

# The Horace Mann Record

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## STUDENTS, FACULTY REACT TO RESULTS OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION



NOV. 9 Clockwise from bottom left: Students rip copies of *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times* as an act of protest on Wednesday morning; newspaper shreds spell out "LOVE" in Olshan Lobby; Nia Felton (12) holds up one of president-elect Donald Trump's quotations about groping women; a copy of the "Assembly Bingo" board created by several Upper Division students; students listen to Head of School Dr. Jessica Levenstein during the assembly. Photos taken by Kat Snoddy/Art Director and Sarafina Oh/Photography Editor.

ELLA FEINER & GUSTIE OWENS  
Staff Writers

When Donald Trump won this year's presidential election on Tuesday night, members of the school community reacted in a variety of ways, including joy, shock, and devastation.

In response to the election results, Head of Upper Division Dr. Jessica Levenstein canceled A period classes and held a school-wide assembly on Wednesday so that the community could come together.

"It seemed like the community was going to be starting the school day in a pretty shocked and fragile state," she said.

"I didn't have anything to make them feel better, but I thought even just being together for a couple of minutes would help us affirm that our community functions according to its own values, regardless of anything else," she said.

If Clinton had won, the assembly likely would not have happened, Levenstein said.

"I think the shock of the outcome, in my mind, is what drove the need for the assembly," she said.

Levenstein felt that going straight into A period with no "buffer moment" would put stress on both students and their teachers, she said.

"It seemed important to try to set a tone for the day, a tone that emphasized community and our obligations to one another," she said.

During the assembly, which began with 60 Second of Peace, many

students, including co-Student Body President Noah Shapiro (12), broke down into tears.

After the assembly, students were free to spend the rest of A period attending optional advisory sessions or taking time to reflect with friends. The advisory sessions served as an opportunity for students to come together with teachers in smaller groups to discuss what they were feeling.

"We didn't do a ton of talking – people were in shock, and it was sad to see so many people being emotional," Sofia Gonzalez (11) said. "I think it was definitely helpful so that we could process the emotions," she said.

Gonzalez chose to take a vow of silence the day after the election. "During the campaign, I've been talking about my opinion a lot and I wanted to force myself to really listen," she said.

In addition to participating in discussions, many chose to engage in their own forms of peaceful protest. 20 students wore signs with controversial Trump quotes, while others tore up newspapers, arranging the shreds into the word "love" on the floor of Olshan Lobby.

"A few of us decided that instead of using harmful language and publicly condemning Trump, we wanted to use his own words against him and make signs of the outrageous things he had said," Lou Katz (12) said.

Ruthie Yankwitt (11) wore a sign with a quotation from Michael Savage, who Trump has claimed will be the next leader of the National Institutes of Health. The quotation read: "I'll

tell you what Autism is. In 99% of the cases, it's a brat who hasn't been told to act out."

"My brother is severely autistic, and the quote was really offensive to me and to autistic children," Yankwitt said. "It was personal."

"The ripping up of the newspapers seemed to me like a pretty therapeutic response, and the fact that they took those shards and created the word 'love' was really touching to me," Levenstein said. "That kind of destruction turned into a statement of loving kindness was very moving," she said.

Though Levenstein applauds any form of response or protest that is within the school's community norms, she said, she is unsure about the responses happening on social media. "That's where I get a little bit afraid," she said.

Shay Soodak (9) is concerned by the fact that others are not considering the full ramifications of the election. In her grade, students have told her that she needs to get over the election, she said.

"I feel like they wouldn't be saying the things in person that they're saying on Facebook," Soodak said.

"Trump and Pence are mostly anti-POC, anti-LGBT, and anti-women," Annie Liu (11) said.

Liu, who identifies as a person of color, member of the LGBT community, and woman, fears the implications of a Trump presidency. "We've come so far that to go back in

time is frightening," she said.

During I period Thursday, Chair of the Community Council Gabi Sheybani (12) hosted an open forum for students and faculty to share their opinions. During the session, a number of students shared their personal responses to the election, which ranged from concern to optimism.

Head of School Dr. Tom Kelly encouraged students to use this election to focus on and revisit the core values.

"There's probably been a million references to the school's core values in the last 24 hours," he said. "Everything we do and everything we decide not to do is decided by the school's core values," he said.

"As a first generation American, your parents raise you with these ideals that are America – equality and equal access," Ananya Kumar-Banerjee (12) said.

For Kumar-Banerjee, a Trump victory blurs the definition of what it means to be American.

"Do I really know what America is? We're not the same people, we don't understand each other," she said.

According to a poll conducted last week by the Record, five percent of students and faculty at the school support Trump. Student Trump supporters are frustrated that their voices are not being heard as

prominently.

Because of the rhetoric perpetuated during this election cycle, people immediately assume that Republicans are racist, sexist, and homophobic, Katz said. However, some students are frustrated by these assumptions.

"People would say to me 'I can't believe you're supporting this,' or 'you feel this way, or don't talk to me,' or 'I thought you were totally different.' I was offended and hurt by that," Rishi Krishnan (12) said.

"I think what the assembly actually said was 'don't you dare state your opinions.' The tone of all three speeches was that the unthinkable disaster had happened," Henry Hunt (12) said. "If there were any Trump supporters, they would be unable to participate, and that set the tone for the rest of the day," he said.

Hunt and his friends created a Bingo game to use as entertainment during the assembly that included phrases like 'Safe Space,' 'White Men,' and 'Audible Crying.' They crossed off squares whenever a phrase on board was uttered. "I think it was entertaining, and I had fun," he said. "I don't think it adversely affected anyone."

However, Yankwitt "thought it was really insensitive to the pain people felt, and making a joke about it wasn't what the assembly was supposed to be about," she said.

"We are witnessing democracy in action and that doesn't always mean your candidate wins. Regardless of where you fall on the political spectrum I hope students take this opportunity to learn more about our country," Levenstein said.

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## EDITORIAL

**Uniting under the new normal**

It's been a long week. The majority of this community came into it hopeful, optimistic that Nov. 8 would be the day when the glass ceiling was broken. Now some of us are tired. Some of us are angry. Some are scared. Some are pleased.

Anger is valid, but we must not let it stand in the way of progress. We as individuals, as a school, and as a nation must try to understand why so many people were willing to passively enable or even support such hateful rhetoric. Others' experiences can be incredibly different from our own. We must use our anger as fuel for change and not for division.

We will continue to fight to ensure the safety of people of color. We will protect the rights of women and LGBTQ+ people. Someday we will never doubt that we are valuable. Someday we will break the glass ceiling. It could be one of the women in this community who will be elected president, who knows.

This week we learned that progress is not inevitable. It is fought for. We, in this community, we will be the ones who fight for it.

## CORRECTIONS - ISSUE 8

In the Lower Division feature of "Across the Divisions: Navigating Election Discourse," the photograph was missing a credit: Courtesy of Natasha Poster.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

The recent article in The Record titled "The power in a strategic response to sexism" sparked my interest because it accurately highlighted the problems that women and girls face in school and sports environments. Females are constantly being brought down and inaccurately judged because of their gender. The writer brings up examples of misogynistic comments that had been thrown at her, which girls are able to relate to. I know that I have gotten negative comments regarding my gender in sports and school environments. Recently, a male acquaintance of mine informed me of why boys like watching girls volleyball: not for the sport, but for the short spandex. He then proceeded to make a comment about how he liked my shorts (I was wearing my spandex at the time.)

In the article, the author says "I worry that by showing passion, I'll conform to stereotypes of the overly emotional girl or the angry feminist. But I am a feminist! And I am angry!" I completely agree with this statement, but I wish the author would have given an accurate definition of feminism, just to point out what being a feminist actually means. A feminist is someone who believes in equal rights; that no gender should be valued above the other. Putting that definition in the article would be helpful because I have spoken to both male and female classmates about feminism, and have heard the stigma surrounding the word "feminist." Some will not identify as feminists because of the inaccurate definition that has been associated with it, which is someone who believes that women should have more rights than men. I thoroughly enjoyed the rest of the article, and appreciate how the problem of sexism has been justly displayed.

Sincerely,  
Charlotte Cebula

**Affinity groups: safe spaces in a sea of uncertainty**

Anonymous

Walking into the first LGBTQ+ affinity group meeting last fall, I thought I was comfortable with my sexuality. Even though I had been in the closet for several years, I assumed that my comfort with my identity was solidified. I had endured the initial self-hatred and internalized homophobia that made up the first few waves of difficulty I faced in coming to terms with my sexuality.

However, as I sat through the meeting, I started to cry uncontrollably. Hearing LGBTQ+ students and teachers tell their stories was hard to process, but it was

assuring to sit around a table with people who had seen and dealt with the struggles that come with being part of the LGBTQ+ community. I've attended almost every meeting since, and this affinity group has helped me unpack and examine the parts of my LGBTQ+ experience I have repressed for too long.

These meetings are one of few opportunities for students and faculty to sit together and have earnest, unfiltered conversations about our identifiers. Even fewer opportunities are available specifically for members of the LGBTQ+ community. People of the same race, ethnic group, or sex have a better chance at having an honest, open discussion about the way their identifiers affect them when they are the only group present. The security in knowing that their statements won't be politicized or ostracized enables truthful conversation.

For me, the LGBTQ+ affinity group has been so powerful because of the presence of queer teachers.

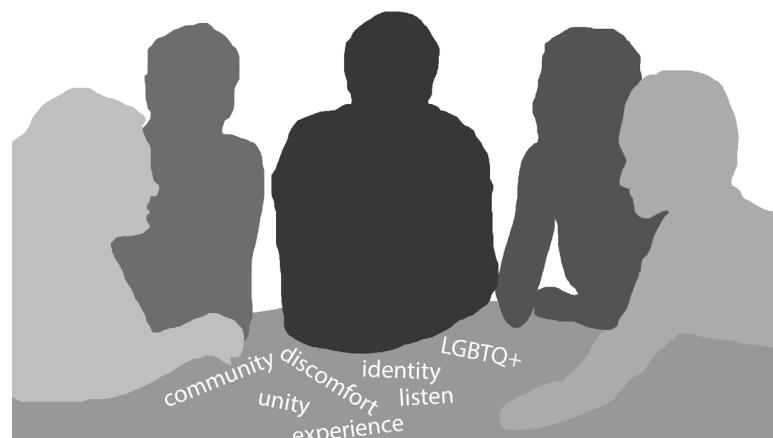
Coming from a homophobic family and living in a community where homophobia is a factor in my daily life, it's been important for me to see LGBTQ+ adults who are okay. They are living proof of the mantra "it gets better," and knowing that there are faculty who support me has definitely changed my experience at this school for the better.

The next few years will be an uphill battle for the LGBTQ+ community, even in light of recent legislation that guarantees us certain rights. President-elect Donald Trump and his running mate Mike Pence have explicitly outlined ways to strip LGBTQ+ people of their fundamental rights and actively support their disenfranchisement. The dangerous,

hateful rhetoric Trump has promoted through the election has already had a severe and harmful impact on the LGBTQ+ community, and those harms will likely only be exacerbated in the next four or even eight years.

Affinity groups will not offer up the solution to the homophobia, racism, nativism, or other harmful forms of oppression that plague this country. However, there is comfort in knowing you are not alone. Now, more than ever, we need to band together as a community, and though it may seem counterintuitive, we must acknowledge and explore our differences before we can unite over them.

I believe affinity groups are well-worth the extra time spent at school, the potential discomfort, and even the questions they leave you with. Everyone has something to gain from learning more about how they fit into this community and the nation as a whole.



Kat Snoddy/Art Director

**Moving on without the Obamas**

Cameron Levy

I had the privilege of having Barack and Michelle Obama in the White House for the past eight years. When he was elected, I was a seven year-old second-grader. The beginning of my childhood brought with it a President that I could look up to and say: this is the type of man I want to be: a respectful, witty, intelligent leader and a thoughtful, caring father. Young women looked to Michelle Obama as the perfect example of a 21st-century woman- one whose voice was heard throughout the country and taken with great respect.

Right now, the second graders of America do not have this luxury.

Starting in late January, our president will be a misogynistic, intolerant, sexually and racially insensitive reality TV star. He should not hold any type of office. But he will. He is our next President, whether we like it or not. However, we must stop ourselves from hoping that he fails. If he fails, we fail.

In his speech regarding the election results, President Obama said "We are actually all on one team. This is an intramural scrimmage." Wednesday afternoon in her concession speech, Hillary Clinton argued "we owe [Trump] an open mind, and a chance to lead."

We can't afford to hope Trump fails in order to say, "Hillary would have been better." Instead, it is time to shift our anger and disappointment into positive action.

The responsibility to cultivate the younger generation's morals lies on our shoulders more than ever. The time to protest has passed; nothing is going to

change. We live a Democratic Republic, and we voted for Donald Trump. Whether you like it or not, that is the result we have to live with.

It is now our job as Americans to not only unite but to teach the youth what Trump cannot: respect, equality and kindness. Once it was clear Trump would win, Van Jones, an American political commentator, said on CNN, "We have people putting children to bed tonight, and they're afraid of breakfast. They're afraid of how do I explain this to my children?"

I want to speak directly to parents of any young children here at Horace Mann: Barack and Michelle Obama have helped craft my morals for his two terms. Children are very impressionable, and with Donald Trump as our newest President, you have a job like no other. You must not let your child be influenced by Trump and learn his hate the way I learned Obama's love.

High school students aren't immune either. Social media has exposed our age group to all of Trump's infamous quotes,

and his words have become embedded in many students' vocabularies. In the Republic of Plato, Socrates creates the noble lie, which keeps the guardians of his city-state sheltered from certain ideologies that he believes will make the Guardians lose focus of their crucial job. We must do the same.

It is time to accept the results of an election that happened within a system we should be grateful for having, but it also time to shelter our youth from our next president. Wednesday was a day to be angry, to question, and to cry. But today is a new day. It is time to focus on working harder to resist the message that our president-elect is projecting to our youth and our nation. Protest will not help our country. In fact, it creates a larger divide. The umbrella that the Obamas have used to protect kids for the past eight years is gone. It is our turn to keep them dry.



Kat Snoddy/Art Director

**The Horace Mann Record**

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**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.

# FSA initiates name change, decides on annual dinner theme

SAM HELLER  
Staff Writer

After many rounds of voting and various discussions, the Women's Issues Club officially changed their name to the Feminist Students Association (FSA).

"Feminism should be inclusive to all genders, and labeling it Women's Issues Club is kind of a misnomer because these aren't just women's issues. Men, non-binary, and trans people should be caring about these issues too," club co-President Azure Gao (12) said.

Once elected co-President, Gao first wanted to tackle a name change and has been passionate about this issue for a while, she said. Gao and co-President Aurora Grutman (11) brought this up to club adviser Dr. Wendy Steiner, who was immediately in favor of the idea.

"Over the course of the years, there have been times when the students thought about changing the name, but there wasn't enough momentum to see it happen," Steiner said. "I think we are at a point where the students wanted the name to reflect the fact that feminism is not just a women's issue," she said.

Rather than change the name behind closed doors, the topic remained open for discussion among the club members. The options for new names were generated during many meetings and were eventually narrowed down to Gender Equality Club, Feminist Collective, Feminists of Horace

## FORMER WOMENS' ISSUES CLUB CHANGES NAME TO FEMINIST STUDENTS ASSOCIATION AND ELECTS WOMEN IN ACTIVISM AS DINNER THEME

Mann, Feminism Club, Intersectional Feminist Club, and Feminist Students Association.

Grutman and Gao then sent out an email to the members of the club and had them vote on the name, and Feminist Student Associations came out on top. Zarina Iman (11), Gigi Lee (11),

and Sofia Gonzalez (11) voted for this name; Iman saw it as a transition "from being about women's issues to showing everyone that it's more than just that," she said.

Hopefully, more students will be attracted to the club with a broader and more inclusive name, Grutman said.

*"To the HM community, don't let the word feminism scare you. It's not a bad word. It's a word with great power. I think it is stigmatized, but if you believe in the social, political, and economic equality for men and women, you are a feminist."*

- Aurora Grutman (11)



## Van Cortlandt Park Community and Bronx Community Board No. 8 meet to discuss local issues

TIFFANY LIU  
Staff Writer

The school hosted a routine board meeting for Bronx Community Board No. 8 on Wednesday and the Van Cortlandt Park Community Input Meeting on Thursday.

During these gatherings attendees, discussed the new "Parks Without Borders" design initiative.

"Community Board No. 8 represents one aspect of the New York City government and, in particular, the voice of Riverdale in the process," Head of School Dr. Tom Kelly said.

"As a 'good neighbor,' we periodically host local meetings in need of extra seating for a particular audience," he said.

Kelly is one of the founding members of the Conservancy.

"If the park needs a favor that we can grant, we help support the park's good work," Kelly said.

In Cohen Dining Commons, "Parks Without Borders" gathered people from all across the Bronx community, including the Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy and the Community Board, to discuss their plan to improve park entrances and borders.

Planning a Parks Without Borders meeting can be hard because it is difficult to find a space that allows the group to convene but also break out into groups, Van Cortlandt Park Administrator Margot Perron said.

During the Community Board No. 8 meeting, board members sat on the stage in Alfred Gross Theater, while members of the Bronx community sat in the audience and listened to various speakers present ideas and raise issues about the area.

The school recently went before the Community Board to present "HM in Motion," the school's capital campaign supporting the development of the new science

building, pool, and gymnasium, and its construction plans to gain the community's support, Kelly said.

However, the school has no regular interaction with the Board other than to support its occasional requests to host a meeting or help out another organization, Kelly said.

"Dr. Kelly is a very important member of our board because of the wealth of knowledge and experience he brings," Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy Chair Anthony Perez Cassino P '20 '23 said.

The school is a very convenient location to hold meetings, Cassino said. The Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy meets at the school about twice a year.

In the past, the school has been very generous in helping the Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy raise money for a number of programs in the warmer months when people can enjoy the outdoors more, Cassino said.

Beyond the school's support of youth programs in the park, the school also helps maintain the cross country trail and has recently resurfaced six public tennis courts, which are used by the Varsity Tennis teams. The Service Learning program also works closely with the park, Kelly said.

In recent years, the Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy drew up a 20-year master plan, which aims to "knit the park back together and restore the natural beauty," according to the official website of the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation.

As a member of the Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy Board, Kelly has had, and will continue to have, opportunities to review and comment on the park's master plan, Kelly said.

"VCP is the school's front lawn and we're proud of our longstanding relationship with this important organization," Kelly said.

## in brief

### Diwali event lights up Friday evening

REBECCA SALZHAUER  
Staff Writer

Around 300 members of the school community celebrated South Asian culture at the Festival of Lights event last Friday evening. The event, organized by the South Asian Families Association (SAFA), featured student performances, traditional South Asian food, and a bazaar.

Although the South Asian Families Association has organized Diwali celebrations in the past, this is the first year that the event took the form of a talent show. Students from all divisions played instruments such as the tabla and sitar and performed both classical South Asian and Bollywood dances, SAFA co-Chair Shephali Gupte P'21 said.

For Gupte and Bharti Malkani P'23



Kat Snoddy/Art Director

### Serra shares story with French students

ELLA FEINER  
Staff Writer

Dominique Serra, founder of Rallye Aïcha des Gazelles du Maroc, a women-only motor rally across the Moroccan desert, spoke to French students last week about her organization. The presentation, given in French, was open to all French students, French teacher Sonya Rotman said.

The speaker helped expose French students to a new aspect of French culture, Rotman said. That Morocco is a French-speaking, desert-covered, Muslim country in which the rally was open only to women provided the students with an interesting perspective, she said.

Serra's presentation covered the mission behind the rally. The eight-day event takes place each year in

the parent organizers of the event, it was an opportunity for South Asian students to be proud of their culture and celebrate it in a safe and welcoming space, Malkani said.

It is important for South Asian students who do not practice traditional South Asian art forms to see "that their peers are taking pride in the tradition and culture," Malkani said.

The Festival of Lights Celebration was not held last year but occurred the year before. Both Malkani and Gupte were impressed with the event they attended two years ago, and when they became the co-Chairs of SAFA, worked to bring back the evening, they said.

"Our goal is to unite the community and bring the South Asian community together to let the kids know that they can celebrate parts of their culture, such as their traditional clothes and cuisine, with pride, and the event makes it more visible for the students," Gupte said.

In order for SAFA to raise money for future events, they held a bazaar. Vendors came from families from the

Morocco, where over 360 teams of women race across the desert in different types of vehicles without a GPS.

Beyond championing female empowerment, the rally brings attention to issues of sustainability and health in Morocco, Rotman said.

"The event itself was crazy cool," Emily Spector (12) said. "I would love to do it!"

Students were able to apply much of what they had learned in French class to the presentation, Zarina Iman (11) said. "We've talked about cars, terrain, and countries before. Since we knew a lot of the vocabulary already, it wasn't difficult for us to follow her," she said.

Spector felt that she was fulfilling her goal of using the language to communicate in real life. "I was processing what she was saying in real

FSA also chose this year's theme for their annual dinner as women in activism.

"Having women in activism is so important because we can talk about other issues and other forms of oppression that are also relevant to feminism, because feminism can't just be catering towards privileged white wealthy women – it has to include women of color, trans women, disabled women, low income women, et cetera," Gao said.

The theme not only works because it is extremely relevant, but also because it incorporates a large range of possible jobs and issues to discuss, Iman said.

Much like the name, the club decided on the theme through a vote, Grutman said. "I think activism, at least in this point in American history, is really important," Grutman said.

As the year progresses, the club's various members will reach out to speakers and make plans for the rest of the dinner, which will take place in the spring, Gao said.

For now, the club continues its focus on expanding to have a more diverse group of members, Grutman said.

"To the HM community, don't let the word feminism scare you. It's not a bad word. It's a word with great power," Grutman said. "I think it is stigmatized, but if you believe in the social political and economic equality for men and women, you are a feminist."

school community who sold items ranging from granola and traditional Indian treats to beaded handbags and fabrics, Malkani sad.

"I love the most that some of the families who came, who were not South Asian, had come to previous festival events and wanted to come back," Director of Diversity Initiatives Patricia Zuroski said.

SAFA, which was founded seven years ago, held its first Diwali celebrations at a restaurant off campus. However, three years ago, the school offered to host the event in order to decrease the price of attendance and increase the number of people who would attend. In the years since, the event has grown in popularity, to the point where it is an anticipated event among families, Zuroski said.

In addition to this event, SAFA is planning to host coffee hours and cocktail nights for the South Asian families in each division, in addition to partnering with the Black Parents Union to screen the movie "Gandhi" to discuss the impact of Mahatma Gandhi on Martin Luther King, Jr.

time," she said.

"It was amazing, because not only did the students understand everything, but also they were able to ask very good questions," Rotman said.

Spector also felt that the opportunity to test her French skills in a real situation was useful, she said. "Hearing this woman talk about a topic that I'm really interested in, in a language that I have spent six years learning, was just a really cool experience," she said.

"When we have an opportunity like this, we are always eager to bring speakers to broaden the horizons of the students," Rotman said. "This particular speaker emphasized that French is not only spoken in France, but in a huge population in Africa, in countries like Morocco," she said.

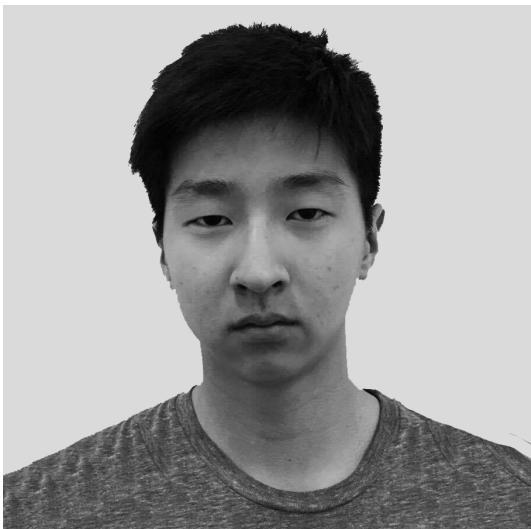
ANNIE LIU

"a) I am a woman. b) I am an LGBT member. c) I am a POC. d) I have a mental illness. Those are all things that Donald Trump has attacked during his campaign, and I am honestly so scared."



ERIC SUH

"This school pushed its political agenda upon the entire population. We had a discussion and it is true that instead of having the school push your political agenda on the people of Horace Mann, it should be more of a place of political discussion."



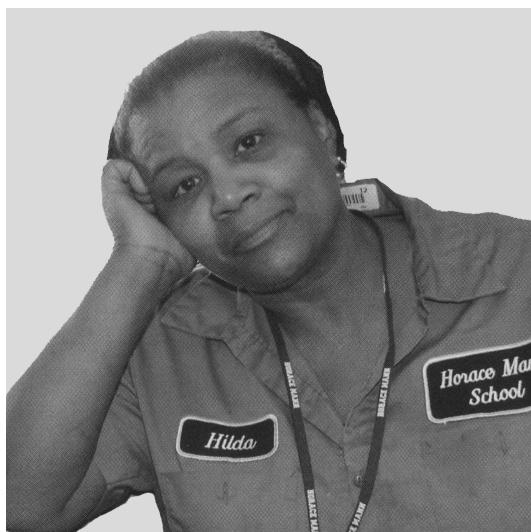
GABRIELA SHEYBANI

"The fact that I have been to Iran in the past five years – how will that affect my future travel? I don't know if I'll be able to visit my friends and family who live in Iran. I don't know if they'll be able to visit me."



JACK MILLER

"I was not surprised that Hillary lost the election. I thought that Bernie Sanders was a better representation of the Democratic Party and should have won the nomination, and if he did, he would have won the general."

DIVERSITY ASSOCIATE  
JOHN GENTILE

"People have an opportunity and option to make a choice and our political realities do not, should not, dehumanize us in context of conversation and that we have to hold space for that."



HEAD OF SCHOOL DR. TOM KELLY

"Since I live where I work, I tend to identify as a leader of an increasingly diverse community. As such, I'm charged to react when anyone under my care or supervision feels threatened or deeply saddened for any reason - be that reason in the majority or the minority."

HEAD OF UPPER DIVISION  
DR. JESSICA LEVENSTEIN

"We are all members of the Horace Mann Community, and, as members of this school community, we have our values that I hope we live by. One of the reasons I thought it was important to have an assembly at all was not because a Republican won I don't care what party won - it was that the candidate who won has expressed ideas that are directly antithetical to our core values as a school. I wanted to make sure we remember those core values and we affirm them and honor them and live by them."

MATHEMATICS TEACHER  
CHARLES GARCIA

"I am gay. I am Mexican. Trump has made his target of Mexican Americans. Mike Pence has made his target gay America. So, it was a one-two punch."

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT  
HILDA DIAZ

"It broke my heart not for myself but for so many people. He said a lot of things about people, about women, about students, about everybody...I want the election to happen again."

## COMMUNITY RESPONDS: ELECTION REACTIONS

*Reporting by Lutie Brown, Sam Heller, Tiffany Liu, Amir Moazami, Yeeqin New, Rebecca Salzhauer, Sadie Schwartz, and Joanne Wang*

*Photos courtesy of Mannikin, horacemann.org, Tali Benchimol/Photography Editor, and Sarafina Oh/Photography Editor*

# Eighth graders plan student-led parent-teacher conferences

KATIE GOLDENBERG  
Staff Writer

As the end of the first trimester approaches, eighth grade students prepare to take the reins in their parent-teacher conferences. Assuming the role played by an advisor in previous years, eighth graders are given the ability to lead the conversation between parent, teacher, and student.

"By participating in the conference, students are taking ownership of themselves and understanding how they can learn and be in charge of their own academic destiny," eighth grade advisor Morgan Yarosh said.

The role reversal allows students to share information with their parents while receiving support and guidance from their advisors, Eighth Grade Dean Lynne Hirschhorn said.

Student-led eighth grade conferences were first introduced around eight years ago, Director of Middle Division Guidance Wendy Reiter said.

"We started in the eighth grade because it's a transitional year to high school when students learn to advocate for themselves, and advisors have already had a chance to form connections with advisees and parents," Reiter said.

Students meet with their advisors in preparation and they can help their advisees decide which topics are important to focus on, she said.

Hirschhorn will have as many as three meetings with her advisees to discuss the planning process, review the outline, and finally, role-play the meeting, she said.

Eighth graders may highlight pieces of writing such as lab reports or projects and discuss their goals



Spyri Potamopoulou/Staff Artist

**TAKING THE LEAD** After weeks of preparation, students share their successes and failures with parents and advisors

for the school year during the conferences, Reiter said.

For many students, this is the first time they will be able to guide, or even attend, a parent teacher conference.

"Instead of the teachers talking about us, we'll be talking about ourselves," Bradley Bennett (8) said.

To prepare for the meeting, Bennett has created an outline and scheduled meetings with his homeroom teacher to make sure he

covers all the necessary topics, he said.

Pascale Zissu (8) has attended conferences with her parents in previous years, she said.

"I don't think it will be that different for me because I've talked in past conferences, but for some people it will be the first time speaking about their grades and work with their parents and advisor," she said.

To prepare for the conference, Zissu plans to meet with her advisor about her grades, work ethic, and

time management skills, she said.

Hirschhorn has seen numerous benefits to student-run conferences, she said.

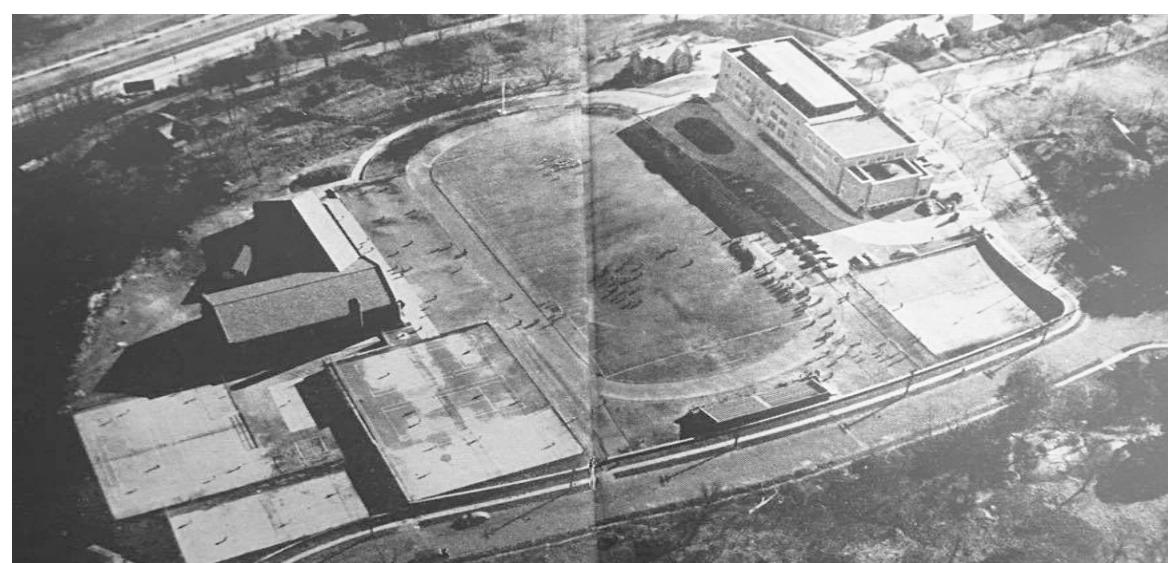
"There is nothing lost like there was when parents came home and had to repeat what teachers said about their child," she said.

Yarosh has also noticed advantages to the eighth grade dialogues, as they force students to think about how they learn and articulate their strengths, and understand their weaknesses, she said.

"I enjoyed leading the conference by myself because it gave me the opportunity to direct the conversation and focus on what I thought was important," Amelia Feiner (9) said of her eighth grade experience.

"Invariably, the outcome has been fabulous," Reiter said. "Parents hear their student talk about themselves in a new way, and ultimately see their child in a very different light."

## The man behind the name: a brief history of Charles C. Tillinghast



**BIRD'S-EYE** A view of the campus from Volume 46 of The Record.

SANDHYA SHYAM  
Staff Writer

The gray stone building stands tall and strong on the school campus as hordes of students push against one another in order to pass through its double set doors.

Named after a former headmaster, Tillinghast Hall serves as the centerpiece of the school's campus. Its namesake, Charles Carpenter Tillinghast, headmaster from 1920-1950, was considered by many to be very influential to the school's growth.

According to Horace Mann-Barnard: The First Hundred Years, a book about the school's history written by English teacher Harry J. Bauld and Jerome B. Kisslinger,

Tillinghast described the school in 1920 as "excellently organized and functioning very well as a college preparatory day school."

During Tillinghast's three decades as a headmaster, the facilities of the school developed, curriculum broadened and extra-curricular activities flourished, the book said. Tillinghast was respected, though faculty and students affectionately referred to him as "Tilly."

In the book, Richard Kluger ('52) recalls Tillinghast:

Moved equally by fear and fondness of the school, I was awed by its purposefulness, embodied in the large and imposing form of Charles Tillinghast...For all the massive dignity in behind those all-seeing blue eyes...Tilly seemed full of wit and warmth.

According to a previous Record article dating from 1949, the New York Times featured an editorial at that time praising Tillinghast. The editorial read, "We take pleasure in honoring a man who has devoted a lifetime to being a fine teacher."

Avram Schlesinger's '90 father attended the school at the time Tillinghast was headmaster, he said. His father has many fond memories of Tillinghast, he said.

According to Schlesinger, one of his father's memorable stories about Tillinghast was his first day at the school, in 1947. He had transferred to the school in the middle of the year, and on his first day, he had to take an algebra quiz. His father had not learned algebra at his previous school, so he just sat there and blankly stared at the window the



Kat Snoddy/Art Director

# DEPARTED QUALITIES

## A Preview of Spector's (12) Album



**STRIKING A CHORD** Emily Spector (12) works on her upcoming album with bassist Tony Tino (left) and guitarist Jeremy Goldsmith (right).

JONATHAN KATZ  
Staff Writer

"I am ecstatic. It's weird to think I just had the moment I have dreamed of for my entire life," Emily Spector (12) said, having just unpacked a box containing copies of her debut album, "Departed Qualities." The album will be released today, and she will be holding a launch concert on Nov. 18 at The Triad once the album has had a week of exposure.

After months of writing and recording music, Spector has produced something she is proud of. She is not afraid to delve into heavy themes in her new work, she said. "When I'm writing, I write not with my audience in mind but with myself, so I have a lot of freedom," she said.

Spector has six songs in total, only one of which could be considered a love song. "I listen to cliché love songs and I don't find it all that interesting to explore. Writing my lyrics is my meditation; it is self-exploration of my environment and thoughts," she said.

Spector has a unique style that she has never worked with before, one of Spector's producers, Emily Drennan Lopez, said. "Emily's style is a little more emo, punk, and alternative. This style is different than what we have done in the past, but it was exciting," Drennan Lopez said.

Spector's parents have always fostered a love of classical music, but no one in her family was particularly interested in rock, she said. "While music has been cultivated in my life through music lessons, my love of rock

has always been a part of me," she said.

Spector first started seriously considering having her own album over a year ago on her 16th birthday when her parents offered to get her studio time as a gift but decided she was not ready. "It just didn't feel right yet, but I had been thinking about a career in music ever since I can remember," Spector said.

Music has been a part of Spector's life since a young age. She started playing violin at age four, and since kindergarten, her goal was to be a rock star. She began composing songs to express herself when she was in third grade.

However, it was only this year that Spector felt comfortable contacting producers.

*"Writing my lyrics is my meditation; it is self-exploration of my environment and thoughts."*

-Emily Spector (12)

Spector met with the producers of Roxsteady Music to work out a contract that included budget, studio space, and whether she would use Melodyne, the software commonly known as autotune.

Even though Melodyne keeps costs lower as the vocalist can edit away mistakes instead of spending additional time in a studio, Spector refused. "The kind of music that I'm making comes from a grittier place, which is more appealing to me. I don't want my album sounding too perfect," she said.

From there Emily hired "session

musicians" consisting of a bassist, a guitarist, and a drummer. Once she had sent each of them their parts, they started rehearsing and finding how they would work together to create a cohesive sound, Spector said.

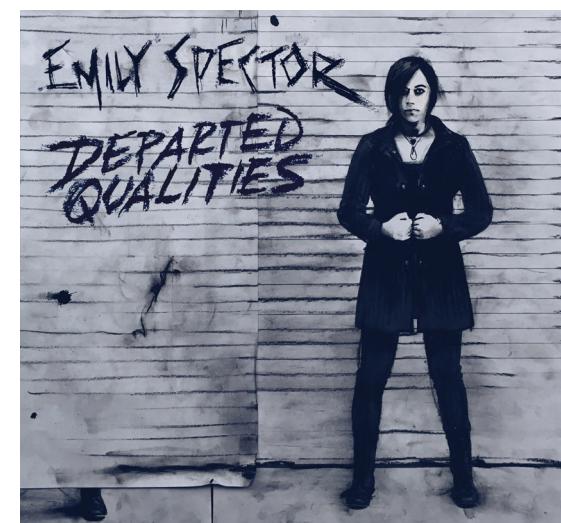
Spector and the band had two practice sessions before recording, two four-hour instrumental recording sessions at a studio called 2nd Story Sound, and three three-hour vocal sessions at POD Noise. During her vocal recording sessions, Spector sang several takes of each song so that the best parts of each could be spliced together.

"It was amazing working with so many experienced people, but I also had to keep my voice," Spector said.

"Emily certainly has specific ideas on what she wants the album to be and what she wants it to sound like," Drennan Lopez said.

The album also includes five art pieces by artist Nathan Price, to make sure the visuals were what she wanted.

In the end, five months of hard work is encompassed in one rectangular CD case, she said. "My favorite moment was when I was driving to visit a college with my mom and I asked my mom if we could listen to my songs. I put them on and they were coming through the car speakers and it sounded like it belonged," Spector said. "I have a lot invested in this personally. This is everything."



Courtesy of Emily Spector, Roxsteady Music, Nathan Price Art

**ROCK ON** Emily Spector (12)'s cover for her album "Departed Qualities."

## Album Release Concert

Friday, Nov. 18, 7:00 p.m. at The Triad

### Track List

1. Dragon Baby
2. Fine Right Here
3. Guts
4. Not Gonna Be
5. When the Highway Ends
6. Familiar Disaster

## Buddhist monk Lama Tenzin inspires art students to design mandalas

BETSEY BENNETT  
Staff Writer

The sun was about to set, and the sky was a mix of blue and orange. A couple embraced on a dark, rocky terrain in Nevada, creating a silhouette that juxtaposed the piercing light of the setting sun.

This was the photograph that Hannah Long (10) selected from the images that she has taken in Photography 2 to design her own mandala, which included layered, geometric designs.

Art students in both the Middle and Upper Divisions created mandalas in their own mediums in response to Lama Tenzin's, a Tibetan Buddhist monk, visit to the school last week. He built a sand mandala in Fisher Hall that he then ritually wiped away.

"Mandala" means "circle" in Sanskrit, and refers to a work of art within a circle and is often thought of as a symbol of the universe and the cosmos.

Tenzin also spoke to students about the importance of compassion. "He used many interesting metaphors to explain his concepts," Long said. "He said that our brain has to be calm like water. If the water is crazy and there are a lot of waves, you cannot see through to the bottom."

Tenzin explained that the symbols in his mandala, such as the lotus flower, reminded him of love, Amrita Acharya (11) said.

Photography teacher Karen Johnson proposed the idea for students to make mandalas to

display. "Mandalas are often used as objects of contemplation, mystery, and beauty," Johnson said. "I like the idea of thinking of the gallery as a teaching experience, and connecting the visit of our guest with the making of art."

"We thought we would have a student response to the mandalas that was open-ended with no specific message," Visual Arts Department Chair Kim Do said. "The students could devise their own interpretation of the format of working within a circle."

Photography students created mandalas from their images using Adobe Photoshop. "The students started with an image and then copied it, pasted it together, overlapped layers, and merged those layers to form their final products," Johnson said.

Drawing and Painting students, such as Ellie Klein (10), designed mandalas using a variety of colored pencils, pens, ink, and oil pastels. "Lama Tenzin's mandala was very intricate and colorful, which inspired me to make mine quite colorful with different patterns," Klein said.

Klein created two different mandalas, one using oil pastels to blend shades of purple, pink, and blue together, and one using colored pencils to add finer details.

"I chose colors that stood out to me and were pleasing to the eye, and I varied my shading and patterns to make my mandala stand out," Klein said.

Acharya, another Drawing and Painting student, paid particular

attention to the colors that she used. "My mandala is mostly of cooler colors because cooler colors put me at ease," Acharya said. "Being at the mandala procession was overall a very soothing experience, so I put thought into the colors that I blended to reflect that experience."

"Making my mandala was a long process, but the final product was composed of fine lines that painted the image," Ben Chasin (8) said. "I had many different ideas that I put in the mandala through the use of

shapes, such as various balls that are used in sports games."

Ryan Wolfberg (8) used a compass to draw his circle and divide it into different spaces. Then, he colored in the spaces by using bright colors for one half and shades of gray for the other half.

"I chose to do my mandala with bright colors because after seeing Lama Tenzin's, I thought it would be cool to replicate the way that his looked color wise," Wolfberg said. "I used the shades of gray to make more

of a contrast between the two parts of the mandala."

For Klein and Long, the experience of making a mandala exposed them to a new form of expression. "It takes quite a lot of time and practice to make a mandala that represents you," Klein said.

"I learned that there are many different ways to make beautiful artwork," Long said. "Anyone can create something meaningful, and it does not have to be something hard to do."



Students designed mandalas inspired by the sand mandala created by Lama Tenzin, a Tibetan Buddhist monk, last week at the school. The mandalas are currently featured in Fisher Hall Art Gallery.

Eva Fortunato/Staff Photographer

## Boys Cross Country wins Ivy League Championships

PETER BORINI  
Staff Writer

The New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYSAIS) Championship last Sunday marked the end of the Boys Varsity Cross Country Season. The team finished sixth out of 19 at the NYSAIS Championship and sixth out of eight at the Ivy League Championship Meet. Individually, co-Captain Justin Burton (12) placed eighth overall at the NYSAIS meet.

The Lions were unable to improve on last year's performance at the Ivy Championship meet, finishing in the same place both years, even though overall the team ran faster than it had last year, especially Burton who ran the 2.5-mile race in under 14 minutes.

The lack of improvement in the standings was no reflection on the talent of the team, Jordan Kinard (11) said. The team possessed plenty of strong runners, including co-Captain Dylan Margolis (12), Josh Doolan (11), Michael Truell (11), Solomon Katz (10), and star freshmen Eddie Jin and Masa Shikii.

The entire team improved their

personal records (PR) and consistently put up strong times at its meets.

To prepare for their meets, Head Coach Jon Eshoo made the team run through the back hills of Van Cortlandt Park, considered one of the more difficult parts of Van Cortlandt.

"Since I've been on the team this is the best we've been," Doolan said. Even though the team did well, the Ivy League is a tough league to compete in, which is demonstrated by how well Ivy league teams did at the NYSAIS Championship and other meets, he said. The teams in the Ivy League are definitely some of the most competitive at the team's meets, he said.

Some of the highlights of the season were when Burton placed eighth out of 144 entrants at the NYSAIS Championship, and Jin and Shikii coming in first and second place at the Mayor's Cup. Also, four out of the top seven runners on the team ran races under 15 minutes, and every single member of the team improved his or her times compared to last year.

"The freshmen have really stepped up," Doolan said. Besides winning first and second at the Mayors Cup

in the freshman race, Jin and Shikii both competed against upperclassmen at some of the meets later on in the season, and still did exceptionally well.

Being one of the few freshmen on the team, Jin was a little intimidated by the upper classmen at times, especially the upperclassmen at other schools, but at the same time it was fun to have the seniors pushing him to improve, he said. Overall, Jin feels he had a good season, but there is still plenty of room for improvement.

At the Fall Athletic Banquet on Wednesday, Eshoo said he was very proud of the team's performance this season. The team trained hard every day and never stopped trying to improve, Eshoo said. After his speech, he announced the MVP and the Coaches' Award Winners, which were Burton and Margolis, respectively.

Besides the Athletic Banquet, the team also carried on some of its other traditions, such as the annual Frisbee game, the annual scavenger hunt, and speeches the seniors gave to the rest of the team in the woods of Van Cortlandt Park.

Eshoo is proud of everyone on the



**THE FINISH LINE** Boys XC races to the finish in the NYSAIS Championship Meet Courtesy of Jonathan Katz

team and how hard they worked this season. They never stopped trying to improve, and were all supportive of one another, Eshoo said.

Looking ahead to next season, it

will be tough to replace the passionate seniors, but there are some excellent freshmen runners who will only continue to get better, Eshoo said.

## Girls XC finishes fifth in Ivy Championships, eighth in NYSAIS



**THE LAST SPRINT** Girls Cross Country ends the season, placing fifth in the Ivy League Championships. "Looking back on my entire high school years, cross country is probably the best experience I have had. I have grown a lot and my best friends are all on the team," co-Captain Christie Du (12) said. Freya Lindvall/Staff Photographer

ELIZABETH FORTUNATO  
Staff Writer

The Girls Varsity Cross Country team wrapped up its season with a strong performance at the New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYSAIS) Championships last Sunday, finishing eighth out of 18 teams. This meet followed a fifth place finish in the Ivy League Championships.

While the Lions hoped for a higher finish in their championship meets, they felt the year was successful as they made significant strides with unlimited promise for the future, co-Captain Blithe Logan (12) said.

"We grew as a team and our average times improved quite a bit. While the team results were not what we hoped,

we have created a sisterhood here and the future of the team is a lot better than it was," Logan, who set a personal record as the school's top finisher in the Ivy's, said.

"Our times improved and we did well as a team compared to previous years," co-Captain Joanna Kuang (12) said.

Girls Varsity Cross Country Head Coach Meredith Cullen was also pleased with the overall season results, she said.

"There was such team chemistry from our new freshmen to seniors who have been around since seventh grade. It was an outstanding atmosphere with a group of outstanding girls," Cullen said.

The runners on the team credit Coach Cullen and Girls Varsity Cross Country Coach Morgan Yarosh for creating a nurturing environment and closer team, Kuang said.

"Coaches Cullen and Yarosh really created a family atmosphere. They pushed us to give our best effort and they were also great listeners. They were like our moms at school," Kuang said.

With the team constantly having to rotate its top seven runners racing in varsity meets due to illness and injuries, the performance of the underclassmen who stepped up was key to the team's success, Freya Lindvall (11) said.

Kuang praised Aurora Grutman (11) for setting the bar high when it came down to stepping up workouts and going the extra mile.

"She motivated us all by being in the weight room before practice, and always wanted to extend our workouts, which made us all want to work a little harder," Kuang said. Grutman ended her breakout season in the

NYSAIS Championship with her best performance of the season as HM's top finisher.

"I think the longer 5K distance on flat ground benefitted me, but being there with the seniors in their last race is really what motivated me the most," Grutman said.

"Looking back on my entire high school years, cross country is probably the best experience I have had. I have grown a lot and my best friends are all on the team," co-Captain Christie Du (12) said.

"My fondest memories at HM have been being on this team and it's because of the people there and how we were able to push ourselves past our limits physically when we thought we could not keep going," Kuang said. "What made cross country so special for all

of us was how unbelievably caring and supportive everyone was. We formed friendships that carry on outside the team when we are not running," he said.

"I'm going to miss our seniors next year, mainly because I've been with them from my freshman year and they've always been there for me. They've been huge influences on me as a person and as a runner. It's going to be hard without the energy they bring to the team," Lindvall said.

Looking forward, Cullen expects improvement in the team's performances and will also focus on making the team mentally stronger.

"A lot of succeeding in cross country is mental. We have good days and bad days. We want to address this and work harder to get through our bad days a little better," Cullen said.

## Girls Varsity Tennis reach Mayor's Cup Quarterfinals, win Ivies

SADIE SCHWARTZ  
Staff Writer

The Girls Varsity Tennis team has proved to be the best in the Ivy League once again. The team triumphed in the Ivy League Championships and ascended to the quarterfinals in the Mayor's Cup Tournament.

According to Gibby Thomas (10), the team worked really hard this season to succeed in the Ivy Championships and Mayor's Cup.

Head Coach Rawlins Troop fully expected to win the Ivy Championships, due to the team's undefeated record.

"We had a great season. We went 7-0 in the Ivy League and 8-2 overall because we played schools outside the league such as Scarsdale, Lawrenceville and Beacon," Troop said.

"At Ivy's we were playing a match against Trinity to make it to the finals. We had won two games and lost two, and whether or not we made it to finals depended on this game," co-Captain Alexandra Mantz (12) said. "This was really exciting for our team, and we



**SWING** Hannah Long (10) strikes the ball with force at Mayor's Cup Courtesy of Barry Mason

won in the end."

"For me, Sarah Finley's (11) match was a big highlight of Ivy's because it was the last match and she really came back from losing and won in the end during a tiebreak," Thomas said.

The team's top two players, Chidimma Okpara (10) and Thomas

were at a different tournament the same weekend as Mayor's Cup, so other players had to step up, Hannah Long (10) said.

Because of these absences, Finley played first singles, JJ Ryu (9) played second, and Long played third.

"The fact that these players were

able to step up into these positions and do well is a testament to their good practice and focused play," Troop said.

"I expected to go further in the tournament. It was extremely close, and if we had won one more match, we would've gone to the next round," Rachel Okin (11) said. "Even though we lost to Beacon's team last year, we were excited to have lost by a much smaller margin than previously."

According to co-Captain Mei Ardit (12), the entire team fought hard at the Mayor's Cup, which is the most important thing.

Throughout the season, the team has been working on specific strategies to improve its tennis abilities.

"We worked a lot at being aggressive at the net while playing doubles, since it's really important to have a strong presence at the net to put away the point," Long said. "We also have worked a lot at poaching, which is when the person at the net crosses over at the middle of the court to get a volley."

"Another important aspect was

mastering the doubles lineup to get it to a perfect place," Thomas said. "We had to test out different partnerships to find the best matches, but once we made it official, we improved because we put our best double teams forward to create a stable system."

According to Long, the girls made sure to always abide by Troop's quote, "Never give away a point and make the other person a hitter."

According to Okin, the team had to adapt to traveling to tennis courts at Sarah Lawrence College for practice, and because of that, practice time was limited.

The players also fostered meaningful friendships with each other throughout the season.

"We've gotten a lot closer with a lot of the new girls on the team this year. We all love each other and talk all the time," Okin said.

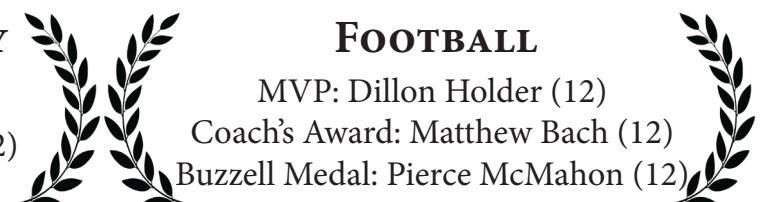
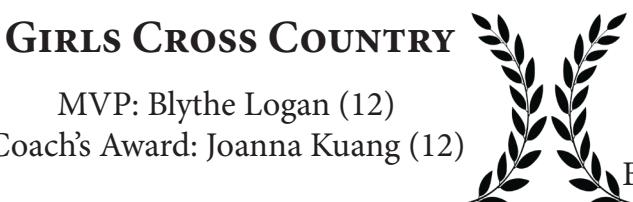
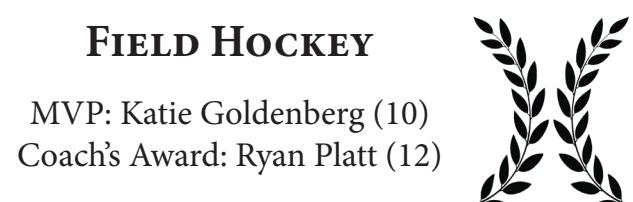
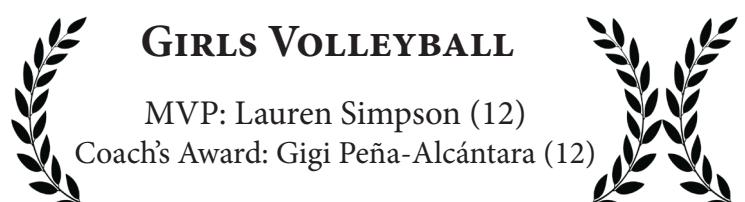
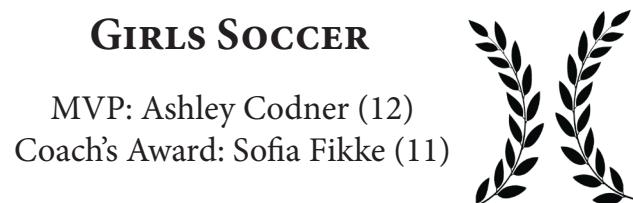
"The amount of spirit, dedication, and talent of this year's tennis team was unlike anything I've ever experienced throughout my six years in the program," Ardit said.

FALL SPORTS RECORDS		
V Field Hockey	7-9-1	Girls V Tennis   9-2
V Football	3-5	Girls V Volleyball   4-11
Boys V Soccer	4-11-2	V Waterpolo   3-6
Girls V Soccer	13-2	

November 11, 2016

8

## FALL SPORTS AWARDS



## Football falls short to Dalton in Championship game



**TAKING THE FIELD** Varsity Football warms up before Hudson Valley Football League Championships against Dalton

Andrew Rubin / Contributing Photographer

AMIR MOAZAMI  
Staff Writer

This past Saturday at Randall's Island, the Varsity Football team lost in the finals of the Hudson Valley Football League Championship game to Dalton with a score of 26-28.

The Lions attempted to win their fourth consecutive league championship, but fell short in the final play of the game.

The game went back and forth, touchdown met with touchdown, because the title was at stake and emotions were running high, Jahmire Cassanova (11) said.

The Lions opened the game with a quick three and out stop on defense. The defensive stop gave the Lions momentum, Teddy Keegan (11) said. Quarterback Ben Metzner (10) ran the ball to the back of the endzone giving the Lions the lead. Dalton

bounced back in the following drive with a 70 yard rushing touchdown.

"In the first quarter, the whole team was nervous and we weren't playing too cohesively," Jeph Prempeh (12) said.

Although he had difficulty finding his rhythm in the beginning of the game, he kept moving forward and scored the final touchdown that put the team within striking distance.

"We were in a really tight position, so I knew that I would have to give my all to help the team," Prempeh said. "On the play where I scored, I had been more patient than ever. I trusted in the blocker in front of me, and he made a move. I was left with an open space and I ran," he said.

Prempeh's touchdown gave the Lions hope that they could win.

"It excited our team a lot because it served as a reminder that we still had a chance in the game. Although

things were going wrong, everyone had to step up to the plate and fight for every play. Our team got a lot of its energy back," Prempeh said.

With three seconds left in the game, co-Captain Dillon Holder (12) had the ball in his hands. The team intended to orchestrate a run up the middle, but Dalton's defense anticipated the run and forced Holder to the outside, where he was stopped.

"With his work ethic and grit, Dillon carries himself like a true leader," Billy Lehrman (11) said.

The team had spent the week before the championship game in anticipation of a run heavy Dalton offense. Despite their preparation, the Lions were confronted with a potent running game that they had trouble stopping, Lehrman said.

The team has been forced to adjust its offensive and defensive

schematics throughout the year in response to quarterback Marc Murphy's (11) injury.

"With Marc being out we've had to rely on our passing plays much more, and with Dalton specifically, we had to refine our plays so that we didn't have to make any further adjustments," Prempeh said.

On defense, the team pressured Dalton's offense to run less with the ball, Louis Toberisky (11) said.

Initially, the plan did force Dalton to throw the ball more in the first half, but towards the end of the game the Tigers reverted back to their run game, Keegan said.

The game culminated a season of brotherhood and friendship. "This team is family," Holder said.

"I never considered myself a football guy, but the support of the team changed that," Prempeh said.

The first day of preseason in

his freshman year, Prempeh came to school intending to run cross country. He decided to stop by the football practice on Four Acres, and Varsity Football Coach Matthew Russo encouraged him to join the team.

"I didn't know much about the sport, but Coach Russo's belief that I could contribute to the team motivated me to work hard and join the team. At that time, the team wasn't used to winning. We weren't used to doing well in the league. Throughout the past four years, I've watched the team become a community and a caring brotherhood," Prempeh said.

"The football team has helped me understand the value in contributing to something larger and taking risks for the benefit of the group," Prempeh said.