

Lanesborough and Williamstown to Consider FY16 Budget

By MELISSA SWANN ('16), ZACHARY ARMET ('17) and KYLE ALVEREZ ('17)



Photo courtesy of Ian Culnane ('16)

Principal Mary MacDonald gives a presentation about the FY16 budget and the impact on the students to the Student Council and Echo reporters in early February.

On Wednesday, February 11, Principal Mary MacDonald gathered the School Committee in the meeting room and addressed its members with the latest information concerning Mt. Greylock's sparse budget. An explosion of conversation and debate swept through the Mt. Greylock community about how the school can face its financial woes.

This academic year, also known as Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15), the total school budget is \$10,442,734. Mt. Greylock uses this

money to fund all aspects of the school, including the running and maintenance of the building, staff salaries, classroom resources such as textbooks and computers, school buses and many other necessities. In the upcoming Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16), the cost to run the school will increase by \$909,932 due to contracted salary and wage increases, staffing costs related to grant reductions, increased health insurance and retirement costs, Special Education tuition and transportation, util-

ity increases, changes in the bus contract and the school's capital debt. The capital debt is a \$122,000 expense for renovating the gym locker rooms, which posed major safety hazards back in 2009-2010. The accounting of this debt has been postponed until FY16 so that the administration could focus its efforts on successfully obtaining the feasibility study the two towns passed without drastically revising the budget. With the study currently underway, the school must now include the full \$122,000 of capital debt in FY16.

The additional expenses, which would result in an 8.7% increase from FY15 to a new total budget of \$11,352,666, would maintain staffing and programs at the current levels. Since Williamstown and Lanesborough jointly fund the school budget based on the ratio of students from each town, these changes would require Williamstown to provide a 7.15% increase in funding through property while Lanesborough's rate would increase by 6.39% from FY15. Lanesborough officials initially requested that their town only provide 1% more than it provided for the FY15 budget. A 1% increase in Lanesborough's assessment would only allow students to arrive to school on the bus, attend their core classes and then ride home at the end of the day on the bus. A 1% increase would mean there would be no money left to fund any co-curricular activities, including sports and clubs, and all students would leave the building at 2:30.

Instead, the Mt. Greylock School Committee has decided to propose an overall

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1 in 650: An Interview with Jacob Paul

By NICHOLAS DARROW ('15)



Photo courtesy of Abercrombie Photo Crew

For this edition of *The Greylock Echo*, we sat down with senior Jacob Paul who, like all students at our school, has a story to tell. His combination of hobbies, jobs, and experiences has shaped his engaging character, which we learned about through our conversation with him.

Echo: So, tell us about your acting.

Paul: Well, I started theater in seventh grade, and right now I'm doing my eleventh show with Greylock that wrapped up this past weekend. I've done six years of festival in Shakespeare in the fall, and this is my fifth year of the musical. It's great, I think it's fun.

I heard something about your modeling. Can you tell us a little bit about that?

I used to work for Steven Valentini's [Clothing for Men], which is a men's warehouse for suits in Pittsfield; that's where I originally started modeling. I would just put on whatever I wanted really for the day when I came in and helped out customers, kind of like a floor salesman. I then left that job and went to work for Hollister and Abercrombie. I have a photoshoot every other Saturday which I go down to Albany for, and then I just work in the back of the store two or three times a week taking general stock and making sure everything is up to date.

What does the diet and exercise routine look like for a model figure?

It's not as strict as some might think, but I'm naturally a more lean person, so I eat a lot of protein and a lot of carbs to help gain lean muscle. That's what you really want on your models, for guys at least. I eat a lot of veggies and fruits and try to stay away from chips and cakes, like all the classic sugar foods. I think diet is the hardest part because anyone can go to the gym and lift some weights, but not a lot of people have the will and the self-discipline to maintain a strict diet for a long time. For exercise I go to the gym four or five times a week, and I circulate among different body parts, so I'll have a back day, arm day, shoulder day, leg day, chest day, and then I'll work core into most of those days as well. About

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Students Take Action to Address PDA

By GRACE DODIG ('17)

In mid-January, several students approached the Mt. Greylock Student Council regarding excessive Public Displays of Affection (PDA), and the Student Council decided to hang posters around the halls to make students aware of the consequences their public actions have.

The students at Greylock have discussed these actions at length. When the complaints first started reaching Assistant Principal Jacob Schutz, he decided that he preferred to be "proactive rather than reactive" in the situation. Students, teachers and staff, including Schutz, were beginning to notice increased levels of PDA in the hallways. Schutz went to the Student Council looking for possible solutions. The goal was not to ban PDA but to limit it in order to make everyone feel comfortable in the school setting.

Sophomore Student Council member Dagny Albano said, "It is hard to draw a line because there are going to be things that make everyone uncomfortable, but we tried our best to please both students and faculty." The limit on PDA was said to be "pecking at the most, and of course a hug is okay, just nothing too intense." Albano agreed with Schutz in that there could be a way to deal with the issue that didn't involve an addition to the student handbook. Albano said, "We hoped that the posters served as an effective way to

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School Raises Awareness about Staying Healthy

By KYLE ALVEREZ ('17)



Photo courtesy of Ian Culnane ('16)

Junior Ellie Williams uses a hand sanitizer dispenser in the Guidance Office.

On Wednesday, January 21, teachers in first periods classes read students an announcement that informed them that a fellow student had become critically ill from a common strep bacteria but was expected to recover. The same announcement covered the necessary hand sanitation steps that anyone can take in order to prevent a similar situation from occurring, stressing the importance of regular hand washing. Finally, the message confirmed that the janitorial staff was doubling their efforts to

keep the school as clean as possible.

Administrators emailed parents a hand hygiene guide written by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) that instructed readers on the importance of good hand hygiene. This informative guide is also taped to the walls next to bathrooms, reminding every member of the school community to wash his or her hands.

The hype and hysteria originated because a seventh grade student contracted a staph infection, an extremely serious medical condition that requires surgery to cut the infection out of the patient. According to the CDC, *Staphylococcus aureus*, or staph for short, is a common germ found on people's skin. In some cases, however, the germ can penetrate the skin and enter the bloodstream, causing serious damage and, in rare cases, death. According to the Mt. Greylock wellness teachers, the student only realized he got a small cut in gym class and did not know how he received it. When his health deteriorated over the next few days, he was taken to the hospital where the medical staff diagnosed him with a staph infection. The infection was found in time, and doctors were able to treat the patient. In this case, the student had to endure five separate operations to ensure that all of the harmful bacteria were removed. This situation reminds the community that regular hand washing is always a smart idea, especially when in public spaces, and cuts should be disinfected and covered as soon as possible. ♦

Bruce R. Carlson Library

Simon Kent gives the story behind a man whose name bears historical significance at Greylock.
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An Interview with Dr. Gordon Noseworthy

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Competitive Snoeshoeing

Gray Kaegi reports on Carter Stripp's snowshoe world championship.
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College Application Tips

Joey Gais offers advice to rising seniors.
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1 in 650: Jacob Paul

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every week I cycle through a full body workout. Generally, I consider the back day one of my hardest days because it is one of the biggest muscles in your body. Not a lot of people like leg day, but I actually think it's kind of fun, but that might just be me.

You obviously have a lot going on, but what is your favorite thing to do outside of school?

When the weather is nicer I just like to be outside. It doesn't matter what I'm doing. As long as I'm outside in the sun, I will enjoy it a lot. In the winter time there is not really much going on outside for me. But I'll go skiing sometimes, or I will just stay inside and watch Netflix to be honest (laughs). I don't really do too much in the winter.

Speaking of the outdoors, I heard that you killed a bear. Is that true?

Yeah, but it's not as cool of a story as everyone is making it seem. It was between my freshman and sophomore year over the summer, and my grandpa is a big time hunter, so I was out with him, and we were originally tracking this deer, and we were walking around on these deer tracks. When we saw bear tracks, we were like, "Oh man it's a bear," but we didn't really have any intention of hunting it down or anything like that because my grandpa had a rifle, and I had a shotgun.

We had been walking around for a few hours, and then completely by chance we came across this bear, which we assumed

was the same one that left the tracks. So we had packs on, which had food in them, because we were out there all day, and I guess the bear wanted my food from my pack. It saw me, and I think he or she must have felt threatened by me in some way because it was getting really territorial, and he went for me. I was like a deer in headlights I was so scared, so I just froze and didn't know what to do. My grandpa made a shot at the bear and missed so that kind of snapped me out of the terrified, frozen faze. I just turned around and started booking it as fast as I could in the opposite direction, which in hindsight was a really bad idea. Then the bear tried to slash my bag off to get the food or something, so I just turned around and kind of shot over my shoulder, and then I got it full on in the face, and it just went down. But I don't think it's that interesting of a story.

I find it pretty interesting. It's not everyday someone kills a bear.

Yeah, but people are hyping it up way more than what actually happened.

That is obviously a memorable moment outside of school. Do you have any memorable moments from the past years at Mt. Greylock?

I think the track team really has helped out through the high school years. In team sports, I think you all kind of form this close bond, and since the boys' team is so much smaller than the girls' team, we get a lot closer I guess. At least that's how I feel, and I've made some really close friend-



Photo courtesy of Sara Rudd ('15)

Paul rehearses a scene from South Pacific, Greylock's Winter Musical.

ships with a lot of people that I probably wouldn't be friends with otherwise. They are there to help me with whatever I need really, on and off season.

What are your plans for next year, and do you have any career ideas?

Next year: I haven't quite decided on a college quite yet. I'm waiting to hear back from University of Maryland, College Park. I want to go to either Maryland or SUNY Albany, which I have already been accepted to, and major in Criminal Justice and Sociology and probably do some kind of photography class as a hobby.

I guess we can wrap it up by going back to the modeling category; how would you describe your personal style?

I don't know if I really have a definitive style. I wear a lot of different things. I guess I have a lot of classic pieces, and I like to add my own little flair to them if you will (laughs). I don't like blending in with the crowd I suppose. I want to stand out and be different, so I think clothes and fashion are a noticeable way to stand out. ♦

Interview has been edited. To nominate a student for 1 in 650, email the editors at mountgreylockecho@gmail.com.

Community Event: SEE Fund Telethon and Quiz Bowl

By SAMUEL SWOAP ('16) and SIMON KENT ('17)



Photo courtesy of Charlotte Rand ('16)

Left to right: SEE Fund President John Gerry, WilliNet Director Deb Dane and Quiz Bowl host Blair Dils.

The Mt. Greylock Regional School District's annual Sustaining Educational Excellence (SEE) Fund telethon will take place on March 12 at Mt. Greylock. The telethon will also feature a Quiz Bowl for the third straight year and will be broadcasted live on WilliNet starting at 6:00 p.m. from the MGRHS meeting room. English teacher and *As Schools Match Wits* advisor Blair Dils will host the Quiz Bowl. The telethon consists of student volunteers calling families and friends to ask for donations to the SEE Fund. The Quiz Bowl is comprised of teams of three students competing against one another as

well as faculty teams for prizes. Additionally, all students who participate will gain community service hours and a small item as a token of appreciation for their participation.

For the telethon, the SEE Fund's goal is to raise five thousand dollars to fund grants that are not covered by the regular school budget. The SEE Fund's additional cash influx will be welcome in a year of tightening budgets. Any member of the Greylock community can apply for a grant from the SEE Fund. Since its creation in 1997, the SEE Fund has raised over \$180,000 in grants. ♦



Photo courtesy of Charlotte Rand ('16)

The telethon will start at 6:00 p.m. tonight. Above, student volunteers begin calling.

PDA

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deal with PDA. We did not want it to be too serious, as in a code, but we hoped to have a fun approach." Both Mr. Schutz and Student Council reported receiving fewer complaints about PDA shortly after several members of the council put the posters up.

Opinions regarding PDA in the Greylock hallways continue to vary. Some say that there is most definitely too much, while others claim it is not really noticeable nor is it a topic in need of attention. Sophomore Rachel Voller said, "PDA to a degree is okay. It is okay to show affection, not intimacy." While many agree that PDA does need to be monitored slightly, others strongly disagree. Soon after the posters were hung up, a Greylock student, who will remain anonymous, tweeted, "Literally these dumb [...] PDA posters piss me off," followed by, "Like sorry if people kissing offends you, your [...], uptight attitude offends me. But did I make posters about it? No." In later tweets, the student

claims that "their relationship does not directly affect me" and that "people 'don't want to see' a lot of things but there aren't posters about it." The anonymous student is not alone. Many others have expressed anger towards the posters. Students have even taken to ripping the posters down when passing them in the halls.

PDA is a controversial topic and is not an issue that the Student Council or administration will overlook. Albano said, "while we do receive fewer complaints about PDA, more complaints are being received from people who engage in PDA... so I think we have some more figuring out to do, but it was a good start." PDA raises the question of which is more important: people's ability to express any type of affection or people's right to be comfortable in their own hallway. ♦

Grace Dodig is both a reporter for the Echo as well as a member of Student Council.

The Greylock Echo is the student newspaper of Mt. Greylock Regional High School in Williamstown, Mass. Published bimonthly during the academic year, each issue is developed and edited by a team of student writers, photographers, artists, and editors. Any Mt. Greylock High School student is welcome to join the Echo staff.

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Bruce R. Carlson: A Greylock Legend

By SIMON KENT ('17)



Photo courtesy of Ian Culhane ('16)

The Bruce R. Carlson Library serves as a place for students to work on computers (pictured above), collaborate with peers, and study after school.

Bruce R. Carlson is most recognized today within the walls of Mt. Greylock as the namesake of the school library, but his importance extends far beyond the library that bears his name. His persistence in building a new high school is a large reason why Greylock exists today.

Carlson was born and grew up in Chicago before graduating from Stanford University and then enrolling in advanced financial studies at Northwestern University. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, a national organization that recognizes academic achievement, along with several other Chicago organizations. Carlson served in the Pacific with the Navy during the Second World War as a Lieutenant. After the war, Carlson worked as an investment analyst in Chicago before moving to the Berkshires in 1953 to work as the statistical aide to the president of Sprague Electric, a North Adams based manufacturing company. He rapidly moved through the ranks of Sprague Electric, rising to the role of Senior Vice President of Finance and eventually becoming president of the whole company in 1968. He worked to turn disappointing profits of Sprague Electric around. He was president of the company during the 1970 strikes that eventually lead to the closing of its headquarters in North Adams in 1985. One of Carlson's enduring achievements with Sprague was their electronics being used in the message

capsule left on the moon by the Apollo 11 astronauts.

Besides working at Sprague Electric, Carlson also supported other local organizations, such as the local YMCA, which named him the man of the year in 1967. His impact on communities within the Berkshires was widespread and remarkable for his role within Sprague.

Carlson began volunteering as a member of the Williamstown School Committee before the merger of the Williamstown and Lanesborough school systems. He worked tirelessly during his time on the Williamstown School Committee and was elected to serve on the new Regional School Committee in February of 1960 when the merger occurred, which still serves as the baseline for Mt. Greylock today.

Carlson's tenure, from 1950 to 1960, allowed him to heavily impact the construction of Mt. Greylock Regional High School and ensure its building. During his role as chairman for eight years, Carlson led the school committee in improving efficiency, quality education and economic sensibility, all of which he had practice with based on his career at Sprague. He was dedicated to all aspects of improving education within the Mt. Greylock School District. The library in the south corridor, named in his honor and used by students every day, reflects his intense commitment to better education. ♦

JCL Members Create Blankets for Project Linus

By ADLY TEMPLETON ('16)

On Friday, February 6, 11 students gathered in Marjorie Keeley's room for a Project Linus workshop, sponsored by the Junior Classical League. Project Linus is a charity that has delivered over five million handmade blankets to children in need, such as children in hospitals, since 1998. The charity coordinates volunteers around the country and delivers the finished blankets.

Project Linus was inspired by a 1995 magazine article which featured a three-year-old named Laura, who had been diagnosed with Leukemia. The article described Laura's "blankie," which helped her to endure years of unpleasant chemotherapy. Inspired by this story, founder Karen Loucks started donating homemade blankets to her local hospital, and Project

Linus was born.

This event offered an opportunity for members of the Greylock community to help less fortunate children. Freshman Zephie Gollin said, "It was a nice opportunity to meet other JCLers in a non-academic setting. Students were able to spend a relaxing afternoon making blankets for those in need."

To make a blanket, volunteers first laid sheets of two different fabrics on top of each other. They cut out strips along the edges of both blankets and tied the strips together. The result is a single blanket with multicolored knots on all sides. This process allows volunteers to easily create handmade and colorful blankets.

To find out more about Project Linus, visit the website at projectlinus.org. ♦



Photo courtesy of Marjorie Keeley

JCL members work together, cutting and tying strips of fabric to create a blanket.

Proposed Budget

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4.5% increase in the budget during two public hearings. One will take place at 6 p.m. on March 16 at the Lanesborough Elementary School and the other on March 17 in the meeting room at Mt. Greylock. The school will have to make additional cuts, but a 4.5% increase will not result in drastic changes. Also, Williams College has decided to donate \$150,000 to Greylock in order to pay off the capital debt and help alleviate the burden of other costs. At this point in time, at least five current employees will not return to their positions at Mt. Greylock next year. In order to limit the number of under-enrolled classes, the school will offer fewer elective classes, specifically from the visual and performing arts, business, social studies and wellness departments. Class sizes will increase, but MacDonald will set a maximum level of 24 students per class.

MacDonald said, "I want to keep class sizes as small as possible. Studies show that smaller classes make a better learning environment because they allow the students to receive more of the teacher's attention. I don't want classes to be so big that students have to sit on the radiators."

In terms of the materials these classes will use, the school will only purchase textbooks that legally must be updated for Advanced Placement courses and will not buy supplies for project-based learning. During the School Committee meeting, MacDonald explained, "If we were to cut the budget more, essentially we would be moving

Mt. Greylock backwards."

Many students are already aware of the effects that the proposed budget will have on the school. Junior Petrea Manello said, "It's unfortunate that Mt. Greylock has to make all of these cuts. Losing teachers, buses and resources is always sad and could change the dynamic of the school, but hopefully Mt. Greylock won't stray too far from what it's like now."

Under the proposed budget, all Greylock sports teams and clubs will continue to exist, but the athletic program will undergo some changes. Director of Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities Lindsey von Holtz said, "no sport is going to be cut, but there will be a decrease in the number of contests. Teams will only play the MIAA or the league minimum of athletic contests and will not compete in out-of-county contests." While Mt. Greylock teams have a concrete future, the co-op sports may be in jeopardy. According to von Holtz, "the swim and hockey teams, which are both co-op sports with other schools, will not be funded by the current budget plan. These teams are two

of the most expensive sports to fund per player. Also, only a small number of Mt. Greylock students take part in these co-op teams. With these factors in mind, Mt. Greylock won't pay for them next year." However, von Holtz still has high hopes for the swimmers and hockey players that call Mt. Greylock home, saying, "It seems like the members of the co-op teams will be able to raise money outside of school so that they can participate without the funding from the Mt. Greylock budget."

Another major area of concern students and parents have with the FY16 budget involves after-school transportation. Principal MacDonald explained that Mt. Greylock is one of the few schools in the Berkshires that provides additional bus-

es for students who participate in athletics, clubs or seek academic help after the end of the school day. This bus system allows many students, especially middle schoolers, to stay after school without their parents having to take time out of their schedules to pick them up. According to von Holtz's records, 76% of students participated in at least one co-curricular activity

after school during the 2013-2014 school year. Until this school year, 4:15 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. buses brought students to Williamstown, Lanesborough and Hancock. This year, due to previous budget cuts, buses took students to Williamstown and Lanesborough at 4:15 p.m. while the 5:15 p.m. bus alternated towns, bringing students to Lanesborough three days a week and to Williamstown two days a week. The proposed budget calls for cutting all after-school buses completely, which could profoundly affect the amount of participation in co-curricular activities at the school. Funding two late buses, one for each town, that would take students home every day, would cost \$33,000. Since buses are not extremely expensive and provide a convenient way for students to engage in activities after school, the towns and students may try to find ways to pay for them through fundraising.

The cuts that the planned FY16 budget proposes are not yet set in stone. At a recent Student Council meeting, Principal MacDonald said, "[The budget] is changing constantly. At one point, I had cut the budget down to a place where we had no co-curriculars and no sports, but the School Committee said, 'That's not school.' Almost every day, something new happens. Every day there's some kind of change. We still need to look carefully at the budget to see what else can potentially come out." After the town hearings in mid-March, the towns and the school will have a clearer image of the reality of the FY16 budget situation. ♦

"If we were to cut the budget more, essentially we would be moving Mt. Greylock backwards."
-Principal Mary MacDonald

Community

An Interview with Interim Superintendent Dr. Gordon Noseworthy

By NICHOLAS DARROW ('15) and NOAH SAVAGE ('16)

A new face has arrived in our building in the Tri-District Office. Following Dr. Rose Ellis's departure, Dr. Gordon Noseworthy will be serving as interim superintendent until June. We sat down with Dr. Noseworthy to learn about the various places he has called home, his love for travel, his views on education, and some of his passions and stories. Welcome Dr. Noseworthy!

Echo: Where do you live?

Noseworthy: It's not a direct answer. I live in Northampton. That's my home. Northampton and Plymouth are where we live normally. But I chose to rent a house in Williamstown because it was more convenient for the job to be in town.

And did you work in Northampton or did you work in Plymouth?

Well, (laughs), at one time I was the Northampton High School principal. I was there for 15 or 16 years. The reason I lived in Plymouth was because I was superintendent at Silver Lake, which is just north of Plymouth. And then I retired. I've done interim jobs, which means when a school system like yours is doing a search for a superintendent, they call people like me. I've done that in 3 different places; this is the third time I've done this.

So you're not here for a long period of time?

I am here until June because the district is conducting a search for a permanent superintendent. But I'm delighted to be here!

Is that a definite date? Or is there any chance you stay longer if the school cannot find a replacement?

Usually spring searches are very successful. So I'm an optimist. I'm always an optimist, I have to tell you that. That's just the way I live my life. I'm expecting [the district] to hire a superintendent, and hopefully the two of us will have a few days of overlap so that I can make sure everything is as smooth as possible for the permanent person to come on board.

Do you have any goals for the short time that you're here? Any changes you're planning on implementing or anything?

Well, obviously interims don't have long-range goals because you're not here in the long term. I think that it's very important to exercise leadership. That keeps things moving along. For example, helping with the search. There's a whole lot of stuff that people don't see that comes to the superintendent's desk that needs attention, that needs expertise and that needs dealing with. And you don't just walk into this job knowing how to do that unless you've done it. I'm on the clock right now, so I have to do everything I can for you and your future to make this school system as good as it can be.

A lot of students don't know what a superintendent does exactly. You mentioned all the things that come to your desk that we are not aware of. What kinds of things are those, and what skills do they require?

Good question. The School Committee deals with budget, policy and hiring a superintendent. That person becomes the CEO, so to speak, of the school district. Think of what there is in a school district. Apart from thousands of kids, you've got teachers' contracts, you've got budgets, you've got hiring and firing. The superintendent hires the principal, and the principal hires the teachers. Ultimately, teacher evaluations made by the principal stop here. If someone files a complaint, then ultimately it comes to my desk, and I have to deal with the state if there's a complaint about something that needs to be resolved in the school department. I have to prepare for all the school committee meetings, and in a regional school district, there are multiple school committees. I meet with the chair, and I plan the agenda. And the budget... hours of work go into the budget,



Photo courtesy of Ian Culnane ('16)

hours, literally hours. There's a huge budget issue right now, a gigantic issue, and I hope to work with people to just resolve that the best possible way we can. There's a big building project going on here, and I've been involved with several of those now. Because I've had that experience I can be a resource, which is why I am serving on the Building Committee for the duration of while I'm here. That's an important role because when I pass things on to the next superintendent, I can be able to say what's been going on. Every place is different, but the skill set is to make sure you're aware of what's going on and you can pull everything together. You have to hit the ground running in interim superintendency. You don't have the luxury of saying, "Oh, I'll spend the first six weeks on my entry plan." I can't have an entry plan. I have to spend weeks before I come here snooping around the internet and finding out about you and looking at your scores and looking at your press coverage and looking at your handbooks and policies and come in knowing about you.

Is it tough to juggle the schedules of the three different schools in the districts?

It definitely is time consuming in a way that it would be much more streamlined if it was one regional school district, pre-k through twelfth grade. You'll hear people in this community talking about a pre-k to twelve regional district. Now I happen to be a proponent of that but not just simply because it streamlines the operation, which it does at every level and is a complete benefit. It also makes logical sense that the governance of the district, the School Committee, is one school committee with governance over all children going through the whole stream of education.

So with that said, if you could change one thing in the educational system across the entire country, what would it be? Would it be adding a pre-k through twelve regional school district?

If the world is going to be such a global community, then what I would change in the country is bringing us together in a global way. There's a lot of people who fear that; they fear their loss of local control. Your class, when you graduate from this high school, aren't all going to live in Williamstown and Lanesborough for the rest of their lives. They're going to go off to college, and they're going to become a part of this great global culture that's stretching all over the world now, and they're going to be in different places. If I were going to change things, I want people to really be cognizant of career and college as having a global kind of connection to it. I think we need to be part of the whole big picture. We don't look at Mt. Greylock in isolation; we look at it as part of America and part of the world.

So a little while back, just on a side note, you mentioned Ronald Reagan's A Na-

tion at Risk. What was that exactly?

It was a publication that just put educators on their toes. It said look we have to start working together from the federal government down on this. It started educators at the college level and the public sector and everywhere else to start thinking about what we are doing. It just got the ball rolling so that eventually we got to that point where we were reforming in the 90's, and we were putting our house in order essentially, but we were really doing far more than that: we were changing education. But I've always been a people person you see. When I was about 25, I said before I'm an old man I want to see the peoples of the world, but I want to see them where they live. I don't want to see them in their American communities. I didn't even live in America [when I said that]. I actually lived in Canada. I'm from Canada, I'm a Canadian.

Where from in Canada?

Montreal.

I went there once. It was beautiful.

Later, when I was with a friend, we went to Germany, and we bought a new Volkswagen at a factory, and we drove it around the world. We drove through Europe. We drove all through north Africa. We went through Jordan, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, India and then to Australia for a while and then Asia and then Japan. I've been back a lot; travel is my hobby. I've been in between

60 and 70 countries, which isn't even a lot now because there are probably a couple hundred countries in the world now. I don't just love travel. I took my youngest son a year ago last January to Machu Picchu in Peru. We flew to Cusco and then took a bus and a train to Machu Picchu itself. When you get off the train in the village, they want you to go up to the site right away because the weather was really nice, and if we waited, it would rain for a week. So we took a bus up to the base of the mountain, and then we hiked all day in the ruins.

Did it still feel remote and non-touristy?

I love going to places that aren't touristy. The entry way to Machu Picchu is kind of a control center, and they don't want you to take sticks with picks on the end and that kind of stuff. But when you get beyond that, the ruins are very well reserved. There are no hot dog stands or souvenir hawkers, and you can really go back and try to get a sense of these peace-loving people that lived there and what it was like before the Conquistadors came in and who knows what happened to them.

Now for some fun questions. If you had to choose one word to describe your day and time so far here at Mount Greylock, what would it be?

Challenging, but in a positive sense. I like to keep challenging myself and seeing what I can accomplish next.

If you could ride any animal, what would your steed be?

A camel, but I've done it in Morocco.

Does that feel like riding a horse?

No, it does not feel like a horse at all. It feels like a slow lumbering thing. It's probably more like riding a dinosaur more than riding a horse.

What is your favorite season?

That's a very hard question for me. I'll never be a snowbird and live in Florida in the winter. I love winter, I love the snow, I love skiing, I love walking in the winter, I love everything about it. I also love the summer when I'm down at Plymouth on the ocean. I think fall is spectacular, and I always look forward to spring, so I enjoy every season for what it's worth. ♦

Interview has been edited and condensed. To nominate a student for 1 in 650, email the editors at mountgreylockecho@gmail.com.

The Greylock Echo: Online
MT. GREYLOCK'S STUDENT-RUN NEWS SOURCE

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Editor's Note: The views expressed in opinion pieces do not reflect the collective views of this newspaper, but of the individual authors.

Greylock Boasts World Snowshoe Champion

By GRAY KAEGI ('16)

Mt. Greylock's winter sports teams are some of its best, with multiple Western Mass Tournament qualifications as well as strong finishes with regards to the rest of the state. There are numerous athletes across all of the winter sports at Greylock willing to put in the work to take themselves to the next level. This year, one of Greylock's best winter athletic accomplishments was not completed by a student competing with the Mountie logo on his chest because he switched it out for an American flag. Senior Carter Stripp has proven himself as a top runner on the cross-country and track teams. Last year, he also earned a spot as a junior member of the United States National Snowshoe Team. This year, Carter Stripp was crowned the fastest junior snowshoer in the world.

Stripp first started snowshoeing last

winter at the suggestion of his Nordic skiing coach Hilary Greene. He took second place in his first snowshoe race ever at Prospect Mountain in Vermont, a regional qualifier for the national qualifier, also held at Prospect, where Stripp raced his way to a spot on the US team.

Stripp said, "Snowshoeing is quite similar to cross country running in many respects. You need to know how to use the terrain to your advantage, how to make moves at the right time and how to predict the surges of your opponents." Stripp's hard work and ability to transfer his running skills over to snowshoeing earned him second place in the National Championship last year and a victory in the World Championship this year.

On January 31, the world's top junior snowshoers met in Quebec City, Quebec to



Photo Courtesy of ISSF



Photo Courtesy of ISSF

In snowy Quebec City, Quebec, Stripp edges out his opponents.

Stripp crosses the finish line to take home the gold.

race in the International Snowshoeing Federation World Championships. The field of racers included 77 snowshoers, representing 14 different countries. Some of the represented countries were the United States, Canada, Spain and even Kenya. In a highly competitive race, Stripp edged out his opponents, taking home the gold. "Racing in the championship was a surreal experience," said Stripp. "As the race progressed and things were going incredibly well, I didn't really comprehend the magnitude of the whole thing. It honestly just felt like any normal race, and I did what I could to get the win. Further, it was an incredible experience to represent my country on a world stage even in a sport like snowshoeing. I never would have suspected I'd be

here. I have trouble wrapping my head around it."

Stripp originally started snowshoeing because it gave him an opportunity to run during the winter months. Over time, Stripp has developed a strong love for the sport. "I've grown to love it beyond the reasons I love running," said Stripp. Stripp encourages everyone to go out and try snowshoeing. "Just head out onto some trails one day. You can really snowshoe anywhere, so there are a lot of options." For new snowshoers, Stripp said, "It's going to feel a little awkward at first, but keep at it. Snowshoeing is an amazing sport. It is really about bringing people together and allowing them to enjoy the wintery outdoors." ♦

The Echo's College Tips

By JOEY GAIS ('15)

The College Essay

Write about what you're passionate about; don't try to be something you're not. Writing about how much you've learned by doing ten hours of community service as a freshman because it was mandatory to pass gym class will come across as fake and forced. Also, beware of writing how [insert sport here] taught you how to be [insert three positive character traits here]; you don't want to be the five hundredth applicant to write about how running has made you a dedicated, hard-working person. But, if you think you can pull it off better than the other 499 kids, by all means go for it. The admissions officers will read through massive stacks of essays, so anything less than passionate will just seem ridiculous. Use your college essay as an opportunity to reflect on yourself and the aspects of your personality that you feel stand out. Also, if you can find a few people who know you well to read your essay, whether it's a teacher, parent, older sibling, coach, or family friend, they can help to make sure the essay sounds like you.

Testing

Get it done early. Stressing out over the SAT or ACT test in the fall of senior year is simply not fun. Some of us here at the Greylock Echo missed out on valuable

cross country racing experience because we were busy taking subject tests. Don't be that guy. Moreover, don't take the SAT/ACT test too many times. It makes sense to take it twice or even three times if you feel as though your scores don't represent your abilities accurately. Keep in mind, though, that a little part of you dies every time you take a seat at an SAT testing center.

Financial Aid & Scholarships

Unfortunately for us all, the days of paying your way through college are largely gone. It is important to take advantage of the myriad of ways to help finance both the college process and college itself. For starters, many schools offer application fee waivers, meaning that if a student shows need, he or she can apply without having to pay the approximately \$80 cost most colleges ask for. For those applying to five or more colleges, those costs can really add up. As far as the financial aid process and scholarships go, be organized and know the deadlines. Scholarship opportunities are free to enter and start even as early as December. Even if you're already going to college loan-free, scholarship money will bring in a little extra spending money or money to save for whatever is in your future.

College Visits

Do them. Oftentimes you may visit a college you thought would be a great fit for you, driving hours to see it. There, you may come to realize before the tour is even done that you cannot stand the possibility of going to that college. This is normal and actually very helpful as it makes you realize what you want out of a college. Some of us travelled as far as Chicago only to realize that we wanted nothing more than a small New England liberal arts college. Also, try to get a little past the tour when you visit a college, like talking to a student or faculty member or eating at a dining hall. While useful, tours cannot capture the entire student life experience.

But Most Importantly...

Take a deep breath, sit back and relax. Whether or not you get into your first choice college does not determine the direction of your life. No matter what you end up doing after high school, you will have a new experience, and that's exciting. It feels great to gain independence as senior year unfolds, figure out the best fit for you (not the adults in your life), and look forward to your future. ♦

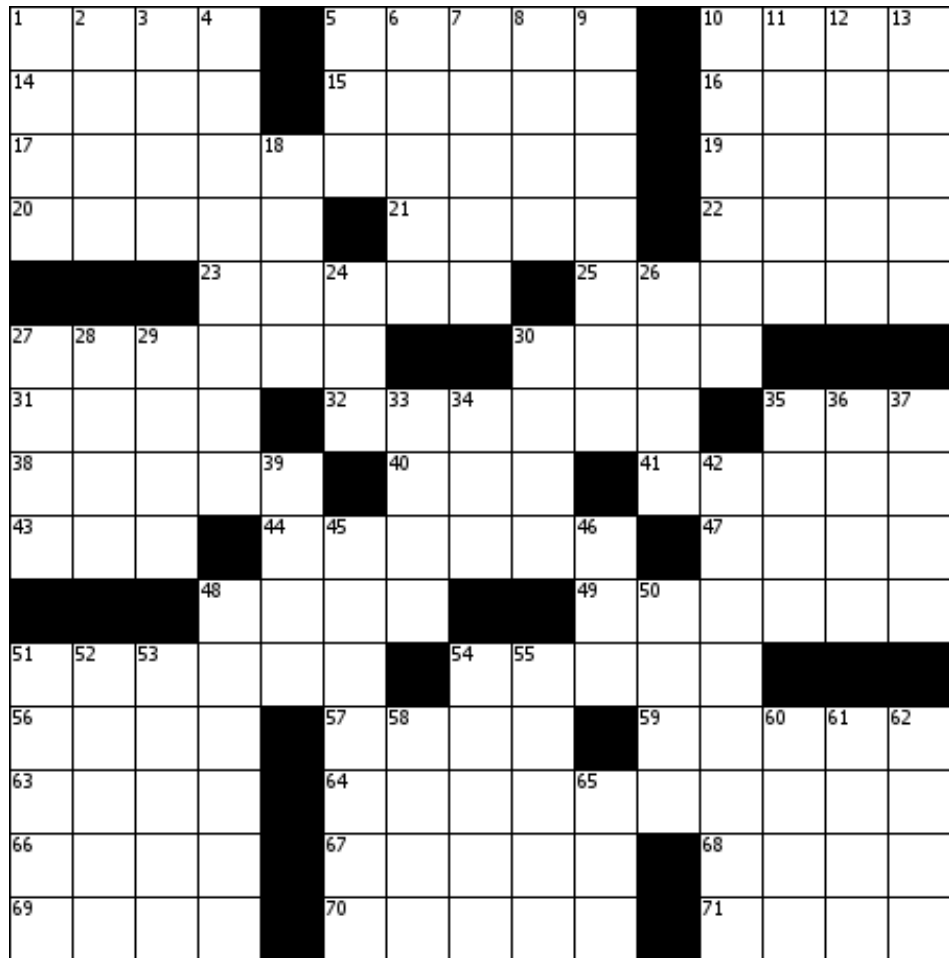
To Apply Early or Not to Apply Early

Early action and early decision applications, non-binding and binding, respectively, can be a great way to quickly finish the application process. By the time most are stressing out over getting their application ready by January 1, you could have already been accepted into your choice college, or at least a college. You do not have to apply to your first choice school if you proceed with a non-binding early action application, which offers a good option that will also give you earlier results. Also, by the numbers, colleges tend to have higher acceptance rates for early decision applicants. Still, it's possible that you will be deferred or rejected. There's no need to stress out too much if you do not get accepted. While you may not have gotten into your first choice college, there are still plenty of other schools.

nb21 love you, make healthy choices
not before 21...
not in northern berkshire
nbCC
mobilizing for change on alcohol - northern berkshire community coalition

Fun & Games

Crossword



Across

- 1. Thin rope
- 5. Actor ____ Martin
- 10. Bogeyman
- 14. Burn-soothing plant
- 15. Planet's path
- 16. Marina sight

- 17. Fair
- 19. Mama's husband
- 20. More angry
- 21. Gentle animal
- 22. Individuals
- 23. Sped
- 25. Snuggle

- 27. Baby's toy
- 30. Bargain bonanza
- 31. Hurt
- 32. Shaquille and Tatum
- 35. Possess
- 38. Clever
- 40. Go wrong
- 41. ____ Murphy of "Shrek"
- 43. Church bench
- 44. Aloha State
- 47. Slippery creatures
- 48. Spongy
- 49. Tops of waves
- 51. "Camelot" king
- 54. Make tea
- 56. Folk knowledge
- 57. Creep slowly
- 59. Greek letter
- 63. Thought
- 64. Ritual
- 66. Vegetarian's taboo
- 67. Entertain
- 68. Jazz great ____ Fitzgerald
- 69. Two together
- 70. ____ Prize
- 71. Stains

- 11. Huge
- 12. Ward off
- 13. Remove
- 18. Voiced
- 24. Corporate VIP
- 26. Besides that
- 27. File
- 28. Zenith
- 29. Spring event
- 30. Hindu garb
- 33. Politician ____ Gingrich
- 34. Age
- 35. Certain poems
- 36. Wither
- 37. Loch ____
- 39. Commandment start
- 42. Intensified
- 45. Ethiopia native, e.g.
- 46. Rink surface
- 48. Knife holder
- 50. Remodel
- 51. Out on ____ (2 wds.)
- 52. Cowboys' contest
- 53. Trick or ____!
- 54. Rub clean
- 55. Not those
- 58. "Finding ____"
- 60. Easter flower
- 61. Narrative
- 62. Oh, dear!
- 65. Actor ____ Gibson

Down

- 1. Autos
- 2. Toast spread
- 3. Jungle sound
- 4. AWOL soldier
- 5. Male descendant
- 6. Vocation
- 7. Receded
- 8. Horrid
- 9. Ceaseless
- 10. Be against

Think you have what it takes to create our next crossword puzzle? Contact the editors at mountgreylockecho@gmail.com and your puzzle could appear in the next issue!

Sudoku

5		7		3				
	4		5		2			1
	1		6				9	
		1		2				
	5	6					4	2
				9			7	
		5			8			9
	2		3		4			7
				7		5		4

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Dodgeball Tournament 2015

On Friday, March 6, the annual Dodgeball tournament took place in the Greylock gymnasium after the school day. 26 teams participated, each one with original names and costumes. The "Pretty Little Liars" took home the championship. Below are the two teams who made it to the finals. Photos courtesy of Crow Brennan ('17).



Do you want to see your work on these pages? We are always looking for new reporters, photographers, artists, cartoonists or anyone else who wants to help put a paper together. Talk to Miranda Dils, Jake Foehl or Mr. Niemeyer, or email mountgreylockecho@gmail.com.