

The Fieldston News

OCTOBER 26, 2016

VOLUME 91, ISSUE 2

Police Brutality Forum

By MILES STEPHENSON AND FARZANA ISLAM

In the wake of the deaths of Terrence Crutcher and Keith Lamont Scott, members of the Fieldston community met to reflect on their own reactions and discuss what we can do moving forward from these tragedies. On Friday September 23rd, Randy Slaughter, Fieldston's Director of Diversity, held an open forum on the latest police-related deaths. Over a dozen students and faculty members attended, beginning a conversation on these issues and how they affect our community and country.

After expressions of grief for the loss of Crutcher, Lamont Scott, and other similarly tragic deaths like Alton Sterling, Philando Castile, and Korryn Shandawn Gaines, the forum shifted to focus on the media's coverage of these events. Mr. Slaughter expressed his concerns that the frequency of these tragedies makes them no longer newsworthy.

Later in the forum, students shared memories of their initial reactions to these deaths. Dachele Washington (Form V), stated that

she started to make a list of things she can and cannot do in her everyday life to avoid the persecution of police. After one person opened up about their concerns, it encouraged others to voice their thoughts. A student posed a question about how these events challenge our basic humanity, wondering how we can still claim to have morals while allowing these senseless deaths to continue.

Soon, the discussion shifted to our community's individual responsibilities, asking what it will take for some members of the Fieldston community to make it a priority to learn about these issues. With many Fieldston students having access to social media and internet communication, participants in the discussion argued that if people simply read their news feeds on social media platforms, they could be more informed and thus more inclined to make a difference. Rachel Ehrlich, Chair of the Ethics Department, said that she feels these conversations

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Assembly: Politics and Media

By SAM CAPLAN

On Thursday, October 6, the Fieldston Upper School community gathered for a panel discussion with Maggie Haberman '91, Alex Burns '04, Howard Wolfson '85, and Larry Schwartzol, on the intersection between politics and the media in this presidential election. The panelists explored a variety of topics from sexism, to the democratization of the media, to the first debate performances of the candidates. Each panelist brought their unique expertise and experience, shared it with the community, and engaged in a Q&A afterwards. The assembly was organized by Dean of Students Dr. Nancy Banks, Mr. Robert Montera (Faculty Advisor, Fieldston News), Sam Caplan (IV), and the senior editors-in-chief of the Fieldston News: Alex Greenberg, Keerti Gopal, and Emma Mitnick, who also served as moderators.

Maggie Haberman currently works as a presidential campaign correspondent at The New York Times and as a political analyst at CNN. Alex Burns, is a correspondent for politics and Metro also at the Times, and is a political analyst at CNN. Howard Wolfson is a Democratic strategist who served as communications director for Hillary Clinton's campaign in '08, and worked as Deputy Mayor of New York City for Government Affairs and Communications under Mayor Bloomberg. Currently, he works at Bloomberg where he leads the Education program at Bloomberg Philanthropies, runs Bloomberg's Super PAC, and is a senior advisor to Michael Bloomberg. Larry Schwartzol is the Executive Director of the Harvard Law School Criminal Justice Policy Program. He previously worked at the ACLU as a Staff Attorney in the Racial Justice Program and National Security

Project.

Prior to the assembly, the organizers sent out an anonymous survey asking the community about how people identified politically, where they received their news, and an additional request to submit ideas for questions that could potentially be posed to the panelists. Around 75% of the respondents stated that they identified as Democrats, with the remaining 25% composed of Republicans, Libertarians, Independents, or Unaffiliated political affiliations. Around 40% of respondents stated that they received most of their news from social media, with the other 60% split relatively equally between the answers, "Online, Broadcast News, and Print Media."

A notable response by Haberman was a defense of the New York Times' role and coverage of Trump. "I think the Times has really consistently covered Trump rigorously. I can not say the same for all other media, and I will be pretty impassioned about that in any platform. We have done a very wide range of investigations about Donald Trump. I think one of the frustrations for voters this cycle is... there is a difference between what we write, and whether it actually impacts what the voters do. There is not a correlation, and that is not our job."

Burns discussed what standard the media should hold candidates to, and what its role is in covering elections. "I think the election has been challenging to the media in a whole lot of ways, broadly speaking, I think there are two camps of people in the media when it comes to what it means to be objective. One camp holds that you should be pretty passive, pretty unobtrusive, and reflecting what the candidates

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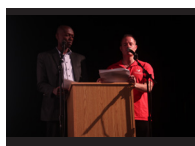


Terrance Crutcher and his Son, a year before Terrance's death. COURTESY OF FACEBOOK

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Fire Side with FSG Presidents

By BETH AWANO AND AZEEZ ADEYEMI

President Roosevelt used his radio “Fireside Chats” to maintain transparency with his constituents. While we might not be white middle aged men struggling with the Great Depression, as your Student Government Co-Presidents, we would like to continue the motion for a well-informed student body. Here, we will update you on what we have done, why we have done it, and what we plan to do next.

Partnership with SDIE

We have sat down with the sixteen members of SDIE (Students Demanding Intersectional Equality) to discuss plans to make Fieldston a more “inclusive, informative, and aware community.” We shared our visions for curriculum changes across all disciplines, the creation of more affinity group and safe spaces, and the hope of inviting more guest lecturers like Tim Wise. We look forward to working in collaboration with SDIE to bring about concrete change.

Meeting with our New Head of School

We have also had the opportunity to sit down with our new head of school, Jessica Bagby. In addition to getting to know her and her role as Head of School, we were charged

with devising a plan to engage students in conversations relating to our ethical commitments, how we conduct ourselves, and how we hold each other accountable. She also expressed a desire to personally get to know the student body. As the year progresses, we hope to facilitate opportunities to make this happen.

Forging new Connections Through The Hill-Top Network

At the beginning of this school year, FSG has partnered with Horace Mann’s and Riverdale’s respective student governments in an attempt to foster a new sense of community among the hill schools. Already, we have had three meetings in which we each shared our plans for the year and brainstormed inter-school activities we’d like to organize. One idea that we are currently developing is an inter-school man-hunt tournament.

Appointing our 2016-2017 Cabinet

As of mid-September, we’ve been working with our cabinet members to plan the best ways to approach the academic year. Every cabinet member has met with their respective faculty representative and together they have decided on

their first plans of action. It is energizing to watch the determination and agency of our cabinet members.

Welcoming our 2016-2017 Grade Representatives

We are also excited to welcome our 2016-2017 grade representatives. In past years, the responsibilities for grade representatives seemed to be limited to running the snack shack. That is why we have decided to modify the system and ease the burden the snack shack places on grade reps. We hope this will allow FSG more time to pursue

the promises we have made in our election speeches such as maintaining the condom supply, organizing more events like the Freshman-Senior ice cream social, and more.

Principal Search Committee Update

Since the end of last year, we’ve been serving as the student voices on the Principal search committee. We’ve read applications, begun the preliminary interviews, and will hopefully have our principal by December 1st.



Copresidents, Beth Awano and Azeez Adeyemi address the school on Founders Day.

Welcoming New Clubs at Fieldston’s 2016 Club Fair

By: JANE FORMAN AND SOPHIE BURNS

September 29th was the Clubs Fair at Fieldston, an opportunity for Upper School students to shine light on causes they care about in and out of school. During assembly, students poured into the Upper gym to see all the clubs and probably sign up for more than they can handle. There was a large range this year from awareness clubs to support groups to hobby clubs and everything in between. The clubs at Fieldston are a really great way to bring together students from all grades and create communities of passionate and engaged student leaders.

“The clubs fair is such a cool event. It’s really nice to see students taking charge and creating opportunities to make a change in our community,” says form IV Dean, Mr.

Reyes.

This year, the clubs fair welcomed several new clubs, such as the Emma Lazarus Language Club, started by sophomores Dani Bohart (V) and Cormac Thorpe (V). This club plans to travel to The Emma Lazarus High School for English Language Learners during the school year and hold conversations in both English and the primary language of the students in order to improve their language skills and form lasting relationships. “We were so excited to see that this idea, which we had been working on since April, was finally underway,” explained the two co-leaders. “So many people signed up--sophomores in particular--and they all seemed very enthusiastic

about our mission.”

Many Fieldston students started clubs which focused on organizations that had become personally important to them. Club leaders Zoe Antell (V) and Jordyn Radin (V) explained, “Friendship Circle is a place where kids outside of Fieldston who have trouble interacting with others can escape their day-to-day lives. This past year we started volunteering with this organization and decided we wanted to get Fieldston involved. Through this organization, we create deep relationships with these amazing kids whose special needs render them misunderstood in their own communities. I really recommend Fieldston students to sign up because Friendship Circle is an ex-

tremely rewarding experience.”

Naturally, Fieldston students’ active interest in the political race played an important role in this year’s clubs fair as well. Dahlia Gottlieb (V) is one of four club leaders for the Refugee Aid Club. She explained, “the goal of our club is to raise awareness about Syrian refugees by handing out flyers and raising money through bake sales. We just really want to help out because it’s been a huge part of the political race and will really affect the future of our country.”

Co-leader, Ali Romadonav (V), added, “We wish to discuss issues that refugees are facing in war torn countries since there is sometimes a disconnect between what we see on

Op-Ed: Second Presidential Debate

BY AUSTIN CELESTIN

While many people saw the first presidential debate on Monday, September 26th as a victory for Hillary Clinton, I saw it as 90 minutes of reality entertainment in which we didn't get any straight answers from either candidate, especially Donald Trump.

Despite Holt's best efforts to keep the debate civilized, and Hillary's best attempts to keep Trump calm and not insult him while not losing her cool, the debate was essentially a free-for-all. Some sources calculated that Trump interrupted Clinton approximately 51 times

throughout the debate.

However, amidst the chaos, each candidate made a few decent points. Donald Trump mentioned a lack of technological innovation, comparing America to other countries. Hillary proposed raising the minimum wage and increasing taxes for the wealthy. Trump highlighted the current nature of American trade deals with Mexico, where we pay a 16% tax when we sell to them but they don't have to pay anything when they sell to us. Clinton stated that the tax policies in 2008 led to the recession while Trump elaborated on how we should decrease our \$20

trillion national debt (although according to Hillary Clinton, his plans would actually increase the debt by about 25%).

Along with the occasional strong proposal they mentioned, each candidate also brought up problems with their opponent. For example, Trump talked about the 33,000 private emails Hillary Clinton deleted, and how those emails jeopardized our nation's security. He also brought up how Hillary and Bill Clinton approved what is considered to be one of the worst business initiatives ever, and how it devastated businesses in both New England and the Midwest. Finally, Trump

also mentioned the unusually high amount of regulations that Clinton has instituted on business. Hillary brought up how Donald Trump has refused to pay employees even if they had been working to his standards, and even if he had approved the final result. Hillary also spoke about the fact that Donald Trump hasn't released his tax returns. Since the debate, we have found out that he hasn't paid his taxes in almost two decades. A man whose campaign claims he has a net worth of over \$10 billion U.S. dollars refuses to pay taxes, while people who can barely afford to pay for basic living

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Op-Ed: Donald Trump, A Presidential Mistake

BY DECLAN REXER

This election is not ordinary. It is not often that candidates publicly insult their parties, brag of being able to commit sexual assault, and attack the media continuously. Many people credit the peculiarity of this election to the Republican nominee: Donald Trump. I believe that this man should never be able to step foot in the oval office, but don't just take my word for it. Listen to the warnings of leaders across the world and across the political spectrum. Listen to the concerns expressed by Republicans, Democrats and Independents across the country. And listen to the disappointment of people inside the Trump campaign.

We have never seen criticism of a candidate to this level before. All across the world, leaders have expressed their fear of a President Trump. In the past, Trump has said that negotiating with foreign leaders is something he would be great at, but a very large part of negotiation is having good relations around the world -- something Trump has proven to be terrible at. Take the UK for example -- one of our strongest allies. David Cameron, the former prime minister of England said in December of 2015 "I think his remarks are divisive, stupid and wrong and I think if he came to visit our country I'd think he'd unite us all against him." Others, like journalist Suzanne Kelly, petitioned for Trump to be banned from entering the UK. Her petition got over 574,000 signatures and was debated by parliament. But the criticism of Donald Trump extends

far from the borders of the UK. The former president of Brazil, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, said, "The election of Trump would be a disaster." In response to Trump's plan to build a wall along the US-Mexico border and make Mexico pay for it, the former Mexican president Vicente Fox said, "I'm not going to pay for that f*****g wall!" Even the pope called out Donald Trump saying "A person who thinks only about building walls — wherever they may be — and not building bridges, is not Christian."

Trump has not been immune to backlash from his own party or even members of his very own campaign. Rand Paul, a Republican senator from Kentucky said, "would we not all be worried to have someone like [Trump] in charge of the nuclear arsenal?" Republican Senator Mitch McConnell said "it's pretty obvious he doesn't know a lot about the issues." Even Mike Pence, Trump's vice presidential nominee was critical of Trump's controversial Muslim ban and tweeted, "Calls to ban Muslims from entering the U.S. are offensive and unconstitutional." Trump has split Republicans to the point where the Never Trump movement has grown inside of the party. Suzanne Collins, a senator from Maine is one of the Republicans leading the charge and said in a speech "My conclusion about Mr. Trump's unsuitability for office is based on his disregard for the precept of treating others with respect, an idea that should transcend politics." Other supporters of this movement in-

clude Hank Paulson, a Republican and chief executive of Goldman Sachs, who wrote a scathing op-ed in the Washington Post, writing "we are witnessing a populist hijacking of one of the United States' great political parties." He went on to write that Trump is "endorsing a brand of populism rooted in ignorance, prejudice, fear and isolationism," and adding his thoughts on Trump's businesses, wrote "when Trump assures us he'll do for the United States what he's done for his businesses, that's not a promise — it's a threat." But one of the biggest non-endorsements came in August when fifty of the country's most senior Republican national security officials not only signed a letter saying they would not vote for Trump but also wrote that he "would put at risk our country's national security and well-being" and "would be the most reckless president in Ameri-

can history." And all of this came before the Access Hollywood tape showing Trump bragging about flirting with married women and being able to get away with sexual assault which caused Republicans across the country to withdraw their endorsements.

Obviously, it is not the role of a journalist to tell you who or who not to vote for. This is a decision left only to you. However, it is the job of a journalist to inform the public of what he or she feels are the important things happening across the country and the world with the hope that the public will use this information for the greater good. We are witnessing history in this election. I felt it important to offer my opinion and the opinion of dozens of powerful people across the world on this very important decision that you are about to make. Choose wisely.



Donald Trump

COURTESY OF THE ODYSSEY

Political Action Club in Pennsylvania

BY RACHEL FLORMAN

“Hi, my name is Rachel and this is Sarah. We’re here with the Pottstown democrats. May we ask if you’re planning on voting for Joe Ciresi for state senator? No? Well, let me tell you a little bit about his platform.”

I’ve spent the past few weekends going door-to-door and campaigning for the Democratic Party in Pottstown, PA. The outings have been arranged by Fieldston’s Political Action Club, spearheaded by senior Andrew Celli and history teacher Andy Meyers. These two follow in the footsteps of retired Fieldston teacher Harrison Howard, who was known to campaign not only for every election— from the local to the presidential— but in the halls as well, convincing students and faculty alike to come with him on his trips. Several students have joined Mr. Howard, Mr. Meyers, and other teachers (such as dance teacher Rob O’Neil and painting & drawing teacher Deborah Krieger) each weekend to show their support for the democratic candidates who are up for office on November 8th.

Armed with a clipboard of addresses and voter opinion surveys, the task has been to find out if the people we talk to are registered, planning on voting, and leaning democratic. If they’re not, we attempt to convince them otherwise. I’ve found that if I start with local

elections and work up the ballot, the locals are more likely to engage. That way, when I bring up Hillary Clinton’s name, I’ve already established a connection and repartee that should carry me through the uncomfortable discourse that can follow.

Pennsylvania is a critical swing state in November’s election. Typically flip-flopping between republican and democratic in the past, each candidate has been trying their hardest to influence undecided voters from Bethlehem to Reading. Because the state has twenty votes in the Electoral College, it’s considered crucial in order to win. With less than a month to go before the election, it has yet to be seen which way the state will swing.

Although it’s discouraging, Celli chooses to look at opposition in a positive light. “Knocking on doors humanizes the electorate, both those with similar views, and those with whom you disagree,” he said. “Speaking with voters really changes your perception of what matters in this election. You learn more in a few hours canvassing than months of watching political punditry or reading the newspaper.”

Senior Saoirse Maher Greene, who joined the campaigners on their second trip, took a more critical eye to the responses she got from undecided voters. “It became

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Noah Korn (VI) approaching house to canvass in PA.

PHOTO BY ANDREW CELLI



Playbill for “Hamilton.”

COURTESY OF BROADWAY.COM

Hamilton: A Musical Inquiry

BY NICK FRANCOEUR

A brand-new history course was offered to juniors and seniors this year: an opportunity to study the life and career of Alexander Hamilton. Interest in Hamilton has surged ever since Lin-Manuel Miranda’s astronomically popular play, Hamilton, opened on Broadway in August of 2015. Using Ron Chernow’s biography of Hamilton as the centerpiece of the course, Fieldston students learn about this historic founding father in a new and rigorous way.

Hamilton has become so popular largely due to its unique soundtrack which fuses rap and historical content. While many people have not been able to see the play because tickets are in such high demand, they have likely listened to the play’s highly popularized soundtrack. After seeing the show with the Middle School in the Spring of 2015, history teacher Jim Cullen played some of the songs from the soundtrack for his Form V advisory. To Cullen’s surprise, students in his advisory already knew most of the lyrics to the songs! Cullen immediately realized that this soundtrack offered a unique platform to teach

students about Hamilton’s legacy in a fun and engaging way. Cullen said there was no real difficulty getting the course approved at Fieldston, one of the many things that makes the Fieldston curriculum so great.

In February, Newsweek Magazine wrote an article about the influence of Miranda’s play in schools. Cullen was interviewed for the article and gave information about the then up-and-coming course. Following that, Fox News reached out to Cullen multiple times, but he declined their requests to talk. Once Cullen’s course, Hamilton: A Musical Inquiry was up and running, ABC asked if they could run a story on it. Dr. Cullen said yes. ABC sent Sandy Kenyon to the school to interview students in the course and film some of the class. Admitting it himself, Cullen never expected the class to garner this much attention. In addition to the recent ABC special, a radio podcaster is currently preparing a long form segment about the class and Cullen was recently asked to write a chapter in a forthcoming book about the role of Hamilton in American life.

Junior Isabella Rivera was in-

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Haiti Assembly

By BEN FRIEDMAN

To kick off the Haiti club, Fieldston held an assembly on Thursday, September 22nd. Although Haiti is the second most populous country in the Caribbean, it is a small island nation ravished by poverty. In 2010, a major earthquake hit Haiti and devastated the island. Many countries, including the United States, pitched in to help rebuild the country, but there is still plenty of work to be done.

At the assembly, Mr. Grene, an Upper School English teacher, spoke about the inspiration behind the Haiti Club. Grene's twin brother, Andrew, was a U.N. worker who tragically died in the 2010 earthquake while volunteering in Haiti. Mr. Grene started the foundation in memory of his brother and it has since transformed countless lives through its micro-financing projects and the opening of the Andrew Grene High School in Cité Soleil.

In an interview, Mr. Grene spoke about the school and his day-to-day routine there. His typical day in Haiti includes a 6 am wakeup, 6:15 breakfast, and at 6:30, he hops on a bus that takes him directly to the school. School starts at 7am and goes until 2:30 pm. In school, the students learn English through different mediums, such as songs, music, dance, and literature.

"My most memorable moment was during the final class we taught this last trip," remarked Daniela Finkel (VI), co-leader of the Haiti Club. "The 7th grade class is always the rowdiest and has the lowest level of English, so they are almost always the most difficult to teach. Dr. Jones and I were dreading having the 7th grade the last period of the last day because we were so drained and didn't know if we would be able to keep up with the students. As we entered the classroom, however, we were met with furious drumming and chanting of the poem we had been teaching that week. For the entire class we ended up jumping and screaming at the tops of our lungs and it was by far the best class I have had."

"The love and joy radiating off these students is infectious, inspiring, and the reason I return each year," Finkel explained. "I know it is cheesy but the club means everything to me. I have made such strong connections with the students in Haiti. They have become such an important part of my iden-

tity: the club really does mean the world to me."

"No matter how tired we feel, it is so rewarding to see the smiles on the children's faces," said Mr. Grene.

Mr. Grene returns to Haiti every summer in honor of his brother and is constantly amazed by the perseverance and determination of these students who come from such hard backgrounds. Mr. Grene has been inside a couple of his students homes and was shocked by what he saw: the houses contain one or two rooms and, in some cases, don't even have running water. The fact that the children come to school looking as perfect as they do is just astonishing to Mr. Grene.

At the very end of the assembly, the principal of the Andrew Grene High School spoke to the Fieldston students about what the school means to the children of Haiti. The assembly was extremely powerful and raises questions about how Fieldston can provide more help in Haiti. The Haiti Club assists the Andrew Grene Foundation: if you want to get involved, sign up for the Haiti Club!



Top: Andrew Grene School Headmaster, Ricot Pierre, and AGF Founder/Director Mr. Grene. PHOTOS BY TALIA MARKOWITZ
Bottom: English Teacher, Dr. Jones.

Police Violence Con't

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are essential to have at Fieldston and the people of our community are mature and wise enough to carry the burden of talking about these issues.

Numerous students and faculty members suggested that discussions about these tragedies should be woven into as many classroom conversations as possible. When the topic of a math and social justice colloquium was brought up in the discussion, Dr. Alwin Jones of the English Department proposed a roundtable where Fieldston's mathematicians could address these issues by analyzing the statistics of these deaths and how they affect communities in the United States. He also said that students needs to apply what they're learning in Ethics, History and English classes, in addition to the very values that make up our school, to understanding and fixing these issues.

These tragic events bring the need for safe spaces and open dis-

cussions to light. "We need things like this forum, roundtables, the speak out board, and more to augment things that aren't covered directly in our curriculum," said Mr. Slaughter. "Tragedies like these can be personal and impactful for many members of our community. You want the people that have a close relationship with these issues to know that our school is recognizing how events like this can have a very powerful effect on them."

Mr. Slaughter explained that while not all members of the community directly relate to the deaths of innocent Black people, it is important that everyone in our community is educated on these current events. "It's important for people who don't have a particular position in these situations to hear from those that are affected directly and vice versa," Mr. Slaughter said. "These spaces are important learning opportunities. People are sharing their experiences and percep-

tions through discussion and that is advancing our learning."

While there are endless answers to the question, of "what can we do moving forward," one of the most important ones is to become educated. Students need to discuss, discover, and connect these issues because the problems occurring now are not new. "Our school is one that focuses on social justice and ethical principles," Mr. Slaughter said. "We continually try to illuminate issues and use those ethical principles to combat injustice. A key way for our society to improve is through education - we need to pay attention as well as study in order to gain a better understanding of what is actually going on. We cannot simply fall onto one side of the rhetoric. We need to connect these current events to historical events that are relevant."

Inklings: The Literary Journal Inkling and Honoring Fieldston Work

BY SERENA ZHANG

Inklings, a literary journal produced by the English department dating back to the turn of the last century was revived last year and is going to be released again at the end of this year. The editorial board is comprised of juniors and seniors who were nominated by their English teachers and will be working with Ms. Apostol, the faculty advisor, to edit and publish the journal this year.

Inklings has always been a journal dedicated to exhibiting work done in Fieldston classes. It used to mainly feature English pieces, but this year it is hoping to add art and history pieces, as well as written science work and elegant math problem solutions to create a new, exciting version of Inklings. “Inklings will showcase the best scholarly work, fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction and other student work coming from ECFS English classes this year,” said Ms. Apostol. “We hope to also include anything in the classes that might be conceived as

having beauty, from the lenses of those particular disciplines,” While there are many on campus publications, such as the Fieldston News, Fieldston Sports Digest, and Dope Ink, “none of them are as dedicated to the art of writing the way Inklings is,” said Emma Mitnick (VI), a member of the editorial board. “Additionally, unlike any of the other publications, Inklings provides students with a platform to share creative writing and poetry.”

While Inklings resurfaced multiple times throughout the 1900s, it has laid low for decades, that is until last year when Ms. Apostol pitched it to the English department. “It seemed to me a shame that my students’ works do not get an airing,” Ms. Apostol said. A lot of great, vibrant work is being produced in Fieldston classes and students often do not receive the recognition they deserve. “Inklings allows student writers from freshman year onward to see the light of day,” Ms. Apostol said.

This year’s publication will not



Past Inkling issues.

COURTESY OF INKLINGS

be substantially different from past years, but one of the goals this year is to have a diverse group of contributors as well as diverse work from various subjects and classes. The editorial board and Ms. Apostol strongly encourage everyone to submit. Ms. Apostol said that the editorial board last year had

very high standards, and this year’s will as well, stating that such “is the nature of Fieldston that people perhaps don’t always see, given our progressive ways, but need to see: doing amazing work is part of the Fieldston education.”

Clubs Fair *con’t*

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the news and the reality individuals face. The money from the bake sales is going to go to wherever the club members decide would be the most productive: right now some ideas are United States fund for UNICEF, the American Refugee Committee, and the International Rescue Committee.

Ariana Baez (V) had wanted to start her own club ever since she arrived at Fieldston Upper. “When I was an incoming freshman I noticed that there were no clubs for Latinos or Hispanics, explained Ariana, “and that was something I was looking for especially coming from a predominantly Latino and Hispanic school. Junior year I decided to start the club, working in coalition with other clubs during Spanish Heritage month and Black History month. I really recommend the club because it’s a safe space for Hispanics and Latinas to talk about issues pertaining to being a Hispanic and Latina

at a PWI,” club leader Ariana says.

Overall, the clubs fair had impressive additions to its already great roster, and we can tell that the 2016/17 school year is going to be full of change made by these clubs. We can’t wait to see what comes out of them!



Students at the 2016 Fieldston Clubs Fair.

PHOTOS BY DANIEL SORKIN

Media Assembly *Con't*

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investigations about Donald Trump. I think one of the frustrations for voters this cycle is... there is a difference between what we write, and whether it actually impacts what the voters do. There is not a correlation, and that is not our job."

Burns discussed what standard the media should hold candidates to, and what its role is in covering elections. "I think the election has been challenging to the media in a whole lot of ways, broadly speaking, I think there are two camps of people in the media when it comes to what it means to be objective. One camp holds that you should be pretty passive, pretty unobtrusive, and reflecting what the candidates are saying to each other, about each other, and it is not your rule to pass judgement in any way. The second camp sees the media also as playing a role in holding candidates to certain independent standards, not just measuring them in contrast to each other, but to a certain platonic ideal of what we expect in a presidential candidate, or a president to be."

When asked about the importance of presidential debates, Haberman responded, "I think debates matter in presidential elections. They tend not to be won on stand out moments, it tends to be on

the aggregate... Trump has lowered the bar, and the media gets criticized a lot for lowering the bar for Trump; there is some objective truth to that, but the reality is that when you have a candidate who flaunts not preparing in any traditional way, it does change the perception."

Wolfson added, "The debates are very meaningful and the campaigns take them very seriously. Don't necessarily look at what campaigns say, look at what campaigns do. Campaigns spend an enormous amount of time preparing for debates."

Next, Schwartztol provided an analysis of the racially coded words used by candidates to share certain messages, especially as seen during the first debate.

"[At] the first presidential debate, Hillary Clinton says, 'race still determines outcomes in too many areas of American life, education and housing,' and then she talks about criminal justice." Schwartztol noted that Trump's answer was really interesting, "[Trump] says that there are a couple words that Secretary Clinton doesn't want to say, 'law and order.' Law and order is a very loaded phrase, but there is a long tradition in presidential politics of that phrase being shorthand for a very punitive approach to policing and criminal justice and one

that has really clear racial connotations."

He concluded, "A political season that began with these issues seeming to be some of the least divisive things that politicians were thinking about, has been reframed in large part because of the campaign message that Donald Trump has focused on that has removed the set of issues that have been attracting some level of bipartisan agreement, and made them much more polarizing in the context of this election."

Wolfson shifted the conversation, describing his connection to Fieldston and his strong belief in its values when he was a student and as an adult today. He stated, it's "never a bad thing to reflect on what that means [to be a Fieldston graduate]. We're in a place where you're taught the values of tolerance, empathy, community, and inquiry, and if you are watching a presidential campaign through those lenses then you're going to be pretty disappointed and upset. It is just another reminder of how important it is to be engaged and to push forward. That's the essence of Democracy: seeing something you don't like, and trying to do something about it, bringing your beliefs into the public square and making a case for them."

Students and teachers believed there were many positive aspects to the assembly as well as areas that could have been changed.

Mr. John Reyes (Math Teacher and Form IV Dean) said, "you could basically hear a pin drop, the kids were riveted, everyone was very attentive... I thought that the final statements were very powerful and enlightening...I think a lot of what we're seeing is not the illness, it is the manifestation of something that a lot of Americans are feeling is wrong about politics."

Milena Passage (V) said that she thought the panelists "were very one-sided. I'm not a Trump supporter, but it would be interesting to see what that would be like if someone was up there. I think at the time they were just sharing their biased opinion." Sophie Romano (IV) said that "I thought it was really interesting despite what everyone was saying that it was not a diverse opinion. It really reflected journalism in New York City and political opinions in the news well."

Students from Dr. Banks' US After '45 class, and Mr. Montera's World History class gathered afterwards for a mini-discussion with Schwartztol. They had questions concerning bail, Rikers Island, the

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Speakers Maggie Haberman, Larry Schwartztol, Alexander Burns and Howard Wolfson; Fieldston News Editors, Alex Greenberg (VI), Emma Mitnick (VI), and Keerti Gopal (VI); Assembly Organizer Sam Caplan (V).

COURTESY OF EAGLE TV

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

rhetoric around criminal justice reform in politics, solitary confinement, law and order, and ways for students to get involved.

At the very end of the assembly, a question was posed to the community for them to think about. "Is Trump a unique product of 2016? Could we have seen another candi-

date with a similar platform succeed in the same way that Trump has?"

The Fieldston News will be running a special edition during election week in November, so be sure to check it out!

Second Debate *Con't*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

needs somehow manage to wring out cash to the government. And he's the Republican nominee. Okay.

Those are a few of the actually beneficial things that came out of the debate Monday night. Unfortunately, in the entire context of the debate, they don't tell the whole story. The whole story goes something like this: Clinton and Trump started off making good points and arguments, but then everything started getting out of hand. Trump became angrier and more impatient and began interrupting and yelling, ultimately going from making pointed arguments to simply saying that Clinton was "wrong" and making personal jabs at her that had little to do with the debate. Despite each topic only being allotted 15 minutes of conversation, every section went over time. Lester Holt tried controlling them and came very close to reprimanding them both.

And then, the next day, when the dust had cleared, people argued about the quality of Lester's work trying to contain the chaos of the debate. Some people said that he tried his best, most others said that he was a lightweight, had no control, that he was being lazy, and that he gave up. I think Lester Holt never stood a chance being in the same room with the two candidates. A lot of people also said that neither candidate did well, but just like in the general election, if they had to pick a winner, it would be Hillary by a longshot. A lot of people are picking Hillary Clinton for president because she is just the better candidate. Same thing happened with the debate. While we can certainly hope that the candidates will become more well-rounded over time, it is very unlikely. This will not end well. We are definitely electing the last president of the United States.



Hillary and Trump at the Second Presidential Debate.

COURTESY OF CNN

Campaigning in Pennsylvania *Con't*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

disturbingly obvious that the American 'democracy' is in a state of crisis," she said. "Voters can't make an educated decision if they don't have the important information about their candidates and a comprehensive understanding of politics. The people we met in Pottstown are extremely disadvantaged and limited in their participation in the election because they seemed to only know and consider the candidates' personal qualities, not their qualifications and knowledge of the position they're running for."

Whatever their political preferences may be, Fieldston students can all agree on one thing: it's important to get out there and make your voice heard. While this is not an election that most students will be able to vote in, the outcome will determine all of our futures. If you care about what your future will look like, I encourage you to contact Fieldston's PAC and join us for more campaigning!



Members of the Political Action Club in Montgomery County, PA. From top right: Rachel Florman (VI), Keerti Gopal (VI), Noah Korn (VI), Joe Graeff, and Kate Gorayeb (VI).

COURTESY OF RACHEL FLORMAN

Hamilton A Musical Inquiry *con't*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

spired to take the course like other students because she was obsessed with the musical since the beginning of the year and wanted to learn more about Alexander Hamilton's life. In response to ABC's visit to the class, Isabella says, "when the day actually arrived and I saw Sandy in the classroom I became really nervous and excited because I had seen him on TV a bunch of times. He was really nice and made sure we were feeling as regular as possible." Another Junior in the class, Alexander Cohen, was really excited to see Sandy Kenyon but was also nervous to be interviewed. Cohen enjoyed the experience that day immensely, saying, "meeting Sandy was awesome, but seeing myself on a Taxi TV segment is when it really hit me: Fieldston was taking part in something really special and innovative in the education world."



Sandy Kenyon discusses "Hamilton: A Musical Inquiry" with Dachele Washington (V), during his segment on ABC News.

COURTESY OF ABC NEWS.

Tate Library Banned Books Exhibit

BY ISHAAN RAI

Upon entering the Tate Library, the first thing most notice are the big "READ" signs that contain random celebrities who have seemingly nothing to do with books, as well as patriotic encouragements like "F'READ'OM." But walk all the way up the steps, and you are greeted with a variety of classics: Harry Potter, To Kill a Mockingbird, The Origin of Species, and even the Bible are set up right in front of the checkout area. So what do all these wildly different pieces of literature have in common? A giant "BANNED" sign on the front of each and every one.

"First, just to clarify things: we have not actually banned any books!" exclaimed Ms. Locher, the head librarian. "Students are always so fascinated by this setup, and they always ask the same kind of questions: 'Why did you ban these books?' Well, we didn't, that's the answer."

So the question still remains: Why do these books have a big red sign in front of them? What does it represent?

"Libraries all across the country do these 'BANNED' demonstrations," explained Ms. Locher, "to really just celebrate the freedom to

read, which seems to be quite undervalued around here."

Ms. Locher certainly has a point: The U.S. is quite unique with its ideals of completely free speech and press, and most Americans tend to assume that the freedoms they get to exercise every day are uniform across the world, in both developed and developing countries.

But the truth is, even in the U.S., censorship has been a contentious issue for decades. Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, for example, was "restricted to students with parental permission" in Santa Fe, TX in 2001 for "promoting witchcraft." And suggestions for such restriction came up in states from Alabama to Iowa and even in ultra-liberal New York and California. The book was completely banned from sale in Queensland, Australia because it was considered "violent and dangerous."

This censorship spree doesn't end with J.K. Rowling: take a book like To Kill a Mockingbird, which has been challenged over ten times in the U.S. alone for, among other things, profanity, promoting institutionalized racism, and general sexual content.

Even something like The Diary

of Anne Frank was almost banned in Alabama in 1983 for "being a real downer" (as well as offensive references to sexuality).

"When you think of book banning, you'd usually think of the Soviet 'Commies' or something like that, but the truth of the matter is, something like Harry Potter was banned as far away as New Jersey," Ms. Locher explained.

"In America, we like to think that an individual's right to read is one of the 'tenets of librarianship.' Of course, because of our position as a school library, there are many books that parents might not and have not liked in the past. So when we're asked about contentious pieces of literature, our response, which is usually the response of most librarians around here, is simply that

'it's not my parental right to tell your children what to read.'

Essentially, Ms. Locher, along with all the other Tate librarians, believes that the job of the librarian is to provide all the options, not limit them. The "BANNED" signs exist simply to make students appreciate the freedom they have to read whatever they want, while others across the world and even across the country may not have that option.

"To give a more concrete example of these ideals, we have more 'explicit' books on sexuality, gender, you name it, with a sticker on the front cover that allows students to take out such a book without having to check it out. So if a student is curious, embarrassment should not be a reason to give up that curiosity. We always want to encourage you."



Banned Books Display in the Library.

COURTESY OF ROBERT MONTERA

Beloved Track Coach on Leave Amid Felony Indictment

BY ANDREW CELLI

Coach Cheryl Keeling has taken a leave of absence from her job as the Varsity Track team's head coach, as she awaits trial for seven felony counts, and a misdemeanor. Coach Keeling has been indicted on multiple counts of grand larceny, tax fraud, and failure to file personal tax returns. The indictment, obtained by Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance, alleges that Keeling posed as a landlord for a brownstone which she no longer owned, collecting \$194,000 in rent over a three-year period. The indictment also alleges that Keeling failed to pay taxes on the rent money, and on other types of income that she earned – including her salary from ECFS. At her arraignment, Coach Keeling pleaded not guilty to all charges, and is now preparing for her trial.

During her four years as Varsity Track's head coach, Coach Keeling was highly respected throughout the ECFS community. Jeremy Silverman (VI) describes Keeling as "consistently passionate about [the

team] becoming better," and "a person of much integrity and honesty." In a written statement, Athletic Director Gus Ornstein writes, "Shelley Keeling worked at Fieldston for many years and was a wonderful track coach for scores of students."

An avid runner herself, Keeling led by example. If she wasn't running with her team, she would be jump roping on the track, reminding the runners that as they pushed themselves so did she. Lena Church (VI), a captain of the Cross Country team, says "at 65 [years old,] she did double the workouts as us and made us believe that we could do anything we set our minds to."

Keeling missed almost a week of practices before the news of her indictment spread via a New York Post article circulating on Facebook. Silverman says that her departure left the Cross Country team "both stunned and saddened."

With Keeling's departure, assistant coaches Lipton Thomas and Mobin Shajhalal now share the head coaching duties.

As students attempt to move past these difficult revelations, they have

been encouraged by ECFS faculty to not forget all of the amazing contributions Coach Keeling has made to the team and to the community. Church believes that, even in Coach Keeling's absence, she remains "an incredible role model."

The ECFS Communications and Human Resources Team have released a statement which says:

"We were concerned to hear the news that Shelley Keeling has been

indicted by the Manhattan District Attorney. We know Ms. Keeling only as an inspiring and dedicated coach of our track team. Coach Keeling has requested a leave of absence while she focuses on her legal defense. She will remain on leave until her legal situation is resolved."

Coach Keeling will be missed by the Fieldston community, both as a track coach and as a long-standing role model on and off the field.



Coach Cheryl Keeling. COURTESY OF THE BRONX FREE PRESS

Review: *Denial*

BY ANDY HARTMAN

Denial, a movie which opened in theaters on September 30th, recounts the story of the legal battle between Deborah Lipstadt, a Holocaust studies professor at Emory University, and David Irving, a historian and writer who believed that millions of Jews were not assassinated in concentration camps during World War II.

Set in London in the late 1990s, Ms. Lipstadt, played by actress Rachel Weisz, is sued for libel by Mr. Irving, played by actor Timothy Spall, for statements in her book *Denying the Holocaust* that said Mr. Irving was a Holocaust denier, falsifier, and bigot who manipulated and distorted authentic documents.

Unlike in the American justice system, in a case of libel in the United Kingdom, the accused has to prove that their claims were true. Therefore, the film follows Ms. Lipstadt and her team of lawyers in their quest to demonstrate that the Holocaust did occur.

As a Jewish teenager, watching

this movie was not only impactful and informative, but different in the director's choice to refrain from the graphic images that can be found in many traditional Holocaust movies. Instead, he chose to focus closely on the protagonist's main goal and the trial.

I think the movie and its messages are extremely prevalent today. David Irving's stubbornness, inability to sympathize, and lack of caring reminded me of Donald Trump, the current Republican Presidential candidate. While watching *Denial*, I could not comprehend how someone could have those views, much like many people do not understand how Mr. Trump continues to make racist, anti-semitic and misogynist comments. I would highly recommend seeing this film as it's about much more than just a significant historical event. *Denial* explores the concept of coming to terms with history and oneself, and standing up for what you believe in, even when everyone is not on your side.



COURTESY OF BLEEKER BLOG

HOMECOMING 2016



PHOTOS BY THEO MATZA

TheFieldstonNews

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Printing: Kirk Ruebenson and Carl Smith

Sports

Josh Godosky

By MARC MENDEL

This season, Fieldston Football is entering the Metropolitan Independent Football League with a 3-0 start and hopes of winning a state championship.

Josh Godosky (form V), one of the team's leaders along with Matthew Jalazo (form VI), Kyrion Thomas Jr. (form VI) and Tyler Kemp (form VI), is the starting running back and middle linebacker. Josh started out his Fieldston football career in middle school where his passion and skill was highlighted. He dedicated himself to becoming the face of the school's football program and began to work out in the weight room and attend football camps at The University of Pennsylvania and Boston College.

On the varsity team, Godosky has consistently performed at the

highest level. He was awarded 1st team all league last year and named one of the top 100 football players in New York City by MSG Varsity for the 2016 season. As a freshman, Godosky was the team's starting safety and had 32 tackles (four tackles per game). Last season, he was the starting running back and the leader of the defense at the middle linebacker position. His stats for the 2015 season were 88 tackles (11 tackles per game) and 915 all purpose yards (114.4 yards per game). This season, Godosky is off to a great start, accumulating 390 total yards through three games (130 yards per game) and 32 tackles (10.7 tackles per game).

While Godosky is one of Fieldston's most talented football players since Cole Marcoux '10 and Jabari Hurdle-Price '13, his leader-



Josh Godosky (V).

PHOTO BY THEO MATZA

ship both on and off the field is what sets him apart. On the field, he credits his success running the ball to his teammates on the offensive line. Additionally, Godosky thanked his defensive teammates for upholding their assigned responsibilities so he can make his tackles.

Josh also cherishes the time spent off the field with the football team. Every Friday night, the football team has a dinner at someone's house or at a restaurant. "We're a

team that is extremely close due to the bonding and because you put your body on the line for your teammates every second," Godosky said.

In the future, Godosky hopes to put on a show for everyone at homecoming, possibly play in college, but most importantly, after last year's rocky season where the team went 0-8, to bring a state title back to the Nest.

Sports Update

By ELIZABETH GELLERT AND LILY TEPPER, AND DAVI LENNON
Field Hockey

The Varsity Field Hockey season is well underway, and they have played almost 10 games with a record of 5 wins and 4 losses thus far. Their head coach, Diane Toth, says that "[they] are winning the games [they] are supposed to" and have been "competitive with the tougher Ivy league opponents". The team is playing well together and has been focused on a game that "includes a lot of passing and possession of the ball," explains Toth. They have also welcomed the addition of assistant coach Michelle Julliard, who has been concentrating on defense. Looking ahead, they are eager to continue playing competitively and hope to secure a spot in the playoffs.

Water Polo

While most teams at Fieldston only play one game a day, the water polo team often ends up playing two in a row. There aren't enough players for both a Varsity and a JV team which means they have to play for almost twice as long as players from other schools. "Two of the biggest obstacles we've faced are injuries and keeping up stamina and effort throughout both the Varsity and JV games," said team member

Caroline David (IV). Unfortunately, a few of their best players have been injured. However, these setbacks haven't kept them from playing well and winning a JV game against Horace Mann. So far, they've only had one game and two scrimmages, but they are looking forward to playing more games during the remainder of the season.

Tennis

Having a mixture of both wins and losses, the tennis team is off to a good start. Tyler Friedman (VI) says, "the team has been working on coming together and supporting each other. Since tennis is a largely individual sport, garnering spirit and cheering for each other is what brings us together as a team." The team has been working hard since preseason to strategize and shift the lineup to meet the competition that they face. They are looking forward to a tough battle against Poly Prep at homecoming and to competing in the Ivy League Tennis Tournament in the coming weeks.

Cross Country

Only a month in and it has already been a record breaking season for the Cross Country team. A number of runners have achieved their personal best times and the entire team has "been training incredibly hard

since preseason," says Lena Church (VI). Since cross country requires runners to be familiar with various terrains, they have been running on the track, in Van Cortlandt, and on Mosholu avenue to prepare themselves. Church noted that "even though cross country is largely an individual sport, [they] have really bonded as a team". The team has been doing well and welcomes the addition of the freshmen. They are all eager to continue working hard and are ready to bring home some first place medals.

Volleyball

If you've ever been at school on a Saturday, then you know that volleyball is there practicing, working out, and training like crazy. This extra day of practice helps the team "stay consistent with all of [their] skills: hitting, serving, etc." says Shantel Sosa (VI). The volleyball team took their first loss to Poly Prep this past week. This motivated them to train even harder so they can be more consistent in games. The team can't wait to play Poly Prep again at homecoming, and show them just how hard they've worked since the loss.

Girls Soccer

Besides being notorious for witty game day dressups, GVS has been

off to a roaring start this season by winning or drawing 6 out of their 10 games so far. Still, the girls soccer team has been hit by the injury epidemic and is "relearn[ing] how to play as a team since we have lost some crucial players," says Daniela Finkel (VI). Taking a second to look back, Finkel says that "the best part of the season so far has been seeing how much potential we have as a team and to see the excitement in all the girls' eyes for the season to come." The team is excited to test out their potential and is eagerly awaiting the rest of the season.

Boys Soccer

BVS is 2-2-3 so far in in-league games and is excited to keep pushing forward into the season. They hope to "take the momentum from [their] win on Friday against Horace Mann and use it going forward," says Tyler Lederer-Plaskett (VI). Since recently coming back from being out all of preseason and the first two games due to a back injury, Lederer-Plaskett says that so far "the best part of the season has been getting back to playing... boys varsity soccer is something very special to me and I am happy to be on the field to help the team however I can." Continuing to both work and play hard, BVS is looking forward to the rest of the season.