

So-long Seroogy's

Senate Bill 210 legislation prevents sale of baked goods and candy bars [SEE PAGE 11](#)



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Profile on Marcus Otte

Senior Marcus Otte goes from watching how-to YouTube videos to being varsity kicker. Check out thecspn.com to see how this kicking machine got his start in the football world.

Student returns from Libya

MHS student, Miriam Bugazia, and teacher, Shahrazad Kablan, return from Libya where they worked for radio and news stations in the middle of a revolution.

Students broadcast live

Juniors Alex Day, Matt Beebe, RJ Thompson, Lee Sponseller and Jacob Hurley create the new Sports Broadcasting Club, alongside advisor Chris DeLotell. The club broadcasts live from sporting events as they comment on the game.

TOPSoccer

A soccer league for athletes with disabilities comes to Christ Church at Mason where the MHS soccer teams and cheerleaders support the players.

Homecoming wrap-up

Did you miss the Homecoming game? Want to see you and your friends participating in Spirit Week and the pep assembly?

RUN FOR YOUR LIFE

A.L.I.C.E. empowers students to make their own decisions for survival

Miranda Carney | Staff Writer

188 rounds of ammunition and two students with guns resulted in 15 total deaths at Columbine High School in 1999. For years after that day, researchers would try to find reasoning to why schools are trained to have students hide under desks in times of danger. According to Assistant Principal William Rice, Mason will be adapting a procedure that will provide students with options to better survive dangerous situations—A.L.I.C.E., which stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate.

“[When] you think about the old lockdown system and what [the school] did -- we turned the lights out, we locked the doors and we hid in the corner or underneath tables -- that was essentially it,” Rice said. “If that bad guy got in the room, [students and staff] didn’t have a plan for [what to do]. A.L.I.C.E. provides options. It says if the bad guy is in Z-pod, we [shouldn’t] lock down D-pod; we [should] evacuate those guys.”

Many things have changed since Columbine, and after learning about A.L.I.C.E. at a conference in March, Rice said he and School Resource Officer Karli Smith proposed the idea of A.L.I.C.E. to The Safe and Inviting Schools Committee. After discussing real school shooting situations, it was obvious that the old lockdown systems were not useful, according to Rice.

“There are 911 calls [from Columbine] where you can hear the frantic calls from teachers and students,” Rice said. “In [one] audio tape you can hear [a teacher] screaming to the kids, ‘Get down, get down, get under the tables and stay put.’ With A.L.I.C.E., [the procedure is] going to empower people to do whatever it takes to survive. If that means run, you run. If that means your best option is [to] barricade yourself in closet, barricade yourself in a closet.”

A.L.I.C.E. is a procedure that will adapt to a dangerous situation in order to provide the best possible results, according to Rice. He said in some situations, the police will be involved in controlling traffic to get students

that can drive out of the area as fast as possible. He also said that an administrator will come over the intercom and distract the shooter by shouting out his name and location.

“Part of what [the school has] to do is retrain ourselves to think [proactively],” Rice said. “We have to tell the kids [that] if they are faced with a deadly situation and [the] only way out of it is to throw a chair through a window, and [they] need to do that, [they are] not going to get in trouble for throwing a chair through a window.”

After attending community training for the A.L.I.C.E. procedures, Keith Kociba, who is a parent of a freshman, eighth grader and sixth grader in the Mason district, said that he feels both relieved and fearful about the new plan.

“It’s great that [the schools is] introducing taking action rather than being a sitting duck,” Kociba said. “However, the risk is that when you take action, making a bad decision [or] trying to play the role of a hero could be very problematic.”

Senior Bre McKinley said she thinks A.L.I.C.E. is a foundation to be built upon. Although she said she thinks it is better than the old lockdown plan, she still said she thinks the plan can be improved upon.

“I think [A.L.I.C.E. provides] a good idea to plan for a different escape, but I’m not sure

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photo by Megan McCormack
Students listen to A.L.I.C.E. lecture by Assistant Principal William Rice as he discusses new procedures.