

As the era of summer dwindled and died leaving the campus with shorter days and longer nights, students and faculty settled into what seemed to be another promising year at the Upper School. Without a doubt, the September of 2016 did not come without its fair share of surprises. From Cookie's sudden retirement that shook the school to its core, to the uncontrolled energy that came with the return of A-Day, the halls were abuzz with noise and excitement! However, the biggest change by far was the adoption of over a hundred younger brothers, the Year Ones.

After a few days, we had made ourselves known by taking over certain sections of the school, mainly the iDiv Lounge. You could spot us hunched over our computers, fingers hovering over the classic WASD keys. Or in the halls, asking what time our next class started. You might have also unknowingly stepped on us. However, amid the chaos of basically changing schools, there were quite a few friendly faces to help us out along the way, our mentors. Meeting our mentors what seemed like an eternity ago, June, was one of our first introductions to the Upper School. And they would not disappoint.

As a Year One, the Upper School will no doubt be intimidating. The Assemblies were loud and seemed like a ruckus, but electric moments the first time we attended. The pounding of the pews reverberating through the school and the bellow of the boys as they sang the songs we didn't know. The feeling of novelty compared to prep assemblies is still felt. The dignified speakers and the energy that was ever palpable that couldn't be replicated anywhere else but Laidlaw Hall.

The annual celebration known as A-Day took place on a scenic Saturday morning, The Avenue was packed with stands and people bustling around eager to soak up as much of the experience as they could. The boys represented the school, both on the field and off it. The day was not only filled with plenty of wins and celebrations, but also a few taboo losses.

Stewards Madness Basketball infected the school, with Martlands winning it all on a controversial call over Scaddings. It was a wonderful event and made us realize how we had gone from being the biggest and best at the Prep, to the smallest and almost superfluous at the Upper School.

The school year has already been unpredictable and has already thrown all the boys different forms of adversity that they will continue to face throughout the year(s). There will and already have been so many problems. Us Year Ones will learn this the hard way - the same way everyone else did. However, with all the fun and friends that come with returning to school, it doesn't seem so bad after all. Until the dastardly villains known as tests reappeared!