

The Record

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Japan Day 2025: Taiko drums, history skits, and New Year's cards

WILL CHASIN
Staff Writer

"I'm super excited—it's a great opportunity to show off everything we have learned and all the hard work we've done. It's a really special day," Japan Day Vice President Charlotte Henes (12) said. Today, Japanese students will take the stage at Gross Theater for a morning full of performances, workshops, presentations, and cultural exploration. From kanji presentations to student-run activity tables, this year's Japan Day, led by Co-Presidents Hannah Becker (12) and Delfie Bauer (12), promises to be bigger than ever.

Japan Day has been a long-standing tradition at the school. Now in its 34th year, it allows students to immerse themselves in Japanese language and culture beyond the classroom, Japanese teacher Reiko Kawahara said. The goal of Japan Day is to improve the cultural identity of the Japanese community. "It's about teamwork and working together as a community, not just individual success," she said.

Students played an integral role

in deciding what their classes would present or perform, Kawahara said. Japanese 3 and higher levels had full control in deciding what they wanted to do, and every class below received guidance on what to choose. Ultimately, however, it was their decision, she said. "This year, we really wanted students to take more initiative," she said. "We will have more student-run tables than ever before, allowing them to directly engage with their peers and the broader school community."

Building on the spirit of collaboration, planning for Japan Day began months in advance with teachers and students working together to create engaging workshops and presentations, Kawahara said. "I love seeing students communicate and negotiate with each other as they plan their performances," she said. "It makes them really take ownership of what they are creating."

For students in Japanese 1, like Catherine Zhou (9), preparation for Japan Day was a hands-on experience that combined performance, research, and interactive elements. "We spent class time practicing the Soran Bushi

dance, and we even had quizzes to make sure we memorized our lines and the dance," Zhou said. These preparations not only helped her class feel more confident about performing for the school but also deepened their understanding of Japanese culture practically, she said.

The schedule for Japan Day is packed with exciting activities, including an Iron Chef-style ramen cooking competition, a calligraphy presentation, and a cultural showcase featuring traditional games like Kendama, Daruma Otoshi, and Animal Shogi. Japan Day will also feature performances such as "The Eras Tour: Acting Out Japanese History" by Japanese 4 and Studies in Japanese classes, as well as a Taiko drum performance by students in the senior class. After these performances, the community can participate in cultural booths, explore New Year's card displays, and engage in hands-on experiences that celebrate Japanese culture.

Among the many workshops and events planned for the day is the "Kanji Connection: The Beauty of the Japanese Language" presentation

by Japanese 3 Honors. The class is presenting kanji, one of three Japanese writing systems that are derived from Chinese characters, and its significance in Japanese writing, Ava Parento (11) said.

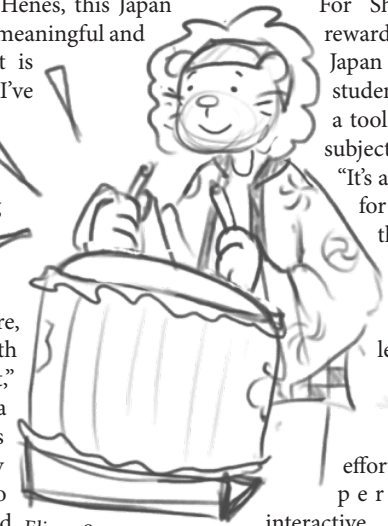
For seniors like Henes, this Japan Day is particularly meaningful and bittersweet since it is their last, she said. "I've really enjoyed Japanese at our school—it's been such an interesting experience learning about a different culture, especially one with a different alphabet," she said. As a senior, Henes has more responsibility this year, helping to organize the day and make sure things run smoothly, she said. "But it's also sad knowing it's my last one."

Japanese teacher Minami Shimoji, who is experiencing Japan Day for the first time, is very excited about the

event, she said. "It's been amazing to see students using Japanese outside of the textbook," Shimoji said. "They're applying what they have learned in a real-world setting, and I can't wait to see it all come together."

For Shimoji, the most rewarding aspect of Japan Day is seeing students use Japanese as a tool rather than just a subject to study, she said. "It's a great opportunity for them to deepen their cultural understanding and showcase what they have learned."

Japanese students have put a lot of effort into organizing performances, interactive activities, and celebrating Japanese culture in general this year. "I have seen students working so hard to make this event happen, and I know it will be an amazing experience for everyone involved," Shimoji said.



BLEx and The Union kick off Black History Month at assembly

AHANA GADIYARAM
Staff Writer

"It's important to celebrate Black History Month because it provides opportunities for recognition, remembrance, and education on our history and our significant events and accomplishments," Nate Ogiste (12) said. On Tuesday, the BLEx (Black Excellence) Affinity Group and the Union hosted an Upper Division (UD) assembly to kick off Black History Month.

The assembly opened with a brief presentation on the history of Black History Month. Next, a video, where members of BLEx and the Union asked UD students questions related

to Black history, was played. Then, there were several poetry, dance, and music performances, including a Step dance—a percussive dance form that employs footwork and claps to create rhythms. The assembly concluded with a game of Family Feud on topics related to Black history.

A standout performance during the assembly was by Amaris Christian (12), who sang "Freedom" by Beyoncé. "I thought Amaris sounded really good, and I enjoyed listening to it," Anusha Goel (9) said.

For Janani Bhagat (11), the Step performance was particularly exceptional. "I thought the Step dance was really creative and unique. Everyone was coordinated and synchronized, and I could tell they'd

worked hard on it."

Preparation for the assembly started in December when the club leaders began asking students if they wanted to participate by performing, Samantha Fullerton (11) said. After winter break, members of the clubs started working on logistics, like deciding the order of performances.

The assembly was a combined effort from both BLEx and the Union, BLEx Faculty Advisor and UD English teacher Vernon Wilson said. "Ms. Scott-Perkins and I worked with the students to brainstorm ideas. Early in January, we had a joint meeting [with BLEx and the Union] to finalize the performances."

This year's assembly differed from last year's because it was completely

student-run, Wilson said. "Last year, we invited people from Alvin Ailey to teach the history of African American dance, which meant that the assembly was not student-led. This year, we wanted to go back to the student-driven format because we don't want [inviting guests] to be the only way we celebrate Black History," he said. "Giving our students the opportunity and responsibility for putting on the assembly for the wider community was also a goal of this assembly, one that originated from the students themselves."

The goal of this assembly was to highlight the significance of Black culture, Daniella Green (10) said. "Through Gabrielle and Hannah's opening remarks, we aimed to communicate the significance of Black history and culture, emphasizing why we must acknowledge its presence, power, and impact as a society."

Similarly, Eri Flores (11) believes it is crucial to acknowledge Black Americans' contribution to the country's development. "There are a lot of influential figures who contributed to the advancement of this country in various ways and they are often underrepresented and unrecognized. Black History Month helps combat that," she said.

The celebration of Black History Month is especially important considering the current political climate of the country, Gabrielle

McLain (12) said in her opening remarks at the assembly. "When a Press Secretary cannot say the phrase 'Black History Month' and instead refers to the celebration of Americans at large, it can be interpreted as no interest or desire to celebrate Black Americans, specifically. When the Department of Defense intentionally pauses all of its Black History Month activities and events, it sends the message that the contributions of Black Americans are not important or worthy of acknowledgment," McLain said.

Students like Green have found that the treatment of Black history varies inside and outside of the classroom. "There have been so many instances where I'd learn about Black history in class and listen to my classmates treat the topic with the utmost respect," she said. "But outside of class, the respect for Black people, culture and history, somehow lost its value because it was no longer attached to a grade," Green said. "I hope that in the near future this might change."

In the future, BLEx will continue to celebrate Black History Month. "There is a BPU (Black Parents' Union) celebration of Black History Month occurring later during the month and BLEx will continue to embrace Black excellence, stressing the importance of celebrating this month," Ramatou Karimou (12) said.



STEPPING IT UP

Photo by Nicole Au

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MUN is #1 in the nation: The school wins big at Harvard

ARIA PLATT

Staff Writer

"We are very happy to officially be considered the best Model UN (MUN) team in the nation after HMUN," MUN Secretary General (SG) Josh Anderman (12) said. Last weekend, the MUN team traveled to Boston for the Harvard MUN (HMUN) conference and dominated: the team left the conference with the Best Small Delegation award, which is given to the school with the best overall performance, and nine individual awards, with Secretary General (SG) Anderman, Francesca Finzi (11), and Sarina Shah (11), winning Best Delegate. After the conference, the team was named the number one MUN team in the country.

Although there was a lot of pressure to perform well and members were nervous about the conference, the team performed well and enjoyed doing so, Shah said. "After adding a gavel to my collection, I know as a team we will continue this streak of electricity," Shah said.

In addition to practicing their skills, the team has many opportunities to bond at overnight MUN conferences, Ethan Furman (11) said. For instance, the team is able to build a stronger community through activities such as a celebratory dinner, he said.

Another key contributor to MUN's success was the strong leadership from the club leaders. "The SGs spent so much time preparing for Harvard and getting everything organized so we could be set up to win," Finzi said.

Along with student leadership, MUN faculty advisor and admissions fellow Jahmire Cassanova '18 and Latin teacher Dr. Theodore Graham, who joined the trip as a chaperone, were instrumental to the team's success, SG Andrew Doft (12) said. Doft appreciates Cassanova's endless support and felt that Dr. Graham, although not formally a leader of the team, did the same.

Before the team left for HMUN, they received their assignments and immediately began their thorough preparations to set themselves up for success, Anderman said. This conference was especially high-stakes



HM'S PROUD DIPLOMATS

Courtesy of HM Model UN

for team members, so they did what they could to prepare, he said.

In addition to extensive preparation, significant effort is also required during committee sessions at the conference. Once given assignments, HMUN attendees conducted thorough research and learned about their assigned committee's topics, Charlie Weidman (11) said. "We started the conference slow, but after getting used to everything and the flow, we pulled

through in the end," he said.

HMUN is a well-known and prestigious conference that the team was lucky to attend, Doft said. "This was our second away conference this year, and we're walking away confidently, also looking forward to NAIMUN in [Washington DC] in a week and a half." Accomplishing goals and feeling good about performance is what MUN strives for, he said. "We can always get better, but right now, we celebrate."

Science Olympiad team shines at regionals, narrowly missing states

NAYAN AIYAR & ANUSHA GOEL

Contributing & Staff Writers

After months of studying, building, and testing, three teams of Horace Mann students competed in the Science Olympiad New York City North Regionals Competition at Bronx Science High School on January 24. The competition was made up of several events, including tests, building, and working in a lab. While the teams narrowly missed advancing to States by three points, they won more medals than ever before, Science Olympiad advisor and Upper Division (UD) science teacher Oleg Zvezdin said. Every member of the A team, which had the most experience, won at least one medal, placing them at sixth in the team ranking. The B and C teams, who are newer students, also placed in several events as well. "I could not be prouder. I think this year we had a couple of challenges, one of them is we had by far the biggest turnout we've ever had, but I am so so proud," Zvezdin said.

One of the main challenges this year was that several events changed the week before the competition. Although the team had the event assignments to study before winter break, the timing of the events were only released shortly before the competition. Many events overlapped, which meant that many participants had to change events. "It was really stressful because I wasn't sure where anything was or what I was doing since I found out about my events one and a half weeks prior," Allie Bartolletti (9) said. "In experimental design, we thought the manual said that measuring devices were

provided, but they weren't and we had to improvise on the spot which was really stressful and it made everything more difficult."

However, not all participants faced last-minute changes. Rose Korff (12) and her partner Caroline Mignone (10) were able to carefully plan and prepare their bungee drop design weeks ahead of time so that they could have the best chances of having a successful drop. "We spent a lot of time doing many trials to get it just right for the test and then we just dropped it, and it got really close to the ground, so that was really exciting for me," Korff said. "I'm really proud of my own performance. I meddled in all my events which is really nice

because as a senior it feels like my work paid off. It's a bummer that we didn't make states because we did last year, but I'm really proud of the team as a whole."

One part of the event is the 50-minute exam, which is completed with a partner. It consists of short answer and multiple choice questions. The teams prepared a month in advance for the Entomology event by creating a binder with 150 different bug profiles. The team used this binder to identify the bugs from pictures on the test, Lilia Scola (11) said.

In between events, the team leaders focused on keeping the team entertained and supported. They made sure to have plenty of activities,

like puzzles and food, because there was a lot of downtime between events. "We got to have breakfast with the whole team since the competition began at eight, and I felt like it was really nice to get support and have fun with them," Science Olympiad co-captain Emily Akbar (12) said.

For next year, Mignone said that the team will spend more time solidifying all their build events so they can be confident going into the competition. "Having a third team will really help us next year because our A team mostly consists of seniors, so the people on the B and C team will already have experience and know what to expect and how to prepare for the competitions," Mignone said.



SMILING FOR SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

Courtesy of Tamsen Stafford

Asia Night: A celebration of diverse cultures, community, and talent

SACHA ADLER & LUCAS KE
Contributing and Staff Writers

"It was one big community, we were all so supportive of each other," Ellie Guo (9) said. "Everyone gave it 120% energy." Last Friday, students stayed after school to experience Asia Night, a vibrant multicultural event boasting food and performances from numerous cultures, including those from China, India, Korea, and Japan. East Wind West Wind (EWWW) organized the Night, a key feature of the club since its founding over a decade ago, Oscar Wang (11) said.

Asia Night celebrated all the aspects that people love about any given culture, including food and dance performances. Asia Night is a tradition that puts the spotlight on Asian dances and songs. Though some performances are long-standing traditions, students also have the opportunity to choose new performances each year, keeping the lineup fresh, EWWW board member Cary Wang (10) said. A lot of time and effort was involved

giving students a taste of traditional flavors and popular treats.

Students welcomed the dinner as an opportunity to try different cultural dishes. John Hurd (10) particularly enjoyed the food from the Indian station. "I got some delectable chicken and rice," he said.

As students sipped from their drinks and helped themselves to desserts, the night transitioned to the show in the Recital Hall, which was met with equal — if not greater — enthusiasm from the seated attendees. When Wan gave speeches to open the night, she felt the audience's excitement, she said. "I could tell that many people were eager for the night."

Students in Japanese 4 kicked off the performances by singing an original song "Tegami Letter," which was written about their Japanese journey in high school and to their future selves. Chinese students also performed "Up a Tree" a skit about two friends trying to convince their friend to come down from a tree. The skit explored themes of love while maintaining a humorous tone, which the students

Medley, featuring "How Sweet", "Bubblegum", and "Supernatural". NewJeans is a specific K-pop group, and Cho was very proud of the

in Chinese called (I'm a little bird). The song is very popular in China, so he wanted to share it with the school audience, he said. The

displayed their incredible strength and precision in their Taekwondo



Sophie Li/Art Director

effort and dedication from each team member. "It was definitely a highlight of Asia Night," said Cho.

The fun continued with the K-pop Medley, featuring a more broad variety of K-pop than the NewJeans Medley. It featured Lam, Cho, Catherine Mong (11), Guo, Tzuo, Zhao, Victoria Zou (11), Sharma, Monterroso-Rodriguez, Kayla Ogyaadu (10), Divina Kamboj (9), and Wan. "We spent two hours a week rehearsing, and we also spent the week of Asia Night rehearsing and practicing doing the choreography and formation," Lam said.

Aanya Thomas (9) and Anisa Javid (9) danced to Maghron La and Kamariya, expressive South Asian songs usually featured at weddings and celebrations, Thomas said. Although she believes that her performance was better at this year's South Asian festival, Thomas nevertheless enjoyed the diversity and fun of the Night.

To celebrate the diversity on display that night, Oscar sang a song

song explored themes of embracing the flow of events and enjoying the journey of life. Clearly enjoying the show, the audience waved their phone flashlights through the air.

In addition to helping prepare for the night, Cary Wang put on a performance of his own. He played "Kapustin Concert Etude No. 7 Op 40" on piano, a jazz piece that wowed the audience and earned him a thunderous round of applause. "[School] is usually all work, work, work... so Asia Night offers me a chance to celebrate my culture... it makes you more aware of your own culture, the community surrounding your culture, and it's just a great way to meet new people and have a lot of fun," Wang said.

Guo returned to the stage for a dramatic Sword Dance, where she skillfully spun swords so quickly they appeared as blurs. She was quite happy with the way things turned.

Cho and James Zaidman (12)

demonstration, performing a traditional choreographed form in addition to splitting layered wooden boards with their bare hands and feet. "It felt very fun and hype. The audience was very excited and were wondering what was coming next," Cho said. The Taekwondo demonstration gave Cho a chance to express a different, more sporty part of herself, she said.

Ultimately, visual arts teacher and EWWW advisor Brian Lee was proud of the student board and all the performers for making this night happen. "[The board members] did a fantastic job. They divided up responsibilities... and they made it easier for both Kawahara Sensei and I to facilitate the club, taking the lead. They were very proactive, independent, and motivated," he said.

Considering this year's excitement and surprises at Asia Night, we can only wonder what's in store for us next year.



DRAGON SHOW

Photo by Jacqueline Shih

with planning, including sending numerous emails, coordinating logistics, and prop preparations, Cary Wang said.

Another Board member, Katherine Wan (11), was thrilled by the show. "The South Asian Youth (SAY) HM Bollywood dance was something new and very exciting this year," she said. Wan was also able to bring handmade merchandise back to the donation booth for the second straight year.

The night kicked off with a 5:30 p.m. dinner. There were three stations around the cafeteria with steaming platters of food from India, Korea, and China. Parent volunteers served the food, allowing students to sample traditional dishes while socializing with their peers, Cary Wang said.

The Indian station offered butter chicken, vegan tofu butter chicken, jasmine rice, and gulab jamun. The Korean station featured Japchae (glass noodles), Mandu (dumplings), tteokbokki (rice cakes), gimbap, and Japanese yogurt drinks. The Chinese table showcased beef dishes alongside a variety of snacks like purple and white rice crackers and mini pies,

skillfully portrayed through their fluent Chinese accents.

Anna Cho (12) was a solo performer in her Korean traditional fan dance, wearing a pink and white dress that turned into a pink cylinder when she twirled. Cho practices fan dancing outside of school and enjoys showing HM that Korean music and dance is more than just K-pop. "It is very uncommon and unique to fan dance now, but it is deeply rooted in Korean culture with nature motifs" she said. Although she broke one of her fans, she enjoyed the show and it facilitated connection with her culture.

Indian culture was celebrated during the Bollywood Dance Medley, a fast-paced dance to the tune of various Indian songs featuring mathematics teacher Varun Prabakar and Dean of the Class of 2026 Dr. Shalini Sudarsanan. "It was so cool and funny to see my math teacher showing off his moves," Will Han (9) said.

Elizabeth Lam (11), Cho, Ciana Tzuo (10), Sofia Monterroso-Rodriguez (10), and Zia Sharma (9) danced in the NewJeans



SMILE!

Photo by James Zaidman

The history we walk through: The people behind HM's buildings

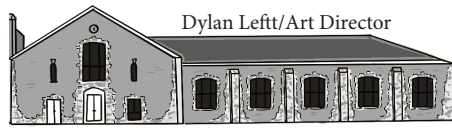
ADEN NATHOO
Staff Writer

Every day students trek in and out of buildings that we claim to know so well. Names like Prettyman, Pforzheimer, Tillinghast, Lutnick, Mullady, and Rose have become a part of our day-to-day lives, but most of us have never paused to consider the figures behind them.

Prettyman Hall

Opened in 1924, the Prettyman Gymnasium and Pool was named after one of the school's first Heads of School, Virgil Prettyman, a graduate of Dickinson College's class of 1892. After moving into a single building on 120th Street in Manhattan with the Columbia University Teachers College and naming itself "The Horace Mann School," the school appointed Prettyman in 1894 as its first Head of School under its new title. Prettyman served as Head of School for a pivotal 26 years, his tenure ending in 1920.

Under Prettyman, the school split from Teachers College and moved into its own building on 120th and Broadway in Morningside Heights, across from the former Bloomingdale Insane Asylum, which became a student dormitory for Teachers College at the



Dylan Leftt/Art Director

time. In 1909, Teachers College purchased land on 246th Street in Fieldston, where Alumni Field was opened as an athletic facility for the schools. In total, the land cost \$20,001 and was paid for by Prettyman. Later, on 246th Street, the Horace Mann School for Boys was opened and governed by Prettyman, while the old campus on 120th Street became the Horace Mann High School for Girls.

After resigning from his position at the school, Prettyman turned to working at one of New York City's largest building and real estate corporations. Prettyman also held an executive position in the textile industry as sales manager of the Manhattan Shirt Company. Today, Prettyman Hall is home to our lockers, gymnasiums, pool, and tennis courts.

Pforzheimer Hall

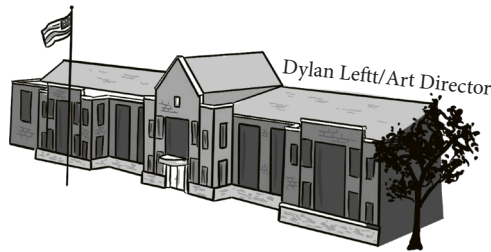
In 1956, the school built Pforzheimer Hall, a tribute to Carl H. Pforzheimer, the three-decades-long Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the school at the time. Pforzheimer was a successful banker and philanthropist, famous for founding the American Stock Exchange. He attended City College, after which he began his career as a \$4 per week clerk

on Wall Street. At the age of 23, Pforzheimer established his own firm, Carl H. Pforzheimer & Co., which focused on the oil and gas industries and was a pioneer in its field.

Later in life, Pforzheimer was elected to the board of trustees at the New York Public Library, where he also joined the finance committee. Additionally, he worked in the Westchester

County government and was involved in many philanthropic endeavors through the Carl and Lily Pforzheimer Foundation Inc.

Following Pforzheimer's renovation in 2019, many of the Middle Division's (MD) science and math classrooms reside in its halls today.



Dylan Leftt/Art Director

Tillinghast Hall

Tillinghast Hall was established in 1962 when its fourth-floor gymnasium was converted into classroom space. The building was then renovated in 2002 to look how it does today. Named after Charles Carpenter Tillinghast, the Head of School following Prettyman, the building is home to many of the Upper Division's (UD) Math, English, History, and World Language classes.

Born in Summit, Rhode Island., Tillinghast graduated from Classical High School in Providence, and received a bachelor's degree from Brown in 1906, as well as a Masters in Education from Teachers College. Before being appointed Head of School at HM, he taught at the Vermont Academy in Saxtons



Karla Moreira/Head of Design

River, VT, after which he became a member of the Englewood (NJ) High School faculty. Tillinghast then ventured to Stettin, Germany as a Carnegie Foundation exchange teacher, and returned to the U.S. to be principal of both the Nutley (NJ) High School and a school in Framingham, MA. Tillinghast was then appointed Head of School in 1920, his tenure lasting 30 years.

Under Tillinghast, the school opened the Prettyman Gymnasium and Pool and obtained complete financial and administrative independence from its former partner, Teachers College. In addition, Horace Mann High School for Girls closed after merging with the Lincoln School.

Rose Hall

Opened in 1999, renovated in 2019, and named after one of the school's most supportive families, Rose Hall houses many of the MD's humanities classes. Daniel Rose, a former Chairman of the Board at the school, is a well-known American real estate developer, philanthropist, and essayist. After attending the school, Rose went on to complete his Bachelor's Degree at Yale University. Rose had an illustrious career, serving as a military intelligence analyst and Russian language specialist with the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War, after which he joined his family's real

estate development company, Rose Associates, founded by his father Samuel and brother David. Rose worked on several real estate projects including the development of Pentagon City in Arlington County, Virginia and 99 High Street and One Financial Center in Downtown Boston. By 2006, Rose Associates managed over 31,000 apartments in New York City.

Rose pursued philanthropic initiatives as the co-founder and Chairman Emeritus of the Harlem Educational Activities Fund, an initiative that has helped inner city youth enter college since 1989. He has also

engaged in philanthropy at M.I.T., Yale, Cornell, and many other locations worldwide including an initiative in Ghana. Rose was also appointed Vice Chairman of the Baltic-American Enterprise Fund by Bill Clinton. Further, Rose is a six-time winner of the Cicero Speechwriting Award, and his 2015 collection of speeches, "Making a Living, Making a Life" was named one of the Best Books of 2015 by Kirkus Reviews. Rose has received numerous awards for his writing, work, and philanthropy across the U.S. and the world.

Mullady Hall

Opened in 2002, Mullady Hall contains the Katz Library and Alfred Gross Theater. The hall was named after Dr. Eileen Mullady, the first female Head of School who preceded Dr. Thomas Kelly. Mullady's tenure began in 1995 and lasted 10 years, during which Rose Hall, Fisher Hall, and Mullady Hall were built and opened, and Tillinghast Hall was renovated.

After leaving the school, Mullady served as Head of School at the Pacific Ridge School in Carlsbad, CA. She was also Dean of Faculty at

the Lawrenceville School, Associate Dean of Faculty at Princeton University, and Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs at Columbia University. Mullady's résumé is extensive, also having been a Fulbright public school teacher in France, the head of the accreditation team for Robert College in Istanbul, Turkey, and a trustee of the French American School of New York, the Educational Records Bureau, The New York State Association of Independent Schools, and the Albert G. Oliver Program.



Dylan Leftt/Art Director

Lutnick Hall

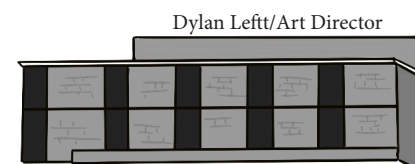
Completed in 2018, Lutnick Hall is named after one of the school's most loyal families and generous donors, Howard and Allison Lutnick, and their four children, Kyle '14, Brandon '16, Casey '19, and Ryan '24. Howard Lutnick was born in Jericho, New York, the son of a history professor and artist. He attended Haverford College, where he graduated with a degree in economics in 1983. Lutnick joined the investment firm Cantor Fitzgerald directly after college, was named president and CEO of the company in 1991, and became chairman in 1996. The firm's

main offices were located in the World Trade Center and, tragically, 658 of the company employees, including Lutnick's brother Gary, were killed during the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Lutnick created the Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Fund, a non-profit organization to aid families of Cantor Fitzgerald employees who died in the 9/11 attacks. Lutnick has continued his philanthropy, donating to Haverford College, Hurricane Sandy relief, Oklahoma Tornado relief, and Israeli causes, among others. Lutnick was recently

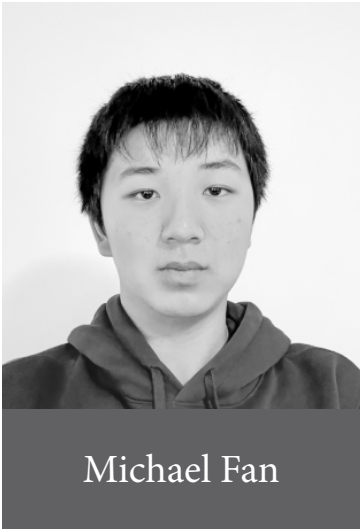
nominated by President Donald Trump to serve as Secretary of Commerce.

Today, Lutnick Hall houses the UD's science laboratories and classrooms, the Mindich Family Campus Center, the Mignone Independent Research Labs, the Olshan Great Room, a Student Publications Suite, and the Mindich Center for Community Values and Action.



Dylan Leftt/Art Director

Why Andrew Cuomo should run for Mayor of New York



Michael Fan

New York City is in a crisis. Week after week, stories emerge of citizens being shot, stabbed, and burned alive on the subway. Since 2022, more than 210,000 migrants, most of whom are undocumented, have arrived in the city, straining resources and the city's infrastructure. In 2021, Eric Adams, a former New York Police Department Captain, was elected as a moderate Democrat who promised to bring down crime and restore normalcy to the city. Unfortunately, he has not only failed to deliver on these promises but has also been indicted on several felony corruption charges.

As the city struggles with rising crime, an overwhelmed infrastructure, and a migrant crisis under Mayor Adams, the city needs a leader with a proven track record of crisis management and results-driven governance. Former New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo has demonstrated the ability to tackle crises head-on, implement transformative policies, and work across party lines to get things done. Given the dire state of the city, Cuomo should run for mayor to restore stability, enforce law and order, and lead New York toward a safer and more prosperous future.

Since Adams assumed office in January 2022, "major" felonies—defined by the NYPD as murder, rape, robbery, felony assault, burglary, grand larceny, and grand larceny of a motor vehicle—have skyrocketed. NYPD data shows a 23% increase in these crimes between 2021 and 2023, rising from about 103,000 to nearly 127,000. Compared to pre-pandemic levels in 2019, the situation is even worse, with major felonies increasing by a staggering 33%. In an unprecedented attempt to address the issue, Governor Kathy Hochul deployed thousands of combat-ready soldiers from the National

Guard into the subways. Despite this extraordinary intervention, overall crime only decreased by 3% from 2023 to 2024, a negligible improvement given the scale of the crisis. Aside from Adams' campaign focus on public safety, his performance in other areas is equally poor. For instance, as of 2023, 82% of the city's fourth graders in public schools were not proficient in math. He also mandated the closure of city libraries on Sundays, seized school gyms to shelter migrants, and opted to attend President Trump's inauguration rather than engaging in Martin Luther King Jr. Day events.

In these critical times, New York City needs a decisive leader. While Cuomo's tenure as Governor was not without its flaws, it is clear that his ability to deliver results and tackle crises head-on sets him apart from the leadership we currently see in City Hall. As governor, Cuomo led the transformation of LaGuardia Airport, turning it from a symbol of blue-city dysfunction into a world-class transportation hub. In 2011, he legalized gay marriage, making New York just the sixth state to do so. He also raised the minimum wage to 15 dollars an hour for workers in New York City and implemented the NY

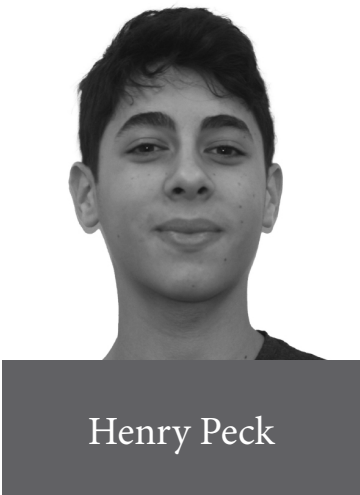
SAFE Act, a landmark gun control law. Known for his bipartisan leadership, Cuomo achieved many of these milestones while Republicans controlled the state senate. With Republicans currently holding power in Washington, it is more important than ever for the city to have a leader who can work across party lines effectively. Adams' need for a Presidential Pardon undermines his capacity to lead with credibility and focus. Cuomo faced numerous challenges during his time in office, from Superstorm Sandy to the COVID-19 pandemic, yet he demonstrated an exceptional ability to maintain control, communicate effectively, and implement solutions. His results-oriented approach ensured crises were tackled without derailing infrastructure, economic, or social progress. Meanwhile, Adams struggles to manage New York City's ongoing challenges, allowing them to define his mayoralty. While Cuomo consistently projected strength and competence during the state's most difficult moments, such as through his COVID-19 daily briefings, Adams publicly declared that the influx of migrants would "destroy" New York City. Such harmful rhetoric not only damages the city's image but also conveys a

lack of direction and shows he is fundamentally unable to address the issue.

Some argue that other candidates for Mayor would be more effective than both Cuomo or Adams. Unfortunately, the majority of the other Democratic contenders lean more left-wing. While their ideas reflect an important perspective, New York City is facing challenges that demand pragmatic, results-driven leadership. For example, the leading leftist candidates of the race, Scott Stringer and Brad Lander, openly supported defunding the NYPD. At a time when New York City requires the presence of thousands of heavily armed soldiers just to patrol the subway, electing a mayor who advocates for cutting police resources would put public safety at risk.

New York City is facing challenges that demand a strong, pragmatic, and decisive Mayor. From violent crime to failing public services, the stakes could not be higher. The city needs a leader who has a track record of getting things done, and that person is Andrew Cuomo.

Henry Peck (11) predicts the 2025 Super Bowl winner



Henry Peck

This Sunday, New Orleans will host the American Football Conference (AFC) champions, the Kansas City Chiefs, and the National Football Conference (NFC) champions, the Philadelphia Eagles, in a rematch Super Bowl matchup.

When we last saw this contest in 2023, the Chiefs defeated the Eagles 38-35 with a game-winning 27-yard field goal by Chiefs kicker Harrison Butker with 11 seconds remaining. The Chiefs aim to triumph again this year. They could become the first team in NFL history to win three consecutive Super Bowls, or "three-peat."

Odds makers believe the Chiefs have a 55.6% chance of victory. The game will be close, but I believe the Chiefs will triumph. First, the Chiefs have continually shown an ability to be nimble in their strategy (with aid from some questionable referee calls) and win in the tightest matchups; Second, Chiefs Quarterback Patrick Mahomes, two-time Most Valuable Player (MVP) and three-time Super Bowl champion, is superior to Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts in terms of passing. Mahomes had 3,928 yards and 26 passing touchdowns this season. Conversely, Hurts threw for only 2,903 yards and 18 touchdowns. Hurts has a strong ground game with Saquon Barkley and the 'tush push' strategy. Ultimately, a quarterback's passing ability, communication, and decisions under pressure make the difference. Finally, Chiefs Head Coach Andy Reid simply has more experience and a higher win-loss ratio than Eagles Head Coach Nick Sirianni.

During the first 17 weeks of the season, the Eagles offense scored 443 points, whereas the Chiefs put up only 385. The Eagles defense allowed 290 points, but the Chiefs gave up only slightly less—288. The Chiefs finished the season 15-2 (best in the NFL), and the Eagles finished 14-3. Both teams played exceptionally on defense, though

the Chiefs lagged on offense. Still, because the Chiefs won all their 11 one-score games during the regular season, they secured the number one seed in the AFC. Clearly, the Chiefs demonstrated an ability to win the closest matchups, whether by blocked field goals or last-second touchdowns. However, some of their wins benefited from controversial calls. For example, against the Cincinnati Bengals in Week 2, the Chiefs threw an incompletion on 4th down with only a few seconds left, but the referees called a questionable pass interference penalty that gave the Chiefs a first down, allowing them to win with a field goal.

On the ground, Eagles Running Back Saquon Barkley ran for 2005 yards during the regular season, the most in the league. He's been phenomenal during the Eagles' playoff games with 442 rush yards and five touchdowns. The Chiefs' ground game is solid, with backs Kareem Hunt and Isiah Pacheco leading the way, though they boast nowhere near the speed and strength of Barkley.

Despite a weak run game, the Chiefs have still excelled. On the other hand, teams with consistently deadly ball carriers like the Buffalo Bills with quarterback Josh Allen and the Baltimore Ravens with quarterback Lamar Jackson have

not made it to the Super Bowl in years. Hurts seems to fall into this group: quarterbacks who are great on the ground but with mediocre passing abilities. Unfortunately, these players seldom win Super Bowls. Joe Montana, Peyton Manning, and Tom Brady—all multi-time champions, yet none of them even came close to being fierce runners. Instead, they prioritize communication, chemistry, and accuracy—Mahomes' strengths.

When it comes to big moments, rushing quarterbacks, such as Hurts, often struggle, throwing last-minute interceptions and failing to stay calm under pressure during no-huddle plays. These struggles often lead to years of getting outplayed by smarter quarterbacks in close games.

Regarding wide receivers, the Eagles edge out the Chiefs thanks to their duo of A.J. Brown and Devonta Smith, the most reliable receiving pair in the league. However, the Chiefs do boast all-time tight end Travis Kelce. Even as his regular season production begins to dwindle, he's shown again and again that, in the playoffs, he can serve as Mahomes' go-to option for consistent 10-20-yard pickups on third downs. Mahomes' clutch performances give the Chiefs a slight edge in offensive weapons.

Both defenses are elite. The

Eagles have a well-rounded defensive line that can attack down the middle and on the edges with speed or sheer force. The Chiefs, on the other hand, have a superior secondary with fewer injuries and higher Pro Football Focus (PFF) graded safeties and cornerbacks.

Comparing head coaches, Sirianni has been in the league for only four years and has no Super Bowl titles. Last year, when the Eagles lost to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in the Wild Card round, many Eagles fans called for Sirianni to be fired. Conversely, Reid began his career in 1999, ironically with the Eagles until he switched to the Chiefs in 2013. Reid has the highest win ratio after former New England Patriots Head Coach Bill Belichick, both in the regular season (0.730) and playoffs (0.720).

In their recent Super Bowl wins, the Chiefs started slow but finished strong. Mahomes was down by double-digits during every first half but then found a way to pick his teammates back up and carry them across the finish line. I believe the Chiefs will be down by at least seven points and then snag the lead in the final two minutes. My final prediction is the Chiefs winning 30-27, with Mahomes earning his fourth Super Bowl MVP.



VARSITY BASKETBALL ROARS: LIONS PREPARE TO TAKE ON RIVERDALE AT BUZZELL

JULIA LOURENCO
Staff Writer

Art by Dylan Leftt/ Art Director
Photos are Courtesy of Coach Garcia

Girls Varsity Basketball

“Buzzell is the game at Horace Mann, and we haven’t won in a few years, so we have really high hopes for Friday,” Mara Silverstein (11) said. Hoping to get over a two-year losing streak against Riverdale at the Buzzell Games, Girls Varsity Basketball (GVB) spent their season building team chemistry and working together to prepare for Friday’s match.

GVB suffered a devastating 17-43 loss against Riverdale earlier this season, but the defeat served as a learning opportunity for Buzzell, Silverstein said. “Since then, we’ve really come together as a team and built up great chemistry in terms of working with one another and getting used to our coaches’ playing style.”

The four coaches currently working with GVB—Roland Bushi, Derek Reid, Mike An-

tonio, and Will Engelhardt—will be one of the team’s greatest advantages for Buzzell, GVB Captain Elliana Romero (12) said. Each coach is in charge of particular aspects of the team’s success, whether conditioning, motivation, practicing specific skills, or providing tailored feedback to each player during practice, she said. “We’re very lucky to have such a large coaching staff because they help us point out what we need to fix. Especially because we are such a large team, it’s really important for us to have as much help as possible,” Romero said. GVB currently has 15 members—an increase in players from last year.

GVB did not practice this week, with a 51-50 win against Avenues on Monday and a 49-23 win against Dalton on Wednesday, a rest day on Tuesday, and a snow day on Thursday. The

coaches prioritized rotating as many papers as possible during this week’s games because of the limited practice time, Malina Patel (11) said. “I don’t actually see it as a huge disadvantage because we get to simulate Buzzell’s environment a lot more being in games instead of practice this week.”

Monday’s win against Avenues was an excellent opportunity to get accustomed to Buzzell’s energetic environment, Anoushka Parakh (11) said. “Towards the end of the game, everyone in the crowd was cheering and really hyped, so it was a good way to get in the mental space for the pressure that comes with Buzzell.”

The pressure of playing in front of a large crowd may be the biggest challenge for GVB, but it is also one of the most exciting parts of

Buzzell, Patel said. “It’s very scary to play in such a big gym space with that many people watching you, but everyone is just happy to be together and playing on the court.”

Buzzell’s environment is especially invigorating for Romero, who hopes to end her GVB career with a win against the Falcons, she said. “Buzzell only happens once a season, and it’s going to be my last one, so I’m just trying to get everyone really excited to play.”

As captain, Romero hopes the team can be more confident during the game than last year and give the game their all, she said. “I would just be upset if I knew I didn’t try my best, so we are going to go out there, have fun, and be a team—win or lose.”

Boys Varsity Basketball

Motivated by a ten-point loss against Riverdale at the start of their season, the Boys Varsity Basketball (BVB) has spent the past week poring over hours of game footage and working on conditioning to defeat the Falcons at this Friday’s Buzzell Games.

In light of a losing 5-13 record this season, Will Chasin (11) hopes the Buzzell Games will be a way to reverse the team’s unlucky streak. Their loss against Riverdale is a particularly sore spot for BVB, since their defeat was mainly a result of poor team performance, Chasin said. “It was actually a pretty winnable game, and it was pretty close throughout, but we weren’t hitting shots and our defense fell apart,” Chasin said. Now, however, with dozens of games under their belt, BVB has per-

fectured their performance as a team, he said.

In a similar situation to the GVB team, BVB only had a few practices this week, with most of their time being taken up by matches, including a 52-62 loss against Dalton on Wednesday. This did not stop the Lions in preparing for Buzzell, since the team spent over two hours on Monday re-watching film from several matches throughout the season, BVB Assistant Coach Lawrence Raysor said.

Among others, BVB watched their game against Dalton earlier in the year, in addition to a Dalton-Trinity match. “The main thing we were looking for is how we play defense—so we were talking about how to defend against [different plays] and also how to put pressure on whoever has the ball,” Raysor

said.

On top of improved defense, BVB has been working on “blitzing screens,” or prioritizing attacking ball screens instead of waiting on the other team to make a move, Raysor said. “It makes no sense for us to play the kind of defense we’re hoping for if our backup guys aren’t rotating to cover the guys we left open,” he said. “Working together, being on one accord, and playing defense is really what will change everything for us and make us more competitive as a team.”

In addition to Raysor and Coach Harry Bauld’s support, many of the older players on the team are helping to get all BVB members excited for Buzzell. Damian Mojica (10) said. “Only a couple of players have been in Buzzell

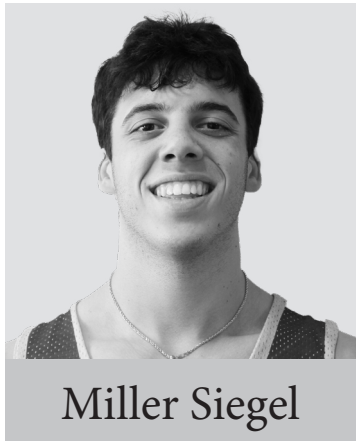
in past years, since a large part of the team graduated last year, so our captains and veterans have been encouraging the newer members of the team.”

For Mojica, having the chance to play at Buzzell is especially meaningful, he said. “I’ve been coming to the games ever since I was little, and now, since I’m playing, it’s really cool to have my family in the stands watching me.”

While Raysor hopes to see the improvement on technique during the game on Friday, what he most hopes for is that BVB grows as a team. “I always hope the guys strengthen their bonds and make memories together, and the bonus is always the win: while we’re a team, we’re also a family.”

BOYS STARTING LINEUP

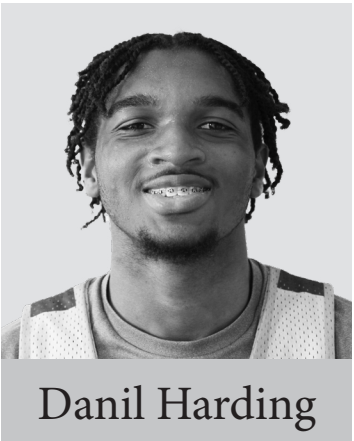
*Disclaimer: These lineups are from the most recent games. Starting Lineups are TBD



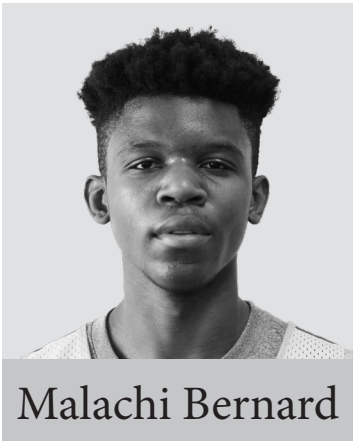
Miller Siegel



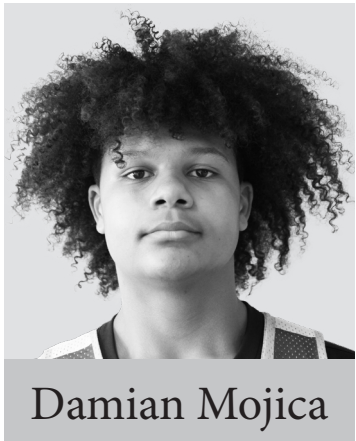
Cooper Winter



Danil Harding



Malachi Bernard



Damian Mojica

ROSTERS

GIRL'S VARSITY BASKETBALL
2025 ROSTER

- 1. SCHUYLER LEVIN (1)
- 2. NARA BRUNIK (3)
- 3. SARAH KORFF (4)
- 4. ELIANA ROMERO (10)
- 5. MALINA PATEL (11)
- 6. GRACE SAMSON (13)
- 7. ELLYANA MANCERO (15)
- 8. TESSA SIEGEL (21)
- 9. MARA SILVERSTEIN (22)
- 10. AVA PARENTO (25)
- 11. ANOUSHKA PARAKH (30)
- 12. AVA LITMAN (31)
- 13. CAROLINE EIZENSTAT (32)
- 14. DRISSIA SYLLA (33)
- 15. ELLIE PARK (41)

BOY'S VARSITY BASKETBALL
2025 ROSTER

- 1. COOPER WINTER (1)
- 2. MATTHEW FRATEPIETRO (3)
- 3. MILLER SIEGEL (4)
- 4. DAMIAN MOJICA (5)
- 5. WILLIAM CHASIN (10)
- 6. DANIL HARDING (11)
- 7. IAN ALLARD-NEPTUNE (12)
- 8. KADER KANE (14)
- 9. KALEB TAYLOR (15)
- 10. MALACHI BERNARD (20)
- 11. ZACHARY SHERMAN (21)
- 12. AJAY JAYANT (25)
- 13. ARDA ALTINTEPE (32)

GIRLS STARTING LINEUP



Eliana Romero



Malina Patel



Caroline Eizenstat



Anoushka Parakh



Ava Parento

Record Sports LIONS' DEN

FEBRUARY 7TH, 2025

8

Wrestling looks towards NYSAIS as season comes to a close

CIANA TZUO
Staff Writer

“Our wrestlers managed to win several tough bouts against opponents who were expected to outperform them. We’re very proud of those wrestlers for their perseverance,” James Koplin (11) said. “So we’re very proud of those wrestlers for pulling through.” Last Saturday, Varsity Wrestling placed fourth in the Ivy Championship with individual places across weight classes. Continuing their strong run, the team defeated Trinity 45-30 this Wednesday, Solidifying their place in the final Ivy League dual meet standings in a three-way tie for 4th

place.

The team grew this year, gaining several less experienced members compared to past years. “We had a great tournament last Saturday and performed well, especially considering we had a lot of young and new wrestlers,” Koplin said. The team had 16 members in the tournament, and eight of them finished in the top four of their weight class.

Overall, the Lions focused on collective development and individual improvements throughout the season. “This year, we haven’t had as much victory as in past years, as this year we had a lot of younger guys and it is more of a developmental year,” co-captain Carson Eisner (12) said. Rohan

Samaya (8) did particularly well last Saturday, winning second in his weight class, facing a wrestler who won the NYC championships this year, Eisner said. Another standout was James Lin (11), who finished first in the 285-pound weight class, after avenging an earlier loss to his Dalton opponent. Alexander James (11), Samaya, and Lin all earned all-ivy league status by reaching the finals.

Preparation for the meets was ongoing and consistent throughout the year, Koplin said. “Our [wrestling] team is unique compared to other school’s wrestling teams because we’re ready to wrestle any day of the week,” he said. Some teams may have more relaxed training sessions when they know they won’t be competing for a while, but the team consistently trains hard and maintains high levels of readiness and the coaches make sure everyone is prepared to wrestle at any time, he said.

The team also focused on strengthening their mindset for the meets, especially after their loss to Dalton. In specific, the team focused on changing their mindsets by watching videos about world champion wrestlers and learning from their advice, Eisner said. “We’re just trying to continue creating a supportive, collaborative, and vibrant team where everyone tries their best and is supported,” he said.

The team has also been working

on learning new moves to apply in matches. One special move they have been focusing on is where a player will fake a shot in one direction but finish it in another to confuse the opponent, called ‘misdirection.’ “So far, we’ve been working on perfecting those so we can use them in matches,” Koplin said. Aside from that, the team has focused on essential moves like takedowns and pinning combinations, and learning to master them in matches, he said.

When facing Trinity this Wednesday, the team took a different approach to redistributing the lineup, incorporating stronger players. Trinity defeated Horace Mann by 11 points in the first match of the season, Coach Gregg Quilty said. “I told the team before the match that the coaches wanted to see improvement and that this would be a true measuring stick of how we improved,” he said. The Lions ended up defeating Trinity and earning a winning record of 8-7 for the season.

There were some key moments of the match that helped the team win. First-year wrestler, Sachin Bulusawar (11) was pivotal in securing a win, winning his match and earning points for the team, Quilty said. Eisner, who returned from a season-long injury, also provided a needed pin at 152 pounds to clinch the win for HM.

As the end of the season

approaches, Eisner looks forward to NYSAIS, starting Saturday. Wrestling’s focus is set on winning as many weight classes as they can, so members can qualify for the state championships, Eisner said. There was definitely a dip in the season based on circumstances with both Eisner and Gabe Ramos (11) out due to injury and having a younger, less experienced team; many players struggled to win matches during Ivies, he said. “There’s definitely work to be done, but we just remind everyone to wrestle their hardest and not get discouraged by a difficult match or bad performance in a tournament.”

Eisner hopes the team can continue their hard work and send some members to states as they face tougher competition at NYSAIS. “We hope to get some individual place winners, some medals, and have a good end to the season,” Eisner said.

Quilty hopes that students can achieve their individual goals in addition to their team goals. The team aims to place top four and each member has an individual goal of placing top six in their weight class. “We are all excited for our final team competition this weekend and hope our continued training and confidence built throughout the season can show in the most important tournament of the year,” Quilty said.



PIN THEM!

Photo by Alexander James

Boys Varsity Squash falls to Trinity

EVELYN GROSS
Staff Writer

“Even though we didn’t win, this match showed us how much we’ve improved as a team, especially in terms of endurance and mentality, and we’ll keep pushing forward,” Jake Kwon (10) said. The Boys Varsity Squash team put up a strong fight against Trinity in a close match on Monday, though ultimately lost 3-4.

In squash, teams compete in a ladder format, where eight players from each school face off against their opponents in head-to-head matches based on ranking. Heading into the match, the team anticipated a challenge, as their top-ranked player, Jack Angevine (11), was out due to injury, forcing everyone to move up a spot in the lineup. Additionally, their number two player, Ahaan Modi (12), was returning for his first match after a minor injury, adding another layer of difficulty to an already tough competition.

Squash is just as much a mental game as a physical one, so when the team arrived at Trinity’s courts, Head Coach Patric Westoo gave the team mentality advice before their matches, Angevine said. “The team has been struggling with our nerves and getting distracted by off-court factors, such as focusing on their

teammate’s performances instead of their own match,” he said. “Westoo encouraged us to stay focused, remain competitive, never give up, and rebound if they were falling behind.”

The players had some impressive matches, including Taige Sarkari (11), who, despite recovering from an injury, put up an intense fight against a tough opponent and drew a crowd of coaches and parents to watch, Angevine said. “He had some really long, excellent rallies, and it was great to see him make a strong recovery. I was really proud to watch him work on things he’s struggled with previously and overcome them.”

More parents and coaches from Trinity attended the match, which some players found intimidating and distracting, but the team remained focused and listened to Westoo’s advice, Kwon said. “Thankfully, the support from the HM parents watching gave us a lot of motivation to keep going.”

Anticipating a tough match, the team prioritized endurance training, incorporating cardio workouts into their practices in the fitness center, Kwon said. Recognizing the importance of lower-body strength in squash, their preparation included treadmill runs, interval sprints, and leg exercises. “Squash requires agility and quick footwork, so our practices can’t be just focused on skill development on the court but also building

strength and endurance off the court,” he said.

The team saw the results of their stamina training pay off, as they were more active and continued rallies for extended periods of time, Kwon said. “Our team was definitely in better shape; we were returning serves more effectively, and the points lasted longer,” he said. “The matches felt much more competitive, especially compared to the last time we played Trinity.”

Henry Peck (11) noted that maintaining confidence throughout matches is an area for the team’s improvement. “Sometimes, when we lose multiple points in a row and are down in a

game, we may choose to give up the game and focus on winning the next,” Peck said. “Instead, we need to take a moment, reset our minds, and keep trying our best to win each individual point rather than throwing in the towel if we make a few mistakes.”

Overall, the team wishes they had won but are proud of the fight they put up, especially considering that Trinity is the second-best team in their league, Kwon said. “We came so close, which is frustrating, but it also highlights how much we’ve improved as a team, something we can definitely be proud of.”



SCORING POINTS

Courtesy of Andrea Garcia