

## Launch of 1-to-1 Transforms Classes

By LORI KIM (V)

Despite some bumps in the road, the Upper School has responded well to this year's implementation of the 1-to-1 Laptop Program. As the school shifts to a more technology-based academic approach, each student is now required to bring his or her laptop to each class. Although the initiative is merely a chapter in the ongoing effort to modernize Pingry, the changes thus far have succeeded in enhancing the academic environment with the integration of technology.

The consensus among students is that the tech changes have proven to be mostly beneficial, and Josiah Taylor (VI) said he appreciates how materials are more readily available. The program has made it "more convenient to receive updates from classes and Pingry announcements," he said.

Students and faculty also applauded the new program for expediting access to classroom supplies and resources. According to David Rockoff (V), the program has made doing work so much more convenient, and students are now "allowed to have unprecedented access to online resources during class."

According to Director of Educational and Information Technology Mr. Brian Bur-

khart, administrators strived for "differentiated learning" during the initiation of the program. This has ranged from "empowering teachers to use technology in creative ways to helping students learn vital tech skills in the context of their classes."

Upper School Director Dr. Denise Brown-Allen commented on the benefits of more technology in the classroom, saying that the use of laptops allows for "easy and ready access to



Kirsch (IV) uses her required laptop in a collaboration area. R. Davis (VI)

information that enhances discussion in classrooms." Dr. Brown-Allen, who also teaches AP Statistics in the Upper school, compared the new program to her classroom. "Math teachers assign problems assuming that every student has a graphing calculator," she said. "That analogy can now be applied to laptops in any classroom setting."

Over the past year, the

Technology Department and school administrators have worked hard to prepare the school for a more digitized environment. According to Dr. Brown-Allen, technology-focused professional development opportunities were offered to teachers during in-service and during the summer breaks. Additionally, the school doubled its bandwidth during the summer break to support the new laptops and has added 50 charging stations below the

has been relocated to the old technology lab while their previous office space was remade into a publication suite.

After fixing some networking and printing problems in the beginning of the year, the Technology Department earned Dr. Brown-Allen's praise for working "overtime" to address these issues. "They've done a great job keeping students and faculty updated," she added.

Student Technology Committee (STC) member Theo Rabke (V) said that the Tech Team is "constantly working to improve the speed, reliability, and stability of the network and the different technologies in the school," regarding the influx of computers that are now using the network. He added that, "despite some rough patches in its implementation," the program is largely beneficial for both students and faculty. "Faster turn around times on assignments, environmental responsibility, and the safety of digital backups... What's not to like?"

The shift to laptops, according to Mr. Burkhart, is "a cultural change." He believes it will help students prepare for college and even our jobs, though long in the future. He stressed the importance of technology in the modern workplace, and said, "the laptop is now a major part of everyone's lives; every stu-

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## Schedule Receives Positive Feedback

By MATT FROMM (V)

The new schedule has made quite an impact on our community. For years, Pingry students were accustomed to moving from one class to the next up to six times a day. Often, students would have to walk from one end of the building to the other and walk into class late. The room would typically erupt into a chorus of claps from other classmates, and the harried teacher would glance at the clock and start the period in an agitated mood. As many students can attest, four minutes was not enough time to gather one's books and trek across the school—or even get to a nearby room.

So, the school decided that a significant change was in order. Last year, the administration announced that Pingry would move to a block schedule for the 2013-2014 school

"When each class only meets once every other day, it is easier to get ahead of your work."

One potential dilemma about the new schedule that remains unresolved is the issue of teachers assigning work for both nights until the next class to make up for the smaller number of class meetings per week. Classes now meet two to three times a week instead of four or five times in the old schedule. Bridget Harrison (V) said, "I feel like I don't have time to get much done during school," referring to the shortened CPs at the end of each day.

Many students are concerned that tests and quizzes will be lengthened to fit the whole time period for each class, resulting in tougher tests and more material on each assessment. Despite these drawbacks, though, people seem relatively happy with the new system. Junior Kyle Boylan



Students work together during the new flex period. I. Barrionuevo (VI)

year, one that offered four longer, sixty-five minute classes per day. A student can never have more than two classes back-to-back, and, when this occurs, there is a five-minute break between the two periods.

Another important addition to the new schedule is the "flex period," which is a time before or after each class when a student can work, see teachers, attend club meetings, or do other activities around campus. These twenty-five minute blocks allow for a relaxed gap of time between classes and enable students to complete a decent amount of work during the day rather than having only conference period to get a head start on their subjects. Given the extra time during the day to complete work, Liz Herman (VI) said that, "I feel like I have more free time than I used to."

Also, one of the important benefits of the schedule is that it does not revolve around a weekly calendar. Instead, the schedule is organized into a seven-day rotation block, running from "Day A" through "Day G."

Another benefit of the new system is that it allows students to prepare for fewer classes each night. Daniel Hutt (III) said, "I prefer the four longer classes to the seven shorter classes because we get a lot more stuff done in class, and I get less homework every night." He added that the new schedule also lessens stress, saying,

said, "the new schedule makes it more conducive for students to succeed because we have less stress at night and more time to do our work. Also, I think classes are more engaging because the periods are longer."

Some students use the added free time during the day to socialize in the freshman or sophomore couches, sit in the cafeteria, or relax in the senior area. Georgia Miller (V) said, "I really like the new system because classes don't meet each day. So, it's easier to manage time without working like crazy, especially with AP classes."

The new schedule also makes it more convenient to see teachers. Julian Chartouni (V) said, "The flex periods have been making it much easier to visit my teachers for help."

Perhaps hockey coach Mr. John Magadini best sums up the collective student body's reaction to these changes. He said, "From a sub's viewpoint, the new schedule is very easy to maneuver. But it also seems as though students are walking around with significantly less stress than they were last year. I think it's good for students because you guys usually have much more time between periods, now. It remains to be seen whether teachers loading up several days of work between classes will become a major problem, but so far, the school seems to be handling the new schedule pretty well."

## Inside The Record



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Varsity Boys' Soccer team huddling before their Homecoming game. P. 12

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## Freshmen Enjoy Peer Leadership Retreat

By DAVID METZGER (III)

On Wednesday, September 18, the freshman class and senior peer leaders left for a two-day field trip to Lake Bryn Mawr Camp in Pennsylvania. While there, they participated in a variety of bonding activities.

Prior to the trip, freshmen were assigned to peer groups, each including about eight other students and two senior leaders.

After school ended on

in their cabins and trekked over to the dining hall, where they had dinner. Afterwards, they met with their respective peer groups where they participated in team building activities.

Later, freshmen walked to the dining hall, where they were greeted by a dance floor and music. When the dance started, seniors ran into the hall dressed in costumes that represented different countries.

One of the most memorable activities for freshmen was the



D. Topor and B. Kaminoff (VI) with groupie A. Gupta (III). A. Dorneo (VI)

Wednesday, students and faculty chaperones boarded a bus to begin their two-hour trip to the camp, where a giant "Bryn Mawr" sign eventually greeted them.

Students then put their bags

boat-building competition. Each group had to create a boat with four sides for a student to sit inside and paddle across a lake. This has long been a Pin-

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## EDITORIAL

## Communication Matters

On October 1, like any other typical jam-packed school day, I shuffled from one-hour-long class to the next and conducted some last minute studying for my AP Calculus test during those sacred 25 minutes of flex time. While I was absorbed by the routine drama and anxiety of senior year, our representatives in Washington D.C. were having anything but a normal day. On midnight of that day, as we all know if we pay attention to the news, they had officially shut down the United States federal government.

Every year the House and Senate are supposed to agree on budget bills to fund the government for the next year. Unfortunately, the 113th Congress has chosen not to perform this basic function based on their dislike of President Obama's healthcare law.

As many people are asking, does the House really have the right to close down the whole government because of Obamacare, when this decision affects so many people's lives, not just in our country, but around the world?

The Speaker of the House, John Boehner, is not actually in control of House Republicans and I think he would agree with my view. He wanted to pass a resolution that would simply fund the government, but did not have enough support amongst his caucus to bring the measure to a vote. Most Republicans who only want to fund the government if Obamacare is repealed are a part of the Tea Party, and as President Obama has said, "One faction of one party in one house of Congress in one branch of government doesn't get to shut down the entire government just to refigure the results of an election."

I know what you are thinking. All of this dysfunction in Washington sounds pretty bad, but what does it have to do with us? Why write about national politics in a Pingry Record editorial?

Here's why: the Pingry community has been directly impacted by the government shutdown. In one specific instance, Honors Biology 2 students are unable to conduct some of their research projects with the Waksman Student Scholars program because the program no longer receives funding from federal agencies.

More significantly, however, as the national media has reported this past week, the entire economy is being negatively impacted by the shutdown. That affects everyone. According to an article in the Washington Post, for example, visa and passport requests will go largely unfulfilled, and many national parks and museums like the Statue of Liberty will be closed, which can hamper tourism. Although most social welfare programs will continue to be funded, local Congressman Rush Holt noted on his website that unemployment benefits and small business loans may be discontinued.

How many small business owners in the Pingry community are being affected? It's worth thinking about.

As much as it's easy for us as teenagers to think about our courses, the new schedule, college applications, 1-to-1, the new faculty, and all the wonderful aspects of this school that absorb our days and fill the pages of this newspaper, the government shutdown is a reminder of the danger when one group of people fails to compromise and makes reckless decisions that impact others. In line with the Honor Code, we need to grow into adults who do not shut down our government and fail to compromise.

We should also try to practice what we preach as we move forward as a community. When thinking about the modernization that our building recently underwent, many students and faculty reported being unhappy last spring about not having an adequate say about the proposed changes. Now we live with the results, and in some cases, we're happier than we expected to be. Most students and faculty report liking the new schedule.

However, modernization, which has only been launched in a few classrooms and offices this past year, is getting mixed responses. Certainly the decorators and architects had the school's interests in mind. Yet, several rooms and offices that were redesigned to be more aesthetically pleasing without asking the people who inhabit these spaces their opinions, are not as comfortable as we all hoped. The old senior couches, to cite one example, may not be as mod as the new couches, but many of my classmates would agree that the old couches were much more comfortable.

I find it extremely scary that in our society, the views of one group of people are threatening the interests of the majority, and that our society is less about the collaborative model at the heart of our Honor Code. Our government is supposed to work to protect everyone, but the government shutdown signifies how the interests of a fringe group of people can dictate the direction of our country. Let's learn from what our members of Congress are doing about what we should not do as well as what we should.

—Ben Kaminoff

## Butrico Offers Survival Skills for Juniors

By ANNA BUTRICO (VI)

"Junior Year is so overrated. It's not that hard," an older classmate said to me on the first day of Junior Year. "I found it to be a great social year, personally."

She was right. I made tons of new friends. Like with my SAT tutor! My Calculator! My Starbucks gift card! My ACT flashcards! I was so social! It was amazing!

The best piece of advice I received jokingly from a classmate is one I impart to all juniors: survive. You may feel as though you are being thrown into the pile of doom with only an SAT prep book as a floatie and that you'll somehow have to find your way out of a dark maze of expectations, whether they be from your teachers, college counselors, or parents. I know you're probably thinking, "College? What? I have to think about that already?"

Unfortunately, you do. As you are aware, grades count the most this year. You'll have to take your SATs or ACTs, and don't forget an AP or two. If you're an athlete, you'll have to make recruitment negotiations.

If you're into theater, you'll start having to think about auditioning for schools. Overwhelming? Absolutely. Survivable? Definitely.

Just like a tour guide who walks backwards on college visits (which I know you're making), I'll try and speak positively and point out all the "insider secrets" about junior year.

My first piece of advice: get your testing done *early*. Do not wait, like I did, until May to test when you have APs to worry about. My second: buy those AP

before the actual test, but the amount of material you will need to know is pretty staggering. My third piece of advice: better to start early than procrastinate. Although it may sound cliché, cramming at the last minute, especially for AP exams, won't work. Lots of exams are back-to-back, and it's hard to take a test while you have to literally pry your eyes open with a pencil.

However, overall, try to keep a sense of humor. Give yourself study breaks. Dance in your room to bad Glee music

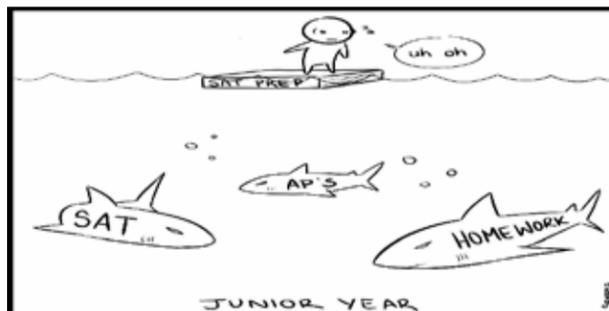
the "Hunger Games" when it comes out.

Take advantage of the new schedule, which I did not have as a junior. Make use of flex time so you have less homework when you get home (and, of course, more free time for SAT Prep). Although college and schoolwork is important, your happiness, and frankly, sanity, comes first.

In the end, I guess my older friend was right when he said that Junior Year was a great social year. There's nothing that comes close to a post-cram session bonding, where your eyes are puffy from limited sleep and your hands are covered in Sharpie from highlighting.

One of my favorite moments at Pingry was after the AP US History Exam. As soon as Mrs. Hymas collected our tests, everyone in my area came together hugging, in pure relief. Everyone can relate to being stressed about standardized testing, and everyone's trying, like you, to do well.

Your floaties in the "pool of doom" Junior Year are your classmates. Let loose with each other and know that all of it will be worth it. I promise.



S. Wang (V)

Preparation Books in Barnes and Noble for whichever tests you plan on taking and start studying a few weeks before the test.

I thought it was absurd to start preparing for an AP two weeks

when you're about to doze off while studying at your desk. Remember to still do the things you love: go holiday shopping on the weekends, go out to see

## Sophomore Year: Managing the Workload

By GEORGIA MILLER (V)

Sophomore year can be either a challenging year or a fun year, but if you manage it well, you can have the best of both worlds, and it will be a mix of both. You still have time to relax and have fun (you're not a junior yet!), but it is also a time to start working hard. Looking back at my time as a sophomore, I would definitely make some changes.

The first thing that I would recommend to the class of 2016 is to begin gravitating towards experiences that interest you. Start to focus your priorities on certain academic, athletic, or extracurricular goals. Figure out if you want to concentrate on getting all A's, playing three Varsity level sports, starting a community service club, getting involved in the play, or having an active social life. Understand that each of these choices bears rewards and consequences, so try to find an even balance.

If you have more than one interest, the difficult part of reaching your goals is learning to find the time to do them all. When you choose

your classes and plan your weekly schedule, keep your driving goals in mind.

My second suggestion is honestly hard for me to follow, and I know that many high school students also have issues with it: limiting social media access while working. Nearly everyone in this school has some form of social networking account, be it Facebook, Twitter, Instagram...or, God forbid, all three.

My biggest regret of sophomore year was the amount of sleep I cheated myself out of because I spent so much time on my computer. It is so easy to skip out on the nightly history reading or math assignment be-

cause you've just got to take advantage of that huge sale.

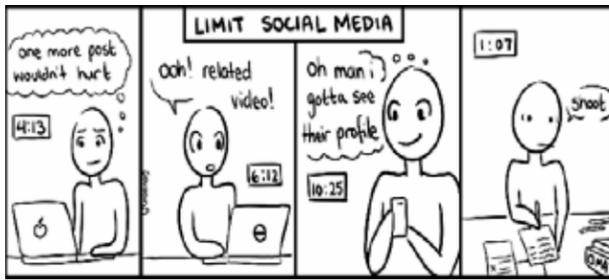
If you want to give yourself a few extra hours of sleep, something that can help is the application Self Control. No, not the thing your parents preach to you; there's literally an app for that. You can set it up from 15 minutes to 24 hours to disable you from accessing different websites. I disabled Facebook for a whole day by accident, so be careful how long you set it for (ideally, the longer the better)!

Also, if you're thinking about creating any new social media accounts, I would advise against it. There are

Another important thing is to find an outlet to relieve stress. I have developed the tendency to over-stress because of the work that I have to do. It helps to find something to mitigate that anxiety. Some fun de-stressors include shopping, going for a run, getting together with friends, reading a book, or practicing sports outside.

When I don't finish my work, it is usually because I worked in the kitchen of my house or at a very loud area at school. It's really important to work in an environment that allows you to do as much as possible, especially for things like papers and essays. Music and TV don't help me when I am trying to finish anything important.

Even though it's not always possible, planning ahead is very important. It's the most nerve-racking feeling in the world when you have an entire paper due in five days with just your name written at the top of the page. Also, with tests, it is really helpful to study a little each day in advance. Above all, remember to have fun! Save the worrying until junior year.



S. Wang (V)

cause you're stuck on your laptop watching episodes of "Gossip Girl" or "Breaking Bad" on Netflix, or shopping

always more productive ways that you can find to not do your homework.



## The Pingry Record

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## Assistant Editors

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Lori Kim

## Layout Director

Abhiram Karuppur

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## How to Find Balance as Freshmen

By MARIA WERNER (IV)

Being a freshman can be tough. Balancing sports, homework, and friends can be difficult, especially in a brand-new environment. Now that I am officially a sophomore, I feel qualified to dispense advice on how to succeed at Pingry during your freshman year.

First of all, I recommend seeing teachers often. Schedule times during conference period to meet with your teachers. Not only does it allow time for one-on-one with teachers, it can also help bring up your participation grade. The effective use

of conference period is also helpful in preparing for tests and gaining clarification on topics discussed in class.

I also highly recommend getting involved in extracurricular activities. The school offers a variety of extracurriculars that range from sports to drama to music, so don't be afraid to try new things. If you are not into sports, consider drama, and if you are not into drama, try building sets or participating in music. On a whim, I took up drama for the first time freshman year and realized that I really loved it. Try new things and step outside of

your comfort zone. Don't be afraid to try new things; you might actually learn more about yourself.

Clubs can be another way to connect with other students with similar interests. Some clubs, like the Model United Nations Club, entail large time commitments while others only meet a couple times a year. Find clubs that not only fit your interests but also work with your schedule.

Unarguably, time management is of utmost importance at Pingry. Most after-school activities end around five-

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## Innovations Work Despite Initial Reservations

By MARK SHTRAKHMAN (IV)

Back in May of last year, I wrote an op-ed discussing how

program, new collaboration spaces, new athletic facilities, and even new carpeting in some of the rooms. Kids saw most of

be to have 65 minute classes, and who needs two 25 minute breaks during the course of the day? Yet, after having gone through a few cycles, it is clear that the school really does have our best interests in mind. It promotes working ahead and even makes it easier.

Just as notable was the implementation of the new 1-to-1 program. Kids spent the summer laughing about how math teachers would utilize laptops in class (turns out they are staying old-fashioned) and how the Wifi would not be able to handle all of the laptops. Although the network did crash on the first day, the tech department has currently solved this problem.

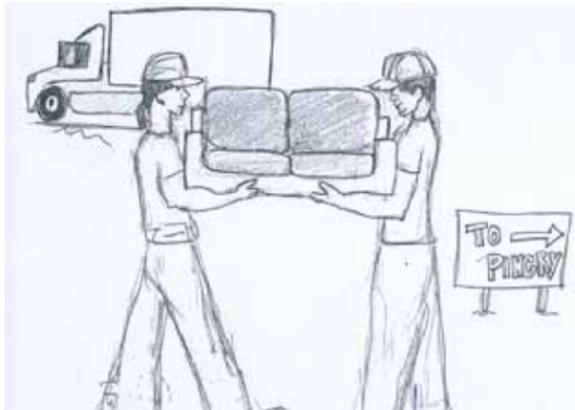
Additionally, new collaboration spaces have popped up around the school, the most popular one being the space in front of the senior couches between the two sets of stairs. Students from all grades are happy with the space, especially the freshmen and sophomores who regularly get evicted from their respective wings during flex periods by Science

teachers.

Outside of the school, the World Cup Field was redone over the summer as well as the football field bleachers, which can hold up to 750 fans. The improved fields feature new grass and drainage systems, in addition to a seating area built for spectators. After major wins at home last season for both teams, more fans are planning to attend games this season.

The school has made even more, although less noticeable, changes inside the building. Some classrooms have been refitted with brand new carpeting and desks. Cubbies have been installed by the Lower Commons for students to charge computers. Some teachers and offices have been moved around as well.

A lot of changes happened over the summer and were implemented in September, and all of them are meant to modernize and help make students' lives easier. From the new schedule to the different carpeting, all of the innovations are here to help.



Pingry should remember to value the opinions of students when considering modernization, and here we are four months later, walking into the school for another year of classes. But something is different. For better or for worse, we have turned the corner on the road to a more modern school.

Walking in on September 4, students were greeted by a new schedule, a new technology

these coming; Pingry tweeted about them all summer! But in reality, nobody was sure just how good the changes would be. Reactions have varied, but I personally am fond of most of the changes.

The biggest change of all has obviously been the new schedule. When announced at the end of last year, students went crazy. Everyone talked about how annoying it would

E. Li (III)

## What Harvard Can Learn from Pingry

By MICHAEL WERNER (VI)

What does the Honor Code really mean? Should all schools have an honor code like Pingry? Last year, there was a cheating incident at Harvard University, one of the most prestigious colleges in the world, with a 6.1% acceptance rate. 125 Harvard students were caught cheating on the take-home final exam of a Government course in the spring of 2012.

According to the Boston Globe, "Harvard University is weighing whether to introduce a student honor code, the first in its long history, in hopes of deterring cheating after last year's scandal involving dozens

of students found to have by Pingry students in 1926,



collaborated improperly on a take-home exam."

Harvard was established in 1636, while Pingry was founded in 1861. Pingry's Honor Code was authored

and was adopted by the faculty in 1949. One unique aspect of Pingry's Honor Code is that it was initiated by the students, and not forced upon them by teach-

E. Li (III)

ers or administrators.

The Boston Globe also reported, "After extensive study, a Harvard academic integrity committee is recommending that students make a written 'declaration of integrity' on all assignments, final exams, and projects as a reminder of their obligation to conduct themselves ethically."

Pingry students are very familiar with this idea, since we are required to write such a declaration on every single written assignment. In addition, the Harvard committee is proposing that students serve on the board that reviews cases of academic dishonesty, consisting of

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## Seniors Adjust to Schedule as College Looms

By ERIN BUTRICO (VI)

I felt like a freshman on my first day of Senior Year. I had absolutely no idea what class I had, where to go, or what time it began. What did my confusing grid of classes mean? How long between classes? Would I stay awake in an hour-long class? And most importantly, when was lunch?

*"I walked around confused, flustered, and slightly frantic."*

I walked around confused, flustered, and slightly frantic my first day, holding my crumpled schedule and watch in my hand. I walked in five minutes late on my Euro Class, and later sat alone in my English classroom, extremely confused, while my classmates were down in the Cafeteria. This was going to be a long year.

I am a creature of habit—I learned this during my Junior Year. Every morning I'd go to the cafeteria to meet friends. Every Headmaster's break I'd get a coffee. Every CP I'd head up to the library. Sports, homework, sleep, and repeat.

I'll admit that I was often tired in the mornings (hence my daily coffee run), frustrated at nights with the excessive homework load, and out of breath as I constantly walked up the Library Stairs. But this was my routine—I did well in school, so this worked.

Everything changed once I discovered the "Flex Period," the magical time when I could just relax, let my brain cool off for a bit.

It is psychologically proven that the brain needs time to "rejuvenate" between subjects, time to switch gears from Math to English, Eng-

College Applications. Don't forget deadlines, appointments, and oh, getting good grades. Right! It's overwhelming and quite frankly, too much for a sane high school student to manage. The Pingry brain is constantly on overload, so crazed that often, it's hard to go to sleep at night (from the constant thinking and working), and even harder to wake up in the morning to do it all again.

Flex periods are the perfect remedy to this problem. They are designated times to forget assignments, games, theatrical performances, and grades. They are time to gain sanity, talk with friends, and be kids, for once. It is a time for students, if they wish, to begin a homework assignment if they need to (with the help of their classmates and teachers). It is a time of mercy; this is exactly what Pingry students needed.

With only four classes each day, I feel that I am not running from class to class. I'm not overwhelmed with eight homework assignments, and I'm not forced to juggle a test, two papers, and five worksheets in one night. I don't need to sprint up to the library—I have more time to pace myself and my subjects at home. And I don't need that cup of coffee; I feel that my sanity and my sleep are in check.

Yes, I am a creature of habit, and I became strongly attached to the Pingry schedule. I didn't realize how stressed out I was, and how crazy and hectic my days were. I didn't realize that during Math I was still speaking in French, and during Science I was still thinking about my English paper. This year, everything



S. Wang (V)

## STC Guides Transition to 1-to-1

By ALYSSA BAUM (VI)

Last spring, I sat in a meeting with some faculty members and last year's seniors to discuss challenges students might face during our transition to 1-to-1 transition this year. We compiled a list of applications to help students stay focused during class, created guidelines for basic computer accessories that we thought students should have, and tried to figure out how students could receive tech help during the school day.

After much discussion, we decided that the best way to help students with technology would be to create a help desk outside the technology office that could be staffed by Student Technology Committee members called the STC Help Desk.

It's been both fun and rewarding to staff the STC Help Desk during the past few weeks. Personally, I enjoy getting to help different students every day. I know from experience that it can be really

frustrating when technology doesn't work.

It is gratifying to know that my help can make somebody else feel less stressed and become more productive in the long run.



R. Kotla (VI)

The most common problem I have addressed this year is the issue of printing at school.

Many of my peers come up to the desk with frightened

looks on their faces because they think they need to pay for printing. I want to stress something that Director of Technology Mr. Brian Burkhart has previously noted: you do not need to pay for

printing.

Although many students have expressed concerns about the PaperCut program, the application actually provides the technology depart-

ment with information that is very valuable to them. You may remember that during the spring, STC teamed up with the Green Group to start a campaign encouraging the Pingry community to reduce

printing.

Now that we are using PaperCut, we can monitor printing much more precisely.

Hopefully the implementation of PaperCut will allow

lish to Science, and Science to Art. Just five to ten minutes of "clearing time"—taking a walk, sitting with friends, or getting a snack—can help relax a frazzled mind and allow one to think clearly.

Pingry students have a million things thrown at them: Tests, Presentations, Papers, Sports Games, Drama Performances, APs, SATs, ACTs,

STC) to continue monitoring printing and eventually lower paper usage. In the coming months, STC is planning to create community-wide goals and rewards to encourage a reduction in our overall paper usage.

Another common problem students have faced has been downloading Microsoft Office. There are various glitches students have faced while trying to download the application.

For example, you cannot download the Pingry Microsoft Office package if you have any trace of Microsoft Office products on your computer. You need to make sure that the application downloads completely before you

is different.

Maybe change is exactly what Pingry needed—a little "flex time" could solve the problems of stress and overwork. Indeed, there will still be late nights, tough papers, and coffee mornings, but now I know I have flex times, four-period days, and CP's at end to relax, rejuvenate, and make it through.

try to run it.

One really cool, underutilized aspect of the new technology space is the charging area next to the STC desk. There are 72 cubbies with outlets mounted on the back of the stairs to the Lower Commons. This is a great place to charge your laptop, so make sure to keep the space in mind when your computer is running on reserved battery power.

In the coming months, try to utilize the new technology spaces around the building, and remember that if you have tech problems, the STC Help Desk is staffed during flex times and conference period. We are more than happy to help!

## Mr. Karrat Teaches Languages

By ANNA BUTRICO (VI)

This fall, Mr. Richard Karrat joins the Middle and Upper School language departments. Fluent in five languages, Mr. Karrat is teaching French II in the Upper School and Spanish 1B and 2 in the Middle School.

After graduating from Hamilton College in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in

couple of Jordanians told Mr. Karrat that he "gave America a good name."

Of the thirty Fulbright Scholars in Jordan, Mr. Karrat was one of ten English teachers in Jordan. While there, he taught a variety of English classes at Philadelphia University, a private college in Amman, Jordan. His classes included Dialogue, Reading, Phonetics, and Linguistics.

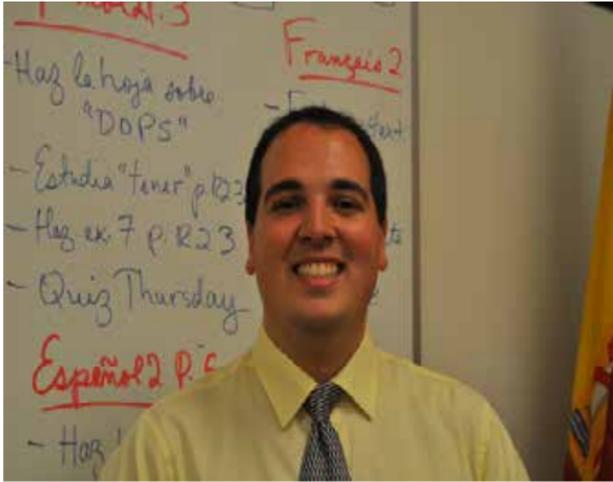
Fulbright Scholar and 2008 Pingry alum, Biff Parker-Magyar, introduced Mr. Karrat to the Pingry community.

As a well-traveled scholar, Mr. Karrat will assist with the Global Programs Initiative. He works alongside Mrs. Kinney to send students to semester abroad programs, and will help plan and approve future Pingry trips.

When asked if he struggles balancing all five of his known languages (English, Spanish, French, Italian, Arabic), Mr. Karrat simply shook his head. He jokingly said that he found his schedule—which is half in the Middle School and half in the Upper School—more confusing than knowing four languages.

When asked about his plans for the future at Pingry, Mr. Karrat said that he would "love to teach Arabic."

While he acknowledges that the prospect of teaching that language might be difficult, he will consider the possibility of starting an Arabic club if students demonstrate enough interest. Although he is stationed in the Middle School, he encourages Upper School students to stop by with any language questions they might have.



L. Kim (V)

French and World Politics, Mr. Karrat spent ten months in Jordan as a Fulbright Scholar.

His main goal there was, "to be a cultural ambassador of the US abroad." Determined "to shatter stereotypes of America in the Middle East," he hoped his efforts made an impact. A

Mr. Karrat also became fluent in Arabic while studying in the Qasid Institute in Amman, Jordan. Mr. Karrat's final project in Jordan was to "research the Christian population in a predominately Muslim country."

After he completed his tenure in Jordan, a fellow

## Mrs. Finegan Joined College Counseling Department in July

By ANNA BUTRICO (VI)

While Mrs. Meghan Finegan is new to most students, she is no stranger to the members of the senior class. As the new Assistant Director of College Counseling, Mrs. Finegan met with her senior advisees during the summer to become further acquainted with them and discuss their college essays.

Mrs. Finegan graduated from Connecticut College with a Bachelor's Degree in English and Boston University with a Master's Degree in Journalism. Formerly Ms. Ryan, Mrs. Finegan got married in late August.

Although Mrs. Finegan is a new faculty member, she is very familiar with the college process.

Prior to working at Pingry, Mrs. Finegan worked for eight years as the Director of College Counseling at the Williams School in New London, Connecticut. Mrs. Finegan described it as "a small independent school that is located on the campus of Connecticut College."

Mrs. Finegan came to Pingry because she felt "ready for a change." As the Williams School only had two college

counselors, she wanted to work with a larger college counseling team.

When Mrs. Finegan met

admission herself she imparts valuable wisdom to her College Counseling students.

During her time here, she



M. Barickman (VI)

with Assistant Headmaster Mr. Jon Leef during the application process, she thought, "if Pingry was as inviting as Mr. Leef was, I would really enjoy it."

Mrs. Finegan is an expert when it comes to the application process as she worked in Boston University's Admission Office for five years, a job that included traveling around the country to meet "interesting and dynamic students."

Mrs. Finegan switched to college counseling in high schools because she enjoys the personal relationships that she can form with students. As someone who formerly read applications for

hopes to "ameliorate any anxiety" with the college admissions process.

Mrs. Finegan, who attended a similar private high school, said that she "enjoys the traditions at Pingry." She also said she doesn't mind the new schedule because Williams School had a rotating seven day schedule as well.

One of her advisees, Erin Butrico (VI) said, "Mrs. Finegan is awesome. Although I don't have her as a College Counselor, I can tell from our advisory discussions that she's great at what she does. All juniors assigned to her next year are lucky indeed."

## Mr. Touhey Teaches Chemistry

By JULIA AXTELL (IV)

Mr. Graham Touhey joined the Basking Ridge campus this fall teaching Chemistry 1 and Chemistry 2. He coaches Boys' Soccer and will be coaching Boys' Basketball.

Although his family lives in Ireland, Mr. Touhey was born and raised in Easton, PA where he attended Wilson Area High School.

He attended Lehigh University and studied chemical engineering for three years but ultimately graduated with chemistry major.

Prior to his job at Pingry,

chemical plant in Wichita, KS where he worked on a variety of projects.

Soon after, Mr. Touhey worked at a vaccine company called Vaxform where one of his major accomplishments was his involvement in synthesizing one of the main proteins in the strep throat vaccine.

The summer before coming to Pingry, Mr. Touhey worked at an English Second Language camp at a private school in Perkiomen, PA. While there, he taught English to over 40 international students.

When he first came to Pingry, Mr. Touhey said he

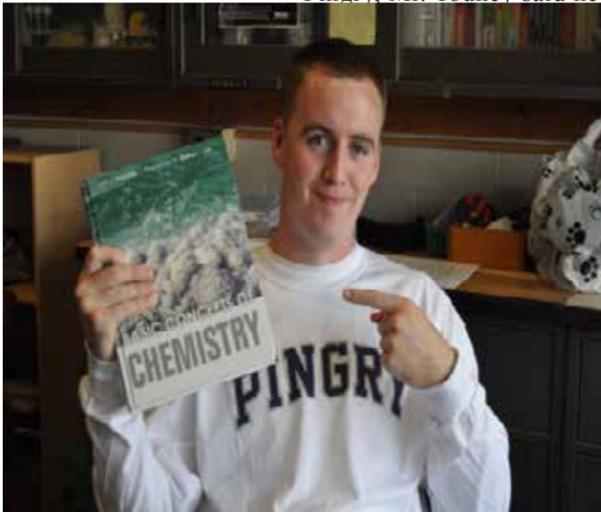
for students to learn and be challenged daily, but also a school that creates opportunities for teachers to grow professionally. He added that he appreciates the opportunity to both teach and coach sports.

Mr. Touhey wants to be a positive influence on his students as he continues to immerse himself in the community. In terms of teaching, Mr. Touhey "hopes to present the subject of chemistry in an exciting and engaging manner, constantly challenging students intellectually, while also learning from them as well."

Mr. Touhey has thoroughly enjoyed teaching. He said he could already realize how intelligent his students are and is excited to get to know them better. He has also enjoyed his time coaching soccer.

In the future, Mr. Touhey looks forward to getting his Masters in education or higher education administration. He said that he is excited to continue his work at Pingry with young minds for many more years to come.

Mr. Touhey prefers to spend his time doing physical activities whether they are basketball, soccer, golf, snowboarding, wakeboarding, or ping-pong. He said, "Sometimes I may even go for the occasional sky dive." He added that although he is a sports fanatic, he enjoys relaxing with a good book just as well.



R. Davis (V)

Mr. Touhey worked briefly at an industrial gas and chemistry company called Air Products as a chemical engineer.

While there he not only worked at their headquarters in Allentown, PA, but also spent some time at their

was blown away. From the beginning of his interview, Mr. Touhey knew he was ready to join the "family." It was actually the sense of community at Pingry that attracted him.

He said he realized that Pingry is not just a place

## Mr. Indigo Dow Replaces Mr. Faust as Permanent Sub

By WILL JOHNSON (V)

This year, Mr. Indigo Dow has joined the faculty as a permanent substitute. He will also help coach the football, basketball, and track teams, and assist with Jazz Band.

Born and raised in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Mr. Dow attended a prep school called Northfield Mount Hermon School.

During his time there, he lettered in three Varsity sports and was awarded the Best Musician Award for his work as a percussionist.

He also led a men-of-color affinity group on campus called "The Brothers," which cultivated his interest in cultural diversity.

Mr. Dow hopes to help lead discussions about diversity at Pingry.

Last spring, he graduated from Colby College in Maine with a Bachelor's degree in American Studies and a minor in Anthropology. He was involved with an organization called "Colby Cares about Kids" and played in a student-led funk band called "Roshambo."

Mr. Dow also played wide receiver on the Colby football team after playing football all four years of high school. He anticipates using the experience as a college football player to be a better coach at Pingry. Football player Rahul Oza (V) said, "Mr. Dow has been helpful since day one and is a very approachable coach."



M. Barickman (VI)

Mr. Dow first became interested in teaching through internships and camp counseling opportunities, which fostered a love of working with children and young adults. He really enjoys working with students who are enthusiastic, energetic, and willing to learn.

He acknowledges that the transition from student to teacher has been an adjustment, as he is used to following directions in the classroom and on the sports field rather than giving them himself.

He feels that "the weirdest part of his job is being called Mr. Dow and Coach Dow."

Mr. Dow, however, is excited about this transition because he believes that Pin-

gry "has the resources that provide students and faculty with an opportunity to be successful." He added that our school promotes a culture "where students and teachers are both passionate and supportive, in a way that pushes individuals to be great at what they do."

In his free time, Mr. Dow likes to do "anything athletic." Although he primarily enjoys football, basketball, soccer, tennis and snowboarding, he is trying to learn golf. He loves playing music—especially percussion instruments like the congas and the djembe. He also enjoys listening to a wide array of music, including reggae, rap, funk, dancehall, soca, Latin, and others.

## Faculty Take on New Positions

By CHARLOTTE ZEE (VI)

Complementing the variety of new and exciting changes that have taken place in our community this year, some seasoned faculty members have also shifted their roles.

Mr. Tom Berdos, who last year split his time between Lower School and Middle School music programs, is now staying at the Lower School to teach. In addition, Ms. Alicia Harabin '02, who, until this year, taught art and drama, will now be teaching drama solely to Lower School students.

Besides the arts teachers at the Lower School, Ms. Heather Smith-Willis, formerly a first grade teacher, is now teaching science to students in kindergarten to third grade. Ms. Jill Driscoll, a former second grade teacher, is now the Lower School Educational Technology Specialist.

"As a classroom teacher I integrated technology into most of my day with my

second graders," she explained. "It always amazed me how fast they picked up on things like making eBooks on the iPads and navigating through various apps that applied to our curriculum. I am beyond excited in my new position and thrilled about the changes that are happening in Short Hills."

Since some faculty members moved on at the end of last year, positions have opened up for teachers looking to take on new challenges.

Ms. Sara Boisvert's position as Director of Global Programs is now being divided between Assistant Director of College Counseling Mrs. Susan Kinney, Chinese teacher Ms. Yi Hao, and Latin teacher Ms. Margaret Kelleher '01, along with a few other faculty members who are helping with this transition.

Mrs. Kinney is also keeping herself busy this year, assuming the role of Semester Programs Coordinator. She said that she is "excited

about this new job. It's definitely a great program, and I'm glad I get to be a part of it."

Ms. Hao is now the Hanban Confucius Classroom and Chinese Exchange Coordinator, taking on a full time role in the Upper School. "I lived half my life in China and half in the States," Mrs. Hao explained. "Improving mutual understanding between people from these two wonderful nations is my passion," she added. "The program made it possible for our school to have a wonderful exchange program with Quzhou #2 High School in China. I want to do my best to make this exchange of culture and language, as well as social and economical viewpoints, accessible to more students and faculty in the future."

Ms. Margaret Kelleher '01 has also assumed the title of Global Programs Trips Coordinator. In addition to teaching, Ms. Kelleher will also serve as the Form I Team Leader.

In other shifts, History teacher Dr. Barrington Edwards has taken on the role as the new Form III Advisor.

Math teachers Mrs. Kelle Leonhard and Mr. Davidson Barr are teaching the AP Economics and Economics Principles and Issues, while History teacher Dr. Megan Jones is teaching one section of AP US History.

## Dr. Kilker Joins Counseling Staff

By MARK SHTRAKHMAN (IV)

This fall, Dr. Mikaela Kilker replaces Mrs. Patricia Lionetti in the Counseling Department. Mrs. Lionetti served as a counselor for thirty-six years at Pingry with the aid of Dr. Michael Richardson.

After graduating from Rutgers University with an undergraduate degree in psy-

chology, Dr. Kilker earned her Masters and Doctorate of Psychology at the School of Applied and Professional Psychology at Rutgers University. Born in London, Dr. Kilker moved to the United States in sixth grade. Before coming to

Pingry, she worked in private practice in New Jersey and served as the school psychologist for the Newton School District. She also has an older sister who works as a clinical social worker.

At Pingry, Dr. Kilker will primarily work with Middle School students. She wanted to stress, however, that her door is always open to high

school students who are seeking help or need someone to speak with.

When asked about why she enjoys teaching, Dr. Kilker explained that she enjoys working with such a "wonderful and enthusiastic group of students."

Dr. Kilker's love for children extends beyond the classroom. She has a five-month old son and enjoys spending time with her family and cooking.

Dr. Kilker would also like to start running again soon



R. Davis (VI)

and focus on running 5K events.

Although Dr. Kilker is not an advisor this year, she will work with the Peer Leadership program and help aid the seniors as they guide the freshmen.

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## Ms. Coxe Joins Mathematics Dept.

By MATT BARICKMAN (VI)

Ms. Julianne Coxe, who has joined the Math Department, graduated from James Madison University with an undergraduate degree in Mathematics and a minor in

French. At the university, she was the captain of the flute section of the Marching Royal Dukes and a member of a music service sorority called Sigma Alpha Iota.

After college, Mrs. Coxe stayed with her marching band for an extra semester to play in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. An avid traveler, Mrs. Coxe spent some time during her post-college years seeing the world. She was also able to find an internship in Los Alamos, New Mexico. She then moved to New Zealand for a year and two months, where she got her Masters degree from Massey University. Afterwards, she returned to the United States and obtained a Masters of Arts in Teaching from the University of Delaware.

interviewed at Pingry, she immediately "fell in love with the campus." She said that "Pingry was the school that left the best first impression on me, and I didn't want to pass up having a job here. I was instantly in love."

"Coming from a big public school, teaching at Pingry is like night and day," Mrs. Coxe said. "Instead of having 160 kids, I have 60." She likes being able to help her students individually and getting to know them. "The sort of disconnect I felt at public school is totally gone," she said, "and I'm now connected with a very intelligent group of students."

In her coming years at Pingry, Mrs. Coxe most looks forward to getting to know her students more. She also plans to use her background in music to help out with the school plays. In her free time, Mrs. Coxe enjoys playing her flute, which she also played at this year's convocation ceremony.



M. Barickman (VI)

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## Ms. Walker Wears Several Hats

By MATT FROMM (V)

Ms. Elizabeth Walker has joined the faculty as an English teacher, and for the first few months of this year, as a substitute. Although Pingry is her first teaching job, she has previously spent time working for an Outdoor Adventure program called Moon-dance Adventures.

In September, Ms. Walker substituted for Middle School Dean and Eighth Grade English teacher Mrs. Kooheli Chatterji, who was on maternity leave. Later in the year, Ms. Walker will cover English teacher Mrs. Alisha Davlin's ninth and tenth grade English classes when she goes on maternity leave.

When asked about her feelings on teaching so far, she said, "I love sharing things with people I care about: the things that get your blood pumping or your forehead

furrowed."

In addition to teaching, Ms. Walker also serves as an assistant coach for the Varsity Girls Soccer team, and she is involved with

the Green Group and Outing Program. She attended Sewanee: University of the South, where she double-majored, earning a B.A. and B.S. in English and Environ-

mental Studies. In her free time, she loves reading, hiking, and playing the guitar. She also said that she likes "long walks on the beach." In Mrs. Walker's words, she "comes from Alabama with a banjo on my knee."

Ms. Walker said she was drawn to Pingry not only based on academics but also the sense of camaraderie. "I was attracted to the school's respect for a high quality of education," she said. "As a community, it encourages growth in all areas and cares for the many interests of a well-rounded student."



R. Davis (VI)

## New Technology Staff Implement 1-to-1

By PETER SHIM (V)



R. Davis (VI)

This year, Mr. Steve Frantz has joined the Technology Department, and Ms. Jennifer Zagariello has moved from being part-time to full-time. Mr. Brian Burkhart, Director of Educational and Informa-

tion Technology, explained that the expansion of the Tech Department facilitates the Upper School's transition to its 1-to-1 program. Ms. Zagariello is returning as a second year Educational Technology Integrator and will help faculty use technology more efficiently. She graduated from Sweet Briar College and received an M.Ed at the University of La Verne.

Mr. Frantz will work as a Technology Support Specialist, specializing in computer repair. He received his B.S. at Montclair State University in Industrial Technology. Ms. Zagariello has been interested in technology for a long time because she likes to "take things apart and put them back together." Prior to

coming to Pingry, both Ms. Zagariello and Mr. Frantz worked at Montclair Kimberley Academy when the school transitioned to 1-to-1. Both of them feel that the technology change is beneficial to the school environment. Ms. Zagariello said that although this technology change may have had some rough starts, it will make things like adding printers to the network easier.

After asking him about some of the transition issues that have concerned students and faculty in the first few weeks involving network speed and the shift to a new printing software, Papercut, Mr. Frantz said, "Because there are so many computers on the network at once, there have to be some issues."

However, he said with some work, the problems are being solved.



R. Davis (VI)

Mr. Frantz also recommends less wasteful printing and reminds students that they need to print only on designated student printers.

## 1-to-1 Program Takes Off

*Continued from Page 1*

dent having their own equipment makes us more modern.” He added that hands on learning, for example, the use of Excel in science classes, is what “sticks” with students.

Dr. Brown-Allen noted during a recent visit to Art teacher Mr. Rich Freiwald’s Clay Class, she saw students examining works of art on their laptops. She said this is something she wouldn’t have seen before 1 to 1. The program has also succeeded in reducing the use of ink and paper, which both Rabke and Taylor applauded. This followed last year’s collaborative campaign between the Green Group and STC to bet-

ter economize Pingry’s paper usage. The shift to technology, especially the increased uses of Google Drive and Moodle for assignments, has largely diminished the use of printers.

In all, Mr. Burkhart said that he is happy with the school’s first couple months of implementing the program. He added that future online surveys will give the Tech Department more feedback, but he is happy with the students’ use of technology. Another important facet of the 1-to-1 program is the usage of Google’s online products that aid in work management. To expand in our transition to Google Drive, Mr. Burkhart added that Pingry will soon move solely to Google Mail,

leaving Microsoft Outlook for a more modern mail service.

Future additions include student/faculty technology workshops, in which students will come into the technology department during advisory to discuss tech problems (similar to the idea of Mindful Awareness). Mr. Burkhart added that the Middle School will also transition to a 1-to-1 environment next year.

Mr. Burkhart said, however, that in the effort to better weave technology into our academic lives, the list of renovations is endless. “The answer is always ‘we need more.’” Dr. Brown-Allen added that when it comes to crucial changes at the school, “you’re never really done.”

## Green Group Beautifies Campus

By FRANCES STEELE (V)

The Garden outside the cafeteria has become a hub of activity during the commencement of the 2013-14 school year. Spear-headed by Fine Arts teacher and Green Group advisor Mr. Peter Delman and Physical Education Department Chair Mr. Joseph Forte, the garden is yielding produce and flowers. The Green Group also installed new hammocks and sunshades last spring, transforming the garden into a relaxing hangout spot where students and faculty can collaborate and have fun. Drawing and Painting classes have been using the new plants as subjects for numerous pieces of artwork. Last spring,



Members of the Green Group work in the garden. R. Davis (V)

many teachers, including English Teacher Mr. Dennis Pearlstein and History teacher Mr. Crowley-Delman, brought their students out into the sunshine to enjoy the outdoor classroom. Students also helped build a framework for the garden pergola, which was installed last year. Matt Rice (V) said he enjoyed working on the project and hopes that the garden will continue to develop this year.

Mr. Forte continued the work in the garden throughout the summer, growing vegetables including tomatoes, cucumbers, and peppers. The Green Group has also cleared plots that will be cultivated and used for future

events such as a “garden-to-table” dinner organized by the Pingry kitchen and Mrs. Karina Muro, Pingry parent and Integrative Nutrition coach. The Green Group also plans to launch numerous garden-related projects in the coming months. Jay Glassberg, a chef in the Pingry kitchen, wants to take students on school trips to

ence Department. Prad Maganti (V), a student in Mr. Maxwell’s AP Biology class, wants to use different types of compost to produce methane. Mr. Delman said this was the type of response he was hoping for. He is excited about the prospect of greater involvement in sustainability initiatives from students outside the

## Juniors Enjoy Constitution Center and Franklin Institute

By JOSH LEBOWITZ (V)

On Wednesday, September 18, the junior class took its annual field trip to Philadelphia. As in the past several years, students visited museums and got a taste of the local cuisine.

This year’s trip began with a visit to the National Constitution Center, a hands-on museum and a national town hall. The visit started with a brief introductory presentation called “Rising Freedom,” giving an overview of the development of democracy in the United States.

After the introduction, students visited various exhibitions. These included President Trivia, where teams could compete

against each other, and old Presidential ballots where students could vote and later see the results of the poll. There were also statues of the founding fathers and official documents.

Later on, the junior class went to the Reading Market for lunch. Dana Wang (V) said, “There were so many different kinds of food there to choose from.” The market had a vast array of cuisine, ranging from Cajun food to crepes. Not only did the market have places to eat but also bookstores and flower shops.

After an hour-long lunch, students took a short bus ride over to the Franklin Institute, one of the oldest centers of science education in the United States. For many Pingry students, this

was their favorite stop of the day. After exploring the museum, Pingry students went to the special spy exhibit, displaying many different Bond-like gadgets and even a laser maze, where one could attempt to maneuver their way through to the end.

One of the most popular aspects of the museum was the enlarged heart. Sam Schuman (V) said, “My favorite part of the museum was walking through the giant heart.” One could enter and stroll through the different chambers, taking the same path blood would take to get to the lungs. There were also many other favorites including the sports science section and the flight simulator.

## Alumni Upgrade Athletic Fields

By JACK BARRAL (VI)

Over the summer, the outdoor athletic facilities on campus underwent some major renovations, including new bleachers, new fields and a scoreboard. According to Director of Athletics Mr. Gerry Vanasse, these renovations were much needed and replaced older facilities.

“The Bugliari ’52 World Cup Soccer Field and the Reese Williams Baseball Field have been completely renovated,” Mr. Vanasse said. “The adjoining fields have been re-sodded with 100 percent Kentucky bluegrass, complete

number of game cancellations. Previously, the fields had poor drainage and could be flooded easily by rain. These new improvements will hopefully put an end to this problem by making the fields drain more easily. Another advantage of these changes is that “Varsity soccer teams can now practice on the World Cup Field in addition to playing games there. This allows for more soccer games on the other grass fields.”

Mr. Vanasse added that significant changes have been made in order to improve the comfort of spectators, including a new scoreboard with audio equipment.

ing surrounding the complex. All of these changes will hopefully improve the viewing experience for spectators at athletic games and could improve attendance. Perhaps the most substantial change has been the renovation of the bleachers on the football field. Mr. Vanasse said that the Parsons Football Field and the E. Murray Todd Track have new aluminum bleachers and “a press box with state-of-the-art audio equipment. The bleachers will hold one-and-a-half more fans and will include a small VIP section.”

Overall, Mr. Vanasse hopes that these projects will increase



The bleachers outside the track were replaced by alumni donations. R. Davis (VI)

with new drainage and irrigation systems.” He added that he hopes these changes will benefit the community by helping reduce the

The World Cup Field now also has three terraced platforms for onlookers, a sidewalk leading to the spectator area, and new fence-

“pride and spectator comfort,” and that the additions will benefit the athletes by providing them with superior playing surfaces.

## How to be a Freshman Continued

*Continued from Page 2*

thirty and whether you live five minutes away or forty-five minutes away, you will not be able to start your homework until six or six-thirty. Take advantage of the new schedule and do homework during flex periods. Effective time management can help reduce stress by preventing endless nights of work and studying.

Lastly, make time to have fun. Attend sports games, dances, and after-school events to support your fellow classmates and to socialize. Take time out of your week to relax. After all, you are only a freshman—you still have three more years to go.



E. Li (III)



A. Kinney, L. Graff, C. Putman, S. Lieberman, and J. Wilkens Courtesy of S. Lieberman (V) inside the Constitution Center.

## Convocation Reinforces Pingry's Honor Code

By ABHIRAM KARUPPUR (V)

On September 10, Upper and Middle School students and faculty gathered together in Hauser Auditorium for this year's Convocation ceremony. As the faculty members paraded onto the stage in their college caps and gowns, the Wind Ensemble led by Music teacher Mr. Sean McAnally conducted a rendition of "March from Scipio."

After the entire faculty was seated, Special Assistant to the Headmaster Mr. Miller Bugliari '52 spoke about how Pingry has changed since he entered the community 71 years ago. He commemorated the school's honor and advised students to demonstrate "honorable behavior in return."

Student Body President Akshay Rao then spoke about the sense of community and warmth he felt during his three years at Pingry. He also mentioned the school's commitment to the Honor Code by referring to an early experience he had at Pingry. Rao said that his teacher had left class during a test and was surprised to see that students continued to work independently on their assessments. He added, "The Honor Code has been an integral part of my devel-



Mr. Conard, D. Topor (VI), and A. Rao (VI) on stage.

Courtesy of Pingry Communications

opment, and I am now able to trust my personal moral compass now that three years have passed."

Honor Board Chairperson Drew Topor and Rao then collected the signed Honor Code sheets from each advisory in the Middle and Upper School. Topor said that the annual tradition is implemented as a reminder to students about their commitment to the code. "I'm so grateful to have spent my last Convocation with Akshay and all of the faculty and to have been able to speak to the community about the Honor Code," Topor said.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Mr. Jack Brescher '65 then spoke to the students and faculty. He encouraged students to step out of their comfort zones

by highlighting the efforts of author J.K. Rowling and Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates. He mentioned how Rowling publishing a book outside her usual genre and Gates and his foundation found cures for ailments worldwide. Both became successful in new ventures while trying something new.

After Mr. Brescher's speech, Mr. Conard lauded the Magistri faculty members, members of the faculty who have been at Pingry for 25 or more years. This year, the school inducted two new members into the society: Middle School Math teacher Mrs. Donna Thau and Art teacher Mrs. Jane Edwards.

Mr. Conard then spoke about the importance of being wrong, which was inspired by a TED talk entitled "Being Wrong" by Kathryn Schultz.

He said that we have all been wrong at some point, especially when we prevent ourselves from taking risks. He encouraged everyone to take risks without worrying about failure and to discover new things while working for the common good of the community.

The ceremony concluded with a resounding chorus of "Old John Pingry."

Many seniors felt a feeling of sentimentalism because this was the last Convocation they would attend as Pingry students. "When I realized it was my last Convocation, I was actually really upset because it meant that my Pingry experience is truly coming to an end," Topor said. Rao echoed this feeling and added, "I feel very sad that I have attended and completed my last Convocation."

Both Topor and Rao said they are very grateful for the role the Honor Code has played in their time at Pingry. "The Honor Code has become a part of who I am, and it is what makes Pingry such a special place," Topor said.

Rao agreed and said, "I will uphold the Honor Code even after I graduate, and I will always be connected to the Pingry community." Topor said that the Honor Code is a defining characteristic of Pingry and "it is what makes the Pingry community not only a school but also a

## Seniors Attend Retreat at Great Wolf Lodge

By CHARLOTTE ZEE (VI)

On Sunday, September 8, the senior class went on the now traditional overnight retreat to Great Wolf Lodge, an indoor waterpark and hotel.

After a two-hour ride to Pennsylvania, the seniors headed to their assigned rooms to get ready

Hockey, and Claw Crane. Katherine Curran (VI) said, "Playing games in the arcade was a great bonding experience for us."

Once the seniors redeemed their prizes they headed to the dance, which was held in one of the lodge's conference rooms near the arcade. Senior Form Advisor Mrs. Sue Marotto said that, "It seemed



A. Agarwal, A. Baum, V. Reddy, M. Lewis, and C. Zee.

S. Lipper (VI)

for the waterpark. The park had everything from waterslides to a wave pool. Josiah Taylor (VI) said, "I had a lot of fun at the park with my friends on the slides."

After time in the waterpark, the seniors went back to their rooms and got ready for dinner. There was a great deal of food served buffet style, including everything from fried chicken to penne pasta with plenty of dessert options afterwards. After dinner, the seniors got dressed in costume for the superhero-themed dance. Seniors wore different Batman, Catwoman, and Superman costumes.

After taking pictures prior to the dance, the seniors got points to play games in the arcade. Some of the games included Skee Ball, Air

like everyone had a great time."

On Monday, the students went to breakfast and then attended three college counseling sessions led by Mrs. Meghan Finegan, Mr. Tim Lear, Mrs. Ananya Chatterji, and Mrs. Susan Kinney. Briana Johnson (VI) said she "really got a lot out of the sessions. They were very informative and told me what to expect for this upcoming year." Seniors participated in essay workshops, mock admissions councils, and Naviance training sessions.

Overall, Mrs. Marotto felt that the "the trip was a success. The seniors really seemed to enjoy themselves, and I got numerous compliments about their maturity on the trip. As a whole, I'm very proud of the senior class."

## Sophomores Enjoy Broadway Show and Natural History Museum

By ZAYNA NASSOURA (IV)

On September 18, the sophomores went to New York City for a fun and educational day, and the trip provided a chance for students to spend time with everyone outside the classroom.

Once the sophomores arrived in the city, they visited the American Museum of Natural History on Central Park West. Everyone split up into their advisory groups to complete a scavenger hunt. This fun and collaborative activity allowed each advisory to work



M. Werner and B. Czachor in Central Park.

H. Curtis (IV)

together and bond as a unit.

There was exciting, friendly competition between all of the groups. Sonali Mehta (IV) said, "The scavenger hunt was fun because we got to compete with other advisories. It was educational, and it really utilized the many different skills of each team member." At the end of the hunt, all the questions were tallied up and the winning group was announced. Assistant Director of Admission Dr. Diana Artis's advisory took

first place after an exciting tiebreaker.

After a quick lunch break and a short drive, the class arrived on Broadway where they viewed "Romeo and Juliet" with Orlando Bloom and Condolo Rashad. Some students were expecting elaborate sets and costume changes. However, the simplicity of the set and minimal costume changes drew the audience's attention to the actors and actresses.

The performers' delivery was exceptional and left many

people yearning to see more. Art teacher and advisor Mrs. Jane Asch was "fascinated by the unusual presentation of 'Romeo and Juliet'. The set was all 'hard' angles, and it created many geometric forms." Haley Park (IV) said that, "I thought the play was really intriguing, and something I would definitely want to see again."

The whole class really enjoyed this trip and the different activities, which included something for everyone to appreciate.

## Students and Faculty Have Mixed Reactions to Design Changes

By ABHIRAM KARUPPUR (V)

When students and faculty returned to the Basking Ridge campus on September 4 to begin a new school year, they were surprised to discover the many changes that had occurred over the summer.

Reactions by faculty to the modernization of the school have been mostly positive. Spanish teacher Mrs. Malla Godfrey "looks forward to using the collaboration rooms" and is excited for the upcoming expansion of the language office as well as the "new on-order bookcases." "We have spatial challenges in the language office currently," Mrs. Godfrey said.

However, the proposed changes should alleviate this problem. She is also very pleased with the Flex periods, as she is able to "enjoy the extra time with her students and delve more deeply into the courses."

Director of Educational and Information Technology, Mr. Brian

Burkhart, echoes this sentiment. "Modernization was a necessary exercise," he said, adding that the new building is now able to "best

facilitate our delivery of education to the students." He is especially pleased with the new Technology Office and Publications Suite, as the "new design adds life and personality." He noted that he has received "mixed reviews about the décor," but overall the feedback has been positive. The "activity at the charging stations" by the senior couches attests to this positivity, and adds "a level of comfort" to an otherwise austere place.

However, some students have also expressed mixed feelings

about the changes. "I really like the new classrooms and décor," Tomas San Miguel (V) said. However, he noted that the "changes

Derek Hong (VI) said that he "likes the new monitors in the Tech Lab." However, he pointed out that "some private spaces have



Seniors working in the new collaboration area.

I. Barrionuevo (VI)

occurred too suddenly," forcing the school adapt quickly. Student Technology Committee Member

been transformed into community areas," and this limits the amount of studying and personal space.

Overall, students and faculty alike have expressed positive reviews about the changes to the school. However, these changes are just the first step in a series of modernization initiatives to be completed the coming years.

Of the changes, some of the more obvious include TV monitors that had been installed near both the Upper School Office and the Senior Couches to inform students about the current day in the cycle. In addition, new carpeting was added to many classrooms as well as the Lower Commons.

The technology lab and technology office were completely redesigned during the summer, with the installation of brand new monitors, desks, chairs, whiteboards, and carpet throughout the now-called Publications Suite. The old Record office was removed in order to expand the Publications Suite, which will now be used jointly by all the publications at Pingry such as the Record, Vital Signs, Blue Book, and Polyglot. Outside the Publications Suite,

numerous charging stations and work tables were installed so that students could secure safe areas to charge their laptops or devices and work before their next class. Many classrooms in the school received new furniture, paint, and updated projectors.

Just outside the Math offices on the way to the Middle School, a hallway was constructed connecting the Hauser Auditorium with the Hostetter Arts Center. This area is now where Assistant Headmaster Mr. Jon Leef and Director of Facilities Mr. Mike Virzi now have their offices.

Director of Community Service Mrs. Shelley Hartz's office has been moved into the previous Global Programs office, and her former office has been remodeled into four new offices. These offices, dubbed "Math South" are now home to Economics teachers Mrs. Kelle Leonhard and Mr. Davidson Barr, Computer Science teacher Mrs. Aye Thuzar, and Math teacher Mr. Peter Thomson.

## AFS Student Anouk Joins Juniors

By ANNA BUTRICO (V)

This year, Pingry welcomes American Field Service student Anouk Chocron from Marseille, France. She is being hosted by Bridget (V) and Ellie (III) Harrison.

Bubbly and very friendly, Anouk says she decided to spend a year abroad "to try something different." She formerly attended a public school in the city of Marseille, one that was "very similar to Pingry." The suburban environment surrounding Pingry, however, is different from what she's used to.

Currently a member of the tennis team, said she loves how everyone on the team "is so nice" and has enjoyed making friends with the girls there.

Later on in the year, she plans on joining the winter musical.

Anouk looks forwards to "the Homecoming dance,"

saying that her old school in Marseille didn't have according to Sarah Beckmen (V). Anouk says that she



Courtesy of A. Chocron (V)

enjoys the English language, but often struggles with how fast some of her classmates talk.

Madame Jordan and Madame Castaldo (Anouk's advisor) speak French to Anouk in the halls.

Anouk says that she's so engrossed in speaking in English that she often "forgets that the French teachers speak" her language. Smiling, Anouk says that only when they "answer me in English" does she remember!

Anouk has one older sister back in France, who did not

study abroad as she does now. Anouk says that she misses her family, but keeps in touch with them through FaceTime.

"Well I love her," says Bridget Harrison (V). "She's so funny and easy-going, I couldn't ask for a better sister."

dances, proms, or even musicals. She liked Pingry from the beginning because of its many opportunities, both for English-speaking practice and for extracurricular activities.

As she has been studying English since middle school, "Her English is awesome,"

## Cheating at Harvard

Continued from Page 3

faculty and administrators. Again, Pingry has a long established Honor Board, similar to what Harvard is struggling to create.

While an honor code may help Harvard bring cheating under control, any such honor code forced upon the undergraduates will not have the same effect as one authored by the students.

Moreover, it seems as though many Harvard students have a history of cheating prior to their matriculation at the famed Cambridge campus. According to an article written by NBC News, "10% of Harvard's incoming freshman class admitted to cheating on exams prior to heading to the Ivy League institution, and another 42% admitted

to cheating on a homework assignment or problem set."

Clearly, Harvard has its work cut out, since it appears that these habits were developed long before the students entered the oldest college in the country. Harvard must not only institute an honor code, but somehow create a culture of honor in order for any code to be effective.

377 years after Harvard's founding, it is hard to believe that a school with such a prestigious reputation is ambivalent as to whether or not they should adopt a code of honor. It speaks volumes that Pingry's Honor Code, created by the students and not forced upon them, remains the hallmark of a Pingry education.

*"Harvard must not only institute an honor code, but somehow create a culture of honor"*

## Peer Retreat at Bryn Mawr

Continued from Page 1

gry Bryn Mawr tradition, and, as usual, few of the "boats" made it back to the dock before falling apart mid-journey.

All of the activities encompassed group-building exercises. On the second day of the trip, each group was given a bag of random props and challenged to create a skit using only the items inside the bag. Other notable activities included, "The Gauntlet," a rigorous obstacle course, and an evening bonfire.

On Friday morning, the last day, students participated in a circle activity, where they had to answer questions in order to show how, although fundamentally different, Pingry students are all, in reality, very similar and bonded together. After discussing the activity in their respective peer groups, students waved good-bye to Bryn Mawr and embarked on the bus ride back to school.

## Fall Awards Assembly

### Citizenship Prize:

**Form II:** James Topor and Natalie Lucciola

**Form III:** Ursula Dedekind and TanTan Wang

**Form IV:** Elizabeth Kraeutler, Maxwell Leef, Richard Morash, and Tatiana Oliveira

**Form V:** Adedire Fakorede

### Faculty Prize:

**Form II:** Jasmine McMorran

**Form III:** Grace Wollmuth

**Form IV:** Clayton Wright

**Form V:** Rahul Nair and Andrew Supron

### Scholarship Prize:

**Form II:** Ellen Li

**Form III:** Reshmi Kotla

**Form IV:** Sharanya Pulapura and Tiffany Yu

**Form V:** Vineeta Reddy

### Department Awards:

**Bausch and Lomb Science Award:** Avery Hatfield and Derek Hong

**Rensselaer Math and Science Award:** Tracey Lin

**Form V Whitlock Prize for Math:** Neeraj Shekhar and Wenrui Lu

**Form V Science Prize:** Amol Kapoor

### Book Awards:

**The Brown University Book Award:** Tanay Gupta

**The Columbia University Book Award:** Ben Kaminoff

**Dartmouth College Book Award:** Sara Gagnon

**The Hamilton College Prize:** Matthew Marvin

**The Mount Holyoke College Book Award:** Aigner Mizzelle

**The Penn Book Award:** Andrew Supron

**The Princeton University Book Award:** Adriano Taglietti

**Smith College Book Award:** Natalie Gilbert

**The Wellesley Book Award:** Alyssa Baum

**The Carl Van Dyne Williams College Award:** Akshay Rao

**The Yale Book Award:** Erin Butrico

### Justin Society First Place Winners:

#### POETRY:

Form III- Kylie Kirschner

Form IV- Frances Steele and Gladys Teng

Form V- Erica Cheung, Allison Yu, Stephanie Yeh

#### FICTION:

Form III - Mark Shtrakhman

Form IV- Tiffany Yu

Form V- Ben Kaminoff

**MEMOIR:** Form V- Stephanie Yeh

**FLASH FICTION:** Form V- Erica Cheung and Isabel Kim

## Word in the Hall: What Are You Looking Forward to This Year?



Sydney Stein and Erin Dugan (IV)

"Hanging out with my friends!"



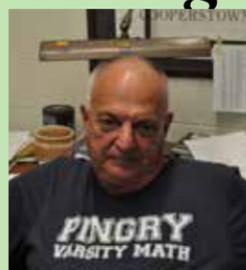
Allie Brenner and Jamie Finnegan (V)

"Having less homework every night."



Jon Kwan (VI)

"The SAC Assembly!"



Mr. Tramontana

"The freedom and pace of the new schedule"



Ms. Evans

"Being blessed and helping people."



MacKinley Taylor (III)

"Meeting new people!"

## Park Journeys to Mexico with Youth Group to Help Locals

By HALEY PARK (IV)

This past July I traveled to Yucatan, Mexico with my church youth group for my first mission trip. After traveling through Mexico, I could

how the locals lived. Of course I wasn't anticipating luxury, I definitely wasn't expecting the extreme poverty I saw. The houses were in poor condition with garbage bags as roofs and hammocks as beds. Air

We originally went to Mexico to help the locals, but in reality, I learned so much more from them than they learned from me. Saying our good-byes made me realize how much I was going to miss the children's precious smiles and boundless energy.

Even though I didn't have access to my phone and air-conditioning for ten days and got dozens of mosquito and flea bites, I found that, as time passed, these little things were irrelevant.

Coming back to New Jersey, I was so grateful to wake up in my own bed, take a hot shower, and live in an air-conditioned home. I was able to gain a greater appreciation and understanding for people in need.

Although the experience was great, at the same time I felt sorry that I wasn't able to help the Mexican locals more and bring them all back home with me. Since coming back to New Jersey, I have kept in touch with many of the children and I am still so touched and amazed by how happy they are with the little that they have.

My experiences made me question our own happiness. Although we may have nicer clothes, air-conditioning, and a bigger house than the people I met, those materialistic perks do not necessarily measure happiness.



H. Park (IV)

definitively say it was one of the best experiences I have ever had.

Our first three days there, we ran a Vacation Bible School for the local children, which was by far my favorite part of this trip. Although most of the girls I met were much younger than me, ages 10-12, I got a sense of the daily life in Mexico.

Walking down the streets, I had the opportunity to see

conditioning and any type of electricity were out of the question. Seeing these homes made me realize how much I take for granted and how fortunate I am to live comfortably.

Of the challenges we faced, the language barrier was one of the most difficult to overcome. Although I knew some Spanish from school, having an actual conversation with a native Spanish speaker was much more challenging.

## Curtis Enjoys Her Trip to China

By HANNAH CURTIS (IV)

This past summer, my father and I embarked on a trip to China. We not only had the chance to play with baby pandas and travel alongside the Great Wall, but also enjoyed a glimpse of true Chinese culture. Despite all the planning that we devoted to the trip, I had no idea what to expect.

After arriving in Beijing Capital Airport, sixteen hours after leaving America, I realized that this trip was going to be unforgettable because of the kindness and curiosity I felt emanating from the Chinese people.

While in Beijing, we went

to the Wanfujing Night Food Market where they sold everything from "stinky tofu" to "scorpions on a stick." Even though I refused to try a scorpion on a stick, I found the loud and exciting environment of vendors yelling to their customers very entertaining.

After a couple of nights, we went to Xi'an to climb the Great Wall and see the Terra Cotta warriors. When we toured the statues, the number of domestic tourists that flooded in and out of the exhibits surprised me.

After touring Xi'an, we traveled to Chengdu, which is known as "The City of Beauty." This was one of my

favorite destinations because we visited the Panda Conservatory.

After discussing it with the managers, they agreed to let me interact with the baby pandas inside their pen. While in their little habitat, I got the opportunity to pet the pandas and feed them bamboo.

We then visited a couple of other cities, including Shangri-La, Lijiang, and Guilin. Two weeks into the trip, my dad and I then took a brutal 8-hour drive into Tibet. We spent our first two nights in Lhasa, which is 11,975 feet above sea level.

During the next two days, we stayed in the Tibetan towns of Shigatse and Gyantse. While in the towns, I noticed the drastic differences between Mainland China and Tibet.

The Tibetan houses were much larger than those in China. The food was also much simpler than Chinese cuisine because of farmers' inability to grow all of the Chinese crops in the higher elevations. Another obvious difference was the high altitudes. I could really feel the difference in air quality. I would go up a set of stairs, and after reaching the top I would be out of breath.

I was amazed to see how proud the Chinese were of their culture. The crowds of Chinese people touring the Terra Cottas and many other sites, including the Forbidden City in Beijing, the limestone karsts in Guilin, and the Potala Palace in Tibet demonstrated their pride.



H. Curtis (IV)

## McManus Learns in Honduras

By ALEXANDRA McMANUS (VI)

This summer, five Pingry faculty members and I traveled to Honduras, one of the most dangerous places on earth. A small Latin American country the size of Virginia, Honduras is in a perpetual state of instability, featuring the highest statistical murder rate in the world.

Despite the obvious dangers, Director of Community Service Shelley Hartz, Biology teacher Luke De, Middle School History teacher Katherine Dlesk, Lower School Assistant Principal Carolyn Gibson, Kindergarten teacher Sofia Mehta, two non-Pingry teachers, my mother, and I flew into San Pedro Sula, Honduras to begin an arduous trek to the small city of La Entrada, where we volunteered at the Hearts for Honduras School.

The Hearts for Honduras School was built by Presbyterian missionaries in 2000 and currently educates 150 students who would otherwise not be able to attend school. These students often come from families with illiterate parents who earn less than a dollar per day.

Our objective was to improve the academic program at the Hearts for Honduras School through various workshops, classroom observations, and one-on-one time with the students. Ms. Mehta and Ms. Dlesk also organized math games, Mrs. Hartz, Mrs. Gibson, and my mother ran an art program, and Mr. De mentored teachers at the local high school. Local teenagers and I helped translate between English and Spanish.

It was empowering and humbling to see Pingry

teachers, whom I have always admired, rely on me to translate their messages into Spanish.

I became their communication instrument. Seeing faculty members "backstage" gave me a new perspective on them.

Anyone who has done community service abroad enters the experience expecting to sacrifice tremendous amounts of themselves.

After working with the Hearts for Honduras program for several years now, I believe that the Honduran locals have given me much more than I could have ever given them.

They taught me to keep faith despite terrible conditions, have patience with others, offer hospitality to strangers, and most importantly, explore the power of friendship.



A. McManus (VI)

## Marvin Takes a Break in London

By MATTHEW MARVIN (VI)

Not everyone was as excited for my trip to London for five days in mid-September as I was. Many of my teachers and friends urged me not to go at all. They were afraid that I would miss too much work, forget too many

I because although we saw the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary International Tour when it opened at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn in 2010, we were too young to see the original production when it ran on Broadway in 2003. Despite its running time of nearly three hours, seeing this produc-

tion live was well worth it.

by far. The store even includes a Pet Kingdom, a year-round Christmas department, and a kids-only Disney café.

The next day, we toured Westminster Abbey, the place where Prince William and Kate Middleton had their wedding. As an avid fan of the British



M. Marvin (VI)

deadlines, and loose focus on the college process. I recognized the opportunity the trip would provide me, however, because it was a mandatory gap from the stresses of senior year. It was too late to cancel the plane tickets and hotel reservations, and my dad was certainly not going to miss his business convention. I packed my bags for London, making sure to not forget my Art History textbook or *Pride and Prejudice* for the plane ride, and left my worries on the runway.

While in London, my family and I saw the original West End production of the popular musical *Les Misérables*. This was certainly a treat for my sister and

tion live was well worth it.

We started our sightseeing journey at Winston Churchill's wartime bunker, formally known as The Cabinet War Rooms. The Cabinet War Rooms proved an incredible piece of living history, as they provided the opportunity to walk through the hallways and rooms that Prime Minister Churchill shared with his wartime staff as they worked around the clock to protect England during World War II. We then stopped at Harrods—the world-famous department store that occupies five acres of land and has over one million square feet of selling space—making it Europe's largest department store

royal family, seeing the place where William and Kate were married was one of the most exciting parts of the trip. Both The London Eye and the top of St. Paul's Cathedral provided beautiful views of the city and the surrounding country as well as memorable moments that I will remember forever.

At moments of high stress and pressure, a good break or a moment of "me-time" is essential. My trip to London was like taking a nap in between study sessions.

Sometimes, such a break is something we all need. London was not only a break but also a great learning experience.

## Gallery Hosts New Art Exhibit

By NEHA SEETAMRAJU (IV)

Artist Maggie Ens's work was displayed in the art gallery for much of September in a temporary exhibit titled "Material Paintings." The show closed on Friday,

artist visits.

Ens incorporates many media, which are not typically found in art, into her work, such as car tires, shells, lights, and flowers.

"Ms. Ens's method in collecting discarded or

very unique and engaging," she added, "playing a lot into personal memories and associations with the objects that are present in the work."

"The interactive quality of the art, the visual themes and construction techniques, and the overall unity and variety of the exhibition creates a woven tapestry of our collective desire to have personal connections with the objects we possess and consume," Ms. Sullivan elaborated.

Students from a range of art backgrounds have been inspired by Ens's show. Lucy Miao (IV), who is currently taking the Drawing and Painting course, said, "The artwork has a very energetic feel to it. It is really lively and there is so much color, sparkles, and light. This inspires me to think outside the box more effectively."

Lindsay Stanley (IV) added, "I like how at first glance all the pieces of art seem to not be uniform, but when you take a step back and look at the exhibit as a whole, they flow really well together."

commonplace materials is a viable medium for students, inspires possibilities creatively using 'found' objects, and re-imagines everyday objects as art," Ms. Sullivan said.

"The overall exhibit is



R. Davis (VI)

October 4.

Art teacher Ms. Rebecca Sullivan said, "We invited Maggie Ens to exhibit her work in the gallery because her background in education made her a perfect fit for a teaching gallery and

## Fall Means Making Color Count

By CAROL PORGES (V)

In celebration of Mercedes Benz Fashion Week that took place at Lincoln Center from September 5-September 12, it seems appropriate to reevaluate the dress code. Although staying fashion-forward within the constraints of the dress code may seem challenging at times, it is still possible to stay comfortable, fun, and stylish without risking a Friday detention.

One of the best ways to ensure feeling good in an outfit is to pick one out the night before school.

Additionally, don't always worry about what's trending at the moment: try to invest in basics such as black pants and classic cardigans.

These articles match virtually anything and can make an outfit more fun.

This fall, people are wearing strong colors, such as bright reds, deep greens, and leather accents.

A good rule of thumb is to follow a specific color scheme that corresponds with each season.

Dark reds and plums are great for autumn, and don't be afraid to plunge into dark

grays and blacks during the colder months. As for spring and summer, it is best to keep outfits a little lighter with pastels and whites.

A pair of comfortable boots is also a must-have. Wearing a pair can make any outfit more fun and weather-appropriate.

Make sure to continue wearing skirts and dresses when the colder weather rolls in. When you pair a winter skirt with a chunky sweater over a pair of tights and boots, you can shake up your outfit without getting trapped in a cords-and-cashmere winter funk.



Courtesy of jcrew.com

## Audiences Enjoy "The Butler"

By SAMANTHA KORN (VI)

If you've been to the movies at some point in the past three months, then you're sure to have (at least) seen a trailer for Lee Daniels's "The Butler." As enticing as the trailer seems, it doesn't truly do the movie justice.

Although the movie's two hour and 12 minute run time seems laborious, the time passes quickly.

With a fast-paced and eventful plot line, it is virtually impossible to be bored with the movie.

"The Butler" focuses on the story of Cecil Gaines (played masterfully by Forest Whitaker) and his journey through life as a White House butler.

The supporting cast includes Hollywood heavyweights such as Oprah Winfrey as Cecil's wife, Gloria; Mariah Carey as Cecil's mother; John Cusack as Richard Nixon; and many more well-known talents. The acting in this film is without a doubt "top notch" and really brings Danny Strong's script to life.

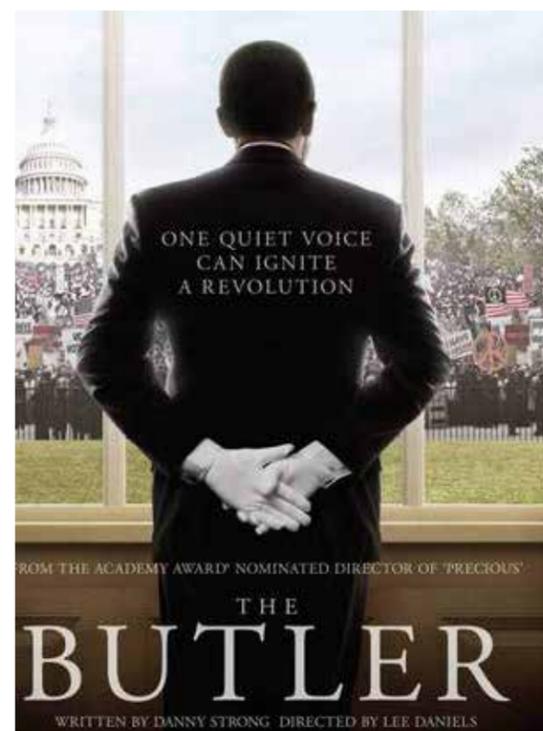
The movie is based on an article published a few years ago in The Washington Post that documented the life of an actual White House butler during the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

With the some slight changes and embellishments, the final product follows Whitaker's character through eight consecutive American presidencies, family struggles, and the historic Civil Rights Movement.

If you are a fan of Lee Daniels's other well-known movies, like "Precious" (2009) and "The Paperboy" (2012), the differences in style that "The Butler" brings to the creative table may surprise you. Seeing

Daniels succeed in both the independent film world with "Precious" and "Paper Boy" and the blockbuster world ("The Butler") indicates that he'll be in this business for a

If "The Butler" isn't your type of film, or if you've seen it and are looking for something else to watch, here are a few additional films that I recommend:



Courtesy of Google Images

long time, making many more movies that inspire and affect his audiences.

Try not to allow the shortage of great movies this summer discourage you. As August rolled around, I was ready to give up on 2013's summer blockbusters because I felt that many of them had fallen short of greatness.

If your movie taste is like mine, and you felt the same way, don't let "The Butler" slip away without going to see its phenomenal qualities firsthand.

It's well worth the two hour run time; it will stick with you for weeks after you see it, and truly get you excited to watch good movies again.

### Recently Released Movies

**Drama:** *Fruitvale Station* (Michael B. Jordan, Octavia Spencer);

*Gravity* (Sandra Bullock and George Clooney);

*Coming Out* (Ben Affleck and Justin Timberlake)

**Drama:** *Captain Phillips* (Tom Hanks)

**Biopic:** *Jobs* (Ashton Kutcher, Josh Gad)

*CBGB* (Malin Ackerman, Ashley Greene, and Rupert Grint)

**Comedy:** *We're the Millers* (Jennifer Aniston, Jason Sudeikis)

Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (Johnny Knoxville)

## Fall Drama Preview

By MATTHEW MARVIN (VI)

This year's fall play will be Lanford Wilson's *The Rimers of Eldritch*, set in a decaying Midwestern "Bible Belt" town that was once a prosperous coal mining community. Directed by Drama teacher Mr. Al Romano, the play will feature a cast of nearly thirty upper school students, and,

outs of the small fictional town of Eldritch, Missouri, in the mid-twentieth century. The core of the play explores the people who inhabit the small town, the judgments they make on others, and their religious beliefs.

As the curtain rises, we find the town in the throes of scandal, after the infamous town hermit is

scenery and more expressive lighting to better depict the setting and circumstances of the piece.

Mr. Romano said he "picked the play because it gives many students the opportunity to develop challenging characters. There aren't lead roles, per se. It is a true ensemble piece. And, the unique structure of the play requires



R. Davis (VI)

for the first time ever, two alumni will head the production crew. Additionally, Sarah Paton will assist with direction and Diane Giangreco will run the lighting design.

Lanford Wilson, the playwright, won the 1980 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for his original play *Talley's Folly*, but is best known for *Fifth of July*. He was nominated for three Tony Awards and won a Drama Desk Award as well as other honors.

Without giving away too much, *The Rimers of Eldritch* is a murder mystery that explores the ins and

caught raping a crippled teenaged girl. From there, the rest of the play focuses on the important moments of the past year as the people of the town, as well as the audience, try to uncover the events leading up to this vicious attack and the circumstances surrounding it.

Pingry's production of *The Rimers of Eldritch* will be a stark contrast from last year's productions of Tom Stoppard's *On The Razzle* and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, both of which used large sets and costumes to aid in the overall production value. *The Rimers of Eldritch* will use minimalistic

everyone to be 'in the moment' at all times."

Rebecca Gever (VI) said, "The play has an incredible message about life and how people treat each other. The play blatantly asks us to be careful about the judgments we make in viewing the people around us, who we may have pigeonholed into a certain stereotype. The best part about the play is that, by the end, the audience cannot help but be shocked. They won't know which character is telling the truth, or who to believe!"

## Congratulations to the Cum Laude Society Inductees!

Alyssa Baum	Amol Kapoor	Neeraj Shekhar
Anna Butrico	Rabia Khan	Avery Vella
Erin Butrico	Isabel Kim	
Erica Cheung	Tracey Lin	
Sara Gagnon	Wenrui Lu	
Jennifer Guo	Vineeta Reddy	

## Varsity Field Hockey Hopes to Improve their Record

By ERIN BUTRICO (IV)

The Varsity Field Hockey team has had a strong start to their season with a 4-6-1 record. Led by Coach Judy Lee, captains Lily Neibart (VI) and Erin Butrico (VI), and assistant captain Stephanie Yeh (VI), the team is meeting its goals.

Over the summer the team went to "World Camp" to practice their skills with Dutch, Spanish, and German trainers. "It was an amazing experience," player Ruthie

Advokat (V) said. "These coaches worked on every skill, were fun to be around, and put our team in great shape."

Preseason, which began on August 15, conditioned everyone for both the running and playing aspects of the upcoming season.

Yeh said that, "a lot of really great players left last year, so I didn't expect us to be doing so well. But in the four games we've played so far, two have gone into overtime, and we won both

of them.

"Emery Sorvino scored the 'Golden' overtime goal in the Ridge Game, hitting the left corner of the cage beautifully," she added. "I think our ability to strongly finish will bring us much success."

Coach Lee said that the shorter practices have "forced the coaches to be more creative." She added, "We have to prioritize what the players need to work on. It hasn't been perfect, but we are getting there."



I. Barrionuevo (VI)

## Varsity Girls' Soccer Team Performing Well This Season

By JENN KORN (III)

With a current record of 7-2, the Girls' Soccer team is already enjoying a strong season. Led by captains Lexi Chang (VI), Rachel Corboz (VI), and Drew Topor (VI), as well as head coach Andrew Eggington, the Varsity team hopes to win the state championship, as well as taking the title in conference and county tournaments.

Drew is confident about team's prospects, noting that "pre-season was very strong and we were able to score a lot of goals

which really helped us begin the season well. As it is our final year, Captains Rachel, Lexi, and I want to leave Pingry soccer on a high note!"

Coach Eggington wants the team playing "good possession soccer, an attractive

style of soccer with a focus on attacking and scoring goals. If we can do that and work hard, which the players are obviously doing,"

team, in overtime on September 17.

The rest of the season is filled with games against talented teams, but as Drew



R. Noone (V) and D. Topor (VI) in a game. I. Barrionuevo (VI)

he said, "I think the success will come."

Although the team suffered an upsetting loss to Ridge High School, on September 12, it bounced back by beating Hunterdon Central, a previously undefeated

puts it, "We're going to have to put in a lot of hard work, but we're all very confident that we can accomplish these goals." Girls' Varsity Soccer seems to be on the way to success in this 2013 fall season.

## Varsity Girls' Tennis Looking Very Strong

By KATIE HO (IV)

Led by captains Christina Zajkowski (VI) and Avery Hatfield (VI), the Pingry Girls' Tennis Team holds an impressive record of 7-1-1.

According to Zajkowski, the most memorable game of the season took place on September 16 when the team defeated Bridgewater Raritan, its biggest rival. The Junior Varsity team also enjoyed similar success when they beat Bridgewater's JV team 5-2.

The time and effort that the team has put in began long before the start of

the competitive matches. "Preseason was good," Zajkowski said. "It was a long three weeks, but I think it prepared the team for a great season."

Despite their victories, the Varsity team still has high expectations for their upcoming events.

"Hopefully we can win counties this year. We've been really close the past two years but I think we can do it this year," Zajkowski said. "I also hope we make it far in the state tournament, but that is still a little while away."



M. Stevens (VI) hits the ball in a match.

A. Fluet (VI)

## Boys' and Girls' Cross Country Teams Build Upon Last Year's Successes This Fall

By PARTH PATEL (III)

The Varsity Boys' and Girls' Cross Country teams have started the year strong with an impressive early season. The girls' season began at the Newark Academy Invitational where they achieved an impressive fourth place finish. They both added to their records with wins at their dual meets against Bound Brook.

The boys' and girls' teams currently stand with impressive records of 8-1 respectively in dual meets. The coaches for the girls' are Chemistry teacher Mr.



I. Barrionuevo (VI)

Tim Grant, Tom Cladek, and Sarah Christensen. The boys' coaches are History teacher Mr. Matt Horesta and Director of College Counseling Mr. Tim Lear.

The girls have set their sights on taking the Non Public B Group Championship this fall.

After winning the State Non-Public B Championship and the State Prep Championship, the boys are also striving to end the season as champions. They are cur-

rently ranked in the Top 20 in the state. Last year, the boys won.

There were many additions to both teams this year. The boys gained three new freshmen and the girls gained four.

Captain Anna Butrico (VI) said, "The girls are looking strong this year. We have a very strong top seven—ones who we're hoping will score very well in the upcoming champion meets. We only lost one runner last year, so

most of us are returning or new runners who are very determined to do well as the season progresses."

Boys' Captain Stewart Wood said, "Our entire varsity squad besides Cam Gensch is returning this year, and we've already been predicted to win State Groups for the second year in a row. We have been training very hard all summer and are looking to make a big impact in counties and conferences."

## Boys' and Girls' Water Polo's Record Does Not Reflect Efforts

By MARK SHTRAKHMAN (IV)

Boys' Water Polo has gotten off to a rough start this season with a record of 0-5. The team's poor results are a consequence of their inexperience. The majority of the team is comprised of brand-new players, including

the team. Additionally last year's top scorer, Branden Phillips (V), has returned to the team this year and serves as another one of the leaders for this season.

Coach Jeffrey Jenkins said, "One of the difficulties with water polo is that the sport fields a team of seven, but we only have five

"He's learning quickly," Coach Jenkins commented, "but it is hard being put into a position where balls are being pelted at you." Regardless, Biedron is learning and gaining experience with every practice and game of the season.

Many more players on the team are improving daily. Ad-



A. Fluet (VI)

many freshmen. Fortunately, the team is learning and improving quickly as the season goes on. Jason Jin (VI), the sole senior for the season, is leading the team as captain and is among the top playmakers for

returning players. Consequently, new players have a difficult time transitioning to varsity positions." One of these adapting players is a freshman, Henry Biedron, who is the starting goalie for the varsity team this season.

vancements are being made across the lineup as the team strives to improve its record. With tournaments a few weeks away, the team still has time to grow even more.

## Boys' Soccer Enjoying Terrific Fall Season

By AKASH KUMAR (III)

Now, though, the team has had some impressive wins, including the homecoming

As for goals for the season, the captains want to capture the county, confer-



M. Mangini (VI) goes for the kick in a game.

H. Curtis (IV)

The Varsity soccer season is strong with a record of 8-2-1. However, the preseason did not run quite as smoothly for the team. They were missing key players and had a new system to begin. Even the returning players had to adapt to a new playing style and situation.

Despite their initial troubles, the team improved after each game and ironed out some of the flaws. Co-captain, Matthew Mangini (VI) described the preseason as "a rebuilding effort with players recovering from injuries."

game against the Orange School. The team won by a score of 6-1 with four goals coming from Captain Matt Mangini, another from senior George Zachary (VI), and the final by freshmen Obi Ikoro (III) in his varsity debut.

Coach Miller Bugliari, said the start of the season went okay with a new team and several underclassmen. He added, "They improved quite a bit, and their defense solidified." Currently the team works with the offense to complement their defensive prowess.

ence, and state championships, completing what they called "the trifecta." Coach Bugliari's goal is for the team to be competitive in every game. The captains are confident, as they believe the team "has depth and athleticism."

The team has been working hard and been competitive with just two losses so far. Coach Bugliari also said that they have improved on flaws with each game and are currently playing well. He and the captains are optimistic about achieving more success in the coming weeks.

## Varsity Football Team Determined to "Put it Together"

By HANNAH CREE (VI)

The football team has a lot of momentum coming off of their 2012 season, earning

have a hard-working team". Nevertheless, the team is still fighting for wins. Coach Shilts commented about the team's first loss

will put it all together and have a successful season," he said.

Finally, Assistant coach Jon Leef believes it's im-



A. Fluet (V)

their first playoff win since 1998. Their preseason went well, and the team currently has a record of 1-3.

As Captain Chris Melligon (VI) stated regarding preseason, "We won our scrimmages, and I was happy with the work a lot of people put in." Head coach Chris Shilts also commented on the team's success in preseason, crediting part of it to seniors such as Melligon.

"The preseason went great," he said. "We had great senior leadership, and through their efforts we now

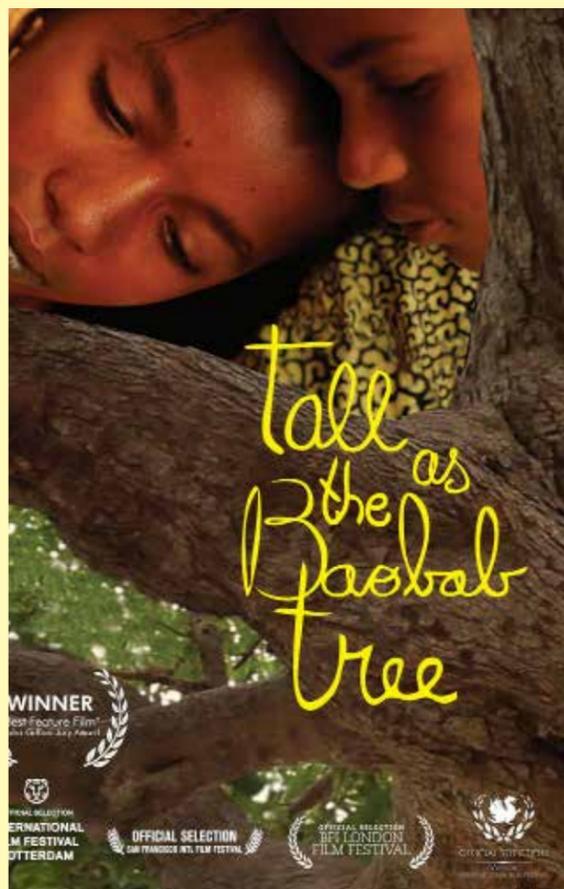
to Roselle Park High School on Saturday, September 4, noting, "We played hard, but didn't make the plays we needed to make. We couldn't get stops when we needed them, and we couldn't get first downs when we needed them. Three big penalties hurt us too."

He still thinks they can build on last year's state semi-final appearance and become champions again.

While Melligon acknowledged the team was off to a rough start, he also retains his optimism. "I know we

portant to remember the positive values that playing on the team instills in its players. "Our goal every year is to be competitive in every game and hopefully win more than we lose along the way," he said.

Coach Leef added, "It's been a while since the program has achieved a winning record, but that's our goal from a win-loss perspective. From a more philosophical perspective, we want to compete, to represent the school well, and to leave the season as better people."



On Friday, October 4, alumnus Jeremy Teicher '06, met with art and film students to discuss his critically acclaimed film "Tall as the Baobab Tree." In the evening, Mr. Crowley-Delman '97 hosted a viewing of the film and a follow up discussion for students, parents, faculty, and visiting alumni.