

FOCUS

FCS STUDENT MAGAZINE
MARCH 2017

PIPPIN
PAGE 2

SAY YES TO SHARING
PAGE 3

BEHIND THE SCENES
PAGE 8



FRIENDS'
CENTRAL
SCHOOL

FOCUS

Check out the Quakefeed:
fcsquakefeed.com

Editors in Chief:

Zoe Ginsberg '17 and Eliza Caisse '18

Graphic Design & Layout Editor:

Josh Weinstein '18

Editorial, Political, and Diversity Editor:

Talia Rosenberg '17

Faculty Advisors:

Steve Patterson and Montgomery Ogden

Staff:

Nicole Pollack '17

James Peterson '17

Sydney Kaplan '18

Gia Matika '18

Evan Paszamant '18

Dylan Mitchell '19

Choya Chen '19

Nir Netz '19

Julian Brenman '20

Jack Li '20

***Pippin* & Other Photography:**

Jay Gorodetzer





Pippin: A Glorious Success

BY: JULIAN BRENMAN '20

In early March, on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights at 7 pm, and on Saturday afternoon at 2 pm, there was no place more lively and exciting to be than in the audience of the Upper School winter musical, *Pippin*. The performance was directed by our own Terry Guerin; music directed and conducted by a local freelance talent Chris Burcheri; choreographed by the amazing Rosanna D'Orazio; stage managed by Annie Roberts '18 with the help of Sarah Estey '17, and technical direction by C.J. Keller. This team and the many actors entertained hundreds of audience members over the course of its run.

One of those audience members was Audrey Blinman '22. (Audrey swims for the Middle School team and writes for *The Phoenix Inquirer*). Also an avid theatre fan, she raves about her experience attending *Pippin*: "The absolute dedication of the actors was apparent in their performances. They were having a good time, so, consequentially, I was, too!" Not only does Audrey love being in the audience, but she hopes to join the Upper School theatre program as a performer. "I am so excited to join the Upper School theatre program. There's a certain energy about it that is intoxicating, and I am looking forward to being able to experience it for myself!" Director Terry Guerin reflects on the recent performance with a smile, "This was one of the strongest ensembles I have had. Folks worked very hard and it paid off, it was a privilege to work with this cast," she says.

Mrs. Guerin later explained how the musicals are selected in the first place. "At the end of each year, I consult with graduating seniors about the different possibilities for musicals and plays. Since the last musical we did was *Cats* and before that *Urinetown*, I thought it was time for a more 'vintage' musical."

Frankie Zelnick, our admission associate, loves meeting prospective students as much as supporting current ones. She also saw *Pippin*, and is truly amazed with how it turned out. In a recent email Miss Zelnick wrote to all who participated in the show; "I am constantly amazed by you and the people, actors, singers, dancers, musicians, stage managers, set/lighting/costume/make-up designers you continue to become. You are incredible, through and through." She gave the seniors an additional pat on the back. "To the seniors especially, who are nearing your last theatre performance at FCS - I cannot imagine a world without you on its stages. I hope you continue to share your gifts with the world. I will always be grateful for the talents you've so graciously and generously shared."

So, yes. There was "Magic To Do," and the cast, crew, and band of *Pippin* surely got it done. To view more pictures of the performance, flip to page 9 or view them on the Friends' Central Flickr account.

BY: JACK LI '20

Meeting for Worship has always been an important practice for Quakers and Quaker schools like Friends' Central. Its importance is noted on the front page of Friends' Central's website: "Underlying all facets of school life is the belief that 'there is that of God in everyone.' Meeting for Worship is central, providing time for connections among members of the community and between individuals and their spiritual sources," yet this year students are sharing less and less frequently. The Meeting Room slowly turns into a place of drowsiness and boredom every Wednesday, rather than a place of good spiritual experiences.

Some students are disappointed about this ritual, especially those who just joined the community. "I do not enjoy Meeting for Worship," says a ninth grade student. "It's not obvious that everyone is influenced by this practice, since nobody really says anything." This student is non-religious and feels bothered by this weekly practice. "I try not to fall asleep. I really wish I could find some value in MFW. People around me just go to sleep, they never say anything." When I talked to a different ninth grader about MFW, she told me, "For people who are non-religious, Meeting for Worship is not meaningful because we don't practice anything. People who do practice are just sitting with their inner thoughts and you can't really see what's being done. I guess for Quakers, it's practice. In Meeting for Worship, I sit in silence in respect for those who are religious." She points out that the problem with Meeting for Worship is that non-religious students are not guided during the period of time and don't really know what to do with themselves. Students who do know how to focus and meditate don't share their feelings, making the experience difficult. Many other students I talked to also complain about this practice and think that Meeting for Worship should no longer be mandatory since it is "such a waste of time." Then there are the teachers -- how do the adults in Friends' Central Community respond to this practice?

Mr. Dankoff, a non-religious teacher at Friends' Central, tells us that he enjoys the period of time every Wednesday. "Meeting for Worship provides students a place to stop and to center. I think we live now in a 'post-boredom society'." People aren't bored anymore, because everybody has an electronic device in their pocket. They have instant gratification, instant access to something that stops

boredom." Students could certainly do a better job at focusing and meditating. Everyone struggles with this process, but teachers are there to help them. "I, as a teacher, try to sit amongst students and help, as an educator; students learn how to focus and use the time for what it's for. Some students enter the room ready to hunker down and fall asleep, I think it's a teacher's responsibility to help students by teaching them how to center and how to use that time." Mr. Dankoff always talks to students about their revelations during the class following Meeting for Worship and in his home-room. Mr. MacFarlane is culturally Christian and values Meeting for Worship every Wednesday as well. Mr. MacFarlane also devotes class time to talking about Meeting for Worship, yet he also points out a possible solution to the silence and boredom that dominates the Meeting Room. "There are some student leaders who want Meeting for Worship to be a more meaningful experience. These leaders might have been to some Quaker student conference. We have a religious life committee in Upper School, but that's only for teachers. We don't have any students on that committee, so we've always wondered if that's something we should do so that there's more student ownership of Meeting for Worship and so that the students take the lead in Meeting for Worship a little bit more."

This is a marvelous solution to silence in Meeting for Worship. The students need to own Meeting for Worship and feel responsible for making it meaningful. The momentum of students standing up and sharing has to be created to break the silence. It will encourage the students who meditate to speak more frequently and share their thoughts, and it might help to inspire students who struggle at focusing and meditating.



Chinese New Year

BY: CHOYA CHEN '19

In the Chinese lunar calendar, January first is a very special day. Families joyously spend time together and make memories they will never forget. The day is made even sweeter with a festival, the Chinese New Year celebration. Since there are a number of Chinese students at FCS, we were excited to share with everyone some of the fun experienced during Chinese New Year. Our recent assembly was definitely a success, so here are a couple of more things you should know about Chinese New Year.

Decorations & Fireworks:

One day prior to the start of Chinese New Year, people like to hang red decorations such as Duilian (antithetical couplets which contain poetry) and lanterns. They are all symbols of good luck. On the eve of Chinese New Year, the sky is full of colorful and brilliant flowers made by the fireworks. Each family will buy their own and unique fireworks and watch them with relatives in the evening. It's

a perfect time for families to begin celebrating together. Children often compare fireworks and make a competition out of who has the prettiest ones.

Reunion Dinner & Spring Festival Gala:

After watching the fireworks, families come together for dinner. Some families enjoy a big homemade meal, while other choose to go out to a favorite restaurant. For family members who are usually very busy, this time is very important to them. At 8:00 pm on New Year's Eve, all the TVs in China present the Spring Festival Gala. It's a program by CCTV1 that has annually occurred since 1983. There are musical performances, the Xiaopin (which is a traditional short skit), dances, magic shows, and much more. At the end of the program, everyone counts down to 12:00 am, and then goes to sleep feeling fresh with the new year. Nowadays, some young people think it's boring and old-fashioned to watch the program, but most will still watch it. I say it's not really about the show itself, but about the time that you spend with your family.

Red Packet Money:

A very exciting part of Chinese New Year that all children look forward to is the red packet money. Parents and relatives give children money wrapped in red packets which represent love and luck. Also, in recent years, with the new function of WeChat (a chatting app that's really common and popular in China), we are able to "grab" red packet money online. You can send a red packet to your friends or to groups of people who must "grab" the packets before someone else does. It makes it easier and a lot more fun to get your lucky money!

In closing, I interviewed some of our Chinese students on their opinions about Chinese New Year:

Mingyu Zhou: "In my memory, Chinese New Year is a holiday where people in the whole country are on their way home and people all stay with their families during this precious time. For me, during Spring Festival, I stay at home and watch TV with my family. I always get very excited since I get red packets every year."

Ben Nie: "For me, the new year is not about traditional stuff. It is about staying with your parents and friends, having dinner and chatting. It brings joy to all of us. That's the point of our Chinese New Year."

Edward Wang: "Spring Festival means a lot for the Chinese, especially for kids. Every year, we will have a thorough house clean-up and festival items shopping. I love the part when relatives give red packets to me, because I get to keep the money for a few days. But my mom always collects them after the relatives are gone."

I hope you learned something new about the Chinese New Year, and I look forward to spending the next two Chinese New Years with you all :)



The Ethics of Autonomous Cars

BY: JOSH WEINSTEIN '18

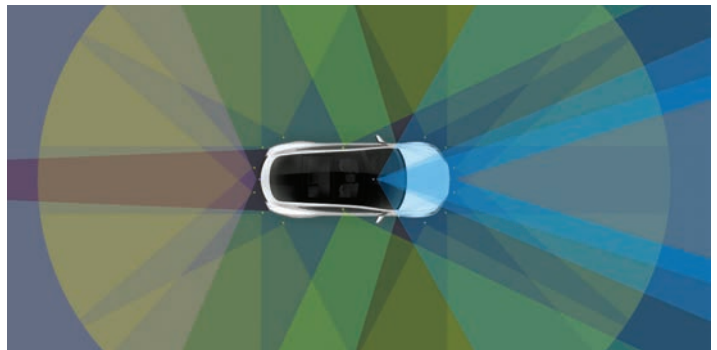
Many of the people working on cars that can drive themselves aren't just engineers and software developers. In fact, many teams developing self-driving cars include philosophers. Why would philosophers be required to develop autonomous cars? Well, there are many ethical debates that have formed around the subject of self-driving cars, and our lives may depend on the choices those philosophers make.

Many papers on the ethics of self-driving cars cite the "infamous trolley problem." Imagine you are the conductor of a trolley and see five people on the track. You attempt to use the brakes, but they do not work. There is, however, a branch in the track ahead, but one person is standing on that track. Do you make the active decision to switch tracks and kill one person to save five others? While this is more of a thought experiment in morals and ethics, it may be a very real decision that many cars will have to make.

It becomes even more complicated once you consider that a self-driving car would also have to take into account the lives of the passengers in the car. In a situation where there is one person in the car and five people crossing the road, and a crash is unavoidable, should the car avoid the pedestrians and crash, killing the person inside? What if there are five people in the car and one person crossing the street - should the car hit the person to spare its passengers? These questions are very hard to answer, and while it may be a morbid subject to discuss, many philosophers have to debate this issue, because if it is not addressed the consequences would be terrible.

With fully autonomous vehicles only a decade or two away, technology that would allow cars to prevent all accidents will not be available in time. The fact is, when they do arrive, these cars will not be perfect (nothing is), and some accidents will not be avoidable. As a result, this ethical dilemma definitely has the potential to affect our lives in the not-too-distant future. Since these fully autonomous cars are on the horizon, polls have been conducted to gauge the feelings of Americans on this issue. The findings only

TECHNOLOGY



make the issue more complicated. *Science Magazine*, for example, reported on a series of questions asked by computer scientists. When asked whether autonomous cars should choose the option in which the least lives are lost, most Americans responded with a yes, even if it meant that the passenger/s of the car were killed.

However, when asked if they would buy a car that in the case of an unavoidable accident would sacrifice its passengers for the greater good, they said they would not buy such a car. This shows human nature; we believe that the best decision is the one where the loss of life is minimized, but when that decision results in our death, we say, "no way - I'm not sacrificing myself." Most people agree that while sacrificing the passengers might be the morally correct choice in certain situations, they themselves would not want to ride in such a car. This complicates the issue further, since it would be very difficult to sell cars to people if they knew that those cars were programmed to kill them in the event of an unavoidable accident, even if it meant that the overall loss of life would be minimized.

Engineers and computer scientists are placed in a difficult position; do they build cars that are overall more "ethical," cars that would sacrifice their passengers to save the lives of others? Or do they build cars that people would be more comfortable with

buying, cars that would always prioritize the passengers inside the car? They must choose one ideology or the other, and it is an incredibly difficult decision. There are arguments for both sides. Some say that cars should always make the morally correct choice even at the expense of lower sales, because the saving of human lives is much more important. However, it is important to keep in mind that despite these ethical debates, self-driving cars would significantly minimize the amount of accidents on the roads, so you could also argue that if there were fewer self-driving cars on the road due to low sales, there would overall be more accidents, even if they are programmed to always save the passengers in the car. They argue that the benefits of having more self-driving cars on the road would outweigh the harms caused by those cars only valuing their passengers, as there would be fewer accidents overall.

Some propose that automakers offer a choice of different algorithms to the consumer, but then in the case of an accident, is the consumer responsible since they chose which way the car was programmed? These ethical debates may take years to be settled, if at all, but think about it, what choice would you want your autonomous car to make?

During the transition from human-operated cars to autonomous cars, more accidents may be caused due to another moral issue. Driverless cars being tested on the road today are programmed never to break the law, which means that they won't exceed the

speed limit. This at first seems like a good thing, but it becomes a problem if the car needs to merge onto a highway and cannot exceed the speed limit to merge safely. So is it wrong for autonomous cars to always follow the law, even if it can result in more accidents between human-controlled cars and driverless cars? Or should the autonomous cars be programmed to break the law if necessary? Would the government allow that? This is yet another issue that has caused legal and ethical debates.

While self-driving cars would overall lead to fewer accidents in the long run, when an unavoidable accident occurs, how should the car behave? The debate is far from over, but it will only be a matter of time before manufacturers have to make a decision.



Not Taking A Trip? No Need To Flip!

BY: JULIAN BRENNAN '20

Bermuda, Florida, Hawaii, Aspen, Park City... With spring break upon us, these are just a few of the destinations many students and teachers are excited to visit during their upcoming days off. However, for those who aren't planning to leave town, listening to other people's exciting trips may be an opportunity to add eye-rolling to your agenda. That doesn't have to be. There are plenty of ways to have a blast over spring break, right here at home. Keep reading to discover five suggestions I have if you are in a "spring break pickle." At the bottom of this article, you will find additional information on how to pursue any or all of the activities mentioned.

Paradise is a Short Car Ride Away:

Sometimes, a minor change of scenery can refresh a person. Last spring break, my family and I spent a night at the Marriott Conshohocken, where we enjoyed the amenities, such as an indoor pool, jacuzzi, gym, restaurant, and room service. Though we were only ten minutes away from home, we felt like we were in another world, as it provided us with much needed quality time. The Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel boasts similar features, for those who live in the city.

Listen to Live Music For Less Than A Buck:

There are many wonderful things happening in our Philadelphia community, yet most of the time, we can't experience them, because we are in school for the bulk of the day. Spring break provides the time to explore like never before. If you are a fan of music, be sure to swing by WXPB's World Cafe Live. The station hosts "free at noon" concerts every Friday, which are a wonderful opportunity to listen to a wide range of new and old musicians, live.

Perform Music For Less Than A Buck:

Friends' Central is privileged to have many talented musicians in its midst. As a musician myself, I can attest to the fact that I love practicing and playing with friends, but when it comes to finding

a place to perform (other than in Shallcross Hall) it can be challenging. If you are in the same boat, consider spring break as the time to get onstage. The New Leaf Cafe, conveniently located in Rosemont, organizes open-mic nights every Thursday from 7:30 to 10:00pm. Musicians of all levels and genres are welcome. I tremendously enjoy attending these nights because in addition to getting to perform my music, it provides a supportive community of other artists. Plus, listening to what others perform blows me away.

There Are Other Ways to be a ROCK Star...

Just because you may not be into music doesn't mean you can't be a ROCK star...literally. Within about a half-hour from school, there are several indoor rock-climbing gyms, which offer an innovative approach to exercise, mental & physical challenges, and overall fun. This is one of my favorite ways to have an adventure close to home.

You're Next In (Zip) Line...

After spring break, when people ask you what you did, imagine their response if you said, "I flew." Well, you may not have to imagine, if you decide to spend an afternoon zip-lining! Believe it or not, there are places to zip-line just minutes away from campus.

So, you may not be in 80 degree weather this spring break, but that doesn't mean you can't have the time of your life.

Information On Activities Mentioned Above:

- The Sheraton Downtown Philadelphia: (215) 488-2000
- Marriott Conshohocken: (610) 941-5600
- <http://www.xpn.org/events/free-at-noon>
- <https://www.newleafclub.org/newleaf-events/>
- <http://www.philarockgym.com/east-falls/>
- <https://www.valleyforge.org/things-to-do/outdoor-activities/ziplining/>

Skinny Malone

A SHORT STORY

BY: JAMES PETERSON '17

Ted could hear the door slam shut downstairs. He sat in his bedroom. “Here we go,” he thought to himself. Ted swung his legs out of the bed, standing up a bit too fast. As he felt lightheaded, he took a few steps toward the dresser at the other end of his room. The sound of footsteps climbing stairs sent him into action. Ted rushed the rest of the way to the dresser, flinging open the drawers, looking for the wad of cash that he owed Skinny Malone. There was a heavy-handed knock at the door as Malone bellowed out, “Teddy, it’s Skinny. You owe me some money.” Ted picked up the pace of his search as he called out, “I’ve got your money Skinny, just give me a minute.” Malone kicked the door down as he said, “I’m tired of waiting Ted.” Ted froze, not daring to move an inch more. Skinny Malone was known to be “impatient” with people who did not give him the money that they owed him. Ted did not want to be one such person. Malone was one of the many loan sharks of New Penn, the recreated colony of Pennsylvania after the destruction of most of human civilization during the Nuclear War of the World. Malone lost most of his family in that war. He was one of the only

survivors from his family. After waiting a while for the radiation to clear, he and his two siblings went out to find supplies and start a colony. They all made it to a settlement called New Penn and started to fit into the society when Malone was soon approached by one of the mobsters there who was trying to hire him for a job. Malone not only turned him down, he tried to turn him in. He soon found out that the cops were in league with the mobsters. The three were kidnapped and tortured. Malone was broken. He watched, battered and bruised, as his sister was beaten, raped, and killed. He cried as his brother was castrated and hung from the ceiling. They starved Malone for weeks before he accepted their offer. Skinny Malone. That’s what they called him. But Ted didn’t know any of this. He only knew that Skinny would break every bone in his body if he didn’t have the money. “Take it easy, Malone. The money is here.” He pulled the wad of cash from under his pillow. Luckily he had just remembered. “Watch yourself next time, Teddy,” Malone said as he swung his baseball bat back over his shoulder and walked out of the room.

One Wrong Move

A SHORT STORY

BY: JAMES PETERSON '17

Scott trudged through the train car, his bags dragging behind him. He fell into a window seat, leaving his bags in the aisle seat next to him. Everything was finally done and he could return home. He began to drift off into sleep, letting his mind wander among the possibilities that awaited him back in his home town. Yet these thoughts were dashed when the train came to a sudden halt. Scott jerked forward and was woken up when his head hit the seat in front of him. Should’ve worn a seatbelt. He could hear shouting coming from somewhere a few cars up followed by the unmistakable sound of a laser being fired. It was them. The same silver-suit clad henchmen and women that had chased him here all the way from Georgia. Scott laid back in his chair. He had fought this moment long enough. There was no use in running anymore. But why him? Why did this happen? Where did it all go so wrong?

One week and five days ago, Scott was going through his usual routine; scouring the Internet for “desperate” women to hook up with. He was ex-military and had a good heart (or so it seemed). Scott’s searching usually proved fruitless, except that night, in August, when he found Allie. Allie was insane. Actually insane. But Scott didn’t know this at the time, he only wanted to have another notch under his belt. So he proceeded to talk her up, asking about what she liked to do, her favorite places to visit, her bucket list, and her favorite movies. Allie seemed sociable and friendly. She responded happily to all of the questions she was asked and provided Scott with some questions of her own. Scott thought he had Allie. Allie knew she had Scott.

So the two kept talking and bonding until Scott posed the question. It was the same question that Scott had been using for the past year. The question that Allie was waiting for, counting on even, so that she could make her move. “Can I see you?” Allie wasted no time sending him a barrage of mirror pictures and selfies.

Scott was surprised and read this behavior as eagerness, instead of maliciousness. It wasn’t long until the two were video chatting on a frequent basis and plans were made to meet up and hang out. Scott thought for sure that he was in. Allie knew that she had already won.

They had talked online for about a week. In those six days, the screens between them seemed to relay the deepest of convictions and feelings, communicating the impossible and bringing two worlds together. But when those two worlds were brought together, there was hell on earth for one and success for the other. Allie seemed happy to meet Scott. Scott wanted to have sex with Allie. But when he smelled the drug in his drink, he asked no questions and ran as fast as he could. Scott ducked through alleyways and over tables, sprinting through every hard to reach place he saw in the Atlanta streets stretched out before him. The whole time, he thought Allie was chasing him, but as he looked back, he saw no one. Little did he know that Allie was prepared for this and already had a countermeasure in place.

For the last few years, Allie had been stalking Scott, watching his every move; disgusted by his very existence. She knew exactly how he thought, how he acted, and what he would respond to. That’s why it was so easy. Anything Scott could do, Allie could predict. She sat back when Scott started running and brought out her cell phone. Her friends were on speed dial, and with the relaying of a few simple coordinates, they were on their way.

And for the next few days, they chased him all around Georgia. Some days, he hid in people’s houses or underground. Others, he stayed on the run, jumping at every sound and shadow. He eventually bought a train ticket, but there were several strange-looking men and women in silver suits at the station looking around. They chased him on sight and while he was able to lose them, he knew

they would be waiting for him at the train station since he had to wait a day for his train to arrive. And when it did, he was there, sprinting through the station with a regiment of silver suit clad goons trailing him.

Despite the goons, he made it onto the train, believing he was safe. But now the train was stopped. Now the car doors at the front and rear of his train car opened and produced a number of silver-clad men and women. Now they walked forward, surrounding him. Scott raised his hands above his head. There was no use in fighting anymore. He decided to submit to whatever it is that awaited him.



Caps and Gowns

BY: ELIZA CAISSE '18

The attire worn by students for graduation ceremonies has changed throughout centuries and often varies depending on institution, but arguably the most prevalent graduation dress in today's society is the traditional mortarboard cap and gown. Graduation dress first came to fruition in the 12th and 13th centuries, with Oxford and Cambridge University being the first schools to recognize officiated graduation attire. By 1321, "excessive apparel" was banned in universities and students were asked to wear long gowns during ceremonies in order to create a sense of unity. Mortarboard caps on the other hand are believed to have first developed in the 15th century, evolving from hats known as "birettas" used by Catholic clerics, professors, and scholars, and have remained a part of traditional graduation dress at most educational institutions since.



A biretta

But what about our own school? What does Friends' Central believe to be the most appropriate and suiting attire for their own student's graduations? For as long as most of us can remember, the simple and lovely white dresses or outfits and dark suits have been the traditional graduation dress for Friends' Central students. Pictures of these past ceremonies can even be seen lining the walls of the staircase and first floor of our main building. This year, however, the Friends' Central administrative team has chosen to change up our typical graduation

clothing. While at first they were only asking students to wear the traditional gown, after much debate, they are now also allowing students to wear the traditional cap.

When the decision was for gowns only at FCS, many students expressed feelings of confusion as to why they should have to wear the traditional gown but not the mortarboard cap to match.



SCHOOL NEWS



"I think students were confused because the cap and gown are the traditional graduation attire. It's just kind of strange to see someone wearing a gown without the cap," says student Annabelle Harden '17. As for the possible reasoning, she added, "I don't think students, really knew for sure why it was not being allowed."

In order to clear up some of this confusion and find out whether or not the administration is aware of or willing to meet these student requests regarding graduation caps, I recently sat down with Upper School principal Art Hall, to ask a few questions:

Q: What exactly are the changes in graduation attire that students should expect?

A: Students should expect to graduate in gowns and caps instead of what was the traditional dress of either a dark suit, or a white dress or outfit during their senior year.

Q: What is the reasoning behind these changes?

A: Mostly, the changes are in keeping with the changing times, not just within our community but nationwide and globally, and trying to address this from an equity value. We [the administration] wanted to make sure we were observing the needs and values of our school.

Q: Why were traditional caps originally not included to accompany the gown?

A: Mostly for Quaker religious reasons regarding caps. As you know, we also ask that non-religious head coverings like hoods and caps not be worn in meeting for worship as we can't see your full face. Similar reasoning applies here.

Q: Were you aware that many students wanted for caps to be included in the changes and if so, did you consider their request?

A: Yes, I was aware of the requests for caps. I couldn't promise anything, but I took it to the administrative team to discuss the possibility.

Behind the Scenes

BY: SYDNEY KAPLAN '18

To outsiders, it may just look like Stage Crew builds things, but to many, it's much more. *Sense & Sensibility*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Infinite Black Suitcase*, *Pippin*... Through these productions, Stage Crew has given me a voice. These shows have led me towards some of the most incredible people, and we have made beautiful things. I wouldn't want to put on a play or musical with anyone else because through these sets, we've made memories. The experiences I've had - I wouldn't trade them for the world. Stage Crew is extremely close; we spend time together, we work together, and the majority of us met through crew. The sets we create - they are our art form. It's part of how we express ourselves.

Stage Crew feels like home; it's safe. It is my home in this community, and sure, we don't always get along. Sometimes, there are disagreements with the actors (or vice versa). However, it feels incredibly heartwarming to belong somewhere. The truth is, we need each other. Crew needs actors and actors need crew. We can't have one without the other. We have fostered these two unique, diverse groups of people - full of similarities and differences. Without actors, there would be no show. But without crew, the show could not go on. There is a palpable magic you can feel when you walk into this theatre; a thrill that brings us back every time.

We all know this is high school theater, not professional theater. But it doesn't make a difference! When we get together on that stage assembling the set we (eventually) come to know and love, it feels good. We work together in harmony. Sometimes, someone plucks the wrong string or breaks a prop, but we push through our issues and make mistakes together. It's a group effort. We couldn't do it without the people with the smallest roles in the play and behind the scenes. Although at times it's slow, there is never a dull moment in the theatre. You're always waiting for a ball to drop - both literally and physically.

These productions we put on for you - they're more than just performances. They are our hard work and love for theatre on display.



Docemus High Comic

BY: NIR NETZ '19 & DYLAN MITCHELL '19



PIPPIN



WOMEN'S MARCH



FOCUS

Check out Focus by visiting fcsquakefeed.com, or stop by Monty's room during Community block on Tuesdays.