

Running school, *Building Bonds*

By: Nayla Takieddine, Kelly Wills, and Jaime Orent

Administrators were seen walking around the commons during lunch, mingling with students, and working hard in their offices. Creating a close relationship with students was the key.

"It is nice to be able to talk to the administrators. I felt like they really listened when I spoke to them and didn't just brush me off," said **Kim Standen, 12**.

There were many changes in the way that the building was run. Instead of the usual four assistant principals, there were only three, and so changes were made regarding how students were divided among the principals. Normally each principal had their own grade level, but, under the new system, he was only in charge of a certain portion of the alphabet. A student's last name determined the principal under which they fell.

On any given day, the administrators could be found meeting with college representatives, helping with faculty-development programs, observing teachers, and disciplining students.

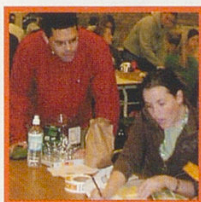
"It was a lot to handle, but it made every day more exciting," said **Mr. Kenji Matsudo**, principal.

MR. ANTONIO SHELTON, ASSISTANT principal, eats pizza with **Robert Peters, 12**, **Ryan James, 12**, and **Alexander Kapcar, 12**. Getting to know students was an important part of an administrator's job. Forging strong bonds transformed the principals from merely authority figures to mentors and friends.



I felt really comfortable talking to the administrators. I really felt like they cared.

-**Anna Habib, 10**



speaking with
Mr. Kenji Matsudo

- q:** What changes have you made as the new principal?
- a:** We have done a lot of little changes around the building. For example, senior late arrival.
- q:** What is your favorite part of being an administrator?
- a:** Developing relationships with students, staff, and parents.
- q:** Why is it important to you to develop a close relationship with your students?
- a:** It is extremely important to me. That is the foundation.



MRS. JUDY LENIHAN, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, WORKS DILIGENTLY TO make sure that everything in the daily bulletin is in order. **Lenihan** was in charge of all the secretarial work as well as making sure everything and everyone in the office stays in order and on task. Very often the voice heard over the PA system between bells was hers.