



THE CAMPANILE

MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH ACADEMY

VOLUME LIX, NUMBER 4

MAY 2019

Mount celebrates the Fine Arts



The Mount's Glee Club performed at their annual Spring Concert on May 1 and 2, with popular songs from "Company," "Sister Act" and "Waitress."



Art scholars, junior, Sophia DiGregorio (top left), sophomore, Braley Haviland (bottom left) and senior, Faith Scanlon (right) display pieces at art show.

"Grease" nominated for Independence Awards

By Teleri Broomhead '19

For the second consecutive year, the Mount received several honorable mention nominations from the Philadelphia Independence Awards, which recognizes "outstanding student theater performances and productions."

The ceremony was held on May 20 at Temple Performing Arts Center.

Seniors Lucia Macoretta and Maura McDonald were honored for their efforts in marketing and publicity for the Mount's production of "Grease" with the Mount's nomination for Best Marketing and Publicity.

Macoretta ran the cast's informational Facebook group, Facebook event and created an iMovie to promote the musical.

"I borrowed a school camera and recorded some songs from rehearsals, dance numbers and cast interviews. It was a great way to show people what our show was

about and provide information about tickets and show dates."

McDonald's efforts on the marketing and publicity team included running the show's Instagram, @grease_msja.

"I followed Mount students and local people involved in the arts to publicize our show. I posted photos to promote the show and advertise ticket sales," said McDonald.

Junior Gianna Branca received two nominations, Best Supporting Actress and Best Female Vocalist, for her role as Betty Rizzo in "Grease."

"I really did love every part about playing Rizzo. She's such a complicated character and has so many layers to her. Getting to discover all of those layers and go on that journey with her was truly amazing," said Branca.

Mrs. Maggie Doyle, the director of "Grease," commented on the nominations, saying, "With the students in the Mount shows,

seeing their characterizations come to life is fun and exciting.

This transition of allowing themselves to turn into their part is fun to observe, and impressive that at such an early age of working on the stage, they allow themselves to become someone else, no matter how fun, downtrodden or eccentric their character is."

Branca also told The Campanile, "I found out that I was nominated 10 minutes before the Spring Concert during warm-ups, which was a crazy but great feeling. I wasn't really expecting to get nominated, so to find out that I was nominated for two categories was really shocking but super exciting."

Senior Neil Devlin, who played the role of Danny Zuko in "Grease," was also nominated for an Independence Award, Best Male Vocalist.

At last year's Independence Awards ceremony, Devlin was awarded Best Featured Actor for

his role of Enjolras in "Les Misérables."

"Awards are such a subjective platform, but I am feeling humbled and honored knowing that they believed my work was worthy of acknowledgment for two years in a row. What a gift," said Devlin.

Senior vocal scholar Sofia Farrell was also honored with a nomination for Best Featured Actress for her work in "Sweeney Todd" at The Haverford School, which she performed in early March.

Farrell played the Beggar Woman in Sweeney Todd, a role she said both challenged and fulfilled her immensely.

"My favorite part about playing the Beggar Woman was the chance to play a character who is insane with a very complex backstory. It was very fun to use my 'classical' voice and have the chance to totally switch my mannerisms when the Beggar Woman was struck by a new thought."

Farrell also commented, "This production was one of the highlights of my year, and I loved the opportunity to work with such wonderful directors and talented cast. With the amount of hard work that was put into 'Sweeney Todd,' as well as my character, it is very rewarding and fulfilling to be nominated."

Mr. Don Holdren, the musical director of "Grease," said, "[These nominations] just confirm what we already know about ourselves: that we work hard, do our best and create something that we can be proud of. In the end, that's all that really matters anyway!"

Branca said, "[Theatre] is really an amazing community to be a part of. Of course, once it's done, and you can stand back and really look at everything you all have accomplished over the course of three months, that's the best feeling in the world."

Mr. Rooney says goodbye to the Mount

By Nora Hogan '19

After six years of course scheduling and telling the annual chicken, fish and steak parable here at the Mount, Mr. William Rooney, Dean of Studies, is saying goodbye to life in the administrative department. Next year, Mr. Rooney will be returning to the classroom at Ancillae-Assumpta Academy, where he previously taught history for 12 years.

At the Mount, Mr. Rooney worked extensively with students and faculty alike to coordinate class schedules and maximize students' success.

Senior Brianna Mahon said, "While Mr. Rooney and I interacted a few times in my previous years at Mount, we spent a lot of time working together my senior year as he helped me manage taking classes at Chestnut Hill along with my classes at Mount. We spent countless hours coordi-

inating rides to and from class, finding a balance between both my courses and making sure I didn't miss important moments like taking the senior photo. Mr. Rooney always made sure I wasn't over worked or overstressed and took additional measures to make sure everything flowed smoothly. Without him, I would not have been able to complete all that I did senior year successfully."

Principal, Dr. Judith Caviston said, "I thank Mr. Rooney for all he has done during his time here at the Mount. His interest in advancing the academic program of the school and his support for the students' achievements is to be commended."

Outside of the formal school environment, Mr. Rooney served as a UNITAS adult leader on several retreats. Annie Princivalle



'18 remembers her retreat with Mr. Rooney "like it was yesterday. His lighthearted nature and well-thought-out insight allowed my group to not only grow closer to one another but closer to him as well. Plus, he's secretly a great dancer! I gained so much respect for Mr. Rooney in my four years at Mount."

Senior MollyKate McDonough, who served as a student leader with Mr. Rooney on UNITAS this past fall, said, "Mr. Rooney has become both a mentor and a friend to me thanks to retreat. He is a gentle-hearted man who has his students' best interests at heart both in and out of school. He has given me extremely meaningful and helpful advice and has

been a source of comic relief this past year, especially on UNITAS. Ancillae is so very lucky to have him as a teacher next year, and I will miss him dearly."

Mr. Rooney's humorous spirit will certainly be missed by many students around the Mount. Senior Lily Doyle said, "I always look forward to seeing Mr. Rooney every day during morning announcements because of his comedic additions to the typical school day."

Mr. Rooney said, "The highlights of my day here are when students stop into my office, even if it's just for a quick piece of candy. I love your energy and enthusiasm."

Although the Mount community saddens at the prospect of losing Mr. Rooney, we wish him well in his future endeavors.

O'Neill and Volpe represent Class of 2019

Best in Class: Brigid O'Neill

By Kaitlyn Przydzial '19

Every year, the Best in Class award is given to the graduating senior who has the highest GPA in her class. Following four years of hard work and very little sleep, Brigid O'Neill has been named the recipient for the Class of 2019.

O'Neill, who came to Mount from Keith Valley Middle School, earned the Presidential Scholarship as an entering freshman. She continued to set herself apart academically, winning academic excellence awards in the English, Science and Theology departments and attaining first honors in every semester of high school. As a junior, O'Neill was also recognized with the Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award, which qualified her for a \$7,500 scholarship to the University of Rochester.

Beyond her stellar academic accomplishments, O'Neill has been heavily involved in extracurricular activities throughout her time at Mount. She was on the soccer team and played violin in the instrumental ensemble for four years.

She was on the robotics team, the Firebirds, for three years, serving as the team's Build Captain for both her junior and senior years and Technical Vice President for her senior year.

Mrs. Paula Soley, the faculty mentor of the Firebirds, said, "Brigid is a young woman that commits herself to a personal sense of excellence. Not the type of excellence that can be measured by GPA, but the type of excellence that comes in attitude. As Captain, Brigid has proven to be the type of leader that does not need to say much. Others follow her because of what she does, not

just what she says."

In her senior year, O'Neill was also a retreat leader. Mrs. Anne Hoffman, O'Neill's Honors Spanish IV teacher said, "[Retreat] was so comfortable. Not only is she bright, she is also kind and has a heart of gold. I LOVE Brigid so much that I attended Robotics this year even if I don't understand the first thing about it! I will miss her tremendously next year for her wit, her sense of humor



and her honesty."

Next year, O'Neill will attend California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, California. She intends to study civil engineering, with the goal of helping developing communities gain access to resources such as clean water and education.

On her time at Mount, O'Neill said, "I am so thankful for every opportunity Mount has granted me, especially my time on the Firebirds. I have gained so much confidence and hands on engineering experience through the team that I could not have gotten

anywhere else."

AP Physics teacher Mrs. Kathleen Hennessy said about O'Neill, "Brigid is naturally gifted and excels in all arenas in which she chooses to play. She is a hard worker and a good thinker. She enjoys a challenge, one of my favorite traits in a student. There is no doubt that she will be incredibly successful in the future at Cal Poly and beyond. She is going to use her gifts for math and science,



as well as her pure heart, to make the Earth a better place for others."

Valedictorian: Helena Volpe

By Sarah Alessandrini '19

Helena (Laney) Volpe said being chosen as the 2019 Valedictorian feels like a "full-circle moment."

"I came into the Mount very shy," she said. "I found my voice by overcoming obstacles and discovering who I am at the Mount."

During her four years at the

Mount, Volpe has represented her homeroom on the Student Leadership Council, and has also participated in track, cross country and mock trial. Outside of school, she volunteers at a nonprofit organization for individuals with developmental disabilities, does CrossFit and hostesses at a restaurant.

Before her time at the Mount, Volpe attended Norwood-Fontbonne Academy. She recalled



being drawn to the Mount by the academics and welcoming community, and reflected on the impact the Mount and her teachers have had on her.

"Señora Hoffman has helped me discover my passion for Spanish and has become a maternal figure for me these last two years," she said. Mrs. Anne Hoffman praised Volpe's unfeigned honesty and "sensitive soul."

"[She is] one of the few people I know who sticks to her principles," she said. "I have faith she will one day be called to teach life lessons."

Mr. Peter Alfonsi, who taught Volpe for the first time this year in Environmental Science, said Volpe stands out in her work ethic and communication skills.

Mr. Alfonsi praised Volpe's ability to articulate an argument and support her points factually.

"When I heard the announcement, I was excited for her," said Mr. Alfonsi. "I wasn't surprised because she's a very good writer."

"Mr. Alfonsi inspires me through his commitment to teaching and learning," Volpe said. "Mrs. DeStefano helped me to be more confident in my writing and advocate for myself."

Mrs. Margaret DeStefano, Volpe's Honors British Literature teacher and senior year homeroom moderator, described her as a "consummate student, who loves learning for learning's sake."

"Her appreciation for and facility with the written English word is nothing short of sheer beauty and elegance."

Volpe said she was "shocked to find out" she had been chosen as Valedictorian, but nevertheless is excited to represent the Class of 2019.

"As a senior, I can recognize what the Mount has done for me and my classmates," she said. "It is an honor to be Valedictorian because through my speech I can express our four years of hard work and sisterhood."

Volpe plans to attend Lehigh University next year in the College of Arts and Sciences on a 4-year ROTC scholarship through the Army Reserves. After college, she hopes to pursue a civilian career, possibly in the U.S. government as a diplomat, and become an officer in the Army Reserves.

The “dear neighbors” visit from France

By Cayla Higginson '21 and
Emily Jones '21

This year, the Mount continued a five-year exchange program with L'Ensemble Scolaire Saint Jacques de Compostelle, a sister school of the Mount, in Le Puy en Velay, France.

The two schools are both affiliated with the Sisters of Saint Joseph and the exchange program alternates yearly between sending Mount students to Le Puy and French students to the Mount. This year, it was the French students' turn to visit the Mount over Easter break. Six French students traveled to Philadelphia where they stayed with Mount families and experienced the typical life of a Mount student.

Madame Martine Wendzinski, a teacher at Scolaire Saint Jacques de Compostelle, accompanied the French students on their trip. Madame explained what was the most valuable part of the trip for herself and the French students, saying, “Studying at the Mount gives you a great opportunity to ponder on the SSJ values and make the Sisters' charisma alive in your heart and mind.”

Mrs. Katie Kennedy and Mrs. Anne Hoffman were both instrumental in organizing the program, relaying information to the hostesses' families and accompanying the guests during group activities.

“I think the exchange program is the heart of our school's purpose,” said Mrs. Kennedy. “We exist to educate women to be agents of unity and reconciliation in our world, to further the mission of the original six sisters who began their work in Le Puy in 1650.”

The French students and Madame Wendzinski arrived in Philadelphia where Mrs. Hoffman and Mrs. Kennedy greeted them at the airport. They then met their



French exchange students from Le Puy, France, shadowed Mount students in their classes and participated in several group activities during their nine-day visit.

freshmen Mountie hosts: Giovanna Consiglio, who hosted Yasmine; Campbell Donovan, who hosted Margot; Natalie Cappetta, who hosted Blanche; Maeve Carmody, who hosted Anne-Lise; Isabelle Holloway, who hosted Coline; and Aviana Principato, who hosted Lisa.

Throughout their nine-day visit, the French students realized how different a Mountie's lifestyle is compared to their own. Coline noted that everything in America is bigger and more modern, such as the skyscrapers in the cities.

“I think we both tried some-

thing out of our comfort zones,” said Holloway, Coline's hostess. “[Coline] got to see the life of a typical, busy American student.”

Blanche played basketball with her hostess, Capetta, and bought an abundance of Phillies' gear at the local mall for her brother at home. Capetta said, for her, there

were a few challenges with the language barrier, but “nothing that Google Translate couldn't solve.”

One challenge for the Mount students was figuring out how to go about with their normal extracurricular activities with their new guests. Anne-Lise was fortunate enough to sit in on a few crew practices.

“In France, my school is in a city. . . and is very little,” Anne-Lise said. “[T]his school is bigger, very big. . . [Our school] is mixed, boy and girl.”

While their hosts were busy, the French girls would often set up a group FaceTime call with each other so they could recap their days.

Aside from attending Mount classes and activities with their hostesses, the students from Le Puy journeyed to downtown Philadelphia, the King of Prussia Mall and New York City during their visit. They also spent a day at the SSJ Welcome Center and paid their respects at Sister Kathleen's gravesite.

The Mount's connection to Le Puy, France, dates back to the 1600's where the original Sisters of Saint Joseph practiced the art of lacemaking in order to gain independence as women. It was women of this same order who established Mount Saint Joseph Academy in the mid 1800's. Today, generations later, Mount students and alumnae still celebrate the legacies of these French sisters.

By creating an international connection, Mount Saint Joseph Academy and the Scolaire Saint Jacques de Compostelle foster the mission of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. The exchange program fulfills the SSJ value to serve the dear neighbor, especially those neighbors from across the ocean.

Mrs. McLeod pursues full-time career in business

By Lucia Macoretta '19

For 13 years, Mrs. Melanie McLeod has graced the Mount with her kind smile and warm spirit.

After teaching CSA, Business and Marketing and Personal Finance, as well as moderating the Forensics Team at the Mount, Mrs. McLeod is returning to the business world as a consultant.

Senior Amanda Lamphere said, “Mrs. McLeod has always had a passion for presentation and working with people. She taught me a lot as a member of forensics my first two years at Mount. I am excited for her new opportunity and that she is following her passion for business, presentation and working with others.”

I, myself, am very grateful for the lessons Mrs. McLeod has taught me in both Business and

Marketing and CSA classes during my senior year.

Mrs. McLeod taught me how to be a strong, professional leader and how to apply creativity in a successful business all while pushing me to think outside of the box. As I pursue a business degree in college, I feel well prepared by Mrs. McLeod to reach my highest potential.

With her upbeat and bubbly personality, Mrs. McLeod has taught with a mission for students to reach their highest potential, prompting them to be successful, thoughtful individuals.

She encourages students to ask



questions and she celebrates with one of her iconic dance moves when a student is able to work herself through a problem on her

own.

There is never a class without an impromptu dance party, or a fit of laughter when students teach Mrs. McLeod new slang (i.e. the meaning of “tea”) or when someone is being called out for chewing gum (albeit, usually this person is me).

But with all of the fun in her classes, there is still a high level of professionalism. Mrs. McLeod insists on treating her students as working women. She teaches students how to put their best foot forward and be confident in a professional environment.

The lessons taught in Mrs. McLeod's classes are important

skills to have in the real world, such as how to write a proper resume and cover letter, how to prepare and act in an interview and how to be proficient in Microsoft applications.

Mrs. McLeod teaches all of these lessons with a bright smile and excitement while keeping her students attentive with humor, kindness and the occasional lesson taught in Spanish.

Mrs. McLeod will be greatly missed by the Mount community in many ways. However, what will be missed the most is her positivity and bright personality.

She has started every class with a cheery “Good morning” or “Good afternoon” and demands a high energy response. We will all think of that wonderful personality as we go forth into our own careers with the lessons and values Mrs. McLeod has given us.

New courses for 2019-20 school year

By Margaret Anne Borneman '20

This year, the Mount Studies Office has made several changes to the classes offered to students. The Campanile interviewed the teachers of these new courses.



AP Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism

AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, the second half of AP Physics C: Mechanics, will be taught by Ms. Kathleen Hennessy, who believes that the talent for and interest in this course is very prevalent.

The goal of this class is to provide students with a solid background when pursuing chemistry and similar science majors in

college. Ms. Hennessy told The Campanile that this course is “equivalent to the second semester of a first-year college physics course for scientists and engineers.”

The course will be calculus-based, including problem sets, labs, quizzes, homework and tests. This class will run second semester every day, and students looking to double-up in physics can take AP Physics C: Mechan-

ics every day of first semester. Mechanics is a prerequisite for Electricity and Magnetism, and each course will be worth one credit. Juniors can take the class if they are concurrently taking calculus, but it is more geared towards seniors with calculus knowledge.

AP Physics 1: Algebra-Based

AP Physics 1: Algebra Based is replacing Honors Physics, which

expanded on the freshman class Concepts of Physics. The class will be taught by Ms. Hennessy, who believes the AP title will attract more students.

“It is a class that does not really have any science prerequisites. It is designed to be a student’s first exposure to physics. Since it is not a Mount student’s first exposure, you will have a little advantage over your typical AP Physics 1 student nationwide,” Ms. Hen-

nessy informed The Campanile.

Based in algebra and trigonometry, the class will entail the study of Newton’s Laws, energy and conservation, electricity and circuits, sound waves and various other topics. The course will have problem-sets, quizzes, labs, homework and tests. AP Physics 1 will run every other day for the whole year. Offered to juniors and seniors, it will be worth one credit.



Physics



AP World History

Finally! An AP class offered to freshmen!

AP World History begins with African civilization in A. D. 1250 and ends with present society, covering Asia, Africa, the Americas and a portion of Europe. The course was very recently revamped by the College Board to be more similar to AP United States History in the aspect of discussion-based questions, long essay questions, short answers and multiple choice.

Mr. Anthony Nardini, who will teach AP World, offered this piece of advice: “If you care about the content, and you care about gaining the information, it will make the test that much easier.”

The class, worth one credit, will be offered to all grades and will run every other day all year.

Hamilton: The Man, the Myth, the Musical

Hamilton: The Man, the Myth, the Musical is a class for all the Lin Manuel-Miranda lovers. When The Campanile asked Mrs. Melissa Feilke how she came up with the idea for this class, she said, “I teach Honors Colonial now, and as we get into post-American Revolution and the formation of government, Hamilton is a big part of that. I ended up using . . . a lot of Hamilton songs to basically teach the chapter, and the girls loved it.”

A lot of Mounties have al-

ready fallen in love with “Hamilton,” so there is a lot of interest. The class will consist of several mini-assessments, culminating in one large project. Students will analyze different songs from the musical, look at Alexander Hamilton, the historical figure and identify inconsistencies or dramatizations in the musical.

Running for eight weeks, this class will be offered to sophomores, juniors and seniors for 0.5 credits.

Human Geography

Human Geography will be offered next year as an Honors course with the goal of eventually offering it as an AP course in the future.

Mr. Matthew McGovern, who will be teaching this course, said, “This was something I had been looking into for a while just based on what seems to me, in the classes I taught, to be a lack of knowledge around geography in general. . . . I think that in order to accurately have an understanding of history and politics, you need to know the factors that influence the places where people live, the shape of states, the geographic features, things like that.”

This course will offer students a more well-rounded view of the world’s populations. The course will be offered to sophomores, juniors and seniors as a one credit semester course.



Genocide in History

Genocide in History will be taught by Ms. MaryKate Steinmetz, an expert on the subject. In college, her minor focused on studies of the Holocaust, so she is eager to share her knowledge with Mount students.

Ms. Steinmetz told The Campanile that the class will cover six major genocides: “We will start with the Native American genocide, and then go to the Armenian, and then the Holocaust, Cambodian, Chinese and Rwandan.”

Running for eight weeks and worth 0.5 credits, the class will be discussion-based with some small writing assignments and a final project.



Digital Art: Prints and Posters

Digital Art: Prints and Posters will focus on making digital illustrations and creating prints and posters in Adobe Illustrator. It will be taught by Ms. Elizabeth Hamilton, who is passionate about working with the program.

Ms. Hamilton told The Campanile, “I think that the idea of making digital art is something a lot of our students already do.” She expects great interest from students, believing that students will become acclimated with Adobe Illustrator and utilize the elements and principles they have

already learned through this medium.

The course will also entail the study of graphic artists and design theory. Additionally, it is a good entry point into animation. The class will run for eight weeks with a prerequisite of Design Basics and will be worth 0.5 credits.

Digital Photography

Digital Photography, previously titled Photoshop for the Graphic Artist, is a unique class that provides students with the opportunity to edit their own content instead of pre-existing content. Ms. Hamilton said, “Photoshop

for the Graphic Artist was really a deep-dive into Photoshop, so we decided to keep the Photoshop component because we want the girls here to know Photoshop before they leave, but then focus more on digital photography.”

Students will be able to use any camera they please to take their photos, whether it be their iPhone or the newest Canon camera. In the class, students will apply the elements and principles learned in Design Basics to photography. They will also gain a vast knowledge of Photoshop.

The class will run for eight weeks with a prerequisite of De-

sign Basics. Digital Photography will be worth 0.5 credits.

Art for Social Change

When Ms. Hamilton interviewed for her position at the Mount, she was asked what class she would add to the curriculum. Her answer was Art for Social Change, as she has always had a strong passion for this subject.

Ms. Hamilton told The Campanile, “There is a lot of art that can be used to promote social justice and, given the mission of the school, it seems that would be a good thing for our students to be aware of.”



She believes art’s uses for social change are not well-known outside of the “art world” and wants to bring this knowledge to our Mount students.

This class will not be a studio class; it will focus on case studies of how art has been used to affect social change. It will look at several different artists and movements and entail discussions and presentations, similar to a seminar class.

Art for Social Change will last eight weeks and will be worth 0.5 credits. Although there is no prerequisite, it is only offered to juniors and seniors.

Fine Arts

Business and Technology



Online Java Programming

Online Java Programming will be an independent class that will begin over the summer and end at the start of the first quarter. It will be moderated by Mrs. Margaret Toth, who created the class a few years ago and set it up to stand by itself. Mrs. Toth will instruct through Canvas using several educational videos from esteemed institutes and companies and implement definitive due dates throughout the second half of summer.

Online Java Programming will be worth 0.5 credits and will be offered to sophomores, juniors

and seniors.

Making Mobile Apps

Making Mobile Apps is an innovative, modern class where students will learn how to code simple apps. The class will culminate in a project where students will create an app of their own. Mrs. Toth is deciding whether to use an app inventor from Apple or one from MIT as the curriculum for this course.

Mrs. Toth told The Campanile, “The more programs I can get a student to experience, the better off her college and work experience is going to be. So much of what students will be facing will

require a little bit of coding.”

The class will be eight weeks long, worth 0.5 credits and offered to sophomores, juniors and seniors.

Exploring Entrepreneurship

Exploring Entrepreneurship is a class for business savvy and ambitious students. This class was added based on the fact that a lot of students go on to major in business in college.

Mrs. Melanie McLeod said, “Exploring Entrepreneurship will be a course that enables a student to look at the possibilities of one day running her own

business.” Mrs. McLeod believes Exploring Entrepreneurship will sharpen students’ skills in critical thinking and problem solving and deepen their business understanding.

This course will be an eight-week course worth 0.5 credits and will be offered to sophomores, juniors and seniors.

Sports and Entertainment Marketing

Sports and Entertainment Marketing is a new way to look at athletics and the entertainment industry. Instead of obsessing over basketball stars and singers, stu-



dents will look behind the scenes. They will look at all aspects of sports and entertainment marketing such as public images and brand deals among many other exciting concepts.

According to Mrs. McLeod, the class “will have guest speakers that will come in from various walks of life that have been involved in the world of sports marketing.”

The course will run for eight weeks and will count as 0.5 credits for sophomores, juniors and seniors.

Panic surrounds college admissions

By Olivia Wirsching '20

Picking a college is a stressful process for many high school students, but over the past few years the pressure to attend an elite university has swelled to new heights. Students and parents alike have become consumed with college—the visits, the essays and most importantly, the SAT.

In order to overcome the competitive atmosphere surrounding college, writing tutors, private college counselors and SAT/ACT prep classes have begun to occupy the daily lives of many young students. Despite these Herculean efforts to perfect the college application, some students still do not reach their admissions goals.

Stories of these seemingly “perfect” students who are denied from their dream schools spread to younger generations instilling fear that they, too, will not be accepted to the school they wish to attend. Now, these younger students are applying to more colleges in order to increase their chances of admission. With universities receiving more applications, acceptance rates decrease because they are still only able to offer the same number of spots in the freshman class. This cycle repeats itself year after year creating more and more hysteria around the college process.

Because of this craze to attend an elite university, the recent college admission scandal was not a surprise to some people. New York Times journalist Frank Bruni even commented that the scandal is not as separated from reality as we think. He says the college process has unfortunately included “routine favor trading and favoritism that have long corrupted the admissions process, leeching merit from the equation.” For example, Jared Kushner’s father made a \$2.5 million

donation to Harvard. Kushner was later accepted to the university.

Bruni also points out another flaw in the college process. He acknowledges that it is legal to have a college consultant perfect a student’s transcript and essay; however, altering test scores is illegal. He said, “Aren’t both exercises in deception reserved for

kids, even if it means elbowing others out of the way.”

On the other hand, some people believe that expensive SAT tutoring and college counseling give an unfair upper hand to wealthy children. A student from Bryant High School, Tabitha Waite, said, “[H]ighly unfair treatment may influence us into a society that values money and

particulars of gaining admission, society is concentrating more on getting into college than the college experience itself. As a result, some students view college as a prize to win and not as a life decision. To students, high school is not about learning. Rather, students view school as a vehicle to get into college which will ultimately determine their life path.

with a sophomore in high school right before a test. The student said, “If I don’t get a good grade on the test, I won’t get a good grade in the class. If I don’t get a good grade in the class, I won’t get into a good college. If I don’t get into a good college, I won’t get a good job. And if I don’t get a good job, I might end up homeless.”

Some stress is good and can be used to motivate students to succeed. However, students are experiencing chronic stress which can lead to multiple consequences. A New York University study explains, “Youth experience high levels of chronic stress, to the extent that it impedes their abilities to succeed academically, compromises their mental health functioning, and fosters risk behavior.”

Noelle Leonard, a PhD research scientist at the New York University College of Nursing, is “concerned that students in these selective, high pressure high schools can get burned out even before they reach college.” Leonard lead a study in 2015 about teen stress. In the study, 49 percent of students, “reported feeling a great deal of stress on a daily basis.”

According to these studies, students’ stress is having a significant impact on the quality of their lives and their future. High schools are becoming concerned with the effect stress has on its students and are beginning to implement resources to help students relax.

High school and the college process are complicated and nerve-racking for many reasons. Hopefully, awareness of their faults will make students happier and healthier now and in the future.

The CollegeBoard’s reasoning, and the question of whether or not adversity can be mathematically translated into a numeric value, is now under fire. Hafeez Lakhani, a college admissions coach in New York, received emails from parents asking whether their children’s hard work preparing for their SATs would be completely negated because “they have some means.”

“Anxiety is ratcheting up,” said Lakhani. “People are worried about never being good enough.”

Charles A. Deacon, a veteran dean of undergraduate admissions at Georgetown University, is skeptical of the new score.

“We have so much personal data on all of our applicants that we don’t feel the need for a tool like this,” Deacon said.

SAT implements Adversity Score

By Sarah Alessandrini '19

The CollegeBoard, the company known for administering the SAT and AP exams, now wants to take student hardships into account.

On May 16, the company announced its new “adversity score” of between 0 and 100, with an average score of 50, and higher scores meaning a higher disadvantage. The score will be calculated using 15 factors, including quality of the students’ high school and the crime and poverty rate in the student’s neighborhood.

The rating will not affect the student’s test scores; however, it will be included with the larger

portion of data sent to the college admissions officials.

This new measurement adds to ongoing national debate over lack of fairness in college admissions, fueled by court clashes over affirmative action and the recent cheating scandal involving several celebrity parents.

Higher scores on SATs have been reported to correlate with more privileged students, whose parents can afford tutoring and other resources.

“Merit is all about resourcefulness” said David Coleman, chief executive of the CollegeBoard, according to the New York Times. “This is about finding young people who do a great deal with what they’ve been given. It helps colleges see students who may not have scored as high, but when you look at the environment they emerged from, it’s amazing.”

those who can afford them?”

More and more people are beginning to realize how big of an impact money can have on the admissions process. The wealthy are being criticized for the luxuries they can afford for their children. Is it fair? Some argue that the benefit of wealth is being able to afford those services, as long as they are legal.

River Morrow from Homewood High School points out, “[L]ife’s not fair and people should use whatever means necessary to ensure the best for their

personal gain over integrity and hard work.”

Whichever side you chose to support, one fact is still true: a family’s wealth *does* have an effect on the college process. Even though students will still seek out SAT tutors and college counselors, some universities are trying to combat the problem. About one hundred colleges and universities boast need-blind admissions. Additionally, colleges are lowering the importance of standardized testing by becoming test optional.

With so much focus on the

Sue Porter from the National Association of Independent Schools said, “I once had a sixth grader tell me between sobs that she needed to be perfect. ‘Why?’ I asked. ‘Because you can’t get into Harvard if you’re not perfect, and my mom told me I need to go to Harvard so I can become a neurologist and take care of my family.’” The mother of this sixth grader most likely wants the best for her child. However, in situations like this, a parent can force his or her dreams on a student.

Porter had another interaction

College admissions scandal continues

By Claire Hanycz '21

In the last issue of The Campanile, senior Sarah Alessandrini shared with the Mount community in “Admission Scandal Shocks the Country” all of the details of the scandals surrounding wealthy parents who have been charged with bribery as they attempted to get their children into “top colleges,” specifically Yale, USC, Stanford and Georgetown.

Much has been written about the parents involved in this scandal, but until recently, little detail has been shared about the teens at the heart of this scandal—the students themselves. As celebrities, Lori Loughlin and Felicity Huffman have been the most recognizable of the 33 parents indicted in this scam. Every day, however, more information emerges respecting the roles of their daughters, with particular focus on Ol-

ivia Jade Giannulli and Sophia Grace Macy. It is interesting to note how differently these two families have approached this situation.

Olivia Jade Giannulli is perhaps best known as a social media influencer with her YouTube account (1.9 million subscribers) and Instagram account (1.4 million followers). But now, she is recognized as the girl whose parents were accused of paying \$500,000 to a fake charity to get their two daughters into the University of Southern California as recruits for crew, a sport in which neither girl had ever participated.

One of Giannulli’s friends, when asked by CNN how she was doing, said, “Olivia is devastated and completely embarrassed. She feels like she’s lost nearly all of her friends because of this. She’s barely speaking to her parents.” Giannulli appears to have even

distanced herself from what she has always turned to when needed—her social media. Since talk of the scandal emerged in early 2019, Olivia Jade has refrained from posting on any social media platforms.

“Her best friends are doing everything they can, but she doesn’t even want to see anyone right now,” the source added. “Olivia has been staying off social media because she’s gotten so much hate.”

In addition to a number of fans turning against her, many companies have terminated their sponsorships with her, including Sephora and Tresemmé.

Olivia Jade’s parents, actress Lori Loughlin and Mossimo Giannulli, a celebrity fashion designer, recently appeared in court to plead “not guilty.” Her mother reasoned that any parent with the finances to do so would have done

the same thing.

On the other hand, actress Felicity Huffman has pleaded “guilty” in her case and has publicly apologized to her daughter, Sophia Grace Macy, clarifying that Sophia was unaware of the bribery in which her parents were involved.

Huffman said, “My daughter knew absolutely nothing about my actions, and in my misguided and profoundly wrong way, I have betrayed her. This transgression toward her and the public I will carry for the rest of my life. My desire to help my daughter is no excuse to break the law or engage in dishonesty.”

Rather than paying a coach, as Loughlin and Giannulli allegedly did, Macy’s parents admit to having made a \$15,000 payment to Key Worldwide Foundation to raise her SAT scores. The money paid for a special proctor to as-

sist Macy on the exam, either by changing answers after the test or helping her get the correct answers during her private exam. Ultimately, Macy’s SAT score was raised by 400 points over her previous (unassisted) test, to 1420. Because it is not clear exactly what she knew, her mother is the only family member facing charges at this time.

At the end of the day, there is the temptation to feel jealous that these young women were able to get into amazing colleges with no effort. But upon closer reflection, all they learned through this scandal is that their parents never really believed in their ability to succeed. If your parents don’t believe in you, who will?

Sister Mary Hamilton confronts Border Crisis

By Sarah Alessandrini '19

Sister Mary Hamilton, a Sister of the Holy Child, spent three weeks this past winter volunteering in San Diego at a shelter for Latin American immigrants seeking asylum in the U.S. The shelter, run by an organization called the San Diego Rapid Response Network, provides food, clothing, medical treatment and other forms of assistance to the guests.

"We called them 'guests,'" said Sister Mary. "That was a big deal, to treat them with dignity."

These "guests" were all non-citizens awaiting trial to have their asylum cases reviewed.

According to the American Immigration Council, noncitizens claiming asylum, or protection from persecution, undergo a screening process at the border to decide whether or not they are eligible to apply for asylum in the U.S. The immigrants at the shelter had passed through government detention agencies and were awaiting an appointment with a judge to have their case reviewed. U.S. Law defines those eligible for asylum as refugees who face "well-founded fear" of being persecuted in their home country.

Immigrations and Customs Enforcement officers issued ankle bracelets to the migrants before referring them to the shelter. Before this program existed, they would have just been turned out onto the streets.

The shelter had volunteers serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. Sister Mary preferred taking the early shifts, starting around quarter to seven every day, because "I'm an early bird."

"We'd serve oatmeal or cold cereal, a piece of fruit and coffee," she said. For lunch and dinner they served rice and beans, or soup—"what they were used to."

The building, owned by a local parish, housed 45 to 105 immigrants per day, according to Sister Mary. Oftentimes, an influx of guests arrived overnight, so the volunteers had no way of knowing how many they'd be serving in the morning.

"I found out there's ways to spread oatmeal beyond what you would imagine," Sister Mary said.

Upon their arrival, guests were seen by doctors or nurse practitioners.

"A lot of them had never seen a doctor, ever," said Sister Mary. Common illnesses included tuberculosis, typhoid fever and scabies.

Volunteers would then help their guests make phone calls back to their home countries, most commonly Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Southern Mexico. It might have been weeks or months since they'd made any contact with their relatives back home, who might not

have known if they survived their journey.

"We had calling cards," said Sister Mary. "I would make the connection and hand them the phone so they could reassure them that they'd made it and they were okay."

A migrant's stay at the shelter was not permanent. The average

connecting flights or transfer buses.

"I'd say once you got your last ticket, that's where you're going," she said. "They didn't know where they were going."

Sister Mary described the immigrants she worked with as "bona fide asylum cases," mostly families with young children or

have more money and resources than the Honduran government. The woman witnessed her husband's and son's murders at the hands of these gang members, who threatened, if she weren't gone by the time they returned, she'd be next.

"She went into the house, grabbed her daughter and they

community in 1972, she studied English at Kutztown University, where she earned her degree in Secondary Education. Later, she received a Masters in Biblical Theology from the University of Notre Dame. She taught English for nine years before going to Chile to do pastoral work, such as preparing children to make their sacraments and working with alcoholics.

"I kept asking to go to Chile because I had studied Spanish in high school and I really wanted to try it out," she said. While in Chile from 1984 to 1985, Sister Mary recognized the need for medical treatment within the community—"people would walk around with a vile of medicine in one hand and a syringe in the other." She returned home and received a nursing degree before returning in 1986 to 1989, during which time she opened two medical centers.

Throughout these years, Chile was under the strict military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet. Between working 12 to 18 hours a day at the medical centers, Sister Mary protested the torture inflicted under this dictatorship.

"We were a well-organized group," said Sister Mary, who protested alongside other sisters as well as college students. "We became aware of the torture and wanted it to stop." She said she was detained four times, but never arrested—"that would have been worse."

"We knew the risks," she said. "We said to ourselves, 'What am I gonna do with myself later if I was here during this time and did nothing?' I mean, these were our neighbors!"

The dictatorship ended in 1988, when Sister Mary was still in Chile. "Boy, was that a big celebration," she said. She came home in 1989 and returned again to Chile from 1993 to 1997.

Sister Mary has also gone on three medical service trips to Kenya in 2013, 2015 and 2017.

"My dentist was instrumental in getting me to go," she said, "because he knew I had been to Chile." Each trip lasted two weeks, in which one was spent at the medical camp, but the other was a safari to reward the volunteers for their hard work.

"The first few times we saw 500 people a day," she said. The entire team included ten volunteers and about thirty Kenyans. "I did wound care because I could handle it. Some of the wounds were pretty horrible, but I guess I'd seen worse."

Sister Mary is currently the Spiritual Director for the Newman Club at Arcadia University, a group which participates in service opportunities and meets weekly for Bible readings and discussions. At home, she and the other sisters in her community are always praying for those in need.

"We consider praying a work," she said. "It works."



Immigrant families flee from horrific persecution and violent crime in their home countries.

length of time the guests spent was three days before they'd identified their sponsor, a family member or friend in the U.S. who could provide for them.

"Some people had no families, so there was a list of churches and other groups willing to sponsor one group at a time," she said. They would stay a little longer, about a week or so.

If a guest had a sponsor, he or she would often send money for a bus or plane ticket. Sister Mary, being able to speak Spanish, escorted guests to the bus station or airport.

"I wanted to see them walk down the jetway," said Sister Mary, who received permits from the airport to pass through TSA with her guests. "I told them as soon as they get out to go to the ticket person if they had a connecting flight." Sister Mary had to explain what to do in cases of

young adults seeking better employment opportunities.

"I heard no complaints," she said. "They wanna work. They're young and they made it this far walking. Some of them hitched."

The objective of the shelter was to make the guests feel as at home as possible. The children even had a playroom.

"There were tons of toys and certain videos they liked and stuff. We tried to make them feel at home." Some of the children displayed separation anxiety and other clear signs of trauma, such as reverting to an infantile stage—"some of them needed diapers again."

"Kids are resilient," she said. "They just keep on going, and hopefully sometime they'll be able to be treated for some of the stuff they went through."

One woman from Honduras explained how the national gangs

started walking," said Sister Mary, describing the woman telling her story. "She was apologizing for crying. All of us were going through boxes of Kleenex balling our eyes out. She can't go back." Sister Mary said she and the other volunteers heard cases in which people they knew who were sent back had already been killed.

Sister Mary's religious community belongs to the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, a consortium of religious communities such as the Sisters of the Holy Child, Sisters of Saint Joseph, Sisters of Mercy and others. The LCWR reached out to Sister Mary's community asking for volunteers, so she traveled to San Diego and worked at the shelter from January 28 to February 15.

Sister Mary has made several mission trips throughout her religious career. Before entering her

New policies crack down on asylum cases

By Sarah Alessandrini '19

On Tuesday, May 7, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled that the Trump Administration can continue enforcing a policy of returning asylum seekers to Mexico while they await a decision from an immigration court. Legal issues of this policy, formally known as the Migration Protection Protocols, are still being decided.

In December, the administration unveiled the “Remain in Mexico” program, intended to crack down on asylum cases, for migrants entering San Diego. The program has since expanded to El Paso. Kristjen Nielsen, the former secretary of Homeland Security who introduced the policy, said many asylum applicants have skipped their court dates and disappeared into the country. Legal advocates have denounced the policy and argued that it increases violence and overcrowds shelters in Mexican border towns, putting the migrants at risk.

“There’s a reason we give people work permits while they are waiting for asylum,” said Michelle Brané, the director of migrant rights and justice at the Women’s Refugee Center. “So they can support themselves and don’t have to be depending on government for assistance during that time.”

According to The New York Times, forcing asylum applicants to remain in possibly dangerous conditions contradicts the usual, longstanding practice of permitting asylum seekers to live in the U.S. while they await the outcome of their cases. Remaining in Mexico also limits applicants’ accesses to their legal counsels

while awaiting their trials, immigration lawyers said, according to the Times.

“The Ninth Circuit court’s decision is devastating. Subjecting vulnerable families to this pro-

gram is inexcusable,” said Taylor Levy, an immigration lawyer in El Paso.

Mexican officials said they disagree with the recent court ruling and the administration’s policy.

leenan, the acting secretary of Homeland Security, and Attorney General William P. Barr, called for authorities to set a fee for asylum seekers filing claims and work permit applications.

tively obstructing the President’s desire to confront the surge of migrants at the border. The recent protocol changes reflect the President’s long-expressed desire for a stricter immigration policy.

On May 16, President Trump unveiled his new immigration plan, calling for a “merit-based” system giving preference to those “highly skilled and educated,” according to CNN. The plan does not mention Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, the program protecting undocumented immigrants who arrived to the U.S. as children.

The United States issues more than 1 million green cards each year, granting immigrants legal permanent residency. The new White House plan would distribute more than half of the green cards to immigrants under a point system ranking applicants on certain criteria, such as professional skills, education level, age and proficiency in English. Another point would be “patriotic assimilation,” a concept favoring immigrants actively incorporating American culture into their way of life; for example, a green-card applicant must pass an exam based on a reading of George Washington’s farewell address or Thomas Jefferson’s letter to the Danbury Baptist Church, according to the Washington Post.

President Trump cited Canada’s immigration policy during his announcement, but failed to mention their high level of refugee admissions, CNN said. The U.S. has historically led the world in total number of resettled refugees, but these resettlements have declined steadily since the start of the Trump administration.

Congress has not passed a major immigration bill in three decades, according to the Post. Currently, there appears to be no clear path toward advancing this new plan through Congress.

Research has proven no connection between immigration and crime in the United States, according to the Times. A recent joint study by The Marshall Project and The Upshot suggested growth in illegal immigration does not yield higher crime rates. For undocumented immigrants, being arrested for any offense means facing eventual deportation. The findings also indicate other socioeconomic factors, such as unemployment rates, housing instability and measures of economic hardship, predict higher rates of different types of crime, whereas undocumented immigrant populations do not.

Robert Adelman, a professor at the University of Buffalo, SUNY, and his research team said immigrants, both documented and undocumented, tend to bring cultural and economic benefits to their communities. One team member, Yulin Yang, said immigrants typically come to America to find work—not to commit crimes.



Families seeking asylum in the United States have to remain in Mexico in overcrowded shelters under new immigration policies put in place by the Trump administration.

However, they will accept asylum seekers, protect their rights and allow for them to lawfully remain in the country. The asylum seekers are granted multiple-entry visas allowing them to return to the U.S. to attend their court date.

Asylum claims have skyrocketed as more migrants from Central America have crossed the Southwestern border in the past year. At the current pace of 100,000 migrants a month, officials predict more than a million will have attempted to cross the border within a year. Out of 97,728 completed interviews with migrants in the fiscal year 2018, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services confirmed a credible fear of persecution 74,677 times, according to an agency official. Only about 20 percent of interviewed asylum seekers ultimately win the right to live and work in the U.S., as applicants must present evidence of past persecution and establish a “well-founded” fear that they would face danger if they returned home.

On April 29, President Trump ordered new restrictions on asylum seekers at the Mexican border. A memo sent to Kevin McA-

“The purpose of this memorandum is to strengthen asylum procedures to safeguard our system against rampant abuse of our asylum process,” President Trump said.

The President’s memo, however, did not clarify how the plans would be carried out in the immigration courts. Among his other restrictions, the President directed that asylum cases in the immigration courts be settled within 180 days.

“The entire idea of asylum is that it’s something that you need because you are fleeing some sort of violence or persecution,” Ms. Brané said. “To then say that it’s only accessible to people who can pay a fee doesn’t make sense.”

President Trump gave administration officials 90 days to draw up regulations which would carry out his orders. This shift is among the first significant changes to asylum policy since Mr. McAleenan replaced Kristjen Nielsen as head of Homeland Security.

In early April, a senior administration official told the Times that the President had ordered a “shake-up” of his top immigration officials because they were either moving too slowly or ac-

THE CAMPANILE

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Green New Deal to fix climate issues

By Jenny Seminack '21

New York's 14th district congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez recently introduced to Congress a 10-year national mobilization plan, commonly known as the Green New Deal, with the goal of undoing climate change and restoring the earth's environment.

Ocasio-Cortez is working in accordance with the Sunrise Movement, a student and activist-led environmental organization that is beginning to gain popularity and may have a large impact on climate-related debates in the upcoming 2020 election.

The Congressional resolution, introduced to Congress on February 7, 2019, outlines the five main goals of the Green New Deal: achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions, creating millions of high-paying jobs to create economic prosperity, investing in sustainable infrastructure, securing basic environmental needs for all and promoting justice and equity by preventing future oppression of vulnerable and underprivileged communities.

The first goal of the Green New Deal is to achieve net-zero greenhouse emissions by the year 2050. The resolution states that meeting 100 percent of the United States' power demand with clean energy and zero-emission energy sources will be a necessary step in achieving this goal.

The fourth goal is to prevent any continued oppression of vulnerable communities who have experienced historical injustice by working with family and local farms to reduce carbon emissions and at the same time ensuring fair labor. The goal will try to repair historic oppression of groups such

as indigenous peoples, communities of color, migrant communities and poor rural communities.

The fifth goal is to provide people living in the United States with "high-quality health care; affordable, safe, and adequate housing; economic security; and

buildings to achieve maximum energy efficiency, water efficiency, safety, affordability, comfort, and durability" but does not list concrete steps to be taken in order to complete this lofty project. Not all projects listed in the Green New Deal align directly with the

The Green New Deal faces opposition from Republicans as well as Democrats. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi dismissed the Green New Deal, initially calling it a "suggestion." The resolution also faces opposition from politicians and lawmakers

Ocasio-Cortez compares the time period we are in right now—in regards to the environmental crisis—to the Great Depression and World War II.

"Some of us remembered, as a nation, we'd been in peril before," she said. "The Great Depression, World War II— We knew from our history how to pull together to overcome impossible odds."

This Green New Deal will differ from the original New Deal in that the Green New Deal will focus on underprivileged communities. The document states "[T]he New Deal created the greatest middle class that the United States has ever seen, but many members of frontline and vulnerable communities were excluded from many of the economic and societal benefits of those mobilizations."

The Green New Deal proposes noble ideas that would in theory be very beneficial to the United States, but it is not specific enough in how to carry out these projects and goals. If the creators of the Green New Deal want it to be implemented, they must create concrete achievable steps to achieve these goals.

While the Green New Deal has not been voted on yet, it continues to be a popular topic of debate among politicians as well as the general public. According to The New York Times, the Green New Deal will likely be a topic of debate in the upcoming 2020 election.

However, Ocasio-Cortez disagrees that The Green New Deal is a left-or-right-wing issue. "This is serious," she said. "This should not be a partisan issue."



Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez presents an explanation on the Green New Deal solution on Capitol Hill.

clean water, clean air, healthy and affordable food, and access to nature" through employing local farmers and taking power away from big businesses, controlling detrimental climate-based health effects, cleaning up toxic areas and placing economically prosperous developments on the same site.

While the resolution lists ambitious goals for the United States, it does not outline specifically how to achieve these goals. For example, the resolution plans on "Upgrading all buildings in the United States and building new

specific reforms listed.

The Green New Deal proposes focusing initially on the United States, and eventually extending aid to other countries to help them create their own Green New Deals. According to the Green New Deal, the United States needs to take a leading role in the worldwide effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions "because the United States has historically been responsible for a disproportionate amount of greenhouse gas emissions, having emitted 20 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions through 2014."

because of the cost that it would require to carry out all of the actions described in the plan. At a recent rally, President Donald Trump spoke to his followers, stating, "They want to take away your car, reduce the value of your home, and put millions of Americans out of work."

The Green New Deal, however, states that paying now will save more money in the future because of the economic downturn that will occur as a result of climate change, including the loss of 500 billion dollars in economic output by 2100.

"Our Planet" warns of Earth's decline

By Brynn Lynch '21

The new Netflix Original Series, "Our Planet," aired on April 5 and was produced in collaboration with the World Wildlife Fund to help spread awareness of Earth's significant decline. With four years of filming, the directors chose to portray not only the attractive and positive aspects of the natural world, but also the heartbreaking, sobering ones as well, which sets "Our Planet" apart from the typical documentaries about Earth.

This inspiring eight-part series provides breathtaking visuals of a wide variety of animals, plants and ecosystems—some of which have never been captured on camera before. The filming crew used specialized technology, including motion sensor video cameras and drones, to acquire footage of hundreds of different types of organisms. This inside look allows the viewer to feel a real connection to the animals and gain a new per-



The "Our Planet" documentary on Netflix outlines potential future problems for Earth.

spective on the remarkable differences between each habitat, many of which are being disrupted and destroyed due to human interference. This documentary series makes those watching feel right-

fully culpable for the damage they have caused.

Human pollution, overfishing and climate change continue to negatively affect the environment, and according to the docu-

mentary, scientists predict that if no changes are made in the next 20 years, the damage will be irreversible. As humans, understanding our responsibility and learning how to make a change is more

important now than it has ever been. The proof is in the footage and that is what makes this documentary so powerful.

Episodes conclude with sometimes obvious solutions—ending the obliteration of forest animals' homes to plant commercial palm oil trees or reducing the number of dams built so that fresh water can flow to dryer areas—leaving the viewer with a powerful feeling of hope. This series also explains the progress that conservationists are making in creating and expanding sanctuaries where animals and plants can flourish without being threatened by human activity.

Overall, "Our Planet" is an eye opening and humbling series that brings to light all of the aspects of Earth. Capturing the beautiful and the devastating while also informing viewers of the struggles our world is facing, this documentary is very impactful and worth a watch.

Plastic pollution devastates marine life

By Emily Baer '21

In late March of 2019, a pregnant sperm whale was found dead on a beach outside of Porto Cervo, a town in Italy's island of Sardinia. As the scientists and veterinarians at the site cut open the mother's womb and stomach, they were shocked to find not only a dead baby whale, but also about 50 pounds of plastic in her stomach.

While there were some remains of other sea-life the mother had eaten, she likely did not receive their nutrients, as they were blocked by the mass of plastic. Within the whale's stomach, the marine biologists found fishing nets, fishing lines, plastic bags with legible barcodes, plastic pipes and even plastic plates.

Unfortunately, this whale has not been the only recent victim of plastic ingestion. Earlier in March, another whale was found dead in the Philippines with 90 pounds of plastic in its stomach. At least five other whales throughout Europe and Asia have been found dead with plastic in their digestive systems throughout the last two years.

Sperm whales are especially vulnerable to ingesting plastic because they use echolocation to find their food. The plastics reside on the deep ocean floor, where sperm whales typically go to find their food. A whale might not be able to distinguish the sound of a floating plastic bag from the vibrations of squid. The whale will be unable to digest the plastic it consumes, and, as a result, that



Conservation group Greenpeace Philippines promoted the eradication of plastic pollution with this artwork exhibited in Cavite. The whale replica was created from plastic waste.

plastic will remain in the whale's stomach forever. If the whale continues to mistake plastics for food, that trash will slowly accumulate within the whale's stomach. As the mass of plastic grows, it will cause the whale to feel permanently full, resulting in starvation and malnutrition.

These incidents highlight a much larger problem: the extreme amount of man-made plastics within waterways and oceans.

The WWF (World Wildlife Foundation) has said that plastic is one of the greatest current threats to marine life. When explaining the marine plastic issue, Nick Mallos, the Director of the Trash Free Seas Program at the Ocean Conservancy, said, "Plastics are now found everywhere in the world, throughout the entire marine ecosystem and food

chain, from seabirds to sea turtles to seals. It's a truly global problem with inputs that are at a massive scale, and we're seeing the impacts grow and grow."

The biggest problem with plastic is that it's permanent and will never fully decompose. Although it may eventually break down into smaller microplastics, it still maintains all of its toxic properties and can be easily digested by marine life. These microplastics don't just affect the health of marine life, but they also affect human health. When people eat seafood that contains microplastics, they ingest the toxic materials as well.

The main source of the plastic is human waste that enters the oceans from other tributaries, such as creeks and rivers. Because humans are the main source of

plastic waste, we are responsible for finding a solution to the problem. Many countries and organizations are setting regulations on plastic including the European Union, which has recently placed a ban on all single-use plastics.

While steps are already being taken to reduce and eventually eradicate plastic pollution, we still have a long way to go before the issue is truly under control. We must be more mindful about our plastic consumption and waste habits. Opting for eco-friendly alternatives to plastic and recycling waste are essential for cleaner, less polluted oceans. If people take the right steps to reduce plastic pollution, the well-being of whales and other marine life will be ensured.

FIVE WAYS TO USE LESS PLASTIC

By Brigit Ferry '20

According to the Green Education Foundation, 30 million tons of plastic waste were generated in the U.S. in 2009 and only seven percent of that waste was recovered for recycling. Here are a few ways to reduce your plastic waste.

1. Use reusable produce bags! A single plastic bag can take 1,000 years to degrade. Buy your own produce bags for grocery shopping and wash them often.

2. Swear off chewing gum! Gum is made of synthetic rubber, also known as plastic.

3. Eliminate the use of plasticware! Restaurants often pack plasticware in take-out containers. When ordering food, request that they do not include forks or spoons in your bag and use silverware from home.

4. Say no to plastic straws. According to the U.S. National Park Service, Americans use 500 million drinking straws everyday. Buy and use stainless steel or bamboo straws instead!

5. Reuse plastics that you already have. For the times that you do use plastic, ask yourself how you can reuse or recycle it!

Plastic waste is a problem. It is our responsibility to fix it!

EU bans plastic

By Olivia Millevoi '21

On March 27, 2019, in Strasbourg, the European Union took a huge step towards protecting Earth's oceans from the pollution that has plagued them for years.

Because plastic makes up at least 80 percent of the trash in our water, it has been decided that world governments should take a more active role in reducing their use, especially considering that bits of plastic have been found in many marine animals as well as in humans who have consumed seafood. Shockingly, an annual total of about 25 million tons of plastic waste comes from the EU alone.

As a result, the European Parliament has decided by a vote of 560 to 35 (with 28 members abstaining) to ban the use of ten groups of single-use plastic items, including straws and cutlery, by 2021. In addition, the EU plans to have all beverage containers composed of at least 25 percent recycled material by 2025 and to have 90 percent of beverage containers recycled by 2029.

The vision does not stop there, however. Under the new enforce-

ments, producers of plastic items will be held more accountable for cleaning up after their customers. Tobacco companies will have to pay for the gathering up of discarded cigarette butts, and companies that make plastic fishing nets will also have to pay for the nets' collection when they are lost in waters by fishermen. Moreover, producers will be obligated to educate their customers on how to get rid of products in a way that is environmentally friendly, and warnings regarding the effects of littering will be placed on packages. The EU is hoping that such initiatives will cut down on expenses as it currently pays about \$295 million to \$793 million annually due to water pollution.

Frans Timmermans, the Vice-President of the European Commission, is optimistic about the ban and believes that the EU has become an example for others, saying, "Europe is setting new and ambitious standards, paving the way for the rest of the world." Hopefully, Timmermans is correct in assuming that this is just one stride in an ongoing global effort for a cleaner world.

Greenhouse progresses



Through the efforts of junior Julia Schalleur, head of the Gardening Club; Dr. Judith Caviston; and Mr. Brian Webb, Head of Maintenance, there is a new addition to the courtyard. Earlier this year, Schalleur met with Dr. Caviston in hopes of utilizing the greenhouse for the Gardening Club. After Mr. Webb confirmed that the older structure was structurally unsafe, an entirely new greenhouse was built this spring. The greenhouse will be ready for use by the fall. Schalleur hopes to raise funds and awareness for her club by using the revamped greenhouse to grow and sell various fruits and vegetables. A portion of the profits will be donated to different charities. Not only does the greenhouse invigorate the courtyard and the school, but it also highlights the hard work and initiative of Mounties as founders.

Humanitarian crisis ravages Venezuela

By Alyssa Charlton '20
with Sarah Alessandrini '19

Around 5,500 Venezuelans are fleeing the country daily in what the United Nations has called one of the world's biggest refugee crises, resulting from years of hyperinflation, violence as well as food and medicine shortages.

A recent United Nations report found about a quarter of the country's population is in dire, increasing need of food and basic supplies. The International Monetary Fund estimates the Venezuelan economy will shrink by 25 percent this year as infrastructure continues to crumble.

After years of denying this humanitarian crisis, current President Nicolas Maduro finally allowed the Red Cross to send in 24 tons of medical equipment on Tuesday, April 16. This shipment began the large-scale relief campaign intended to ease malnutrition and the spread of disease, according to The New York Times.

"Today, the first shipment of humanitarian aid arrived for our people," Henrique Capriles, a leading figure of the opposition, posted on Twitter. "It's really thanks to the pressure of Venezuelans and the support of our interim president Juan Guaido and the legitimate National Assembly."

Despite the population's need, the delivery of this aid has become a political battle between

Maduro and Venezuela's opposition. On January 23, Juan Guaido, pushing the country toward democracy, declared himself interim president after Maduro won his second term in an election many countries consider fraudulent due to certain irregularities and low participation from opposing parties. The United States as well as 50 other countries have recognized Guaido as the country's true leader.

"We believe that the international community must exert pressure for Maduro's departure as soon as possible," Colombian Vice President Marta Lucia Ramirez said. "Time is on their side," and if Maduro lasts "a few more months, it may be forever."

Maduro assumed the presidency in 2013, following the death of president Hugo Chavez. On April 30, Guaido failed to in-

cite a military challenge against Maduro. Violent clashes and protests erupted across the nation as Guaido called thousands to the streets in the final stage of his attempt to remove Maduro from power, called "Operation Liberty." If ultimately successful in unifying Venezuela's government, Guaido will face the daunting task of rebuilding the country's infrastructure, in addition to regaining the trust of foreign investors, after facing this detrimental humanitarian crisis.

The country's economic im-

International Organization on Migration. The U.N. also reports 3.7 million people have left Venezuela in the last few years, and at least 7 million still in the country need humanitarian assistance.

The poverty line in Venezuela prior to the crisis contained approximately 48 percent of the population. As of 2018, the poverty estimate has risen to 91 percent. Inflation is estimated at over one million percent, which means, in terms of real dollars, an item costing one dollar pre-crisis now costs \$10,000. Families are

For an education system that was already weak and in danger of a complete collapse, the growing divisions and desperation within the country simply heightened these existing issues. Half of the country's children don't attend a school and do not receive any form of proper education. This disheartening truth can be attributed to a lack of necessities, absence of decent transport, growing unemployment and other effects of the present economic downfall.

On May 7, the U.S. announced

that it would deploy a Navy hospital ship, the USNS Comfort, to South America in response to the worsening crisis in Venezuela. Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan said sending the ship was "a part of ongoing planning that we are doing here in the department."

Vice President Mike Pence addressed U.S. involvement in the crisis in a speech he gave to the Americas Society/Council of the Americas.

"I came here to be very clear," he said. The United States was using diplomatic and economic pressure against the Maduro regime. "But to those who continue to oppress the good people of Venezuela, know this: All options ARE on the table."

U.S. threats against Venezuela and Cuba, one of Maduro's primary backers, have become more explicit in recent weeks. According to The Washington Post, Latin Americans appreciate U.S. aid and determination to help their refugees, but not the possibility of military intervention.

"We need to be doing it multinationally with the incredible coalition that has been built successfully right now by the United States and many other countries," said Fernando Cutz, a global fellow with the Wilson Center, in an interview with NPR. He continued, "There are over 50 countries in the world that recognize Guaido as president and who are working in lockstep to try to restore democracy to the people of Venezuela. But, again, it can't be done if the United States decides to take this on its own."

EIGHT WAYS TO COMBAT HUMANITARIAN CRISES IN 2019

By Sammy Knoblauch '20

1. Decisive Action Towards "Hot Spots": According to the World Economic Forum, one action that can be taken to combat humanitarian crises in 2019 is taking decisive political action with countries coined "hot spots" of social injustice. This term is applied to the twenty nations of the world, including Syria, Iraq, Yemen, the Horn of Africa, the Lake of Chad Basin and the Sahel, Afghanistan and the Myanmar, which are responsible for 80 percent of global displacement and humanitarian problems in 2019.

2. Collaboration: In order to bring an end to the massive humanitarian crises ravaging the world, international organizations, state governments and society will need to collaborate to pool resources and utilize specialized skills and varied insights.

3. Focused investments: The World Economic Forum believes that investing in specific people, skills and revenues in ravaged communities will more effectively address the issues of long-term crises than the traditional model of fundraising and emergency spending following catastrophic incidents.

4. Promoting Self-Reliance: Although emergency assistance is needed initially, organizations and governments should seek to help people facing long-term crises transition to economic independence.

5. Working with local aid organizations: Volunteers from international organizations must become more supportive of local groups working to aid those in their communities and further engage with them in joint relief efforts. This change would allow local organizations to move towards eventual self-sustainability.

6. Standards Surrounding Digital Warfare: A consensus needs to be reached about digital protection and application of international humanitarian law in conflicted regions.

7. Mental Health: Increasing focus on combating mental illness will invaluablely help many facing stressful and life-altering situations such as war and violence. Today, victims of the mental health crisis both in and out of crisis-ravaged countries often go unnoticed and, as a result, suffer alone.

8. Enforcement of international laws: The world governments need to recommit to the use of force in backing international humanitarian laws.



(Top) Father Daniel Gonzalez takes care of children in Maracaibo's Arco Iris shantytown. (Bottom) Former tradesmen and laborers who had lost their jobs wash recyclable plastics they scavenged at Maracaibo Lake (photos from New York Times).

plosion was mainly due to mismanagement of the nation's oil industry beginning in the 1970s, according to World Vision. At the turn of the millennia, the expropriations began to spread outside of the oil industry touching almost every sector of the economy. The initial effects of this nationalization were underestimated by the Venezuelan government. As foreign investors, fearing the loss of further capital investments, began refusing the nation's oil imports, the stage was set for Latin America's first humanitarian crisis of the twenty-first century.

Many Venezuelans have resorted to fleeing the country in search for sources of better opportunities. An estimated 1.1 million people have settled in Colombia, 506,000 in Brazil, 300,000 in the U.S. and 255,000 in Spain, according to the U.N.

incapable of purchasing the most basic human necessities, granted they are even available for purchase.

Essential human services have been left to deteriorate. Measles and other diseases eradicated decades ago are again threatening the lives of Venezuelans. Over 13,000 doctors have fled the country, and now less than 15 percent of necessary drugs are available for treating the population. Human waste management no longer functions in most of the country, making pestilence, cholera and dysentery an ever-present, debilitating reality for the Venezuelan population. Intensified by widespread famine and the lack of routine medical care, the health of the nation has deteriorated to an epidemic level.

Millions of children are suffering from a loss of education.

China forces Muslims into labor camps

By The Campanile

Xinjiang, a region in western China, is populated by 26 million people, 11 million of whom are Uighur Muslims, ethnically Turkic Muslims. As China's largest region, Xinjiang is theoretically granted some degree of autonomy. However, China's actions towards the people of Xinjiang have proven this is not the case.

In recent months, China has grown its network of "educational training centers," and the government now detains an estimated one million Uighurs, Kazakhs and other Muslim minorities in Xinjiang, according to The New York Times. The Chinese government claims the centers' purpose is to provide these impoverished people with job training. According to Shohrat Zakir, the chairman of the Xinjiang government, the centers are comparable to "boarding schools where the students eat and live for free." The Chinese media, specifically the Xinjiang Daily, praises these centers for "Education and training [that] will make them into 'modern people,' useful to society."

However, accounts from fam-

ily members of detainees and civilians in the region, satellite images and new-found Chinese documents have indicated that the goal is not to educate these people—many of whom are already shopkeepers, tradespeople and farmers—but to brainwash

Communist Party and are put to work on assembly lines for little pay, in one instance \$95 a month. They are also taught Chinese, which is one of the reasons the government claims the camps educate the people for their benefit.

These sources have also in-

side camps and convincing commercial companies to build factories inside or near camps. The newly discovered documents detail the government's plan to transfer detained Muslims to factory jobs where they will continue to be closely monitored, further

centers. A plan uncovered from last August revealed that in 2018 alone, the government of Kashgar, a region in southern Xinjiang, planned to transfer 100,000 detainees from camps to factories.

Although the plans do not indicate whether the people will be forced to accept the jobs, employment restrictions placed on Muslims in Xinjiang suggest that they may have no other choice. The factories will mainly produce clothing, such as socks, suits and skirts, which the officials plan to sell domestically and eventually internationally.

Despite outspoken opposition from the United Nations and countries such as the United States and Turkey, China continues steadfast in its plans, denying allegations of wrongdoing. The situation is best summarized by Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Hami Aksoy.

"The re-emergence of concentration camps in the twenty-first century and China's systematic assimilation policy toward Uighur Turks are a great embarrassment for humanity," said Aksoy.



Chinese government commercial showcases the "educational training centers" Muslims are forced into.

them through forced labor.

In the camps, Muslims are forced to renounce their religious beliefs, prove their loyalty to the

indicated that this year, Chinese officials have intensified their labor system by building government factories and assembly lines

indicating the government's plans to capitalize on the cheap labor of the detainees for years after they are formally released from the

Turks are a great embarrassment for humanity," said Aksoy.

"Period. End of Sentence." evokes change

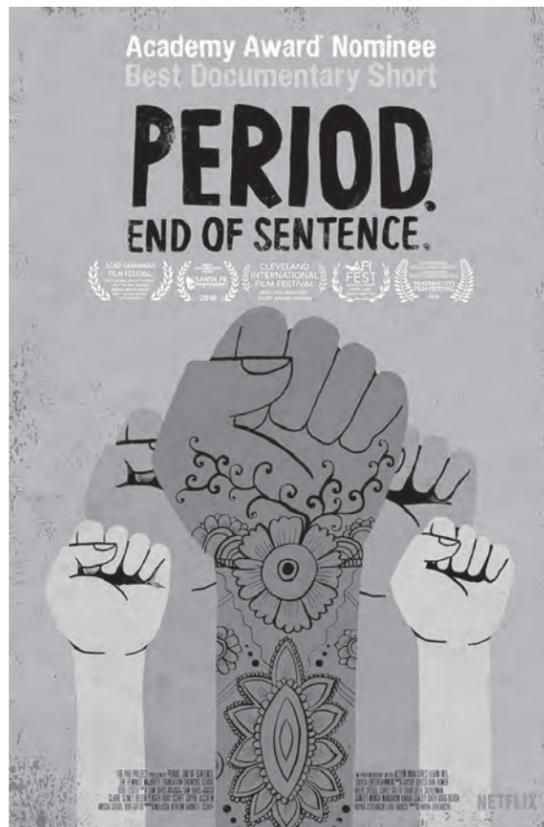
By Viviana Carrasco '21

When a girl gets her period in the U.S., the effects might not impact her daily life too intensely. But when a young girl gets her period in a developing country, the effects could impact everything about her life.

In developing countries such as India, there is a taboo surrounding menstruation which impacts women's abilities to receive education and seek work. A group of high school students at Oakwood School in North Hollywood, California, and their teacher, Melissa Berton, realized the severity of this taboo six years ago at a session at the United Nations. Deciding they wanted to raise money and help, the students and their teacher began working with an organization called Girls Learn International. Striving for the goal of spreading awareness, the students contacted director Rayka Zehtabchi to make a documentary about the cause, resulting in "Period. End of Sentence."

"Period. End of Sentence." follows a group of women in Hapur, a tiny, rural village outside of Delhi, India, as they educate both men and women in their community about menstruation. The women run a sanitary machine which produces affordable, biodegradable pads from locally sourced materials.

The machine, created by a man



The Oscar winning film "Period. End of Sentence." addresses the taboos surrounding menstruation. The film follows a group of women in Hapur, a tiny village outside of Delhi.

from India named Aruncachalam Muruganantham, produces pads using cellulose from local flora through a hands-on process. The students and their teacher raised funds to send one pad-making machine and a year's worth of supplies to women in Hapur. This effort would prove beneficial, not only because it provides affordable, safe pads for women, but also a micro-economy for

the women using the machine to make the pads. Through this work, the women earn more money than they previously did working in the fields and are able to support themselves for the very first time.

The common misconception from men is that menstruation is an illness or it's impure. Women practicing Hinduism are not allowed in the temple while on their

periods, because they're believed to be dirty. Zehtabchi said, "[The taboo is] very complex and I think it has to do with culture, religion, also the safety of a young woman in that area."

Zehtabchi explained how when a girl hits puberty and begins menstruation, she becomes a target for sexual assault. For this reason, the parents of young women marry their girls off quickly be-

cause it is the safest option. Along with the limited access of pads in rural India, women are embarrassed to purchase them from men who work at the stores selling the pads.

One of the problems surrounding the taboo about menstruation is that a large number of girls cannot afford access to sanitary pads. Instead they use unhealthy alternatives like dirty rags, leaves or ashes. Along with the high risk of infection that comes with these alternatives, they also have to miss school which could lead to their falling far behind and dropping out.

The machine provides a way for women of all ages to be able to purchase sanitary, affordable pads from other women, without the fear of embarrassment. In light of the machine's success, two more pad-making machines were installed in nearby villages because of the high demand that has risen since the documentary was filmed. The women from Hapur have been able to use their wages from running the machine to put towards their chosen careers.

Streaming on Netflix with a run-time of 26 minutes, "Period. End of Sentence." has won many awards including the 2019 Oscar for "Best Documentary Short Subject." Visit the Pad Project's website to learn more and donate: www.thepadproject.org



Disney revives classics as live action films

On the heels of successful remakes such as “Beauty and the Beast,” “Cinderella,” “The Jungle Book” and “Maleficent,” Disney continues their trend of re-creating classic movies many remember from childhood. Joining the list of live-action remakes are “Dumbo,” “The Lion King” and “Aladdin.”



“Dumbo”



By Sarah McCormick '21

Disney’s new live action remake of the movie “Dumbo” stars a young elephant with big ears, his mother and the Farrier family. Tim Burton, the director, delivers the heart-warming story of Dumbo by keeping key elements of the original story while still creating the high action movie today’s society wants. Movie-goers will see that both the old and new movies have the same core plot, but Burton’s rendition is able to capture the magic of the circus in a way technologically unavailable to Walt Disney.

Burton is known for his classic creepy movies such as “Beetlejuice” and “Edward Scissorhands,” and his latest work, “Dumbo,” also has some Tim

Burton flair. Realistic CGI creatures in Tim Burton’s remake are worlds different from the simplistic, animated animals of the original. However, Dumbo’s blue eyes will melt hearts in the same way the original animated character touched viewers.

The remake movie also adds to the original plot by creating a new story line with the introduction of Max Medici and his company, the Medici Brothers Circus company and its owner. Following the members of the company, this subplot provides story elements that expand on the simple themes of the classic.

In accordance with the 1941 predecessor, Burton features scenes such as the Casey, Jr. Circus train and the performance of the “Baby Mine” song. Observant

watchers will notice additional key homages to the original which add charm to the 2019 adaptation.

The voice actors, Danny DeVito, Michael Keaton, Colin Farrell and Eva Green all deliver terrific performances.

While “Dumbo” did not receive as much social media attention as other recent Disney remakes, the movie is still a charming, feel-good movie for the whole family.

All things considered, Tim Burton and Disney did a wonderful job remaking this classic that will inspire and amaze children for years to come. “Dumbo” is a loveable movie that packs a whole lot of action, flows very smoothly and locks movie-goers to the screen.



“Aladdin”



By Olivia Millevoi '21

Practically everyone who knows the word “Disney” is also familiar with a certain picturesque scene: two lovers sharing a moment of escape in the clouds, soaring above the world on a magic carpet while one of Disney’s most beautiful love songs rings out among the stars.

Over and over, people have revisited this moment from the 1992 animated hit “Aladdin,” perhaps by popping in an old VCR or by taking a trip to New York to see the still-running Broadway musical. From the hilarious blue genie to the catchy soundtrack, “Aladdin” has been and always will be an iconic piece of the Disney collection.

On May 24 this year, Disney is hoping to recreate some of that magic—this time with live actors. Following a steady stream of remakes that includes 2016’s “The Jungle Book” and 2017’s “Beauty and the Beast,” the company plans to release an adaptation of “Aladdin” that’s fit for a new generation. The film will star Mena Massoud as the mischievous-yet-lovable titular hero Aladdin, Naomi Scott as the bold princess Jasmine and Will Smith as the famous, wish-granting genie.

Many have criticized the recent surge of Disney remakes and sequels as not having much heart behind them and being released for the sole purpose of exploiting audiences’ fondness for the original films. So far, however,

the movies have been quite successful at the box office. People seem to be excited to relive their favorite moments from Disney history. Scenes like the aforementioned carpet flight as well as Prince Ali’s colorful and captivating march into town make “Aladdin” a perfect candidate for a fresh new film.

With its stunning costume design and energy, the trailer for 2019’s “Aladdin” promises a trip down memory lane that audiences won’t regret, and hopefully, the film will provide “A Whole New World” of whimsy and fun for both returning fans and young people seeing the story for the very first time.



“The Lion King”



By Selina Sithya '21

The new adaptation of the Disney classic “The Lion King” will premiere in theaters this summer on July 19. Nearly twenty-five years after the groundbreaking premiere of the original film, many are enthused to see the portrayal of the characters by the new cast. With Donald Glover starring as Simba, James Earl Jones keeping his role from the original animation as Mufasa, Chiwetel Ejifor as Scar and the role that has Disney fans the most excited, Beyoncé Knowles-Carter as Nala, this film is expected to stun the audience.

It has already been revealed that Beyoncé’s singing “Can you Feel the Love Tonight?” moved

Billy Eichner, the voice of Timon, to tears. However, fans fear that the CGI (computer-generated imagery) will not capture the true essence of the movie that shaped the childhoods of many.

It has also been disclosed by the director, Jon Favreau, that the film still has surprises for the audience and that it will not be a “shot-for-shot remake,” but tell the story in a different way.

The release of the official trailer has already sparked controversy, particularly around the depiction of the notorious yet favorable villain, Scar. Several are arguing that the lifelike version is far too “gentle-looking” and does not capture his intimidation. They are even going as far as saying that he has lost his over-dramatic and

pompous nature that is essential to the character.

Fortunately, others were able to find the positive aspects of the trailer because of the flawless and lifelike portrayal of Simba and Mufasa. The powerful introduction with Mufasa’s booming voice and the breathtaking scene of the African savannah sunrise captivated viewers the most. Of course, the scene of the adorable lion cub, Simba, being marked in red across his forehead by Rafiki was enjoyable as well. Although there are several critiques of this film, this live-action adaptation still holds promise. It does have high expectations to fulfill based on the success of the original, but many believe that its audience will not be disappointed.

“Rocketman” depicts the life of Elton John

By Meg Schanes '19

“Rocketman” has the potential to soar in the box office. A new trend of musical movies is quickly emerging in Hollywood, much to the delight of music fans everywhere. Following the box-office success of “Bohemian Rhapsody” (2018), the upcoming film “Rocketman” (2019) will depict the life of legend Sir Elton John.

“Rocketman” is directed by Dexter Fletcher and stars Taron Egerton, perhaps most well-known for his role as “Eggsy” in the popular Kingsman franchise. Egerton, who appears most often in action roles, takes up the immense challenge of doing justice to the loud stage personality of Sir Elton John. The pair have previously worked together on the set of “Kingsman: The Golden Circle” (2017).

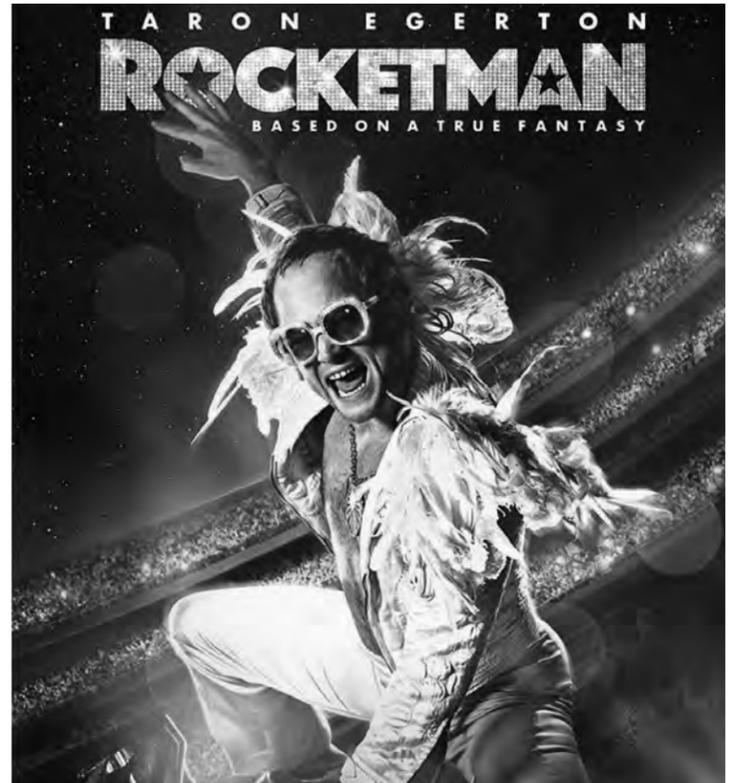
With “Rocketman’s” quick release following “Bohemian Rhapsody,” an argument can be made that “Rocketman” is simply riding the momentum of the former film. The 2018 movie was received with positive audience ratings, earning Rami Malek, who acted in the starring role of Freddie Mercury, an Academy Award. “Bohemian Rhapsody” opened the door for similar films, but also set a high standard.

Despite the seemingly obvious similarities, “Rocketman” will follow a different direction than its predecessor. Rather than a biopic, the Elton John epic will be a musical fantasy, which melds well with its subject matter. Viewers can expect flashy costuming and plentiful musical numbers sung by Egerton himself. The themes of stardom, drugs and sexual orientation will be prevalent in the

film as they are defining influences in both the personal and career lives of Elton John.

“Rocketman” has the opportunity to break out of the shadow of Bohemian Rhapsody through its eccentric style. Despite its generally positive reception, “Bohemian Rhapsody” was slammed by critics for its poor editing and misrepresentation of Freddie Mercury’s sexuality. In this way, “Rocketman” potentially has the upperhand through creating dynamic musical numbers.

“Rocketman” has all the ingredients to be a great film, but only time will tell if these aspects will be smartly weaved together to create a hit. The film premieres at the Cannes Film Festival on May 16 and will hit theatres on May 31.



Film “Yesterday” pays tribute to The Beatles

By Nora Hogan '19

Beatles fans rejoice! “Yesterday,” which premieres in theaters June 28, promises to be a summer hit that brings the magic of the Beatles to the big screen once again. The film stars Himesh Patel as Jack Malik, a 27-year-old struggling Indian-British indie singer. One night as Jack is riding his bike home, he gets hit by a bus as the planet experiences a world-wide blackout that lasts 12 seconds. Jack, now sporting a new gap in between his two front teeth, wakes up to a world in which the Beatles never existed. Jack, an avid Beatles fan, is astounded to find that his friends and family have never heard of the iconic band. As he begins to play the timeless songs for crowds in concerts, many around Jack begin to consider him to be one of the greatest singer-songwriters of all time. Before long, Ed Sheeran



notices Jack’s interview on a local talk show and invites him to tour with him, launching the former nobody into the craziness of the international music industry. “Yesterday,” written by Richard Curtis (“Love Actually”) and directed by Danny Boyle (“Slumdog Millionaire”), also follows a romantic comedy storyline: Jack and his childhood best friend and manager, Ellie (Lily James) attempt to move past friendship to the next level, or as “Variety” puts it, “their bond is sweetness in search of fire.” As Helen O’Hara says in her review for Empire Magazine, “Yesterday” is “A glowing tribute to The Beatles and their music.... This is both a toe-tapping pleasure to watch and a smart, occasionally scathing look at how we get things wrong.” So, if you’re looking for a feel-good romantic comedy to view in theaters this summer, go see “Yesterday” starting June 28!

Stephen King’s “Pet Sematary” receives mixed reviews

By Meg Schanes '19



The classic Stephen King horror tale “Pet Sematary” is now brought back from the dead, haunting the big screen for the first time since 1989. The remake stars Jason Clarke and Amy Seimetz as parents relocating their young family to a small Maine town in order to escape the everyday grind of a big city. After the sudden death of the beloved family cat, the family’s reclusive neighbor takes the father down a destructive road of resurrection in the mysterious “pet sematary” at the back of his property.

The film attempts to explore the psychological intrigue present in King’s novel. Glimmers of the consequences of acting in response to grief peak through some of the less contrived dialogue. But by the third act, every plotline

worth caring about is dropped for tired horror tropes. The subplots are intriguing and have the opportunity to be truly frightening, but unfortunately, their flow is interrupted by the less enjoyable main plot. If the watcher is not a fan of gore and jumpscars, perhaps the only enjoyable aspect of the third act is the performance of the child actress playing Ellie, whose dialogue strangely becomes more believable as the plot becomes more supernatural.

Films based on King novels have always been hit or miss. “The Shining” (1980) and “It” (2017) may first come to mind when thinking of box office successes. But these hits are coupled with failures such as “The Dark Tower” (2017) starring Idris Elba and Matthew McConaughey. Despite its star-power, the film only racked up a measly 16 percent on

Rotten Tomatoes. “Pet Sematary” (2019) gets away with a 58 percent, barely topping the 50 percent positive critical reception of its 1989 predecessor.

Despite the dissonant set of numbers regarding critical reviews, every new King movie contributes to an interesting trend in Hollywood. “Pet Sematary” (2019) is one of the latest in a string of remastered movies. Additional recent remakes include “A Star is Born” (2018) and Disney films like “Dumbo” (2019) and “Aladdin” (2019). But does adding new, popular actors and fancy CGI improve the classic tales? For “Pet Sematary,” perhaps—but despite the advancements in filmmaking, the only true way to experience the raw horror of King is to delve into his writings.

Risks of Adderall outweigh the benefits

By Elena Granda '21

As the end of the school year approaches, so does the season of subject tests, finals and seemingly infinite stress. Hours upon hours of studying is the reality that many competitive students face, and even more stress is added when considering the responsibilities of sports, extracurriculars and part time jobs. A phenomenon that has been sweeping high schools and college campuses is the use of the stimulant drug dextroamphetamine-amphetamine, more commonly known by its generic name, Adderall, to improve academic performance. To many students, using Adderall as a performance enhancer may seem harmless, but when abused, Adderall can be extremely dangerous and even deadly.

Created and marketed as a medication mainly for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, (ADHD), Adderall stimulates the nervous system and increases one's ability to focus on a single activity and control one's behavior. The website MedicineNet.com describes amphetamine, the base substance of Adderall, as having a "stimulant effect on the central nervous system that can be both physically and psychologically addictive when overused." Many users describe having a racing heart along with feeling happy and motivated after taking Adderall. Adderall is classified by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) as a Schedule II Stimulant because of its potential to be abused by users; other drugs in this category include morphine, methamphetamine and cocaine.

Today's society imposes an increased amount of pressure onto young people from an academic, athletic and professional standpoint. To so many, Adderall is

simply a coping mechanism used to keep up with the competitive atmosphere of the expanding world. Statistics by the American Addiction Centers show that 7.5 percent of high school seniors have used Adderall at least once. Teens who abuse Adderall are three times more likely to have used marijuana and 90 percent of illegal users

are reported to be binge drinkers. For all of these Adderall users, only approximately 20 percent have been prescribed the medication by a doctor.



Adderall use among teens to improve academic performance increases. The stimulant drug dextroamphetamine-amphetamine can cause anxiety, depression and heart failure.

are reported to be binge drinkers. For all of these Adderall users, only approximately 20 percent have been prescribed the medication by a doctor.

One Iowa State University student for the Iowa State Daily spoke about his Adderall addiction saying, "I'm still wired from all my [Adderall], I can't get anything done without it." Referring to victims of Adderall-induced heart attacks, the Iowa State Daily explains, "The majority of those taken to the emergency room with adverse side-effects from Adderall involved the indi-

vidual having also consumed alcohol." Negative side effects of Adderall can include anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, psychosis and heart attacks. Amphetamines increase the amount of dopamine in the nervous system, which can have the effect of making the user feel happy, but it can also cause

psychosis, a condition that affects a person's perception of reality. Studies conducted by several insurance databases show that Adderall is twice as likely to cause psychosis compared to other stimulants and ADHD medications such as Ritalin. Patients without any previous history of psychotic or manic symptoms are now being treated as a result of taking Adderall. The long-term side effects of Adderall addiction and Adderall abuse can affect a user's vital organs, especially the liver. Amphetamine has properties that help the user to remain

awake, making it an effective drug to treat narcolepsy. However, using Adderall can cause severe insomnia and restlessness in the user.

In recent years, the number of Adderall prescriptions by doctors has risen drastically. This is especially true within the U.S., the country with the highest number

of ADHD diagnoses currently in the world. According to the 1997-1998 "National Health Interview Survey," an estimated five percent to seven percent of children in the U.S. between the ages of 4 to 17 were diagnosed with ADHD, while a statistic from the "Health, United States" report in 2017 showed that now an approximate 10.6 percent of American children between the ages of 5 and 17 had been diagnosed with the disorder and that percentage has only continued to grow over time. Researchers fear that medical professionals are responsible for

inflating the problem surrounding the Adderall and amphetamine abuse facing the U.S. About one third of the children in the U.S. who have been diagnosed with ADHD were diagnosed under the age of six.

The 2018 documentary "Take Your Pills" explains that the use of amphetamine based drugs is not a new occurrence; it has, in fact, been present for decades ever since it was popularized in the 1930s. After the first amphetamine was engineered in 1929, many college students were taking amphetamine as a means to increase productivity, similar to the way that many college students do today with modern amphetamines. In WWII, the German, British and U.S. militaries were known to have regularly prescribed amphetamines to soldiers in order to create "super-soldiers." In the Sixties, amphetamines were incorporated into cold and sinus medications but were also made popular on the jazz and music scenes for artists who craved a boost of energy for creative purposes. The chemical formula used for "speed" during the speed epidemic that took place from 1929-1971 is essentially the same formula used for most ADHD drugs today.

While Adderall can be extremely harmful to unprescribed users, the drug itself has proven effective under a doctor's supervision. Across the globe, people with ADHD have been able to achieve more and live a fuller life with the help of Adderall. As one sophomore at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill said, "When I take my Adderall, I don't have the same effects. I don't feel super productive and I don't feel like I'm going to stay up all night the same way they do. I just feel kind of normal and able to function...."

Overuse injuries among youth increase

By Stow Weiss '19

A college scholarship is the ultimate goal for most young American athletes; however, the means to justify the ends often result in despair. Single-sport specialization is causing overuse injuries that may harm an athlete at a young age.

American athletes are encouraged to train as much as they possibly can per week, fifteen to twenty hours being the bare minimum suggested by coaches. Specialization is the path for most American athletes who hope for sports scholarships to college, but it is becoming the root cause of overuse injuries in American athletes.

American orthopedic surgeons are now warning against single-sport specialization due to the increase of injuries in younger athletes.

"The increased emphasis on sports specialization has led to an increase in overuse injuries, overtraining and burnout, according to a 2016 report from the American Academy of Pediatrics," said Allison Aubrey of the National Public Radio.

Most injuries that the surgeons are seeing in these athletes stem from overuse and improper care of the muscles and joints. Younger athletes' muscles are not completely developed, which makes them more vulnerable to these injuries.

On the contrary, fewer overuse injuries are seen within European countries that create athletic stars. Ajax, a famous Dutch youth soccer academy, takes a different approach to youth training than American academies.

"Ajax wanted to guard against exactly the kind of overuse injuries that all too many of Amer-

ica's kids are suffering these days from playing on too many teams, in too many games, and from playing a single sport season after season without a break to rest their growing bodies," said Brooke de Lench of MomsTeam, a trusted website providing information for sports parents.

"The increased emphasis on sports specialization has led to an increase in overuse injuries, overtraining and burnout, according to a 2016 report from the American Academy of Pediatrics."

To avoid overuse and fatigue in their players, European training time is short but intense. Athletes are also given more free time with friends and family so that they don't burn out too early in their development, which is a common problem with American athletes.

In general, the players are seen as investments to their countries and are treated accordingly.

"They have a private life, a family life. We don't want to take that from them. When they are not with us, they play on the streets. They play with their friends. Sometimes that's more important," said Jan Olde Riekerink, the director of the Ajax academy, in an interview with Michael Sokolove of The New York Times.

"Up to age 12, Ajax players only train three times a week and play only one game on the weekend; only by age 15 are they practicing five times a week," said Lench.

According to studies conducted in 2016, athletes who specialize in a sport and play it year-round are 50 percent more likely to sustain an overuse injury. Orthopedic doctors now recommend waiting for specialization until

around the age of 15 which will minimize the risk of sport-related injuries, something the Europeans have already been practicing within their academies.

"As a rule of thumb, kids should limit the number of hours they participate in organized sports each week to the number of years they've been alive — or less" said Timothy McGuine, a senior scientist and research coordinator at the University of Wisconsin Health Sports Medicine Center.

There are obvious and serious problems in American youth athletic training that ultimately lead to lifelong injuries for the athletes being affected. The solution starts with the coaches and parents being aware of the risk of pain and injury their children face from overtraining. An athletic scholarship to college is not always worth the risk of lifelong injuries.

Muffet McGraw empowers women

By Maggie Newell '21

University of Notre Dame Women's Basketball Coach, Muffet McGraw, took a stand on empowering women in a press conference preceding the team's 2019 Final Four appearance.

McGraw, one of the most accomplished coaches in women's sports, has led her team to the Final Four nine times in her career and has made seven championship game appearances. The Notre Dame women were also the 2018 Division I champions.

On April 4, the Irish were ready to take on their rival UConn in the Final Four. But before one of the most competitive Final Four games in the history of women's basketball, McGraw responded to a question about her hiring process. She said that she makes a point to hire only female assistants because of her belief



Notre Dame Women's Basketball Coach Muffet McGraw calls for equality in coaching.

that there is a lack of women leadership roles in sports.

"All these millions of girls that play sports across the country, we're teaching them great things about life skills, but wouldn't it be great if we could teach them to

watch how women lead?"

Today, approximately 59 percent of women's college basketball teams are coached by women. This is 20 percent lower than the number of women's college basketball teams coached by

women in 1977. In 1972, when the gender equality law was enacted, 90 percent of head coaches for all women's sports at the collegiate level were women. That number has decreased significantly to only 40 percent in 2019.

McGraw stated that the problem stems from people in high positions who tend to "hire people who look like them." She said, "When you look at men's basketball, 99 percent of the jobs go to men, why shouldn't 100 or 99 percent of the jobs in women's basketball go to women?"

In her passionate interview, McGraw went beyond sports and talked about a lack of visible female leadership roles in our nation: "I'm getting tired of the novelty of the first female governor of this state, the first female African-American mayor of this city. When is it going to become the norm instead of the exception?"

Muffet McGraw's earnest statements provoked conversations about making significant changes and promoting female empowerment in sports and the nation as a whole.

Mount Lacrosse advances to District Tournament

By Izzy McCafferty '21

Lacrosse ended a strong 12-7 season after the loss to defending state champions, Villa Maria, in the second round of the PIAA District 1 Tournament.

Senior, co-captain Erica Brocato said, "It was definitely a tough loss. I think the whole team fought really hard, and I think we had the tools we needed to beat them but the execution wasn't there."

Some highlights of the varsity season include their 13-1 win over Saint Basil's Academy during which senior, co-captain Liz Meister scored her 100th goal.

"This season was great, and we really grew as a team this year. We were lucky enough to have Coach Bhaya as our coach this year, and she pushed us to be our

best. My senior year was the best yet, and my 100th goal was only a small part of how amazing and fun this season was," said Meister.

The Magic also beat Gwynedd Mercy, varsity 14-12 and JV 9-5, for the first time in many years. Junior Margaret Anne Borneman said, "This was the most intense game of lacrosse I have ever played in my career. Everyone played hard the entire game, and it paid off. I have never seen my team so happy."

In the varsity game against Gwynedd, senior Krista Kushnerick intercepted the ball and scored, something very impressive for a defensive player.

Despite their loss in districts, the team is already looking forward to another winning season next spring.



Lacrosse team with Coach Dipi Bhaya and Coach Archie Alston celebrates their 14-12 win against Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School on April 11 at their home field.

Softball celebrates a victory on Senior Day

By Brigit Ferry '20

On May 7, Mount softball had a decisive victory over Gwynedd on their Senior Day. This victory was sweeter than most for Mount softball as a challenging season so far has left the Magic with a record of 3-15.

Coach Mike Leinheiser spoke on the season's challenges: "This season, the league is very balanced, and on any given day, one team can beat the other. So, the challenge has been being able to sustain our level of play regardless of the opponent. There are no 'easy' games."

Junior, co-captain Paige Parisi commented on lessons the team has learned this season, saying, "We work better as a team when all of our heads are in the game. There have been times where we get down on ourselves because of errors in the game, but if we pick

each other up, we have a good team dynamic."

Although not winning many games this season, the Magic gave their seniors a game to remember, beating Gwynedd 6-5 after previously losing to them 6-1 earlier in the season.

Senior, co-captain Lily Doyle said, "Our Senior Day was definitely the best game we've had this season. The energy was high and everyone was determined to play well."

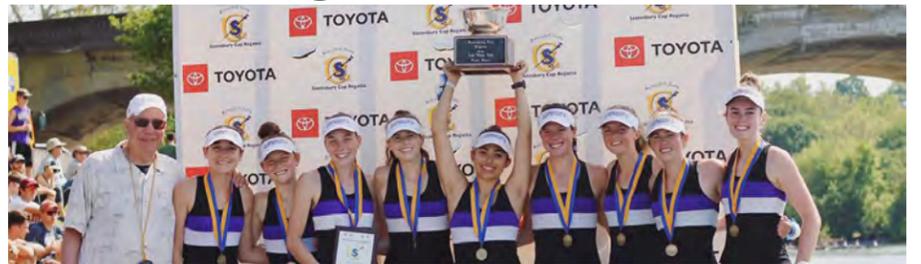
Parisi agreed, saying, "Each and every player on the team left everything on the field in order to secure the win. Everyone gained a new sense of confidence when she went up to bat and was able to get on base and in scoring position."

"We played a great game and the seniors had a senior day they would never forget," said Doyle.



Seniors Taylor Chandler, Lily Doyle, McKenna Mathews and Kailyn Muhl pose together at their Senior Day game against Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School.

A Crew first: All seniors win gold at Stotes



On May 18, the Lightweight8+ (top right), Second Varsity8+ (middle right) and Varsity8+ (bottom right) all won gold at the Stotesbury Cup Regatta.

By Maggie Mikalic '21

All nineteen seniors earned gold medals at the 93rd Stotesbury Cup Regatta, held on May 17 and May 18, making Mount Crew history.

Coach Meg Kennedy told the Philadelphia Inquirer, "I don't think any time in our history we had all of the seniors medal, much less gold medal. For us and these girls, it's all about leaving a legacy, leaving their mark for the girls behind them to follow."

The Varsity8+, Second Varsity8+ and Lightweight8+ all won their categories and secured the gold. Senior and co-captain Gia Hunt was awarded the first Stotesbury scholarship from the Catholic Philopatriot Literary In-

stitute to a student athlete rowing at Stotes from a Catholic school. Hunt told the Inquirer, "We used our opportunity, with the help of our coaches and underclassmen, to make our own legacy."

Senior, co-captain Claire Broderick said, "[Stotes] weekend was truly amazing. It's one thing winning with your boat. It's another thing to win with your entire class."

The victories at Stotes are just the latest in the team's winning season, beginning with the first Manny Flick on March 17. Led by Hunt, along with fellow seniors and co-captains Broderick and Riley Gorman, the team worked hard all season to be prepared for the medal and championship season, which includes

the Philadelphia City Championship Regatta, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Championship Regatta, the Stotesbury Cup Regatta, the SRAA Nationals and, if qualified, Youth Nationals.

Gorman told The Campanile, "Every practice is another chance to get faster, and I think that all boats have had great improvement from the beginning of the season."

Hunt added, "[Mount rowers] always have a strong showing in championship races and are working now to ensure that they can continue this legacy and prove the strength of Mount Crew on a national level."

On April 27 and April 28, Mount participated at Saratoga against tough competition.

Mount Crew jolted into their championship season at the Philadelphia City Championship Regatta on May 4 and May 5 where they dominated. The team won the Brigantine Points Trophy for the most points in the Manny Flick Regatta series, remaining the only team ever to have received the trophy in its history.

The Freshman8+, Freshman4+, JV8+, Lightweight4+ and Lightweight8+ all finished second within their categories and received silver medals. The Novice8+ and JV4+ finished first in their divisions and received gold medals. The 2V8+ won and received gold medals as well as the Denise Kosman Memorial Trophy. Additionally, the Varsity8+ placed first, winning gold medals

and the Lois Trench-Hines Trophy.

On May 11, the team competed at the Mid Atlantic Regional Championship Regatta, held in Mercer, New Jersey, in order to qualify for Youth Nationals in Florida. As of right now, the Varsity8+, Lightweight8+, and Lightweight4+ have qualified for Youth Nationals in Florida. One or two more boats are still waiting for the results.

According to Hunt, the season is far from over and she is anticipating the great things to come in the following weeks.

The team traveled to Ohio on May 24 and May 25 to compete at SRAAs as The Campanile went to press.

Track and Field shatters school records

By Kaylee Dougherty '21 and Amanda Klemick '21

Records are made...to be broken.

Competing at District Championships on May 17 and 18, senior Megan Ciasullo broke the school record for the 3200 meter run with an 11:06.89 and placed fourth overall, advancing to the State Championship at Shippensburg College.

Ciasullo said, "It's the best culmination to the end of my Mount running career, so I hope to just run a race I am happy with and have no regrets."

The 4x100 team of sophomore Maya Charles, freshman Kathleen Downs, and sophomores Carolyn Taylor and Annie Lemelin also set a school record of 50.05 seconds. Lemelin also competed in the 300 meter hurdles, 200 meter dash, and 400 meter dash at districts, setting not one but two school records in the 200 meter dash and 400 meter dash.

Other district qualifiers included the 4x800 meter team: sopho-

more Emily Carr, senior Ryan Good, junior Lauren Ehnou and Ciasullo who qualified with a time of 9:48.95. Senior Bridget Joyce, who set a school record for pole vault at 11'9" on April 17 and committed to the University of Delaware earlier this year, was a district qualifier as well. Sophomore Margaux Rawson also qualified for districts in the high jump.

Districts followed the team's success at the AACA League Championship on May 8 at Ursinus College, where the team earned second place overall. Ciasullo set a meet record for the 3200 meter run at 11:11.50; junior Kelly Rothenberg set the school record for javelin at 106'08" feet; and Lemelin set a new school record of 25.78 seconds for the 200 meter dash.

Rawson attributes the team's success to their work ethic and close relationships. "The track team is one of the most dedicated teams out there," said Rawson. "We are all so close and we are always supporting each other."



Seniors, Ryan Good, Maddy Kerr, Megan Ciasullo, Riley Mulligan, Grace Wilson, Bridget Joyce, Gabby Ford and Clara Marty celebrate their successful season at AACA Champs.