

# DECISION 2011



On Friday, March 11th, the junior class selected the three candidates for Student Body President for 2011-2012. Speeches were on Monday, March 28th, and the vote will be held on Friday, April 1st. Who will you choose?

BRAD ERICKSON • ANDREW HANNA • MARISA WERNER

## Current Student Body President Will Bartlett Reflects On His Past Year in Office

By WILL BARLETT (VI)

After I was elected this past year, one of the first warnings Will Pinke left me with was, "be ready to write a bunch of articles for the Record." Alas, he was correct, so a special thanks to everyone on the Record staff for allowing me to hone my skills in journalism. On a more serious note, however, this past year has flown by. It does not seem like a full year ago I was trying to cleverly sneak jokes into my speech while still having Mr. Corvino approve all of them. A year later, I don't have any regrets for my actions while in office, and hopefully I've lived up to all of your wild-est hopes and dreams.

The first task that I felt that was my primary responsibility was the X-Games last May. Although Will, a senior on ISP, was technically still in charge, I knew that I would have to take some of the load off his shoulders. Of course, I was ready to do just that, but it wasn't until a few days leading up to the actual event that I actually realized how much work it would take. Needless to say, those few days were mildly hectic for both Will and myself, but in my eyes (and hopefully yours) we got our acts together in time and managed to have a successful

X-Games (special shout-out to the people who stayed to watch "Zoolander" with Mr. Hadvavny and me). On the drive home that night, I remember being pleasantly surprised by how everything had turned out, and I took it as a positive sign for the next twelve months.

The two dances we've hosted so far this year have definitely lived up to the standard I set in my own mind for Student Government events. As much as I'd like to take much of the credit for the success of Homecoming and Snowball, that's literally impossible to do, because the real credit should go to all of you guys who went and had a good time. My mom told me one time that the best wedding gift you can give to a bride is to have fun at her reception, and honestly, I felt the same way during those two dances. Watching everyone dancing and enjoying themselves made me realize that we as an organization had done a good job. I hope that this is the truth, and not just my own personal bias.

As difficult as it may be for some of you to believe, during the past year, with the help of my friends in Student Government, we have managed to get more done than just plan dances. Earlier in the year, Mrs. Markenson and the Form Advisors approached us as a group and asked us to come up with a Dress Code Philosophy. The Dress Code Philosophy is an overall statement, written by students for students, to express our belief and faith in the Dress Code; it is similar to the Honor Code. We hope that, beginning next year,

students will sign and present the Philosophy at Convocation. This Philosophy would help students become more responsible for their own appearance. It is Student

Government's hope that small steps like this will help make Pingry a better place.

I said it earlier, but it needs repeating: I wish I could take all the credit, but that would be just wrong, because so many people have worked hard to make Student Government the successful organization that

*During the past year, with the help of my friends in Student Government, we have managed to get more done than just plan dances.*



it is. All of the members have done a great job, but I feel like the four class presidents, Colleen Roberts (VI), Marisa Werner (V), David Soled (IV), and Louie Monteagudo (III) have done an especially amazing job. I honestly think the four of them have been the most productive group of class presidents that I've seen since coming to the Upper School, and for that I am forever grateful. If this is my final Record article I just wanted to tell you all: thank you for allowing me to be your president, and I love you. See you around.

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Students share the qualities that they look for in a Student Body President. P. 4



## If I Had Gotten Past the Junior Primary...



**TOM O'REILLY**

*"I would have tried to bring a smile to everyone's faces at Morning Meetings."*



**JAKE ARONWALD**

*"Only the students could tell you what I would've done. My only plan was to work for what they wanted."*



**WILL KELLY**

*"Someone who is good-natured and honest."*



**DYLAN SUN**

*"I hoped to resolve the current disorganization problem in Student Government."*



**RYAN CAMPBELL**

*"I would have made news and progress in Student Government should be more available to the student body."*

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<b>Technical Director</b> Malvi Hemani	<b>Editor in Chief</b> Anisha Mohin	<b>Faculty Advisor</b> Dr. Susan Dineen
<b>Copy Editor</b> Sarah Park	<b>Assistant Editors</b> Dan Abend Roxanne Feitel Marisa Werner	
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## Brad Erickson

### IN HIS OWN WORDS...

As a young boy, I always had a dream that one day I could be president. I wanted to sit in an office on a comfy chair, and be able to control people with a single word. I now realize that dream wasn't to be president of the country, but to be the President of this fine learning institution known as Pingry.

And while I'm not sure if the president gets an office or if they have total control over anyone, I still feel that I am well suited to be the president of the student body. I am a very approachable person. No matter who you are (even if you're a freshman) if you have an idea, or need to talk to someone, you can talk to me. I also am told my voice is apparently funny; personally, I disagree, but if you want to hear announcements from a comical voice, I'm your president.

I have a lot of ideas for this school to make a great place, even better. My first idea is to see if we can get breakfast served longer. It's only out until the end of second period, and if it was still out during Headmaster's Break, they could feed a lot more people. Even if it's only an extra ten minutes, very few people have free first and second, and while you

can go before class starts, many teachers forbid food in class and sometimes you don't realize you're hungry until it's too late.

My next idea is to implement a joke of the week of sorts, to help brighten up Mondays. I could just throw one in during announcements, and am willing to take jokes from people, but they would have to be good. They could be dumb jokes, clever jokes, or knock-knock jokes.

Another one of my platforms (speaking of which, that word always reminds me of Mario) is to look into upgrading the quality of the toilet paper. I know this may sound funny, but everyone has to use that sandpaper every once in a while. Maybe not Charmin quality, but something a little softer on the cheeks, you know what I'm saying?

I have many other ideas, and am completely open to more, so if you have any suggestions, give me a shout-out. You can Facebook me, tweet, text, e-mail, call, or use any other possible way of communication. If it's a really creative way, then you can earn bonus points. I haven't exactly figured out what the bonus points will do for you yet, but still, free points, and doesn't every-



one at Pingry want those?

I want you to know that I will take the job one hundred and ten percent seriously, but that doesn't mean I can't have fun while I do it. I just like to have fun, and I want to help make the school a more fun place for all of you, the people that have

to wake up early every morning (and don't even get paid for it.) So on Election Day, vote for Brad, and you won't be sad or mad, but, hopefully, a tad glad. If you tell your dad, I'm sure he wouldn't feel bad. So if this sounds rad, you probably should vote for Brad.

### CANDIDATE SURVEY

#### FAVORITE...

**Movie:** *Kung Pow*

**Album/Artist:** Spice Girls

**Subject:** Wumbology

**March Madness Team:** Little Rock

**State:** Does Canada count as a state?

**TV Show:** "Care Bears"

**Place to Shop:** Harry Potter World

**Teacher:** My mommy

**Word:** Thrice

#### PICK ONE

**Boxers or Briefs?:** Trick question, boxer briefs

**Coke or Pepsi?:** Milk

**Chocolate Chip or Carnival Cookies?:**

Chocolate Carnival Cookies

**Mila Kunis or Natalie Portman?:** You can't do that to a guy; it's just not a fair question.

**Stephen Colbert or Jon Stewart:** Daniel Tosh

#### COMPLETE THE SENTENCE

**If I were an ice cream flavor, I'd be...** Thrice Cream.

**In the cafeteria, you'll usually find me eating...** depends, but I always drink Yoo Hoo.

**The best Halloween costume I ever wore was...** my octopus costume when I was 3.

**My guilty pleasure is...** poke wars on Facebook.



# Andrew Hanna

## IN HIS OWN WORDS...

It's hard to write an article about yourself without coming across as too egotistical or arrogant. I've only got 500 words to tell all of you why I'm so awesome. Subtlety is going to have to go out the window here. Thankfully, subtlety isn't one of my defining qualities. When I try to get something accomplished, I go in full throttle.

After being on student government for a year and serving as Vice President of the junior class, I've realized one thing: this job isn't easy. You plan and work your butt off and you still take more criticism than compliment. But I feel like that's a good thing. The more people care about what happens at this school, the more things actually get done.

My primary focus as President would be getting more people to participate in student government. I've heard some truly fantastic ideas from my peers concerning things like the dress code, the cafeteria, and dances. But many people can't present at student government meetings due to both prior commitments and the unpredictable scheduling of these meetings. Next year, Student Government will be meeting on the second Wednesday of the month during Headmaster's break. I feel like the opportunity for more students to sit in on

meetings and suggest ideas will make student government a more effective and efficient organization.

I'd also like to bring a greater level of control over what happens at the school to the student body. Ideally, I'd like total democracy. If the student body itself could plan, decide, and vote on issues, I couldn't possibly be blamed for anything that does go wrong. But realistically, things would never get done that way. However, I do want to get more opinions from all of you. I'd institute a better system than just "talking to your class representatives" if you want your voice to be heard. Surveys on homecoming themes and cafeteria food are a good start, but I'd like to tackle bigger issues like the dress code as a community, not just as a few students conversing with a few faculty members.

Too often it feels like there is a gap between the faculty and the students. I have a fairly good relationship with the administration and teachers in general. As your president I would be able to bridge that gap and let the faculty know precisely what it is that the students want.

I feel like I'm a pretty friendly and open guy. You can come and talk to me if there's something you want



to discuss. I swear I'll listen to you. Also, if you have a proposal you really want looked at, I will be your advocate. We can go bother form advisors, administrators, even people in the business office together. If nothing else, I'm persistent.

I want to be your president so that I can help all

of you. I'm not doing it for the fame, power, or any of the other nice perks I'd get. I'm doing it because I feel like together we can make Pingry a less stressful and more fun place for everyone. Thank you to all who gave me this opportunity and I hope to serve as your next Student Body President.

## CANDIDATE SURVEY

### FAVORITE...

**Movie:** *The Last Unicorn*

**Album/Artist:** *Dizzy Up the Girl* by The Goo Goo Dolls

**Subject:** Drama

**March Madness Team:** Georgetown

**State:** Enlightened

**TV Show:** "Firefly"

**Place to Shop:** Express for Men. It's so colorful!

**Teacher:** The Maintenance Guy who looks like Jay Leno

**Word:** Superfluous

### PICK ONE

**Boxers or Briefs?:** Boxers

**Coke or Pepsi?:** Mr. Pibb

**Chocolate Chip or Carnival Cookies?:** Brownies

**Mila Kunis or Natalie Portman?:** Mila Kunis. I'm not into clinically insane girls.

**Stephen Colbert or Jon Stewart:** Stephen Colbert

### COMPLETE THE SENTENCE

**If I were an ice cream flavor, I'd be...** chocolate and never go back.

**In the cafeteria, you'll usually find me eating...** food.

**The best Halloween costume I ever wore was...** Quailman.

**My guilty pleasure is...** Degraasi: The Next Generation.

# Marisa Werner

## IN HER OWN WORDS...

This year marks the third year in which I have been a student at Pingry. Although I was new as a freshman, Pingry has become my second home. In fact, I sometimes spend more time at Pingry than at my own home. During my time here, I have developed a solid rapport with both the faculty, the administration, and many students. As Junior Class President and hopefully Student Body President, I represent students from different backgrounds and interests and want to ensure that the activities that we plan will bring all of these students together.

As Student Body President, my main objective would be to bring all the grades closer together through various activities such as a bonfire, a dance the same night as Spring Fling, and more activities that would bring out everyone's school spirit. This year, I organized a Convocation Barbeque to commemorate John Pingry's birthday. I originally wanted the Barbeque to take place outside, but due to the construction that was going on this past September, it wasn't possible. This upcoming September, however, knock on wood that there won't be any more construction so we can have the Barbeque outside!

This year, dress code has been a big topic of debate in Student Government. While I cannot ensure that the administration will allow us to wear

jeans every day, I will first begin with trying to make every Friday a dress-down day. This is one less day for the girls to wear their jeggings or "fake pants" and would ensure that people would be more inclined to follow the dress code, which would result in fewer detentions being given out. This year, the junior class Student Government submitted a Dress Code Philosophy to the administration. This, along with the Honor Code, will be signed by each advisory group at the beginning of the year and will be presented to the whole school at Convocation.

Another popular topic of conversation is the school's cafeteria food. I believe that to ensure that the cafeteria is serving food that the students want, we should conduct surveys once every month. Chef Andrew Whitman, along with the whole cafeteria staff, is truly dedicated to serving food that the students enjoy and is really willing to work with us. We just have to take the initiative, which I will gladly do.

At this year's Convocation, Headmaster Nathaniel Conard explained Pingry's motto *Maxima reverentia pueris debetur*, a Latin phrase meaning "the greatest respect is owed to the students." The students and faculty need to work together in order to get things done. I believe that we need to establish a committee composed of both



students and faculty members to ensure that the policies and activities that the school is planning to engage in and impose are what the students truly want. This portal of communication would allow the school to run more smoothly and eliminate some of the tensions between the faculty and administration and the students.

Student government has a great deal of potential, but we must be proactive and communicate with the student body, the faculty

and the administration. We have the power to do many things at our school because the faculty is willing and the students are motivated; we simply must take greater initiative. More school-sponsored events and increased school spirit will bring the school closer together so that everyone can share a sense of unity, acceptance, and recognition in the community. As Student Body President, I'm willing to be the initiator in these areas, so please vote for Marisa Werner!

## CANDIDATE SURVEY

### FAVORITE...

**Movie:** *Breakfast at Tiffany's*

**Album/Artist:** *Little Voice* by Sara Bareilles

**Subject:** English

**March Madness Team:** Butler

**State:** New Jersey

**TV Show:** "Modern Family"

**Place to Shop:** Walmart

**Teacher:** Too many

**Word:** Spicy

### PICK ONE

**Boxers or Briefs?:** Boxers

**Coke or Pepsi?:** Coke

**Chocolate Chip or Carnival Cookies?:** Chocolate Chip!

**Mila Kunis or Natalie Portman?:** Natalie Portman

**Stephen Colbert or Jon Stewart:** Stephen Colbert

### COMPLETE THE SENTENCE

**If I were an ice cream flavor, I'd be...** peanut butter cup.

**In the cafeteria, you'll usually find me eating...** edamame beans.

**The best Halloween costume I ever wore was...** Princess Anastasia.

**My guilty pleasure is...** watching the Kardashians.



## What Did You Think of the Candidates' Speeches?



**ROBBIE HUGIN (VI)**

*"I loved Brad's speech. He has what it takes to be a good President."*



**DAVID SOLED (IV)**

*"Will Bartlett's speech was hilarious."*



**LIZ HERMAN (III)**

*"They were creative and it was obvious they all really wanted to win."*



**MADELINE HIGGINS (V)**

*"I really want to find the Chamber of Secrets now."*



**Ms. TORRES**

*"I liked Marisa's speech! She was focused, straight-forward and sincere."*

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



**KEVIN FISCHER (V)**

*"Someone who's funny during Morning Meetings."*



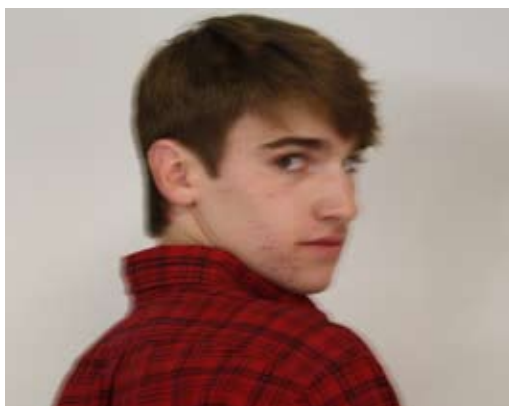
**CAMILLE VANASSE (III)**

*"I think the person who's going to win is the one who can apply humor and seriousness to their approach."*



**JOHN DUGAN (IV)**

*"Someone who's approachable."*



**ALEX CASTLE (V)**

*"Someone who can be the face of our school."*



**WADE HOMER (VI)**

*"Someone who is good-natured and honest."*