

## Weldon Receives Prestigious Stifel Award

By ROXANNE FEITEL (V)

On Monday, April 18, the annual Henry G. Stifel Award Assembly took place, honoring a member of the community who exemplifies the characteristics Henry Stifel '83 embodied following a car accident in his sophomore year that left him paralyzed.

Since 1984, the award has recognized students or faculty who might not otherwise be acknowledged for their courage, endurance, optimism, compassion, and spirit. This year's recipient, senior Whitney Weldon, became the 27th person to receive the Stifel Award in front of her friends, family, and peers.

When Weldon was nine, she was diagnosed with an extremely rare genetic disorder characterized by the abnormal growth of bone in soft tissue, called Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva, or FOP. As a result, Whitney can no longer lift her arms up or bend or sit comfortably, her right elbow is in a locked position, and she has only limited movement from her neck to her hips.

Since her diagnosis in 2001, Weldon has adapted to life with this difficult disability, while still living a normal teenage life. As Marsha Baldinger, mother of Tori Meyer (VI), said in her speech, Whitney has never allowed her disability



Courtesy of V. McGrath

Weldon (VI) with Stifel after receiving her award.

to stop her from doing the things she wants to. For example, despite her limited mobility, Whitney obtained her license and drives all the time. As Ms. Baldinger put it, "Whitney wasn't going to miss this experience." Describing her as "unstoppable, irrepress-

ible, beautiful, courageous, dignified, and committed," Ms. Baldinger praised Weldon for her "quiet sense of confidence" and ability to "reassure everyone around her" with her perpetually positive attitude.

Further, Whitney and her family have been instru-

mental in raising awareness and fundraising for FOP research to find a cure, which currently does not exist. For the over 600 people globally who suffer from FOP, the only chance for a treatment comes from the FOP Laboratory at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, for which the Weldons have raised millions of dollars. "Thanks to Whitney," Ms. Baldinger said, "there have been amazing breakthroughs that never would have been possible without her determination, strength, and focus."

In his closing speech, Mr. Henry Stifel commended Whitney for her choice to "move forward" with her life and not allow her disability to stop her. Noting the role Pingry played in allowing him to start over and move forward, Mr. Stifel stressed that the "greatest obstacle in life is to overcome the paralysis in ourselves that holds us back from facing a challenge." Whitney, he said, has done just that.

As Whitney came out to accept flowers, she received a standing ovation from her fellow students, teachers, and friends. "Although I was so nervous being on stage in front of everyone," she said, "I am honored to receive such a remarkable award, especially since Henry has accomplished so many amazing things even with his condition."

## Drama IV Puts on Annual Senior Play

By ANISHA MOHIN (VI)

On April 27-30, the Drama IV class put on their annual Senior Play in the Attic theater. This year, for the first time, the class chose to perform two shows: "Rabbit Hole" and "Baby in the Bathwater." Sarah Muirhead (VI), Kaela O'Connor (VI), Lakshmi Davey (VI), Thomas Schermerhorn (VI), and Ted Macioce (VI) performed "Rabbit Hole" on April 27 and April 29, while Jeff Baum (VI), Julia Dowling (VI), Taylor Smith (VI), Ariana King (VI), and Ted Macioce (VI) performed "Baby with the Bathwater" on April 28 and 30. Head of the Drama Department Mr. Al Romano directed both shows.

"Rabbit Hole" is a moving, intense play about family. Becca and Howie Corbett, (Muirhead and Schermerhorn) lose their young son Danny when he is run over by a teenage driver (Macioce). The show reveals how the couple, Becca's mother (O'Connor), and Becca's pregnant sister Izzy (Davey) deal with each other in the shadow of his death. Davey said that she "loved playing Izzy, a character who's totally different from me yet so, so fun, and I am stunned over and over again by the amazing talent of our class. They are some

of my best friends and I really truly enjoyed working with all of them." Avi Bhavnani (VI), who saw the show Wednesday night, said, "I loved the show." He added, "The way Drama IV breathes life onto the stage is nothing short of miraculous."

Like "Rabbit Hole," "Baby with the Bathwater" is about family. This show looks at a dysfunctional married couple, John and Helen (Baum and Dowling) and what happens to Daisy (Macioce), the child they raise together. According to Davey, the show is a "screwball comedy with a whole cast of offbeat characters." King played a Mary-Poppins esque Nanny who helps to raise Daisy, while Smith played a crazy unnamed woman who tries to steal Daisy.

The "Rabbit Hole" cast did the behind-the-scenes work for the "Baby with the Bathwater Cast," and vice versa. Of the experience, Muirhead said, "There's something really fantastic about doing tech for a show, especially when it's for some of your best friends. After four years of performing together, it was really wonderful to get to watch my friends put on an incredible show and to know that I had contributed to the process."

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John Goodyear's paintings on display in the art gallery. A. Logerfo (VI)

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## SAC Puts On Last Assembly of the Year

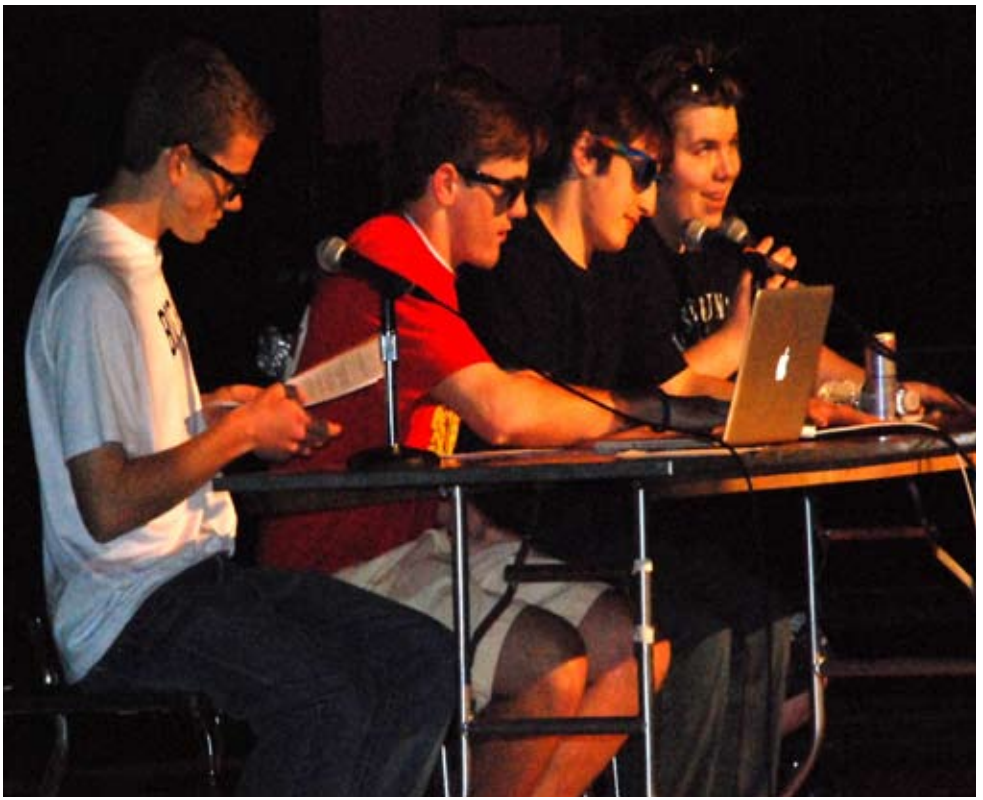
By DAN ABEND (V)

This year's spring SAC assembly, held on the seniors' last day of classes, sent the class of 2011 out laughing. The April 29 assembly was the last for this year's SAC members, and they put some of their best work into it.

According to senior member Alex Fagella, "We were really happy with the way the videos came out. We pulled an all-nighter beforehand to get it all ready, but it was worth it."

The assembly opened with a short music video featuring AV assistant Jason Levine lip-synching lyrics to the tune of Kanye West's "Power." The video got the audience laughing right away and set the tone for the next few skits.

Senior members Alex Fagella, Will Bartlett, Henry Gadsden, and James Goldberg kept the momentum going with the usual "week-end update" style segment. Interspersed with the "update" jokes were a few short videos that poked fun at faculty and students alike. One of the videos featured Mr. Tim Lear, Dr. Denise Brown-Allen, Coach Doug Scott, Mrs. Susan Forrester, and Dean Ridie Markenson gathering reconnaissance about students' activities the day after prom via social networking. "The adminis-



Seniors H. Gadsden, W. Bartlett, A. Fagella, and J. Goldberg putting on a skit at the assembly. Courtesy of V. McGrath

tration video was my favorite," Will Kelly (V) said.

After the weekend update, the jokes continued, with skits like "The Golden SAC Awards" and the always-popular "If They Mated," both of which drew positive responses from the crowd. A mock slander campaign ad about Student Body President resident-elect Marisa Werner (V) was also a big hit. Hugh Thompson (IV) thought the

Marisa video was "one of the better parts of the entire assembly."

The assembly closed with a video made by Matt Beattie (VI) and fellow seniors Matt Damstrom, Andrew Young, and Matt Sheeleigh. The video featured the group pulling various pranks on members of the student body, from staging a fake Psych project to licking their elbows without them noticing. Seeing so many of

their fellow students getting "pranked" really got the crowd laughing.

Overall, the assembly was a hit. Logan McGowan (V) said, "It exceeded my expectations and really showed the creativity of SAC." Victor Hsue (VI) agreed, saying, "It was pretty funny, and knowing how much work they put into it, I have nothing but praise for them. It was a great last SAC assembly for me."

## EDITORIAL

## Desperately Seeking A Break

Anybody who knows me knows that I've recently become addicted to the TV show "Desperate Housewives." And when I say addicted, I mean it: I watched six seasons in about a month and a half. That's 134 episodes. At 43 minutes each, that means I spent 5,762 minutes (96 hours!) following the lives of four housewives (Susan, Bree, Gabby, and Lynette) on Wisteria Lane.

Now, at any other point in my high school career, I would have felt extremely guilty devoting so much time to such a frivolous pursuit. For the most part, I consider myself a pretty diligent worker: I take extensive notes on history reading, do assigned readings for my English classes, put together study guides for Econ Tests, and always make flashcards for French vocabulary words. This, along with my extracurricular activities, didn't exactly leave me with much free time, especially during junior year and the first semester of my senior year.

But at the end of January came second semester, and with that, a dramatic shift in my attitude. Suddenly, schoolwork didn't seem to matter nearly as much anymore. That's not to say that I stopped working altogether – that would have been a little too radical for me. Still, though, those French flashcards didn't seem so important, and I realized it was a little redundant to make study guides for Econ when Ms. Wolfson gives them to us already! With so much more free time, I decided to sign up for Instant Netflix.

Fast forward to April, when I discovered "Desperate Housewives." I don't know exactly why I love the show so much. Each episode is completely over-scripted and over-dramatic, but it's also totally absorbing. For 43 minutes, schoolwork and other responsibilities don't cross my mind: the lives of Susan, Bree, Gabby, and Lynette seem so relevant.

Another one of my favorite pastimes is reading, but I always rationalize that by saying that it's an intellectual pastime that will serve me well later in life. Nothing about "Desperate Housewives" is intellectual, and honestly, I don't see how knowing the names of each of Lynette's six kids or Susan's entire romantic history will help me later in life. But I don't care, because it's just so ... addicting. In a good way.

In her OpEd, Roxanne Feitel (V) advised students to refrain from overloading themselves so much. I completely agree, and further, I have an addendum to that piece of advice. I think a lot of students here don't stop every once in a while and give themselves a break. I know that I didn't, and I wish that I had. Honestly, nothing tragic is going to happen if you don't do your AP US reading for one night (Sorry, Dr. Murray & Dr. DeSimone!)

To be clear, I'm not at all advocating laziness or blowing everything off. Even though I'm working a lot less than I used to, my GPA really hasn't slipped that much. In fact, some of my grades are higher than they were last semester, and I think there's something to that. I've learned how to give myself a break, and as a result, when I do buckle down, I can be more productive, crank it out, and just get it done.

I totally understand that "Desperate Housewives" isn't going to be the show or activity that everyone turns to in order to just relax and enjoy themselves for a little bit. But I think that everyone should have something like that – NOT an extracurricular activity that looks good on a résumé, but something that they enjoy just because.

A lot of my friends laugh at me for my "Desperate Housewives" obsession. But I just smile and laugh it off, because I've taken a valuable lesson from it that I'll remember in college. Sometimes, a little frivolity goes a long way, and I think every member of this community – from middle schoolers to freshmen to stressed out juniors – would do well to remember that.

—Anisha Mohin

## The X-Factor: Do You Have It?

By YUMI CASAGRANDE (IV)

At 6:00 A.M. on April 14, I arrived at the Prudential Center and waited in line for four hours for a chance to audition for the "X-Factor," Simon Cowell's new singing competition. The winner of "X-Factor" will receive a five million dollar recording contract and most likely be catapulted into instant fame.

Auditions for shows like the "X-Factor" and "American Idol" are often referred to as "cattle call" auditions because of the enormous number of people who are herded into one crowd. When you glance at a herd of cows, they all look the same: white with black spots; it isn't until you take a closer look that you see that all the cows are actually different.

Unfortunately, with 20,000 people auditioning in New Jersey alone, the producers only have time to take a quick, 30-second glance. I had 30 seconds to prove to the producers that I was not just another black spotted cow, but a special one with unique talents. Unfortunately, the producer I sang in front of didn't see anything that differentiated me from every other cow that auditioned and gave me the standard, "I'm sorry, but it's a no for today."

*My goal was to be sincere. If I was to make it through, I wanted to do so by being completely me, without any gimmicks or other antics.*

At the end of the day, all you have is yourself. I could have sung a different song, I could have put on a different outfit, or I could have told them I was an avid Lady Gaga fan who paid homage to her every Thursday in a shrine I created in my closet. If I did those things, the producers' answer might have been different. However, my goal was to be sincere. If I was to make it through, I wanted to do so by being completely me, without any gimmicks or crazy antics.

So if I couldn't make it through, who could? Well, there was a duo who dressed up as Batman and Robin, a woman dressed as a bride, a person in a bunny suit, and a young boy who was a Justin Bieber replica. The contestants who made it through reminded me of Pingry students because they were the

kind of people who would do anything to accomplish their goals, sometimes even changing who they are as people.

I am not calling Pingry students fake or desperate, but with the pressure to get into college, I sometimes wonder how much of what we really do sincerely reflects who we are and what we enjoy doing. This is probably motivated by the idea that runs through students' minds constantly: who they are is not enough, so they must be bigger,



brighter and bolder. I am all for pushing one's limits and striving for improvement, but I feel like the art of self-expression has turned too goal-oriented. The prevailing mindset is that the more you have on a résumé, the better you are.

Leaving the Prudential Center, I saw many people who were crying over being rejected, and I became acutely aware of the importance of perspective. There is no denying the gutted feeling of disappointment that I experienced, but I came to realize that it was not the end of the world and this one rejection did not define who I am as a person. My life did not depend on making it to the next round, and I'm pretty sure it was the same for all of the others there, although they may have convinced them-

selves otherwise. Some of my friends were incredibly skeptical when I told them that people were crying, but I find this ironic because of the many times I have seen Pingry students, including me, crying over B's. We push ourselves to the point where we over-analyze such minute details of our lives, losing a sense of what is really important: staying true to ourselves.

So, then, what is the true X-Factor? Maybe it's just recognizing that we're all unique, not just a list of all of the "gimmicks" that we use to be noticed by an admissions committee. It's capitalizing on that uniqueness without pushing ourselves over our limits. And it's putting those disappointments that come our way into perspective. The only question is, do we have it?

## Thinking Before We Speak: How Questions Reflect On our Community

By NICOLE BLUM (IV)

The first Earth Day assembly, held on April 20th, was interesting and informative. I'm usually lost when it comes to complicated scientific lingo, and science is always my weakest subject, but Matt Strangfeld '02's presentation mostly explained the actions of his company BrightPath Energy, a developer of solar power, and the progress of solar power across the globe. It was a talk from

which the entire student body, from Middle Schoolers to upperclassmen, could extract value.

However, I think the closing question and answer portion of the assembly got a bit out of hand. The questions began as genuine, curious, and insightful, but towards the end, they grew to be irrelevant and vacuous. I know I can speak for the vast majority of the student body when I say we grew impatient very quickly with the silly questions. And, we should also consider

how we presented ourselves to our guest speaker. Asking empty questions did not make us seem very serious about the assembly. In addition, more vacuous questions take away from the intelligence of the insightful questions.

So why did the questions get so silly, especially towards the end of the assembly? Maybe it has something to do with spring fever: because of the combination of warmer weather and the pressure of final exams,

both Middle and Upper School students tend to get restless around this time of year. Perhaps the constant stream of questions had something to do with students wanting to get out of a little bit of class time. If so, that strategy worked – but was the benefit worth the cost?

Our honor code states that students should work together to further the best interests of the community. The students who asked silly questions certainly did not behave honorably.

As I said earlier, those questions reflected poorly upon our student body. And, as we near the end of the year, many classes are currently working at a fever pitch to finish material and begin reviewing for exams. Some of us who wanted to get back to class felt that our time was being wasted as we listened to questions that began to pertain less and less to Matt Strangfeld's actual talk. To be clear, "What is your

favorite color?" and "What is your favorite Pokemon?" are not particularly respectful questions.

That being said, I am not at all advocating refraining from asking questions at the end of an assembly. Pingry has a highly intelligent student body, and students should certainly ask questions about talks and presentations that spark their interest. Doing so is absolutely acting in the spirit of the honor code: learning for the sake of learning, making our guest speakers feel welcome, and hopefully enriching other students in the process.

I think those students who asked genuinely insightful questions at the end of Matt Strangfeld's presentation should be commended, and I would encourage other students to do the same. However, the fact that Pingry allows us to interact directly with our guest speakers is a privilege, not a right. Therefore, we should not ask questions just for the sake of asking questions. Instead, we should think before we speak, remembering that our questions are a reflection of ourselves, and, by extension, the entire community.



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# Why We Should Only See One Shade of Green

By DAN ABEND (V)

When we think about the environment, there is an issue that keeps sneaking its way into the minds of the school, students, and administrators alike: what is more important to us, being green or saving green?

The Earth Day Assembly on Wednesday, April 20 provided the school with a different viewpoint than usual. The assembly placed less emphasis on saving the environment than it did on how the "green movement" works as a profitable industry. Matt Strangfeld '02 explained his role working for the company that he founded, BrightPath Energy, which installs and controls solar energy panels for corporations interested in using solar energy for their buildings. While he did talk about the positive impact solar energy has on the environment, most of the presentation was about the business side of solar energy and economic growth of the industry.

After the assembly, I heard many students and faculty members discussing how they enjoyed that aspect of the presentation. They appreciated that unlike previous assemblies, this one was more about economic information about

the green industry and less about how the world is "in peril." Others remarked that they felt the opposite; they thought it did not have enough information about the climate issues and how to solve them.

That difference of opinion about the economic value of being eco-friendly - green vs. green, if you will - has become increasingly prevalent in our school. As gas prices skyrocket to new highs and the energy crisis expands, Americans who cared less about being eco-friendly are starting to adapt to the green movement for its economic benefits, sometimes upsetting ardent environmentalists who think they are doing it for the wrong reasons.

For example, solar panels have become an increasingly popular utility, as Strangfeld explained. Because using solar energy bills can cut electric costs in half, people who never cared for the environment are beginning to develop an interest in the technology. In our own school, smaller debates about whether actions like turning off lights during school hours and getting our food from local businesses instead of suppliers further away are being done mainly to positively impact the



environment or just to save us money. It sometimes becomes a deeper issue about our values: what is more important to us — money or the environment?

Well, my answer to that question is: does it really matter? As we install projects that fulfill both of those issues (saving money and the environment) it should not matter what our motivation is. The "green com-

promise" of achieving both goals is really the best solution. Each side gets some of what they are looking for from each new solar panel or other project.

As for the people that argue about the morality and values about the issue, that too is irrelevant. Whether our community installs a system that benefits the environment with the full intention of doing only that,

or if we do it to cut back on costs, as long as the environment is positively affected, it does not matter what the ulterior motives are. And for that matter, is wanting to save money such a bad thing, anyway? The economy has been rough on everyone, and anything that can be done to cut back on costs is not greedy, but smart and resourceful. As they say, money doesn't grow on trees

(no pun intended).

So, as we try to keep up with the ever-changing scene of economic and environmental pressures and await the future green initiatives by the school, I urge you not to argue about whether it is being done to save green or to be green. Instead, just accept that as long as it is a beneficial move, it is all the same color.

## Seeking Depth Over Breadth: Why The "Slow Movement" Has Its Merits

By ROXANNE FEITEL (V)

It was 4 A.M. on a Thursday night in early April and I was still up studying. I was going to get fewer than four hours of sleep for the third night in a row. Bleary-eyed and barely functional, I remember asking myself, "How did things get this bad?"

I signed up for seven academic classes in the spring of my sophomore year: English, Math, AP US History, Spanish 3, French 4, Physics, and Economics. I figured that with careful time management and dedication, I could manage this hectic schedule and for the most part, I have.

But at what cost, and for what gain?

A significant number of juniors currently take a full schedule, which means that every period of their day is occupied by a class. As a result, they generally only have one free period per week and have significantly more homework than peers who don't take seven classes.

According to policy, Pingry teachers are supposed to give no more than 45 minutes of homework per class per night. If you do the math, students who take a full academic schedule could receive more than five hours of homework per night. When you factor in athletics and extracurriculars, it's no surprise that students consider it normal to stay up

until all hours of the night and live through the day in a state of perpetual exhaustion. Knowing how many of my peers were enduring the same course load, I figured this was just a burden I had to bear to keep up with the pack.

When my English class started a unit on Thoreau and Emerson in the late fall, I started to wonder if this was really

*Pingry students no longer value education for its own sake. We believe that if we want to excel, we have to do more than our peers, and do it better.*

healthy or constructive. My English teacher, Ms. Lebowitz introduced us to something called the "Slow Movement," a philosophy that advocates slowing down our hectic, fast-paced lives in order to get more out of them. In a book called *In Praise of Slowness*, Carl Honoré argues for "raising an unhurried child." Honoré points to children as young as five whose rushed, overscheduled lives cause physical problems, like "headaches, insomnia, depression, and eating disorders brought on by stress."

Sound familiar? Pingry students no longer value education for its own sake. We believe that if we want to excel, we have to do more than your peers, and do it better. And most damaging, we believe that our classmates are the competition, rather than our teammates.

If we keep up this attitude, not only will Pingry students be unhappy, we will become increasingly unsuccessful. The more we emphasize

overloading our schedules, the less we value getting a rich experience out of each class. After a certain point, we stop learning and start merely memorizing material to get through each two-week cycle of learn, study, test, and repeat.

And while I recognize that it may seem like the only way to get into a good college is to take as many APs as possible while still juggling four other classes and extracurriculars, some of the nation's most prestigious schools are bucking that trend. Saint Ann's School in Brooklyn, for example, doesn't assign grades on any student work. Since their founding in 1965, they have "embraced a commitment to education for its own sake, oriented to the capacities of each individual student, free of the encumbrances of formal grading." Instead of giving grades, teachers at Saint Ann's write lengthy comments (like our interims, but even more detailed) every semester. With this policy, Saint Ann's encourages students to enjoy learning without the stress of knowing there will be a grade attached to their work.

And this policy hasn't stopped them from achieving excellence: in a 2004 Wall Street Journal survey, Saint Ann's was rated the number one high school in the country for having the highest percentage of graduating seniors enroll in Ivy League and other highly selective colleges. (Pingry ranked 17th on that list.)

Clearly, there is another way to be successful. When I look at the model employed by Saint Ann's, it makes me fear that Pingry has its priorities

backwards. Instead of pushing students to take more and more classes, we should be encouraging them to take fewer, and to actually try to obtain value from them.

The Pingry administration makes decisions to protect us from ourselves all the time. For example, juniors don't have off-campus privileges. A thoughtful administrator along the way decided that it is safer if inexperienced, seventeen-year-old student drivers don't leave campus during the school day. And they were probably right — this measure cuts down on potential accidents and gives students something to look forward to in their senior year. Sometimes, adults really do know better.

Now, we need a progressive-minded educator to see the problem in our current scheduling policy and do something about it, even if the decision is unpopular. Students are already prevented from taking more than 4 AP classes per year. Taking a full schedule should be banned, too.

As I gear up for AP exams and finals, I've been spending more and more nights hunched over my computer



into the early hours of the morning. Like most juniors, I can't wait for this year to be over. I have genuinely liked coming to school in the past, but this year hasn't been quite as enjoyable. A few days ago, one of my former French teachers from stopped me in the hallway and asked, "What happened to the happy, care-free girl I knew last year?" She had noticed my perpetually serious expression and was concerned that I had lost my *joie de vivre*. I'm sorry to say she wasn't the first teacher to notice.

Unfortunately, course selections for next year have already been submitted and a number of rising juniors signed up for full schedules. I wish I could go back and warn them how many nights they'd spend mindlessly staring at a textbook, or even contemplat-

ing typing meaningless words just to get to the minimum word count for a paper. It's too late for me, but it's not too late for future Pingry students.

I leave you with a quote from the Pingry Honor Code to consider: "The members of the Pingry community should act as responsible members of the community, working for the common good rather than solely for personal advantage." By encouraging students to overload their schedules, we are ignoring students' best interests and promoting competition among them. It's time that we, as a community, work to change this system, creating a school that makes us care about what we learn, celebrates our curiosity, and encourages us to become our best selves.

## Freshman World History Classes Visit the Cloisters in NYC

By ALYSSA BAUM (III)

On April 17, the freshman World History classes went on the annual field trip to the Cloisters Museum and Gardens in New York City. The Cloisters is a branch of the Metropolitan Museum of Art devoted entirely to the art and architecture of medieval Europe. The freshmen spent the day touring the museum and seeing artwork that depicted the differences between Romanesque and Gothic architecture, the social class system in Medieval Europe, and many religious aspects of the medieval world.

"I really enjoyed looking at the unicorn tapestries because I never expected that rugs on a wall could tell so much about the time period," Mikaela Lewis (III) said. Several other students agreed that the tapestries were among the most interesting pieces in the museum because of their cultural significance.

Art teacher and trip chap-



Courtesy of Google

The Cloisters at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

erone Mrs. Marge Lear-Svedman said, "The trip is a great opportunity for the freshmen to immerse themselves in medieval times and get a feel for what it was really like. Personally, I either see something new that I haven't

seen before or see something in a new light every time I go to the Cloisters museum."

Next year's freshmen will visit the Cloisters a year from now as well, so that they can observe all of the artifacts it has to offer.

## Green Group Presents Assembly and Plans for the Future

By SARAH KIM (V)

The Green Group presented its first full-length Earth Day assembly on Wednesday, April 20. The speaker, Matt Strangfeld '02, is the co-founder of Brightpath Energy, a company currently developing solar power in New Jersey. Strangfeld discussed reusable energy and the economic benefits of using such sources of energy as solar, wind, and water. "It was very successful with lots of great questions afterwards," Green Group Adviser Mr. Peter Delman said of the assembly.

As for Green Group itself, one of the organization's newest projects is the vegetable garden, which is currently being constructed outside the cafeteria. Director of Community Service Shelley Hartz is the Project Manager, but the kitchen staff and the Green Group are also actively involved. The Green Group hopes to involve students by inviting them to garden and help with weeding.

Green Group is also working with teachers to create environmental courses. An environmental studio art course will be available next year, and environmental history and science courses are in development and may be available the following year.



Courtesy of V. McGrath

Matt Strangfeld '02 presenting about his company.

Another one of Green Group's roles is to inform the school about green projects that Green Group is not directly involved in. The largest of these projects is the installation of solar power arrays on the roof. These panels will generate power as well as money because the school will be able to sell extra energy back to utility companies.

Additionally, an energy-neutral headmaster's house is being built on the back-

fields, along with a constructed wetland that will put all waste and sewage back into the environment through the surrounding fields. Mr. Delman said if the constructed wetland is successful, it may be used for the entire school.

With all of these projects underway, the Green Group is looking forward to continuing to move closer to environmental sustainability at Pingry in the coming months.

## Art Classes Expand Their Culture at Chelsea Galleries

By SARAH PARK (V)

On Thursday, April 7, the Portfolio, Photography II, and Drawing and Painting II art classes went to several art galleries in Chelsea in New York City. Head of the Art Department Mr. Miles Boyd, who planned the trip with Fine Arts teacher Mr. Peter Delman, organized it "to expose the young artists at our school to the endless possibilities that are out there, and to hopefully give them inspiration for future projects."

Students spent the entire day in Chelsea, which is located on the West Side of Manhattan. They had the chance to see a variety of artists, both well-established and up-and-coming, as well as a plethora of different types of art. They split up into two groups and went from gallery to gallery, in total visiting about 15 each, seeing such artists as Ellsworth Kelly, Sarah Anne Johnson, Tara Donovan, and Mel Kendrick.

"It was a trip that I had been looking forward to



Courtesy of Google Images

for a long time, and it was a really great experience," Cara Solina (V) said of the day. Chloe Sorvino (VI) added, "It was really cool to be able to see some of the photographers that we actually studied in class, like Ruud van Empel. It was a completely different experience seeing the work in person, rather than over the Internet."

After visiting the galleries, the students went to Eataly, a huge Italian marketplace with restaurants and groceries, where they

could eat anything from paninis to pizza to oysters. "Eataly was my favorite part of the trip," Emily McCormick (V) said. "They had everything you could possibly think of, but it was all within one building. The food and gelato were amazing."

"Overall, I thought it was a very successful trip," said Mr. Delman. "The students loved the art that they saw, and it has already given them great ideas that they are applying to their current projects."

## Seniors and Students Mingle at 20th Intergenerational Prom

By YVONNE JENG (V)

On April 5th, students and senior citizens celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the Intergenerational Prom. This year, over 200 senior citizens came to commemorate the event with the approximately 35 students who volunteered to participate.

The set-up of the prom took place during the afternoon. Students straightened up the tables and chairs, cleaned the area, decorated the cafeteria with hearts, and created goodie bags for the senior citizens. They assembled a dance floor and created a section for the Jazz band to play in. Senior citizens began to arrive in buses from local assisted living homes at 6 P.M. The students seated and served them light refreshments and hors d'oeuvres. The seniors chatted with the students and they hit the dance floor together.

The Balladeers, Button-downs and Jazz Band provided musical entertainment throughout the night. Balladeer soloist performers included Hannah Kirmser (V) and Caroline Zee (V), while Buttondowns Jeff Baum (VI) and Ben Hamm Conard (VI) serenaded some of the senior citizens. After the choral ensembles were done, the Jazz Band, directed by Mr. Sean McAnally,



Courtesy of Pingry Communications Office

Sarah Park (V) serving food to one of the guests.

played through a set list of popular songs from the big band era.

Dinner included chicken française, salad, vegetables, pasta, coffee and tea, while dessert was an angel food cake with whipped cream. The night concluded with the crowning of the Prom King and Prom Queen.

The volunteers who participated thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Lilly Holman (VI) said, "It was great because all of the attendees are very excited to be there and couldn't wait to talk to us." Kathryn Kolb (VI) agreed, saying, "I was lucky enough to have an impressive group of dance

partners that generously offered me dance lessons!" Lakshmi Davey's (VI) favorite part of the evening was "having a good time with the guests who were so lively and funny." She added, "I'll definitely miss this event next year! I always really enjoy it."

Ms. Shelley Hartz, the event coordinator and Director of Community Service, said, "I think that the Intergenerational Prom is one of the best events that Pingry offers during the years. Our guests, the seniors, and the students enjoyed the evening." Overall, it was a fun filled night for all generations.

Heeyyyy!!!!

As the school year winds down, so do the number of activities within Student Government, but that doesn't mean that the few (read: one) important things that we have left to plan are going to be anything less than the best. On Friday, May 20, we are hosting our annual Spring Fling, but this time, instead of your average carnival-type shindig, we're going to have a dance! But not just any dance... a super fun one! Sophomore Rahul Rahkit was quoted as saying, "This dance is going to be so much fun, it will knock your socks right off!" It is going to start at 7:30, right here on campus. Cost is TBD, but it is going to be cheap, so no worries. Now, let's all get ready to close out the 2011 school year and send the seniors out in style!

XOXO,  
Will

## Prom at Madison Hotel is a Success

By JULIA JOHNSTONE (V)

Pingry Prom 2011 has drawn plenty of positive responses from students who attended. On April 14, the annual prom took place at the Madison Hotel from 7:30 to 11:00 p.m. The prom committee, which was led by Physics teacher Ms. Jill Kehoe and Biology teacher Mr. Andrew Alfano, made all the preparations for the night, and chose the theme "Masquerade Ball," as well as the invitations and decorations.

This was the first Prom to be held at the Madison Hotel rather than at Bridgewater's Marriott Hotel. Mr. Alfano explained that they chose this venue because it "would be generally nicer than the Marriott we used in the past."

Several students agreed, such as Keri Forness (VI) who called the new venue "fantastic" and Madi Taylor (V) who described the main room as "a good size."

This year also marked a new approach to seating and dining. Unlike past proms, there were no assigned seats and the dinner was served as a buffet. Mr. Alfano said that this system was designed to "make the event less structured and allow more time for dancing and having a good



Courtesy of V. McGrath

**B. Erickson (V), K. Topor (V), N. Witte (IV), E. Galgano (IV), R. Lima (IV), H. Kirmsler (V), R. Curran (V) at the cocktail hour.**

time." Liz Jolley (V) found the arrangement successful and said, "I felt we could move around a lot more and see other friends because we weren't assigned to a specific table."

Rod's Steakhouse Crew catered the dinner and dessert, and was met with positive reactions. Ryan Campbell (V), however, somewhat disagreed, saying "I thought that the food was pretty fancy, which wasn't necessarily a bad thing, but being a high

schooler, I would have preferred something a little simpler in addition to what we had."

Continuing the night's theme, tables were decorated with masks. Taylor described these decorations as being "perfect for the theme" and Campbell called them "a great addition to the night." The venue was also decorated with colored lights on the ceilings and walls.

A professional DJ selected the night's music. Nikki Witte (IV)

commented on his selections, saying, "The music was great. It was cool to have newer music as well as some of the old stuff we haven't heard in a while." Alex Castle (V) agreed, saying, "The DJ was loud, but he played awesome music."

In reaction to the night, Mr. Alfano said, "I am very pleased with the event; it was new and different. I think that everyone had a lot of fun and I look forward to next year."

**Congratulations, New Cum Laude Inductees!**

**Susan Contess, Helen Daifotis, Lakshmi Davey, Ben Hamm, Lilly Holman, Kevin Jian, Tim Lee, Allie Logerfo, Ted Macioce, Jasmine Oghaz, Roxanne Oghaz, Taylor Shepard, and Rebecca Spicehandler**

## Shuang Xe and Xuehui Zhang Visit from Quzhou No. 2

By BEN KAMINOFF (III)

From April 11 through April 13, two guests from China, Shuang Ye and Xuehui Zhang, visited Pingry from Quzhou No. 2 Middle School in Quzhou, China. The visitors came to initiate communication between Quzhou No. 2 Middle School and Pingry and to learn about schooling in America.

The visitors stopped by Mandarin classes in the Upper and Middle School during their visit. They answered questions about their school and described different aspects of Chinese culture. "I think it definitely improves our study of the language," said sophomore Chinese student Vinita Davey. Mandarin Chinese teacher Ms. Wewei Yu, said, "The visit is an opportunity for Pingry to compare educational systems and learn from what we find."

Ye and Zhang found that Pingry and their school were different, but had some similarities. Shuang Ye, who is the vice principal of Quzhou

No. 2 Middle School, said, "Both schools' students are very intellectually curious and intuitive in the classroom, but also enthusiastic on the athletic field." One difference she found between our two schools was that, "In China, students must stand up to answer questions, but students here could sit in their seats and talk in groups."

Students and faculty welcomed the visitors with open arms. Xuehui Zhang, who is an English teacher at her school, noted that, "We liked how Chinese-speaking students came up to us in the hallway and spoke to us in Chinese."

Their visit comes as a result of Pingry's new membership in the Hanban - Asia Society Confucius Classrooms. This organization has given us assistance in identifying and developing a partnership with the Quzhou No. 2 Middle School in China. It also provides financial assistance to help expand our Chinese curriculum and offers scholarships for Pingry students visiting China.

## Jolley Reflects on Hosting Senegalese Exchange Students Aminata and Sandra



Courtesy of Mr. Bratek

**Jolley (V) with students Aminata and Sandra.**

By LIZ JOLLEY (V)

As a second semester junior who plays a spring sport, I didn't think that I would have time to host a student from Senegal when Mrs. Jordan first asked for volunteers. Luckily, I had the great idea to host not one, but two Senegalese girls, Aminata and Sandra, so that they could keep each other company while I was playing lacrosse or doing my homework. Between the French my mother learned in school 35 years ago, my French IV knowledge, and the girls' combined English skills, communication was not an issue. We kept the English-French dictionary close by in case we needed it, but I learned that you do not always need words to communicate.

When they first arrived, my mother picked the girls up from Pingry around 5 PM and brought them home for dinner. The girls came bearing many generous gifts from Senegal, like beautiful tablecloths, a picture frame, a jewelry holder, and an authentic Senegalese

printed backpack. Although our first meal together was a little quiet, by the last day, our dinnertime conversation was lively and we all felt like old friends.

Generally, the girls had a very busy schedule doing things with their classmates, like going into New York City to sightsee. As hosts, though, we had one full day to show the Senegalese students what our daily lives were like.

Our day began with a Varsity girls' lacrosse game at North Hunterdon High School in the rain. Bundled up in my clothes to keep warm, the girls huddled under an umbrella with my mom, watching me play. Afterwards, we drove 40 minutes to Princeton to watch a Princeton vs. Harvard women's lacrosse game. Although the girls were used to warm weather and sunshine in Senegal, they said they didn't mind the cold or the rain.

During the drive down to Princeton, we stopped at a Dunkin' Donuts to give the girls a taste of some American fast food. I spilled my hot chocolate all over my mom and Aminata, Sandra

and I burst into laughter. By that time, I felt like these girls were real friends of mine, not visitors from a foreign country. Soon, even my mother was laughing, and as we continued to laugh and speak a mixture of French and English, we attracted some strange looks.

While the girls enjoyed watching lacrosse and seeing the town of Princeton as well as a famous American university, what they enjoyed the most was shopping. On Monday, after the girls had spent the day at Pingry, we went to the Bridgewater Mall where they went on a shopping spree. I took them to Forever 21, where they bought almost every piece of jewelry in the store. Apparently,

it is very rare to find cheap jewelry in Senegal, so the girls made sure to stock up. After two hours of nonstop shopping, I brought Aminata and Sandra to Chipotle so they could experience a Mexican burrito. Neither of them had ever tried a burrito before, but they both loved it.

Besides the shopping, the girls' next favorite part of their visit to New Jersey was my puggle, Winnie. Every night while I did my homework, the girls spent hours playing with her and teaching her tricks.

By the end, although I did not get to spend as much time as I would have liked with Aminata and Sandra, hosting them was an amazing experience and I cannot wait to visit Senegal soon.



R. Feitel (V)

**Emily Damstrom (V) and Corey Delaney (V) at the tournament.**

## SMAC Tournament Raises Money To Help Fight Cancer

On May 1st, the Student Movement Against Cancer (SMAC) held its fourth annual Doubles Tournament to raise money for cancer research. This year, the tournament attracted 36 doubles teams, from those at the top of the varsity roster to complete novices. The \$10 entrance fee also covered T-shirts, food, and sunglasses. Overall, the event was a success. SMAC President Elise Lang said, "We had a really great turnout and we were really excited to see how many people were getting pumped to play for such a good cause. We're definitely going to have the tournament next year, and hopefully it's as successful as this year's!"

## Russell Brand Film "Arthur" is Not Worth the Ticket Price

By CHRISTINE KUMAR (V)

Russell Brand first charmed American audiences as the brilliantly narcissistic rock star, Aldous Snow, in "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" and "Get Him To The Greek." In his new movie "Arthur," Brand once again plays the narcissist with the rock star life. Unfortunately, the allure of his past movies does not translate into "Arthur."

Co-starring with Oscar-winner Helen Mirren and Jennifer Garner, Brand plays Arthur, a rich bachelor who must choose between money and love. Arthur is the classic bachelor – he has fancy cars, an amazing apartment, a drinking problem, and of course, young women to keep him company. However, after an especially disastrous evening involving a destroyed Batmobile, Arthur's mother demands that he must agree to an arranged marriage or lose his millions. Complications arise when Arthur meets a down-to-earth tour guide named Naomi (played by Greta Gerwig), who he inevitably falls in love with. With the guidance of his nanny Hobson (Helen Mirren), Arthur must choose between living his hedonistic life style or taking a chance at true love.

"Arthur" boasts a number of uncomfortable scenes. For example, Nick Nolte, playing



Courtesy of Google Images

Garner's father, forces Brand to cut his tongue with a table saw. The entire ten-minute scene was one of the many cringe-worthy, unfunny, and awkward scenes throughout the movie that should have been left on the cutting room floor. These pointless tangents lowered the quality of the movie and made it hard to watch.

Most importantly, however, fails to showcase the talented cast. Mirren's portrayal of Hobson was dull and casting Garner as the overly ambitious Susan was unoriginal. In addition to the uninspiring cast,

the movie seemed to drag on as the light humor in the first half hour of the movie slowly turned into dark, heavy material about maturity and the problems of alcohol.

There are a few funny moments, though, including when Arthur spots a "lesbian Simon and Garfunkel couple" walking below him while he lounges in his bathtub. Or, when he bids "\$20,000 of money" for a spoon. But these comic moments are rare and too short.

Overall, "Arthur" fails to entertain and is not worth the trip to the movie theater.

## Johnny Pflieger Obsesses Over The Beatles

By JOHNNY PFLIEGER (V)

I feel that it is only polite to introduce myself: I am the kid that listened to music just like other kids drank milk when we were all young. There was something about it that quenched my thirst, strengthened my bones, and always went down smooth. For me, it all started with The Beatles.

The Beatles were a band that were extremely ahead of their time, but paradoxically, were simultaneously fully immersed in their own era. They developed complex forms and sounds that we are only beginning to understand today, but were also a huge piece of '60s pop culture and the overall advancement of music.

Let's take the song "Helter Skelter" for instance. It was released in 1968, but we didn't hear anything like it in the musical world until the '90s when alternative music began to bloom. The form of the song was extremely progressive; the heavy guitar lines mixed with a hard rock style vocal, as opposed to the iconic Beatles harmony, shaped a song that fit better in the '90s "grunge" period. For that reason, the song was not really understood when it was originally released on The

White Album.

"P.S. I Love You," on the other hand, is a perfect example of an early 1960s mainstream rock and roll ballad. The song has simple harmonies, a very steady beat that carries us through the song, and is joined by typical cliché love lyrics that make it irresistible to any teenage girl. In the end, all differences aside, "Helter Skelter" and "P.S. I Love You" are both fantastic, historical

Life," and we cannot forget the drug-laden sound of "Lucy In the Sky With Diamonds." All styles are very different but all written by the same geniuses, creating a diverse collection of sound that is representative of hard work and creativity.

I think it's apparent that I love The Beatles just as much as any teenage girl from the '60s and, well, I accept that. When presented with a band that did



Courtesy of Google

songs.

The variety of music that The Beatles produced speaks volumes about the men behind it all. It is very rare that we can watch a band mature, develop and experiment through their music and remain popular icons. They produced simple love shuffles that could be played during the couples dance in middle school, and then came out with groundbreaking songs like "Tomorrow Never Knows" and "A Day In the

so much in

such a short career to change the music world, I think it is only appropriate to obsess a little over them. I cannot make you a diehard Beatles fan by writing about my own enthusiasms, but I hope that my perspective can somehow help anyone who does not enjoy the Fab Four see the light and take them out for a test drive. It's certainly worth it; I promise that there is a Beatles song out there for everyone.

## "The Pear Project" Provokes Thought Among Students

By YVONNE JENG (V)

John Goodyear's exhibit "The Pear Project," currently on display in the art gallery, presents a variety of works, all of which focus on an unusual subject: pears. Mr. Goodyear chose this topic because he likes to "incorporate puns into his pieces & leave viewers with something to think about."

"I find myself half-way between surrealism and abstract art," Goodyear said, adding that he enjoys how surrealism has a surprise element that catches your attention. Because he develops his ideas from what he sees around him, he said he often finds that "Your world gets into your art."

Much of Goodyear's work is also inspired by elements of fellow artists' work. "Duality between you and what you see takes you to the next step," he said. When studying art, Goodyear believes it's good to know its history, another place from which he derives his inspiration. "How can you move forward without knowing something that has been done?" he commented.

For example, Mr. Goodyear's canvas paintings are modeled after the works of French artist Marcel Duchamp. He uses Duchamp's ideas in his own canvas works, which include a urinal, a shovel and a window. "By putting something in a different context, it gives it a different importance," Goodyear said.

Goodyear's collection of 10 drawings in pear-shaped mats, called "This is Not a Pear," is derived from Belgian surrealist René Magritte's painting "This is Not a Pipe." The drawings include an eggplant, a tomato and a banana.

Usually, an artist uses the



O. Tarantino (VI)

Part of Goodyear's "The Pear Project" on display in the gallery.

same artistic techniques on various subjects. Goodyear, however, does the opposite: he uses different techniques on the same subject. One piece in the exhibition, called "The Large Pear of Gloves," is an eight-foot tall pear covered completely with 1000 latex gloves. A metal mesh under the gloves creates the shape of the pear, which is held together by a wooden structure underneath the mesh. The structure is so large that it must be divided in half to get through doorways.

Fine Arts teacher Mr. Peter Delman commented that Mr. Goodyear "uses visual humor, puns and a playful approach to art making to show the viewer that art can be fun, thought-provoking and powerful at the same

time." One of the goals of the Art Department is to present a wide variety of ideas about what it means to make art, and Goodyear's exhibit contributes to that objective.

Students who have been to the gallery to examine and learn from Goodyear's works have enjoyed the simple thoughtfulness that his works evoke. Junior Will Kelly commented, "I like how he took basic objects and made them into art."

Much of Mr. Goodyear's work is for sale; all proceeds will go toward Japan relief efforts. In addition to the collection of pears, there are also two small pears hidden within the art gallery. If you want to find them, Mr. Delman offered a hint: "Don't look up."

## Sudoku Challenge

	7		6	9	8		3
			8		6		
			4		5	1	2
			3			5	4
9							8
7	6			8			
2	5	9		3			
				7		4	
6		4	2	9			3

## Boys' Varsity Baseball Season Interrupted by Constant Rain

By TANYA GUPTA (III)

The past couple of months, heavy rains have resulted in the cancellation of many baseball games, frustrating players who want to get out of the gym and onto the field. By this time of the year, most spring sports have assembled a reasonable track record. However, with so many rainouts, Varsity boys' Baseball has fewer results under their belt than they would normally.

Despite their current 2-8 record, Captains Dan Keller (V) and Tim Lee (VI) are holding their heads high and looking forward to finishing their season on a positive note. Keller explained, "The team is making good progress, but all of the cancelled games have prevented us from getting a rhythm going and playing good baseball."

Many players are looking forward to contributing this season. The pitching staff, led by the right-handed Keller, consists of players from all grades. Ben Ballintyn (V), Max Gottlieb (IV), and Mitch Suzuki (III) are competing to pitch once the weather improves. Lee, Ethan Kenny, Ben Ballintyn (V) and Kyle Walker (III) are expected to lead the offense.

Head Coach Mr. Ted Corvino and assistant coach Mr. Manny Tramontana have been working hard to cope with difficulties presented by practicing indoors. One key obstacle Mr. Corvino has been trying to address is ensuring that "our pitchers throw enough bullpen sessions to build up their arm strength and



Dan Keller (V) pitches at Pingry.

B. Morrison '64

endurance." He wants to prevent players' bodies from being shocked when they have to play rescheduled games daily later on in May.

The team's spirits remain positive. "We want to compete to win our division and make a strong run in the county tournament," Keller said. The team wants to focus on improving its defensive strategy so that

players are ready to face a wide variety of opponents, including both public schools and old prep school rivals.

Though disappointed with their start, Kenny recognizes that they have plenty of time to make up for the losses. "We could have won some games with some different plays," he said, "but now, we can only look to the future and move forward."

## Softball Takes Advantage of Extra Practice Time to Improve



Captain Chloe Carver (VI) pitches to a batter.

B. Morrison '64

We stayed outside and practiced diving catches. It was awesome to see everyone on the team working hard and having fun while diving into the mud to make some really difficult plays. Now, we're using those skills to play our re-scheduled games."

Additionally, the team's annual pre-season at Disney was seen as particularly successful this year. Ms. Leslie Miller, Head Coach, remarked, "The spring training trip was great. The kids played very well." Carver added, "It was a lot of fun, and it definitely helped our team bond. We didn't have any seniors last year and we only have a couple of new players this year, so our team chemistry from last year has only gotten better."

Despite the benefits of additional practice time, Ms. Miller said, "We can't wait to get out and play on a consistent basis. It is hard to come out and make improvements if you aren't playing for several days/weeks."

Because of all the cancelled games during April, the team will play more end-of-the-season games than usual. In fact, Ms. Miller said, "Toward the end of the season we are going to have so many games in a week and they are going to have to dig deep to play a game almost every day. But, then again, I am sure they would rather play than practice."

Mary's in the county tournament. Miss Jillian Kehoe, assistant coach, commented, "Much of the season has not really happened for us yet; we are really just spinning our wheels."

The frequent cancellation of games has given the team much more opportunity to practice. Co-captain Chloe Carver (VI) commented, "One day when we expected to play a game, it started raining and yet another one of our games was canceled.

By MARIEL KENNEDY (V)

The girls' Varsity Softball team's opportunities for a successful season have thus far been thwarted by inclement weather.

Right now, the team sits at 2-7, but many of the scheduled games have been canceled due to rain. Some of the games have been lost to skilled opponents, Delaware Valley and Gill St. Bernards. Recently, the team lost 2-1 to Mount Saint

## Boys' Lacrosse Continues to Push Forward Despite Setbacks

By ANDREW MARTIN (V)

Plagued by injuries, a difficult schedule, and several close losses, the Varsity boys' Lacrosse team is off to a 2-10 start. One of the biggest obstacles has been senior captain Will Burchenal's injury. "Will is an irreplaceable player, and we've all had to raise our game with him out of the lineup," senior defenseman Tyler Gump said.

Patrick Lackey (V) has also been sidelined since the beginning of the season, further weakening the team's offensive capabilities. However, despite the tough luck with injuries, the team has rallied around a motivation to turn the season around and have a strong finish to their season.

"Our re-commitment to the Kodiak zone defense will help get us out of this slump," junior Dylan Key said. For this to happen, the team will look for leadership from Head Coach Mr. Mike Webster. "We are all behind Coach Webster and believe he can help us overcome the obstacles we will again face in the second half of the season," Chris Albanese (V) said.

Burchenal summed up the



Matt Damstrom (VI) playing against Ridge.

B. Morrison '64

team's mindset best: "We have been pretty close in all of our games, so hopefully we will be able to make a few adjustments and get hot for the rest of the year."

## Boys' Varsity Tennis Focuses on Finishing Their Season Strong

By MICHAEL WERNER (III)

The boys' Varsity Tennis team is pushing through their early season struggles to finish the year strong. Captains Chris Ju (VI) and Jared Cohen (VI) are focusing on leading the team and maintaining a positive attitude despite the team's tough losses.

Coaches Lisa Fung-Kee-Fung and Bethany Poppe are also pleased with the work the team has been putting in. Fung-Kee-Fung said, "The boys have one main goal this season — to become mentally tougher — which will then lead them to a higher performance level and great success. They are focusing on playing with a sense of destiny, with a passion that allows them to enjoy the moment while striving to be the best players they can possibly be."

"We knew coming into the season that it was going to be tough, considering the quality of our conference and the number of seniors we lost last year," Ju said. "We are 4-6 so far this season, and although this has not been the ideal start, we feel that we are getting better with each match. We know that if we keep working hard during practice and staying positive, the results will come." He added, "The best part about tennis season is being able to be a part of a team. We have many tennis players who play tennis outside of school. As a result, they do not get to experience the whole team aspect. Because of the spring break trip to Florida, our team has really bonded, which is very important." Freshman



Senior captain Jared Cohen hits a backhand.

A. Logerfo (VI)

Julian Rajan agreed, stating that his goals are mainly to "have fun, work together as a team, and hopefully work with the team to win a state championship."

The boys are extremely motivated to win the rest of their matches and finish the season on a positive note. Fung-Kee-Fung said, "I expect the most out of every player on the team, since each member has earned their rightful spot, and so far, the boys are motivated to fight for

every point while simultaneously honoring the game and their opponent. This is the critical component that sets us apart from other teams, since this integrity earns the player the respect of those around him, and is thus considered a true winner, regardless of the score."

The hard work and determination of the team as the season winds down may be enough to give them the strong finish that they are looking for.

## Boys' and Girls' Track and Field Teams Add Freshmen and Showcase Their Talents



Logerfo and Olivia Tarantino for the girls' team and Ben Hamm Conard and Robbie Hugin for the boys' team. When asked about the captains, Ed Xiao (V) commented, "They really help with adjusting to the sport, especially in practices and pre-race preparations. They make it really welcoming."

The girls' and boys' coaches, Mr. Tim Grant and

Both teams' current record in dual meets is 2-2, but the record does not belie the team's true talents. Beating Warren Hills was the girls' team's first victory in a Skylands Conference dual meet, and because Warren Hills is such a large school, it is definitely an optimistic sign for upcoming meets. At another recent meet, the Somerset County Tournament, which was held on May 3rd, the boys placed 8th in the county and the girls placed 14th in the county. Robbie Hugin (VI) placed second in the 110 meter hurdles and third in the 400 meter hurdles. Kate Leib (V) placed sixth in

the 1600m with a personal record of 5:17. Leib said, "It was really rewarding to set a personal record and score points for the team. I'm really looking forward to continuing to compete throughout the season and hopefully even improve upon that time." The 4x400 Relay Team, Erin Butrico (III), Amanda Haik (IV), Leib, and Emily McCormick (V) also scored for the team, placing sixth.

With many more meets to come, Roberts said, "It's been a great start to what will hopefully be an even better season. I'm definitely going to miss Pingry track next year."

By CAROLINE MURPHY (IV)

The girls' and boys' Varsity Track and Field teams are off to a good start this season, despite the loss of several contributing seniors from last year's team. Cur-

rently in their second year of participation in the Skylands Conference, the teams are determined to work hard and improve upon their achievements from last year.

To help reach these goals, many new members joined the teams this year. "We

have a ton of new participants," said Colleen Roberts (VI), "including a lot of eager freshman who are really willing to put the extra time and effort in to make the team succeed."

Helping the new athletes are senior captains Allie

Mr. Mark Sepkowski, respectively, encourage the athletes to work hard and set personal records. Jose Barrionuevo (V) said, "The coaches teach us to push our limits, which enables us to become better runners and athletes."

## Boys' and Girls' Golf Teams Tee Off For a Strong Season

By ROXANNE FEITEL (V)

This year's Varsity boys' and girls' golf teams have battled back against frequent rainouts and postponements to rally and deliver some impressive performances in match play.

The boys' Varsity team, which currently has a 5-4 record, has competed against schools like South Hunterdon High School, Voorhees High School, and Phillipsburg High School.

Led by senior captains James Elliott and Alex Lieberman and longtime Head Coach Mr. Joe Forte, the boys' team is looking forward to improving their record in the coming matches as they begin tournament play for the Skyland Conference Championship and the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) sectional and group tournaments. This means spending more time at Twin Brooks Country Club, where the team practices. They usually leave school at the beginning or middle of CP and return around six o'clock.

"Going forward, we hope to finish in the top 3 at the Skyland Conference Championship on Thursday, May 12," said Lieberman. He added, "Hopefully the team will finish the season out strong and play to our ability. If we do that, we should be able to beat almost all of our opponents."

Logan McGowan (V), one of the six players on Varsity, said that playing on the team has helped him improve tremendously. "I've learned so much from the captains and coaches by

being on the team. I used to just play by myself, and I didn't see myself getting better, so joining the team was definitely a good decision." McGowan said. "I'm looking forward to the next few weeks as we face more challenging competition in the state tournaments," he added.

The Varsity girls' golf team has not had quite as much success as the boys, carrying a record of 1-6-1 so far this season. Behind Head Coach Mr. Sean McAnally and Assisant Coach Mr. Sean Toohey, who is a PGA professional, the girls have worked to improve their skills in match play.

Like the boys' team, the girls' Varsity golf team has several upcoming tournaments in which they hope to demonstrate their considerable talent. Captain Kathryn Kolb (VI) said she is looking forward to these matches in which the team can "regain their momentum" and balance out their record.

Grace Putman, who is on the Varsity squad, commented, "It should be particularly challenging to participate in the Prep and Conference Championships. We face off against much larger schools at Conferences, but I think that if we keep working hard, we can make a really strong showing."

Fellow Varsity player Kyra Topor (V) added, "We've learned a lot this season and we've improved significantly, even though our record doesn't show it. Hopefully our hard work will pay off and we'll start performing better in tournaments and match play in the coming weeks."

## Girls' Varsity Lacrosse Remains Competitive in the Skyland Conference

By SARAH PARK (V)

With a competitive record of eight wins and eight losses so far, girls' Varsity Lacrosse is looking forward

to an exciting and challenging season. Senior Captains Tierney Griff and Rebecca Spicehandler have high expectations for the rest of the season. Griff outlined the team's goals as "winning the

Skyland Conference, winning the county tournament, and making it to the tournament of champions."

Over spring break, the team traveled to Maryland for three days, where they practiced at the University of Maryland, watched a college lacrosse game, toured the D.C. area, and bonded over long bus rides. "I thought this trip was a really great way to start off the season because it brought the whole team together and everyone got to know each other," Liz Jolley (V) said.

Although two of the team's top scorers Emily Damstrom (V) and Steff Carr (IV) are injured and unable to play, Griff says the "underclassmen have really stepped up and are gaining confidence with each game." Facing tough opponents in the Skyland Conference, especially rivals Oak Knoll and Bridgewater, means the team only has more motivation to practice and improve. The team practices daily, working on stick skills and shooting, as well as strength and conditioning exercises with Coach Douglass Scott. Carr believes that "as long as we stay focused and put in the effort, we will definitely have a successful season!"

a long and impressive history of lacrosse. She played for the Women's Lacrosse team at Rutgers on an athletic scholarship during her four years there and was captain of the team as a junior and senior. In addition to Poole, the girls have four assistant coaches: Mrs. Meredith Finkelstein, Mrs. Carter Abbott, Mrs. Monica Alexander, and Ms. Cristina Maurizi, all of whom played lacrosse at a highly competitive level during their collegiate years.

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Steph Carr (IV) running with the ball.

A. Hough (V)

Poole comes from

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