

# The Blue and Gold



maldeblueandgold.com

Malden High School  
Volume 109 Edition 6

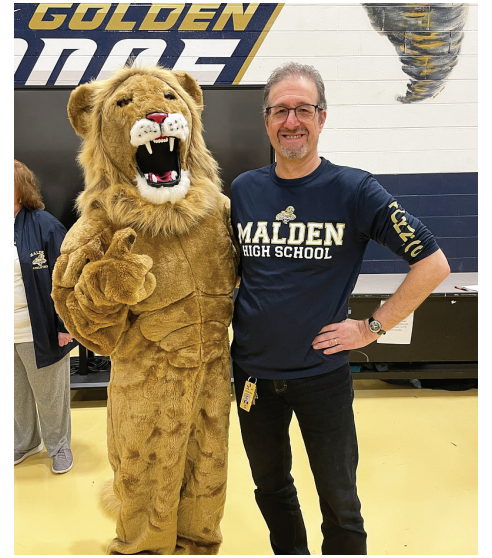
77 Salem Street  
June 2024

## Congratulations Class of 2024!

## Luongo and Liberge Retire



More prom photos on pages 24 & 25.



Joseph Luongo, pages 13 & 15



Mary Liberge, page 14



Valedictorian and Vice President: Colby Parker, pages 15 & 19



Salutatorian: Alejandra Fernández, page 16



Class Orator: Ivan Wu, pages 17 & 19



Class President: Meklit Abel, pages 1 & 17

## MEKLIT ABEL CLASS PRESIDENT

Jessica Li  
Managing Editor

The words kindness and dedication best describe this year's class president, Meklit Abel, who managed not only to lead her class for three consecutive years but, alongside her co-council, revived Malden High's school spirit and left behind a touching legacy that will be remembered for years to come.

When Abel first entered high school, she was unaware of the encompassing role class presidents fulfilled. Looking up to the Class of 2021 and 2022, Abel witnessed their high level of commitment and felt inspired to run for the same position. Her unexpected victory marked what she referred to as one of "the most memorable" moments of her time at Malden High.

After dedicating "a lot of time" and "a lot of work," the Class of 2024 has successfully raised over \$20,000 for prom, graduation, and caps and gowns—an exceptional feat that would otherwise have been impossible to achieve without the teamwork and devotion of the council members.

Continued on page 17

## HARLEM WIZARDS VISIT MALDEN



Pages 36 & 37

# Summer Opportunities Open as School Year Comes to a Close

Alexia Lima  
Reporter

Students can almost taste the freedom that comes with summer vacation as the days grow warmer and the stress revolving around final exams ensues. However, the excitement of the months in the sun isn't the only thing that should be on students' minds.

While summer may be considered an outlet for never-ending fun, it is equally important that students consider how they can be productive over the summer to ensure they are making the most out of their time off. Whether that is getting ahead academically or applying for a summer job, there are a myriad of beneficial possibilities to explore.

If one is interested in focusing on their academics this summer, an excellent opportunity being advertised to students are local college summer programs. These programs allow students to expand their intellect while also gaining college experience, most of the time for no cost at all.

"In our College and Career Center in B337, Miss Loftus and Miss Sun keep track of a lot of pre-college summer programs. We especially look for ones that are free or low cost for our students. A lot of those programs can be two weeks, four weeks, six weeks, and some of them will even pay students, so while you have ten weeks off, I think it is awesome to be able to engage in the world in different ways than being in school all day," Erin Craven, Director of School Counseling, shared.

The lessons learned at these college summer programs can be valuable in more ways than one, they allow you to experiment with what you may be interested in pursuing in the future of your academic career.

"What I would suggest is that if you have an inkling of what you want to study in college, taking a summer program at a school in that field is a great way to test if that works for you. I think it's a very valuable lesson if you go and take a summer program about something and you hate it, it's a great way to learn that maybe that isn't what you want to go into. It's fine to go into school undecided but learning a little bit earlier can be hugely helpful," Melissa Loftus, one of the College and Career Center counselors, explained.

For those uninterested in taking the academic summer route, practicing financial responsibility and independence can also be a beneficial way to spend your summer vacation. Not only are you learning the valuable life skill of reliability, but you are also benefiting your future. "A lot of students need to work for the summer. Earning money is

*Continued on page 3*

# 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

**A Talk with the Superintendent**  
 Hosted by Aiden Luciano  
 May 2024 @ Malden High School

### Superintendent Noriega-Murphy Bids Farewell to Students and Administration

Special thank you to Mr. Valente and the Malden High Media Class for filming and editing the interview.



Scan the QR code to watch the interview. Aiden Luciano talks with Superintendent Noriega-Murphy about her tenure with Malden Public Schools.



## Malden High School Alumni Association Honors New Hall of Fame Inductees

Ryan Coggswell  
Editor-in-Chief of Web



From military heroes to lawyers, Malden High School has produced some incredible individuals. A few of them were recognized at the recent Malden High School Alumni Association (MHSAA) Hall of Fame Banquet.

The event is held biennially, making this the 6th banquet in the organization's history. Eight individuals were inducted this year, increasing the total number of Hall of Fame members to 45.

On the day of the banquet, members of the association gathered for a luncheon in the Gallery and joined many students in the Jenkins Auditorium for a presentation. There, the attending inductees gave a few words of encouragement to the students.

The presentation was led by Principal Christopher Mastrangelo, who was honored to have the chance to meet these alumni. He noted the generosity of the association by recalling the story of a high school student who needed financial assistance to graduate. He called the association and their response was "when and how much," proving the willingness of the association to help MHS students.

Emery Haskell led off the group of nominees. A member of the class of 1973, he was active in the U.S. Navy while also becoming an

*Continued on page 23*

*Continued from page 2*

a great way to spend your summer and any job, absolutely any job, can be of value to your future and to your resume. So maybe if you can't take advantage of a pre-college summer program, consider getting a job in some capacity even if it's part-time to earn your own money," Craven advised.

Summer can also be a time to try new things by exploring different interests. Loftus describes one

# Congratulations Senior Staff!



**Hadjar Yousfi**  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
Major: Computer Science



**Daniel O'Toole**  
Emerson College  
Major: Journalism



**Ryan Coggswell**  
UMass Amherst  
Major: Nursing



**Nathan Dean**  
Rutgers University  
Major: Mathematics

"It's TIME TO SAY GOODBYE. BUT I THINK GOODBYES ARE SAD AND I'D MUCH RATHER SAY HELLO. HELLO TO A NEW ADVENTURE." - ERNIE HARWELL



**Zachary Nedell**  
Quinnipac University  
Major: Computer Science



**Shuyi Chen**  
Northeastern University  
Major: Business Marketing



**Aiden Luciano**  
Westfield State University  
Majors: Political Science and Philosophy



**Charlen's Barboux**  
Bunker Hill Community College  
Major: Business



**Emery Haskell giving a speech at the podium. RYAN COGGSWELL**



**Christopher Mastrangelo shakes the hand of Emery Haskell. RYAN COGGSWELL**



**Neal Anderson speaking at the event. RYAN COGGSWELL**

unique "opportunity that sticks out to me the most, some of us just went on a field trip to Mass Robotics and they have some great free programs if you are interested in anything like that. Anything in the robotics field, any computer tech type stuff, they have some great stuff and they're paid. The one I thought was the coolest was a drone program. They teach you how to build a drone and you get to keep it at the end. They give you a kit, they teach you how

to build it, you get to keep it, and they pay you so I think that's very rewarding and a cool experience."

Finding a balance between a restful and advantageous summer can be difficult, but its significance cannot be overstated. "It is important for students to be productive this summer, but productivity can look a lot of different ways. Everyone needs to decompress. There's nothing wrong with sleeping in, there's nothing wrong with a rainy

day inside, but with the eight or ten weeks students have off, it is of great value to just be in life," Craven exclaimed.

As the countdown to the end of the year nearly comes to a close, remember that there are limitless opportunities to have an equally productive and enjoyable summer. Becoming informed about all that is available to you is one step in the right direction of a summer filled with new unforgettable experiences.

# RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EDITORS

Four senior editors reflect on their time at Malden High School and offer advice and wisdom as they depart.

As we go off to college, ready to start a new life, we are reminded of the many freshmen starting their own new chapter at Malden High. Not too long ago, we were among them, albeit virtually.

The fresh start, the opportunity to start your life anew is something you only get to experience so many times. We just hope that those of you who will become freshmen next year, whether in high school or college, realize the weight and importance of this opportunity and decide to take advantage of it. So often are we too shortsighted to realize the impact our decisions will have on ourselves a year or five years or even 20 years later. It's so easy to get lost smelling the roses and forget your end goal. And, we're not saying don't stop to smell the roses, of course not. No one deserves to spend the rest of their lives constantly worrying about the future, but set goals for yourself, create plans and work towards those goals; it gives meaning to life.

Part of the reason the issue of realizing the long-term impact of your actions is so important right now is that we feel like that skill has been lost in the moment. Current life feels too focused on the now: the fast-paced, short-lived excitement and dopamine kicks. Nothing better exemplifies this than TikTok. TikTok and its other short-form video counterparts like Instagram Reels and YouTube Shorts are a way to procrastinate, forget about the future, and just take our mind off things. This is all fun and great, but things catch up: work piles up, we find ourselves in a slump; it's all a loop that leads back on itself.

This issue affects more than just students. Politicians, people in power, and the wealthy have also become more shortsighted. This, paired with a lack of empathy and social awareness, makes people care only about themselves in the here and now.

Our advice is to find a happy medium. Realize that your actions impact more than just you right now, but don't get too caught up worrying about every possible outcome for every possible decision. Embrace the increased freedom that comes with entering high school and college, but don't lose sight of the end goals.

Four years at Malden High School have also taught us something important about educational institutions: while there may be flaws and imperfections, the reputation and status of the school depends on far more than that.

Of course, the school faces plenty of challenges that refuse to go away. Bathrooms had to be closed because of recklessness and a lack of respect. Hallways are crowded and some students disrupt class. Sometimes, there are difficulties with language barriers in classes. Urban public schools often face these problems and there are never ways to completely resolve them.

For that, I think it is unfair to judge Malden High School on where it struggles. Instead, we should value what it offers for student success.

This building has incredible, caring staff that are always on the lookout for their students. The administration is understanding and

accepting, handling conflicts very well. The guidance department is experienced and knowledgeable, bringing valuable assistance to students who need it. On top of all of that, tons of Advanced Placement classes are offered as well as plenty of electives and extracurricular activities.

The truth is that with almost 2,000 students in an urban public high school, it is nearly impossible to provide adequate resources that fairly support every student. Difficulties arise with staffing, a huge reason for the issues in hallways and bathrooms. Many students speak languages that are vastly different from the schoolwide curriculum and could also benefit from more staff to help them catch up.

However, Malden High School is a lot more than those imperfections. There are plenty of things there that put students in a position to succeed. The staff cares just as much about student success as the kids do. They offer tons of classes and opportunities for career exploration. There is no shortage of school events, clubs, sports, and other extracurricular activities.

When you think about the school, it is easy to think about all that is wrong. But, sometimes, it is important to take a step back and value the learning experience Malden High School provides.

With that in mind, we offer some things that would definitely benefit Malden High School going forward:

The learning environment would definitely benefit from more open bathrooms, less kids in the hallways during classes, and more student resources.

Many of our immigrant students lack the support they need—that's not to say that an effort isn't made by wonderful staff members, but a community as great and diverse as Malden could do so much more to ensure our students feel supported. Students should not have to trudge through classes lower than their levels because of a language barrier which could be easily fixed by providing more linguistic resources and staffing, which would encourage more academic and social success.

Finally, other schools in Massachusetts have implemented cell phone bans that we think the high school should take note of. Current students reading this will probably hate this being said, but it's true. If we eliminate the primary distraction for students, then they will engage more in the classroom and feel a lesser need to leave the room and wander the hallways.

Malden High Students, you all deserve not only a great education but an environment that promotes excellent learning that will prepare you for life after high school.

**Daniel O'Toole**  
Editor-in-Chief

**Hadjar Yousfi**  
Editor-in-Chief

**Nathan Dean**  
Editor-in-Chief of Print

**Ryan Cogswell**  
Editor-in-Chief of Web

## 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

# Four Years In The Blink of an Eye

Daniel O'Toole  
Editor-In-Chief

"Four years will go by just like that." Those were the words my dad had told my brother the night before his first day of high school. At the time I was just a seventh-grader who had no expectations of what high school would be.

Life was so innocent and pure back then. I didn't have to worry about AP classes, a job, or varsity sports. I didn't need to worry about college or scholarships. It's kind of crazy to step back and realize all of the things that are expected of high schoolers to balance in such an unpredictable environment like high school.

I didn't put much thought into what I was hearing from my dad at the time because it was so far away from me. Soon enough, my seventh-grade self grew into an eighth-grader who was touring Malden High for the first time. The building felt like a labyrinth to me at first, quite the reality check from Beebe, but I wasn't going to worry about memorizing everything. That's a responsibility for myself in the fall when I start my freshman year! ... Right?

Enough people have ranted about the pandemic from every single perspective imaginable, so I won't go on about it for too long. To say that I was disappointed in missing out on the end of my eighth-grade year and essentially all of my freshman year and that "authentic" introduction into high school. But one thing that stayed constant for me was those words my dad told my brother: "Four years will go by



just like that."

While that first year didn't "go by just like that" as we all rotted away in Google Meets, trying our hardest to pay attention, getting to go back in-person during the spring was odd. The high school was desolate, but uniquely peaceful compared to how it is now. I finally got that opportunity to memorize the building and I met a handful of new friends. A thought that had popped into my head around that time was how will people remember me. When the name Daniel O'Toole gets tossed around in the future, what's the first thing that comes to mind?

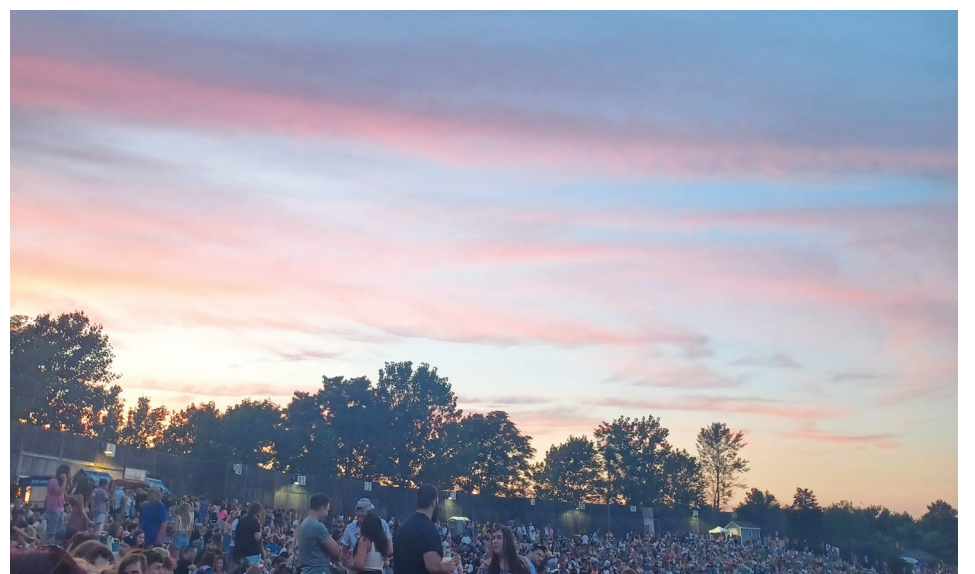
I've recently found myself thinking about those last few months of my freshman year and I believe I have that answer now as I'm about to collect my diploma and bid farewell to all of the amazing

people of the class of 2024 for possibly the last time in my life. I'm the Co-Editor-In-Chief of The Blue and Gold, a position that I drove myself so hard to reach, and can say it's finally time to hang it up for next year's staff; the captain of the Field Hockey team who helped drive the team further than we ever had; captain of the Crew team who ushered in a new era of Malden rowing as the team's heartbeat.

Soon enough, I'm going to hear those eight words again. "Four years will go by just like that." It's a little ominous, but this time I feel more solace in the uncertainty of that, become comfortable being uncomfortable; that's when growth is made. That's when you learn more about who you are as a person as you work through your situation. This can come from joining a new club or

that AP class you want to challenge yourself with or trying out for a new sport. If you're lucky enough, you'll get cut from a sport (thank you Mr. Jurkowski), and discover a new part of yourself never saw and soon find out the new sport is one of your favorites.

If I could tell everyone one last thing I want you to take away from my experiences to this point, it is to fall in love with your journey through life and respect it. Learn to appreciate every moment, all the highs and all the lows. Learn how to move on from those times that seem bleak. Love being yourself around others, the people that truly appreciate who you are will be the ones that stick around for the long haul. Take time to slow down and savor every moment. Forever is a long time, but you only get to live each day once.



maldeblueandgold.com

# NOT WHAT I HAD PLANNED



Shiza Zahid and Hadjar Yousfi.

Alejandra Fernandez and Hadjar Yousfi.

Hadjar Yousfi and her younger brother.

Yuxin Zeng and Hadjar Yousfi.

**The results led me to where I needed to be. And I would not have it any other way.**

Hadjar Yousfi  
Editor-in-Chief

Looking back, high school never seemed to go my way. I came in as a freshman with the plan of being an author and attending a good college as an English major. Before going to high school, I'd never really found myself interested in journalism outside the occasional article written for my Middle School's Newsletter.

Joining The Blue and Gold was my attempt at finding a class that would allow me to write, as Malden High School did not offer a Creative Writing class. However, very quickly this class became everything to me. This outlet as a journalist allowed me to experience my community and the world in a way not many other people get to experience.

Being a part of The Blue and Gold inspired me to try new things and help grow my circle. I founded the Muslim Student Association as I was inspired by the lack of Islamic representation in our community. Through The Blue and Gold I was also inspired to join several organizations that I saw represented through our work as a newspaper.

But being in high school did more for me than just inspiring me to try new things. It inspired me to explore myself. Being in a high school this diverse and beautiful slowly destroyed the insecurities that I had surrounding my ethnicity.

These past four years allowed me to grow closer to my roots, and my family. They fuelled my interest in exploring who I am both ethnically and emotionally. With that came maturity, I no longer feel ashamed to say I am Algerian-American. I no longer feel ashamed to say that I love my country and would do anything to see my family again. I love the beautiful dresses, the mesmerizing music, the amazing food, and the melodic language that I cannot live without.

During my junior year I shifted what I wanted my major to be in college into something that would have given younger me a heart attack. Studying Computer Science was something that I had never thought I would do. I vividly remember hating the idea of a STEM degree. Most especially one that required me to spend hours solving problems behind a screen. And yet the moment

I tried it out I felt such a strong connection to it that I never understood why I was so against it.

I loved the feeling of planning projects, and working through them with the goal of making something impressive. I enjoyed that I had the ability to create so many cool things that I had once thought were too hard for me to handle.

As I came into senior year no longer ashamed of being who I am and someone with a new vision of my future as a Computer Science Major with a Minor in English, I knew that I wanted to go to a school with a bursting colorful community of different cultures and experiences.

During my search, I realized that Worcester Polytechnic Institute was where I wanted to spend my next four years. I cannot wait to see myself in those halls working hard to achieve my goals while also being a part of a community that reminds me so much of my own in its uniqueness and diversity.

I loved that no matter what each student is encouraged to approach their education in the way that they feel is best for them, with great academic advising and a flexible curriculum built to support so many different needs, including those that I discovered that I had throughout my time in high school.

I might not be on campus until August, but I am certain that I will love every minute of exploring this new place, and living this new era of my life, while pursuing a degree that I know I will love.

Though saying goodbye to Malden High School may just be one of the hardest things I'll have to do, I am excited about what the future

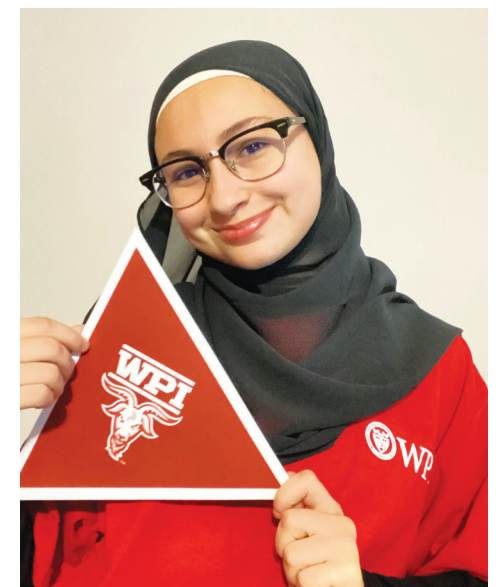
holds. My time here and with The Blue and Gold have truly prepared me for the future that I envision for myself.

Around me were so many people who loved and supported me throughout these four years, including my family, different teachers, and my friends. Throughout these years, I felt so supported as I grew, changed, and learned more about myself and who I truly am.

I felt especially support by my parents, without whom I never would have had the confidence to make the changes that I now feel were necessary in my life to promote my growth as a person and leader.

I cannot wait to see how far I go doing the things that I love with those I love by my side. And though high school did not always go my

way, the results led me to where I needed to be. And I would not have it any other way.



Hadjar Yousfi posing with a Worcester Polytechnic Institute sign.



Children posed for a photo during the Muslim Student Association's Kids' of Islam Event.



The Girls Cross Country team, from left to right: Emma Spignese-Smolinski, Ivana Marinkovic, Ian Ian Ho, Hadjar Yousfi, Ying Yan Xia, Lilian Fang, Estella Guo, Emma Yu, and Ella Yu.

# The Strength of Connections: My Journey Through High School

Nathan Dean  
Editor-in-Chief of Print and Design

I believe that more so than anything, humans need friends. And not just people you know of, or people you talk to every once in a while. People who make you feel comfortable. People who you can spend hours talking about nothing with. People you want to be around. People who make you happy. And most importantly, people you actually spend time with.

In this increasingly digital world, I believe that developing these people-to-people connections is more important than ever. With the advancement of technology, it has become so easy for people to shut themselves in and forgo human interaction entirely, but I believe that this is a mistake. By nature, humans are social creatures. Studies have shown that maintaining quality relationships creates a sense of belonging, and being valued and supported. When we take these relationships out of our lives, our mental and physical health suffers. We become less able to handle stress, anxiety, and depression.

I learned this fact relatively early in my life. During middle school, I had a quick temper and struggled with dealing with failure, but I found myself a small, really good group of friends that helped me through a lot of tough times. We called ourselves "the six amigos," not very creative I know, but it didn't really matter. We hung out often and we told each other everything. I think what made them such good friends is how good they were

at listening. If I was ever having a bad day, I knew that I could always vent to them and feel better almost instantly, and they knew they could do the same with me. This brought us together and I think were some of the most meaningful connections I've made with people.

Looking back, some of my happiest memories and moments are with these people. The summer before my freshman year, although we should have been quarantining, I spent a lot of time with them. We went to the beach what felt like every week and I think it was my favorite summer ever. For this, thank you Emma, Makeila, Jackson, Zachary, and Rodrigo. Even though it might seem so long ago, I think you guys were the best friend group I ever had.

Unfortunately, we haven't been as close since joining high school. We all seemed to go our separate ways. I myself bounced between friend groups for the majority of my high school career. I was active in after school activities and sports and relatively friendly and found myself friends with a lot of people. At some points, I felt like I had 50+ friends, but I felt like I wasn't really close to any of them. As a result, it often felt like I would only hang out with people at school, sports, or after-school activities. We never really met up outside of school to just hang out. As a result, I felt lonely at times. At my lowest point in my high school career, I was going to school, gymnastics, and soccer, but still felt isolated despite spending hours each day surrounded by



people I knew.

However, whenever I felt this way, I'd wait a little and eventually find myself in a new closer friend group that would pull me out of the slump. These experiences have shown me the importance of quality over quantity when it comes to friendships. I can now say definitively that a few close friends are so much better than a boatload of acquaintances.

My point in all this is, find yourself a good group of friends and spend some time with them! Friends don't mean anything if you only talk at school. And for those lone wolves or people with social anxiety: I know it can be hard to meet new people. My advice is to just try to find people with the same interests and go from there. Developing meaningful friendships is so important for all aspects of life and something you can't ignore.

I'd also like to take this time to recognize some of my other best friend groups.

First, from freshman year,

Shuyi, Sydney, and Nick: virtual school was hard, but when we finally went back to in-person and hung out after school every day it made it worth it. Next, from sophomore year, I'll miss my gym class buddies and all their gossip: Belen, Julie, and Charlie. My sophomore year summer movie buddies: Adin, Ada, and Kei, thank you for giving me something to do that summer. To my math club peers, Vincent, Agam, Ivan, and Susila, I hope I can be as smart as you guys one day. And to my senior year lunch table: Pam Pam, Belen, Walter, Alejandra, Yuxin, Alex, Yara, and Mack, thank you for all of the gossip.

Last of all, thank you Mom and Dad, I love you both so much and I couldn't have asked for any better parents. You guys are my best friends and I know I'll miss you so much when I'm off in college.

And to everyone else that have helped me along the way, thank you so much. I know that I couldn't have done it without each and every one of you.



# FOR MY CHILDREN

Ryan Cogswell  
Editor-in-Chief of Web and Mobile

I am writing this on May 9th, 2024, while sitting in J387, a classroom in the Jenkins building of Malden High School. I'm sitting at a table with a few iMacs on it but am typing this using Google Docs on my Chromebook. Next to my Chromebook is my iPhone 13, powered off.

That information seems normal and invaluable to those reading now, but this article is not for you. This is for my children. I want to frame this on our wall so they can understand where I came from.

The future is unpredictable. I have no idea if I will even get to have kids, or if I'll be living in another city, state, or country; will another planet be an option in my lifetime? And, what will I do for a career? Will my nursing plans follow up or is there something else waiting for me to take it on? In the great scenario that I do have children, they will get to answer those questions alongside

me.

Right now, I drive my late grandfather's 2012 Ford Fusion. When I look back, will gasoline still be used in cars or will the electric wave take over? I wake up to my iPhone alarm at 6:30 every morning to prepare for Malden High School. Will the school even be there anymore? What if they extend the building with new houses like Boyle and Holland?

After school, I walk over to my car and drive up Main St. to Pine Banks Park, our home baseball field. We play in the Greater Boston League against the surrounding urban cities: Everett, Medford, Revere, Lynn Classical, Lynn English, Somerville, and Chelsea. Steve Freker is our coach and his first stint with the Malden job began in 1985. If everything else changes, Frek coaching might be the one thing that stays the same.

When practice ends, I might go get something to eat. That might



Second baseman Ryan Cogswell tosses a ball up.



Left to Right: Ryan Cogswell and Bo Stead, founders of the Ice Skating Club of Malden High School; Golf co-captains Ryan Cogswell and Saul Kruckenberg, who later won the Greater Boston League title.



Ryan Cogswell and Shuyi Chen at Quincy Market.

be at a chain like Wingstop, Chipotle, McDonald's, or a local gem like Fresco's. Will those restaurants still be around? Regardless, a Big Mac is currently \$6.19. When my parents were my age, they were under \$2. Will inflation keep wreaking havoc on the dollar? Gas prices are \$3.50 now, which seems very high. But when I drive my kids somewhere and they look out the window, they might say, "Wow Dad, gas is only 8.00 a gallon!"

At home, an Xbox Series S sits in my room. When my kids read this, it'll sound like I just told you I played on an Atari. When they read that sentence, they'll ask me: "Dad, what is an Atari?"

The most volatile field is within technology. When I was born, the iPhone didn't exist. Touchscreen phones were just an Apple prototype. When my kids are born, will they still be releasing iPhones? Will they keep the same numbering system and feature the iPhone 30? And more than just phones, where will the Apple Vision Pro and other augmented reality devices go? Are they the future?

Artificial intelligence is growing very quickly. How much of an impact will it have on society in 20 years? 50? What jobs will become obsolete? Everyone speaks of AI taking over the world, but could it really happen?

Education is bound to change as well. Will online school become

more popular? How are technology and AI going to affect the classroom? Assignments have already taken a drastic turn from paper to computer over the past decade. Will The Blue and Gold still make a physical print newspaper like this one? Or will everything move online?

My parents will be old and hopefully still healthy. Where will they live? What will my sister be doing? What about my cousins, aunts, and uncles? Will I start my own family?

What about my friends? Are they doing well? Which ones stuck with me through the years and which ones drifted apart?

This page is filled with a lot of "will" and "what" questions. Luckily, every single one of them will be answered by my children. When they are able to read this article, they can compare their lives to mine.

Life will be a lot different then. I didn't walk to school uphill both ways in a snowstorm, as everyone's parents apparently did, but there will certainly be easier ways to do simple things—except for the MBTA.

Finally, to my children. I hope that you are successful in school. I hope you have many friends and join after-school activities. I hope you are engaged with your community and want to make a difference. And most importantly, I hope that you remain happy and committed to living your best life.

**“Life is good when you take time to watch it.”**

**- Grandpa Stan**





Zachary Nedell  
Lead Reporter

I can confidently say Journalism changed my life. It was over COVID that I made the decision to sign up for The Blue and Gold. I did not think much of it since I did not fully grasp how I could report on the current events around me but I was excited to learn. I was stuck at home so I couldn't just go take notes on recent injustices in the world.

In September 2020, I turned on my computer and met The Blue and Gold's Advisor. He gave us a talk on the state of the world and encouraged us to review our credits since we could only take six classes.

Outside of the current Editor-in-Chiefs, Daniel and Hadjar, everyone in the class were people I had never met before. Looking back, it was for the best as it made the class easier to handle and maintain. Eventually, I was assigned my first ever article. I had to write a new teacher profile on Susannah Miller. The sophomore students helped me with it as I scheduled a zoom interview with her.

Compared to the interviews I do now, it was bad. I had a script of questions and I had to break every so often to write down important information. I was so scared of making a mistake I made myself stilted and hard to talk to. When the article came out, it was short but it was my

first article and I was proud.

This process proceeded for the rest of the year until we were back in school and I was assigned to do an article on the Cross Country team. I emailed Sean Weldon and after school, I went to go interview the team. Since it was close to the end of the season everyone was having fun and I saw the dynamic the team had and wanted to be a part of it. I had been active but I had never done anything as rigorous as a high school sport before.

Again, it was a short article but by reporting and writing I had found something I wanted to be a part of and as my own sophomore year began I joined the team along with my friend Brian Vences. The first day was hard, and right at the end of practice I threw up, but I kept at it. I balanced my schoolwork, my sports, and my reporting as I published three articles over the season. If I had never taken The Blue and Gold, I never would have even tried to join Cross Country, and because I did, my body had been in the best shape it ever was, ignoring the shin splits.

It was not until later in the year that I reported on another life changing activity: Play Production. That year the class was putting on a musical called "Gypsy". I was assigned the article and I yet again met an amazing group of people. Actors

were bustling by me as I interviewed stars, as well as the tech and crew teams, who were frantically setting things up.

I got fantastic interviews from the cast and I even stayed somewhat longer just to continue helping them. Later on I participated in their summer show and joined up with the class to put on several shows, and as I look back I am not sure I would have ever joined if I was never assigned to this article. Because I took this class I met some amazing people and had experiences that I would never have imagined.

The Blue and Gold has taught me one last thing: your time at Malden High School is fleeting. Whether through deadlines or snatching up articles, waiting around and doing nothing means you will be missing out on so much.

If you remain stagnant here, you will never get the opportunity to grow. Take that leap, join that sport, join that class, make that club because if you don't, you will never know all the wonderful things you missed.

I will never forget my quiet freshman mornings or my fantastic upperclassmen or my fellow seniors: it is because of you that this program is so successful, amazing, and ground-breaking.

Don't wait forever. You're not here for long.



# Closing the Page on My High School Chapter

Aiden Luciano  
Reporter

Seven years—that is the longest I've ever stayed in a school district. And proudly, I spent those seven years in the Malden School District. From the Ferryway in my 6th-grade year, then to the Beebe until my high school years, I was able to see a lot of Malden and was able to call this city home.

My passion for activism and politics has always been in me, but it truly took flight during my sophomore year under the guidance of my history teacher at the time, Amine Yakine. He truly set me up for success and opened my mind to the world of politics and activism, as he was an activist himself. Because of him, I was able to enter into a state-wide program and speak at Tufts University on the effects of climate change on small island nations. It meant a lot to me, as my family and



I am from Puerto Rico.

Reaching into my junior year is where my ties with local and state government officials bloomed. Being able to be around government officials strengthened my love for humanity and allowed me to sift through the options in politics and pinpoint what career I wanted in

my life. At first, I went for the gold and glory and thought of Congress. Then state representative, but what I chose was mayor. My inspiration, of course, comes from Malden's own mayor, Gary Christenson, who has been one of the best mentors a student in love with politics could have.

I was able to see that a city mayor is on the front lines of change in a city. I was clouded by the glamor of the congressman and overlooked the real impact of a mayor.

These four years have not been easy. I dealt with issues ranging from homelessness to heartbreak, sometimes all in the same month, and still prevailed and kept my heart and mind on humanity and the positive impact I can make.

I really would not have been able to pull through without the guidance of the outstanding staff at Malden High, the administration, and the city as a whole. I'm ending my years at Malden High, living miles away, but still traveling each day because YOU make it worth it.

I wish I had more time, as I feel that there is still more to be done. I hope the future generation picks up where I left off and keeps going, fighting for change and the betterment of the students and staff.



**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

**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

**PRO-VAC**

Vacuums - Commercial & Residential  
Produtos de Limpeza em Geral

VENDAS E CONCERTOS DE VACUUMS - ALUGUEL DE MÁQUINAS  
PARA CARPETE, STRIP & WAX SWEEPER, DRY VAC

315 Mystic Ave.  
Medford, MA 02155      781.396.1772

Minors, or those under 18 years-of-age, are not able to get a tattoo without parental consent in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

# Letter to my Younger Self

## Everything is Fine

Shuyi Chen  
Reporter

I am a senior right now and ready to graduate; everything I have done and every decision I've made was the right one, except for not choosing a roommate and letting NEU auto fill. Maybe it will work out fine.

I will be graduating high school soon and am ready to start college. I will be attending Northeastern University this upcoming fall as a Business Administration: Marketing major. Hopefully, when I graduate from Northeastern at Fenway Park in four years, the Red Sox will finally be better...

Although leaving the place that raised me is bittersweet, I am ready to move on and experience new things. I have done everything right because everything I have done got me to this point, a point that I am proud to be at.

I've grown up thinking that if I didn't end up at an Ivy, specifically Harvard, I would have failed and would be poor for the rest of my life. However, I will be attending a very good school that is not only notable but very close to home. The only thing I messed up is that the dining hall isn't very good.

Another thing has also changed is my major. As a kid, I've always

wanted to be a doctor or dentist. But things changed; I am now a business marketing major after telling myself for years that I should go into STEM because every other major makes no money.

Until my sophomore year, I had gone to Saturday school and summer camp because my mom wanted me to do better, but it never helped. I still want to cry thinking about it sometimes. Although it isn't a pleasant memory, I still appreciate all the things I got to experience.

There are many things that I have experienced for the first time in just these last 3 years of high school (freshman year was fake). I got to see football under the lights at Fenway; my first Red Sox game; my first time seeing fireworks on the 4th of July; my first time at Boda Borg, and my first time traveling without my parents.

I love to ski; skiing is scary but therapeutic at the same time. I like to go down the slopes at an insane speed that might end up very badly but that's the very best part of it all. My favorite mountain of all time is Loon; it is a super big mountain with very pretty scenery that I wish I had a photo of. This is my first actual overnight "vacation" without either parents.

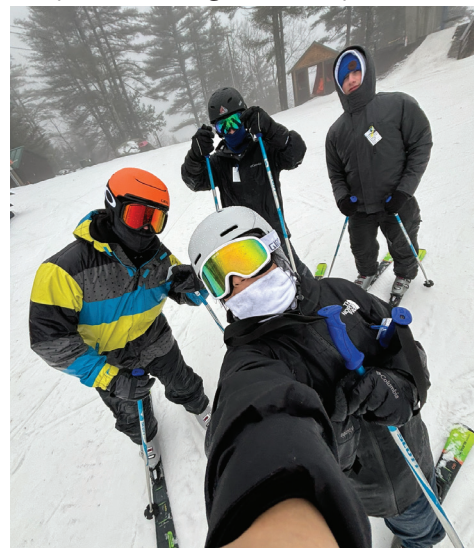
For the past three years I have been going to Pats Peak with some friends at least 2 - 3 times a year. All of the slopes are a far drive and super expensive but we make the most of it every time skiing from open to close.

High school seems so scary, but is the place where I grew up the most. One of the few things that I treasure the most from my high school experience is photography. During this time I got really into sports photography; I made an Instagram page (@flicbeezy) to post all of my photos.

The fear of failure kept me back at first. I was afraid to stray out of my circle and participate, but I eventually found the courage to. I am a part of the student council and am very involved in events happening around the school.



Shuyi Chen, Abigail Lee, Taylor Lee and Jeslyn San on volleyball senior night.



Robert Stead, Ryan Coggswell, John Summers, and Shuyi Chen on the top of the mountain.

I also got to try new things. Leaving middle school the only sports I knew how to play were Wii Sports and ESports. Now, I play Softball (11 - 12) and Volleyball (9 - 12). I even tried to track my freshman year, but that was a one-and-done because the 400 hurdles scared me.

When I first joined volleyball, I was scared that everybody was going to judge me because I stink! But this sport gave me some of my best friends! During my sophomore year when I was first on JV with Taylor and Abby, we were not very close, I called Taylor a freshman hunter for hanging out with Abby. But now, we spend almost every Friday night together (too much time).

Volleyball was my first ever high school-related organization that I took part in and I am eternally



Ryan Coggswell, Shuyi Chen, and Robert Stead after a successful day at Boda Borg. grateful that I did.

I didn't intend on playing softball, ever. I was afraid to play. But this sport is also something that I really enjoy. I also made many friends through this

Although I still don't know much about math, maybe SOH-CAH and TOA are the friends and experiences I made along the way. #PeaceOut #RizzParty #Dab



Shuyi Chen, Noelle Hayes and Alyssa Mini at softball senior night 2023.



2023 Student Council visiting prom Venue.



Photo from my first time at a Red Sox game. Alex Verdugo with walk off win.



Shuyi Chen, Wing Guan, Abigail Lee, and Taylor Lee watching the Sunset at Sunset Park in Brooklyn NY.



Charlie Conefrey, Shuyi Chen, Gary Christenson at REMM senior night.

maldenblueandgold.com

# BLUE AND GOLD ART GALLERY

## Students Showcase Artwork in Annual Art Gallery

Thomas Tierney  
Reporter

Chouaib Saidi  
Lead Reporter

From April 4th to May 15th, Malden High School's art students put their months of hard work and dedication on display at the annual Blue and Gold Art Gallery. Students used the opening night on the 4th to begin displaying their pieces from the year; some of the pieces featured in the gallery include digital art, drawings, paintings, and ceramics. The gallery space, gifted by John Preotle, a very active supporter of Malden High School and its events, holds up to 200 different pieces from the school, ranging from digital art to ceramics. Students used the opening night to express the creativity that they've put into their art in the past year. The gallery is located at

350 Main Street and is open from 5:30-7:30 pm. Throughout the school year, students put their efforts into their art in hopes of eventually being included in the Blue and Gold Art Gallery.

The annual event has been going on for over 20 years now and has become a well-known event around the school. Opening night is a fulfilling night for the students as it is attended by many parents, teachers, and other residents from around the city. The decisions



Multiple portfolios displayed in the Blue and Gold art gallery. THOMAS TIERNEY



Red, unique art work being displayed at the gallery. THOMAS TIERNEY

behind picking which projects go into the gallery are made by all four art teachers. "We jury the show. We try to have a good balance of work, from freshmen to seniors," claimed digital art teacher Joseph Luongo. Julie Mullane, another teacher who is a part of Luongo's 'jury', teaches ceramics.

Throughout the year students in her class will make different styles of pottery and ceramics. While this happens, if the student's work is up for the gallery in April, it will be tucked away into storage for later review. Each project takes patience and careful work to ensure the project comes out well. Once you make your project, it is left to air dry for between 1-3 days depending on how much clay is used. After it has completely dried you would then put it in the kiln and once it comes out of the kiln, you then glaze it to your desired look. After that, it is put back into the kiln and it comes

out with a shiny glass coating.

For Mullane, art isn't just another class or another elective at Malden High, to her it is an escape for students to get away. "I think kids love coming to the art room because it gives them a chance to work hands-on. I think the majority of classes are reading and writing and sitting still and being on the computer screen," claimed Mullane.

Senior Marianne Rivadeneira also believes that art is, "A good brain break from my other classes," and allows her to explore her creative side rather than sitting behind a screen.

Kristina Gilbert is currently the Foundations of Art and Studio I teacher, which is the class where students begin to explore their more artistic and creative side. In the class, students work with many different types of art styles. For students, this class is just the start of their newfound potential. Many students will

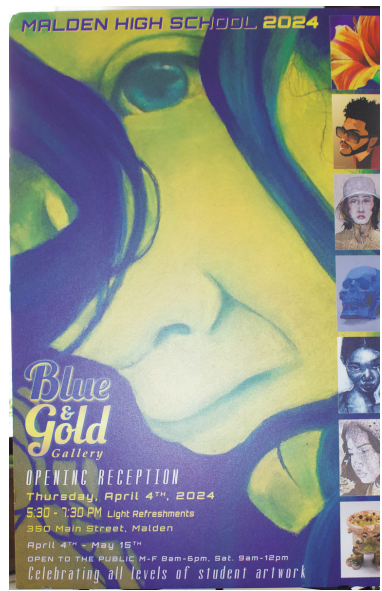


LEFT TO RIGHT: Artwork on display at the Blue and Gold art gallery; Gold award-winning piece at the Blue and Gold art gallery. THOMAS TIERNEY

maldenblueandgold.com



Portfolio of the Green Goblin showcased at the Blue and Gold art gallery. THOMAS TIERNEY



continue with art through their next years of high school with ceramics, digital art, or calligraphy. To Gilbert, the opportunity to show off their work in a "framed and prestigious kind of place," can give students the idea that they may see hope and maybe open their eyes to a future in art, whether it's just in high school or maybe even after.

With the talent seen in the gallery, each teacher expressed how proud they were of their students. Luongo gave props to all of the students involved with the art this year stating that, "The work this year, as it usually is, is very strong;



A display of some more students work. THOMAS TIERNEY

# LUONGO'S LEGACY

## A Tale to be Told at Malden High

Aiden Luciano  
Lead Reporter

Malden High's longtime teacher, Joseph Luongo, is retiring. After serving the district for 18 years and the high school for 12 of those years, Luongo is retiring from his position as an art teacher to further enjoy life outside of work.

For the first six years as an art teacher, Luongo described his time at the Linden School as "wonderful and intense" as he felt that teaching all 900 children by himself was a position more suited for a younger teacher.

Looking back at his years, he stated the most memorable and favorable moments he had were being

able to show students techniques and projects he wished he was able to do in school. Luongo feels that not having any art classes available in his high school did impede his growth artistically but through hard work and love for the arts, he did manage to overcome his lack of experience and get accepted to Massachusetts College of Art & Design. Upon graduation, he worked in advertising as an art director, as well as an illustrator at a number of agencies for over 20 years.

While at home freelancing, he "stumbled into teaching by accident" after he was asked by his daughter's elementary school principal to teach art in an after-school program. After foolishly determining that "teaching is easy," he became licensed and applied to several districts before getting hired at Malden Public Schools. Luongo described his decision to become a teacher as the best accident he's ever had.

Luongo will live on be one of those teachers who have made a permanent impact on Malden High. Luongo has proven to help students with their goals academically, socially, and mentally as he has made an image of himself that will last for generations.

"He's very understanding and laid back; he was a really good teacher that could support me in a lot of ways, not just in academics and his class subject, but also like mentally," claimed sophomore

it's a really good show. We have a lot of incredibly talented students." To add on Mullane said, "The kids are great. They come up with creative ideas or we provide them with the idea and they choose the medium or vice versa and they usually have a pretty good variety of different interpretations of the same idea. So we get to see a big range of skills and different products, which is really nice." Gilbert also gave props to the massive amount of patience each project takes to make.

The work this year was especially recognized by the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards competition. This year Malden High School students won 11 awards, including 5 Gold Key awards. Those five winners include Ambar Silverio Diaz's

Line Pattern self-portrait and Mythology Project, Milan Nguyen's Elusive Beauty monoprint, Dziyana Trusava's Line Pattern self-portrait, and Kathleen Yick's Observational Drawing. The other six awards went to Anna Chen, Helen Hoang, Makenzie Jenkins, Tina Lao, Junxian Li, and Christina Mui, all for honorable mention.

Overall the Blue and Gold Art Gallery has brought the expectations high for the upcoming years and has left all of Malden High and the art department proud and excited to see what comes next. After the show officially closes on May 15th, all artwork will be returned to the artists as the art department closes up another successful year and looks forward to the next.



Beloved art teacher Joseph Luongo with students at the Blue and Gold art gallery. Photo submitted by Luongo.

Mailee "Moon" To.

Leticia Carvalho, a senior at Malden High School, shared a thought about Luongo as she will be "joining" him in his leave of the school as she will be graduating soon. "Mr. Luongo, he's like a role model because he really knows his art stuff and he knows how to figure out art because he just knows his stuff. He has been doing art for a very long time, more than I have," stated Carvalho.

Luongo appears to have the Midas' touch as he touches the hearts of students and turns them into gold.

"He's my goat, he's not just like a teacher. I feel like he's a really good guide. He's a really good leader for me. He taught me a lot of things that I didn't know about art and since I'm really passionate about that, it will really help with my career," stated To.

"He has impacted my life with me and my growth by improving

my art a lot. If I hadn't taken his class and improved my art with realism and other media with art, then I don't think I would've been able to enter the college that I will be going to in September," Carvalho passionately stated.

Mr. Luongo has also proven to "open a new world" to students as he has successfully helped them get out of their shells and develop better social skills and generally help them emerge from their cocoons and ascend to another level.

"I think after taking his class for a year, like there's a lot of good experiences that I had in that class. I feel like I've gotten a lot more social, especially with my peers. He really encourages that even though he's pretty serious about getting your work done," said To.

Yassir Halaissi, a sophomore participating in the digital art class with Luongo, claims Luongo was his "art inspiration" and has taught him

Continued on page 15



Joseph Luongo with Mayor Gary Christenson and Malden High Principal Christopher Mastrangelo holding an awarded citation. Photo submitted by Luongo.

maldenblueandgold.com

# Liberge's Retirement, One for the Books

Aiden Luciano  
Lead Reporter  
Chouaib Saidi  
Lead Reporter

Dedicated is a term used to describe an individual who is committed to a cause or activity. Calling Malden High School's own Mary Liberge a dedicated individual when it comes to the library and its purpose is an understatement.

Liberge has spent time and money on countless occasions in her nine years at Malden High School. Liberge's dedication to the library and school as a whole has led her to create not only a diverse selection of books but also a place for students to relax and catch up with friends.

She stated that one of her favorite memories at the school was when "Melinda Lo, an award-winning book author, came to talk to our students about her books and her writing process."

Sadly, all good things must come to an end. She plans to "graduate" with the class of 2024.

Liberge has set new goals for her life in light of her retirement, from traveling the country with her loving husband to enjoying the moments with her beloved grandson and of course, as all librarians do, reading.

One hope she has for the future generation of students is having an affinity for reading. She hopes students will once again fall in love with books as they did when they were small. Lastly, Mrs. Liberge stated, "I will miss the students and staff at Malden High School. I enjoy seeing the students when I am out and about, and when they happen to be at the establishment I am visiting," claimed Liberge.

Many students share a fondness for the upcoming retiree as she has impacted their general growth.

"As a student, I feel that Mrs. Liberge has enhanced my love for reading by promoting the library and exposing me to so many wonderful books. She has impacted my growth as a student by personalizing my learning environments and ensuring there is always access to any book that I want to check out," claimed Ivana Marinkovic, co-president of LTAB (Library Teen Advisory Board). "To me, Mrs. Liberge is more than just a librarian. She is always available to chat and I've grown very close to her these past few years in high school. Mrs. Liberge always provides a comfortable area to get work done or enjoy a book," stated Marinkovic.

Students appear to share many memories with Liberge and reminisce on good times with how she has affected their general perception of school life. "Some memories that I share with Mrs. Liberge include those from the Library Teen Advisory Board. We have done bake sales together, set up displays, and have spent lots of time making crafts dur-



Liberge holding a newspaper featuring her first appearance in the Blue and Gold. AIDEN LUCIANO



Inspirational sign made and hung up in front of the Malden High Library. AIDEN LUCIANO

ing our Joy block. She has wonderful ideas for crafting and I've been able to embroider a lot of projects, as well as make little figurines, such as pumpkins, from fabric. She always has good ideas!" added Marinkovic. Liberge is heavily involved with the LTAB, which is a group of a bunch of teenagers that get together and discuss book recommendations and expand on their passion for the library.

"I feel like she has like left a

**"I started kindergarten and Mrs. Liberge was my librarian. It's so bittersweet to be able to graduate high school with her by my side. I was able to grow up with her and now I can walk the stage as she calls out my name."**

-- Guilia Gabriela De Sousa

lot of impact on the school library... I feel like it's displayed throughout the library with the things that she brought in... I'm curious as to what the next librarian would bring to this library," said Milan Nguyen, a sophomore at Malden High School.

It's lovely to endure all these different perspectives and opinions

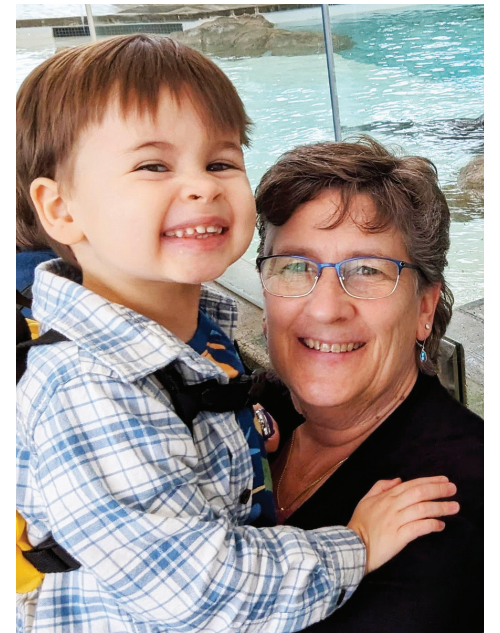
towards such an amazing teacher and how she has contributed to the good of the community of Malden High School.

"She's provided a great safe space for students to come in and have like comfortable time just studying, talking to her, or reading. I think she's done a great job at trying to integrate the community. I know it's been hard, especially after COVID, how a lot of students just prefer to not read, which I think is a shame, but seeing her put in her best effort has made me think she really has done her best for this community and ... how much she's impacted Malden," stated Hadjar Yousfi, co-president of the LTAB.

Beverly Tong, a junior at Malden High, shared some insight on Liberge as she has known her since middle school at the Ferryway School.

"Miss Liberge is honestly one of my favorite librarians and one of my favorite people in this school. I've known her since elementary school because she was a librarian for Ferryway before she came here and she basically came along with us. It wasn't the exact same year, but it's nice to see someone that I've known for so long and interact with her," claimed Tong.

"I didn't even know she was going to retire. That's crazy to me



Liberge and her beloved grandson spending time in the aquarium. Photo submitted by Liberge.



Liberge holding some of her favorite books in the Malden High School library. AIDEN LUCIANO

because I've literally known her more than half of my life. I'm going to miss her too. She really does like a great job maintaining your library and she always like asks for recommendations and it's really nice. I hope the new librarian or whoever replaces her is going to be just as good," exclaimed Tong.

As Liberge is retiring, seniors will be joining her as she takes her leave from the school.

"I don't know anyone who could be half as passionate as Mrs. Liberge when it comes to constantly improving the library and making it into a fun and inclusive place where you can go to do more than reading," said Guilia Gabriela De Sousa.

"Knowing that we're both moving forward with our lives, I think it's nice. I do think it's going to be a little sad seeing Malden High and then not seeing her there because she's been here since I was a freshman. To me it's a big change," Yousfi explained.

As Liberge's legacy comes to a close, the best thing she can take with her as she is retiring is the fondness and the amount of joy and gratitude the school feels for her. The type of love that Liberge has shown is destined to leave a permanent effect on Malden High School for many decades to come.

maldenblueandgold.com

## LUONGO'S LEGACY

*Continued from page 13*

many things in the digital art world. "He's my art inspiration. He's a great guy with a creative mind. He's done things that I could never, ever think of, and he's touched me. He's taught me so much," Halaissi claimed.

Alijah Jean-Jacques, also a sophomore at Malden High taking digital art, shared his opinion on the upcoming retiree. "I feel like any other teacher, they may be as chill as him, but I don't think they're going to be as good as him," Jean-Jacques emphasized.

Ranging from students in his digital art class and even directed studies, Luongo has developed a sense of charisma added to his persona.

"He is really nice. I would go to him like when I didn't have class and he let me inside his class," said Waleed Hussien, a freshman in Luongo's directed study.

Memories are a big part of Luongo's legacy as students share their memories with their beloved art teachers.

"The memories I share with him are whenever we make jokes about movies or dumb shows that we hate a lot and stuff like that because he has a lot of opinions about certain movies. So every time me and my friend hear him joke, we always laugh. His jokes about the movie that he dislikes a lot and stuff like that," claimed Carvalho.

"Some memories I share with Mr. Luongo is me walking into his classroom for the first time ever, not knowing what this class is about or anything that was going to happen. At first, we didn't seem to get along for like the first two classes, but after that, things really picked up and my mood for the class switched. I really started liking it. And actually, to be honest, that was probably one of my most fun classes at the time," Halaissi stated confidently.

Although they are grateful for the impact Luongo has made in Malden High and how retirement is due to suit him after all of his years of hard work and dedication to the high school, students feel that Luongo is irreplaceable to Malden High School.

"I kind of feel sad, but it's a new beginning for Malden High and a new beginning for Mr. Luongo," Halaissi stated emphatically.

"I really genuinely think nobody could replace Mr. Luongo just because of how long he's been here and how much he's impacted each individual student," added Halaissi.

"His impact on Malden and like the art department is really strong. I think everyone who has ever had him is really going to miss him even if they only had him for a semester," claimed To.

It's obvious that Joseph Luongo has been a positive influence throughout his years of involvement in Malden and Malden High School. It's an understatement to say that he is leaving the school in good place.

Zachary Nedell  
Lead Reporter

Competitive, determined, hard-working, and brilliant. These words best describe the class of 2024 valedictorian, Colby Parker, a student who works as hard as he can both in and outside of the classroom. Whether it be taking his latest AP class, building up the lacrosse team, or competing with the Malden Math team, he continues on his legacy.

Parker attributed some of his success to his constant vigilance and hard work during the pandemic. He ensured that his best was given in every class and made sure to take courses that would challenge him but were manageable.

He additionally makes sure to budget his time wisely, ensuring that all his work gets done, but also has enough time to hang out with friends and enjoy his time at Malden High.

"Are there times when I'm absolutely exhausted from all the different things I do? Yeah, but that's life and you have to go through that. There's nothing you can really do about it," stated Parker.

Parker continued, saying how he first realized he could be valedictorian when he randomly asked for his class rank in senior year. From there, he set his sights on valedictorian as he knew it was well within his power.

With his high GPA and various activities, Parker decided to attend the University of Florida. While other variables factored into his choice, in the end it just clicked for him.

"But when I was down there, there's just a moment where it's just like 'This is it. This is where I'm meant to be.' That really cemented the decision for me."



Parker and peers in Costa Rica. 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. THOMAS TIERNEY

# Valedictorian Profile: Colby Parker

**"He's shown leadership skills since his freshman year. He takes great responsibility for what he does. He works to improve and keeps working to make the team better. He coaches kids on the field and does everything in his max capacity to make sure he does his best in and outside of the classroom."**

Marques commented on Parker stating how he is not only a hard worker, but that he has taken every available computer science class at MHS. Marques creates a very unique environment in which Parker was able to thrive, learning how to teach himself and become an independent student.

"He's stellar, very proactive in his own education. No need to push him, follow him, or chase him around. Matter of fact: he pushes me," said Marques.

Parker's classmate and friend, Ivan Wu, mentioned how he and Parker bonded, and how he witnessed his rise to the top.

"He had a lot of interest in pursuing more computer science classes and so Mr. Marques had an independent study and he was interested in doing that. I know he was particularly stoked about discrete math," Wu said.

"There's a competitive nature to him," Wu continued "That's the appeal."

Wu was also able to convince Parker to join the math team in their senior year, which led to the two bonding even more as they focused their competitive natures toward other schools along with their other classmates.

Abigail Morrison, Parker's friend of four years, chose to describe him as competitive and fair. "He is fair. He won't give you answers unless you work with him but he won't just give you things," said Morrison.

Morrison followed, "He takes a lot of difficult classes and spends hours and hours and hours doing everything he can."

No matter what, the two al-

Jonathan Copithorne



Colby Parker cradling the ball with a defender trailing. Photo submitted by Parker.

ways pushed each other to be better, either through motivation or competition. One such moment that stuck out to Morrison was when the two took AP Chemistry together as they competed to get the best grades within the class, always going back and forth.

When asked if he was surprised that Colby Parker was valedictorian, Varsity Boys' Lacrosse coach and teacher, Jonathan Copithorne, immediately responded, "No."

"He's shown leadership skills since his freshman year. He takes great responsibility for what he does. He works to improve and keeps working to make the team better. He coaches kids on the field and does everything in his max capacity to make sure he does his best in and outside of the classroom," Copithorne expanded.

All while balancing his AP classes and work, he continues to improve with lacrosse and make time. One such moment, Copithorne described, was when he had an AP exam that would most likely make him miss a game, Parker ensured he had a car ready to go to Haverhill and arrived to make the game.

In addition, Copithorne pushed Parker to do his best inside the classroom. When he found out that Parker was the valedictorian, he made sure to keep reminding him and checking in to ensure he wouldn't slip.

Parker recommends to other students going for valedictorian to take a lot of computer science classes. He treasures the lessons learned, and since Marques was his teacher, he was able to embrace self-teaching and independent learning.

*Continued on page 19*

maldenblueandgold.com

# Salutatorian Profile: Alejandra Fernández

Mack Keating  
Head Copy Editor

**“When she’s interested in something, she knows every little detail about it.”**

Susila Wong

Not all students are given the same opportunities; it is up to students to make the best of what they have. For the class of 2024’s salutatorian Alejandra Fernández, that is exactly what she did.

Unlike many of her classmates, Fernandez did not start at Malden High School until her sophomore year after emigrating from her home country of Venezuela. With not all credits transferring over, she eventually was placed in a mix of freshman and sophomore classes to catch up on credits. However, this did not stop Fernandez from rising to the top of her class.

Junior Helen Xie met Fernandez during her freshman year, having a common history class. After watching her grow over three years, Xie confidently described Fernandez as “a very driven person and my role model.” Seeing her classmate as an “inspiration”, Xie believes that wherever Fernandez goes, she will succeed: “She’s motivated, she’s smart, and she’s doing great. Everyone is so proud of her,” Xie concluded.

Fernández is “one of the most well-rounded people” at Malden High, according to senior and classmate Jessica Li. Li has grown close to Fernández in the past year and has watched as Fernández joined “countless clubs and AP classes.” Between being a leader in Speech and Debate, National Honors Society (NHS), and Science NHS, as well as pushing through six AP classes in her senior year alone, Fernández can be found in almost every corner of the school.

This is what Fernández has struggled with the most over the last three years, however. “I felt like I should be able to tackle everything but what I really needed to do was practice time management and prioritizing when I needed to,” Fernán-

dez detailed.

“I had to learn how to do things way before the deadline,” Fernández added. Procrastination is something that almost everyone struggles with at some point, not just high school students. To work through this, Fernández likes to keep a “to-do list to help keep track of all of my assignments,” although she admits she can forget to do something now and then.

After she graduates, Fernández is moving to downtown Cambridge to continue her education at Harvard University, double majoring in Electrical Engineering and Economics. What ultimately made her decision, to commit to Harvard, was passion: “Choose a career that you like and believe you can succeed in, and you will make it so much easier for yourself.”

Colleges tend to see majors chosen in trends, with Engineering being one of the highest-chosen majors across the last five years, ranking at number 4 in 2023 alone, according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. In the past year, 128,332 students have graduated with a degree in Engineering in the US, at 6.3% of all degrees.

While Fernández loves the topic, she is also interested in Economics and finance and does not want to find herself doing something just because everyone else is. “Don’t just try following the patterns of society, make your own decisions,” Fernández expressed.

Junior Susila Wong has watched over the past two years as Fernandez has carved her own path. After meeting in AP Seminar in the 2022-23 school year, the two have grown close and bonded over their love of math and science. Wong explained that while Fernández has always been smart, “I’ve watched her grow into herself and become even

more intelligent.” With that, Wong believes that Fernández has become more “confident in herself” as she discovered what she is and is not passionate about. “When she’s interested in something, she knows every little detail about it,” she continued.

Outside of Economics and Electrical Engineering, Fernández is also passionate about her home country of Venezuela. Over the past few years, Fernández has started and organized a non-

**“Choose a career that you like and believe you can succeed in, and you will make it so much easier for yourself.”**

Alejandra Fernández

profit organization called Sending Hope, with a mission of “helping communities improve their education, nutrition, and healthcare,” according to their official Instagram page, @sendinghope\_. Through this organization, she has organized fundraisers and donations to help students in her hometown of Maracaibo, Venezuela.

Her work to help her country does not stop there, either. Over the past school year, Fernández dedicated her AP Research topic to focus on sustainable energy. After extensive research, time, and dedi-

cation, she wrote and published a 5,000-word research paper and presented a 15-minute presentation on her research and how it can be implemented to help communities.

Her work, entitled Renewable Energy Systems: Developing a Photovoltaic Wind Hybrid Power Plant in Maracaibo, Venezuela, used data from other towns, sustainable energy research, and her own implementation of statistics from Maracaibo to determine the most successful and sustainable source of energy for the town. “I developed a hurricane shelter in Puerto Rico during my junior year, and went even more in-depth for AP Research.”

Growing up, Fernández’s hometown was at risk, due a number of long term power outages. Because of this, “I’m very passionate about helping especially vulnerable communities transition to clean energy,” she professed. She hopes to one day use her skills to help the world transition into using clean energy sources.



Alejandra Fernandez’s photo submitted to and posted on the Malden class of ‘24’s college commits Instagram page. Photo taken from the Instagram page @malden24commits.



Left: Alejandra Fernandez and Megyn Ta running a bake sale for Science National Honors Society, one of the many clubs Fernandez is a part of. HASET TESFAW. Right: Engineering club members, from left to right: Dante Federico, Alejandra Fernandez, Megyn Ta, and Susila Wong. HADJAR YOUSFI



maldenblueandgold.com

## Class President Profile: Meklit Abel

*Continued from front page.*

However, Abel remarked that it was initially difficult for students from such different backgrounds, friend groups, and personalities to bond. Yet, after working with each other year after year, they eventually grew a connection so deep that Abel no longer sees them as just “a council or friends,” but rather a family whose goodbyes will be entirely bittersweet.

Under the leadership of Abel, the Class of 2024 has left a notable mark on Malden High, starting new traditions like the Spring Soiree and Back-to-School Fest. Furthermore, Abel believes that her class brought back the concept of school spirit.

Having returned to in-person learning after enduring years of the pandemic, “everybody seemed so dead and nobody really wanted to bring that spark back up,” she said. During the pep rallies hosted each fall, the Class of 2024 has not failed to show their undying enthusiasm and pride, championing large and colorful posters, banners, and loud cheers.

But by far, Abel feels that the class’ best event was Junior Varieties. Although “it was the most stressful time of all of our lives during that time, I would say that was one of the best moments and the best fundraiser that we’ve had.”

One of her favorite parts about being in student council is the connections that she has formed not only with her co-council, but with the advisors, who she regards as “second parental figures.” She continued, “I’ve never been so close to an adult figure before besides my mom. I’ve never been so close to where I feel like I could just tell them everything... They really care for you like a second mother and it’s just the sweetest thing that I’ve ever been able to experience and I’m really hoping that college is like that.”

Throughout her journey, Abel attributes her ability to navigate school to her mother and aunt, who

have always supported her. “No matter what idea I have, it’s never a dumb idea... I’m just so filled with love and respect and appreciation towards them that I can’t even put it into words.”

Outside of the student council, Abel is actively involved with both the school and community, as co-founder and president of Black Student Union, member of the Science National Honor Society and National Honor Society, and student representative for the Malden City Council. Abel is also a longtime member of a nonprofit organization, the Massachusetts Ethiopians Support Association.

Throughout the last four years, Abel has ultimately learned the importance of teamwork. Despite her initial self-sufficient mindset, working with her counselor and the various organizations she’s involved with have led her to realize that “I can’t always do things alone and it’s always okay to ask for help. I don’t have to carry that burden on myself; there are other people around me that are willing to help.”

As she enters this new chapter of her life, Abel most hopes that she has made a lasting and kind impression on those around her. “I hope that people don’t just see me as ‘Oh, she’s class president.’ I want them to be like, ‘Oh my gosh, that’s Meki, I love her. She’s so sweet. She’s so good.’ I hope whatever comes out of people’s mouths about me is like the best, most lovable nice things that they could say.”

It appears that in the eyes of science teacher Kate Haskell, Abel has undoubtedly achieved this goal. Haskell remarked that Abel was “the kind of person that always showed up, ready to learn, ready to go right off the bat.” As the two have gotten closer over the past three years through classes and SNHS, Haskell has also been able to witness her kindness: “She always makes everyone smile around her... And she is just the kind of person

that could do anything she wanted and take advantage of so many different opportunities.”

Ever since she was three, after seeing a family member’s chipped tooth and their reluctance to seek dental assistance, Abel dreamed of being a dentist. As this aspiration stayed with her throughout high school, Abel plans to attend Bentley University in the fall for Health Studies and Business as part of her pre-dental track.

Science teacher Julie Grillon praised Abel for her well-roundedness and personability, commenting, “She has this wealth of knowledge that I don’t think a lot of people do, and it’s real world knowledge as well as academic knowledge... there’s really not a situation you can throw [her] in that I don’t think she’s prepared for, so just be confident in yourself, believe in yourself and, go crush them out there.”

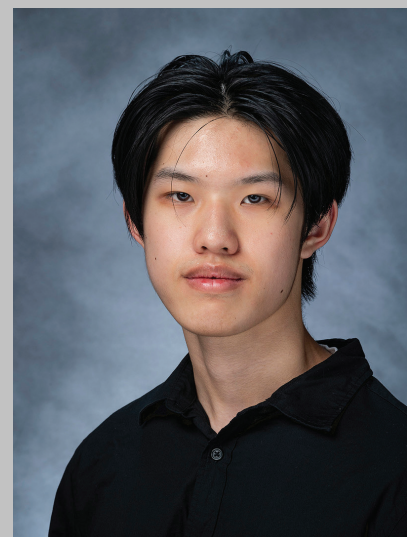
As a final message to the senior class, Abel expressed her gratitude that despite losing a year of high school to COVID, “we were still able to come back from that” and be “one of the most impactful classes in the past” years.

“I feel like we couldn’t have done that if we weren’t working hard together... It wasn’t just individual efforts, more of a team effort.”

And to underclassmen, Abel spoke a word of advice: “Just be loving and respectful people—you never know what someone could be going through or dealing with.”

Science teacher Brian Morrison, who became familiar with Abel through her work as class president, noted that “as she graduates I would encourage her to remain passionate about school and continue to join social organizations where she can hone her leadership skills and make real changes in people’s lives. Meki is intelligent, well-spoken, outgoing, and a positive influence on those around her. I wish her the very best and I am sure she will be very successful in the future.”

## IVAN WU ORATOR



Graduation is often a very bittersweet time. Seniors finally feel like real adults, and many are moving on to their futures, whether moving on to higher education, entering the workforce or even joining the military. They still leave behind their friends at home. May 17th was the last day for seniors, and on that day, they said goodbye to some of their friends and teachers whom they have known for their entire academic lives.

Ivan Wu is one of these seniors who is going through this experience and he happens to be the Orator for the graduation ceremony, possessing the third highest grade point average in the class of 2024. Wu, looking back on his time at Malden High, thinks his favorite part was “all of the people” whom he has met through the years. Wu recognized that all of these people who he has met, whether they were people in grades above or below him or even simply teachers who have supported him “throughout the high school journey, in both academics and athletics” constantly pushed him to do his best.

“I attribute most of my academic success to my mother,” Wu mentioned proudly. Wu’s mother has “cared greatly” for his education since he was young even when he “didn’t particularly care for it.” Wu then remarked that as his mother’s “influence on education grew smaller over the years,” it was his friends who inspired him to “continue pursuing higher academic prowess.”

Brian Morrison, a Physics teacher at Malden High, remarked, “It was my good fortune that I got to teach Ivan two years in a row in AP Physics 1 and 2. He is incredibly smart, thoughtful, and a pleasure to teach. I have no doubt he is going to be incredibly successful in the future and make Malden proud. I wish him the very best.”

As if having an extremely high GPA was not already impressive enough, Wu also participated in cross country, swimming, track, and gymnastics throughout his years at Malden High. Wu affirmed that he “dipped his feet”

*Continued on page 19*

## ERIKAH MACHARIA AND TYLER EDMOND EVENT COORDINATORS



# KRISTEN KIRBY, JESS WEBBER, SHANNON VOTAW

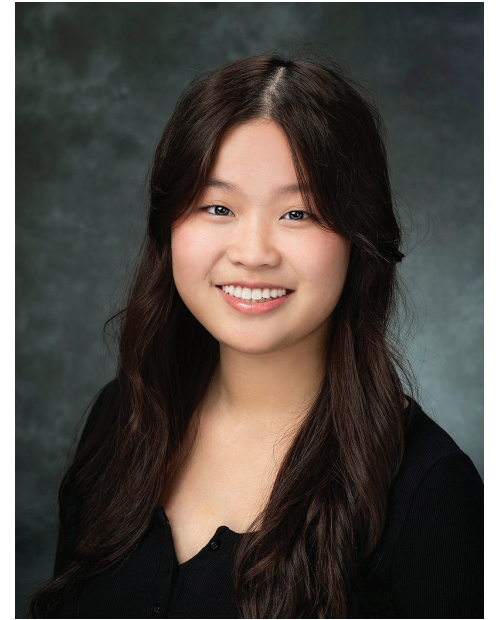
## CLASS ADVISORS

Jaslie Fang  
Reporter



# KEIRA LIN

MEDIA COORDINATOR



Abigail Fesehaie  
Reporter

The class of 2024 orchestrated many remarkable events such as the Harlem Wizards game, Junior Varieties, and the newly created "Back to School Fest" in collaboration with the Class of 2025, under the guidance of advisors, Kristen Kirby, Jess Webber, and Shannon Votaw. However, the journey of these advisors to their roles is a compelling story in itself.

Following the challenges of the COVID-19 school year, the graduating class of 2024 faced a transition to a new environment. By the spring of 2022, the class found themselves without a teacher willing to serve as their advisor. Yet, inspired by groups of students approaching the trio, Kirby, Webber, and Votaw willingly took on the demanding role.

Yet, their choice to assume the role of class advisors was not merely a result of a few students joining forces but carried a deeper significance. As Webber furthered, "They were sophomores at the time, they didn't have an advisor, and were disadvantaged because of COVID." Votaw expanded on this sentiment, explaining that coming back from the challenges of COVID, students forgot about Malden High's school spirit and associated events like Junior Varieties and Pep Rally. The advisors felt compelled to reignite this enthusiasm.

Fortunately, they succeeded in reviving the passion that existed within the graduating class of 2024. As Webber notes, the students showed consistent willingness to

participate and volunteer.

Reflecting on their time as class advisors, Kirby, Webber, and Votaw unanimously agreed that Junior Varieties stood out as the pinnacle of their journey, marking both their favorite and most fulfilling event. Despite the logistical challenges and stress-inducing planning, Junior Varieties stood as a testament to their hard work, collaboration, and dedication, Kirby remarked.

However, this may not be the last time this trio serves as class advisors as Kirby and Votaw expressed interest in potentially taking on the role once more, while Webber may need more time before considering. As they move on, this experience left a legacy of enthusiasm for future classes and advisors to follow.

# SHUYI CHEN

## MEDIA COORDINATOR

Abigail Fesehaie  
Reporter



Shuyi Chen, a well-known student at Malden High for her energetic and fun personality, has also been the Media Coordinator for the Class of 2024 Student Council for the past three years. When reflecting on her experiences, she remembers it to be one of her favorite experiences during her time in high school as it allowed her to open new doors to opportunities that would not have happened otherwise.

"Being a media coordinator really showed me what I would like to pursue in my future and opened up many opportunities for me that I wouldn't have been able to take in," Chen claimed.

During her time as a Social Media Coordinator, Chen has run numerous amounts of school-related social media accounts like Malden High School Volleyball, Malden High School Boys Lacrosse, and the Mal-

donian Account. Chen's passion for photography and social media has also allowed her to become a Boston Globe-published photographer and pursue sports photography by taking pictures of sports events within the Malden area. She appreciates her time as a sports photographer as it allowed her "to take photos of local sports within our school." Chen loves to play sports, travel, and ski with her friends in her free time, she also is on both varsity softball and volleyball teams in school.

Overall, Chen has truly enjoyed her time as a Social Media Coordinator and has enjoyed contributing to events like "creating flowers for students around the school or contributing to student and city-wide events, like making Junior varieties and Back-to-School Fest." Although Chen has been excited to leave the school and start her journey into adulthood by attending Northeastern University for Business Administration: Marketing, she noted that she will especially miss her English teachers, Ms. Clapp and Mr. Gallagher.

Keira Lin has become a notable part of the graduating class as she has held her position as a Social Media Coordinator for the past three years. Throughout her time as a Social Media Coordinator, Lin noted that she has been able to "develop skills such as time management and creative design," which she is grateful for, as the role has allowed her to become more engaged with the school as she has been able to be apart of a myriad of events. Some events Lin has hosted were Junior Varieties, the Back-to-School Fest, the Harlem Wizards Game, and many more. As a result of the role, her engagement with the school led her to become the Social Media Coordinator for organizations like Malden Volleyball and the Asian Culture Club where she runs both organizations' Instagram pages.

When not in the school's atmosphere, Lin enjoys playing volleyball for both Malden High School and for fun. She has also enjoyed photography, specifically sports photography, as she takes pictures for the boy's volleyball team. While reflecting on the past four years, Lin recalls her favorite memory to be when she won her senior election as "we all felt the happiness of winning an election while in each other's presence." Although most of Lin's experiences within her role have been positive, Lin highlights that although being a part of the Student Council has been fun, she realizes that, "being on student council is a super big responsibility and you have to be able to balance school, extracurriculars, and planning big events all at the same time."

After graduating and leaving her role behind, Lin will be attending Boston University as a biology major on the pre-dental track. Looking at her exciting future Lin hopes to "attend dental school after graduating from undergraduate studies and then potentially specializing in dental pediatrics or orthodontics."

maldenblueandgold.com

# LARISSA RETAMERO GRANJA

## TREASURER

Haset Tesfaw  
Lead Reporter

The Class of 2024's treasurer is none other than Larissa Retamero Granja, who believes that being in the student council allowed her to work with people she never thought she would work with and now has a close bond with every student council member.

"They definitely helped me through school because the people who are in the student council with me now, we are like a family. I feel like that's my student council family," said Granja. She truly enjoyed her time as treasurer and is thankful that she was able to experience something so meaningful. "The entire student council and I had so much fun doing the Wizard's basketball game and the BTS fest. We all told each other that those events made us feel like kids again."

"I met a bunch of new friends who I honestly think I'm going to stay friends with for the rest of my life, like the little friend group that I have and that I met through swim. They've helped me become a better person, and they improve my quality of life," said Granja.

"I met Ms. Braz last year and she

was my history teacher. She always knows how to brighten my day, she knows how to make me laugh, and she's really relatable. She's always smiling, I love that about her. I'm truly going to miss her," Granja said as she expressed her love for one of her favorite teachers.

"She takes her position in student council very seriously, and the fact that she's even willing to go above and beyond for other student council affairs, not just the stuff for the seniors but for all the classes which is really what should make up the people in student council," said Braz, who emphasized that she is a hard worker and always gives nothing less than her best. "I hope that she continues to grow and be the best version of herself that she can be. Everything she wants in life, I want her to get and I'll be sending that energy her way."

When Granja is not in school, she enjoys trying new foods and driving around with her friends while blasting music. "We have a group chat and I text them saying 'Guys let's go!' It's a big friend group so luckily two people have their own car."

"Larissa makes me want to be a better person so I can impact



others as she impacted me," one of her close friends, Nicura Robinson-McCaskill stated.

After graduation, Granja plans to attend Northeastern and study economics and international business. She explained, "There's a co-op program at Northeastern; that's what the school is known for, and you can start sophomore year. My dream co-op is to work at Fidelity because I want to be an investment banker. I just hope to become successful in life and just to have fun, especially in college."

# ABDULLAH KHAN

## SECRETARY

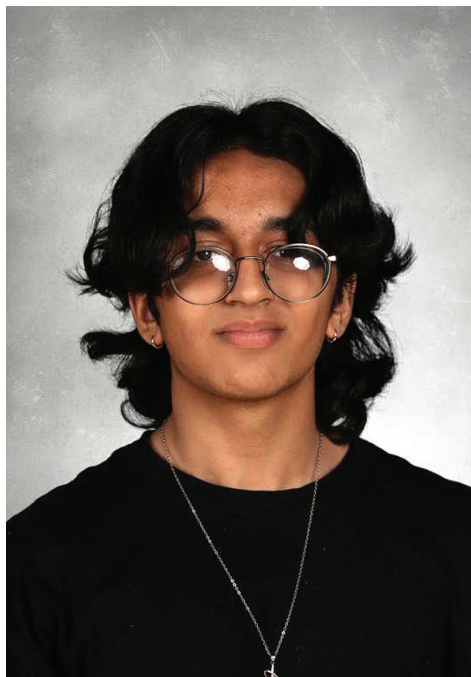
Haset Tesfaw  
Lead Reporter

As the secretary for the Class of 2024, Abdullah Khan was grateful to take on such an "incredibly prestigious role," as he described it.

"It was extremely useful in program applications and it was also useful in overall just having an extracurricular to define me," said Khan. Khan devoted most of his time to his role as secretary and believes it greatly benefited him and his journey through high school.

Khan's favorite memory while being a treasurer is Junior Varieties, and he expressed how he was grateful to be a part of such a valuable experience. "Up until then, we hadn't really collaborated as a team as much but during junior varieties, we were all tasked together to throw the best show possible."

Having a team that's able to work so well together, was a big thing for him. "We've been working together for over three years which is rare. There are re-elections every year, but our team specifically, our roles haven't really changed, we've just been re-elected. I think because of that, we've gotten to know each other even more."



Entering Malden High School for the first time, Khan was not aware of how much diversity he'd see here. "Malden High is one of the most diverse schools in Massachusetts and I think being in that environment has allowed me to be exposed to so many different cultures and I believe that the school is really welcoming of that."

Michelle Sun, Khan's college advisor, helped him navigate the financial aid journey and so much more. Khan expressed, "I would not even be committed to the college that I'm currently committed to if it wasn't for her, and her help."

"Abdullah comes to the College and Career Center with questions and leaves very grateful for

our help. His presence makes me feel like we have a purpose and are helpful to students," Sun explained.

Khan has committed to Northeastern University for Biology and Health Administration. He hopes to go to medical school afterward and is looking into anesthesiology for his specialty. "My number one goal is to become a doctor and make my family proud, just the very traditional first-generation immigrant goals. Other than that, this is a bit cheesy, but I want to make sure that as I grow I want to maintain my morals and empathy. That's something that I don't want to change," Khan explained. "A lot of my uncles are doctors, and at this point, they're 40, or 50, years old. They're living what I would believe is my dream. They have amazing careers, high salaries; they have a beautiful life, and kids—what more could you really ask for?"

When Khan is outside of the classroom, he works on prioritizing his physical health. "I've been going to the gym and going on runs. I think a lot of seniors would relate to this, but I love going out, going out to Boston, and Chinatown, hopping on the Orange Line, and going for a quick trip."

For future secretaries to come, Khan advised, "Other than prioritizing your own role, you also have to understand that while everyone has their own individual roles, you guys are a team so try to help each other out as much as possible."

# IVAN WU

*Continued from page 17*

into whatever he felt like he would enjoy. Wu enjoys "devoting time to help others who also enjoy math get better at it and compete," as he is an officer with the school's Math Team.

Wu offered a piece of advice for the incoming class of 2028: avoid procrastination. He emphasized that most people don't learn this lesson "until they experience the consequences firsthand." Wu noted that "some people are good at being productive while others aren't" and recognized he, unfortunately, struggled with it during his time at Malden High but wished he followed the advice of avoiding procrastination.

Wu went on to explain that he has really learned the importance of having confidence. Wu professed, "Truly, you will succeed if you are confident in yourself and the work you do; this translates to your job, your academics, your athletics. If you're not confident in yourself because you've been knocked down by life, I suggest doing what you enjoy because you're bound to get better at it. Have confidence in that one thing at the very least. It all branches out from there as life goes on, and I promise everything works out in the end, so have confidence in the path you want to take as well."

He explained that he will miss how close all of Malden High is and how much of a tight-knit community it is. Wu noted, "I feel like I've met so many like-minded people here at MHS as well, that it'll be a shame to leave it all behind and start anew someplace else."

However, if he could go back and do it all again, he would "be more diligent." Wu affirmed, "I don't regret anything now that I'm here. I think everything I've done in high school up until now has made me the person I am today."

**Vice President: COLBY PARKER**

*Continued from page 15*

In junior year, Parker decided to run for Vice President as he had plans and visions for the school but figured a more specialized role like the Vice Presidency would be able to afford him select power to see them through.

"I felt as though the role of Vice President fit my personality the best," Parker commented. Once he achieved the support of his peers, he decided to join the race. After assimilating into the rest of the student body, Parker was able to help bring prom prices down, the Harlem Wizards to town, and bring everything together for the class of 2024.

Overall Parker's key to success is to challenge yourself, but know your limits. Strive to be the best possible version of yourself and keep your commitments sacred. Be stubborn and enjoy the company of your friends. Finally, he encourages anyone looking to be valedictorian to try as hard as they can but not without losing themselves along the way.

maldeblueandgold.com



## CHOIR TOURS, MICCA AND SPRING CONCERT

Zachary Nedell  
Lead Reporter

Springtime for the Malden High Choral Arts Society is always an emotional time. Between the tours to every elementary school, the time spent preparing for MICCA, a competition between schools and their choirs hosted by the Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association, and the spring concert, Cole's choir certainly has their hands full.

For the seniors, every one of these events would be their final time participating as graduation loomed. Mixed thoughts and feelings were shared from joy and sadness as many seniors came to terms with the fact that with each passing event, their time was slowly running out.

As the second semester began, the Choral Arts Society began preparation for their tour of the Malden Elementary schools. They would be performing for students across each school with hopes of recruiting rising freshmen into the program.

For most, it's a good way to catch up with where they left their elementary school after going to Malden High. For the seniors, it's a nostalgic melancholy moment as they knew it could very well be the final time they visit the place they grew up in for nine years before leaving early as the pandemic swept through.

"I thought the tours went extremely well. I thought they ran like clockwork... I would refer to it as a well-oiled machine where we're in and out. Everyone knew what they had to do. I wasn't scrambling," said Todd Cole, teacher and leader of the Choral Arts Society.

He went on to describe how fun tours are and how compared to the rest of the year it is relatively low stakes so each choir class was able to let loose and enjoy themselves. At the time of this article,

Cole is expecting about 45-50 rising freshmen to join the mixed chorus, which could double the size of the previous year.

"Tours are... a better way to connect with others," said senior James Song. "Sure, a lot of middle schoolers might make fun of us due to the fact that we're singing and they think that's boring. But once we start to show them the songs and the fun things that we do and what we can do, it might grab people's attention and that's what allows us to connect with others through music."

Song went on to describe how tours also furthered his understanding of his classmates as he got to see the school his peers grew up in, and the whole choir could share experiences of their youth that they may not often talk about.

For senior Alyssa Chung, she uses tours as a way to catch up with her past teachers and meet her siblings' teachers as well.

"It really meant a lot to me to get to see those teachers for the last time and get to give him a hug," she said.

After the final tour, the choir had to now set their sights on MICCA. Cole had set his expectations but made sure to push the choir as far as they could with a slew of challenging songs.

"We had a good amount of time to get everything done," said Emma Spignese-Smolinsky. She continued saying how Concert Choir and Madrigals left everything they had out on stage, resulting in a high silver for Concert Choir and a medium silver for Madrigals.

"I think I gave it all I had and it's a part of me; choir is a big part of me; it's actually my favorite part of being in high school," said Kaite Bai.

As MICCA resolved, the choir then turned their attention towards the spring concert, a climax of all their work done throughout the

Todd Cole leads the mixed chorus as they sing *Der Tanz*. ZACHARY NEDELL

year. For seniors, this would be one of their final major assignments. For others, it was a reminder that their time was running short and the year would be over soon.

Preparation for the concert went swimmingly well, as the choir recycled pieces from MICCA while adding some challenging but rewarding pieces. One such added piece was "Summertime" arranged by Mark Hayes, which spread the choir quite thin, with nearly each section having a different musical aspect to carry. However, when the concert went underway, all effort paid off as the harmonious sound created by the choir blew each and every spectator away.

Halfway through the Madrigals section of the concert, Cole stopped the show to give an acknowledgment to Junior Natalie Keating. Keating had always wanted to be a part of Madrigals and was hoping for space to open up in her senior year.

"Then it happened to work out that the period that I have Madrigals my teacher was out for months so I just asked Mr. Cole, if I could just start coming." Cole said yes and so Keating went on to learn all the Madrigals songs. "And then eventually I asked, 'Hey, because I know all the songs can I sing with you guys at MICCA' and Cole said Sure."

"I really wasn't expecting him to shout me out during the concert, so it really took me by surprise. It was really nice because I did put a lot of work into it and it was a really cool experience," Keating said.

After the Concert Choir finished "Summertime" Chung descended from the risers to present Cole with a heartfelt gift of a picture of the seniors, lined with meaningful notes from each, detail-

ing a happy memory they had with Cole or the choir.

"That meant more to me than the world," Cole commented. He continued to describe Chung's speech and the senior gift saying how "for her to write such kind words and such kind thoughts and share such a personal explanation of the gift mean everything."

He went on saying how the song "Heart and Soul" is the "bane of my existence, and that's an inside joke between me and all the students, which is to say that you cannot play that song in my presence."

With the theme of the gift around that song, the seniors were able to have one last laugh with Cole as members of his choir.

Afterwards, roses were handed out to each senior, a traditional and abut meaningful gift. Once every rose was handed out, Cole gave a speech of his own detailing his pride and hope for the choir but also his sadness of the seniors leaving.

Following that, the seniors then took to the risers. Some cried, others smiled and laughed, but everyone raised their voices to sing the final song of the concert, "That's Life" by Teena Chinn.

Once the concert was over, the Choral Arts Society began wrapping up for the year. While more events are planned, such as singing at graduation and Memorial Day, all major assignments for the year are over.

However Cole gave a final message to all seniors in his classes, "You've got a home here. Always feel free to come back and visit because when you come back, you feed us energy, we know you still care and we know that we can't let you down. So always feel free to come back, recharge your battery, and share stories."

Brian Vences singing his solo "Nothin' Gonna Stumble My Feet." ZACHARY NEDELL



Jason Chen singing his solo in "Java Jive." ZACHARY NEDELL



# Malden High's Afro Caribbean Team Hosts Eventful Night



Step team's performance. HASET TESFAW

Haset Tesfaw  
Lead Reporter

On February 9th, Giselle Dessert hosted an Afro-Caribbean Night with the help of her friends. As the doors opened many excited students flooded in ready to watch the show. But before the performances began, Dessert explained how hard she and her friends had worked to set the whole event up.

"The experience was great but putting on the whole show was a challenge just because it was my first time doing something different like this. We usually just stick to events held by the junior class such as JVs or we attend college events, so putting on our own event this year was a challenge, but it was definitely a fun experience," said Dessert

Brunelli house principal Ewald Charles, accompanied by three other students, sang the Haitian National Anthem.

Then the Habesha group put on a performance, followed by the step team. The crowd was cheering and continued to be supportive throughout all the performances. "It was all good vibes and energy," Patricia Mukasa, who had performed in the Habesha dance group, stated.

"I think it's a celebration of who they are, which was why they were happy about it. It's a chance to celebrate who they are, how could you be any happier?" said Charles.

"It felt absolutely amazing to have such a supportive and active crowd," said Erikah Macharia. "To have our friends, teachers, and family in the crowd supporting us and all that we worked on, made the experience 100 times better."

Thema Ulysse then had the crowd in awe as he sang "Unstoppable" by Sia.

Before their last performance, Dessert along with her best friend, Macharia, came out to speak about what the profits from this event would be going towards.

"Most countries, Caribbean countries to be more specific, need the money. The most being Haiti or

Congo, so I wanted to find organizations that helped out both of them and donated money directly to specific areas in Congo and Haiti. I researched and I found some online so very shortly we will be taking the money and depositing it to be able

to send it off to both countries, to help as much as needed," Dessert explained.

"I think it's just selfless. Not selfish, selfless," Mastrangelo stated. "The work that they're doing is noble," Charles agreed.

Dessert also expressed how much her friendship with Macharia meant to her and how she had been a huge help throughout the entire process.

"Erikah has helped a lot. She was the one that started the club, but as years went on, it kind of melted into us both running it, so to be honest, the club wouldn't be anywhere near where it is now without her. It means a lot to have a friend like her because she's super supportive in everything and she has a very free spirit and it's nice to have someone like her around," Dessert continued.

"She's one of my best friends and I couldn't have asked for anyone better to be by my side throughout not only this process but the past three years. We both share common ideas and interests which made planning everything very easy and also made the whole process much more enjoyable," Macharia emphasized, explaining how they've naturally learned to work with each other.

They ended the show with a performance by the Afro-Caribbean group. Along with her other friends, Saniah Charles, who performed in three acts (Habesha dance group, step team, and Afro-Caribbean

group), was very happy with the turnout.

"When the crowd is supportive it honestly makes the environment so much more smoother and better," said Charles. "The show all came together towards the end. Seeing how

Dessert stated.

After the performances concluded the show they thanked everyone for coming and supporting them. They then told everyone to head over to the gallery to enjoy some delicious food and desserts.

**"We live in a crazy time. Politically, a lot of bad stuff is happening in the world... a lot of stuff that's happening in the world is driven by ignorance of religion or culture, and I think having the ability to be open to how others have been raised and how others have lived just makes us a better school and makes us individually more accepting and understanding."**

Principal Christopher Mastrangelo

everything turned out made all the practices and hard work truly worth it."

"It's the best feeling when you see that people are actually enjoying what you are putting on. It hypes you up and makes you want to do so much better, so I felt really good about that. We probably all did,"

**Culture shapes who you are... we should all hold on to our cultures as we learn new things but never forget where we're from."**

Brunelli house principal  
Ewald Charles

One of their main goals for the night was to share the importance of culture and sharing it with others. There are many benefits of sharing your culture with others, as it can form a sense of unity between people.

"One of my greatest takeaways from Malden, when I leave someday, is just how much I thought I knew about culture when I came in here, and how quickly I realized I didn't know anything," Mastrangelo said.

"As you know, I am of Haitian descent and I think culture and going back to your roots is very important. Culture shapes who you are... we should all hold on to our cultures as we learn new things but never forget where we're from," Charles explained.



People eating at the event. HASET TESFAW

maldenblueandgold.com

## Black Student Union's Impact at Malden High School



From left to right: The BSU officers and club advisors Michel-Le Meranda, Meklit Abel, Dina Genene, and Orit Abel. HADJAR YOUSFI

Delina Yohannes  
Reporter

For the past two years, the Black Student Union Club (BSU) at Malden High School has provided a safe environment to ensure that Black students are able to a safe environment to voice their opinions. This can include an array of issues that are not unique to Black students at MHS but around the world. At every meeting held monthly in the classroom of biology teacher and club advisor Michel-Le Miranda, students are immediately met with dimmed fairy lights and occasional light snacks in an effort to provide a comforting physical environment rather than a nerve-racking environment for those who are participating and sharing their big opinions on serious matters.

The club's council consists of senior President Meklit Abel, sophomore Vice President Orit Abel, senior Treasurer Dina Genene, senior Secretary Damien Josaphat, and freshman Social Media Coordinator Venusia Teklu.

With an overwhelming majority of the council members being seniors set to graduate in less than two months, that leaves many questions about the future fate of the club. However, vice president Orit Abel stated that next year's leadership

is "going to be happening through a vote. Whoever wants to run for the position can, and the club members will vote on it. Just because the seniors, the founders of BSU, are leaving, doesn't mean that BSU will leave."

As the clock continues to tick for the senior council and members, they hope to "leave on a high note, ensuring that each role has been filled with people we trust to continue running it and will [hopefully] address the need for more BSU-run events," addressed vice president Genene.

Many of the different topics that are discussed during the meetings stem from discussions that are commonly found on social media. Some of these topics are racism within the education system, the impact of Black culture on today's society, Black fetishization, the usage of racial slurs, and the history of African Americans.

Although these are perfectly valid topics, they often are considered "controversial" in the media due to much stigma. BSU, being a non-stigmatized environment, however, allows students to share their raw experiences and opinions on any said topic and learn and realize their environment. "BSU has made me realize the effect slavery has had

on the black diaspora as well as how it still divides black ethnic groups to this day," stated sophomore Nour Howard, who further emphasized how she encouraged every Black student—in fact, any student who is interested in learning more about Black issues and how they tie back to the Malden community—to join BSU as "it's one of the best activities that I've joined this year."

Although the purpose of BSU is to collectively gain intel on others' experiences and come up with solutions to prevent that from occurring in the community, many members emphasized how the discussion held at the meetings allowed them to realize a lot about themselves and how they have experienced uncomfortable situations but due to the frequency of them, they seemed to be normal occurrences.

"I joined because the topics were interesting and made me realize a lot about myself and my experiences and how much I let slide in the past...specifically with people who used consider stuff as too 'Black' or too 'whitewashed' not realizing how much it can affect someone," expressed sophomore Alecia Louigene, who further explained that although she does not face these challenges as much anymore, BSU has shaped her in a way where she would be able to defend herself if it were to happen again.

Overall, BSU has become a haven for Black students as well as any student interested in learning more about issues within and towards the Black community. As the club continues to thrive they continue to educate each other on many complex topics in a healthy way, slowly but surely healing generational traumas and stigmas.

For more updates regarding BSU and their upcoming meetings, feel free to follow their Instagram @bsu.malden or contact any of the officers if you have any questions or concerns.

## CO'26 Sweetens the Afternoon with Easter Treats



Students looking to buy easter treats. JENAYAH MORENO.

Jenayah Moreno  
Reporter

After a long day of testing for sophomores at Malden High, the Class of 2026 sweetened up the afternoon with their Easter bake sale in the front lobby of the Boyle House. With a large budget goal ahead of them, the class gathered to sell treats to fund future opportunities.

The sale consisted of many different varieties of treats such as brownies, cake pops, coxinhes, and brigaderios—traditional Brazilian desserts. Vice president Rashmi KC feels that the Brazilian treats were a great addition to add diversity to the group of treats served. "I feel like it definitely was a major trend," KC mentioned. Additionally, all of the treats served in the bake sale were handmade from the Class of 2026 themselves. "Our social media coordinator, Sarah, was able to get some Brazilian treats for us so that was great," KC added.

As for the profits from the bake sale, the Class of 2026 hopes to put it towards their goal of \$30,000 that they hope to have saved by senior year. As many know from the Class of 2026's Instagram, they strive to have this money saved up within the next two years for events such as prom and graduation. They would additionally like to use the profits to invest in other future events. "We have spring soiree coming up. It's going to be in June, and our plans are to get the entire class involved in it. It should be fun," stated President Eldana Abrhame.

Many people have speculations about the large amount of money being raised in such a small amount of time. The class hopes to try their best to meet this goal rather than let their time limit stop them. They plan to continue with small events hoping to host larger events in the future.

"We're hoping to do more like outdoor events, and one of them being Culture Day. We're hoping to have this happen this year, but if not, hopefully, pick it up for next year," stated President Eldana Abrhame.

Many students appreciated the treats and found a sweet treat after the long MCAS day comforting. Sophomore Ndiaye Oliver mentioned how the "treats were delicious, and it was nice to wind down with a sweet treat after a stressful day".

For updates on more from the Class of 2026, you can find them on Instagram @maldenco26.



BSU members Erikah Macharia and Victoria Gammon at the first BSU meeting of the year. HADJAR YOUSFI

# Malden High Raises Haitian Flag



Brunelli House Principal Jean Charles poses on Haitian Flag Day with his students. HASET TESFAW

Haset Tesfaw  
Lead Reporter

This year's Haitian flag-raising event brought a strong sense of pride and love to the students of Malden High School.

"I've learned so much about all cultures since I started here 15 years ago. I lived in a very small world before. I grew up in Wakefield; I taught in Wakefield. It's not terribly diverse, if diverse at all. When I came here, my eyes were opened to many cultures, particularly Haiti," Principal Chris Mastrangelo expressed.

With the tragic events currently occurring in Haiti, Mastrangelo believes that Haitians are still strong and very proud of their country. "In Haiti, they've gone through a lifetime of concerns and issues but yet the sense of pride and love they have for their own country and heritage stays strong. I'm quite envious of it."

"Having a Haitian Flag Day at MHS means a lot to me, not only does it show pride for our flag but it also shows that we're supporting and celebrating our flag thousands of miles away from home," Bradley Louigene, a Haitian student who had attended the Haitian Flag Raising event, said.

After Ewald Charles gave encouraging words in Haitian Creole, everyone began to dance to Haitian music. People were filled with joy and loved to celebrate this day with the other students of Malden High School no matter where they were from.

"Seeing my own people dancing and enjoying themselves during the event made me feel happy, but what made me happier was other nations: Brazilians, Hispanics, Americans, and others enjoying themselves and having a blast," Louigene said.

Malden High School has a large Haitian population and Mastrangelo believes it is important to celebrate the heritage of all the cultures within the building. "When the students come and look up to see



Tori Gammon and Saniah Charles dancing during the event. HASET TESFAW



More participants of the flag raising shouting and dancing. HASET TESFAW

their flag up there, there's a sense of pride and connection to the country and the school," Mastrangelo stated.

Charles is very proud of his Haitian heritage. He always attends the events at Malden High School representing Haitian people. "When you sit there as a student from Haiti whose first language is Haitian Creole, and you see a faculty member from your school speaking to you in your native language, I think that shows a level of respect and connection to the school. I think that the students were excited to have him come up and speak and he was excited too. He was honored," Mastrangelo explained.

"Haitian culture is who I am. The food, the people, the environment, and the way of life," Charles said.

There are many other Haitian students who can relate to Charles and proudly say they feel such a strong connection to their culture. "I spent the first of my 13 years in

Haiti and I can tell you that I learned a lot back there. I really wish the country was in a better place to go back home. This country which I call home has a very unique culture, food, dance, carnivals, etc. I will never get tired of talking about the culture of Haiti," Bradley said, expressing his love for his country.

Haitian Flag Day has always been "like a party; it always breaks out into singing and dancing," Mastrangelo said. "It's really a fun and exciting atmosphere. It was exciting to see the sense of pride that our students from Haiti had but also the sense of respect a lot of our students had for the process as well and for the day."

"I think that this day is something that the students really value as a part of their culture. To them, it's a big deal of celebration and recognizing their ancestry, heritage, who they are, and where they come from," Charles concluded.

## Alumni Association

*Continued from page 3*

attorney. He felt a sense of pride and duty in serving his nation, so that's what he did. Haskell mentioned that this service gave his life some direction and taught him his life's purpose and mission. From then on, he dedicated his life to helping others, not just as an attorney but as the Malden Fire Commissioner. As if that wasn't all, Haskell earned the Bronze Star for his work with the Navy in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Next to speak was a fellow class of 1973 graduate James Barretto, who was very interested in speaking with students, especially those who struggle in school. "I'd rather talk to the kids who have no dreams or no hope because, in high school, that was me," he confessed. Barretto mentioned that he was often facing detentions at Malden High and had no idea where he would go after graduation. Still, he managed to find his way into a litigation career and served in the Middlesex District Attorney's Office. The highlight of his career came in 2009 when Barretto was appointed as a District Court Judge by former Governor Deval Patrick.

Malden City Council icon Neal Anderson, a graduate of the class of 1962, followed Barretto. Father of current Malden High guidance counselor Kristy Magras, he first became a member of the council in 1983 and served for almost 30 years. He is perhaps best known for his campaign slogan, "Together We Can Make a Difference." Before he was a notable member of the Malden government, he had to find his way. Guidance counselors told Anderson he was best fit for a trade, but he went into the Navy for the Vietnam War, which kick started his career. "When I came back home, I wanted to do something to uplift people," stated Anderson. His first work came through helping people of color find jobs after the Civil Rights Movement to knock down discriminatory barriers in hiring. "I didn't find my calling until I got out of school until I got into the real world until I found somewhere where I could express my passion for helping people," said Anderson.



James Barretto speaking at the podium giving his speech. RYAN COGGSWELL

maldenblueandgold.com



All photos by Gabriela Parnini Cordova and Thomas Tierney.





All photos by Gabriela Parnini Cordova and Thomas Tierney.

maldeblueandgold.com



# A Look into Senior Year

Hadjar Yousfi  
Editor-in-Chief

As the year progresses, several Malden High School seniors have begun planning for post-secondary education and even their lives afterward. All around the school, people have started to feel the pressure of graduation that is quickly arriving. With just a few months left until June 2nd, it is no surprise that seniors from all different backgrounds at MHS are taking the time to reflect on their pasts and look toward their futures.

The class of 2024, began their high school experience in September of 2020, sitting in front of their laptops with blank stares full of disappointment. However, it was not long before they entered the building with passion and a willingness to create change. From new clubs, organizations, activities, and projects the Co'24 has truly done so much.



Keira Lin dives to the ground to hit the ball. JESSICA LI

Senior student and Co '24 social media coordinator Keira Lin feels proud of her accomplishments throughout high school. "I'm committed to Boston University studying biology," Lin declared. Over the years Lin feels as though she has grown a lot as a student and person.

"I've definitely become more ambitious," Lin said, "I used to rely on other people a lot." Now Lin feels as though she is better able to do things for herself, allowing her to become more independent overall.

Over the past few years, Lin has enjoyed being involved in the community in many ways, including playing volleyball and being a member of the student council. Some of her favorite memories of high school have been events hosted by the Co '24 such as the Spring Soiree and Back to School Fest. "It's nice to see our hard work being dis-

played," explained Lin.

Lin looks towards the future with a lot of optimism; during college, she hopes to continue to work on herself and "find my people," she said. "I just hope that everyone is successful, and should not get discouraged with where they end up," said Lin, congratulating her fellow classmates.

Waly Diouf, a senior student looking to get a bachelor's degree in Computer Science, is excited to graduate and continue his educa-

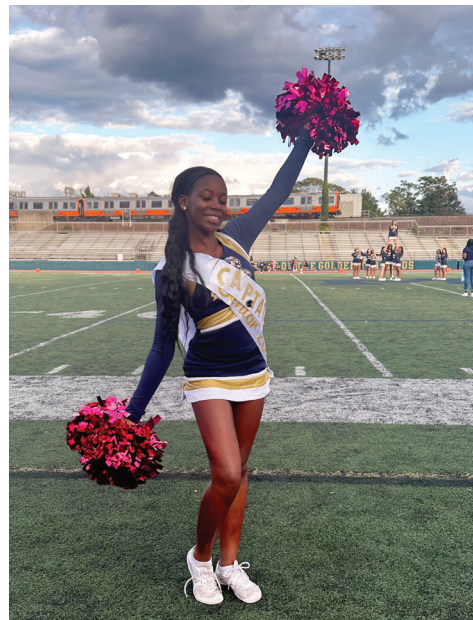


Senior Waly Diouf jogs up the field. HADJAR YOUSFI

tion at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). Diouf originally transferred to Malden High at the beginning of last year.

"I think most of my favorite memories were during my high school soccer seasons... when I was named in the best 11 players top squad of the season in my freshman year, and when I made the wrestling and soccer varsity team in my sophomore year," said Diouf, recalling his past athletic seasons. Diouf also played varsity soccer at MHS for his last two years.

Though Diouf has only been here for a short time, he enjoyed get-



Senior Giselle Dessert poses for a photo. Photo submitted by Haylee Seeley.

ting to spend time with his soccer coach and English teacher Jeremiah Smith. "He was the one I was really

comfortable with, and whenever I needed help academically or outside of school, he was always ready and happy to help. He really trusted me and I can't thank him enough for what he's done for me," said Diouf.

Senior Giselle Dessert who has spent the past four years cheering at Malden High School making an impact all over, has committed to Howard University as a Nursing Major. As a young girl Dessert spent a lot of time in and around the hospital as her mother worked as a nurse. "I grew up around the hospital so I saw a lot of different jobs," Dessert explained. She felt as though the nurses were always nice and supportive, inspiring her to pursue the field so that she could do the same for others.

Over the years, Dessert feels that she has grown a lot: "I've gotten deeper as a person." She explained

school," Ortiz explained. When she began freshman year remotely and was forced to speak with students & teachers through a screen, "it got tiring to the point where I would be too lazy to do work. But when I started my sophomore year, I was back in school, and before I knew it I improved with my work and got the grades that I expected."

Though Ortiz felt as though she had a hard time in high school, she



Senior Abigail Morrison poses for a picture with her family. JORDAN CAPLIS

succeeded with flying colors and is proud to see her dreams come true.

That being said, Ortiz has enjoyed the resources available to her at school: she actively made use of the weight room and different artistic outlets such as JVs and found time to paint and color.

"The road isn't easy, but things get better in the end. If you put your mind and heart into your work and show true potential in your character and emotions, you'll be just fine. We all grow emotionally & physically throughout our four years of high school experience," Ortiz reflected.

Another senior student, Abigail Morrison, has high expectations for the future as she hopes to study both biology and computer science at University of Connecticut, or UConn. She is excited for the future and what it has in store for her. In addition to being a strong student, Morrison was also captain of the girls' varsity soccer team and the girls' lacrosse team.

Throughout high school, Morrison felt that she had grown as a person. "I've made new relationships, learned academically, grew physically, grew emotionally, learned more of my likes and dislikes in all aspects," she explained. She feels as though she is leaving high school with a greater understanding of who she is as a person.

Senior student Vincent Thai has great aspirations for the future as he plans to study Computer Science in college at UMass Amherst.

Thai is proud to see how far he has come over the years while



Kayla Ortiz sings "Run to You" by Whitney Houston, wowing the audience. JESSICA LI.

that she has grown more emotionally intelligent, allowing her to "develop and find who I really am." Although she feels the environment can get a bit "crazy," she believes that it is what "keeps you on your toes." When reflecting on being in high school these past four years, Dessert had an exceptionally good time this year at the pep rally. "This year's pep rally was really high energy, and our advisors did a good job getting us involved in it." Dessert performed at the pep rally as a part of the cheer team and STEP Team.

Senior Kayla Ortiz has great aspirations for the future as she plans to study law in the hopes of fighting for victims of domestic violence. Ortiz is excited for what the future holds for her as she is taking a gap year, focusing on herself, and then pursuing law school.

"As a senior, I feel that I have grown both positively and negatively as a person throughout high

## Class of '26 Exciting Goals for the Next Two Years



The Class of '26 student council meeting up to discuss future plans.

Haset Tesfaw  
Lead Reporter

“I hope that every voice is heard in the sophomore body and I hope that we can represent everyone in every way that they want to

be represented,” Eldana Abrhame, President of the Class of 2026 stated.

The class of 2026 is planning to raise \$30,000 before their senior year to be able to “make the best

prom possible for the class of ‘26,” explained, Mailee To, art director of the class of 2026. “\$30,000 was a rough estimate of a good price to

*Continued on page 33*

studying at MHS. “I wouldn’t be able to get very far academically if it weren’t for the friends I made and the staff I’ve met throughout high school and I’m only thankful for them for helping me become the person I am today,” confessed Thai.

Over the years Thai enjoyed learning from his teachers, including Computer Science teacher Paul Marques, math teacher Elizabeth Tirrell, and English teacher James Valente. He truly felt supported during his time at MHS.

them to often place a significant amount of their values on tests or admission results. I find that as we are moving forward to college, we should make sure we do not continue this malicious mentality and find value in other things we also care about to become a better person,” Thai expressed.

“I think some students put a lot of emphasis on school and inadvertently forget to care for themselves and others in the process, so I find them to often place a significant amount of their values on tests or admission results. I find that as we are moving forward to college, we should make sure we do not continue this malicious mentality and find value in other things we also care about to become a better person,” Thai expressed.

Senior student Jelani Tah is a well-rounded athlete, student, and musician looking to major in political science, stemming from his involvement in Speech & Debate and Youth & Government. Although he has committed to University of Massachusetts (UMass) Amherst, it is clear to anyone who knows him that no matter where he goes, he will shine.

Tah can confidently say that he has truly grown throughout high school, both personally and socially,

learning from his experiences. “In my earlier years, I was really introverted and I kind of struggled to find things that I loved. But now, while I still have some introverted qualities, it doesn’t stop me from being a leader and from forming connections. I’ve made so many new friends and taken advantage of many great opportunities that I wouldn’t have been able to in my freshman and sophomore years,” expressed Tah.

MHS has always been a lively community filled with great minds and people ready to welcome anyone. “I think I speak for a lot of the seniors when I say the thing I’ll miss most about MHS is the people I’ve met and grown closer with. I’ve formed some really strong friendships here and I hope to maintain them after graduation,” said Tah.

Though Tah feels that high school was anything but easy for himself and others, he is “...glad to get to share this moment of success with such a unique and talented group of individuals.”

Emma Spignese-Smolinsky, a Cross Country Captain and the Play Production President is prepared to take her next step as a Theater Major at UMass Amherst. With her strength and confidence, Spignese-Smolinsky is destined to succeed.

“I’ve grown a lot as a person throughout high school. I’ve become more mature and become more confident in myself,” Spignese-Smolinsky said, reflecting on her time in high school.

Spignese-Smolinsky enjoys the performing arts, most especially Play Production; for her first three years of high school, Advisor Lianne DeRosa led her and the rest of the theater to great success. “I would not be where I am today without her, in terms of my theater experience,” explained Spignese-Smolinsky.

“I love being able to see my friends every day and having such a great community that I’ve made with play pro and concert choir and track. It’s going to be hard to leave



Captain Emma Spignese-Smolinsky.  
NATHAN DEAN

that behind,” Spignese-Smolinsky expressed.

Racha Oumark is looking forward to studying Geology in college, now committed to Salem State University (SSU).

Oumark had a great time at MHS and knows deep down that she will miss being in these halls for a long time. She enjoys “just walking around with friends in the halls or trying to hold in our laughs in



Senior Racha Oumark holding a baby chick.  
THOMAS TIERNEY

class; the little things like that make it all the more enjoyable,” Oumark explained.

Over the years, Oumark has felt that she has truly changed so much. “Not only do you grow up, but you genuinely mature, and become an adult,” expressed Oumark. In just four years she feels that she has experienced a world of growth and experiences.

When looking to the future, Oumark is sure that she will miss being in the building. “I’ll honestly miss it. Even if Malden High wasn’t perfect, it’s still where we all grew up and matured. It’s where we saw the same faces, every day we knew who we all were without actually knowing each other. It’s where we made new friends, and so many memories,” Oumark commented.

“It is a bittersweet feeling seeing the Class of 2024 leaving Malden High. I feel like the year went by both very fast and slow, especially with all the FAFSA delays which really dragged on the college process,” said one of the College and Career Center Advisors Michelle Sun.

Throughout the year Sun helped students with all forms of post-secondary applications, from college and FAFSA, to ROTC, and the workforce. “But I also feel beyond proud of the seniors who, in the beginning of the year, didn’t know where they were going, to

*Continued on page 31*



Vincent Thai sticking his landing.  
EMILLY DE FARIAS WEIHRAUCH

“Additionally, I enjoyed my time learning intermediate software engineering as I was able to get food in the class, joke around with students, and learn a lot about coding,” explained Thai. As a YMCA Leader, Thai enjoyed volunteering at several different events and spent a lot of time running Indoor Track where he made many new friends.

When looking towards the future, Thai is excited for all that will come of it: “I’ll definitely miss my friends. As we head our separate ways I will miss the clubs, sports, and teachers I’ve developed attachments to.”

“I think some students put a lot of emphasis on school and inadvertently forget to care for themselves and others in the process, so I find



Jelani Tah playing the drums on stage for Bottom Bunk at Junior Varieties.  
SHUYI CHEN



# “Becoming A Man” with the American Repertory Theater Program

Left to right: Brenda Vivas, Emanuelle Oliveira, Jean Jones, Karen Reyes Martinez, Sabrina Dangervil, Marianne Rivadeneira, Emma Spignese-Smolinsky, Addison McWayne, Zahirr Debel, Katiah Perez, Neyonca Honore, Max Torres, and Ryan Xiao posing for a photo before the show. GABRIELA PARINI CORDOVA

Gabriela Parini Cordova  
Lead Reporter

On March 6th at 4:30pm, the students in the American Repertory Theater (ART) program once again lined up ready to get on the bus and head to the theater. During their ride, the students bonded over what they thought the show would be about and eagerly awaited their arrival.

This time, the students were placed into what looked like a ballroom and were able to eat their lunches after a long ride. They had sandwiches from Panera with the choice of veggie, turkey, or ham, and all were acquainted with chips and a cookie.

Students' expectations were pretty shaky in the beginning as junior Neyonca Honore explained, “I’ve never heard of ‘Becoming A Man’ before, I haven’t read a book or anything about it.” She continued, “Based on our joy [block] though, I am expecting to see stereotypical gender roles played out on both males and females within the play.”

Fellow junior Maxwell Torres also expressed, “I’m very excited because I’m also trans and I want to see how this story plays out!”

Junior Katiah Perez stated, “I think it’s going to be very emotional and mind-opening as they play on the gender roles within P. Carl’s life.” Freshman Ryan Xiao added, “It’s going to show a new and raw perspective and I think I’m going to

learn a lot from it.”

Before coming to the theatre, the ART program needed someone from Malden High School to do a “Radical Welcome” before the show started. This welcome would introduce the show and explain the ART program also known as the Levine Learning Lab to the audience. Sophomore Sabrina Dangervil happily stepped up to the plate, but as the day came closer, she became more and more nervous. “I mean, it’s going to be a lot of people staring at me, which isn’t a lot but still it’s kind of nerve-racking.”

As Dangervil prepared herself, she also needed to write a personal message as to why she is in the ART program; she mentioned how it “allowed her to learn more about gender roles and societal standards affecting different communities.” Students were then given their tickets and were on their way to the show.

“Becoming A Man” became a reality as they walked into the theater and witnessed a beautiful retelling of P. Carl’s life. Dangervil and another student who is a member of the program from a different school went up and said the “Radical Welcome” together. They also introduced that there would be a 20-minute “after-show chat” with the whole audience to hear their opinions on the show.

P. Carl began his story at the pool explaining that as a trans person, it can be hard to feel comfortable in his body and find the right bathing suit that makes him feel like a man. After that, the show follows him through his journey as a trans man and how his life has changed in different ways.

The audience learns that he is



Marianne Rivadeneira, Addison McWayne, Emma Spignese-Smolinsky eating lunch together before the show. GABRIELA PARINI CORDOVA.

married to a woman, Lynette, who has been with him since before the transition and has been by his side through thick and thin, as well and showing how his relationship with his parents changes and grows. The students are able to observe how society treats him and changes as he goes through his transition. P. Carl develops and improves on himself throughout these life events and as he transitions into his true self.

All of these beautiful and raw scenes struck the audience as there were tears and laughter throughout the play. It then ended with P. Carl finally gaining the courage and confidence to go into the pool without a shirt and as he begins to swim, the lights fade out.

The lights came back on and Leah Harris was on stage and introduced the after-show talk to the

*Continued on page 29*



Left to right: Maxwell Torres, Ryan Xiao, Katiah Perez, and Zahirr Debel enjoying their lunch together before the show. GABRIELA PARINI CORDOVA

whole audience, opening up the conversation to everyone in the room. Some people left but those who stayed all resonated with the story and moments within the play. Lots of people expressed their own stories with people who had transitioned in their lives and how much the show affected them.

Lots of audience members referenced the swimming scenes and how representative it was of their own stories and their friends' stories. It made so many people realize just how important it is to others that feeling safe in your skin is not something everyone can do and is certainly not easy, but as long as the people encourage and stick with each other, things will get better.

"What really struck me, in the end, was when he started swimming and the lights went out, it was cool to see how the ending connected to the beginning of the show," explained Dangervil. She continued, "It was really good and I also loved the ASL interpreters at the show, they did an amazing job and conveyed the emotions in the show beautifully!"

Marianne "Mari" Rivadeneira described that she "loved it. It was so eye-opening and so well presented. All the actors did amazing and having the opportunity to watch this was so beautiful!" Senior Emma Spignese-Smolinsky added, "It was awesome, and just like she said it was eye-opening. It brought my attention to so many things I wasn't even aware of or realized was a thing!" She continued, "The after-show talk was so cool too! Hearing what everyone was thinking was something so many of us had never experienced before and I'm glad ART introduced that."

"The show made me think a lot deeper about the essential question that the program presented 'If you change will the people you love come with us?' Seeing the characters go through this exact question and seeing the people who love P. Carl sticking by his side through everything made me a bit emotional." She continued, "I learned with the characters and even grew inspiration and new ideas in my own life. I highly recommend it to anyone who wants to watch it!" sophomore Auka Mui said.

After the show, the ART program held one more joy session where students and advisors were able to share their thoughts and feel-

## UNDER THE PATH OF TOTALITY

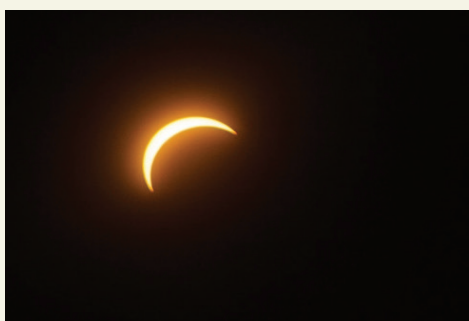


The eclipse finally reaching its extraordinary view. THOMAS TIERNEY

Thomas Tierney  
Reporter

On April 8th thousands of New England communities and thousands more from all over the world came together to view the first total solar eclipse in the US in seven years. With many thousands traveling in order to get into the area, a lot of patience would be needed for the drives to the path of totality. Many families and friends spent hours driving just to see the event and even more hours on the drive back. On the trip home because of everyone rushing to leave and get home before everyone else, Interstate 89 extending from New Hampshire all the way to Canada through Vermont, and southbound Interstate 93 were clogged up until almost 2 am for some.

I drove up to Barre, Vermont



A sliver of the sun sticking out behind the moon. THOMAS TIERNEY

ings on the whole play. During the session, they were gifted pictures of birds that P. Carl had taken as he is a birder and learned more about his process.

He follows the 13 Principles

to view the eclipse and sat in traffic for about five and a half hours to get there and about the same on the way back. Many people have been asking me, was it worth it? I say yes. The incredible views of the eclipse and just the time staring through my eclipse sunglasses were a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for most.

A solar eclipse is not a rare occurrence as it happens between two to five times a year, but a solar eclipse will not occur in the same spot for 375 years. The path of totality is the area where the moon is completely blocking the sun during the eclipse. According to NASA the path extends about 108 to 122 miles wide. The path for this eclipse extended from Mexico, continuing in the United States in Texas and traveling through, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and small parts of Michigan and Tennessee. The path continued going north and reached parts of Canada.

The eclipse was still visible in many parts of the country but the difference between even 99% and 100% totality has been described by many as the difference between night and day. This is because even

with the sun being covered almost completely it will still peak out creating enough light for it to still appear as day, but when it reaches 100% it will be as if it is dusk or dawn and you can see what looks like a 360° sunrise around the sky.

Only a few around the country were lucky enough to have a good view of the eclipse, because of the weather. Around the country, many were disappointed by the eclipse because of cloudy weather but those lucky enough to be in the New England region were able to experience the totality of the eclipse. In parts of Vermont, Maine, and New Hampshire viewers were met with clear skies and an amazing sunny day setting up for a perfect view of the first eclipse in years, and the first eclipse in the New England region since 2017. The last full eclipse in the New England region was over 60 years ago, in July of 1963 when Maine witnessed its last total eclipse.

The next total eclipse in the New England area will not be in many of our lifetimes as it is not for another 55 years in May of 2079. Those who were unable to travel or experience the eclipse will have to wait another eight years to view it in Alaska, or will unfortunately have a long wait until August of 2044.

and further understand the life of P. Carl.

ART is not done yet, as their next showing will be in May in which the students and advisors get to watch their new show "Gatsby."



Left to right: Marianne Rivadeneira, Emma Spignese-Smolinsky, Addison McWayne, Ryan Xiao, Zahirr Debel, Katiah Perez, Max Torres, and Neyonca Honore posing with their tickets for the show. GABRIELA PARINI CORDOVA.



Left to right: Karen Reyes Martinez, Emanuelle Oliveira, and Brenda Vivas enjoying their Panera sandwiches before the show. GABRIELA PARINI CORDOVA.



Event attendee painting a lion portrait in watercolor. HASET TESFAW

Haset Tesfaw  
Lead Reporter

“Painting is soothing, it’s calming, I just go with the flow,” Farrah Bourguignon stated, as she painted her pot at the Malden Teen Enrichment Center (MTEC).

On April 3, 2024, Jay Justin Ortiz and Jacob Mullin-Bernstein hosted a Paint Day at MTEC where kids could come in and paint pots for the children at Cheverus School.

“We bought over 20 planting pots. They’re going to be going to Cheverus and we’re going to be giving them out to some of the kids there. They’re going to add some seeds, put in some dirt, and they’re going to plant their own flowers,” Ortiz explained.

Their main goal is to showcase what MTEC is so that when the students attending Cheverus graduate and eventually become freshmen in high school, they’ll know that the Malden Teen Center is always open for them. “We want to make sure that every day the kids have some sort of

avenue they can go into that allows them to decompress from a long day of school, but also some of our teens are getting into work as well. So if they get out of work and they need a place to just kind of relax, ideally we’d like them to come here rather than be on the street, and as a result, they can work into whatever avenue they need to,” Ortiz continued.

The students had loads of fun painting their pots and creating their designs. “I don’t paint that often, but when I do it’s always fun,” said Kimberlee Smith, a Junior at Malden High School.

“We like to do events like that with the schools, Cheverus is a big part of the community as we are. It’s nice to be able to interact with other programs that are in the city,” Bernstein stated. “I always look forward to working with the younger kids.”

Everyone who was helping paint the pots was glad they were helping benefit young children.

“I’m happy to see this going to a good cause. We’re painting with

love,” Bourguignon said.

It was important to Ortiz and Bernstein that the kids were able to express themselves through art. “We try our best to make sure that kids have some sort of avenue to express something artistic, whether that be painting, drawing, coloring, or anything musically as well. But this being something that’s very consistent has been a way to allow the kids

to essentially express themselves nicely and easily,” Ortiz stated.

“I really like painting, I’ve been painting ever since I was a kid,” Jason Juan said.

MTEC has many plans for art-related programs in the future.

“I’m going to start up like a comic book program. I would like to get character designs going, concept art going, and then just essentially a little avenue for kids who like let’s say don’t want to paint and they’d rather like put a pen or a pencil to paper, they can do something like that,” Ortiz said.

Ortiz explained how he knows some kids who like Dungeons and Dragons, a game that allows every player to have their own character set up in a very intricate way.

“If the kids wanted to make those characters come to life, they can essentially take this program and make their own characters. That way they have a visual aid for those,” said Ortiz.

Bernstein expressed how satisfied he was with the turnout. “I know that almost every pot that we have now has a design on it. So we hit our mark, which is good, but we could always have more kids. I mean you can always, always have more, right? There could have been 40 kids and I’d still say we could have more. But as long as the 7-10 kids who did take part in it had a good time and got something out of it, that’s all that matters.”

“Kids were in there having conversations about all types of stuff, laughing, and just having a good time. I’m always big on being able to have fun,” Bernstein finished.



From left to right: Farrah Bourguignon, Kimberlee Smith, and Marge Rosas. HASET TESFAW



Left to right: Juan working on his painting. Juan’s final product of his “Spider-Man” painting. HASET TESFAW



Someone who attended painting a cat onto a purple pot. HASET TESFAW

maldenblueandgold.com

*Continued from page 27*

now know where they want to go," Sun emphasized.

"It is bittersweet to see the seniors graduate. This is such a special group of kids and I will miss them so much," said Class of 2024 advisor and Biology teacher Jessica Webber. "I have really enjoyed getting to know them personally and academi-



**Senior Pampam San. Photo submitted by San.**

cally," she expressed.

Senior Pampam San plans on attending UMass Amherst, "I am planning on majoring in Political Science and I also want to minor in something but I am not sure yet. Most likely sociology, psychology, or some sort of art," said San.

"Compared to freshman year, I think that I am a completely different person now than I was before. I think that I definitely grew as a person because I put myself out there more and joined clubs and tried out many new things like sports and summer search and I also am friends with people that I didn't ever think I'd be friends with in like a thousand years," San said, reflect-

ing on her time in high school.

She has enjoyed a number of different experiences during high school including, "Youth and Government [the meetings, state conferences and CONA], all of my field hockey seasons, hanging out with my friends at lunch and last but not least, AP Government with Mr. Tivnan during my junior year," said San with excitement.

San has felt supported by many people along the way including history teacher Richard Tivnan, "his room is one of my favorite places in the school and I also like talking to him because he always offers eye-opening perspectives and he has taught me to always consider the other side of the coin," said San.

As the year is coming to an end, San is excited to graduate but will, "miss the memories that I have created here and the connections that I have made with the people here. I think that I will also most definitely miss the field hockey team and my fellow delegates in youth and government."

Senior Nicholas Duggan, known for his roles as President of Key Club, Captain for both Cross Country and Track, and his activism, is ready to pursue a degree in Business Management with a minor in Political Science at UMass Amherst.

Over the years Duggan has reflected on his growth as a person and student, "I feel I have grown in many ways including becoming a better speaker, more organized, and better at leading," said Duggan. "The way that I have grown the most is my resourcefulness and



**Senior Nick Duggan. Photo submitted by Duggan.**

working to rely on others while delegating tasks," explained Duggan. As a leader in the community, he has held many roles in which he was required to support and encourage his teams.

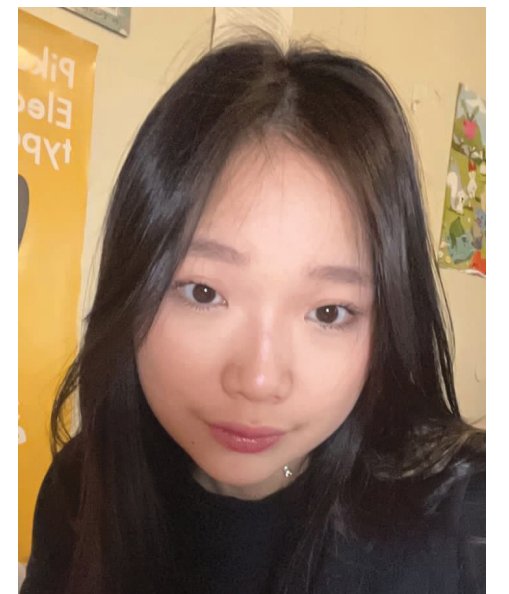
Duggan enjoyed a number of extracurricular activities at MHS, one of which was the Malden Youth Civics Council, a group of students who strive to improve Malden. "The largest thing I will miss about Malden High School is the inclusive community and the numerous opportunities that were available for students to get involved in," Duggan expressed.

As he prepares to graduate this June, Duggan encourages all those around him to be proud of themselves. "We have all come a long way accomplishing so much and that whatever we approach in the future, it is known we will have a large lasting impact," he emphasized.

Senior Elina Yang, who plans to study Pharmaceutical Science at Northeastern University's Oakland Campus before transferring to Boston, is excited to graduate and pursue her future.

"I feel I've definitely become a stronger and open-minded person throughout high school and more willing to try new things regardless of the outcome! I learned that grades don't define you as a person so it's good to do the best you can," Yang said reflecting on her time at MHS.

Yang has enjoyed spending time with the people she's met along the way and loved to see the community grow, with new clubs promoting themselves outside of the main entrance with a Bake Sale most days, "I loved the cake pops," she expressed. Yang also loved getting to watch JVs each year, "the themes are always so creative and everyone here is so talented," Yang said.



**Senior Elina Yang. Photo submitted by Yang.**

"I'm definitely going to miss the community at Malden High, everyone is so supportive, and being here has definitely made me feel more included than ever! I used to live in a predominantly white neighborhood so it was a culture shock living in Malden where it's so diverse and everyone is so welcoming," Yang expressed.

Yang hopes that the underclassmen understand the lesson that so many people struggle to understand. "It's so important to prioritize yourself and make sure you're having fun in high school," Yang explained, she went on to explain, "It's not worth it to take a class that makes you feel miserable for a whole year so make sure to do what makes you happy."

"Malden High students are so impressive and involved with their communities, I am grateful for working with the ones I met," said Sun. Sun encourages everyone to remember, "everyone has their own paths, at their own pace," when it comes to their futures.

"My advice is to keep setting goals and believing in themselves that they can reach them. They have overcome so much already, and have such bright futures," Webber encouraged, adding that they should be sure to, "keep in touch and come back and visit!"

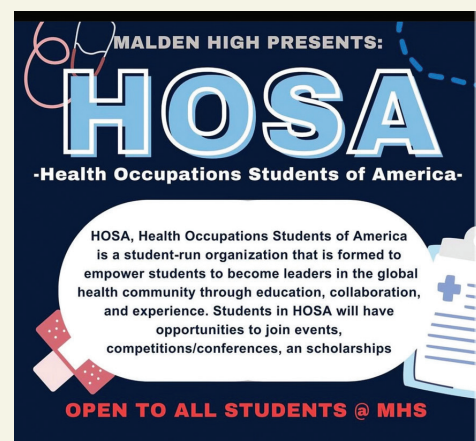
## New HOSA Club Introduces Itself to Malden High School Students

Abigael Fesehaie  
Reporter

Although some students believe that the extracurricular activities that are present at Malden High School are abundant, some people feel their interests are not represented in the many clubs that exist.

Officers Thomas Conti and Ashlee Zeng have recently created the Malden High chapter of HOSA. HOSA, or Health Occupations Students of America, is a nationwide recognized student-run organization endorsed by both the U.S. Department of Education and the Health Science Technology Education Division of ACTE to further students' knowledge of the health industry. They also hope students gain leadership skills through competing in competitions and conferences that range from regional to international levels.

"We want to give people the opportunity to grow themselves both academically and individually as a part of a community, which isn't really represented here," said Conti, describing his goals for the club. Both officers had expressed feelings of excitement towards the future community their club will bring, as they claim that they will strive to



**Photo of the introduction of HOSA from the maldenhosa Instagram.**

create an environment where most if not many, will be able to "feel as though not only are they represented, but they also have a chance to be recognized for their future achievements as well as their already great ones."

The representation both officers want their members to feel is met through the organization's ability to house many interests within the club. For example, Conti explained that students interested in different pathways like government, medicine, dentistry, or even anesthesiology can have experience with their interests due to the club's ability to create and obtain, "internships, getting shadowing experience, research

facilities, professionals," said Conti.

At the club's first meeting on April 11th, in Ms. Brill's room, the officers were able to meet with potential members of HOSA to introduce the club and discuss how it will be run with only two months left in the school year. Anticipating students were met with a slide show presentation outlining the structure of the club, as well as the positive impact it can have on its members.

It first outlined the competition event categories where members could choose between Team Based Events, Health Profession, or Leadership and Teamwork. Different categories focus on parts of Health Science like Organic Chemistry, Nursing, and even Health Policy Debate. During the meeting, the club also revealed potential leadership opportunities within the school and on a National level to help fund and run the club correctly to be able to provide members with experiences like internships, scholarships, and medical labs.

If anyone is interested in getting involved with the club, the officers urge anticipating members to keep in touch by following the club's Instagram, @maldenhosa, and joining their Google Classroom through the code, qhhexsn.

# Cambridge Hidden Gem: The Graffiti Alley

Thomas Tierney  
Reporter

The Graffiti Alley in Cambridge is one of two of the only legal areas where artists can post their work on public display in the Greater Boston area. The 80-foot walkway is located on Richard B. "Rico" Modica Way at 565-567 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge. You can get there by taking

you can just take the train and go with either your own tools to display your talents or take pictures. I personally have gone there with friends a few times now, and each time seeing the new art that is being put up almost daily was amazing to see. Since the wall is open to the public, many pieces of work may be covered up with something new—so if you would like to see a specific

have different meanings behind them, whether they were for someone or made just for fun. If you plan to go and put your own art up, then the only rule given is that you stop painting when the Brick & Mortar is open. As of now, those hours are Wednesday to Saturday, from 5 pm to 1 am.

Since 2020, the alley has seen many current issues in the world portrayed on its walls. During the Black Lives Matter protests, the walls saw many murals and different pieces of work displayed.

Chadwick Boseman has been the most recent figure displayed on the wall, featuring a large mural honoring him and the impact that he had on the nation. The Black Panther actor passed away in August of 2020 from colon cancer, and his death shocked the world as many did not know that he was even sick with cancer. To this day, his influence lives on and has been shown around the world.

The walls have also shown other major figures in our world today like Martin Luther King Jr., as well as Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gianna Bryant who tragically passed away in a helicopter crash in January 2020.



Some of the art in the alley-way. THOMAS TIERNEY

the MBTA Red Line train to Central Square, then walking about a minute down the street and turning left down to the alley.

The public walkway is a popular place for both rookie artists to begin their work and get their name out there and for more experienced artists to put up some of their best work. Since its creation in 2007 by local artists Geoff Hargadon and Rob Mariano, owners of both the restaurant and brick-and-mortar that make up the walls of the alley, the wall has displayed many visual interpretations of social issues and the latest headlines. At the beginning, the two invited 30 artists from as far as Canada to display their artistic talents. Since then, artists from all over the area and even further have come in to show off their work, including famous artists such as Shepard Fairey, Momo, and Enzo & Nio.

As for when you can go, there are no time slots or any sign-ups—

piece that you may see online, then I would recommend going as soon as possible. But to me, that is part of



Mural of Black Panther actor Chadwick Boseman. THOMAS TIERNEY

the idea behind the alley: it shows the changes and differences in the way people express themselves with art.

The many different pieces all

Overall, the Cambridge Alley is a great way for artists to come together and express their work and influence newer artists to get started and get their name out there.

## New Eco Club at Malden High Strives to Inform Peers on Environmental Issues

Abigail Fesehaie  
Reporter

In recent years, environmental issues like climate change and global warming have become striking issues within our world as temperatures are constantly rising and natural disasters are more likely to happen. Although some progress has been made to combat the issue in recent years, a group of students at Malden High School felt that they and their peers needed to get involved too.

President Nora Hounain started the Eco Club with the help of Vice President Amber Benfield. Hounain wanted to help combat "trash turning into water pollution" as she noticed the amount of "trash in the parks and bike trails," around Malden which would eventually end up in landfills or large bodies of water if not cleaned up. Social Media Coordinator, Merrari Flores joined the club with the intention to "become more involved with the topic of the environment in our school," as she is involved with other environmental-related programs outside of school and wants to further pursue that interest.

Hounain also stated that the club wants to focus on keeping Malden as clean as possible, through creating an environmentally friendly community within the city which is why the club is mainly focusing on hosting citywide cleanup events to achieve their goal. Benfield added to Hounain's statement by stating that she believes "there's not a lot of communities for people interested in the environment... so we want to enlarge that so more people can come in and know about ways to solve its problems."

In addition to wanting to create a space for people to get informed about what can be done with our environment, Benfield hopes to get in touch with the Malden Department of Public Works for them to potentially "donate supplies to us so we can use them to do our trash cleanups," as the club has little to no supplies of their own right now. Hounain hopes the new club will be able to host future fundraisers like bake sales to "fundraise for our supplies and possibly, donate to environmental organizations," to ensure that the club can support themselves and the greater cause.

The club hosted its first meeting on Thursday, April 4th, in Mr. Berman's room and will continue to host bi-weekly meetings. The club is set to announce its first event during the meeting on Thursday and the officers encourage future members to follow their Instagram, @mhs\_ecoclub, and join their Google Classroom using the code ms43y4.



photo caption



# New Love4Kids Club Brings Joy to Both High School and Younger Students in Malden

Lily Nguyen  
Head of Local

Students put much time and dedication into establishing Love4Kids, a new club at Malden High School.

Sophomore and Vice President Eldu Abrhame described their efforts as first wanting to “create a club where we simply build toys for kids, yet our passion for education in the younger generations took over... so we decided to incorporate reading.”

Recently, the club hosted its second meeting during Joy block. It was as successful as the first one, even more so due to the significant planning beforehand.

“We had to make sure to build a good relationship with the children by visiting ahead of time,” said Abrhame. “Whether it was by simply talking to one of the teachers or going in for a Joy period, we ensured that a firm foundation was built.”

To have the meeting, they needed not only approval from Principal Christopher Mastrangelo but also the parents of the kids. However, after weeks of preparation, the day came when the kids arrived at the school library for a session involving reading and interacting with high school students.

“In the end, everything ended up working out; things went well

and the teachers and kids enjoyed having all of us there,” said sophomore co-founder Orit Abel.

Throughout the session, about 15 Love4Kids volunteers each occupied a space in the library to get to know their assigned kids and read them a book.

Sophomore Lenna Chawqui, the club’s Vice President and a volunteer, expressed that taking time to work with the kids was “really enjoyable and it was a nice break from school... so I definitely have plans to continue volunteering for the rest of the year, and next year as well.”

Although the activities during the meeting seem simple, Sophia Chan, a sophomore and co-founder of the club, explained that it made a meaningful impact on the community and helped the club reach its goals of “educationally inspiring youth... through reading.”

Reflecting on her first experience with the kids, one of her favorite moments included reading to the one she was partnered with, who she expressed “was really interactive, and a teacher told me that that was the longest time he had sat still.”

Sophomore volunteer Rachel Lanza added that she thoroughly appreciated the kids’ dedication to working with the high school students, which made the experience “very fun, and also convenient



A collage of Love4Kids volunteers interacting with and reading to the kids at their first meeting during Joy block. Photo screenshotted from Instagram @mhslove4kids.

because I get volunteer hours while being in school and having fun with the kids.” With this, she intends on continuing to volunteer in the future.

The activities will continue beyond reading books to kids. The club officers also plan on creating worksheets, hosting games, meeting during the summer, and even inviting the mayor to one of their meet-

ings. Abel added that they want to “make toys with the kids and draw or paint because we want to make things more interactive... and raise money through an upcoming bake sale for the crafts and other future endeavors.”

Ultimately, Love4Kids proved that it is heading towards its first successful school year and many more to come.

Continued from page 27



Photo of the Budget Goalmometer from the maldenco26 Instagram.

rent out a prom venue and to try and make tickets as cheap as possible.”

The student council wants students to support and fund its peers, as the money that is being raised from these events is “going to their future experiences which is why it was important to get the budget Goalmometer out,” Rashmi KC, the vice president said.

“We were trying to set a budget goal by truly figuring out the costs that might go into it such as transportation, like a lot of the party buses, and renting out the venue,” she continued.

Not only will the money be go-

ing towards prom, but the student council also aims to lower the prices of graduation caps and gowns while also wanting to cover the costs of other senior events.

Treasurer Oscar Luc explained how \$30,000 is something that the whole student council came up with as a whole, and took the budgeting idea from the classes prior, taking into account the quality of their prom. “It may seem like a lot, but I feel like we can definitely do it, hopefully, by our senior year.”

The student council has been planning frequent meetings and brainstorming events that will help them raise money and stay on track with their budget.

They have also been planning “community events for Malden as a whole; getting people in CO26’ to realize the money ultimately comes back to them,” Luc continued.

“Gearing towards their interests helps a lot with engaging students of all backgrounds. Take example for new menu items for our bake sale, savory foods. Brazilian bakery foods such sale, savory foods. Brazilian bakery foods such as coxinhas and brigadeiros, as well as churro balls, were super popular,” To said.

Even though their first few bake sales had gone well, to reach their goal of \$30,000 the student council plans to steer away from

bake sales and host fundraisers instead in hopes of making the events more engaging for students.

Luc explained, “Although our first bake sale was definitely a success, it seemed as if engagement diminished as time passed, likely due to the repetition of the same fundraising events. I look to make events that hold a focal point in socialization rather than the sole purpose of collecting money, to get more students willing to participate and enjoy themselves in the process.”

“There is a lot of repetition and lack of originality for a lot of the events such as bake sales,” To agreed, “We plan to incorporate culture and embrace the diversity of Malden to create popularity for our events.”

The student council hopes to reach as many students as possible to let them know about their future plans. “We have social media that we are hoping to post and get the word out about the events. We also have other things like Google Classroom, which is what we use to inform everyone about what’s happening in the future,” KC said.

One of the student council’s main goals is to, “form a community where we can bring in funding that will allow us to have fun. School can get very stressful at times, so it’s great to have such events along the way to be able to bring in our

culture and who we are outside of school. My end goal is to make sure that we all end up having a good high school experience, as no one should feel as though they are left behind,” KC explained.

Many future events should help the students raise enough money to reach their goal of \$30,000, such as game nights, sports events, and one of the biggest events happening next year, Junior Varieties. “With a surplus amount of money, we plan to have a really great Junior Varieties show next year,” To said, “We plan to use the money we earn to buy supplies for bake sales, dance decorations, and other foods in order to create a larger profit.”

To expresses how involved she is with the planning and budgeting within the student council, as well as going out to purchase items to help out the council as much as she can. “I hope to just branch out my skills and hope everyone else can too. Being on the council has given me the experience to create events that make many students here happy and interested, which I think is something we need more of at Malden High.”

“We hope to make new, fun, and inclusive events that are able to integrate all students in a manner that makes their money’s worth!” Luc finished.

## Leading with Spirit: The Dynamic Duo of CO '26's President and Vice President

Caroline Santos  
Reporter

This school year, the class of 2026 was able to have their first-ever class officer elections. With quite a few candidates to choose from, the class elected Eldana Abrhame and Rashmi KC as president and vice president.

Evidently, the student body seems to really like the duo and like the ideas they bring to the table, making quite the impression on their peers. "They are very social and they can easily bond with people," said Mailee "Moon" To, CO '26 art director.

"Eldu is mature, thoughtful and well-spoken. She is always willing to engage in active discussions and steps up to tackle issues and meetings with true leadership style," Nancy Wentworth, class advisor, expressed.

With these qualities Abrahme needed someone as determined as her and she found just the person. "Rashmi is kind, authentic and determined. She hasn't turned down a single opportunity to benefit her class or the work that needed to be done. She has stepped up and taken on a lot of responsibility. She is always a pleasure to work with," explained Wentworth.

When it comes to taking a leadership role, communication and ensuring everyone is on the same page is of the utmost importance. For Abrahme and K C, they seem to be excelling in that. "They have helped me communicate better and talk things out when needed," said Linh Do, CO '26 event coordinator.

Being president and vice president are two very big roles. They can struggle sometimes in balancing all their extracurricular activities and school. However, they have really stepped up in their roles and have been pretty involved in events. People often think that it is an easy role while in reality it can be quite difficult. It takes a lot of patience and responsibility. "It can be hard to balance sports, school, and clubs but I think we both try our best," said Rashmi K C.

With goals of making school a more pleasant place for their peers, they both have been working hard for future activities. "I want to make these last two years fun for everyone, I know it's hard but we are trying to make it enjoyable," said Abrhame.

The duo has admitted that they haven't been able to do as many events as they wanted to

## Friends of the Malden Public Library Host Annual Book Sale



Fire Fighters posing with Mary Ellen in front of a New England Coffee Truck. ASHTON CALIXTE

Ashton Calixte  
Lead Reporter

There has been controversy around books and whether people, especially Gen Z, take the time anymore to sit down and enjoy a book. Though there are few, not many can say they have recently sat down and read a book outside of school.

"However many people there are, there are going to be types of books... there are books for everybody," stated Ellie Moreton, a two-year member of Friends of the Malden Public Library (MPL), and the Friends proved that with their annual book sale.

The Friends of the MPL partnered with Malden's fire and police departments and New England Coffee to host another successful, annual two-day book sale with their goal of helping and uniting the community.

"We have two big book sales a year one in the Fall and another during Spring time each spread out in two days," stated Mary Ellen, president of the Friends of The MPL since 2022.

On Friday, day one of the book sale, the books are available for members of The Friends of the MPL and if community members

wish to get a membership each one is \$10 annually. Members get early access and a sneak preview of the books before it opens to the public on Saturday. With familiar faces like the Chief of the Fire Department attending, The Friends of the MPL offered an exciting and enjoyable environment.

When arriving, the first thing you notice at the entrance of the Library is the New England Coffee truck parked next to a firefighter truck with the coffee truck offering free iced or hot coffee. Many firefighters and attendees were outside enjoying a delicious brew.

The book sale was located in the basement of the library, a designated room where all of the books to buy were available. The available books were donated by community members.

"Today, I estimate we have around 30,000 books and 3,000 CDS and DVDs," Ellen said. "We get donations every day and most of the people you see here today are people that come help store, clean, and shelve all of the books."

Many people of different ages attended the book sale and experienced the niche that people who

work with books experience.

"It's the feeling you get when you pick up a new title you know you're going to enjoy, that's why I enjoy coming to the library," said Eunice Torres, a Malden resident and book sale attendee.

The Friends of the MPL also sold custom t-shirts for \$20. But if you were a firefighter, you were in luck because the price was lowered to \$10 for members who serve the community.

The Friends of the Malden Public Library hosts different events throughout the year to help raise funds for the library's wishlist. The wishlist can range from snacks and refreshments for movie nights to computers and books for the library.

"We couldn't do what we do without the volunteers, we have around 16 or more active volunteers that show up to the board meetings and help out with events," said Judy Harvey, Malden High School class of '58 alum and a 12-year member of the Friends of the MPL. "Sharing the wealth of books that one donated to the library and getting them in the hands of people who would enjoy them is one of the main benefits of our book sales."

this year, but they hope to have more events next year, like the most important and exciting Junior Varieties.

The girls are hoping to make Prom more affordable for students, but most importantly hope to make caps and gowns more affordable. K C pointed out, "you shouldn't have to buy caps and gowns, they can be so expensive."

The duo said that they have

been struggling with fundraising because they can't reach the whole class. "We don't have everyone in the classroom, so it's hard to reach everyone," said Abrahme.

With elections coming up in the next school year, both hope to rerun and continue working on class goals. They are both very great candidates and have already made an impact on the class. With other candidates eager to run in the elections

next school year, the girls will have to put their best foot forward which shouldn't be too hard for them.

Wentworth commented, "they're both excellent leaders in their own right with two very different, but successful, styles. If they were to continue in their roles, I would expect nothing but the very best from them. They are hard workers and will continue to be."

# SUPER PROMOTION

Monday to Friday, in restaurant only

## BUFFET

ALL YOU CAN EAT  
And still WIN  
a can of soda

Mandatory to  
present this coupon



373 Main St./ Medford  
(781) 396.8337





Daniel O'Toole  
Editor-In-Chief

A Harlem Wizards player interacting with the crowd. NATHAN DEAN

How can you make one of the most entertaining sports even more fun and interactive with the fans? The Harlem Wizards have an answer to that question.

Founded in 1962 by Howie Davis in Moonachie, New Jersey, the Wizards take inspiration from the global sensation, the Harlem Globetrotters, who take a different approach to basketball. They trade jump shots for back flips and layups for alley-oops in a showcase of athleticism and entertainment. While the Globetrotters take tours around the country and the world at different basketball arenas, the Wizards opt to work in fundraising for organizations and school systems by taking on a school's or district's teachers.

"Miss Kirby, who had seen the event before, thought it would be a good idea for seniors and she worked really hard to get the Wizards here in Malden and we've been able to get the entire city involved for such a fun night," said senior class Advisor Jessica Webber. By collaborating with the entire public school community, the class of 2024 was able to pack the Finn Gym and generate important funds. "If the turnout is as strong as we expect it to be, costs for all of the end-of-year events like senior barbecue, caps and gowns, and prom tickets will be a lot lower," commented Webber.

Malden High was well represented during the game including John Frigo, Caitlin Quinn, Dan Jurkowski, and Pamela MacDonald, as they were joined by staff members

from Forestdale, Beebe, Salemwood, Linden, and even members of the Malden Fire and Police Departments.

Mike Nicholson, a gym teacher at Beebe, spoke on how important it is for him to play in the game, representing the city he grew up in. "It means a lot as a kid from Malden to be able to show all the kids that we're all here for them and to put on a show. We're all here to play basketball, but the main draw is to connect to my community and give back to a city that gave me so much."

"Basically, Shuyi [Chen] told me to play so whatever Shuyi wants, she'll get from me," said Jurkowski on his reason for suiting up against the Wizards. Jurkowski mentioned the uniqueness that the game against the Harlem Wizards possesses compared to more traditional fundraisers at Malden High, noting how "the fact that's more than just teachers from the high school and we have teachers from all over the district, and even firefighters and police officers playing."

Jurkowski kept his expectations for the game short and sweet: "I just hope I don't get dunked on. Those guys are stupid athletic so if I see them coming down the lane, I'm making a business decision to get out of the way."

Before the game started, the "Wiz Kids", students who had purchased a certain ticket tier, got to participate in pregame warm-ups with the Wizards, including shoot-around and relay races on the court. With a tip-off at 5:00 pm, the energy started to swell as pregame introductions for Malden were backed

by the song "Sirius" by The Alan Parsons Project, the same song used by the Chicago Bulls during their 1990s dynasty with Michael Jordan. While searching for someone to act as the referee for the game, Girls' Basketball senior captain Victoria Gammon stepped up and donned the black and white stripes.

The starting five for the Wizards included Fresh Prince, King Arthur, Top Flight, Smooth, and fan favorite, Giant. As the game finally started, Christine Grillon came out of the gates on fire with a quick four points, four rebounds, and two assists as Malden looked to get the ball moving early. Fresh Prince and Top Flight would throw down some nasty dunks as the game was knotted up at 10 a piece. As they returned from the time out, a fan in the stands had her purse taken by the Wizards, and King Arthur had her participate in a dance competition to get it back. As the woman went to open the box



Jet watches his fellow teammate throw down a dunk on the other end of the court. NATHAN DEAN



A member of the Malden Tornados team goes up for a jumpshot. NATHAN DEAN

that contained her bag, out popped Giant as he then handed her back the purse.

Just before the first quarter concluded, it was not Jurkowski who was in the way, but Quincy Butter was the one to be caught in a poster by Fresh Prince as he elevated his way to the rim. With the first quarter coming to a close, the Wizards were leading 24-20.

The theatrics of the Wizards kicked up a notch during the second quarter with King Arthur having the ball stolen from him by Giant before hitting a half-court shot while sitting backward. The Wizards then broke out into a dance routine and Giant gave a fan sitting court side a kiss on his head. After Nicholson nailed a quick five points with an array of jump shots, the Wizards lined up at half-court in a football-style formation as Smooth dropped a pass into the arms of Top Flight for an alley-oop.

In what was easily one of the funniest routines of the night, the entire Wizards team lifted Giant up to recreate the popular scene from Disney's "The Lion King", where Simba is raised up on the mountain, all with the song "The Circle of Life" playing in the background. The close of the first half had the Wizards now leading 40-35.

During halftime, the Wiz Kids had the opportunity to play a game of 4v4 full court and the crowd eagerly cheered them on as they hit each shot. Coming out of the break, Fresh Prince was on fire as he rained two three-pointers, but Butter and Frigo were not going to slow down as the pair started to build momentum with an intense defense that turned into layups at the other end. Their efforts looked to go uncapitalized as the Wizards started to run away with the game as their lead ballooned to seven by the end of the third quarter, marking the score 65-58.

As the final quarter opened, Malden was able to get within two points off the Wizards as Jurkowski broke his cold streak and Rebecca Krigman took advantage of the holes left by the defense. The Wizards ended up putting the final nail in the coffin of Malden after going on a 10-0 run during the quarter which was punctuated by an off-the-bounce dunk by Top Flight. At the game's conclusion, the Wizards had triumphed with a final score of 93-78, and students from all ages were invited down to center court for a dance-along followed by a meet-and-greet with players.

Robert Young, known as Smooth for the Wizards, has had quite the journey for his professional basketball career and how he's now working with the Wizards. "I was playing overseas in Germany after college and while I was working out at my old high school, a man named Eric 'Broadway' Jones came along and asked me to come and try out for the team and I've been here since 2013 now." Young sees working with the Wizards as a way to "entertain people and raise



Harlem Wizards players dancing with teachers and faculty. NATHAN DEAN.



King Arthur and a member of the audience dancing. NATHAN DEAN



Malden High School teacher Pamela MacDonald and Giant dancing on the court. NATHAN DEAN

money for great schools and programs: it means the world to me to have that be my job."

Event coordinator Erika Macharia expressed how initially there was some uncertainty about the event that was shortly pacified as the day went on. "I didn't know what to expect because none of us have ever planned to run something like this before and I was scared for what the fan turnout would look like. My nerves definitely calmed down after I saw the amount of people who had signed up for tickets before Sunday and as the day rolled around and more and more people started to trickle in, I was really excited to see how everything was going to play out."

"I really wanted to get everyone together and get my students and even some of the kids I coach to have the opportunity to say 'hey look at Ms. Krigman go!' because

it's so much fun getting to represent your city this way," Krigman shared on her motivation for playing in the game. Krigman finished with a team-high 13 points and four assists, while also snatching four rebounds and nabbing a steal.

The man named Giant, Jonte Hall, may not be large in stature, standing at 5'2", but what he lacks in height he makes up for in spirit and heart. "Before I was with the Wizards, I was working with the Harlem Globetrotters for eight years. I had the opportunity to travel across the nation as well as 57 countries around the world, but after that, I felt my career as a basketball player was over. The Wizards gave me what feels like a second chance at life when my good friend Arthur Lewis (King Arthur), presented me with the opportunity to play again. Now I'm in my first year with the Wizards and I'm so blessed to have

been put in this position."

Hall labels himself as a figure for kids who may be undersized or lacking self-confidence to look up to as a model to keep pursuing their dreams. "I hope that all the younger kids who may have low self-esteem or self-confidence look to me for inspiration. I want to give them that spark of hope and strength that they can believe in themselves no matter what they look like."

To say that the event was a success would simply be an understatement. The crowd was encapsulated by the energy brought by the Wizards and the Malden players while raising thousands of dollars for the senior class which helped reduce cap and gown costs to only \$15. Hopefully, this inspires future classes to create these city-wide fundraisers that strengthen community bonds.

# CHARLOTTE BERLINER EARNS SPOT IN CLIMBING AT NATIONALS

Nathan Dean  
Editor-in-Chief of Print

With her fifth-place finish at the New England Divisional Competition, freshman Charlotte Berliner earned herself a place in the National Championship in the bouldering discipline.

Berliner is one of six climbers from the MetroRock Climbing Gym in Everett, and the only one from Malden High, who will be competing in the USA Climbing Youth National Championships in Salt Lake City, Utah this July. This will be her first time at the championships.

To get there, Berliner had to first qualify for the Regional Competition and place in the top 13. This year, she did so handily with a third-place finish to mark her third consecutive year being invited to the Bouldering Divisional Championship. Then, at Divisionals in West Hartford, Connecticut, Berliner placed third in the qualifying round to secure her spot in the finals. Now, she only needed to place sixth or better to qualify for the National Championships. After completing all but one of the four boulders, and completing the first two on her first attempt, Berliner placed fifth, earning her a spot in the National Championships.

Berliner's fifth-place finish also helped the team win their first overall team Divisional Championship in seven years.

"There are a lot of teams that are much bigger than ours and have a lot more kids competing, but our kids climbed really well this year," explained MetroRock Everett Assistant Head Coach William Tabosa, adding, "We've been putting in a lot of work."

In addition to climbing for



Charlotte Berliner attempting a climb during the competition "Dark Horse", hosted by MetroRock Everett. Photo submitted by Charlotte Berliner.



Charlotte Berliner in the qualifying round of the "Dark Horse" competition in MetroRock Littleton. Photo submitted by Charlotte Berliner.

MetroRock, Berliner is also looking to start a climbing club here at Malden High. She has teamed up with Teacher and Advisor Brian Wong to hopefully plan trips to Rock Spot, Malden, which is just a 10-minute walk from the high school. "We're trying to raise attention toward the sport of rock climbing and offer students an opportunity to try a new up-and-coming sport for a cheaper price than one would see anywhere else," Berliner explained. Those interested in joining, regardless of experience and skill, should fill out the interest form.

Berliner began climbing at six years old when her parents enrolled her at a summer camp at MetroRock. After returning to the camp in the following years, Berliner was invited to join the climbing team. Berliner has now been a part of the team for four years: "The people here are awesome. I have amazing coaches and competitors that back me up and help me out. The community is really supportive here," adding that she enjoys "getting to meet a bunch of new people [...] and getting to look at how other people are doing and learn off them."

Coach Tabosa echoed this sentiment, "We've created an environment where the kids encourage and support each other. They all love climbing so much and everyone gets along so well."

During her time on the team, Berliner has competed in both the bouldering and lead climbing disciplines. The lead-climbing season has only recently begun. Berliner has not yet qualified for the National Competition in this discipline but was able to qualify for the Divisional Championships with a



Charlotte Berliner climbing on the overhung section of MetroRock Everett nicknamed "the cave." Photo submitted by Charlotte Berliner.

ninth-place finish in the Regional Competition that was held on May 11th. She hopes to perform well in the upcoming Divisional Competitions to qualify for Nationals in both disciplines.

To practice for upcoming competitions, the team meets for three-hour practice sessions four times a week. The team spends their time conditioning and practicing challenging movements. Tabosa also emphasized the importance of maintaining a good headspace during competitions. "It is so easy to let everything around you take your focus away from the climbing that you're doing, so we spend a lot of time talking to the kids about practicing different ways to bring your focus back."

Looking toward the upcoming

National Competition, Tabosa expressed the significance of avoiding placing too much expectation and pressure on the kids for that very reason, "We try to teach kids to let go of those expectations and focus more on the training and learning new things to broaden your skills." Berliner expressed that this is one of her biggest strengths, "I go in open-minded. I try not to think about the results or compare myself to others. I just go in and try to have some fun."

So, remember to check out the USA Youth National Championships which are scheduled to take place from July 7th-15th this year, and keep an eye out for Malden's own Charlotte Berliner. And in the words of Coach William Tabosa, "Let's go Charlotte".



Assistant Head Coach William Tabosa preparing MetroRock Everett's highest level team, the "Competition Team" for their next competition. From left to right, Tyler Bobbit, Noah Lefabve, Tucker Robinson, Ashahel Putnam, Auden Tierney, Claire Gingo, Amelia Berliner, Kate O'Riordon, and Charlotte Berliner. NATHAN DEAN

maldenblueandgold.com

# TRACK AND FIELD SENIORS DEPART

"I am so grateful for my time on this team. I have grown so much as an athlete, leader, teammate, and person. I have so many amazing relationships that came out of track, and I'm going to miss these people so much. My coaches and teammates mean the world to me."

- Emma Spignese-Smolinsky

Malden track team sprints to the finish line. GABRIELA PARINI CORDOVA



"I've only had two years on Malden High's track team but I loved the experience throughout. There were so many highs and lows, personal bests, injuries and records broken in my time at MHS. It was fun competing at all sorts of meets."

- Vivian Onyejiaka

"Track at MHS has been nothing but welcoming to all students. My coaches throughout all four years have really pushed me and challenged me to be the best runner that I could be. And the last four years have been nothing short of incredible; even with my switch from going from sprinting to mid-distance my senior year."

- Rodrigo Oliveira

"THE ONLY REAL LIMITATION IS YOURSELF."

- Alex Martins

# "RUN FAST, TURN LEFT"

- Rolando Mejia



# Malden High Boys' Lacrosse Senior Night Ends with a Loss but Gratitude is Still Evident



The lacrosse team huddled up before the next quarter begins.  
JORDAN CAPLIS

Gabriela Parini Cordova  
Lead Reporter

Enthusiasm filled the stands as friends and family eagerly watched the Malden High School boys' lacrosse team. Malden fought hard and kept it a back-and-forth game until the end. Stealing the ball from Northeast Metro Tech, dodging their attacks, and scoring all riled up the stands filled with Malden supporters. As the fans cheered, chanted, and roared for Malden High they were only getting more and more fired up.

Back-and-forth the boys went with Northeast Metro Tech but in the end, it was a loss by one point. With a final score of 8-7, there was a slight disappointment for senior night, but the boys stayed as positive as they could and so did the stands.

"Senior night was great, being able to have my friends and family at the game supporting me feels amazing! It didn't finish the way we wanted but we still played a good game," said senior and captain Chad Robertson.

Senior Eric Vieira also mentioned, "This was the most active any of our games had been all year and we couldn't have asked for a better game."

Even though this is the last home game for the seniors, the impact the lacrosse team has imprinted on them will last forever.

"Although it was only for a season, lacrosse definitely gave me a sense of camaraderie and competitiveness that will last long after my

high school years. It was an experience like no other," explained Vieira.

"Lacrosse has done so much for me. I started playing in pre-school and fell in love right away. When I got a little older I started to play all year round and it was all I wanted to do," stated Robertson.

For the seniors, lacrosse isn't just a sport; it's their life. Even for just a season, getting an escape to a world of competition and teamwork is what they love.

"We do have at least one more game left...but knowing it's coming to an end is pretty sad to think about. I can't imagine not playing lacrosse and honestly, I'm not sure what I'm going to do when it's done," Robertson described.

"I really grew to love it and I'll miss all my teammates I'm leaving behind. The only regret I have is not playing lacrosse any sooner," Vieira added.

As the year comes to an end gratitude and sincerity are felt by all of the senior lacrosse players. Losing the game wasn't important to them; it was being able to work together with their teammates and fight hard one last time at MacDonald Stadium and further the bonds they have forged throughout the season.

After the loss, the seniors continued to have huge smiles on their faces knowing they did their best and that was all they could do. Nothing could've ruined this senior night for them and their appreciation for their time on the team was evident throughout the whole game.



Jacky Summers cradling the ball away from the other team.  
GABRIELA PARINI CORDOVA

Karl Lang waiting for the next move.  
GABRIELA PARINI CORDOVA



Jacky Summers taking the draw. GABRIELA PARINI CORDOVA



# Girls' Lacrosse Wins Senior Night, Team to States



Girls' lacrosse seniors line up with family and friends. ABIGAE FESEHAIE

Abigael Fesehaie  
Reporter

After a challenging girls' lacrosse season, six seniors closed out their journey in Malden High School sports on May 21st. The six seniors, Abigail Morrison, Grace Sewell, Briana Pacheco, Belen Quispe Almendro, Alina Dao, and Julia Rodrigues have all led their team to immense success, creating 9 wins after 13 games during the 2023-2024 season.

The three senior captains, Morrison, Sewell, and Pacheco, and the remaining three seniors were celebrated for their hard work and perseverance during their last-ever home game.

Before the game against Medford started, all six seniors were seen with their families taking pictures with their personalized posters, showcasing their growth during their time playing lacrosse. After warming up, the team hit each other's sticks before the game as a sign of good luck for one last time at MacDonald Stadium. The senior celebration then moved into Jeslyn San giving an emotional speech dedicated to all the hard work the seniors have put into their game play off and on the field.

Specifically for San, the senior captain's determination to the game and overall morals was something that stood out to her as "they've taught me how to be respectful, take responsibility for my actions, and taught me how to be a better person overall." San also noted that each captain has taught her different lessons, "Abby taught me how to support and stand up for yourself, Grace taught and showed me love throughout my time in lacrosse, and Brianna taught me friendship."

Following San's impactful



The lacrosse team listening to a pep talk from Coach Pattershall before the game. ABIGAE FESEHAIE

speech, the seniors took one last picture with the team and their families before the game officially started with a draw done by San and Becky Casey from Medford. Seconds after the draw finished and the whistle blew to start the game, San was able to score, which allowed the last home game to start in Malden's favor. During the game, Malden's players fought aggressively for both the ball and the chance to score, to secure the win on an important day. But, after many fouls on both teams, Malden secured the advantage going into the 3rd quarter, leading 7-5 due to goals from prominent play from Jeslyn San, Makenzie Jenkins, and Nyla Pierre.

During the 4th quarter, the team was keen on keeping the lead they already had with strong defense. With many Medford players trying to shoot at the net, the determination that the team had paid off as the team was able to pull off a 9-5 win, with two goals in the quarter from Jeslyn San and Makenzie Jenkins, ultimately leaving the seniors

with a win during their last home game and a qualifying spot in the state tournament.

As lacrosse captain, Abigail Morrison reflected on her journey of being a captain for three seasons. Coach Pattershall believes it was exactly what she was looking for in a captain, "Abby's been captain for the past three seasons, and she's just displayed leadership qualities and she came on knowing what to do... like knowing when to be silly but also when to pull it in."

The same qualities were also displayed with the rest of the senior captains, Grace Sewell, and Briana Pacheco who have both picked up the leadership role this season. As Coach Pattershall explained it, Sewell became a captain due to her strong leadership qualities.

"Grace is someone who can be vocal and loud if she needs to, she knows how to turn it off and be a leader," Pattershall said.

When Sewell looks back on her past season as a captain, she explained it to be "harder than I thought it would be, but at the end of the day, it's been very rewarding."

The third lacrosse captain, Briana Pacheco thought that her time as captain has been similar to Sewell's in the sense that "it's been hard but really fun because of the responsibilities that come with it... as long as you're communicating with



Girls lacrosse team talking with Coach Pattershall during the halftime break. ABIGAE FESEHAIE

your captains and teammates, it's a really fun time." Her role on the team, as explained by Coach

Pattershall was one that was key in their success this season due to her ability to step up into a leadership position and to "keep all the girls calm and level-headed because she stays pretty neutral."

Overall, all of the seniors have made great impacts on their team due to them becoming "good positive influences, and good role models, especially when we have so many new girls coming on," as said by Coach Pattershall. Although the seniors may have left their high school lacrosse careers behind, their determination and skill will still be appreciated, especially by those currently playing.



maldenblueandgold.com

# BASEBALL TEAM BACK ON THE MAP WITH CONSECUTIVE STATES APPEARANCES



Shuyi Chen  
Reporter

Expectations have been shattered by the Malden High baseball team this spring. With a 15-4 record, they were looking to make a state tournament push after breaking their 11-year tournament drought last season.

Two seasons ago, the team managed only four wins. However, a strong core has allowed them to elevate each year, winning 11 games in 2023 and now a chance to take 16 with a win against Revere.

The team opened the year up with a big win over Salem Academy Charter who is managed by former Malden assistant Mike Barbat. Somerville handed the Golden Tornadoes their first loss. After a rebound victory against Chelsea, Malden managed an 8-6 victory over Lynn Classical at Fraser Field, the team's first win against any Lynn opponent since the pandemic. They then dropped a game to Revere before finishing out the week with a Chris Serino Tournament Championship, handling both Greater Lawrence Tech and East Boston with ease.

The next week, the Golden Tornadoes struggled with two close losses to Lynn English and Medford. Still, they took a big victory over Everett during the stretch. Sitting at 6-4, not many would have guessed what followed.

Over the next few weeks, Malden took down all of their GBL opponents, including league champions Somerville, Lynn Classical, Everett, Medford, Lynn English, and Chelsea. This impressive nine-game win streak solidified a second-place GBL finish for the team, which they

**Top to bottom, left to right: Senior captain Zeke Noelsaint goes through a high-five tunnel during his senior night ceremony. Shortstop Jake Simpson pacing onto the field following an out. Christopher MacDonald celebrates a hit on first base. Christopher MacDonald awaiting a play on the field. SHUYI CHEN**



**The team poses for a photo on senior night alongside the families of the departing three departing seniors. SHUYI CHEN**

have not done in a long time.

Led by Coach Steve Freker and senior captains Ryan Cogswell, Ezechiele Noelsaint, and Jake Simpson, there have been vast strides in all areas of the game. The team has received great pitching from Jake Simpson, freshman Ryan Bowdridge, and sophomore Ryan McMahon.

Junior Chris MacDonald and

sophomore Billy Gavin have picked it up with the bats this year.

Junior Bo Stead has been excellent behind the plate, preventing scoring chances all over the field.

The team is also successful in the classroom. Freker notes that the team had one of the highest average GPAs in the state.

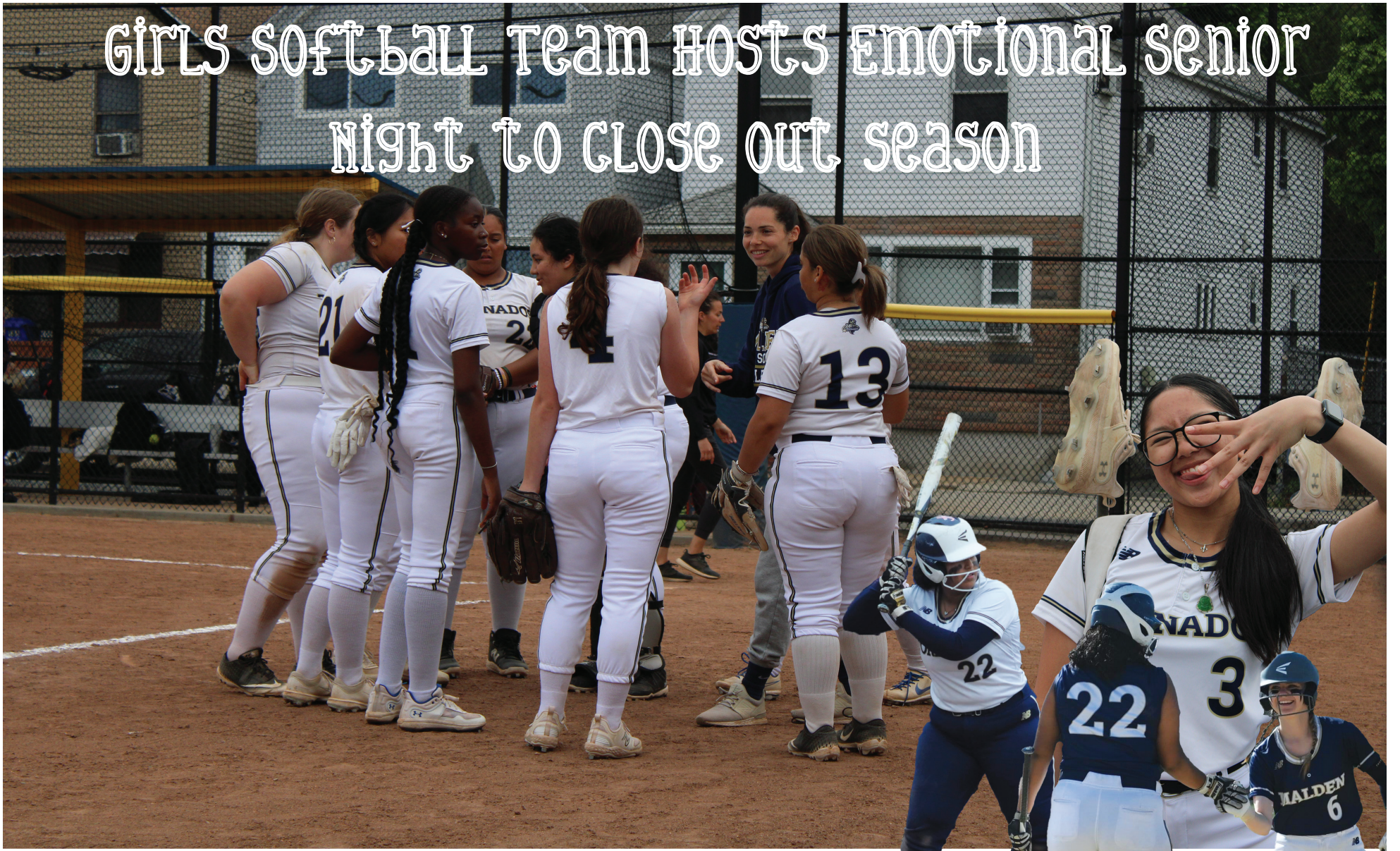
Cogswell and Noelsaint were named to the National High School

Baseball Coaches Association All-Academic Team, an incredible accomplishment that honors their determination within the sport.

For the first time in a long time, Malden has a chance to do some damage in the MIAA Tournament in the upcoming weeks.

Their second-place GBL finish shows that Malden baseball is back on the map.

# GIRLS SOFTBALL TEAM HOSTS EMOTIONAL SENIOR NIGHT TO CLOSE OUT SEASON



The Malden High softball team talking with the coach before the game. CHOUAIB SAIDI

Chouaib Saidi  
Lead Reporter

Senior nights are meant to be emotional for many reasons, but nothing is the same as the love and passion the girls shared during their softball season.

"Tonight's been really fun. I think today's been one of our best games, especially when it comes to batting. Throughout the whole experience, it's been really educational. I've learned so much playing different positions, which is the first time I've ever done this," claimed senior Marianne Rivadeneira

Seniors played their final game in their high school careers on Malden grounds and hope to establish meaning and leave everything they have got on the field.

"My one inning that I was in, I felt pretty amazing," said senior Meklit Abel. "It's kind of sad, bittersweet, I would say. I feel like our chemistry's been really good this season. It's just, it's been hard with our swinging ability when we get up on bat. I think it's the lack of energy that we have. It's kind of hard to hit the ball... I feel like our defense is really good, don't get me wrong, but [as a team] our offense was kind of lacking."

"I'd give it a 10 out of 10. I enjoy playing with the girls. I love them very much, and I hope the same is reciprocated from them," Senior Jayden Caplis said..

The girls have put in hard work and made memories throughout the softball season. With that, the seniors can leave knowing that they have made a huge impact on the softball team and are passing their thrones to upcoming seniors of next year.



The Malden High softball team huddling one last time as they prepare to kick things off. CHOUAIB SAIDI



The infield consults with the pitcher during a meeting on the mound. CHOUAIB SAIDI



The Malden High softball team lining up as seniors are called up for pictures. CHOUAIB SAIDI

# Raindrops and Racquets: Boys' Varsity Tennis Senior Night



From left to right: Archer Ou, Philip Li, Steven Wong, Thomas Ghile, Jason Chen, and coach Brian Sou posing together for the last time. JASLIE FANG

Jaslie Fang  
Reporter



The seniors and coach Brian Sou being surprised by friends and underclassmen. JASLIE FANG

when losing a match.

Coach Brian Sou furthered this sentiment explaining that the seniors are “a goofy bunch.” Sou said that, “All five seniors have their own personality and what role they play; whether that’s more serious or more goofy, but they all push each other to become better and motivates the members of the JV team to strive for better.” Looking back over the years, Sou stated that

the seniors have grown tremendously while also being the same kids he remembers from when they first began their tennis careers.

Despite the senior night being moved from Ameridge Park to Sou’s room due to a torrential

downpour, the energy of the gathering remained better than ever as friends of the tennis team, varsity team members, and JV team members came together to celebrate the seniors.

As a final message to the underclassmen of the boys’ tennis teams, Senior Captain Steven Wong noted, “Just have fun and be serious when you’re on and off the court. Don’t slack off, because when you work hard, it pays off in the next few years.”

Ghile adds to this message, “It’s a gift to your determination, your mo-

tivation, and your commitment to the sport.” Lastly, Li offered his best advice for underclassmen: “Go out and play as much as possible, and invite some friends to join you to play tennis.”

The seniors of the Boys’ Varsity Tennis team have left a lasting and remarkable impact on their teammates and the program. Their journey, marked by memorable matches and personal growth, highlights the power of dedication and camaraderie. Despite challenges, including a relocated senior night, they exemplified resilience and unity. As they pass the torch to underclassmen, their legacy of hard work and passion will continue to inspire future players.

to be from last year with a match against North Reading. That was a game where I lost really badly. But because of that game, I learned to overcome my fears and started to play at my level against weaker opponents.”

Li elaborated on how being a part of the tennis team enabled him to overcome his mental struggles with anxiety during matches. As Li put it, “Because of that one North Reading game, I was able to pick myself back up and learn to not let the points dictate my gameplay. So I can just take everything at my own pace, and not have to worry about whether losing a point will mean I lose the whole game or not.” However, Li wasn’t the sole player who experienced personal growth through involvement in the Varsity Tennis team.

For instance, Ou elaborated that being a part of the tennis team facilitated his journey towards becoming less introverted, while Ghile revealed that he struggled with maintaining his composure, a challenge that the tennis team provided him with an opportunity to address.

And as Senior Jason Chen put it, the team is what allows for this growth, citing that the positive reinforcement and encouragement allows for a healthier environment even



“Impactful,” the one word that Junior Henry Dzuong would describe the seniors of the Boys’ Varsity Tennis team. However, the depth of their impact on the team was cultivated over time.

As they reflect on the past, the seniors recount numerous memorable moments or matches, with Senior Captain Thomas Ghile mentioning a Somerville match, and Senior Archer Ou revisiting a match with Melrose from this year.

However, one stand-out story comes from Senior Captain Philip Li, “The most memorable match had





# GIRLS TENNIS GOES UNDEFEATED

Senior  
Chloe Chen  
returning  
the ball.  
THOMAS  
TIERNEY

Thomas Tierney  
Reporter

High expectations for the Malden High Girls' Tennis team continue to grow as they finish their third consecutive season undefeated in the GBL league.

Over the past few years, the team, led by Coach Cheryl Camassa and which has mostly remained the same, grew closer. Junior captain Isabelle Tan highlighted Coach Camassa's importance to the team: "Coach Cheryl Camassa is a great coach. Since she has a newborn baby, the team got to see her a lot and she became part of the team. I admire Coach for willingly dealing with a group of teenage girls as well as a newborn baby. Whenever I was nervous during a game, Coach and her daughter came over so Coach could give me a pep talk and her

daughter could give me some good luck," said Tan.

Other players believed that coach Camassa has significantly impacted the team's overall performance, mentioning how "laid back" and "supportive" she is for them.

This year, the team was led by two captains: Junior Isabelle Tan and the only senior on the team, Chloe Chen. For Tan, Chen was a great mentor as a second-year captain for her to learn how to lead the team and ensure that they always performed their best. Tan noted that "as captain, I have a long way to go. Chloe Chen, my fellow co-captain,

showed me the ropes as this is her second year as captain. I hope I can lead with as much confidence and elegance as Chloe did this year without her next year." With the team going undefeated for a third year now, Tan knows she has big shoes to fill for her senior year.

However, for junior Sarah Pham, it is not just about winning but returning every season for the community and culture of the team. "It is very laid back and everyone is so nice off the court, especially the

other teams," said Pham. "I've made so many friendships with people from other schools because of it and it makes me love coming back every spring."

She also expressed immense appreciation for her teammates, saying, "I'm lucky enough to get to play with people like Chloe, Julianna, and Isabelle who keep me on my toes! Playing with people who are so skilled kind of just encourages you to want to do better and I'm always open to learning from them and taking feedback."

With another impressive year by the team with just one senior, the team looks forward to a bright future and even higher expectations. Lin, Tan, and Pham all look forward to yet another season of hard work and dedication all for what comes in the end, another GBL league title.



Ivana Marinkovic touches rackets with Medford tennis opponent. CHELMIE HYPOLITE



Junior Captain Isabelle Tan leads the chant before the match. CHELMIE HYPOLITE



From left to right: Francis Dzoung, Daniel O'Toole, and Ace Showstead docking after a race. JACOB FUENTES

Ashton Calixte  
Lead Reporter

As the sun set on the river and athletes put their oars away for the last time as summer nears, Malden High School crew said goodbye to six seniors: Henry Wallis, Catherine Alayane, and Sandra Tang, and three graduating captains Daniel O'Toole, Cynthia Chen, and Yonghao Chen. The graduating crew seniors reminisced about the times that they have had these past few months.

Though the season was not easy, the team had many personal victories with rowers achieving new PRs every race. Captains Mack Keating and Daniel O'Toole, who are both journalists for The Blue and Gold, faced a personal victory together.

"There was an issue with our boat and me and Mack had to go up against Everett's 8-person boat and we were able to beat them by 40 seconds. That's been the motto of the team this year it's being able to push through adversity and learn from experiences", stated O'Toole, a 3-year crew member and graduating senior.

With a mix of new rowers and veterans, the team pushed through the difficulties of exhausting early morning practices, Saturday meets, and aged equipment as the team still did their best every meet and each reached amazing achievements. Though some may find PR's every race to be the main accomplishment, for Assistant Coach Tiffany Cane it is the team's positive energy.

"They rise up to the challenge and even if they don't win, still walk away with a smile. That's truly what it is all about, having an experience and going for it," stated Cane.

Every year there is a Mayor's Cup, which is considered one of the

**"They rise up to the challenge and even if they don't win, still walk away with a smile. That's truly what it is all about, having an experience and going for it."**

Assistant Coach Tiffany Cane

biggest competitions of the season. This year for the first time Malden High School's crew placed second and were ten seconds faster than their competitors of the Waynflete School from Maine.

"I think that was really good for the team morale overall because even though you were not on the boat that won, the team still had a boat that won in our biggest competition," stated junior captain and founder member Mack Keating.

Crew is not an easy sport and it is not something to be taken lightly. It is a full-body workout with rowers using 70% legs and 30% upper body. Rowers are required to come early and be prepared every day after school and on the weekends to get a full body workout in.

"Schedule conflict is the main concern. During the first few weeks of crew season, I was dealing with a lot of clubs and extracurricular activities. Crew is a very different sport, we work together as one individual," stated Cynthia Chen a graduating captain.

Looking ahead into future seasons the team may have major changes and may need more improvement in general. With the seniors leaving, the "team could benefit from conditioning over the summer and fall seasons. Many of our rowers only participate in crew at the beginning of the season and it is always a struggle," stated Cane.

For the new coming rowers as Cane always says, "eat well, sleep well, stay hydrated, have fun, and keep in touch with your teammates and coaches. We will always be there."

The MHS crew team's three main captains leaving is going to feel like the team is missing a limb.



Coach Cane debriefing the athletes. ZACHARY NEDELL



The team carrying the boat towards the water. JACOB FUENTES

"Cynthia, Daniel, and I have gained most on water experience. Additionally, we've also taught 6-9th graders over the summer to teach them how to row. Previous experience showed that we were able to bring on the responsibilities and challenges as a crew captains," stated Chen.

As we say goodbye to another rowing season, the team acknowledged the crew teams challenges and accomplishments. Returning

crew members said one last farewell to the seniors during their last meet by hitting personal records on their boats every race.

"I've had a blast these last three years and this sport has given me so much and helped me learn a lot more about myself that I would not have learned otherwise and made my high school experience infinitely better than it would have been without it," concluded O'Toole.



Ethan Nguyen setting a ball for a spike. SHUYI CHEN

Delina Yohannes  
Lead Reporter

Families and friends gathered in the Finn Gymnasium on a beautiful Tuesday evening to celebrate the seniors of the Boys' Volleyball team as they took on Boston Latin Academy's Dragons. The entire Holland first floor was exposed to the loud echoes of the ecstatic chants and cheers from the crowd who were not only cheering on the team for a victory but to give the seniors of the team a proper farewell.

Although Malden had a slight advantage going into the game in terms of records, since Malden is currently 16-3 and the Dragons are 13-5, knowing the unpredictability of volleyball games, they did not let that control their mindset going into the game.

As for every volleyball senior, Coach Dan Jurkowski started off the night with a heartwarming speech for each of the seniors, which included James Jose, Kauan Coelho, Victor Desouza, Ethan Chen, Adin Chen, and Gil Lawson. In his mini speeches, he reflected on all of his memories with the seniors, recognized their immense growth from when they first joined the team, and emphasized the mark that they will forever leave on the team. As tradition goes, the other Malden players handed the seniors their bouquet of flowers as they were called up by Jurkowski to take pictures with their loved ones in front of the net.

Watching from the sidelines as the seniors were given the spotlight were the underclassmen who were

thrilled for their teammates who served as role models for many of them.

"The seniors have helped me improve a lot throughout the past two years that I've been playing volleyball, and the amount of things that I've learned from them both from volleyball and in general is countless," said sophomore Ethan Nguyen, who further reflected on all the moments throughout the season where doubt and uncertainty consumed his thoughts and performances, but because of the seniors' advice and tips, he was able to overcome them and excel alongside his teammates.

However, the underclassmen weren't the only ones who were taking the skills they had learned from the previous years with them as they moved forward. Desouza emphasized how the past three years have been nothing but an eye-opening experience for him where he has learned countless lessons and has built valuable skills that he hopes to apply to his life even after high school. "I'll definitely take the ability that I've gained as a leader, which is to keep my head up, to show that everyone else has to keep their head up in order to keep those around me as motivated and as confident as they should be."

As wonderful as the speeches and reflections were, it was time to begin the long-awaited game. Throughout the first set, the compatibility and teamwork that the Malden team began to show as they dominated the court and finished off with a 15-10 lead against

the Dragons. Teamwork is something that is no stranger to the team. Coelho described volleyball season as his "favorite part of the year" because of the brotherhood.

However, teamwork alone wasn't enough to pull through for the next set. Malden began to slip quite a bit throughout the second set which led the Dragons to lead 3-1, which eventually led to the Dragons winning the second set. The Dragons, who were filled with momentum and ecstatic energy, dominated the first half of the third set until the gym became filled with "let's go Malden," chants that served almost like fuel to Malden as they took the lead 12-9. However, the Dragons were still able to pull through and took the set at the end.

"This group is super awesome, practices are a joy every day they never fail to put smiles on each other's faces including mine. No complaints. They truly are positive vibes only," said Jurkowski.

As the fourth and final set began, Malden gained immense momentum and dominated the first half with a 10-8 lead. However, the Dragons weren't done for the night and fought back hard to even out the score to a 11-11 tie. Not long after Malden struck back making the score 12-11, but it wasn't long before the Dragons scored again.

The two teams went back and forth consecutively, both scoring one point after another. Toward the end, Malden was in a great position as they tied the score with the Dragons to 23-23. From this point on, it

was almost certain that Malden was going to score and advance to a fifth set as every strike seemed filled with passion and pure determination to take the win.

However, not everything went as planned and at the last minute, the Dragons were able to pull through and gain a point bringing the final score to 23-24. This point brought great controversy and confusion for the Malden team and those in the stands as it was almost like a sneak attack. However, even after the referees discussed the point, it was deemed as valid, making the Dragons the winners.

Although the Boys' Volleyball team did not end their senior night with the victory that they had planned, that did not stop them from celebrating being able to spend the last three to four years with their seniors. Desouza described their efforts tonight as "nothing new...because we always come together after every point and just keep going on to the next point regardless. We don't let things tear us down easily."

Nevertheless, the team is confident in their ability to compete in the MIAA State Tournament in the coming weeks.

# JENKINS AND SAN REACH GOAL MILESTONES

Nathan Dean  
Editor-in-Chief of Print

Expectations were in the air as the team gathered at MacDonald Stadium for their eleventh game of the season against the Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational High School Knights; Junior Jeslyn San was en route to her 100th career goal with 98 for the Golden Tornadoes and the team had preemptively bought balloons in the shape of a 100 to celebrate.

After a quick warm-up, the game was off. In the first few minutes, the two teams traded possession with limited scoring opportunities until San broke the standstill with her 99th career goal just three minutes into the first quarter. However, the Knights quickly fired back with a goal of their own. Once again, the two teams found themselves level. After a lull in the action, Senior Julia Rodrigues scored for the Golden Tornadoes to take back the lead with a little over a minute left in the quarter. Then, as the buzzer drew near, Jesslyn San rocketed in her 100th goal of her career with just one second left in the quarter. The team quickly rushed the field to celebrate and take photos to commemorate the event.



Jeslyn San cradles the ball down the court. GABRIELA PARINI CORDOVA

Exhilarated off the back of such a momentous accomplishment, the Golden Tornadoes came into the second quarter on fire. After winning the draw and sprinting past defenders, Junior Makenzie Jenkins found herself with a strong scoring opportunity just six seconds into the second quarter. A strong save from the Knight's goaltender would stop the drive in its tracks, but Jenkins would remain undeterred scoring just a minute later. Deeper in the second quarter, following a whole team play and a beautiful assist from San, Jenkins faked a defender to slot the ball in the bottom left corner and bring the game to a 5-1 lead for Malden. Then, after a great

Abigael Fesehaie  
Reporter

On May 8th, 2024, the Malden High School girls' lacrosse team gathered in Pine Banks, ready to face the Somerville lacrosse team in their 14th match this season. Junior Makenzie Jenkins was not just focused on the upcoming match, but rather on her potential achievement. Over the past three years, Jenkins has played lacrosse at a high school level and she was able to achieve over 140 goals by her sophomore year, leading her to become the fastest-growing goal scorer for girls lacrosse in Malden High School history.

Although she had already achieved so much in terms of her impact on both the school and the team, Jenkins yearned to reach 200 goals by the end of the 2023-2024 season. Her game right before Somerville, which was against Salem, put her in a great position to achieve her goal as she scored 3 goals, putting her at 195 goals overall. Going into one of



Makenzie Jenkins celebrating her achievement with balloons. Photo submitted by Makenzie Jenkins.

assist from San left Jenkins in a 1 on 1 with the goaltender, destiny felt like it was repeating itself, but an amazing stop from the Knight's goaltender would break the *deja vu*. The Knights would end the quarter with a goal of their own to bring the

the biggest games of the season for Jenkins, she noted that she had felt overwhelming feelings of nervousness and excitement due to her being the first lacrosse player in school history to reach 200 goals.

"It reminded me of how I felt when I hit my first 100 last year. Going into this game I was extremely nervous because I wanted to do my absolute best because this was a big moment for me, I was also worried that because I was focused on hitting 200, I would not play my best game," Jenkins said.

But through her mental setbacks and heightened feelings of anxiousness both during and before the game, Jenkins ended up scoring five goals, allowing her to reach her dream of being the first Malden High School student to reach 200 goals. While reflecting on her incredible achievement, she noted that although she holds the record for the most goals she knows that "there is still so much more I need to work on for myself when I play lacrosse, but I'm really happy I was able to reach 200 goals."

Jenkins's excitement wasn't only felt by her but by her teammates and friends around her as well. Jeslyn San, who has played alongside Jenkins since freshman year and recently hit 100 goals two games before the match against Somerville claims that she has "learned so much alongside her, and seeing how much she has grown really makes me proud to call her my

score to 5-2.

Following half-time, the Knights came in with a renewed passion and pressured early in the third quarter. However, their two shots during this period would bounce off the posts. Then, the Golden Torna-



Coach Devin Pattershal hyping up the team at halftime. GABRIELA PARINI CORDOVA

teammate." In addition to San's appreciation for Jenkins, she highlighted that "she really does deserve this and I am so proud of her. Witnessing her reaching this milestone inspires me and everyone on the team to work hard."

Maia Saeed, who is also another lacrosse player who has played alongside Jenkins since her freshman year agrees with San and further expressed that, "It was an amazing moment seeing your teammate achieving 200 goals, especially since she is the first girl in Malden High School to achieve this. It was quite emotional watching her see how happy everyone was for her because she worked really hard and earned everything she has gotten."

Even though Jenkins has less than 10 games left in the spring season, she hopes her team will be able to "make it to States and try our best for this year and the upcoming one."

Jenkins's positive outlook on her future in lacrosse is something that her mother, Tonia Jenkins, appreciates about her daughter as she noted that she hopes that she will "continue to grow as a player and reach her full potential over the next year. She loves being a part of the team, so we hope she can play lacrosse at the collegiate level at a great lacrosse program where she can play, thrive, and be happy."

Jenkins reaching 200 goals, and breaking the school record while only being in her junior season has surely become one of the best moments of her lacrosse journey, with many more to come.

dos regained their footing, and San completed her hat trick to bring the game to a 5-point lead for Malden. Junior Maia Saeed would add her goal to the tally less than a minute later. To further the Knight's misfortune, a goal after a whistle would be disallowed late into the third quarter and the ensuing penalty shot would be missed.

In the fourth quarter, a hectic back-and-forth ensued in which a total of seven goals from both teams were scored. Of the seven were three from Freshman Nyla Pierre including a last-second penalty goal. Jenkins would also complete a hat trick this game scoring late into the last quarter. The Knights would put up a valiant effort with three goals of their own but it would ultimately be in vain as the Golden Tornadoes stormed their way to victory with a final score of 11-5.

