Vol. LXVI, No. V

····· Douglas Southall Freeman High School ·····

March 2019



Sadie Rogerson **Staff Writer**

Instead of saying hello to students every morning, Principal Andrew Mey will soon be waving goodbye.

In November 2018, Mr. Mey became aware of an "unique opportunity" for him to take a position working in Henrico County Public Schools' Central Office. Students and teachers alike were surprised to hear that

he would be leaving Freeman, when Dr. Thomas Ferrell, Director of High School Education for Henrico County Public Schools, made the announcement at a faculty meeting on Feb. 13.

"I'm shocked myself," Mr. Mey said. "I would have never envisioned this being a change of course in my career.'

Prior to becoming the principal in 2016, Mr. Mey served as Freeman's associate principal from 2008 to 2013 and then as the principal of Meadowbrook High School in Chesterfield for

three years. Now, after nearly a decade of walking Freeman's halls, Mr. Mey has become an integral part of its community. "I love seeing Mr. Mey at all the important events where faculty and students are involved," PTSA President, Mary Neary, said.

Upon his return to Freeman in 2016, Mr. Mey introduced the Freeman family to another familiar face, associate principal, John Marshall. Mr. Marshall described Mr. Mey as "great principal, boss, and friend," and someone who he has "learned a

lot from." One such lesson was Principal Mey's unique leadership style. "He's a distributive leader," said Mr. Marshall, "He allows us to lead in our own capacities while guiding us."

Mr. Mey's ability to help others grow extends beyond just his employees; he has also touched the lives of Freeman's students. In her sophomore year, Principal Mey helped senior Ny'Ajah Brooks "get back on track." "I can go to him about anything," Ny'Ajah said. "He tells us when we are wrong or right and he never judges us."

Now, as Freeman prepares to bid him farewell, the school must also ready itself for a new leader. Mr. Mey advises his successor to "treasure the relationship they build with this community," in which "the sense of family and caring...is very real and strong."

Members of Central Office, including Dr. Ferrell, who have been designated to hire Freeman's next principal also have a myriad of characteristics that they are looking for in candidates. They hope to hire someone who is "innovative," "good with building relationships," and "able to meet the diverse needs of [Freeman's] student body," Dr. Ferrell said.

Currently, Henrico County Public Schools is "in the process of reviewing applicants" for Freeman's new principal. As a later step in the selection process, Dr. Ferrell will give Freeman's faculty "the opportunity to talk to [him] about some of the characteristics they would like to see in a new principal."

Although there isn't a "set timeline" for hiring Mr. Mey's replacement, Dr. Ferrell stated that the Central Office team is "committed to making sure that we have the best possible principal for this school."

Many of the faculty and student body have high hopes for Freeman's next head. Special education teacher, Gretchen Sweat, said she is looking forward to a principal who "addresses the unique population at Freeman," and is "inclusive of every part of the student body," something she believes Mr. Mey has achieved.

In terms of the challenges that Freeman's new principal will face, Mr. Marshall believes that the toughest thing will simply be for them to continue to "to innovate and push forward." He is sure, however, that "whoever gets the position will be very qualified."

Regardless of who becomes the school's next leader, the idea that the Freeman community will continue to flourish holds strong. "Freeman's such a great place that the next principal will be fortunate to be here," Mr.



Mrs. Arnold stands with student, Nicolly Alcantra

English Teacher Honored as Teacher of the Year

Marcus Rand **Staff Writer**

As a leader in the staff, classroom, and community, English teacher Nicole Arnold has managed to master all of these roles in two years.

Despite her short time teaching at Freeman, the school staff voted her Freeman Teacher of the Year for the 2018-2019 school year. She has taken up the roles of Senior class sponsor, Red Cross club sponsor, Yearbook sponsor, She is DSF teachermentor, and an administrative

Her fifteen-year career in teaching has taken her from middle schools in upstate New York, to Reynolds Community College, and now, Freeman High School.

"I love teaching at Freeman. There are so many hardworking, passionate professionals. My students are definately my favorite part of the day," said Mrs. Arnold.

Her interactive teaching style is the focus of both her English and yearbook students, who praise it for being inviting and collabora-

Freshman De-Ovionne Davis thinks Mrs. Arnold is deserving of the honor and said the "diversity of her lessons" makes her

Another part of her approach towards teaching is building personal relationships with her students beyond what could be considered traditional. "Ever since the first day of

school she's always reassured me I can always come talk to her," said Madison Pate.

Freshman Natane Balsom has Mrs. Arnold both as an English teacher and as a She is DSF club sponsor. She experienced Mrs. Arnold's kindness firsthand when attending a field trip.

"I didn't have enough money for a field trip I was going on and she paid half of it because my mom couldn't pay the rest" said

In addition to her work in the classroom and with several extracurricular activities, Mrs. Arnold has become involved in the Freeman faculty. Mrs. Arnold coordinated the "Rivals Unite Change" program which swapped students from Freeman and Godwin.

"I think the staff recognizes how many different roles she's taken on and what a leader she's become on the staff in a short period of time," said John Marshall, Assistant Principal.

In every interview, one thing was clear about Mrs. Arnold: her positive attitude, work ethic, and love for her students make her deserve Freeman's Teacher of

Boys Swim Team Wins VA State Championship

Maggie Sheerin **Staff Writer**

It was with a vengeance that Rebels Men's Swimming entered their state championship meet on Feb. 16 at George Mason University. With a point deficit of only 50 points in the State meet the year prior, the swimmers were determined to make this the year they secured a VHSL title, the first for boys swimming in the entire county.

"It was our goal throughout the whole season to win states. It was what motivated us," said senior co-captain Reid Hutcher-

This motivation can be seen in the team's record this season: undefeated against all other schools in the class and region champions by a 221-point margin.

"I think we all knew that the boys could do it; they have wanted this for so long, and that along with them knowing they had a very high chance of winning this year, I think, changed their view of the meet from being the "state meet" to "our meet," said Chris Tiller, Freeman's varsity swimming coach.

However, without a school dive team, the swimmers had an immediate disadvantage over the teams that did, as that is a loss of possible points awarded. Yet, with the times they had accomplished this year and the swimmers that they had on the team, they remained confident in their odds.

"We knew we had a really good chance at winning states this year. I think that's what made everyone push themselves and swim as fast as they could in the meets leading up to it," said senior Zach Carroll.

They were aiming for nothing short of perfection, hoping to win all three of their relays.

So, when a disqualification (DQ) was given to the 400-yard freestyle relay team in the preliminaries, the team was forced

to regroup and leave nothing on the pool deck.

With relays worth 40 points, double the amount of individual events, the team felt less secure in their possible win than throughout the season.

"We were definitely all really worried, but we made sure to stick together and push past it," said junior Hunter Locher.

The 200 individual medley relay team made sure to do just that when their event began the finals. With a time of 1:35.68, seniors Mark Graff and Colin Whiting and sophomores Aidan Duffy and Erik Kratzer shaved over a second off of their preliminary time, getting the team their first win in the finals.

"The relay disqualifying in preliminaries made us push ourselves to go harder in finals and helped us as a team," said sophomore Aidan Duffy, the breaststroke swimmer for the winning

This relay was only the start for first place times for the Rebels. Swimming in the 200 individual medley, Hunter Locher achieved

a time of 1:52.62, another win for the swimmers. Aidan Duffy won with a 58.25 in the 100-yard breaststroke, further contributing to the points that the team so desperately needed. And in further revenge for their other relay being disqualified, the 200yard freestyle relay team, led by seniors Reid Hutcherson, Colin Whiting, Nick Viers, and junior Dain Ripol, delivered a first for the team with a time of 1:26.03.

These first places, as well as the accumulation of points from all other top placings, brought the Rebels to a final score of 292 points, 80 points ahead of Rock Bridge High School, the second place team.

What the boys had spent the entire season fighting for was finally achieved: victory.

"With winning being our goal all year, it was awesome to finally accomplish it and I was really happy. It was kind of a relief,"

Through past disappointments, unforeseen obstacles, and tough competition, victory absolutely provided relief for Rebels swim-



Freeman men's swim team poses with their 1st place plaque

Special Features



Freeman's families

Features

Homecoming Queen, model, and ray of positivity

Opinions Nostalgia in the Media



Sports

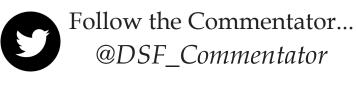
New athletic fields to be constructed in April



A&E Students brighten classrooms









Freeman Awaits Gus's Return

Salaar Khan **Staff Writer**

2

One member of the Freeman family's involvement at school had to recently take a temporary naws

Gus, a golden retriever and therapy dog, started visiting the school this year. He began as an occasional guest in the fall and, back by popular demand, soon became a weekly visitor. His appearance every Thursday had an overwhelmingly positive impact on students like senior Rin Housman.

"I was having a terrible day, and I was on the brink of an actual panic attack. My counselor was unavailable and I didn't know what to do. But when I went in to go see Gus that day, it was just so therapeutic," said Rin.

But recently, Gus was asked to take a hiatus from visiting the school

"Gus' visits have to take a little break for a while so that the school can shore up the process for students to see him," said Dave Inman, Gus' owner and Freeman English teacher.

A few years ago, Mr. Inman got Gus officially certified as a therapy dog and got certified himself so that they were qualified to work as a team. Principal, Andrew Mey, emphasized the value of those credentials as a resource for Freeman students. However, Mr. Mey had concerns about Gus' presence at the school and has decided to reexamine the procedures of having him here.

"As a principal, safety is my first concern. We have to come up with a practice which is consistent, accountable, and appropriate," said Mr. Mey.

Mr. Mey added that he expects Gus will probably be back at Freeman soon. Junior Mollie Bowman is just one example of the many students eager to see the therapy dog again.

"I'm really glad Gus is going to be coming back. When I was just having a really bad week, seeing Gus was something I looked forward to and it kept me going," said Mollie.

However, a lot of the student body is still upset by Gus' continued absence. Junior Hannah Sjovold voiced the frustration that she and others feel.

"Gus is such a beneficial presence and not having him here has just been so disappointing for some of us," said Hannah.

Rin, Mollie, and Hannah each also expressed their concern for mental health at Freeman. They see Gus as a valuable asset in improving the emotional states of both students and faculty.

"Mental health gets ignored a lot in our society. Gus helped deal with those issues and showed that our school cared enough to try and use a resource like a therapy dog," said Rin.

Mr. Inman also recognized this issue and praised Freeman's leadership for taking the initiative to try something new and deal with the problem, rather than ignoring it.

"Without our principal and counselors, Gus wouldn't have ever been able to come to our school," said Mr. Inman "And because of their hard work, I think he'll be back here soon enough."



Gus lies in front of the bus ramp after a busy day of therapy.

New Student Resource Officer a Familiar Face

Megan McDonald
Staff Writer
Caitlin McSorley
Editor-in-Chief

After former Freeman Resource Officer Don Proffitt received a promotion in February, Tuckahoe Middle School Resource Officer (SRO), Officer Medina, was relocated to Freeman.

Officer Medina said he was excited about this opportunity because he's "grown up with these kids." As a Godwin alumnus, Officer Medina can relate to being a teen in Henrico, while also enjoying the diversity of a new environment. "I didn't want to go back to Godwin. I love Freeman. You guys have such an interesting dynamic here," he said.

Officer Medina was also drawn to Freeman because of the staff. "I love the staff here... it's a good family environment, and I'm comfortable here," he said. He believes if there is a strong relationship between the administration team, the school, and the police officer, then "communication flows freely and smoothly, so we can get ahead

of a lot of potential issues before they become bigger issues."

When Officer Medina got married and had children, he decided to take a job in the school system. This change of pace had a special meaning for Officer Medina. "I had a good relationship with my SRO when I was in high school. I want to pay that forward if I can," said Officer Medina.

Additionally, Officer Medina chose to work in schools to show kids that police are not always portrayed accurately and "change the perception people had of police officers." One of his major concerns is kids forming opinions based on media, which he said, "kind of bothers me, because I think you should draw from your own experiences. I try to hopefully stop that and show that a police officer can be approachable and fun."

Officer Medina is more than just a police officer and shares interests with some students at Freeman. "I like a lot of Drake... I like music that speaks to me," he said.

He has high expectations for his work at Freeman and hopes to continuing forming relationships with more of the students and is available for advice. His main message for the students is: "Don't take life too seriously; really think about what is bothering you; really think about what's going on before you react...and if you need to run it by me, let's do it! I'll talk to you all day, off the record [or] on the record."

Officer Medina did not start his law enforcement career in the school system. "I was a midnight shift officer for about six and a half years," he said.

As a midnight shift officer, Officer Medina and his partner used plain clothes surveillance to monitor hand to hand drug transactions. "We went to high drug trafficking areas and we would work cases from the ground up," Officer Medina said.

After he transitioned to being an SRO, he worked at Tuckahoe Middle School, and enjoyed his ability to positively influence his students. "I loved dealing with that age group because they are like sponges. They're learning, and they're really coming into their own," Officer Medina said.

Officer Medina has played a major role in the lives of many Freeman students, especially those that he served at Tuckahoe for three years and now continues to serve at Freeman.

Freshman Natane Balsom talked about the help she has re-



Officer Medina standing with junior Megan Mason.

ceived from Officer Medina. "He helped me get out of trouble one time because it was a misunderstanding," Natane said.

Junior Felicia Goode also touched on what makes Officer Medina special. "Most of the students have close relationships with him because he will help you out with anything," Felicia said.

Officer Medina played a big role in the lives of students at Tuckahoe, which had a big impact on the school as a whole. Ann Green, Tuckahoe's Principal, valued the protection and guidance Officer Medina provided.

"It was great working with Officer Medina. He is friendly, ap-

proachable, and very concerned with keeping the students, teachers, and Tuckahoe community safe at all times," said Ms. Greene. Officer Medina plans to serve Freeman with the same enthusiasm and dedication he brought to Tuckahoe.

The work of Officer Medina, or any police officer, is certainly a challenge. "There's no instruction manual, so you have to constantly adapt and change your approach to problems that you see," said Officer Medina.

Officer Medina's personality allows him to excel, while also enjoying his job. "I love talking to and meeting new people, I'm very personable and extroverted. I love problem solving."

Teachers Honored for Work in the Classroom

Technology Teacher Named New Teacher of the Year

Davis Buckbee
Staff Writer

Overcoming the hurdle of joining Freeman after the school year started, on Feb. 13, 2019, Mr. Stapel nonetheless was selected by his fellow faculty to be Freeman's 'New Teacher of the Year.'

Mr. Stapel grew up in

Rockingham County, VA, and attended Turner Ashby High School. After high school, Mr. Stapel attended the College of William and Mary. There, he considered pursuing a number of careers, specifically in construction and industrial design.

However, a trip to Latin America drastically changed his career plans.

"I fell in love with teaching while I was living in Ecuador, teaching English to elementary and middle school students," Mr. Stapel said.

At William and Mary, he studied Spanish and then become a fluent Spanish speaker during his trip to Ecuador.

Ecuador.

In his first year at Freeman, Mr. Stapel combined his love of teaching with

his earlier career goals of



Mr. Stapel teaching his technology class.

construction and industrial design by being a technology teacher. Specifically, he teaches technical drawing, engineering, architecture, and advanced drawing.

"I really enjoy Mr. Sta-

pel's class," sophomore Jack Parkhurst said, a student in Mr. Stapel's technical drawing class. "I think he's a good, focused teacher and I've learned a lot about tech drawing."

"He is very interacting

about tech drawing."

"He is very interacting and he keeps you attentive. Every other week, if we pay attention for the whole two weeks, at the end, we get to play trashketball, a game like basketball but

with paper trash," said

Harith Khan, freshman.

Growing up in rural Virginia, Mr. Stapel said Freeman's environment differed drastically from the high school he attended.
"I really enjoy Freeman's

diversity; it has a much different culture and norms than my high school," Mr. Stapel said.

Being a new teacher.

Being a new teacher, he didn't know the "New Teacher of the Year" award existed until a faculty meeting announced he had won. Nonetheless, he was grateful for being selected.

he was grateful for being selected.

"I was honored and a bit surprised to find out I had been chosen," Mr. Stapel

Veteran Teacher Named Exceptional Education Teacher of the Year

On Feb. 13, 2019, long-time Freeman exceptional education teacher Elizabeth Marshall was selected by her fellow faculty to be selected as Freeman's 'Exceptional Education Teacher of the Year.'

"I was honored and very humbled [to be selected], because there are such amazing teachers, counselors, and support staff here at Freeman," Mrs. Marshall said. "To be even included in that group is pretty awesome."

Mrs. Marshall grew up in Rhode Island before moving to the greater Richmond area and attending Midlothian High School. She then attended the University of Richmond, where she found her passion for teaching.

"My senior year of college I was a tutor for a special education class," Mrs. Marshall said. "That's when I feel in love with special education students."

Mrs. Marshall then

when I feel in love with special education students." has hold able stayed an extra year in college, and earned her Master's degree in special education.

lege, and earned her Master's degree in special education. Since then, she's been a proud Rebel faculty member.

Within the Freeman's

exceptional education de-

partment, Mrs. Marshall is a math teacher. and has been for the past 10 years. However, she originally was an English and reading teacher; her two favorite subjects from high school and college.

"I like math; I understand it and it comes easily to me," Mrs. Marshall said. "It was a natural switch [from English to math]."

Teachers and students alike expressed respect and gratitude for Mrs. Marshall's contributions to the Freeman student body.

shall's contributions to the Freeman student body.

"She is kind and compassionate, but she also has high expectations and holds students accountable" said fellow Freeman

has high expectations and holds students accountable," said fellow Freeman exceptional education teacher Brian Reutinger. According to junior

Addressing the Freeman

According to junior Anna Felton, Mrs. Marshall "always cares about how I'm doing... she's just really caring."



viis. Maishan aius student in mati

student body, Mrs. Marshall used her nomination to encourage one way for students to become more involved with Freeman's exceptional education program: volunteering. "It's awesome when stu-

dents volunteer for special events, such as the All-Star Prom or the Little Feet Meet; but we would love to even have students come in and work in small groups with my students," Mrs. Marshall said.

The Jonas Brothers and the Marketability of Nostalgia



Kate Yarbrough **Opinions Editor**

The pink iPod Shuffle my mom bought me in 2006 is a physical Spotify 2000s throwback playlist. Loaded with hits from P!nk, Beyoncé, Weezer, and, most relevantly, the Jonas Brothers, it defines a constant that accompanied a certain time in my life. As I grew up, that music I loved never really left me, although my iPod has been lost for years. It instead became something of comfort; something I could turn to to remind to bring my favorite childhood myself of who I once was and, ultimately, who I am.

This is part of the reason I am the biggest Jonas Brothers fan I know.

Less philosophically, I love the Jonas Brothers because their music is just fun. With emotional ballads such as "When You Look Me in the Eyes," hopeful anthems like "Hold On," and lovestruck pop-rock like "Lovebug," the Jonas Brothers have a wide range with an endearing, cheesy, boy-band overtone. They're lighthearted, almost ironically self-aware, and there truly has not been a time where "Burnin' Up" has come on and I wasn't alarmingly enthusiastic

So, on Feb. 28 when the Jonas Brothers announced their re-union and single, "Sucker," on their Instagram, I was ecstatic. After blinking through a few real tears, I, and likely thousands of other fans, wanted to know what sort of magic had occurred

band back together. But, really, it's just a good time for nostalgic comebacks.

The entertainment is an industry like any other. It supplies what is demanded, and today, there is a huge demand for the throwback. Netflix shows like "Stranger Things" make teenagers nostalgic for an 80s childhood they never had, franchises upon franchises of classic movies like "Star Wars" take over the movie theaters, and the Backstreet Boys are back together, for some awful reason.

This concept is not new, although it may seem like another late 2010s trend. For example, the 90s brought shows like "That 70s Show" and "Freaks and Geeks" to appeal to the nostalgia of their audience, who was likely growing up in the 70s to 80s. "M*A*S*H," which ran from 1972-1983, reflected on the 1950's Korean War.

As the world becomes more complicated, in our own perceptions as we age and in reality, we yearn for the simplicity of an earlier time. When we find something that connects us to a specific moment in our past, it allows us to identify with our earlier selves and link who we once were with who we are today. This organic form of nostalgia is a "security blanket," an article from the Ringer posits—it is a comfort in our most adolescent of needs.

The media has also become experts in what I call manufactured nostalgia, or the reason I wistfully remember a nonexistent childhood I had of walkie talkies and D&D games after watching "Stranger Things." Its adventurousness and lack of the complicated things in modern society-technology, politics, adult responsibility—create a world of childlike simplicity. Simplicity defines nostalgia—it transcends decades, making something relatable to all ages.

Nostalgia is the ultimate appeal to an audience. It's a trump card. It makes something familiar, relatable, and comfortable for the audience, and it just makes us happy. Along with that, it follows a formula that almost assures a certain level of success. As a rule, if it worked once, it's likely to work again.

It can be pretty annoying to watch the same storylines be told and the same music sang over and over, and there's nothing worse than a butchered remake. But just because there's a lot of reprising content out there doesn't mean there's any lack of original ideas. All things are annoying sometimes; remakes are often far from an exception.

Nostalgia banking is here to stay, no matter what anyone has to say about it. But, in a world of instability, it's important to find stability in some way. Through art and media, we can ground ourselves; we can remind ourselves of who we are and find comfort in our own identities.

So what if that stability is in the Jonas Brothers?

Kate Yarbrough **Opinions Editor**

I'll be drinking English Breakfast tea in England for breakfast! Living the

An attack on all of my basic rights.

Not sure if I'm going to make it to spring break.

sive; I'll watch it later.

much better than normal ones?

Not looking forward to

An Introvert and Extrovert An Introvert and Extrove
Weigh in on the Issues
of the Day of the Day

> Braxton Berry **Opinions Editor**

Ready to sleep in, procras-

Spring Break tinate, and show off this dad-bod.

You better stop. STOP!

Y'all telling me it's not summer yet?

Captain Marvel just made me straight.

Diabetes is calling and I'm ready to pick up.

That's happening already?

dream.

Movie tickets are expen-

Why are mini M&M's so

seeing those on Instagram.

Safe Travels Exiting the Parking Lot

Gus Leaving

Quarter 3

Blockbuster Movies

Easter Candy

Prom-posals



Gretchen Neary **Staff Writer**

This week, safety auditors swarmed our school to take notes and gather information on where our school excels in matters of student safety and what tweaks could be made to make Freeman an even safer environment.

The retired Henrico County employees and current County officials that made up the audit committee patrolled the fire drill, checked locked doors, and ensured that all students had hall passes. However, their main focus should have been the most unsafe part of Freeman High School: the student parking lot, AKA, the real-life bumper car ride that is our after school real-

3:55 pm: When the bell rings,

it is a mad dash to the lot. Forget talking to your friends or waiting to give your sibling a ride home. There is only one focus: getting to your car. Be cautious, as between 3:55 pm and 4:10 pm is the most dangerous time to fall down the dreaded Hill TM. With keys in hand and a brisk pace, you may be able to reach the parking lot by 3:58 pm. Now, all that lies between you and the comfort of your home is the exit out of the lot. This is where the true danger begins.

3:59 pm: As you inch out of your space, overeager drivers will cut you off. Be warned- friends morph into enemies in the lot. We say we are a Freeman Family, and I agree, but in the parking lot, all bets are off.

4:00 pm - Watch out for the suburban moms in oversized SUVs. Nothing stands between her and picking up her precious child, and she certainly doesn't care if she dings your car in the

4:01 pm - Honking fills the air. Most is directed at new drivers who have yet to learn the rules of the road... two words: rotation system.

4:02 pm: I'd like to blame all of the bad driving that goes on at Freeman on the kids, but parents,

you're part of the problem too. With adults lined up along the sides of Camden Drive, it is impossible to see if it is safe to turn left and turning right puts you in the belly of the beast: pedestrian traffic. Where are all the walking kids going? Oh right, the cars parked up and down the neighborhood roads. Great! More obstacles to navigate around as we try to depart.

4:03 pm: Just close your eyes and drive out onto Camden. What's the worst that can happen? The relief of making it out of the abyss of the lot is the best part of the day. You are now homeward bound!

How do we solve this mess? We could create a parent pick-up spot in the driver's ed lot, and implement a cross-walk so students can cross from the student lot to the driver's ed lot safely. Another possibility is putting cones out along Camden Drive so parents are forced to come into the lot to pick up their children instead of clogging up Camden Drive. Or maybe we could take a page from Godwin's book and release seniors at 3:50 every day so that every driver is not out in the parking lot at the same time.

As for now, the parking lot remains: hit a car or be hit by a car.

The Bitter Paradox of School Violence



Addison Gorenflo **Staff Writer**

Olivia Engel's favorite stuffed animal was a lamb. Josephine Gay loved the color purple. Dylan Hockley enjoyed playing tag with his neighbors at the bus stop. And the list goes on and on.

As I read through the obituaries for the victims of the 2012 Sandy Hook massacre, one devastating reality became clear: the kids died too young to develop interests that went beyond childhood play.

They didn't live long enough to learn their multiplication times tables, much less to plan their careers or fall in love; they were slaughtered on the floors of their learning sanctuary before they could even graduate from crayons to pencils. The premature deaths of these twenty children freeze them in time, leaving their families and communities to endlessly wonder at all that these beautiful kids could have become.

The bitter paradox of school violence is that the very institution entrusted with the responsibility to cultivate America's youth has become its burial ground on 186 occasions since the Sandy Hook shooting. This contradiction is representative of the frantic power-struggle between pro-gun and anti-gun politicians in the nation as both sides clamor to define the word "freedom".

For pro-gun individuals, freedom means the right to own, carry, and use arms when necessary, as laid out in the Second Amendment. This freedom, however, comes with unsettling stipulations: armed guards at local events, metal detectors looming at school entrances, transparent and bulletproof backpacks guarding the bodies of our youths. It seems that in preserving the Constitutional rights of American gun-owners, we have sacrificed our own rights to privacy and security. Perhaps the

only thing that is truly free in this scenario is the weapon itself. In addition to increasing the

friction between opposing political ideologies, classroom shootings like Sandy Hook have become a microcosm for the challenges the nation is facing in the public domain. The blight of anticipatory terror is evident at all large events.

At a February performance of Hamilton in San Francisco, the sudden bang of Alexander Hamilton's on-stage murder caused a woman to suffer a heart attack. Viewers assumed that she had been shot, and the entire audience fled the theater, trampling over each other in the dark. Three viewers suffered broken bones in the incident, and all because the legitimate fear of an armed intruder turned an individual medical emergency into an incident of mass hysteria.

The lack of gun control in America thus impedes on our very ability to function as a society. The volatility of our nation is indicated in the fact that I immediately fear for my life when I hear the sound of a school-wide announcement on the intercom. This constant trepidation has rapidly seeped into every corner of our communities, gripping even the most innocuous settings like theaters and high schools.

Yet substantial change is often shirked in favor of a callous chorus of "thoughts and prayers." The political tug-and-war hasn't gained significant momentum on either side of the fight, and the senseless killings have continued to ramp up in the absence of action. This policy of gun-control stagnancy has allowed the incidence of 321 school shootings since Sandy Hook and 113 oncampus casualties in 2018 alone.

The role of education in a child's life should be limited to one of support and stimulation. No student should meet their fate on the linoleum tiles of a schoolhouse, and no teacher should be expected to put their job before their own life. It seems that my generation understands these self-evident notions better than the majority of America's elected officials.

For the sake of ensuring a brighter future for our nation, I sincerely hope that students my age will graduate into adulthood without facing any more violence, as it up to us to pursue democratic change and make the bloody motif of scholastic slaughter a thing of the past.

Sports: Lauren Bruns, Emme Levenson,

Cameron McCarty, and

Greer Peacock

Commentator Staff

Staff Advisor Lauren Lombard

The Commentator is a publication of Douglas Southall Freeman High School

Principal: Andrew P. Mey 8701 Three Chopt Rd. Henrico, Virginia 23229 http://schools.henrico.k12.va.us/freeman/ Phone: (804) 673-3700 ldlombard@henrico.k12.va.us

Letters to the editor are encouraged. They must be signed before they can be printed. Because of variety and space, only a limited number of letters can be published. The Commentator reserves the right not to print a letter.

Editors-in-Chief Mark Graff Caitlin McSorley

Editors-in-Chief of Online and Social Media: Katie Cooper Remy Schimick

> News: Zoe Costello Laney Van Lenten

Design: McBride Rawson

Opinions: Braxton Berry Kate Yarbrough

> Features: Emily Anstett Julia Cassidy

Center Spread:

Juliana McKean

Arts & Entertainment:

Maggie Flournoy **Grace Powers**

Contributing Editor: Cole Ryland

Staff Writers:

Davis Buckbee, William Dornik, Joshua DuPuis, Sarah Echols, Piper Finkelson, Addison Gorenflo, Julia Hall, Emma Johnson, Balazs Kaszala, Salaar Khan, Megan McDonald, Gretchen Neary, Taylor Pounders, Marcus Rand, Sadie Rogerson, Sabereh Saleh, Maggie Sheerin, Madison Sherman, Lowell Smith, Ann Stephens, Ashwin Suresh, Abigail Taylor, Caroline Tyler, Steven Ulrichs, Abigail Zorn

Senior Makes Her Mark on Freeman

Megan McDonald **Staff Writer**

Her name rang out clearly to the hundreds of fans, her face lit up with excitement, and she delivered one of her contagious smiles. At the 2018 Homecoming halftime show, senior Abok Kawaj was crowned Homecoming Queen.

Abok is known around Freeman for her bubbly and cheery spirit, but what is perhaps less known is her commitment to make a positive change even when life gets tough.

Abok is the senior class SCA representative, works at Chickfil-A six days a week, and is an active member of her church, West End Presbyterian. Her days are busy and long.

As one of five kids in her family, Abok said she works "to provide for the basic stuff that [she] needs that [her] dad can't get."

Abok's involvement in and out of school may seem exhausting, but her motivation comes from a special place:"I got to make my mom proud," she said. After her Freshman year at

Henrico High School, Abok's mother passed away. When her father returned from a trip to South Sudan, Abok, her four siblings, and her grandmother, moved into the Freeman district. "Coming to Freeman was a big change for me," Abok said.

Abok said she was welcomed with friendliness that allowed her to quickly bond with others-- making Freeman her home. She said she is "able to connect with most of the students in the school on another level."

The change in schools caused a change in personality for Abok as well. At Henrico, Abok was much more shy. "I was really closed off. I didn't like talking to people at all," Abok said.

After losing her mother and switching schools Abok had



Abok poses for a hairstylist modeling shoot with 804 Braids.

what she refers to as a "wakeup call," and with the help of all those who support her she realized the importance of leaving her shell.

What's the point of being so quiet and shy all the time when you have a voice? Use it," Abok said.

Abok credits finding her confidence to the people around her. Her dad and grandmother have always encouraged her.

"They've pushed me to be a better person," Abok said.

In addition to her family, Abok relies on her pastor, Tim Cornwell, for support. "I usually talk to him every day on the phone or at church," she said.

Mr. Cornwell helped Abok through one of the greatest challenges of her life, the loss of her

mother. "He introduced me to church and all these new people after my mom passed," said Abok.

According to Mr. Cornwell, the impact Abok has had on his life is as meaningful as the help he has given her. "Abok has helped grow my understanding of what it means to persevere through challenges, but also how to live and dream in hope in the midst of adversity," said Mr. Cornwell.

Mr. Cornwell's commitment to Abok was a bit of a shock to her. "I don't know what he saw in me, but he knew that I could be something better than what I used to be," she said.

What Mr. Cornwell saw in Abok was her spirit and caring nature. "Abok loves others boldly...I believe that because Abok ernment teacher, complimented

is convinced that she is loved, she is able to see others and move towards them with that awesome smile and charitable demeanor," Mr. Cornwell said.

The teachers at Freeman have also been cheerleaders of Abok, helping her rise above her stresses to continue to succeed. "My teachers are really understanding, and they know what I go through," Abok said.

One of Abok's favorite teachers is Blake Derby. In Coach Derby's weightlifting class, Abok has learned a lot about motivation. Coach Derby admires Abok for her constant positivity. "I don't think anything can get that girl down which is a great attribute to have," he said.

Daniel Lewis, Freeman gov-

Abok for her genuine nature. "I like her willingness to always be herself," said Mr. Lewis.

Abok's cousin, neighbor, and close friend, Freeman senior Arek Tong, has witnessed Abok's resilience firsthand. "Even after her mom passed,

she has still been consistently strong in dealing with the pain," Arek said.

The bond between Abok and Arek resembles that of sisters more than of cousins.

"We see each other every day," Arek said.

Arek admires Abok's loyalty and caring heart.

"She has helped me with everything," Arek said.

While working at Chick-fil-a, Abok was approached by a professional hair stylist wanting to feature Abok in a photo shoot. This experience meant a lot to

Abok. "It is really fun to get all nice," Abok said in reference to the professional hairstyling and makeup she received for this Abok's level of involvement at

school exceeds that of the average student. She participates in all that she does because it allows her to spread her positivity. "I like being able to spread happiness," Abok said.

Abok's success at Freeman suggests she will achieve great things after graduation. She hopes to study dental hygiene or elementary education in college. Her teachers have high hopes for her future.

"I think whatever she sets her mind to, she's going to do great," said Mr. Lewis.

Coach Derby thinks Abok's enthusiasm would help her in a career of teaching.

"I think she'd be a great teacher, but the sky is the limit for her," said Coach Derby.

No matter where she ends up, Abok Kawaj will be remembered by the Freeman community for her strength, positivity, and dedi-

Econ Students Address Support for DSF Sports



Senior Sarah Rowe and Junior Decker Bristow present the survey during study hall.

Joshua DuPuis

Staff Writer

In response to declining attendance at Freeman sporting events, Bill Seegar, microeconomics teacher, has created a project to increase interest in Freeman athletics.

"Our attendance has not been what it has in the past," said Mr.

According to sophomore Sydney Stokes, attendance at softball games is limited to just "parents and friends of the team.

Similarly, track, the second most attended sport at Freeman, still has "plenty of space in the bleachers for people to come," according to Cullen Munroe. Overall, attendance at fall and

winter events has decreased by 27 percent in the past three years. Reasons for this are not clear, but the decline may be caused by a change in student preference. "[My] generation didn't have

the choices that you [all] have as adolescents now . . .we're having trouble competing with Fortnite," said Suzanne Criswell, director of student activities. The project, which will be

carried out by Mr. Seegar's AP microeconomics students, is designed to give students the opportunity to apply their economics knowledge from the classroom to a real-world situation. "The project is to take a look

and understand in greater detail the forces of demand that are associated with [Freeman's] sports program," said Mr. Seegar.

Students participating in the project will begin by sending out engagement teams to survey students, not only to inform them

about the project and its goals, but to get their perspective as a consumer of sporting events at Freeman. 'We are working on figuring

out what changes need to be made," said senior Jarret Gould-After the data has been col-

lected, Mr. Seegar's classes will analyze it to identify specific reasons students don't attend sporting events at Freeman. Once possible push factors

have been found, students will work together to create a strategy to increase attendance. Part of this plan may include

an increase in advertising. "If nobody knows it's happening, why would we expect people to show up?" said Mr. Seegar. In addition, Mr. Seegar and

his class hope to "engage other classes around the school" to help develop and carry out the plan. One possibility would be to include the sports marketing class to help with advertising and promoting events.

"[A] social media campaign would definitely help, print advertising, which is something we have worked on in the past, and a possible commercial on the morning announcements [are] some things we will work on if Mr. Seegar's project does go through," said Sabrina Rabon, the sports marketing teacher. However, it may take more than

just students to raise awareness about Freeman sporting events.

"We [will] need help from our administrative team as well as the teachers to spread the word," said Mrs. Rabon, "we would all love to see a sellout crowd, but I think if we could raise attendance by 25-30 percent for each event, [that] would be fantastic!"

Pack Your Bags..

Abigail Zorn **Staff Writer**

During the month of February in 2013, my family moved to Amman, Jordan, for two years because of my dad's job. He works for the U.S. government and was given a special opportunity to work in the U.S. Embassy there. I had been quite comfortable in my suburban Richmond life and most certainly did not want to move halfway across the world. Many people would jump at the chance to experience a different culture and see new things, however, I was originally not one of them. I loved to travel, especially around the States, but moving around the world was another story.

The embassy sets up sponsor

families to help new arrivals transition into Jordanian life. In fact, they make it so that you don't have to interact with anyone other than Americans, if you choose so. That sounded absolutely perfect to me. Little did I know how much my outlook would change. Within my first few months in Jordan, I had visited and volunteered at an orphanage one hour from the Syrian border, trekked in the desert of Wadi Rum with a bedouin, and even met former President Obama and the Secretary of State. After these initial experiences, something in my head just clicked. I realized I had been put in a rare and unique life circumstance that most people would never experience. I made a decision then and there that I would seize the opportunity to travel. I was able to travel all around the world to countries including England, Italy, France, Germany, Austria, Israel, Sri Lanka, and Egypt. Seeing these different cultures not only opened my eyes, but it opened my heart. We are extremely lucky to live in a safe place that isn't always in the midst of violence or corruption. However, with this comes a sheltered perspective on world

issues. We dismiss them because

we may not see how they apply

to or affect us. Let me be the first

to say-- go there. Travel abroad



Abby poses in front of the Great Pyramids of Giza in Egypt.

programs, the peace corps, or even the military provide options because if you can see it for yourself, it will physically change you. If you don't have the means to do so, just look around here at Freeman. In fact, on March 29, Freeman will be holding its very first Culture Day. There will be student equity ambassadors giving Ted Talks in the library during two periods of the day to share their individually unique stories, so you can totally check it out!

Growing up, my family was always outdoors. Every family vacation involved some sort of hike, excursion, or water based activity. Traveling itself is exciting-- whether it be unnerving or exhilarating. Airports are always buzzing with anticipation. Living in America is comfortable, we become out of shape in regards to our laziness and routine lifestyle. New places and experiences breathe fresh air and, whether or not you choose to believe me, you're living instead of surviving. As Danish writer Peter Hoeg put it, "Travelling magnifies all emotions." Your heart pulsing, and your eyes wide open. That is living. It allows the spontaneity, passion, and restlessness we all have inside of us to rise to the surface of our being. We get to see beauty in the world completely indescribable by human-created language: A Hawaiian sunset. The view from

the top of the London Eye. The

lush green jungle that is Kualoa

Valley.. The reflective glow of the endless mirrors lining the hallways of Versailles. The long, glassy, shorebreak of Waikiki.

It is essential that we visit places different than those we grew up in because, in doing so, we are actively uniting the world. We are bringing aspects of these new cultures and integrating them into our lives back at home. You become a walking globe because a little part of every place you've been to always stays with you. So wherever I end up one day, whether I'm out charging epic, pumping waves off the coast of Bali, Tahiti, or Fiji, journeying through the Kenyan savannah on a safari, or practicing yoga in the ancient temples of Cambodia, you'll definitely find me out and about, exploring our world because it's freakin' awesome.

DSF's First Culture Day

What: Freeman's first Culture Day includes TED talk-like speeches from Freeman students with diverse backgrounds.

When: Friday March 29

How to get involved: Fill out the form on Schoology from the Equity Ambassadors!

Carter Sommers Memorial Plans

A Carter Sommers wristband featuring the catch phrase of the memorial "Stay Strong" as well as an orange paw print and blue cross.

Caitlin McSorley **Editor-in-Chief**

With the Go Fund Me money donated to the Sommers family following Freeman student Carter Sommers' passing in November, Renita Sommers, Carter's mother, has launched the Carter Sommers Memorial Fund at St. Stephens Church. She donated

an initial contribution of \$6,680 with aspirations to create a memorial in honor of Carter, such as a bench, fountain, or annual conference on teen issues. "The memorial fund is to do something permanent at St. Stephens where people can go and find a peaceful place," said Ms. Som-

Although the memorial is still in the making, the catch phrase 'Stay Strong' has been chosen.

On either side of his name on the design is the orange paw for Clemson, as "everyone can see him in orange sweatshirt cheering on his favorite team," according to Ms. Sommers. The cross is for spirituality, and it is blue for blue water, blue skies, and tears. "He is so missed... He had no idea the impact he had on people. He had no idea how much he was loved," said Ms. Sommers. "It's going to be so

amazing to watch this grow and transform," she said.

The Sommers family sent additional money from the Go Fund Me to other organizations. \$500 went to Rappahannock River Yacht Club for a bench and plague, \$500 to US Sailing Association toward a youth sailing program, and \$1,000 to Jeff Gordon Children's Foundation.

Two Worlds: Theatre and Football





Sabereh Saleh **Staff Writer**

It takes a lot of willpower to balance schoolwork with all of the extracurricular activities a student wants to do, but junior Will Reid has that figured out. He performs in chorus, school musicals, and also plays varsity

Sometimes these activities overlap. "I do have to choose, especially during the weeks before the show called tech week," said Will. Although he believes theater is more fun and it's a "nice break for a couple of weeks," he is "more invested in football."

According to Mary Spears, theatre teacher this doesn't present a conflict.

"He comes to rehearsals and puts forth as much effort as anyone else does. I don't have any complaints," she said.

"He works really hard in everything he does, which is hard because he's split between so many different things, but he finds time in his schedule to apply himself to all the tasks that he takes on," said junior Henry Donovan, theater and chorus student.

Will doesn't participate in the fall plays because that's during football season, but he does audition for the musicals. "Chorus certainly helps with casting him in roles," said Mrs. Spears.

In the upcoming musical "Beauty and the Beast," he will play Monsieur D'Arque, the owner of the insane asylum. "It's a small role," Will said. In last year's musical, "The Music Man," he played Jacey Squires in the Barbershop Quartet.

He had originally planned on taking theatre, but scheduling hasn't allowed that. He is already taking Leadership Ethics,

French IV, and Advanced Choir for electives.

This isn't a problem for Mrs. Spears though, because her auditions are "open to anyone."

On the other side, Will also works hard in football. "He's a terrific football player and he'll have a chance to play college football," said former football coach Mike Henderson. Mr. Henderson also said that Will "handles theatre and football terrifically" and was "always upfront about when he's going to miss practice."

He plays left tackle on the offensive line, and has received an offer to play at Dartmouth.

Will's work ethic is crucial to balancing both extracurriculars. "I sometimes have 12 hour days, because I have to do football in

"I think it's great to have well rounded people that have different varied interests, that way you don't get caught up too much in thinking about, like, football or thinking too much about theater," said Mr. Henderson.

Will's mom Betsy Reid, said he is "really focused and disciplined about the things he cares about. He balances it by not worrying about small details--- he just gets things done. He also got his Eagle Scout award in December!"

In regards to his social life, Will said "I have free time on the weekends and I just get stuff done. It doesn't really affect my relationships because I'm usually with them in theater or football."

New 3D Printer in **DSF** Library

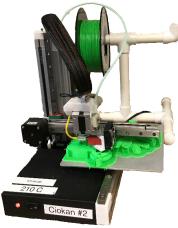
Abby Taylor **Staff Writer**

Digital creations no longer have to stay "digital" for the students and faculty at Freeman, thanks to five new 3D printers that have been installed in the

While Freeman has rented and borrowed these futuristic printers in the past, this is the first year that the printers are here stay, thanks to contributions from the PTA and school fund.

3D printers can range from \$50-\$50,000, but the ones installed in the library cost "about \$400 each" explained Jessica Ciokan, innovative learning coach. In addition to the three school-owned printers, Ms. Ciokan donated two printers of her own for the school to use, as she believes the printers provide "a great opportunity for students to experiment in graphic design."

A variety of teachers have taken advantage of the new devices by integrating 3D printing into their lessons.



The library 3D printer, in action, printing a new creation.

"We are currently working on a lab where students design different objects to roll down a ramp" said Jeremy Booher, physics teacher. "The goal is to find an object that rolls down the slow-

Junior Stuart Wright is one of the students participating in Mr. Booher's AP physics lab. "It's really cool to see how such an advanced piece of technology can be used to teach us about everyday things," he said, adding that creating his design has been "a very interesting process,"

Nicole Arnold, English teacher, has also used the printers in her freshman English class, implementing their abilities during a project involving Greek my-

thology. "The students had to create a design that represents one of the themes we identified in this unit, and then present it to the class," she explained. Students ended up creating a variety of objects, ranging from Cerberus the threeheaded dog to a recreation of Poseidon's trident.

Printer use is not just limited to in-class activities. "While we prioritize educational use, students are allowed to print anything they create online" said Ms. Ciokan. However, she emphasized that the students must create their designs themselves. "We have had a problem recently of students just finding files online and attempting to print them," she said, and added that pre-made designs "will not be approved to print" in the library, because part of the printing process is "to make it yourself".

A variety of programs can be used by students to create their respective 3D designs, but "the easiest program to use is TinkerCad because it can be found online," said Mr. Booher. TinkerCad is a website that specializes in 3D design, and is free to use for all students at Freeman. Other programs require special installation to use, and "they may only be accessible in certain classes," explained Ms. Ciokan.

So, if you want to design a unique 3D creation of your own, head over to TinkerCad and turn your digital masterpiece into a real-life work of art.

Junior Makes Strides with Music Production

Addison Gorenflo **Staff Writer**

A century ago, creating a popular song involved hours of overlaying the beats of different instruments. Today, the wonders of technology have transformed music production into a digital journey where all one needs are a computer, headphones, and the drive to create. One of the experts of this new music methodology is Freeman's very own Paul Farley. Paul, a junior, is what many

people would refer to as a "jack of all trades." He is a hard-working student and soccer player, but what sets him apart is his interest in music production. A self-taught drum player and

Spotify connoisseur, Paul has al-

ways been an avid fan of music.

Around spring of 2018, he stumbled across a YouTube video about music production and was captivated.

"I never realized it could be so easy to make music," Paul said, and I started to think that I should try it myself." Soon after, he purchased FL Studio, a music production program, and began making beats.

The music that Paul enjoys ranges from hip hop to R &B and soul, but he is inspired by artists such as J Dilla and Teddy Pendergrass. At the time these artists gained fame, digital editing software was just becoming popular in music, and producers like J Dilla were some of the first people to make successful music using the new technologies. J Dilla's dedication to originality has inspired Paul to be creative in his music.

"J Dilla was really the first producer to have a name because of his individuality," Paul said. "I hope I'll do that with my music someday." While he would enjoy the popularity if he made it big in the music industry, Paul ultimately just wants to make music that he is proud of.

Though he only started making music last year, Paul has already had success working with local artists. He recently collaborated with Richmond rapper Taylor Keith on songs for his upcoming album. Keith wrote the songs himself, and Paul worked with him polishing the songs and adjusting the flow. "Producing music is probably 70 percent of the work," Paul said. "And that's what I like doing most".

Paul was thrilled by the opportunity to work with an artist as popular as Keith. Keith's debut song "Looking for the Light" has nearly 32,000 views on YouTube and over 400,000 listens on Spotify. Paul's work with him is testament to his natural and quickly-progressing musical talent.

As a seasoned artist experienced with the ins and outs of the music business, Taylor Keith has faith that Paul has what it takes to make it in the industry. "[Paul] is super talented as a young producer. He just has to put the work in and believe in himself" Keith said.

Paul has fallen in love with music production in the few months since he started and Paul now can imagine himself pursuing a career in the music field. "I'd love to make a living off of

music, and my parents are supportive of this dream, too," he

Future Teacher Shines in the Classroom



Dulce wears festive heart make up for her Valentine's Day lesson.

Julia Hall Staff Writer

Senior Dulce Estrada's name means "candy" in Spanish, and according to her friend, junior Emmarie Armstrong, Dulce is the perfect embodiment of her "[Dulce is] the sweetest person

you'll ever meet in your life," said Emmarie. Dulce and Emmarie are both enrolled in the Teachers for Tomorrow class.

Teachers for Tomorrow is a two-year elective for juniors and seniors. Year 2 students have internships at various elementary schools in the county starting in mid-October, while Year 1's have internships starting in March.

Dulce interns at Crestview, where she attended elementary school, four days a week helping

fourth grade and kindergarten classes. "I really like seeing them smile...

they're so sweet," she said. Dulce hopes to teach elementa-

ry school in Richmond after she

attends college at either Longwood or VCU. "I have seen how teachers have

a great impact. English is my second language, and teachers have been so helpful to me," Dulce Dulce is known for her big

smile and kind personality and she takes this into the classroom. 'She is creative and makes

things fun!...As a parent, I can say Dulce is the type of teacher you wish, hope, and pray for your child to have," said Teachfor Tomorrow teacher, Heather McMunn. Dulce uses her creativity as much as she can in the classroom. For Valentine's Day she drew hearts and colored

polka dots all over her face. "I love trying new things and thinking outside the box. I love going all out...because it shows people who I am... the children

at the internships absolutely love

it," said Dulce.

To teach her students homophones, Dulce created a laminated puzzle game with clothes pins, which her cooperating teacher and students loved. Dulce is from Mexico and is flu-

ent in Spanish. She puts this skill to use in Teachers for Tomorrow. "I use my Spanish in the classroom by helping students who don't know English...I also [help children] not speaking English feel a little bit more comfortable at school," Dulce said. "She'll do anything for any-

body. She works really hard at helping other people and wants to make them successful," said senior Andy Harris, a classmate. "She is naturally caring, high

energy, patient, and kind!... I can't explain Dulce without saying she is "sparkly" ... She's like a Disney princess you meet her, you know of her, you love her!" said Mrs. McMunn.

Unique Journey to Success

Juliana McKean Centerspread Editor

Positioned near the window with the soft afternoon beams illuminating him, freshman Logan Mackintosh sits surrounded by scattered papers and friends, animatedly conversing with his Success mentor, Zach Carroll. Carefree and jovial, Logan looks to be the traditional American teenager, but his story is more than what meets the eye.

Logan's dad, a Turkish national, was deported for alleged criminal activity when he was a mere two months old, leaving Logan and his mother behind in the United

Jennifer Mackintosh, Logan's mom, moved the family to Richmond to be close to her family, and now, Logan is not without a father figure. His uncle, Scott, stepped into this role, offering him advice and company whenever Logan asks, and conveniently, he lives right down the road. "[Scott]'s always been there; I take him as a father figure," he said.

Ms. Mackintosh said she is thankful to have her family so close. "I don't know what we

would have done without them," she said. "I'm not sure where

he is, if he's still in Turkey or somewhere in the Middle East," said Logan casually about his father's current location.

Besides not knowing his whereabouts, Logan doesn't know his father's name, but he believes he and his mom are better off without him. "I'm glad he's not in my life," said Logan.

Logan has never communicated with anyone



Logan Mackintosh & his mentor, Zach Carroll

on his dad's side, but has considered trying to reach out to his father hold ingrained pieces of aunt offered to help get him in touch with his paternal grandparents, but he "turned her down because they don't speak

For now, Logan is content with his mom, his uncle, Scott, and his family in the US. Logan's mom is a florist, and he describes her as a "pretty funny lady." He has a variety of pets living both at his house and his aunt and uncle's house, including guinea pigs, cats, a dog, and a fish.

"He has great compassion for his family, friends, and pets," Ms. Mackintosh said.

Logan also likes to hang out with his cousins, and he and his mom have plenty of traditions, including going to Vermont over the holidays.

A picture in his room is the only physical piece of Logan's biological father that he has. In the picture, his father, a member of the Turkish military, stands strong in uniform with a gun. Logan takes pride in the fact that he's already taller than his dad, based on what he can tell about his dad's

when he turns 18. His his father. While Logan's dad played what would internationally be known as football, Logan plays American football. Additionally, while Logan's dad was in the Turkish military, Logan plans to serve by joining the Marines after he graduates

Aside from the photo,

his character seems to

Logan has always been interested in serving, noting that his interest came from both his grandfather's and father's military service. Logan's father has also played into his ambition in a different way, however. "I'm interested in being a Marine to defend this

my father," Logan said. Ms. Mackintosh said that Logan has consistently been honored with

country from people like

"good citizen" awards. "I am proud to have a child who is respectful to the community," she

Zach mentor said Lo-

"He knows what he wants to do and this makes him very driven. He wants to be a Marine, and I feel like this will help him because he's already so dedicated now,"

height from the picture.

Families come in all shapes and sizes

How do Freeman families compare with US national averages?

79.3%

Freeman Avg.

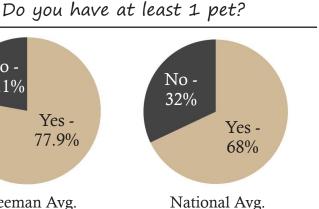
Average # of Kids Per Family

National Avg. Freeman Avg.

Average # of People Per Household

Freeman Avg.

2.5 National Avg.



Results based on ~200 voluntary responses to poll posted on Schoology.com

A Family With Plenty of Girl Power & Acceptance

childhood has been dif-

ferent," Riley said. "I

"...We are

pretty open

minded."

- Riley Hershler

Living in a house full

of females is the perfect

setting to foster plenty of

girl power. "There are

no males in our family,

which really makes us

aware of the importance

of feminism and how

toxic masculinity affects

ily has encountered their

fair share of closed mind-

The Hershler fam-

the world," Riley said.

Greer Peacock **Sports Editor**

The typical, old-school American family may have traditionally looked like a mom, a dad, two Hershler can attest to the fact that plenty of American families don't follow that dynamic, and are just as normal as any other family. Riley's large, happy family consists of four girls and two moms.

To Riley, someone who is "family" is someone "that you are close with and who cares about you," Riley said. A family member is someone 'who you can talk to even if it's hard sometimes," Riley said. Ri-

ley's family offers just nature of her childhood this and more to her and is what has defined her traditionality, however. the five other members outlook. "I suppose my of her family.

Are your parents divorced?

No-

58%

National Avg.

20.7%

Her three younger sisters range from ages one haven't been exposed to to five, and they all enjoy what a traditional family spending time with one feels like," Riley said. another. "We always do fun things together. We have a lot of family move nights," Riley said.

While many may look at Riley's family and think it is untraditional, it just seems normal to Riley, as it's all she's ever known. "It is like any other family. It doesn't feel different," she said.

Riley credits her family for widening her perspective. "I'd like to think that we are pretty open minded," Riley said.

Riley recognizes that perhaps the untraditional

"We have to deal with the concept of homophobia," Riley said. The Hershler fam-

No -

22.1%

Yes -

77.9%

Freeman Avg.

ily has also had to deal with legal barriers that prevented their parent's union from being recognized legally in the Commonwealth. Same-sex marriage wasn't legal in Virginia until 2014, and the US as a whole until 2015. "My parents couldn't get married legally in all states until 2015, but they were married before that in 2012

in DC," Riley said. Riley truly appreciates what having two moms offers her when she needs advice. "Both of my moms have a different personality and I can

Riley Hershler & Her Family

specific situation," Riley said. "I can go to both of them with emotional problems that are often hard to go to a father figure for," Riley said.

ates a nurturing, open

judge who to talk to in a environment for problem ist in a traditional household. "I feel like there are less expectations relationship wise and it is nice to be open about it Having two moms cre- with my family." Riley

From Soccer Teammates to Stepsiblings

Caitlin McSorley **Editor-in-Chief**

As fifth graders on the same soccer team, sophomores Jack Ramey and Mary Malone Johnson didn't realize they would one day be living under the same roof. When they became step siblings three years ago, they each gained a built-in friend, and for Mary Malone, her first brother. Growing up with three

sisters, Mary Malone was a little hesitant towards having a brother and especially one in her grade. "It is honestly not as weird as I thought it was going to be...we get along really well," said Mary Malone. She admits she doesn't "really know how brothers act," but her relationship with Jack is "more just like friends."

As for Jack, he already had one sister, but watched as that number quintupled with the addition of the Johnson sisters. "At first it was kind of hard to get used to, but I got used to it and I'm cool with all of them," said Jack. Even as the only guy, "Jack is included in everything," said Mary Malone.

Both Jack and Mary Malone enjoy the additional siblings. "I love it because there is always something going on, always someone to talk Jack Ramen & Mary Malone Johnson

to, [and it is] never really boring," said Mary Malone. "It's always cool to have siblings and the more the better" said Jack, adding more siblings means "more people on your side." Jack and Mary Malone

each split their time between both of their parents' homes, but about two nights per week and every other weekend they are together. The two drive to school together, but once they arrive, they act mostly independently and "have different friend groups" according to Mary Malone.

don't seem to run into each other in the hallways, which is "kind of nice," said Mary Malone. Since they have different last names, most students don't realize they are step-siblings except for their friends. "Last year, we had Latin together but we didn't talk," said

For the most part, they

However, at home things are different, especially when all six of them are together. "We all get along really well and he's not quiet. We

are all pretty loud," said Mary Malone. Ever since the first time all the siblings were left alone together, they knew it would be fun to have more siblings. "Before their Dad and my Mom got married we were all at their Mom's house over the holiday season after Christmas, and [Mary Malone's oldest sister] was trying to ride an electric scooter over these two stairs. She did it, but didn't take

her hand off the gas and crashed into the Christmas tree. We all got a video of the whole thing and it's really funny, like everyone's

Family All Over the Globe

Zoe Costello

News Editor

For many people, extended family lives nearby. If not in the same city, then by a short drive or flight. For Valeria Sulbaran, this is not the case. "I have family living all

over the world," she said. "Half of my family is in Orlando, and the other half is in Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, and England." Her family originates in

Venezuela, where Valeria eat meat that week, but was born. "Because of problems in Venezuela, everyone moved to different cities, states, countries," she said. Just like many her

relatives, Valeria moved away from Venezuela at a young age, moving to the United States to live with her aunt and uncle. While Valeria moved,

of her immediate family, still live in Venezuela. "My parents are di-

vorced, my father has a wife and two daughters, and my mom has another husband and son," she said. "My brother is 9 years old, and my halfsister is 1, and my other half-sister is only a week

Living in a different

parents in person in two ning around the house.' years. "I've never seen my half-sisters in person," she said.

However, Valeria still gets to visit much of her extended family, who lives in Orlando.

"Half of my family is there, so we go on vacations there," she said. In the next month, she

and her family plan to celebrate Semana Santa, which is the week just be-"It's like one week of all artwork, and it's really

fun," she said. "We can't

Along with living with her aunt and uncle, Valeria lives with her two cousins, Claudia and

"Carmen is 5 and Clauare crazy, fight all the time, and are always run-

her parents, and much

country can make seeing her family more difficult. Valeria hasn't seen her

While her cousins can cause chaos, they can also be helpful. Valeria practices speaking English with them often. "They speak English very well, I don't know how they do it, but they can speak it clearly," she

"My first language is Spanish, my second is English, and my third is Portuguese," she said. "I only speak a little bit of Portuguese, though."

After high school, Valeria considers going to college internationally, possibly in England or Europe. However, she has no intention of moving back to Venezuela.

"I want to go back to Venezuela [to visit] for like one week, and that's dia is 4," she said. "They it," she said. "I'm happy here, I have friends who love me here.'



Valeria & Her Family

Support of a Big Family **Emily Anstett**

Features Editor

For the Samaan family, having a big family means always having someone around. Sophomore Merna and Senior Nader Samaan's family has 6 kids ranging from the oldest, who has graduated from Freeman, to the youngest, who is one year and two months old. Merna is the third old-

est of the six, and her older brother Nader is the second oldest. Living with a family of this size calls for plenty of work around the house. After school, Merna has responsibilities helping put food on the table for her family. "I come home and help my mom make dinner and do the dishes and then I either chill or go to church," said Mer-

The responsibilities of a big family with multiple siblings requires even more than that. Along a lot of fun. I get to inwith domestic tasks right after school, Merna occasionally finds herself he said.

picking up slack for her my mom has something to do," said Merna.

ing some responsibility for her family, there is plenty left for Nader to do. For him, leaving school is not always met with chores but work. Nader works at Chick-Fil-A after school before going home to all of his

"There's always someone there for

- Merna Samaan

With the responsibilities of having a big family comes some perks too. "I like [having a big family] because I have my big sister I can go talk to whenever I want to," said Merna. For Nader, having a big family "is teract with them and it helps my day go faster,"

"As a big family, I get "Sometimes I to enjoy a lot of differbabysit my little sister if ent things that I wouldn't with a small family," said Nader. For fun, the Sa-Even with Merna takmaans come together as a family to "watch movies, go outside, and play

> With the "big loud family" the Samaans have, Merna and Nader can count on constant reassurance as well as entertainment. "There's always someone there for us and we always have something to do togeth-

> > er," said Merna. One of both Merna and Nader's favorite family traditions is celebrating Christmas together. "We go out on Christmas Dav to church as a family," said Merna. "On Christmas we all gather together and listen to music and get really lit together,"

said Nader. For the Samaan family, having a big family means having a lot fun together and supporting each other. "I always have someone there for me," said Merna.



Sports Briefs

GIRLS LACROSSE

Key Player: Bridget Patton

Most Looking Forward to: "Playing the teams that killed us last year. Last year we were a really new team and everyone has been working really hard this year to be better and beat those teams that beat us last year."

Season Goal: "One of my goals for this season is to make 75% of my shots throughout the season."

GIRLS SOCCER

Key Player: Madelyn Holdren

Most Looking Forward to: "Contributing to the team winning this year because we have such a strong team."

"To Goal: Season score my first varsity goal."

GIRLS TENNIS

Key Player: Brin Hause

Season Goal: "To beat Godwin and Deep Run and go to states this year. I also want to improve my doubles skills."

GIRLS TRACK

Key Player: Mia Garland

Most Looking Forward to: "Running in our first meet this season."

Season Goal: "My goal is to PR in the 800."

SOFTBALL

Key Player: Briana Lindsey

Season Goal: "My goal for the season is to help my teammates acheive what they want and to do right by my coaches and team."

Senior Lacrosse Star Shines on Attack

Ashwin Suresh Staff Writer

Attacking and scoring has helped her win, and she hopes her final year playing lacrosse will result in nothing short of a State Championship.

Senior Courtney Teyssier, a Richmond native, is a star player on the girls lacrosse team this year. She is ready for her fourth and final year on the varsity

Courtney began playing lacrosse when she was six-yearsold, and has constantly worked on her craft to this date. What separates her from the pack has a lot to do with her personality according to her coaches and team-

Bridget Patton, fellow senior

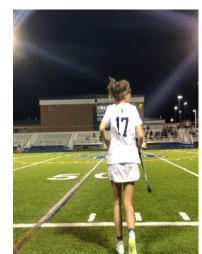
and teammate, described Courtney as "the most positive person on the team.'

Head Coach Christina D'Angelo said "every team needs a person who sees the good in every situation," and she strongly believes that Courtney is that person for the lacrosse team.

Last year, Courtney scored 13 goals along with 6 assists. Her play during the 2018 season landed her a spot on secondteam all-region.

"Courtney is great at working the crease, behind the cage and assisting. She is not afraid to send hard passes to her teammates inside the 8-meter line and create scoring plays" said Coach D'Angelo.

"Last year was a rebuilding year with lots of growth, but this season, I think we are going to be phenomenal," said Courtney.



Courtney Teyssier going into the game against Godwin.

PHOTO: REMY SCHIMICK

Junior Jordan Chucker said that "Courtney has amazing stick skills," and her directness is what makes her a great player

Being a senior comes with lots of responsibility, and Courtney said she is excited and ready for the challenge. Courtney enjoys working with the younger girls, and hopes to lead them on to many wins.

"Whenever we are confused, she is vocal on the field and tells us what to do," said freshman Lucy Larkins.

Bridget said Courtney "always encourages the younger girls," and Coach D'Angelo said "Courtney shows excellent leadership through her initiative and willingness to help others as she is kind, thoughtful, empathetic, and reliable on and off the field."

Courtney said she is not playing lacrosse in college, but her leadership and helping personality will stay with her forever.

Junior Lacrosse Goalie Makes Money Moves

Maddie Sherman **Staff Writer**

Junior lacrosse goalie Easton Chucker is the state's top ranked uncommitted goalie for the class of 2020. During the Freeman boys team's post season run last spring, he made a total of 57 saves. Boys lacrosse coach John Neal said this "highlighted his ability to dial-in and step up in a time where we really needed it."

Easton started playing lacrosse when he was in middle school, and joked that since many of his friends started in elementary school, he was "a little behind." He started with a rec league called Geronimo when he was in sixth grade and then transitioned to the Collegiate team for his seventh and eighth grade years. When Easton first started playing, he was a long-stick midfielder and a defender; however, he switched to goalie in the eighth

Going into the Freeman lacrosse season during his freshman year, Easton was fairly unknown. However, after the coaches saw him during an offseason pickup game at the University of Richmond, they made note to keep an eye on him. Lacrosse coach Bill Seeger recalls his first impression of Easton. 'His reaction time and awareness was much more developed than other goal keepers his age and I was impressed by his attention to detail and constant focus on improving," he said.



Easton defends the goal while warming up before a game.

At the end of the tryout Easton made the varsity team as a backup goalie, has since transitioned to the team's main goalie, and will be going into his junior season as one of the team's three captains alongside seniors Trevor Elliot and Ford Burke.

In his opinion, the skills required of a goalie are a little bit different from those required of field players. "I would say that having good hand eye-coordination, patience, and temperament are really important parts of being a goalie," he said. He explained that, as a goalie, it gets frustrating getting goals scored on you repeatedly so it's important to keep a good mindset.

He also believes that taking on the goalie position has affected his dynamic with the Freeman team in specific ways.

"During my freshman and sophomore years I was kind of

in a position of authority, which was difficult being younger," Easton said, "But the defense, especially the older guys, have been nice and supportive."

Coach Neal agrees that the goalie is viewed as the leader of the defense. "Not only does he have to track the ball, but he also has to make sure everyone on his defense is in position, aware of their responsibilities, and is communicating with one another,"

Co-captains Trevor Elliot and Forde Burke agree that Easton is a good defensive leader and has really grown as a leader during the past three years. They also think the three of them have a good dynamic as captains. "We're both on offense," Trevor said about Ford and himself, "so it's good to have a defensive lead-

Easton's favorite part about lacrosse is definitely the pace of the sport. "I like the speed of it and how something is always going on," he said. He also enjoys the social aspect and how the half-field nature of the game allows him to regroup and communicate with his defenders when the ball is on the opposite end of the field.

Easton isn't the only one in his family to play lacrosse. He remembers seeing his dad's old stick from when he played lying around the house when he was younger. Easton's older brother and twin sister, junior Jordan Chucker, play lacrosse as well.

For Easton, the college question is still under consideration. Easton said he would like to play in college, but hasn't focused on recruitment yet. Either way, he would like to stay involved in lacrosse. So far he has worked with some youth programs to help coach and teach their goalies. "What lacrosse has done for me, I would hope to help other younger kids in the same way,"

Looking ahead towards the upcoming season, Easton has high expectations for the team. He has seen the team change a lot in the past three years, with seniors graduating and younger players coming up, but he thinks the Freeman team can go far. "We graduated a couple guys, but we've got young guys stepping up," he said, "We plan on competing with Atlee and hopefully making a run to states."

Senior Softball Star Starts Season Strong

Steven Ulrichs

Staff Writer

Junior Faith Adams has been playing softball since before she could read. For her, the softball field is like a second home. She can't remember a time where she hasn't been playing.

"I began playing when I was four," says Faith. "I learned how to play softball before I was in elementary school."

Faith alternates between playing catcher and shortstop, some of the most vital positions on the field. Her softball journey has led her to playing at Freeman and having an opportunity to play in college. Although undecided, Faith is being recruited by many colleges.

Deb Weymouth

"I am being recruited by Pitt University, East Tennessee State University, Radford, Louisiana at Monroe, George Mason, and some other colleges," says Faith. Being able to play a division one sport in college is something most people could only dream of, but Faith is grateful to be blessed with this opportunity.

Faith was all-academic last season and hit a team-high six home

For her, softball is about much more than about what's on the

"Softball has always been a place I can call home. It has brought me some of my closest friends" says Faith.

For Faith, softball has no offseason. When not playing for Freeman, she is playing for a travel team called the Hanover

Mark Roush



Faith Adams poses with Coach Milton.

Hornets. She knows this has tremendously improved her game.

Despite Freeman's recent

struggles, the team an optimistic look on the upcoming season. Beginning their season at home against Dinwiddie, they are hoping to get out on the right foot. She feels that all the work they have put in will shine through

during this year. "This team has tremendous potential and a great work ethic," says varsity coach Becky Milton. Coach Milton has been coaching three years on junior varsity and this season is her third on varsity.

Faith is hoping to continue her leadership on this season.

"Faith leads by example and can be very vocal and passionate when necessary," says Coach Milton. Faith feels her leadership comes from having played her entire life.

Douglas Southall Freeman Hall of Fame

Below is the tenth class of the Freeman Hall of Fame, which includes about 100 members. Each Hall of Fame class is voted on by the Hall of Fame Committee. Inductees must have graduated 10 years ago or more. There are typically 10 members inducted, and each class includes one member from each decade the school has been open. Inductees include both athletes and contributors such as coaches, family members, or team doctors.

Marsha Sullivan McCracken	('58)	Danny Usher	('81)	Abi Campbell Dryden	('01)	Avery McGilvary (Coach)
Wayne Overton	('64)	David Bruner	('95)	B J Revis	('05)	Larry Parpart(Coach)

Jake O'Connor

('07)

('98)

Soccer Player Stands out on the Field

Taylor Pounders **Staff Writer**

Some of the best soccer players in the world, including Lionel Messi, are left footed. Having this skill provides for duality on the field. Junior Nicholas Cavallo is no exception to this unique skill on the soccer field.

Nicholas has been playing soccer for 13 years; three of those years on the Freeman varsity team as a left back and left wing defender. In Freeman's off-season he competes on teams for the Richmond Strikers throughout the summer, fall, and winter.

"He's a good teammate. He's very fast and has a good touch, really technically aware and he has a good attitude on the field," said senior Jackson Berry.

Nicholas said that he enjoys playing and that "It's fun for me. So why not do it all year?"

Nicholas works to stay in shape year round. "Nico is talented, technical, athletic and fit. He is capable of playing all 90 minutes and at a high level without weakening his abilities," said Peter McEvoy, Freeman's varsity soccer coach.

Coach McEvoy is new to Freeman this year, but he has

coached Nicholas through other travel teams.

"I have only known Nico since August. Still, in the last seven months, I am very impressed with his overall character," said Coach McEvoy.

Through soccer, Nicholas has traveled to different states and even France for tournaments. Nicholas has also participated in sports leadership summits in Kazakhstan and Jamaica through the Center for Sports Leadership and the Richmond Strikers. Both these trips allowed him to run soccer camps for children.

"It was a great experience, not only for the sports, but also to learn new things as a person and adapt to new environments," said Nicholas.

Nicholas' father has encouraged him throughout his soccer career. His dad played soccer at James Madison University.

Nicholas said he hopes to take on a leadership role this year. He wants to be "someone that the newer guys and underclassmen can look up to and hopefully learn some things from so that in the coming years the program can continue to get better."

Many of Nicholas' teammates see him stepping into a bigger leadership role this season.



Nicholas carrying the ball down the field to score.

"He leads really well. He's pretty vocal on the field and talks a lot with coaches and teammates about who needs to be doing what," said sophomore Leo Lombardi.

Jackson also agreed with this and said that "He could definitely be a captain this year. He has all the leadership skills and he leads by example just by doing his best every day."

Sports Briefs

BOYS LACROSSE

Key Player: Ethan Lustig

Season Goal: "To beat all of our rivals and go to and win the state championships."

Personal Highlight:

"Beating Collegiate at the benefit game was pretty exciting because it was a close game."

BOYS SOCCER

Key Player: Waseem Abdalla

Most Looking Forward to: "Playing Godwin and Deep Run."

Season Goal: "Scoring as many goals as possible, win most of our games, and go deep in the state tournament."

Personal Highlight:

"When I scored the winning goal against Godwin last year."

BOYS TENNIS

Key Player: William Westerfield

Most Looking Forward to: "Playing the close matches against Godiwn and Deep Run, those are always fun. For the team, a goal for this season will be for all of us to cheer each other on and get excited every

Season Goal: "Win states, I've come really close the last three years."

Personal Highlight:
"Winning conference

"Winning conference and regionals with Joe Brown my freshman year and eventually going to states."

BOYS TRACK

Key Player: Danny Pellei

Personal Highlight:

"Running the last season with the seniors."

Season Goal: "Run sub two minutes for the 800. Running sixty-nine seconds in the 500."

BASEBALL

Key Player: Will Lynch

Season Goal: "Trying to beat our rivals and make play offs."

Personal Highlight:

"Working hard everyday in practice and just trying to get better as a team."

Senior Soccer Player Leads Team with her Head and Heart

Gretchen Neary

Staff Writer

Athleticism is in senior Sam Fee's DNA. Her father, Doug Fee, played basketball at the Naval Academy and her mother, Tracy Fee, played years of soccer and volleyball, even continuing to play soccer in an adult league when Sam was a kid.

While part of this athletic ability came naturally, it also came from years of hard work. At age 5, Sam began her soccer career at the YMCA. "I actually hated it," Sam said laughing. As the team's coach, Mrs. Fee recalled that Sam "spent the majority of the games on my hip" and seemed more concerned with the post-game snack than the actual game.

The Fees decided Sam needed a break from soccer, but after a year of watching her mom play in a local adult league, Sam reenrolled.

"Ever since, I haven't stopped,' said Sam.

Sam plays for Richmond United, a travel team, and on Freeman girls varsity soccer. Sam plays defensive center mid

and has started at Freeman for

three years. She described soccer

at Freeman as "a very fun environment," but at the same time, "everyone is there to play and compete."

The girls varsity soccer coach, Bill Bartoszek, said the three best words to describe Sam would be "respectful, intense, and goofy."

Mrs. Fee calls Sam "deliberate and "even-keeled."
"She is very strategic about how she interacts with her teammates

and opponents," said Mrs. Fee.
Sam's friend and fellow midfielder, senior Juliana McKean describes Sam as "stellar."

"She's a unifying figure. It's really nice to have someone like her in the midfield to calm us down, and she makes defending a lot easier," Juliana elaborated.

Pre-game, Sam and Juliana complete their ritual of a special handshake and post-game, the pair enjoy jamming out on the bus with their fellow teammates.

One of Sam's most impressive skills on the field is using her head, literally. "Sam is really good in the air and winning balls in the air," said Juliana. "If I recall correctly, she averaged about 10 head balls a game last year," said Mrs. Fee.

Another special skill of Sam's is making her teammates laugh. "She doesn't like when things get awkward or overly serious, and



Sam Fee dribbling the ball down the field.

addresses those situations with humor," said Mrs. Fee. "She's really funny. I think both of us together offer a comic relief. She can release tensions," said Juliana.

Last fall, Sam signed to play soccer at Virginia Military Institute (VMI). Sam called the recruitment process "stressful," but was drawn to VMI because it is "very structured and very disciplined."

After Sam's signing, "My first thought was overwhelming pride, then cautious excitement," said Mrs. Fee. "I think it will be a wonderful, character-building experience."

"Sam leads by example, which

bodes well for her when she attends VMI, where she will expand her leadership abilities," said Coach Bartoszek.

"She works really hard to make the team like a family. Our entire team will miss her next year," said junior Renée Jervey, who plays outside back.

In 2008, Mrs. Fee was interviewed by Style Weekly magazine about her experience in athletics, which she described "as a great experience...something I hope my daughter takes with her." Sam has done just that. Her senior season at Freeman is shaping up to be just as, if not more, successful than last year and she has another four years of competition ahead of her at VMI.

Senior Pitcher Ready to Close Out Final Season

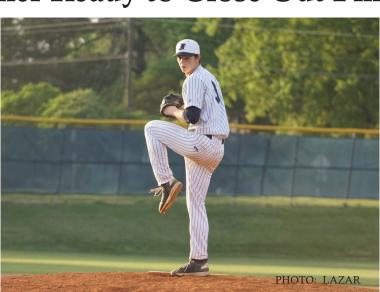
Piper Finkelson

Staff Writer

Commitment is a virtue senior Alec Erickson has honed. Ever since he could hold a bat, Alec has adored baseball. Over the past four years on varsity, the sport has "become a part of who I am," he said.

Alec plays pitcher and shortstop on Freeman's varsity team. Alec also plays on a travel team with Coach Donnie Phillips, who he describes as one of his greatest role models. He said e is grateful to Freeman coaches, Ray Moore and Drew Lovering. Alec said he has "gotten really close to them and they have always helped him out." As a junior, Alec placed 2nd Team All-Region. He has committed to play top 10 division III baseball at Roanoke College next year.

Alec's coaches and teammates call Alec a role model for his Freeman family. Coach Moore is impressed by Alec's ability to tackle obstacles and applauds



A highlight of Alec Erickson's 2018 season was a shut-out game against Deep Run.

him for setting goals "academically and on the field."

He described Alec as a "consistent" and "skilled" player. Coach Moore expects that Alec will be pitching in the "mid 80s and touching the upper 80s this spring." On the radar gun, his factest pitch is 87 miles per hour

fastest pitch is 87 miles per hour. The most memorable moment Coach Moore has of Alec was in last year's game against Deep Run High School. In an outstanding shut-out, he helped Freeman win the regional title. Coach Lovering described Alec as a leader who "strives for the best for himself and the team." He said that Alec has "fast hands on the plate and good hands on

the field."

Fellow player and friend, senior Shane Coriaty, is the catcher on the Freeman team and enjoys working alongside Alec. Shane said that on the field, he and Alec have a "brother-to-brother relationship." Shane describes Alec as a "vital piece to the team." Sophomore Will Lynch also admires Alec's talent and hopes to "keep learning from him," he said.

When he is not playing sports, Alec enjoys being outside. His hobbies include boating, hiking, and mountain biking. On the weekends, he can be found playing Xbox and eating at Glory Days. He also enjoys spending time with his family.

The Freeman baseball team lost a number of seniors who graduated in 2018. Without these players, the new spring season will give everyone a chance to take on new leadership positions. Alec is looking forward to his final season at Freeman and is excited for the team to "reinvent ourselves."



On March 7, 2019, Freeman's varsity lacrosse team defeated Collegiate 14-12 in the 3rd annual benefit game for the The Frankie Woolwine Story, Inc

Check out the full article online at the <u>dsfcommentator.org</u> written by staff writer Davis Buckbee

McEvoy Named Head Soccer Coach

Will Dornik **Staff Writer**

As the 2018 boys varsity season ended, senior Pema Dukpa said as former boys varsity head coach David Inman announced his resignation, players were first "shocked, sad, and then worried for next year". The hunt for a new head coach proved to be a struggle, as the scheduled head coach in October withdrew his application in January.

The new candidate, Peter McEvoy, was put through orientation in February, becoming Head coach almost 2 weeks before tryouts. With no preseason training other than player-organized events, how does Coach McEvoy plan to succeed this season?

Coach McEvoy currently works at a real estate firm but has focused on coaching in the past. He previously coached at Randolph Macon for over 10 seasons, with over 51 career victories. He previously coached Junior Nicholas Cavallo, as well as the son of Suzanne Criswell, Director of Student Activities at Freeman. They agreed that he showed promise as the Head

Coach and joined forces in the recruitment process to acquire McEvoy.

Nicholas thinks if there's one man to replace Mr. Inman, it's Coach McEvoy. "I love his coaching style; he was an assistant coach on my old team. He's always let us practice the way we play, so hopefully with this time crunch won't be a huge prob-

Pema is excited for what his senior season holds. "I can tell he understands the sport on a different level than the students, and I'm a little less worried about our chances for states this year, especially with the way we practice, focusing on tactical instead of technical stuff."

McEvoy said he "kept about 30 or so players. We only have 21 field player kits and 2 goalkeeper kits, so several players have to be willing to train with no promise of dressing." McEvoy hopes the larger roster will benefit in years

"I love the interest in soccer here at Freeman. We had over 90 students trying out for the two teams. That's why the larger roster will allow us to develop more student-athletes, regardless if they play this season."

The cancellation of the initial hire terminated most forms of preseason workouts. Nicholas said, "We had no pre-season practice. We lost an opportunity to kinda form a team chemistry, especially with the new guys. Coach McEvoy has extended tryouts into almost two weeks now, because we have no prior look at what some of the new guys can do. We did have like one or two workouts organized by the returners, but it isn't close to what we did last year. So not only are our guys out of shape, we're also on a time crunch because the hiring process took such a long time." The process could've taken longer however. "Thankfully, the second time around, the interview process went seamlessly." McEvoy said.

McEvoy has brought in a separate coach for support, and Pema thinks it's improved productivity.

"he focuses most of his time on the goalies. That way we can work all together with McEvoy instead of splitting off into parts for some players to warm the goalies. That's why I'm excited about playing for McEvoy, we play how we practice." He said.

The Freeman Boys Varsity soccer season started March 15th with a winning game against Lee Davis, 8-1, McEvoy seems to be a good fit.



Coach McEvoy talks to the team about strategy before their practice on the turf field.

Ken Moore: The Heart of Freeman Baseball



Coach Moore poses in front of the DSF windscreens.

Caroline Tyler **Staff Writer**

Ken Moore has established roots in the infield dirt at Freeman High School. The baseball field which is named after the longtime teacher and coach commemorates his forty-six year and ongoing commitment

to both Freeman High School and the baseball program where he can still be found tending the field or coaching the junior var-

After thirty-five years of teaching Latin and coaching three sports throughout his career, Moore retired and resigned from his position as varsity head baseball coach in 2008. The current baseball field was officially

named in his honor during a surprise ceremony at his last home

Moore jokes, "I figured they named the field after me so I'd keep coming back to take care of it," which couldn't have been more accurate.

Moore still finds a way to volunteer his enthusiasm and support Freeman baseball. He transitioned to his current roles as junior varsity pitching coach, chief varsity scouter, and the expert leader of field maintenance.

Moore enjoys the routine of maintaining the field and takes pride in its reputation, despite the unusual offseason weather which he considers a blight on its usual condition.

Moore credits his predecessor who taught him field maintenance skills on the old baseball field which was located where the current weight room is. He remembers when "the outfield was primarily the football field and it had a cinder track running through it."

The multi-sport coach recalls, "I was also a football coach on that very field. I was always having to take care of that field for both baseball and football."

Over the years of constructing the new field and its subsequent renovation in 2001, Moore has mastered the art of managing the current field which is positioned underneath two hills that provide a unique challenge.

His roots in the community thrive in the field's lovingly

maintained dirt. He has taught and coached generations of the Freeman Family, including his own two sons who took his Latin class and played baseball for him at Freeman.

His eldest son, Ray Moore, has followed in his footsteps by also serving as a Latin teacher and varsity baseball coach at Freeman since 2010.

Ray Moore says, "I took a lot from him that I've used as a teacher and coach. He's been a really important role model in my life."

Ken Moore says his career of inspiring decades of Freeman students and athletes is founded in his own "positive high school experience" here. The longtime coach and teacher discovered his passion for Freeman while playing football and baseball during his three years as a student (Henrico County had junior high through ninth grade). When he graduated in 1969, Moore continued his education at William and Mary where college friends knew him for his Freeman pride.

He says, "Sometimes they'd call me Kenny Freeman because they couldn't believe the stuff I'd tell them about how good the academics were, how good the athletics were, and how supportive the community was."

Upon graduation from William and Mary in 1973, he returned to his high school alma mater to begin teaching Latin that fall. Moore summarizes his still ongoing career by saying,

"I have worked continuously, either paid or volunteered, since 1973 at Douglas Freeman High

In addition to his long commitment to the football and baseball programs, he also coached wrestling alongside Drew Bright, a fellow Freeman icon, for four

Ken Moore continued to coach football for thirty consecutive years. In 1983, Moore was promoted to head varsity baseball Through these years, Coach Moore found great suc-

He reflects, "When I retired as the head baseball coach, I had more wins than any coach in the history of the 'Central Region.'"

In addition to his career winning record, he takes pride in the players that he has coached. Moore says, "I've had a number of players that have had the opportunity to play professional baseball.

He is hoping that Daniel Lynch becomes his first former player to make it all the way to the Major League. Ken Moore was Lynch's pitching coach his freshman year and Ray Moore coached him for his other three years at Freeman.

When asked about his future plans, Ken Moore intends to serve the baseball program as long as he is able to.

Ray Moore, his son and successor, concludes his father's legacy by saying, "Freeman has played a critical role in his life, just like he's played a critical role in Free-

New Practice Field To Be Ready for the Fall

Balazs Kaszala Staff Writer

Rebels athletics will finally have some legroom. A culmination of a six-year plan, Freeman High School is building a new practice field, expanding the current upper field.

"About six or seven years ago, they came up with a Freeman Practice Field Plan," said Suzanne Criswell, director of student activities. The school is purchasing three tracts of land, extending towards the cell phone tower behind the current field. The plan entails converting two of the tracts into part of the new practice field, while leaving the third to eventually be converted into a new parking lot. "[For events at the softball field] you could actually park up there rather than park all the way over at Camden Road," Mrs. Criswell

The first stage of the plan is set to begin at the beginning of April. "This first stage they are



building the field. It will be a full- it's large enough for football, socsized lacrosse field, which means cer, lacrosse, and field hockey,"

said Mrs. Criswell.

However, there have been multiple setbacks in the development of the plan. According to Mrs. Criswell, construction was supposed to begin in November to be completed by the end of June, but it has been pushed back until the beginning of April to be completed in August. "It's meant to be ready before the beginning of fall sports for next year." The development will provide a

brand-new practice field for four sports, but it isn't without costs. Because of the construction, softball is forced to practice and play elsewhere. According to junior softball player Faith Adams, the team have to stay off the field for all practices and games.

"We have been practicing indoors but now we're practicing at Dumbarton Elementary," she said. Even though this arrangement may not be ideal, Faith says that there should not be a huge impact on the way the team

plays. "Where we play will not determine how we play. According to softball Booster Club representative Mark Tyler,

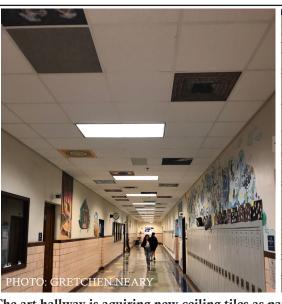
the softball field will be turned

from a temporary area to a permanent, separate field. "In the spring, they would put up the softball outfield fence...[the project] will allow a permanent outfield fence to be built and therefore the softball field will be independent."

In order to begin construction on the field, companies must bid to win the contract to build the new field. As of March 4, no bids have been accepted yet, so development cannot yet begin. Once a bid is accepted, the school board will vote to approve construction at their next meeting. Only then can the actual construction of the field begin. Even though there might have

been several delays and complications throughout the ordeal, by the end of the project Freeman's athletic teams will have a brandnew full-sized practice field. The new field space will give teams the opportunity to practice with a larger space, something that is currently difficult to arrange consistently.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT





The art hallway is aquiring new ceiling tiles as part of an NAHS fundraiser this spring.

Art Society Sells Tiles

Annie Stephens

Staff Writer

Have you ever been bored in class and started counting the ceiling tiles? Thanks to the National Art Honor Society (NAHS), it will soon become like counting the colors of the rainbow.

Members of the NAHS will be commissioning ceiling tiles to teachers. Teachers can buy tiles and have them painted by a NAHS member as a way to raise money for their sculpture garden project. "The sculpture garden is something we really want to do," said co-president

The sculpture garden project is a "revamp to the courtyard" as club sponsor Elizabeth Jones said. The NAHS members will be transforming the art courtvard into a peaceful and scenic place. "We want it to have a tree, a durable bench, and we want each year for the art class to add a new sculpture," said co-president Catherine Nelli.

The idea for this fundraiser was inspired by past senior projects and compliments surrounding the ceiling tiles in the art hall. "It is a creative way to fundraise while still using our skills as artists," said Ms. Jones.

As for the tiles themselves, teachers will be able to buy them from a google doc at a price of one for \$10 and three for \$20. Teachers are able to request to have a specific design painted onto the tile or can chose to let the student decide what to paint.

For example, AP Environmental Science teacher Jeffery Meador already has a few ceiling tiles that he requested from his students. "Environmental science, that is the underlying theme," he said.

Although many members have not settled on what they would like to paint, some have. "I'd love to make some good ones of classic novels," said Catherine.

In the upcoming months, be on the lookout for new colorful additions to the classroom ceiling.

Student Artists Making Sales Online

Lowell Smith **Staff Writer**

Just about anything can be bought on the internet.

Juniors and artists Ruth Hamby and Al Gilstrap are taking advantage of this medium to express themselves through their artwork and make a little cash in the process.

Ruth has been selling her art since 2015 and Al since 2016. Ruth said that she roughly gets two to three people a week asking for her art.

With a push from her parents, Ruth grew up on Calvin and Hobbes comics and "just about anything I can get my hands on." This push spawned into quite the hobby. With exposure and possible fu-

ture careers in the air, putting art online is a good way one can do to get noticed. Taking an interest in art and expanding to an online space is a smart move.

The process is quite simple. Al or Ruth are contacted by a potential buyer who has an idea for what they would like drawn.

They create a "preview" that cannot be copied. After the piece is drawn, they send off the piece and are transferred money for their service. A shout out or citation of their work is always appreciated.

With business being done

completely online, some issues arise. Al stated that if a customer doesn't like the work after it has been finished, they sometimes just don't pay, which is inefficient when trying to make a profit off

of someone's free time. To A1, the anonymity of doing business online is exciting, "It's always fun when strangers outside of my friend zone ask me

for things," she said. Ruth uses Tumblr, Reddit, Pateron, and Ko-fi to display her art to fans and potential buyers. Al uses primarily Twitter and Instagram.

Al and Ruth are both selftaught. Neither of them have taken art at Freeman due to scheduling issues and other ob-

"I thought about that when I came to freeman, thinking I would join the art club I joined the band instead" Al said. But the lack of instruction proved to be beneficial for them to nourish their passion.

Both artists would like to study art in college and have it be a potential career path. Ruth has a children's book in the works for her niece, and Al also dabbles in animation which she takes classes for.

Ruth and Al have a love for their medium. The passion has grown from a hobby into a job.

"I just enjoy art" Ruth said enthusiastically.



Adeng Malu (9) Hanging out with friends.





Ola Akinsanya (10) Going to Florida with the fam!



What Are You **Doing** For **Spring** Break?



Will Dickerson (11) Going to the beach and touring colleges.





Sarina Meltzer (12) Going to LA with a pal!



New Chess Club

Staff Writer

Benjamin Lee and Andre Tran are no rooks when it comes to the game of chess. These two chess champions have brought their love for the classical game to Freeman, with the first ever chess club. Benjamin and Andre hope to, through their growing club, inspire people to pick up this strategic game. "The mechanics of the game are unique and it's one of those staple games that I think everyone should know how to play," said

Both Benjamin and Andre discovered their love for chess early on. Benjamin has been playing since second grade and Andre has been playing since he was five. Their passion for the game has fueled their efforts to start this club and they hope to reach out to other people with similar interests.

"I had people in my other classes with similar interests, mainly sophomores, but it's fun and it's something we all like to do," said Benjamin.

"This year is kind of a trial year" said Daniel Lewis, the Chess Club sponsor, "It is very new." The idea of introducing a chess club to Freeman came to Andre after he thought about mainstream clubs that all high schools seem to have. "I was thinking; what clubs do all high schools have? And chess club was one of them," said Andre.

The Chess Club currently has $20 \mid A$ wonderful display of Schoology members and 12 who regularly show up for meetings. Benjamin and Andre have high hopes for the club, with goals to someday compete in competitions. While neither Benjamin or Andre are currently competing, Andre has hopes to start an inter-school competition with other school's chess clubs in the near future.

They both have differing strategies when it comes to dominating the game. Andre's strategy is straightforward and right to the point, "My favorite strategy is to win." Benjamin has a much more methodical and tactical approach. "I always start with the Sicilian Defense, the left sided one, and I also sacrifice my queen a lot," said Benjamin. The Sicilian Defense is the most popular defense against white's opening 1.e4 and is used extensively at top level play. It's considered a very aggressive defense and immediately stakes claim at the center, denying white the double pawns on e4 and d4.

Andre and Benjamin are aiming high and putting forth max effort to recruit people to join their club. They hope to continue to grow throughout the year, spreading their love for chess to anyone who wishes to learn the

For people interested in learning how to play, improving their game, or just want to have fun with fellow chess lovers, the Chess Club meets every Tuesday in Mr. Lewis's room from 8:15-8:55 in the morning.



Andre Tran and Benjamin Lee play chess together.

Sunny Review for 'Umbrella Academy'

family connection mixed with elements of the supernatural.



Maggie Flournoy **A&E** Editor

Are you tired of superhero shows and movies? I think a lot of people are, and that's why "The Umbrella Academy" is so great. It's TV show about these people with extraordinary abilities – but it doesn't focus on their abilities as much as something like a Marvel movie would.

Don't get me wrong - I love myself a good Marvel movie. I always go and see them opening night. It's just that sometimes, it gets to a point when you feel like you need something new. That's exactly what "The Umbrella Academy" was to me.

I saw some trailers for the show about a month before it was set to come out and I was immediately interested - and that was even before I knew what it was based on.

I'm going to assume that everyone knows who My Chemical Romance is (or, at least, was). The lead singer, Gerard Way, wrote a series of "Umbrella Academy" comics while the band was touring for their "The Black Parade" album. show was generally based off of the first 6. The comics won a bunch of awards, and was evidently good enough to be turned into a Netflix Original Series.

After seeing the trailers and knowing the background of the story, I had pretty high hopes for what the show would turn out to be. I was not disappointed whatsoever.

The plot itself is so interesting and unique. A bunch of women suddenly gave birth at the exact same time, even though they were not previously preg-



The adopted siblings as children in the order of their numbers.

nant. Then, a wealthy man went around and adopted as many as he could. He got 7, and named them each after a number. The story starts when the man, Sir Reginald Hargreeves, has just passed away. All the children he adopted are now adults, leading separate lives from each other.

We eventually learn that he sent the kids on dangerous missions, monitored them with security cameras, and so much more. Each of the adopted eventually gets tired of the life Sir Reginald Hargreeves wants them to lead, and leave. His funeral is the only reason the living siblings are in the same room.

The only ones who come back for the funeral are Number 1 (Luther), Number 2 (Diego), Number 3 (Allison), Number 4 (Klaus), and Number 7 (Vanya). We know that Number 5 disappeared, but not much about Number 6.

Luther, the o leader of the pack and the only one who has continued to stay with their father, thinks something nefarious happened to him. And once (this is much more complicated.

a slight spoiler – just a warning) Five suddenly returns after being missing for 13 years, the plot gets The conventional villains in the show are brilliantly done – I was just as invested in their stories as

I was the protagonists'. They are

truly a comic book villain, which

is clearly reflected by their imag-

Plot aside, the show has many other amazing characteristics. For one, the soundtrack is amazing. From songs such as "Istanbul" by the Four Lads to a cover of The Turtle's "Happy Together" done by Gerard Way, the mix inspires both feelings of nostalgia and excitement. The happy themed music is often paired with the darker scenes in the show - done in a way to make the music its own character.

The soundtrack can be found on most music streaming services, in a playlist created by Net-

As well as the soundtrack, the production team did an amazing job with casting. Each actor embodies their character fairly well. The one exception, in my opinion, would be Emmy Raver-Lampman. She played Number 3 (Allison). Especially early on, her dialogue is super awkward and forced. She eventually gets better, but her less-than-impressive acting turned me off to Allison in general.

The cast is composed of wellknown actors, such as Ellen Page, Mary J. Blige, Kate Walsh, and many more.

The show is composed of 10 episodes, each around an hour. It is well-worth the binge and has been renewed for a second sea-



The Freeman show choir team, Harmony in Motion, competes at their first competition on Friday, March 8.

Sarah Echols Staff Writer

Freeman's show choir, Harmony in Motion, may not compete until spring, but they start learning and rehearsing the choreography before school even starts.

Kristen Batson, show choir director, started thinking about this show choir competition season while she was still on vacation over the summer. "I listen to a whole bunch of music and find things that I think would suit the girls well. I had some ideas of songs that I really liked this year and when I was on vacation, I had an idea about our opener," Mrs. Batson said.

The songs she found had an underlying theme of finding light in the dark. "I put it together, and the pieces just fell into place," she explained.

Mrs. Batson titled their show, "How Bright the Night Is," which is also the name of their ballad. "Our ballad is a very powerful song and because it begins a cappella it also feels very intimate," senior Maddy Martin said. "Our opener, which is a mash-up of

"In My Blood" and "Shooting Star," is also really fun," senior Emmy Deignan included.

Show choir had two choreographers this year. The first, Jason Pierce, is a well-known choreographer in the Virginia show choir community. "It's always very exciting getting to work with him, and I think that excitement gets the group very motivated," Maddy said. However, the loss of their second choreographer caused Mrs. Batson to step in to redo and complete several of the numbers in their show. "That's where my dance and choreography experience came in handy," Mrs. Batson said.

Due to these choreography setbacks, along with absences and school cancelations, Harmony in Motion decided not to compete in their first competition of four. "It was definitely a bummer, but we ended up using the time we would've been at the competition for a really great rehearsal," Maddy said. This rehearsal time clearly paid off in their most recent competition where they won grand champions of their division, best choreography, and best vocals.

The two show choir dance cap-

tains, Emmy and Maddy, helped the group get competition-ready by "running rehearsals throughout the year and posting videos of the choreography online," Emmy said. Leading up to competition season, the group held multiple rehearsals a week, on top of the time the girls spendt-practicing individually in their free time.

Show choir has faced its share of setbacks this year, amon which is risers that require bungee cords to keep them together. However, they are used to handling difficulties, such as twenty-second costume changes, setting up for shows quickly and early morning rehearsals.

Harmony in Motion doesn't let these difficulties slow them down during competition season. "The feeling you get when performing is really good, and when an audience reacts well it's thrilling," Emmy explained.

As competition season moves into full swing and takes up a majority of the girls' time, most agree it is "a very natural way to combine two things that I loved, and it definitely has been [the activity] for me," Maddy said.

~Student Art~

Students in Beth Jones' ceramics class used a new alcohol painting technique to create tile-sized sculptures of a memory from the past, present, or future.



Kara Young (12)

"[This tile] is a past memory from when I was confirmed at church in fifth grade."



Sofia Alcaine (11)

"[This tile shows when] I went sailing over the summer in a sailboat with a group of other kids, and we sailed under the Magothy Bridge in Maryland."



Adam Morkous (11)

"[This is about] the history of Egypt."



Lee Allen (10)

"[This tile is about] Tuckahoe Middle because I had so many memories there."



Justin Turnage (12)

"This tile represents the memories [from] a house at Lake Anna that my family used to go to during the summer."

Check out more articles at: dsfcommentator.org

Sophomore Composes Music



Sophomore Holden Seward plays the piano. Holden composes pieces for the Freeman Festival Choir.

Lowell Smith Staff Writer

Festival Choir is one of the most prestigious choirs at Freeman. It requires early rehearsals and an "intense audition process," says Matt Boyle, Festival Choir member.

Sophomore Holden Seward is a "leader" within Festival Choir. Leaders primarily arrange music and teach it to their classmates for concerts and competitions.

"What I'm doing is our a cappella piece, which is a pop song that we choose to sing at competitions and at our concerts. I arrange it so that all voices a cappella can sing it," said Holden. A cappella is singing without any instrumental accompaniment.

All the Festival Choir pieces are student-led and arranged. Chorus teacher Kristen Batson, approves pieces but, "it's pretty much all on the leaders," Holden said.

Students also get to weigh in on which songs will be performed at concerts, competitions and spe-

cial events, such as Freeman's singing valentine tradition. Most recently, they performed arrangements of "That Which Remains" and "Let There Be Light" at their competition in March.

One not only needs to be musically inclined to arrange Festival music, but they also must be tech savvy.

"Holden has a naturally great ear and is very musically inclined. Working with him is great..."
-Ariela Press (12)

Festival Choir students use a program on their computers called Noteflight. The program is very streamlined, easy to use, and helps students write and view music collaboratively. "Everyone can pull it up on their

computer and it'll play a MIDI version of the score so you can hear all of the different parts... you [do] have to know the overlay of the chords and the structure of the song." Holden said.

It is difficult to arrange music on a computer because all parts of the chord have to be perfected-while making sure the drumline or the beatbox stays consistent throughout the piece.

Arranging music isn't all about the technology; it's also about knowing the limits of your peers Holden knows the full capabilities of his classmates.

"I know pretty much what all the guys in the choir are capable of doing...If I want a part that's really high to sound really loud, I'll use Matt, and if I want a really high part to sound really pretty, I'll use David," he said.

"Holden has a naturally great ear and is very musically inclined. Working with him is great because he always has amazing ideas and knows how to fix parts that sound weird and turn them into beautiful music," said senior Ariela Press.



"Five Miles Apart, a World
Apart"
Maggie Sheerin



Freeman's New Film Club is in the Works Salaar Khan

Students Now Prohibited from Ordering Lunch to Schools Sarah Echols



Baseball Field in Bad Shape for Upcoming Season Ashwin Suresh



