

ADL program addresses bullying

by Will Martin '14

KO students and faculty participated in a program put on by The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) called "Names Can Really Hurt Us" on Friday, Oct. 4.

Replacing a regular school day, this program was an attempt to make KO a more caring community and featured a short skit performed by student moderators, an open microphone session for the student body and faculty, as well as group discussions about the topics covered throughout the day.

Assistant Head of School for Student Life Carolyn McKee was in charge of planning the event and acted as a liaison between the school and the Anti-Defamation League.

Also involved in the planning process were a group of volunteer student and faculty moderators, who prepared for the event during a few afterschool planning meetings, Ms. McKee said.

These moderators participated in the program by acting in a short skit about bullying, talking about their experiences being a target, ally, perpetrator or bystander in a panel, and led the group discussion sessions.

Senior Associate Director of Admissions and Diversity, Inclusion and Cultural Competency Advisor Joan Edwards,



Student moderators tell audience about the program's rules with the ROPES acronym. (Photo by Peter Rusconi '14)

who led KO's previous program in 2009 as a member of the ADL, also participated in the event, although this time as a facilitator.

"I've seen the program from the other side," she said. "I've seen the program transform schools."

Ms. McKee and Ms. Edwards both said that they were very satisfied with the results of this year's event. "I'm very pleased with how it turned out," Ms. Edwards said.

Ms. McKee expressed similar sentiments. "It was a great day," she said.

Ms. Edwards also said that she was very impressed with the amount of courage and honesty that students portrayed at the open microphone session and with the

Post-It notes they placed on the wall in Roberts Theater after the program to say what they will remember from the experience. "There are some Post-its that really warm my heart," she said.

Ms. McKee said that, because the two ADL programs at KO have been reasonably successful, it is very possible that there will more of these events in future years, though she said such programs should not be conducted too often. "We don't want to do it too frequently so that it loses its appeal," she said.

Ms. Edwards said that, while the event was well planned and executed, she wants to make future ADL programs more welcoming

to even more people. "That's the thought that's been buzzing around in my head. How can we be more inclusive?" Ms. Edwards said.

Students expressed varying opinions about the program. Sophomore Rob Yirigian said that he enjoyed the event. "I thought it was good that people spoke out. It's a good thing to see what's going on and how people are taking it," he said.

Senior Mike Barry, who was a moderator, agreed. "You know what? It was beautiful," he said. "When people went up to the microphone, I felt connected to the KO community and the people there that I had known for the better half of my life and I

couldn't have grasped the sadness that plagued them," he said.

Senior Nicki Roth, another moderator, shared a similar viewpoint. "I think the assembly went very well," she said. "I think that people opened up a lot and retained a lot of the information given to them, which they will hopefully use to make the KO community a better place," she said.

Sophomore Druhv Sheth echoed the others' sentiments. "It was really interesting and I learned a lot about people that I didn't know," he said. "I feel like it would definitely be intriguing to have it again when new people join the community."

Senior Sam Goddard said that he disagreed with these ideas and claimed that he didn't enjoy the event.

"I don't think bullying or hazing is a problem that can be solved in high schools and especially not middle school," Sam said. "It's something that shapes who we are as we become adults, not in a directly positive way, but it is an embodiment of adversity that, in its most extreme form, can lead to people ending their lives and that's what we're reacting to, is the extreme situations, but otherwise it helps produce tough skinned young adults who have learned from high school that covering before a bully will get them nowhere in life."

Homecoming receives mixed reviews

by Dan Miller '15

Kingswood Oxford's annual Homecoming Dance was held from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 18. A KO tradition, the dance always follows Hewett Day, KO's fall sports day.

The Homecoming Dance festivities began with the Homecoming video competition. Students submitted videos about the upcoming Homecoming Dance, and the two best videos were shown to students at an

assembly on Thursday, Oct. 16.

Junior Max Obourn and freshman Tim Bucknam were the main creators of this year's winning and runner-up videos, respectively.

"The videos were good," junior TJ Nesbit said, adding that he liked their comedic value.

The winning video starring Max Obourn portrayed him walking up to complete stranger on the street and asking them to go to Homecoming with him. The reactions of the astonished and confused strangers, who had no

idea what Max was talking about, provided the school with a laugh.

The runner-up video used an interesting and comedic way of using characters and humorous scenarios to promote the dance. It presented the comedic story of a young student looking for a date to the Homecoming Dance.

Both videos featured creative camera angles and very crisp editing. Both Max and Tim, along with their casts and crews, spent a great deal of time on them.

Though both videos used

different ways of approaching the dance, both were still accomplished the goal of promoting Homecoming, students said.

Both videos, said freshman Joe Ravalese, "did a rather adept job of promoting the dance."

The Homecoming Dance always follows KO's annual Hewett Day, a day where most of the fall sports teams participate in athletic events at home.

This year's dance offered students a discount on the \$7 price of admission. Students who

brought a non-perishable food item with them to the dance had to pay only \$5 to enter. Student Government leaders said this was a way to encourage people to give back, and save some money as well. The food will be donated to a local food pantry, they said.

The dance featured the usual music and decorations. There was a set of strobe lights that livened up the area. Some students said they thought the music that

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Students choose class officers, 14 senators in SGA elections

by Jack Beckerman '15

At the end of last year and the beginning of this year, KO students went head to head to represent their forms in Student Government.

For the freshman class, the race for president was between Jack Barry, David Yandow and Ariba Memon. In a thrilling race, Jack and David were elected president and vice president of the class, respectively.

In addition to a president and vice president, forms are also represented by senators. Five freshmen ran for class senators: Ryan Silvers, Kelly Caruchi, Isabel Kaufman, Samantha DiBacco and Emilie Sienko. Kelly and Isabel came out victorious in that race, and are representing Form Three as senators.

When asked what he wanted to accomplish as Form Three president, Jack Barry said he wanted to "make freshman year fun, but also to gather everyone's ideas and make it better for the KO community."

In the sophomore class, the race for president was between

Gwenyth McDonald and Lexi Banasiewicz. In that election Gwenyth received the most votes, so she became president. Consequently, Lexi became the vice president for Form Four.

Three sophomores ran for senate – Nicole Demers, Jared Bolden and David Lessard – and all three were elected.

In Form Five, a battle took place for the position of president, when five students ran for only two spots. Katie Smith, Justin Saint, Casey Barter, Emily Lowit, and Jack Beckerman all ran, and after a the votes were counted, Katie became president and Jack Beckerman became vice president.

The Form Five senate race was just as exciting, with six students running for only four positions. The candidates were Olivia Whirty, Julia McGowan, Emily Lowit, Talia Zimmerman, Salvo Caruso and Greg Norsigian. After the votes were tallied, Olivia, Julia, Talia and Greg were chosen to become senators.

"I want to really get involved in the Kingswood

Oxford community," said junior senator Greg Norsigian, "and I think that a lot of people have strong opinions and want them voiced and I hope to do that. I really want to get involved with the Lancaster-York idea because it's a great way for people to get excited about what they do at KO."

Greg added that, if someone was thinking about becoming part of Student Government, he or she should. "You can't lose," he said. "If you don't get in, so what? Also, in order for this to work we need all different types of kids, representing different parts of the student body, so the more diversity the better, and it's not a big time commitment either. You can make sure your voice is heard, which is always worth it."

In the senior class, the presidential candidates were Tucker Charette, Sarah Gianni, Abhilash Panthagani and Caroline Kaufman. In this election, Tucker came out on top to become president and Sarah came in second to become vice president.

The senator race consisted

of five students competing for five positions, so all five candidates – Abhilash Panthagani, Caroline Kaufman, Jack Maguire, Abigail Mancinelli and Lauren Schoenadel – were all granted senator positions.

"I want to limit some of the unnecessary comments, and bring some reality into the meetings," said Jack Maguire. "Also, I want to add excitement to the Lancaster and York competitions. I want to make it known that every idea isn't perfect, and I would like to see more discussion about opinions."

"What I've noticed is that it is such a protected environment, that no one is allowed to reject an opinion without risking hurting someone's feelings, and I would like to change that. Student government is a good experience, not an absurd workload, and if you feel like you have any passion for change politics, you should try it out. It is not a huge risk, but it is a good reward."

Last year of course, students elected senior Jake Leshem as Student Government speaker, senior Mary Lessard as secretary,

"A big theme for us this year is charity. We have set up a goal of raising \$3,000 by the end of the year."

*- SGA President
Jake Leshem*

and senior Keenan Line as treasurer.

"I really want Student Government to be viewed more positively in the community," Jake said, "and I think we have done a great job so far with that this year. A big theme for us this year is charity. We have set up a goal of raising \$3,000 by the end of the year. The reward, if we get to that number, is a movie night for the students."

Flickr page provides panorama of KO life

by Dylan Borruso '15

The Kingswood Oxford website was updated this year to include a link to the school's own Flickr page, where photos taken around campus can be viewed.

The photo gallery can be viewed by anyone and includes photos of all aspects of KO from sports to classes.

The idea for the addition of the Flickr page came from Chris Kasprak, a 2008 KO graduate, who now works with Director of Communications and Marketing Michelle Murphy. He said he had seen that other schools were using similar ideas to display pictures of their events and activities.

Together with Mrs. Murphy, he chooses which pictures appear on the Flickr page.

Mrs. Murphy said she wants to use the Flickr page to show alumni and possible students what life at KO is like. "We wanted to try to show what is going on at the school and to try to convey the story of KO in a way that is authentic and real," she said.

In order to obtain pictures for the website, Mr. Kasprak travels around campus and searches for good opportunities to show what current events are happening at KO.

These include sports events and assemblies as well as day-to-day classroom activities. Currently Mr. Kasprak is

the only one working to take pictures, but other photographers might be required to cover larger events, such as Hewett Day.

Currently, the Flickr page does not have very many pictures on it. Although now there are just over 100 photos, there is the potential to post thousands as time goes on, Mrs. Murphy said.

We wanted . . . to convey the story of KO in a way that is authentic and real."

- Mrs. Murphy

The pictures are grouped chronologically, and a user can search for pictures of specific events. All pictures can be downloaded for free and can be printed in high quality resolution, so anyone can to obtain these high-quality photographs of the school.

"We wanted to give everyone access to [Mr. Kasprak's] skill in photography and so all the pictures can be downloaded for free," said Mrs. Murphy.

The news of the Flickr page has not been spread widely yet. There have been a few announce-

ments about it in the monthly newsletter to parents, but the new addition to the KO website remains underground for the time being.

This is partially due to novelty of the website and the shortage of pictures thus far. "We might do a Facebook post about the Flickr page once we get more content for it," said Mr. Kasprak.

Student opinion of the page is limited because of the lack of knowledge about it, but the students who have seen the page said that it is a great asset to KO.

"I think that it is a fantastic idea and that it will help KO spread its reach," said sophomore Lexi Banasiewicz.

A few students expressed concerns that there was not any attempt made to draw students to the page yet.

"I think it's really nice that KO is trying new things like this, but they haven't really done anything to draw students to the Flickr page," said sophomore Mark Sheehan.

The communications and marketing department said it is currently focusing on adding more content to the page to develop it into something that is special and really represents KO.

If any students who have interest in photography would like to donate some of their pictures, they should email Mrs. Murphy concerning their interest.

KO's Model UN to visit Budapest

by Sasha Bash '17

Upper School Administrative Coordinator Donna Dudzik and history teacher Stacey Savin will lead 14 KO students to a model UN conference in Budapest, Hungary, from Sunday, Nov. 24 to Monday, Dec. 2.

Seven juniors, six seniors, and one sophomore will make the trip to the Hungarian capital city, where they will participate in the Model UN conference, Ms. Savin said. "They will also be visiting various places in Europe, such as former concentration camps, and a day in Vienna," she said.

Mrs. Dudzik said the students will enjoy a dinner cruise on the Danube River, take a tour that depicts Budapest's Belle Epoch, and another tour that reflects the experience of Budapest under the rule of Nazis and communists.

The Model UN conference itself, which begins Thursday, Nov. 28, will include many meetings. Its main goal, Ms. Savin said, is to form resolutions similar to those passed by various bodies of the actual United Nations.

The group will stay at the Hotel Corinthian in Budapest. The cost of the trip is \$3,500 per person, Mrs. Dudzik said.

The last time KO took a Model UN group out of the country for a conference was in 2011 when a group went to Prague in the Czech Republic, said Mrs. Savin. "I hope we do just as well as last time, when

we won four awards," she said.

Junior Max Bash said he is excited about making the trip.

"By doing Model UN," he said, "you get to experience and immerse yourself in a variety of issues that enables you to have a greater understanding of the world around you, while at the same time you improve your public speaking skills and ability to work in large groups of strangers."

Max said the trip is also a great way to meet new people. "We have the opportunity to meet many new kids from all around the world that are also attending the conference," he said.

Sophomore Benjamin Waldman, who is also going on the trip, said it will be a great experience. "I am excited," he said. "I think it will be a great way to view Europe from an academic and historical standpoint."

Members of KO's Model UN club will also attend a Model UN conference at Yale in January for a weekend. Many different schools will be there, and the KO delegation is divided up into various delegations of foreign countries that talk about a variety of topics and issues, such as war and economics.

KO's Model UN club meets once a week. Ms. Savin said that each student must write an essay to apply for a position on the team.

Although many more people are a part of the general Model UN team, not every member is going on the trip to Europe, Mrs. Dudzik said.

The editorials below represent the collective opinion of the members of the KO News Editorial Board: Maddie Pazzani, Mary Lessard, Grace Jarmoc, Sarah Gianni, Alayna Putterman, Will Martin, Taryn Braz, Allie Kyff, Thomas Wilson, Katherine Gianni and Sophie Kruger.

Make announcements necessary, brief, clear

The KO News Staff encourages people to think about their announcements at assemblies ahead of time. For some students, assembly is a highlight of the day. When hearing that we have run out of time and it is 10 a.m., the audience cringes. We would not be running out of time if students planned their announcements better or even questioned whether or not the announcement is necessary.

Many announcements that are made during assembly can easily be found on the daily bulletin, but the problem is that many students are not in the habit of checking the bulletin for their information. That needs to become a part of every student's routine because the bulletin is sent as a helpful tool for students and faculty. Unfortunately, we can't assume that all students are reading the daily bulletin.

When students or faculty have to wait until the next week to make their announcement, it loses its relevancy. Also, Forensic Union officers say that it is crucial to their club that they make their club meeting announcement every Tuesday because their meetings are held on Tuesday nights. The point is that announcing things occurring around campus are important for the survival of specific events, but when the designated assembly time is filled with non-crucial announcements, harm is done to some other KO group who was pushed until next week.

Think about all of the time that announcers spend saying "um." If that were simply eliminated, there could be time for more announcements. Even though public speaking is nerve-racking, assemblies will go more smoothly and students will look better if they plan their speeches ahead of time.

Spirit week is for spirit, not dress down days

The staff of the KO News has observed that students do not use spirit week to its full advantage. Students should willingly show their spirit throughout the week to garner excitement for the Hewett Day games and dance.

Many students use the spirit week as a week to dress down. If they don't show their support and school spirit, Hewett Day is not as successful. The purpose of spirit week is to get everyone excited for the upcoming sporting events. By dressing down but not in spirit wear, students are defeating the purpose.

Similarly, those who dress down show all of KO how they are unenthusiastic. Many of these unenthusiastic students put a

damper on those who are excited about the week. They also put a damper on the dance.

For next year, we encourage KO to start a series of prizes for the best outfits each day. This way, students will have even more incentive to dress up and show more spirit. We also think there should be more strict guidelines. If a student is dressed down in sweat pants and a t-shirt on "fictional character day" or "would you be my friend if I dressed like this day" they should be required to put on special embarrassing clothing from the school. This would deter those from abusing the special dress code of the week. If you are not going to dress in the right theme for the day, please just wear school clothes.



by Maddie Pazzani '14

A Wyvern's Tale Pep rally failed to create widespread enthusiasm

I have a confession to make: I'm horrible at sports. If you've ever met me, this admission is probably pretty obvious to you, but if we haven't met, let me tell you a little bit about myself. I don't have a shred of competitive spirit, I flinch when people throw projectiles at me, and I consider the walk from my car to my first-period class to be exercise.

These qualities make me more of a benchwarmer than a starting player, and I usually don't mind. While I've had to suffer through the sports requirement for the past three years, I have always been confident enough to know that my talents lie elsewhere. This fall, I've been enjoying my senior season off. Although I'm not on a team, I have a considerable amount of Wyvern Nation spirit, so I was decently excited for the pep rally this past Friday. However, I couldn't help feeling unappreciated as a non-athlete.

As I sat in the gym surrounded by the majority of the student body dressed in team jackets or gear (I was, of course, dressed to impress in my English symposium t-shirt), I watched the team captains announce their games for the following day, team captains shoot free throws, team captains attempt half-court shots, and team captains try to say "chubby bunny" with a mouth full of marshmallows.

It was mildly entertaining, but I didn't feel any peppier. It took a downward turn when all the team captains were called up another time, and some of the JV captains went up as well. The student leading the event sent the JV players back to their seats, saying this game was for "varsity captains only."

I'll give the student the benefit of the doubt. It was probably a split-second decision, made in the heat of the moment with the entire school staring at him, waiting to be amused. Additionally, students involved in planning were thrown off guard a few days before the event after technical difficulties prevented them from playing the traditional homecoming videos. Two teams were unable to be there because they had to travel, and since it was not mandatory, many people opted to not attend.

Still, that decision seemed to fit the

general tone of the event. The game did not require a certain number of people or a varsity letter; it wouldn't have killed anybody to let those JV students participate. As a non-athlete and a supporter of JV teams everywhere, I felt excluded and undeserving of pep.

That being said, the pep rally was probably what I made out of it. If you play sports, or maybe even if you don't, it is completely possible that you had a swell time, and I'm just being a grumpy person who has found a way to shirk the sports requirement. Maybe I'm so downbeat because I don't get all those endorphins that athletes do. Hard-core sports kids, feel free to throw food at me in the cafeteria with your toned arms and developed hand-eye coordination. I probably deserve it for raining on your sporty parade, but I hold true to my opinion.

I understand that the purpose of the pep rally was to generate support for the homecoming games the next day, but to me, homecoming isn't just about the big football game or the dance. I think homecoming is more a celebration of everything that makes KO a great school, sports and other activities included.

Please don't misunderstand me; I'm not calling for the end of pep rallies or homecoming games. Just because I don't play sports doesn't mean that I don't want everyone else to play them, but I believe that other elements of KO life are equally important. I would venture to say that our debate team has been far more successful than some of our varsity teams in recent years, and the robotics team consistently places in the top three in their tournaments.

These activities might not necessarily belong on the pep rally roster, but they deserve equal support from the community. Personally, I found the pep rally to be a reflection of these underlying concerns. Instead of getting everyone involved, students sat in the gym as team captains paraded in front of the rest of us. Their participation wasn't even voluntary – many of the captains were put on the spot to participate again and again. It would have been far more inclusive if the leaders opened the games to volunteers in the audience or incorporated JV. Ultimately, the pep rally should have focused on generating broad support for KO, not just for KO athletics.

Happy Halloween to all Wyverns!

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Mind of McGuire

Put some pep in your step: Pep rally lacks support

by Jack McGuire '14

"This is the worst pep rally I've ever been to." "Oh my gosh, why are they even doing this?" and "This is so stupid." These were just a few of the statements dropped more than a couple of times this past Friday. I wish I could put names to those quotes, but that would hurt someone's feelings, and I know that's a sin at this school.

The amazing part of what comes out of the pep rally each year is the extreme hate that a lot of the members of the school display after it is done. Here is how I imagine it goes every time:

(Please imagine this being dictated like Regina George and Karen Smith would, or the effect of it will not be the same)

Brooklyn: "Like that was just like not cool, Tyrenna. Like, um, I just don't even get it."

Tyrenna: "I know. Like, what was that kid who ran around

and clapped everyone's hands even doing? I mean doesn't he know that there is so much bacteria on those kids' hands?"

B: "Ummm, Tyrenna you are so smart. I am just like so lucky to be your BFF. I wish you like told him that before he like did it."

T: "What is even that kids name again? Like omg wtf was he doing? Then he like had that stupid game with the marshmallows. If he called me up I would be like, excuse *hand movements* me, I can't be having them calories. I'm on a strict diet."

B: *starts to twirl her hair as her crush walks by* "I know like wtf"

T: "How about that cheer and the fact that it was in the gym, like ew, just gross."

B: "I know, like why wasn't it in Roberts? We could have complained about it so much easier"

Of course I'm using Tyrenna and Brooklyn as made up exam-

ples and this conversation is just a figment of my imagination. This conversation would never happen. I give humankind a little more credit, but this isn't that far off (it probably is though).

This makes me very angry because the expectations from this school were out of this world. Student Government would like to issue two apologies. First, for not booking Drake, unfortunately he is just a little outside of our budget. Second, we would also like to issue an apology to all those who disapproved of the "atmosphere" in the gym.

Actually, just kidding (gotcha!). We want to take that apology back because that responsibility falls on you. The thing that we are all forgetting is that these spirit days and pep rallies fall on us as a community. Student Government, aka "the most useless group on campus," in case you forgot, can only do

so much. If you want a "real" pep rally, then instead of showing up with the attitude of a 6-year old going to a vegetarian candy store you should know the pep rally is 95 percent of what the students do and 5 percent of what was planned.

Get off your butt. You're not watching a doctor during 3X explain to you the anatomy of the human body. I know it isn't "cool" for you to scream a "cheesy" cheer, but how about you try it for once, honey?

Also, how about you stop complaining about how your public schools pep rallies are so much better and actually try your best to add some POSITIVE energy to the next "awful" pep rally.

I hope at this point in the article you are understanding a point that is foreign to most of you. This school doesn't have 1,500 students. I want to repeat that. This school doesn't have 1,500 students, so get that fantasy

We can't just talk about what we want to do we actually have to DO it.

out of your head. If you want the pep rally to be as good as you imagine it should be, then it falls on you, not the person next to you.

Why? Because that person sitting next to you is thinking the same way you are thinking and the person next to them is also thinking the same way.

Instead of complaining as a community, how about we try some action for a change? (Wow Jack! What is action again? Do I actually have to do something?) We can't just talk about what we want to do we actually have to DO it.

Highs and lows of homecoming: the good, the bad, and the sweaty

by Katherine Gianni '14

Homecoming—the one night of the year where girls dig up their best black tube dresses from the back of their closets and guys button up their collared shirts and ties for a night of dancing, hanging out with friends, and frankly a lot of sweating.

As an attendee of Homecoming for the past four years, I think it's safe to say that every year I encounter the same issues.

First off, the lighting scheme always provides some sort of problem. Complaints of "It's too bright!" and "Someone tell McKee to turn the lights off!"

always echo through the cafeteria.

I usually agree with these desperate pleas, because I (like so many other Homecoming attendees) don't think it's the most enjoyable scenario to dance with a beacon of light shining down on me.

I think people are simply more comfortable in a darker atmosphere, plus those crazy multicolored strobe lights that SGA pays money for are far more effective in a dark room.

Secondly, at every homecoming I've ever been to I've never seen a lack of people sitting in the corner of the room on their phones not dancing.

Personally I have no issue

with this. However, I do hear the yearly murmurings among others saying, "Why isn't everyone dancing?!" and "Why did they even bother coming if they're just going to sit there?"

While, yes, I think it would be really fun if everyone let loose on the dance floor, I'd never condemn anyone for not doing so. I think everyone should do whatever makes him or her feel comfortable at Homecoming, and if that's simply sitting at the table with some friends that's fine by me.

Moreover, I think what made Homecoming more enjoyable for me this year compared to previous years is the fact that

I'm a senior. Thinking all the way back to myself as a freshman, a sophomore and even as a junior, I always felt a certain amount of nervousness that people (specifically upperclassmen) would judge me. But, now that I'm the oldest, I've realized how ridiculous that feeling was.

When you put it into perspective, honestly, who cares if you're completely going crazy on the dance floor? If you want to do the stanky leg, DO THE STANKY LEG! The Cupid Suffle? Go for it!

Don't worry about others giving you the "What are they doing...?" eyes. You do you. If you're having a good time, it

shouldn't matter what anyone else thinks, and I feel that a lot of the time other people's perceptions debilitate someone's ability to really have fun at homecoming. I realize this now that I've "grown up" in a sense, plus the three previous Homecomings under my belt.

Of course Homecoming will always have its classic issues – (it's too hot, pushing in the middle of the dance floor, music from 2007, and not enough lights are off) – but if you decide to go in with a positive attitude, those factors will all fall by the wayside. I have confidence that you and your friends will find a enjoyable and pretty humorous night.

Consoling your friends: why it might not be OK to say, 'Everything will be OK'

by Alayna Putterman '14

Some of the worst advice I think you can give a person is telling them that "everything is going to be OK." If your friend trusted you enough to come to you with an insecurity or a worry, why would you want to do them such a disfavor?

Telling someone that it will all be fine helps them in no way. Because I am currently going through the dreadful college process, I have proved this theory to be true.

Chances are, things are not going to turn out exactly how someone wants them to.

Giving a person false hope and pushing the hard topics off to the side does not do them any good.

If they are worried about something that could occur that would devastate them, I think it is more important to tell the person that you will be there for them if or when it does happen.

Pumping a person up with "everything is going to be OK" is not exactly what they want to hear, even though you think you are doing the right thing. A solution to what to do if their worry does come true is a more realistic option.

Personally, I am not one for the false optimism. Saying that everything will be all right

is equivalent to taking the easy way out of the situation.

You can either make an impact for that friend, or take the

It's more important to tell the person that you will be there for them if or when it does happen.

easy way out; the choice is yours to make and take. Even if you can't

help someone see the other side, at least letting a person know that you understand them and their worries can make a load of a difference.

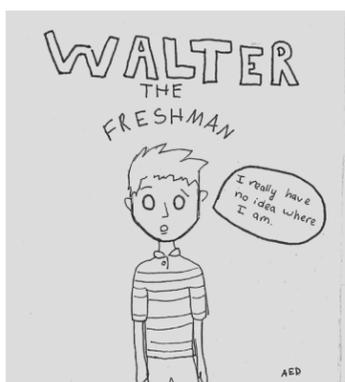
When a worry or an issue is so real to one person, the last thing they want to hear or feel is belittlement. If I am spending my time worrying about something, the last thing I want is for someone to play it off and say that awful line and then continue on to switch the topic of conversation and get away with it as they always do.

This is just my two-cents/sense? You could either take it and run with it, or not even read this article. But if you want to make a difference, this is one way to start.

Don't get me wrong, I do hope everything turns out OK! I am simply suggesting you try to express to the person another perspective on the situation and that the reality is that all possible outcomes are not all what they were looking for. I do not look at this approach as crossing a boundary in any way; you owe it to a person to give them the truth.

At this time in my college process all I am getting from students, friends and faculty is "everything is going to be OK." Although I like to tell myself that before I fall asleep at night, sometimes people need the harsh reality of the fact.

Walter the Freshman - a comic strip by Anya Delventhal '15



Lorde's 'Pure Heroine' is pure poetry

by Virginia Villa '14

Thank you to Christ Giottoni for this recommendation.

When most people think of a 16-year-old girl, they probably picture a student cramming for AP tests or getting ready for homecoming, not a girl releasing her debut album and having it skyrocket to No. 1 on charts around the world.

That's exactly what Ella Yelich-O'Connor has done, but most of you probably know her as Lorde. The New Zealand native recently released her first full-length album, "Pure Heroine," and it immediately took the

world by storm. With a single like "Royals," it's no mystery why this young pop star was signed to Universal at the young age of 12.

"Royals" has been playing non-stop on radio stations around the world, and Lorde's low, thick voice paired with simple, yet hypnotic beats and snaps are hard to ignore.

But "Royals," along with the rest of the album, walks an ambiguous line between rebelling against the conventions of contemporary pop culture and reveling in the excesses of the material world.

The reason Lorde has captured the world's attention is because she's so young yet has an amazing ability to articulate

what misunderstood teenagers around the world think, but can't quite seem to communicate. The production and arrangement is simple, allowing Lorde's voice to pull listeners in with gravitational power, causing the lyrics to sink into the minds of even the most absent listeners. At such a young age, Lorde has managed to do what most pop artists today still haven't been able to do without becoming a "strategic hot mess" (Miley Cyrus): She's gotten people to listen with interest deeper than wanting to dance or sing along.

I can respect Lorde as an artist because she's singing about ideas that are more complex than unfaithfulness in a relationship

and teen substance abuse. She critiques luxury culture and the trappings of youth, but doesn't come off as preachy because she repeatedly uses the magic word "we," thereby including herself in the very contradictions she exposes in "Pure Heroine."

My favorite track from the album is "Team," which is the album's current single. The song is moody yet detached, and the lyrics are beautiful as Lorde coos in the chorus, "We live in cities you'll never see on screen/Not very pretty, but we sure know how to run free."

The song is about balancing between the boredom of today's youth while somehow enjoying it, which gives a lightness to what

might have become an annoying critique of Lorde's own generation. For now, "Team" is my favorite, but I like every song so much that I can see myself listening to each on repeat until I accidentally hit the next song and find a newer joy.

All in all, Lorde has impressed me, and I think she's impressed the world. She is a contemporary pop artist with extreme talent, which is rare; she writes her own songs, even rarer; and, finally, she articulates herself in a way that most adults can't even fully master, making herself a new kind of triple threat.

Lorde is only 16 and seems to have come so far already. I can't wait to see where she goes from here.

Gun control: a hello or farewell to arms?

by Max Bash '15

Not everyone pays attention to events that go on outside of the U.S., but every now and then there's something with an impact so large even the ubiquitous unaware teenager can recall.

During a long string of piracy off the coast of Africa in April 2009, the Maersk Alabama was the first ship registered under an American name to be hijacked successfully since the early 19th century. While the crew of this ship was saved and all returned alive, we simply can't forget what happened there.

A few Somali pirates were able to take down an entire cargo ship just with the use of a few guns. However, had it not been for the bravery of the crew in standing up to the leader of the pirates, things may have turned out radically different.

We have no choice but to admire and be inspired by their bravery, but we can't always count on people to fight back when stranded without the help of authorities. People may take action, as aboard Flight 93 on 9/11, but usually action against hijackers never occurs or doesn't succeed.

This brings me to my next point. In today's times, how do we arm people to protect themselves? We have no choice but to look at the case of cargo ships sailing off the Horn of Africa. Since the epidemic of hijackings, which ended in

2011, overall incidents (including successful and failed hijackings) have dropped from 237 incidents in 2011 to just 10 incidents with two successful hijackings through the third quarter this year.

The massive drop in attacks can only be accounted for by the dramatic increase in the use of private security details when navigating through dangerous waters, like the one that Captain Phillips and his crew sailed through that eventful April.

These days many people agree that guns aren't the answer, but the presence of guns has had a clear impact on hijackings.

As this is the case, we are forced to ask the question, would atrocities like Newtown and Aurora have been less catastrophic with the presence of guns for defense?

Much hype has left the spotlight on the polarizing issue of automatic and semi-automatic weapons in this country. In the past few years, most of the atrocities that have occurred utilized a high-powered rifle, such as the AR-15.

While the country has divided into numerous factions over this very important issue, media bias has left many hyper-focused on certain aspects of the gun debate.

As the AR-15 continually appears in today's news stories, never leaving and staying ever present in our minds, most would be shocked by how many people are actually killed by other, stranger weapons. In fact, in the

past couple of years, someone's hands have killed twice as many people as rifles. Even hammers and clubs killed more people than these high-powered rifles.

This is the issue with bias in today's media. As most people know, a majority of the news we see today is bad news and focused on specific issues. Mass shootings always make it onto prime time news, while everyday incidents where guns are used for good almost never come up.

Defensive gun use results in the stopping of crime every single day. We just never hear about it because most of the time the presence of a gun is enough to stop a crime from happening and the assailant isn't killed or wounded. Hence, we don't see these incidents on the news. As this is the nature of news today, we only ever see when people die and almost never when guns are used for good.

While defensive gun use is a great thing, there's still tons of violence involving guns every single year. Gun-related incidents are still the third leading cause of injury-related death in this country.

Even though the constitutionality of guns has and is still debated today, the main issue with guns is regulation. While every man has the right to bear arms, there should be much stricter background checks to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and the mentally insane.

People who were mentally

insane have caused many of the past atrocities and should never have been able to own a gun. Most people would agree that our government should do its absolute best to not let these people own guns as there's much risk involved with letting someone with a mental health issue own a firearm.

Besides that chronic issue, there should be much stricter restrictions on owning a gun for regular citizens as well. As soon as many people exit the penal system, they are soon able to buy guns again and cause more crimes due to the very relaxed restrictions on gun ownership in this country.

While most would agree that people should be able to own a gun, they have to realize that there needs to be intensive background checks. If a person doesn't consent to a rigorous background check, he or she should under no circumstances be able to own a gun. Along with that, gun safety should be of the utmost importance, and a gun locker should be mandatory. Too many kids die from guns not being properly locked up, and this chronic problem needs to be solved.

Most parents would probably agree that they would be much more comfortable knowing that, when their kid goes over to the house of one of his friends, that a gun locker is in use, rather than getting a call hearing that their kid shot himself and is now dead.

Although there are such

contrasting viewpoints out in the open these days, both groups of people tend to look only on their side of the issue and completely ignore what the other side has to offer. Just as with Congress, people tend to butt heads constantly and come to an impasse. As such, many things aren't solved because politicians can't come to compromise.

Americans are forced to make compromises every day, so why can't Congress? Both sides need to sit down, go to work, and hammer out comprehensive gun reform. If I were in charge, they wouldn't even be allowed to leave the Capitol building until it was done.

Yet, as we all have witnessed in the past couple weeks, even when the government is shut down and our country is on the brink of economic disaster, our politicians still go to work at 9 a.m. and work much less than the average American, while producing almost no results.

America, this is painful to say, but sadly we are doomed. As Mr. Kyff wisely pointed out during a recent AP US history class, George Washington warned against political parties, and, a little over 200 years later, we're finally starting to see its repercussions.

Given today's Congress, many people, myself included, have little faith that we will ever see gun control in the coming years, while this problem continues to plague our nation.

Some students fault DJ's choices

Annual homecoming dance sparks debate

Continued from page 1

was played was out of date.

The Homecoming King and Queen is another tradition of the annual dance. Upon entrance to the event, students voted for their choice of Homecoming royalty. This year's winners were seniors John Stepensky III and Sarah Gianni.

There was a higher attendance at this homecoming than

homecoming dances past years. Dance organizers estimated that the senior class had the largest percentage of attendees, followed in order by the sophomores, freshmen and juniors.

The reactions to the homecoming dance were fairly positive. "It was an all around good time," said junior Ryan Wetsman. This was the most common reaction students interviewed by the KO News had to the dance.

Ryan also said that he thought this dance was an improvement compared to previous dances. "It was definitely better than last year," he said.

Junior Jenna Frankel said that she agreed with Ryan. "The DJ was definitely better than last year, and overall it was definitely better than last year's dance," she said.

Freshman Nick Ravalese also said he enjoyed the dance. "It was fantastic," he

said, adding that "the DJ played some old songs at times."

Senior Rachel Yirigian said she also had a good time. "It was fun!" she said. "The strobe lights made it really cool once the lights were turned off." She also said the DJ played a lot of old songs, but said that didn't detract from the dance.

But some students said they didn't enjoy the dance. "The music was not to everyone one's taste," said sophomore Kate Betts. "His

choice of songs really prevented the night from being enjoyable."

Some students said they avoided the Homecoming Dance because they did not enjoy it in previous years. "I went to the dance as a freshman two years ago," said junior Dylan Borruso said, "and it was a disappointment, so I didn't go this time."

Nevertheless, most students said they had fun and would plan on attending the dance in the future.

The Real World vs. The Virtual World

Googling, learning, doing: the virtual world

by Alex Kraus

The virtual world—digital music, streaming movies, online gaming, social media, texting, Instagram, Twitter—is powerful and present almost everywhere, and yet essentially it isn't real. All KO students are subject to its influence, but few seem aware of its risks.

I marvel at how much cool stuff people have access to: Youtube videos featuring awesome X-Games stunts, immediate encyclopedic information from Wikipedia, full-length feature movies, music selections that put almost any collection of vinyl albums to shame, and all those selfies. I envy how quickly students can find information. Faster than you can even think about not going to the library, you can look up the biography of William Shakespeare (and all his plays!) or the molar mass of potassium carbonate (and the shape of the molecule) or the latest stats for your fantasy football team. The vastness and speed of the virtual world is stunning. But I wonder, what is missing with all this quickness? What gets lost?

I'm borrowing the following details from an essay by Stephen Marche that ran in *The Atlantic* recently; it was strikingly sad. Apparently, an elderly woman—a former Hollywood B-list star named Yvette Vickers most famous for her role in *Attack of the 50 Foot Woman*—recently passed away. Yes, that's sad but not striking, as she was 87. Ms. Vickers had developed a sizeable following on Facebook, and she communicated with many fans and friends on a regular basis. Despite having hundreds of virtual friends and an active, virtual social life, she had no real friends, however, and no real connections. After Ms. Vickers

Alex Kraus teaches English and chemistry and coaches swimming and track and field at KO.

died, she lay alone in her home for almost a year before she was discovered by a neighbor. She had no one looking out for her; she had only the illusion of companionship.

This past summer, I had knee surgery that completely fixed an uncomfortable injury; within weeks I was able to walk, hurry up the stairs, run with the dogs, ride a bike—100 percent of the use of my knee returned. Dr. Waskowitz performed this “simple surgery” as he calls it, and he performed it in the real world. I'm guessing it was “simple” not because he googled how to do it but because he went to medical school (in the real world) and practiced surgery thousands of times.

The anesthesiologist, whose name I don't remember, used her skills to administer the right amount of narcotics—not too much and not too little—so that the procedure was pain free and I woke up with no side effects. I'm certainly glad she learned and practiced her skills in the real world and didn't just watch a Youtube video before she injected me. I'm sure you would want your anesthesiologist to be practiced in the real world and not in the virtual world.

I relied on my doctors to heal me, and I benefitted from their knowledge and their experience. My surgery went smoothly, but if there had been complications I would have relied even more on their ability to know what to do. That's when knowledge and experience really matter: in an emergency or in a crisis. When Captain Chesley Sullenberger landed his plane safely in the Hudson after it lost power in both engines, he became a hero for saving all the lives on flight 1549. He definitely didn't ask Siri “how to ditch a plane in a river;” he relied on years of real world experience as an airline pilot. He also benefitted from his time as an Air Force aviator and from his hobby of flying gliders. I'll bet

those 150 people are glad captain Sully knew things in the real world.

In other words, we really have to know things in life; we can't always just look them up. We need to know how to drive; we need to know how to do our jobs; and we need to know how to interact with others. Yes, it is possible to look up almost every fact or detail of U.S. history that the AP exam might ask, but that's not the same as understanding U.S. history. It's not the same as appreciating it. It's also possible to look up every detail on the periodic table, but that's not the same as understanding it or being comfortable with it or using it to accomplish all sorts of tasks.

Of course, being able to look things up is helpful—What are the ingredients in ginger snap cookies? How do I tie this bowtie? How many Yen to the dollar? Being able to look things up is great, but it's not satisfying; it's not permanent. Understanding things is satisfying. Understanding things makes you capable and it gives you confidence; it connects you to a world that really exists.

I don't have a Facebook page. I imagine I might eventually get one after my kids leave home so that I can communicate with them more easily, but as of today, I'm not a part of that enormous virtual space of 1.11 billion users. Do I feel left out? Sometimes. My friends and family find out all sorts of information from Facebook that benefits them: cute pictures of a new baby in the family, funny jokes, links to hilarious videos. Getting details and updates is helpful and seeing images of people we love is heartwarming, but I'm still not ready to step into Facebook. Honestly, I'm enjoying my life in the real world. I appreciate what is—seeing leaves change color, taking dogs for a walk, watching kids at soccer practice—and I appreciate

what is just as it is. I'm also glad I don't have a virtual persona to maintain: What photos to show? What to post? What's my status? What should I like? How many friends do I have? It's challenging enough managing the real me; I don't think I could handle both the real me a virtual me. To tell you the truth, I get a little bit of a Holden Caulfield feeling about Facebook and the virtual world as a whole: I can't shake the idea that it's all a little bit phony. Maybe not phony exactly, but shallow.

Are there other risks to the virtual world? One that concerns me daily is cheating. The virtual world is so powerfully tempting that it undermines everyone who is trying to do the right thing or follow the rules. The virtual world tempts

He definitely didn't ask Siri how to ditch a plane in a river.

you with images and facts, with answers that have already been prepared, and with essays that have already been written. It offers you opinions that have already been formed and conclusions that have already been reached. The virtual world tempts you more powerfully than any other impetus in the long history of academics. Think about it: your smartphone is the devil on your shoulder constantly talking in your ear, constantly offering you an easy way out. (Do you ever take this devil away from your ear?) Don't misunderstand: the virtual world doesn't make you cheat—that choice is always yours and yours alone—but I'm worried that

it could wear down your resistance. I'm worried that the virtual world makes being bad too easy and it makes being good seem too boring.

When I see five kids all sitting together in a hallway, lined up next to each other each all peering into a computer screen or a phone, I get sad. Relaxing in the hallway (or the Commons, the lobby, the Green) is an important part of school. This is when you're with your friends or you're making friend; this valuable time is for being together; this is hanging out time. But, is it the same if you're all in the digital world? Are you really with your friends if you're all in separate virtual spaces? Is this quality hanging out time? I'm worried that it's more like being near each other, but not really with each other. I have a lot of experience in watching kids hanging out, and I'm worried. I think the virtual world is distracting us and separating us from one another—even when we're hanging out together.

I worry that, as we rely more on technology, we rely less on each other and even less on ourselves. When we can get answers so easily, we don't learn to push ourselves very hard to find our own answers. And once we become comfortable in not pushing ourselves, we lose our confidence and we lose our ability to do things.

The virtual world gives us so much—music, movies, facts, answers, social contacts—so quickly that we become distracted and disconnected even as we are being amused. We risk becoming uncertain, shallow, and afraid. And in technology, we face powerful, often destructive temptation. The virtual world has certainly changed what we do and how we do it, but the virtual world is also changing who we are.

But being who we are—being ourselves—that's our job.

Tell 'em why you mad vs. tell 'em why you glad

“I'm mad because Willie Baron doesn't go to KO anymore.” – Virginia Villa '14

“I'm mad because there are flies in the cafeteria.” – Sam Wiseman '14

“I'm mad because the library has turned into some social event, where you can sit around and laugh at YouTube videos with your friends instead of doing real work.” – Jack McGuire '14

“I'm mad because my Poli Sci notebook from '10-11 is missing in action.” – Pat Freeman '11

“I'm mad because there are consistently more underclassmen on the green than seniors.” – Callie Miles '14

“I'm mad because the senior slide hasn't started yet.” – Gage Sanders '14

“I'm glad because I have the best advisee group on campus.” – Ms. Hojnicky

“I'm glad because the pep rally was really fun.” – Griffin Maloney '14

“I'm glad because we're actually having a ski team this year.” – Emily Lowit '15

“I'm glad because of the beautiful orange sugar maple tree I saw on Trout Brook Drive.” – Mr. Kyff

Forensic Union thrives as it travels near and far for variety of tourneys

by Mark Sheehan '16

The KO Forensic Union has already participated in a number of competitions this year, with debate coaches and student officers saying they are pleased with the year so far and optimistic about the club's future.

The Forensic Union participated in a debate jamboree at Choate Rosemary Hall on Saturday, Sept. 28. About 14 people from KO, mostly novices, as well as several student officers, participated.

The jamboree consisted of two rounds of casual debates and other speaking activities, such as one in which a debater had to talk about a random word for five minutes. According to English teacher and Forensic Union Advisor Paul Denby, these events helped novices learn the "fundamentals and foundations of debate."

Although student officers watched the debates and gave debaters tips on how to improve, the debates were not formally judged and no scores were given. This lack of scoring, together with time set aside for students from KO

and Choate to interact while eating pizza and other snacks, helped create a casual environment.

"It was a great chance for our novices to practice with no pressure because there was no judging; we were just listening and giving feedback," said senior and Forensic Union president Sophie Kruger.

Mr. Denby said he was quite pleased with the jamboree and that would be willing to participate again if Choate were to host a similar event next year.

Sophomore Evan Kelmar, one of the debaters who participated in the jamboree, said he enjoyed the trip. "The Choate people were really fun," he said.

One highlight for Evan was getting to give a five-minute speech mocking Choate, which he said the Choate kids enjoyed. Evan said he would be willing to do similar events in the future.

On Sunday, Sept. 22, the Forensic Union participated in a more formal debate tournament at Roxbury Latin School. Mr. Denby said he was pleased by a strong showing in terms of number of students from KO who attended.

One highlight, he said, was that quite a few novices who had never been to a debate before participated.

The debaters at Roxbury, said Sophie, had to deal with "difficult and esoteric" resolutions concerning topics such as the Syrian Civil War, the NATO bombing of Libya, and the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. Despite the challenge, she said, "Everyone had a good time and it was a great way to start the season."

Several KO students competed in the Stoneleigh Burnham Speaking Tournament on Sunday, Oct. 6. Senior and Forensic Union Chair of Speech Maddie Pazzani called it a "different type of day."

The tournament included impromptu speeches, interpretive readings, and either a five-minute humorous after-dinner speech or a seven-minute persuasive speech. Mr. Denby said that the tournament "went really well."

On Sunday, Oct. 13, the Forensic Union competed in a tournament at St. Sebastian's School. Sophomore Omar Hashmi

was recognized as the highest scoring of the eight KO students present at the tournament. He said he was pleased to earn this recognition, especially because he had not competed in any debate tournaments previously.

This Sunday, Oct. 27, the Forensic Union will compete in a tournament at St. Paul's School in Concord, N.H.

The tournament will be Oregon-style, meaning that resolutions are prepared and debating is done through cross-examination. The topic will be Detroit's efforts to sell public art to help deal with bankruptcy.

Sophie said KO's Forensic Union should do well in this tournament because they "have some great sources for research."

Currently, English teacher and Debate Coach Elisabeth Repp is in Vancouver, Canada, with several debaters who are taking part in an international competition that includes debaters from many nations, including the U.S., Canada, the United Kingdom, and Bermuda.

The highest-scoring debater

from each school, KO included, will qualify for worlds, which will be held in Lithuania this year.

Student Officers of the Forensic Union and Mr. Denby said they have an optimistic view regarding the future of the Forensic Union. Mr. Denby said he is very pleased by the large numbers of students, including plenty of novices, many of whom are freshmen, who are attending the Union's Tuesday meetings and going to tournaments.

He said he is especially pleased because he said he was concerned that attendance numbers might fall from past years due to a change in leadership, as former English teacher and Forensic Union Head Kathy Lynch retired at the end of last year.

While many debaters have already attended tournaments, there are more who have not gone to any tournaments yet this year, but will in the future. For example, junior Dylan Borruso said he plans on going to an upcoming tournament at Andover.

"Forensic Union has a strong future," Maddie said.

Upper Prep bonds at Camp Jewell

by Kate Betts '16

Between scaling climbing walls and playing intense games of Gaga, KO's sixth graders made strides towards developing their form identity and learning how to have fun as a grade as they, their teachers and senior advisors headed off early this month to Camp Jewell to spend three days living camp life.

The camp, located on 540 acres in Colebrook, Conn., is YMCA-run, and operates year-round. It hosts over 20,000 visitors each year, including campers from around the world in the summer and many different schools and organizations during the off season.

Its 540 acres feature ropes courses, climbing walls, an archery range, sports complex, mini-farm, and 26 large cabins, all located on the picturesque shores of Triangle Lake.

The goal of Camp Jewell, says its mission statement, is "to foster an appreciation for each other through our YMCA values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility."

Activities like hiking, rock climbing and kayaking were just a few of the outdoor opportunities presented at Camp Jewell. Sixth grader Harim Hahn said she especially enjoyed kayaking. "My favorite thing was kayaking," she said. "It was a lot of fun!"

In addition to outdoors camp activities, the Upper Prep students participated in a lot of group activities and team building exercises," said Upper Prep Form Dean Andy Carr, who made the Camp Jewell trip for the first time.

By having students persevere through challenging circumstances, he said, the team building activities at Camp Jewell encouraged students to get to know one another and learn to work together. "They made a number of really strong steps towards that goal of developing a form identity," he said.

To promote these goals

further in the future, Mr. Carr and the other sixth grade advisors said they have planned many activities.

They said form events, such as a bouncy house coming in November, are on the agenda, as well as a form fund-raiser.

Mr. Carr and the advisors said they believe that a lot of teamwork will help create strong bonds among the sixth graders that will be the foundation of their KO experience and last throughout their time here.

The teachers who organized the trip said they hope its positive effects on the form's dynamic will last as long as the memories made.



Sixth graders and senior advisors enjoy their experience at Camp Jewell earlier this month. (Photo by Helena Roland '14)

KO grandparents wowed by Middle School experience

by Dylan Borruso '15

The longstanding tradition of Grandparents Day in the KO Middle School allows grandparents and other family friends to see what life at KO is like for a day.

This year, Grandparents Day was held on Wednesday, Oct. 9, and hosted more than 200 attendees.

Grandparents Day consisted of several events to show the school's visitors what a day at KO is like. After arriving and meeting with their grandchildren, grandparents and special friends attended an assembly where the Middle School jazz band and upper prep chorus groups performed.

After that, the groups attended some of their grandchildren's classes and ate lunch together in the school cafeteria, vacated for the day by Upper School students and teachers who ate sandwiches and sipped sodas in Soby Gym.

This year's schedule was slightly changed from last year's. This year, the visitors attended class for longer than they did last year to help get a better look at life at KO.

According to Director of the Middle School Jane Repp, this decision was beneficial and will be kept in the event for next year.

Grandparents Day is a day meant to showcase the daily life of Middle School

students to their families.

"It is really to invite those people who are special to families into [students'] lives for a day," said Mrs. Repp. "Everybody is so happy at the end of the day and [the visitors] can't believe how different the teachers are since when they went to school."

In addition to grandparents, students can also invite special friends of the family to the event. This includes aunts, uncles, great aunts, great uncles, godparents and family friends so that everyone is able to take part in the event and all families have a chance to invite someone, in case a grandparent was not able to attend the day.

This makes for a wide variety of visitors to the school during this day and offers anyone who wants to the chance to take a closer look at the daily lives of the children's experiences at KO.

Grandparents Day has existed for a long time and is an annual tradition at the KO Middle School.

Mrs. Repp said that Middle School Administrative Coordinator Frances Clarke greatly enhanced the event when she began working at the school 22 years ago.

She said Mrs. Clarke helped grow the event into what it is today, with over 200 people attending the annually.

Wowing website designer Lily Wu

by Thomas Wilson '14

Sitting at home in front of my computer (as one does) I scrolled through the same Facebook news feed that I had been checking for the last 20 minutes. As usual, pictures of a girls' night out, videos of dogs being dogs, and the occasional complaint about homework load graced my screen.

But then... what was that? A link posted by sophomore Lily Wu with the description: "All the divs are finally centered >:D. Latest 'project'."

Curious, I clicked the link to be sent to a completely blank page save for the button in the top left corner that read, "Click Me!" Even more curious, I clicked the button. Nothing. I clicked the button again. A word in tiny font appeared in the middle of the screen. I held my index finger over the right mouse button and clicked rapidly until a legible word finally came into view: BUTTS. It grew larger and larger like Violet Beauregarde in "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" until my entire screen was engulfed in sin.

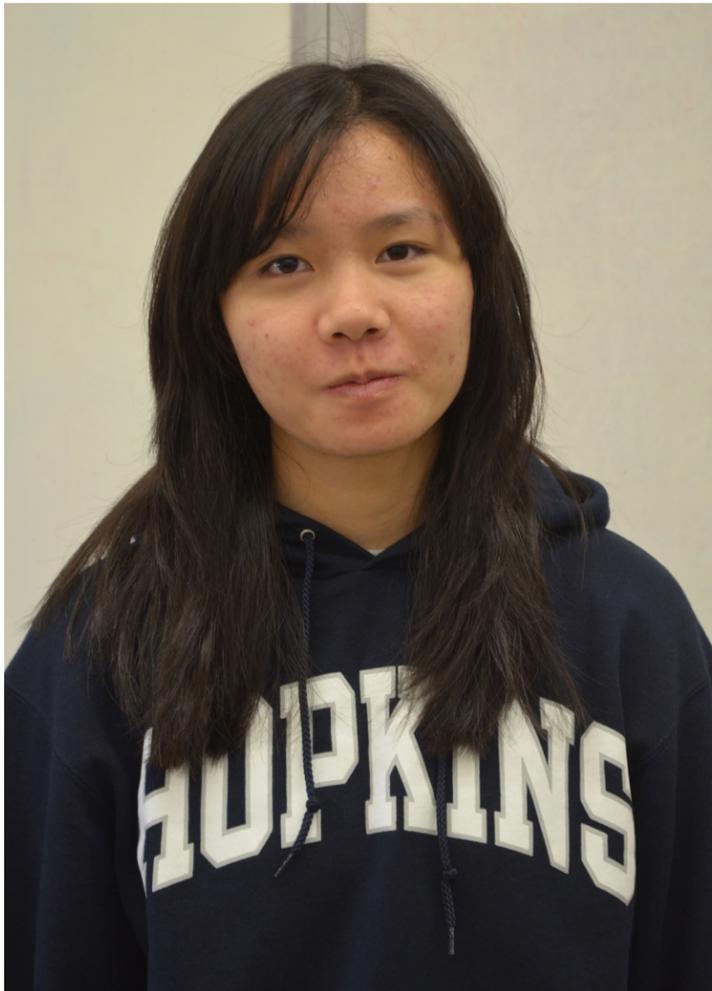
This website, however, was just a fun exercise, practicing her

skills in order to create fluid, legitimate websites. For fun – one could call it a hobby – Lily spends time designing layouts for websites. "I work on Tumblr themes, so basically free layouts that people can use on their blogs, a couple of websites that I have on the side for displaying stuff or testing codes. I also tried commissions but they didn't really work out," Lily said.

Lily's interest in web design was first sparked in middle school with the help of a technology-focused class. "I got into it in the second semester of eighth grade, I guess. I took a web publishing course that didn't teach actual code, but it was good for learning a bit about servers and file transferring and stuff," she said.

Now, two-and-a-half years later, her skills have since developed with the aid of friends and lots and lots of practice. "A friend started teaching me the standard language so that we could be actual web designers, obviously we weren't though. Then I just continued doing it," Lily said.

Not as traditional or conventional as the sculpting or painting or drawing, designing websites is without a doubt becoming preva-



Amateur web designer Lily Wu poses for a picture. (Photo by Helena Roland)

lent in this digital age. Though the majority may not realize it, teams of communications specialists, computer scientists, and artists work together to craft popular websites on the Internet. Lily uses the mathematics of programming and an artistic eye to format layouts that people will want to use for their personal blogs.

AJ Greene, a senior, said he is convinced of the art behind website layouts and is impressed with how capable Lily is. "She's really into it. She wants things to be crisp and look good, but those things can't be done with the stroke of a brush but more the stroke of a key," AJ said.

In less than a year, Lily has created 13 different themes for Tumblr sites that can be downloaded and utilized by anyone. "As frustrating as it gets, I guess it's fun. It's a form of art that I'm actually ok at," Lily said.

The modernist and the traditionalist can certainly debate whether or not one should view digital media design for websites as a form of art; however, there is little use denying that Lily's hard work definitely results in some awesome stuff.

Students share their favorite songs

by Emily Lowit '15

We live in a world where everyone has their own suitcase of songs that they carry around with them. Certain genres appeal to certain people, and one person's favorite song may be another person's least favorite song.

Nevertheless, it is important that people take risks and share with the world the things that make them happy in an effort to make others happy. In order to facilitate such sharing, I interviewed a variety of people on what songs they have been listening to on repeat as of late.

Senior Sarah Gianni has recently been enjoying the song "Love Sosa" by Chief Keef. "I've been jamming out to this song in my car."

Sarah, after discovering the song by accident, has been hooked ever since she found it. "I heard the song probably a few months ago on a Vine and I didn't think about it," she said. "I forgot about it for a few weeks but found myself subconsciously humming it and looked it up on Youtube."

The song has an upbeat tune that puts her in a good mood. "It's kind of slow but it has a steady beat. It makes me happy," she said. "It's something that you could dance to. It makes you want to move."

Even though Sarah enjoys the song, she does not know many other songs by Chief Keef. "I like Chief Keef in general. He's a funny guy," she said. "I never really bothered to look up what else he has because I'm content to enjoy this one. I'll find songs I like and listen

to them over and over again," she said. "I'm really happy I found it."

The song, released in 2012, is three-and-a-half minutes of rap. "That's pretty much my favorite genre if music," Sarah said. "I like a lot of types of different music, but I think rap is fun to listen to."

Senior Natalie Goldstein could not pick one particular song and instead chose two from the same band: Smallpools. The songs, "Over and Over" and "Dreaming," both contain the enthusiastic vocals and poppy electric guitar that are unique to this band. "I like them because they're uplifting," said Natalie. "They're my driving songs. I enjoy their beat and how they're not overplayed on the radio."

Natalie first heard "Over and Over" from a video the app

Snapchat sent out, and she then proceeded to look up more of Smallpools songs. "They're not unhappy or depressing or about foxes or something like that," she said referring to the song "The Fox (What Does the Fox Say)" by Ylvis.

Senior Thomas Wilson settled on the song "Comrade" by Volcano Choir. Volcano Choir is a peculiar band as it is composed of members of two separate bands: Bon Iver and Collections of Colonies of Bees. "Comrade" is on the band's new album released in September.

"I saw the live version posted on a friend's band's Facebook page talking about how much they loved the song. I listened to it and loved it equally," said Thomas. Mr. Iver has gained much popularity over the years, and Thomas

said he feels Volcano Choir deserves the same recognition.

This specific song uses voice changers like the singer, Justin Vernon, used in the band's 2009 song "Still," which is also the track used in Kanye West's "Lost in the World."

"Vernon's passion is unmatched as the song builds up and explodes over and over," said Thomas. "If you watch the live session, his face is bright red and completely engulfed in every single emotion you could think of, which sends chills down my spine."

Hopefully, a few of you readers will take the time look up some of these songs on Youtube and listen to the music that keeps your peers happy in these dark and gloomy winter months. Be brave and share!

The magic behind homecoming videos

by Naomi Letourneau '14

Spirit week is always a very exciting, fun-filled week with many crazy outfits, pictures and lots of fun; it always ends with Hewett Day and Homecoming.

The big question of the week that everyone was asking their friends is: "So are you actually going to Homecoming?" It is always a difficult question, with dress shopping, make-up plans and picture ideas.

However, the all-time favorite way to get excited for Homecoming are the videos played during that week to pump us all up about the dance.

Many people made videos;

however, only the top two were shown to the school. Freshman Tim Bucknam's video was the runner-up while juniors Max Obourn and Nate Washburn won the Homecoming video competition.

Tim's video was about a non-human boy, Zeke, looking for a Homecoming date. He said he wanted to put an interesting twist on the typical teenager and make it more interesting.

Tim said he has always had a passion for writing and creating films, so making this video was very fun for him. His filming process went smoothly. The only challenge was finding a time when all of his actors were free to shoot.

He said his favorite part of

the video was when the sword went through "Vivian's" hand.

Tim said he was very excited to see his video play at assembly. "I didn't think I'd actually make it that far on my first try. I gave that video my all and it actually got me into a really good place" said Tim. "I'm really glad I got the opportunity to do this, and also, since I got second place, I know I can learn from the video that won the contest this year."

Max and Nate won the competition this year. They did something unique that KO has never seen before: They created somewhat of a documentary of Max asking random strangers to Homecoming. He got almost all

no's, which made the video funny.

Max and Nate said they were inspired by the Homecoming videos they saw last year. They both know how to use iMovie, so they just thought, "Hey, I can do that, so why don't we."

They brainstormed together trying to think of something that would make KO laugh and get excited about Homecoming. Eventually the idea of asking random people to Homecoming came up and they loved it.

They said they had the most fun filming, while Max was put in awkward situations with random strangers, Nate was practically dying with laughter behind the camera.

Both Nate and Max said they were nervous when the videos were being announced. They worried that all their hard work and embarrassing encounters Might have been a waste of time.

"[When] it was announced that the next video featured some 'student holding his composure while asking difficult questions' in the center," said Max, "Nate turned around to me, and we high fived. 'We knew we were in, and my heart was pounding before the film even began. It was a great moment.'"

Both groups said they were excited that their hard work and filming, directing, acting, writing and editing skills were all shown to the school.

New film 'Gravity' elevates audiences to a new dimension

by Emily Lowit '15

After a summer of not-so-hot films, "Gravity," a sci-fi thriller, takes you out of this world . . . literally. The film, directed by Mexican filmmaker Alfonso Cuarón, is definitely a pick-me-up for the recently dragging movie industry.

Picture this: Two astronauts, Dr. Ryan Stone, played by Sandra Bullock, and Matt Kowalski, played by George Clooney, are 372 miles above Earth's surface in space making repairs to a satellite.

With Earth as a semi-distant background, Stone works diligently on repairs as Kowalski floats around telling humorous stories back to mission control.

All is normal (well, as normal as floating in space can be) until crisis strikes: debris from a blown-up Russian satellite begin speeding through the Earth's orbit towards the team. Their shuttle is destroyed.

Stone survives but is detached and spinning off into open space, and Kowalski, the only other survivor, is sent to desperately rescue her. After that, the rest of the movie depicts the journey to the international space

station in effort to find a way back to Earth. But, no spoilers.

"Gravity" definitely takes the audience on a ride, even if there are zero G's. For a movie that doesn't seem to have much plot, you'd be surprised to know that there are continuous twists keeping you on the edge of your seat. As Stone says, "It's going to be one hell of a ride."

Senior Griffin Maloney said he enjoyed seeing the film. "It made me question life and death," he said. "The cinematography was excellent. It was a great space adventure."

Not only was the plot intriguing, but the cinematography is also spectacular. "Gravity" in 3D makes it seem as if you are in space along with the characters.

The breathtaking views vary from shots of sunrise to the northern lights dancing across the Earth's surface. And, away from the Earth, billions of stars twinkle in the distance.

Fantastically edited, "Gravity" is the most vivid and realistic space movie to date. Senior Taryn Braz said she enjoyed the scenery of the film. "The background was amazing,"



Still shot from the movie "Gravity" starring George Clooney and Sandra Bullock. (Photo from Google Images)

she said. "It looked like how I imagine space to be. That was the best part of the movie."

The casting was also wonderfully chosen. Bullock plays one of her best roles yet. The serious scientist takes you on an emotional journey as she fights for her life. Even though Bullock is

known for her more comedic roles, she is able to slip into the tragic yet hopeful role of Stone. Taking the audience on an emotional journey, Bullock keeps the crowd pulled in.

As the supporting actor, Clooney does a fantastic job of playing the lighthearted astronaut on his last mission, his only

apparent goal to beat the record for longest space walk. The chemistry between the two is incredible.

Taryn said she also enjoyed the casting. "I thought Sandra Bullock was really good," she said, "and George Clooney did a good job providing comedic relief in a serious movie."

Sam's symphony orchestra solo Plucky bassist travels to Tuscany for music program

by Sarah Gianni '14

At 3 p.m. this Sunday, Oct. 27, the West Hartford Symphony Orchestra will be performing on the Roberts Stage for its "Russia Meets America" concert.

The orchestra includes KO seniors Collin Brantner, Sam Pinkes, Mahathi Kumar and Caroline Kaufman, junior Michael Dillon, and sophomores Lily Wu and Nick Giamalis.

A special highlight of the program will be a piano solo performed by senior Sam Wiseman.



Senior Sam Wiseman playing the violin, one of his many instruments. (Photo courtesy of Sam Wiseman)

"Sam is going to be leaving his violin chair and play the 'Warsaw Concerto' on piano," said orchestra director Richard Chiarappa. "He will be performing the solo during the first half of a program, which is all Russian music, and then return to the violin for the second part of the second part of the show which is all American pieces," he said.

The song was written by the composer Richard Addinsell as the theme music for the film "Suicide Squadron" or "Dangerous Moonlight" (the same movie with a different title in Europe).

"Before Sam comes out to play the piece, we're going to play a short, seven-minute clip of the movie with the song playing in the background," said Mr. Chiarappa. "It will help the audience get a feel for the song and then Sam will come out and play the piece," he said.

Sam, who joined the WHSO when he was in eighth grade, said that he was very excited about the performance, and glad that the concert is being held at KO. "Roberts has good sound, there's a great, big piano, and I'm hoping that a lot of students will be able to come and watch," said Sam.

"It was a lot of work to prepare this piece," said Sam. "It took its own chunk out of the last several months out of my life, but it's been worth it, and I hope everyone comes out to see it!"

by Maddie Pazzani '14

Sophomore Nick Giamalis spent two weeks in Tuscany this summer with Music Adventure, an orchestra program for high school musicians organized by the Hartt School of Music at the University of Hartford.

Nick, a bass player who performs in the Upper School orchestra, said that he first heard about the camp through his private bass teacher at the Hartt School where he takes lessons.

Known for its high caliber instructors and immersive experience, Music Adventure was just the type of program Nick was looking for.

"It was an interesting chance to hear professionals' comments on my bass playing," Nick said. "And as a bassist, it's extremely difficult to find a good chamber music program, because the low, powerful sound that a single bass produces can easily overpower a smaller chamber group."

In addition to sightseeing and exploring local Italian culture, the musicians practiced for about three hours a day and performed in two formal concerts.

"The music itself was the biggest challenge," he said. "It was more difficult than the music I usually play, and within the smaller groups, hearing each other's flaws is much easier."

Nick said he appreciated the new friendships he created while traveling. "I became good friends with all the teachers and the other kids, but I also made friends with the locals there as well," he said.

Although Nick said that his musicianship improved as a result of the program, the best part was ultimately traveling to Italy. "It was awesome! How often do people get to go to Tuscany for two weeks?" he said. "I got to

see the David and the Florence Cathedral, and don't even get me started on how good the food was."

Italian cuisine, beautiful landscapes, and sightseeing aside, Nick said that the musical experience was truly rewarding. "I finally got to experience quartet music," he said, "and I've really evolved as a bassist with that extra practice around my own peers and professionals separate from the ones I usually work with."



Sophomore Nick Giamalis plucks his bass next to a beautiful stairway in Tuscany, where he studied this summer. (Photo courtesy of Nick Giamalis)

Portfolio prep class presents larger than life self-portraits

by Emily Lowit '15

Have you recently walked the deep dark art hallway on the main floor of Roberts? If so, you may have noticed the huge faces staring at you. Around eight feet tall, these portraits are the product of Dean of Humanities Patricia Rosoff's portfolio prep class.

The portfolio class is geared toward creating an art portfolio for each student to present to colleges. Most recently, the class has been working on drawing, specifically drawing these huge faces. "We started the project at the beginning of the year, and we're still not done," said junior Joanie Burzymowska.

"It is a little scary to walk down the hallway and have these giant faces staring you down," Mrs. Rosoff said, but the real aim of the project, she said, was to help the portfolio prep artists improve their visual skills.

"Students don't realize that it's not the drawing that's the problem, it's the looking," said Mrs. Rosoff. "Students want to be told how to draw when all they need to know is in front of their eyes."

Although students may look to Mrs. Rosoff for aid in inspiration, she makes them brainstorm themselves. "My response to

[the "how" question] is, 'what do you see? If it's dark, make it dark. If it's light, make it light.'"

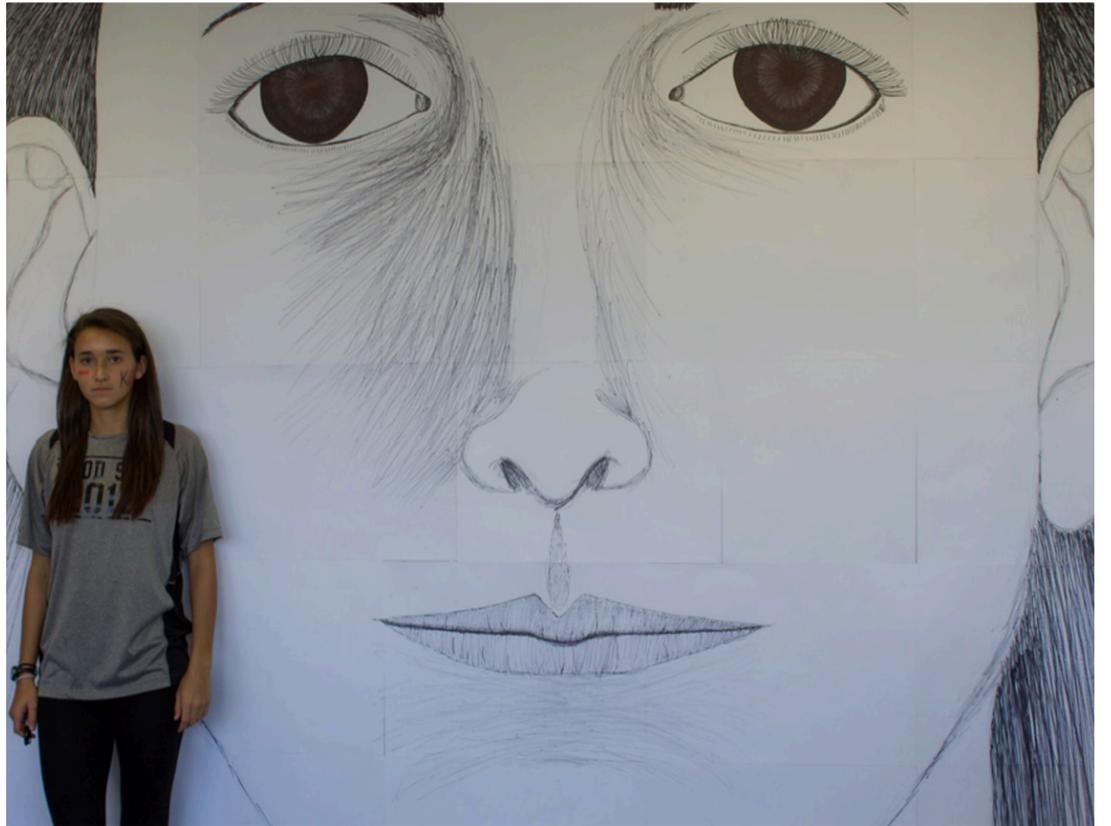
With this more visual approach, Mrs. Rosoff challenges students to bring their drawings to the next level. "By this time in their careers they've memorized certain formulas for what an eye looks like or what a mouth looks like," she said.

"The problem is if you turn your head a quarter the eye doesn't look like you've memorized. When drawing 15 feet tall, you've got two problems: square footage you need to fill up, and you need to step back across the room to see what the heck is going on. It's like being an ant on Mount Rushmore."

Taking this unique approach to the self-portraits is a whole new experience for portfolio prep students. They used mirrors to view their faces, and only drew with standard sized sharpies.

"We started out with one eye and built it piece by piece, Lego style," said junior Joe Ravalese. "You go through a lot of sharpies."

Once the normal techniques have been abandoned, students are able to take a whole new approach on drawing. "They can't do the way they know how to, and actually have to look and translate that



Junior Kennelly Allerton, a portfolio prep student, stands in front of her self portrait. (Photo by Emily Lowit '15)

into drawing," said Mrs. Rosoff.

The portfolio students are adapting to take a more detailed approach to drawing. "The point is to really look and see and pay attention to details," said Joanie. "With a small scale it's easy to

get away without much detail but when you have a bigger scale you have to fill more space."

So far this year the portfolio prep class has been working on many other works focused more on self-portraits. "We've done a lot of

homework assignments with self-portraits," said junior Mary Mort.

The class has also done other types of drawing this semester. "We've done some more abstract pieces," said junior Kennelly Allerton.

KO club E-pic clicks with KO students

by Mary Lessard '14

These days there are so many different forms of art that it is hard to throw them all in one pile as the same. With classes ranging from painting to printmaking to photography or media arts, art has become a diverse presence on the KO campus.

One new form of art that has become one of the most popular forms is photography. Due to its growing popularity, Junior Max Bash and senior Naomi Letourneau decided to start E-Pic, a club dedicated to improving and spreading photography at KO.

Max first took Intro to Photography with Mr. Scranton last year as a sophomore. "I didn't think it'd be fun and really just decided to take the class to fulfill my arts requirement. However, photography has really changed my life and has become a true passion of mine," Max said.

Max has begun to pursue photography on his own. "I went out West this summer for six weeks from Colorado to San Francisco," he said, "and brought my camera everywhere with me. When I was skiing in Whistler I actually took pictures while I was skiing on one foot, taking pictures of the Canadian Rockies. I currently have

pictures hanging up in Roberts.

"I am also in [literary magazine] Epic which has a photography component, as well as other forms of art, poetry, and prose but we felt like there needed to be even more of a presence at KO."

Naomi added that they wanted to branch off from Epic and be seen as a separate photog-

"We want to share our passion."

—Naomi

Letourneau

raphy club, but still coexist with the literary magazine.

"We really believe that photography is up and coming, and we wanted to share our passion and help to develop other passions as well," said Naomi.

Senior Tucker Charette, one of the club's co-founders, said he had expansive hopes for the club. "Photography isn't just about taking a picture of a flower and putting it in black and white," said Tucker. "It's about composing a shot of something that conveys a message, and that's what we hope we can show to the

members of the KO community."

Some of the club's goals for the year are starting a photo sharing website like Flickr, creating an Instagram and hosting a gallery night in conjunction with Epic to raise money for charity.

"We want to get more people to change from Instagrams of Starbucks to taking real photos and learning quality of photography," said Tucker.

Although the club hopes to work with Epic to diversify the arts at KO, the club is also hoping to change their name to distinguish themselves as a completely different club. (E-pic is easily confused with Epic).

"Our main goal is to get off the ground running and explain what we are to the KO community," said Max. "Next year we may go larger and have a publication of our own, but for now we are really just developing the club and letting the campus know we are here."

As for how you can get involved, E-Pic is planning on having their first meeting soon to further discuss their goals for the year and how to get the community involved in spreading everyone's photography. Until then, the next time you take a photo, really think about why you are taking it and how you can help change

Epic coffeehouse to attract audiences

by Maddie Pazzani '14

The Epic team is gearing up for their first coffeehouse of the year, which will be held Friday, Nov. 9 in Commons. The literary magazine's biannual coffeehouses are an opportunity for students to share their talents with the KO community by performing a song, doing a reading, or presenting any other artistic act.

"We do coffeehouses because we don't want everyone to be known by just who they are in the classroom," said senior Catherine Eatherton, one of Epic's co-editors. "Everyone is so much more than what they do during school hours."

Catherine said she expects about 15 groups to perform, and that anyone considering performing should sign up on the chalkboard in the Epic lounge located on the bottom floor of Roberts.

"The best acts end to be surprises, the people you don't expect," she said. "If someone really shy that we've never heard sing gets up and does a solo, that's always really exciting to see."

Although the acts vary from year to year, Catherine said that the general format of the night will not change this time around. "We're not really planning on changing anything," she said. "We just hope it'll be a bigger, badder version of last year's coffeehouses."

Currently, seniors Mary Colliton, Rachel Yirigian, Sam Wiseman, Hope Kim, and the boys acappella group Crimson 7 are signed up. According to Catherine, the absence of underclassmen, while not ideal, is to be expected.

"It's just more natural for seniors to perform early in the year," she said. "It takes the younger kids some time to get their courage up and perform."

Math teacher William Gilyard and guidance counselor Chastity Rodriguez are also on the roster for the event. Students always find it exciting to see their teachers show their hidden talents outside the classroom, and Catherine said that she would like to see more teachers sign up.

"We really encourage teachers to perform and submit their work to the magazine because they're a part of the community too, and we want to see their talents same as any of the students."

In addition to the upcoming coffeehouse, Epic is also working on their first issue of the year, set to be released in January.

Here, the Epic staff is breaking from the mold. The winter issue will be focused exclusively on poetry and prose, and the March issue will feature only visual art. Catherine said that the last issue of the year will include both types of artwork.

Life team helps students cope

by Natalie Goldstein '14

Although it is a group relatively unknown to students, the Student Life Team works throughout the year to focus on non-academic issues that arise at KO.

The team began two years ago as a part of the restructuring of the school. During this reconstruction, many small groups were formed, including the Academic Life Team and the Business Life team, all based on Head of School Dennis Bisgaard's model.

The team consists of faculty who do not teach classes and meets once a month. Last year, students took a survey created by the Student Life Team so the team could gain more perspective on real problems that students were facing.

From the results of the survey, the members set goals for improving student life in all areas, including sports, personal health and wellness, college advising, academic skills, and extra-curriculars. A major issue that the team noticed was a culture of meanness, said Director of Student Life Carolyn McKee.

"One of the ideas we got from the survey is that we all need to be kinder," she said. This prompted the return of the Anti-Defamation League Day Oct. 4 to promote compassion among students.

In addition to ADL, the Student Life Team has discussed other various ways to create a feeling of acceptance, compassion and respect among students.

The team is considering the possibility of more inter-form activities to give students opportunities to socialize outside of their form.

In college advising, the team is working to start the college process for juniors earlier in the year, which will include familiarizing students with Naviance, the process, and college advisors.

School Counselor Chastity Rodriguez said she is always available to talk about some of the most important and often overlooked topics in high school students' lives: stress due to school or home environments and personal relationships.

Personal relationships are not limited to teacher-student miscommunications. She also offers advice about friendships, romantic relationships and parent-student problems.

In addition to mental health, the team also pays attention to the physical health of its students.

School nurse Jeanne Auerbach is promoting health through videos and announcements at assemblies. Her intention is to make students more aware of health hazards, such as food allergies.

A video about food allergies was shown at assembly, depicting the serious consequences that may come with food allergies, a health complication that students typically overlook.

Team members say they working to accommodate all needs, from academic to personal complications, so that KO students are happy and healthy.

Pep rally in Hewett showcases captains

by Rachel Yirigian '14

For the past week, the KO campus has been overtaken by various costumes and clashing outfits. Spirit Week did a great job of getting everyone pumped for Hewett Day.

And Student Government worked hard for many weeks to plan a fun, exciting pep rally during 8X on Friday, Oct. 18 to increase school spirit among Upper School students.

Student Government Speaker senior Jake Leshem orchestrated this year's pep rally. Students sat eagerly waiting in the stands of Hewett Gym, complete with an air horn and red streamers.

Some teams made videos to promote their game; however, technical difficulties prevented these videos from being played. "Girls field hockey has put a lot of effort in our video," said senior field hockey player Grace Jarmoc. "It is hilarious."

The pep rally began with each grade and even the faculty showing their school pride by chanting, "We are Wyverns!" Team captains were then given time to make an announcement about game times to inform fellow students and increase student attendance.

The football team stood up for an impromptu dance-off that featured a bernie dance and back flip, prompting loud cheers from the crowd.

Jake then called up the boys cross-country captains and girls



Wyvern mascot KOKO leads cheers at the pep rally. (Photo by Meg Kasprak)

soccer captains for a free-throw competition, with the girls winning 3-1 in an action-packed minute.

The next event was the Chubby Bunny competition in which team captains stuffed their mouths with successive numbers of marshmallows and tried to say "Chubby Bunny." Senior football captain Ben Akerele won the event, amidst wild encouragement from the crowd.

Finally, there was a Lancaster vs. York competition,

where all the team captains got a chance to make a half-court shot. Unfortunately, no one succeeded in making the difficult shot.

"We try to take every opportunity we have to incorporate Lancaster and York," senior Jack Macguire said. "Even if kids do not play a sport, they still feel like they are a part of a team."

From Mario costumes, to Pikachu face paint, to crazy onesies, KO students went all out to demonstrate their Wyvern Nation pride.

Getting to know Joan Edwards

by Allie Kyff '14

A native of England who moved to America at age 15, Diversity, Inclusion and Cultural Competency Advisor Joan Edwards has experienced her own fair share of diverse cultures.

Ms. Edwards has been at KO three times – the first, as a French

"[Cultural competency] is having the skills and confidence to communicate with people who are different than we are."

– Ms. Edwards

teacher and staff member in the admissions office, the next as the director of multicultural affairs, and the third in the admissions

office and serving as the diversity, inclusion and cultural competency advisor. In this position she works studying identity and defining what identity means at KO.

Ms. Edwards clearly has a passion for cultural competency. "[Cultural competency] is having the skills and confidence to communicate with people who are different than we are," she said.

Ms. Edwards supervises all the cultural competency affairs in the KO community, focusing particularly on the KO faculty and staff. She said she considers cultural competency to be "courageous communication."

Coming from London, Ms. Edwards said she sometimes had trouble communicating cross-culturally. She remembers that some American students had no idea that black people came from England. "This rocked my sense of identity, and woke me up," she said.

Ms. Edwards said she is striving to create a more authentic and courageous KO. "I have the goal of [the KO community] understanding just how wide the spectrum is and what it is to be a KO person," she said.



Joan Edwards is KO's diversity, inclusion and cultural competency advisor. (Photo by Helena Roland '14.)

She said she focuses on defining what it is to be a KO community member and emphasizes the importance of inclusion on campus. She said she also wants to utilize all perspectives to discover what identity means at KO. "Every voice is important," she said.

Since returning to KO, Ms. Edwards has run a monthly program called "SEED." SEED stands for Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity" and is

a monthly discussion group in which faculty and staff recall stories of when they discovered gender, diversity and body image.

So far, about 20 faculty and staff members have been involved. SEED is a full, academic, year-long program, and the assignments are based on discovering the curriculum of self.

"I am here to model intention," said Ms. Edwards. She said that we must look at our intentions

to see why something may not work.

She said she also seeks to be an agent of change. "I want to leave this world a better place than I found it," she said.

In her role, she said she's also seeking to redefine diversity. "Humans have life experiences and personal experiences to form their identities," she said. She asks whether we are preparing students to be culturally competent and which skill sets we hope to build.

She said she also strives to foster effective communication that empowers relationships with others and ourselves.

She and Mr. Bisgaard created her new title and role as diversity, inclusion and cultural competency advisor. "Mr. Bisgaard and I have intention with my title," said Ms. Edwards. The title, she says, signals all aspects of what she's doing.

Ms. Edwards is an extremely warm, caring and thoughtful woman who carries herself with clear and strong intentions. She not only looks to the current year, but also to the years ahead. She will continue to enrich the KO community with her passion for defining what it means to be diverse.

Has our Halloween hey day hit its end?

by Natalie Goldstein '14

Trick or treating is aimed at elementary school students, yet some high school students continue to actively participate in the tradition.

While elementary students eagerly look forward to what they might consider the best holiday of the year, complete with free candy and plastic swords, middle-schoolers shun such childish traditions and look towards high-schoolers for inspiration.

However, they may discover that their inspirations have decided to join the ranks of the youngest for one night.

When Oct. 31 rolls around, some high school students find themselves walking the streets among the best dressed superheroes and princesses.

Many underclassmen are looking forward to trick or treating with friends. "I love dressing up and looking ridiculous with my friends," freshman Jane Schafer said, quickly adding, "The candy is always nice too."

Jane, who will be dressing up as a witch and celebrating the holiday with friends, said

she believes the holiday is a way to have fun with friends, express creativity through costume, and receive candy.

Although some students criticize fellow high-schoolers for dressing up, freshman Nicole Galik defended the tradition. "It's fun to dress up," she said, "and you shouldn't care what other people think as long as you're having fun."

Spanish teacher Juan Garcia agrees with Jane and Nicole, encouraging students to carry on trick or treating.

"Hang on to your youth as long as you can," he said. Even Mr. and Mrs. Garcia's 3-month old son, AJ, will be participating in the festivities, dressed as baby Elvis.

But, sad to say, most older KO students will be staying home. Many upperclassmen agree that it is a holiday best left to younger students, unless done in the proper spirit.

"I think anyone can have fun wearing a costume and going out with their friends," said senior Sam Wiseman, "but there's a point when doing it in order to usurp candy from the neighborhood is not cool."

Free candy is such a big enticement that a few

students admit they might go trick or treating costume-less, just to grab some candy.

This is where a majority of students draw the line. "That's just an immoral excuse to steal candy from children," said junior Jimmy Woods.

However, senior Abhilash Panthagani said that high school students are more entitled to go trick or treating than young students. "We need to relieve stress by trick or treating and hanging out with friends" he said. "The costume is irrelevant."

It's apparent KO students have mixed opinions regarding how serious students should be about Halloween. Some students feel that dressing up in full costume is inappropriate, while others feel that if an older student wants to participate in the holiday, they should don full costume.

"If you are going to do it," senior Megan Geier explained, "then you should really do it and mean it, not throw on a jersey to demand candy."

Although students are divided on whether they will trick or treat, most agree that doing it purely for candy is taking it too far.

Forensic Union shares news, debate topics through bulletin board

by Rachel Yirigian '14

It's no secret that Forensic Union is a popular club on campus. Their enthusiastic announcements at assembly make more students want to join in on the fun. However, it is hard to communicate important dates and information to a school of 500 students and teachers.

To help us get a sense of how a busy group like this stays organized, senior Sophie Kruger spoke to us about the usefulness of the bulletin board.

"We always have our sign up sheet for meetings posted for anyone who wants to join," she said. This makes Forensic Union a much more inclu-

sive and open club, she said.

Sophie also said they post pictures of students that have debated at tournaments and at meetings. She also mentioned a new element that the group is putting into place. "Each week we have a topic of the week so members can become for informed about current issues," she said.

Forensic Union provides a bin of topics and handouts open to the entire student body. "Sometimes we have more random topics," she said, "Others are just informative."

Students can check the bulletin board to get involved in Forensic Union. This week's topic is "Estate Taxes." Bring your grandparents!



Java joust: Some students enjoy Starbucks, while others savor Dunkin' Donuts. (Photo by Helena Roland '14)

The Great Debate: Starbucks vs. Dunkin'

by Matt Luther '14

Well, it's about that time of year again. The leaves are turning, the air is taking on a familiar and crisp chilliness, and, of course, the coffee shops are eager to set the trend for the autumn pick-me-up.

Two companies are competing rather closely: Starbucks and Dunkin' Donuts. As always, there is a fair share of takers for each side. However, which is

truly the better choice and why?

If you don't already know, Dunkin' Donuts offers both a white chocolate pumpkin latte as well as a pumpkin iced coffee.

Starbucks' biggest fall drink is the pumpkin spice latte, and they also offer a seasonal salted caramel mocha.

There are obviously differing views about both companies, and the answer is not cut and dried as to which is better.

The most comparable drink between the two companies is the pumpkin spice latte vs. the white chocolate pumpkin latte.

As senior Naomi Letorneau puts it, "If I'm in a rush, Dunkin' is the obvious choice... but if I'm with friends and looking to sit down, I'll go to Starbucks. Their pumpkin spice lattes are both good."

But senior Allie Kyff prefers the double D. "Dunkin' Donuts is so much better," she

said. "I love Dunkin' Donuts. I live for Dunkin' Donuts. Coffee is my life, and it's so much better than Starbucks. Starbucks is too expensive! No questions asked, Dunkin' is better than Starbucks."

Overall, it seems that Kingswood Oxford takes an overwhelmingly practical approach to their morning choice.

"I just go with whatever is close. Dunkin' and Starbucks are both good, but Dunkin' is

cheaper and sometimes that's the clincher," said senior Taylor Lynn.

For those of us who do not drink coffee, the argument seems silly.

However, it is a perennial debate, and it is not always the same company that comes out on top.

Clearly, several factors determine which shop a KO student will choose. In a hurry? Go to Dunkin'. Looking for an experience? Try Starbucks.

Positive Mantras brought to you by the Return to Love Club:

"Absorb what is useful, discard what is not, add what is uniquely your own." - Bruce Lee

"When you dance, your purpose is not to get a certain place on the floor. It's to enjoy each step along the way" - Wayne Dyer

"To be beautiful means to accept yourself. You don't need to be accepted by others. You need to accept yourself." - Thich Nhat Hanh

Follow @koloveclub and @dailyzen on Twitter for more inspiration!

High school never ends: Stories of alumni teachers at KO

by Sarah Gianni '14

You'll find five teachers on our campus who have been KO students themselves, and through "luck," coincidence, and fate have returned to KO as teachers. Teachers who have come full circle by returning to the KO campus include history teacher David Baker, science teacher Judith Bailey, government teacher Andy Krugman, English teacher David Hild, and creative arts teacher Greg Scranton.

This article will highlight the experiences of Mr. Baker, Mrs. Bailey, and Mr. Krugman.

While the experiences these teachers had at KO were different, when asked if they ever thought they would return to KO as a teacher, there was a clear consensus: no. However, as members of the faculty, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Bailey, and Mr. Krugman all agreed that they are looking at KO through a different lens, appreciating the community far more now than they did as students.

Mr. Baker started at KO during his sophomore year, graduating in 2004. "I was very happy to come to KO, but also a little nervous because I was coming in part of the way through my high school career," said Mr. Baker.

"I knew however that there would be more opportunities to grow and succeed at KO, and meeting new people is always exciting," he said.

After graduating, Mr. Baker went to Skidmore College where he majored in music with a minor in history.

During his senior year of college, he began to audition for singing groups and to apply to schools with the hope of teaching history.

"I think teaching is a performance in itself, but in

a very positive way," he said. "You are teaching new material to your students, but presenting it in a fun and exiting way."

By chance, the first job Mr. Baker landed was back at his old high school, KO. "Working at KO made sense because it was guaranteed work my first year out of college, and I would also be back home in West Hartford, where my brother and parents still live," he said.

During his first year of teaching, Mr. Baker said that his mindset was to gain the experience and then decide if the position was right for him. At the time, he was deciding between being a professional performer and teaching. However, as Mr. Baker continued to teach at KO, the opportunity to add in his love of performance surfaced.

"I started off only as a history teacher, but KO has given me amazing opportunities, and I was encouraged to add in music," said Mr. Baker.

In comparing his experience as a student to being a member of the faculty, Mr. Baker said that he didn't realize how unique and special the community was until he had left and then returned.

"The community here is fantastic, especially the relationships I have with my colleagues, and I know that there are other jobs where you wouldn't feel as close with the people you work with," he said.

In the Middle School, Mrs. Bailey is a beloved science teacher and coach. Starting as a freshman in the Upper School, she said that she thoroughly enjoyed her experience as a student at KO, despite the challenging workload.

"It took me three years and three quarters to make the honor roll," Mrs. Bailey said with a laugh. "However, KO prepared

me for college unbelievably so, as I would always go back to my dorm room after class, get my homework done, and then say 'What now?'"

Mrs. Bailey said that, while she was in college, she had no idea that she wanted to be a teacher.

"I knew I wanted to

"Working at KO made sense because it was guaranteed work my first year out of college, and I would also be back home in West Hartford, where my brother and parents still live."

- Mr. Baker

be a science major, but I didn't know what I wanted to do with that," she said.

Coming out of college, Mrs. Bailey taught at the Rocky Hill School in Rhode Island. However, she said that there was not a lot of support as a new teacher, and, when her father Stewart Lindsay, then a KO teacher, found out about an opening position for an art and science teacher at KO, she went to check out the opening.

"I was never a student at the Middle School, so it was somewhat of a new experience for me coming back to KO," said Mrs. Bailey. "The visit turned into an interview and then a job offer, and overall I feel extremely fortunate to be here," she said.

As the daughter of a faculty member, Mrs. Bailey said that she feels happy to have had the opportunity to come back to teach at KO, a position that she didn't imagine she would have when she was a student.

"I definitely appreciate KO more as a faculty member, and I feel so fortunate that I have not only had the experience of being in this community, but my children now have that as well," she said.

Another Middle School teacher, Mr. Krugman, echoed Mrs. Bailey's feeling of gratefulness for being back at KO.

"I started at KO in the seventh grade when the Middle School was on Highland Street, and graduated from the Upper School in 1986," said Mr. Krugman.

Mr. Krugman said he agreed with Mrs. Bailey that the work at KO was a challenge.

"I loved playing sports and my friends, but academically KO was not always smooth sailing," he said. "It took me a long time to learn how to be a good student, and it wasn't until my fifth year here that I made the honor roll," he said.

But Mr. Krugman was adamant in saying that his experience at KO prepared him for the workload in college. "My first year at college I received more A's than six years at KO," said Mr. Krugman. "I felt that especially in writing I had a leg up compared to many of the other kids I was going to school with, and I truly have KO to thank for that," he said.

As far as knowing if he wanted to be a teacher, Mr. Krugman said he didn't know as an 18-year-old college freshman, but should have.

"I worked with 12-, 13- and 14-year olds at a summer camp every year, so I should have known that a career teaching would make sense for me, but I didn't realize

this until the end of college" he said.

Once finished with school, Mr. Krugman said he didn't think about teaching until his knee gave out while playing indoor soccer, and, while rehabbing, found out about the Teaching Fellowship Program.

"The program was started by Mr. Warren Baird to encourage people to get their foot in teaching and involved at KO," said Mr. Krugman. "A

"I appreciate KO more as a faculty member, and I feel so fortunate that I have not only had the experience of being in this community, but my children now have that as well."

- Mrs. Bailey

teacher in the program would teach two classes and coach four sports, with a house provided for them on Boulevard," he said.

An opening came up in the program the year after Mr. Krugman's injury, and that was his way back into the KO community.

"If it wasn't for the program, I don't believe I would have ended up back at KO," he said. "However, I am beyond happy to be back as I have been fortunate enough to experience KO through the lens of a student and now a faculty member," he said.

Behind the scenes: How does KO choose assembly speakers?

by Lina Volin '15

Every other Friday, the entire Kingswood Oxford Upper School filters into the auditorium prepared to listen to a guest speaker.

These guest speakers span a massive range of subjects, from Dr. Richard Freund's presentation on the search for Atlantis to the KO alum who worked in the creation of the Harry Potter theme park in Orlando, Florida.

In the variety of presentations, everyone finds at least one speaker they connect to and remember in the years to come.

But how do these presenta-

tions come about? Who chooses them, plans them, coordinates their presentations? As with many other facets of student life in the KO community, Assistant Head of School for Student Life Carolyn McKee is in charge of the assembly schedule.

According to Ms. McKee, most of the 3X assemblies are taken up by events like Club Fair, Symposium, and Speaker's Forum. "There are anywhere from four to eight speakers a year," she said.

The decision on who to bring in, she said, is multi-layered.

"The slots are filled by topics that seem pertinent to us,

like the Anti-Defamation League most recently," she said, "so I work with a lot of different people to set up the remaining assemblies."

She said other people might suggest a speaker as well by calling her and saying they have a great idea for an assembly.

Some speakers are supported through endowed funds such as the Goodman Banks Visiting Artist series.

In that case, the creative arts department is in charge of choosing a speaker, whose presentation is paid for via the fund.

The creative arts department usually has two assembly slots and

tries to bring in a visual artist and a performing artist every year.

One artist brought in last year was Ted Efrehoff, an artist whose work strongly features issues of social justice.

As for the rest of the speakers who are not brought in by endowed funds, the assembly budget often shapes what presentations can be featured.

"Many times the people we are interested in we can't afford," said Ms. McKee. "There is a budget we have to follow."

Despite these restrictions, the variety of speakers has been rich across the board and many stand

out as favorites among the students.

"Chris Herren was cool because he was telling a story about his life, and it felt like he was speaking with us, rather than to us," said junior Katherine Smith, recollecting former NBA player Chris Herren's visit to KO last year.

Junior Julianne DeAngelo remembered speaker Norm Kunc for his inspiring words and his witty sense of humor.

"It was really eye-opening to hear about life from his perspective," said Julianne, "and I think it was important people from the KO community realized how similar we are despite our differences."

Allie Stanton among recipients of national College Board recognition

by Kate Betts '16

Ten Kingswood Oxford seniors have been recognized by the College Board for their outstanding performances on their PSATs. Through various awards, almost 11 percent of KO's class of 2014 has been honored by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation for their achievement on this test.

Seven students were named National Merit Commended Students, meaning they scored within the top 5 percent of the 1.5 million students who took the PSAT exam in October, 2012. The recognized students are seniors Mike Barry, Warren Hadley, Sophie Kruger, Jake Leshem, Keenan Line, Samantha Pinkes and Thomas Wilson.

Another senior, Mary Lessard, received honorable mention in the National Hispanic Recognition program, and Taryn

Braz was named an outstanding participant in the National Achievement Scholarship Program.

"We are so proud of these outstanding students," said Assistant Head of School for Student Life Natalie Demers, "not only for their exceptional performance on standardized tests, but also for all the other ways in which they enrich the KO community."

Another senior, Allie Stanton, has achieved considerable recognition for her performance on the PSATs, as she scored in the top 1 percent of all students who took it. This accomplishment puts her in the running for designation as a National Merit Finalist, and a Merit Scholarship to be awarded next spring.

"I didn't really do much, going in. I did some preparation online. I did know what I was doing," said Allie when asked about how she



Allie Stanton '14 is a National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalist. Photo by Helena Roland '14

achieved her impressive scores.

In addition to being a Martin-Nicholson scholar, meaning she was awarded a merit

scholarship to KO based on her high academic performance as well as commendable leadership and citizenship qualities, Allie leads

a busy life on and off campus.

In May 2013, Allie was chosen as the first-place winner in the WALKS essay contest on the topic of "Executive War Powers and National Security." She was chosen from a collection of junior history students from four other prep schools: Westminster, Avon Old Farms, Loomis Chaffee, and Suffield Academy.

Around KO, Allie is one of the founders and co-presidents of KO's "Green Team," co-president of the GSA, a varsity softball player, and an extremely active participant in the theater program's tech and theater design.

Ms. Demers said that Allie "truly exemplifies the very best of KO." The Kingswood Oxford Community is proud to support Allie and the other commended seniors in their academic accomplishments.

New Thursday schedule allows for rest, slumber after 'manic Wednesdays'

by Benajmin Waldman '16

One of the most recognizable changes of the new KO school year is the institution of a slightly changed Thursday schedule. Every other week, on a 2X Thursday, school begins at 9 a.m. instead of 8 a.m., classes are 40 minutes instead of 45, and school ends at 3:10 p.m.

According to Assistant Head of School for Academic Life Natalie Demers, the primary motivation for the new schedule was faculty meeting time.

Under the new schedule, she

said, "faculty can meet together as a department to discuss school issues and department issues and tie it in to the academic day." Previously, faculty met during the evening which was inconvenient to teachers who also coach.

She said another motivation was students' sleep. "Research shows adolescents study better with a later start and more sleep," said Mrs. Demers.

The reason for the late start taking place on a Thursday is that many KO students have late

nights on Wednesday because of away sports games and other activities. The extra hour before school starts can be used as a way to catch up on homework and for students to meet for group projects, Mrs. Demers said.

There have been four late starts so far in the school year, on Sept. 12 and 26 and Oct. 10 and 24.

So far, students seem to be enjoying the freedom and stress relief the late start affords them. "It's really nice to sleep in Thursdays after games," junior Dylan

Borusso said. "It's a good way to rest and be more ready for school."

Sophomore Brianna Kirton agrees. "I think it's a great proposal because it gives students time to relax," she said.

But, for some students, the hourlong break isn't as advantageous. "I still come in at the same time," said senior Lauren Schoenadel, adding that she does manage to get an extra 10 minutes of sleep.

Sophomore Rob Yirigian says that he appreciates the extra time, not just for himself, but also

because he knows it is useful to teachers. "It's a good idea because it gives teachers time to get organized and it gives students more time to sleep before school," he said. "It lets kids who usually get here late get here on time."

Mrs. Demers says that the extra time has not been wasted for faculty or students. "[The late start] has been incredibly helpful to faculty; we've gotten good work done," she said. "The kids have been making the most of their time, even if it's down time."

KO gives books to New Haven Reads

by Benjamin Waldman '16

KO has started the year on a philanthropic note. Senior Lauren Schoenadel collaborated with former faculty member Lisa Loeb to collect books for the New Haven Reads foundation, which acts as both a tutoring service for struggling students and a community library for residents of all ages.

Lauren says that she was approached by Mrs. Loeb, who was an Upper School French teacher, advisor and cross country coach, during the summer with a proposal for the book drive.

Lauren then distributed boxes to each advisee group in the Upper School, more than 30 in total—and asked for donations during one school week from Sept. 23–27.

"I was hoping for 500 books," she said. However, after counting the collected books during her free periods one day, she found that the KO community had donated 1,334 books,



Lauren Schoenadel '14 and former KO teacher Lisa Loeb. (Photo by Helena Roland '14)

more than twice her initial goal.

Mrs. Loeb, currently the SAT prep coordinator and site director of the New Haven Reads Science Park, says she was

very impressed with the book turnout. In an interview with the West Hartford Patch, she said, "We rarely get that many books donated at one time. In addition,

the quality of the books was very high; some appeared brand new."

Since one car could not carry all the boxes of books, Lauren enlisted the help of French teacher Jen Weeks and Upper School Administrative Coordinator Donna Dudzik to deliver the books in one of KO's toaster buses on Saturday, Sept. 18.

"I learned how to work differently and more efficiently because I counted all the books during my free periods," Lauren said.

When asked if this experience had been a positive one for her, she responded, "It was really positive, but sometimes it was overwhelming."

Lauren doesn't seem to be letting that faze her. She is planning even more drives for the New Haven Reads Foundation, including one relatively soon this year. "I'm thinking about doing a supply drive in the spring, and maybe we could bring some kids down in the

winter to tutor math," she said.

This plan echoes a similar program with M.D. Fox Elementary School in Hartford. Headed in the Upper School by seniors Rachel Yirigian and Natalie Goldstein, KO students plan to travel to Fox throughout the year to help students with math, reading and with any other subject they request.

Natalie said she is thrilled that KO will be allowed to expand its community impact. "The more KO can reach out to the surrounding community to offer help, the better," she said.

Assistant Head of School for Academic Life Natalie Demers agreed. She said she admires Lauren for her hard work throughout the process of planning and executing the donation effort. "Literacy and access to literature is so vital and important," she said. "What she did was remarkable. It's always great to hear of students making a difference in our community."

The effect of homework in the KO community examined

The helpfulness of homework: homing in on what extra work truly achieves

by Sophie Kruger '14

Six p.m. hit, and it all started. On Tuesday, Oct 15, the Forensic Union practiced asking points of information as four brave debaters stood up and accepted endless tongue-tying questions from the audience. The topic was inflammatory, and every member had something to say for both sides.

The resolution: This house believes that homework should be banned.

Six p.m. hit, and all homework had stopped. For one full hour, no one was working on homework or studying for the big test they had the next day.

The major question: Did they sacrifice precious time to work and do homework for the sake of another activity?

Last year, KO hosted a viewing of Vicki Abele's movie "Race to Nowhere." The movie discusses the belief that students have to perform in school to get good grades, go to a good school, and find a job. The movie questions the status quo about what employers are ultimately looking for in an employee.

Do they want someone who can memorize tons of facts and perform well on an exam or do they want critical thinkers? The film makes the point that drowning students in homework is not a positive way to encourage thought.

In an Atlantic Monthly article from October, 2013, titled "My Daughter's Homework is Killing Me," essayist Karl Taro Greenfeld attempts to complete his sixth grade daughter's homework for one week. He struggles between bouts of drowsiness and difficulty memorizing the vast quantity of material. His daughter repeats one line to him to help him through: "memorization, not rationalization."

Doesn't this prove the point of "Race to Nowhere?" This sixth grader is not learning the material. She is memorizing it and performing well on exams because she doesn't have the time to learn it thanks to all the rest of her homework.

In response to the Atlantic Monthly article, Julia Ryan wrote an article called "How Much Homework Do American Kids Do?" published in September, 2013. The article features two charts (pictured) that compare the amount of time students spend on homework during a weekday night to the amount of time teachers estimate the assignment will take.

Generally, the students took more time to complete the assignment than the teachers thought it would take to complete. The study also shows that younger teachers tend to assign more work.

This study was an average for students across the U.S., so the KO News sought to learn reactions to

homework in the KO community.

Sophomore Evan Kelmar says that we do benefit from homework. "I think it helps me know what I need to work on," he said. But he did say that there is an amount of homework that is too much. "I think sometimes teachers forget that we have other classes," Evan said.

He explained that often there is extended time to work on an assignment, but the time is of little use because each weeknight is so filled with work that there is no time to start the larger assignment.

"There are essays. Just because we have a lot time to do them does not mean we have time every day to work on them," he said.

Senior Sarah Gianni said she was not sure about the direct benefits of homework. "I don't know," she said, "in the grand scheme of things this is the conveyor belt we're on. Go to school, do homework, go to college. If homework is a part of that, then I guess it's beneficial."

She did suggest that eliminating homework completely could pose problems for students. "If you're expected to be tested on something, then you need to be able to do it on your own outside of the classroom setting," she said.

English teacher Kyle Chapman has a unique perspective as both a Middle and Upper School teacher. He said that homework is beneficial, but maybe not for the reason for it was intended. "It may not be beneficial to the class, but it is helpful in terms of time management and planning," he said.

Mr. Chapman explained the difference in the purpose of homework for Middle School students as opposed to Upper School students. "In middle school in general you're learning how to learn. The homework should reinforce that," he said. He explained that learning to study for a quiz or a test is actually more valuable than the material on it during middle school.

"In high school it is more subject based—learning things that you will actually need as you go on in that subject," Mr. Chapman said.

He also said that too much homework can be a detriment. "We're stopping kids from being kids," he said. "I fear that teachers feel that, for a course to be hard, you have to give a lot of homework."

Interviews with KO teachers and students show that there is a point at which the work becomes too much. But what if the correct question is not whether homework should be decreased but instead whether the entire nature of homework should be reconsidered? Should the idea of going home and spending hours working after school be rethought completely?

But the idea of solutions other than to decrease homework load was difficult to come by, even with leading questions

and suggestions of no homework at all. Is it possible that we are so entrenched in the societal norm of arriving home and sitting down for a few hours of homework that it is out of the question to completely alter the system?

An article in the Wall

adopt the Finnish model would be somewhat absurd. Some students enjoy the challenge of difficult classes, and to change the American thought process behind school, university and employment would be virtually impossible.

But there are some ways

This method has students watch the lecture at home where they can rewind and go at their own pace. At school, the students ask questions and work through problems or what used to be "homework" during the class. One problem: How can you listen to five or more lectures a

Figure 2.10
Teachers' Estimate of Time Students Take to Complete Homework Assignments

Q545 (Teachers): How long do you think it takes students to complete a typical homework assignment for your class?
Base: Teachers who ever assign homework

	Total	Years of Experience			Level of School	
		0 to 5	6 to 20	21+	Elementary	Secondary
Base:	968	100	465	403	606	311
	%	%	%	%	%	%
5 minutes	3	5	3	3	5	-
15 minutes	36	29	37	37	40	28
30 minutes	42	41	42	43	39	49
45 minutes	10	13	9	10	8	13
1 HOUR OR MORE (NET)	8	14	8	6	6	11
1 hour	6	9	7	5	5	8
1.5 hours	1	2	1	*	1	1
2 hours	*	-	*	*	*	*
2.5 hours	*	-	-	*	*	-
3 hours or more	*	-	-	*	-	*
Not sure	1	-	1	1	1	1
Decline to answer	-	-	-	-	-	-

Amount of time teacher's estimate students spend on homework with attention on age of teacher (The Atlantic Monthly)

Figure 2.4
Amount of Time Students Spend Per Weekday on Homework – Students by Amount of Time

Q630 (Students): On a typical school day (Monday-Friday), how much time do you spend doing homework?
Base: All Students

	Total	Grade Level		Grades		
		3 - 6	7 - 12	Mostly A's	A's and B's	C's and below
Base:	2101	922	1179	558	961	749
	%	%	%	%	%	%
None	6	2	8	4	5	8
5 minutes	5	5	4	3	4	7
15 minutes	12	15	10	12	10	14
30 minutes	19	23	17	17	19	21
45 minutes	13	18	10	15	12	15
1 HOUR OR MORE (NET)	45	37	50	50	50	35
1 hour	18	18	18	17	20	16
1.5 hours	10	9	11	11	10	9
2 hours	8	5	9	11	8	6
2.5 hours	3	2	4	4	4	1
3 hours or more	6	2	8	7	8	3
No answer	1	*	1	*	1	*

Amount of time spent on homework reported by students (The Atlantic Monthly)

Street Journal in February, 2008, titled "What Makes Finnish Kids So Smart?" reports that Finnish students have only 30 minutes of homework a night, yet their national testing average is far above the United States. They also have more relaxed classrooms and fewer rules.

To say the U.S. should

to lighten the burden. Evan focused on the possibility of the block schedule. "You have one night dedicated to half your classes. You can focus on fewer classes a night," he said.

What if we considered an even more revolutionary solution? There is a teaching philosophy called "flipping the classroom."

night? Doesn't that take the same amount of time or maybe more time than traditional homework?

Maybe not. The block schedule works here. If the lecture is half an hour and a student only has three classes the next day then that adds up to an hour and half of homework – a reasonable amount of work, but still tolerable.



Senior Girls Varsity Cross Country Captain Mary Lessard (Photo by Helena Roland '14)

Players of the Moment: Seniors Mary Lessard and Andrew Peterson

by Taryn Braz '14



Senior boys varsity soccer defensive back Andrew Peterson (Photo by Helena Roland '14)

Mary Lessard

Despite a recent ankle injury, senior cross country captain Mary Lessard has been one of the main runners that has led the girls cross country team to a win at the Canterbury Invitational and a win against Pomfret on Oct. 12.

While Lessard originally played soccer in the fall, she eventually realized that she wanted to run cross country.

"I started running cross country my junior year. After running track freshman and sophomore year I realized that I had a passion for running and not for soccer," said Lessard.

Even though Lessard started running relatively late, she joined the team in stride and has been an integral part of the cross country team.

"She does have a lot of experience in track and that has definitely carried over and helped her in cross country," said Head Coach Jeff Perlis.

Voted as a captain this year, Lessard has also been key in showing the ropes to the younger kids. The cross country team is young this year with four seniors, no juniors, and 12 underclassmen. Leadership is an important aspect in a sport like cross country, where it is a both an individual and a team sport.

"She often has to be a leader

figure for the team because she has been running for a long time and has that leadership and that experience," said Coach Perlis.

Lessard has always tried to be a good leader for the team, but also acknowledges that the strength of the team keeps her motivated and that the young team pushes her to her best.

"We have a lot of young, really fast girls on the team and it is a really competitive group," she said. "I want to compete with them and hope to be in the top seven at Founders and at New England."

Consistency is one area that Lessard continues to work on. Cross country is a distance sport and it is better for runners to work on a consistent pace for the entire race rather than speeding up and slowing down.

For Lessard the second mile is one area where she hopes to improve.

"It is really easy to go out fast in the first mile, slow down in the second, and then speed back up in the third mile," said Lessard.

Coach Perlis has seen consistent improvement in Lessard in every aspect since she first joined the team. Lessard participated in a running camp over the summer that he credits as one of the reasons she has been such a strong runner this year.

"She really dedicated herself to running and it shows. Lessard is more experienced and she is a lot stronger physically than she was last year," said Coach Perlis.

Lessard also believes that running over the summer

has benefitted her over the course of this season.

"I am better at having consistent and strong workouts. One of my strengths is leaving it all on the course and finishing my race strong by passing people in the last 400 meters which helps us get a higher team score," said Lessard.

Lessard's attitude of leaving it all at the race in order to help out the Wyverns has reflected onto her teammates, and is an attitude that she hopes to leave behind.

"I hope that we all stay focused on training hard for the next few weeks," said Lessard. "We have our two biggest meets coming soon and hopefully our strong streak will continue at New England's."

Lessard also hopes that her teammates will step up without her to lead them next year.

"Our team is going to be a lot younger because we are going to have no seniors, and we are definitely going to miss Lessard who has great leadership qualities and experience," said Coach Perlis.

While Lessard does not have plans on running competitively in college, she still hopes to continue to run and one day has plans to complete a marathon, a longtime life goal of hers.

"I hope to leave a sense of leadership on the team. I was never number one on the team and I would like to leave the idea that you don't have to be the best runner or the fastest runner to be a great leader and to help other people become their best selves," said Lessard.

Andrew Peterson

Senior defensive back Andrew Peterson first fell in love with the game of soccer when he was young, and his passion has not stopped yet.

"I first started playing around 3 or 4, but I really got interested when I was 6 or 7. My parents brought me up with the sport at a very young age," said Peterson.

Now, 14 years later, he has yet to falter in his love for his sport.

"Every single soccer game is different. Not a single game presents the same challenges, but every game definitely has them," said Peterson.

This year Peterson has experienced one of those challenges head on: switching from midfield, a position he has played for a good portion of his soccer career, to defensive back. He has faced the challenge head on, and has thrilled his coaches with his seamless transition.

Peterson has worked hard through both the junior varsity and varsity levels at KO, and has become one of the better defenders on the team despite only becoming a defender this season.

"His adjustment to the physical and emotional change of playing a new position has been great," said Head Coach Peter Jones. "He has demonstrated great positive maturity,"

Coach Jones said non-captain senior leadership as one of the most important aspects to a team, and Peterson is the definition of this.

"He is a very good example of being positive and he makes the players around him better," said Coach Jones.

Peterson is always trying to work on becoming a better leader for the Wyverns. "I need to become more of a vocal leader

on the team since communication is always something our team could improve on," said Peterson.

Peterson credits his speed and high soccer IQ as one of the reasons that he has been so successful on the soccer field.

"Soccer first appealed to me because I loved how I could use my speed and anticipation to my advantage in soccer," said Peterson. "I'm an intelligent, thoughtful, and anticipating player. To play soccer is not just to run around and kick the ball, but instead it includes a ton of practice, focus, and cognitive play."

The team nature of soccer, and how the game is played all over the world, has also appealed to Peterson, and is one of the reasons that he puts everything he has into the sport.

"I love the camaraderie that is built on a soccer field. There is no other game in the world where you can take 22 players from around the world and in an instant have them speak the same language," said Peterson.

While the Wyverns face a tough upcoming schedule, looking forward to next year the team will be lacking in amusement next year without Peterson.

"I hope to leave a feeling of levity to the whole team. Without a bit of fun, improvement in any sport would be difficult," said Peterson.

Coach Jones hopes that the younger players on the team will see the path Peterson took and look to emulate that for the future.

"Our boys soccer team relies on and does very well with younger kids who come through the system, whether they play JV or not, and have complimentary roles when they are younger and then step up into major leadership roles," said Coach Jones. "I think we should celebrate that more because it really is a great thing."

Peterson said he hopes that his soccer career will continue no matter where he ends up in college.

Hewett Day spirit flourishes



KO parents sell KO clothing and paraphernalia during Hewett Day. (Photo by Helena Roland '14)

Congratulations
to all the teams
that played
on Hewett Day!

Girls XC pushes through recent injuries

by Griffin Maloney '14

After a great start to the season, the girls varsity cross country team has struggled to stay healthy.

The team started the season placing first place out of 18 teams at the Canterbury Invitational.

They have been led by freshman Chloe Ezzo who has come in first place four out of five meets.

"Chloe is a great new addition to the team," said Head Coach Jeff Perlis. "She cannot be beat, which is really exciting."

Senior Captain Mary Lessard praised Ezzo's reliability. "She is a strong runner and is very consistent," Lessard said.

Injuries have really hurt the girls. The team hasn't competed in a meet where all seven starters ran. "The injuries did not affect the girls at Canterbury," said Coach Perlis. "I cannot wait to see what the girls can do when everyone is healthy."

Lessard agreed that injuries have been the biggest downfall of the team this year.

Lessard herself was sidelined with a sprained ankle during the team's meet last Saturday on Hewett Day when the girls beat Wilbraham Monson Academy but lost to Suffield Academy, an opponent who has proved challenging in the past. Ezzo finished



Freshman sensation Chloe Ezzo leads a Suffield opponent in last Saturday's Hewett Day race. Photo by Chris Kasprak.

second to Suffield's top runner, the first runner to beat Ezzo this fall.

"Coach Perlis coaches us to be strong competitors," said Lessard. "Even if we don't win, he wants to make sure that we compete the best we can."

Lessard said Coach Perlis tells the girls to leave it all out there on the course. "[He'll say,] 'Pass that girl in front of you in the last 400 meters, or 'Do not die off in the third mile,'" said Lessard.

Lessard said the squad is really excited about the two tournaments at the end of the year: the new England and Founders League championships in November.

"We are really looking forward to New Englands because there will be many strong teams at the same level as us," said Lessard. "We hope to repeat the performance we had at Canterbury."

Founders will be a great opportunity for the girls to race against teams that at the same level of competition, so it will be a testament to what the girls have been doing in practice all year.

"New Englands is a tougher race where 20 teams compete, but, if all the girls get healthy, then we have a good shot to get a trophy (if you finish first to fourth)," said Coach Perlis.

The team practices at the West Hartford reservoir

"I cannot wait to see what the girls can do when everyone is healthy."

– Coach Perlis

and Elizabeth Park, which the team refers to as "Betsy." They complain when then have to go to Betsy because the practices are harder since Coach Perlis makes them run longer and faster.

It's a tradition that after the first cold or rainy Betsy of the year, Coach Perlis treats the girls to hot chocolate at Dunkin' Donuts.

Coach Perlis also treated the girls to a day at the Hebron Fair where they won their team mascot, a Despicable Me life-size minion named Steve.

Since Coach Perlis took over as head coach he implemented a tradition called Beast of the Meet. After every meet, one girl is chosen as the Beast of the Meet, and they win a \$1 gift from the Dollar Store and get to keep Steve for the week.

"It is a great way to build team morale and if you ever want to make a teenage girl happy, buy her hot chocolate," said Coach Perlis.

Volleyball kills Chase Collegiate

by Matt Gutermann '14

With a deceiving record of 3-8, the girls volleyball team has been battling in every game. While their record may not show it, the team has achieved a pretty solid season so far.

"We've been struggling to win, but we've had a few very close, hard-fought matches," said Head Coach Scott McDonald.

Coach McDonald said he was optimistic about the last few games of the season. He said the team is working on finishing games, especially the closer games.

Recently, the team played an epic battle with Marianapolis Prep in Thompson, Conn. Senior Co-captain Allie Kyff said that, in her three years on the team, this match in particular was the most heartfelt match she has ever played.

To get to the game in northeastern Connecticut, the girls had to endure a long bus ride and, to make it worse, they were down four players. When they arrived, some girls were car sick, and the first set was a tough loss for the team, 25-7.

Next set they came out as a brand new team and won the second set. "From here the rest of the match was a roller-coaster," said Coach McDonald.

After that, the teams passed sets back and forth, the third going to Marianapolis, and the fourth going to KO.

With the teams tied at two sets each, there was only one thing to do to decide the match: play a fifth and final set.



Senior middle hitter Abbie Mancinelli pushes back an attempted kill by Williston Northhampton on Wednesday, Oct., 9, as junior Melissa Lord (No. 20) and senior Co-captain Sarah Neary (No. 2) look on. The team had a rough start to the season, but they have started to gain momentum, defeating Chase Collegiate 3-1 on Hewett Day eve. (Photo by Chris Kasprak)

The fifth set was a battle, and both teams played their hearts out. The set was supposed to be played to 15, but at the end the girls found themselves tied at 16.

Laying it all on the line, the team lost the next two points and suffered a heartbreaking 18-16 loss in the final set, giving the match to Marianapolis.

After a heartbreaking loss, the only thing the girls could think about was winning their next big match on the eve of Hewett Day. The team was to face Chase Collegiate, a very well rounded and evenly matched opponent.

After losing the first set, the girls combined strong serving from Kyff and junior Melissa

Lord with laser-like kills by senior Abbie Mancinelli and junior Joanie Burzymowska to win three straight sets, stunning Chase in front of the large homecoming crowd.

Kyff thinks that most of their poor record is accounted for in the fact that the team just isn't having an easy time finishing the more evenly matched games.

But the girls' three wins are a tribute to some of the great players on the team. "We have great serving, we don't get too many errors, we get our fair share of aces and our passing has definitely improved," said Coach McDonald.

The girls play Miss Porter's this Saturday and Loomis Chaffee this Wednesday.

Girls soccer fights hard, loses 3-0 to Westminster on Hewett Day

by Griffin Maloney '14

Although the girls varsity soccer team has shown promising qualities overall, their struggle with adversity has led to a 3-5-2 record.

The team had a tough time on offense the last two games against Pomfret and Choate Rosemary Hall but did well on defense.

The girls played at Pomfret Saturday, Oct. 12 and tied 1-1 in a battle that went on until the final whistle. Both teams fought back and forth and a tie was an appropriate result, said Head Coach Tracy Deeter.

"The girls started to work out issues at a faster rate because they have started to communicate a lot," said Coach Deeter. "They have also been working hard in practice and transferring it into the game." Junior Co-captain Kennelly Allerton and junior Co-captain Olivia Whirly lead the team.

"We are much closer as a team this year. We are accustomed to each other style of play which makes us much better," said Allerton. "Right now we have several injuries, but the girls have been great about stepping up, ready to play wherever we need them."

A major obstacle for the team, Coach Deeter said, is that, when things aren't going right, the team doesn't have someone who steps



Eighth-grader Julia Lantieri battles for the ball against a Westminster soccer player. (Photo by Helena Roland '14)

up and changes the situation. "We do not stay positive when things are not going our way," she said.

Some key players the past couple of games have been sophomore midfielder Gwenyth McDonald and eighth-grader Emma Ouelette.

"McDonald has developed into a solid player after coming back from an injury last year," said Coach Deeter.

Ouelette has stepped up the last two games. She scored the equalizer against Pomfret, which ended in a 1-1 tie and scored the

only goal in the Choate game, putting KO up 1-0, but the game unfortunately ended in a 5-1 loss.

For a varsity team, this group of players is very young. The bulk of the team is sophomores, and the roster includes three freshmen and two eighth graders.

The team being young is a positive and a negative. It's good because it means there are a lot of potential for the future but is also negative because they tend to use it as an excuse when they do not play their best.

Going into Hewett Day, Coach Deeter knew that Westminster was going to be extremely tough. It had been a while since KO emerged victorious in a game, and Westminster had a formidable record of 8-2.

On Hewett Day the team struggled to control the ball and score, which led to a disappointing 3-0 loss.

The top goal scorers this year so far are sophomore striker Marissa Aniolowski and sophomore striker Emily Kirton.

The team has two goalies who have played great in the net recently. The tarring goalie, freshman Meghan Dalton, is out with an injury but senior Shiza Abbas has stepped up and been a dominant force in the net.

"The goalies have been great," said Coach Deeter. "Abbas has really improved since last year, and our freshman goalie Meghan Dalton has a lot of potential."

The Wyverns will oppose Hotchkiss School on Saturday, Oct. 26 in their next home game.

Outrun Wilby, Suffy on Hewett Day

Boys XC continues to run hard despite disappointing season

by Jen Shook '15

So far it has been a tough season for the boys cross country team, which suffered another loss against Pomfret School in an away meet on Oct. 12.

The team suffered from injuries and absences during the meet as well as having to adjust to the new course. Among those injured was fourth-slot runner sophomore Kyle McLaughlin.

Since the team has only seven varsity members, it is especially detrimental to them if any are unable to run.

The team lost 32-25 to Pomfret overall, although senior Co-captains Sam Goddard and Dan Dunham placed in first and second respectively in the meet, with both runners shattering the Pomfret course's previous records.

This year's Pomfret team was tougher than in previous years. The Pomfret team placed first in the Canterbury Invitational, with four of its runners placing in the top twenty in the meet.

This loss was the latest in a series of disap-

pointments for the team.

The squad came in seventh of 19 teams in the Canterbury Invitational and in eighth of 13 teams in the O'Connell Cheshire Invitational.

Additionally, the team lost to both Williston and Westminster in a double-dual meet.

However, these results are not altogether unsurprising after a majority of the team's strongest runners graduated last year.

This year, only two of the top seven varsity runners are seniors while the rest are sophomores and juniors.

The success early in the season by last year's team can be attributed to these seniors. However, injuries plagued the team late in the season, leading to an overall record that does not fully show the talent of last year's group.

Still, the team placed second in both the Canterbury and Cheshire Invitationals, comparatively better than the results this year's team achieved.

The 2012 team still lost to Williston and Westminster although they beat the Pomfret

team last year with a perfect score, placing five runners in the top five.

"Cross country is a team sport that requires a lot of discipline, and it's tough when a team lacks the talent that surrounded them in past years," said Goddard.

Team members said the team also suffered from the loss of senior Mason Guyette, who would have become a captain this year if he had not moved to Minnesota over the summer.

Despite net losses as a team, senior Co-captain Sam Goddard is having a very successful year.

In the Cheshire and Canterbury Invitationals, both of which had nearly 100 runners competing, he placed among the top five finishers in both races.

In dual meets, he has also fared extremely well. Goddard is currently undefeated in dual meets, having placed first in meets against runners from Williston, Westminster, and Pomfret. Goddard says his goal for this season is to place in the top 20 in the New England's championship.

Although the year itself has not yielded much success

for the cross-country team, Head Coach Fritz Goodman says he does not see the year as a loss.

He called this season as a "rebuilding year." He said he sees

"We graduated a lot of fast kids. Now the younger kids are starting to get stronger and faster and they are going to be very good in a couple of years."
- Coach Goodman

hope in many of the freshmen and sophomores new to the program who have shown potential.

In addition to Dunham and Goddard, juniors Nate Washburn and Jacob Tvaronaitis, as well as

sophomore Kyle McLaughlin, have all had strong seasons so far.

The team competed in their first home meet of the season on Hewett Day. Racing against Wilbraham and Monson Academy and Suffield Academy at the West Hartford Reservoir, the Wyverns beat both of the teams.

"We weren't really expecting to win so this was a very good day," said Goddard.

Goddard also won his individual race, thus keeping his undefeated streak in tact, while Dunham and junior Jack Reich came in second and fourth, respectively. Junior Nate Washburn placed eighth and McLaughlin placed ninth.

"We have been working really hard, and it's obviously been paying off, as shown in this win," said Goddard.

The Wyverns have a meet on Saturday Oct. 26 against Williston Northampton at the Alan Shaler Invitational.

The boys are also looking forward to a good showing at Founders meet, which will be on Saturday, Nov. 2.

The mentality of being a goalie

by Matt Gutermann '14

The position of goal tender is often one of the most pressure-filled positions in a game. In one play, a goalie can make or break the game.

Here at KO we have a few goalies who are highly capable both mentally and physically for the job. From field hockey and soccer to ice hockey and lacrosse, our goalies go above and beyond to make the save and keep our teams in the game.

Junior field hockey goalie Alex Breen started off at a young age. Prior to becoming a field hockey goalie, Breen had played goalie in lacrosse, so when her middle school coach approached her with the task of being a goalie for field hockey, she quickly accepted.

"I did it because I thought it was going to be a lot of fun stopping the ball with my feet this time instead of my entire body," said Breen.

Breen admits she has always wanted to play goalie in whatever sport she played, making her decision easier, but she also likes it because it's a challenge.

Breen said goalies need to be aware of everything going on around you. You need to know where the ball is going, and you need to keep playing your best even if you've already let in 50 goals.

For exactly this reason, being a goalie is a very mentally and physically demanding position.

"You need to be in the same physical shape as the players," Breen said, "but also have the foot/hand speed and reaction time like lightning. It is mentally tolling because it is very easy to get yourself down but you have to keep pushing through it."

While the position can



Boys varsity soccer goalie senior Reid Collins prepares for a shot in goal. (Photo by Helena Roland '14)

definitely take its toll, Breen said she does it because she likes to be relied on, seeing the field and exceeding people's expectations.

"Strokes in field hockey are nearly impossible to save because it's just you and the player, but I have had two so far and I've saved them both against two tough teams. Proving everyone wrong is probably the best part," said Breen.

While boys varsity soccer goalie Reid Collins did not get his start early on like Breen, he shares Breen's passion for the position.

Collins started playing goalie his freshman year on JV soccer. History teacher David Baker approached him and asked if he had ever thought about playing goalie.

"I had always played the field; I had never stepped in net. There were no other goalies in my grade and the grade below me, so I figured someone had to do it and it would probably be something

that I would enjoy," said Collins.

Collins said that, while he had never seriously thought about playing the position, he has developed a passion for it.

Collins agrees with Breen in that the hardest part is always being on your toes and needing to be aware the whole 90-minute game because you never know when someone is going to fire a shot at the net.

He agrees that the position is also very physically rough. "While I might feel a little bit better after a game than my teammates who were running for 90 minutes, I often get bruises that last many days. Jumping into crowds of players or just diving many times in the game will leave you sore," said Collins.

Collins says that the hardest part of the position for him is knowing when to stay in the net and when to go out for a ball because one choice can make the differ-

ence between a save and a goal.

"I play goalie because I like the physical nature of the position. Diving to save a ball can be one of the most fun things to do," said Collins.

Junior ice hockey goalie Chris Carley got his start at the position very early in his hockey career.

"I became a goalie in squirts when the team had extra gear that I could use," said Carley.

This sparked a passion in the young tender that flourished into something greater to bring him to where he is today. Carley says that to be a great goal tender, you have to be able to stay focused and not let your mind wander during games. When the puck drops, you have to have a totally different attitude and stay focused on only the game.

Carley said that, while most people say its 80 percent mental and 20 percent physical, they are wrong. It is almost

100 percent mental, he said, but you do need to be physically in shape to make saves.

"The hardest part of being a goalie is forgetting when a soft goal goes in. Every goalie lets in soft goals. The goalies that play in college are able to continue playing their game even after they let in a soft goal. Even in the show [NHL games], soft goals are let in," said Carley.

Making those unbelievable saves is a feeling like no other, said Carley. "I goal tend because of the gratitude you get from keeping your team in a game or getting your team the win. I never knew anything else," he said.

Junior lacrosse goalie Corinne Florian got her start via her brother Dylan who played varsity lacrosse goalie at KO for five years.

"When I first started out in elementary school, I played field for lacrosse, and the goalies would switch on and off because we didn't have a real goalie. So when I played, I was naturally good at it, so I continued playing from then on," said Florian.

Florian says to be a goalie you need a lot of courage and confidence because you can't be afraid of the ball, and you need to know the score isn't entirely a reflection on you. The ball has to go through the entire field to get to you.

Florian says the hardest part of being a goalie is feeling a loss was your fault. "I always have trouble in games that we lose or don't do so well in because I feel like the score reflects on how I played," said Florian.

Florian said that at times she loves the position, but other times she doesn't, and she enjoys it most in winning situations where she can just relax and play her game.

New coach brings field hockey success

by Abbie Mancinelli

Girls varsity field hockey now sports a solid 5-5 record, being led by a new coach with a fresh outlook and a strong core of seniors.

The team is led by senior Tri-captains Sophie Pennoyer, Megan Geier and Taylor Lynn, as well as a large group of seniors.

The success of the team can be partially attributed to the leadership and experience of the seniors, who have kept the team at a winning or .500 record for most of the season.

New Head Coach, Nicole Blake has led the team to many victories through her tough conditioning and team bonding ideals. "We are in the best condition the team has ever been in," Geier said, "and Coach Blake really pushes us where we need to be pushed."

Senior Caitlin Hettrick agreed. "Coach Blake promotes being positive on and off the field, so that's really helping us keep the spirits up and play a lot better," she said.

But it's not just all work

and no play. "There is lots of team bonding this year, and the team is really close," Geier said. "We're also really close with coach Blake; she is really funny and has a great sense of humor, and we all get along with her really well."

"Hettrick said the team loves the new coach. "She is so fun to hang out and joke around with, and she's always laughing with us. At the team dinner she was making Vines of the team and playing Just Dance and having a good time," said Hettrick.

The Play for the Cure game this year was a big success, said Geier. "We beat Miss Porter's in overtime," she said. "We were up 1-0 all game, and then Porter's scored a goal at the very end of the second half. In overtime, we scored off a corner. The game was really exciting and very intense. Thanks to all the fans who came out to support. It really helped with the focus and intensity of the game."

A tougher game for the team was against Choate on Oct. 16. A strong Choate team scored four quick goals in the first half,

and the KO girls were unable to get back in the game. "We had a 0-0 second half, which was nice to see after a mismatched first half," said Geier, "but we had lots of opportunities to score and just couldn't finish. It was really nice to see some bench players get varsity playing time, though."

Hettrick said attitude made the difference. "I think the biggest thing we need to work on," she said. "is not getting frustrated or down on ourselves when things aren't going our way, but instead focus on continuing to get back into our groove."

Geier said the team needs to work on being more aggressive on offense and crash the net. "Instead of getting scared," she said, "we need to go to the ball more, and especially get the ball to the right side. That's where the strong side attack is and the weak side defense."

But the team has a very strong defense, said Geier. "Sophomore Ali Klute, senior Naomi Letourneau, senior Taryn Braz, and junior goalie Alex Breen,"



Senior Caitlin Hettrick battles for the ball. (Photo by Helena Roland '14)

she said, "have all bailed us out of a lot of really tough situations. We're very solid in the back."

Team chemistry is high this year. "Our biggest strength is how

well we pass and play together as a team, and we definitely use that to our advantage," said Hettrick.

The team plays Kent and Hamden Hall in the next two games.

Football continues strong season, crushes Hopkins on Hewett Day

by Taryn Braz '14

The varsity football team has been on an offensive tear their past two games, outscoring their opponents 79-31 including a win against King and Low-Heywood Thomas School 47-3.

The Wyverns were coming off of tough losses against Hamden Hall 40-21 and to Holderness High 48-42.

However, against King and Low-Heywood Thomas School they dominated the game offensively and defensively, allowing only a single field goal while putting up their highest point total of the season.

Senior quarterback Dante Cioffi was 10-12 in the air and threw for 160 yards and two touchdowns. Junior running back Sharrieff Grace had 12 carries for 162 yards and ran for two touchdowns. Senior receiver Elijah Langston also caught a 26 yard touchdown.

On Saturday, Oct. 12, the Wyverns backed up their decisive win with a hard earned win against St. Lukes 38-32. The past two years the Wyverns have played St. Lukes they have lost and allowed 60 points both times. However, this year the Wyverns shut down St. Lukes on defense.

Once again Cioffi led the offense, passing for 365 yards and three touchdowns. Grice had another big day with 103 rushing yards on 20 carries.

Senior receiver Max Petrie had 4 catches for 48 yards and



Senior Spencer Martin kicks off in the 56-0 rout of Hopkins on Hewett Day. (Photo by Helena Roland '14)

Langston had 3 catches for 75 yards and two touchdowns. Sophomore receiver Isaiah Wright had a huge offensive game for the Wyverns with 12 catches for 275 yards and two touchdowns.

"This was our biggest game so far and our most important win. In the first half we did really well on defense, but the offense was lacking a little," said Petrie. "In the second half the offense came to life and we won. This really brought out the best in all of our players on the field."

This season the Wyverns have

benefitted from both a high scoring offense and shut down defense.

After two disappointing seasons the Wyverns have gotten out to an impressive start and have been helped by a new sense of what it means to be a team.

"Last year we had really good players, but this year we have these good players plus good team chemistry and that has helped us on the field," said Petrie.

The Wyverns have also benefitted from a mixture of experienced returners and talented newcomers.

"This year we have a lot more

playmakers than last season and more people have dedicated themselves to the sport," said Cioffi.

One of the most impressive playmakers has been Wright, who is new to Kingswood Oxford this year, but has made his mark on the team since day one.

"He has amazing hands, and he's proven his athleticism with some amazing runs after the catch," said Petrie.

Other consistent offensive threats have been Langston, one of Cioffi's favorite targets, and Grice, who pressures the opposing defense

with his speed and quick cuts.

Sophomore Koby Quansah has been one of the best and most consistent defensive players. Last year Quansah led the league in tackles and this year he has picked up right where he left off.

Senior Fen Deskus and senior Colin Brantner have been anchoring the defense and have all made timely plays to keep the Wyverns in close games.

On Hewett Day the Wyverns continued their winning streak, dominating every aspect of the game and defeating Hopkins 56-0, just one year after Hopkins beat them 42-7.

Cioffi and Wright were both offensive threats, with Cioffi throwing four touchdowns and Wright catching three. The fourth was came on a 67-yard pass to Langston.

Grice also had a big game for the Wyverns, who were never in danger of losing and have now improved their record to 4-2.

Even with their recent success the Wyverns hope to continue to take their remaining games one at a time and not get ahead of themselves.

They face formidable opponents in Woodstock Academy on Nov. 2, and Rye Country Day on Nov. 9 and want to continue shutting down opposing offenses and feeding their own.

"We have a really good shot to make it to a New England Championship game as long as we don't get too ahead of ourselves," said Cioffi.

Boys soccer fights hard battle on Hewett Day but comes up short

by Mary Colliton '14

The varsity boys soccer team has fought hard this season, pulling off two great wins against Chesire Academy and Watkinson, and playing great defensive games overall.

On Friday, Oct. 11, the team won 5-1 in a blow out game against Watkinson School.

Senior defenseman Andrew Peterson said that team worked really well together.

"With a combination of senior leadership and overall stepping up by younger players, we managed to control the game," he said.

On Saturday, Oct. 12, the team traveled to Pomfret and lost a tough game.

"We worked really hard," said senior Co-captain Victor Rosas-Granda. "We had a better second half, but Pomfret was just very good defensively."

Head Coach Peter Jones said that the team needs to improve on their shooting skills.

"We have trouble scoring goals, particularly against quality opponents," he said.

Rosas-Granda agreed. "Our offense works well together, but sometimes we just can't get the ball in the goal."

The team's strength lies in their defensive talent.

"Our defense isn't scared of the ball," said Rosas-Granda. "They'll take one for the team."

Peterson said that the team is also strong in working together.

"It's unlikely that our physical ability will outlast our opponents, but because of our team work, we manage to pull some wins" he said.

Overall, the team has demonstrated a lot of positive qualities.

"We're halfway through our schedule of games, and the positives of the season far outweigh

the negatives," said Coach Jones.

The team has changed a lot since last year, graduating seven seniors and losing another to a knee injury.

"It's different because we lost some big players, but our seniors and our sophomores this year have stepped up a lot."

- Andrew Peterson

"It's been a pleasant combination this year," he said. "There's a nice blend of veterans and new

players. The team has developed a very positive attitude of hard work and team camaraderie."

In practice, the team has worked hard on improving their skills and getting in better shape.

"We do a lot of conditioning, goal work, and game-like situations," said Rosas-Granda. "The coaches are really helpful. They want us to leave everything on the field and try our hardest."

Coach Jones said that he wants to continue improving and winning more and more games.

"I hope we continue to work hard, improve, build strong relationships as team mates, and represent our school in as positive a manner as possible" he said. "Most importantly, I hope we win the games that we can and sneak out wins from some quality opponents we still have to play."

On Hewett Day the Wyverns played a tough game against Worcester Academy.

Rosas-Granda said that, although Worcester Academy has had a strong season so far, KO hopes that their hard work will pay off.

"Worcester Academy is one of the strongest teams in New England, regardless of the size of their school," said Coach Jones.

The Wyverns anticipated a hard game against Worcester, and that they received. Despite fighting hard and hanging with Worcester, the Wyverns ultimately fell.

The Wyverns record is now 3-6-2, and they played yesterday at home against Choate Rosemary Hall. They then will battle Avon Old Farms away this Saturday, Oct 26.

While the Avon game will be tough, Coach Jones said he is not worried.

"We have competed against other good teams, so it's not a question of if we can or can't do it. It's how well we do it," said Coach Jones.