



The High School View

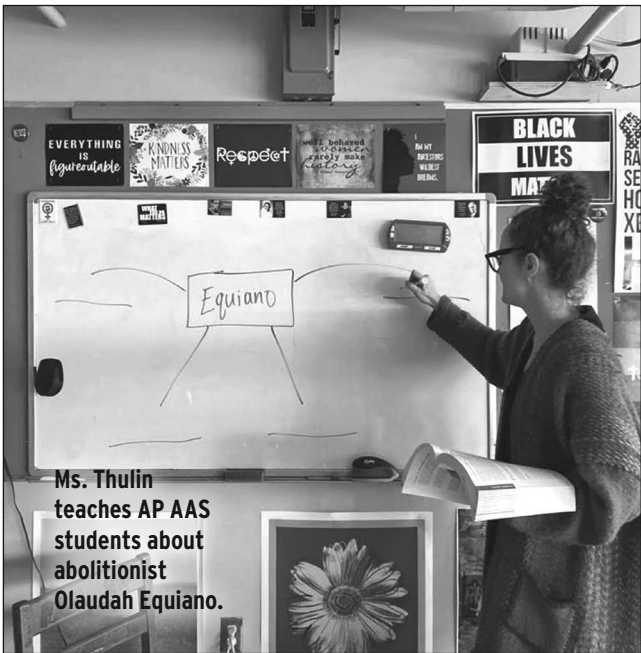
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History department pilots AP African American Studies

BY ANDREA MORSE

Advanced Placement African American Studies (AP AAS) is a new course being offered at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) this year. The curriculum focuses on the history, politics, culture, and economics of African American people. MVRHS is one of 60 schools in the country that have been chosen to pilot the curriculum. The high school was selected to pilot the course because of the longstanding connections the Island has to African American history. The course is an interdisciplinary look at African culture and American history through the lens of the African American experience. Senior Cali Giglio enrolled in the course because she wanted to broaden her knowledge of African

American studies. "Even though [the class] is intense and emotional, I feel like we have all gotten a brief understanding of this history throughout our education, and now we are diving a lot deeper," she said. Cali believes that AP AAS should be offered in every school. "Many of us are blind to how the country was built ... and how the slave trade allowed America to become such a wealthy country," she said. "In order to improve the future, we can't forget the past, and we need to learn about the past correctly." History teacher Ena Thulin, who is teaching the course, enjoys educating students on topics that may not be covered as deeply in other history courses, such as the long-term detrimental effects of slavery. "There are a lot of moments where students are hearing something that they have never heard



ANDREA MORSE

before," she said. Ms. Thulin has coordinated visits with several guest speakers over the course of the year. Island Grown Initiative school educator Nia Dubon-Robinson, for example, visited to present on the

connection between food and the African diaspora. Ms. Thulin also incorporates primary source documents, music, and art in order to engage a wide range of students. "Hopefully more students will consider tak-

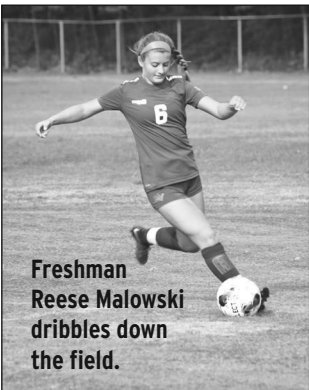
ing this course, and I look forward to diving deeper into more content as the school year progresses," she said. The class is primarily made up of white students. "I would love to see more students of color take this course, but I think it really shows how many white Americans want to learn more about America other than from the white experience. Students are really taking it seriously," Ms. Thulin said. "It's a testament to people wanting to do better, and make themselves better." As one of only six white APAAS teachers nationwide, Ms. Thulin feels honored to hold this position. "It's a privilege to teach this AP class. I want to do really well and represent this curriculum successfully," she said. Senior Isabelle Ribeiro has not only learned about African history through this course but also more about her Brazilian identity. "Con-

sidering many Africans went to Brazil for slavery, learning more has helped me better understand my family's experience," she said. Junior Jack Debettencourt is excited to be in this pilot course. "I've learned a lot of things that African American people have done in American history, not just being slaves, but aiding in explorations to the Americas, for example," he said. "I think it's important to take this course to understand multiple points of view on history that we've missed going through a predominantly white education system." Isabelle believes she has a much deeper understanding of the African diaspora now. "Ms. Thulin does a really good job," she said. "I kind of had an understanding before being in this class, but now it has broadened. I feel I have a better understanding of African American history." **HSV**

Girls and boys soccer make playoffs

BY JULIA SAYRE AND AVERY MULVEY

For the first time in 22 years, the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) girls soccer team reached the playoffs, before being knocked out in the second round last Sunday. The boys team has moved forward in the playoffs after securing a 4-0 win in the first round. Girls soccer ended their regular season with 14 wins, one tie, and three losses. The players are quick to attribute their success to their coach, Matt Malowski, who also works as an adjustment counselor at the high school. Freshman Elle Mone said, "Matt has been a very positive coach, and he has a con-



PHOTOS: ZAK POTTER

nection with everyone, so I think that's definitely helped us get here." Although this is Coach Malowski's first year as the varsity coach, he has been coaching most of the players since they were in fifth or sixth grade in travel soccer, and as the junior varsity

coach. "I've seen them grow up, and I've watched them develop as humans and as soccer players. It's been really special to see all of them go into the postseason," he said. Senior co-captain C.J. Walsh said, "It was familiar for everyone when [Matt] started coaching us again, because we've had him for so long. For him to come back my senior year was like icing on the cake." Coach Malowski had three primary goals going into the season. "This season [we focused on] creating a positive culture, supporting one another, and knowing that we're all in this together," he said. C.J. believes strong communication among team members has been an important



factor in their success. "It's gotten to the point where we don't even have to say anything ... we just know what each other is thinking, both on and off the field," she said. The boys soccer team moved into the postseason with a 14-2 record. Senior captain Ryan Koster feels the team is in a strong position. "We're beating some high-quality opponents while playing really good soccer, so I'm really excited for the playoffs," he said.

Ryan thinks a turn in players' mindsets has been an important shift. "I think we're playing better together than we were last year," he said. "No one has a big ego, and everyone's just relaxed and likes each other, so I think we play better as a team now." Freshman Lucas Souza is experiencing the pressure of playoffs for the first time. "I've been getting used to playing with the big boys," he said. "It feels good to be playing on

varsity. There's a lot of pressure on me, but I try my best." Ryan is optimistic about their playoff journey. "I think we have the potential to go all the way," Ryan said. "Every team in the playoffs is good, but overall I think we have the best skill level in the state." Senior Teagan Myers attributes the team's success to their "small ball" passing strategy — where they focus on completing short passes — as well as a strong attack lineup. "I think we're in a good spot to win it all," he said. Teagan's last season is ending on a high note. "It's kind of bittersweet," he said. "I'm glad that we made it this far, and I hope we can make it further. I'm going to be sad when my run is over." The boys team played Dover-Sherborn yesterday at 4 pm. **HSV**

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