BY MACKENZIE CONDON

In the Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) leadership class, students explore and debate what makes a leader. They have learned that the ideal and uncommon leader does not force his or her own visions upon a group of people, but rather leads a group to achieve a shared vision. The question of whether or not there are any good leaders around today was recently discussed.

A possible answer might be found in the students themselves. Junior Colin Henke raised $400 for breast cancer research from a Capture the Flag tournament of both students and staff. He noted that he has been more impressed with the class projects. What may be recognized for one of his leadership achievements was the orchestration of the tournament itself. Colin said, “I got a lot of positive feedback from students and teachers coordinated their outfits by color. One team matched bandanas. It was just a really fun atmosphere that I hadn’t felt at MVRHS before outside of sporting events.”

The success of the tournament was no easy feat. Colin said, “There were a few times that I was worried about whether or not it would actually happen.” At one point, the tournament was officially scheduled, and advertised throughout the school, for a date in mid-October. Because it was the height of fall sports, there were numerous scheduling conflicts for the field itself, and for the student athletes who wanted to participate. This forced Colin to push the date back to mid-November. While there was initial worry about whether or not it would actually happen, it eventually happened. “At one point, there was a few times that I was worried about whether or not it would actually happen,” he said. “I’m the kind of person who looks outside of the box for solutions to things, and the idea of a Capture the Flag tournament was well-received early on in conversations with peers.”

BY ALEXIS CONDON

E very fall, a new class of seniors struggle not only to complete their college applications but also to distinguish themselves from their peers on their scholarship applications. In particular, the recently established Martha’s Vineyard Youth (MVYouth) scholarship is widely sought.

Founded in 2014 with the goal of supporting Island youth, MVYouth maximizes its financial impact by soliciting donors to contribute to a common mission. Lindsay Scott, executive director of MVYouth, said, “The hope is to unleash the potential of our young people by remoring financial barriers to their educational growth.”

MVYouth offers two programs: expansion grants and scholarships. Expansion grants are open to organizations looking to accomplish transformational projects reflective of the Island community. College and workforce development scholarships, first piloted in 2017, aim to financially support graduates of career technical education. It would enable those interested in beginning careers in local industries to complete necessary training or certification programs. Mrs. Scott said, “We are hopeful that supporting MVYouth grants and scholarships would help transition graduates of the CTE programs into stable, lucrative, and fulfilling careers on the Island.”

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