



Lynch Will Step Down from Head of Upper School Position Following 2024-2025 School Year

BY UMA GHOSAL

As head of the Upper School, Chris Lynch plays a major role at Holton. While he is often visible recognizing out-of-uniform sweatshirts and promoting the new phone policy, he also has many responsibilities behind-the-scenes.

When describing his position, Lynch said that he is in charge of “all aspects when it comes to the lives of ninth through 12th grade[rs].” He added, “I work in conjunction with academics, athletics and art directors as well as the Upper School team, dean[s], counselors, college counselors, learning specialists and admin team.”

Due to the demanding nature of his role, Lynch only planned to be the head of Upper School for around 10 years, and currently, he has held the position for nine years. Lynch is unsure about his plans for the future but stated,

“If an opportunity arises and I get offered a job and I think it is worth it, I’ll go. Otherwise, I hope I’ll stay here and teach and step back from being an administrator.”

Lynch has made a significant impact throughout his 29 years working here. Reflecting on his previous positions, such as aquatic director, PE teacher and middle school history teacher, he said, “I’ve learned a lot

from every-
thing...
The big-

gest

thing
is to
have pa-
tience and
learn

to be flexible and adapt. Also to live in a gray area. I’ve liked all my jobs and have always liked coaching [the swim team].”

Furthermore, Lynch’s colleagues Upper School Biology teacher Lisa Craig and Assistant Director of Upper School Kate Mitchell appreciate his presence as an honest, funny member of the Upper School administration team.

Reflecting on Lynch’s role, Craig stated, “The head of Upper School is a really tough position. You have to make decisions every day that aren’t particularly popular. I think he’s ready to move on to what he wants to do versus what he has to do. He’s looking for a little rest and peace.”

While Mitchell has a bittersweet view regarding his potential departure, she said, “I think this is a great decision because it’s what he wants to do, but I think that it’s a huge loss for the Upper School.”

Through his experience, Lynch has greatly appreciated his bonds with students and faculty. Lynch stated, “I cherish the relationships I’ve built with faculty and kids. I joke that [his alma mater] Gonzaga is the greatest place ever but I really think this place is something special. Holton’s very unique and meaningful.”

Reflecting on his time here, Lynch offered a message for students: “What I really love about Holton is the motto ‘Find a way or make one.’ You guys will repeat that to me a thousand times. But it really does build character, and I think Holton kids take it a step further; they don’t give up mentally.”

art by Emme Poole

How Did Local and State Elections Turn Out?

BY MIA ESTEVEZ-BRETON, SPORTS EDITOR

On November 5th, elections for the U.S. president and members of Congress took place.

The 2024 elections for the Senate and the House of Representatives in the DMV area favored Democrats. Angela Alsobrooks was elected senator for Maryland, and the House of Representatives gained six Democratic seats and one Republican seat. Virginia’s senator Democrat Tim Kaine was reelected for a third term. With a total of 11 members from Virginia, Six Democratic seats and five Republican seats were confirmed for the House of Representatives. Washington, D.C. held no elections for the Senate or House of Representatives.

Although the DMV experienced a blue wave of elected officials, the United States of America saw Republicans dominating the ballot for representatives in Congress. CNN reported that Republicans have flipped the U.S. Senate majority, with Democrats losing several seats. Republicans are the majority party of the House of Representatives as well.

History and Social Sciences Department Chair Louisa Nill stated, “When one party has control of both houses of Congress and the presidency, it makes it much easier to pass legislation that aligns with that party’s agenda.” However, Nill remarked, “When Congress is divided, it often leads to legislative gridlock due to political polarization.”

Since Congress is a Republican majority, that group will most likely reap more benefits from the legislative branch.

The coming months will reveal how these shifts impact the country’s future direction.

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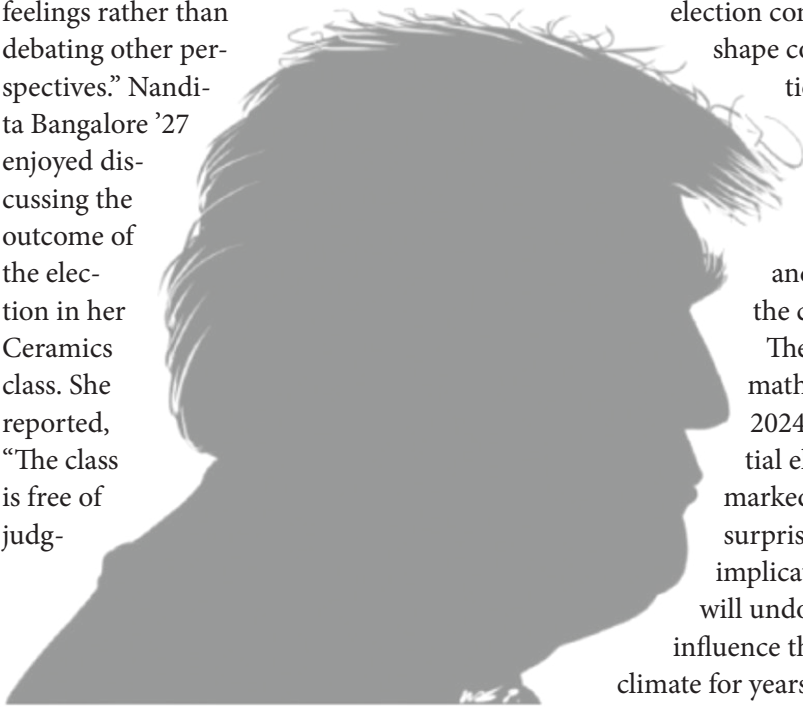
Students React to Trump’s Election Win

BY ISABELLE APPLEBAUM, MANAGING EDITOR

At precisely 4:34 a.m. on Wednesday, November 6th, the nation awoke to the news: Donald Trump had been declared President-elect. Polls leading to November 5th indicated a remarkably close race between former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris. Models from “The New York Times” projected a slight advantage for Harris in the national popular vote and crucial battleground states Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. However, Trump’s unexpected strength among undecided voters and increased turnout in these states shifted the balance in his favor. According to PBS, prior to election day, a study showed that roughly three in four Americans believed that the outcome of the 2024 presidential election would determine the future of U.S. democracy. Ultimately, after months of campaigning and advertising, Trump emerged victorious by winning 312 electoral votes against Harris, who secured 226. Trump’s campaign strategy focused heavily on key swing states, and he succeeded by flipping crucial battlegrounds, including Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, which had narrowly gone Democratic in previous elections. Solidifying his path to the White House, Trump also claimed victory in Arizona, Georgia and Nevada. In the popular vote, “The New York Times” estimated in its forecast model that “Mr. Trump [is] on track to win the

national popular vote by about 1.5 percentage points.” CBS News reported the historic nature of Trump’s return to the White House as he becomes “the first former president to be charged with either state or federal crimes.” During Trump’s victory speech he classified his victory as “the greatest political movement of all time.” He later stated, “America has given us an unprecedented and powerful mandate.” BBC mentioned that Trump’s plan with this “mandate” remains clear as he promises to deport undocumented migrants, enact tax cuts, increase tariffs and cut climate regulations. At Holton, reactions to Trump’s victory varied, and students were passionate as they gathered to process the news. Caroline Goldstein ’25 found solace in her Advanced Topics in U.S. Government class, where students “spoke about our personal feelings rather than debating other perspectives.” Nandita Bangalore ’27 enjoyed discussing the outcome of the election in her Ceramics class. She reported, “The class is free of judg-

ment. It is a really open space where we can share our honest feelings.” For some liberal students the results were shocking and upsetting. Hannah Ordan ’25, said, “As a Democrat, I am disappointed in the election results. I am also going to college in North Carolina, a crucial state in this election, so I’m curious what the political climate there will be like.” Soa Andriamananjara ’25 stated, “I worry that discourse on LGBTQIA people, people of color, and immigrants will become more aggressive and threatening. I also worry for Americans who might be more affected by changes to economic policy, reproductive rights, and civil rights. No government is completely permanent, so I have faith that America will be okay.” “Scribbler” reached out to several members of the Young Republicans Club, who declined to be quoted. As the nation looks ahead to the future, the echoes of this contentious election continue to shape conversations and perspectives, both at Holton and across the country. The aftermath of the 2024 presidential election, marked by its surprises and implications, will undoubtedly influence the political climate for years to come.



Scribbler

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The Holton-Arms School
7303 River Road
Bethesda, MD 20817
www.holton-arms.edu
301.365.5300

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art by Emme Poole

Students Reflect on the Tradition of the Thanksgiving Assembly

BY TABITHA CUTLER, ASSISTANT SPREAD EDITOR

Each year, the Thanksgiving Assembly is an exciting way to kick-start students’ Thanksgiving Break. This year, the assembly will take place on Tuesday, November 26, the day before break. Anticipation for the assembly has been growing across grade levels, especially in the senior class. The assembly is a school-wide event held in the James Whittier Lewis Theater. Usually, a student from each division gives a short speech about what Thanksgiving means to

them and what they are grateful for. Former History Teacher Bob Tupper performs the song “All the Good People” to close out the assembly. The last stanza of “All the Good People” is dedicated to the graduating class each year. This assembly, he will dedicate it to the class of 2025. Claire Shannon ’25 said, “As a senior, I’m definitely prepared to cry a lot this year. The assembly epitomizes the amazing community I have grown to love, and now I have to get ready to leave them.” As an entire school event, the assembly brings together all grades.

Sojo West-Seabrook ’25 said her favorite part of the assembly is “sitting with all of [her] friends and enjoying the festive atmosphere together.” The assembly is always filled with chatter about the upcoming break and reflections on gratitude. The seniors will have much to think back on while attending their last Thanksgiving Assembly. Both Shannon and West-Seabrook agreed that the singing of “All the Good People” brings the school together and is an important moment of each school year. Many seniors ex-

pect to shed some tears as they listen to their final rendition of the song. Underclassmen are also looking forward to the assembly and the memories they will create in the coming years. Zoe Zuckerman ’27 mentioned, “Even though I have only attended one Thanksgiving Assembly, I am already looking forward to this year’s.” The assembly is not only a school tradition but also an opportunity for students to reflect on what has taken place in their time at Holton and what they are grateful for both in and out of school.

OPINION: Print News is Essential

BY SCRIBBLER EDITORS-IN-CHIEF
AND MANAGING EDITORS

When “The Washington Post” announced that it would not be endorsing a political candidate for the presidential election for the first time in 36 years, its readers and other media sources were shocked.

“The Post” CEO William Lewis stated that the decision was a “statement in support of [their] readers’ ability to make up their own minds.”

“The Post” reported that the decision was made by its owner Jeff Bezos when the editorial board had intended to endorse.

Not only was “The Post” prevented from endorsing a candidate but also was “The Los Angeles Times.”

The owner of “The Times” said that the choice came with the goal of best-informing its readers with the facts, not with opinions.

A number of loyal subscribers to “The Post” and the “LA Times”

immediately canceled their subscriptions, and as editors of “Scribbler,” we were personally upset with the papers’ decisions to stay quiet.

We were upset because we live in a world where censorship is becoming increasingly prevalent and discussed.

As the editors of the student-run newspaper at Holton, we feel that a print paper’s task is to act as a medium in which writers can outwardly express their opinions, students can learn from their peers and ideas can be shared openly.

As the media becomes increasingly biased, unreliable and polarizing, established print newspapers remain one of the only trusted mediums for citizens to consume news.

Plenty of our peers now receive information from social media, websites, blogs, podcasts and news channels, all of which don’t have the standards or the integrity of a print news.

As high school journalists, we strive to convey relevant news to our

audience: the Holton community. The news we deliver ranges across a broad array of topics.

Whether we share personal political op-eds or movie reviews, our job is often not an easy task. Particularly, we must be non-partisan and publish a variety of voices, including opinions we may not personally agree with or essays on seemingly uncomfortable and rarely-talked-about topics.

As editors, we have opinions of our own that we try our best to conceal in the paper as a whole. Including all perspectives in each issue is among our highest priorities. However, the Holton community does not reflect that of the real world in terms of difference of opinion and beliefs.

Therefore, it can be quite difficult to include the same number of perspective for all sides in each issue. We welcome new writers at the beginning of each school year to join our staff and contribute with their reporting, opinions, art and photography.

Not all of our published articles are

light reads, but they are all entirely fact and/or student opinion.

We understand the repercussions of including taboo conversation in our issues but feel that it’s as simple as this: if we have this creative and intellectual outlet, why not use it?

It is our unwavering belief that a student newspaper in particular should be a space to explore the perspectives, backgrounds, beliefs and opinions of the student population.

We believe that there should be no reason to avoid certain topics as long as the information is accurate. Facts are facts, and if something is grounded in truth, it serves no real purpose to hide it. Our goal as editors is to simply report the reality of Holton and the world.

We write this letter to our readers in hopes of encouraging all to write, express themselves and use their voice. Thus, we view “Scribbler” as a place where students can safely prepare to enter an increasingly polarized world.

New Learning Commons Allows Students to “Concentrate on [Their] Work and Stay Productive”

BY LILY HIBEY, ASSISTANT A&E EDITOR

On October 25th, faculty and students from across all three divisions came together to celebrate the opening of the Susanna A. Jones Learning Commons. Head of School Penny B. Evins, Assistant Head of School Barbara Eghan and Mary Claire Gilbert ’25 spoke about their excitement and hopes for the future of the space.

Following their remarks, students participated in a rock-paper-scissors competition to determine which lower, middle and upper school students would have the privilege to cut the grand-opening ribbon.

The new Learning Commons includes the Alice S. Marriott Library, which features several classrooms, two study rooms, reading nooks, a Quiet Commons and bookshelves. For students who enjoy spending time outside, there are many outdoor seating areas and terraces. The Freeman Family Cafe is also a space for students to socialize and grab a bite to eat.

The Learning Commons officially opened for use on October 28th, and since then, students have been sharing their experiences and enthu-

siasm. Journey Stenerson ’27 stated, “I’ve been in the Quiet Commons three times now, and everybody in there is super respectful of the space. It has been a great opportunity for me to concentrate on my work and stay productive.”

Charlotte Fritz ’26 and Talia Wissman ’27 agreed that the Quiet Commons is one of their favorite spaces. Wissman also shared that she appreciates the cafe area because “it is a great place to take a break and hang out with friends.”

Expressing her thoughts on the furniture, Merritt Feldner ’27 said, “The chairs and couches in the Learning Commons are super comfortable, and I love the different colors and fabrics that the students helped to pick out!”

Joy Colburn,

the middle school librarian, said she missed having students in the library, so “it has been great to see everyone back together.” One of her favorite spaces is the terrace gathering area, where her advisory meets and plays games.

The variety of spaces offers the

opportunity for individual study, collaboration and sisterhood. As Evins said during the grand opening, the Learning Commons embodies Holton’s mission to provide “an education that nurtures not only ‘the mind but the soul and spirit’ of each student.”

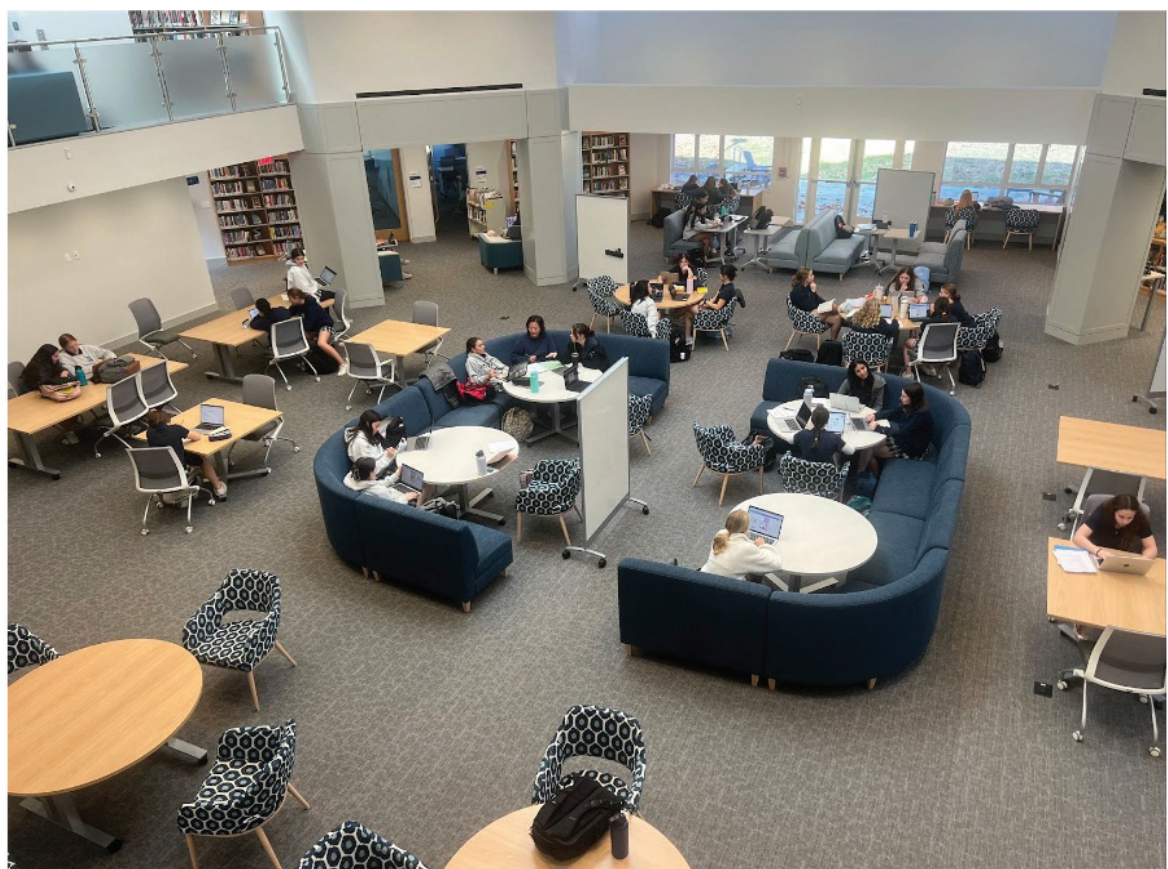


photo by Merritt Feldner

OPINION: As a Teenage Girl, I Have Learned from Pageants the Importance of Staying True to Who Who I Am

BY RACHEL SPENCER

Far beyond the glitz of a shiny crown and sash, pageantry offers a unique possibility for personal growth and allows me to foster self-confidence and empathy.

My involvement in pageants has profoundly challenged the stereotypes of superficiality often associated with this world of opportunities.

Through my 10 years of competing, pageants have made me a resilient young woman who understands the beauty of being a “graceful loser” and finding success in the process to achieve a result, not just the goal itself.

Pageantry is about redefining womanhood and showcasing the modern woman who embodies beauty and brains. It empowers young women to find their voices by emphasizing the importance of philanthropy, compassion and leadership.

I’ve had the privilege of holding several titles over the years, including USA Ambassador, Miss Maryland Junior Preteen, International Junior Miss Old Line State Preteen, USA National Miss Maryland Preteen,

Miss Central Maryland’s Teen, Miss Carroll County’s Teen and most well-known, Miss Maryland’s Teen 2023. My involvement in the Miss America organization has had a significant impact on my life.

Starting as a Miss Maryland Little Sister at age eight, I always knew I wanted to represent my state as Miss America’s Teen. After two years competing for the Miss Maryland’s Teen title, I won in 2023, had an opportunity to encourage teens to find their service passions through my organization Sprinkles Of Love (SOL), met Vice President Kamala Harris and Governor Wes Moore and traveled to 11 of Maryland’s 24 counties.

Utilizing Miss America’s four points of the crown—service, scholarship, style and success—I gained new tools to enhance my skill set, which have helped me greatly in different areas of my life. While pageantry has opened doors and given me the tools I need to be the successful woman I hope to be in politics, I acknowledge that this sport can negatively affect its participants.

When I was 13, one of my pageant coaches told me I “had to lose

weight” to score higher in the Miss America’s Teen Fitness competition.

Before this comment, I never felt like pageantry made me feel anything less than empowered and confident, so for the first time, the sport I loved hurt me.

My coach continued explaining that weight loss was something all pageant girls had to do to win because that was “just how it works.”

Yes, I knew that if I wanted to achieve my dreams, I’d unfortunately have to follow this same path, but nevertheless, I was determined to always be true to myself and stay healthy.

I became empowered to turn this forced chore of working out and health management into a healthy outlet after a long day at school and as a way to build my confidence. Little did I know that this journey would teach me something so important: I can do anything.

I know that so many other pageant girls have not had the same experiences that I did, so it’s important to me that I promote ways to be to take care of your body as a pageant girl. I always strive to share a positive message and use alternative language other than being just skinny as a result of exercising. For example, I try to promote exercise as a means of being healthy and feeling strong.

In a world where girls are continuously fed unrealistic expectations of how they should look based on social media standards, within the pageant world, I find it’s important to turn to the reasons I love pageantry so much and how

I can continue to create a movement of empowering women to be strong and authentic leaders.

art by Mia Estevez-Breton

OPINION: Teenage Girls Face too Much Pressure, but the Seminar Program Works to Change That Issue

BY CAROLINE PETERSON

I have been privileged enough to attend Holton for the last nine years, and I can confidently say that I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at this school.

During these nine years, I have furthered my academic career, gained immense amounts of knowledge and cultivated new and meaningful relationships with my peers and teachers.

While all of those things have helped my love for this school grow, I think I need to give a lot of deserved recognition to the Seminar program.

In my opinion, one of the biggest pluses of attending our school has been the positive effect the Seminar program has had on helping me suppress many of the pressures teenagers face.

In particular, I feel that what Seminar has done around spreading the Body Positivity Movement to Holton

has helped me feel not only more confident in my own skin but also less inclined to force myself to fit into the unrealistic female beauty standards that are so prevalent in today’s society.

In today’s day and age, teenage girls are under immense pressure to uphold society’s unrealistic standards regarding the way they look.

From their weight to the constant need to look “put together,” teenage girls are in an ongoing battle between deciding whether to try to fit the mold of society’s “perfect girl” or saying no to the pressure and being their true selves.

These standards are portrayed everywhere: on social media, television and our favorite movies.

However, the Seminar program has provided me with the skills and knowledge to not feel these external pressures that society puts on young women.

In particular, the project I did in Seminar last year about the Body Positivity Movement has given me a deeper understanding of what exactly society is pressuring young women to change.

For the project, my teacher Dr. Stephanie Cordo tasked each member of my class to research one beauty standard that society places on young women.

After researching, we made a social media platform to spread awareness about how society tries to influence and force women and young girls to fit into this beauty standard.

I chose to research stretch marks for my project. In my research, I learned how different brands prey on young girls’ insecurities surrounding

stretch marks by trying to sell various ointments and creams. Society is, in turn, putting out the message that women need to change part of their appearance in order to look beautiful. This assignment was the first time I had clarity in understanding the ways society promotes harmful pressures surrounding unrealistic beauty standards.

Thanks to the Seminar program, I am able to suppress the need to feel like I need to change how I look in order to fit the image that society wants from me. I feel that if I did not go to an all girls school like Holton, where having conversations about body positivity are able to happen on a daily basis, I would not be able to conquer these external pressures as well as I am able to do now.

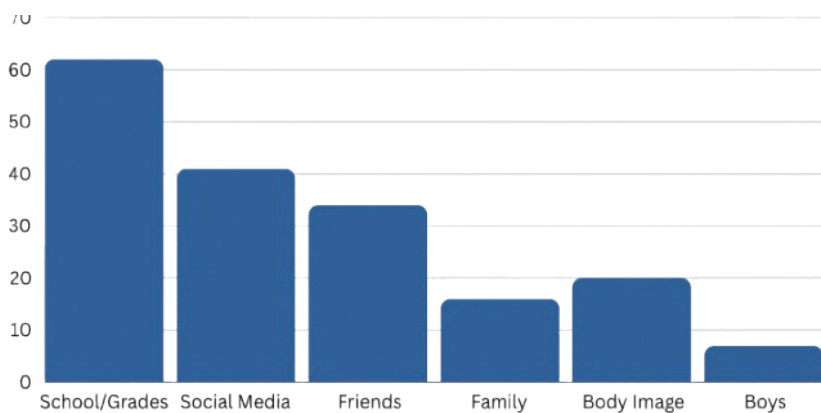


Students Express Common Pressures from Society

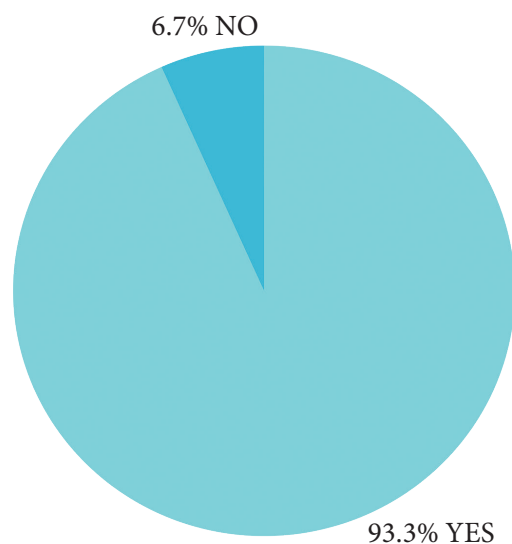
COMPILED BY CLAIRE DOH, SPREAD EDITOR

The polls collected by “Scribbler” represent a body of 133 upper school students who voluntarily responded to a survey.

What are the biggest stressors of being a teenage girl?



Do you feel affected by the societal pressures of being a teenage girl?



How Does Television Portray Adolescent Girls?

BY TALIA WISSMAN

Did Cady Heron push Regina George in front of an oncoming bus? The world may never know; however, something many girls have taken away from “Mean Girls” is that supposedly, teenage girls will do anything to get the guy (even if it means pushing your friend in front of a moving vehicle). So, while “Mean Girls” is obviously exaggerated, the question is: Why is this stereotype of teenage girls so present in TV and movies, and how is it harmful?

At the heart of many older children’s shows exists a self-obsessed, boy-crazy, emotionally fragile teenage girl who loves social media and is always up to date on the latest trends. Some examples include Blair Waldorf and Serena van der Woodson from “Gossip Girl,” Emma Ross from “Bunk’d” and Cher from “Clueless.”

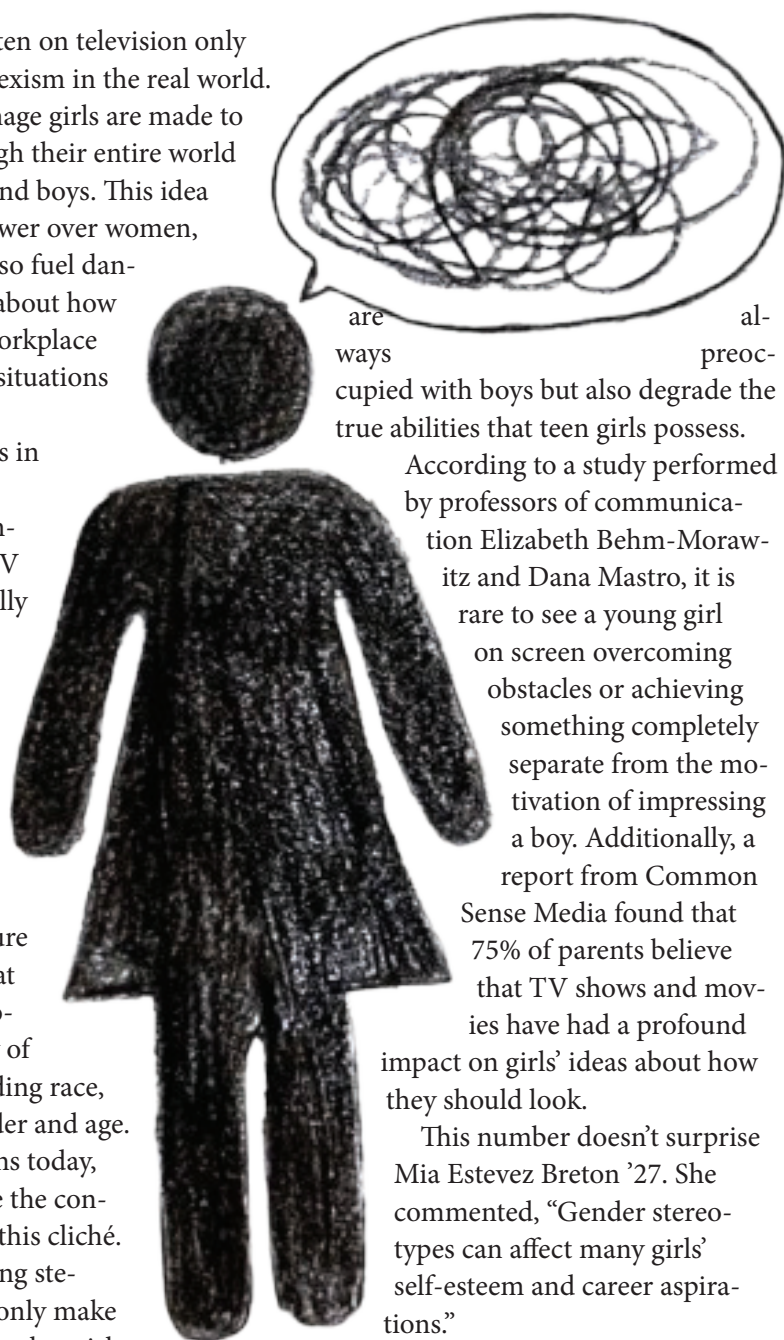
Just to look at one in-depth, Emma from the Disney show “Bunk’d” is a blonde, clueless girl who rarely talks about topics other than makeup, shopping, boys and social media. A particular Emma quotation that sums up her character is “with those dreamy eyes, he could run a puppy mill, and I’d still go out with him.”

Stereotypes such as these can be harmful in many ways. The conventional image of teenage girls that

appears so often on television only perpetuates sexism in the real world. Fictional teenage girls are made to seem as though their entire world revolves around boys. This idea gives men power over women, which may also fuel dangerous ideas about how homes, the workplace and political situations should be.

Stereotypes in television are deemed harmful because TV shows generally have a wide audience. A lot of shows catered to young, impressionable teens and children feature characters that further stereotype a variety of groups regarding race, religion, gender and age.

In situations today, teen girls face the consequences of this cliché. These recurring stereotypes not only make people assume that girls



According to a study performed by professors of communication Elizabeth Behm-Morawitz and Dana Mastro, it is rare to see a young girl on screen overcoming obstacles or achieving something completely separate from the motivation of impressing a boy. Additionally, a report from Common Sense Media found that 75% of parents believe that TV shows and movies have had a profound impact on girls’ ideas about how they should look.

This number doesn’t surprise Mia Estevez Breton ’27. She commented, “Gender stereotypes can affect many girls’ self-esteem and career aspirations.”

OPINION: The All-Girls Experience Has Helped me Find my Voice

BY ELIZA DORTON, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I began at Holton in third grade. I came from a co-ed Montessori School that I had attended my whole life. I wouldn’t have called myself shy to those who know me, but in situations of uncertainty and unfamiliarity, I would often avoid speaking, even if I felt sick or needed help on a math problem.

Coming to Holton, I was terrified. I remember going to third grade orientation and not knowing who to play with on the playground. I had a strong sense of this shyness until the middle of fourth grade, but it definitely stayed with me throughout later years here and even tends to creep up again from time to time.

In school, I gained not only the confidence to speak up but also the empowerment to do so. Throughout my time in Lower School, I grew more outspoken in the classroom. The lack of boys and familiarity with my classmates gave me the comfort to use my voice.

When I got to Middle School, my ability to take on leadership roles and be a vocal participant in class and clubs grew. Courses like Seminar allowed me to further amplify my self-confidence and encouraged me to listen and grow with my peers.

Whenever anyone asked me whether going to an all-girls school had impacted my education, I always replied with an enthusiastic and intentional “Yes!” In ninth grade, I joined the Tour Guides, for which I gave a couple tours a month to prospective parents. I often gushed about how great it was to go to an all-girls school because of the comfort within each classroom, the tight-knit community, increased self-confidence and overall desire to learn each day.

Not to stereotype all girls, but the distraction of boys is a real one in many cases. I can’t imagine that I’d be as focused, have all the same educational opportunities or collaborate as effectively if I went to a co-ed school. Maybe it is because this type of education is all I’ve known for the last 10 years of my life, but then again, I do think that our environment has contributed to my enjoyment and appreciation for this education.

From Panthers to Blue Devils: Leilani Clark '24 and Ella Moore '24 Walk Onto Two of Duke's Division I Athletic Teams

BY LAUREN HEMANN

Alumnae Ella Moore and Leilani Clark embarked on their first-year journeys at Duke University this fall. Impressively, Moore earned a spot on Duke's basketball team as a walk-on while Clark did the same on the Duke rowing team. A walk-on player joins an athletic team in college without going through the formal recruiting process.

While at Holton, Moore was a 12-season varsity athlete, was involved in RA, BSU, HAA, and Debate, and served as spread editor for "Scribbler." Her favorite memories included playing basketball, organizing "Plates" with BSU and serving on RA.

Moore decided to try out for Duke's basketball team because she missed being on the court as part of a team. Attempting a walk-on was always part of her plan as she stated that she "always intended to do some form of athletics in college."

Physical Education teacher and varsity basketball coach Jacqueline Fernandes wasn't surprised. She stated that Moore "never backed down from a challenge" and that her "natural leadership shines through not only in her individual play but also in her ability to uplift those around her."

Moore said she is "still transitioning and learning more about what it is like to be a walk-on and the intricacies of collegiate basketball" and was ecstatic to continue her growth with the Duke program.

Unlike Moore, Clark said that sports were "never a consideration in [her] college application process."

However, toward the end of Leilani's senior year, Stephanie Accera, upper school math teacher and varsity head crew coach, encouraged her to pursue rowing at Duke. Clark agreed. She stated, "I thought about how much I might improve at the collegiate level since I genuinely enjoyed crew during the two seasons at Holton." Acerra described Clark as having "a very strong work ethic who embraced every workout, wanting to improve every day."

Clark's highlights at Holton included Drawing and Painting with Ben Ferry, spending time with friends in then-12th Grade Dean Yolanda Keener's office, and eating lunch outside on warm days.

Her move to collegiate athletics had "easily been one of the most difficult transitions that [she] has undergone." Clark loves being a part of a team. She said, "It comes with smiling at new faces around campus, getting suggestions for the best

professors, and receiving unwavering support while still getting used to being on the team." Even beyond the Holton hallways, courts and ergs, Moore and Clark continue to inspire members of the Holton community

to push themselves to see what they can accomplish and take risks.

As Fernandes and Accera stated, Moore and Clark are a testament to "making your dreams become a reality!"



Above: Moore playing varsity basketball for Holton, Below: Clark rowing for Holton photos courtesy of Holton Communications

Fall Sports Conclude in ISL Championships

BY BLAIR GREENSPAN, FEATURES EDITOR

As the fall season concludes, winter seasons, reminisced their accomplishments throughout the season.

Particularly, many fall athletes will cherish their memories competing in Championships.

Student-athletes have done an impressive job out the championship season. Varsity ball took the



place prize in the A division. Varsity field hockey, varsity tennis and varsity soccer all reached the semi-finals. Cross country placed eleventh out of 15 in its league championship. Athletic Director Graham Westerberg stated that he is "always proud of the fall athletes for giving their best effort and representing Holton in the finest way." He takes pride in of Holton's accomplishments throughout fall season.

Varsity field hockey captain Remy Caspar '26 said, "I am proud of [varsity field hockey's results in the ISL's.] Field hockey had the best record we have had in a while."

Her team tied for third place in the ISL's, and Caspar is confident that next year's team will win the championship. Casper believes that the field hockey team had a great mindset approaching the semi-finals against Visitation. While she noted that the team had some nerves going into the game, "the energy on the bus was great."

Leading up to the ISL A division championship, Varsity Volleyball Coach Nagy Abdelrazek and his team were mentally ready to face St. Andrew's Episcopal School. Commenting on the work his team put in, Abdelrazek said that "commitment equals results." He added, "I would like to thank [Strength and Conditioning Coach] Madison Kurish and

[Athletic Trainer] Maureen Siburt for their hard work to keep the team in good shape and healthy. Also I would like to thank my assistants Genevieve Graham and Paul Chang as well as the leadership of Graham Westerberg."

Hannah Warfield '26, a cross country captain, is saddened that the fall season has ended so quickly. However, she commented that the team "had a lot of fun, worked really hard and is proud of itself."

Westerberg remarked that he is "thrilled with the success of Holton athletics and the memories developed."

Westerberg reminds all Holton athletes to "cherish the opportunity to be part of a team, work hard, accomplish goals, and feel great about themselves and representing Holton."

Graphic: Loretta Talbott '25 and Foley Robertson '25 celebrate during a soccer game. photo courtesy of Holton Communications

Fall Production of “The Tempest” Gives Community Insight Into the World of Shakespeare

BY BLAIR GREENSPAN, FEATURES EDITOR

In early November, Holton and Landon performed their exciting production of “The Tempest.” The well-known play by William Shakespeare is a story of grievances and revenge with engaging dialogue, humor and romance. The play begins with Prospera, the protagonist, using magic to conjure a storm in order to shipwreck her enemies on her island. Prospera’s spirit Ariel protects her from the sailors and serves Prospera’s plan of revenge in exchange for her eventual freedom. Meanwhile, Prince Ferdinand falls in love with Prospera’s daughter Miranda.

Director Stephanie Miller said that the Theater Department chose “The Tempest” because they “like to keep

a four-year rotation of different styles of shows” to “expose [the students] to various types of productions.”

Although there are many challenging aspects of performing Shakespeare, Miller thought the biggest for the cast was “getting acclimated to the writing style.”

“The Tempest” gave cast members the opportunity to learn about their characters through close study and analysis of their lines. Miller’s favorite part of directing the play was getting to share her love for Shakespeare and “awakening [the] cast to the idea that these characters are... still relatable and relevant to our modern world.”

English teacher Melinda Salata loved the play and said that “any students lucky enough to perform in one of [Shakespeare’s] plays get to expand their sense of self while also wrestling with the meaning and music of

Shakespeare’s words.”

Salata particularly enjoyed the staging as well as “the decision to split the part of Ariel into a whole chorus,” giving the production a “fairy-like magic.”

Cast member Addi Hille ’26, who played one of the Ariel Elementals, said, “Everyone [was] amazing, and the show went really well.” Hille also hopes that the audience enjoyed

watching the show as much as the cast loved performing it.

Maggie Shelton ’26, who attended the

show on opening night, said that viewing a Shakespeare show “gives the audience a chance to see something new.” She commented specifically on the actors’ “chemistry” with one another on stage and noted, “It was obvious that [the cast] had put a lot of time and effort into the show.”

Miller concluded that “the cast did a great job” and hopes its members feel the same.



photo courtesy of Holton Communications

Here’s How to Spend the Picture-Perfect Fall Day in D.C.

BY TAYLOR GAINES, NEWS EDITOR



art by Sofia Aquino

A Guide to Holton’s Winter Events Lineup: How and When to Support Your Classmates

BY CINDY MIAO

What performing arts events can the community anticipate?

Lower, Middle and Upper School Bands Director and Middle and Upper School Handbells teacher Allyson Royster remarked, “I’m looking forward to the instrumental and choral concerts coming up in December, and in February I look forward to the dance performance.”

The Middle and Upper School Instrumental Concert will take place on December 5th at 6:30 pm and will feature students playing a variety of pieces, such as “Metrodance,” “The Water is Wide” and pieces from the classic movie “Home Alone.” The annual Orchestis Dance Concert is set for February 7th at 6:30 pm.

Violinist and Chamber Orchestra member Noor Poshni ’27 feels most excited to play pieces from “Home Alone” in the upcoming concert.

She enjoys “when Orchestra and Band come together because the pieces...sound amazing with the diverse range of instruments.”

She continued, “My favorite part

about being in [these groups] is that I get to spend time with my peers across all grades in both settings.”

The Middle and Upper School Winter Handbells and Chamber Music Concert will occur on December 16th at 6:30 pm. The groups will perform “Farandole (Bizet),” “Brahms’ Symphony No. 2 (Third Movement)” and “Pavane (Ravel).”

The Upper School Chorus Concert will be December 12th at 6:30 pm, when students will sing pieces including “Seasons of Love” and “Glow.” This concert will be themed in accordance to the seasons with Upper School Chorus taking winter, Chamber Singers taking summer, Swing Choir taking spring and Middle School Chorus taking fall.

Soprano Sophie Delonis-Vigier ’27 stated that she appreciates “the people and community that surrounds Chorus and Chamber.”

She is most excited for Chamber to perform “Here Comes the Sun” by the Beatles. She also looks forward to Chamber’s rendition of “Kokomo,” “Uptown Girl” and “Day of Fire and Sun.”



CREATED BY CARLISLE WINN

Across

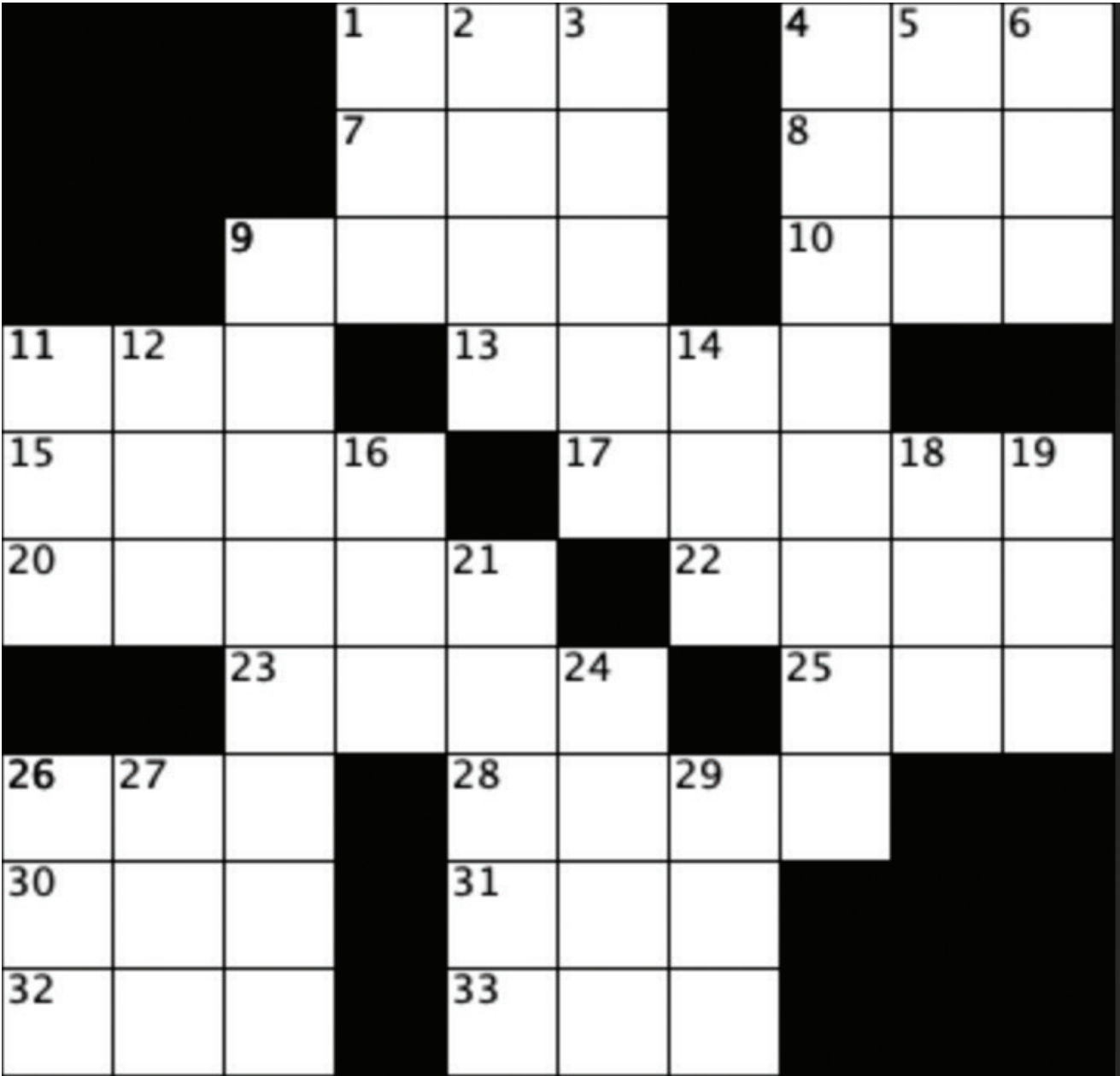
- 1. Major postal service
- 4. Swift lyric: “Wondering if I’d get there quicker if I was a _____”
- 7. That big, bright thing in the sky
- 8. Class of 2025’s Flash-back theme: “Ice _____”
- 9. Boring; dull
- 10. Little kid
- 11. Swift song title: “I Can _____ You”
- 13. What cross country runners want to increase
- 15. Mom, affectionately
- 17. Country known for its bibimbap
- 20. Stong winds usually accompanied by rain, thunder and lightning
- 22. The Seven Deadly _____
- 23. Not a _____ but a want
- 25. Watch a football game and you’ll be interrupted by these constantly
- 26. Agency headquartered in McLean, VA
- 28. Rear end of many animals
- 30. Help, assist
- 31. _____ Deco, a popular style of architecture
- 32. Not a win or a loss but a _____
- 33. “_____ Miserables”

Down

- 1. The country with the most medals in the 2024 Paris Olympics, for short
- 2. The feeling of increased muscle size after a workout, in gym lingo
- 3. To take slyly, per say

- 4. Madonna song: “_____ Girl”
- 5. “Four score and seven years _____”
- 6. Find many sophomores are studying _____ Ionic Equations
- 9. _____ Mouth, popular 2011 DCOM starring Bridgit Mendler
- 11. Texting
- 12. Get some food!
- 14. One of the three trigonometric identities, for short
- 16. Roses _____ red...

- 18. Finish; stop
- 19. Donkey
- 21. Heavy music
- 24. “Bet you can’t”; eg. _____
- 26. “The _____ in the Hat”
- 27. CCC divided by C
- 29. “_____ official!”



ANSWERS

Across

- 1. UPS
- 4. Man
- 7. Sun
- 8. Age
- 9. Lame
- 10. Tot
- 11. See
- 13. Pace
- 14. Mama
- 17. Korea
- 20. Storm
- 22. Sins
- 23. Need
- 25. Ads

- 26. CIA
- 28. Tail
- 30. Aid
- 31. Art
- 32. Tie
- 33. Les

Down

- 2. Pump
- 3. Sneak
- 4. Material
- 5. Ago
- 6. Net
- 9. Lemonade
- 11. SMS
- 12. Eat
- 14. Cos

- 16. Are
- 18. End
- 19. Ass
- 21. Metal
- 24. Dare
- 26. Cat
- 27. III
- 29. It's