

Shining a light
on the news you
care about!

Headlight



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

2025 - 2026 Issue

www.mhsheadlight.com

March 11, 2026

"After the Rain"

Anna Baughman, Social Media Manager, Junior

Looking back on *The Mender*

Georgia Marshall, Assistant Editor, Junior



On February 28th, the cast and crew of *The Mender*, Marblehead High School's original theater production, gathered at Norwood High School to compete in DramaFest of 2026. As Anna Baughman wrote in our early February edition, the annual competition is facilitated by the Massachusetts Educational High School Theater Guild. Schools from across the state put on forty minute productions of student-directed (and often originally written) plays to compete and showcase their theatrical talents. To call this year's production memorable would be an understatement, and it's safe to say that all who participated agree.

While the original plan for the show changed, it couldn't have come together more beautifully. After rights for the pre-planned show were revoked, Drama Club's director and English teacher at MHS Ashley Skeffington scrambled to expand an original script from years ago, and produced *The Mender*. For those who didn't get to experience it, it was a powerful exploration of one family's experience during and after the Vietnam War, told through generations. Niko King-Mahan, a junior at MHS, played the lead, Holly Hansen. She shares, "I adored being in *The Mender*. It was my first time having a lead in a school production and I couldn't have asked for a better experience. Due to the semi-devised nature of the show, I had a lot of say in Holly throughout her development." Her powerful performance in the show earned her an Acting Award at Fest.

The sentiment that *The Mender* was a somewhat collaborative effort is shared by other members of the cast and crew, including Max Kane, a junior who played Teddy Hansen, Holly's uncle. "While the show was a wild ride, the one thing that kept it all together was everyone's cooperation and will to keep moving." He continues, "Coming into such a hardworking and collaborative environment made show-time possible despite all the challenges, and it made me want to see and spread that attitude to all aspects of my life." Members of the production certainly showed perseverance in the face of unexpected snow days, a shortened tech week, an extended trip leaving Max stranded in France, and a number of other obstacles. The results of their hard work are a testament to the power of grit and dedication.

Coming out of this year's DramaFest, four awards were garnered. Along with Niko's award, Matias Watts Cruz won recognition for his excellence playing Niel Hansen. Sadie Newburg and Nassa Warab won technical awards for their excellence in leading the crew. While the show didn't advance into Semi-finals, its wonderful execution was a victory in itself. *The Mender* was born out of hard work, shaped by collaboration, and carried to the stage through resilience. The awards are tangible proof of its impact, but the true victory lies in what the cast and crew built together. In the end, *The Mender* reminds us that some of the most meaningful work comes from unexpected beginnings.

JUNIOR CLASS AUCTION

Bid on the Junior Class Auction Today!

Dear Class of 2027 Families and Marblehead Community,

The Junior Class Auction will run through Friday, March 13th, at 8 PM. The Auction is open to the entire community. We have over 100 incredible items up for bid. From gift certificates to local shops and restaurants to Patriots tickets and ski house rentals, there is something for everyone.

The Junior Class Auction and Sponsorships of the Junior Class are the two most important ways you can support the fundraising needs of the Class of 2027.

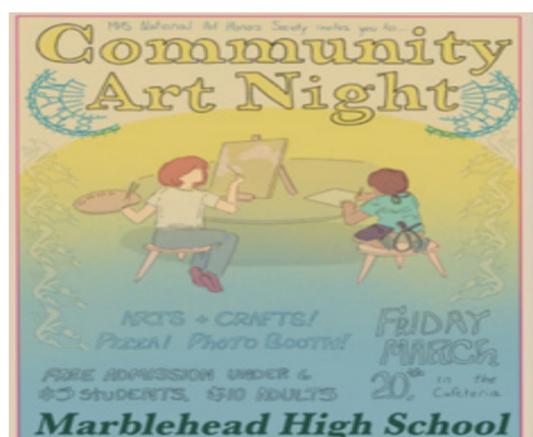
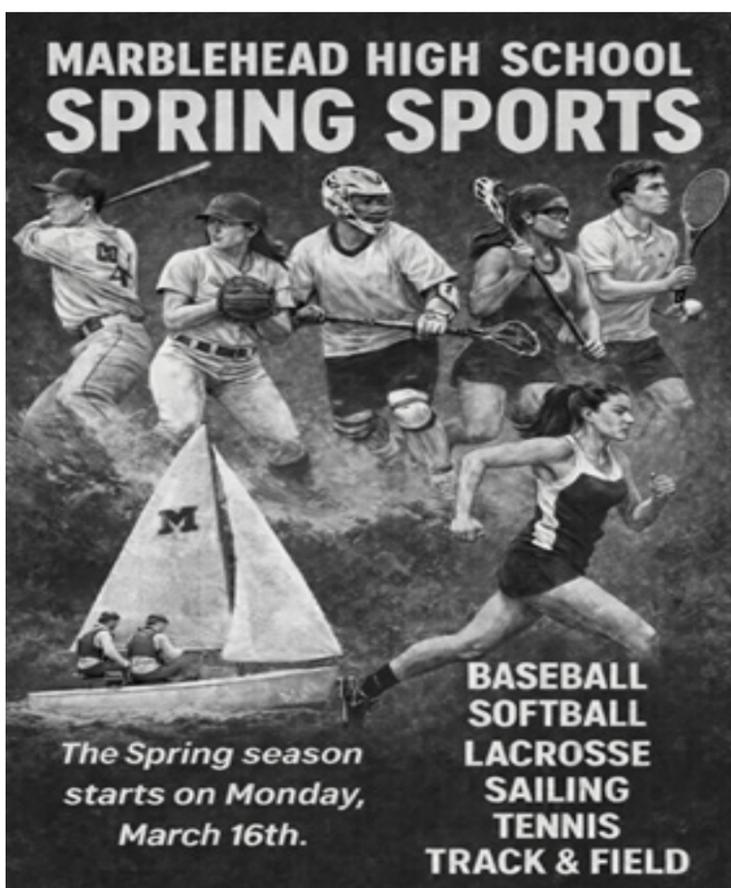
The funds raised through Class Sponsorship and through the auction directly defray the cost of Junior and Senior proms, Senior Week, year-books, the class gift, graduation, and all graduation-related activities, just to name a few. We all benefit from these fundraisers.

**HOW CAN YOU HELP?
BID, BID, BID! SHARE, SHARE, SHARE!**

mhsjuniorclass.schoolauction.net/classof2027/signup



Director Ashley Skeffington receiving a gift of flowers from the cast of *The Mender*.



Headlight Staff 2025 - 2026

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Grey Collins

ASSISTANT EDITORS: Evan Eisen, Anna Cruikshank, Georgia Marshall

REPORTERS: Piper Browning, Jack Buckley, Nathaniel Carper-Young, Madeline Duffy, Teagan Freedman, Maximilian Kane, Sophie Li, London Perlow, Mary Prindiville

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER: Anna Baughman

FACULTY ADVISOR: Mr. Higgins