

FOCUS

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A Lesson from BC

By FARIA REHMAN '17

When sitting down with the beloved teacher we commonly know as “BC,” I expected our to be interview much like the others I’d conducted before. I anticipated a few sentences as an answer to each question, and that would be that. Instead, I became thoroughly absorbed in his ideas and stories as my eyes were opened to things I had never really thought through too much, such as learning from others and putting yourself in situations where you feel humbled.

One of the first things Mr. Angevine told me was, “I’m getting good at adapting to the way it is that I’m the stupidest person in the room.” At first, I was confused, but as he explained the idea deeper, I became deeply invested. What he meant by this was that you’re “practicing up,” or putting yourself in a place where people are better, more intelligent, more interesting, more everything than you, and you learn from them. You’re setting yourself up to be immensely vulnerable, and in a situation where you could either fly or fail. What happens in this place is that you begin an enlightening journey of self-improvement, and a journey of self-awareness by being surrounded by people who make you feel intimidated or uncomfortable.

BC says this is some advice he’d pass onto students- holding the ability to put yourself in a potentially risky situation that allows you to learn and expand as both a student and as an overall person. However, he hasn’t started teaching this advice to his students yet, for he says he’s just getting good at it himself, and he’s just making the adjustment of getting used to it.

He states that the truth is, you aren’t the only one who feels vulnerable when surrounded by people better than you, and everyone it turns out has something to offer. He realized this when a somewhat meaningless tweet led to him participating in Google Hangouts once a month with people he’s looked up to for ages. Although it felt intimidating for him to be around these people who were doing what he wanted to do and were experts at the fields he adored, he learned from them. Said BC, “These people were doing everything I wanted to do, and they were the ones writing the books.” These once-a-month meetings led to one of these people asking him to provide feedback on a book she’s currently writing. Angevine stated that this made him realize that he does having something to offer, as does everyone.

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Elsa Says “Let it Snow”

By TALIA ROSENBERG '17

Even though Rita’s gave away free water ice on the first day of spring, March 20th, most of us will argue that the season didn’t arrive until over a month later. According to multiple weather sources, March is usually a mix between a warm spring and a cool winter. We might have expected this for March, but not for April. On the first day of April, during the second week of spring, the temperature in Philly got to as low as 14 degrees, which the National Weather Service explains is the lowest April weather reading since official records began in 1870. This year’s April even had some snow! When the rhyme says, “April showers bring May flowers”, we wouldn’t think it meant snow showers. There were more than a few snowfalls this April on the Main Line and after a while, snowflakes stopped looking so pretty. This is definitely not the typical spring weather we’ve been anticipating.



Not only did our winter seem to extend into our spring, but the winter itself seemed a lot rougher than usual. According to

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Meet the Chiefs

By JULIA BARR '15 and JESS MILLER '15

Hey FCS! We are Julia Barr and Jess Miller, and we are so excited to be next year’s editors in chief of Focus. This year, Peter and Emilia took our written publication of Focus to a new level, pushing the quality of the articles, tackling new issues and bringing this newspaper to its current caliber. Our hope is to take this incredible base and expand its network, experimenting with new types of media, and new ways in which we deliver our articles and projects. In starting this undertaking, these steps could not be taken without the help and guidance of Josh Weisgrau. Josh has already offered so many new ideas and possibilities, and has brought a fresh sense of energy, drive and excitement. We are so grateful to have him as a part of our team. The process of connecting Focus to the technological advancements of the 21st century will be a long course of which this is just the start, but we are stoked to accomplish some first steps.

We also want to maintain Focus as truly being the school community’s newspaper, representing and highlighting us and giving all members an opportunity to be recognized. We hope to build in new aspects to Focus that allow for this, such as opening surveys and polls, and welcoming guest writers. That being said, we also welcome any ideas or opportunities for improvement that you might have, whether you are currently a member of Focuor not. We can’t wait to share the results from these projects, and are eager to begin a new and hopefully successful year. We have great expectations for Focus next year and look forward to bringing them to action.



Keeping Racism Off of the Court

By JOSH BENJET ‘16

The Donald Sterling issue in the NBA reminds us that racism is still prevalent in sports. As many people by now have heard, Donald Sterling, the owner of the Los Angeles Clippers, made some racially offensive remarks, recorded by his girlfriend. As a result he has been banned from the NBA, and team other owners are trying to force him to sell his team. Donald Sterling has already paid a hefty price for his remarks and will continue to suffer the consequences- he has lost almost all support from players, fans, and others appalled by his comments, including his girlfriend.

The Donald Sterling incident shows that racism in sports is becoming something that is receiving much more attention. For most of his time in the League, Sterling had been accused of being racist, and had even been sued by one of his former general manager for racial discrimination. But why his behavior is receiving such serious consequences now isn't clear.

People now express racism with ease and whenever they wish. With access to social media, people are free to hurt another person with the simple push of a button. Racist comments online and in popular culture surround us and constantly engender wild emotions in society. Additionally, as technology advances, more and more people are exposed to racism.

Besides the Donald Sterling incident, there other examples of racism in sports. P.K. Subban, an African American hockey player, was the target of racist tweets after he scored a game-winning goal in the NHL Play-offs. However, many people quickly came to his defense, even the players on the team that had just lost. Some of the people who wrote the offensive tweets were even suspended from school. This shows that racism is not tolerated anymore in many areas of society. When Subban talked about these tweets, he reflected on his pain due to the racist comments he was receiving and his



desire to end his discomfort. In response, Subban worked harder as an athlete to show that his race doesn't define his ability. In fact, he currently is recognized as one of the best hockey players in the NHL. Period.

Both of these separate incidents show that many people are ready to stand up for what is right and combat racism head on. They do not want to see racism disrupt the games that they love, and have decided that it will not be tolerated or ignored anymore.

We Made It

By JESSICA MILLER ‘15

On April 14th, I overheard a conversation about the Made in America ticket presale. Of course, not only did the mention of the Made in America fest get me excited, but also learning that the ticket presale was to begin that day. I was ready to buy my tickets that afternoon. So right when I got home from school, I called a friend and placed an order.

I can't say I was the only one who experienced this crazed excitement at the mention of Made in America 2014. Social media was loaded with posts about it; people were asking for the lineup on twitter, one posted the presale code on Facebook, and the #MIA2013 throwbacks were overflowing my Instagram feed. We make the Made in America fest a big deal here, and sometimes I wonder whether or not we all wish to attend just to say we were there. Sure, it's a reason for us to have pride in our city, for Made in America is a large, nationally known event that compares with internationally famous festivals, such as Coachella and Ultra. However, a lot of Made in America's fame comes from innumerable posts on social media. Is it then really worth spending close to 200 dollars for two-day passes (without presale benefits) only to post that selfie on the parkway?

It is important to recognize what you will actually encounter when entering the festival. There will be around 35 performances

throughout the two days, and some take place at the same time. In 2013, nearly 80,000 people attended the event and were rushing to to the numerous events at once. Basically, this was not my mom's kind of concert. In order to maneuver through the festival, we had to push through and climb over walls of people, which is particularly difficult in the heat and humidity of late August.

For me, I think the crowd is what in the past has made the concert so much fun. I look forward to seeing familiar faces of people who have returned from camps and summer trips, and have been let off from work for the long weekend. Also, I'm excited by the random crazed fans who need to be dodged from time to time in order to save my hearing. Running and dancing around the city of brotherly love is a nice way to end my summer.

So, you should consider the concert-scene when deciding to buy your ticket. If you're overwhelmed by crowds and heat, Made in America is probably not the way you'll want to spend your Labor Day weekend. However, if you're down to break a sweat and dance in throngs of people with no shame, then get ready to make some plans to hit up the parkway.

From BC on Page 1

Lastly, he stated that although there are many different reasons he likes FCS, an important one is that Friends' Central is an environment that makes this journey possible. He stated that there were so many people here who he saw as more intelligent or talented. "When I'm with a Latin teacher I'll feel like a Computers teacher, and when I'm with a Computers teacher I'll feel like a Latin teacher." BC appreciates that the opportunity to improve upon himself. Overall, the lesson to take away from this is that while at FCS, always try to work off the talent and good qualities of others to make yourself better in the long run.

Good Pi To Ms. Haimm

By JULIA STERN ‘15

Beginning her career at FCS in 1983, Mrs. Haimm has worked both as a math teacher and a grade dean, harnessing valuable relationships amongst all involved in the Friends’ Central community . In an environment where she feels she is “encouraged and challenged” not only as a math teacher, but as a “mentor and role model to students as well,” Mrs. Haimm has appreciated the opportunity to watch community members mature and develop while assisting them along the way. A testament to meaningful teacher/student interactions and the personal relationships forged here in the Upper School, Mrs. Haimm recalls the touching moment when a student of hers, faced with much adversity and challenges prior to graduation, finally shook hands with Mr. Felson and received his diploma, or when her precalculus class threw a party to celebrate her birthday.

As for the future, Mrs. Haimm is leaving some of her plans up to spontaneity, wanting “the not yet knowing part, to be part of the fun too.” She does hope to spend some of her time volunteering, practicing more

yoga, perhaps taking an art class; and she’s particularly excited about planning her daughter’s wedding next summer. For Mrs. Haimm, “teaching has been a perfect career” and she looks forward to hearing about the great developments ahead here on campus. On behalf of the entire Friends’ Central community, we will miss you, Mrs. Haimm, and we wish you the best on your future endeavors!



Hasta Luego to GT

By ANTHONY CANDELORI-MORAGLIA ‘16

After over 30 years of great service to the FCS community, we say goodbye to Jacqueline Gowen-Tolcott, known to many as ‘Senora GT.’ Ever since the early 1980’s, GT has taught Spanish of all forms, from basic grammar all the way up to advanced Spanish literature. When I asked about some of her favorite aspects of teaching, she exclaimed “Students!

Helping students learn Spanish and enriching their knowledge of literature will always be my favorite memories here.” Although GT is retiring from teaching here at FCS, she will continue to follow her love of teaching. She plans to volunteer at Philadelphia public schools, particularly in arts classes, which have been hit hard by harsh budget cuts. Teaching has always been GT’s passion, She said, “Connecting with students on the first day is always one of my favorite times, and I hope my students also get the same joy from learning.” GT, we hope you continue to pursue your desire to educate and nurture language and culture in students for many years to come. Thank you for your amazing contributions to Friends’ Central!

Goodbye Ms. Garnitz

As we say goodbye for the summer, we owe a special goodbye and thank you to high school literature teacher, Ms. Garnitz. Thank you for all of your contributions to Friends’ Central this year, and the impact that you had on this community. We are sad to see you go, but wish you the best of luck in the future.

From “:Let it Snow” on page 1

various weather sources, the oceans have been getting warmer. Accu-Weather, along with other weather specialists, tell us that this means more water is evaporating into the atmosphere, which leads to more rain. This rainfall affects the path of the North Atlantic jet stream: a stream of fast moving air, going from west to east around the world, many miles high in the atmosphere. Basically, the unusual amount of rainfall caused the North Atlantic jet stream to bring freezing arctic air down throughout Canada and the USA. This, along with this year’s very strong polar night jet, a jet stream that occurs in the polar winter in high altitudes, contributes to the crazy weather change.

That is the simplified version of a very complicated situation involving a lot of different things. After talking to Mr. Gruber, I learned that this year’s winter will not necessarily affect our spring or summer or any of the other seasons coming after it. This winter does not mean that global warming is coming to kill us all. It just means there was a shift in the jet stream. With the 7 snow days this year, the stu-

dents here at Friends’ Central felt as though we were almost living in an eternal winter! FCS had no snow days last year so this definitely came as a surprise. However, this years wild winter has no true effect on future weather. It does not have a huge deeper meaning; it just shows that this particular season had a lot of snowfall. Even though the records sound crazy, new weather records are set by new seasons every year. This is just a way of life; things are constantly changing. So, even though we felt that we could definitely relate to the kingdom of Arendale, from this years perfectly timed movie, Frozen, the world will not end after a few months of freezing cold.

Enjoy Your Summer!

Top 10’s of the 2013/2104 School Year

By HANNAH KAMINSKY ‘15

Songs:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. “Latch” by Disclosure | 6. “Drunk in Love” by Beyonce |
| 2. “Talk Dirty” by Jason Derulo | 7. “Wrecking Ball” by Miley Cyrus |
| 3. “Pompeii” by Bastille | 8. “The A -Team” by Ed Sheeran |
| 4. “Wake Me Up” by Avicii | 9. “All of Me” by John Legend |
| 5. “Happy” by Will Pharrell | 10. “Let it Go” by Idina Menzel |

TV Shows:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Dexter | 6. Are You the One? |
| 2. Modern Family | 7. Awkward |
| 3. Pretty Little Liars | 8. 24 |
| 4. Scandal | 9. Homeland |
| 5. Orange is the New Black | 10. Dance Moms |

Phoenix in the Phast Lane

Dasheill Halpern: Runner

By Jessica Miller ‘15

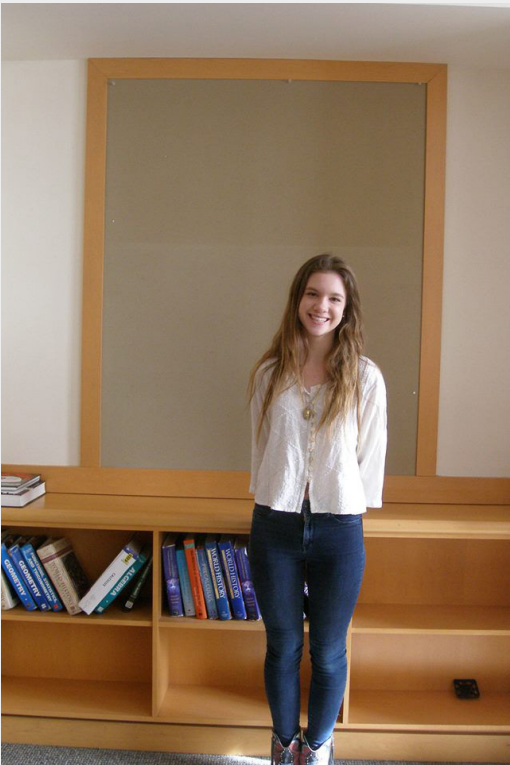


Dashiell Halpern is a new addition to the Friends’ Central Varsity Track team. Even though he only began his running career in the middle of this winter, Dash has had monumental success on the track team. He considers his greatest success of the season to be his performance at States, where he helped his relay team take home a third place medal. It is incredible for a new runner to have achieved what Dashiell has. Dashiell’s favorite part of being on the track team was creating new ties with team members: “It felt good to be a part of a team, working together towards a goal.” However, Dashiell recognizes the importance of working as an individual on the team. In fact, he values his personal success because of its effects on his team’s achievements. In order to perform well on the track, Dashiell tries to stay focused only on his races and his motivation to succeed. Keep up the great work, Dashiell, and congratulations on a remarkable first track season!

Artist In the Spotlight

Grace Kauffman-Rosengarten

By Elizabeth Raphaely ‘16 and Natasha Guy ‘16



If you’ve opened Ink’s most recent issue, you probably noticed many incredible paintings by Grace Kauffman-Rosengarten, Art Club co-head, artist and actress. Her beautiful water colors are not her only artistic focus, as she also enjoys collage and other types of painting. Along with taking Studio Art as a tenth grader, Grace is also an active member of stage crew and has participated in various plays in and outside of school. Art consistently plays an important role in her life, serving as an outlet and a way to “discover things about [herself] and others, [gaining] a clearer mind.” Drawn to art’s “possibility of storytelling and expressing emotions,” Grace has been doing art for “as long as [she] can remember,” saying that when other kids outgrew art, she just stuck with it, never losing interest. Grace knows that “art will always be a part of [her] life,” whether she attends an art school for college or becomes an international art teacher. At present she is keeping her options open. Whatever Grace chooses to do in her future, it is clear that her artistic talent will shine through, as we all see it doing today.

Thank you!

As we wrap up the school year and look forward to summer, there are a few very special people we need to thank before we say our goodbyes. To all of the seniors on Focus: thank you for your dedication and all of your contributions over the past years. A special thank you to layout editors Max Luzuriaga and Jordyn Karliner, for your diligent work, time and effort; we really would not be able to publish Focus without you. Dr. P, thank you for your incredible guidance and support this year. We are so excited to continue our work with you next year. And finally, a huge thank you to Emilia Weinberg and Peter Dissinger, this year’s editors in chief. Emilia and Peter worked tirelessly to make Focus its best, and their efforts have not gone unnoticed. This was a truly exceptional year for Focus, and they have set the bar quite high for us to follow. From the entire staff, we wish the best of luck to all of the seniors, and cannot wait to see what amazing things they do in the future!

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