

Save the Date!

for the twenty-third annual

Scholarship Golf Classic

Monday, June 11, 2018

Bedens Brook Club, Skillman, NJ











Rain Date: October 8, 2018



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Convocation 09.08.17

Highlights of Dr. Hawkey's remarks

"Honor is not the appendage of any social class. It is a way of life which may be freely chosen by any man or woman, regardless of race, color, or creed."

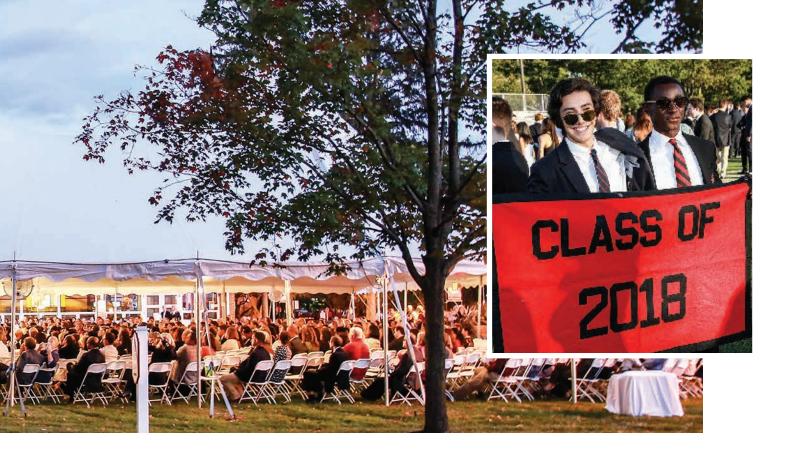
—Professor T. Braxton Woody University of Virginia his year we welcome 134 new students to our community from twenty-one different countries, and we have this year the largest freshman class in the history of the School. We believe that all of these new students from grades 6 through 12 will join our returning ones to make Pennington an even stronger, more vibrant place than it is today.

Pennington students are some of the most accomplished students anywhere.

Our students bring honor to Pennington when they compete on our award-winning computer science and math teams, on our Middle School Odyssey of the Mind teams, and in writing, drama, and language competitions. But we are not just academic wizards: Our students traveled to Haiti

again last year, bringing with them medical supplies for over 1,000 individuals in need, which they personally administered during the weeklong trip. Our twenty-four-year commitment to HomeFront continues to make a difference in the lives of our friends and neighbors here in Mercer County. And last year, a group of our Upper School students formed a partnership with a third-grade class at the Christina Seix Academy in Trenton to help bring STEM education to their school.





Pennington's history is 180 years old. The Methodists who founded our School embraced differences and put Pennington at the forefront of being an inclusive and welcoming institution to many different faiths, races, and nationalities. Before it was in vogue for schools to seek diversity, Pennington was leading by example. Our beliefs have never wavered since 1838, and as you start school this year, it is important to embrace these fundamental values. Whether you are a student, a parent, or part of our faculty and staff, being a member of this tight-knit community requires this commitment.

This past week we explored some other ideals that we believe are equally important, like respect, compassion, kindness, empathy, and inclusion. These ideals are a part of one of our School's most important core values: honor.

All of you are part of a School community that is enjoying unprecedented growth in

so many different areas—as well as our surging reputation that we are not only a school that cares about providing you with a first-rate academic education, but also a school that cares very much about you as a developing young person. Our commitment to you, our students, goes far beyond learning in the classroom to include your continuing development as thoughtful, ethical, and curious young people who don't just acquire knowledge but who seek truth and ask incisive questions.

Last year I challenged our community to live a life with virtue, and the year before to consider humility first. And this year, I want to celebrate the third of Pennington's core values—honor—and this year's theme, be honorable.

We expect our students to think about honor in all facets of their lives, and with every choice they make. You are all proud representatives of our fine School, and I want you to live lives of principle and to inspire others to do the same through example and encouragement.

I'd like to invite each of you to think about how you can be more honorable this year. It may come in the form of your interactions with friends, classmates, teachers, parents, opponents, or even strangers. Be courageous, have integrity, and act with dignity.

There is such beauty and grace in the simplicity of the statement "Do the right thing." I am happy to offer you students a year filled with opportunities, and opportunities to be honorable—at home, at school, and wherever your path may take you this year.

No matter who you are, or where you have come from, or what you did this summer, we have important work to do this year, and we can accomplish it together as a School community, committed to honoring the values of humility, virtue, and honor.



"I wrote this poem [excerpted below] with the intention of bringing something personal and smashing it together with a message that's relevant today. I am so proud of my height and who I am, and I wish others could love themselves and all of the beauty they have to offer. To share this message in front of the entire School and to perform before Mr. Mali is an experience I will never forget."

—Megan Eckerson '19

Poem

I am a woman. I am a woman of unique proportions, Standing at six feet and three inches, seeing the top of many heads instead of faces. If you could name the average height of a female in today's world, Let me tell you a little something about the average height of a woman, Do I look like I'm 5'4"? If I were 5'4", My arms wouldn't extend out so far, when I reach out in front of me. Perhaps I wouldn't have to "grow into certain parts of my body." Perhaps I wouldn't have gotten called "Sasquatch" Perhaps I would actually touch a scale for once. I was so far off the scale when I was born that they had to create a new scale just to accommodate me. I'm not the perfect woman. I'm growing and changing, I'm rearranging, I am blooming into an adult, where I will be introduced to a new face, with friendly eyes that over time will turn dark and cold. They will turn the color of a murky ocean, and speak so many negatives. That being,

that spirit,



New Community Week opens school year

his past summer, School administrators designed a different program for students for the first week of school. Teachers wanted to spend more time on community building and to showcase those elements considered to be fundamental to the Pennington experience: a commitment to individual excellence; time with advisory groups; activities with peer leadership; our chapel program; a focus on our diversity and how we hold this long-standing tradition at our School as a foundational pillar of our collective experience; summer reading breakout sessions; and, of course, an introduction to new teachers and the academic year ahead. There were many after-school activities and an all-School barbecue for students and their families. All of this took place in that first week leading up to Convocation!







A highlight for many students and faculty members was the afternoon spent with visiting guest and slam poet Taylor Mali, this year's first Stephen Crane speaker, on September 7. The event included performances by Pennington students Kate Reim '19, Miami Celentana '22, Megan Eckerson '19, and Lewis Hurd '18, and one teacher performance by Jon Lemay of the English Department. Mali is a Brooklyn-based poet and educator who has been teaching spoken-word workshops all over the world since 2000. He is the author of What Teachers Make: In Praise of the Greatest Job in the World (Putnam, 2012) as well as two other books of poetry, The Last Time As We Are (Write Bloody Books, 2009) and What Learning Leaves (Hanover, 2002). He received a New York Foundation for the Arts Grant in 2001 to develop Teacher! Teacher!, a one-man show about poetry, teaching, and math that won the jury prize for best solo performance at the 2001 Comedy Arts Festival.

Left: Megan Eckerson '19 shared a very personal perspective when she read her poem to a rapt audience of her peers; Mr. Hutnik's poetry group had a great time sharing and performing music and poetry songs with each other: Mr. Hutnik, Russell Gorelick '18, Joseph Seo '18, Adomah Owasu '21, and Vivian Lei '18. Above: Jackie King '21; Brian Keating '18; Students perform for a crowd of their peers.

goes by the name of society. Apparently, a woman can't be "fat," but she can't be too skinny either, so where's the middle ground? If a woman is outspoken, she's "bossy" or well... you know the other b word. But when she's quiet, her voice is just another that's lost in the crowd. I am not society's cookie cutter image of a perfect woman. It expects us women to plead for forgiveness, that we'll wear our heels higher, our curls tighter. As a woman, I am expected to gloss my lips, to shake my hips. I love being tall for many reasons, I love being able to reach the marshmallows at the top of the pantry closet. I am touchy about my height, because it's just another average I am not. My partner's gotta understand that I am not his perfect woman, Lam pretty without all of the glitter, the painful shoes. I can make the choice to put it all on, but hear me when I say, it's my choice. I want to say I don't care that I break the averages of appearance, but I do. Despite this, I am a female who exceeds the scale, but also thinks about all of the other scales that I can do the same to. For as a woman, I want to spend my time plumping my independence and enhancing my intelligence, rather than plumping my lips and enhancing my cheekbones. I am not the perfect woman to society, but in my own little way, I'm happy the way I am. I broke my first scale at birth. I broke the limit it could reach. So now. I believe I am limitless.

Homecoming Weekend 2017

Hundreds of familiar faces were back on campus over the weekend of October 13–15 for Homecoming 2017.





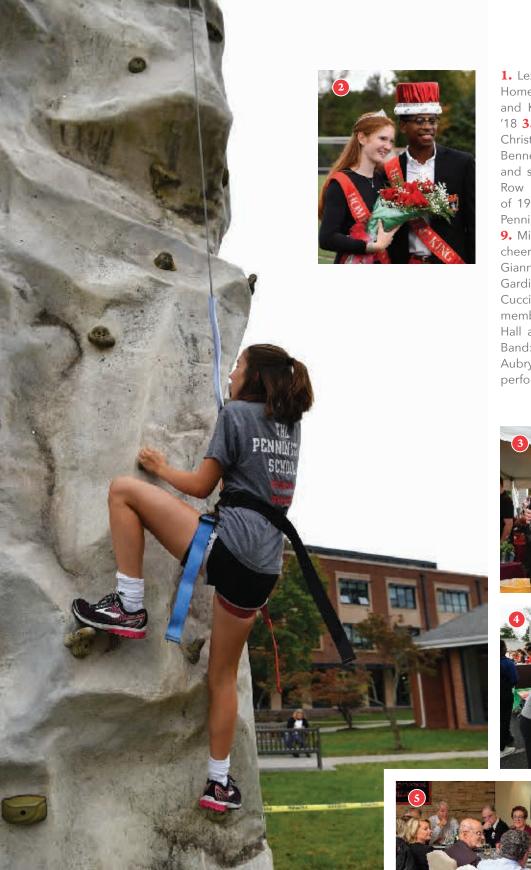
he weekend opened on Friday, October 13, with a Pep Rally featuring performances by many of the School's teams, cheerleaders, and organizations. Following the Pep Rally, this year's Homecoming King and Queen were announced: Sid Spencer '18 and Kat Horsley '18, respectively. That evening, the Fiftieth Reunion class enjoyed a special dinner while other reunion classes celebrated with a barbecue. Upper School students remained on campus for their annual Homecoming dance.

On Saturday, the whole community came together for athletic events, Homecoming Row, and more. Alumni gathered again at the end of the day at Corson House for an all-alumni party, featuring our very own Faculty Band!

Opposite page: Donna and Aaron Usiskin '87; Class of 2007 around the fire pit at Brews and Barbecue; the evening's entertainment; Lisa and Peter Tucci '79 P'16 '16 in the new Special Collections Room in Meckler Library; Fiftieth Reunion Class of 1967; Class of 1982; Tom Liwosz and guest Judith Briehler with Jameel Talwani '88 and Tim O'Brien '87



class of '92 barbecue



1. Lexi Childrey '21 climbs the rock wall at Homecoming Row 2. Homecoming Queen and King: Kat Horsley '18 and Sid Spencer '18 3. Diana Moore '02, Andrew Guthrie '55, Christina McKitish Reinhardt '02, and Ryan Bennett '02 4. Current students offer activities and snacks to raise money on Homecoming Row 5. Fiftieth Reunion Dinner for the Class of 1967 took place at Bonne Assiette. 6-8. Pennington athletes gave it their all on the field. 9. Michael Lehrman '50 with the Pennington cheerleaders 10. Julianne DeLorenzo '07 and Gianna Russo '07 with Dr. Hawkey 11. Buddy Gardineer '07, Justin Dawlabani '07, Alison Cuccia '07, and Jesal Trivedi '07 join faculty members (seated) Lisa Houston and Caroline Hall at the All-Alumni Party. 12. The Faculty Band: Steve Trimble, Mark DiGiacomo, Jordan Aubry, Jason Harding, and Jamie Moore '03, performed at the All-Alumni Party.





















Homecoming Awards 2017

Athletic Hall of Fame, Alumni Awards, and Pennington Fund Awards were recognized at the Headmaster's Brunch on October 14.

2017 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

Ali Kliment '07 Christopher Liwosz '02 Gina Spaziano '97 Thomas McHugh, Jr. '47 The Lacrosse Team of 1991

2017 Alumni Awards

Outstanding Young Alumni Award Dana Rae Ashburn '07

> Alumni Service Award John Vaccaro '47

Alumni Achievement Award Michael Lehrman '50

Pennington Fund Awards

Greatest Parent Participation
The Class of 2023
Alice Koesterich P'23
Danielle DeLellis P'23
Co-Chairs

The Class of 2021 Swati Navani P'16 '21 Chair

Greatest Number of Donors
The Class of 2010
Maddie Scherer '10
Class Fund Director

Greatest Dollar Amount
The Class of 1979
Donna Kottcamp '79
Robert Carroll '79
Class Fund Co-Directors

Cupola Award

Greatest Participation
The Class of 1966
Jed Feibush '66
Class Fund Director

O'Hanlon Award

Greatest Increase in Participation
The Class of 1966
Jed Feibush '66
Class Fund Director



Parents for Pennington News

by Lori Washton P'20

It has been a very exciting start for the 2017–18 school year!
The Parents Association Executive Board has added many new social activities for parents and changed the name of our organization.

The new name for our parents association, Parents for Pennington (PfP), was voted on and approved October 20, 2017, in a special General Meeting. The new name reflects our philosophy and goals: We are here to provide support and a sense of community for parents, students, faculty, and staff of The Pennington School. Members of PfP are all bound together by our shared values and the desire to contribute positive spirit to the Pennington experience. We also work with the School administration to help achieve the academic and character goals we all have for our children. The Pennington School is neither just about academics, nor only about character; our children need both in order to develop the resilience and achievement required to thrive in our society and the world. We welcome any parents who want to join us in this effort.

We have been very busy building community spirit. We held, arranged, and supported parent parties for grades 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10–12 early this fall and have had two Upper School coffees with presentations. We started a number of clubs and cultural interest groups: tennis club, book club, multicultural cooking club, and Indian, Chinese, and Hispanic/Latino cultural interest groups. At these gatherings parents learned from other parents about the cultural significance of tea in Chinese culture and the celebration of Diwali in Indian culture. The Hispanic/Latino interest





group has been meeting off campus to socialize and discuss culture at a local Spanish restaurant. If you would like to start another cultural interest group, let us know. We also funded or sponsored other projects and events that benefit students, such as Run for the Cure and Homecoming T-shirts to help the senior class earn money. Look for future announcements to get involved—there is much more to come!





he Pennington School marked the end of a highly successful, five-year comprehensive campaign with a special event on the evening of Friday, October 27. The School's ambitious five-year campaign, *Building for the Future*, far exceeded its initial goal of raising \$10 million and concluded on June 30, 2017, raising over \$23.2 million.

Lead donors to the campaign joined members of the board of trustees, current parents, the faculty, and School administrators for a champagne celebration on October 27, in a beautifully decorated tent on the bank of the School's Lowellden Pond.

Peter J. Tucci '79, chair of Pennington's Board of Trustees and the parent of two Pennington graduates, stated,

"I am proud to serve on the School's Board of Trustees, especially during a time of such a positive transformation. We have just concluded the most successful campaign in Pennington's 180-year history. The funds raised during this campaign will touch every aspect of The Pennington School."







Pennington's campaign was launched in 2013 and grew out of a strategic planning process to physically transform the campus and provide innovative new programs and curriculum. Work is continuing on Wesley Drive, a new road that will encircle the School and create an all-pedestrian campus by fall of 2019, and administrative offices in Old Main are set to be renovated during the summer of 2018. Every classroom on the School's campus has been renovated or newly built during the past two years.

"It's important to say it out loud: the campaign was never just about dollars but rather what those dollars would allow us to do. All this giving, getting, and spending has been for



the benefit of our students. These are the young men and women who will be the leaders in society and in their communities in the coming decades. The impact they will have—in their families, their careers. and their communities will be grounded in the core values of Honor, Virtue, and Humility that they encountered—and embraced—as students at Pennington. What could be better than that?"

> —Dr. William S. Hawkey Headmaster

























Special Events

Fall 2017

1. The School welcomed fifteen exchange students and one faculty member from Spain on Monday, September 18. The students and their families had hosted Pennington students in their homes last spring. 2. Pennington hosted West Halifax High School's girls' soccer team on Wednesday, September 20. West Halifax traveled from Nova Scotia, and this is their second trip to Pennington in the last four years. 3. On Sunday, September 24, thirty-four Pennington students attended the Maker Faire in New York City. 4. Four students, along with teacher Caroline Hall, participated in the annual Hopewell Valley Arts Council Amazing Pumpkin Carve on October 11. 5. Dan Johnson, a Princeton-based percussionist, demonstrated the tabla drums in Chapel and for the Rhythm of the Sacred class on October 17. 6. The Pennington School Math Competitions Club had a team meet against Leigh High School in San Jose, CA. The cooperative competition ended with our team earning 31 points while Leigh High School earned 18 points. The victory was secured by seniors Francesca Pellerito and Karen Zheng; juniors James Bao, Daniel Dai, Greg Teng, and Sandy Zhang; sophomore Yiren Zhou; and freshmen Shivant Krishnan and Tony Li. 7. The first meeting of the parents association Chinese Interest Group took place on Thursday, October 12, with a Chinese tea ceremony. Parents came together to taste different teas and enjoy traditional refreshments while learning about Chinese culture. 8. Lisa Espinoza, M.D. P'23 spoke on Friday, October 20, to Applied Science students about her education and career path. 9. Jane Malloy '85 returned to campus on Friday, October 20, to speak to students in the Global Studies Certificate Program about her education and career path, following her story from Pennington to the United Nations. 10. Carrie Vinch '83 P'19 delivered a speech to students in the Applied Science Certificate Program on Friday, October 27, regarding her education and career as an engineer. She currently works in the environmental services Department at Ryder System, Inc., focusing on fuel system installations and regulatory compliance. 11. Students from the Spanish Club and the Spanish Honor Society headed to Trenton on October 28 to volunteer in the Halloween celebration organized by Eastern Service Workers Association. Students had the opportunity to serve others while practicing their Spanish skills as part of their commitment to community service to the Hispanic population of the area. 12. This year, as part of their curriculum, Spanish classes are focusing on the study of Mexico. One of the most important Mexican cultural traditions is the celebration of the Day of the Dead (Dia de los Muertos). As part of the celebration, and in collaboration with the Arts Department, an altar was set up in Wesley Forum.

(continued on page 16)

More Special Events

Fall 2017

13. On Tuesday, November 7, Pennington students in grades 8-12 gathered for a "Girls in STEM" mentoring dinner in the Silva Gallery of Art. Forty female students joined faculty members and professionals to exchange ideas and questions about studying and working in STEM fields. 14. Physical Science students wrapped up their study of Newton's Three Laws of Motion with a rocket launch on November 7. 15. This year's Junior Proctors get ready for Middle School LAUNCH. 16. Four Applied Science students attended the Eastern Analytical Symposium in Princeton on November 13. 17. The new Middle School Club Room has been established in Old Main to provide Middle School extracurricular clubs a place to meet during lunch and after school. 18. On December 13, PJC (Pennington Jewish Community) hosted a Hanukkah party for all Pennington students, teachers, and faculty members in the Silva Gallery of Art.

























Sunday, November 12, 2017

he School's various musical ensembles presented their Fall Concert to an enthusiastic audience in Sparks Memorial Gymnasium on Sunday, November 12.

Talented student musicians sometimes hustled from the stage to the choral risers and back again to perform in multiple groups.

Teachers William Alford and Donald Dolan conducted the choral and instrumental groups, respectively.

The Middle School Singers began with the appropriately titled "Come to the Music," which urges listeners, "Celebrate!" They followed it with "Riptide"—but with a special twist: the students had found themselves rehearsing in the classroom with marimbas and decided to create their own arrangement of the Vance Joy song, which they performed. Their segment concluded with the upbeat "Get Back Up Again," from the soundtrack of the movie *Trolls*.

The Orchestra's selections showed the musicians' versatility. The ensemble moved from Mozart's Overture to *The Magic Flute* to Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue," and finished with an arrangement of the lovely Shaker melody "Simple Gifts."

The reflective "Harvest" began the Pennington Singers' portion of the program, followed by the classic ballad "When I Fall in

Love," with a solo by Jenna Soliman '20. The group concluded by asking the audience to "give me the beat" by clapping and tapping along with their *a cappella* version of "Drift Away."

The Jazz Band played Stevie Wonder's "Superstition," Paich and Porcaro's "Africa," and Walter Murphy's "Theme from Family Guy." In true jazz fashion, different instrumentalists stood to play featured riffs.

The final musical selections of the evening were presented by the Upper School Chorus. The group began with a traditional Zulu song, "Mangisondele Nkosi Yam," which Alford explained had been sung by miners in South Africa during apartheid. He told the audience that learning the song had inspired conversations about apartheid, of which this generation of students was largely unaware. The song, which weaves in the traditional hymn tune "Nearer, My God, to Thee," featured soloists Mariel Abano '19, Megan Eckerson '19, and Jordan Matthews '20. Narverud's "Lunar Lullaby" followed. The evening concluded with "Waving Through a Window" from *Dear Evan Hansen*, with soloists Christopher Kopits '19, Niccolo Grillo '18, and Steven Kopits '18.



An important part of the The Pennington School's vision is that our "students develop a sense of responsibility for themselves, for others, and for the world in which they live." It permeates the work teachers do in their classrooms, on the field, and in the greater community.

iven that the concept of sustainability is inherently central to this vision, a group of dedicated teachers and students has been working to support and advance sustainable practices and thinking throughout the School. This work has been taking place, and is continuing to develop, in several different areas.

Faculty, staff, and students recently formed an ad hoc Sustainability Committee to connect and advance existing efforts to implement sustainable practices on campus. The committee's interim goals are to improve coordination and communication as they relate to sustainable efforts across all segments of our School, including the broader Pennington community. We also aim to create a culture of sustainable thinking that informs decision-making in every aspect of School life, from the classroom to the dorm room and the boardroom. These goals cut across the three pillars of



The Kenneth Kai Tai Yen Humanities Building, opened in January 2016, earned LEED Gold Certification. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is a rating system devised by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) to evaluate the environmental performance of a building and encourage market transformation towards sustainable design. LEED certification provides independent verification of a building or neighborhood's green features, allowing for the design, construction, operations, and maintenance of resource-efficient, high-performing, healthy, cost-effective buildings.

Campus-wide initiatives currently in development include:

- Assessing the ecosystem health of the pond and developing plans to replace invasive plant species with native species, improve the pond's water quality and aquatic environment, and enhance the pond's aesthetics and educational potential
- Refining our recycling program through staff training, design thinking, and public education
- Building a stronger connection between the Green Team and the Community Service club through work in the School garden
- Analyzing energy consumption across campus and identifying opportunities to reduce, use, and improve efficiency
- Creating several outdoor classroom spaces to get students outside, enjoying nature, and engaging in place-based environmental education
- Evaluating the food waste produced on campus and exploring avenues for on- or off-site composting

sustainability—environment, society, and economy—and extend well beyond simply "greening" Pennington. For example, our sustainability efforts intersect with social justice in that we must consider the uneven effects of environmental issues on different groups of people, on and off campus. We are therefore working to involve all relevant stakeholders in decision-making and planning.

Students are encouraged to turn their environmental interests into action. The Green Team is a student-led club whose members share an interest in the environment and the ambition to tackle various issues from the campus to the global scale. Most of their efforts are focused on minimizing the School's environmental impacts and fostering a stronger environmental ethic within our community. Whether through their involvement with the Green Team, the Sustainability Committee, the Global Studies and Applied Science certificate programs, or a class project, we are

supporting student efforts to make a difference at The Pennington School and beyond.

As a result of some of the work described above, The Pennington School received River-Friendly Certification on Tuesday, September 26, from the Stony Brook—Millstone Watershed Association. Dr. Andrews, who teaches environmental science, applied for and accepted the award. The river-friendly designation is a reflection of Pennington's dedication to improving water quality and conservation and protecting our environment. Earning this certification requires the submission of lesson plans and project descriptions, including the grades involved and number of students reached. A report was created of the School's "river-friendly" activities, and Pennington reached the highest level of certification—Watershed Level—by earning points with the School's engaging and effective eco-focused curricula.

New Faculty 2017–18

The School has welcomed fourteen new members to its faculty this year. They are Tiernan Close, Arlene Cohen, Deborah R. Fermo, Marisa R. Ferrari, Chandler Fraser-Pauls '11, Melissa Gurick, Suzanne E. Houston, Jon Lemay, Ian P. Lough, María A. Sáiz, Stephen J. Sheehan, David R. Thomas, Stephen M. Trimble, and Laurie B. Volpe. In addition, Brenden Bendorf has joined the information technology staff.

Tiernan Close returns to Pennington as a teacher of religion; she had taught religion and world history at the School from 1998 to 2007 and world history in 2012–13. A graduate of Hartwick College with a bachelor's degree in religious studies, she holds a master's degree in biblical studies from Drew University, where she is currently a candidate for a doctorate in global studies.

Arlene Cohen is teaching mathematics in the Middle School. She is a magna cum laude graduate of Wellesley College, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. A member of Princeton Day School's faculty from 1997 to 2016, she joined Pennington's Middle School faculty as a midyear replacement in early 2017. Her earlier teaching posts were at New Canaan (CT) Country School and Fairfax Collegiate School (Falls Church, VA).



New faculty at The Pennington School, front row (from left): David Thomas, Tiernan Close, Suzanne Houston; second row: Deborah Fermo, Ian Lough, Jon Lemay, María Sáiz, Arlene Cohen; back row: Brenden Bendorf, Chandler Fraser-Pauls '11, Marisa Ferrari, Stephen Trimble, Melissa Gurick, Laurie Volpe, and Stephen Sheehan.

Deborah Fermo has joined the School's English Department. She holds a bachelor's degree in English from the United States Naval Academy and a master's degree in liberal arts from St. John's College in Annapolis, MD. She served on the Naval Academy faculty from 2000 to 2004 and 2010 to 2017. Her military experience includes serving as a helicopter aircraft commander out of Jacksonville, FL, and as action officer, manpower readiness, with the U.S. Fleet Forces Command in Norfolk, VA. She also taught at Norfolk Academy and Bayside High School in Norfolk. A Bucks County native, she now lives in Pennington.

Marisa Ferrari is a teaching fellow in biology in the Science Department. Hailing from Doylestown, PA, she is a 2017 graduate of Ursinus College, where she earned a bachelor's degree in biology, with a minor in education. At Ursinus she earned Dean's List honors and was a member of the Tri-Beta Biology Honor Society and of the Women's Swim Team. She also received the Barbara Olmo McInnis 1957 Prize, awarded to an outstanding student in teacher education.

Chandler Fraser-Pauls '11 returns to his alma mater as assistant director of athletics and assistant coach of varsity boys' basketball. He earned his bachelor's degree in law and government from Lafayette College, where he was a four-year member of the varsity men's soccer team. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in sports management at Drexel University, where he also played varsity basketball in 2015-16. He was previously employed as director of basketball operations at Rider University and as an admission and athletics intern at The Pennington School.

Melissa Gurick has joined the faculty of the Cervone Center for Learning. She earned her bachelor's degree in special education from Trenton State College (now The College of New Jersey) in Ewing and her master's degree as a reading specialist from Rider University. She was a special education teacher in the Hopewell Valley Regional School District from 1985 to 2017 and was awarded Teacher of the Year honors in 2013. She has been inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame at both TCNJ and Notre Dame High School in Lawrenceville.

Suzanne Houston, a native of Princeton, has joined the Arts Department as a teacher of drama. She is a graduate of Marymount Manhattan College with a B.F.A. degree in acting, with a minor in arts education. She has taught drama and public speaking in several New Jersey school districts: Franklin Township, Princeton Regional, and, most recently, Dunellen. She has worked extensively in the summers since 2007 with the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey in Madison. In addition, she has assisted with a number of Pennington School productions, most recently as dialect coach for Our Country's Good in 2016.

Jon Lemay has joined the English Department. He is a graduate of Skidmore College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in English and served as editor-in-chief of the literary magazine. A native of Raymond, NH, he comes to Pennington from Lausanne Collegiate School in Memphis, TN, where he had taught English and directed the fall theater productions since 2015. He was an instructor in Phillips Exeter Academy's summer program in 2016 and was a summer teaching intern at St. Paul's School (Concord, NH) in 2013 and 2014.

Ian Lough is teaching Middle School science. A native of Charleston, WV, he earned his bachelor's degree in biology from West Virginia University in 2016 and his Master of Health

Sciences degree from that university's College of Medicine earlier this year. At WVU, he was a member of the Honors College and a Presidential Scholar. Through his master's program he pursued independent study focusing on diabetes prevention in rural West Virginia.

María Sáiz teaches Middle School Spanish. A native of Burgos, Spain, she holds a bachelor's degree in English philology from Universidad de Valladolid, Spain; a master's degree in Spanish literature and linguistics from Western Michigan University; and a doctoral degree in Spanish literature from the University of Colorado at Boulder. In addition to teaching Spanish at the University of Colorado from 2002 to 2008, she was an instructor at the University of Cincinnati from 2008 to 2011. More recently she has taught at the high school level at Vistamar School in Los Angeles and Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy in La Cañada Flintridge, CA.

Stephen Sheehan has joined the Mathematics Department. He is a graduate of Franklin & Marshall College, where he majored in economics, minored in applied mathematics, and was a four-year varsity football player. He later earned a master's degree in sport and athletic administration from Gonzaga University. A native of Stamford, CT, he taught mathematics and coached football from 2012 to 2016 at Hyde School in Woodstock, CT, also serving as assistant director and then director of athletics. He became associate director of admissions there in 2016.

David Thomas teaches physics in the Science Department. He earned his bachelor's degree in physics, *summa cum laude*, from Clemson University, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Hailing from Moorestown, he has taught in several New Jersey school districts. He most recently was a teacher of physics, AP physics, and physical science at Cherry Hill High School East.

Stephen Trimble has joined the faculty full-time, teaching classes in information technology, after doing so part-time last year. He had been on the School's professional staff since 2013, coordinating the Technology Department's help desk. He is a graduate of the Berklee College of Music with a bachelor's degree in music, with a concentration in songwriting; he later earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in information technology from Mercer County Community College.

Laurie Volpe has joined the Cervone Center for Learning. She earned a bachelor's degree from Douglass College of Rutgers University and a master's degree in counseling and personnel services from The College of New Jersey. She was a school counselor for the Hopewell Valley Regional Board of Education from 1990 to 2010. She went on to hold supervisory positions for Rumson Borough School District from 2010 through 2016 and most recently was interim supervisor of special education for the Flemington-Raritan School District. She has been an owner of local business Volpe's Cream King LLC since 2002.

Brenden Bendorf, the new help desk and AV support specialist in the Information Technology Department, is a graduate of Temple University with a bachelor's degree in theater. Before joining Pennington, he was a specialist with Apple in Lawrence, working in sales and providing training and support to business customers. He has also been an assistant hockey coach at the Hun School of Princeton (2016–17).









by Lisa Houston

Romeo and Juliet is a play that stands the test of time. The issues of family, love, communication, and death are eternally relevant. As we work and live with teenagers, we see the emotions depicted by these characters in our students, colleagues, and our own families. The themes that Shakespeare explored in this play are still alive and well today.

Our version of Verona is a modern place not exactly Pennington, but a world not so distant from our view or understanding. In our Verona, the audience bears witness to a series of events that spin out in such a way that all characters are punished. What can we learn from their mistakes?

Watching Shakespeare now requires both a careful eye and a discerning ear. Teaching and learning require these skills as well, and at Pennington we are well-practiced in these arts. During this time in the Black Box, careful attention has been paid. Details are noticed and tweaked. Two ambitious sets were imagined and superbly executed. The actors, technicians, and audiences alike came together in this shared experience of intense emotion to recreate Shakespeare's intended world. If only all the world could be a stage, what lessons we might learn!

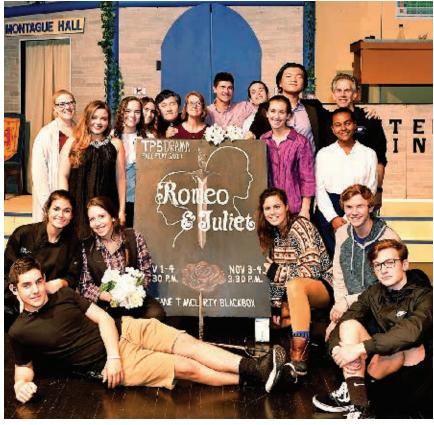
Opposite page: Top-Juliet (Rachel Domb '19), tries to end her life, next to her love, Romeo (Will Harding '19); Bottom left-Shi "Benny" Liang '18 as Friar Lawrence; Bottom center-Lord Capulet (Zhehao "Elvis" Tong '18) shames his daughter (Rachel Domb '19); Bottom right-Romeo (Will Harding '19) ends the life of his foe, Paris (Christopher Long '20); This page: Upper left–Feven Negussie '18 attends the Capulets' masquerade ball; Upper right-Benvolio (Anna McLaughlin '20) tries to prevent Romeo from drowning Tybalt (Nicholas Psomaras '18); Middle left Mercutio (Ryan Totaro '18) takes a swipe at Tybalt; Middle right–Juliet considers her options; Bottom-Faculty directors join the seniors of the cast and crew for traditional signboard picture.













Meckler Library Renovations

Adapting to Our Students' Changing Needs uring the summer of 2017, with funding from the *Building for the Future* campaign, Meckler Library went through major renovations to accommodate the needs of our twenty-first-century students. New floor-to-ceiling windows and a new skylight flood this beautiful space with natural light. Special museum-quality lighting was installed, and all-new furniture was purchased. New classrooms for the Cervone Center were built, and a new archives room was created to showcase the history of The Pennington School.

In 1971, the Meckler Library was dedicated to honor its main benefactor, Herman L. Meckler, who had described a library as "the heart of any academic enterprise." Teaching methods today are far different from those of even ten years ago, but the library remains at the academic heart of the School. Through technology, the world is at the tips of students' fingers, and ideas evolve through collaboration and daily interaction with both peers and faculty members. A brand-new e-classroom offers students the latest technology for study and research.

Archives and Special Collections Room

The Pennington School Archives and Special Collections have a new home in the Meckler Library, with inspiration and support from Lisa and Peter Tucci '79 P'16'16. Tucci, chair of Pennington's Board of Trustees, has a special interest in history and artifacts and is the owner of a renowned collection of items related to Joseph Bonaparte, the brother of Napoleon.

For over 179 years, The Pennington School has been collecting and preserving records, photos, memorabilia, and objects related to the School's history and students. Over the years, these documents and artifacts have been stored in various locations on our campus, often in conditions and locations that endangered their very existence.

This fall, we opened a beautiful, purpose-built space for these items in Meckler Library. The mission of Archives and Special Collections is to gather, organize, and preserve objects and archives related to The Pennington School. The new archives room enables the School to make the collection accessible to and usable by students, faculty, and alumni in ways that have not been possible in the past.

A team of dedicated faculty volunteers has been hard at work this year, moving the collections from Old Main into the new space. Once they have been moved, the process of evaluating and cataloging nearly 200 years of School history will begin. The Archives team is incredibly excited and honored to have such a beautiful new room.

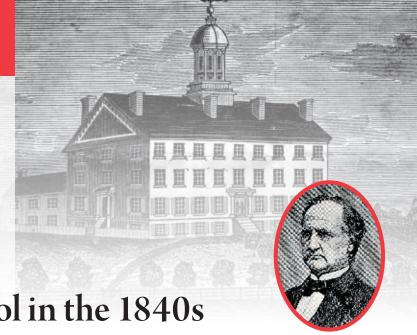






from the Archives

Today, the Pennington School campus is a busy and energetic place. But what was it like in 1840, the year the School opened its doors as the Pennington Methodist Episcopal Male Seminary?



The Pennington School in the 1840s

by Marc Epstein

he village of Pennington at the time had about sixty homes, two churches, and a few shops. The School's first catalog describes Pennington as a "neat and healthy village, free from all those local influences which so often prove prejudicial to the health of the community."

The School's one building was designed by a local architect. It had a cupola that is such a distinctive feature of Old Main today, although it was of a slightly different design and somewhat more prominent in proportion. In addition to classrooms, the building had a chapel and small library. Although the student body started small in the fall of 1840, it grew to sixty young men by the spring of 1841. All but ten of them lived in the Seminary building, while the others lived with local families or relatives. They were mainly from towns in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, but one early student was Jose Manuel de Crespi of Mexico, the first of many international students to attend Pennington.

True to its Methodist roots, the Seminary made sure that students were focused on their spiritual duties. In addition to morning prayers at the Seminary, students were required to attend Sunday services at either the Methodist Church or the Presbyterian Church, places of worship that are still used by the School.

Unlike our two-semester system, the 1840 school year had three terms that ran from late August to November, December to March, and April to mid-July. Classes took up nine hours of the day. For tuition and boarding, families were charged \$126, having to pay extra for the boys' beds, bedding, towels, and use of the library. They also paid for the services of a steward, the equivalent of today's hall parents.

And what of the academic requirements at the new school? The major subject areas were English, natural science, mathematics, "Intellectual and Moral Science," and languages. The first students had to write papers every two weeks, in addition to giving short speeches called recitations and taking final exams.

The School's earliest staff consisted of principal Edward Cooke and teachers Howard Bishop and Michael A. Ellison. Cooke taught math and science while Bishop, a recent Rutgers graduate, taught Latin, Greek, and English. Ellison taught subjects now rarely taught in high school: handwriting and bookkeeping. These men were the first of generations of committed teachers at the School. Cooke was headmaster for seven years before becoming president of a series of colleges, starting with Lawrence University in Wisconsin.

And what became of members of the Class of 1840? Many of them are hard to trace from so long ago. Those who can be found went on to success after Pennington. Archibald A. Higgins graduated from the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) and the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, became a physician, and served as a member of the New Jersey Assembly while being active in many other community organizations. John Wesley Bunn went on to graduate from the College of New Jersey and became a teacher and principal.

And what were the values of Pennington Seminary in 1840? They are described as "improvement of the intellect, invigoration of moral feelings and preparation for usefulness in life." Walking through the campus today brings echoes of similar values but with more modern names: Honor, Virtue, and Humility.

Above: An 1842 woodcut of Old Main; and a portrait of Edward Cooke, principal of the Pennington Methodist Episcopal Male Seminary in 1840

New Sophomore Leadership Program

Assistant Headmaster for Community Life Chad Bridges is pleased to announce the creation of The Pennington School's Sophomore Character Development and Leadership Program, which begins this year with the Class of 2020.

nder the leadership of Stephanie DeSouza, chair of the Health Department and director of counseling services, the new program was specially designed to continue to develop our students in the areas of self-awareness, self-identification, grit, and leadership. Pennington's character development program is based on work done at the Positive Psychology Center at the University of Pennsylvania.

The program began in September 2017 and will continue for the academic year. Along with DeSouza and Bridges, the Class Dean and several key members of the faculty are working with the entire class on a twice-monthly schedule, with predetermined meeting times on Friday mornings. The group meets either as a whole or in smaller cohorts and follows a curriculum designed specifically for the tenth-grade year. Additionally, there are multiple opportunities for students to volunteer and take on leadership roles within the sophomore program with guidance from the faculty. Next year, the program will continue for the Class of 2021, and so on.



The year begins with students taking a survey created by the Via Institute on Character, which helps each of our students understand and identify his or her character strengths. From this survey, which students and parents are able to review, cohorts are created, and activities, discussions, and challenges are set forth throughout the year as we look to develop future leaders and role models at Pennington. Part of what differentiates this developmental program from others is that each child will have a unique experience based upon his or her survey results and areas of strength.



We are excited to launch this new opportunity with the Class of 2020 and to learn along the way how to enhance and improve this program for future sophomores at The Pennington School. We believe that the values and lessons learned during tenth grade are crucial to sophomores' adolescent development and that the time is right to bring this program to our School. In addition to our meetings throughout the year on campus, we expect to have on- and off-campus retreats, class-building experiences, guest speakers, and opportunities for group collaboration in an effort to make the class stronger as a whole, while also addressing the needs of the individual student.

"It's wonderful to see how many sophomores are volunteering to lead activities; this is the only grade-level program at Pennington where students are working with their same-age peers, facilitating group activities and discussions. Students focus on their strengths, learning how to use those positive skills to move through and navigate any challenges or failures they may encounter."

—Stephanie DeSouza



Cum Laude Society

People of Color Conference

by Samantha Stern-Leaphart

he NAIS (National Association of Independent Schools) annual People of Color Conference and Student Diversity Leadership Conference are meetings of hope, healing, rejuvenation, and celebration. This year, The Pennington School sent twelve members of the community on the trip to Anaheim, CA—six faculty/staff members and six students. PoCC is an event that allows educators of color and their allies to connect, learn from, and empower each other to do the work that makes our schools feel safe for everyone. The student portion of the conference, SDLC, educates and empowers students to be the change they want to see at their own schools. While adults choose from a vast array of workshops and speakers, students spend their time in structured family groups, home groups, and affinity groups, led by SDLC faculty to broaden students' understanding of social justice issues around the world and in independent schools.

"The experience was inspiring and illuminating. It challenged me, sparking deep reflection about my teaching and work with students and faculty outside of the classroom. PoCC was also a call to action to continue our efforts integrating social justice into School curricula and student life. I left Anaheim armed with new ideas, perspectives, tools, and connections. But, most important, I left with profound gratitude that I teach at a school that places value on this work and encourages and supports efforts to build equity and inclusion within our school community."

—Pennington faculty member

The speakers, workshops, and shared experience of attending PoCC/SDLC has inspired Pennington students and faculty across grades and disciplines to uphold the School's values of diversity and inclusion in every facet of the community; they returned to campus invigorated and ready to guide the School in this important work.

"The energy at this conference was unlike anything else that I've experienced at a conference before. The long days filled with acquiring knowledge and insight from experts, leaning into personal discomfort, collaborating with educators from around the country, and reflecting on how the new awareness, skills, and perspectives can be used to have a positive impact at Pennington, left me inspired and energized."

—Pennington faculty member

Eleven Pennington seniors were inducted on October 26 as student members of the School's chapter of the Cum Laude Society before an audience of the entire Upper School, faculty, and parents. The ceremony was held at the Pennington United Methodist Church. Students inducted are within the top 10 percent of the class, as determined by grade point average, and the School views selection for membership as one of the highest honors it can confer.

The new members of Cum Laude are Johanna Bradshaw, Sydney Faber, Victoria Gassmann, Ruosi Hu, Francesca Iucolino, Ziqi Lei, Nicholas Micheletti, Matthew Paragamian, Zhehao Tong, Ryan Totaro, and XinYi Zheng.

The Cum Laude Society is an international organization recognizing "academic achievement in secondary schools for the purpose of promoting excellence, justice, and honor." There are approximately 380 institutions in the Society; most are independent schools.

After a welcome from Headmaster William Hawkey, faculty member Donald Dolan provided information about Cum Laude's history and motto. Dean of Academic Affairs Scott Peeler introduced the Cum Laude faculty members and music teacher Dolan, who was the speaker. Faculty member Lisa Houston then formally inducted the students.









Academic HonorsWorld Languages and Arts Departments

Upper School students at The Pennington School were inducted into national honor societies for world languages and the arts in an evening ceremony held at the School on Wednesday, November 29. The students, almost all juniors or seniors, have met academic and other standards required by the national societies as well as the School's chapters. The inductions were held in the Wesley Forum in the Yen Humanities Building.

Lida Castro, chair of the World Languages Department, introduced the language honor societies, and Dolores E. Eaton, chair of the Arts Department, introduced the arts honor societies. The formal inductions were performed by the individual societies' chapter advisors. Names of the students honored are listed at right. French National Honor Society

Seniors: Ruosi Hu, Ziqi Lei, and Kristen Weeder; Juniors: Kyewon Byun, Amira Henry, Oluwatamilore Kolawole, Emily Moini, and Mina Shokoufandeh Sophomore: Maria Khartchenko

German National Honor Society Junior: Kevin Durfee

Latin National Honor Society

Seniors: Olivia Mahony, Nicholas Micheletti, Feven Negussie, and Sidney Spencer; Juniors: Mariel Abano, Katherine Reim, Emma Van Cleef, and Harry Wasnak

Spanish National Honor Society Seniors: Francesca Pellerito, Samantha Tola, and Zhehao Tong; Juniors: Gabriela Cano, Qiutian Gao, Bernard McBride, and Diane Velasco Tri-M Music Honor Society

Seniors: Grace Colalillo and Zhehao Tong; Juniors: Mariel Abano, Zheng Bao, Kyewon Byun, Megan Eckerson, Thomson Estabrook, William Harding, Christopher Kopits, Jonathan Lai, Mina Shokoufandeh, Ye Teng, and Qinyuan Wu

International Thespian Society

Seniors: Ayanna Johnson, Grace Kavulich, Steven Kopits, Xinyi Li, Nicholas Psomaras, Judith Sprague, and Kristen Weeder; Juniors: Mariel Abano, Caleigh Calhoun, Rachel Domb, Megan Eckerson, William Harding, Amira Henry, Christopher Kopits, Katherine Reim, Aidan Sichel, Emma Van Cleef, Diane Velasco, Eliot Voelzke, Julia Wakin, Hope Walsh, Harry Wasnak, and Yushan Zhang

National Art Honor Society

Seniors: Melissa LeDonne, Jingyuan Lu, and Julia Miller; **Juniors:** Heather Holley, KaYi Lau, Chenglang Tian, and Diane Velasco













Board of Trustees News

The Pennington
School is delighted
to announce the
election of these
new members to its
Board of Trustees.

Cecelia Rouse is the Dean of the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and the Lawrence and Shirley Katzman and Lewis and Anna Ernst Professor in the Economics of Education at Princeton University. Her primary research interests are in labor economics with a focus on the economics of education. Rouse has served as an editor of the Journal of Labor Economics and is currently a senior editor of The Future of Children. She is the founding director of the Princeton University Education Research Section, is a member of the National Academy of Education, and a research associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research. In 1998–99 she served a year in the White House at the National Economic Council and from 2009 to 2011 she served as a member of the President's Council of Economic Advisers. Rouse earned her A.B. in economics, magna cum laude, from Harvard in 1986 and her Ph.D. in economics from Harvard in 1992. She became a professor of economics at Princeton University the same year she graduated. She is a member of the board of directors of MDRC, and a director of the T. Rowe Price Equity Mutual Funds and an Advisory Board Member of the T. Rowe Price Fixed Income Mutual Funds.

Lori Washton, ex officio, is a licensed psychologist who has been practicing since 1986. She received her B.A. in psychology from Hope College in Holland, MI; her master's degree in counseling psychology from Kutztown University; and her Ph.D. in

clinical psychology from Fielding Graduate University. In addition to training in cognitive behavioral and psychodynamic treatment, Washton has served in several administrative positions, including director of managed care for Devereux, and director of marketing for the employee assistance program and corporate health for Princeton HealthCare System and Princeton House, its behavioral health unit. She has been in private practice treating addiction and mental health issues in adolescents and adults in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York since 1996. Her son, Jacob, is in tenth grade this year. Her husband is a practicing psychologist in Manhattan and Princeton. She enjoys riding dressage and reading.

The Reverend Frank Davis is Capital District Superintendent of the United Methodist Church's Greater New Jersey Conference. Davis has worked in a variety of backgrounds and locations throughout the world. He has done extensive work with "at-risk" youth and counsels many across the country. He is a global spiritual leader with educational and ministerial experience in the United Kingdom, Jamaica, Trinidad, Georgia, North Carolina, and New Jersey. Davis has served churches in New York, New Jersey, and North Carolina. He holds a B.S. degree from The University of the West Indies and an M. Div. degree with honors from Drew Theological Seminary.

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Joe and Marion Wesley

Wesley Drive takes shape to create an all-pedestrian campus.

Joe and Marion Wesley are deeply committed to Pennington; their ten grandchildren attended The Pennington School. In 2014, the Wesleys, through the Joseph and Marion Wesley Family Foundation, bestowed the second-largest gift ever given to The Pennington School by one family, and the largest gift ever given by grandparents. Their donation restored the building now known as Wesley Alumni House, giving our alumni a prominent place to call their own. Part of this gift allowed the construction of the stunning Wesley Forum in the brand-new Kenneth Kai Tai Yen Humanities Building. In 2017, the Wesleys made another generous gift for the new perimeter roadway being built on the campus. This new drive will allow Pennington to become a more enclosed and pedestrian-friendly environment during school hours.



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Cross Country

Coaches: Rick Ritter and Jon Lemay

Both the boys' and the girls' teams seemed to fly (or run!) under the radar of other teams throughout most of the season. Both had a decent start to the season with the boys placing third and the girls sixth at the Newark Invitational. For both teams, a quiet confidence grew from that time on. Team cohesiveness flourished, as evidenced by seeing them run as a pack and draw strength from one another. The boys' team was "freshman-heavy," and their strength showed when this team won its division at the competitive Shore Coaches Invitational at Holmdel Park. The future does indeed look bright.

For both teams, faith in each other continued to build. During the regular season the boys amassed a record of 9 wins and 3 losses. The girls compiled a regular-season record of 12 and 3. The boys finished in a strong position of third overall at Prep States. The girls' team performed well at the Peddie Invitational, with our highest finish ever at that event, earning third place. The crowning moment was finishing first—State Champs—at the Prep Championship Meet.



Girls' Tennis Coaches: Ken Palumbo and

Coaches: Ken Palumbo and John Bouton

Pennington's Varsity Girls' Tennis team had a very good season, and five of the eight girls were first-time varsity players! Simran Shah '18 was our #1 player all season. She was a first-year captain and did an excellent job both playing and leading. Anjollie Ramakrishna '21 played #2 singles and had an excellent season as a freshman. JoJo, as she likes to be called, compiled the team's best overall record. Annelise Cornet '20

made the move to #3 singles and played a very consistent game all season long. She held the team's second-best record. Samantha Tola '18 and Natalia Gutierrez '19 played #1 doubles. Sam was the team's other captain and was a true leader on and off the court. Sam and Natalia gave all there was to give in every match. Safa Morrison '21 played #2 doubles with different partners: Anna Spadaccini '18, Laura Mertz '20, and Ji Visconti '18. All four were first time-varsity players. Safa was a mainstay at #2, playing most matches with Anna. While learning the great game of tennis doubles, all four players had big wins. It was overall a wonderful season with terrific players, a special camaraderie, and a great time had by all.

Football

Coaches: Jerry Eure '75, Blair Thompson, Adam Cooley, Stephen Sheehan, and Stephen Elliott P'98

The 2017 Pennington Football season will be remembered as one filled with many positives. We graduated many important players in 2017, and many of this year's returning players had seen limited action until this season. Also, this is the first year we have had nine incoming freshmen join the program. Success is



not always measured in wins and losses, but we did achieve our goal of becoming a better team in November than we were in August. The most memorable game was our 28–26 win over Perkiomen School. A great interception in the end zone by Rickey Eng with two minutes left sealed the game. This was also the game in which we became a real football team and every member contributed to the win. Best of luck to our seven seniors (Steven Kopits, Ian Crosland, Jakob Lowenthal, Darius May, Lewis Hurd, Jamar Tucker, and Cory Pelzer), and thank you for your contributions.

Field Hockey Coaches: Wendy Morris and

Coaches: Wendy Morris and Kate Bowman '03

Pennington Field Hockey kicked off the season with our annual run along the canal in Lambertville and a delicious team breakfast at the Millers' house. We fielded two teams (Varsity and JV) with a total of 35 girls. Our captains this year were seniors Kat Horsley and Julia Miller. One of Varsity's most exciting games this year was our upset overtime win against Hightstown High School in the Mercer

County Tournament, which was then followed by our Homecoming day win over South Hunterdon one day later. JV had a successful season, finishing 5–4–1.

The team raised money during our Varsity and JV "Play 4 the Cure" games against Bordentown on October 27, and we ran as a team in Pennington's 5K Run for the Cure. Our motto for the month of cancer awareness was "Our Eyes on a Goal, Our Hearts on a Cure," coined by junior defender Kate Reim. Three of our seniors—Kat Horsley, Julia Miller, and Maddi Seibel—played in the Senior Showcase game hosted by the Central Jersey Field Hockey Coaches Association on December 2.



Girls' Soccer

Coaches: Dr. William Hawkey, Patrick Murphy '80, and Alexa Carugati '09

The 2017 Varsity Girls' Soccer team put together an outstanding season, going 14–1–1 and winning our 13th NJISAA Prep A Championship. The lone tie came in the Mercer County Tournament

semifinal versus the eventual champion, Steinert High School. But the Red Raiders outshot the Spartans by a wide margin (14–4), played well, and hit a post only to have a dream of a county title vanish in a penalty kick tie-breaker.



The 2017 team shut out eleven of its opponents as the defensive unit of Olivia Mahony '18, Gianna Lucchesi '19, Mary Griswold '19, Jayne McGrath '20, Shannon Boyce '18, goalkeeper Mia Justus '20, and backup keeper Sophia Kavulich '20 allowed only seven goals on the season. The attacking triumvirate of Jaydin Avery '18, Kylie Daigle '20, and Kelli Collins '19 excelled throughout the season and helped the team produce good attacking soccer while amassing 63 goals. A large group of underclassmen returns for the 2018 season, and the Red Raiders will set their sights high, as they always do. Seniors Luisa Andrade, Jennika Appelberg, Shannon Boyce (captain), Ida Krook, Olivia Mahony (captain), Tara McCracken, Francesca Pellerito, and Megan Porras (captain) will be sorely missed by their teammates and Coaches Hawkey, Murphy, and Carugati. They have left an impressive legacy for Pennington Girls' Soccer.



Cheerleading Coach: Karen Voorhees

This year's Cheerleading team was the largest yet, boasting twenty enthusiastic and talented athletes. The team was led by senior captains Fran Iucolino and Akeya Fortson-Brown. We were very fortunate to have such fine captains for the 2017 season. Fran was a natural leader, planning practices and keeping records of cheers. Her calm, supportive manner and thoughtful help and feedback to new members made everyone feel valued and proficient. Akeya was a highenergy firecracker, motivating everyone with her natural drive to perfect routines and dance moves. She also kept the mood light and fun with her amusing stories and jokes. At the end of the season, we all reflected on what we had enjoyed and accomplished. Akeya spoke very eloquently when she stated, "Cheering is the place where you meet the family that you never knew you needed." The expertise, enthusiasm, and caring exemplified by all returning members set a wonderfully positive tone for this year's newcomers, as well as for a fun and successful season. Other seniors on the team were Marlaina Pigford, Hannah Bradshaw, Victoria Gassmann, Emma Shipley, and

Ayanna Johnson. While most have been with the team for all four years, Ayanna joined cheer only last year. We all applauded and agreed with Ayanna when she said at our last meeting, "Joining the Cheerleading team was one of the best decisions I've ever made!" Next year's cheerleaders have a lot to live up to, but we will continue to be a fabulously hardworking, fun-loving, and spirited group, rooting for our teams and displaying our Pennington Pride!



Water Polo

Coaches: William Hutnik, Brandon Hullings '08, and Wes Lincoln '11

The Pennington Varsity and Junior Varsity Water Polo teams completed their respective seasons by playing their best water polo at the state tournaments. The varsity squad avenged an earlier Homecoming loss by beating Saint Peter's Prep 11–5 in their season finale; the team fought hard and played brilliantly for the entire match, effectively shutting down the Saint Peter's offense all four quarters. We thank our two beloved senior managers, Kaela Colyar and Alyssa McDougall, as well as our excellent senior captains, Margaret Gordon and Brett Philip, and

wish them all the best at university next year. All four of them can take pride in the fact that they leave the Pennington Water Polo Nation in great shape with a bright future ahead of us.

Boys' Soccer

Coaches: Chad Bridges '96 and Billy Hawkey '10

The Pennington School Varsity Boys' Soccer team finished the 2017 season with a 14-4 record, culminating with the team's third consecutive Mercer County Championship and the fourth title in seven years! The team was led by an outstanding group of seniors that included Ibrahima Diop, USA Today All-American and National Player of the Year candidate, and fellow co-captain Jared Panson, a Scholar All-American candidate. Both boys also finished as members of the First Team All-State team for the second consecutive season. Fellow seniors Matt Paragamian, Jack Lu, Eric Broadway, Max Pinado, Chris Egg-Krings, and Marco Di Natale completed their final campaign as members of the team, ending their illustrious careers with a top ten national ranking, three Mercer County titles, and an NJISAA State Championship.



Upper School Athletic Awards

Fall Sports 2017



Varsity

Water Polo

Red Raider Award—Severin Ihnat PWP Nation Award—Alyssa McDougall 100% Award—Ethan Rizzuto

Cheerleading

Red Raider Award—Akeya Fortson-Brown Coach's Award—Francesca Iucolino

Field Hockey

Red Raider Award—Kathleen Horsley Coaches' Award—Maddi Seibel Impact Player Award—Julia Miller

Junior Varsity

Water Polo

Red Raider Award—Ben Eckerson Most Improved Award—Julia McDougall

Field Hockey

Coaches' Award—Sophia Cano Red Raider Award—Emily Barkley

Football

Coaches' Award—Lewis Hurd Coaches' Award—Steven Kopits Coaches' Award—Ian Crosland

Tennis

Red Raider Award—Simran Shah Coaches' Award—Samantha Tola Spirit Award—Anna Spadaccini

Girls' Cross Country

Red Raider Award—Emily Moini Stoker Award—Callie Bouton

Girls' Soccer

Coach's Award—Sam Mazzoni Coach's Award—Alexandria Ume

Boys' Soccer

Red Raider Award—Michael Mo Coach's Award—Austin Shah

Boys' Cross Country

Red Raider Award—Blake Botelho Stoker Award—Graham Davies

Girls' Soccer

Red Raider Award—Olivia Mahony Coaches' Award—Shannon Boyce Coaches' Award—Megan Porras

Boys' Soccer

Red Raider Award—Ibrahima Diop Coaches' Award—Matt Paragamian Leadership Award—Jared Panson

Football

Coaches' Award—Kyle Ratner Coaches' Award—Josh Stegich

Girls' Tennis

Coach's Award—Caroline Heffern Red Raider Award—Brook Riley







Middle School Retreat

¬ ach October, we put aside our iPads and phones, pack up → our backpacks, roll up our sleeping bags, load the buses, ✓ and depart for an outdoor adventure on our annual Middle School retreat. This year was no different! The sixth- and seventhgraders visited Camp Mason for two days of team-building courses, canoeing, a campfire with s'mores, and lots of new friends and memories to cherish. The eighth-graders embarked on a more challenging three-day trip to Worthington State Forest, complete with tent site set-up, cooking their own camp meals, teambuilding activities, a scenic hike to Sunfish Pond, and friendships strengthened between students and faculty alike. This time outside of the traditional classroom affords the faculty new insights about their advisees and students, and allows new student leaders, motivators, and problem-solvers to emerge. It is a perfect time of year to get outside our comfort zones and experience something new together as a Middle School community.





Middle School News

Global Exchange with students from Jordan

by Jessie Shaffer

Pennington's sixth-grade Humanities classes are involved in a very exciting cultural exchange with peers in the Middle East, students at the Amir Hasan Prep Girls School in Jordan. On Tuesday, December 5, the sixth-graders had the first of two video conferences with these students across the world. Excitement filled the room as the children from different continents learned about one another by displaying artifacts of importance to them, and they laughed and applauded as they celebrated this moment of connectivity made possible by technology. The

Pennington students learned how to say "goodbye" in Arabic, as well.

During the preceding week, with guidance from New Hope/ Lambertville artist Andrea Wallace and artists Gabrielle Shamsey P'22'24 and Tina Lambdin P'21 '24, students began creating artwork to send to their new friends abroad. The artwork is a way to develop mutual understanding of culture and cultural values and to begin a relationship that, it is hoped, will lead all the students toward responsible and sensitive global citizenship. In the coming months students will communicate via an internet platform, and, after receiving each other's artwork, they will have a second chance to talk live with one another.

Global Inventors

by Susan Wirsig

This fall, Pennington's Middle School worked with Level Up, an educational company that facilitates STEM projects between schools located in different countries, to design and build a solar flashlight. Our Pennington classroom was partnered with a school in Argentina. Using an online platform, the students shared details about their countries and culture and offered feedback to each other on their solar flashlight design. The students designed the case for their solar flashlight using Tinkercad, a web-based CAD (computer-aided design and drafting) program, and assembled their flashlight after learning about circuits.

"Students were highly engaged in this project," teacher Susan Wirsig noted.

"They looked forward to viewing the videos from their Argentinian partner, and they also enjoyed the creative experience of designing their flashlight case. All of the designs were unique, and while students certainly learned about CAD design and circuits, I also believe they developed their global awareness and understanding."







Banned Book Week

by Tamara Alito

During the first quarter of the school year the entire Middle School participates in celebrating Banned Book Week, an annual event highlighting and celebrating our freedom to read. During their English and Humanities classes, under the direction of the Middle School librarian, all students have excellent—and spirited—conversations on censorship, the First Amendment, and the right to access information.

Challenged or banned poetry and fiction is read and discussed, and collaborative activities deepen the students' understanding. The sixth-graders made protest signs for and against banning *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss. Seventh-graders examined some favorites in juvenile fiction, including Dav Pilkey's *Captain Underpants* and Barbara Park's *Junie B. Jones*, to understand why the books have been challenged over the years, and persuasive letters are penned in support of each side of the argument.

The eighth-grade students wrote essays about a banned book they read over the summer, did an in-depth study of Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird*, and researched, prepared, and delivered arguments in a debate format about the Harry Potter book series. The well-crafted debates, held in front of a panel of judges, resulted in real-life consequences. The students are eager to bring home a win for their side but are saddened if the debates end in the removal of the series. When that happens the students are able to start a letter-writing campaign to reinstate the materials.

This project guides the students through an exploration of weighty topics like freedom, censorship, and understanding different perspectives; in addition, the important skill of learning how to build a case based on evidence is employed. Ultimately the students come away with the understanding that library materials should remain on the shelves for all to enjoy. As one student reminded everyone, "Free People Read Freely."



Middle School STEM Club Builds Excitement

The Middle School STEM Club is catapulting itself quickly into the lives of many eager Middle School students. The club, with seventh-grade leaders Nikolas Chase, Jake Ernst, and Gracen Ward, meets weekly during the lunch period. The leaders decide on each week's activity and then present their idea during Middle School Community Meeting. Classmates who are interested in the activity for that week can sign up to participate, with up to ten students per session.

Recently, the club built catapults, mini-cars, and rubber-band-powered helicopters.

According to advisor Susan Wirsig, the club seems to be gaining popularity each week. "The goal of the club is to give students a hands-on problem-solving experience, when they can be creative

and work collaboratively with peers to build something," Wirsig noted. "There's a lot of laughter and freedom when students can 'play with materials' to build something without a grade associated with the project. They're more willing to test out an idea, fix things when they don't work, and then test again. They'll take risks, build something unique, and then ultimately learn to problem solve."

Constitution Challenge Seventh-graders battle tenth-graders for this year's title

The first Constitution Challenge occurred in 2009 between Chad Bridges's seventhgrade social studies students and the first crop of US History I Honors students (Class of 2010) taught by Jason Harding. The original idea was proposed because there was a Jeff Foxworthy show at the time, called Are You Smarter than a Seventh-Grader? and Harding decided to jokingly challenge Bridges about whose students had learned more about the U.S. Constitution—and the seventh-graders took him up on it and went against the sophomores. Jamie Moore was hired in 2010 to teach full-time in the Middle School, and he took up the challenge in earnest before handing the reins over to Ronnie Vesnaver last year. Moore's seventhgraders won three years in a row; the Class of 2018 is the first group of seventh-graders to win the challenge. Doing the math, over the past eight years, Harding's record is 5–3 with back-to-back wins the past two years. On Friday, December 15, in front of a record crowd of students and faculty, the sophomores won! After initially pulling ahead, the seventh-graders suffered a loss of points for early bell-ringing, and ended up losing to the sophomores 28-0. Good sportsmanship was demonstrated by all.





Soccer

Coach: Chandler Fraser-Pauls '11

The Middle School soccer team had a great fall. We came into the season with two goals, and those were to have fun and to constantly improve—and both of those goals were met and exceeded. We thank our eighth-graders for providing great leadership, and we wish them all the best on their next step to the Upper School. It was a joy to work with this group on a daily basis, and we are already looking forward to next year with our returning players and new additions.

Field Hockey

Coach: Debbie Fermo

It was a growing year for the Middle School Field Hockey team, and with each game the young team improved, resulting in a big win against PDS in the final game. Daisy Hutnik, one of the eighth-graders on the team, said this was the best year since she started playing. "We have such an amazing group of wonderful, powerful players and friends. Whether it's Lucy blocking shots, Mei Mei sprinting down the field, or Gracen driving out of the circle, along with the many other talented girls, everyone was ready to hustle and had a very positive attitude."

Cross Country

Coach: Missy Gurick

Cross country is an amazing sport; all participants can be successful when they try their best. All team members have achieved personal accomplishments of which they should feel very proud. As a team, they won the majority of their meets this year. Myles Plummer '22 and Drayton Kolaras '23 placed in the top three in every meet, including Princeton Charter School's Invitational meet with over a hundred runners! Winning these meets wouldn't be possible without the impressive work of everyone on the team. They have become great runners, and they have developed a mental toughness that will carry over into new challenges they may face in the future.



Middle School Fall 2017 Athletic Awards

Soccer-A Team

Red Raider Award–*Steph Balerna* Coach's Award–*Elliot Overhiser* Unsung Hero Award–*Miami Celentana*

Soccer-B Team

Red Raider Award–*Akshay Arun* Coach's Award–*Wolfie Meinhart* Most Improved Award–*Zarina Cohan*

Field Hockey

Red Raider Award–*Lucy Harding* Coach's Award–*Daisy Hutnik*

Cross Country

Red Raider Award–*Myles Plummer* Coach's Award–*Drayton Kolaras*



Bridging Cultures in 2017







Students traveled to the Central Academy of Fine Arts in June 2017 as part of Pennington's Global Arts and Cultural Exchange Program. Top photo: (left to right) Gayle Freeman Moore, Jamie Moore '03, Lily Childrey '18, Julia Miller '18, Tom Scanlan '17, Jo Costa '17, Colin Schostak '17, and Jack Lu '18 at Laoshan Taiqing Palace, Qingdao China; bottom left: Master Printmaker Guilin Zhang and Jo Costa '17 with his original screenprint; bottom right: Colin Schostak '17 screenprinting.

When did we first fall in love with China?

by Jamie Moore '03

aybe it was when we were trekking up the stunning and expansive Great Wall, or when Lwe imagined the dragons spitting water in the Forbidden City, as we carefully chose which foot to take over the threshold of the doors. Maybe it was while watching Jack Lu'18 translate hours and hours of collegelevel art class presentations, or when Stephen Tian '19 helped us navigate the food in the CAFA dining hall. Maybe it was when I was buried in the sand with the help of my Pennington family and complete strangers in Qingdao. Or it could have been during a lunchtime photographic safari, when it was over 100 degrees. Maybe it was the first time we tasted actual Chinese food, or when we watched the spicy pepper challenge unfold as we overlooked the radiant lights of Qingdao. Was it on the bus ride, winding our way into the past, tasting tea, and climbing mountains? When we speedily navigated our way through ancient back streets on motorized rickshaws? Maybe it was when we watched a master printmaker pulling prints, or a calligrapher masterfully controlling his brush. We saw paper cuts magically take the shape of people and bicycle riders; we experienced creativity flowing freely between generations and cultures in the art room. We shared musical experiences at a glamorous karaoke palace and in an opera house, and we all felt this love while floating on the sea or gliding along the railways.

I do not know if it was at a specific time or place that we all fell in love with China. From the welcome wagon at the airport to the tearful good byes to "Ma" Zhang and "Ba" Lu, every moment was unique and special. We met many amazing students from other parts of our country and the world. I know that a love and appreciation for China lives in all of us today. Every time I see my fellow travelers, we all become alight with memories of our journeys to Beijing and Qingdao. We were impressed by the hospitality of everyone we encountered, and we were awed by their love of tradition, art, and history.



Boys' Basketball Team Travels to China

by Billy Hawkey '10

n a trip organized by Hongyu "Allen" Lou '19, the Pennington School Boys' Basketball team traveled to China from June 17 to 27, 2017, to experience what life is like as a member of a Chinese Basketball Association (CBA) youth team. The team flew to Shanghai, where they were greeted by their teammate Lou and the Guangsha Lions team bus, which took them to the city of Hangzhou. The boys spent two days in Hangzhou, experiencing many firsts, including a hot pot lunch, an assortment of interesting foods, and a trip to the West Lake, followed by the world-renowned open-air show Impression of West Lake, featuring the UNESCO World Heritage site.

After the boys adjusted to the twelvehour time difference, they were ready to lace up their sneakers and hit the hardwood. The team traveled fortyfive minutes south of Hangzhou to the Linping District, home of the Guangsha

Lions training facility, where they spent the next five days in basketball mode. Team breakfast was in the morning, followed by an intense strength and conditioning workout led by the Lions' strength coach. After the workout, they participated in a skills session and afternoon scrimmages against the Guangsha Lions youth team and the number-one-ranked high school basketball team in Hangzhou. The team played extremely well during the week, coming out with a handful of wins and the respect of the Chinese players. Similarly, the Chinese players earned our boys' utmost respect, and after the long week of battling and becoming familiar with the opposition's strengths and tendencies, the players exchanged jerseys, shoes, and gifts; signed autographs for one another; and took lots of pictures. A valuable lesson learned was that even with a language barrier, basketball can bridge cultures and create friendships.



After the five days of basketball, the team finished their trip with two days in Shanghai. Their first stop was at the Nike store, and later the group was excited to visit the stores of ANTA and Li Ning (Chinese basketball brands, endorsed by several NBA stars). The boys spent the day exploring the city, eating lunch in Old Shanghai, and doing their best bartering at the open markets. The trip concluded with a feast of Cantonese food at a local restaurant, followed by a nighttime stroll to the Bund for one last bit of energetic fun.



Athletic Leadership Program

helps captains to inspire better team performance.

According to research done at Connecticut College by Billy Hawkey '10, a good team captain can have a large impact on an athletic team's overall performance. After graduating and returning to his high school alma mater for a career in educational administration, Hawkey was inspired by this research to implement a program at The Pennington School that will help develop strong leaders and improve overall athletic performances.

he Athletic Leadership Program started by Hawkey is now in its third year, and Hawkey, who is a Varsity Boys' Soccer coach and works in the Office of Admission, said the program allows him to work with captains of teams to help build their leadership skills. "Being a captain is an important leadership position, but some athletes may not understand the full significance of it. A good captain can have a positive impact on team performance," Hawkey explained.

According to his research, coaches and captains have a strong effect on team cohesion; team cohesion then improves overall performance. "There is a very strong correlation," he said. "More cohesive teams do better." Hawkey understands that captains of high school athletic teams are selected for a multitude of reasons, not necessarily based on their leadership skills. Sometimes a popular student or the most skilled player on a team is chosen.

"Some students might not be equipped to lead productively, but leadership is a skill that can be taught and learned. My goal is to get students to see themselves as leaders, using their own traits and personalities."

—Billy Hawkey '10

The main portion of the program is completed during preseason in August, consisting of five one-hour workshops with all fall team captains. "We talk about styles of leadership, balancing co-captains, working with the coach, having difficult conversations with teammates, and predicting difficult situations."

There are three follow-up sessions throughout the season, when Hawkey touches base with captains to see how they are incorporating their leadership skills on and off the field. "I believe sports are a great way to teach life lessons and skills. Being a strong leader on and off the field is important, and that fits into the School's values of honor, virtue, and humility. Captains are the faces of their teams, and the teams represent the School. It's more than just a sport—it's about relationships and skills that will help in life outside of athletics," he said.

Cross Country captains Blake
Botelho '18 and Graham Davies '18
both agreed that the sessions during
preseason were extremely helpful in
crafting their skills as leaders, but the
workshops also brought them together
with other sports. "We realized during
our first meeting that problems we
might face were problems that other
teams could face, too, and we can take
similar approaches to resolving them.
It connected all the sports together in
that way," Botelho said.

Girls' Soccer captains Megan Porras '18, Shannon Boyce '18, and Olivia Mahony '18 echoed that sentiment and also stated that the leadership program helped them develop skills in working with each other.

"It helped us work better together as co-captains, taught us how to help each other, and to work with our team in the best way possible. We find ways to work together and keep the team upbeat."

—Megan Porras '18

Meanwhile, football captains Ian Crosland '18 and Darius May '18 said the program helped develop not only their captain skills but also their leadership skills in general.

"Being a captain is my first leadership job, and this program has helped from early in the season. We have worked on our strengths and weaknesses together, and this has translated to my being a better prefect socially in the dorms as well."

—Ian Crosland '18

In the past, the program was run with only fall sports captains, but Hawkey said this year he is looking to expand it to include all three seasons. "These are two things I'm passionate about, athletics and leadership, and I want to give the Pennington students a strong program with lasting value."



Lessons and Carols

as members of the School community gathered for the annual Service of Lessons and Carols on Monday, December 11. Held at the Pennington Presbyterian Church to accommodate the students, faculty, and families who want to attend, the service combines scripture and other readings with music for Advent and Christmas.

The congregation was invited to sing several familiar carols, and the Middle School Singers, Upper School Chorus, and Pennington Singers provided other selections ranging from the ninth-century plainsong "Creator of the Stars of Night" to a gospel version of "Away in a Manger." The Orchestra and Jazz Band played the prelude and postlude, respectively. Jonathan Lai '19, William Thompson '21, and Mina Shokoufandeh '19 performed a piano trio based on "The First Noel" as offertory music.

Diamond Christian '19, Ziqi Lei '18, Kristen Weeder '18, and Gracen Ward '23 were among the readers, and School Chaplain Aaron Twitchell's sermon was entitled "Prophecy and the Hope of Christmas: A Story in Paradox."

As has been the custom in recent years, a free-will offering was taken to benefit HomeFront, the organization working to break the cycle of poverty and end homelessness in Central New Jersey.









HomeFront Holiday Party

Every December for over two decades, the Pennington School community has come together to host the annual HomeFront Holiday Party, which was held this year on Saturday, December 9.



uring this twenty-four-year-old Pennington tradition, students host guests from HomeFront, a local organization serving those in need in Mercer County. The annual Holiday Party offers these neighbors from HomeFront a luncheon hosted by Pennington students and staff, a visit with Santa, arts and crafts, a deejay, and more.

A highlight of the party is Santa's Workshop, where HomeFront guests, parents and children alike, have the opportunity to select a gift to give. The senior Peer Leaders worked hard to fill Santa's Workshop with a toy for every child at the party and a gift for each child to give to his or her parents (about 350 guests in all). The Workshop allows the HomeFront guests to shop with the help of some friendly elves. Books, warm hats, scarves, and gloves, as well as toiletries, were also distributed to the guests.

The Pennington School's entire community supported the cause by donating unwrapped presents and decorating the "Giving Trees" around campus with new hats, mittens, and gloves. Many current students volunteered at the event itself to act as hosts for the visiting families, and parents, faculty, and staff pitched in to help with registration and serve the food.

HomeFront is a Mercer County not-for-profit organization devoted to ending homelessness and poverty in central New Jersey, and the School's annual party has become a beloved tradition for all involved.





Overnight

Alumni Theater's second annual production of an original play.

by Henry Sheeran '14

he Pennington School Alumni Theater presented its second annual production, *Overnight*, from Wednesday, July 12, to Saturday, July 15, 2017. Four shows were held in the School's Diane T. McLarty "Black Box" Theater.

An original play written and directed by Henry Sheeran '14, produced by Sheeran, Tim Secrest '14, and Andrew Agress '13, and with production design by Secrest, *Overnight* is set in Princeton in 1989 and follows newly married couple Paul and Susan as they seek answers regarding a strange noise coming from their neighbor's backyard at night. The play was written during Sheeran's time abroad in Berlin.

"I'm thrilled that the Alumni Theater project is up and running for year two. It's amazing to see how Henry Sheeran and Tim Secrest have developed as theater artists since their time at Pennington. One of the joys of my profession is watching students grow up and apply skills they have learned to new paths and projects; they are doing just this," said drama teacher Lisa Houston.

Henry Sheeran observes, "If there's one fundamental thing that the Pennington Alumni Theater series has proven, it's that learning is a continual, maybe infinite, process. From the casual desire to make more theater to this production of Overnight, we've witnessed the growth of an idea. But we've also witnessed the continual maturation of a process: the more efficient culture we cultivated for Overnight allowed for deeper creative exploration in rehearsal and design. We worked to recognize the continuity of growth and make that recognition a part of the theater-making process. The shape of this coming summer's show is still nascent. One thing we know is that we want to broaden and diversify our team and get new leadership in position! In order for that to happen, we need you! We hope you, your children, and your fellow alumni will take part in this summer's show. Our ethos is one of breaking boundaries, and one of those boundaries is age. Whether you graduated in 2017, 1990, or 1940, we encourage you to get in touch with us at capitaljtheater@gmail.com."



Hong Kong Alumni Festival

Pennington Alumni Celebrate in Hong Kong

by Jane Bott Childrey '89

ennington's first-ever Asian Alumni Festival attracted alumni from Singapore, Thailand, Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. The group gathered in Hong Kong for a weekend of programming organized by trustee Stephen Tan '73. Other trustees who traveled at their own expense from the U.S. to take part in the festivities were Dave Long '86 and Jane; Dennis Keating '79 and Claire; Peter Tucci '79 and Lisa; and Lou Denton '76 and Karen; Peder Gulbrandsen '84 arranged business meetings in China so he could join them. The group enjoyed fabulous venues (the Excelsior Hotel, the Intercontinental Hotel, the Hong Kong Club, the China Club, and the American Club) and exceptional activities (golf at the Hong Kong Club, tours of Macau, Victoria Peak, Shenzhen, China, and shopping), but the best part of all was connecting with old friends and making new friends through Pennington. As we parted ways, the talk was all about where the next Festival will take place!



Top photo: Attendees gathered at the Alumni Festival in Hong Kong with the beautiful skyline as a backdrop. Above right: Jae Heo '08 was inducted into the 2018 Athletic Hall of Fame during the farewell dinner at the InterContinental Hotel, Harborside Restaurant. Bottom right: Pennington trustees tour Shenzhen, China, the Silicon Valley of China with Director of Alumni Relations Jane Bott Childrey '89.





Alumni gathered at the China Club in Hong Kong as guests of Stephen Tan '73 for lunch. The club has an impressive and eclectic collection of art spanning three floors of the Old Bank of China building. The China Club evokes the style of 1930s Shanghai.

Jane Bott Childrey '89 and Dennis Keating '79 playing table tennis in Lychee Park

"This trip was amazing from a cultural standpoint, but the opportunity to meet fellow alumni and form new friendships was priceless. We want our kids to see Hong Kong after our experience. Jane and I are committed to attending the next Alumni Festival in Asia in 2019!"

–Dave Long '86

"It was absolutely lovely meeting and sharing wonderful stories about our Pennington memories with recent alumni from Asia who are now working in various areas in Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, Taiwan, Korea, and China. Mr. Peter Tucci updated all of us with the recent transformation of the School, and it was simply unbelievable. We cannot thank you enough for the influence Pennington has had in

our lives. Thank you to Pennington for bringing all these precious moments alive again, under the fabulous backdrop of the Hong Kong skyline."

-JooRyung Kim '90

"Our trip to Hong Kong was wonderful; Claire and I spent seven busy days exploring Hong Kong, Macau, and Shenzhen on mainland China. Our wonderful hosts, Stephen Tan '73 and Joyce Tan, made all of us so comfortable and feel so special. It was exciting to spend time with a few of Pennington's finest alumni. Claire and I are looking forward to the next opportunity to visit with so many people who truly love The Pennington School. THANK YOU!"

-Dennis Keating '79

Annual Trip to Asia

Dr. Bill Hawkey and Charlie Brown make an annual trip to Asia to visit Pennington alumni as well as current and prospective parents. This year, their travels took them to Taipei, Taiwan, and Shenzhen and Beijing in China as well as attending the alumni festival in Hong Kong. One of the highlights of their trip was time spent on and in the South China Sea!





Above: Charlie Brown, Bill Hawkey, and host Yifan Zhang on a walk near Shenzhen; Bottom: An excursion on the South China Sea (Jim Wang, Bill Hawkey, Charlie Brown, Yifan Zhang P'16 '22, and Guangqi Yang P'18)

New York City Alumni Reception

On November 30, 2017, our popular holiday party for New York alumni was packed with Pennington people eager to reconnect with former faculty and friends, to meet new ones, and to celebrate with one another.





Class Notes

Reunions for 2s and 7s

1947

John Vaccaro '47 and Jane Bott Childrey '89 went to visit Thomas McHugh, Jr. '47 this past October before Tom's induction into the School's Athletic Hall of Fame. It was a great time down memory lane for the both John and Tom. John was presented the Alumni Service Award during Homecoming this year for his extensive volunteer work within the community over his lifetime.



Lisa Houston visited John this past summer to celebrate his 90th birthday.

1950

Four members of the Class of 1950 attended Homecoming to reconnect. Art Hirshey and his wife, Ellie, say "we wish we lived closer so that we could come to campus more often. From what I recall as a one-building school in 1950 to what is now a collegiate-level preparatory institution, you should be very proud of Pennington. I was truly amazed at what has been done since my school days in the late 1940s. We would love to visit again and see the 'inner' areas which, I am sure, will be most impressive." Elliot Smith, who spearheaded the mini-reunion, and his wife, Rose, traveled to Pennington from New York City to enjoy the day's events. Elliot has been working hard to encourage classmates to come back to Pennington, and he and Rose, along with Margie and Michael Lehrman, try to come for Homecoming and Alumni Weekend each year. This Homecoming was a special trip for the Class of 1950 as Michael Lehrman was presented the Pennington Achievement Award for his work in avionics and medical device inventions. Dave Brashears also made the trip to Pennington to round out a lovely mini-reunion.

1967

The Fiftieth Reunion brought the Class of 1967 to Pennington for a wonderful weekend of catching up. Many had not been back since graduation. Class President **Frank Glaser** led the charge in recruiting his classmates. They started the evening at Wesley Alumni House, followed by the Fiftieth Reunion Dinner at Bonne Assiette across the street in Pennington. In attendance for the weekend, besides Frank, were Bruce Billings, Jeff Coley, Larry Keefe, David Kunin, Scott Rubin, Rick Snyder, and Charles Taub.

1980s

Diane Hancock '82 writes, "Homecoming was awesome! The School has so many positive changes. Such a wonderful time catching up with classmates from our class and those that graduated before and after the Class of '82. Thanks to classmates Larry Breeden, Jeffrey Karkut, Chris Lipper, Danny Markscheid, Judi Mauk, and Marah Garry Walsh for coming." Diane goes on to report that she is happily married, with two children, ages 18 and 14. After college, she worked in interior design in the commercial and retail industries. Since the children came along, her primary focus has been her family, as she has become the head taxi driver;

(continued on page 55)

Photos, top leftto right: John Vaccaro '47 and Thomas McHugh, Jr. '47; Jeff Coley '67 and Frank Glaser '67 at the Fiftieth Reunion Dinner; Fiftieth Reunion Dinner attendees; Judi Mauk, Larry Breeden, Diane Hancock, Marah Garry Walsh, and Jeff Karkut from the Class of 1982; Far left photo: Teacher Lisa Houston and John Vaccaro '47



Coach of the Year Chad Bridges '96





had Bridges graduated from The Pennington School in 1996; recent graduates and current students know him as dean of students for the Upper School. During the past year, Bridges was promoted to become the School's assistant headmaster for community life. Dean Bridges, as he is known on campus, is responsible for overseeing all of student life at Pennington, including the boarding program, the Health Center, the Health Department, the Athletics Department, the Peer Leadership program, Community Service and the Office of the Chaplain, the Upper School advisory program, and Upper School class deans.

Bridges is also the Pennington School Varsity Boys' Soccer coach, and he has led that team over the past eight years to four Mercer County Championships and a NJISAA Prep A State Title in 2016, when the School finished #3 in the country. The team was recognized by TopDrawerSoccer as the preseason #1 team in America at the start of the 2017 campaign, which culminated in another county title.

In November 2017, Bridges was selected to serve as the coach of the East Coast All-American team during the annual High School All-American Game. Bridges was joined at the All-American game by senior All-American and Player of the Year Ibrahima Diop '18.

Coaches and players were selected from fall-playing states across the country to participate in the game that took place on December 2, 2017, in Orlando, FL.

"It was an honor to represent The Pennington School at the All-American game as the coach for the East team. It was especially gratifying to have the chance to coach Ibra for one more game. The level of talent on the field made my job pretty easy, but for me, being around so many great student-athletes and coaches was an experience that I will never forget. I want to thank all of my players past and present and my assistant coach, Billy Hawkey, for providing me with so many fantastic years as the head coach because without them, this experience would not have been possible."

—Chad Bridges '96

Chad Bridges '96 was recently named Prep Coach of the Year by *The Trentonian*.



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volunteered at schools, nursing homes, and hospitals; and done minor design jobs. She now has her own staging business, which she loves, and is a consultant for Purium. She hopes the next milestone Homecoming will bring even more of the Class of 1982 out to celebrate!

Chris Lipper '82 says that, having been in boarding school since he was eleven years old, "college wasn't a big hit for me." He started working on Wall Street and had his Series 7 (General Securities Representative Exam) certification by the time he was 20. He stayed in that business until the crash in 2006, "then started a series of entrepreneur endeavors with all the ups and downs that go with it. I invented for a while and had a dozen different patented products." He is currently doing what he loves, coaching entrepreneurs and teaching them how to build business through a franchise called The Alternative Board. He has "three beautiful daughters, ages 15, 18. and 21"; the eldest, Samantha, is at Ithaca, and the other two are a sophomore and senior at Bernardsville. "I still see a ton of music, mostly Grateful Dead-types of bands and bump into some Pennington peeps at shows. I am generally happy and looking forward to my next chapters in life. I recently went vegan, which has been amazing and, I suspect, will have something to do with my future."

Judi Mauk '82 is "having a wonderful life so far." She has a daughter, Josie (31); son, Lee (30); stepdaughter, Melanie (27); two granddaughters, Annalise (5) and Lillian (2); and a step-granddaughter, Aliyah (1), among her close connections. She has been working for United Parcel Service for over thirty-one years and owns a small antiques and collectible business. "I love my vacation times, spending them traveling with family and friends!!"

Daniel Markscheid '82 writes, "My story is about the years that I missed. I graduated in 1982 and was wide-eyed upon graduation. Then life happened, and I lost touch with some really good friends and many people that I truly cared about through our high school years. Year after year I simply did not give a thought to going back to The Pennington School, until an old friend, Jeff Karkut '82, looked me up and actually found me online. We had been catching up, and he basically had to drag me out to Homecoming. I am glad that he did. So much came rushing back: the campus; people walking around; seeing so many students that reminded me of our time at The Pennington School. There was a great group of classmates and old friends there. It brought back such wonderful memories. I realized that I missed it and am really happy to have connected with so many friends. Seeing and hearing from so many people during and after Homecoming is something that I am

really grateful to have been part of. I promise it will not be another thirty years until I return!"

Jane Malloy '85 returned to campus on Friday, October 20, to speak to students in the Global Studies Certificate Program about her education and career path, following her story from Pennington to the United Nations. Jane also reports, "My family is doing well, and I'm very proud of my oldest, daughter Selah, who is a freshman at Smith College."

Greg Folli '89 says, "I stopped by campus this summer with my family, and the campus looked great!"

Jane Bott Childrey '89 writes, "I can't believe I have a freshman and a senior at Pennington now. Time has flown by these last three years at Pennington, and while I am sad to be sending my eldest off to college, I am looking forward to the upcoming adventures with my youngest daughter and son. My husband and I traveled to Hong Kong this past winter with other Pennington alumni and had a magnificent trip. It was the most alone time we have had since having kids."

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Photos, top left to right: three daughters of Chris Lipper '82; the family of Diane Hancock '82; Greg Folli '89 and family at Pennington this past summer. Doug Wood '92, Frank Hohmann '90, and Rich Wade '90 at Doug's home



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1990s

Frank Hohmann '90, Sean Dawson '90, and Rich Wade '90 took a golf trip to the Deep South, playing in New Orleans, Biloxi, and Mobile. They report that Bourbon Street held up to its reputation. They also visited Doug Wood '92 at his compound this past summer. Sean's boys are 15, 14, and 9, busy playing hoops, baseball, and football.

On Friday, October 13, Coltrane
Stansbury '92 was honored in
Washington, DC, by the Network of
Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and
Administration (NASPAA) with the
Alumni Spotlight Award. The award
is given annually in recognition of
outstanding public service demonstrated
by alumni from NASPAA's over 200
internationally accredited schools
of public service. Coltrane says, "I'm
inspired to continue the important work
of addressing the most pressing issues





facing our communities and families that need us the most!"

Michael and Lisa Pizzarello Bosken '99 welcomed their first child, a "beautiful son" named Drew on June 25, 2017. He weighed 7 lbs., 14 oz., and was 21 inches long. "He's absolutely the light in our lives, and we couldn't be happier or more in love!"

Dr. Celeste Gabai '99 is now the head trainer for the United States Olympic Committee. After graduating from Ithaca College, Celeste earned her master of science and doctor of chiropractic degrees from Life University. She has been a sports medicine provider for the USOC's Lake Placid Training Center since 2010.

2000s

Patrick Janson '02 went on to play lacrosse internationally and professionally after Pennington and turned pro with the Colorado Mammoth in the NLL. "These were some great experiences and were rooted in some very fond memories of

playing and learning the game from Mr. Ward and Mr. O at Pennington," he says. "I was always very proud of growing up playing at Pennington and hope to see the program continue for many years!"

Jonathan M. Zinsser '02 received his M.B.A. degree with Academic Honors and Dean's Certificate of Excellence on May 12, 2017, from the Fox School of Business of Temple University.

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Photos, top left to right: Coltrane Stansbury '92 is honored by the NASPAA in Washington, DC; Jared Wesley '95, Amber Stone, and Joe Wesley '94 in front of Wesley Alumni House at Homecoming; baby Drew Bosken, son of Michael and Lisa Pizzarello Bosken '99; Rita Caufield '09, Natasha Nayar '09, Lindsey Smart Fox '09, Kelsey Greener Anderson '09 and Maria Kane '09 at Kelsey's wedding; Far left photo: Class of 2007 at Homecoming; Above, Madeline Micali King '06 and Mike King's wedding, front row, left to right: Georgina Kemp, Juliet Grillo '06, Madeline Micali King '06, Jordan Littlefield '06, Lauren Swegle; back row: left to right: Adam Toltzis '06, Christopher Sluyter '06, Michael King, Dave Kwasny '06, Alex Abud '06, Will Carey '06, Charlotte Henderson Carey '06, and Maia Goodman

"Meeting Harrison is the gift of life.

He has given me a future, a chance to watch
my grandkids grow up, and to spend more
years with my rock—my wife. There are no
words; my family has now grown."

—Sandy Singer bone marrow recipient

Gift of Life Ambassador

Harrison Cohn '15

arrison Cohn, along with his father, joined the bone marrow registry in June 2014 through the Gift of Life organization, hoping to help someone they knew in their community. Eighteen months later, Cohn got a call to say he matched a 67-year-old man who urgently needed a bone marrow transplant in order to survive.

Harrison completed the donation in June 2016. He decided to become a Gift of Life Campus Ambassador at Indiana University to help other students learn about the registry. "I was ecstatic; having the chance to save someone's life is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said Cohn. "To do it at 19 years old was an experience that I have a hard time putting into words."

In the United States, donors and recipients cannot learn each other's names until a year after the transplant, and until that time they can communicate only through anonymous letters. Eleven months after the transplant, Gift of Life called the recipient of Cohn's donation, Sandy Singer, to find out if he was interested in meeting his donor at an upcoming event. "It is very emotional and humbling knowing there are wonderful, caring people willing to help a total stranger," said Singer. Cohn and Singer were given the Gift of Life Partners for Life award, commemorating the day they met for the first time.

Cohn adds, "My mother said, 'This is something you will be proud of for the rest of your life'—and she was right."



Harrison Cohn '15, currently a political science major at Indiana University, is shown with bone marrow recipient Sandy Singer.



Dontae Johnson '10 thrives in the NFL

by Sam Goldberg '12

I took four NFL seasons for Dontae Johnson '10 to play a game in his hometown stadium. And play he did, as the Plainfield, NJ, native was on the field for nearly every snap throughout the Eagles and 49ers matchup on October 27. Johnson noted that it's always been his dream to compete at Lincoln Financial Field, and stated, "I just never thought it would be for an opposing team." Johnson, a lifelong Eagles fan, fluctuated between being a starter and a reserve for three seasons. In his fourth year, he's been a mainstay in the 49ers defensive backfield.

"Experience is the best teacher," Johnson said. "By being out on the field it's allowed me to get more confident." His confidence is evident. The 6-foot-2, 200-pounder ranks fourth on the 49ers in tackles with 38, and second in total team snaps with 574. And as Johnson continues to fill the stat sheet, opposing wide receivers are taking notice. "He's got to keep working hard," Eagles wide receiver Alshon Jeffery said. "He's a long-armed, physical guy. He's going to be a great player."

What's arguably more impressive than Johnson's standout season is how he carries himself off the field. Johnson, who graduated

Sam Goldberg '12 is sports director and a news anchor for WBCB News in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. He recently interviewed fellow Pennington alumnus Dontae Johnson '10 while Johnson was in town for his game versus the Philadelphia Eagles. Johnson is in his fourth season with the San Francisco 49ers.

from The Pennington School in 2010, attributes many aspects of his success to his high school roots. "Going to Pennington helped me a lot," he explained. "Coach Jerry Eure (a.k.a. 'Chief') taught me a lot at a young age." Johnson and the longtime Pennington coach still keep in contact.

"All Chief ever says is, 'raw meat," Johnson said. "Raw meat," Eure explains, is a mantra he's instilled within Johnson for years. "It means to stay hungry," Eure said. "Animals eat raw meat because they are hungry... sometimes I will literally just text him 'raw meat." "He was telling me that when I was at Pennington," Johnson says. "And he still tells me that to this day."

Despite Johnson's success at the highest level, Eure sees little transformation in Dontae's overall character. "He is not the type of kid to change once he makes it big.... He doesn't forget where he comes from," Eure says. He understood how special Johnson was long before his NFL career began. "He's one of the finest kids that has come through Pennington," Eure explained. "We knew when he left Pennington he was going to be successful no matter what he chose to do."



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Maggie Marquis McCord '03 and her husband opened up their third Bennett's Sandwich Shop this year. Their stores are located in Kennebunk, ME; Portsmouth, NH; and Boston, MA. They currently live in Portsmouth with their two kids—Stella (2 ½) and Hudson (1)—and their English bulldog, Philly.

Gayle and Jamie Moore '03 went to China this summer with a group of art students from The Pennington School. It was a great time, and there is a picture floating around of Jamie as a sand mermaid.

Adem Bunkeddeko '05 is running for Congress in New York's Ninth Congressional District. Continuing a career in public service, Adem has tried to pay forward the sacrifices his parents, Ugandan war refugees, made for him growing up. He has been involved with a number of social enterprises,

including the Bedford-Stuyvesant
Restoration Corporation, the Empire State
Development Corporation, and Brooklyn
Community Services. After Pennington,
Adem attended Haverford College,
where he studied political science and
philosophy, and earned an M.B.A. from
Harvard Business School.

Danny Connors '10 has begun working for the NBA's Portland Trailblazers as assistant director of basketball operations.

Austin Jarboe '10 married Tara Seymour on August 26, 2017, at the Lambertville Presbyterian Church with a reception afterward in the backyard of Richard and Sharon Jarboe P'10'14. Austin met Tara when they were young children cast as Fritz and Clara in a Roxey Ballet production of The Nutcracker. Austin is a senior associate at the Stamford, CT, office of KPMG, and Tara is pursuing her master's degree at New York Medical College.

Their guests included Josue Rivera '07, Grant Cohen'10, Billy Hawkey '10, Chandler Fraser-Pauls'11, Alex Bauman'12, Sam Goldberg'12, Ellie Jarboe'14, and Drs. Andrey and Lisa Espinoza P'23.

Marisa Kaplan '12 has completed her first year as a master's degree candidate in New York University's Program in Classical Vocal Performance with an Advanced Certificate in Vocal Pedagogy. As adjunct NYU faculty, Marisa instructs a vocal studio of undergraduate students. Marisa earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and theatre from Franklin & Marshall College in 2016. This summer she was excited to be a part of the Manhattan Opera Studio and performed at Carnegie Hall!

Share your news and photos for the next magazine, and subscribe to the new alumni e-newsletter *The Porch* by contacting Jane Bott Childrey '89 at jane.childrey@pennington.org

A TIGHAL GHAPPER

Photos, top left to right: Josue Rivera '07, Austin Jarboe '10, Chandler Fraser-Pauls '11, and Billy Hawkey '10 at Austin's wedding; Austin Jarboe '10 and his wife, Tara Seymour; Tara Hessenthaler '17, Paul McWhirter '14, and Joe Gallagher '16 share stories during an alumni dinner at Franklin & Marshall; Nick Osagie '17, David Zong '17, Lily Childrey '18, and Kaitlyn Rooney '17 meet at Dickinson College during Lily's college tour with her mother, Jane Bott Childrey '89. Far left photo: Brian Kiley '10, Joe D'Antonio '10, Zander Asplundh-Smith '10, and Will Croghan '10 at Brian's house on Twelfth Night.



Alumni Weekend 2018

MAY 18-19



Events 2018

February

- 2: Middle School Ski Trip (through February 3 for Grade 8)
- 9: Coffeehouse
- 19: School Closed: Presidents' Day
- 24: Red & Black Bash
- 28-March 3: Winter Musical: Seussical the Musical

March

- 3: Seussical Alumni Reception
- 19-April 2: Spring Break

April

- 8: Mercer Bucks Mini Maker Faire
- 12: Pennington Giving Day
- 20: Grandparents Day

- 22: Spring Concert
- 26: All-School Community Day
- 26-28: Spring Play

May

- 10–12: Middle School Play
- 18-19: Alumni Weekend
 - 19: Coffeehouse

June

- 1: Baccalaureate and Senior/Parent Dinner
- 2: Upper School Commencement
- 7: Middle School Graduation
- 11: Annual Scholarship Golf Classic
- 25: Summer Programs begin



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