

# DECISION '09



ANTHONY PARISI • WILL PINKE • JOHN KWON

On Wednesday, March 11, 2009, the Class of 2010 selected the three juniors on the left as candidates for the upcoming Student Body President Election. The vote will be held Monday, April 6. Who will you pick to lead the student body for the coming year?

*Personal Statements on Pages 2-3*

## Current Student Body President Reflects on Time in Office

By GIANCARLO RIOTTO (VI)

Well, here we are. It seems almost incredible that about a year has passed since I was campaigning for the Student Body Presidency much in the same way John, Anthony, and Will are right now. Being elected to serve as the student leader of such an incredible school community was undoubtedly the greatest privilege I have ever been granted, and I will forever be grateful to all of you for bestowing that honor upon me.

Much has taken place

since I stood awkwardly in front of the entire student body, my right leg trembling as I did my best to get a chuckle or two out of the audience during my seven minute speech. In that speech, I made a number of promises, some of which I believe I did my best to accomplish and others on which I came up short.

I can proudly say that Student Government held perhaps its two most successful school events this school year: Homecoming and Snowball drew the largest turnouts I have

seen in my time here. We managed to successfully divide Student Government into a number of group subcommittees, including a Finance Committee and Student Activism Committee, that facilitated more narrow, concentrated efforts in their respective areas than is truly feasible while working with the overall group of nearly thirty members.

Student Government also worked diligently on a dress code proposal that we hope will be enacted, if not this year, then certainly next

year. We also took a leadership role in cleaning up the cafeteria, partly with the hope that doing so would assist in the proposal's implementation.

Personally, I hope that I have succeeded in giving you all a smiling face to stare at during those stressed-out Monday and Wednesday morning meetings, although only you can be the judge of my "assembly performance."

However, there have also been some disappointments that I will take the brunt of the blame for. I wish we could have devoted more time and focus to the "little things":

for instance, the prices and selections in the bookstore, the problems with the vending machine, and, as Will so candidly mentioned, the quality of the bathroom toilet paper. Despite meeting with the cafeteria dining service earlier in the year, I wish I could have been more persistent in pressing for more desirable lunches. And I certainly wish that by now, we would have successfully enacted a new dress code proposal, one not limited to

"untucked" shirts but also allowing shorts to be worn as weather permits. These are agenda items that I strongly encourage next year's president to pursue, as I firmly believe we remain capable of tackling these issues.

I also believe that the future role of the Student Body President and Student Government in general will be largely predicated on maintaining a relationship of mutual trust with the administration. I strongly encourage next year's President to build strong relationships with Mr. Conard, Mr. Leef, Dr. Brown-Allen, and Mrs. Hearst, not only because they are terrific people, but also because they will be absolutely essential in fostering a Student Government with the ability to make a broad impact on the community.

Sometimes I wish I had been a bit more persistent in bringing agenda items to the administration's attention; this is certainly something that any of next year's three candidates should look to improve. I learned quickly that the

administration, particularly in the beginning of the year, looks to the Student Body President to set an example that begins the school year on a strong note, beginning with the ceremonial speech at Convocation. These are the expectations that whoever assumes office next year should be prepared for. hit the ground running!

Lastly, I urge whoever wins this year's election to fully appreciate what this position offers and to have fun with it! I feel as if the presidency became a means for me to grow close to the entire school community at large; it lights up my day every time I bump into a new freshman or faculty member who I wouldn't otherwise know and am greeted by my first name. So again, I'd like to express my gratitude to all of the faculty and students who helped put me in a position to experience this.

This is a unique opportunity, one that I know Will, Anthony, and John all take very seriously. Only one can win, but I know our school absolutely cannot go wrong!

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The juniors who were not selected in the primary to run for Student Body President share what they would have done during their tenure P. 2



# If I Had Not Lost the Junior Primary Election...



**JASMIN NEAL**

*"I would have made the school a happier, less stressful place so that all of my fellow angelfaces and I would have a chance for our halos to shine a little bit brighter every day."*



**MAC CORDREY**

*"I would create an empire of corruption and fraud, fueled by embezzled funds and money laundering. I really only did it for the power."*



**DAVID MARTIN**

*"I might have followed the Dress Code. But then again, I probably would have published a book with Dean Sluyter on Dress Code loopholes."*



## The Pingry Record

VOLUME CXXXV  
NUMBER 4

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**MYLES BRISTOW**

*"I would make student government more efficient and less like the clean up crew."*



**BRANDON BRIER**

*"I would have ensured that the Record does not publish an embarrassing losers' page in this issue."*

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## John Kwon

### IN HIS OWN WORDS...

You would think that performing for a packed audience in the Macrae Theatre would be just as nerve wracking, if not more, as delivering a five-minute long speech in front of your peers during a morning assembly. There might be a wardrobe malfunction, the pit band might fall out of rhythm, or you might have a bad case of the hiccups. But on that stage, you're also someone else, which takes a whole load of pressure off of you.

Delivering my five-minute long speech on Monday to all of you was a much different experience. It was exhilarating and new. I could not speak as a character in a musical. I am John Kwon, "J-Kwon," and sometimes, oftentimes... "Johnkwon" (one word—it's fascinating how amusing people find a rhyming name). I am that boy who likes to sing and always goes back for seconds or thirds (only when I'm semi-down) in the cafeteria. I'm down-to-earth and am involved in the many things Pingry has to offer, including the athletic program and arts program. Speaking to you all in that setting was a great experience, and definitely unforgettable.

I believe it is very important for students and faculty to feel comfortable sharing their views and ideas with one another at this school, which fosters community, intellectual curiosity, and spirit, and that's the way to go. Inside before out. If elected as Student Body President,

I'll do my part along with the rest of Student Government to address and relay students' concerns to the Student Government and work on passing current and future issues.

This constant interaction and active attempts to improve our everyday lives are things that I am committed to and hope to continue as president. I want to help the school determine plausible solutions to alleviate this "heat" crisis in the spring since we seem to lack air conditioning throughout the entire school. Also, making Student Government representatives more accountable is something that I believe will help make planning events more efficient and creative. The current members are incredibly dedicated to this school and are willing to go above and beyond to bring out the very best we, the students, have to offer. Last year's Homecoming and Snowball were extremely successful, and I am grateful for the hard work and dedication of my peers. I hope to continue fostering increased school spirit, and I'd also like to bring Winterfest (Pingry's winter carnival) back!

There are so many ways for Pingry students to be more involved and to come closer together, whether it be through supporting sports teams during their playoff runs or having more school events. I do agree with my fellow candidate, Will, about bringing back Field Day. Not only does it provide a day



of stress-free competition and fun, but it also emphasizes the importance of fostering growing relationships between students of all ages in our community.

There is so much that still can be done here; many possibilities for this school are tangible. As a member of Student Government for the past five years, I have seen and experienced the inner workings that have shaped this school into the ridiculously awesome place it is, and I know the efforts that go into achieving short-term and long-term goals. I am excited to serve on Student Government once again, and I will work hard to achieve these goals

next year.

I believe I embody many of the qualities a leader at this school should have: integrity, openness, flexibility, understanding, creativity, a sense of responsibility, and motivation. Because of this, I believe that I am capable of making a positive impact on the school. My highly approachable and amiable personality makes me an ideal candidate to represent this student body and to voice their opinions and concerns. I am dedicated to this school and cannot wait for what's in store for the coming school year. Thank you everyone for this opportunity, and I hope to serve as your 2009-2010 Student Body President.

### CANDIDATE SURVEY

#### FAVORITE...

**Movie:** "Ferris Bueller's Day Off"

**Album/Artist:** Michael Jackson/Thriller (never gets old)

**Subject:** Buttondowns

**March Madness Team:** Villanova Wildcats

**State:** Massachusetts. Nothing like getting through the day with New England cuisine in one hand and a couple of championship rings in the other.

**Insect:** Butterfree

**Comedian:** Demetri Martin

**Place to Shop:** Costco. They have everything: food, iPods, beds, their very own ophthalmologist and contacts, toothbrush, and Wii... the list is endless.

**Teacher:** Dr. Moore

**Word:** Buffet

#### PICK ONE

**Boxers or Briefs?** Boxers

**Food or Water?** Food. I'd squeeze the moisture out of the food with my bulging muscles.

**Pool or Hot Tub?** Pool. It's hard to dive into a hot tub, I've tried.

**Mary Kate or Ashley?** John Stamos

**Bloods or Crips?** I think these are dance moves. I hear the Crips is off the heezyy.

#### COMPLETE THE SENTENCE

**If I were a Harry Potter character, I'd be...** Cedric...and then live on through Twilight and run through everyone's imagination for 5+ books and 5 movies (1: Goblet of Fire, 2: Twilight, 3: Yet 4: To 5: Come!!!)

**If I were an ice cream flavor, I'd be...** Quadruple Chocolate Overload.

**The most embarrassing CD I own is...** "O-Town" by O-Town.

# Will Pinke

## IN HIS OWN WORDS...

I've been trying to get into Student Government ever since I first got to Pingry in 7th grade. Although I haven't been on Student Government, I have been involved in countless other school organizations. I have always been able to work well in these groups and to take leadership roles. I am very comfortable talking with teachers, including the administration. As President, I will be persistent with the administration, and I will talk non-stop until you get what you want.

The main goal I would hope to accomplish as President would be to make Pingry a less stressful environment and to take everyone's mind off of the enormous pressures that come with Pingry life. As soon as we reach high school, many of us are led to believe that our chances of getting into college are riding on every single test, quiz, or paper that we have. We are feeling pressure at home from our families, at school from our teachers, and at the same time, us Pingry students put a lot of pressure on ourselves.

I know we all wish there was another week of spring break, but since that is impossible, one thing we could do to inject more fun within the school year is to resurrect school events like Field Day. Having days like this dispersed throughout the year gives us a chance to catch our breaths for a day in

the midst of all of craziness.

Also, adding more SAC assemblies to our schedule would provide some much needed laughter to help lighten the mood. Not too long ago, SAC did something once every week. I doubt we could have SAC involved that regularly, but if we could have an assembly at least once a month, rather than just on Rufus Gunther Day or before Christmas, I think it would give everyone something to look forward to and would help us replace those few assemblies that nobody looks forward to.

If we're already stressed about our work, the last thing we need is to be stressing out over what we are going to eat. We have all had those days when there is absolutely nothing to eat for lunch. If I become President, I want to make days like these impossible. I think the system that I outlined in my speech is a realistic way to solve this problem. If everyone ranked their favorite lunches at the end of every two weeks, then it will be easy to see what lunches people like, and more importantly, which ones they hate. I will make sure to be persistent when discussing our results with the cafeteria staff so that we can actually make some changes.

If people are still unhappy after we revise the menu, I also propose that we make after school snacks available in the cafeteria again. This way



everyone will have something to eat at least once in the day. If the cafeteria could stay open until 5:30 every day, you will never have to go home hungry again.

Just as I want to let all of you choose your own food, I also want to let you in on the activities of Student Government. I think we should have a monthly e-mail sent to the whole school asking everyone to give us suggestions on how to make this school better so if you are passionate about something, Student Government will be able to hear your ideas. We can then open up our

meetings to everyone as well so you can follow up your suggestions with explanations and see what we are actually doing about them.

Some people may think I'm just doing this as a joke, but I hope after reading this you can see that I take this seriously too. As I said in my speech, I love this school and I love the people in it. I want it to be the best place it can be, and I want you all to have the best experience possible while you are here. I want to make life at school as fun and stress-free as possible, and if you vote for me, things will only get better.

## CANDIDATE SURVEY

### FAVORITE...

**Movie:** "The Little Rascals"  
**Album/Artist:** Life After Death by The Notorious B.I.G.  
**Subject:** Being the President  
**March Madness Team:** Morehead State  
**State:** Dormant  
**Comedian:** Pam Stenzel  
**Place to Shop:** The Toilet Store  
**Teacher:** I love them all equally. Especially Parv.  
**Word:** @#%&^&\*

### PICK ONE

**Boxers or Briefs?** That's one for me to know and you to find out.  
**Food or Water?** Where I come from, the food is water...  
**Pool or Hot Tub?** A pool full of jello  
**Mary Kate or Ashley?** Full House Ashley  
**Bloods or Crips?** Ha! Like I ever had a choice...

### COMPLETE THE SENTENCE

**If I were a Harry Potter character, I'd be...** test driving the brand new nimbus 2009 right now.  
**If I were an ice cream flavor, I'd be...** better tasting than John and Anthony.  
**The most embarrassing CD I own is...** hidden in an underground bunker six and a half miles southwest of Lake Erie.

# Anthony Parisi

## IN HIS OWN WORDS...

So, you all have heard my story and what I have to say on why I think I can be a good Student Body President. However, I want to take a step back and examine what the responsibilities of a Student Body President really are and why I can excel at each of them.

Firstly, there is the responsibility of running Student Government meetings. This can be a difficult task, with 28 eager eyes watching you and awaiting what you have to say. The Student Body President truly dictates the flow of the meeting; he must have an agenda, delegate responsibility, and take votes on issues. It is essential for the student body president to have the command to lead everyone in the room and to keep the meeting running smoothly so things get accomplished without wasting time.

While Student Government has attempted to implement sub-committees this year, I think much more can be accomplished with a two-committee system; one to deal with student issues and one to focus entirely on planning events. This way, everyone is doing what they want to do, and no one is sitting in meetings not paying attention.

As your Student Body President, I would of course preside over both of these meetings, and if the conditions are appropriate, the whole Student Government could meet to discuss an issue. I believe this system will streamline Student Government activities to make them more effective and helpful to everyone.

Now, to why I would excel in this area. I have extensive experience leading and speaking in front of people; I have truly developed a cool, calm, and collected manner when speaking to groups in my time here at Pingry. I believe it was on display when I delivered my speech earlier this week, and you may have seen it if you have attended one of my Italian Culture Club meetings. I believe this is crucial to having working Student Government meetings because if the Student Body President is not someone who is calm in front of a lot of people, then who will be? The Student Body President needs to lead the many bright and innovative minds on Student Government and bring them together. I believe I can accomplish this.

Another responsibility is communicating with the administration. Communicating with the administration, however, does not simply mean asking their permission to put select Student Government plans into practice. It also means being a pest, and as your Student Body President, I pledge to find out everything that is being considered behind closed doors and to bring it in front of Student Government for their opinions. While we, the Student Government, may not have a lot of concrete authority, we do have the numbers. If all else fails, we can rush 'em (they can't take on all of us!).

I also have built up a personal relationship with some of the administrators, including Mr. Leef (my advisor/guy that always makes fun of me) and Mrs.



Hearst. With these relationships, I plan to find out what is going on and inform the students. I don't want to be surprised when a welcome flowerbed pops up in the middle of the school. I want to be involved in the discussion and get my two cents in.

Lastly, and perhaps the biggest responsibility of all, is being a liaison and representative to the students. Every morning, you will be seeing someone's shining face up there on that stage, and I can promise you (although I am not a morning person) that I will be up there smiling every day to help you begin your week the right way.

I also believe that I am a very approachable person and that I am someone who anyone could easily come up to with a complaint, concern, or sugges-

tion (and no, I cannot change the cafeteria food single-handedly).

As I close, I hope your parting thought as you finish this article is that the student body really is a representation of the students. While I am one person, you (yeah, you, the one reading this) are Pingry. I cannot be anything without you and neither can anyone. Really think hard about who you will choose to represent not only you, but the entire school, because you won't be able to go back once you've cast that ballot.

While I can't play guitar, sing, or tell really funny jokes, I can promise you I will be an active, engaging, confident, resourceful, hard-working, and friendly Student Body President. As they say in Italian, "Grazie per tutti" (thanks for everything).

## CANDIDATE SURVEY

### FAVORITE...

**Movie:** "The Godfather." The cultural ties are obvious, but minus the Italian heritage, it is a fine piece of cinema.  
**Album:** The Greenhouse Effect Mixtape by Asher Roth  
**Subject:** Biology  
**March Madness Team:** UNC  
**State:** The Garden State of New Jersey. It gets a bad rap, but deep down we all love it.  
**Insect:** Locusts.  
**Comedian:** Demetri Martin  
**Place to Shop:** Italy. Everything there is awesome (if you didn't get that impression already).  
**Teacher:** I have had so many great ones it'd be a shame to list just one.  
**Word:** Indeed.

### PICK ONE

**Boxers or Briefs?** Boxers  
**Food or Water?** Food is obviously the most important thing to have (see Parisi, Anthony, Italian guy).  
**Pool or Hot Tub?** The ocean so I can be on a motherf\*\*\*ing boat  
**Mary Kate or Ashley?** Not a fan of anorexia.  
**Bloods or Crips?** Gambino Crime Family

### COMPLETE THE SENTENCE

**If I were a Harry Potter character, I'd be...** Dumbledore.  
**If I were an ice cream flavor, I'd be...** Nutella Gelato: the most delicious creation to meet human taste buds.  
**The most embarrassing CD I own is...** I am proud of my entire musical collection.

## What Do You Look For in a Student Body President?



**ERIN JAMES (V)**

*"Someone who will get stuff done."*



**MATT ZUBROW (V)**

*"Someone who is decisive, who can get things done, and who has a good relationship with the students and the administration."*



**THOMAS SCHERMERHORN (IV)**

*"Humor."*



**CARYN HA (III)**

*"Someone who will keep his word."*



**AMY GOPINATHAN (V)**

*"Someone who does stuff without needing to convince the student body he does stuff."*

## As a senior on Student Government, what would you say makes a good Student Body President?



**BRIAN QUINN**

*"Someone with a pretty face and a firm handshake who can create a cohesive community."*



**COLLEEN TAPEN**

*"Someone who dreams big and takes the initiative."*



**WESLEY SALAZAR**

*"When I was fly fishing, I caught a seven pound flounder....studgov is no different."*



**LEAH DUNGO**

*"Organization."*



**EILEEN ROACH**

*"Someone who doesn't stress out."*