

# FIGHTING FOR FEMINISM

Women speak out on women's health care and organizations

By joining feminist organizations, doing work in the community, and vocalizing the need for safe birth control, she was hoping to make an impact on anyone who would listen.

**Nina Klein, 12**, has always been a feminist. As a young woman, her mother always made sure that Klein knew her worth and place in the world.

"She always taught me that the equality between men and women needed to be pounded in my belief," Klein said. "I need to be an independent, strong woman."

Inspired by the recent overturning of Roe v Wade, Klein realized she wanted to speak up about contraceptives and their impact on women.

"I'm doing [my senior project] on why birth control should be provided over-the-counter," Klein said. "What [we should] do to prevent... unwanted pregnancies from happening is providing more over-the-counter birth control."

Putting aside personal beliefs, Klein made sure to address all sides of the issue and formed her argument without bias. Highlighting all different political standpoints, she wasn't afraid to raise attention regarding birth control.

"[I wanted to] spread more awareness because obviously pro-life and pro-choice are not going to [see] eye to eye," Klein said. "It's just not the time [for]... a divide right now. So if we wanna make a solution, we need to take the proper steps."

However, Klein knew that she could not just make a change by only doing a school presentation on this topic. So, she took the initiative to join a women led organization, Women Empowered. Focusing on supporting women and doing good works throughout the community, Klein found herself as a leader among other like minded women.

"Ever since I joined [Women Empowered]... [I have felt] so much more confident in myself," Klein said. "Their goal is to make [their

members] feel like they are a goddess [and it's] the best feeling ever."

Becoming closer through the organization, Klein connected with returning member **Caolinn McDaniel, 11**, and was instantly accepted. McDaniel has done numerous things since joining WE and has been able to make an impact locally.

"I love empowering women and helping in the community," McDaniel said.

Sharing similar ideals to Klein, McDaniel felt inclined to share the importance of accessible healthcare for all.

"Everyone should have free access to birth control and abortions," McDaniel said. "I believe that it's healthcare and everyone should be accessible to everyone."

Caolinn followed in the footsteps of her older sister, **Katie McDaniel, grad**, who has always been passionate for women's rights and turned this passion into becoming a past leader for Women Empowered. However, after Katie left the organization due to her move to college, there was a spot to fill and Klein was the person to fill it.

"We grew up in the same neighborhood... [and have known each other] probably since elementary school," Katie said. "I remember her being a very passionate young woman from a young age—somebody who cares deeply about those around her and seeks to help change the world for the better."

Confident in herself and her work, Klein is unafraid of the backlash she faces at times for being a feminist and responds with dignity.

"When people say feminism, some people are like, 'Oh she's a feminist'... [but] it's about raising women up and making sure that they feel like they matter," Klein said. "Do not ever give them the power of standing up to you. Do not ever give them the power of trying to make you feel less."

Story by **Jordan Davis**  
Designer **Elise Gierhart**

**"SHE ALWAYS TAUGHT ME THAT THE EQUALITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN NEEDED TO BE POUNDED IN MY BELIEF."**

## CONFIDENT CROWD

Young women represent the meaning of feminism on a personal level

"For me, feminism means giving girls the equal opportunity to use their voice and to feel powerful."

**Bella Antonelli, 12**

"Feminism to me means the supporting of women however they want to live and express themselves."

**Katie Tancred, 12**



"Feminism means that I have the ability to do whatever I want and be who I want to be."

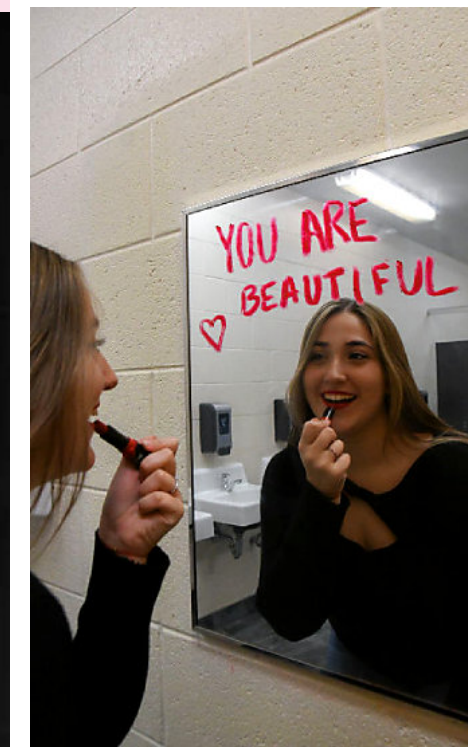
**Lauren Wong, 12**

"To me, feminism means supporting other women and loving myself as a woman."

**Shayla Key, 10**



**BETTER TOGETHER:** **Lydia Watts, 12**, stands tall in her beliefs of equal rights for women, "I believe that women now are realizing if we all come together and speak our truth and just stand up for what is right and who we are, that no one can stop us," Watts said; photo by b. schwinne



**SELF POSITIVITY:** (left) Applying lipstick, **Juliana Vaccaro, 12**, shares words of affirmation. "To be a feminist is all women supporting each other in a group and finding inner beauty and self love. It's spreading the message that everyone is beautiful in their own way," Vaccaro said; photo by l. daniher

**PINK, WHITE, AND BLUE:** (below) JROTC group commander, **Ali Pace, 12**, aspires to be a role model for women and girls. "So while the military is a very heavily male-dominated environment, [Wando's] unit has had many girls be the group commander and I think it's a privilege that we have so many strong female leaders that can be that role model for other girls in ROTC and beyond," Pace said; photo by i. zinone



"I'm a feminist. I've been a female for a long time now. It'd be stupid not to be on my own side." - Maya Angelou



**STANDING FOR SUPPORT:** (above) **Nina Klein, 12**, has a favorite quote by civil rights activist Maya Angelou regarding what it means to be a feminist. "As a feminist, you're supporting yourself and supporting people around you and Maya Angelou is just amazing so when I read this I thought, 'Wow that is the truth because you've got to stand up for yourself'," Klein said; photo by g. mortellaro