

# THE PROWLER

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## MoCo students stand together to face antisemitism head on

By **MLA KAUFFMAN**  
Editor-in-Chief

Two months ago, on the eve of Hanukkah—an eight-day-long festival that reflects on the suffering and hatred that Jewish people have endured for centuries, while also highlighting their resilience—there appeared an act of vandalism on Walt Whitman High School’s entrance sign: Jews Not Welcome.

This statement left the community both saddened, shocked, and scared. Sad and heartbroken that someone had such malicious thoughts towards Jewish people. Shocked that, in a community that contains one of the largest populations of Jewish people in the country, this could occur. And scared, not only of the possibilities that could follow the statement, but of the motivations and learned beliefs that led up to the act of vandalism.

According to The Black and White, Whitman’s student newspaper, this statement appears less than “three days after administrators and Whitman Jewish Student Union (JSU) leaders held a school wide OneWhitman lesson on the topic of antisemitism.” The lesson included personal statements from members of JSU and “aimed to disprove antisemitic myths” while informing students “about the dangers of stereotypes about the Jewish

Community.” The lesson was intended to leave an educational impact on students, and people did not expect the incident occurring in the near future.

However, this incident seems to have created a domino effect, with a number of antisemitic events in MCPS following within the past two months. As stated by the Washington Post, “officials from at least five schools have reported finding swastikas on classroom desks.” Acts of violence motivated by bias against race, religion, or other identities are rising at a dangerous rate. The Post elaborates that “last year, 156 incidents with a bias indicator were reported in the county, a 9 percent spike from the previous year” and majority of the “religious-based incidents targeted Judaism.”

Not only do these horrific acts of violence impose fear on community members, but they have also evoked a sense of frustration and anger amongst students county-wide. Students channeled these strong emotions into action, organizing petitions, walkouts, and many other grassroots methods to communicate that hate is never okay, and Jewish people are here to stay.

On Monday, January 30, on the first day of the new semester, students across the county walked out of their classes to support Whitman and the community and condemn antisemitism. Here at QO,

students walked out of their fourth period classes and joined fellow classmates in the Cougar Dome.

JSU co-presidents and juniors Andrew Feinstein and Nicole Weiner were informed by Principal Beth Thomas about student desires to participate in the county-wide walkout. Feinstein and Weiner worked with admin and students to spread the word organically. “The date was already picked so the majority of the planning just consisted of spreading the word of the walkout through social media” and through word of mouth, said Weiner.

Feinstein explained that the main message of the walkout was that “antisemitism is a real thing, not just around the world but in our own community.”

During the walkout, students stood in stadium bleachers while many shared their personal experiences with antisemitism and as a Jew, or ally, living in Montgomery County. An estimated 100 or more students attended the walkout.

Feinstein notes the difficulties and stigmas that exist when trying to combat antisemitism because “it is more of a way of thinking.” However, he is optimistic that



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“making people aware of its presence is very important in slowing down the issue.” He added, “The JSU doors are also always open for those that want to speak the message as well.”

While both Weiner and Feinstein agree that the walkout was a success, the job is not finished. They note that there is still a tremendous amount of work that must be done to overcome these dangerous stereotypes associated with antisemitism and prevent any future incidents of hatred.

## The fate of affirmative action remains unsteady

By **ISADORA KAUFFMAN**  
Staff Writer

Affirmative action is defined as the “active effort to improve the employment and educational opportunities for members of minority groups and women,” according to Britannica.

In the United States, affirmative action was first used, officially, by President Lyndon Johnson, in the sixties in an effort to eliminate discrimination that restricted African Americans from obtaining employment. Affirmative action has since spread to also target other historically disadvantaged groups such as Hispanics and Native Americans.

Affirmative action also serves to foster a workforce that better represents the true demographics of the United States. A common misconception is that affirmative action’s sole intent is to promote the hiring or admitting of applicants who are underqualified compared to their White counterparts, but this is a fallacious belief. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) explains that affirmative action is a tool for leveling out a playing field that has long been uneven for minorities. It is meant to

produce equality, not supremacy of one ethnicity over another.

However, affirmative action policies have been eroded in the past due to their violations of constitutional acts or amendments. In the seventies, certain universities such as the University of California at Davis used racial quotas in their admissions process. A racial quota is a numerical requirement for admitting members of a certain group, which in this case pertained to race and ethnicity. The UC Davis Medical School had been reserving 16 out of 100 seats in the entering class for minorities.

The Supreme Court declared this unconstitutional as the Medical School admitted minority applicants who were less qualified than applicants from a dominant racial group. The Supreme Court explained that the use of racial quotas is a direct violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibited discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or ethnicity, and the fourteenth amendment, which also prohibits the use of discriminatory laws. The Supreme Court didn’t completely outrule the use of race or ethnicity in the admissions process, though. WNET explains the decision, written by Justice Powell, who stated that

colleges may make “race-conscious decisions” but the “race of each applicant can not be a preclusive [preventative] factor in granting admission.”

Affirmative action policies continue to be challenged, most recently in the Supreme Court cases SFFA vs. UNC and SFFA v. Harvard where the organization SFFA (Students For Fair Admissions) appealed against both universities. Both colleges were accused of having racial preferences in their college admissions process that violate the Civil Rights Act. The Supreme Court has not made their final decision as of yet, but the current political makeup of the Supreme court with a Republican majority, “threaten decades of precedent established by previous cases,” as explained in NPR, due to their typically conservative views.

If the Supreme Court decides to defy precedent, established in past affirmative action cases, race-conscious

policies are not only subject to change in the admission policies for university, but also in matters of employment. This poses a threat to minorities throughout the United States, as employers could start to make “color-blind” decisions, which is likely to cause a decrease in the amount of minorities hired and foster a workforce that doesn’t accurately reflect the demographics of the United States. Minorities are already at a disadvantage when seeking employment, often due to the preconceived notion that they are inferior as employees to their white counterparts. Alliance for Justice, a judicial advocacy group, stated, “If the Supreme Court refuses to uphold affirmative action, it will be wittingly undoing decades of progress for racial equality and inclusion.”



JOE RAVI

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# George Santos: the congressman who campaigned on lies

By HANYA SHAHZAD  
Staff Writer

Representative George Santos—formerly known as Anthony Devolder—of New York’s 3rd congressional district has been a hot topic in Congress, after he was exposed for multiple lies and fraudulent behavior on which he built his campaign platform.

While there have been calls from both parties for a resignation, there has been no action taken to accelerate his removal. The lies extend from his family life, to his resume, and then some. So what exactly did Santos lie about? Well, to list a few...

The congressman first came under fire after claiming his grandparents went to Ukraine to escape anti-Jewish persecution in WW2. However, there is no record of this, and evidence revealed his grandparents were born in Brazil. He also lied about his mother being in the South Tower during 9/11 and the event creating serious health conditions that led to her passing: she wasn’t in the US during the attack.

The lies extend to his education: Santos claimed to attend Baruch College and said to have been a volleyball star there. He also stated he earned a Master’s degree from NYU, before later admitting he didn’t attend either of these schools. He also said he attended Horace Mann Prep

school, which, again, he didn’t.

The lying extends to the workplace, where he implied working at large companies such as Goldman Sachs and Citigroup. Instead he worked at an investment company Harbor City, which has been accused of running a Ponzi Scheme by the SEC.

Theft accusations against Santos have also come to light as his former roommates accused him of stealing from them. He was also targeted by the Brazilian authorities for stealing a checkbook and spending money with it in 2008.

According to Vanity Fair, his congressional campaign also filed multiple expenditures at \$199.99—the FEC mandates receipts for purchases of \$200. This suggests deceitful spending by the campaign. His political deception stretched further as one of his staff members impersonated current speaker of the house Kevin McCarthy’s chief of staff in order to raise money. (Vanity Fair adds that it’s uncertain if Santos knew about this.)

According to Forbes, Santos exaggerated his salary and claimed he made a “\$750,000 salary and up to \$10 million in dividends between 2021 and 2022 through a company he founded in 2021 called the Devolder Organization” ...“but reported making only \$55,000 during his 2020 campaign...”

Santos has also lied about losing four employees at the 2016 Pulse Nightclub shooting, later admitting he was in the hiring process for the victims before they had passed and they weren’t not actual employees of his.

If all that wasn’t enough, he has also alleged that he survived some pretty bad situations such as a mugging and an assassination attempt. He added he was mugged on Fifth Avenue and told a Brazilian podcast of the situation and Forbes says “which reported it [the podcast] asked Santos for the police report, but never heard back.” He also claimed on a Brazilian podcast to have survived an assassination with no further details.

One of the most jarring things to have come forth is Santos’ involvement in a GoFundMe scam where he raised \$3,000 for a pet of a disabled veteran Richard Osthoff. Yet, Osthoff never received the money for his dog. Santos had seemingly run the charity Friends of Pets United, which is why Osthoff believed he could help. According to the New York Times, “in an

interview with One America News on Saturday, he [Santos] insisted he ‘never handled the finances’ of Friends of Pets United.”

This is a pretty hefty list of lies, exaggerations, and false information spread by George Santos and it doesn’t even cover them all. The demands for his resignation are still forthcoming and new details are revealed daily.

*"The demands for his resignation are still forthcoming..."*



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The Prowler gladly accepts comments, concerns, and letters to the editor. Letters may be emailed to QOHSproowler@gmail.com, mailed c/o The Prowler to the school address above, or dropped off directly to Ms. Cooley-Klein in Room 234. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

## ABOUT

The Prowler is published six times a year by the students of Quince Orchard High School, and it has been continuously published since the 1988-89 school year. To become a staff member, students should take Journalism A & B with Ms. Cooley-Klein to qualify for the Newspaper Production class.

# Dual Enrollment encourages students' independence, experience and success

By MOTAZ DEIFY  
Staff Writer

On a typical day after 4th period, there are a number of high school seniors who are allowed to leave campus during lunch when they hop in their cars and drive away from the school as it’s their last time of the day to be at QO; they do so because of their half-day schedules. Those students have half-day schedules for the following reasons: jobs, internships, and, increasingly, dual enrollment.

“Dual Enrollment [DE] are programs and opportunities for college-ready high school students to take college courses at Montgomery College, while they’re still in high school,” according to QO’s DE Program Assistant Aixa Hernandez. In MCPS, these programs only take place at Montgomery College.

According to the Quince Orchard website, seniors with a cumulative unweighted GPA of at least 2.5 are eligible to participate in dual enrollment. They will also need to have earned certain scores on specific standardized tests: at least a 1000 on the SAT, a 21 on both reading and math sections of the ACT, or a qualifying score on the Accuplacer.

Dual Enrollment has many benefits for students such as “saving time and money [for college],” said Hernandez.

Additionally, students will be able to earn college credit and have a “good introduction to college,” said Hernandez. “While the classes may be a little bit challenging...they have the support of Quince Orchard High School, Montgomery College, and

potentially support from family at home.”

As of this semester, there are 33 students that are currently enrolled in dual enrollment at QO, many of which are beginning to plan their college journeys. Senior Tess Isaacson was able to get “the experience of a basic college lecture class, experience midterms and finals,” and as well as “creat[ing] a more flexible schedule,” she said. Isaacson is interested in the field of nutrition and, as she is currently taking Anatomy & Physiology and AP Psychology, she “felt it was the best way to prepare for college and ensure it was what [she] wanted to learn,” she said. At MC, Isaacson takes Nutrition 101, as it suits her intended major of nutrition.

Another benefit to dual enrollment is enhanced college resumes. “It displayed that I am truly interested in my major and I am able to succeed in it as well,” said Isaacson.

Senior Samantha Blaine also experiences the same aspects of dual enrollment. “I’m getting an idea of what college assignments and work will be like,” she said. At Montgomery College, the courses taken often have work offered in paper and textbooks that are required to be read, which is the equivalent to courses taken at a university.

One can choose whether to take a single class at Montgomery College, or take multiple courses; Blaine took a total of two courses (Nutrition 101 and Admin of Justice) and thus she has “a lot of time in the day,” she said. “MC definitely [has] more freedom and you’re on your own.”

Many students also do dual enrollment as an introduction to explore the majors they would want to

pursue for the next four years of their lives. “I did dual enrollment so I could take a course that was about my major,” Blaine said.

However, students wonder if AP courses or dual enrollment courses are the better classes to take. “It depends on the school that they go to,” said Hernandez. “Many institutions know how rigorous and how important are classes taken at Montgomery College.” AP courses are taken throughout high school, while MC classes are courses that are equivalent those students take at a two-year or four-year institution.

Dual Enrollment is growing as there are almost 100 interested students for the next academic year, according to Hernandez. Also starting next year, taking classes at Montgomery College will become tuition free. (In previous years, there was tuition required to pay, and textbooks and materials also cost money.)

Dual Enrollment is a program that many would like to do, therefore, “get all your credits out of the way ASAP so you can start studying what you actually are interested in,” said Isaacson. There is a slight chance that courses at QO may not have a lot of fields offered that can suit one’s interest, therefore she advises: “Do dual enrollment for your own assurance and to highlight to college admissions that you are serious about your major.”





## VIEWPOINT

# SGA should focus more on student issues than event planning

By HAILEY BAKER  
Senior Staff Writer

Last year, I was a member of the Student Government Association (SGA) as one of the junior class representatives. I initially ran because I wanted to address student issues and act as a representative voice for my grade. I valued my time on SGA and decided to run again. However, I lost. While the loss was disappointing at first, I am glad that I was not elected again because it opened up time for me to be on QO's Student Justice Advisory Council (SJAC).

One of the major things I focused on as a junior class SGA officer was planning prom. Every year, junior class officers are tasked with figuring out everything logistics-wise for the biggest dance of the year. Along with the help of their sponsor(s) and the approval of administrators, they are asked to choose the venue, time, date, caterer, disc jockey (DJ), theme, decorations and more all within a budget set by the school. They are also asked to give up their time with friends to either come early and set up for the dance or stay afterward to clean up.

As an SGA officer, I also helped

plan other school events like homecoming, the winter pep rally and spirit weeks.

While these school-wide events are important, I believe that SGA officers should focus more on addressing student issues. As an SGA officer, I do not feel like I accomplished my goal of helping make the school a better place. At least, not in the way I hoped.

When I thought of addressing student issues, I thought about the problems my friends and I were facing at Quince Orchard. For example, I thought about how some of my friends who are a part of the LGBTQ+ community did not feel represented in their classes or respected by some teachers. I thought about the @blackatqo Instagram account, which detailed anonymous first-hand accounts of racism experienced at the school. I also thought about the excessive workload students are given and the lack of sympathy they receive about it from some teachers.

When running as an SGA officer, those were the issues I wanted to address. However, my aspirations were reduced to focus on event planning. Because of this, I joined the SJAC, which works to address the very issues I listed above.

The SJAC is a group of students from various backgrounds that are invited by Principal Elizabeth Thomas, Diversity and Equity Initiatives Coordinator Kunal Arora, and Director of Student Leadership & Extracurricular Activities at the Office of School Support and Improvement of MCPS Shella. B Cherry to represent their identity while giving feedback to QO's administration.

Members of the Student Justice Advisory Council meet monthly for 45 minutes to actively work towards school improvement, specifically through student advocacy and voice. At each meeting, we sit down with the other SJAC members, including our Principal Thomas, to discuss what we want to be changed at QO, and how we can work to create that change. Then, we put our ideas into action and start working towards creating that change.

"We have surveyed students about what things are going well, where things can be improved and where there is overlapping interests in making sustainable changes," Arora said. "For instance, so far this year, we have prioritized student well-being and creating safe spaces for students who have been historically marginalized."

I am proud of the work that I am

doing as a leader on the SJAC. And maybe I was misinformed about what I signed up for as an SGA officer, but the work that the SJAC is doing is the work I believe the SGA should be doing instead, if not as their sole focus, at least as part of it.

Senior and SJAC member Fiona Bradford agrees. "I think that every group and club should help with this work. I think a lot more would get done if we had a larger group providing insight and helping us get things done," she said. "Specifically, having the SGA help out would make a big difference since they have a lot of influence over the school."

Since there is already some student support, I call on the SGA sponsors to work with student officers to focus more on student issues than event planning, by collaborating with the SJAC.

"Having the SGA help out would make a big difference."

- Fiona Bradford

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# Classified documents found in the residence of President Joe Biden

By *PATRINA PUN*  
Staff Writer

President Joe Biden is currently under vigorous backfire after several classified documents were found in his Wilmington residence and the Biden Penn Center.

Even before being elected into office in 2020 following his defeat of former President Donald Trump, Biden has been heavily involved in the U.S. government. He represented Delaware for 36 years in the U.S. Senate before becoming the 47th Vice President alongside former President Barack Obama. Representing the Democratic party, Biden has always been an avid player in forefront issues such as immigration, abortion, and terrorism. After a ferocious battle in the 2020 presidential election against former President Trump, much of the demographic that voted for Biden had clear expectations of him, which included helping to resolve the issue of racism, discrimination, and Covid-19. This explains why so many people were shocked to hear about the fact that Biden possessed unauthorized confidential documents.

According to The New Yorker, as of January 22, several classified documents were found in three separate locations all under Biden's property: his former office at the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy

and Global Engagement at the University of Pennsylvania and a room and garage in his Wilmington residence in Delaware. Biden's personal lawyers were packing up his office at the Penn Biden Center when they first discovered classified Obama-era documents laying around. They then proceeded to report this sighting to the National Archives, which led to the domino effect of the discovery of several documents in various locations.

To further complicate this situation, CNN explains that the Justice Department did not issue a warrant before searching Biden's residence in Delaware. The Justice Department claims that they went based on the team's consent, but Biden's legal team argues to never consented to the FBI's search. Furthermore, earlier this month, the FBI conducted a 13-hour search of Biden's home and found six classified materials. These six items are in addition to the findings in his Wilmington residence and private office.

To ensure transparency with the documents, Justice Department officials have yet to cease the investigation. According to ABC, as of February 1, the FBI conducted a three-hour search in Biden's house in Rehoboth, Delaware. Though no documents were found at this location, the White House counsel

spokesperson did not rule out the possibility of the FBI searching homes or offices used by Biden throughout his entire career. Biden's legal team also claims to be transparent throughout this process after Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre struggled to respond to a reporter's question regarding how honest Biden's administration is being.

However, President Biden is not the only one who has come under fire, as Trump and former Vice President Mike Pence are also under public scrutiny for similar issues.

According to the BBC, more than 325 classified documents were found at Trump's estate in Florida over the course of last year. The National Archive had contacted Trump as they were missing documents regarding the U.S. correspondence with North Korea, which inevitably led to a search of Trump's residence as he refused to hand over the documents.

Trump had also claimed that the FBI and Justice Department were pursuing a "politically motivated investigation" and has denied all accusations of wrongdoing. Biden responded negatively to Trump's actions and accused Trump's handling to be "totally irresponsible."

Likewise, both on January 24th and February 11th, Pence had been found with classified documents in his home in Indiana. He claimed to have no recollection of the classified

documents in his house but cooperatively handed the documents over.

Due to Biden's recent actions, his role as president is being doubted by some. Even as far as impeachment has crossed minds, but this is merely just the opinions of several government officials. On top of that, Republicans have also taken advantage of this issue and turned it in their favor to protect Trump's image for a possible 2024 re-election. According to The Hill on the other hand, democrats continue to praise and support Biden for cooperating with the Justice Department. Yet, it does not deny the fact that Biden's recent actions have put the Republicans at an advantage. A Senate Democratic Party aid even claims a way to protect Biden's image from tarnishing is to apply greater pressure on various issues that are of more "importance" to the general public. Nonetheless, this matter is far from over. It is now up to the hands of the Justice Department to inform the public of their newest findings, from which then the civilians will shape their own opinions.



KEVIN DIETSH / GETTY IMAGES

KEEPING UP WITH THE

# KOUGARS

By *MIA KAUFFMAN*  
Editor-in-Chief

Welcome back, Cougars! Featured here is our column highlighting important events and sharing the inside scoop of the QO community, so that you can Keep Up With the Kougars!

## Minority Scholars Program Retreat:

The 12th Annual Intra-County Leadership Minority Scholars Program (MSP) retreat is approaching on Saturday, March 18 from 9 am - 3:30 pm. The retreat is an all-day event and will be at Northwest High School. Any student that identifies themselves as a minority or ally is invited to attend. The retreat attracts over a thousand students every year to come together to educate both secondary and primary school students about important topics regarding race and ethnicity. Throughout the day, attendees will have the opportunity to hear from four different MSP seniors that will share their "story of self," which describes their life experiences where the opportunity gap prevented them from succeeding, as well as their motivations behind joining MSP. This year's theme is "We are the Blueprint: Dream About It, Scream About It, Be About It!" If you're interested in attending, RSVP through the MSP sponsor at QO, English department head Rosie Justilien, in Room 231.

## Stay on TRACK for your future education:

Do you need guidance through the crazy college process? Feeling overwhelmed with the endless options and complicated application process? Unsure where to even begin? Well, QO's very own college counseling service, CollegeTracks, is exactly what you're looking for! CollegeTracks is a free program that guides juniors and seniors through the college process. According to QO's program director Ashton Poteete, "from making a college list, to writing a college essay, to applying to colleges," CollegeTracks is there to help you! CollegeTracks is available to all QO students, but best supports those who "are first in their family to attend college in the US, have underrepresented identity, are from low to moderate income households, or don't have family support at home."

CollegeTracks is now recruiting the Class of 2024! Poteete emphasizes that "if you'd like to learn more about CollegeTracks, stop by room 235, or follow us on Instagram @qocollegetracks." In order to register, visit <https://bit.ly/collegetracks>

## MCR Advocacy Day:

Montgomery County Representatives (MCR) is hosting their annual advocacy day on Thursday, February 23. Advocacy Day is where 50 MCPS students attend workshops, panels, and group discussions with state legislators to advocate for the bills they support and want to be passed. As stated on their Instagram account @MCRSGAQO, "attendees will have the opportunity to visit the MD State House in Annapolis to lobby

legislators in person." Senior Isabella Andrade is MCR's State Affairs Deputy, and she explained how "many many months of hard work and strategic planning have gone into this highly anticipated event." The Legislative Affairs department of MCR has "been working hard to plan workshops and prepare students to have conversations with these important public figures."

The sign-ups are on a first-come, first-serve basis, and all middle school and high school students are invited. Visit their Instagram page to receive more information if you would like to participate.

## Student highlight of the month:

Running a 10k is an accomplishment in itself, but running a 10k in all 50 states is a remarkable achievement that not many people can accomplish. But freshman Olivia Borkat is combining her philanthropic and athletic passions to hopefully do just that, and raise money for pediatric cancer research.

Borkat has currently run in five out of her goal of 50 states, alongside her dad. She will be donating all funds raised to fighting pediatric cancer because, according to her, "less than 5% of the National Cancer Institute budget goes to pediatric cancer." She is choosing to donate to Johns Hopkins in particular as they have "one of the top children's hospitals for cancer." Influenced by her dad and grandfather's endeavors, both of whom ran a marathon on all seven continents, Borkat wanted to challenge herself in a similar way.

Motivation can be an enemy while completing such a challenge, yet Borkat

keeps her motivation high by "remembering how accomplished I feel after I finish my races," she said. Receiving the medal at the end is an extremely fulfilling feeling and motivates her to keep pushing forward.

Not only has this experience been rewarding, but it has been extremely educational. During her first 10k in California, Borkat reflected on her struggles. "I did not pace myself at all. For the first mile, I ran way too fast and quickly tired myself out," she said. From then on, Borkat learned the importance of pacing yourself and training strategically.

One of Borkat's highlights include was that first 10k in California. "We ran by the ocean and it was beautiful," she said. Another race she ran

in 2016 was in Australia, although not included in this 50-state challenge, was another stand out. Borkat hopes to complete all of the races before she graduates high school and is especially looking forward to running in Hawaii and Florida.

If you would like to be featured in our next issue of Keeping Up with the Kougars, please reach out to us through our Twitter or Instagram at @qohs\_prowler, or through email at QOHSproowler@gmail.com.



COURTESY OF OLIVIA BORKAT





# Students, counselors reflect on many duties of the Counseling Department

By CHASE PANTEZZI  
Staff Writer

Have you ever stressed when having to make a schedule change, struggled to find someone to talk to when dealing with personal mental health issues, or had trouble getting a transcript printed out as soon as possible for college applications?

These sentiments are shared by many throughout our student body: they need action taken urgently with regard to their extensive responsibilities in the high-pressure environment in which we live. Students are under the scrutiny of their peers, teachers, college admissions officers, and even themselves.

However, the counseling department, which is given such an extensive range of tasks that need to be completed, is strained almost constantly to meet the evolving demand of such a large student population.

Senior Bella Parello, who also has a sibling who also attends QO, has had a great deal of experience working with the counseling department. As someone who has had to communicate numerous times with counselors, she said that “if you email a counselor for a transcript or schedule change, there has been no response. That’s really upsetting for people who need things to

be done quickly.”

Parello also added that because counselors get so many students across all grade levels, seniors who have their futures lying in counselors’ hands can get pushed to the backburner in times of need.

Counselor Michael McMillen has a mixed perspective. He said that although there is a lot that is asked of counselors, they are no different than teachers or administrators, who dedicate the same amount of time and effort to their students. In reference to all of the jobs counselors have to manage, McMillen added how “there’s a lot of hats we have to wear on any given day.” Similarly, McMillen agreed that the workload is “manageable,” but the job also has administrative tasks that can be “daunting.”

Kim Kochuba, another counselor, also said that administrative tasks add a significant amount of time to her workload—even having to learn on the job. “When you go to grad school [for counseling], you don’t learn scheduling. I didn’t go to Johns Hopkins to learn how to do registration,” she said.

She added that counseling departments are usually understaffed in high schools with such large caseloads.

“When you have such a large caseload, as we do in high school, you’re often [out of time] to meet with the students who need you,” she said. “I feel that we shouldn’t just be available to do

scheduling, or all the paperwork... I feel that there should be... more time to meet with students about their social-emotional needs.”

In terms of the caseload counselors take on, each counselor has more than 230 students, while teachers typically have 150 students.

The “social-emotional” needs that Kochuba mentioned are essential to the well-being of both students and counselors. While many students experience stress serious enough to require the help of the counseling department, they also feel that counselors experience a large part of that negative stress.

For instance, one senior who was interviewed for this article said that a timestamp on Naviance indicated that the time at which their transcripts were submitted was at 4:30 in the morning. “I feel like maybe [my counselor] stayed up to do that. And that’s just not fair that we’re asking people to stay up all night to do people’s transcripts,” they said.

However, there are also a plethora of important areas in which students agree the counseling department does well. “The school psychologist and the mental health areas are really well-done,” said Parello. “I feel like people such as Ms. McCormack are really doing well. I think that we should continue on the stuff that she’s implementing.”

In terms of ways that the counseling department could attain more support, both Parello and Kochuba had the idea of assigning assistants to different time-intensive tasks that counselors currently handle, such as 504 plans, transcripts, and simple class schedule changes.

Above all, counselors agree that while there are areas of improvement, their principal goal is to have beneficial relationships with their students. McMillen had some positivity to offer, citing how the department does an outstanding job in relationship building and advocating for students’ needs whenever possible.

Kochuba was direct in explaining her top priority as a counselor. “I always want to understand what students need to feel connected to school. I want to understand how I, as a counselor, can help them to feel more like school is an equitable and safe place,” she said.



CHASE PANTEZZI

# Black designers and their impact on the fashion industry

By MADISON SHERMAN  
Editor-in-Chief

Rihanna:  
Pop singer Rihanna is not only known for the hits “Umbrella” and “Love the Way You Lie”: she has come to be known as the ultimate fashion icon. The CFDA (Council of Fashion Designers of America) even awarded her the Style Icon of 2014. Rihanna launched the fashion label Fenty in May 2019 and made history. She was the first woman, and the first person of color, to head an LVMH, or luxury goods, owned brand. Unfortunately, the brand came to a close in 2021, but Rihanna has made a notable mark in pop culture through her unique and powerful look. Rihanna has helped completely reinvent the fashion world by humanizing it, putting frequently-ignored customers and minorities front and center instead of unattainable models of beauty. Here are some of Rihanna’s bold and widely creative looks.



2018 Met Gala

Nobu outing

Wakanda Forever LA Premiere

Christopher John Roberts:

New York-based designer Christopher John Roberts has made a colorful impact in the fashion industry (no pun intended). The Christopher John Roberts Brand, named after and created by the designer himself through his senior thesis at Savannah College of Art and Design in 2016, is known for its vibrant pieces of color and bold

prints. Since its founding, the brand has received attention from publications like *Vogue* and *Elle* to stars like Lady Gaga and Lil Nas X. Even black political icons like Michelle Obama and Kamala Harris have represented his brand. Christopher John Roberts had the honor of dressing Harris for her swearing-in as Vice President in January 2021. Roberts has been recognized for his remarkable talents through being awarded the CFDA/*Vogue* Fashion Fund Award in November 2019 and the CFDA’s American womenswear designer of the year and an LVMH Prize finalist in 2021. Found below are some of his pieces from previous collections.



Resort 2023

Pre-Fall 2022

Ann Lowe:

In 1953, Jacqueline Lee Bouvier married John Fitzgerald Kennedy in one of those “weddings of the century.” How does this connect to barrier-breaking fashion role model Ann Lowe? Well, Jacqueline Kennedy reported the wedding gown she wore at this monumental event was made by “a colored woman dressmaker.” Jacqueline was referring to Lowe, a designer whose work has been recognized by Christian Dior and legendary costume designer Edith Head. Lowe was robbed of public accreditation and was known as “society’s best-kept secret,” which doesn’t make sense given that her clients featured the Roosevelts, Rockefellers, and the

Biddles. Luckily, some of her bridal pieces have been saved, and a 1967 gown is now currently held at The Smithsonian National Museum of American History. Lowe passed away in 1981, but her impact on wedding and bridal party dresses is still remembered to this day.



Dress designed for Pauline “Polly” Carver Duxbury’s 1967 debutante ball.

Willi Smith:

Since when did streetwear become so hot? You have Willi Smith to thank for that. Willi Smith is the inventor of streetwear and was known as one of the most successful African-American fashion designers in the fashion industry before his death in 1987. Smith’s label WilliWear was ahead of its time, as Smith took inspiration from what he saw on the New York streets and shaped it into his own fashionable approach, truly democratizing fashion forever. WilliWear peaked in the early 1980s with the launch of the 1983 autumn-winter collection Street Couture, which featured music and dance performances. This collection made Smith the youngest-ever winner of the American Fashion Critics’ Award for Women’s Fashion. Both these images below feature Willi Smith’s 1972 Fall/Winter collection



Dapper Dan:

Daniel Day, a self-taught tailor born in Harlem, New York in 1944, has been given the title “Dapper Dan” for his constantly well-dressed appearance. Dapper Dan introduced high fashion to the hip-hop world in the 1980s, dressing hip-hop moguls such as Salt-N-Pepa, Jay-Z, and LL Cool J. Dan was known as a “natural born hustler,” as some of his designs were created by redesigning brands like Gucci, Fendi, and Louis Vuitton without permission. Dan later faced lawsuits from luxury brands due to fashion’s strict copyright laws and was forced to close his Harlem boutique due to rising legal fees in 1992. Nonetheless, in 2017, Gucci referenced a Dapper Dan jacket originally designed for Diane Dixon, an American Olympian athlete. Although Gucci never explicitly credited Dan, there was a striking similarity between the two jackets, which stimulated future collaborations between the fashion powerhouses.



Dapper Dan’s design for Diane Dixon



Gucci Cruise Model 2018



# CELEBRATING BLACK EDUCATORS

By HAYLEY ASAI, SOPHIE FAWKNER & KATE BELMAN

## Shalewa Hardaway

01.

### Counseling

Shalewa Hardaway is a hardworking and dedicated counselor here at Quince Orchard High School. Ever since joining the counseling department team at Quince Orchard, Hardaway says she has had a wonderful experience. "My experience here has been very interesting, especially since we had just come back from a long pandemic.

However, Quince Orchard is a very diverse school, which is a cool aspect of being part of this school," Hardaway said. After two years of being a counselor for QO students, Hardaway claims that not only is it important to help the students with anything that they need help with, but it is important to actually care for their well-being. "Being able to support and help students, and getting them to know me well is super important to me," she said. Overall, it is safe to say that Ms. Harwdaway is a wonderful addition to the Quince Orchard counseling team and community.

- 01. Shalewa Hardaway
- 02. Phillip Yarborough
- 03. Tanya Mohan
- 04. Bobby Bishop
- 05. Skyra Blanchard
- 06. Jamie Kimbrough-Groves

## Phillip Yarborough

02.

### Assistant Principal



Phillip Yarborough is the Assistant Principal and 10th grade administrator here at Quince Orchard. Working at such a diverse and positive community here at QO brings him joy. "I love working at QO, mainly because of the diversity and the students, and each day brings a new challenge," said Yarborough. As Mr. Yarboough has a duty to monitor the halls and make sure everything is in check, Yarborough claims, "It is my job and goal to make sure that each student has a good high school experience, and it is important to do what is best for the students as a whole." According to Yarborough, the diversity and school spirit that Quince Orchard has makes the school a better place for both the students and staff.

Tanya Mohan is a dedicated precalculus and Intro to Statistics teacher here at QO. Going back to the dedicated aspect of Ms. Mohan as a teacher, Amazingly, Ms. Mohan has worked at QO since 2000 for 23 years.

03.

## Tanya Mohan

### Mathematics

In Mohan's impressive 23 years of teaching at QO, there has to be a definite reason to why she stuck with teaching high school students traditionally difficult and rigorous classes. "When you are able to see kids or students growing and learning, it is really motivating to be able to touch this generation of students. And how I can help them in their lives," Mohan said. She is an important and supporting teacher within the Quince Orchard community, and her experiences and contribution to our school benefits us all.

# THANK YOU.

## Special Education

# Bobby Bishop

04.

The girls varsity basketball coach and special education paraeducator Bobby Bishop is a dedicated member of QO's staff. He has worked at QO since 2011. "I love QO. My kids went here, I just think it's one of the best schools in the county, and I just enjoy the students, the faculty, I just enjoy being here," he said. Bishop works with special education students, which he says is a "different environment". He is a patient person and says this is the right job for him to be able to help the kids.

As a basketball coach, Bishop says he enjoys coaching the girls and that they have a great family environment. Coach Bishop says, "I feel like the girls do everything they can... and I do everything I can to please them, to help them get better." Bishop says there are a lot of lessons that can be learned about how to be a teammate, learning how to win and lose, and more.

## Skyra Blanchard

### English

05.



Skyra Blanchard, a Honors English 11 and AP Language and Composition teacher, works hard to make a difference in her students' lives. Blanchard has worked at QO for seven years. She got into education through recommendations from her college advisor, who placed her in an advanced junior English class during the first semester of her freshman year.

Blanchard loves to build relationships with students and says that teaching has "everything to do with the environment you create to allow the content to thrive." She says that an important thing in her day-to-day life while teaching is prioritizing social emotional learning, which is defined as "the process of developing the self-awareness, self-control, and interpersonal skills that are vital for school, work, and life success." Blanchard says that when teaching, she tries to prioritize teaching to the student and not just trying to teach the content.

## Social Studies

06.

# Jamie Kimbrough-Groves

Jamie Kimbrough-Groves, or Ms. KG, is the head of the Quince Orchard Social Studies department and a diligent member of QO's staff. She has worked at QO for 5 years, teaching AP World History, Honors Modern World History, and more. Kimbrough-Groves says her favorite part about teaching at QO is the students.

QO is the fourth school that she has worked at in Montgomery County; the other schools include Gaithersburg High School, Shady Grove Middle School, and Churchill High School. "Every school is different," says Kimbrough-Groves, but she mentioned how much she loves working at QO and how the staff is supportive and helpful.





## VIEWPOINT

# Gen. Z is channeling famous 70s-90s fashion — and that's a good thing

By MAMS JAGHA  
Staff Writer

Fast fashion (as defined by Merriam Webster) is the approach to how we design, create and market clothes. It highlights trends and inexpensive clothes available to buyers.

However, this approach has led to the decline of distinctive clothing in the fashion industry and, therefore, young people straying away from it, either finding comfort or nostalgia in vintage clothing. Nostalgia through clothing is a shelter for feelings of security and love, whether you grew up well provided for or were slightly impoverished, it is known that clothing forms our views of others around us and our perspective of ourselves.

As children grow and develop their own fashion identities, they may take inspiration from the clothing their parents have or wear and apply it to modern styles. Right now, it's most evident that Gen Z is reviving the '70s, '90s, and early-'00s trends, and since the 20-somethings typically influence what consumers buy the most, they have set the tone for a new economic and cultural chapter.

New styles no longer make an impact because clothing is much more

available and affordably priced and thanks to the internet we have much more immediate access to the pop culture and media influences of the 1990s and 1980s.

Right now some staple oldie styles that are being reintroduced by Gen Z are clothes like bell bottom pants, midi skirts, maxi dresses, peasant blouses, slip dresses, bomber jackets, and plaid flannel shirts, which are now necessities for style-minded young people that were more popular in the cultural chapter of the '70s and '90s.

The ability to express oneself and be adventurous as we reflect on what we like and don't like has given both Gen Z and millennials the chance to have fun and find comfort as opposed to the previously structured ways of trends. In a way, it feels like rebellion through fashion. Junior Saniya Guillme, for example, emphasizes that she sees more tolerance. "Though I am seeing a mix of styles from the past coming back, what I see the most, is styles that were ridiculed in the past being more accepted, like gothic and emo clothing. She said this creates a sense of community for everyone participating in this journey to finding yourself."

A lot of inspiration also comes from older generations' media. Shows like "Friends," "Martin," "Freaks and Geeks," "Moesha," "That 70's show,"

and "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" have served as a guide to what we wear today. For example, in "Fresh Prince," Will Smith played a character who mixed and matched his East Coast and West Coast style to include cropped sports tees and baggy denim overalls, matching tracksuits and varsity-inspired logos, and even V-neck sweater vests and cardigans. We see a lot of those styles today because of how popular those shows were and are, and the way they influenced pop culture at the time.

Overall, it is evident that fashion takes many shapes and molds into ever-evolving trends. Personally, I see this freedom of mixing and matching as a great way we as a society can be more expressive and understanding. Though, some people might never accept unique



PEXELS / STEPHEN C

fashion choices, what we like and how we view ourselves is much more important.

## "Nepo Babies" and the future of Hollywood

By FIONA FEINGOLD  
Editor-in-Chief

What's the first thing you do after you finish watching a fantastic movie? Look up the cast? How many times have you stumbled upon an actor's Wikipedia page, only to see that their parents' names appear in blue? When you click on their respective names, you might discover that the artist you were so impressed with moments before hails from a family of hot shot producers and movie studio executives.

You may have lost some respect for them, or maybe you were altogether indifferent. No matter your feelings on the topic, "nepo babies" — the term used to refer to the children of celebrities — aren't going anywhere.

After Vulture's December 2022 article "How a Nepo Baby is Born" went viral on TikTok and other social media platforms, readers became aware of nepotism's strengthening chokehold on Hollywood. Chances are, your favorite actor, singer, or model didn't get to where they are without some help.

Obvious "nepo babies," like Lily-Rose Depp (Johnny Depp) and Hailey Bieber nee Baldwin (Alec Baldwin) typically make no attempt to hide their famous lineage. Others don't have much of a choice, by way of being a child star thrust into the limelight at an early age (Jaden and Willow Smith, as well as Drew

Barrymore).

But there are plenty of celebrities whose star-studded family trees aren't as well-known. Jennifer Aniston, Benedict Cumberbatch, Laura Dern, and Nicholas Cage have all attained A-list stardom separate from their parents' identities.

These actors have been able to benefit from their families' connections without dealing with the same online backlash as Baldwin or Depp — few would dare to question Cumberbatch's long list of award nominations on account of his parents' careers. So what makes him, and the rest of these celebrities, different?

The extent of their perceived talent, for one thing. "Nepo babies" who are considered talented in their own right and thus "deserving" of their fame typically fare better with the public. An unprodigal "nepo baby" (or one whose talent is slightly forced) is much more susceptible to criticism; it's difficult to make the argument



JOE DARROW FOR NEW YORK MAGAZINE

that they would have "made it" without their parents. But how does one objectively measure talent? There's no numerical system in place to compare actors, singers, or models with each other — talent is just a gut feeling. You either have the "it factor" or you don't.

According to the Vulture article, the "it factor" may go hand in hand with the issue of nepotism: "We often talk about the 'It' factor, the otherworldly charisma that stars like Clara Bow exhibited in front of a camera. As the career of Chet Hanks makes abundantly clear, this quality is not guaranteed to be passed down through the generations. But it can be off-putting to discover that 'It' may indeed be hereditary, to see a Zoë Kravitz or Kate Hudson display that same intangible sparkle you saw in

their parents."

So if the "it factor" is truly genetic, what does that mean for the future of Hollywood? Non-nepo faces will become even more uncommon. It's already difficult to find breakout stars with no pre-existing connections to the industry, but the task could prove nearly impossible over the next decade.

If anything, the rise in "nepo babies" has only shown how individuals with no financial limitations tend towards more creative careers. If your parents were Tom Hanks or Cindy Crawford, would you still want to be an engineer or accountant?

"We often talk about the 'It' factor, the otherworldly charisma that stars like Clara Bow exhibited in front of the camera."

- Vulture



# Grammys 2023: The good, the bad, and the ugly

By CHASE PASEKOFF  
Staff Writer

The glitz, the glamor, the glory: The Grammys. The night was filled with musical performances, striking fashion statements, and recognition of artists' achievements.

As of late, music's biggest night has been scrutinized heavily due to its flawed nomination and selection process. Prominent figures such as The Weeknd, Zayn, and Drake have publicly denounced the awards ceremony and expressed their dismay regarding the system.

Many people online have shared their issues with the process as well. The idea of an artist being "snubbed," or unfairly losing, has gained popularity during the past few years. The 2023 awards were no different.

Unlike previous years, each of the ceremony's four awards in the General Field was won by different artists. Winning the title of "Song of the Year," which is dedicated to the songwriters, rather than the artists themselves, was

Bonnie Raitt's "Just Like That." A blues icon to the older generations, Raitt has won 13 Grammys, including the Lifetime Achievement Award. The song, however, as well as its accompanying album, achieved little commercial success. This victory came as a surprise to many viewers, with recent chart-toppers like Adele, Taylor Swift, Beyoncé, Lizzo, and Harry Styles also in the category.

Conversely, the award of "Record of the Year," which is dedicated to the artist and the producer of their record, was given to "About Damn Time" by Lizzo. Released on April 14, the song performed extremely well on the Billboard Hot 100 charts, spending two weeks at #1 and reaching #12 on the Year-End charts.

Samara Joy, an emerging jazz artist, took home the coveted "Best New Artist" award. Yet to reach commercial success, many are interested to see whether or not Joy will be comparable to her predecessors in the category such as Olivia Rodrigo, Megan Thee Stallion, Billie Eilish, and Dua Lipa, all of

whom have cemented themselves in the music industry.

Lastly, "Album of the Year" was presented to Harry Styles with his album, *Harry's House*. Released on May 21, *Harry's House* spent two weeks at #1 on the Billboard Top 200 Albums and was charted at #7 on the Billboard 200 Year-End chart. Other notable nominees in this category included *30* by Adele, *Special* by Lizzo, and *Renaissance* by Beyoncé, with many believing that the latter deserved the award.

Nonetheless, Beyoncé did not go unnoticed during the ceremony, winning four awards in genre-specific categories. Becoming the most decorated artist in Grammy history, Beyoncé has now won a total of 32 Grammys, surpassing the previous titleholder, Georg Solti, a Hungarian-British conductor.

Although Beyoncé has won the most awards to date, she has only won one award in the General Field, despite being nominated for the four categories collectively 21 times. Many have observed how most of her

victories have fallen into the category of R&B, as well as the previously titled "Urban" category.

The aforementioned disapproval expressed by some noteworthy artists has not been the only criticism. In recent years, there has been a growing assertion that the Recording Academy has racist and problematic roots. Many commercially successful Black artists have been pigeonholed into the categories of R&B, Urban (now referred to as "Progressive R&B"), and Rap, even when their sound aligns more with Pop. Being cognizant of this allows for more insight into why Beyoncé's victories, although plentiful, have been very limited to these specific genres.

Overall, the 2023 Grammys was not a complete documentation of the music released during the past year, but rather an interesting recap. The complete list of winners and nominees can be found at [www.grammy.com](http://www.grammy.com).

## Embarrassing crush stories from QO teachers

By MADISON SHERMAN  
Editor-in-Chief

Have you ever embarrassed yourself in front of your crush? I know I have, but can you imagine your teachers making fools out of themselves just to impress their own crushes? Well, it has happened. Let's take a look at some of the embarrassing crush stories QO staff members have experienced.

First off, Ellen Colbert, a paraeducator in the Special Education department has, shall I say, a musical love story. According to Colbert, no one has heard this story until this day, so keep your eyes open!

"In high school, I reconnected with a former childhood neighbor of mine—who obviously was also a former crush. He and I exchanged numbers and talked for several months, which I was all giddy and excited about... because I thought we would eventually form a long-distance relationship (he'd moved to Texas with his family many years ago).

"Unfortunately, after a while, I stopped hearing from him completely. Being 16, young, and a bit naive, however, I decided to reach out to his family to get back in touch with him since he'd stopped talking to me. When that didn't work, I ultimately decided to go full "detective" mode, which sounds very stalker-like and creepy now, and reached out to people he knew, secretly found his address, etc.

"I am passionate about music and have been singing/performing for many years, so I ended up professionally recording and sending him a song I wrote explaining my

feelings to try and convince him that we were 'right' for each other. I mailed the song on Valentine's Day, too. To this day, I don't know if he actually listened to it or if he even received it. And I never heard from him again, either. Lovesickness can do crazy things!"

Next, AP Psychology and QUEST teacher Penny Keune has quite a comical crush story that ultimately worked out in her favor. The story goes like this:

"I was on a Young Life retreat off-season in OC, New Jersey. I had just met a guy from a different high school. We had set up plays to sneak off the beach for a walk. My friends found out our plans, hid in the dunes, and when we walked toward the ocean, they jumped out with cans of shaving cream and covered me. I was trying to make a good impression on this guy, but was totally embarrassed! He actually thought it was cool [that] I had [a] friend who would do that, and he ended up being my prom date."

Jen Yeck, AP Chemistry teacher and Bocce coach, caught a crush on a baseball player in her college days:

"In college, I had a huge crush on one of the baseball players. He was a great pitcher, and he had a story written about him in the school paper. My friends got a ton of copies of the paper, cut out his pictures, and taped them all over my dorm, which was co-ed, on the inside hallways, outside walls, common areas, and bathrooms. Most of the pictures had nothing on them, but they had written messages on some of them. Some of them were coded, but others obviously were about me. I died. But he did ask me out."

## Editorial Cartoon



BY FRESHMAN AMADI PINKNEY

"February 2, 2023"

In 2018, an Iranian general accused Israel of manipulating the weather to prevent rain and snow from forming in the country, a spurious claim that Iran's own weather service rejected. More recently, Iran has blamed Israel for a drone attack on a military site; Israel has neither confirmed nor denied it was behind the attack, according to the BBC. The two countries have a long history of tension and conflict.





# Teachers in the classroom, previously leaders on the field

By MADELEINE BURKE  
Staff Writer

It can be hard to imagine, but the same people that are teaching you how to write essays or study for tests were formerly athletes just like many students at Quince Orchard. Before they were head of the classroom, they were outstanding athletes on the field.

English teacher Jenifer Soykan played on the ice hockey team at Dartmouth from 1983-1987. She grew up on the ice as a figure skater, but it wasn't until her 10-year-old self noticed how much fun her older brother was having playing ice hockey that she realized that is what she would rather be doing. When applying to colleges, Soykan had to choose between 3 schools: Hamilton, Dartmouth, and Middlebury. She had her high school coach talk to the college coaches, and she was able to figure out that Dartmouth was the school for her.

Her favorite moments from playing in college consists of when she had a game against Cornell and her whole family, including her dog, came to the game. They taped the game and in the background she could hear her dog barking. Soykan also has a sister who went to Brown to play ice hockey. Occasionally the two would play against each other.

Fifteen years after college, Soykan decided to pick up her stick and start playing again. Every Sunday night she

plays in a women's league as a defender. Since playing after college, she has played in different and cool locations, like Hong Kong.

Skyra Blanchard, another teacher in the English department, attended and played basketball at Susquehanna University from 2001 to 2005. She began her basketball career in 4th grade, and continued to play all throughout high school. Originally, she was going to go D1 to throw shot put and discus, but at the last minute she made the decision to switch to basketball. Blanchard received multiple D2 and 3 offers, but decided on Susquehanna because of the close proximity to home.

Once she stepped on the basketball court at Susquehanna, she became one of the best players on the team. Her freshman season she won defensive player of the year, which was really special to her because she loved playing defense, but her father also emphasized to her how important it was in a game. During Blanchard's sophomore season her picture even made it onto the promotional cards.

Blanchard is currently coaching her one-year-old son into becoming the basketball powerhouse she was in college. She loves teaching him how to dribble and shoot.

At Duquesne University, science teacher Lisa Short played lacrosse for three years. Her recruitment process was not like others — as she had never picked up a lacrosse stick until her

first year of college! Short actually played softball all throughout high school, but she knew she wanted to go to Duquesne because her brother really enjoyed his time there, and it checked all of her boxes. Coincidentally, her first year there was the university's first year having a women's lacrosse team due to Title IX.

"I walked on to the team with no experience other than being able to catch and throw a softball, which actually helped a great deal," Short said.

During her first year, Short played mostly attack, but that position was short-lived due to multiple teammates' injuries. In her second year playing, her coach made the decision to put her in the goalie position, which she did not enjoy. Short missed shooting on the goal, but she says she was the only one on her team crazy enough to throw her body in front of the ball.

Short still holds records at Duquesne from her time as goalie: she had 167 saves during her season in 1997.

While on the team, she remembers, they had to play a game in the snow. It got so bad that players couldn't even see more than a foot in front of them, so they had to pause the game and wait in the locker room until the weather calmed down.

Alex Twine, a special education paraeducator and one of Quince Orchard's alumni, played D1 football

at the University of Maryland. Growing up, his whole family played football, so naturally he began his career at the age of five. During his recruiting process, Twine thought he was going to play at James Madison, but changed his mind and committed to UMD for the years 2011 to 2015. Twine played his first game freshman year at the age of 17 against Miami. It was especially cool for Twine when everyone back home sent him texts about seeing him play on TV.

While Twine was in high school, he was on the football, basketball, and track teams. During his football seasons, Coach Kelley, the current football coach at QO, helped him out through his recruiting process.

When Twine looks back 13 years ago during his years at QO, he remembers how he was Coach Kelley's "first scholarship player, and now there are so many."

Even though football was his main sport, the other two really helped him out during his football off season with conditioning and strength. When Twine came back to QO, he wanted to help out athletically so he began coaching those three teams. Twine is currently the head coach for Junior Varsity football, and he led them to being undefeated this season.

Twine has played on the same field as the kids he coaches. He knows the ins and outs of it all, and he wore the same colors. He appreciates that it's "a different type of pride."

## QO Ice Hockey looks for first state title

By GRIFFIN OWENS  
Staff Writer

When you think of Quince Orchard athletics, ice hockey probably isn't close to the first sport that pops into your head. It might not even be the first QO hockey team you think of, with field hockey possibly taking that spot in your mind. Yet, so far this season, one of the most overlooked sports in QO athletics has been one of the most successful.

The QO ice hockey team has existed since 2016, and is led by coach Andy Katon. Like any other sport at QO, the team consists of QO students, who wear the school on their jersey, and play under the QO name, but one thing separates them from the rest of the school: they aren't being funded by the school.

"It's classified as a club, so the county and school don't have to pay for ice time," said senior captain Daniel Abarjel.

The team is a part of a separate league, the Varsity Maryland Student

Hockey League, and plays in the Montgomery 2 division along with teams like Northwest, Sherwood, and Richard Montgomery.

The players practice once a week and play most of their games at Rockville Ice Arena and Cabin John Ice Rink.

"Because we are a small team, when only a couple guys are missing, it affects our ability to have useful practice. However, any time the guys can get on the ice is good," said Katon.

While they aren't being funded by the school, the players still feel that they represent QO every night they take the ice to compete.

"You're playing with all of your friends from school, you're playing with people you see every single day," said Abarjel. "You're wearing the Quince Orchard name and logo, so we still take pride in being part of the school."

This season, the team has a number of seniors, including captains Abarjel, Dylan Eyester, and Josh Weitzman. Other seniors, including

John Sherikijan, Jeremy Eager, and Jack Peyser, fill out a decent portion of the roster. These seniors have been some of the team's best players in the past as well, with Weitzman,

Eyester, and Eager earning all-county honors last year, and Abarjel getting an honorable mention.

Additionally, this season, QO's captains are all top three in all in the team's major statistical categories, with Weitzman leading in goals and Eyester leading in assists.

However, Katon credits not only the captains, but the whole roster for their success this season. "Our captains have led the team, but with half the team being seniors, the entire team has really led as a unit," he said.

The Cougars started the year out undefeated with a record of 8-0 before losing their ninth game to Blair. Since then, they have a record of 1-3, ending the regular season with a three-goal win against Saint John's on senior night.

The games this season have seen a lot more blowouts and high-scoring affairs for the Cougars. QO has had multiple wins by two or more goals, including a 6-0 beatdown of the Rockville and Magruder co-op team to start the season on October 21. In that game, the captains were responsible for all 6 goals, with Eyester scoring 4 himself.

On October 28, the team had their highest scoring game of the season, putting up 18 goals on Northwest, while surrendering only 4 themselves.

Despite these dominant performances, the team still feels like they hold a chip on their shoulder. "We pride ourselves on being the underdogs," said Abarjel. "We're not the best on paper, but we always manage to pull through and beat the better team."

In the regular season, QO finished



VIA DANIEL ABARJEL

first place in their division, with a point differential of 20+, averaging around 8 goals per game this season. This is their second year since they've been placed in the Montgomery 2 division, where they finished the season with only three losses and a positive point differential.

Their journey towards the team's first state title began on February 9, as QO played Richard Montgomery in their first game of the conference championships. The Cougars defeated the Rockets 4-3, after being down 3-1 heading into the second period of the game.

With the state playoffs starting next week on February 21, the team needs to finish in the top 4 in their conference in order for them to have a shot at capturing their first state championship.



VIA DANIEL ABARJEL





# Season Updates

## Boys Basketball

By **GRIFFIN OWENS**  
Staff Writer

It has been a season that has been hard to characterize in one word for boys basketball.

The tough start to the season, coupled with multiple single digit losses, have erased the Cougars' chances of finishing above .500 on the season for the first time since before the pandemic.

Their one-point heartbreaker against Clarksburg at home, and their two-point loss to Seneca Valley to split the season series, are two games that could've gone in the Cougar's favor if they had gotten some lucky breaks.

Despite these close losses, the team has also had convincing wins, such as their 8-point victory over rival Northwest. Other wins, like the team's first win against Seneca Valley, as well as their second half comeback against Paint Branch, make it hard to completely write this season off for the Cougars.

One thing that has been seen in a lot of QO's wins has been the amount of players getting involved. In four out of their five victories this season, the team has had at least two players score 10 or more points, and in three of those games, three players scored in double figures.

However, their most dominant win came on January 30, against Watkins Mill, where only one player scored in

the double digits. This game saw multiple players contributing, with QO's highest scorer being as senior Savan Briggs, who had 10 points. QO held the Wolverines to under 30 points, while scoring almost double that on their way to a 56-29 victory.

On January 8, the team scored a season high 71 points in their win against Whitman, with junior Keyshawn Carter and Briggs both scoring over 15 points, while junior Kevin Bukula exploded for 24 points.

However, the team let up 51 points in the first half of their following game, including 31 in the first quarter to lose to Churchill.

On February 3, the team held their senior night to honor seniors like forward Matthew Pinto, as well as guards Colin Carter and Briggs. These seniors have all had major contributions to the team's success this season.

Now after starting 1-4, the Cougars now sit at 5-11 as of February 13. They have more than quadrupled their number of wins, but have also more than doubled their amount of losses. As of publication, the team has one remaining regular season game, with their season finale coming at home on February 17 against Sherwood.



TWITTER @QOHOOPS

## Bocce

By **MADELEINE BURKE**  
Staff Writer

Quince Orchard is known for their athletics. The football team is back-to-back state champs, the girls soccer team made it to the state championship game, and boys soccer went undefeated in the regular season. But there is one team whose recognition seems to fall short each year, and that is bocce ball.

Most QO students have heard of bocce but have yet to watch a game of our very own QO team. They play best of three sets, and games last until one team achieves 16 points, or after the 30 minute timer is up. A pallina, the target, is placed on the court for players to aim and attempt to hit when it is their turn. Each team takes turns on who throws the bocce ball, and at the end of the round, the team who is closest to the pallina is given the points.

Although she is new to coaching bocce this year, head coach and science resource teacher Jennifer Yeck has had some recreational play in her past. Yeck has also coached cheerleading for 22 years and poms for 3 years, and enjoys just being involved in QO athletics anyway she can.

The bocce team competed in a total of five games during the regular season with a record of three wins and

two losses. The team also competed in the division tournament and won both games, making them Division IV champions. In order to maintain their record, the team practices one to two times a week depending on their game schedule that week. During practice, Yeck has players exercise all different bocce skills.

"We practice some strategies and try to throw in particular areas of the frame or with the right force," Yeck said.

This season, the Cougars have 13 players on the team — 8 of them seniors. While all seniors have had the chance to be game captains, the team captains are seniors Taylor Cho, Danielle Goury, Mitchell Usatine, and Zach Weil.

Heading into the season, Yeck only had only one goal in mind — to win the county tournament. This tournament took place February 4 at Paint Branch High School. Out of eight schools, QO won third place.

While other sports may attract a bigger crowd, bocce ball allows athletes of all abilities to compete in a positive and light-hearted manner.



COURTESY OF JENNIFER YECK

## Poms

By **OLIVIA MAYTIN**  
Staff Writer

The longest Quince Orchard sports season—that of our Poms team—has come to an end.

Poms is unlike other sports at QO—captains choreograph and teach dances to the whole team. The dances are around six minutes long with intricate choreography, as described by senior captain Josie Belkin.

"It is challenging to come up with the choreography for the competitions," said Belkin. "There are only so many moves in dance, and we can't repeat any of them or the dance will look repetitive and boring."

Throughout the fall sports season, this year's 17 Poms members performed three-minute routines during halftime of the QO football games. But by the time the winter season rolls around, it is time for competitions against other schools in the county.

However, the season has very difficult timing. Belkin said she was "extremely stressed as a senior taking difficult classes and trying to complete my college applications." Stress can be difficult to manage, but for Belkin, Poms has been "a great experience to

learn how to prioritize your time, a skill needed for every job."

The winter season consists of three invitationals and one final performance. Their dance routine stays pretty consistent unless the captains decide to make changes based on the judge's critiques. The routine has many guidelines, one of which is that poms need to be in the dancer's hands for two of the six minutes. Also, at least three different dance styles must be included in the routine.

As this season came to an end, Poms participated in their last competition on Saturday, February 4. As they performed their six-minute dance routine, the cheers from the crowd filled up the gym creating an astounding environment. The three senior captains — Belkin, Mia Kauffman, and Madison Sherman — choreographed an intricate performance, and while they did not win one of the top three prizes, they put on a fantastic show.

*Editor's Note: Kauffman and Sherman are members of The Prowler staff.*



COURTESY NATHAN BREZOVEK

## Wrestling

By **LILY KAPLAN**  
Staff Writer

Quince Orchard Varsity Wrestling are more than halfway through their season. While there have been highs and lows of this season so far, the team still has many goals going forward, and hope to only improve from here. These wrestlers, who range from freshman to seniors, have shown everyone what they can do, and they continue to shine.

Sophomore Gavin Hill is a two-year varsity wrestler. "My favorite parts about wrestling are the practices with my teammates, and enjoying having fun with them, and supporting each other," said Hill. This team is very close with one another. They consider each other almost like family.

There is one common goal among members of the wrestling team: to make it to state championships. Hill said that this was his goal for this season. This won't come easy though; there is still more training and practicing to be done. "My biggest inspiration is my family," said Hill. He really enjoys being on the team with fellow wrestlers, who he's been able to befriend over the two years that he's been on the team.

Another sophomore, Julian Pollard, wrestles for both the JV and Varsity teams. "It's

been a wild ride, wrestling for both teams," said Pollard. He shares a lot of commonalities between himself and Hill: both want to place at states, and both are two-year wrestlers. This can be said about most of the sophomore varsity wrestlers.

On the other hand, QO also has a lot of senior wrestlers leaving the team this year. One of those seniors is Alexander "Lex" Fondelius. "I'm a first year wrestler, so personally, for me, varsity's been pretty tough," Fondelius explained. "But the experience has been really cool."

Fondelius has found a great support system from his teammates and coaches from being a first year wrestler on varsity. "Teammates and coaches have made my experience really fun," he said.

Fondelius, along with Hill and Pollard, have goals of placing high at important meets. "As a first year wrestler, I would really like to place high at counties," he said. While there's still time to achieve this goal, the wrestlers have to push themselves to get where they want to be.



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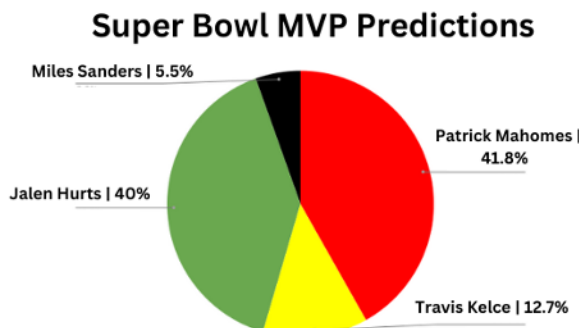
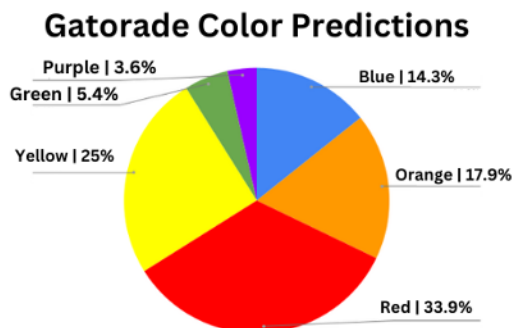




# Did QO Predict the Super Bowl?

By OLIVIA MAYTIN  
Staff Writer

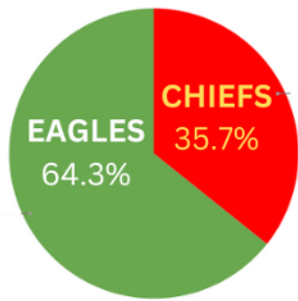
The time has come! Super Bowl 2023 has arrived and the winner was the Kansas City Chiefs! Many Quince Orchard students believed they could guess the game's results, but did they? Below are the predictions!  
Many are correct with the Eagles scoring first. They scored a touchdown giving them a 7-0 lead! At the half, the Eagles held a strong lead, 24-14. Unfortunately for Philadelphia, the lead did not last long with the game ending 38-35 in favor of the Chiefs. The game was super competitive. with many back and forth plays  
At the end of the game, the Super Bowl MVP was announced and it was quarterback Patrick Mahomes from the Chiefs! Out of all the 56 students who filled out the google form, 24 chose Patrick Mahomes to win.  
Only 42 percent of Quince Orchard students predicted that the Chiefs were going to win, the majority wanting the Eagles.  
Two people out of 56 guessed the color of the Gatorade correctly, and that color was **PURPLE!**



Actual Color: **PURPLE!**

Actual MVP: **MAHOMES**

## GAME PREDICTIONS



Average Score Prediction:  
**EAGLES 28-25**  
Actual Winner:  
**CHIEFS 38-35**

# Girls B-Ball Head Coach Q & A: Bobby Bishop

By SAMMY KRIMSTEIN  
Editor-in-Chief



What area have you seen the team take a step forward this season?

Our three point shooting has been great lately. The last three games, we hit 10 threes as a team, and that's huge.... But also, I feel like we run our half court offense really well, we run it properly. We know how to get to the basket and

score. I'm really happy about that.

Heading into playoffs, what are some things you guys are trying to tighten up and improve upon?

Turnovers. That's been kind of our downfall... It's not the other team taken away from us. We're just making bad passes and making bad decisions.

How would you describe the chemistry on the team this year?

In my five years of coaching girls varsity basketball, this is probably the closest group that I've ever had, they really get along. They're a great group... they like being around each other. They're selfless. It's not like any egos out there. They want to win.

What does a big win do for the team moving towards playoffs?

It really cements the system and what we do.

How has it been dealing with injuries on the team this year?

I had a different starting lineup every week because of people sick or injured... now we got our full unit back.

# Track star Terrell makes school history

By SAMMY KRIMSTEIN  
Editor-in-Chief

Eleven days. That's all the time senior Roberto Terrell needed to break five long-standing Quince Orchard track records.

In just three January meets, Terrell broke school records in the long jump, 55 meter hurdle, 300 meter dash, the triple jump, and the 4x200 meter relay, with teammates senior Elijah Snead, and juniors Hayden Lee, and Walter Loeb.

While flying into the top of all-time leaderboards, Terrell has been propelled by his winning mindset,

"I don't like seeing the number two next to my name," he said.

Before he was breaking records left and right, before he even entered high school, Terrell had no idea how

far track could carry him. He first jumped into track in fifth grade, but left it behind soon after. In middle school, he ran cross country, but after briefly playing football in fall of ninth grade, he decided to give track another chance.

Terrell's road through track has presented him with much adversity. His freshman year spring season was lost to the pandemic, and just as he started reaching his goals in 10th grade, he felt a pain in his leg — he had strained his hamstring. After returning to the track for a brief stint, he tore that same hamstring again.

The lingering effects of his injuries lasted into his junior year, but the time he spent rehabbing allowed him to build much-needed strength in his legs. Now that he has come back from those injuries — fully healthy —

he's starting to see the results he has been craving.

"Now for senior year, I'm back, no injuries," he said. "I feel like that setback just set me up for bettering my times."

His senior year indoor track season has indeed been one to remember. Terrell has participated in eight events — he now holds a record in five, and on February 9, he won the Region Championship in three events.

His incredible success has turned the heads of several Division One track programs. With one official offer from Mount St. Mary's University, Terrell has been in talks with coaches from many other D1 schools. While considering many factors, he highly values his education — he wants to become a dentist.

"A perfect school is a school that has a good program in terms of their facilities," he said. "But they're not lax on their schooling — part of being a student athlete."

Through his time with QO Track, Terrell has made lasting relationships with his teammates. He trained frequently with a small group that includes now-QO graduate Manie Mevo, who is on Towson University's D1 track team. The bonds he has built have greatly influenced his trajectory through track.

"I feel like my relationship with the team is really good. My closest friends I've made from the track team," he said. "They've all been



COURTESY ROBERTO TERRELL

supporting me and pushing me to do better than they all have."

Terrell has also made impactful connections with other athletes from across the country. Participating in invitationals up and down the east coast, he's had the opportunity to compete against some of the nation's best competition. His experience at national competitions was a turning point for Terrell — not only did he have the chance to see what he was up against, but he was able to interact with other athletes who understood him.

"It was nice to make friends around people who have had the same mindset and people that can support you and give you tips," he said, "because even though we're all competing against each other, track is still family."

With the indoor season wrapping up, Terrell now turns towards the outdoor season, where he looks to continue his dominance, and break more records. Even as he continues to add to his collection of accolades, Terrell stays hungry for more.

"I won't be satisfied until I'm number one across the board," he said.



TWITTER: @QOXCFT