



# THE CAMPANILE

MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH ACADEMY

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## S. Charlene Diorka, SSJ named President

By Sammy Knoblauch '20

On December 17, the Board of Directors and the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill in Philadelphia announced that Sister Charlene Diorka, SSJ will be the Mount's next President, concluding the national search that began in June.

This search involved a thorough interview process that gathered input from various committees comprised of alumnae, parents, former parents, students, administrators and teachers representing the Mount community.

According to Dean of Studies Mr. Don Holdren, S. Charlene's connection to the Mount's mission stood out during the search process. He said, "I feel that of all the candidates we interviewed, S. Charlene truly embodied the mission, and being a Sister of Saint Joseph, she already lives the mission every day. S. Kathleen was so focused on building the mission here and making sure that all of us as a community knew the mission and lived the mission. That's really what S. Kathleen's legacy is, and I believe that as a successor to S. Kathleen, S. Charlene is poised to take that work even further. She lives the mission. She is who the Mount is."

Upon accepting the position of President, S. Charlene, herself, commented on her deep ties to the Mount's mission. In an official statement, she said, "To my surprise, the sudden and unexpected death of Sister Kathleen Brabson, SSJ, President of the Mount, led me back to the Mount. I am drawn by a strong 'call' to the mission of Mount Saint Joseph Academy, which rests on the mission of the Sisters of Saint Jo-

seph, the encouragement of members of the Mount Community, and the need for a leader at this time in a sponsored work of the Sisters of Saint Joseph."

In the same vein, Interim President Sister Mary Dacey, SSJ, believes that S. Charlene "knows and lives the mission of the Sisters of Saint Joseph." She said, "To have a Sister here is a gift as long as it's the right Sister. When I heard about the situation and was aware that we were looking for a President, I said 'It can't be any Sister of Saint Joseph. It has to be the right one.' ... I think there is something about having the right person who is a sister, who is a leader who understands education, who understands what this place is about and should be about. I'm really happy about it. ... The sisters own this place and have had it since 1858. That's pretty amazing."

According to S. Mary, the entire Mount community agrees that there is something special about having a Sister of Saint Joseph as the President. She said, "Ever since the announcement has been made, I can't go anywhere without people coming up to me and saying 'We are so happy to have a sister'... parents, former parents, alums, especially the alums who know her and were taught by her."

S. Charlene is also closely tied to the Mount and our mission because she worked as a Mount Theology teacher for nine years. S. Mary said, "I think the greatest preparation in terms of reconnecting with the vision of the Mount and also redefining it for the future is the fact that Sister was here as a teacher for nine years."

Speaking of S. Charlene's previous time at the Mount, S. Mary said, "I think what she is going to do when she comes back for the whole school is what she did for the Theology Department when she came as the Theology teacher."

According to S. Mary, when S. Charlene was a Theology teacher, "She revamped the program. She added some new classes to it. She worked with the teachers so that the religion department did not act as silos. ... which led to a sharing among the teachers, a professional sharing."

Referring to S. Charlene's work in the Theology Department, S. Mary said, "If you look at the elements of that process, her coming here, her getting to know the school, her knowledge of what a good theology program needed, I think all the elements are there to then look at the whole school. That's the way that she operates, and I think that is what is important for a president. You have to look at all the pieces, and you have to be able to say what is working, what could be better, and what will keep us being the quality school that we are. ... Even though most of the people here now are new, that part does not really matter. Essentially, I think the foundation of the school is always to continue to strive for excellence in every area."

When S. Charlene begins her position as President on July 1, she will be officially returning to the Mount Community after twenty years of serving elsewhere.

Dean of Student Affairs Mrs. Kathleen Guyger noted S. Charlene's involvement with the CSSJ Federation Leadership Develop-

ment Program, "Leaders as Leaven," in Albany, New York, and the Facilitation Workshop and Mentoring Program in St. Louis, Missouri. Mrs. Guyger said these experiences will benefit S. Charlene in her role as President.

Mrs. Guyger said, "She knows the atmosphere and the culture of the school. She has varied experiences that she is bringing back to us since she has been other places. It's not just that she has worked here, so she has those that she can use to help us grow. She has connection to the alumnae so that will help her build a bridge between what is going on here and the people that we need to help us to continue on."

S. Charlene echoed Mrs. Guyger's thoughts in her official statement, "My experience with leadership development has taught me the significance of serving, being an agent of transformation, working collaboratively and being globally responsible. My skills provide a firm foundation on which I can build further knowledge and experience that is needed at the Mount at this time."

Before S. Charlene begins her position in July, the administration is hoping to give the students, faculty and staff a chance to know her by having her be present around school. She will



Sister Charlene Diorka SSJ

be working very closely with S. Mary and also the rest of the administration and the board before she officially assumes her responsibilities as President.

Speaking of the transition, Dr. Caviston said, "I have no doubt that Sister will fit in with the mission. I think that what we all need to do is to offer her our support and encouragement and to be of service in any way we can to help her with her new assignment."

Referring to S. Charlene's appointment, S. Mary said, "When I leave here in June, I will feel as if the school is in good hands. That is the most I wanted from this because I love every inch of this place and I wanted to be able to say that it is in good hands."

## Firebirds workshop undergoes renovation

By Jenny Seminack '21

The long-awaited reconstruction of the Firebirds shop is finally here! After many months of hard work by students, mentors and maintenance alike, the fully refurbished robotics shop officially opened on February 15.

The process of renovating the shop began this past September and concluded in January. Describing the process from start to finish, Firebirds moderator Mrs. Paula Soley said, "We have some wonderful parents who have access to resources that are tremendously helpful for a job like this... They formed a group and went to Sister Mary and talked about plans to redo the space, and Sister Mary gave them the green light. They worked side by side with maintenance, who were awesome, in the whole transformation process. It was a joint effort; parents, maintenance, and girls just really came together and transformed that space into something wonderful."

While the actual process only began in September, the renovation has been a goal of the team for over six years, according



to senior, Team President Ellie Slawek.

In order to redesign the shop, students, mentors and the maintenance staff participated in a massive clean out of the basement, and outside help was brought in to "redo the floors, paint the walls and move everything around," said junior, Vice President Brynn Lintner.

The bigger space will allow the students to work more efficiently.

"Everyone has her own space now, which is really nice. We're not all on top of each other trying to make sure that we're not in each other's way," said freshman Sarah Farrell.

Sophomore Nora Blatney agreed, saying, "The girls who are doing the programming can now run robots without running people over, and people who are building can work at different tables."

Slawek hopes that the new shop will entice students to join the robotics team in upcoming years: "It's so much fun and now we're in a really cool area; we're not just tucked away in a little corner. We're proud, we're loud, and it's so pretty down here."

## New committee promotes Cross-Curricular learning

Aisleigh Hopkins '22

Over the summer, Dr. Caviston invited members of the faculty to collaborate to establish the Cross-Curricular Committee. The committee is chaired by Speech and Drama teacher Ms. Jean Korey and Dean of Studies Mr. Don Holdren.

Mr. Holdren said Cross-curricular learning aligns perfectly with the concept of a “holistic education,” as mentioned in the Mount’s mission statement. He explained, “In the real world, knowledge is not compartmentalized into subjects. As a school that is sponsored by the Sisters of Saint Joseph, we are very focused on preparing students to be agents of change in the real world, and to be a successful agent of change, you need to develop the ability to think about a problem from all different perspectives.”

Cross-curricular learning enables students to see the bigger picture when problem solving. The open and non-judgemental environment that the teachers provide allows students to think freely and make more connections.

While teachers have engaged in cross-curricular learning before, the committee is working to organize more collaborations of teachers from various depart-

ments.

Ms. Korey emphasized the effects of this program, saying, “The idea was to do this cross-curricular work to enrich the curriculum for the students, to give them two different perspectives on a particular issue, and also for teachers, to give them the added professional development of working in the moment with a colleague.”

The integration of cross-curricular learning at the Mount is backed up by various research and positive feedback gathered by the committee. Mr. Holdren explained that studies have shown that students, particularly females, have had greatly improved outcomes due to teacher collaboration.

The program has already been integrated into many classes, such as Mrs. Mimi Bender’s Latin class. Students reading letters from Cicero learned about the Roman voting systems from history teacher Mr. Anthony Nardini. The historical perspective enabled students to better understand the translation from Latin.

The committee has been working to expand the cross-curricular program, which they did for Black History month. Teachers were encouraged to collaborate with colleagues from different departments to create mini-

lessons about African-American pioneers, rebels, torchbearers and creators.

Students experienced these presentations during three, extended advisories throughout February.

### Presentations

Mrs. Patricia Eakins and Mrs. Anne-Marik Hoffman presented on the African-Cuban Slave Trade. Mrs. Kathleen Kennedy and Ms. Danielle Molan: Thea Bowman. Ms. Megan Rodolico: Celebrating Influential Afro-Latinos. Mr. John Fabrey and Ms. Jean Korey: Anna Deavere Smith Documentary Theatre. Mrs. Alexandra Little, Mrs. Melissa Feilke, and Mrs. Alaina Schools: History and the Influence of African Social Dance. Ms. Cara Croke and Ms. Mary Kate Steinmetz: Great Migration and Art. Mr. John Curry and Mrs. Michelle Fabrey: Berry Gordy: African-American Musical Pioneer. Mr. Kevin Boccella and Ms. Lydia Stieber: African American Participation in Sports. Ms. Gina Beren and Mrs. Lisa Rovner: The Women Behind THE FIGURES. Mr. Anthony Nardini: “Me Say-Day-O”: Harry Belafonte & the Power of Art. Mr. Don Holdren and Mrs. Mary Bender: The Dido and Aeneas Myth and Jessye Norman. Nasya Stinson and Caroline Bittenbender: Jordan Peele/ “Get Out.”

## Teachers and students share their thoughts on Black History Month presentations

I just wanted to say that I think it is a great idea to have this cross-curricular endeavor. Ms. Korey and all the members of the committee have done a wonderful job. In AP US History class, we speak of Black History every day as it is American History, but we do not have time to dive as deep into the arts, sciences and other areas. This is a great opportunity to make connections across disciplines and learn about the many contributions African Americans have made and continue to make to our rich culture and national American identity.

-Mrs. Schools

Señora Hoffman and I very much enjoyed participating in this week’s Black History Month presentation. We were excited to share with our students just a little bit of what the Afro-Latino people have given us in the area of music, dance and literature.

-Señora Eakins

I really enjoyed coming together to work with Mrs. Feilke and Mrs. Schools on our “African Influences on Modern Music and Dance” presentation. The Black History Month presentations gave us teachers the opportunity to do something out of the ordinary and combine lessons with teachers we usually don’t get a chance to work with. It was a very energizing experience.

-Mrs. Little

I found it very enlightening to work with Mr. Holdren on his presentation about the American opera singer Jessye Norman. Since Ms. Norman was best known for her performance as Dido in Henry Purcell’s opera “Dido and Aeneas,” Mr. Holdren asked me to give the students some background about this tragic love story. Now, each year as we read of Dido’s final moments, I will remember Jessye Norman’s impassioned rendition of Dido’s lament.

-Mrs. Bender

I must admit that this experience has been nerve wracking for the both of us, but still Nasya and I are having so much fun with it. We specifically chose to present our analysis on the movie “Get Out” because we believed this was a way to talk about ongoing racial issues in a way that is accessible to everyone, while also presenting artistic careers as credible avenues to those interested in involving themselves in social reform. Hearing girls get excited about our presentation has been the best thing because we are talking about topics that we truly care about!

-Caroline Bittenbender '20

I feel that giving the cross-curricular presentation was a good experience, especially because representation of the African-American community is very important to me. Taking an active role as a presenter reinforced my belief that we as African-Americans need to play our part in making change happen. I hope I was able to educate people so that they better comprehend the complex intricacies of racism and how to handle them.

-Nasya Stinson '20



The Cross-Curricular Committee. Top: Mr. Boccella, Mrs. Little, Mrs. Bender & Ms. Ford, Mrs. Herne. Bottom: Mr. Holdren, Ms. Korey, Mr. Nardini, Mrs. Kennedy & Ms. Stieber

## Mr. Tyrone Macey declaims MLK, Jr.’s “I Have a Dream”

By Claire Hanycz '21 and Maggie Newell '21

The Mount community knows Mr. Tyrone Macey as the dedicated mechanic of the Maintenance Department, but few know that he is also an inspirational speaker who declaims Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” and “I’ve Been to the Mountaintop” speeches in churches, schools and universities.

Mr. Macey said he first began reciting the speeches in college at Kutztown University when he was asked to talk about Martin Luther King, Jr., in front of a small crowd.

“I said, well, of course I may as well try to do his ‘I Have a Dream’ speech.”

Determined to understand this speech to its core, Mr. Macey first

listened to the words repeatedly and then wrote them down, which he said helped him not only to memorize it, but more importantly to grasp fully the true tone of Dr. King’s inspiring message. He said he went through the same process when learning Dr. King’s “I’ve Been to the Mountaintop” speech.

“One thing in particular that really stands out to me, and why I love doing the ‘I Have a Dream’ speech is when he says: ‘I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.’ To me, that is the ‘I Have a Dream Speech,’ so when I read those words, they really resonate with me,” Mr. Macey said.

Also resonating with Mr. Macey is this excerpt from Dr. King’s

eulogy, which he himself wrote: “He says that he doesn’t want to be remembered for his Nobel Peace Prize. He doesn’t want to be remembered for where he went to school. He just wanted to be remembered as someone who tried to love and serve humanity,” Mr. Macey added.

Mr. Macey said Martin Luther King, Jr., is a model that we should all strive to follow, and he will continue to recite these speeches for as long as he can because of the impact they have on his audience.

“I can see that they move people, and to me, whenever you do something, especially in front of a large group of people, if you are moving people and doing something positive and making them feel positive about their lives, it impacts you.”



Mr. Tyrone Macey delivers an excerpt of the “I Have a Dream” speech to Mount students in the auditorium.

## Interfaith Music Group performs for Mount student body

By Anna Emma '22

Mount's series of Black History Month assemblies kicked off with an address made by sophomore Sydney Okeke, followed by a performance by the Interfaith Music Project's Unity Choir.

Okeke's speech was an edited version of a speech she gave for an interfaith prayer service on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day at Our Mother of Consolation Church in Chestnut Hill.

Her introduction called upon some of her experiences as a black American as well as urged our community to take steps to lessen the racial divide.

"I wanted to motivate people to start having those awkward conversations and just start making change because it takes literally one voice to do something," said Okeke.

Following Okeke's speech, the Unity Choir began their performance. The planning for this performance started about a year ago when Cantor Harold Messinger, leader of the Interfaith Music Project, attended an interfaith prayer service at Mount following



Students watch as the Interfaith Music Project's Unity Choir performs on February 18.

the Pittsburgh Synagogue shooting in 2018.

"I was so moved by how far your community went to honor the victims of that shooting; I said to Katie, 'I want to do something, I want to keep the relationship going,'" said Messinger.

Messinger spoke at Mount last spring about the Holocaust, as well as welcomed students from the World Religions class to visit his synagogue.

Mrs. Katie Kennedy, moderator of the Diversity Club, and Messinger knew that the Interfaith Music Project was something they wanted at Mount, but it took a while to get everything together.

"During Black History Month, I thought it was the perfect opportunity to bridge both of those divides, both race and religion, through music, so that it is something positive and affirming in-

stead of talking about the negative and the discrimination," said Mrs. Kennedy.

The performance was very energetic and had students engaged, standing and singing along.

"I thought it was so good, and I could feel the unity throughout the room. I feel like we need to have more assemblies like that because it makes us get out of our seats instead of just listening, and I feel like the message is more re-

ceptive," said Okeke.

The Interfaith Music Project was started by Messinger and fellow musician James Pollard. After meeting once a year for a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day for 10 years, Messinger and Pollard finally decided to record their first project about Passover and African-American slavery.

From there, the Interfaith Music Project gained an ever-growing following.

"Let's bring in more faith groups, expand just beyond the Jewish and Black Baptist. Let's see if we can find people interested who are maybe Muslim or we have Mormon faith who are a part of this," said Messinger.

The group uses a variety of music as a unifier to bring together different groups.

"Sometimes just singing a Beatles' song or like Bob Marley, everyone's just happy and that's great," said Messinger.

The group performs at different events and schools, and are currently working on an album featuring many of the songs they performed for the Mount community.

## Wake-up call from "Just Mercy"



Michael B. Jordan plays Bryan Stevenson in the movie "Just Mercy." Photograph — Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.

By Sydney Okeke '22 and Jenny Seminack '21

"Just Mercy," directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, was released to theaters on December 25, 2019. The film follows the journey of African-American lawyer Bryan Stevenson (Michael B. Jordan) as he graduates from Harvard Law School and moves to the Deep South to work on overturning racist policies and convictions. Stevenson comes across the case of Walter "Johnny D." McMillan (Jamie Foxx), a black man who has been wrongfully convicted of the murder of an 18 year-old white woman in 1986. Stevenson works with McMillan first to win McMillan's clemency and then to educate other wrongfully convicted African-Americans on death row about their own civil rights in an effort to prevent wrongful incarceration.

The film is difficult to watch because the racial prejudice present in the actions of the characters is similar to injustices still occurring in the African-American

community today. According to research published by the National Registry for Exonerations in 2017, innocent African-Americans were seven times more likely to be convicted of murder than innocent white suspects. In addition, African-American murder exonerees spent an average of three more years in prison before release than their white counterparts.

Sheriff Tate, the perpetrator of the injustices in the movie, is based on a person of the same name who was involved in the real-life version of McMillan's case. Sheriff Tate retired from the Monroe County Police Force in 2018. So far, he has not faced any consequences for his hateful and prejudiced actions against African-Americans. Because of people like Sheriff Tate, numerous men like McMillan have had their lives destroyed by mass incarceration.

This fact raises the question of what the world would be like today without trailblazers such as Stevenson. He overcame an abun-

dance of adversity and brought to life the reality that many African-American men have faced and still face today. Michelle Cirocco, a criminal justice reform advocate, accurately portrays how "Just Mercy" is still extremely relevant to the injustices that African-Americans face in the criminal justice system today: "[Just Mercy] is an indictment of the inequalities in our criminal justice system and how a model built on punishment rather than redemption negatively impacts everyone."

While featuring a predominantly African-American cast, Just Mercy shares a message that needs to be heard by people of all ethnicities. Even if you are not black, the injustice system in this movie will anger you and make you question the practices of our criminal justice system. According to Cirocco, "'Just Mercy' is the wake-up call America needs to fix our criminal justice system."

with Emily Baer '21

## Bayard Rustin and MLK

By Emma Dougherty '21

Bayard Rustin, born in West Chester, Pennsylvania, in 1912, worked as a civil rights activist and advisor for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Throughout his time fighting for equality, he was arrested for his civil disobedience and open homosexuality. Rustin's philosophy was based on pacifism, non-violent resistance and socialism rooted in the Quaker religion, as well as the beliefs of Mahatma Gandhi and A. Philip Randolph, according to biography.com.

Throughout World War II, Rustin worked for Randolph, "the founding president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters," who "began organizing that group of black workers at a time when half the affiliates of the American Federation of Labor (AFL)

barred blacks from membership," according to Encyclopedia Britannica.

Although he was persecuted for his beliefs, Rustin did not stop advocating for them. In 1955, Rustin began working for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as an organizer and strategist. He introduced Dr. King to the idea of non-violent resistance, which Rustin learned from Gandhi's philosophy.

Rustin contributed to organizing the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, where Dr. King delivered his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech.

Rustin continued his work within the Civil Rights Movement by co-founding the A. Philip Randolph Institute, a labor organization for African-American trade union members. Rustin received many awards before passing at the age of 75 in 1987.



Bayard Rustin, Photograph — NPR

# “SpeakUp!” offers forum for dialogue

By Anna Emma '22

Before Martie Gillin's oldest son, Bob Gillin, Jr., died in 1992 at age 30 of AIDS, he told his mother he regretted not being able to be more open with her about his life and struggles.

“He told his mom when he was dying that he wished it had been easier to communicate with her and tell her how he was feeling because he struggled so much,” said senior Margaret Anne Borneman, whose mother is family friends with the Gillins.

Martie channeled her grief to honor her son's wishes, founding SpeakUp! in 2000, and she has been working ever since with schools to encourage healthy communication between parents and kids.

SpeakUp! is an organization that encourages honest conversations between parents and students about difficult topics such as sex, drugs, alcohol, depression and social media. The non-profit partners with over 40 schools, including middle and high schools, in the greater Philadelphia region.

Last year, Borneman participated in SpeakUp! at LaSalle College High School because her brother was involved in the event. She said her mother encouraged her to go.

“My mom was like, ‘You have to do this. You have to participate,’” said Borneman, who then took the initiative, and after getting approval from Dean of Students Mrs. Kathleen Guyger, began to recruit other Mounties to get involved.

This year's event, hosted by LaSalle on Tuesday, Feb. 11, included students from LaSalle, Mount, Gwynedd Mercy and Saint Basil. Along with Borneman, fellow seniors Libby Fecak and Student Council Leadership President Bernadette Shields volunteered as student leaders; an additional 12 Mount students also volunteered.

“It's such a healthy program,” said Borneman. “I think it's very important for kids to talk with their parents. I know from friends and family that it always feels worse if you are going through difficult things and you can't talk

to anybody about it. For parents, it hits hard when they don't find out about a problem until it's gone too far,” she added.

Student leaders met every Monday leading up to the event to prepare and choose topics. At the first meeting, the student volunteers split up into groups and wrote down what topics they thought were most relevant.

The top picks this year included dating and relationships; drugs, alcohol and vaping; mental health, stress and anxiety; and the pressures of school and college.

The student volunteers also had their own SpeakUp! conversations at meetings. One of the activities they did was “a brain dump.” Everyone wrote down what was stressing them out, how they deal with that stress, and whom they can talk to about it. The papers were all crumpled, put in a bin, and mixed up. They pulled out the anonymous notes and read them aloud.

“The people that do it are really open, and they wouldn't be doing it if they weren't comfortable talking about it so it's not

awkward,” said Fecak.

“I think it's good for freshmen, especially freshmen parents, because going into high school is a funky transition because you are exposed to so many other things that you weren't in grade school such as drinking,” said Shields.

“There's zero judgment,” added Borneman. “No one gets in trouble. Parents and kids just want to know what is going on.” Borneman thinks the healthiest part is parents' knowing other kids are doing the same things which helps them handle situations with their kids in a way they might not have considered before.

The event began in LaSalle's gym with an introduction and a little game show. Next everyone separated into breakout groups. Each breakout room hosted a different topic. Families are never assigned to the same room. About six student volunteers and trained facilitators (either a psychologist, therapist or teacher) lead discussions.

“It was important to talk with the parents present and have them understand what teens are going

through,” said Maggie Pensabene, a sophomore who attended the event.

“Being able to talk so openly about my personal experiences helped not only my peers, but the parents in the room, too,” said Borneman.

There were 180 people registered for the event.

“It was smaller than we anticipated but it was good because then each breakout session could be smaller and more intimate,” said Shields.

Meghan Scheffey, a senior who attended the event, was in the drug, alcohol and vaping breakout session.

“I think that the moderators and student leaders did a good job to create a welcoming and nonjudgmental environment in which everyone felt free to share their experiences,” said Scheffey.

Schools can sign up online to be a SpeakUp! event host, or partner with another school.

Students, parents, teachers, siblings and anyone else who would like to come are welcome to attend events.

## Seniors form Women in Business and Finance Club, visit NYC

By Brigit Ferry '20

At the beginning of this school year, seniors Lauren Walsh, Lauren Vesey and Isabelle Krause started the Women in Business Club. The club aims to improve students' knowledge of the business industry as well as educate the members on the importance of women's role in a male dominated industry.

President of the Women in Business Club, Walsh, spoke to the fact that many women tend to shy away from this field. The club is meant to encourage all women to participate.

She said, “The club allows the students to be fully aware of a massive industry that is full of opportunities, experiences and future careers that needs more women in it.”

The club invites various businesswomen from a diverse range of fields to come in and speak to the members. The women speak about how they built their careers as well as their experiences and challenges in the industry. This year, the club invited Mrs. Leslie Newbold to speak. Mrs. Newbold is the founder and owner of Chill on the Hill, a popular frozen yogurt shop located in Chestnut Hill, as well as the former co-owner of Trubarre, a barre studio in Lafayette Hill. Mrs. Newbold spoke to her experiences as a designer and entrepreneur as well as her life as a busy mother. She offered insight into the value of balancing one's passions and gave advice on how to find one's path in the business world.

Recently the club traveled with moderator Mr. Matthew Dominick to New York City to

visit Equitable Advisors, a multinational insurance firm that engages in global insurance, investment management and other financial services. The club met with women from Equitable Advisors and heard their stories.

“We were invited by the Chairman of the company and got to hear five, amazing and successful women from all different paths of life explain their career choices and why they feel it is so important to empower and educate women,” said Walsh.

When asked about her goals in pursuing business in the future, Vice-President Lauren Vesey said it has been a life-long dream of hers.

“As a child, I always knew that I wanted to pursue a career in business and am excited to start delving into that pursuit next year in college. While I am not sure

what I want to do exactly, I think that business offers me the opportunity and flexibility to take what I learn and apply it to so many other interests and fields.”

Vesey also spoke to the value that the message of this club is bringing to the Mount.

“I think sometimes we as women struggle to believe in our ability to succeed, especially in such a male-dominated industry like the business industry. While the Mount has absolutely taught me that I am deserving of the opportunity to succeed and capable of doing so, many other young girls don't receive the same message in their daily lives. Although women may face criticism and doubts for pursuing a career in what some people believe is a ‘male industry,’ it is important that women continue to pursue business.”

## Rugby Club debuts

By Lauren Ehnou '20

The mysterious, enigmatic freshman World History and AP World History teacher continues to spread his influence in the Mount community. This time, though, it's not about his amazing wardrobe.

“From the first time Mr. Nardini told our freshman history class that he plays rugby, I was intrigued,” said junior Ilsa Maguire, who persuaded Mr. Nardini to help her start a rugby team at Mount this year.

“A couple girls knew that I played rugby, and basically kept bothering me, and wanted to play so Ilsa took the lead. She asked me, and I agreed to do it,” said Mr. Nardini.

Mr. Nardini played rugby in college at Temple University, and he played club on and off since then. He also gained more knowledge about the sport through coaching at Widener University during his time teaching there.

Maguire, however, has little exposure to the game. “I have watched videos on how to play the sport, and my uncle played

rugby in college,” said Maguire.

“Mr. Nardini and I started the Rugby Club because we wanted to introduce something new to Mounties, and we wanted to freshen things up,” said Maguire. “We hope to get Mount girls familiar with the sport since it's not something people grew up with or really watch in America.”

“Everybody, including myself, is coming in as a novice,” Maguire added. “The first meeting we spent learning how to throw and pass. It is a tricky sport.”

Mr. Nardini, now referred to by most as coach, said he hopes that girls will eventually learn the game of rugby because he sees that all of the girls are very enthusiastic about the sport, but do not know how to play.

“I want to get a nice thing going where we can meet, just have fun and play rugby,” said Maguire. “But really, my goal is I hope to get to a point, where if you don't join, or come to the meetings, everybody will talk about you.”

The club meets every other Tuesday. For more information, contact imaguire21@msjstudent.org



Women in Business and Finance Club visits Equitable Advisors in New York City.

## Why should you vote?

By Sammy Knoblauch '20

In the United States, voting is defined as a civic duty. Yet, only 61.4 percent of eligible voters cast a ballot in the 2016 presidential election, according to the United States Census Bureau. This lack of participation supports the notion that many people today believe that their vote does not matter. However, this is not the case, especially in Pennsylvania, a swing state that is not definitively Democrat or Republican leaning.

In recent years, many state and local elections have been won by just a few hundred votes. For example, in 2009, Senator Al Franken of Minnesota won his seat in Congress by just 312 votes. With the possibility of such slim margins, it is important to exercise your right to vote and help choose the leaders who will most directly

impact your community.

Although the presidential election utilizes the electoral college system, your vote still counts, especially as a young voter. According to Forbes, young voters, along with Hispanic voters, are credited with reelecting President Obama in 2012, as he won 60 percent of the millennial vote and 69 percent of the Latino vote. Candidates who capture large proportions of crucial, expanding constituencies, as President Obama did, greatly increase their chance of election, demonstrating that the youth vote can sway the election. Since Obama's election, many candidates have been making an effort to appeal to this influential group by addressing issues that are important to young voters.

Yet, like many other demo-

graphic groups, young people have a low voter turnout, leading to underrepresentation of young voters' opinions. Young voters, who make up approximately half of the voting population, are less likely to participate in presidential elections than older voters. According to United States Census Bureau, in 2016, only 46.1 percent of people ages eighteen to twenty-nine voted, while 66.6 percent of people ages forty-five to sixty-four voted and 70.9 percent of people ages sixty-five and older voted.

For this reason, young voters have the potential to impact their democracy significantly, sway elections and voice their opinions on relevant issues, such as student debt, gun safety and climate change.

## First time voting advice

By Olivia Wirsching '20

Voting is a privilege that has defined our nation for over two centuries. Luckily, some of us will get to partake in the responsibility of voting in this year's presidential election. As new voters, there are some things to know before casting our ballots.

The actual process of voting can seem confusing at first. You may have questions such as: Do I need a pen or pencil? Can I bring my phone into the voting booth? Will there be other candidates on the ballot besides those in the presidential election? Can I leave part of my ballot blank? How do I use the voting machine?

### YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Here are the answers to those

questions that you might have as a first-time voter:

1) Using a pen or pencil typically depends on the location where you are voting. If your polling place uses paper ballots, a writing utensil will usually be provided in the voting booth. If you would like to use your own, ask a polling official first.

2) Some states ban the use of cell phones in polling areas; however, Pennsylvania allows phones. PA even permits voters to take a selfie with their ballots.

3) Ballots will feature other candidates and issues to vote on such as re-electing a member of Congress or voting on a referendum. Keep up to date with local and state-wide elections, so you can also be informed on those candidates and issues.

4) You can leave part of your ballot blank. This will not affect

the rest of your ballot, and the measures you did vote for will still be counted.

5) Some polling places will use paper ballots, but most polling locations have adjusted to use voting machines. Instructions to use the voting machine will be located inside the voting booth.

### OTHER TIPS

1) The line to vote can get long, so bring a snack or a friend to make the wait easier.

2) Plan out when you will vote and how you will get to your polling location before the actual day.

3) Use polling officials as resources to answer any questions you may have.

4) Don't stress about voting; be excited to make your voice heard!

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

**APRIL 13, 2020**

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR PENNSYLVANIA PRIMARIES

**APRIL 28, 2020**

PENNSYLVANIA REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC PRIMARIES

**OCTOBER 5, 2020**

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR GENERAL ELECTION

**NOVEMBER 3, 2020**  
GENERAL ELECTION

## Voting Guide

### REQUIREMENTS TO VOTE IN THE GENERAL ELECTION

By Sammy Knoblauch '20

- 1) You must be a U.S. citizen, who has lived in Pennsylvania and your election district for at least thirty days before the election.
- 2) You must be at least eighteen-years-old by election day.
- 3) You must register to vote by the General Election deadline, October 5.

### FINDING A CANDIDATE

By Olivia Wirsching '20

- 1) Voter Guides offer information on candidates' experience and goals. They also explain the ballot measures you will vote on. Voter Guides can be accessed through [BallotReady.org](http://BallotReady.org).
- 2) Sample Ballots list the candidates and ballot measures for the upcoming election; however, they do not provide information on the candidates like voter guides do. These samples may even look exactly like the ballot you will receive on election day. Sample ballots can be downloaded on state election websites (Pennsylvania's is [dos.pa.gov](http://dos.pa.gov)).
- 3) Campaign websites are great resources for in-depth information on each candidate's background and policies.
- 4) For the presidential election, televised debates highlight the differences between candidates and give insight into how each candidate will respond to certain issues.

### HOW TO VOTE

By Sammy Knoblauch '20

- 1) Register to Vote- You can register to vote in Pennsylvania online at PA Online Voter Registration, through the mail by downloading the Pennsylvania Voter Registration Application, or in person at your county voter registration office or at PennDOT. If you will be attending college out of state, register in Pennsylvania then obtain an absentee ballot at [Vote.org](http://Vote.org), through the mail by downloading an application form at [votespa.com](http://votespa.com) or in person at a county election office.
- 2) Research Candidates and Issues- Learn the political stances of all the candidates, including those outside your political party. Research their plans to combat issues that will directly affect you, such as student debt, gun safety and climate change, but also those that will affect others in across the country, such as immigration and medical care. Conduct your research using a variety of news outlets to avoid bias.
- 3) Prepare to Vote- Find a polling location near you using the website [Get to the Polls](http://Get to the Polls). The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and if you are voting for the first time in your election district, you must bring ID.
- 4) Vote on Tuesday, November 3!

### VOTING VOCABULARY

By Olivia Wirsching '20

**Absentee Ballot:** Ballot for voters who cannot vote in their legal state of residence on election day. You can get an absentee ballot on ([Vote.org](http://Vote.org)).

**General Election:** The final election with a small list of candidates who have usually won their party's primary election.

**Incumbent:** The person currently holding a political office.

**Political Action Committee (PAC):** A group that raises money to support politicians or causes.

**Primary Election:** Election in which parties (Democratic and Republican) select the candidate who will run in the General Election.

**Provisional Ballot:** Ballot used when there is a question on the eligibility of the voter that needs to be resolved before the ballot can become official.

**Referendum:** Measure on a ballot that asks the voter to accept or reject a certain proposal.

**Super Tuesday:** Election day for the Primary Election with the most states holding elections on this day. Super Tuesday this year is on March 3.



## 2020 Democratic Presidential candidates'

### Bernie Sanders

By Gina Princiville '21

**Health Care:** Sanders has outlined a Medicare for All, single-payer, national health insurance program to provide every person in America with health care coverage, free at the point of service. Sanders plans to expand Medicare coverage to include dental, hearing, vision, mental health and abuse treatment, home and community-based long-term care, inpatient and outpatient services, reproductive and maternity care and prescription drugs.

Sanders would move to repeal the Hyde Amendment, a legislative provision that prohibits using federal funds to pay for abortion except in the case of rape, incest

or to save the life of the mother; and would fully fund Planned Parenthood to protect women's health, access to contraception and the availability of safe and legal abortions.

**Education:** Sanders plans to ensure tuition and debt-free public college to every American. In his education plan, Sanders discusses placing a limit on student loan interest rates and investing in private, non-profit historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions.

Sanders has advocated for the College for All Act which, if passed, would provide at least 48 billion dollars a year to eliminate tuition and fees at public universities, tribal colleges, community colleges, trade schools and ap-

prenticeship programs.

Sanders also plans to reinvest in public education by providing equitable funding, giving salary increases to teachers, expanding collective bargaining rights and teacher tenure and funding out of pocket classroom expenses. Sanders plans to strengthen the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and give additional support to special education teachers.

**Climate Change:** Sanders' climate plan outlines a complete transformation of the U.S. energy system to one hundred percent renewable energy and the creation of 20 million jobs needed to solve the climate crisis. If elected, he has promised to provide 200 billion dollars to the Green Climate

Fund, rejoin the Paris Agreement and reassert "the United States' leadership in the global fight against climate change," according to Sanders' campaign website.

Sanders pledges to electrify and decarbonize the U.S. transportation sector by creating a federal grant and zero-emission vehicle program. Sanders supports the Green New Deal and limiting carbon polluting emissions.

Sanders claims that his plan will pay for itself after fifteen years because of the end of fossil fuel subsidies, the de-escalation of military spending that stems from the nation's global oil dependence and the collection of income tax from the 20 million new jobs outlined in the plan.

**Immigration:** If elected,

Sanders plans to reinstate and expand DACA and institute a moratorium on deportations until a thorough audit of past practices is complete.

Sanders plans to welcome refugees and asylum seekers by treating border crossings as a civil matter rather than a criminal one. Sanders has proposed a reshaping of the U.S. immigration enforcement system by breaking up the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement as well as the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency. Like other Democrats currently running for President, Sanders has pledged to overturn Trump's ban on immigrants from over ten countries with substantial Muslim populations.

### Elizabeth Warren

By Gina Princiville '21

**Health Care:** Warren plans to revamp America's health care system by reducing health care costs and transitioning to Medicare for All. During the transition period, Warren plans on expanding enrollment for the Affordable Care Act and refunding its programs that have been defunded by the Trump administration.

Once her Medicare for All plan is enacted, health care would become free for anyone under the age of eighteen or making less than 200 percent of the federal poverty line. On her campaign website, Warren claims she will enact Medicare for All "without raising taxes on the middle class by one penny." Warren plans to pay for this plan with "20.5 trillion dollars in new revenue, including an Employer Medicare Contribution, which will cover the long-term, steady-state cost of a fully functioning Medicare for All system," according to Warren's campaign website.

In regard to the opioid crisis, Warren's CARE Act would invest 100 billion dollars in federal funding over the next ten years in states and communities to fight

adequately and equitably... fight against segregation and discrimination in our schools and ... stop the privatization and corruption of our public education system."

universal free college that will "give every American the opportunity to attend a two-year or four-year public college without paying a dime in tuition or fees."

supported Blue New Deal to protect the oceans.

Warren plans to restore the Obama-era environmental protections that safeguard clean air and water. She has committed to spending 500 billion dollars over the next ten years to build, preserve and rehabilitate green schools, buildings and especially homes that will be affordable to lower-income families.

**Immigration:** Warren plans to expand legal immigration to grow the economy, reunite families and meet the labor market demands. Warren plans to decriminalize migration and refocus enforcement on serious criminal activity, separate law enforcement from immigration enforcement and reshape the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol as well as the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Warren has outlined her plan to significantly reduce immigration detention and raise the refugee limit in the country.



Senator Amy Klobuchar, Former Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Senator Elizabeth Warren, Former Vice President Joe Biden and Senator Bernie Sanders. Photograph — The Daily Beast

the crisis. The access would also provide resources for prevention, treatment and recovery services.

**Education:** Warren plans to invest hundreds of billions of dollars in public schools. In addition, the plan would make a series of legislative and administrative changes to "fund schools

On her website, Warren details her broad plan for student debt cancellation. The plan consists of cancelling debt for more than 95 percent of the almost 45 million Americans with student loan debt and eliminating student loan debt for more than 75 percent of Americans.

Warren has outlined a plan for

The plan would be funded through a two-cent wealth tax on fortunes above fifty million dollars.

**Climate Change:** As a sponsor of the Green New Deal, Warren has said that addressing climate change will be one of her top priorities. Warren has also

a national service where American citizens who want to help can prepare immigrants for naturalization.

Under his plan, he will make working visas significantly more flexible and allow those who change employment to keep their visas. Buttigieg will eliminate the five-year waiting period for green card holders to access public health insurance and grant all immigrants health care.

Buttigieg has promised to reunite families separated at the border and grant more family-based visas. He also has advocated for creating an independent immigration court system, granting immigrants the Sixth Amendment rights and starting a new process to review unjust deportations.

### Pete Buttigieg

By Kendall Bocklet '22

**Health Care:** Pete Buttigieg plans to launch a universal and accessible health care option for all citizens. However, if a family is satisfied with their current insurance, his plan will allow them to maintain it. The plan will not increase taxes for the middle and working class; instead, it will be paid for by repealing Trump's corporate tax breaks, affecting big businesses and the ultra-wealthy, generating 1.4 trillion dollars in revenue.

Additionally, any employer that currently pays partially for his or her employee's insurance will continue to pay the same share. Buttigieg said, "I trust Americans to make our own decisions regarding the type of health care that makes the most sense for each of us and our families."

In Buttigieg's plan, he will cap out-of-pocket spending for prescriptions at \$250 per month for anyone that chooses his public health care option.

Buttigieg also plans to expand education on mental health and addiction in schools and hopes to increase the quality and affordability of treatment as well strengthen veterans' access to treatment.

**Education:** Buttigieg plans to make public tuition free for 80 percent of American families with incomes up to 100,000 dollars a year. For any family that makes up to 150,000 dollars, his plan will grant large tuition subsidies. Buttigieg also plans to add \$120 billion dollars to the Pell Grant Program to make sure all lower income students can pay for housing and food. If elected, his administration will also notify those eligible for the Pell Grant

starting in the ninth grade and the government will fill in the majority of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for each individual.

Under his plan, any college that accepts funding from the Department of Education would be required to provide its students and the public with clear and accurate data regarding student debt, graduation rates, post-college earnings and repayment outcomes. According to his campaign, Buttigieg's plan will enable 10 million additional students to graduate with high quality degrees in the next decade.

**Climate Change:** Buttigieg's first step to combat climate change is to enact the Green New Deal. According to his campaign, this deal will put America on track to become a net-zero emission country by 2050 if all actions and targets are met. Over

the course of ten years, he will put 750 billion dollars total into research and development funding, as well as the American Clean Energy Bank, the Global Investment Initiative and the American Cleantech Fund. These groups will help America to develop new technology to combat climate change. These programs will be financed by Climate Action bonds, similar to War Bonds from World War II, and by eliminating tax subsidies for the fossil fuel industry.

If elected, Buttigieg plans to establish a National Catastrophic Disaster Insurance to provide stability to those affected by natural disasters.

**Immigration:** Within his first 100 days, Buttigieg has promised to pass legislation that will help immigrants gain legal status and eventually citizenship. He has the intention of creating

## views on the issues: A Voter's Guide



### Joe Biden

By Meghan Scheffey '20

**Health Care:** As Vice President during the Obama administration, Biden supported the passage of the Affordable Care Act, also known as ObamaCare, which provided health care to an additional 20 million Americans. If elected president, Biden promises to protect the Affordable Care Act and “build on [ObamaCare] by giving Americans more choice, reducing health care costs and making our health care system less complex to navigate,” according to Biden’s campaign website.

Biden plans to implement a public health insurance option in which a person or family can purchase a public option like Medicare.

In addition to the public option, Biden plans to increase tax cred-

its and lower premiums to ensure more Americans can afford health insurance. Currently, any person or family that makes between 100 percent and 400 percent of the federal poverty line receives a tax benefit to reduce their cost of health insurance to ensure that no person or family in this threshold spends more than 9.86 percent of their income on health insurance. Biden plans to eliminate the 400 percent in cap on eligibility for the tax credit and reduce the limit on cost of coverage to 8.5 percent of yearly income.

In Biden’s health care policy, he plans to expand access to contraceptives and protect women’s right to abortion by restoring funding to Planned Parenthood and by repealing the Hyde Amendment.

**Education:** Biden plans to address the student debt crisis by making community college more affordable to Americans. On his

website, he details a plan to pass legislation providing Americans two years of community college tuition-free. To pay for this plan, Biden proposes a federal-state partnership in which the federal government covers 75 percent of the cost and the states cover the remaining 25 percent.

In addition to the federal-state partnership, Biden plans to create a new grant program to assist community colleges to improve students’ success. Biden details reforms such as providing additional “academic and career advising services; dual enrollment; credit articulation agreements; [investments] in wages, benefits and professional development to recruit and retain faculty.”

Biden’s debt forgiveness plan states that individuals making 25,000 dollars or less per year will not be required to make payments towards their undergraduate federal student loans, and the loans will not accrue interest.

Under Biden’s plan, everyone else with student loans will pay five percent of their discretionary income over 25,000 dollars toward their loans. After twenty years, the loans will be forgiven for people who have “responsibly made payments through the program.”

**Climate Change:** Biden has outlined a plan for a Clean Energy Revolution to address the climate change crisis which includes a goal for the U.S. to achieve a one hundred percent clean energy economy and net-zero emissions by 2050. Biden plans to pass executive orders and encourage Congress to pass legislation to invest in clean energy, climate research and innovation, and to incentivize development in clean energy innovations.

Biden plans to roll back Trump administration tax incentives for corporations and invest 1.7 trillion dollars over the next ten years in his Clean Energy Revolution.

Biden, along with most Democrats in the field, has pledged not to accept political contributions from oil, gas and coal corporations and executives.

**Immigration:** Biden plans to reverse child separation at the southern border and end the prosecution of parents for minor immigration violations. Biden also wants to reverse Trump’s limitations on asylum seekers. He plans to end the Trump Migrant Protection Protocols, which place additional restrictions on asylum seekers that travel through Mexico or Guatemala. Like most other Democrats in the field, Biden also plans to reverse the travel and refugee bans and work to end the root cause of migration by enhancing the U.S. assistance efforts in Central America.

Biden has not made his position clear on whether or not he supports additional funding for the southern border wall.

### Amy Klobuchar

By Meghan Scheffey '20

**Health Care:** Senator Klobuchar supports universal health care, but her methods of ensuring health care for all Americans vary greatly from Sanders and Warren, who both support a single payer system. She plans to achieve the goal of universal healthcare by providing a public option that will expand Medicare and Medicaid. Klobuchar plans to expand Medicaid reimbursement for patients receiving mental health or substance use treatment by making it easier for states to qualify for waivers for these patients.

Klobuchar hopes to expand upon the Affordable Care Act by expanding the open enrollment period for health insurance. Ac-

ording to her campaign, a longer enrollment period will result in more Americans receiving health insurance.

As President, Klobuchar hopes to suspend Trump’s efforts to eliminate the protections for people suffering from pre-existing conditions under the Affordable Care Act.

**Education:** Klobuchar has outlined her plan to create a new federal-state partnership that will provide tuition-free community college for one- and two-year degrees, technical certifications and industry-recognized credentials. The federal government will contribute 75 percent of the funds for this plan, with the rest of the funding provided by the states. In order for the states to qualify for this federal funding, the states will have to maintain their spending on higher education, limit tu-

ition increases for state schools and ensure that students can transfer credits from community colleges to state schools.

Klobuchar also plans to make college more accessible by doubling the maximum Pell Grant to 12,000 dollars and expanding eligibility to families making up to 100,000 dollars a year. Klobuchar has also outlined a complete overhaul of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.

To pay for these reforms, she plans to raise the capital gains and dividend rate for people in the top two income tax brackets and institute a minimum thirty percent tax for people who make more than one million dollars a year.

**Climate Change:** As a Senator, Klobuchar co-sponsored the Green New Deal. She has pledged to have the U.S. re-en-

tered into the International Climate Change Agreement, also known as the Paris Agreement, on her first day in office.

If elected, Klobuchar plans to strengthen the clean power rules and gas mileage standards that the Obama Administration put into place and that were later rescinded by the Trump Administration. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the Clean Power Plan would reduce the pollutants that cause smog by 25 percent.

Klobuchar has pledged to end federal fossil fuel subsidies and invest in rural clean energy production. The U.S. spent 649 billion dollars in 2015 on fossil fuel subsidies to prop up the coal, petroleum and natural gas industries, according to Forbes. By ending these subsidies, she hopes the federal government will have more funds to invest in clean en-

ergy. Klobuchar plans to pass the Expanding Access to Sustainable Energy Act, which she introduced to Congress along with Republican Senator Jerry Moran. The act makes it easier for rural companies to gain access to resources and expertise that will increase renewable energy production.

Klobuchar, unlike Biden, Sanders and Warren, supports the use and expansion of nuclear power.

**Immigration:** Klobuchar’s policy on immigration differs greatly from the more progressive Democratic candidates like Sanders and Warren. She supports additional funding for Trump’s proposed border wall as part of a broader immigration reform that provides a clear path for citizenship for some undocumented immigrants.

## Impeachment trial ends in acquittal

By Meghan Scheffey '20 with Viviana Carrasco '21

President Donald Trump was acquitted by the Senate on two counts of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress on February 5. The Senate voted mainly along party lines and failed to meet the two-thirds majority needed to remove Trump from office.

The formal impeachment vote in the House of Representatives, which took place on December, 18, 2019, sent the impeachment charges to the Senate for a trial. Because the Constitution offers little structure to the impeachment process, the rules of the Senate trial are mostly set by precedent and agreed upon by the Senators.

During the trial, the prosecution lawyers from the House of Representatives and defense lawyers from the White House were each given twenty-four hours over a three day period to present their

case. Republicans, who control the Senate 53-47, ignored the Democrats’ request for additional documents and witnesses such as former National Security Adviser John Bolton who would be able to provide corroborating evidence to the President’s actions, according to the BBC.

Republican Senator Mitt Romney voted to convict Trump. Romney said in a statement: “The grave question the Constitution tasks Senators to answer is whether the President committed an act so extreme and egregious that it rises to the level of a high crime and misdemeanor. Yes, he did.”

White House Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham said in a statement that “the sham impeachment attempt concocted by the Democrats ended in the full vindication and exoneration of President Donald J. Trump.”

Since his acquittal, Trump has granted full pardons to seven

people and commutations to four others. The recipients include a former football team owner who hosted a pre-inauguration party, a one time contestant on “Celebrity Apprentice” and an investor friends with Trumps’ personal lawyer Rudolph Giuliani. According to CNN, “All eleven recipients had an inside connection or were promoted on Fox News.”

“We hope to see him use this executive power to grant more commutations and clemencies . . . for any of the thousands of deserving individuals who are neither rich, nor famous, nor connected,” said Holly Harris, President and Executive Director of the Justice Action Network. “They are the forgotten majority of the country’s crisis in mass incarceration, a crisis that disproportionately impacts lower income communities and communities of color, and they are every bit as deserving of a second chance.”

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## “Little Women’s” Greta Gerwig snubbed for best director

By Jenny Seminack '21

“Little Women,” directed by Greta Gerwig, was released to theaters on December 25.

The movie was an instant box-office success and praised as a “nearly perfect film” by The Washington Post, “the best film of the year” by The Wall Street Journal, and “an absolute gift” by The New York Times. One month later, “Little Women” received six Oscar nominations in the categories of Best Picture, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actress, Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Original Music Score and Best Costume Design.

Notably missing from these nominations was a Best Director nomination for Greta Gerwig. Many people began to ask: “If the movie was so clearly popular with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as well as the general public, then why wasn’t Gerwig nominated for Best Director?”

Gerwig’s being the driving force behind creating the movie makes her snub all the more painful. After hearing that Sony Pictures was doing a “Little Women” remake in 2016, she pitched her modern interpretation of the story to Sony producer Amy Pascal. Gerwig was given the green

light to write a script and after her directorial debut of “Lady Bird” (2017) was also asked to direct the film.

Gerwig worked to hand-craft each scene and include painstaking details such as shooting with different filters for the alternate timelines: Scenes that took place during the girls’ childhood were bathed in a golden light while scenes that took place in present day included cold, blue hues to emphasize the harsh nature of adulthood. Gerwig also insisted on shooting the entire movie on film. This was much more expensive than shooting on digital (the way most movies are shot today),

but this decision resulted in the movie’s beautiful cinematography.

“Little Women” is a movie about the issues facing women both in the 19th and 21st centuries. Gerwig manages to take the message of a 200-year-old novel and make that message applicable in today’s world: “Greta Gerwig has fashioned a story that feels at once entirely true to its 19th century origins and utterly modern,” said The New York Times.

Gerwig’s Oscar snub represents a much bigger problem in both the Academy and Hollywood overall— a lack of diversity. In the 92-year history of the Awards,

only five women have been nominated for Best Director and only one has ever won the award. A line from the movie asks “What women are allowed into the club of geniuses anyway?” This idea still proves to be true today and ironically applies to the disregard of Gerwig’s obvious talent in telling stories through her movies.

While Gerwig’s Oscar snub shows all of the work that still needs to be done to make Hollywood more inclusive, “Little Women” is still a beautiful film that tells an important story about the women of the past, women of the present and most certainly women of the future.

## Awkwafina makes history winning at Golden Globe Awards

By Ella Valencia '21

Nora Lum, otherwise known as Awkwafina, has made Golden Globes’ history. “The Farewell” star is the first performer of Asian descent to win a Golden Globe Award in a lead actress film category.

Awkwafina is also only the sixth woman of Asian descent to be nominated as a lead actress in a musical or comedy category. With her win, she joins a small group of performers of Asian lineage who have won Golden Globe

awards since the show began.

“The Farewell,” which features a predominantly Asian cast, tells the story of a young woman named Billi (Awkwafina) whose family decides to keep news from Billi of a terminal diagnosis of Billi’s grandmother Nai Nai. The film represents a breakout dramatic performance for Awkwafina, who is primarily known as a comedic actor. In her acceptance speech, Awkwafina said Lulu Wang, the writer and director, gave her “the chance of a lifetime” and “taught me so much.”

She also thanked her mother, who passed away when she was a child. “And to my mother, Tia, who I always hoped was watching from somewhere above,” she said. “I hope that she’s watching now.” She dedicated the award to her father. “I told you I’d get a job, dad.”

After the awards, the actress and rapper said backstage, “It feels incredible but I think there’s also this other feeling that you want there to be more. I hope this is just the beginning.”



Awkwafina celebrates with her Golden Globe. Photograph — Bustle

## BTS releases “Map of the Soul: 7”

By Catherine Oh '22

With 4.02 million presale copies sold since the announcement of BTS’s newest album on January 9, anticipation was at an all time high before its release on February 21 at 6 pm KST. Luckily, the globally renowned South Korean artists delivered with their album “Map of the Soul: 7.” With already 8 billion streams on Spotify, the new album is a continuation of “Map of the Soul: Persona” released just 10 months before.

Taking inspiration from Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung’s theory, the band’s new album is introspective of the growth the members have gone through since their debut in 2013.

“We wanted to show something different this time. We wanted to talk about the paths we traveled and our emotions truthfully. We showed our deep inner selves, as our confession of acknowledging what’s inside us,” said eldest Jin at the BTS Global Press Conference ‘MAP OF THE SOUL : 7.’

Every song on the album is worth a listen, maybe even 20, because it’s just that good. The

album looks back on BTS’s journey, making references to their old hip hop albums: “2 Cool 4 Skool,” “O! R U L8 2?,” “Skool Luv Affair” and “Dark Wild” as well as resolutely looking forward, singing “bring the pain” in their song “ON.” “Map of the Soul: 7” brings many different genres to the table as members Jungkook, V and J-Hope said in a

line Jin, Jimin, V and Jungkook to drill-like rap on “UGH!” by Suga, RM and J-Hope. The songs themselves are impeccable but a closer read of the lyrics is a must. “Inner Child,” a solo song by V, is a personal letter to his past self while he was struggling during the band’s debut period. The song promises a brighter future stating with beautiful lyrics, “You’ll be ok because I’m ok today.” Their messages of self-love and acceptance, which are now synonymous with the band, continue in the new album.

BTS is beyond just another K-pop band; they are trailblazers in the music industry, leading the way into the future. Already the band is pushing forward into



Members of BTS, Photograph — iHeartRadio

Grammy interview: “The genre is BTS. That’s the genre we want to make and the music that we want. New genre.”

True to their word, from “Intro: Persona” which is described as an “early Def jam rap-rock” by Rolling Stone to “Outro: Ego” an “old-school big beat club,” the album is diverse in sound and feel. “Map of the Soul: 7” showcases various unit songs that range from modern pop in “00:00” (Zero O’Clock) sung by vocal

art with the unique practice of having an interactive physical album full of photobooks, stickers, photocards and even coloring pages and “Connect: BTS” a collaboration with renowned artists from around the world.

As RM put it at a press conference for the album: “It’s a celebration.” The album truly is a “celebration” of what it means to be human as their music reaches out to people around the globe.

## Lizzo promotes self-love

By Grace Yaegel '22

In today’s world, young people all over are exposed to unrealistic body standards. Luckily, one rising artist in the music industry, Lizzo, has been changing beauty norms through her inspiring lyrics and her positive, energetic performances.

Lizzo first rose to fame when her song “Truth Hurts” was featured in Netflix’s “Someone Great.” Since September 2019, she’s had 3 songs on Billboard’s Hot 100, including one Number 1.

Through these hits, Lizzo shares self-love with lyrics like, “I know I’m a queen but I don’t need no crown” from “Soulmate,” and messages of body positivity. She also shows her feminism through songs such as “Like A Girl,” where she belts, “Woke up feelin’ like I just might run for president. Even if there ain’t no precedent, switchin’ up the messaging. I’m about to add a little estrogen.”

Her live performances exude self-love. At the 2019 VMA’s

Lizzo sang a medley of “Truth Hurts” and “Good As Hell” during which she stopped to ask the crowd, “It’s so hard trying to love yourself in a world that doesn’t love you back, am I right?” Surrounded by women of all body shapes, she continued, “You deserve to feel good as hell! You deserve to feel good as hell!”

She hasn’t promoted self-love without back-lash however. Many people have been speaking out against Lizzo and scrutinizing her message of self-love. Jillian Michaels, a famous trainer, went as far to remark, “Why are we celebrating her body? Why does it matter? Why aren’t we celebrating her music? Cause it isn’t going to be awesome if she gets diabetes.” Lizzo responded indirectly by posting on Instagram with a caption that says, “This is my life. I have done nothing wrong.”

Lizzo has been shaking up the music industry since the first time “Truth Hurts” was played on the radio, and she continues to change the norm by breaking it.



Lizzo, Photograph — NBC News

## Tiera Fletcher: A modern day “Hidden Figure”

By Leah Scott '22

Tiera Fletcher, a twenty-four-year-old African-American woman, is a prime example of excellence in American society.

Fletcher, a structural analyst and engineer for Boeing in New Orleans, Louisiana, is working on NASA's Space Launch System (SLS). SLS is a rocket that will send astronauts on their journey to explore Mars. Fletcher graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 2017, with a 5.0 GPA. Boeing recruited her to work on SLS while she was a senior at MIT.

At twenty-two years old, Fletcher was successfully handling working for NASA from MIT's campus, traveling to work with Boeing's structural design and analysis team in Huntsville, Alabama, while remarkably

managing a semester's load of classes. Her phenomenal work in math and science is undoubtedly momentous for society, especially for African-Americans and young girls who are interested in working in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).

The Huffington Post writes that Tiera Fletcher's fascination with aerospace engineering was ignited at eleven-years-old when she noticed a plane flying above her. Her passion for aerospace engineering was amplified through a STEM program at Wykeham Martin Elementary, the school that Fletcher attended in Mableton, Georgia. Fletcher's mother recognized her daughter's mathematical talents early on. Since her daughter was six, her mother encouraged her to calculate the total of all the groceries brought from

the store. Fletcher told WBRC News, “By the time we got to the register, I'd have to calculate the exact total, including tax.”

Fletcher understands the important role she can play in the eyes of future generations. She told The Philadelphia Tribune, “I understand that I have the responsibility to open the gates wider for the upcoming generations of young females of color as well and I take that very seriously.” She and her husband, Myron Fletcher, a fellow rocket scientist, founded “Rocket with the Fletchers,” a non-profit organization designed to spread awareness about STEM careers.

Tiera Fletcher graciously gives back to the world around her and is indisputably a modern day “Hidden Figure.”



Tiera Fletcher, Photograph — guideposts.com

## Alvin Ailey Dance Theater promotes the mission of its founder

By Carolyn Arnold '22

Since its founding in New York City in 1958, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has been dedicated to furthering “the pioneering vision of the [African-American] choreographer, dancer and cultural leader Alvin Ailey by building an extended cultural community which provides dance performances, training and education and community programs for all people,” according to their website.

Alvin Ailey, the theater's founder and namesake, was a dancer and choreographer who believed in spreading African American culture through modern dance. He gave black dancers



Alvin Ailey dancers, Photographs—La Jolla Music Society (left) and Kimmel Center (right)

a platform to express themselves and show off their amazing talent at a time when most black artists were practically invisible to

the media. In addition to founding The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, he also founded the Alvin Ailey American Dance



Center (renamed The Ailey School) in 1969 and formed the Ailey Repertory Ensemble (renamed Ailey II) in 1974.

For his continued commitment to civil rights and important contributions to modern dance, Ailey was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2014. In 1988, just one year before his death at age 58, Ailey was also awarded a Kennedy Center Honor.

Dance was Ailey's passion, but ultimately, arts education was his calling. He dedicated his life to teaching and celebrating African-American culture and black dancers, making sure both got the proper recognition they deserved but never seemed to receive. Alvin Ailey changed the American arts forever, and his work for arts education and dance will never be forgotten.

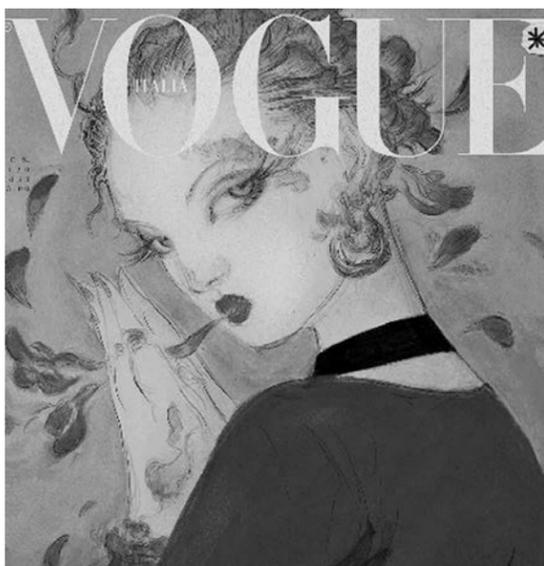
## Italy takes environmental action through fashion and education

By Elena Granda '21

Vogue Italia begins the decade calling for change, specifically change in the way that consumers see fashion. This influential magazine has decided to decrease its environmental footprint by replacing all of the photographs in the January 2020 issue with illustrations, removing the need for photo shoots.

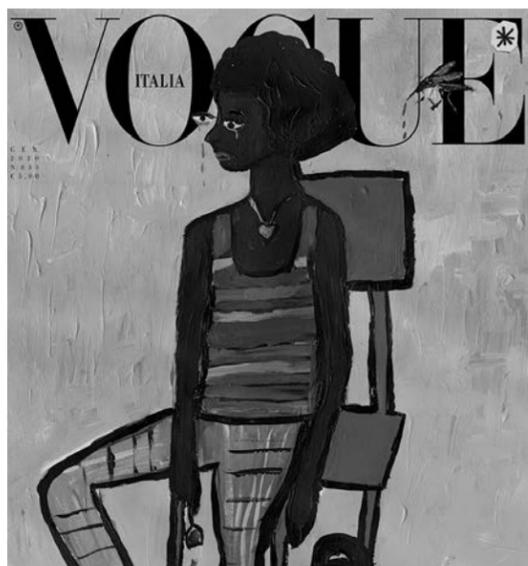
Vogue Italia Editor-in-Chief Emanuele Farneti told Time Magazine the extent of what goes into the production of an issue saying, “One hundred and fifty people involved. About twenty flights and a dozen or so train journeys. Forty cars on standby. Sixty international deliveries. Lights switched on for at least ten hours non-stop, partly powered by gasoline-fueled generators. Food waste from the catering services. Plastic to wrap the garments. Electricity to recharge phones, cameras...”

There are seven artists who worked on this issue. They range from “well-known art icons and emerging talents to comic book



In December 2019, editors from all 26 editions of Vogue signed the “Vogue Values,” vowing to help preserve the planet. Photographs — USA Today (left) and Teen Vogue (right)

legends,” according to the official @vogueitalia Instagram; the result is a diverse combination of styles. Farneti states on Instagram, “The challenge was to prove it is possible to show clothes without photographing them.” All artists produced cover art as well as illustrations of Gucci clothes on models. “This



is the first time Vogue has done this since the introduction of photography in its pages in the early 20th century,” writes Vogue's publishing company, Condé Nast.

Creating a publication without photoshoots is not only more environmentally friendly, but it also costs significantly less to produce. All of the money that was

not spent on photoshoots for the January issue was donated to the Fondazione Querini Stampalia, a museum in Venice which has been severely damaged by floods resulting from climate change.

Vogue Italia's environmental efforts are reflective of the growing environmentalist sentiment across Italy. In November of

2019, Italy's education minister made it a requirement for climate change to be taught in schools nationwide. Sustainability will be taught for the first time in civics education classes, and it will eventually expand across many subjects, especially for older students. Teachers of every grade are required to teach thirty-three hours on the topic of climate.

If the fashion industry does not make the necessary changes to become more environmentally conscious, McKinsey & Company predicts that the clothing industry will be responsible for one fourth of the Earth's carbon footprint by 2030. From fast-fashion to the magazine industry, changes must be made immediately. In a more permanent attempt to reduce their environmental impact than the January issue, Vogue Italia plans on transitioning to plastic free packaging in 2020. Hopefully, Vogue Italia's efforts to become more sustainable will inspire other businesses to take similar innovative and sustainable steps.

## What you need to know about the Coronavirus

By *Alexa Leckrone '21*

Coronaviruses are not a new-found disease. In fact, the common cold is classified as a coronavirus. So why is the outbreak of coronavirus all over the news? Should you be worried?

The newest coronavirus (2019-nCoV) emerged from the Chinese city of Wuhan with the first diagnosis on the last day of 2019. According to Live Science, “a new study provides more clues to the virus’ origins, and points to bats as the most likely hosts.” Bats also transferred viruses such as SARS, MERS and Ebola.

Since its debut, cases of the coronavirus have been pinpointed in other Asian countries as well as spreading to Europe, Australia and the United States. In the beginning of February, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared coronavirus a “global public health emergency,” according to the New York Times. Over 760 million people in China are under some sort of regulation, while 10 percent are on strict lockdown, prohibiting them from entering their neighborhood without an ID and being sentenced to a sort of house arrest under the government. The New York Times reports that in some areas citizens were restricted to leaving their house only once every three

days. Lockdowns have been put in place in neighboring Asian countries such as South Korea and Japan. Flights have now been completely cancelled following the announcement that no one can enter or leave China.

Overall, The New York Times reports that the WHO has officially confirmed that cases in China are slowing down—in the beginning of February, there were 2,000 new cases per day while recently there have only been 800 per day.

Two significant factors in the spreading of the disease in China include the lack of supplies as well as the lack of urgency of the Chinese government to tackle the epidemic. There is a major shortage of test kits and hospital spaces in general, leaving many people to fend without medicine or even certainty that they have contracted the disease. With speculation of thousands of unidentified cases, mixed with the population density of a city that is in total lockdown, cases are more likely to spread like wildfire.

The Coronavirus has now spread to numerous countries—with devastating infection numbers in Iran, Italy and South Korea. The CDC warns Americans that the Coronavirus will most likely impact American citizens; Nancy Messonnier, the CDC’s di-

rector of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Disease, telling The Wall Street Journal, “We expect we will see community spread [defined as cases with unknown origins of contact, such as one case in California] in this country. It’s more of a question of when.” CNN reports that there are 59 cases of Coronavirus in the United States, with 42 of them credited to the spread of the virus on the cruise ship Diamond Princess.

In the U.S., hospitals and communities are preparing for a future outbreak. The Trump Administration has requested 2.5 billion dollars from Congress for research and supplies. Alex Azar, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, tells The New York Times that there are currently 30 million masks available and an abundance of respirators to donate to hospitals if needed. Hospitals are preparing by clearing Intensive Care Units and Isolation Centers and stocking up on supplies. Chief Medical Officer at Scripps Health in San Diego Dr. Ghazala Sharieff reported to CNBC, “We don’t know what happens next, but we are prepared.”

Messonnier has spoken on the need for communities to prepare for outbreaks, stating schools need to be ready to close for

periods of time—despite CDC Principal Deputy Director Anne Schuchat’s statement to CBS that Coronavirus is “primarily occurring in the elderly, in adults with chronic conditions like diabetes or chronic lung disease. . . We haven’t seen disease to any great extent in children.”

Dr. John Weisman, the Health Secretary in Washington state, said citizens should “do what you do every cold and flu season,” which is wash your hands, avoid touching your face, avoid contact with infected individuals and refrain from going to school or work if you have symptoms.

Two issues are important to keep in mind when predicting the effect of Coronavirus on the American people: obvious advantages of American medicine and supplies as well as the stringency of the United States’ quarantines. USA Today reports that the person in Washington state who contracted the disease has officially recovered and is no longer quarantined.

The rigorously imposed quarantines and precautions taken in the U.S. contrast significantly with controversially slow actions taken by the Chinese government. Besides suspending flights, The New York Times reports the automatic two week quarantine of anyone traveling to the U.S.

from China. The Americans who were rescued from the cruise ship Diamond Princess are currently in quarantine at military bases in California, Nebraska and Texas. CNN reports eleven of them have tested positive for the disease and are under the care of University of Nebraska Medical Center.

In regards to Philadelphia, no cases have been identified in the metropolitan area. WHYY did report, however, that the Plymouth Meeting pharmaceutical company Inovio Pharmaceuticals has received a grant of 9 million dollars to create a vaccine for Coronavirus. Inovio’s CEO Dr. J. Joseph Kim is quoted on their website: “Our collaboration with Beijing Advaccine and its Founder, Emeritus Professor Bin Wang from the prestigious Fudan University and China’s premier DNA vaccine expert, will tremendously accelerate our coronavirus vaccine. . . . Our shared goal is to utilize both company’s expertise in developing vaccines for emerging infectious diseases and hopefully achieve an accelerated regulatory approval for INO-4800.”

According to the Los Angeles Times, Inovio Pharmaceuticals has made a preclinical vaccine but has not spoken on when it will be available to the public.

## Australia’s wildfires take a devastating toll on wildlife

By *Anna Emma '22 and Olivia Wirsching '20*

Australian officials ignored warning signs of eminent environmental disasters; now the citizens, wildlife and environment are suffering.

Each summer, Australia experiences bushfires due to the country’s high temperatures and low humidity. While these natural fires are a normal part of the Australian ecosystem, this summer’s heightened environmental conditions produced Australia’s largest wildfire disaster ever recorded. Drought and deforestation, along with record high temperatures brought on by climate change, created the perfect storm for fires to run rampant this bushfire season.

The fires began in September 2019, spring in Australia, a few months before the traditional start to bushfire season. This early start is suspected to be a result of climate change as 2019 was Australia’s hottest and driest year according to the Australia Weather Bureau.

While the fire season is over now and most of the fires are contained, the mess left behind combined with intense flooding is still causing major problems for Australia.

**Response from Australian Government:** The extremely dry, hot conditions caused this

bushfire season to spiral out of control. Prior to the start of bushfire season, Australia was facing harsh droughts and high temperatures. Many attribute these environmental extremes to climate change.

It was reported that about 180 people were arrested as arsonists linked to the bushfires. It was later discovered that this statistic was inflated. Records from before the bushfire season started were included in this number from as far back as the beginning of 2019. Arsonists were not responsible for turning the normal bushfire season into the massive disaster it has become.

The claim that arsonists are the main problem is believed to be a cover for the Australian government’s lack of initiative in acknowledging and creating policies to counteract climate change. This allegation, which denies the existence of climate change, is supported by Australian officials, such as the deputy prime minister of Australia. The deputy prime minister called citizens who believe in climate change “raving inner-city lunatics.”



A koala suffers burns due to the Australian wildfires. Photograph — National Geographic

Australia’s failure in addressing climate change is not just speculation. Recent research by the NewClimate Institute, the Climate Action Network and Germanwatch reviewed 57 nations’ emissions, renewable energy, energy use and policy in the 2020 Climate Change Performance Index. The study ranked Australia as the worst-performer in climate change policy and sixth-worst performing country across the four categories. The report notes that the government under Prime Minister Scott Morrison “has continued to worsen performance at both national and international levels.”

Although being warned that climate change was a serious issue for their country, Australian officials did not work to address

these problems, and even as environmental issues went from a looming future to a jarring present, they still minimized the role of climate change.

The Australian people are growing impatient with the government’s lack of response regarding climate change. “If only our leaders

would call on us and say, ‘Look, this is a turning point moment for us; the natural world in Australia, that’s our cathedral, and it’s burning — our land and the animals we love are being killed,’” said Lynette Wallworth, an Australian filmmaker.

**Impact on the environment:** The fires scorched an estimated 27 million acres of land. 25 people and an estimated 1 billion animals have lost their lives.

On Kangaroo Island alone, 25,000 koalas were killed. This island is known for its diverse and unique species of animals. BBC reports that experts fear Kangaroo may never recover. There are also concerns for many of their endangered species including the glossy black cockatoo and the

dunnart, a mouse-like marsupial.

Another species affected by the fires was the velvet worm, a highly local caterpillar-like insect. Tanya Latty, an entomologist at the University of Sydney, fears that an extreme loss of the velvet worm population will leave future generations with a lack of genetic diversity. Latty worries that this lack of diversity will affect the velvet worms ability to adapt to new adversities.

This is a concern not only for the velvet worm but also for other 250,000 species of insects native to Australia.

Not only are the animals being affected by the fires, but also humans. The smoke polluting the air is extremely hazardous to Australian residents. The Guardian reports that the air pollution levels in Australia were 26 times higher than what is considered hazardous to humans for months.

Cities were blanketed with thick smoke clouds causing issues for many concerned citizens. Those who were previously healthy experienced trouble breathing and those who were already ill became worse. Mortality rates rose in Sydney on days when the air pollution was at its worst.

One pollutant from the fires, a fine particle known as PM 2.5, makes its way into a person’s bloodstream and can cause more than just respiratory issues. This pollutant has been linked to heart issues, diabetes and dementia.

## Sophomores revitalize Environmental Club

By The Campanile with Catherine Oh '22

In a time where teenagers like Greta Thunberg are leading the wave of young people in a global discussion on how to save the changing environment, sophomores Nora Blatney, Breighan Burke and Olivia Forti are working hard to revive the Environmental Club at Mount.

“We felt like there was a need within the Mount community,” said Blatney.

“We started talking [about reforming the club] last year,” said Forti. After discussing their ideas together, the girls were ready to move forward.

“We thought ‘we can actually do this,’” said Forti, who added that the girls were “hoping to raise awareness” to make Mount more environmentally conscious, and extend this awareness to environmental concerns throughout the world.

“We are very passionate about it,” said Burke.

The girls reached out to English teacher Mrs. Michelle Fabrey, who agreed to moderate the club, which meets on Tuesday’s after school.

“They’ve taken the initiative on so many things,” said Mrs. Fabrey.

Forti reached out to Mount alumna, Mrs. Alyssa Bucci Edwards '95, Vice President on the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Wissahickon.

To date, the club also held a joint bake sale with Friends Fur Life to help relief efforts in Australia. The money raised went to an organization, One Tree Planted (in Vermont), which will plant one tree for every dollar donated after the fires have subsided. The club is guaranteed 120 trees.

The girls are currently brainstorming ways to bring awareness to the Mount community, starting with recycling at school. Raising awareness for where recyclable materials go at Mount is a priority. Each classroom has both a trash can and a blue bin for

recycled paper only. Also, large recycling bins intended for plastic and tin only are placed throughout the building. Knowing where to dispose of these items is a key issue, which the girls plan to address by making posters and informing the school community of paper recycling pick-ups.

While each room has a blue bin, it is emptied with the trash. Blatney, Burke and Forti are putting together a proposal for administration which will lay out a plan in which club members will collect the paper recycling regularly. It will then be combined with the plastic and tin, as once it leaves Mount, all recyclables are sorted in what is referred to as single stream recycling.

“We could all chip in to help

out the school,” said Burke.

“The way we see it,” added Forti, “everyone actually has to do something to help save the earth.”

Another plan is to advocate for hand dryers in the bathrooms instead of paper towels.

Other projects include organizing volunteer opportunities, such as working with Friends of the Wissahickon to clean up the park, which the girls plan to implement in the spring, as well as writing letters to senators regarding environmental concerns.

“We’re going over facts - what’s going on in our country and happening in other countries, what’s causing [problems] and deciding what we can do personally to help,” said Blatney.

For every day reminders of things everyone can do at Mount, at home and in their community, the girls made a corkboard and pinned “quick, little life hacks, tips for things you can do every day,” said Forti. “You have to do something. It’s your Earth. Nobody else is going to take care of it. You have to take care of it.”

For more information on how you can get involved in Environmental club, email nblatney22@msjastudent.org, bburke22@msjastudent.org or oforti22@msjastudent.org



Environmental Club founders, sophomores Breighan Burke, Olivia Forti and Nora Blatney

### TEN SIMPLE WAYS TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

By Caroline Andress '21

With our polar ice caps melting and the once beautiful Great Barrier Reef dying, climate change is continually worsening. There is undeniable evidence that climate change is harming plants, animals and the environments in which they live.

Here are some simple things you can do every day to help save our planet:

1. Stop buying plastic water bottles. Get a reusable water bottle instead. According to The Water Project, a non-profit that provides water and proper sanitation to sub-Saharan Africa, landfills are overflowing with more than 2 million tons of plastic bottles which will take more than 1,000 years to biodegrade.

2. Stop using all types of plastic bags. Bring recyclable bags to the store and pack your lunch in a reusable container. Plastic bags are harmful to our oceans and marine life and continue to contaminate soil and waterways. Plastic bags also require a lot of energy to produce.

3. Stop using plastic utensils. Pack metal utensils with lunch.

4. Stop using lids and straws for fountain drinks.

5. Use fewer paper towels. Use cloth napkins at home.

6. Recycle clothes. The manufacturing of cloth requires a good deal of fuel. Additionally, harmful carbon dioxide is released into the air in this process. Companies such as Patagonia will take used clothing and refurbish and resell it.

7. Carpool or, when possible, take public transportation to help reduce harmful carbon emissions. When buying a new car, consider an environmentally friendly one. Eliminating cars from your life is one of the most effective actions you can take to fight climate change, according to Kimberly Nicholas, Professor of Sustainability Science at Lund University. Walk or bike when possible.

8. Turn off lights and televisions when you leave a room. Unplug chargers when not in use.

9. Use cold water to wash your clothes.

10. Take 2 minutes off of your shower time to conserve hot water.

## Here’s what Mount does to protect the environment

By Catherine Oh '22

The Campanile caught up with Chef-Manager of the CulinArt Group at MSJA, Mrs. Alison Rainis and Head of Maintenance, Mr. Brian Webb to find how the Mount works to make our school environmentally friendly.

Chef Rainis said her company has already introduced many environmentally friendly alternatives in the cafeteria and plans to do more in the future.

“The plates that we use, the clamshells, the boats (fries and chicken fingers), coffee cups, our salad bowls: Those are all compostable,” she said. “It doesn’t matter if they’re dirty or not [when students throw them in the trash] because they’re just going to break down wherever they end up.”

Chef Rainis also explained that any bottles or tin cans used by the kitchen staff are rinsed out before going into the recycling bin. She added that her company’s environmentally conscious decisions also include the utensils available in the cafeteria.

“I can tell you that we use a brand called Eco (for the forks, knives and spoons). They’re made from recycled plastic.”

When asked if her company had any plans on changing to reusable utensils, Chef Rainis said that while reusable is a better solution, it presents a “challenge” because the staff would have to wash them and washing “five hundred forks each day” is not

feasible.

While Chef Rainis acknowledged that the straws, lids and items packaged for the company’s “quikpick program” still use plastic, she said she is introducing “week-long” promotions to help reduce the use of plastic from these items.

“We are going to put the straws and lids behind the line, and they’re only available upon request,” she said. (The first “skip

be recycled will help a lot in the long run. For instance, the lids for the popular milkshakes are recyclable.

“I think the issue is that people just ‘toss them in the trash,’” she said.



Recycling at the Mount is done with relative ease because of single stream managed by Waste Corporation, according to Head

usually fills up in two days, according to Mr. Webb, and is then picked up by Waste Corporation.

However, the small, blue bins for paper in each classroom and office are not emptied separately. When the bins were first introduced, students and moderators from the former Environmental Club emptied these twice a week into the recycling bin outside.

When asked if it were possible for the new environmental club to resume picking up the paper recycling program, Mr. Webb said that he welcomes such an initiative.

“As a matter of fact if the students want to get involved, then I don’t think it would be an issue of what goes into the blue cans because then we have students in place that are monitoring it.”

Mr. Webb emphasized the importance of being aware and knowledgeable in order to be environmentally conscious, adding that over the summer, he, administration and Chef Rainis met to discuss ways to improve environmental efforts at Mount.

“One of the subjects that came up was that the school wanted to get away from styrofoam because it is hazardous because it never breaks down and is a carcinogen, too.”

Mr. Webb added that the maintenance department has taken efforts to “go even one step further” regarding the products used both inside the building and on the grounds. “These products are mostly biodegradable and not hazardous to the environment.”



Photograph — thebalancesmb.com

the straw” week ran from Tuesday, Feb. 18 to Friday, Feb. 21.)

When asked if her company plans to switch to paper straws, Chef Rainis said they are “incredibly expensive,” adding, “The discussion could be, if we could charge more than \$1.95 for a soda.” Still, she said she has hopes that paper straws will catch on.

Chef Rainis emphasized that making the whole community more aware of what items can

of Maintenance, Mr. Brian Webb. “Now you can put everything into one container. You can put the plastic, cardboard, aluminum, harder stuff all in one container,” Mr. Webb said.

The maintenance staff empties the plastic and tin from the large blue bins that are located throughout the building as well as all cardboard “trash” every day into the single-stream recycling container behind the school building. The recycling dumpster

# Swimming wins third consecutive AACA title

By Caroline Donahue '21

The Magic, undefeated in their league, charged into the AACA Championship with confidence, capturing the AACA Championship title for the third year in a row.

The team headed into their post season with an overall record of 6-1. Leading the team are seniors, captains Holly Household, Carrie O'Connor and Kristen O'Connor, along with head coach Janet Tompkins.

To date the team has broken 6 school records. Juniors Sydney McKernan and Mary Kate Leonard, and Kristen O'Connor and Household broke the 200 medley relay record. Leonard broke both the 200 Freestyle and the 200 IM records; junior Maggie Mikalic broke both the 500 Freestyle and the 100 Fly records; and McKernan broke the 100 Back-

stroke record.

"Breaking Mount's school records is definitely very exciting and rewarding. It's also great seeing my other teammates break records individually and in relays!" said Mikalic.

Leonard added, "Breaking the records was a really cool and exciting experience! It's been a big season of hard work so it was nice to see that pay off!"

The Magic's only loss of the season was in their first meet

against North Penn High School. The team went on to win against Plymouth Whitmarsh High School, Merion Mercy Academy, Nazareth Academy and Wissahickon High School. The biggest meet for the Magic, however, was

against Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School. The Magic put up an impressive 114 points to top Gwynedd's 69 points. At this meet, the team also celebrated their eight seniors on Senior Day: Sara Collins, Libby Donahue, Household, Carrie and Kristen O'Connor, Diza Ranile, Ava Solecki and Mae Sweeney.

Detailing the team's season so far, Carrie O'Connor said, "We are all just creating unforgettable memories, strong bonds and even stronger swimmers. It's been an amazing season so far, and it'll only get better."

District Championships were held on February 27 and 28, when The Campanile went to press. State Championships will take place on March 11 and 12 at Bucknell University.



Mount swimmers dive into the pool at their meet against Wissahickon High School. Photograph — Chestnut Hill Local

## Grace Niekelski scores 1000 points

By Mary Kate Feilke '22

Grace Niekelski's journey to 1000 points could not have gone any better for the starting junior. The junior claimed her 1000 point after being fouled by one of Gwynedd Mercy Academy's players.

In the Magic's previous meeting with the Monarchs, Mount lost on Gwynedd's home court. Back at home, however, on January 28, Niekelski needed only eight more points to reach the 1000 milestone and become the second junior in school history to do so.

"During the day, I think I freaked myself out that I wouldn't get it, but during the game, I wasn't scared," Niekelski said.

An electric and lively student section quieted as



Niekelski approached the foul line, needing only one more point.

"I knew it was the last one. It was exciting, because it was a dead ball," she said.

A clean throw sailed into the net and the crowd erupted into cheers. Niekelski now sets her sights to being the Mount's all-time leader scorer. Currently the 13th all-time leading scorer in Mount history, Niekelski joins an elite group of Mount alumnae with her incredible achievement.

"It's quite the achievement, for a junior, to accomplish," said Athletic Director Mrs. Janet Columbro. Niekelski has also been named to the AACA All League First Team.

## Basketball dominates

By Mary Kate Feilke '22

With an impressive record of 17-7, the Magic headed into Districts on Friday, Feb. 2, defeating Villa Maria 47-41.

"We were pretty focused on getting to the next level," said senior Taylor Sistrunk.

The Magic went on to play Springfield Delco. on Tuesday, Feb. 25, losing 52-42.

The team was down in the first quarter, but cut the lead in the second quarter.

"We locked them down on defense. They only scored three points," said senior Kelly Rothenberg.

The Magic got into foul trouble in the second half, and once they were in the penalty, Springfield began building their lead.

"The loss to Springfield was definitely a tough loss. While we could definitely dwell on everything we couldn't control, it's definitely more important that we learn from our mistakes and leave the loss in the past. We're excited to still be in States and continue our season, said senior, varsity captain Lauren Vesey.

The Magic played Radnor for third place in Districts on Saturday, Feb. 29, when The Campanile went to press. States will begin on Saturday, March 7.

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"In the beginning of the season, we made both individual and team goals," said Vesey. "As a team, we all said we wanted to beat Villa Maria, beat Basil and win the league. We also said we just wanted to have a fun and successful season."

And they have.

Learning to play with new head coach Matt Feeney, junior Grace Niekelski said, "He really knows how to use our athleticism and skills to our advantage. I think he really knows what he's doing."

Mount commanded a strong win over Villa Joseph Marie with a final score of 60-47 on January 16 with Rothenberg and Niekelski leading the Magic in points. Matched up against Merion Mercy on January 25, Vesey scored a notable 20 points and helped lead Mount to a 61-46 victory.

Gwynedd Mercy Academy proved to be a tough opponent for Mount, who lost the previous matchup at Gwynedd. Nevertheless, a lively student section rallied behind the Magic at home on January 28 to cheer the Magic on to a 45-41 win during which Niekelski scored her 1000 point.

After a powerful win over Sacred Heart on January 30, the Magic focused their sights on the AACA playoffs and worked hard to overcome some of the challenges that the season has posed.

"For the seniors, this is our third new coach in four years. We had to adjust our style of play to match new expectations," said Rothenberg, "Also, being a consistently strong team has always been a struggle."

In the Magic's semifinal match against the Monarchs on February 8, Mount won 40-34 and advanced to the league championship match at La Salle College High School on February 12 against St. Basil.

Rothenberg said, "After the game, I think we were all relieved that we were able to keep our lead and pull out a win."

Mount fell in the league finals 57-41. Although the Magic's previous record with St. Basil was 0-2, this never discouraged the team's fighting spirit and attitude. Even with this loss, Mount finished second in the AACA and flaunts two players named to AACA All League teams: Grace Niekelski, first team; and Lauren Vesey, second team.

## Indoor Track posts record season

By Maggie Mikalic '21

Indoor Track is posting a record-breaking season.

Freshman Maggie Murphy broke a school record for the mile at the first meet of the season and has broken two more individual records in the 800m and 3000m since.

"It's certainly exciting to finish a race knowing that I got both a personal and school record," said Murphy. "Now I just need to keep running my best and never get too content because there are a lot of other fast girls out there."

Juniors Maya Charles, Annie Lemelin, Margaux Rawson and sophomore Kathleen Downs broke the school record for the

4x200m relay.

Lemelin and Rawson also broke individual school records. Lemelin holds the 200m, 400m and 60m hurdles records, and Rawson holds the high jump record.

"Breaking school records was neither a thought nor a goal for me," said Lemelin. "I'm just always working to improve my personal times. It's been an amazing season for me and my teammates, and I can't wait to see what we do during the outdoor season."

On January 11, junior Emily Carr, Downs, Lemelin and Murphy broke the Distance Medley Relay school record. And Lemelin, Rawson, freshman Katie Bakley and senior Kylie McGov-

ern broke the 4x400 relay record.

At the Meet of Champions, (the meet that allows runners to qualify for States) on February 21, Mounties dominated! Lemelin placed first in the 200m and Murphy took gold in the mile. Five girls qualified for States: Charles, Downs, Lemelin, Murphy and Rawson.

Seniors, captains McGovern and Maeve Gallagher reflected on the season so far. "The girls on the team help motivate each other through the cold weather to run faster, and they made going to Lehigh on Friday nights fun," said Gallagher.

The team competed in States on March 1 at Penn State.