



The High School View

The High School View is staffed and prepared entirely by students from the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, and published on their behalf by The Martha's Vineyard Times.

A great rivalry: The Island Cup goes to Fenway

BY NATALIE WAMBUI AND LULU WHITE

The Island Cup is a historic football game that has seen the Vineyarders and the Nantucket Whalers competing for the coveted title every year since 1978. While the two teams have played each other for decades, the game was played at Fenway Stadium in Boston for the first time this year. The game, which took place on Nov. 26, was a part of a two-day series leading up to Thanksgiving that featured three other “traditional rivalry” games.

Students and teachers traveled from Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) up to Boston on Tuesday, following a half-day. Among those were, of course, the football team, but also the pep band, dance team, cheerleaders, and Minnesingers, who sang the national anthem at the game alongside the Nantucket choir. The group has been singing the

national anthem at football home games for the past two years.

Junior Emily Boyd is a member of both pep band and Minnesingers. Speaking before the game, she said, “Being able to sing in front of so many people is really cool. Singing [the national anthem] is a really awesome experience, and I'm excited to sing it at Fenway with everyone.”

Two members of the football team, co-captain Jordan Souza and senior Ken J. Christie, are also members of the Minnesingers. Senior Josephine Powers said she's excited to cheer them on at Fenway. “I never really got into sports, but I can't wait to watch Jordan and Ken J. play. I think it's going to be really fun,” she said.

The football team has been working hard this entire season, but in the end, the top priority is the Island Cup. “We always try



Seniors Grady McCracken and Guilherme Oliveira jump for a ball in last-minute Fenway prep.

BRODY ROYAL

to keep our team chemistry high. [We] do team activities, watch Nantucket film as a team, discuss it as a team,” said Jordan. “Since we've been doing everything together, it'll just make it way easier when we're on the field. We can all move as one.”

Jordan has been fascinated by football since he was little. Although he was born on Martha's Vineyard, he spent a lot of time during his childhood in Brazil, only seeing letterman jackets and high school football in movies. “It feels good [to be captain], because my whole life I felt like I needed to try to get this letterman jacket, try to be a captain of a football team. And now that it's my final year and I finally got to become a captain, finally have my jacket, it's a great feeling,” he said.

After four years on the team, this will be Jordan's final game as a MVRHS athlete. “Having the thought

of it being my last football game, that's going to hurt, because of the friends I made along the way. I still talk to the seniors that were on my team my first year,” he said. “It's always going to be a bittersweet feeling, but I'm just happy. I get to end it off with a big bang at the Fenway game.”

The support from the community, both school and Island-wide, looms large in Jordan's mind. “[The support] motivates me to do my best. It motivates me to try my hardest ... It's going to be me, the team, and thousands of people that came to support us, [and] took time out of their day to come see us play and come back home with a win.”

At the time this article went to print on Monday evening, the results of the Island Cup game had not yet been determined. Readers can check mvtimes.com for the final score! **HSV**

Wampanoag students resist erasure

BY ANINA GARVIN

Walking through the hallways of Martha's Vineyard Regional High School [MVRHS], at first glance it can seem like the school contains a typical collection of high school students. Yet contained within many of these students is the history of Martha's Vineyard itself.

Martha's Vineyard is home to the Wampanoag tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), which has more than 1,300 enrolled members as of 2019, according to the tribe's website. As Native American Heritage Month progresses, some students shared their perspectives on the recognition of native culture within the Martha's Vineyard community, and how they continue to build community in the face of adversity.

When it comes to honoring Native American Heritage Month, freshman and tribe member Erick Moore said, “I don't feel like there's enough appreciation. Everybody still bases the whole of November on Thanksgiving.”

Erick feels that Native American Heritage Month itself has been co-opted in

the name of consumerism. “Seeing other people trying to sell our culture, something like fake headdresses, and selling native patterns and stuff, and making tons of money on it, it's super-disrespectful,” Erick added.

Commodification of Native American heritage comes to a head during the Thanksgiving season, but trivialization of Native Americans is an issue that permeates American society more broadly.

Freshman and tribe member Kaya Rutkowski drew attention to the cultural appropriation that still exists in mainstream American culture. “It's weird seeing your culture be a mascot for something like a Halloween costume,” she said.

“We have to pick and choose our battles,” said freshman and tribe member Divya Randolph. “You don't want to freak out over a blanket when there's something else more important, because if you freak out every single time, then you're ‘being dramatic or angry,’ and then no one will pay attention to you when some-

thing's actually really wrong.”

Junior and tribe member Soraya Randolph agreed. “Typically people are like, ‘Oh, you're making that up. Your tribe isn't real,’ or, ‘Oh, you could just be claiming you're native.’ And when I try to express these problems with people, my own peers and friends will be like, ‘That's not that important.’”

The Native American students interviewed shared that they feel as though they are often overlooked as a component of the student body. “People don't really see us, and our culture is just forgotten about,” said Kaya. She believes the percentage of Native American students within MVRHS is low, around 2 percent.



Junior and Wampanoag tribe member Soraya Randolph.

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To celebrate the month, members of the Wampanoag community at MVRHS have created a bulletin board in the hallway to represent certain traditions. On the board there are also depictions of native foods such as venison and the “three sisters” — squash, beans, and corn.

English Department Chair Christine Ferrone has also been working on ensuring the curriculum incorporates Native American literary influence. “I would say we're still in the beginning stages of creating pedagogy and instructional practices that fully integrate and respect indigenous peoples and their history, but we are certainly open to it,” she said.

“Myself and a couple of colleagues from our department recently attended a workshop titled ‘Best Practices for Working with Indigenous Content, Citizens, and Communities,’” added Ms. Ferrone.

The workshop, led by Aquinnah Wampanoag educator Brad Lopes, aimed to help teachers to thoughtfully and respectfully weave Na-

tive American literature and stories into their classes.

Kaya finds that connecting with fellow Native Americans through stories of resilience helps them to grow closer. “At every gathering, there's always people telling stories and laughing. Being able to tell stories is a way that we get to connect,” she said.

Erick feels that despite underrepresentation and stereotypes, Wampanoag students continue to stay connected to the broader Martha's Vineyard community. One recent example was indigenous students' involvement in the MVRHS' Race Culture and Belonging Retreat, hosted earlier this month at the YMCA.

“Our people have lived here and just survived off this Island their whole lives, and when you're born into a native family and native culture, it just kind of makes you feel like you have a responsibility to the Island and the people of it,” Erick said. “Being part of the Wampanoag tribe and being Native American, I feel like it's my responsibility to take care of the Island.” **HSV**