

Allerdice Alumni Foreword

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The Official Newspaper of the Alumni and Friends of Allerdice

December 2017

Alumni and Friends of Allerdice Update

By AFA OFFICERS

We're looking forward to building the new Alumni and Friends of Allerdice (AFA) association to represent the diversity of the Allerdice community and to take advantage of technology to engage alumni and friends across the globe. To help assure that the AFA can engage alumni and friend in substantive efforts to support the Allerdice community, we are taking steps to establish the AFA as a formal non-profit entity. We have reviewed the history of previous alumni groups, consulted with similar organizations, and conferred with non-profit experts in order to proceed in a manner that will help to assure the sustainabil-

ity of the AFA. We are formalizing bylaws which describe its governance and ensure good stewardship of its finances in anticipation of submitting documents to become a 501(c)(3) organization.

Leading this effort are the AFA officers. Rika Maeshiro ('81) and Martina Wells (immediate past Allerdice PTO chair) are the current AFA Chair and Vice-Chair. They join the leadership team of Melanie (Fall) Weisbord ('87) and Andee (Mann) Lowenstein ('76), who served as the Founding Chair and Vice-Chair for two years. Melanie and Andee continue to work closely with Martina and Rika and are also leading the alumni outreach and archives project, respectively. Judith (Solomon)

Kadosh ('83) continues as our Treasurer and Kristen Mertz ('78) has agreed to serve as Secretary.

While we're working on administrative issues, the AFA continues to move ahead on projects:

The 2018 Hall of Fame: The next Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be on the evening of Thursday, April 26, 2018 at Allerdice. Please email us at allderdice1927@gmail.com if you would like to help organize the event. We hope you will attend the ceremony and please help to spread the word.

Allerdice archives: After receiving a communication from a family member of Allerdice alumni who offered to donate school items from the 1940s, the

AFA helped to convene a meeting of the Heinz History Center and Allerdice faculty to learn how these and other historical items from the school could be catalogued and stored appropriately. This group is currently working together to have extra, historical copies of the Allerdice Foreword and yearbooks donated to the Heinz History Center collection.

Website: The AFA website (<http://www.allderdicealumni.com/>) is being updated regularly to become a helpful source of information. Please check back regularly for updates regarding the school, reunions, and opportunities to support the Allerdice community. Please register on the site to receive

updates and communications from classmates automatically.

Please contact us if you would like to become more involved in the AFA or if you have ideas for the group to pursue. We are planning to have a portfolio of activities targeting current Allerdice students, future Allerdice students, and Allerdice alumni.

Official communications from the AFA are delivered through email messages and the AFA website. If you are not yet receiving AFA email messages directly, please sign up by emailing allderdice1927@gmail.com. To register on the AFA website, please visit <http://www.allderdicealumni.com/>.

The Allerdice Class of 1967 50th Reunion Celebration

By EMILY HARRIS
AND ABIGAIL SEGEL

The Allerdice Class of 1967 50th Reunion Celebration took place on September 1-2, 2017. Over two hundred classmates and their guests from all over the United States, Brazil, and Israel made the trip back to the 'Burgh.

For well over a year before the reunion, the class's Facebook page, ClassCreator website, and a dedicated gmail account became the main sources of communication. The planning committee's creative and persistent search team located and updated contact information for upwards of 75% of classmates.

On Friday afternoon of the reunion, classmates toured the Hallowed Halls of Allerdice. Mina Levenson (Class of 1970) was their guide. In ad-

dition to the tour, classmates were greeted by the new Allerdice principal, Dr. James McCoy.

On Friday evening, Mix & Mingle took place at the Twentieth Century Club in Oakland. There were lots of small comfortable spaces for classmates to catch up with each other, as well as a large ballroom where everyone could gather, enjoy a full deli buffet, and watch and listen to the music of the 60's as pictures of their senior year flashed on the large screen.

A special treat for alums was listening to three songs from the original soundtrack of their class play, Peter Pan, accompanied by photos of the cast in action. Many of the cast and crew were in attendance and loved seeing their teenage selves having such a good time.

Saturday evening's Dinner Dance took place at the Rivers Club in the Oxford Centre, down-

town. It was an elegant evening. At a newly renovated and spacious setting, alumni enjoyed a delicious dinner and rocked out to the groovy music of their teenage years. Deceased classmates were honored with a memorial presentation and military veterans with a printed banner.

During the day, classmates got together with old and new friends and checked out the 'Burgh and surrounding areas.

After the planning committee asked for various childhood pictures from alums, it became crystal clear that the high school classmates did not just know each other in high school - they have known each other all the way back to their beginnings! The reunion became a celebration of life long friendships, not just their high school years. One of the most popular places to

take photos at both evening venues during the reunion was the elementary school class picture displays, with the class's senior class pictures along the borders.

Three of the class's favorite teachers - J. Bruce Forry, Wayne Sommerfeld, and Doris Heil Litman attended the Saturday evening Dinner Dance. Highlights of former students' lives were shared as a way of honoring and thanking them for inspiring their students to become their best selves.

Many pictures were taken on mobile devices and later shared on Facebook. It was a weekend filled with reconnections and new connections. Many friendships were rekindled, and many new ones began.

Even before the reunion ended, many attendees were asking to have a 70th Birthday party in 2019. Plans are already underway!

Since the reunion has finished, at least one new one group has been created - right here in Pittsburgh. The Lunch Ladies meet once a month at a different restaurant in the area. It is open to all the ladies of the Class of '67. They have a chance to rekindle old friendships, begin new ones, and just celebrate the day!

It's clear that members of the Taylor Allerdice High School Class of 1967 have taken many paths and are leading remarkable lives.

The class's Facebook page continues to feature photos and stories of classmates getting together for the first time since graduation. Some live in the same city, some close by, and some travel across the world to reconnect.

Stories continue to be shared as new connections are made and old ones are strengthened.

Switching Perspectives

By ABIGAIL SEGEL

The transition from eighth grade to ninth is big for every student, and Dr. Josh Slifkin (class of 1987) remembers his vividly. The Dice student-turned advanced English, Creative Writing, and Screenwriting teacher says that, "being a freshman and just coming to Allerdice," was the biggest moment in his high school career.

Now in his seventeenth year teaching at Allerdice, he views that big day and the four years that follow for every student in a similar perspective. "I feel very connected with the curriculum and the classes and remember what I was like when I was in this position. That was a while ago now, but I see

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Emily Harris



Emily Harris

Switching Perspectives

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myself and I see a lot of my peers in my own students that I've had over the years."

Even though Slifkin has been in and around Allerdice for so long doesn't mean he's lost his worldly view. In fact, he thinks that the issue at Dice that needs to be fixed most imminently is shared by many other schools and institutions: "Just making sure kids get the education that they deserve ... at every level."

Despite that underlying worry, Slifkin still thinks, "this is a great place to teach."

He credits this to the relationship the school has with its surrounding community. "That's been one of its biggest strengths, is that we support each other; the school and the community support each other."

How can Dice alums help out at the school? Slifkin says that by fostering that larger connection, the school becomes stronger and more effective. "Being involved, making sure they're involved in the community in which they were educated. Making sure that they give time, money, where possible. Just staying involved in the academic community."

Slifkin says this partnership has been a constant, at least since he was a student in the '80's. Perhaps, this is what caused a large surprise when he returned: a lot of teachers hadn't retired in the fourteen years he'd been away from the school. "Surprisingly, or maybe unsurprisingly,

the school's very much the same as when I was here. I wasn't surprised by a lot of things, other than 'Oh, wow. A lot of people haven't retired yet.'"

The same, that is, besides some minor improvements regarding the cleanliness of the school's various facilities, Slifkin says. But one of the few things he does miss is the quality of the lawn that used to be out in the front of the school. "Out of all the good things that have happened," Slifkin says, he and other alum-teachers, "really miss that."

Despite losing its substantial front yard, Slifkin says, "Allerdice remains a fantastic school... our strength is our community. We support each other and we must continue, should continue, to do that... I've taught in four high schools in the city in my years and I came back here for a reason."



Chatham University

40th Reunion: Allerdice Class of '77

By DEBBIE BERGER
AND CHLOE WENER

On July 15-16, 2017, the Allerdice class of 1977 got together for their 40th reunion. It started off with a Saturday night gala at Springwood Manor in Verona, PA, and was followed by a picnic the next day at Squaw Valley Park. A total of 160 people attended the gala, with 105 at the following picnic. Overall, 140 alumni attended the reunion.

Laurie Weiss-Aines, the "keeper of the list" for the reunion, contributed significantly to organizing the event. She spent months in advance getting spreadsheets together and sending them out to all the members on the Alumni Association Committee, making it possible to track down past classmates and convince them to sign up and attend. Weiss-Aines made all the difference in drumming up the excitement for the reunion, making sure that committee members continued to reach out to former classmates.

The event was made all the better by some of the fabulous people who attended, such as Mr. Fisher, who, as always, brought an amazing atmo-

sphere with him. He told some great and some sad stories from his time shared with the class.

As the event approached, there had been worry surrounding a member of the class, Brad. He had been in Seattle, battling lung cancer, and had found out a month before the reunion that the cancer had spread to his brain. He announced that he would be getting the tumor removed, and that he would manage to make it to the reunion despite the circumstances. To the great delight of his classmates, he did! As a surprise for him, a poster was made from their class, and his classmates gathered around the sign on the dance floor for a picture. It was a deeply touching moment for Brad and all other attendees. They all feel that they are very much there for each other.

Not only were old friends getting back together, but former high school couples were too! When Laurie Weiss-Aines reached out to a classmate named Randy during the planning stages of the event and did not receive a reply, Debbie Berger, chair of the reunion committee, decided to make a call to him. After "going steady," in 5th, 7th, 9th and 11th grade, as

well as freshman year of college, Debbie and Randy reconnected at the reunion, and are now back together and an incredible couple!

Overall, one of the biggest highlights of the reunion was the number of genuine friendships that blossomed from it. As observed by Debbie Berger while waiting for people to come in and begin dinner and speeches, many people started up conversations with others whom they had never spoken a word to during high school.

Though the reunion has ended, everyone is still talking and keeping up with each other. This extends past simple messages on facebook. Newly formed friends from the reunion are continuing to talk to each other using social media, over the phone, and even in person.

In the past, it's been typical for the class of '77 to get together every ten years, for their 10th, 20th, and 30th reunions. But even before this picnic was over, alums were talking about the possibility of hosting a 45 reunion, as no one wanted to wait another 10 years for the next one. People are already excited for the chance to get to see their old-classmates-turned-new-friends another time.

Class of 1987: 30th Reunion

By MELANIE WEISBORD

The class of 87 celebrated their 30th reunion on Thanksgiving weekend at the spirit lounge in Lawrenceville. Over 75 people attended from all over the world to catch up with their classmates. The program included general 80s and specific-to-the-class of '87 trivia contests!



Melanie Weisbord

Allerdice Alumni and Friends Association

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HALL OF FAME CO-CHAIR

ANN KAGAN ('88)

ALUMNI FACEBOOK PAGE

LIAISON



Melanie Weisbord

Football: First Championship in 50 Years

By ETHAN HERMANN

Last year, Allderdice football was 3-7.

This year, they were the best team in the City League, and they broke a 50 year drought en route to solidifying themselves at the head of the table in the house of the Pittsburgh Public Schools.

After leaving empty-handed in back to back City Championships in 2014 and 2015, and falling just one point short of playing for the City Championship in 2016, the Dragons (7-4) left no room for doubt in their final game of the year.

Going into the playoffs, this Dragons team had laid waste to every team in the city but one: the Westinghouse Bulldogs. The Bulldogs handed the Dragons their sole conference loss in a hard fought game, ending 21-14.

So, whom did the Dragons have to face in the semifinals of this season's playoffs? A rematch with the Bulldogs themselves. The only team with a legitimate shot of stopping Allderdice from achieving their so desperately wanted goal was standing right in their way, and after going down 14-0 to the Bulldogs early in the game, that sinking feeling was starting to sit in the minds of the Dragons.

Yet, they survived and advanced. This team, unfazed by an early deficit, rallied back and scored 21 straight to punch their ticket to the City Championship, where another familiar foe was already waiting for them.

In their dominant 2014 and 2015 campaigns, the Allderdice teams went 6-3 and 6-4 respectively, and while sharing many key players, both seasons ended the same way: Losing to Brashear in the City Championship.

This year, however, was a completely different story. It had been all year. If there were a "Most Improved Award" for a team, it

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Math phenom Andrew Gu's undeterred perseverance won him a gold in Rio // Lake Fong

New Principal: Dr. James McCoy

By CHLOE WERNER

Allderdice started off its 2017-2018 school year with a major change: hiring Dr. McCoy, a graduate from the University of Pittsburgh, as the school's new principal.

Since starting his work in the new position, Dr. McCoy has brought many changes to the school, aiming to develop the academic community and help students achieve success.

From the beginning, McCoy's focus has been on helping the students of Allderdice. He wants both current students and alumni to understand the value he places on student learning.

"I want people to know that I put the students' education first," he says. "In a position like this, as a principal of a building, you can spend a lot of time putting out fires and dealing with the negative things, but I kind of pride myself on making sure that I prioritize instruction and student learning ..."

McCoy is already fitting into the role of principal well and

looking for new ways to help benefit the school. And how does he think that Allderdice Alumni can help contribute to this and give back to the school? "I think it's important for us to make sure we're bringing alumni back into the building," he says.

He believes that alumni can help teach current students about life after Allderdice, and give good advice to be used in the future. "When they [the alumni] have more of a perspective on the school, when they've left and worked with other people, gone to school with other people, they have a different view of things," he says.

As far as starting at a new school, McCoy has been thrilled by the positive reactions he has been receiving. "People have been really welcoming, and that's not just staff members. Students as well."

Still, Dice has been a learning experience for him. "I learn something new every day," he explained. "People here want to have a voice - that could be students or staff members - and, you

know, I gotta work to continue to find ways to let them have that voice."

Since starting as principal, McCoy has experienced lots of positive greetings and new learning experiences, but this doesn't mean his transition has been all sunshine and roses. He has still faced some challenges. In trying to expand students' educational horizons and focus on learning, he has to put a lot of new rules in place. These rules include restricting phone usage during class time and requiring that teachers update the gradebook weekly.

When asked about setting these changes into place, he admits that it has been tough for him. "I know some of the students have issues with some of the changes I make at times," he says, "but I don't expect for everyone to understand that I'm making them for their own benefit."

He knows changes to the school won't be an overnight process, but aims to work towards helping improve the students' education regardless.

Overall, though, Dice



Dr. James McCoy

has left a great impression on him. Coming to Allderdice with fresh eyes, he highlights the strong sense of school spirit as a huge factor in some of the school's major successes, such as its city-wide reputation for preparing students for post-secondary school and beyond.

"I knew before even coming in about the school pride and how important that was, but that still stands out to me, the pride that all students have . . . everyone has that pride in the school and what they can become as a student here."

He knows that the alumni have a role to play in this sense of school pride as well. "And from Alumni . . . there's just a sense of pride about the school that I think can only be a good thing."

Global Minds: Taking a Stand Against Social Injustice

By CHLOE WERNER

Across the Pittsburgh region, Taylor Allderdice High School is known for being highly populated with diverse groups of students from across the city. There are students attending the school from 26 different countries, speaking a total of 16 different languages.

In light of the 2016 election, the number of race-based hate crimes both in America and in Dice rose alarmingly. Peyton Klein, a student attending Allderdice, decided it was time to take action against cultural injustice

in her school. She became the creator of The Global Minds Initiative, a youth organization that works to unite kids in the school against ignorance of and discrimination against other cultures.

As written on its website, globalminds.world, the organization aims to create, "an educational support system for ESL [English-as-a-Second-Language] students, while educating NES [Native English Speaking] students about other cultures, in order to create more globally minded young leaders."

Made for and by the students
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Global Minds Initiative

Allderdice Senior Brings Back Gold From International Math Competition

By ABIGAIL SEGEL

Andrew Gu, 16 and a senior at Allderdice, traveled thousands of miles to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil during the summer of 2017. It wasn't just an enviable family vacation, though. He was one of six American high schoolers representing the country in the 58th International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) in July.

A series of math tests determined who was honored with representing the States at the

IMO, and Gu was one of two first place finishers, out of more than 300,000 contestants.

The USA team met in Dallas and flew in to Brazil together. Between the days designated for young math phenoms from around the world to see the sites of Rio, six remarkably complex math problems were administered. The competitors had a total of nine hours to solve them over the span of two days.

Gu earned a gold medal, finishing in 30th place in the world.

Despite the U.S. team winning the whole Olympiad in 2015 and 2016, the streak was lost, but the Stars and Stripes came in with a valiant fourth place. South Korea took the title this year. "IMO 2018 will be held in Romania. Perhaps the USA will return to form there," says Gu.

Allderdice and the larger Pittsburgh community has reacted to Gu's rise in the mathematics world with enthusiasm. Anya Sostek of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette wrote a story covering Gu's totally

self-driven journey to Allderdice mathematics legend-status. In the article, Sostek says that Po-Shen Loh, Associate Professor of Mathematics at Carnegie Mellon University and one of three coaches of the USA IMO team, thinks, "it's Andrew's passion and his work ethic - not innate intelligence - that have propelled him."

Through his dedication, constant learning, and humble nature in the classroom and around the world, Gu has added yet another flame to the Dragons' fiery roar.

Girl's Soccer Season Ends, Not Without Promise

By SIMON COLKER

As the Allderdice girl's soccer team rode back home through the rain-filled streets of Peters Township, the mood was lighter than ever. The bus was filled with music and laughter, and the atmosphere was joyous yet introspective as the players were connected for one last ride. The team was returning from a 5-0 loss, ending their playoff run in the first round. Although their playoff run was not long, the girls' team has had a remarkable season.

Firstly, not only did the team receive a professional Riverhounds soccer player as a part time coach, but coach Jeremiah Dugan returned for a second year which created some stability in comparison to the constant change in leadership experienced in previous seasons.

Although the increase in instruction was beneficial, it seemed the true progression of

the team was due to the players and their attitudes. Senior captains Ella Copich, Lexi Cady, and Rachel Rollman encouraged and strengthened the team on and off the field. On the field Ella stood out as striker, scoring goals, followed by Lexi who controlled the midfield. Junior Gianna Griffin showed skill and promise in the back line. Although these 3 players made an impression, the team as a whole is responsible for the success of the season. Rachel Rollman adds to this claiming "the team was more focused and dedicated this year. Since we became so close, the attitude was better which helped propel the team."

As the team progressed through the season there was a sense of responsibility that was established within the team. The more games they won, the more committed the players became. Despite this motivational responsibility the season still remained a "fun, loving environment," said

Griffin. The players seemed to maintain a connection this year that ultimately pushed the team.

When looking back on the season, every moment seemed valuable. From the early win against Plum to advance their seed--which was unfairly low this year--to the 6-0 shutout against Oakland Catholic, these moments were a solid display of this season's potential. Not only did these games display the team's skill but they were also valuable moments to each of the players. Marina Godley-Fisher, an essential part of the varsity defense, claims that beating Oakland Catholic was similar to "Eating an entire apple with the core: Many think it is impossible, but beyond that notion there is a truth that it can happen if you're willing to go for it; and we did."

It seems this year that the entire girls' team ate the apple. There were many doubts and misbeliefs as to what they could

accomplish, but the team looked past that. They have shown the city that the girls' soccer team is an essential storyline in Allderdice fall sports this year.

Although the team is losing multiple starting seniors next year, the girls' team will still have depth on the roster. With lots of talent bursting from the grades below, it will be a privilege to see just how far the team will progress in years to come.



Captain Lexi Cady // Alex Ruzinac

The Allderdice Alumni Foreword

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Football

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would go to Allerdice. This team had been on a different track since the day they started summer practices back in June, and everyone knew it: This was a team worth watching. This Dragons team was something to behold this year, and they played as a team, won as a team, lost as a team, and grew stronger as a team.

This year, the City League would be crowning a new champion already, thanks to the reigning champion USO losing to Brashear 9-8 in the--crazy and tumultuous--other City League semifinal game.

On Saturday, November 4th, the Dragons and the Bulls squared off at Cupples Stadium once more. At the end of the first, the Dragons were up 7-0, and at the half, it was 21-0 in favor of Allerdice. By the fourth quarter, the Dragons were up so much that the mercy rule had to come into effect, effectively making the Dragons the champions for the second time in Allerdice history.

On offense, the Dragons' seniors shined. Raekwon Caldwell had two receiving touchdowns and a punt return for a touchdown, Azi Humber ran for one and threw for two, and Justin Morris and Tyrell Minniefield continued their dominant run game as the Dragons racked up an impressive 216 rush-

ing yards.

And while all of those offensive statistics are impressive, Allerdice's staunch defense was the unsung hero in this game. The Dragons' defense, led by seniors Elijah Parks and Quinn Gethers, only allowed a single first down the entire first half, and limited Brashear's offense to only 21 yards of total offense through the first two quarters.

On both sides of the ball, the Dragons were not only the better team, but the more inspired one. The Dragons played with a chip on their shoulders, with a fire in their hearts, and with the right mindset. They didn't play for themselves, or play as if they already had won. They knew that if they wanted to become the City League champions, they would have to earn it. And boy, did they.

During this season, two different coaches lost family members. Senior Rhumaud Brooks suffered an injury to his leg that left him on crutches--and at times, even a wheelchair--that took him out during the season. It had been fifty long years since the Dragons had won. But this team, this year's team, won. They prevailed. They are the champs, and this team will go down as the team who did what no other Allerdice team could do in the 49 previous years: They beat the city.

And for this year's seniors, who went from being on two im-

pressive teams and ending with two disappointing finishes in their freshman and sophomore seasons to a disappointing junior campaign, they go out on top. These are our seniors, who will leave Allerdice for good as champions.

- #1 Elijah Parks
- #2 Tyrell Minniefield
- #3 Dain Williams Jr.
- #4 Rhumaud Brooks Jr.
- #5 Brandon Mauder
- #6 Justin Morris
- #7 Azi Humber
- #9 Quinn Gethers
- #11 Raekwon Caldwell
- #12 Shaun Mickael Morris
- #16 Elijah Bruce
- #25 James Jackson-Allen
- #28 Curtis Bradley
- #44 Gein Williamson
- #52 Bryce Miller
- #55 Jijuan Matthews
- #80 Jeffrey Martin Jr.
- #88 Seric Frazier

This team never prided itself on being stacked with high caliber players, or flaunted their successes. This Dragons team knew they had to stay humble, stay motivated, and never let go of the end goal. They wanted a championship, and they earned it.

Hopefully, it won't take 50 years again for the Dragons to win another City League title, but for now, that curse has been laid to rest. For now, the Dragons are the champs, and nothing else can be said.



Rebecca Droke

Girls' Volleyball: Undefeated

By BEN DOUGLAS

Despite losing two starters--Olivia Hirshman and Ella Rubenstein--to injury for the start of the season, the Allerdice girls volleyball team managed to go undefeated once again in the City League. This marks a four-year span without a loss for the Dragons, the first time this has happened in over twenty years. With eight regular season games and three playoff games each year, the Allerdice girls' team is on a 44-game winning streak. With a record like this, the girls' volleyball team is one of the most successful teams Allerdice has in the whole school.

There are many aspects that can contribute to the team's success. "I think the fact that the girls came determined to do better and looked up to the upperclassmen. Having the great work ethic helped with our success a lot," said Charisma Adams, a senior captain on the team.

Another possible explanation for this team's success is that many of the players compete on other club teams outside of the school season. Club teams are independently run, competitive to play on, and provide a much larger exposure to good teams and tournaments throughout the winter, spring, and summer. "Every year that I've been coaching I've had an advantage over other city teams by having these girls that play club," said head coach Rich O'Brien.

"Coach Napoleon, the coach before me, set up a pretty nice program for me to take the reins and follow up on," O'Brien said.

As for O'Brien, along with being the girl's volleyball coach, he is also a student favorite as a Civics and World History teacher at All-

derdice. "I'm in a fortunate position where I have girls who know how to play," O'Brien stated. "At Allerdice we get new club players every year to add more depth to the team."

Mr. O'Brien has been the girls' volleyball coach for four years and plans to continue to coach for a few more. "I can see myself hanging on for a year or two, then turning the program over to someone else," he said.

While Mr. O'Brien is fortunate to have talented players, it's how he works with them to make them the best that they can be that is the real key.

This year was the last for the seniors on the team. Along with Adams, her fellow senior members included Clarine McCabe, Kirby Fichtner, Olivia Hirshman, Irina Kramkova, Taylor Reck, and Alona Sloan. While the time is now over for these girls, the success of the girls' volleyball program is placed in the hands of the younger students.

In the future, the Allerdice girls' volleyball team will most likely continue to succeed. "The [volleyball] team does have the potential to do well in the future as long as someone steps up and is a leader. If someone steps up and is willing to help others with their skills, then we should have massive success," Adams said.

With players such as Trinity Johns, Emily Graham, Ella Rubenstein, and Riley Yapsuga possibly returning, Dice is sure to keep a competitive roster. You never know what freshman you're going to get," Mr. O'Brien says. "I'd like to see us win five in a row."

With that in mind, look out for the girls' volleyball team to run the gauntlet yet again in the City League next fall.

about warming up for races. "We usually warm up with a quick 2k (2 kilometers, or 2000 meters), then just get things going a lil' faster."

It's a very casual response, but no surprise coming from someone who just may be in the best athletic condition in the Allerdice building. If you didn't know, Davis is also a standout guard on the basketball team, where he brings great energy on defense and much improved shooting to the table as well.

There's no question that these guys put in the work. Between the summer retreat, practice, and traveling for meets, the Dragons just hope for all their work to pay off in the end. While their final trip to Hershey was met with tough competition and a crowded course, the boys' team is getting better year after year, and they should be a force once again come next fall.

When asked, Davis talked

Global Minds

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of Allerdice, the activities are centered around building friendships between students while simultaneously coming up with game plans to end the discrimination and injustice in the school building.

The Global Minds Initiative is now on its second year running. During the past couple meetings of this school year, the diverse group of students attending Global Minds were sorted at random into different small groups, giving them the opportunity to get to know students with varied backgrounds with whom they might otherwise not have become acquainted. They participated in activities ranging from brainstorming ideas on spreading cultural awareness throughout the school to designing researched posters of different countries worldwide.

Global Minds has been gaining widespread recognition outside of Allerdice as well. NBC's Today Show even wrote an article about the club, titled "High school club aims to make refugees, immigrants welcome." The article features stories and interview quotes from immigrant students who have joined the organization, such as a girl named Marvel from Egypt, Mogbojubol, nicknamed "Bola," a girl from Nigeria, and Issra, a girl born in Iraq.

"It is true, I am a Muslim. It is true, I come from Iraq, but just because 10 or five people are terrorists doesn't make the whole religion terrorist." Issra said in an interview. "We are not related to that at all. We're running from terror, so how are we terrorists?"

The article also focuses on the founding of Global Minds, featuring quotes from Klein and her reasons behind starting up the organization. "I was sitting in

one of my classes, and I saw an ESL student trying to talk to my homeroom teacher, and they were struggling, and I wanted to get involved, so I started Global Minds . . ." Klein says in her interview broadcasted on the Today Show.

Klein also noted the difference she has already seen the club making across the school. "I've seen a great impact within the student body which is really exciting, going to the movies on the weekend and maybe sitting at a different lunch table, or something like that," she said. "Even, like, the smallest smile in the hallway, or, like, waving, it's a big step in the right direction."

But Klein, and the rest of the members of Global Minds, don't want the group's influence to end there. They hope that Global Minds - and the messages it sends - travel to other schools, other school districts, and eventually nationwide, helping to put an end to racial injustice and cultural ignorance once and for all.

squad's top runner Tavonne Davis expressed, "Being an example to push my team to that next elite level," is something that matters to him.

In agreement with Davis, Hermann says, "Sometimes, the leader isn't the top runner on the team. Even though I am a leader, I'm not the fastest, and I'm okay with that...getting to know everyone on the team is something I've really enjoyed as well."

Davis continued on the say, "Coach Flynn has helped me get faster each year, he really pushed me."

Davis and Hermann aren't alone, as Isaiah Freeman, Eli Anish, Erik Rohrer, Edwin Rice, and Reise Brooks round out the 'Varsity seven'. Freeman added on to the praise of Flynn. "Coach Flynn is the best coach I've ever had...he has pushed me beyond my limits."

Clearly, the relationship between Coach Flynn and his runners is vital to their success. Something unique about the Allerdice Cross Country team is that this group goes on a 70 mile training week getaway to wrap up

the summer preseason in Deep Creek, Maryland. The trip not only is great to prepare the runners bodies, but also a perfect opportunity to bond off the trail. Hermann had this to say: "What this really does is bring the whole team together and used to not only being a team, but a family."

Freeman agrees with his teammate. "The friendships we build on the trip to Deep Creek carry out onto the trails."

During the season, the team has traveled to the likes of Ohio, Hershey, and New York City. The top runners will return to Hershey for state championships to end the season. Davis, Hermann, and Freeman were all in agreement that the Boardman Spartan Invitational in Boardman, Ohio has presented the toughest competition thus far. When asked about the out of town races, Freeman explained, "This is a core part of cross country, and although they are very fun, we also get the privilege of representing not only Allerdice, but also Pennsylvania Cross Country at huge out of state meets."

Boy's Cross Country Had A "Peak" Season

By BEN DOUGLAS

The Allerdice Boys cross country team is having, some could say, a 'peak' season. This is something that Coach Ed Flynn prides himself on; having his runners in their best condition when it counts most. Team leader Ethan Hermann explained, "He knows how to prepare us for every single meet...and wants to prepare our bodies to be at their best for the most important meets."

Coach Flynn, who has coached Allerdice cross country teams since 1981, was a runner himself. He ran for the University of Pennsylvania, matriculating from Penn Hills high school. Now, he has helped the Dragons to an undefeated record in the City League so far this year. Flynn has some great runners, but even better leaders to help him out. The