

Campus Changes

by Sam Culburt '15

In arriving back to Concord Academy this fall, students and faculty could see changes immediately. They saw new signage scattered around campus, new furniture in classrooms and entirely redesigned offices. The community also recognized subtler changes such as new paint, doors and lighting.

Don Kingman, Director of Operations, and his crew had worked tirelessly over the summer to improve the CA campus. Kingman said that the new layout is intended to create better learning and working environments, and, with the addition of signs, it should be harder to get lost.

Prior to this year, campus had very minimal signage. "Of course we all know where everything is, but visitors have no idea," said Kingman. With maps in kiosks strategically

placed in Aloian Circle and around the quad, visitors are now able to orient themselves with more independence. Additionally, Kingman and his crew installed signs on both the interiors and exteriors of buildings to help guide visitors. Kingman added that he hopes the new signage will convey a more receptive vibe to newcomers.

Another focus of the renovations was on office spaces. Perhaps the most noticeable adjustments are the new College Counseling Offices. According to Kingman, the prior disjointedness of the CCO workspace necessitated this reconfiguration. The college counseling team now shares the same hallway. "We considered the department working together as a whole. With these new offices, communication will be much easier and there will be an improved work flow," Kingman said. The new CCO replaced the former Mandarin classroom.

Another task was relocating the administrative offices. John Drew, Assistant Head

of School and Academic Dean, and Jenny Chandler, Dean of Faculty, now work in what used to be the well-loved Diversity Office. Kingman said that while he recognizes the sacrifices, he knows the changes are worth it. "We needed to figure out what is the highest and best use of our space. As a school, we want to be putting our best foot forward," he said.

Classrooms, too, have been revamped. An anonymous benefactor donated the funds to replace the old tables and chairs. Kingman said these changes make for a new "classroom template." He added that more continuity exists among rooms, which improves the aesthetic quality of CA's learning spaces.

Other changes in classrooms make CA more energy efficient. Kingman replaced the windows in the Upper Stu-Fac conference room this summer. The new windows prevent heat from escaping. Science classrooms have new sensory lighting that detects sunlight and appropriately lights the room in response, reducing the amount of wasted energy.

To students, it may appear that an unusual amount of work was done this summer in comparison to other years. Kingman explained, however, that they put in a typical amount of summer work, but the changes were more school-wide than usual. In past summers, for example, Operations has focused on improving houses. Kingman said that house improvements take an incredible amount of work, "but if you don't live in that house or you're a day student, you'd have no idea. What students are seeing this year is the typical amount of work we'll do over a summer, but on a more global scale, plus the benefit of a gift [the furniture]."

Students and faculty appreciate campus improvements, especially this year when the whole community can feel the full effect of these changes.

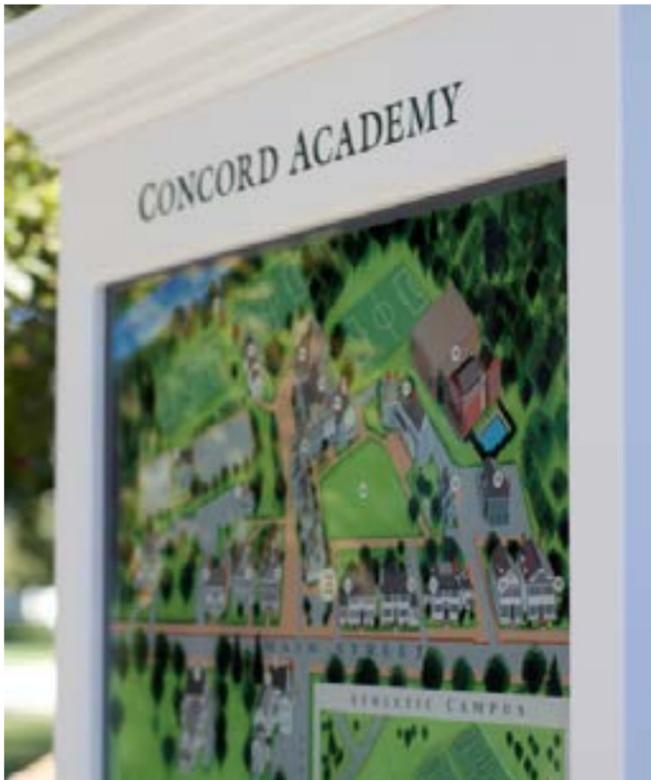


Photo of the new campus map.
Photo by Molly D'Arcy '16.

Greeting Schoology

by Iris Oliver '15

Taped to the wall of Ivan Nieves' office are the words "Authentic," "Archiving," and "BYOD." These three principles are what Nieves, Concord Academy's Instructional Solutions Architect, and CA's tech department strive to support. Authenticity includes creating a technological space that emulates, as closely as possible, technology and collaboration in the real world, and uses the best technology available for the varying needs of the CA community. Archiving will increase continuity of classes and clubs from year to year at CA by retaining the best and most useful material, and BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) gives CA students the freedom to use whatever devices are most convenient for them.

In order to further these principles, consequently bringing CA's technological system up to speed with the most current tools, the department has introduced new technology to replace First Class, the old system of e-mail and conferencing. Some of these tools are CACConnect, Schoology, and Forums.

CACConnect is where the department is planning to center the majority of things related to life at CA, and is a major part of the archiving principle. CACConnect not only provides links to other technological tools, but it will also be used as a place for courses and clubs to centralize their information. It is run through a platform called MindTouch®, a tool that, according to Nieves, is used by NASA and Microsoft. Mindtouch allows for the storage and management of a wealth of information. Every club, course and department has a page on CACConnect. These pages contain course descriptions, and standardized course materials for reference. In terms of courses, these pages facilitate and standardize classes from year to year, as teachers will not have to re-upload last year's documents onto an email or onto Schoology, they will simply be able to provide students with links to these documents. In this way, teachers can save their most beneficial materials from year to year, and streamline and improve their classes. The course descriptions on the pages can help new and returning students decide which classes to take in following years. CACConnect also has an ASC page, where students can schedule meetings with the tutors.

The other major tool for courses is Schoology. Schoology is a tool that allows both students and teachers to interact virtually, as if they were in a classroom. Students and the teacher can post discussions, and comments on these discussions. There is also a calendar with descriptions of future assignments. Students can submit assignments through Schoology dropboxes,

and teachers can, in turn, grade these assignments. As Nieves explained: "[Schoology is] one landing page where you have all of the messages... all of the upcoming assignments, and you're one click away from a calendar that shows you all the work that you have to do." Teachers will use Schoology to direct students on a daily or weekly basis to the information such as syllabi and reading assignments.

Unlike Schoology, forums provide information for activities that are not mandatory, such as clubs. The new forums service is run through a program called vBulletin. Nieves explained that vBulletin is "the best,

most famous, most used forum tool that there is on the Internet right now." This forum program was chosen in order to give CA students experience using a variety of technology, thereby furthering the authenticity principle. Every club has a forum page (these replace club conferences),

where club members can choose to subscribe. Members can also choose to receive email notifications from their favorite clubs. Students are meant to use forums on vBulletin as discussion sites for clubs, where club heads can post discussion threads and start conversations. Nieves emphasized that by allowing students to subscribe to the clubs they wanted, he was creating a discussion environment that mirrors real life club meetings: open to any and all members.

Although the IT department has currently only revealed a limited number of tools for all school use, Onelogin gives the CA Community the luxury of choice, so CA students and faculty won't have to remember new usernames for each app. As Nieves explained, the new technological system creates "an environment where we can add hundreds of new applications." Some applications that should be appearing relatively soon are: Trumba, a tool used for event planning and scheduling, and ScheduleOnce, a device used to schedule meetings.

Authenticity, archiving, and BYOD are not just principles that are used during a student's time at CA. Nieves and other school leaders envision them as carrying over into life after CA. Not every post-CA working space or environment will standardize devices or programs, so the school sees importance in making CA students feel comfortable in using different software and, to do so, it is creating a realistic environment. Varying the software that CA uses ensures that students and faculty do not just become proficient at using one type of software; they will be able to use multiple types and apply this proficiency to other parts of their lives. Nieves and the IT department have attempted to use the best tools on the market for specific functions and centralize these tools through a single login. As Nieves said, this new system is designed to create a "technology enabled learning environment."



Schoology Logo.
Photo courtesy of www.searchman.com

Inside This Issue...



Scheduling Behind the Scenes

by Julia Shea '16

The school day schedule at Concord Academy is an integral aspect of any student's education. It was designed in 2001 by members of the faculty to facilitate learning. Those who work most closely with the schedule, Scheduler and math teacher Deborah Gray and Assistant Head of School and Academic Dean John Drew, have a purposeful approach to scheduling. Gray does a lot more than simply inputting class requests into a computer program behind the scenes; Drew oversees the whole operation.

In 2001, CA transitioned from a more conventional schedule with four class meetings a week to the current rolling block schedule of three class times a week. "[A scheduling committee] decided that it was

is not for students to do everything, but instead to sample. More variety means more hard choices," Drew said.

As soon as students submit their class requests forms in early May, Gray begins the process of scheduling. Students assign preference points to classes, and, in the event that there is a tie in preference points and seniority, a lottery ensues.

"Ms. Gray then loads sets of classes into the scheduling software to get a feel for what rotation will work best for the greatest number of students possible," Drew said. Gray said she uses three different scheduling software programs. "Ultimately, though, I make the decisions, not the computer," Gray said. In the case of a lottery, students who signed up for more multiple-section classes



John Drew, Assistant Head of School and Academic Dean, who plays a significant role in the scheduling process. Photo by Molly D'Arcy '16.

important to have fewer transitions during the day and set students up to have fewer classes to prepare for each day," Drew said. The current schedule allots two 75-minute blocks and one 40-minute block per major class. Minors typically meet twice a week for 75 minutes each.

Another modification faculty saw as necessary in the 2001 revision was a short break during the day. "It's crazy to ask students and teachers to go four hours without some sort of break to stretch their legs or go to the bathroom," Drew said. The result is the 15-minute break students enjoy from 10 to 10:15 each morning with cakes, coffee and tea in the dining hall.

Despite the 2001 improvement, Drew said the current schedule is not flawless. Last year, Drew, along with Dean of Faculty Jenny Chandler and the department heads met to discuss if there was an easy tweak they could make in order to further improve the schedule. "Some classes, specifically language and math could benefit from meeting for more than three times a week," Drew said. However, the group concluded that no simple adjustment was possible.

"Part of our [developing] strategic plan is to examine how teachers use time and form a committee to look at models at other schools," Drew said. So, at least for now, the current block schedule is here to stay. Drew said that over the summer, Gray was responsible for creating each student's schedule. But with over 150 classes that meet in one block only, many of which are upperclassmen electives, juniors and seniors rarely receive all the classes they request. "The goal of offering such variety in classes

are likelier to get their first choice courses.

There are other factors as well. "Scheduling is not a simple process," Drew added. "Incoming students put down what level of math and language they think is right, but until we receive their placement test results, we can't place them in classes."

According to Drew, placement test results are approximately 90 percent accurate. But within the first few weeks of school, that means that around ten percent of new students switch class levels. "Occasionally students find that a class is either too challenging or too easy," Drew said. In this case, Gray works to accommodate the level change without causing a full schedule rearrangement.

Finally, by the middle of September, Gray and Drew have usually resolved all the scheduling issues, and CA's breadth of classes is well underway.

Students have varying opinions on having classes that meet three times a week. "Sometimes I lose focus during the 75-minute blocks. Long blocks can sometimes feel really long," Izzy Bush '16 said. "Occasionally I find myself looking at the time," Jack Treanor '16 said.

"I wouldn't want to meet any more frequently," Nick Walters '16 said, "I like only having to do homework for a few classes each night." Some blocks in the schedule are more evenly spaced than others, such as C block and E block, offering at least two nights to complete each homework assignment. "I like the Monday, Wednesday, Friday classes, but most of the blocks meet two days in a row at some point during the week," said Treanor.

New Courses

Teresa Dai '14

While carefully studying the school's 60-page course catalogue, all Concord Academy students have faced the difficult situation where they debate between two courses that seem equally interesting and inspiring, and yet they just simply cannot make a choice. Part of the challenge is that CA offers a large variety of courses in all academic departments. One can choose to explore topics ranging from Thoreau's writing to Broadway songs. And, if the usual choices are not hard enough to choose among, new courses are constantly proposed and offered by innovative faculty members, adding fresh elements to the curriculum.

This year is no exception. New courses stretch across departments, showing up in English, history, performing arts and science. These courses include but are not limited to: Medieval Europe, Concord History, Modern India, Constitutional Law, Asian Literature, Short Fiction, Broadway Songbook, and Computer Modeling in Science.

The proposal of new courses is not a complicated process. Associate Head of School and Dean of Academics John Drew explained, "Most new electives are simply created in a conversation between a teacher and that teacher's department chair, and there's usually no wider involvement by me or other people." CA gives its faculty members enough freedom to envision their own courses focusing on topics they are genuinely passionate about, which allows them to specialize and share their enthusiasm with students.

For example, Constitutional Law is a history course offered by history teacher Stephanie Manzella in the spring semester. According to the description in the course catalogue, Manzella and her students will be "[examining] issues such as judicial review, the commerce clause, the right to privacy, the right to bear arms, and Federalism." Although this course has not been offered at CA before, it is not new to Manzella. She taught it in San Francisco in the 1990s. However, Manzella said the course she will offer in the spring will "be different from how I taught

it in the 90s because there are new issues [to consider]." Manzella explained that she and the class will look at some key cases such as the famous Dred Scott case, and they will also "watch what is going on now in the Court and think about how we got to that point."

As Drew described, Manzella said she just talked to her department to propose the course. "I have never taught a U.S. [History] elective here, although before I came here, all I taught for upper levels was U.S. History... And then I started doing European and African history, so I only did those electives... I asked if I could please teach a U.S. elective, and that's the one."

There are, however, exceptions to this simple procedure when any suggested course has an impact on what students may do in other departments. These proposals are taken to the Department Heads group chaired by Dean of Faculty Jenny Chandler and Drew for further discussions. For instance, when U.S. History was moved to junior year from sophomore year, the change potentially affected what courses students might choose in other departments, so it was considered by all department heads before it was approved.

This year, there are also some minor alternations to existing courses. For example, Geometry has been divided from a year-long course into two semester-long courses. "The math department felt that the ability to take Geometry as a two-semester course allowed students to break it [the sequence] up," Drew said. So now students can start taking geometry in the spring and finish the second semester in the next fall. "I was really glad for the change because it gives sophomores a little more choice about what they can do with their year... and it creates more flexibility for scheduling for the whole school," Drew added.

As these courses are new, teachers are not always sure what to expect. Manzella said, "I'm hoping for some lively debates... But I'm not sure at all. As soon as you think you know [what will happen], you are surprised."

The outcomes of this year's new academic offerings remain surprises for the students and faculty alike to discover.

Where'd the Furniture Go?

by Nathan Greess '15

"About 1000," said Director of Operations Don Kingman. That is the number of pieces of furniture that was present in classrooms on Concord Academy's campus as



The new furniture in the CA classrooms. Photo by Molly D'Arcy '16.

of Spring 2013. Ranging from molded desk units with the chair and table attached to ceramic-seated chairs to old wooden desks, this mishmash of furniture has been Concord

Academy's style for as long as Kingman has been here. Both the flexibility of classroom arrangements and the uniformity of appearance had been compromised for years. "We looked like a tag sale!" exclaimed Kingman. "We've got three of these, we got one of

these, oh, might have four over there," King-

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Hairspray!

by Reilly Lloynd '15

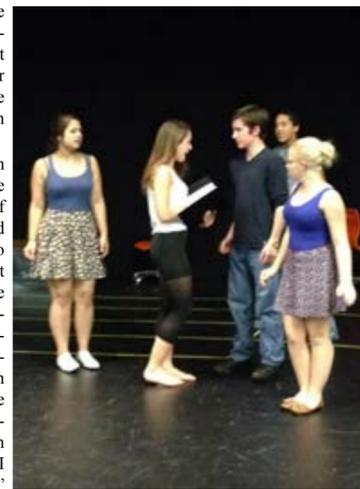
A large cast of Concord Academy actors, singers, and dancers have already begun collaborating with their director, musical director and choreographer to start the rehearsal process for a version of the well-known musical Hairspray. Hairspray was chosen for the Fall Mainstage this year only after a careful selection process. Director and theatre teacher Megan Gleeson said she "wanted to find a big Broadway musical with music we hadn't heard recently in CA productions: Motown, early 1960's crooning and harmonies, etc." Gleeson also wanted to find a piece that "would celebrate the many gifts and talents of our students as well as find something that our new Music Director, Michael Bennett, was familiar with as he would be hitting the ground running in his first semester at CA."



Hairspray Movie Poster.

Photo courtesy of www.guesswhichmovie.com

Producing Hairspray is a bold choice, because of the play's controversial portrayals of race as well as its thought-provoking setting. The comedy takes place in 1960s Baltimore, which, like most American cities at that time, was dealing with segregation and aggravated race relations. Gleeson says this touchy subject matter became an additional complexity in the decision process: "Because of the nature of the historical backdrop [such as] rising civil rights issues, specifically for Afro-Americans at that time, we invited members of the Community & Equity team to be a part of the conversation with the Performing Arts Department about doing a play that purpose-



Hairspray! rehearsal in progress photo by Ali Zildjian '15

idolize the show. Among the fans of the "Corny Collins Show" are Tracy Turnblad and her best friend Penny Pingleton. When the girls learn the show will be holding auditions for a new member, Tracy, despite her large body type, decides to audition. In school detention one day Tracy befriends her African-American peers, who encourage her to audition and help her by showing her some of their favorite dance moves. "Dance was leading the way of a new movement both physically and politically during this time," explains Amy Spencer, Performing Arts Department Head and fully discusses race and difference issues and what that would mean for the cast and the CA community in general." In addition to such sensitive issues, themes of body image and social class are also present throughout the play. "These issues are still relevant," says Gleeson. "We just celebrated the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington and Martin Luther King's 'I Have A Dream' speech! There was a lot of talk about where this country has grown since then and where we still need to grow." Clearly these ideas still require attention and Hairspray offers an opportunity to reflect on the many struggles minorities have endured and continue to experience in the present day.

A number of parallels exist between the

world of Hairspray and our community here at CA. "This is a show about teenagers, albeit in the early 1960's," said Gleeson, "but it is about welcoming difference, not only to people with different colored skin but also size and body differences. There is always room to learn about embracing and accepting difference no matter what era we're in."

The musical has been particularly popular because it illustrates the power of music and dance, so integral to American culture, regardless of race, gender, age, or body type. In the musical, various groups struggle with discrimination, but all are brought together by a shared passion: a popular TV show called The Corny Collins Show. This show, broadcast from downtown Baltimore, epitomizes the popular dance scene. The show's cast of enthusiastic, stereotypical white teenage dancers introduces new popular dance moves to thousands of teenage fans that

idolize the show.

the choreographer for CA's production of Hairspray. Spencer recalled that dance contributed to the progressiveness of this period. The dance culture at the time often did reveal racial tensions, since "white culture usurped trends that came out of the black culture, which was particularly evident in popular

movement at this time," said Spencer. However, African-American communities used dance in ways that "laid ground work for connection and integration between races because their movement interested whites who may have otherwise not associated with them. Suddenly white kids were doing dance moves

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Movie Review: The World's End

by Carter Kratkiewicz '16

The World's End

★★★★

The World's End is a ridiculous movie. Ridiculous in a good way. It is over-the-top, ludicrous and intense, and I think it pulls it off pretty well. This movie is the final installment in the trilogy of Simon Pegg and Nick Frost movies directed by Edgar Wright, the other two being *Shaun of the Dead* and *Hot Fuzz*. While Pegg and Frost play different characters in the three movies, the movies are all linked by a common theme: zombies.

Gary King (Simon Pegg) is a man who never left his high school days behind. He reminisces constantly about the best day of his life when he and four high school buddies tried to complete the "Golden Mile," a hometown challenge to visit twelve specific bars in a specific order and drink a beer at every one of them. "The World's End" is the name of the last bar in this competition. Gary convinces his four, now adult, high school friends to join him on a quest to conquer the Golden Mile once again, but when they arrive in their hometown, they uncover a conspiracy. At this point the sci-fi and action kicks in.

The World's End is full of incredible action scenes. One particularly astounding fight scene in the first half of the movie was better than any similar scenes in *Pacific Rim*, the summer blockbuster about robots and aliens. This scene was created by five

British comedians with a \$20 million budget whereas the fight scenes in *Pacific Rim* involved enormous aliens and robots and an almost \$200 million budget. Based on budget alone, one would expect that *Pacific Rim*'s fight scenes to be far superior in quality. Not so. In this comparative light, *The World's End* action was extremely well done and *Pacific Rim*'s action was not nearly as good as it should have been.

The acting in *The World's End* was great, as one would expect from Pegg and Frost. If you don't know their other movies, you will be pleasantly surprised because great acting is expected in dramas, but generally not in sci-fi-action-comedies. For this genre of movie, the character development is also surprisingly good. The script delves deeply enough into the characters' lives to make the audience care about them, and I felt genuinely upset when certain characters were killed off.

Despite the good acting and the intense action scenes, however, I noticed that the movie is somewhat disorganized. The first words out of my mouth after the movie was over were, "Well, that was a mess of a movie." The transitions were not always smooth, which made it seem like more of a work-in-progress rather than a final cut. Additionally, the end of the movie seemed a bit out of place.

Nevertheless *The World's End* is a hilarious and entertaining film with something for everyone. If you feel like laughing and suspending your disbelief for an hour and forty-nine minutes then I highly recommend this sci-fi action comedy!

CA Teachers In Art Show at the CPL

by Sarah Evantash '16

"Walking through the gallery you can see that, whatever your particular taste or interests are, there is probably something akin to it in what's on display," said Justin Bull, Concord Academy's Visual Arts Department Head and film teacher. Bull was referring to

and Concord Academy have coordinated artistic efforts in a similar fashion in the past as well. One link between the gallery and CA is Photography teacher Cynthia Katz, who has been very involved as part of the library's gallery jury for over five years. This group gathers four to six times each year to discuss upcoming shows. Katz recalled, "the jury



Ceramics work on display in the CPL gallery. Photo courtesy of Justin Bull.

the recent exhibit of CA faculty artwork at the Concord Public Library (CPL). The gallery, on the creaky second floor of the Concord Public Library, officially opened the exhibit on Tuesday, September 10 and lasted until September 30. Six out of the eight Visual Arts Department teachers were featured in the exhibit, each showcasing one or more pieces.

As some may recall, the public library

was talking about different ideas for shows one night, and a CA show idea was suggested. I brought the idea to CA's Art Department, and we agreed to move forward with the show." The exhibit this year has been profoundly successful, according to both verbal feedback and the excited remarks written in the comment book. One student wrote, "I've always been interested in seeing the work of

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History of the Chandler Bowl

by Ben Stoloff '15

The Chandler Bowl, commonly known as Pingree Day, is the annual battle between Concord Academy and Pingree School in most fall sports. Throughout Pingree Day, emotions are high for the athletes involved and the school as a whole. Until last year, Pingree had dominated CA in the annual competition, rattling of a string of eleven



Jenny Brennan proudly holds up the Chandler Bowl. Photo courtesy of Jenny Brennan

straight victories. Last year, however, the tide turned and CA won an impressive victory.

Another change to the Chandler Bowl has been its charity component. Renamed the Chandler Bowl for Changing Lives in 2012, the competition now has each year's host school select a charity to raise money for. Last year, CA chose to raise money for

Minute Kids After School Program. The money raised allowed a child with Cerebral Palsy to attend the program's camp. This year, the event will raise money for the Thomas E. Smith Foundation. This organization works to enhance the everyday lives of those with severe physical disabilities, specifically paralysis, by providing state of the art equipment and resources to those in need.



The Moriarty Athletic Campus. Photo courtesy of Jenny Brennan.

As a high school, because there is a complete turnover in the school every four years, our collective memory is short. Many current faculty members, however, have both played and coached in Pingree Day. Using their stories, we are able to see the history of Pingree Day take shape.

Before individual stories can be told, it is necessary to get a few facts straight. The Chandler Bowl began in 1991, although the two schools had been competing with each other for a number of years. The idea for the competition came from Tom Wilcox, a former CA headmaster. The rivalry between CA and Pingree grew in intensity for a number of reasons. First off, Tom Wilcox and John

gets to raise the Chandler Bowl.

Ben Eberle '99, played soccer all four of his years at CA and is currently an assistant coach for the boys' varsity soccer team. He has some fond memories of victories as well as tough remonstrations of defeats. About his personal Pingree Day story he said, "It was my senior year and I was playing striker. There were seven minutes left in the game. The ball goes over the top and I have a one on one with the goalie. The goalie goes down and I am stumbling but I manage to keep my feet. Their sweeper was in the goal and he just stuck his foot out and blocked the shot. Two minutes later Pingree scored and won 1-0. It was one of those things, twenty years later you want to go back in the time machine and have a do-over."

The Chandler Bowl is such a great event because, win or lose, it creates memories. A simple game can seem so much more important when your, your team's and, your school's pride seem to be on line. This year, the competition will be close again. CA is finally over its losing streak and has the potential to win another impressive victory.

Meet the New Teachers

by Claire Phillips '15

Have you ever met someone who has knit a full floor-length dress? Sung in the Westminster Choir? Worn a ring with only one real side? Played basketball as a kid with a future colleague? Lived in Jerusalem? If not, you still have lots to learn about this year's new faculty and staff.

As the school year begins anew, returning faculty and staff are joined by new teachers, administrators, artists, directors, coordinators and officers in quite a few departments. This year there are over 20 new faculty and staff members joining us. Math teacher Shawn Bartok, music teacher Michael Bennett, history teacher Sutopa Dasgupta, German and Latin teachers Annie Falk and Elizabeth Penland, English teacher Nick Hiebert, film teacher Chris Rhodes and science teacher Amanda Mead are all beginning their first year at CA as classroom teachers.

Here are some thumbnail sketches of three of our new teachers.

If you're taking Chorus, Music History or Music Theory, you've probably met Michael Bennett. Originally from around Seattle, Washington, Bennett has recently visited and lived all around the globe. After living in Florence, Italy, while studying the birthplace of the Renaissance and Baroque musical movements, he came back to the United States and sang in the Westminster Choir of Westminster Choir College in Princeton, touring the country with the group and performing in countless concert halls.

If you are a new student, you may have met Nick Hiebert in Freshman English, following Odysseus on his long journey back

home and listening to the muse's catchy lines and metaphors. House parent, volleyball coach, and one of the advisors of The Centipede, Hiebert is already a very active member of the CA community. As Hiebert explained, "I love thinking hard with people about this wild and complex and beautiful world. For me, literature has always been the thing that has best helped me pose and consider the deep and compelling questions about our world. And I love helping students formulate and puzzle through those questions." He added that he has "routinely loved and been inspired by people I met who had either gone to CA or taught at the school." Hopefully, he will be able to inspire you in turn.

Still wondering what it would be like to knit a floor-length dress? German teacher Annie Falk knit her white high school graduation dress – imagine that on top of all the school work of senior year! After taking Latin in high school and Spanish in college, Falk said a professor recommended that she try German after college. Try she did, and soon she was earning her PhD in German Literature at Columbia University. After graduating from Columbia in 2012, Falk knew that she wanted to teach, and that she wanted to teach "in an environment where people really cared about learning." Her favorite class is a class full of laughter – "I love when everyone in my class is having a really good time!" Maybe this is your call to consider switching into German!

So whether they've spent years moving around the world or love to decipher text with their students, these new teachers are always busy and fun – and they look forward to getting to know you as well.

Old Furniture

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man added.

Now, as one looks around the school, all of that has changed. Uniformity of tables, chairs, and classroom objects has descended upon the classrooms. As Kingman put it, "We look like a school now." With all these improvements, funded by a generous anonymous donation, the school has a sparkling new feel, but one question lingers: where did the old furniture go?

Look around. Try to find one old piece of last year's CA classroom furniture—it is a difficult task. Over the summer, all the old furniture vanished. But to where?

According to Kingman, the furniture that CA students disliked and drew on has found new homes. There, not only are these items valued, but they are also being put to a good use. After determining the plan for new classroom furniture, Kingman and his team faced the task of responsibly disposing of the old furniture. In true CA style, they found an innovative and charitable way to share our wealth of furniture with those in need.

"One way would be to get a bunch of dumpsters, but they cost money and that would just clog up a landfill," Kingman said. Instead, Kingman and his crew have shipped the 1000 pieces all over the world.

With this environmentally unconscious option off the table, Kingman found a school in Northern Middlesex County that was looking for furniture. Said Kingman, "Those molded desks that you guys hate, they couldn't get enough of them! They probably took 200!" But this was only the first step in the charitable aspect of summer renovations. With about 800 pieces of furniture to get rid of, Kingman did some searching and finally came across an organization that would provide just the service the school was looking for. "I found this company," said Kingman, "that basically brings in a shipping container, you pack it full of excess furniture you don't want and they ship it to the Caribbean or Central America and give it to charity organizations there that distribute it to school who need them." Even more miraculously, Kingman also estimated that only about 10 pieces of furniture were discarded to the trash, about 1% of the total furniture. "It was just outdated," Kingman added.



Old furniture in the Ransome Room. Photo courtesy of www.flickr.com.

there that distribute it to school who need them." Even more miraculously, Kingman also estimated that only about 10 pieces of furniture were discarded to the trash, about 1% of the total furniture. "It was just outdated," Kingman added.

"It was really cool," said Kingman, commenting on the benefits CA's outdated furniture has brought to other students in Massachusetts and in the Caribbean. So every time you sit down in your seat at the new desks at your next class and whirl around in the black spinning chairs, you can think about the nice vacation your old desk is

The Unnecessary Downfall of Beach Night

by Alex Weyerhaeuser '15

Every year, on the first Friday of classes, Concord Academy hosts its first all-school activity of the year: Beach Night, also known as Jamaica Night. Set up in the parking lot between the MAC and the SHAC, it is complete with a sand covered beach volleyball court, loud music for dancing, and a slushy machine. Beach Night is also one of the only times in which the pool is open for use during the school year, and it is a great way to bring the community together in the first weeks of school. Needless to say, many returning students were let down when they heard the news that there would be no Beach Night this year.



Beach Night 2012. Photo courtesy of www.facebook.com.

Beach Night shares a very important time of year with another all-school activity: Club Expo. Generally, Beach Night is scheduled on the first Friday of the school year and Club Expo on the second. However, because of the way the Jewish holidays fell this year, many students were unable to make it to the latter. So, Club

Expo, arguably the more important activity of the two, got moved to the first Friday, and Beach Night was not rescheduled. But the question remains: why not just switch the dates of the two activities and have both? Because Beach Night is the new students' first taste of social life at CA, Dean of Students David Rost and other members of the administration decided to cancel it for fear of intimidating the freshmen. The reason given was the conduct

Days, at Orientation, and at Convocation, almost a full year after it began. But how long do we have to keep worrying about making a "good impression" on the freshmen? Concord Academy is known for being a very friendly and welcoming place, and the people genuinely are nice and approachable; however, at some point we have to stop "easing the freshmen in", and start letting them experience high school.

Starting as early as October when prospective students begin tours and interviews, Concord Academy goes above and beyond to ensure those students see a positive and welcoming environment when they visit the CA campus. This outreach continues at Open Houses, on Revisit



Beach night 2012. Photo courtesy of www.facebook.com.

bag, and outward nervousness, I crossed the street and approached the school building. We started heading towards the Student Health and Athletic Center (SHAC) where we were told to register. Once there, my mom helped me register and pick up my nametag and my green orientation folder—little did I know how many times I would be using it during my first few days. In fact, without it, I would have gone to the wrong lunches, the wrong classrooms, and the wrong...well...everything.

After the registration process, I went back to Hobson, my assigned boarding house for the night, dropped off my belongings, and proceeded to the Performing Arts Center (PAC), where I began to participate in many orientation games that swiftly introduced me to CA culture. One of these activities, the most famous I was told, was the square dance. Now, here is the thing about the square dance: you have to just get out there and participate or else you just look nervous. I am a really introverted person, so just simply cutting loose is difficult for me. I am not the kind of person that can just



Remember to Recycle The Centipede!

A First Look at CA

by Alex Berry '17

It was a bright, beautiful late August day as I stepped out of my car onto Main Street. The road was bustling with afternoon traffic, and I could smell the first few tendrils of fall in the air. The weather could not have been better. From the first few seconds after I set my eyes on Concord



Orientation Leaders greeting new students at orientation. photo courtesy of www.facebook.com

Academy, I knew that the coming days of new student orientation would be both an exciting adventure with many new people, as well as an overwhelming whirlwind filled with countless of names, most of which I have yet to remember.

Armed with my sleeping bag, overnight



Orientation Leaders getting ready to begin orientation activities. Photo courtesy of www.facebook.com.

mersed in the community, you are given a "tough love" type of first experience at orientation. I do not mean "tough love" in the sense that you learn to survive on your own and rely only on yourself. That is exactly the opposite of the mission at CA! I mean it in the sense that you just dive right in, not waiting around and slowly easing in. Yes, I can assure you that there were some awkward moments. For me, that was meeting new people. But in the end, you look back and realize it was a fantastic thing that you didn't pause and take it slow, as silly as that might sound.

That night back at the dorm, I slept well, knowing that I was in good hands. I also assured myself that I had taken advantage of all options to familiarize myself with other students. As I have come to realize now (even within the first few weeks of school), CA is filled with many opportunities, whether it be extracurricular, academic, or social. They are all there for the taking, but you must have the motivation to seek them out.

get out on the "dance floor," make a fool of myself, and then laugh about it later.

Still, the square dance started out fine, with the caller yelling out the steps into his huge microphone. I was more than little nervous. But towards the end, two whole Cotton-Eyed Joes' later, I began to appreciate the exercise. It gave me a chance to put myself out there without any expectations whatsoever. As I looked around, I was among oth-

ers that were also stepping outside of their comfort zones. Everyone was unfamiliar with CA, and that is what made me feel more secure and contented. As Orientation went on, I began to notice a growing theme. In being completely im-

Coach's Corner: Will Gibbons

by Issac Levine '14

If you are on the quad at 3:15 on any given weekday, you are likely to find a jovial man with a big smile in mismatched socks. He is probably in the middle of the team circle, greeting each individual with a round of fist pounds. Will Gibbons, a recent graduate from Middlebury College, has continued in the easygoing spirit of Concord Academy Cross Country since the school welcomed him this fall. But this attitude - that of laughing as you approach the starting line - which Gibbons embodies, comes from a unique athletic history.

When Gibbons joined Belmont Hill Cross Country in 2005, he already possessed a relationship with the sport. "My interest in running goes as far back as elementary school when I won our school's mile in the fifth grade. It felt like a big deal at the time!"

Gibbons had great success at Belmont Hill, and he entered Middlebury, prepared for a strong college career. His fortunes, however, changed for the worse in college. According to Gibbons, "I herniated two disks in my back in college, and was only really healthy freshman fall and senior spring." Still, Gibbons found a way to keep running an important part of his life. "Over time, I tried to worry less about racing fast and more about just having fun with my teammates, filming goofy videos at meets, making up long handshakes during workouts, and dress-

Hairspray!

...continued from page 3

that black kids had been doing and that made it easier for white people to accept and better understand and respect black culture," Spencer added.

Given the power of dance and its significance in the plot of the musical, Spencer and Gleeson have been working to incorporate a larger dance component in their production. Dance represent the "drive and the freedom" of the times, said Spencer, "Everyone in the culture at that point in history was involved with dance, which is why it is so crucial for the purpose of the show."

The combination of theatrical and historical accuracy has not been effortless. Choreographer Spencer shared her research about dance popular in the 1960s: "I was already familiar with many of the dance movements I was researching because of the time period I grew up in, which provided me with context. I was, however, surprised by the eccentric dancing by the lead male singers - specifically Elvis and Jackie Wilson - suddenly dropping to the floor, and weird contortions. Overall I would say the research was more reminding me of what I was already semi familiar with, but it

ing up as the mascot."

Gibbons' enhanced humor and light-heartedness has made him a perfect match for CA's Cross Country team. He said, "[The team] busts out the speakers on the way home from meets and blasts Sweet Escape by Gwen Stefani, what's not to like?!"

However, while Gibbons exemplifies the easygoing element of running to its fullest, he

still approaches the sport seriously. One way he does this is by utilizing the running community for philanthropy. "In the mornings, I work at a running apparel company called Janji. A lot of our proceeds go towards providing developing countries (Kenya, Haiti, Rwanda, and Peru) with basic things like access to water, food, and health services." Gibbon's experience with athletics and charity has made him

a valuable addition to the team. When the Fall Classic became a charitable event he provided valuable advice and insight, helping to make the event a success.

Gibbons never would have predicted how his running life would unfold, so he hesitates to predict his future. "I'm not really sure where I'll be down the road, but I know I'll be coaching CA track this spring! I can't wait." Look for the colorfully mismatched socks on the quad this fall and spring (they probably belong to Will).

For more information about his Janji project, visit RunJanji.com.

still proved to be interesting."

Producing, directing, and choreographing a musical are not easy tasks; it takes an impressive team of experts to make any show run smoothly. This year's Mainstage is no exception. Gleeson said she foresaw some challenges: "A big Broadway musical means a lot of big singing and dancing numbers. Thankfully we have a very talented, energetic group filled with big energy and hope! Not only is the movement onstage about the energy of the times, it is about the energy of youth and the possibility for a vibrant, more diverse tomorrow."

This is Music Director Michael Bennett's first year at CA. Bennett said, "I'm really looking forward to seeing what our students are capable of. I've musically directed Hairspray with high school students before, and I'm excited to work on the show again with more time and resources! My favorite song in the show is probably "The Nicest Kids in Town."

This enthusiastic team is already hard at work, and eager to take on *Hairspray!* in all its glory. They encourage everyone to come out to see the performance on the weekend of November 15 and 16.

The Athletic Campus: Was it Worth it?

by Chris Pappay '15

Two years ago, students and faculty of Concord Academy were promised pristine athletic fields and a field house just a mile from campus, perfect for watching three varsity sports play at the same time. As opening day approached, the CA community



Opening day at the Moriarty Athletic Campus 2012.
photo courtesy of www.flickr.com.

was buzzing with excitement about what the new campus would bring. Now, looking back on the Moriarty Athletic Campus (AC) two years later, we ask ourselves if it was truly worth it.

Many varsity athletes certainly believe it was. Malin Segal '14 said, "It gave CA athletics a new image and gave the teams new energy." Ben Stoloff '15 agreed with Segal saying, "Having really nice fields to

in tournaments such as the Chandler Bowl, where fans have been able to watch most of the tournament without moving.

Some students, however, feel that the new campus takes away from some of the other teams. Nate Greess '15 said, "In my experience as a person who does not do competitive sports, I have not gained any particular benefits from the AC, and I think



Overview of the AC.
photo courtesy of www.flickr.com

play on can really make a difference. It's not just that they look good, but we seem to play better on them as well." There is no doubt that CA varsity athletes love playing on these flawless fields.

Anna Antoniadis '15 pointed out that the fields were necessary for the athletes. She said, "Although I am no athlete, I see that the fields are really nice, and CA sports really needed the space. You can't exactly train well when you're sharing a field with another team." In addition to now being extra practice space, the tennis courts and some of the fields on campus are now available to be turned into new buildings sometime in the future.

it lowers the number of fans who go to the volleyball games and other on-campus teams." Greess went on to say, "For tournament games and for varsity games, the school spirit has been increased. But for games on campus the number of fans has gone down." Mahfuj Hussain '15 agreed, saying, "While playing on the new fields is nice, I've noticed that, for JV games particularly, the number of fans has decreased."

Segal, however, did not agree with this claim. He said, "I think it is harder for teams at the AC to get fans because they can't just come and go. They have to follow a bus schedule. At on-campus games fans can come and go whenever they want."

Goings-on in Council

The Centipede presents an update on the ideas that members of student council have recently discussed. Council notes courtesy of Vice Head of School Dan Mueller. For more information, contact any member of council.

1. Goals for the Year

- Striving for school unity as well as class unity
- Relieving stress and making people feel comfortable

Day students: having more activities, such as having day students bring lunch for boarders

Boarders: creating a common space for the boarding community

Community action: making service more accessible through frequent trips

Environment: becoming more active through more trips and Green Club activities, possibly composting again

Entertainment: specific events, including movie nights, pumpkin carving, haunted house etc.

Diversity: working with the Community & Equity team, increasing communication between various affinity groups on campus

2. Student Feedback

- council notes in *The Centipede* each month
- anyone who is interested can come to council meetings Tuesday night
- council dropbox in the library

3. Buddy/ Family System

- senior initiative?
- intergrade "families"
- voluntary basis
- non-random grouping into families

4. Keeping Campus Clean

- rewarding people who clean up?
- bags clutter the ASL and cause "traffic jams"
- not much student interest last year

5. Plan for Future Activities

- Carnival Night/ Fall Fest
- Museum Day
- Spirit Week

CPL Exhibit

...continued from page 3

the teachers I admire so much and was glad to have this chance." Another wrote, "I will return inspired, ready to cultivate my visions of art with the ideas of my teachers in me."

The exhibit lived up to its artists'/teachers' reputations. The variety of pieces kept the viewer intrigued and satisfied. Scattered along the center of the space were striking sculptures of house forms each about four feet tall. The sculptures were covered in a

story. Elegant pieces of ceramic bowls and pitchers were also spread throughout the gallery. One could easily have spent hours in the small space absorbing our talented teachers' creative artwork and reading their interesting Artist Statements. The six Artist's Statements on display, each written by a different CA faculty member featured in the gallery explained each teacher's thought process and inspiration and gave the observer a deeper look into the artwork.

The exhibit was also professionally and



Concord Academy visual arts department teachers stand in the CPL gallery next to their artwork. Photo courtesy of Justin Bull.

variety of eye-catching patterns of flames, solid blacks, and shades of blue. Lined neatly against the perimeter of the gallery were colored pictures, paintings, and collages. There was also a short film loop with headphones, where one could hear the faded and eerie voice of a man telling a broken

flawlessly curated. Walking through it as a CA student was especially astounding, for the chance to see the finished artistic projects of wonderful teachers. This was a unique and convenient opportunity to view the work of talented and creative mentors.

Holidays at CA

by Somerset Gall '16

With ample Thanksgiving, winter, and March breaks, and an early end to the school year, Concord Academy may seem to have the ideal schedule. Yet CA does not honor several significant holidays in the conventional way, with classes still being

cific holidays does CA choose to honor? In the past two years, Concord Academy remained open for both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Lyon said he was "not happy," as he "had a lot of homework during [his] holiday and was very stressed and unable to focus." While the school policy is to allow students to miss school in order to observe



Holiday calendar.
Photo courtesy of www.123rf.com.

in session.

Each year, the Concord Academy administration works to create a reasonable school-year calendar, including breaks and several long weekends. Because CA is a boarding and day school, the administration considers the needs of both boarding students and day students in deciding whether or not to hold classes on certain holidays.

During this past month, the nation celebrated Labor Day, Rosh Hashanah, and Yom Kippur, three holidays that typically each warrant a day off. However, returning boarders and day students arrived at the CA campus for registration on Labor Day, while normal classes took place during Rosh Hashanah.

This year, another holiday during which school remains in session is Martin Luther King Day. As a group the CA community reflects on the legacy of Dr. King. Concord Academy students participate in different workshops, listen to key speakers, and engage in other similar events throughout the day. Although celebrating the work of Dr. King as a school is an admirable way to spend MLK day, as Abraham Lyon '16 put it, "it's not always able to be completely accomplished." Some students find it hard to appreciate this celebration, accustomed to having a "breather-day" in bleak January.

The fact that Martin Luther King Day is recognized unlike many major Jewish holidays adds to the question: which spe-

religious holidays, students who obtain such excused absences risk falling behind in their classes. It seems unfair that students must choose between their religious obligations and schoolwork. Most public and private schools respect these holidays, providing students an opportunity to observe their religious or cultural traditions with their family members.

CA's practice of staying open for Jewish holidays also seems particularly unfair since winter break is built around a Christian holiday. Many other factors clearly play into the placement of winter break; for example, winter break serves as the halfway-point of the school year, with the second semester starting right after the break ends. It is important, however, to note that Christmas Eve and Christmas are neatly packed into winter break.

There are both benefits and drawbacks to having a few notable days of school on major holidays. Summer break at CA begins at a remarkably early date, which could be in part due to the few holidays we receive. However, students at CA often lack a day or two to celebrate their holidays, without the burden of school and homework. If the release date of school was pushed back just two or three days, students could receive a few extra holidays throughout the course of the year, so that they could honor their religious customs and relax once in a while.

Write for The Centipede!!

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The Centipede

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The Centipede is the official student newspaper of Concord Academy. The paper welcomes comments from its readers in the form of Letters to the Editor. No anonymous letters will be printed. The Centipede reserves the right to edit all articles for length and content.

Help me, Rhonda!

The Centipede advice columnist "Rhonda" helps students navigate the rocky waters of high school. If you need her help, please drop your questions in the "Help Me, Rhonda!" submission box in the library.

Dear Rhonda,

I'm a freshman and I really like a senior girl. I've tried everything including Intramural Soccer to impress her, but nothing seems to work. How can I get her to notice me?

Young and Restless

Dear Young and Restless,

Go for it! Senior girls love freshman boys; chances are she has already noticed you and is planning when to make her move! In the meantime, joining Intramural Soccer is a really good start at impressing her; you should invite her to watch one of your games! If you're going to go with the whole jock approach though, you should also consider hitting the gym and joining another sport in the winter, like squash.

Also, don't be afraid to go up and talk to her at break, after school or in the lunch line.

Xoxo,
Rhonda

Dear Rhonda,

I'm stuck. I'm in a relationship but I have a crush on another boy who is also in a relationship, but I get the feeling he's crushing on me too. On the other hand, I really love my boyfriend and I could never imagine my life without him. But this other boy is so cute... I'm confused. Help me!

Love-struck and Lost

Dear Love-struck and Lost,

Before you do anything you should know for sure how this other boy feels about you; you wouldn't want to ruin your relationship and his for no reason! If he does in fact like you, you have a very tricky decision to make. You need to evaluate your relationship with your boyfriend. Is there something he's doing that is making you look for love somewhere else? Of course, you could always date both boys and hope that no one finds out... But if you really can't imagine your life without you boyfriend, it sounds like this other boy is just a crush and you should keep things the way they are now.

Xoxo,
Rhonda

Dear Rhonda,

It's only the beginning of the year and there's already so much drama. For some reason I'm always the last one to hear "the news." How do I find out about all those stories first? S.O.S!

Frustrated Fresh Meat

Dear Fresh Meat,

Your frustration is completely understandable; it sucks to be out of the loop! In order to find out more gossip, you need to be friends with more people so they tell you all their secrets. That or get a job on the newspaper answering people's problems...

Xoxo,
Rhonda

Editorial

by Katherine Oh '14

I open the window and a cool, gentle breeze rushes in. Autumn is in the air. On my way to and from school, I find "pick your own pumpkins" signs near the fields and notice the treetops that are now turning crimson to herald the coming of fall.

Fall has always been my favorite season of the year. Not just because my birthday is in September, although that's part of it. I love the chrysanthemum blossoms that line the streets near my home, and I love how the weather is not too cold, not too warm.



*Fall in New England.
Photo courtesy of www.blogspot.com.*

Koreans often say that the fall is a time when the skies are especially high and the horses become fat due to the plentiful harvest; there is something delightful about the cloudless, azure autumn sky.

As October begins, classes at Concord Academy are well underway and new members of the community, students and faculty alike, have settled in their new positions, while returners have gotten back into their CA routines. The CA campus bustles with activity.

During the first month of school, it felt somewhat strange to call myself a senior. But after listening to numerous chapel talks given by members of the class of 2014, sitting at senior tables in the dining hall for lunch, and wearing my senior ring each morning, I have finally grown accustomed to being a high school senior.

In my opinion, October is one of a few most challenging times of the school year. Just as students begin to get used to the new school year, new classes, and new teachers, they face numerous assignments, big and small. For students of all grades, work builds up during the month of October. A senior now, I know that college is another subject that is in everyone's minds in October, with

the early application deadlines fast approaching.

It is easy to feel overwhelmed in a rigorous environment like CA where each and every student pursues so many various interests, ranging from varsity sports to mainstage theatre productions in conjunction with her or his academic courses.

Although October clearly asks us to keep working diligently, sometimes you need to put the ever-present stress and angst of this high school month aside. As ironic as it might sound, I find that taking time off from doing something often makes me more efficient

when I resume working. When I'm stuck on a particularly challenging physics problem, or when I'm having trouble coherently organizing my thoughts for a paper, I pause. Often I listen to music and take my dog out for a short walk. These mini study breaks allow me to approach the existing problem with a fresh perspective and better focus. And, of course, my dog loves me for it.

This busiest of months, I hope you all will pause occasionally to reflect, to think. Let yourself take the time to step back. Because when any one of us continues doing one particular thing for an extensive period of time, he or she tends to neglect the bigger picture. Then, it's easy to lose our senses of direction, forgetting whatever goals we had in mind at the beginning of an endeavor.

As many good things are, autumn is short-lived. I want to urge you to enjoy each day as if there is no tomorrow. Open your mind; touch, feel, smell, hear, and see everything around you to your utmost potential. Whether it be watching movies with friends or trick-or-treating, engage in activities that you can do just for fun. Make the most of October and cherish each fleeting moment. You'll like this busiest month better. And your dog will thank you.

Roving Reporter

Roving Reporter asks: What's your favorite thing about October?

Lauren Black - Pumpkins.

Ayres Stiles-Hall- Christmas in the air and leaves blowing in the wind.

Aidan O'Shea - Sweaters.

Sean Finnegan - October. I mean Halloween.

Nando Martinez- No-shave november.

Harry Breault - the baseball play-offs.

Peter Jennings - Cross-country meets!

Nina Callahan - I've gotta go get my pink slip.

Amadea Bartle - the anniversary of WW2 is september first.

Serena Frechter - Kai's chapel!

