

The Horace Mann Record

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Poet recites works at assembly, leads follow-up discussions



Abigail Kraus/Staff Photographer

LEARNING FROM THE PROSE Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Yusef Komunyakaa read some of his poems at an assembly on Tuesday, followed by a short Q&A.

TIFFANY LIU
Staff Writer

Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Yusef Komunyakaa read several of his poems and answered student questions regarding his writing style and process at an assembly this past Tuesday.

To open, English teacher Rebecca Bahr's senior elective class, Poets of Moment, performed a choral reading of a few of Komunyakaa's poems, followed by original poems read by Kat Snoddy (12) and Tishiya Carey (12) to piano music played by English teacher Harry Bauld.

"Komunyakaa's poems work in a very musical way," Snoddy said. "We thought that reading a more musical poem with piano would be a nice way to honor his style."

Director of Student Activities Caroline Bartels contacted Komunyakaa

through a literary agent to bring him to the school. Many students at the school write poetry and there are some secret writers who Bartels thought would enjoy Komunyakaa's coming to school, she said.

"I think it's great for them to be exposed to a bunch of modern poets, and we also live in a city that's just filled with great writers, so I would love to have kids have the advantage of sitting

"Students so often tend to see literature and poetry as something that you just see on shelves like paintings at a museum and don't realize that actually the art is alive."

- English Department Chair Vernon Wilson

and talking to some of those people," she said.

Komunyakaa also addresses themes relating to the current state of the world and the United States, Bartels said.

After the assembly, Komunyakaa held open discussions in the Katz Library classroom during D, E, and G periods. English Department Chair Vernon

Wilson saw this as "a really unique opportunity for students and for the faculty to talk one-on-one to these illustrious artists and have them share like just what their process is like and how they view literature and specifically poetry," he said.

English 11 classes and Bahr's elective spent this trimester reading poetry, including some of Komunyakaa's poems. However, various teachers familiarized

usually read such contemporary poetry," Michael Truell (11) said.

Komunyakaa was Jenna Freidus' (11) favorite poet of the poetry unit. Her class read one of Komunyakaa's more recent anthologies, "The Emperor of Water Clocks," and she enjoyed the poems, she said.

"Students so often tend to see literature and poetry as something that you just see on shelves like paintings at

a museum and don't realize that actually the art is alive," Wilson said. "We pick up a book and just see pages and a picture on the back, but

these are real people who actually have lives and mortgages and families, and they're writing for a reason."

Getting actual living poets to come talk about their work and how their own work surprises them and changes as they grow older reminds everyone that poetry is a living artform, not a dead artifact, Wilson said.

Model United Nations attends Virginia conference builds underclassmen skills

EVE KAZARIAN
Staff Writer

Last weekend, 29 students from the school's Model United Nations (MUN) team travelled to the William and Mary High School MUN Conference (WMHSMUN).

"William and Mary really emphasizes diplomacy," Jenna Freidus (11) said. Normally at other conferences, awards are determined solely by who has the most influence over the committee. However, during this conference, behavior during committee was also taken into account, Freidus said.

The conference gave the Secretaries-General (SG) a chance to invite more freshmen, co-SG Henry Shapiro (12) said; of the 29 students who attended, 10 were freshmen.

"Since it's a smaller conference which isn't that important for our national reputation, we focus a lot more on bringing a lot more freshmen," Shapiro said.

The freshmen didn't have to compete

at such a high level because they were not partnered with upperclassmen, rather they were partnered with other freshmen. At the same time, they got to learn and experience what committee was like, co-SG Bella Muti (12) said.

Having been a member of the school's Middle Division MUN team, Arman Kumar (9) felt that this conference was more competitive than ones he had previously attended.

"There were a lot more people who were in it to win it and also to actually come up with solutions, and so it was both enlightening and competitive at the same time. Also, it was a higher-level debate. The resolutions were more comprehensive and much more in depth than I was used to," Kumar said.

To prepare for the conference, the team met every I period three weeks in advance, Shapiro said. During the meetings, students were given intensives on how to construct a one-minute speech, what research should look like, and how they should create solutions, co-SG Dahlia Krutkovich



Courtesy of Aaron Thompson

Valerie Maier (11) speaks during committee during a Model UN conference.

(12) said.

This conference featured more obscure committees, along with some larger general assemblies in which one issue was the main theme, Muti said.

"Instead of something like economic and social council, there was a committee for Star Trek and the Iroquois confederacy," she said.

Julia Hornstein (10) discussed female feticide and infanticide, land ownership, and equal pay in her World

Conference on Women assembly, while Radhika Mehta (11) discussed the Delian League and piracy, Spartan aggression, and tensions within the League.

The team won the award for Outstanding Large Delegation.

In January, the club anticipates going to the Ivy League MUN Conference at the University of Pennsylvania, which attracts a more national audience, she said.

Diversity conferences explore male perspective

REBECCA SALZHAUER
Staff Writer

Nearly 400 young men from various city schools gathered at school on Saturday for two intertwined diversity conferences, (Re)Defining Power and the Young Men of Color Symposium (YMOCS), to discuss topics ranging from masculinity to allyship.

The conferences shared the opening and closing portions of the day before splitting into the two sub-conferences.

(Re)Defining Power was designed solely for white men. Over the course of the day, they participated in facilitated discussions about privilege, gender, and race, William Golub (10) said.

Stephen Tejada, an actor and writer, delivered the keynote address. Tejada performed two original monologues, one reflecting on his childhood in the Bronx with an alcoholic father, and the other a conversation with his best friend before leaving for college.

This year marked the second year that the two conferences combined, Diversity Associate John Gentile said. "It's important for us to know how we create our identities and who we are and to build tools and skill sets for the world."

Russell Marsh, Associate Director of Diversity & Institutional Equity at the Brooklyn Friends School, has been attending YMOCS with his students for the past four years, each year receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback from attendees, he said.

YMOCS "was a perfect fit. Typically, I hear mostly from women—they attend conferences more often—and it was good to hear from other men," Ricardo Pinnock (11) said.

Pinnock attended two workshops, the first of which addressed Hotep Syndrome, which is "when black men are only active in social justice issues that concern them, kind of like white feminism," he said.

Golub was spurred to attend (Re)Defining Power due to its addressing being white and male "so I thought that was an interesting opportunity for me to get involved," he said.

Although the two conferences dealt with the idea of race from different standpoints, they both discussed aspects of gender from the male perspective through conversations about the concept of masculinity, policing of gender, and gender stereotypes.

"The most valuable thing I learned was that it has to be the responsibility of the majority to ensure that change happens and progress occurs, not just a small minority," Golub said.

For Pinnock, the most valuable aspect of the conference was the ability to identify with other students who attended.

"I always think it's very important for boys and men to get together and do the work on ourselves, in no other space are we allowed to just be without putting on a show," Marsh said.

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Driver's Ed redux

Lutie Brown (11) implores the school to reinstitute a Driver's Education course.

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HMTC fall show debuts

"Experiment with An Air Pump" chronicles the ethics of scientific research in 1799 and 1999.

Arts, Pages 4 & 5

MD diversity

Hilltop Diversity Conference teaches students to find their voices and express individuality.

Middle Division, Page 6

A call to reinstitute Driver's Ed at school



Lutie Brown

Twice a week, I take one bus and two subways to get to school. The commute takes around two hours and 15 minutes, so I leave my house in Queens at 5:45 a.m. and get to school just before class starts. Driving to school takes around 45 minutes, but I will not be driving to school next year because I will not have a driver's license.

I'm 16 and eligible to register for a driver's education course, but I don't have the resources to take the ones available to me. Both Dalton and Fieldston offer the program, but I cannot afford the \$650 tuition, and I don't have the additional time to commute to and from their campuses.

Our school should offer a driver's ed course, as it did until 2013. According to a poll conducted by The Record, 89.7 percent of students who have not yet taken driver's ed would take the course at HM if it were available.

The school used to offer driver's ed as a half-year course, running from September to December. Driving instructors from a driving school in Riverdale held lecture classes on Mondays during 1 period, and students signed up for time behind the wheel during free periods.

The program was located on campus and cost \$110 less than the driving courses offered by Dalton and Fieldston.

A certificate of completion of a driver's ed program is required in order to receive a Class D NY State driver's license at 17, which is necessary to drive in any of the five boroughs. I am going to be 17 next year, and driving to school would save me six hours a week, and my parents four and a half hours.

However, despite the program's popularity, the administration ultimately terminated the program; students had begun to prioritize driving over meeting with teachers and making up tests, electing to

use their free periods for driving rather than fulfilling their academic responsibilities.

I fully agree that academics should always come before recreation, but, for some students, driving is crucial to their preparation for adult life. Hosting such a program helps to foster responsibility and enables students to learn this skill, but at the end of the day, driving is a privilege.

Still, the school can afford the program, and there are no issues with liability, Dean of Student Life Dr. Susan Delanty said.

Thus, in order to successfully reinstitute driver's ed, the school needs a way to ensure that students participating in the program fulfill their academic responsibilities.

If the administration set a grade requirement of a B+ average in the trimester before applying to the program that students must maintain, academic success would become a pre-requisite and co-requisite of driver's ed.

If students miss appointments

or rescheduled tests to drive or if their grades drop below the B+ average, they will be removed from the program. This solution not only promotes accountability but also motivates students to perform well in their classes throughout their entire high school careers.

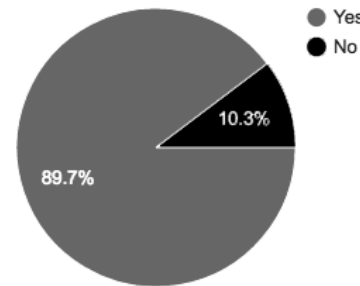
Not all of the 395 students over the age of 16, who are eligible to take part in driver's ed programs, can attend the alternative programs offered by Dalton and Fieldston due to time and money restraints.

If we add on a requisite of a B+ average for students applying to and participating in a driver's ed program at the school, the administration could provide students with the opportunity to learn to drive safely while ensuring that it doesn't come at the expense of academic achievement.

Students are interested in participating in this potential program for its practicality, convenience, and more affordable cost, and they would, therefore, work to keep their grades up in order to qualify. The matter of students' neglecting academics can be easily solved, and, without this complication, the school could bring back this popular and practical program.

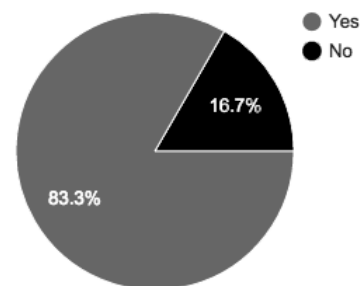
Students who have not completed a Driver's Education course:

Would you take Driver's Ed at HM in the future if the school offered it?



Students who have completed a Driver's Education course:

Would you have taken Driver's Ed at HM if the school had offered it?



The results of this poll are compiled from responses of 189 Upper Division students.



Kat Snoddy/Art Director

Veterans Day: the importance of appreciating those who have served



Liz Fortunato

Last Friday, in New York City, while about 5,000 protesters marched in front of Trump Tower, still trying to process the results of the election, there were 30 times more people shouting and waving signs several blocks to the south. And I'll bet most of you reading this couldn't even guess what was happening.

It was the annual Veterans Day Parade, and as our service men and women proudly marched down Fifth Avenue, you would not have known it was Veterans Day at our school.

In the five years I have been a student here, the school has never formally acknowledged this day

dedicated to appreciating America's heroes. There have been no assemblies, no ceremonies, no laying of wreathes- not even a moment of silence. Our school continues to fail to acknowledge Veterans Day, and this needs to change.

The right to vote, the right to live in a democratic republic, the right to protest, and the right to express ourselves would not exist if it were not for our heroes in uniform.

With our nation as deeply divided as it has ever been in our young lives, let's never forget why we have the freedom to fight for what we believe in.



Annie Liu/Contributing Artist

EDITORIAL

Exploring social issues in arts and culture

At our school, we have observed that many high-level science and math classes are male-dominated. In our experiences, we have observed males assuming ownership over advanced STEM classes. From our editorial board's conversation about honors math and science classes, we shared similar accounts of males dominating class discussions while females restrain themselves from participating due to feelings that they're in a "boys class."

We have also experienced that females who are just as capable as their male peers feel scared of voicing any confusion or speaking unless they are 100 percent sure they are correct, for fear of reinforcing a stereotype of being a "stupid girl."

As a board, we believe that arts and entertainment play a crucial role in forming societal values. When audiences witness gender roles in popular culture, they carry these images into, and allow these images to shape, their perceptions of the real world.

Last week the Horace Mann Theatre Company (HMTc) put on a production of "An Experiment with an Air Pump." In the show the audience watched a respected female scientist and her husband debate about the morality of using stem-cells in scientific research. The two fought bitterly when the woman was offered a job that paid much more than her husband's did in part because the wife suspected that he felt emasculated by the overthrow of traditional gender roles. In an alternate scene set two centuries in the past, a housewife berated her husband for constantly ignoring her comments in favor of his male friends' opinions because he did not think her remarks intelligent or noteworthy.

Through the depiction of women in science, audiences clearly saw how women have been fighting for greater representation and respect in STEM fields. By featuring women in STEM, "An Experiment with an Air Pump" calls attention to the gender discrimination that affects women in STEM.

As a board we applaud the HMTc for putting on this production because we believe that it is important to show the reality of women in STEM fields through arts and culture that translates into everyday society.

CORRECTIONS - ISSUE 9

The headline for "Boys Cross Country wins Ivy League Championships" was inaccurate; Boys Cross Country placed sixth out of eight at the Ivy League Championship Meet.

In the Lions' Den Sports Awards, Armand Dang (11) was incorrectly listed as Most Valuable Player, and Mike Wang (12) was incorrectly listed as winner of the Coach's Award.

Noah Shapiro (12) was awarded Most Valuable Player, and Nikolas Elrifi (12) won Coach's Award.

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Chung’s (10) poetry featured in environmental poetry contest

PERI BROOKS
Contributing Writer

Elizabeth Chung’s (10) poem, “Death’s Parade,” a poem about ocean environmental activism that discusses the serious harm that oil spills cause for animals, was featured in this year’s Ocean Awareness Student Contest Poetry Category.

The Ocean Awareness Student Contest Poetry Category is a competition designed to inspire environmental activism through education and engagement with the arts and sciences.

In her poem, Chung uses dark, somber imagery to describe the devastating impact of ocean pollution. Her sincere tone strongly conveys this perspective to readers, and brings several troublesome images of deceased animals to life.

“Through using this imagery, I hope to get readers to really envision and understand how horrible pollution truly is. I want readers to feel remorseful. Pollution is something we should be paying attention to, but we are not, so readers should feel this sense,” Chung said.

Chung began writing “Death’s Parade” towards the end of the third trimester

last year. She was inspired to write her poem after having a discussion with her mother about an oil spill in Korea, Chung said.

As a horseback rider and an owner of two dogs, Chung has always been very passionate about nature and animals.

“These experiences have given me a very empathetic view about animals, because I work with them all the time” Chung said. The prompt for her poem challenged her to write about ocean activism. “I wrote about a point of ocean activism that resonated with me the most,” she said.

Chung’s passion for environmental advocacy influenced her to give her poem a dark edge. In order to mirror her view that pollution is a terrible action occurring globally, she chose to give her poem an ominous, melancholy tone.

“I wanted to bring the more disturbing aspect of pollution to light,” Chung said. She achieves this aspect throughout the poem, by providing readers with disturbing images of deceased animals that had been killed by an oil spill.

English teacher Harry Bauld, Chung’s current teacher, thought her poem paralleled her classwork in that it is “very direct, concise and powerful,” he said. He characterized her poem as a

polemical poem due to its argumentative nature.

He appreciates the fact that Chung’s poem is neither an essay nor rant about her outrage, because she is accurately able to “translate these feelings into an image line and metaphor,” Bauld said.

“She is very articulate in class, and at the same time, she understands the psychological landscape of the novels we are reading,” Bauld said. “She has an interesting way of translating her

Death’s Parade ELIZABETH CHUNG

Bodies mesh together
Forming a sick conga line
That drifts through the water
Ribbons of black color
Trail after the celebrants
Of Death’s parade
A bird’s corpse
Dyed a slick black
Heads the marching band
Rows of lifeless fish
Mouths gaping open

insights from the reading into a slangy, contemporary idiom.”

“Elizabeth was very, very engaged throughout the year. She really ate up the writing trimester because it is so tailored to creative writing. What was interesting was that her engagement did not seem to fall below even after the writing trimester. The creativity infiltrated her analytical essays in an interesting way, in that she was able to bring creativity and analysis together” English Department

Chair Vernon Wilson, Chung’s ninth grade English teacher, said.

“Elizabeth was a risk taker in the sense that she had a lot of skill, and she was not a student who would rely on safe formulas or what she knew she could do well,” Wilson said. “She would often stretch metaphors, and then she was able to make a poem that was very vibrant. She was able to stick with what may have been a crazy idea and make it blossom into something else.”



Paul Jang/Contributing Artist

INDEPENDENT STUDY PROFILES

AMIR MOAZAMI
Staff Writer

Independent Study provides upperclassmen a chance to concentrate on a particular field of study for a full year. Students present and discuss their research in their seminar classes.

EMERGING MARKETS

Pranav Srinivasan (12) recognized his passion for investing when he was eight years old when his dad first showed him how to buy and sell stocks.

His passion for investing, combined with Srinivasan having lived on several continents with different economies, shaped his independent study on emerging markets.

Part of Srinivasan’s interest in emerging markets instead of more established markets is because due to the rapid economic growth that tends to take place in B.R.I.C countries. B.R.I.C is an acronym representing Brazil, Russia, India, and China, or countries with major markets in terms of economic size that have recently “as a result of political and economic changes transformed over the past twenty years,” Srinivasan said.

From a microeconomic perspective, he will examine policy shifts in major industries and how individuals’ economic choices affect them; from a macroeconomic viewpoint he will study

interest rate policies and central banks, Srinivasan’s independent study mentor Eva Abbamonte said.

Over the course of the first trimester, Srinivasan read papers in economic journals to better understand the micro- and macroeconomic features in the Chinese economy. Srinivasan is currently enrolled in AP Economics and has been able to use information from the class to aid his project.

In the second trimester, Srinivasan will shift his attention to the Indian economy because of its central economic importance and his personal connection to India, he said.

One tenet that he plans to focus on is how Indian emigration patterns, which have resulted in the loss of many of the country’s educated and wealthy individuals, affect the country’s economic patterns, he said.

Srinivasan hopes to end the year by studying Brazil; because of time constraints, he will not study Russia, the last nation in B.R.I.C. However, he plans to study markets of some form for the rest of his academic and professional life.

CRIMINAL PSYCHOLOGY

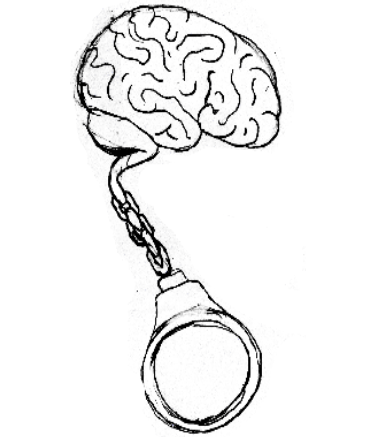
Motivated by his experience in the school’s introductory psychology class and a summer internship in government, Matthew Bach (12) has been researching criminal psychology as his Independent Study project.

Through his summer intership in the District Attorney’s office, Bach saw firsthand the deleterious impacts of the prison system on convicts. He hopes to eventually use the knowledge he acquires to help rehabilitate prisoners back into society, he said.

Over the course of the year, Bach will focus on the dynamic between changes in the structure of the brain and their subsequent psychological impacts. Bach used the first trimester to learn about significant neurological structures, and then in the second trimester he will relate the changes in those structures to criminal behavior.

One of the more prominent examples that demonstrates a potential effect of a neurological change that Bach found, is the the case of a man with a persistent lesion in his brain that caused him to molest children; when the legion was removed, so was the individual’s desire to harm children.

This study also highlights one of the key ideas Bach has gained from his research: “a criminal pyschopath is defined as who finds it advantageous to go against the law which is in contrast to individuals who unintentionally break the law,” he said.



Spyri Potamopoulou/Staff Artist

Affinity groups make strides in second year

SARAH SHIN
Staff Writer

The affinity groups that have been taking place at school since last year continue to foster discussions in light of current events affecting people with marginalized identities.

Affinity groups are a space in which those with a common identifier can feel comfortable and confident to voice their joys, their sorrows, their vulnerabilities, their strengths, and their weaknesses and know that others in their space will understand where they are coming from without the lingering question of why that is, BLEx, or Black Excellence, affinity group leader and computer

science teacher Danah Screen said.

From what he has seen, mWhy students who have attended affinity groups feel that it is a positive place to share ideas with people who share the same identity, Noah Shapiro (12) said.

“During affinity group meetings, we try to let students carry in whatever burden they have with them and share it with the group, whether it be in relation to recent events or just in general. As facilitators, we let them know that their feelings are valid, and give them pieces of wisdom and advice as a group from shared experiences,” Screen said.

The affinity groups are open to anybody who feels that they belong in that space, Enright said.

We sometimes have notions about who people are based on what we see or what we presume, and that inhibits the ability to really engage with each other.

NAOMI ENRIGHT DIVERSITY ASSOCIATE

science teacher Danah Screen said.

The affinity groups that meet are A.W.A.R.E., the Association for White Anti-Racist Education for white people; BLEx for black people; Generasian for Asian people; Mosaico for Latin and Hispanic people; the Multiethnic Multiracial Affinity Group for those who identify with multiple ethnicities and races; and PRIDE, for members of the LGBTQ+ community.

After attending several conferences such as the Student Diversity Leadership Conference and People of Color Conference, several members of the school community began to question whether or not affinity groups should take place, Screen said.

Though affinity groups were already in the works, the backlash to the controversial Student Body President video and the national increase in hate crimes catalyzed their formation, Generasian affinity group leader and science teacher Michelle Lee said.

“It’s a chance for students who aren’t necessarily engaging with the conversation in this work and other spaces to engage in that space and to feel a sense of comfort and validation and safety,” Diversity Associate Naomi

Enright said.

“I think that we sometimes have notions about who people are based on what we see or what we presume, and I think that inhibits open dialogue and the ability to really engage with each other,” Enright said.

One of the reasons why people don’t come often to these meetings is because of not knowing what they are for, McLamb said. “There’s not really a given definition as to what affinity groups are, which is something that we’re working on,” Yasmin McLamb (10) said.

Others do not feel comfortable going into an affinity group meeting because they find labeling themselves with a certain group of people can be intimidating, McLamb said.

“I haven’t joined an affinity group primarily due to the lack of time. Not only that, but I do not identify with any of the groups, so I feel it is unnecessary for me to attend,” Julie Moreira (10) said.

One aspect of affinity groups that can improve is the amount of action that comes after fruitful discussion, Shapiro said.

“Sometimes it feels like we voice a lot of our concerns but not a lot of action is done about it so I feel like possibly some form of action from the administration or the faculty could be powerful,” he said.

HISTORY OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Zach Troyanovsky (12) was inspired to focus on the history of political parties to understand the 2016 election cycle in a broader historical context.

The political discussion that often takes place during family dinners inspired Troyanovsky to gain a better understanding of the political system, he said.

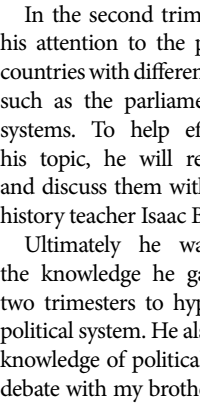
Initially, Troyanovsky leaned towards focusing exclusively on current political issues and the emergence of political outsiders seen in this election; however, at the advice of Director of Independent Study Avram Schlesinger, he decided to focus his attention on understanding the broader history of political parties, he said. “Hopefully by studying the past I can see if some of the features of this election have existed previously,” he said.

In the first trimester, Troyanovsky researched the development of party politics beginning from the American Revolution to the present day. He has found some success by discovering that

General Zachary Taylor, similar to president-elect Donald Trump, was a brash and unconventional political candidate, and ultimately led to the fracture of the Whig Party. The parallelism helped Troyanovsky see how the Republican president-elect’s populist appeal can shape the future of the country.

In the second trimester, he will shift his attention to the political parties of countries with different political systems, such as the parliamentary and feudal systems. To help effectively research his topic, he will read news sources and discuss them with his mentor, MD history teacher Isaac Brooks.

Ultimately he wants to combine the knowledge he gained in the first two trimesters to hypothesize an ideal political system. He also hopes to use his knowledge of political parties to “win a debate with my brother here and there,” Troyanovsky said.





Amrita Acharya/Staff Photographer

AN EXPERIMENT WITH AN AIR PUMP

First's (12) original set transports audience to 18th century

NATASHA POSTER
Staff Writer

Walking into the Black Box Theater, one would immediately think that they were in the 18th century due to the dark stained wooden floor, door and shelves on the impeccable set designed by Adam First (12).

When First designs sets for school shows, he comes up with a phrase that describes its thematic appearance. The phrase for *An Experiment with an Air Pump* was “peripheral disintegration,” he said.

“It basically means that once you get further and further away from the set, the walls start to deteriorate and break away, so you could see the beams supporting them and bricks falling apart,” First said.

Because the show is a mystery, First wanted to have the set breaking away so that it would unravel as the story itself was unraveling, he said.

The show takes place in both 1799 and 1999, with two different but corresponding storylines. Because of this, First decided to make a turntable in the middle of the set - one side being for 1799 and the other for 1999, he said. The two worlds took place on either side of a wall. For set changes, the runners rotated the entire wall counter-clockwise, transporting audiences to a scene two hundred years apart from the previous scene.

On one side, dark wooden shelves housed taxidermy, skeletons, and old books, with the walls painted a bright red, to represent 1799. On the other side, a bare wall painted light blue with a green tint holds a curtain instead of a door, representing 1999.

For the 1999 set, First tried to make it look like the house had been renovated many times, with plaster on the walls and boxes on the floor,

which added to the accuracy of the show, actor Elizabeth Price (12) said.

First wanted the 1799 side of the set to be busy and chaotic, so he asked Laboratory Technician Rudy Reiblein to borrow some of the skeletons and taxidermy from the Science Department, and Reiblein was happy to help, he said.

“I really wanted the audience to walk in and immediately say ‘Wow, I’m in a 1799 weird laboratory study,’” First said.

“I read the script and kind of decided that [a turntable] was what it needed,” First said.

This was the first turntable built in the Black Box Theater, which meant that there would need to be two different sets built in the same time frame as any other production, so there was a time crunch, First said.

For stage manager Marissa Parks (12), the set was a challenge because she had to figure out how to communicate with the people turning the set during the show, she said.

To resolve this issue, Parks ended up putting a light backstage that would indicate to the stage crew when to turn the set, she said.

“I wanted the set to match the tone and style of the show and support the actors and help them get into character,” First said.

To build the set, First enlisted the crew and Faculty Technical Director Joel Sherry, First said.

Sherry helped First figure out which elements were essential to the show while also remaining practical, First

said.

For turning such a big set with many people on it at times, Parks believes that the crew did a great job at making the turntable look good despite the hassle of turning it, she said.

Rachel Cheng (12), who designed the lighting for the show, collaborated with First to make sure that the lighting complemented all of the aspects of the set, she said.

The biggest challenge for Cheng was to find two different looks for two drastically different time periods, she said. She dealt with this by using warmer colors for the 1799 scenes to highlight the sheer number of objects in the room, and cooler colors for the 1999 scenes for a sense of vacancy, she said.

When one of the characters read

a letter to herself in front of the audience, the set was dimmed to light up the actor on stage, while during set changes cool lighting designs were used so that the audience could see the set, Parks said.

It was interesting to work with a turntable, because she was able to play with lights during transitions between centuries so that the audience was not sitting in the dark, Cheng said.

Because of the small size of the Black Box, there were many compromises that needed to be made in order to coordinate the set along with the lighting, Cheng said.

First tried to incorporate a beam of light into the set, and it interfered with Cheng’s lighting, so he had to do away with it, he said.

Lighting dictates the mood of the

show and how the actors feel on stage, and Rachel did a wonderful job with it, Price said. The subtle details such as the light outside of a window to represent a riot happening really made a difference, she said.

“It’s hard to picture yourself in 1799 without costumes and the set,” Price said.

The set was amazing and contributed to the overall success of the show, actor Govind Menon (11) said.

This was the first show that First and Cheng had the opportunity to work so closely together even though they have been a part of the Horace Mann Theatre Company since the eighth grade, Cheng said. They are looking forward to working together again on the upcoming musical in the spring.



Amrita Acharya/Staff Photographer

Eric Blum (10), who plays Joseph Fenwick, sits at his desk in his study decorated with taxidermist animals.

Costumes reflect fashion styles of the past

SARAH SHIN
Staff Writer

Zoe Vogelsang (11) wore two costumes, a red dress paired with a royal blue and white cape, and a long, pink, frilly dress in order to portray her character of a rebellious young woman in 1799 determined to be a scientist.

She was one example of how the costumes in “An Experiment with An Air Pump” helped the actors and actresses portray their characters accurately.

The costumes really illustrated the time period and the characters beautifully, actress Kyra Mo (9) said.

“There was lots of online research involved for the costumes for the 18th century, because we wanted to be as accurate as possible. At the time, the style of clothes was more flowing and less aristocratic because it was after the Revolutionary War,” costume director Wendy Phillips Kahn said.

The costumes in the 18th century scenes looked like they were straight out of a history book, whereas the ones from the 20th century looked like the clothes worn today. The clothing choices definitely reflected

the different fashion styles of the time, actor Joshua Tom (10) said.

The play took place over the period of a few days, so to show that each scene was a new day, the costumes had to change slightly over the course of the show.

“For example, for the ladies, each character had three different shawls for each day, which subliminally affected the audience to let them know that the scene took place on a different day,” Kahn said.

However, to show the connection between the two time periods, certain aspects of the costumes, such as the seasons from both eras remained constant. This showed the connection between the two scenes despite the time difference, Kahn said.

The costumes of the play reflected the characters through many elements, such as color. These connections between the costumes and the characters caused actors to carry themselves differently depending on what they wore.

One of the costumes included a tailcoat which had to be moved aside when sitting down. That movement caused the actors to reflect the mannerisms of the people at the time, Kahn said.

The costumes caused the actors to be more in character. “The actresses who wore long dresses were forced to walk around with better posture and take care of little things like lifting up their dresses when walking up stairs,” stage manager Marissa Parks (12) said.

“My costume represented my character Roget, who was very eccentric. He had an obsession with lists, and had a better relationship with words than with his friends. The costume reflected that through its use of a wide variety of colors,” Tom said.

“My costume portrayed my character, who was a conspiracy theorist with good intentions, through the use of darker tones. I wore the same pants in both acts, yet alternated between a flannel shirt-sweater combo, overalls matched with a plaid green shirt, and finally a coat with a dress shirt underneath,” actor Govind Menon (11) said.

“For this play, I also wore a wig for the first time, which was a challenge but effective. A lot of my friends couldn’t recognize me with the wig, which goes to show how transformative a costume can be,” Tom said.



Amrita Acharya/Staff Photographer

Bebe Steel (10) and Zoe Vogelsang (11) donned in elaborate costumes reflecting fashion from the eighteenth century.

STUDENT REVIEW

Play explores ethical and social dilemmas in science

GUSTIE OWENS
Staff Writer

Joseph Wright’s painting, “An Experiment on a Bird in the Air Pump,” hung illuminated in front of an anticipating audience. “I’ve loved this painting since I was thirteen years old. I’ve loved it because it has a scientist at the heart of it, a scientist where you usually find God,” Ellen, played by Binah Schatsky (11), professed in the play’s opening line as cast members wearing breeches, capes, wigs, and long dresses filed onto stage.

The theme of science dominated Shelagh Stephenson’s “An Experiment with An Air Pump,” performed by the Horace Mann Theater Company last Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The protagonists’ love for science was at the core of dialogue throughout the play, which touched upon the themes of the role of women in science, ethics in science, and balancing relationships with love of science.

The painting from the first scene was taken down, revealing a scene nearly identical to the one seen in the painting. Scientist Joseph Fenwick, played by Eric Blum (11), conducted an experiment on a bird that incites an argument about the mortality of the bird. This show was, in a sense, one long argument and series of tensions between the English and the Scottish, arts and sciences, ethics and money, serving class and upper class, and more.

Just as the Fenwick family and two visiting scientists hold a spirited discussion, the stage revolves entirely to reveal yet another set of ethical, scientific, and social dilemmas in the same house 200 years later with a different set of characters.

The set, designed by Adam First (12), served as one of the greatest factors in

the show’s success. The revolving set seamlessly shifted between the lavishly decorated 1799 home and the boxed-up 1999 home, allowing the similarities and plot overlap between the two worlds to become more apparent to the audience. Additionally, at the end of the play, the revolving stage revealed the suicide of the beloved servant Isobel, played by Elizabeth Price (12). As the stage rotated slowly to reveal a dummy costumed like Isobel hanging by a rope, one could hear the audience gasp.

The piece works well as a powerful thought provoking drama by examining ethical, scientific, and social dilemmas. Because the play focuses on the issues of two time periods, the play provides a unique look at the changes in the roles of

to listen to the men around him. However, at the same time, Susannah forced her daughter Harriet, played by Zoe Vogelsang (11) to pursue poetry and playwriting as opposed to science. Steel did an excellent job portraying a relatable character that felt rejected and angry.

In the 1999 plotline, Ellen is confronted with the ethics of her embryo stem-cell research. Her partner Tom, played by Alex Chang (11), was opposed to the research, and he references the several abortions Ellen has had. Watching this play right after an election cycle in which a woman’s right to choose and the ethics of that decision are a constant subject of national debate, the issues discussed in the play feel more relevant than

ever. While the subject was painfully pertinent, the play examined the issue in a unique way and discussed scientific issues in a different light. Moving past the expected debate about the difference between “a cluster of cells” and a life, the play discussed other issues like the corporate nature of science, the ethics of terminating a pregnancy based on a genetic abnormality, and more.

The actors artfully embodied the heart wrenching nature of the decisions they made. In addition to providing a dramatic and eye-opening performance, the actors elicited gasps and nods. The play included plenty of staged humor, such as the intentionally awful play within the play; witty dialogue throughout the script; and amusing costume pieces including a chimney hat that puffed out steam and a sheep costume. This humor helped make intense subjects and material more light-hearted.

The emotion in the play resided in the Armstrong’s manipulation of Isobel, the discussion of stem-cell research, and

Harriet’s aspirations to be a scientist despite her mother’s encouraging her to be a poet. Due to the portrayal of scientists as conniving and corrupt, by the end of the play it seemed as if the primary function of the play was to critique science. However, despite the intense emotional drama in the play, the humor and entertainment value of the play left me inspired, not drained, as I left the Black Box.



Damali O’Keefe/Staff Artist

“Watching this play right after an election cycle in which a woman’s right to choose and the ethics of that decision are a constant subject of national debate, the issues discussed in the play feel more relevant than ever.”

-Gustie Owens (11)

women and issues women face.

In 1799, Isobel was pursued by Thomas Armstrong, played by Jacob Chin (9), who intends to win her favor so that he can use her body for scientific research when she dies. Price’s acting stood out in particular, as the innocence and kindness she portrayed made Armstrong’s toying with her even more disturbing. The choreography in these scenes was excellent, and the combination of Chin’s forwardness and Price’s vulnerability resonated effectively.

Additionally, Fenwick’s wife, Susannah, played by Bebe Steel (10), captured the rejection many women at the time felt from intellectual circles, as her husband refuses to take her comments seriously, preferring instead



Amrita Acharya/Staff Photographer

Joshua Tom (10), who plays Peter Mark Roget, ponders the moral implications of his friend Armstrong’s scheme to obtain Isobel’s body for dissection.

MD Diversity Conference encourages everyone to have a voice

MEGHA NELIVIGI
Staff Writer

The school hosted the 10th annual Middle Division Hilltop Diversity Conference on Monday.

The conference always includes the two other hilltop schools – Riverdale Country School and the Ethical Culture Fieldston School. The three or four other schools change from year to year; St. Ignatius, MS 279, InTech, and the School at Columbia attended this year, Diversity Associate Naomi Enright said.

Students participated in workshops where they conducted interviews about past experiences and wrote poems with a group of artists called Urban Word.

Another workshop dealt with an already established project entitled “The Race Card Project”, in which students wrote a six-word essay that “encapsulates their experiences or thoughts on race, racism, and identity,” Enright said.

The conference was mainly student-planned, Enright said. In addition to general planning and invitations, the five-student planning committee created a theme and slogan for this year’s conference. “The theme this year was everyone



SPEAKING TO THE CROWD Ashley August of Urban Word NYC leads a poetry workshop at the MD Diversity Conference on Monday

having a voice and everyone having their own voice,” committee member Karina Iman (8) said.

The slogan was “online, on stage, on us;” it speaks to communication and the different platforms people use to have their voices heard,

Enright said.

Iman joined the committee because she wanted to spread awareness about diversity while being able to help plan the event at the same time, she said.

“I want people to be aware of others

of different genders, sexualities, and races who don’t have a voice,” she said.

Around 24 students from the school attended the conference, while the biggest groups from other schools consisted of about 27

students, Enright said. “The conference was a way to help people understand the magnitude of their words and actions when they’re addressing diversity,” a topic that is not discussed much at school, Nsehra Tutu (8) said.

“Our school touches on diversity, but not as much as I’d like it to. Diversity is really important to me, and I think it should be for everyone – it should always be in the backs of people’s minds,” Iman said.

Conference planning committee member Sadie Hill (8) said that meeting people from other schools was one of the things she was looking forward to. She found that each school’s whole identity was different, as well as the individual identities of the people who attend those schools.

“We got to see things through other people’s eyes; we saw how people see themselves versus how we see them,” Iman said.

Enright felt that the conference had a powerful impact. “I think the conference really brings the community together. Each school talks about diversity separately, but at the conference we were bringing the entire hilltop community together,” she said.

CROSS COUNTRY

Girls Cross Country

“It was a great season and the kids worked hard; one girl came in first in the championship. We had great camaraderie,” Coach Meredith Cullen said.

Boys Cross Country

“They did a great job all season, training hard and supporting one another,” Coach Jon Eshoo said. “We had a very positive season with some of our kids finishing at the top of races and all eventually improving their times a great deal.”

VOLLEYBALL

Girls Eighth Grade Volleyball
2-4

“Regardless of the record, we had a good season and the girls learned a lot to improve their volleyball skills as individuals and as a team,” Coach Jason Torres said.

Girls Seventh Grade Volleyball
6-0

“We started out very basic and our skills improved immensely as we became a solid team,” Coach RJ Harmon said. “We started looking like a real volleyball team by the middle of the season.”

FOOTBALL

Boys Football
1-3

“We’re very pleased with the commitment day in and day out from our players,” Coach Robert Annunziata said.

TENNIS

Girls Tennis
5-0

“We had to practice off campus and the girls were great and practiced for a good thirty minutes a day, progressing terrifically with their skills,” Coach Rawlings Troop said.

FIELD HOCKEY

Girls Field Hockey
2-2-1

“It’s been a great season, and we worked very hard as a team. Even though we had some losses, we still collaborated very well,” Helena Yang (8) said.

WATER POLO

Co-ed Water Polo
1-3

“The team was large, learned a tremendous amount, and had a lot of fun,” Coach Michael Duffy said.

SOCCER

Boys Seventh Grade Soccer
7-0

“We had a very talented team, and should be a force within our league in the future,” Coach Aaron Taylor said.

Girls Soccer
5-3-1

“They really tried hard and improved everyday,” Coach Sam Bergen said. “They really cared and were fun to be around. They have improved immensely since last year.”

Boys Eighth Grade Soccer
2-6

“The team worked hard all year long and it paid off with these two wins. We came together and finished strong. The boys played hard and it is all I can ask of them,” Coach Edwin Santiago said.



GIRLS BASKETBALL

SANDHYA SHYAM
Staff Writer

With four new additions on this year, Girls Varsity Basketball is an entirely different team, Coach Ray Barile said.

The new members of the team are Ella Anthony (9), Tess Lehrman (9), Halley Robbins (9), and Julia Robbins (9).

The team's first scrimmage will take place next Tuesday at home against the Urseline School.

"Right now, we seem to have a lot of great talent, but we're focusing on refining the team chemistry," Barile said. "The girls have never played together as a team before."

"I think we have lots of talent on the team and have the potential to really go far and win many games, hopefully making the playoffs," Zaie Nursey (11) said.

The team is generally smaller and younger, with the freshmen serving as the biggest presence on the team. The team lost one senior from last year, Jaylah deGout '16, as well as Jordan Nixon, who transferred to another school to focus on basketball.

Nixon was a crucial player on the team, Barile said.

"A lot of times we would rely on just her to be the main scorer," he said. "This year, rather than relying on just one girl, more of the team will be involved."

Due to Nixon's departure, many players on the

team this year have to play different positions to make up for the loss, Barile said. co-Captain Jojo Levy (12), a guard and a forward, must take on deGout's role as a rebounder.

"Last year we had different girls with obvious strengths and skillsets," co-Captain Skylar Rosen (12) said. "This year, I think we'll be better at playing as an actual team that's more balanced."

"As an individual player I really need to focus on my personal conditioning and stamina as well as my defense," Nursey said.

In terms of technique, the team is working on passing and ball handling in particular, Barile said.

The team makes intelligent plays and has a wide variety of skills, Rosen said.

The Peg Duggan Memorial Tournament will kick off the season at Horace Mann on December 1st.

"It's going to be a great season and I encourage everyone to support us," Nursey said.



ELLA FEINER
Staff Writer

Despite losing many of its most competitive members last year, the Varsity Ski Team looks forward to a strong season co-Captain Sophie Maltby (12) said.

The team hopes to focus more on race technique. Many members ski outside of school, but not in a competitive setting, Maltby said. When ski racing, it's important to not just ski straight down the hill, but to use proper technique in order to go faster, she said.

"A lot of people look at it and think they have to be a really good skier to get involved, but actually most of the people on the team have never raced outside of school," she said.

Though the team lost many dynamic seniors last year, they still have a strong base of juniors and seniors, Maltby said. Isabel Kronenberg (12), who skies competitively outside of school, has helped the girls team improve its standing in the league, Varsity Ski Coach Rawlins Troop said.

"We have a lot of juniors and seniors coming back, which is going to help the leadership of the team a lot," he said.

The boys team lost two of its most competitive seniors last year, James Hayman '16 and August Culbert '16. Without

these important members, the team is searching for juniors, sophomores, and even seniors to "rise to that level," Maltby said.

Co-Captain Matthew Bach (12) hopes that there will be more race opportunities this year, he said.

Due to issues with the weather, there was not enough snow for most races, and the team was only able to compete once last year. However, this winter is anticipated to be colder, he said.

The team's main competitors are public schools in Westchester, Bach said. These schools often have more practice time than the Lions do. The team only practices two times a week if they are lucky, Troop said. During these practices, they are able to take a bus to Thunder Ridge and race on practice courses, he said. Additionally, the Lions will go to Vermont in December for a training weekend, Bach said.

During the training weekend, the Lions hope to focus on technique. Troop wants them to practice carving and blocking, two important aspects of race strategy, he said.

The team has had success in their league in the past few years, Troop said, due in part to Kronenberg's speed. The Lions are aiming to place in the top half of their league this season, he said.



SQUASH

RICARDO PINNOCK
Staff Writer

"We are in the process of 'reloading' the team as we lost a valuable group of seniors last year," Varsity Squash Coach Ron Beller said.

With no seniors on the Varsity Squash team, there are less people to look up to, and some younger players will have to fill positions in the playing ladder, co-Captain Siddharth Tripathi (11) said.

Having no seniors on the team is actually a really great experience because I think it gives opportunity for the young kids to feel more comfortable," Pippa Gunther (11) said.

A benefit of having no seniors is that the team will be together again next year so as a group they have more room for improvement, she said.

Despite the lack of upperclassmen, the level of talent from incoming freshman and returning players equals, if not significantly tops last year's team, as many players play outside squash competitively outside of school, Beller said.

For co-Captains Tripathi and Aman Sanger (11), who have both been on the team since their freshman year, the task of leading a young team is made easier by the fact that they are like a "team of captains," Beller said.

"We are in our own bubble because we practice at a different facility. The team

consists of only 11 people, and we are becoming better as a single unit," Tripathi said.

"There is a common misconception that squash is an individual sport, but that is not the case because you have to win as a team in order to win the meet," co-Captain Siddharth Tripathi (11) said.

Whether driving to Sarah Lawrence College for practice or cheering team mates during practice and meets, the Lions have plenty of opportunities to solidify their family-like bond between now and the end of the season, Tripathi said.

"One of my best memories is when the team stormed the court after one of our players closed out a tough five-set match that was the determining factor of whether we'd win the meet or not," Beller said.

"You can tell from the tryouts and practices that we are trending towards a strong family atmosphere," he said.

This year the coach has added 6-7 extra matches outside of the team's league to give the players more practice, Gunther said.



ABBY KANTER
Staff Writer

The Boys and Girls Varsity Swim teams began this season hoping to win the Ivy League Championship. Last year, the boys placed fourth at the Ivy League Championship while the girls placed second by a heartbreaking four points.

"It was the strongest championship performance in Horace Mann history, and we were so proud of what we were able to accomplish in terms of personal bests, team records, and even league records," Ailee Mendoza (12) said.

"I'd say in order to win this year, we need to be strategic in our lineups and we all need to work very hard because our devastating loss last year proved that every single point from every single swimmer counts," Mendoza said.

The Lions have wealth of new talent on the team. Pratham Gandhi (9) and Eddy Jin (9) have a lot to offer to the team, Eva Fortunato (10) said.

The team is also happy to have Nathalie Eid (12) back this year.

"She's swimming for Yale next year, so she is going to be a huge asset for us especially in the distance freestyle events," Mendoza said.

The team is also counting on Noah Shapiro (12) for sprinting, Chris Shaari (12) and Betsey Bennet (10) for breast stroke, and Leonard Song (10), Ben Hu (10), and Sarah Derecktor (12) for backstroke.

Girls Varsity Swim Head Coach Oleg

Zvezdin and Boys Varsity Swimming Head Coach Michael Duffy are focusing heavily on technique and efficiency during practices.

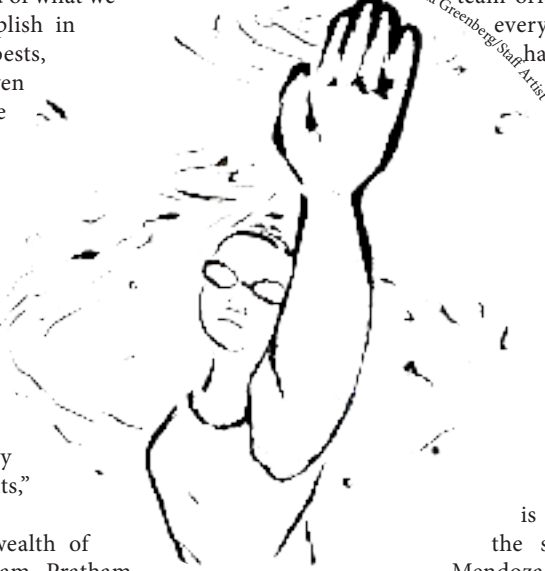
"We're putting an emphasis on stroke mechanics and distance per stroke," Duffy said. "Once we have the proper strokes in place, we can focus on yardage and endurance."

"Swim is both individual and team-oriented, so realistically, every single kid needs to have a goal in mind to work hard through the year," Zvezdin said. "Making sure you have a good position and are efficient moving through the water makes you a much better swimmer."

The Varsity Swim team's bond is known as one of the strongest at school, Mendoza said.

"Helping each other get through a difficult set, cheering one another on while we're racing, and swimming in relays together all brought the team closer together," Hu said. "Even though we mainly compete individually in swimming, teamwork and support are an integral part of the sport, and this year we'll continue to work on it," Mendoza said.

"I think that as long as we continue the tradition of having a supportive swim family, we'll be successful no matter what happens," Mendoza said.





WRESTLING

STEVEN BORODKIN
Contributing Writer

The Varsity Wrestling Team is ready for a new year, looking to improve on its success from last season. Head Coach Gregory Quilty has coached the team for the past 24 years and the captain this year is Mason Roth (12).

The team hopes to improve its performance in tournaments this year, as last year the team had to forfeit several due to a lack of players in some weight classes. The team also hopes to continue individual player success as many players did well in individual tournaments, including Matt Bock '16 placing second in the New York State Private School Wrestling Championship, and Roth and Jamie Berg (10) placing third in their respective weight classes.

"Individually we all did well last year, we had a strong group of people but struggled to win real tournaments as a team due to our small size, but generally our team accomplished a lot individually," Berg said.

During the past few years, the team has struggled and had to forfeit several tournaments because they didn't have enough people in each weight class. Now, with a team of eight wrestlers after losing five seniors, Quilty is trying harder than ever to get more people to join the team so they can rebuild and return to the top of the Ivy League, which they have not won since 2012.

"The last two years we have graduated half of our team. We went from 18 down to 10 and from

10 down to five. Right now we are really in a rebuilding mode. We have one senior, no juniors, four sophomores, and three freshmen," Quilty said.

"We have an even smaller team this year and a lot of rookies. We have three new freshmen and one new sophomore," Berg said.

"Last year went well considering the small team, we had to forfeit many of the weight classes and for the first time ever, had a losing record in dual meets, but individually they all did well," Quilty said.

Quilty is working hard this season to improve on the players' technique so they can make the transition from middle school to high school wrestling and be better this year and for years to come.

"We are mathematically eliminated from most of our tournaments but still want to go to get extra practice," Quilty said.

"We just want to get in a lot of good matches so in a few years, we can return to being a powerhouse."

In high school, being on the team is a lot more serious than in middle school, Koby Ginder (9) said. There are less kids, more practice, and everyone tries much harder, he said.

With all of Quilty's hard work to rebuild the team, the Lions can continue their individual success and return to the top of the Ivy League Conference in the coming years.



Ariella Greenberg/Staff Artist

BOYS BASKETBALL

MALHAAR AGRAWAL
Contributing Writer

The Boys Varsity Basketball team begins its season this winter, and the team is ready to hit the ground running, or dribbling.

"I think we're going to have a great year. We have had a lot of freshmen enter the team this season, which gives the team a lot of potential going forward into the season," Matthew Zeitlin (12) said.

The team is capable of achieving considerable success in its division this year, Ben Metzner (10) said. "The new freshmen this year are going to be critical to our team's success. I think we can be a dark horse team in the league."

"That success won't come easy," Metzner said. "It will take consistent effort on behalf of everyone on our team, on and off the court."

"We are hoping to improve on some of our shortcomings in the previous season," Zeitlin said. Compared to other teams, the squad's relatively short player height makes rebounding more difficult. "Rebounding is challenging when you have a limited team. This year, we are working on improving our rebounding abilities,

which have cost us a few games in the past," Zeitlin said.

A central focus of the preparations this year is speed and technique. "There is a shift in philosophy. We want to focus on running the floor and finding new opportunities during fast breaks," Zeitlin said.

"We also need to work on our shooting ability. If we practice a lot with these ideas, I think we can achieve a lot this season," he said.

An emphasis on playing faster would improve the performance of the team on the court, Metzner said. "We need to play quickly and efficiently. Head Coach Tim Sullivan mentioned how important it was that we play freely, allowing us to run fewer plays," he said.

"During games and practice, I try to stay in the paint. That was something which I did not do last year and will help to improve my performance this year," Alec Ginsberg (12) said.

This year's focus is defeating the team's longtime rival, Riverdale Country School. "We are looking to improve on last year's Buzzell game where we beat Riverdale by one point," Ginsberg said.



Ariella Greenberg/Staff Artist

FENCING

JAMES ARCIERI
Staff Writer

After winning three out of six championships last year, the Fencing team returns refreshed and ready for another big year. Even with the loss of talented fencers Mina Peak ('16), Irena Hsu ('16), and Errol Spencer ('16), the team still has momentum from its achievements, co-Captain Jacob Chae (12) said. The Lions will start the year off strong and focused, he said.

The team will be strengthened with the addition of many new freshmen and sophomores, Chae said. Chae, Daniel Lee (12), and Emma Jones (11) will serve as team captains, and Spencer will return this year as a saber coach, joining Head Coach Robert Annunziata.

According to Jones, the secret to last year's success was the sociability of the team, which also made the experience much more fun.

"Last year the team morale was very high," she said. "We also had a reputation of being a nice team and talking to people from other schools. If we continue doing that, we'll have a successful season."

It is important for the team members to continue supporting each other and to preserve the unity and acceptance from last year, Jones said.

"Different people come with different backgrounds to the team," she said. "They need to know not to be afraid of it."

The discipline of the team last year was also a key factor to its success, Chae said.

"We were well organized last year," Chae said. "We came on time for practice and were focused all the way through."

One hurdle the team will deal with this year, however, is the loss of their practice space due to the renovation.

"We may be sharing a gym with wrestling," Chae said, "and that could affect our performance."

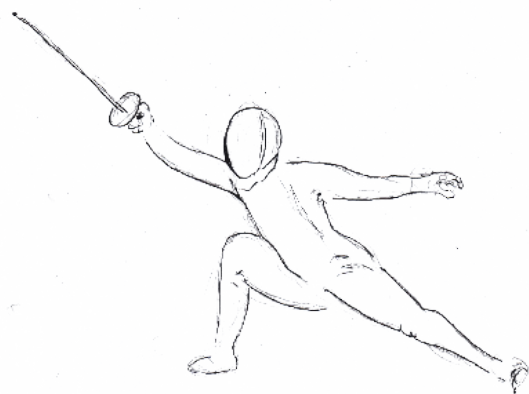
Regarding practices, the team will stress conditioning so that the fencers' bodies do not get fatigued during bouts, Chae said.

Practice bouts and scrimmaging over an hour each day will also be important to get their bodies into shape, he said.

Situational drills will also be helpful for the team's matches, Jones said. "These simulate circumstances we might come across and be very useful when in an actual match," she said.

It will be important for the team members to balance their outside of school fencing and other commitments and be prepared for the tournaments in school, Chae said.

The Lions will have their first tournament on Dec. 8 versus Rye Country Day School at home.



Ariella Greenberg/Staff Artist

WINTER SPORTS PREVIEWS

LEONORA GOGOS
Contributing Writer

"I always stress commitment, work hard, and have fun. You've got to enjoy what you're doing, or else there's no sense in being part of it," Indoor Track Coach Robert Harmon said.

The team had a solid season last year, but has set high goals for the year. "I was just really proud of how hard we worked. We really came together as a team last year, and I think that this year we have a really great cohesiveness that I don't think was really there before last year," Sophia Friedman (12) said.

For Blythe Logan (12), the most impressive achievements that the team has had were individual improvements across a variety of events, which she hopes will continue this year.

"We just tried to best ourselves, and we let the rest fall where it may," Harmon said. "I always want the team to keep improving on personal times. I never ask them to go out and win a race or event. I just want them to continue to work hard and improve on their previous score or time, and then everything else falls into place after that."

Last year's seniors made a significant impact on the team last year. "We only had two seniors last year, but they really all motivated us to work our hardest and secure a good legacy for the next year to carry on the work and the foundation that they laid for us," Friedman said.

"We lost Tatiana Murphy '16 - she won the Ivy League Championship the last two years in

shot put, so we're hoping Ashley Codner (12) can score some points there," Harmon said.

Harmon has determined the new team make-up. "We have some new freshmen, a tenth grader, Dana Jacoby (10), who's going to add to the hurdles, one new junior, Zahra Thiam (11), who will help us in the sprints," he said. "We're going to rely on some of our seniors, and we have some good newcomers, so we're pretty excited about it."

"What we want to try to do is just try to fill up all the events; we haven't done that in the past, and you can't score if you don't have somebody in that event," Harmon said.

Many members of the team engage in some form of training before or during the season, for the season. Kiara Royer (9) is a competitive soccer player, Logan engages in cross training, and Friedman runs by herself.

The runners all had similar personal goals for this season. "I really want to medal in Ivy's, and obviously I want to go to States, but I think it's just about having my last, final race—I want that to be one of my best races in winter track," Friedman said.

"I just want to know that I put in the most work I could've put in and I really do the team justice in a way. I want to leave a legacy for the younger kids to follow and to also just know that I left everything on the track that I could've left," she said.



Ariella Greenberg/Staff Artist