents were lucky enough to be able to work from home and I watched as my mom worked from her office like normal and my dad taught his classes online. They adapted to the current situation so I thought there was nothing to worry about.

As the year wore down, our teachers wanted to do something for us. They knew that we could not have a graduation, or at least not a standard one, so they decided to record a video detailing all the things they wished for our futures. Before that, they wanted us to be in it as well so they posted an announcement asking for us to write and record speeches for the end of the year video. Some students chose to only write their speeches, while others went on video to say some final words to the 8th grade class of 2020.

Afterwards the year was officially over. Our teachers announced dates for us to pick up our leftover items from school and on June 16th, 2020, I went down to Beebe, picked up my things, got my diploma, and that was that. That was the last time I saw the building as an eighth grader and all I left with was a sense of emptiness and loss.

To say the summer went quickly would be a lie. I tried to find things to do, but searching for structured activities was hard considering I could not meet up with friends or go to a summer camp or anything like that. All I could really do was look forward to the first day of high school.

With no sign of the pandemic's end near, on September 16th, my freshman year of high school began. I woke up, walked downstairs, and powered on my computer; I went to Google Classroom, clicked on the link and my screen came to life with black boxes of turned-off cameras and a few teachers waiting to kick off the activities. This year was full of experiential learning and changes but it ended all the same.

Sophomore year and everything was almost back to normal; sports had already started back up, and for the remainder of the year absences from students and teachers due to COVID was the norm and we all tried to not worry about the new variants.

My sophomore year went fast but on the second day of my junior year, the COVID test I took came back positive. It had taken about two and a half years and several scares, but I finally caught the virus. I was not allowed back in the school building for a few days but the world-sweeping pandemic had finally made its way to me: I had the sniffles for a day and that was that. Masks had been made optional a while back and after my various booster shots, COVID was about as scary as the flu.

Now, four years after the start of the pandemic, it is all like a bad dream. People refer to the pre-pandemic era as the "before times" almost comically as the world has moved on. Yes, COVID-19 still exists and can cause worry from time to time, but the days of staying inside and staying away are over.

Looking back on myself, I really did change a lot these past four years. My generation changed a lot as well. We ended our nine years at Beebe online and we started our four years at Malden High online. We learned how to make connections without being in person and we adapted to technology because we had to. Without the pandemic I would not have experienced the butterfly effect that led to me meeting my best friend, someone who lives in Vermont; or have been able to learn how to advocate for myself and talk with teachers as hybrid learning helped me with that. On the other hand, I will never stop myself from thinking "what if?" What if I had my graduation in person? What if I never had to use a mask? What if someone I was close with died of COVID? This virus has forced my generation to grow in so many ways but as I watch my senior year wind down and COVID fades into history I know we, as a class, can make it. Hell, we already survived a worldwide pandemic, what is supposed to be scary about our freshman year of college?

Zachary Nedell
Lead Reporter

Follow Us on Social Media!



@theblueandgold
@_humansofmhs



@MHSBlueand Gold



@maldenblueandgold



The Blue and Gold



The Malden Blue
and Gold



Editorial Policy

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

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

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

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

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

maldenblueandgold.com



The Tornado Travelers Club Trip to Costa Rica

Thomas Tierney
Reporter

From left to right: Nathan Dean, Dante Federico, Valentina Hernandez Lemus, Nicholas Duggan, Rolando Mejia, Lumi LeShane, Colby Parker, Zachary Nedell, Jackson Gordon, Thomas Tierney, Isabel Jones. Photo submitted by Thomas Tierney

Malden High's Tornado Travelers Club flew to Costa Rica for its yearly trip. During February break, the club members flew into the Liberia International Airport after a long day of travel. On the travel to Costa Rica, the club had a layover on the way in Charlotte, North Carolina. After landing the tired travelers took one last trip on a drive to their first hotel.

After a long day of traveling, the students arrived at their first hotel and went to sleep. On an early morning with a local Costa Rican breakfast at the hotel, the first official day in Costa Rica was filled with excitement and activities. They then rode the bus to the Palo Verde National Park, where they went on a crocodile boat safari to view animals like the crocs, which was followed by a short bus ride to the coast where they went snorkeling and enjoyed some fresh pineapple.

Isabel Jones hanging out with a baby goat. THOMAS TIERNEY

Shortly after, the club enjoyed a refreshing swim in the water along with a calming boat ride back to the coast for lunch at a farm. During this lunch, the students met some of the livestock and then enjoyed a local Costa Rican dish. Afterward, another trip back to the Hotel Del Rio.

After a relaxing night with card games and activities, the travelers had an early morning to start day three with a trip to the Arenal Region for a rainy kayaking experience. Despite the weather, the Tornado Travelers made the best of it and enjoyed the hour-long trip around the San Carlos area.

Later on, the club participated in yet another wet activity because of rain with a hike in the Arenal Volcano National Park. During the hike, the weather was not to the club's liking, but even with the conditions, there were many stops for nature

and some beautiful views until the students finally made it to the view of where they could see the Arenal Volcano. Sadly, due to weather conditions, the view was very limited and it was difficult to see without a pair of binoculars. Nonetheless, on the way back to the bus, there were more stops for some amazing views of Costa Rican flora and fauna.

After pictures and some fun in the rain, the travelers set their way to a chocolate tour at the Rainforest Chocolate Tour where they met the world's best chocolatier who made the tour as interactive and fun as possible. During this tour, the students and advisors participated in the process of chocolate making and then tried their delicious makings.

After this experience, the kids then went to the next hotel for dinner and had another relaxing night, this time at the Rancho Makena in the Monteverde Region.

Speaking from firsthand experience, the Rancho Makena had one of the prettiest views from its lobby and the sunset view, staying there felt like a dream. After yet another early morning, day four began with another bus ride this

time to the La Fortuna Waterfall where the students took the deep descent down to the waterfall and took in the amazing views of the waterfall. Following the views the students then had to take the long walk back up the many stairs they took on the way down. After some walking around the gift shops the club took off to a delicious lunch and then to its next activity in Parque Central La Fortuna which was a town where the students were given time to explore and purchase souvenirs. The busy travelers then went to their next relaxing activity at the Hotel El Tucano Resort & Spa where the hot springs were. The students then spent the next few hours relaxing in these hot springs followed by dinner and then another bus ride to the hotel for the night.

Day five was once again an early morning, this time the travelers prepared themselves for the day starting with another farm tour where the students were able to make their own empanadas for

lunch. Students were also given the opportunity to milk a cow during this tour and many jumped at the chance to do so. Following a bit of relaxing time back at the hotel the students set out for a nighttime nature walk in the Santa Elena Cloud forest, where they got to see Costa Rican wildlife up close. Some of the animals the students found were sloths, snakes, toucans, tarantulas, and scorpions. After this day five was wrapped up and students were off to sleep for day 6.

Day six again, like almost all mornings, started off early with breakfast and then a short bus ride to Reserva Bosque Nuboso Santa Elena, where the travelers were able to see from the highest point in the area and finally get a glimpse of the Arenal Volcano. In the afternoon the club took on one of its most exciting and daring activities, ziplining, where students were able to see some amazing views and overcome massive fears with a great rush of adrenaline. Following the ziplining, students were able to walk around another town in Puntarenas where they got some food and souvenirs. Once again after visiting the town, the bus took them back to the hotel where students had another relaxing night with an amazing view of the sunset.

Leading into day seven another switch in hotels made it an early morning again. After a few hour bus ride to the Pacific Coast and many power naps, the club took their half-asleep selves to another crocodile safari this time seeing more crocs and even more wildlife. Following a very eventful ride, the club traveled to the butterfly sanctuary where the students were introduced to multiple types of butterflies and saw some of the processes of the butterflies evolving from caterpillars. After the tour, the travelers took a seat on a tram and took a ride up

Senior Racha Oumark holding a baby chick. THOMAS TIERNEY

the rainforest canopy. Once the ride was over, it was time to travel to its next hotel, Balcon del Mar, where students were able to walk the city down the road for a little while and then enjoy a relaxing night by the pool.

With an easy and relaxing day ahead, students were given a later curfew—meaning that for the first time on the trip, they were allowed to sleep in for a few extra hours that gave them a well-rested start to day eight. Day eight was a very easy day with breakfast at the hotel, followed by another long bus ride to the Manuel Antonio National Park which was the club's first beach day of the trip. On the way to the beaches, there was a nature walk where the club was able to spot some capuchin monkeys and various other birds and lizards. Once at the beach, the travelers set up for a relaxing beach day and spent a few hours there until lunchtime. A tasty lunch filled with pizza and fruit juices fueled the students for the bus ride back to the hotel where they were given another few hours to freshen up and roam the city strip near the hotel. Many students took this opportunity to get more souvenirs and some ice cream. After their time was up, the travelers returned to the hotel for dinner and then set off to Jacó Beach which was across the way for the sunset. Then they set up for another relaxing night at the pool leading to day nine.

After breakfast at the hotel, the Tornado Travelers set off for its final hotel in San Jose but had a few stops on the way there, its first, Sarchi. Sarchi is

Continued on page 16



From After-School Club to Class:

Speech and Debate Transforms to Course Offering, Sparked by Students and Ambition

Jessica Li
Managing Editor

After years of planning and advocating for this establishment, Malden High proudly welcomes to its program of studies what was once a club and is now formally offered as a class: Speech and Debate.

Students will now have the opportunity to significantly improve, and put into practice, their public speaking, argument, and critical thinking skills in a variety of events and tournaments throughout the year.

The club, advised by social studies teacher Kurtis Scheer for the past eight years, has undergone an extensive journey from pre-COVID until now in order to achieve its goal of becoming an official elective.

This goal sprang from a desire to increase time and resources for students to be more successful while competing with schools that may have met more frequently and formally by comparison.

"I always hoped and envisioned that we could eventually go from this club status into a full-fledged class, after going to a number of events over the years and speaking to other advisors," Scheer explained.

"The process here really took several years of success at the club level," he continued. In order to attest to its potential, Speech and Debate sought to highlight its success through its consistent numbers as just an after-school club.

"The fact that we're able to keep the same consistent amount of people who are engaged in it shows that if we had this during the school day, the numbers could potentially be much, much larger," Scheer stated, emphasizing the importance of providing a dedicated space and consistent routine for students to engage.

Sophomore Beatriz Oliveira who joined the club to improve her public speaking skills, especially for her presentations in another elective, Mock Trial, is excited for the program. "I specifically remember that on the first or second day of advisory, when the teacher asked what club we would want as a class. I said Speech and Debate. I think that having a club as a class helps everyone become a lot more involved since there's a designated amount of time to meet every week as a part of your grade."

Aside from its consistent membership, "what ultimately made the shift here was students speaking to the superintendent and emphasizing the fact that they wanted to see this as a class," Scheer explained.

President Makeila Scott was among those who played a pivotal role in demonstrating student interest, echoed Scheer, saying that "all



President Makeila Scott urges students to consider adding Speech and Debate to their schedule for next year. JESSICA LI

of our collective efforts are what really led that to happen."

Scott had spoken to the superintendent and city council members about the club in an effort to demonstrate its dedication, commitment, and show "that we are successful—we have had new members that have won awards at their first event. That's not something light, that is a big accomplishment." Scott also promoted the course in the Mystic Valley Youth and Government, and Mock Trial, encouraging her peers to further develop their speaking skills through the class.

Vice President Arya Shah, who also promoted this establishment, spoke about his efforts. As president of the Malden Youth Civics club, "I used that as a channel to bring up making Speech and Debate a class to the superintendent and principal on a few occasions. Also, as an officer of the club I tried my best to highlight how strong of an opportunity the program is so that the potential it has could be better understood."

In addition, many alumni of the club "took the same skills and led to great careers at pretty prestigious universities, from Harvard, to Yale, to Columbia, to Providence College [...] So that was the proof that this could be a viable course," said Scheer.

The planned curriculum for Speech and Debate will reflect The National Speech and Debate League which puts out information in preparation for the different events, speeches, and performances, which other districts are using now. "So we're going to utilize this nationally accredited, recognized curriculum for our first year to model what we

do in the classroom based on what is seen as national exhibit standards," Scheer explained.

The club is currently working on its exposition to attract more students during Joy block on March 20, where members will perform events they are experienced with to show new or potential members what will be covered.

"There's so many different events that you can be a part of and find where you belong," said Scott.

The club is split up into two categories, as indicated by its name: speech and debate. Debate events include Student Congress, Public Forum, and big questions debate, which are generally practiced between students in groups or teams. The other option is speech, which can range from poetry to storytelling.

"I couldn't be more ecstatic and even that's an understatement. I've heard about the push for this to become a class for so long, that it almost hurts sometimes because I kind of felt helpless being in this role and not really being able to do much. But now seeing the fruits of our labor and all of our members—the officers' work, past officers, past members—and seeing that our dedication to this club elicits meaningful change, now it's a class and we're able to expand it, I'm so excited that it was something that was able to happen and it's something that I've been waiting for for so long," Scott cheered.

Although a senior and unable to enjoy the class next year, Scott is "more than content knowing that my efforts and dedication to a club have allowed more people the

opportunity to join this. So many people have come to me saying that they couldn't do Speech and Debate: people that have dropped because they have other commitments because they have sports and they have other clubs or they're the leaders of their own clubs... even though I may be graduating to see that it's going to have an everlasting impact, this is something, it's a class now—it's the future. And I just think that being able to make that happen is what matters. And even though I may miss it, I really don't feel as though I'm missing it."

Shah similarly spoke on how impactful this establishment is. "I hope underclassmen understand just how powerful of an opportunity this is. There are so many stories of small Speech and Debate clubs turning into large programs, and even sending kids to nationals. Students can truly get so much out of this and see so much growth in themselves even if they do not consider themselves good speakers," he concluded.

Scheer recommends the course to "anyone who likes to argue, anyone who thinks they're always right, anyone [to] who their friends always say, 'Oh, you're so dramatic,' anyone who wants to work on public speaking skills, anybody who will ever have to interview for a job—which is everybody—I think, could take this class and get those skills to make them more competitive in an ever increasingly competitive world."

With their showcase on March 20 in the gallery, be on the lookout to see Speech and Debate members present what the course entails.

maldenblueandgold.com

Rainbow Lions' Sweet Tanghulu Success



Delicious Tangerine Tanghulu.
JASLIE FANG

Jaslie Fang
Reporter

Tanghulu, also known as bingtang hulu, is a Northern Chinese candied fruit snack. Traditionally, tanghulu is made up of candied red hawthorn berries on a stick. However, the Rainbow Lions decided to switch it up for the month of love by opting out of the red hawthorn berries for strawberries instead. With its vibrant red color and delightful flavor, the beloved strawberry has a history that stretches back to the Romans. Traced back to ancient Rome, it was linked to Venus, the goddess of love, and a legend promises love to those who share one.

Inspired by the large Chinese community within the Rainbow Lions club, junior Erica Lu, a member, suggested making tanghulu for the bake sale. Since the treat was familiar to many, it became the perfect choice. Coincidentally, their choice to showcase a Chinese treat coincided with the festive weeks of Chinese New Year.

However, this showcase of the treats did not come without obstacles. Junior Lumi Leshane, a member of the Rainbow Lions, provided context into this process, explaining that the snow day on February 13th created difficulty for the bake sale seeing as the club "originally [was] going to have chocolate covered fruit as well but due to the extra days in the fridge we couldn't."

Despite further challenges with fruit handling, storage planning, and even a minor burn for one member, freshmen Yasmina Goucem, Sophia Chen, and Helix Chen all agreed that while things got a bit bumpy, the club ultimately pulled together and "figured it out." Sure enough, they did, with a large turnout at the bake sale for the Chinese snacks and candy goody bags proving to be a testament to the club's ability to adapt and collaborate in the face of unforeseen challenges.

All proceeds from the bake sale directly benefited LGBTQ+ causes. Organizations like The Trevor Project, which provide crucial crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to LGBTQ+ youth, will be among the recipients of the Rainbow



Jacob Fuentes
Reporter

Silkroad is a program founded by American-Chinese cellist Yo-Yo Ma in 1998. When creating Silkroad, Ma wanted to express his belief that even division brings fresh opportunities for working in unison. Wanting to expand on this dynamic, Ma designed this program that continues to strengthen through the collaboration of artists from different cultures and genres that could be brought together and displayed through various performances.

The Silkroad program still stays true to the beliefs as it ignites the flame of musical collaboration that aims for a more inclusive world. The Silkroad organization has an ensemble that has recorded eight CDs and their 2009 CD, "Off the Map", was nominated for Best Classical Crossover Album category at the 53rd Grammy Awards in 2011.

The Silkroad Ensemble is a mu-



Left to right: Balla Kouyaté and Kauro Watanabe pose for a photo after unifying various distinct music genres in one powerful performance. JACOB FUENTES

Lions' generosity. Additionally, a portion of the proceeds can be used to fund a June event celebrating the LGBTQ+ community during Pride Month.

As for the future of the Rainbow Lions, there is a possibility that the club will be partaking in the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network's (GLSEN) Day Of (No) Silence, characterized by Goucem,



Additional students at the Boston Conservatory stand to the side, waiting to join Kauro Watanabe. JACOB FUENTES

sical collective and a part of Silkroad. The ensemble is a loose collective of as many as 59 musicians, composers, arrangers, visual artists, and storytellers from Eurasian cultures.

On Sunday, March 3rd, 2024, flutist and percussionist Kauro Watanabe joined forces with Balla

Kouyate alongside students at the Boston Conservatory to present a mix of classical, traditional African, and Japanese pieces. This performance focused on a mix of these different cultures as a symbol of unity, staying true to Yo-Yo Ma's mission when founding Silkroad.



String Ensemble and students from the Boston Conservatory play in unison alongside Balla Kouyaté as he adds with his Shekere, contributing to the variety of music genres displayed throughout the performance. JACOB FUENTES

Chen, and Chen as a nationally recognized and student-led protest. According to GLSEN's website, the 2024 Day of (No) Silence is meant to take action and rise against the more than 800 anti-LGBTQ+ bills introduced in the last year. However, there's still conversations regarding how to execute this protest at Malden High.

The Rainbow Lions extend a

warm invitation to all interested individuals, embracing members of all gender identities and sexual orientations regardless of whether you identify as queer, cisgender, heterosexual, or allosexual. Connect with the Rainbow Lions on Instagram at @the_rainbow_lions or attend their meetings held in club advisor Jean Jones's room (B230) every Friday after school.

maldenblueandgold.com

Malden River Works Improves Community



Strongbearheart Gaines leads the Blessing of the Malden River with the community at the Project Misik event. Photo Submitted by Karen Buck.

Chouaib Saidi
Lead Reporter

The Malden River Works project is a community-led organization in which individuals from all ages work together to build a waterfront park behind the Malden City yard.

The Malden River Works project started in 2019 and is still going strong as of now. The project consists of many people. Environmental Advocate Karen Buck shares some insight in regards to the project.

"So, it's a group of people there's two different facets. You have the team, which includes the lead designer, and other people, including myself. And then you have the Malden River Work Steering Committee which represents different communities within Malden," stated Buck.

The project was started by an award from MIT Leventhal which gave them the resources needed to pursue this project without worrying about cost.

"We submitted our concept, our idea, and we won seed money to start the project. The seed money's been very good because the steering committee, they receive stipends for their time and to help with the community events, funding and that type of thing," Buck explained.

The estimated amount of money needed to create this park is 13 million dollars through grants and seed money provided to the Water Works program to follow through with the project.

"The Malden River Works project has two components: Restructuring the Malden City Yard (about \$6 million) and building a climate resilient park that will also protect the Malden River from the City Yard that will cost about \$7 million)," stated Buck. This plays a role of importance because it includes the necessary infrastructure change to the city yard.

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, the River Works program managed to pull through and keep their eyes on the prize and they

weren't going to let anything distract them from their goal.

"Then, you know, of course the pandemic came, so that was kind of an interrupter. Not really though, we had in-person meetings and about 75-100 people showed up to talk about the different concepts. Then we went to Zoom with our public meetings," said Buck.

When participating in these advanced urbanism projects, memorable moments and achievements are inevitable. Buck claimed that making memories and accomplishments has been the best part of the process. "Well, that's what the process has been the best part. So it's all about reaching out to the community, knocking on doors, going to community events. In the beginning we had proposed three different ideas for the park in the public meeting, people voted for their favorite design. To have the community involved in designing this park just makes people more involved, it reassures that they're gonna be part of the project," noted Buck.

The Malden River Works also shares a fondness for youth voice and action as they give the opportunity for the youth to collaborate and develop their critical thinking skills as well as seeing how this incredible project really comes into place and how the steps are taken throughout the process.

"It's so important because this park is for the youth, for families and everybody. But really, the youth voice is so important with the Malden River [and] with the environment because you're inheriting this. We want buy-in from everybody, but with the youth being more involved, people listen. They're like, 'oh, okay.' They're interested in it, they take it into consideration," stated Buck.

The majority of the team involved in this project are representatives of the Mystic River Watershed Association. The Mystic River Watershed Association is a nonprofit organization that works to promote a healthy Mystic River and other bodies of water in Boston.

Most of the Mystic River Watershed Association is north of Boston so it contains cities from Arlington, Belmont, Boston, (Charlestown & East Boston), Burlington, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Lexington, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Reading, Revere, Somerville, Stoneham, Wakefield, Watertown, Wilmington, Winchester, Winthrop, Woburn. "Their main mission is to, "restore the Mystic River and protect its tributaries for the benefit of present and future generations and to celebrate the value, importance and great beauty of these natural resources," claimed Buck. (Via the MRW Website <https://www.maldenriverworks.org/team>)

The Mystic River Watershed Association acts as a "mothership" for another organization that is the creator of the Malden River works called the "Friends of the Malden River". The Mystic River Watershed Association is one member of the project team and the "Friends of Malden River" are another member of the Malden River Works team

which is in partnership with the Mystic River Watershed Association.

Malden River works has a few goals in mind after working consecutively for around five to six years on this amazing community project.

"The goal is to have a continuous walkway around the whole river that would connect with the Mystic River Greenway. We would have over 25 miles of connected paths for bicycles and pedestrians and strollers etc, so that's one of our goals," Buck claimed.

"We also wanna make sure that the river stays clean. The Malden River was always an industrial dumping ground, so it's been healing over the years. We had the Clean Water Act of 1972, which got rid of a lot of those big polluters. We still have polluted storm water that enters the river, so during rainfalls, the river is not so clean. Big rainfalls and also a lot of trash kind of flows from the streets into the catch basins, the storm drains, and then into the, directly into the river," Buck stated.



Honoring the Malden River with Dance and Music - Project Misik creating a Community Yard at the Malden City Yard, September 2022. Photo Submitted by Karen Buck.

Library Hosts Beaded Jewelry Event

Haset Tesfaw
Lead Reporter

“I’ve always been into arts and crafts because my grandmother was a preschool teacher, so I was always around crafts,” Sara Kravitz, a senior at Malden High School who attended this program said, as she expressed her love for creating designs and beaded bracelets.

Kravitz, along with some others who also enjoy art, showed up to the beaded jewelry program hosted by the Malden Public Library on February 8th, 2024.

When it began, Patrick Brennan, who hosted this bracelet-making event, was very welcoming to all the kids walking in.

“We do programs all year long. I’ve been working here for about ten years and we try to do at least one arts and crafts-inspired thing per month,” Brennan explained.

Once people started getting seated with their supplies, Brennan walked over to each table and taught them how to get started.

“I know a lot of kids like to collect these kinds of bracelets. Some of them enjoy trading their designs with their friends or even gifting it to them. It’s like a fun prize that you get to make yourself. Oftentimes, people make it for their friends,” Brennan said, “The main purpose of a friendship bracelet is to gift it to a friend.”

Kravitz and her friend, Alexandra Rodrigues, were making matching bracelets for each other. “I’m making a bracelet with the letter ‘A’ on it for Alexandra, with blue and purple beads on it and she’s also making one for me with my initials.”

Brennan hopes to try new things in the future to get more people interested in attending the events.

“Two weeks from now, we’re

doing a make-your-own lip balm program. I’m excited about getting a variety of programs that they’d really enjoy and hopefully, they decide to go to it in their free time as well. This would give them the skills and the confidence to try it out at least once here, in a very low-stakes environment, before they do it on their own.”

“This is our first time coming to this one, and I didn’t have work today so I was like ‘Let’s go out and just have some fun,’” Kravitz explained. “Alexandra sent me the flyer for it and I thought it looked very fun.”

Brennan emphasized how he would like to give more kids “a variety of things to do at the library and reasons to come in, besides books.”

“Oftentimes we get people who are very excited when it’s their first time, and they’ll try and do it more than once and get excited for when we would do it again. I did this program in September, and this is the second time that I’ve done it and it’s been great,” Brennan said.

People showed up to this event for a variety of reasons. Some may have just had nothing else to do or wanted to gift it to a loved one, but some decided to come as a way to calm down and unwind.

“I’m a senior and a lot of things are happening at school and it’s very stressful. So just getting to sit here, make a bracelet, and relax and talk to Alexandra is really peaceful for me,” Kravitz stated.

The Malden Public Library encourages you to check out the events that they always have going on. “All of our programs can be found on our website on the online calendar. We also post them on Facebook and other social media,” Brennan finished.



Left to right: Sara Kravitz and Alexandra Rodrigues create matching bracelets for each other. HASET TESFAW



Patrick Brennan instructs an attendee on how to make a bracelet. HASET TESFAW



Project Misik in Boston, Zili Music. Musical event on river, June 2022. Photo submitted by Karen Buck.

“So environmental protection, keeping it clean and public access is huge because the public will be and are the best stewards for our environment,” Buck stated passionately.

The Malden River Works have designers and work to develop blueprints and visuals of what the Park will look like after everything in the process is finished.

Buck states that they are at “90% of design” and are almost finished with the blueprints and are initially ready to take steps in actual construction and bidding of the park itself. The 10% of the design is to make sure there aren’t any faulty mistakes, or in case something comes up and they need to change gears.

There are two parts of this project, cleaning up the city yard which was initially an industrial wasteland for random things to get dumped

there, and designing and building the waterfront park. “So the one part is for the city yard, the department of public works. That’s where all the trucks are that plow and pick up garbage and all of that. It’s a dirty site, and behind the city yard was a wasteland. It’s just kind of a dumping ground for a city yard,” Buck said.

Beneficial community projects like these don’t just fall out of the sky, and it’s important we highlight and recognize the hard work and dedication these individuals have conveyed and show them full support. Check out the Malden River Water Works website (<https://www.maldenriverworks.org/project>) for more information about this current project, updates on future projects, the staff, and other plans they have up their sleeves.

Late Night with Barbie



Continued from front page

with tryouts in December and the past few weeks we've been busy with rehearsals," said Grinnell. "It's a pretty big ordeal. There'll be 16 acts this year, it's not only 16 acts but also the transitions between the acts. I'm looking forward to it. I think it'll be an entertaining night," Grinnell explained.

The process of working towards the event started before December, as many bands that would perform at the shows, got together in a short time period before tryouts. Aromatherapy is a band made up of members, sophomore Moon To, juniors Milan Ngyuen, Jennifer Slawson and Beverly Tong, and freshman Nathan Morelli. To play bass for the group, To joined the group only a short time before JVs. "I was actually kind of pushed into it. Beverly Tong was telling me about her band. They were like, oh, we need a bass. I'm like, oh my God, I play bass! I haven't been playing for that long, but they're like, do you just want to fill in? I was just planning to be there as someone who could help them, but I ended up becoming a part of the band, which was cool," explained To.

Another band that formed shortly before tryouts was Bottom Bunk. The members are juniors Sean Retotal and Slade Harding and seniors Jelani Tah and Brian Vences. "I want to say it was Slade and Sean [that got us together] because they were together before they got the idea of playing the song and bringing Brian and they thought, 'Hey we know Jelani, he's a drummer, he's our friend, let's get him here.' And they brought us all together to play the song," explained Tah.

Tryouts were the week before winter break. Many people signed up and had to be judged by Braz and Grinnell to take part in acts at

JVs. "We did tryouts in December that people that were interested in doing crew signed up for crew, and people that were interested in doing acts had the chance to try out. Thankfully we didn't have to turn many people away. Starting towards the end of January is when we started to organize a schedule for what rehearsals would look like," said Grinnell.

Senior Kayla Ortiz sang at JVs and described tryouts as a "very nerve-wracking process... It wasn't an easy process. You're not just performing, but you're performing in front of a teacher not knowing what your true talent looks like," said Ortiz. "I was stressed because I was just getting the part down. I had to get the rhythm down, but we put on a good show and the advisors liked it," added Tah.

Tryouts, however, were mostly a formality, as most who auditioned got a role. "We gave anybody who showed up to auditions a part in the show. So if you auditioned, we said you have the potential to perform. The only thing that we did was we had to combine some acts for the sake of time," stated Braz.

With tryouts done, JVs were fastly approaching. The theme for this year was decided to be Late Night with Barbie. "It was decided upon by the class officers. We met with the class officers in December. Two of the main ideas that came up were Barbie and a late-night talk show theme. And so it was almost like a combination of the two different ideas. We were like, why don't we do a late-night talk show with Barbie? The timing worked out well too because the Barbie movie came out last year," stated Grinnell.

With everything in place, it was time to practice for the nights. One of the biggest parts of JVs is the performance of the AO Step Team. "The step team performance... is the biggest performance that we do. Choosing to do it has always been

like something we were going to do. We spent from December to the showtime just practicing nonstop, going over routines, like figuring out what we were going to wear, the music we were going to use, formations, and things like that. So it was just practicing every day in the cafe to get our stuff together," said Erikah Macharia, captain of the AO Step Team.

Drummer Tah also worked hard in preparation for JVs. "I had to listen to the piece a lot. I watched a ton of videos to get the rhythm down and there was a specific groove you had to play, so I got that down and eventually had to come up with my groove for the solo part, which I ended up doing and it was a lot of repetition and playing over and over to understand it," said Tah. Likewise, so did Ortiz, "I started doing vocal practices for my voice, got good rest, drank lots of water, and wished for the best."

Finally, the night of JVs came. Patrons were let in at six, and by seven the Jenkins Auditorium was packed, ready for the show. The night started with the lights dimmed and out came the cast. After introducing themselves and the first act, JVs officially began. The first performance of the night was a solo from Kimberlee Smith singing "The Grudge" by Olivia Rodrigo. The crowd was in awe of her talented voice, as they started swaying their phone flashlights in sync.

The night's next performance was the first band, Baby Powder, formed of members, lead singer Heitor Soares, guitarists James Song and Mahrianna Comin-Larime, and drummer Dominic Nesta. They played a familiar song that many knew: "From the Start" by Laufey. An energetic Soares managed to grasp the crowd, by the end the crowd were on their feet, giving Baby Powder a standing ovation.

After Baby Powder was the dance group Galxc, who danced to the song "Mago" by GFRIEND. They performed a medium-paced choreographed dance that let all members shine equally. The members of the group are freshman Khuong Nguyen, sophomores Sorin Mamouzette and Christina Robison-McCaskill, and juniors Zi Giana Jefferson and Nashlyn Rubert. "I remember my group and I being so nervous waiting backstage until our showtime despite this being our second year performing. But after a few prayers and words of encouragement, our fears went away," said Robison-McCaskill. The dance was filled with memorable moments that caught the crowd multiple times. Many in the crowd recognized the lyrics which prompted them to sing along to the chorus.

Following Galxc was a piano solo of Johann Sebastian Bach's "Invention 4 in D minor" by Sophomore Erica Littlejohn. Bach's "Invention 4 in D Minor" is a charming piece that Littlejohn executed superbly. The crowd was mesmerized. Littlejohn did well at conveying the talent needed to play the piece, and the crowd admired it.

Newer Edition was a parody of the R&B group "New Edition." They danced to songs by New Edition while lip-syncing them. The members of the group were Juniors Taisha Balan, Saniah Charles, and Soleil Mathurin, as well as seniors Kennedy Clark, Erikah Macharia, and Giselle Dessert. The creativity of the performance was a highlight of the whole night and the audience indicated that. Midway through the performances, the crowd started waving their flashlights once again.

Next up were juniors Remi Santos and Jeffery Pagulong, who sang "Sarah" by Alex G. The song wasn't very fast, but very calming



which pleasantly pleased the crowd.

Next was Aromatherapy. "I was really nervous. Before the performance, I thought it was gonna be really hard, especially with the transitioning of everyone's instruments and getting people off stage and on stage. But honestly, once I got on the stage it wasn't that bad, especially 'cause the spotlights are so bright you can't even see anyone. So it's not even a big deal. No, I had a lot of fun, so I wasn't nervous at all," said To. The quick but soft "Bags" by Clairo was played extremely well

and the crowd adored it.

To end act one, Ortiz sang "Without You" by Mariah Carey. The slow, calming song paired with Ortiz's voice was the perfect match. The crowd waved their flashlights from side to side as Ortiz's voice swept around the auditorium. "I was [nervous], but when I heard about the spotlights being in my face so I wouldn't have to see people nervous, I felt that sense of comfort," said Ortiz.

Next was the AO Step Team to open up Act Two. The AO Step Team

had 29 members, making them the largest performance of the night. The speed of the performance picked up and slowed down in waves, and the crowd thoroughly enjoyed it. "[The crowd] honestly just brings out the best emotions. I love it. The crowd is always so responsive to the step team and I like to feel that love and to feel that knowing that all the work we put into the show is finally like, it's worth it. It feels really good," said Macharia.

Senior Sarah Machado then sang "Desafinado" by Joao Gilberto

and Stan Getz. The song was slow-paced and sung in Portuguese. The performance was calmer than what came before it and managed to ease the crowd while retaining their attention.

After Machado, the band Closed Captions sang "Your Best American Girl" by Mitski. The members of the band are guitarists and singers Jefferyi Pagulong and Remi Santos, and drummer Ruka Truong. The highlight of the perfor-

Continued on page 13



American Repertory Theater Shows Their First Musical to the Students of Malden High School

Gabriela Parini Cordova
Lead Reporter

The first stage for the 'Real Women Have Curves' musical. GABRIELA PARINI CORDOVA

On December 12th at 4:30 P.M., students participating in the American Repertory Theater (ART) program gathered at Malden High School to get on the bus to the "Real Women Have Curves" musical.

Everyone boarded the bus and headed to the theater. During the ride, they felt Christmas cheer singing carols together and bonding with each other with the festive music to accompany them.

Upon arriving, Leah Harris and Vahdat Yeganeh, their advisors at the theater, brought them down to the actors' practice room. Before starting some pre-show activities, they all sat and ate chipotle burritos together to make sure they were set for the rest of the night. Students most anticipated this part of the program because it allowed them and the advisors there to bond while eating a meal that was a small reflection of the show.

After that, everyone began with

an introductory activity for all of the students to learn each other's names and some of their favorite things. Then they moved on to a table (still image) activity in which students and teachers would tell different stories using only their bodies.

They were given the task of filling out a venn diagram with three circles: one each being of societal expectations, family expectations, and self expectations. After this, they were split into four groups to discuss their diagrams, then into two groups to create their tablos together. While the groups brainstormed, Harris gave them each a line from the show to say in their tablo performance.

The performances portrayed different versions of how they all saw the expectations from the venn diagrams using scale and emotion. Some tablos were scattered and personal, while some were more put together and contained general

ideas from all the members. One portrayed the perfect nuclear family while another held a collage of people doing what they expected of

themselves.

Sophomore Sabrina Dangelville, whose group's quote was "the grind never stops," stated that "we



Guests purchasing refreshers during intermission. GABRIELA PARINI CORDOVA

chose to portray that by showing a runner slowly getting more and more tired over time... and we wanted a tall person to stand over me, who was on the floor showing how tired I was, so we chose Zahir Debel and he would say that quote."

Junior Neyonca Honore thought that "the tablo activity was really fun—I saw people in the other groups' views on the world and how they interpreted different issues with society, their families, and themselves." Dangelville agreed, adding that "like Neyonca said, you have to see things from a different point of view...it was just really cool."

Honore also mentioned how "it was really hard, people were all over the floor and in so many different positions." She also found

how they had to incorporate a quote from the show into their tablos "really interesting."

Both groups portrayed similar ideas like "perfection" and "the American dream" that have become a standard not everyone can live up to.

Once everyone finished, it was time to watch the play. Students quickly grabbed their tickets and rushed to their seats, filled with anticipation.

"My hopes are definitely up for future shows we attend and the food was amazing," said Honore. "It wasn't what I was expecting though, I didn't realize they would put so much thought into connecting the food and the cultures and also getting us to dive deeper into expectations within our lives."



Left to right: Emma Spignese-Smolinsky, Addison McWayne, Sophie Leblanc, and Auka Mui sit together while eating their burritos and chatting. GABRIELA PARINI CORDOVA

maldenblueandgold.com



Left to right: Neyonca Honore, Sabrina Dangerville, Zahirr Debel, and Max Torres eat their burritos together while chatting. GABRIELA PARINI CORDOVA

As the people filled the room, so did the sounds of Spanish music and mariachi bands. There was a beautiful scene painted as guests came in, and after some time, a man came out to strum a guitar while a painter finished up the mural.

Soon, act one began and everyone in the room was amazed. The play followed the story of a young woman named Ana Gomez who aspires to go to college but is being stopped by her mother in order to fulfill her role in the family as the only American citizen. It takes place in the 1980s, and throughout the story, Ana's family and the women in her sister's business are terrified of being deported from America.

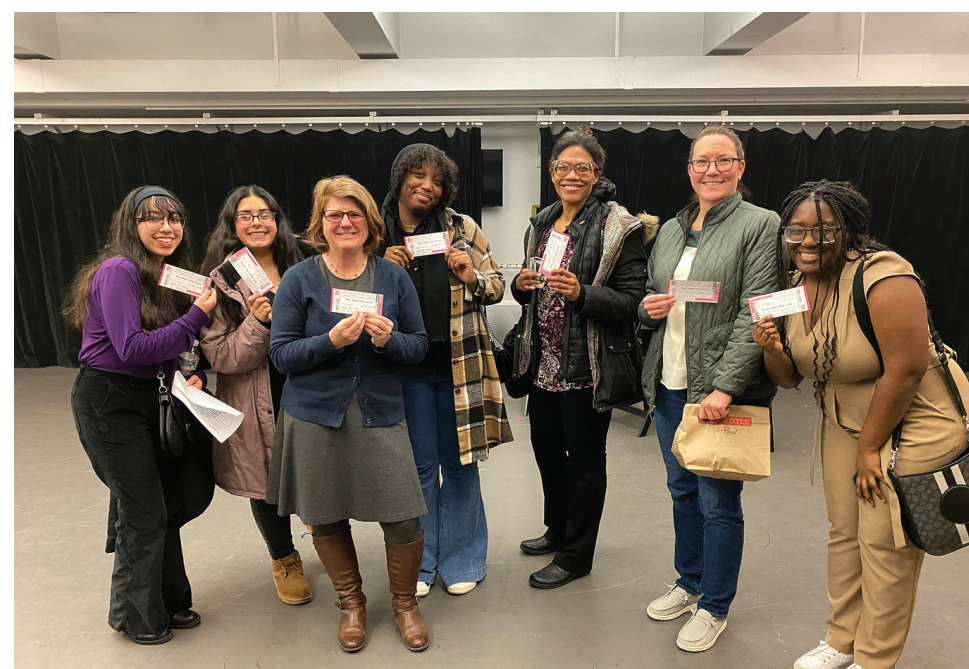
Ana is the only one who can truly help them out in this situation and handle their other needs like bills, taxes, and other necessities. This created conflict between her mother and her own dreams, and audiences of the play see how everything played out.

From the first moments to the beginning of intermission, a swirl of emotions filled the room. During this time guests could leave for refreshers as they sold hispanic foods and beverages like conchas, mexican hot chocolate, and paloma.

The students gushed about how beautiful it all was: junior Addison McWayne, a participating junior, felt like "I was fully immersed in the show, like reality outside of the show didn't exist. I was with the characters through it all. I cried a lot, but I also laughed a lot."

"I've cried already, it's so good!" exclaimed senior Emma Spignese-Smolinsky. "I don't even know I can't even form it into words,

it's just so good. When the actor for the mom came on, me and my friends immediately recognized her



Left to right: Karen Reyes Martinez, Brenda Vivas, Jennifer Clapp, Sabrina Dangerville, Jean Jones, Sarah Jones, and Neyonca Honore pose for a photo with their tickets. GABRIELA PARINI CORDOVA

and were so shocked to see Justina Machado!"

McWayne said that "we had no idea what we were coming to see, we knew nothing about the show. This exceeded our expectations 100%. I can not wait for Act Two!" During intermission, guests got up wiping away their tears and were able to buy concessions while the actors prepared for the next act.

As act two began, the room was thrilled to continue on the story. Many amazing songs and moments were portrayed in this act that brought everyone to tears. The audience saw conflict and love and so many raw moments that everyone was able to connect to in one way or

another.

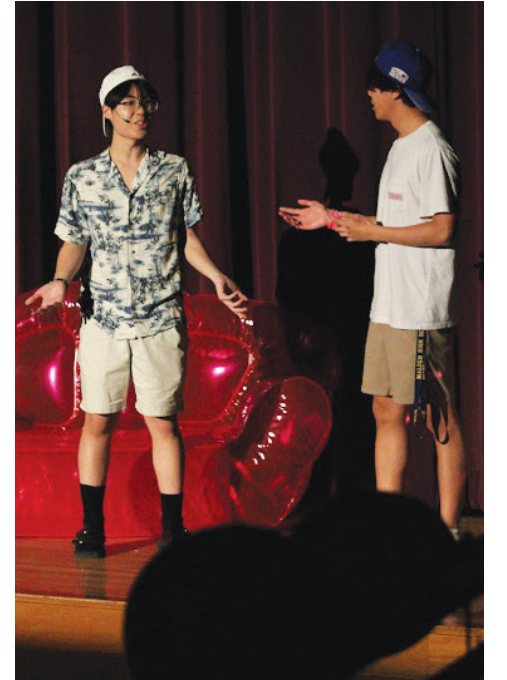
Once the play concluded and the cast came onstage to bow, the crowd erupted in applause that turned into a standing ovation. The show was amazing and brought the entire community of the room to tears. As people left, all you could hear were sniffles and you could see people wiping their tears. It felt like everyone shared one heart, and this play resonated with so many people that it was hard not to get emotional.

"Don't even get me started!" McWayne said, crying. She gushed about both acts, saying, "I don't know which was better, they were both so good!...I'm shaking right now because of how amazing it was. I haven't seen many shows but this is the top of the list!"

Spignese-Smolinsky echoed

Junior Varieties

Continued from page 11



Derek Lam and Gorden Zeng cast as Ken and Ken. SHUYI CHEN

mance was the vocals by Santos and Pagulong. They managed to grab the attention of the crowd as some sang along.

Stephanie Wong and Angelina Feng followed. They duetted "Set Fire to the Rain" by Adele. Wong and Feng paired their talented vocals with Adele's iconic song, prompting the crowd to sing with them.

The following act was the second and only other piano piece of the night by Senior Matthew Paralitici Castano. Castano played "Ballade No.1 in G Minor, Op 23" by Frederic Chopin and "Hit The Road Jack" by Ray Charles. The first piece was played well but the highlight was the song switch to "Hit the Road Jack."

The Afro-Caribbean Dance Team is a group made of many different ethnic backgrounds. They did a variety of dances that represented who they are. The Afro-Caribbean Dance Team has 22 members, making them the second-largest performance of the night. The performance had electrifying energy and the crowd matched them; this was the loudest the crowd got all night.

The final act of the night was the performance by "Bottom Bunk." Before the show, the members were "definitely [nervous]. I can say for sure when I was on that stage sitting in that seat my hands were shaking, and Brian gave me the go, and I just locked in," Tah described. They played "Santeria" by Sublime, a calm medium-paced tune that the crowd enjoyed. "Knowing some of my friends were in the audience, they were cheering so hard for me, it just pushed me on. We played so well because of them."

As the night came to an end, many got to reflect on how amazing JVs were. "Every performance was so good, literally nothing bad the whole night," said Sophomore Annas Sekhri. "I think that's kind of crazy, being a part of that legacy here at Malden High, it's really special," Tah explained.



Students lining up to get food while Leah Harris serves them. GABRIELA PARINI CORDOVA



Neyonca Honore picks up her chipotle burrito from the table. GABRIELA PARINI CORDOVA

maldenblueandgold.com

MODEL UN COMES TO MHS

Class of 2025 Roleplays the United Nations

Mack Keating
Head Copy Editor

The United Nations is an international organization of 193 countries founded after World War II to maintain international peace, promote positive country relations, and improve living standards. Often abbreviated to the UN, this organization meets regularly in New York to discuss current events and potential solutions. The UN was originally founded to ensure there would not be a third world war, but it has evolved since then.

At Malden High, junior students enrolled in College Prep or Honors Modern World History partake in a grade-wide roleplay of the UN, dubbed Model UN. Students work in pairs to represent countries and discuss with other representatives how to protect and help their country's citizens.

Kurtis Scheer, teacher leader of the Social Studies department, has been working since September to prepare for this year's simulation. After meeting with a representative from The United Nations Association of Great Boston (UNAGB), "we went over logistics and looked over the curriculum to provide troubleshooting and questions for teachers that haven't taught it before," Scheer explained.

Malden High has been running this program for approximately fifteen years, but it has not looked the same every year: "We've changed a couple of different times from the sizes of our simulations, sometimes a smaller room with less people." There are benefits to both a smaller and larger simulation, as a smaller room generally leads to "more and better conversations," but a larger room allows for "a diverse school of thought," Scheer explained.

This year, Model UN was run in three sessions in the gallery. Even still, for Egypt Representative Karla Duenas, the biggest issue was interacting with people with so many different representatives, "There were a lot of people and

you couldn't easily tell who everyone was. It was a lot harder to form blocks than I wish it would have been."

Duenas did not love the location chosen either, as the setup felt crowded. "I wish we had tables. We were writing on our laps because we didn't have anything else," she explained, suggesting the possibility of using the cafeteria in future years for more space and tables.

LeBron Wright, Representative of Taiwan, detailed that despite his apprehension, "I think this can help me get a little bit more comfortable with public speaking. It's definitely pretty difficult."

His sentiment was shared with Adam Machmouchi, representing Türkiye, who expressed his concern, "There's going to be a lot of kids there."

For Scheer, however, his biggest concern was "navigating the complexity of global politics right now." Recent conflicts that have gained traction in the news, such as the Israel/Palestine or Russia/Ukraine conflict are multifaceted, and it is hard to cover all aspects. "Ensuring that every country has a clear outline of their role in the world" is Scheer's goal, but he expressed that perfection is never possible.

Some students expressed outcry at Palestine not being recognized as a country by the UN, and hence not having a say in Model UN nor the official United Nations. Since 2012, Palestine has been recognized as a "non-member observer state of the United Nations" and not as a member, due to not passing the vote to be recognized as a member country. Model UN did not recognize Palestine as a member state either, which certain students were upset by, especially due to recent circumstances in Palestine and Israel.

At Malden High, the administration is focusing on inter-student relations and empathy, hence the creation of the Advisory Block; Model UN is based on finding common ground and solving issues united. "In essence, it's all student-run, student-driven, and



Piya Vaghela sharing her country's proposal. MACK KEATING



Students actively listen to the presentation. MACK KEATING



Jonari Chevalier and Marc Naceus preparing to deliver their opening statements. MACK KEATING

student discussion and collaboration." The discussion is facilitated by the students solely, except for the one chairperson who ensures the conversation stays on track. "So essentially, it's students talking for two and a half hours with one another on major political issues, global issues, and collaborating," Scheer professed.

The best aspect of this, in Scheer's opinion, is that everything done in Model UN can help students outside of class. "These are all real-world skills that you need to have. We're just using the UN as a vehicle to do that."



Felipe Dos Santos Alves sharing his proposal plan. MACK KEATING

Scott Advances in Poetry Out Loud Competition



Elijah Etienne
Lead Reporter

Daniel O'Toole
Editor-in-Chief

Poetry Out Loud (POL) is an annual nationwide competition where students in grades 9-12 all participate. In POL you compete against your peers through reciting poems you pick yourself. Every student in the school recites their poem in front of the class, and the person with the best recitation moves on to compete against the winners of other classes in the same period.

The competition at MHS also honors former special education teacher Dave Holland. In the past, a tradition at MHS POL finals was a performance from Holland, one that accuracy judge Yahaira Marquez is very fond of. "I remember he would get on stage every year and make a performance out of his poems, whatever it is that he chose, and it was always such a highlight of the Poetry Out Loud finals competition. It was like, what will he do this year?" Holland sadly passed away in 2016, since then, the teacher competition has been to honor Holland. "You could feel his love for what he was doing, so keeping his legacy alive that way and having our staff members participate is special," explained Marquez.

This year, the finals had 14 competitors, Bruan Memeus, Sean Retotal, Taliyah Lauture, Thomas Conti, Addison McWayne, Jiaying Chen, Rashmi KC, Samira Borrero, Samantha Cuellar Ruiz, Ryan Cogswell, Oscar Luc. Along with the third-place winner Cathen Fontanilla, second-place winner Natalie Keating, and first-place winner Makeila Scott, who represented MHS in the regional competition.

For some, POL isn't looked at very positively and many dislike it. However, POL does have its upsides. "I think POL's important. It gives a different assessment for students to show what they can do to analyze literature that goes beyond writing an essay. We in the department try to give as much differentiation and variety of ways our students can demonstrate what they've learned in their growth and POL is one of them. I know that it pushes students outside of their comfort zone, but that's where we get growth when we're challenged in certain ways, and pushed outside of our comfort

is where we see this is what we can do. We sometimes surprise ourselves with what we can achieve at those points. I think it is important and I think it's an important way for students to also realize that challenge isn't a bad thing," said Marquez.

Preparing for your recitation is very important. Many practice in different ways, second place winner Natalie Keating chose to use her past experiences and those around her to help. "I've been doing theater basically my whole life, so I have a lot of experience with performing and speaking in front of crowds, but it was a new experience to memorize a poem and perform it as a poem. So I mainly prepared by practicing with friends and with family," said Keating.

It's easy to get nervous before performing, but instead, Keating chose to take the opportunity to appreciate the challenge she got from her peers. "It was exciting to see how each level had more people that I was really impressed with. Of course, every round everyone was trying their hardest and it's impressive to stand in front of an audience and perform regardless, but it really felt like the stakes were rising each round."

Midway through the competition, the teachers' round takes place. Five teachers recite poems of their choice to the audience, and a winner among the teachers is chosen after the last teacher's poem. This year, one of the participants was Evan Mauser.

"I'm always interested in which faculty are going up on stage because it's different every year. I approach it like the students do, I'm

going to try it out, and let's see how well I can do. I feel like even though I'm not an English teacher, I want to be part of the whole situation. This is a challenge and I can do this and maybe it's fun. Maybe I'll find a good poem that resonates with me," Mauser explained.

"Hopefully when students do it, they're getting something out of it. Whether it be talking in front of people or it be preparing something because I think you don't have to be good at poetry in your life because you may never look at a poem again. But there are aspects to the Poetry Out Loud situation that I think will help later on whether it's presenting in front of colleagues or having to memorize something or other theater," said Mauser.

Soon after the teachers' round, the students started up again and picked up the pace. Soon the contest was over and the winners were announced. Third-place Cathen Fontanilla, second-place winner, Natalie Keating, and first-place winner, Makeila Scott. "I do a lot of public speaking clubs, so I've worked really hard, especially with poem recitation, since that's what I do in the program. I was like if I don't win, that's totally fine, but how cool would it have been for this to just culminate my senior year? Winning with a poem that means so much to me and really resonates with me so overall it was fun," said Scott.

"I'm not the most religious, but I do follow religion, which is just one aspect of why I pick the poems I recited, but really, why I picked it is, now more than ever, we're just becoming so divided, not just as a country, but also just from morals and values shown in both of the poems I chose. First, 'My Thoughtless Cruelty' by Charles Lamb, is about why we're human, and why we are different from other animals. We have the ability to reason, the ability to have empathy. And that's exactly what the poem is about. It's about having empathy for the smallest of creatures. Same

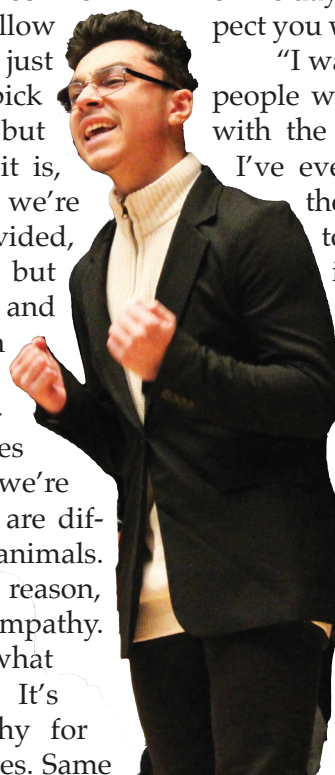
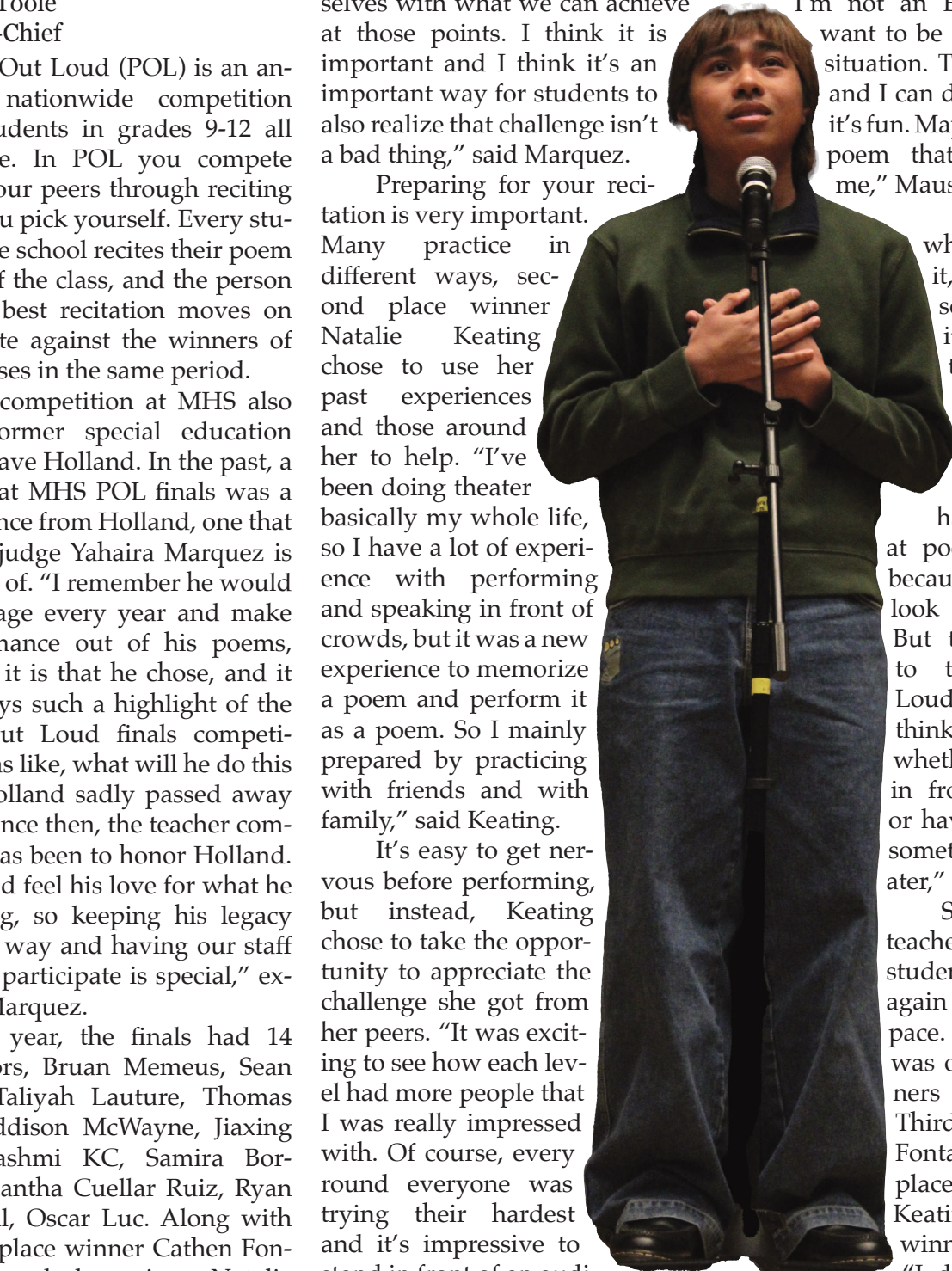
thing with 'The New Colossus' by Emma Lazarus. It's all about uniting people. I mean, the entire poem is about bringing people together to teeming shores. So that's really why I picked both of those," said Scott.

With POL being an experience everyone at MHS goes through, it's easy for it to become a bonding experience with others. "Poetry Out Loud is a competition and essentially, you're competing with other people. Just sitting in those chairs, I made a new friend. Being able to both be sitting up there like, oh my gosh, we have to recite these poems, this is horrible. You're going through the same thing and we're bonding over that. I think more of a sense of community, you're just able to connect with other people that you didn't know even had a passion for expression. I didn't even know Bruan wanted to recite a poem. It was so fun being able to recite it with him and just talk about him with the process," said Scott.

Having won the MHS finals, Scott went on to face other winners of other high schools across New England in the Poetry Out Loud Regional Competition. Before attending she noted, "I'm definitely scared out of my mind. I think about it all the time, just scared about having to recite my poem. But then I think about how much it means to me the poem and also how much it means to my family, which is weird to say, but my mom has watched me recite that poem about a million times. I think she's just as invested in the poem as I am, so being able to recite the poem at the competition is a lot. So well, though I am nervous, I just think that being able to have one more shot may be to go somewhere else, whether I pass or whether I don't, that's not what matters to me. What matters to me is that I'm able to recite this poem in the first place and I think I have a lot of the support of a lot of the faculty who have already said that they're coming to watch me, and my family is coming to watch me. So I think at the end of the day, that's that community aspect you were talking about earlier."

"I want to pay tribute to all the people who have really helped me with the poem. I don't think that I've ever really said thanks, but the reason why I was able to compete and do so well is because I had so many friends who helped me, Thomas Conti, Bruan, my mom, and other faculty at MHS. I think that's why I was able to win," explained Scott.

Top to bottom, left to right: Sean Retotal, Makeila Scott, and Thomas Conti. SHUYI CHEN, DANIEL O'TOOLE, SHUYI CHEN



MHS House Principals Prepare for '25

Chelmie Hyppolite
Reporter

As the 2023-2024 school year transitions into course selections and students prepare for Final Exams, many are wondering what the new school year may bring. Various changes have already been made to the school this year, such as the new Advisory program and the closure of all bathrooms except Boyle ones.

The House Principal team has been working hard to prepare for the new school year, sharing many hopes for the upcoming school year to make the new year as successful as possible.

So far, there is only one major change that students should look out for in the upcoming school year, relating to Chromebooks: House Principals are planning on bringing back signing a verification form to ensure that students understand that their Chromebooks and chargers are their own responsibility. Due to how many students are losing or breaking Chromebooks, this verification will state that all damage to a Chromebook or charger, or the loss of it, will result in payment. House Principals hope this will encourage students to be more responsible with the technology.

Overall, a shared thought among the House Principals has been that the school year so far has been a good one and that the positives outweigh the negatives. "I think it's been a productive school year. Every school year brings the opportunity to bring improvement. I think that we continue to find ways to improve here and I also think that we're excelling in a lot of areas as well," stated Brian Bates, the Holland House Principal.

Bates also expressed his pride in the fact that many students have been improving academically and that seniors and juniors are taking up leadership roles. He believes that this is a sign of a good school culture. "We have a number of students who are excelling academically, seniors that are getting into top colleges, and tons of students involved in sports and different activities," he added.

Even though Caitlyn Quinn, the Boyle House Principal, has not been present for the majority of the school year after having her baby, she still has many positive things to say about the 2023-2024 school year. "There's always classes to see, students to address, and always wonderful things happening as well with after-school programs. Students [are] doing really well in their classes and hundreds of students [are] making the honor roll," said Quinn.

Continued from page 5

home to some of the most creative artists, and students had the opportunity to stop and admire some of Costa Rica's popular designs and artwork. This stop was followed by another at the Oxigeno Human Playground where the club had lunch and purchased some more souvenirs. Once again the club was on the road and took its final stop on the way at the Britt Coffee plantation. During this time, students took an interactive tour of the plantation and got to participate in making their very own coffee. Following this was the final destination of this long bus ride to San Jose and its final hotel, KC Hotel San Jose.

Around this time in the day, the club would usually be settling down for the night and have dinner, but day nine's dinner was a special one that none of the students would forget. A Costa Rican Folklore dinner was a treat for the students and was just as fun and interesting as it was spoken up to be. With many different dances, songs, and Costa Rican cultural clothing, the night was filled with color. After an amazing choreography, the dancers started pulling students from other schools and Malden High's very own on stage to dance with them.

Although the performance ended and the dancers left, the Tornado Travelers were able to storm the floor for themselves. During this, many decided to take in the amazing night skyline view of San Jose from the restaurant. After the eventful dinner and dancing, students and advisors continued the party on the bus ride back to the hotel by singing along to many songs. Taking this party late into the night, students went to sleep shortly after returning to the hotel ready for their final day in Costa

She also added, "Coming back from my maternity leave, it was exactly what I expected it to be and I was really happy to return."

Despite numerous positive attributes of the school and its students, there are still many improvements that need to be made. A major factor that every House Principal hopes to improve is attendance for all classes, especially for the new Advisory program. They hope to get students out of the hallways and



The Tornado Travelers pose for a photo with evening folklore dancers. Photo from @tornadotravelers Instagram.

Rica.

The club's final day, day ten, started with a late breakfast at the hotel and was followed by a long bus ride to its final—and perhaps its best—activity: white water rafting. Upon arrival, students were given instructions on how to stay safe and how to paddle during the activity, and then they were off.

During the activity, the club bounced around the waters and rocks in the lake, then they stopped halfway. At this stop, the travelers were given the chance to jump off a short cliff into the water; and of course, every student and advisor quite literally jumped at the chance to do so. After the jump, students laid back in the stream and the water led them back to the boat where they enjoyed freshly cut watermelon and pineapple. After this, the students were once again on the way down the stream and bounced around with some even falling overboard.

Following the long and fun trip down the water, the club enjoyed some lunch with their boat instructors and then were off back to the hotel again to relax for the long day of travel ahead of them. With dinner at the hotel, the club was officially over with the day and they relaxed until bed.

Finally, after an eventful and



The Tornado Travelers finishing up their tram ride. Photo from @tornadotravelers Instagram.

beautiful trip, the Tornado Travelers took their final bus ride with the best driver and best tour guide EF (Education First) had to offer. At the airport, students took their final pictures with them, said goodbye, and then headed to the San Jose airport. On the way back, the club had a layover at the Miami International Airport and enjoyed its final meal away from home.

Finally, after a long day of travel, the Tornado Travelers were back at home for a late night in Boston.

into class on time, as this is a newer issue.

"Anyone would agree that the attendance to advisory is something that we need to look at again," Quinn added, as she went on to explain how they plan on tackling this issue. One plan she has is to ask more students about their opinions on the program and determine the reasons students are not attending Advisory.

Ewald Charles, the Brunelli

House Principal, said his biggest goal is to improve the social and emotional state of the students. He hopes to better the parent support and communication in hopes of supporting students in various areas, as well as enhancing students' potential.

No matter what, the House Principal team is very confident that the school will continue to improve.

PISA PIZZA
781-397-7777

133 Pearl Street
Malden, MA 02148
Joseph Crowley, Owner
Cell: 617-943-7105
joe@pisapizzamalden.com

"Love at First Slice"

www.PisaPizzaMalden.com See us on facebook

TONY'S
AUTO BODY LLC

Tony Bartolo
tonys9942@aol.com

Phone (781)
321-0032
Fax: (781) 321-9812
RS# 2415

34 Sharon St - Malden, MA 02148



The Tornado Travelers ready for what comes during zip lining. Photo from @tornadotravelers Instagram.

Continued from front page

sightseeing, venturing a chocolate plantation, kayaking, ziplining, going to the beach, visiting the city of Sarchi, and eating over the city. One of the smaller places the club got to visit was an elementary school, where everyone was able to take a dance class learning local dances, meringue, salsa, and bachata.

Since everyone as a whole was taking trips in many different parts of the country, they had also been

hotel hopping around the whole country, not being able to stay still.

“There were five different hotel situations we were at, and pretty much how it went was we would be there for two days, and then we’d move to another one: two days, and move to another one: two days,” junior Lumi Le-Shane said.



A Blue Morpho butterfly spreading its wings. THOMAS TIERNEY

During the stay, one of the places the club was able to stay at was a ranch with nature overwhelming the whole place, having animals and many plants being grown outside.

Throughout the constant movement and the club being together 24/7, friendships arose and many were able to closely bond with each other, and flourish friendships with each other. Not only amongst the students was there flourishing, but also amongst the teachers on the trip.

On the trip, people got to know each other on a more personal level, having conversations for long periods of time, getting to know each other moreover not just as peers from school, but individuals as well.

Because the Tornado Travelers had been traveling nationwide, many hours piled up of spending time on the bus together led to new conversations, and making connections. As well as from breakfast time when eating together, or eating out,

conversations would be brought up naturally and people would link relations amidst each other.

When teachers had also learned more about the students, they led each other to start wondering and talking about their hopes and dreams, achieving a significant amount of importance among everyone. With the teachers being able to learn a ton more about their students, so did the students get to know more about their teachers.

Everyone on the trip had gone from being complete strangers to each other, to being able to connect and relate about many things others couldn't have guessed as a relation that would build a companionship.

“You know, there were a lot of students that hadn't known each other before this trip. And now they're super close friends because that experience of traveling somewhere and experiencing something new is a really great bonding experience. You get to build relationships with people in a completely different way. And I think it's also really important for students to get out and explore the world. So many of us, we spend so much time living in our Boston/Malden bubble, that getting out and seeing what it's like in another country in another culture is really enriching and you can see and appreciate it,” Giordano stated.

Adding on, “There were people in the club that I had only vaguely knew, that now whenever I see them in the halls I stop and I say ‘Oh Hi, what's up, how are you?’ definitely getting closer with people,” Leshane said.

Taking this trip also made the perspective of some appreciate more, as they had been away from their loved ones, and homesick. The Tornado Travelers' experience in Costa Rica was different for everyone, and having many different experiences may have given people new perspectives on many things.

Next year, the Tornado Travelers will be going on a trip to London and Paris, advised by Paul Degenkolb, Yahaira Marquez, and Shannon Alexis. For more information and insights concerning next year's trip, students are encouraged to reach out to the advisors of the trip through email.



The Tornado Travelers ready for what comes during zip lining. TPhoto from @tornadotravelers Instagram.

Domenica Giordano
R e a l t o r

Century 21 North East
www.northeasthomesales.com
781-608-3004

Approaching the two-decade mark in her career, Domenica Giordano has come to realize that experience is the finest teacher. An agent with Century 21 North East, she has navigated up and down markets, recessions, booms and everything in between. An independent

MUSLIM STUDENT ASSOCIATION SHARES THE BEAUTY OF HENNA WITH MALDEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Emilly De Farias Weihrauch
Reporter

The Muslim Student Association (MSA) formed last school year, hosted an event in which anyone of any culture was welcome to get henna, a temporary dye used on skin and hair, done on their hands and arms. The event was hosted in Cafe B on March 14th, where people had to RSVP with the details of what design they wanted and where on their hands. Charging \$5 per hand, students could leave with beautiful artwork on their hands, made by students who are proud to share their cultures.

Henna originates from several cultures, including North African, Middle Eastern, and South Asian backgrounds. The MSA wanted to host a unique fundraiser "that would be fun for both teachers, students, and us," according to Sabrina Kharkhach, the Event Coordinator for MSA. "We all thought henna would be a great idea, especially since it's a commonality all of us officers have within our cultures."

"Sabrina was the one who came up with this idea, she suggested it, and we agreed that it would be a really fun event that we think

people would like to come to," said Shiza Zahid, Secretary for the MSA. "The funds for this fundraiser will go toward events we have coming soon, I won't spoil it however it's something we've been planning for a bit!"

"I wanted to get it done because it looked cool and I like exploring other cultures," said Yawen Zuo, a freshman who participated in the event. Zuo paid for an artist to do a freestyle design on her hand and expressed she wanted the designer to "be creative" and "take the lead." Zuo later explained how she appreciated the technique and how talented the club members must be to host this event.

"Preparing for this event was a bit stressful, we wanted to make sure that everyone would be happy with their henna designs and that people enjoyed the event. We also wanted to make sure that everything went smoothly so we had to make a plan for how we were going to set up this event," described Zahid. The event went smoothly despite the officers' concerns. Many people showed up and had positive reactions to the



An MSA member actively designing work on another student's hand and fingers. EMILLY DE FARIAS WEIHRAUCH designs.

"I'm really happy I got it done because Henna is a really beautiful thing and it's a beautiful culture, and henna can get expensive and it can get very time-consuming, -and for \$5, it's a very reasonable price, I'm glad I got it done!" exclaimed Marianne Rivadeneira.

"We had plenty of customers and received great feedback on the

fundraiser. A lot of people have been questioning if this event will come back soon and we sure hope so!" expressed Zahid. The Muslim Student Association was met with positive reviews. They shared an important aspect of their culture with this event, and you can learn more about their religion and practices every Tuesday after school in room B336.



A student's finished floral henna work waiting to dry, designed by MSA members. EMILLY DE FARIAS WEIHRAUCH



Flowers designed in henna tracing down a student's hand and finger, drying to stain hand. EMILLY DE FARIAS WEIHRAUCH

maldenblueandgold.com

A Deep Dive into the Gym Class Swimming Requirement

Delina Yohannes
Lead Reporter

Currently, all gym classes at Malden High School require approximately six swim sessions where students spend their gym period in the swimming pool with the opportunity to play games, build comfort in the pool, learn pool safety, and learn how to swim.

While this all sounds extremely beneficial, these swim sessions have quite a stigma attached to them as many students are anxious about participating in them. "As for my classes, I would say about 60 to 80% participate in swimming depending on the class," said Gym Teacher Mark Gagnon. He further explained how the negative image of the swim sessions leads to many students choosing not to participate, which can alter their overall grades in the class. "I feel bad for them because they're missing a big part of life, the beach, pool parties, and stuff like that all because of what they've heard from other students," said Gagnon.

However, teachers offer students one unexcused class where students who choose not to swim can make up one class with an assignment that is considered, "too easy," by the gym teachers. The assignment requires lots of research about pool safety that students will use both in and out of school. This act of compromise is to give students who may be uncomfortable with getting in the pool the opportunity to keep their grades stable.

Some students, however, disagree, with the assignments being considered easy. "I haven't done the assignments personally, but I've seen people do it and I think it's okay but I feel like it's a bit longer than it should be, and that alters the way people take in the information," said sophomore Rachel Lanza. "If things are longer, then lots of people aren't paying attention to the information; they're just trying to get it done." She then emphasized how her gym teacher motivates her enough so that she does not feel the need to not participate and do those assignments.

However, the lack of participation isn't always due to simply not wanting to swim. "Swim itself is not that bad, but I think it's a little unfair to girls...due to menstrual cycles. If we can't be in the pool we have to openly tell the teacher—which isn't always something that I want to do," expressed sophomore Ashley Thai. She also mentioned that this is done "so that we can get any credit at all. Even then we can only get half



Senior Vivian Onyejiaka takes the lead against a Chelsea runner from the 2023 season. RYAN COGGSWELL

Meriam Bouchtout
Reporter

As the spring season begins, so does the beginning of this year's Outdoor Track & Field season. With a number of strong captains and determined athletes, the Outdoor Track & Field Team is anticipating a great season and a strong team bond.

"The captain practices are pretty fun, normal, you just do your own warmups; the workouts and just leave. It's pretty much like a normal practice," said Zion Chikel, a sprinter on the team.

The outdoor season began on March 18th. Prior, the players on the team used captains' practices as a pre-season warm-up to get into shape and to essentially integrate into the practice routine.

Throwing captain Damien Josaphat stated, "I'd like to put it like this: you come if you want to get better. If you're good with where you're at then don't come, if you wanna get better, get better." There's a bit of confusion when it comes to the practices, some believe the captains' practices are something fun to do to be prepared for the season but some believe it's something mandatory to improve in performance.

Though there are mixed opinions about the practices, their main purpose is to help players improve their performance while having fun but the most important part is the chemistry and team bonding. The whole purpose of sports is to enjoy the game with your teammates and just have fun. "I'm hoping to build

credit." These frustrations were also expressed by many other female students who think it is unfair for their grades to be lowered over something out of their control.

In order to prevent this cycle of students and teachers misunderstanding each other, gym teachers are trying to offer things that would satisfy students such as "giving them a little more time for changing and doing activities that they enjoy...

on the team culture we built during indoor track. By the end of the season, the team had forged a tight bond, and I am hoping outdoor will be the same with our slightly larger team," said Girls' Distance Coach Meghan McCormick.

"Track overall is a very fun and great sport. It's not really a teamwork-based sport which I really like but it's also you gotta know a lot about the team so it's bad and not bad at the same time," said Joasaphat.

"I want every runner to set a PR in at least one event, and I hope our newcomers find an event they enjoy," said McCormick. It's truly a hard sport that takes a lot of commitment, especially from the new athletes, however the team can all agree that the results are rewarding. "For the team, I have high hopes that our girls can repeat as GBL champions," McCormick expressed.

"I just hope for a good season for myself and my teammates and also I hope to qualify to States for my first outdoor season," said sprinting captain Alex Martin.

"I think captain practices are good 'cause it's been some time since an actual practice in indoor season so a lot of people, myself included, are tired and out of shape," said sprinting captain Vivian Onyejiaka.

"Being around so many people doing different events as well as meeting other people from different schools and just trying new events even if it's not even in the competition, I think it's really fun and I like the mental aspect of track 'cause not

only do you have to push yourself physically but it takes a lot of mental strength to do these events," said Onyejiaka.

But not all athletes join Track & Field as a main sport—some people join this sport as an off-season training or to just stay in shape. "Track is a very good sport for people who wanna start getting into shape 'cause, well, sports is a lot of running and track is just running so it's really helpful for building that stamina," said Raphael Sanchez Martinez, a sprinter on the team.



Distance captain Rolando Mejia running during the indoor track season. JESSICA LI

and just try to see things from the students' perspective," explained Gagnon.

Luckily, this compromise has changed attitudes among students when it comes to participating in swim. "At first it was very scary as I've never been in the water before, but as I got to try it out, I started to get more comfortable being in the water and having that experience with not being on the land,"

explained sophomore Christina Robinson-McCaslaill who further emphasized the importance of being able to be in the water comfortably and safely. Although there is always room for improvement, the mutual understanding of both students and teachers when it comes to participating in swim continues to get better as the awkward barrier between the two is broken and more compromises are made.

Inaugural Malden Baseball Legacy Hall of Fame

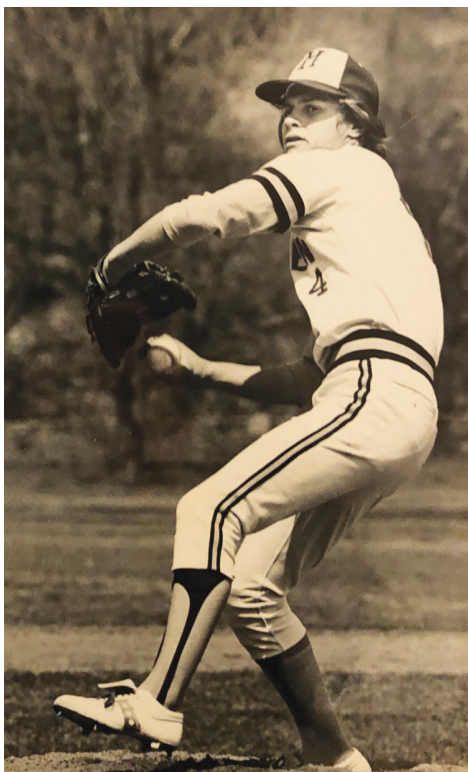
Bo Stead
Head of Sports

Baseball in Malden nowadays is something that many residents often overlook. Malden has had a 100+ year history of Little League, Babe Ruth, and high school baseball teams: players that have significantly contributed to the city's culture. As years go on, people may forget about names that mean so much. However, the baseball community in Malden has not forgotten any of its figures which gave it such a rich history.

Steve Freker, who is the president of the Golden Tornado Club, baseball head coach, and a legend in the baseball world of Malden and New England, decided to create the Malden Baseball Legacy Hall of Fame. Freker aimed to create something that would honor those who "contributed a great deal of their time and effort" in service to the city of Malden. Freker claimed that in doing so, these individuals "positively promote and make an impact on the sport of baseball," which in turn "promotes players and families that participated in baseball."

The inaugural ceremony of this Hall of Fame was held on Thursday, March 7th at the Malden Moose Hall. In this first class of inductees were some of the biggest names in the history of baseball for Malden. The inaugural class includes Bob Rotondi, Shawn Brickman, Joe Caraco Sr., Kenny Mazonson, Deano Summers, Sal Turilli, and Pearl and Perry Verge Sr. See the image below for their accolades and achievements.

The aforementioned Brickman, who is regarded as one of the best athletes to ever walk through the doors of Malden High, was honored at this event. Brickman is known best for his time playing at Malden High but he also played



Brickman delivering a pitch during his time at MHS. Photo submitted by Brickman.

wide receiver in football as well as baseball at Northeastern University, where he holds a record for pitching with a record of 11-1. Brickman ended up coaching at Malden High for several years with current Head Coach Steve Freker. Freker, before introducing Brickman, noted him as his "best friend"; the two have formed a strong bond over the years of dedication to baseball in Malden. Freker remarked that during his time coaching, Brickman "brought a whole new level" of expertise to the coaching staff and that he was a "premier athlete" in three sports during his time at Malden High. Brickman played baseball, basketball, and football while he was a student at MHS.

Freker put it in simple words that Brickman was an extremely "tough" athlete. He explained that Brickman coaching at the young age of 25 was "unheard of" and that the coaching tandem "expected to win" every single time they went out there. They made the state tournament several years in a row and had three players drafted to the pros with two of them pitching in the major leagues before that Brickman was one of the only players to ever play college baseball coming from Malden High.

Brickman concluded that he was "extremely proud to have been inducted" with his "fellow great deserving inductees." However, Brickman was most proud that he was able to "share this moment" with his family and stressed just the immense amount of love he has for his family. "I can't explain how great that feeling was! I love my family so much!" Brickman exclaimed. As one may notice, the baseball community reaches far beyond the players as familial friendships are bonded for decades of supporting their players.

Brickman also firmly stated that the best moment in his career was when he was hired as the Head Coach of Baseball at MHS; Brickman attributes all of his success to "all of the great coaches, teammates, and players," as he has been "fortunate and privileged to play with, play for and coach." He also mentioned that he always tried to be positive and strived to be a great "teammate, coach, and friend" to all involved throughout his career.

Another one of the inductees is longtime Babe Ruth coach Deano Summers. Deano, who has coached since he was in his 20s, has dedicated countless hours to the Malden Babe Ruth league. Currently, he is the head coach of the Flames, which he is so proud of. Summers has won two of the last three City Series championships for Babe Ruth. Not just Deano, but also his former players are happy to have been part of the "tradition" of being a Flame, as Summers described it. Former Flame, Sean Hudson at MHS pro-



The mayor with the Hall of Fame inductees. Photo taken from @mayorofmalden on Instagram.



Left to right: Deano Summers, Kenny Mazonson, and Felice D'Anna at the Hall of Fame banquet. Photo submitted by Deano Summers.

fessed that he was "so grateful to have been coached by Deano" and that he is "proud to be a Flame."

Summers who has dedicated 36 years of service was happy to have been inducted and he observed that "all of the inductees share the same passion for baseball in Malden." Summers is most proud of having had the opportunity of coaching his two sons Nick and Jacky, explaining, "It was so much fun going to the park and watching them play." Summers views the purpose of the Babe Ruth League as to "prepare players for the next level" of baseball. He loved "watching the players grow as athletes" as well as seeing players become Varsity baseball players by the time they graduated Babe Ruth. Summers can thank his drive for coaching from his Mother: "My mother told me as a young man if you want to be a part of your community, get involved with the youth. I started coaching in 1989 and have not stopped" explained Summers. Since beginning coaching in 1989, Summers has coached basketball and hockey in addition to his impressive baseball coaching campaign.

Finally, any mention of baseball in Malden absolutely cannot go without the talk of a legend. Bob Rotondi is an iconic figure in the community of baseball in Malden. Turning 85 this month, Rotondi has coached for nearly 70 years, since his teen years. Rotondi is not only well-respected, but he is a wonderful human being and an absolute pleasure and honor

to speak to. Rotondi has committed his entire life to the Malden Babe Ruth League and helping grow the game of baseball for Malden. Over the years, he has seen hundreds of players come and go and watched as the game evolved at a youth level right before his eyes. Rotondi has been honored many times and this is the fourth hall of fame he has been honored in. He has now been inducted into the Massachusetts Babe Ruth League Hall of Fame, the Malden Golden Tornadoes Hall of Fame, the Greater Boston CYO Hall of Fame for Hockey, and now finally the Malden Baseball Legacy Hall of Fame.

Rotondi explained that it was a "great honor" to be inducted and it is "probably the most important" of his four times being honored in a Hall of Fame because it makes him feel "well-received" in his own hometown. Despite having decades of experiences to choose from, Rotondi pointed out that the 1960s were some of his favorite and his best years of success. Best known for his success in the Babe Ruth League, he noted "In 1962 I had the first central league team to win the city series." In 1963 he coached the Central League All-Star team and went to the state finals which "was the farthest any Malden team has ever gone." Right after this, he went to coach the team that he still coaches, the Knights, and won four straight City Series titles. Rotondi also recognized that there were once 23 teams in the Babe Ruth League and they

Malden-Winchester Ping Pong Tournament Ends in Thrilling Sudden-Death Match

Nathan Dean
Editor-in-Chief of Print and Design

are now at five. There are some new challenges that come with this. He remarked, "Families are not having as many kids anymore, so it's a little harder to get so many to sign up." He followed with, "A large percentage of the kids we're coaching are basically just starting so it's like it's a little tougher to get a team together." However, one thing that Rotondi loves to see is the influx of first-time baseball players. Rotondi noted that he has had players from "China, Haiti, Bangladesh, and Nigeria" in recent years.

Obviously, with Rotondi coaching for this many decades, there is no secret that he has a true love for the sport and carrying it on to new generations. Rotondi was a baseball player himself and even attended a rookie camp for the Washington Senators, however, his coaching career did begin after his playing career. Rotondi commented, "I love this sport, and I love teaching it. I look at it like a subject in school that had to be taught." He is enchanted by the "intricacies and all of the work that goes into molding a team, to prove myself and parents and players." It is agreed upon by many that Bob Rotondi is a legend for Babe Ruth baseball in Malden, Massachusetts, and New England.

As we move our glance from the past to the present and beyond, some may notice that participation-wise there has been a decline in numbers for baseball in Malden. Recently, thanks to new coaches putting in their own volunteer hours and starting their own coaching legacies, there has been an uptick in participation. A new team will be added to the Babe Ruth League this year, and slowly but surely kids are starting to gravitate back towards baseball. Bob Rotondi believes that Stephen Freker is "the heart and soul of the game" right now for the city. He also recognized that with "new stars in the MLB, kids are beginning to look up to them more." Freker, on the same subject, believes that the key to keeping the future intact for baseball needs things like this Legacy Hall Of Fame. Keeping the community together and "connecting the past with the present as we did with current and old players" is what Freker's aims with events like these. Freker also firmly stated that "people being honored" like they were at this event motivates coaches to stay with it.

Deano Summers and Shawn Brickman have very similar views to both of these men, with Deano Summers demonstrating that all three leagues in the city need to "work together and share a common goal" that being the "growth of baseball in our city." Brickman put it simply, as the key to growth was to "allow any kids who want to play, to play so that they can get the experience of how great it is to play baseball in Malden." With the support of local icons like these, there is only one way to explain the state of Malden baseball right now, which is the city's slogan: "Strong Past, Proud Future"

On the Thursday after February break, the Malden High Ping Pong Club traveled to Winchester High for a friendly tournament. The tournament was split into a group stage and an elimination round with Malden senior Jason Chen playing against Winchester sophomore Luke Molloy. In the end, Molloy would best Chen in a thrilling sudden death 15-13 win.

After arriving and setting up in a corner of the gym, the competitors, seven from both schools, were broken up into two groups of seven with a mix of players from both schools in each bracket. Each player then played a best of three, first to eleven, match against every other player in their group. The four highest-scoring competitors from each group then moved on to the knockout stage. Due to time constraints, all knockout games were only first to 11 points.

By chance, the top eight in the final stage were perfectly split with four players from Malden and four from Winchester. This allowed for the quarterfinals to all be Malden against Winchester. However, senior Jason Chen was the only Malden player of the four to make it past the first round. With all of Malden's hopes now resting on one player, Chen would need to win his next two matches to take home victory for Malden.

"I was hoping to play Archer [Ou] in the finals, but he lost in round one," remarked Chen. "I feel like there's a little pressure on me, like everyone's watching me now." Despite the pressure, Chen remained confident, "They can't return [my serve] correctly, so I just get a free forehand and a chance to end the point."

Chen's first match was against a player he had previously beaten in the group stage two games to none. In this case, no upset was to be had, and Chen won handily with a quick 11-4 match.



Malden and Winchester competitors smile for a group picture after the tournament win by Winchester Sophomore Luke Molloy. NATHAN DEAN

In the finals, Chen faced underdog Winchester sophomore Luke Molloy whom Chen had previously beaten in the group stage two games to zero. In addition, Molloy was tied for the lowest group stage score in the elimination round. Comparatively, Chen was the only player to win all of their group-stage games.

The final game began quickly, and in a rapid-fire series of points, Molloy found himself down 4-1. However, some good smashes from Molloy and mistakes from Chen soon brought the game to a tied 5-5. Unforced errors would continue to plague Chen as the score went back and forth. Then, Chen found himself in an 8-10 deficit, one point away from losing the whole match. As Malden fans watched on with bated breath, Chen brought the game back to 10-10. Now, the game would enter a sudden death win-by-two rules: the first player to win two points in a row wins the tournament. The game lasted only a few points longer, and with two good smashes in a row, Molloy took home the win for Winchester 14-12.

"It was really fun. A little bit of a shock," Molloy expressed after the win. He also expressed gratitude for his captains Sam and Evan. "He taught me everything I know."

Ping Pong Club Advisor Mark

Gagnon indicated positive opinions on the individual structure of the tournament as opposed to a more team-based tournament: "It wasn't a traditional match, but I thought this was a nice way that allowed everyone to play each other once." He also communicated gratitude to Winchester for setting up the event, "I met with their coach and said 'let's play' and she said 'absolutely' and it was that simple."

Ping Pong Club Captain Cheryl Joe Pidakala also held appreciation of the format, "We got to play almost everybody, it was fun." He also noted some young stars of the Malden team: freshman Mogos Ghile and sophomore Kwan Wo Li, "I'm really happy to see [Ghile] perform and grow," adding, "Incredible performance by Kwan Wo, I have no words." Overall, Pidakala was glad to see improvement from the team as a whole. He attributed the team's success to the bond between teammates and support, "everyone is getting inspiration from each other."

For more information on the Ping Pong Club, feel free to contact Captain Pidakala at cpidakal26@maldenps.org and Coach Gagnon at mgagnon@maldenps.org.



Malden senior Jason Chen (left) serves in his finals match against Winchester sophomore Luke Molloy. NATHAN DEAN

maldenblueandgold.com

Malden High School Swings into a New Season with Baseball Captains Practice

Ashton Calixte
Lead Reporter

With a new season on the horizon, the Malden High School baseball team began to host captain's practices for new and returning players to get extra time to get familiar with the game before the fast-approaching season arrives.

In the previous season, the baseball team finished with an overall record of 11-9-1. The captains Jake Simpson, Ryan Cogswell, and Ezechiel Noelsaint have high hopes and goals both personal and for the team for the new season. "I just want to improve overall as a hitter and as a pitcher, first baseman, and outfielder. From a team standpoint, I would like for us to go back to the state tournament and be a little bit more competitive this year. The biggest one we have had is being in the running for the GBL title," stated Christopher MacDonald who has been playing since he was five years old.

There are nine different positions in the field. There is a catcher, pitcher, first-second and third baseman, shortstop, left, center, and right fielder, and in front of the pitcher is the hitter. Captain's practices are the perfect place to figure out which position you play best in.

There is a lot to look forward to in a new season, it is a fresh start where you can show other teams what you are made of. "I'm looking forward to playing with the same team as last year... and hopefully we can do good again this year," stated Jake Simpson, a captain who has been playing baseball for 13 years.

Last year the Malden High School baseball team placed 5th in the GBL. "Ever since the beginning of last year our goal has been to win the GBL and we believe we can do that... with the talent that we have and the trust we have in each other it's definitely possible and we hope to achieve that," said MacDonald.

The first game of the season is on March 29th against Salem Academy Charter School. Although captains' practices are not mandatory, once actual practices begin, players should "come in ready to work and get better at practice every day because we have a team full of competitive guys who want to win badly," concluded MacDonald.

SIGHTS SET AND PROMISES MADE: MALDEN CREW LOOKS FORWARD TO THEIR NEW SEASON

Zachary Nedell
Lead Reporter

As captains, coaches, and rowers prepare to re-open the boathouse this year, the team must prepare through tryouts and practices to prepare themselves for the upcoming battle of boats.

Third-time coach of Crew, Tiffany Cane, focused on recruitment during the off-season in preparation for this moment; captains Cynthia Chen, Yonghao Chen, and Daniel O'Toole, who is also editor-in-chief of this newspaper, spread the sport around, held informational meetings, and ran a summer middle school rowing program alongside coach Kevin Isaza to get new faces on the roster.

"I think the three of them all have complementary attributes towards the personalities that make them successful," Cane stated, complimenting their dedication to the sport. She continued, recognizing O'Toole as an "amazing student-athlete, person, friend, with strong leadership skills," Yonghao as a determined athlete with amazing interpersonal skills, and Cynthia as an experienced and reliable Coxswain captain. Cane hopes to see the captains this year grow their skills and become an extension of the coaches themselves, helping to teach, lead, and motivate the team.

Cane has also been watching the athletes closely and noticed an up-and-coming rower, Audrey Nguyen. Cane saw her passion and hoped she would bring it to the boathouse to develop the camaraderie of the team further.

"I'd like to see us close that gap when we're racing, getting a little bit closer times in comparison to other teams. We are newer and the other teams have been rowing together for a long time," Cane mentioned as she described her hopes for growth on the team this year. She would like to work on her communication with the team, providing frequent updates, and being passionate so



Henry Wallis and Francis Doza strengthening their arms and core for the upcoming rowing. ZACHARY NEDELL

the team can rally behind her.

O'Toole, captain of the boys' team, has been recruiting several players, including Nguyen, to increase the size of the team.

"Daniel [O'Toole] and Ryan [Li], the captains from last year, they really wanted me on the team so I ended up joining halfway through the season, which was definitely an adjustment but I think I fit pretty well," Henry Wallis, a senior and second-year rower commented on why he joined.

"From my sophomore, so my junior year the size did decrease a little bit but as it's looking right now, it seems like we're growing as a team," O'Toole mentioned. He continued to talk about his role on the team ensuring that he keeps everyone on track, motivated, and focused to bring out the potential the team has. "We got a lot of new rowers coming up, so I'm going to be there and all the other senior members are going to be there to make sure that [the athletes] are all coached up and ready to have a great season," O'Toole explained.

O'Toole brought up the varsity boats mentioning how solid they

look and how he is looking forward to the team's first meet with Arlington on April 27th.

O'Toole attributed his success to his teammates, both current and graduated as he mentioned past alumni of crew that inspired O'Toole to push himself and build close connections with the rest of the team, as he strived to create a strong family.

"I want to drive them so that they can become great and then they can foster that next group and that next generation," O'Toole said.

In the end, O'Toole is looking to end this year as one of the greatest rowers in program history and be a shining figure for his teammates to look to.

As the boathouse prepares to reopen its doors and the Crew team gears up for another season, the groundwork laid by Coach Tiffany Cane, alongside dedicated captains and emerging talents, sets a promising tone for the challenges ahead. As they embark on their journey, both on and off the water, Malden Crew stands united in their pursuit of success, ready to make their mark in program history and inspire all future generations of rowers.



Coach Cane, debriefing the athletes on what they can expect. ZACHARY NEDELL

Tornados Baseball Aims to Take the GBL by Storm

Gilles Ndagha
Reporter

The Malden High baseball season is on its way with practices starting the week of March 18th at 3:00 in Pine Banks. This year, the team will be led by senior captains Ryan Coggswell, Ezechiele Noelsaint, and Jake Simpson.

Last year, the team went 11-8-1 which qualified them for the State Tournament but took a loss in the first round to Bishop Feehan 10-2. The team's biggest accomplishment last year was their win in the East Boston Strike Out Cancer Tournament, after beating Watertown 1-0 in the finals. The trophy won from this tournament can be seen outside the main office on Coach Stephen Freker's desk.

This season, Coach Freker is looking forward to "facing new challenges and believing that they could compete in the Greater Boston League." With this group of senior captains, Freker believes Their leadership and skills keep us on the right track, we expect more of the same this year."

Extending outside the GBL, Freker aims at snapping a longstanding streak just as the team did last season regarding the State Tournament. "Last year we qualified for the State Tournament for the first time in 12 years and we hope to make it two years in a row for the first time in almost 20 years," stated Freker. Coach Freker hopes to set a foundation for the team to make states every year.

Freshman Ryan Bowdrige hopes to have quite a productive first season and has set some lofty goals to achieve by hitting with a batting average over .450, 100 strikeouts as a pitcher, and 25 or more stolen bases. He hopes for the captains to come to practice and "set the tone at prac-

Shuyi Chen
Reporter

With spring approaching, coach Dan Jurkowski is ready to start up the boys' volleyball season. Jurkowski is a tri-sport coach who coaches girls' Varsity Volleyball, boys' Varsity Volleyball, and boys' JV Basketball at Malden High School.

All three of the teams coached by him have found success in each of their respective seasons, with both of his Varsity Volleyball teams qualifying for the MIAA D1 State Tournament and his JV Basketball team having a solid rebuilding season.

Not only is Daniel Jurkowski a prominent coach for Malden High sports, but he is also a very appreciated physical education teacher here at MHS working alongside other Phys-Ed teachers like Mark Gagnon, Jonathan Currier, Nancy Wentworth, and Mary-Jo Urquhart.

Growing up in Belchertown, MA, Jurkowski was a tri-sport athlete playing varsity soccer, basketball, and volleyball. However, he was most impressive on the court playing basketball. Standing at the height of 5'11 he was their star shooting guard holding the school record for most made 3's in a single game with 10.

Before becoming a physical education teacher and coach here at Malden, he attended UMass Amherst where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Sports Management. Following his graduation in 2007 he got his first job as a video coordinator for basketball

and at games." Bowdrige also hopes that the "community comes and supports us during games." As it is the last high school baseball season for all three captains, the team

Coach Daniel Jurkowski Leads Malden to Numerous Victories



Daniel Jurkowski posing for a photo. SHUYI CHEN

at UMass Amherst.

In the Fall of 2015, Jurkowski began working as a physical education teacher at the Salemwood School, where he met many great student-athletes that he would go on to coach and mentor at the high school.

Becoming a coach is not linear for Jurkowski, however, when he was offered these positions he knew he had to do it. "I grew up playing these sports and my love for these sports is what encouraged me to coach," Jurkowski expressed. His passion for coaching and the sport was passed on to his players, too.

To Jurkowski, a team is more than just their record. "As I get older, the aspects of coaching I

enjoy the most are building relationships with my players, and hopefully allowing them to love basketball and volleyball, and being part of a team and culture as much as I did."

Girls' Varsity Volleyball Captain Alina Dao said, "I appreciate how Dan doesn't make it entirely about winning the game, he makes it an enjoyable place to be and bond as a team. Although we always wanted to win, some things just didn't go our way."

Around the school, Jurkowski is often described by many students as "the GOAT," "funny," "a mentor," and many more kind words that show how much he is appreciated around the Malden Community.

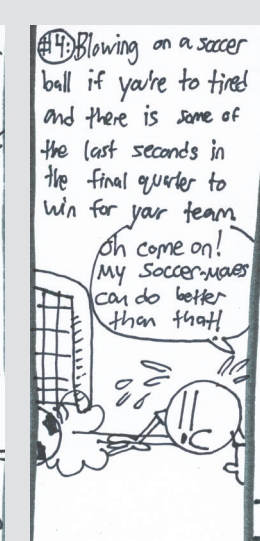
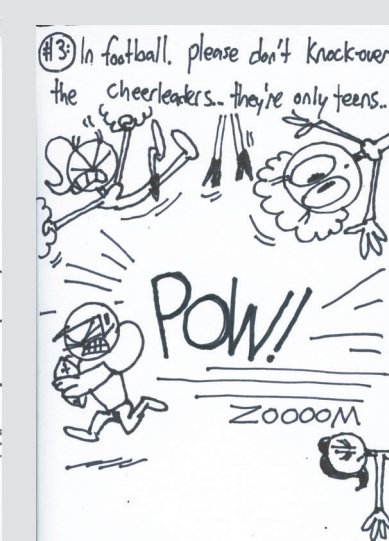
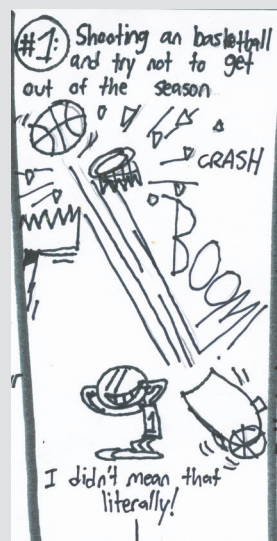
hopes to uphold a strong sense of pride and determination.

The team's first game of the season was on March 23rd, which unfortunately ended in a loss, but

the team is excited to see what else the season has in store for them and are looking forward to improving their record this year.

FIVE AGGRESSIVE METHODS TO SUCCEED IN SPORTS BY RICHIE CORTESE

FIVE AGGRESSIVE METHODS TO SUCCEED IN SPORTS IN A PERSONAL-ACTIVE WAY
By Richie Cortese
Listen. It's just a comic, so don't let these lessons fail to you in your wrong hands.



Student-Faculty Basketball Game



Jonathan Currier dribbling down the court, with Yandel Huynh close behind, slowing Currier's run. NATHAN DEAN

Ryan Cogswell
Editor-in-Chief of Web and Mobile

The Student-Faculty Basketball Game has been a staple at Malden High School for over 10 years and is currently a fundraiser for the Tornado Travelers Club. Advisor Shauna Campbell noted that the game has been played "as long as I've been here." The club is dedicated to allowing students to travel the world; their last trip occurred this past February to Costa Rica.

The bleachers were packed with students once again, showing how important the game was to the school. "I think it's entertaining to have teachers play an athletic sport or activity with students," Campbell said. "Then you have other students wanting to watch the game, and it all comes together to build camaraderie and school spirit!"

Unlike last year, this game started very slowly. The teachers split up their squad into four different lineups, rotating them throughout the first half. In doing so, they separated their best athletes and stifled their offensive play. Despite those struggles, they maintained strong defense and limited the student side from pulling away.

At the end of the 20-minute first half, the students started to pick up the pace. They still underperformed offensively and managed just 23 points at halftime, but the faculty scored a lackluster nine, giving the younger side a fourteen-point lead with a half to go.

However, the faculty found new life with a different approach. Principal Christopher Mastrangelo, serving as the staff head coach for the game, sent his best players out to close the gap. Their combined force proved dominant, and it was not long before the faculty tied the game at 32.

While stars of the past Wiston Jeune and Jonathan Currier contributed to the comeback, the team's leading scorer wound up being Salemwood School gym teacher Rebecca Krigman with 14 points. "I shot the ball well," she exclaimed later. "We had to rely on our teammates, and everyone played a fair game."

With under 2 minutes to play, the teachers had a 48-41 advantage. Then, senior and boys' basketball captain Ezechiel "Zeke" Noelsaint flipped the script. He hit a three-pointer to cut the gap to four and student Yandel Huynh took it to the rim for a layup and-1, which he converted. Within seconds, the lead was just a single point.

Although the teachers scored again, they were not slowing down "Zeke the Freak", who nailed another three-pointer right in the defender's face to tie the game. After a failed faculty possession, he came back down the court and nailed a long two-point shot, holding his finish. The students had regained the lead.

Foot- ball Coach W i t c h e Exilhomme used his physicality to draw two fouls in the last minute but made only two of the four free throws. This left the score tied at 52 with

under ten seconds to go. The students gave it to their hot hand but Noelsaint was triple covered on his buzzer-beater attempt, disrupting his shot and forcing overtime.

The overtime period was just a minute long, requiring the players to make a quick play to win the game. With eighteen seconds remaining, the students inbounded from the baseline. They eventually found Noelsaint in the paint who missed two layups but used his top-notch vertical to pull down the rebound each time. On his third attempt, he found the basket to take a 54-52 lead with four seconds left on the clock.

The faculty called a timeout, and Mastrangelo brought the team together to discuss their last gasp at victory. "The play was for Mr. Currier to get a good look at a 2-point shot," he later explained.

But things went very differently on the inbound. The pass found

Exilhomme, who immediately attempted a long three-point shot; it fell short, and the buzzer sounded. "Sometimes, the play just doesn't work out the way you wanted it to," admitted Mastrangelo.

With that, the students had finally overcome the faculty for the first time since before the pandemic.

"I don't like to lose," Noelsaint said. "That's it."

His poise in the deciding moments of the game was excellent as there was no hesitation regarding any of those clutch shots. "The chemistry was there, we played with the girls a lot in practice. That helped us win it in the end," he continued.

Huynh's clutch layup was also crucial to cutting the deficit, another key factor in the student victory.

Krigman was still optimistic after the loss, noting, "We try to execute, but sometimes we miss a shot. We still tried our best." Her fourteen points led the team, followed by Jeune and math teacher Bradley Gelling with seven each. Jeune also tallied three assists in the loss.

As for next year, the students will have to battle without Noelsaint, Huynh, and Victoria Gammon while the staff retains their lineup. It will take a younger player to step up for the student side if they wish to take the victory.



Savion Silva-Clark goes up for a layup. NATHAN DEAN

Ezechiel "Zeke" Noelsaint grabbing the opening tip-off. NATHAN DEAN



The student (front) and faculty (back and in blue) teams lined up for a post-game photo. NATHAN DEAN