

DECISION 2015



EMILIA McMANUS • ERIN DUGAN • HOLLY BUTRICO

On Thursday, March 5th, the junior class selected the three candidates for Student Body President for 2015-2016. Speeches were on Monday, March 23rd, and the vote will be held on Tuesday, March 31st. Who will you choose?

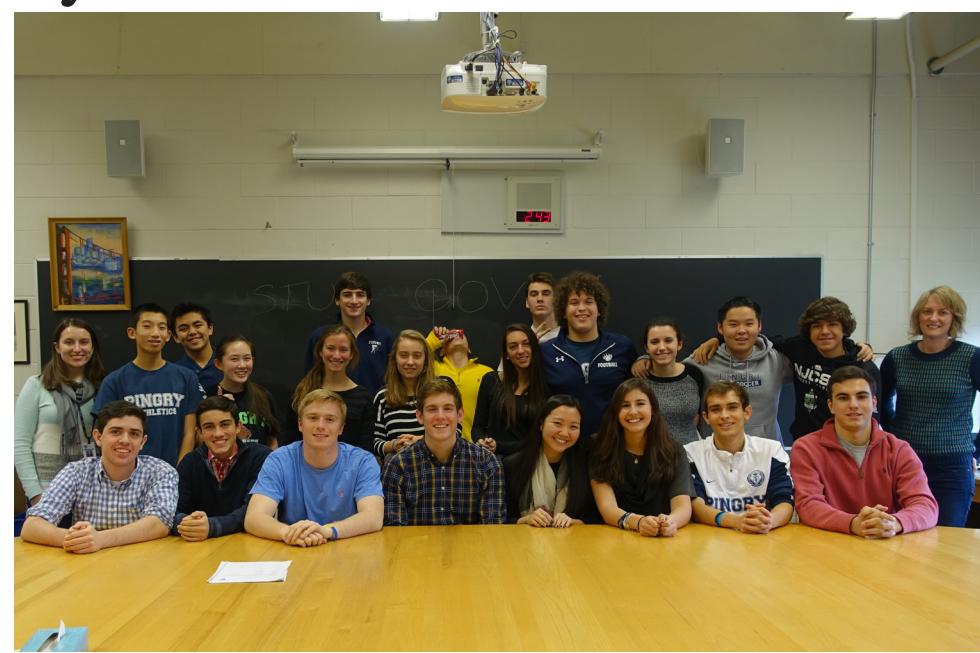
Taylor Dillon Reflects on His Time in Office

By TAYLOR DILLON (VI)

Did you hear about the two guys who stole a calendar? They each got six months! (No one laughs).

Although finding school-appropriate jokes is the hardest thing I've had to do this past year, my time as Student Body President has been an eye-opening experience that means much more to me than bad jokes and morning announcements. I still remember sitting in Hauser auditorium (which some teachers call "The Hauser" for some reason), with my legs shaking vigorously as I walked up to the podium to make my speech. Having to speak in front of the entire high school for the first time was probably the most intimidating thing I've ever done.

Even after I was elected, I was still nervous about taking on the role of SBP. I really wanted to stride further than my predecessors and keep all the promises I'd made in my speech. I had lots of ideas, like starting a field day and having



Student Government representatives 2014-2015

an outdoor seating area for students in the spring, but did not realize how difficult it would be to turn these ideas into reality.

Although some of my ideas, like a school-wide Field Day, were never put into action because they were too far-fetched or would interfere with class time, I was not discour-

aged—I realized I wasn't alone in my position. With the support of faculty members and other Student Government representatives, I knew I had people to turn to for help. And recently, I was told an outdoor seating area would be provided in the spring of 2016.

What I admire most about the Pingry administration is

Courtesy of TanTan Wang (V)

that I was never given a definitive "no," but rather was given alternative options or different routes to achieve any goals I had in mind.

In my Convocation speech, I mentioned that collaboration was important and that no one is ever truly alone in his or her day-to-day life at Pingry. Whether through planning school dances, or trying to plan fun events for students, I never felt like I was alone in my ambitions. The best advice I could give to next year's Student Body President would be to never give up, listen to any and every idea you hear, and always consult other members of Student Government before proposing an idea. I cannot stress enough how no issue is too small to tackle.



I. Zinn (VI)

A sophomore representative told me in February that someone complained to him about the whole wheat bread in the cafeteria and about how it wasn't "truly" whole wheat, but was just dyed a darker color. Although that student later told student government to drop the issue, we brought it up with the administration.

This position has taught me how to deal with the extremes. Whether I had to improvise or plan ahead, to advise the administration on two challenges were ever the same, and every single task had to be dealt with in its own unique fashion.

Thank you for electing me as Student Body President this past year! I cannot imagine having spent my senior year any other way. I appreciate all of the love and support from members of the community and hope that next year will be filled with even more accomplishments. Thanks again!

Special thanks to Dr. Jones and Ms. Kent for
advising Student Government!



The Pingry Record

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IN HER OWN WORDS...

It's crazy to think that in just one year, my time at Pingry will be over. I will never forget my sixth grade student government speech when I confidently stood—though shaking inside—in front of my classmates and declared, "Let me be your voice." I used the metaphor of a megaphone: give me your ideas and your concerns, and I will amplify them to the faculty, make them heard, and effect change.

Now, I am here: six terms on Student Government later. I served as Class President in eighth grade and had the honor to serve as Class President for my first three years in the upper school.

I am no longer the nervous leader I once was; with my six years of training, problem solving, and leadership on a variety of events, I am now a capable, confident, and—I'd like to say—seasoned leader. I know how Student Government works inside and out, and I know how the Pingry machine runs. It is humbling that I'm now here in the process of writing my last speech, hoping that Pingry will vote for me just one more time before I leave this place.

Next year, if elected President, I first plan on making a Student Government Twitter account, one that would connect the student government to the student body. This can be an account where Student Government members update the Pingry community with

current events discussed in meetings. It can also serve as a quick messenger where students can send in their ideas.

Students have often claimed that Student Government solely organizes dances, and this Twitter account will give the students the chance to see what else Student Government is focusing on while providing the opportunity for the students to share their ideas.

I am also aiming to get Dress Down Days every Friday.

We all know that Pingry cannot simply have a Dress Down Day without a purpose, or without donating to a certain organization. With the help of each grade's representatives, I hope to compile a master list of community service organizations that we can pick from to donate to each week. Students are still welcome to suggest their own ideas for Dress Down Days, but I will ensure that Student Government has an organization ready for every Friday of the month to donate to. It will be our responsibility to get that money to each organization every week. This will not only promise a day of jeans or leggings at the end of every week, but it will also provide

an opportunity for Pingry to give back by donating a dollar or more to a certain organization every Friday.

For the past couple of years, Student Government has tried to plan a Field Day where each grade (and the faculty!) competes against each other.



This event has happened in the past, but organizational and scheduling conflicts prevented it from happening in the Upper School again. But this time around, I am determined to make Field Day happen. I will get in contact with the Lower School and see how their Field Days successfully worked each year and will start extensive meetings with the Upper School faculty to make Field Day a reality again. With our strenuous

schedules, we deserve a day of fun. We deserve water balloon fights and a barbecue outside. I will do everything in my power to give this to you guys. Each grade would dress in a certain color, and the games could include relays, races, dodge ball, flag football, and any other ideas that you may have. (Get pumped. This is happening.)

I love Pingry and everything it stands for. I don't want to leave until I've made these changes, until I wear blue

CANDIDATE SURVEY

FAVORITE...

Movie: The Proposal

TV Show: Grey's Anatomy

Musical Artist: Ed Sheeran

Book: Once We Were Brothers

Subject: Math and Physics

City: New York City

Place to Get Food Nearby: The Country Squire

Word: Food

Pick up line: My doctor says I'm lacking Vitamin U.

Sports you play (limit 3): Crew (aka row row row your boat)

Clubs you're in (limit 3): Journal Club, Blue Key, and Student Government

COMPLETE THE SENTENCE

One piece of advice for new freshmen: Enjoy it!

One thing you would work hard to change: Remind students to have fun and relax.

One thing you love about Pingry: I love the teachers.

Most embarrassing moment: Before a middle school basketball game, I pulled down my sweatpants and accidentally pulled my shorts down with them.

Why Student Government matters: It gives the students a voice

What you want to do for fun at morning meeting: I am planning on changing it up every week; one day it might be a YouTube clip or a Pingry Compliment from the previous week.

and white face paint at Field Day, wear my favorite Pingry t-shirts every Friday, and get to #tweet my ideas to all of you. I want this for you guys, and I want to thank everyone who has voted for me so far. Without you, none of this is possible.

Like I said in sixth grade, let me be your voice. Vote Team Holly!

Erin Dugan

IN HER OWN WORDS...

I love the show Parks and Recreation. On this show lives a protagonist named Leslie Knope. Leslie is an ambitious, dedicated, optimistic woman working for the government of Pawnee, Indiana who rocks a pantsuit like it's nobody's business. No problem of the Pawneeans is too small or mundane for Leslie to undertake. She has a passion for helping anyone she can, and for this reason she is my role model. I strive to emulate Leslie Knope as a member of student government, with Pingry as my Pawnee.

As the official mascot of the men's water polo team, I know that school spirit is very important. I also know that it's been lacking in the past few years. I'd like to assist Tommy Westerhold in revamping the Blue Army club. I think that with the help of fan buses (and maybe buying blue face paint in bulk) we can get more Pingry pride at games. Student government could do Friday pizza game nights, raffles(?), tshirt cannons(?), or collaborate with next year's SAC to do funny halftime activities with the fans.

Last year and this year, I tried to see if we could swing an ice skating, dinner, and Pingry hockey game night at the Bridgewater Sports Arena. The dates didn't work out, but if we plan ahead for next year, it could happen. I also personally know Big Blue, and I will be sure he makes some appearances at games next year. I

That's another thing: planning ahead (from two sentences ago). I think the two main obstacles in student government planning are that we (1) assume we can't do things and (2) we have great ideas, but don't know what steps to take in order to implement them, causing them to fall flat. If I was elected Student Body President, I would call for meetings this year to plan next year's events. If someone were to come to me with an idea for a project they want to make happen, I'd try my best to make it a reality. I would make a section in my student government binder with all the steps of the project, possible obstacles, and potential costs. It's what Leslie Knope would do.

Morning meetings set the tone for the entire week. A great amount of power comes with making the morning announcements. Maybe I'll do a joke. A pun. A cartwheel. A soliloquy! Maybe sometimes I'll spice things up and wear a hat. You'll have to wait and see. (Just joking, hats are against the dress code.) What I'd actually do is my own little segment called holidays of the week, where I would list off two or three "silly" holidays during the week, such as National Puppy Day (Monday, March 23) and Waffle Day (Wednesday, March 25). This is subject to change. If you've gotten this far in my article, thank you. I appreciate you reading this far because I probably wouldn't. To prove that you did, give me a high



five in the hallway whether you know me/are voting for me or not. Tell me your favorite color and/or a change you'd like to see next year.

I'm a big advocate for good relationships between grades. The way I see it, the more we get along, the better our experience will be. I want interaction not only between different grades, but also between the students and faculty. I'm very comfortable working with teachers at Pingry. I

can often be seen chilling in Mrs. Markenson's office, awkwardly lingering outside of Mr. Corvino's room, and stealing lotion from Mrs. Newman's desk (I'm sorry you had to find out this way). Through planning activities like the egg hunt and the pie lottery, I got to see teachers and students having fun together. It's something I want to see more of in the coming year.

If you vote for me, I promise to help you in any way I can to have

CANDIDATE SURVEY

FAVORITE...

Movie: The Lego Movie

TV Show: Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt

Musical Artist: Blade & Ballast

Book: Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret by Judy Blume

Subject: Drama

City: Chicago

Place to Get Food Nearby: Country Squire

Word: pandemonium

Pick up line: Blondes have more fun!

Sports you play (limit 3): Aww. That's so flattering.

Clubs you're in (limit 3): SAC, Balladeers, Gender Equality Club

COMPLETE THE SENTENCE

One piece of advice for new freshmen: Never be ashamed to ask for help.

One thing you would work hard to change: School spirit

One thing you love about Pingry: Easter

Most embarrassing moment: the 8th grade.

Why student government matters: It bridges the gap between students and the administration. Also sophresh.

What you want to do for fun at morning meeting: I'd do "Holidays of the Week®," where I'd list one or two wacky holidays during the week (ex. National Pancake Day or National Hug an Australian Day).

a good year. I know that being student body president is a huge responsibility, and I am ready and willing to take it on. I want to hear the ideas you have and put them into action. I've been here for almost 10 years, and I'm ready to make next year the best yet.

Emilia McManus

IN HER OWN WORDS...

During my years at Pingry, the student body presidents and candidates have been incredible role models. They have set such high standards for future candidates, and I cannot help but wonder if I can fill their shoes in the upcoming year. I would feel such honor to strive to emulate their actions in the 2015-2016 school year. I understand the responsibilities, and I understand that challenging myself pushes me further as a person. I want to create the same opportunity as Taylor, Akshay, and David each did as president to lead in a meaningful way.

The student body president role is one that comes with a great deal of responsibility and potential: to impact the current student body as well as future Pingry students. If I am elected, I would like to focus on a positive impact that I can leave on this community. What can I do in this moment of time that will leave a lasting impact? I want to lead and be led by my classmates and the underclassmen. I want to emphasize an environment that focuses on collaboration among students. It will be my focus to integrate each grade to ensure that everyone feels part of the school as a whole. I mentioned in my survey for The Record, that the one thing I love about Pingry is the feeling that each of your classmates wants to see you succeed. Besides a healthy high school feeling of competition, at the end of the day, I know that each of us is

proud of our classmates' success. It is my hope to extend this grade wide collaboration to an all-school collaboration.

My younger brother Matthew is in sixth grade at the Pingry Middle School. He is full of energy, enthusiasm, and most of all passion. Matthew has a deep sense of pride for everything he is involved in. As president, I would use my role to show him that he must continue to challenge himself throughout high school and to maintain his passion, because that will ultimately lead to success. I want him to know that the support of his classmates will bring him places he never thought he could go. I want his class, and all future incoming freshmen, to enter the Pingry high school and look to the Class of 2016 as one that will be missed and forever remembered. I know that I can achieve this as Student Body President.

I take the responsibilities of Student Body President very seriously. I know that it is a great honor to be chosen to lead the school and act as a representative between the students and the administration. For Monday meetings, I will encourage everyone to showcase their talents and I will try to motivate the students to keep up the great effort during periods of particularly heavy work. I also vow to write a super inspirational speech for convocation and I will successfully light the candle on the first try during the All-School Winter



Festival!

Ever since third grade, I have been an active member of student government. I was a member each year during middle school and then I was elected again freshman year. As sophomore year approached, I chose not to run for student government. I was worried that my peers would always second-guess my sincerity if they felt there was an ulterior motive. I chose to emphasize developing lasting friendships over running

for a leadership position. For me, I found that this was a period of discovering my own ways to lead and effectively influence. But now, I believe I can do both. Student Body President is my chance to give back to the community that has helped so many people, especially me. Each day I am met with the kindness and creativity of the students around me. Each day I am continually impressed with the drive and the work ethic of my peers. I know that I would be a different person,

CANDIDATE SURVEY

FAVORITE...

Movie: Sunset Blvd

TV Show: Modern Family

Musical Artist: Maroon 5

Book: To Kill a Mockingbird

Subject: History

City: Istanbul, Turkey

Place to Get Food Nearby: Bella's Burgers

Word: Pillow

Pick up line: I know the Pingry library is closed, but can I check you out?

Sports you play (limit 3): Field Hockey, Winter Track, Lacrosse

Clubs you're in (limit 3): Varsity Handbells!!

COMPLETE THE SENTENCE

One piece of advice for new freshmen: Make friends with different people

One thing you would work hard to change: Find more ways to celebrate the successes of students.

One thing you love about Pingry: Everyone wants to see each other succeed.

Most embarrassing moment: Showing up at an admissions office in our RV smelling like campfire smoke and dust!

Why student government matters: It is a way to maintain existing traditions and create new ones.

What you want to do for fun at morning meeting: Morning Yoga, anyone?

had I not attended Pingry and I am happy about the way my school, peers, and environment have shaped me into who I am. I believe becoming Student Body

President is a chance to honor the Class of 2016, rising freshmen, sophomores, and juniors. So vote for me, because eMac has got your back!!

Commentary: How Student Government Can Improve Pingry

Student Government Should Boost School Spirit

By MARK SHTRAKHMAN (V)

As with every school year, school spirit starts off strong: student attendance at fall sporting events is always pretty high. And that number usually grows as the season continues.

Homecoming features an impressive turnout of students (as well as faculty, parents, and alumni). In late October and early November, more and more students start attending conference, county and state tournaments. Even when the boys' and girls' soccer teams had their finals in Bridgewater or Union this fall, students managed to find rides to cheer on their classmates. Football finally got the crowd it deserved at

Friday Night Lights, its last home game of the season.

After the fall season though, school spirit dwindles and is nearly nonexistent at winter sporting events. Except for a handful of basketball games and the occasional swim meet, the stands hold few students. Instead, the fan sections are comprised almost entirely of parents. Even though posts in the Blue Army Facebook group garnered hundreds of likes, fans weren't coming out to many of the games.

The same thing happens in the spring. Last year, the boys' lacrosse team finished the season 14-5 after having ended the previous season with a 2-13 record: an accomplishment worth student

support, to say the least. But again, few fans attended the team's games to watch the impressive turnaround. Fans at track meets are mostly parents running down the 100-meter stretch yelling and waving their cameras. What happens at the end of the fall that suddenly makes fans stop coming out to games?

In fairness, a lot of people have been working hard to improve the situation over the past few years. Three years ago, a group of seniors revived Blue Army on Facebook to increase school spirit. The group still exists, and captains frequently post messages about their upcoming competitions. There are over 650 members in the group, all of whom are current students or recent alumni.

Just this year, the new Director of Athletics Ms. Carter Abbott began a Morning Meeting segment called "Game of the Week," where captains of various sports teams announce a major athletic event to happen that week. But even that doesn't seem to be increasing school spirit.

As we head into this year's student body president election and student government elections by form, I urge you to consider the issue of school spirit and attendance at games. Maybe it's something that you care about. Maybe it's something that you think is unimportant. But if it's something that matters to you, you should keep in mind what the candidates say about school spirit. A lot of them will campaign about it. They are going to say that they will

Forget About Field Day. It's the Small Things That Matter

By CAROLINE TERENS (V)

Every year, people question the power of Student Government. Is the perceived lack of power caused by the administration's strict attitude towards implementing change?

Or is the common assumption that "student government does nothing" actually true?

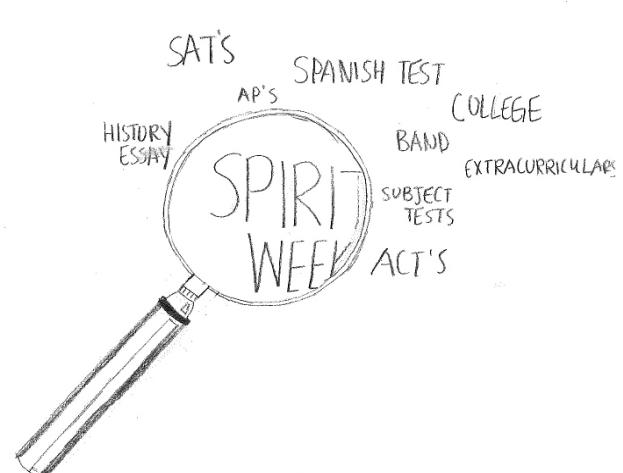
As a member of Student Government myself, I have started to see truth in both sides of the argument.

Student Government is supposed to act as a liaison between the student body and the administration. As a result, the proposals have to please both the students and the administrators in order to be put into action.

In my two years on Stu-

dent Government, we have worked hard to improve it next year. They always do; it's a promise that comes up every year. But take a moment to talk to the candidates about what their actual ideas are for improving the situation.

I think that student government truly has the potential to get more kids out to games. But instead of empty campaign promises, I think we should try to find out the candidates' ideas before we vote for them. I want to be able to confidently say that the person I voted for cares about school spirit and has a real plan to improve it, and you should too.



dent Government, we have asked for the possibility of having a Field Day like we have had in the past when the lower school came to the Basking Ridge Campus and participated in activities and enjoyed a barbecue.

Each lower school student was paired with an upper school student, and this created an environment in which the two campuses truly felt united.

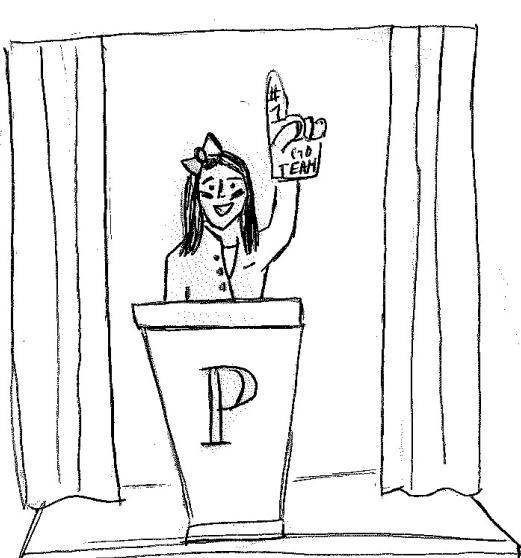
Student Government has also tried to have more Dress Down Days, host more special events and alter the dress code. However, with disapproval from the administration and a lack of

real persistence, these great ideas, some of which were promised to students in Student Government speeches, often go unachieved.

Why call Student Government a "government" if all we are allowed to do is plan dances and spirit weeks? Will the assumption that Student Government only plays a small role in campus life ever change?

Recently, Student Government asked the administration for a spirit week in the stressful and laborious days leading up to spring break.

Continued on page 4



H. Conti (VI)

Commentary: How Student Government Can Improve Pingry

All-Female Ballot: Is it a Coincidence or a Reflection of a Changing Political Climate?

By ABBY BAUER (V)

Taylor, Akshay, David. What do these three current and former Pingry students have in common? For one thing, they all serve or have served as Student Body President of the Upper School. While it may be somewhat obvious, they are also all male.

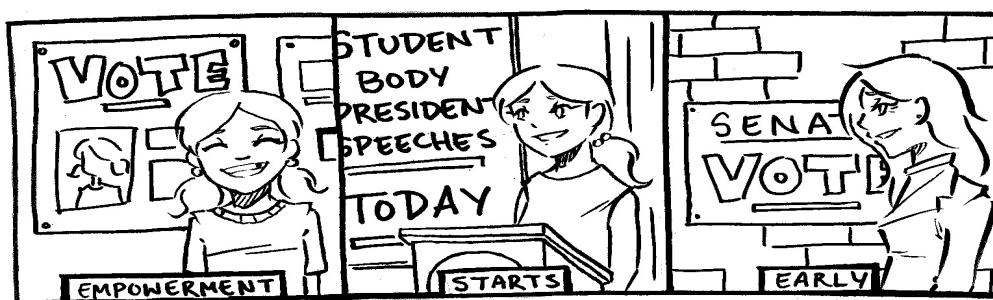
This trend of male student leadership, which has been predominant in the three years that I have been a student in the Upper School, is about to end. With candidates Holly, Erin and Emilia running for Student Body President in our current elections, it is inevitable that a female will "rule the school" come next fall.

One can easily attempt to draw parallels between our all-female presidential ballot and the political hype about the upcoming primaries and U.S. presidential election.

With "Ready For Hillary" bumper stickers, blogs titled "Run Warren Run" and talk of Carly Fiorina, former CEO of Hewlett-Packard, tossing her name in the race, for the first time in U.S. history, the idea of a female president is not considered a pipe dream.

So, I wonder, is our all-female election a sign of women empowerment on a larger scale? Or is it merely a coincidence?

To answer this question, I looked at trends of under-



representation of women in high levels of student government in U.S. universities over the past decade. According to the American Student Government Association, 40 percent of colleges have female student body presidents, despite the fact that the number of women attending and graduating from college exceeds the number of men.

The lack of female student leaders on campuses, however, is not because students refuse to elect women in office. Rather, it is because few women are running for office to begin with. Research shows that women are often hesitant to run unless they are repeatedly asked, while men are more likely to run even if no one suggests it.

In 2011, Princeton University formed a committee to examine why female students are less likely to assume traditional leadership roles on campus. The committee found that women do not assert themselves

as often as men do in class discussions, yet they tend to outperform men academically.

Women also tend to hold behind-the-scenes positions in campus clubs and groups outside of elected office. For example, studies show that there are now more women than men heading campus newspaper staffs. There is a general trend of women assuming "high-impact," rather than "high-profile," jobs in universities across the nation.

This evident political ambition gap between males and females on college campuses and in national elections is explained in the report "Girls Just Not Wanna Run," published by the School of Public Affairs at American University. The results suggest that the gender gap does not exist because women "wanna not run," but because few people in their early lives suggest that they can.

Young women are less likely to receive parental encouragement to pursue a political career path, to be exposed to political information and discussion and, thus, to view themselves as qualified to run for office.

I believe that the most important step in narrowing the gender gap in political aspirations is ensuring that young girls are aware of their ability to run for a position of power, and, moreover, be victorious.

This begins at the high school and college levels: people who run for student office are more likely to run for political office later in life. Of the women currently in Congress, 40 percent were first involved in student government.

From here, a cycle of female political empowerment is formed.

These women who progress from student to national government become the role models for young girls to admire and emulate. Perhaps female politicians like Hillary Clinton, Elizabeth Warren and Carly Fiorina

S. Wang (VI)

Shifting Our Focus

Continued from Page 3

By CAROLINE TERENS (V)

Though we asked for a week, we were only given two days.

What I realized is that these two days, although less than what we had intended, were enough to change the mood of students and make one of the hardest weeks of the school year just a little bit better.

When the student government presented the idea of hosting Field Day, the initial response of the administration was that we couldn't involve the lower school because of the complexity of transportation.

Another challenge to Field Day was that teachers would be upset that class time would be taken away during preparation for AP exams and finals.

A proposal that was originally a plan for an entire day of fun and games turned into

eliminate the self-doubt girls experience toward running and make them feel not only qualified for office, but also equal to and competitive with their male counterparts.

This cycle has already taken root in many colleges and universities across the nation. In 2012, Georgetown University elected its first all-female student executive team, signaling the end of a reign of male-dominated student body presidencies since the school became coeducational. Just this year, the University of Southern

a couple of hours at the end of the day without the lower school. As seen through the response of the administration, Field Day comes with a lot of planning and preparation that seems too difficult to accomplish.

Instead of trying to change the curriculum, alter the dress code or plan a Field Day that may seem unfeasible, Student Government should focus on accomplishing the little things.

Dress down days, spirit weeks, fundraisers and assemblies are all ways that Student Government can increase its presence in the school and take on more responsibility.

Proving to the administration that student government is capable of such responsibilities and is willing to put in the time and effort will increase student government's power so it can make noticeable and effective changes to student life.

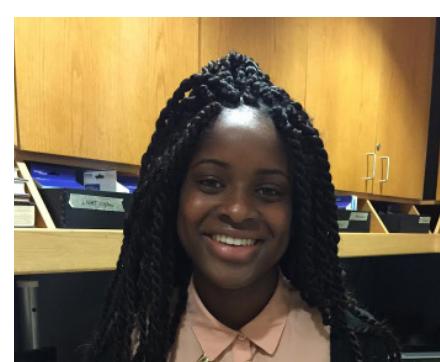
California elected its first female student body president in a decade. And of the eight Ivy League schools, five currently have female student body presidents.

So whether or not our all-female ballot is sheer coincidence or the direct result of a popular culture that supports and encourages women in politics is a question I cannot answer. However, it is important to recognize that our election reflects a national trend of bringing women to the forefront in the political realm.

What Do You Look for in a Student Body President?



MRS. LEE
"Integrity"



UGO IKORO (VI)
"Someone who is dedicated to the school."



MS. HAO
"Someone who gets things done."



AMAKA NNAETO (V)
"Someone who is willing to be a good example."

What Changes Would You Like to See at Pingry?



RUTHIE ADVOKAT (VI)
"Better lighting everywhere."



MR. GRATWICK
"I'd like to see more students take advantage of the outdoors."



HARRISON JONES (V)
"We should have a cheerleading team."



JACKIE CHANG (III)
"Slides instead of stairs."