

## Person of Interest

Freshman Maeve Morris said she is passionate about both fashion design and optometry, and the person who helps her most with fashion is her mother.



### When did you start designing your own clothes?

"I guess around third grade, I asked my mom for a Christmas dress, and I drew a picture and she was able to make that for me, and one for my American Girl doll."

### What's the fanciest, most elaborate thing you've designed?

"The most elaborate thing, I think it was the dress I made most recently. We had to do a lot of mixing of patterns to get it to fit right and to look the way I wanted."

### Is it a philosophy of yours not to regret anything?

"Yeah, I think things happen for a reason and [they] just make me a better person. So, maybe fashion mistakes I've made make me better today."

### Does your artistic ability help you in fashion design?

"Yeah, definitely. I've always liked drawing and painting—well, not really painting, but I like drawing and I've always liked art class. That's always been my favorite class. That definitely helps."

### What do you want to pursue in life?

"I'd like to go into fashion, but I also want to be an eye doctor. I just find it really interesting."

### Which Harry Potter character do you identify with most?

"Hermione. The actress, Emma Watson, was who got me to cut my hair short."

### So are Hermione and Emma Watson role models for you?

"Yeah. I actually like a lot of Emma's fashion, and that's where I get a lot of inspiration."

compiled by Branden Labarowski

# TALKING POLITICS

## MHS students create club to raise awareness of worldwide political issues

Chloe Knue | Staff Writer

In 2007, researchers at Harvard University surveyed 1,800 American teenagers between the ages of 12 and 17. What they found was that 60 percent of teens said they pay little attention to the daily news, and 28 percent said they pay no attention to the news each day.

At Mason High School the goal of the Round Table Club is to get Mason students talking about politics, and all Mason students are encouraged to get involved in the discussion according to club founder Alex Mezhvinsky.

"We allow everyone whether political junkie or novice, to come in and talk or simply listen," Mezhvinsky said. "Without the constraints of school and peers, the Round Table Club provides an interesting place that endorses both a diversity of opinion and clear-cutting general analysis that gets to the heart of an issue. We are not trying to save the world. We are trying to help students understand it."

Mason High School Social Studies teacher and the Round Table Club's advisor, Steve Prescott said he is impressed with the level of commitment the club members exhibit; the members are not required to show up to the meetings every Friday, but they do because they are excited about learning and learning about different perspectives.

Senior club member Sahir Rama said the club gives students the opportunity to be active and question what is going on in politics; the club's ambition is to get students excited about the politics that are happening in the world around them.

"We are simply hoping to raise awareness and interest in politics," Rama said. "We want students to become more active and question why things are done in the world instead of just accepting."

According to Harvard University, less than a third of American teenagers are connected to the news -- Alex Mezhvinsky said that is where the Round Table comes in; they want to get people talking.

The club is an outlet for students to examine issues and be involved in a world where teenagers are typically not that invested in news, according to club member, senior Wesley Osler.

"I personally believe that most American teenagers do get the reputation of being ignorant when it comes to politics," Osler said. "Because they either do not know where to start or do not believe they need to [get involved]."

The stereotype of teenagers being disconnected is a theme that does not stay true with the Round Table Club members -- there is so much passion and enthusiasm being displayed in the meetings; that students do leave the table feeling they have caught the political bug according to Mezhvinsky.

Sophomore club member James Gao said, "[The Round Table club] is a good way to foster political knowledge and become more educated. According to Mezhvinsky controversial topics do come up. The club has talked about issues such as if intelligent design and alternative science should be taught in schools.

"We literally discuss everything, from what is going on in Libya, to religion, to scandals that occur within our school," Osler said. "If someone brings up a topic, odds are it will be discussed. The club is a discussion group; we discuss."

Gao said he is able to keep discussion flowing by discussing current events such as the Wall Street Riots and the growing wealth gap.

"The topics we discuss are issues that affect the daily lives of students [at MHS]," Mezhvinsky said.

The purpose of the Round Table club is to succeed in teaching students to feel comfortable articulating and supporting their own opinions according to Mezhvinsky.

"I hope that when people leave our meetings on Friday, they leave with a new sense; I hope that they leave feeling they said something valuable; something important," Mezhvinsky said. "I hope they are proud of spending an hour on a Friday afternoon, talking politics. I know I am."



Left to Right: Sophomore James Gao, senior Alex Mezhvinsky, and sophomore Ian Campbell discuss police brutality at the October 14 meeting.

photo by Chloe Knue