

Cahill named permanent principal of Milton High

MHS sophomores launch Her Drive

Review: "The Social Dilemma"

Recap of Fall 2 Floating Season

Administration rolls out new "Pinky Promise" policy

IN THE ROOM

MILTON HIGH SCHOOL'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER • 25 GILE ROAD, MILTON, MA, 02186 • APRIL 30, 2021 • VOLUME X, ISSUE I • MILTONHIGHNEWS.COM

Cahill named permanent principal of Milton High School



Abigail Raymond

Karen Cahill will hold onto her title as Milton High School principal after serving in an interim role, Superintendent James Jette announced at the first in-person School Committee meeting on March 31st.

Cahill became interim principal on September 10, 2020 upon the resignation of former Superintendent Mary Gormley who named former MHS principal James Jette as interim Superintendent of Milton Public Schools.

"Mrs. Cahill knows every as-

Photograph taken by Isabel Murley

CAHILL, 2

Remote learners facing difficulty amidst full in-person learning

Tracy Le

On March 1, Superintendent James Jette sent out a mass email to parents of Milton High School students confirming rumors and vague details that students were going to return to school full-time starting April 12. With no emails sent directly to students, remote learners were forced to

rely on information passed on by their parents and peers.

Despite a number of students choosing full-remote, the reality is that many feel that they are often forgotten; teachers often forget to present the whiteboard while they're teaching, start Google meets late, or entirely neglect to start a meet.

Junior Shaina Lassoff

expresses concern that teachers will put less announcements on Google Classroom as students return to all in person learning because "they expect everyone to know." This could potentially lead remote students to feel more distanced than ever before; many are still wondering what will be done to aid them.

"We don't know a lot of the logistics for going

back, only that it'll be April 12 and that teachers are going to be vaccinated," junior Chloe Zhong said.

Zhong is only one of many expressing confusion as to why the only information they received about the April 12 return to all in person was the date, and why the announcement was so sudden.

REMOTE, 6

NEWS

CAHILL, from 1

Cahill named permanent principal of Milton High School

pect of the Milton High School routine and schedule,” Jette wrote in an online post.

Moments prior to naming Cahill as MHS principal, Jette received a three year contract as superintendent of Milton following a vote by the School Committee.

Cahill participated in a selection process hosted and developed by the MHS

“Mrs. Cahill knows every aspect of the Milton High School routine and schedule.”

- Superintendent James Jette

Principal Screening Committee. Participants undertook two interviews with questions sourced from Milton High staff, family members, and members of the Milton High

community. The process included five other candidates.

Cahill previously served as a math teacher at Pierce Middle School, a guidance counselor at Milton High

School, and ultimately head of Milton High’s Guidance Department.

She holds a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Boston College, a master’s degree in counseling from the University of Massachusetts Boston, and a certificate of advanced graduate studies at Framingham State University.

Students react to return to full in-person learning

THE ROAD BACK TO

FULL IN-PERSON LEARNING

SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

Milton Public Schools re-

A TIMELINE OF MILTON HIGH SCHOOL'S PROLONGED SCHOOL CLOSURE, TRANSITION TO HYBRID LEARNING AND RETURN TO FULL IN-PERSON

● **March 13, 2020**

Milton Public Schools closes and transitions to remote learning model indefinitely.

● **NOVEMBER 13-30, 2020**

Milton High transitions to a full remote-learning model due to a spike in COVID-19 cases.

● **JANUARY 14-15, 2021**

Milton High school transitions to a full remote learning model due to 8 confirmed student cases and 2 staff cases of COVID-19.

● **APRIL 12, 2021**

Milton High School returns to full in-person learning after a year of remote learning.

Ralph Destin

“My grades have improved and I’ve enjoyed being able to socialize with comrades I haven’t associated with in many months”

Sam Boucher, Class of 2024

“It’s pretty annoying having to wake up early but I think overall it’s easier to focus.”

Alex McCetrick, Class of 2024

“The full return to school was daunting and overwhelming initially, but it’s begun to feel more normal, and it’s refreshing after a hectic year.”

Jonathan Waldmann, Class of 2022

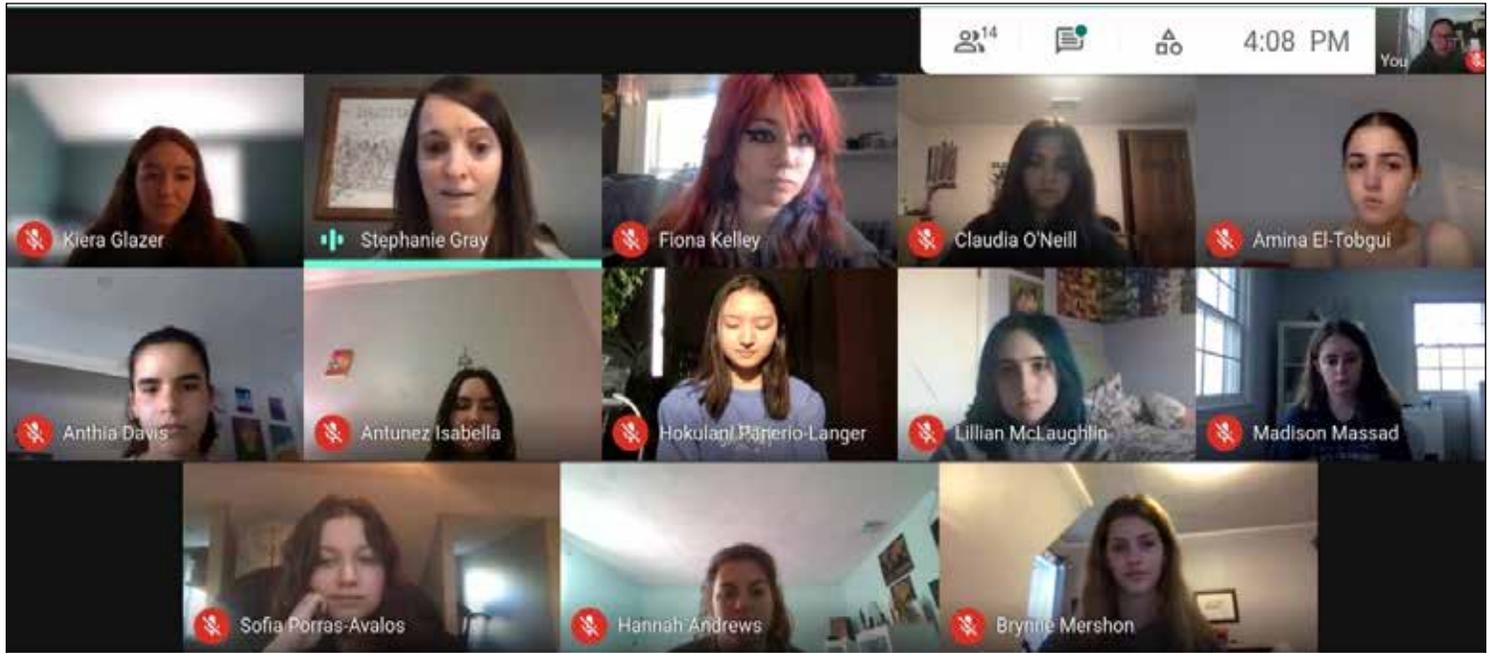
“Even though I was skeptical about it at first, coming back made me realize how nice it is to have some sense of normalcy. I look forward to going to school much more than I did before”

Nina O’Loughlin, Class of 2022

“The return to school has been an opportunity to get back into a routine and see people again.”

Kiera Glazer, Class of 2023

Amnesty International holds first club meeting of the year



Photograph taken by Isabel Murley

Isabel Murley

Amnesty International, a new club at MHS established by sophomore Kiera Glazer, and club advisor-guidance counselor, Stephanie Gray, aims to address and hold discussions on the topic of refugee and immigrant rights in the U.S. The club meets bimonthly from 4 to 5 P.M.

During the club's first virtual meeting on Friday, March 9th, Glazer began with introductions, then shared a

slideshow presentation with the group, kicking off with the mission of the organization: to inform and consolidate groups of people that will work to protect the rights of refugees around the world.

Glazer then presented two short clips discussing the subject of refugee rights and providing testimonials from several detainees of private ICE detention centers, which elicited horror from many on the meet.

"It's exactly the same

walls as a jail," Gray said, referring to the conditions in which the immigrants live at the La Palma Correctional Center. In one of the videos, Carmen, a refugee, explains, "[for] medical attention, they only recommended water."

"We literally called them aliens," sophomore Lillian McLaughlin said. She goes on to address the "selfish mentality" she says contributes to corporations' absence of guilt for detaining refugees that seek safety in America.

"It's clear that they can't go back [to their native country]," Glazer said. "I'm really concerned that this is considered a political issue."

Instead of refugee rights being an issue of human rights, she argues refugees have been subject to the political divide in the U.S.

"Who are we to say that we are a superior population because we've been here the longest?" Gray said.



New
Writers
Photographers
Artists
Welcome

Meetings Wednesday after school in Room 212

FEATURES

MILTONHIGHNEWS.COM

MHS sophomores launch Her Drive for underserved groups

Lily McLaughlin

What started out as two girls, sitting in Kelly Field in the middle of winter, led to multiple donations for women and children centers in search of feminine hygiene products.

This is where Her Drive comes in. The Chicago-based non-profit was founded in June 2020 and provides bras and menstrual care products to people in need. Donations go out to LGBTQ+ community centers, women shelters, homeless shelters, and more.

Gaining huge success and virality on TikTok and Instagram, Her Drive has now gotten hundreds of young volunteers to set up donation drives all across the country. Two of those volunteers include myself and Milton High School sophomore, Samantha Pincus.



Photographs taken by Lillian McLaughlin

“There was no way for people to tell us in advance if they were coming to the drive

ued. “Even though we know how many people viewed or liked our post, it doesn’t mean

“Posts on Instagram developed into emails to Superintendent James Jette”

or not, so, sometimes, I lost hope,” Pincus said. However, as of right now, we have over 100 bras and over 6,000 feminine hygiene products.

“The turn out has shocked me,” Pincus contin-

ued. “Even though we know how many people viewed or liked our post, it doesn’t mean

that everyone who liked or saw the post is going to come.” Posts on Instagram developed into emails to Superintendent James Jette, local newspapers, churches, and more.

“Being able to see students from our school with gigantic bags of pads and tampons has been the most rewarding experience to have,” Pincus said.

All 14,003 products were donated to local shelters such as St. Mary’s Center for Women and Children and Woods Mullen Shelter. Although the drives have ended, the push for securing menstrual care products for those in need is nowhere near over.

Seniors vote for staff/faculty superlatives; Best Personality, Most Organized, and more



Tracy Le and Isabel Murley

As the school year draws closer to an end, Milton High seniors took part in a long held tradition: voting for senior superlatives. Yet, this year featured a twist — teacher and staff superlatives. The awards ranged from “Most likely to catch you texting in class” to “Scariest Death Glare.” The Elephant in the Room met with some of this year’s winners.

Jason Coady (Best Personality, Best Storyteller, Most Enthusiastic)

Few have mastered the beloved art of storytelling yet alone the ability to seize an audience’s attention while maintaining a steady level of enthusiasm. Yet, English teacher, Jason Coady, seems to have discovered the key to all three.

Coady was awarded the titles of Best Personality, Best Storyteller and Most Enthusiastic. When answering

Photographs taken by Isabel Murley

how he came to possess these valuable attributes, he not only demonstrated the wit of an experienced educator but also the modesty of an agreeable person.

Coady's advice for being a great storyteller: "Live your life to the fullest...be natural [and] your instincts and the stories will emerge from there."

He admits that it also helped to have the wisdom of English teacher, Stephen Tart, who recently retired after 30+ years of teaching at Milton High. Tart showed Coady how to "spin a tale in many ways."

Not everyone has the innate ability to be a natural storyteller, so for those who wish to develop the skill, Coady recommends "Read[ing] books" and watching the "best stand-up comedians."

As for being a likable character, Coady believes the key is "humor, empathy, [and] having a sense of other people's reality," as well as being "present in all moments of life."

Granted that many high schoolers may not have the time to immerse themselves in every moment of their very busy lives, Coady says that "these are things we all struggle with." He even admits that he himself does not always sustain these qualities.

If you want to catch Coady in an especially upbeat mood, hand him a copy of Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*. Albeit an unconventional choice, the novel revolves around the Vietnam War and the origin of "a lot of

our modern issues," he said.

Jillian Pieciak (Most likely to be mistaken for a student)

If you happen to pass through the science hallway, try not to mistake one of the science teachers for a student. If you are a member of the guidance department, it might already be too late.

Biology teacher, Jillian Pieciak, is likely not surprised that seniors awarded her "Most likely to be mistaken for a student." In fact, she has already been erroneously taken for a student before.

"In my first year of teaching at Milton High," she recalls, "I walked into the guidance office and was mistaken for a student." The

as a teacher." As a high school student, however, she won "Best Smile."

If she could give herself a superlative, Pieciak said, "I would have to choose most likely to be found in nature." However, it is not all virtual labs and Bozeman science videos for this biology teacher as she also enjoys some good old "punny science jokes/memes."

Stephen Collyer (Most Inspirational)

For English Teacher, Stephen Collyer, mixing humbling life stories with novel analysis gives his students an appreciation for his class. It's no wonder then that seniors voted him as Most Inspirational.

"[The] patience, flexibility, and determination in the face of evolving adversity [of students, is] humbling and heartening," Collyer said.

But like most of his stories, he believes that there is a bigger life lesson beyond the classroom walls.

"It's a reminder of how much we all affect one another, and how much it matters to care," he said.

Nancy Warn (Most Organized)

This year's winner for "Most Organized" was history teacher, Nancy Warn. Being organized is a learned behavior for Warn — something to work at and something that isn't perfect all the time.

"Organization can be learned, and can develop over time," Warn said.

Luckily, being surrounded by other organized teachers has allowed her

"It's a reminder of how much we all affect one another, and how much it matters to care."

- Stephen Collyer, English teacher

experience is one she "will always remember."

Pieciak believes her relatively short stature could be the culprit. "Most of my students are taller than I am," she said.

Moreover, she adds that "It is easy for me to be caught in a crowd of students, especially in the hallways."

Pieciak admits that her height has not changed much since high school. "If I received a similar superlative back then, I would not have been surprised," she said.

Whether or not height is actually the reason seniors chose her for the award, Pieciak accepted it, given that "[It's the] first time I was nominated for a superlative

Following the words of "the legendary auto teacher Mr. G" — that everyone has a story — Collyer recognizes how his life experiences constitute a part of why his students find him inspiring.

He finds that his story "certainly has a topsy turvy chapter or two and a colorful cast of characters." However, most of all, he "care[s] deeply about the moment, about appreciating and maximizing it." Collyer's "love of life and the clarion call of obligation" carries him through the day and pushes him to be his best self.

Moreover, he finds inspiration in "countless people," but especially his students during this uncertain and unfamiliar time.

to borrow ideas from them to incorporate into her own class organization, making her "feel lucky to work with such great colleagues."

When she feels the start of disorganization and chaos, organizing has been a way for Warn to calm down and be productive.

Warn offered the following tips for practicing good organizational skills:

- Write lists
- Break down harder tasks into smaller, doable parts
- Don't do everything at once, chip away at them! If you have a little free time, organize (it's a lot better than spending hours organizing everything)

Remote learners facing difficulty amidst full in person learning



Photograph taken by Tracy Le

REMOTE, from 1

“My concerns have been addressed by my teachers, but I have still felt mostly out of the loop and feel like the responses to my concerns have been mostly open-ended,”

junior Lucas Quijano said.

The lack of information has remote student’s questioning whether they

should stay remote or go back to school. Many feel that they do not have enough time or details to make the right decision.

“I would personally not feel safe attending full-time in person school due to

rising health concerns alongside the many unanswered questions.” Quijano said.

Many students felt some of the most potent questions and safety concerns — regarding lunch, schedules, bus routes, and social distanc-

solution.

Junior Stella Yuan, who is a part of the hybrid model, says she also does not feel completely safe returning to full in-person learning.

Yuan fears that some students will not follow the

potentially unsafe school conditions display once again the disconnect students face with administration.

Yuan asserts that certain classes may not be able to safely implement the 3-foot rule. For example, MHS

French classes have “historic overcrowding,” according to Yuan despite the hybrid model, making it diffi-

cult to safely fit all students.

Milton High’s Culinary class will also face the same predicament: if all 30 students go back to school, only 7 can fit in the kitchen.

“I would personally not feel safe attending full-time in person school due to rising health concerns alongside the many unanswered questions.”

- Lucas Quijano, junior

ing — have yet to be answered.

Remote students are unsure that full-sized classes can maintain social distancing, and some, such as Quijano, do not believe that reducing the 6-foot rule to 3 feet is a good

3-foot social distancing guidelines. “In a certain class, some people take off their masks with no regard for anyone else.” she said.

The fear surrounding the new 3-foot policy and the

ARTS

Technological tyranny & the many realities of the "Social Dilemma"



Photograph taken by Samantha Pincus

Abigail Raymond

In this so-called 'Digital Age' of the 21st century, the usage of technology is so ingrained in our society that we are often inches away from either a cellular device or a glowing blue screen. Jeff Orlowski's documentary, "The Social Dilemma," takes a more sinister and intensive perspective on how technology manipulates and slowly corrodes lives onto a path of addiction.

"The Social Dilemma" attempts to take the broad landscaped world of Big Tech companies and technology and reduce it to one message: "The technology that connects us also controls us." "The Social Dilemma"

ultimately sparks a match into the numerous theories and fears that pervade the bottomless void we call the internet.

"The Social Dilemma" aptly starts with Sophocles' quote "Nothing vast enters the life of mortals without

a curse." The film then begins to lay the mood for what's to come. Ominous music sounds off in the background, and the audience is given the impression that the documentary is one of psychological horror rather than informational.

The film uses the perspectives

and knowledge of those previously involved in the construction of social media programs to solidify its argument.

Employees from Google, Apple, Twitter, Facebook, and Youtube all make an appearance in this film to inform the

audience that the programs they designed and worked on were created to control the consumer.

The film describes how technology has grown to be this unimaginable terror, difficult to control and almost impossible to manage. The

documentary states that "Our democracy is under assault." This criticism is suitably warranted, as currently our political climate is one interspersed with fake news, fraud, and deception. The film backs up the assertion that social media allows interlopers to use algorithms to sway opinions and construct biased realities.

However, "The Social Dilemma" delivers this message through fictional skits. The use of a fictional family to exemplify technologies corruption borders on clumsy in its execution and comes across as unnecessary and almost patronizing for how it took the topic of the dangers of technology and cranked it up to 10 on its

"The technology that connects us also controls us."

dramatization. From using the song “I Put a Spell on You” by Nina Simone, to portraying tech industries as cartoonistic villains, especially after earlier confirming that “there’s no one bad guy.” The inclusion of these techniques morphs the film from educational to strangely hilarious as it exaggerates the truth unrealistically.

This is one of the main criticisms of the film: that while it constructs a formidable argument about the dangers of the world of technology, it is as ma-

nipulative or as misleading as the technology the film warns about. In a New York Times article, Devika Girish writes, “the fictional narrative exemplifies the limitations of the documentary’s sometimes hyperbolic emphasis on the medium at the expense of the message.”

The skits create a divide in the film where its real criticism of technology is almost reduced to being ineffective because it is told through a dystopian lens that appears fake to the viewer. While the documentary does

not deliberately go out of its way to lie for personal gain, it does a tactic similar to what it mocks the media for: delivering one form of reality in order to sell a narrative. “The Social Dilemma” does this throughout their film through self-labeled ‘eerie music’ and a controlled atmosphere to lead the viewers to a conclusion of their creation.

In the end, these criticisms don’t completely devalue the worth of the film. They merely bring up the unique nature of documentaries and their ability to

affect an audience and in an ironic way exist as an example of how technology can still manipulate through different mediums. Despite how “The Social Dilemma” creates a trade-off with actual concern for Big tech companies and technology balanced with their self-constructed reality, the film does inform the viewer in a thought-provoking way. It incites you to view your devices with more suspicion and a degree of caution and to always question the information before you.



STAFF

Teacher Adviser
Michael Young
Editor-in-Chief
Ralph Destin
Managing Editor
Charlotte Lawrence
Layout Editor & Graphics Manager
Isabel Murley
Editors
Laura Braithwaite
Claire Walko
Katherine Wrightington
Business Manager
Ian Lundeen
Public Relations
Molly Strout
Secretary
Joe Krueger

CONTRIBUTORS

Abigail Raymond
Tracy Le
Kevin Carberry
Rose Gillooly
Samantha Pincus

Dear Readers,

The Elephant in the Room is always looking for any feedback from readers. If you have suggestions, feel strongly about an article, or think there’s anything The Elephant in the Room should talk about, please feel free to submit a letter to the editor. Email your letter to the address mhs.elephantintheroom@gmail.com and we will respond promptly.

Sincerely,
The Elephant in the Room



@miltonhighnews



@mhsnews.eitr

SPORTS

MILTONHIGHNEWS.COM

Fall 2 Floating Season offers relief to MHS athletes deprived of normalcy

Tracy Le

Due to COVID-19 regulations surrounding high school sports, the Fall 2 floating season proved vital for athletes who spent an extended period of time unable to play their usual sports. Despite challenges with fluctuating schedules, game changes and cancellations, students and coaches “did an excellent job dealing with [them]” Milton High School Athletic Director Ryan Madden said.

FOOTBALL

Ending their season with a 5-1 record after a 14-7 victory over Franklin, the Wildcats certainly “made the best of the change” Madden said.

“When it was first announced we were getting a Floating Season, I was definitely upset and taken off guard,” junior quarterback Chase Vaughan said. “I was just glad to know that we had

a season, though, because it was definitely in question whether we would have a season at all.”

Junior linebacker and running back Amari Marsman recalls being “excited” because “all year we were all looking forward to working with one another to compete.”

Having made the varsity team this season, he welcomed the opportunity “to show [his] teammates and coaches what he could do to contribute.”

“It almost didn’t even feel real,” senior captain Alex Perez-Ruiz said, being content with the opportunity to play despite the shorter, 6 game season.

Unlike previous seasons, the annual Thanksgiving game, which was held in March, possessed less fanfare than usual.

“We didn’t get much time for preparation and it was definitely something that felt



Photograph taken by Nathaniel Wayne

constantly rushed,” Perez-Ruiz said.

Nonetheless, the Wildcats overcame much adversity according to Vaughan amidst challenges such as the in game mask requirement policy.

“[We] developed and became better players each and every day,” Marsman said.

The first time starter found motivation to play and help the team win, a sentiment carried throughout the team.

“Playing and competing with the guys that you work so hard with is one of the best feelings in the world and when it’s game day, the energy from the guys is something that is rare to see,” Marsman said.

VOLLEYBALL

On March 16, the Girls’ Volleyball team came back from 0-2 against Brain-tree to an ultimate win with their last set 18-16. On March 30, their Senior Night, their last game was not only a win

over Newton North but their first against them in 25 years, which senior Maureen Lang writes was the highlight of the season. However, the road was not easy.

Senior captain Avery Liou explains that the summer was marred with questions. “We didn’t even know if we were going to play at all, and of course everyone was hoping to play in the fall season because that meant we could start practicing and playing in late August,” Liou said.

When the Floating Season was announced, Liou viewed it as “a let down” because they were faced with waiting a lot longer until they could play, all while COVID-19 cases worsened, putting the season in further jeopardy.

Adjustments in the gym were additionally hard: having to share it with both indoor track and cheer instead of being the only team there led to “some misunderstandings about



Photograph of Sean LoPresti from 2019

practice times” according to Liou.

However, the biggest disappointment for players was not only having their state tournament cancelled, but having their league tournament cancelled, too.

“We all knew the state tournament wasn’t going to happen,” said Liou. “But we were hoping for at least a league tournament.”

Regardless, players were just thankful to have a season, finishing all twelve games and having no outbreaks. Junior Sophia Manning was “ecstatic” at the prospect of having a Floating Season.

“I was so excited to be given an opportunity to play volleyball during such hard times,” Manning said.

For Manning, the challenges brought the team closer together. “Everyone on the team had something to contribute, and it was clear that our team had depth,” she said.

CHEER

With the return of the football season, some other familiar faces at the games were the cheerleaders. Spirits ran high within the cheerleading team as they cheered on the 5-1 football team

Juniors Janelle Greene and Lauren Martin described how “excited” they were when it was confirmed they were getting a season.

While Greene felt excited at the news that a football/cheer season would happen, she felt thrown off with its placement in the sports calendar.

“A bunch of people do spring sports or get jobs which were conflicting,” Greene said.

“[It was] normal except... [for] all the Covid rules and things being cancelled.”

Overall Greene saw it as a fun experience, proving to be a “calming and wonderful” season.

Likewise, Martin recalls not being able to “wait to get back with all [her] old teammates even if it was for a short season.”

“Everyone has been so positive and grateful to even have a season that it has been so fun to cheer,” Martin said.

WINTER TRACK

Despite not winning as many meets as they would have hoped, the lady wildcats experienced much success individually.

“The season was a nice way to add some normality to our lives and see people that we had not seen in a long time,” senior captain Eliza Callahan said.

Callahan, like many others, welcomed “the opportunity to race and see friends that [they hadn’t] seen in over a year.”

Meets moved to the outdoor track as the Reggie Lewis Center had been converted into a vaccination site. Much like the other sports, meets were live streamed for those at home to watch.

The work ethic and extra few weeks have paved the way for the upcoming outdoor season.

“[We] are more than ready to run in the next season,” she concludes.

The boys team saw huge performances by senior captain Franklin Ollivierre III. At the MSTCA Coaches Invitational at West Bridgewater Middle-Senior High School,



Photographs taken by Nathaniel Wayne

Ollivierre ran a 600m time of 1:22.32.

Ollivierre had the 2nd fastest 600m time in the state of Massachusetts and the 7th fastest time in the United States according to Athletic.net.

“That much of a PR under today’s weather conditions is absolutely incredible,” Boys Track Coach Larry Jordan said in an online post.

SATIRE

MILTONHIGHNEWS.COM

Administration rolls out new “Pinky Promise Policy”

Kevin Carberry

Due to the increasing number of remote students and taking quizzes at home instead of inside the classroom, the Milton High School administration has rolled out a new “Pinky Promise” policy to combat cheating. The idea was introduced by Assistant Superintendent Dr. Karen Spaulding.

“The main idea is that there was no way to ensure that students were completing their assessments honestly while they were home,” says Spaulding. “Now we have students come in and pinky promise to either Mrs. Cahill, Mr. Mack, or Mr. Kelly and we know with confidence that they won’t cheat.”

The process is simple yet effective. Once the promi-

sor and promisee have interlocked their fingers, the administrator reads from the Ye



Designed by Abigail Raymond

Ole Student Handbook: “Do you hereby promise to maintain scholastic and academic integrity whilst away from your place of learning?” Then the student responds with the traditional “Always and forever.” A bright light then shines from above and the promise is

sealed.

“Clearly we know that there are some students that won’t respect the authority of the pinky promise,” said vice Principal Ben Kelly, “for students that

are traditionally

dishonest or troublesome, we ask that they also cross their heart and hope to die.”

The school aims to reward those who keep their pinky promise by “being their best friend,” while those who break the covenant won’t be invited to my birthday party.

Sub under investigation

Kevin Carberry

The sub filling in for Milton High School English teacher Carole Abbing — who has taken an extended leave of absence — is under investigation as parents question whether a sandwich is a good replacement for a teacher.

Carole Abbing took a leave of absence beginning October of 2020 leading administration to assign a footlong sub to be her replacement.

“I had absolutely no idea that a sandwich was teaching my kid,” one disgruntled parent said. “When he said there was a new sub, I assumed he meant a substitute not a submarine. It just goes to show how little control the school has during this pandemic.”

The majority of the backlash is coming from the Parent-Teacher Association, with many parents calling for the immediate termination of the sub.

“I want my daughter to be back in school and I want her to be taught by a real teacher,” PTA President Susan Callahan said. “Frankly, I don’t care what type of ‘unprecedented problems’ the [school administration] was facing.”

“That sub isn’t the only one full of bologna,” another parent said. “There is no reason why my daughter shouldn’t be in school

Kid-napping takes place at Milton High School

Kevin Carberry

Math teacher, Daniel Jarboe, was teaching his usual C period Algebra 2 class on March 8th, 2021. Among his students was Jacob Peterson. This was a day when tragedy struck. As Jarboe continued his lesson on basic trigonometry, Peterson’s eyelids started

to fall — his head started to slip.

“I remember it like it was yesterday,” tells an anonymous eye-witness. “At the beginning he just started staring off into the distance-daydreaming. We’ve all done it. But then his pencil fell right out from between his fingers and... there’s just no coming back from that.”

Witnesses say that Peterson completely lost consciousness at approximately 10:02 am Eastern Standard Time and remained asleep until Alicia Yang sneezed at 10:05 am. At that exact moment Peterson’s head, which had been resting softly on his hand, fell about 5 inches, startling him.

KID-NAPPING, 12

full time and no reason why she would be taught by a hoagie! I know that term isn't PC these days, but it's the truth. That substitute was a hoagie."

In a surprising turn of events, the Milton teacher's union is fighting back in defense of the sub.

"There's a lot going at the school that parents just

don't understand," English teacher and President of the Milton Educators Association Dyanne Crowley said. She continues, "Milton High has faced a lot of issues

during this pandemic and it's just not that easy to send kids back to school. At this point, if the school needs a sub to teach a class, then a sub is going to teach a class."

KID-NAPPING, from 11

As he sat up straight, the entire class had their eyes on Peterson.

"It was dead silent... at least until some kid in the back said 'gazuntite' to Alicia," one classmate said.

"The look on his face after he woke up. I'll never forget it. You don't forget something like that."

"There was a kid-napping in my chem class once. We never saw him again. He moved cause his dad got a job in Texas."

The Elephant in the Room's Kevin Carberry was lucky enough to sit down

to be some people who want answers."

Jacob: "I didn't feel that any good was going to come out of my coming forward."

Kevin: "Okay, I'm just gonna come out and say it. Why did you fall asleep in class?"

Jacob: "Well actually, ever since my brother, Johnny, went missing I haven't been able to sleep."

Kevin: "Oh I wasn't aware you had a brother."

Jacob: "Yeah a week and a half ago he never came home after lacrosse practice. A couple of his teammates said that he got a ride home from a guy in a white van and well anyway, we

Kevin: "Well, scientists recommend 8-10 hours of sleep for a person of your age. What do you have to say about that, huh?"

At this point, Peterson decided to leave the interview. When asked for a comment later, he refused to meet with us again.

Classmates continue to be shaken by the events. Interim principal, Karen Cahill, has started an investigation

into the sleep of students.

"A kid-napping at Milton High is not something we take lightly. In addition to asking parents to tuck children into bed with a glass of warm milk, we ask that students don't walk home and instead take any offer they get to be driven home so as to return home as soon as possible. Even if they don't know the driver."

"A kid-napping at Milton High is not something we take lightly."

with Peterson for an exclusive interview. Until now, he has remained completely silent about his experience.

Kevin: "So Jacob- can I call you Jacob? Good. Jacob, you were approached many times by multiple school newspapers so what made you decide to come forward now?"

Jacob: "It's as I told you on the phone, I didn't want all the attention."

Kevin: "Well, Jacob, it's not everyday there is a kid-napping at school. There's bound

haven't seen him since."

Kevin: "Did you have any dreams?"

Jacob: "Excuse me?"

Kevin: "While you were asleep, did you have any dreams? Maybe math related?"

Jacob: "Why is that relevant? The only reason I agreed to do this was to raise awareness about Johnny."

Kevin: "Well excuse me but I'd prefer you stop avoiding the question. Are you an opposer of science?"

Jacob: "Of course not!"



Illustration by Rose Gillooly