

**The origins of our school colors**

*As told by Associate Director of Publications and Copywriting Wendy Robinson. In her words:*

“From its beginning in 1951 until fall of 1969, ASL’s colors had been primarily red and white, occasionally with a smattering of blue. In 1969, the school was located at the Working Men’s College on Crowndale Road NW1. In late October-early November of that year, it was the end of the soccer season, and basketball was about to become the focal sport at ASL.

Athletics Director at the time Eddie Hufford, who served at ASL from 1967 to 2003, had been diligent in ordering new basketball uniforms for the boys in good time. The package had arrived and was sitting in his office, awaiting the start of the season. Eddie’s office was located below ground level in the basement of the building, next to the gym. No one knows how it started, but a fire broke out in Eddie’s office a couple of days before the first basketball match of the season. The nylon uniforms didn’t stand a chance.

With only a short time to go before the kit was needed for the boys opening game, and not enough time to reorder, Eddie and Bob [Former PE teacher Bob Carter] set off in search of new uniforms in local Camden Town. They found a sports shop on the main street, but the only color scheme available in the numbers required was black and orange. Eddie had to buy them, and the rest as they say is history.

As the uniforms wore out in the old color scheme, new kits were purchased in the new duo of orange and black. And in those days, founding Headmaster Stephen Eckard, who was in charge of ASL from 1951 to 1971, and Business Manager Peter Waller, who was at ASL for the same time period, were at the helm and keen to lend financial support.

It’s also rumored that Stephen Eckard was enthusiastic about the new color scheme because he had graduated from Princeton, whose colors were and remain orange and black. If this is true, I guess we’ll never know.

Bob recalls that in the mid 1980s, there was a referendum under Head of School Jack Harrison, who served the school after Eckard from 1971 to 1986, about whether or not the school should change its colors. It transpired that having been black and orange for a decade and a half, students and staff alike were happy to retain the scheme. What’s more, in the late ‘60s and ‘70s, most teams were sporting a combination of red, white and/or blue, so the new pairing made ASL somewhat unique.”

# School colors encourage spirit, **div/ide** community

**Zoe Karibian / Reporter**

Community members are familiar with the accents of color around the campus, however, when it comes to the school’s signature black and orange palette, the opinions of the High School are split.

**School colors**

Danny Joseph (‘26) said school colors often help others associate a school with its academic achievement and talents, ultimately instilling pride among students.

In regards to the school’s colors, Assistant Principal Natalie Jaworski said she is fond of the striking black and orange.

“I like that the colors are really distinctive,” Jaworski said. “I’m glad they are not red, white and blue because many American schools have those colors.”

Similarly, Bia Caseiras (‘26) said she values the colors because they are bold and “can’t be missed.”

“The colors are very representative of the school,” Caseiras said. “The orange is very bright and eye-catching, so it stands out on posters, uniforms, basically everything.”

Caseiras also said the colors are associated with the school’s mascot, the bald eagle.

Alternatively, Erika Novak (‘23) said the school’s colors “do not necessarily reflect the school,” as they are symbolic colors of other popular holidays.

“They always remind me of Halloween,” Novak said. “The way the school looks does not necessarily reflect the colors.”

Nonetheless, Director of Student Life James Perry said the orange is “unique to ASL” and has always been close to his heart.

“I went to a college whose school colors were orange and blue, so I have always had an affinity with the color orange,” Perry said.

Furthermore, World Language and Cultures Teacher Annie Yousey said she is neutral toward the colors and is curious to learn about their origins.

“I like that the school colors are different,” Yousey said. “Some schools have one school color, which seems more bland. However, I’ve never known why the school colors are black and orange, so I would love to find out.”

**Spirit**

In his nine years at the

school, Perry said he has learned to adapt to the colors and enjoys the freedom to dress casually on spirit days.

“I have just enough black and orange clothes now to dress up on spirit days,” Perry said. “I like that I can feel a little more casual with jeans and tennis shoes.”

Joseph said he also has multiple options for clothing to wear on Spirit Days.

“I wear my signature orange clothes if I’m doing anything out of the norm on Spirit Day,” Joseph said. “For example, I might wear my ASL sport shirt to school because it has orange trimming. It’s nice to loosen up a little on those days.”

Conversely, Serdar Sokolov (‘24) said it is difficult to dress on spirit days as he does not have any comfortable orange clothes.

“I usually don’t wear orange on spirit days because I would rather dress in my usual comfy clothes,” Sokolov said. “I also don’t like that color scheme.”

Furthermore, Arthur Sadrian (‘23) said his wardrobe is not confined solely to the required colors on spirit days, especially since the colors are not widespread.

“It’s hard to dress up in orange on spirit days because orange isn’t generally a very stylish color,” Sadrian said.

**Sportswear**

Rohan Schonfeld (‘26), a member of junior varsity swim team, said he is discontent with the orange and black uniforms his team wears for athletics.

“In swim training, we wear these neon orange shirts,” Schonfeld said. “I don’t really enjoy wearing them, and I wish the color was a little more soothing.”

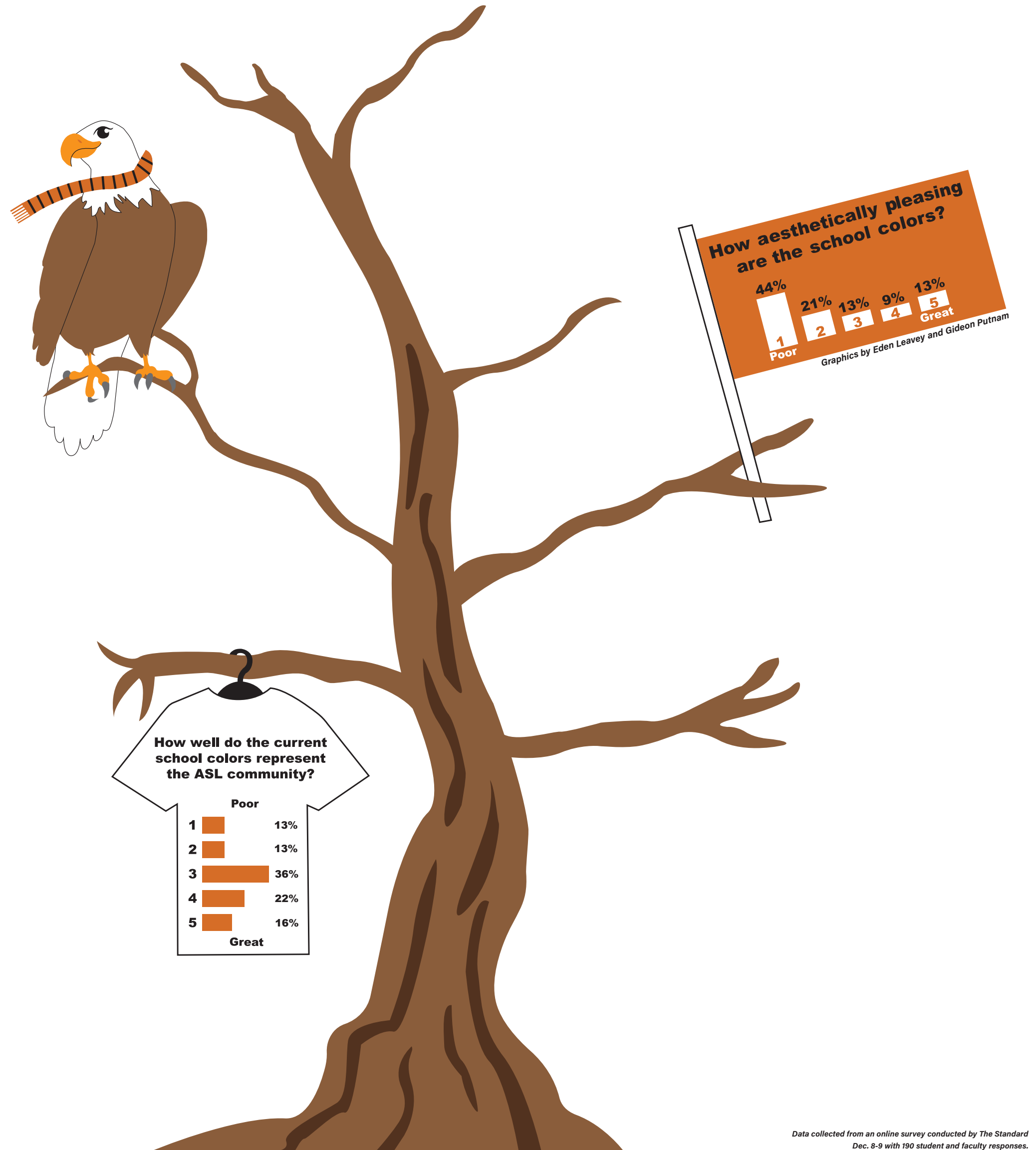
Moreover, Yuval Francis (‘26), a member of the development crew team, said her uniform could be altered to make the team look more professional.

“If the uniforms were all-black it would be more serious,” Francis said. “It’s just the orange that throws everyone off.”

Meanwhile, Sadrian, who is captain of varsity cross country, said the orange and black colors can be beneficial at sporting events because they are unique and “not overdone,” thus attracting attention.

Ultimately, Joseph said students should celebrate the colors as they allow the community to take pride in the collective connection to the school.

“No matter whether you like the colors or not, they represent something about our school,” Joseph said. “You should be proud of that.”



Head of School Coreen Hester addresses the community in celebration of the 71st Founder’s Day April 21. Black and orange ASL flags were distributed to the community. *Photo by Eden Leavey*



The varsity girls’ volleyball team celebrate after winning a point against Hillingdon Oct. 17. Both of the team’s uniform sets highlight orange, one of the school colors. *Photo by Ashlyn Tate*