



Maynard High School

MPS

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Message from the principal....

The democratic process is alive and well in Maynard High School! On October 29th and 30th we ran a mock election which included voting on the presidential candidates, the senatorial candidates and the three major issues that were on the ballot in Massachusetts this year. Prior to the mock election Ms. LaBelle's classes had distributed an information pamphlet which contained the details of the platforms of each of the major candidates. On the two days of the mock election, students came to the library with their English classes to vote. Mr. Orzech had set up actual polling stations, as well as a formal "ballot

box" in the library. Students were very thoughtful and serious about the mock voting process. Nearly 90% of the students in the school voted as part of the mock election process. The mock election results were reported to students on Thursday afternoon. Barack Obama won the mock election as the presidential candidate by an overwhelming majority (it will be interesting to see how our mock results align with the actual results in today's national election). It is our hope that through participating in the democratic process, even in a mock election, that our students will see the right to vote as something they will

wish to exercise when they become eligible to vote.

The student government organization, with assistance from their advisors and the MHS administration, have a formalized procedure on how they may bring issues that affect students for consideration to the faculty, staff and administration. Earlier this year this process was used to resolve a concern regarding directed studies. With this formalized process students now have a direct channel to make their voices heard in the high school.

Laura S. Chesson

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Important Dates

- 11/05 Early dismissal
- 11/07 1st term grades available through Edline
- 11/11 No school
- 11/10—11/13 Musical Auditions
- 11/13 Report Cards Mailed
- 11/13 Parent teacher conferences

Principal's Breakfast

On October 22nd approximately 20 parents stopped by to grab a cup of coffee and a bagel and check in with Mrs. Chesson and/or their student's guidance counselor. Parents were able to grab information about the programs offered by the guidance department, as well as set up appointments for in-depth

meetings at a later date. The next Principal's breakfast will be held on Thursday, January 29th. The theme for this breakfast will be SAT and MCAS prep. Information will be provided regarding the MCAS prep activities at MHS, the SAT preparation courses available in the area, and what review materials parents may consider purchas-

ing for home use, including print and computer review materials. Parents are welcome to stop by from 7:30—8:30. In addition, guidance counselors will be available should you need to schedule a personal appointment at a later date—we hope to see you there!

The next principal's breakfast will be held on January 28th from 7:30—8:30. The focus will be MCAS and SAT preparation. Guidance staff will be present.

The Invisible Children of Africa

On November 3rd, members of the organization called the "Invisible Children of Africa" came to visit Maynard High School. The two members, one from Australia and one from Whitman, Massachusetts work for an organization which seeks to assist the children who have been left orphaned, without schools, and subject to kidnap and abuse by the rebel armies in Northern Uganda.

The organization was founded by three student filmmakers who went to Northern Uganda to make a film for their university film program. But, once there their lives were touched in a way none of them could have predicted. They discovered a nation of children that were forced to commute each night into the cities to sleep in an endeavor to protect them from being kidnapped or killed by the rebel armies. The schools of these children were nearly destroyed, with a few "shells" remaining of

what was once one of the best school systems in Africa.

The organization was invited to Maynard High School to speak to the student body after the Student Government Organization heard several of their members speak at the annual state-wide conference for student government organizations. One of our students, Monique Arsenault, was particularly instrumental in bringing the organization to the attention of her peers.

The student body viewed a film entitled, "Go", which recounted the fundraising efforts of three schools spearheaded by three very different students from the U.S. to raise money for the Schools for Schools program sponsored by the Invisible Children Organization. The Schools for Schools program involves high schools across the country raising money in

support of the re-building of schools efforts in Northern Uganda. The three students featured came from very diverse backgrounds—Newport, CA, a small town in Tennessee, and Louisville, Kentucky. These three students came from the three schools that raised the most money, collected the most books, or came up with the most creative fundraising idea to raise money for the Schools for Schools program. Each of these students traveled with 12 others to work in Uganda for a summer helping to rebuild a school. They were also instrumental in representing the organization as part of the group which lobbied for aid from the Federal Government to Northern Uganda schools in 2006.

The Community Service Class and the Student Government Organization will be developing some fundraising activities to support the work of the Schools for Schools program over the next couple of months. Look for more information on our website.

Adopt a Classroom

Want to do something for that favorite teacher or staff member at MHS during the holiday season? Our Peer Leadership group has received donations of paint and materials to spruce up the classrooms. They are seeking families or groups of families who would like to adopt the classroom of a teacher and provide the labor to paint that teacher's classroom (all supplies are already donated). If you are interested email kbarkley@maynard.k12.ma.us

Mark your calendars for the Beacon Santa telethon which will be held December 12th and 13th. This is an annual event which is not to be missed!

EDLINE...

Progress check information is available through EDLINE from our high school home page at : www.maynard-schools.org/mhs/. If you do not have access to the Internet please call the high school office and a hard copy will be mailed home. Parents are reminded that if their student is experiencing academic challenges,

they can receive tutoring through peer tutoring, as well as academic afternoon assistance. Academic afternoon assistance is staffed Monday—Thursday by Ms. Bousquet, one of our teachers.

Our school calendar and

our monthly newsletters are also available through EDLINE. Newsletters are generally posted within the first school week of the month. If you do not have access to Edline, please contact Mrs. Giacobbe or Mrs. Koskinen at 978-897-8891.

