

tons of clothes

Community Service Board collects a record amount of clothes for Austin Street Center and St. Vincent de Paul's Thrift Store.



2700 POUNDS OF CLOTHES COLLECTED DURING THE CLOTHING DRIVE

GIVING Freshman Robert Newman (right) and senior Kevin Wu (center) arrive early to collect clothes before school and help the Community Service Board reach a new record of donated clothes.



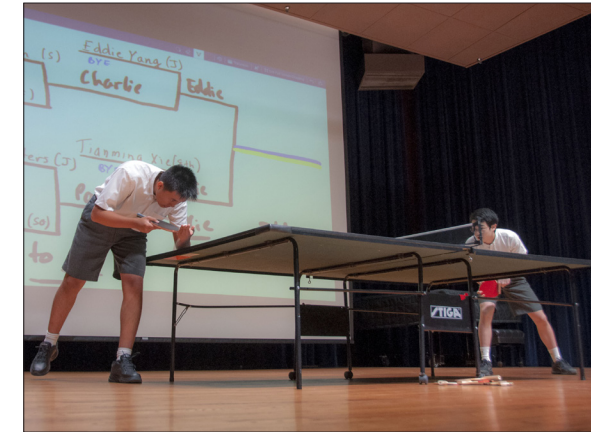
moving up the bracket

Upper School assembly takes a new twist with the first-ever ping-pong tournament.

The **enthusiasm** and the **excitement** brought the tournament to life.

— eighth grader **TIANMING XIE** on the atmosphere of the Upper School assembly during the ping pong tournament.

RALLY During the first match between Xie and junior Parker McWatters (top), Xie won the match 11-4 and went on to face Yang in the final, defeating him by six points stunning the Upper School. As junior Eddie Yang serves to eighth grader Tianming Xie (bottom), the crowd watches in awe. In the final round of the tournament, many were surprised by Xie's win.



MENTOR At a visit to the Lower School, senior Alden James gets to know his first grade buddy James Hoak (left) as they answer questions such as favorite food and favorite color. At his first meeting of the year, senior Matthew Placide (right) interacts with his third grade buddies, Benjamin Chen and Jack Tholking.

Senior Niegel Stevens walked into the Lower School with his palms a tad sweaty.

He was going to meet his buddy, third-grader Khalil Selders, for the first time, and even though he already knew Selders, he didn't know what to expect.

He never had a senior buddy because he did not attend the Lower School, and his peers around him seemed comfortable talking to their buddies.

"It felt like those who had a senior buddy had more of a natural connection, but for me, talking to my buddy it was a little awkward at first," Stevens said.

Once buddies exchanged facts about each other, and Selders and Stevens settled the awkwardness, the buddies started to do activities like mad libs and games which helped the two varied grades of Marksmen get to know each other better.

"It's about us giving back to the younger

grades and fostering a relationship," Stevens said. "We rarely ever see the lower schoolers, and it [the buddy program] helps St. Mark's become one whole community."

Soon Stevens and Selders hit off.

His last year at the school, Stevens wanted to guide and help his little buddy grow.

"Personally, since I already know him, I want to help foster that relationship with him and show him what it means to be a Marksmen, Stevens said"

FOREVER YOUNG

Seniors meet their Lower School buddies for the first time, continuing a unique tradition that spans generations of Marksmen — young and old.



BROTHERHOOD Senior Anvit Reddy (left) and second-grader Andy Browne (right) do mad libs during the first little buddy meeting. Reddy and Browne asked each other questions to better understand and bond with one another and the two later drew and colored pictures of animals.