

# The Circle Voice

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## Scudder's and Dory's reawaken

BEFORE



AFTER



Dory's has undergone both organizational and physical overhauls.

By **CHRISTIAN CARSON '18**

Longtime Groton favorites Scudder's and Dory's will receive a thorough overhaul this year, both physically and organizationally. Dory's has moved to a new location, and a new menu is planned for Scudder's. Both organizations will now be run with tighter fiscal accountability and greater responsibility for students who are chosen to serve on their boards.

Paula Marks serves as the faculty advisor to both these longtime student establish-

ments and notes that both had significant problems when she was appointed to oversee operations; she stated that recent student leaders were relatively uninvolved and called enthusiasm in the organizations "moderate at best." Cleanliness, she continues, was a constant concern of Scudder's, and Dory's' location made it prone to flooding. Ms. Marks and Dean of Students Michael O'Donnell worked together to create a solution which would allow both locations to stay open and address the problems present.

Much of the plan involves upping the responsibility of student leaders, who will now include both Fifth and Sixth

Formers. Ms. Marks says that the organizations will now be run "like small businesses." In addition, Dining Hall Head Jed Coughlin and Chief Financial Officer Arthur Diaz plan to meet with students monthly to discuss efficient and financially responsible leadership, as well as helping develop the menus in response to student demand. The cafés are also considering introducing a card swipe payment system to both facilitate payment and more effectively manage stock.

Both Dory's and Scudder's plan on introducing new food items and cut unpopular ones. The grill at Scudder's was disconnected this summer due to health concerns. One of the

first items on the agenda for the Scudder's board (which is to be assembled during Fall Term) is updating the menu both to suit student desires and accommodate for the lack of a grill. Dory's will receive a smaller menu change. Both hope to introduce rotating specials to adapt to a changing customer base.

Student opinion on these modifications is mixed; Westby Caspersen '17 said, "I really liked the old Scudder's menu and I'm sad to see the grill go." Nevertheless, some believe that the changes will spruce up organizations that

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B. CALMAS '18 FOR *THE CIRCLE VOICE*

## Trust me, you're wrong



Nina's

Notes

by Nina Norton '18

At Groton there are three different types of students: Students who are extremely democratic/liberal, students who are highly republican/conservative, and students who still think Bernie is a candidate. I have no problem with being political—in fact, I think it's very important for us, as adolescents, to understand our country's politics and history. It's important for us to have opinions and to be educated about current political events because America is a democracy. It functions properly only when its citizens are knowledgeable about its past, its present, and have ideas and opinions on how to improve its future. We have to be invested in our futures.

We should care about the current presidential election for the same reason we should care about environmental issues, and for the same reason we should care about going to college: it impacts our future. It affects the way we're going to live our lives when we're no longer worrying about how many major commitments we have next week. Caring, however, does not mean simply choosing an opinion on a topic you aren't very educated on, and refusing to listen to other points of view. As young people we simply don't know that much about the world yet—it has nothing to do with how capable or intelligent we might be. It simply has to do with the fact that we haven't spent enough time on the earth to have perspective on many important issues. Of course, young people do have good ideas and are often the catalysts for change in today's society. But unless they are extremely knowledgeable about a certain topic or issue,

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## Groton welcomes British exchange students

By **CLAUDIA OEI '18**  
and **MIN SHIN '18**

Joining us on the Circle this month are two imports from Bedales School, England: Molly Graham and Richie Sweet. Both in the Fifth Form, Molly and Richie will stay in Dumont's dorm and O'Donnell's, respectively. Upon arrival, both Molly and Richie found the Circle to be impressive, yet a little confusing to

navigate. Commenting on the different style between the two campuses, Molly remarked, "[We have] wooden buildings [at Bedales]. There's an orchard, kind of like the Circle."

In contrast to how dorms are organized at Groton, at Bedales, there are two flats in each of the two boarding houses, one for Seniors and one for Third through Fifth formers. Except for the Senior flat, each room holds three to four students across entire grade levels.

"There's a lot more freedom at Groton. At Bedales, you have to sign in at breakfast, lunch, dinner, nine, and ten at night. Students are not allowed to leave their flats after nine. But at Bedales, there is no dress code, nor do we have to go to chapel," explains Richie. Weekends at Bedales are also very different. "Not a lot of people stay on weekends. Eighty percent go home; mostly only international students stay."

Another primary difference

between Bedales and Groton is that the English school day is much longer. "We start at eight-forty-five and go until five-thirty. [We have] ten forty-five minute classes," remarks Richie. On the contrary, more work is done in class and Bedales students receive less homework. Classes are also more lecture-based and less discussion-oriented.

Molly and Richie are both

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### Think different: Groton goes Mac



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# Groton’s problem with political discourse

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younger people should err more towards listening to and researching different points of view on various issues, rather than forming extreme opinions on issues they simply aren’t educated on.

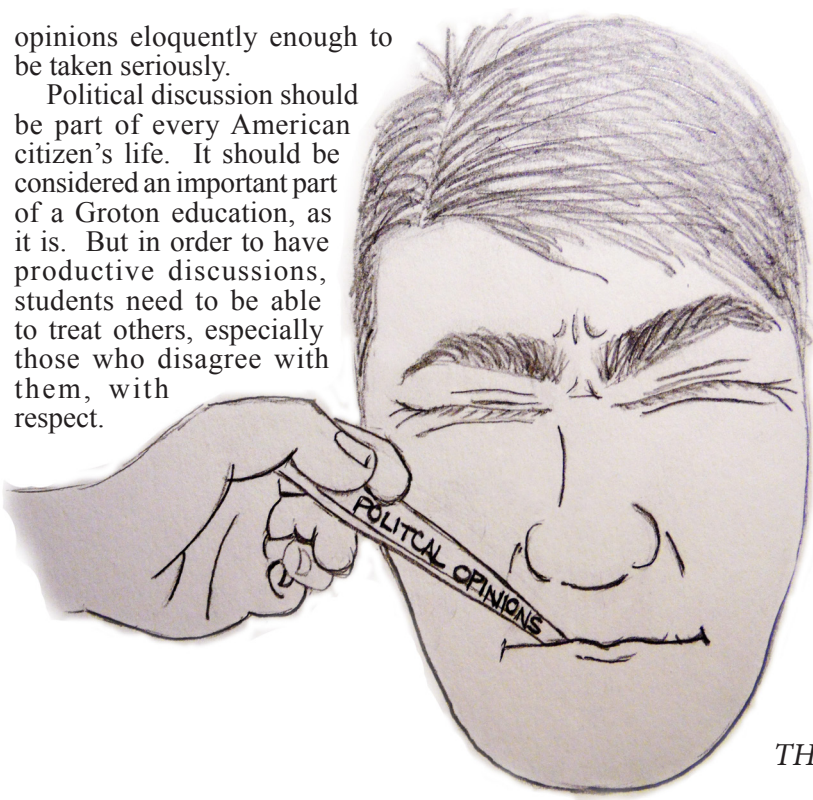
Groton students who identify as political often feel insecure about how much they actually know about the world. This insecurity leads to close-minded, heated debates that serve absolutely no purpose because neither party is willing to listen to the other party’s point. For productive discussion, an open mind is a necessity. Students need to be able to listen to the ideas and opinions of those with whom they disagree, and they need to be able to do so respectfully. When I was younger my mother told me that when you are arguing with someone, the most important thing is to be respectful. “If you aren’t respectful,” she said, “no one will take you seriously, and your ideas will never be heard.” I thought this was silly—why would you care enough to be respectful to someone you were arguing with? But I realize now that

you only argue with the people you care about, or want to impress. Otherwise it’s not worth your time. Arguments take effort and time, and if you don’t care enough about the other person to treat them and their ideas with respect and dignity, why are you even bothering to argue with them?

Finally, the idea that the most complex, intricate issues of our world today are black and white is ridiculous. If every issue were black and white we would be able to tell which side were right and which side were wrong, and soon enough the whole issue would be solved. Everything in this world is grey. Not to make anyone uncomfortable, but we do live in fifty shades of grey. There is no “right” answer to anything; similarly, there is no “wrong” answer to anything. You can look at every major issue in today’s world from thousands of different perspectives. To act as if issues in today’s world are clear cut disrespects the politicians and activists who work to express their ideas and

opinions eloquently enough to be taken seriously.

Political discussion should be part of every American citizen’s life. It should be considered an important part of a Groton education, as it is. But in order to have productive discussions, students need to be able to treat others, especially those who disagree with them, with respect.



M. GAYE  
‘18 FOR  
THE CIRCLE

## On hashtags and haters

Is the election as close as the media wants us to believe it is?

By ROSELLE  
LOVELL-SMITH ‘18

A record-breaking total of eighty million viewers tuned in to the first presidential debate between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump on September 26. And that figure from CNN Money doesn’t even include online viewers. The record to beat was the 1980 debate between Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan.

With impressive viewership, from traditional TV to YouTube live streams, it’s impossible to ignore the role of the media in the election. Both Secretary Clinton and Mr. Trump campaign across social media platforms and sit for interviews with television personalities ranging from Jimmy Fallon to Anderson Cooper, showing that in this modern age, the easiest way to get to people is through the internet media. The media,

in all its forms, has fully accepted this task. In a world where drama is the most common form of entertainment, is it so absurd to think that media sources are portraying the election as closer than it

“ Is drama enough of a factor to cause news outlets to alter their report? Most likely.

is, simply for dramatic effect?

Ambiguity between sources is common, as each uses different polls of diverse groups of people. Sites like FOX news showed, as of September 21st, that Trump lead in states such as Nevada,

North Carolina, and Ohio, claiming him to be winning in “key battleground” states. On September 25th, The Washington Post claimed Clinton and Trump to be in a dead heat—Clinton leading at 46% and Trump at 44%.

With the political polarization of much of the media, it is hard to find unbiased reports on the election. Of the debate on September 26th, CNN’s poll showed 62% believing Clinton and 27% believing Trump had won. This 35-point margin is the third widest margin in CNN post-debate polls ever. As of September 27, The New York Times shows Clinton at 45% and Trump at 42%. Widely-varying media polls—while piquing interest and heightening drama—do not provide concrete information on where the candidates truly stand in the polls.

Nate Silver, the statistician who accurately predicted forty-nine out of fifty states in the 2008 election, is now the editor-in-chief of the sports and politics website FiveThirtyEight. As Silver

comes from a statistical background and not a political one, he is one of the better sources for impartial news. On the current election, Silver runs poll-based calculations and analysis every day, giving polls varying weight based on the quality of their collection methods. As of October 6, a FiveThirtyEight polls-only forecast for November places Clinton at 48.3% and Trump at 43.5% in the national popular vote.

So, is the media portraying the race as closer than it is? Is drama enough of a factor to cause news outlets to alter their report? Most likely. But even if some media are modifying their polls, more reliable sources show the race is actually incredibly close. Even if the media were 100% unbiased to public opinion when reporting, we are still in the midst of one of the most historic and contentious elections in US history. Come November, we will see who wins the vote itself— and the legitimizing support of Americans.

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Something red, something blue, something's missing?

By POWERS TRIGG '20

At the first presidential debate on September 26th, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton had a battle for the ages in front of a record-setting audience. It was quite a performance from both candidates. Trump used his traditional style of aggressive and combative tactics, scoring points with some great one-liners, but coming off as completely unpresidential. It was a forgettable performance from Mr. Trump. On the other hand, Hillary Clinton looked every bit the polished politician that she is. She stayed above the name calling, showed a degree of substance, and won the debate. As CNN put it, "Hillary Takes Round One."

The biggest story of this election cycle, however, is simply how much America dislikes both candidates. According to a Reuters poll, "a majority of American voters have an overall "unfavorable" view of both main candidates, with 46% of Clinton supporters and 47% of Trump supporters saying their top priority when voting will be to stop the opposing candidate from reaching the White House." With this in mind, you would think that the debate commission would offer up an alternative to the candidates.

For a candidate to make it into debates, they must have a path to winning the election (be on enough states' ballots to win). They also must average at least 15% in 5 national polls.

Libertarian Candidate Gary Johnson met the first criteria, but just missed the second one. When I had the opportunity to chat with David Von Drehle, Editor-At-Large of *Time*, and the esteemed best-selling author of *Rise to Greatness: Abraham Lincoln and America's Most*

*Perilous Year*, he said, "[The debate rules] put a guy like Gary Johnson in a tough spot. He needs a lot of support to get in the debates, but he needs the exposure of a debate to win more supporters." It is, as Mr. Von Drehle would go on to note, a classic Catch-22.

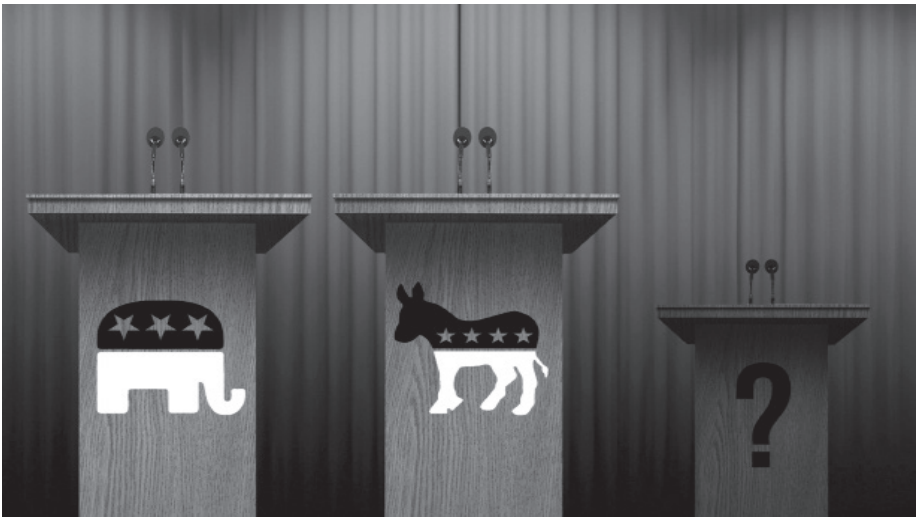
The Commission is not entirely opposed to the idea of a third party candidate making the debates. Mitch Daniels, President of Purdue University, Former Indiana Governor, and member of the Commission on Presidential Debates, said in favor of Johnson, "People are so obviously shopping and wishing for some other choice [than Trump or Clinton]."

This year, the Libertarian Candidates, Governor Gary Johnson and Governor Bill Weld are attempting to challenge the legitimacy of the 2-Party system. They are both two-term ex-governors who are "fiscally conservative, and Socially Liberal." Their message has found an audience, polling at 13% nationally in one recent Quinnipiac poll.

The Commission on Presidential Debates organize and certify debates in this country.. Its stated mission is "to ensure that debates, as a permanent part of every general election, provide the best possible information to viewers and listeners." It is a superb idea and generally a wonderful non-profit, non-partisan way to organize the debates.

In this case, unfortunately, the rest of the commission is failing the American public. The rules are keeping the American public from hearing the lone credible voice. Now, more than ever, America is starving for new ideas and trustworthy, charismatic leadership. Debates without a third voice in the form of Gary Johnson are an entertaining but saddening spectacle in a time when our country desperately needs strong leadership.

Gary Johnson and Bill Weld deserve to be heard during prime time. Gary said it best himself in a NYT Op-ed, "the America I know wasn't on the television screen on Monday night."



Is there no one else?

H. KIM '17 FOR THE CIRCLE VOICE

Breaking the (terror empathy) barrier

By LEO MCMAHON '19

Taking the volume of media coverage as an indicator of terror attacks, it would be fair to assume that the world was destroying itself in an inferno of terror. However, the incidence of terrorism actually decreased worldwide in 2015, increasing only in the West, a region subjected to few terror attacks that garner enormous attention.

The number of fatalities in terror attacks decreased from 43,000 to 38,000 from 2014 to 2015, according to the Global Terrorism Database. Nevertheless, Google Trends shows that in the same period, searches of "terrorism" increased in the United States. This discrepancy can be attributed to the rise in terror

rorism in the West, where such attacks are relatively rare.

According to New America, only 94 people have been killed by jihadist terrorism in America since 2001. Recent attacks have raised the numbers substantially, but 94 deaths in fifteen years is hardly the apocalyptic disaster portrayed by the media. Every day—for perspective—92 people are murdered or commit suicide using firearms, according to CDC.

Taking the November Paris attack as an example, an Afghan had about a 0.6% chance of being killed by the Taliban, while a Parisian's chances of being killed in an attack were less than 0.006%. The libertarian Cato Institute estimated that the chance of an American being killed by a terrorist is less than four in one million. None of these statistics preclude society's fear that America is a prominent target.

To find where terrorism is an existential threat, we must look where terror goes unreported. According to the 2015 Global Terrorism Index, 57% of all attacks and 78% of all deaths occurred in only five countries: Iraq, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Syria. Yet a quick internet search for information about the largest ones—in Qaim, Palmyra, or Kunduz—reveals few results.

Each of these events killed over 240 people. Yet the Paris attacks, which rank as only the 23rd deadliest attack of 2015, produced more than 21,000 articles. An analysis by liberal magazine The Nation found that eleven times as many articles are written about per death in attacks in Western regions as those in non-Western ones. The Nation claims this is due to a so-called "empathy gap" between Western and non-Western victims.

Another problem with media coverage of terrorist incidents is Islamophobia and selectivity. Since 2001, 48 people have been killed by far-right terrorists espousing racist, anti-government, or anti-abortion views. These tragedies have received little attention, despite remaining on pace with jihadist terror attacks until the Orlando nightclub shooting in June.

Nevertheless, politicians pontificate upon the dangers of 'radical Islamic terror' while downplaying incidents like the Charleston attack as mere 'hate crimes' or 'mass shootings.' In the aftermath of the Charleston attack, 99% of Google searches used the term 'shooting,' rather than 'attack.'

This terminological distortion creates the narrative that terrorism is committed by jihadists, while right-wing terrorists are only psychiatrically disturbed people who act irrationally. Thus, while Robert Dear, the perpetrator of the Planned Parenthood attack, was held mentally incompetent and will not be prosecuted, jihadists who survive their attacks are justly sentenced to long prison terms.

Terrorism is certainly a problem in the United States, but sensationalist media coverage causes unfounded panic and the false perception of chaos caused by a nationalist dread of the spread of

Snack attack:

Are school store food options too narrow?

By MACY LIPKIN '18

Rumor has it that there was a time here at Groton School when potato chips flew off the shelves of the school store. There is evidence that around the time of the dinosaurs, candy was sold in vast quantities down the hall from the old mailroom. Historians are debating whether it's possible that students could ever find commodities such as cereal bars and candy within the campus gates.

For the answers, I stop at the school store, which is overflowing with Groton sweatshirts, neatly-organized highlighters, and assorted school-spirit paraphernalia. Hidden away next to the checkout counter are three round shelves full of snacks you can't find in the dining hall, at a location far more convenient than the nearest CVS.

The expert on school store history is Peggy Duffy, the woman in charge of ordering inventory and ringing people up, who's been at Groton longer than most students have been alive. She tells me of times when potato chips were a bestseller, followed closely by peanut butter crackers—not healthy but not horrendous in moderation. More recently, you could find Illy coffee drinks, sugary Cheerio bars, and at the beginning of this fall, peppermint patties.

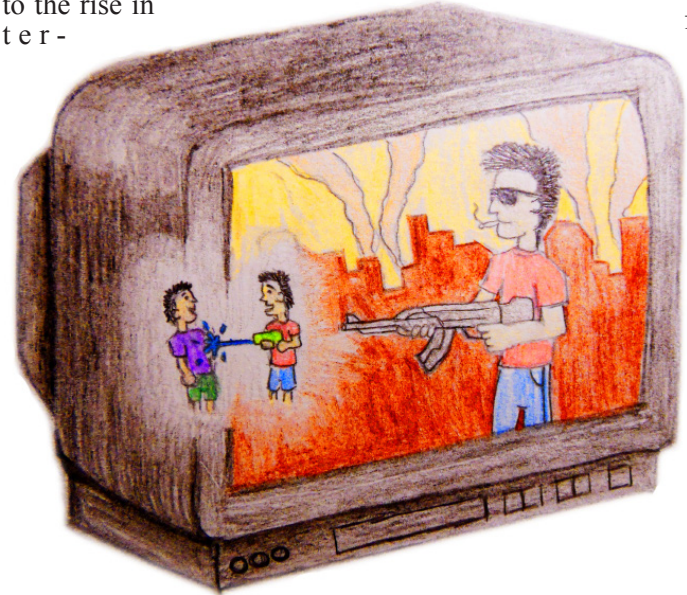
Many students don't deeply miss the wider assortment of snacks. Sixth formers Christine Bernard and Melissa Lammons remember the variety fondly but think that with free bagels, fruit, and coffee from the café, it's a moot point. Faye Tian '19 would like to see beef jerky and chocolate, specifically Twix, but it's not the first thing on her mind when she wakes up in the morning.

If students were buying these snacks, and the school was making money off them, why did they go?

Even Peggy isn't sure, but it's most likely an initiative headed by the school dietician to make unhealthy food harder to come by. However, it's no secret that those who want a junk food stash can get it—probably cheaper—online. Caroline Johnston '17 thinks the school "should give the student body the liberty of deciding whether or not they want to eat unhealthy food."

Candy is gone. Kind bars are on their way out due to nut allergies. Peggy will be stocking the store with new goodies including vegan fig bars, pretzels, and Goldfish.

We are spoiled here at Groton: mugs, bagels, t-shirts. We can't expect the school store to stock everyone's favorites. If you're hungry, grab a banana or a bagel, and if you really crave sweets, get them on your own. Those who would only eat candy if it were put in front of them will be better off without it, and those who actively seek it out will find a way.



M. GAYE '18 FOR THE CIRCLE VOICE

More Online

Visit [www.thecirclevoice.org](http://www.thecirclevoice.org) to read Gus Vratatos '19's take on the Groton's new "paper or plastic" conflict, with battles taking place from the Dining Hall to the Schoolhouse cafe.

# New teachers settle into campus life

By **ELLA CAPEN '17**  
and **ALY MANJEE '18**

In the last few months, Groton has welcomed five new faculty members to the Circle: Abby Frantz, Genevieve Fowler, Christopher Whiteman,

and wanted to contribute her knowledge and skills.

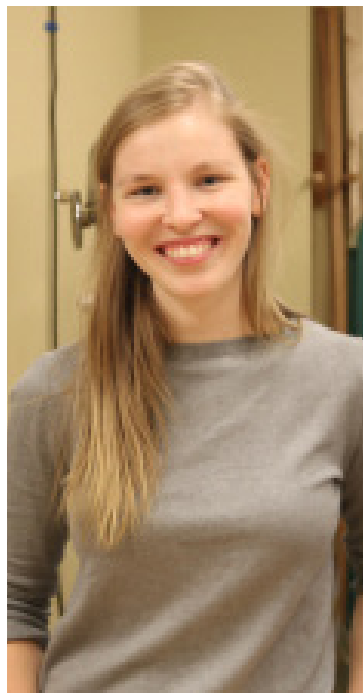
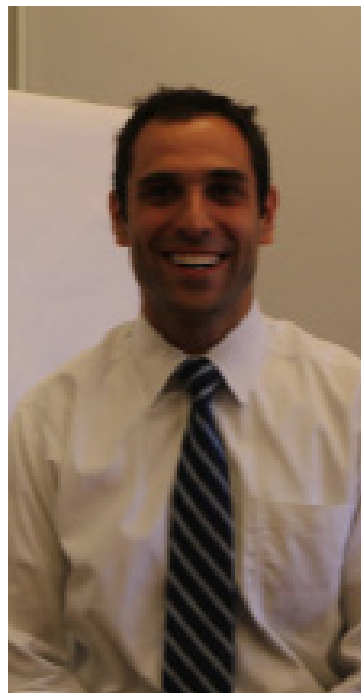
**Genevieve Fowler** is joining the School as an intern in physics. She graduated from Groton in 2012 and received her degree in mechanical engineering from Yale this summer. She worked there at the Center

and wanted to contribute her knowledge and skills.

**Christopher Whiteman** is our new Chaplain. Rev. Whiteman served as organist and choirmaster for thirteen years at his home church in Dorchester, MA. He has previously been a seminarian at various parishes in the Boston area, including Trinity Church in Melrose, St. Michael's in Milton and the Church of St.

Mr. Duclos was interested in pursuing archaeology, but he found himself asking philosophical rather than technical questions, so his professors recommended he study philosophy. Since then, he has pursued his passions for history and philosophy. After college, Mr. Duclos worked for a St. Paul's summer program the summer after college, where he taught ancient history and

**Eric Spierer** joins the Groton campus this fall as a history teacher. Prior to working at Groton, he graduated from Wesleyan University, where he majored in history and rowed on the crew team. Mr. Spierer worked after graduation as a paralegal at a law firm in New York City. Mr. Spierer eventually left New York City and returned to his study and passion of history, teaching a history



From left to right: Mr. Whiteman, Ms. Fowler, Mr. Spierer, Ms. Frantz, and Mr. Duclos.

A. POWER '17 FOR THE CIRCLE VOICE

Joshua Duclos and Eric Spierer, all of whom will contribute new skills and interests to our community this year.

**Abby Frantz** is the newest addition to the Counselling Office. Ms. Frantz holds five years of experience working in the ER at Boston Children's Hospital in emergency psychiatry. She has held various positions in outpatient therapy from private practices to integrated care. Ms. Frantz lives in Sudbury, MA with her husband Chuck, her two-year-old son Owen, her dog Maisy and her cat Tyrone. In her free time, Ms. Frantz loves to read and watch TV. She is a foodie and an avid fan of desserts.

of Engineering, Innovation and Design, helping both students and faculty with projects ranging from dorm room improvements to research-equipment construction. This year she teaches Introductory Physics and, in the fall, assists Mr. Hall in teaching Engineering and the Design Process. Ms. Fowler will live in Parent's House. Outside of class, she enjoys archery, reading, and rock climbing. When asked what brought her to Groton, she said that she was drawn in by the sense of community between students and faculty. After graduating college, she learned of Groton's construction of new science spaces

Augustine and St. Martin in Roxbury. He was also the chaplain of Boston Medical Center for a summer. Apart from leading campus religious services, he will be teaching two sections of Sacred Texts. Rev. Whiteman enjoys reading, listening to music, and cooking in his spare time. He cited his reasons for choosing Groton as the strong commitment to divinity and the passion for learning shared by students and faculty.

**Joshua Duclos** joins the Groton School community as a teacher of history and ethics. He earned a master's degree in philosophy from Connecticut College. Originally,

philosophy. He also studied and taught philosophy on a Fulbright Scholarship in the Czech Republic from 2008 to 2009. He will teach sections of Ethics, World and the West, and Sacred Studies. Outside of school, Mr. Duclos runs and coaches boys soccer. He has also founded the Philosophy Club, in which members read philosophical works and hold club discussions. As a new faculty member, Mr. Duclos says that he would like to inspire "enthusiasm for the subjects [he] teach[es] and the idea that the humanities are every bit as critical for being an enlightened citizen as the sciences."

course at his alma mater, The Derryfield School in Manchester, NH. As a graduate student, he attended Columbia University and the London School of Economics, earning master's degrees in global history from both schools. Outside of the classroom, Mr. Spierer enjoys reading The New Yorker, running, and watching the Food Network. As a new member of the Groton community, Mr. Spierer says, "I am incredibly excited to join Groton School, and I am looking forward to a great year."

We are excited to welcome these new faculty members on campus, and look forward to living and learning with them.

## Exchange students come from across the Atlantic

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enjoying their classes at Groton. "I quite like Chemistry. I really know what's going on. Discrete Math is [also] quite interesting. Anatomy is pretty cool--everything is just quite fun." Richie a talented drummer himself mentioned that he enjoys Jazz. "In fact, my favorite place on campus is probably the Jazz room," Richie notes.

Instead of playing one designated sport a term, students at Bedales play a variety of activities. These activities change everyday and can be compared to those good old

times in PE class. Richie was taken aback by how "much more sporty" Groton students are and how much the school emphasizes physical health.

Groton students seem to have made a healthy impression on Molly and Richie. "[Groton students are] really welcoming, hard working... more academic," Richie said. Molly also said that "everyone is really nice and friendly and helpful." Students seem to share their international cultures more frequently at Groton. Richie reminisces about how on one of his first nights

here, classmate Yan Davidoff '18 offered him Mexican candy, while they and another friend ordered Korean food. Meanwhile, Bedales appears to be a less diverse school, with students predominantly British, with some from Asia and only one from the US.

Both Molly and Richie want to get to know more about American culture and to meet new people. So, if you see them around in classes, dorms, or athletic fields, be sure to introduce yourself!



Richie Sweet and Molly Graham.

H. BEREDAY '17 FOR THE CIRCLE VOICE

Tech Office goes Apple picking

By CARA CHANG '20

For the first time at Groton School, school-sanctioned silver MacBooks are mixing with the School's usual black Dells in the Schoolhouse: the Technology Office is offering new students, who must participate in the laptop program, the choice between Dell computers and MacBooks. This change has been expected by many for some time: "I feel like at some point they had to make the switch," said Sarah Conner '19.

Matthew Taylor of the Technology Office clarified that the School's new computer policy is the product of a modified replacement policy. Ideally, he says, the Dells would be replaced every three to four years, but the service agreement mandated longer periods between replacements. The School balanced the financial strain and need for updated technology by asking returning third formers return their old Dells in exchange for new MacBooks. Groton has already purchased 135 MacBooks for distribution to students and teachers; Mr. Taylor did not comment on whether the school plans to transition entirely to Apple products.

Although Macbooks have partially solved the replacement issue, the Technology Office is aware that a school split between devices may breed certain problems. Having to deal with two separate computers and operating systems will complicate both hardware repair and initial setup, but Mr. Taylor emphasized that the department feels the opportunity to "put the right tools into the right hands" outweighs the extra work necessary on their behalf.

In the classroom, students and teachers alike are adapting to the combination of MacBooks and Dells. Science teacher Brian Abrams says of the change: "Teaching students with MacBooks when I myself have a PC will be a new challenge, but I am excited for it." Hopefully, the updated laptop program will make it easier for students to learn and teachers to teach by providing them with the proper tools for their jobs.



B. CALMAS '18 FOR THE CIRCLE VOICE

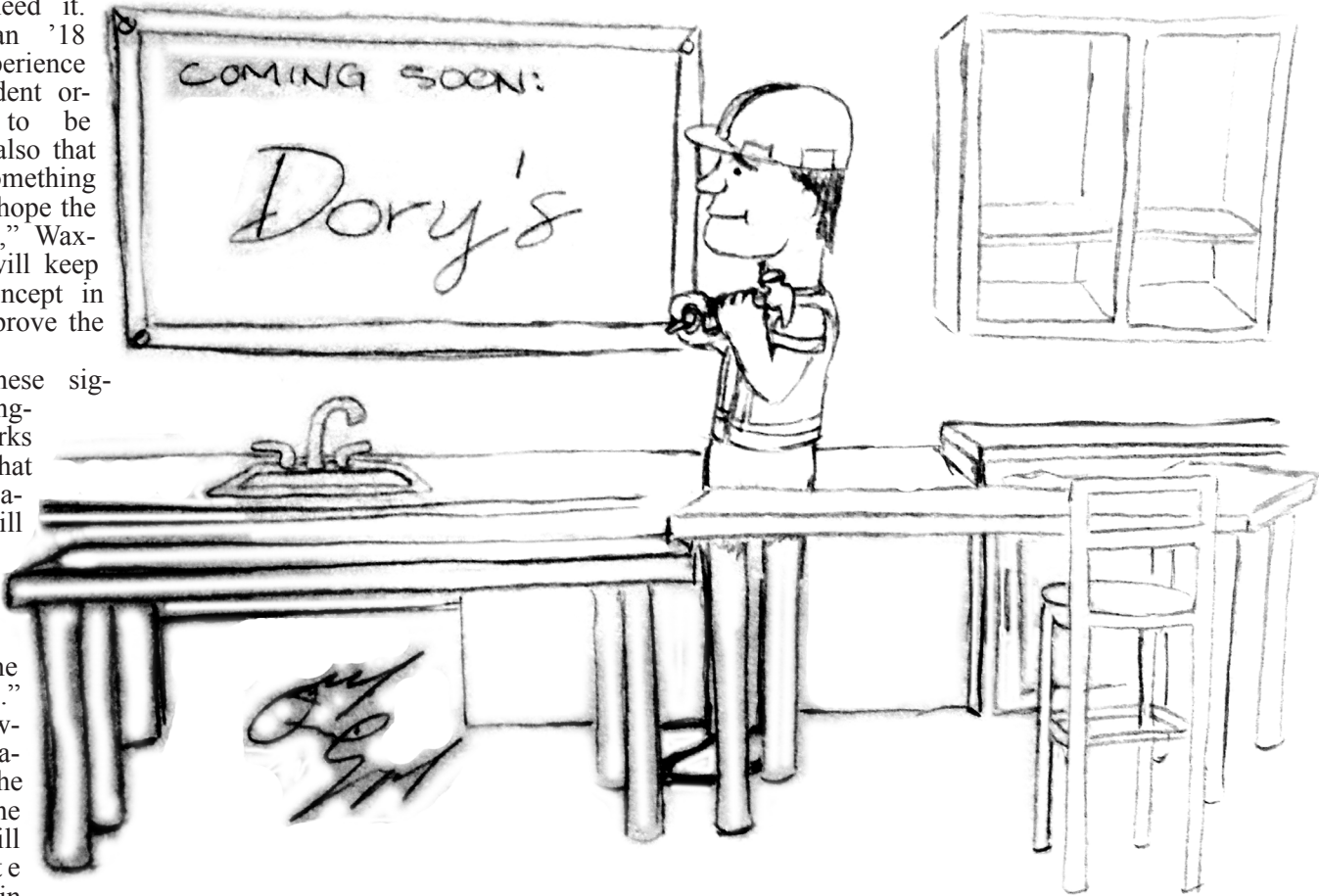
Dory's and Scudder's receive makeovers

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M GAYE '18 FOR THE CIRCLE VOICE

desperately need it. Alex Waxman '18 said his experience with the student organizations to be "good", but also that it "left something wanting". "I hope the new changes," Waxman said, "will keep the same concept in mind but improve the execution."

Despite these significant changes, Ms. Marks maintained that the two organizations will remain student-run: "It will not," she said, "become Marks' Café." She did, however, emphasize that the nature of the changes will necessitate more adult involvement as staff adjust to the new system. She went on to say that students will



need to step up as leaders to ensure the continuing success of Scudder's and Dory's: "The board members will need to work harder and make a greater commitment if they want both organizations to remain part of student life."

Campus continues to transform

By EUNICE CHO '20 and ALEXANDRA KOGLER '19

At Groton, one cannot help but notice change – new students trickle in, the dining hall silverware comes and goes, and the weather gets cooler as each day passes. Some of the most significant changes on the Circle this fall have been the creation of a new dormitory and the renovation of another. Minor work has also been done to the Schoolroom and the Student Center.

The Schoolhouse renovation project, most of which was completed by the 2015-16 school year, originally included several improvements to the Schoolroom. There was insufficient time to do so, however, and these changed had to be pushed back to this year. Modifications started immediately after the end of the last school year. The renovation crew removed all the desks and chairs, refinished the floor, repainted the walls and ceiling, and cleaned all the woodwork. A construction crew planned to put in new, temporary lights, but a supply chain issue has caused this installation to be pushed back to November. The colors of the Schoolroom walls now match those of the Schoolhouse at large, and the space is much

cleaner than it has been in years past.

The Student Center has been cleaned and refurnished; the space now sports new furniture, and the student cafe Dory's has been relocated upstairs from its previous location in the building's basement.

The school also has a new dorm. Macbride's Dorm is located at the site of the old Health Center. The Health Center has now moved onto the first floor of Hundred House, and the building is

now used as a dormitory. The architects started planning in the fall of 2015, and immediately after spring break began work on construction. The old Health Center beds were replaced by standard dormitory beds, an apartment was added for a faculty member, and the sinks present in each overnight room were removed. The bathrooms were wholly renovated and the dorm now connects to what is now Meyer's Dorm. The entire dorm has also been repainted. Feedback from both students and faculty has been

mostly positive.

Meyer's Dorm received fewer updates. Certain fixtures on the lower level of the dorm – bathroom, a laundry room, and a water fountain – were beginning to show wear. While retouching these, the architects saw that it made more sense to relocate them on the other side of the hall. B&G both redid the dorm and moved these fixtures in six weeks over the summer.

These changes have brightened the appearance and improved the livability of the renovated locations.



MacBride's dorm in the old Health Center has all new furniture and amenities.

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# Word on the Circle

“What is the most spontaneous thing you have done at Groton?”



“Leading one of the faculty dogs up to my classroom to illustrate Phoenician sacrifice. It was following me up to my classroom, and it was quite a rotund

animal. And it sort of just plopped itself down, and I thought I could illustrate Phoenician sacrifice.” - Dr. Reyes

“The most spontaneous thing I’ve ever done was join the rugby team. I was studying French and Sammy was all like, “Do you want to play rugby?” I was all like, “Will I get a sweet jersey?” Sammy was like, “Yeah.” I was like, “Fam, I’m in.” Best mistake I’ve ever made.” - George Altshuler ‘18



“After class my students said that they were going to order from Wok and Roll. I had heard that food from Wok and Roll was not very good, and realized that

I had some Chinese food at home that I could easily make. I spontaneously asked them to come over to eat.”- Mrs. Jin

ABOVE PHOTOS BY N. STEINART ‘19 and F. LYNCH ‘19 FOR THE CIRCLE VOICE

# Guide to upcoming weekends

By ANNIE COLLOREDO-MANSFELD ‘18

After a long Groton week, many students may feel that there is a lack of activities to do during the weekend. But thanks to Mr. LeRoy and the SAC, there is now no shortage of fun things throughout the weekends this fall. Other than Long Weekend (starting October 14th) and Parents’ Weekend the week following (October 22nd), this fall is packed with exciting activities for you to explore. If you find yourself bored on a Saturday night, be sure to look at the SAC weekend schedule! Here are just a few of the events planned for this term:

### Weekend of October 8th - 80’s and Paintball

Get ready to whip out your neon clothing and side ponytails for this weekend’s 80s Dance! This timeless, famous dance is one of the SAC’s most attended events of the year. “It’s

bright and tight,” reported Cha Cha McLean ‘17. On Sunday, there will be a paintball war - a highly anticipated event. “I am so down. I absolutely will be participating in paintball,” said Tim Hoopes ‘18. In addition to the paintball battle, there will be a trip to Barnes and Noble for those looking for some new books.

### Weekend of October 29th - Halloween

The weekend following Parents’ Weekend is packed with activities. A haunted hayride will take place right before the Halloween Dance in Scudder’s. Speaking from personal experience, the SAC hayride is a must-see attraction. The SAC provides cider and cookies before you hop onto the hayride, driven by SAC mastermind Mr. LeRoy himself. Throughout the haunted ride are several spooky (and somewhat aggressive) monsters that launch spontaneous attacks onto the cart. Also on Saturday, there will be a trip to purchase costumes (for those last minute shoppers) as well as a scary movie showing

in the Hundred House Reading Room!

### Weekend of November 5th - A Night in the CPAC

The Musical! On Saturday night head over to the CPAC to watch your classmates perform in the 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. Make sure you don’t miss what promises to be a hilarious and quirky performance this fall!

### Weekend of November 12th - St. Mark’s Day Weekend

St. Mark’s Weekend brings lots of Groton traditions. On Saturday, a fan bus will leave to St. Mark’s. If you don’t have a game or any other commitment that afternoon, be sure to head on over to St. Mark’s to support our teams! Later that evening is the Cart Pull, an event where the Second Formers pull the varsity teams that beat St. Mark’s around the Circle. Following the Cart Pull is the bonfire, during which Varsity Sixth Form athletes are tossed into the air by their peers.

# ALICE in Groton

By MARIANNE LU ‘19

If there is ever a threat on campus, what should we do? Do we lockdown? Do we run? Do we counter?

On September 15th, Detective Rachel Mead answered these questions, presenting a new, government-recommended lockdown protocol that Groton will be adopting. Whereas the previous lockdown-only procedures created readily identifiable targets, as highlighted through various school shootings throughout the past few years, the new ALICE protocol allows for more choices in active response to any intruder.

According to [www.alice-training.com](http://www.alice-training.com), ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) addresses various responses to a potential threat by recommending different options. With the flexibility to use group judgment to assess specific circumstances, ALICE allows us to decide on the best course of action. The 2013 US Department of Education’s guidance for active shooters states that a “Lockdown-Only” response to an active shooter no longer meets government recommendations, and that “those in harm’s way should make their own decisions.”

Alert is overcoming denial, recognizing the signs of danger and receiving notifications about the danger from others.

Lockdown means barricading the room, preparing to evacuate or counter if needed; this is for circumstances where evacuation is not a safe option. In the new STEM classrooms



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with glass walls, Ms. Lincoln suggests running through the classrooms to the storage room and hiding, or escaping if possible. She said that Lawrence Academy has a very similar layout (open glass science classrooms), and when she observed their lockdown drill, she could not see students hidden in more concealed rooms.

Inform refers to communicating the intruder’s location and direction, because, as Detective Mead pointed out, the situation will be unpredictable. Clear information reporting the intruder’s whereabouts may confuse him. Ms. Lincoln is fine-tuning our loudspeaker system, and will soon hold an accountability drill to ensure that it is effective. Making an informed decision is crucial to the safety of students.

Counter is NOT fighting. It is creating noise, movement, distance and distraction with the intent of reducing the shooter’s ability to shoot accurately. While we will not practice this

in any of our lockdown drills, groups will be able to discuss and implement a plan to distract the intruder.

Evacuate means removing oneself from the danger zone. At Groton, this could mean jumping from a first-floor window or leaving from the back door of a classroom.

All Groton faculty were trained with the ALICE program last year, and Detective Mead will come to discuss and explain the best responses for different classrooms.

ALICE gives us the choice to run, seek a secure hiding place, lockdown, or counter, all in an effort to survive and protect others from harm. It recognizes that individuals should use their own judgment to assess a situation for the best thing to do. Though success is not guaranteed, this new set of skills will greatly increase the odds of safety should we face an intruder at Groton.

# More than a room

By **ROHAN VARKEY '18**

Here at Groton, dorms mostly contain the same type of rooms: normal, non-prefect singles, doubles, and triples that have the same amount of space and a similar setup. However, there are some rooms that break this mold. These rooms can have more space, an interesting set-up, or a distinguishing feature about it that make them that much more special. Some of the best have even come to earn a unique name. These rooms are some of the best rooms at Groton:

## The Fish Bowl

This year, the Kelly's prefect triple belongs to Delaney Tantillo, Liza Greenhill, and Hannah Simmons. It is surrounded by windows, lending it the name "the Fishbowl." This

room sports a large walk-in closet, big enough for almost anything. The ceiling is high, leaving space for lofting and bunking. The room can house three desks, three beds, and a common area. In this common area, you can put couches and chairs, and be able to relax with sunlight streaming in through the windows. If you're lucky enough to get this room, you'll be sure to enjoy it.

## The Prefect Double in Fernandez

This double belongs to Fifth Formers Aidan Reilly and Ethan Walsh. However, when this dorm was a girls dorm—LeRoy's—it was a prefect double. A large amount of the allure of this room lies in the fact that it is on the ground floor of the dorm, so no pesky stair-climbing is required. It has a large amount of floor space, as well as a wrap-around

window. It has enough room for two desks, beds, and a couch, as well as lots of left-over floor space.

## The Palace

This famous Groton room is found in O'Donnell's dormitory, and belongs to Fifth Formers Eric Yang, Joe McCalmon, and Charlie Sun. This room is normally a prefect triple. It requires the least amount of stairs of any room in O'Donnell's, and has enough floor space for three unbunked beds and three desks, while also leaving plenty of open floor space. It also has a rare amenity: a private bathroom. Yes, the tenants of this room have a sink, shower, and toilet all to themselves.

## Meyer's Prefect Double

This room functioned as an Upper School triple when it was the boys dorm Francis, but it is now a Prefect double. This



The Meyer's Prefect Double.

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Liza Greenhill '17 in the Fish Bowl.

C. BOWMAN '17 FOR *THE CIRCLE VOICE*

year, it belongs to Caroline Johnston and Mims Reynolds. This room is a loft, so it has two floors of usable space—perfect for a common area and a sleep and study area. It has a large amount of floor space, which allows for whatever arrangement you prefer. The room also has three closets, leaving the tenants of this double with a useful extra closet.

## The Presidential Suite

Located in Nelson's, this room has functioned as a prefect double in the past, but in

recent years has served as an Upper School triple. This year, Fourth Formers Gus Vratatos, Lars Caspersen and Seamus McAvoy live in this room. This room has a sense of privacy, with a staircase leading down and into it at the entrance. It has interesting architecture, with curved walls, and windows surrounding its front side. It has room for whatever arrangement of beds and desks you prefer, and also leaves enough space for a large common area. The windows let in sunlight, brightening up the room.

# Alumna of the Issue: Ellen Boisselle '85

By **DAISY FEY '18**

Ellen Boisselle graduated from Groton in 1985. After leaving the circle, she attended Yale where she majored in English. Throughout college, she was never sure what she would choose as a career path, but found that she had always had a fascination with psychology. However, toward the end of her time at Yale, Ellen discovered that her true calling was in teaching. By 1991, Ellen had her Masters in teaching from Columbia University and was ready to begin teaching elementary students.

Ellen taught math in elementary schools for the first portion of her career. Toward the middle of her career, Ellen questioned her choice of elementary students and began to wonder if she would enjoy teaching older high school and college students instead. After dreaming of getting a PhD in American Studies for some time,

she returned to Yale. However, she soon realized that American Studies was not what she had previously imagined it to be. She found that her new field focused primarily on publishing personal works instead of learning how to educate older students properly. Therefore, two years into achieving her PhD, she left Yale and went back to teaching math in elementary school.

After getting married to her husband, Phil, in 1994, Ellen moved to Philadelphia and continued to teach elementary students. It was here that Ellen began to develop her fascination for neuropsychological profiling. Over her years of experience in the classroom, she observed how children learned different types of math problems in completely different ways and was intrigued as to why this was the case. She studied and learned the different styles of learning that children have, how to teach them effectively, as well as how to determine which style

of learning would work for each individual student.

Today, Ellen works at Boston Children's Hospital, proctoring and analyzing diagnostic mathematics tests. She now has her PhD in learning disabilities, specifically mathematical learning disabilities and works to teach others including children, parents, and other teachers about math and effective ways to learn various types of math problems.

A critical aspect of Ellen's job is educating her fellow educators. She helps teachers learn what to look for to identify a child who may require extra help and explains the neurological reasons as to why the child is struggling in class. She said, "I educate teachers on how to bring appropriate testing and teaching methods from my office into their classrooms." She also helps translate clinical discoveries from the Children's Hospital into updated information and teaching methods for schoolroom teachers, "and vice versa: how observations

by schoolroom teachers can further improve clinical research on learning disabilities."

Although Ellen graduated from the Circle some time ago, she continues to have a significant presence on campus to this day. Since 1985, Ellen has served on an alumni panel discussing the importance and complexity of math education, a panel for Fifth and Sixth formers on their choice of college and career path, and several other panels where she served next to her former teachers and superiors. Ellen says that when she is on campus, she likes seeing faculty she remembers from her time here and particularly enjoys saying thank you for their extraordinary hard work on her behalf. She said, "Faculty were incredibly understanding, and in addition to being very good teachers, they helped me to grow up. And they were caring and thoughtful in equal measure, and that was sort of impressive given how difficult I probably was." She also said

that it is always fascinating to see how the school is developing both physically and socially, "I don't think I realized it at the time, but it's a much more welcoming and inclusive campus than it used to be." Last year, Ellen was honored with Groton's alumni community service prize for her work in the diagnosis of disabilities, for her exceptional achievements in teaching and in her medical field. Her job allows her to do a fair amount of work within the community because it involves working with kids and their families, helping them to understand how they can help their kids in addition to helping schools both local and national understand the challenges that have to do with learning disabilities and tactics to overcome these challenges. Ellen stated, "Simply put, my goal is to help people identify the common ground and to help them bridge fields." We look forward to seeing more from Ellen Boisselle in the future, both on campus and in her field as a unique educator.

# Athlete of the Issue

## Maddie Ferrucci

By LAYNE MCKEOWN '18

"Playing field hockey at Groton has changed my life," says Maddie Ferrucci '17. Captain of the Varsity Field Hockey team, Maddie has committed the past five years to the sport. Her undeniable natural talent and passion for the game have led her to great success in the sport, thriving as a captain, teammate, and individual player.

Back in her glory days on JV during her Second Form year, Maddie was a field player, new to the game. As a starting midfielder, her work ethic showed early on, and she was truly a "force to be reckoned with" says her now co-captain Caroline Fisher '17. However, tragedy struck when the team's goalie became sick, unable to play. Who else but the one and only Maddie Ferrucci to step up and take one for the team. A scared new student, she suited up and stepped into the goal for what she thought would be her first and last time. Maddie, of course, was a natural. Unstoppable, she had a shutout in her debut game, and helped score an undefeated season.

After taking on the position, Maddie planned to try out for varsity the next fall.

Back then, Maddie never expected that stepping in would turn into four seasons as a varsity starter. Playing every minute since freshman year, Maddie's skill and zeal for the game have only grown stronger. A positive force in goal, she motivates and instructs her teammates fighting on defense, and even said it's one the best parts as goalie: "after giving directions to teammates I get so excited when they carry the ball out of the circle, make a beautiful pass, or score a goal on because I feel like I made a positive impact." Maddie's care for the team makes her a strong captain, and Coach Harlan noted on Ferrucci's strength, saying "her knowledge of the sport, and not just her position, make her an invaluable leader to the team, a role she has taken on since she first entered the cage."

Outside of the Groton season, Maddie plays for a year round club team. The team, HTC, practices on Sundays and attends national tournaments. With them, Maddie plays indoor field hockey, which has different set of rules and positions than regular

play. The past two years, she has made it as far to compete in the National Indoor Tournament. Maddie's years of play at Groton and HTC have helped her to improve her skills, making her a "brick wall" in net. Teammate Marcella Flibotte '17 commented on Maddie's talent in goal, saying "Maddie is the greatest goalie of all time and has a 100% save average." It is through Maddie's consistency to "show up ready to work hard, excited to be on the turf, and share her experience and passion for the sport," as Coach Harlan puts it, that makes her "the backbone of the team." Maddie is a machine in net, stopping rocket shots that fly at her from every direction. She claims the best part is the adrenaline rush that comes when making a big save: "I love the feeling when I block one shot after the next, make a diving save, a big save off a corner, or knock the ball down, out of the air." Most important, her connection to the team is what has kept the sport so gratifying for her. When asked about the team, the goalie said, "the friends I have made on this team will last a lifetime. I have so much admiration and respect for my coaches, who have taught me

so much on and off the field. They are what has kept me wanting to play the sport every day. I

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look forward to the rest of the season and continuing to play for another four years at college."

Already starting off the season 3 and 1, Maddie is ready to bring her team to more success. She has dedicated so much time to the sport, that, in her senior year, she wants to make it to playoffs and have their most successful year yet. With her talent and motivation, the team will work to be victorious among the ISL teams, especially St. Mark's. All the best to Maddie in her final season, and good luck to her in the future.



# Girls' soccer: a winning tradition

By ADDIE NEWSOME '18

Girls' Varsity Soccer is one of the most successful teams on campus. In 2014, the team took home the NEPSAC Class B championship. It was not an easy victory either, as they were placed into the playoffs as the fifth seed. The quarterfinal game was against Pomfret, the team seeded fourth. Groton was eager to get back on the field, and the girls were anxious to redeem their loss from earlier that season. The endless energy on the field and support from the crowd was displayed when Girls' Varsity Soccer defeated Pomfret and was greeted by their ecstatic peers rushing the field to celebrate with them. The team was walking on air, but it wasn't nearly over. Groton had to face their biggest challenge yet, the first seed school, The Rivers School. Their semifinal game was a nail-biting, evenly matched game, which took them all the way through overtime to penalty kicks. With every shot, you could feel the tension in the air you could hear a pin drop. When Carrie Moore '17



Alexa Beckstein '18 takes a shot

L. TOCE '19 FOR THE CIRCLE VOICE

scored the game winning goal, the team jumped on each other, screaming in pure happiness and relief, as the Rivers girls slowly walked to their bench, hanging their heads. Coach Mr. Spring proudly reflected on that memorable game saying, "I remember those long,

solitary walks the girls took from midfield to the penalty spot, followed by joy and elation after the perfect kicks. I was so proud." Groton's championship game against Wilbraham and Monson School was an easy victory, but the most satisfying. Girls' Varsity Soc-

cer would have never won that championship if it weren't for the sixth form which was filled with fantastic individual players whose leadership and grit set an inspiring tone for the underclassmen. In 2015, Girls' Varsity Soccer experienced a significant loss of starters, as

three key sixth formers graduated. Although the senior class was significantly smaller, their leadership is what took the team to NEPSAC Class B semifinals. Girls' Varsity Soccer is also so successful for its team dynamic. They start every practice with a "social warm-up", focusing on a healthy team dynamic. They have light and humorous relationships, but know when to set the humor aside and set an intense tone for the rest of practice. This year's sixth form is one that shares similar leadership qualities to the form of 2015. Coach Spring shares, "Our VI Form group is really important. As individuals, they are incredible players. In particular, I honestly believe that we have the most dangerous striker, the strongest goalkeeper, and the toughest defender in the ISL. Nonetheless, it takes 20 players to win a soccer match, and their ability to make their teammates feel included and important is critical; and I know they will do a good job." Coaches Spring and Leroy are excited for this upcoming season and are tackling each obstacle day by day.

# St. Paul's to leave ISL, Tabor to join

By WESTBY CASPERSEN '17

On April 11, 2016, St. Paul's withdrew from the Independent School League, and on September 21, 2016, Tabor was accepted to fill the vacant slot. Groton has had a long history of rivalry and intense competitions with St. Paul's, and this is by no means the end of the historic tradition of games, matches, and meets between the two schools. Groton will continue to compete with St. Paul's and will even go further by establishing a partnership based on charity and service between the two schools. Groton looks forward to maintaining a close relationship with St. Paul's as well as beginning a new one with Tabor.

St. Paul's chose to withdraw from the ISL due to a controversy concerning their merit-based scholarships and the league's bylaws. According to their website, "While for 43 seasons St. Paul's has enjoyed the competition, spirit of integrity, fair play, and camaraderie among the 16 member schools, the School chose to withdraw out of respect for league bylaws. Three merit-based scholarships offered to SPS students are in violation of an ISL bylaw prohibiting member schools from offering non-need-based financial aid. For this reason, and because of the School's commitment to offering admission to students from many different backgrounds, St. Paul's has elected to give up its ISL membership." These three scholarships (The Cooke, Greene, and Ross) go out annually to a stu-

dent from Montana, a student from Alabama, and a student from New Jersey; they are officially given for character and academic accomplishment. St. Paul's athletic director Scott Heitmiller thinks that it is unfortunate that the school had to withdraw, but, as stated on the St. Paul's athletics webpage, he sees some positive in that, "We have wonderful relationships with the ISL schools, relationships we will maintain outside of athletics. But we are hopeful that these schools will continue to compete with SPS teams as non-league opponents into the future, ensuring that we maintain those competitive rivalries." St. Paul's will now be mainly competing against the schools in the 5 School League, which includes Andover, Exeter, Choate, Northfield Mount Hermon, and Deerfield.

Tabor Academy will be filling the open spot in the ISL, and they are overjoyed to do so. Eight schools were seriously interested in joining the Independent School League and six were interviewed by the ISL board, which is comprised of three athletic directors and three heads. Groton athletic director Mr. Low described the board as "a diverse group representing big, small, boarding, and day schools from our league." It was ultimately Tabor selected to join the league, and they are no stranger to the ISL schools, having often competed with Groton and other schools in the league in non-league matches. Tabor's Head of School, John Quirk, went to St. Mark's, taught at Brooks, and is eager to join the ISL. In a statement in a press release, Tabor's athletic director Conan Leary is similarly thrilled, stating, "We applied to join the ISL because we



Noah Aaron '18 competes against St. Paul's in basketball

FROM THE CIRCLE VOICE FILES

believe that doing so will create better, more satisfying and more meaningful competitive learning experiences for our student athletes... ISL schools tend to be fierce competitors and there are tremendous and fun rivals in the group. However, it is rare for that competitiveness to overshadow some essential truths: that it is in the process of competition, not its outcome, that student athletes best grow." Located in Marion, Massachusetts, Tabor currently has 514 students, and its mascot is the sea wolf. Starting in the fall of 2017, Groton teams

will visit their waterfront campus, and Tabor team's will regularly compete on the circle.

St. Paul's leaving the ISL is by no means the end of Groton's relationship with them -- in fact it is the beginning of a new one. According to Mr. Low, Groton will be starting a partnership with St. Paul's where each year the schools will give money to a charity decided by the faculty and students of one of the schools; and then the next year, the other school will decide. When it is Groton's year the charity we be decided by Mr. Free-

man-Coppadge and the GCE. "It is astounding that we will sustain this relationship based on empathy, philanthropy, and service," said Mr. Low, "I've always enjoyed competing against [St. Paul's.] They are similar to us in that they emphasize sportsmanship and have notions of excellence in the classroom." Groton students feel similarly. Anders Orr '19 says, "I think they are good competitors, but I understand why they are leaving and look forward to playing both them and Tabor in the future."

# Football brings in outside coaches

By ARAM MOOSSAVI '17

The Varsity Football team this year experienced a huge makeover in their coaching staff, bringing in three new outside coaches. With former head coach and history teacher, John Lyons, taking a sabbatical, the athletic department hired Jamie Lamoreaux as this season's head coach. Formerly the head coach at Ayer High School, Lamoreaux brought a new offensive system to Groton. The new system is called the "wishbone," differing from the timeless offense Lyons ran called the "Wing-T." The wishbone offense is defined by the positioning of the quarterback, fullback, and the two running backs. The quarterback stands directly under the center with a fullback directly

behind him, and two running backs behind the fullback. The shape of this offense is similar to the wishbone that is pulled from a turkey during Thanksgiving, earning its nickname of "the wishbone."

Breandain Keating, another new member of the coaching staff this season, is the wide receiver and Junior Varsity coach. His one eyed dog, Cooper, has become a fixture on the circle. The third new coach is John Margarita who is an offensive coordinator.

Of the changes to the coaching staff, wide receiver and defensive back Lachlan Combs '18 says, "the new coaches are great, they brought in a new offense that is different but complements our personnel really well." During the live half that was played in the team's recent scrimmage at

Portsmouth Abbey, the offense was firing on all cylinders. The Zebras were able to run in for a score, along with multiple long offensive series where the chains were constantly moving.

The defense largely stayed the same with Lamoreaux at the helm with assistance from Coach Francis. When asked about the defensive schemes Groton runs, starting safety Matt O'Donnell '17 believes that, "Our defense adapts, depending on the team we are playing and the type of offense they run." During the Portsmouth Abbey scrimmage, Groton held their opponent to only one touchdown with O'Donnell delivering a huge hit preventing them from converting a go-ahead two-point conversion. When asked about the season outlook for this year, starting offensive lineman, starting defensive tack-

le, and co-captain, Rashawn Grant '17 reports, "The guys have been working really hard in practice and we are look-

ing forward to a great season ahead of us."



Groton's revamped offense is led by quarterback Greg Segal '18 (8).

B. CALMAS '18 FOR THE CIRCLE VOICE

# Take a chance on Chance the Rapper

By **MICHAEL SENKO '18**

It has been around four months since Coloring Book, Chance the Rapper's 3rd official mixtape, dropped exclusively on Apple Music. Announced a week before it was set to release, it attracted all sorts of interest: Chance made first became mainstream with his album Acid Rap in 2013, saturating his gospel-influenced, bass-heavy across nearly every community in America. The new album clearly had serious expectations due to the success of Acid Rap, and it seems that, initially, it was

not clear whether it lived up to the hype or not. Now that the noise and sense of discovery around the work has died down, it is a proper time to analyze how Coloring Book stands compared to Acid Rap and what the album means for Chance's future.

When Acid Rap dropped in 2013, it was an evolution: a byproduct of the Kanye/Jay-Z era that swirled old Kanye's gospel influences into an amalgam of genres and a bouncing sense of happiness that lifted and energized listeners. It was fun. Chance hopped around each track, unbridled, rejoicing in his rising career. He made the colorful, zany combinations work, and that was

the genius of Acid Rap.

But that is not the genius present in Coloring Book. For one, it brings on a much higher caliber of collaboration (Kanye, Lil Wayne, Young Thug, Justin Bieber), indicating his increased fame and recognition. "Coloring Book is tight because it has 2 Chainz. He's pretty ill," says Tim Bukowski '17. Second, Chance, having matured for three years, has created a more developed and specific sound than the one present in Acid. It is less of a mix that worked only because of Chance's infectious voice and energy and more a combination of gospel music and hip hop that succeeds because it is inventive, concise, and new.

He has not lost his spark, it seems he never will, but he has learned to contain it and use it more effectively.

In a similar vein, Coloring Book, probably Chance's most innovative and impressive upgrade, functions remarkably well as a whole. The backbone of the album, gospel, is evident throughout, and each song feels more connected and tied to the next than any two did in Acid Rap. Thematically, it is a departure as well, with Chance moving on from his teenage life and moving into adulthood and even parenthood (the album cover, if you weren't aware, is a cropped photo of Chance looking down at his child).

"Acid Rap is kind of more and about taking chances when they arise and chasing down girls, while Coloring Book is so much about acceptance and thankfulness for the life and family he's made for himself" Adia Fielder '17 nails down.

Chance has grown up. He is heavily saturated in the modern music scene, collaborating with some of the biggest names in the industry, and creating an adult life for himself. I believe, earnestly, that this is Chance's first masterpiece. It is a work that is unlike anything else available, and it is special. Chance the Rapper is here, and he knows it.

# Pumpkin spice playlist: Must-listens for Fall Term

By **BECKY ZHANG '18**

Fall is here: the season of letting go and starting over. While it may seem that we have been at school forever, we remain in a time of transition, reflected both in nature and in the mind. The trees are turning bronze and shedding their leaves while we, too, are forced to leave the past behind and focus on the present. For those of you who are new to Groton, it may seem like a crazy whirlwind or an exciting

we're drifting, and "Open Season" makes you truly feel like a cloud in the air.

## Ms – alt-J

One of alt-J's more overlooked songs, "Ms"'s instrumentals incorporate subtle layers of various sounds and pitches to generate a sweet, ripple-like sound. At first listen, you might not appreciate its unconventional vocals, but give it a chance and you'll be glad you did. Listen to "Ms" on a rainy bus ride to an away game while admiring the fall foliage, or in the library while

and thoughtful song that will pick you up when you're feeling down. The album, "Signs of Light", contains a host of other songs along the same inspiring lines. The Head and the Heart, formed in Seattle, combine piano, drums, and guitar into a catchy tune that you won't get sick of.

## Just Breathe – Pearl Jam

It is a general consensus that Eddie Vedder's unrivaled powerful and deep vocals are the perfect remedy for a bad day. This 2009 song expresses feelings of emptiness and

cal community; it was also redone by The Lumineers, who slowed it down and stripped the melody raw. If you ever get homesick, be sure to give it a listen. "Home is where I want to be // But I guess I'm already there" serves as a reminder that home can be wherever you want to be and whatever you make it.

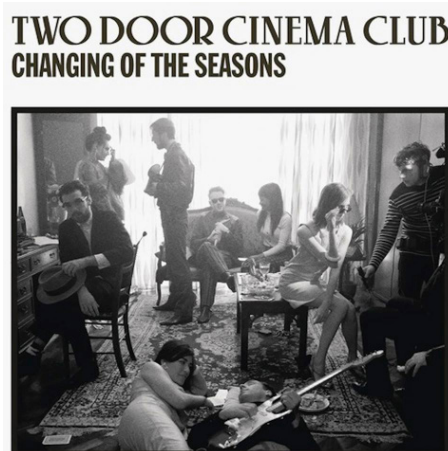
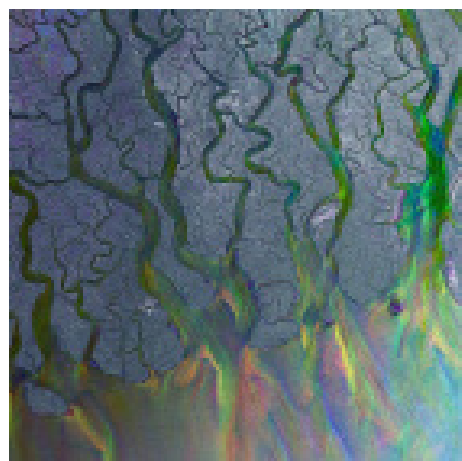
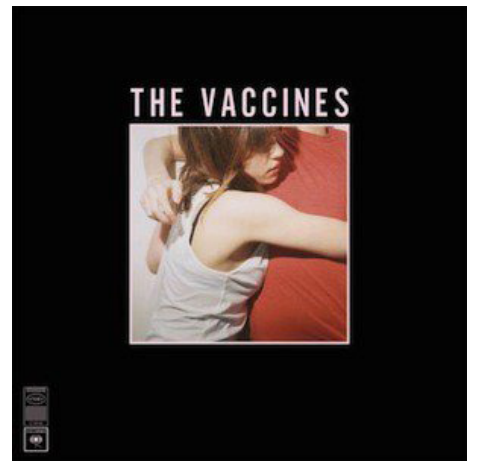
## Changing of the Seasons – Two Door Cinema Club

This song is all about release. Two Door Cinema Club emphasizes the inevitability of impermanence with Alex

Vaccines encourage you to buy in to your emotions and go with your gut. "It's hazy like waking up in the summer – it's iconic," says Langa Chinyoka '17.

## I Am a Rock – Simon & Garfunkel

The unforgettable, soothing vocals of Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel create a harmonious and uplifting melody in "I Am a Rock." The fifty-year-old song's honest lyrics promote reflection and self-protection from emotional troubles – "Bridge over Trou-



Becky Zhang '18 knows best when it comes to the soundtrack for your fall term.

FROM PITCHFORK.COM

start to a new phase of your life. And, for those returning, fall is always a chance for renewal. The following songs reflect the long and eventful journey ahead.

## Open Season – High Higgs

Guaranteed to make you drift into a satisfying sleep, "Open Season" melds the soothing strums of a guitar with a slow and steady drumbeat and the ethereal voices of a male duo from Australia. This is possibly the most "vibey" song I've ever listened to, and it works best in combination with a cozy blanket and mug of steeped tea. Sometimes we might feel like

trying to focus and slow down at the end of the day.

## New Slang – The Shins

"New Slang" is the epitome of The Shins' selection of feel-good music. You may know the New Mexico-based indie rock band from "Simple Song", which was featured in How I Met Your Mother's Season 8 finale. The song creates a serene atmosphere by means of the sweet sounds of an acoustic guitar as well as soft and effortless vocals.

## All We Ever Knew – The Head and the Heart

Released last June, "All We Ever Knew" is a cheerful

angst that resonate in this day and age and reminds us to take a deep breath. Other quality songs by the classic grunge band include "Black" and "Last Kiss". "I listen to Pearl Jam on rainy days to make me feel peaceful," explains Aly Manjee '18.

## This Must Be the Place – Iron & Wine

"This Must Be the Place" evokes a warm and fuzzy feeling inside all. Iron & Wine transformed the song, originally performed by rock band Talking Heads, from a funky and minimalistic tune to a tender and nostalgic one. The song is prominent in the musi-

Trimble's distinctive voice. The song features an upbeat drumbeat to emphasize continuity and progress, and, while the lyrics may be direct, the positive melody will certainly make you excited for the future.

## Wetsuit – The Vaccines

Justin Young's unparalleled, deep voice is both calming and powerful in this song about taking the plunge. While most of The Vaccines' songs are either fervently upbeat or somberly slow, Wetsuit fuses steadiness with vigor in a tune propelled by drums and the electric guitar. This is a great song for a walk or run. The

bled Water" does the same. This is a classic tune, perfect for singing in the shower.

## Long Train Runnin' – The Doobie Brothers

This upbeat and groovy fan favorite by the celebrated 70s rock band is sure to get you through this school year. The guitar riffs are simple yet captivating and the drumbeat lively, fitting for a song all about moving forward. "I am not for a second Doobie-ous about the quality of their music," says Chris Ye '17.

# Artist of the Issue

## Mac Galinson

By CHRISTIAN CARSON '18

To some people, art means taking a piece of paper and drawing when inspiration strikes. To others it means photographing the natural world. To Mac Galinson, it means acting on stage or writing songs for guitar.

Mac has been acting since he was nine. He recounts his beginning in theater as a fairly unremarkable experience: "I was like, 'Hey, Mom. I want to try this theater thing out,' and she was like 'OK, you're weird for that,' because we're not really an arts family." His first role was a duckling in *Honk!*, a British musical adaptation of the story of "The Ugly Duckling." By his own count, Mac has acted in twenty-five shows, many of them with the Peacock Players, a theater company in New Hampshire. "It's a group of people based around the fact

that we are all very proud of what we do," he explains. His favorite shows to act in have been *Chicago*, in which he played Billy Flynn, and *12 Angry Men*, in which he played Juror #10. Of the latter, he says: "It was the only time where I'd done a show where I was on the entire time, and the cast got really close because of that." In recent years, Mac has also been in Groton shows *The Laramie Project* and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Urinetown*, and *Romeo and Juliet*.

Like his acting career, Mac's guitar-playing began abruptly. "I saw my uncle playing guitar and I was like, 'That's really cool. I want to be like you.'" Mac's first guitar was a twenty-dollar Walmart starting guitar, which he learned to play from his uncle. He recalls "I was like 'Hey, Uncle John, can you teach me how to play this?' He was just the coolest guy for me. And he said 'Okay, well that right there's a G. That's

all you gotta know. You take it from there.'" Mac's style is unique, based on "what sounds good" to him. He names the Grateful Dead as his favorite band, calling it "the only band I can listen to and not get sick of." Mac performs regularly at the school's Open Mic evenings. Phoebe Fry '17, one of the heads of Open Mic, calls his performance "consistently incredible" and his guitar skills "top notch." He is also a talented bagpipe player and has performed at various school functions since he started taking lessons in second form.

As if music and drama weren't enough, Mac says that he's recently been experimenting with poetry. Music, he explains, comes easier to him than the words to accompany it. "I work on all these pieces for guitar but never put lyrics to them because I never like them," he says. "It's hard." His creative process for poetry, however, stems from his music: "After playing the song," he explains "I think about

what it makes me think about."

Those who have been at the school for a couple of years might remember one of Mac's defining features: his ponytail. During the 2015-16 school year, however, he decided to shave it off. He even remembers the date: April 28, 2015. "It had been so long and it was just getting annoying and I kind of wanted a whole new vibe." When asked about the possibility of a ponytail revival, he laughed and responded only that "it was time."

This fall, in his last Groton musical, Mac will take on the role of William Barfée in *The Twenty-Fifth Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. We are all looking forward to seeing him in this highly original, eclectic role.

H. BEREDAY  
'17 FOR THE  
CIRCLE VOICE



## Accomplished vocalist to perform at Groton

By LILY CRATSLEY '19

On Thursday, October 27th, Groton welcomes Nedelka Prescod and her band to the Circle as part of the Gammons Concert Series. Every year this series presents four to six free concerts for members of the greater Groton community that are held in Gammons Recital Hall. The first concert of this school year will be a riveting and spiritual performance bridging jazz, R&B, and gospel music.

Ms. Prescod is an accomplished vocalist and professor at Berklee School of Music, where she coaches ensemble groups. This isn't her first visit to the circle, however. Last year, she was invited by Laurie Sales to work her magic on the ensemble of The Wiz. After this highly successful workshop, Ms. Lanier was encouraged to invite Ms. Prescod back for a performance. In her words, "It's not always easy to take students off campus to hear concerts, so the Gammons series brings concerts to students. Each year a varied roster of artists is presented so that students can see professionals in action and learn about different styles of music."

Ms. Prescod's diversity in style was also what encour-

aged Laurie to invite her. "I was looking for a guest artist to bring in for the cast of The Wiz because the show is such an important moment in terms of mainstream black musical theatre, and there's a style to the singing that comes from African American tradition... we didn't have anyone

on campus with that kind of background." Laurie reached out to several mentors but was instantly attracted to Ms. Prescod. "She was the person I wanted because she wasn't just talking about music. The way she talked about music felt spiritually connected, and that was very exciting." The

effects of her mentorship were transformative for the cast. "She somehow incorporated a sense of community and affection to our singing," says Mac Galinson '17. "We were having trouble connecting with the music, but she was able to breathe a new life into us," explains Julien Alam '19. Along

with praises of her philosophy, Mac also appreciated the technical expertise Ms. Prescod provided, "She got me to sing higher than I ever had before or ever have since."

Ms. Prescod is a unique talent. She has performed with artists including Alicia Keys, is a member of a pop/jazz ensemble and an a cappella quartet, and has released an independent recording project, *Manifest* (2008). While her technical skill amazes, it is her creative process that sets her apart from other artists of her kind. "Ultimately everything we need in terms of our music is about soul and about spirit. 'Use that,' I tell my students, 'And make music with that,'" she says. Ms. Prescod describes her approach to guiding ensembles, saying, "Unison is a spiritual submission because you're asking people to come together as one. It's not just about music. it's about humanity." The cast of The Wiz and Laurie are all eagerly anticipating Ms. Prescod's return to the Circle this fall. In Laurie's words, "She's not just going to be performing; she's going to be testifying from her soul, and we're going to get to experience that and share that with her. I think it's going to be magical."



Ms. Prescod, who worked with the cast of *The Wiz* last winter, is set to perform on campus.

COURTESY OF PHIL STILES

# Scariest & Nicest Seniors

Despite what admissions would have you believe, every senior is not a caring, lovable goof-ball just waiting to help you! So who is the nicest senior? Who is the scariest? Your votes decided.

## Nicest Seniors

### Boys



1st Place: John Cecil



2nd Place: Matt O'Donnell (QB1)



3rd Place: Chris Ye

### Girls



1st Place: The Wolf Pack



2nd Place: Piper Higgins



3rd Place: Liza Greenhill

## Scariest Seniors

### Boys



1st Place: Taggart Eymer



2nd Place: Rashawn Grant

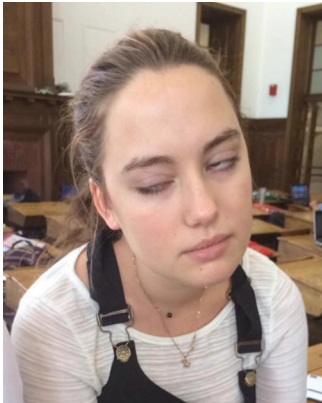


3rd Place: John Beatty

### Girls



1st Place: Caitlyn Disarcina



2nd Place: Frances McCreery



3rd Place: Adia Fielder

## Jack Fanikos Starter Pack



## Varsity Lax Star Starter Pack

