



What Class Am I Teaching?, See Pg. 3

# THE BOLD EAGLE

The Mount Everett Student Newspaper

October 2019

Volume 14, Issue 1

## Aloha Ms. Michaud

By Hailey Liebenow

What teacher moves all the way from Hawaii to the Berkshires? The answer is Ms. Tanya Michaud, who currently teaches the 9th and 10th grade biology as well as grades 10 through 12 animal sciences.

Ms. Michaud came to Mt. Everett from Taconic High School in Pittsfield. Among the reasons for her move are class sizes. She says that, "A typical class size at Taconic was 25 kids and occasionally I had classes of 30." She says that the smaller class sizes here were a genuine attraction. She also cites Mt. Everett's "aquaculture capabilities" as a motivating factor.



**Fish for Food**

Ms. Michaud lived in Hawaii 12 years ago. The main reason that she decided to move to the Berkshires was to start a family with her husband. They decided to

Cont. Pg #5

## DeGrenier's Dilemma

By Brooke Wells and Rochele Worth

In recent news, Mount Everett has gained unwanted attention with the headline in *The Berkshire Eagle*, "School Staffer Suing SBRSD." Other articles discussing this were released in *The Berkshire Eagle* and the e-zine *The Berkshire Edge*. These articles allege that the district breached two contracts with former Dean of Students Kurt DeGrenier. Further, a complaint was made against the district's special education department. The suit claimed SBRSD Superintendent Beth Regulbuto waged a campaign to destroy DeGrenier's reputation among staff, and took steps to "undermine" him in numerous ways. This included forcing him out of the union, and into an "at-will employee status," making it much easier to fire him. The media coverage also referred to the allegation that DeGrenier committed a Title IX (sexual harassment) violation, but he was cleared of any wrongdoing. Yet, Regulbuto still took away his supervisory and primary duties. The district asked DeGrenier, "not to file the complaint." DeGrenier's attorney Kevin Kinne stated, "he is launching an aggressive legal case against the district." Superintendent Regulbuto was unable to comment on this matter due to the pending

Cont. Pg #3

## Ugh...Internships

By Nicholas Boardman

School started with a surprise for as many as 50 students after they learned of the new and considerably more rigorous coursework requirements for internships. These students signed up for internships last year, under the impression that the curriculum would remain the same as years prior. The new program places an emphasis on the academic components of the internship by considerably raising the bar for workload expectations. Naturally, these changes have generated some controversy, resulting in some students and teachers rethinking their commitment to internships.

Over the summer, guidance counselor Dawn Estes-Daub and social studies teacher Andrew Rapport revised the program to make a more meaningful internship experience. Their goal was to make a course that was not solely a work experience, but one that involved academic exploration. Making a portfolio and giving a presentation demonstrating a student's understanding of a profession is a part of this goal. The requirements for a portfolio include a resume, an industry research paper, a mentor interview, along with a plethora of other items. Ultimately, the goal

Cont. Pg #2

## Internships Cont.

is for students to gain a thorough comprehension of the industry they are interning in and hone their workplace skills.

According to Rapport, “The changes to the internships were prompted by the school’s ever-present commitment to continuous improvement.” He cited that some students had cursory internship work, and the new program was meant to eliminate cases where interns received a passing grade for doing the bare minimum. This push towards a more academically rigorous course was one of the catalysts for these changes. Rapport also attributed the reforms to Principal Jesse Carpenter, mentioning “[He] is very committed to raising the bar on all of us (students and teachers alike) in terms of work ethic and academic integrity.”

In late August, students received the internship packets. This was met with backlash from students who received the new requirements approximately a week into the 2019-2020 school year. Senior Ben Stevens, who is currently interning at Riverbrook Dairy Farm, said “When I signed up for the internship, I didn’t know I had to complete a research portfolio. Last year I only had to write an essay at the end...it’s ridiculous.” This appears to be the common consensus among students who now face additional academic work alongside the requirements of their internship. Rapport noted “Change is hard. It’s hard for kids too. But if the change to our program makes students who complete the in-

ternship more well-rounded and informed about their vocational area of interest -- mission accomplished!”

While few could argue with the logic of raising the bar academically, the lack of communication about the new requirements still troubles many involved in following them.

## Sports: New Year, New Opportunities

By Kolby Bleau

Gwendolyn Carpenter scores her 2,000th point, Patrick Silk has a huge block from a dunk, and Jacklyn Wells gets thrown higher than ever. Seniors are a huge part of every sports team due to having greater experience in the varsity spot. That was true for the 2018-2019 Mount Everett girls’ basketball team. “We lost 3 starting seniors [Madison Ullrich, Marion Devoti, and Gwendolyn Carpenter] and two helpful subs [Jacklyn Derwitsch and Hannah Steuernagle]” said Senior Madeline Von Ruden. However, the team is excited about the freshman and sophomores coming up from last year to join the varsity team for this year. “The freshman and sophomores coming up this year are good and have potential, but it will definitely be hard for them to fill the shoes of the lost seniors” said Von Ruden.

For the 2019-2020 season this winter Eagles’ basketball captain Jack Carpenter is very excited about the players returning from last year. Though losing valuable seniors from last year is tough, the freshman and sophomores coming

Cont. Pg #7

## Climate is Changing

By Maile Handy

On September 20th, 2019, a strike against climate change swept the nation. Thousands of schools across the US, including Mount Everett, participated in walkouts. Approximately 80 students from grades 6 through 12 gathered in the gym, discussed the outcomes of climate change, and what will happen if no one fixes it. The walkouts were created to show that kids are willing to compromise their education to put a stop to climate change. According to climate.nasa.gov “Effects that scientists had predicted in the past would result from global climate change are now occurring: loss of sea ice, accelerated sea level rise and longer, more intense heat waves.” In the following years to come, with the temperature rising the world will be seeing these effects become more prominent until it is irreversible. In the future, it will be the newer generations who will have to deal with this disaster.



*Walkout gets heated*

Mt. Everett’s participation happened quickly. Within a brief period in the morning on the day of the protests, students were able to write a speech and prepare a sign to present to the rest of the school in the gym. Sophomore Ben Shannon delivered the speech, in which

Cont. Pg #6

nature of the legal case.

This issue started drawing parallels to the start of the 2018 school year, when students were disappointed to find DeGrenier missing. This prompted the distribution of “Where’s Kurt” bracelets. The level of community concern resulted in the Save SBRSD pages on Facebook, Instagram, and the creation of “Save SBRSD” and “Where’s Kurt” bracelets. Last year, and again this year, these events raised alarm for students, faculty and staff alike.



***Kurt hard at work***

But what about DeGrenier’s current position? The student support center, as it’s formally known, is a place where students can go get support, reflect upon coping strategies if a conflict occurs and the students gets kicked out of class, or if you need to make up a test. Some students are assigned to the room for BCC classes and independent studies. According to Principal Jesse Carpenter, “Over the years it’s just been hard to get [the student support center] started, due to not having the right people, and at the time having to add more staff which we weren’t in the position

to do and we were able to this time in our situation. Which is great because I think it’s something we have needed and is very beneficial for the kids. Mr. DeGrenier was the perfect person for it as they have envisioned it through the years.” Carpenter believes the student support center may have great potential.

However, many students have opposing opinions. Student Ethan Benoit states, “The room is poorly located, and is used for classes while having suspended kids in it. It was a decision I could only see someone with no care for student’s privacy or school policies making.” The student support system is supposed to benefit students and provide a safe environment. But is its purpose being fulfilled? And most importantly, is this the most productive use of a popular and skilled administrator? Or conversely, is the student support center a parking lot to keep DeGrenier removed from administrative duties until he is finally forced out of the district?

## Juul Who?

By Mariah Broderick

Governor Charlie Baker and the Massachusetts State Government have banned the sale of vapes and marijuana e-cigarettes in Massachusetts. This ban lasts 4 months, until January 25th, 2020. Among the reasons are an epidemic of teen usage confirmed by the U.S. Surgeon General, as well as the fact that there have been nearly 100 reports of potential illness in Massachusetts related to vaping. “Vaping is a public health crisis and it is imperative that we understand its impacts at both the individual and overall health care systems,” said Health and Human Services

## What Class Am I Teaching?

By Faith Angell

Has anybody noticed the super stressed teachers, and the slow start to the school year? Quite a few of this year’s teachers here at Mount Everett are experiencing new, and in some cases, unusual teacher assignments. Many are teaching classes they have never taught before, requiring considerable extra preparation. There are also a few classes that are new to our school. According to Guidance Counselor Kimberly Conant, “Teachers propose new electives that they are interested in teaching. They create a course description, and curriculum that must be approved by their department head. Once that is completed those suggestions are brought to administration for final approval.” Though that may be the normal course of events, many teachers say they were surprised by the new class assignments, and some feel they did not have enough time or resources to adequately prepare.

One specific example is Tony Bleau who most of us knew as the 6th grade math teacher. He is specialized in elementary education. This year an 11th and 12th grade class called Financial Literacy was thrown into his schedule, which he has never taught before. No curriculum was provided for him. Consequently, Bleau says he is “... a little stressed since time management has become a problem, because I want the class to be useful to the students.” Yet he adds that he is finding it very hard to find enough material to make the class year-long. Bleau teaches every 6th

Executive Editor: Nicholas Boardman  
Managing Editors: Alexia Gonzalez, Rochele Worth  
Executive Production Editor: Sierra Blodgett  
Faculty Advisor: Jeff Lang  
Editorial Page Editors: Sierra Blodgett, Micah Ketchen



## Reporters

Aidan Aloisi, Faith Angell, Kolby Bleau, Nicholas Boardman, Mari-ah Broderick, Riley Davis-Gagnon, Kathleen Dillon, Tyler Duquette, Alexia Gonzalez, Maile Handy, Samuel Kresiak, Kai LaRose, Rose Lewis, Hai-ley Liebenow, Laynie Mullen, Thomas Netzer, Janet Ngoyo Mwanza, Emma Stewart, Justin Wald, Brooke Wells, Rochele Worth

## What's Going On?

We, the students of Mount Everett, have nothing but good things to say about two icons of our school, retired Principal Glenn Devoti and former Dean of Students Kurt DeGrenier. Mr. Devoti cheered from the sidelines at most home games and could be relied on to publicly support the arts, culinary, and other student programs. He distinguished himself by the quality and frequency of his student interactions. Along with his successful reaching out to the community for the past 25 years. Mr. DeGrenier was his second-in-command until Mr. Carpenter was appointed assistant to the Principal last year. DeGrenier spoke with the students daily and helped them with disciplinary issues in the best way possible: by seriously listening rath-

er than just berating them. The two loved this school and the students who, in return, gave them true respect and gratitude.

So, why are these 2 beloved people within our community being forced out? Why has Mr. Devoti retired unexpectedly early? And why has Mr. DeGrenier been demoted, demoralized and dispirited by the school committee and the superintendent?

We, the students of Mt. Everett do not understand the actions of the school board and the superintendent. We respectfully request an explanation as to why these popular and effective administrators have been targeted.

**B**old  
**E**agle's  
Reader's Opinions

The Bold Eagle wants to know what's on your mind so send us your opinions at [BoldEagle@sbrsd.org](mailto:BoldEagle@sbrsd.org)

"Pursuant to state law, no expression made by students in the exercise of such rights shall be deemed to be an expression of school policy and no school officials shall be held responsible in any civil or criminal action for any expression made or published by the students"

## Juul Cont.

Secretary Marylou Sudders.

This is the first action of this kind in the state, when any type of e-cigarette containing tobacco, nicotine or THC cannot be sold anywhere. Although the intent may have been to wean users off these products, habitual vapers are seeking alternatives. Senior Kenny Zucco says, "...anyone can go down to Connecticut, but now they changed the age to 21...so you have to know people that are 21 to get them for you." Presumably many users, both kids and adults, are still finding ways around the ban. This ban is also having a large impact on many businesses in Massachusetts, because many places such as gas stations claim that vape cartridges are their top sellers. Many convenience stores rely on the income from selling vapes.

There are new-found problems that are occurring, especially in young people who have been using any type of e-cigarette. "The use of e-cigarettes and marijuana vaping products is exploding, and we are seeing reports of serious lung illnesses, particularly in our young people" said Governor Charlie Baker. Most recently available statistics indicate that out of 38 states, there have been 530 cases of lung illness found in people who vape on a daily basis. Although there is no specific vape product that has been linked to the disease, the ban will temporarily pause the sales of all vaping products, and experts will be able to work on identifying what is causing it. In the meantime, those trying to quit have access to the Massachusetts Smokers' Helpline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW, a free and

confidential service for people who trying to kick their addiction.



**Stop! Get some help**

## Ms. Michaud-Cont.

move back to the place where they both grew up: New England. Ms. Michaud grew up in Maine and refers to herself as a "Maniac." Her husband grew up in Stockbridge, where they now reside. Her son was born in Hawaii and her daughter was born in the Berkshires.

Michaud also acts as faculty adviser to the Mount Everett chapter of Future Farmers of America (FFA). Without significant FFA experience, Michaud says that the transition was a lot easier than expected with considerable help from Ms. Melino and both former and current FFA members. Michaud also attributes teacher's aide Mary Hoover in helping with the transition. Last year's FFA vice president Thomas Netzer says she's been doing a really good job with the FFA. He says that "you can tell that she does care about our chapter...and want[s] to do what's best for it."

The students in the animal science class are raising tilapia fish. when they are big enough, the class will eat them. Ms. Michaud's degree in mariculture (marine aquaculture) is the reason that they are raising these fish. She got her bachelor's degree in human ecology at College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, ME. Her background is mainly

in marine sciences. "I later obtained a Masters of Science in mariculture at Texas A&M Corpus Christi. I loved college! It was an awesome experience to be independent and making my own decisions for the first time!" says Ms. Michaud.

## A is for Apple

By Rochele Worth

It's that time of year again! Deciduous trees turn bright in color and shed their leaves, weather becomes chilly, days grow shorter, and of course apples are ready to be picked. If you, your family, or your significant other wish to go apple picking, here are some recommended recipes, local orchards, and needed tips to bolster your experience.

Apple picking can be fun for everyone. When it comes to enjoying fresh air and spending time with your loved ones, who wouldn't love it. Not to mention it's a great date idea for all ages. And remember, it's not just a feminine thing. According to *eitedaily.com*, most men surprisingly enjoy apple picking. This is because being outdoors in the cold and picking and eating apples with your loved ones is naturally enjoyable for everyone. *Spoonuniversity.com* reports apple picking can provide "a break from technology, a farm to table experience and a chance to enjoy the sweater weather." Customers report that apple picking makes them feel calmer and closer to nature. According to *nbcnews.com*, it's scientifically proven "that on days young adults ate more fruits and veggies they reported a greater sense of well-being, curiosity and creativity."

## Teaching Cont.

grade math class, math lab, and Financial Literacy, which leaves him with only one prep period. He said, “I have been finding time at night to research concepts and resources for Financial Literacy, so I can provide the students with as much of a comprehensive class as possible.”

History teacher Jeffrey Lang was also assigned a new class: Entrepreneurship. This class was taught once before, by Sue Petrucci. Lang who used to teach U.S history is now not teaching a single US history class at all. Conant, when asked about the schedule making and decisions responded, “Administration creates the master schedule.” When Curriculum Director Peter Dufresne was asked what procedure was used when assigning teachers these classes, he stated, “There is a procedure as to selecting who teaches a class. The procedure is to determine whom amongst the teaching staff is licensed to teach that particular class. Each class requires a different license. ... A teacher may teach one class outside of their license. That happens quite a bit in a small school. We only have so many teachers and we want to ensure a rich and dynamic offering of coursework for students.”

Here is a list of other teachers with new assignments: Mr. Barbieri/Probability and Statistics; Mr. Hammill/philosophy; Mr. Berlstein, Mr. Schwartz and Ms. VonRuden/Biology; Mr. Schwartz/Geometry. In addition, Mr. Siket is now largely assigned to the middle school. Senorita Johnston was supposed to teach the French I, but it was cancelled.

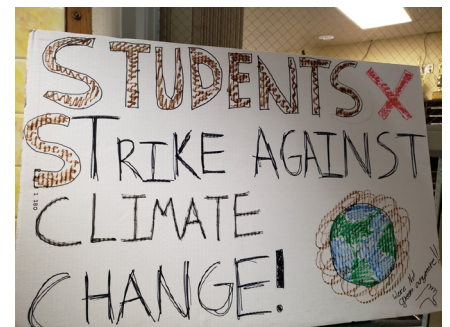
All these changes are having a large effect on the school and the way classes are run. In time, the new courses will become routine for these teachers. But for their first year of teaching, there will surely be bumps in the road.

## Climate Cont.

he explained, “What we can do to better our society’s ways of living... Such as buying electric cars, or cars with better gas mileage, or using reusable items instead of plastics, and elect candidates who are all for saving the planet instead.” Mount Everett was not the only school participating in these walkouts. Other schools in Berkshire County participated in the walkout, including Monument Mountain.

Whoever started the walkouts and strikes, no sources are 100% sure, but the most notable student activist as of now is Greta Thunberg. Thunberg started to protest outside the Swedish Parliament building in August 2018. Since then, her protests have triggered thousands of student walkouts and strikes against climate change across the world. Thunberg has spoken in many different locations talking about the effects this is having on people and will have. In one of her most renowned interviews, after being asked “What is your message,” Thunberg responded with “People are suffering. People are dying, entire ecosystems are collapsing. We are in the beginning of a mass extinction, and all you can talk about is money and fairytales of eternal economic growth.” Her most resonating line in addressing an assembly full of adults at the United Nations was “Shame on you

adults for leaving this mess to us.” If everyone focused on Thunberg’s message of ‘DO SOMETHING NOW’, circumstances are more likely to change. There are multiple small changes that everyone can do in their daily lives to help stop climate change like recycling or using compost. Some other actions such as switching to more environmentally safe products or switch to environmentally friendly cars are good too. Encouraging voters to vote for political officials that will listen and help make a change to stop climate change will also be extremely influential. There are places online where you can sign up and learn about how to stop climate change like the Center for Clean Air Policy (CCAP). There are many other organizations that are willing to help clean up the world and try to reverse the effects of climate change, but only if everyone will chip in.



*We can do it!*

### *Local Apple Picking Orchards*

Bartlett’s and Hilltop Orchards in Richmond  
 Ioka Valley Orchard in Hancock  
 Lakeview Orchard in Lanesboro  
 Maple Corner Farm in Granville  
 Riiska Brook Orchard in Sandisfield  
 Windy Hill Farm in Stockbridge

## Apple Cont.

Perhaps that is why for so many families apple picking is an anticipated tradition every autumn.

In Massachusetts there are numerous apple orchards where apple picking is offered. Each has their own price range. Orchards may charge by the peck, bushel, or even by the pound. Other necessities such as bags, apple cider, pies and donuts can also be purchased at your local orchard. After bringing home your apples they can last up to two months in the refrigerator.

There are a variety of uses for the abundance of apples grown in our area, depending on their taste and texture. Apples can be baked, juiced, cooked, sauced, and or eaten fresh. However, certain apples have desired applications. According to *openfit.com*, Fuji, Honeycrisp, Red and Golden Delicious and Granny Smith apples are all good for baking. These apples vary in sweetness, are crisp and slightly juicy. SweeTango, Braeburn, and Cameo apples are great for cooking. Granny Smith and Gala apples are usually juiced. Winesap and Jonathan apples are used for cider because of their sour taste. While, McIntosh, Fuji, Pink Lady, Gala, Braeburn and Golden Delicious apples are used in salads, cheeseboards and/or eaten fresh. These apples are all mild and dense in flavor. On the other hand, most apples can be used for applesauce depending on the flavor profile you desire. However, most apples are utilized for a countless number of tasks and not limited to any one category. Now, here are some recommended apple recipes to enjoy this fall.

**Easy Apple Pie**

Ingredients:

6-8 Granny Smith apples  
 1 tbsp of sugar  
 1 tsp of cinnamon  
 ½ cup of softened margarine  
 1 cup of sugar  
 1 egg  
 A pinch of salt  
 1 cup of flour

Directions:

Peel, core and slice apples into a well buttered pie plate. Mix sugar and cinnamon together and sprinkle over apples. Cream ½ cup of sugar, 1 egg and a pinch of salt. Add 1 cup of flour to the creamed mixture. Mix well and spread over apples. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes or until brown and crisp.

**Applesauce**

Ingredients:

4 apples, peeled, cored and sliced  
 1/2 cup water  
 1/4 cup sugar  
 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon or 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg

Directions:

Put the apples and water in a saucepan. Cover and bring to the boil. Boil over low heat, stirring occasionally, 20 minutes. Stir in sugar and cook until it dissolves. Add cinnamon or nutmeg. Serve warm or cold.



*Tastes good and comes with a workout*

## Sports Cont.

to varsity this year have the potential to go far into Western Mass. The seniors from last year were Patrick Silk and Nikos Casivant who played a lot of minutes and it will be hard for the team not to have them. Patrick Silk was one of the team's top rebounders and scorers. Nikos Casivant was a big help for speed and driving to the hoop to take an easy layup.

The cheerleading team has had its fair share of valuable seniors in past years and even got a new coach after the disappearance of the first one. However, since last year the team has only lost one senior and thankfully got a fantastic new coach, English teacher Ms. Aldam. "The senior that left was Jacklyn Wells who was the team's most experienced and best flyer," said Maile Handy. Wells had done cheerleading all throughout middle and high school and was a huge part of the team's success in competitions over the past years. Two years ago, the team had taken first place in Berkshire County with Captain Courtney Battachi and top flyer Jacklyn Wells.

When it comes to the end of the season, everyone is upset. This is especially true when the valuable seniors are not returning to play the next year. Seniors are the team leaders and the ones who bring the team together, which is the recipe for success. They will always be missed and never forgotten.

# H O R O S C O P E S

Compiled by Kathleen Dillon

**ARIES (March 21 - April 19)** – It’s time to say goodbye to your weaknesses. It’s not always easy to let go of destructive behaviors, but right now you have the power to say no and mean it! You leave no stone unturned when searching for the truth.

**TAURUS (April 20 - May 20)** – You get excellent results when you push your agenda forward and use tact instead of force. You get jealous if you’re feeling insecure, but acting on negative emotions does more harm than good. Sudden changes and surprises can be exciting, but the effect they’ll have on your future is hard to predict.

**GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)** – Avoid gathering information to use it against someone, Gemini. Getting even is never as fun as it sounds. Are you running toward a goal or away from something? Your motivations affect the outcome. Be persistent and go for it!

**CANCER (June 22 - July 22)** – You cannot put off what you’ve been avoiding any longer. Have some serious talks with yourself to get in touch with what’s really going on in your heart and mind. Have confidence that the moves you’re about to make are the right ones!

**LEO (July 23 - Aug 22)** – If you’ve felt like you’ve been stuck these last couple of months, this regenerative energy should feel like a big weight lifted off you. You won’t want to listen to authority figures. But, following orders from a boss or parent is just part of life now.

**VIRGO (Aug 23 - Sept 22)** – It’s tempting to spill a juicy secret, but you’re more loyal than that. Trust and honesty are two of the most important things to you. You may not be equipped to deal with certain bad news now, but you’ll find a way through it using your logical, practical ways. You always do.

**LIBRA (Sept 23 - Oct 23)** – Don’t spend too long weighing the pros and cons of an opportunity, or you might miss out altogether. When you want something new, it’s difficult to stop you, so be sure you have set goals before you start something.

**SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 21)** – Trust your gut feelings when it comes to making major decisions. You’re back in control and feeling confident. Your idea of having fun is someone asking you 20 questions and then maybe answering about half of them.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22 - Dec 21)** – Positive thinking can help you turn things around, so try and look on the bright side as much as possible. Fall will bring months of focused energy, so start planning projects that you really want to finish. There might be a lot of hard work involved, but it will be worth it when you can look back on all you accomplished.

**CAPICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 19)** – It’s nice to win arguments using gentle reasoning rather than using forceful tactics. Don’t let the restrictions you’re under keep you down. You were born to rise above them!

**AQUARIUS (Jan 20 - Feb 18)** – Your nervousness can show itself in any number of odd ways. So, try to be aware of the impression you’re making on the people you interact with. Being the recipient of a message you weren’t expecting could throw you off guard in a way that won’t be easy to recover from quickly. Hang in there!

**PISCES (Feb 19 - March 20)** – Rely on yourself to get the job done rather than turning to anyone else. Count on your inner strength now more than help from others. You’re quick to dream up best-case scenarios, which is great if you realize that things might not always turn out the way you envisioned.