

On The Waterfront: Water Polo is Here

This year Fieldston's Athletics department added another sport to its already sizable arsenal of fall options: water polo.

Organized and co-coached by math teacher and Form IV dean Carl Anhalt, water polo has quickly gained a reputation as a rigorous fall sport. But that has not stopped the players from enjoying themselves.

"Playing for the water polo team is one of the toughest and most fun things I have ever done," said Form V co-captain Isaac Thorman.

Such sentiments come as no surprise given the intensity of the team's other coach, Goran Tomašević. Standing at six foot six and 245 pounds, the Croatian native earned First Team AWPCA All-America honors last year as a member of the University of the Pacific water polo team. Tomašević adds some of the experience and wisdom that any new team needs.

On September 12, Fieldston water polo played its first scrimmage. They lost to the Trinity Tigers 10-1. Though the score was lopsided, scoring a goal in the first scrimmage

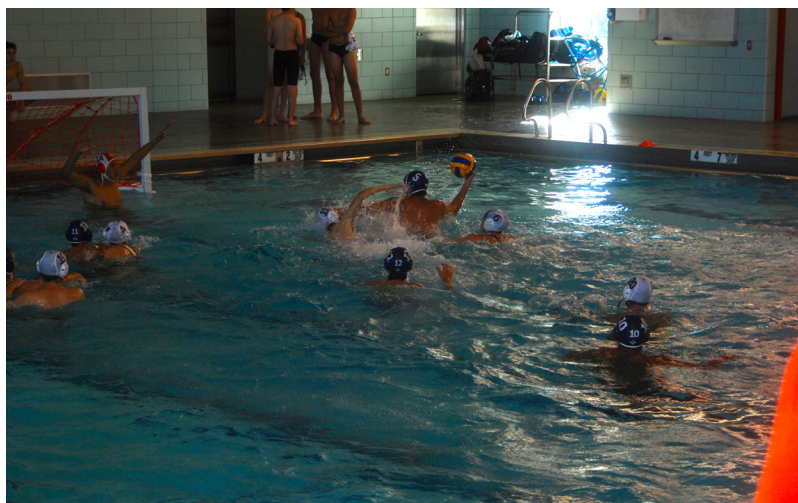


PHOTO BY JEFFREY GOLDBERG

The Water Polo team at work in the pool

in Fieldston water polo history is surely something to celebrate. The game's physical nature however was something that the team struggled with in the scrimmage.

"Although Goran had warned us about how rough the sport is, words don't compare to the real thing," said Thorman. "After sprinting for the ball to start the game, I received a hand forcefully pushing my face

away, and as a first experience playing polo, it was eye opening. We quickly fell behind 6-0 in the first five minutes, which is the amount of time that it took for all three of our lines to get in and out of the game."

Senior Matt Gibson, who serves as a team captain of the swim team during the winter season, scored the team's first ever goal. Despite his individual success, Gibson credits

his teammates when asked about Fieldston's fledgling water polo program.

"We have a great group of people who are working hard to overcome the large gap between schools who have been playing much longer than us," Gibson said. "It's been fun."

While the burgeoning team is certainly centered around participation and fun, there are others who are taking a more concerted effort towards propelling the program towards varsity status.

"Co-captains Tyler Markoff and myself are doing everything we can to move this program forward and ensure that we have not only a varsity season next year, but a winning varsity season," said Thorman, who displays a staunch belief in his team.

He may have to also focus on raising the school's awareness of his team. When senior Sam Ragsdale was asked what he thought about the Fieldston water polo team, he wasn't aware of its existence.

Fieldston's Writing Center, Reincarnated

BY ALEX GREENBERG

Upper school English teacher Kate Reynolds recently hosted a workshop for Fieldston parents in response to an article written in the New York Times entitled, "But I Want to do Your Homework." In the workshop, Ms. Reynolds discussed the degree to which parents should involve themselves in their child's writing assignments; an attempt to recognize when helping becomes usurping and when the voice of the student becomes dissolved in a parent's over-editing.

The workshop also helped to kick-off the brand new Fieldston Writing Center, scheduled to open on Monday, September 29. The center will be a space where students can seek one-on-one writing help from a select group of upperclassmen who, according to Ms. Reynolds, have been "identified by their English teachers as both strong writers and generous and supportive peers." The 21 juniors and seniors

selected for this position attended a three hour training session earlier in the year to prepare them for the

which should be up and running by the 29th. On it, students will be able to see when the Writing Center

next to the Stu-fac. Drop-ins and scheduled appointments are welcome as long as the center is staffed during that band. In addition, there will be a variety of workshops for parents, students, and faculty.

Coming this fall, there will be an editing workshop for seniors working on their college essays, designed to help students whose writing falls short of expectations, and a grammar and punctuation workshop. These workshops will meet twice — once during the day and once after — to ensure that all students have the opportunity to attend.

Expect to hear more announcements about the Writing Center in upcoming assemblies. While versions of the Writing Center have existed before — once in the 1990s and once in Ms. Freid's classroom — they petered out over the years. This time around, Ms. Reynolds has great ambitions, and the Fieldston community is right there behind her.

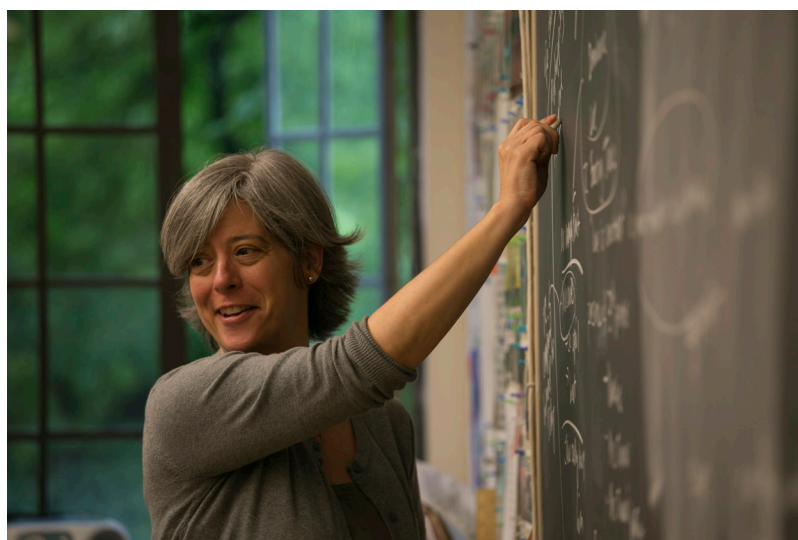


PHOTO BY ERICA LANSNER

Writing Center Director Kate Reynolds in class

project.

Ms. Reynolds has also started a website for the Writing Center

is open and where it's meeting that day. As of now, meetings will either be held in the library or in room 121