

Holmstead Gazette

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New Year, New Holmstead

While many of us make new year resolutions, not many people keep them. Why? Studies show that most resolutions aren't kept because people make unrealistic resolutions and too many of them at the same time. So if you have made any resolutions this year, make sure its not something way too out of reach. Start with one or two at a time. Many people in the Holmstead school have made resolutions of their own. Some Homesteaders, teachers included, have resolutions to exercise, change eating habits, and be more loving towards themselves and others. Others have goals to be more organized, adventurous and learn different things such as cooking, sewing, driving, and the Hebrew language. Then there are some who would like to stop complaining, whiten their teeth, eat more "salads" and quit bad habits, for example, smoking. And of course, there are the few handful of people who do not believe in, nor partake in resolutions but admire people who are able to stick with their resolutions

Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929, born to a pastor and a former schoolteacher. Being a very intelligent kid, Dr. King graduated from his segregated high school at age 15, and was admitted to Morehouse College, where he studied medicine and law. Both his father and grandfather studied at Morehouse, under the mentorship of Benjamin Mays, the



president of Morehouse. He graduated in 1948, and then entered Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania. He earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree, and was elected president of his class, who were predominantly white males. Dr. King became the face of the civil rights movement and nonviolent protests. His famous "I Have a Dream" speech is and always will be one of the most influential speeches in the history of the United States. Dr. King gave this speech on August 28, 1963 in front of more than 250,000 people at the March on Washington for Freedom and Jobs. He was the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. He was fatally shot on April 4, 1968 by an assassin while at a motel to help sanitation workers who were striking in Memphis, TN. His words and memory lives on.

MLK quotes:



"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

"No person has the right to rain on your dreams."

"Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it.

Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it.

Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it."

Community Service

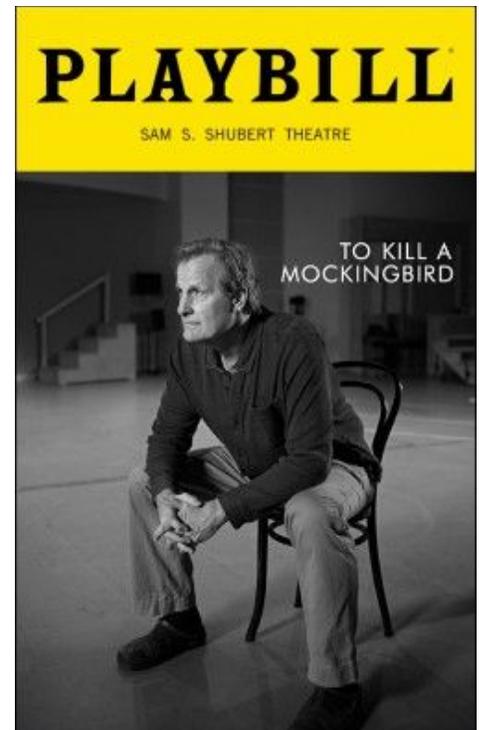
Community Service has been very active in helping people, and the week of the 7th, they have, again, helped out. How? Well, this week, there had been a



fundraiser, selling chocolate dipped pretzels and hot cocoa, to donate to the Hudson Link for higher education in prisons. Thank you Michele and students for setting up, and running the whole operation.

To Kill a Mockingbird Play

On the 9th of January, students and teachers alike will attend the *To Kill a Mockingbird* on Broadway. Many have looked forward to this play. The play is based on the famous book, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. The book was originally published on July 11th, 1960. Instantly a success, the book won the Pulitzer Prize. The book is set in Maycomb, Alabama. It is the 1930s and the story follows an 8-year-old, Scout Finch, and her family. Her father, Atticus, is a lawyer, who is trying to protect a man in court. This story, and trial, spans over a 3-year period.



To Kill a Mockingbird Reviews

I thought the Broadway show *To Kill a Mockingbird* was very good. I was only familiar with one of the actors, Jeff Daniels, who I remember seeing in two movies, *The Purple Rose of Cairo* and *Dumb and Dumber*. The role of Scout, was played by Celia Keenan-Bolger, who did an excellent job of narration. Dill (played by Gideon Glick), also narrated parts. Another excellent performance was done by LaTanya Richardson Jackson, who played Calpurnia. It took me a few minutes

to adjust to the characters, since adults played the three children in the show. Dill was quite tall and different from Dill in the original movie with Gregory Peck, who was smaller than the other characters in the movie. I really enjoyed Atticus the most with the jokes he made throughout the show. I read somewhere that the Dill's character was taken from Truman Capote as a child. Evidently he and Harper Lee were actually friends. Anyhow, it was very worthwhile to see and I recommend it to everyone . -Michele V.

When it comes to classics, whether they be film, stage, or held within the pages of a book there's always something to complain about in second, third, or continued versions of the original. And when it comes to *To Kill A Mockingbird*, literary and silver screen standards are both at an all time high. Harper Lee's beloved book carries one of the most beloved families in literary history, and one of the most important stories in regard to both law and civil rights. On screen, Gregory Peck's performance is nothing short of iconic, and any adaptation of Atticus Finch will forever be held up to his standard. However – and I may be in the minority on this fact – I thoroughly enjoyed the stage adaptation of *To Kill A Mockingbird*, and Jeff Daniels' performance. While the standard of truthful adaptation or cash-grab monstrosity may be a very thin line that varies in position depending on who you're talking to (even among sects of casual viewers versus critics), *To Kill A Mockingbird* managed to remain truthful to the spirit of the original novel (and accompanying film) while updating the behaviors of all characters to suit for a modern era. Atticus Finch, however beloved, carried a somewhat unrealistic perfection in the book. He is right, always, whether it be morally or factually, and serves as the black and white guidepost for the correct thing to do. Thus, the movie, an ever faithful carbon copy of the novel, portrays him in this light as well. But in the stage performance, especially with Jeff Daniels' nuanced performance, Atticus transforms into a realistic portrayal of someone who is trying, but is often blinded by their privilege (however buzzword-esque it may seem in 2019, the undisputed reality is that a white man

in the 1930s had a hell of a lot of it) and their desire to good is often trumped by their desire to be right. It's always a precarious thing to change a beloved character in even the slightest of ways: Harper Lee's own previously unreleased sequel was not only controversial in the fact that her estate manipulated her into releasing it at all, but in the revelation that Atticus was not as big of a savior as the adorers of the original took him out to be. Another primary change, however little there was to the plot itself, was the telling of the tale of Tom Robinson through flashbacks featuring clearly adult actors in the roles of the children of the story: Jem, Scout, and neighbor friend Dil, who is far more enjoyable in the stage production as a chatty but decidedly very lonely character than he is in any previous adaptation. Transitions between past and present are fluid and noticeable, without being jarring, and despite the clear age discrepancy, the actors who play all three children balance adulthood and childhood spectacularly well. While Scout and Jem still serve as the main characters of the story, more autonomy is given to characters who deserve it: namely, Calpurnia, and Tom Robinson himself. The original text, while revolutionary for the time period and certainly relevant today, focuses primarily on the white characters even in a story centered around black people, and the injustice they faced (and still do — mostly, as the story points out, with the law and in areas such as and including the deep South.) Calpurnia plays foil to Atticus instead of remaining in the background, and offers both much needed comedy (without falling into a common stereotype of the hilariously sage 'black best friend') and wisdom to someone who, despite all of his intelligence and compassion, sometimes just doesn't get it. Tom Robinson himself is not as helpless as his legal situation implies, and is able to get time where he's shown advocating for himself — against the town, against the courts, against Atticus — while still expressing the very realistic fear of how a black man would be treated for speaking out. This is all just to say that the problems that exist with the book, however well-written and however classic, are primarily solved in the Aaron Sorkin stage version. 2019 is a very different place



than the setting of the 1930s, and the 1960 publish date of the original book. The play offers a transportation into the past while accommodating for the present. There's very obvious audience cringe and general uncomfortability whenever the n-word is dropped (with full accolades delivered to whoever refused to change the historically-accurate use of racist terms in a show designed to show said racism), particularly in courtroom scenes and their supposedly professional environment. Nothing is held back, and that's exactly how it should be. *To Kill a Mockingbird*, in all of its iterations, is an incredible look into the society we lived in then, now, and perhaps dismally, might always be in. The stage version, to suffice, brings a modern twist to the tales of Jem, Scout and Atticus without desecrating the original vision of Harper Lee, or Gregory Peck, or those who loved them dearly. While nothing is perfect – long, mumbled courtroom monologues can be drowned out by the slightest crinkle of a water bottle when emotion means turning up or down the volume unexpectedly, or somewhat distracting staging even in all of the creativity actors moving set pieces supplies, *To Kill a Mockingbird* comes pretty darn close. -Anonymous

Holmstead Hockey News

In the Holmstead Hockey League, (HHL) we have a policy of playing in the heat, in the cold and everything in-between. Rain can be tricky and make our Ridgewood Hockey rink slick and dangerous. Still the stalwarts urge us to carry on. For Safety sake, we use our good judgment for an average day of Hockey is in the opinion of our hockey heroes better than any other Rec. Art. Standout performers this year



include Senior Colton B., who recently scored 10 goals in and exhibition. January graduate, Brian C. who shoots missiles at brave goalies standing in his way. Veteran Morgan M. will always give you a 150% effort in pursuit of his goals. Isaac “Smithy” S. who plays every game hard offensively and defensively and is always up for the game. Veteran Fiery, Feisty, Fighting Finn R. leads the league in both toughness and goals saved. Rookies this year include Tyler M., utilizing good basketball and athletic skills in the rink. The surprising Skylair W. who without glasses gets the defensive job done every game. Patrick Dolan who joined us recently and who found the sport that is the perfect outlet for his boundless energy. We have Bethany I., who acted recently like Wonder Woman blocking perspective goals. Then there is the most enthusiastic rookie of all, Jeremy C. who is learning the game quicker than the Flash. With the teacher Guidance of Chris “Obi Wan” C., Brett “My College Baseball Number is Retired” V., Steve “Gordie Howe played when he was old as me” T., and our most recent recruit, Marisa “Patriot Missile” M.

The 2019 season promises to be one of our best. Like Dumbledore’s Army we are still recruiting. Give us a try.

Interviews:

Dan F.

Q- How long have you worked at Holmstead?

A- 37 years

Q- What do you do at the Holmstead?

A- Teaches art and math, runs the golf recreational arts class, and participates in yoga



Q- Where did you receive your professional training?

A- Stockton University, William Paterson University, Eastern Michigan University

Q- What do you like to do on your free time?

A- Likes to golf, draw, fish and read.

Q- Do you have any children or pets?

A- A son, Brian who is currently in the Air Force, a daughter, Grace, who is a

teacher at a charter school in Brooklyn, and a dog, Ella.

Q- What is your favorite color?

A- Green

Q- What is your favorite genre of movie or book?

A- Comedy movies and novels and journalism

Q- What is your favorite book and/or movie?

A- The Road by Cormac McCarthy

Q-What are your pet peeves?

A- Most things, likes to complain.

Q- What is something most people don't know about you?

A- I can stand on my head.

Q- What is your favorite part of your job?

A- Working with the students.

Q- What is one piece of advice that you would give to your students?

A- Find a passion in life.

Chris A.

Q- How long have you worked at Holmstead?

A- About 17 years

Q- What do you do at the Holmstead?



A- Teaches English, Career Planning, personal financial literacy

Q- Where did you receive your professional training?

A- University of Connecticut, City University of London, New Jersey City University

Q- What do you like to do on your free time?

A- Likes to make pizza, travel, exercise.

Q- Do you have any children or pets?

A- Four kids and three fish

Q- What is your favorite color?

A- In the past, was very interested in the color blue, but as of recently, the color black.

Q- What is your favorite genre of movie or book?

A- Adventure, mystery or satire for literature, and superhero movies

Q- What is your favorite book and/or movie?

A- Jurassic Park by Michael Crichton and anything in the Marvel Cinematic Universe

Q-What are your pet peeves?

A- Sticky things

Q- What is something most people don't know about you?

A- Is ambidextrous

Q- What is your favorite part of your job?

A- Working with students

Q- What is one piece of advice that you would give to your students?

A- Today only happens once... make it amazing.