

The Blue and Gold

Malden High School
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Viral Chicken Fight Boosts Halloween Spirt

Alexia Lima
Managing Editor

There is nothing as successful at garnering the attention and holiday spirit of students and staff alike on Halloween day as serenading the hallways as a giant inflatable chicken, distributing rubber chickens to the masses, unless it's a viral video of said inflatable chicken fighting an inflatable rooster.

Junior Logan O'Connor returned to the hallways of Malden High School for the second year in a row in his inflatable chicken getup to commemorate Halloween. "The Monday leading up to Halloween, I began bringing the squeaky chickens in: my children, and we were putting them in a locker because I wasn't allowed to have them. We snuck them into the building. We had 150 chickens in a locker for about three days," O'Connor shared.

With O'Connor's goal of circulating his rubber chickens around the school, his main concern was getting in trouble and not being able to carry out his festivities. After his success, in addition to spreading joy throughout the hallways with the chicken dance song, O'Connor enlisted the help of junior Conner Schopp to take his holiday tradition to the next level.

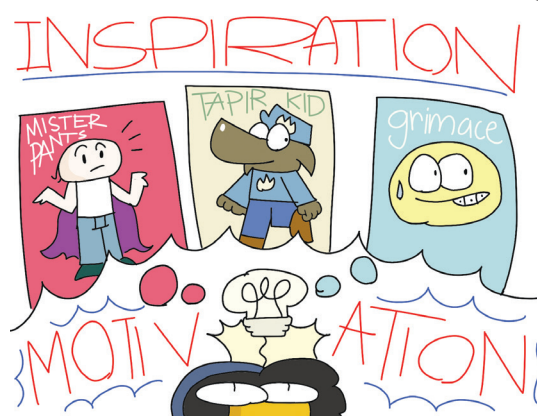
After placing an order for an inflatable rooster costume, Schopp and O'Connor decided to go head-to-head in a fight that would take place in the courtyard during lunch. While the idea for the fight was originally rooted in comedy, there were underlying tensions within their friendship that raised the stakes of the fight.

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SPIRIT WEEK AND PEP RALLY

Article and photos on pages 9 and 10.

The Fine Art of Cartooning



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Malden High's Cricket Players



Cricket is a fast-growing sport at Malden High School that teaches teamwork, focus, and quick thinking. Cricket is a bat-and-ball sport played between two teams of eleven players. The aim is to score runs between wickets or hit the ball between the boundaries.

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Malden Takes Trophy Back

Thanksgiving Game Ends in Victory for the First Time in Three Years



Senior quarterback Billy Gavin and Sophomore running back Jayden McGuffie prepare to make a play on offense. Photo submitted by Gino Spadafora.

Aundrea Cifuentes
Head of Sports

On Thursday, November 27th, Malden had its 138th annual Thanksgiving game against Medford, where Malden took the trophy home for the first time in three years after a 20-8

win. The game started with a small farewell celebration, as this game was used as a placeholder for Medford's senior night. Malden, in an effort to be supportive of Medford, was seen clapping for them despite the rivalry.

After their ceremony

and the national anthem, the game opened with Malden having the ball first after a coin flip, with Medford winning the toss but deferring.

Sophomore Captain Jayden McGuffie was already looking forward to hitting his 2000 yards of the season, so he was in a winning mood. As he re-

ceived the ball, he stayed on his feet, making his way effortlessly through Medford's defense. Commenters stated, "Medford, it looked like they were kind of on their heels for a little bit, not really ready for the quickness of McGuffie." McGuffie successfully ran a 2-point conversion and went into

the end zone untouched.

With Medford returning the ball, despite their struggles with defense from Malden, they were able to display their offense, which seemed to be stronger than their defense. Medford caught up to Malden after scoring a

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Play Production Brings Gods and Monsters to the Theater

Fatima Husain
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What happens when all your life you consider yourself to be an ordinary person with normal problems, but the next day, while on a field trip, your Latin teacher turns out to be a centaur, your math teacher tries to kill you, your best friend is half-goat, and you just happen to be the child of

a Greek God?

These peculiar and head-turning events describe the beginning of the fantasy-adventure novel series based on Greek mythology, Percy Jackson and the Olympians (PJO), created by the renowned author Rick Riordan in 2005. This year, Malden High's Play Production, led by Todd Cole, Ariana Messana, and orchestrated by Lauren Foley, performed the two-hour-long *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical* on November 21st and 22nd in the Jenkins Auditorium.

"The rehearsal process of any show can be daunting, but a musical is especially time-consuming. Our process was made even more difficult because we didn't have Mr. Cole teaching the class alongside Ms.



Percy, played by senior Kail Boswell, asks Grover, played by senior Moisha Howse, about Thalia after his strange dream. **FATIMA HUSAIN**

Messana this year, so all vocal rehearsals had to be scheduled after school," explained junior and Managing Editor for The Blue and Gold, Alexia Maciel Lima.

Each year,

the fall musical is revealed to the Play Production students before summer break and after vacation: auditions take place, roles are selected, and after weeks of dedicated prop-building, costume

arrangement, rehearsals, and preparations, the tech team, actors, and orchestra members become ready to deliver a dazzling performance to their audience.

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ODE TO MY BIRTHGIVERS: HOW I FOUND MY VOICE

The Blue and Gold

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Chouaib Saidi
Editor-in-Chief

Most kids have the traditional preschool to Kindergarten transition to prepare them for the academic endeavours of elementary, middle school, and eventually high school.

Not me. I didn't go to preschool; I was home-schooled by my parents.

Although this sounds common and is relatable for many, this moment of development instilled a sense of determination that has lasted throughout my academic journey and taught me lessons in life which I wouldn't be here without.

Every time I am overloaded with work, I think about my immigrant parents and all the dreams that they had to put on hold to provide for their kids and give them the future that they couldn't have. It gave me that little push as I told myself, "It's all going to be worth it, I am going to make them proud."

Whenever I felt misunderstood by everyone, I realized the unconditional love that my family showed me, no matter what I was going through. Their love and comfort felt like a parachute, as I was diving down headfirst towards the cliff that is life.

Having that outlet to just vent without judgment, and feel their presence, is an everlasting sense of peace that I crave, and I realize I wouldn't be where I am today without that.

As I entered the scary world that was high school, I had trouble figuring out my identity. I knew that I wanted to personify those TV show characters you'd see watching on TV: the nerdy, heroic, and outgoing characters like The Flash or Peter Parker from The Amazing Spider-Man (the best Spider-Man btw). I could channel that with my family, especially my little brother, as he got older to understand what I was talking about. Having that moral compass and a genuine interest in doing good and making people happy gave me a purpose in life and a stronger belief in myself. I wanted to become a mosaic of personalities that I had learned throughout my childhood. I felt closer to how I felt when I was a kid and it reminded me that life doesn't have to be so serious all the time.

My father always told me to smile and to refrain from getting stressed in any situation. To this day, I still admire the patience and tranquility that he possesses, which is a trait that I hope to obtain amid all the pressures caused by academics and life in general. I realized that I didn't find my moral compass from TV shows; I got it from him. It was a genetic factor that had been buried deep inside me, and it came out when I needed it to. So whenever I was faced with a difficult situation, I would try to refrain

from panicking and stressing as my first instinct, instead I would remain patient and remember what he taught me. Even now I still struggle with that, but I know I'll get better with time.

My family taught me so many things that school hasn't. That's when I knew I would be fine, even if I didn't go to preschool like everybody else. I learned to thrive by myself and also help my parents with things they didn't know. I'm sure this is a common theme to all immigrant parents, but I was so happy to educate my family with things that they didn't know. So whenever my dad asks me to help him pay the bills as he shows his lack of tech savvy-ness, or whenever my mom asks me to check her email because she can't see well without her glasses, no matter how tired I am from all my responsibilities, I find the strength to help them. Especially my mother, who has been through job to job to support her kids, even as a cafeteria worker at Beebe School, so she could keep eyes on me and my brother when we were in middle school. Now she teaches preschoolers (ironic right) at the YMCA where she is bringing the talent, care and experience that she gained from homeschooling me and my brother.

I joined Journalism because of watching the various Spider-Man movies where Peter Parker was a reporter for the Daily Bugle. I wanted to make The Blue and Gold my own version of the Bugle, and I enjoyed every moment of consolidating my identity in this class, and felt I could shed that aspect of my personality without fear. The Amazing Spiderman is my comfort movie, I always feel good when I watch it no matter what. I've grown to have that comfortability for Journalism. Reporting, taking pictures, going to sporting events, interviewing people, all introduced me to the world and the different perspectives of people who have their own lives and helped me build my social skills and expand my horizon of society.

I hope to introduce my little brother to this class, as he will be a rising freshman, and show him the magic that is beyond the paper, as he brings a similar story to high school, being a fanatic about TV shows, Spider-Man, and not being preschooled.

I hope he can carry on what I started and be even better than I could ever be.

I can confidently say he will learn from the best.

As for my parents, Mama and Baba كبحأ (I love you) and I know I am going to have to read this editorial to you in arabic, but thank you for shaping me into the man that I can hopefully say is making you proud everyday, and I am so happy to be your son.

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Phoning
It In: Mass
Votes to Ban
Cellphones
across Public
Schools

Kyle Dang
Copy Editor

Following a strict routine, you wake up, still slightly groggy and dazed from your slumber. The first thing you do is pick up your phone and scroll through various social media apps. But why is the human mind so prone to drawing attention to cellular devices?

Dopamine, commonly known as the “feel-good hormone,” is a chemical messenger in the brain that acts as a stimulant for all things happy. Prior to the development of phones and related devices, the release of dopamine was often traced back to learning new skills. According to the National Institutes of Health, phones have now replaced the source of dopamine, claiming they offer “an alternative route to the dopamine rush by providing us with a constant, easily accessible source of information.”

English teacher Christine Day stated how the multimillionaires behind social media apps have “created the algorithms” for a demographic of young, susceptible individuals, which in turn constructs social media “to be addictive.”

As of July 31st, 2025, the Massachusetts Senate announced an official document regarding the usage of phones in Massachusetts schools. According to the Senate, the bill “aims to boost focus, improve mental health, and foster healthier learning environments.”

Senate President Karen E. Spilka acknowledged the time and effort gone into making the school environment as efficient and supportive as possible. In May, Spilka proposed that the Senate take immediate action because many found the handheld devices to be a major distraction in school environments.

“Massachusetts has a proud history of supporting and uplifting K-12 public education for our residents, but a device small enough to fit in a pocket presents a profound challenge to ensuring student success,” stated Spilka. This concept was further explained by Senator Michael J. Rodrigues, who highlighted key aspects of student engagement, proficiency, relationship-building, and the reduction of cyberbullying.

Although the usage of cellphones in class carries negative connotations, Chemistry teacher Martin Berryman observed: “The phone is a link to AI, which I see as being the future in a lot of things, and they should learn how to use AI appropriately, and they

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Cover art drawn by ABYAN ALI.

Abyan Ali
Lead Reporter

They say a picture is worth 1,000 words. If so, a cartoon drawing must be worth a million.

Whenever you hear cartoons or comics, your mind may think of wacky shenanigans or action-packed superheroes that you could jump into from practically anywhere, ranging from professionally thought-out comics that are digitally inked to the crude doodles in your notebook.

The process of designing these is a unique experience for everyone, and one that should be greatly appreciated. Cartoons are not there just to make us laugh and take us away from the stress of daily life; they are there to induce emotions, make us think about things, tell us stories we may never think of telling, and they can be our creative outlet.

With that being said, here’s a look at the

to learn how to write and draw comics is to read comics.”

There’s a high chance that the earlier you start something, the more likely you’ll keep doing it down the road. It’s a basic motivation strategy, and the same applies to cartoonists. According to wunc.org, renowned Malden comic artist Keith Knight believes that he’s been “a cartoonist since he was in diapers, doodling on the walls of his family home near Boston.”

Later on, he would create his own comic books in school. Soon, he began drawing “strips for the Blue and the Gold,” allowing him to share his stories and humor. That’s how one should start out: simple and slow.

You can’t expect to become a famous, expert artist overnight. Nor should you want to be. Remember: you’re still young, so even if you have a small fanbase, it’s still a good start. As you continue to learn and progress, you start expanding your

visual and physical storytelling than traditional novels. Famous literature like Frankenstein to Romeo and Juliet have adaptations that can introduce students to them more easily, without sacrificing too much of the story.

Nedell also believes graphic novels are spectacular for language learning as well. Cartoon visuals are perceived the same by everyone; they are a “great way for English language learners to improve their reading abilities,” or for those who are learning another language.” This can “bridge cultural gaps,” and unite students of different ethnicities.

Christalin has also said drawing helps him communicate better: “It’s just easy to express yourself when you do it; when I’m writing, I’m not the writer, so I can’t really do that. Drawing is the best way to express myself.”

Aside from graphic novels, there are a lot more places where your art can be shared and accessed. Political cartoons can be featured in the newspaper, they can be drawn on the flashcards you use to study for class, and can often be shared between friends online or in real life.

Maybe you’ve heard more professional artists compliment the value of an artwork, or seen on social media certain art styles being deprecated. This stuff can make you worry and desperately want you to improve your art quickly.

Cartooning ironically requires knowing plenty about body structure, anatomy, and proportions, so you can intentionally play around with them. Every cartoon character has its own unique shape, color, and things like that—but they still follow a set of rules so that they can be drawn well.

In the future, you can start experimenting with stuff beyond your normal skill set, utilizing various sites online and books available. You’ve also heard the usual advice: practice.

“It’s like slam-dunking basketballs, throwing darts, or playing piano... the more you do a thing, the more you improve at that thing, whatever it may be,” as Rina Piccolo best put it. Realistically, if “you don’t draw and write on a regular and frequent basis, then you won’t see



adventurous and unique experience of cartooning, from teachers to students, alongside some tips for aspiring cartoonists!

Every great artist has to get their ideas from somewhere. There’s a good chance the artists one aspires to be like had their ideas come from somewhere else. Who knows, maybe in the future, you could be the artist someone is inspired by.

A good example of seeing the influence of inspiration is through local MHS cartoonist Richard Cortese, known by many as Richie. His “main influence is Dav Pilkey,” a well-known neurodivergent illustrator known for his crude yet hilarious series, Captain Underpants and Dog Man.

Cortese noted how “his books were really inspirational for me,” which motivated him to start making “his own series of cartoons and comic books.” Cortese’s other inspirations included “Mo Willems, Charles Schultz”, among others. Cortese’s series, Teen Daze, posted on The Blue and Gold, was inspired by his “love of gag cartoons.” Cortese continued that he hopes to “make comics” when he is older.

The same goes for sophomore Jeremiah Christalin, whose art style was mostly influenced by Cartoon Network shows like OK. KO., which he “really liked as a kid.” He also enjoyed “Craig McCracken, all of his shows,” such as Wander over Yonder.

If you want to have your own ideas, you have to see others’ ideas first. It’s not bad to not be the most original or creative at first, as long as you put your own twist on what others have done. Comic artist Raina Telgemeier emphasized that, “the best way to learn how to write is to read. The best way

horizon.

A good beginning might be uploading your art to websites and between friends. Social media can be extremely helpful in sharing them. You can “build an audience and build up a body of work before you know it,” Telgemeier advised. Expand your horizon however you want to be. You don’t have to do it all at once, of course. Do it at your own pace.

Between You and Mediums

You’ve probably seen cartoons from everywhere, and there are many media platforms used to share them. Comics and graphic novels immediately come to mind, where they tell written stories via drawn panels.

These are especially appealing to pre-teens and early teens. Librarian Stephen Nedell stated he got “into comic books right around middle school.” Knight believes the best option “to have a viable career as a cartoonist,” is to “try to come up with a tween book series like Dog Man or Diary of a Wimpy Kid,” which a lot of authors have begun with.

Aside from visual entertainment, Nedell finds them to be “a great way for students who experience modern literature, stories that speak to them,” and “a great way to retell a story with a modern context.” After all, more students have adapted to more

much progress,” so you have to keep up a momentum.

Closing Off

Since the dawn of time, art has been one of the most powerful forms of expression, and it has remained that way for a good reason. No matter their style or skill, every artist has a story to tell in their own unique way.

Maybe you have a story you want to tell. Tell that story- not only the way you want it, but the way it will have an impact.



Mass Votes to Ban Cellphones

Continued from page 3

should learn how to use the phones appropriately.”

How will Malden take action?

Only having passed quite recently, the bill’s full range of power is still unknown, and all known information continues to change until September 2026, which marks the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year. The public’s full understanding of the bill is also quite limited, as nothing is set in stone and should be taken with a grain of salt.

The bill remains in draft until the Massachusetts House of Representatives considers it and drafts its own proposal. After this step, both drafts from the Senate and House were reconciled to be signed off by Governor Maura Healey. However, it can be assumed that Massachusetts will take heavy inspiration from other states that have already enacted legislation.

For example, California has already devised a plan to implement Yondr pouches in the upcoming school year. Yondr pouches serve as a storage pouch to store phones inside, and then, sealed with magnets, costing 30 dollars per student. Yondr’s first appearance dates back to 2019, when San Lorenzo High School in California first began using the newfound technology.

Even from the nearby local districts of Massachusetts, southeast of Malden, in the city of Chelsea, Yondr pouches have been implemented as of the 2025-2026 school year. Chelsea is a clear reminder of how it is only a matter of time before Malden High School is affected.

In response to the new rule, sophomore Aubrielle Fleuraguste of Chelsea High School reacted quite negatively, claiming the school “reacted pretty insensitively, and ignored our requests.” Fleuraguste added how concerns were raised, especially with how “Chelsea High School has always been unsafe, especially with the amount of emergencies that happen every year.” These emergencies are included but not limited to fights, false fire alarms, and intruder reports.

Although the official press statement from the Senate states that the full scope of the bill will only prohibit cell phones. Bill S.2561 Section 40, an act to improve students’ mental health, nullifies all cell phones and other personal electronics within school grounds. As to what “personal electronic devices” means, it is immediately clarified as “including, but not limited to, mobile phones, tablets, laptops, smartwatches, and Bluetooth-enabled devices.”

This brings the question: **to what extent**

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Opinion

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ONCE A LAND OF SCHOLARS

Safa Niazi
Reporter
Khkola Niazi
Reporter

Picture yourself in a world where education is the doorway to your dreams. Now, for about 30 seconds, imagine that door being closed because you are a woman. It’s not fiction, it’s reality. Let’s put ourselves in the shoes and experiences of those who live in Afghanistan, what our lives could have been. It is called empathy.

Afghanistan is often described as a nation of conflict, but this is far from the truth; it was a nation known for its ancient civilization, poetry, architecture, and deep respect for knowledge. Afghan families, whether in cities or villages, valued education as an important responsibility. Parents worked harder so that their sons and daughters could study, learn, and build a better future. For generations, education was not a privilege; it was a cultural commitment.

The Taliban is an ideological and religious group that uses its power in the wrong way. They amend strict rules based on their own ideas rather than true faith. One of these rules stops girls from going to school and denies them rights. The Taliban’s actions go against Islam, using religion in the wrong way, which is unacceptable. They twist religion to keep women quiet and take away their fundamental rights.

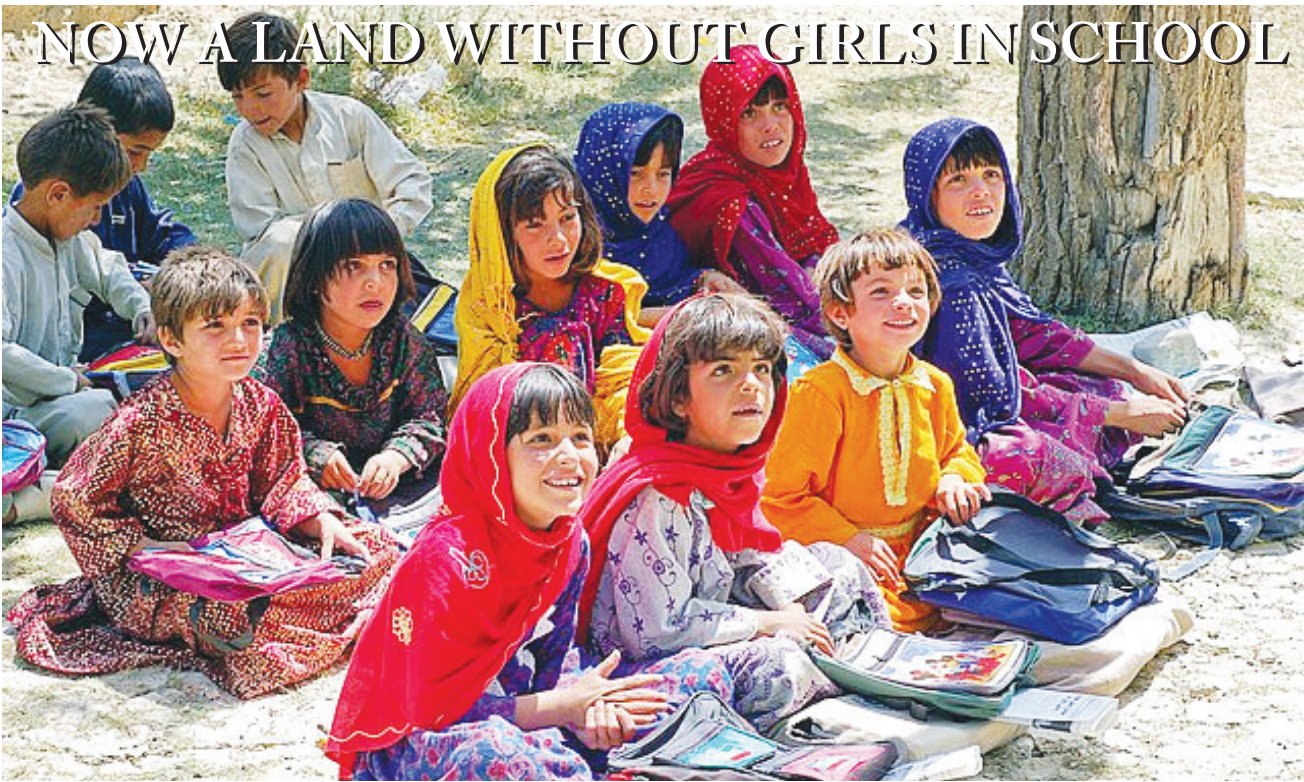
Their bans on girls’ education are not representative of Islam. Islam begins with the call (إِقْرَأْ)—“Iqra”.

One explanation is that women and men alike seek knowledge. According to respected Islamic scholars and the Quran itself, looking for knowledge is a duty for all humans, regardless of gender.

In our own family, we see this story clearly. Our aunts, born during the first Taliban regime, were never allowed to go to school. They grew up behind closed doors with school out of the picture, not because they lacked intelligence or a motive, but because of the Taliban’s ban on girls’ education.

After the Taliban fell and the government changed in 1995, the new generation had hope. Our younger aunts started school. They studied, learned, and became educated; proof that Afghan women can shine when given a chance. But today, in 2025, many of those chances are lost again.

In 2021, when the Taliban, also a group of terrorists, entered Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, people were horrified; there was no one in the streets of Kabul because this had previously happened 33 years ago. At the time, our mother, Ad-



Schoolgirls sit in the girls’ section of a school in Bamozai, near Gardez, Paktya Province, Afghanistan. The school has no building; classes are held outdoors in the shade of an orchard. Photo from Wikimedia, Capt. John Severns, U.S. Air Force. 27 August 2007

ela, was still a teenager and witnessed it firsthand. She described that before the Taliban came, she was still in school, but once they came, she was suddenly banned from going to school.

When she “was a teenager,” she had dreamed of going to school, having top grades, and “having a great future,” but once the Taliban was in power, she gave up on her dreams, the dearest things to her.

“I am a woman who couldn’t get her rights, but one thing I want to say is that I want my daughters to fulfil the dreams that I couldn’t complete. Now I am here as an Afghan mother trying to educate her daughters, that’s why I chose Massachusetts to be our next and last destination,” she said. According to the U.S. News, Massachusetts has the fifth-highest ranking for education in the whole country. History teacher Kurtis Scheer shared how, as a historian, he connected education directly to rights. “When you think about education, you inherently think about rights.”

As stated in Wikipedia’s Timeline of women’s education, Afghan parents started to educate their daughters in the first school for girls in 1920, and sent women abroad for education.

One of the greatest women in the history of the world, “کن شورو” also known as Roxana, was from Bactria (modern-day Afghanistan) and is the daughter of a well-known man named Oxyartes. She was also known for being the wife of Alexander the Great. Her education included language skills in old Persian/Dari, skills in diplomacy, and training in arts like poetry, music and dance. In the history of Afghanistan, there have been many more educated women like Roxana. Still, with the Taliban returning to Afghanistan, this has led to the banning of girls from universities and high schools, of many hopeless girls who, like Roxana, had dreams of graduating and helping their country.

Junior Jana Wanas

shared, “If I weren’t allowed to go to school because I was a girl, this would completely affect my future and how I stand in society that I can’t even describe. It would definitely devalue my worth because I wouldn’t be able to be as smart or knowledgeable as a man, which is absolutely ridiculous. Not having excess education would limit my abilities in life, and my ambitions would be taken away because no matter how hard I would want to achieve, a man will always have it easier, regardless of whether they take education seriously or not.”

Current Situations

The situation of women and girls in Afghanistan is serious. According to UNESCO, since September 2021, all girls older than the age of 12 have been prohibited from school. Approximately 1.1 million Afghan girls do not have the right to education. Close to 30% of girls in Afghanistan never even entered primary education.

In December of 2022, university education for women was banned, leaving a negative effect on over 100,000 female students attending private and public universities. It is a sad situation, as between 2001 and 2018, girls’ education increased by 20 times, but the situation changed after 13 years. Before the ban on education, one out of three girls and women had attended a university.

Our grandmother shared how my sister and I are lucky and that she is grateful that we have opportunities. “I believe you will achieve your goals and dreams. I pray for you all the time,” she said. She mentioned how girls from our neighborhood, our childhood friends, Lena and Marwa, do not have access to any positive activities. A few of them got married, already have children, and are unable to experience their childhood and teenage years. Across Afghanistan, millions of girls in remote provinces have different stories and problems. Their stories are not the same, but their

lack of opportunities and hardships are.

Junior Laurene Pierre-Louis-Pierre believes, “If I were a girl living in Afghanistan today, I would feel very limited. Since girls are denied access to education due to their gender, there would be very little access to what I would need to pursue a career of my own choice. Having no control over your own rights is dehumanizing, and what is happening in Afghanistan today must change.”

Many schools for girls under 12 lack necessities such as clean water, heating, school supplies, female teachers, and more. Geographical barriers like mountainous terrain make it harder for children to attend schools, especially in rural areas. These issues persist in negatively impacting females of all generations.

Social Studies teacher Richard Tivnan stated that “outside pressure can influence countries when they’re doing certain things, like the Taliban.” As an experienced teacher, Tivnan highlighted education as a universal right: “We need to allow everybody. We should do everything we can to educate everybody. The more educated we are as a society, the better we’re going to be.”

Support: What Could be Done?

Every one of us should continue to advocate for the right of girls around the world to receive an education because this is a basic human right, and nobody should be left behind.

“Women in Afghanistan definitely will have the same hopes and dreams that everyone else does in the entire world,” added Scheer.

Solutions exist, and nothing is impossible. One community alone cannot change this unbelievable situation; it requires the defence and action of the entire world. It is a humanitarian challenge that touches all of us. If the world stands together, we can create a future where generations grow up with ambition, dreams, and hopes.

Education, economic

opportunity, and global solidarity are the keys to unlocking their potential. History teacher Courtney Braz concluded that “making people outside the country aware of what is happening there is an important thing to do. It is a real issue that exists outside of our country.” She continued, “Just to make sure that people know how lucky we are here to have free and equal education. I think awareness is the first step.”

This year, articles and reports such as (April 2025) “Empowering Afghan Women and Children as leaders of change” have reminded us that Afghan children and women must be seen not only as victims of crisis, but as leaders of change. This article mentioned they should be empowered through upcoming steps such as:

1. Education Access: education is the foundation of leadership. Afghan girls must be given opportunities to learn, whether through remote platforms, community schools and international support.

2. Economic empowerment: women-led small businesses should be supported.

3. Global Advocacy: international organizations and governments must be pressured to defend women’s rights. Also, silence is weakness, advocacy is solidarity. Global voices can change struggles.

4. Humanitarian Aid: aid such as food, healthcare and other human needs.

5. Amplify voices: Afghan women’s stories must be heard. Sharing their voices globally to make sure that they are not erased from the history of education or decision-making.

We strongly believe and hope that following those points and taking real action, the world can turn this dark chapter of bans and negativity into a historic moment of positive change, uncovering the true issues and giving Afghan girls the future they deserve.

Viral
Chicken
Fight
Boosts
Halloween
Spirt

Continued from page 1

It all started with a bag of chips. While the two friends were sharing, Schopp took the last chip out of a bag of chips that O'Connor originally paid for. After a heated debate on the ethics of friendship, the pair knew "we had to settle this," Schopp resolutely stated.

Thus, the time came for the long-awaited chicken fight. "During the day itself, I heard that there was going to be a chicken fight. I saw a lot of students heading towards the courtyard, and they were all excited; everyone was talking. I really wanted to know why they were excited at first, but I also wanted to make sure that this was safe," Brunelli House Principal Jean Ewald Charles commented.

Charles was able to recognize the joy the event was bringing to students while also prioritizing the safety of those involved. "Mr Charles just let us do it," O'Connor stated. "We were shocked that he was fine with it, but I guess that's Halloween spirit," Schopp added.

A crowd quickly formed in a circle around the pair, actively cheering on each chicken as they delivered blow after blow, not letting the inflatable costumes get in the way of settling their argument once and for all.

Almost every person in the audience had their phone out, recording the ordeal occurring before them. However, it was junior Giovanni Capachietti's video that got the attention of millions of people when he uploaded it to TikTok.

Currently at 2.3 million views, 381k likes, and 183.7k shares, Capachietti's video of the chicken fight quickly dominated the feeds of Malden students and staff.

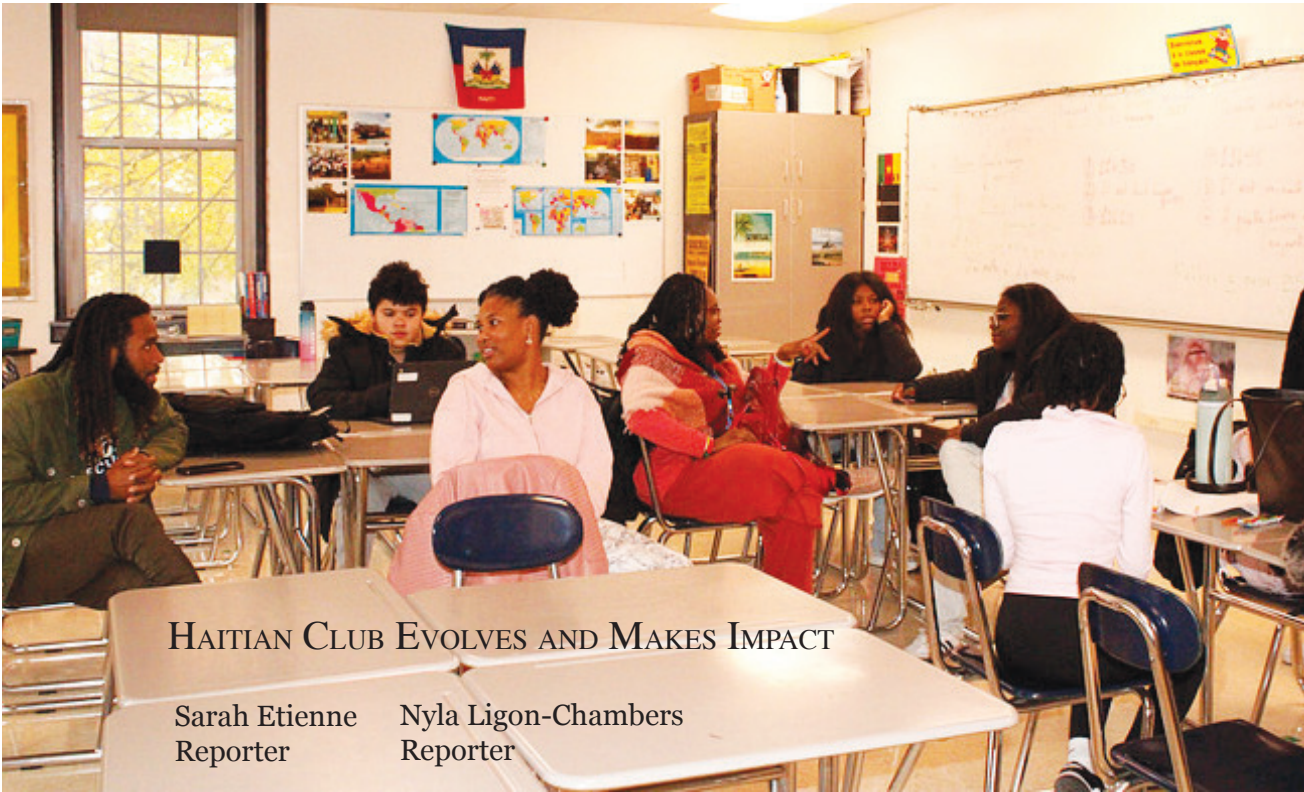
The video was sped up to two times speed and put over an audio of Kobe Bryant reciting the poem he wrote to announce his basketball retirement, coining the opening phrase "Dear basketball."

Capachietti was shocked at the initial popularity of the video and how quickly it amassed thousands upon thousands of views and likes. The stars of the video themselves were also surprised, "I love the TikTok personally. I love being famous even though nobody knows I'm famous," Schopp exclaimed.

Charles even appeared in the video, briefly checking on the students mid-fight. The comments

Continued on page 7

HAITIAN CULTURE CLUB



HAITIAN CLUB EVOLVES AND MAKES IMPACT

Sarah Etienne
Reporter

Nyla Ligon-Chambers
Reporter

Co-advisor Julson Etienne is communicating with student member Samalle William. Beside them is Co-advisor Nadege Sully speaking with student member Abigail Glaude on her opinion of what should be planned for the upcoming meeting. SARAH ETIENNE

With the start of a new school year, hallways are flooded with diversity. Different cultures and backgrounds are merged, while culture clubs are formed with representatives from their countries expressing their passion. One of which, the Haitian Culture Club, is back in business with new and improved changes.

The love and enthusiasm for the club continues to grow strong as all members are working together to the best of their ability. "It's just, it's a fun group and they share their culture, they share their love for music, for food, and we talk about it, and I think it's a supportive environment," club member, Larielle Leconte said.

Many of the returning members feel the club is running well so far. "The Haitian Culture Club is going pretty well," President Abigalle Leconte stated. Leconte soon added, "We try to meet as often as possible, and we try to incorporate, not just the Haitian culture, but if you need to get work done, you can come to the room, and get work done, listen to music, and talk to each other."

The advisor, Paul Degenkolb, who has been advising the club for years, has welcomed a few new members, also including co-advisors Julson Etienne and Nadege Sully. Degenkolb feels that the club will benefit from having these additional advisors. "I think it's important for club members to see someone who looks

like them and represents their culture in an advisory role," Degenkolb stated.

The club is running smoothly for Etienne, who is enjoying the atmosphere. "They are very enthusiastic. I see that they are very into what they are doing, and said, Well, okay, I want to be a part of this lovely family," Etienne expressed.

Not only has the club intrigued Etienne, but Sully as well. "I think it's a fun club, and one of the best clubs at MHS," explained Sully.

Additionally, more changes have been made within the club. For the first time in many years, elections were held for new roles. "This year is the first year in a long time that we have officers, and so we were actually talking in our meeting yesterday about how we might need to create bylaws, which are basically rules for an organization," Degenkolb stated.

Meetings have been occurring each Wednesday, discussing what events should happen in the future. "We have different activities like Kompa Night, the Haitian Flag, etc. There is also a cultural event during the year," Sully said.

Be prepared to see more of the Haitian Culture Club empowering themselves through whatever obstacles may lie ahead. Their determination will not go unnoticed!

The
Water
Lantern
Festival

Yen Nguyen
Head of Local

As if it were straight out of a fairytale fantasy, the Water Lantern Festival provides an ethereal experience for most visitors. Whether it's a heartfelt message to a loved one, a wish, or goal, visitors have the freedom to write whatever they want on their lanterns and launch them into the water. The main event is when the lanterns are launched into the waters, where there are cascades of lit-up lanterns flowing in the water, each one different and special in its own way.

The Water Lantern Festival appears annually across the country. These festivals began to be held in 2018, with the first one being in Salt Lake City, Utah. As time passed, they widened their horizon and started tours in different cities all over the U.S, as well as Canada. This year, the Water Lantern Festival took place in Massachusetts, specifically in Weymouth, at George Lane Beach on October 18th.

Visitors who purchase



Lit up lanterns floating in the water. Photo taken by Ann Nguyen.

a general admission ticket are provided with a wristband for admission, a drawstring bag that includes a lantern, a marker, and playing cards. Special ticket packages, such as the Date Night package, include two general admission tickets and a cozy blanket for sharing. The packages were convenient; visitors didn't have to bring additional items to decorate or light their lanterns.

The festival organizers partner up with the local food vendors and food trucks in various cities where they host the event, ensuring a diverse range of food choices at each location. This year, trucks such as Rockin' Burgers, Lobsta Lova, and Moyzilla were present at the festival in Weymouth. From heart burgers to buttery lobster rolls to cold, sweet ice cream, there was a wide range of foods people could

munch on while they decorated their lanterns. In addition to food trucks, live music performances were offered, setting the mood for visitors. A small indie rock band, "The Pickpockets," performed this year, bringing good vibes with lively country music.

The festival was set up three hours before the official lantern launching started. Organizers gave visitors plenty of time to arrange their spot at the beach, eat, listen to music, and decorate their lanterns. As it came closer to launching time, the beach became crowded very quickly. By the time the sun was starting to set, the high-spirited atmosphere was full of laughter and chitter chatter. The lanterns launched while the sun set, and soon, a myriad of glowing lanterns were flowing in the peaceful waters.

"All the lanterns were

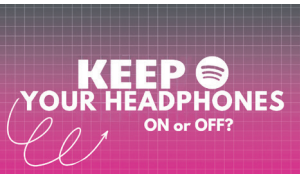
so pretty in the water, especially when the sun was setting too. This was my first time going to a Water Lantern Festival, and it was a really cool experience," visitor Mishelle Cruz expressed.

For many visitors, the festival was an exciting, surreal experience, and brought people together through a fun activity. It differs from other festivals in the way that it allows people to express full creativity with their loved ones. With an amicable atmosphere, tasty foods, and cheery music, the festival was the perfect event for people to let loose and have a good time with their friends and family.

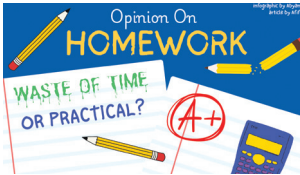
"I liked how peaceful it was and how it let me spend time with my friends. Overall, it was amazing and I'd totally go again," Malden High senior Ann Nguyen emphasized.



To read Aaliyah Nowlan's article, "The Nurses' Role at Malden High", scan this QR code!



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To read Anna Bui's article, "Bake With Change Creates Big Impact with Small Treats," scan this QR code!



Check out our Instagram!



Mass Votes
to Ban
Cellphones

Continued from page 4
**should students’ elec-
tronics be allowed?**

The bill states that certain students can be exempted if they are provided specific accommodations. This includes one-time emergencies, multilingual learners, IEPs, specialized education plans, and medical prescriptions.

Following the ban on phones, some parental concerns have been raised about being able to contact their kids in case of an emergency. Berryman expressed his concerns in the event of an urgent situation.

Despite this, English teacher Jennifer Clapp suggested that parents can always contact their students through the school-admitted telephones, email, and parent-teacher apps, such as ParentSquare.

Day emphasized how “it would be good if teachers were consistent,” with Berryman adding how “teachers shouldn’t have to enforce it themselves.”

Clapp mentioned how increased technology use has caused a noticeable uprise in “withdrawal from human interaction.” As a result, she transitioned back into the usage of paper, where she noticed the “little silent typing” turned into an increase of “collaboration” and an “increase in competition.” Clapp continued that an increase in the community overall leads to better record-keeping.

On the other hand, some students have expressed a liking for the bill. Junior Anthony Kazachenko showed content, describing how it “mostly acts as a distraction” and is “annoying to be trying to do work,” while peers are engaged in their screens. Kazachenko further elaborated how “it’s good, but for certain days it is a bit excessive,” such as Get Ahead days, generally any day with a prolonged period of free time. Contrary to Kazachenko, many other students have expressed their discontent with the bill, describing it as ineffective and unnecessary.

In summary, the act should be approached with caution, with there being no definite guarantee. Superintendent Dr. Timothy Sippel explained how “if necessary, [the school committee] adjusts their local policies so that we’re in compliance with the law. So that means there could be a chance that the committee doesn’t do anything at all.”

With that said, Sippel concluded: “We ourselves are more dependent on these devices than we would like to admit. We just need to be reflective of our own use of technology and make sure that we’re being attentive to the people in our lives and the things in our lives that matter most.”

Parents and Teachers Unite

TO PLAN FUTURE OF MALDEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



Chelmie Hyppolite
Managing Editor

Science teacher Shannon Votaw meeting with the parents of a student.
CHELMIE HYPPOLITE

As temperatures continue to fall, the harsh, chilly breezes begin to blow into the start of the second quarter. For many students, the beginning of the second quarter is just one of the many reminders to keep their minds focused on their academics. While the first quarter was a slow-paced introduction to the school year, the second quarter is when teachers and students begin to find their rhythm with their schedules and grades.

To ensure that students begin the second quarter on a good note, the yearly Back-to-School night was held on November 13th in both cafeteria A and B, and was met with large crowds of curious parents. Within the cafeterias, teachers were separated by

subject to make navigating easier for parents: science, art, and math in one cafeteria, and English, history, and business in the other.

For many teachers, this was their first time participating in a Malden High School conference night. Art teacher Courtney Gould, who previously worked at Ferryway, was one of these teachers. One key difference Gould mentioned between conference nights at both schools was how all of the teachers at Malden High were located in one area. “In all my years at Ferryway, we always had Caregiver-Educator Conferences in our own individual classrooms. Typically, parents and caregivers would sign up for an appointment with their child’s teacher,” noted Gould.

Gould continued to mention how this setup was very convenient for the high school level because of how many teachers there are, allowing for community building. “I saw a lot of smiles and connections being made, which was nice, and something you don’t necessarily get when conferences are held in individual rooms,” added Gould.

In the usual Malden High School tradition, a bake sale was held during the conference in front of both cafeterias. The class of 2026 and class of 2027 collaborated to sell tasty baked goods, savory popcorn, and bold coffee, which filled the room with a mix of delectable aromas.

A key part of the conferences that many teachers seemed to love was making connections with their students’ families. “I really enjoyed seeing all of the families and many of my current and past students,” English teacher Pasquale DiBenedetto expressed.

Overall, the conferences solidified the stability of the Malden High School community and marked the start of a successful school year, combating any previous worry about various changes within Malden High School such as schedule changes and new lunch policies, as students began to adapt to these new changes.



From left to right: Class of 2026 President Linh Do, Class of 2027 President Amelia Berliner, and Secretary Cat Nguyen posing for a picture in front of their bake sale. CHELMIE HYPPOLITE

MALDEN’S MATH CLUB COMPETES AT ST. JOHN’S PREP TOURNAMENT IN SECOND COMPETITION THIS YEAR

Emilly Weihrauch
Head of Local

Malden High’s Math Team took off with high hopes to St. John’s Prep for their second competition of the year. Consisting of seven different schools, each of the teams engaged in a tense contest, with each student fighting for a better outcome than the previous competition. The team was excited upon arrival to have fun, put their best effort in, and take away important knowledge from each round.

“Obviously, we want to win, but we always try to come here for the experience and for fun,” expressed junior and Co-Captain of Math Club alongside junior Ninitha Balamurali, Cathen Fon-

tanilla. “We want to encourage the freshmen and the newcomers to stay in the club, so we try not to dwell on the ‘hardness’ of the math too much. When we’re preparing, we try to collaborate as much as possible, and it makes the process much easier. It’s just like a normal competition,” she continued.

Malden stepped up to the challenge, going through six individual rounds and a final collaborative team round. The scoring works as such: two points per round, three questions per test—six possible points per person per round. There is a limit of five competitors per round, allowing for a total of 30 possible points.

The first round proved to be challenging for all

teams competing, where students were tasked to solve complex number problems. Most competitors involved found it difficult, with many not performing as well as they wished. Despite Austin Prep taking the lead with ten points, Malden held their ground, being tied with Wakefield for fourth place with four points.

The second round dealt with regions on a plane, asking students to find the coefficients of an equation given the area it creates. With the teams divided on performance this round, Wakefield and Malden maintained their tie, each totaling ten points thus far.

Suspense arose between rounds as the proctors entered the mess hall again to deliver scoring

sheets for each of the teams, quickly adding up the points as students either cheered or re-strategized. Food provided for the students boosted their morale between the rounds as teams reconvened.



Left to right: junior Alex Zhou, junior and Co-Captain Cathen Fontanilla, and senior Khai Nguyen review questions from round two, checking and correcting their solving processes. EMILLY WEIHRAUCH



To read "Art Teacher Eli Shalan Brings Color to Malden High School," by Antoine Alce, Nyla Ligon Chambers, and William Yu, scan this QR code!



To read "Expanding the Language Field: Introducing New Spanish Teacher Jessica Strzepek," by Afif Alakoum and Jada Gratini, scan this QR code!



To read "Former History Teacher Julson Etienne Is ‘Super Beneficial’ to Malden High School’s RISE Program," by Priscarla Villefranche, Ariana Edwardsen, and Kayla Turner, scan this QR code!



You, the Flu,
and What
To Do

Harmonie Ortiz
Reporter



Medical crew posing for a group photo. From left to right: Daynelin Santos, Sujata Sharma, Valerie Paulino, and Ariel Baxter. HARMONIE ORTIZ

As the fall season concludes and the winter chills approach, the flu season comes around. Your neighbours have it, your best friend, teacher, family, and who knows, maybe even your dog. You are trying to find ways not to get sick. So what can we do to prevent ourselves from getting it?

This is where the flu shot comes in, an immunization to protect you from flu-like symptoms and hopefully the flu itself. A flu vaccine can contain a weakened or inactive version of the flu virus, or antigens from the virus, which is not enough to give you the flu, but is strong enough to trigger your immune system to create antibodies.

These antibodies then give you immunity from the real flu virus, protecting you from getting sick. “I get my flu shot every year to help me build up antibodies to prevent myself from getting the flu”, said English teacher Pasquale DiBenedetto.

“I believe the flu shot actually prevents me from getting the flu. Every year, I have gotten the flu shot and have never gotten the flu,” said History teacher Courtney Braz.

Multiple clinics advertise the flu shot, and certain events also allow you to get it. These events are typically covered by your insurance or grants. “We do not turn anyone away who comes into the clinic for their flu shot,” said medical assistant Valerie Paulino.

Doctors highly recommend this shot. Nurses, Sujata Sharma and Lynn Cunningham found that it was extremely helpful in terms of preventing symptoms from worsening, so even “if they get the flu, it shouldn’t be as severe,” said Cunningham.

The flu affects many people starting from the day they are born. “The flu can make people very sick, especially if they have other illnesses, or if they are very young or old,” said Cunningham. This illness can be very harsh and has been proven to affect individuals who suffer from a weaker immune system.

While this vaccine has many benefits, some do not get it. Reginald Tarver shared how “I do not

CELEBRATING
FALL:

MALDEN
PUBLIC LIBRARY
HANDMAKES SOAP

Beatriz Oliveira
Lead Reporter



Feyza Kaya adding finishing touches to her bar soaps. BEATRIZ OLIVEIRA

Looking for something to do after school is usually a hassle. People never know what to do in Malden, but right across the street from Malden High, there is a variety of activities available to students.

Patrick Brennan has been working with the Malden Public Library for years to provide fun and relaxing craft spaces for grades five to twelve, including the bi-annual soapmaking in the program room.

The night before the activity, the Friends of Friends at the Malden Public Library, a nonprofit organization that raises money through book sales and more to fund the library, provided Brennan with funding to carry out soapmaking on November 5th.

Brennan began the activity by burning soap mixtures while students picked out their scents, molds, coloring, and flower inserts. Scents ranged from niche smells like maple syrup and candy corn to flowers and even fruit scents. When asked about her inspiration, Malden High senior Feyza Kaya shared, “I based it off of my favorite colors: red and purple, and just went with whatever felt right.”

Students then chose between a clear or opaque soap base. Once their cup was full, they had around one minute to mix in their scents and colors as well as pour their soap into a mold before it began to harden. “I

was just working quickly,” said freshman Nesmeralda Olivier, trying not to let the soap dry.

Brennan’s job consists of a lot of setting up and cleaning up, which can be tedious; however, he shared that when he started making soap, it was his favorite program “because it was very easy to clean up. It’s soap, so you just wash it away.”

At the end of the activity, students felt that it was “peaceful and calming,” commented Olivier. “I thought it was really nice,” added Kaya. Although not many people signed up for the activity, students still enjoyed their time.

“I think it’s a fun time for teens when they get to have more responsibility, and can do more fun things at the library,” said Brennan. “It’s a very open-ended craft program” where students “can really use their own personality, their own creativity, to make something,” he concluded.

Activities, like this one, happen weekly at the library. Students can connect and use their time to participate in relaxing and fun crafts. To keep up with the Malden Public Library’s future programs, head over to its website and register today!



Malden's Math Club assembling and posing for a group photo at the end of the competition. EMILLY WEIHRAUCH

Continued from page 6

climb the ranks. Between geometry and tessellations, factoring rational expressions, and solving inequalities within scenarios, Malden needed to “lock in” for the final two rounds.

The competition, despite its challenges, provided an opportunity for new up-and-coming students, such as sophomore Derline Hyppolite. As a first-time competitor, she expressed that she “felt nervous” and that being

an alternate competitor during round three was “stressful.” She hopes to “contribute positively to the team” in the future and improve her math skills through the club.

The fifth round had placed them in the penultimate spot, with Danvers just four points behind. The sixth round tackled a complex series of triangle problems, preparing the teams and serving as the final solo round before a final collaborative team

round. The sixth round kept Malden in the same spot, with the same point distance as Danvers, with both teams gaining 12 points.

“The competition was unexpectedly difficult compared to previous ones, but my team and I came in prepared and saw it through to the end,” elaborated senior Joseph Alayane.

The last team round was a combination of the types of questions asked

in the previous rounds, with a scaled difficulty. This round proved to be a great challenge for Malden, unfortunately, as they acquired no points.

The competition resulted in a win for Lynnfield, with 76 points, with Malden ultimately placing second-to-last with a final score of 46 points. However, the unfortunate loss did not discourage Malden’s competitors from future competitions.

Viral
Chicken
Fight
Boosts
Halloween
Spirt

Continued from page 5

saw Charles’ lab coat and began calling him a “mad scientist referee,” questioning his motives for allowing the fight to continue.

“I was dressed as Bill Nye the Science Guy. I used to be a science teacher, so I put on my lab coat. The fight was going fine, but I was worried about whether they were being safe, so in the middle of the fight, I stopped them, and I asked if they were okay, and they told me that they were really best friends and that this was just for fun, so I let them continue,” Charles explained.

The comment section also housed the debate of who won this chicken fight. Commenters were quickly defending their opinions, while Schopp and O’Connor themselves replied to many of their supporters. With the photo comment feature, commenters shared memes and relevant pop culture images that related to the fight, garnering more attention to the video.

“It’s so funny. They’re putting the picture of Peter Griffin fighting the chicken in the comments,” Capachietti shared. Junior Anna Leticia was also a witness and factor in the fight, as she was asked to help record and play music for Schopp and O’Connor. “The music started playing, and I just started filming. Everything happened at once. It’s a chicken fight, we don’t see that often. It made history at MHS,” Leticia remarked.

While Schopp and O’Connor may never share a bag of chips again, their fighting did not occur for no good reason. “There are no trick-or-treaters out there for me personally. I feel like the Halloween spirit is dying, so it’s very important to get the Halloween spirit back up,” Schopp expressed.

After Schopp and O’Connor’s quarrel, no MHS student will be able to think about Halloween without being reminded of the viral fight. Make sure you look for the nearest available inflatable chicken suit if ever encountered with the phrase “squabble up.”



To learn more, you can visit <https://www.cdc.gov/Flu/>, call your health care provider, or call 1-800-232-4636 (CDC Info)

get the flu shot because I feel like it does not benefit me.” The flu shot also has side effects, such as soreness, redness, and swelling, which may pre-

vent some from getting it. Danajia Williams, a student studying to become a nurse, stated, “While it is required for nurses, I have felt like

I often get sick after the Flu shot and would prefer not to get it.”

Doctors and nurses strongly encourage vaccination during the cold-

er months, but at the end of the day, it is no one’s decision but your own. “It’s their choice if they want to get it or not,” expressed DiBenedetto.

Popping
Competition
between
Malden’s Boba
Shops

Rin Clough
Reporter

Antoine Alce
Reporter

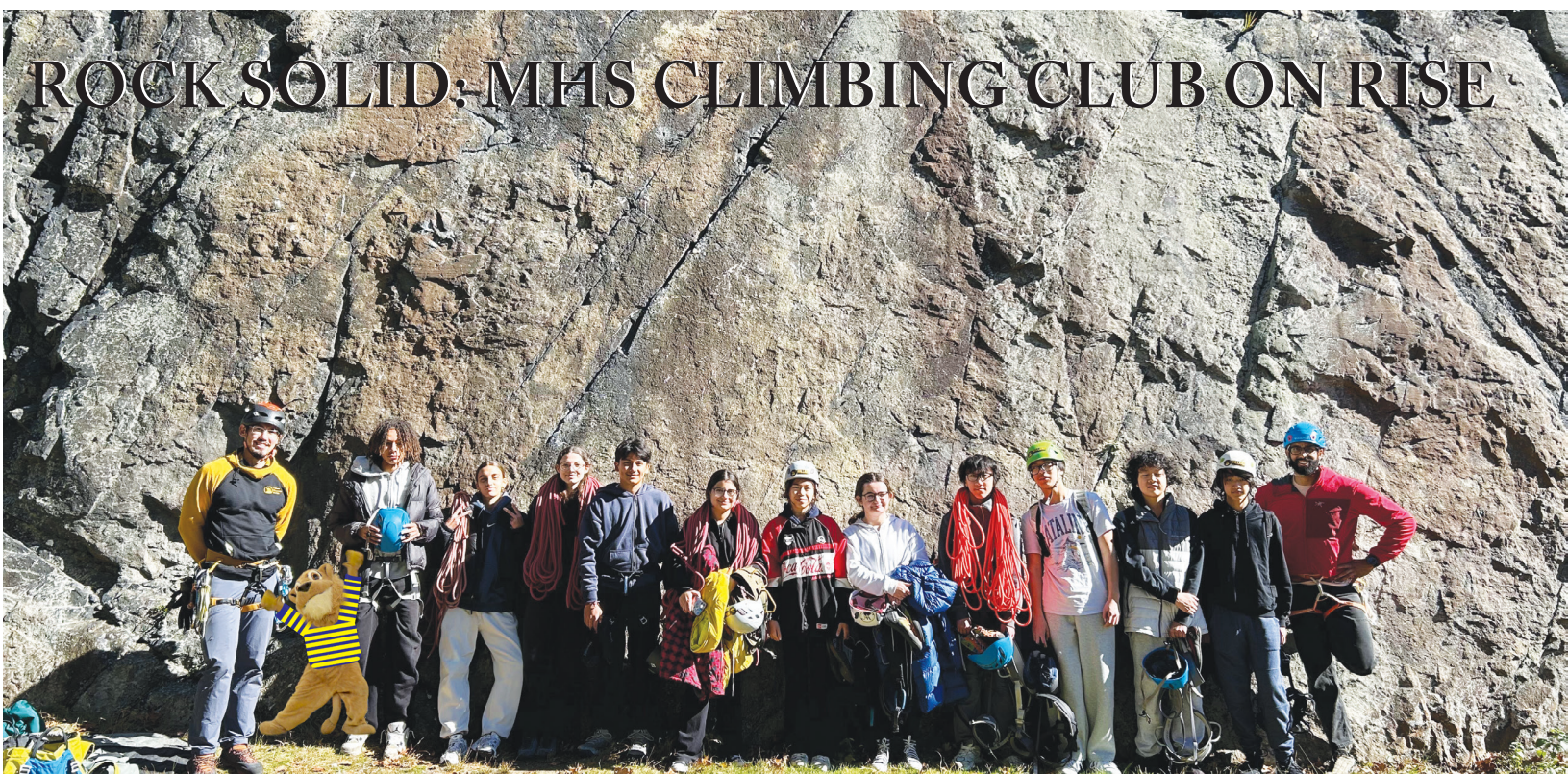
You walk out of a long day at Malden High School, dehydrated from gym class, or possibly needing a bomb of sweet flavor after loud chatter or overworking for 80 minutes in the Student Study Center. The line at Dunkin’ leads out the door and onto the sidewalk, and it feels like there are a thousand people inside of CVS, but a few students that have colorful drinks with bubble-like toppings catch your eye—it might be your time to try out some boba!

Since 1990, when boba, also known as bubble tea, was first created in Taiwan, its popularity has since spread worldwide. Malden has embraced this trend, having three main popular chains, including Kung Fu Tea, Gong Cha, and Tsaocaa. Kung Fu Tea and Tsaocaa are located across from each other near where Malden Center and MHS meet, while Gong Cha is across from Stop & Shop on Cross Street. These three boba stores have brought many residents in the Malden community, especially MHS students, to enjoy a fun refreshment.

There are dozens of different flavors and toppings among these three famous boba stores. Some stores offer options where the ingredients are all natural, and customers can choose the amount of sugar they want in their boba.

For example, Gong Cha offers simple drinks like Green Tea, Black Tea, and Oolong Tea, and Tsaocaa spices it up with drinks that include real fruit in them, like their Pineapple & Passionfruit Green Tea with Jelly. If you’re looking for a boost of sugar, Kung Fu Tea might be your go-to, with a menu that includes slushes and many chocolatey-themed drinks. Some of the toppings that can be found in these stores are jellies, pearls, popping boba (fruit-flavored bubbles that pop liquid in your mouth), aloe, and foam caps (a type of cold foam).

Most students who shared their opinions favored Gong Cha. “I like the strawberry puree,” sophomore Evin Vega expressed. Strawberry flavored boba tea seems to be a trend among students. Sophomore Salma Valencia Montoya added



Rock Climbing Club posing for a photo. Photo submitted by Charlotte Berliner.

Haset Tesfaw
Lead Reporter

The Rock Climbing Club was originally conceived “during the summer of 2024” by the current president, junior Charlotte Berliner. She explained how the Rock Climbing Club broadens access to an expensive and somewhat inaccessible sport for high school students.

“Last year, I co-founded the MHS Climbing Club with Angela Lam, becoming president and her vice president, respectively.” Berliner had been a student of the club’s current advisor and science teacher, John Frigo. She heard him speak about his interest in rock climbing and decided to create a club for it, to which he happily agreed to advise.

Berliner had reached out to the current vice president, junior Lam, with the opportunity since she had been a consistent member of the club, and she had “gladly accepted” since she “was really

enjoying it and wanted to help out.”

“I personally did not have any experience in rock climbing before this club, but it was really fun trying something new, so I’m hoping that other people like me can find and enjoy a new hobby like I did,” Lam expressed.

Berliner is thankful the club has been possible through “the help of Darren Josey from The Great Malden Outdoors,” as he managed to find “local sponsors to provide funding for our trips to Rock Spot in Malden Center.”

The Rock Climbing Club had been working on planning an outdoor climbing event in Malden on November 2nd. Frigo stated that, due to some unforeseen circumstances, a few last-minute changes had “thrown a wrench into things,” but the event was still a success, and they were able to bring a group of students to climb outside that day.

The event was an overall success, with a turnout of eleven students who came to climb. “Our guides were extremely

helpful and ensured that all of our participants had a great introduction to outdoor rock climbing,” Berliner continued, “With the overall positive experience, we are considering putting together another outdoor climbing event for any kids interested.”

Lam added, “We were secured with ropes, and it was a fun trust exercise since the climber had to depend on the belayer to make sure they wouldn’t fall, and to let them down safely afterward.”

The weekend prior, the Rock Climbing Club had held its first outdoor rock climbing trip at Waitts Mountain with the help of Willard Mountain Guides and The Great Malden Outdoors. The Great Malden Outdoors has been a great contributor to this club, assisting them on several projects, such as park cleanups and other outdoor activities.

Going back to last year, Berliner, Lam, and Frigo used their experience to create a valuable learning opportunity. They were able to find different ways to encour-

age students into rock climbing, because they knew how intimidating it can look.

Lam stated how she was proud of the turnout and how “seeing members going to multiple events showed me that this club is living up to its goals of introducing rock climbing to the students at MHS and that they are learning to enjoy the sport.” “By the end of the year, we were consistently getting 10-15 students per event, exactly the number we wanted,” emphasized Berliner. She personally enjoyed “watching many of our members improve in their rock climbing throughout the year,” and it made her proud of what they have been able to accomplish as a club.

Rock Climbing is known to be rather expensive, and Frigo appreciates how not only does this club allow students to be introduced to something new, but it is also free, and they “didn’t have to worry about purchasing all the gear.”

For this upcoming year, the Rock Climbing

Club has many aspirations. They hope to maintain consistent attendance and to continue the free-climb events as well. Berliner believes that these events really encourage “community” and hopes that “the club will reach more students this year and provide a positive rock climbing experience in which students decide to continue, even outside of our club.”

“Berliner has been putting in so much work planning these events.” Lam continued to say that she is inspired by “how much passion she has for the sport,” and that she was “really grateful for everything she’s done because if she hadn’t formed this club.” She concluded, “I would have never gotten the opportunity to even try rock climbing.”

Frigo encourages anyone who is “outdoorsy and interested in rock climbing, hiking, climbing trees, climbing rocks, or being outside,” to contact him (jfrigo@maldenps.org) or the officers. (cberline27@maldenps.org) (alam27@maldenps.org)



The view and sign outside Tsaocaa, displaying their offers of Bubble Tea, Fried Chicken, and Egg Waffles. ANTOINE ALCE



A street view outside of Kung Fu Tea, capturing the outside and inside of the store, as well as posters of promotional offers. ANTOINE ALCE

that she “likes the flavor and the atmosphere of the store.”

Even teachers from Malden High School enjoy a cold, refreshing bubble tea now and then. Health teacher Patrick Healey shared his thoughts on how boba has affected Malden High students. “There’s more

isolation with cell phones and technology. Everyone’s busier with work and things. So anytime, people, and especially young people, can come together and sit and talk and socialize, whether it’s over boba tea or food or something, it’s going to be a good thing, and that benefits the community,”

he said.

Even with students’ enjoyment of boba, there are a few drawbacks. For starters, the cost of bubble tea. The prices of certain flavors have not been liked by customers. “I don’t frequent them because I feel like it’s costly, if it was maybe more affordable, I probably

would frequent it more often,” noted Healey.

Another drawback is the distance from MHS to the popular boba shops in Malden Center. Although Montoya complained about the distance of Gong Cha from MHS 1, freshman Manahil Bibi shared that “they make it pretty quick and it tastes

good,” which some could agree makes the walk worthwhile.

These bubble tea chains have shown to be an enjoyment for MHS students, giving them many flavor options that vary from sweet and delicious bubble tea flavors to healthy and natural bubble tea flavors.



To read Beatriz Oliveira’s article “Malden Public Library’s Ongoing ESL Classes Welcomes Diverse Community” scan the QR code!



To read Adam El Fatihi’s article “Muslim Student Association Club: Creating Community and Sharing Faith” scan the QR code!



The Art of
HOCO
Proposals

Harmonie Ortiz
Reporter

Ariana Edwardsen
Reporter

The school year begins, and people are finally starting to adjust to the school and their brand-new classes. As students become settled into their classes, the preparation for Homecoming begins. Homecoming marks the first dance of the school year, it is a dance that incorporates all grades, from freshmen to seniors. Homecoming starts with the traditional football game and finishes with the dance. Whether you're going with friends or a date, maybe even both, this is a time to hang out and make new memories together.

Homecoming is full of new opportunities to make friends, hang out with people, and so much more. Many special memories can be formed from this event. Many traditions are made, such as your first time going to a football game or even your first time being asked out with a poster. This creates memories that last a lifetime and will continue to happen through generations.

Once the theme of the dance is released along with the date, students begin to rise with excitement and start to think “what should I wear?”, “who am I going to go with?”, and “what do I need to do?”. People are panicked in their freshman and senior year to set the year off or end their last year on the best note. One big question is “should I make a poster?”. This poster-making tradition to ask someone out has been around since the 2000s.

Junior Imyrah Occius shared, “The idea of asking someone is cute, but that isn't for me.” This is the awkwardness of getting a proposal that a lot of people won't talk about, but having all that attention can make you feel weird or bad, depending on your answer.

When it comes to making the posters, genuine thoughts and ideas about what they love contribute to the design, painting an even larger, meaningful purpose. One of the ideas was coffee for senior Fiona Youmell, “I loved the idea of coffee because I love coffee!” exclaimed Youmell. This shows the thought you put into this person and how well you really know them. “It's a good way to show appreciation to friends and lovers,” said Youmell.

As we have seen, Homecoming posters can be perceived in many ways, evoking an array of emotions. One thing we know going forward is that people will continue this tradition of asking people out with thoughtful posters. No matter how embarrassing, cliché, or corny it may seem to others.

MALDEN PREPARES TO BEAT MEDFORD



Israa Malhouni Copy-Editor Left to Right: Blue and Gold Head of Sports Aundrea Cifuentes, Gyovanna Gomes, and Rafaella Coelho hold arms as the cheer team lifts them in the air during a stunt. ANNA BUI

Anna Bui
Copy-Editor

SENIORS STEAL WIN IN NARROW RACE AT ANNUAL PEP RALLY

On November 25th, Malden High School's gym roared with energy as students gathered for performances, competition, and school spirit. With the National Honor Society's annual pep rally, each class came ready to sweep the competition. Freshman Madison Brazell described the atmosphere as more “intense than expected; everyone was screaming, but in a fun way!”

Before the pep rally, the class teams competed in a volleyball tournament. They began with preliminary games, in which freshmen challenged the seniors while sophomores fought against the juniors. The seniors and juniors had won their respective games and then faced off to determine a winner. After a tough competition, the seniors secured the final win, taking a lead in the rankings. Senior Oscar Luc shared that “as seniors, we knew this was going to be our last Spirit Day, so we had to go all out.”

As students filled the gym and took their seats, focus shifted towards the many talents of the school. Performances kicked off with the choir, led by Todd Cole, who performed the national anthem. The step team took the floor after, using their synchronized steps and claps to capture the attention of the student body. Sophomore David Ruprecht was amazed by their performance, saying, “They stood out and were fun to watch.” When the floor cleared, the cheerleaders rolled out with the final performance, full of dancing

floatie relay. Each spirit team was provided with a mattress, with the goal of one person pushing it to the other end using the weight and force of their bodies. When that person completed, they ran back to the beginning before the next person in line tested their abilities. This process would repeat until all teams crossed the finish line. The first ones to finish the relay were the juniors, giving them a win on the scoreboard.

Students' physical abilities were continuously challenged, especially with the following task of creating a human pyramid and holding it for at least three seconds. Some students managed to complete the tower within seconds, while others struggled to create a stable pyramid. Being just a



Senior Taliyah Lauture cheers as she successfully climbs to the top of the pyramid of spirit team seniors. ANNA BUI



Freshman team keeping its human pyramid stable. ANNA BUI

little quicker than the other teams, the sophomores earned another win and maintained their second-place spot. Ruprecht shared that the sophomores were doing “really good” and that he felt the “high school energy.”

The next game, over-under, consisted of players lining up and passing a basketball, either over their head or under their legs, to their teammate behind them, and then running to the back of the line. This cycle would continue until the player who started at the beginning of the line returns to the front, and the entire team takes a seat to mark their completion. Through the loud student cheers of “over” and “under” to guide their teams, basketballs weaved their way through players until the sophomores fell to the



Sophomore Alexis Lee passes the basketball over her head to Kim Zeng in the game “Over-Under”. ANNA BUI

ground first, claiming their victory again.

Returning to races, the spirit teams took their positions to prepare for the box relay. One person was on either end of the gym and two in the middle; each person must travel inside a cardboard ring until they reach the next person, passing the box to them. As the relay began, students dashed off, using unique methods to propel themselves forward, from crawling to doing complete somersaults within the box. The seniors were the first to roll themselves over the line, giving them a three-point lead. Sophomore Lillyanna Keogh noted that “this year felt louder than last year.”



Physical education teachers Mary-Jo Urquhart, Nancy Wentworth, and Class of 2026 president Linh Do cheer on the senior team during Tug of War. ANNA BUI

As the pep rally came to an end, the last game, Tug of War, began. Decided in preliminary rounds before the start of the pep rally, the juniors, who had lost to the sophomores, would face the freshmen, who previously lost to the seniors. Both teams put up an intense fight. While the freshmen had the upper hand in the beginning, quickly pulling the other team near their side, the juniors managed to redeem themselves. They put all their strength into it, and,



Sabrima Bhattira's face painted before Pep Rally begins. ANNA BUI

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MALDEN HIGH DISPLAYS SPIRIT

PEP RALLY SPIRIT WEEK MANIFESTS THE SPIRIT OF FACULTY AND STUDENTS



Starting from top left clockwise: Teachers Michaela Ilebode, Beth Horwitz, and Kristina Gilbert topped in matching crayon hats for "Twin Day." Senior Nour Howard poses for a photo as she wears a shirt representing her Moroccan culture on "Culture Day." Sophomore Vicky Ye suited up in a tuxedo and tie for "Wacky Tacky day" Freshmen Hailey Graham and Briella Nesta in matching Celtics jerseys for "Decades Day." Sophomore Edythe Howse wearing pajamas for "Pajama Day." Sophomore Minerva Davenport holding up a box for "Anything but a Bag Day." Juniors Wongel Yohannes and Krystalyn Vo donning their cultural wear on "Culture Day." VANESSA NGUYEN



Class of 2026 cheering with excitement as the student section is introduced. ANNA BUI

Continued from page 9

Following the intense competition, the winners of the preliminary rounds faced off. The seniors and sophomores stood on their sides, preparing for the game to begin. There was an enticing, competitive feel to it all. “The biggest thing I was looking forward to was the competitiveness that the pep rally brings,” sophomore Sofie Rivera shared. “I loved how invested everyone was in the pep rally.” Tensions were high; the sophomores were just a few points behind the seniors. The winner of this round would decide the winner for the entire pep rally.

The game started, and the classes cheered on their teams as the class advisors yelled for the players to continue pulling. Both teams held their ground, desperate for the win. As the teams tugged at the rope, the seniors brought the sophomores over the line, giving them the final win and making them the day’s winners.

Spirit Day is “competitive, expressive,” and “one of the many high school traditions students look forward to,” concluded Rivera.

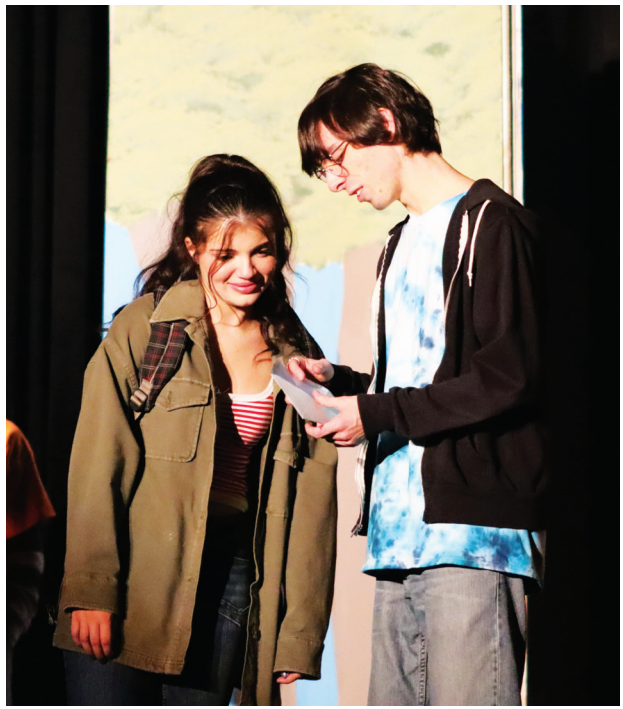
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“We spend a lot of time thinking about what would be the best-suited musical for our incoming groups of students, and knew beforehand that many had an interest in Greek mythology, ultimately deciding to roll with the infamous Percy Jackson,” voiced Messana.

The Lightning Thief is an adaptation of Riordan’s first novel, with music and lyrics by Rob Rokicki and a book by Joe Tracz, split into Act I and II, about a teen named Percy Jackson who must go on a quest to retrieve Zeus’s lightning bolt after discovering he is a demigod.

Senior Kail Boswell, who played the protagonist Percy Jackson, shared his personal challenge to be his “singing” abilities, while tackling his last musical. He explained how he never considered himself “a good singer,” however, with help from Cole and “self-training,” Boswell was able to deliver the performance of a lifetime.

Act I began with the “Prologue/The Day I Got Expelled”, where Percy was on a field trip at the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art, where his substitute math teacher, Mrs. Dodds, played by sophomore Sofia Rivera, transformed into a Fury and attacked him. Fortunately, with the help of a pen that was a secret sword, thrown to Percy by his Latin teacher, Mr. Brunner, played by senior Kenny Wong, Percy bested Mrs. Dodds.



Annabeth, played by junior and Managing Editor for The Blue and Gold, Alexia Maciel Lima, giving Percy, played by senior Kail Boswell, a letter from his mom, Sally, telling him that she used Medusa's head to finally get rid of "Smelly Gabe." FATIMA HUSAIN

However, having strayed away from his group during the field trip while being on probation, Percy was expelled. When trying to explain the events at the museum, he is baffled to find that Mr. Brunner, his best friend, Grover Underwood, played by senior Moisha Howse, and no one else, remembered Mrs. Dodds.

Blaming himself and his history of behavioral issues, ADHD, and dyslexia, Percy bids goodbye and heads home for summer vacation. At his apartment, Percy’s understanding mother, Sally Jackson, played by sophomore Lyra Heining, forgave his expulsion from school and decided it was time for Percy to learn about his father, and took him to the beach where they first met.

There, she revealed that Percy’s father had left before he was born. When he became upset at his constant expulsions and failures, his mother reminded him that his differences made him unique in the touching performance of “Strong”.

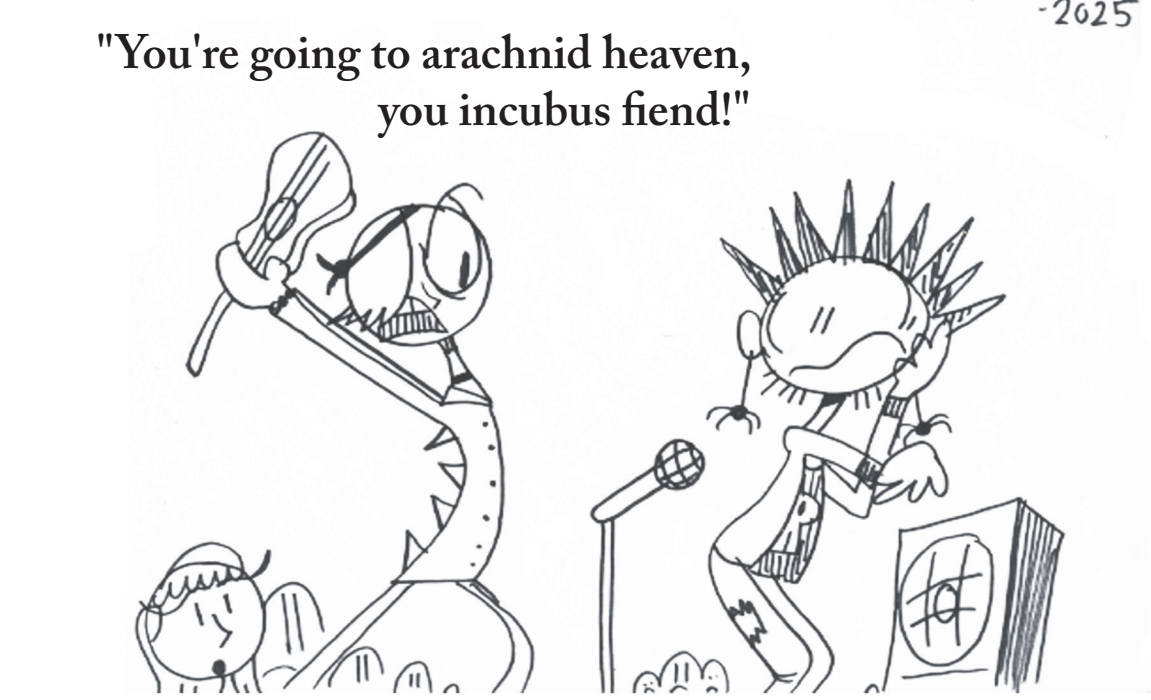
At the beach, Percy ran into Grover, who turned out to be a Satyr and his designated protector. Still recovering from the shock of his best friend being half-goat, a minotaur, played by senior Matt Jason Chan, suddenly appeared and charged at the trio, where Sally sacrificed herself to save her son. In a fit of rage, Percy slayed the beast; however, he soon fell unconscious after a hit to the head, and dreamt of a man in a Hawaiian shirt giving him a seashell in “The Minotaur” and “The Weirdest Dream”.

When Percy gained consciousness, he found himself in a place called Camp Half-Blood. For a brief moment, Percy refused to believe the previous events ever took place and claimed it to be a dream, but was reluctantly told by Mr. D, the God of Wine and Drama, played by Chan, in the hilarious play out of “Another Terrible Day” that he was a demigod in a camp full of other demigods, explaining that his “dyslexia” was just his brain being “hardwired” to comprehend Ancient Greek and his “ADHD” came from his “impulsiveness.”

At the same time, Mr. Brunner revealed himself to be Chiron, an immortal centaur, illuminating his need for a wheelchair in the outside world, and told Percy he would soon be claimed by his godly parent. Despite this, Percy remained discontent with being ignored by his father and found comfort in Luke Castellan, played by sophomore David Ruprecht, the son of Hermes, in “Their Sign”.

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EPHIA TEENS ON TOUR





In the Underworld, dead musicians dance to "DOA", starring sophomore David Ruprecht as Mozart and senior Kenny Wong as Kurt Cobain. FATIMA HUSAIN

Continued from page 10.

After settling into camp, the half-bloods decide to play a game of capture the flag in the thrill of “Put You In Your Place”, during which the teams are split into two: Annabeth Chase’s, the daughter of Athena, played by Lima, and Clarisse La Rue’s, the daughter of Ares, played by sophomore Minerva Davenport. Annabeth, not wanting Percy to ruin her team’s chance at victory, told him to wait in the boys’ bathroom; however, Clarisse found his hiding spot and attempted to crush him, but ended up soaked when the toilets burst.

Things calmed at night, when the campers settled around a campfire while Luke played the guitar and sang about their complicated relationship with their godly and mortal parents in “The Campfire Song”.

Lima claimed that this song was her favorite as it did “a fantastic job” at portraying the actors, but also acting as “an ensemble track that united the cast and brought many fond memories.” She elaborated by sharing how Messana believes the song showed their “inner theater kid” by “dancing” and “singing about friendship with each other,” which she “could not agree with more.”

Sophomore Lillyanna Keogh, who played Silena Beauregard, shared the “thrill and excitement” of performing for the very first time. Yet, because of the “connections” made along the way, everything was “worth it.”

The next morning, Percy was claimed by the sea and discovered he was the son of Poseidon, played by senior Oscar Luc; however, he was rumored to have stolen Zeus’s lightning bolt, causing him to go to the Oracle of Delphi, played by Heining. In “The Oracle”, Delphi prophesied multiple aspects of his journey, the most ominous being, “you shall be betrayed by one who calls you a friend.”

At first, Percy refused to go on a quest to the Underworld—after

it was said that Hades, played by Luc, is the thief—that would he only fail in “Good Kid”, but after Luke hinted at finding Sally, Percy is joined by Annabeth and Grover to head to the Underworld in Los Angeles, with no help or guidance, just a pair of winged shoes given to them by Luke in “Killer Quest!”, marking the end of Act I.

“I recognize that it was my last musical, but I don’t know if my brain has fully taken in that fact. Either way, I can confidently say that it was one of my best experiences in high school in general, not just theatre itself. The community is amazing, and they enhanced my experience with the show tenfold. I wouldn’t have wanted to end my musical career any other way,” Boswell added.

After a ten-minute intermission, Act II began with the trio on the Greyhound bus, but were soon attacked by three furies, including Mrs. Dodds, merely escaping before the vehicle exploded. The trio expressed their hopelessness and confusion in “Lost!”, having no clue how to reach Los Angeles.

Auntie Em, played by sophomore Sabrima Bhattarai, then appeared on stage and invited the protagonists into her Emporium, where lifelike statues adorned the interior. When she began to comment on Annabeth’s eyes, drawing their similarity to Athena’s and her wish to “immortalize” them through art, it is revealed that Auntie Em is none other than Medusa herself. As she attempted to turn the protagonists into stone, Percy cut off her head with his sword and sent it to the Gods as a joke, which is later shown to be received by Poseidon and given to Sally Jackson.

“I’ve been performing since seventh grade, but performing with such a big production for my first musical on opening night was nerve-racking, yet once I got on stage with my friends, I felt rewarded after spending months preparing for this one thing,” ex-

pressed Bhattarai.

For some reason, Annabeth became very worked up about the encounter and confessed that all her life she had been grinding tirelessly to prove herself to her mother and achieve glory in the powerful rendition of “My Grand Plan”. The next portion of the musical showed the trio attempting to reach Los Angeles amid several challenges before finally securing bus tickets and continuing their journey in “Drive”.

In a reprise of “The Weirdest Dream”, Percy fell into a slumber while on the bus ride and dreamt of a mysterious figure plotting with Kronos, played by senior Erin Grondin, about Zeus’s stolen lightning bolt, and mentioned the name “Thalia”, played by senior Christina Robinson-McCaskill. Jolting awake, Percy questioned Grover about who the girl was and learned of a tragedy that took place before his arrival.

Grover narrated in “The Tree on the Hill” about an attack on Annabeth, Luke, and Thalia as they returned to camp, and her sacrifice to save them. With a beautiful, yet sad demonstration, the actors mimicked a tree as it is told that Zeus, her father, could not arrive in time to save her, and instead turned her into a tree to protect Camp Half-Blood. Burdened by his failure, Grover claimed to understand if Percy wished him to leave; however, Percy refused to leave his best friend behind.

After a series of bumps in the road, the trio arrived in the Underworld and were greeted by Charon, the realm’s guide, played by junior Esther Mei Noche. In a bone-chilling, but enthusiastic performance of “DOA”, Charon and dead musicians, such as Kurt Cobain and Mozart, warned that the three will “never get away.”

Percy soon realized the lightning bolt was in his backpack the entire time, and was confused about how it got there, going as far as to blame Annabeth. How-

Continued on page 12.



After hypothesizing Ares to be the lightning thief, Percy, played by senior Kail Boswell, defeats Ares, played by senior Liam Gallagher, in a sword fight. FATIMA HUSAIN

Making “Modernia” out of Mania in ART’s 300 Paintings

Alexia Lima
Managing Editor

In an exploration of the ties between mental health and art, Australian comedian Sam Kissajukian brings his equally humorous and eye-opening journey with bipolar disorder to the American Repertory Theater (ART) at Harvard University through 300 Paintings. After quitting stand-up comedy and moving to an abandoned cake factory, over the course of a six-month manic episode, Kissajukian created 300 paintings that displayed the development of his mental state over time.

Fusing self-deprecation with comedy, 300 Paintings touched audiences as Kissajukian shared his struggles with mental health in an intimate way. Junior Grayson Herrera described his experience as a Teen Council member in the Levine Learning Lab program through ART, where he was able to attend the opening night of 300 Paintings.

“We were sitting exactly in the center of the house. We were essentially at eye level with Sam. It felt very intimate, it felt like we were being told a story as friends versus being talked to as an audience, it made it so much more impactful because it was a story I connected to very heavily,” Herrera conveyed.

Students departed Malden High School on October 15th, enthusiastically awaiting their turn to see the riveting one-man show. Learning Lab Lead Vahdat Yeganeh greeted students as they exited the shuttle bus and walked with them to Harvard University’s Smith Campus Center, where students would be eating provided burritos for dinner before the show.

Artistic Engagement Associate Leah Harris then led students to Farkas Hall at Harvard University, where they would be participating in a workshop and viewing the performance later that evening.

Unlike other ART shows, students would only be participating in one workshop directly before the show instead of the usual three workshops. On this night, Malden was joined by Boston Latin Academy (BLA), another high school, a part of ART’s Levine Learning Lab.

Yeganeh and Harris started the workshop by asking students to move to different sides of the studio based on whether they agreed or disagreed with a series of statements about art: You need to have an artistic education to be considered an artist, art can be officially completed, and considering themselves an artist.

The final statement acted as a transition for students to break off into pairs and discuss with their partners whether or not they considered themselves to be an artist and why. Encouraging broader discussion, Yeganeh and Harris led students to combine their pairs to form larger groups and define what an artist is.

After reconvening to debrief each group’s definition, Yeganeh and Harris handed out different case studies that depicted forms in which art had been used to build and support communities. Students were then able to reflect on their experiences with art within communities in a collaborative drawing, displaying a time they felt seen, to end the workshop.

Students were then escorted to Farkas Hall’s theater, where senior Thomas Conti welcomed the audience to the show alongside another BLA student. Starting the show with a bare stage, Kissajukian appears and begins introducing his background in stand-up comedy.

Kissajukian expressed how he began resenting the stage due to his previous profession, because he felt like he was performing for others’ approval rather than his own satisfaction and passion for comedy. Not being able to draw the line where his job ended and his life began, he decided to quit stand-up comedy.

Turning over a new page in his life, Kissajukian rented a concrete bunker to live in that used to be a cake factory to search for his new purpose. With the discovery of a forgotten beret, he knew what path his life would take next; he would become an artist.

He already looked the part, and there was no time like the present; therefore, he utilized forgotten pieces of cardboard and created his first few paintings. To truly explore all realms of his new passion, Kissajukian decided he would experiment with all different kinds of paintings. He started with portraits, first of himself and then of his former peer Kyle Legacy, a Liverpool comedian.

After receiving some negative feedback from Legacy, Kissajukian did not falter. He entered his second week as an artist experimenting with lucid dreaming. Through changing his sleep schedule so that his brain never shut off, Kissajukian found himself in a comfortable state of consciousness during his dreams, so he would be able to paint them, also known as the start of his psychosis.

Though Kissajukian was underground in an abandoned warehouse, his communication with the outside world was not cut off. Through his favorite form of communication, cryptic and nearly incomprehensible emails, he was able to connect with an artist mentor who told him to try contemporary art and stray away from modern art.

In true Kissajukian fashion, he stubbornly recreat-

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Percy Jackson

Continued from page 11.

ever, in that moment, his feet began to move to their own accord and pulled him toward the fiery pits of hell, Tartarus. Percy’s shoes, for some unknown reason, were the culprit and were then discarded by Grover.

Due to the chaos, the group was discovered by Hades, where it was uncovered that the God of the Underworld was innocent. Despite his innocence, Hades attempted to make a deal where he traded sanctuary for Percy, his mom, and his friends for the Bolt, convinced that he needed it to protect himself if Kronos really was rising.

Luc, a first-time performer, explained that he had to “navigate between a chill, surfer dude and channeling anger” and was helped by the welcoming community of peers in Play Pro to achieve that on stage.

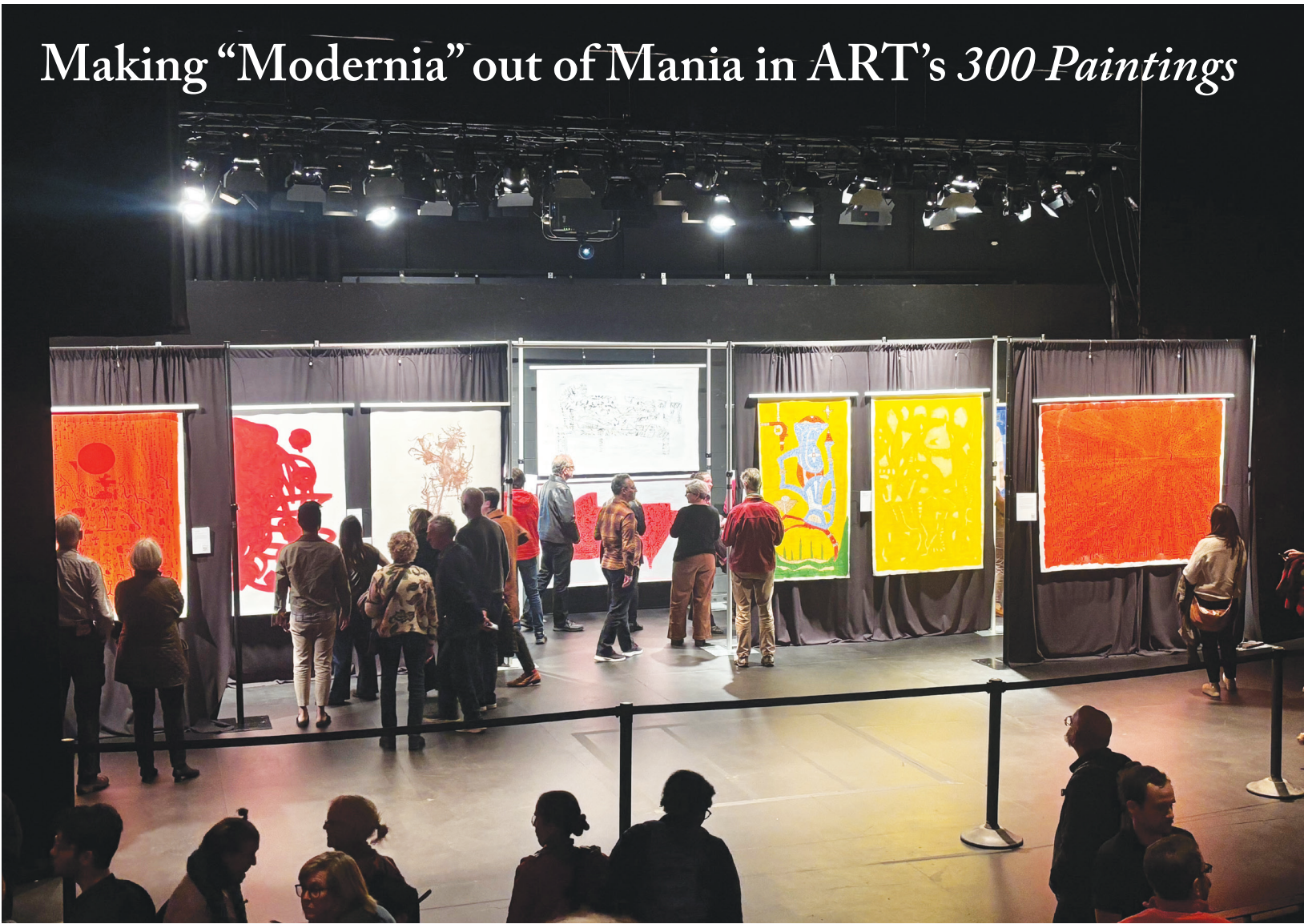
Unwilling to give the Bolt, Percy realized that the seashell in his pocket was given to him by his father, Poseidon, and used it to portal to a safe location. Still wondering about the Bolt and his backpack, Percy assumed that Ares must be the villain due to his inclination toward chaos and violence, and with his control over the sea, defeated Ares in the “Son of Poseidon”.

Returning to camp, Percy’s head was still turning over the unanswered questions of his quest despite his success, confiding in Luke to ease the flurry of emotions. Luke shared the feeling and said he felt the same after his quest. Approaching the climax of the musical with the “Last Day of Summer”, Luke unveiled his true nature and confessed to being “the thief.” He was the one who gave the shoes to Percy; he was the one who put the Bolt in Percy’s bag; he was the mysterious stranger working with Kronos, and he was the friend who “betrayed” Percy as prophesied by Delphi.

In his reprise of “Good Kid”, Luke aggressively explained that the ignorant and negligent nature of the Gods generated a deep hatred inside him, leading him to team up with Kronos to once and for all put an end to them. He then urged the other half-bloods to join his mission, but was sourly rejected by everyone, including his closest friend, Annabeth. Hurt by the lack of support, Luke stabbed Percy and ran away, while Annabeth magically healed Percy with ambrosia.

Ruprecht claimed that, as Luke, he was meant to be Percy’s “mentor and well-wisher,” but turned out to be the culprit “behind it all,” relieving a weight off his shoulders once his character’s intentions were out in the open.

The musical wrapped up with “Bring On the Monsters,” in which Percy assumed there would



View of the stage with Sam Kissjukian’s art exhibit. ALEXIA LIMA

Continued from page 11

ed all of his paintings in miniature versions and made intricate shoebox displays with full-blown weather systems to display his miniature creations in, believing that he had proven himself to his mentor and no longer needed his expertise.

Setting his sights on something bigger now that he, the student, had become the master, Kissajukian decided that he would become an inventor. For a whole month, he devoted 7:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. to creating a new invention. With the remainder of the day, Kissajukian would tirelessly promote his inventions to investors, hedge funds, and even universities until he finally got a response.

While Harvard University did not reply to his email about his revolutionary invention regarding the movement of mold, which does not track with their choice to hire him to perform at their theater in the present day, a hedge fund manager showed interest in Kissajukian’s eBay auction system, where the roles of winning and losing are reversed.

Driven by the absolute confidence only someone deep in mania could have, Kissajukian pitched his idea in a video call the next morning, yielding a ten-thousand-dollar investment in his project to get him to go away.

Elated with triumph, Kissajukian takes his initial invention, which embraced doing the opposite of what was expected of you, and translates it to business practice. Kissajukian decided that with his new investment, he would create a business selling “Pisscasso” shirts. Inspired by the artist and creator Picasso, Kissajukian decided that “Pisscasso” would be the business slogan for destruction because he would be using solely bleach on the shirts, and bleach destroys.



Malden Levine Learning Lab students posing with their collaborated drawing. ALEXIA LIMA

be an inevitable war in the future, but declared that he and Camp Half-Blood would always be there to fight against evil. As the curtains closed to envelop the actor, the audience erupted in applause and cheers, finding

the play time well spent. The incredible hard work put in by everyone on and off stage was reflected by the enchanting night, with sophomore Sophia Zhang appreciating the “perfect portrayal of characters.”

Some minor challenges faced during the production were technology and microphones not functioning properly, but these were soon resolved, allowing a smooth run for the rest of the duration. “Being able to see

something come together that my friends put their all into, and people talking about for weeks, was super awesome,” remarked sophomore Gianna Bilodeau. Bringing The Lightning Thief to the stage

was no small feat, and the production team’s dedication shines through in every detail. Their creativity turned Percy’s adventure into a lively performance that captures both the humor and heart of the story.

Kissajukian created an online video game museum named Museum of Modernia (MoM) where potential customers would have to virtually travel through space and spinning vortexes to view the products. His investor saw his mania as genius; Kissajukian awoke the next morning with five figures in his bank account.

While at the height of his mania and being financially supported to create his art, as Kissajukian was becoming aggressive, compulsive, and overall malnourished, he had a life-threatening experience that brought him to the realization that he had to stop.

After knocking himself out on the wall and mistakenly knocking over a gallon of blue paint on himself, Kissajukian feared for his life. He knew that he had to make a change, or he could easily end up harming himself further. On his journey to finding stability, he slept in an effort to fix his scattered sleep schedule, and he attended social events to try to reconnect with the outside world after so many months of isolation.

Yet, he faced rejection. Senior Moisha Howse reflected, “Being in that high where you feel euphoric, you feel like you’re doing something amazing and creative, and then the fact that you’re slowly making everything a whole lot worse and you don’t see it until it gets too bad and then the drop after that and what you have to do afterwards to deal with it, I personally relate to that a lot. Seeing yourself after that, and wanting to return to that state, reminds you about how hard the fall is afterwards.”

Kissajukian sought out therapy, where he was officially diagnosed with bipolar disorder. While he did not accept his diagnosis at first, he was able to acknowledge his destructive behaviors and put in the effort of maintenance to not return to them.

Yet, Kissajukian’s journey as an artist was far from over. He soon got a call to

share his paintings in a one-day exhibit in Perth, Australia. From this experience, Kissajukian was able to connect that his art was his way of being seen, and that he could share that with others.

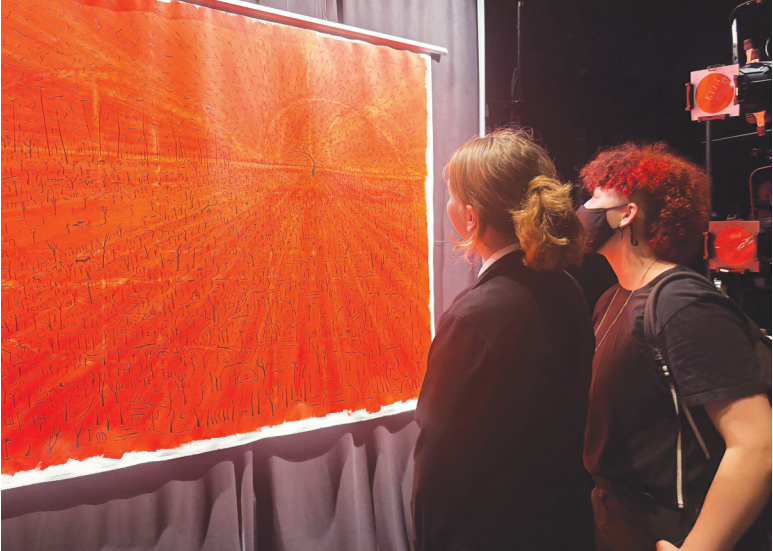
Over the next couple of years, Kissajukian has now done a total of six solo exhibitions, the most recent one being in New York City, where he was seen by the ART.

Kissajukian concluded the show by simply stating that he hates endings, and audience members should decide for themselves how they want the evening to end. The audience erupted in applause as the curtains rose behind him to reveal a various array of his paintings, while Kissajukian invited audience members to join him on stage and enjoy the gallery walk, or to meet him in the lobby, where he would be taking questions.

Students appreciated the intimate and light-hearted nature of the show, and how it translated to being able to actually talk to Kissajukian. Sophomore Minerva Davenport described, “This made me feel understood. I was watching it and I was like ‘no, this was written for me.’ I understood everything he was talking about; it was humor I could understand.”

When taking away a message from the show as students, Herrera expressed, “We need to rely on the community we have around us to help support us because of how dangerous isolation can be for the mind. He had a preexisting condition of having bipolar disorder, but I think it translates to everyone, especially with teens who might be battling other mental health struggles like depression or anxiety, or even just navigating life.”

Kissajukian reminded audiences that they are never alone and to create light in even the darkest of situations by relying on their communities.



Sophomore Emelia McWayne and junior Grayson Herrera observing Sam Kissajukian’s “Where’s Wally?” painting. ALEXIA LIMA

MALDEN ENDS SEASON WITH GRATITUDE



Sophomore Running Back Jayden McGuffie Season Stats:

Rushing Yards

1727

Touchdowns

23

2 Point Conversions

15

Carries

184

Annual Rivalry Game Ends in Malden Victory

Continued from front page. a touchdown and making the conversion. The first quarter ended 8-8. Defense on both teams matched each other's as the second quarter remained scoreless, marking the start of halftime,

Nathan Schonton and Colin Okoth congratulated each other after a successful block. Photo taken by Gino Spadafora.

and the score was tied 8-8. There were various efforts made by the Tornados as McGuffie ran the whole field and attempted a touchdown, but received a flag on the play, not earning the touchdown. This happened twice in the second quarter and ultimately didn't earn any touchdown points. Medford seemed to be making a comeback in the third quarter, but their momentum wasn't a match for Malden's defense as they ended up fumbling the ball. Malden was able to recover the ball, and senior left

tackle Jahiem Francillon drove through Medford's middle linebacker, allowing McGuffie to run a whopping 87 yards down the field to score a touchdown. This put Malden back in the lead at 14-8, but they didn't receive the 2-point conversion, leaving the third quarter at 14-8. Offensive lineman senior Johnathan Ventura highlighted, "Everyone on the O-line was blocking their targets and doing their job, the chemistry was on point and was a key point to us winning and allowing the space for Jayden

McGuffie to score." Francillon gave a shout-out to the defensive line, stating, "The tackles were important and really made an impact on the game's outcome." Entering the fourth quarter, with Medford possessing the ball, senior defensive back Jemiah Charles shut down Medford's star receiver, not allowing a pass. This set the tone for Malden's defense as freshman outside linebacker Arthur Sewell tackled Medford's running back from scoring a big touchdown that would've caught Medford

up to Malden. This left Medford without scoring another touchdown in the fourth quarter. McGuffie ended up scoring a touchdown during the fourth quarter and was assisted by Francillon. He made a block that cleared the path for McGuffie to make the touchdown, untouched, once again. This game allowed the team to feel better about how the season went because, regardless of their team's score in the season and in the GBL, they were still able to bring their annual game trophy back home.

Families and Friends Unite for Class of '26 Football Senior Night

Elijah Etienne Lead Reporter

Senior Night is always a time of bittersweet departures. The same can be said for the 2025 Golden Tornados Football senior night on November 16th. As the seniors suited up for one last guaranteed home game, they stepped out and walked with their families for the senior ceremony, reflecting on their journeys thus far. "Senior year came really fast. I remember last year, seeing the older seniors who were leaving, and they used to say, 'This is going to be you soon,'" reflected senior linebacker and left guard Ismail Elbahlawan. "It's kind of crazy because I've been playing football my whole life, so knowing that this is my last year playing, it's a weird feeling," expressed senior captain and quarterback Billy Gavin. Elbahlawan described the energy during the ceremony as "surreal." Senior captain linebacker and receiver Kenny Turcios Melgar agreed, "It was a weird feeling of pride and happiness." He continued, "I was happy that I made it this far, and proud that I got to share this moment with my mom, dad, brothers, and sisters walking with me."

Continued on page 14.



Cheerleaders and football team taking a photo with the trophy as it returned home in triumph. Photo submitted by Coach Bianca Scola of the cheer team.



Team shouting out of joy for Jayden McGuffie making a touch down. Photo taken by Gino Spadafora.



Quarterback Billy Gavin and running back Jayden McGuffie prepare to make a play on offense. Photo taken by Gino Spadafora.

Football
Senior
Night

Continued from page 13.

After the ceremony and national anthem, it was time for the kickoff. Watertown opened the game with a high onside kick that Malden recovered at the 42-yard line.

Watertown’s first drive started with an early first down through a series of short runs, before Malden’s defense settled in, and forced a three-and-out and punt on the 4th down. However, after a muffed catch on the punt, Watertown pounced on the ball at the 20.

After converting a 4th and 1 from the six-yard line, Watertown had 1st and goal, where they handed it off to the running back, who ran to the outside and punched in the first touchdown of the game. After a successful two-point conversion, it was 8-0.

Later in the quarter, after a short run for a gain of two yards, on 2nd and 8 from the 22, sophomore running back and linebacker Jayden McGuffie took a handoff up the middle, where he broke a few tackles before cutting to the outside, where he outpaced any remaining defenders for a 78-yard touchdown to put Malden on the board. After an unsuccessful two-point conversion, Malden went into the half down 8-6.

On the opening drive of the second half, Watertown really looked to punish Malden’s weak run defense by attacking them on the ground. After a few chunk runs by Watertown, their quarterback broke to the outside and was into the endzone for another Watertown touchdown early in the third quarter. After another successful two-point conversion, the score was 16-6.

On the following drive, a handoff to McGuffie was fumbled and resulted in another turnover for Malden at their 38. “The fumbles were the worst part. We had three, and our offense just couldn’t get moving,” stated senior captain receiver and cornerback Manny Perez, who is also a reporter for the Blue and Gold.

However, failed runs and holding penalties made it impossible for Malden to get anywhere. This caused Malden to attempt moving through the air and target Perez on a corner route that was picked off by Watertown. After a successful 2-point conversion, the score was 24-6.

The next drive saw Malden’s focus on the air, despite a previous interception. This paid off, as they drove down the field with passes to Perez, Melgar, and finally a 19-yard reception in the endzone for Schonton to make the score 24-12 after an unsuccessful two-

JUNIORS WIN POWDERPUFF GAME



Senior girls posing for a group photo after the game ends. EVELYN RUAN

CO’27 TRIUMPHS OVER CO’26 IN
ANNUAL POWDERPUFF GAME

Evelyn Ruan
Head of Sports

Before Malden High’s annual Pep Rally and Thanksgiving game against Medford, the CO’26 and CO’27 spent weeks fiercely assembling their teams of senior and junior girls to compete in the Powderpuff flag football game, which was held on November 24th.

As the cold wind blew, the girls made their way to MacDonald Stadium, preparing for the event. Though the atmosphere was competitive, with both teams eager to win, junior Nyla Pierre, who participated in the Powderpuff game because she wanted to play with her friends, shared that she felt excited because she “knew it was for fun, no matter the outcome.”

Likewise, junior Amelia Berliner felt excited, as she had “seen how much fun it was as an underclassman,” and was excited to have the opportunity to play this year against her senior friends.

As soon as Michael Lightbody, history teacher and referee of the game, and Mayor of Malden, Gary Christenson, arrived, they led the girls into a coin toss to determine the team that would start the kick-off. When the coin flipped, it revealed that the senior team would do the kick-off, officially starting the game that consisted of two 30-minute halves.

Though the game started strong for the seniors, as they coordinated and played together, Berliner was first to score a touchdown for the juniors. Within the next few minutes, the seniors scored a touchdown by Brenda Darisse.

As the first half went by, many players made touchdowns for their team, but what challenged the seniors was when Berliner made a defensive pick-6 touchdown, followed by a run to the of-

fense’s end zone, leading to a turnover. When the timer ran out, the half ended with a 20-14 score, with the juniors leading.

Both teams were hungry for the win, especially the seniors, wanting to prove themselves and take back their tie from last year’s Powderpuff game against the CO’25. Throughout the second half of the game, both teams scored touchdowns, which led the score to go back and forth.

Although it was competitive, there were many difficulties that occurred. Senior Sania Chen, who participated last year and decided to continue due to her love for football, mentioned how she felt pressured, as the coaches kept telling her where to throw or run. “I had a lot of girls who were open but I couldn’t see. I told girls that I’d pass them the ball but then threw it to someone else.”

Despite the difficulties, both teams still put in their best efforts to win the game. Yet, there could only be one winner to take home the win. With the timer ending, the juniors showed off their incredible teamwork and defeated the seniors with a 24-18 score, running into a group hug.

Although Chen was upset with the outcome, wishing they played differently, she still had fun because she “was able to see teammates and the juniors show off their incredible skills. It’s always fun to watch but also to be a part of it.” Like Chen, senior Linh Do also shared her joy, especially because she was with her friends, despite the loss.

“I was so glad we won, and I hope next year will have the same results,” concluded Berliner, who “will definitely be participating next year!”



Malden Golden Tornadoes sophomore wide receiver Noah Schonton (7) and sophomore running back Jayden McGuffie (2) after Schonton’s touchdown changing the score to 24-12 with the Watertown Raiders leading in the second quarter. GABRIELA PARINI CORDOVA

point conversion.

However, Watertown wasted no time responding after taking the opening play of the drive to the house on a handoff up the middle that was broken to the outside. This was followed by a field goal to make it 31-12.

McGuffie scored again on another drive up the middle, when he was able to break to the

outside, and flatten an opponent with a stiff arm, before getting all the way to the 5-yard line. He then walked in untouched, with help from the offensive line’s sizable crater for McGuffie to pass through and earn a touchdown. An unsuccessful two-point conversion kept the score at 31-18.

Down 37-18 later in the game, McGuffie was

able to break off a big run for another touchdown, but a flag brought it back, which then led to Malden going four and out.

After turning the ball over on downs, Malden was forced to defend at their own 33. This was unsuccessful after a QB draw on 2nd down brought Watertown all the way to the two-yard line, where they handed

the ball off to make it 45-18 after a successful two-point conversion.

Malden scored on their following drive with a 41-yard McGuffie run, followed by their only successful two-point conversion of the game by Elbahlawan, but it was too late as Watertown was to kneel out the remainder of the game.

Despite the undesired

result, the night wasn’t ruined by the loss, as players and families could be seen taking pictures with the senior posters and holding up handmade ones for photos.

“Yeah, of course it sucks to lose, but that loss doesn’t define all the work we’ve put in, all the bonds we’ve made, and the memories,” concluded Elbahlawan.

Malden
Prevails Against
Lexington
Minutemen in
28-26 Thrilling
Win

Jacob Fuentes
Editor-in-Chief Web and
Mobile Apps

On November 13, 2025, Malden had one last chance to showcase their abilities at home in a game against the Lexington Minutemen. Malden entered the match-up with a record of 2-6 and Lexington with a record of 3-6.

The Minutemen opened the game with a huge kickoff return from their 25 to Malden’s 35. This set them up for a 1-play touchdown drive after their running back took a carry through the middle, to the outside for 6 on the only play of the drive. After a successful field goal, the score was 8-0 early.

After an unsuccessful onside kick, Malden’s response drive started with a penalty for a false start at the 49, forcing them back five yards. After two short rushes and an incomplete pass, running back Jayden McGuffie completed a 6-yard rush; a pass was then completed to wide receiver and Blue and Gold reporter Manny Perez, and McGuffie was able to finish the drive with a rush for a touchdown and a successful two-point conversion, bringing the score to 8-7.

After two more touchdown rushes by McGuffie, he was able to break the Malden High School record for most rushing yards in a season of 1727. However, Lexington was able to respond and end the first half, which was tied at 20-20.

The Minutemen also held on to the ball for the remainder of the third quarter. As the Minutemen pushed closer to the end zone, Malden found themselves on their own two-yard line. Fortunately, senior defensive tackle Jahiem Francillon made a crucial tackle, causing a turnover on downs to earn the ball back.

As the time was running out, Malden started on their own 18-yard line. The quarterback handed the ball to McGuffie, who took off for an 82-yard touchdown rush, earning the lead once again for Malden. After another successful two-point conversion, the Tornadoes still had eight minutes left to defend their lead. Lexington was able to reach Malden’s 21-yard line with a minute and a half left on the clock. After a timeout and a couple of short gains, the Minutemen faced fourth down and two.

The energy shifted when a holding penalty was called on Malden, giving Lexington a first down, followed by a false start on Lexington with 13 seconds left. With three seconds left, on third down, Lexington completed a touchdown pass, bringing the score to 28-26. The Lexington Minutemen decided to attempt a two-point conversion, with a rush towards the left end zone. The Malden defense was able to read the play as McGuffie made the final tackle, keeping the final score of 28-26.

Malden High's Cricket Players

Bilal Psarly
Reporter

Continued from page 1

Matches can range from a few hours to several days. Cricket is hugely popular in many countries around the world, originating in England in the sixteenth century. A few students have created their own team to bring cricket to Malden High School.

Ahmad Ghani is Malden High's all-rounder, a player who excels in bowling and batting. Ghani grew up playing cricket in Pakistan. He learned the game in his neighborhood with his brothers and friends. A neighbor showed him the basics when he was very young. He started playing when he was eight, and now he is seventeen.

As for technique, he bats right-handed and bowls right-arm spin, and most of his practice comes from playing with his friends on weekends. He gathers ten to fifteen players to work on their batting and bowling simultaneously. Ghani said one of the crucial things in maintaining his passion for cricket is encouraging his friends to play with him, often “knocking at their door and telling them, let’s go play cricket.”

Umar Ghani is Malden High's opener, one of the two batsmen who start the innings and face the new ball to aim to give the team a strong start. He grew up



Ahmad Ghani, a right-handed batsman and right-arm spinner. **BILAL AHMAD PSARLY**

playing cricket back in his country, Pakistan. He started playing when he was young, also at around eight years old, and is now seventeen as well, and he still plays whenever he can.

He bats right-handed and says batting comes more easily to him than bowling, so he prefers batting. Back at home, he practiced up to three hours a day, but here he mainly plays on weekends. Moving from playing in a small place to a big stadium was hard at first, he said, but after a few months of regular practice, he became more confident in big games.

Cricket is a sport that can bring everyone together; it helps students to make new friends and enjoy working towards a common goal. From playing in the street to facing world top bowlers in a big stadium, for some players, cricket is not just a sport; it's an emotion. Come watch cricket practices and games to see just how easily a ball and bat can create a bond.



Umar Ghani standing with his Cricket gear on.
BILAL AHMAD PSARLY

GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL DEFEATED

TEAM REMAINS OPTIMISTIC DESPITE 3-0 STATE TOURNAMENT LOSS



Golden Tornadoes Girls' Volleyball team chant 'one, two, three, Malden!' during a timeout. JACOB FUENTES

Jacob Fuentes
Editor-in-Chief of Web
and Mobile

On November 1st, 2025, the Girls' Varsity Volleyball team went away to play against the undefeated Chelmsford Lions; however, they lost three sets to none, each ending in 25-5, 25-11, and 25-7. Leading up to this match, Malden had won its last six games and entered Chelmsford with an overall record of 15-6. With Chelmsford being undefeated, Malden knew that it would be a tough task, but still aimed to keep their "heads high and ready to take on any

game,” senior Gabriella Lemus said encouragingly.

This mentality motivated all players to keep positive attitudes throughout the game, regardless of the score. Coach Daniel Jurkowski shared his thoughts on the game, commenting, “Chelmsford was ranked #1 and had not lost a game all season. The motivation for the girls, and especially our seniors, was not to let the season end. And if it was going to end, they would keep their heads held high, knowing we gave our best effort on and off the court.”

Even when trailing,

Malden understood that enjoying the moment was key to keeping their energy up and motivated, “positive energy kept us in the fight,” added Lemus. This season provided the team with the opportunity to reach the state tournament for the fifth year in a row and also win their first states game in about a decade.

While it is clear that the team is dedicated and capable of incredible performances as a unit, they credit a recognizable portion of their outstanding motivation to coach Jurkowski. "I've noticed I take his competitiveness on court with the support of my teammates. They

are a reminder to not give in to pressure on court and that I have a purpose: to be a role model for everyone," proclaimed senior Captain Sania Chen.

Although the team may not have secured the result they wanted, they still managed to set an example of athletic excellence. “I felt sad at first because it was the last game I would play with the other seniors but then I felt content because our season was going to end one way or another, and what better way than to play the number one ranked team in the state. It was awesome,” concluded Chen.

Fall '25 Sports Records

Football
—
2-6

Field Hockey
—
2-15-0

Boys' Soccer
—
6-7-5

Girls' Soccer
—
11-5-2

Girls' Volleyball
—
14-6

**Boys' Cross Coun-
try**
—
0-1

Girl's Cross Country:
—
Girls 0-1

Thanksgiving Rivalry Football Game
Score
—
20-8 Malden Win

Girls' Volleyball
First Round of
States Score
—
3-0 Malden Loss



Collage by Anna Bui, Fatima Husain, and Israa Malhouni

CHEER SQUAD SENDS OFF STARS



Cheer team taking a knee after a player is injured. VICTORIA DOMICIANO

Haset Tesfaw
Lead Reporter

A BITTERSWEET DEPARTING FOR CHEER
SQUAD SENIORS

Senior Night for the Malden High cheerleaders was a mix of both celebration and nostalgia, as they completed their season with an unforgettable sendoff. On November 16th, the emotional seniors walked down the field, surrounded by friends and family, ready to end this chapter of their lives and start a new one.

Senior Captain Claudia Hernandez Escobar expressed how great her evening was and how it was a “sentimental night, as I’m letting go of the sport I’ve been doing my whole life. I felt really loved that night.” Escobar has been cheering ever since she was little and is considering continuing the sport in college, but stated that her “body is starting to give up a little, so we’ll have to see.”

Escobar felt a wave of nostalgia as she was walking down the field and expressed how fast the season had gone by. “It took me back to when people would tell me, ‘these four years will fly by,’ like wow, it really is my last year,” expressed Escobar.

Senior Ndiaye Oliver-Destine felt just as supported as her mother walked her down the field, with her “coaches and fellow teammates” cheering her on. Along with all the support, the seniors had received posters and gifts from their loved ones.

“Walking down the field with my family, cheering with my teammates, and taking pictures with my friends,” was the most memorable moment of Senior Captain Taliyah Lauture’s night.

Something everyone can agree on is that they will miss the close relationships that the team had. Senior Patricia Mukasa reminisced about the passion that she found in cheer and how she’ll miss the “bonds with all the girls that were made stron-

ger throughout the years.”

She expressed, “I will definitely miss all the fun we had, and the sisterhood we built, and of course, my stunt group. My favorite memory was when my stunt group hit a stunt we were struggling with, or whenever they made funny jokes... they made my last year so special.”

As the seniors looked back on their experiences this season, they emphasized the moments that made their time on the team meaningful. Escobar reflected on the past couple of years and when she was first asked to be captain by her coach.

“Before becoming captain for this year, I had only done one season with them, which was literally last year, so having her ask me to take that role made me feel really honored and made me want to step up.” She remembers that as her most memorable moment because she had not been planning to return to cheer after being injured her freshman year.

She gives credit to Lanza for convincing her to try out again and getting her to where she is now. Lanza was also impacted by Escobar as she never really saw herself doing cheer at first, “but wanted to try out with her.”

Escobar and Lanza, along with the other seniors on the team, took this night as an opportunity to not only appreciate the season they have had but also how the friendships they made shaped their journeys with the sport.

Looking ahead, the seniors offered words of encouragement to the team and wished them continued success. “I hope the team keeps a tight-knit relationship and continues to support each other as everyone continues to grow and develop together as a team,” Lauture finished.



Malden Tornado Cheer team praying before the halftime performance. VICTORIA DOMICIANO



Cheer team hitting a “lib” stunt during the second quarter. VICTORIA DOMICIANO

MALDEN HIGH'S
FOOTBALL TEAM
ENDS SEASON WITH
GRATITUDE



The Malden Golden Tornados offensive players and Watertown Raiders defensive players take their position on the line of scrimmage during the second quarter as the score stands at 16-6 with the Watertown Raiders in the lead. GABRIELA PARINI CORDOVA



Head Coach Witche Exilhomme gathers the team during a timeout in the second quarter to advise them on their next play for the game while the score stands at 16-6 Watertown. GABRIELA PARINI CORDOVA



The Malden Golden Tornados take a knee for an injured player on the field during the start of the fourth quarter. GABRIELA PARINI CORDOVA



Malden Golden Tornados sophomore running back Jayden McGuffie (2) runs a scoring drive, avoiding Watertown Raiders defensive linemen as Malden is down 37-18 in the fourth quarter. GABRIELA PARINI CORDOVA



Malden Golden Tornados sophomore running back Jayden McGuffie (2) celebrates by dapping up sophomore wide receiver Joshua Bly (4) after scoring a touchdown in the third quarter, changing the score to 31-18 with the Watertown Raiders still in the lead. GABRIELA PARINI CORDOVA