



# THE CRIMSON SUN



Vol. 18, No. 2

The Student Newspaper of Morristown-Beard School  
70 Whippany Road, Morristown, NJ 07960

December 2016



Giovan Guanill '17 on stage in Founders Hall in the title role of November's production of *Macbeth*.

Photo: Leila Curtiss

## Something Wicked This Way Came

BY REBECCA TONE

From November 9-12, Founders Hall was taken by “bloody hands” as the cast of William Shakespeare’s cursed tragedy, *Macbeth*, took the stage. Featuring ruthless murders and supernatural incantations, plotting politicians and sword-fighting soldiers, the production was a sight to behold.

Although *Macbeth* is among the shortest of Shakespeare’s works, it was a bold choice to perform with teenagers. “I like to do a Shakespeare play every four years, and we did *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* in 2012, so this was the year,” says director Susan Speidel. In comparison to the comedic nature of next spring’s musical, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, “the dark tone of *Macbeth* seemed perfect.”

The darkness of the piece was shown not only through the words of the actors, but also through their clothes. To “mirror the danger that is present in the show,” Dr. Speidel wanted something “edgy” and rebellious – steampunk. Actors were decorated with black makeup, dark clothing, chokers, leather, and buckles, making a 16th-century play interesting for a contemporary audience.

The simple, unchanging white set used for the whole show was based off a painting by theatrical scenic artist Perry Kroeger as part of a series of works depicting his inter-

pretations of Shakespearean style. Along with his stagecraft class, Jim Ruttman was able to bring the painting to life. The simplicity of the set allowed for more rapid movement across stage, quick transitions between scenes, and plot devices that “work like a really good horror movie,” said Dr. Speidel.

More beautifully crafted aspects of “The Scottish Play” came from the technical side, directed by Mr. Marmo. Lighting, designed by MBS graduate Alex Fetchko ‘11, and sound, designed by Mr. Fisher, added even more suspense and mystery to the already eerie aura of the play. Audience members jumped out of their seats every time the thunder and lightning effects were used.

For young actors, it can prove very challenging to fully understand and convey the meaning of Shakespeare’s difficult language, but the cast was able to work through this barrier and create something spectacular. The most impressive part of the process for Dr. Speidel was seeing how the entire company came together by closing night: “It takes a lot of work and a lot of commitment to create a solid performance and every single person involved made a contribution. It was a pleasure collaborating with all of you!” (continued on page 5)

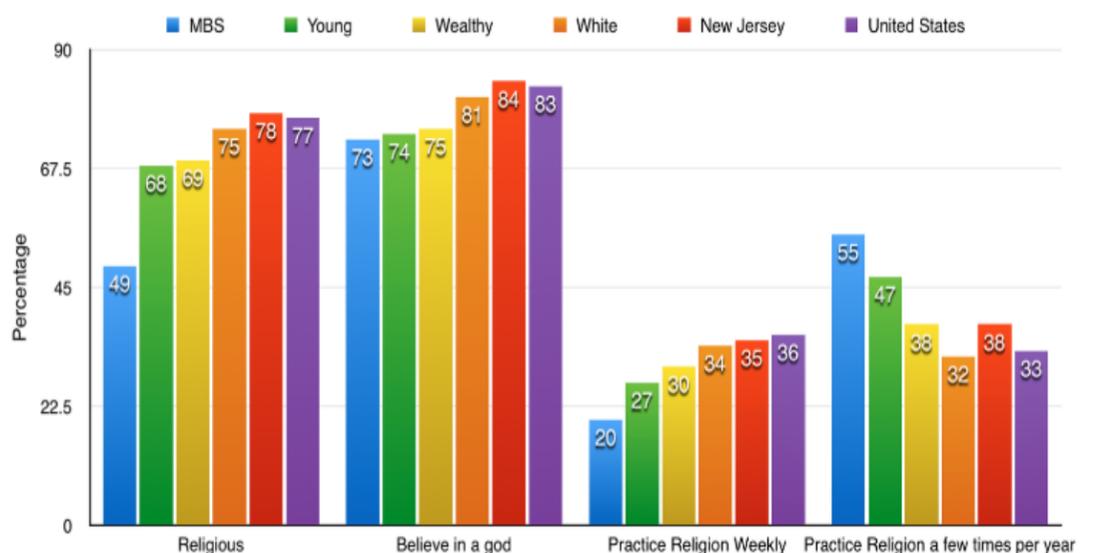
## MBS students echo diminishing value of religion nationwide

BY LUCAS FAGAN

In a new poll conducted of the MBS student community, only 49% considered themselves religious—significantly less than the national average of 77%. This gap can be explained by the fact that youth tend to value religion less today than in the past.

As a small, independent secondary and middle day school with high tuition, MBS lacks significant racial, economic, geographic, and age-related diversity compared to the general U.S. population. The majority of MBS students are white adolescents from wealthy suburban New Jersey families.

The religious tendencies of MBS students are more strongly correlated with those of Americans of the same age than with Americans of similar wealth, geography or race. (continued on page 4)



Based on survey of 51 MBS students and information from the Pew Research Center.

# OPINION/EDITORIAL

## THE CRIMSON SUN

70 WHIPPANY ROAD

MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY 07960

Editors-in-Chief	Sports Editor
Olivia Land	Isaac Davison
Terri Green	Photo Editor
News Editor	Leila Curtiss
Ryan Green	Cartoon Editor
Features Editor	Joshua Aracena
Charlie Naples	Faculty Adviser
	Brian Crowe

Thanks to: Bruce Adams, Peter Caldwell, Darren Burns, Darren Lovelock, Barbara Napholtz, Chris Finn, Caitlin Skobo-Trought, Steve Patchett, John Mascaro, and Ezra Gottlieb.

We welcome letters to the editor, opinion pieces, stories, cartoons and photographs. To contact the paper regarding submissions, send an e-mail to either oland@mbs.net or tgreen@mbs.net.

The *Crimson Sun* corrects its factual errors and accepts corrections.

The *Crimson Sun* is a 4-16 page newspaper, available in print and online at www.mbs.net. It is written primarily for the approximately 559 students attending MBS and the approximately 100 faculty and staff members, and is distributed free of charge to all members of the school community.

The *Crimson Sun* provides information and entertainment in addition to various viewpoints on debatable issues. We will not print anything that is deemed libelous, obscene or in poor taste. We reserve the right to edit or withhold anything submitted and correct spelling, grammar and punctuation when necessary.

**CORRECTION:** In our previous issue, Tahj Valentine's graduation year was incorrectly identified as 2016 in Isaac Davison's piece "A New Look on Gridiron." We regret to inform Tahj that he needs to complete the upcoming semesters in order to graduate in 2018.

## Editorial: Community Service T(r)ips

Morristown-Beard prides itself on the impressive array of trips that it hosts each year. From Peru to China, the school offers students an opportunity to visit remarkable places across the globe. In particular, the community service trips provide a unique experience, as students are able to engage with local communities and work to help indigenous people.

Generally, many trips that are branded as "service" do not live up to their label. Service trips have a reputation of being primarily touristic with minimal work being done to actually help the local communities. However, Morristown-Beard has made an effort to veer away from this tendency.

For example, during the annual Habitat for Humanity trip, a group of students

travel to build a home for people in need. On the Panama trip this past June, students built a playground outside of the kindergarten in an indigenous community in Bocas Del Toro. Through the MBS travel programs, members of the student body are able to make a difference for those less fortunate. Rather than running lackluster, falsely-branded service trips, the school has developed a program that truly aids communities in need.

While students do engage in community service on these trips, the amount of hours is debatable. After going on one service trip, students have enough hours to complete their service requirement for the entire year. Many teachers feel that this model undermines the community service program. In order to solve

this problem, some faculty have suggested that students should be required to log service hours from multiple sources.

Another debated issue regarding the service trips is the hefty price. Due to the costliness, many students cannot afford to take advantage of the school's travel programs. Thus, MBS has been offering, and will continue to offer, financial aid for members of the community who cannot afford the steep costs of these trips, such as the spring trip to Tanzania.

Morristown-Beard trips grant students once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to bond with their classmates and experience new cultures, and the chance to partake in one should be accessible to all members of the student body.

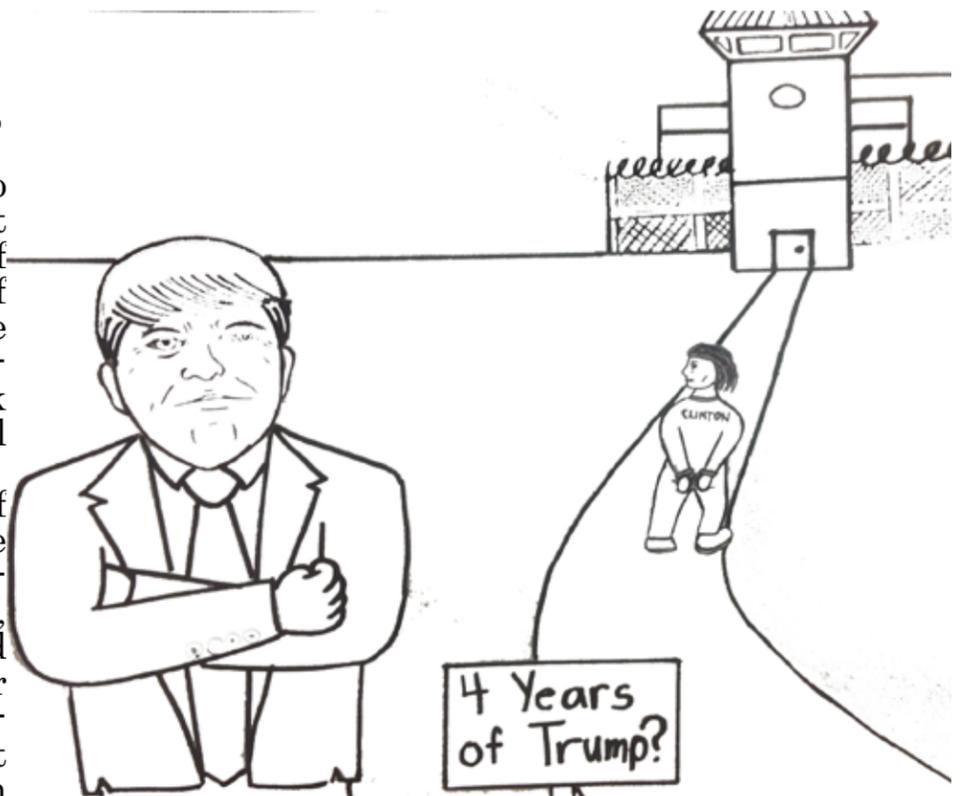
## Opinion: Everybody's Moving to Canada!

BY OLIVIA LAND

"If Trump wins, I'm leaving the country." If I tried to count how many times I heard that phrase in the last year, it would take me up until the 2020 election. Most of the time, I assumed people were joking. Sure, the idea of Donald Trump as president was brow-raising, to say the least, but was it enough to make people consider emigrating (read: fleeing)? At the time, at least, this idea struck me as nothing more than a side effect of what I like to call PEES, or Pre-Election Exaggeration Syndrome.

But then something interesting happened: In one of the biggest upsets in electoral history, Trump won the presidency. Contrary to popular belief, the now President-Elect and his team were not, indeed, joking. To that end, neither were those hundreds of individuals who claimed to have their suitcases at the ready. Barely hours after Trump's victory was announced, the Canadian immigration site crashed, presumably due to a spike in interest from panicking Americans. Walking around campus on November 9, I started hearing stories about people whose relatives or friends were snatching at opportunities to jump ship (er, nation).

All of this talk got me thinking. As an American citizen, I believe it is my job to respect the president. So while I may not support the policies or public and private behavior of the executive, I maintain my appreciation for his or her position within both our country and the world at large. I believe that any one of you will agree with me when I say that, regardless of personal political affiliation, cultivating this attitude is not always easy. In fact, sometimes, it is really, really hard, and I am sure that the next four years will be no exception. But just because something is hard does not exempt you from at least trying. Indeed, our school's own motto, "Ad Astra Per Aspera," epitomizes the idea of continuing in the face of adversity.



Cartoon: Josh Aracena  
The student body has a lot to say about Donald Trump's now-imminent presidency.

Now, I understand that not everyone shares this point of view. This is a high-stress time for our country, and it makes sense that the knee-jerk reaction for many is one of anger and fear. I continue to hope, however, that we will eventually be able to come together in support of our new president, with our eyes trained on a more positive vision of the future. Doubt your ability to do that for the next four years? In that case, yes, maybe you should move. If you do decide to relocate, I wish you the best of luck and nothing but success in all your future endeavors. My only request is that you do not block my American flag with your moving van.

# FEATURES

## Transfer students validate MBS Mission

By CHARLIE EWIG

It's easy to make a claim; it's much harder to back it up. The Mission Statement of Morristown-Beard School reads: "Within a culture of support and collaboration, Morristown-Beard School students discover and develop their individual pathways to academic success and personal fulfillment while becoming enlightened, morally responsible citizens of the world."

Students who transferred to MBS after freshman year validate that the mission statement is not a false claim, but rather the overwhelming truth.

Evidently, MBS strives to be a unique and inclusive community that cultivates young minds for the world outside of high school. In order to accomplish this goal, the school takes an approach to education and athletics that differs greatly from that of other high schools.

For example, the newly-implemented earned honors program gives students a sense of fluidity in the classroom based on the quality of work they produce. This allows students with different intellectual abilities to learn and grow together, rather than separate into classrooms of "honors students" and "regular students" within the first few stressful weeks of school. Another unique aspect of MBS is the "no cut" policy for sports teams. This allows students to take risks, develop their abilities, and become a part of the MBS community, without the fear of not being good enough.

Students who are lifers at MBS often fail to recognize its value because they know nothing else. Students who transferred, however, offer insight into the community that other students do not share. They have fresh eyes. They have already experienced another high school, giving them a basis for comparison.

The "culture of support and collaboration" described in the

MBS Mission Statement is appreciated by Tim Muller '17, who transferred from Summit High School his sophomore year. When asked what drew him to MBS, he said that he "loved the smaller class sizes" and the idea that he "would form a real relationship with [his] teachers." He said that MBS is different from Summit because it has "less busy work and more of a focus on actual learning within the community."

Regarding athletics, the claim that "students discover and develop their individual pathways to ... personal fulfillment" is confirmed by Ryan Savarese '17, who transferred from Delbarton his junior year. In an interview, Ryan, who is on the Varsity Hockey team, stated that a big reason he transferred was because he felt that he "could make more of an impact on the team and perform to [his] full potential." Ryan was attracted to MBS specifically to follow his "individual pathway" that is established in the mission statement.

Finally, Jenny Adelman '17, who transferred from Millburn High School her junior year, highlighted how MBS strives to make students "enlightened, morally responsible citizens of the world." Jenny said that at Millburn, she was "overwhelmed with work and did not have time to pursue extracurricular activities." At MBS, however, Jenny has been able to seize every opportunity presented to her. She is now the captain of the Girls' Golf Team, a member of Key Club, and a much more involved participant in community service.

Transfer students are able to validate the MBS Mission Statement, which is an integral part of the school's vision. Morristown-Beard justifiably prides itself in the inclusive community it facilitates and will continue to transform its students from involved members of the school to productive citizens of the wider world.

## Mixed Polls and Emotions: Election anxiety reigns supreme

By OLIVIA LAND

Nervous. Hopeful. Tired. Excited. These were the emotions running high among MBS students in the weeks leading up to the 2016 presidential election. Indeed, the muted polls and news stories projected from the Student Center television provided the perfect backdrop for the impassioned chatter that echoed through the halls.

For some students, in fact, merely following the campaign season proved to be an experience in itself. "I have been obsessed with this election," said Emma Blanchard '17. Fellow senior Lucas Fagan shared Blanchard's enthusiasm, saying, "I look forward to this election like it's Christmas." Fagan was also among the few students dreading the end of the

election cycle, noting, "I'm going to miss the constant news cycle and the constant thrill of not knowing."

Both Fagan and Blanchard, however, represented relative outliers. Elsewhere on campus, most students' patience with the electoral process was wearing thin. "I'm more over it with every headline," said Natalie Pruitt '18. Senior Leila Curtiss agreed: "My opinions haven't changed, I'm just more frustrated." In some cases, students felt their "election fatigue" was exacerbated by classroom debates. "Conversations in my classes made me realize how diverse the [political spectrum] is, but they also made me more tired," lamented Dominique Diggs '17. "I'm ready for the

end."

When Election Day finally arrived, this exhaustion gave way to full-blown anxiety. "I'm bracing myself," Pruitt said. Fellow classmate Sarah Yamashita '18 echoed these sentiments, saying, "I feel fear."

Unfortunately, the end of the election offered little--if any--reprieve. Most students returned to school on Wednesday, November 9, reporting feelings of anger, surprise, and agitation.

"I'm shocked," said SGA President Ryan Waters. Even Lucas Fagan's seemingly boundless energy was sucked dry. "I realized that the electoral process is extremely unfair," he said, adding, "I feel no relief whatsoever."

If nothing else, however, the

2016 election left many students with renewed dedication to the political process. "Seeing the low turn-out inspired me to advocate [for voting] in the future," said Yamashita. "This election really helped reaffirm my beliefs." Diggs shared Yamashita's resolve, remembering, "When I was younger, I didn't understand the importance of voting. This election changed my perspective." These words offer reassuring confirmation that, even in such uncertain times, the MBS community will remain as is: passionate, engaged, and committed to making a positive impact. In the words of Emma Blanchard, all that is left to do is remain "hopeful" that the new administration will follow suit.

# FEATURES

## (continued) Religion fades among MBS students

By LUCAS FAGAN

(continued from page 1)

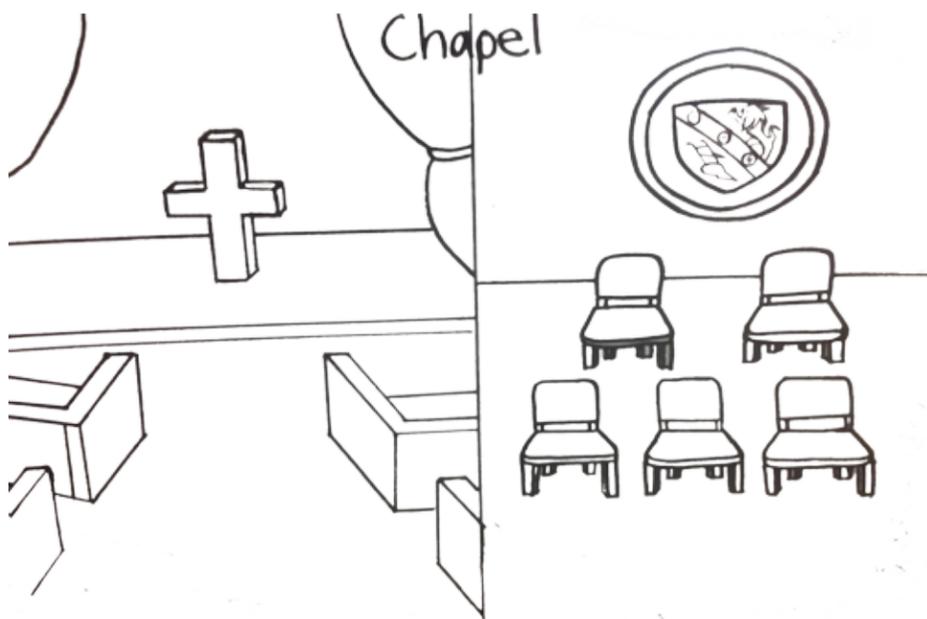
Young American adults are not only less likely to be religious (68%) and less likely to believe in God (74%) than people in New Jersey or the country as a whole, but also less than white citizens and wealthy families. The polled Morristown-Beard students feel even less strongly about religion than the young demographic. Less than half of students surveyed considered themselves religious and only 73% believed in God.

In addition, out of all aforementioned demographics, U.S. youth most closely correlated to Morristown-Beard students with respect to frequency of formal religious practice. Fewer young people (27%) practice religion formally on a weekly basis than any other demographic, and MBS is less than this still, at 20%. The most common frequency of formal religious practice for both young people and MBS students is only a few times a year, representing just under half of young people (47%) and just over half of MBS (55%).

The primary explanation of the decrease in importance placed in religion is the increased religious diversity in America. The fraction of religious Americans that practice Christianity dropped

from 78.4% in 2007 to 70.6% in 2014, having been replaced by non-Christian faiths such as Judaism or Islam, which both increased during the same period. More religiously diverse regions tend to be significantly less religious overall.

This fact can be explained by



The "Chapel," then and now.

Cartoon: Josh Aracena

two factors. Exposure to different religions in social settings decreases pressure to adhere to the local religious tendencies and causes citizens to be more open to ideas that differ from their backgrounds. Likewise, children of inter-religious marriages are less exposed to religion because it can be a source of disagree-

ment in the home.

A second explanation is a generational shift in ideology. Generation Z—made up of people born between the mid 1990s to early 2000s—is among the most educated and socially accepting generations in history, and there is a clear negative correlation be-

tween education and religiosity. Religion may become less and less attractive as the importance and understanding of science and reason grow.

Over half of polled MBS students chose the promotion of positive social virtues as the primary purpose of religion, rather than a connection with God or

pursuit of an afterlife. However, three-fourths of young people look to science, reason, and common sense as the primary sources of guidance on right and wrong, essentially rendering this facet of religion obsolete. Charlie Ewig, an MBS senior, recognizes this condition. "I just feel like the idea of religion is not as appealing as it used to be," he said.

A final explanation is that the relative importance of religion naturally evolves with age. Young people are less aware of their mortality and therefore have less need for a belief in a higher power than people nearer the end of their lives. An MBS student, who declined to give his name, described this exact idea. "Old people have more need to believe in God. I think when we get older we're going to be more religious too," he said.

Even though the majority of Generation Z still considers themselves religious, it is evident that formal religion is becoming less important. The youth of today will likely be, by most measures, the least religious generation to date. Even as religion slowly diminishes in importance, many cling to their beliefs as a fundamental aspect of their life. However, with time, could religion ever disappear completely?

## The Student Area: Lost and (never) found

By ANIKA BUCH

In sixth grade, I lost a black Wilson softball glove. I posted an email in the student area. People read my email. I never found my glove. I am now a freshman.

Twenty unread emails. For every email read, there are at least three new ones in the student area. On First Class, students use the student area to find objects they lost, post general reminders, change the location of a sports practice, or inform the community of an event. Yet, in many cases, messages go unheard. Students rarely check their emails; "Maybe once a week," says Pamela Beniwal '19. But what if someone loses something? An iPad? A textbook? What then?

Emails are posted every day for lost items, but they go unread. About 25-50 people read the email immediately. That makes 10% who check their emails often. The other 90% sporadically review the student area. The purpose of the student area, to inform the student body, cannot be fulfilled if no one reads the emails in the first place. When emails are not read, wrong information can spread. In this way, the goal to inform won't be fulfilled.

One possible solution to this problem is to support checking the student area more often. Students could and should be notified more efficiently. If someone loses something and the community is unaware, the person may never find it. The notifications need to become more obvious so students know that they should check their student area.

Another problem is that people read their student area, but quite honestly, they "don't care" if someone loses something. In fact, according to a recent survey including 25 responses, 16% selected the option "Don't Care" when they were asked how much they try to find a lost object. Another 24% said that they would try to find the object as best as they could but would not go out of their way to find it. About 20% answered this question by saying they would try to find the object as best as they could regardless of who the person was. The other 32% said that they felt bad for the person but still didn't care.

I posted this survey to the student area itself just to get an idea of how many people would actually respond to their emails. Nearly the entire MBS commu-

nity checked my email, but I only received 25 responses to the survey. Out of all the responses, 68% of people said they checked their student area once a day; another 24% said they checked theirs once a week; and the remaining 8% said they checked only if a teacher asked them to do so or if an announcement was made at morning meeting.

One of the bigger questions I am asking is this: What is the purpose and overall effectiveness of the student area? According to Anjalika Shah '22, "I think it's basically here for when people lose stuff and have activities that they need to share with everybody at the school." But what happens when that purpose is not fulfilled? Some people agreed that the student area was "pretty effective." A few students agreed that the conference was "somewhat effective." About half, including Matt Lohmann '20, agreed that it was "not very effective." The lack of effectiveness could be because "some don't check it or really don't care about what is said in it," says Matt Smith '18. According to Lily Wieder '20, "I don't really care to look but it can be helpful at times."

The lack of people checking their emails could be a reason why the student area is not reaching its maximum potential to be an effective and productive center for communication. Another anonymous contributor said, "It's out of the way, an inconvenience, and since none of the students look at it, irrelevant." The opinion clearly expressed here supports 6th-grader Will McDonald's point that "no one really checks it." The fact that younger students know that no one checks their emails sets a bad example for them, continuing the cycle of miscommunication and misinformation.

Not checking the student area may sound like a trivial issue, but it isn't. To be ignorant and indifferent is not something to be proud of. When someone loses something, it could be a fundamental necessity, a good luck charm, or an item of personal significance. I never found my softball glove, but let's change our bad habits for others. Let's be responsible and empathetic, not careless. Maybe if everyone becomes more digitally aware, someday we can say that a lost item will (always) be found.

# FEATURES

## “MacDaddy” Kills in Founders

(continued from page 1) Members of the cast included Pamela Beniwal '19, Anika Buch '20, Ellie Buscemi '18, Richie Carchia '18, Perri Easley '19, Matt Ellerthorpe '20, Gio Guanill '17, Iain Jaeger '19, Aneesh Kaura '19, Joe Keenan '17, Harrison Kern '17, Ethan Kim '19, Liza Leever '19, Lauren Liroff '19, Matt Lohman '20, Luke Madden '19, Sophie McGuinness '19, Lauren Mennen '19, Sydney Morris '17, Ian O'Brien '19, Bella Porraro '20, Natalie Pruitt '18, Trevone Quarrie '19, Alex Rebhun '19, Amy Sales '19, Coby Schneider '19, Scott Smith '20, Vincent Spina '20, Rebecca Tone '19, Nicole Westwood '20, and Francesca Winterbottom '18.

The stage management team was made up of Taylor Jaskula '17, Matt Smith '18, and Jill Stecker '18. Students who worked for the crew were Katharine Bernstein '18, Adelyn Berrocal '18, Brian Collins '18, Mike DeSimone '20, Daniel Francis-Manshel '18, Grace Hromin '18, Rachel Kelson '20, Maddy Larson '17, Paris Luckowski '19, Andrea Marroquin '19, Austin Penizotto '18, Jackie Silvers '19, Aidan Wood '17, and Sar-

ah Yamashita '18.

Everyone involved in the production “killed” it, bringing Shakespeare to life ... or, shall we say, death.



Photos: Nicole Westwood and Leila Curtiss

Clockwise from top: Sydney Morris '17 smiling backstage; Gio Guanill '17 and Luke Madden '19 look ahead to “something wicked”; Sophomore witches Lauren Mennen, Amy Sales, and Perri Easley embrace the sinister script.

## The Times They Are a-Changin’

BY CHARLIE NAPLES

Life for students at the Morris-town-Beard school will be different in the 2017-2018 school year as a new schedule will be instituted. The scheduling committee, consisting primarily of Mr. Burns, Ms. Luna, Dr. Mascaró, Mr. Richard and Ms. Romero, has been working hard since last summer to remake the schedule.

Mr. Burns said, “We have had a number of curriculum changes and growth over the past five to seven years except our schedule has never adapted to the curriculum. The scheduling committee has been working hard to address these changes and support the curriculum.”

Specific details about the schedule have remained ambiguous but there are a few big points that the new schedule will emphasize, including greater collaboration time and shorter classes. The scheduling committee used the recent survey to gather feedback from the student population.

The survey received 301 responses: 18% from the Freshmen class, 27.9% from Sophomores, 10% from the Junior Class and 11.9% from Seniors. The Middle School made up 32.3% of the survey.

According to the survey 53% of students desired more time to collaborate with teachers, noting that free periods often do not line up. The proposed schedule addresses this concern by having a period of time to meet with teachers and classmates during a school-wide “free” period.

Class length is another hot topic for the schedule. The majority of students selected 50-60 minute class periods as their preferred class length, versus the current 70-minute classes. The scheduling committee will closely examine class length; by September next year, 70 minute classes will most likely be anachronistic.

*The Crimson Sun* will track developments through the year.

## Five Lates? You’re in a State!

BY JOSEPH BIVONA

You know what really frustrates seniors? The 5-Lates Policy. On the surface, being late seems like a problem that should be easily fixed, but how justified are seniors in their desire for a more lenient policy?

Ms. Alderman--Senior Grade Dean--encapsulated the school’s position on the issue: “Kids don’t understand that sometimes it takes longer to get to school than they expect.” Many other teachers also believe the 5-Lates Policy is more than reasonable. However, some are much more lenient than others, leaving some students at a disadvantage.

One student who wished to remain anonymous said: “I can come in at 8:10 and as long as I see my advisor before he dismisses us I am not late.” Mikael Jan '17 described a very different experience: “My advisor is very strict with the late policy ... if I come in at 8:06 it is ridiculous to be considered late.” This double standard in advisory is unfair, allowing some students to regularly break the rules and get away with it, while others risk having their senior privileges postponed.

Mastering time management during a stressful senior year is not easy

for everyone. Some students stay up till 3:00 a.m. doing school work. Mike Karrat '17 said, “I am late every once in awhile because I have work to do in the morning. Sometimes I oversleep due to the amount of time I spend at night doing homework and college work.”

Moreover, even kids who get to school at 7:50 claim they are faced with another daunting obstacle: parents’ cars. By taking up spots in our already small parking lot, they cause us to drive in circles until they leave. Avery Matilsky '17 said, “Parents just sit around in the lot and I cannot even get to my spot.” Another senior, Renee Dorwart, said, “I get to school at 7:50 if there are no problems, but quite honestly if there is traffic on the roads and parents in the lot I am uncomfortably close to being late.”

With all the factors involved in getting to school on time, some students protest that five lates are not enough. Sam Schappel '17 said, “I believe all seniors need a sufficient 10 lates to account for traffic, picking up underclassmen, and taking time to find a spot with the parents in the lot.”

Mr. Lovelock has a simple solution: “Just get up ten minutes earlier.”

◆ CRIMSON SUN ◆  
**NEWS**

## Math Department debuts “Integrated” curriculum

By MOLLY MICHEL

Integrated Math, a unique approach to teaching, has taken the MBS Math Department and the student body by storm.

The Integrated Math Program involves the philosophy that students should not be graded solely on the test grades they receive. The program also takes into account the amount of effort students put into the subject as well as their willingness to learn. The defining characteristic of this program is that you do not need to have a mathematical mind to be successful in this course; rather it is an interactive approach to learning.

As the MBS community knows, this new program has some parents concerned about the efficiency and efficacy of Integrated Math. According to Mr. Gomes, mathematics teacher and pro-integrated math advocate, “The traditional math sequence, algebra 1, geometry, algebra 2, and precalc, we are taking that four-year sequence and smashing it down into three years.” The students who are in the Integrated Math 1 program this year will be taking Calculus by their senior year of high school, which they would not be able to do with the typical math program. The program will slowly phase out the Geometry, Precalculus, and Calculus courses that were taught in isolation as it offers a more connected approach

among all math disciplines.

Many parents seem concerned about the program, for change can sometimes be scary and hard to understand, but

there is a major reason for this switch in the mathematical approach. “We see the world as being a more connected place than what the school structure actually perceives the world to be,” Mr. Gomes said. “The idea that the math subject does not exist in a vacuum, that is what we are taking from the humanities programs, the ideology that a subject is not so cut and dry, that it is not all bookwork.” This idea makes sense as many students over the year have used the same line, “How will this affect me in the real world?”

“We see the world as being a more connected place than what the school structure actually perceives the world to be,” Mr. Gomes said. “The idea that the math subject does not exist in a vacuum, that is what we are taking from the humanities programs, the ideology that a subject is not so cut and dry, that it is not all bookwork.” This idea makes sense as many students over the year have used the same line, “How will this affect me in the real world?”

“The idea that the math subject does not exist in a vacuum, that is what we are taking from the humanities programs, the ideology that a subject is not so cut and dry, that it is not all bookwork.” This idea makes sense as many students over the year have used the same line, “How will this affect me in the real world?”

The integrated math program encourages the belief that it is unnecessary to throw random bits of geometry wherever it seems convenient. Forcing a student in a finite amount of time to understand and perform a task is unrealistic and harmful.

Many students are quite concerned about grades, one of the major driving forces to a student’s future. Mr. Gomes shed some light on the situation, tempering such fears: “It is based on how you collaborate in class, what you bring to class discussions, and how you do on group assessments, and traditional assessments. Importantly, what we are looking at is the thought process involved, and not the final result; that is a minor detail.”

The fact that students are graded on what they bring to

the table really makes a difference. Many students are shoved into a fast-paced environment, which can be especially tough for freshmen to handle. Being able to take the extra time, to really get through a lesson can make all the difference, especially when there are many students who learn at different paces and in different ways.

The ideology of testing a kid right after learning new material is like telling someone who drove a car once to go immediately to Nascar; it just does not make sense. Usually, without a lot of practice in between, you will typically fail. How can you try again if the opportunity is not given? This program focuses on what the students know, and caters to them without punishing them for not understanding a topic within the first day of learning it.

Humans make mistakes. The idea that a child can learn to perfect a task on the first try is unrealistic. Milestones such as riding a bike, taking your first steps, talking, hitting a homerun, and going to the Olympics take time. Those who succeed are patient; those who succeed are not afraid of failure. The old program punished those who dared to try; the new Integrated Math program teaches students of MBS that perfection takes time, and that it is okay to take risks.

Humans make mistakes. The idea that a child can learn to perfect a task on the first try is unrealistic. Milestones such as riding a bike, taking your first steps, talking, hitting a homerun, and going to the Olympics take time. Those who succeed are patient; those who succeed are not afraid of failure. The old program punished those who dared to try; the new Integrated Math program teaches students of MBS that perfection takes time, and that it is okay to take risks.

Humans make mistakes. The idea that a child can learn to perfect a task on the first try is unrealistic. Milestones such as riding a bike, taking your first steps, talking, hitting a homerun, and going to the Olympics take time. Those who succeed are patient; those who succeed are not afraid of failure. The old program punished those who dared to try; the new Integrated Math program teaches students of MBS that perfection takes time, and that it is okay to take risks.

Humans make mistakes. The idea that a child can learn to perfect a task on the first try is unrealistic. Milestones such as riding a bike, taking your first steps, talking, hitting a homerun, and going to the Olympics take time. Those who succeed are patient; those who succeed are not afraid of failure. The old program punished those who dared to try; the new Integrated Math program teaches students of MBS that perfection takes time, and that it is okay to take risks.



Photo: Nicole Westwood  
 John Gomes sheds light on Integrated Math.

## Some new and familiar faces among MBS faculty

By RYAN GREEN

The MBS faculty has added eleven new faces, including a revamping of the math department.

Upperclassmen, do not fret; Ms. Lindsay Johnson, a new Collee Counselor, will help you find the perfect school. She has worked in college counseling for four years and has previously spent time at Fairfield University, North Carolina State University, and Saint Anselm College. She said, “Because of what I do I had to jump in feet first as quickly as possible. I find that so many of you [students] have unique talents and interests. I am fascinated by what everyone does.”

Providing new garb and new supplies, Patricia Damstrom, mother of an MBS alum, has taken over as the new Bookstore Manager. She is staying involved in the community by running the bookstore, but she also volunteers her time in her church and community.

Mrs. Klarissa Karosen is joining the History Department following a move from California. Before receiving her Masters of

Arts Education, Mrs. Karosen worked as a tax accountant for 11 years. At her previous school she taught Government, Economics, Geography and US History.

Those already familiar with the sounds of Founders Hall will find themselves nostalgic this year, as Mr. Ben Krauss makes his transition from a musical director for the MBS musicals to the new Choral Director. Mr. Krauss is experienced, performing both in the United States and overseas. He brings his previous connection with MBS students to this larger role.

Ms. Archana Sankar is another teacher who has had some previous experience at MBS. During the spring semester of 2016 Ms. Sankar served as a maternity replacement teacher. She is active in both Upper and Middle School Science classrooms. Ms. Sankar was successful last year, prompting MBS to bring her back as a permanent teacher. She was born in India and attended the University of Mumbai. She also attended a post-graduate program in the

UK.

Some longer tenured members of the MBS community might remember Mr. John Gomes due to his previous experience teaching here. He has returned from Houston, now teaching Calculus, Non-euclidean Geometry, and Honors Pre-Calculus. Mr. Gomes is not just passionate about math, but he was an English minor in college, as well as an avid soccer fan. Mr. Gomes said, “I like this school because it is about growth. We are good because we can take any student and make them grow.”

Mr. Matt Wilson, an exuberant character, believes that “there is a little bit of math for everybody!” Mr. Wilson is coming in fresh from completing his degree at Washington University in St. Louis. However, Mr. Wilson is not your ordinary math teacher, as he has diverse passions, including both music and rugby, which might be a little bit more challenging to incorporate into his lessons. He said, “I enjoy coming to work everyday and love to teach

math!” He added, “Teaching math is what I find most enjoyable, which is why I want to give everybody else the opportunity to love math just as much as I do.”

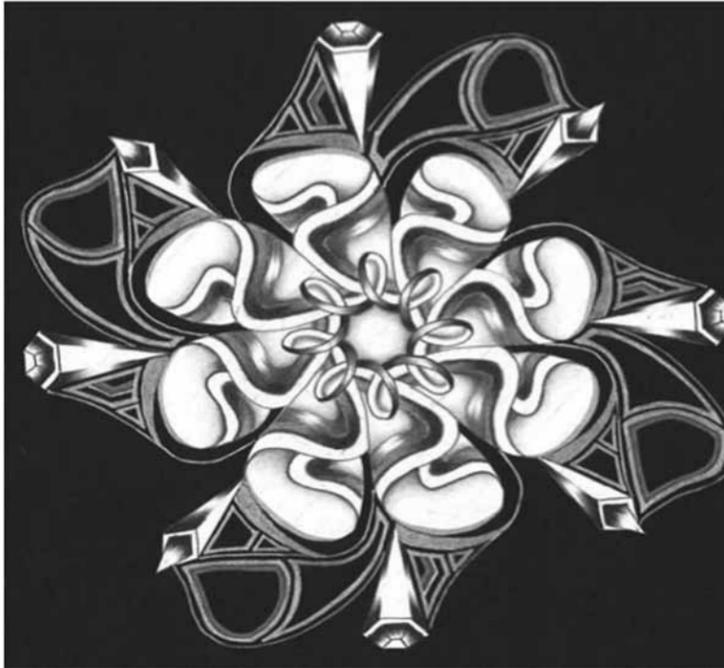
A local from Mendham and an attendee of Mendham High School, Ms. Courtney Weitzer makes the short trip to MBS. She has a passion for art, and hopes to incorporate this into her classroom. For example, she believes that math can transform into something where it is more hands-on with the use of pattern-recognition skills.

Ms. Carolann Zavorskas is making the transition from the private sector of tutoring to becoming a teacher. Ms. Zavorskas was involved in student education while she was at college at Rowan University, where she served as a student tutor. Another New Jersey native, Ms. Zavorskas will take her experience in tutoring work and use it in the classroom.

All told, the new faculty and staff are off to a great start this year and are looking forward to continued success in 2017.

# NEWS/SPORTS

## MBS fall in review ...



Photos: Leila Curtiss, Darren Lovelock  
 Clockwise from top left: Jonas Weinmann '23 celebrates during Spirit Week; An exceptional geomery mandala project by Ashley Chen '20; Kelly Tatulli '17 runs the ball during girls' football while Katie Brennan '17 and others look on; Participants in the annual Writers' Retreat enjoy a surprise snow flurry; Dominique Diggs '17 (with Jack Hughes '17) and Chloe van der Poel '21 enchant the audience at CMW.



Girls' soccer lends a helping hand.

Photo: Robbie Karam

## Girls' Soccer: Soccer and Service

BY MARIA MARIN

On Saturday, November 12, the MBS Girls' Soccer Team opened the doors for children from the Children's Specialized Hospital to enjoy a day to play. Despite the cold weather, the children and their families arrived on time to start learning soccer skills from the girls. From small scrimmages to individual coaching from the players, the kids had exciting experiences to cherish for years to come. The team and their families contributed snacks and drinks, such as hot cocoa and fruits enough to go around. This event encouraged the girls' team to make it an annual event and get to participate more with the hospital and children.

Mr. Chris Calvaley, the first-year Girls' Varsity Coach, had the idea to create a connection with the hospital, which provides an opportunity for community service, a stronger bond with the team, and a greater appreciation for the sport. Junior Sarah Bregna said, "After having the soccer clinic for the kids from the specialized children's hospital, the most rewarding feeling was the huge smile across every kid's face. It was easy to see how much they loved playing soccer, and it was amazing to have the chance to play with them." All told, the event put the finishing touch on a fine season for Girls' Soccer.

## Boys' Basketball: Full Steam Ahead

BY RYAN GREEN

The MBS Boys' Basketball team returns all five starters from last year, as well as many veteran players from the bench, which is leading to high expectations from coaches, players, and fans alike. "Knowing this is my last year and chance to win for the school gives myself motivation, and allows me to stress the importance of this year to the rest of the team," said senior captain Brian Monaghan. Coach Franz said, "We would like to go further than the last couple of years, where we have reached the prep finals and won our conference. This year we want to achieve both again, win preps, and go deep in the county tournament, even as far as the semi-finals." These expectations seem realistic, as the players "know the expectations are high, so there is a certain level of focus that is new this year. And practices are already more intense than they have been in past years, so hopefully that will translate into games this year," said Monaghan '17. One may wonder how the team can stay motivated after having three straight seasons of seventeen wins, but Mr. Franz said, "You have to say to yourself, how do we do and get better? So we have created a tougher schedule and implemented higher expectations." He also added, "There is going to be more accountability this year, as there are more experienced guys in the gym. Last year I

did a decent job, but this year every aspect of the team is going to be held accountable for their job." The team is led by Brian Monaghan, who has 998 points in his three year career, sharing the backcourt with Justin Rodriguez '18. Mr. Franz said, "Brian is one of the top players in the county and Justin is not far behind. Our guard combination is one of the best in Morris County, if not the best." The team's wings are Zach Dees '18 and Ryan Russo '18, who are in their "third year on varsity. They are usually outside, but physical, fast, and capable of having big games," said Coach Franz. Mr. Franz also described the rest of the team: "Ralph (Castillo '18) is physically talented and if his own doubts don't get in his way he could be a breakthrough player. And if he is [a breakthrough player] then we are going to win a lot of games. Also, we have lots of depth compared to last year, with Ian Beumee '18, Jared Levine '18, and Ryan Green '17. They are all returning veterans. Green's job is to provide shots and leadership, Beumee's job is to give our team more speed and defense, and Levine's job is to give our team extra possessions, loose balls, and charges." Monaghan '17 said, "This could be the best team we've had in a while, so hopefully we have a lot of fans coming out to watch us play. It should be a fun year."

# SPORTS

## Field Hockey: Varsity Girls keep pushing the ball forward ...

By CHRISTINA ALEVRAS

The Varsity Girls' Field Hockey team has been prominent for the past few years. Each year Coach Kate Alderman has been able to lead the team to many victories, and the team has been able to advance in state, county and prep championships. Coach Alderman said, "After losing 9 seniors (7 starters), we had some big shoes to fill this year, but the enthusiasm, energy and leadership of this year's seniors, coupled with the hard work of the younger players, has allowed us to remain competitive this season."

Beginning the season with two losses, one to Whippany Park (1-0) and one to Parsipanny (2-1), the team was unsure if the girls would prevail this season like they had the others, but they have proven their team is stronger than ever, later beating Boonton (5-0) and Butler (5-1). The varsity team consists of 14 girls led by three captains Kelly Tatulli '17, Jaime Sheppard '17 and Katie Brennan '17. New additions to the varsity team include Meaghan Karrat '20, Avery Matilsky '17, Isabella Pompeo '17, Hallie Schwartzstein '18, and Mattison Tatulli '18.

These girls put in their best efforts not only on the field, but in practice too. When asked about how the team is working this year, three-year

Varsity player, Katie Wright '18, said, "We work well as a team this year, and we're not playing as individuals like we have in the past, and we work

think it is an important element of the game. We also focus on our passing skills, goal scoring and demonstrating patience and composure in the defense. Playing intelligent field hockey is critical to our game plan." The determination of the team in practice and on the field is a main factor in their success.

During a rematch against Boonton for the first round of the county championships, the team's ability to dominate the field and communicate was apparent. Ms. Alderman said, "The team is a cohesive unit; they support each other on and off the field and remain positive regardless of the situation."

The major goal scorers this season are Samantha Hutchinson '19, with 10 goals. Jenna Pych '19, with 12 goals, and Kelly Tatulli '18, with 10 goals. Goalie Mackenzie May '17 and her strong ability to communicate with the defense saved a total of 59 shots this season.

Unfortunately, the team lost the county championships in the second round to the #1 seed. The team ended with a record of 7-11-1. Overall, the MBS Field Hockey Team has achieved a great amount of success this season and will hopefully continue to progress for years to come.



Katie Wright '18, Leila Curtiss and Kelly Tatulli '17 play on. Photo: Richard Wright.

hard at practice because we all want to win."

The girls trained from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the weeks leading up to the beginning of the season, contributing to their chemistry on and off the field. After school they practiced from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Coach Alderman said, "I place a strong emphasis on conditioning because I

## Girls' Basketball: Striving for Victory

By TERRI GREEN

Despite a roster of primarily underclassmen and the loss of four power players, the Girls' Basketball Team was able to end its season last year with a 13-13 record. While this feat was impressive, the girls already have their minds set on a specific goal: a winning record. The players have been putting in hours of hard work in the gym, led by Head Coach Michael Sturgeon.

Last year, the players proved their persistence and work ethic, which once again became evident within the first few weeks of practices. The team graduated only one senior, Zaire Alston '16, and maintained its entire starting lineup. This continuity has been highly advantageous, adding substantially more varsity minutes and experience to the repertoire. The girls are already proving themselves to be an even more powerful force than they were last season.

Captains Jenna Racaniello '17 and Bridget Monaghan '19 ignite the drive to win within the team, as they mo-

tivate the girls both in words and by example. Both strong leaders, they radiate positivity and determination, heightening the effort given by the team as a whole. Inspired by the captains, the players all exhibit a strong sense of camaraderie, whether it be cheering after a great play in practice or lifting a teammate up from the ground after an error.

Evidently, there is tremendous talent within the girls' basketball team, which is being cultivated and enhanced each day. During every practice, the players push their limits and challenge each other to better not only their individual skill, but also the success of team. The girls are driven and striving for an even better season than their previous one. "We're more experienced now, and everyone is confident that we will be able to build off of last year and have a really successful season," said captain Jenna Racaniello '17.

## Boys' Hockey: The Road to the Rock

By ISAAC DAVISON

After last year's successful 19-5-2 season, MBS Boys' Hockey has some holes in the roster to fill. With the quarterfinals 3-4 overtime loss to St. Augustine still in recent memory, the team looks as if they have what it takes to repeat as Mennen Cup champions. Although the team continues to be a powerhouse within the state, the loss of important seniors to graduation does not go unnoticed. Some of those include Alex Borowiec '16, A.J. Dicesare '16, Christian Dicesare '16, Danny Porth '16, Marc Tietjen '16 and Hunter Kronk '16.

This year's team is depending on the leadership of key upperclassmen and the development of younger guys into strong assets, along with several returning varsity players. Some of these include Will Bonelli '17 (C), Isaac Davison '17 (A), Sam Schappel '17 (A), Ryan Savarese '17, and Brayden Patricia '18 (A). In addition to returning players, there are a couple of important transfers such as promising juniors Anthony DelTufo '18 and David Kasabian '18 and speedy sophomore Connor Tartaglione '19.

These players look to restore the depth that was present in last year's season. It looks as if the team will be able to rebound from last year's losses and bring back the success of the last couple of years.

This team's strong core has the potential to match the promising teams of the past. As of time to print (on the reputable Twitter source) Hockey Advantage ranked the team at fifth in the state. With players from many different top-level club teams, this team has many high expectations. The Crimson have high hopes of winning all three possible tournaments, Preps, Mennen, and States, this year.

Although the state tournament is considered most important, the Mennen Cup has a

special significance as the team is going for the "4-peat." After winning the past three Mennen Cup championships, the team knows what it takes to complete the job and will be ready to perform on the big stage. Senior captain Will Bonelli '17 explained, "Winning [The Mennen Cup] this year is crucial to our grade's legacy. To win all four years would be incredibly special for our class and would be a cool way to go out and leave our mark."



Brayden Patricia '18 in the slot. Photo: Leila Curtiss.