A war in Ukraine continues in March, Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MV RHS) students and staff are increasingly spending time discussing the Russian invasion in their classes. The tragic and horrifying events occurring are unlike any conflict most students have observed in their lifetimes, due to the fact that the news and images from the battlefield are so readily accessible via newsfeeds. In response, teachers are readily accessible via news from the battlefield are so readily accessible via newsfeeds. In response, teachers are working to provide additional educational content to the unfolding events, resulting in an increased opportunity to integrate history and current events. History department chair Olsen Houghton has aimed to implement conversations about the war in all of his classes, including his senior English class. He said, “I hope that the events happening right now are a learning moment for everyone, especially our generation.” He added, “The realness of these issues is definitely more interesting for kids because it’s happening right in front of them.” He also mentioned that his Advanced Placement U.S. History class is incorporating discussion about the invasion of Ukraine into its curriculum. He said, “The world has come together in an amazing, and a positive way, with such unbelievable unity that we need to be talking about it, because otherwise we risk isolating some sort of geopolitical implications of war in Ukraine in her 9th grade Global History class.

Women's History Month prompts appreciation

BY NIKEYA TANKARD

March is Women's History Month, an international time of recognition and celebration of women of the past and present, and during this time, students and faculty at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) are reflecting on inspiring and influential women. For history department chair Olsen Houghton, the women in his life have had a stronger impact on him than those in any history textbook. “Being a history teacher, I can list off hundreds of women throughout history that have inspired me,” he said. “But I think having people close to you that you respect and admire is much more powerful.”

Mr. Houghton’s grandmother Phoebe Houghton, who lived to be 102, was the most important woman in his life. “She was the matriarch of the family,” he said. “She was an incredibly stable, secure person, and gave off a sense that everything was going to be OK.”

Library teacher Kevin McGrath spoke of his mother and the wisdom she passed on to him. “She would say to me that the most important thing is to follow what makes you happy, and that being happy with your choices in life is the most important thing,” he said. “She’s responsible for a big, big part of who I am.”

English teacher Jessica Russell spoke about her mother who, at age 50 and after spending three decades working in her family’s business in Falmouth, moved across the state to start a new job and a nonprofit. “I really admire her for that. She wanted to try new things and have new experiences, learn new skills and meet new people. Seeing it as an adult, I want to always follow that model and always be pushing myself and embracing that curiosity I got from her,” she said. “I remember saying to her, ‘Mom, you’re going to be one of those old people who’s always trying new crazy things’, and she laughed, but it’s true. She’s one of those people who’s genuinely curious.”

History teacher Leigh Fairchild-Coppoletti discusses the geopolitical implications of war in Ukraine in her 9th grade Global History class.

Ms. Russell also mentioned her third grade teacher Mrs. Goodman, who inspired her to become a teacher. “I loved her. She was really challenging and really hard, but also really, really supportive,” she said. “I think all of us had a sense that she knew who we were and she truly cared about us.”

She hopes to influence her own students in a similar way. “I hope I make my students feel as people, and not just as names in a grade book.”

Sophomore Huck Moore chose his older sister, Maddie, as the most inspirational woman in his life. “She started off as a small campaign manager and then she rose up to working on the federal level for senators,” he said. “She’s an inspirational success story for me.”

Junior Lora Nikolova is inspired by her mother, who came to the U.S. from her home country of Bulgaria and established herself in a new world and community. “My mom is one of the most influential people I have in my life. She has a really strong sense of community, and works for Island Grown Initiative, and she helps package soups and organizes that whole thing,” she said. “I think that to her it is really important to be a part of something and help other people.”

Lora added, “She’s the perfect example of who I want to be. I’m biased because she’s my mom. I try to be as good a person as she is.”