



# 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.

## Freshmen cast their votes

BY FINN ROBINSON

Freshman elections were held last week at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS), where 13 candidates ran for the positions of class president, vice president, secretary, communications director, and six class representatives.

Candidates reported to the Performing Arts Center to give speeches in front of the assembled freshman class. Charlotte Cramer, who was ultimately elected president, said, "I am very interested in making an impact on the school. I want to fix the problems at MVRHS."

She believes the school could do a better job providing information to students about events occurring within the school. "I think the Grapevine is a great source to fix this, and the emails Nell Coogan sends out. I just think we need to put more information [for students] in [the communications]." Charlotte gave examples such as communicating the protocol for dressing up for Halloween, and the opening and closing times of the school store.

Charlotte also said, "Some-



Class president Charlotte Cramer, front right, and vice president Hitallo Moreira, center, are surrounded by other members of the newly elected freshman student council.

COURTESY OF MS. JACQUES

thing I want to work on this year is building better relationships between students and staff. I want to try to incorporate more student-staff activities into our school schedule."

Hitallo Moreira was elected

vice president. "The main thing that I want to get across to everyone is that if we all work together, if we all unite, we can make great differences," he said. Hitallo elaborated on his ideas, explaining his plan

to provide snacks such as fruit and crackers in classrooms. "I think maybe I can unite people with snacks. It's something that's essential that everybody loves," he said.

Hannah Wansiewicz was

elected as class secretary, and Clara Rabeni was elected as communications director. Additionally, six representatives were elected to give voice to the opinions of the freshman class: Madison Curelli, Sien-

na Crowell, Madeleine Coulter, Zoe Higgins, Alexandra Royal, Mikhalia Lewis, and Carlotta Roberts.

Student government can provide a great opportunity for students to make an impact on school culture and events, and it is also a useful lesson on civic duties in a democracy, especially given the current relevance of the national election cycle. Student government advisor and history teacher Amy Jacques said, "These elections encourage participation and illustrate the importance of voting."

One hundred forty out of 181 freshmen voted, yielding a voter turnout of 77.3 percent. This is considerably higher than the national turnout rate of 66 percent of adults in the 2020 presidential election, according to the Pew Research Center.

Although these newly elected leaders have yet to begin working on their ideas and plans, Ms. Jacques is inspired by their enthusiasm. "I am very proud of the number of ninth grade students who chose to run, and was very impressed by their enthusiasm to serve," she said. **HSV**

## Alumni embrace life after high school

BY NYOKA WALTERS, NATALIE WAMBUI, LULU WHITE

With the first academic quarter behind students at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS), many seniors are in the process of applying to college and considering what awaits them after graduation. The High School View spoke with recent graduates from the class of 2024 to find out how the transition to college or life after high school was going.

Norah Prestley attends the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford, Conn., and finds that adjusting to the social dynamics of college has been eye-opening. "It's much more crowded here. On the Vineyard, everyone's so community-oriented. If you talk to a stranger, it's not weird," she said. "But here, when I try to say hi, people are just weirded out."

Emma Burt is attending Smith College, in Northampton. "I'm going to a historically women's col-

lege, so I really haven't been around masculinity in the normal sense, which is odd. I'm glad I ended up here, because I feel very, very comfortable," she said. "And compared to the Island, it's been very odd being away from the ocean and the nature that I associate with the Island. I didn't realize how much I was going to miss it."

As Emma reflected on her senior year, she expressed some regret about not taking enough time to enjoy it. "I wish I just took a little bit more time to enjoy [senior year], or hang out with friends more often than I did," she said. "I would often say, 'Oh no, I have something I'm working on,' and I would not go out, and I'd just stay home studying, which I feel like is not the way to spend the last full year on the Vineyard."

Many seniors look forward to embracing more flexible schedules after graduation. Strict phone poli-

cies, early start times, and back-to-back classes can overwhelm students and stifle their independence. For Norah, one of the benefits of college was the opportunity to have greater independence.

"The freedom that I have is my favorite part. If I feel my phone go off in class, I can quickly check and see who it is, and not need to put it in a basket or a pouch," she said. "In the morning, I have classes and I do my best to make it to class on time — at least on most days."

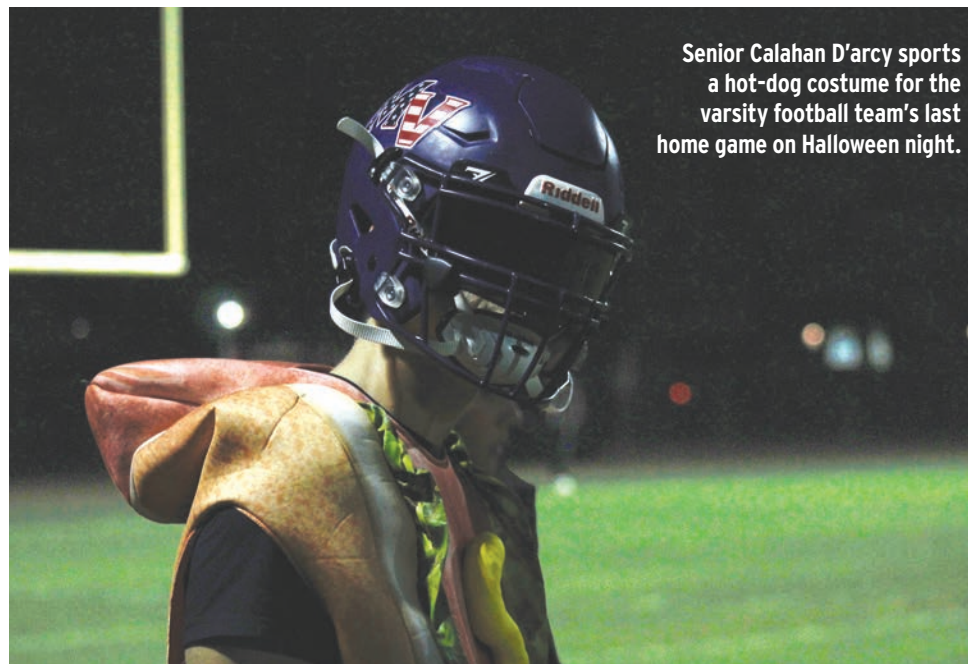
Fernanda Rosa is currently taking a gap year until August 2025. She is spending her year living on Martha's Vineyard while commuting off-Island to complete an internship with International Student Center in Massachusetts, working in marketing and admissions.

Fernanda believes graduates should recognize that life isn't a straight line after

receiving a high school diploma. "It's important to be aware that there's no 'right' life or career path [after] graduating. It's hard to leave that ideology behind, since for years and years, you and your peers are mostly doing the same thing," she said.

While current seniors are weighing their options of where to continue their journey next year, it can be helpful to ask for insight from those who have gone before. Recent graduates are often happy to share insights and advice.

Fernanda said, "After graduating, it can be easy to feel behind when comparing your choices and life with others, but there's no single way of uncovering the life that you feel passionate about." **HSV**



Senior Calahan D'arcy sports a hot-dog costume for the varsity football team's last home game on Halloween night.

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