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Students, faculty discuss diversity at two conferences

SAM HELLER
Staff Writer

Last Thursday, six students from the school attended the three day long Student Diversity Leadership Conference (SDLC) alongside approximately 1600 students from independent schools from all across the nation.

Running in conjunction to SDLC was the People of Color Conference (POCC), a conference designed specifically for adults and focused around similar concepts.

Both conferences kicked off with a combined opening ceremony, where approximately 5000 students and adults were given an overview of the weekend to come and were subsequently broken up into the two individual conferences for the rest of the weekend. From there, those attending SDLC were broken up into groups of around 10 seemingly random groups that would be called their 'family group' Zarina Iman (11) said.

However, POCC was run differently than SDLC. Instead of family groups, there were workshops and shorter discussions on a large variety of topics prompted by large general assemblies, Dean of the Class of 2017 Michael Dalo, who attended POCC, said.

The rest of the weekend was mostly spent in these family groups or different affinity groups, discussing different diversity issues or participating in different exercises for helping students understand diversity better, Emma Forman (12) said.

When the students were in their family groups, the main topics they discussed were the core identifiers of diversity work: gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, race, age, religion, socio-economics, and mental or physical ability. Each of these was used to jumpstart a conversation and multiple activities regarding them.

"It is especially a phenomenal experience for students. They come back always really kind of transformed and energized. I feel like a lot of growth

happens in that short amount of time," Diversity Associate Naomi Enright said.

A big takeaway from the conference that would be great to teach other students is learning to be more direct, honest and open to talk about subjects that may seem frightening, Emma Jones (11) said.

"I felt like I was witnessing history," Jones said. "There was so much power and respect."

When students were not participating in activities, they listened to speakers such as Hank Aaron, a retired black baseball player, and Christine King, Martin Luther King's last surviving sibling. These speeches were powerful, and many students cried, Yasmin McLamb (10) said.

Originally, McLamb attended the conference with a feeling of loneliness in terms of her identity, she said.

However, upon arriving at SDLC, she participated in a multicultural affinity group consisting of around 300 students all from private schools who "understand where you are coming from, certain issues, and what it's like to be a multiracial person," she said.

She walked away with the message that "no matter where you come from, there will be people who feel the same way as you. You will never be alone," McLamb said.

Looking forward, Forman wants other white students at the school to be aware of their whiteness and the privilege that comes with that, she said.

"With the students that come back, there is a sense of transformation and a sense of 'how do I now implement this in the space I'm managing?'" Diversity Associate John Gentile said.

It would be even greater if the school started incorporating diversity directly into the core curriculum as opposed to it being tangential to it, Dalo said.

"It's worthwhile as a whole that the school is involved in these initiatives, because it's really just a big think tank of ideas that we could draw from," Iman said.



WITNESSING HISTORY Students traveled to Atlanta to attend the Student Diversity Leadership Conference where they discussed issues of diversity and inclusion.

JANVI KUKREJA
Staff Writer

This past weekend the Debate Team participated in one of the first larger tournaments of its season, the Ridge High School Invitational, which the team used mostly to train the underclassmen and introduce them to a more competitive atmosphere, co-President Asher Spector (12) said.

"This is the first time a Horace Mann team has won an entire tournament, so we're all very excited to see how they'll

do in the future," Arjun Khorana (11), another mentor who attended the invitational, said.

"We prepared for the invitational by researching as a team, and all the underclassmen were assigned a point person who would be able to answer any of their questions and discuss the topic," Spector said.

Ella Feiner (11) and Elizabeth Raab (11) led the trip along with various other upperclassmen who attended the invitational as mentors for the new additions to the debate team.

Community events promote holiday spirit



Freya Lindvall/Staff Photographer

EVERYBODY ONE-TWO STEP Cara Hernandez (12), Ricardo Pinnock (11), Tishiya Carey (12), Girannah Peña-Alcantara (12), and Jephtha Prempeh (12) perform in Tuesday's assembly as a part of the dance group HM Stomp.

NATALSHA POSTER
Staff Writer

Though week before winter break tends to be busy, Director of Student Activities Caroline Bartels hoped to get the community into the holiday spirit through the holiday assembly and a number of winter-themed events.

On Monday, the Fashion and Design Club hosted an ugly sweater decorating table in the library, which led to Tuesday's ugly sweater day, when students and faculty were invited to wear their ugliest holiday sweaters. On Wednesday, candy cane reindeers were handed out in the library, on Thursday the library showed "A Charlie Brown Christmas" during D and E periods, and on Friday there was cookie decorating in the library.

In a high-pressure school, it is important to have moments where you can just be a kid, Bartels said.

The assembly on Tuesday began with 60 Seconds of Peace. In Gross Theater, students stood on stage with electric candles and recited lines from a poem calling for peace.

Emma Jones (11) recited one of her own poems in the Recital Hall. Jones wanted to read a poem that was politically relevant and not too

personal, and believed that it meshed well following the candlelighting ceremony, she said.

The Jazz Bands performed "The Christmas Song" in the Recital Hall.

According to saxophone player Abby Weber (12), doing a Christmas song that everyone can recognize is great to have around the holidays because the band spends a lot of the year playing jazz songs that most people do not know, she said.

HM Stomp, a new step dance group, performed for the first time in Gross Theater, incorporating the song "Juju on that Beat" into their performance.

"It was festive because we were all doing it together as a unit; we were showing what we worked so hard on to our community," Tishiya Carey (12) said.

A student representative from each grade participated in Pin the Carrot on the Snowman, a new school tradition. The sophomores, represented by Surya Gowda (10), were declared the victors.

Sinfonietta performed two Chinese folk songs in Santa hats.

"One of the pieces that we played involved yelling, so I wasn't sure how that was going to be taken by everyone, but it seemed to be most people's favorite piece," Teddy Keegan (11) said.

Concert Glee filled the stage of the Recital Hall and sang "Blow Blow Thou Winter Wind."

The holiday assembly incorporates beautiful pieces that have to do with the beauty of winter, which is really fun, Abigail Kraus (10) said.

The promotional video for the Book Day book, "Between the World and Me" by Ta-Nehisi Coates, was shown next, filmed and edited by Maggie Brill (11). The video consisted of interviews with teachers about why they enjoyed the book.

The goal of the video was to show people the power of the book, and Brill hoped that came through, she said.

Maya Klaris (12) reflected on her experience at the school, speaking about how the school motivated and helped her gain more perspective.

The dance team performed a Rockettes-inspired dance to "Sleigh Ride."

The holiday assembly is a time where the community can unify before the holidays, no matter what one's religious preference is, to celebrate their accomplishments, Lauren Smith (11) said.

"The more things we can do that make people want to be here and support each other is a good thing all around," Bartels said.

Debate Team focuses on underclassmen growth, advances far at invitational

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Staff Writer

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"This is the first time a Horace Mann team has won an entire tournament, so we're all very excited to see how they'll

do in the future," Arjun Khorana (11), another mentor who attended the invitational, said.

"We prepared for the invitational by researching as a team, and all the underclassmen were assigned a point person who would be able to answer any of their questions and discuss the topic," Spector said.

Ella Feiner (11) and Elizabeth Raab (11) led the trip along with various other upperclassmen who attended the invitational as mentors for the new additions to the debate team.

It was super beneficial to focus this tournament on underclassmen," Raab said. "As the future of the team, we think it's really important to make sure the younger debaters experience away tournaments and bond with each other."

With Caroline Goldenberg (9) and Rhea Sanger's (9) winning the entire novice tournament and multiple teams' reaching quarters and semifinals, the tournament was deemed a success.

While Goldenberg has competed in past debate tournaments, the Ridge Debates were much larger and more

competitive, which is something she has never experienced before, she said.

"The intensity of the tournament was overwhelming at first, but we became accustomed to and more confident in the atmosphere," Goldenberg said. "We progressed from round to round, improving on what had gone not as well and continuing doing what we had liked during the previous round."

"I was surprised to see how much the team and I improved from just one round to the next," Shay Soodak (9) said.

"All throughout the tournament,

everyone was helping each other out, cheering their teammates on and watching all the debates," Khorana said. "The team camaraderie was one of the things that really helped us to be at our best."

There are more tournaments coming up in February and April that will also be specialized for the underclassmen, so the team is already excited about those, Raab said.

In preparation for future tournaments, "we will probably focus more on their speaking fluency as well as their broader understanding of the topic," Spector said.

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Jingle bells rock

Middle and Upper Division music groups ring in the season with annual holiday concerts.

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Dribble, shoot, swish

Coverage on JV girls and boys basketball.

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ROBOTICS, CODING & TECHNOLOGY

A look into the culture of technology at the school both inside and outside the classroom

GUSTIE OWENS & RICARDO PINNOCK
Staff Writers

Music fills the air in the Tillinghast basement during a robot dance party. As part of a project in their one-trimester robotics class, seventh-graders at the school designed a track in GarageBand and choreographed a dance for their robot to perform as the track played.

This is only one of the many ways that the school incorporates computer science, and more specifically coding and robotics, into the curricular and extracurricular education of students across divisions.

"For at least 25 years, the school has always been on an innovative edge," Middle and Upper Division Computer Teacher Glenda Guerrero said. In addition to the frequent renovations and modernization, the computer science program is organizing more connection between divisions and evolving its curricula, she said.

When Head of Upper Division Dr. Jessica Levenstein came to the school in 2000, computer science was a small sector of the school. Now, the school's computer science program is an attraction for prospective students, she said.

Guerrero finds that there is a national movement of computer science becoming an academic discipline, in addition to an extracurricular activity, at all levels of education. In following this trend, the department at school is constantly evolving to expand both curricular and extracurricular offerings, and the program has not been the same between any two years, she said.

"The world marketplace needs people who are proficient in computer science," Levenstein said.

GIRLS IN TECHNOLOGY

Numerous programs have been implemented at the school to engage girls specifically in computer science across all four divisions.

The school has created all-female spaces for exploring the computer science and robotics-related fields that people have come to think of as specifically male, Levenstein said.

In the MD, 25 girls are involved in an all-female robotics team, and the number of girls involved grows every year, Guerrero said.

The school created the separate girls team for female students to have a space where they feel comfortable exploring robotics, and because the maturity level of girls in the eighth grade is different than the maturity level of sixth grade

boys, Computer Science and Robotics Department Chair Jason Torres said.

While the programs have increased the number of girls involved in robotics, the department will continue to run the all-girls team "as long as the demand is still there," Torres said.

According to Lower Division Learning Specialist Sandra Seo, male voices are often more authoritative and demanding, and girls sometimes need to put in extra effort to be heard.

"Speaking from my experiences teaching both at Horace Mann and at a girls' school, I believe it can be beneficial for girls to have an opportunity to learn without the boys around," Seo said.

Guerrero finds that female participation in the Upper Division robotics team has increased due to exposure in the middle division program, parental and global influence, and the sense of camaraderie that ensues when friends join the club together.

Currently, eight of the 13 students on the UD FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) robotics team are girls from the all-girls MD program, Torres said.

In the Lower Division, K-5 Science Specialist Katherine Diaz has organized Saturday programs that promote Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) by leading fun science experiments with female students.

Janvi Kukreja (10) expanded the program to Middle School girls after she noticed that she was the only girl in her honors math course as a freshman, she said.

Kukreja, with the help of faculty and other UD girls, piloted a MD program conducting similar experiments. Kukreja hopes that the program will help the participants "build confidence and feel encouraged to join more advanced classes."

The participants in the program have conducted experiments and activities including building miniature solar powered cars and creating a telegraph to communicate in Morse code, Kukreja said.

TECHNOLOGY IN LD/ND

In the Nursery Division (ND), technology has served as a valuable tool for engaging and meeting the needs of different types of learners, Head of ND Marcia Levy said.

Kindergarten classrooms and the ND's studio, a large classroom for art and investigative experiments, are now equipped with iPads and SmartBoards that allow teachers to engage with technology in ways that supplement the curriculum, Levy said.

When students learned about musicians, teachers pulled up video clips of the musicians' songs. When students learned about animals, teachers taught research skills by working one-on-one with each student to research an animal on an iPad, Levy said.

The Nursery Division is also piloting a Saturday robotics program for kindergarteners. Currently half of the grade is signed up to participate, Levy said, and the administration anticipates more kids will join if the program is successful.

"I was surprised that my super girly-girl kindergartener was excited to take the coding class. I look forward to them continuing to offer that kind of program," Amy Finzi P'26 P'30 P'31 said of her daughter in kindergarten, who participated in the new monthly Saturday coding class.

The school realizes, however, that children can also have exposure to technology at home. Parents seeking advice about technology use or

application recommendations can ask their child's teachers for a list of recommendations, Levy said.

"Teachers and administrators are very responsive to questions about how to find appropriate ways to incorporate technology into the home," Finzi said.

According to Seo, younger children should spend less time on screens than older children. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends no screen time for children under two years old, and an hour at most for older children, Seo said.

Seo does not consider time spent on technology in class, like watching a two-minute video clip, to contribute to a child's daily screen time, as linking technology to curricular areas makes learning more accessible and meaningful to many students, she said.

Overuse of technology and too much time on screens makes kids inactive and disturbs their sleep, Seo said. "Lower school teachers are aware that technology infiltrates so many aspects of our young students' lives, and there is no substitute for real books and hands-on learning," she said.

CURRICULUM SEQUENCING

The most concrete outline of the recent changes in the Computer Science and Robotics Department is the department's five-year plan.

The objectives of the five-year plan, which lasted from 2011 to 2015, were to update and increase the quality and breadth of the courses, increase the impact across all divisions of the school in computer education, help provide leadership in building the computer science community at the school, create new courses that reflect the changes of the computer science industry, and to create a new robotics program that would serve both MD and UD students, Torres said.

The driving force behind the emphasis on increasing the connection between the computer science programs across the divisions was the disconnect between the Lower School and the Middle Division, Torres said.

The better sequencing solves the issue of faculty having expectations that students learned material that was not covered at the Lower Division, Torres said. It also ensures that teachers do not repeat curricula that students have already covered, he said.

The Middle Division technology curriculum consists of one-trimester workshops in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade that incorporates coding and robotics through computer applications. The MD students are only allotted one trimester of computer science and robotics a year because of restrictions in the schedule, Torres said.

The UD had similar courses in the 1990's, but the administration changed the course requirement to year-long courses that met more frequently and provided more options to students.

While the Computer Department is emphasizing better sequencing between computer science courses, some students find that there is an adjustment between technology use in different divisions.

"There's a large divide between middle division and high school use of technology. You have teachers that aren't very interested in tech. A lot of students have trouble adjusting from using iPads to no technology in many classes," William Golub (10) said.

"At first, in middle school I hated using technology in class, but I slowly adapted to it. So, I thought it was a little frustrating when I got to high school and had to learn to switch to pens and paper again," Zoe Vogelsang (11) said.

In the effort to create a better sequence and expand learning, high school students will have more opportunities to teach coding to younger students. Next month, AP Computer Science students will be working with LD Students for an hour of code lesson, Torres said.

RIGOR

After finding both that a number of students were choosing to leave the school after eighth grade to attend schools with greater focus on STEM and that current robotics students had interest in curricular engineering opportunities, the school introduced an Introduction to Engineering course, Torres said.

Jake Sanders (11) finds that his CS2 and AP Computer Science with Data Structures classes have been helpful for learning the beginning of Java programming, but he wishes there was a post-AP class, "where you really learn and get a more intense, deeper work ethic," he said.

In order to further explore computer science, Sanders joined the Robotics Team and Programming Club, where he participates in in-school competitions, hackathons, and online tests.

Many students, Golub included, believe that the department should incorporate courses that teach languages in addition to Java. Golub would be especially interested in C++ and Python courses available to students, he said.

The department is currently exploring adding a seniors-only half-credit advanced computer science course that students would take after completing AP Computer Science courses, Torres said.

Torres finds that it is difficult to respond to the student demand for courses in different coding languages because languages become popular and unpopular very quickly. "It takes a long time to develop a solid curriculum and course for a language, so it's hard to keep up with the current languages," he said.



ROW, ROW, ROW YOUR BOT Currently eight of the 13 students on the UD FTC Robotics team are from the MD all-girls robotics team

EDITORIAL

Accepting others' experiences: incorporating values of the SDLC into our community discussions

The annual Student Diversity Leadership Conference (SDLC), a multicultural conference including hundreds of students from independent schools all across the country, took place last week.

Students were split up into groups called 'family groups' of about 50 people where they discussed issues pertaining to racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, and other systems of oppression. Students also attended affinity groups where they were able to discuss common struggles with other similarly identified peers.

The conference is a safe space where students feel comfortable with all facets of their identity. Students engage in an open-minded conversation where everyone embraces each other's perspectives and life experiences. From members of the board's experiences there, although we started off as strangers, we accepted, supported, and loved each

other. The conference was a life-changing experience.

We as a board feel that the community norms at the conference should be applied to our school. Some of these values include "speak from the 'I' perspective" and "lean into discomfort." Students at SDLC were encouraged to share their own life experiences without making assumptions about the experiences of others. We urge the school community to be open to perspectives that may make us uncomfortable because this is the only way that learning will occur. We encourage being respectful and accepting of the values, experiences, and opinions of others.

We encourage the community to engage in discourse, embrace differing perspectives, and learn about social issues in order to cultivate the open-minded, judgement-free environment that SDLC fosters.

Glee and orchestra preface holiday season



HALLELUJAH The Glee Club and Orchestra perform "Hallelujah."

Band and Steel Drums perform

SOLOMON KATZ
Staff Writer

Cheerful sounds resonated from saxophone, drums, piano, guitar, and bass, creating a lively atmosphere in the Cohen Dining Commons.

The concert, which took place last Friday, featured the jazz combo, steel band, chamber winds, and wind ensemble.

The jazz bands performed "Christmas Song" by Mel Tormé and Robert Wells, a mashup of holiday songs.

"Unlike our rehearsals, I decided not to conduct them at the concert, and they became comfortable with being a self directed ensemble in performance," music teacher Michael Bomwell said.

"Bomwell had to improvise a monologue to buy us time to set up, but once we started playing things went pretty smoothly," saxophone player James Chang (11) said.

Justin Burton (12) sang in "Christmas Song," which marked the first time he has sang in concert.

"I was excited that Mr. Bomwell allowed me to sing because I have been trying to sing in a performance for a while now instead of my usual role on the xylophone," Burton said.

"Even with all our practice, we still had concerns going into the concert. However, a good jazz band has enough freedom to improvise when things go wrong and make the piece your own," Burton said.

The three steel drum ensembles

played a range of music from the upbeat, fun paced "Beach Boy" to slower, more mellow songs like "Africa" by Toto.

"The steel drums students took a lot of initiative in getting their pieces together for the concert," Bomwell said.

There was one section in "Africa" the group was not able to finish learning before the concert, but Ailee Mendoza (12) understood the section and was able to play the second half as a solo, group member Nyle Hutchinson (10) said.

The woodwind quintet chose two movements from the Nutcracker: "Arab Dance" - slow with prominent piano, steady 16th notes from the French horn and bass clarinet, and many short oboe solos, and "The March," a faster and more energetic movement.

"The quintet's performance was really helped from all the tips we received from Jeanne Wilson, who is an excellent flute teacher and chamber music coach," Kaiser said.

The wind ensemble played three songs, ending with Variations on a Korean Folk Song. The ensemble had excellent sensitivity to dynamics and intonation, Bomwell said.

The music department struggled with extracurricular conferences that took place at the same time as the concert.

"I wanted everyone who had practiced for three months to be there, so it was hard to deal with the scheduling conflicts with Debate and Model Congress events. I'm hoping to move the day of the concert next year, so my students won't have to be conflicted between two obligations," Bomwell said.



JAZZ IT UP From left to right: Justin Burton (12), Eric Schwartz (12), Henry Hunt (12), Abby Weber (12), Dahlia Krutkovich (12)

ELIZA POSTER
Contributing Writer

This past Wednesday, the annual glee club and orchestra holiday concert brought both tradition and new ideas to Gross Theater, showcasing musical ability and group harmonization.

The goal is to help the ensemble know which type of sound is appropriate for each piece, listen to each other, and be flexible enough to react in the moment, music teacher Nathan Hetherington said.

The glee club and orchestra performed an assortment of music by John Rutter, a favorite for both Hetherington and Music Department Chair Timothy Ho. The songs were chosen for their beautiful clarity and "pretty" violin and soprano parts, which made them easy to enjoy, Ho said.

Rutter's works are "synonymous with the holidays because they have this quality that is sort of angelic and sparkly," Ho said.

The songs included "Blow, Blow Thou Winter Wind," a slow and melodic musical rendition of the poem by William Shakespeare, and

three lively and celebratory carols. Max Chung (9) enjoyed the pieces due to the poetic lyrics and fun rhythm, he said.

The glee club performed a selection of festive songs such as the Chanukah song "Dai Diddle Dai" and "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year." The music and the red flower arrangements adorning the theater created a festive atmosphere.

"I think that the fact that they were so holiday centered made it fun. Usually our songs are more serious because we perform in churches, but since it's the holidays, they were more upbeat," glee club member Zarina Iman (11) said.

The orchestra performed "Water Music" by George Frideric Handel, a smooth and lively piece characterized by beautiful lengths of upbeat violin.

"I particularly liked playing 'Water Music' because it's such a famous piece, and it was cool to play something I had heard so many times," violinist Amelia Feiner (9) said.

The glee club and orchestra performed for the first time as full groups this year. The orchestra gained 14 new students this past year, which made it more difficult for the group to learn how to play with each other.

However, Hetherington was confident in their performance, he said.

"I thought the students sang really well, I thought everyone was really prepared, especially for their own pieces," Ho said.

"Singing with an orchestra is really difficult because string instruments are just naturally louder than human voices. So we had to really practice like shouting during chorus," Chung said.

"The biggest obstacle is that we want to do pieces that link our groups together. We don't have time to do that unless we do it after school," Ho said. "But the kids rise up to the challenge. It's nice that students show up and they're enthusiastic, even at 9:00."

The night ended on a sweet note when the audience lent their voices to the performance of "Hallelujah."

"It was by far one of the best glee club-orchestral collaborations we've had so far," Hetherington said. "It really does feel like a celebration of the school, of being together, of the first half of the year. Just kind of everything that we've experienced in the school year up to now. It's a really nice moment; it always feels really nice and celebratory."

MD music groups perform non-traditional renditions of holiday music

LYNNE SIPPRELLE
Staff Writer

A large chorus and record numbers of Middle Division band and orchestra students performed new twists on traditional songs at the annual Holiday Concert on Tuesday.

Horizons Ensemble, a primarily sixth and seventh grade band, Concert Band, a primarily seventh and eighth grade band, Chamber Orchestra, HM Strings, and Middle Division Chorus all performed.

"We've established a formula that we think works well to showcase all the student groups equally, and that's really important for us and the concert in the end," Music Department Chair Timothy Ho said.

Both Concert Band and Middle Division Chorus performed holiday-inspired pieces. Concert Band played "Washington Post March" by John Phillips Sousa, "Air for Band" by Frank Erikson, and the holiday number, "Ukrainian Bell Carol."

Ukrainian Bell Carol had a fun and playful mood, as they set the traditional carol to a Brazilian percussion beat.

"I favor this piece because it has a fun feel to it, allowing us to let loose, and it works well with our band," flutist Mitchell Yu (8) said. "It's fairly fast paced, utilizing many different types of percussion instruments to add effects, including a shaker, drums, and a bird chirping noise," he said.

Horizons Ensemble played one song, "Ancient Voices" by Michel Sweeney,

which contained many musical elements to help give the sixth graders more experience in ensemble playing.

The song also contained a section where students made ambient noise on their instruments and a section where the whole band played a percussion rhythm on their music stands, giving it a cool and unusual sound.

Chamber Orchestra played the upbeat "Three Slavonic Dances" by Anton Dvorak as well as a piece by Béla Bartók, concert master Aidan Resnick (8) said.

Middle Division Chorus performed four songs, including "Where Go the Boats," set to a poem by Robert Louis Stevenson.

"Where Go the Boats" was followed by "Stars I Shall Find," which was

adapted from a poem by Sarah Teasdale and featured the eighth grade singers.

The eighth graders learned their music so quickly that he had to add another song to the concert for them, Ho said.

"I personally love 'Stars I Shall Find' because of the story it tells and how powerful of a piece it is," said Adam Frommer (8). "It starts and ends with the words 'there will be rest,' talking about the poet's suicide, and later goes on to bring up how she will find stars in death. It is a moving piece that is also beautiful to listen to."

The concert ended with two holiday tunes. First was the Hanukkah-themed "We Are Lights" by Stephen Schwartz. "I love it because how soft and pretty the sound is, but it still has a really

intense feel to it," alto Sadie Hill (8) said.

The concert ended with "Five Favorite Holiday Songs," a catchy compilation of Christmas songs set to different decades of holiday music. It began with 1940s jazz and moved to a doo-wop "Deck the Halls," followed by a Motown "Up on the Housetop," a disco "Jingle Bells," and finally, a 1980s "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," power ballad style.

"I am in the eighth grade and have played in this orchestra since I came to Horace Mann as a sixth grader so I've had the pleasure of watching new musicians come and old ones move on to the high school," Maxwell Resnick (8) said. "I felt as if we prepared really well for this concert and the hard work showed during the concert."

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Record Sports

LIONS' DEN

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Wrestling makes up for small team with strong effort

SEIJI MURAKAMI

Staff Writer

The Boys Varsity Wrestling team had a busy weekend with a dual meet tournament on Friday and the annual Mamaroneck tournament on Saturday.

The team is suffering due to two injuries at the beginning of the season. Captain Mason Roth (12) has been out for several weeks, and Koby Ginder (9) has a shoulder injury. Currently, the team is composed solely of underclassmen.

"We lack members but we will still keep our intensity, focus, and our willingness to improve and learn," Davis Parzick (10) said.

A dual meet tournament is where three schools meet and go head to head

with each other. This year it was held at our school, Parzick said.

Due to the fact that the team is smaller, there would usually have to be eight forfeits on matches; however, the two other teams were smaller so they called it a break, Coach Gregg Quilty said. The Lions came out with 11 wins and three losses.

"Friday was not particularly competitive, but it was a good experience," Jamie Berg (10) said. "They did really well on Friday and they pinned everyone," Quilty said.

The Mamaroneck Tournament "is at the highest level of athletics," Parzick said. 19 schools attend, both public and private, with a total of 150 wrestlers competing. The tournament works like

any other with seed groups based on weight class and then a bracket. Usually each seed has around 20 students, Parzick said. The tournament serves as both a single and team event, so even if a team does not do well individually, the team has a chance to place with a team record.

Parzick placed third while Berg and Georgi Verdelis (10) placed sixth in their respective weight classes. "It was a tougher tournament than last year, but we had more people place this year," Berg said.

Bernard von Simson (9) had three wins at Mamaroneck as a rookie wrestler. "We were happy with how Bernard did. It is very impressive," Berg said.

"Over the course of the day there

was an obvious improvement on how everyone was wrestling," Berg said. "This competition went much better, they fought hard and got a lot of matches in, which is great training and practice," Quilty said. One of the teams was the state champions last year, but they did "a nice job fighting back," Quilty said.

"No one had high expectations, but we performed much better than anticipated," Berg said.

"Experience in wrestling is the number one factor, it gives you a huge advantage," Quilty said. There are three more competitions before the post-season with four matches with the Ivy League schools.

Due to the smaller team, it is "much more difficult than last year" to practice,

Quilty said. During practices, the team works more on drills where a match will be completed half-way, and the wrestlers have to complete it. Afterwards, they work on conditioning, weight training, biking, and cardio to "break up the monotony."

Another large part is the mental game, Berg said. "There has to be a balance—you can't be stressed until you are petrified but you should still get in the zone," Berg said.

"We're obviously doing something right because we are winning matches," Quilty said. "They pick up the techniques fast because they have great work ethic and are fast learners—whatever they lack in experience they make up for in hard work."

Girls JV Basketball starts the season with a 1-2 record

MAHIKA HARI & TIFFANY LIU

Staff Writers

The Junior Varsity Girls Basketball team won 25-21 against Trinity last Monday after losing its first game against Dalton on the Friday before by 24 points. The Lions lost again this past Wednesday against Hackley making their record so far 1-2.

"As HM's first JV Girls Basketball team in a couple years, we have something to prove. We are working hard to develop each of our skills and our ability to work as a team. We are definitely improving and learning more about the game and each other everyday," co-Captain Noah Goldberg (10) said.

For their first game of the season, none of the players were as prepared as they should have been, co-Captain Ashna Jain (10) said.

"The pressure and competitiveness is new for a lot of people and they don't know what to expect." As a result, the team suffered a tough loss, Jain said.

At the beginning of their first game the players were very nervous, Charlotte Konopko (9) said. Just as they began to get more comfortable towards half time, their energy seemed to decline, even though they were only behind by one



Nastasia Mason / Staff Photographer

JUMP SHOT Ashna Jain (10) takes a shot.

point, she said.

"For our second game, everyone got a lot more confident and was playing with a lot more intensity," Jain said. They took more shots, made their free throws, and played better defense, Konopko said. Their enthusiasm and determination to win helped them bounce back from being 13 points behind Trinity and

eventually take the win.

When it came to the game against Hackley last Wednesday, after weeks filled with stress from school, "a lot of people just weren't playing with that same intensity that they were on Monday," Jain said. "This needs to change because we can't just be falling apart like that. We need to get in the habit of putting aside

everything that happens during the day and doing our best," she said.

Their coach, Jozann Jackson, observes their faults in the game so that she can design practice drills to work on those specific weaknesses, Goldberg said.

Generally, the players tend to get flustered during games and forget their basic, Konopko said.

In terms of technical skill, rebounds and fast breaks are the team's weaknesses, so they have been going over new drills and plays to improve these aspects during practice. Their increased focus on rebounding in the past two games has really made the difference in the score, she said.

In addition, the Lions have been more vocal with one another on the court, Konopko said. "Communication is so key in basketball, and we need to work together better," Jain said.

During practice the team starts with lay-up lines and then moves on to free throws and jump shots.

"Generally, five people go through the plays at a time, continuously, and then defenders are added to simulate a real game situation," Konopko said.

The team has not had the opportunity to bond outside of school thus far, "but in practice, during games and in the hallways, our team is very close," Konopko said.

"We have gotten to know one another very well, forming inside jokes and relationships since our first practice. Overall, we have an amazing group of girls on the JV basketball team."

Boys JV Basketball stays motivated despite a rough start

ALEXIS SIEGEL

Contributing Writer

After a 0-19 record last year, the Boys Junior Varsity Basketball team has been working hard to pick up some wins this year, Adam Fife (10) said. The team has had three games so far. They fell to Dalton and Trinity this past week, but won against Hackley on Wednesday.

Friday's game against Dalton was the team's first game of the season.

"We were all excited, but nervous at the same time. It was the first time that many of us played for Horace Mann," Nick Potash (9) said.

The team didn't perform to its full potential due in part to a lack of efficiency during practices, Potash said, as the Boys JV and Varsity teams share a court.

"It's tough preparing for a game when you only have half the court to practice on," Potash said.

The Lions lost with a score of 31-55, and they were down for the entire game. Towards the middle of the game, the team knew it would be almost



Nastasia Mason / Staff Photographer

BOXING OUT Jack Blackman (9) dribbles the ball down the court.

impossible to catch up to Trinity and win, so they came up with a more reasonable goal.

"We wanted to outplay them in the second half," Potash said. Even though they lost, the team "did a great job of playing as a team and learning to adapt to other people's playing styles,"

Matthew Kaufman (10) said.

Monday's game, despite being a loss, was "pretty aggressive," Darius McCullough (9) said. The Lions got off to a rough start, but they improved in the second quarter. Despite a comeback in the fourth quarter, the team fell short with a score of 47-58,

McCullough said.

"We shot the ball pretty well but we need to box out more and help out with getting rebounds. We need to be more aggressive, and we get out-hustled a lot," McCullough said.

The team needs to work on a more precise way to get the ball into the net,

Kaufman said. Going into the next game, the team's goals were to work on rebounding and passing, two major weaknesses of this year's team, he said.

The game against Hackley went a lot better, Fife said. During the first half, the team had a 24-14 lead.

The team communicated well and shot more precisely, which allowed for more effective skills on the field and enabled more opportunities to score, Fife said.

Last year's team lost every single game, but this year's team is different, Fife said. "Everyone has a different playing style," he said.

"We're a lot smaller than we were last year, so rebounds are gonna be hard to come by," Kaufman said.

The team's first two losses pushed the Lions to work harder and improve.

"We learned to rely on each other and play off each other's strengths and help improve each other's weaknesses. We bonded as a team through the hardships and the embarrassment of losing our first home game, and I think that's only going to motivate us in the future," Kaufman said.