



# 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, with the generous assistance of the sponsors whose names appear below.

## 'Chicago' takes center stage at PAC

BY JAKE GLASGOW

The musical "Chicago" is a story of jazz, murder, celebrity criminals, and a corrupt justice system in the 1920s. It is the story of two murderesses, a scummy lawyer who represents them, and a simple yet foolhardy husband. Musical theater students at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) hope to capture the essence of this time period when they open a four-show run next Thursday night.

Last year, the primary focus of the school's production of "Les Misérables" was the singing, since all the dialogue in the show was sung. By contrast, "Chicago" uses more acting and a unique stage setup to transport the audience to the 1920s. Director Brooke Ditchfield decided to

set the show in a cabaret, for instance, and has set the stage to mimic what a 1920s jazz club would have felt like.

"Everything that's happening onstage is happening in a nightclub in the 1920s, and in a nightclub in the 1920s, there would be a full band," said musical director Abigail Chandler.

Students also undertook the creation of several large set pieces. "We painted oversize fans, as well as a bar which transforms into a desk," said sophomore Henry Shank.

Junior Huck Moore, who plays the gullible, hard-working Amos Hart, spoke to the ways in which actors have been encouraged to develop relationships with their characters. "For the first two months [of rehearsal], we started figuring out our background stories.

Who do we think our character is?" he said.

"My character is a protagonist who you know isn't a good person," said senior Annabelle Brothers, who plays Roxie Hart. "As an actor, we have to look for those traits that make a character interesting, and puzzle out how to get into their brain. That's how we can make a character convincing."

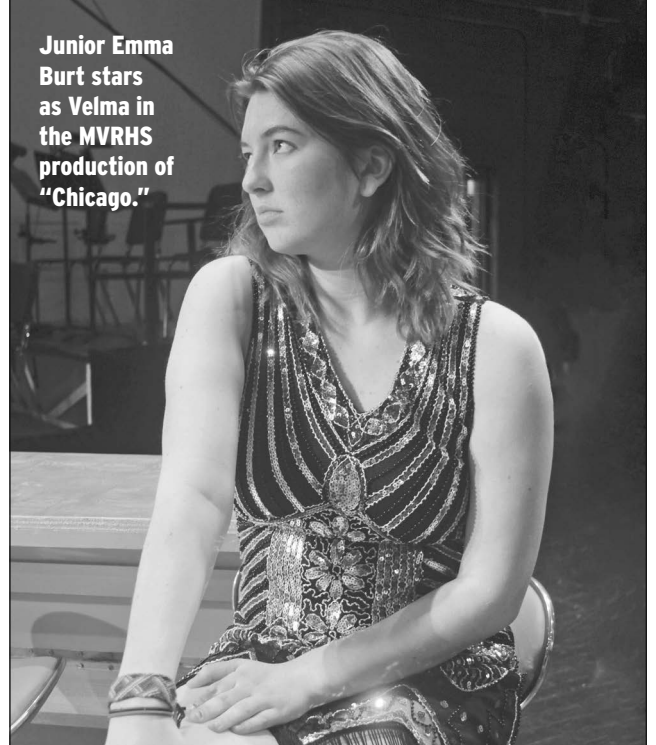
Ms. Chandler said, "It's been entertaining to see some of these kids who've never had the opportunity to be a bad guy sink their teeth into something like that."

Aside from developing these characters, actors must learn complex choreography and dance. The dance co-captains, junior Emma Burt and senior Genevieve Hyland, have initiated an outside-school-hours dance program.

"We have dance rehearsals every Sunday, or after school or during Flex, and we teach the choreography for the musical," said Genevieve. "There is a lot more collaboration after school, which builds friendships and chemistry onstage."

Ms. Chandler cited the culture of collaboration as a key factor in creating successful MVRHS shows year after year. "The foundation of [the culture here] is that we are an ensemble. Everyone is as important as everyone else. It doesn't matter if you're the lead, dancer No. 4, or wardrobe helper No. 3.

None of it happens without every single one of us being there," said Ms. Chandler. "It leads to a really wonderful and supportive environment for everyone." Many of the actors agree.



Junior Emma Burt stars as Velma in the MVRHS production of "Chicago."

ISA MERRIAM

"The community is very accepting and free of judgment," said Annabelle.

Huck furthered this idea. "If people are nice to you, you are going to feel more confi-

dent onstage. You will enjoy it more, and that's all going to improve your acting," he said.

For more information about tickets and showtimes, visit [mvrhs.org](http://mvrhs.org). **HSV**

## Boys hockey and basketball dominate regular season

BY NICK CARPENTER AND CAMDEN TOWNES

The regular season for Martha's Vineyard Regional High School's (MVRHS) winter sports is coming to a close this week, and the boys basketball and hockey teams are both guaranteed to make the playoffs. The basketball team has a record of 13-1, and the hockey team's record is 11-3, with the teams riding 11- and nine-game winning streaks, respectively.

Varsity boys basketball Head Coach Michael Joyce has been emphasizing enthusiasm and teamwork. "Just bring the energy first and foremost, support each other, whether you're playing or whether you're on the bench," he said.

Varsity boys hockey Assistant Coach Jack McGroarty emphasized the importance of recognition within a team. "Anytime somebody is making a play or putting forth the effort, the rest of the team recognizes that. They're giving support and positive vibes, but also holding one another accountable," he said.

Leadership from varsity team captains has also played a role in the teams' success. Senior varsity boys basketball captain Tobey Roberts said, "[It's important to have] a designated role where you can sit everyone down and talk about something if it's not working. Then we can all talk about it and come up with a solution." Both the basketball and hockey teams



The boys basketball team is heading to the playoffs.

LUCAS BELAIN

have three team captains, allowing for flexible and varied leadership.

Another essential part of the teams' success is their synergy, how well they work together. "We're

a close-knit team, and I think it's helping us out a lot," says senior varsity hockey captain Nick Rego. "One of the biggest things I focus on is bringing the new guys into the team."

Varsity hockey player and freshman Griffin Callahan agreed. "It was a really big jump [from youth to high school hockey], but it's a lot of fun, and a great thing to be a part of," he said. The hockey and basketball teams frequently host team dinners to bring them together and make them feel more like family.

Sophomore varsity basketball player Miles Hayes discussed the importance of having various players on the team. "I think that we have strong people in each area. Matheus [Rodrigues] is one of the best centers in the league, and Josh [Lake] and Sam [Zack] are two of the best shooters in the league. We all have really important roles as players," he said.

The student section at

recent games has included a wide swath of fans who came to cheer on players. "Loud chants and noise of appropriateness are what I ask for," said MVRHS Athletic Director Mark McCarthy. "If the engagement of the crowd is done the right way, and is not disrespectful to the opposing team, it truly does make a difference to the players."

The end of the regular season for winter sports marks the beginning of the playoffs for the qualifying teams, which has inspired boys basketball and hockey to work harder and attend to the smallest of details in their practice and game play. Coach McGroarty said, "All those small details are what ultimately make the team better." **HSV**

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