

How 1-to-1 Will Transform Pingry

By ABHIRAM KARUPPUR (IV)

Whether they are used for pleasure or for work, laptop use has been increasing in schools across the nation. A recent survey conducted by our school's Student Technology Committee (STC) shows that around 50 percent of Pingry students bring a laptop to school everyday. This number has been sharply increasing with the advent of newer technology and the push to get more teachers to utilize technology in their classrooms.

In the upcoming school year, Pingry will be launching the 1:1 initiative, which will mandate that all students bring a laptop to school everyday for learning purposes. In fact, the phrase 1-to-1 refers to the ratio of students to laptops. Technology Department Supervisor Mr. Brian Burkhart said the initiative will "better empower student-based learning in a myriad of ways" and promote the use of 21st Century technology.

STC member Kunal Nabar (V) agrees that the initiative will "better integrate the school with technology and facilitate more styles of learning." Students should be able to generate their own content in class, such as being able to complete online interactive activities and assessments.

Those kinds of changes, said STC member Eric Klawitter (V), will serve to benefit students. "The rest of the world is becoming advanced, and by integrating technology into the classroom, students will learn valuable skills that may benefit them in the future as well," he said. Programs such as Google Docs will allow students to

collaborate with each other in class, a valuable skill to have in the workforce. Teachers will also be able to control laptop usage, as laptops will not be used at all times during classes. Mr. Burkhart also commented that the introduction of block scheduling next year will allow teachers to use different methods of teaching, such as showing movies and using interactive applications.

Currently, the school and the Technology Department have not finalized the laptop and accessories requirements. Klawitter said that the plan is "under revision, as the requirements vary from class to class." Mr. Burkhart said the administration and the Technology Department will be updating the specifications for the initiative very soon, and the specifications will be posted on Pingry's 1:1 Technology Tools Center.

In order to ease the transition to the new program, the school has agreed to provide many of the necessities for using a laptop in school. Mr. Burkhart says that the school will provide the infrastructure, such as outlets for charging laptops, and Wi-Fi available for students to use. The school will also provide free copies of Microsoft Office and numerous other applications. However, students will be required to purchase their own laptops.

Teachers will also be educated with the necessary technology skills, and, Mr. Burkhart reports, will be taught how to implement these skills in the classroom. Nabar said that the STC will also provide many services such as an "Open Tech Time, where the STC will help students with computer problems."

Short Hills and Martinsville Campuses Unite to Enjoy Annual Winter Festival

By CHARLOTTE ZEE (V)

On Wednesday, December 12, students and faculty gathered in Hauser auditorium for the annual all-school Winter Festival. The Martinsville Campus also invited students from the Lower School in Short Hills to join the celebration.

To begin the Festival, Headmaster Nat Conard addressed the students by wishing them a warm, happy, and healthy holiday season. Spanish Teacher Mr. Victor Nazario presented the gifts that students had been collecting for the "Lift for Learning" charity. This served as a reminder that this is the season of giving.

To officially kick off the festivities, Student Body President David Soled (VI), assisted Claire Sartorius, a kindergartener, down the aisle to fulfill the tradition of lighting the candle in front of the school. Kishon Pinckney (V) said he "enjoyed watching them light the candle." After two unsuccessful tries, he and his fellow audience members let out excited cheers when the stage was finally illuminated by the candle's glow.

Following this tradition, various Upper and Middle School musicians and vocal groups performed.

One of the first pieces was a combined rendition of "O Come All Ye Faithful" by all of the musical and vocal groups. Audience members joined in on this familiar and festive tune. Other highlights included



Student Body President David Soled lifts Kindergartener Claire Sartorius to kick off the holiday festivities. Courtesy of Pingry Communications

the Boys' Sixth Grade Chorus's "Masters in This Hall," and the Girls' Sixth Grade Chorus's "Sleigh Ride."

Wind Sinfonia member Allison Yu (V) commented, "It was really great to watch members of all the ensembles perform. Their hard work really paid off."

The concert also featured the traditional Chanukah hymn "Maoz Tzur," performed by all the ensembles in addition to "Deck the Halls." Choral and assembly director, Mr. Jay Winston, pronounced, "I have never heard a louder rendition of 12 Days of Christmas by the student body. Impressive!"

The success of the school concert left the students with big shoes to fill for their evening performance on Thursday, December 13th. Musicians arrived for

their call time at 6:30pm and entered the stage with nervous excitement, as family and friends entered Hauser at 7:00pm to witness the performance. The evening concert had a similar traditional beginning as the previous concert, and it continued to remind everyone of the true meaning of the holidays.

This extended version of the concert included a much-anticipated finale of "Laudate Nomen Domini" by Christopher Tye, conducted by Balladeers President Yumi Casagrande (VI), and "Hallelujah Chorus" by George Frederick Handel,

conducted by Buttondowns officer Justin Sullivan (VI).

Music Department Chair and assembly director Dr. Andrew Moore said he "enjoyed everything! The Sonata Jubilate went especially well." Soloists for that number Camille Vanasse (V) and Julia Friend (IV).

The enthusiastic audience enjoyed itself during both events. As Mr. Winston said, the students "performed energetically and with a lot of spirit... There was so much energy, enthusiasm, expressivity, musicality, and flow in the music that I truly could not have asked for more."

Buttondowns Assembly Wows Audience

By MATT FROMM (IV)

On Wednesday, November 28, the Upper School gathered together in Hauser Auditorium to watch the Buttondowns perform. The assembly, which has taken place every year for more than half a century, gives the Buttondowns an opportunity to showcase the songs they've been working on since the beginning of the school year.

As in years past, students

watched the "Buttondowns Movie," a 15-minute long production that always precedes the Buttondowns running down the steps into Hauser and starting the assembly, a long-lived tradition.

This year some controversy surrounded the movie. One of the subplots was the quasi-relationship between Buttondowns members Justin Sullivan (VI) and Will LaCosta (VI), and one of the movie's culminating scenes

was set in the Men's Choral Room, where the two seniors kissed each other in a slow motion close-up.

Although many felt that the scene was funny and heartfelt, an administrator saw it before the assembly started and asked that it be cut, citing that it would be inappropriate for sixth graders from the Middle School watching the film. The full, unedited version was uploaded onto YouTube shortly after the assembly.

Despite the video controversy, the performance was fun and entertaining. The Buttondowns sang "Everybody Talks" by the Neon Trees, with Sullivan as the soloist, "Stand by Me" by Ben E. King, with soloist J.T. Surgeon (VI), "Somebody That I Used to Know" by Gotye, with soloists Dorian Allen (VI) and LaCosta, and "Some Nights" by Fun., with soloists Andrew Dellapina (VI) and Michael Arrom (VI).

The Buttondowns often incorporate funny antics into their songs. During "Everybody Talks," Allen did what could best be described as a ribbon dance around Sullivan, sending the audience into laughter. During "Some Nights," Henry Meiring (VI) rose out of a seat in the auditorium and launched into a spoken solo before walking on stage and rejoining the group.

Despite the electrifying personality that the Buttondowns brought to their performances, it is not to be mistaken for a lack of seriousness during practices. Music Department Chair and Buttondowns Director Dr. Andrew Moore scheduled several extra rehearsals outside of the Buttondowns' normal meeting time.

Students agreed that the group put on a great performance. President of the Buttondowns, Allen, said that he "heard nothing but compliments about the whole group," and told the a cappella club to "keep up the good work."



Michael Arrom (VI) performs with Keith Urban at the American Country Awards in Las Vegas. Arrom was one of a select few from the Grammy Foundation's GRAMMY Camp chosen to perform live with Urban. Courtesy of Rockit!



D. Allen and J. Sullivan (VI) performing "Everybody Talks." Courtesy of Ms. McGrath

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EDITORIAL

Don't Restrict Your Resolutions to January 1st

Every year, I make a New Year's resolution, and every year, I don't stick to it. If you were to ask me now what resolution I made last year, I wouldn't be able to tell you, because I can't, for the life of me, remember what it was. It is possible that I did not make one, which would explain why I haven't stuck to it; according to Proactive Change, a website that provides psychological services, "research shows that people who explicitly make resolutions are ten times more likely to attain their goals than people who don't explicitly make resolutions."

On that note, a study conducted by Cone Health in December 2011 shows that just one in five Americans (20 percent) actually stick to their New Year's resolutions for the whole year, and three in five Americans (60 percent) drop their resolutions within six months. Reading those statistics got me thinking: if only 20 percent of Americans stick to their resolutions, does that mean only 20 percent of Americans achieve their goals each year?

Of course not. You know why? Because the resolutions we make on December 31st are not the *only* resolutions we make all year, nor are they the only goals we do or don't attain. Whether we realize it or not, we make resolutions every day of the year, and more than 20 percent of us stick to them and even achieve them.

The truth is, making a resolution on December 31st is no different from making one on June 2nd or August 12th or October 23rd (all completely random dates, in case you were wondering). We shouldn't have to wait until December 31st to decide how we are going to be better people, or how we are going to lead more fulfilling lives. We shouldn't have to wait until January 1st to *start* being better people, or leading more fulfilling lives.

I believe that the problem with New Year's resolutions is that, in general, they are too broad, too vague, too optimistic, and too unrealistic. Instead of making one giant goal on one particular day of the year, each goal should be broken up into smaller fragments.

For us to have lots of small, short-term goals instead of one big one makes it easier for us to stick to our resolutions, and it also makes noticing – and celebrating – our daily or weekly progress a heck of a lot easier.

Here is an example to help you see what I mean: if I make a resolution to get an A on one specific chemistry test, it is, in the short run, a lot easier to tackle than a resolution declaring that I will have straight As in every single subject for the rest of my school career.

I guess what I am trying to say is, don't make resolutions that are bigger than you are. Make smaller, short-term ones that you know you can keep. Each achievement will lead you to be more motivated to create more goals and stick to them. Don't wait until December 31st; you can dedicate yourself to accomplishing something any day of the year.

—Kasia Axtell

What the US Can Learn from Bhutan

By KIRAN CHOKSHI (III)

When thinking about the American criminal justice system, one envisions almighty judges handing out life sentences and various other punishments to sinful criminals. Our penalty-focused system puts more emphasis on punishing criminals rather than helping to prevent their committing additional crimes.

With so many current and looming problems like the economy and the fiscal cliff, the United States can no longer afford to lean back on short-term solutions such as excessive incarceration. The criminal justice system must look to the future, which lies in the rehabilitative practices found in the humble nation of Bhutan.

Last week, when Ms. Carrie Cohen spoke about her experiences in Bhutan (see news article on Page 4), she got me thinking about the American legal system.

Two of the core values of Bhutanese culture, Ms. Cohen

explained, are forgiveness and rehabilitation. Rather than punish transgressors for wrongdoing, the Bhutanese justice system focuses on urging people to accept and admit to wrongdoing in order to move forward in life and become enlightened. These policies, she said, are the reason that Bhutan has one of the lowest crime rates in the world.

Like many members of our community, I came away wondering why we can't be more like Bhutan. While Bhutan and the United States have a very different population makeup, rehabilitation would still work here because most Americans are able to listen to the voice of reason and work to improve themselves. Although there will always be exceptions, if we treat people based on their potential for improvement rather than their fear of punishment, our society will benefit.

What we're currently doing doesn't work. In contrast to Bhutan, the United States has the

highest documented incarceration rate in the world. Additionally, our country spends almost \$23,000 of taxpayer dollars per year per inmate, which leads to a greater national debt, according to the VERA Institute of Justice.

These problems are compounded because money used to pay for our mass incarceration habit is not available for educational, service, and health programs that directly affect our future.

A recent Huffington Post article, for example, notes that "Since 1980, higher education spending has decreased by 13 percent in inflation adjusted dollars, whereas spending on California's prisons and associated correctional programs has skyrocketed by 436 percent. The state now shells out more money from its general fund for the prison system than the higher education system."

While the United States could learn quite a bit from the peaceful policies of Bhutan, as Ms.

Cohen suggested, we won't be able to unless we change.

It is clear that the United States criminal justice system is overrun with values of impatience, preference of quick solutions to problems, and punishments. These pervading ideas appear to render us incapable of accepting long-term solutions. As such, these better solutions such as rehabilitation are avoided.

By habitually seeking immediate, short-term solutions to huge problems, we are failing. Although rehabilitation is expensive, retribution is even more costly as those criminals must be sustained for the duration of their sentence. Also, felons are not directly taught the wrongs of their actions while imprisoned. This approach gives way to a vicious cycle of incarceration.

Somewhere along the line we have to change our priorities and look to a promising future, a future that resembles that of the small country of Bhutan.

Calculating Our Gross Happiness Index

By ANNA BUTRICO (V)

During the week of December 10th, announcements of college acceptances were all over my Facebook newsfeed. "GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY CLASS

OF 2017!!!!!" and, "Congrats on UPenn! You deserve this!" were some of the many status updates and comments that I have been encountering on Facebook these past couple weeks. I am so happy for those who have been

accepted early to the schools of their choice, but I can't help feeling a sense of dread of my own college application process next year.

Junior year is notorious for being relentlessly stressful. Students have to take standardized tests and AP courses, and have major grades count the most for college junior year, and most students can't help feeling that they are walking on a tightrope. One slip-up, and... they aren't getting into college.

This describes my dread with these college acceptances scattered all over Facebook. I can feel the flimsiness of junior year's tightrope under my feet, as I wonder, "What SAT scores did so-and-so get to be accepted into that school? How many APs did they take junior year? What math are they in?" I instantly panic when I feel that I am not doing enough to get into these prestigious universities, and I know that many of my peers share my anxiety.

Carrie H. Cohen, the speaker at this year's John Hanly Series on Ethics and Morality, helped me to identify and appease my nervousness. She discussed "Gross National Happiness,"

one of the main concentrations of the Bhutanese population, an interesting juxtaposition to America's "Gross Domestic Product." While America concentrates on income and trading successes, Bhutan concentrates on the happiness of the general public.

Pingrians, I realized, are classic Americans. We worry about the college name, the acceptance letter, the insignia of our college on a bumper sticker on the back of our cars. We often forget about finding happiness along the way. Yes, happiness does often come with the acceptance letter from the college of your dreams, but I don't think it comes from the year's worth of anxiety that precedes it.

The key is to be truly happy, while finding success and achieving greatness in the process. Happiness doesn't come later, once you're settled in college after miserable years of hard, stressful work; it comes during the four years we spend at Pingry. We need to do things we enjoy instead of scattering our resumes with a plethora of clubs we don't love. We need to take initiative and delve into activities we are passionate about, while fine-tuning our own talents and being amazingly happy in the process.



C. Zee (V)

Newtown Reminds Us to Put Family First

By ERIN BUTRICO (V)

On Friday, December 14, at 9:40 AM, a heartless crime

was committed in Newtown, Connecticut. Twenty children and eight adults were murdered. Adam Lanza, the attacker, killed his mother, several teachers and school administrators, and twenty innocent students. The attacker killed himself on the scene.

I was complaining about homework at 9:40 AM that day. I was shuffling between classes, making my "To Do List" to a friend, and dreading the homework that loomed ahead for the weekend. My classmates whined about their history tests. We all panicked about the fact that the semester is ending soon.

But did we fear imminent death? No. Unfortunately, I cannot say the same for the students of Sandy Hook Elementary School.

Life is a fragile blessing, and Pingry students often forget that. In the midst of our countless assignments, college preparations, and social lives, we lose sight of what's important: family. We lock

ourselves up in our bedrooms to finish English essays that are ten pages long. We stay up late to study, often too busy to wish our siblings goodnight. We spend our lives at school and our friends' houses, and fill our weekends with parties and get-togethers. Where have those family times gone?

Our agenda is the rust that builds upon the links of our family members. It hardens our relationships. But luckily, it is not permanent. The Connecticut shooting is a heartbreaking reminder that life is fleeting. Links between family members were severed by a gunshot; hopeful mothers and fathers lost their flesh and blood to violence. This was an unforeseeable tragedy and little could have been done to prevent it. But here we are, as Pingry students, voluntarily submitting to forces that separate us from our family.

I can't help but ask, in the time of this tragedy, what would happen if we died tomorrow, when we spent all of today in our rooms

with our assignments, or over at a friend's house?

Rusty links can be polished. Agendas can be adjusted. As we approach 2013, I think we should put family first. We should do homework as usual, and socialize as we please, but we should not forget what is most important in our lives. We should strive to get closer to the Pingry community as well, as those are extended members of our family. Just like the surviving students who walked with their eyes shut, single-file, out of the bloody building, we should become closer and help one another in the Pingry community, regardless of the circumstances.

As we approach the holiday season, it becomes all the more necessary to remember what we are thankful for. Personally, I am thankful for this community and for my family. I know that I represent my fellow students by saying that from now on, I'll never take that for granted.



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STC Provides Inside Scoop on 1-to-1

By GREG KOZIOL (VI)

The 1-to-1 Program that will be implemented next year is a good thing for Pingry.

For most students this would not be a radical change: according to a survey conducted by the Student Tech Committee last year, 54.8 percent of responders always brought a laptop to school, 28.9 percent sometimes did, and a whopping 91.9 percent have access to a laptop that can be used at school.

The results from this year's survey have not been calculated yet (and if you haven't yet responded, please do so), but we can only expect these numbers to increase as computers and other technology become more ubiquitous and significant in our lives.

What will change, how-

ever, are the expectations teachers will have of their students. Just as teachers can reasonably assume now that every student has a notebook and writing utensil, next year they will know that every student has a functioning laptop. Courses redesigned with this in mind will be able to take advantage of the plethora of online and software tools available to students through laptops, ultimately creating a more interactive learning experience.

A common criticism of laptops in the classroom is that they are sources of distraction. Laptops can indeed be very distracting; there is no doubt about that. But this potential for distraction doesn't go away once students graduate high school. Computer use will be mandatory for virtually

every career a Pingry graduate can have, so fostering focus, productivity, and responsibility among students will be an invaluable experience for their lives after high school.

Although it may not be evident, the 1-to-1 Program is a huge undertaking that has required immense efforts by many people behind the scenes. I cannot say much more about faculty involvement, but I can say plenty about student involvement.

The 1-to-1 Program has been a main project of the Student Technology Committee since the group's beginning in the Spring of 2011. We have met with Upper School Director Dr. Denise Brown-Allen about the technical specifications required of student laptops, the expectations of the stu-

dents, and the way this information should be made available to the community.

The aforementioned survey was also a part of the 1-to-1 Program implementation. More indirectly, the Student Technology Committee has played a role in preparing faculty for the 1-to-1 Program by coming in on many faculty in-service days to help instruct teachers on the use of classroom technology.

Additionally, as you may know from the signs on the computer lab window, members of the Student Technology Committee have volunteered to provide technology help during seventh period on Thursdays. We realize how limited this schedule is, but it is only the beginning; we expect to have several more available periods by next year when the 1-to-1 Program is in full swing.

If you have any questions — about the 1-to-1 Program, or the Student Technology Committee's role in implementing it — please do not hesitate to approach me, or any of the other Student Technology Committee members. They include Valerie Morin (VI), Sydney Li (VI), and Kevin Baquero (VI), Kunal Nabar (V) and Eric Klawitter (V), and Theo Rabke (IV). As we noted in a recent morning meeting, we're looking for committee members to replace graduating seniors next year.



Student Technology Committee members Banquero, Nabar, Klawitter, Li, Morin, and Koziol.

S. Taylor (VI)

Wait, Does Pingry Have a Lower School?

By JULIA AXTELL (III)

While the promise of the School Festival can evoke groans from some students, I happen to enjoy both campuses coming together and singing the traditional "Twelve Days of Christmas." For me, it brings back fond memories from when I was a kindergartener at the Lower School, visiting the Upper School for the first time. I remember always being in awe of how big the campus was and how old the students seemed.

I know that for the Upper School, the concert is just a routine occurrence, but for me, it embodies what the holiday spirit is all about: families (or campuses) coming together with

excitement looming over everyone's heads.

As a kindergartner, this visit was not to be taken lightly. We spent practically the whole day at the Upper School with our assigned high school buddies with whom we wrapped gifts for less fortunate children. I wish Pingry would go back to that schedule. I always enjoyed getting to know an older student and I'm sure any younger kid today would feel the same as I did.

It would be a pretty big change from what we've been doing the past couple of years, but I really think the school should encourage more visits from the Lower School students. We are such a great community, and, especially since we're

on the smaller side compared to many local public schools, it's a lot easier to feel like a close-knit "family." Pingry should utilize our small numbers and encourage a strong bond between the Upper and Lower Schools.

I'm not saying we should have more concerts that combine Lower and Upper School students, because while that may be fun for the Lower School students, I understand that Upper School-ers are not as into them. I do, however, feel that many more activities that bring together the two campuses would be enjoyable for students of all ages.

When I was at the Lower School, my favorite event of the entire year was Field

Day. It is so disappointing to see how many people don't even remember when the campuses would combine for the all-day event, but it holds a special place in my heart. I remember being amazed at how huge the Upper School was and how tall the students were. I felt like it would be forever before I would finally get to attend this campus.

Field Day would give us all a sense of school spirit while also bringing both schools together again. I hope that Field Day, such a wonderful school tradition, will be revived at some point in the near future, along with many other events that will bring students, ages five to eighteen, together.

EDITORIAL

Newtown Shooting Reminds Us To Curb Gun Ownership

Various explanations of the Mayan Calendar say that the world is slated to end today, Friday, December 21, 2012. If you have watched the movie "2012" or listened to Jay Sean's "2012 (It Ain't the End)" you have undoubtedly heard of the phenomenon.

While most of us dismiss the idea of an apocalypse as absurd, in a fast-paced society filled with a new horrific tragedy or natural disaster in the news each day, it isn't too far-fetched to believe in such supernatural lore.

How else can one explain last week's heinous massacre in Newtown, Connecticut? For no apparent reason, a gunman heartlessly murdered twenty innocent children and seven adults in an elementary school.

Unfortunately, the Newtown shooting does not stand-alone and has occurred within a string of recent shootings that have become all too familiar. According to an article in "The Nation" magazine, there have been a whopping 16 mass shootings since January. Although the country's overall violent crime rate has been dropping, the number of mass shootings has risen quite dramatically over the past few years. So what accounts for the rise in mass shootings then?

Many of us, including myself, may jump to blame phenomena like the world ending out of sheer disbelief, but there happens to be a plausible reason for these mass killings: a failure to properly control gun ownership.

As the number of mass shootings rises, the number of guns in the country has also been rapidly rising. This past weekend, "Mother Jones" magazine reported that over the last fifteen years the number of guns in private hands in the country went up from 200 million to 300 million and that "the increase in firearms has far outpaced population growth," signaling that guns and mass killings are correlated.

Some may believe that the Newtown gunman and others like him were suffering from mental illness and that may have been the cause of the attacks. According to a January 2011 article by the National Institute of Mental Health, the mentally ill are at higher risk of being victims of violent crimes rather than the perpetrator and that the most usual form of aggression amongst the mentally ill is against oneself and not others. It is important for us to not jump to the conclusion that these attackers are suffering from mental illness because studies show that this is not necessarily true.

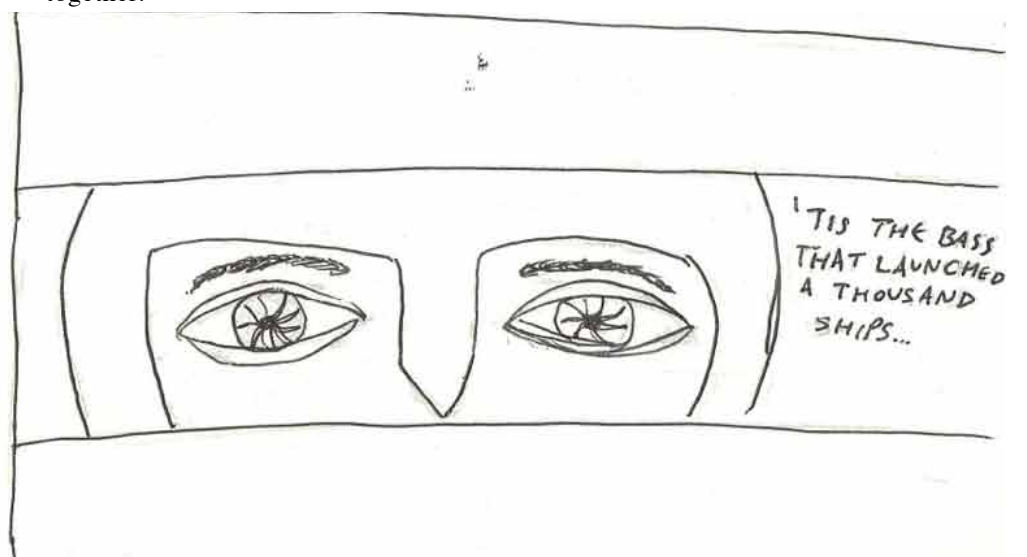
Many individuals may also feel that these mass shootings occur because of other factors like the gunmen's motives or backgrounds and not as a result of a rise in gun ownership. However, it is the assailants' actual use of a gun as their weapon that results in these mass killings. The same day that the Newtown shooting occurred, CNN reported that a man in central China attacked 22 children in an elementary school. There was probably something in his background influencing the assailant like the Newtown gunman, but the incident resulted in no casualties and the children were only injured because the attacker used a knife — not a gun. Other weapons don't necessarily kill someone, but all types of guns serve one and only one purpose: to kill either humans or animals.

Even though guns are dangerous, there are relatively few regulations on the ownership of them. For example, there are more safety laws on the sale of teddy bears than guns according to the Violence Policy Center.

If we want to stop having to witness these evil mass shootings, we have to become serious about gun control. As a community filled with bright minds and future leaders, Pingry students are in a prime position to help curb gun violence. I encourage all of you to never forget the events of Newtown, educate your peers about the dangers of gun violence, and even lobby your congressmen or legislators to instill stricter gun laws.

I normally try to not get too political in the Record, but the sickening reality of the Newtown shooting truly impacted me, like I'm sure it did for most of us. As followers of the Honor Code, we have an ethical responsibility to work for the greater good and I believe that includes helping to reduce gun ownership.

—Ben Kaminoff



C. Cohen Shares Her Experience Writing Penal Code in Bhutan

By **ALYSSA BAUM (V)**

On Friday, December 7, Carrie H. Cohen, Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York, spoke to the community as part of Pingry's 13th Annual John Hanly Lecture Series on Ethics and Morality.

Ms. Cohen spent 2002 in Bhutan, an independent nation in southern Asia. She explained that the fourth Dragon King of Bhutan, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, abdicated the throne in favor of a democracy for his country. Since then, Bhutan has been drafting a national constitution.

Ms. Cohen served in Bhutan as a consultant to the Chief Justice while he was sculpting the country's penal code and rules

of evidence. She explained that her job was sometimes difficult because Bhutan's legal and social philosophies are very different from those of the United States. For example, the Chief Justice believes that defacing a chorten (a religious structure) is as serious an offense as murdering another human being.

A Buddhist nation, Bhutan believes that everybody should have an opportunity for self-correction. The government also believes that there is no purpose for the government to exist if it cannot create happiness for the people. Bhutan measures its social success on a Gross National Happiness index that measures honor, character, respect, and service in the country. Ms. Cohen noted that Pingry's Honor Code also mentions honor, char-

acter, respect, and service as key attributes of a Pingry student.

Later, during the Q&A portion of the assembly, one student who had visited Bhutan asked Ms. Cohen about the effect technology has had on the nation, seeing as the country has recently adopted many of the technological devices that we consider necessities here in the U.S.

Ms. Cohen responded that in recent years, as the amount of technology in the country has increased, the Gross National Happiness index has decreased. The Bhutanese value time spent with community and family, and since technology is isolating, its increased prevalence in their society led to a decrease in their society's morale.

Ms. Cohen closed her presen-

tation by sharing an important lesson she has learned while working in the penal system: "People are not all bad and not all good; they are a mixture of things."

In general, the student body had a positive response to Ms. Cohen's speech. Drew Topor (V), Secretary of the Honor Board, said, "It was very inspiring to listen to the impact and contributions Ms. Cohen made to implement a structured penal system in Bhutan, and we were fortunate to have her share her experiences with us." Topor continued, "I was also intrigued by how she related Bhutanese beliefs to Pingry's Honor Code. It's interesting how two communities thousands of miles away share such similar moral values."



Ms. Cohen with Honor Board Chairperson Caroline Murphy (VI). R. Davis (V)

Seniors Model in PSPA Fashion Show

By **STEPH WILF (VI)**

On Saturday, December 1, many members of the community gathered at the Martinsville Campus to dine, take part in auctions, and watch the class of 2013 walk down the runway in the PSPA's "Under the Stars" annual fall benefit.

Over 100 seniors modeled in the fashion show part of the evening this year. The fashion show is one of the many events designed to unite the senior class through a festive evening spent together.

Mrs. Leslie Patrizio has coordinated the fashion show for the past five years. After the event, she said, "The senior models were absolutely a pleasure to work with, and they all looked fabulous on the runway."

Senior girls wore a variety of

clothes from long gowns to short cocktail dresses. The boys wore tuxedos, suits, and other "preppy" ensembles. Many seniors wore the color navy, in honor of our school's colors, as well as other wintry tones.

Professional stylists and makeup artists volunteered for the night, and helped the girls get ready and look glamorous before walking down the runway. Melissa James (VI) said, "I loved that we got our hair and make-up done. It made me feel like we were all real models and everyone looked gorgeous."

Overall, the seniors had positive feedback about the night. "The fashion show was really awesome," Billy Porges (VI) said. "The second I got off the runway I wanted to go right back on. The PSPA also did an amazing job transforming the gym."



C. Gensch and H. Meiring (VI) make the crowd laugh as they dance down the runway. K. Axtell (VI)

NY Times Correspondent Bronner Educates Students about Journalism in the Middle East

By **TANAY GUPTA (V)**

Current New York Times National Legal Affairs Correspondent Mr. Ethan Bronner was welcomed to the Martinsville Campus on Friday, November 30 to give a lecture for Pingry's annual Diversity Assembly. He spoke about how his experiences as the Times' Jerusalem Bureau chief from 2008-2012 affected his beliefs about the ongoing conflict in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

The assembly was planned by Dr. Diana Artis, faculty advisor to the Student Diversity Leadership Club (SDLC), Assistant Director of Admission, and Coordinator of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs and the Upper School Multicultural Team. Dr. Artis was introduced to Mr. Bronner through a mutual friend and hoped that he would "facilitate conversation about a topic that this community has not addressed in this way before."

Mr. Bronner brought up the differences between Israeli and Palestinian thoughts on the issue when he addressed the Israeli West Bank Barrier. The Barrier is a combination of concrete slabs nearly ten

feet high, or a "multi-layered fence system," according to the Israeli Ministry of Defense. The Palestinians refer to the structure as a "segregation wall," while the Israelis have dubbed it a "separation fence."

Dr. Artis said that diversity in its broadest sense includes the challenge of understanding that the perspective one holds to be true may not be true for someone else. The different perspectives in this case – where "you call it a wall, I call it a fence" – are central to understanding diversity.

Uday Jubeh (V), a foreign exchange student from the Palestinian city of Ramallah, said that the assembly helped him to understand the Israeli point of view on the structure. Jubeh also applauded Mr. Bronner in his insistence that journalists convey their message as neutrally as possible. Jubeh thought he was "very good and very accurate; he explained both sides very neutrally. Overall, I am very happy with the way he presented everything."

Community Service Director and Technology Teacher Ms. Shelley Hartz found his remarks to be "insightful and fairly presented" as well.

Co-president of the Student Diversity Leadership Club Vinita Davey (VI) said that the club has made videos about students speaking about racial tolerance in the past. Davey said that "underlying all the tensions in the conflict, people on either side of the border are human and they both have their own opinions and they both have their own interests."

This year marked the first time that students have learned about the Middle-Eastern region through not only the lens of diversity but also journalism.

The challenges of dealing with the Israeli-Palestinian border control were revealed by Mr. Bronner when he discussed the difficulty of planning a dinner party for people of both Israeli and Palestinian backgrounds.

Due to the difficulty in getting both groups to one location, he was forced to hold two separate parties. It was an event whose coordination epitomized the struggle between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

History teacher Dr. Edwards commented, "The setup was so difficult because it is speaking to an experience that has been deeply laden

with strife for decades and decades now." He understood the controversy surrounding the topic and was keen on avoiding a "political debate," instead hoping for an informative lecture. Mr. Bronner shared this goal, repeatedly refusing to make predictions about the outcome of the conflict.

After the assembly, Mr. Bronner admitted that his best advice about journalism is traveling to foreign countries and learning the local language. He said it is vital to live and talk amongst individuals very dissimilar from oneself, because learning different viewpoints helps one to grasp the bigger picture and to develop an objective understanding of a topic.

Rahul Oza (IV) said that he liked Mr. Bronner's message about the necessity to "go out and get the news first hand instead of reading about it."

Samantha Korn (V) responded to Mr. Bronner's statement that journalists of the future will need to do all kinds of journalism – writing, audio, photography, and video – by beginning a video news feature about our community. Regular segments will appear on a Pingry Record video blog soon.

Word in the Hall: What Is Your New Year's Resolution?



LILY GRAFF AND GEORGIA MILLER (IV)
"Get better grades."



SONALIKA REDDI AND YUMI CASAGRANDE (VI)
"Have a great senior year."



ALEC KIRMSER (IV)
"Get more followers on Twitter."



TAYLOR DILLON AND KAMAU HOLSTON (IV)
"Get more involved in the community."



CAMERON GENSCH (VI)
"Discover something new!"