



Mr. Quiñones, host of ABC's "What Would You Do?" presented to the student body and faculty on October 14 in the annual John Hanly Lecture Series. Courtesy of Pingry

## Emmy-Winner Mr. John Quiñones Gives Memorable Speech

By KASIA AXTELL (V)

On Friday, October 14, Mr. John Quiñones, host of the popular ABC program "What Would You Do?" spoke at the annual John Hanly Lecture Series on Ethics and Morality. As students gathered in Hauser Auditorium, excitement was in the air, as Pingry had invited a speaker with whom almost the entire audience was familiar.

The John Hanly Lecture Series was established in 1999 in honor of former Pingry headmaster, Mr. John Hanly. Mr. Hanly valued the qualities of integrity and good conduct, and each year the school welcomes a speaker who honors and exemplifies these qualities. The speaker often challenges his or her audience with ethical dilemmas while touching hearts with emotional examples of injustice.

Naturally, many had high expectations for Mr. Quiñones, but he certainly lived up to the hype, pleasing an audience comprised of students, faculty, and parents.

During his talk, Mr. Quiñones captivated his audience with stories of his rise to success as a journalist, offering intriguing examples of ethical dilemmas that he encountered along the way. His first project as a journalist, for instance, involved entering the U.S. as an "undercover" illegal immigrant. Although he is an American citizen, his family

is of Mexican descent, and he speaks Spanish fluently. He was therefore able to acquire a job at a restaurant in Chicago. By posing as a Mexican immigrant, he exposed the injustice occurring behind-the-scenes at this restaurant and won his first Emmy Award. This was only the beginning of a very successful career.

Mr. Quiñones' talk became even more exciting when he publicly recognized two Pingry teachers for their ethical behavior in communities showcased by his show. Music teacher Mr. Jay Winston objected when two Mexican laborers were denied fast food service because they didn't speak English, and Mr. Victor Nazario defended a woman in a coffee shop who was using a service dog.

Mr. Winston said, "Mr. Quiñones was an excellent public speaker who energetically communicated his stories to a young audience. I think anytime someone is in the public eye, as he is, there is an allure about what they have to say. Given his 'rags-to-riches' story, and the fact that he is involved daily in situations which very much mimic real life scenarios that

involve our Honor Code, he was a wonderful choice as a guest speaker."

Mr. Nazario believes that Mr. Quiñones's "charisma is what makes him so successful. He was able to balance an adult world and a kid world to make his speech relatable for everyone, and the acceptance and reactions of the kids were marvelous."

Among the many students who enjoyed Mr. Quiñones' stories was Rebecca Hoyt (V), who "found the assembly to be surprisingly interesting. It was definitely a much better presentation for high school students than some of the lectures we've had in the past, and everyone truly took something away from it."

Sophomore Allie McManus thought the assembly was both relevant and valuable. She said, "The presentation by John Quiñones had a profound impact on the Pingry community. He showed us how important it is to follow the Honor Code both in and out of school. By recognizing two of our teachers for acting so honorably while off-campus, he showed our entire student body how important moral behavior is."

## Financial Literacy Program Now Includes Upperclassmen

By DAN ABEND (VI)

This year, a Financial Literacy program was introduced for all seniors, consisting of three mandatory assemblies spread throughout the year, each featuring guest speakers and covering a different topic. At least two voluntary assemblies have been scheduled as well.

The initiative for the program came from Economics teacher Miss Leslie Wolfson who then established a committee — including Mr. Tony Garcia, Mrs. Donna Thau, and Mr. Brad Poprick — to write the curriculum. Funding from an alumnus allowed Miss Wolfson to successfully launch the program. Currently, Miss

Wolfson and Mr. Garcia teach the Financial Literacy classes.

The program began with a class for sixth graders. The following year, the class was offered to freshmen, and now this senior portion of the course is the next step. Because many of the seniors already have full schedules, the decision to have seminars during the school day instead of introducing a new course was made.

The purpose of these senior seminars is to educate the 12th grade about financial decisions that they will encounter when they graduate, especially in today's economic climate. "Given the unfortunate state of our economy, which is still limping from the financial crisis, it is

our desire to graduate students with the ability to be financially responsible members and leaders of their communities making sound, informed, and responsible decisions," Miss Wolfson said. Miss Wolfson hopes that through these presentations, the seniors will take away a "sense of comfort and effectiveness in dealing with their own personal finances" and "understand and act on the importance of saving and budgeting."

The first of these assemblies was held in Hauser auditorium while the sophomores and juniors were taking PSATs on Wednesday, October 12th. The guest

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## Chekhov's Comedy "The Cherry Orchard" Showcases Talented Actors

By SARAH PARK (VI)

On the evenings of November 17, 18, and 19, the Drama program held performances of Anton Chekhov's "The Cherry Orchard" in Macrae Theater for the annual Fall Play. After over two months of dedicated memorization and preparation, Pingry Drama performed its first ever Chekhovian play.

"The Cherry Orchard" is a satirical social commentary on Russia during the early 1900s. In that period, the class system in Russia was transitioning from a rigid social aristocracy to a fluid one with a new, emerging merchant class. The play follows the story of a dysfunctional aristocratic family in danger of bankruptcy.

After seeing "The Cherry Orchard" several years ago, Drama Department Head and Director of "The Cherry Orchard" Mr. Albert Romano recalls being disappointed by the performance's lack of humor. He happened to find a new translation by Emily Mann and decided that he would "go for it," knowing that he "had a wonderful group of seniors who would rise to the challenge."

And they did. Despite losing

a Saturday run-through and four full days of rehearsal due to the October snowstorm and subsequent power outage at Pingry, the date of opening night was not moved back. The cast members, on their own initiative and time, rehearsed twice during the days off at one of the actor's houses, which, Mr. Romano said, "speaks a good deal about their character and commitment."

Mrs. Jane Asch, Mr. Tom Varnes, and Mrs. Shelley Hartz were also instrumental in the play's production, helping to transform abstract settings into reality on the stage through the sets.

Another benefit for many seniors is that they were studying the play in English class. Dr. Susan Dineen's European and

British Literature classes have been reading "The Cherry Orchard" for many years, but this was the first year that they were able to see they play performed. Seeing their peers on stage "really brought the play to life, and helped to answer a lot of questions that I had about the text," Ashley Hough (VI) said. "It was amazing to see how funny the play was when it was performed,

as opposed to simply reading it," Connor McLaughlin (VI) commented.

Andrew Hanna (VI), who played Leonid Gayev, said, "The Cherry Orchard" really brought all of the cast members together because we had to work in unison every step of the way. I am so grateful that I was able to share this experience with such talented people."



C. Zee, C. Edwards, and A. Hanna in a scene from "The Cherry Orchard."

J. Freinberg (VI)

## Inside The Record



Student Body President M. Werner (VI) assists kindergarten Charlie Harrison in lighting the candle at the annual Holiday Festival.

### From Idea to Implementation

Lee Barker (VI) describes the state of his "Leevolution," the obstacles facing the reforms, and what he plans to do next. P. 3.

### Merry Rufus Gunther Day!

Students and faculty celebrate Pingry's community service holiday by giving back. P. 5.

### All The Right Notes

The Buttondowns serenade and entertain the school with their a capella talents during their first assembly of the year. P. 4.

### Battlefields and Football Fields

Pat Conway speaks at the Veteran's Day assembly about his time as a Marine during the Vietnam War and as a football player for Harvard. P. 4.

### Lace Up the Skates

The boys' Ice Hockey team kicks off the year feeling confident that they can surpass last season's success. P. 8.

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The Editors would like to apologize for a mistake which appeared in the October issue of "The Record." Julian Rajan did not attend the trip to China, and the chaperones were Ms. Yu, Mr. Dolce and Mr. Leef. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

## EDITORIAL

When I walked into school on Friday, November 11 at 6 PM to see the showing of "La Haine," I didn't know what kind of turnout to expect. I was with three of my friends, but despite Mr. Crowley-Delman's best efforts to get the school excited about the film, I was afraid that we would make up the majority of the crowd.

Luckily, I was wrong; upon entering Hauser Auditorium, I saw around forty people occupying seats. The crowd was a mix of students, faculty, and guests of faculty, but the diversity of the group was what surprised me most. I saw a lot of seniors, which I suspect had to do with us having driver's licenses, but I also saw plenty of juniors, a few sophomores, and a couple of freshmen, all from very different groups of friends.

When the film began, we were all immediately enraptured; there were hardly any side conversations, and despite my generation's obsession with texting, I saw very few phones illuminated during the showing. "La Haine," which translates to "Hate" in English, is a French film by Director Mathieu Kassovitz that follows three young men of different ethnicities living in the projects outside Paris. It addresses issues of poverty, racism, police brutality, and drug use in a brisk, gripping style, filmed entirely in black and white. When the film ended, most of us proceeded to the two designated classrooms for separate post-film discussions.

I can't speak for Mr. Crowley-Delman's discussion group, but what I observed in Ms. Davlin's room was one of the most inspiring and encouraging displays of maturity and intelligence I've ever seen among Pingry students. In a free-flowing dialogue, nearly everyone, from freshmen to seniors, debated a wide array of subjects relating to both the film and life in general.

As we candidly discussed everything from drugs, to racism, to gun violence in the projects, I listened to my peers carefully dissect the many facets of "La Haine;" a film aficionado commented on his theories about the significance of the film being in black and white; a student of color reacted to the depictions of racism in the film; and a Francophile explained parts of the culture that were foreign. I recall Andrew Hanna (VI), who himself is of Middle-Eastern and Asian descent, reminding us how difficult it is for us to judge Vinz's brash actions when our own lives are so different from his.

What impressed me most was how uninhibited everybody was. Maybe it just seemed like the rest of the students were comfortable because I was, but I really felt like everyone was at ease and just wanted to speak, and in turn, be heard.

While I listened to my friend, a female senior, argue with a freshman boy who was enthusiastically defending his point of view, I realized how rarely we are brought together with students outside our own class to discuss anything. Sure, juniors and seniors have English electives together in the spring, but by that point the seniors are so checked out that it's hard to carry on any real conversations. Of course, there's no shortage of opinions in my own grade – but I still appreciate how the perspectives of freshmen and sophomores can be very different from my own.

I'm so glad that Mr. Crowley-Delman and Ms. Boisvert are planning to show more thought-provoking foreign films, because I think the more we are exposed to well-made art that unsettles us or provokes controversial opinions in a constructive way, the better. But I don't think this one film series will be enough to change the entire culture here at Pingry – it's going to take widespread student engagement to do that.

Many events are already underway that are encouraging the kind of awareness and open dialogue I'm talking about: the global initiatives Ms. Boisvert is organizing, events like the Coffee House that took place on December 9, and Monday morning Poetry Readings are all examples. But the administration and faculty could do even more by introducing mixed-grade classes or seminars that facilitate candid conversation for its own sake, not for the sake of getting an "A."

Even if the school offers these events, students have to be willing to step outside their comfort zone and attend an event they might ordinarily consider out of their realm. Before senior year, I would have been reluctant to go see "La Haine," and probably would have been too intimidated to contribute to the discussion – thankfully, that's no longer the case. I only hope that self-consciousness won't prevent others from taking advantage of the many opportunities before them.

In his op-ed (adjacent to my own), Andrew Hanna discusses a general apathy that seems to afflict Pingry students. Having noticed the same issue, I was excited by the sensitive, analytical critique of "La Haine." I think part of what made the experience so successful was that everyone was genuinely interested in the conversation and wanted to contribute. As Andrew said, nobody wants to be put down or isolated for expressing a controversial idea, but if everyone releases their inhibitions and takes part in open dialogues like the one we had at "La Haine," I think we could go a long way towards making awareness, instead of apathy, a new normal.

—Roxanne Feitel

# Why Pingry Students Need to Speak Out

By ANDREW HANNA (VI)

Earlier this week, I spent two hours on the phone with a friend from California talking about an upcoming protest in San Francisco she plans to attend. She's been interviewing protesters and policemen for over the past month, and now she wants to become a part of the movement herself. I asked her if it was really safe to go alone, to which she responded that she had managed to rope some of her friends into going with her. Apparently, political activism has swept across her entire school. Students are putting up self-made posters and self-written slogans in the hallway walls. As I listened to her talk, I thought about just how different that sounded from my own school.

I'm going to come right out and say it: there is an elephant in the room at Pingry and its name is Personal Opinion. No one talks

about it, and lately I've wondered if it even exists at our school.

I'm not necessarily calling for greater political activism. We live in suburban New Jersey, and it's difficult to even be informed

about grassroots movements. What I'm talking about is the lack of candid disagreement and discussion between peers

at Pingry. Honestly, how often do you discuss your own opinions outside of the classroom? How often do you talk about your own perspective on books or religion or current events with your friends? I'm guessing almost never.

I get the feeling that people at our school are simply afraid to state their own opinions. They worry that by bringing up a controversial

topic, they risk offending or isolating themselves from their peers. I do not understand why it has to be that way. Why can't we have honest, civilized discourse with one another without it delving into a shouting

match? One of my closest friends has views on the economy that I almost completely disagree with. But instead of just ignoring the subject, we discuss our opinions like intelligent, civi-

lized people and because of this discourse, we have managed to become even closer friends. If people expressed their opinions in discussion like we do, they would find that they too would be strengthening friendships, not destroying them.

I think the heart of the problem is that most of us never learned how to have those kinds of conversations. Sure we have

the "Harkness Method" at Pingry, but I don't think it's implemented very well. How many times have you been in a "group discussion" where all you can hear is awkward silence? It's assumed that somehow students innately know how to have a discussion without the interjection of a teacher.

We should be taught how to have group discourse at the beginning of the year, before we are simply thrown into the proverbial lion's den. Teachers should establish ground rules in their classrooms that encourage active participation and open discourse. If students learn how to converse well in the classroom, they will be able to converse with their peers outside of the classroom.

What would those ground rules be you ask? Well they would be up to each individual teacher. If I were to write them though, I know what my first rule would be: Never be afraid to express your own opinion.



B. Tiggs (IV)

## Making My Last Year at Pingry Count

By SARAH PARK (VI)

Despite facing the overwhelming pressure of applying to colleges, shouldering an extremely difficult course load, and trying to be a leader to the underclassmen, I have never been happier in all of my three years at Pingry than I currently am in my senior year.

When I express these feelings to my fellow seniors, the most typical responses I receive are "Are you crazy?!" or "That

is the exact opposite of me." And although I do have the occasional meltdown where I cry and listen to Adele's "Someone Like You" on repeat, I have actually come to look forward to and enjoy school, something that I did not expect after seeing how stressed and fatigued the seniors were last year.

After the school-wide pep rally in September, I had a sudden realization: this is my last pep rally at Pingry. And since then, I have seen each event as my "last." While this mentality often makes me nostalgic, it has also made me see how many of the 131 students in my grade I don't really know at all.

A large chunk of the seniors don't know me either, which is something that I want to change before the end of the year. I'm not saying that I want to become best friends with everyone, but I do want to make an effort to get to know more of my classmates, and to leave Pingry feeling like I tried my hardest to accomplish this.

Surprisingly, this goal has been easier than I anticipated. During these past few months, I have found myself having conversations with more people I don't know well than in any of the past three years combined. I am starting to see that there are so many funny and nice people

whom I never took the time to get to know because I was so wrapped up with school, sports, or my own friends.

I don't know what it is, but it has become easy to start up and maintain conversations, and I often find myself wondering if others are feeling the same way as I am – that our time at Pingry is quickly passing us by.

Some of you may still be wondering how all of this amounts to me being happy. I love getting ready for school in the morning thinking about who I might talk to that day, and going to bed at night feeling like I have made a new friend. I love the freedom of senior year – just the intangible feeling of being a senior itself. Being happy amidst all of this stress isn't always easy, but I don't want to look back on my senior year and regret not going to the soccer game because I was studying or recall how depressed I was; I want to look back on my senior year as the best year of high school.

As I am getting to know more people and making new

friends, I can't help but feel the slightest tinge of regret for all of the time I spent judging people or feeling scared of being judged. It is only now that I

realize how stupid it was to act and think that way.

I therefore can't help but urge all of the underclassmen reading this to reach out now. You may feel perfectly content with your friends, but ask yourself this: how many

people in your grade do you actually know? Is there anyone you have always wanted to talk to, but never had the chance or courage to? If your answer to this question is yes, then I encourage you to make an effort now, rather than waiting for your senior year. I wish I had.

As for all of you seniors reading this, hopefully I have inspired you in some way to take advantage of the little time we have left. In six short months we are going to be graduating and moving on to college and the rest of our lives. Even amidst the pressure that we all feel at the moment, we should do the best we can to be happy, not miserable. Let's strive to make our senior year the best it can be.



### The Pingry Record

VOLUME CXXXVIII  
NUMBER 2

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# How an October Snowstorm Made Me Realize I'm a Technology Addict

By PRAD MAGANTI (III)

Imagine a time when Pingry didn't have all the technology it has today. For the first 130 years of the school's existence, there was no tech lab nor were there carts full of Macs. People didn't have Microsoft Word 2010 to write their papers nor did they have classes designated to studying computers.

Students couldn't access billions of pieces of information from their fingertips. They had to actually go to libraries and spend hours researching a specific topic. But today, with Google, people can access that same information within a second (maybe not all the time with Pingry's wifi, but close to it).

Yet with all that technology offers us, it's also proving problematic.

Perhaps you're like me and find yourself procrastinating

because of the Internet and the vast resources it makes available to us. Usually, once I get home from school, I turn on my laptop. The first thing I do is check my Pingry email and read what I will be doing tomorrow during CP.

Then I attempt to start the work that was assigned to me from my teachers. The problem is that I've been finding it increasingly difficult to stay focused while doing assignments. Instead of concentrating on my geometry homework, I suddenly find myself checking the weather or TV listings.

I'm not even sure I realized how affected I've been by the internet until late August, when my power was

knocked out for an uncanny seven and a half days due to Hurricane Irene. At that point I wasn't doing homework at least, but when the power went out again in October, when we were hit by the big snowstorm, I became increasingly aware of how much



B. Tiggs (IV)

how much technology controls my life. Suddenly I had no TV, no Internet, no PS3, and no refrigerator. Instead of jumping from homework, to the weather channels, to YouTube, I spent my days playing board games with my family, having real conversations, and even concentrating on my homework.

By the time the power came back on, I learned

## Keeping the Conversation Alive: Don't Stop Talking About the Dress Code

By LEE BARKER (VI)

About a month ago, I made an announcement to the entire student body, which many of you may remember, in which I stated that I was spearheading a campaign to change the Dress Code.

It seemed to me that there was an awful lot of animosity towards the Dress Code among my peers, but it had amounted to just that: animosity. There was no direction for the student body, no real leader of an efficient movement, who could actually engage in dialogue with policy makers in the school and eventually enact the change we wanted to see.

In the article I wrote for the last issue of the Record, you can find the solution I proposed: allow girls to wear appropriate skirts with hems shorter than two inches above the knee, and allow boys to wear their shirts untucked. To me, my proposal seemed to resolve the issue: keep students from undermining the faculty's authority and allow for more amicable relations between the faculty and students.

When I began my revolution—or as some have lovingly named it, the “Leevolution”—I thought I was facing the evil empire, a faculty diametrically and ideologically opposed to my plan. I did have some reasons for this ideology; the battalion that “greet” us every morning at the front entrance shows that many faculty members are not willing to compromise.

However, I have come to find that a lot of the faculty is almost as displeased with the current situation as we are. I have spoken to countless faculty members who have agreed with me and even cheered me on. There is needless friction between the two divisions of our school that can be resolved.

But a resolution in any institution takes time. In a bureaucratic

establishment such as Pingry, with countless department heads and senior members of the administration, changing the dress code will be a gradual modification. As Mrs. O'Mara put it, it is like “trying to turn an aircraft carrier around”—it will take a while, but eventually the change will happen.

What I want students to be wary of, however, is letting this movement die. Doing that before we succeed will not result in any change.

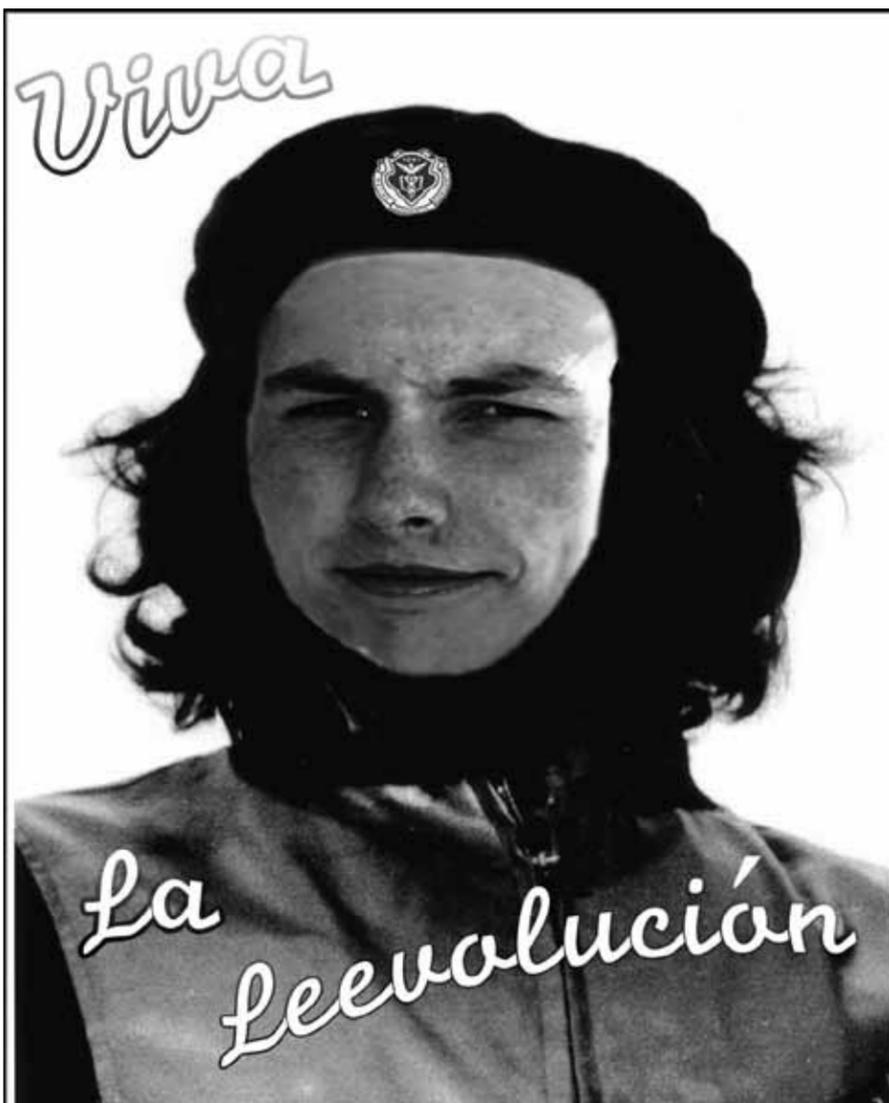
When I made that initial announcement, I had 286 signatures. Now, I have 437. The large majority of the student body has made it clear something needs to be done. I am just trying to be the voice helping the student body realistically affect change.

So, to keep the conversation going, I urge students to take advantage of this great opportunity for not only ourselves, but for those in years to come. We are Pingry students, future contributors to, as our Honor Code states, “the larger community of the world.” We not only have the determination, but also the

resolve and commitment to ensure that everything that can be done in our school's best interest will be done.

Through this initiative, I believe we can do just that: make everyone happier and make our experiences at this school just that much better. And who knows, maybe one day I will be able to walk into school with an untucked shirt and, instead of a disapproving frown, receive a simple “good morning.” I encourage the student body to keep the faith, and more importantly, keep the conversation going. If we do so, we will see change.

“...I urge students to take advantage of this great opportunity for not only ourselves, but for those in years to come.”



R. Feitel (VI)

### EDITORIAL

## Staying Focused During A Crazy Season

By the time the holiday season rolls around, everybody's minds are in a frenzy. For some, it is a frenzy of joy, where the focal point is the anticipation of the festivities soon to come when school lets out for break and the holidays begin. For others, worries about workload, college responses, and other stresses take the place of a focus on dancing gumdrops and candy canes. Either way, people's attentions are being grabbed by some aspect of December. This haze makes it easy for us to allow ourselves to forget some of the lessons and experiences of weeks past. With that said, I would like to take you back six weeks to Rufus Gunther Day 2011.

This Rufus Gunther Day I noticed something that was inspiring to see: many of our students and faculty were visibly excited to participate on that special day. At first I thought I was probably witnessing excitement about not having a day of schoolwork and classes, but when people were getting ready to leave for their various destinations, I saw it was more than that: they were taking their energy and excitement with them to their community service ventures.

After that, I can only speak from my select experience, but I was fortunate to spend Rufus Gunther day at the Covenant House in Newark. While there, I saw the students and faculty with me retaining their aforementioned energy, eager to get the most out of their community service and give to others.

It was terrific to see, especially in this day and age where entitlement and financial security too often lead to apathy for the less fortunate. Instead, we at this school not only do care about others, we enjoy the experience of giving back to our community. We are truly fortunate to go to a school with those who are so caring and willing to help others. Experiencing the good will firsthand during Rufus Gunther Day was a nice reminder of the kind of people at Pingry.

So why do I bring this up now? Well, we are still the same caring and considerate people that I just mentioned, but unfortunately, 'tis the season of the December haze. This frenzy brings with it the distractions and worries I talked about earlier, and these can cause us to sometimes forget what is important, like the need to give back to others. If you do not believe me, look around. We took awhile longer than we should have to reach the goal for Naz's canned food drive. The bins in the front of the school for supplies for our soldiers, clothing for the homeless, and other causes are relatively empty.

Have we stopped caring or stopped thinking about those who need help? No, we are simply so caught up in the madness that our priorities are a bit out of whack. When you have four tests over a span of two days and the thought of Christmas presents is around the corner, remembering to bring in a jacket for the coat drive unfortunately gets tucked into the back of your mind.

So now, it is up to us to make an effort and detach ourselves, just for a little bit, from our hectic Decembers and remember what really matters. We are people who value helping our communities. It would be a shame to let this quality be overtaken by a period of distraction.

So this holiday season, give back, help out, and serve the community with the same enthusiasm we brought to Rufus Gunther Day. After all, what better way to commemorate the spirit of the holiday season than spreading some joy to people who could use it?

—Dan Abend

## Financial Literacy Seminars Begin for Seniors

Continued From Page 1

speakers were Jeff Boyer '96 and Greg Allison, from Regent Atlantic Capital Inc. in Morristown. Their presentation focused on understanding the difference between credit and debit cards, as well as grasping the importance of saving, budgeting, and "paying yourself first."

The first assembly was very well received by the senior class. Marisa Werner (VI) said, "The assembly was extremely informative and helpful," and she "really enjoyed it." Christine Kumar (VI) agreed, noting that "the speakers broke the material down for us really well." Michael Supron (VI) liked that the speakers informed the seniors about how many young adults are tricked into debt by enticing offers. "I'm glad we had it because I would've been sucked into the traps of the credit card companies if we didn't," Supron said.

After the assembly, the seniors were given a questionnaire about the presentation so that Miss Wolfson could learn their honest reactions and could know "what they thought was missing and what points the seniors really walked away with more knowledge about." Based on the reactions, Miss Wolfson can work

on better preparing the second seminar. Even so, Miss Wolfson was generally pleased about how the assembly went. "Our goals were achieved," she said, "and the topics I asked the speakers to cover were covered."

Moving on from the first seminar, the final two will take place later on this year. The next one will cover investing, risk, diversification, and saving for now and the future, with the last, taking place soon before graduation, covering what remaining financial education seniors will need to know before leaving for college. In addition, Dr. Jose Barrionuevo, father of senior Jose Barrionuevo, Jr., and sophomore Isabella Barrionuevo, spoke to interested seniors during conference period on December 14. His focus was the impact of the financial crisis upon students our age as we enter college and the work force.

As for next year, the senior Financial Literacy seminars have become part of the school curriculum and will be continued for next year's rising 12th graders. Beyond that, Miss Wolfson would also like to see the program grow further. "I might like to expand this program, offering seminars for parents and faculty and staff," she said.

## Veteran's Day Assembly Features Mr. Pat Conway, Former Marine and Harvard Grad

By **MARIEL KENNEDY (VI)**

The student body, faculty, and staff commemorated this year's Veterans Day, the date marking Armistice Day during World War I, with the annual assembly. Mr. Patrick A. Conway, a Vietnam War veteran, was the featured speaker.

The assembly commenced with the entire school reciting "The Pledge of Allegiance," led by Assistant Headmaster Mr. Jon Leef, the coordinator of the program. Afterward, Mr. Jay Winston led the student body in singing "America the Beautiful."

Mr. Leef then asked all audience members who had served in the armed forces to stand. With applause, students and faculty acknowledged members of the community who had served in the armed forces, including Mr. Miller Bugliari '52, Mr. Peter Thomson, Mr. Victor Nazario, and Mr. John Magadini.

Julia Johnstone (VI) said, "Recognizing veterans is particularly important. Often not enough time is spent honoring the people among us who have served our country."

Mr. Leef introduced Mr. Conway with a short segment of the documentary, "Harvard Beats Yale 29-29," which had

the clip because it accurately portrayed Mr. Conway's reluctance to speak about his Vietnam experience." Mr.

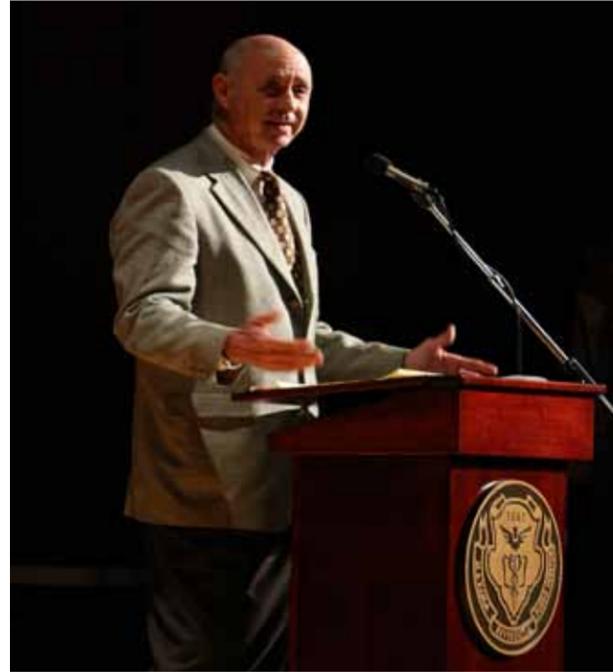
Football team, on which he excelled. He admitted, "At Harvard I was doing really well athletically, but not academically."

Because he was in jeopardy of losing his scholarship, Mr. Conway said, "I needed something structured to get my life reformed. Joining the Marine Corps satisfied this." During one eleven month enlistment in the Marine Corps, Mr. Conway was promoted four times. "Each step got more difficult," he explained.

During his time in the Marine Corps, Mr. Conway volunteered to serve in Vietnam twice. In Vietnam, he fought in the Battle of Khe Sanh, after which he was awarded one of the two Purple Hearts that he declined. Mr. Leef said, "It was valuable for the students to learn about Khe Sanh. It is a major part of military history that I think the majority of the student body does not know enough about."

After his two years of service in the Marine Corps, Mr. Conway returned to Harvard to complete his undergraduate degree. He later attended the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration.

Student response to Mr. Conway's speech was mostly positive, though some wished that they could have heard more about Vietnam and had more time for questions. As Liz Jolley (VI) said, "Mr. Conway had a wealth of experience to share with us. I just wish we could have asked questions."



**Mr. Conway spoke about his experiences in Vietnam at the annual Veteran's Day assembly.** Courtesy of Pingry

initially prompted Mr. Leef to invite Mr. Conway to address the student body.

Mr. Leef said he "showed

Leef added, "Speaking to the students was a really big step for Mr. Conway. He had never before addressed an audience about his experiences in Vietnam."

Mr. Conway began his speech by describing his upbringing in Haverhill, a Massachusetts textile town. He explained, "After graduating from public school, I attended Phillips Exeter Academy for refining." After Exeter, he entered Harvard College as a member of the Varsity

## Buttendowns Receive Positive Reviews for Solo Performances and Video

By **BEN KAMINOFF (IV)**

On Friday, November 18, the Middle and Upper schools congregated in Hauser Auditorium to view a performance by the Pingry's all-male select singing group, the Buttendowns.

The assembly starts off every year with a comical movie that stars the singers themselves. This

year's video was centered on the Buttendowns' attempt to obtain music selected by Dr. Pingry that had mysteriously disappeared. The group suspected that the Baladeers stole the music, which led them to go incognito and break into the O'Connor Board Room to procure the music.

The film got a good reception from the audience, which is important to the group considering



**R. Campbell (VI) serenades M. Laud (VI) during the assembly.** Courtesy of Mrs. McGrath

how much effort they put into it. "The movie is the most time-consuming part of the assembly," Dylan Sun (VI), the President of the Buttendowns, said. "We start planning it when school begins so that we have enough time to write, shoot, and edit it before mid-November."

After the movie, the Buttendowns sang four a

capella songs. The first song, "Don't Stop Me Now" by Queen, featured soloist Justin Sullivan (V).

Sixth grader Maddie Parrish, who heard the Buttendowns for the first time at this assembly, "especially enjoyed listening to 'Don't Stop Me Now.'" She added that she thought it was "amazing that they can perform the whole song so well without any instruments."

After "Don't Stop Me Now," the Buttendowns sang Sara Bareilles's "King of Anything," with Andrew Gorelick (VI) as soloist. According to Sun, "some Buttendowns were initially resistant to singing this song" because "nobody wanted to sing a solo about a girl accusing a boy of not treating her properly," but with the help of some altered lyrics, the group was able to make the song work for them.

The next performance was an original version of "The Cave," by Mumford & Sons, that was arranged by former members Ben Hamm Conard '11, Jeff Baum '11, and Thomas Schermerhorn '11. Will LaCosta (V) was featured as a soloist on this tune.

The assembly concluded with

"Stacy's Mom," by Fountains of Wayne, with soloist Ryan Campbell (VI). Campbell entertained the audience by serenading a surprised Maisie Laud (VI), who was chosen because her name rhymes with Stacy. In addition, Campbell and the rest of the group lifted Buttendowns member Hunter Stires (III), and strummed him like a guitar during an instrumental break that got many of the audience members laughing.

Overall, the assembly received positive reviews from the audience. Stephanie Lipper (IV) went so far as to say that "the Buttendowns assembly was the best assembly of the year so far." Tanay Gupta (IV) agreed, and he added, "not only was the video put together really well, but the group's staging and singing was remarkable." Senior Kaitlin Ulker said, "Of the many Buttendowns assemblies I've seen, the solo performances in this one were among the best. I was really impressed!"

The group itself was happy with the way its hard work turned out. "We prepared like mad for this assembly," said Sun. "I think all of the Buttendowns and Dr. Moore deserve a lot of credit for their performance."

## Seniors Begin the College Process

By **ANNA BUTRICO (IV)**

As of November 17, 110 seniors—eighty-five percent of the class—have sent in 288 early applications to 75 different colleges.

Of these 110 seniors, thirty percent applied for Early Decision, six percent applied for Early Action or Restrictive Early Action, and nine percent applied through Priority, Rolling, or other admissions.

Early Decision (ED) is a binding policy in which a student must commit to one school. Early Action (EA) is an early-notification program in which students find out early if they got into a particular school, but they are not required to attend if they are accepted. Restrictive Early Action (REA) is an early-notification

program in which students choose one school to apply early, but do not have to attend if they are admitted. Rolling admissions is an early-notification program, which allows applicants to find out shortly after they apply with no commitment.

Director of College Counseling Mr. Tim Lear '92 said, "This data is very consistent with the past five years." He added, "This year's senior class had to contend with an unusually powerful late October snow storm and power outage, but they handled this added stress well, improvising and revising their essays from hotel lobbies, Paneras, and Starbucks across the state."

As a result of October's power outages, the college counseling office encountered some difficulty filing applications. Mr. Lear noted that despite the inclement weather, "Our new administrative assistant, Pingry graduate and current parent Mrs. Amy Cooperman, kept everyone sane, contacting over 75 colleges to notify them of our situation. She successfully delivered dozens of student applications, by hand, to post offices throughout Somerset County."

## Seniors Strut Their Stuff on the Runway at Fall Fête

By **SARAH KIM (VI)**

On November 12, the seniors modeled at the PSPA Fall Fête event, which doubled as a fashion show.

The show took place in the Hyde and Watson gym, which had fall-themed decorations, an open bar and a large runway.

The senior girls wore outfits from Lord & Taylor, while the boys wore clothes from Brooks Brothers at the Short Hills Mall and Coleman's Tuxedos in Millburn. The girls wore colorful dresses

and gowns, while the boys modeled outfits that ranged from formal tuxedos to more casual wear. When asked about the clothes, Ned Christensen (VI) said, "We were so lucky to have such an iconic company as Brooks Brothers participate." Make-up artists and hair stylists from Lord & Taylor and Bellezza Salon in Warren did the girls' hair and makeup.

"Struttin' down the runway was definitely entertaining, but the real star was the pre-show dancer," Andrew Gorelick (VI) said, referring to a



**E. McCormick and K. Fischer walk arm in arm down the runway.** K. Ulker (VI)

man who performed stunts such as backflips at the start of the fashion show.

Despite the generally positive reactions of seniors like Christensen and Gorelick, there was still some feeling of nervousness among the models as they waited to walk the runway. "I had that excited-scared feeling—like 98% excited and 2% scared, or maybe 98% scared and 2% excited," Emily Haselton (VI) said.

Seniors walked the runway, usually in pairs, and posed at the middle and end of the

runway. Jonathan Freinberg (VI) photographed each of the seniors.

The event as a whole was a success. In spite of any anxieties, the models enjoyed the fashion show. "I think everyone had a great time with it," Hannah Kirmsler (VI) said. She added, "It was such a fun event."

## Green Group Makes Pingry Eco-Friendly

By MOLLY SCHULMAN (VI)

Under the leadership of Kit Tyson (VI), Kate Leib (VI) and Mr. Peter Delman, Green Group has taken on various initiatives to make Pingry's campus more environmentally friendly.

In addition, one of Green Group's main objectives this year, according to Mr. Delman, is "to get a stronger presence on the Pingry website and in Pingry's publications." The group has recently been brainstorming layout designs for a spot on the school webpage, and their next goal is to have their own link on the website by the end of the year.

The Green Group is also looking to add more ecology-focused courses to the school curriculum, such as Environmental Science and Environmental History. Leib thinks that adding courses like this would be an opportunity to expand the students' options when choosing classes. "Pingry could even offer AP Environmental Science as a challenging and interesting course for students who are interested," Leib said. Mr. Delman believes that the best way to get these courses added is "to lobby the administration and science department tirelessly until they say yes."

This year, Mr. Delman introduced the Environmental Studio Art class. Brian Hochberger (V), a member of the class, said, "We make art out of things we find in the environment and keep things organic." Emily Kamen (V) added, "In the future we hope to make our own paint and paper. We also want to make benches and sculptures for the garden so that more classes can take place out there." Mr. Delman hopes that the course will gain popularity as it becomes more familiar to students.

Green Group members are also working on making healthier snack options available in the bookstore, researching healthy, environmentally friendly foods that will appeal to teenagers.

History Teacher Mr. John

Crowley-Delman '97 fully supports the initiative, and said that, "when healthier options are added to the bookstore, every purchase students make will count as a vote to keep that option available. There is power in the numbers of students choosing to eat healthier." Tyson added, "Making the switch over to healthier food options is going to be a challenge, but the Green Group is willing to try and make the change."

Actions are also being taken to make Pingry's campus greener. At the latest meeting, Director of Facilities Mr. Mike Virzi was proud to report that the lighting in Pingry now uses 32 watts instead of 40 watts of energy. In addition, 1,048 solar panels have also been installed on the roofs, providing 20% of Pingry's power.

Mr. Virzi is also working on a plan to give benefits to Pingry students and faculty driving hybrid-fueled cars. "There will be a point system involved to get more Pingry students and faculty to drive more fuel-efficient cars," he said.

Outside of school initiatives, Green Group plans to continue exploring the natural world around them. They have paired up with The Mountain Club to go on hiking trips, including a trip to Mt. Greylock in the Berkshires that will feature a stop at the Mass Moca Art Museum. "Green Group is about really appreciating what's out there. People don't do that enough these days," Hochberger said. The Group has also thrown "Garden Parties," complete with banjo music provided by Will LaCosta (V) and freshly grown vegetables. The group plans to provide more events throughout the year to keep raising awareness of their initiatives.

As always, Green group continues to strive towards a larger role at the school. "I want to change everyone's attitudes about green initiatives at Pingry," Leib said. "People care about the environment, but they don't do anything. I want to get them more involved."



Musicians playing at the Garden Party.

K. Leib (VI)

## Carver Assembly Addresses Dating Abuse

By ALYSSA BAUM (IV)

On November 28, Mr. Tom Santoro spoke to the student body about violence and



Mr. Santoro addressed the Upper School on November 28.

Courtesy of Pingry

abuse in relationships as part of the fourth annual Carver Memorial Fund Assembly.

The Gilbert H. Carver '79 Memorial Fund was established in 2008 to honor the memory of Gibb Carver '79. The foundation sponsors one speaker each academic year to address the student body

on topics such as self-esteem, tolerance, drugs and alcohol. The fund also provides assistance to students who face emotional, psychological, physical, personal or family issues.

The founder of "Dear Lisa," a dating violence prevention program, Mr. Santoro travels across the country to speak at high schools and colleges about verbal, physical, and sexual abuse. During his speech, he stressed the importance of mutual respect and trust in healthy, safe relationships.

He also cautioned the students in the audience about unhealthy relationships, informing them that any act of abuse, whether it is verbal, physical, or sexual, is not appropriate in a relationship. He got students to consider

a fictional story involving a "perfect boyfriend" who "only" hit his girlfriend once in five months of dating.

After this informative portion of the assembly, Mr. Santoro quickly changed the tone once he began to tell his personal story. When his daughter Lisa was 18, she broke up with her boyfriend of five months and began to date someone else. A few months later, Lisa's ex-boyfriend tricked her into coming to his house, and then proceeded to beat her to death out of jealousy. According to Mr. Santoro, the ex was motivated by the idea "if I can't have her, nobody can."

Mr. Santoro showed the audience a video montage of his daughter's life, which concluded with a prayer to end violence that Lisa gave at her high school graduation.

Overall, Mr. Santoro's presentation received a very positive reception from students and faculty. Health teacher and Nurse Ms. Joy Livak said, "Mr. Santoro was a very heartfelt speaker who had a very strong message.

He was trying to make a very tragic event in his life positive by helping other people."

Natalie Gilbert (IV) agreed, saying, "I was very moved by Mr. Santoro's speech and his desire to spread awareness about a major issue that hasn't been emphasized enough in the United States. I think it is important for students and faculty to take the issues brought up by this assembly seriously and help Mr. Santoro spread his message."

Reeve Carver (IV), nephew of Gibb Carver '79, felt, "Mr. Santoro touched the hearts of everyone at Pingry. It is amazing that he could use his experience after his daughter's tragic death to teach students about the real dangers of dating violence."

As they walked out of Hauser Auditorium, female students received the same yellow ribbons that were worn in court during the trial after Lisa's death. These dating violence prevention ribbons are meant to remind everyone whenever they are going on a date that true relationships are built on respect and trust.

## Students Dress Up and Give Back to Community on Rufus Gunther Day

By ERIN BUTRICO (IV)

On Friday October 28, all students and faculty participated in the school's annual Rufus Gunther Day.

At the start of the day, the school was treated to the annual SAC assembly in Hauser Auditorium. The assembly was comprised of jokes in the traditional "Weekend Update" format, and included videos like "Jaywalking" and "What Would You Do" that were popular with the audience. In addition, students from each grade who dressed up for Halloween participated in a costume contest during the assembly.

The assembly was well received by the audience. "I thought that SAC did a great job," Taylor Wright (VI) said, "and the top ten faculty tweets were hilarious."

The SAC members were also proud of how it went. "We all came together and worked really hard, and it was nice to see that our hard work paid off," said Logan McGowan (VI). Sophomore Tanay Gupta added, "it was really fun to plan, and I think everyone got a good laugh out of it."

After SAC wrapped up, Director of Community Service

Ms. Shelley Hartz relayed to the school where every one would be going and the times at which they would leave, and then the student body headed out to help their community.

The freshman class was unique because unlike the other grades, all of the freshmen went to the same place: the Community Food Bank in Hillside. At the Food Bank, the freshmen were not only able to help out the community but they also enjoyed having an opportunity to spend time together as they worked. "Everyone worked well together and had fun," Hunter Stires (III) said.

As for the other grades, many students and teachers did their community service by spending the day with children and teenagers. Various groups went to places like The Link School, St. Justine's Preschool, Zadio's of the Oranges, and the Rockbrook School. Engaging with kids and young adults was a great experience for these students. "It was heartwarming to help and interact with kids around our age," Michael Werner (IV) said.

Although it was cold outside this year, a number of groups worked outdoors for their community service, offering their services to the Upper Raritan Wa-



J. Ogden (VI) plays with a student at a preschool on Rufus Gunther Day.

Courtesy of Pingry

ter Shed or the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Though the work required some manual labor, the people that went had a great time. As Anna Butrico (IV), who went to the Water Shed, said, "Even though my group got the dirty job of making bat houses, we all bonded and had a really great time."

Other groups spent their day at places like the Cancer Support Center, S.H.I.P., the American Red Cross Association, Grow-a-Row, Bridges Outreach, Habitat for Humanity, Covenant House, GLP, Interfaith Food Pantry, Spark-and-Rise, and ECLC.

Venturing to these places provided the volunteers with experiences at new organizations. "It was my first time going to ECLC

and I didn't know what to expect," Nicole Arata (V) said, "but it was rewarding to see the children's happy faces after we performed, and I would love to do it again."

The remaining advisory groups stayed on campus for their activities. These included making clay pots for the Wellness foundation, stuffing mailings for the JTB club, and making blankets for Brian's Dream.

Altogether, Rufus Gunther Day was a success. "The day went great," Ms. Hartz said. Although Ms. Hartz was pleased with how everything was organized and run, she did add that she would like to "give students even more opportunities to participate in community service."

## Administration Reconsiders Dress Code

By VINITA DAVEY (V)

Changes to the Dress Code that took effect on the first day of school have sparked school-wide debate between students and faculty members. The most controversial amendment to the Dress Code changes the required length skirt length from four to two inches above the knee.

Deciding to take concerns about the new Dress Code beyond hallway discussions, Lee Barker (VI) has led a student reform movement to revise the Dress Code. He began this in mid-October when he began circulating a petition to reform the policy. To date, the petition has received 437 signatures.

Barker said, "After I saw the

friction that it caused between teachers and students, I felt the need to do something about the situation. Students were responding by rebelling against the people who enforced the new rules." In his opinion, "Giving out detentions shouldn't be the solution." Instead, he said, "The student body should try to change the rules instead of breaking them."

In Barker's proposed version of the Dress Code, the minimum skirt length would be returned back to its original four inches. His petition also addresses the gender inequality in the Dress Code that Barker says "limits male students' choices." However, Barker emphasized that "what we would gain in terms

of the rules, we would give up in leniency of enforcement."

Ms. Ridie Markenson, Dean of Student Life, agreed with Barker's assertions about the necessity of dialogue about Dress Code related issues. She said, "I think it's great that the students are involved in this debate and are pushing for what will make them feel comfortable, rather than just expressing unconstructive criticism."

To provide a means for students to express their opinions, Ms. Markenson engaged Form V students in a discussion. She "was able to gain feedback on their concerns, which seemed to focus on skirt length and the gender inequality of the Dress Code. Boys wanted to know why

they have to tuck in oxford shirts while girls get to wear t-shirts."

Ms. Markenson added, "The Form V conversation was a great meeting. I am looking forward to the next few weeks to discuss the issue with the other classes." Of the meeting, Steve Sun (V) agreed that although "there were definitely a lot of clashing opinions, we were able to cover a lot of ground."

Barker is similarly optimistic. At first he "was a little surprised to see how flexible the administration is in dealing with this issue." However, he clarified, "I now understand their willingness to compromise stems from their desire to see this issue resolved in a way that works for both the students and faculty."

### Hits and Misses

#### Hits:

- Four "Electrical Days"
- Christmas tree arrives at senior couches
- Cheerful holiday assemblies
- "The Cherry Orchard"
- Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas are all the same week
- Econ class Pride bracelets and Smarties
- The Coffee House
- Quoc Vo/Apu staying until 3AM to fix Webmail

#### Misses:

- Losing two days of vacation
- Rejection letters arrive
- Depressing alcohol abuse assemblies
- Muffled microphones in Hauser Auditorium
- Teachers cramming in work before Winter Break
- 50° weather in December
- Webmail going down for 2 days

## “Bumping into Intangibles” by the Movis Group of Princeton on Display in Gallery

By KATHERINE THOMAS (V)

The exhibit “Bumping into Intangibles” by the Movis group of Princeton was on display until December 13 in the Hostetter Gallery. This exhibit encourages viewers to solve problems creatively as well as acquire a better understanding of oneself, the community, and the world by evoking intangibles in nature.

Movis, a group comprised of seven visual artists and one composer, meets weekly to discuss a broad range of art-related topics. Movis is known for its site-specific thematic shows which challenge the viewer to rethink what he or she sees and what he or she knows. Fine Arts teacher Mr. Peter Delman said, “The artwork is ephemeral and magical. It forces viewers to look hard and unlock its secrets.”

In his own review of the show, Mr. Delman wrote, “Words as much as images ricochet around this show like white magic, set-

ting off little flashes in the mind. The space is alive with words. Clouds, too, are in abundance. ‘Desire,’ by Berendina Buist, features the word desirecon-



structured of small white circular ‘cloudettes.’ In ‘Ten Thousand Words,’ by Frank Magalhaes,

the text itself is the raw material that creates the image, mostly a background of cloudlike eddies. In Marsha Levin-Rojer’s ‘I-Cloud,’ an evanescent cloud of monofilament floats among the gallery lights and casts shadows that feel as physical as the sculpture itself,” Mr. Delman wrote.

“Why clouds?” he continued. “What better metaphor to evoke the intangible? In ‘Edge of The Cloud,’ Randy West takes the idea to the limit, making a cloud image out of nothing at all via multiple scannings of a blank sheet of paper,” he concluded.

Overall, the exhibit received positive reviews from students who viewed it. After Stephanie Wilf (V) heard artist Rita Asch’s sound piece entitled “Sounds of Silence,” she said, “I thoroughly enjoyed this unique piece of art because it is different from a typical painting found on a wall.”

The piece focuses on the absence of sound by weaving together the digital texture of a theremin, an electronic instrument known for its haunting sound, with the spoken word, “silent.”

Mr. Nigel Paton, English and Art History teacher, enjoyed Eve Ingall’s sculpture “After Thought,” which shows the silhouette of a city traffic plan in Brazil, suspended above a pack of tiny paper buses.

Ingalls reminds Mr. Paton of sculptor Charles Ledray who also miniaturizes everyday objects. Mr. Paton said, “The small buses made of paper in ‘After Thought’ resemble the tiny clothes on hangers in Ledray’s mens’ suits. Both artists place familiar objects on the floor and therefore force viewers to observe them from above.” Mr. Paton added, “The scale of the objects makes the viewer feel large and powerful... [the objects] seem small and vulnerable making you feel as if you want to protect them.”

## Fans Still Adore Kermit and the Gang in 2011

By CHRISTINE KUMAR (VI)

With the release of the new movie, “The Muppets,” Jim Henson’s beloved Muppets have slowly started to become relevant again. Whether it was their hilarious appearance on Saturday Night Live with host Jason Segel, who stars in the film, the popular music video for the Muppets theme by OK GO, or the movement for Kermit and the gang to host the Oscars, the Muppets have officially returned to the media spotlight.

“The Muppets” is the story of Walter, a Muppet who grows up in Smallville, USA with big brother Gary, played by Jason Segel. Walter accompanies Gary and his long-time girlfriend, Mary, played by the perpetually sweet Amy Adams, to Los Angeles where they tour the old Muppets studio. During this visit, Walter learns that Tex Richman, an oilman played by Chris Cooper, is planning to tear down the studio to access the oil underneath. Kermit and the rest of the Muppets gang get back together to perform one last show to raise the \$10 million to save their studio.

Although the plot line is nothing special, “The Muppets” is an adorable movie that reminds audiences why the Muppets were TV icons in the seventies. All the characters are the same – Kermit is a fearless leader, Fozzie is the cheesy jokester, and Miss Piggy is still the diva

who is madly in love with Kermit. Even their final show is in the same format as the “Muppets Show” from the seventies, including the same catchy theme song and hilarious skits.

The movie reveals what has happened to each Muppet after the dissolution of the “Muppets Show.” Fozzie has moved to Reno and started a new puppet group, named “The Moppets.” Miss Piggy has become an independent pig living in Paris as an editor of Vogue magazine without Kermit, and Gonzo has become the president of a toilet company, but he still wears his superhero costume under his suit.

The most fun aspect of “The Muppets” is the numerous celebrity cameos. Emily Blunt is Miss Piggy’s rigid assistant, Jack Black is Animal’s sponsor in an anger management class, and Sarah Silverman is a cranky waitress. Even Rico Rodriguez of Modern Family stops by to help raise money but only because he thinks that Kermit is a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle.

“The Muppets” is a fun, worthwhile movie experience, filled with the cheesy jokes and songs synonymous with the Muppets of old. Look for Kermit and Miss Piggy’s rendition of “The Rainbow Connection,” a song from the original Muppets movie that will bring any Muppets fan to tears and will be stuck in your head for days.



Courtesy of Google

## “La Haine” Showing Intrigues and Inspires

By VINITA DAVEY (V) and BEN KAMINOFF (IV)

Beginning at 6 PM on Friday November 11, students and faculty members attended a screening of the controversial French film, “La Haine,” directed by Mathieu Kassovitz. Upper School History teacher Mr. John Crowley-Delman ‘97 organized this screening. “La Haine,” translated into “Hate,” is set amidst raging protests against police brutality occurring in the projects on the outskirts of Paris. The film documents one day in the lives of three teenage boys of different ethnic backgrounds. Throughout the film, the three boys are struggling to cope with the violence that pervades their world.

“While I was looking for an appropriate film, I chose ‘La Haine,’” Mr. Crowley-Delman said, “because it connects with the audience and allows students to gain an understanding of issues from the perspective of people who feel powerless.”

Mr. Crowley-Delman added, “I was really pleased with

the positive reception and great turnout.” Alec Kaisand (V) praised the film, saying, “‘La Haine’ is the best movie I’ve seen in a couple of years.”

After the film concluded, Mr. Crowley-Delman and English teacher Ms. Alisha Davlin led a discussion in which students and faculty members could express their reactions to the film.

Rabia Khan (IV) said, “The film shows that people often come together when they are mutually affected by an issue in society, despite differences like race and ethnicity.”



Courtesy of Google

## Annual Festival Puts All in the Holiday Spirit

By NICOLE BLUM (V)

On Wednesday, December 7, the Martinsville and Short Hills campuses congregated in the Hauser Auditorium for the annual All-School Festival. Musical selections performed by students of all ages celebrated the spirit of the holiday season.

In accordance with tradition, “Deck the Halls” initiated the concert, and the audience was invited to sing along. Headmaster Mr. Nathaniel Conard greeted the audience and added a reminder that the holiday season should focus more on community than commercialism. Then, Mr. Victor Nazario brought Mrs. Ward, from the organization Lift for Learning, onstage, who came from Elizabeth to express her thanks for the cans that had been collected by students and then

distributed to needy families. She was presented with gifts, including a maple sapling tree.

The customary candle lighting followed, with Student Body President Marisa Werner (VI) helping kindergartner Charlie Harrison to reach the wick. “Although I didn’t get to pick her up, it was extremely rewarding to be a part of this holiday concert,” says Werner. “I truly felt the sense of unity in the Pingry community.”

The 6th Grade Girls’ Chorus sang “Celtic Gloria” by Kirby Shaw, and the 6th Grade Boys’ Chorus sang an arrangement of “Shalom” by Sally K. Albrecht. The 5th Grade Chorus presented “Our Gift to You” by James Curnow, a warm selection about giving peace, joy, and love. The music was accompanied with sign language. Another piece by

## Johnny Pflieger Explores the Rock Opera

By JOHNNY PFLIEGER (VI)

Like most sensible people of our generation, I have never met an opera that I liked. Somewhere between foreign languages, ridiculous costumes, and clichéd plot lines, the concept of opera lost me. I enjoy a dramatic love story as much as the next guy, which is not very much. However, when I heard about Tommy, a deaf, dumb, and blind boy, and Jimmy, a schizophrenic adolescent, my opinion began to change.

These two characters of their respective rock operas were from just that, “rock” operas. For the majority of you who are not familiar with the term “rock opera,” it is exactly what it sounds like: an opera set to rock and roll music.

Rock operas are quite different from an album that simply tells a story. Pete Townshend’s “Tommy” and “Quadrophenia” are both rock operas that not only tell a story through the lyrics of each individual song like an album, but they also tie together an idea using different musical and lyrical motifs. Rock operas are fluid, creating a flow between the story and the music.

The Who’s first rock opera, “Tommy,” is the tale of a deaf, dumb, and blind boy’s search for a cure to his ailments while on a path to enlightenment. This opera was a gallant first stab at a very difficult concept, but in the end the only notable aspect was its hit song “Pinball

Wizard.”

Four years later, Townshend struck gold with his second and final rock opera, entitled “Quadrophenia.” It tells the story of Jimmy, the schizophrenic adolescent searching for his identity, and takes us through all four of the boys’ separate personalities: the tough guy, the romantic, the lunatic, and the hypocrite beggar. The opera is defined by its extremely powerful and beautiful instrumentals, the main instrumental scores being “Quadrophenia” and “The Rock.” These two songs in particular are remarkable in that they take the listener through all of Jimmy’s different and conflicting emotions with such ease, making the experience relaxing for the listener as opposed to stressful and unattainable.

The Who not only managed to perfect their image of the rock opera with these works, but more importantly they also laid the foundation for all others to come. Without the influences of “Tommy” and “Quadrophenia,” pieces like David Bowie’s “The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars” or Andrew Lloyd Webber’s “Jesus Christ Superstar” may have never been written.

Townshend’s success with the rock opera pushed other great songwriters to take up the challenge, thus expanding the parameters of popular music. Without these works I, and many others, may have never appreciated the beauty that rock operas at their best can achieve.

The Student Diversity Leadership Council and the Islamic Awareness Club spon-

sored the viewing, and the clubs held a pizza and popcorn sale prior to the start of the film to benefit Stand Up for Kids, an organization which works to end youth poverty and homelessness. This was fitting when considering the disadvantages the characters in “La Haine” faced.

“La Haine” is the first in a series of international films that will be shown at Pingry. The series will be comprised of independent films, which Mr. Crowley-Delman hopes will “force students to think and pay attention to important issues, as well as expose students to cultures they don’t see on an everyday basis.”

James Curnow, “Christmas Troika,” followed, played by the 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Strings. The Upper School’s Wind Symphony performed “Christmas Festival,” a traditional-style piece arranged by Leroy Anderson.

The Balladeers and Button-downs then joined forces for “Baby It’s Cold Outside” by Frank Loesser, arranged by Sean Salamon ’10. Mr. Jay Winston accompanied the singers by ringing a small bell. Buttondown Ryan Campbell (VI) said, “Even though the seating arrangement on the risers was squished, and it was too hot and crowded onstage, being able to sing ‘Baby It’s Cold Outside’ with my fellow Button-downs and the Balladeers really got me feeling the quirkiness of the holiday season.”

Next, the Upper School Jazz Band performed their own ar-

range of “You’re A Mean One, Mr. Grinch” by Albert Hague. The Middle School Handbells Ensemble then gracefully reproduced another classic Christmas tune, “Little Drummer Boy,” arranged by Ms. Martha Lynn Thompson.

In celebration of Hannukah, the combined choruses and instrument ensembles performed the traditional Jewish hymn “Maoh Tzur,” arranged by Mr. Sean McAnally. Together, they also performed “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” a traditional English song while the song’s lyrics were displayed on a projection screen so that the audience could sing along. “The Twelve Days of Christmas” really unified the school,” says Brian Li (V). “The holiday concert was a great way to kick off the holiday season.”

# Varsity Wrestling Expects a Breakout Year Boys' Basketball Seeks to Rebound with Leadership from Strong Class of Seniors

By ANDREW ALDER (IV)

The Varsity Wrestling team is looking forward to a great season after finishing last year with a record of 7-9. Last season was pivotal for the team, as this was the most wins they have earned in 11 years. To put this into perspective, Head Coach Mark Facciani said, "we had only won seven matches in our previous three years combined."

The team is led by captains Dan Abend (VI), Sergio Gomez (VI), and Johnny Pflieger (VI), who believe they can go above and beyond last year's performance. "We are really confident in this team's ability to have a winning record this season," Gomez said.

In order to reach the success they are searching for, the team will have to match some of the great performances from last season, including the Summit High School quad match, where Big Blue went undefeated, winning all three of their matches against Orange, Chatham, and Summit. "The

Summit quad showed that not only can we beat other good teams, but most importantly, we can win consistently," said Pflieger. "This year, that match is on our schedule again, and we know that we can repeat that performance."

The team has a few goals that they want to accomplish this year in order to succeed. "We expect a strong showing from our returning varsity guys," said Abend, "and we want to not only beat the easy teams, but also teams that have given us difficulty in previous seasons."

One of those teams is Manville, and according to Abend, "beating Manville is something all of our upperclassmen are eager to do this year."

Right now, the team feels confident that they can put together the strong season they are looking for. "With the guys we have this year," Gomez said, "we are not only capable of having a winning record, but also of making it further into the state tournament, and seeing some guys do well individually in tournaments."

By GAURAV GUPTA (III)

The Varsity boys' Basketball team is looking to improve all around this winter. After finishing with a record of 11-12 last year, the squad expects to have a more successful season this time around.

The team, led by head coach Mr. Jason Murdock and assistant coaches Mr. Mike Scancarella, Mr. Drew McLaughlin, and Mr. Frank Dolce, is expecting a productive season. The squad believes that the talent and strong chemistry of the current players, mixed with some hard work and dedication, will lead them to victory.

The players have been doing their part by practicing often in the offseason and by choosing to start preseason early so they will be ready

to go by the time they have their first game.

Captains Daniel Keller (VI) and Justin Shangold (VI), who play small forward and shooting guard respectively, are confident about the potential of the team. "I think we will play better this year than last year," Keller said. "We have eliminated our off-court issues and hopefully we'll have an injury-free season".

According to Keller, the team also expects to see an improvement in their offense because they have imple-



Captain D. Keller (VI) makes a pass in a game against Manville.

mented "an up-tempo style of play this year, hopefully getting us a lot more easy baskets."

Shangold agreed that this year's team has a strong

chance at success. "We have a good senior class this year that will show great leadership, and we're all excited to get the season started and make winning a habit."

## Girls' Swimming Seeks State Title

By STEPHANIE YEH (IV)

This winter, the Varsity girls' Swimming team, headed by team captain Cailee Cassidy (VI) and assistant captain Yvonne Jeng (VI), as well as head coach Ms. Judy Lee, is aspiring to excel in their conference and at the state tournament.

The Skyland conference is highly competitive in girls' swimming, consisting of historically strong teams like Lawrenceville and Montgomery. This does not stop Cassidy from feeling confident about the team's abilities. "We have a really strong lineup this year, and we are very thrilled. It will be interesting to see how the team will come together," she stated.

The team is especially enthu-

siastic about the addition of new swimmers. The team consists of 16 girls, eight of whom are new. Alli Dorneo (IV), a Varsity team member, said, "I'm very excited about the new additions to the team." She added, "The team was really small last year, which was a disadvantage for us."

The girls are excited about their chances this year, especially after a disappointing defeat last year at the state semi-finals. That makes them even more determined to succeed this season. They are also well aware that they need to focus on taking the season one meet at a time before they focus on the state tournament.

"Making the state finals would be ideal, but right now we have to focus on making it to the first round of states," Cassidy asserted.

## Ski Team Eager to Hit the Slopes

By AMANDA HULSE (V)

The coed Varsity Ski Team, led by captains Brad Erickson (VI) and Madeline Higgins (VI), is excited about the new season. Part of this enthusiasm comes from the excitement about welcoming two new coaches, Mr. Chris Kaisand and Mr. John Nielson, who will be joining Ms. Malla Godfrey on the coaching staff.

Team member Alec Kaisand (V) said that he believes the new coaching additions will be effective in helping the team improve, and will allow them to "accomplish our goal of reaching states like we did last year."

The team is eager to get

the season going, not only to prepare for success at their meets, but also because they enjoy spending quality time with their friends on the team. According to Erickson, "It's a really great group of people, and the best part about ski team is that with those long bus rides, you really get to know the people on the team."

The great chemistry on the ski team is not just fun for the skiers, but is also a part of the reason that the team believes they can succeed. "I'm very excited for my last year as a member of the team," Hannah Kirmser (VI) said, "because I think that the close relationship between the team members will help us have a great season."



Sophomore Alli Dorneo races breaststroke in a meet.

## Fencing Team Foils the Competition

By GLADYS TENG (III)

The Varsity boys' and girls' Fencing teams are excited for a fun and successful season with captains Cara Solina (VI), Edward Kong (VI), Sophia Feng (V), and Stephen Rienzi (V) leading the way. In addition, the team has great leadership in the form of Head Coach Mr. Ted Li and Assistant Coaches Mrs. Tatyana Stankovych, Mr. Vasyi Stankovych, and Ms. Miyako DeRose. To produce a successful sea-

son, the captains and coaches are looking to instill more confidence into all of the fencers. They plan to do so through winning, which means the team leaders are looking for another strong season from the girls and an improvement in the boys' record.

According to Solina, a great way to get the team ready to win is "to get as many fencers as possible to participate in tournaments, inside and outside of school." She believes that this extra experience al-

lows the team to improve more quickly.

One obstacle the team faces this year is a lack of boys' foil fencers, which means that some additional effort will be required to make the boys competitive at their meets. Solina, however, is not worried about this issue. She said that the solution is "quickly training some freshmen and preparing the two boys who already fence foil." She believes that following this plan "will maximize the team's performance in

meets and tournaments."

Kong knows that training the new fencers and freshman will not be an easy task. "I still remember how confusing it can be to someone who has never fenced before," he said.

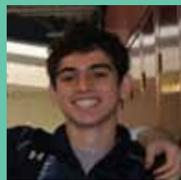
He does believe that the job can be done, and that the new fencers can be ready to perform early on in the year.

"The team is going to start off slow with introductions to fencing and then hit the ground running before our first meet," Kong said.



Sarah Meyers (VI) fends off another foilist.

## Word in the Hall: What is your New Year's Resolution?



**LOUIE MONTEAGUDO (IV)**  
"To drink more milk."



**DANA WANG (III) & GABBY STERN (III)**  
"To stop procrastinating!"



**ALEX CASTLE (VI) AND HARRY SKINNER (VI)**  
"To get a date with Ms. Olesky."



**JUSTIN SULLIVAN (V)**  
"To ask Freddy Elliot to Snowball."



**FREDDY ELLIOT (VI)**  
"To say no to Justin Sullivan."

## Boys' Ice Hockey Looks to Dominate the Skylands Conference Again This Season

By ALLIE McMANUS (IV)

After a dominating season last year in which the boys' Ice Hockey team finished at 17-5-3, Head Coach Mr. John Magadini and Captains Nick Branchina (VI) and Patrick Lackey (VI) are looking forward to a promising season this winter. Even though the squad lost star player Matt Beattie '11, the Star-Ledger Central Jersey player of the year, Lackey said he "definitely expects to have another strong year."

With Lackey and Branchina at the helm, the close-knit group is treating each practice, scrimmage, and game as though it's their last. "We know how much potential we have to succeed in this conference," Lackey said. "It's just a matter of harnessing our talent and channeling it in the most efficient way possible in order to achieve

our lofty goals every time we step onto the ice."

Last season's loss to state-champs Delbarton in the quarterfinals of the state tournament ended their bid and their season, but Branchina says that the disappointment is motivating the team to work harder so they can get a better seed in upcoming tournaments.

Lackey emphasized how much fan support boosts the squad at home games. "We know it's cold, but when fans come out to support us at BSA no matter who the opponent is, it makes a huge difference."

This year, Branchina said the team hopes to win the Skylands Conference Championship, as they did last year, and the prep tournament. Branchina says that the team is "expecting to be contenders in the State Tournament, where we hope to reach the Semi-Finals at the least."



Captain N. Branchina (VI) carries the puck into the neutral zone in a game against Hillsborough.

## Girls' Ice Hockey Has a Bright Future

By RACHEL LIMA (V)

On November 15, the Varsity girls' Ice Hockey team had their first practice of the season, with captains Florence Ma (VI) and Kit Tyson (VI) leading the promising squad.

Last year, the team concluded the season with their first winning record in seven years, at 7-6-1. After that strong finish, the team is beginning to prepare for the months ahead. Tyson noted, "We were lucky enough to have a wonderful turnout this year, and I'm very excited for the season."

For the past ten years, Mr. Sean McAnally has been the Head Coach of the team. Mr. McAnally asserted that his main goals are "to have a winning season, help the

players improve, and have fun."

Last year, The Star Ledger named Mr. McAnally Coach of the Year. He joked, "It's amazing what a good coach I am when I get really great players." Kacey Weiniger (III), a new addition to the team, is excited to play this season. She noted, "Everyone on the team is awesome, funny, and is always cheering me on."

Hanna Beattie (V), the leading goal scorer for the team, agrees. "I'm really looking forward to another fun hockey season and I'm hoping for another winning record," she said.

Samantha Korn (IV) added, "Last year was the best experience I've ever had on a team, but I know this year is going to be even better."



H. Beattie (V) leaves her opponent behind as she heads for the goal in a game against Princeton.

## Squash Capitalizes on Individual Talent

By CHARLOTTE ZEE (IV)

The Varsity boys' and girls' Squash team, led by Captains Sarah Park (VI) and Justin Trousdale (V), is ready for another season of challenging competition.

This winter, twelve new players joined the team, filling the roster spots left vacant by graduating seniors. Assistant Coach Mr. Keith Vassall said, "We have a young, promising team."

The squad practices and plays its home matches at Drew University in Madison. But unlike most Pingry teams, when it isn't home the Squash team plays

the highlight of the season, determining where in the country Pingry's team ranks.

Second year Varsity Squash player Liz Herman (IV) is looking forward to expanding the team and getting to know the new faces. She said that her goals are to "win more matches and bond with the team so that it's more cohesive."

"Whether it is on the court or off, our players can learn a lot from each other," said Head Coach and sixth-grade Science teacher Mr. Ramsay Vehslage. "I am looking forward to having the opportunity to develop some new talent on both the boys' and



E. Herman (IV) in the course of hitting a serve in a match against Poly Prep.

schools as far as an hour and a half away, since the competition in high schools is limited. Among these are the Hill School in Pennsylvania, the Lawrenceville School, and Poly Prep in Brooklyn.

As always, the team is especially excited for the annual trip to High School Nationals, which takes place in four locations near New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University, Wesleyan University, Trinity College, and Choate Rosemary Hall boarding school. To most on the team, this is

the girls' teams," he added.

Park agreed with Mr. Vehslage and hopes that "individual players can grow and improve throughout the course of the season."

According to Park, unity and camaraderie are always features that allow the Squash team to succeed. "I consider the team to be a miniature family," Park said. "We are all really close and everyone is so supportive."

Mr. Vassall concluded, "As long as our players play hard and give it their all in matches, I'm pretty happy with the results."

## Girls' Basketball Aims High for 2012

By ALLISON YU (IV)

The Varsity girls' Basketball team is anticipating a successful year, and the girls are confident about their chances to rack up wins in the regular and the post seasons.

The team is coming off a very successful performance last season in which they finished with a record of 17-4 and shared the conference title with Mount St. Mary Academy, their biggest rival.

This year, led by captains Erin Jenson (V) and Kate Sienko (V), the girls believe that they can match those achievements, if not surpass them.

"We have a great team dynamic, and I think this

year we have good potential to win consistently," Sienko said. The girls are also benefitting from the addition of new coach Ms. Courtney Tierney, whom Jenson believes gives them "fresh knowledge and tremendous skill."

To keep themselves focused, the girls set some goals they hope to achieve this year. "We plan to work hard, gain more wins than last year, and beat Mount St. Mary's in both the January home and away games," explained Jenson.

Jenson also added that the team is especially focusing on winning those rivalry games against Mount St. Mary's. "We've been mentally gearing up for those," she said.

## Boys' Swimming Continues to Succeed

By ABHIRAM KARUPPUR (III)

The boys' Varsity Swimming team, led by team captain



J. Ross (VI) about to dive into the water at Preps.

David Sukhin (VI) and assistant captains Alexander Ingrassia (VI) and Jason Ring (VI), has high hopes about the current season. Ring said, "We are at a

very high level and would like to be number one in the state." Ring also enthusiastically noted the number of new freshmen that have decided to try out for the swim team this year.

Despite the loss of Olympic hopeful and Star-Ledger Swimmer of the Year Nic Fink '11 to the University of Georgia, Ingrassia says the team hopes to "be undefeated," just as they were in the 2009-2010 season. Ingrassia also credited the swim team's success in previous years to coaches Mr. Steve Droste and Mr. Bill Reichle, whom he described as "the best coaches we could have

ever had."

Mr. Reichle, who is celebrating his 25th year coaching, said he "likes the team's chances of being repeat state champions." Mr. Reichle also noted that there are "eight seniors and nine freshmen, which is a nice mix," but he hopes that "everyone will contribute to the success of the team."

Ring said that a major goal for the team is to "win the county championship." Mr. Droste agreed, adding that they would like to "win [their] fifth straight state championship," too. On a personal level, Mr. Reichle said his goal is to make "everybody a little better; not only as citizens, but as a community."

## Winter Track and Field Gets in Shape

By ANDREW VERDESCA (III)

The boys' and girls' Varsity Winter Track team is gearing up for a new season with Captains Rebecca Curran (VI), Emily McCormick (VI), Jose Barrionuevo (VI), and Ben Ballintyn (VI) at the helm.

According to McCormick and Curran, the team plans "to get everyone in shape and have a good time."

Under Head Coach Mr. Tim Grant, the Winter Track athletes compete indoors in events such as high jump,

sprinting, hurdles, pole vault, shot put, and distance running.

"They will put these skills to the test in seven to ten meets, including the Bishop Laughlin Games in New York City, which features 5,000 athletes across various events," Mr. Grant said.

Curran said being on the "team is very relaxing, the teammates are fun, and there is not a lot of pressure." Coach Grant concurs, calling track, "A great way to spend your winter."

The Editors would like to thank Mr. Bruce Morrison '64 for taking sports photographs and allowing the Record to use them.