

“Teenage Girls WILL Save the World!”

BY INDIA BERRY
STAFF WRITER

On January 20, 2018, people from Washington D.C., New York City, Chicago, Sacramento, Boston, Morristown, Seattle, and other cities from around the country -- and even the world -- participated in the second annual Women’s March. The Women’s March is a protest that advocates the rights for women of all races, sexualities, and religions. The first Women’s March occurred on January 21, 2017 and was one of the largest peaceful protests in American history.

Last year, I was unaware of the impact the Women’s March would have on history. I envied the people who got to participate in this historic event. Ever since I arrived at Kent Place, I have become more aware of gender disparities and have become more involved in feminist issues, so this year, I made sure to attend. Although I did not participate in the New York City march, I did march in the Morristown one, which had an amazing turnout of 15,000 people.

When my friends and I arrived at the march’s starting point, we were immediately greeted by pink hats and a sea of creative and powerful (even somewhat humorous) homemade signs. There were people handing out flyers with information about their charities or organizations, pins and stickers with quotes such as “Facts Matter,” and crocheted hearts dedicated to their lost loved one. Within the first ten minutes that we were there, people had



PHOTO CREDIT:
INDIA BERRY AND GABRIELLE NARCISSE

asked to take photos of our signs and told us how proud they were of “young people like us” attending the march and making our voices heard. When the march started, my friends

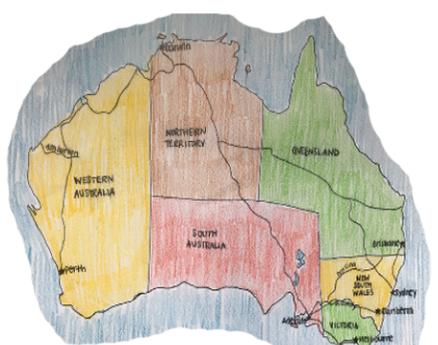
and I would point out the best signs to each other and would scream the chants as loudly as we could. The rhythm of the chants would make you want to dance, creating an over-

all joyous and exciting atmosphere within the crowd. When we got to Morristown Green, we listened to incredible speeches given by Governor Phil Murphy, Tammy Murphy, Liz Abzug, Nancy Hedinger, and others.

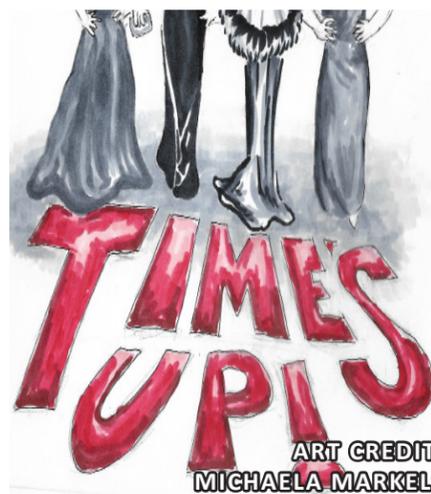
The entire day was filled with love and support from others, even from complete strangers! People were constantly complimenting each other on their signs, answering questions, and providing support. Many adults came up to me and my friends saying they were overjoyed that the younger generation was participating in such an important event, and encouraged us to keep fighting. A woman even offered us her pin when we complimented it and another gave us her leftover pink hats.

It is important for us to remember that the Women’s March is not the only day where we should make our voices heard, but as a reminder that we as women need to keep fighting. We need to speak out when our transgender or gender-queer sisters are being abused and mistreated by the system. We need to continue fighting for racial justice with women of color. We need to fight for members of the LGBTQIA+ community, victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault survivors, women in poverty, and many, many more. The Women’s March should not be the only day where our voices are heard, and we, as feminists (but more importantly as women) need to continue to fight for social justice.

Inside This Issue...



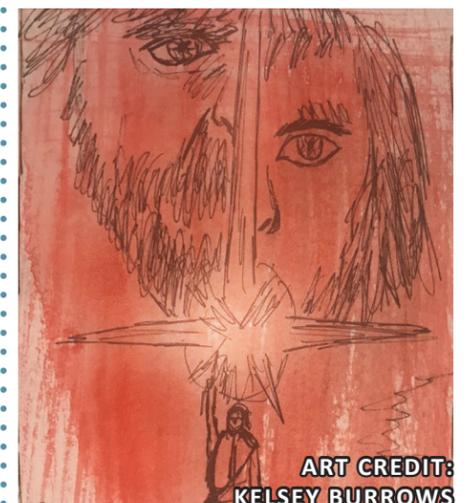
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Check out page 2 for an inside look at the Student Exchange that just happened in the sophomore class!

Take a look at Centerspread to learn more about Oprah for President, #MeToo, and the Time’s Up movements!

Ever hear about the (almost) Kent Place Pingry Merger? Check out page 9 for a story from KP history!

Not sure what to do over spring break? Check out some of the most binge-worthy movies and shows on pages 10-11!

ballast

2017-2018

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G'day Scholar Leaders!

BY LIZZIE HERR
STAFF WRITER

After a long 28 hour flight, five Saint Peter's Girls from Adelaide, South Australia joined the Kent Place community. Despite the jet lag and 10 degree weather, the five girls quickly adapted and started making the best out of their time here in America. From going to classes and playing sports on weekdays, to traveling up and down the East Coast and trying new foods on the weekends, the girls were pleasantly surprised with the style of life here in the U. S. They enjoyed the sight of snow and the snow day, since most of them had never seen snow before.

Although the girls had been in touch with their exchange partner for several months beforehand, they still came into the United States with some preconceived notions and stereotypes about the U.S. One of the Australian girls, Bella Bernardi said, "I expected there to be a significant difference in the food portion sizes but I still cannot get over how large the sizes are. It's insane. The food is so delicious and so far my favorite thing is Lucky Charms. They are incredible." Almost all of the exchange girls said that the stereotypes that they had expected beforehand were actually true from what they could tell so far (most of them revolving around the tastiness and large amounts of food, of course). Apart from food, the Australians also enjoyed other parts of the exchange, Abbie Lisle said, "It is exactly what I expected but better; everyone is just



From left to right: (back) Lane Patterson, Bella Bernardi, Sofia Handzy, Hattie Maerschel, Lizzie Herr, and Hannah Keough. (front) Clare Buckley, Maddy McGregor-Simmons, Abbie Lisle, and Sophie Schmitz

so lovely and opening to our arrival it has just been so easy." All the girls enjoyed living as an American for a month and seeing the stereotype of "big food, buildings, and per-

sonalities" as said by Hattie Maerschel. We hope they enjoyed their time here and wish them the best in hosting five Kent Place girls in their home in March.



Winter Has Come: Sports Update

BY RILEY GONYEA
STAFF WRITER

Winter sports season is almost over. So far, all of the winter dragons have had exceptional seasons. There have been personal records broken, school records broken, and trophies won. As the seasons come to an end, winter athletes tell *Ballast* their thoughts on the 2017-2018 season.

Basketball

The basketball team is having quite the winning season. With a record of 10-4, the players have grown as individuals and as a team. Zoe Campbell '21 has enjoyed getting to know the upperclassmen. "I am looking forward to Counties, where we will hopefully make it far." The basketball team is hoping to represent Kent Place well as the season comes to a close.

Winter Track

The winter track team has put up with snow, ice, and sleet this season. However, they were still able to have a remarkable season. Grace Morris '20 tells us her thoughts on the season so far: "Our biggest accomplishment this season was probably second at States in the SMR (sprint medley relay)." They were seeded fourth, so coming in second was a huge achievement. The SMR team consisted of Kaira Brown '19, Grace Morris '20, Colleen McAloon '19, and Josie Daab '19.

Fencing

The fencing team has also had a memorable season, with many exciting accomplishments. Catie Gilhuley



ART CREDIT:
LIZA MULLETT

'20 says, "Our biggest accomplishment so far was Districts, where we came in fourth and qualified for preliminary state rounds. Our sabre squad won their district." On the savor squad were Amber White '19, Grace Paul '19, and Kayla Turnof '21. This was a huge accomplishment for Kent Place Fencing. The season is not over yet, though. Catie is, "looking forward to the frosh-

soph meet at Montclair." They have never done one before, so it should be a good opportunity for the freshmen and sophomores to improve their skills.

Squash

KPS Squash has had a strong season so far, with many wins on their belt. Alex McMullen '18, tells us some of their accomplishments.

"We have beaten Blair twice, and we just played Newark Street Squash, who is very good. We did pretty well, but lost." The squash team was getting ready for senior night, which Alex was very excited for.

Swimming

Another team having a successful season is the swim team. They have had a season full of support and good times. Lily Pence '19 says, "We won against New Providence. The coaches weren't really sure if we were going to win, but we won by over ten points, so that was a pretty big deal." That swim meet was the team's last dual-meet. Preps is coming up, and swimming will represent KPS well.

Ice Hockey

The Ice Dragons' season so far has been accomplished by the team being committed, determined, and skillful. Megan Sanford '18 tells us about their biggest accomplishment so far. "We won the Summit Cup, so that was a really great achievement for our team." This is the ice hockey team's third straight year winning the Summit Cup. Charlotte Hagerty '18 is really looking forward to the rest of the season. "I am looking forward to the continuing development of relationships in grades and between under and upperclassmen." The ice hockey team is looking to finish the season off strong.

Ballast wishes all of the KPS winter athletes luck during the final weeks of their seasons!

Our Guide to the 2018 Winter Olympics

BY SONIA PARMAR AND GRACE MORRIS

PAGE EDITOR AND STAFF WRITER

The 23rd Olympic Winter Games - the most prestigious competition for winter sports - will be kicking off on February 9th. The games have been making headlines left and right, so we compiled a list of everything you need to know about the 2018 Winter Olympics!

1. The Olympics are being held in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

This South Korean city is hosting the Olympics for the very first time and is located about 80 miles east of South Korea's capital, Seoul. Pyeongchang has a high elevation and is a popular tourist destination for hiking and skiing, making it the perfect place to hold the Winter Olympics.

The 2018 Olympic mascot will reflect the country's history and culture. A white tiger named Soohorang will be the official mascot for these Olympic games. "Sohoo" means protection and "Rang" means tiger in Korean. While he might look adorable, this mascot is here to protect the athletes, spectators, and other participants of the games.

2. There will be over 100 competitions in 15 different sports.

With sports such as figure skating, speed skating, alpine skiing, snowboarding, ice hockey, bobsledding, our personal favorite, skeleton, and so much more, there will be a competition for nearly every winter sport imaginable at the 2018 Olympic games. There will be exactly 102 events within these sports, which means plenty of opportunities for countries to bring home

gold, silver, and bronze medals.

3. Russia was almost banned from the games.

One of the biggest controversies of the 2018 Winter Olympics has been Russia's ban from the games. Russia is a huge competitor in the winter games, having won the most medals of all the countries at the 2014 Olympics, so the question remains: why aren't they allowed to participate? The International Olympic Committee announced in December that it was banning Russia from the 2018 Winter Olympics as a punishment for covering-up doping by its athletes. While Vladimir Putin has expressed his disagreement with the decision, many Russian athletes will be competing under a neutral flag. Hopefully, this setback won't stop them from going for the gold.

4. North Korea is competing in the Olympics.

Despite the tensions between North and South Korea, North Korea will be participating in the games. The two countries arranged a breakthrough deal in which they agreed to march together under one flag. North and South Korea will also be fielding a unified women's ice hockey team. North Korea will be sending a total of 22 athletes to the winter games who will be participating in 5 different sports.

5. Many top US athletes are expected to bring home the gold.

The United States will definitely be a force to be reckoned with during these up-

coming Olympic games. Many incredible athletes will be competing for Team USA in the next few weeks.

So far, the games have been going pretty well for the US. Red Gerard, 17, won gold in the Men's Snowboard Slopestyle, bringing laughs everywhere explaining how he overslept the morning of his win. Another American, Jamie Anderson, also brought home the gold in the Women's Snowboard Slopestyle. Chloe Kim, another young 17 year old Olympian, won gold in the Wom-

en's Halfpipe Snowboard, and Shaun White, a known Olympian snowboarder, regained his title winning the Men's Halfpipe. Mikaela Shiffrin won gold in Women's Giant Slalom, totaling the current gold medal count at five.

The 2018 Olympic Winter Games are guaranteed to be an exciting month of competition in sports like figure skating, skiing, ice hockey, and events you never knew existed as competitors from around the world take to frozen halfpipes, courses, and ice rinks.



ART CREDIT:
MICHAELA MARKELS

What's Up World? A Recap of 2018 So Far

BY SOFIA KWON

COPY EDITOR

Golden Globes and the #MeToo Movement:

The Golden Globes are already a newsworthy event, but this year the Golden Globes made headlines for a different reason. Many actors showed up on the red carpet wearing black to protest the prevalence of sexual assault, harassment, and/or misconduct within Hollywood. Individuals all over the country and world have also spoken up about their experiences with sexual assault using the hashtag #MeToo. The idea of wearing black to the Golden Globes was suggested by an organization called Time's Up, a legal defense fund created in the wake of the allegations against Hollywood men. Additionally, while at the Golden Globes, Oprah Winfrey, as the winner of the Cecil

B. DeMille Award, made a rousing speech about #MeToo. While Winfrey's speech was received with enthusiasm, the general trend of black attire at the Golden Globes was not as universally well received -- some expressed concerns at how easily individuals were able to simply co-opt solidarity as a fashion statement, and many noted that celebrities who wore black were still supporting Woody Allen, who has been accused by many of assault.

Nuclear warning in Hawaii:

Millions of Hawaiians were struck with fear as they received an alert that a nuclear missile was heading towards Hawaii. However, despite the warning proclaiming "this is not a drill," it turned out to be a false alarm

in which an employee at the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency was supposed to initiate an internal test of the emergency alert, but instead accidentally ended up sending the warning to the public. This caused a wave of panic, as Hawaiians desperately searched for shelter and said goodbye to their loved ones. Thirty-eight minutes after the initial warning, the error was corrected through another wireless alert, but to many, the damage was already done. An investigation is currently being conducted as to how this situation could have occurred.

Women's March:

On the anniversary of the 2017 Women's March, people everywhere in Morristown, New York City, Los Angeles, and other cities gathered for another Women's March. Proudly carrying signs with slogans such as "love not hate makes America great," protesters proved that resistance to the Trump administration is still alive and well. According to data from the University of Denver and the University of Connecticut, the marches involved between 1.6 to 2.5 million people, with an average of 6700 to 10,400 people per march. However, many women boycotted the Women's March, stating that they believed that it was exclusive; for example, Raquel Williams, a transgender activist, said that the event "failed to offer a platform for transgender women," while S.T. Holloway wrote a column in *The Huffington Post* explaining that she would not be returning to the 2018 Women's March because at the 2017 Women's March, she felt that her black identity was ignored. Despite these

criticisms, women from all backgrounds and identities came out to support each other at the march, and hopefully future marches can become more inclusive to a wider range of individuals.

Government shutdown:

January 20, 2018 marked the first day of a federal government shutdown that became the topic of media outlet headlines everywhere. Democrats and Republicans in Congress could not agree on a new federal budget for the new fiscal year, with much of the disagreement stemming from what to do with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, a program that protects individuals who illegally immigrated to the United States as children; Democrats wanted to protect immigrants eligible for DACA. Republicans and Democrats also disagreed on defense spending -- Republicans wanted to increase defense spending, whereas Democrats wanted a dollar-for-dollar increase in non defense discretionary spending, and also wanted to provide aid for Puerto Rico as well as those suffering from the opioid epidemic.

When a government shuts down, services deemed non-essential stop working; these include departments such as the Department of Education, the Environmental Protection Agency, NASA, the National Institute of Health, and more. Essential services, often related to defense or national security, continue to work, although military personnel are not paid. Luckily, however, the shutdown did not last long; it ended on January 22, 2018, after Democrats and Republicans agreed on a provisional compromise.



ART CREDIT:
MICHAELA MARKELS

Community Service Spotlight: Jenna Smith

BY ELLIE MICHALCHUCK
STAFF WRITER



PHOTO CREDIT:
JENNA SMITH

The Community Service Spotlight is a new opportunity in the Upper School to educate students on what their peers are doing to help inspire them to help out in their communities. Jenna Smith was recently nominated and chosen for the volunteer spotlight -- and for good reason!

Jenna volunteers for the New Jersey Center for Tourette Syndrome Organization. She explained in an interview that she first discovered that she had Tourette Syndrome (a nervous system disorder involving repetitive movements or tics) the summer going into eighth grade. She remembered not fully knowing what the syndrome was until she researched it and learned that it was something that she should not be afraid or ashamed of. After sitting and thinking for some time, Jenna realized that other kids may feel weird or strange about the fact that they have Tourette's. This, of course, is a natural response, but she wanted to find out if there was any way that she could educate others on the syndrome to change their perspective of the condition. She soon found the Tourette Syndrome Organization and began volunteering right away.

In the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year from September through to November, Jenna began to spread the message that the organization was holding a 5K run to raise money for Tourette's. She contributed by contacting local legislatures, putting signs up around Summit and the surrounding areas, and sending emails to students at Kent Place. After all of her hard work, she happily declared that "the run was a success and there was a huge turnout!"

After the run, Jenna has continued to work with the organization by traveling to schools in the area and gives short presentations on turrets and her personal experience. She remarked how she understands that many students may be getting bullied for this syndrome and she tries to do her part through her work with the organization. In her work with the organization, Jenna explains that her favorite part is "meeting children that are going through the same experience" that she was and is happy to be able to provide them with support on their journey.

In the future, Jenna wants to contact more schools and kids for a larger turnout for the 5K next year. Be sure to look out for emails from Jenna and congratulate her on her amazing and selfless work!



PHOTO CREDIT:
JENNA SMITH

Is Spring Cleaning Actually Effective?

BY MARTHA WYATT- LUTH
STAFF WRITER

It's the end of winter, snow is melting, days are getting longer and everyone is working hard in this last stretch of the school year. To embrace the new year, many people take part in the widely-known tradition of spring cleaning. It can be thought of as a way to refresh and organize your house so your life may not seem as disorganized as it really is or just something for those who truly have nothing better to do when the weather is fluctuating between snow and sun. For the rest, spring cleaning may just seem like an afterthought, something that would be good to do but realistically will

never happen, or for some may just be a pipedream.

As an organization enthusiast, the productiveness of spring cleaning makes me feel so refreshed and ready to take on anything. However, spring cleaning can only be effective if it is continued throughout the year. Organizing your belongings can be an easy, de-stressing activity if you do it frequently. What really motivates me to take time out of my day to organize my belongings is my desire to improve with each month by means of academics, athletics, and overall well-being. For example, it is so much easier to get ready in the

morning when all my clothing is folded and neatly organized in my closet. When striving for improvement I frequently find my academics excelling when I have an organized environment because it helps me stay low-stressed when doing studying. Doing major organizing and cleaning over breaks such as Thanksgiving, winter and spring break is a great low-stress, leisurely activity. Over the years, organizing has become a really relaxing activity for me. I hope spring cleaning becomes a frequent activity for everyone so it becomes less of a chore and more of an enjoyable activity!

What Happend to New Year, New Us?

BY SHEFALI KAMILLA AND PAULINA KACHALOVA
STAFF WRITERS

Have you started off the New Year strong with resolutions? We took a poll on Kent Place, and asked about our New Year's resolutions. Let's see the results!

73.3% of KPS had a New Year's resolution
26.7% of KPS did not have a New Year's resolution

This data shows that many in KPS had a New Year's resolution to start the year off strong! Let's see what some of the resolutions for 2018 are...

Many responses had to do with keeping good self care this year. "Be happy" and "Laugh more often" are examples of how some of KPS students and faculty want to feel in the new year. Other goals that reflect self-care are "setting a weekly goal for going to the gym and jogging," "losing weight and

distancing myself from toxic people," "being kinder to myself," "staying organized so there is time for more sleep," "staying fit," "trying to have more healthy foods," and "trying new things."

The most interesting New Year's resolution was: "I want to learn how to do a flying spin kick!" This is a very different response than what we expected, but you do you! We hope others are motivated to learn new things this year!

53.3% of KPS did not keep their New Year's resolution

46.7% of KPS had kept a New Year's resolution

This shows that it is very close between who has continued with their resolutions and who has left them behind!

So, how are these resolutions going? There were some not-so-positive responses. An interesting response was, "Terrible because I came to America and became obese" Others have discussed about how they haven't done anything yet. However, this leaves space for improvement. There were also some other simple positive responses such as: "it's going well" and "Great!"

Some are very motivated to focus on their resolution, even if it is hard such as "if at first you don't succeed.... resolution take 2 starts next week!" Someone else who is still encouraged said, "I put no, but really I mean 'not so far.'" This person expanded on how the weather is not helping resolutions that involve exercise! Some motivated people in the KPS community plan to go back to their goals once it warms up again.

This next community member shared how she has a goal to continue to make healthy change in her life that will become a

norm. She understands that it is a hard process but wants to continue to do this for herself and her future. "Resolutions should be thought of as progressive- it's too hard to do something 100% immediately. This is an ongoing resolution that I plan to continue the rest of my life. I care for my body and want to give it the best care it deserves whether that means cutting down on the sweets, running more, or getting more sleep!" We found this very inspirational and hope it may become beneficial to you all. Other responses included starting to get a healthier lifestyle and distancing themselves from toxic people.

Well, whether you are keeping your resolutions or not, we wish you the best of luck on all your resolutions in the new year. Happy 2018! Keep up those goals!

Redefining Affirmative Action

BY SOPHIE HUTTNER

GUEST WRITER

Let's talk about affirmative action. I'll make my point nice and concise; it's not fair. You see, I have a friend at my school, who's applying to some very selective colleges. And there are other kids who are applying too. But their grades aren't as good, and they don't do quite as many extracurriculars as her, and their test scores are not nearly as high. And yet, despite all that, they'll probably be accepted by some places my friend won't get into. Just because of a very simple circumstance of their birth, over which they had no control. Just because they happened to be born with very rich parents who went to very good schools, and who have put their names on some very big buildings. Just because of that, they have a better shot at admission to our nation's most elite academic institutions. I mean, come on folks; if that's not affirmative action in its purest form, what is?

Perhaps I'm sounding a tad facetious. But it's true. Legacy admits, mostly white, accounted for almost one third of Harvard's incoming class last year. And it begs the question:

If wealthy white people can (and do) benefit on a large scale from the money and privilege that has existed in their families for years, why is it so anathema to so many that minorities may be entitled to benefit from the financial and social results of oppression, that have existed in their families for hundreds of years? If white people are entitled to their own, everturning system of affirmative action -- and yes-- higher prep school admission rates (22.5% of the Class of 2017 was admitted to Ivy League universities), and legacy boosts, and two years of one-hundred-dollars-an-hour ACT tutoring, and 10,000 dollars worth of tennis lessons to get good enough for recruiting -- are ALL affirmative action programs that benefit mostly white people, then why aren't people of color entitled to benefit from their own system of affirmative action? If we have no more control over where our parents went to college before our births than we do over the color of our skin, then why don't we accuse legacy students, or rich kids with ACT tutors, of just getting in because they're rich and white?

There will always be those that will argue that affirmative action hurts white students.

But these are the facts: white students are more overrepresented on college campuses now than they were twenty years ago. They are now overrepresented by 13 percentage points. So instead of focusing on the idea that "affirmative action" for people of color hurts white students, why don't we instead focus on the reality of the situation, which is that -- mathematically speaking -- "affirmative action" for wealthier white students puts minority students at a much greater disadvantage?

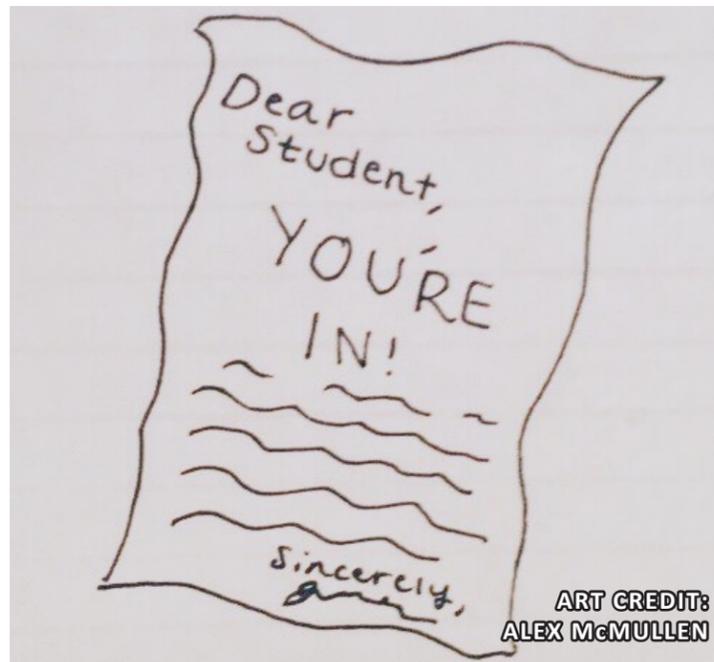
But I hear what you are saying; "There is where you're wrong. Because not all white people are rich! Sometimes, they are even poorer than poor minorities! So if the point is that rich people get their own affirmative action, then fine. Let's have it the other way around too. Let's give poor people affirmative action. Why bring race into it?"

This is an unstable train of thought.

It is also, statistics and facts will show, a misguided one.

Why? Because affirmative action is not an individually based program based on who deserves what. It is an institutional effort to right an institutional wrong. And if we look at it in that way, for what it is, one can see the problem with solely wealth based affirmative action. Because though white poverty is real and painful, and though poor white students do deserve the recognition that they too must overcome their circumstances, the institutional wrong that affirmative action seeks to right for poor blacks does not exist for poor whites.

Nationwide, 7 percent of poor whites live in high-poverty neighborhoods, while 23 percent of poor blacks do so. Study after study shows that multigenerational concentrated poverty remains an almost uniquely black phenomenon; white children in poor neighborhoods are likely to live in middle-class neighborhoods as adults, whereas black children in poor neighborhoods are likely to remain in such surroundings. According to data from the federal reserve, white families had a median net worth of \$171,000 in 2016, compared with \$20,700 for Hispanic families and \$17,600 for black families. In other words, poor whites are more likely to be temporarily poor, while poor blacks are more likely to be permanently so. There is a reason for this difference. It is because those



ART CREDIT:
ALEX McMULLEN

first rungs of the socioeconomic ladder to the middle class, that can still exist for poor white communities, have been systematically stripped away from poor black communities. Access to good schools. Access to college-educated parents. Access to college-educated mentors. Unless we seek to go back to the ways of feudal Europe, the survival of American class mobility-- already barely alive-- is based upon giving those communities the rungs they need to climb the ladder. The motivating force of affirmative action is to make our society into the society we already believe we are. A society where being born poor never means that you must die poor.

When you give a kid the chance to attend a university the system isn't set up for them to attend, you override a system meant to keep minorities in perpetual poverty. You change the life of that student, but also the lives of every generation that comes after that student.

Not only that, but when you seek to bring a higher proportion of minorities from all socioeconomic classes into the institutions where this nation's future leaders are bred, you create a much greater possibility of institutional change. Diversity is not only good for those it helps. It is an absolute asset for all. And if we do not challenge the right of universities to curate other kinds of diversity by favoring certain states, or certain

types of athletes, or certain unique hobbies, than there is no true reason for us to challenge the right of the university to curate racial diversity.

Often in this conversation, I hear a quote repeated from the chief justice of our Supreme Court, John Roberts. The quote is as follows: "The way to stop discrimination on the basis of race is to stop discriminating on the basis of race." It's certainly catchy, and on the surface, it even seems to make a whole lot of sense. But it's false at worst, and misleading, at best. Because it ignores the fact that stopping affirmative action would not stop discrimination on the basis of race. If we woke up tomorrow and said "colleges- you can't ask for race on your applications" black people would still overall have an average family net worth 95% less than the average white family net worth. Black people and other minorities would still be disproportionately funneled into bigger schools with fewer resources, underprepared teachers, and tiny budgets. If we got rid of affirmative action, black and hispanic people would still be less likely to land a job, even with the same qualifications as a white counterpart. So the result of stopping affirmative action would not be stopping discrimination on the basis of race. Instead, it would be taking away one of the few tools our society has developed to counteract that discrimination.

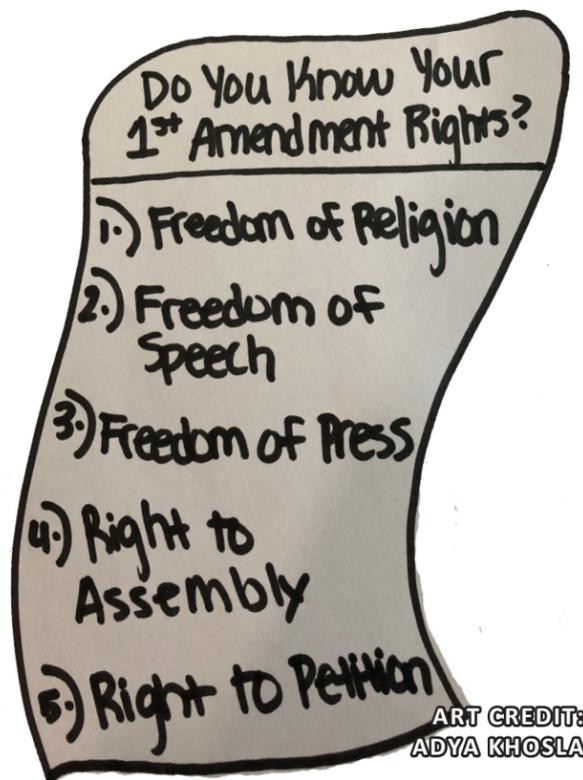
How About That First Amendment?

BY MICHAELA MARKELS

ART EDITOR

Have you noticed that having a productive conversation about politics has become increasingly difficult? Thankfully, there is something many of us can agree on: protecting freedom of speech is a vital piece in protecting democracy. If you have been following the news, you have probably heard the phrases "war on the media" and "freedom of speech under attack," but has the First Amendment really been compromised? I would argue that while the credibility of the press has been undermined, freedom of speech is experiencing its most progressive era in history.

The question of whether the media is trustworthy has attracted more attention from both conservative and liberal parties. Democrats and Republicans alike are becoming increasingly dependent on a single news source that tends to validate their point of view. Although this is a natural tendency, it becomes problematic when each source begins to criticize the other, claiming that "fake news" is being circulated, which creates overall resentment towards the media. This resentment is detrimental to our society. Subverting the credibility of news sources like the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* means that less people receive the important information being reported, which in turn makes for a less informed society. Some argue that we have returned to the Nixon era where people in power who are supposed to be



ART CREDIT:
ADYA KHOSLA

protecting our nation's values are actually criticizing them.

This is not to say that the current state of the First Amendment is all grim. Like never before, previously underrepresented groups' opinions are being validated and respected. The Women's March that kicked off the year 2017 was the largest single-day protest in American history, and a third of its participants reported never participating in a protest before. Being at the Women's March myself, I can vouch for the fact that the event was incredibly diverse, with a large representation of ethnic and sexual minorities, groups of people that were previously denied a platform and left without hope. This new platform has also encouraged victims of sexual assault, who have been silenced for years, to finally share their stories, serving as a catalyst for a new national conversation that is clearly going to have a long term impact on our society. These new, forward-looking discussions are proof of the flourishing of freedom of speech, since more people are inspired to exercise this freedom than ever before.

Clearly, the First Amendment is being both attacked and exercised by a larger portion of the population, and as high school students that are not yet able to vote, this is relevant since our voices are our only means of promoting change. So, as citizens of the world, citizens of the United States, and students of Kent Place School, let's protect our First Amendment rights fiercely and use our voices responsibly.

Awards Season or Protest Season?

BY NAOMI GORDON AND ISABEL KIM
STAFF WRITERS

It is the middle of the Hollywood awards season, and we are already watching many influencers take large steps in addressing the inequality that exists throughout society. Whether it be wearing all black in solidarity with sexual abuse survivors, having a first female host for an awards show, or nominating more people of color for Oscars, it seems at least the Hollywood entertainment industry may be moving in a new direction.

It all began when countless brave women stepped forward with sexual assault allegations against movie producer and executive, Harvey Weinstein. After those allegations came a whole army of women in the entertainment industry speaking out against their abusers. The Golden Globes came at a time when the #MeToo movement (a movement where women were speaking out against sexual abuse they had suffered from) was in full swing and more courageous women were coming forward than ever before.

The only problem, however, was that many seemed to not even know why they were dressed that way. Justin Timberlake recently tweeted, “Can someone please explain the saying, ‘You just want your cake and to eat it too?’” Dylan Farrow, Woody Allen’s daughter, responded by saying, “The saying means, for example, you can’t support #Time’sUp and praise sexual predators at the same time. You can’t retain your credibility as an activist (i.e. - retain the cake) and, at the same time, praise a sexual predator (i.e. - eating the cake).” Timberlake wore a Time’s Up pin to the Golden Globes, yet it seems like he doesn’t even seem to understand the idea of talking the talk but not walking the walk, as shown through his actions. He had just finished working on a movie with Woody Allen, an actor who has been accused of sexual assault, which goes to show his ignorance and ill-knowledge on the whole issue. Many seem to feel like wearing the “Time’s Up” pin was enough, or even just wearing black to the event showed that they are a real activist. Yeah - wearing black to the Globes makes you a true supporter of the movement, kudos to you. It’s ridiculous for men especially to think that wearing a pin is solving the problem. Many in Hollywood do not realize the power and influence they have. So when none of the male winners mentioned anything with regards to #MeToo or #Time’s Up, it shows that there is still a massive amount of ignorance and denial in Hollywood and the rest of society today.

Still, there were many powerful actions, big and small, made by actresses during the Golden Globes that continued to carry this movement forward. Something so tiny, yet significant, occurred when Natalie Portman, announcing the nominees for best director, stated, “and here are the all-male nominees.” Even by adding the words “all-male” enhanced the truth that women still are not receiving the proper attention and recognition that we deserve.

Oprah’s acceptance of the Cecil B. DeMille award was a remarkable speech that will resonate with many. The key point in her speech was her mention of everyday women who suffer from abuse, the ones leading normal lives in other industries, who feel pressured by the burdens of everyday life to speak out.

“But it’s not just a story affecting the entertainment industry. So I want tonight to express gratitude to all the women who have endured years of abuse and assault because they, like my mother, had children to feed and bills to pay and dreams to pursue. They’re the women whose names we’ll never know. They are domestic workers and farm workers. They are working in factories and they work in restaurants and they’re in academia, engineering, medicine, and science.” Oprah hit home when she included all women as a part of this struggle and shed light on the fact that the women who have it worst are those who are the backbone of society. Hollywood actresses can start this movement, but let the women who labor for hours just to feed their children, who stay late breaking their backs to clean hotel rooms, who rely on tips to pay the bills—the women of the working class—let their voices not be silenced. We can applaud and have sympathy for our actresses, but it is imperative that the laboring class women of America’s society, or any women not part of the entertainment industry, won’t be forgotten or dismissed when coming forward. It is wonderful to see actresses starting this trickle, but the momentous flow and force of women standing up for what is right will happen when they know they will not only be heard, but that something will change. If Hollywood starts making changes with the way women are treated, paid and

respected, then other industries will follow suit.

A few weeks after the Golden Globes, Hollywood’s best gathered at the Shrine Auditorium in LA to celebrate the 24th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards. Previously, the show has never felt the need to have a host, but this year, Kristen Bell took to the stage as its “first lady.” This was a big, yet important step forward, considering the fact that she was the first host and first woman host. “As we march forward with active momentum and open ears,” she said, “let’s make sure we’re leading the charge with empathy and with diligence, because fear and anger never win the race.” To enhance her feminism, she wore multiple black dresses as part of the #MeToo and #Time’sUp movements. Having a woman host for an award show like this is big, but it doesn’t end there. Hollywood’s next steps should be reaching out to women who have been affected by sexual abuse not only in Hollywood, but in groups of lower socio-economic status.

This year’s SAG Awards definitely took some steps closer in terms of equality and femininity. SAG-AFTRA specifically chose the nominee presenters to be mostly women. Many of Hollywood’s prestigious actresses, including Rosanna Arquette, Allison Janney, Mandy Moore, Halle Berry, and more introduced the 15 award categories, their nominees, and winner, with a lot of grace and enthusiasm. When Marisa Tomei and Rosanna Arquette presented the award for Best Actress in a Limited Series, Arquette said that “so many powerful voices are no longer silenced by the fear of retaliation. We can control our own destiny.” In reply, Tomei told Arquette that she was one of the “silence breakers” and that she deserved to be thanked for her work.

Winner of Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Television Movie or Miniseries was Nicole Kidman from *Big Little Lies*. Her speech challenged sexism and ageism by saying “how wonderful it is that our careers today can go beyond 40 years old,” getting a laugh out of the audience. “It’s only the beginning,” she said, “and I’m so proud to be a part of a community that is instigating this change, but I applaud the writers, directors, and financiers behind our stories.” Those in Hollywood have been working toward change, but it’s mostly been for those in Hollywood. It’s important for them to not only consider the majority of women who don’t get the opportunity to work in this field.

It’s 2018 and finally, the first African American to receive the Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Drama was Sterling K. Brown, who starred as Randall Pearson in *This is Us*. “What a blessing it is to do what you love for a living,” he said, “What an honor it is to be recognized by your peers for a job well done.” This was definitely a deserved award for Brown, but it could have come sooner. It felt like Hollywood thought it had done its part by giving this award to one non-white guy. Most of the other categories weren’t as successful in terms of diversity the way they should have been. As another African American, Morgan Freeman accepted the SAG Life Achievement Award with the best fashion icon of the night: a baseball cap. He was introduced by Rita Moreno, a former co-star of his from the 70s. “This is beyond honor,” he said, “this is a place in history.” And

it should be, but many would have appreciated it if it had come years before. Hollywood seems to be looking for all of this glory, but what is being done is almost insignificant when looking at the issue of inequality from a global perspective. Morgan pointed out the human shaped statue that is given to all the winners: “I’m going to tell you what’s wrong with this statue. It works from the back. From the front, it’s gender specific. Maybe I started something.” One of the most interesting ways to end a speech, this was definitely a line that brought hope for new change in the future.

Now that the cards have been dealt for these shows, it’s time to look to Hollywood and hope that this is not the end. Hollywood is in a special position that will allow it to instigate change because they have the largest platform in the nation, if not the globe. More people from all of society and class should be learning about the discrimination and prejudice that women and people of color are facing. Edu-



ART CREDIT:
ANNA HOGARTH

cation is a key way to bring change and Hollywood, with its influence, is in a great place to start this. The momentum has started, and it’s up to the rest of the world to keep the change accelerating.

Coming up on March 4, 2018, Jimmy Kimmel is set to host the 90th Academy Awards, aka the Oscars. Nominees have been released. So far, *The Shape of Water* tops the list with 13 nominees. In second place, *Dunkirk* follows with 8 nominees, with *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* close behind with three. Vote on Google in the prediction for which movie will win Best Picture. And most importantly, don’t forget to watch the Oscars live March 4, 8pm on ABC!



Breaking the Silence: The Greater Impact of #MeToo

BY SOFIA KWON
COPY EDITOR

Hollywood is experiencing a powerful cultural reckoning, as masses of women are using their voices to stand against powerful perpetrators of sexual assault. From Harvey Weinstein to Kevin Spacey, it has been empowering to witness the power of women as they speak up against not only their abusers, but the culture that has allowed for this behavior to go unchecked for so long. However, in the midst of this surely historical time, there has been some discourse on what can properly fall under the #MeToo umbrella -- a hashtag for women who have been sexually assaulted or harassed -- especially in the wake of the recent Aziz Ansari allegations. The accuser, anonymously named Grace, had her story published in *Babe*, which described a date with Ansari that went horribly wrong, as he ignored verbal and nonverbal cues and continually pressured Grace to initiate in sexual acts, making Grace increasingly uncomfortable.

After the publication of Grace's story, there was a clear picking of sides. Did Ansari do something wrong, or was this just a bad date that Grace overreacted to? The *New York Times* argued that Aziz Ansari's only crime was "not being a mind reader" and *The Atlantic* depicted Ansari as the victim of a vengeful girl. Many criticized Ansari's accuser, claiming that by speaking about her experience, she was delegitimizing the more "real" experiences of sexual assault.

However, in order for us to truly dismantle rape culture and prevent sexual misconduct, we have to be able to recognize women's stories that go beyond a conventional narrative and examine toxic male behaviors that perpetuate rape culture, and yet are still presented as "acceptable" actions. Many people's response to Grace's story was, "Why is she complaining about this? This happens all the time!" And that is the problem. For far too long, consent has been misunderstood as simply the absence of saying no, although, proper

consent, according to *Newsweek*, is "enthusiastic, verbal, and specific." When a woman says no, that no should be respected. Instead, on

the date, after Grace said no, Ansari kept asking her, hoping to change her mind, making Grace feel pressured. That should not be the case. Men should not perceive a woman's dissent as a fun challenge that they can overcome to get what they want.

Does Grace's story display Ansari breaking any laws, or attempting to assault her? No. And while it's important not to conflate inappropriate sexual behavior with rape, we also need to recognize that the normalization of everyday displays of rape culture in our lives contribute to a greater culture that allows for sexual assault to be dismissed and therefore, to flourish. Not only that, but we also have to remember that not every man who acts inappropriately looks like a villainous abuser, but can speak out against rape culture while unknowingly contributing to it. Most of all, we should not delegitimize any woman's story by proclaiming that she is hurting a movement simply by sharing her personal experience. If we truly want #MeToo to resonate in a way that creates a far-reaching impact, it is imperative that we listen to every woman's story.



greater society.

Again, take Oprah's acceptance speech at the Golden Globes. She used her voice, a very powerful tool, to touch on many important subjects. Oprah was the voice that spoke up for so many in need which shows she cares about the greater good of our society. Also, Oprah promotes woman and gives a voice to those in need of one. Having female pride and being a voice for all those who need one, is a very admirable quality. Oprah would serve as a good president, and do justice for those in need. This power that Oprah holds to speak up for others and give a voice to those who need is what would make a good president for the United States of America.

Despite all of the credentials Oprah has, some may say that Oprah is a television personality and has no experience in executive and a television personality. People may argue that Oprah is just as qualified as President Donald Trump. In fact Oprah herself was having doubts about running for office until President Donald Trump was elected. In an interview with *Bloomberg* in March of 2017, Oprah shows her excitement in possibly running, "I thought, 'Oh gee, I don't have the experience, I don't know enough.' And now I'm thinking, 'Oh. Oh!'"

#Oprah2020 ?

BY SARAH BRANDSTAEDTER, ELLIE MICHALCHUK, AND TANMAYEE TALLA
STAFF WRITERS

The Golden Globe Awards 2018 created the wave of liberal celebrities and democrats around the country showing their support for Oprah Winfrey running for president in 2020. After receiving the Cecil B. DeMille award, she delivered an inspirational speech that empowered women all around the country. This prompted men and women to voice their support for her possible presidency.

In her speech at the Golden Globes, she touched upon many pressing topics that are relevant to many women around the country. As she talked about the "Time's Up" movement, #MeToo, and other moving life experiences, she received supporting applause from both men and women around the room. She left the booming crowd with a saying that would inspire many around the world: "I want all the girls watching here and now to know that a new day is on the horizon." By dawn the next day, the phrase "#Oprah2020" was trending in almost all major news stations.

This is just one example of how Oprah can make such a large and positive standing impact with one speech. With her being president, she would have an extremely positive influence not only upon young women, but almost everyone in the country. Furthermore, many like Oprah, not for her political views, but for the person she is. If she were to become president, those who may not comply with her opinions, may be more lenient and positively acknowledge her role as president.

Furthermore, Oprah has participated in and launched many significant programs for the public. She has made *Weight Watchers* an important name in the weight loss and health industry for all. This is important because as many know, obesity is a major problem in America today. Campaigning for weight loss in the United States is just one, very small way that Oprah has made an impact on the



However, recently Oprah Winfrey released the statement that she would not like to run for President. According to *TIME*, "The mogul says she's not interested in running for President of the United States." Despite this news, if Oprah decides to run for president in the future, she would definitely be a qualified and liked leader. Oprah Winfrey is a powerful, selfless, and giving person, which is who would be a very qualified person to run the United States of America.

On the other hand, Oprah may not be the president that this country needs. Oprah is a celebrity. She has her own TV show and is known across the world as being the women show host, producer, and actress with trusting ideas. This seems to follow the guideline of "famous person." This could put a damper on her ability to become involved in presidential elections. Not only this, but there could be a chance that Oprah will not be able to handle the pressure of president. Or maybe instead, not know how to deal with it. As the bright and intelligent woman she is, her ideas and public speaking are excellent and her thoughts and ideas can be trusted to be well thought out and thorough. She does not fit the characteristic of someone who has no filter; she seems well put together and on top of her work. But, this may not be enough to carry out important decisions about laws, the US army, and the country. As of now, Oprah has no executive experience, meaning she does not fully understand the ins and outs of government or being a voice for not a certain amount of the country but all people. Many feelings also arise during the primary where candidates show who they really are based on commercials, speeches, etc. This could potentially change how the world and this country views Oprah. Running for president will interfere with her current image or could it possibly allow us to see another side of her. Also, if Oprah were to become president, who will be the new Oprah? No one can replace the powerful women-empowering figure that is put to the name. There will be no one to tell the world of the great benefits of the company she has invested in called *Weight Watchers*. Oprah's work that she has invested in such as the cable channel OWN may have to be set aside for her to become a new image in this country. Does Oprah have the abilities, skills, and expertise to run the United States or is she not fit for the job?



Past and Presidents' Day

BY ELIZABETH WYSHNER

STAFF WRITER

Presidents' Day is a holiday that has happened every year since 1800 and gives us the chance to reflect on the leaders that have shaped our country. While students may see it as just a greatly needed day off from school, there is much more meaning to this holiday that what meets the eye. So this Presidents' Day, let's take a look at how this holiday evolved over time to be how it is today.

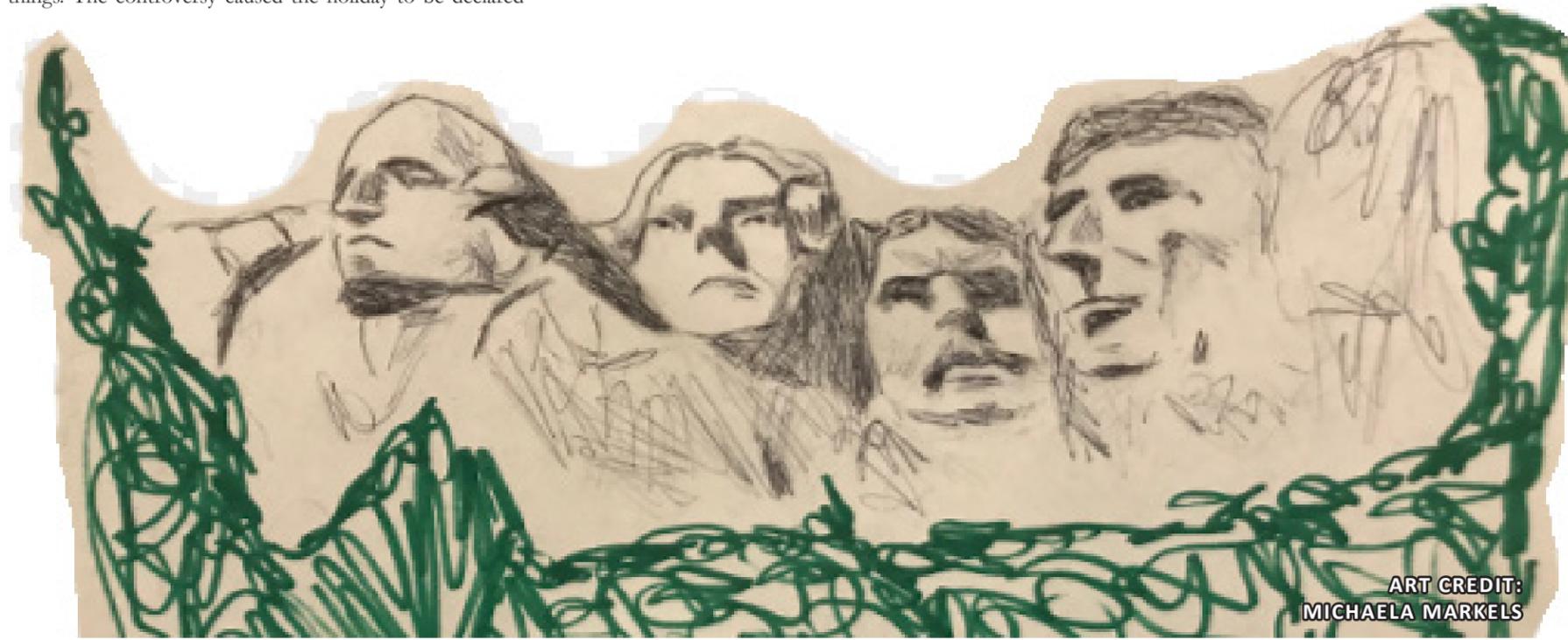
Presidents' Day was first celebrated on February 22, 1800 to honor George Washington's birthday. Washington led the United States through the Revolutionary War and became the first president of the United States, so it seemed fitting to have a holiday that solely focused on him. However, there were disputes over why one president should get all of the glory when there were many others who did amazing things. The controversy caused the holiday to be declared

a federal holiday in 1870, about 70 years after people first started observing the holiday. It received the name Washington's Birthday, which was fitting at the time, but would eventually change.

Washington's Birthday took its next step to becoming the holiday that we know and celebrate today when its date changed. Under the Uniform Monday Holiday Act that was created in 1960, Washington's Birthday was moved to the third Monday of the month. This would give workers and students another three-day weekend, which was greatly appreciated. The change in date also brought along a change in the holiday's general meaning. People were pushing to have more presidents represented in the holiday, and Abraham Lincoln was the most popular. Along with these changes, the idea of changing the name of the holiday to Presidents' Day was floated around.

In the years to come, people began to move away from calling the holiday Washington's Birthday because they believed it was created to honor all presidents. Stores began to market Presidents' Day deals and activities to do over the three day weekend. By the 2000's, all 50 states had adopted the name Presidents' Day and began to print it on their calendars. However, what we know as Presidents' Day is still technically known as Washington's Birthday in the federal government.

Today, President's Day is viewed as a chance to reflect on the great leaders who led this country. Some states require their public schools to hold conferences to educate children on the history of the United States government. Challenge yourself to take a minute to remember and respect all of the presidents of the United States while enjoying the nice three-day weekend.



ART CREDIT: MICHAELA MARKELS

Ballast From the Past

BY JAIDA LARKIN

PUBLISHER



ART CREDIT: STEPHANIE DAVIDSON AND BIZ STAHL

"Ballast From the Past" is a column dedicated to reflecting on past *Ballast* articles, published since our founding in 1939. A previously published article (copied exactly as it was printed originally) is allowed to see new light as a *Ballast* member comments on its significance. Enjoy!

Original Article: "Top 10 Things To Do With A Free"
Written by Chisa Hutchinson
Featured in the December, 1997 issue of *Ballast*

- 10. Use it to clean the lounge (Ha!)
- 9. Use it to do your homework (Ha! Ha!)
- 8. Use it to whine about all the work you have to do for forty-one minutes and then decide to crack open a book.
- 7. Take a forty minute nap only to wake up to the horrifying realization that you just missed a conference.
- 6. Put it in your pocket and save it for later.
- 5. Visit Chisa's locker and leave her wonderful gifts- just kidding (Locker #17)
- 4. Wander the halls making weird and obscene gestures at all the classes in session.
- 3. Sneak into Mrs. Jacobus's room and watch soap operas.
- 2. Howl at the poor unsuspecting boys who walk across campus from the Senior or Sophomore class lounge windows (although, be forewarned the Senior lounge offers no blinds to hide).

And the #1 thing you can do with a free...

Absolutely nothing.

New Article: "Top 10 Things To Do With A Free"
Written by Jaida Larkin

- 10. Use it to do work (Ha!)
- 9. Stare at a book for an hour (DO NOT READ IT!)
- 8. See how many mints you can steal from Dr. Shah's room without being yelled at.
- 7. See how many bagels you can fit in your mouth without being yelled at.
- 6. See how much noise Mr. Walz will tolerate before being yelled at.
- 5. Visit Jaida's locker and leave her wonderful gifts- not kidding. (Locker #106)
- 4. Go on a mouse hunt (rip lil squeak).
- 3. Find a friend and argue whether or not water is wet.
- 2. Watch RIP Vine compilations.

And the #1 thing you can do with a free...

Absolutely nothing.



ART CREDIT: MICHAELA MARKELS

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“To Pingry-Kent Place Our Alma Mater..”

The Story of the (Almost) Kent Place-Pingry Merger

BY DEANNA HANCHUK

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Once upon a time, in the not-so-distant past, Kent Place faced a decision that could alter its future as an all-girls institution like no other. A decision that would potentially relocate our school to another campus, a decision that would potentially make us change our name, our traditions, and our history; it would rock the world that Kent Place had created for itself since its founding in 1894. It was a decision that troubled the minds of our presiding leadership, and defined this era in our history: the decision whether or not to merge with the all-boys school, the Pingry School.

To understand the “hows” and the “whys” of this critical event in our history, it’s necessary to go back in time a bit, to the disco era, when the idea of this not-so-groovy merger was born.

The early ‘70’s was a time of change in the world, specifically in the realm of gender equality. In 1970, the Ivy League officially went co-ed, and the revolutionary Title IX banning gender-bias in athletics was born a mere two years later. Kent Place was also going through a transitional period during this time, beginning with the appointment of Headmaster MacDonald Halsey in 1965. Mr. Halsey was the first “headmaster” of Kent Place; all of his predecessors were “headmistresses” at this very-literal “all-girls” school. Mr. Halsey, a Pingry alum himself, faced a series of dilemmas during his time as headmaster, but none as crucial to the future of Kent Place’s all-girls population as the (almost) Pingry-Kent Place merger.

As written in *A Centennial History of Kent Place School 1894-1994* by Judith Hunter of SUNY-Geneseo, it was the summer of 1970 when the President of the Pingry Board of Trustees (Pingry being an all-boys school at the time) approached Kent Place and said that “Pingry was looking to change its all-male status and asked ‘if Kent Place would be interested in some kind of relationship with Pingry.’” This was following suit on a rising trend of coeducation instead of single-sex schools. Newark Academy became co-ed in 1971, and soon came mergers like the Morristown School and the Beard School in 1971, and the merger of St. Bernard’s School and The Gill School in 1972. Creating Pingry-Kent Place (PKP) made sense; the *Centennial History* claims that “parents often sent their sons to Pingry and their daughters to Kent Place,” and both schools appeared to be at the same level academically. In the fall of 1970, a study was done to see if a relationship was feasible, and in February of 1971, it was recommended that “Kent Place and Pingry become associated as co-ordinate schools at a new location.” In February of 1972, Mr. Halsey confirmed in a letter that “the Board of Trustees decided to affiliate with Pingry School in a coordinate relationship.”

Coordinate. Co-or-di-nate. This keyword was crucial to Kent Place’s Board of Trustees, who worried that they would be “swallowed up” like the all-girls Abbot Academy had been by the Andover Academy recently in Massachusetts. The *Centennial History* sums it up to say that, “in es-



ART CREDIT:
DEANNA HANCHUK

sence, Kent Place wanted a boys’ school (Pingry) and a girls’ school (Kent Place) to exist side-by-side.” It was also feared that if Pingry was to go co-ed without us, we would not be able to compete with them and lose our own enrollment numbers. During the first meeting of a joint PKP board, one Pingry representative announced that it would be inevitable that the schools would merge. Although feeling their crucial coordinance idea faltering, Kent Place felt that “the importance of avoiding competition from a co-ed Pingry was of sufficient importance that [they] ought to continue to struggle to make the proposed affiliation work nevertheless.”

Months went on, and a variety of different issues continued to rise. Who would raise the money for the new school? Would there be one headmaster or two? What about faculty salaries, and differences in tuition? The PKP Board met often, discussing and debating and ultimately resolving parts of these issues. But there continued to be something nagging in the minds of the KP trustees: the idea of coordinance. And after a debacle involving some architects put a bad taste in Kent Place’s mouth, a very powerful and influential trustee who had served in both schools stepped down from Pingry’s Board. He had felt that the marriage of the schools was never going to succeed, and the Kent Place Board concluded that “full coeducation under a single board of trustees, administration, and faculty was probably inevitable.” Yet the Board gave it one last chance.

Kent Place seniors had been involved in an exchange program with Pingry to see how the institutions would mix. At this time, the program had been working “extremely well,” and some visiting Pingry boys even said they were “surprised that the Kent Place academic standards were just as high as Pingry, and the relationship between students and

faculty at Kent Place much warmer.” But in November of 1973, the PKP relations were shocked when no KP seniors were interested in the exchange for the upcoming year. By this point, the “momentum, confidence, trust” of the merger was lacking, and it was clear that Kent Place students were not interested in the idea any longer. Pingry gave it one last go, and officially proposed that Pingry, Kent Place, and the Short Hills Country Day School “create a single coeducational institution to be named Pingry-Kent Place.” Kent Place ultimately denied the proposal, because it deviated so far from the original plan for “coordination” and was now deemed unacceptable. In 1974, Pingry officially absorbed the Short Hills Country Day School thus becoming coed, but nevertheless maintaining friendly relations with us here at Kent Place.

It is clear that Kent Place would have become a significantly different school had we merged with Pingry. Coming out of it, we emerged stronger and more dedicated to single sex education, and Kent Place is the last remaining non-sectarian all-girls school in the state. Had we merged, our school would never have reached its centennial celebration in 1994, nor constructed a new Upper School and renovated the old classroom building into a new Middle School, nor constructed a spectacular new Center For Innovation this past year.

“With the lapse of time,” one trustee wrote, “I have come to think that Kent Place was fortunate to not have been affiliated with Pingry.” This *Ballast* writer struggles to disagree.

The Plague of Senioritis

BY LIZ COOK

PREVIOUS EIC OF BALLAST (2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR)

What? You thought you’d seen the last of me? As if! I may have graduated, but rest assured, your favorite washed-up *Ballast* EIC is back and better than ever. Although in the back of your mind somewhere Damien Leigh from *Mean Girls* is screaming “she doesn’t even go here,” I’m back because I have some ~sage advice~ on how to survive the raging epidemic that is Senioritis.

Now, let’s get one thing straight: no one is immune to senioritis. It’s like the common cold. You think you can avoid it, but all it takes is one sneeze (or missed assignment) and suddenly you’re plagued with it. My teachers can attest that as soon as I submitted my last college application, I came down with one of the worst cases of senioritis anyone has ever seen. Here are my tips on how to survive the rest of senior year without succumbing to senioritis.

Keep things interesting. Take risks with your school work, especially when it comes to writing and creative projects. I used the end of my senior year to refine my writing style and to dig deeper into my math research project. Keep things interesting!

Speaking of interesting, pursue your passion! For the first time in a while, school is the only thing you have to focus on. No more SATs, ACTs, or supplements (finally). It’s just you and your classes. That means you can use this

time to actually pursue your passion and make the most of the time you have left at Kent Place. If you spend time doing something that you actually want to be doing, you’ll find that you have more motivation to finish your school work. Pick an interesting Genius project—I’m sure you all remember my financial literacy assemblies from last spring—and run with it. Devote time and energy into your clubs and organizations. Lay the foundation to start a new club or organization. As sad as this sounds, soon you are going to realize that the clock is ticking and your days at Kent Place are coming to an end. Use this time to figure out what your legacy is going to be!

For the love of all that is holy, SLEEP. If you’re well rested, it’ll be easier to get through the rest of the year. Use this time to sleep, not stress. Before you know it, you’re going to be back to school and that means camping out in the library until 2 AM to study for your Econ midterm (10/10 would not recommend).

Stop putting your work off until the last minute! We are all guilty of this! Especially if you are exactly where I was last year and are still waiting to hear back from some schools. Not once but TWICE did I save a Spanish essay for the night that my top choice school released its decisions. The first time I did this, I received terrible news; the second time,

I got the best news of my life. Both times, I was in no mood to crank out an essay right after (needless to say, I didn’t do very well on either of them). It’s easier said than done, but you’ll thank yourself if you stay on top of your work.

This is going to sound cliché, but have fun! Make sure you fill this spring with laughs and good memories. Before you know it, Mrs. Murphy’s going to be giving you your cue to walk down the Daisy Chain, and that’s when it’s going to hit you that the last four or ten or fifteen years that you spent at Kent Place were some of the most rewarding years of your life. Please don’t spend the last months of your KP career complaining about how much work you have to do. (Don’t worry, you’ll have PLENTY of time to do that at all the amazing colleges that all of you are going to)

You’ve made it this far, don’t give up now! Senior Spring will be great, but your work isn’t going to just disappear. Don’t slack off on your schoolwork, but please don’t stress about it either. I stressed my way through high school right up until I heard from all my schools. Cherish those lounge singalongs, those advisory lunches, your classes, your teachers, and even the early morning drives to school. After all, these are the things that make all the hard work and late nights worth it!

Television Shows to Binge!

BY ISABEL KIM, GRACE HOLT, AND NYAKERA OGORA
STAFF WRITERS

New Girl

New Girl is a hilarious comedy about roommates who are more like a dysfunctional family. The main characters include: Jess, a quirky positive teacher; Nick, a rough-around-the-edges bartender; Schmidt, an entertaining businessman who obsesses over his social standing; Winston, a former athlete and cat lover; and Cece, Jess' best friend who's also a model. While the first episode came out in 2011, the last season is coming out April 10 of this year on Fox.

Rating: TV-14

Rotten Tomatoes: 93%

Where to Watch: Fox, Hulu, Amazon



Black Mirror

Black Mirror is an anthology series that taps into the dark perspective of technology in our modern world. It uses elements of science-fiction and fantasy to reflect the dangerous and slippery aspects of the technology that plays a part in our everyday lives, making it frighteningly real and extremely thought provoking. Complete with dark themes, thrilling plots, and haunting realism, *Black Mirror* offers a bold but intriguing glimpse into the possible future of technology. The new season is slightly different than those before it but delivers a full range of twisty, dark and humorous with real-world implications.

Rating: TV-MA

Rotten Tomatoes: 93%

Where to Watch: Netflix

The Crown

Based off of the award winning play "The Audience," Elizabeth Alexandra Mary (Claire Foy) is expected to live a life with little responsibility, allowing her husband and her father to take charge of her country. However, when her father, George VI (Jared Harris), dies from lung cancer, the authority of governing a country is given to Elizabeth. *The Crown* is a compelling drama about the story of the British monarch's longest ruler, Queen Elizabeth II, through the second half of the twentieth century. With the help of her husband, Prince Philip (Matt Smith) and the Prime Minister Winston Churchill (John Lithgow), she faces the full burden of being a ruler with interesting plots along the way.

Rating: TV-MA

Rotten Tomatoes: 91%

Where to Watch: Netflix

The Good Doctor

The Good Doctor is a medical drama that displays how people with mental illness can defy societal limitations. The main character is a talented doctor named Shaun who has autism. Despite his social challenges, Shaun's intuition and medical skill proves his skeptics wrong. Shaun is played by Freddie Highmore who was nominated for a Golden Globe as Best Actor in a Television Series Drama.

Rating: TV-14

Rotten Tomatoes: 58%

Where to Watch: ABC, Hulu

Grown-ish

Grown-ish is a new series about the metaphorical growing pains of the main character, Zoey (Yara Shahidi), as she navigates the new, exciting, and confusing world of early adulthood in college. A spin-off of the popular ABC show, *Black-ish*, the show does not stand in the shadow of its predecessor. Instead it is unique in its own way, tailoring to the more targeted audience of teenagers and young adults while maintaining a feel good humour and breaking the fourth wall. Extremely current and relatable, the characters are socially aware as they navigate today's college experience. Led by the talented and charming Yara Shahidi, the cast tries its best to represent a diverse array of characters with different races, backgrounds, and life directions.

Rating: TV-14

Rotten Tomatoes: 91%

Where to Watch: Freeform

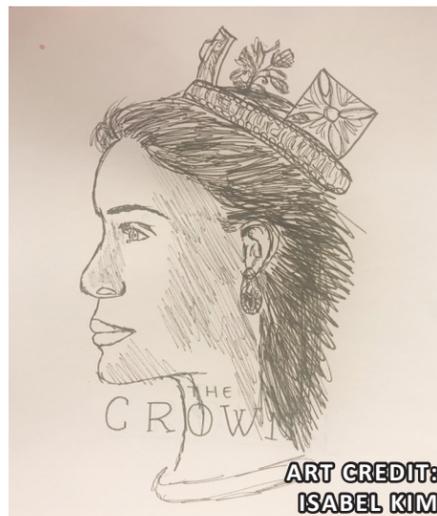
This is Us

Highly acclaimed by critics, *This Is Us* is back for a second season and better than ever. Still full of the same strong, complex, and emotionally devastating themes of the first season, the second season brings new moments of jaw dropping dramatics. Featuring important discussions and explorations of race, gender roles, and body image issues, the show delivers important messages that everyone needs to hear. If you are looking for something dramatic, sappy, and just plain irresistible, *This Is Us* is for you. Just make sure to grab a box of tissues.

Rating: TV-14

Rotten Tomatoes: 95%

Where to Watch: NBC, Hulu



The Handmaid's Tale

Adapted from the classic novel by Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale* follows Offred, a woman living in a dystopian world of Gilead, where a plunging birth rate and decrease in the number of fertile women has forced the few who are fertile, like her, to become concubines and birthing machines to wealthy men in an attempt to repopulate the world. Strikingly and stylishly shot, the show bears all the darkness, horrors, and striking parallels of a dystopia that borders on cautionary tale of the future of our own society.

Rating: TV-MA

Rotten Tomatoes: 95%

Where to Watch: Amazon, Hulu

Your Ultimate Gu

Flying Over the Break? Some Tips!

BY SHEFALI KAMILLA AND PAULINA KACHALOVA
STAFF WRITERS

Long plane rides may not be the most appealing part of your travels, but there are ways to make it more enjoyable while you wait to arrive at your destination!

Watch a movie or TV show! You can download your favorite series or movie, or you can catch up and binge watch your favorite show. Maybe you can download some all time favorite Netflix shows such as *The Office*, *Gilmore Girls*, *Greys Anatomy*, and *Friends*!

Read a book. A plane is a good place to read a book that you have been meaning to read, but just never had the time or chance to, especially if it is a long plane ride. A good book to read is *Everything, Everything*, because it is a simple read, and interesting. Also, magazines are a good read for a long plane ride as well!

Finish some homework or just work in general! If you have some work to do, or studying, do it on the plane. Maybe study for those important tests so you do not have to worry as much about it once you reach your destination!

Download a game on your electronic device. Games can be a good way to kill time when you are just sitting in the same spot for a long time. One of our favorites is Candy Crush! It is so fun to try and beat the levels. 2048 is another great game to play because it wastes time as you try and combine number blocks! You can also play word games. Mad-libs, crosswords, and the Scrabble app are all great ways to get a better vocabulary while having fun!

Sleep. Try to catch up on some valuable sleep while you are on the plane- it can be

Productivity Hacks!

BY NAOMI GORDON,
GRACE KANE, AND MAGGIE STANTON
STAFF WRITERS AND PAGE EDITOR

Things to do DURING spring break:

Do a Spring Clean!!!

Go through your room and dedicate yourself to cleaning one thing a day. For example, start with thinking - "On Tuesday I will clean my desk by getting rid of junk, looking through old papers, and wiping the surfaces clean." A MAJOR KEY with spring cleaning is going through your clothes. You most likely have stuff that you have not worn since 2012 so get rid of it! Start by making three piles: to donate, trash, and to keep. Just keep thinking, "out with the old, in with the new." Two other tips to make your closet look fresh is storing your winter clothes away and refolding all of the clothes in your drawers!

Keep up with your routine

Try to not wake up too late or got to bed too late either. This way when school starts again, the morning won't be too rough. Plus, waking up earlier means more time to do fun things throughout the day and to get more done!

The night before, plan out your day

Before going to bed, make a list with everything you would like to accomplish the following day. Write down how much time each thing will take, and remember not to over schedule yourself! Write these goals down before you go to bed and begin to think about how you will accomplish them. For example, you might write - Monday: Read for 30 minutes and make the April spread in my bullet journal. Plus always

make time in your day for some self care whether that be watching a lot of Netflix, making desserts, putting on a facemask, or taking a bath!

Things to do AFTER spring break to stay productive!

Reward yourself

Rewarding yourself is key to getting things done faster. After finishing one subject's worth of homework, treat yo self! Make sure your reward isn't something you could do for a really long period of time, because then your reward may end up slowing you down. Some reward ideas are: make/eat brownies, watch one episode of a twenty minute show that won't make you too tempted to watch another (like *The Office*), change into PJs, take a shower, respond to your snapchat, or listen to some music.

Buy a planner

This is a fun way to see what your week/month looks like and will make you feel and seem more organized, even if on the inside you are a mess. This is especially helpful for people who like things visually displayed before them.



Guide to Spring Break

hard, but if you are able to fall asleep, you will feel rested when you arrive at your destination. Just put in some ear buds and put on that face mask and you're ready to go!

Listen to music. Everyone has their own type of music that they enjoy, and it puts you in your own zone that gets rid of any distractions the plane ride may hold. You can even make your own playlist and listen to it on repeat throughout the flight!

Color. It is a great way to reduce stress and make something beautiful. There are many coloring books you can buy either before you leave, or in the bookstores in airports!

Eat. Bring your favorite snacks! We have to admit, airplane food is not the best, so bring snacks so you do not get hungry. Some good ones are pretzels, chips, but remember the Kent Place policy, no nuts! You don't know who on the plane will be allergic

to nuts. Don't forget gum as well, to prevent that dreadful ear popping.

Organize and declutter your phone. If you are going to be sitting down in a place for a long time, take some time to delete any unnecessary photos, and organize your apps. While organizing you can even go back and look at your old pictures in your camera roll. It's always fun to look back at those old middle school memories, while also making room for the new ones you will gain from your trip!

Take care of your skin. Your skin can get extremely dry on a plane, so you can bring a sheet mask and hydrate your skin. Your skin will feel so much better when you get off the plane, even if you get a few stares. Enjoy your flight!



ART CREDIT:
DEANNA HANGHUK

Make a to do list before you go to bed and then add on to it throughout the day

When you complete something, you can get the satisfaction of crossing it off. A tip is to break each large task into smaller tasks this way you can cross things off frequently, and you will feel more productive.

Put your phone away once you get home and don't take it out until you are done with work!

This will help you stay focused and away from distractions! Sometimes even turning off your notifications from certain apps will help you feel calmer and less frazzled each time you open your phone!

Find a place where you feel productive and go to that place to complete your work like a routine

Having a place that you consistently work well at will tell your mind and body that when you are in that place, it is time to work. Some good ideas are your desk in your room because it resembles/stimulated the environment that you are in during school with a desk/table and a chair. Another area is your kitchen if you like the sound of others around you as you work. A coffee shop is another ideal spot to work in if you like background noise. Overall, you want to be away from distractions such as

younger family members who may nag you constantly, TV sounds, speakers, etc. One place that you definitely do not want to try and crack down and get a ton of work done at is your bed. Your brain knows your bed a place to sleep, not to work. You will eventually start feeling groggy, and in the end, won't accomplish as much. If you like white noise while you work, check out asoftmurmur.com to channel out the noise around you. They have a plethora of noise recordings like rain, thunder, coffee shop, birds, and waves. You can combine the many sounds and you will feel like you are in a whole new place!

Go outside

The sounds may relax you and getting the Vitamin D from the sun is really beneficial. Something to take a break from your work like going on a run can help clear your mind and will get you ready for your next round of work. It is also nice to get some fresh air as you do your homework as it will keep you awake and focused.

Have a homework party with your sibling or friend(s)

These are great because you can both help each other stay focused and ask each other if you're stuck on something. This can be done over FaceTime or in person as long as you both promise to work and not distract one another. To jazz up your homework party you can make a snack, play some chill tunes, or get yourselves iced coffee or tea.

Movies to Binge!

BY ISABEL KIM, GRACE HOLT, AND NYAKERA OGORA

STAFF WRITERS

The Post

The Post is a stimulating drama that follows the race to print the covered up truths about the Vietnam War during the 1970s. Katherine Graham (Meryl Streep), the first female publisher of *The Washington Post* faces challenging decisions about the company's future as well as the consequences that often come with female leadership. She works alongside the newspaper's executive editor, Ben Bradlee (Tom Hanks) to expose the secrets of the ongoing war, passed through the presidency of the American government and hidden from the American people.

Rating: PG-13

Rotten Tomatoes: 88%

The Greatest Showman

The Greatest Showman is a movie based on the story of P.T. Barnum a politician, showman, and businessman in the circus industry. The movie itself is a musical romance with its own original score. Also, *The Greatest Showman* celebrates Barnum's inspiring story of rising from nothing, ultimately becoming a huge success who changed show business with his visionary ideas. This is a family-friendly movie with famous actors Hugh Jackman, Zac Efron, and Zendaya.

Rating: PG

Rotten Tomatoes: 54%

Star Wars: The Last Jedi

Star Wars: The Last Jedi picks up where the story left off two years ago in *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, when Luke Skywalker's peace in a solitary life is turned upside down when he meets Rey, a young woman who shows strong signs of the Force. Her desire to learn the Jedi ways forces Luke to make a decision that changes their lives forever. *The Last Jedi* follows new characters and galactic legends on an epic adventure as they unlock secrets about the "force" and shocking revelations about the past. This movie delivers a compelling story with several twists and turns which makes it a great choice for lovers of the *Star Wars* franchise and newcomers all the same.

Rating: PG-13

Rotten Tomatoes: 91%

The Shape of Water

The Shape of Water is a fantastical thriller about a mute woman, Elisa, who, while working as a cleaning lady in a high security government lab, discovers a secret she was never supposed to know: that the lab is holding a creature for experimentation. Throughout the movie, Elisa builds a relationship with the creature. The danger that both the creature and Elisa are in makes the film very suspenseful. Nominated for 13 Oscars, and the winner of two Golden Globes for Best Director of a Motion Picture (Guillermo del Toro) and Best Original Score, *The Shape of Water* is a very highly regarded movie worth a watch.

Rating: R

Rotten Tomatoes: 92%

Lady Bird

A film about teenage angst and finding the right way to navigate situations, *Lady Bird* is definitely a movie that is relevant to Kent Place students. The outspoken main character Christine "Lady Bird," struggles throughout the movie as she experiences senior year of high school and manages her rocky relationship with her mom. While a drama, this film also has witty and satirical humor. With 5 Oscar nominations, a near perfect score on Rotten Tomatoes, and two Golden Globe wins for Best Motion Picture (Musical or Comedy and Best Actress in a Motion Picture Musical or Comedy), *Lady Bird* is a fan favorite.

Rating: R

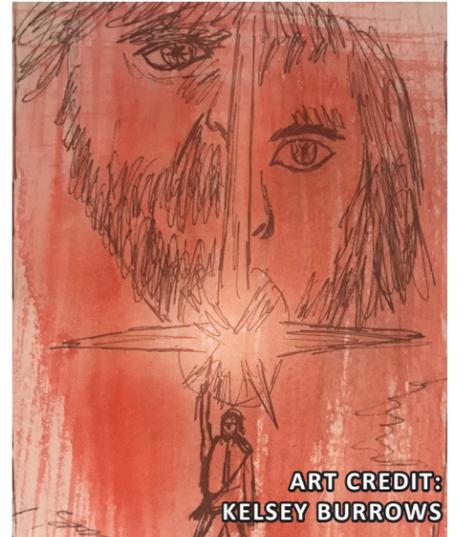
Rotten Tomatoes: 99%

JUMANJI: Welcome to the Jungle

Tasked with discovering what Alan Parrish left 20 years ago, four purposely clichéd teenagers are drawn into the dangerous and adventurous game of Jumanji. Thrust into the game with new bodies that are humorously opposite to their personalities and bodies in the real world, the gamer becomes a hulking adventurer (Dwayne Johnson), the jock is transformed into a man half his size (Kevin Hart), the popular girl becomes a middle age professor (Jack Black), and the wallflower becomes a fearless warrior (Karen Gillan). Together, they must work to beat the game and survive the jungle of Jumanji, discovering new things about themselves and each other along the way. The use of a charming cast of well known actors is not put to waste, and they deliver a humorous and fun movie while maintaining an interesting plot that will not leave you disappointed.

Rating: PG-13

Rotten Tomatoes: 76%



ART CREDIT:
KELSEY BURROWS

Black Panther

Part of the Marvel universe, *Black Panther* follows T'Challa who returns home to the isolated and technologically advanced African nation of Wakanda to take his place as King, following the events of *Captain America: Civil War*. However, when an old enemy reappears and threatens all that he loves, T'Challa's roles of King and Black Panther are tested when he is drawn into a conflict that puts the entire fate of Wakanda and the world at risk.

Rating: PG-13

Rotten Tomatoes: 97%

Upcoming:

A Wrinkle in Time

Meg Murry and her little brother, Charles Wallace, have been without their scientist father, Mr. Murry, for five years, ever since he discovered a new planet and used the concept known as a tesseract to travel there. Guided by the three mysterious astral travelers, Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Who, and Mrs. Which, and joined by Meg's classmate, Calvin, the children journey to a dangerous planet that possesses all of the evil in the universe.

Release Date: March 9, 2018

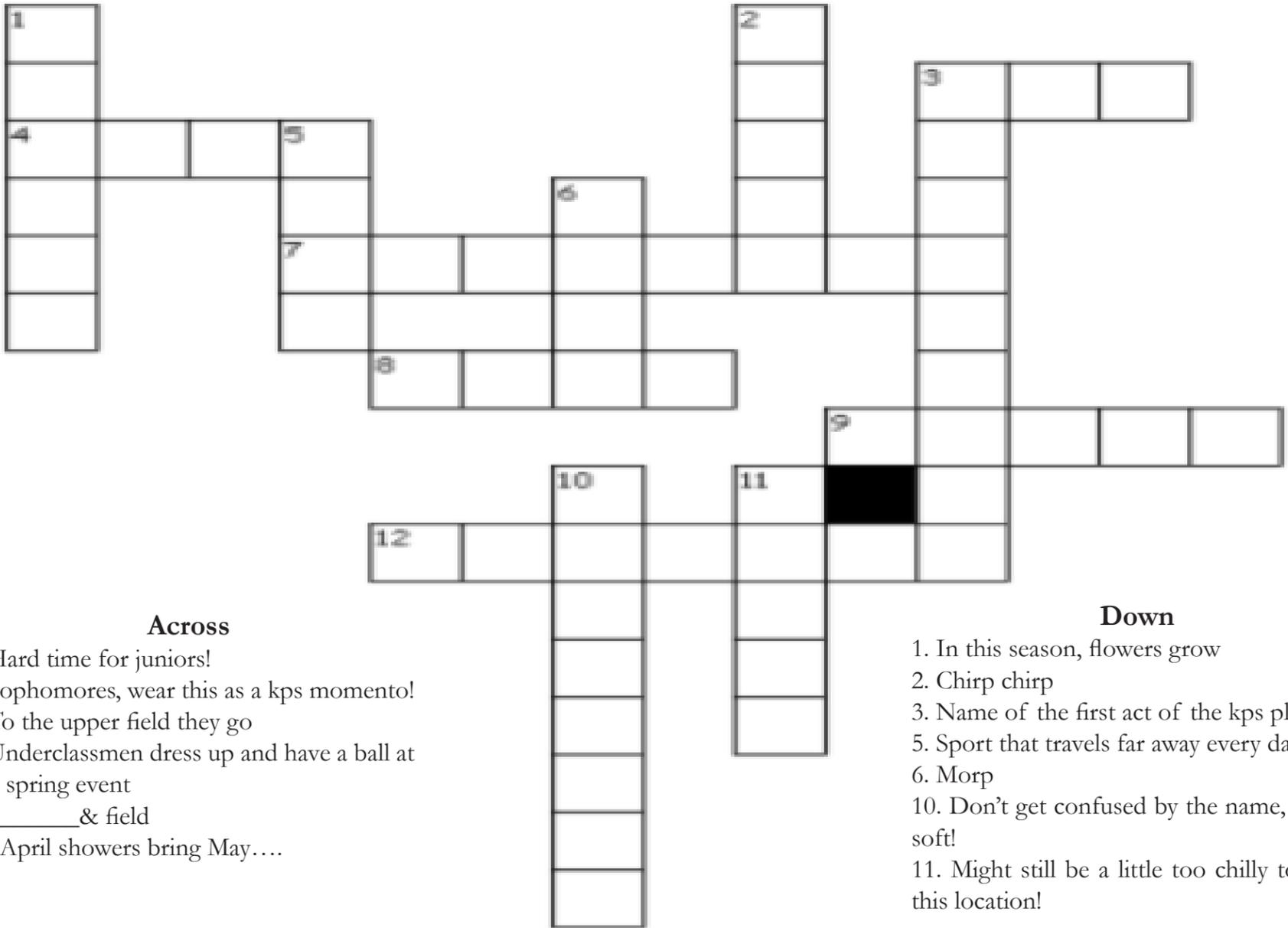
Love, Simon

Based on Becky Albertalli's acclaimed novel, *Love, Simon* is a funny and touching coming-of-age story about the scary and wonderful ride of falling in love. High schooler, Simon Spier, has a more complicated love life than most: he has not told his family or friends he's gay and he's fallen for an anonymous classmate online. The movie follows Simon as he tries to navigate his sexuality and find his secret love, proving to be hilarious, terrifying and life-changing.

Release Date: March 16, 2018

Spring Crossword!

BY CLARE BUCKLEY AND LIZZIE HERR
STAFF WRITERS



Across

- 3. Hard time for juniors!
- 4. Sophomores, wear this as a kps momento!
- 7. To the upper field they go
- 8. Underclassmen dress up and have a ball at this spring event
- 9. _____& field
- 12. April showers bring May....

Down

- 1. In this season, flowers grow
- 2. Chirp chirp
- 3. Name of the first act of the kps play
- 5. Sport that travels far away every day
- 6. Morp
- 10. Don't get confused by the name, it's not soft!
- 11. Might still be a little too chilly to go to this location!

ANSWERS: Spring: in this season, flowers grow; Beach: sport that travels far away every day; Track: _____& field; Semi: Underclassmen dress up and have a ball at this spring event; Prom: morp; King: sophomores, wear this as a kps momento; cagebirds: name of the first act kps play; CHP: hard time for juniors!

Spring Cleaning Tips

BY GRACE HOLT AND GRACE WEISS
STAFF WRITERS

As the spring season is approaching, we all want to get rid of things that have piled up over the school year. Here, we have a few tips for helping you to clean out your locker and bedroom which are two very important things you need to keep intact.

CLEANING OUT YOUR BEDROOM

Closet

First, start with cleaning out your closet. Take out all of the unnecessary things that you don't need in your closet. Create a pile for stuff you want to keep and stuff that you want to donate. Example: Clothes that are too small, shoes that don't fit, accessories that are youthful, etc. Get some bins, and organize your stuff into them that you use from time to time, but don't need lying around your room. This will help to make your room less cluttered and it will also help you to know where all of those little things are. You can put them on shelves in your closet, or on shelves in your room.

Desk

Clean out your desk!! Those old school supplies you don't need, you can get rid of. Donate them!! Use your drawer space as mentioned earlier and put all of the things you need for doing homework in them so that you can have them right there with you. Use mason jars, or pencil organizers to hold markers, scissors, pens/pencils etc. This makes it easy to grab and use! Old textbooks and notebooks don't need to be there, so donate them or bring them to the Kent Place book exchange at the end of the year.

Dresser

A good idea to tie it all together is to clean out your dresser. If you haven't done so already, fold



ART CREDIT: MICHAELA MARKELS

everything neatly and keep separate drawers for each different type of clothing. Again, like with your closet, donate clothes that don't fit, or you can always hand them down to your younger brother or sister if you have one.

(Possibly) Bathroom

Finally, while this may not be part of your bed-

room, it is a good idea to also clean your bathroom, just to make sure it isn't dirty and stays organized. A great way to use the space wisely is to put all of your cosmetics into one drawer so that you know where everything is. Keep all of your hair accessories in one place and cosmetics in the other, that way the drawers don't get stuffed to the brim.

ORGANIZE YOUR LOCKER

Clean It!

First step to an organized locker is cleaning. Start out by making sure that all the food in your locker is not expired. It may seem obvious but on occasion I've left food in my locker because I simply forgot about it. Also make sure that if there are any wrappers, empty water bottles, or thrown in scrap paper that you get rid of it. It's important to have a sanitized locker before you can start organizing.

Sort It Out

When you are done cleaning, it is time for sorting. The system in which you sort definitely is based on preference but it's helpful to put alike things together. For example, I put all my folders and books on one shelf, while my binders and textbooks that need to stand upright on the row above. In addition to sorting the physical things that hold your work, it is worthwhile to sort the papers inside them. This step may take time, but going through each subject's work and putting all past essays in one place while all past tests are in another is very helpful. It allows you to look back and see their progress while also saving you work when it's time for fourth column assignments at the end of the year. Sorting by topic or putting them in chronological order is another strategy.

Label

Labeling, if you haven't done so already, is an organizational tool to utilize with supplies of your own. This helps you to identify quickly what supply corresponds to what subject, which can be very handy when going class to class.