

HEADLIGHT



Written by the students of Marblehead High School for our school and community

2025 - 2026 Issue

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Performing Arts' Boston Trip

Daphne Seliger, Sophomore

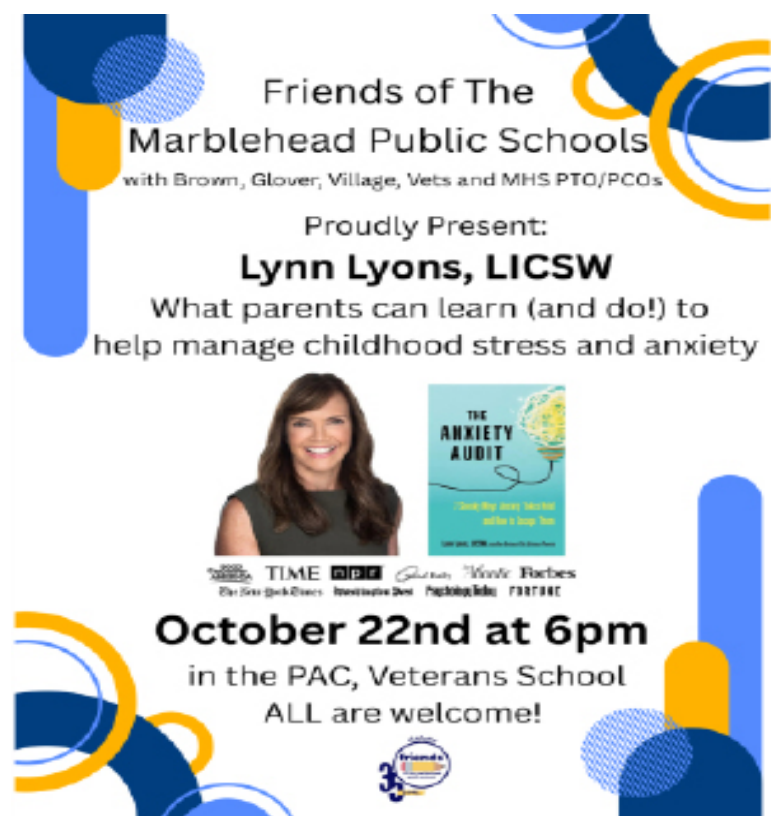
Last Friday, the Performing Arts department at Marblehead High School went on their first trip of the year to Boston. Leaving after third period, the students took a bus into the city and had lunch outside at the Christian Science Plaza. Then they walked to Symphony Hall to hear the Boston Symphony Orchestra perform the works of Claude Debussy and Gustav Mahler, with the female choir Lorelei Ensemble and soprano soloist Nikola Hillebrand singing alongside the instrumentalists. "Stunning talent. Truly wonderful, and an inspiration for the aspiring musicians in the audience," said an orchestra student at MHS.

After such a motivating performance, the students made their way to the Prudential Center for an hour of free time. Most people shopped at the stores like Sephora, Dick's Sporting Goods, and CVS, or got a quick snack at Eataly. Then it was off to dinner at California Pizza Kitchen, a new addition to the Boston Trip itinerary this year, for family style salad, pasta, pizza, and cookies. Arabella Pelekoudas, a junior in Mixed Choir, said, "CPK was really fun. It was great to just sit down, eat warm food, and hang out together. The servers were super nice and the Shirley temples never ended."

There was also a dance party in the bathrooms, where students played music and talked. Overall, CPK was a positive experience for everyone!

As the sun set, everyone made their way over to the Berklee College Performing Arts Center for a live student performance of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*. But before heading inside, they got an impromptu balcony performance from a Berklee student on his guitar. Students cheered for his performance, and minutes later he came down to the street to sing for everybody! Armed with a good voice and the musical cry of 'Just gimme the dollar!,' his moment in the spotlight was certainly a highlight of the trip. "It was an intriguing experience, and I hope that man goes far with his dreams and guitar," recalled Liliana Lopez, a junior Mixed Choir member.

As for *Cinderella*, the students were in complete awe at the level of professionalism and skill of the Berklee students. Everyone cheered after each song, and some even lost their voices! Being one of said students, I have yet to recover, but it was all worth it for seeing two live performances in one day, eating delicious food, and being able to spend the trip with some of my closest friends.



Welcoming Ms. Gvirtzman

Anna Baughman, Junior

This year at MHS, we are excited to welcome several new teachers to our community. Among them is Ms. Gvirtsman, who is teaching French 3, French 4, and AP French.

Ms. Gvirtsman has an impressive background in language education. She earned her bachelor's degree in French from the Institute of Foreign Languages in Moscow and her master's degree from Colorado State University. Over the years, she has taught in public schools around the state, as well as in private academies. She has also tutored students individually and in groups. In addition, she leads online courses in different languages on Out-school for students around the world, designing engaging curriculums based on interactive activities and conversation-based learning.

From a very young age Ms. Gvirtsman knew she loved language, especially French. She is fluent in five languages: French, English, Spanish, Russian, and Hebrew. She strongly believes that language and culture go hand in hand. "I think that it is great for people to know different languages and cultures. It really enriches your life," she explains.

So far, Ms. Gvirtsman has been impressed with how welcoming MHS is. She loves working with her students and especially appreciates the school's recognition of Jewish holidays. Her top priority, as always, is for her students to thrive: "My number one goal is for all my students to succeed." She encourages all students to work hard, because "with dedication, you can achieve anything."

This year, she is hoping to start a Russian Club, which would give students a chance to explore a new language or practice skills they may already have, all while learning more about Russian culture.

Beyond the classroom, Ms. Gvirtsman enjoys cooking, traveling, and trying new things. She loves spending time with her family and six kids. “I really enjoy when all my kids and I can do something together,” she says. When asked what advice she would give students, her answer was simple but wise: “Don’t spend so much time on... computers and phones because interacting with and talking to people is very important.”

With her enthusiasm for teaching, her wide-ranging knowledge of languages, and her dedication to students, Ms. Gvirtsman is a wonderful addition to MHS. "I want to make a difference in kids' lives," she shares. In her classroom, students will not only learn French, but also gain a deeper appreciation for world cultures. She is excited to begin this new chapter, and the school community is equally excited to see the positive impact she will make. Bienvenue Ms. Gvirtsman!



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