

The Bee Problem

Over the past 50 years, there has been a serious decline in the number of honeybee colonies. The lack of bee colonies is greatly affecting the variety and health of crops. Many people don't realize that one out of three mouthfuls of food in our diet is made possible by bees. There are many factors that affect the bee population in a negative way. The first and arguably one of the most important factors are pesticides, which are chemicals which are designed to kill insects. There has been a major loss of habitats for bees as rural areas become urban after construction. All the weeds and flowers are taken off the land. Changes in weather patterns (such as unusually warm winters) have also caused plants to bloom and die earlier. When bees come out of hibernation, many plants that they feed on have already died. Lastly, disease remains as a remaining factor. Since bees are already weakened from pesticides, they're more vulnerable to diseases. "I think we should plant more gardens and flowers that bees tend to pollinate," says Mr. Galitsky, a teacher at the Upper School. When asked about how we can preserve bees, Ms. Jungblut said, "The most important thing is understanding which plants are the best pollinators. We need to focus on those plants. Another thing we need to learn is how to properly relocate hives."

There's still a chance to help save the bees! Some ways we can help protect our bees are by banning harmful pesticides, preserving wild bee habitats, and supporting our local beekeepers and organizations!

