

# The High School View

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## THE LEGACY EDITION: Longtime teachers set to retire

### Ms. Hermann

BY ALEXIS CONDON  
AND SARA CREATO

Kya Seiman remembers a time in science class when Ms. Hermann wrinkled her water bottle by accident while drinking and then said she was trying to be quiet like a horse. “She then explained to us how quietly horses drink,” said Kya, recalling science teacher Jacqueline Hermann’s knowledge and humor. After 35 years teaching, Ms. Hermann is set to retire this June.

“I will miss the looks on students’ faces when they are engaged and excited about what I’m saying,” said Ms. Hermann. “And I’ll miss my colleagues — there’s an expert about everything in this building. I will also miss the subject matter that I teach.”

Ms. Hermann began her career in Greenfield, Massachusetts, where she taught for three years. When she came to the Island in 1984, she taught at the West Tisbury School for three years before accepting a job at the Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS), where she has worked in the science department for the last 29 years.

From 2009 to 2018, she coordinated the annual Science Fair and worked persistently to increase student participation over the years.

Science department chair Mike Joyce said, “I have always admired her work ethic,

especially when it came to the Science Fair. Jackie put a lot of time and effort in to allow our participants to be competitive at both the regional and state levels.”

As a teacher of earth science, a core freshman class, Ms. Hermann has had the pleasure and responsibility of getting to know half of the students in each class that enters the regional.

Sophomore Hope Bettencourt enjoyed both Ms. Hermann and the material as

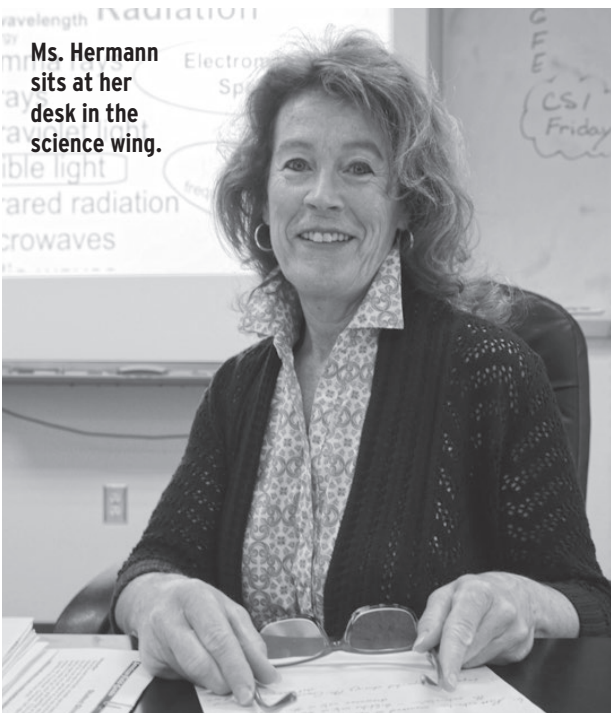
us. We all started laughing when she started beatboxing and hitting the walls for a beat,” she said.

Senior Sam Cranston, who plans to major in science, first developed his passion in Ms. Hermann’s class. He said, “It was refreshing that she made the effort to keep her classes organized and taught with a no-nonsense attitude. Although she seemed scary at first, by the end of the year I loved her and enjoyed her quirky sense of humor.”

Ms. Hermann’s emphasis on the incorporation of joy into learning is deliberate — it is one of the most important lessons she’s learned throughout her career. “Remember, a sense of humor can go a long way. Don’t take yourself too seriously. And be prepared,” she said.

As for what won’t be missed after retirement, Ms. Hermann said, “I won’t miss taking work home every night and every weekend, the faculty meetings, and the meetings with topics that just keep going ‘round and ‘round for 35 years.”

Chemistry teacher Dr. Natalie Munn has worked with Ms. Hermann for over 20 years. With teary eyes she said, “When I’m with [Jackie] in a faculty meeting, and I’m thinking of something that needs to be said but not brave enough to say it myself, she’s always the person who will say it. She says what needs to be said. She’s fearless and a good-hearted soul.” **HSV**



Ms. Hermann sits at her desk in the science wing.

EMILY GAZZANIGA

### Mr. Wilson

BY THEO FAIRCHILD-  
COPPOLETTI

Beloved English teacher David Wilson will be retiring after 28 years of dedication at the Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS).

It was the youthful energy of students that first attracted Mr. Wilson to the job of teaching, and as his time at the high school comes to a close,

that is still high on his list of what he most appreciates. “I like the enthusiasm, the energy, the innocence and openness to new things, the gratitude you get when you help people, and the satisfaction you feel on the days where you feel like you’re making a difference,” he said.

Mr. Wilson has been involved in his students’ achievements outside of the classroom, too. He was a class advisor for two years, the Outing Club advisor for a year, and the newspaper co-adviser for two years. He has been known also to bring his acting and singing ability to the stage as a cast member in many of the school’s plays.

But most notably, Mr. Wil-

son has enjoyed his role as a freshman teacher, as he feels they are particularly receptive to assistance and support. “The upside of teaching freshmen is that they are able to be influenced positively, and I think they are more needful and appreciative of support,” Mr. Wilson said.

Part of it too may be his own youthful spirit. “I’m occasionally a goofy person, and I seem to relate to the age of 14 very well,” he added.

From a young age, Mr.

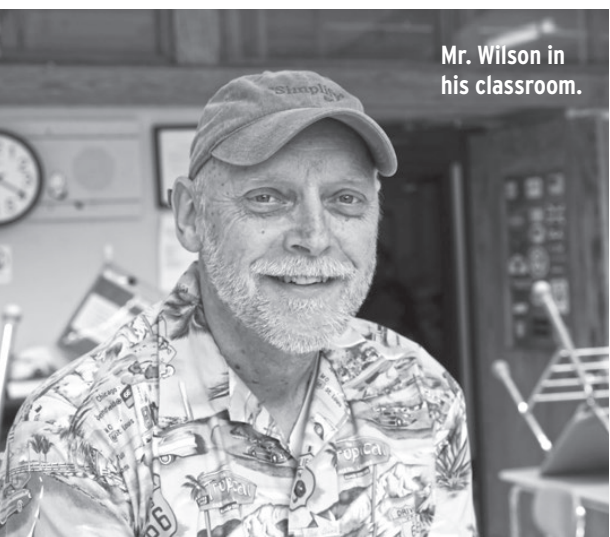
interest in literature fully blossomed. “I found that during my sophomore year, my English class was sort of a transformative experience in that everything seemed to come together at that moment — my preparation, my strengths as a student, and the enrichment of my life and my grandmother all kind of clicked together,” said Mr. Wilson.

While the role of a teacher is, on the surface, understood my most to

mean educating students, Mr. Wilson feels that as a teacher he has learned valuable lessons in return. For him, learning how to have honest conversations with students was one of the greatest lessons he has learned during his career.

“I have learned that it’s okay to ask a young person for an honest answer, but you have to be prepared to accept an honest answer without pushing back on a student,” he said. “Students also have to be free to express how they feel.”

In retirement, Mr. Wilson plans to further indulge his plethora of hobbies such as gardening and working on his house. He is also excited to continue traveling, bicycling and, of course, motorcycling. **HSV**



Mr. Wilson in his classroom.

COLIN HENKE

Wilson was exposed to literature. “I was one of those fortunate children who was read to as a child,” he said. His mother worked and was often busy, so spent a lot of time with his grandmother, who introduced him to a variety of prolific authors. “She would talk to me when I was 10 or 12 years old and mention people like Oscar Wilde,” he said. “Frankly, I was kind of mystified by it.”

It was during his own high school experience that his

### Thank you

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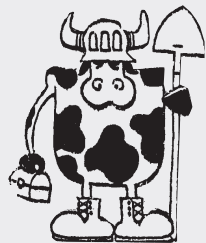
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