



The High School View

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Fall sports spring into postseason play

BY LILA MIKOS AND NELLIE LONG

As the fall sports season comes to a close, many teams at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) are entering postseason play. This year, the field hockey, golf, boys cross-country and boys soccer teams all qualified for the playoffs.

The cross-country boys team remains undefeated this season in its league. Team captain and senior Borja Tolay is thrilled with the performance of his team this year.

"We had a really great season," he said. "We have been winning all of the big invitationals this year, so overall the team has been really strong."

On Saturday, the team competed at the Coaches

Invitational meet, where they placed first, securing their place in the divisional race next weekend. Regardless of the outcome of the divisionals, Borja says, "This season is one that I won't forget, and I have been honored to be a part of such a strong and dedicated team. I will miss this so much next year."

Field hockey Coach Becky Nutton was most proud of the effort and poise that her team showed in their postseason play.

"I am so proud of the maturity that our young and relatively inexperienced varsity team has shown throughout the season, and especially in the postseason," she said. "Our last few games of this season have been the best games that we have played

all year. The girls are really stepping up."

After beating East Longmeadow 2-1 in the preliminary round, the team had its first playoff game against Watertown, the second-ranked team, on Sunday. After a tough battle, the field hockey team lost 6-0, ending their season.

While the boys' soccer team qualified for tournament play this year, it had a 1-0 loss to Tantasqua last Thursday, which ended its season.

"We played really well, and gave them the only goal they scored after we got a foul," said senior Ruairi Mullin. "They got a throw-in and scored off of that. We played well, but just couldn't answer back after they scored."

The golf team's season came to an equally close end.

For Coach Brian Roessler, the grit and perseverance that his team maintained throughout its postseason play was crucial to its success.

"This group of kids was so hardworking, and just kept powering through to that next round, and it paid off for them," he said. "I couldn't be more proud of how they played this year and I'm so excited for the next season."

The golf team placed second in its league during the regular season, and automatically qualified for sectionals. There it placed third and moved on to All-States, finally coming away with seventh place.

"We just missed fifth place by three strokes," said Coach Roessler. "The way that they battled was so amazing to see, they really stuck with it and played so hard." **HSV**



PARKER BRADLEE

Freshman Kyle Levy plays the baritone saxophone during the Performing Arts Department's (PAD) fall concert on Nov. 2. Due to COVID-19, the PAD hasn't had a live show since December 2019. The Minnesingers, Vocal Ensemble, Orchestra, Concert Band, and MV Big Band were all present onstage. Highlights from the show included an orchestra light show to the song "Mythos," saxophone solos by Jacob Glasgow, and the singing of "How Long" by the Minnesingers.

Housing insecurity hinders staff and schools

BY HARDY EVILLE AND SARA CREATO

For Martha's Vineyard Public School (MVPS) staff who don't own their own homes, the quest to secure stable, year-round housing has become more difficult over the years. A district-wide housing survey has revealed that the issue of housing instability affects nearly 20 percent of district staff, compounding challenges of hiring and retention.

The survey was conducted by Kim Garrison, the behavioral health coordinator for MVPS' Office of All-Island School-Based Wellness (AISW), and a research specialist for the high school. Her work aims to promote the health and wellness of students, staff, and families. According to the AISW website, the survey was conducted "to get an understanding of MVYPS staff housing context,

level of staff housing insecurity, and potential impacts of housing insecurity on staff well-being (social, emotional, and professional)."

"We're just trying to get to the heart of what that looks like, and then trying to figure out how housing instability is weighing on our staff," Ms. Garrison said. "Is there a potential of them leaving the Island? For those that didn't say that they own their own homes, we just wanted to capture if they are moving frequently. Do they have consistent rentals?"

This is the second time a housing survey has been conducted since 2015, when Matt D'Andrea became superintendent. Five years ago, a survey was done that returned similar results regarding the number of staff experiencing housing instability. The 2021 survey indicates that 71 percent of district staff own their own home, 11 percent are in

a year-round rental, and the remaining number are in a variety of different living situations that the survey categorized as "rather unsecured."

"We are in the process of working with an individual in Chilmark who is interested in developing some teacher housing," Superintendent D'Andrea said. "We thought we'd kind of get an idea of where we are right now with staff housing, and some of the challenges like who has steady, secure housing, and who has to shuffle around."

Even if the data have remained similar, Mr. D'Andrea thinks that some things have changed since he was hired. "The price of housing on the Island is skyrocketing. It was high seven years ago, but it's even higher now," he said. "It wouldn't surprise me if we're going to continue to have more and more staff that are struggling with this."

Principal Sara Dingley,

who moved to Martha's Vineyard in 2016, understands the challenges of finding housing for newly arrived teachers who lack connections, and also points to high prices as a large part of the problem.

"Housing is often catered toward high-end people who have a summer house that's quite expensive," she said. "The people that live here year-round can't afford the summer stock."

These challenges result in the Martha's Vineyard school system having an unusually high turnover rate for both teachers and staff.

"We have had staff or new hires that backed out because they couldn't find housing, or because of the cost of housing," Mr. D'Andrea said. "And we definitely have had staff that have been here for a few years that have left because of the challenge around housing."

The survey shows that in

2021, 53 teachers left their positions. The financial impact of this turnover on the district was estimated by MVPS to be \$477,000 per year, mostly resulting from training and professional development costs. However, the number may be slightly lower because some turnover in the school system is internal — employees move from one school to another, for example — which does not have the same costs associated with it.

A districtwide classifieds section using email allows staff to advertise housing opportunities and inquire about rentals. "What we do is just try and get the word out there about available spaces," said Ms. Dingley.

However, according to the housing survey, only 10 percent of MVPS staff homeowners rent their houses or are interested in renting to

other MVPS staff. "If you have an available space, it's hard to tell you how to rent it and make money. But it would certainly serve the community well if people had a commitment to renting to people who keep to the Island," said Ms. Dingley.

The data from the survey was sent out to district staff in October 2021, and has also elicited reactions from students. Junior Jack Crawford, whose parents both work in the MVPS system, was shocked about the lack of teachers' homeownership. "It's actually a bigger number than what I thought it was. I would have thought it was 5 or 6 percent," he said.

Senior Ashley Brasefield, who hopes to become a high school teacher on Martha's Vineyard, was unsurprised but saddened. "I kind of expected that, because I know housing is very hard to acquire, especially your own house. It is also disappointing because teachers are fundamental to our community," she said. **HSV**

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