

# The Horace Mann Record

VOLUME 114, ISSUE 3

PUBLISHED SINCE 1903

SEPTEMBER 23, 2016



# HOME COMING

# Newly designed Pep Rally kicks off Homecoming weekend

JOANNE WANG  
Staff Writer

This afternoon, all Upper Division students are excused from their H Period classes to attend an outdoor Homecoming pep rally organized by Maroon Monsoon.

After a performance from the spirit squad, each fall team competing at Homecoming tomorrow will run to the stage while their own walk-up song is playing. The captains of each team will then share a short statement including their hopes for the rest of the season.

There will be free t-shirts, hotdogs, noisemakers, bubbles, and balloons, along with a giveaway, Upper Division Physical Education Department Chair Ray Barile said.

For the past several years, the school has held pep assemblies in Gross Theater; however, Dean of Student Life Dr. Susan Delanty suggested something different this year, Barile said. Many people helped organize the event: Director of Student Activities

Caroline Bartels and Barile oversaw Maroon Monsoon's planning, while the Maintenance Department and Peter Montesino will be setting it up, Barile said.

Maroon Monsoon is a group of students in charge of organizing school spirit and designing apparel for athletic events; it has been in existence for 23 years. This year, it is comprised of five

the past couple of years. A pep rally should be held outside, and people should get pumped up and shouldn't feel like they're being forced to be there," Levy said.

"I think you can only go so far when you have an assembly. When you're in Gross Theatre, there isn't the same type of energy that you would get outside," Rosen said.

*"A pep rally should be held outside, and people should get pumped up and shouldn't feel like they're being forced to be there."*

- Jojo Levy (12)

seniors and one junior: JP Cerini (12), Lily Essner (12), Alec Ginsberg (12), Jojo Levy (12), Skylar Rosen (12), and Jane Frankel (11). For the past few weeks, they have been meeting to discuss the logistics of the pep rally, Barile said.

"Homecoming is a really big deal, and it's gone unnoticed a little bit for

As athletes, the members of Maroon Monsoon all acknowledge the desire for more school spirit, Levy said.

"We want more events where the whole school comes together and cheers on Horace Mann," Essner said.

"We're really trying to bring some change to the culture of school spirit at Horace Mann. We're not a school

with a huge amount of spirit and a huge amount of pride in our athletics," Rosen said.

Some of the organizers are worried that people may just leave school instead of attending, Essner said. However, Rosen is "pretty confident that people are going to show up because we had a lot of things going on during the week to get people excited," she said.

"We're playing the hype videos, we're talking about it, and we're posting about it. There are going to be surprises, and I think they're going to be excited," she said. "If people are going to leave school, they're going to go out onto the field and see everything set up with the music blasting and be intrigued and want to stay."

In the future, Maroon Monsoon hopes to expand in order to involve younger students to include their input, Levy said. Not only do they hope to have more school spirit surrounding athletic events, but also around plays and concerts, she said.

## Committee on Instruction holds first meeting of the year

TIFFANY LIU  
Staff Writer

The Committee on Instruction (COI) opened up a preliminary discussion on whether or not to get rid of Advanced Placement (AP) classes from the curriculum and the repercussions of this change during its first meeting of the school year this past Monday during I period. The COI consists of a group made up of one faculty representative from each academic department, the co-Student Body Presidents (SBP), and the Community Council (CC) Chair.

"Our thought is that this is a big enough question that it should probably be the single focus for COI, apart from new course approvals, for the year," Upper Division Dean of Faculty Dr. Matthew Wallenfang said.

"There's so much talk of getting rid of APs," COI head Andrew Fippinger said. "There's increasingly a consensus that we should get rid of them in the part of the faculty, but we really need to think through what that will mean."

The COI plans to discuss problems such as whether honors classes, electives that every student can take, or seminar-style classes will replace AP classes. For example, the committee talked about if AP Biology would turn into Advanced Biology or more specific courses, like The Biology of Cancer.

The ideas they discuss in the meetings "trickle up through the administrators to help them think about changes that might be made on a larger level," Fippinger said.

The committee will try to get a strong sense of what different departments might offer instead of AP classes, and turn that into something more concrete such as a written form of their ideas that they could present to students, parents, and the Board of Trustees, Fippinger said.

Generally, the COI's most important role is approving new courses when teachers submit proposals in the winter, Wallenfang said. In line with this, the reason why the COI is talking about APs is because getting rid of them would not be one swift change, co-SBP Noah Shapiro (12) said; teachers would have to lay out the new possible courses beforehand.

In addition, Fippinger wants to research other independent schools that have gotten rid of AP classes to see how the change has affected them and if they have found it useful, Fippinger said.

The new student representatives, Shapiro, co-SBP Zack Gaynor (12) and CC Chair Gabi Sheybani (12), used this first introductory meeting as an orientation. Shapiro only found out about the COI after they emailed him about the meeting, he said.

Sheybani is more interested in the curriculum as a whole rather than the logistics of AP classes specifically, she said. "I like the fact that we have East Asian History, Islamic World, Decolonization, and all these really interesting classes."

Like Shapiro, she hopes to get a sense of what people want and need through understanding where the student body is mentally, she said. That collective opinion is what they are going to try and communicate to the committee.

With the help of these "student voices," Shapiro said, he hopes to also get the support of the students, as the COI anticipates an ongoing discussion throughout the year to answer the questions posed during their first meeting.

## NEW CLUBS AND PUBS

### Lions Byte

This year, the publication Lions Byte will make its debut, seeking to publish a mix of informative and opinion-based articles about a wide range of topics in the world of technology. It will include news of recent technological advances and products in the consumer world as well as highlight student projects in the technological field within the school's tech community.

Sophia Schein (12) was inspired to start the publication after the decline of the school's old Tech Talk magazine and asked Nicholas Kierstead (12) to help her edit it, she said.

"We don't want to just publish once and leave it," Kierstead said. "Right now, we're hoping to release an issue once every trimester. The tentative date for the first issue is sometime in late October."

The two are shooting for each issue to be around 20 to 30 pages. While

there are certain areas and topics they want to be covered in each issue, the writers mostly have freedom to choose what they want to write about.

"We hope we find people interested in writing who already have some knowledge in technology, mostly students involved in the tech clubs at HM," Schein said.

Schein and Keirstead strive to bring awareness to tech achievements of the school's students that are often overlooked or are relatively unknown by the community, Schein said. They also hope the publication will make more people interested in technology in general and its advancements, she said.

Furthermore, "I really want to feature women in science and female STEM achievements as well," Schein said. "Social justice in STEM is also overlooked."

- SANDHYA SHYAM/Staff Writer



Kat Snoddy/Art Director



Sofia Gonzalez/Staff Artist

### Architecture Club

This year, the Architecture Club will be brought back from years' past. The club, restarted by Bliss Beyer (11) and Jonah Newmark (11), was created to fulfill their mutual interest in architecture as well as designing buildings themselves.

The premise of the club is to "get more students interested and knowledgeable in the subject of architecture and its importance," Newmark said. The meetings will be more hands on rather than discussion- or lecture-based and will include the use of several different online design programs such as Sketch Up. Students will learn about the basics of architecture by making structural designs themselves.

In addition to online designing, Beyer and Newmark hope to organize several out-of-school field trips for the club to different landmarks and studios.

The idea for the club formed last year during Newmark and Beyer's English

class.

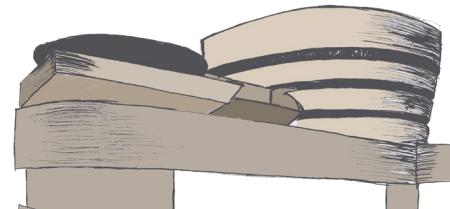
"Back when we were freshman, there was an architecture club," Beyer said. "Jonah and I were two of the four people who showed up to the first meeting. After that meeting, the club never met or did anything, which disappointed us."

"In English class one day we remembered that meeting and decided to start our own, new Architecture Club," Newmark said.

The club is open to any and all students interested in learning about architecture. Students can join whether they have absolutely no knowledge about architecture or are serious about the subject.

"Our main purpose is to not just have one meeting and then quit for the rest of the year," Newmark said. "It's meant to be fun, informative, and casual, so we hope lots of people will join."

- SANDHYA SHYAM/Staff Writer



Kat Snoddy/Art Director



Sofia Gonzalez/Staff Artist

### Linguistics Olympiad

This year, Lily Mayo (11) and Zoe Vogelsang (11) have started Linguistics Olympiad, which will prepare students to take the North American Computational Linguistics Organization (NACLO) exam in mid-winter.

Computational linguistics is essentially code-breaking; one gets a set of words in a language and a set task in that language, using the words to complete the task. Mayo said.

The NACLO website describes Linguistics Olympiad as "truly an opportunity for young people to experience a taste of natural-language processing in the 21st century."

"It's the connection between computer science and humanities," Mayo said. "I thought the club would

be really valuable because it bridges the two subjects that don't really have a common denominator currently in school."

The club will meet a few times a month and won't be a large time commitment, Vogelsang said. During the meetings, students would do practice problems from the NACLO website to familiarize themselves with the test.

Whenever she and Vogelsang have worked on practice problems in the cafeteria or around campus, people gather around them to try to help, Mayo said.

"It's very interesting problem-solving and it's really fun," Vogelsang said.

- LYNNE SIPRELLE/Staff Writer

The Voyager, the school's travel publication has received a complete transformation this year at the hands of co-Editors-in-Chief Emma Forman (12) and Blythe Logan (12).

Although The Voyager has existed for five years, this year they're planning to make it lighter and easier to read, Logan said.

"We're changing what it stands for and moving more towards a guidebook format," Forman said. The guidebooks will mostly be based in NYC, and ideas for themes include wellness, best coffee shops, and architecture issues.

"What it used to be was a lot more focused on travel and publication," Forman said. However, these travel essays were a large time commitment

for club members, and also less focused on culture.

The Voyager will hold meetings monthly to help writers develop and brainstorm ideas, Logan said.

However, it's unlikely many issues will be published this year as the club adapts to the new changes.

"We're really looking to build a good foundation for the future," Logan said.

The club is also open to different levels of commitment, Forman said. "You can contribute if you're not part of the club and if you are part of the club."

"It's about making this very acceptable and fun," Forman said.

- LYNNE SIPRELLE/Staff Writer

### The Voyager

for club members, and also less focused on culture.

The Voyager will hold meetings monthly to help writers develop and brainstorm ideas, Logan said.

However, it's unlikely many issues will be published this year as the club adapts to the new changes.

"We're really looking to build a good foundation for the future," Logan said.

The club is also open to different levels of commitment, Forman said. "You can contribute if you're not part of the club and if you are part of the club."

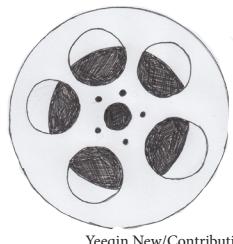
"It's about making this very acceptable and fun," Forman said.

- LYNNE SIPRELLE/Staff Writer

## INDEPENDENT STUDY PREVIEWS

*Independent Study (IS) provides upperclassmen a chance to concentrate on a particular field of study for a full year. Students present their research in their seminar classes with their IS peers. According to seminar leader Jennifer Little, "many of the IS students are drawn to the program because it provides an opportunity to combine a passion in an academic environment." Previews written by Amir Moazami/Staff Writer.*

### Ades (12) compares narrative through literature and film



Yeqin New/Contributing Artist

For his Independent Study, Ben Ades (12) merged his love for films and literature by researching how various movie moviemakers and writers incorporate narrative theory

into their respective works.

Narrative theory broadly attempts to explain the different components of how a story is told, Ades' adviser Andrew Fippinger said.

Ades was drawn to researching narrative theory in greater depth because "I loved watching films with my parents, and film making is something I want to pursue in college," Ades said.

Over the summer, Ades read books with unique narrative structure; this provided a useful framework for Ades

to explore how time impacts movies, and how different artists use time in their work, he said.

Ades will combine both "video essays and longer writing pieces" to demonstrate his research, Ades' Independent Study Seminar leader Jennifer Little said.

Ades is referencing works from across time periods, Fippinger said. "We'll be exploring older movies that took place in the beginning of the 20th century to more contemporary examples," he said.

### Weber (12) studies science through the lens of "Star Trek"

"Star Trek" is a television and movie series about intergalactic civilizations in the future, but for Abby Weber (12), watching and analyzing the show is the premise of her Independent Study project.

Weber plans on taking core elements of the Star Trek universe and examining them through scientific and ethical perspectives.

In the first trimester, Weber is studying episodes from "Star Trek: The Next Generation" and other Star Trek shows to understand the feasibility of certain physical

phenomena, she said.

One idea that Weber explored is whether traveling in space faster than the speed of light is possible. Initially, she approached the problem by gaining a broad overview of the topic from books specifically about the science of Star Trek; she supplemented her research by discussing specific topics with physics teachers.

In the second trimester, Weber plans on taking a biological outlook to the series; she will take an ethical outlook in the third trimester, an idea

she began exploring in her Junior Research Project last year. Weber is interested in broader esoteric questions such as the role a moral code would have in an intergalactic society, she said.

Weber's goal is to compile her findings and ultimately to enrich her fandom, something she inherited from her father. "We watch and discuss the series together, and the show has been a bonding experience for us," she said.

### Tien (12) examines psychology behind team sports

It's 5:30 p.m. on a chilly Monday in October, and Caitlyn Tien (12) can be found on the soccer pitch diving for the ball. Come back in the spring at the same time of day, and you will see Tien playing softball with similar intensity.

Tien's zeal for soccer and softball, sports she has played in all her years at the school, has translated to the classroom, as her Independent Study focuses on understanding the broader mental and physical aspects of team sports. Ultimately, Tien hopes the information she learns can be applied to her own performance.

In the first trimester, Tien plans to focus on the different physiological processes that are taking place during

her athletic endeavors, specifically "to understand how to mentally prepare before a game," she said.

Tien will employ several resources to better understand her project by reading books about the benefits of interval training and endurance, she



Nikki Sheybani/Contributing Artist

said.

In the second and third trimesters, Tien will shift her attention to studying different neuroscientific principles and physiological components embedded in sports.

## Construction moves senior parking spaces to Manhattan College

JONATHAN KATZ  
Staff Writer

The administration is now assigning spots to seniors at Manhattan College due to the closure of parking spaces as a result of HM in Motion, the school's newest construction project. Students are no longer allowed to park in the spaces around Four Acres Field,

Manhattan College allocated parking space to the school with the help of Head of School Dr. Tom Kelly and Director of Security Mike McCaw, Dean of the Class of 2017 Michael Dalo said.

The school was given 45 parking spots and only 19 of them are currently in use, Kelly said. The school's arrangement continues until December 2017, when Manhattan College will undergo construction.

The Manhattan College parking garage was the school's only option, as HM students cannot park on the private streets within the Fieldston Property Owners' Association's (FPOA) jurisdiction, and has no control over the availability of public parking spots on 246th Street, in the

Fieldston Terrace area, a parking area near Riverdale Country School, or on Broadway, Kelly said.

According to an email Kelly sent to the Class of 2017, "several students at HM are attempting to secure parking privileges, for pay, in private driveways around the school and/or use of a neighbor's FPOA parking permit."

Teachers who used to park on the north side of campus will be displaced to the seniors' old parking spaces around Four Acres as soon as work on the new facilities begins. The "Cage," the parking lot behind Prettyman Gymnasium that was allocated for seniors in past years, is being eliminated as part of the construction plans.

While some teachers have been assigned new spots, many teachers have only been informed of the general area of the new spots, English teacher Dr. Wendy Steiner P'17 said. "Some people have been relocated, but I haven't at this point. It's going to affect teachers a lot, and I am concerned about being able to find parking in the morning, as I have an A period class," Steiner said.

The new parking situation will not affect parents during after school

events, Kelly said. "In terms of after school events, we do not anticipate any parking problems; there are plenty of spots available both on and off campus after 5:00 p.m.," Kelly said.

It is unclear what will happen during parent visiting days, as a significantly increased number of cars takes up more spaces, Steiner said.

The Manhattan College parking facility is a fifteen-minute walk from campus and is much less convenient than previous parking, Jojo Levy (12) said. While many seniors originally tried to park in the assigned garage, several are turning to Fieldston Terrace as a better alternative, Taylor Sanders (12) said.

Cars are extremely important for people from the suburbs, Olivia Silberstein (12), who drives from Scarsdale everyday, said. "I drive both of my brothers in the morning, and it is much easier for timing, and there is always a lot of traffic coming to school from where I live. Also, I can't walk or take a taxi, so a car is more necessary for me," Silberstein said.

Seniors are trying to find ways to reach school from their cars so they are not late to class. "I have started

## DORR FAMILY PICNIC



Photos courtesy of Barry Mason

*The Dorr family picnic is an annual event that takes place at the John Dorr Nature Laboratory campus in Connecticut. Traditionally held during one of the first weekends of the school year, the picnic includes rock climbing and other outdoor activities, live music, and lunch.*

bringing a scooter in my car and using it to get to the main building from my car in Manhattan College," Maya Klaris (12) said.

Other students are opting to hitch a ride to their cars, carpooling, or asking people who live in the neighborhood to drive them, Sanders said.

Another alternative the school could implement is a shuttle service or reserved spots at the intersection of Tibbett Avenue and West 252 Street, Teddy Kaplan (12) said.

In addition to the inconvenience, many seniors feel unsafe walking to their cars at night, Levy said. "I can't walk there at night, so I have to get my car and move it before practice starts. It's not very well lit, and I don't like to go alone," she said.

The problem of safety will worsen as it starts getting dark earlier, Sanders said.

"I think it could potentially be unsafe when it gets dark really early especially while walking a path that is uneven, icy, and snowy. You also have to walk past a college campus," Will Scherr (12) said.

Despite student concerns, Dalo does not think the new spaces pose

any threat. "I don't think there is any risk. We have spoken to Dr. Kelly and Mr. McCaw and we are comfortable that between HM security doing their routes and Manhattan College Security and Fieldston Neighborhood Security, there is nothing to worry about. If anyone is feeling nervous we would encourage them to go with friends," Dalo said.

Kaplan said that despite having to park in the public neighborhood down the hill, he thinks that the construction is necessary to improve the school's sports and science facilities. "While it is a shame that we need to suffer through this construction period, ultimately, the school will benefit in the long term from this," he said.

If students are found parking on campus, they are given violation tickets. Students are emailed a warning and asked to move if their car is found on a prohibited spot but will not face a fine, Scherr said. However, Dalo believes that the infractions will stop as seniors get more used to the new parking situation. "I think that the violations will stop once they realize this is serious and they need to follow the rules," Dalo said.

# Club leaders: mentors not autocrats



Henry Shapiro

As many upperclassmen can attest, clubs and publications at the school seem to resemble micro-versions of large organizations in the real world. Hordes of students manage and partake in clubs and publications that organize conferences for thousands of people, win national awards, and produce magazines and newspapers that look like they were made by professionals.

What has ensured the success of our school's extracurricular activities is the independence the administration has given us to shape clubs in accordance with our own visions. The ambition and drive students have for their respective clubs has resulted in the highly successful and inimitable extracurricular sphere of our community.

However, with that independence comes responsibility. It is vitally important to the future success of clubs

and publications at the school that club leaders act as positive role models for younger students as opposed to simply their superiors.

Looking back as a senior, signing up for Model UN as a freshman at the Clubs Fair was one of the pivotal moments of my high school career. While many people consider the Model UN Team to be, as some have put, the "Horace Mann Mafia," the people who comprise our team have become a family to me.

The activity of Model UN in and of itself has taught me everything from public speaking to consensus building, but more importantly, I found positive role models and sense of family in my teammates.

Having access to a network of such great role models helped shape me into the person I am today. I know now that if I had not joined the club, my high school experience would have felt incomplete. I have experienced first-hand how essential clubs are to student life and development.

The great experience I have had with Model UN is definitely not unique to just my organization. Many of the other clubs and publications at the school offer an equally impactful experience.

However, the success clubs and publications have had in positively impacting students will only persevere

if club leaders work incredibly hard this coming school year to ensure that their clubs foster a strong community for their members. Recently, there has been a tendency in some of the school's larger clubs to focus on enforcing a system of hierarchy over one of community.

While hierarchy is important, to some extent, in maintaining a club, it is essential that club leaders do not forget that the ultimate goal of their clubs is to foster a sense of family and community. This means creating positive and productive relationships with underclassmen and acting as mentors as opposed to superiors. It also means making sure that younger members have access to even better intellectual and social experiences than what has been available to them in the past.

Clubs are central to student life at the school and add an entirely new and vibrant dimension to the high school experience. The extracurricular experiences I've had during my high school career have been equally, if not more, important to me than those in the classroom, and the mentors I found among my peers have been invaluable. It is my hope that club leaders do not get caught up in exerting their power and instead devote time and energy to using their platforms to build and promote a sense of community.

## CAPTION CONTEST



Stephanie Li/Contributing Artist

*Guys, this game of human Jenga is getting a little bit out of control!*  
- Jonny Mansbach (12)

## Numbers should not define intellect



Damali O'Keefe

As a kid, I got decent grades, and I made the honor roll year after year; my parents and teachers said I was smart, so I believed them.

My school, like countless others, organized its students into classes based on test scores, and for the first four years of my elementary school career, I was categorized as "gifted." So imagine my surprise upon walking into school on the very first day of fourth grade and finding myself put in class 401, rather than class 400, the honors class. I didn't know how to react. My mother said "don't cry." So I cried.

That was the beginning of what I perceived to be the gradual loss of my intelligence, as people stopped evaluating me and started evaluating my numbers. At the same time that school became tougher and grades more important, my motivation dropped as classes revolved around test-preparation rather than learning. I was convinced that I would never be as good or as smart as I once was—that somewhere along the road I had lost my "gift."



Joanne Wang/Staff Artist

But this phenomenon is indicative of a much larger problem with education, and it stems from being forced to learn within a system that is strict to a fault. In public school, my teachers had me work endlessly, to the point of exhaustion, without explaining why it was important for me to do so. I was taught to blindly prioritize school and good grades over my emotional well-being. And, with the threat of a bad grade always looming, I believed that this was simply what a good student looks like.

But education shouldn't be this way. Students should not be motivated by fear. We're at this school because we're gifted and intelligent and hardworking individuals, yes, but we're also here because we passed tests, which

is a struggle for students who lack the resources to succeed.

Underprivileged students who are unable to learn in this overly test-focused educational system are simply allowed to struggle. They become unengaged and uninterested with nothing more than a looming test for motivation; they become disruptive. A lot of people conclude that their imperfect grades indicate that they are not worthy of a better education, or one more suited to their learning styles, and the numbers aren't nuanced enough to take the situation into account.

The truth is, though, that a student's level of academic performance isn't directly proportional to their level of hard work or dedication. It goes hand-in-hand with socioeconomic status, as well as a myriad of other significant factors. If you are poor or live in a poor area, it is much more difficult to succeed academically.

This is why students of color have lower graduation rates than white students. It's also why so many private schools have problems with diversity, and it's why public schools are so overcrowded: because, unlike private schools, they are unable to discriminate or turn students away. Out of the 20 to 30 kids in my class before coming to this school, those who succeeded the most were usually the ones with the most outside resources, and those resources are usually only given to students who are either already excelling academically, or who have the money to pay for tutoring. These are things that numbers do not show.

## EDITORIAL

### Re-examining a Homecoming tradition

Every year, on the Friday before Homecoming, members of the football team carry on a tradition of lending their jerseys to a person of their choice to wear for the day.

It is a sign of spirit and a way for the team to publicize its game the next day, as well as an opportunity to show the selected person they care about them.

We appreciate the football team's involvement of members of the community to get them excited about the football game, which is essential to homecoming. However, the tradition reveals internalized sexism and a problematic gender dynamic in our community.

There appear to be two distinct cases of football players lending their jerseys.

One is the scenario when a player gives his significant other, potential partner, or close friend his jersey; in that case, there does not seem to be a problem. The exchange is a kind act, rooted in the sharing of school spirit. It's nice to have something of someone you care about.

However, the giving of football jerseys can too often become a case of simple objectification. The girl who was given this jersey, is often nothing but a prop to be "won over" in pursuit of elevated social status and sex appeal.

The Editorial Board encourages the school community to consider the larger implications of this tradition.

The jealousy and competition amongst some girls in pursuit of players' jerseys reveal aspects of internalized sexism within our community; girls shouldn't have to show off a football player's jersey in order to feel validated, beautiful, or worthy.

We, as a board, believe that the tradition is not inherently wrong or problematic, nor do we believe that shutting down the tradition will address the root of the problem.

Instead, we hope that in the future, the school community will recognize the potential sexist implications of this tradition and challenge the more subtle manifestations of objectification.

## CORRECTIONS - ISSUE 2

In "Eight Things You Didn't Know About Glenn Smith," the photograph should have been credited to Hunter Kim/Photography Editor  
In "School Implements heart screening," the illustration should have been credited to Lou Katz (12).

## The Horace Mann Record

231 West 246 Street | Bronx, NY 10471 | record@horacemann.org

### Volume 114 Editorial Board

#### Editor in Chief

Dayle Chung

#### Design Editor

Chase Kauder  
Alexis Megibow

#### Arts & Entertainment

Azure Gao  
Joanna Kuang

#### Opinions

Emily Spector

#### Managing Editor

Jessie Millman

#### Middle Division

Ben Harpe

#### Lions' Den

Alex Cohen  
Sadiba Hasan

#### Online Editor

Joshua Gruenstein

#### Faculty Adviser

David Berenson

#### MD Club Director

Amory Tillinghast-Raby

#### Photography

Tali Benchimol  
Hunter Benchimol  
Sarahina Oh

#### Art Director

Katherine Snoddy

#### Staff

**Staff Writers** Betsey Bennett, Peter Borini, Lutie Brown, Curtis Chung, Ella Feiner, Elizabeth Fortunato, Katie Goldenberg, Mahika Hari, Sam Heller, Abigail Kanter, Jonathan Katz, Solomon Katz, Eve Kazarian, Janvi Kukreja, Tiffany Liu, Hannah Long, Augusta Owens, Ricardo Pinnock, Natasha Poster, Amir Moazami, Seiji Murakami, Yeeqin New, Rebecca Salzhauser, Sadie Schwartz, Sarah Shin, Sandhya Shyam, Charles Silberstein, Lynne Siprelle, Joanne Wang

**Staff Photographers** Amrita Acharya, Amanda Armstrong, Sasha Bader, Iliana Dezelic, Jonathan Edelstein, Eva Fortunato, Jonathan Katz, Abigail Kraus, Freya Lindvall, Tatiana Pavletich, Nicola Sheybani, Joanne Wang

**Staff Artists** Ariella Greenberg, Sofia Gonzalez, Anne Shi, Sophia Schien, Joanne Wang

#### Editorial Policy

**ABOUT** The Record is published weekly by the students of Horace Mann School to provide the community with information and entertainment, as well as various viewpoints in the forms of editorials and opinion columns. All editorial decisions regarding content, grammar and layout are made by the editorial board. The Record maintains membership in the Columbia Scholastic Press Association and National Scholastic Press Association.

**EDITORIALS & OPINIONS** Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the majority of the senior editorial board. Opinion columns are the sole opinion of the author and not of The Record or the editorial board.

**NOTE** As a student publication, the contents of The Record are the views and work of the students and do not necessarily represent those of the faculty or administration of the Horace Mann School. The Horace Mann School is not responsible for the accuracy and content of The Record, and is not liable for any claims based on the contents or views expressed therein.

**LETTERS** To be considered for publication in the next issue, letters to the editor should be submitted by mail (The Record, 231 West 246th Street, Bronx, NY 10471) or e-mail (record@horacemann.org) before 6 p.m. on Wednesday evening. All submissions must be signed and should refer to a Record article. Letters may be edited for grammar, style, length and clarity.

**CONTACT** For all comments, queries, story suggestions, complaints or corrections, or for information about subscribing, please contact us by email at record@horacemann.org.

## Closing the gap between MD and UD Latin



**Latin Teacher Allen Schroeter instructs his class**

**SAM HELLER**  
*Staff Writer*

Three years ago, Head of School Dr. Tom Kelly, former Head of the Upper Division Dr. David Schiller, and Head of the Middle Division Robin Ingram met and discussed altering the Middle Division Latin curriculum in order to make the transition between eighth grade Latin and ninth grade Latin more seamless.

They had agreed that all students who fulfilled this new Latin curriculum would have the option to take Latin as a second, full credit foreign language in the Upper Division, Ingram said.

Now, however, it seems to Ingram and others that the transition from Middle to Upper Division for Latin students needs further discussion, she said.

Before changing the curriculum, the Latin course was called Classics, a half-credit course, that seventh and eighth graders were required to take for two trimesters a year, Latin teacher Cornelie Ladd said.

"The school wants [students] to finish Latin I by the end of eighth grade," Latin teacher Allen Schroeter said. "Doing only two trimesters of seventh and eighth, you can only get through two-thirds of Latin

I, if that."

In order to solve this problem, the curriculum now includes an optional half credit offered to the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students. In theory, those who graduate from eighth grade Latin would then be able to go directly into Latin II once in ninth grade, Schroeter said.

Currently, around 45 students are enrolled in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade Latin. This year's eighth grade class will be the first grade to have taken three trimesters of Latin in all three years of the Middle Division.

However, four students, who had taken Latin either before entering the school or outside of school, were able to complete Latin II in eighth grade last year, and thus were given the option to take Latin as a second full credit language in ninth grade, Dean of Student Life Dr. Susan Delanty said. "However, they were also told that they would not be allowed to take any half credits," she said.

"I was told I would be able to take [Latin] as a full credit if I took one half credit instead of two, but going into the high school, my dean told me I would be unable to take it as a full credit, and I would have to take it as a half credit instead," Irati Egorho Diez (9), said. Diez

dropped the Latin half credit because it was the same material she had learned the year before.

Of the three other students, one of them dropped Latin, another had trouble fitting it into his schedule, and the last is taking only Latin with no other languages, Schroeter said.

"I was a bit discouraged that they could not find it in the ninth grade, a way for them to take two languages full time. But we had been promised this, and I am hoping that promise will come through. Otherwise, why are the kids doing all this?" Schroeter said.

"This was a thing that Dr. Kelly, and Middle and Upper, all worked out three years ago, and it needs to really just be a smooth transition. I get the issue that the upper school is very worried about kids being overloaded and having too many majors, but at the same time I realize that the kids that have chosen this and stuck with it having already realized it's one more course," Ingram said.

The students in the middle school realize this, as they already are taking on more work by taking Latin as a half credit, Ingram said.

"Right now, we're going to handle every student on a case by case basis, and we're still looking into how to handle continued exposure to both languages without creating a schedule that either doesn't have lunch or precludes access to certain core requirements at the right time," Kelly said.

Many students also worry that they won't be able to fulfill their half credit requirements for the high school if they take half credit Latin, Ladd said. "If you want to fulfill your half credit requirements early on then you get a gap because there is no room in your schedule to take another half credit. I mean something has to give, it's been extremely difficult due to the fact that the art requirement has been increased," Ladd said.

Delanty has suggested that these students may need to take these half credits over the summer.

"It's really chaotic. It doesn't seem to be well coordinated between the divisions. The administration seems to be on different pages," Diez said.

## Teacher profile: Kenneth Carpenter



Hunter Kim/Photography Editor

**CHARLIE SILBERSTEIN**  
*Staff Writer*

"Passionate," "Exciting," "Hilarious," and "Smart" were the answers of Ella Ronen (10), Olivia Silberstein (12), Sydney Katz (12), and Michael Raye Reiss (12) when asked to describe foreign language teacher Kenneth Carpenter in one word.

Carpenter described how "love" led him to the school.

While teaching at a public school in Michigan, Carpenter went to France and met a girl from New Haven and they decided to see each other. After a couple years of commuting back and forth between Michigan and Connecticut, Carpenter decided to get a job in New York City, and it just so happened to land him at the school, he said.

Carpenter is still here, spreading his knowledge, and never trying to bore his students, he said. "Bored classes might as well go home, so I liven the mood whenever I can."

Some of his former students agree that his unique teaching style provides constant energy to his classes. "A couple of times when the mood seemed a little slow, he would jump on the table and act like a gorilla, and we would all burst out in laughter," Silberstein said.

Carpenter confirmed Silberstein's story with a grin. "I truly hate to bore a class, and if it comes to that I will abase myself to be a gorilla and maybe climb up

the wall. I hate to be too predictable."

Matching his infectious energy and enthusiasm towards teaching foreign language, Carpenter's passion for French and Spanish languages is immense, he said.

"It's terrific, the breadth of culture in Spanish alone, it's just an explosion of wonderful knowledge," Carpenter said. "And France of course has little outposts all over the world so there's a wide variety of culture. You learn a lot by studying these languages."

Even though he is trilingual and teaches two languages concurrently, Carpenter says he hasn't mixed up languages in a while. "You tend to have a foreign language drawer and over time with practice each language just becomes a separate drawer," he said.

Throughout his many years here, Carpenter has successfully spread his influence and knowledge to all the students that are lucky enough to have him, Silberstein said.

"I like to see the lights come on when you are channeling knowledge to the kids," Carpenter said. "It's very gratifying and you feel like you're really accomplishing something good in the world."

Regarding the future, Carpenter said that he will try to keep "channeling knowledge" to his students and will hopefully continue bringing his energy and enthusiasm to the school in the future.

## A look at Middle Division sports practices

**EVE KAZARIAN**  
*Staff Writer*

Every D and E period, Middle Division athletes rush to their lockers to put on their uniforms and swarm out onto the courts, fields, and parks for practice. They are given a brief window for practice: 45 minutes and some of that time is spent changing. By contrast, Upper Division students have two hours after school for practices, in addition to full preseason programs.

While the time gap between Middle and Upper Division practice may seem wide, the school is lucky to have middle school practice at all, Middle Division Tennis coach Rawlins Troop said. "Not everybody has the sports practices," he said, citing city schools that do not have access to courts and fields.

The Middle Division students do not have preseason for fall sports either. "I don't think we have the space for it. The coaches get the students playing during the 40 minutes they have. It has been working all these years," Troop said.

Some teams have to travel for practice, cutting more playing time from their gym period. The Middle Division Cross Country team goes to Van Cortlandt Park every D period to run, Troop said.

The tennis team anticipates a similar commute. With the construction of the school's new pool and fitness center, the team will have to rely on Van Cortlandt's



Middle Division soccer players go for goal during practice

tennis courts. They will take a van to the park and play on reserved courts. The team will probably be traveling back and forth for at least two years while construction takes place, Troop said.

The quality of the practices comes down to how quickly students arrive to class. "The coaches are out there waiting. The faster [the students] get changed, the more efficient our practice is," Troop said.

The tennis team anticipates a similar commute. With the construction of the school's new pool and fitness center, the team will have to rely on Van Cortlandt's

practice at school and most of these locations are pretty far away. It seems like more time would be taken away from playing tennis," Choudhury said.

In addition, some Middle Division students still work on their skills after school. Choudhury practices tennis two to three times a week at Sportime in Lake Isle, and Chasin has been playing basketball, his winter sport, with teams throughout New York since he was five. Practicing during the day gives them more time to continue playing sports outside of school.

Alternatively, Middle Division students could play with Upper Division teams to get in more playing time; however, Troop advises against a joint practice.

It is better for Middle and Upper Division to play separately, especially with contact sports. "They are not allowed to because of the age difference and there are some taller kids. The Middle Division sports practices are designed for that age group," Troop said.

The way the current system is arranged, all of the available gym areas are used for Middle Division teams to practice during D and E periods. Football and field hockey are on Four Acres, soccer teams play on the Alumni Field, tennis is on the courts, basketball is in the gymnasium, and cross country runners are in the park.

(7) said.

However, tennis team member Ermeen Choudhury (8) said that she might work harder during practice if it were after school. "If I have a test after practice, I am not going to want to wear myself out," she said. "Also, if practice is after school you won't be late to your classes."

Students could travel to an out-of-school location, such as Randall's Island to increase practice time. "I like doing

## Girls Varsity Volleyball

CURTIS CHUNG  
Staff Writer

The Girls Varsity Volleyball team is excited about facing rival Riverdale again, Head Coach Michelle Lee said. Last year, the team defeated Riverdale twice, including at Homecoming.

"It was an easy win and we hope we can go in and do the same," Kate Buquicchio (12) said.

Last year the team played some of its best volleyball during the semifinal game. "We were playing a team that was just as good even better in some parts of the game, but we kept in there and fought because we wanted it more at the end of the day," co-Captain Gigi Peña-Alcántara (12) said.

Having so many people made the team feel like the entire school was behind them, especially when everyone started singing the Alma Mater, Peña-Alcántara said. "It truly felt as if everyone believed in us."

While the team has defeated Riverdale in their recent events, the team

emphasizes not getting complacent and taking each game seriously, Buquicchio said.

"I am not worried about the opponent because I am more focused about who we are as a team and I feel confident going into this game," Lee said.

"Each year brings a new crop of players. It only takes two or three new players to radically alter a team's success," co-Captain Emma Kelly (11) said.

So far, the team has many strong players with Peña-Alcántara contributing as a solid setter, Britanny Jones (10) producing well as an outside hitter, and Kelly acting as a defensive specialist.

"We all have our own strengths, but Gigi is a phenomenal setter. She's good at what she does and she's been doing it well for years," Lauren Simpson (12) said.

"It will just be high energy. When your team plays a rival team at home, everyone will cheer for you," Lee said.



Tali Benchimol/Photography Editor

## Roster

Anna Yarosh, Brittany Jones, Caroline Troop, Christina Cho, Dakota Stennett-Neris, Emma Kelly, Gigi Peña-Alcántara, Grace Hill, Jazmine Smith, Kate Buquicchio, Lauren Simpson, Maggie Brill, Zahra Thiam, Morgan Joseph, Sarah Zeng

## Girls Varsity Cross Country

SADIE SCHWARTZ  
Staff Writer

In the two meets the Girls Cross Country (XC) team has competed in, most of the runners have already put out their best times. The team has welcomed many new freshmen, and are preparing for a meet on Homecoming as well as a meet on Wednesday, which will both take place in Van Cortlandt Park.

The team has bonded well and the team Captains Joanna Kuang (12), Christie Du (12), and Blythe Logan (12) have helped the runners foster a sense of camaraderie and a supportive, close-knit community, Head Coach Meredith Cullen said.

"A lot of new runners, including myself, didn't have great endurance at first but have improved a lot so far this season," Hallie Robbins (9) said.

"All of our new freshman are very good and many runners put out fast, strong times during these first two

races," Cullen said.

According to Becca Siegel (10), the team has strong willpower, and excels at finding the strength to have a good workout.

"Our team has shown tremendous growth from last year in terms of endurance, speed, and times," Logan said. "With our young team, we are placing higher in our league than in previous years and look to continue to post faster times."

According to the meet stats, Aurora Grutman (11), Alexis Bolner (11) and Freya Lindvall (11) have been the Cross Country team's stronger runners.

"We hope to be as competitive as possible in our league while fostering the fun, familial atmosphere that is unique to XC," Logan said. "In past years we have placed in the bottom half of our league at the Ivy Championships, so this year we look to finish in the top half of the table and try to progress as far as we can in the NYSAIS championships."



Saraffina Oh/Photography Editor

## Roster

Joanna Kuang, Blythe Logan, Christie Du, Freya Lindvall, Lily Mayo, Annie Liu, Becca Siegel, Halley Robbins, Dora Woodruff, Silvia Wang, Julia Robbins, Ruthie Yankwitt, Alexis Bolner, Radhika Mehta, Aurora Grutman, Azure Gao, Bella Mutti, Amrita Acharya, Lisa Shi

## Girls Varsity Tennis

JANVI KUKREJA  
Staff Writer

This Saturday's game against Riverdale will mark the Girls Varsity Tennis team's last ever home game due to the destruction of the tennis courts following Homecoming, and the Lions hope to go out with a bang.

"Although we have defeated Riverdale in the past, we can't underestimate them," Girls Varsity Tennis Coach Rawlins Troop said. "We're still going to go out on Saturday and give it all we got."

Although the team is sad about the destruction of the tennis courts, it encourages the girls to work even harder, Rachel Okin (11) said.

"We want to make sure that our last home game is something we can remember," she said.

The team has been doing many drills during their practices with the help of Patrick Westoo, an assistant coach from Columbia University. Westoo helps players with technique, net play, and aggression, and he gives helpful feedback on their specific skills.

In addition to the daily practices, Coach Troop scheduled many matches against teams both in the league and out in preparation for Homecoming.

"It's good to play teams from outside of our league because it serves as good practice and helps with training," Coach Troop said.

The team's overall steadiness is an important asset to its victories.

"While other teams have either really strong singles players or really strong doubles teams, our team is very consistent throughout which is one of our biggest strengths," Kyra Hill (11) said.

Additionally, many of the players participate in a club team outside of school, which gives the team the advantage of having two different environments of coaching and training, Okin said.

"Almost all of us struggle with getting down on ourselves, which is probably one of our biggest weaknesses, but one of our biggest strengths is that everyone on the team is constantly picking each other up and cheering each other on," co-Captain Mei Ardit (12) said.



Tali Benchimol/Photography Editor

## Roster

Isha Agarwal, Mei Ardit, Carolyn Chun, Sarah Finley, Kyra Hill, Hannah Long, Alexandra Mantz, Rachel Okin, Chidimma Okpara, Elizabeth Raab, Jih Su Ryu, Gibson Thomas

# Homecoming

## Varsity Football

SARAH SHIN  
Staff Writer

The Varsity Football team will face Newark Academy on Alumni Field this Saturday at 2:30 p.m. The team currently holds a record of 1-1.

"There's definitely a sense of excitement with the team. Especially with the seniors, because it's going to be the last time they will be playing during homecoming," Ethan Matt (11) said.

"It's a saddening feeling to know that this Saturday will be my last homecoming game, but the legacy of the team I had the honor to play with will set the tone for years to come and stay with me for the rest of my life," Jephtha Prempeh (12) said.

Last year, the team played two games against Newark, losing one in the regular season and winning the other in the playoffs for the championship.

"They're definitely some good competition. They're not a team to

underestimate," Matt said.

Coach Ron Beller has Newark's game film equip the defensive with aggressive strategies. They be changing up its offense its gameplay and maximize Prempeh said.

Starting quarterback (11) recently suffered in the event he is not Dillon Holder (12) will be starting quarterback.

"With Marc, we tend with Dillon we seem to off more often," William

The football team is the upcoming game and win, Matt said.

If we're able to execute a good look going for season, but if we don't we know we have some to work on," Jahmire said.

## Boys Varsity Soccer

RICARDO PINNOCK  
Staff Writer

By 11:00 a.m. on Saturday morning, the Boys Varsity Soccer team will be jogging onto Alumni Field to start their warm up for the much-awaited game against their archrival, Riverdale.

In practice, the boys are perfecting their formations, passes, and overall fitness, co-Captain Merrick Gilston (12) said.

"The coaches, Aoife West, Ray Barile, and Head Coach Neil Berniker, have us work on our passing, and we do a lot of sprints across the field as a way to work on conditioning," Arjun Khorana (11) said.

"The team had a good start to the season, and with a few adjustments, some better chemistry and teamwork, we can play to the best of our ability," Berniker said.

Last year, the boys played

Riverdale and were until Riverdale scored last five minutes of the

"We got our heart now we are more pre-hungrier to win," Gilston

"I've always watched sidelines, and I'm excited opportunity to play in home crowd because it is amazing," Gavin De

"The homecoming is special. We get a lot of it is always fun to have watching," Noah Simon

The team is looking having a great outing they want to take care their home field, the provide a reason to cel fans, family, friends, and Berniker said.

## Varsity Field Hockey

NATASHA POSTER  
Staff Writer

Having lost its Homecoming game last year by one point, the Varsity Field Hockey Team is looking forward to a comeback in its first game against Riverdale this season.

"Last year was a hard loss because it was a very close match, so we have a lot of energy to beat Riverdale," Julia Roth (10) said. "Based on the way that we have been practicing, the energy we have, and what we have been working on, I really think we have a huge potential Homecoming win this year," she said.

The team is 1-1-1 so far this season, having lost to Rye Country Day, one of the best teams in the state, Varsity Field Hockey Coach Caroline Surhoff said.

"We took a lot away from that game, and we did score, so we felt really positive about that," Surhoff said.

Though the team feels confident about its progress throughout the season so far, the Lions have a lot to improve, Bliss Beyer (11) said.

"The communication great, so we need to make are talking to each other and being aware of who Beyer said.

In addition, the team on taking better and out of the circle and finding opportunities, Surhoff said.

The team is excited to this Saturday, as opposed to school game, because it was pumped to perform well.

"None of the seniors the Homecoming game really want it and it was for the team to have the winning Homecoming said.

The team shows g strong camaraderie, and Surhoff said.

"They come to practice she said.

# ing Previews



Saraffina Oh/Photography Editor

## Roster

Ethan Matt, Jahmire Cassanova, Dillon L. Holder, Max Porges, Pierce McMahon, Alec Ginsberg, Michael Sun-Huang, Marc Murphy, Max Westergaard, Ben Parker, Krystian Loetscher, Kyle Bernardez, Grant Kaufman, Mason Roth, Josh Taub, Jephtha Prempeh, Rae Rae Silverman, Louis Toberiski, Billy Lehrman, Oliver Aaron, Matt Bach, Andrew Rubin, Conrad Skala, Teddy Keegan, William He, John Peter Cerini, Kamaal Watts, Jakob Djibankov, Vaed Prasad, Vaughan Doty, Jonathan Oshrin, Ben Metzner



Tali Benchimol/Photography Editor

## Roster

Aidian Aisiks, Evan Buonagurio, Philippe Boulas, Gavin Delanty, Sean Koons, Henry Wildermuth, James Baumann, Michael Benacerraf, Peter Borini, Johnny Cohen, Julian Dubeck, Arjun Khorana, Jivan Kkakee, Noah Simon, Michael Davidoff, Daniel Frackman, Merrick Gilston, Ben Harpe, Nicholas Keirstead, Jack Miller, Josh Newman, Nick Silberman



Saraffina Oh/Photography Editor

## Roster

Bliss Beyer, Sophie Coste, Emma Forman, Caitlin Goldenberg, Mahika Hari, Zarina Iman, Lily Kessler, Devin Kleiner, Juli Moreira, Arianna Laufer, Bridgette Lee, Sadie Lye, Sydney Pergament, Ryan Platt, Julia Roth, Sarah Sirulnick, Joanne Wang, Phoebe Williams

## Girls Varsity Soccer

PETER BORINI

*Staff Writer*

"I think I can speak for the team when I say we all want it badly," Nikki Sheybani (11) said. After a close game that resulted in a 1-1 tie at last year's homecoming we really want to leave everything on the field Saturday and come away with the win.

In preparation for Homecoming, the Lions have been working hard at practice. The players have been addressing their lack of aggression on corner kicks, and they have been working to improve offensive connections between the midfield and the strikers.

There is definitely more pressure to perform well, Sophia Fikke (11) said. This pressure can be both a positive and a negative: it forces the team to work harder and improve, but at the same time it could cause them to panic, Fikke said.

The team has changed significantly since last year due to the loss of seniors who graduated, two of whom were

starting defenders. The lions now start three in the back: co-Captains Ashley Codener (12) and Jojo Levy (12), and Kiara Royer (9). According to her teammates, Royer has stepped up to the challenge of playing on Varsity as a freshman, and she is expected to continue to perform well.

After winning their first Ivy League Title last year, Girls Varsity Soccer (GVS) is hoping to make a statement at Homecoming, which will be the team's second league game of the season. Up until now GVS has only played three games, and two of them were against teams outside the Ivy League.

On Wednesday, the Lions had their first league game against Hackley, which resulted in 3-1 victory for the Lions thanks to goals by Maya Scholnick (11), Olivia Becker (11), and co-Captain Caitlyn Tien (12).

With a three game win streak and momentum on its side, the team is very confident that they will be able to perform exceptionally well against Riverdale.



Tali Benchimol/Photography Editor

## Roster

Jane Frankel, Olivia Becker, Lily Essner, Alexis Levy, Jojo Levy, Valerie Maier, Maya Scholnick, Taylor Sanders, Nikki Sheybani, Caitlyn Tien, Alexa Watson, Isabela Watson, Sophia Fikke, Brooke Hailey, Beatrix Bondor, Tess Lehrman, Giulia Lipton, Kiara Royer, Ashley Codner, Alexis Siegel, Lucy Rittmaster

## Boys Varsity Cross Country

CONNOR MORRIS

*Contributing Writer*

Despite losing three of its top seven runners from last year, the Boys Cross Country team is off to a promising start.

Co-Captain Justin Burton (12) distinguished himself as one of the league's top runners in the first two meets of the season: an Ivy developmental last Wednesday and a Regis Invitational last Saturday. New team members Eddie Jin (9) and Masa Shiiki (9) showed a lot of potential, performing well in their first races. At the Regis Invitational, Burton placed in the top 15, and Jin and Josh Doolan (11) finished in the top 30. Shiiki placed fifth overall in the freshmen race.

The race at Regis was grouped by grade. "We got a chance to familiarize ourselves with our competition and whom we are competing against in our

age group," co-captain Dylan Margolis (12) said.

Practices are held at Van Cortlandt Park, the same location where nearly all the meets take place. "This gives us a competitive edge over the other Ivy League schools as we know the course inside and out," Doolan said.

During practice, the team completes a mix of speed workouts, hill training, and long runs. "We're concentrating on training in the back hills of VCP as well as interval training in the flats," Boys Cross Country Coach Jon Eshoo said.

Going forward, the team will run in two meets a week: an Ivy Developmental every Wednesday and an invitational every weekend.

The Lions look forward to improving from last year's fifth place finish at the Ivy Championships.



Courtesy of Will Scherr

## Roster

Justin Burton, Dylan Margolis, William Scherr, Eric Schwartz, Josh Doolan, William Ha, Charles Hayman, Jordan Kindard, Ted Rashkover, Sam Stephenson, Michael Truell, Andre Dang, Riccardo He, Solomon Katz, Orion Lehoczky, Sajan Mehrotra, Arden Chien, Jake Sanders, Pratham Gandhi, Masa Shiiki, Brian Wu, Ed Jintastic, Jude Herwitz

## Varsity Water Polo

BETSEY BENNET

*Staff Writer*

The Varsity Water Polo Team will challenge Trinity at Homecoming in an effort to redeem itself from a close loss in a scrimmage earlier in the season.

The team has a positive mindset going into the match, especially since they will have extra support from Homecoming spectators, Josie Alexander (11) said.

"This game is going to be a way to prove ourselves," Alexander said. "I'm looking forward to the excitement and having lots of people from our school in the stands."

The team has played two scrimmages so far: a 7-8 loss against Trinity, and a 7-5 win against Fieldston.

"The scrimmages gave us an idea of who we want playing certain positions," Varsity Water Polo Coach Michael Duffy said. "Everybody's role is developing as the season progresses."

One of the team's key assets is the



Tali Benchimol/Photography Editor

## Roster

Josie Alexander, Armand Dang, Nikolas Elrifi, Joshua Gruenstein, William Han, Honor McCarthy, Christopher Shaari, Noah Shapiro, Parul Sharma, Alexander Sherman, Gabriela Sheybani, Michael Wang



Abigail Kraus / Staff Photographer

## Honor McCarthy

AMIR MOAZAMI  
*Staff Writer*

Ever since Honor McCarthy (11) attended a water polo class in the third grade at the Greenwich YMCA, she has played the sport with vigor and passion.

McCarthy has always been a strong swimmer and enjoys spending time in the pool, so when her mom saw an offering for a water polo class, they thought it would make sense for her

to join.

After her class in Greenwich, McCarthy has played for several travel teams and attended many summer camps.

"The camps have increased my polo IQ and helped me hone the technical aspects of my game," McCarthy said.

Although McCarthy has discontinued her travel play since joining the high school team, the skills she learned are prominent in her play for the school.

"Honor has good skills with the ball, great vision and makes the right pass," co-captain Chris Shaari (12) said.

"This year, as a junior, McCarthy has assumed a more prominent leadership role within the team both in terms of addressing the team and running the offense," Shaari said.

McCarthy transferred the skills forged on her travel team to her teammates by getting them involved in passing, Shaari said. She engages and supports her teammates, he said.

# Lions to

In terms of her own play, McCarthy seeks to improve her shooting from five meters out of the goal by practicing longer passes in order to increase her arm strength.

Water Polo means more than just a game to McCarthy; it has been a defining experience, she said. "When I think about growing up, water polo is what defines that period. I met my best friends, and was part of the Olympic Development Program," McCarthy said.

## Ashley Codner

TENZIN SHERPA  
*Contributing Writer*

Ashley Codner (12) started playing soccer when she was five years old.

"It was just one of those things that you do when you're little and you just try out a bunch of new stuff. I just stuck with soccer," she said.

Codner has been on the Girls Varsity Soccer team since her freshman year, and she plays for her town team

Merrick Force three times a week in the winter, spring, and summer.

"I love it because it's a form of therapy for me. I know that for 90 minutes I can step on the field and forget whatever stresses I've built up to focus on the game with a team that I know I can trust and has my back in everything I do both on and off the field," Codner said.

Codner plays center back, a defensive position on the team.

"I think Ashley is one of the best defenders in the league," Girls Varsity Soccer Head Coach Tim Sullivan said. "Ashley gives her best effort everyday at practice. She would do anything for the team," he said.

On the field, "she is a very dominant player. She is strong, fast, and has very good technical skills, as well as an amazing shot," Taylor Sanders (12) said.

"She rarely gets beat in one-on-one

situations. She is very fast and very smart with her positioning," Sullivan said.

She is also a supportive figure on the team, Olivia Becker (11) said. "Everybody looks up to her."

"I am looking forward to the season. I am so excited for Homecoming," Codner said. "I want to have a great season, and hopefully we can continue to play right, and play as well as we can."



Abigail Kraus / Staff Photographer

## Gibby Thomas

JANVI KUKREJA  
*Staff Writer*

Gibby Thomas (10) is not only an asset to the Girls Varsity Tennis Team as a player, but she is also a key member of the family.

"She is the happiest, most energetic person I know," Kyra Hill (11) said. "The team really wouldn't be the same team without her."

Whether she's on or off the court, "the team can really count on her

to pull through," Mei Ardit (12) said. Thomas constantly cheers her teammates on, but keeps her game face when it is time to play.

In 2014, Thomas won the United States Tennis Association Sportsmanship Award. She finished last year's season undefeated as a freshman and won the Most Valuable Player Award.

From Monday to Thursday, Thomas trains at her tennis academy for two hours after practices with the school

team, and she dedicates her weekends to various tournaments around the country.

"My favorite tournament is Zonals because I really get to spend time with my team for almost a full week and we just get to do what we love," Thomas said.

"Because I've been doing tennis ever since I was little, this sport really means a lot to me and has shaped me into the person I am," Thomas said. "Although at times it can be a bad

thing, I really like the fact that tennis is an individual sport. I like that I'm responsible for myself, and I am in control of the outcome."

"She's the most mature, hardworking player I've coached, and she definitely runs down more shots than anyone I have ever seen," Girls Varsity Tennis Head Coach Rawlins Troop said.

Playing number one singles this Saturday, Thomas hopes to represent her team and all its hard work at Homecoming.



Courtesy of Gibby Thomas

## Justin Burton

SADIE SCHWARTZ  
*Staff Writer*

Justin Burton (12) ran his first half-marathon when he was twelve years old. Since then, he has run in eleven more.

Burton has been running competitively since he was in seventh grade. He follows a rigorous training schedule that includes running ten miles a day on the weekends.

"One thing that's really good about running is pushing yourself beyond

the human limits and allowing yourself to overcome challenges that you didn't think were possible," Burton said.

"Justin has always been a self-motivated runner and has been one of the top seven runners on the team since his freshman year," Boys Varsity Cross Country Head Coach Jon Eshoo said.

"He puts a lot of effort into cross country and he has a lot of passion for it, and at the same time he always has that mentality of trying to become better athlete everyday and finding a way to

win," teammate Masa Shiki (9) said.

Burton was handpicked by the NY Road Runners Runner (NYRR) of the year for 2014 and 2015. The NYRR organizes the vast majority of races in NYC, including the NYC Marathon.

"Watching him practice really motivates me to work harder and to try to stick with him on hard runs," teammate Will Scherr (12) said.

Burton hopes to break the school record of 13.23 for the 2.5 mile course, which is held by his father Peter Burton

('85) for the past thirty three years.

"I want to show the upcoming cross country leaders that this team is not just the remnants of our better years in the 80's, but a live, growing team with a bright future," Burton said. "Running has become like a family tradition, and maybe I can keep the family name on the school records list."

"I want to do for the team what they did for me," Burton said. "I hope to create a community where people are working together to improve."



Freya Lindvall / Staff Photographer

## Julia Roth

ELIZABETH FORTUNATO  
*Staff Writer*

Julia Roth (10) was first exposed to field hockey at a kindergarten summer camp, but she fell in love with the sport during her sixth grade rotation at the school. Since then, the midfielder has strived to become a stronger player, and field hockey has become her biggest passion.

"After playing in middle school, making the varsity team last season was a big achievement for me. The team is

like a family to me and I truly enjoy playing and competing," Roth said.

"I knew Julia would be a major contributor to the varsity program last year when she came to preseason camp in 2015 as a freshman," Varsity Field Hockey Coach Robin Surhoff said. "She is just beginning to tap into her potential. As coaches, we will support her drive and will to win any way we can."

She maintains a tireless work ethic in practice, where she often skips water

breaks to spend more time honing her shooting and defending skills, teammate Katie Goldenberg (10) said.

Roth, who is known for being sweet and happy go lucky to her friends and classmates, says that once she takes the field, an extremely intense alter ego takes over and unleashes a ferocity and competitive fire that few can match.

"Julia is fierce and dedicated on the field. She fights for every ball and never shies away from competition. She's aggressive, but has a fantastic mindset

and helps everyone else to also be intense and motivated," Goldenberg said.

Roth looks forward to competing in her three remaining years at HM. Having attended field hockey camps to further her development, she has no plans of dropping the sport after high school, Roth said.

"I would love to continue playing, whether for my college team, or even as a recreational sport. I enjoy it that much," she said.



Sarafina Oh / Photography Editor

# Football Watch

ELLA FEINER  
Staff Writer

After spending most of last year's football season injured, linebacker and team Captain Andrew Rubin (12) looks forward to a successful final season on the football team.

Rubin sustained a thumb injury right before the beginning of last season, he said. It was tough to be sidelined for the entire year, but he finally recovered to play in the championship game.

"He showed some great resilience despite the injury," football Head Coach

Matthew Russo said. "He was still a part of the team, and now the fact that he's healthy and on the field for us is an incredible bonus."

Rubin plays linebacker, a defensive position, Russo said. "He's probably our best, surest tackler, and he just brings a lot of heart, energy, and toughness to our defense."

"He's always around the ball, and as a tackler he always manages to be in on the play," Russo said.

Teammates agree that Rubin is a crucial part of the team. "Rubin is a guy who definitely pulls through on defense,"

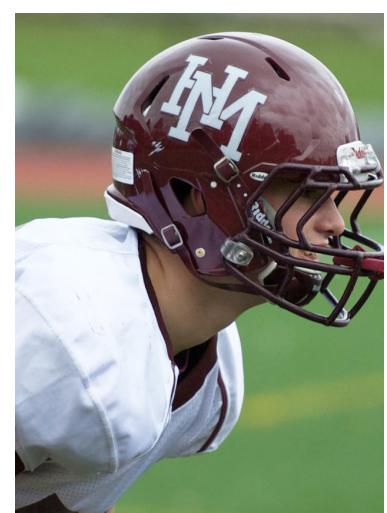
teammate William He (11) said.

"His ability to stay within his comfort zone while expressing leadership through play is unrivaled," teammate Jahmire Cassanova (11) said.

This year, Rubin hopes to be "more of a sideline-to-sideline player" and to improve in his pass coverage, he said. "As a player, my role on the team is to help stop the interior run and cover the middle."

Rubin is looking forward to a fourth successful season with the Lions. "Our main goal is definitely to win the championship and not lose

## Andrew Rubin



Courtesy of Andrew Rubin

another game this season. As a senior I definitely want to be able to say I won the championship every year that I was in high school," he said.

In addition to his on field contributions, Rubin provides steady leadership for the team, according to Russo. "His leadership extends to the actual game play, and he leads by example."

"He's wild on the field and chill off the field," Cassanova said.

"The HM football team is unique because it really is a brotherhood," Rubin said. "It almost feels like a family."



Sarafina Oh / Staff Photographer

## Josh Newman

GUSTIE OWENS  
Staff Writer

Josh Newman (12) began playing soccer recreationally at eight years old and played on a travel team at 10. Now he plays club soccer when he's not scoring goals for the Boys Varsity Soccer team.

He performs his game time rituals of "left sock, left cleat, right sock, right cleat" and reties his cleats twice before warmups. Then, right before the game, he shakes both legs then pulls them back, Newman said.

Newman is the team's leading scorer. "You stand in the side lines and wonder how he can pull off these plays," Head Coach Neil Berniker said.

During practice, Newman leads stretches, the lines for warm ups, jogging, and dynamic stretches. When the team has to organize for drills, he's always the person that helps everyone get ready, teammate Sean Koons (10) said.

The team listens to Newman on the field; he has a unique ability to rally the team during a game because he has the best mindset about various soccer plays, teammate James Baumann (11) said.

"He's a very quiet leader, he doesn't have to say much to get things accomplished," Berniker said.

Newman leads the team by example, because he always gives each game and practice his all and one can often see him playing during his free time, Baumann said.

"The way he dribbles the ball, there's no one on the team, maybe even the league that can do that," teammate and co-Captain Merrick Gilston (12) said.

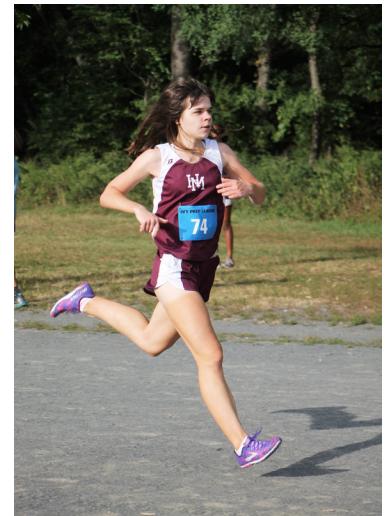
Newman is known for a move in which he jumps from one direction then shifts to the other; the team calls it "The

Josh," Koons said.

"My favorite experience was our final game of the season my sophomore year. We were playing in the NYSAIS finals and that was the school's best season in many years. It was really great to play with a lot of the seniors -- I looked up to a lot of players on the team, and from that experience I feel more responsibility as a senior now," Newman said.

"He's a great role model for his peers and his teammates, especially the younger players. He takes them under his wing and he helps them in any way he can," Berniker said.

## Blythe Logan



Freya Lindvall / Staff Photographer

LUTIE BROWN  
Staff Writer

Blythe Logan (12), co-Captain of the Girls Varsity Cross Country team, has been running track since third grade and cross country since seventh.

One of her favorite memories was the first day of pre-season freshman year when she met the team's welcoming upperclassmen. She became friends with them and they acted as role models for her, she said.

Logan has in turn become a figure of inspiration, support, and dedication to many team underclassmen, Freya Lindvall (11) said. "She is such a huge part of the team, and is a good role model for who a good member of cross country should be. She is great at keeping the team together and making everyone feel included and was very welcoming to me during my freshman year," Lindvall said.

"She was one of the first people to welcome me to the team when I joined and has always been an

inspiration to run better and faster," Lisa Shi (11) said.

Lindvall has been on the team with Logan for three years, and both are three season athletes. "One of her strengths is leading the pack. She goes above and beyond and runs to her limit, while also keeping us focused," Lindvall said.

"Having been captain of Outdoor Track last spring, I knew that the way I could lead the team most effectively was to lead by example and let any success that comes my way show

underclassmen why they should do the work to improve," Logan said. She works hard both inside and outside of practice every day to get faster, she said.

Logan is also a source of encouragement for the rest of the team, cheering them on and leading the group during practices. "Even when she had walking pneumonia last year, she was always standing at the start line cheering us on. She's still a big part of the team when she's not running," Lindvall said.

that everyone on the court is feeling comfortable," Brittany Jones (10) said.

Last year, when Jones was the only

freshman on the team, Peña-Alcántara welcomed her with open arms, Jones said.

Part of the reason Peña-Alcántara likes playing volleyball is because "it calms me," she said. "When I am on the court and in practice, I just think about volleyball. It's a sport that you can just fully immerse yourself in because it's so fast."

In the future, Peña-Alcántara wants

to work on improving her jump serve and to further unite the team, Peña-Alcántara said.

She's very humble even though she's one of the most experienced players on the team, Head Coach Michelle Lee said. "The other girls find her very approachable; she's really good at bringing the team together."

"She is really what a volleyball player should aspire to be. Her spirit, her focus, and her mental and her physical game are always amazing," co-Captain Emma Kelly (11) said.



Courtesy of Gigi Peña-Alcántara

## Gigi Peña-Alcántara

YEEQIN NEW  
Staff Writer

Girannah Peña-Alcántara (12) grew up in a volleyball-loving community in Illinois, and has brought that spirit to the school ever since she joined the volleyball team in seventh grade.

Along with playing on in-school teams, she also played for the New York City Juniors Volleyball Club in seventh and eighth grade and the All-Stars Volleyball Association in ninth through 11th grade, Peña-Alcántara

said.

Although Peña-Alcántara has only become a co-captain of the Girls Varsity Volleyball Team this year, "she's sort of always been a leader in the team and someone who is always there to help you," Sarah Zeng (12) said.

For example, Peña-Alcántara frequently gives her teammates advice to help them improve their volleyball skills, Zeng said.

"She really impacts the team because she's a really positive person who always lifts everyone up and makes sure

Last week was a tough week for fantasy owners of Adrian Peterson (panic level: med-high), Arian Foster (low), Doug Martin (med), Jonathan Stewart (med), and Danny Woodhead (IR), as all got injured. Kaplan's Korner recommends turning to the waiver wire for help, in the form of Matt Asiata, Kenyan Drake, Charles Simms, and Fozzy Whittaker.

# KAPLAN'S KORNER

Teddy Kaplan (12) gives his take on Fantasy Football

# Let the heavens hear and hail to Ackerman '53

Record staff writer Katie Goldenberg chats with Dr. Robert Ackerman '53, the composer and lyricist of the school's alma mater

**The Record:** What was your experience at Horace Mann like?

**Robert Ackerman:** It was a wonderful school, no question about it – good education, good people. When I went there, I was only twelve to fifteen years old and I was seventeen or eighteen when I graduated. I worked on the Record as the associate editor, and I was also the editor of the Russian Record that we put out in 1953 before Stalin died. It was intended to represent education and student life at HM and to be sent to selected Soviet schools in order to open communication with our counterparts.

**TR:** What inspired you to write the alma mater?

**RA:** We had sang almas – that was our word for a well-known, chapel-type piece – and I just thought that Horace Mann deserved to have its own.

**TR:** How did you prepare to write the alma mater, a specific type of music?

**RA:** I've written other music, and in fact the head of the English department at Horace Mann thought so highly of the work I was writing that he asked me to come up to his summer theater and write the music for a play that they were going to put on. I did that and everything went very well and people enjoyed the music I was composing.

Writing the Alma Mater was my idea. I presented Dr. Gratwick with a

completed piece. From the time I came to Horace Mann, as a First Former, I thought that the school deserved its own original Alma Mater, not new words tacked onto a holiday piece of music. Dr. Gratwick's introduction of his "Great is the truth and it prevails" theme gave me an important starting point for a new Alma Mater.

I didn't ask his permission, to be honest, I just went ahead and wrote the alma mater and he was overjoyed and thrilled by it. As you know, it's been in place for about 60 years.

**TR:** What's your background in composing and lyric writing?

**RA:** I had been composing piano music for some years and I briefly

attended the (Saturday morning) Preparatory Music School at Juilliard. You had to go through a very intensive set of interviews and play some of the music that you'd written, because I wanted to major in composition. The Alma Mater was one of several pieces I played during my interview for entrance to Juilliard.

**TR:** How long did it take to write the alma mater?

**RA:** I don't think it took me more than a number of weeks or months. When I would come to school during the day I would go down to the music room and during lunchtime I'd be trying a new version of the keys. I really was fluent with it because I thought it was very important for Horace Mann to have its own alma mater.

**TR:** What was it like to both compose and write the lyrics for a song?

**RA:** Given that it was accepted so warmly, it was very thrilling. But at one point in time, there were a lot of crazy stories going around that it wasn't original, that I stole the music, and none of that is true.

**TR:** The alma mater has a wide range of notes – was there any artistic meaning in including that in the song?

**RA:** No – in fact, I would rather that it didn't have the difference between the high and low, because some people, when it first came out, would say, I can't reach that high, and it's not for a men's school. Over the years, everyone learned to reach that high, and accepted it warmly.

**TR:** Is there anything else about the alma mater Record readers might not know that you'd want to share?

**RA:** When I speak to the alumni office from time to time, they all say the alma mater is still being used and seem very excited about it. However, one year when I was there, some people in the alumni office who hadn't been there for more than a few years thought that I didn't write the music or didn't write



Courtesy of Horacemann.org

Ackerman was a student at the school between 1949-53

the words. The fact is, I wrote both of them myself.

**TR:** Have you ever come back to Horace Mann to sing the alma mater?

**RA:** The only time was when they had a special dinner, and while I was there, the chorus sang the alma mater. I was asked to stand up because I'd written the alma mater. However, I don't think I ever came back to play the alma mater. I've actually had dreams of coming back to play the alma mater but you don't have the same type of thing we had.

In the morning, the Upper School would go into the auditorium to sometimes have lectures, and there was a day that we sang music, which was wonderful. The words would go up on the screen, and I learned all of it – all of us learned all of the songs, folk songs, popular songs – and to this day whenever I'm bored or driving a long way, I'll start singing. Lots of people today don't have that opportunity to sing music that is understandable and that they can be a part of.

Interview has been edited for length and clarity.

## The Alma Mater: An Inside Scoop

We were strangers met in friendship, now we're kin to one and all ①

Who have passed their youth 'neath the guiding hand...of our Noble HORACE MANN.

When we're lone and helpless wanderers in this dark and stormy sea ②

She's the beacon that will light the way to life and liberty.

For knowledge is the truth that makes us free.

③ Great is the truth and it prevails; Mighty the youth the 'morrow hails. ④

Lives come and go; stars cease to glow; but great is the truth and it prevails.

Let us honor Alma Mater as in tribute now we stand. Pour your heart into each vibrant note that earth this song may span;

Let the heavens hear and hail to HORACE MANN.

Lyrics and analysis by Robert Ackerman '53

① We were people from many different backgrounds, and many different parts of New York, and even knowing that we were allowed to put out a Russian version of the Record, we realized could extend into other countries as well.

② Adolescence.

③ A graduate brought that and explained that we are operating under the idea of those words.

④ Had to be changed from "men" when the school became co-ed.

## Alumni reconnect at Homecoming reunions

SOLOMON KATZ  
Staff Writer

"Cheering on the same teams that I used to be on makes me feel like I'm 18 again," Jodi Rosensaft '96, a member of the Class of 1996 Reunion Committee, said.

Every five years, 15 graduated classes celebrate reunions during Homecoming.

The events are organized by Kristin Lax, the Director of Alumni Relations, the Alumni and Development Office, and by alumni committees that are appointed by the Alumni Office.

Turnout varies from year to year, but there are over 600 expected graduates to attend this year. The Class of 2011 will have more than 50% of their class back together, Lax said.

"We reach out to everyone in our class to make sure they received their invitations, and they are at least considering attending," Lindsay Franklin Taylor '96, a member of the Class of 1996 Reunion Committee said.

Many of the attendees have to travel from places around the country and around the world.

"It's especially difficult to convince alumni with a much larger commute to come. A key strategy we use is reminding them of the nostalgia that they feel for their years at HM," Taylor said.

In the years since many alums' graduations, the school has changed



Members of the alumni soccer game of 2015 pose for a picture

"We'll definitely be reminded of our prom," Fleiss said.

During the reunions, the alumni talk about more than just their experiences back in high school.

"I always look forward to getting updated on what has happened in the lives of my classmates since the last time I've seen them," Fleiss said. "Whether it's with their career or their family, people have done some really amazing things with their lives and with their HM education."

"For most of the year, I only get small updates on how people from HM are doing with social media," Rosensaft said. "Things are much more personal when you get updated face to face."

The location of the reunion doesn't really matter because the vital part isn't seeing the campus again; it's getting reacquainted with each other's lives, Fleiss said.

"I've come out of our reunions confident that our class is a family," Taylor said. "We've been separated for reasons out of our control, but when we're reunited, we're still a tight-knit community."

"Although it's going to be hard to accept that it has already been 20 years since we went to school together, I know we all have so much to show for that time," Rosensaft said.

dramatically.

"The campus and buildings are so much more beautiful and advanced. The only thing that hasn't changed since we went is a few of the security guards and teachers who still work at HM," Taylor said.

"Even though I didn't get to experience them myself, I still appreciate and admire the upgrades to the class selection and the facilities," Andrew Fleiss '96 said. "I'm amazed with how the cafeteria has really become a place where students can hang out and interact with each other."

The appeal of these reunions to alumni is reconnecting with old

classmates that have lost touch and reminiscing about shared memories and experiences from high school, Rosensaft said.

One of the longest standing traditions of the Homecoming reunion is the alumni soccer game. There is consistently a wide range of participants – this year's participants span from the Class of 1966 to the Class of 2011, Melissa Parento, the Director of Development said.

The tradition was created by, and named in the honor of, Dan Alexander '49. Alexander is a beloved former faculty member, administrator and long-time soccer coach, Parento said.

When coaching soccer in the 1960's, Alexander often brought alumni back to play with the varsity soccer team in scrimmages, which was great practice for the team as well as an enjoyable experience for the alums, Alexander said. The popularity of that game brought enough players back to campus to warrant their own alumni match. By the late 60's, it morphed into the alumni soccer match held on Homecoming Day, he said.

On the night of Homecoming, the Class of '99 will leave campus for the Intercontinental New York Barclay Hotel. There will be eating, drinking, and a dance.

# Homecoming: a recipe with many cooks

MAHIKA HARI  
Staff Writer

"Nothing is greater at Horace Mann than playing in front of your home crowd," Boys Varsity Soccer player Merrick Gilston (12) said. This Saturday's Homecoming will give athletes a chance to be recognized for their skill and for people not playing to show school spirit by cheering the players on.

"Homecoming is vital to the school's community, as we can all gather around to support each other and celebrate the athletic achievements of many of our students," Josh Doolan (11), said. Doolan runs on the Varsity Cross Country team.

"It's a time when alumni can come back to school and see the campus, old friends, former teachers, coaches, and school personnel," Dean of Student Life Dr. Susan Delanty said. "I imagine that the tradition began to provide that opportunity."

Even for students not playing, it's always good to come show support and create a sense of community while hanging out with friends, Aidan Futterman (12) said. She feels as if the school is more centered around everyone's individual interests, but Homecoming is something all types of students, faculty, alumni, and families go to, she said.

Although attendants of this popular event just see the final product with everything running smoothly, there is a lot of work that goes into planning Homecoming. FLIK prepares food for 2,500-3,000 people, FLIK Director of Food Services Brenda Cohn said. This will be Cohn's ninth year preparing for Homecoming.

Even the menu for Homecoming is tailored towards spreading the feeling of community; FLIK aspires to provide everything you would expect at a tail gate, Cohn said.

The unity that Homecoming creates is one of the best parts of the event, Futterman said. "Especially because it's centered around something other than grades and academics. That's really refreshing."

Homecoming "is one of the few times



Homecoming pages in the Mannkin 1992 and the Mannkin 2016

during the year where the whole school, Upper and Lower Division (including parents), can come together in school spirit and have fun without having to worry about schoolwork or anything else for the day," Ben Parker (11), who plays Varsity Football, said.

It's great to be involved with Homecoming since all the school spirit shows how much people love being part of our community, Gilston said.

Olivia Klein (10), who does not play a fall sport, goes to Homecoming to support her friends and watch games she normally wouldn't have the time to watch, she said.

Homecoming makes me feel special by receiving the support of our community to provide that extra boost needed to power me through the final minutes of my race," Doolan said.

For sports like tennis that don't usually

get a big turnout, Homecoming offers the chance for the players to receive this sense of support. Alumni from past years' teams return and friends who can't usually watch come see us play, Girls Varsity Tennis player Rachel Okin (11) said.

I love seeing alumni of all ages, from recent graduates to graduates with their families. I love watching the faces of alumni finding their old friends. I love seeing our former athletes come back to support our current athletes," Delanty said.

For many teams, Homecoming makes them even more tightly knit. Sophia Fikke's (11) favorite part of the day is the Girls Varsity Soccer breakfast on the morning of Homecoming. "I think this tradition makes the day that much more special to me and helps build my anticipation."



Courtesy of the Mannkin

OCTOBER 10, 2015



Courtesy of the Mannkin

Team bonding is key to performing well and the boys constantly try to motivate each other throughout practice and games, Gilston said. "We can have the greatest eleven players of all time, but if we can't play together, it doesn't matter because we can't win."

The football team spends four days at sleepaway camp in preseason, which helps establish camaraderie, Parker said. "Without a closely knit team, it's hard to have good chemistry on the field, especially in a sport where every position matters in every play."

Homecoming makes me feel special as an athlete because there are not only parents in the stands like there are for most league games, but also peers," Fikke said. "I am more gratified by my peers' attendance, as I value their opinions, participation, and school spirit so highly."

## Maroon Monsoon revives school spirit

HANNAH LONG  
Staff Writer

"The real goal of the Maroon Monsoon is to get people hyped about upcoming sporting events and to plan pep rallies where we can get a solid attendance and where people can have fun," co-President of the Maroon Monsoon Alec Ginsberg (12), said.

The Maroon Monsoon members believe that there is a significant lack of spirit and enthusiasm about the school's athletics, according to Skylar Rosen (12), co-President of the Maroon Monsoon.

Ginsberg feels that its wrong people aren't getting excited about cheering on the Lions, he said.

Rosen, who has played varsity basketball for the past three years, said that fewer and fewer people come to support them during games.

"There are only a handful of games I remember where we had a big crowd, and those were always the most fun and made me really excited to be a Horace Mann athlete."

The five co-Presidents meet with Faculty Adviser Ray Barile and Director of Student Activities Caroline Bartels regularly to come up with creative ways to promote school spirit, Ginsberg said.

Leading up to Homecoming, the Maroon Monsoon hosted a karaoke battle for the varsity teams during break on Thursday.

Ragan Henderson (10) created a video previewing the sports events at Homecoming.

"It was really cool because it looked so professional," Carolyn Chun (11) said of the video.

"Things like the video and pep rally are great reminders to get involved and excited about our school's athletics," Katie Goldenberg (10) said.

Wednesday through Friday, the Maroon Monsoon has been selling t-shirts, bandanas, socks, and rugby jerseys instead of the same sweatshirts they had been selling for the past 20 years, Barile said.

"The money we make we donate to charity. If we have extra money, we will donate one thousand dollars to American Cancer Society," Barile said.

Additionally, the Maroon Monsoon will use the rest of the money to help the school, Barile said. In the past, the Maroon Monsoon has bought lion costumes, the podiums for the theaters, and donated money to different departments.

As a result of the Maroon Monsson, "I think a lot more people are aware of and talking about Homecoming this Saturday and will come out to see the games," Goldenberg said.



Rebecca Salzhauer/Contributing Artist

## Teams don costumes for homecoming

MEGHA NELIVIGI  
Contributing Writer

If a visitor toured school on a normal day, they would most likely see students from various sports teams wearing distinctive outfits to support their teams.

Whether they're dressed up to fit a specific theme - "preppy" for example, as the field hockey team wore recently - or simply wearing a jersey, small scale school spirit is visible on a day to day basis. But if a visitor came on the Friday before Homecoming, they would witness elaborate sequences of costumes put together by the sports teams.

For co-Captain of the Varsity Field Hockey team Sadie Lye (12), team spirit is a way to pull the larger school community together, while simultaneously bringing individual teams closer. By wearing your team's jersey or matching with your teammates, the wider community is aware of when a game will take place, Lye said.

For Caitlyn Tien (12) and Ashley Codner (12), two of the captains of the Girls Varsity Soccer team, team spirit is a way to represent the Lions while showing pride for your team.

"Teams dress up so much the day before Homecoming because it's an excuse to be fun and silly and crazy."



Boys Varsity Soccer and Girls Varsity Field Hockey teams in team spirit

It demonstrates just how much team members care, and brings out team spirit," Lye said.

The Varsity Field Hockey and Girls Varsity Soccer teams typically choose a theme for their costumes. For the soccer team, the seniors decide on a theme by the first week of school. This theme is a surprise to everyone - including team members - until the day of, where the seniors

have a big reveal of the costumes, Tien said.

Themes can be as specific as a movie, or something more random; last year's Girls Varsity Tennis team had seniors dressed up as farmers and the rest of the team dressed in corn costumes. The Girls Varsity Soccer team had everyone dressed up as characters from Scooby-Doo. The Varsity Water Polo team also



# GAME SCHEDULE

**11:00 AM**

Girls Varsity Field Hockey  
**vs Riverdale**  
*Four Acres Field*

Boys Varsity Soccer  
**vs Riverdale**  
*Alumni Field*

**12:00 PM**

Girls Varsity Tennis  
**vs Riverdale**  
*Andrew Feinberg 96' Tennis Center*

Girls Varsity Volleyball  
**vs Riverdale**  
*Prettyman Gym*

**1:00 PM**

Girls Varsity Soccer  
**vs Riverdale**  
*Four Acres Field*

Varsity Water Polo  
**vs Trinity**  
*Prettyman Gym*

Boys and Girls Cross Country  
**Xavier Meet**  
*Van Cortlandt Park*

**2:30 PM**

Boys Varsity Football  
**vs Newark Academy**  
*Alumni Field*

**3:00 PM**

Alumni Soccer Game  
*Four Acres Field*