

# Getting to Know Mr. Wirtz

*Newly appointed Headmaster Michael Wirtz speaks to the Dial about goals, Grateful Dead, and all things Hackley*



Photo by Alex Meyer

Mr. Wirtz chats with English teacher Anne Siviglia during the ice cream social part of his Oct. 8 visit to campus, which took place in the Lindsay Room and drew a large crowd of Upper School students and faculty eager to meet the new Head of School.

INTERVIEW BY SYDNEY MONROE AND ALEX MEYER

**Q.** You are bringing along three other new additions to the Hilltop: your wife Hilary, and your two children Charlie and Frances. What is like to not only embark on a new job, but embark on an entirely new family journey? Anything you are all particularly excited or nervous for as a new family to Hackley?

**A.** I don't know! When I took this job [at St. Marks School] we didn't have any kids, and Hilary didn't have to get a new job as part of the process because we were close enough to the area. I think it's going to be a great adventure for us as a family and we're all up for it. Hilary is going to take some time and figure out what she is going to do for her career because she is a professional and she has her own career and aspirations. And with the kids, the hope is that Charlie will be a kindergartener next year, which is going to be awesome- he is going to be part of the class of 2029, and Frances would be part of the class of 2031. So I think it will be great.

We are going to be on campus on Saturday very briefly to meet with the board [of trustees] and engage and I think I am really looking forward to showing them the playground at the lower school, and to get them excited about that. For all they know at this point, there is just going to be a great playground, and we'll sort of figure out the rest from there. We haven't quite told them yet about this move; they're just so young that they're not going to get it, but I think it will be such a great thing for all of us, and we're really looking forward to it.

**Q.** In stepping into your new position of Headmaster, how to you plan to incorporate your own ideas and set a certain tone for the entire Hackley community?

**A.** Well, I think I want to come in and really understand the school. I have been a student of Hackley for the last number of months and I got a box from Mr. King and Mr. Bileca earlier this week and it was filled with all kinds of readings and articles and such. I have gone through probably about half of it so far-I still need to read the book "Where the Seasons Tell our Story".

I think I want to come in and really immerse myself in the school community, and I think it's really important that all of you get to know who I am, and what it is that I believe, and I need to understand Hackley in totality. I don't want to presume any sort of major changes, but I do know that the school is trying to figure out what wellness means, and that's going to be part of my work. There's master planning

and facilities work happening, and it's really important that in the community we remain true to our values and thinking about what character education looks like across the K-12 spectrum. So I think there's work that I'll be coming into that you all are very familiar with and have been doing, and so then it becomes this hand-off moment between Mr. Johnson and I to make sure that I come in and seamlessly pick up the work where it left off. And I think together we can figure out what the next chapter looks like. But I don't want to come in and say: 'here are the 3 things that I want to do starting on July 1,' I want to be really careful that I'm understanding the school as I come in.

**Q.** What specifically drew you to apply for a position at Hackley? What made life on the Hilltop particularly exciting and welcoming to you?

**A.** There's so many things. A couple of things struck me right from the outset and as I have continued to learn more, I am almost coming up with more and more examples on a daily basis. The commitment that people feel to the school and the love that they have for the place, there's something special about the school, and it is even noticeable from afar. People appreciate what the school does for them, and they appreciate what it does for their children, and they want to preserve that and [board of trustees member] Mr. Caputo referred to it as the "special sauce" and there's something about the way Hackley's put together; it's the architecture, people coming together on a set of values, the emphasis on character education- all those things really draw people to it.

I think as humans we are really drawn to things bigger than ourselves, and for me, when I think about school communities, I want to be part of something special. That's what I see as my life's work- being a part of something special, and making it better. That's what really drew me in. The fact that the school really cares about students' character and character education is really important to me, and it does this also in the context of a really robust and highly intellectual atmosphere. You're balancing both those pieces, and for somebody that has a lot of classroom experience and really thinks about that, it's really exciting for me. Also, coming from a boarding school, I'm accustomed to thinking about and talking about the whole student, and Hackley is really interested in who the students are as people, and how they are developing outside of what they're doing for a particular class, so that is really appealing to me that Hackley is able to find that in a community. I love the fact that it's K-12. Having the ability to do that across a 13 year span as opposed to just a high school that was something that I was exceptionally excited about, and I think the K-12 aspect is really terrific.

*Continued on page 2*

## Mr. Wirtz's Favorite Things

**Band/Musician:**  
It's a toss up! Probably between the Grateful Dead, Pearl Jam, and Dave Matthews Band

**School Subject:**  
Chemistry!

**Food:**  
Spicy food! Anything spicy I will probably go for.

**TV Show:**  
Seinfeld reruns. Other than that, I really like the Big Bang Theory!

**Ice Cream Flavor:**  
Mint Chocolate Chip

# Hackley's Sex-Ed Program Must Be Improved

## Hackley should update curriculum to properly prepare students

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD

The United States has higher teen pregnancy rates and STD prevalence than any western European country. The nation is experiencing an epidemic of sexual assault amongst young people; some statistics estimate that as many as one in five women in college will experience some form of sexual assault. In light of these very serious concerns, it is clear that it should be a priority for Hackley to provide its students with a rigorous and comprehensive education on sex and relationships.

Fortunately for the school, there is ample data with which to make an informed decision about what kind of sex and relationship education works. The United Nations Population Fund, a U.N. agency dedicated specifically to issues of population, health, and family planning, recently concluded that "several reviews of the literature show that about two-thirds of rigorously evaluated comprehensive sex education programs lead to reductions in...sexual [risk behaviors]."

The organization went as far to conclude that at least some "evaluation studies demonstrate not only self-reported behavior change, but also actual reductions in the rates of unintended pregnancy or sexually transmitted infections." To achieve these tremendously positive results, it says, students need "accurate and comprehensive information on ... relationships with family and peers, as well as romantic and long-term relationships, ... communication and decision-making skills, including for refusing unwanted sex, for negotiating and correctly using male and female condoms/contraception, and for seeking guidance and support from parents, as well as regarding substance abuse and sexual risk, [and] sexual health, especially STIs/HIV and AIDS, unintended pregnancy, condoms and contraception, as well as, information on how to access health and other support services."

To achieve the best outcomes — namely, a lack of STIs, pregnancies, and relationship violence — Hackley must follow these and other research-backed best practices. In short, students must be told explicitly how to communicate effectively in a relationship, stand up for their own personal rights, and, yes, how to obtain and use effective contraception and birth control.

Unfortunately, Hackley currently does not offer this explicit, and comprehensive education. Its program is by no means abstinence only, and contains many positives. The program is based in science, and, in the words of Wellness director Charles Colten, has the goal of "equipping students with the information they need to make good decisions." The course has no want for this "information"; the curriculum is laden with the specifics of different STIs, descriptions of healthy and unhealthy relationships, and how birth control works. This information is all valuable, and should continue to be offered.

What the program doesn't offer, however, is concrete words on how safe sex can be practiced, what students should do and who they should talk to in an unhealthy relationship, or how to deal with an unexpected pregnancy. In the words of health teacher Cassandra Hatcher, "I give students the what on safe sex, but not the how." What safe sex is fair game, but how to use and obtain contraception and birth control is not covered; likewise, relationship health is covered, but specific resources for students to use in real situations are not heavily covered. While discussing the specifics of sex or contraception and birth control may be uncomfortable, they are necessary and need to be added to the curriculum. This information on unintended pregnancy, contraception use, and access to support services are specifically mentioned as crucial components of comprehensive sex education in the U.N. report.

Hackley may have trouble adding these topics for the curriculum not

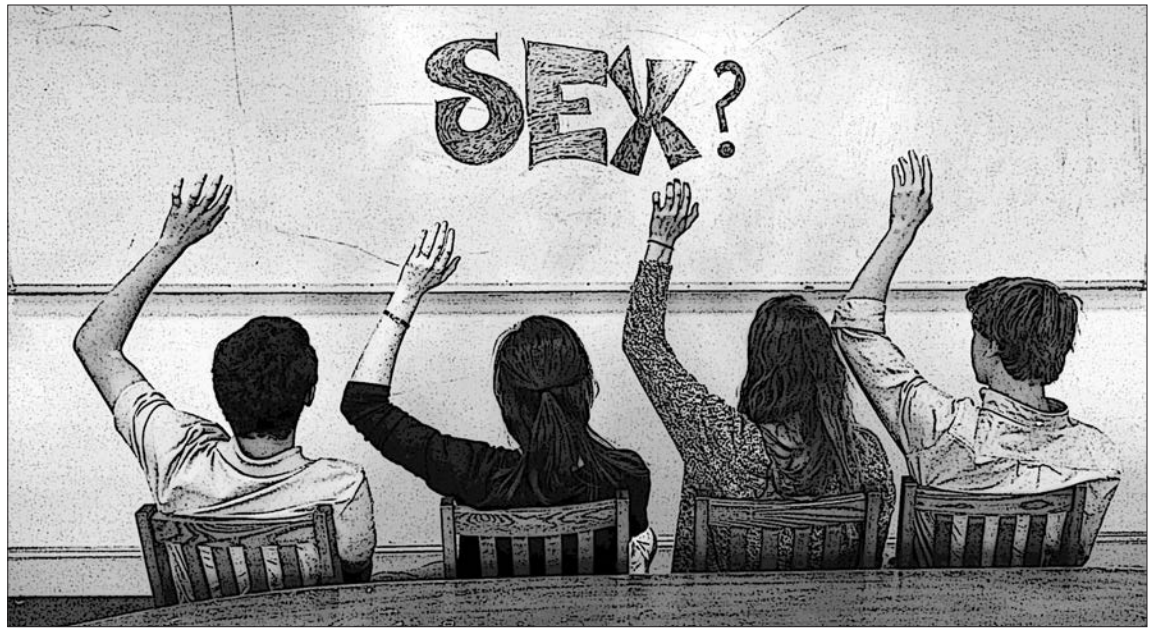


Photo by Georgia Panitz. Illustration by staff.

because of their controversy but for the simple reason that they aren't enough hours in the day. According to Ms. Hatcher, most public high school students in New York will receive around 90 classes of health education, while Hackley students receive around 45. Adding crucial, necessary topics in sexual education might not be easy given this time constraint - but because these topics are so crucial, Hackley needs to find a way. Given that the curriculum doesn't need a total revamp, add-

ing skills-based instruction in safe sex and relationship health should take no more than five or six classes. Surely Hackley can either add a week's worth of classes to the current health program.

Fortunately absence of integral information on sexual health seems to be more of an oversight than any deliberate policy choice. "There is certainly no 'policy' of abstinence only education or anything like it that I am aware of," said Upper School Director Andy King. In fact,

the school administration seems very amenable to this necessary curriculum change — Mr. King and Mr. Colten both said that, just like any course at Hackley, the course is constantly being reviewed and is open to change. This policy of a dynamic curriculum is smart; now the school must follow through on it and swiftly make the evidence backed changes to its health education program, namely, teaching kids how to practice safe sex, and ensuring they can access support services.

## Q & A With Mr. Wirtz



Photo by Christian Riegler

Hackley students take time to meet Mr. Wirtz, center left, and welcome him to the Hackley community on Oct. 8.

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**Q. Throughout your tenure at St. Marks School, you served a Chemistry teacher, Assistant Head of School, Dean of Faculty, and Acting Head. What now draws you specifically to the role of Headmaster and how did these jobs prepare you for embarking on your new job?**

**A.** I do all of those still except for Acting Head of School. Those are all part of my job responsibilities, and I think when I thought about the possibility of looking for a headship, I thought about what I really enjoy about schools which is being in and around students and faculty and staff. I think that I have a skillset that allows me to work with many different constituencies within the school, and that is part of what has prepared me for this work.

I am still teaching and thinking deeply about the experience of my kids in the classroom, so advanced Chemistry class, our new Saturday program, and I am running Mythbusters class, which is a two-and-a-half hour very student centered, student driven experience. So I still really am anchored in the classroom and understand that aspect, but I have a bunch of other responsibilities outside of the classroom that are also really energizing to me. I think that it is the entirety of what it means to be head of school leader that is really exciting to me.

**Q. In transitioning to Headmaster, we'd imagine you're working closely with our current headmaster, Walter Johnson. What has your relationship with him and other faculty been like since receiving the position?**

**A.** So the school has set up a transition committee for me; Mr. Bileca and Mr. King and Linda Holden-Bryant who is on the board- they are sort of in charge of this transition committee and then there's another number of faculty and staff and alumni that are part of helping me. I think Mr. Johnson and I, when we met, it was pretty clear that Mr. Johnson is Head of School and I want to respect that and I do respect that and I also have a full time job right now so as it is appropriate we will be in contact, and I think as the year goes on that communication will be more, but right now it is time for me to meet people and have people get to meet me. It is much less about running the school and things like that. It will come in time, and the nice thing is that Hackley went about this search and it unfolded in a number of months, so that there's really time to be thoughtful about this transition, and I don't feel like there's any rush and I don't think Mr. Johnson thinks there's any rush so our contact has been our emails back and forth a couple times, and we met during the search process, and I think as time goes on there will be things where we will be in more conversation about it. But it isn't the moment right now.

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Letters and submissions can be emailed to: dial@hackleyschool.org. The Dial is the official student newspaper of Hackley School.

# The New All-Male A Capella Group is Aca-Awesome!

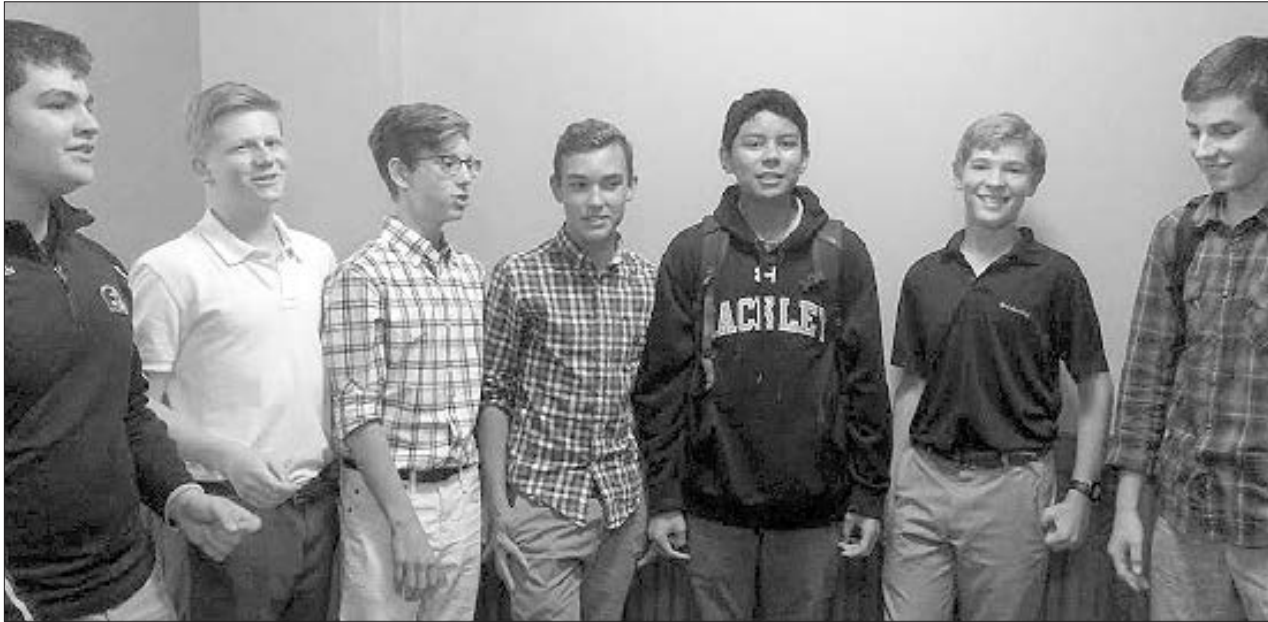


Photo by Bailey Griffen

Phillip Bonanno, Ben Moskow, Robert Patterson, Jack Kneisley, Jerome Francis, Connor Larson and Dillon Schaevitz practice for their first performance.

By BAILEY GRIFFEN

For the first time in recent Hackley history, an all-male cappella group is joining Hackley's flourishing performing arts program. While Girls' Chorus and Songbirds are well-known around school, there have not been many opportunities for boys to sing, until now with aspirations for the group's first year to be a successful one which forms a lasting Hackley tradition.

A cappella is becoming an entertaining and important way for singers to explore music in a fun and exciting way through teamwork and collaboration with others, and also has been featured in popular culture, including in movies like *Pitch Perfect*.

The group, which is led by music teacher Megan Fogarty, was inspired by a well-received visit from the Bucknell Bison Chips, all-male a cappella group last fall, and an interest from last year's rising freshman class. The group has been made into a reality this year as it was offered for the first time as a minor class, and currently has seven participating members: freshman Philip Bonanno, Jerome

Francis, Jack Kneisley, Robert Patterson, and Dillon Schaevitz, and sophomores Connor Larson and Ben Moskow.

During practices, which happen three times per seven-day cycle, the group practices singing, harmonizing, and collaborating, and works on voice exercises. In the short time that this program has been running, its members have become a close-knit group. They must work well together to perform at their best.

Members agree that being a member of the a cappella group is very much like being a part of a sports team — everyone has to collaborate and coordinate. "Being in the group has helped [us] with teamwork and listening to others and harmonizing, and working together to create a finished product," said sophomore Connor Larson.

Even though the a cappella group only started recently, the group's members view it as a great activity, and a fun environment with very friendly people.

"The dynamic of the group is really great it's a lot of fun. We all laugh and work together. We're all friends," said Connor. While the group's seven members are already close-knit,

## Upcoming Arts Events

OCTOBER

28

**Chorus Collage Concert**  
PAC

NOVEMBER

12-14

**US Fall Play**  
**"The Winter's Tale"**  
PAC

DECEMBER

20

**US Fall Coffeehouse**  
PAC

DECEMBER

8

**US Jazz Combo Concert**  
PAC

DECEMBER

9

**US Chamber Concert**  
Allen Hall

DECEMBER

15

**US Band and Choruses**  
**Winter Concert**  
PAC

they still would "definitely encourage other boys to join," said Connor. Anyone interested in joining the group should meet with Ms. Fogarty or sign up for a capella as a class next year.

While the male a cappella group is still coming together, the members hope that the group will become an important part of the Hackley performing arts community and hope perform later in the year.

# Hackley Drama Program Brings Actors' Passions to the Stage

By HUNTER FREEDMAN

The Hackley Upper School Theater Program, run by Willie Teacher, is a place where Hackley students go to be themselves and pursue their passion for the performing arts.

Consisting of several students ranging from grades 9 to 12, the Hackley Theater Program is so much more than performances, costumes, and memorizing lines.

When asked about Mr. Teacher and his attitude towards the program, two students gave rave reviews. Sophomore Javon Coleman said, "He picks a lot of stylized pieces so I definitely think he gives you plays that give all the actors the opportunity to express their own talent." Alexis Arnold, a senior who has been acting since she was young said, "Mr. Teacher is absolutely one of the best teachers in the history of ever. No question about it. (As the name implies, he was born to teach). His teaching style is very hands-on and eclectic but there is always a method to his madness."

Along with an incredible teacher and

mentor, the theater program has proved to be an outlet for the students to express their creativity and improve on many life skills.

"Theater has helped me to be more confident in myself. I can speak without fear whether on stage or off. I have made lots of great friends and many more memories," says Alexis, "I have had to look within myself with every new role. Each time I am a little more open-hearted and a little more compassionate".

Javon, now in his second year of Hackley theater, wishes that there was more talk and acknowledgment of the program and everyone's hard work that's put into it, "It's definitely not easy and I feel like people should have more respect for actors because it's not as easy as people think," he said.

Actors and actresses have gone about promotion in many ways in the past, and Mr. Teacher sees endless possibilities for this fall's production of "The Winter's Tale." "In the past actors have made movie trailers and set up Facebook pages promoting productions, so who knows what will happen when we



Photo by Lei Anne Rabeje

The cast of "The Winter's Tale" prepares for their upcoming performances in November.

present "The Winter's Tale", a production that includes a singing pickpocket, an Oracle from Apollo's Priest and a very hungry bear."

The Hackley Upper School Theater Program is an essential element of the Hackley community. It brings passion, creativity,

and confidence to the students who participate, through Mr. Teacher's hands-on lessons and the support of other students.

Make sure to check out "The Winter's Tale" on November 12th at 4:30 PM, and November 13th and 14th at 7:00 PM.

# Josh Greenzeig: Drumming His Way to the Grammys



Photo courtesy of Josh Greenzeig

Josh works with Wade Tonken, Music Institute and Multimedia Coordinator, to further improve his drumming abilities.

By LILIANNA KHOSROVSHAHI

The Hackley community knows Josh Greenzeig from his spectacular Coffeehouse performances, but there is so much more to his passion for music and rhythm under the surface. At just nine years old, Josh started

playing the drums. He had brief careers with the guitar, tuba, and piano, but fell in love with the drums. When he joined Hackley, he realized that drumming was his true passion.

Josh performed at Coffeehouse as a new student his freshman year. "I felt kind of

nervous. I didn't know very many people and I wasn't confident," he said, of this performance. However, to his delight, he received nothing but positive feedback from his classmates and teachers.

Ever since, he has been an active participant at Coffeehouse and a determined drummer. His persistence, hard work, and determination have gotten him so far in his Hackley music career.

Josh enjoys making everything his own. "There is something good in everything," said Josh. He especially likes jazz and funk music because "it's fun to play."

Kamasi Washington is one of Josh's favorite musicians. He aspires to be like him one day. "His music speaks to me in a very special way. He isn't afraid to push boundaries and he is willing to try new ideas and concepts," said Josh.

Josh enjoys making his own music, but he also enjoys sharing his skills with others through teaching. Josh teaches fourth grader Daniel Paridis, among other students. Senior Jessie Paridis, Daniel's sister, praised Josh's teaching skills. "Ever since he started with my brother, about a year ago, Daniel

has gotten so much better and has a bigger passion for drumming. Josh has exposed him to a lot of different types of music," said Jessie.

Josh thinks that drumming is a great way for him to express himself when words just aren't there. "No matter how I'm feeling or what I'm doing I can express myself through drums and through rhythm."

Josh's friends and family are extremely influential in his life, and Hackley is a great community for musicians. "It's really nice to have something that you enjoy and it's even better to have people to enjoy it with. At a place like Hackley, I found so many people who not only enjoy what I do, but push me to continue to do it," said Josh.

Josh has been working on his own recordings at Hackley with Hackley teachers, and recently uploaded his first single to Youtube and Facebook. His single is called "Tell me Something Good." He received very positive feedback from his family, peers, and teachers, all of whom are looking forward to hearing more of his music as he continues to improve.

# What's in Style on Campus This Fall?

By OLIVIA WEINBERG

## Fashion Sneakers



Photo by Catherine Meyer  
Sophomore Alex Hayward wears Adidas Superstar Sneakers.



Photo by Hannah Urken  
Senior Elana Stern wears Superga sneakers with zippers.



Photo by Hannah Urken  
Sophomore Josie Pou wears Nike fashion sneakers.



Photo by Catherine Meyer  
Senior Julia Stevenson wears Addidas.



Photo by Catherine Meyer  
Sophomore Jocelyn Blockinger wears Addidas sneakers



Photo by Catherine Meyer  
Senior Caterina Moran wears Rag and Bone sneakers.

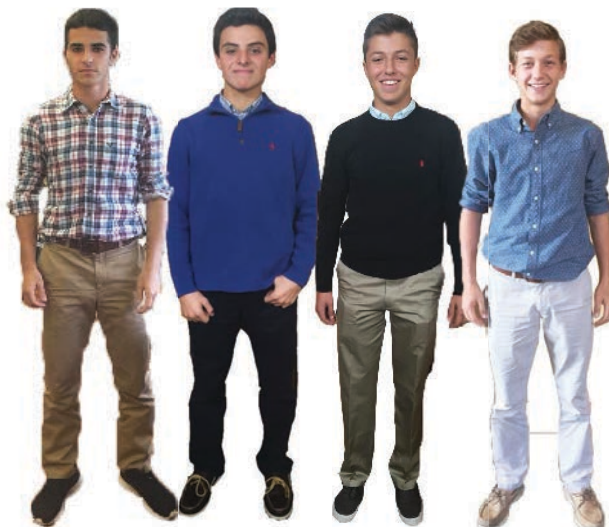
"I think the Adidas logo has been a comeback trend this season, as well as white and statement sneakers. My new favorite store has been Aritzia and I've always been a fan of Urban Outfitters. One fashion/ lifestyle blogger I've been newly following is Jamie Grimstad, based in New York City."

-Sophomore Alex Hayward

## Button-Downs and Sweaters

"I like the way it looks when boys wear button downs underneath their sweaters, it's a good way to look stylish but you can also stay warm. I get a lot of my clothes from Tommy Hilfiger."

-Junior Jack Weyndling



Photos by Hannah Urken and Catherine Meyer



Photo by Hannah Urken  
Senior Ally Petitti wears her favorite striped shirt this fall.

## Stripes

### Make a Comeback

"I always love striped shirts especially in the fall. They're good for school and in dress code. I usually wear stripes with something simple and comfortable."

-Senior Julia Stevenson



Photo by Olivia Weinberg  
Freshman Isla Parton wears a striped v-neck t-shirt, for a comfy and trendy fall look.

## Halloween is Almost Here, Are YOU Ready?

By HANNAH URKEN AND CATHERINE MEYER

Halloween is sneaking up on everyone quickly, but don't let that scare you! The best part of Halloween is dressing up, and *The Dial* has some suggestions for costumes that will keep you in dress code and still show spirit.

If you're struggling to find some ideas of what to wear for Halloween at school, there are plenty of easy homemade costumes that you can create. At Hackley, most students dress up to celebrate Halloween, so some students can experience lots of pressure to make an interesting costume, and react in different ways.

Most students look up images on Google or Party City for costume inspiration. Unfortunately, this can result in many students wearing the same costume. Sometimes, the best idea is to make your own costume — this ensures that it is original, and can sometimes be more convenient and cost effective than buying a costume at a store.

Other students choose not to come to school in costume. "I couldn't really think of anything good; I either wanted to have



Photo by Hannah Urken

Last year's seniors showed lots of creativity in their costumes.

a great costume or just not dress up at all," junior Salik Awan said, of his decision not to dress up for Halloween last year.

Both boys and girls can wear a sports jerseys, hats, and draw lines under their eyes to look like professional sports players. This makes a great last-minute costume since most students already own everything they will need. "Last year I couldn't come up with anything to

wear and so I ended up being a baseball player and it turned out great!" said junior Amanda Stern.

If you're going for a more humorous costume, try wearing a toupee, suit, using a deep voice, and squinting at your classmates. That will make for a perfect Donald Trump costume, especially if you accessorize with a "make America great again" hat.

If it's the day of Halloween and you still have nothing to wear, stick to a classic — just throw a sheet over your head, cut out two eye holes, and call it a day.

Regardless of what you choose to wear, Halloween at Hackley is always a great community event. "I like how at Hackley, everyone dresses up. At my old school, only the seniors could dress up," said sophomore Ellie Gruskein. Other students agreed, "My favorite part of Halloween at Hackley is seeing the Lower Schoolers dressed up and walking in the parade," said Senior Elana Stern.

One thing is for sure, Hackley Halloween is always memorable no matter what you're wearing, but it doesn't hurt to brainstorm a little before or have some ideas in mind!

## Hackley Takes Over Snapchat

Scan the snapcodes to follow the accounts on Snapchat!



HACKLEY DIAL  
USERNAME: hsdial



THE HACKLEY HIVE  
USERNAME: Hackhive



VARSITY FIELD HOCKEY  
USERNAME: hvfh2015



VARSITY FOOTBALL  
USERNAME: hvf\_softknocks



VARSITY GIRLS' SOCCER  
USERNAME: hgvs2015

# From the DR to the Hilltop, B&G Member Daniel Sosa Shares his Story



Photo by Max Chen

Buildings and Grounds member Daniel Sosa takes a break from cleaning Hackley on a Tuesday night for work.

By MAX CHEN

The members of the Hackley's Buildings and Grounds crew are the unsung heroes of the Hackley Community. Without them, our school wouldn't be able to run efficaciously. They are here at school every day making sure our lives run smoothly, yet we don't know much about them. One of the B&G members is Daniel Sosa.

For the past four years, Daniel has been working at Hackley, cleaning the hallways, classrooms, and offices. He loves his job and Hackley's friendly and inclusive community. He sees it as an opportunity to meet new people and have interesting conversations. Outside of Hackley, he also works as a bus driver. Daniel said, "I am proud to have two jobs. I am proud to be part of the Hackley family. I am proud to be who I am right now."

Daniel first came to the United States when he was 11 years old. He was living with his father who already had a job in New York. His mother stayed in the Dominican Republic taking care of the rest of the family while maintaining her profession as a doctor. Daniel's transition to life in the United States was his greatest challenge. He wanted to make his family proud by becoming successful. "Coming to the U.S. has made me stronger. I used to live with my mom, but when I came to the US, I lived with my dad. Not having my mother... [and] fighting for the things that would make my mother proud... made me stronger." Like other parents who want the best for their children, Daniel's parents believed that sending him to the United States was his best chance to succeed.

Like many kids from the Dominican Republic, Daniel dreamed of becoming a professional baseball player. He dedicated his time

to playing baseball for his school and with outside teams. "I used to play in Middle School. I was good... [I had] ten home runs in 25 hits... I was good at stealing bases," said Daniel. However, after listening to rap songs, his perspective changed drastically.

Daniel now sees his future in rap. It is his American Dream. "I like Drake and Rick Ross. They are my inspiration because they came from the bottom. They worked hard, doing their best. Now, they made their name[s]," said Daniel.

During his spare time, Daniel works in a studio writing Spanish rap. He uses it as a medium to express himself. "Spanish rap is one of the careers that I want to complete... I never went to college because of music. Everything for me was music. I want to complete my music," he said.

In his lyrics, Daniel incorporates a positive attitude. "I rap about what is happening on the streets, about women, about what I feel. I do a lot of different stuff... I write positive rap music." He incorporates various styles into his lyrics; however, he prefers to write Spanish Rap. To Daniel, rap is a way for him to tell his story. He admires artists who focus on honesty. "I got into rap because of a guy named Cosculluela. He is a Puerto Rican rapper. I am inspired by his honesty, his music, his flow," said Daniel.

Daniel hopes that his name and music can be promoted by mainstream rappers. He keeps an optimistic attitude. "Keep fighting for your dream. Never stop. People will tell you that you can't do it. Don't listen to them. Keep going because one day it is going to come true," said Daniel. He is planning to collaborate with Hackley students in the near future to achieve his dream: "I want to do a song with Hackley students in English and Spanish... I think it can be a great song."

# Ms. Coy Keeps Upper School Running Smoothly



Photo by Robert Hallock

Ms. Coy multitasks, answering the phone while providing seniors Elijah Ngbokoli and TJ Gooley important documents.

By PAT WALKER

Late to school? Have a DD? Need a good laugh? All Hackley students know who to find: Upper School Administrative Assistant, Claudia Coy. Every day students throughout the Upper School have the opportunity to pass by Ms. Coy, without understanding the amount of impact her crucial work has on the upper school. While the Hackley community appreciates Ms. Coy's numerous contributions to the Hilltop, there is more to her than meets the eye.

Ms. Coy's day is full of incoming messages, emails, and concerns from the students, parents, faculty, and staff of Hackley School. From about 8 to 10 a.m., she manages student attendance records. Tardy students across the upper school go into her office as they sign in late.

From then on she sorts through email after email while helping of Upper School Director, Andy King. "One of her core jobs with regards to me is her keeping me on track, helping me to manage my schedule, and helping me with several little tasks...She actually runs the upper school and there is an element of truth to that," said Mr. King.

Although her job is at times stressful and somewhat tedious, Ms. Coy looks forward to each day for her opportunities to help students. "Seeing the kids come in

## Roving Reporter: New Faculty

### Why do you love teaching Hackley students?



Students are genuinely excited to discuss readings and eager to share their thoughts (either that, or terrific con-artists) - they clearly love learning.

*James Flanigan*  
English



They are very, very polite and friendly. Even if they don't know me, or have me in class, they go out of their way to be friendly.

*Claudia DeSantis*  
Latin



The students have been genuinely curious, and engaged, and they want to participate and talk in class. That's just a great thing to have in the classroom; students who want to learn.

*Christopher Loomis*  
History



The conversations we've had in class are fantastic. I'm learning from them, hopefully they're learning from me, and we're getting deeply involved with the issues that have come up through our literature.

*Sean Francis*  
English

**“Every day there's something that's so gratifying about being here and it's always about the students.”**

~Ms. Coy

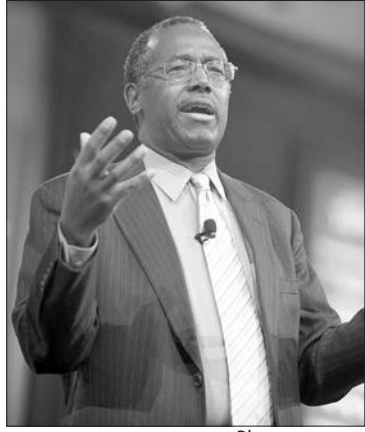
is my favorite part of the day. Whatever the hassle is about or the question or the issue or anything. It's always nice to see the children.... Everyday there's something that's so gratifying about being here and it's always about the students and it involves the students. Any issue involving the children is always exciting in some way because it always gives me the opportunity to help them and that's what I'm here for mainly," said Ms. Coy.

Ms. Coy's high school experience in Colombia could not have been more different than the ones of Hackley students. "It is more relaxed than it is here in the states. Colombia was the best experience of my life by far. However, Hackley's community fit me, who I am, and who I've become," said Ms. Coy.

Ms. Coy was also equally absorbed by the Hackley community. The Class of 2015 awarded her the school yearbook dedication.

Patience and empathy are crucial traits for Ms. Coy. When sophomore Liam Bogart recently needed to reschedule a DD for a prior commitment, he turned to Ms. Coy, "I talked to her and she went out of her way to talk to my proctor to let me to miss the second half of DD and successfully make it to swim practice on time. Something like that really made my day," said Liam.

# Presidential Election Race Heats Up During Summer



Photos courtesy of Wikimedia Commons user Gage Skidmore.

From left to right: Donald Trump, Ben Carson, and Jeb Bush address the voters during the second Republican Debate

BY LEI ANNE RABEJE

The world watched with fascination as Donald Trump formally announced his presidential candidacy on June 16, turning the Republican Party upside-down and kicking off an action-packed summer. On the left, the Democratic Party saw a shift in support from Hillary Clinton to Bernie Sanders as a result of Clinton's email controversy.

Controversy regarding Clinton's private email server during her tenure as United States Secretary of State arose in March 2015. Defending her use of this private email server, Clinton claims that no classified information was sent or received.

The controversy has damaged her image and support. "Hillary can be a great candidate, but she has so many secrets. How can people trust someone who deletes hundreds of emails?" said senior Nina Bethel. Nevertheless, Clinton remains at the top of CNN Politics' Democratic polls from Sept. 21 with 42% support of primary voters with Bernie Sanders trailing behind at 24% and Joe Biden at 22%.

Democratic Party candidate Bernie Sanders poses a threat to Clinton. His proposals to lower economic inequality and to decrease the costs of colleges gained him popularity amongst younger voters.

"He's authentic. He's stuck to his message for a long time. That's something you can't create in Hillary Clinton," said sophomore Eli Hankin. Eli is confident Sanders will win enough primaries to win the nomination. Some students disagree. "I think Hillary's going to win. All anyone has to say to get Bernie Sanders off the race is that he's a socialist and the voters will have a fit," said sophomore Alex Wenstrup.

On the opposite side of the political spectrum, all eyes are on Trump and his controversial comments. Trump's remark about Mexican immigration remains one of his more infamous comments. "When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending the best. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists," said Trump, during his presidential announcement speech.

Sophomore Max Tannenbaum said Trump's campaign is a foolish idea. "Some people think of the GOP more negatively because of his opinions, even though most don't agree with him," said Max.

Many agree. "He is a very good businessman, but I don't

think he's very well-equipped to lead the country. His strategy to degrade other candidates as opposed to showing what he can do as president is hurting him," said freshman William Goldsmith. Nevertheless, CNN polls from Sept. 21 show Trump as the GOP front-runner candidate, with 24% support, and Carly Fiorina ranked second with 15% of the vote.

So far, the 2016 presidential race has been defined and dominated by 'outsiders.' Three of the top four Republican candidates, Trump, former neurosurgeon Ben Carson, and former Hewlett Packard CEO Carly Fiorina, have never held political office. The fourth, junior Florida Senator Marco Rubio, who is tied for third with Fiorina, according to an MSNBC poll released on Oct. 6, has limited experience and is relatively young, compared to prior Republican candidates.

Additionally, although he has significant political experience, some view Sanders as somewhat of an 'outsider' due to his far-left policies and rejection of Super PACs, a staple of modern Presidential campaigns.

Some see this 'outsider' trend as a positive influence on politics. "I think that political experience is good, but I don't think that should make or break someone's campaign," said senior Alexander Delia. "If they have good ideas and represent the people, I think they would be a good candidate."

As a result of this 'outsider' trend, many mainstream Republican politicians are changing their positions on issues like immigration in an attempt to appeal to voters. Jeb Bush had a rough start with his moderate view on immigration. Following Trump's success, Frank Sharry, Executive Director of America's Voice, saw a shift in Bush's immigration stance. "He's sliding further to the right and emphasizing security and enforcement," said Sharry.

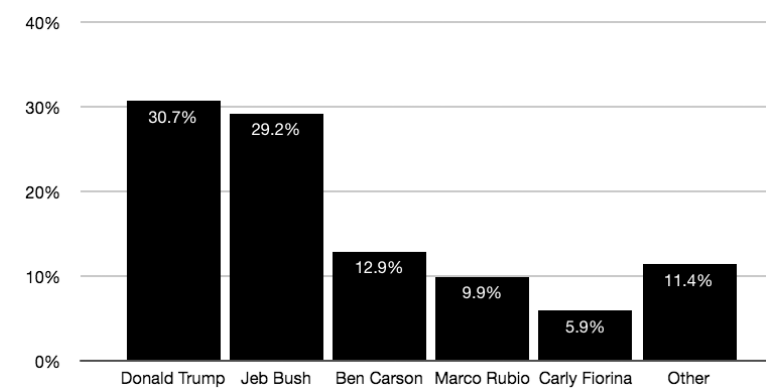
This summer, one candidate took the idea of 'outsider' politicians to the extreme. Under the alias Deez Nuts, a reference to a popular meme, 15-year-old Brady Olson launched a presidential campaign in Iowa as an Independent. In Iowa, Deez Nuts polled higher than several established candidates, and the campaign went viral. Olson says the campaign was intended as a joke, but attributes his success to the trend of 'outsider' politicians in the 2016 race.

## Key Developments

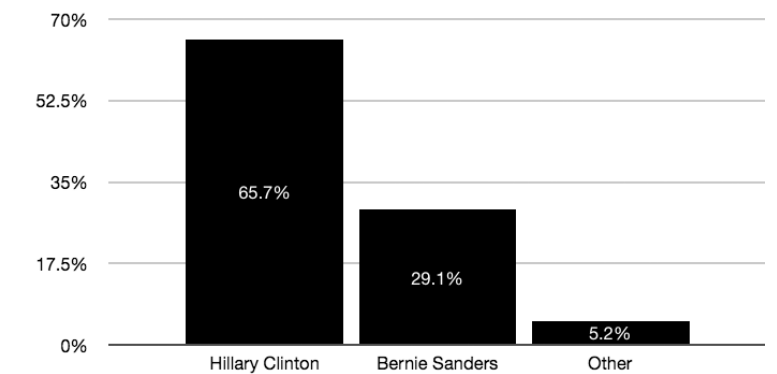
- Both **Scott Walker** and **Rick Perry** dropped out of the race for the Republican nomination
- Two Republican primary debates occurred on **August 6th** and **September 16th**
- **Bernie Sanders** jumped up to 24% in Democratic party polls
- **Donald Trump** continues to dominate despite predictions his popularity would fade after the summer
- 'Outsider' Republican candidates like **Ben Carson** and **Carly Fiorina** surged in Republican party polls

## Upper School Student Poll

Which Candidate do you feel is the most likely to win the Republican Primary?



Which Candidate do you feel is the most likely to win the Democratic Primary?



Poll methodology: Polls were distributed electronically through Upper School student emails. This poll had 226 respondents, representing approximately 44% of the student body. This poll has a margin of error of ±4.4%.

## Government and Politics Class Tracks the 2016 Election



BY CHRISTIAN RIEGLER

It's 9:54 a.m. and every student in the room awaits for History Teacher Stephen Fitzpatrick's arrival. Feet are tapping and Macbooks are heating up in anticipation for the election tracking to begin.

Recently, Mr. Fitz and his Government and Politics class have been tracking the upcoming 2016 election. According to Mr. Fitz, the main goal of this research is to show how ambiguous the election is at this point in time. Mr. Fitz decided to track the polls because, over the summer, he saw how unpredictable the polls are. "We have a chance on a nightly basis to take a poll ourselves and chart who we think will win the nominations," said senior Josh Greenzeig, a Gov student.

Mr. Fitz's class last year focused heavily on the leading candidates such as Hillary Clinton and Mitt Romney. However, now, Romney is no longer running, and Republicans such as Donald Trump and Jeb Bush are rising in popularity. Mr. Fitz really wants the Gov students to focus on these types of fluctuations.

Each day during class, students engage in impassioned discussions about party nominations and why certain candidates may or may not be favored at that specific time. "We thoroughly discuss this in class and debates are almost mandatory homework," said junior Will Cotter. The course is designed to keep students up to date on current events by reading, discussing, and writing about secondary texts.

Overall, the class discussions are fueled by the students' passion for politics. "All the students are in the class by choice, meaning everyone is highly curious when it comes to politics," said Josh. The

Gov students do not think that their conversations in class are a chore; in fact, they use conversation as a way to satisfy their collective interest and curiosity. A common topic discussed in class is the connection between political theory and current events.

To delve further into each candidate, Mr. Fitz assigned the class a project in which each student is in charge of presenting a candidate's beliefs. The assignments were given out based upon how similar a student's views are to the views of a Democratic or Republican candidate. In order to do this, Mr. Fitz had the Gov class take a personality quiz that would delineate what each student's views are. "Each student received one of the candidates from either party, with the goal of enumerating his or her positions on most major issues," said Josh.

Each presenter was in charge of researching a specific issue in which his or her candidate played an important role. The students were expected to use actual quotes of what their candidates said to get a full picture of the candidates' ideas.

To enhance their study of American politics, the class will be taking a trip to the heart of American governance, Washington, D.C., on Oct. 21, "supposing Ted Cruz hasn't shut down the government by then," said senior Mackenzie Price.

The gov students will have the opportunity to visit the USDA and debate the merits of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) with officials. The class has already begun to explore this topic with assigned nightly readings from perspectives on both sides of the GMO issue. "I look forward to engaging and stimulating discussions, not just during the visit to D.C., but throughout the entire school year," said Mackenzie.

Photo by Robert Hallock

Mr. Fitz analyzes the presidential election in his Government and Politics class.

# Hackley Removes Peanut Butter from Dining Hall

## Nut allergy concerns drive disappearance of lunch staple

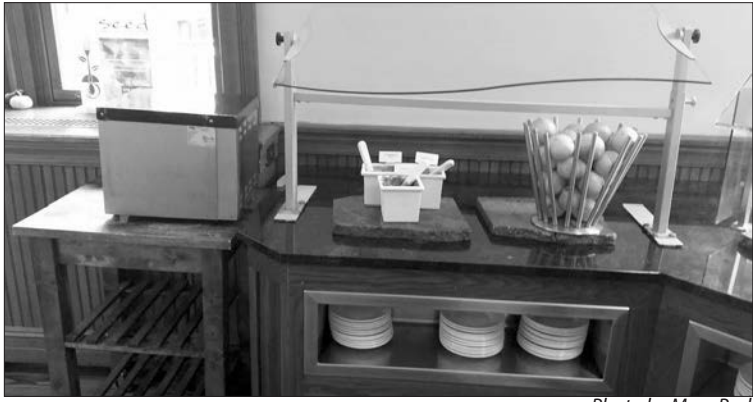


Photo by Marc Rod

The once-popular PB&J station in the Dining Hall, which now holds sunbutter instead of peanut butter.

### 3.5%

of students polled  
are allergic to  
peanut butter

Poll methodology: Polls were distributed electronically through Upper School student emails. This poll had 226 respondents, representing approximately 44% of the student body. This poll has a margin of error of  $\pm 4.4\%$ .

### Peanut Allergy Facts

- Peanut allergies are one of the most common food allergies, and are particularly prevalent among children.
- Allergic reactions can be triggered by skin contact with trace amounts of peanut residue in some allergy sufferers. When peanuts are ingested, symptoms are even more severe.
- In severe cases, reaction symptoms can include obstruction of the breathing passageways, low blood pressure, unconsciousness, and, without prompt medical treatment, death.

Source: Food Allergy Research and Education, Inc.

By GEORGIA PANITZ

This school year many Hackley students and teachers have noticed (and bemoaned) the absence of peanut butter from the Dining Hall. Beginning this year the dining hall is no longer serving peanut butter, a preventative measure to ensure no peanut-related allergic reactions occur. According to the American Academy of Allergy Asthma and Immunology, 38.7% of food allergic children have had a history of severe reactions.

Peanut butter has always been a favorite among Hackley students. It was used for PB&J sandwiches as well as with granola, ice cream, and fruit. Sunbutter, a sunflower seed-based spread, is still offered as an alternative.

Administrators and Flik made a mutual decision to remove the peanut butter to ensure student safety. "On behalf of the Flik staff, we all support the decision to remove peanut butter from the lunch room because we want to create the safest environment possible for the Hackley community," said Natalie Aguilar-Gonzalez, head of Flik services at Hackley.

"The possibility of cross-contamination means that even if we are quite confident the peanut butter will stay in its own special container, we cannot guarantee it. That uncertainty led us to lean towards a more reliable safeguard, that being

the peanut-free option," said Assistant Headmaster Philip Variano.

Many students who enjoyed the peanut butter are upset that it is no longer an option. "People with nut allergies know how to control their allergies and I think the whole community should not have to accommodate to something they should be able to handle on their own," remarked sophomore Demetra Yancopolous, "it severely limits food options and isn't fair to the majority of students."

PB&J sandwiches were grilled in the panini maker, a danger to those with nut allergies. This continued to happen, even after disciplinary action was taken by administrators. These actions, as well as existing concerns about cross-contamination, threatened the safety of people with nut allergies and resulted in the removal of the peanut butter.

Community Council has discussed the topic at their weekly meetings. Council talked about possible ways to ensure PB&J sandwiches are not placed in the panini makers. Many council members pointed out it is difficult to monitor. Some said that if people broke the rules before, knowing how dangerous it was to others, what would stop them from continuing?

There was a lively debate in which some members argued that peanut butter should be brought back with stricter regulations. Others, such as senior Sabina Thomas, who has

a nut allergy, raised some good points as to why it should not return to the dining hall.

"I love panini-ing sandwiches, and sometimes I would have to throw out my sandwich because the oils in the panini from a peanut butter sandwich seeped into my sandwich," Sabina said. "To think that my health and the health of some of my classmates is at risk because our fellow classmates consciously decided not to follow rules is really upsetting. I'm glad peanut butter's gone because our community as a whole needs to be accountable for consciously not following rules."

Others at Hackley feel that their allergy should not stop others from enjoying the peanut butter. "It's kind of sad because a lot of people really really like peanut butter, I am just allergic to it," said sophomore Kioni Marshall. "For people with peanut butter allergies like myself, if I were to make a panini, I should watch out for that and make one at my own risk because I know that other people are there making paninis."

Removing peanut butter from the dining hall provides a safer dining experience for those members of the Hackley community who have nut allergies, yet it also means there are fewer possible lunch options for others. Peanut butter is a versatile option and an important lunch staple, yet if not monitored or used according to the rules, it can be dangerous and even deadly.

## Hackley Institutes New CPR Course



Photo by Nick Rizzi

Junior Jackson Corrigan simulates CPR resuscitation techniques on junior Sam Rinzler.

By GRACE HEINRICH

Only 30% of Americans have the skills to possibly save the person's life in a cardiac emergency. Hackley is trying to help raise this percentage by starting a new program to teach its students CPR. The CPR teaching program was kicked off this fall at the freshman orientation by the freshman class, with the peer advisors watching and supervising. However, this program was met with a mixed reaction from the students who participated.

Through the program, led by a volunteer from the Tarrytown Fire Department who asked the students to call him "Mr. Fireman," freshmen learned how to perform CPR on dummies. Students learned hands-only CPR, which involves chest compressions only, without mouth-to-mouth rescue breathing; this does not qualify students for Red Cross certification.

Chris Arnold, Director of Student Life and one of the leaders of the program, said it "seemed like a neat thing to do. It was a

fun social activity with great value." Mr. Arnold plans on extending the CPR class to the entire school.

The program is an excellent idea on paper, but the opinions of the freshmen and the junior peer advisors varied. Many thought that the CPR class was a waste of time because people in their group did not take it seriously.

"Everybody [in my group] thought it was a joke," said freshman Karina Bridger. Others thought that learning the hands-only method was not as useful, and would rather have learned full CPR. The most common complaint however, was that the program did not provide them with an official Red Cross CPR certification.

Other freshmen disagreed. They believe that learning limited CPR skills was a helpful and interesting activity. Many of the peer advisors, like juniors Camille Butterfield and Morgan Zepf, said that the class was "really helpful" and taught them valuable skills that could save someone's life.

## Productivity Apps Help Students Stay Organized

By OLIVIA WEINBERG

There's an app for that. This is the common reply from students and teachers when they are asked how to organize, entertain, and keep track of themselves. Time management and organization apps are becoming increasingly popular, especially amongst high school students.

Microsoft OneNote helps keep the user organized across all their devices and has note taking and to do list features. Sophomore Connor Larson said, "It's awesome and great for note taking! I can sync my notes across all my technology and it allows me to take notes and annotate PDFs." This app also has the ability to draw and highlight on the notes the users take on the app as well as ones they import. Users can have more than one note open at a time, a convenient feature which Notability, the app commonly used for note taking at Hackley, does not have.

Students can use to take a trip down memory lane is Time Hop, which shows users a comparison of their pictures from one, two, and three years ago. This is a fun way to reminisce on past experiences and see how

things have changed. Sophomore Alex Hayward said, "I heard about Time Hop for the first time this year. It's really cool and so funny

to see where things were a year ago." Users can import their camera roll into the app, which then sorts through the pictures and selects the ones from the exact date, but a year ago.

TaskDog, created by Senior, Joe Lovinger, helps students decide how much time to allocate to various tasks. Joe decided to dedicate his summer to creating an app to help students with time management skills. "I needed something for a college resume and I had been interested in making an app for a

while. It was the best possible time to do it so I just went for it," he said. Hackley's AP Computer Science course, which Joe took last year, sparked his interest in the field of technology.

"What sets this apart from any normal to do list is that users assign every task a priority and it [Task Dog] uses that to then assign a time to spend on each task, so users have a guideline on how to spend their time," said Joe. "I made it with my younger brother in mind. He's in sixth grade and he's getting used to having actual homework for the first time. I think he's gotten a lot of use out of it."



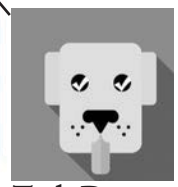
Photo courtesy of WC user Zach Vega



Time Hop



Microsoft OneNote



Task Dog

# Siblings Show Their Strengths on the Fields

## Two Defenders. Two Goalies. One Dream.

BY BRIDGET BARSANTI

The bond between both siblings and teammates is unique and inarguably strong. Two sets of siblings on the Hilltop prove that when combined, these bonds are unstoppable on the fields (or in the rink).

Sisters Senior Sabina Thomas and Freshman Isabelle Thomas are both starting defenders on Varsity Girls' Soccer. Both have proved to be essential to the team goal of another NYSAIS championship. This power duo has been a testament to the team's motto this year, "Unstoppable together."

Sabina and Isabelle share a bond that is clear on the field. Sabina, who has been on the team since freshman year, can easily relate to Isabelle's situation and put herself in Isabelle's shoes. Aside from this, it is easier for them to provide constructive criticism for each other because they know they are trying to help one another.

"[Having a sister on the team] is very fun, and also it is very helpful because if I am doing something wrong or if I am playing badly, then she can tell me," said Isabelle.

"Sometimes I'll tell her do something once and she'll continue to do it, and I do not have to tell her each and every time, while I might have to keep reminding someone else," said Sabina.

The other set of siblings, senior Morgan Connor and sophomore Doug Connor, have both recently committed to Division One schools. This past January, Morgan committed to The College of William and Mary for field hockey, and Doug committed to Princeton University for Ice Hockey in September. They both play goalie for their respective sports.

During the interview, Morgan teased Doug on their friendly competition.

"We did a friendly family competition to see who committed first," she said.

"And I lost," Doug added.

Despite losing this competition, Doug is excited about his prospects in college. "We both found the schools we like and we both feel comfortable with where we are going," said Doug.



Photo courtesy of Morgan Connor  
Morgan and Doug Connor pose for a photo in their college gear.



Photo by Bridget Barsanti  
Sabina and Belle Thomas stretch after a 3-1 win against Poly Prep.

Although they do not play together, they constantly motivate each other in order to improve. "We rip on each other when we go to the gym. We do it a lot. I try to talk him down a lot because it motivates him to try harder," said Morgan.

Morgan and Doug both decided to continue playing after high school because of their passion for their respective sports.

"I know I love sports so much, and I loved field hockey so much that I knew I didn't want to stop after high school, so that kind of started it. After the recruiting process and playing at all the big showcases, that's when I kind of really knew there was just no way I could put the stick down after four years, especially when there was an opportunity after to play more." Morgan said.

However, Doug is looking even further into the future. "There are other routes for me, other than college, so I had more to consider, but I definitely wanted to get an education and my family pushed for that, so it naturally fit in into my plan and my path of what I wanted to do," he said.

These duos, along with many others in years past, have helped transform the atmosphere surrounding Hackley sports. With the help of siblings, teams are able to transform from a collection of athletes into a tight-knit family. When siblings are in separate grades, they help bridge the gap to bring the team closer together, allowing for better teamwork and cohesion.

# IMG Academy Serves Up Good Year for Teddy van Eck



Teddy van Eck perfecting his forehand at IMG Academy last year.

Photo courtesy of Teddy van Eck

BY CLAIRE SUKHMAN

While members of the Hackley community suffered through countless snowstorms and perpetual ten degree weather last winter, one student worked on his game at a prestigious tennis academy in sunny Florida. Last year, junior Teddy van Eck left Hackley to train at the IMG Academy Bolletieri Tennis Program in Bradenton, FL. He was exposed to all kinds of new experiences, including working with top trainers and participating in a program designed by International Tennis Hall of Fame member Nick Bolletieri.

The fact that Teddy had been to IMG Academy for tennis camps before made his decision to train there for a year easier. He was familiar with the regimen and environment, and he enjoyed the tennis program. He is very serious about his training, and moving to Florida for a year allowed him to focus on his growth as a player and a student without compromising his education or his passion for tennis.

His commute to tennis practices in New York was sometimes up to 45 minutes one way. "Down there, there's a difference between the training. Even though there's good training up here, because you have so much time on the court and you have access to courts at all time, you hit a thousand balls a day, whereas up here, because it's indoor, there's not as much court time available, because a lot of people want to hit on the same five courts," Teddy said.

The admissions process wasn't too complicated. "As far as tennis goes, I had gone down there for camps before, so they knew how I played, and my possible potential," he said. "But, really, it's just applying to the school," Teddy added.

Even though the application process to IMG was similar to Hackley's application process, once Teddy arrived at IMG, the similarities to Hackley

ended. He started school on August 20th, and didn't have the option of taking any minor classes. Each class was an hour and a half long, and he only had three classes every day, from 1:15 p.m. to 6:10 p.m.

With a permission slip, students were allowed to leave campus at any time, as long as they were back on their floors by curfew, which was 10:00 p.m. In their free time, students could take an Uber or a taxi with some friends on school outings. On weekends, they would take occasional trips to Universal Studios or Busch Gardens.

IMG Academy makes a big effort to make sure everyone is comfortable, both inside and outside of the classroom. Student athletes learn how to properly balance schoolwork and sports. They know when to focus and work hard, but also how to relax and have fun.

Many of the dorm mentors, similar to RAs found on college campuses, have played college sports, so they know what the students are going through, and can help them through the fast-paced life that is studying at IMG Academy.



Infographic by Chris Chon and Benjy Renton.

"I really enjoyed my overall experience; I liked the people a lot and had fun with them because they were all, like me, striving to do well in their sports. I would do it again, it was a lot of fun, and I would recommend it to anyone who's trying to play D1 sports, or possibly become a professional," said Teddy.