

Juniors and Seniors Meet with Alumni During the Annual Career Day

By ANNA BUTRICO (VI)

What do a neurosurgeon, a CIA analyst, and a Huffington Post editor have in common? They are all Pingry alumni who returned to campus on January 24 to talk to juniors and seniors for this year's annual Career Day.

Mr. André Birotte Jr. '83, the day's keynote speaker, connected with students by describing his own personal apprehensions in high school about what his "future might bring." He then described his journey to become the United States Attorney of the Central District of California and made sure, upon closing his speech, to leave students with advice. He stressed the power of "cultivating mentors" as well as the importance of patience because he said, "choosing a career is a journey."

Students were then dismissed to the first of three lectures. The topics varied from Applied Science, to Entrepreneurship, to Media, to Performing and Visual Arts, to Psychology. Stephanie Yeh (VI) appreciated that there were two alumni in every room so students could "get multiple perspectives" regarding each given career focus. For example, both a freelance writer and the Features Editor for Vanity Fair Magazine led the Media discussion, and both a Wardrobe Supervisor and an actress spoke at the Per-

form VI students, who will be going off to college next year, particularly enjoyed the insight from the alumni. "The doctors in the medicine section gave us advice on how to prepare for a career during college, which was incredibly help-

ful," Andrew Supron (VI) said. Natalie Gilbert (VI) agreed and added, "I personally loved Mr. Birotte. After hearing his speech, I'm now thinking of looking into criminal justice or law as a potential career or

and exciting." Fred Chang (V) added that, "Even if we know what we want to do with our lives, we could find ourselves on a totally different path another day. I think that's pretty cool."

Angel Fluet (VI) was impressed by the Public Service lecture and said she enjoyed Mr. John Green's '60 talk about his tenure as an analyst for the CIA. Overall, Fluet appreciated the "candid honesty" of some of the speakers and their truthful explanations of the time and commitment their occupations require.



Writer for the David Letterman Show Tom Ruprecht '87 and Huffington Post Editor Lance Gould '83 came back for Career Day.

forming Arts lecture.

Form VI students, who will be going off to college next year, particularly enjoyed the insight from the alumni. "The doctors in the medicine section gave us advice on how to prepare for a career during college, which was incredibly help-

ISP (Independent Senior Project)."

This was the first Career Day for juniors, who are only just beginning their college search. Caitlin Mahoney (V) said that career day made her "realize that there is so much out there to explore, that's all different

Career Day reminded Pingry students, who are often incredibly engrossed in their own school work, of the vast opportunities that await them beyond the school's walls. After talking with and observing the success of all the alumni, students left the day with a sense of confidence for what the future outside of Pingry will bring.



Boys' Swimming has earned a 3-5 record this season, with Captains Matt Barickman, Ryan Storms, and Jeffrey Dong (VI). P. 8

Mrs. Cooperman '90 Becomes College Counselor

By JULIA AXTELL (IV)

This January, Mrs. Amy Cooperman '90 became a full-fledged college counselor after serving as the College Counseling Office Coordinator for the past three years. Mrs. Cooperman is excited to not only get the chance to work with a college counseling group, but to also get to know Pingry's Class of 2015.

Mrs. Cooperman worked in New York City after graduating from Hamilton College before returning to Pingry. Initially, she worked in New York City in marketing for L'Oreal and advertising on brands like Kraft Foods and Johnson & Johnson. After the birth of her son Charlie, Mrs. Cooperman stopped working, but once he started kindergarten, she looked forward to returning to work. Since she did not want to commute much or travel for business trips very often, Mrs. Cooperman's friend suggested she apply for a job at Pingry, which she is thankful she did. She is also grateful for the support she has received from her colleagues since earning her promotion to college counselor.

Mrs. Cooperman is no stranger to college counseling, since she had a college counselor herself. Pingry has always been known for its strong college counseling staff and she found the college counselors during her

time here easily accessible and willing to help her navigate the process. Mrs. Cooperman said that working with her college counselor was one of her best experiences at Pingry and is still grateful for all her counselor had done for her. She also appreciates the small sizes of the counseling groups as they enable students to get more attention and support.

In terms of changes throughout the years, Mrs. Cooperman said that the process has changed quite a bit. For starters, social media adds a new level of publicity that was not there before. The application process is also a lot more competitive than it was in previous years. Internet applications are more efficient than having to handwrite her applications.

Mrs. Cooperman says that being the College Counseling Office Coordinator has given her good insight into the role of a counselor. She is fortunate to already be familiar with the college representatives that visit Pingry. To prepare for her new role, she visited many college campuses over the summer and will continue to do so this spring. She also joked that after doing so much reading about colleges, she "needs glasses."

Mrs. Cooperman enjoys college counseling because it plays to her strengths of analyzing statistics and writing. Because col-

By MATT FROMM (V)

If you're a student at Pingry, you pay \$34,714 for classes, \$1,154 for lunch, and around \$1,000 for textbooks. Sending a child to the Pingry Upper School is roughly equivalent to the average American's annual income. With such a hefty price tag, many ask where those tuition dollars are spent and utilized—in other words, where is our money going?

To answer this question, I spoke with Mr. Olaf Weckesser, the school's Chief Financial Officer, who helped articulate a response. He said that, "Tuition doesn't really 'go' anywhere, per se, but in general it is the largest source of revenue for the school."

It is Pingry's central method of raising money, and gross tuition dollars account for 77 percent of the school's annual budget. Mr. Weckesser noted that this is a much higher percentage than most colleges and universities—where at Princeton, for example, tuition makes up around 20 percent of annual revenue.

Pingry's tuition money is not so much "spent in one place," he said, as it is spread around to finance the school's greatest costs. "The single biggest expense is the salaries of the faculty and staff," Mr. Weckesser said, "in addition to the costs of supplies, as well as our educational, art, science, and athletic programs." When added to the maintenance of the buildings, these costs can add up quickly.

Aside from the 77 percent that tuition provides, the remaining 23 percent of Pingry's annual funding comes from three primary sources: donations made to the school, money taken from Pingry's endowment, and the school's auxiliary programs.

These auxiliary programs, which Mr. Mark Facciani leads, are additional opportunities for revenue that the school sponsors outside of the traditional curriculum. The SAT Prep program, after-school courses for the Middle School, and the AP English classes leading up to the May exams are examples of such activities. In general, these four sources make up a vast majority of the school's annual revenue.

"Tuition Runs Out Day," an annual Pingry event, has been

established as a one-day marathon to raise money on the day that tuition figuratively "runs out." It is intended to remind the community that "Pingry could not operate without tuition, nor could it operate on tuition alone," Mr. Weckesser said.

Another commonly asked question is why tuition increases every year rather than remaining constant for an extended period of time. The "short answer," Mr. Weckesser said, is that "the world gets more expensive every year, meaning that inflation raises prices." Mr. Weckesser noted that, "Our rate of tuition increase has been declining for some time."

For instance, school tuition increased only 4.2 percent for the 2013-14 academic year, which was less than the increase in the 2012-13 school year. This year's tuition had the lowest increase since the 1960s, which is as far back as Pingry has maintained reliable financial records. This decreased tuition hike comes from a lessened cost of "school maintenance," meaning all expenses save salaries and employee benefits.

As Pingry has become more efficient in operating the school, those maintenance costs are becoming less and less significant. For example, the solar panels on top of the building have made the school more energy-efficient, saving the cost of electricity. Mr. Weckesser added that, "The administration and the Board of Trustees aim to continue having those tuition increases decrease each year."

Pingry's annual operating revenue is around \$45 million, and since expenses sometimes go beyond that, the school "is constantly looking for ways to generate revenue from sources other than family donations."

The school also maintains a financial aid program for students who cannot meet the full costs of tuition, which annually grants \$5 million to aid 15 percent of the student body. During our interview, Mr. Weckesser was delivered a \$9,000 electricity check requiring his signature. And that's just the tip of the iceberg that keeps Pingry afloat. The school spends its money "as wisely as possible," he added, given that "providing an excellent education is not intrinsically a cheap business."

lege counseling is about connecting, she said, "It isn't dissimilar to marketing or advertising." And as she once said at a college evening for parents, "it was always

gratifying to see a product get to shelf while I was in marketing, but now there is nothing quite like the excitement of seeing a student get in to a college."



Mrs. Cooperman '90

R. Davis (VI)

Inside The Record

Snowball Dance

Students enjoyed the annual semi-formal winter dance, which was Sadie Hawkins-style. Freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors were all invited. P. 4

Buttndowns Assembly

The Buttndowns wowed the school with their a cappella talent, captivating students with several memorable songs. P. 5

SAC Assembly

SAC, Pingry's comedy group, showed off their talent and antics at their annual "SAC Assembly before Winter Break. P. 5

Career Day

Students explored a variety of career fields by attending seminars led by professionals in each field. P. 6

Student Musicians

Pingry's student body features several accomplished student-musicians. P. 7

Sections

School News.....	1,4-5
Commentary.....	2-3
Career Day Profiles.....	6
Arts.....	7
Sports.....	8

EDITORIAL

Sometimes We Need To Argue

Recently, in a classroom discussion, I witnessed one of my peers putting a hand up to respond to another student. This student told another to stop talking because they differed on an issue. That's not the sort of behavior that our Honor Code promotes and it shouldn't be tolerated at Pingry. Debate and discussion are the keys to a solid education, just as they are the keys to a thriving democracy. Right now, simply reading newspaper headlines and watching tv news suggests that our democracy needs some fine-tuning.

This topic came up a few weeks ago in my AP U.S. Government class, when we discussed the nature of bureaucracy—the group of unelected government administrators—in our country. The bureaucracy is complex, inefficient, and inflexible, yet it has an inordinate amount of power in shaping American public policy. All of this talk got me thinking about one bureaucratic agency that has been in the news recently, the National Security Agency, or N.S.A for short. I also found myself thinking not only about the individual's responsibility to fix problematic bureaucracies, but the right of citizens to discuss these issues without fear of being labeled unpatriotic.

If you haven't followed the case carefully, last June, Edward Snowden, a 29 year old contractor for the N.S.A., released a great deal of classified information about the agency's covert surveillance of Americans' phone calls, email messages, their friends, and their whereabouts. The President and Congress authorized some of the agency's practices, but many of these operations were unknown.

Snowden's whistleblowing resulted in two federal judges accusing the N.S.A. of violating the Constitution, some of the President's staff calling for an overhaul of the agency's operations, and most importantly in my opinion, a debate amongst Americans about the limits of the federal government's reach into the private lives of civilians in protecting our national security. Despite the significant effects of his revelations, Snowden was indicted on charges of espionage and theft and is currently on the run in Russia with the possibility of spending his life in prison.

Not all Americans agree that these charges are just. As the New York Times recently argued in a January editorial, even though Snowden's whistleblowing on clandestine operations is technically criminal, the United States government should offer him some form of clemency or plea bargain lessening his sentence so that he can return home and advocate his beliefs on giving Americans greater privacy.

I tend to agree with the Times: without Snowden's revelations, the American people would not know about the government's intrusion into their personal lives. He created a perfectly healthy debate about privacy and the nature of intelligence operations in our country. The government's stance on putting Snowden behind bars for life seems analogous to the McCarthy era's attempts to jail Communists for having a different political ideology. Snowden was exemplifying an idea that is encouraged in our Honor Code — to care about the spirit of the law even more than the literal rules.

Yet I realize that many people in our community may disagree with this view and that's perfectly okay. Just as our administrators ideally allow us to dissent when they plan policy that affects student life, we need to learn how to disagree with one another if we are to progress as a school, and later as citizens of our society.

When everyone agrees and there is no dissent, progress stops. At the heart of our Honor Code is a belief in debate, discussion, and collaboration. Students are expected to work for the common good, help each other succeed, and value every person's input. A willingness to engage in an open and healthy dialogue about our differing viewpoints allows us to reflect on our own convictions and is at the core of the idea of democracy. By tolerating free thought, we are able to find common ground.

America's treatment of Edward Snowden reveals that our government has not cared as much about debate as protecting itself. Whether you agree with me or not, let's all take an important lesson from the Snowden debacle by making sure every person has a seat and voice at our table.

—Ben Kaminoff

Motivate Yourself by Making Lists

By ERIN BUTRICO (VI)

Remember that New Year's Resolution? The huge goal you wanted to achieve? How you wanted to get in shape? See your teachers? Eat healthier? Run a 5K? Yeah, how's that going?

If you are sitting down and reading this, or walking through the halls, or lying in bed, you are probably sighing with defeat thinking, "Why can't I accomplish anything? Why am I so unmotivated?" Your New Year's Resolution, which was once a goal, is now a burden and is later a reminder of your laziness and lack of overall ambition.

Well I have a new New Year's Resolution for you. I challenge you to make lists. I challenge you to take out a notebook and a pen and write down everything you need to accomplish for the day. Regardless of whether it is three lines long or two pages long, just get it all down.

In an environment as fast-paced as Pingry, we have a lot on our plates—essays, presentations, projects, BBoards, DBQ's, ACTs, SATs, and AP classes, just to name a few. Our brains, which are working tirelessly to accomplish all of that, are *horrible* file cabinets. They try to keep all our work in line, but are often inconsistent, unreliable, and easily distracted. There is nothing worse than sitting

in class thinking, "Shoot, I completely forgot that was due today." List making will solve this problem.

I have come to learn that there is a myriad of benefits to list making. For one, it helps reduce overall stress and anxiety. How many

Room, my mind is going a mile a minute. This takes away from my relaxation. I can't get my brain to slow down. Has this happened to you? Have you been somewhere, but your mind is someplace else? At the movies thinking about your

about, put your New Year's Resolution at the bottom.

Your list will constantly remind you that your resolution is a priority. Break your resolution down in your list. Let's say your goal is to run a five-kilometer race. On your list of things to do,



S. Wang (V)

times have you said, "I have a million things to do" and "how in the world will I get this done?" A lot, I bet. A list will help with this. As soon as you transfer your thoughts out of your head and onto paper, your stress levels will drop immediately. It's like venting.

We've all learned about Mindful Awareness and how to be "present" in our lives. I don't know about you, but when we're doing that meditation activity with our advisories in the Dance

Physics project? Talking to your friend but internally panicking about finishing that presentation? Just make a list. By letting your brain defuse, and spitting out every little thing you need to do, you can go back to living, experiencing, and being present.

List making will not only keep you sane and present, but it will also help you accomplish that New Year's Resolution. Underneath all the daily chores, assignments, and things to worry

begin with "Buy Sneakers." Then, "Go for a walk in the Park." Then, "Jog a Mile." And then escalate your way up to a 5K. List making takes your lofty goals and breaks them into little, bite-size pieces, and makes everything more manageable.

Pingry is a goal-oriented place. We love to dream, work, and accomplish. List-making will help us do this in an organized, planned-out, and effective manner and will help us succeed, one step at a time.

Recent School Shootings Raise Questions About Pingry Security

By LORI KIM (V)

Last November, when a passerby armed with a realistic-looking rifle walked near Lewis and Clark Elementary School in Wenatchee, Washington, school authorities immediately put the school on lockdown as police rushed to the scene. Though the gun was just a toy, the recent anniversary of the gruesome Newtown shooting sheds light on the seriousness of school shootings.

School shootings in the United States are becoming more prevalent; there have already been seven school

shootings this January alone. Most schools have only been in session for about two to three weeks, meaning there has been a shooting almost every two school days this year. The most recent one occurred just one week ago at Purdue University in Indiana. While schools across the country are implementing new school shooting protocols, I am worried that Pingry may be inadequately prepared for such an emergency.

The New York Times

recently published an article about the increasing prevalence of lockdown drills in schools across the country. According to the article, these drills are one of the most effective ways to ensure that students are prepared in case of an emergency.

Our biannual drills are rarely taken seriously and pale in comparison to those of other schools, many of which even include evacuating the building. While these drills may seem like annoyances, they can very easily become reality.

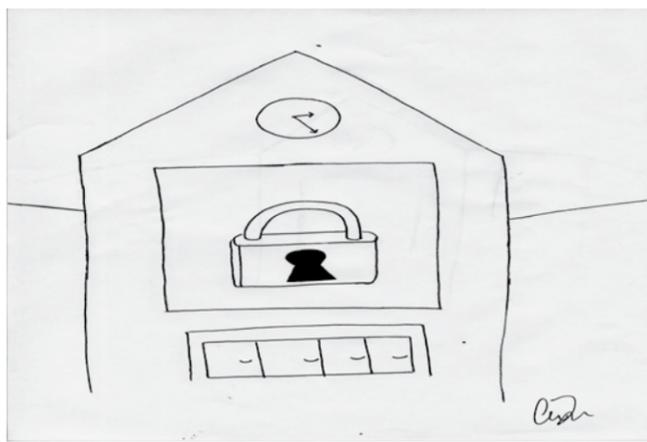
Last month, when a Colorado high school student fatally shot his classmate, administrators immediately called a lockdown as police entered the building and evacuated the students class-

school after lockdown drills.

While I definitely do not want students to be paranoid about the possibility of such a threat, I do think that it is important to take precautions for any emergency in general, especially in the wake of such tragic events.

We tend to take the safety of our school for granted, which is a good thing. We should feel comfortable in our learning environments.

C. Zee (VI)



The Pingry Record

VOLUME CXL
NUMBER 3

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The Sadie Hawkins Dance: A Faux-Feminist Tradition

By **ABBY BAUER (IV)**

January is a month all Pingry students anticipate. The pivotal event of the season, and for some the school year, takes place during January: Snowball. This semi-formal dance annually attracts numerous students who look forward to the music, dancing, socializing, and seasonal spirit. But before they can relax and enjoy themselves at the dance, girls must endure the often-nerve-wracking process of asking, and boys must anticipate the anxious process of waiting to be asked.

As a long-standing Pingry tradition, Snowball is Sadie Hawkins style, meaning that female students are empowered to ask male students to the dance. This gender role-reversal—viewed by many as a feminist rite of passage—thwarts societal norms and strays from what we consider “socially acceptable.” But is the Sadie Hawkins Dance really a measure taken to promote gender equality?

To answer this question, it is essential to know the history of the Sadie Hawkins Dance. It is easy for one to assume that Sadie Hawkins was a heroic feminist who opposed the social conventions of her time and fought for female

rights. However, this is far from the truth.

Sadie Hawkins was, in fact, a character in the classic 1937 comic strip, “L’il Abner,” created by cartoonist Al Capp. Known as the “homeliest gal in all them hills,” Sadie was thirty-five years old and desperate for a husband. In response, Sadie’s father organized Sadie Hawkins Day, an event where all the eligible bachelors of Dogpatch (the town that she lives in) would run with unmarried women chasing behind them. Whenever a woman caught a man, he was obliged to marry her.

Originally created as a comic plot device, Capp’s idea rapidly became a cultural phenomenon. The first Sadie Hawkins Day was celebrated exactly a year after the comic strip was first publicized on November 13, 1938. On this day, women dared to do the unthinkable

and unheard of—pursue a man.

The following year, “Life” magazine reported that over 200 colleges in over 188 cities had held a Sadie Hawkins Day event in where girls took the bold initiative of asking boys out or inviting them to dances.

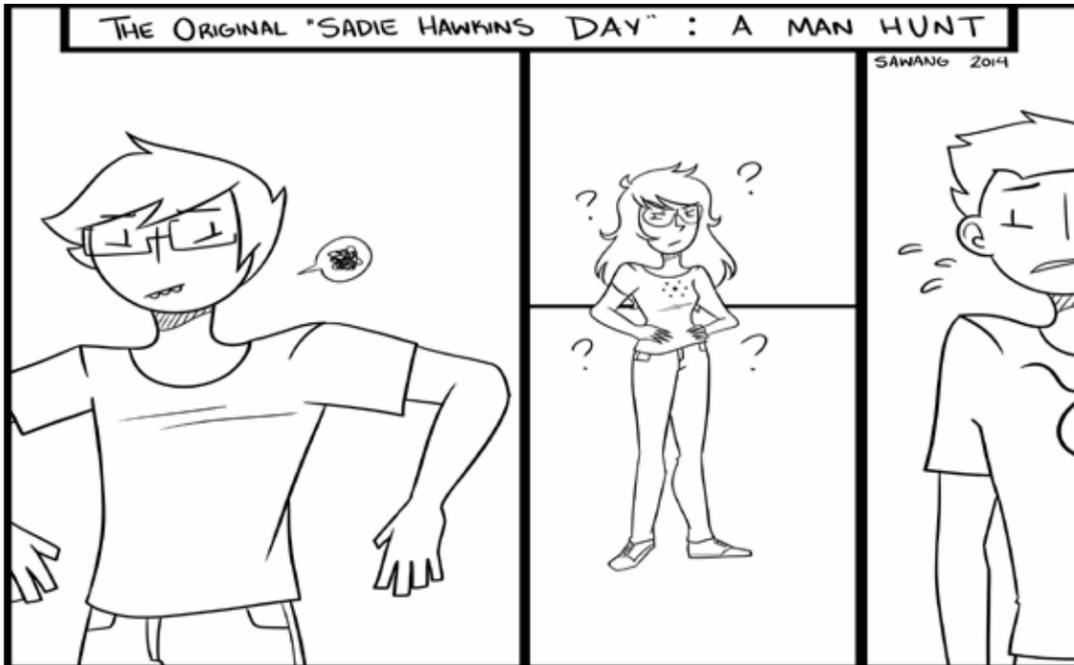
misogynist and womanizer who retained a reputation of sleeping with the college girls he met on Sadie Hawkins Day tours. He also gave Sadie Hawkins repulsive and unsightly features: large crooked teeth, red blotchy skin, gangly limbs, and a wide, twist-

Dances seem to liberate females by giving them a sense of empowerment to take on the male’s role and do the asking, I feel that they actually have the opposite effect. These dances reinforce the notion that, under normal circumstances, girls should never take

taken to promote gender equality? The answer is: no. It is merely a faux-feminist tradition that misleads females to feel empowered and liberated. It is what prevents girls from asking out boys or inviting them to other dances and events that occur throughout the year. Consider this: How often have you heard of a girl asking a guy to prom? Even though it does happen on occasion, it is very rare. It counters and questions the roles of males and females defined by society and our school.

Society, however, is moving in the direction of allowing girls to ask boys out and invite them to dances. For example, the lyrics in the song “Call Me Maybe” by Carly Rae Jepsen depict a girl who confidently takes the initiative of giving a boy her “number.” We sing along to the song without questioning the social conventions that the lyrics disregard. Meanwhile, the popular phrase “YOLO” (you only live once) encourages girls to overlook social standards and go for what their hearts desire.

Even though Snowball is a fun and interesting twist on the social norms of school dances, it is important to realize that this Sadie Hawkins-style dance accentuates the gender inequalities prevalent in society.



S. Wang (V)

Today, colleges and high schools continue the tradition of hosting pseudo-feminist Sadie Hawkins style dances, as Pingry does with Snowball.

Al Capp’s comic strip, however, conveys a sexist message. Al Capp was a

ed smile. Through Sadie’s appearance, he promoted the sexist stereotype that women should solely be appreciated for their looks. He further fostered the idea that women’s motives are to “trap” men into marriage.

While Sadie Hawkins

the initiative to ask a boy to a dance. They support the idea that girls are only permitted to ask out boys or invite them to dances when the event is branded as “Sadie Hawkins-style.”

Is the Sadie Hawkins Dance actually a measure

Our Semester System Prepares Us for Life at College

By **ANNA BUTRICO (VI)** and **NEHA SEETAMRAJU (IV)**

Just as we complete the first semester and move onto the second, an interesting question arises: which is a better length for a marking period: quarters or semesters? While schools like Pingry and Morristown-Beard use a semester schedule, other schools such as Ridge High School, Hunterdon Central Regional High School, and Rutgers Preparatory School follow a four marking-period schedule.

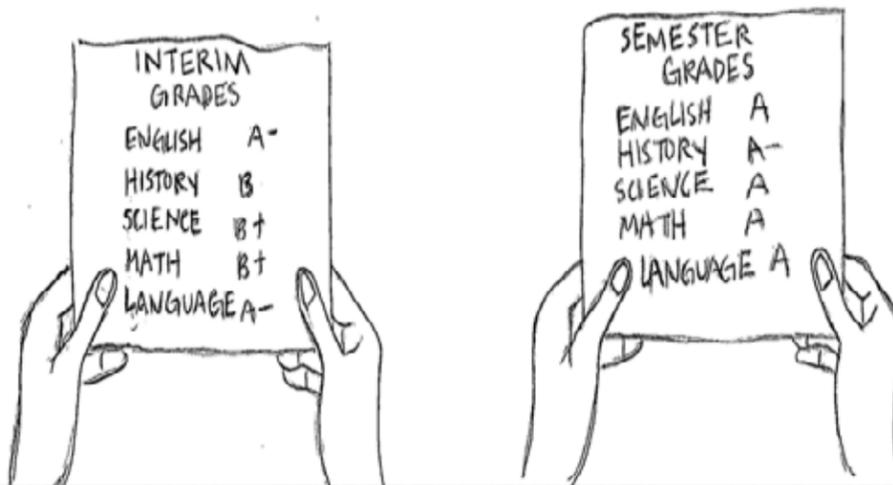
On the surface, a four marking-period schedule seems tempting; the more frequent report cards in this quarterly system calls for more student motivation. The more often those white Pingry envelopes (stuffed with the blue report statements) come around, the more often we’ll try even harder to get those A’s.

But after being a member of

the Pingry community for four years now, I truly appreciate, and see the benefits of, the current

school, equipped to prepare its student body for an advanced, collegiate education. The majority

systems, the more easily they can become used to the schedule once they enroll in college.



I. Zinn (V)

semester schedule the school operates on.

Pingry is a college preparatory

of colleges operate on a semester system, and by forcing students to adapt to college-like grading

Students also have longer chances to improve their grades on a semester system. Think of

it as taking a test in a short class period. You breathlessly hand in your test, eraser dust on your lap, panting and hair frazzled, as you rush out the door to the next class. It’s exhausting. I much prefer the laid-back semester approach, where students get over three months of slow learning and test-taking. In this semester system, students can monitor their own progress and have chances to work to improve grades. If you’re an athlete, or are in one of the school’s productions, you know all too well how difficult juggling schoolwork can get during the peak of your season, or before performances. With extended semester time before and after your championship game or opening night, you can more fairly receive the grade you deserve.

There is one hole, however, in the Pingry’s adoption of a semester program. Semesters, in colleges and universities, end right

before winter break, so students can start courses anew when they return in January. Unfortunately, our school’s first semester runs through the first two weeks of the New Year, betraying the benefits that this system was intended to have. We feel like the student taking a test in a short class period again, breathlessly erasing and lunging to hand in the test on time. In order to make this system perfectly effective, Pingry needs to readjust its break schedule, so students can fully relax on break and begin a fresh new slate when they return.

So, at the end of the day, should we be jealous of Ridge High School, Hunterdon Central, or Rutgers Preparatory School? No. We should be thankful for the time Pingry has given us to take charge of our own grades, and be ready to face the four months of school we have left in this semester, head on.

Word in the Hall: What Did You Do on Your Snow Days?



JOSH LEBOWITZ (V)

“Homework”



HENRY KRAHAM (III)

“Community Service”



MR. KEATING

“I did three aerobic activities: I shoveled snow, rode my stationary bike and looked after my children.”



ALLIE MC MANUS (VI)

“Got massages from Adedire!”



DR. JONES

“Saw the movie ‘Her’”



KEVIN CHOW (IV)

“Eat and sleep!”

SDLC Club Creates Video to Highlight Importance of MLK in This Year's Assembly

By JOSH LEBOWITZ (V)

On August 28, 1963, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, Dr. Martin Luther

gathered in Hauser Auditorium to commemorate the enduring ideals of Dr. King. The assembly, which was organized by the Student Diversity Leadership Club

video.

Natalie Gilbert (IV) did the editing and put the entire video together. She did an amazing job and I know this took a lot of time and

sphere with their renditions of "Lift Every Voice" and "Birdland" before and after the video.

Both students and faculty enjoyed the assembly. Adri-



Video Editor N. Gilbert (VI) shows film to fellow SDLC member B. Johnson (VI).

R. Davis (VI)

King Jr. said in his famous speech, "I have a dream that one day the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood."

Fifty years later, this visionary American continues to have a profound impact on our community.

On January 17, the school

(SDLC), showcased many exciting performances, most notably a video of Pingry students and faculty describing Martin Luther King Jr.'s impact on their lives.

Jessica Gluck (VI), one of the presidents of SDLC, said, "We all helped record some of the video clips and came up with the questions to ask the students in the

effort."

Director of Multicultural Outreach Dr. Diana Artis said, "The members of the club did a fabulous job of securing a range of interviews. I was moved to tears after viewing the video. Great sentiments were shared by all who were interviewed."

The Pingry Jazz ensemble also created a fitting at-

anna Savettiere (V) said, "I really enjoyed the video and hearing all my peers say what MLK day means to them." Bryce Weisholtz (IV) agreed and added, "I thought it was truly inspiring and uplifting how clearly Dr. King affected all of our lives, even today, and his message remains clear in the Pingry Community."

Students Enjoy Annual Snowball Dance at Dolce in Basking Ridge

By LORI KIM (V)

Despite the snowstorm on the day of the dance, students still safely made it

The dance, which almost always takes place near the end of the first semester, gives students something to look forward to after a

for juniors.

Isabella Zinn (V) said, "Snowball is especially fun during this time of the year since it's a nice respite dur-

asking. It's also fun to see the creative proposals girls come up with."

Students are often asked through posters in the hallway or fun word scrambles spelling out the word "snowball".

Besides the long line of cars and crowded coat line, History teacher and Student Government faculty advisor Ms. Megan Jones said that the dance went relatively stress-free. "This was the third year we were at Dolce, so it's pretty easy now since we've worked with them before. We just went with the same set up and themes." She added that this year had an impressive turnout, with about one hundred more students than last year.

Overall, the night was a relative success among students. Will Kazel (III), said that he enjoyed his first snowball. "I really like hanging with friends and the DJ was good too." He added that he looks forward to future dances. Sam Korn (VI) agreed that the dance was well organized and enjoyable, even noting that it was her favorite Pingry dance thus far. "Everyone seemed very relaxed and the whole night went smoothly. Even though I was sad that it was my last snowball, I am really pleased with the way things worked out."



J. Gluck and A. Tizzio (VI) at Snowball.

to the Dolce Hotel in Basking Ridge for Snowball, the annual winter semi-formal, which took place on January 25. Clad in cocktail dresses and two-piece suits, Upper Schoolers enjoyed a night of dancing and socializing with fellow classmates and friends.

stressful few weeks. Jenny Wilkens (V) said, "Snowball is great because it gives us an opportunity to have fun after the end of a hectic month of school." She added that the dance is a good preface to the beginning of the second semester, which can be especially stressful

Courtesy of Pingry Communications

ing a time when school work builds up." The most notable feature of the dance is its Sadie Hawkins proposal style, meaning girls ask guys. Avery Vella (VI) said, "It is refreshing because it takes the pressure off the guys, who are usually the ones

Is 1:1 All It Can Be?

By ABHIRAM KARUPPUR (V)

As Pingry plans to begin more modernization projects over the upcoming years, one may begin to wonder if these projects are worth the multi-million dollar price tag. Over the summer, the Technology Lab and the Lower Commons underwent huge changes, many of which have yet to meet their primary purposes.

For starters, the laptop charging stations beneath the stairwell are rarely ever occupied. The charging stations as a whole can accommodate approximately 50 laptops at a time, but as a student who spends considerable time in the student technology area, I have never seen more than a total of five or six cubbies used. Most students I have spoken with agree that the charging stations are a waste of space, and students could be better served by installing more tables and chairs.

Several theories have been offered about why the cubicles aren't utilized. One is that they include no chargers — just power outlets — and some students don't like to carry their chargers with them even though the school has told them they need to.

Another theory is that many students don't need the cubbies because they charge their laptops at home and are able to retain that charge during the day.

As Director of Educational and Information Technology Mr. Brian Burkhart told me, "Students are doing a good job of charging their computers at home and managing their power."

A third possibility about why the cubicles end up empty is that most laptops require a few hours to recharge, and since students rarely have more than 30 minutes of free time a day, they don't have time to leave their laptops at the cubicles. Doing so is impractical, as most students use their laptops to complete classwork or homework and cannot waste a few hours waiting for their laptops to recharge. It would be most beneficial to the students if the charging stations were instead converted into the working stations lining the side of the stairwell. Then students could charge their laptops and work at the same time.

Also, most students need to use their computers in the classrooms. As classrooms throughout the school are equipped with outlets, some students do utilize these outlets during class to charge their laptops if needed. This poses a problem for the school, however, as use of classroom power outlets is a fire hazard and against code.

To solve some of these problems, Mr. Burkhart said that the administration may consider "buying chargers for the stations, since most students don't want to bring their chargers from home." He also said that the Technology 1:1 Implementation Committee will revisit some of these concerns later this year.

Other concerns relate to the Publications Suite, which is greatly underused by students and faculty. Although eight monitors were installed for student use, at any time a maximum of three to four monitors are utilized. Only half of the installed monitors are ever used since students have little

need to project their laptops onto large screens. The excess monitors take up table space, which would be much more suitable for collaboration.

"One of the big issues is public awareness about how to use the monitors, something which will be done by the STC in the coming months," Mr. Burkhart said. "Our committee is looking into attaching keyboards and mice and removing some of the monitors to make room for collaboration," he said.

The TV in the room, donated by our partner school in China, is also greatly underused. The TV menus and the remote are all in Chinese characters, which makes it difficult to operate. I have only seen it used for faculty and freshmen technology training. Mr. Burkhart does admit that the TV is small and hard to use, and said that he is looking for a bigger TV for next year.

The suite itself is only utilized to its full extent by members of the Yearbook class, which meets in the suite for class two or three times a week. Other than that, few publications actively utilize the full space, since 1-to-1 has rendered many of the collaborative aspects of publishing extinct.

Yet, ironically, the 1:1 program has also put more of a burden on students and faculty members connected to publications to carry out tasks that were once easy. The Technology Department, as part of its BYOL initiative, took away the three desktops utilized by The Record, one desktop utilized by Vital Signs, and denied Polyglot the ability to purchase its own computer. The Yearbook Staff, by leaving the Arts Room with many iMacs, also has moved from desktop to laptops and denied Polyglot the ability to purchase its own computer. Students on the staffs of all of the publications have therefore had to install publishing software (Adobe InDesign) and Photoshop in order to publish. Both of these programs are extremely expensive and create a strain on personal computers.

"We had to make a cutoff," Mr. Burkhart said, "about what we could expect personal computers to do. We decided that running the Adobe suite was a reasonable condition with the exception of film editing."

From my perspective, as a student who works on two major school publications, these programs are better suited for desktops than they are for laptops. Therefore, publication staff members like me have been forced to buy computers that can handle the required computing power. Although the school could have saved money by purchasing the Adobe software for the desktop computers rather than for all the members of the editorial staff, in the end it is harder for the technology staff to maintain and repair the school-owned machines than to buy more licenses for students. "The licenses are not very expensive," Mr. Burkhart told me.

He also reassures me that virtually all of the issues that I raise here will at least be looked at by the Technology Department and the student-faculty 1:1 Implementation Committee by the end of the year.

Students Receive Early College Results

By GEORGIA MILLER (V)

Applying to college is no doubt a stressful time packed with tension and suspense, but the Early Decision process can help to quicken the process and mitigate some anxiety. According to College Counselor Mrs. Amy Cooperman '90, 123 students, or 93 percent of the senior class applied early to at least one school this year compared to 84 percent of students who applied early last year. After applying during the first few weeks of November, many received their decision letters in the middle of December. Fortunately, the seniors did not have to contend with another super storm this year as they did last year.

Out of those students, 89 of them, or 72 percent of early applicants received acceptance letters to at least one of their schools. 59 students are "done," after being accepted in a binding Early Decision program or to their number-one Early Action school. Another three students are already committed for athletics to schools that they applied for during the regular decision round. Overall, students applied to 105 different schools in the early round, which is a large

increase from the 75 schools that students applied to last year.

Colleges generally saw an increase in applications this year. To name just a few, Dartmouth was up nearly seven percent, Columbia was up five percent, Northeastern was up nine percent, Stanford was up thirteen percent, and Duke was up twenty-five percent.

Senior Erin Butrico said, "The college counseling staff here is amazing. They are encouraging, helpful, and patient. They helped me in every part of the process (from finding my SAT tutor, to writing my essay, to clicking "send" on the Common Application) and were more than willing to answer my questions. I couldn't have done it without their support and availability."

Student Body President Akshay Rao (VI) said "Early decision is no doubt a stressful time for anyone that applies, but with the help of the college counseling office, we all make it through the process. After my application was submitted, I felt like a giant weight had been lifted off my shoulders. I relaxed a little and waited for the results, knowing the whole time that regardless of the outcome, I had done the best that I could and the rest of the process was up to fate."

Students Enjoy SAC's Winter Assembly

By RUTHIE ADVOKAT (V)

On December 20, the Student Activities Committee (SAC) held their annual Holiday assembly in the Lower Commons. Members of SAC generally have

the best part about being a leader of SAC is the preparation involved to make the assemblies go as planned," SAC Co-Leader Ryan O'Reilly (VI) said. "It took us about a month to prepare for the Holiday assembly."

Alec Kirmser (V) said, "As a result of high demand, my hit single 'Pingry Hanukkah' is on iTunes." When asked about what we can expect in the future from SAC, Kirmser replied, "A project with Jonah Hill may or may not

For O'Reilly, SAC is all about bringing together the Pingry community and sharing some laughs with each other.

As a senior, this is O'Reilly's last year with SAC, but as a junior Kirmser will be able to lead the



R. Salamon (V), R. LeGrand (III), C. Muller (V), A. Kirmser (V), J. Resnick (III), and R. O'Reilly (VI) L. O'Connor (VI)

four assemblies every year where they are able to showcase their material. Students look forward to these school-wide gatherings because they are funny and often push comedic limits.

Although the assemblies are very comical, the leaders of the group have had trouble planning out the assemblies. "The hard-

The club's hard work paid off in their latest production with great sketches like the underwear-clad senior boys running around in the snow fighting each other, and the presentation of sarcastic "gifts" to students and teachers.

With new and well received acts like "Jingle Balls" and "Pingry Hanukkah," SAC Co-Head

be in the works, too." This claim, of course, has yet to be confirmed.

"The best part of leading SAC is making people laugh," O'Reilly said. "I love to see the audience burst into laughter after a successful joke. I think the laughing puts the faculty and student body in a good mood and relieves some of their stress."

group next year. "I didn't think I'd be the lord commander my junior year," he said. "I've been a member since freshman year and from the beginning I wanted to be the leader of SAC senior year. The idea of making a large audience watch me do whatever I want seemed appealing," he explained.

Buttondowns Impress Audience With Modern Hits and Antics

By MATT FROMM (V)

On Tuesday, November 26, Upper and Middle School students joined together to watch the Buttondowns perform in their annual fall assembly. Every year, the group performs in November to showcase the songs they've been working on since the beginning of the school year. As has long been the tradi-

and particularly well-done. TanTan Wang (IV), who was in charge of the tech aspects, said, "Filming this year provided me with a lot more creative control than I had last year." However, his favorite part of the whole process was "being able to watch the audience react to the finished product."

The Buttondowns, whose

the auditorium lights were turned off and the only source of light came from the boys' own phones, which they swung above their heads in unison. Much of the student body participated as well, creating a unique display of luminescence during the second part of the performance. After that came "Don't You Worry Child" by Swedish House Mafia, and finally the group sang "It's Too Late to Apologize" to finish off their performance.

Commenting on the assembly as a whole, Marvin said, "It was perfect." He described the performance as "an ideal mix of a cappella classics, Buttondowns favorites, and brand new arrangements straight off the pop charts." He added that, "This year we really buckled down and made sure we perfected the music, choreography, and added some jokes, for the perfect balance of beautiful music and fun."

The student body seemed to enjoy the performance as well. Junior Will Johnson said, "I really enjoyed the songs, and the movie was great." Julian Chartouni, a member of the group, said the Buttondowns featured many talented singers "who have brought dedication and enthusiasm to our songs. We could feel the energy and excitement from everyone in the audience, and that helped us take our performance to a

Students Opine About the Use of Grade-Level Couches

By JACK BARRAL (VI)

Whether freshmen or seniors, many Pingry students consider their form-specific couches important to their social lives.

Sara Gagnon (VI) said, "I like having the couches because they are a nice place to relax, and it's nice to have a place for the se-

as comfortable as the old ones". Koryna O'Besso (VI) recalled that she "was a bit skeptical in the beginning" but now likes them, "for the most part. I'm not a big fan of the style but I like the circular ottomans; they make it easier to talk in a group and make lounging more comfortable."

Hunter Stires (V) said that he'd

was pleased that more couches had been added. Although she uses them frequently, the couches are "separate from the rest of the grade couches, which are near the bathroom."

The freshmen couches, which were moved to the area opposite the Bristol Gym, have been thoroughly used by the freshmen.



Courtesy of the Buttondowns

M. Marvin (VI) and Dr. Moore in the Buttondowns Movie

tion, a 15-minute long video production, called "The Buttondowns Movie," preceded the assembly just before the group entered Hauser Auditorium to perform. Many students thought the plot of it—the Balladeers abducting Buttondowns Director Dr. Andrew Moore and Buttondowns President Matthew Marvin (VI)—was funny

performances are often notable for both their musical quality and entertaining antics, made a particularly memorable showing this year. The assembly's first song, "Island in the Sun," featured soloists Marvin and Wang dancing in Hawaiian hula skirts while they sang. Next came Leonard Cohen's famous "Hallelujah," in which



Freshmen enjoying their new couch space in the Upper Commons.

R. Davis (VI)

niors." However, some students rarely sit at the couches. Paul Cooper (IV) said, "I don't spend all that much time at the couches." Ellie Harrison (III) echoed his sentiment. While she herself rarely sits at the couches, many of her friends do.

Just in time for the new school year, juniors and seniors responded to their renovated couch spaces with mixed reviews. Gagnon said, "I really like that the new couches are clean, but they're not quite

"consider them a big improvement over the last ones. The new couches' elevation difference affords a nice place for backpacks or a higher seat." He also commented, "What's even more interesting is that they're modular."

Other forms also find their couches to be very important aspects of their days. Jazmin Palmer (IV) said that, "They're nice because I have to go to school early, so I can usually sleep before school." She also said that she

These couches were moved due to the loud noise in the chemistry wing disturbing science classes during Flex. However, the new position of the couches has limited the number of freshmen who are able to occupy the area, leading some to find new social areas such as the Physics wing or the space near the Robotics room.

Overall, students seem to agree that the couches are a useful space for socializing, even if they themselves do not frequent them.

What Does it Take to Call a Snow Day?

By MARK SHTRAKHMAN (IV)

With the winter season in full swing, students and faculty have been looking forward to weather reports about upcoming snowstorms as well as those famous five-A.M. calls with Assistant Headmaster Mr. Jon Leef's voice on the other end of the line telling

you there's no school. Yet the question remains, what exactly does it take in order to have a snow day, and who makes the decision?

A team at Pingry analyzes numerous weather reports in order to make the proper choice. Headmaster Nat Conard, Director of Facilities Mike Virzi, Mr. Leef,

and a number of other administrators work together to decide whether or not to close school, but the ultimate decision comes down to Mr. Conard. Team members persistently call each other at all odd hours of the night in order to make the best possible choice.

The recent school closings on January 21 and 22 demonstrate

that the decision can be difficult to make. While most schools in the state had an early dismissal on the 21st, Mr. Conard elected to have a full snow day. Since Pingry students come from all over New Jersey, busing children home in the middle of the day would have been cumbersome. In addition, sending lower-school children

home is difficult, since they are too young to be home alone and may not have anyone waiting for them when they got off the bus.

Snow Day Calculator, a popular website and app created by David Sukhin '12, is the most popular site used by kids to predict their odds of a snow day, and it is even occasionally used

by teachers. Although it does not factor into the committee's snow day decisions, both teachers and students enjoy using the calculator and observing its accuracy. No one person, however can truly determine a snow day, and posting on the Facebook pages of faculty children does not help much, either.

Dr. McLaughlin '83 Operates on Brains

By ANNA BUTRICO (VI)

Like any Pingry student, Dr. Mark McLaughlin '83 spent his four years of high school expanding his brain. Nowadays, he's opening them back up as an acclaimed neurosurgeon.

Dr. McLaughlin's work requires him to "operate on the structural abnormalities of the brain and spine." He operates on brain and spinal cord tumors, herniated disks on the back and neck, and brain hemorrhages. Growing up within a family of

people." He finds great satisfaction when "coming out of a surgery, putting my hand on a family member's shoulder, and saying, 'your mom is going to be okay.'" Even when he is forced to give bad news, he sees it "as a profound moment in someone's life" where he can make a positive difference making a "worst-case scenario the best it can possibly be."

Dr. McLaughlin partially attributes his success to the undergraduate philosophy degree he received while



Courtesy of Dr. McLaughlin '83

doctors, Dr. McLaughlin had always known he wanted to be a surgeon. It wasn't until after he matriculated to the University of William and Mary, and later Virginia Commonwealth University, that he identified his surgical branch of choice.

Neurological surgery "is a lot like wrestling," Dr. McLaughlin said while describing his decision to focus on this medical field. As a former ranked Division I wrestler at William and Mary, Dr. McLaughlin said that both wrestling and neurological surgery were "physically and mentally challenging" and required "many hours of education."

Dr. McLaughlin explained that, "Trauma makes up a significant portion of my work." He is frequently on-call to treat concussions and spinal fractures. He said that the most fulfilling part of his occupation is not completing high-speed or intense surgeries, but "comforting

in college. Philosophy, he says, "trains your mind to be thoughtful, which is a skill important in both medicine and doctor-patient relationships."

Dr. McLaughlin also said he has Pingry to thank for his accomplishments. "Pingry left an indelible mark on all of us," he said, referencing his siblings, who also attended, and his mother, who worked at the Lower School as a fourth-grade teacher. He described Pingry as a "challenging environment" that encouraged students "to perform at their best in all areas." It is also a place that fine-tuned his writing skills, something that came in handy while composing his two textbooks on spine surgery.

Dr. McLaughlin encourages all Pingry students to step outside their comfort zones in their academic journeys saying that "you have to lean into discomfort in order to learn."

By CHARLOTTE ZEE (VI)

Jennifer Lee Koss '96 is the co-founder and Builder of Business of an online company, Brika, which is devoted to selling artisan crafts made by under-the-radar designers.

As a cellist who studied at The Juilliard School, Harvard University, Oxford University, and finally Harvard Business School, Koss was in the corporate world for most of her working life. After having her second child, Koss decided that she wanted to be an entrepreneur.

When Koss moved to Toronto with her husband, she stumbled upon a great blog that happened to be based in the same city. When Koss met up with the blog's author, Kena Paranjape, she knew it was fate that the two had been brought together. She said, "When we met we really connected, and I knew we should be doing something together."

Since the website's launch in 2012, Koss has been hard at work everyday. Whether she is talking to producers, partners, or co-workers, she is always working behind the scenes of Brika. Koss is mostly in charge of partnerships and financing, but she considers herself "a jack of all trades."

Though there are some days where Koss takes care

of business on the computer, Koss's job mainly requires interaction with many dif-

"We're a small team of five people but we're building a culture," she said. "We're

Koss is a firm believer that high school provides formative years for students



Courtesy of Ms. Koss '96

ferent kinds of people. According to Koss, one of the main highlights of working at Brika is talking to the crafters because they are

"so inspiring, earnest, and hard working. The makers are extremely talented and passionate about their craft. They are unknown to many people but should be known to more."

Koss also loves working with her team. She is highly motivated, enthusiastic, and believes that the dynamic of her co-workers creates an effective work environment.

really starting something exciting."

Koss believes that her high school experiences have influenced her career path. "Pingry was a place where I was lucky enough to try so many things and do so many things that I loved, ranging from athletics to the arts. It is a place where you are really propelled to thrive. When I matriculated to college after taking a gap year to pursue the cello, I was an interdisciplinary thinker, which left the world open to me," Koss said.

and wants high school students to keep three pieces of advice in mind for finding a suitable career path. First, she recommends that students keep an open mind because career changes will most likely occur multiple times throughout their lives. Second students should follow their passions because "there is nothing more satisfying than doing what you love." Lastly, she said, "A lot of times there are opportunities that you would have never expected so just take risks and go with it."

Mr. Scott Buell '00 Shares Experience As Litigation Attorney in New York

By ABHRAM KARUPPUR (V)

Career Day speaker Mr. Scott Buell '00 had a passion for history when he was a student.

Now a lawyer specializing in litigation at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP in New York City, Mr. Buell has fond memories of his time here.

His favorite classes included Modern European History with former History Department Chair Mrs. Madeleine Landau and Physics with Science teacher Mr. Timothy Grant. While at Pingry, Mr. Buell played on the football and track teams and won the track award during his senior year (considered by some an upset over all-conference pole vaulter Gordon Hunt '00).

After graduating, he attended Georgetown University and double majored in History and Government. While at Georgetown, Mr. Buell was a member of the "Bonillas," a prominent intramural softball team. He graduated from Georgetown "cum laude".

Mr. Buell, who "always had a general interest in history," said his undergraduate majors further fostered his interests. "History and government are related to the American legal system, since they involve a lot

of research and writing," Mr. Buell said.

After he graduated from Georgetown in 2004, Mr. Buell worked as a paralegal. "I really enjoyed the experience," he said. In 2005, he decided that he wanted to be a lawyer, so he matriculated to Columbia University Law School.

While at Columbia, Mr. Buell was a member of the "Columbia Law Review." In addition, Mr. Buell was named a Harlan Fiske Stone scholar, an award named after the former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Mr. Buell graduated from Columbia in 2009 with a Juris Doctor (JD) and joined Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, where he has been working for four years.

Mr. Buell advises current Pingry students interested in law to "work in between college and law school. It is an excellent use of your time to gain a little experience in a work environment."



Courtesy of Mr. Buell '00

Special Thanks to All Of the Career Day Speakers!

Michael Ames '98, Julie Ann Auerton '05, Blake Beatty '91, André Birotte Jr. '83, Patrick Birotte '87, Scott Buell '00, Keith Castaldo '00, Gregory Cohen '87, Jay Crosby '96, David Curtis '90, Alan Danzis '99, Arlyn Davich '99, Caroline Diemar '99, Robert Fullilove '62, Daniel Glazer '91, Lance Gould '83, John Green '60, Ezra Jennings '89, Samuel Jurist '06, Reed Kean '86, Peter Kingsly '77, Lisa Kleinman '02, Alexis Knopp '02, Peter Korn '89, Jennifer Lee Koss '96, Jason Kurz '03, Steven Lipper '79, Scott Loikits '90, Mark McLaughlin '83, Marshall McLean '98, Christopher Mulvihill '88, Jane Sarkin O'Connor '77, Christopher Pearlman '92, Brian Ramirez '01, Michael Roberts '99, Day Rosenberg '90, Thomas Ruprecht '87, Jonathan Short '96

Student Musicians Highlight Talents

By NATALIE MULLINS (V)

The Pingry community has never experienced a shortage of talent, especially when it comes to the arts. Roshni Kotla (VI), Nicole Korogodsky (V), and Osa Omoregie (VI) are just three of the incredibly gifted students who have taken their artistic abilities beyond our school and into the real world.

Many students were first introduced to Kotla's singing career when she performed her original song "Sins" at last year's multicultural assembly. By now, many students have come to know Roshni as a passionate artist and have heard quite a bit about her recent endeavors.

Now under the catchy stage name "Rosh Kayy," Kotla has written and released her own single, "Heartbeat Fast." The song,

Korogodsky has been writing and performing her own songs since seventh grade, and she recently performed her own rendition of Bon Iver's "Skinny Love" at this year's Coffeehouse.

She began her recording career in middle school when she discovered that she could articulate her thoughts through music. She credits singers Avril Lavigne and Taylor Swifts as major musical influences. Korogodsky considers music a fun way to express herself and connect with friends. She plans to continue performing at Coffeehouses and assemblies.

Omoregie is also rising in the Pingry scene, known for his Buttondowns solos and original songs, which he has performed during morning meetings. However, there is an additional element to his work that he wants people to

Alumnus Jon DeCola '01 Showcases His Modern Pieces in the Hostetter Gallery

By EMILY JIN (IV)

Pingry alumnus Jon DeCola '01 is currently displaying his work in the Hostetter

mixed-media art. He said he is fascinated that "such chaotic forms can arise from

Mr. Peter Delman said that this idea puts DeCola's work "more on the 21st-century level because people are more connected with computers than they are with nature." He added that DeCola's works are "similar to the idea of pop art because the artist uses mundane material to create the works of art."

Another five pieces in the collection were created from vintage eight-bit video games, and all feature the words "game over" representing the end in a modern, technological world. Artists of different genres are now evolving, and all the classic rules of art have been forgotten.

Works eleven through thirteen were taken in 2003, of a show on a classic tube television. DeCola analyzed the poetic closed captioning and the pixels that created

the images instead of the actual images themselves. Fine Arts teacher Mrs. Rebecca Sullivan said that this reveals how he shows "digital images in their most elemental form."

Works fourteen and fifteen are the tangible versions of the screen studies. DeCola layered colored mesh screens to create the same wave effect as the layered grids in photography. Mrs. Sullivan explained, "it is very unique that the layering of mesh can affect your visual experience of the work."

In his last few works, DeCola re-photographed single colored computer screens so that the pixels can break down and form natural wave patterns. Art student Stephanie Casagrande (IV) said, "These photos almost look like optical illusions and are very interesting."



One of DeCola's multimedia pieces.

I. Barrionuevo (VI)

Art Gallery about problems that have arisen with digital photography.

DeCola used the idea of moiré pattern, which creates waves when two grids overlap, to create his

rigid, ordered information."

The first five photos in the gallery were made using a standard monitor screen of RGB dots to represent little errors like cracks, folds, and smudges. Fine Arts teacher

the classic rules of art have been forgotten.

Works eleven through thirteen were taken in 2003, of a show on a classic tube television. DeCola analyzed the poetic closed captioning and the pixels that created

See "Starbuck," Not "Delivery Man"

By SAM KORN (VI)

On a Friday night last year, I visited The Angelika Film Center in New York City's Greenwich Village. As usual, I didn't have a certain movie in mind. On a whim, I chose to watch the French-Canadian film "Starbuck." While I expected to like the movie, I was blown away by how much I enjoyed it. Less than a year later, Hollywood revamped "Starbuck" and made the blockbuster movie "Delivery Man" starring Vince Vaughn.

These two movies revolve around David Wozniak, a man who accidentally donates to a sperm bank over 500 times, and as a result, has over 500 children. Despite the unusual story line, both films are hilarious, heart wrenching, and all-around feel good movies.

Having seen both the French-Canadian and Hollywood versions, I have to say that the prior was more entertaining. While

Vince Vaughn did a great job portraying Wozniak in "Delivery Man," "Starbuck" and its entire cast had much more of an authentic feel. It was such a successful film because the right actors were playing the right roles. Patrick Huard, who plays Wozniak in "Starbuck," has a goofy air about him that made the movie much funnier. Although Vaughn is a great actor, he did not fit the part as well.

I expected "Delivery Man" to be the same story line as "Starbuck" from the minute I saw the first preview, but did not expect the movie to have virtually the exact same script. The only true differences were in the actors and the filming locations. During her 2014 Golden Globes monologue Tina Fey joked, "This is Hollywood, and if something kind of works, they'll just keep doing it until everybody hates it!" I would say that "Delivery Man" embodies this joke.

For film lovers, I recom-

mend seeing both "Starbuck" and "Delivery Man." The two films really highlight the differences between foreign indie films

between it and its duplicate, "Delivery Man."

Recommendations for February:
The Monuments Men



Cover poster for "Delivery Man," starring Vince Vaughn.

and blockbuster Hollywood movies. People who prefer comedies should see "Starbuck." It may be full of French-Canadian humor and have subtitles, but it is definitely worth seeing, especially if you are choosing

(Matt Damon, George Clooney)

Winter's Tale (Russell Crowe, Will Smith, Colin Farrell)

Son of God (Digo Morgado)



R. Kotla (VI) in her music video. Courtesy of R. Kotla (VI)

an upbeat Latin-fusion pop song, is about a seemingly perfect and loving relationship that eventually ends in heartbreak. She has also released a music video to accompany the single, for which she designed the set and selected the wardrobe. The video is intended to portray heaven and hell as a metaphor for the ups and downs of love. She is incredibly passionate about her work, and she plans to continue spreading cultural awareness through a Latin-flavored track and artistic self-expression.

understand. In addition to his poetry, Omoregie's love for hip-hop music has heavily influenced the lyrical content of his songs. He wants his lyrics to hold weight, have social relevancy, and provoke thought.

With his strong love and dedication to his art, Omoregie is interesting in pursuing a career in music. For those who did not catch his rendition of Frank Ocean's "We All Try," Omoregie hopes to continue expanding his horizons, like he did with Ocean's song at this year's Coffeehouse.

Students Perform Live at "Coffeehaus" in the Attic Theater

By URSULA DEDEKIND (IV)

On Friday, December 13, the annual Coffeehouse was held in the Attic Theater.

The annual event is open to all students and faculty and showcases artwork, live music, and poetry.

Coffeehouse highlighted

an array of student talent, ranging from music to stand-up comedy. Students were not the only ones to feature their talents. Many faculty members performed pieces including original storytelling by Director of Technology Mr. Brian Burkhart and musical features from Biology teacher Mr. De and English teacher Ms. Elizabeth Walker.

Student and faculty audience members seemed to enjoy the event. Performer Bobby Rigby (VI) thought that Coffeehouse collectively displayed the "diverse talents of Pingry students." Ms. Walker, the Coffeehouse Faculty Advisor, said she appreciated "how supportive the audience was for both experienced performers



"Loud" performs with B. Rigby (IV) on guitar. Courtesy of Pingry Communications

and new performers who were putting themselves out there." She enjoyed seeing everyone come together to support each other.

Theo Rabke (VI), one of this year's organizers, said, "The beauty of coffeehouse is that you are unaware of what is going to be there, and the unexpected aspect of it. You really never know what is going to happen." He added that the Coffeehouse Society is hoping to host an off-campus event in the near future.

As a "first timer" at Coffeehouse, Hannah Benton (IV) said, "I was amazed to see how talented and unique my peers were and even more surprised that the rest of the school was unaware of their abilities."



By MARK SHTRAKHMAN (IV)
With: Dillon Noone (IV), Annelise Kinney (V), Will Johnson (V), Brigit Sullivan (V), Erin Butrico (VI), Jacquie Jakimowicz (IV), Charlotte Zee (VI), Zayna Nassoura (IV) Carol Porges (V), and Hannah Curtis (IV)

BOYS' BASKETBALL

4-7

This season, the Boys' basketball team plans to "go big or go home." After training hard in the offseason, many players lifted in the gym and honed in on their skills on the court.

Coach Jason Murdock be-



Courtesy of Pingry Communications

Captain E. Rogers (VI)

lieves that the team's "potential for greatness" is higher than ever this year. As the season continues, Murdock said that the biggest challenge the team members need to overcome is learning how to handle their emotions better. "As a team, we need to be able to remain positive despite the highs and lows," Murdock said. "We need to focus on not getting too excited or too disappointed with results."

Captains Evan Key (VI) and Max Helfman (VI) are leading the team this year, and with good chemistry between players, Key believes that the group is improving with every day of practice. He also said, "The fans are very important to us because they push us to perform better."

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

6-7

This year the Girls' Basketball team got off to a rough start. After losing five seniors from the previous season, the team did not know what to expect going into the current season.

The freshmen class brought good athletes to the team, adding to the team's strength. Experiencing some tough losses early in the season, the team kept working hard every day. Facing some of the toughest teams in the state, the team was able to come out with a three game winning streak and two tough losses in overtime.

The team is second in its conference, and with difficult conference games ahead, there is a lot to prepare for in the upcoming weeks.

Coach Courtney Tierney is very optimistic about the team, as she feels everyone has a lot of potential to do great.

BOYS' HOCKEY

6-5-2

Led by Head Coach John Magadini, senior captains Kyle Walker and Eric Rogers, and Assistant Captain Jamie Smith (V), the Boys' Ice Hockey Team has had an exciting start to the winter season. They will soon head into their conference games with a record of 6-5-2.

Walker hopes that the team can win the Skyland Conference Cup this year and said that, "The league is wide open, and everyone is equal." The highlight of the season so far was the team's 2-1 victory over rival Ridge High

ended in a 4-3 win for Pingry.

Captain Hayley LaFontaine (VI), the team's leading scorer, believes that the group's "biggest strength has been the freshmen with their ability to step up and play an important role in helping us succeed." Despite the tough competition ahead, captain Melanie Naratil (VI) feels that the girls will "continue to improve in order to have a strong showing in the playoffs."

BOYS' SWIMMING

3-5

The Boys' Swimming team is hopeful for a strong season this year. Led by Coach Steve Droste and Captains Matt Barickman (VI) and Jeff Dong (VI), the team has set high goals for the Meet of Champions in February.

Last year, the team excelled at this meet. Sebastian Lutz won the 50 Free, and helped win the 200 and 400 Free Relays get first place. The Medley Relay team came in second. The team is hopeful for similar success this year.

"We've had a rough start compared to other years," said Captain Matt Barickman, referring to their 3-5 record. "But we still have quite a few strong swimmers. If we continue to push each other to do the best we can in our individual races and as a team, I think we'll do really well."

The team has meets about twice a week, and with a season that extends into February.

GIRLS' SWIMMING

4-4

The Girls' swim team is off to a solid start this season with a 4-4 record thus far. Having a larger-than-ever varsity team of 23 girls, Head Coach Mrs. Judy Lee, hopes to "have each and every girl participate and swim in a large variety of competitions throughout the winter season."

Additionally she believes that "in order to win crucial meets, the



D. Hsue (VI) hits a dropshot.

Courtesy of Pingry Communications

GIRLS' HOCKEY

6-6

After a slow start to the season, the Girls' Ice Hockey team currently holds a record of 4-3. At the beginning of the season, the team was forced to adapt to the loss of key player Hannah Beattie '13, but ultimately the group stepped up to the challenge.

The most decisive victory of the season thus far was a game against Summit, the fourth-best team in the state last season. The matchup was very close, but

team must be stronger across the board, having more depth in the lineup." The girls' swimming team needs reliable swimmers to get, not only first place, but also perhaps third and fourth to accumulate much-needed points during a meet. Coach Lee remarks, "those third and fourth place points are the places where meets can be won or lost."

One of four captains, Sara Gagnon (VI), said, with our Mount Saint Mary win, the team could



Courtesy of Pingry Communications

C. Ransom (V) takes a free throw.

"continue to strive to their goal of having a winning record week to week."

Though the Boys' and Girls'

have started the season off on the right foot.

The girls have only lost two matches so far against Lawrenceville and Potomac. Captain



Courtesy of Pingry Communications

A. Dorneo (VI) does breaststroke during a meet.

BOYS' and GIRLS' SKIING

Ski teams have had to tackle many obstacles this season, the teams remain resilient.

The team's previous home mountain, Hidden Valley, has shifted to Mountain Creek this year, but the team has had no trouble adjusting to the change. Boys captain Andrew Tulloch (VI) said, "I like practicing at Mountain Creek because there is more terrain for the team to cover, which makes practices more challenging."

The skiers have been going to the mountain three times per week, and they skied their first race of the season on Wednesday, January 15, after rescheduling due to weather complications.

The team has several new skiers after a large group of seniors graduated last spring. Although many of the new skiers not familiar with racing, team veteran Gabrielle Stern (V) said, "The new members are doing really well this season and I'm glad to have them on the team."

Coach Julianne Coxe, who is new to Pingry this year, has been working as the Coordinator with Coach Christine Larsen to lead their teams.

SQUASH

15-2

The Girls' and Boys' Squash teams, both with strong records,

time in 20 years, five Pingry wrestlers, Mitch Suzuki (VI), Fakorede, Thomas Tarantino (III), Frankie Dillon (III), and Brandon Preziosi (VI), placed in the top six in the County Tournament. This was a major feat for the wrestling team and boosted morale and support among the wrestlers.

When asked about his expectations, James said, "I am looking forward to the team competing at a higher level this year."

FENCING

8-10

Both the Boys' and Girls' Fencing teams have gotten to solid starts this winter. Led by Captains Wenrui Lu (VI) and Avery Vella (VI), the boys team is currently fighting for an even record. The girls on the other hand, led by Stacey Chen (VI) and Erica Cheung (VI) have gotten off to a positive record. Avery Vella notes that "the boys' team has won three of the last four and continues to improve. Juniors Ben Chen and Hunter

Liz Herman (VI) said, "This year we have a lot of really talented underclassmen and a strong team overall. Despite our two close losses, it's been a good year." Team members Lindsay Stanley (IV) and Diana Masch (V) also placed first and second, respectively, at the New Jersey Squash High School Championships.

The boys are experiencing similar success. Co-captain George Zachary (VI) said, "I've been looking forward to being captain for a long time, and it's awesome that we're undefeated." Derek Shue (VI), co-captain, is equally excited and added, "We have a chance to do great things at Nationals." Hsue and team member Jonathan Zeitels (V) also took home first and second place at the New Jersey High School Championships.

WRESTLING

2-7

As the winter season kicks off, the Wrestling team has made several incredible accomplishments in tournaments and matches, and there has been a record team turnout this season. Compared to last year, the team has doubled in size, and according to many players, the group has great potential for success this season.

Even with a 2-7 record, Michael James (IV) and Adedire Fakorede (VI) said that the team continues to strengthen and grow to its full potential. For the first

Stires, on the foil squad, have really stepped up and fuel that improvement." The girls' Epee squad of Katie Vella (IV), Erica Cheung (VI), and Stacey Chen (VI) are doing well this season and hope to carry their team to the top five in the state.

WINTER TRACK

The Winter Track season has gotten off to a good start. The runners are split in to two different groups: sprinters and long distance.

Each group works out separately with long distance runners working on stamina and longer races while sprinters tend to run every day and also implement the weight room for strength training at least three times a week.

Meets occur every two or three weekends. Captain Erin Butrico (VI) said, "There is a meet coming up that we have a chance of winning, the Non-Public Winter Track Relays at 'the bubble' or the John Bennett Sports Center."

Sprinter Ruthie Advokat (V) described her experience with Winter Track by saying, "I started doing it as a way to stay in shape, but I ended up liking it so much that I stuck with it as my winter sport."

It was definitely a good decision because not only do I really enjoy track meets, but also made a ton of new friends."