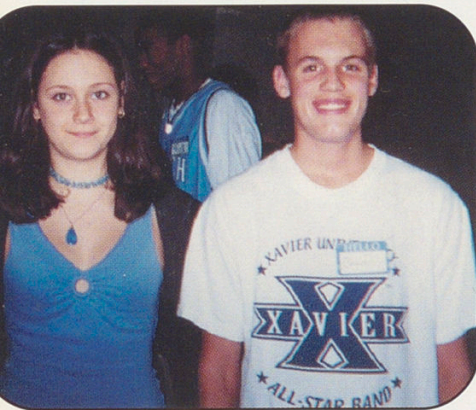


# PROBLEM SOLVERS

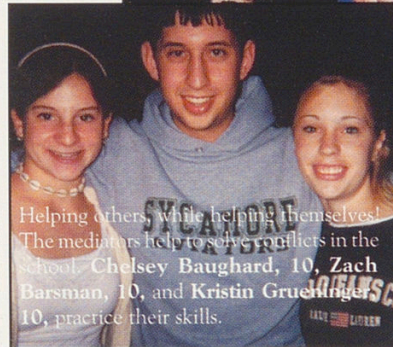


"Peer Mediation is like a rock, strong, solid and dependable,"  
`Brian Murphy, 11

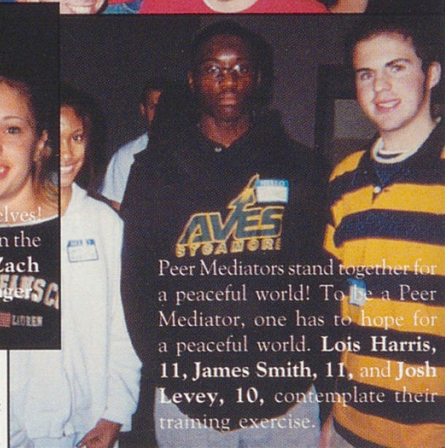
When problems arose there was always someone to turn to with the Peer Mediation process. The peer mediation program has been helping students solve conflicts for eight years. The process is peaceful and was a huge success for leading people to a passive solution.

Students who were arguing or threatening each other could seek peer mediation to solve their problem. The disputants met with two mediators. Each person explained their side of the story. The Peer Mediators then asked questions for clarification. The disputants brainstorm for possible solutions, the mediators guide the students but did not give advice. The disputants come up with their own solution that both parties could agree to and stick to. The agreement was written down and the disputants and mediators signed the agreement form. The

Trained to help! Kate Walther, 12, Suzanne Wight, 11, Michael Oshita, 11, Nick Weber, 12, and Brad Bartels, 11, mediate at a leadership conference.



Helping others, while helping themselves! The mediators help to solve conflicts in the school. Chelsey Baughard, 10, Zach Barsman, 10, and Kristin Grueninger, 10, practice their skills.



Peer Mediators stand together for a peaceful world! To be a Peer Mediator, one has to hope for a peaceful world. Lois Harris, 11, James Smith, 11, and Josh Levey, 10, contemplate their training exercise.

process was completed after the evaluations were filled out and a follow up was scheduled.

The Peer Mediators are students at the high school, mostly juniors and seniors, that are trained in guiding and problem solving. The mediators are not judges and remain neutral the whole process. The mediators are sworn to remain confidential. There are no adults involved.

"Peer Mediation was a great way to get to know people and be involved in the school," said Hinna Ahmad, 11.

By Laura Eastes

# FUN FILLED EXPRESSION



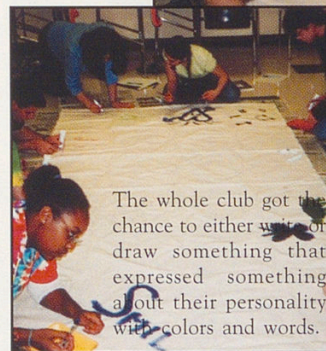
"Writing is about will, perseverance and strength,"  
`Ayla Rapoport, 11

**Creative Writing Club** is dedicated to help young teenage writers find their own unique inner voice in writing. Founded by two juniors, **Anne Barngrover, 11**, and **Ayla Rapoport, 11**, and advised by Mr. Breen Reardon, the club has had an opportunity to experience new ideas and possibilities within its diverse range of members. Throughout its short time in existence since February, it has had a variety of meetings in which personal expression was truly honored and treasured with the members.

"Writers of the world unite," said **Christine Troy 11**.

Writing in a club atmosphere was a lot different than writing in a classroom. Club members actually learned that writing can be fun in a relaxed and creative environment.

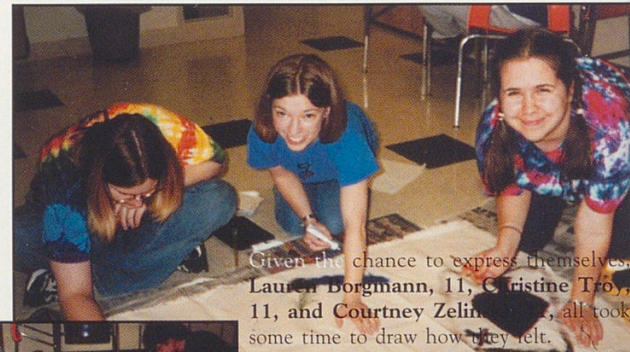
"You don't know how much fun it is to scribble with a piece of lead on a compressed tree pulp," said **Lauren**



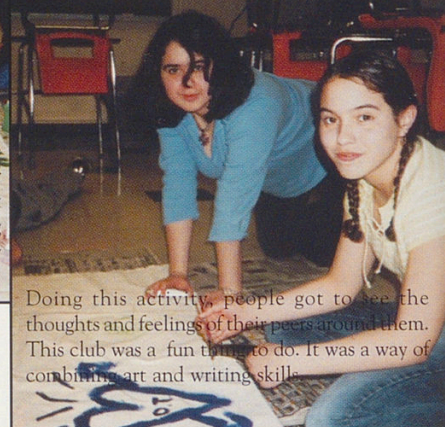
The whole club got the chance to either write or draw something that expressed something about their personality with colors and words.

**Borgmann, 11**.

Members of the creative writing club were consistently engaged in soul enriching along with light-hearted activities. They once decorated a canvas with words to show different perspectives within the club, but also how



Given the chance to express themselves, Lauren Borgmann, 11, Christine Troy, 11, and Courtney Zelin, 11, all took some time to draw how they felt.



Doing this activity, people got to see the thoughts and feelings of their peers around them. This club was a fun thing to do. It was a way of combining art and writing skills.

they were intertwined within one great artistic canvas. In another meeting they each created stories based on looking at a painting. Who knew writing could be so much fun!

By Ayla Rapoport