

## Michael Gates Gill Provokes Thought

By ANISHA MOHIN (V)

Every year, Pingry holds an assembly called the "Finance Café" for which a speaker is invited to come share some thoughts about finance or the economy. For this year's Café, which was held on Thursday, December 3, Michael Gates Gill, author of The New York Times bestselling memoir "How Starbucks Saved My Life," came to share his story with the students and faculty.

On the surface, Michael Gates Gill seemed to have a perfect life. He was born to extremely affluent parents, graduated from Yale, and became a prominent, successful advertising executive at J. Walter Thompson. He had, in his own words "a beautiful wife and beautiful children" and an extrava-

gant lifestyle.

But all of that changed one cold March day after a large English company bought out J. Walter Thompson. 53-year-old Gates Gill was promptly dismissed to make way for someone younger. He didn't cope well with the job loss, saying, "It was hard for me... It really hurt to be fired."

Gates then attempted to be a consultant, which quickly failed. Yet, unfortunately for Gates Gill, his downward spiral wasn't over: at age sixty, he was diagnosed with a rare brain tumor. Though his doctor was initially optimistic, the unemployed Gates Gill was forced to admit that he didn't have the health insurance to cover the operation necessary to correct his

*Continued on Page 5*



Courtesy of Communications Office

## Student Actors, Musicians, and Artists Collaborate for Friday Night Arts Event

By SARAH MUIRHEAD (V)

On November 20, 2009, various vocalists, musicians, and actors collaborated in the annual event, Arts Night. Before the evening's performances commenced, dinner and beverages were served in the Hostetter Arts Center lobby. Performances were in the Men's Choral Room, and the Balladeers and Button-downs kicked off the night, performing "Dirat-On," a French piece composed by Morten Lauridsen.

The Balladeers also performed two additional pieces: "In These Delightful Pleasant Groves" composed by Henry Purcell and arranged by Benjamin Britten, and a modernized version of The Beatles' "Yesterday" arranged by Renee Craig. Ben Hamm (V) felt "the Balladeers' rendition of 'Yesterday' was an interesting and successful twist on the original."

The Buttondowns also performed two additional pieces: Michael Jackson's "Thriller" and Dispatch's "The General" both arranged by Sean Salamon (VI). John Kwon (VI) was the soloist for "Thriller," and Justin Sullivan (III) was the soloist for "The General." Kaela O'Connor (V) thoroughly enjoyed the performances, saying, "Both soloists were great, and the dance moves for 'Thriller' were hysterical."

The Jazz Band performed a medley of Charles Mingus tunes, including "Boogie Stop Shuffle," "Goodbye Pork Pie Hat," and "Better Get Hit in Your Soul." They also performed "5-5-7" by Pat Metheny. The soloists for the Mingus medley were



6th Grader Serina Chugani dances an Indian routine.

Courtesy of Communications Office

Robby Allen (VI) on the baritone saxophone and David Martin (VI) on the drums. The soloists for "5-5-7" were Nick Canavan (IV) on the soprano saxophone and Mike Arrom (III) on the piano. After watching the performance, Julia Dowling (V) said, "I love the Jazz Band because so many individual talents combine to make professional-quality songs; they never cease to impress their audience."

After the musical portion of the night, the audience moved to Macrae Theatre, where juniors and seniors from the Drama III and Dra-

ma IV classes partook in various improvisation games including Gibberish and Freeze and Justify. In Gibberish, two actors act out a scene and maintain nonsensical conversation while two more actors translate their dialogue. In Freeze and Justify, two actors act out a scene until the scene is "frozen" at a random interval. Another

actor must then take the place of one of the other actors and begin a completely different scene that justifies the physical position they have assumed. Mr. Al Romano, Head of the Drama Department, said "I liked the idea of having the drama classes challenge themselves with

*Continued on Page 4*

## Middle School Joins Upper School Music Ensembles in Winter Holiday Concerts

By SHAAN GURNANI (V) AND LIZ JOLLEY (IV)

This year's All-School Festival, held on Wednesday, December 11, had a delayed start due to the morning rain and snow but quickly kicked off with a crowd pleaser, "Deck the Halls." Students seemed to enjoy this year's concert, including Victor N'Diaye (V) who said, "It was amazing. I especially loved the little candle lighting." Alex Parker-Magyar (VI) called it "great, a really solid set that illuminated my heart."

Students received a greeting from the Headmaster, who reminded everyone, "tis' the season" to do community service. Student body president Will Pinke (VI) and kindergartener Bobby Cunningham kept up our candle lighting tradition, only taking two tries to light the candle. "He was the cutest kid I have ever lifted, and I'm glad it didn't take as many

tries as it took Giancarlo," Pinke joked, referring to last year's student body president Giancarlo Riotto '09, who fell victim to multiple faulty matches.

Next, the 6th Grade Boys' Chorus took everyone's breath away with their young voices, and entertaining version of "Fa-La-La." "It was exhilarating to see members of both campuses performing together as a single community," Carina Chan (VI) said.

6th Grade Girls' Chorus had their spotlight while singing "Shepherd's Pipe Carol," a more contemporary piece by John Rutter, complete with soloists and perfect pitch. The common tune of the concert, "Fa-La-La" was sung once again by the 5th Grade Choruses, concluding the middle school solos.

Next the 7th and 8th Grade Band performed "Marina Del Ray" by Lennie Niehaus. Twisting things up with a Nigerian folk song, the Ballad-



Student Body President Will Pinke lifts kindergartener Bobby Cunningham doing candle lighting tradition.

eers and Buttondowns sang "Betelehemu," accompanied by African drums performed by Mr. Sean McAnally and Mr. Jay Winston. After that, 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade String

*Continued on Page 4*

## Inside The Record



B.Morrison '64

Swimmer James Ross (IV) competing in recent meet.

### Advocating the Arts

Max DeChiara (VI) urges his fellow students to support Pingry's theater program P2.

### A.P. Aggravation

Phil Ryan (VI) examines the impact of the current A.P. policy on the Upper School P3.

### Bloody Success

Pingry students and faculty donated to the Blood Center of New Jersey P4.

### Slam Poetry

Seniors jumpstart morning meeting poetry readings P4.

### Financial Education

Head of Financial Aid at Lafayette College Barry W. McCarty holds seminar P5.

### Underdog in Theaters

"The Blind Side" receives praise and touches its viewers P6.

### Boys' Varsity Hockey

A Watchung Hills victory foreshadows a successful season P7.

### Sections

News.....	1,4-5
Commentary.....	2-3
Arts.....	6
Sports.....	7-8

## EDITORIAL

## Why the Fourth "L" Should Be Learn to Give

I won't lie. On Thursday, December 3, I was surprised to hear so many different reactions from the student body and faculty to Mr. Michael Gates Gill's—better known as the "Starbucks speaker's"—speech. While several of my peers and teachers seemed to thoroughly love his emotional rag-to-riches story (riches-to-rags if you take it literally), others seemed to question his credibility and genuineness. I think it is safe to say that there was truly a split in opinion towards this particular assembly.

Personally, I enjoyed Mr. Gill's speech, but found myself aligned with the views of the latter group. I found myself *wanting* to believe in his authenticity but not being able to because of how many loopholes his story had. Furthermore, while he seemed to preach "money doesn't guarantee happiness," he also failed to address the harsh realities that many people face when money is indeed an issue. For those that have to worry about surviving on a daily or weekly basis, money sure means a hell of a lot. When asked about this practical issue by History teacher Mr. John Raby, Mr. Gill seemed to evade giving a direct answer, instead focusing on how we can "listen to our hearts."

But I digress from the point I really want to make. For although I have my personal suspicions about his story, I think it is important to step back for a minute and maybe stop being so pessimistic. Instead of judging him as a person (many students have been bringing up his extramarital affair which he failed to bring up in the speech, as well as his sudden leap to fame with Tom Hanks playing him in a future film), we should probably just look at the simple message he's offering and stop over-analyzing.

The truth is Mr. Gill has found happiness not because he is suddenly "poor" and not even because he is now working at Starbucks. But rather, he is happy because instead of constantly receiving, he is suddenly able to give. As a man who had everything handed to him, he never felt the joy and emotional reward of being able to do something for someone else—to serve another individual in his community. Ever since getting fired, however, he has been able to give back to his family as well as his larger community. In addition to serving coffee, he now spends more time with his children and spreads his message through writing and speaking to audiences at schools like Pingry.

I believe that in the midst of our college applications, essays, and tests, we all have a chance to follow Mr. Gill's message and learn to give. A couple of months ago, students and faculty participated in Rufus Gunther's annual community service day projects. Although the notion of raking leaves or making blankets brought about some grumbles and complaints beforehand, the truth is that many people were saying how much fun they had painting a mural or picking apples for non-profit organizations after the day ended. And despite how many people say that community service is just for a college application, the truth is community service is a jewel and never overrated.

Whether it is giving to the Pingry Fund, helping someone with a homework problem, or working for a good cause, *giving* is an extremely precious act. The idea has been around ever since the start of mankind—just look at various religions, novels, or famous quotes such as JFK's "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." Thus, whether or not you choose to "listen to your heart," I urge you to take some time and give back to your communities. Who knows? You might just find true happiness.

—Jennifer Soong

## Being an Actor in a Sea of Athletes: A Senior Reflects on His Various Drama Experiences

By MAX DECHIARA (VI)

At the Pingry Martinsville campus, actors are undoubtedly a minority among athletes. I am not upset by this uneven distribution of students: many of my friends play sports. But I am frustrated with the view of theatre—and the arts in general—in the community.

Everyday at 3:15PM, instead of making my way to the athletic fields like my peers, I head to the Macrae Theatre for play practice. This is not because of my dislike for sports, but rather my love for acting.

Even as an actor, I am constantly aware of the sports teams. I do not actively seek

information; it comes to me every morning, when I find out who played well in the boys' Soccer game and if we won the girls' Cross Country meet. Sports are a very important part of the community.

However, I was shocked to learn that many did not know that the Winter Musical had been cast weeks ago.

Throughout December, I have often practiced my lines for the Winter Musical at the Senior Couches. As I recited the lines, other seniors asked me what I was reciting lines for. Of course, that is an understandable question. Yet, the conversation did not end there.

As we continued to talk, I was shocked to learn that many did not know that the Winter Musical had been cast weeks ago or even that the show was "Sweeney Todd." I could not believe that theatre

was seemingly so unimportant.

The Blue Army has been a great way to raise spirit for school activities. I think it

is fantastic to see the school coming together to support each other. But I was upset that this same support was not given to drama events such as the Fall Play. Although some people who would not

normally come to a play came to see our show, the Blue Army attendance was still quite weak.

I am not going to sit here and point fingers at other students because I respect the fact that theatre is just not everyone's "thing"—but I would still like more support for theatre in the community. Sometimes you may like something that you never thought you would enjoy. Therefore I urge you to try to attend a show once in a while. Just come and see Dramafest if you want something a little less intense. If you are not actually interested in theatre, just come to support your friends. I know that they will appreciate it.



## Senior Class Stress Trickles Down, Producing Underclassmen Anxiety

By MAI-LEE PICARD (IV)

For the past several months, I've been surrounded by the word "stress." It was the topic of several previous Record op-eds as well as Mrs. Victoria Grant's speech to the school earlier this fall. Apparently, we all need to relax a little bit.

Even as a sophomore, the

pressure to succeed in school is overwhelming. I've been told to join this club and that team or do various extracurricular all with one goal in mind: getting into college. Now I know some of you might be thinking, "Why on earth is a sophomore writing about college? What does she know?" Well, with one sister who has already been through the process, I feel as though I have already experienced it.

For months, when my sister was applying to schools, the only topic of conversation at my dinner table was college. We never talked about anything else! Our discussions always included: "Are you going to get in here? Do you think you'd like this school? Do you think we should make a trip to visit these places? What do you think about this safety?" This would drag on and on until I was ready to rip my hair out.

At the time, I was only in seventh grade and not much of this seemed to concern me. I merely listened and dreaded the day in the dis-

tant future when I would be in high school and have to worry about the infamous 'college process.' Now that I'm a sophomore, that day is here. All of the college focus has turned to me.

Every year since I can remember, my dad has given me his traditional "don't fall behind" speech. He

constantly reminds me to keep up with my work and never skip assignments because "it's too hard to catch up." Unfortunately, I didn't listen to him last year, and consequently learned the hard way that he was right.

Now I'm beginning to wonder if just staying on top of the work is enough. This year I'm working harder than I ever have, and it's only sophomore year! The work is far more intense, and I'm forced to put much more effort into my courses. So how am I supposed to relax and de-stress? And for that matter, how is anyone supposed to de-stress? I

can only imagine what the juniors and seniors must be feeling.

It is one thing to tell the student body to relax, but we need to actually do something about it. Dean Sluyter's Morning Mindful

Awareness is one thing that might help. I'll admit that I've never been to it. However, something tells me I might want to start going; I might need to start going. But here's another idea: "stress-down days." Days when there's no homework due, days when the student body can just go to school, go to classes, and relax.

Obviously, hard work is necessary to succeed in school. But if we go a mile a minute all day, every day, we're the ones who lose. Who has time to just sit and smell the metaphorical roses anymore? Answer: no one and that's just sad. We all just need to relax and chill out. I just wonder if that's even possible anymore.



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# How A.P.'s Have Lost Their Original Purpose

By PHIL RYAN (VI)

There are two letters that every Pingry student will inevitably stumble upon during their high school careers: A.P. To some, such a designation is an acknowledgement of the completion of college-level work; to others, A.P.'s are the epitome of the phrase "necessary evil." The growth and relative ubiquity of the Advanced Placement program throughout the United States has ensured that any high school student who wants to be competitive in the college admissions process must submit themselves to the monopolistic practices of the College Board.

At Pingry, as we all know, this is no exception. Fortunately, we have an incredibly well rounded faculty teaching courses ranging from A.P. Chemistry to U.S. Government and Politics. However, Advanced

Placement classes have become a de facto requirement and have drifted from their original premise. In its biography of the Advanced Placement program, the College Board notes that the program was designed to "avoid repetition in course work at the high school and college levels and allow motivated students to work at the height of their capabilities and advance as quickly as possible."

Such a goal is simple and worthwhile, but even the College Board admits that this is no longer the case. Upon clicking on the official A.P. website, the heading proclaims that "you can earn college credit and advanced placement [and] stand out in the admissions process." What was once designed to be a program for a select few students has now become the sole method of

getting noticed by admissions officers in universities around the country. While this is to be expected, what is more disturbing is not its unofficial required status, but rather the reaction that the program's success has elicited from high schools around the country, including Pingry.

Last year, the administration decided that seniors were taking advantage of Pingry's lax requirements for A.P. courses and voted on a new requirement: all students taking A.P. classes would be required to take the A.P. exam at the end of the year. To many, that seemed fair. However, a small stipulation was appended to the rule, stating that any score under a 3 would be deemed as a failure-of-sorts and therefore would result in a reduction of course credit to "Honors." In addition, stu-

dents who failed or refused to take the exam would be stripped of an A.P. designation as well.

Honors designations are by no means bad, but is it fair to invalidate a student's work on their transcript because they had no need to take a non-Pingry exam? While some courses, such as A.P. U.S. History, require students to take the exam independent of any school policy, most classes have no such rule. Before the implementation of the policy, seniors who were accepted to college with little reason to worry about needing another "5" didn't bother and relaxed during those two weeks in May. This is not to say that I condone a lack of work ethic, but common sense would say that there is no point in requiring a student to sit for a three-hour exam (and have their parents shell out \$86 each time) when it has no bearing on their future plans.

*A.P.'s are the epitome of the phrase "necessary evil."*

# Why Activity Overload Prevents Students From Enjoying Youth in Today's World

By ARIANA KING (V)

As students in a prestigious school, we always seem to be trying new and interesting things. We often pile on as many extracurricular activities as we can. I myself have created a schedule that includes no breaks for recreation and barely enough sleep necessary to function. The time I do not spend in class is spent participating in four different clubs and community service activities. I also have daily athletic practices and the constant barrage of schoolwork that never seems to end. My situation is one that is common

to the majority of my peers; we all strive to do more than the next person.

But what is all of this for? Some students say they want to soak up all that youth has to offer, while others are just doing their best to please prospective college admission boards. Most of the students at our school are trying their best to achieve the status of being "well-rounded," but what does that mean? For us it seems to be interpreted as quantity of activities. The purpose of these activities should be to enrich and strengthen us as individuals and build connections within our com-

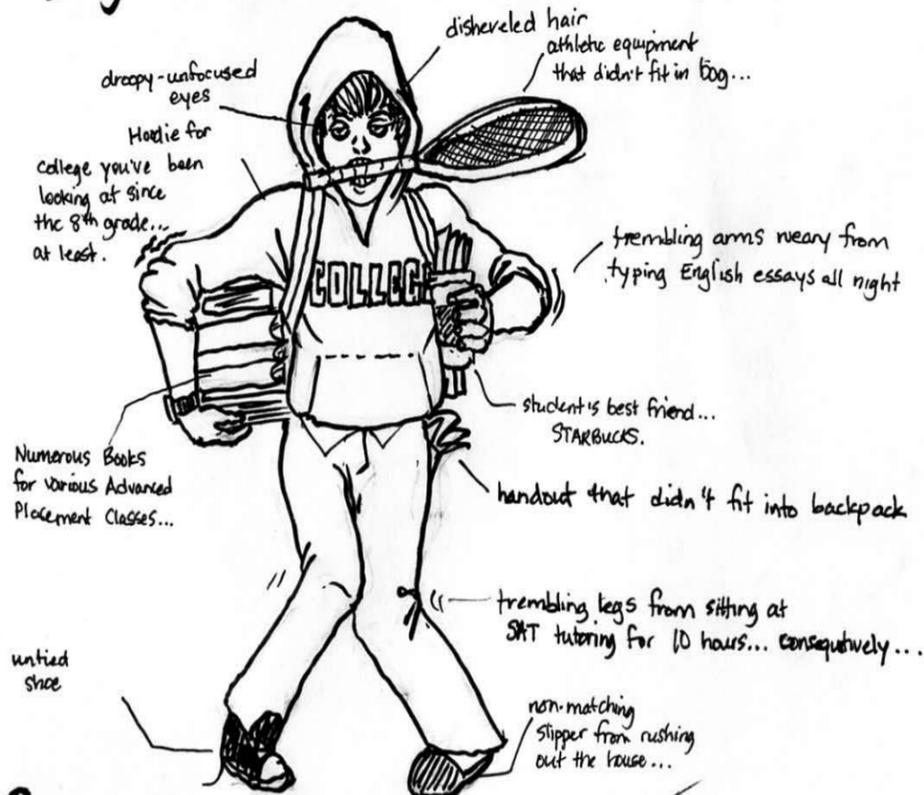
munity. It seems to me that what was intended to help us grow has become a burden, latched onto the demands of our already strenuous academics. We spend so much time thinking about what we can do to better our futures that we seem to forget that what is going on now is just as important as what may happen in years to come.

When, in our busy schedule, do we take the time to just be young? We are taught to think one step ahead, but if you live that way you aren't, and can't ever, truly appreciate 'the now.' There needs to be more emphasis on the practice of liberal

social interaction. This is the time when we need to be concerned with creating friendships and developing our social skills, but instead, we are ignoring them. As young adults, who should be in control of our academic and extracurricular education along with our personal interactions, we need to make it our responsibility to do so. We must make an effort to balance all aspects of our lives and strive to do the best we can in all of our endeavors, rather than do too much with mediocre quality. If we take a stand for the better here, our community could be greatly improved.

## Diagram of A Stressed Out PINGRY STUDENT

Diagnosis: *Overachievement* Symptoms: *(listed below)*



Cure: *get some rest take a break for once...*  
*MZint 12/13/09*

## EDITORIAL

# O Christmas Tree

Passing by the senior couches over the past two weeks, you may have noticed a multitude of wintry changes. There is a giant wreath over the windows, students bundled up in winter jackets and scarves, and a giant Christmas tree adorned with ornaments and paper snowflakes. If you go a little closer to the tree, you'll notice that the snowflakes aren't made out of just regular paper, but letters: they are the deferrals and rejection letters sent to seniors from their early decision and early action colleges.

The tree is beautiful (I have a sort of fascination with all things Christmas because of my Jewish upbringing), and like a Christmas tree that connects families on Christmas morning (judging by many holiday movies), it has been bringing the senior class together. It is the tangible representation of all of the changes occurring in our daily lives over these few weeks, the weeks when students are notified of college decisions.

Recently, I became addicted to College Confidential to the point where I could barely go a full day without lurking on the forums. On this website, prospective students and parents of prospective students obsess over their or their children's stats: GPA, SAT, ACT, SAT II'S, AP'S, IB'S, class rank, gender, ethnicity, essays, recommendations, extracurriculars, and hooks (if any). I've been yelled at multiple times by Erika Lampert (VI) before History teacher Mrs. Maddie Landau arrived to fourth period AP Euro for talking too much about my anxiety. In fact, most of my conversations with my peers involve some form of "When do you find out?" or "Was it good news or bad news for so and so?" I have planned out exactly, how, where, and when I will find out (Monday, December 14, at 5:00 PM by myself in the Record Office through refreshing the online decisions page over and over again on my laptop). I even picked out potential snowflake designs to cut into my letter from Brown and hang onto our tree, days before I knew whether I would need them or not.

In short, the college application process was consuming my life. And it still is for many. Ask any senior what is on his or her mind, and with few exceptions, he or she will tell you the same thing: college, college, college, and more college. Let me say it one more time: college.

While I may complain about all of the stress that weighed me down, really, I brought it upon myself. I was desperately trying to find some stability in a process over which I have absolutely no control. So I spent countless hours researching admission statistics, mentally examining what I considered my own chances, and talking about it incessantly with anyone who would listen. It isn't healthy to obsess. There isn't any benefit to constantly analyzing the admission process, but I couldn't stop thinking about college any more than I could stop breathing.

The rumor is that no matter where you end up, you'll probably be happy, whether you matriculate to your first, second, fifth, or thirteenth choice school. So why should it matter so much?

Even with these sentiments, which are usually doled out by the well-meaning adults in our lives — college counselors, teachers, and parents — there is so much importance placed on the college that we choose. We're expected to not only find the right fit, but also to decide on an institution that will make our parents and Pingry proud, that has prestige, and that offers us so much more than just a world class education. Furthermore, we not only have to want the right school, that school has to want us back, and we're competing for limited spots. Thus, the pressure is enormous. Much more than anyone who is barely old enough to drive herself past midnight should be expected to handle.

So what can we do? How can we survive what many consider the most stressful time in a high school student's life? Well, while I may not be the ideal person to give this advice, we can try to be more relaxed about the entire ordeal. After all, the nice thing about early decision and early action applications is that if they don't work out as we hoped, we have so many more chances to receive good news in the spring.

Still, I know that we, as a class, probably won't be able to completely loosen up. We're just not likely to change all of our unhealthy habits. However, we don't need to make drastic alterations to our behavior. Instead, we could just try to start small. For instance, we could simply keep the college chatter to a minimum. Even if all I want to do is discuss various aspects of the college admissions process, I don't have to subject the whole world to my insanity (especially, you, Erika!). Or we could finally block College Confidential and silence the site users' over analyzing and self-esteem-lowering posts for good.

Better still, we could try to breathe and stop nitpicking the so-called-faults that will potentially prevent our acceptance. Overall, we need to remember that while it sometimes doesn't feel like it, we're so much more than an acceptance, deferral, or rejection letter. Moreover, we're so much more than the facts and essays contained in the Common App. And as much as we crave it, we don't have control. Not one ounce. Finally, we have to realize that we aren't alone. Our Christmas tree, as gorgeous as it is sad, covered in paper snowflakes, is proof of that.

—Jenny Gorelick

# Holiday Concert Delights Audiences of Both Performances

Continued From Page 1

Orchestra played "Concerto Grosso," followed by Combined Chorus and Ensembles, who sang "Al HaNissim." The Middle School Handbells played "Jingle Bell Rock." Ninth Grade History teacher Mr. Ted Corvino and Jamie Ogden (IV) both agreed this was their "favorite part by far." "Gloria," which was sung by

Combined Chorus and Ensembles, was then followed by "Twelve Days of Christmas" to conclude this year's All-School Festival.

by Patricia Cota, in addition to "Jingle Bell Rock," by Joe Beal and Jim Boothe (and arranged by Douglas Wagner), which they had played on Wednesday.

student performers onstage to sing "Laudate Nomen Domini," by Christopher Tye, and "Hallelujah Chorus," by George Handel.

Afterwards, with the concert concluded, students and relatives proceeded to the Lower Commons for refreshments including drinks and cookies. When asked what he liked best, Tim Landers (III), a member of the Conference Period boys Glee Club said, "I thought it was pretty cool how we sang songs in like three different languages, even though I wasn't always sure what was going on."

Nick Canavan (IV), a member of the Upper School orchestra, felt "that the concert, while hectic at times, generally went extremely well." "It was nice to see a lot of the talent in Pingry together on stage, and the holiday atmosphere was definitely felt by all," he said.

Following the Wednesday morning Festival during assembly period, the Thursday night Festival was held at 7 for an audience comprised primarily of family members of the performers. Although the programs for the All-School Festival and the evening Festival were similar, the evening program included a few more pieces. The first piece for this concert, "Heaven's Light" written by Steven Reineke, was performed by the Wind Sinfonia. Following a similar greeting by the headmaster and the traditional lighting of a candle, "O Come All Ye Faithful" was performed by the combined choruses. Next, the Middle School Handbells performed "Jolly Old St. Nicholas," arranged

This was followed by "Betelehemu." The extended time of the evening concert also allowed the individual music groups to perform more pieces. For example, the 6th grade band performed "Joshua," "Laudate Dominum" was performed by the Women's glee club and the girls' chorus, and the Men's glee club and boys' chorus sang "Born, Born in Bethlehem. Moreover, "Let It Snow" was performed by the Upper School Jazz Ensemble, "Sleigh Ride" was played by the Upper School String Orchestra, and a few more movements of "Gloria" were performed by the combined choruses and ensembles. Finally, parents in the audience were asked to join the

## An Interview with Student Poets Myles Bristow and David Martin

Courtesy of JENN SOONG (VI)

On Monday, November 30, Myles Bristow (VI) and David Martin (VI) announced their plans to jumpstart a new poetry reading series for morning meetings. Their plan is to allow students to present an original work of poetry every other week starting after winter break. The boys eventually want to incorporate some of the faculty and staff, so that the community will get a chance to hear from those who are not heard from normally. In addition, Bristow and Martin feel that the arts should be more open and exposed at Pingry.

During their first morning meeting, both Bristow and Martin read long poems. Martin's poem, titled "I'm Mad," was about current events, political, social, and other subjects, around the world that he wanted to talk about. He also proposed ideas to solve these problems, but the point of the poem was to bring up several perhaps underreported events. Myles's poem, titled "Memories," was about relationships and how we shouldn't get so caught up in emotions that we forget what's really important.

Soon afterwards, co-Editor-in-Chief Jenn Soong interviewed David and Myles about their goals.

What inspired you two to start this poetry reading?

Myles: Well, David approached me with an idea to do a Friday assembly that would include all student poetry. I had just started really getting into poetry last year, and so I agreed. We had also spoken with English teacher Mrs. Victoria Grant, who was completely behind the idea.

David: I wrote the poem "I'm Mad" last year, just in my spare time, and I ended up turning it in for a poetry assignment I got in Creative Writing with Mrs. Grant. She liked it a lot and asked me if I would read it next year (this year) in front of the school. I told her sure, but when this year came around and I was going to read I decided I wanted to get more people in on the whole poetry reading thing. So, I got Myles and we made the David Martin and Myles Bristow Poetry Series.

Did you know that student and faculty readings were held during previous years? If so, why did you want to continue this tradition?

Myles: Well if David and Mrs. Grant knew, I didn't. I just thought it was a good idea.

David: I had no idea that people used to do the readings—probably because I've only been at Pingry since 9th grade. I just think that adding the "slam" type poetry to the mix is probably a different style that people at Pingry might not usually see.

David, I know you have a lot of musical background. Do lyrics/music compositions affect the way you approach poetry?

David: Music definitely affects the way I tackle my poetry. I write lyrics the same way I write poems most of the time. Sometimes my unfinished songs become poems and vice versa. There are a few differences as far as meter, but in the end my poems are songs with less repetition. The music I listen to right before I write poetry affects what my poem will sound like as well, so I'm very particular about what I choose to listen to before I sit down with a pen.

What do you hope to accomplish by holding these readings?

Myles: Well, my goal and David's goal may be slightly different. But for me, I want the student body to become more open to participating, whether it is in sharing poetry, dancing, singing, or performing. Our students have talents, and because we're so self-conscious, we rarely show them. At last year's Multicultural Assembly, I said that our student body is diverse, and I think if we explore that idea more and become less stereotypical about who should share and how, we can learn a little something. Overall though, I want people to start reading poetry so that they can learn a little something about the people they go to school with. It's all a learning experience.

David: I just hope to see more students get up on stage who wouldn't typically do so. I love performing (as most people have seen), and I feel like there's a lot of potential for others to experience that same joy. Also, it's cool for people to experience something different every once in awhile, whether it's dance, music, or oratory. In this case, it's just poetry.

What are some of your personal favorite poems/songs?

Myles: I don't have a specific favorite poem or song, but I have favorite poets: (all of them are slam poets) Mayda Del Valle, Gemineye, and Paul Beatty. To write poems from music though, I'll listen to Drake, Li'l Wayne, Eminem, or Common—not necessarily

to listen to their lyrics, but to listen to the beats they rap over. The rhythm gives me an idea of how I want my poems to flow, and then I just take my own ideas and work from there.

David: My favorite spoken word poem right now is "God is Freedom" by Common. It's not too long but it says a lot. Common is a poet/musician/activist/break dancer/rapper/actor so he's a real role model for me. My favorite songs lately have been "Brand New" and "Lust for Life" by Drake. I like them because they're very poetic and they have their own aura about them. They're also great pre-writing music for almost any topic. Anyone who was a fan of Drake before he got famous should check out his other songs off of his "So Far Gone" mixtape. He's a true artist.

What would you say the poems you read on Monday, November 30 are about? Where did you draw your inspiration? How did you write them and how long did it take you?

Myles: Well the poem I read on Monday, November 30 was titled "Memories." It's about relationships and how sometimes it's easy to get caught up in emotions and forget what's important. The inspiration... well it comes from several sources haha...but mostly it's from life experience. Not just my own, but seeing certain situations repeat themselves with people I know. It took me about 2 days to write. I actually wrote it on Facebook first because my poems flow better when I write them online. I don't know why.

David: I read "I'm Mad," which is a mix of experiences I've had and things going on in the country/world that I just cared about. So, current events plus things that have happened to me over the past few years were my inspiration. There was zero preparation that went into writing "I'm Mad," actually. I woke up one morning, opened my journal/diary (yes, I have a diary) and just wrote it. I write all my songs, poems, and journal entries in the same place. It took me about an hour and a half to write the entire poem. From a technical aspect, I always write the beginning and end of the poem simultaneously and work my way to the middle. When I start writing the beginning of a poem, I always think of lines I want to place later in the poem and at the end. So I keep pages of paper in my journal to write the end of the poem. Eventually I have an entire beginning and end of a poem, and then writing everything in the middle goes very quickly.

## Arts Night Features Improv, A Capella, and Jazz Pieces

Continued From Page 1

improvisations. This form also involves the audience more directly."

This year, Middle School Dramafest was a new addition to Arts Night. "It was great to use the evening for Middle School Dramafest because, in the past, Arts Night was dominated by Upper School offerings,"

said Mr. Romano. Jeff Baum (V) was "amazed to see the variety of scenes, songs, and dances that the middle school students performed. There's definitely a lot of talent down there." Ariana King (V) agreed, saying, "I think the middle school Dramafest was great. The care and attention put into their work was evident."

Baum reflected on the evening, saying, "Arts Night

would have been a bigger success if more students had come out to watch. Nearly everyone in the audience was a family member of a performer or student involved in an aspect of Arts Night." Taylor Smith (V), however, felt that the night was still satisfying, saying, "part of what makes Arts Night great is that it's all the arts people supporting each other and having a good time."



Courtesy of Communications Office

The Buttendowns perform "Thriller" by Michael Jackson.

## Updated Blood Drive Policy Allows 41 Students to Donate

By DANIELLE WESTERMAN (V)

On November 19, the annual Blood Drive for the Blood Center of New Jersey took place in the school's Multi-Arts Room; the goal was to have 55 donors participate. According to nurse Mrs. Joyce Livak, there were "41 donors this year, 25 of them first-time donors." Mrs. Livak said, "There were 61 students who had originally registered, but 20 were turned away for various reasons." The Drive was open to any students at least 17 years old, as well as 16-year-olds with their parents' consent. All of the donors had to weigh at least 120 pounds in order to participate.

According to the American Red Cross, an American is in need of a blood transfusion almost every two seconds. There is no

man-made substitute for blood; any blood replacements must come directly from a donor.

Reed Tyson (V) was registered to donate his blood, but he said he was denied because he spent last spring break in Belize. According to the American Red Cross, anyone who travels to a country where malaria is found cannot donate for a full 12 months. Tyson said, "It didn't cost any money and it's a great program that helps a lot of people. It's easy and helps a lot of people. I think they should have these drives more often."

Lindsay Bissinger (V) met all the requirements and was able to donate blood. Bissinger, a first time donor, said "I decided to donate because my mom always gives blood, so I was glad to be able to donate this year, too." Bissinger continued, "After I donated, I felt good about myself that I was able

to help someone who needs it."

Assistant Headmaster and math teacher Mr. Jon Leef donated as well, but not for the first time. Mr. Leef has given blood since he was in high school, originally because of his father. Mr. Leef said, "My dad had always given and he encouraged me to start...I've been giving blood ever since."

Those who braved the needles got a free chipwich ice cream after their donation. The senior class was awarded a free dress-down day for having more donors than the junior class. Although the drive didn't reach its goal of 55 donors, it still made a huge impact. Next year, Nurse Livak "hopes for an even bigger turnout." Mr. Leef said, "For a small bit of time and a little bit of discomfort, the positive impact you make can be life-saving; it seems like an easy decision to me."

# Financial Aid Workshop Informs Parents About College Costs and Possibilities

By BRANDON BRIER (VI)

Recently, Barry W. McCarty, the dean of admissions at Lafayette College, gave a presentation to the parents of seniors regarding financial aid for college. He introduced the topic by comparing the salaries of doctors 100 years ago to those today, and soon expanded his discussion into rising costs and changing lifestyles. Refocusing

on college, McCarty then explained the challenge of paying for college and addressed how students could apply for aid.

He told the parents that there were two ways of applying for financial aid: the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) and College Scholarship Service (CSS) profiles.

McCarty explained the difference between the two financial aid programs. The

more competitive universities only accept the CSS because the College Board is more detailed, probing into the parent's assets, equity, and marital status. The CSS even accounts for a family's cost of living, acknowledging that urban areas such as New York, Boston, and Los Angeles are especially expensive.

Because of the additional detail in the CSS, it is less generous than the FAFSA.

Universities typically accept the advice of the comprehensive CSS, which may surprise students who had expected more aid. Additionally, the colleges are not bound to follow the advice of these profiles; the office of financial aid ultimately makes the decisions.

Although middle and upper class families often do not receive aid, McCarty explained that they are allowed to apply for it, especially if the family is faced with the challenge of paying two or more college tuitions simultaneously. Additionally, since neither the CSS nor the FAFSA accounts for a relative's medical expenses or other outlying liabilities, a family may qualify for more aid than they might expect. Appeal processes will consider circumstances that are not initially considered. Since both profiles require tax forms from the year prior to admission, they do not account for sudden job losses or new expenses. McCarty suggested that families pursue the appeal option if necessary.

Mrs. Susan Kinney, Assistant Director of College Counseling, organized the financial aid workshop. As a former coworker of McCarty at Lafayette, she already knew how knowledgeable and helpful he would be. "He really knows a lot about how assets or a 401K will be looked at," she said. Because the former often causes confusion for families, Kinney felt it was important that he explain the significance of a family's assets. Many universities expect a family to offer up to 25% of its assets to pay for college, excluding 401K, protected retirement, and home equity. "The CSS accounts for private school tuition as well, factors that many families might not initially recognize," explained Kinney.

As seniors finish the application process and look to acceptances and aid packages, McCarty's advice will surely guide them. Kinney was very pleased by his presentation, as were the parents in attendance. With the recent progress some universities have shown in embracing need-blind admissions, his lecture shed light on a somewhat confusing process.

# Finance Cafe Speech Instigates Discussion



Courtesy of Communication Office

Continued From Page 1

tumor.

After leaving the doctor's office, he aimlessly wandered into a Starbucks, thinking, "I might have committed personal and professional suicide, but I'm going to have one last latte." It was then he reached the "turning point of his life." Unbeknownst to him, Starbucks was holding a hiring fair that day. He sat down next to a young woman named Crystal, who promptly offered him a job. Without thinking, he accepted. However, he immediately ran into a standstill – because his advertising job was basically handed to him by a Yale alumnus, he had never even filled out a job application before.

Yet, Crystal assured Gills that he could do it. She helped him fill out his job application, and a week later, Gates Gill was offered the job.

Along with the drastic career change came a lifestyle change: Gates Gill gave up his \$3,000 Brooks Brothers suits, moved from the spacious apartment he lived in to a modest attic walk-up, and got divorced. Trading in his suits for a Starbucks apron didn't come easily to him. On the first day of his job, he thought, "It took me years to get fired from J. Walter Thompson; here, I could get fired in a minute."

Yet Gates Gill eventually learned. He learned how to polish a bathroom, serve drinks, and even, eventually, with the help of Crystal and his training coach Chester, how to "respect others" and how to respect himself. He continues, "Chester believed in me. One night, he

told me, 'You did a great job closing tonight.' That night, walking around the block, I realized that I was happier than I'd ever been." He said, "A simple life is a happier life. [...] The simple life I discovered by accident, but I won't give it up."

However, Gates Gill seems to be on his way back to the top. He received a call from Tom Hanks who told him he wanted to make a movie of his inspiring life story. Gates Gill ensures, however, that he "has no interest in being there when the movie is made," adding, "I like spending time with myself."

Gates Gill closed his speech with one underlying message: the 3 L's. The first was, "When you're in trouble, leap with faith rather than hurdle with fear." The second: "Look with respect." And his final one: "Listen to your heart."

Student reaction to the speech was mixed. Danielle Westerman (V) said, "It's really easy for everyone to get caught up with work and buying and shopping, and it was a nice reminder, especially this time of year, to remember what's important." Alex Scavone (VI), however, had a slightly different viewpoint, saying, "Although he was an entertaining speaker, I found out a lot of background information about him after the assembly that I didn't know. I felt slightly deceived." Jason Reitman (V) summed up his opinion by saying, "I really liked Gates Gill's message. However, him dodging around some important questions and the loopholes in his speech somewhat weakened its integrity."

## Top 10 Fans of Christmas

1. Barack Obama
2. Taylor Lautner
3. Tim Tebow
4. OJ Simpson
5. Tiger Woods
6. Tiger Woods' Mistresses
7. Birmingham, Alabama
8. The NRA
9. Mel Gibson
10. Jesus Christ

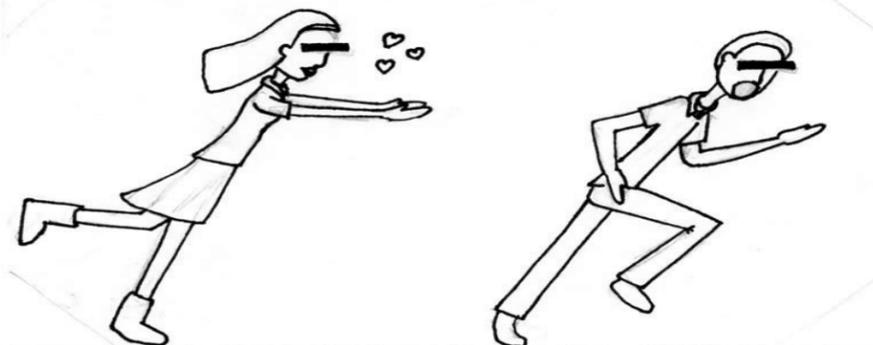
## Top 10 Fans of Hannukah/Channukah

1. Adam Sandler
2. Jerry Seinfeld
3. Lenny Kravitz
4. Bernie Madoff
5. Mrs. Landau
6. The Maccabees
7. Boca Raton, Florida
8. Will Pinke
9. The Grinch
10. Jesus Christ

Courtesy of SAC Heads Luke Pounder (VI), Alex Parker-Magyar (VI), and Charlie Laud (VI)

Think you can top this list? Contact Charlie Laud at [claud@pingry.org](mailto:claud@pingry.org) for information about the Broken Wreckord.

# SNOWBALL



JANUARY 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010

B.Hamm (V)

## Word in the Hall: What is Your #1 New Year's Resolution for 2010?



ELEANOR JOHNSON (IV)

"To make it to spring break."



CAMERON GENSCHE (III)

"To actually get an A+ in a class."



SEAN SALAMON (VI)

"Not to resolve anything. You can resolve anything anytime."



VICKY MORGAN (VI)

"To get senioritis."



BRIAN FISCHER (V)

"To make Pluto a planet."

# OneRepublic Maintains Quality in Sophomore Album

By DAN ABEND (IV)

Around this time of year, people tend to get so excited about the holiday season that Christmas albums take over the music world, and new releases that aren't holiday related get somewhat overshadowed. OneRepublic's "Waking Up" is one of these overlooked albums that deserves listeners. After the immense success of the band's first album, "Dreaming Out Loud," people wondered whether OneRepublic had the capability to follow up with another success or if they would suffer from a sophomore slump.

"Waking Up," released a few weeks ago, does not leave much room for question. Critics have for the most part agreed that "Waking Up" is a very good album, and OneRepublic shows exceptional musical talent throughout. Once again, the band expertly blended rock, pop, and hip-hop, proving that they are no fluke, and producing a great album in the process.

The singles released beforehand, "All the Right Moves" and "Everybody Loves Me," were catchy and implemented the same techniques that made "Dreaming Out Loud" successful: solid drum loops, strong vocals by frontman Ryan Tedder,

and a healthy mix of well played piano additions. This scheme continues to be utilized throughout the rest of the CD, and additional interesting music techniques show up in some of the other tracks.

"Good Life" puts more emphasis on the hip-hop side of the band, while the heavy beats and background vocals in "Marching On" create a really enjoyable listening experience. Although the vocal-piano combo that appears in so many of the tracks may make some of the songs seem similar, the varied styles used in each song make each of them unique. The best part about

"Waking Up," though, is that all of the songs on this album are pleasant to listen to, including the four Deluxe Edition bonus tracks.

Although it is yet to achieve as great success as "Dreaming Out Loud," with this album peaking at #14

on the Billboard charts, I expect that just as their last album raced forward after a slow start, "Waking Up" will catch on among listeners and reach the success it deserves, especially after the holiday music demand dies down. This album is

certainly worth a listen, and producer Timbaland may have struck gold when he found OneRepublic because "Waking Up," after the already great "Dreaming Out Loud," proves that this band will continue its success for many years to come.



Courtesy of Google Images

## "The Blind Side" Showcases Exceptional Cast and Story

By AMANDA HULSE (III)

"The Blind Side," which opened the same weekend as "New Moon," the second installment in the mania of the Twilight Series, never received its due recognition as exceptional. "The Blind Side," the heartwarming story of Michael Oher, was overshadowed by the vampire phenomenon in its opening weekend and in the two weeks that followed. The movie follows Oher, a homeless African American boy played by Quinton Aaron, as he becomes a part of the Tuohy family, a white upper class family that brings him into their world.

Based on the true story by Michael Lewis, "The Blind Side" makes viewers want

to both laugh and cry as they observe Oher's transition from "Big Mike," as he is called by his friends in his old neighborhood, to the endearing Michael that joins the Tuohy family. Michael opens up as the movie progresses, revealing that underneath his tough (and huge) exterior, he is really a teddy bear. Eventually, he even evolves into a gentle older brother for the youngest member of the Tuohy family. After seeing all the hard work Michael puts into football and his studies, the entire audience is rooting for him by the end of the film. Because of the opportunities that the Tuohys offer Michael and their encouragement to pursue football, he is able to rise out of the slums, move on from his traumatized

childhood, and begin a better life.

The movie examines the socio-economic gaps between Michael and the Tuohys, as well as the community's disapproval of Michael's relationship with the family. Racial conflicts are also present throughout the film; Mrs. Tuohy mentions at one point that "Michael is like a fly in a glass of milk" at the Christian school he begins attending.

"The Blind Side" encompasses a bit of everything for each viewer: football scenes, a fantastic performance by Sandra Bullock, thought provoking issues, and an inspirational story. Director John Lee Hancock has truly created a great film that is worth taking the time to see.



Courtesy of Google Images

## Seniors Charlie Laud and Luke Pounder Interview Rob Huebel

Courtesy of CHARLIE LAUD (VI) AND LUKE POUNDER (VI)

In continuing their interviewing series of "big" people in the movie industry, Luke Pounder (VI) and Charlie Laud (VI) interviewed actor and comedian Robert Huebel. In addition to working on shows such as "Late Night with Conan O'Brien" and "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart," Huebel has also done sketch comedy work for the MTV series "Human Giant." Huebel was also an Emmy nominee for producing "The Awful Truth."

*How did you get started in comedy?*

I really got started doing live comedy in New York City at a comedy theater called Upright Citizen's Brigade. I was lucky to get involved with them right when they started, so I got to be on stage a lot, mostly doing improv and sketch comedy. And I feel like being on stage several nights a week and writing sketches all the time was the best training in the world. People always ask if I have advice for young comedians, and I always say just perform ALL THE TIME. Anywhere you can. That's the only way to get better and start to figure out what you think is funny. And also don't smoke crystal meth. That's good advice too.

*Who are your influences?*

I was just a fan of lots of comedians growing up. I loved all the old SNL guys like Dan Aykroyd and Belushi and Bill Murray and Chevy Chase. Also Steve Martin, John Candy, Eddie Murphy, Bill Hicks. This is stupid. I'm just making a list of names now. But these were all guys I loved. Also the ghost of Abraham Lincoln and the guy that invented the jacuzzi. Steve Jacuzzi I think is his name. He influenced me to swim in his hot tub of boiling champagne.

*Which do you enjoy more, TV or film acting? Why?*

I've really enjoyed both TV and movie stuff. I've been able to work with really cool directors who are super funny and know how to make stuff even funnier. And it's really fun if they let me improvise. You feel more creative and like you're contributing more if you can improvise and come up with good stuff on your own. On



Courtesy of Google Images

Rob Huebel (left) stars in "Human Giant" with Paul Scheer.

"Human Giant," it was our own show so we pretty much did whatever we wanted. That was awesome. Anytime you can have control over what you're doing...that's the way to go. But then if it sucks, you obviously have no one to blame but yourself. I guess you could also blame it on the ah-ah-ah-alcohol.

*Do you have a favorite story of your career so far?*

I met Chevy Chase once, and he slapped me in the face really hard. It was not cool. I was such a huge fan growing up and was so psyched to meet him. He hauled off and totally smacked me right after I said, 'Hey I'm Rob Huebel, nice to meet you.' It was so weird. I think he was trying to be funny, but I almost punched him. But it would be like punching your Dad. So sad, I would have just cried. And it just made me want his approval that much more. I guess I am in an abusive relationship with Chevy Chase. Help me. Is there a number I can call?

*What's your favorite "Human Giant" skit?*

There are too many "Human Giant" sketches that I like to pick one as my favorite. I like the one where I cut my penis off. And one called, "Car Accident." And "Corn Maze." And "Spacelords." And "Shutterbugs." Are we really doing this? I will just go on and on.

*From what piece of work do you get recognized most?*

I get recognized from "Human Giant" a bunch if I'm around cool people. Older people and parents didn't watch that show. I don't blame them. I used to do a show called "Best Week Ever" that a lot of people watched and so sometimes people know me from that. I did a movie called, "I Love You Man" that people hardly

EVER recognize me from because I was spray-tanned and had blonde spiked hair. Recently I was at the bank and the teller goes, "Are you that douchebag from 'I Love You Man?'" I started laughing. You can't call me that and then expect me to give you my money.

*How important is it to work with people you get along with?*

Working with people you get along with is unbelievably important. It makes the difference between wanting to go to work...and wanting to stay home. Making TV stuff is a fun job, but it's still a job. And it gets stressful, so you want to be with people you trust and respect and jive with. And especially in comedy, it's impossible to make funny stuff if you're not getting along. Comedy is really about collaboration. You can't make comedy if people are in a bad mood or angry at each other. We all got along really well on "Human Giant" and tried to have as much fun as possible.

*What do you have coming up?*

I just shot a movie with Katherine Heigl and Josh Duhamel. That comes out next year. And I'm doing some stuff with Ben Stiller in "Little Fockers" and Will Ferrell in "The Other Guys." It should all be really funny stuff. I also just did a TV pilot for FOX that Ben Stiller produced. It's got John Goodman and a bunch of hilarious people. We're all CIA agents down in South America. I don't normally like to talk about stuff coming up because I don't want to jinx it. So it better get picked up and become a TV show. If not, I am going to blame everyone at your school. DO YOU UNDERSTAND? You guys better not have screwed this up for me!!! I will have to live on your couches!!!

# Boys' Varsity Ice Hockey Hopes to Continue Last Year's Success in Skyland Conference

By CAROLINE MURPHY (III)

Coming off of a successful 2008-2009 season with a 14-9-2 record, the 2009-2010 Pingry boys' Ice Hockey team is looking forward to building on that success this year as it joins the fiercely competitive Skyland Conference.

To prepare for this season, the team spent countless hours in the weight room and on the ice. Their pre-season

consisted of scrimmages against Mendham, Randolph, and Summit. They finished with 2 wins and 1 tie.

This year's team is led by captains Ryan Kiska (VI) and Peter Martin (VI). With Kiska on defense and Martin in goal, the team is geared to win. Martin said, "The team is very much improved since last year and I fully expect us to be ranked in the top 20 of the state when the first rankings come out."

So far, the team has a 4-0-1 record. The season kicked off with a 3-3 tie against Mo-Beard on December 1. Just a few days later on December 5, Big Blue beat Watching Hills in a great Saturday afternoon contest. The score was 7-0, and the game was well attended by a loud group of Pingry students from all grades who also held a tailgate before the event.

As the scrimmages and first recent games proved,

the hockey players have come together as a team and are willing to work hard to achieve their goals. Coach John Magadini said, "The boys pass well and hustle hard. They know their positions and are always where they're supposed to be. All in all, they work hard and play well together."

Everyone on the team has high expectations for the season. "I think the team looks great. We have one of the best goalies in the state, our defense does not give up many goals, and we have some great goal scorers up front," said Mac Hugin (III). He added, "We are going to be tough to beat this season."

Expectations are running high as the season progresses. With a slate of twenty games, there will be plenty of opportunities for students to attend games and support the team as they prove that they deserve to win the Prep B and Skyland Conference tournaments.



B. Morrison '64

# Despite Losing Seniors, Girls' Varsity Swimming Stays Strong

By KASIA AXTELL (III)

Although the season has just begun, the girls' Varsity Swimming team is already off to a strong start with a 2-1 record. Led by Coach Judy Lee and captains Meghan Hager (VI) and Gabby Scudato (VI), the team has already beaten Pennington and Ridge in regular dual meets, as well as come in first place at the Big Blue Invitational Championship against Hunterdon Central, Summit, and Hillsborough, making them the defending champions for the fourth year in a row.

Hoping to live up to last year's excellent reputation as Colonial Hills Conference champions, the team has been working harder than

ever. "Losing some of our top swimmers was a huge blow, but all of the girls have stepped it up," said Scudato.

The team feels confident as it prepares to swim in its many state dual meets against schools like Montgomery, Bridgewater-Raritan, Hillsborough, Kent Place, Ridge, and most of all, Mount Saint Mary's, one of the team's main rivals. The team is also looking forward to the county, state, and conference championships at the end of the season.

Even with the loss of last year's seniors, Christina Daquila, Maja Feenick, Briehan Burke, Taylor Demkin, and Maddy Popkin, the team remains optimistic. Scudato

said, "Losing some of our top swimmers was a huge blow, but all of the girls have stepped it up."

This has already been proven at the Invitational, where Pingry girls' Varsity broke two school records. Regan Fink (VI) broke the record time for the 100 Breaststroke, and Morgan Burke (III), Kate Leib (IV), Alysia Tsui (VI), and Fink set a new record during the 400 Free Relay.

The 2009-2010 season is already looking to live up to expectations. The strong wins that have already happened indicate positive months to come for this year's team. "We hope to have a very successful season," said Hager. And by the looks of it, they will.



B. Morrison '64

# Varsity Squash Looks Forward to Nationals

By STEPHANIE SUN (IV)

The boys' and girls' Squash teams have very high hopes for this winter season. Their main goal is to do well at the High School Nationals, a tournament in February held at Yale University for all the high school squash teams in the United States. Last year, more than 100 teams competed in the 2009 High School Team Championships in New Haven, CT, which brought some heavy competition.

This year's four captains, Chloe Blacker (VI), Kristin Scillia (VI), William Moore (VI), and Martin Bawden (VI) are all looking forward to the tournament at Yale. Chloe Blacker said, "It's tons of fun and great competition."

Everyday after school from four to six, the ten girls and ten boys practice at Drew University. During practice, Mr. Ramsay Vehslage, the team's coach,

keeps track of the players' timed sprints. Throughout the season, the players do sprints to improve. Racquet skills are a significant part of the training as well. The players work to perfect rails, cross-courts, lobs, dropshots, boasts, and serves during the season. Furthermore, drills and games are a part of their daily routine.

This year, the Squash team will be playing schools including Delbarton, Lawrenceville, Princeton Day School, and other schools in the area. The boys' first match was December 9 against Poly Prep Country Day School. They won with a final score of 5-2. Sarah Park (IV) said, "Squash is a lot of fun, and I love it because everyone on the team is really close, and we all support each other." All twenty players in the squash team are "ready and excited for a successful season," said team member Avi Bhavnani (V).

# Exciting Winter Season Awaits Girls' Varsity Basketball



Courtesy of Athletics Photo Gallery to the team for another season. Practices consist of sprints, drills, and scrimmaging to build up endurance and to increase skills.

So far the girls are off to a great start. They won their first scrimmage on Friday, December 4 against James Caldwell High School, and are anticipating many more wins to follow. "As long as we keep up our training, and work together as a team, I think we can really accomplish a lot this winter," said top returner Stephanie Hanchuck (V). "I'm excited to see what happens."

By SARAH PARK (IV)

Girls' Basketball is looking forward to having a very exciting and competitive season. Like many other sports teams at Pingry, girls' Basketball has made the switch from the Colonial Conference to the Skyland Conference. Maddie Garcia (VI) said, "After losing only one senior last year, and with a lot of freshman players joining the team, it looks like it will be another strong season for our team."

The Skyland Conference is much bigger than the Colonial Conference and features many more schools around the area. This year's captains are seniors Kelly Kurylak and Victoria Morgan. Morgan, who has been playing on the team since her freshman year, said, "we don't know much about our opponents this year because of the conference switch, and so we don't really know what to expect, which is both exciting and challenging." Although Pingry is one of the smallest schools in this conference, other sports have already gained many victories.

This year is Coach David White's eighth season as the Varsity girls' Basketball coach.

In addition to basketball, Coach White has also coached grade school soccer and softball and middle school football and baseball. Outside of Pingry, Coach White is the president and general manager of the Sports Academy in Millburn, which is an indoor facility for sports like basketball, baseball, soccer, lacrosse, and field hockey.

Ms. Michelle Pool, a new upper school faculty member, has joined the team this year as an assistant coach to help the girls prepare for an intense season. Mr. Joe Schneider, also an assistant coach, has returned

## Upcoming Games

12/22 Boys' Varsity Ice Hockey vs. Hillsborough

1/7 Girls' Varsity Basketball vs. Bernards

1/2 Boys' Varsity Basketball vs. North Hunterdon

1/16 Boys' Varsity Swimming vs. Watchung Hills

## Girls' Varsity Ice Hockey is Off to Promising Start Despite Setbacks



B. Morrison '64

By EMILY CZACHOR (III)

Led by their head coach, Mr. Sean McAnally, captain Courtney Hulse (VI), and assistant captains Victoria Lee (VI) and Emily Crooker (V), the Pingry girls' Ice Hockey team began their practices on November 15, 2009. Because Pingry does not have an ice hockey rink, the team travels to the Bridgewater Sports Arena every day after school. They spend their afternoons both skating and training to play a full game of hockey on the ice.

Every year, the girl's Ice Hockey team receives players who have never skated before. However, the sup-

port of other team members makes it easy for the girls to try new things and have fun learning how to skate. The girls are able to learn fairly quickly because they are immediately thrown into the game. One such player is Nikki Witte (III), who has decided to learn how to play as the team's only goalie.

So far, the season is off to a promising start. Pingry won their first scrimmage against Summit with a final score of 6-2. Key contributors to the win were Hanna Beattie (III), who scored four goals, and Kit Tyson (IV) and Nancy Eckenthal (VI) who scored one goal each.

Although her position

requires difficult training with a separate goalie coach, Witte's hard work has also paid off. In the team's first scrimmage against Summit, she was able to save all but two shots, helping Pingry with its 6-2 win.

The team recently played Morristown Beard and lost, giving them a current season record of 0-1. Despite a great effort, they also lost to The Hill School with a final score of 0-13.

As captain, Hulse has a positive outlook for the season, saying, "I'm really excited for this season. It's always a lot of fun getting out on the ice, especially with this group of girls." Assistant Captain Lee agrees, saying, "This year's team is looking really great. We expect to have a really fun and successful season."

## Winter Track Braves Chilly Temperatures

By JASON RING (IV)

This season's Winter Track team is looking to build on its history of past success. Just two years ago, the Winter Track Program was brought to Pingry and focused mostly on improving over the course of the season.

Last year, led by a group talented seniors such as Carlton Bowers, Dan Schuchinsky, and Matt Laforgia, the boys' team was able to win the NJSIAA state championship. This year, however, the team is moving to the more difficult Skyland conference, and has some big shoes to fill.

There are many new additions to the team, including many freshman and sophomores looking to make a major impact. Both the boys, captained by Myles Bristow (VI) and Adam Armstrong (V), and the girls, captained by Colleen Roberts (V) and Mary-Kate Martinson (V), hope that team will progress as the season goes along, and by the end of the season, be able to compete for a state championship.

One of the main goals of the team this year is for

the new underclassman to become accustomed to the tough practices and the fast pace the team runs during workouts. Bristow believes that there is "a lot of new potential talent," and that with the leadership of the returning members of the team, the younger members of the team will be able to step up and contribute throughout the entire season. Because much of last year's talent has graduated from the team, Roberts thinks that "all current members are of great importance."

The first meet of year is the Bishop Laughlin Games at the New York Armory, which is the country's largest Winter Track meet. This meet will provide the necessary experience for the team to see its strengths and necessary points of improvement. Another important meet later in the year is the NJSIAA Championship Meet at Lawrenceville. Although this is a rebuilding year for the team, there is every reason to believe that they will achieve all of their goals and be a strong competitor for another championship.

## Next Blue Army Craze: Boys' Basketball

By DIANA DZEROVYCH (V)

Although boys' Varsity Basketball did not start official practice until the Monday after Thanksgiving Break, the team's captains Will Pinke (VI) and Scott Sowinski (V) had already held multiple practices to prepare the team for the start of the season. With a lineup of 10 new freshmen, 3 returning varsity players, 5 returning taxis, and 6 seniors, the Pingry boys' Basketball team is looking forward to a great season with their head coach, Mr. Jason Murdock, and assistant coaches, Coach Eric Allena and Coach Steve Ben'ary.

This year, Pingry was placed into the new Skyland conference and just like every other team, the boys will have to adjust. Captain Sowinski said, "We don't know what to expect from the teams that we are going to play because it is our first year in the conference, but we'll compete to the best of our ability and see what happens."

So far, they seem to be doing just that. The team won their first scrimmage

## Boys' Varsity Swimming Defeats Lawrenceville 99-71

By MARISA WERNER (IV)

On Monday, November 16, boys' Varsity Swimming began their pre-season training. This year's team is led by captain Calvin Jones (VI), assistant captain Nick Gilligan (VI), and math teacher Mr. William Reichle as coach. Gilligan said, "We're shaping up to be a strong team this year; we only lost a few seniors and have a great group of freshmen coming in."

The boys opened their season with a win against The Pennington School on Tuesday, December 1. Then, on Saturday, December 5, Pingry hosted the Big Blue Invitational, which the boys have won two out of the past three years. The schools that participated in

this event along with Pingry were Hillsborough, Hunterdon Central, and Summit. The team didn't disappoint as Pingry boys' Swimming came out on top.

Mr. Reichle outlines the team's goals this season: "Undeclared season, win Somerset County Championship, win Skyland Conference Championships, State Champs, support teammates at practices and meets, and rank in the top 5 at the conclusion of the season."

Mr. Reichle also explained that the team has improved in depth and has been the largest team in years. The strong, new freshmen additions to the team are Dan Muro, Alex Tung, Will LaCosta, and Dorian Allen along with sophomore Jason Ring. Gilligan added, "The size hasn't gone up drastically

though, and the team still feels small and closely knit." Gilligan also outlined his goal for the season which is "to win states for the third year in a row." This seems highly possible since on Wednesday, December 9, the team had their first win against Lawrenceville in ten years with a final score of 99-71.

Because of the move to the new, more competitive Skyland Conference, the boys face some challenges this season. However, having lost only three seniors, the team feels prepared. In fact, the boys' team still has the four athletes from the winning 200 Free Relay at last year's Meet of Champions last year: Jones, Brandon Moy (VI), Nic Fink (V), and James Ross (IV).



B. Morrison '64



Courtesy of Athletics Photo Gallery

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