



The High School View

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Ms. Bonneau to retire at the end of the year

A COLLECTIVE EFFORT BY FRESHMAN ENGLISH STUDENTS, G PERIOD

Spanish teacher Lisa Bonneau is retiring at the end of this school year after 11 years in the World Language Department at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS). Ms. Bonneau spoke with freshman English students this past week about her teaching life, love of learning, and what her next chapter in life might look like.

Many students were surprised to learn that Ms. Bonneau was a music major in college, and played viola professionally in Barcelona, Spain, for four years after graduating. "It was then that I fell in love with the people of Spain and the country," she said.

Ms. Bonneau's love of Spanish culture and living abroad has informed her



Spanish teacher Lisa Bonneau will retire this year after 11 years at MVRHS.

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teaching philosophy here at the high school. "You want to be able to walk out into the world and speak and feel comfortable," she said. "It doesn't have to be perfect. But you want to feel like you could step into a foreign country and communicate."

Ms. Bonneau exudes a love of learning, and she hopes that students always feel it's a safe place to learn in her classroom. "There's never a wrong answer," she said, "and we learn from whatever anybody says. I don't care if it's right or wrong, we can always redo it.

And it's not even about being correct, because language is never going to be 100 percent."

"What I like most about her class is that it's very untraditional," said freshman Nicholas Mathias. "We always play a game in the beginning, and always have some activity that we do, whether it's writing a paragraph, creating our dream home, or calling into Google Voice, there's always a time for us to be social and communicate with one another."

After her time in Barcelona, Ms. Bonneau moved to Tucson, Ariz., where she took a job as a first grade teacher on the border with Mexico. She had to cross the border to go to work every day, and most of her students and their parents spoke Spanish. This allowed her to remain fluent in Spanish, but she didn't start

teaching Spanish until she moved to Martha's Vineyard with her late husband, former MVRHS French teacher Pierre Bonneau, when he was offered a job.

The Bonneaus moved their four children — two sets of twins — to the Island when her oldest were in fifth grade, and Ms. Bonneau says they helped her understand her students better over the years, and vice versa. "I think having my children gave me an incredible insight into all sorts of different personalities and people, and allowed me to be really careful to respect everybody for who they are, and not try to change people, because I could never do that to my kids. I see how important it is for everybody to be an individual and do what is best for them."

Freshman Tripp Arciaga said, "I see that Ms. Bonneau

really tries to connect with her students and help them understand the material they are learning."

Her advice to incoming students is to learn to get out of your comfort zone. "It is your absolute opportunity to do things that you don't feel comfortable with in a safe environment," she said. "Try new things, make new friends, go out and join a club that you wouldn't join, or learn about something that you wouldn't typically learn. You have that chance right now."

Ms. Bonneau says she will miss the people and the built-in social life that teaching offers, but she looks forward to starting something new. "I'm thinking about writing, or doing something that might allow me to put my thoughts and feelings and experiences out into the world," she said. "It doesn't have to be in a big way, but somewhere where my family can go back and remember what it was like, what I was like." **HSV**

Prom traditions evolve with the times

BY ELLA KEENE

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) seniors will attend from this Saturday night at the West Chop Club, from 7 to 10 pm. Although the tradition of attending prom spans decades, this year's seniors are finding new ways to express their style and values as they celebrate.

One perennial excitement or challenge faced by prom-goers is the question of what to wear. Historically, many students traveled off-Island to go dress shopping, or ordered dresses online. This year, many students in the graduating class are aware of the negative impacts of online shopping and "fast fashion," and are opting to wear used formalwear as a result.



Senior class president Cali Giglio leads a prom planning meeting.

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Senior Ava Mcgee found a dress for an affordable price that also allows her to express her sustainable values. "I wasn't even really looking for prom dresses. I was just at Chicken Alley with

my friends and saw this dress, and I was like, 'Oh, my gosh! This will work for prom.' And it was \$15. It was amazing!" she said.

Purchasing a used dress is one way to try and keep costs under control, since prom itself can quickly be-

come an expensive event. Seniors who are attending purchase tickets for \$50, and must also take into consideration the cost of their outfit, hair and nail appointments, corsages or boutonnières for their dates, and transportation. Although many students opt out of some of these expenses, it's easy to end up spending over \$400 to attend the event. Each year, the guidance department tries to help offset some of the cost by coordinating a used-dress drive for students.

Another shift away from traditional prom culture on Martha's Vineyard is the increased number of friends going in groups rather than inviting a date.

Senior Annabel Eddy

believes that people are less comfortable inviting dates in the age of the Internet. "I believe the reason that this is happening is because of social media. I think that people are getting too used to talking to each other over the phone, and not having personal conversations face-to-face. It's creating a social divide," she said.

Senior Griffin Stead, who grew up in Texas, notices the difference between prom culture in Texas compared with the Island. "Coming from Texas, you're definitely supposed to go with a date," he said. "You got to find someone, and that's how it goes."

Ava is attending prom with her friend and fellow senior Madeleine Bengtsson.

"I did a friend promposal for Madeline," Ava said. "She's a big fan of ABBA, so I made a sign that said,

'Let's be dancing queens,' and I was just dancing to the song. It was very fun."

Ava continued, "I think there's less of an emphasis on going with a date. Just because I feel, in general, relationships have become more casual. I don't know if that's due to social media, but I think it really is just up to whatever that person wants to do. Personally, I wanted to do a cute thing for a friend."

Whether one goes with someone, romantically or platonically, students are attending prom in the way that they feel comfortable. The evening will begin with seniors taking photographs at the Allen Farm in Chilmark, followed by an evening of dancing, a raw oyster bar, and catering from Chef Dion's — including vegan tomato pie squares, macaroni and cheese balls, and Key lime pie. **HSV**

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