



The High School View

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Seniors dare to define new beginnings

BY AUGUST WELLES

Travel, work, and passion have inspired several high school seniors to graduate early, and follow their future goals. The decision to graduate early requires hard work and a plan. The student must meet with the administration and guidance to work out a senior project that will count for the rest of their credits and allow them to no longer attend the high school. Although they will not receive their diploma until their class graduation, their second semester will be

spent getting a head start on their future. Senior Giulia Leite plans on visiting her family in Brazil, and didn't want school to interfere with the amount of time spent with them. She had to do enough school work for both the first and second semester in order to graduate early. She said, "It is a lot of work and you have to give up some experiences. You also have to think about if you really want to do this, because a lot of things change and you have to be prepared." Senior Katrina Heilbroner has arranged to continue

her horseback-riding career during the second half of the year. "Because my credits worked out in my favor, I could just be done with my academics and fully commit to training and showing my horse," said Katrina. Many of the early graduates are planning on attending college in the fall. Giulia said, "After high school I will be going to college, most likely SUNY Albany, to become a forensic psychologist. I know that my future holds many opportunities in the field of study that I want to be in." Katrina hopes to compete



Senior Katrina Heilbroner, an early graduate, seen here reading her writing at the high school's coffeehouse, held in the library in January.

PHOTO BY MOLLY HOUGHTON

in Kentucky for the North American Junior/Young Rider Championships (NAJ/YRC) this summer. She said, "Depending upon the show results, I will either continue competing into a gap year, or I

will enroll in a university." Traveling has been an important factor for a lot of the students. Senior Caila Drew-Morin decided to use the second semester to travel to France. She said, "I decided

that I wanted to do something productive and a bit more fun, so I contacted my family in France. They are very nice, and encouraged me to come. Over the next four months I hope to learn to speak, read, and write in French fluently." Graduating early is a huge step, and can take a lot of deliberation. Katrina stressed the importance of fervor. She said, "Find something you love to do! I have been in the lucky position of already having an all-consuming passion, but I would not recommend just running away from school as fast as possible unless you have a well-organized plan for that time." **HSV**

NAACP celebrates the spirit of community

BY KAEA VECCHIA-ZEITZ

Two regional high school juniors — Olivia Jacobs and Jared Livingston — and Tony Lombardi, a former teacher and currently teen center director at Alex's Place, were among those awarded for their service to the community by the Martha's Vineyard chapter of the NAACP. The ceremony, held Jan. 18 at the Portuguese-American Club, was part of the 30th annual Martin Luther King Jr. membership event. Joyce Rickson, who co-chairs the committee that organizes the event, discussed why the Martha's Vineyard NAACP decided to award youth this year. She said, "Because of service to the community, particularly service that reaches for diversity, the Martha's Vineyard NAACP chapter put our efforts this year in making the MLK event, in addition to the usual time for new and renewed membership, an intergenerational gathering." Jared Livingston said, "There were speakers who talked about the NAACP activities in the community and about the continuing struggle for civil rights in this country. While we have

come a long way in the fight for equality as a country, the events in 2014 show us that we still have a long way to go. The speakers were inspiring." Joyce Rickson said, "We selected an adult who is and has been actively involved in fostering programs that offer opportunities for youth to interact with adults, particularly the older adults — and two high school students that have demonstrated outstanding involvement in providing such services." Tony Lombardi talked about his beliefs on the importance of service. He said, "I believe that service to the community is as important as service to one's self. To me, service is like currency in that when a person serves their community, it makes their spirit stronger and better." Olivia Jacobs talked about her enjoyment of the ceremony. She said, "I had never been to a NAACP event before, and I immediately felt welcomed into the tight-knit community of members from the moment I walked in. The speeches made me feel motivated to fight for racial equality in my community and beyond. I am now a member of the NAACP and am eager to get involved with this empowering group of people."

Jared Livingston expressed why he was chosen to receive this service award. He said, "I was chosen for my work with the Elder Tech Fair, a program at Alex's Place at the YMCA in which teenagers help elders to use their devices. It is a learning experience for both the elders and the teenagers, as both learn more about the devices and learn new perspectives from each other." Tony Lombardi discussed the atmosphere of the ceremony. He said, "When I stood to speak I looked around and saw a room full of people who could easily have been at the podium for the same award I received. To be in the presence of such a powerful group of people who also spend a great deal of time trying to make a difference in the world was humbling and something I am truly grateful for." Olivia Jacobs expressed her love of community service and her future goals in service work. She said, "For me, helping others is extremely therapeutic. I feel empowered and even ecstatic whether I'm giving ice cream to residents of Windemere, or tutoring a third grade boy. My only goal is to never stop helping others, no matter what is going on in my life." **HSV**

A few days off pay off

BY ELIE JORDI

Students rejoiced after the blizzard Juno swept through last week, leaving three snow days in her wake. The storm brought gale-force winds and 20+ inches of snow Tuesday morning and into the evening. By Wednesday morning the storm had passed, and it granted another day of leisure to students. Sophomore Juniper Ezanno anticipated the exciting possibilities given the blessing of a snow day. She said, "Every day I would be waiting to get the cancellation text, and then the second I would get it I would make more plans with my friends and pack each day with a new fun activity!" "Snow days don't come too often, so I had to make use of activities I could do in the snow," said junior Jacqueline Hegarty. Senior Tim Roberts took to the slopes of Tashmoo late Monday night in hopes of beating the crowds. However, his eagerness got the best of him. "There were 50 mile per hour gusts coming off the water. It made it very difficult for sledding," he said. While Farm Neck and Tashmoo overlook were being bombarded by young

kids and their parents, high school students opted to explore a variety of other activities in the snow. Junior Kyra Whalen and a few of her friends spent the better part of Tuesday crafting an igloo. "We started around 10 AM and worked on it until it was dark," said

Freshmen Miles Jordi, accompanied by a fellow snowboarder, took to the slopes behind his house. "We had been longing to snowboard all winter, however with little snow it wasn't really an option. We made a jump and we could get some height off it. There was snow on the ground and



Sophomore Juniper Ezanno cross-country skis at Farm Neck on following the blizzard.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MADELINE EZANNO

Kyra. "Once the igloo was finished, we sat inside and made a fire," Kyra added. Seniors Ellie Reagan, Josie Iadicicco, and Maddy Moore ventured on cross-country skis to Quansoo beach in West Tisbury. "We had to ski down the Quansoo road. Then leaving the skis behind, we walked along the beach." Although plagued with the lack of hills on the Island, some students decided to ski.

the sun was out; what's not to love?" said Miles. While many students opted to venture into the white wonderland, others took refuge in the comfort of their home. Senior spring is constantly busy with a whirlwind of college applications and scholarship deadlines. "On Thursday I was able to catch up on scholarships and other work that I needed to finish," said Ellie. **HSV**

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