

The Horace Mann Record

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HORACE MANN'S WEEKLY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1903

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JULIA GOLDBERG AND VIVIEN SWEET
Staff Writers

60,000+ PEOPLE MARCHED IN NEW YORK

Over two dozen students joined tens of thousands of other young people last Friday in downtown Manhattan for the largest environmental strike in history to protest the lack of action taken to address the increasingly alarming state of the planet.

The activists assembled in Foley Square at noon, where speakers such as Chief Sachem Hawk Storm of the Schaghticoke First Nations spoke about the importance of resisting climate change in indigenous communities. The march to Battery Park officially began at 1:15 P.M., and the strikers arrived at the park at 3 P.M., where Jaden and Willow Smith, climate change activists, performed.

Estimates of the number of protesters ranged from 60,000, according to the mayor's office, to more than 250,000, according to the march organizers.

"The purpose of the climate strike [was] to create a disruption and show our leaders that we [would] not be standing by complacently anymore," Natalie Sweet (11), a member of the New York City Core Organizers team, said. "We can now see world leaders, including the ten major Democratic presidential candidates, speaking out about [climate-related] issues they haven't before, which is really empowering."

The New York City Core Organizers team had been planning the strike since August and had a concrete list of demands in mind, including a halt to all leasing and permitting fossil fuel extraction and the transformation of the economy to 100 percent clean, renewable energy by 2030, according to strikewithus.org.

"I think that climate change is one of the biggest issues that our world is facing right now,

3.3 millimeters ANNUAL INCREASE IN SEA LEVELS

because regardless of where you live and who you are, the destruction of our world poses a threat to you," Dalia Pustilnik (10) said. "When I had the chance to participate in a student-led strike, it seemed like the perfect opportunity to take a stand."

Greta Thunberg, the co-founder of FridaysForFuture, and Varshini Prakash, the co-founder of the Sunrise Movement, also spoke at Battery Park about the importance of raising awareness about the declining environment. Both of their organizations are dedicated to resisting climate change through political and social activism, and Thunberg is credited as one of the first youth activists to spread international awareness about the dire global environmental situation.

At the end of the rally, the fifteen members of the core team sang the strike song, which they wrote with an organization called Peace Poet, to the tens of thousands of people in attendance. "It was nice to celebrate all that we've done," Sweet said. "It felt like a culmination of all of our work, even though we know this isn't the last step we're going to take." The ceremony closed with a speech by the local indigenous delegation around 5 P.M.

Sonja Cooper (11) attended the strike to connect with people with similar ideologies and priorities as her, she said. "This [felt] like a great way for me to meet people who are energized and inspired by the idea that we can cause tangible change and improve the world."

Pustilnik said it felt incredible to be surrounded by such deeply passionate people. "Even just taking the subway, every stop we'd see more and more students pile on the trains. It was obvious that we weren't alone," she said.

Other attendees, including Eliza Bender (12), were drawn to the strike in part because of the health complications brought forth by climate change. Bender, who is more prone to heart palpitations during hot weather, said that she has become increasingly worried because of

413 gigatons OF ICE MELT ANNUALLY

the recent rise in global temperature.

"Obviously, the ramifications of climate change are much more massive than me feeling uncomfortable when I walk around the city," Bender said. "But [the strike] really made me think about how many people our age have developed asthma, or had some part of their life inhibited, by the physical effects of climate change."

Samantha Tsai (11) said she felt inspired by the sheer number of people gathered in one place. Tsai was most impacted by hearing young people, specifically Isabella Fallahi and Kevin J. Patel, members of the environmental organization This Is Zero Hour, discuss their personal experiences with the lack of climate-oriented action from the government, she said. "They spoke really well—even better than some of the adults."

Head of Upper Division Dr. Jessica Levenstein thought students could learn an enormous amount from attending, she said. Bender, for example, said that she left the strike with a newfound understanding about how climate change affects indigenous communities most severely, and the importance of identifying their land as native territory.

"I feel pretty clearly that our generation has failed to solve this problem, so it's on this generation to shout the loudest," Levenstein said. "Attending can help our students understand that even if they don't have the right to vote, they have the right to express what they believe in."

If the school received confirmation from a parent or guardian that their child would be attending the rally, the school granted them an excused absence, Levenstein said. This policy, though, is not

1.9°F rise IN GLOBAL TEMPERATURE SINCE 1880

different from any other day, as a parent or guardian can always call in an excused absence; all the administration did was ensure that the parent body knew that the school would be understanding if their children did choose to miss school, she said.

When students come to the administration expressing an interest in attending a march or a rally, the school wants to meet that need, Levenstein said. "Our students were clearly motivated to get involved in this, and we support their right to express their opinions."

Horace Mann students weren't the only ones with official support. Due to persistent demands from four members of the core team, the Department of Education decided to grant an excused absence to any New York City student who wished to attend and had parental consent, Sweet said.

Though excited about the event, Levenstein did have concerns about potential chaos, as she knew some students would not be comfortable in a situation as overwhelming as this one, she said. She predicted that many students, even if they support the cause, would not go, a choice the school also understands, she said.

Alex Nagin (10) was embarrassed by the lack of the school's students who attended the march, he said. "When I asked my friends if they were going, they said, 'Oh, I have a test, et cetera,'" he said. "The fact that climate change isn't a bigger issue to the student body is alarming."

Pustilnik said that she was surprised by the low turnout from the school's students. To her, the turnout personally felt disappointing, but she understood that many students had assessments or parents who did not sign off on the strike, she said. "It was a viable option for me, and for that I'm

12.8% DECREASE IN ARCTIC SEA ICE PER DECADE

grateful," she said.

English teacher Jacob Kaplan also recognized the difficulty of leaving school to go to the strike, he said. However, Kaplan, who has previously attended climate awareness events, was surprised when only one of his students went to the strike.

On the other hand, Fieldston's students had the option of either going to the strike or participating in the day of climate education on campus on Friday, member of Fieldston's environmental club Sophie David (10) said. Moreover, all of the high school students were assigned articles concerning climate change to read and respond to on Wednesday night, and they discussed their reactions to the articles on Thursday during their science classes. "There's no end to how much you can learn about climate change," Turner said.

At Horace Mann, certain classes also incorporated discussions about the climate. Frankie Dogmarci (9) said that in her biology class, she learned about how too many greenhouse gases in the

see [ARTICLE](#) on Pg. 3

ACCESSIBILITY VS PRIVACY: TOEING THE LINE OF INTERNET USE

Ahaan Palla/Photo Editor



Sam Chiang

Although data collection can be considered an infringement on people’s privacy, sharing your data can help society create better modeling tools and algorithms to identify early warning signs of major issues such as poverty, homelessness, and cancer.

Data collection has been around for centuries and can be more than just sending cookies from your phone or laptop. In 1790, when the US Census was first implemented, census takers walked from house-to-house to survey and collect data. Since then, American households have filled out the census every decade and also have taken part in the American Community Survey (ACS) every year. Given its frequency, the ACS helps determine how the US government distributes \$675 billion in funds.

The importance of the Decennial US Census cannot be overstated. The census allows the government to collect important demographic data, which is then used by lawmakers to aptly distribute federal and state funds. Businesses also use census data to target prime locations for development, and can identify dilapidated neighborhoods and build factories, offices, and stores to create jobs.

However, since the census is only once a decade, it cannot properly account for recent demographic changes if the end of the decade is approaching. The ACS combats this problem by

collecting information on 46 topics from a smaller sample of households deemed to be representative of the country. Similarly to the census, lawmakers may use the ACS to identify demographic changes and target reforms and appropriation packages.

Many people, however, do not realize that census data is quite comprehensive and easily accessible by the public. Websites offer interactive and simple ways to visualize the data and offer users the opportunity to view over 500,000 data points from all Decennial Censuses, American Community Surveys, and other datasets such as the annual FBI Crime Data report and tallied votes from American Presidential Elections.

Honestly, the specificity of the data can be simultaneously quite fascinating and terrifying. Using SocialExplorer.com, I searched for my



Annabelle Chan/Art Director

home address on the 2010 Census and found the specific data for my family. I was able to check my family’s race and my parents’ marital status, employment sector, and income bracket.

Perhaps most importantly, census takers know exactly what is asked of them and what information will be collected by the government. However, the online collection of data tends to be sneakier and privacy policies more ambiguous. Real dangers exist, and it’s often young internet users who are

most at risk and least aware. The solution would be greater transparency between companies and their users. Prominent companies have been involved in large scandals such as Facebook giving away its users’ data. Greater transparency about what data will be collected would allow users to become more aware and better protect themselves from such scandals in the future.

Nowadays, data collection isn’t limited to government surveys, but also includes forms of data collection employed by tech giants like Google and Facebook. Google tracks a host of information ranging from what you search to what ads or links you click. Google Maps, Flights, Books, Translate, and Gmail also keep records of what you search in order to build your profile.

Unfortunately, all of this collected information warrants major privacy concerns. Hackers can access and release personal information, and tech companies can effectively profile anyone. While attending a data analytics class over the summer, I met a kid named Yash from Silicon Valley. Ironically, we were learning to analyze data, yet he kept his online presence as minimal as possible by using VPNs, erasing his history, and avoiding social media sites. He was paranoid that he could be held accountable for a mistake online in his future, so he used his laptop as cautiously as possible.

However, I believe that Yash was overly cautious. Despite privacy concerns, data collection also drives innovation through machine learning. Larger, more accurate datasets can be used for complex modeling and predicting, and the applications for better predictions are endless. The analysis and modeling of big data can be used to best distribute social services by identifying early warning signs. For example, lawmakers and community leaders can identify early signs of gentrification by looking at previous patterns. In Chicago, community leaders mapped rising real estate values, changing demographics, and stagnating salaries to identify at-risk neighborhoods. In California, local legislatures

are working with data scientists to identify early warning signs of homelessness by analyzing data collected by dozens of agencies.

In the private sector, personal profiles can be used to target specific audiences with certain advertisements, allowing companies to maximize profitability. Using that data, companies can predict future purchases by analyzing previous patterns which allows them to avoid over and underproducing their products. They can also track the performance of their marketing campaigns and make necessary adjustments.

According to a 2015 study conducted by Ernst and Young, customers crave personalized attention, and 65% of customers are willing to share their data if it means that they will receive personalized recommendations and special offers. Personalized ads allow customers to learn about products that they may never have heard but still might be likely to purchase. Companies can keep track of purchase histories and suggest items similar to previous selections instead of advertising random predictions.

As programs go through different variations of prediction and testing sets, more repetitions increase precision in algorithms. When data scientists create models, they must break their data into parts. One part, which tends to be larger, is used as a practice set, where the model learns what responses to associate with certain inputs. After running through numerous variations of the training set, the model is then tried against the second test set. The test set feeds inputs into the model and receives an output, which is then checked to determine the accuracy of the model. With a larger amount of data to train on, the model should theoretically be able to make more accurate predictions in the future.

As the internet continues to become a more integral part of our lives, datasets will continue to grow. However, the public must be more aware of what data is being collected, and companies must be more transparent to build greater trust.

My Hispanic heritage’s influence on my daily life

Amanda Wein/Staff Photographer



Tiger Lily Moreno

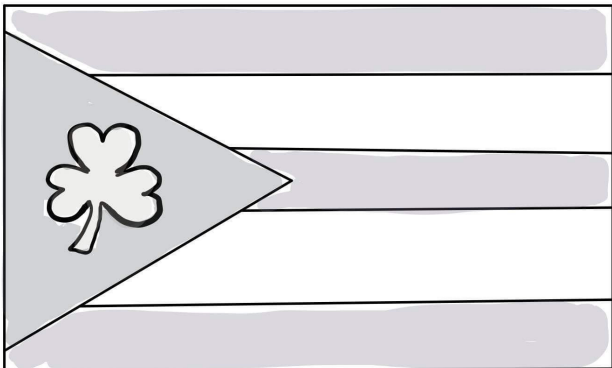
Hispanic Heritage Month means feeling comfortable and familiar in a space where I am usually the person coming from an unfamiliar background compared to the majority of people in a room. I’m half-Puerto Rican and half-Irish, and have lived in the South Bronx my whole life. My family made sure that I grew up connected to my Hispanic heritage through everything from the music we play to the food we eat every day. I am beyond excited that we are finally celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month and planning meaningful events for this month at our school, and truly hope we continue this new tradition and continue our engagement with this topic. Recognizing and celebrating the individuality of people’s identities is a powerful, beautiful thing.

My Hispanic heritage bleeds into so many aspects of who I am,

in part because my mom has tried to instill our heritage’s values within me, which has given me incredible perseverance and allows me to connect with my culture through my identity. I have a lot of pride in my Hispanic identity, and I always try to break down the negative stereotypes that come with my background; stereotypes like Latinas being ghetto, lazy, unintelligent, and overly sexual. I’m inspired by how hard my family has worked to give me the opportunities that I have, and a lot of my drive comes from them. I believe that grit is a common characteristic of Latinx people, which is why I’m constantly committed to making my people proud. I’ll be one of the first people in my family to go to college; the fact that I’m here at Horace Mann still surprises people in my family and community. Whenever I go on a school trip, my family is always so surprised and impressed that I’m going to an institution with such good funding, as it’s so different from their high school and middle school experiences. Nevertheless, their ambition for me — my mom’s especially— is why I’m here today.

I am one of the leaders of the new club, Latinx Influencers of Tomorrow, or L.I.T. We have been planning Hispanic Heritage Month and many other events coming up this year. We are the ones that put Hispanic desserts in the library every Thursday this month, and put on movie screenings, dance workshops, open classrooms, discussions, and much more. This is the first year at our school that we are celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month and that we have a club for Latinx students and allies. This club and this month are other ways I’m making my people proud. It’s crucial that non-Latinx people participate in this month. At our school,

we haven’t had a lot of opportunities to learn and appreciate Latinx culture: now is our time. In the Bronx, our community is 53.5% Hispanic, but at Horace Mann School, roughly 3.4% of the students are Hispanic: we are the minority of the minorities. If you aren’t a part of that demographic, please come to at least one of the events happening this month. We go to a school in the Bronx; you might as well learn a little bit more about the majority of people in our surrounding community. Try to put yourself in our shoes for a moment this month.



Annabelle Chan/Art Director

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from CLIMATE MARCH page 1

atmosphere can cause heat to be trapped, and Hannah Moss's (9) biology class talked about the strike and why she and her peers did not attend the march.

"My impression is that the faculty at [the school] are acutely aware of and concerned about the climate crisis. It's certainly something that is talked about and worried about among the faculty," Kaplan said. "How could it not be?"

Nagin believes that the school still has a lot of progress to make to understand the urgency of the issue and the importance of pursuing solutions, such as reusable items and environmental education, within the student body, he said.

"I want to be able to tell my little brother that I did everything that I could to stop the [climate change] emergency," Nagin said, "and that means protesting and exercising my rights to make sure the government

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH SHEDS LIGHT ON LATINX CULTURE

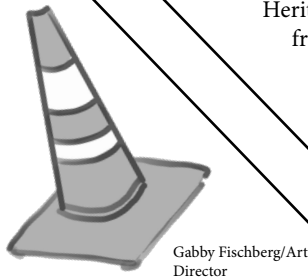


REPRESENT L.I.T. promotes at clubs' fair.

OLIVER STEINMAN AND CLAIRE GOLDBERG
Staff Writers

"I hope Hispanic Heritage Month gives people a positive image when they think of LatinX people and their culture. I hope it increases our visibility and unity," Jayla Thomas (12) said.

The school is currently holding its first ever celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15th to October 15th. Since



Gabby Fischberg/Art Director

Safety Assembly

JOHN MAURO
Staff Writer

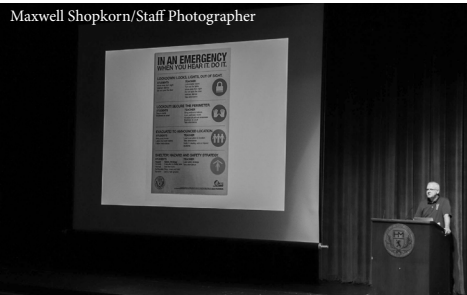
The school's annual safety assembly on Tuesday outlined safety procedures and student vigilance while re-introducing the student body to the Public Safety Department.

The Public Safety Department discussed the methods they used to keep the school safe, such as cameras and patrol cars. They also discussed what to do in case of a lockdown emergency.

"It's important that we have the safety assembly every year, and we practice safety procedures every year that could save lives," English teacher Andrew Fippingger said. "I think we live in a very scary climate with the level of gun violence in the country, particularly with school shootings."

Eli Scher (11) said learning the names of the people in the department was very important. "I have a more personal connection to the people who work behind the scenes to protect us," he said.

Many of the department's policies remained the



LISTEN UP! Clancy describes protocol.

Clubs Debut at Fair

NATALIE SWEET
Staff Writer

With a wide selection of snacks, banners, and booths, new clubs and publications made their debut this Thursday at the Clubs' Fair, showcasing the many different

knows that I'm not going to stand their inaction because they want to receive funds from the fossil fuel industry."

extracurricular options students can explore.

Though Dean of Students Michael Dalo has not made any changes to the way the fair runs in his first year in the position, he is excited to see all of the new clubs and publications at their booths, he said. "Anytime students propose new clubs, there are exciting new opportunities for the community."

One of these new publications is For the Culture, a magazine dedicated to showcasing the school's diverse backgrounds through culture and arts, Editor-in-Chief Gabby Fischberg (11) said. The publication started in the winter of 2019 and printed its first issue last spring.

"A lot of publications are centered around white Eurocentric culture," Fischberg said. "It's so important to highlight the livelihoods and experiences of people of color, which are so beautiful and amazing," she said.

Co-founder of LatinX Influencers of Tomorrow (LIT) Jayla Thomas (12) had a similar idea but

educate students and faculty about the histories of Latin American societies," he said.

"I thought it was really inspiring to hear Mr. Alvarez's presentation on Indigenous Peoples, and it really helped me patch up a lot of the holes in my knowledge on hispanic culture," Brian Wu (12) said.

"It was interesting to see Mexico's shift to liberalism through native art pieces of the time," Jacob Schorsh (11) said.

On Wednesday LIT held dance workshop for Merengue, a traditional dance from the Dominican Republic which was brought to the US in 1960. "It was just another way to expose kids to a fun aspect of the culture. The workshop included a little history of the dance too so the people who attended could understand the culture behind the dance moves they were doing," Hernandez said.

Sofia Subramaniam (11) attended the workshop and learned that the form is influenced



Annabelle Chan/ Art Director

by jazz, African, and European styles, she said. "It was really eye opening to learn a new form of dance that I was not familiar with," she said.

An important part of the month will be screenings of movies, because they do a good job displaying the subject authentically, said Moreno. Last Friday, LIT held a screening of the movie 'Real Women have Curves.'

"The movie offers humor with LatinX culture just like any coming of age story to really say 'this is who we are,'" Moreno said. The overall vibe of the night was relaxed, and many students and teachers attended.

"I found how relatable the movie was incredibly striking," Gregorio

a daily report of world events related to violent incidents and terrorism from our social media monitoring organization," McCaw said.

The department is constantly adding to their training repertoire and preparing for emergencies, McCaw said. "We're never going to stop planning."



PLEASE JOIN Adriana Hernandez (11) advertises her club.

a different approach, she said. "We wanted to increase visibility for Latinx students through workshops, panels, and movie screenings, so that these students can feel empowered."

Scarlett Goldberg (10) also founded The Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Club club this year to tackle social and economic issues. Goldberg plans to organize talks and come up with solutions or initiatives for the school and the greater New York City community together.

"To make a change, we need to learn from others experiences to adjust our day to day actions for the better," she said.

This year was also the first year of the school's chapter of the Period Movement, which is a global, non-profit fighting to end period products more accessible through service, education, and advocacy, according to their website nationalperiodday.com. Jordan Ferdman (11), Alexis Fry (11), and Ericka Familia (11) started the school's chapter after Ferdman started a service learning initiative last year that supplied menstrual products to women in the Bronx, she said.

"It's a really fun celebration in the fall to celebrate all of the hard work by clubs and publications leaders over the summer," Head of the Upper Division Jessica Levenstein said.

Florentino Sanchez (12) said. "The issues in the movie exist across all the different cultures in the LatinX community, something which I had not thought about before."

LIT club leaders also screened the film "Black in Latin America: Haiti and the Dominican Republic, and Island divided" on Thursday. The movie is about a man who identifies as black enduring racism while traveling through Latin America.

"The movie disproves the myth that LatinX people can't be racist because they're also people of color. It's really an undiscussed topic that if you're not LatinX you don't talk about it," Moreno said. "This movie just hits at some of the stuff that's part of our reality as a LatinX people, a reality that we want to expose to the larger school."

In addition, LIT has incorporated traditional Hispanic foods and music into the month during break on Thursdays. "The food and music have been the only things that people have seen, but I hope that's just the gateway to digging deeper into LatinX history. It should grab their attention, get people talking about LIT, and bring people to the events," Moreno said. "It's just the sugar coated-literally-version of who we are in total."

The school really makes an effort to appreciate minorities, Jaden Picarello (10) said. "When I first found out that HM was having Hispanic Heritage Month I was excited to see how the community will react to all that Latin culture has to offer."

Chandler Reyes (11) feels like the variety of affinity groups that the school has helped to maintain that support, he said.

"We always recognize the diversity in our community, since we have such a mixed population we have a wide variety of perspectives and it helps us learn about new ideas," Alvarez said. "This is definitely an asset and something that is really cool about our community."

"I hope that more people will want to join and know about LIT club because it is the only way we can continue the tradition of celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month and continue to be seen as an important community at the school," Moreno said.

Reading on the job:

The school's library interns

Gabby Fischberg/Art Director

JULIA GOLDBERG AND HANNA
HORNFIELD
Staff Writers

While the average student might spend a free period studying for a biology quiz or enjoying a panini in the cafeteria, a small group of students spends their frees ensuring that every book in the library is safe, sound, and easily found.

When Library Department Chair Caroline Bartels began working at the school 23 years ago, there was no protocol for returning books to shelves. "I think it was expected of the librarians, but we were doing another million things," she said.

During Bartels' first year, she pushed for students to work in the library, and those hours would count either for service learning hours or for a paycheck. Thus, the library intern program was born.

"When I started in this library, we circulated about 4,000 books a year, but we now circulate around 30,000," Bartels said. The library would be piled over with unorganized stacks of books without the interns, Head of Library Circulation Stiffany Aponte, who runs the interning program, said.

Currently, the library is paying nine students minimum wage to assist with various tasks in the library. They've also hired two college students, Muhaiminul Ashraf '19 and Gabriel Hernandez '19, who come in for a full day a few days a week. On top of the already relatively large number of student interns this year, there are five more students on a waitlist to join the program, Bartels said.

Frequently, alumni who are currently in college come back to work in the library when they are on break. As a result, the number of interns increases dramatically when colleges are on winter, spring, or summer break, but school or summer school is still in session. During these time periods, there can be up to 15 library interns at once, Bartels said.

One of the nine current interns, Mekhala Mantravadi (10), has worked in the library since November of last year, including over the summer. Mantravadi, like most of the interns, found out about the program through word of mouth. "I wanted to have job experience early on and make my own money, and I really like books, so I thought the internship would be perfect for me," she said. "There's also a lot of books and resources that people don't know about. Sometimes I just sit in the back and look at all the poetry we have."

There is no application process or prior qualifications necessary for the job other than a minimum age requirement of 14. To become an intern, Mantravadi simply spoke to Bartels and explained why she wanted the job and started working shortly after, she said.

Before the interns begin, Aponte leads the students through a 45 minute orientation in which she walks them through the library and explains their tasks. Regardless, Mantravadi still took about a month to learn and master all of her responsibilities at the library, she said. These duties include shelving books, helping organize the archives, and occasionally babysitting faculty members' children, Aponte said.

"During days where faculty have meetings, we babysit their kids, and that's my favorite," Jolie Nelsen (11) said. "We make snacks, watch movies, and hang out in the library, but we also play games that I played in the Lower Division, which feels very full circle."

This upcoming summer, the interns' responsibilities will expand to encompass a new project. At the end of this school year, history, science, and language department chairs will bring the library their classroom sets of textbooks, Bartels said. The interns will then catalog each set and number and label each copy, so when the school starts back up in the fall, students can check out classroom copies of the textbooks on their ID cards. "This will allow departments, and the library, to keep better track of where each book is, to charge for lost copies, and to see what needs to be re-ordered," Bartels said.

Over the summer, when they're not busy organizing the textbooks, interns will dedicate themselves to conducting their longest-term project: taking inventory.

"The interns scan every book to ensure that they're all actually in the library, so we know what we have," Aponte said. Students typically start the inventory after school ends and finish in late July or early August.

"Inventory is an all hands on deck job," Maggie Brill '18, a former intern, said. "It was a much more extensive process than I think people understand." While working as an intern, Brill focused on taking inventory, shelving books, and helping to catalog, she said.

The interns all have to work for a minimum of two hours a week, so they have to be sincerely willing and able to make that time commitment before signing up for the job, Aponte said. Though the interns can work during or after school, managing their schedules can be difficult at times, Aponte said.

The balance between schoolwork and the job is indeed often a difficult one to calibrate. "I play sports for two seasons, and I'm in FRC robotics during the third, so I can never work after school," Nelsen said. As a result, Nelsen's only available time to intern is during her free periods, but she tries her best to organize her schedule to accommodate all of her obligations, she said.

Jaden Richards (11) expressed a similar sentiment to Nelson. Richards either starts his homework or works at the library during his frees, though that often forces him to stay up later, he said.

However, if interns can manage to truly dedicate their time to the job, their work as library assistants can open doors to other employment opportunities: one of which is to work as Bartels' summer school assistant, Bartels said. When her summer school assistant, Linda Dowling, retired five years ago, Bartels decided she would hire a student she already knew and trusted instead of an adult as a replacement, she said.

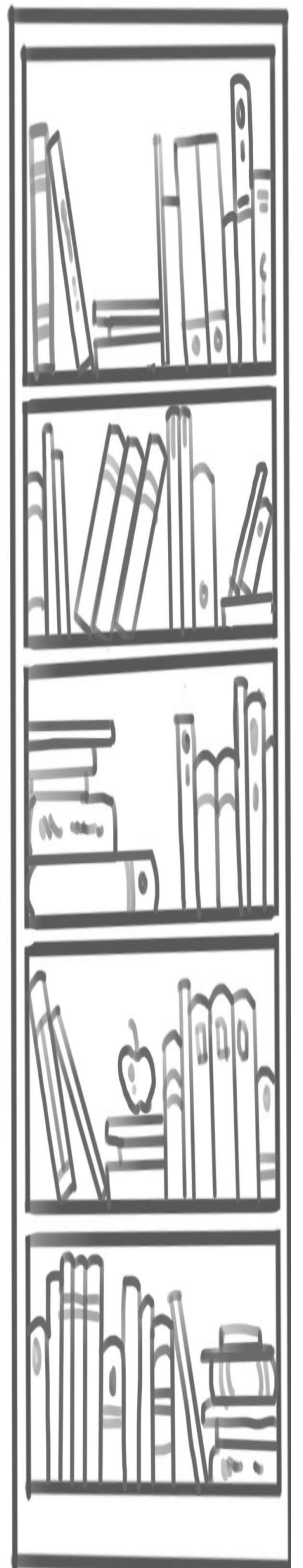
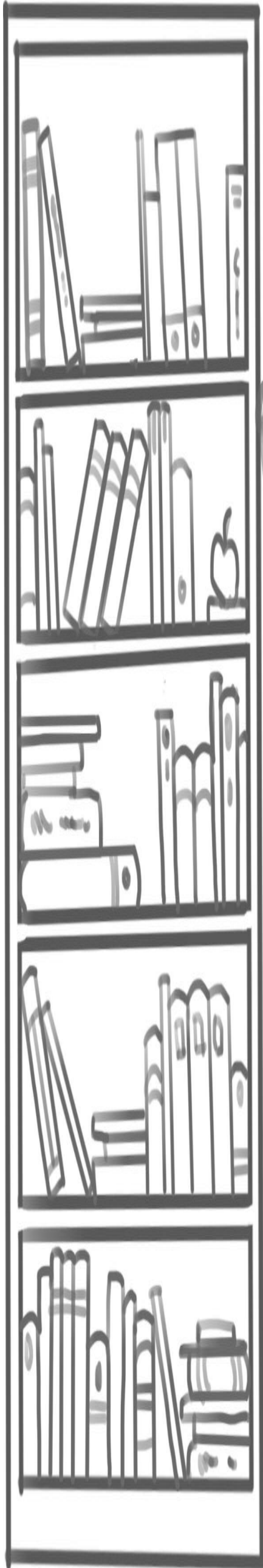
For the past two years, Genesis Maldonado '16, who worked in the library throughout her four years of high school, has filled the position. "She may work again this coming summer, but she's in her junior year of college and she may want to do a more 'real job,'" Bartels said.

After graduating, many students who have worked at the library, such as Grace Hill '18 and Sinai Cruz '16, also ended up working at their colleges' libraries because of their work experience at the school, Bartels said.

Brill was grateful to have the work experience to put on her resumé when applying for jobs in college, she said. "The job also taught me about what it means to have responsibilities and someone to report to, and about completing tasks that weren't just school assignments."

Looking toward the future, Bartels has many new tasks planned for the interns. "We're currently working with the World Languages department to make our [book] collection more vibrant," Bartels said. "We wanted to start by bringing the collection down from upstairs to sort through it. That's all fine and good, but without interns here to help out, I would've had to wait until the summer to start." The librarians are too busy to start new projects without the interns' help, she said.

It's hugely freeing to have student interns in the library, Bartels said. "To be able to find kids who I can trust, who know what they're doing—who I can hand a project and say, 'run with it'—that's really important to me."



ALL RISE FOR STANDING DESKS

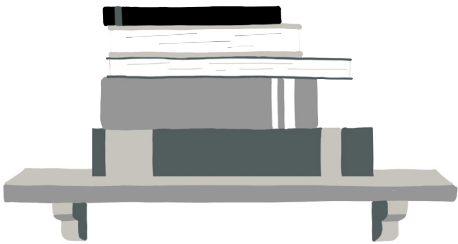


SAM SINGER
Staff Writer

At the beginning of this year, the school offered Dean of Students Michael Dalo a standing desk, after his doctor recommended a device to help alleviate Dalo's back pain.

Dalo is one of a number of other faculty members to use standing desks for productivity and health reasons.

Before the start of this school year, Registrar Chris Garrison '04 renovated his office by incorporating a standing desk with a variable height so he could both sit and stand. "Sitting for hours on end left me with much less energy and has been condemned as unnatural for years," he said. "As someone who uses a computer for most of my day, I have to make choices to avoid that."



In addition to several faculty members switching to standing desks, many members of the school community have begun incorporating physical activity into their working regimens. The motivations for this switch, which are health reasons, productivity, and avoiding the monotony of traditional "desk jobs," are reflective of a nationwide fast-growing trend for standing desks, Senior News Editor for the American Cancer Society Stacy Simon wrote.

According to the Harvard Health Blog, standing desks are custom-built or converted desks that allow employees to work either while standing or sitting, either through mechanical levers, buttons, and fixed presets. Setting up a standing desks can range in scope from placing a simple stack of books below a computer to ordering and assembling a \$1000+ product, rheumatologist Dr. Robert H. Shmerling wrote in the blog.

Standing desks provide a helpful solution for back pain caused by scoliosis, a bulging

disk, poor posture, or swelling, Dr. Carlos Bagley, Vice Chair of Neurological Surgery at The University of Texas' Southwestern Medical Center, wrote. Standing desks also improve productivity, making employees in one study "45 percent more productive on a daily basis than their seated colleagues," Bagley wrote.

Even though he did not request the standing desk himself, Pervil finds it improves his work efficiency. "I inherited my standing desks from the person who had my job before me, but I do find that by changing positions every so often, I am better able to stay productive," Pervil said.

All faculty at the school who have private offices are able to request a standing desk from Director of Facilities Management Gordon Jensen, Garrison said. "There is enough space for standing desks only in private offices, but it is simple to request one from facilities and they are easy to set up and use," he said.

English teacher Rebecca Bahr believes that a standing desk would improve her productivity, but she is frustrated she cannot get one due to space constraints, she said. "While I wish I had a standing desk, I know I won't get one. It would require massive reconfiguration, and only teachers with private offices can have them anyway."

While World Languages teacher Dr. Cornelie Ladd does not have her own office and thus cannot use a standing desk at school, she recognizes their

immense benefits
for many people,
s h e said.

"Standing desks provide the desk bound with effective and more healthful alternatives to sitting down at work."

However, according to an anonymous poll conducted by The Record, most students do not use standing desks, primarily because of the price.

Apart from financial reasons, the poll showed that many students and faculty did not use standing desks out of habit, comfort, skepticism, or space limitations. Of 128 students and faculty members surveyed, only five use a standing desk on a regular basis.

English teacher Sarah McIntyre works exclusively sitting, mostly out of habit, she said. "I do all my work sitting, and I'm productive that way," she said.

Whitney Dawson (12), on the other hand, does not use a standing desk simply out of convenience, she said in her response to the digital poll. "I like to lay down in my bed or sit on the floor; it's just much more comfortable."

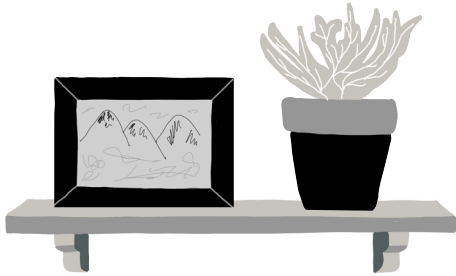
Likewise, Evann Penn Brown (11) said that standing desks were inconvenient and uncomfortable. "Standing desks are one of my worst enemies," she said. "Why would you trade comfort for misery?"

Other students shared a similar sentiment, like Divya Ponda (9), who almost always works in her bed, she said.

Ben Feldman (11) does not nor will

he ever use a standing desk simply because he is skeptical of their benefits and worried about their side effects, he said, referring to the desks as "cancer causing [tools] of Satan."

"The myth that standing desks are better for you is absolutely crazy," Feldman said. "You can never get something for nothing, so



save money and spare the painful swelling to come to your feet and ankles."

While most students and faculty do not have standing desks and have no plans of getting one, more than half (70 out of 128) students and faculty were able to incorporate exercise in some way either into their breaks or daily routine.

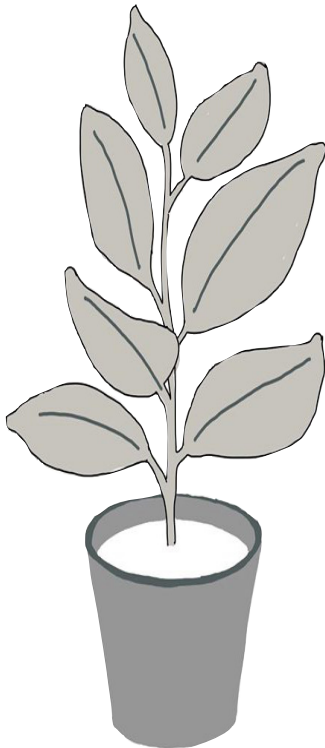
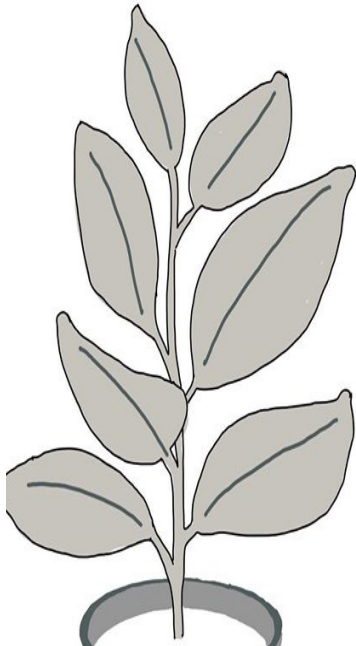
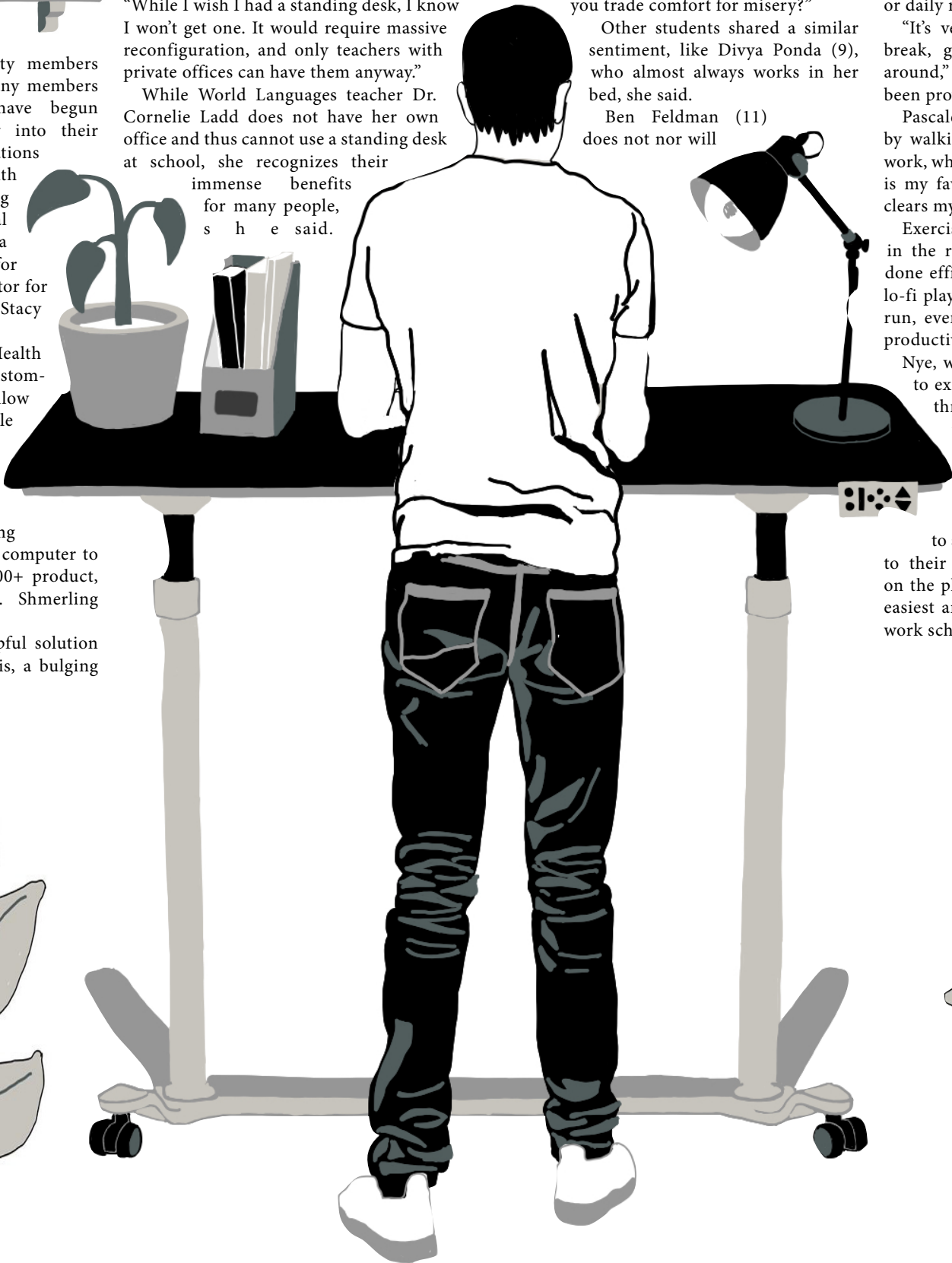
"It's very important to take even a brief break, get some air, and to walk or run around," Pervil said. "In the long run, it has been proven to be productive and relaxing."

Pascale Zissu (11) embodies this principle by walking her dog during her breaks from work, which occur every 45 minutes. "Exercise is my favorite thing to do during breaks; it clears my head and leaves me refreshed."

Exercise also helps Brian Wu (12) remain in the right mental state and get his work done efficiently, he said. "I like to listen to a lo-fi playlist while going on a short one mile run, even after sports, so that I can remain productive and in the right mindset."

Nye, who does use a standing desk, is able to exercise by deliberately "walking down three flights to Olshan or five flights to the Theatre basement" when he needs to work with his colleagues, he said.

Garrison employs a similar technique. "Whenever I need to talk to another faculty member, I try to walk to their office instead of just calling them on the phone," he said. "It's just about what's easiest and healthiest for you based on your work schedule and daily habits."



SUMMER ART SHINES IN FISHER HALL



NATHAN ZELIZER
Contributing Writer

Vibrant colors and captivating artwork surround the walls of the Fisher gallery, which has been showcasing student projects from the school's various summer programs. The exhibit features artwork from the Summer Film Institute (HMSFI), Summer on the Hill, the previous school year's Global Architecture course, and this summer's Street Photography class.

In a small part of the wall next to the entrance, a television shows a full rotation of the films made during HMSFI. The films are the only animated work within the gallery and add an element of sound to the otherwise silent exhibit.

Sam Siegel (9) participated in the institute this year and enjoyed it, he said. "HMSFI was a great experience and was a lot of fun." Siegel acted in several movies filmed throughout the four-week course and wrote one as well.

The exhibit also featured work from Street Photography. "The three weeks at the class were so much fun and I really learned a lot about both photography and New York City culture as a whole," Liam Futterman (11) said. Futterman and his peers shared a mutual love for the class, he said.

Across from the entrance of the exhibit, at least one of each students' pictures is displayed along a wall. The photos include portraits of individual people and of different buildings and artistic structures.

A photo taken by Aillil Walsh (10) depicts a side profile of a man wearing sunglasses in front of a solid blue wall. Another set of images capture people

in motion, including one image of a young girl enthusiastically raising her arms in the air in front of doorsteps.

Adjacent to the row of pictures is a larger collage of various photos taken throughout the course, created by Art technician Emily Lombardo. Lombardo, who organized the exhibit, wanted to show student work and simultaneously create an interesting group collage, she said.

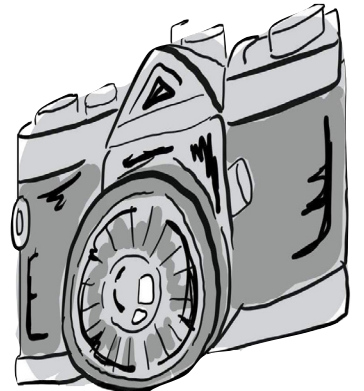
The third wall of the exhibit was dedicated to artwork from Summer on the Hill, whose participants were younger kids from all across the Bronx. While art was not the program's primary focus, students worked on a banner filled with flowers, each one drawn using different construction paper and signed individually.

The center of the gallery features last year's Global Architecture's class' models of houses and larger-scale buildings, individually placed on white podiums. One model is a large flower-like structure, which has fifteen petals. These petals vary in size and are scattered around the object. While the body of the structure is entirely white, the petals are painted brown along the edges.

Each class added a lot to the exhibit, Lombardo said. "All of the classes work harmoniously to create a beautiful installation."

The next exhibit, called "Ways of Seeing," opens on October 16, and will feature work from the different art courses.

Lombardo hopes that she can continue to work with students to create the gallery and is particularly excited for the HM246 Gallery at the end of February, she said.



Anabelle Chan/Arts Editor



All photos by Maxwell Shopkorn/ Staff Photographer

WHEN THE BEAT DROPS...

YOTAM HAHN & PATRICK STINEBAUGH
Staff Writers

Ever hear a crisp bass drop while walking through the Music Department? It's probably coming from the recording studio, home to many of the school's student music artists.

The room is in the basement of Fisher Hall, containing "six workstations, the capacity to record sixteen separate microphones, a piano, drums, and an isolation booth for singers" to help students with their music, music teacher Doug Epstein, who also supervises the recording studio, said.

"It's like a professional recording studio; the software and hardware are both extremely high end," Rish Sinha (12) said.

"The HM studio is actually better than many real studios," Epstein said. "I've had live sessions in here with full bands."

Students are permitted to come into the studio at any point during the day as long as there's an adult supervisor.

"Back in middle school I was just messing around in the studio and I ended up going back again and again," Dylan O'Reilly (10) said. A few upperclassmen at the time, including Ethan Matt '18, Arjun Swarup '18, and Kyle Gaillard '19 helped O'Reilly start out, he said.

There are many layers to the production process. "To fully produce a song you have to add a drumline, a melody, and write corresponding lyrics," Sinha said. "It's much harder than it may seem," he said. "I could work in the studio for a few hours straight without taking a break sometimes." Despite the steep learning curve, Sinha taught himself how to produce music.

The production process varies from song to song, O'Reilly said. "Sometimes to make a song it could take me a day, and other times

it could take me weeks," he said.

Although music production is often an independent process, there are collaborative efforts. "I love working with other people," O'Reilly said. "Once you get out of your comfort zone with another artist, it gets a lot easier to bounce ideas off each other. It's almost like a friendly competition. We always strive to make each other better."

Rohan Bhatia (12) has produced five to six songs with a close group of friends, including Sinha, he said. Sinha has posted a few of

them on platforms like Apple Music, Spotify, YouTube, and Tidal.

Epstein acts as a safety net for any student producers when they are stuck and need help or have any questions about production. "I work a lot on my own, but Mr. Epstein has helped out a lot when I have a specific question," Sinha said.

Epstein is working on expanding the number of opportunities to use the recording studio. While in previous years the studio was essentially exclusive to the Upper Division (UD), this year it has extended into the Middle Division (MD). The school is now offering an eighth grade studio technology course.

Henry Harris (12) is taking the UD advanced studio course, offered for the first time this year. "I've been learning a lot of technology through that," Harris said. "I feel like the class helps me get a grip on what I'm doing."

Epstein has been running studio classes for the past eight years, he said. "Some feedback I've gotten from graduates who went through the program is that the ability to think technically and aesthetically using both your left and your right brains at the exact same time is very empowering," he said.

The usage of technology in the course also allows one to focus more mentally on the music as opposed to having to put in physical effort as violinists do, he said.

"For me, producing music has always been a lingering aspiration and suddenly when I got the opportunity to pursue it, it became a creative outlet," Sinha said. "I have always been interested in music and music is a good way to express yourself."

"All in all, the school is really helpful in facilitating this form of student expression and we are really lucky to be in that position," Bhatia said.

Jake Shapiro/Photo Editor



THE ROOM WHERE IT HAPPENS Donny Howard (12) grooves.

Anabelle Chan/Arts Editor

Girls JV Tennis roars to undefeated start



Alill Walsh/Staff Photographer

SERVICE! Doubles team gets ready for the serve.

ROWAN MALLY
Staff Writer

The long awaited tennis courts adjacent to Lutnick Hall made their grand opening last week. The freshly painted lines and bright colors provide a state of the art home court for the Lions. However, while the courts may be new, the culture and success of the Girls' Junior Varsity Tennis team is not, as the Lions have won all six of their matches thus far.

The team's recent success has clearly translated to the confidence of the players themselves. "We are very

consistent and all around players who understand the game, and know how to win," co-Captain Jade Ciriello (10) said. Similarly, when asked how she thought the team could build on its past performances, Purvi Jonnalagadda (10) said, "I'm honestly not sure what we have to improve on, we have some really good servers and just overall good players."

While their confidence may be running high, the team has not let it get in the way of their ambition to constantly improve. "I think we are a very strong team all around, but I think we can always improve on our game," Ciriello said.

It's important for players to have a calm mindset during the matches, Ciriello said. Staying calm helps her play better, and she thinks other players think the same about themselves.

In order to maximize the potential of his team, Coach Olufemi Salako ensures that the players are frequently playing in high intensity matches and are being exposed to different positions.

"During practice, the team mostly plays matches to determine our lineup," co-Captain Amanda Mark (10) said. "Playing games during practice is helpful to work on strategies for when we have matches."

As with any team, chemistry has been a significant factor in the team's success. "In practice we've been working on playing together and learning one another's play styles," Jonnalagadda said.

Jonnalagadda credited Mark and Ciriello, as well as co-Captains Sadie Warshaw (10) and Sammy Blackman (10) for being impactful and spirited leaders. Effective leadership on

the Junior Varsity team is especially important, as they are not frequently able to receive advice from some more experienced players on the Varsity team. "The Varsity and JV teams have separate practices, so they don't mix often," Mark said.

With so many "all around players" on the team, tryouts were highly competitive, Ciriello said. "During tryouts, we played many singles matches to determine the best players," Mark said. "Tryouts were with both JV and Varsity, and we would play singles matches against a lot of different people," Jonnalagadda said.

Each individual team member contributes to the Lions' recent success. "I think, just, everyone has stepped up to be a part of the team, no one person in particular," Jonnalagadda also acknowledged that the goal of the team is two-fold. "Our goal for this season is to play well and have fun."



Alill Walsh/Staff Photographer

5-1 JV Girls Volleyball has strong beginning

JACK CROVITZ
Staff Writer

The Girls' Junior Varsity Volleyball team has had a fruitful start to the season, with a 5-1 record.

The team's stood out due to their exemplary serving and communication skills, Coach Jason Torres said. "Our sophomores have done especially well this year," in particular Gabby Chong, Saniya Lamoni, and Destiney Green, he said. "We are able to carry out plays consistently and smoothly," said Chong.

The team still has some aspects of their game to improve, Torres said. "We're working out the kinks in our rotation and getting the whole team up to speed on it." Specifically,

the team is working on passing and digging, Chong said.

"We need more communication, but other than that we're good," Lamoni said.

In addition, there are "more freshmen than sophomores on the team, so most of the team is making the adjustment from playing on the Eighth Grade Volleyball team to the more advanced and faster game at the JV level," Torres said.

They work through these difficulties by recording their games, identifying weaknesses, and trying to improve them during practices, Torres said. "We do a lot of work with Coach Torres, but we always make it fun," Lamoni said.

The Junior Varsity team is also a tight-knit

and supportive community. "We are great at being supportive of one another," Chong said. "We always support each other and cheer after every goal," Lamoni added.

Tryouts helped to forge team relationships, Lamoni said. "There were a bunch of new freshmen, and we had fun bonding with them."

However, the Varsity team "doesn't really have a strong relationship with the JV team," Chong said. "We don't mix much," Lamoni said.

Although "we need to improve on some small aspects of the game...we have the talent on the team to make that happen," Torres said.



Alill Walsh/Staff Photographer

READY UP! Players prepare for the point.

((FIELD))ING OPTIMISTIC: JV FIELD HOCKEY LOOKS TO IMPROVE ON SLOW START

LAUREN HO
Staff Writer

Despite losing 1-5 to Hackley in their second game of the season on Monday, the Junior Varsity Field Hockey team is determined to overcome their small numbers and limited experience.

Last Tuesday, the team defeated Riverdale 2-1 in their first game of the season with a second half goal scored by Maya Westra (9) in the second half. The team only has four games this season, depriving the team of much-needed experience in games, Olivia Dwyer (10) said.

"The Hackley game was definitely a tough one, but when we scored, there was a lot of good energy between us and it made everyone more determined to work even harder in practice so that we win our next game against Fieldston," Hannah Katzke (9) said.

Many of the players played on the Middle School Field Hockey team, but the atmosphere of a Middle School team and a JV team are very different. The environment is more competitive and the practices are much harder, Coach Jozann Jackson said. "The team needs to work on playing together and passing to others more, rather than playing as individuals dribbling the ball up the field," she said.

"We are working together really well so far, but I think that we are still getting used to playing together as a team," Emily Salzhauer (9) said.

Despite a two-year period without a Junior Varsity team, the players were eager to play and their urgency surprised Coach Jackson, she said.

Since the team has 10 players, nobody gets a break during games and everyone is constantly moving. "The Hackley game was particularly challenging due to their large bench and the 90-degree heat that day, which made playing a full game even tougher," Katzke said.

The team also hopes to improve on their stamina. It's hard to play since the team is so small, and players are unable to sub and tire quickly, Salzhauer said. "I think that if we work on our stamina, we will be much more prepared in games against other teams that have many players, and can win more games," she said.

Tess Goldberg (9) and Maddie Yoon (9), two Varsity Field Hockey players, have practiced with the JV team to help them gain more experience. The Varsity and Junior Varsity teams practice together, allowing less experienced players to learn from Goldberg, Yoon, and other players on the Varsity team.

"We are really emphasizing the basics, because many of the girls haven't played field hockey for very long," Jackson said. They have a lot of room for improvement, so currently their goals are to pass more and get their stick down more, two fundamental aspects of good playing, Team Manager Amelia Resnick (9) said.

"One of the team's strengths is its aggressiveness," Salzhauer said. "Westra, who scored against Riverdale, always runs back and fights for the ball, even if she missed it," Salzhauer said.

Resnick also identified Riya Daga (9) as a strong player on defense who always fought to steal the ball from opponents. "Daga always pushed really hard in games, and afterwards, she always asked Jackson for advice on how to improve in

the future, which I think is a really good thing that everyone should do," Resnick said.

Coach Jackson hopes that the girls are all going to be able to see their work come to fruition next year. "I'm hoping for us to just finish off the last two games with great technique, and I'm really proud of how the girls have played thus far this season," she said.



Alill Walsh/Staff Photographer

SMILE AND WAVE Emily Salzhauer (9) celebrates.



FRIDAY NIGHT LIONS: FOOTBALL FALLS TO DOBBS FERRY

TALIA WINIARSKY
Staff Writer

Varsity Football's game last Friday night against Dobbs Ferry High School was like a movie, Jonas Jacobson (11) said. "The team emerged from a steep road, and the entire town came behind them. The police department was there, they had cheerleaders, and it seemed like everyone from the school was there."

Unfortunately, HM played the role of the overwhelmed underdog, losing 7-34, contributing to Dobbs Ferry's undefeated record.

After three hours under the lights, the Lions left the field bruised, battered, and winless with an 0-3 record; though all three losses have been to tough non-league competitors.

Dobbs Ferry is in the Class C bracket of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA), according to the association's website. "We aren't in a specific class because we aren't a public school, but they're Class C, and we are basically Class Z," Potash said.

Even though Dobbs Ferry is an intimidating opponent, playing better teams is important for improvement, Potash said. "The coaches decided that we might as well play the best teams that we can play."

James (JT) Thomas (10) also said that Dobbs Ferry was more intense than other teams that the school usually plays against, such as



FOCUS Andrew Cassino (12) stares down his opponent.

Riverdale Country School and Ethical Culture Fieldston School (ECFS).

During games, the team tries to make conversation with their opponent about topics such as events occurring in the National Football League, Thomas said. Usually, in games against ECFS and other similar teams, the two teams develop a relationship through this conversation.

In comparison, the team did not form a friendship with Dobbs Ferry because they did not seem to want to interact with the Lions, Thomas said. "Dobbs Ferry was very, very competitive."

Dobbs Ferry plays a particularly difficult offense to defend, Potash said. "Their offense has a lot of misdirection. You never know where the ball is, so as a defense, it's really tough to learn how to stop that."

To prepare for each of their games, the team watches film of their opponents' past games to learn their tactics, Potash said. However, the team can decide to change their strategies at the game to gain the advantage of making their opponents unaware of their plays.

The team suffered two injuries at the game, Potash said. Potash sprained his ankle during

the first play of the game when an opposing player stepped on it. Andrew Cassino (12) also fractured his wrist during the game.

Despite the skilled opponent and multiple injuries, Harry Winter (11) managed to score a touchdown, he said. "I took a handoff and I ran it to the endzone. They tried to tackle me, of course, and I had to dive and stretch to get into the endzone, which was a tough play."

To improve for the future games, including the game this Saturday against Valhalla High School, the team watched the films from the game to learn from their mistakes, Winter said.

Besides building their playing skills, the team needs to boost their morale, Winter said. "We're kind of acting as individuals, when we need to start playing more as a team."

The main goal that the team will focus on for the next few weeks is winning the anticipated Homecoming game against Dalton, Coach Ron Beller said.

The Lions will have the home-field advantage of the game, as they are playing on Alumni Field.

"When it's a home game, I feel a lot more comfortable," Thomas said. "It's your environment, your turf, and I personally play better at home games, and I think as a team we play better too."

To prepare, the team is working on improving their technique and continuing to learn the fundamentals of the game, Beller said. "Our team is getting better and better each week."

Lights, camera, Lut-Knick

EMILY SHI
Staff Writer

Nshera Tutu (11) caught a glimpse of New York Knicks guard RJ Barrett strolling through Lutnick Hall and immediately decided that she had to try and meet him. The independent film company named "Love, Homestead" filmed a documentary interview with Barrett and his father Rowan Barrett at the school's fitness center and gym to advertise a financial literacy program at the Royal Canadian Bank this Monday afternoon.

The commercial director's son graduated from the school and chose to use the school after visiting and being impressed by the newly renovated facilities, Director of Athletics Robert Annunziata said.

The director first contacted Coach Matthew Russo, who forwarded the email to Head of School Dr. Tom Kelly, who then passed it on to the gym staff to help organize the event, Annunziata said.

The administration decided to allow the filming company and Barrett to utilize the school's facilities free of charge due to the director's connection with the school.

Although planning had begun weeks before, the event was kept a secret, students did not find out until information began to spread on Monday afternoon. After finding out, a group of eight students decided to stay at the school to try and meet Barrett.

Zoe Swift (11), Captain of the Girls' Varsity Volleyball team, found out about the event with Rosy Arora (11) on the way to an away game at The Nightingale Bamford School, she said. "A

bunch of people started crying out of excitement, and we got to the game and decided to try and finish the game in three sets so we could get back to school and meet RJ," Arora said.

After winning the game, members of the team stayed around the school and waited until around 8:30 to watch the event unfold and potentially meet Barrett. "There wasn't really a question of whether or not we should stay, we just knew we were going to because many of us were such big fans," Swift said.

Arora decided to stay due to her love of Duke Basketball, Barrett's college team, and Barrett himself, she said. "RJ Barrett was the first in his class rankings going into college, so I followed him from his high school basketball career at Montverde Academy until where he is now."

Since Barrett was busy with filming for most of the time, the students who stayed mainly waited in Lutnick Hall and did homework.

Right when Swift settled into her car to leave the school at 8:30 PM, she saw Barrett's manager whispering before he ran out to meet the group, she said. "It felt like a mosh pit; we all started screaming and yelling and jumping before finally settling down for the photo and talking a bit."

"He was like 'I can't believe you guys stayed so late, that's crazy,'" Arora said. "That just showed how nice and humble he was and made meeting him even more special."

"You see famous athletes all the time in the media and think that they're so different or so much older, but RJ Barrett is only three years older than us and you could tell through our interactions," Swift said. "It was so nice to meet him because he was basically a peer but also such a major role model."

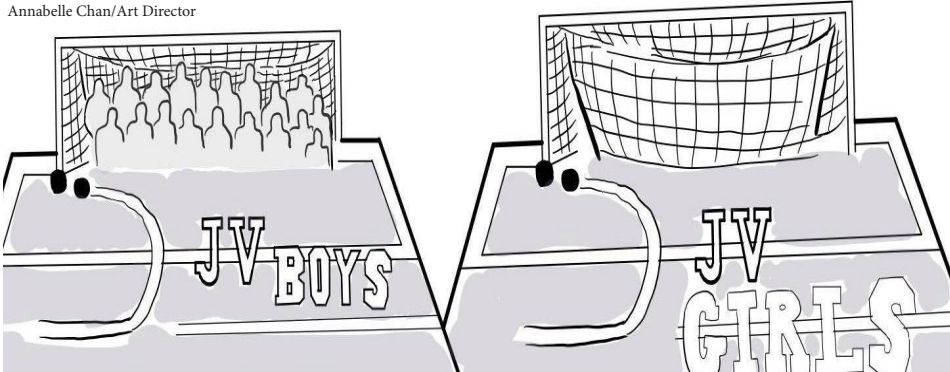


STARSTRUCK Students pose with Barrett.

Annabelle Chan/Art Director

Pros and cons of not having a JV Girls Soccer team

Annabelle Chan/Art Director



ADRIAN ARNABOLDI
Staff Writer

Greener pastures are ahead for the up-and-coming girls' soccer program. The program will be without a JV team for the second year in a row. With only 16 players trying out for the team, Coach Tim Sullivan was forced to create only one team. Almost half of the team's 16 players are freshmen, and the team only has two seniors.

The lack of players has given some freshmen a unique opportunity to be part of a varsity team, and the freshmen relish the opportunity to play against better competition. "The other teams are generally more aggressive than in middle school, which actually makes it more fun," Caroline Madaio (9) said.

The upperclassmen have enjoyed practicing and getting to know the freshman. "They're all very fun people who always make practice interesting," Carmel Pe'er (11) said. "They're all also very eager to work hard and get better which are great qualities and really help to make the team better," she said.

The team has become a tighter knit group over the course of the season, which has helped the team's performance on the field, captain Kiara Royer (12) said.

"If it weren't for soccer, I probably would've never talked to or been friends with the girls on the soccer team," Madaio

said. Royer has enjoyed mentoring younger players. "It's fun because I'm the older one, and I get to help younger players and see them improve," she said.

Sometimes coaches are hesitant to place freshmen players on varsity, because they fear the players won't get valuable playing time; however, many of the freshmen players receive a lot of playing time, Royer said.

"Although I might have gotten more playing time on the JV team, the team aspects and the general vibe of the team is super good," Madaio said. Madaio has also received a good chunk of playing time off the bench, she said.

Coach Sullivan has attempted to ease some of the younger players into the action. "Preseason was definitely easier than it has been previously, with less conditioning and more focus on skills," Pe'er said. "He also stresses the importance of improvement and effort rather than the score of a game."

Some underclassmen players have had to adjust to playing a varsity sport, but others have been unfazed by the opportunity. "It didn't really feel as if there was an adjustment because the team is so small and everyone is super nice," Madaio said.

The team, currently sporting a 2-1-5 record, looks to continue improving and growing a successful program over the course of the season.