

VERITAS

Spring 2017 - Issue 3

Culture

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Hello Readers!

I'm so happy that the spring edition of the Veritas is ready for you. I'm sure you have all been anticipating March Break; I know I have been. It's finally come!

This issue features articles that represent society and culture in a very broad way. Opinions about Donald Trump and Bill 28 are featured, as well as a positive and refreshing spin on the news.

There are many exciting things for the Upper School to look forward in the final term. The Fashion Show, CISMF, and Easter are all on their way!

Just a reminder again that you can all submit letters to the editor if you have anything to say or any comments to make that you would like published. Don't forget to submit your art for the cover as well!

Feel free to make these comments or ask any questions through our email: hsg.veritas@gmail.com

Enjoy your break and spend as much time out in the sun as you can. As usual, don't forget to smile!

-Guin



Since We

Let's Hear It: Positive News

As we continue to plough through this seemingly endless winter season, it can be hard to maintain the same positive attitude and motivation that we felt at the beginning of the year. However, as tough as winter can be, it becomes much harder to bear when all that we are exposed to seems to be death, corruption and disaster. This reality is thanks to our overbearing media. Media knows what sells, and the producers of our news have realized that we now gravitate towards the miserable and apocalyptic stories. People in our day seem to have an addiction to despair. Many even remain cynical when faced with a positive article. Although it is good to understand the happenings of our world, this should not strictly be confined to the depressing news.



There are more than just a few optimistic occurrences in our world that deserve to be noticed. For instance, in Japan, there have been at least 500 suicide preventions at the Tojinbo Cliffs due to the work of a single police detective by the name of Yukio Shige. He was first stationed at these cliffs about 13 years ago, and has ever since been known as the 'Gatekeeper.' He is a retired police officer, but continues to use his special words to discourage people from taking their own lives. Of course, if one is naturally pessimistic, then it is easy to point out that it is terrible that 500 people were thinking of attempting suicide. In no way is this a trivial fact to be ignored, but it is absolutely useless to worry about the bad things in our world that almost took place. Again, we should focus on the positive!



Last Wrote . . .

In December, Poland announced successful destruction of their one million anti-personnel land-mines. This was all done within their goal time limit, and it was completed in an environmentally friendly way. After signing an Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in 1999, along with 157 other states, Poland had already destroyed 48 million of their mines. Another beneficial aspect of the Convention is that it propagates humanitarian behaviour. Not only have has Poland accomplished this amazing feat, but from December 2016 to June 2017, free self-defense classes are being taught to women. The classes will be taught by instructors at 30 different military facilities. This will not only teach women how to protect themselves, but it will allow them to grow in self-confidence.



Starting in January of this year, the Scottish government has decided to send out baby boxes to expectant mothers. These boxes will include necessities like clothing for all seasons, teething toys, picture books, medicinal supplies and blankets. It will even most likely be lined with a mattress that can be used in the baby's first crib. This will enhance the possibility of a healthy child and encourage mothers to take better care of their children.

Also, this last topic cannot be ignored. Just this previous November, three cows trapped on a small ledge of grass due to landslides resulting from the New Zealand earthquake, were finally rescued! After all, who could not be happy about that this piece of news?

But in all seriousness, taking the time to discover and appreciate the positive news in the world is important for anyone's mental health and morale in general. Yes, there are many significant issues continuing to happen in our world. But, are the positive counterparts not just as important? It is vital to not only focus on the negative and depressing news, but also the very significant, positive news. These stories about great human acts are not worthless simply because there are many negative things occurring in the world. It is for this very reason that positive actions must be treasured. It demonstrates the ability we have as humans to make a difference.



Similarly to this, in Afghanistan, young girls from the ages of 13 to 20 are learning Chinese martial arts to help them fight against discrimination in their daily lives. Sure this act of learning martial arts may not save them from all attacks made against them, but it is definitely a step in a positive direction. They are not letting fear control them, and will continue to gain more respect and assertiveness.

Book Review

Book Series Review: Ranger's Apprentice Series

When I read the first book of this series, I thought the beginning was boring, so I put it down and did not pick it up for a long time. I tried again because people were telling me how good the series is and so I decided that I should give it another try. They were right. The Ranger's Apprentice series by John Flanagan is filled with action, fantasy, and suspense and takes place in the Kingdom of Araluen.

The series is about an orphan named Will who becomes the apprentice of Ranger Halt, a well known Ranger. People in the Kingdom of Araluen see rangers as people to avoid, because they are "a secretive arcane group shrouded in mystery and uncertainty." This uncertainty is what makes the people fear the Rangers. However this perception is not accurate. Rangers or King's Rangers are warriors and peacemakers who work for the king of Araluen to prevent wars from happening and maintaining peace. They wear a strange mottled gray green cloak that helps them camouflage with their surroundings making them nearly invisible to anyone who looks their way. Their main weapon is a longbow, from which they can shoot arrows at rapid speed. They almost always shoot on target which makes Rangers quite deadly towards their enemies. Rangers would not be Rangers without their horses. The horses are small, but very well-trained and smart. Unless a Ranger whispers a password to a horse, the horse will not let anyone mount it. This makes it very difficult for these horses to be stolen. Both Ranger and the horse have special signals and signs for various things such as, if the horse senses an intruder or a friend approaching.

The books go on to tell of Will's many dangerous action-filled adventures accompanied by his mentor Ranger Halt and his best friend Horace who is a knight apprentice. Their adventures take them from Araluen to places across the seas such as Skandia, Toscana, and Nihon-Ja.

The entire series consists of twelve books, all of which are as exciting and interesting as the first. They are *The Ruins of Gorlan*, *The Burning Bridge*, *The Icebound Land*, *Battle of Skandia*, *The Sorcerer of the North*, *The Siege of Macindaw*, *The Kings of Clonmel*, *Halt's Peril*, *The Emperor of Nihon-Ja*, *The Lost Stories*, and *The Royal Ranger*. Other than this series, the author John Flanagan has expanded this world by writing *The Brotherband Chronicles* series, and *Ranger's Apprentice: The Early Years*.

I enjoyed the series so much that I reread it several times, because it really captured my attention. This series is a must read for anyone who loves the genre of fantasy!



By: Isabel Padolina

Creative Writing

It's a "Love-Hate" Relationship

It snowed a lot today,
But the sun still shone with its bright rays.
A snow day was pleaded for
And the snowplows' engines, like distressed lions,
roared.

The perfect day for tobogganing
And for packing and throwing, while it continued
snowing.
The wind snapped crisply,
As the children, and others at heart, catapulted snow-
balls fiercely.

Back home, many drank a sweet treat
While others kept warm with socks on their feet.
Loved ones tardily returned,
And were greeted with poutine garnished with cheese
curds.

Those with glasses wiped their lenses
While Frost was happy to finally be put to work again.
And he had brought the cold,
Fortunately, hot chocolate was being sold.

Not all welcomed the snow with joy.
With a winding commute and slippery roads to "enjoy",
Along with a chilling frostiness,
And the heavy effects of thick, morning grogginess.

This made it difficult for some to smile,
As people shovelled their driveways, heaping snow in
a pile.
Or as some chipped off ice from their windshields,
With anger so mighty that it was unconcealed.

Even walking was a challenge.
In addition to finding food in the pantry to salvage.
Hopefully the home's heating works
Or else the icy bite would lurk.

An odd amount of people did not care less.
They said, "I would rather just stay inside and play
chess."
Or perhaps they were just too lazy,
Arguing that going outside would just be crazy.

The snow rapidly vacated
From the impressive heat that the sun radiated.
The snow puddled like ice cream,
But all knew that too soon, snow would no longer be a
dream.

It would shortly snow again
Dropping down to negative ten.
But outside would still be fun
Even if it was not in the scorching sun.

Is Trump a New Hitler?

“Mass chaos - the world is ending!”
“We have a modern Hitler on our hands.” “Everyone run for your lives!” These and other extreme words are being uttered daily around the United States. Ok, let’s take a step back here. Usually people have one of two views on the topic of Donald Trump. It is either: “We are all going to die!” or “Calm down!” So let’s take a look at both of these viewpoints.



Comparing Donald Trump and Adolf Hitler may seem like an extreme, but that has actually been happening. And there are definitely some similarities that could be pointed out, at least by looking at things on the surface. Hitler ordered mass deportation and death of millions of European Jews, due to his extreme anti-semitic feelings. He used his hatred of the Jews to blame them for Germany’s post World War I domestic problems. One striking similarity between Donald Trump and Adolf Hitler, that is really getting people thinking, is the familiarity in the rhetoric they both have used.

One of Hitler’s promises was to “make Germany great again.” Sound familiar? Everyone has heard Donald Trump declaring loud and clear to the Americans that he will “make America great again.” Trump used this slogan throughout his entire campaign. Even now that he has been elected, he is seemingly doing things that he feels are for the betterment of the United States, but are they?



Many living in the U.S. believe that the president of the United States is promoting racism. This is because he has blamed, and continues to blame, immigrants and Muslims for many problems that America is facing. Trump has also recently tried to put mass deportation into action by ordering sweeps of immigrants to take place across the country. However, after so many protests, the U.S. Supreme Court has repealed this motion. We have yet to see what Trump's reaction will be to this. The course of action he takes in the future may bring to the forefront even more comparisons to Hitler. Hitler was faced with a similar situation Trump is in right now, and his final course of action was to create concentration camps for people he did not believe were "real Germans". Will Donald Trump eventually arrest anyone he personally does not view as a "real American"?



From many viewpoints, things look pretty dire. Yet some people have an entirely different take on Trump's actions. These people, who may not all be Trump supporters, feel it is extremely harsh to be make such serious accusations. Many Americans, along with the media, have been quick to judge the new president and paint the worst possible picture about America's future. It could be right or wrong; only time will tell.



There are many people who actually have some sympathy for Trump. Sadly, on his Inauguration Day, instead of a united country, there were protests in which people were shouting "Trump is the next Hitler". Inauguration Day is supposed to be a special time for American citizens but with people implying Trump might start a killing spree, this made for a very dark ceremony. The same people also argue that protesters are forgetting Trump has a family and has raised what could be considered well-rounded, well-spoken, successful children.

It seems though, currently, everyone has an opinion of sorts about Trump. People are arguing, and everyone appears confused. But now that you know the basics what do you think? Is Trump a new Hitler?



By: Vanessa Marku

Culture

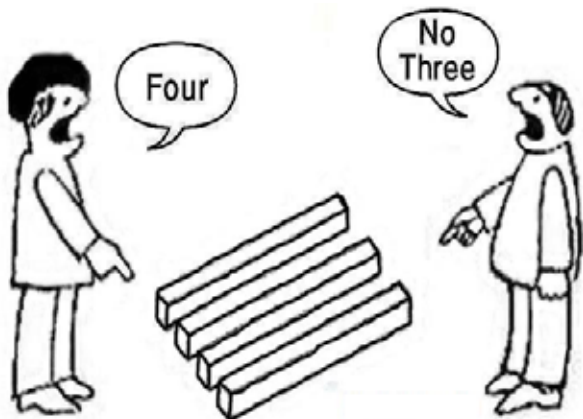
Dialogue with Difference

Am I a particularly politically charged individual? Yes. Do I have relatively strong counter-cultural opinions? Yes. Do I openly discuss these with other people? Not anymore. I think it's very important that I make that point especially clear. There was a time when I shared all of my political opinions and views incessantly, but now I have stopped. There are two reasons for this.

The first reason is quite simple; I have discovered for various reasons, it is not a good idea to share all of my political opinions all of the time. There are certain times when it is actually inappropriate or even offensive. At other times, I have discovered that I have been ill-informed and/or ignorant about a topic. There are also times when I am too emotionally attached to the subject, and realize now that it is imprudent to say anything at all about certain topics, such as when I am identifying myself, too intensely, with a specific ideology. So this explains my next reason for staying uncharacteristically silent, so you my readers, will understand.

It is virtually impossible to coexist in a world of walking-talking ideologies. I will explain this with a simple, silly example. It is relatively well-known that I am pro-life. However, I identify as Guin, a 17-year-old high school student who enjoys writing and public speaking. I do not walk around saying, "Hi, my name is Guin, I am pro-life and think abortion is wrong." I mean, I suppose one could argue this would be an appropriate introduction in a specific environment, such as at a pro-life rally. However, in regards to a general introduction, I would never say that. Now, why would this form of introduction make the coexistence of "walking-talking ideologies" impossible?

It's simple. If someone becomes the opinion that he or she supports, as opposed to there being human beings with opinions that differ, he or she creates enemies and promulgates segregation, and not actionable change. If I want to have a conversation about abortion, for example, as opposed to simply stating my opinion, I will be directly offending a group of people or any individual who might identify with an ideology of the opposite opinion. When someone says, "I am pro-choice," I would never, let me stress never, hold that against someone. That statement would not make that person an "enemy". I would want to be that person's friend. I do not think it is impossible for me to love that person and have a deep, meaningful relationship with them. If we all took these types of statements personally, it would limit peace in our society and promote unnecessary tension.



However, despite this being my reaction to an ideologically opposite opinion to the one I have, many people do have a different take on this type of situation. It is not uncommon in some of my social circles that I say nothing, about anything. This is not because I have nothing to say, but because I am afraid to speak. I am afraid that I will lose these people as my friends. I am afraid that I will be alienated from this circle, because those surrounding me identify with an opinion opposite to the one I call my own. I am afraid that these people will respect me less. I am afraid to perhaps be labeled as a bigot, a homophobe, a “hater”, or as ignorant, uneducated or many other negative descriptions. People have become too personally attached to their opinions; it has completely made dialoguing with difference impossible. It has made peaceful co-existence between the left, right, centrist positions, and sometimes even HUMANITY, impossible.

Despite this article coming from a conservative viewpoint, I do not think this issue is specific to any side of the political spectrum. Even among those who share my conservative values, I will sometimes say nothing, because they more often than not will leave a conversation upset, as a consequence of something taken too personally. Why bother talking to someone if they will just get super angry at me? Fundamentally, what I feel our Western World is lacking is tolerance. Tolerance is a respect towards another person, despite a difference in opinion. Right now, we live in a world where the immediate reaction to a difference of opinion is to degrade those who don't share our beliefs. A perfect example is the recent American election. The Republicans have offended and belittled the Democrats to no end, and vice versa. When I have commented on this, I have heard the response, “That's politics honey.” Is it really? Is that really all politics in Western society has come to? Mutual offence?



“I will of course yield to whomever agrees with me.”

We will never be able to make any kind of change if we cannot get along. If countries legislate difference of opinion with labels such as “hate crime” and “intolerance”, and opposite opinions cannot co-exist, why bother saying anything at all? I'm slowly building up a thicker skin, and am myself practicing this tolerance more and more, thanks to incredible role models, who inspire me to speak up. In short, please think before you react to what others say, before you make an opinionated statement, before you label anyone as anything in particular. Disagreement is inevitable and healthy; what we need to change is how we react to that disagreement. I believe the only way to change the reaction is to learn to respect other people and their opinions, and disconnect that from who they are, as fellow humans. Let's dialogue with difference.



Canadian

Five Fascinating Facts about Canada

This year Canada will be celebrating its 150th Anniversary on July 1st. Many people may think of Canada as a somewhat boring, peace-loving country but there is more to Canada than you might think! Here are 5 fascinating facts about Canada:

1. Churchill Residents Leave their Car Doors Unlocked in Case of Polar Bear Attacks

Canada is known for its large population of polar bears, being home to almost 60% of the worldwide population of this species. Some people from outside of Canada even think that Canadians have polar bears in their backyards! Churchill, Manitoba is known as “Polar Bear Capital” of the world. Aware of the dangers, citizens tend to leave their car doors unlocked so that in case of a polar bear attack, other fellow citizens can find protection and shelter when needed.



Robert Nilsson

2. The World's First UFO Landing Pad was Created in Alberta

In 1967, the town of St. Paul, Alberta proposed the building of the first UFO Landing Pad. Following its completion, the Canadian government declared St. Paul as the Centennial Capital of Canada. It was built before Neil Armstrong walked on the moon or the first rover landed on Mars. Due to the large interest in space exploration at the time, especially space travel and extraterrestrial life, this landmark was created. To this day, many people still visit this landmark; it is planning special celebrations for its 50th anniversary this year.



3. World Championship Bathtub Races in Nanaimo, British Columbia

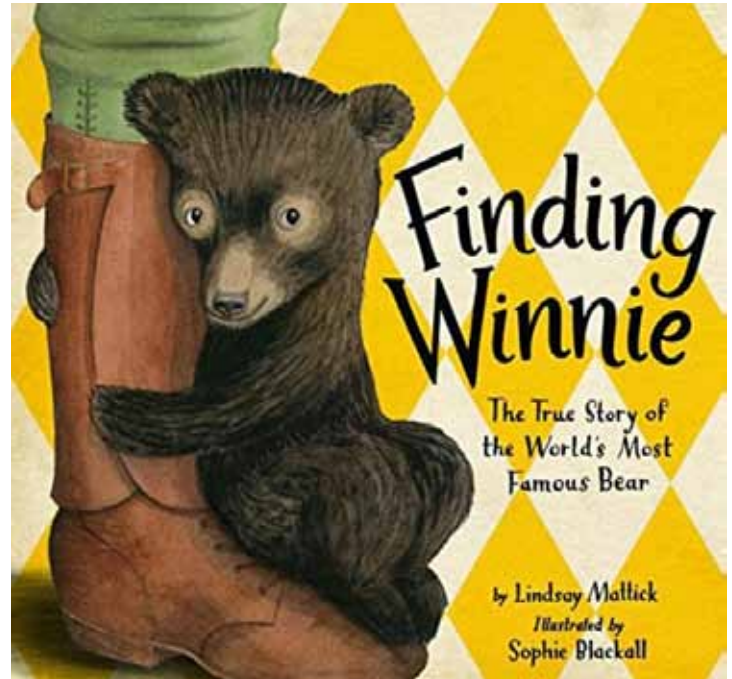
On Canada's 100th Birthday, Nanaimo harbour held its first bathtub race. Initially, it was difficult to just pass the starting line, but this race is now recognized as an annual International World Championship event. A variety of tubbers, the participants who race in the bathtubs, come together in unique, handmade bathtub-watercrafts to compete. Many spectators enjoy these races and enjoy these races, as well as the Nanaimo Marine Festival that happens at the same time.



Content

4. Winnie the Pooh was a Canadian Bear.

Winnipeg, a black bear cub from White River, Ontario, was orphaned as a cub. Harry Colebourn, a Canadian veterinarian and soldier with the Royal Canadian Army, cared for the bear, as it joined him in his regiments and became the pet of all the soldiers. He named the bear Winnipeg after his hometown, which eventually became Winnie for short. The bear needed a new home as it grew and was soon sent to the London Zoo. Colebourn visited the bear whenever he could, seeing its popularity among the crowds of visitors. One of these was A.A. Milne and his son Christopher Robin Milne. Milne was inspired by the connection between his son and the bear, thus writing his collection of stories about Winnie the Pooh.



5. The Canadian Loch Ness Monster: Ogoopogo



Canada is known for its infinite number of lakes, being home to more of these bodies of water than the sum off all the other lakes in the world combined. Okanagan Lake is one of many Canadian lakes found in British Columbia. While Scottish waters are famous for the Loch Ness monster, Okanagan Lake has the notorious Ogoopogo. According to legend, this monster is supposedly a reincarnation of a bloodthirsty killer. Some say it is green, black, gray or brown. Some say it has the head of a sheep, horse, seal, alligator or snake. Some say it has ears and horns. The most consistent description is that it has multiple humps and is dark in colour. Although there is not enough to prove its existence, sightings of Ogoopogo are still a common occurrence.

By: Paula Lauro

Bill 28 Opinion Piece

We live in a society that treats children as a commodity; that being parents is an inherent right to every couple who wants to have a child. To accommodate this “right”, we have bent over backwards to allow for every possible parenting scenario, and this has led to very complicated, messy, and immoral situations. There are children who have been “created” with the sperm and egg of a couple and then implanted into a surrogate; there are gay couples, one of whom has given their sperm or egg and had the missing half provided by a donor; and countless other situations that have much of the world questioning just who a specific child’s parents actually are. Bill 28, or the “All Families are Equal Act” was passed this past November. The effect of this bill is, in part, to essentially remove all mention of “mother” and “father” from Ontario law, to be replaced by “parent” or “birth parent”. This bill was initially proposed to appease the LGBTQ(XYZ) community, because both partners in a gay relationship wanted to be recognized as the official parent of a child whom they intended to raise.



It’s interesting how people in today’s society want to believe only things that can be scientifically proven, and yet can choose to ignore certain biologically, inescapable truths. A child can have exactly two biological parents, and by the nature of their genetic makeup, one of those parents must be a man, and the other must be a woman. No matter what light this is presented in, no matter how one chooses to interpret gender, self-identity, or sexual orientation, the cold, hard fact is that even if a homosexual couple chooses to have a child whom they both love very, very much, they cannot both be that child’s biological parent. It simply does not work that way. This is the science that people are choosing to ignore, allowing their emotions to overcome fact.



Bill 28 says that in a same-sex couple, a partner with no blood ties to the child can automatically become that child's parent, and that the sperm or egg donor is not necessarily considered to be the parent. This makes no sense. A birth certificate normally states the biological mother and father of the child, because, as it has already been pointed out, like it or not, both of those are needed in order for the child to exist. It is necessary for legal purposes, and for the child to know who they are and where they come from. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, a parent is "a person who has begotten or borne offspring; a father or a mother". Let's look at the definition insofar as it relates to Bill 28. Basically, the sperm or egg donor (aka the biological father or mother, because you need both sperm and egg to create a child—shocker!) is automatically no longer deemed the parent of the child conceived. But if that's the case, then what is he or she? This biological parent fits the definition as provided by the dictionary. A child has to have a biological father and mother, and this person cannot be the other partner in a homosexual relationship.



And what about the child? Children have a right to know who their parents are because it is a huge part of their individual identities. Scholarly articles, such as those published by University of Texas professor Mark Regnerus, show that children raised by same-sex couples suffer from things such as "lower educational attainment" and that they "report less safety and security in their family of origin, report more ongoing 'negative impact' from their family of origin, and are more likely to suffer from depression." Studies that claim to debunk the myth of same-sex couples having a negative social impact on the children they raise, such as one from the University of Melbourne, lack credibility because the sample sizes were too small, and did not have a control group. It has been shown that studies of this type may not be an accurate representation of the family situation. Removing the terms "mother" and "father" from Ontario law redefines what a family is. It is, in short, a non-sensical way to be entirely politically correct, and will simply end in confused legalities. It could also have a negative social impact on the wellbeing of those members of the families involved.



By: Jessica Taylor

Student Life

Serving the Less Fortunate

On January 26th, the grade eights and nines ventured downtown for a long-awaited service project to St. Francis Table. First we watched a short video about the mission of St. Francis Table. Once finished, we went to help cook and organize food for the visitors; some peeled potatoes, some spread butter on bread, while others chopped vegetables for soup. After we had completed prepping for the arrival of the customers, we were assigned jobs such as servers, bussers, scrapers, and dishwashers, as well as other miscellaneous tasks. After the one-hour window for service had been completed, the grade eights and nines ate, then helped to clear off the tables and clean the kitchen. Overall, it was a warming experience and taught everyone abundantly about charity towards others.



By: Annika Fu

Good Shepherd

On January 26th, the grade elevens and twelves transited downtown to volunteer at Good Shepherd Ministries, a shelter where homeless men can get a full meal and a warm, clean bed for the night. The majority of the time was spent sorting through donated food and separating it into different bins for specific foods (who knew there was such a big difference between regular canned corn and creamed canned corn?) In addition, two smaller groups split off to assist with folding laundry and making beds, respectively. Afterwards everyone walked to Nathan Philips Square, where a fun afternoon was spent skating and exploring the area.



By: Jessica Taylor

St. Josemaria Day

St. Josemaria Day is an annual event celebrating St. Josemaria and the special role he plays in our school. To celebrate, the Upper School had lunch with our little sisters, enjoying their company, while watching a video about St. Josemaria's life. After, we did activities such as obstacle courses, revolving around work of the home, including table setting and bed making. These activities brought together the Upper and Lower school students, and showed the unity and cooperation between housemates, regardless of their ages. It was especially cute to see the effort the kindergarten students put in as they demonstrated their house spirit.



By Paula Lauro

Volleyball

I Promise To
To not blame others
To not blame ourselves
Focus on the next point
Never waste a mistake
Enjoy myself
Listen to the coach
Always try my best
Always stay focused
Go for every ball
Attend every practice
Play each game like it is our last
Never forget the meaning of the word team
Communicate

Congratulations to all on a great season!



By: Jane Zuchelkowski



**21-22
April**

**FA
SH
IO
N**

SAVE THE DATE

**FOR THE HAWTHORN FASHION SHOW
INVITE FRIENDS AND FAMILY**

PosterMyWall.com

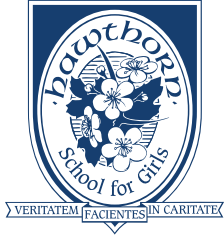
**Are you looking for service hours?
Would you like to make our school a
more beautiful and pleasant place?**

Join Ms. Francis in painting the school!

**When: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of the
second week of March Break from 9:30am to 3:00pm**

- **Equipment will be provided**
- **You will learn the techniques involved**
- **You can earn service hours**
- **You will be making Hawthorn a more beautiful school for everyone**
- **Wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty!**





VERITAS

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