

# The 56th Street Journal

Veritas Preparatory Academy's Monthly Student Newspaper Volume 1, Issue 5  
March 2018

## Teacher of the Month: Mr. Jeff Dick

By: Lauren Bruner

Mr. Dick has been teaching high school and middle school art at Veritas since the creation of the school in 2002. For years he has been instructing students on the ins and outs of paint, charcoal, scratch board, and oil pastels.

He motivates students every day to uncover artistic skill they never thought they had. The proof of his influence lines the halls of Veritas in the form of a display of student masterpieces.

When asked about why he became a teacher he responded that in college he had a mentor in painting that changed his outlook and he wanted to have the same affect on other students. At the time he was on track to become an architect or graphic designer, but the influence of his college professor inspired him to pursue a career in teaching.

His favorite part of teaching is being a part of a community of academic thinkers. Although he admits it is sometimes a challenge to manage students of different skill levels and guide them all in the right direction, he likes that as an art teacher he has the opportunity to lead by example; like teaching painting, his preferred medium of art, because he enjoys educating students about color.

**Favorite Word:** eleventeen- used frequently by his two children

**Least Favorite Word:** emphasis

**Books on your nightstand:** *Winesburg, Ohio* by Sherwood Anderson

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Join Mr. Dick on April 4th for the annual  
**Veritas Prep Art Walk!**

Come to  
celebrate  
the  
artwork  
created  
by fellow  
students



Enjoy artwork  
and musical  
performances!

Want to have your art on display? Submit any  
pieces from art class or from the Summer Painting  
Studio in Room 106, 108 ASAP

### High School Golf Profile: Nina Sarmiento

By: Jamie Greene

Fore!

When most of us think about golf, this expression and the image of an out of control golf ball arises. However, upon further exploration into the sport of golf, a new image of hard work, dedication, and hours of practice replaces this idea.

Nina Sarmiento is a member of the Veritas Varsity Golf team and has played the sport on and off for over five years. She embodies the ideal of team spirit, stating her favorite part of playing golf for Veritas was the camaraderie that results from being on a small team.

She continues, describing the growth of not only herself but her teammates as well as being one of the most rewarding aspects of golf. However, the team's success is not wrought by the players alone, and Sarmiento credits the support of their coach for the improvement.

Practice begins with short game - practicing putting, pitching, and chipping. From there, they practice further shots, similar to driving, and ultimately move on to playing holes.

When asked about the most challenging aspect of golf, Sarmiento spoke about the difficulty in adapting to different courses and "finding harmony with the opposing team." As golf is played in pairs, members of the Veritas team play every hole alongside an opposing team member during matches. Nina discussed how it can be a challenge to play with the opposing team, as both individuals want to win and beat the other, but still must remain civil and respectful.

Undoubtedly, a burden necessarily emerges when attempting to balance school work and a sport. When asked how she manages to play golf and maintain excellent grades, Sarmiento spoke about how she was fortunate that golf has required practices only twice a week and tournaments usually scheduled for the same day as practice. However she did note that in order to

cement her coach's improvements, practice outside of the team is essential.

Ultimately, managing school and golf becomes easier over time, despite initially posing a challenge. Outside of golf, Sarmiento enjoys reading about art history, photography, and practicing yoga. Although it can be a struggle to practice golf and keep up with schoolwork and other activities, Sarmiento's love for the sport overcomes any challenge it poses.



**FORE!**

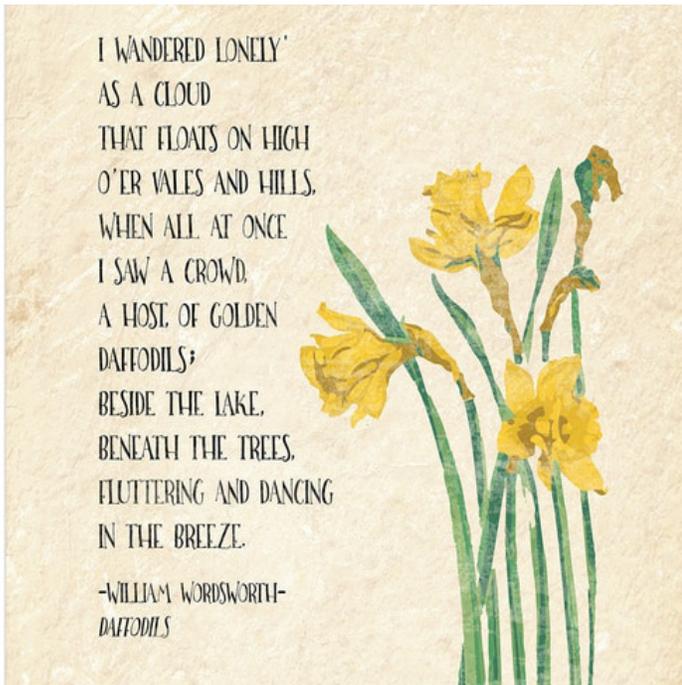
*The other members of the Varsity Golf Team from top to bottom: Cabot Fowler (junior), Logan Garr (junior), and Lexie Sullivan (freshman).*



*Pictures submitted by Nina Sarmiento*

**Spring Break Survey**

By: Katie O'Connor



Although Spring Break has passed, we set out before we were released on break to discover the Spring Break plans or traditions of fellow Veritas students.

We asked these questions to a variety of middle and high school students and here are their responses:

**Skiing or Snowboarding?**

- 45% answered Skiing
- 18% answered Snowboarding
- 37% answered Neither

**Beach or Mountains?**

- 27% answered Beach
- 64% answered Mountains
- 9% answered Neither

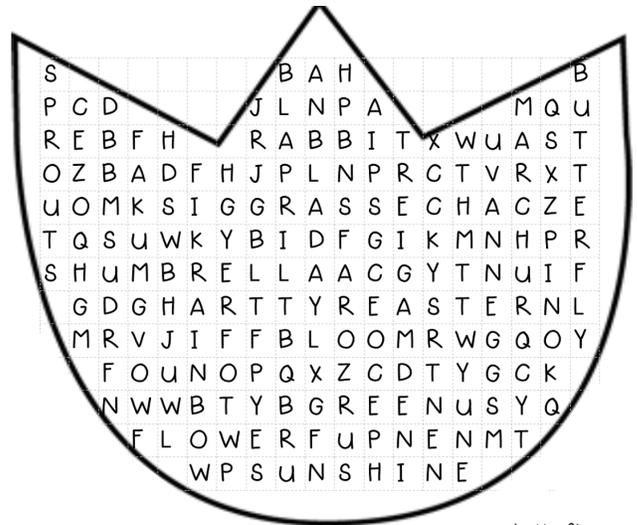
**Are you traveling over Spring Break?**

- 73% answered Yes
- 27% answered No

**What is the best part of Spring Break?**

- 55% answered Sleeping In
- 27% answered Nice Weather
- 18% answered Going on Vacation

Enjoy this coloring page and word search to bring a spring to your step or brighten someone else's day!



- |         |          |        |           |
|---------|----------|--------|-----------|
| green   | April    | rabbit | butterfly |
| March   | Easter   | flower | sprout    |
| grow    | sunshine | bloom  | umbrella  |
| rainbow | basket   | eggs   | hatch     |
|         |          |        | grass     |



**UPCOMING SENIOR THESIS DEFENSES**  
**Come support the seniors!**

<b>Monday March 26</b>	<b>Tuesday March 27</b>	<b>Wed March 28</b>	<b>Thursday March 29</b>	<b>Friday March 30</b>
Tolentino	Power	Hosack	Bautista	No School
Shanks	Hall	Taylor, W	Nelson	
<b>Monday April 2</b>	<b>Tuesday April 3</b>	<b>Wed April 4</b>	<b>Thursday April 5</b>	<b>Friday April 6</b>
Lewis	Marino	Skikos	Gonzalez	Taylor, N
Knoell	Culbetson	Coulter	Lentz	Huseinovic
<b>Monday April 9</b>	<b>Tuesday April 10</b>	<b>Wed April 11</b>	<b>Thursday April 12</b>	<b>Friday April 13</b>
Hamann	Sharko	Gilligan	Recato	Kukuksadic
Burch	Norman	Wright	Brown	Martinez

For the complete list of defenses, check out the bulletin board by the senior commons or on the Veritas website

**Want to be a part of  
The 56th Street Journal?**



If any high schoolers are interested email us at [56thstreetjournal@gmail.com](mailto:56thstreetjournal@gmail.com) to find out more information on our meeting schedule and story assignments