



TOP LEFT: Morgan Lutz as Ursula jumps on stage, enjoying the music. "High energy and enthusiasm are the keys to a fun musical," Lutz said. **TOP RIGHT:** Charlsie Doan warmed-up with her class for their first performance. "We are all working so hard for the same thing, it's like being in a sorority," she said. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Catherine Dedman touched up her make-up for the final performance. "It's an amazing feeling since it makes the play feel like real life," Dedman said. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Cormick Stockham and Cindy Lu stood proud in the last act. "Performing in front of family is more intimidating than performing in front of the crowd because you cannot see the crowd," Stockham said.



Photos by Aleena Dewji and Charlotte Hawkins

BYE BYE PANTS

Adorned in intricate and retro costumes, the eighth grade class took the stage on Nov. 1 to perform "Bye Bye Birdie." Eighth grader Ariyanna Easter, who transformed into Conrad Birdie under the stage lights, was particularly nervous about forgetting her lines—which she didn't. But surely enough, she forgot something else.

The pressure of stage fright was stressful. "At first, I thought playing a man was embarrassing but then when I walked onto stage without my pants on, I was mortified," Easter said. With little time to change between scenes, she had to rush back to find her pants. "There were bound to be more wardrobe malfunctions for me. I remember walking onto stage during our dress rehearsal in heels instead of Conrad's boots and I heard Ms. Hubbard yelling that men didn't wear heels. The worst part was that I didn't even know I was wearing them until I looked down," Easter said.

Even though she was embarrassed, she didn't have to worry. By the end of the last scene the crowd erupted in applause. This is the fourth production of "Bye Bye Birdie" directed by the Middle School Drama and Fine Arts Coordinator Susan Hubbard. "The class had so much energy and it was great working with them," Hubbard said.

BEHIND THE CONFIDENCE

Right: Ariyanna Easter, who played the main character, Conrad Birdie, feared that she would mess up. "I wanted to quit because I was afraid everyone was going to laugh at me, but then I realized that they would end up laughing with me," Easter said.

Easter was so invested in the musical that the day after the final performance she showed up for rehearsals instead of class.

FANGIRLING



PARTY IN THE USA



Clockwise from top: Senior Lilli Boren, decked out in red, white and blue, is a star on the dance floor. "It was so fun to feel patriotic," Boren said. ☞ Chatting in Penson Circle, Sophomores Sara Held and Grace Gerow enjoyed refreshments as the mixer began. "It was cool to meet people from different grades," Held said. ☞ In coordinating outfits, Freshmen Claire Raitan, Katherine Pollock and Lizzie Benedict posed for a photo at the entrance. "I came matching with my friends to show my American spirit," Pollock said. ☞ Seniors Ryan McBride and Molly Nelson bust a move in their USA attire. "Ryan and I were dancing for freedom," Nelson said. ☞ Freshman Claire Jurgensmeyer leapt with joy as she entered the mixer. "America is the best country in the world," Jurgensmeyer said. ☞



Cad in red, white and blue, Hockaday and St. Mark's upper school students danced the night away at the "Party in the USA" mixer on Sept. 20. Student Council organized this annual kickoff mixer with a special twist: a festive and interactive America theme.

Sophomore Natalia Henry arrived early to help decorate for the mixer. "We worked for a long time to transform Penson Circle into a fun mixer environment," Henry said. When finished, Penson Circle looked like a Fourth of July firework display of patriotism.

Student council came up with the American theme during the summer. "[We] saw a sale at Party City for America [decorations] right after July 4 so we decided the theme and bought all the decorations," Student Council president Charlea Lamb said.

Strings of lights draped between lamp posts, posters of United States presidents hung on the walls and laughter rang through the night. "The decorations really helped to add to the ambiance of the night. It was my first mixer and I was surprised at how true to the theme and how fun it was," freshman Abby Bush said.

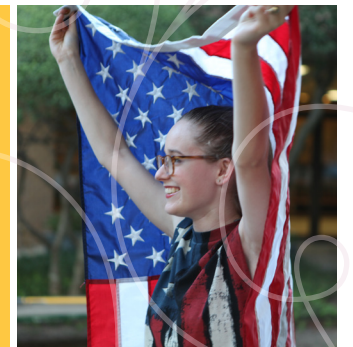
Adding to the red, white, and blue decor, Bomb Pops, the American colored popsicles, were available to the students. "I was really excited to see that they had Bomb Pops because they remind me of summer," Henry said.

Along with the American colored bomb pops, students could purchase tacos or burritos from a food truck parked on Penson circle. Some students were too busy dancing to buy the food, but Junior Sloane Castleman ordered three beef burritos throughout the night. "I liked how it was finger food so I could take my burrito with me while I danced," Castleman said.

Past mixers often were primarily for talking and mingling amongst peers, but this year, a lot of students chose to show their moves on the dance floor. "The DJ played really popular music so we got to sing along to all the songs with our friends," Castleman said.

Ariella Stromberg '15

Waving her country's flag high and dressed in United States attire, Stromberg grins for a photo-op. "I love showing my patriotism. Go America!"



“We **TRANSFORMED** Penson PENSION CIRCLE INTO A FUN mixer environment.”



Photos by Tala Meidan

☞ Top: While welcoming students, juniors Caroline McGeach and Brianna Buford goof around. "It was exciting to see everyone walk down the path in their American get-up," Buford said. ☞ Middle: Freshmen Quinn Brodsky, Genny Wood, Morgan Fischer, Sarah Matthews and Katie Vanesko posed for a selfie. "It was fun to dress up in all my American clothes and hang out with my friends," Wood said. ☞ Bottom: Morgan Hurst, Form IV president, and Courtney Le, Student Council vice-president, decorated for the mixer with a presidents poster and USA balloons. "It was nice to get into the American spirit and reflect on the history with the Presidents Poster and the Declaration of Independence Poster," Le said. ☞



1. Pre-Kindgartener Chloe Byrd crafts a drawing of a snowman with pastels and crayons. 2. First grader Eleanor Murchison used watercolors to put the finishing touches on her painting of a flower. 3. "Lekshmy" by first grader Lekshmy Anoop. 4. "I Painted Myself" by kindergartener Callie Coats. "I like this work because it has splatters of different colors," Coats said. 5. Fourth grader Jordan Hanna gathers material to create a jewelry box during the Invent to Learn initiative. "I loved how we got to make anything. You were able to let your mind go free," Hanna said. 6. Pre-Kindgarteners Mercer Nelson, Katya Davis and Zara Patel watch as their teacher shows them examples of their classwork. 7. Pre-Kindgartener Willow Schoellkopf examines her drawing. 8. Second graders Leya Glazer, Lily Brown, Sylvie Buckner, Kelli Brown and Lily Gum listened as their teacher introduced a project about illusions involving cutting out shapes to form a tanogram. 9. Fourth graders Maia Hartley and Ela Guo took measurements to begin the creation of their own invention during Invent to Learn.

Photos by Ilana Perkins and Charlotte Hoskins

The Invent to Learn initiative encouraged **LS Visual Art** TO THE DRAWING BOARD

girls to experience engineering

A new dimension of art was added to the fourth grade curriculum this year: design. The Invent to Learn project was introduced as a way to combine engineering, innovation and art. The students spent every Day 6 in the Idea Lab of the science building, where they developed and created their own prototypes for inventions. Lower School art teacher Shelley Hampe, language arts teacher Karen Roberts and science teacher Amy Banks, aided each class in creating the girl's visions.

"My favorite thing about Invent to Learn is looking at other people's creations and seeing their awesome ideas," fourth grader Jaida Terry said.

Projects included making a bracelet consisting of connective thread to make it light up, a jewelry box and virtual jewelry using JavaScript software that was eventually turned into real jewelry. With a strong emphasis on the design of different products, the students were able to test many ideas to create the best possible product.

"I learned how to be creative, and I learned that everything will not always be perfect and that you will have to make changes to get a great product," Terry said.



Fourth grader Brie Johnson uses a saw during Invent to Learn to cut a side for a jewelry box. "I was nervous to use the saw, but it was really exciting getting to use something sharp for the first time," Johnson said.



HARMONIZING



TOP LEFT: The Hockaday a cappella part of the choir, Madrigals, performs its pieces. **TOP RIGHT:** Seniors Aneasha Bandarpalle and Brooke Jessen sing 'Carol of the Bells,' a traditional part in the Hockaday Choir holiday performances. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Upper School Show Choir girls dance in the traditional red dresses during the holiday concert. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Choir girls clap their hands and sway to the rhythm of the music, donning sashes that match those of the girls in their section.



Photos by Rajya Atluri and Charlotte Hoskins

CHOIR ALL THE WAY

Left: Senior Phoebe Smith has been in choir since fifth grade along with seniors Charlotte Bagwell and Sarah Winslow. "I love singing in general, and I couldn't imagine my life without it," Smith said. Smith enjoyed rehearsing with the professionals from Bandan Korro. "We all learned so much from them," Smith said.

JINGLE BELLS AND DRUMS

Along with the jingle of bells and vibrance of voices at the Upper School Choir's Northpark performance on Dec. 17, audience members also heard the loud beat of drums echoing throughout the spacious atmosphere.

The choir girls were accompanied by Bandan Korro, an African drum and dance ensemble group, and a small group of girls even got the chance to participate in an African-inspired dance number. "They were so nice and so patient, especially during 80 minute rehearsals, and they taught us so much about rhythm and about how to get into the music," senior Phoebe Smith said. To add a traditional African touch, each section of singers wore a colored sash over their Hockaday uniform. "The colored sashes, called lapas, were arranged by voice part. I think it was so we could have some variety in the colors but keep it looking organized as a whole," senior Sarah Winslow said.

Compared to traditional Christmas music sung each year, the incorporation of ethnic music and dance was a noted change. "I think people definitely let loose and had more fun this year because of them!" Smith said.



"BEING AN ATHLETE ISN'T JUST ABOUT

BEING FIT.

IT'S ABOUT WORKING TOGETHER AND

ALWAYS CONTINUING. CONSISTENCY IS THE REASON WE WON SPC."

-SOPHOMORE ELLIE

PFEIFFER ON THE LESSONS LEARNED IN

SWIMMING



No Home Turf

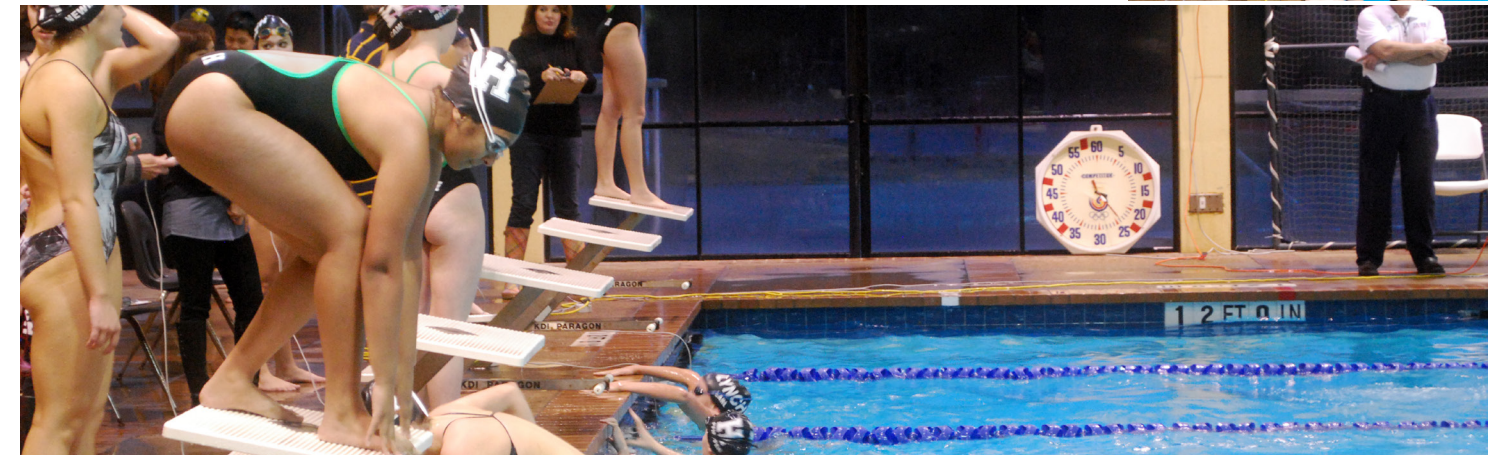
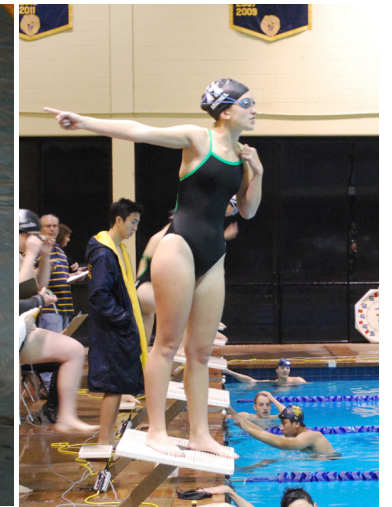
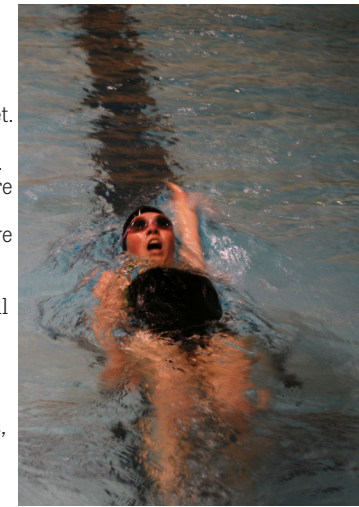
The swim team, who regularly practices at Hockaday, hosted zero meets this year. However, because the natatorium lacks sufficient deck space for the swimmers and spectators, the girls only attended meets at schools such as St. Mark's, Highland Park and Greenhill. Competing away presented a number of challenges. Meets hosted by St. Mark's often had no other girls teams. However, the team kept a positive attitude.

"Although there are not always

other girls teams there, it is fun to compete with your teammates," junior Claire Noble said. The girls also had to adapt to different swimming facilities with every meet.

While all pools are 25 yards long, other aspects vary pool to pool. "In pools that are shallower, there are a lot more waves," sophomore Ellie Pfeiffer said. The swimmers also have to adjust their starts and turns.

"Certain pools have slippery blocks so it can be really easy to fall off. To adapt your turns, especially on backstroke, you have to change your stroke count to avoid hitting the wall," Pfeiffer said. However, the girls overcame these challenges, snagging first place at the SPC championship on Feb. 14.



● top left

POOLING HER RESOURCES

Junior Ellie Tippen competes in the backstroke at a meet hosted by St. Mark's on Jan. 8. "I mostly just try to keep water from getting up my nose," Tippen said.

● middle

GOING SWIMMINGLY

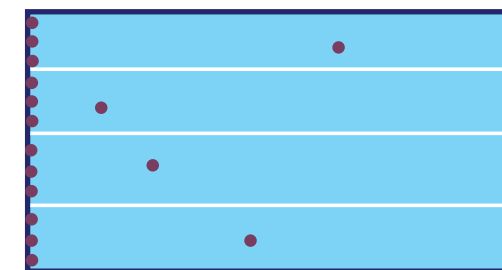
Freshman Ritika Dendi crouches on the blocks at a St. Mark's meet Jan. 8. "Swimmers review their strategies on the blocks," coach Rachel Grabow said.

● top right

FREE STYLIN' IT

Senior captain Elizabeth Michel points to confirm her spot in the 100 meter freestyle heat with her coach during a meet at St. Mark's Jan. 8.

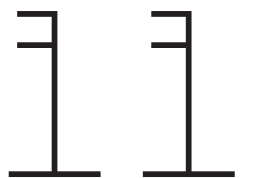
Senior Julia Teeter competes in the 100 meter breaststroke at St. Mark's. Because the 100 meter breaststroke is one of the last events, Teeter has plenty of time to think about her strategy. "What helps me the most during a race is to just focus on myself instead of paying attention to the swimmers in the other lanes. When I do that, I can concentrate on pushing myself as hard as I can, and on giving it my all in the last 25 meters," Teeter said.



A MEDLEY OF TALENT

Varsity swimmers compete in the medley relay race to win twice as many points as individual events. Junior Lena Peng, sophomores Carolina Campbell and Ellie Pfeiffer and junior Rachel Becker swim the backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly and free style parts of the race respectively.

Number of dives learned for SPC



Photos by Anna Buford, Frances Burton, Elizabeth Michel and Barrett Smith