

## Prestigious Stifel Award Presented to Ellis Flannery

By ALYSSA BAUM (V)

On Monday, April 8, the Upper School community gathered together for the annual Stifel Award Assembly. This year, the prestigious award was presented to Ellis Flannery (V).

Established in 1986, the Stifel Award is presented to the person

After Headmaster Nat Conard gave the introduction, English teacher Mr. Tom Keating spoke about his experiences teaching and advising Flannery.

Mr. Keating commended Flannery for his ability to humbly downplay the significance of his impairment and his dedication to his pursuits both in the classroom

“I feel really humbled and awed. But more importantly, people have been so supportive of me, both before and after the assembly.”

He continued, “I’ve never really felt that different, but it’s amazing to see how many people in this community actually care.” Flannery is also very apprecia-

## Plans Move Forward to Modernize the Upper School

By ABHIRAM KARUPPUR (IV)

Starting as early as this summer, modernization of the Upper and Lower Schools will begin on the Basking Ridge campus with the inauguration of a new publications-technology suite in the lower central commons. First discussed 18 months ago, formal plans for modernization follow the announcement of the revised Upper School schedule and the 1:1 program, both of which will be in place next year.

According to Director of Facilities, Mike Virzi, the modernization initiative is designed to “translate the curriculum plan into a physical plan.” The modernized campus will improve the overall learning environment.

The last modernization initiative was undertaken 30 years ago, when the Upper School campus was built. According to Chief Financial Officer Olaf Weckesser, “The design layout of the school no longer meets the needs of the curriculum.” Every stairwell in the school is also a different shape, he notes, and the stairwells currently hinder student interaction in the common areas.

One of the main features of the plan is to develop more spaces for faculty and student collaboration on both campuses. “Every classroom will be touched,” Mr. Virzi said.

Headmaster Mr. Nat Conard agreed that “We need to update the classrooms in the school with more flexible furniture and new equipment to suit the students’ needs.” Last summer, some classrooms received new

furnishings such as updated desks and chairs, a trend that will continue as the school aims to add new carpeting, better lighting, and improved storage for faculty in classrooms.

The 1:1 initiative also reduces the need for the school to house computers. To that end, this summer the technology lab and offices will be undergoing renovations. Instead of a technology lab, The Record, Blue Book, Vital Signs, Calliope, Polyglot, and other publications will reside together in a publishing media suite. Instead of large desktop computers, students will be able to attach their laptops to a number of wall monitors.

Another part of this plan will involve updating the technological infrastructure throughout the school by increasing WiFi access and constructing additional elec-

trical outlets.

According to Mr. Conard, “Students have now begun to hang out in spaces with sufficient access to electrical power.” The need for more outlets will increase with the 1:1 program as will the need for sufficient internet access in all parts of the school.”

Another component of the possible modernization plan will be rethinking other parts of the building. “We want to make the dining room a place for students to socialize and discuss academics,” Mr. Virzi said. “The idea of improving acoustics and providing booth style seating will encourage student collaboration in small groups.”

Mr. Virzi also proposed moving the stairwells out of the middle of the halls. Currently,

*Continued on Page 4*



R. Davis (V)

Mr. Stifel, Mr. Keating, E. Flannery (VI), Mrs. Lionetti, and Mr. Conard.

who best exemplifies the characteristics exhibited by Henry G. Stifel III '83 in the aftermath of his spinal cord injury caused by a car accident during his junior year at Pingry: courage, endurance, optimism, compassion, and spirit.

When Flannery was just 15 months old, he was diagnosed with a rare cancer, bilateral retinoblastoma. His left eye had to be removed, permanently impairing his vision. Despite this major setback, Flannery has excelled at Pingry—both academically and athletically—and will attend Johns Hopkins University next year.

and on the wrestling mat.

Afterwards, School Counselor Mrs. Pat Lionetti reflected on Mr. Stifel's time at Pingry. She recounted that Mr. Stifel was a self-proclaimed troublemaker, but also an excellent student and friend.

Mr. Stifel then spoke about the advancements of his charity, the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation. In the past few months, with the help of funding from the foundation, researchers have discovered a way to stimulate spinal cord activity in patients living with paralysis.

Flannery felt honored to receive the Stifel Award. He said,

“I feel really humbled and awed. But more importantly, people have been so supportive of me, both before and after the assembly, especially noting Mrs. Lionetti, Mr. Keating, and Mr. Stifel, and all whom helped make the day special.”

When asked about presenting Ellis with the Stifel Award, Mrs. Lionetti said, “There have been so many deserving young people over the years who deserved this award and Ellis ranks up there with the most deserving of this group.” She added, “Ellis reminds me a lot of Henry. Certainly, he has exhibited the strength and courage that Henry exhibited after his accident. It was my privilege to help give this award to him.”

## Looking Back at Past Modernization

By HUNTER STIRES (IV)

The coming modernization of the Basking Ridge Campus is only the latest evolution of Pingry in its 151-year history. Over the course of the past century and a half, the school has moved campuses four times: from Dr. Pingry's backyard on Mechanic Street in Elizabeth, to a nearby schoolhouse on Westminster Avenue, from that schoolhouse to a larger building at Parker Road, to the building at Hillside now occupied by Kean University, and from Hillside to its present location.

As Pingry readies itself for another round of change, it is worthwhile to look back at the driving forces behind our school's past modernizations.

The most evident forms of modernization exist within the school's infrastructure, both in terms of physical location and the equipment in the classroom. Headmaster Nat Conard believes that this type of change enables the school to accomplish a lot in the field of teaching. Mr. Conard said that “Pingry has a really long history of changing by adapting to the best available technology and infrastructure so that the service we provide is not on the ‘bleeding edge,’ but on the leading edge of education.” He adds that “We try to innovate, but in a thoughtful way, not in a radical way.”

As the physical part of the school takes shape, the more abstract philosophy and methods of Pingry must change too. Having not been present at its inception, the administration is forced to make assumptions about what Pingry was like when it was founded and as it progressed through time. Mr. Conard said that, “Our teaching has become more and more engaging so that the classroom experience has become less about the transfer of knowledge from teacher to student, and more about the exploration of knowledge and construction of understanding in the classroom.”

Naturally, the actual setup of Pingry's classrooms has been reorganized as well. The furniture itself is a sign of the changing pedagogies that have defined the various eras of Pingry. The layout of classrooms can be traced from room to room, from tablet desks to large tables to round Harkness tables. Most notably, the Middle School showcases the most dynamic learning environment that Pingry has to offer, each room outfitted with trapezoidal tables. Mr. Phil Cox, the Director of the

*Continued on Page 5*

## Students Love Writing Festival

By JACK BARRAL (V)

On Friday April 26, students and faculty attended the 2013 Justin Society Creative Writing Festival and Assembly. This year's speakers included Mark Pearson, a fiction writer and author of “Famous Last Words,” Gideon Lewis-Kraus '98, a memoirist and non-fiction writer and author of “A Sense of Direction,” and spoken word poets Thuli Zuma and Jared Singer.

In the morning, all of the Upper School attended the assembly in Hauser auditorium, where they were able to hear readings of the authors' works. Pearson read an excerpt from his novel, while Lewis-Kraus read a lighthearted article he had written for Wired Magazine about the famous Internet cats of Japan. Zuma and Singer performed examples of both comedic and spoken word poetry.

After the assembly, students who were in Creative Writing and New Voices classes, along with those who signed up for the full-day festival, were able to attend more readings and a question and answer period for either fiction with Lewis-Kraus and Pearson or poetry with Zuma and Singer.

The question and answer period gave students the opportunity to pick the brains of writers who are all very successful in their

chosen fields. In response to one student's question, both poets recalled that as children they never expected to be poets one day. Zuma said that she had always loved poetry, but never saw it as a possible profession, while Singer said that he hated poetry as a child. In the faculty lounge, Lewis-Kraus and Pearson talked about the difficulty of keeping going as a writer while trying to earn a living. Their passion has to be their driving force.

After a break for lunch, the students could attend a workshop with the professional writers where they were able to work on their own writing.

Overall, the students who attended the full day of events enjoyed the experience. Vinita Davey (VI) said, “I thought the writers were pretty inspirational, and each of them was very talented.” She added, “I really liked

*Continued on Page 5*



N. Witte (VI), A. Tizzio (V), B. Bruno (VI), L. Neibart (V), and S. Deak (V) at Prom. P. 5



Thuli Zuma wows her audience. R. Davis (V)

## Inside The Record

### Support Gay Marriage

Sophomore Matt Fromm tells you what our community can do to help the cause and why its important. P. 2

### Remembering the Students

Freshman Mark Shtrakhman discusses the importance of taking student input into account when modernizing the school. P. 3

### First Research Day at Pingry

On Saturday April 6, students research throughout the sciences was exhibited at Pingry. P. 5

### Movie Chatter

Juniors Samantha Korn and Matthew Marvin suggest seeing “The Place Beyond the Pines.” P. 6

### Softball Triumphs

Girls' Varsity Softball closes in own Conference Championship with all-star pitcher Katie Marino P. 8

### Sections

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

## EDITORIAL

## The Record Office: Rest in Peace

With the main focus of this issue involving modernization at Pingry, many of you may find it interesting to know that the Record will be the first major school activity to be impacted by modernization next year. As the school goes forward this summer with the construction of a new publication and technology suite, the Record will lose the office it has been calling home for the past 15 years. The new suite will be shared with Yearbook, Vital Signs, other Pingry publications, and the Student Technology Committee.

Although the current office, constructed for the staff in 1998, might not have any windows or be aesthetically appealing to design architects, it has nevertheless been a much loved home to the oldest country day school newspaper in the nation. In the same way that the soccer fields and lacrosse fields are homes for the Boys' and Girls' soccer and lacrosse teams, the Record office provides an outlet for the Record staff from the fast-paced, exhausting nature of Pingry and its building. The privacy of the office has allowed us to go through the growing pains involved in putting together a paper.

Also, many memorable moments have occurred in this office. If you come inside and take a look around, you will see past cartoons and issues posted on the walls. All of these document the history of our school and connect the current staff members with those of the past in a way that reminds us of our duty to impartially record Pingry history and convey a wide range of viewpoints in our community.

Whether it has been going to press after proofing for six hours at nine o'clock on a Friday night or working on the legendary ISP article for days on end, the office has real sentimental value that is hard to express to others who have not experienced it.

The Record office has also been a place for members of the staff to collaborate with one another, learn from each other, and grow both as journalists and members of a larger team—valuable life skills that will surely help us in our future endeavors.

Privacy has been so key to our collaboration, that when former Record Editor-in-Chief Darina Shtrakhman '08 heard the news, she said that the suite "would be the equivalent of putting five athletic teams on one practice field and having all the coaches and captains do their coaching and bossing around in front of them." She also felt sad that her brother, Mark Shtrakhman (III), a member of the staff, will not be able to continue working in the same office that meant so much to her.

As we think back to the past, it is hard not to wish in hindsight that we had been included in the early conversations about the office.

Pingry's founding motto is "Maxima reverentia pueris debetur," which translates into "the greatest respect is due to the students." If we, the students, are deserving of the greatest respect, we should have had a say and been included in this kind of planning. And hopefully, as Mark and Sofia Deak (V) express on this month's op-ed page, student input will be sought out more for all upcoming changes before modernizations plans are approved.

Given our nostalgia and regrets, we are positive about the future. We hope that even as our beloved Record office will be missed, the staff will adapt to the publications and technology suite next year and enjoy the beautiful glass walls, greater access to daylight, and upgraded computer monitors. We acknowledge that some students may find us more easily and be more likely to join up. Furthermore, we're glad that some of our fellow publications will have access to much needed equipment—upgraded computer monitors, the latest layout and photography software, and printers.

If it doesn't work out, Darina joked, "When we have the resources for it, the 2008 editorial board will endow an office." We can only wonder what kind of space student journalists in 2028 will prefer, 15 years from now.

—Ben Kaminoff

## Recognizing the Heroes in the Wake of the Boston Marathon Tragedy

By ANNA BUTRICO (V)

Pingry's flag stood at half-mast on Tuesday, April 15 in honor of the three victims who lost their lives at the Boston Marathon bombings. More than 150 runners and spectators were injured as well, and were rushed off to hospitals after the two bombs went off on Boylston Street.

The American community was horrified by these bombings, myself included. I was sickened by the gory images of runners and members of the crowd with blood-soaked clothing and ashen faces.

I know that I speak for our community as a whole when I say that the death of an eight-year old spectator, Martin Richard—someone the age of a fourth grader in the Lower School—is both inexcusable and horrifying.

I still haven't come to terms with the Boston Marathon bombing. Although many Americans are comforted by the fact that one of the suspected bombers, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, is in police custody, I cannot seem to make sense of it.

For some reason, in a time of national pain, a quote by Fred Rogers, from

the very famous television show, "Mister Roger's Neighborhood" seemed to help.

He said, "When I was a boy, I would see scary things in the news, and my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'"

When the two bombs went off, hundreds of spectators ran to those who had been injured. One man took off his belt and used it as a tourniquet for a woman who had lost her leg in the explosion. He carried her to the middle of the street so the ambulance could pick her up.

Another man whose picture with a legless victim has been wildly distributed over the internet, ran out from the crowds after the explosion and cleared the way for a victim being rushed to an ambulance in a wheelchair.

The doctors at the medical tents near the finish line quickly attended to the injured as well. Without access to cell

phones and transportation, exhausted marathoners were welcomed into many Bostonians' homes that night.

Often, the smoke of a tragedy prevents you from seeing the "helpers" who put the pieces back together again. They by no means justify the tragedy at the Boston Marathon, but they help the American population realize that there is hope. Amidst the bombing and destruction, people will come out of the woodwork to lend a helping hand.

It is our job as Pingry

students, entering college within the next four years or so, to be these helpers that come to action when tragedy strikes. Hundreds of these helpers have not been identified; that's the beauty of it.

If we forever live by the system of the Honor Code and act virtuously during times of national strife, we can be the ones weaving the wheelchair through the crowds, offering our belts as tourniquets, and ultimately making the world a safer place to live.



C. Zee (V)

## It's Time to Legalize Gay Marriage: What Students Can Do and Why

By MATT FROMM (IV)

It's safe to say that if you're holding this newspaper, you've heard about the controversial subject of gay marriage. It's on TV; it's constantly being written about—the movement towards the universal legalization of same-sex marriage has become one of the most ultra-publicized and polarizing social issues in current history.

The Supreme Court's decision to hear the case arguing the constitutionality of Proposition 8, a recent bill passed by California that "re-legalized" gay marriage, has sparked much of this political and media debate. The issue of tolerating people of all social and economic backgrounds has been discussed many times within our own community. Pingry's Political Debate and Analysis Club even discussed the pros and cons of gay mar-

riage during one of their recent meetings. Whether you're gay, straight, or bisexual, this is a matter that affects us all individually, and the tide on this subject is quickly turning in favor of broad and effective legislation.

In the New York Times blog Five Thirty Eight, Nate Silver, the acclaimed statistician who famously predicted the near-exact results of the elections last November, notes that the percentage of Americans who stand in favor of gay marriage is significantly higher than it was just a few years ago. While 51 percent of Americans now support gay marriage, only 42.2 percent did in 2008. This number is climbing fast, and by 2020, Silver projects that 60.5 percent of people will support nationwide gay marriage.

Beyond politics, American pop culture is changing its perception of gay and lesbians as well. On Monday, April 29, Jason Collins, a member of the NBA's Washington Wizards, became the first ever active, openly gay athlete in major American sports. Just a few hours later, Sports Illustrated released their cover for the week, a close-up shot of Collins smiling broadly with the headline, "The Gay Athlete." While his teammates had an overwhelmingly positive response to his announcement, just a decade ago, he likely would have been shunned to some extent—evidence of our changing times.

In another realm of American culture, the new hip hop album, "The Heist," by the rapper Macklemore, features a song called "Same Love"

that is almost entirely dedicated to the struggles and triumphs of gay Americans and other oppressed minorities in their fights for equality. Macklemore speaks about his gay uncle who believed that he was gay himself based on stereotypes he'd observed as a young child wanting to "dress nice" and keep his room clean. Co-written by Mary Lambert, a gay Seattle-based singer-songwriter, the song has now reached the number one spot on iTunes and debuted as the number two album of the year on Billboard's "Hot 100" list.

As I'm sure you've observed, though, the real, legal battle for equality takes place in the courts and between political parties. As Pingry students, there isn't a lot we can do to prevent the ultra-right wingers and anti-progressives in Congress from dragging their feet on the movement towards change on gay marriage—most of us can't even vote.

But we can participate in the small things. Gay students are in the minority, especially in high school, where there is powerful social pressure to conform and be part of the majority. But on average, ten percent of the population is homosexual, which means that roughly ten percent of our student body is gay. But how many gay students in our school are openly out? Few, if any.

High school is, in many ways, a sadistic institution, and, based on stories of bullying and violence towards gay students that have been nationally broadcasted, coming out of the closet can be equal to

gluing a red bull's eye target to your back.

So, what do we do to prevent this? Straight members of the community can be vocal allies for the gay community. A straight Pingry high school student can become an ally by becoming involved with the school's LGBT club. You can also help author petitions and write letters to Congressmen, asking them to seriously consider sponsoring legislation for gay marriage legalization in Congress.

Or, if students aren't ready to do that, we should at least watch what we say to each other. The phrase, "That's so gay," which obviously carries a negative connotation, is one of the most widely used derogatory comments in school. (There are other slurs and phrases that are even more degrading, but I can't mention in the Record).

Essentially, though, the fact of the matter is that we can take an active role in making gay teenagers feel much more safe and respected in our communities than they have been in the past.

There has been a long history of hatred and violence towards the gay community, and with this spark of pro-gay marriage discussion, now is the time to change how we act to make people of all sexual orientations feel accepted.

In "Same Love," Macklemore sings that there will be "no freedom 'til we're equal..."

And a certificate on paper isn't going to solve it all, but it's a damn good place to start.

Let's be on the right side of history. Legalize gay marriage.



The Pingry Record

VOLUME CXXXIX  
NUMBER 6

Director of Layout  
Alyssa Baum

Video Editor  
Samantha Korn

Editors-in-Chief  
Ben Kaminoff  
Kasia Axtell

Copy Editors  
Anna Butrico  
Abhiram Karuppur  
Lori Kim  
Charlotte Zee

Photo Editor  
Rachel Davis

Faculty Advisor  
Dr. Susan Dineen

## Six Months After Newtown Shooting, No Gun Laws Have Passed Congress

By MATT BARICKMAN (V)

The United States seems to be in a marathon of tragic events. From school shootings to cop killings to mid-day bombings, massacres are trending. However, unlike radio singles overplayed by the airways, these stories touch us the same way every time we hear them. It seems that nearly every few months a new tragedy occurs, but what is being done to avoid such disasters?

In December, our country was thrown into panic and sadness after twenty-six people were murdered at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newton, Connecticut; twenty of the dead were children. It is an event like this that frightens the people of this nation. I remember being nervous to come to school the next day, and Pingry, to me, is safer even more than my own house.

Recently, a bipartisan amendment proposed by Senators Joe Manchin (D-W.Va) and Pat Toomey (R-PA) that would establish background checks was shot down in the Senate, failing to achieve the 60 votes it needed

to pass. This is a political failure, considering that the intended reform was minor, and did not infringe upon Americans' Second Amendment rights.

The truth is, over ninety percent of Americans support some type of gun reform, but some Republican and Democratic senators fail to hear the voices of the people. A tragedy like the one that took place at Sandy Hook could happen anywhere at any time, even at Pingry. Frightening, but true. The people who are running our country must start listening to the public. We live in a democracy, and our Senators and Representatives should abide by the laws of democracy and let the people have a say before another tragedy occurs.

Those who oppose gun reform, such as Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX), often argue that even if gun reform laws are passed, nothing can really be done to stop these attacks. This statement is flawed. Yes, criminals can still steal assault weapons even if the federal government decides to ban them, but a limit on magazine capacity and background checks can reduce the

possibility of a massacre.

Wayne LaPierre and the NRA can argue all they want about how it takes just a matter of seconds for a gunman to change a magazine and that a limit on capacity will not help at all, but evidence clearly shows that while Adam Lanza (the murderer at Sandy Hook) changed his 30-round magazines, a classroom full of children was given the chance to escape, and they did.

Background checks would help stop someone with psychological problems from purchasing an assault weapon that could eventually be used to carry out an attack. If Congress could simply agree to pass this legislation, our country would be a much safer place.

Statistics show that there has been an increase of 100,000 gun related deaths from 2002-2011 compared to the 3,000 deaths by terrorism. Yet, our government decides to invest over \$5 trillion in the War on Terror and much, much less than that on gun control. Also, it takes an invasive full-body scan or pat down to be able to board a plane, but anyone can go purchase a weapon at a gun show.

But it is not just the Senate that needs to take initiative. We are overpowered by the loud voices and deep pockets of those who oppose gun reform legislation, yet we don't hear enough from the "90 percent." Americans need to speak up for their beliefs. It's not just guns that need to be reformed; it's also our political system. All Americans need to be actively involved in pushing for gun reform legislation.

If Senators followed the wishes of the citizens, background check measures would have passed with votes to spare.

Statistics show that the amount of people murdered in our country point towards the need for gun reform. With it, schools like Pingry and innocent civilians would be safer, and we the people would hopefully not be faced with another tragedy like Sandy Hook for a long time. With a nod to Ted Cruz, it may not be possible to prevent tragedies like the shootings in Aurora, or Columbine for good, but we can help prevent them by taking initiative as a country to make the United States of America a safer nation.

## Remembering to Value the Opinion of Students When Modernizing the School

By MARK SHTRAKHMAN (III)

As Pingry looks to modernize itself in the years to come, students will play a critical role in the process of creating ideas and accepting those of others. The first of the major changes will come this September, when students will be met by a new schedule and the launch of the 1:1 program.

The administration is also planning to redesign the Basking Ridge campus and building. Although they are still in the early planning stages, rumors about what the project will entail have already begun. Among these are rumors of air conditioning being installed across the Upper School, departments being moved around, and even the construction of new offices. However, one major question that has yet to be answered

about all of these advancements is how are the students are going to be affected? Also, will they get a say in any part of the process?

Pingry's motto, "maxima reverentia pueris debetur," translates to "the greatest respect is due to the students." Therefore, we should be given more of a say here at school. Although many of these changes won't go into effect before current high school students graduate, we should be allowed and encouraged to have a word regarding the process.

With the proposition of the new schedule earlier this year, students were invited to ask questions and talk about it, yet the opportunity to actually change the schedule was lacking; it was too late. To be fair, the schedule had already been decided, but that does not mean the same mistake should be

repeated in the future.

Sure, it might sound like a good idea on paper to move the math department downstairs, closer to the science wing, but what do students think? The biggest complaint about the current math offices is that they are way too small. There is not enough room for more than ten people to stand in there while seeing different teachers.

If Pingry is going to go through the trouble of moving the department, why not just make it bigger, with more room for students to work with teachers? While this is just one idea, students have many more to offer.

While some ideas, such as the need for air conditioning, have been heard before, there are plenty of other great ideas floating around that the administration just needs to listen to find.

Here's one: when we all need to bring laptops to school next year, where are we supposed to plug them in with fifteen students in a classroom that has just six outlets?

Here's another: Pingry has an iPhone app (though it is incredibly outdated and could easily be improved), so what if Pingry worked with students to bring the app up-to-date by making it easier to check your schedule, find out about sporting events, etc.?

I am not saying that Pingry has to do every single little thing that we want, of course, but I do think the adults in the Pingry community should communicate and collaborate with the students.

Our opinions should be heard. Students have great ideas to share that will help everyone here, but, unfortunately, our voices are not always heard.

## We Need to Modernize our Ideas Along With our Building

By SOFIA DEAK (V)

The most exhausted topics of debate at Pingry often concern the need to modernize. Over my three years here, I have noticed that both students and teachers have very strong feelings about certain necessary changes. Despite the willingness of the community to discuss Pingry's lack of modernity, these complaints either fall on deaf ears or are all talk; neither the students nor the administration are willing to make the changes that are desired by the community.

In many ways, Pingry is committed to improving the school. In 1926, Pingry students came together to create the Honor Code, and in 1988, students rallied again to revise and modernize the

code. Pingry welcomed its first co-ed class in 1973. Since the school's founding in 1861, the campus has been moved or expanded four times.

Pingry has certainly made many major changes to remain competitive in the past, but, still, we must continue to make changes—both big and small—to maintain our status as a great school.

The effort to have every student have a laptop to use in class—which will come to fruition to next year with one-to-one—is certainly a major step forward. However, nearly every student or faculty member would agree that there is still much more that needs to be done.

The Dress Code is arguably one of the most outdated aspects of life at

Pingry. Barely a day passes without students complaining of discomfort or being punished for wearing a perfectly respectable outfit. It is time for students to come together, just as they did in the past over the Honor Code, to change the Dress Code.

I believe that all students should still look modest and decent, and that can be certainly achieved with an updated code that does not punish nearly every girl wearing a dress and agitate every boy wearing khakis when it is 85 degrees outside. Many members of the community have grievances with the Dress Code, so it is time that we work together to propose changes that will benefit the students and be accepted by the faculty.

Another complaint from

many people is the lack of air conditioning. Some argue that with such a high tuition, Pingry should immediately invest in an AC system. Others claim our tuition is barely adequate for the sustenance of the school, and that air conditioning is an extravagance Pingry simply cannot afford. Regardless of which argument holds more truth, air conditioning is simply a necessity at Pingry. When the school is willing to spend a lot of money on keeping our grass watered year round, and heating the floor in the vestibule, it is fair for us to ask that some funds be allocated to the installation of a school-wide AC system.

With the "save yourself" paper and ink conservation campaign, many students

found out for the first time about the amount of money Pingry spends on things we often take for granted. If we cut back on these sorts of expenses, maybe tuition would not "run out as fast," and there would be more money for air conditioning. I have yet to meet a student or member of the staff and faculty who is against air conditioning, leading me to believe it is solely a matter of cost. Pingry needs to reevaluate their priorities when it comes to spending. Which is more important: heated floors in the vestibule, or air conditioning?

The Dress Code and a school-wide AC system are not the only aspects of Pingry life that need to be changed. Several students have mentioned the need

for better spaces for student relaxation, since students rarely feel that their grade's common area is adequate. Some have suggested more couches, or an expanded lounge area behind the senior couches. As a junior who is not entirely fond of our "area" being the cafeteria, I think giving students a better place to relax would lead to a cleaner school, as well as a more connected one.

In my opinion, all of these changes are achievable. We just need to want to finally organize ourselves and bring about their implementation. Future students will certainly remember us for modernizing the school, as they will the class of 1926 for creating the Honor Code.

### EDITORIAL

## Think Positive

In case you didn't know, I'm a lifer. Now that thirteen years as a Pingry student have dwindled down to just a couple of final weeks, I've been doing a lot of reflecting on my time here. I've thought a lot about all of the experiences I had at Pingry, all the people I met at Pingry, and all the things I learned at (where else?) Pingry.

After spending so much time thinking about the means and the end of my Pingry career, I divided everything I experienced over the course of the last thirteen years into two basic categories: the things I loved and the things I... well... didn't love.

It also occurred to me, though by no means for the first time, how lucky I am to have gone to a school like Pingry, and how grateful I feel for all of the opportunities it's awarded me.

Although there were both positive and negative aspects of my time as a student, I am grateful for not just the things I loved, but for the ones I didn't love, too, because every little experience, positive or negative, has made me who I am.

That is the "glass-half-full" attitude, an attitude I first developed a few years back. I can't pinpoint the exact time and place; maybe it was gradual. All I know is that suddenly, I was very, very optimistic about everything, and I'm happy to report that I still am. It has served me well so far, and, hopefully, will continue to do so.

Come to think of it, that is the best advice I could give to anyone at Pingry: the seniors who are still stressing over not getting into their first-choice colleges, the juniors who are stressing over the quickly approaching college application process, the sophomores who are stressing about returning to school next fall as juniors with a crazy amount of work on their agendas, and the freshmen who are stressing over taking their first round of high school final exams.

To all of those students, and, in fact, to anyone else who is reading this: don't sweat it. If, at first glance, something doesn't appear to work out in your favor, don't freak out about it. Work with what you have to get what you want. Just be patient; something good will probably come out of the experience, and even if something bad comes out of it, at least you'll learn a lesson, which will serve you well in the scheme of things.

Most of you don't know this, but we have recently been faced with a difficult situation here in the Record's very own office, or, more fittingly, perhaps, the lack thereof: at the end of this year, we will lose our personal space. The school plans to knock down some walls and form one big Publication Center, which will house the staffs of the Record, the yearbook, Vital Signs, and various other school publications.

For us to give up our own space and our own equipment is going to be difficult, but we have adopted a positive attitude and are determined to adapt well to the change.

At first, we were all pretty frustrated. But, after much consideration, we realized that it could actually turn out to be a good thing. Hopefully, more students will be able to observe what we do at the Record and how much fun the staff has working together, and will then get involved!

I know you've heard this a million times before, but I'm telling you one more time, guys—a positive attitude can get you through anything.

—Kasia Axtell

## Students Remember Holocaust

By MATT FROMM (IV)

This year's Holocaust Assembly took place on Friday, April 5. The assembly usually remembers the tragedy of the Nazi genocide, a period in history that encompassed the brutal murders of over thirteen million people in just a few years. This year, however, the assembly took on a new challenge, focusing more on the history of modern and contemporary genocide rather

than strictly the Holocaust.

Assembly coordinator and Director of Community Service Mrs. Shelley Hartz felt that the message carried by 'Never Again' "begins with each of us." She added that, "We may not know or be aware of the political issues that caused the Holocaust and other genocides, but we still have a responsibility to know about them."

Mrs. Hartz's goal for the assembly was to maintain constant

and active student participation, and, in general, for the participating students to take charge of the program and be able to have their own individual input. She felt that this year's theme "What Are Words Worth?" was a great place for emphasis, specifically given the ways in which words can affect how we as humans treat each other. The assembly spoke about the importance of knowing that words can escalate from a few negative comments all the way to extermination. Mrs. Hartz also said that students talk about the slogan "Never Again" as one of the major symbols to keep in mind about the Holocaust, but she also believes that "learning, understanding, and knowing about other genocides is part of what 'Never Again' means."

This year, for the first time in many years, the student group and Mrs. Hartz decided to eliminate the ritual of candle lighting to celebrate those who lost relatives in the Holocaust. As Rachel Davis (V) noted, "We decided it takes away from the assembly itself when we have to spend so much time lighting candles."

Many students and faculty had positive reactions to the new format. JT Surgeon (VI) said that she "was blown away by the final presentation and liked how the participants did the Ladder of Prejudice in the beginning. That was new."

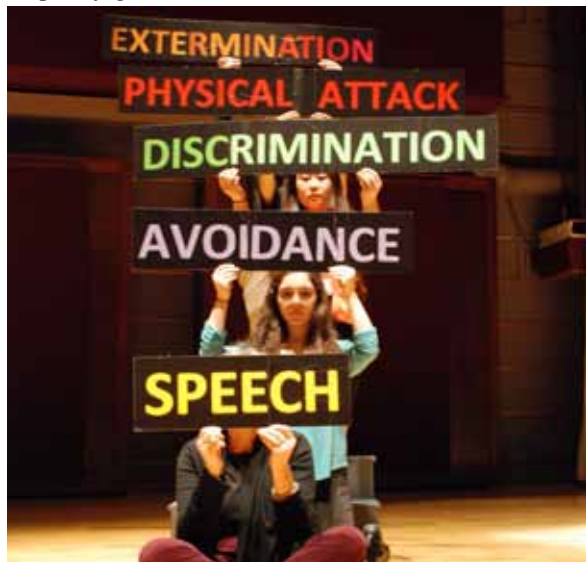
The Ladder of Prejudice is a physical ladder of several words arranged in a pyramid structure, meant to symbolize the immense power of words in the relationships between people and the effectiveness of speech in the doings of both good and evil.

As a final note, Mrs. Hartz said, the assembly "encourages students to think about their roles in dealing with prejudice and hatred." She wants people to "leave the assembly thinking about the responsibilities that each of us have towards each other as part of the human race."

"If you walked out of the assembly thinking about your role in all of that," she said, "then it got you thinking. It did its job."

spontaneous growth. Hochberger described the flat, grassy area as "unnatural," and suggested that more plants would create space for animals like birds and butterflies, in addition to being visually pleasing.

The assembly influenced the community to look more closely at our surroundings. According to Mr. Delman, several of Mr. Darke's practices are already "being incorporated into the Environmental Art curriculum" and "students are studying specific sites on campus and recording changes over time with photographs and video."



Courtesy of the Communications Office

Students present the five phases of genocide.

## Rick Darke Discusses the Environment

By LORI KIM (IV)

On Friday, April 12, the Green Group hosted the fourth annual Earth Day assembly. Students and faculty gathered in Hauser Auditorium to welcome this year's speaker, Mr. Rick Darke.

Mr. Darke is an award-winning horticulturalist, as well as a published author, photographer, and lecturer. According to his website, he "is dedicated to the design and stewardship of livable landscapes," by blending art, ecology, and cultural geography.

During Mr. Darke's year-long collaboration with Pingry, he worked with the Green Group and Environmental Art students to discuss ways in which humans affect nature. Fine Arts teacher Mr. Peter Delman described Mr. Darke as somehow who "listens carefully to students and challenges them to think hard about what they are observing. He is very knowledgeable about plants and very passionate about teaching them."

Green Group member Brian Hochberger (VI), who worked closely with Mr. Darke, described taking walks with him around campus to examine "the history of human impact on the landscape and how we can detect what we have and have not

disturbed," by looking at different trenches and tree lines.

Emily Kamen (VI), who also worked with Mr. Darke since last summer, said, "He is so incredibly knowledgeable and makes me notice so many different aspects of our Pingry ecosystem that I would have missed on my own."

Described by one student as an "environmental detective," Mr. Darke emphasized the importance of carefully and creatively observing nature. According to Isabella Zinn (IV), Mr. Darke took a very fun, interactive approach to the assembly by engaging the students with questions and jokes. She said, "I liked it because it wasn't just a boring lecture. He asked questions and got the audience involved."

Mr. Darke's presentation included his own vibrant photographs of spontaneous growth and livable landscapes. He encouraged the audience to analyze these photos, which ranged from habitat islands to the spontaneous growth of plants in South Africa, and even to the Green Group garden, right here on Pingry's Basking Ridge campus.

One part of the presentation, which was created by Hochberger, showed how the grassy area behind the senior couches could be changed to encourage

## Assembly Celebrates Diversity

By MATTHEW MARVIN (V)

This year's Multicultural Assembly, hosted by the Student Diversity Leadership Club (SDLC), discussed the topics of heritage, background, and identity.

Held on March 28, the assembly began with a short statement and video about the legalization of same sex marriage and its deliberation in the Supreme Court as a way to show students that the community aims to accept everyone for who they are, regardless of their sexual orientation.

Regarding the inclusion of the video, SDLC's faculty advisor Dr. Diana Artis commented, "Each year, in addition to showcasing our talented students, we try to highlight some aspect of our broader goals of cultural competency. This year, we highlighted sexual orientation to help our community increase our skills of cultural competency."

The video was followed by Natalie Gilbert's (V) commentary on her Iraqi heritage. Gilbert shared that her last name was originally the popular Middle-Eastern name "Rahim," and that her parents decided to change it to "Gilbert" in an effort to convince others they were American.

After Gilbert's courageous confession, Roshni Kotla (V) sang an original song titled "Sins," accompanied by Michael Arrom (VI) on the piano. "Difference and diversity are what make our lives so exciting," Kotla said. "My song is about how everybody makes mistakes, but that's okay because our imperfections are what make us beautiful and different in our own special ways."

Next, Aigner Mizzelle (V) performed the spoken-word piece "If I Should Have A Daughter" by Sarah Kay, accompanied by Andrew Alder (V) on the piano. Reshmi Kotla (III) gave a presentation on the Hindu festival of Diwali, and Cory Ransom (III) read an original poem.

The SDLC then announced its plan to design and create a student-made mural to encompass the diversity of the entire school community. The assembly concluded with an energetic group dance featuring

Steven Sun (VI), Isabel Kim (V), Tracey Lin (V), Freddy Chang (IV), Claudia Jiang (IV), Christina Ou (IV), Sarah Wang (IV), and Tiffany Yu (IV), set to four different K-pop songs.

Dr. Artis said, "My favorite part, in general, is watching the assembly unfold. I am always encouraged by the new ways in which our diversity is featured each year."



Courtesy of the Communications Office

S. Sun (VI) and his group perform a K-pop dance.

## Classrooms Will Be Moved Around

Continued From Page 1

the common grade areas are hindered by the presence of stairwells, and student contact would greatly improve if the stairs are moved. The addition of softer furniture and work tables will also benefit the community space.

Another area targeted for change in the new plan is the multipurpose room. Mr. Weckesser considers it "a prime piece of real estate," which is not being used to its full potential.

Mr. Weckesser also promoted the idea of Learning Neighborhoods, where similar subjects are grouped in the same areas throughout the building. "It's very hard to tell what subject is being taught in different sections of the school," he said.

"We need to encourage collaboration between STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) subjects and Humanities subjects," Mr. Weckesser said. The arts wing is currently isolated from the rest of the departments, and the Math and Science departments are on opposite ends of the school. History and English also lie on the opposite side of the school from World Languages.

As part of the proposed plan, the STEM subjects would be relocated to the south side of the building, and all the Humanities subjects would be on the north side.

Despite all its advantages, the plan does present some challenges. "We only have a limited amount of square footage," Mr. Virzi noted. Many of the modernization proposals may have to be tweaked to account for the amount of usable space in

the school.

For example, a current problem is that student lockers take up significant wall space, but the 1:1 program may eliminate the need for students to have lockers. In that event, wall space can be better utilized for modernization projects.

Mr. Conard also promotes the idea of utilizing wall space to display student work and achievements. "We want visitors and students and faculty to witness the exciting learning projects which happen every day around the school," he said. He also mentions the idea of special collaborative rooms for students to use, complete with interactive technology.

These monumental changes come with a monumental price tag. According to Mr. Conard, the project is estimated at around eight million dollars for the Upper School and four million dollars for the Lower School. However, the school doesn't intend to spend all of the money at the same time.

"The plan can proceed in stages, since we still have to have classes, and we can spread out the costs," Mr. Weckesser said. The funding for the plan will come through donations and philanthropic support.

"While major changes are still a few years off, this summer a number of changes will be made for students and faculty to enjoy in the fall," Mr. Weckesser said. Mr. Virzi agreed. "We can expect to see the publications suite built, new furniture in several classrooms, Commons furniture improvements, and an improved hallway connection between the Arts Wing and Middle School," he said.

## Word in the Hall: What Are Your Feelings About Modernization?



BRANDON BECKFORD (III)

"We need air conditioning."



DR. JONES

"I've seen the modernization plans and am looking forward to the changes!"



MATTHEW MARVIN (V)

"We should make the Upper School look nicer."



DANA WANG (IV)

"I'm excited to learn more about the changes!"



AKSHAY RAO (V)

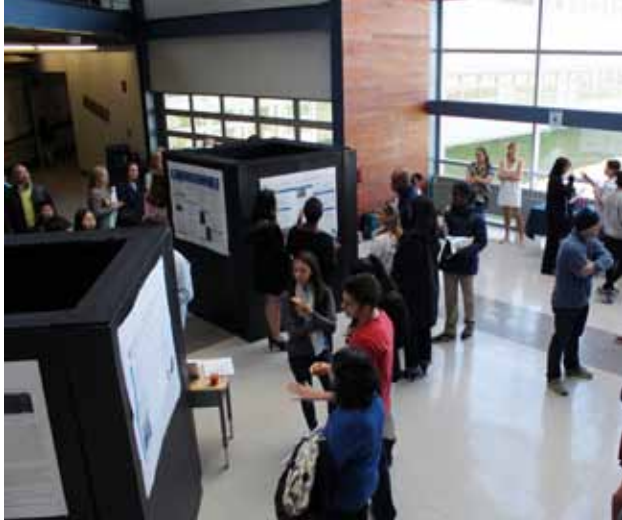
"I'm really excited for all the changes."

## Exhibit Held to Showcase Student Research

By ABHIRAM KARUPPUR (IV)

On Saturday, April 6, Pingry hosted its very first Research Exhibit. Over 200 people attended the exhibit, which featured the accomplishments of the school's expanding science program. Throughout the afternoon, guests witnessed mock Journal Club presentations and had the opportunity to observe many projects that students had prepared for this day. On display were current the Independent Research Team's projects, the AP Biology Research

Overall, the reaction to the exhibit was extremely positive. "Everyone did a really amazing and professional job," Mr. De said. Many people were impressed with the extent of the knowledge of the presenters, and the visiting scientists confirmed their preexisting notions about the science program at Pingry. "They knew Pingry was a science powerhouse," Mr. De said. Even people who were visiting Pingry for the first time were impressed with the gravity and importance of the various research projects.



Courtesy of Mr. De

### Students looking at an exhibit in the Lower Commons.

Projects, Journal Club, Project 80, SMART Team, the Anatomy and Physiology Class, the Research class, the Honors Biology Class, Computer Science class, and Robotics team.

"A lot of people don't know what we do down here," Biology teacher Mr. Luke De said. Mr. De organized the Research Exhibit in order to expose the students conducting research to the professional research being conducted by scientists. "Everybody is doing such amazing things, that the students don't really get much perspective as to what they are doing," he said.

Another goal of the exhibit was to communicate the research going out to the general public. "I think the students learn their projects really well when explaining it to laypeople," Mr. De said. The attendees included scientists from Rockefeller University, Columbia University, and New York University. In the process of explaining their research, some students were able to set up collaboration efforts with many of the visiting scientists.

The idea for the research exhibit was conceived early in the academic year. "I knew exactly what I wanted the exhibit to look like and how I wanted it to work," Mr. De said. Each component in the exhibit received its own room or designated area, and students from Blue Key helped visitors make their way around the building. Mr. De wanted each room to be as interactive as possible, so visitors could "talk to others and get their hands dirty."

In order to further the research program, Mr. De jokingly said he "would really appreciate a negative eighty degree freezer and \$10,000 to preserve human cells."

## Professional Squash Court in the Middle School Promotes Field House

By HALEY PARK (III) AND MARIA WERNER (III)

After spring break, a temporary glass squash court was assembled in the center of the Middle School commons where it remained for three weeks. The company that creates these courts, McWIL Courtwall, had a crew of five assemble the court in two and a half days.

The idea for this court was born roughly about a year ago, when Middle School Director Mr. Phil Cox contacted McWIL Courtwall to investigate if a temporary squash court could be mounted on campus.

Over the course of that year, he and Varsity squash Head Coach Mr. Ramsay Vehslage discussed the idea with the administration and it was finally approved.

Mr. Vehslage said, "Having the court in the middle school was a perfect way for us to promote the program in a truly unique way, especially as we raise funds to build a 6-court facility of our own."

Two alumni events were held that featured the court. The Squash Exhibition: All Americans, held on March 30, 2013, showcased four college graduates playing exhibition matches.



R. Davis (V)

### Middle school students play squash in the temporary court.

On Saturday April 6, 2013, the Supreme Squash Court Event offered exhibition matches of professionals and Pingry's own squash players.

With the placement of the court in the middle school, more students were influenced to consider playing squash for next year.

Mrs. Melanie Hoffman, Director of Institutional Advancement, was very pleased with the court overall. She

said, "It was a great way to generate interest in squash. We were very pleased." Mrs. Hoffman also added that the plans for a new field house, include six squash courts which give us the home court advantage.

Pingry students received various emails from Associate Director of Communications and Sports Information Ms. Maureen Maher, about reserving time to play in the squash court.

At the start of each week, students were able to reserve 30-minute time slots.

Current Varsity squash player Zayna Nassoura (III) said, "It was really cool to have the home court advantage right in the center of the middle school commons."

Overall, the squash court brought a lot of attention to the squash program, not only within the school, but in the community as a whole.

## Successful Prom Held at Madison Hotel

By CHARLOTTE ZEE (V)

After spending lots of time shopping for the perfect clothing, students from the junior and senior classes dressed to impress for the Prom on Thursday, April 18. Coordinated by History teacher Dr. Megan Jones and Science teacher Miss Jill Kehoe, the event was held at the Madison Hotel in Madison, NJ from seven to ten.

Dressed in formal attire, many students arrived after

taking pictures with friends and family members. Students were very impressed with the location, and Koryna O'Besso (V) thought that the event was "well organized."

Before entering the ballroom, students went to the conservatory for the cocktail hour. Students enjoyed an assortment of hors d'oeuvres and took additional pictures with their classmates and teachers.

After an hour of mingling, students filtered into the ballroom that had a dance floor, tables, and of course the DJ. Students got the chance to dance with their peers and dates.

Kishon Pinckney (V) thought this part of the dance was "the best and a very memorable experience."

In addition to dancing, students enjoyed a buffet style dinner and an ice cream bar.

A feature that was unique to this year's Prom was the photo booth, which was suggested by Sonalika Reddi (VI). Students gathered in the booth with their friends and took many pictures to

remember the night.

Some students even used masks and made funny faces to capture the moment.

"It ended up being a really great addition," Dr. Jones said.

Students and teachers alike seemed to enjoy themselves at Prom. Catherine Ding (VI) thought it was "a great night and a memorable end to senior year."

Dr. Jones thought "everyone looked really nice and appropriate. I also thought the venue worked out very well."

"I wish the event went on longer," she added, "but overall it was a great success!"



Courtesy of Communications

### Juniors and Seniors enjoying Prom.

## Students Attend Workshops

Continued From Page 1

the memoir workshop, because we had an interesting writing prompt and Gideon was very helpful in giving us suggestions".

Natalie Gilbert (V) said, "I absolutely loved the assembly, particularly Jared, the last speaker. His style of poetry was absolutely mind-blowing". Erin Dugan (III) added, "Zuma's personality really showed through her work and I really enjoyed it".

Dr. Susan Dineen, who has coordinated the festival since the inception of the Justin Society in 1996, said "This year was another great one for the festival. I always get students who tell me that this was the best year yet, and this year I heard that from a number of students."

A teacher of creative writing along with Ms. Alisha Davlin, who helps her find the writers each year, Dr. Dineen heard first-

hand from her own students about their experiences. Ali Welch (VI) enthused that the festival "really opened my eyes to how much work these writers have to put into their writing, just like any other job."

Michael Ketchum (VI) said the poets "really got me thinking. They were intense, depressing, occasionally funny, and each filled with emotion. It made me look back on my own writing and really question it."

Matthew Marvin (V) thought, "It was great to put a face to the idea of «working authors.» After learning about the struggles of writing for a living from Anne Lamott's "Bird By Bird," getting to know writers who were successful in what they were doing was amazing.

"I took so much from the day," he added. "In general, it was so helpful because they exemplify what we are all working towards."

## Concerns About Modernization

Continued From Page 1

Middle School, said, "The first idea was to set up the classrooms in rows, which is what most people are familiar with. But now, thanks to teachers' experimentation, you can go into one classroom and see a 'pod' layout while others have a discussion based design, so teachers are really only limited by their imagination."

However, modernization

brings with it a real danger of compromising the school's dedication to its identity and the ability to deliver a good product.

Mr. Conard said, "We have to worry about the quality of the relationship between faculty and student. One of our commitments has always been a high degree of individual attention, so that faculty members who knew their students well cared for and about them both in their development as people and in their development

as scholars."

We have to factor in the reality, he added, that "With the advent of massive Open Online Courses, in which 50,000 people are enrolled, everybody is basically watching a video of the professor talking."

Mr. Cox is more focused on the threat of computers distracting students. His concern, which he says is "probably shared by some of my colleagues," is that students may ask "do I want to play Angry Birds or take notes during

class?" In his view, "If there's anything that's concerning it's the possible erosion of our ability to be in the present moment and focus on whatever we're doing at that time."

The good news, though, is that the administration is focused on maintaining the school's fundamental principles through any and all modernizations that may come. As Mr. Conard attests, "The mission, the vision, the character of the school, is timeless."

## Drama IV Seniors Perform in Final Play Entitled "The Nerd"

By CAROL PORGES (IV) and ISABELLA ZINN (IV)

On April 25th, 26th, and 27th, the Drama VI seniors staged a production of Larry Shue's "The Nerd" in the Attic Theater. "The Nerd" tells the story of Willum Cubbert (played by Billy Porges), a war veteran and architect living in Terra Haute, Indiana, in the late 1970s.

The play opens with Willum; his girlfriend, Tansy McGinnis (Nicole Arata and Caroline Murphy), who is moving to Washington D.C. to pursue her dream of becoming a weather girl; and his friend, drama critic Axel

Hammond (Michael Ketchum). They are celebrating Willum's birthday when a surprise guest arrives.

Willum is faced with a difficult situation when he finally meets the man who saved his life, Rick Steadman (Sam Ricciardi), in Vietnam, and Steadman turns out to be a very strange and annoying human being. While Willum is being driven insane by Rick, he is also juggling his closed-minded and ill-humored architectural client, Warnock Waldgrave (Ben Behrman), and Waldgrave's tightly wound wife, Celia (Murphy/

Arata).

It is revealed at the end of the play that Rick is actually not so much of a nerd after all, but, instead, is a friend of Axel's; Rick was hired to create such a ruckus in Willum's life. Willum would realize he should move to Virginia to be with Tansy.

This elaborate trick in "The Nerd," along with the shenanigans of the fall play, "On the Razzle," and the silly cons of the winter musical, "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels," rounded out "the year of the farce at Pingry," according to director and drama teacher Mr. Al Romano.

Despite the trickery, this play does have a lot of heart. As Mr. Romano said, "This play is about friendship. That is simple; that is the bottom line. It is also about how sometimes friends need to nudge one another to do what is right."

This specific play was chosen because it matched the dynamics of the class. When asked about his seniors, Mr. Romano said that they are "a particularly great, kind, fun group of kids."



Courtesy of the Communications Office

N. Arata, M. Ketchum, and C. Murphy (VI).

## Korn and Marvin Recommend "The Place Beyond the Pines"

By SAMANTHA KORN (V) and MATTHEW MARVIN (V)

"The Place Beyond the Pines," a crime drama directed by Derek Cianfrance, combines the thriller, psychological thriller, and romance genres. It premiered at the 2012 Toronto International Film Festival and gained much attention after being released to the public late this March.

Starring Bradley Cooper, Ryan Gosling, Eva Mendes, and Ray Liotta, "The Place Beyond the Pines" is a commentary on the ethical dilemma posed when motorcycle stunt driver Luke Glanton, played by Ryan Gosling, turns to robbing banks in order to provide for his ex-lover and their newborn son. This places him in the path of rookie small-town cop Avery Cross, played by Bradley Cooper, who is trying to navigate through the corrupt police department of Schenectady,

New York.

As Luke's temper gets higher and his tactics messier, Avery Cross shoots and kills him during a police chase. The movie then jumps ahead fifteen years, when Luke's son and Avery's son meet at school. The dangerous feud between their fathers continues into the next generation.

All in all, the film forces the audience to confront their own emotions and doubts so as to form an answer to the ethical dilemma presented.

While Gosling and Cianfrance had collaborated before (on the critically acclaimed 2010 film "Blue Valentine"), Cooper was working with this director, and his untraditional style, for the first time. This did not hold Cooper back, however, and his dramatically challenging performance was outstanding.

Personally, we have been avid fans of Cooper since reviewing "The Words" this

past October, and his continued hard work since then has obviously paid off. He has started to shy away from the more simplistic, comedic types of films that he often worked on earlier in his career (such as "Wedding Crashers," "Valentine's Day," and "The Hangover"). Now, Cooper's performance is the frontrunner of "The Place Beyond The Pines" and his other, newer work has not gone unnoticed, either. This past February, he garnered an Academy Award nomination for his work in "Silver Linings Playbook".

"The Place Beyond the Pines" left us speechless. It is an entirely innovative addition to the world of modern cinema: it fits no certain genre, the script has no set style, but the film and the actors' performances definitely stand out. We promise that you will be both pleasantly entertained and educationally stimulated by "The Place Beyond the Pines."

## Art Faculty Display Original Works in Annual Show

By MATT BARICKMAN (V)

Faculty members of the Art Department exhibited their work in the 2013 Faculty Art Show, on display in the Hostetter Gallery from April 2 through May 4. Each teacher created an original piece to exhibit.

Fine Arts teacher Ms. Rebecca Sullivan, who is new to Pingry this year, focused on trying to recreate fungus on trees in her own way. Giving color to the fungal forms, she helped bring a special energy into her work.

Clay and Sculpting teacher Mr. Richard Freiwald focused on emotional intensities while he was sculpting his pots. He carefully crafted to "the highest standards" and to the best of his abilities. Using the luster glaze process, Mr. Freiwald brought life and movement to his always well-received pottery collection.

Photography teacher and Art Department head Mr. Miles Boyd decided to build on his work from the previous faculty art show, in which he had worked with wood panels. He decided to use a few leftover panels from last year and experiment by painting over them with printmaking ink.

Head of the Green Group, creator of the Environmental Studio Art course, and teacher of Drawing and Painting, Mr. Peter Delman, chose to experiment with

photographs from the New York Times, which he said can be "powerful, strange, or spooky in themselves

piece created movement in its own way. Mrs. Edwards also manipulated and softened an image of the daughter of one of her friends,



R. Davis (V)

Mr. Freiwald's pottery was showcased in April show.

and become more so when collaged with other images."

Mrs. Jane Asch contributed three paintings to the show, two of which came directly from her memories. Exploring the medium of what paint can do, Mrs. Asch produced three beautiful pieces of artwork that she said "pushed me out of my comfort zone to experiment with different styles."

Some teachers, like Mrs. Jane Edwards, created a new spin on art. She decided to print photographs on soft print silk. She printed individual sections of pictures so that when combined, each

which she then printed onto watercolor paper.

Last but not least, Mrs. Jane Kunzman painted with a combination of watercolor and oil pastel, a medium which she says feels most "natural" to her, and used her artwork to express the things she values most in life.

In response to this year's art show, Mr. Boyd said he was "very proud of what we've put together this year." Angel Fluet (V) added, "The show was outstanding and the talent within Pingry's Art Department is superb."

## Student Art Show Utilizes New Gallery Space

By LORI KIM (IV)

On Wednesday, April 10, three students held their debut art show in the new gallery space in the basement of the arts wing. Spearheaded by Brian Hochberger (VI), the show, entitled "Plastic Visions," also featured work by Sydney Li (VI) and Isabella Lalonde (V).

According to Hochberger, the theme of the show, which incorporates art and technology, was inspired by an "interesting group of people at Pingry who do a lot of digital work." He added, "That's the direction the art department is going, and I wanted a platform to represent that."

The first piece in the exhibit at the entrance of the gallery was a



R. Davis (V)

Students enjoy "Plastic Visions."

piece by Li, called "LED Tapes-try," which featured images moving and merging across a computer screen. Her other piece, in which she used programming, had an image of a heart on a computer screen with a microphone that, when spoken to, makes the heart beat faster. Many students gathered around this piece, speaking into the microphone and watching the image on the screen change.

Hochberger also exhibited multiple pieces of original art, including one entitled, "Modified VHS Video Compression." In this piece, he overlapped different VHS tapes in three different television screens. Hochberger said that he was inspired by the idea of using a "digital glitch" to "create a visual that goes against its original purpose."

Lalonde used plaster, spray foam, and chicken wire, and hung

it from the ceiling of the gallery. She said she was inspired by "nature at night." Lalonde added that she made this piece, by wrapping cage wire into a tube and plastering it. She then "spray painted and cut holes in water bottles," and then attached it to the rest of the piece.

Overall, students and faculty enjoyed seeing the show. Solomon Taylor (VI) described the exhibit as "visually stimulating," and said, "I feel as if I should be interacting with it, but the screen is a barrier between me and the art."

The show also featured a snack table, where teachers and students were able to socialize and talk about the art. At the same time, a live performance by music teacher Mr. Sean McAnally and The Heartbeats contributed to a memorable event.



Courtesy of the Communications Office

New Cum Laude Society members K. Mao, C. Kirdzik, J. Hickey, J. Gross, C. Chen, C. Ding, E. Cahill, R. Lima, A. Welch, A. Van Besien, K. Rueterholz, S. Reddi, and C. Murphy (VI).

## Varsity Boys' Tennis Team Works Hard to Improve Their Record

By MICHAEL WERNER (V)

The boys' Varsity tennis team holds a current record of 5-6, but is working as hard as they can to win all of their future matches and improve that record even more. The team has so far faced teams such as Hillsborough, Scotch Plains, Watchung Hills, Hunterdon Central, Montgomery, and Bridgewater.

Head Coach John Diaz and Captains Michael O'Reilly (VI) and Brian Li (VI) are anticipating a very successful end to the season.

"Our goals are to end with a winning record and hopefully pull off a win in the Non-Public B Championship," O'Reilly said.

Coach Diaz is new to both the Pingry girls' and boys' tennis teams this year. O'Reilly said, "Coach Diaz is a great guy; he is really funny and brings an awesome attitude to the team. He is also extremely knowledgeable about tennis and has really helped us focus our practices."

When asked what each



Courtesy of the Communications Office  
M. O'Reilly (VI) hits the ball in a match.

team member felt the team needed to improve on as a whole, consistency seemed to be the common answer. "We need to be a bit more consistent so we can win a couple of the tight matches we lost," said Neeraj Shekhar (V). O'Reilly agrees

that "everyone could work on improving their consistency and staying tough in high pressure situations."

If the boys stay focused and keep up this mentality, there is no doubt that they will generate some solid wins.

## Varsity Softball is Having a Very Impressive Season

By ZAYNA NASSOURA (III)

After training hard over spring break during a pre-season training trip to Disney World, the girls' Varsity softball team's efforts are paying off. Head Coach Chip Carver is leading the girls into a winning season; the team currently has a record of 8-1.

Coach Carver's expectations for the season include having fun but being competitive and hardworking.

"Everyone gets along and has fun together. Personally, I look forward to practice every day, because

I get to play the sport I love while making so many new friends and just having a great time," said Katie Marino (III).

The girls have already won five games in which their opponents have not scored a single point. The teams that have not scored against Big Blue Softball include Manville, South Hunterdon, Bound Brook, Gill St. Bernard, and Mount Saint Mary.

Head Captain Jaime Ferns (VI) — along with Assistant Captains Hayley Advokat (VI), Becca Hoyt (VI), and Melissa James

(VI) — are demonstrating great leadership skills, and the seniors support younger players and motivate them to play their best.

Marino said, "They're so nice and supportive. I'm so happy I get to spend my first high school softball experience with them."

Hoyt added that the fans really help the team perform their best. Support from the sidelines helps the girls stay positive even if they are losing; at the Belvidere game, for example, they were losing 3-0, but made a great comeback. Pingry ultimately won, 4-3.



M. James (VI) prepares for a pitch.

I. Barrionuevo (V)

## Boys' and Girls' Golf Teams Enjoy Much Success

By WILL JOHNSON (IV)

Led by captains George Zachary (V), Sophia Feng (VI), and Mikaela Lewis (V), the boys' and girls' Varsity golf teams have built off of last year's successes and have had an exciting start to the season.

Currently, the boys have an outstanding record of 10-0, which is one of the best starts in Pingry's golf history. The girls currently hold a record of 2-5; they have already surpassed last season's number of wins.

Boys' Head Coach Joe Forte has returned for another year as coach and has guided the boys' team to the 10-0 record. He expected to have a great season this year, but never dreamed that the season would be quite this phenomenal.

Pingry will soon compete against Gill St. Bernard's for the title of Valley Division Champions of the Skyland Conference. If Pingry wins, this will be a massive accom-



Courtesy of the Communications Office  
Mr. Bourne, H. Thompson (VI), M. Dannenbaum (IV), B. Rigby (III), and J. Chae (III) on the golf course.

plishment, as it will be a first in the history of Pingry golf.

Coach Forte attributes the team's success to Justin Chae (III), Matt Dannenbaum (IV), Zachary, Chris DeVito (V), Bobby Rigby (III) and Assistant Captains Alec Kaisand (VI) and Hugh Thompson (VI). Zachary has big expecta-

tions for the team and hopes that they can continue the season undefeated, win the conference and sectional titles, and then move on to states.

On the other hand, the girls have welcomed a new coach this year, Debby Murphy. She has already doubled last year's win total, and there are still six matches remaining. The scores for each match have also greatly improved since the start of the season, which is probably attributed to the focus on the team's short game skills and swing mechanics during practice.

Coach Murphy would like to see the team develop into a competitive group by playing and staying competitive throughout the summer. With only one senior leaving, she hopes to build upon the season and become even stronger again next year.

The senior, Feng, lauds the coach for helping the team set goals and come together as a team. Lewis hopes the team can continue to improve from last year as they work on common goals.



Courtesy of the Communications Office  
C. DeVito (V) goes for a tee shot.

## Lacrosse Team Works Hard to Improve Record

By NEHA SEETAMRAJU (III)

Boys' Varsity Lacrosse captains John Galiardo (VI), John Dugan (VI), and Evan Key (V) and the rest of the team are training hard together as a team.

As of now, the team's record is 1-11. Despite the current standings, Middle School History teacher Mr. Michael Webster, the Varsity Head Coach, is not losing hope.

"We are a young team with many freshmen and sophomores," he explained. "I have already seen a lot of great improvement in our skills throughout the season. Our attitude has been

strong and we look forward to gaining success as the season progresses."

Although the team lost its first game against Moorestown High School 0-11, the boys showed improvement from then on; they have played a series of close matches.

For example, in a game against Montgomery High School, they were behind by only one point.

Similarly, in games against Watchung Hills Regional High School and Hunterdon Central High School, there was only a two-point difference.

Mr. Webster's determina-

tion is shared by the players. They are currently working very hard at every practice to improve and to be successful in the future.

"We are preparing for everything," Mr. Webster said. "With a young team, we need to work on all aspects of the game: offense, defense, transition, and stick work."

As the season has not yet been completed, there are still plenty of opportunities for the team to win games and improve their record.

With their current positive mindset and the perseverance of the team, these boys plan to succeed.



J. Sorenson (IV) takes a shot on goal.

Courtesy of the Communications Office

## Girls' Lacrosse Team Remains Strong and Hopes to Qualify for County Championship

By JULIA AXTELL (III)

Led by Head Coach and Upper School history teacher Carter Abbott and captains Nicole Arata (VI), Hanna Beattie (VI), and Margaret Siesta (VI), the girls' Varsity lacrosse team is looking to close their 2013 season on a strong note. Recently, they

broke their losing streak with an April 23rd win against Bridgewater-Raritan High School, and currently hold a record of 8-8.

Although many of the team's most experienced members graduated last year, the remaining players have adjusted very well and their

new strategy includes playing to everyone's strengths. The seniors have worked extra hard to replace last year's seniors, giving underclassmen more chances to step up and take over next year.

This year, the team hopes to take part in the Skyland Conference Championship

and the County Championship. They also want to return to the State Sectional Finals and play in the Tournament of Champions.

The girls' biggest rival is Ridge High School. In their recent match-up, Pingry played well and it was a close game, but, unfortunately, they ended up losing by one point. Hoping to redeem itself when Ridge comes to Pingry for a game, the team believes playing on its home turf will work to its advantage.

According to Arata, the team's favorite game of the season thus far has been against Hunterdon Central; Pingry won in overtime. Arata said that "the energy, heart and teamwork [the team] played with was exciting and [they] have been aiming to emulate that intensity in every game since."

Siesta added that the team is very close-knit on and off the field as every single player is a necessary and valuable contributor.



M. Vreeland (IV) competes against Hillsborough, going for the ball.

R. Davis (V)

## Current Records:

Baseball: 14-7

Softball: 16-2

Boys' Lacrosse: 1-11

Girls' Lacrosse: 8-8

Tennis: 6-10

Boys' Track: 1-3

Girls' Track: 1-3

Girls' Golf: 3-8

Boys' Golf: 14-1

## Baseball Continues Last Year's Success

By JOSH LEBOWITZ (IV)

In Varsity baseball, Coaches Mr. Ted Corvino and Mr. Manny Tramontana added several promising freshmen and sophomores to a talented core of juniors and seniors, who, together, have fielded a promising squad to compete, despite the loss of phenomenal pitcher Dan Keller '12.

At the beginning of this season, the team set out to build upon last year's strong season, during which the boys won the Skyland Conference. The boys' current record is an impressive 14-7, and they are looking forward to a strong finish to the season.

The team's record is highlighted by a 4-3 first-round victory against Franklin High School in the Somerset County Tournament. Captain Ryan Toomey (VI) pitched seven strong innings, allowing three runs on six hits. Co-Captain Cole McCollum (VI) hit a walk-off RBI single to secure

the victory for Big Blue. McCollum commented, "I was in the zone and just tried to hit something hard up the middle."

Pingry is poised to face 6th-ranked Ridge High School, which currently has a record of 8-2, in the second round of the tournament.

Coach Corvino has set three goals for this season: "Our goal is always to win the league. We also want to vie for the County title, and we want to be competitive for the State tournament," he said.

Next year may prove to be a challenge, due to the loss of four starting seniors. However, with a talented group of underclassmen and rising seniors led by Kyle Walker (V), Michael Silbert (V), and Mitch Suzuki (V), the team will be in a position to compete.

Overall, with strong leadership from coaches and upperclassmen, Pingry baseball has a promising future.

## Varsity Boys' and Girls' Track Team Hopes for State Championship

By ERIN BUTRICO (V)

The Varsity boys' and girls' Track Team have had very strong starts to their seasons. Captains Molly Kandarian (VI), Cara Hayes (VI), and Jess McGregor (VI) have led the Girls' Team to two victories in their three dual meets. The boys' team, led by Avery Vella (V), Cameron Gensch (VI), and Jordan Flannery (VI), has won one out of their three dual meets as well.

The distance team, coached by Mr. Grant, Tom Cladek, Sarah Christensen, and Mr. Horesta, has gained a lot of valuable members this year. "I think the team is looking very strong," said Anna Butrico (V). "Our younger runners are gaining more experience and are dropping their times quickly."

The sprint team, although lacking in numbers, is enjoying similar success. Mark Leibowitz and Mr. Nazario are coaching both Boys and Girls sprinters for the second year in a row. Their runners, although "battling a few injuries," have held their own in recent compe-



A. Fluet (V) and J. McGregor (VI) run in the 100 meter hurdle race.

Courtesy of the Communications Office

tion.

According to captain Jordan Flannery (VI), "the throwing team has some very strong talent returning from last season." Coach Lavalette and Coach Alexanderson have led he throwing squad to victory, scoring valuable points in the Skyland Conference Meet on May 15. The jumpers, led by Coach Romano,

have also been improving their personal bests with the State Meet in sight.

A handful of Pingry sprinters competed in the Penn Relays on April 27. Ruthie Advokat (IV), said it was "an amazing experience to be running with my 4x400 meter team in one of the nation's most prestigious meets." Angel Fluet (V) and Liam Mullett competed

individually, Fluet in the pole vault, and Mullett in the 1500 meter race. They were the first Pingry students to ever qualify as individuals.

The teams have been competing in the Somerset County and Skyland Conference Championships, and are looking forward to competing in the Sectional and State Meets towards the end of May. After winning the Sectional Meet for the past three years, hopes are high for this season's end. According to Liam Mullett, "We've got a lot of talent across the board in many different events, a lot of key guys returning from last year, some great additions to the team, and a national-class coaching staff, so if we can get healthy, work hard, and stay focused, we've got a great season ahead."



R. Toomey (VI) preparing to bat.

I. Barrionuevo (V)



Like us on  
Facebook