

A HEALTHY NEW YEAR... *Continued from page 1*

of the decade, and is the first real domestic policy President Obama is being tested with to see if he can really bring the change his party says is desperately needed in this country.

This reform is being aimed not only to fix unfair business practices employed by HMO's, but also to fundamentally change a system that even most Republicans will admit is broken.

Common Sense found a general confusion among students as to what exactly health care reform encompasses.

Lennox Degrasse('11) attested to the fact that he didn't know much about the health care issue. He did share that he is concerned about health reform and says he "would do something to help if he could."

This sentiment was similarly echoed by Forhad Rahman('13) who said that while he was also concerned but health reform he "doesn't watch enough of the news to really understand the issue."

Mr. Mansdorf argues that the health care problem at its core is a very technical problem and that while Mr. Obama is frequently referred to as a Roosevelt like figure, he hasn't been using 'fireside chats' enough, which for

AP U.S and Global scholars means that he wasn't explaining a technical problem in a way that is easy to understand.

Mr. Mansdorf also said that such lack of understanding of an issue can lead to demagoguery, as was seen over the summer at a handful of well publicized rowdy town hall meetings.

Max Snyder('11) was present at a town hall meeting this summer. He reported witnessing firsthand the ignorance and bigotry that was all over the news and was appalled by it.

Though he may have waited too long to do it, many found Mr. Obama's speech on health care on September 9th crystallizing and that afterwards they found they understood the problem better.

In fact in a poll done just after the speech it was found that one third of those who didn't support his plan before his speech changed their minds.

"It would cause lasting political damage."

Mr. Evans said that he thought the speech did a great job of dispelling a lot of the mass hysteria generated over the summer.

Unfortunately, though this situation has become dire. Former Congressional page David



Montefiore Hospital's Emergency Room is the 1st stop for many ill Bronx-ites.

Greenblatt('10) warns that if Obama and the Democrats decide to move on without the Republicans "it would cause lasting political damage so that in the future, Democrats wouldn't be able to do anything without a fight from Republicans."

Now there are many questions floating around such as *will our health care system ever really be fixed?*

The answer to that question and others are life and death to the millions of Americans who are now without predictable health care. This reporter believes they deserve an answer. ☞

as a nice school to be in on the day that "all hell breaks loose," shares Nick Farfan('13).

Our school has been recognized by its students as being peaceful. Each year the non-freshmen plan on carrying out a Freshman Friday, but later regret their decision and change their minds.

"(Hazing) takes away from the stereotypical All-American high school"

- Robert Peraj('11)

"(Hazing) takes away from the stereotypical All-American high school," said Robert Peraj('11), adding, "it's not nice to terrorize people."

Skyler Smoke('12), when asked what he felt about there not being a Freshman Friday, exclaimed "there isn't!? There should be!"

Although there are mixed feelings throughout the hall of HSAS about the traditional Freshmen Friday, it doesn't look like there will be one in the years soon to come, especially since "anything inappropriate will be met with disciplinary action", according to our Assistant Principal Mr. Olivieri.

This reporter would like to take the opportunity to welcome all the freshmen and wish them a good four years in their new home. ☞



Nandy Natera-Gonzalez('10) may now see the error of his earlier ways.

FROSH FRIDAY...

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Kim Smith('11) confirmed this by saying, "the seniors here are too nice."

Our principal, Mr. Weiss, gave *Common Sense* his opinion about the absence of Freshman Friday at HSAS. He thinks one thing "that distinguishes our school from others, is that we have a welcoming environment."

"We're not mean-spirited people."

- Mr. Weiss

Mr. Weiss added: "We're not mean-spirited people."

The freshmen also seem to see it

ADVICE FOR OUR FROSH STUDENTS... *Continued from page 1*

buddies of mine who I regret to say aren't here at the school today.

My grades suffered. Many teachers actually questioned whether I would have a timely graduation.

Then came the much anticipated junior year and I learned what it was that I had to do to get what I wanted. My grades stood in the same place they did before, while others kept "up" as always.

There's a certain point at which each person goes through an experience or event that causes a realization. It takes maturity, and being able to look deep inside yourself to know what you want.

Nandy Natera('10), in the voice of Mr. Mansdorf, says:

"some people's standards are based off what everyone else wants them to be, but if a student decides that they really want to take up that work ethic and do everything they have to do to succeed, it's because we chose to do it for ourselves."

When asked if he thought it was ever too late for a student to turn a new leaf and get back on track, John Beltrez('12) said: "I don't think so, but the earlier the better."

While the importance of our GPA is vital to college applications and admissions, it doesn't necessarily mean that if you screw up in your first two years or so you are doomed. Our principal Mr. Weiss went on to explain that colleges understand not every student reaches their potential

on day one.

"It's absolutely never too late," shares Mr. Weiss, adding that "if a student has had a rocky beginning in high school or even a rocky middle, it always looks better from a college's point of view but also from the point of view of your own self esteem in life; to turn over a new leaf when you're ready and to achieve the level of success of which you're capable."

"It's never too late, look at myself," said Rifat Hossain('11) with a large silly grin on his face. This reporter could not decipher if Rifat was serious.

Many of the new faces at HSAS don't seem to be troubled or even mindful of the concept of falling behind, but then again it is just the

beginning of the year, and we do expect the best from them.

Arian Dalipi('13) feels it's never too late "especially now since it's the beginning of the school year, but like in the middle, then maybe."

So this just serves as a hopeful reminder to students that, *Common Sense* knows how hard it can be to maintain top notch grades here at the nation's 29th best public high school, but don't ever think that it's too late to catch up or even to try harder.

If you've fallen behind remember that although it may seem like fascist rule here at HSAS, it's only for our best interest and to push us to that level of preparation for the real world many of us will soon be entering. ☞

IT'S GOOD TO BACK, MAYBE *By Danelia Dillion('10)*

On September 9, 2009, the school year began for New York City public school students. This also meant that the two months of summer vacation had officially ended.

Now students have to start waking up early again, and there's no more sleeping in until the middle of the day.

There are a lot of mixed feelings about coming back to school. *Common Sense* investigates.

When this reporter went asking how students felt about the summer being over and coming back to school, L'Eunice Faust('13) said, "it's bitter-sweet because I want to relax a little bit more, but I'm excited about starting at a new school."

Our Student Government Organization (SGO) Vice President Fanta NGom('10) was, "very disappointed (at returning to school) and would rather be at home sleeping, shopping, partying or going to Popeye's."

She added, "I also wish I was in England chilling."

Even our faculty had something to say in response to this question. Ms. Mosco is "still trying to get over the denial" that summer has ended.

Our dear principal, Mr. Weiss, said, "I was here most of the

summer, but I am happy to see everyone back here."

When asked if he believes it was over too quickly he told *Common Sense*, "well Mr. Olivieri and I only get three weeks off, which is not enough, but if we have to be back at work, at least it's here."

Our principal's summer was spent here, ensuring that we have a smooth transition back to school and everything was organized and ready for us.

Maddie Montes De Oca('11) feels "that the summer went by too fast; plus, I already started getting a lot of homework."

Kadacia Cooper('10) shared: "well, I don't want to be here, but since it's senior year, I am dealing with it. It's my last year here, and I will never have to come back."

When asked whether they believe that the summer vacation was too long or if it went by too quickly, most respondents said the same thing.

L'Eunice believes that "summer vacation can never be too long."

Fanta NGom('10) concluded, "I think summer vacation should be longer and school should start the end of September and end in the beginning of June."

Ms. Mosco's reply was, "is the pope Catholic? Does the bear relieve itself in the woods? Yes! Summer



Students at HSAS are back in school & back in class. Photo put together by D. Dillion('10)

should be longer"

Toni-Anne Drummond('12) disagrees with the majority sharing that, "at first it (summer vacation) was okay, but then it got to August, and I was like when is this going to be over because I missed my friends and I wanted to go back to school."

Toni Anne added that she also has "more freedom during the school year because I have no curfew."

Well, no matter how we feel about our summer being over and having to be back at school, there is nothing we can do about it.

All we can do is hope that the next summer comes quickly, so we can enjoy ourselves again. So freshmen, enjoy your first year at your new school; this reporter hopes everyone makes this year better than the last.



KANYE...

Continued from Sports Page site in America, in emails, texts and voicemails, everyone agreed on one thing; they now hated Kanye West.

Even Kanye's fans were thrown for a loop, with many people considering dropping him as a favorite artist from their social networking profiles.

"Kanye West and Taylor Swift are my two favorite artists," said Sabrina Fennelly('13). She added that, "that whole situation (at the VMAs) was just really confusing."

Others were much more vocal.

Melissa Olivo('10) told *Common Sense*: "I really hate Kanye. I hate his music. I hate his style. I hate everything about him." She doesn't know "why he was even there."

One of the most surprising responses to Kanye's actions came from President Obama: "He is a jack___," stated President Obama in an off camera moment in CNN studios.

The President was not alone as even during the VMAs and afterwards no one held back on their opinions of Kanye, with figures like Beyoncé, Pitbull, Avril Lavigne, and the ladies on the "View" giving their honest, annoyed and hateful opinions.

We can only wonder what Kanye West will do next.



Photo taken By Ariana Solis('10) Frosh students focus in Ms. Gorman's math class.

KEY CLUB IS ON!

The HSAS Key Club is meeting every Thursday after school in Room 119. Join and serve your community TODAY!

See Mr. Evans for more information.

THE FROSH GIVE & RECEIVE FEEDBACK ON THE FIRST MONTH *By Timothy Watts('10)*

One of the most interesting parts of returning to school is seeing the new freshman. They are but small children as of now but in a few years they will develop into the mature upper classmen that rule this school today.

This year's new bunch seems to be a very diverse group of students and disconnected from the upperclassmen. In previous years lower and upperclassmen have bonded quite well. One student has met a few but "Cant remember anyone's names." *Common Sense* investigates.

This might be because the freshmen don't want to approach older students for fear of their

attitude toward the freshmen.

"I think they're irrelevant and small" says Samir Mutawakil('12).

Another reason might be that we are only in the first month of school. Relationships build over time.

When this reporter was a freshman, he knew most of the seniors and most of them knew him. This reporter was referred to as Hamlet Jr. because of the then senior look-alike Michael Hamlet('08).

The freshmen will eventually get into the routine and get to know people. Ms. Wise says she is planning to get to know them, sharing that "it's very important to know them because guidance counselors get to see a different side

of the students."

Some upperclassmen are approving of the new frosh class.

Nathan Kahn('11) states that "they're better than last year's freshmen. They sucked." Nathan did not offer any evidence to support this claim.

Common Sense wondered why our frosh students chose to attend American Studies in the first place.

Some chose our school because of older sibling legacies. Julia Brown('10) now sees her sister Sarah Brown('13) at school everyday.

Family was also a factor in L'Eunice Faust's('13) decision, who chose this environment because she

wanted to join a rival of her mother's alma mater(her mother went to our sister school, Bronx Science).

The recent electoral theme of change also played a part in students' decisions.

Lily Schulberg('13) chose A-Studies because the only other option was her middle school's high school. She is happy with her decision.

The size was a factor for Victor Martinez('13), who claims he "likes small schools."

Location might also be a factor. 90% of the frosh students are from the Bronx or Manhattan.