

### WHY THEY TEACH... *Continued from page 1*

student might be inspired to pursue a career goal in that subject. Mr. Weiss also comically added that some teachers just like talking a lot.

One of the newer members to our faculty is Ms. Ridge, who was a reporter for 30 years, the last 20 for the *Wall Street Journal*.

As she was debating new jobs of interest, she narrowed it down to teaching because of the opportunity to be around young people that she missed, not having any children.

***"I went from having no children, to having 150 overnight."*** –Ms. Ridge

"I went from having no children, to having 150 overnight" at Alfred E. Smith H.S., said Ms. Ridge of her first year teaching.

As opposed to some of the students, who from waking in the early morning, drag their heels in discontent all the way to the front lobby, teachers as adults carry on their professions true to their motive day by day.

"Teaching is not about me; it's all about the students... There is no down day in teaching," shared Ms. Ridge. She feels strongly about her

duty to the kids and always comes in to work motivated, and never finds herself having a boring day.

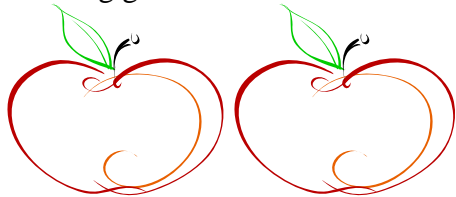
The wicked, strict and ruler-happy teachers of youth cinema might not be so prevalent in today's world, but when we do find ourselves caught up with a real life version of *Matilda's* ruthless Miss Trunchbull, one must keep in mind that most teachers are the opposite.

***"I think they want to help, and by teaching us things we don't know yet, they aim to enlighten."***

- Leeann Dabydeen('13)

This is true at HSAS where the student body is *mostly* content with the staff.

After being quickly pulled out of class to partake in this reporter's inquiry, Leeann Dabydeen('13) shared this about teachers: "I think they want to help, and by teaching us things we don't know yet, they aim to enlighten, and probably inspire us to do something great in the future." ☞



Mr. Holmes is immortalized with a framed award.

### HOLMES' SLOAN AWARD... *Continued from page 1*

Roman Velez,('12) when asked if he had heard about the award he stated, "yes, I did." He added the he "would've liked to go (to the ceremony) because Mr. Holmes is a nice teacher."

Most sophomore students know Mr. Holmes because they had him last year for biology. But the freshmen don't even know who he is.

Upperclassmen have heard about the speech, too.

Zack Jones('10) says, "I heard about the award but nothing about his speech." Zack added that Mr. Holmes "won the award for

outstanding achievement in teaching."

When asked if Mr. Holmes deserved the award, he responded saying, "Mr. Holmes is a cool guy."

Mr. Holmes, for his outstanding success in teaching, has received \$5,000 and the school itself received \$2,500.

Thanks to our awesome teacher, American Studies has received some money to be used for science equipment.

Mr. Holmes is a pretty awesome dude, and it is nice to know that students attending this school recognize his awesomeness. ☞



Mr. Evans has pinned his hopes on our current president.

### OBAMA'S REPORT CARD... *Continued from page 1*

pro choice policy, not raising taxes for people who make less than \$250,000 a year, and breaking partisanship in Washington," according to Mr. Evans.

Upon being asked about how President Obama has done this year, Jazz Hooks('12) said that he has been "Alright, not too amazing but working towards campaign goals" and astutely pointed out that "it has only been a year and that there's time to improve."

President Obama has certainly been working toward campaign goals, and he has plenty of time to act on the broad range of promises he made.

As far as feelings about his performance, most in this school are at least lukewarm, but generally positive.

Both Jeffery Tobar('11) and Isabelle Nicolay('13) said they felt

pretty good about the performance, with Jeffrey commenting "he hasn't messed up in any big way," while Isabelle did express some reservation on his handling of the health care debate.

***"I have never seen a president be so open about the debate and his internal deliberations."***  
- Mr. Mansdorf

This feeling of reservation was not expressed by Isabelle alone. Resident disaffected socialist Henry Comes('10) commented that "he is a hero just for being elected" and that "he needs more progressive positions."

Even Mr. Evans, a proud Obama-phile, voiced reservations over his progress on the campaign promises, commenting that the President "needs to be bolder and tougher with

### TEXTBOOKS...

*Continued from page 1*

don't have to bring your own when you want to study in school."

So although there may be some advantages to having extra books, the majority of the student body feels something should be done with them, whether they be given away, sold or recycled.

Perhaps we could work together and find a compromise beneficial to students and faculty.

Fernando Baez('13) summed up the position of most students with the simple words "Why do we have them?" ☞

### AFTER HOURS

*By Ariana Solis('10)*

The bell rings. The students stay, but the teachers seem just to disappear for the most part. In school we may see them in the halls between periods, but at 2:48PM, poof, many of them are gone. *Common Sense* investigates.

Some of the students here at HSAS have come up with some theories as to what exactly the teachers and faculty do when they're gone.

"Iurato goes home to get abused by the three women in his household," said Katie Adrian('10) jokingly.

In response, Mr. Iurato had this to say: "I wouldn't say abused. It's more like welcomed with open arms."

He proceeded to explain to this reporter that after a long day at American Studies, which he extends by coaching the bowling team, he just goes home to help his wife take care of his children, who are still at a very young and energetic age.

Another assumption made by Katie was that our principal, Mr. Weiss, goes home to coordinate the next day's outfit.

Mr. Weiss confirmed this, sharing: "Yes. It all starts with the shoes and tie; then you build everything else around that."

So far, the staff of HSAS seems to be pretty normal, but when *Common Sense* went to Mr. Evans and asked him what he did after school, he said, "but that would be telling." This reporter chose not to

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congress" and that he understands part of his brand is bipartisanship, but that "the people who elected him expect promises to be kept."

Upon being asked on his opinion on the handling so far of Afghanistan, teacher and resident Foreign Policy elective teacher, Mr. Mansdorf, said that he has "never seen a president be so open about the debate and his internal deliberations."

That careful consideration is unfortunately being misinterpreted as indecision, but he adds "that a decision must be made soon."

On the whole there is a feeling in this school that the President is working towards campaign goals earnestly, and hopefully he can follow through entirely on all his promises sooner rather than later. ☞

**SENIORS STILL TRIPPIN'** *By Deshawn Lynch('10)*

If you're a senior and you have been in school this year, you've probably received information about the senior trip. We seniors now know the location and the events that are going to take place. However, some of us encountered something we did not like. They were demons in the form of the number \$230 and 72 students.

Those numbers refer to the price seniors need to pay and the amount of seniors that need to go on this trip for it to happen.

The overnight trip planned for the seniors has us going to Philadelphia. Notable events that will happen include a duck tour of the city, presentation at a museum, and dinner and games at a place called Dave and Busters. Day two has the seniors depart from the hotel, and enjoy the day at Six Flags until 7 pm.

Many seniors are excited about the trip, but there's a problem with the requirements. Erluis Nacaj('11) captured the attitude of most seniors in saying: "That seems unfair because if 6 people mess up, 71 others are screwed."

Normally, it wouldn't be a

problem if 6 people "messed" up, but most of us know that HSAS is tight on funds right now.

Recently, HSAS received \$2,500 due to the efforts of Mr. Holmes. This *Common Sense* reporter didn't even get to finish asking student government member Danelia Dillion('10) how much of that money, which was earned through extraordinary efforts by a faculty member's talents, would be used to support the senior trip when she replied, "none!"

***"It's just wrong if they can't give just a little bit of that money to the seniors."***  
***-Mack Friedman('12)***

Shouldn't a school help its seniors and pay for their entertainment even if it means inappropriately using a science based award?

Our Principal Weiss stated that "the science department will decide what to do with that money." This probably means that the money will go toward getting better equipment in the lab, or maybe new textbooks. It's highly doubtful that the senior trip is a priority of the science department.



Photo staged by D. Lynch('10)

**Who will be the one senior that jeopardizes the entire senior trip?**

Mack Freidman('12) says that he "understands that the school has its financial needs, but it's just wrong if they can't give just a little bit of that money to the seniors." Many seniors feel the same way, that this difficult to earn science prize should simply be handed to the seniors for entertainment purposes.

When told of the situation that the seniors were in, Brett Krutiansky('13) stated that he understands the situation and that he feels "that it isn't fair that if 71 people pay the price for this trip, the

school might not give \$230 to make up for one person."

If this were to happen, then the school would be hindering the seniors by not handing over cash to them for their entertainment needs.

Such is the effect of an expensive trip. The financial barrier of the overnight trip will be tough to overcome. If we fail there is still a day trip, which would be less expensive. Whether it's an overnight trip or a day trip, the purpose should still be the same: Giving the seniors a blast. ☪



Photo taken by D. Dillion('10)

The newly formed Glee Club plans to shine at the Talent Show.

**GLEE CLUB...** *Continued from Club page*

There are at least a few students who don't like the glee club.

Marilysande Montes De Oca('11) said she would never join it, but she never expressed why she wouldn't. This reporter chose not to press the issue.

***Everyone can sing, but not everyone is a singer.***

The folksy saying that "everyone can sing but not everyone is a singer" was supported when Una Parodi('13) said that she "likes singing only when I'm alone."

She then went on to say that she wouldn't join a glee club, but she does support it.

Toni-Anne also said she didn't join because her singing skills are for her shower and not for public entertainment.

Ms. Genao, the teacher in charge of glee club, said that the club is a "wonderful idea because it gives the students a chance to show off their talents and they have something productive to do after school."

***"(It's a) a wonderful idea because it gives the students a chance to show off their talents after school."***  
***-Ms. Genao***

The glee club shows that our school can be diverse and we are not just a group of smart people who only think about books.

We also have talents that have nothing to do with academics. ☪



**TALENT SHOW AUDITIONS**  
**Are After School On**  
**12/14/2009**



See Mr. Iurato for details

**AFTER HOURS...**

*Continued from page 2*

investigate further into the meaning of that statement out of fear where it may lead.

Other teachers such as Mr. Thoman, Ms. Genao, Ms. Ridge, and Ms. Peterson have been known to stay in the school building until later hours to grade papers, help students with questions, tutor, get ahead on the next day's work, or just relax.

***"I think Ms. Ridge just goes home and reads Siddhartha."***  
***-Daiana Petrova('13)***

Daiana Petrova('13) said, "I think Ms. Ridge just goes home and reads Siddhartha."

"Mr. Elinson has cross-country and track throughout the year; so he's always here for a pretty long time," shared Christopher Izaguirre('11).

This is true for seven of our teachers, Elinson, Wong, Mansdorf, Palatulan, Iurato, Blitz, and Schulman who all coach competitive varsity teams.

***They hang out, chill at home and go out to party. The only difference is that they're old."***  
***-Samir Mutawakil('12)***

"I think the teachers are just normal people. They hang out, chill at home, and go out to party. The only difference is that they're old," said Samiru Mutawakil('12). ☪



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