



# The High School View

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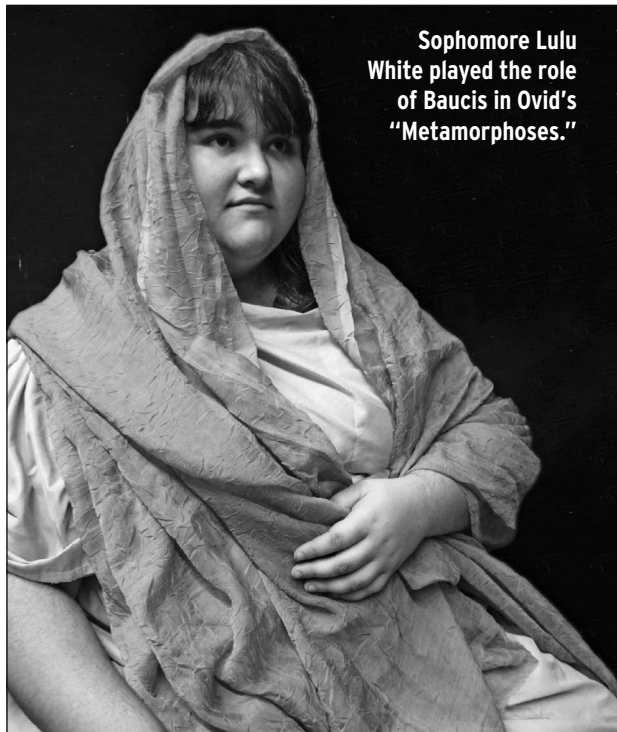
## Theater crew takes part in state competition

BY OLIVIA MACPHERSON

Prior to returning from February break, 12 students from the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) attended a theater competition at Bourne High School sponsored by the Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild (METG). Led by drama teacher Nathaniel Panches, students produced a one-act play of four short stories from Ovid's "Metamorphoses."

Students auditioned in January for the opportunity to take part in this competition, and were assigned roles in the performance that they worked on in the following weeks.

Throughout February



Sophomore Lulu White played the role of Baucis in Ovid's "Metamorphoses."

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break, students met at the high school to work on costume design and getting to know their characters. During rehearsals in Bourne, members of the production had the opportunity to meet students from other schools, but spent the majority of the time — 9 am to 4 pm — rehearsing their production.

Freshman Brian Fernandez said, "Cast members went through each scene, and spent a good chunk of time learning how to connect with characters and create scenes around them."

During rehearsal, costumers worked on preparing costumes and items for the actors to use in the performance. Junior Molly Silvia, who previously worked on costumes for "Chicago,"

said, "I was sewing from 10 am to 4 pm all day, every day, for the entire February break."

Junior Sydney Emerson was persuaded to audition by a theater teacher she knew from METG; however, this was not the only reason she decided to participate. "I've always wanted to do competitive theater, and there's never really been an option that isn't heavy-singing-related," she said. "So having an option that didn't really involve singing, just acting, was really nice."

"I wanted to join 'Metamorphoses' because I've always loved acting. I thought the idea of a one-act play would be really fun, especially after 'Chicago,'" Brian said. "We're usually

isolated, being on-Island, so participating in the competition was also a great way to meet theater students from other schools."

"There are other kids that have the exact same goals and aspirations as you," Sydney said. "Seeing what other people can do makes me think about what our school can do in a few years."

Although MVRHS did not win the competition, many students returned happy with what they accomplished. "I'm definitely going to do it again next year," said Sydney. "I wish we had been able to do it in my first year of high school, and I think it's going to be really awesome for all the kids coming up." HSV

## Library assistant brings warmth

BY NIKEYA TANKARD, ANINA GARVIN, AND HILLARY OCHOA

At Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS), the library is the place where students go to check out books, finish homework, conduct research, or to relax in a quiet space. But before students can reach the desks and shelves, they may find themselves face-to-face with one of the MVRHS library assistants: Jim.

Jim Costello is a library assistant and educational support professional who has worked at MVRHS for four years. "He's the first person you see when you get into the library," said senior Hannah Murphy. "He always greets me with a smile and says hello."

Though many know Jim

simply as one of the friendly faces in the library, few are aware of his extensive past experience as an educator. While his time at MVRHS has been relatively short, his educational experience spans more than 50 years, and multiple continents.

Jim spent his early childhood living and working on his family's dairy farm during the winter and visiting Martha's Vineyard during the summer. "There were always a few of us at my grandfather's house in Ocean Park [during vacation]," he said. After graduating from high school, Jim was accepted at Northeastern University and went on to earn his master's degree in education.

After a few years of working in the trades on-Island, Jim decided to pursue teach-

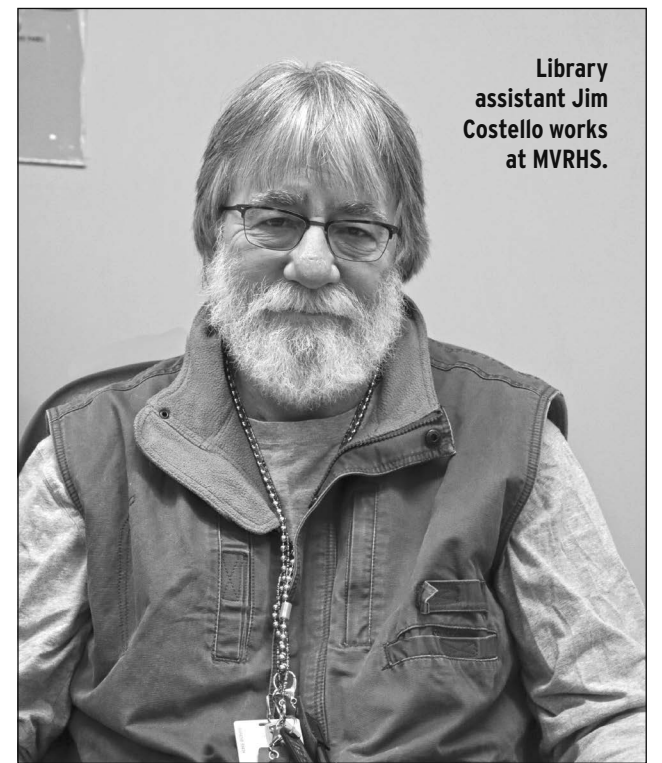
ing. "My first teaching job was in Charleston, S.C. I loved it," Jim said. The middle school where he taught had a predominantly Black and West African Creole influence and population. Jim attributed his enjoyment of his first job to the lively children as well as his passion for teaching.

After leaving Charleston, Jim worked at schools in Costa Rica, Southern California, and on Penikese Island — one of the Elizabeth Islands in Buzzards Bay. Jim cited his love of travel as one of the reasons why he sought out teaching jobs in so many different places and contexts. The Penikese Island position involved working at a reform school for boys. "They were great boys sent by difficult circumstances,"

said Jim. He went on to work at a similar school in Danvers.

After a break from teaching before the COVID-19 pandemic, Jim decided to return to the educational field by starting as a substitute teacher at MVRHS. He said, "I started substitute teaching, and Noelle [administrative assistant Noelle Warburton] told me to come back next week. Then the next week. Then she said, 'You know, just come in every day.'"

In addition to working as a library assistant, Jim also spends part of his time supporting students who have individualized education plans (IEPs) for various learning disabilities. "I often help students with IEPs with homework, staying on task, and staying



Library assistant Jim Costello works at MVRHS.

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organized," said Jim.

Senior Vivian Peak appreciates Jim's ability to connect with all types of students.

Ms. Morris, the second

library assistant, agreed. "[Jim] has positive energy. I hear from everybody how much they enjoy him, and how helpful he is." HSV

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