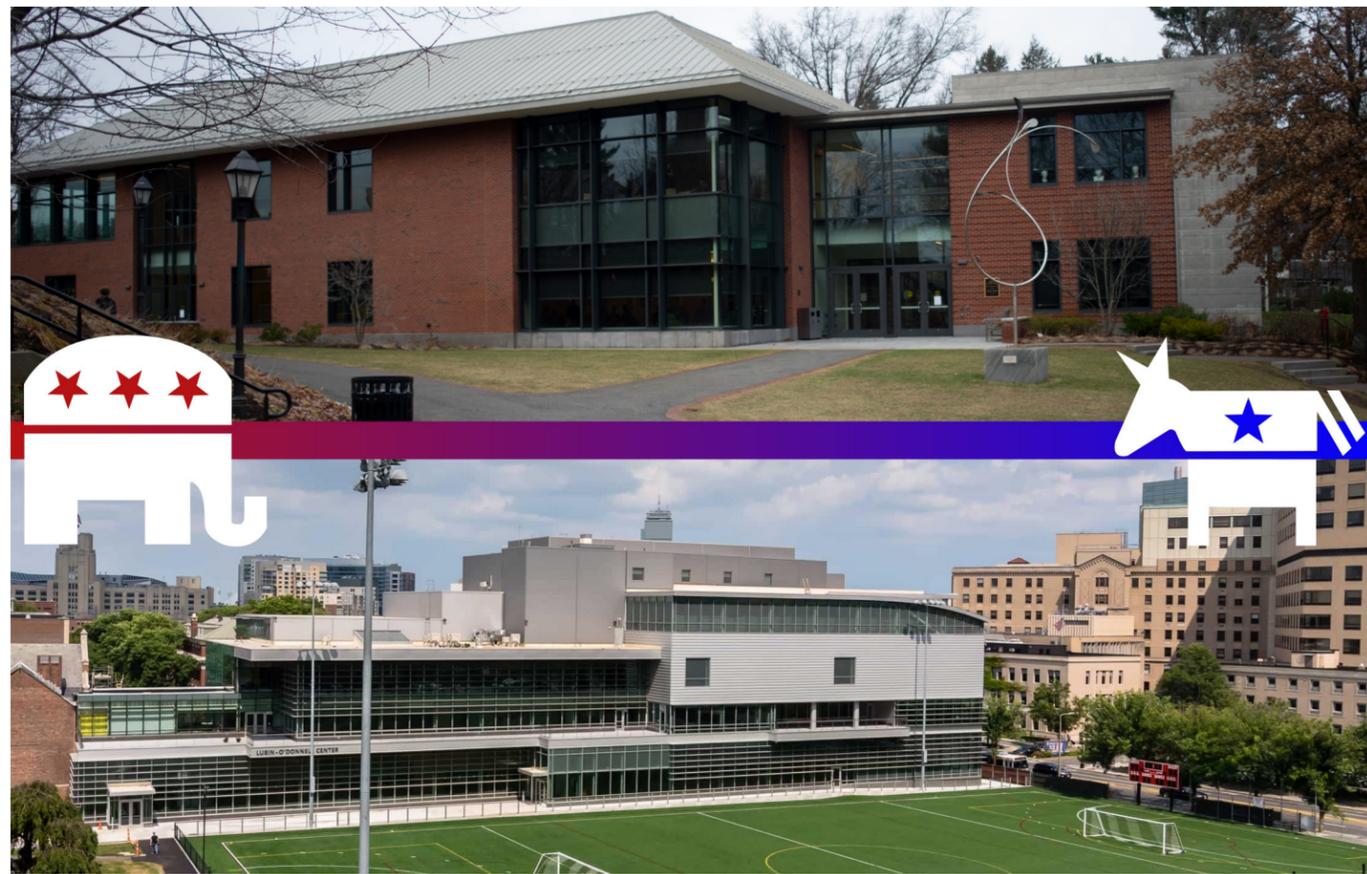


POLITICS ON CAMPUS

Discussions Sweep the Campuses Following the Hotly Contested Election



BY ANIKA B. '22, SOPHIA L-D. '22, AND
JASON WONG '23
BANNER AND PANEL STAFF

While most high school students are still under the voting age, many Belmont Hill and Winsor students found themselves interested, invested, and involved in the 2020 presidential election. Whether you took time out of busy homework schedules to watch the debates, scoured the electoral college map for slight changes, or simply waited patiently for the results, each step of the process was highly anticipated during this election. Due to the politically interested student bodies at both schools, we felt that collecting data and opinions on each school's political balance was necessary to assess and promote political diversity in our respective communities. We primarily looked at survey and mock election results to analyze the party affiliations and presidential election results at each school.

We would like to thank students and faculty at both schools for their participation in each questionnaire as each of the school's results allowed for a comprehensive analysis of the respective political environments and dynamics.

Students at both schools are participating in increased political conversations across their campuses.

Sreetej Digumarthi '21

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Thanksgiving Plans Another Wave of COVID-19 Hits MA and the Country

BY LAUREN H. '23, LUKE HOGAN '22, AND
NATALIE P. '23
BANNER AND PANEL STAFF

As Thanksgiving quickly approaches, Winsor and Belmont Hill students are surely apprehensive about the schools' plans after the holiday. Although you might not be celebrating the occasion surrounded by close relatives or loved ones, Thanksgiving provides us the opportunity to appreciate our health, a gift we may sometimes take for granted. Especially now, the holiday is the perfect chance to make new memories and reflect on the past harrowing months, so we found out how people aim to spend their vacation.

This year, the top priority for Winsor students is celebrating the occasion with their loved ones. Reah D. '21 is excited to stay home and eat dinner with her immediate family. Every year, her family cooks "a random combination of each of [their] favorite foods," including homemade Korean food, chicken parm with spaghetti, pancakes, and mashed potatoes because they "gotta have some Thanksgiving in there." Also, many Winsor families have adjusted their annual Thanksgiving traditions for the pandemic. While Annisa P. '23 usually travels to New York with her extended family, these plans are no longer possible with the state...

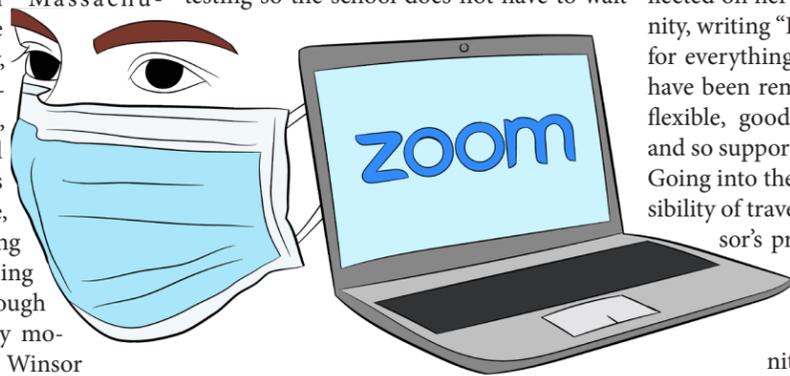
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BY CAROLINE C. '21, CATHERINE F. '21,
AND ALEX LO '23
BANNER AND PANEL STAFF

The US hit another record number of Coronavirus cases, with more than 187,000 at the writing of this article, November 19. States nationwide have begun to clamp down with guidelines similar to those of the spring lockdown. In Massachusetts, recent measures have included a 10 pm curfew, reductions in indoor gathering limits to 10 people, as well as increased travel restrictions. As concerns over the virus escalate, the question of continuing in-person school is becoming increasingly relevant. Although changes could occur at any moment, Belmont Hill and Winsor have created comprehensive in-person and online plans to deal with a possible second wave.

Thanksgiving and December are times to come together with family members and friends; however, with large gatherings comes a large threat of increased Coronavirus cases. Belmont Hill is aware of the prospect of large group gatherings and

has planned accordingly for the return to campus. On the Monday after Thanksgiving, the school will test everyone. While the tests are processed, students will be online for Tuesday and Wednesday, then returning to campus on Thursday. However, several obstacles have to be overcome for this optimal scenario to come to fruition. Everyone must come to campus on Monday for testing so the school does not have to wait



Zoom and Masks are now staples of the students' lives.

for outside tests to be reported. Also, there will have to be minimal positive tests. Mr. Schneider on the possible return said, "Our goal is to be here in person. The question is, do we have transmission on campus?" A similar process will occur after Winter break. However, Belmont Hill is under the

jurisdiction of the state and will acquiesce to any new measures put in place. Weighing the possibilities, the school has prepared extensively to maximize chances that students can continue with in-person learning.

Winsor students recently received information, emphasizing existing safety protocols and plans for after Thanksgiving. In her message, head of school Ms. Pelmas reflected on her pride in the Winsor community, writing "I am incredibly grateful to you for everything you have done this fall. You have been remarkable partners to Winsor—flexible, good-natured, appreciative, kind, and so supportive of the whole community." Going into the holidays with increased possibility of travel, Ms. Pelmas reiterated Winsor's protocol for students to isolate for three days until receiving a negative COVID test.

Belmont Hill community members are hopeful that Riley Shafer '21 increased testing will help keep students healthy and on

campus. If conditions improve and students return, the school will largely look the same. Belmont Hill will not forgo online Wednesdays for in-person school, which may disappoint some. Despite the building Zoom-fatigue, midweek deep cleans of the school are integral for the wellbeing of the community.

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Look Inside The Issue

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Should We Cancel Cancel Culture?

Rani B. '21 analyzes how Cancel Culture has made it so people can no longer learn from their mistakes, but are defined by them.

OPINIONS 12

Trump's Diversified Republican Party

Sammy Jomaa '21 argues Trump has paved the way for the Republicans of the future by widening margins in minority communities.



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SYA Students Share their Stories

Henry Moses '21, Sasha Vasu '22, and Olivia H. '21 detail their experiences around the world; in China, France, and Spain respectively.

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Athlete of the Issue: Mateen Nick-pour-Reyes '21

Mateen made varsity soccer as a 3rd former and has been a key player throughout his career.



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Playlist of the Issue

Check out Jalen Walker '21, Henry Moses '21 and Isabelle F. '23's favorite songs for this issue.



NEWS 10-11

Ballot Questions in Massachusetts and Nationwide

Get the rundown on what questions were up to vote in the 2020 election in MA, as well as some important results nationwide.

Good News Discover Winsor: Virtual Open House

BY ALEX G. '21
BANNER STAFF

As small pieces of good news often get lost in the clutter of major media sources, it is important to acknowledge the good news that has occurred recently! Here are some exciting news stories from the past few weeks:

Pfizer announced this week that its COVID-19 vaccine is 95% effective and is already beginning the process of gaining FDA authorization for emergency use of the vaccine. Though past vaccines have taken years to create, Pfizer, in partnership with BioNTech, has created and tested their COVID-19 vaccine in only eight months. The company is looking to file with the FDA as soon after November 20 as possible. If the vaccine is given FDA approval, Pfizer “will be ready to start distributing our vaccine within hours,” according to Albert Bourla, the CEO of Pfizer. Through its many clinical trials, the company has practiced the delivery of the vaccine, so Pfizer is confident in its ability to safely and effectively distribute this critical medicine. Though the vaccine would only be used in emergency situations to start, this authorization is a crucial step toward FDA approval for use of the vaccine by all Americans.

On November 15, the first commercial space flight, carrying NASA astronauts Shannon Walker, Victor Glover, and Mike Hopkins and JAXA astronaut Soichi Noguchi, launched out of the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. While past flights have relied on government-operated spacecrafts, which are often imported from other countries, Crew-1 is traveling in the Crew Dragon capsule built by SpaceX, Elon Musk’s aerospace manufacturing company. After about 27 hours in flight, the capsule docked at the International Space Station, where the four astronauts will conduct research for six months until they return home. As the director of commercial spaceflight development at NASA, Phil McAlister, said to reporters on November 12, “For the first time in history, there is a commercial capability from a private sector entity to safely and reliably transport people to space.” This momentous achievement will pave the way for more regular space travel in the future, perhaps even by common citizens.

An owl was discovered in New York City’s Rockefeller Center Christmas tree on November 14 as the tree was erected by Rockefeller Center crew members. The 75-foot tree was cut down on November 12 roughly 170 miles from New York City, in Oneonta, NY. The owl, which is nicknamed “Rockefeller,” was found by a crew member and given to the Ravensbeard Wildlife Center, where he is being cared for until he can be released. Despite likely being trapped between the limbs of the huge tree for a couple days, “He seems to be doing very well, eating and drinking,” reports the wildlife center’s director, Helen Kalish. Soon, Rockefeller will be returned to his home, and the decorating of the iconic tree will commence. □



“Rockefeller” the Owl today.com

BY CAITLIN S. '21
BANNER STAFF

Discover Winsor! On October 29, prospective families embraced this message by participating in Winsor’s virtual open house, a completely new platform compared to the usual on-campus admissions events. Head of School Ms. Pelmas set the stage for the event with a virtual welcome from the theater, and the morning program continued with Lower and Upper School student panels. Raina S. '23, one of the Upper School panelists, recounted that they started the webinar by answering prepared questions from applicant families, then used the Q&A Zoom feature to discuss more about the Winsor experience. Questions ranged from the transition to Winsor to the extracurriculars offered to students’ favorite and least favorite aspects of the school. Raina commented, “I was thrilled to be able to express my passion for Winsor to prospective families,” but she found it “difficult to encapsulate all the joy and struggle that being a Winsor student entails in a few sentences.” Having started her Winsor career in Class II, Raina feels that she knows “the ins and outs, the ups and downs of Winsor,” so she surely could “have rambled for the whole half hour.” Among the entire group of Lower and Upper School students, each panelist had something unique to share about their experiences at Winsor. Raina explained that this diversity in perspectives “allowed prospective families to see that even though there are common denominators among the student body such as a pas-

sion for learning and curiosity, each student has their own unique passions, identities, and interests that they bring to the table.”

In the afternoon, prospective families could join a program overview with administrative leaders (Heads of Lower and Upper School Ms. Phinney and Ms. Markenson, and Director of Community and Multicultural Affairs Mr. Braxton) and a drop-in Q&A with the admissions team. Later in the evening, the admissions office hosted simultaneous parent-only and student-only panels. Prospective families were free to choose the live programs that appealed to them, but the event page was open through the weekend for families to watch activities on their



A Wildcat Welcome Meredith T. '23

own time. This flexibility made the virtual open house particularly accessible to working-parent households. Based on registration numbers for the event, the virtual open house saw a higher turnout than previous on-campus open houses.

Regarding planning the event, Director of Admission and Financial Aid Ms. McFarland said, “the overall goal was to try to boil down the best of the typical in-person open house and also capitalize on the opportunities of being virtual.” With an on-campus open house, Ms. McFarland explained, the admissions office has “very

little control over what families experience. Each family can have a different experience based on what classes they decide to attend. We can’t control their impression of Winsor or their takeaway.” For that reason, the admissions team had to be very intentional about the messages they wanted prospective families to take from the event. While the drawback of a virtual open house is not being able to see “who smiles and nods at you in the hallways” and not necessarily “developing the gut feeling” of being on-campus, the online event was able to provide unfiltered exposure to life at Winsor through live, webinar-style classes, such as Class I English taught by Ms. Stringfellow. Ms. McFarland believes it

was extremely important for families to get an “unpolished, realistic look” at Winsor by providing these live, uncurated opportunities for engagement.

What Ms. McFarland hopes prospective families learned from the virtual open house is that “Winsor is unique in how we think about learning, through challenging each other in rich discussions and debates.” She added, “Winsor’s got this outward impression of a bunch of brains walking around. We want families to take away the fact that we have fun and experience joy here. That we’re really smart, but that’s not who we are.” □

Winsor Groups Promote Anti-Racism

BY ELLIE W. '21
BANNER STAFF

This past summer saw a wave of activism against racism across America, including at Winsor. Members of the community signed petitions, educated themselves and others, and attended protests. Students and alumni also contributed their stories to a student-run Instagram account, @hiddenvoicesofwinsor, a platform for them to share their stories as BIPOC or LGBTQ+ people.

Winsor students have since taken actions to implement anti-racism at the school. Specifically, the Student Equity Board was created by Class of '21 members Salma I., Helen B., Isabella S., Emma C., Alexis V., Anne J., Nora E., and Lillian G.. The mission of the board is to “create a space for dialogue on issues that is not present at the school, to improve the culture of the school, promote DEI issues, and to push for curriculum reform,” as Lillian says. On October 15, they conducted a census of all the students to gain information about students’ overall experiences at Winsor regarding their identities and issues that they care about. Lillian says that “this information will help guide us on issues to cover throughout the year.”

The board is planning to have open meetings to discuss various issues throughout the year. In addition to these meetings, they will also hold a workshop with a school in the Pacific Northwest that has a similar board to gather advice and guidance. Finally, there are joint events with Winsor’s brother schools, Roxbury Latin and Belmont Hill, in the works.

Winsor alumni have coordinated within classes as well as across the entire alumni community. Through conversation with an alumnus, Dana Miller '05, the Banner learned that a group of BIPOC alums from various classes have been meeting and working toward racial justice in the Winsor community. Members have sent a cover letter and action items to the school and have been communicating with the administration. The cover letter and the

action items have been signed by 89 alumni from the Classes of '99, '01, '03, '05, '06, '07, '08, '09, '12, and '17. The group is organized by Maia Raynor '12, Emma Underhill '05, Kendall LaSane '05, Robyn Gibson '06, Danielle W Johns '05, Olivia Tandon '05, Xandra Clark '08, Maia Monteagudo '06, Kelly King '06, Emily Fish '05, and Reann Gibson '08. To read the cover letter and the action items, please visit the Winsor Banner website (winsorbanner.org).

The cover letter, addressed to the entire Winsor community, details the purpose of the group and its action items. It states that members have “come together to have a thoughtful dialogue about our past Winsor experiences and ways we could take action to ensure that BIPOC students do not have to face the intergenerational racism that many of us had encountered throughout our Winsor experience.”

The action items are designed to



Student Equity Board Lillian G. '21

“clearly outline... the actions that Winsor must take in order to create a foundation for truth and reconciliation” and allow Winsor to “take an investment in external resources for a true audit of Winsor culture with the lens of racial equity and anti-racism work.”

Finally, on Alumnae Day this past October, Kendall LaSane '05 moderated a virtual panel titled “The Path Forward: Building an Anti-Racist Community.” This panel was a discussion on shared experiences and steps to take moving forward.

Winsor faculty, staff, and administration have also been working to create changes at Winsor in the hopes of achieving a more anti-racist community. Mr. Braxton, Director of Community and Inclusion, said that this summer provided an opportunity to build on

the work that the school has continually been doing toward equity and inclusion.

Over the summer, the school held a faculty meeting at which the @hiddenvoicesofwinsor posts were discussed, and the faculty set goals on how to create a classroom environment where students feel a true sense of equality and belonging. Additionally, teachers are continuously revising their curricula. Now, Mr. Braxton says, teachers have set the goal that “no student should graduate without having a conversation about what’s going on right now.” In addition, Head of School Ms. Pelmas says, “we must also look at relationship of anti-racist work to the work of understanding and using privilege for good.”

Ms. Pelmas explains that structurally, there are also changes that must be made. The first is tuition and financial aid. Winsor is working to ensure that all students, including the ones who receive aid, can have access to the full Winsor experience. All students should be able not only to attend the school, but also go on trips or buy a class ring. According to Ms. Pelmas, financial constraints make achieving this goal difficult, but it is being worked toward. Next, administrators will continue to stress diversity and representation in hiring and admissions. Ms. Pelmas says that “the work of hiring is nonstop, and we must consider whether we have teachers that look like students and vice versa.” Finally, the school has also made it a priority to work with black and brown-owned businesses as much as possible.

“Ultimately, Winsor is a school that is seeking the truth on all these issues, so I hope that students can share their stories,” said Mr. Braxton. “We are always continuing to make sure everyone who comes into the school is welcome for who they are.”

As Ms. Pelmas says, “I hope that students feel they can tell us the truth, and I hope that we can really embrace both sides of the complexity of this moment and that we celebrate the diverse excellence that’s here at Winsor.” □

Fall Woodbury Speeches Excite BH Community

By MERHAWI GHEBRELUL '23
STAFF WRITER

After being away from campus for six months in quarantine due to COVID-19, we were blessed with the Fall Woodbury Competition in the newly renovated chapel. Normally, the whole school would gather in the chapel to watch the Woodbury speeches live, but due to COVID-19 restrictions, not all students could hear the speeches from inside the chapel, with the exception of the speakers' advisory groups. The remainder of the student body was able to watch the inspiring speeches from separate classrooms through a livestream.

After two rousing speeches last year in both rounds of the Woodbury Contests, Junior Will Smith '22 returned to the stage to deliver another masterful oration. In his speech, he used an analogy of rocket science to emphasize the need to plan ahead, both in personal and professional lives and in humanity's great endeavors like space exploration.

Yazeed Dahleh '21 described delayed appreciation for his maternal grandparents after losing his grandfather. He narrated his experience as a kid after his grandparents immigrated to the United States from Morocco to receive better healthcare. Yazeed left an important message about taking time to get to know elder family members while you can.

Jacob Czarnecki '22 hit the stage and put his memorization skills to work, as he talked about his deep interest in tomatoes. As Jacob went into the history of the tomato and how it once was thought to be poison he expressed his interest in gardening and specifically tomatoes.

Daniel Moran '23 confidently took to the Woodbury stage, leaving his comfort zone to express his thoughts and experience dealing with his mom who was diagnosed with stage four breast cancer. He thoroughly explained how he went through this time of grief and how he turned his anger into motivation for himself and for others.

Wilton Lawton '22, the last participant of the semi-finals, gave a speech about losing his grandfather and grandmother to Alzheimer's disease, which led him to his scientific aspirations. Wil's experience with Alzheimer's disease draws him to a future in medicine, with hopes of finding a cure.

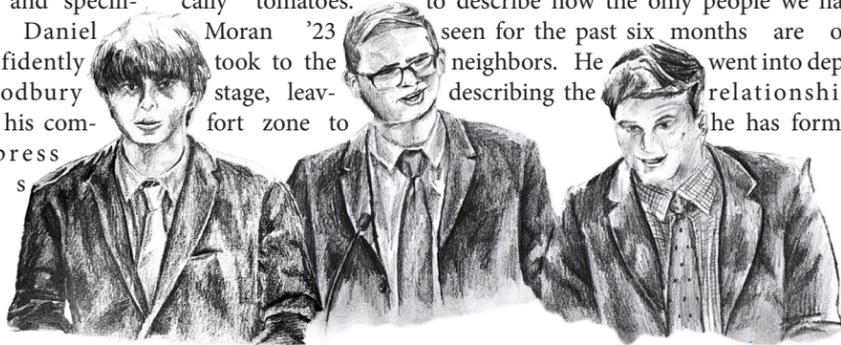
First to appear for the finals, Jacob Czarnecki, the eventual winner, portrayed how the COVID guidelines restricted us from leaving our homes. Jacob went on to describe how the only people we have seen for the past six months are our neighbors. He went into depth describing the relationships he has formed with his neighbors though their mutual love for dogs. Jacob encouraged people to get outside and meet new neighbors.

Daniel Moran returned for the finals with a new piece of writing, reflecting on his previous semi-finals speech. He described his second thoughts about ex-

pressing how he felt in front of the whole school. He portrayed how he reacted to his mom getting stage four breast cancer and how he changed his anger towards the illness to love for his mom. Daniel encouraged people to do the same. "So please, all I ask, learn to learn, learn to learn from the people in your lives, and learn to love."

The final speech of the Fall Woodbury, given by Wilton Lawton, portrayed how anxiety is a serious illness through an analogy to sailing. Wil went on to talk about how anxiety affects millions of people. He encouraged the school community to speak up and get treated instead of hiding it and letting it worsen. Wil got out of his comfort zone to motivate kids to do what he did himself, deal with it head on.

The winner of the Woodbury speeches, chosen by the five faculty judges, was Jacob Czarnecki. Jacob's excellent delivery on both of his speeches stood out from the other finalists. Ms. Zener stated that "anybody who gives a speech is a winner and I hope it is on every student's bucket list." Despite the COVID restrictions, we are excited to be back in the Chapel for these wonderful speeches. Hopefully you all are looking forward to the Winter Woodbury Speeches come February! □



The three Fall Woodbury Finalists: Daniel, Jacob, and Wilton. Daniel Xie '24

New Paradigm Creates Opportunity for BH Admissions

By LUKE HOGAN '22 AND HOWARD HUANG '22
PANEL STAFF

Every year, prospective Belmont Hill students attend the annual admissions Open House to get to know the school better and to see if Belmont Hill is the right school for them. Open Houses are important for Belmont Hill because their success ensures a wide group of applicants that represent the future of the school. In the past, Belmont Hill open houses have been school-wide events that involve hundreds of students giving tours to prospective families while teachers are in their classrooms talking about the school life. However, this year, the admissions team adapted Open Houses into a virtual setting in order to make sure a large number of families can get to know the school without worrying about the danger of COVID-19.

This year the Open House had to find a way to effectively educate prospective families on reasons to choose Belmont Hill without having any in-person interactions. When interviewed, Mrs. Larocque replied "Given 'Zoom fatigue,' we wanted to make our Open House worth it for families - so our focus from the beginning was on access and interaction." This interaction involved current students being paired off with prospective families to talk about their personal experiences at Belmont Hill in order

to make the experience more personal for the visitors. The open house also included an address by Mr. Schneider and chatting with a faculty member. Most would agree the Virtual Open House can be considered a success since both faculty and visitor feedback has been positive. Quantitatively, the Virtual Open House was absolutely a success with 355 families registering for just one of the three dates available compared to only 255 last year. Maybe a virtual open house will become a part of the admissions events in the future, along with an on campus open house, to give even more families the chance to learn about the school.

Looking back on the three open houses, one of the biggest positives of the Virtual Open House was the flexibility in dates for the prospective families. With three separate dates to choose from, many more students had the opportunity to find a space in their busy schedules to get to know Belmont Hill. According to Mrs. Larocque, "the meaningful roundtable and breakout-room discussions that allowed prospective families to interact directly with our teachers and students in very small groups" were one of the most important differentiating factors when compared to other similar schools. Of course, a negative of the Virtual Open House was that families would not be able to "to see first-hand the warm, welcoming, and fun community that we are."

On the other hand, the admissions

team noted that the most significant downside of a Virtual Open House was that families were not able to experience the campus and community culture which is an experience that cannot be replicated anywhere else. Although there is a campus tour available on the school website, as Mr. Masiwa said, "You can never virtually recreate the intangibles that make Belmont Hill such a special place."

With the large increase in families attending the open house, we wondered whether there has been a change in the number of applications. Also, with last year's yield rate at an all time high, the school is currently over-enrolled for the year and was not able to admit any students from its waitlist according to Mr. Mahoney, the school communications director, in a recent article by Wicked Local. The admissions office feels fortunate, however, that they have seen a "generally similar number" of applications compared to previous years. They also stated that the continuing commitment from the school for need-based financial aid, is, in these

uncertain times, outstanding.

Looking forward, the Virtual Open House may very well become a part of the regular admissions events. With the chance to introduce Belmont Hill to a wider range of students, the positives seem to outweigh the negatives. While the Virtual Open House does not offer the families as much of a chance to see the full school, it is still important that prospective families were offered a chance to interact with members of the community to get a sense of Belmont Hill. With so much uncertainty regarding the future, Admissions stated that they think that, "the priority would be to get our current parents and families back on campus first." Certainly with the current infrastructure in place to hold virtual events, Belmont Hill would be able to hybridize online admissions with in-person events. □



A new classroom space on campus. BH Communications

Belmont Hill Conducts School-Wide Mock Election

By ABE TOLKOFF '21
PANEL STAFF

While Election Day 2020 turned into election week, the Belmont Hill mock election count was completed only hours after virtual polls closed. After nearly five days of further tabulation, the official certified results were released via email from School President Timmy McCormack '21 to the entire community. Of the 473 responses to the online election poll, 84 were faculty and staff, 58 were in Form I, 60 in Form II, 75 in Form III, 76 in Form IV, 67 were in Form V, and 53 in Form VI. The poll began with questions about the respondent's identity. In terms of race or ethnicity, 80.1% of the community identified as white, 7.2% as Asian, 6.3% as Black or African American, 2.7% as Hispanic or Latino, and 3.7%

as another identity. In terms of gender, 92.4% of the respondents identified as Male and 7% as Female. Finally, in terms of sexual orientation, 96.2% identified as Straight/Heterosexual, 0.4% as Gay or Lesbian, 1.7% as Bisexual, and 1.7% as Queer, Questioning, or preferring not to respond.

Within our community, 36.2% identified as Democrats, 23.5% as Republicans, 29.3% as Independents or Other, and 11% Undecided. This breakdown is slightly different from the Mock Election results in 2016 when 33.4% identified as Independent, 28.8% as Democrat, 28.3% as Republican, and 9.5% as Unsure. While the percentage of Independents decreased slightly, the percentage of Democrats increased significantly and the percentage of Republicans decreased. In terms of support for the Presidential candidates, Belmont Hill vot-

ed convincingly for Former Vice President Joe Biden (63.6%), followed by President Donald Trump (29.4%), then Kanye West (1.7%), and Jo Jorgensen (1.3%). Back in 2016, the school voted for then-Democratic candidate Sec. Hilary Clinton by a margin of 53% to 30% with a combined 17% voting for Libertarian Gary Johnson (14%) and Green Party candidate Jill Stein (3%).

In terms of Ballot Questions in Massachusetts, the school was split on Question 2, Ranked Choice Voting with 34.5% supporting the policy change, 34.5% opposing it, and 31.1% saying they were unsure. Click here for more information about ranked choice voting. Finally, Belmont Hill voted overwhelmingly to re-elect Massachusetts Senator Ed Markey (65.3%) over his Republican opponent Kevin O'Connor (29.8%). Interestingly, there were a significant num-

ber of split ballots, or voters choosing candidates from multiple parties. Nearly 18% of Trump voters at Belmont Hill chose Senator Ed Markey, and 5.6% of Biden supporters voted for Republican Kevin O'Connor. In terms of party breakdown for each candidate, almost 3% of Trump voters (or 4 people total) identified as Democrats and 6.3% of Biden voters (or 19 people total) identified as Republicans. Finally, 63% of Independent voters selected Biden and 26% Trump.

As the nation looks ahead to the coming Presidential transition and final Senatorial elections, *The Panel* encourages everyone in our community to begin dialogue with your peers, family, and friends about how to build bridges across political divisions and work together to solve problems. While they may be difficult conversations, they are important ones to begin. □

Lt. Daniel McDonald '05 Delivers Veterans Day Speech

BY LUKE HOGAN '22 AND HOWARD HUANG '22
PANEL STAFF

Veteran's Day is a time for American citizens to reflect on those who served for the United States and risked their lives for the sake of protecting our Constitution. Belmont Hill usually remains open to give students a day to reflect together and the time-honored tradition of a veteran, normally an alumnus, speaking about their stories and advice for students. This year, due to COVID-19, the chapel talk was moved two days after Veterans Day to allow for

reflection and discussion in advisory while everyone was on campus. This year, the esteemed speaker was Belmont Hill alumnus Lt. Daniel W. McDonald '05. When introducing Lt. McDonald, Mr. Schneider, Head of School, spoke not just about Lt. McDonald's military achievements but about his life on campus. Lt. McDonald was a member of many extracurricular activities and sports, but what stood out was how his activities edged towards helping others especially as a Peer Leader head and this reflected on his theme of being a part of something bigger than himself. Lt. McDonald started his speech

talking about the impact 9/11 had on his choice to join the armed forces. He described his reactions as he witnessed the event for the first time in the old Howe building on campus. He spoke about resiliency, support of one another, and commitment to military service he noticed rising in the country after the disastrous day in history. A moment of silence was also held for those who attended Belmont Hill and paid the ultimate sacrifice while in the line of duty. This galvanizing event led to his eventual joining of the US armed services to help make a difference and protect the country from foreign threats. After speaking about his journey to

service, he urged students to think about a question, "What is service to you? You have been given great resources: how will you give back to the community that has helped you so much?" One way is to be inspired by these annual speeches and the accounts of millions of other soldiers who choose to serve the country through military service. Many past Belmont Hill students have chosen that path. *The Panel* would like to extend its most gracious thanks for everything Veterans have done for the United States of America and to help safe from harm. Thank you Lt. McDonald for your strong and powerful speech. □

Students Reminisce on Their School Years Abroad

BY ALEX G. '21 AND ABE TOLKOFF '21
BANNER AND PANEL STAFF

As our two school communities reopened this fall, we welcomed back to campus students who spent the past two semesters studying with School Year Abroad (SYA). Prior to the disruptions of the pandemic, which uprooted their spring plans, Winsor Senior Olivia H. '21, Belmont Hill Junior Sasha Vasu '22, and Belmont Hill Senior Henry Moses '21 enjoyed their falls and winters in Spain, France, and China respectively.

For Olivia H., SYA in Zaragoza, Spain was an opportunity to "learn Spanish to be able to connect with my Colombian family and heritage." Having attended Winsor since Class I (5th grade), Olivia also "wanted to have a new and different experience" in her junior year. During his freshman year at Belmont Hill, Sasha Vasu began researching study away options because he wanted to explore a new culture and deepen his French language skills. SYA France in Rennes provided the perfect balance of the two. While he had known about the SYA program for some time, Henry Moses attributes his ninth grade Belmont Hill trip to China as the spark that drove him to consider spending an entire school year there. In Beijing, he visited the SYA China campus and ate dinner with an American student and his Chinese host family. Henry noted that that experience changed studying abroad in his mind from something outlandish to something achievable.

All three students were initially apprehensive about joining their new communities and finding friends among the small cohorts of students, but for each, these fears were assuaged after just days with their host families. Liam Peterson BH '20 had spent his Junior fall at SYA China, and Henry says that talking with him was extremely helpful and formative for building his expectations of the experience. Both Liam and Henry lived with the same host family, and knowing that ahead of time settled Henry's nerves. Out of all the members of her host family, only Olivia's host sister spoke a minimal amount of English, but her host family wanted to make the transition as easy as possible and wel-

comed her, saying, "You're a part of our family. You're our daughter. This is your house."

Once his classes began, Henry took full advantage of every opportunity to

further west to visit his host grandparents. He was challenged by their different accent, but interested to speak more French with them. With his classmates, Sasha traveled south to Bordeaux. Beyond Beijing, Henry spent

Once Olivia and other SYA students were told they had to leave Spain, they had only 48 hours to return home, so it was challenging to make arrangements and book flights.

About the experience, Sasha says "if you're going to go, put in the effort to learn

the language," it's a great opportunity to fully immerse yourself in a new place. He also noted that anyone who is worried about their host family should be comforted by the fact that SYA puts an enormous amount of thought into the matching process. Henry says that the biggest takeaway he has from studying abroad aside from language and culture, was the freedom and opportunity to make the experience his own. Olivia



Sasha, Olivia, Henry (clockwise) in their host countries.

explore the city, and SYA's weekly project-based experiential assignments facilitated this adventure. Olivia spent most of her time during the week in SYA classes, of which two-thirds were taught entirely in Spanish to fully immerse the students in the language. She also describes SYA classes as being much more centered around "experiential learning" than those she had taken in the past: for many of her assignments, it was required that she travel to a local museum, document the architecture at nearby ruins, or ask to interview strangers on the street.

One of the most important aspects of the SYA experience is a combination of host family and independent domestic travel. With his host family, Sasha traveled

time with his host family in a Northern industrial city and what he described as a "relatively small city" (only 2 million people) in Inner Mongolia. With his classmates, he took an early fall weekend trip to a historical city north of Beijing where past emperors spent their summers. Later, they traveled to Shanxi province, a trip which Henry said was especially fun since the group had bonded well by that point. During this trip, he participated in a talent show during an immersive stay at a high school and performed a Kanye song with some friends.

While the end of the SYA China semester came sooner for Henry than Sasha in France and Olivia in Spain, the experience of traveling home for all three was stressful and disappointing. "There was a lot of anxiety leading up to [being sent home]. We knew it was going to happen."

still keeps in touch with many of her SYA friends and during quarantine even cooked on Facetime with her host mom. Despite the interruptions from the pandemic, Olivia found her SYA experience to be "so special," and says "It produces people who are eager to take on new challenges and go even further out of their comfort zone. Everyone should do it. It's a great experience."

As the future of the SYA program hangs in the balance, all three of last year's participants encourage current Belmont Hill and Winsor students to consider the opportunity to spend a year abroad. They emphasized the independence living abroad gave them and the uniqueness of the opportunity to explore a foreign country in depth, especially in high school. *The Banner* and *The Panel* welcome Olivia, Sasha, and Henry back to campus and encourage all students to reach out to them for more information, stories, and pictures! □

Another Wave of COVID-19 Hits MA, cont.

BY CAROLINE C. '21, CATHERINE F. '21 AND ALEX LO '23
BANNER AND PANEL STAFF

Continued from the Front Page

Also, Wednesdays give students experience with online learning which will help with a fully online paradigm. In the event that Belmont Hill cannot have sports and lunch, Mr. Schneider said, "We have all kinds of options that we are ready to act on. Our main goal is to keep things looking how they are now." Although we are hopeful Belmont Hill will return, online school is highly possible.

Ms. Pelmas also discussed Win-

sor's new initiative to pilot a COVID testing plan for Winsor students and faculty beginning in December. Ms. Pelmas explained that with the current hybrid schedule, "testing structures are not ideal for us. They don't really make us safer than our current protocols do" because of the 24 hour waiting period for results that would not leave time to get results before students go to campus. At some schools, she recognizes that this model of testing works adequately, especially for boarding schools or schools that are in person more days than Winsor. Belmont Hill is one of these schools, as in person classes occur four days a week rather than the two

for students at Winsor. In the future, Ms. Pelmas hopes that the school will be able to use rapid-result tests, which take only 15 minutes to get results. Once these tests are available, hopefully in January, Winsor plans to "administer them easily every morning to everyone" and will therefore be able to "return to a more normal schedule." While the administration works on this plan, it has found a relatively easy way to administer 24 hour tests, which the school will begin piloting with adults in December to learn the best ways to implement the rapid tests once they are accessible.

Collectively, students from Belmont Hill and Winsor must remember

to socially distance and wear masks in order to allow their respective schools to stay open. Mr. Schneider, Ms. Pelmas and the rest of the schools' administrations are working hard to give us an in-person school experience. As students, we need to work together with our administrations to maximize the quality and quantity of our in-person experiences. For Belmont Hill, a return depends on minimal cases within the community and the absence of at-school transmission. For Winsor, hope lies in the rapid testing. *The Panel* and *The Banner* thank both school's administrations for working tirelessly for all the work that has brought us to this point. □

Fall Photos: Life on Campus During a Pandemic



Photos courtesy of Kristie Rae Gillooly (Winsor) and Adam Richins (Belmont Hill)

Thanksgiving Plans Transformed by Pandemic, *cont.*

BY LAUREN H. '23, LUKE HOGAN '22, AND NATALIE P. '23
BANNER AND PANEL STAFF

Continued from the Front Page

Instead, Anissa will be connecting with her extended family “through Facetime,” and they are also “planning to cook Thanksgiving dinner for [their] family this year.”

Although 2020 has been a long year of endlessly-changing plans and unexpected challenges, Winsor students are still finding many things to be thankful for. Like many others, Paige G. '24 states, “my family is happy and healthy, and hopefully I will get to see so much more of them now that my parents are working at home.” Similarly, Anissa said that “Although 2020 has been super rough so far, I definitely think that it helped me appreciate my friends and family so much more because I was apart from a lot of them for a long time.” Likewise, Reah shared that in the past, her family would eat their Thanksgiving meals “out of Tupperware containers” while visiting her sister, who lives away from home due to medical reasons. However, this year her sister is “finally back home again” so they can celebrate the holiday together in their house.

All of the Winsor students expressed their deep appreciation for the school’s efforts to make the academic year as engaging and community-centered as possible. Lyanne L. '25 said, “At Winsor, I’m most grateful for my friends and teachers.” As a new Class V student this year, Paige also notes that “[she] is so happy that Winsor has [given] us the opportunity to be on

campus.” She is thankful to be able to “make new friends and socialize in person.” Anissa thanked the administration for allowing students to go back to school physically.

As for many teenagers, it was “really difficult” for them to not see any friends for six months, and they are excited to be back in school and even playing on a sports team. Reah commended Winsor for making her senior year “as normal as possible” given the situation. Although the Class of 2021 cannot partake in traditions like Ring Day, the Junior retreat, or Prom, the faculty and staff are still making the seniors “feel special” by showering them with fancy perks such as “donuts and lemonade during homeroom, a Senior-only coffee machine, and a modified first day of school where

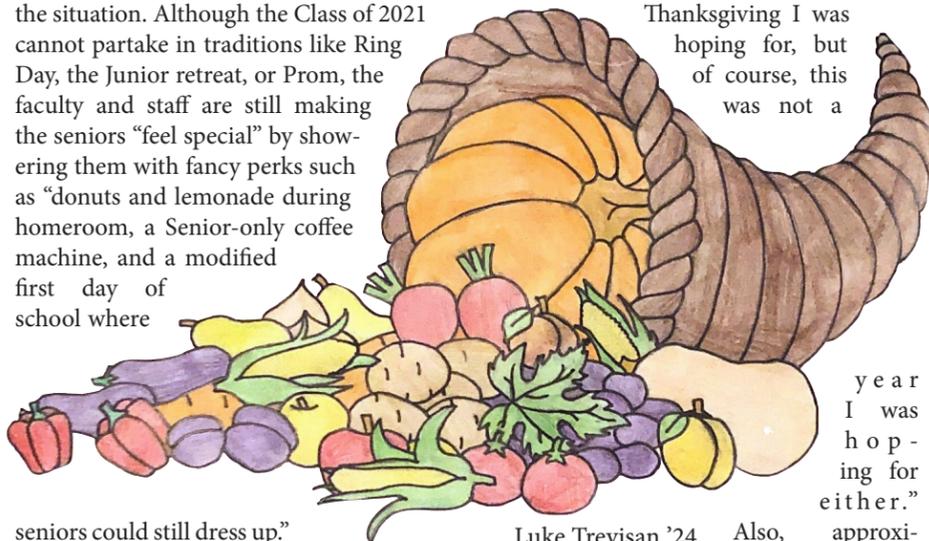
seniors could still dress up.”

The Panel wanted to find out how the COVID-19 pandemic has altered the community’s Thanksgiving arrangements, so we sent out a school-wide survey to determine the community’s overall holiday plans. Considering the limitations and mantra surrounding travel and gatherings during the pandemic, we felt many members of the community would be hesitant to share their Thanksgiving plans publicly, which was a factor in our

decision to keep responses anonymous. For reference, there were 148 respondents to the survey including approximately 25% of students and 50% of the faculty/staff.

According to the survey results, while 87% of respondents usually spend Thanksgiving with extended family or friends, only 35% will attempt to have a somewhat normal holiday this year. A student in the fifth form stated, “this was not the

Thanksgiving I was hoping for, but of course, this was not a



Luke Trevisan '24

Also, approximately 21% of survey respondents will travel out of state for Thanksgiving. For more detail, we asked those who would be traveling for Thanksgiving where they will be visiting. 65% of those traveling stated that they would be remaining in a Massachusetts-approved state, while 3% reported they would be leaving the country.

To combat a rise in COVID-19 cases at Belmont Hill, the school administra-

tion released a plan in order to ensure a safe return from Thanksgiving break. Every member of the community will be tested on the first Monday back from vacation, and students will have virtual classes on Tuesday and Wednesday of that week. Approximately 80% of respondents think the plan is sufficient for a safe return to school.

Along with a change in travel plans, the tradition of the school-wide Turkey Drive through which families help provide Thanksgiving dinners for communities in the Boston area has been adapted. Instead of families bringing in the food themselves, families were asked to donate twenty dollar gift cards from Shaw’s or Stop & Shop. When asked about the changes, a faculty member stated, “It’s the best we can do... It’s not as hands-on for the students, but the bottom line is that families in need will be able to get the food for a Thanksgiving dinner... so it’s the right decision!” A student also responded, “I think that it is good that we can still help out families that need it the most, especially during these times.”

The winter holiday season is nearly upon us, but before we can jump into the festivities, Thanksgiving offers a great opportunity for us all to surround ourselves with loved ones and reflect upon ourselves and our community. Although some relatives may be distant due to the pandemic, we hope that it will not limit our appreciation and high spirits. The Panel and The Banner hope that everyone in the community uses Thanksgiving as a time to stay positive and give thanks. So, wherever or with whom ever you may be celebrating, we wish you all a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving. □

AOTI: Mateen Nickpour-Reyes '21

BY DANIEL CHO '23
PANEL STAFF

With the season ending, it was unfortunate to not see the Varsity Soccer team achieve its full potential with an extremely strong senior class that could challenge not only for the ISL Championship but also the New England Tournament. As they now move on towards college, we want to highlight Mateen Nickpour-Reyes '21, who has been essential to the varsity soccer team for the past four years. Before joining the Belmont Hill soccer program, Mateen played for the club team Valeo, receiving expert coaching and gaining competitive experience. He joined the varsity soccer team in the Third Form and fit extremely well into the system. His transition into the team impressed Mr. Montoya as Mateen

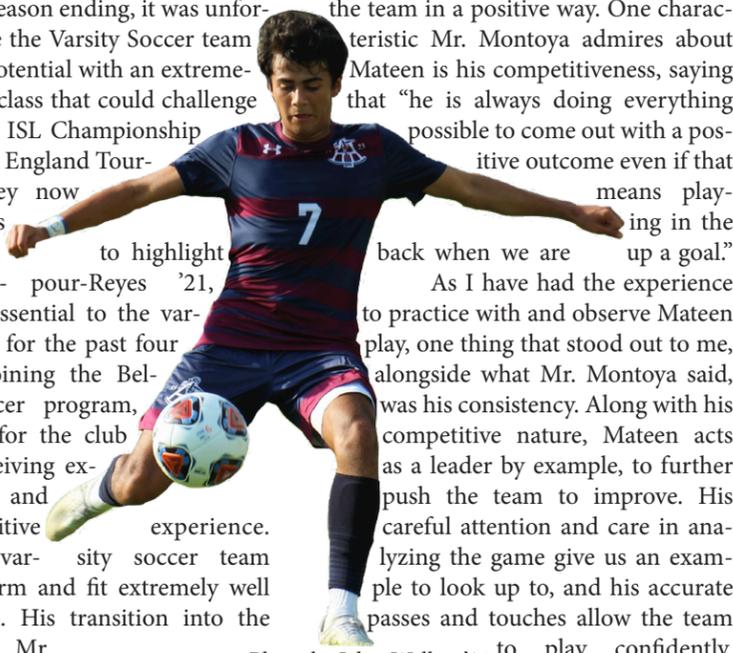


Photo by Jalen Walker '21

integrated right in with the older players. Although Mateen has missed some time on the field due to multiple foot injuries, his contributions to the success of the team have nevertheless been impactful. With his sharp and purposeful playing style, he led the team in assists. Every time Mateen was healthy, the team reached the New England Tournament.

Besides influencing games, Mateen's drive further elevated the players around him and his professional attitude directed the team in a positive way. One characteristic Mr. Montoya admires about Mateen is his competitiveness, saying that "he is always doing everything possible to come out with a positive outcome even if that means playing in the back when we are up a goal." As I have had the experience to practice with and observe Mateen play, one thing that stood out to me, alongside what Mr. Montoya said, was his consistency. Along with his competitive nature, Mateen acts as a leader by example, to further push the team to improve. His careful attention and care in analyzing the game give us an example to look up to, and his accurate passes and touches allow the team to play confidently. Throughout his entire Belmont Hill varsity soccer career, Mateen always did what was best for the team whether it be performing in games or pushing others to improve in practices. Mateen has been recruited to play for Colby College, and The Panel congratulates him on his success, thanks him for his commitment to the varsity soccer team, and wishes him good luck next fall and beyond. □

Soccer's Successfully Safe Season

BY COOPER NELSON '23
PANEL STAFF

Belmont Hill's Varsity soccer team had a strong season this fall, despite the challenging circumstances that make team sports of any kind a daunting task. Like all teams on campus, they only practiced two days a week, and they were also subject to statewide regulations that prohibited heading the ball and mandated masks. Additionally, the team was limited to only four games this year, far fewer than the twenty-plus games in a typical season. Even so, the team made the best of the situation and finished with a 2-1-1 record. The team triumphed over Nobles with a late goal to put the team up 2-1, and also beat St. Sebastians, both impressive accomplishments. Additionally, they tied a solid Rivers team.



Senior Erick Silva '21 passing the ball. BH Communications

The team was led by a tight-knit group of seniors and captained by Erick Silva and Will Dean, who led the team on and off the field. Coach Montoya praised the two of them by saying that they, "lead out on the field by being great players, but they are boys of good character, and the rest of the team looks up to them." Along with the captains, the team benefited from the contribu-

tions of numerous seniors, including Mateen Nickpour-Reyes, Matthew Britt-Webb, Jayson Firmin, Alex Atalla, Chris O'Connell, Charlie Penzone and Riley Shafer. These outgoing seniors were instrumental in the team's success over the past three seasons, and the younger members of the team will have large shoes to fill in coming years. Despite the pandemic that threatened

to cancel the season, Belmont Hill's Varsity soccer team thrived and had a successful season. The team has multiple sophomores and juniors who will step up to leadership roles next fall, and the team hopes for another championship season. Coach Montoya and Coach Bracken are proud of the way the team has performed this year, and they will look to continue their run with new players in the coming years. □

Varsity Football Plays Modified Fall Season

BY ABE TOLKOFF '21
PANEL STAFF

While the beginning of the Fall 2020 Football season was like no other in Belmont Hill history, opening devoid of practice for two weeks, the Varsity team triumphantly returned to the turf, albeit physically distanced and masked. Along with hand sanitizer, those buzzwords replaced more typical football jargon across the field. Despite the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, football managed to persevere and successfully complete a ten week season. Coach Butler noted that football is inherently a sport that conflicts with almost all pandemic guidelines. Nevertheless, he and his coaching staff worked to reimagine practice procedures and drills. The result was a renewed focus on the basic skills of each individual player, an emphasis that

will play out favorably for the team come Fall 2021. While the season was a departure from all things normally included in a day of football, players were generally glad to have the opportunity to improve their skills and compete. Coach Butler noted his disappointment that this year's seniors did not have the chance to play the sea-



Mr. Butler coaches players at a scrimmage. BH Communications

son they had expected, and suggested that this year's team would have been competitive in the ISL circuit. After the first half season ended, some players who had elected to join the available spring sport options returned to the field, boosting the team to multiple successful scrimmages against other ISL Day Schools. While these games were heavily modified, they still represented an important return to some semblance of pre-pandemic normalcy. Coach Butler says that "one of the things that [he is] most proud of is that the kids got out and worked every day." Despite reduced play opportunities, the field was frequently livened by workout music and a distanced group of sprinting athletes. Looking ahead to next season, Coach Butler is excited by the possibility of playing with full contact and applying the individual skills learned this fall to active gameplay. The Panel congratulates the Varsity Football team, especially the seniors of the Class of 2021 on a different yet still successful fall season and wishes next year's team the best. □

BH XC Runs Limited Schedule

BY LUKE HOGAN '22
PANEL STAFF

Starting with a significantly limited season, the Belmont Hill XC team made the most of its opportunity and was able to keep team morale high while enjoying practices and chances for competition. Considering the limitations presented by COVID-19, the team members were ecstatic to have the opportunity to practice and improve their running skills throughout the first few months of the school year, and appreciated the chance to compete safely during these times. This year's team was led by captains Sreetej Digumarthi '21 and James Donahue '22. The team had to adapt by changing the practice schedule and other standard parts of the season. This year consisted of two on-campus practices and four practices finished individually at home. A few examples of practices included the all-time favourite of Wonderview, where team members continuously ran up and down a hill in Arlington, and training on the community farm trails in Rock Meadow where the team normally hosts its races. In total, the XC team raced in four scrimmages with Roxbury Latin, St. Se-

bastian's and Nobles. The team won many of the scrimmages while graciously accepting defeat as some very close scrimmages led to disappointing losses. The team had two seniors, Abe Tolkoﬀ '21 and Sreetej Digumarthi '21, who will be departing, but the team still shows promise for the future with many on the team hitting their stride and preparing for the season next year. When asked about the season, Coach DeCaprio stated, "the dedication of our run-



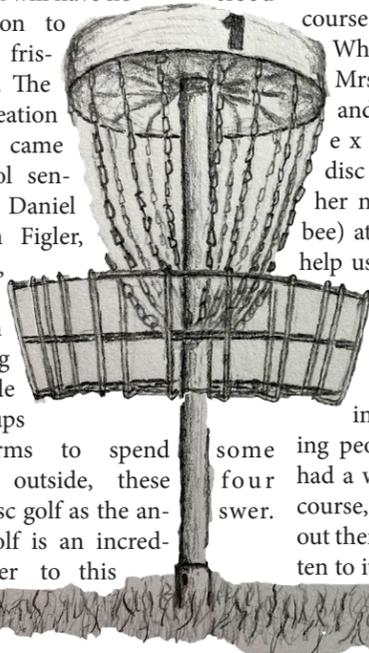
BH Communications

ners despite the restrictions on the season led to a fall highlighted by comradery and improvement at all levels of the team." The Panel congratulates the XC team on a great season and wishes the seniors on the team the best of luck in their future endeavours. □

Frisbee Golf: A Novel BH Addition

BY CHARLIE WELLS '21
PANEL STAFF

If you have spent any time at Belmont Hill recently, you will have noticed a novel addition to the campus: a frisbee golf course. The idea for the creation of the course came from the school senate, specifically Daniel Drucker, Adam Figler, John Goguen, and Luke Carroll. When brainstorming ideas to enable advisory groups or whole forms to spend time together outside, these latched upon disc golf as the answer. Frisbee golf is an incredibly apt answer to this question for a few reasons: it's easy to pick up if you've never played before, you can



prevent the spread of COVID while still playing as a team, and there is no maintenance involved in keeping up the equipment. The senate called upon Mrs. Rupley and Mrs. Schmunk to help them set up the course after purchasing the equipment. When asked what that process was like, Mrs. Rupley replied, "Mrs. Schmunk and I had no previous experience with disc golf so we called on her neighbor who played ultimate (frisbee) at Brown- to come out to campus to help us set up the course. He and his former teammate came to campus twice to map out and set-up the course. It was incredibly helpful." So far, disc golf has been an incredible success in terms of bringing people together on campus. Form VI had a whole class day playing through the course, and many solo advisories have gone out there as well. If your advisory hasn't gotten to it yet, I strongly suggest that you get out there before it is too cold. Even after the pandemic, the disc golf course will prove to be a good addition to the campus for future members of our community. □

Chris Brusie '23

Looking Forward to the Winter Sports Season

By DANIEL BITTNER '22 AND
NATALIE P. '23
PANEL STAFF

To say that the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we live our lives is an understatement. The added safety measures implemented by Belmont Hill and Winsor have transformed the way that students learn, interact with community members, and use technology. However, one of the largest challenges of the new hybrid schedule is playing sports. In the fall, both schools held biweekly in-person practices, but teams were unable to compete against other schools until very recently. Now, as we near Thanksgiving break, questions about the start of the winter sports season are arising. Since each school faces different obstacles in creating an optimal athletic environment -- with Winsor being partly virtual and having some athletic facilities off-campus, and Belmont Hill working to accommodate a large number of signups -- each school has had to adapt differently. Although the 2020-2021 winter season will admittedly look different for both schools, Belmont Hill and Winsor have confidence that their respective athletic directors, Mr. Tahan and Ms. Granese, will provide athletes with safe, fun, and competitive opportunities.

Throughout the fall and winter season, the Independent School League (ISL) has gradually modified restrictions to accommodate more opportunities for interscholastic competition. During the fall season, such competitions included modified scrimmages for varsity teams in Football, Soccer, and Cross Country. However, the winter season inherently provides different challenges, as in contrast to the fall season, the majority of winter sports are indoors, making it harder to prevent the spread of air particles. Understanding these challenges, the heads of ISL schools released a statement prior to the conclusion of the fall season, ensuring that, "the health and safety of our communities [continue] to be at the forefront of our planning."

As many ISL schools are either boarding or do not plan on returning to school following Thanksgiving break, interscholastic athletic competition will likely not begin consistently until after winter break. Due to this lack of games prior to winter break, as well as in an attempt to emphasize the necessity for safe and fun competition, the ISL, "will not offer the traditional full slate of league games this winter, nor will we confer league championships or awards." Instead, each ISL school will make individual decisions of whether winter athletic competition is practical and safe.

Belmont Hill will officially begin winter athletics on the first day back from Thanksgiving Break on December 3rd with a total of seven offerings: alpine skiing, nordic skiing, squash, hockey, basketball, strength and conditioning, and wrestling training and conditioning. Modifications will be made to nearly all these sports, such as the requirement of masks and social distancing during breaks. Similar to the fall season, Belmont Hill will divide up days for athletic practices, with upper school sports meeting on Mondays and Thursdays, and middle school sports meeting on Tuesdays and Fridays. Additional practices for these sports will be offered on Saturdays, and virtual "boot camps" will be

offered on Wednesdays. Throughout all these sports, an emphasis will be placed on improving technique as opposed to close-contact drills and scrimmages in order to maintain COVID guidelines.

In addition to the fall precautions, Belmont Hill will make a few further changes to accommodate winter sports. In order to be able to minimize exposure, athletes will depart to the Jordan Athletic Center in times scattered by sport and enter the building through different entrances. Additionally, Belmont Hill athletes will not use locker rooms as normal. One other modification is that during the winter season, the advisory time allotted during the academic day will be shortened to allow for more time for sports to convene. Finally, the weight room will be available only for a limited number of strength and conditioning athletes.

Nevertheless, despite these modifications, the entire body of Belmont Hill athletes are ecstatic for the winter season. Belmont Hill Head of School Mr. Schneider announced earlier that there was an immense number of signups for the winter season: "Our initial inquiries yielded 78 athletic waiver requests in the Upper School grades and only one in the Middle School Grades." While this large participation, especially in sports such as squash, basketball, and strength and conditioning, may cause those sports to have to meet less frequently, it certainly demonstrates the great enthusiasm held by Belmont Hill athletes for the winter season.

While Winsor's winter sports will certainly look different from previous years, Ms. Granese is encouraging all athletes to stay positive. Team meetings will start on December 2, right after Thanksgiving break. Just like in the fall, "the plan is to start with one thing, and then slowly expand to something else," Ms. Granese said. All of the usual winter sports, including ice hockey, basketball, swimming, squash, and crew winter training will happen in some form or another. In terms of schedule, teams will be following a hybrid model with two days of Zoom practices, Wednesday Zoom workouts, and two days of in-person practices. Although transportation has been more difficult to arrange due to the social distancing guidelines, Winsor is planning on using buses because "there can be up to 23 people per bus." In the past, larger teams such as Varsity Ice Hockey and Varsity Swimming have exceeded this number of team members. Now that the Upper School and Lower School students are on-campus on different days of the week, transportation by bus is now feasible.

As COVID-19 cases rise and schools learn more about what actions are most effective, the Eastern Independent League (EIL) is constantly changing its guidelines. Ms. Granese and the coaches "have been attending a lot of AD meetings and NEP-SAC meetings." Through these meetings, they determined that games and scrimmages will not be held until February at the earliest. Also, Winsor is

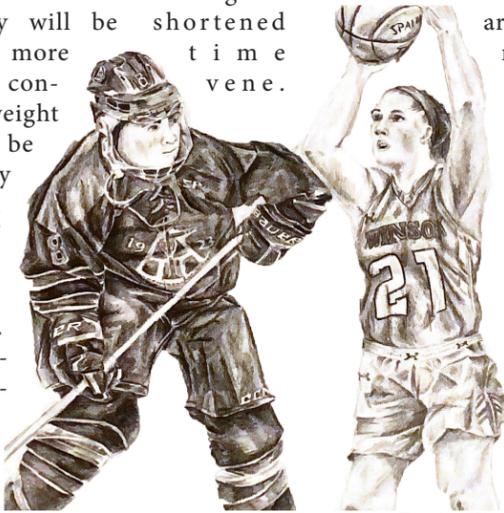
no longer allowed to compete against schools from out of state, so their most likely opponents will be Dana Hall, NCDS, and Beaver. While having fewer games is not ideal, Winsor is in better shape than other schools. According to Ms. Granese, "Most of the EIL schools are closing down and not starting their winter sports until January."

Each sport has its own set of challenges and new adaptations this year. The biggest difference between the fall season and the winter season is that all winter sport offerings happen indoors. "When you think about how much more space we had outdoors, it's a big change. Indoor options are much smaller," noted Ms. Granese. Thus, it is imperative that athletes continue to maintain their distance indoors to protect themselves and each other. One major setback for swimming is the fact that Simmons is not renting out their pool. Ms. Granese is "still reaching out to get some pool time at other places, but it's been a challenge. We are even looking for weekend pool time." However, even if the swim teams are unable to get in the water, they will definitely do dryland practices and Zoom fitness. The challenge for the squash team is that, for now, only one student can be on a court at a time. Ms. Granese is unsure "if squash will have games, but for now, they will just have practices." Finally, the hockey team will not be able to use the locker rooms at the Steriti Ice Arena, but the rink staff will set up chairs around the rink for players to use for gear. To further protect students, "everyone will get a personal cleaning kit for their bag... [and] the focus for hockey practices will be

more power skating and individual stick and puck drills." Fortunately for basketball players, the Winsor gym will be open for the entire season. However, players will need to stay masked and remain six feet apart as much as possible.

When asked about sports returning to "normal" in the near future, Ms. Granese replied, "I wish I had a crystal ball! I'm hopeful that maybe it will be normal by the spring, but everything depends on COVID." There is no doubt that this winter season will be filled with uncertainty, concern, and a lot of trial and error. But sports continue to be one of the most beloved and celebrated aspects of student life. As usual, Ms. Granese is dedicated to making the season, as novel as it is, the best it can possibly be. "I never thought we'd get to play games this fall, but look at what we got to do. I think students appreciated just getting out to practice in the fall, and then we had UTL, where we could compete against each other, and now to actually compete against other schools-- people are ecstatic."

The EIL and ISL ended up following similar guidelines in the fall, although Belmont Hill started having games the weekend before Winsor did, competing every Saturday against other ISL schools. Ultimately, in order to continue playing sports, both the EIL and ISL athletes need to keep safety as the top priority. Ms. Granese encouraged everyone to "[keep] your mask and [keep] your distance, on-campus as well as off-campus. We've been very lucky in terms of what's happening at Winsor. There haven't been a lot of cases in private schools in New England." The ISL heads of schools similarly reaffirmed their utmost commitment to ensuring safe athletics, remarking, "the health and safety of our communities [continue] to be at the forefront of our planning." At both Winsor and Belmont Hill, students are immensely grateful to be able to return to athletics safely and in a fun manner for the winter sports season. □



Drawing by Daniel Xie '24



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Fall Scrimmages Marked Success Across ISL and EIL

BY MEREDITH T. '23 AND ABE TOLKOFF '21
BANNER AND PANEL STAFF

Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic disrupting most aspects of our daily lives, both Belmont Hill and Winsor were able to maintain some form of athletic competition throughout the fall season. Although each sport was subject to rule changes and game restrictions, most Varsity teams across both schools had the opportunity to compete in multiple scrimmages. At Belmont Hill, students began competing during the second half of the season in Football, Cross Country, and Soccer. At Winsor, the scrimmages began later in the season in Soccer, Volleyball, Field Hockey, and Cross Country. Most athletes acknowledged that new restrictions were difficult to adapt to, though they were glad to participate in contests this fall.

Winsor began sports with a phased approach, starting with individual skills and working up to scrimmages with other schools, and, of course, all athletes wore masks while participating. Upper School teams had virtual practices Monday, Tuesday, a conditioning workout on Wednesdays, and then in-person practices Thursday and Friday.

Field hockey got rid of corners in games, which happens when there is a penalty, in order to keep players six feet apart when possible. This sport also split into JV and Varsity and had four scrimmages with other schools. "The time we had on the field was really fun, so it was disappointing that we only got to practice twice a week," said varsity player Ally K. '23.

Soccer made the decision not to split up into JV and Varsity and practiced and played as one large team. But the rules of soccer were impacted with kick-ins instead of throw-ins and no contact between players. This sport also managed to have four interscholastic scrimmages. "Basically it was pretty normal at practice except for wearing masks and socially distancing," said Caroline F. '23. Volleyball had rules change as well:

the ball was sanitized every point, the teams did not switch sides, and athletes had to stay out of the "COVID zone", which was a sectioned off area right in front of the net. This sport was able to have two interscholastic scrimmages. Yuni C. '23 said, "I think the biggest change this season was the team's collective attitude towards practices and commitment—since we were only able to have two days of court time per week, we had to really savor the time we had together so our appreciation, focus, and excitement for our practices and games definitely increased!"

Winsor's crew team was not able to go to the boathouse or row in 4- or 8-person boats as a whole team, however, they were able to go in small groups and practice in single sculls. This sport decided not to split into JV and Varsity, and also were not able to have any racing. Austin F. '23, said that "it was frustrating to be the only sport not allowed to compete, or even practice normally, (especially after the state government ruled it was equal risk to soccer and field hockey,) but single sculling was a great new experience and it was super fun to get out on the river." The Cross Country team was able to practice and compete wearing masks, as students split into A, B, and C teams because

restrictions state that they could only race twelve people at a time. This sport was able to have 5 races against other schools including the Codfish Bowl, and the Mayor's Cup. Chloe C. '23 said that "after virtual school days it was nice to get some fresh air and see my teammates at practice!" Returning runner Raina S. '23 said, "getting out and running with a group was consistently one of the highlights of my day. Needless to say, the season felt very different from what I am used to, especially since we had far fewer races than

we would normally have. However, some of the best parts of Winsor cross country stayed the same. We were able to appreciate some of the beautiful fall foliage during our runs, and I think that the lack of pre-race stress put a welcome emphasis on running as a way of connecting with others."

On-campus at Belmont Hill, there was certainly apprehension about the fall season given the COVID-19 guidelines both in classrooms and on the field. After two weeks without athletics, the school offered a sweeping program that combined fall and spring sports to offer one of the most diverse programs for students in one season in school history. While students took to the fields in the typical fall sports (Football, Cross Country, and Soccer) they were offered additional spring options such as Lacrosse, Baseball, Golf, Crew, and Track.

Despite an ISL vote late in the summer to not confer for a typical schedule of league games and championships, the subset of day schools began planning for scrimmages once the school year began. Due to the relative successes in the schools' COVID plans, five weekends in October and November were made available for competition.

Despite the lack of opportunity presented by this condensed timeline, the ISL Heads of School and Athletic Directors met weekly to evaluate case numbers on each campus, observations from the previous week, and plan for the coming weekend of contests. Belmont Hill Athletic Director Mr. Tahan noted that

Belmont Hill was "very fortunate to be willing and prepared to play each of the five weeks." He continued to note that while this fall format was certainly not ideal, it was the best opportunity for fall athletes to compete. Once scrimmages began, the schools prioritized opening up the schedule for Junior Varsity teams, and for the last weekend of the season, Senior parents were able to spectate at the final games and race.

In Football, players wore masks for the entirety of their amended 7 vs 7 no-contact games. "It was fun to play with the team," said Senior Casey Rockett '21, "even though the games were modified." On the Soccer field, the mask policy was similar and the league removed throw-ins and free-kick walls, made heading the ball illegal, and even changed penalty procedures. Senior Matthew Britt-Webb '21 said, "the games may have looked a little different but it was great to get out there with the boys and finish our Senior season." In Cross Country, the mask policy evolved from race to race, gradually becoming more restrictive. For the team's final contest at Roxbury Latin, runners were required to wear their masks for the entirety of the 5k course. Senior captain Sreetej Digumarthi said, "while we would have preferred to race without a mask, we were grateful for the opportunity to compete and build the team for next fall." Mr. Tahan praised the league for their collective understanding of each school's situation and flexibility throughout the fall. Furthermore, he added that without the support of Belmont Hill's coaches, none of the expanded offerings would have been possible.

As both schools look ahead to the upcoming winter season, we remain hopeful that these teams too will have the opportunity to compete in interscholastic contests. Despite the worsening pandemic situation, the success of the fall season has set all teams up well for continued safe play throughout the winter. The Winsor Banner and The Belmont Hill Panel wish all athletes the best of luck in the coming months and look forward to watching you play! □



Adam Richins

Athletes at Work: Fall Sports Recap in Photos



Courtesy of Kristie Rae Gillolly (Winsor) and Adam Richins (BH)

Featured Winsor Athletes: Mya S. '21 and Sam M. '21

BY RANI B. '21 AND NATALIE P. '23
BANNER STAFF

Whether students are part of the Lower School or Upper School teams, Wildcats who play field hockey are promised a season full of growing in both athletic ability as well as sportsmanship. On all Winsor sports teams, the traits that are valued the most in a player are a strong work ethic, a positive attitude, a willingness to take risks, and most of all, a passion for the game. Two students who embody these qualities are Mya S. '21 and Sam M. '21. Not only are Mya and Sam stellar leaders on the Varsity Field Hockey team, but they will also be continuing their field hockey careers in college. We reached out to them to find out how they became the amazing athletes they are today.

Where did your field hockey journey start?

Mya: "My field hockey journey started in sixth grade during PE. I remember Ms. Granese timing us while we counted the amount of passes we could get in a minute. My love for field hockey, however, definitely developed most in eighth grade when I made the JV field hockey team."
Sam: "My field hockey journey started with Ms. Granese urging me to play in seventh grade. I had played soccer for my entire life and didn't really know what field hockey was until I started playing in one of the PE units in the lower school."

What is one of your favorite memories

of WVFH from over the years? **Mya:** "My favorite WVFH tradition is definitely the end of season Olympics. I have loved competing with my teammates in this setting over the years and the costumes are always a highlight of the tradition."
Sam: "My favorite memory has to be winning NEPSACS in 2018, but specifically, the semi-final game is the game that stands out to me because that was the toughest game we've ever played. I remember looking up at the scoreboard and it was tied with just over a minute left when we got a corner and scored on a tip. Almost everyone on that field started crying because, at that moment, we knew we were advancing to the finals, and obviously, we went on to win the finals. It was such an amazing feeling to see all our hard work finally pay off and make history by being the only field hockey team in Winsor history to win NEPSACS."



Mya S. '21 (left) and Sam M. '21 (right). Winsor School

What is a lesson that you learned from your coaches/teammates that you think other athletes should know?

Mya: "My biggest lesson that I have learned from my teammates and my time playing field hockey at Winsor is to take risks. Ask for the ball even if you aren't sure you can receive it. Take the shot even if you think you're going to whiff. There were so many times when I was open and should have called for the ball but was hesitant in my ability. Seeing my teammates step outside their comfort zone inspired me to also do so. In the end, I say take the risk of failing no matter what."
Sam: "I've learned so many lessons, but a specific one that stands out is the idea of never underestimating oneself. Going into that semifinal game against Pingree, I think some of us (myself included) had that doubt in the back of our minds that we were going to lose because we had lost numerous times

to the same team that season. However, we didn't let the past losses define our play in that game. Although we acknowledged that this team was very strong, we didn't step onto the field scared, instead, we really put the past behind us and stepped onto the field with confidence, which is a big reason why we were able to win."

How will you be continuing your field hockey career in college and beyond?

Mya: "I will be playing field hockey at Colby College next year. I'm super excited to play college ball and am so happy to be able to continue my career past high school."
Sam: "I will be playing D3 field hockey in college at Amherst! I am so excited to have the opportunity to continue my field hockey career and hopefully compete for a NESCAC championship!"

Who is your sports hero?

Mya: "My sports hero is Pat Summit because she made great strides for women's sports and always brought a sense of intensity to whatever sports endeavors she was a part of. I admire this because I try to go to every practice with just as much intensity as a game and I think she really represents that mentality."
Sam: "My sports hero is probably Mikaela Shiffrin, who is an alpine ski racer. When I was little, ski racing was my main sport and I always looked up to her for being one of the youngest competitors in her event and still winning and setting new world records." □

Winsor Fall Recaps

BY RANI B. '21, GRACE D. '24, AND ALEX G. '21
BANNER STAFF

Winsor teams still worked hard and had great seasons, despite the late start. Records shown are of teams' scrimmages, which were intraleague but not official.

Varsity Field Hockey

Record: 2-2
Captains: Ellie P. '21 and Chloe D. '21
Pump up song: Lullaby Calvin Remix
Favorite memory: Wig Day

JV Field Hockey

Record: 1-0
Captains: Reah D. '21, Golde U. '22, and Brigid O'C. '22
Pump up song: 80s jazzercise music
Favorite memory: Blindfolded noodle tag

Varsity and JV Soccer

Record: 2-2
Captains: Ava N. '21 and Caitlin S. '21
Pump up song: Hood Baby
Favorite Memory: Making a TikTok in the dance studio

Varsity Volleyball

Record: 2-2
Captains: Alex G. '21, Caroline C. '21, and Camille C. '21
Pump up song: Kiss Kiss
Favorite Memory: Watching Coach Reynolds and Hearn give out roses to the seniors like on the Bachelor.

JV Volleyball

Record: 2-0
Captains: N/A
Pump up song: Every Time We Touch
Favorite memory: Dancing with the coaches on the court during practice.

Cross Country

Record:
Captains: Eve L. '21, Ashley B. '21, and Kate M. '21
Pump up song: Trophies
Favorite Memory: UTL

BH and Winsor Crew Spend the Fall on the Water

BY NICK HEBARD '21, TYLER FORG '21, ANNA M. '21 EVIE W. '21
BANNER AND PANEL STAFF

Rowers in the Middle and Upper school enjoyed the fall foliage and uncharacteristically warm weather on the Charles River during their fall season. Unlike typical seasons where Belmont Hill oarsmen row in four-man and eight-man boats, the COVID-19 restrictions only allowed for boys to row in singles and doubles/pairs. These smaller boats are much less stable than a four or an eight, forcing rowers to focus more on the technical aspects of the sport. The novice rowers in particular demonstrated great technical improvement, having started the season in tubbies (trainer boats). Yet by the end of the season, all rowers could hold their own in racing singles with ease. These strides could not have been made without the six high-level coaches that came out on the water every practice determined to help students move boats faster. In particular, John High '19 has been a great addition to the staff. Although it's unfortunate that John can not be rowing with his teammates at Princeton due to COVID-19, rowers on the team were ecstatic to see the former Belmont Hill captain on the coaching launch. Unlike past years where there were cheers from tens of thousands of fans at the Head of the Charles, this year the event was virtual and fans did not line the riverbanks. Despite the lack of the crowd, Belmont Hill rowers showed up determined to succeed in the time trials and to raise money for rowing diversity initiatives. To start the day, the younger boys,

many of whom had never rowed a race before, lined up one by one at the BU bridge. All the younger rowers had a great pace and managed to properly navigate the windy Charles River and pace themselves through the three-mile course. Once the novice boys passed the finish line, the seven seasoned rowers started up. For seniors, Christian Eikeboom, who rowed a single, and Nicholas Hebard and Tyler Forg, who were together in a pair, this was the last chance to leave their high school mark on the Head of the Charles. By the time the race was over, it was evident that all the boys gave 110% effort and the coaches were pleased with this grit.

In the face of the Coronavirus pandemic, much like the program at Belmont Hill, Winsor's fall crew season needed to be reimaged to fit in with guidelines. Instead of the usual fours and eights that Winsor rowers practice in, rowers got the opportunity to learn to scull in singles so that they could spend time on the water while maintaining social distance. Rain or shine, at 6:30 each morning team members led by the team's four coaches gathered at the boathouse to hone their skills. When not on

the water, the team gathered on daily zoom meetings for core circuits and conversation. Alex L. '21, one of the team's three captains, emphasized that the team really took advantage of sculling as a learning opportunity, and she added that the team hopes to compete either within themselves or with other schools on the water in the spring. The real uniter of the team, though, was the intramural competition of two teams for who could log the most hours of cardio. From the season's beginning in September to its end in early November, the Winsor crew team was split into two teams, red and pink, with each team member responsible for logging their hours and working to bring their respective team to victory.

Though both teams lost the opportunity for a normal season, the chance to work together was not overlooked. At both Belmont Hill and Winsor, rowers are gearing up for a tough winter training program and plan to be ready-to-race come the spring season. Regardless of what the spring has in store, both teams will make the best of the situation and remain focused on improving their skills and becoming a closer-knit team. □



The Belmont Hill Crew Team rowing in singles on the Basin.

Courtesy of BH Rowing

Politics at Belmont Hill and Winsor

BY ANIKA B. '22, SOPHIA L-D. '22, AND
JASON WONG '23,
BANNER AND PANEL STAFF

Continued from the Front Page

Belmont Hill Perspective:

As Joe Biden neared victory in the presidential election, the world looked ahead to new American leadership. The world's attention was closely focused on the delayed results amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. On the day of the election, November 3, the Belmont Hill community continued its tradition of facilitating a mock election every four years through a Google Form poll. This election is often used to break down the political balance within the Belmont Hill School. Of the 473 responses received this year, 36.2% identified as Democrats, 29.3% as Independents or Other, 23.5% as Republicans, and 11% as undecided. This breakdown indicates that our community has a rather diverse political affiliation with more members being moderates than either side of the political spectrum. Compared to the overall trend among Generation Z, members of the BH community exhibit a similar pattern of decreased certainty about their votes and choices driven heavily by an anti-Trump backlash. A potential reason behind this is the increasing diversity of the new generation, with 48% of America's youth being nonwhite. Furthermore, Trump's exclusive immigration policies remain largely unpopular among Gen Z minority teenagers, as 29% of them are the children of immigrants or are immigrants themselves. On the question regarding the choice for presidency, 64% of participants cast votes for president-elect

Joe Biden, with independents splitting heavily in favor of Biden/Harris (63%-25%). Even among the conservatives on campus, BH Republicans were very likely influenced by anti-Trump movements, since 17% of Republicans voted for Biden. Although the party affiliation results suggest that Belmont Hill is a politically diverse community, this year in particular, being a Trump supporter can call for judgment and exclusion, especially given the overwhelmingly Democratic nature of Massachusetts. As Joe Biden prepares for his four years in the White House, it is not only the people in the field of politics that the election of a new President affects – a new leader in the White House can alter the country's education policy and its approach to the COVID pandemic which are all closely related to our daily life. Therefore, the Belmont Hill community and members of The Panel will continue to strive for a campus where all opinions can be shared and all voices can be heard. and its approach to the COVID pandemic which are all closely related to our daily life. be shared and all voices can be heard.

Winsor Perspective:

Annually, Winsor holds a Curriculum Day when the community takes a break from classes to hear from speakers, generate discussions, and voice opinions on various topics. During presidential election years, Curriculum Day is geared towards the election and the US presidential race. This year, however, Winsor tackled discussions about the election in slightly different ways. In the Upper School, many teachers allowed students to reflect upon and share comments, concerns, or questions about the highly contested presidential race between former Vice President Joe Biden and President Donald

Trump in classes. However, many of the discussions were very partisan, in favor of President-elect Joe Biden. To get a sense of the broader political balance at Winsor, we sent out an anonymous survey to the Upper School asking students about their party affiliation, opinions on Winsor's involvement in politics, and suggestions for how Winsor could tackle politics at school in the future.

Based on 132 responses, roughly half the Upper School, we confirmed our prediction that the vast majority of the Winsor Upper School student body is Democratic. 75.8% of respondents identified themselves as Democrats, 11.3% as Other or Undecided, 7.6% as Independents, and 2.3% as Republicans. Even more staggering, 95.5% of respondents declared they would have backed the Biden/Harris ticket, while only 3% would have voted for a Trump/Pence re-election, and 1.5% would have voted for third party candidates.

The party affiliation results indicate that Winsor lacks political diversity. Some students suggest that the campus environment is not inclusive of a wide variety of political beliefs. When we asked Upper School students how comfortable they feel sharing their own political opinions and beliefs, 55% of students claimed to be extremely comfortable sharing their opinions; however, only 11% of students agree that Winsor maintains an environment that is inclusive of all political beliefs. One student expressed that Winsor is extremely Democratic and that people who are not Democrats "don't have an opportunity to voice their opinions without being judged." To combat this lack of inclusivity, one student suggested, "I think there should be bipartisan speakers or even simply Republicans/moderates who come to speak at our school. The way in which

I've heard some people talk about Republicans is really dangerous because it is in an unkind, and at times, uninformed manner."

Additionally, we examined how students perceive Winsor's involvement in political discussions. While most students claim that Winsor is either somewhat or a little involved in politics, a common theme expressed by students is a concern with the quality of conversation rather than the quantity. As one student put it: "I think the frequency is fine, but the topics of discussions are often subpar."

Joint Perspective:

Although both schools have consistently encouraged their students to be open-minded about other political views and made an effort to have thoughtful discussions within the campus, it is still difficult for individuals to be inclusive in today's extremely polarized political environment. While a clear party disparity exists between the two schools, this difference creates a unique opportunity for students to hear diverse voices by engaging in conversations with students from the other school. Imagine a conservative Belmont Hill student starts a conversation with a liberal student at Winsor. Each could learn the other's perspective and develop a more comprehensive understanding of both sides to an issue. These healthy conversations will not only further strengthen the bond between our schools, but also will also create a group of teenagers who understand the importance of working together to foster diversity in opinions. This will be a crucial skill in the modern social climate. We believe that facilitating political discussions between Winsor and Belmont Hill would be beneficial, as they would produce positive contributions from students and increase academic cooperations. □

2020 Election Results in Massachusetts

MA Ballot Questions

This year, voters in Massachusetts were faced with two additional questions on their ballots, along with their votes for the President, House of Representatives, Senate, and local positions such as state senator. The two topics were Right to Repair and Ranked Choice Voting.

Right to Repair was already a question Massachusetts voters chose yes on just eight years ago, but the nature of the question has changed much since then. Eight years ago, voters gave independent mechanics the right to plug into your car's onboard data portal, and receive the same data that the dealership would have that way, ensuring that all mechanics, whether through the dealership or not, have access to the data they need to diagnose the car's problems. Since then, however, data is no longer stored in your car's internal computer. Ninety percent of new cars collect and transmit the data directly to the dealerships, making it once again more difficult for independent repair shops to diagnose the car's troubles. Question 1 requires carmak-

ers to outfit every car with an open-access platform for mechanical data, available to both owners as well as local repair shops.

The argument for Question 1 is that carmakers can alert you when you have problems, giving them a leg up on the independent repair shops.

On the other hand, the vote-no side warns of the possibility of hackers or other malicious actors accessing the database and using the access to do anything from stalking to even taking over control of the car and causing crashes. Question 1 passed with 75% of the vote, and it remains to be seen what the consequences will be.

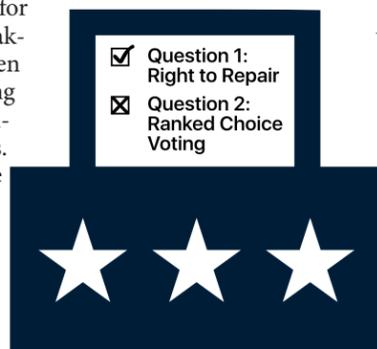
Question 2 on the ballot was ranked-choice voting. With ranked-choice voting, voters would say they like candidates in the order A, B, C, instead of choosing amongst the three. In this case, if A had

the least popular votes, their voters' second choices are all given consideration, meaning this voter would now be voting for B.

As the system is now, voters are often faced with the problem of having two candidates that they like, and the one they like less is more likely to win.

This forces voters into choosing if their vote will "count" by voting on the big party candidate, or "throwing their vote away" on a 3rd party one. This wouldn't be

MA Results Kevin Jiang '22 a huge problem if we had two phenomenal parties, but 57% of Americans would like to have a 3rd party. The argument against ranked-choice is that it is too confusing for the average voter, necessitating them to get to know multiple candidate's policies instead of just the big 2. Question 2 did not pass, earning just 45% of the vote. □



MA House Race

Although it was unsurprising that the Democratic candidate, Jake Auchincloss, won Massachusetts' 4th District House seat over Republican Julie Hall, the primary race for Joe Kennedy's seat was a hard-fought battle. Kennedy had held the 4th District's seat since 2012, but when he decided to challenge Markey in the 2020 Democratic primary for U.S. Senate, a large pool of candidates emerged. Jake Auchincloss and Jesse Mermell emerged as the frontrunners, eventually winning 22.4% and 21.1% of the final vote tally respectively.

Mermell was backed by the progressive wing of the Democratic Party—Ayanna Pressley (D - MA7), the Planned Parenthood Action Fund, Coalition for Social Justice, and more endorsed her. Mermell's loss to Auchincloss highlights the progressive wing's struggle to increase their presence and voting power in Washington. Even in a state as liberal as Massachusetts, the Democrat establishment is as strong as ever. While this race was quite close, the breakdown of votes shows a growing progressive base in well-off and historically more centrist suburbs of Boston. Mermell won Newton (where Auchincloss serves as a City Councilor)

Meanwhile, Marine veteran Auchincloss was endorsed by "Moms Demand Action," a group for gun control, the National Association of Government Employees labor union, and VoteVet. Auchincloss, the Representative-elect, supports a public medicare option, expanding and building upon Title X, strengthening the ACA, passing the ROE Act, and implementing the Green New Deal. He has big plans to fix America's infrastructure and reinvent public transit in Massachusetts. The incoming freshman congressman will have a lot to prove as he takes his place in the more divided 117th Congress this January. □

MA Senate Race

Incumbent Democratic Senator Edward J. Markey won against Republican challenger Kevin O'Connor with 69.7% of the vote to O'Connor's 33.3%. Markey is entering his second full term, after winning the special election to replace Secretary of State John Kerry in 2013 after he joined Obama's administration and then going on to win the seat for a full term in 2014. He has been in public office since 1973, serving in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, and the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Senate. This victory was no surprise in Massachusetts, with 60% of respondents saying they preferred Markey in a poll administered statewide from October 23rd to 30th by MassInc. O'Connor was endorsed by fellow Republican

Governor Charlie Baker, which ultimately wasn't enough to push him to victory.

Markey did the brunt of his campaigning during the primary election, where he was challenged by Representative Joe Kennedy III and where he became the first person to beat a Kennedy in Massachusetts ever. Initially, Markey looked like the underdog, with Kennedy holding a 17 point lead over Markey in August 2019 when he entered the race. Kennedy argued that his youth was an antidote to Markey's over four decades in government; Markey argued that his co-writing of the Green New Deal proved that his older age didn't affect his ability to champion progressive ideas. Markey also pointed to Kennedy's family legacy to prove that although he was the incumbent, he could also be the one to affect change. Through endorsements from Rep. Alexandria Ocasio

Cortez (D-NY) and the youth-led Sunrise Movement, Markey attracted many young voters, prompting the start of groups such as Students for Markey and dedicated Twitter accounts known as the "Markeyverse."

One of the Students for Markey co-founders and a digital fellow on Markey's campaign, Calla Walsh '22, said that Markey won also because he ran on progressive issues such as a Green New Deal, Medicare for All, abolishing ICE, and defunding and demilitarizing the police. "While youth voices are often discredited or left out in elections, Ed's victory proves that politicians -- even old, white men -- can win the youth vote when they fight for issues we care about," Walsh said. "One of my favorite aspects of the Markey campaign was that it was directly focused on policy and those most impacted by it." □

Reviewing the 2020 Election Results Nationwide

By ANNIE A. '21, ELLY P. '21, CAITLIN S. '21, SREETEJ DIGUMARTHI '21, ABE TOLKOFF '21, AND CHARLES WELLS '21
BANNER AND PANEL EXECUTIVE STAFF

Presidential Race

Despite President Trump's calls for recounts in several key states, attempted lawsuits, and accusations of fraudulent ballots, Joe Biden is the President-Elect of the United States. Georgia has certified its election results, giving Biden just over a 12,000 vote lead. President Trump's lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, announced that the Trump campaign was dropping its legal challenges in Michigan, where Biden won by more than 160,000 votes.

Although the Associated Press reports that Biden won the election by 306 to 232 electoral votes, Donald Trump and many of his supporters refuse to accept these results. President Trump has shattered presidential norms and traditions throughout his time in office, so it is no surprise that his approach of applying pressure to states that may change the election results is unconventional. Both Biden and Trump broke records for the amount of votes cast for them. At 79,658,000 and 73,675,000, both have surpassed President Barack Obama's record-setting 69,498,516 from 2008. The

grow in votes points to Americans' growing engagement with politics after the tumultuous and partisan past four years.

Whether or not Trump concedes, Joe Biden will be sworn in as the 46th US president on January 20. A major point of clash in Trump and Biden's campaigns was their different responses to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Trump has frequently ignored the recommendations of the CDC on mask-wearing, testing, and reopening. Biden, on the other hand, aims to hire more disease detectives at the CDC and enlist at least 100,000 contact tracers. Biden also plans to prepare an emergency fund that would give overtime reimbursement to essential workers and offer cash payments or tax refunds to vulnerable Americans, including working families and seniors. Biden's immediate plans to control the spread of COVID-19 are a source of hope for many of his voters across the country and will inevitably impact the way we learn throughout the remainder of this school year. □

Nationwide House Races

Entering November 3rd with high hopes, the Democratic Party saw their 35-seat advantage over Republicans in the House of Representatives shrink dramatically this election cycle.

If current margins hold, the makeup of the House will be 222 Democrats and 213 Republicans while it had previously been 232 Democrats, 197 Republicans, five empty seats, and one Libertarian. Prominent Democrats, including Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, predicted that the Party would expand its majority. Nate Silver's 538 predicted that in 80% of election outcomes, Democrats would hold 239 seats, gaining seven. As with many polls and predictions released before election day, that prediction ultimately fell flat with Republicans outperforming their predicted 196 seats.

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy declared the results of the House races a victory for the Republican Party, stating, "We have never been in a stronger position... We won this by adding more people to the party. And we won this in an atmosphere where we were the one group that everyone guaranteed we would lose. And we're the ones who won."

The new makeup of the House virtually guarantees closer votes on all major legislation and will require Democrats to display tremendous unity at a time when the divide between the moderate and pro-

gressive members of the party is growing. According to Roll Call, Democrats on average voted along party lines 95% of the time last year, the highest number since data on partisan voting began to be collected in 1956. Moving forward, this number will have to be an unprecedented 98% for Democrats to take advantage of their majority.

In the aftermath of election day, infighting between House Democrats has only grown. In a House Democrats call two days after election, moderate representatives Abigail Spanberger (D-VA) and Marc Veasy (D-TX) pointed to the far-left's messaging, like defunding the police and banning fracking, as reasons for Democrat losses. In response, in an interview with the New York Times, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio Cortez (D-NY) pointed to Democrats' lack of investment in digital campaigning and fear of alienating moderate voters to the point of not embracing more popular progressive ideas as reasons for Democrat losses.

Looking ahead to 2022, Republicans seem poised to win back control of the House, as the party that holds the presidency has historically lost seats during midterm elections. Since 2002, the party of the incumbent has lost an average of 28 seats in these elections according to data collected by UCSB, and in 2010, the Democrats lost 63 seats while Joe Biden served as Vice President. □

Nationwide Senate Races

Entering the 2020 General Elections, Republicans maintained a small but definitive majority in the US Senate holding 53 seats to Democrats' 45. Two Independent Senators, Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Angus King (I-ME) caucus with Democrats creating the 53-47 split. Based on current election results, Republicans have secured 50 seats, flipping Alabama and winning each of the so-called "toss-up" states (Iowa, Maine, Montana, North Carolina, and South Carolina). Despite tight polls in most of these races, Republicans have won convincingly in most cases. For example, Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) defeated her Democratic challenger Sara Gideon by a definitive margin of eight points, despite being predicted to lose in most polls pre-election. In Montana, Republican incumbent Steve Daines also thwarted a challenge by former Governor Steve Bullock by a margin of 10 points. In fact, in races where Republicans were "expected to narrowly win," they did so by confidently double-digit margins, some above 20 points.

While Democrats failed to emerge from Election Day with a Senate majority, they did flip two seats in Arizona and Colorado. Former Governor John Hickenlooper (D-CO) defeated Republican incumbent Cory Gardner by a margin of 9 points. Democrats have secured 46 seats, a net gain of one, and both Independents will caucus with them again in 2021. The Senate majority is widely expected to remain in Republican hands, though two

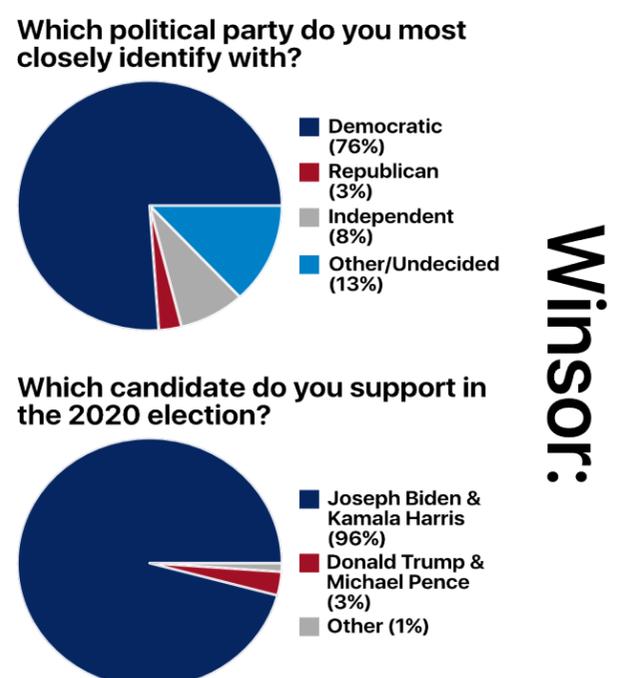
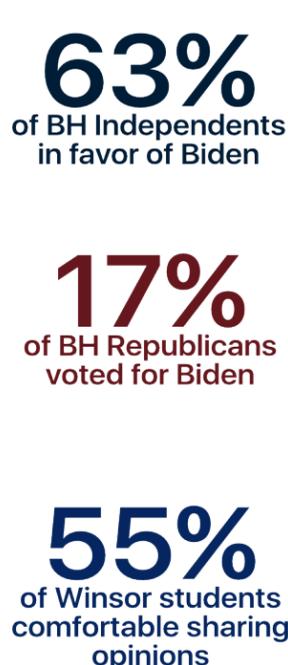
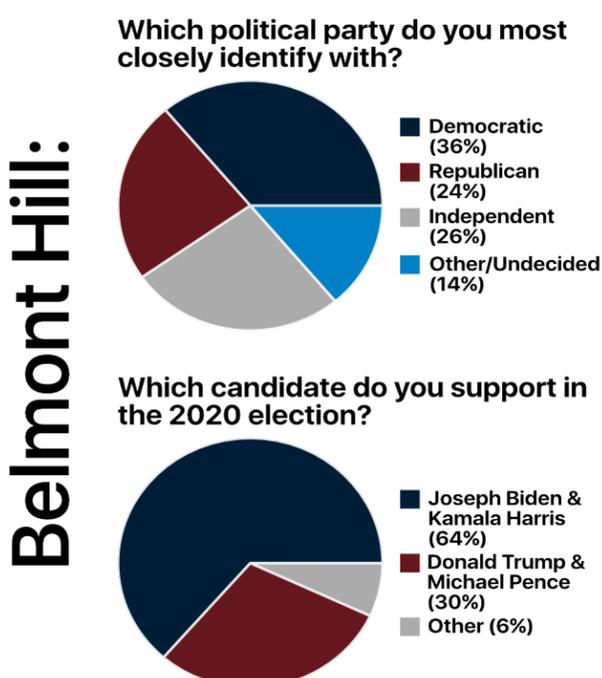
outstanding runoff races in Georgia will dictate the margin. Republican incumbents Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue failed to reach the 50% threshold to win their races outright, triggering a runoff by the state's election laws. Both races will take place on January 5th, 2021, two days after the 117th Congress is sworn in. If Democrats manage to win both seats, they will secure the Senate majority with Vice President-elect Kamala Harris serving as the swing vote to give them a 51-50 advantage over Republicans. No matter the eventual outcome of the runoff elections, the Senate majority will be extremely slim, which means cooperation and bipartisanship will be the keywords in Washington for the next two years.

The 2020 Senate Races were some of the most contested and expensive in history. Congressional spending topped Despite polls suggesting a confident Democratic majority, the party fell short in every tossup state. The split government in Washington, although certainly a frustrating handicap for the majority party, is likely a better path for the nation. While legislation must achieve bipartisan support for passage, it will necessitate active debate and cooperation, hopefully setting a renewed precedent for such practices after years of political volatility. There will come a day when the majority becomes the minority and vice versa -- an important fact to keep in mind before sweeping legislation is passed, procedural stopgaps are removed, and a policy of non-negotiation is enacted by a minority. □

Nationwide Ballot Questions

Important questions were on the ballot throughout the rest of the country, many of which pertained to drug use and possession. Arizona, New Jersey, South Dakota, and Montana all legalized marijuana for recreational use, Mississippi legalized marijuana for medical use, and Oregon legalized psilocybin, more commonly known as magic mushrooms. Other areas of the country decriminalized drug use and possession, with Washington D.C. decriminalizing entheogens and Oregon decriminalizing possession of all drugs if the user completes a health assessment or pays a \$100 fine. Ballot measures in other states pertained to the districting and voting processes. In Colorado, voters decided to join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact which would give the state's electoral votes to the winner of the popular vote if enough

states join the compact throughout the country. Two states, Missouri and Virginia, passed ballot measures for redistricting, with Missouri putting a nonpartisan demographer in charge of the process and Virginia leaving the process to a commission of citizens and state legislators. Voters in Nevada passed a ballot measure relating to climate change, requiring electric utilities to generate half of their energy from renewable sources by 2030. In Florida, voters decided to raise the minimum wage to \$15/hour by 2026, increasing it first to \$10/hour in 2021 and raising it \$1 annually until 2026. In California, voters had thirteen questions on their ballot. The state decided to uphold its cash bail policy, classify app-based drivers as contractors and not as employees (ex: Uber, Lyft, etc.), restore the right to vote to felons on parole, and keep in place a ban against affirmative action. □



Trump Leaves GOP at Its Most Diverse in Sixty Years

By SAMMY JOMAA '21
PANEL STAFF

The prevailing political narrative since at least 2002, the year of *The Emerging Democratic Majority's* publication, has been that Democrats were destined for permanent national dominance because of a rapidly diversifying America. While Republicans' strong performance in the 2010 and 2014 midterms should have given hopeful liberals some pause, McCain and Romney's anemic support among minorities did give the theory some merit - that is, until Trump transformed the GOP. While he may have lost reelection, Trump created the most racially diverse Republican coalition in modern history, and has given his party a blueprint for winning elections in a changing America.

According to exit polling conducted by Edison Research, Trump won 26% of the nonwhite vote, the highest of any Republican since 1960, when Richard Nixon ran on a pro-civil rights platform. He doubled 2012 candidate Mitt Romney's margins among African-Americans, earning 12% of the Black vote and also improved on Romney's totals by five points among Asian-Americans and Hispanics respectively. Furthermore, considering pollsters' incredible underestimation of Trump's support this election cycle, it's possible that Trump's gains among minorities were even greater, as state, county, city and town-level vote tallies appear to show.

While much attention has understandably been focused on Trump's twenty-plus point gains in the Hispanic communities of south Florida and the Rio Grande Valley, he made similar

gains in communities of color across the United States. In Yuma and Santa Clara, the only two majority-Hispanic counties in Arizona, Trump improved his support by 4.8 and 7.9 points respectively. Similarly, in the twelve majority-Hispanic counties of New Mexico, he narrowed the margins of his Dem-



President Trump speaks to reporters outside the White House. White House Flickr

ocratic opponent by a combined eight points. His gains in Orange County, California, were even more impressive: in Stanton, 49% Hispanic, and Santa Ana, 77% Hispanic, Trump boosted his support by a combined fifteen points. Plurality-Asian Westminster and Garden Grove swung to Trump by twenty-three and twenty-one points respectively.

Trump also made similar gains in the Northeast. In deep-blue Massachusetts, Trump cut away at his opponents lead by twenty-one points in Lawrence, 80% Hispanic, and by ten

in five of seven polling places, and by more than twenty in three of them. In Philadelphia, Biden improved on Clinton's support by just a few thousand votes while Trump earned an additional twenty-two thousand, netting him a three point gain in the plurality-Black city. In fact, many major cities across the country swung to Trump, including Chicago by 5%, Detroit by 3%, San Francisco by 4%, and Cleveland by 7%.

Even in the Southeast - where Biden flipped Georgia and came close in North Carolina - Trump made mod-

est gains among minorities. Of the thirty-four counties in North Carolina with the highest populations of Black voters, twenty-eight of them shifted towards Trump by roughly seven points on average since 2016. Georgia was much closer, but even there eight of the eleven counties in the state with the highest populations of Black voters shifted towards Trump, doing so by a rough average of four points. Also notable is that in majority-Native American Robeson County, North Carolina, where Obama won by twenty points in 2012, Trump defeated Biden by almost twice that.

This all raises an important question: how, considering Trump's significant gains among minorities, could he have lost? The answer is that his abrasive and often grotesque style collapsed his already-fragile support among white suburbanites. This trend explains Democrats upset victories in Georgia, Arizona and Pennsylvania. It was white voters in the suburbs of Atlanta, Phoenix and Philadelphia - not people of color - that won Biden the election. However, there's still hope for the GOP in this demographic. While they may've broken for Biden, many voted Republican down ballot, indicating that they'd be open to more-respectable Republican presidential candidates. From this, the GOP's optimal election strategy becomes clear: threading the needle between the aspects of Trumpism that earned him unprecedented gains among minorities (and, of course, his passionate support among non-college educated whites) and those that scared off decisive-numbers of suburban voters. The question is - will future Republican politicians be nimble enough to pull it off? □

The Lesson from 2020: Progressivism Wins Elections

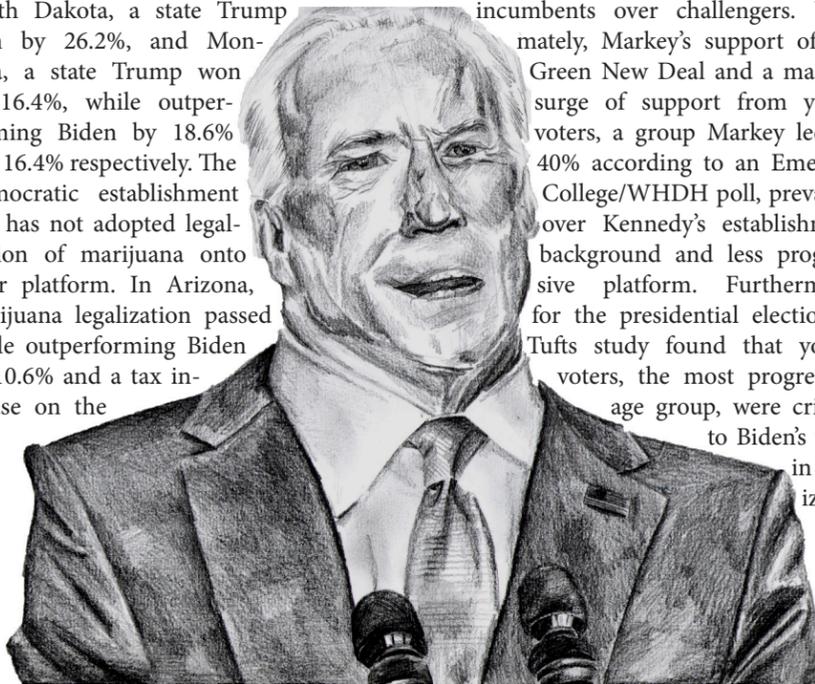
By SREETEJ DIGUMARTHI '21 AND
HENRY MOSES '21
PANEL STAFF

Despite a pandemic that has killed over 250,000, a near-unprecedented economic recession, and one of the most controversial presidents in American history, the "blue wave" that Democrats hoped for this election cycle never appeared. Although Democrats won the presidency, their majority in the House of Representatives shrank significantly as Republicans flipped eleven seats. Furthermore, the party seems unlikely to regain control of the Senate, needing to win two runoff Senate elections in Georgia against Republican incumbents to have 50 seats. Centrist Democrats have been quick to blame the progressive wing of the party for the disappointing election cycle, with House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn saying if, "we are going to run on Medicare for All, defund the police, socialized medicine, we're not going to win."

However, contrary to this claim, progressives outperformed their moderate counterparts this election cycle. Every one of the 112 co-sponsors of Medicare for All (M4A) won their race, including six who won in swing districts. On the other hand, all eleven seats that Republicans flipped were previously held by Democrats who opposed M4A. 97 of the 98 co-sponsors of the Green New Deal won their races, with the only one who lost being an opponent of M4A. In Maine's 2nd Congressional District, Jared Golden, who backs M4A, defeated his Republican challenger by 5.8% in his district, where Donald Trump beat the moderate Joe Biden and Republican Senator Susan Collins beat her centrist challenger, Sara Gideon.

But these results should come as no surprise: progressive policies have proven to

be popular across the political spectrum. A measure for a \$15 minimum wage, a proposal that was first introduced into mainstream politics by progressive Senator Bernie Sanders, outperformed Biden by 12.9% in Florida, a state where Donald Trump expanded his 2016 margin from 1.4% to 3.3%. Measures to legalize marijuana passed in South Dakota, a state Trump won by 26.2%, and Montana, a state Trump won by 16.4%, while outperforming Biden by 18.6% and 16.4% respectively. The Democratic establishment still has not adopted legalization of marijuana onto their platform. In Arizona, marijuana legalization passed while outperforming Biden by 10.6% and a tax increase on the



Democratic President-elect Joseph R. Biden. Daniel Xie '24

wealthy to fund public schools passed with a share of the vote 2.3% greater than Biden's.

So how can Democrats avoid disappointing election cycles like this one in the future? As the evidence suggests, the party needs to follow the examples of progressives like Senator Ed Markey by embracing progressivism and driving up youth turnout through progressive policies. During the Massachusetts Senate primary in September, Markey faced a centrist challenge from

4th District Representative Joe Kennedy. The race served as a proxy war between progressives and moderates, with Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez backing Markey and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, and the rest of the Democratic establishment, flocking around Kennedy despite Markey's popularity and her standard of supporting

incumbents over challengers. Ultimately, Markey's support of the Green New Deal and a massive surge of support from youth voters, a group Markey led by 40% according to an Emerson College/WHDH poll, prevailed over Kennedy's establishment background and less progressive platform. Furthermore, for the presidential election, a Tufts study found that young voters, the most progressive age group, were critical to Biden's wins in Arizona,

Michigan, Georgia, and Pennsylvania. Still, instead of embracing young progressives and progressivism in general, the Democratic National Committee have pandered to the interests of centrists and Republicans. For example, the Lincoln Project, a group of anti-Trump Republicans, raised tens of million of dollars almost entirely from Democratic donors according to the Center for Responsible Politics but produced no visible results, with Trump even

building upon his 2016 margin with Republicans. The Democratic establishment also gave John Kasich, the Republican former governor of Ohio, speaking time during the Democratic National Convention. Trump proceeded to expand his margin in Ohio from 8.1% in 2016 to 8.2%.

This election cycle illuminates the disconnect between the Democratic establishment and what voters actually want, and going forward, it will be in the Party's best interest to realize and act on this separation if they would like to remain relevant. The Presidential race was not the blowout that was wanted, the majority in the House shrank, and, in the best-case scenario, there will be a tie in the Senate. Rather than attack progressive policies like Medicare for All, a Green New Deal, and marijuana legalization, Democrats must embrace them and those who advocate for them. Rather than scream "socialism" like it's the devil, Democrats must recognize that these are popular positions, as proven by their success as ballot issues in numerous states and their polling numbers. Right now, we have a GOP that won't condemn white supremacy and conspiracy theories while the Democrats attack progressives like AOC and Ilhan Omar and progressive policies. This isn't sustainable in the slightest. If this doesn't change, a lot of both serious and superficial issues will play out. The economic conditions of the working class will continue to deteriorate, the planet will continue to heat ensuring a painful future, and the divide between those in power and those disenfranchised will continue to grow. Superficially, the Democratic party will beat themselves into irrelevance. It is both in the interest of the people they represent, and those in power within the party, to move to the left. Our future depends on it. □

Politics of Identity Class Speaks with Montana School

By ANNA M. '21
BANNER STAFF

“What comes to mind when I talk about Montana?” This was how Mr. Braxton, Director of Community and Inclusion and History Faculty, introduced his Politics of Identity class to the opportunity to Zoom with students at Sidney High School in Sidney, Montana. Politics of Identity has a curriculum centered around examining how the social construction of race, class, and gender affect the political, economic, and social life of the contemporary U.S. In class, Mr. Braxton emphasizes the importance of having challenging conversations and tells his students that as “we are in one of the bluest states in the country it’s very interesting talking within this community about these issues and why we believe what we do, but I worry that without engaging with someone with a different point of view we run the risk of thinking we’re better than someone.” Individuals miss an opportunity when in such a politically charged society they cannot give anyone a second chance or the opportunity for real engagement because they assume that they can’t be friends with anyone possessing opposing political views.

Sidney and Winsor students alike entered the conversations with open minds and what little knowledge they thought they

had about each other. Very different from Boston, Sidney is a rural city of just over 5,000 people in an overwhelmingly red state. Winsor students were quickly assured that Montana is mostly flat, not hilly, and those from Sidney were disappointed to hear that not many people have Boston accents. An initial point of interest for Sidney students was Winsor’s affinity groups. Brandon S. '21 noted “I was taken aback when I learned about [affinity groups] because we don’t have anything like that here.” Sidney lacks much of the racial diversity that comes with Winsor’s being in a city, and while Sidney students do not regularly discuss issues confronting the Black community, learning about Native American culture is a large part of their curriculum. The conversation quickly shifted towards political issues, especially with reference to the 2020 presidential election. Brandon described our conversations as “a culture shock,” and another student mentioned only ever seeing such liberal opinions voiced on the internet. While social issues are the focus of most political discussions at Winsor, for Sidney students, their political decisions are largely defined by the economic issues. This surprised Pardis K. '21, who “thought it was interesting to see how focused the Sidney class was on issues that would so directly affect them, like the fracking

industry, the Affordable Care Act, and tax cuts.” Although their region of Montana is quite red, Sidney students all noted that a big misconception about Montana is that it’s monolithic, and that in actuality, different parts of the large state house their own unique cultures and diverse opinions.

As shown by the results of the 2020 election, this nation is, at present, a nation divided. President-Elect Joe Biden has spoken about the need for the country to come together across these various divides in order to heal. To Sidney’s Daniel S. '21, “we need to become less polarized, and I think part of the issue is people just don’t listen to each other.” Daniel believes it’s important to have “a variety of people in a class to bring those various perspectives, not just being diverse politically, but economically and racially as well.” For that reason, Pardis found it “really interesting to be exposed to views that are completely opposite of ones we are surrounded by at Winsor.” Likewise, Brandon summed up the experience, saying “it’s nice to get out of your social bubble, and it has been a breath of fresh air even if I don’t agree.” Only if we continue to challenge and expose ourselves to these fresh perspectives may we

make progress toward being a more united country. The two classes hope to continue meeting throughout the semester and beyond. These opportunities for discussion are valuable now more than ever; given the current political climate, challenging conversations need to occur not in spite of our differences, but because of them. □



Sidney HS and Winsor Google Images

Thoughts on 4-Day School Week Schedule

By ANGELINA L. '22
BANNER STAFF

During a particularly stressful week last year, a couple of my friends and I wondered what it would be like not to have school on Wednesdays. What sounded too good to be true has now been realized in Winsor’s pandemic hybrid schedule. However, there are many instances throughout the year where a holiday falls on Monday, so to make up for the lost school day, Wednesday assumes the Tuesday schedule. There have already been a few shortened weeks this semester, so I was curious to hear how some members of the community felt about their occurrence.

One of the benefits of having Wednesdays off is that they can

accommodate students’ personal needs. Personally, I use this time to catch up on school work and decompress after two long days of consecutive online classes. Similarly, Aleksandra H. '22 “use[s] the time on Wednesday to meet with teachers, go to club meetings, and peer tutor, among other things.” She elaborated that “without this Wednesday, not only do I feel stressed with my schoolwork, but I have to find other time, that I do not have, to complete these commitments.” Having Wednesday off can truly be a blessing, especially for high schoolers who have a heavier workload. Much like Aleksandra, Anne Sophie W. '22 has gotten used to having a day to prepare for the two on-campus days, so she finds that it can be particularly hard to readjust to having school on Wednesdays. She adds, “those [school-free]

Wednesdays are the highlight of my week.”

During the condensed weeks, teachers may still assign homework due at the start of their second class of the week, so students are more rushed in completing their work. As Catherine R. '25 puts it, “I have found that it is more stressful to have a long weekend rather than have Wednesday off because we have the same amount of work but instead we do not have a break in the middle of the week to get our homework done.”

I was curious to see how these compressed weeks affected faculty members at Winsor. When I asked Ms. Ryan, an Upper School English teacher, about the ways in which she is affected by those weeks, her response was rather focused on her students. She told me that “a three-day weekend every once in a while should create more breathing room... [but] especially

when there are longer asynchronous assignments to complete, [not having that Wednesday break] seems like it’s making students feel more harried and more rushed — and so I’m concerned about the effect on students and their learning.”

Despite the newfound challenges that come with shortened weeks, I agree with what Ashley X. '23 about our current schedule: “losing Wednesday is definitely hard... [but] not unmanageable, however, because during pre-COVID times, we would have 5 days of school in a row.” Although weeks without having Wednesdays off feel much busier than regular ones, we should appreciate how the latter is already a diminished version of what school with its stress and workload used to be like. On that note, enjoy restful no-school Wednesdays for as long as they last! □

Social Media: The Friend Parents Do Not Want Around

By ARIA D. '21
BANNER STAFF

Sports, family, and friends. This is the kind of list one might expect to hear if a teenager were asked to name the biggest influences in their life. However, in most cases, this list would be missing one major factor: social media. Social media, which includes Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook, has quickly become one of the largest influences on modern life. According to eMarketer, 90.4% of millennials, 77.5% of Generation X, and 48.2% of baby boomers are active users in this online realm. A 2018 Pew Research Center survey found that Generation Z is even more involved in social media, with 97% having an account on at least one of seven major online platforms. Social media has tangible influence; for

“That would mean that 47,840,000 of America’s eligible voters in 2020 relied on social media to inform them in making a decision that determines the fate of our country and its citizens.”

many, it has become an alternate world that is no less real than the one we live in. Fashion trends, pop culture opinions, and even culinary preferences appear to be actively

disseminated on social media more often than in the real world. These categories may seem novel, but what about the categories that affect us the most as U.S citizens? What about social media’s influence on politics?

According to a survey conducted in 2019 by Pew Research Center, one in five American adults get their political news primarily through social media. That would mean that 47,840,000 of America’s eligible voters in 2020 relied on social media to inform them in making a decision that determines the fate of our country and its citizens. Clearly, social media plays a huge role in our politics, so it is essential that it accurately informs the American people. However, according to another survey conducted by Pew Research, it is failing to educate our citizens. The survey asked participants nine political questions to gauge political knowledge, and those who cited social media as their primary political news source scored 57% in the low knowledge category, 27% in the medium knowledge, and a mere 7% in the high knowledge category. Those with social media as their news source tested were the runner up for least politically knowledgeable.

Not only does social media struggle to educate its users, but it exposes them to the threat of misinformation in a way that no other media is legally allowed to do. Under

a federal law known as section 230, internet companies such as Facebook and Twitter are not responsible for the content that its users post. This exemption means that there is no measure to hold companies accountable for disinformation that runs rampant on their platforms. In addition, there is no law that holds social media companies to a standard of political neutrality. Users who rely on social media may not be conscious of the fact that the material they are absorbing could be partisanly skewed. Since social media presents itself as a platform for users to share their opinions, the actual site’s bias, if existent, tends to be less obvious than the bias of news media, like CNN, the Washington Post, the Federalist, or Fox News. Between its failure to educate and its rampant

misinformation, social media is not a productive tool for Americans to learn about politics. □



Franchesca V. '22

Why Canceling Cancel Culture is the Only Option

BY RANI B. '21
BANNER STAFF

Although the term “canceling” originated in the early 2010s, the more recent term “cancel culture” has been popping up frequently in the comments sections of problematic TikTokers, influencers, and other celebrities. According to Insider, the term refers to a “cultural boycott” of a problematic person and their social media and has experienced a resurgence in the past few months on social media. Cancel culture has formed due to the canceling or calling out of those who have committed unspeakable acts on social media, or been accused of grave misconduct in some way and are boycotted or publicly held to these accusations.

Cancel culture also does not stop at TikTok. Although obviously a different situation, after criminal sexual assault and rape allegations were made against Harvey Weinstein, Bill Cosby, and R. Kelly, they lost all public support and are now paying for their crimes not only being rightfully canceled but also after having been convicted in court. Different than both TikTok stars and convicted criminals, former ‘Glee’ star Lea Michele was also canceled after several verbally abusive and racist comments that

she made in the past circulated around social media. Her apology was deemed inauthentic, and she remains ‘canceled.’

The New York Times noted that those who have less substantiated allegations or lies levied against them have experienced psychological trauma and upheaval in their lives. The types of accusations (baseless or not) that accompany those who have been canceled, or accused of cultural appropriation, have included sexual assault, transphobic, homophobic, racist, Islamophobic, or xenophobic actions, speech, and/or slurs, and the list goes on.

While some of those who are canceled for more minor accusations or allegations still use their social media platforms and are active, others have been pushed off of platforms. I believe that the danger in cancel culture lies in three main parts of it - the ‘mob’ or herd mentality, the quick to assume audience, and most importantly, the inability for people to learn and grow from their mistakes. I suppose the title of this article is rather ironic, but I think that because cancel culture does not allow growth, it does nothing but harm both the accused and the accuser, and the accusers are lulled into a false sense that they achieved something.

I do agree that there are obvious lines that should not be crossed, such as criminal

allegations; however, those being ‘canceled’ for having said something insensitive should be allowed to learn how their actions offended a certain community or person, and apologize thoroughly. And there are only so many times one can ask for forgiveness and so many chances someone can have.

When asked about whether cancel culture and canceling should be left in the past or not, Jordyn Y. '21 gave her personal opinion on the matter, saying “It’s difficult because obviously, we shouldn’t be supporting people who make truly bad decisions that impact others negatively, but ultimately no, I don’t think there are enough benefits to cancel culture to keep it around. I mostly think people (or the audience) should be allowed to make their own decisions on who they do and don’t support, and

just hope they make the right choice.

Nora E. '21 also commented that “I think that although the intention of cancel culture is very important and positive, it often leads to internet dog-piling and



‘Cancel Culture’ has led to increased online scrutiny. Katya A. '23

bullying as opposed to actual accountability and education. There are times when ‘canceling’ is necessary— especially in cases of abuse or overt and intentional bigotry— but ‘canceling’ as we usually see it occur on social media is generally pretty unproductive. there are more effective ways of educating and enacting change in people than digging up receipts and making a spectacle of people’s mistakes. □

The Perceptions of Election Polls on Campus

BY ABE TOLKOFF '21
PANEL STAFF

So what happened to the election polls? According to a November 13th New York Times article, there are three main issues which account for some of the discrepancies in polling data: Republican voters seem to have become less willing to respond to polls, polling response rates are lower than ever, and the uncertainty in polls is not covered by journalists as much as the results are.

So where does that leave us as Americans? How about as voters? Or just on campus at Belmont Hill?

Based on a recent survey, almost 55% of 145 respondents from our community said that before the election, they believed that the polls were going to be somewhat accurate. About 25% said they were going to be quite accurate, and around 17% said they thought the polls were going to be quite wrong. On the whole, national polling for Presidential races has been ex-

remely accurate over the past few election cycles compared to the past few decades, though its predictions are often misconstrued. National polls are good predictors of who will win the popular vote, however when we consider the electoral college as the true decider of the Presidency, these polls become less useful. Instead, we must rely on state polls, which are typically less accurate, to predict election results.

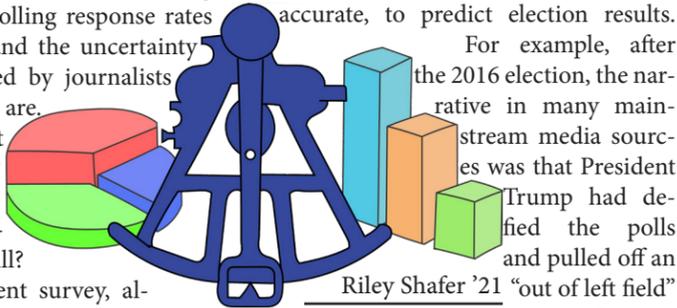
For example, after the 2016 election, the narrative in many mainstream media sources was that President Trump had defied the polls and pulled off an “out of left field” victory. In reality however, national polls were correct in predicting the winner of the popular vote; Secretary Clinton did beat President Trump by almost 2.9 million votes or 2.1 percentage points. While many factors contributed to Clinton’s loss and Trump’s victory, most election polls conducted in early Novem-

ber were within the margin of error, though they favored Clinton. According to a May 2018 article by 528, national polls were only incorrect by an average margin of 3.1 points in the 2016 general election (below the 50 year average of 4.1), while state polls were incorrect by an average margin of 5.2 points (slightly above the 50 year average of 4.8).

In 2020, however, the margin of error was greater at the national level, and even larger at the state level. Based on current election results, President-elect Biden is estimated to have won the popular vote by a margin of around 4 or 5 points. Compared to many national polls, his expected margin was greater than 8 or 10 in some cases. While this difference is significant in national polls, state polls were even less accurate. For example, polling averages had Biden winning Wisconsin by 10 points or more, though in reality he only won the state by less than one point. Ohio was a similar story, President Trump was expected to win the state by less than one point, however his victory margin was nearly 8 points. While these represent extremes along a list of misestimated state results, it is important to consider that every

poll has a margin of error within which it can be wrong. For example, if a poll places Biden ahead in Georgia by 1 point, with a margin of error of three points, he could win the state by 4 or lose by 2 and still have the poll be “correct.” That said, since our nation employs a winner takes all system in states, it doesn’t matter by how many votes a candidate wins, only that they do so.

Back at Belmont Hill, most of the students who believed that the polls would be accurate have not changed their opinions after the election. On the flip side, most of the students who said polls would be incorrect believed that the polls were wrong after the election. No matter what national media said before and after the election, most respondents did not change their opinions, despite the fact that the national narrative shifted significantly. As we look ahead to the 2022 midterms and 2024 Presidential election, it is important to take poll results with a grain of salt, and not rely on them as bulletproof predictors of election results. Students and faculty widely agreed that published election polls should be accurate, the question is how do we get there? □



Increased Discussion on Campus about Current Issues

BY AUSTIN CURTIS '23
PANEL STAFF

This year has undoubtedly been one of stress, high tensions, and conflict. On campus, we as a community witness firsthand the effects of the world around us, with masks being mandatory and social distance becoming the new normal. Political and social unrest has forced us to rethink our societal tendencies and reform our governing institutions in order to provide a better country for everyone.

Due to COVID-19, the past few months have given ample opportunities for discussions and reflection that otherwise would have been lost between the busy schedules and lives of Belmont Hill students. On campus, every day, there are opportunities to learn something new during the modified lunch-advising period, and this is a time of the day that is important and should be leaned into with focus and an open mind. To some, these difficult discussions about current problems with society may seem pointless, but this is not

the case. Belmont Hill’s mission is to mold men of good character, and by having talks amongst our peers and teachers, the school creates an environment in which there is opportunity to learn and change preconceived notions that some may have. As Ms. Zener suggests, “education is important, school is about exploring, going into uncharted territory, and being exposed to new ideas and skills.” Belmont Hill has clearly made a point of having more learning opportunities on campus, something which is necessary and should be continued even after COVID-19 becomes old news.

It’s important to be able to recognize your perspective on life because everyone is different, and by seeing someone else, you realize that the world around you may not be what you thought it was. Looking at life through a different lens gives an opportunity for sympathy and understanding of other people’s differences, something that everyone could use a little more during these difficult times. By exploring different ideas, you’re also learning more about yourself and how you fit into the world, how your

ideas contradict with others’, and how to be more open to outside perspectives. This year, Belmont Hill has done an amazing job of creating a time during the day where all of these things can happen, and it’s now our responsibility as students to be active and not brush these discussions off as being obsolete. They do have a purpose, otherwise we wouldn’t be having them every day. As this year progresses, and when next year starts, it will be important for Belmont Hill to have the same energy they do this year in terms of fostering opportunities to learn

and discuss. If Belmont Hill is seriously involved with issues pertaining to our society, we should expect to see similar activities in varying degrees this year, and for years to come. This will not only aid the school in completing their mission of making men of character, but will also keep students updated on topics and issues that they should care about. I urge new students, quiet students, athletic and academic students, and all students in between to find a voice in these talks, you may be surprised at what you learn about yourself or someone else. □



Students in a discussion in front of the renovated chapel BH Communications

Debate of the Issue: BH Maroon vs. Winsor Red

By ADAM ALTO '21 AND HENRY MOSES '21
PANEL STAFF

The supple dark undertones of a solid maroon draw me in like nothing else. Whereas the bright highlights of a standard red abrade the eyes, the mellow nature of maroon allows me to ponder issues beyond myself; I get lost in the off-tone and ambiguous subduedness.

Maroon is mature. Maroon is sexy. I would like to take maroon out on a date. The double "o" cascades off the tongue like melted butter; you can almost taste the smooth richness of maroon. Red, however, is generic. Its abrasiveness pierces the ears as much as it does the eyes. Monosyllabic words in general are bland and uninteresting, let alone three-letter monosyllabic words. The "d" at the end of red slams into the top of one's mouth, a far cry from maroon's smooth departure from the lips.

Because Belmont Hill does not champion an entire day around the color of our logo, maroon's essence transcends that of something to be celebrated and flocked around. Rather, its nuanced and reflective nature carries through in all aspects of school: in class, we praise maroon by reflecting on what is learned; on the sports field, we praise

maroon through reflection in defeat or victory; in the theater, we praise maroon by presenting our viewers with matter to contemplate. A maroon lining on the numbers of a football jersey is a subtle but effective way to make a player stand out; while maroon emphasizes individuality, its identity as a soft undertone rejects cockiness. Red, on the other hand,

stands out like a stain. It works against the team dynamic, promoting rash individual action instead of calm cooperation. All of this is thanks to maroon and the reflective essence inherent in its aesthetic value.

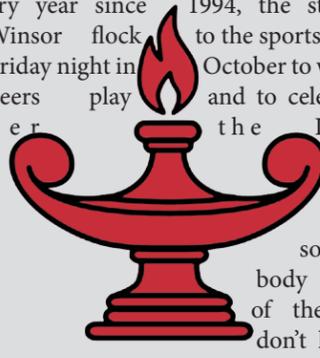
Lastly, maroon is just incredibly "sty." Spicing up a fit with maroon WILL turn heads, gaurenteed. It's a rare color; not many things in this world are naturally maroon. In conclusion, just like the students who wear it, maroon is simply built different and red, it's overrated. □



VS.

By CAROLINE F. '24 AND
JAYA K. '24
BANNER STAFF

For many Winsor students, the color red is not only a part of our sports uniforms, our logo, or our mascot; it symbolizes the school spirit that Winsor students have had ever since the school's founding. Every year since 1994, the students of Winsor flock to the sports fields on a Friday night in October to watch their peers play and to celebrate Under the Lights (UTL).



The entire Winsor student body and many of the teachers don't hold back, Luke Trevisan '24 painting their faces with face paint and dyeing their hair red to show their school spirit. This tradition is one that many look forward to all year. As head of school, Ms. Pelmas put it in an article about Spirit Week for the website, "I love everything about this weekend, from the red face paint, to the fierce competition, to the fans cheering and screaming from every direction." Red. Short and sweet. Fiery, com-

manding, powerful. Maroon, a lackluster wanna-be red holds nothing to this brilliance. It's just dark red, because red is the blueprint. When you think about it, is maroon even a version of red or is it purple? We don't even think the color itself knows. While some might argue that red is basic, isn't basic better than confusing? People flock to the classics for a reason. Why do hundreds of sports teams, logos and branding use the color red? We don't see them using maroon. Because red turns the eye, it makes you desire, love, need. Maroon is bland, boring, one dimensional. What other color would have an entire best selling album with it as its name? Not maroon.

There's a reason people talk about little red dresses instead of little maroon dresses. In the world we live in, AKA the real world, maroon is not turning heads. It is not spicing up your fits. It's rare for a reason, and that reason is that maroon is, quite frankly, a little ugly. Belmont Hill boys, let us give you fashion advice. Let us make your "fits" better. Listen to us, and you can see that turning heads is possible. Wear red, gentlemen. We promise we speak only the truth.

Both as a whole and represented throughout Winsor, red is more than a color; it's a lifestyle of excitement and pizzazz. Red can be so much more than you expect, as long as you let it. □

Community Service Continues Despite COVID-19

By CHARLIE WELLS '21 AND
EVIE W. '22
BANNER AND PANEL STAFF

One of the many casualties of the Coronavirus pandemic has been the myriad of community service opportunities offered by both schools. At Belmont Hill there is no more poker with senior citizens at the Meadowbrook Nursing Home, no more visiting and teaching robotics at the Butler school, and even the Turkey Drive, one of Belmont Hill's most iconic traditions, is a shell of its former self. At Winsor, volunteering in person at the Greater Boston Food Bank and hosting a Thanksgiving canned food drive are both out of the question. Nevertheless, our school's community service programs have persisted and enabled students to give back to their communities, just in different, socially distanced ways.

At Belmont Hill, many of the staple community service programs have not been possible in their usual form. Nevertheless, Mr. George and Mrs. McDonald have been pioneering new ways to reach out to the communities around us. Of course, we all know about the revamped Thanksgiving Grocery Gift Card Drive, which over a dozen 3rd Formers helped to implement, and was, in Mr. George's words, "resounding

success." As well, a group of Form I and II boys are helping to manage a clothing drive for Cradles to Crayons, an organization that distributes donated toys and clothing items to underprivileged children. Mr. George and Mrs. McDonald are also looking to implement a school-wide service initiative later in the year. Though the service does look different, 62 middle schoolers are taking part in the community service club this year. When asked about what students could do to help over break, or if we end up going remote, Mr. George responded, "Over this Thanksgiving break, we encourage everyone to learn as much as they can about what challenges and needs are out there in our communities, and then consider how they might help make a positive impact. Coordinating with classmates and getting a good group of students mobilized around an idea is a great way to increase the benefit, while also making the effort a fun and rewarding social activity." The pandemic has also had some positive effects on the community service initiatives at Belmont Hill. Because of the difficulty posed by the pandemic,

the community has to get creative in order to serve the people around us. Mr. George and Mrs. McDonald are "excited to think about what sort of programs Belmont Hill will be able to put in place once we're able to return to relatively normal operations... If we can maintain our creativity and de-

Outreach and Food Bank collaborated on a virtual fundraiser that ran from the beginning of November to Thanksgiving break. One of the heads of Boston Outreach, Delaney H. '22, explained, "obviously, it's been a challenge because we can't go [volunteer] anywhere, but we are doing our best to be



A Boston area delivery driver loading a truck with meals.

Greater Boston Food Bank



Belmont Hill's Gift Card Turkey Drive served 656 families.

BH Communications

sire to help, our school community can have a long-lasting benefit."

At Winsor, community service looks different than it has in past years, but clubs like Boston Outreach, Food Bank, Mt. Pleasant and Greenwood have continued to come up with creative opportunities to serve the community. Boston Outreach members have made masks from old t-shirts, Food Bank uses their meetings to brainstorm solutions to combating food insecurity virtually, Mt. Pleasant plans to send Senior Home residents paper snowflakes for the holidays, and Greenwood club members, who usually tutor students at a local elementary school in-person after school, now do that same great work over Zoom. The biggest community service opportunity at Winsor this fall, though, was a school-wide effort. Boston

creative and still make an impact," and one product of this creativity was the fundraiser. It was not just a fundraiser, though: it was also an opportunity for competition between grades. The grade that contributes the greatest number of donations will get a prize. The possibility of a prize was certainly tempting to students because in just the first two days of fundraising, the Food Bank raised \$700. Though the winning grade hasn't been announced yet, Winsor's community-service oriented clubs have taken this year's challenges in stride and continued to make Winsor the community-minded place it has always been.

While it is by no means a normal year for community service, both schools are soldiering on and finding ways to help the people around them. Whether by donating or giving your time, we at The Panel and The Banner implore that you spend some time thinking of a creative way to give back to the people in your personal community. □

Hybrid vs. In-Person Learning at Winsor and BH

BY DANIEL BITTNER '22, ALAINA C. '23,
LIDIA R. '23, AND LAWRENCE TANG '22
PANEL AND BANNER STAFF

In response to varying demographics and school infrastructure, Belmont Hill and Winsor have adapted their traditional school structures differently to accommodate state guidelines regarding COVID-19. While Belmont Hill has employed a “fully in-person” system, where all students come to school on every day of the week except Wednesdays, Winsor has decided to function through a hybrid model, where students are two days in-person, and three days at home. No classes take place on Wednesday; it is a day for asynchronous learning, with an assembly in the morning. Accordingly, both schools have amended their schedule both in school and virtually to both provide the optimal experience and maintain proper protocols.

With Winsor’s new hybrid schedule, the school days start at 8:40, thirty-five minutes later than last year. Additionally, students do not have access to lockers, so they are expected to carry around their backpacks, coats, as well as other sports equipment or bags they find necessary. There are twenty minutes of passing time between each one hour class, where students are able to go outside to take a mask break.

While the majority of the Winsor students and faculty are able to be on campus, some teachers and students have elected to be all virtual. Mrs. Skeele, a veteran Winsor English teacher and advisor, is fully remote. She said that her high risk for contracting the virus led to the decision to be a fully remote teacher, but misses being at Winsor and seeing her students. She also expressed her admiration for the work that the Winsor faculty has done: “Winsor has done a great job with easy communication between students and teachers.” Mrs. Skeele also mentioned the opportunities and advantages of

online teaching. As a fully remote teacher, she no longer has to begin her days at 5:30 in the morning to commute to school. Also, conducting conferences and meeting students one-on-one is now easier than ever with Zoom. Remote teaching has its advantages and disadvantages, but overall Mrs. Skeele is very pleased and impressed with how Winsor is dealing with the situation.

Comparing Winsor’s completely virtual experience last year to the hybrid schedule this year, it seems that many students prefer spending half of their weeks on campus. Ashley X., a 10th grader at Winsor says that she prefers the hybrid schedule because “it gives students more free time, it saves time for students who live far away, and more time for commuting. The hybrid schedule has

more free time to do extracurricular activities.” Jeremiah H-M., another sophomore says “the hybrid model has more space for a more predictable schedule, you are never really in any confusion as to which day it is or which class you have. It is a more reliable schedule, and there is more time to do stuff.” Students enjoy their ability to participate in sports and hang out with friends during the school day. However, from listening to the feedback from our classmates, the majority feel that the twenty-minute passing time in between classes is too long. They would much rather cut the passing time down in order to be able to leave school earlier. Students are also concerned with the amount of work assigned during crunch weeks: weeks when the Wednesday schedule is cut out. Another difficulty with hybrid learning is remote learning. Although most stu-

dents like the hybrid schedule, some fear that “when we go back to all-in person we might get overwhelmed with how much less free time we have,” as Ashley X. '23 says. However, given the COVID-19 protocols, the Winsor students are thankful for everything Winsor has done, and are eager to see the changes that come next.

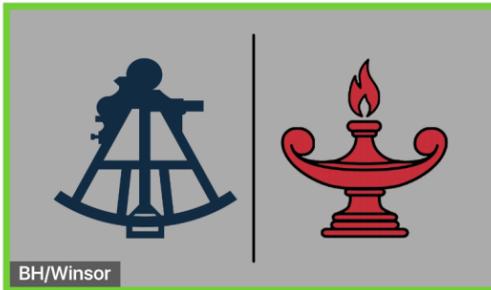
Belmont Hill has implemented many new changes in order to accommodate the new COVID guidelines. In the new schedule, students spend four days on campus with three classes per day, and attend all five of their classes remotely on Wednesdays. Like Winsor, the start of the day has been pushed back to 8:30, and the day ends around 2. For all four in-person days, classes are 75 minutes long, as was typical in the long block schedule before. Another major modification has been that in this new schedule, every in-person day has a 35-minute advisory period before lunch.

The overall feedback from Belmont Hill students with regards to this year’s schedule has been overwhelmingly positive. As Mr. Grant, assistant head of Belmont Hill, stated with regards to a survey conducted earlier in the fall, “the most striking thing was how much you all enjoyed being together and being in person.” Especially compared to the virtual experience last spring, in-person learning has been refreshing and uplifting to the student body, providing individuals with an environment in which they can interact with friends, teachers, and coaches in a way that is as close to normal as possible. Mr. Grant noted that the ability to talk in-person with teachers and

exercise through athletics has contributed to high student morale. The only downsides to the modified structure for students and faculty have been the lack of normal extra help time and the necessity to maintain social distancing: “Everyone misses that free X block [Belmont Hill’s allotted time for extra help and completing work]. Another frustrating thing has been the physical set-up of the classrooms [in which everyone has to be 6 feet apart], as so much of our teaching has moved towards more group work.”

Despite these downsides of having to follow state guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the student body has been immensely grateful for the opportunity to remain in person. The faculty have similarly appreciated the in-person model of learning, yet Mr. Grant emphasized the immense effort and adaptations that teachers have had to make in order to allow this experience to stay possible: “no faculty member has a syllabus that fits this moment... teachers have to reinvent themselves entirely each and every week based on what’s coming.” The student body greatly values all the effort that the faculty and staff have given to allow this experience to remain possible. As Mr. Grant noted, the upcoming Thanksgiving break is crucial to provide a break for the Administrative Team to prepare for any challenges that the upcoming winter season might bring.

As for the future, Belmont Hill is constantly looking to create modifications to the schedule that will allow teachers to create more extra help opportunities. However, this task has been hard to accomplish because, like Mr. Grant said, “we are trying to stay within the [Covid] guidelines.” Regardless, Belmont Hill students have generally appreciated the changes made to the school schedule so far and would certainly appreciate any future improvements to the current structure. □



Graphic by Kevin Jiang '22

The “Hispanic Vote” Does Not Exist, 2020 Proves It

BY HOWARD HUANG '22 AND
ABE TOLKOFF '21
PANEL STAFF

There is no such thing as the “Hispanic vote.” In misconstruing the US’ Latino community to be politically homogeneous, politicians and pollsters (especially Democrats) committed grievous miscalculations and were caught by surprise. Countless promising candidates have made the mistake of grouping all Latino voters into a single category and assuming they will all vote the same way. Instead, broad categories exist ranging from Central American refugees, to middle and working class.

While the terms “Hispanic” and “Latino” are the most common identifiers used to describe this growing population within our country, there are a host of other identities that can be attributed to different people and debates about the accuracy of the terms. For the purposes of this article, we will use “Hispanic” and “Latino” interchangeably, though we recognize the geographic, linguistic, and gender based limitations to both terms. A majority of those identifying as Hispanic or Latino say they use their nation of origin more often than either term as a person identifier. Furthermore, the Latino population is incredibly diverse within itself. According to the 2010 census, 53% of Latinos in the US identify as white, and 47% as multiracial, Black, or some other race. The nature of this diversity begs the question of why we generalize the population into one category so frequently.

Florida has been one of the most important states for presidential electoral politics over the past three decades. Latinos made up a record 17% of the state’s population in 2020, especially those from Cuba,

Puerto Rico, Mexico, and Colombia, due in part to its geographic proximity to the Caribbean. In the past election, Trump cultivated the Latino vote to turn the battleground state in his favor; in particular, around 55% of the Cuban-American vote went to Trump. This may have been because of his hard stance against the communist government of their country of origin, which many Cuban immigrants dislike because they had escaped the dictatorship. Republicans also went on the offensive calling Biden a “socialist” leading many voters from countries that had broken free from “socialist systems” to naturally avoid him. The Democrats defended themselves too little and too



Republican and Democratic campaign signs in the 2020 cycle.

Google Images

late while the “news” spread like wildfire on social media. On the other hand, overall, voters who identified as Latinos were split 49%-49% between Trump and Biden; Biden was able to rally a massive lead in groups like Puerto-Rican-Americans and others. The Democrats took into account the diversity of Latino voters in Florida too late, so they lost the 29 electoral votes to Trump.

Nearly 40% of Texas’s population is Latino, and more than 200,000 are reaching voting age every year making it an important example to demonstrate how Republicans can flip Democratic Latinos onto their side. Many of the Latino voters in the state are considered “naturally conservative” es-

pecially in the Rio Grande Valley where Trump made the largest improvements in point margins. Those areas are full of strongly Catholic and pro-life veterans, oil and gas workers, border patrol and customs agents. On the other hand, in this election, Biden received nearly three-quarters of the urban Latino vote; however, local Democrats agree that not enough campaigning was done to gain the votes of rural Democrats who have been voting for years but haven’t seen much meaningful improvement to their lives. Overall in Texas, it remains politically vital for Democrats to pay much needed attention to every group of Latinos and address their differing needs because that is what is

keeping Texas from turning blue every cycle. The populations of Arizona and Nevada are each around 30% Mexican-American, and while Nevada has been solidly blue in the past three election cycles, Biden’s flip of Arizona speaks to this continued trend. Starting in 2010, several campaigning organizations with the sole goal of mobilizing Latino voters formed in response to strict anti-immigration law SB 1070 in Arizona. These groups along with the powerful Culinary Workers Union in Nevada, which campaigned door-to-door, worked with Biden’s campaign. However, 37% of Latinos in Nevada, 8% more than 2016, voted for Trump. These voters were

not swayed by the campaigning above and even turned towards the Republican party.

The number of generations a person has lived in the US also affects their voting tendencies. According to the Pew Research Center, 56% of foreign-born Latinos use their country of heritage to identify themselves, while 40% use the terms Hispanic or Latino, and 4% use American. Within this population subset, key voting issues are often tied to their country of origin, immigration, and the economy. For second generation Hispanic-Americans, 67% see themselves as “a typical American,” compared to just 37% of foreign-born Hispanics. This percentage increases to 79% among third generation or higher Hispanic-Americans. These Americans tend to vote similarly to other racial and ethnic groups more closely based upon their level of college education and socioeconomic status. This difference in identity is key to mapping their differing voting habits.

No singular monolithic “Latino vote” exists, and any political candidate who thinks that is the case will be at a major disadvantage. Each demographic group has different political interests and tends to vote differently. Campaigns need to reform by adding a wide range of members of the Latino community to their advisor groups in order to understand how to appeal to every Latino group and not lose critical votes that could sway an election due to negligence. Furthermore, while the total number of white people in the United States has actually decreased over the past decade, the percentage of those identifying as Hispanic is increasing dramatically. As our nation’s demographics shift, so too must our electoral politics and collective understanding of our diversifying population and the beliefs that effect their votes. □

Winsor Student Directors Take Center Stage This Winter

BY ANNIE F. '24, ABIGAIL S. '24, AND ZOE V-K. '24
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Every winter, the Winsor community looks forward to a student-led production, and this year is no exception. In addition to various performances led by the drama faculty, this opportunity is a chance for students to shine. The student directors of this year's play are addressing many COVID-related challenges in order to uphold the annual tradition, and the two are thrilled to bring the show to life, even through a screen.

This year's production, *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*, is a comedy that follows five bridesmaids who discover a shared hatred for the bride. Co-director, Maya B. '21, is looking forward to the upcoming play because it is centered around "female friendships, and in most media, the most important or talked about relationships... are romantic relationships, so it's interesting to deal with something different." Maya also expressed her excitement to work on an upbeat play, as many past student-led productions have been more serious. Still, this show still deals with its fair share of heavy topics, including issues

of race and the AIDS epidemic. It also addresses the clashing personalities of the five women and the prejudices that form from those differences. Maya's co-director, Grace A. '22, hopes that the audience will learn from the performance that "females can be friends, even if they're different."

Both Grace and Maya have been very involved in the theater department in the past, so it's no surprise that they've taken on this role. Maya has been a part of Winsor's theater scene since seventh grade, in addition to stage managing last year's student-led production and being an assistant director for the Fall play. Grace performed in various productions throughout Lower School, and, like Maya, has tried her hand at stage managing. She's also participated in numerous acting courses at Winsor. Co-directing this production is one of

their many contributions to the school's theater department, and both Maya and Grace are excited to be working together. When asked how they share responsibilities, Grace said, "we both bring a different perspective. Maya and I are very different people, so having two opinions definitely helps."

Becoming a cast member is no small feat, and both directors described the demanding schedule and the high commitment level that comes with a part. Grace explained that, "when we get close to the performance date, then all of the rehearsals are going to be completely required, no exceptions, and they're probably going to run later, too." Maya added that the commitment level is "higher than a high commitment club, lower than a varsity sport," as they will be rehearsing four days out of the week. Both directors acknowledged that they

had to be flexible, considering that the rest of the school year is unpredictable. Grace shared that "it could be really problematic if we're expecting [the production] to happen in person, and then school gets shut down, and it has to happen virtually." They are working out the kinks in the planning and logistics, and "a lot of that," Maya said, "will just be testing it out the first few weeks." This will be the first play of 2020 that adheres to a hybrid schedule as opposed to being fully virtual. As of right now, the theater department is planning to livestream the in-person play, so that families can watch the final performance while remaining COVID-safe.

For those interested in becoming a cast member, auditions will be held virtually on November 30 and December 1. Be sure to be sure to fill out the Google Form, which is linked on the Upper School Community Page on PowerSchool. Grace and Maya commented, "the biggest thing that the actor can do is to have fun with the scene that they're performing." The directors also remind you that you cannot participate in both the play and a winter sport or if you're a fully virtual student. If you have any questions, please reach out to Grace and Maya. Don't miss the performance on February 19! □



Maya B. '21 and Grace A. '22 Winsor Communications

The Jingleball Spreads Holiday Cheer This Year

BY JESSICA W. '22
BANNER STAFF

It's that time of year again! With each passing moment, Mariah Carey's iconic "All I Want For Christmas Is You" is getting closer and closer to the Top 100. As the holiday season is fast approaching, many pop music fans have one particular event on the forefront of their minds: the iHeartRadio Jingle Ball concert.

Perhaps you are accustomed to seeing the concert photos on your Instagram feed each December, or perhaps you have been to one yourself. An annual tradition since 1995, Jingle Ball has attracted music fans from all across the country and has quickly gathered a global audience. Each year, huge stadiums across the country are filled with passionate fans, their favorite artists, and blasting music. The show-stopping performances are truly a thrilling scene. Karina P. '22, who went to the concert in-person last year, said, "it was one of my favorite nights because two of my favorite bands were playing, along with many other amazing artists. I went with a friend and it was super high energy."

Past performances have featured popular artists such as Taylor Swift, BTS, and Lizzo performing their #1 hits. The highly anticipated event has an established reputation of spreading joyful

spirits and celebrating the holiday cheer. However, with the pandemic in effect, the performing arts industry has faced many set-backs. Mr. Marshall, Winsor's Choir Director, acknowledged that "the river has run dry for traditional modes of performance, as concert halls and theaters are closed to the public for safety precautions." Thus, many are wondering: what is the situation this year regarding the long-awaited Jingle Ball production?

iHeartRadio has recently announced that the show will indeed go on. With regards to the pandemic, the Jingle Ball concert will be held virtually rather than in-person this year. Mr. Marshall remarked that "this is a great example of the unexpected silver lining, as COVID has allowed musicians to creatively seek other avenues to continue their activities by collaborating with each other and sharing their videos on the universe of the internet." As Winsor performing art groups have transitioned into virtually showcasing performances to the school, he noted that "virtual concerts, live streaming, and performer networking have become a way of life for COVID-impacted musicians." The digital Jingle Ball concert will be broadcasted on December 10th at 9PM on CW, the iHeartRadio App, and iHeartRadio radio stations. "I'm enthralled that the concert will be streaming for free online this

year," said Brigid O. '22. As the iHeartRadio website states, their mission is to spread cheer during a confusing time. This year's lineup, featuring Billie Eilish, Doja Cat, Dua Lipa, Lewis Capaldi, Harry Styles, Sam Smith, and Shawn Mendes, is certainly one to look forward to. "I'm especially excited to see Harry Styles and Lewis Capaldi perform!" Uche O. '22 remarked. Now, in the comfort of our homes, we can still enjoy the Jingle Ball concert experience and appreciate the festive season together, even if it's through online presence. Mr. Marshall said that "any limitations of the virtual platform pale in comparison to the several benefits that are being gleaned. Now, more than ever, performers can connect

with the world in ways that would have been left unexplored in pre-COVID times."

Especially in this unprecedented year, art has proven to be a creative outlet for many. From the global "One World: Together at Home" virtual concert to artful Winsor initiatives such as Friday Night Live and virtual seasonal performances, art has inspired and united us in times of uncertainty. Mr. Marshall is confident that those in the performing arts industry will continue to forge ahead despite the challenges, as "their activities do not minimize the very real setbacks that many are still faced with today, but it does permit them to do what they were born to do: to share, perform, and connect." □



iHeart Radio's Jingle Ball lineup for December 2020.

Google Images

Thanksgiving Recipes:

For most Americans, Thanksgiving is a special day filled with joy, gratitude, family, and most importantly, food! Thanksgiving food brings people together through shared culture and tradition. Below are two Thanksgiving recipes from Katya A. '23 and Ivy E. '23 that are perfect to try at home.

Cornbread Stuffing:

Herb Butter Ingredients:

- 2 sticks unsalted butter
- 3 tbsp minced fresh sage
- 2 tbsp minced fresh thyme
- 2 tbsp minced fresh parsley
- 1 tsp minced fresh rosemary, Kosher salt, freshly ground pepper

Stuffing Ingredients:

- 2 finely diced large onions
- 3 finely diced celery stalks
- 9 cups cubed cornbread
- 1 large egg
- 1 cup low-sodium chicken broth
- 3/4 cup whole milk

Herb Butter Directions:

Mix butter with sage, thyme, parsley, salt to taste and 2 tsp pepper in a small bowl until well combined

Stuffing Directions:

Melt 1/2 cup herb butter in a medium skillet over medium heat. Add onions and celery and sauté, stirring occasionally, until translucent. Remove from heat and let cool.

Preheat oven to 375°. Combine onions and celery with the cornbread, egg, broth, milk and 3/4 tsp of both salt and pepper in a large bowl; mix well. Place in a buttered 9x13 inch baking dish. Cover with foil and bake for 30 minutes; remove foil and bake until golden brown, ~20 more minutes.

Salat Olivé

Ingredients:

- 1 cucumber
- 2 large potatoes
- 2 apples
- 2 carrots
- 1 bag of frozen peas
- 8 eggs
- Mayonnaise to taste

Directions:

Hard-boil the eggs and peel.

Boil potatoes and carrots in their skin then peel with the dull edge of a knife.

Thaw peas in boiling water then drain.

Peel cucumber and apples.

Chop everything into 1 cm cubes.

Combine all chopped ingredients in a large bowl and mix with enough mayonnaise to coat.



November Artist of the Issue: Ryan Cannistraro '21

BY JASON WONG '23
PANEL STAFF

Since he first stepped foot into the Kraft Theatre and B-flats rehearsal room, Ryan Cannistraro '21 has used art to express himself, and has contributed to our community. He says that, coming into Belmont Hill, he "had never done one play before, but he had a few friends at his old school who did theater and loved it. So he wanted to give theater a try." During his time at Belmont Hill, Ryan took on a number of challenging roles, even performing as the lead in multiple productions, including *This Is A Test*, *Schoolhouse Rock Live!*, *15 Reasons Not to Be in a Play* and *The Odyssey*. He also has performed in numerous other productions at school from *The Mousetrap*, where he played a hilariously eccentric Italian man of unknown origin, to *The Outsiders*, where

he performed solo in a multi-media production. Mr. DiResta, the theater director, commended Ryan's overall contribution to the theater program, describing him as a leader who "brings an enormous amount of thought, energy and practice into each character... creating real people of presence, power, comedy and weakness, with strengths and flaws." Mr. Conway, another member of the theater faculty, also noted that "Ryan's efforts in helping build the theater program through his participation [were] fantastic."

Besides his explorations in the realm of theater, Ryan spends much of his free time playing and creating music. Prior to attending Belmont Hill, Ryan played the piano for around four years before switching to the alto saxophone and then to the tenor saxophone. He also played in the middle school jazz band. Ryan ultimately wanted to try something new at Belmont

Hill by joining the B-Flats, which had been recommended to him by his friends from the Class of '18; he has, since then, become a crucial member of the group. Around that same time, he started to teach himself to play the guitar, building off of his bass guitar skills. He currently participates in a group called "Plugged In" in Needham, in which a group of students coordinates with a Berklee alumnus and performs at a benefit concert at the end of the session.

Ryan's future goal is to start writing some music. He noted, "Although I never really got too far, I did start brainstorming and playing some ideas. In the future, I would like to try to actually get some concrete songs down and have a repertoire I could even perform. I know I am thinking really far in the future right now, but I think that something like that could more easily come in college."

As Ryan prepares to graduate Belmont

Hill, he looks forward to continuing his participation in several groups in college, whether it be various bands, an A Capella group, or theater productions. Ryan also said that one of his goals is to start venturing outside of his comfort zone and start playing more diverse genres. *The Panel* thanks him for his contributions to our art department and the Belmont Hill community wishes him the best in his artistic endeavors next fall. □



Ryan '21 BH Communications

Art Classes Improve Due to Pandemic Restrictions

BY RC KEOMURJIAN '22
PANEL STAFF

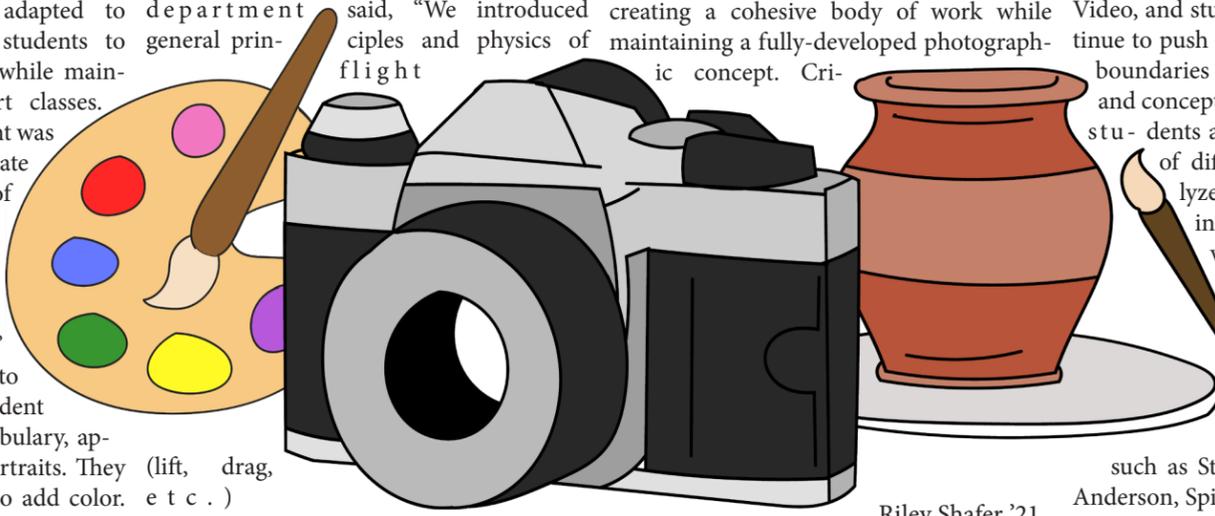
COVID-19 has affected several aspects of the Belmont Hill community, including the visual arts programs; however, the faculty have adapted to the circumstances, allowing students to safely express their creativity while maintaining the enjoyment of art classes.

In Form I art, each student was given their own supplies to create each art assignment. Aspects of the class have remained largely the same, such as the Form I sketchbooks and the beloved Hero Sculpture, inspired by the Form I theme of "Heroes," but there were modifications to the portrait project, as each student created their own texture vocabulary, applying it to their respective portraits. They then used watercolor pencils to add color.

The Ceramics class started the school year with an untraditional trash can firing at the bottom of the stairs of the Melvoin Academic Center. They then created ceramic boxes, tiles that represented each student's characteristics and personality, and clocks for the Clock project, which is a staple to ceramics at Belmont Hill. A few students have recently begun throwing clay on the pottery wheel.

The Woodworking classes created Kumiko Lanterns in the first quarter. Kumiko is a Japanese woodwork technique, dating back to the 8th century, which refers to the method of grooving wooden pieces and arranging them in various geometric

patterns without using nails. It serves as a form of wooden lattice decoration and requires delicacy and precision to assemble. The woodworking students currently are engineering and building kites. Mr. Kaplan, woodworking teacher and Chief of the Arts department said, "We introduced general principles and physics of flight



Riley Shafer '21

(lift, drag, etc.) and basic construction techniques, hoping that students will explore, investigate, and take risks to develop a unique design of their own." Mr. Simpson is working with two students participating in independent studies in the woodshop. Grant Litchfield '21 is making a solid wood cabinet with drawers and Adam Alto '21 a pedestal table with laminated cherry legs.

This semester, Photo I has been working digitally with an emphasis on post-production skills via the programs Adobe Lightroom and Adobe Photoshop. Their assignments, which are intended to push

students out of their comfort zone, have encompassed a broad range of challenging concepts. They critique each other's photographs weekly to help develop the skills of photography interpretation and analysis. Advanced Photography was tasked with creating a cohesive body of work while maintaining a fully-developed photographic concept. Cri-

tiques and discussions in-class help the students analyze each aspect of their projects and make their overall vision clearer. The students will end the course with a personalized handmade and hand-stitched photo book that is a culmination of their creative visions. Mr. Duarte is also working with two seniors on photographic independent studies. Henry Moses '21 currently pursues analog photography, with a focus on how humans leave their mark on the environment and the detritus left by various architectural projects. Caleb Sheldrick-McGrath '21 is creating a series of digital photos with the intention of perplexing view-

ers through photo manipulation in Adobe Photoshop. He combines several frames of pictures of the same subject into a single photo and positions each frame slightly differently to create a subtle effect of disarray.

COVID-19 has not affected Digital Video, and students have been able to continue to push themselves and their creative boundaries by using several techniques and conceptual skills of videography. The students are tasked with creating films of different genres and also analyze each other's work through in-class critiquing. They also view films significant to cinematic history for inspiration and cultural context for subsequent assignments. The students have viewed the work of several notable filmmakers

such as Stanley Kubrick, Paul Thomas Anderson, Spike Jonze, and Wes Anderson.

On-campus art classes require extensive preparations, but the experience for students is worth the additional work. Mr. Kaplan said, "All the projects were reworked or completely new so that we could deliver a meaningful curriculum even in a remote situation. We overhauled the spaces to accommodate workflow and distancing, and it's paid off doubly. I'm remarkably proud of the members of the Arts department and thankful for their effort and willingness to find creative solutions to providing a great experience for hands-on learning at BHS." Looking forward, the faculty hopes to continue to be able to provide in-person learning opportunities for art students. □

Belmont Hill Movie Review: War With Grandpa

BY LUKE HOGAN '22 AND HOWARD HUANG '22
PANEL STAFF

As we walked into the deserted movie theatre, of course, the only selection available was the PG movie, *The War with Grandpa*. With an all-star cast, we set out with optimism until we noticed the 29% rating on Rotten Tomatoes. As we prepared for disaster, we settled in and patiently waited for the movie to begin. The beginning of the film opened up with Robert De Niro acting as a sad widower. It was a stellar performance as he showed the emotions of a miserable man while trying to hide these emotions in a facade. After this part of the movie, we laughed in our seats as the cheesy jokes and crazy antics began—what a rollercoaster.

It is important to note that the only other people in the theatre, mostly small children, barely laughed at this movie. There was no reaction to *The War with*

Grandpa compared to when we saw *Secret Life of Pets 2*, where the audience was laughing the whole time. To put the movie into more context, *The War with Grandpa* has not made back even 50% of its \$24-million budget in the box office.

While this genre of movie may have worked wonders in the 1980s, modern movie-goers are looking for something new and inventive rather than a remake of countless films that share roughly the same plot. The finale was incredibly anticlimactic as the "conflict resolution" method used was an overhyped dodgeball tournament (yes, you read that correctly) that somehow resulted in a tie and led to (SPOILER ALERT) the classic "everyone lives happily ever after" ending. The movie did promote SkyZone, though.

All in all, the authors would not recommend watching this movie because it was disappointing even though we had no expectations. The plot and characters are generic, and the story's moral is also not

surprising at all. This lack of humor combined with the restrictions of COVID-19 have guaranteed that this movie will fail at the box office. If you are into cheesy movies

and non-humorous kids jokes, this movie is for you. This is the next Christmas in September movie you have been waiting for (they really did it). Two out of ten stars. □



Google Images

Music Program Comparison: Before and After COVID

BY GIGI C. '23, HOWARD HUANG '22, AND ANGELINA L. '22
BANNER AND PANEL STAFF

Winsor and Belmont Hill's music programs offer a variety of classes and resources, allowing students to pursue their interests outside of academics. However, because of COVID, synchronous time for classes to practice together is limited. While students have typically been practicing six feet apart outside, winter's approach poses an obstacle to outdoor sessions. Even so, teachers have been working extremely hard to work around these challenges and maintain a positive environment for their students.

The Belmont Hill music program enjoys a long-standing tradition at the school. Although many of the instrumental ensembles like the orchestra, jazz bands, and rock bands were only recently created, the choral program in the B-flats has a long history. The program has had to adapt to the new restrictions imposed by the ongoing pandemic, and each group has coped differently. The orchestra has shifted from biweekly in-person rehearsals with seasonal concerts to weekly virtual meetings with recorded music being released to the community. The group still holds out hope for live rehearsals, at least with the non-wind/brass players. The Jazz and Rock bands are following a similar virtual schedule but with less hope of ever being able to play together. The choral program has had the opportunity to meet in person; however, they are not allowed to sing as it would require the removal of masks.

Students gave their opinions on how the music program has been going so far and how their music careers have been affected by the new school structure. Arc Keomurjian '22, a pianist in the Orchestra, thought that "Mr. Fiori [the director of instrumental music] has organized the orchestra in a way that allows for the mem-

bers to still have opportunities to play their respective instruments and create cohesive compositions." One significant change that Arc notes is the transition from in-person rehearsals and concerts to asynchronous practice and recording. He thinks Mr. Fiori has done a fantastic job of maintaining engagement and productivity in the orchestra even with the difficulty of organizing a large group of musicians without ever hearing them play. Unfortunately, the internet latency of Zoom and other video call platforms make synchronization when playing nearly impossible, so there is no way for any of the ensembles to play together. Although Kevin Jiang '22, a clarinet player in the Orchestra, wishes to play in-person as a full orchestra soon, "having everyone together would be near impossible." Unfortunately, the nature of woodwinds and brass instruments prevents them from being played in person, and the risk of transmission is much higher than keyboard and string instruments even outdoors.

Charles Geddes '22, an alto saxophone player in the Upper School Jazz Band, said, "Covid has allowed us to focus on playing solo, and improve in ways that couldn't be targeted as easily in a rehearsal." In the past, little of the group rehearsal time would be spent working on each musician's solo performance. Even though it is difficult for the band to play without each other, they are adapting well. Additionally, the band is different from most other groups in that there is a set academic period each day where they meet, meaning Mr. Fiori, their conductor, can spend time going through recordings and techniques without having to take up their free time.

Winsor's Performing Arts Department Head, Ms. Brady-Lopez, teaches a variety of classes in both Lower School and Upper School. She commented on the setup and environment between classes

pre-COVID and current classes. Before, "a typical music class typically began with the joyful noise of students coming into the classroom and immediately gravitating to the instruments in the room." Addressing the current situation at school, Ms. Brady-Lopez notes that "students go straight to their chairs that are spaced six feet apart." Furthermore, due to various safety protocols and the reduced number of meeting times for each class, music teachers have had to reimagine how they run their courses. They found a "silver lining" to the situation; whereas music theory has traditionally been a minor topic, the way in which it is practiced fits better with the hybrid schedule.

The experiences of performing arts students have been quite similar to that of the department's faculty. Leila G. '22, a third-year Small Chorus member, feels that "the class has fewer opportunities for creating music and hearing how we sound together. Of course, we can sing outside, but the feeling of our voices coming together is not the same." Upper School orchestra member Yuni C. '23 faces similar challenges when rehearsing outside. She said, "It's kind of hard to rhythmically stay together when we're all socially distant, but I feel like it also makes us a lot more focused and aware of each other." Yuni pointed out that when the orchestra is able to move inside in the future, the students are prepared to make creative accommodations. For example, "the woodwinds get special bags to put around the end of their instruments and they have holes in their masks so that they can still play."

Outside of music classes, one new student-led solution is Friday Night Live, an hour-long session of pre-recorded performances ranging from dances to instrument-playing to funny videos. Kelly Y. '26, a Drum Strum and More student, said, "DSM has performed twice this year, but instead of performing on a stage with

an audience sitting in the auditorium, we had to record videos to play during events like the fall concert and Friday Night Live. The first one was the sign language one, and the second one was the Bucket Rock (where we used buckets as drums). The performances are also different in that... we can't sing, because we record the video when we're all together during an in-person class." Although virtual performances do not bring the same energy as doing shows in the theater, Friday Night Live has been largely successful as a way to bring a sense of community straight to our own homes.

Winsor's music students are eager for the day when we can resume our normal schedules. Ms. Brady-Lopez, speaking on behalf of the Performing Arts department, expressed, "we deeply miss hearing our ensembles play and sing together live. Magic happens when music is made by our groups. There is a satisfaction like no other when the students work hard toward a common goal of producing a moving piece of music and then share it with the Winsor community in person. We are longing for that beautiful experience to return to Winsor."

Both Winsor and Belmont Hill's music program participants share similar experiences and ideas on this newly constructed form of performing arts. The schools' performances are also presented in a similar fashion, with pre-recorded videos sent out to the rest of the community. Vivian D. '23 said, "it's disappointing that we can't play in concerts... I did the Winter and Fall Concerts before and really like those-[such] performances are now over Zoom assemblies." Kevin Jiang '22 said, "For now, Mr. Fiori has done a great job organizing Zoom rehearsals and putting together virtual pieces." Overall, each school has found innovative ways to continue their music programs in the face of numerous obstacles that this new hybrid schedule has presented. □

Winsor + Belmont Hill Playlist of the Issue

Izzy



When We Drive
Death Cab for Cutie

This song is one of my all time favorites, and it's perfect for listening to while driving or sitting in the passenger seat and watching everything in the world go by. The lyrics are so beautifully written, and the instrumentals that run throughout the song remind you of how the world is continuously moving. If you let the song wash over you, it almost feels as if everything is starting to fall into place.



Sedona
Houndmouth

This song just gets better and better the longer you listen to it. Everything about it- the instrumentals, vocals, and lyrics- combine together to form such a specific essence and feeling. Every time I hear the whoosh of wind and the strum of the instrumentals at the beginning, it sends me into a completely different world. Towards the second half, you can almost taste the rush of freedom that accompanies the thunder of the chorus.



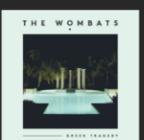
Cigarette Daydreams
Cage the Elephant

One of my favorites from Cage the Elephant, this song contains a bittersweet melody accompanied by the light strumming of an acoustic guitar. The lyrics of this song are presented in the form of fragmented thoughts, and they lend to the idea of chasing down a nostalgic summer feeling.



LoveSick
Mura Masa (feat. A\$AP Rocky)

Released as a single by Mura Masa and featuring A\$AP Rocky, this track is one of his most underrated songs. Although the lyrics don't make too much sense, that's perfectly okay, because everything else about this song slaps. "LoveSick" has such a fun groovy vibe; I absolutely love how the instrumentals overlap and continuously evolve with the lyrics and beat of the song.

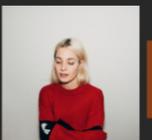


Greek Tragedy
The Wombats

If you have the slightly problematic habit of listening to your music at an ear shattering volume, then this is the song for you. The bass of this song is so deeply layered with different colors, and that's not even the best part. Everything in "Greek Tragedy" builds up to the chorus "she hits like ecstasy" where the song practically explodes with colors. You won't understand the exact feeling until you listen to it, but it really does feel like ecstasy.

Mosey + J Walk

Your Name (Mosey)
Bernache



With immediate intensity by the lead singer of the Montreal band, Men I Trust, this track captures the listener. The beat rides for about a minute, then with the ethereal tone of an other-worldly being, the vocals join in to create a complete sonic experience. The lyrics convey a hopeful melancholy that matches the amalgamation of sounds that back it perfectly. It's this combination that makes you want to just keep this song on repeat.

Hungboo (Mosey)
Peggy Gou



Peggy Gou is one of the best discoveries I have made over the course of the pandemic, and "Hungboo" epitomizes why I like her so much. It's relatively stripped back, and doesn't have any vocals, but still, every time I listen to it, any stress I have is relieved and I'm transported to a more carefree place.

A Lot's Gonna Change (J Walk)
Weyes Blood



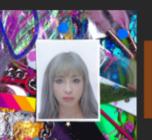
"If I could go back to a time before now," wow. I remember listening to the album that this song is on last school year during one of my free blocks. It's beautifully somber, and Weyes Blood effortlessly reflects on the feelings brought about by growing up and experiencing changes in life. I love this song so much. I wish I could go back to that day, sit in my favorite chair in the library, and listen to this track all over again for the first time. But I can't, and I suppose that's the beauty of life's incessantly ever-changing nature.

Raygun (J Walk)
Redveil & Kenny Mason



On October 19th, Redveil posted a video teaser of a monkey listening to a slowed and reverb version of this song. Once I saw that Kenny Mason was featured in the song, I was intrigued. I watched the 15-second teaser every day until the song's release on October 27, and I wasn't disappointed at all when that day came. Both artists mesh perfectly on this track as they float on the beat while trading bars about needing new rayguns and navigating newfound wealth. Oh, and Redveil is only 16, which is pretty awesome.

Time Today (J Walk and Mosey)
Kero Kero Bonito



You may already know Kero Kero Bonito because of their hit song Flamingo, which is bubbly and found fame as a meme, but this track is one that shows tremendous growth for the group from 2016 to 2018. Like most Kero songs, it's got simplistic lyrics and a rhythmic melody--but the vibe is what makes it stand above the rest. Mosey and I've got so much time today, and we choose to use it by listening to this song.

What is Winsor thankful for?

What is Winsor thankful for?

Math Department: No in-person meetings (students can cry their eyes out in the comfort of their own home!! Finally, we don't have to deal with your emotions!)

English Department: The ability to assign hours and hours of async work!! What, it's not like the students have lives or anything! Plenty of time to write 9 essays. You can write 4 discussion posts and do the readings in under 90 minutes, folks! Come on!

Science Department: Students being able to zoom into labs. Less worrying about teenagers getting chemical burns :)

History Department: living through such a historic moment :) isn't it so much fun! I love living through these ~unprecedented times~! keep a diary, folks!

Language Department: the ability to swear in a foreign language without students knowing

Arts Department: All the teen angst that is helping produce beautiful works of art. Also, all the terrible works of "art" that students created during quarantine while they were desperate for anything to take their mind off the world burning.

Athletics Department: not having to give out penguin jackets to athletes who will never give them back

Seniors: Such an amazing end to their Winsor career!! Oh wait... this sucks...



HOW TO RESPOND TO AN EMAIL FROM WINSOR - PROPERLY

1. Be a lower school student
2. Open email
3. Read email
4. Fake laugh at Ms. Pelmas's jokes
5. HIT REPLY ALL DO IT EVERYONE NEEDS TO HEAR UR RESPONSE TO THIS EMAIL WHO CARES THAT IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU AND NO ONE ACTUALLY KNOWS WHO YOU ARE REPLYYYYYY ALLLLLLL
6. Adding a niche meme that no teachers or other students will understand is always welcome (Noah Beck's face on a cow)
7. Repeat step 5 until the tech department permanently disables your email account
8. If tech disables your account, you can always make your voice heard in the assembly chat box!! Use those emojis!! 🦄💣🍌🤔👁️
9. The more prestigious the guest speaker, the more appreciated your comments will be!!

Things that Feel Illegal (but aren't...) At Winsor

Sneezing in your mask

- This feels so so so wrong but what are you supposed to do? Everyone looks at you and you just sit there feeling the shame set in. Sorry I just washed my mask and am having an allergic reaction to the laundry detergent!

Getting more than one sandwich in the lunch line

- Just do it. Stop being a coward.

Putting both the signs on the bathroom as occupied so you can have some alone time

- I know this technically isn't right but sometimes you just gotta take some TIME

Taking 20 minutes in between classes

- Hooray for everyone being 20 minutes early to class because no Winsor student can ever be late ever!

Turning in all of your work late

- Technically no late penalty folks! This might only be for seniors hahahah we can't see outside of our own bubble

Sorry to ALL of my teachers

Leaving school without signing out

- It feels wrong that we can just walk out the door and not come back.... Maybe it is actually wrong but whatever

Zooming one-on-one with your teacher

- Why can I see their house?? Where they live???

Eating a full course meal while on Zoom

- What are they gonna do? Come to your house and take it?



Your Daring & Compassionate Back Page Editors

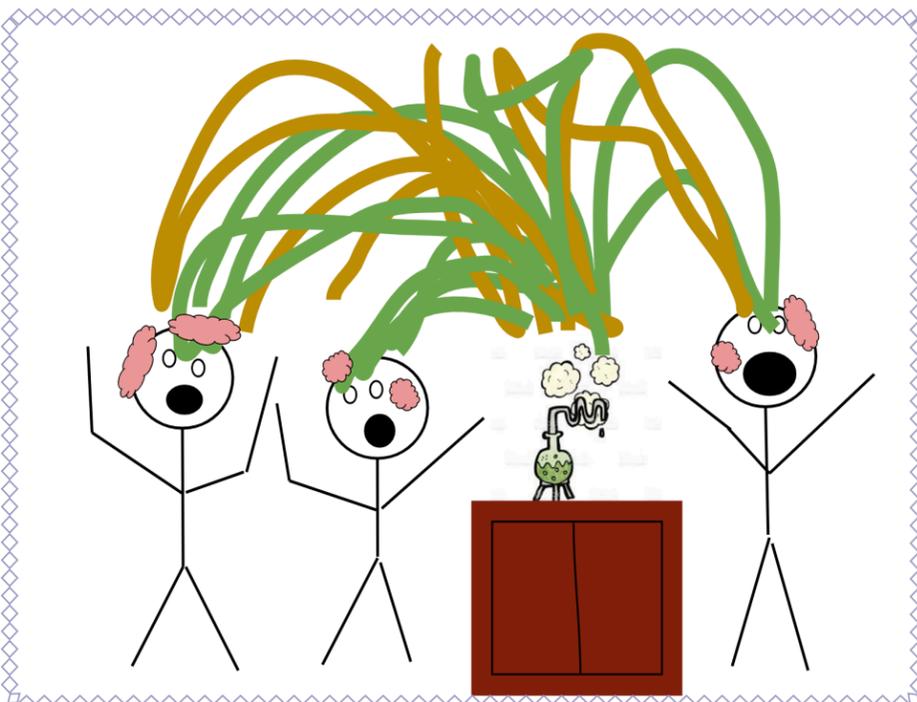


The Geese

OPEN LETTER TO THE BOSTON GEESE

We, the Back Page Editors Of The People, hereby present to you, the Boston Goose Community, the following list of demands:

1. Please keep any domestic quarrels within the confines of your own home. Fighting in public is not only bad manners, but it is terrifying to all those around you.
2. Actually, just get off the sidewalk in the Muddy River. We will not ACCEPT you frightening the Winsor freshmen ANY LONGER.
3. Stop walking in the roads. SOME of us actually have LIVES and we need those roads so we can GET PLACES. Special shoutout to the four of you imbeciles who decided it would be FUN to walk right out onto Storrow drive the other day. Thanks for that.
4. You are the WORST. You do NOTHING and you don't contribute ANYTHING to this community except your noise and your FECES. Please step it up.
5. You know what, just stop your migration patterns and stay in the south all year long. It's warmer there anyway, and at least the Floridians deserve your wrath.



Above: Students receiving chemical burns in AP Chemistry on November 21st, 2019 (colorized)

Credit: Winsor Science Dept.

THIS BACK PAGE HAS BEEN LOVINGLY CRAFTED OVER THE COURSE OF FIVE GRUELING HOURS BY YOUR LOVELY, DEDICATED, BRILLIANT, HILARIOUS, WITTY, BEAUTIFUL, POWERFUL, ORIGINAL, GLORIOUS, mature BACK PAGE EDITORS HELEN BUCKLEY-JONES AND BECCA GOLDENSON

ps dont look @ the belmont hill side. we win.

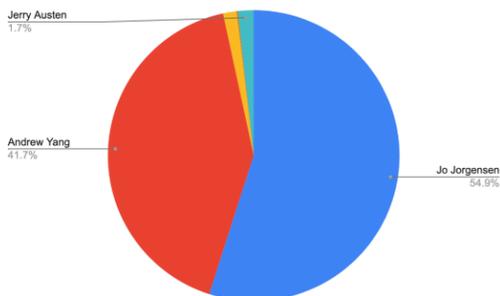
QUESTIONS FOR WINSOR GIRLS

By SAMMY JOMAA '21

- DO YOU THINK I'M CUTE?
- AM I HANDSOME?
- DO YOU LIKE ME?
- WOULD YOU GO OUT WITH ME?
- DO GIRLS TALK ABOUT ME AT SCHOOL?
- CAN I PLEASE GO ON A DATE WITH YOU?
- WHY NOT?



BELMONT HILL ELECTION RESULTS



- 1ST) JO JORGENSEN - 7162
- 2ND) ANDREW YANG - 5434
- 3RD) JERRY AUSTEN - 228
- 4TH) KANYE WEST - 197
- 5TH) JOE BIDEN - 6
- 6TH) DONALD TRUMP - 4
- 7TH) GEORGE WASHINGTON - 2

BELMONT HILL ELECTION: FRAUD?



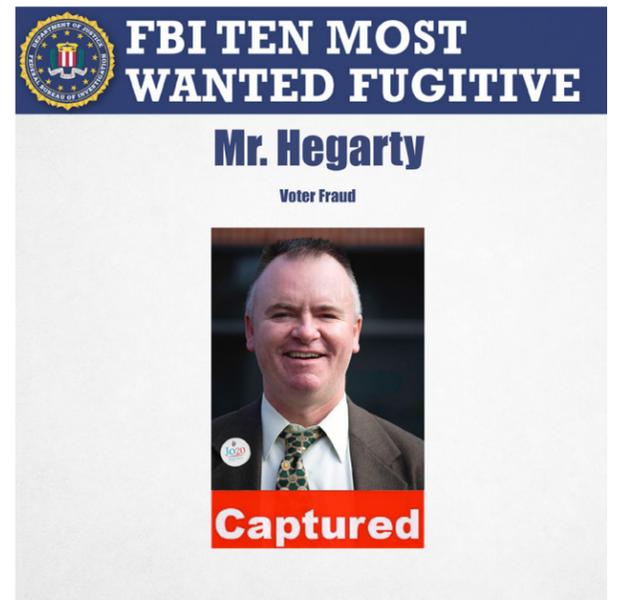
WITH A TALLY OF OVER 7,000 VOTES, JO JORGENSEN WON THIS ELECTION HANDILY! OR DID SHE? ACCORDING TO BELMONT HILL INSIDER MR. MARTELLINI (PICTURED ABOVE), THERE WAS RAMPANT FRAUD! MARTELLINI CLAIMS THAT MR. HEGARTY WAS SPOTTED WALKING THROUGH CAMPUS WITH BURLAP SACKS BELIEVED TO CARRY VOTES FOR JO JORGENSEN.

HOWEVER, IN COURT, MR. BRADLEY DISMISSED ALL CLAIMS OF FRAUD, SAYING THAT THE WITNESS MARTELLINI WAS, "SIMPLY NOT CREDIBLE." MR. BRADLEY WENT ON, ADDING THAT, "MR. MARTELLINI IS, AT HIS CORE, A SHADY MAN WITH A DARK HEART."

BELMONT HILL STUDENTS BECAME SUSPICIOUS OF POTENTIAL FRAUD WHEN, SEVERAL DAYS AFTER IN-SCHOOL VOTING, BOTH JO JORGENSEN AND ANDREW YANG RECEIVED AN INFUX OF THOUSANDS OF VOTES. APART FROM THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES GREATLY SURPASSING BELMONT HILL'S POPOULATION, THE TOP TWO CANDIDATES RAISED SEVERAL RED FLAGS. ONE STUDENT WAS QUOTED AS SAYING, "ALL OUR DADS SUPPORT TRUMP OR BIDEN, SO HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN?"



AS PICTURED ABOVE, ALEXANDER "ICE BATH" ATTALAH '21 WAS CAUGHT MORPHING INTO ANDREW YANG, HACKING INTO THE MAINFRAME, AND ADDING HUNDREDS OF VOTES FOR ANDREW YANG. UNFORTUNATELY, ICE BATH'S EFFORTS WERE FUTILE, AS JO JORGENSEN STILL RECEIVED THE MOST VOTES



MR. SANDWICH REVIEW

Average Mr. Sandwich Fan



Chad Terrific Sandwich Enjoyer



IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE A CIVIL CONVERSATION ABOUT THE "MR. SANDWICH" THESE DAYS. BELMONT HILL'S COMMUNITY IS SPLIT CLEANLY DOWN THE MIDDLE WHEN IT COMES TO THIS SO-CALLED TURKEY AND CHEESE "SANDWICH." ON ONE SIDE ARE THE LOWER SCHOOL LITTLE BROS AND A SELECT FEW UPPER SCHOOLERS, AND ON THE OTHER SIDE ARE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL WITH TASTEBUDS. I, FOR ONE, LIKE TO EAT FOOD THAT HAS FLAVOR. I MEAN, REALLY? THE MR. SANDWICH? IT'S A DISGRACE TO NEED IT ON THE WEEKLY LUNCH MENU, FRANKLY. MR. SANDWICH PALES IN COMPARISON TO CULINARY MASTERPIECES SUCH AS THE "TERRIFIC SANDWICH" FULL OF ROAST TURKEY, HOUSE-MADE STUFFING, CRANBERRY SAUCE, AND FRESH BABY SPINACH. I MYSELF WAS A VICTIM OF THE MR. SANDWICH. ONE WEEK I ORDERED IT, UNKNOWINGLY FALLING FOR THIS CLEVERLY DEVISED TRAP. I WAS HIT WITH A WAVE OF NAUSEA UPON OPENING THE NEATLY PACKAGED BOX AND SEEING THE MR. SANDWICH. IT'S SAD TO THINK THAT THE LITTLE BROS, UNABLE TO EAT VEGETABLES, HAVE FORCED THE DINING STAFF TO TAKE TIME AWAY FROM PREPARING INCREDIBLE MEALS LIKE THE SPICY ITALIAN OR TERRIFIC SANDWICH FOR SOMETHING SO DULL.

SOUND-ALIKES



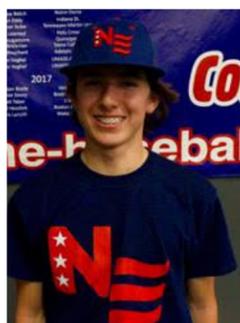
JUSTIN PARÉ AND A LIFELONG SMOKER



MR. MARTELLINI AND DON VITO CORLEONE (THE GODFATHER)



MR. SCHNEIDER AND RYAN REYNOLDS



QUINN PECK AND SQUIDWARD TENTACLES



MR. BUTLER AND MORGAN FREEMAN

