



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.

ART BY NYOKA WALTERS

Immigration rumors stir anxiety

BY NATALIE WAMBUI AND FINN ROBINSON

On Jan. 31, Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) was noticeably emptier than usual. Many students, particularly from the immigrant community, stayed home due to rumors that agents from U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) had arrived on-Island to enact mass deportations as part of President Trump's immigration agenda.

Kathleen Da Silva, a senior and aspiring immigration lawyer, recalled how previous rumors about ICE caused the Island to "shut down" for two days, even though ICE was never present. "There's a lot of misinformation, and people are really scared," she said, highlighting how rumors can escalate fear.

Kathleen, whose parents are from Brazil, discussed how expedited deportation policies under the current administration add to the uncertainty. She noted that even individuals with no criminal record are being deported, which makes

families more fearful. "If ICE gets a hold of you, you're deported. There's no in-between," she explained. For those in the process of legal immigration, the anxiety is especially intense. "It's really scary not knowing what to do in that situation," she said, reflecting the confusion many families face.

Stephanie Aurenz, a Brazilian sophomore, shared similar concerns, describing the anxiety among her peers. "I feel a little bit scared because of my family," she said. "A lot of people who work a lot and have their family here just trying to build a new future, they're being scared by these rumors."

Principal Sara Dingley is aware of the fear, but has not received specific concerns about students' immigration statuses. "I've definitely talked to students who report fear among their friends or their family, or members of their community," she said.

Ms. Dingley emphasized the school's commitment to creating a safe environment for all students, regardless



ANINA GARVIN

Senior Kathleen Da Silva at a protest on Feb. 5.

of their immigration status. "We're committed to student safety and student privacy,"

she said, explaining that the school would protect students' rights and confidentiality.

Ms. Dingley also outlined the school's protocol if ICE agents were to approach the school. If ICE agents attempted to enter the building, they would not be allowed to access students or records without proper legal procedures. "If someone from ICE were to come, we wouldn't allow that," Ms. Dingley said.

In response to these concerns, students like Kathleen and classmate Josie Powers helped organize a protest as part of a national movement addressing issues such as immigration, reproductive rights, and LGBTQ rights. Kathleen explained the protest's purpose: "If you're against something, it's time to raise awareness." By framing the protest as part of a broader movement, students were able to advocate for causes beyond just opposing Trump's policies.

Kathleen emphasized that even undocumented immigrants have certain rights, such as the right to remain silent and the right to a lawyer. She also said that some

people choose to carry a "red card," which outlines basic rights in case of an encounter with ICE agents.

Despite the fear and uncertainty, Ms. Dingley emphasized the school's ongoing commitment to supporting all students, particularly regarding their safety and privacy. In a schoolwide email, she reassured the community that the school would continue following protocol to prevent unauthorized access to student records or individuals without legal authority.

"People can't just come to the school and demand access to students or student records," she said. "Our protocol would be to say no, and if they insisted, to call the superintendent and then contact our lawyer."

Through these actions and reassurances, the school administration is aiming to alleviate fear, and remains committed to maintaining a safe and supportive environment for all students, regardless of their immigration status. **HSV**

Winter sports teams look toward postseason matchups

BY PICKLE EVILLE AND ISABELLE ANTHONY

As the winter sports regular season comes to an end at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS), the swim and wrestling teams have claimed league titles, the hockey and basketball teams are making their way to playoffs, and indoor track athletes are competing at high levels, with some aiming for nationals.

The swim team set three school records, went undefeated for the first time in history, and won the league championship. Senior captain Kaua De Assis set a school record in the 50-yard men's freestyle.

Junior Ronan Mullin set a new 100-yard butterfly record, and competed as part of the boys relay team, which also set a school record for the 200-yard medley. "Our [roster] size is very helpful, because we have a pretty big boys team compared to a lot of the other teams in our league," said Ronan.

In their second season as an official sport at MVRHS, the relatively new wrestling team displayed both individual skill and team unity on their way to winning the Cape and Islands League title. Sophomore and captain Odin Robinson said, "We have had a great season, beating both Barnstable and Nauset in our league, the first time in the team's history."

The boys hockey team found strength this year in their core group of experienced seniors and promising underclassmen. Seniors Hunter Johnson and Nate Averill both scored their 100th point this season.

Since then, however, the team has lost Nate due to a knee injury. Junior Joe Medeiros said, "I think our biggest challenge has been losing Nate. Mentally everyone is just sort of down on themselves, thinking we need him." To rally the team, the

boys bleached their hair last week as a way to get excited and come together for playoffs. This past Saturday, the team fundraised for the Martha's Vineyard Cancer Support Group, where they wore and sold customized jerseys.

The girls hockey team played with intensity and determination this past season in every matchup. They beat Sandwich and Nauset for the first time in school history, and junior and captain Elle Mone credits their success to strong communication and a young, developing roster under new Head Coach Malory Watts. Elle said, "We all know how to talk to each other on the ice, and also how to give constructive criticism on the bench."

The boys basketball team showcased their depth and teamwork, growing as a team with a majority of underclassmen. Senior captain Xavier Clark said he embraced the pressure of his



BRODY ROYAL

Felix Milne, No. 5, leads the charge as the boys hockey team skates into the playoffs.

final season, and aims to finish strong: "Basketball is a little bit different because now I'm a senior, and there is more pressure to have a good game every game."

The girls basketball team, with a majority of underclassmen, had an impressive season as well. Coming off a recent win against Monomoy, senior captain Piper Blau said, "We're having a lot of fun, and now we're on the road to hopefully making the state championship tournament."

Out in front for the indoor

track team are junior Luis Costa and seniors Camille Brand and Madi Mello, all of whom qualified for divisionals, which were held last Saturday at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center. Luis represented the region in the 600-meter event. Camille and Madi, who competed in the high jump and shot put, respectively, both qualified for the Meet of Champions. There they will compete for a chance to go to the New Balance Nationals in Boston this spring.

Junior Sophia Alves, who served as captain of the cross-country team in the fall, discussed her growth as a 600-meter runner since joining the indoor track team: "I have improved based on how much I put in. Now I train in the summer. I've learned that [improving as an athlete] is not a one-and-done thing. You have to keep training," she said. **HSV**

Fans can find more detailed playoff information at arbitersports.com.