



Photo by Renee Jiang/The Choate News

After 40 years at Choate, Ms. Madeline Perkins is retiring from the Deans' Office. See Page 2.

## Choate Robotics Partners with Professional Hockey Team

By Alexis Lien '23  
Reporter

In December, the second-ranked team in the Atlantic Division of the American Hockey League (AHL), the Hartford Wolf Pack, reached out to Choate Robotics to propose a sponsorship.

The Wolf Pack game, which will take place on Sunday, March 1, will raise funds for Choate's robotics team, the Wired Boars. In the spring, the team will compete in competitions hosted by the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science (FIRST) Robotics company. Tickets are on sale in the dining hall for \$25, and if the Choate Robotics Team sells 100 tickets, Lilith, one of Choate's a capella groups will perform during the mid-game free period.

The sponsorship process began after Wolf Pack player Nick Girouard approached the Wired Boars, starting with an in-person meeting about Wolf Pack's offer, which includes an opportunity to showcase the team's robots in the atrium.

By drawing a large crowd to the game, the robotics team hopes to increase publicity for both itself and the Wolf Pack.

Jamie Shin '20, member of the Wired Boars and the Advanced Robotics Concentration and a co-president of Lilith, said, "The success of this event would help us propel and plan future collaborations with other sports teams, which would definitely be amazing."

Wired Boars Co-Captain Nate Krauss '20 said, "I [think] it [is] a cool opportunity for Choate students to see something outside of the Choate community, to have them see a hockey game not between Choate and Deerfield but one of the best teams in the American Hockey League."

The sponsorship was partly driven by the need for fundraising, which is critical to the success of Choate's robotics team. Krauss explained that one possible use of the money from the promotion of the game is to cover the travel costs of competitions. Col-

laborating with the Wolf Pack will enable the Wired Boars to buy sufficient materials for robot-building as well. "Every year we push our budget to the max to pay for the expenses of the robot, and those expenses tend to pile up pretty quickly," said Krauss.

Although the sponsorship was offered late in the hockey season, the relationship between the Choate Robotics Team and the Hartford Wolf Pack is one that both teams hope to maintain in the future.

"I'm hopeful for what is to come for whoever comes after me and see if they can build a stronger relationship with the Wolf Pack and make an even larger event," said Krauss.

Member of the Wired Boars Max Zhang '22 looks forward to promoting the team: "I think it is good to raise awareness for the club. People might enjoy a good hockey game, but they also get to learn about Choate Robotics."

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## CHOATE TAKES PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AGAINST CORONAVIRUS

By JeeHwan Kim '21  
and Linda Phan '22  
Associate Editor  
and Reporter

On January 28, Medical Director Dr. Miriam Cohen alerted members of the Choate community to the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak during School Meeting. The COVID-19 belongs to a group of coronaviruses whose symptoms are similar to those of a regular cold. "Once in a while, a virus in this family can cause more serious illnesses and can be transmitted from person to person: COVID-19 is one of these viruses," said Dr. Cohen.

"Healthy people generally get a cold," said Dr. Joseph Vinetz, an infectious disease specialist and clinical instructor at the Yale School of Medicine, "However, those with relatively weaker immune systems, such as the elderly, infants, and patients suffering from respiratory illnesses, are more likely to develop vulnerable to severe symptoms, such as bronchitis and pneumonia."

Capturing the media's attention in 2020, COVID-19 originated in the city of Wuhan, China, in the Hubei province in December before spreading to more than 20 countries and affecting some 30,000 people. With a death toll that has surpassed 1100, a number greater than that of the deadly 2003 Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), 72 countries, including the United States, have implemented new safety measures in airports and other entryways.

Because of the intensity of COVID-19 in China and the U.S. State Department's Level-4 "Do Not Travel" advisory, Choate's

spring term abroad trip to China was officially cancelled on January 29. Ms. Carol Chen-Lin, co-director of the term abroad program in China, recalled that discussions about cancelling the trip began on January 24 among teachers, students, and parents. "We talked to our co-director in Beijing and gathered information from the World Health Organization as well as the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Dr. Cohen was part of the discussion too," said Ms. Chen-Lin.

Conor Brown '22, one of the students planning to study in China this spring, said, "Initially, I was really sad — we had planned out so much, and it all went down the drain. It's definitely appropriate, though. China is being quarantined by pretty much every major airline, and the U.S. government is being pretty clear that it's a massive risk to go there."

Although students who have been accepted into the program cannot go to China this year, they will have the option of going next year. "The students are very disappointed," said Ms. Chen-Lin. "However, change is always part of our lives, and we need to be able to handle plan B. I think some of the students will seriously consider going next year. However, some of them are juniors already, so next year they will most likely prefer to stay during senior spring. Meanwhile, some of the rising juniors may have other choices," she added.

In order to gain a better understanding of the situation in China, Ms. Chen-Lin and one of her classes talked via video conference with a prospective host

See CORONAVIRUS, Page 2

## AUTHOR MARIA SEMPLE '82 ANNOUNCED AS COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



Photo courtesy of The Stranger

Ms. Semple's novel *Where'd You Go, Bernadette* was adapted into a movie starring Cate Blanchett.

By JeeHwan Kim '21  
Associate Editor

On Tuesday, February 11th, Head of School Dr. Alex Curtis announced that this year's Choate Rosemary Hall Alumni Award winner and Commencement speaker will be author Ms. Maria Semple '82.

Ms. Semple is the author of international bestseller *Where'd You Go, Bernadette*. The book has been praised in more than a dozen year-end best books lists and received the Alex Award from the American Library Association in 2013. The book was adapted into a film that was released in August, 2019. Ms. Semple also wrote *Today Will Be Different*, published in 2016, which also became an international bestseller and was reviewed on the cover of the *New*

*York Times Book Review*. The novel is currently being adapted for television by HBO. Julia Roberts plans to star in her first-ever TV series through this show.

Dr. Curtis made the announcement to the sixth-form class after School Meeting. In recent years, commencement speakers have included former NASA astronaut Catherine Coleman, Olympic Hockey Player Hilary Knight '07, and Hollywood Film Producer Lorenzo di Bonaventura '76.

After graduating from Choate Rosemary Hall, Ms. Semple attended Barnard College, where she majored in English. She then moved to Los Angeles, where she wrote for screenplays and TV shows, including *90210* and *Arrested Development*. In 2008, she moved to Seattle and wrote

*Where'd You Go, Bernadette*.

The narrator of the book, 15-year-old Bee Branch, is a Choate student who is sent to the School early after her mother, Bernadette, mysteriously disappears. She is later expelled from Choate.

In a tradition that began last year, the Commencement speaker has also been the recipient of the Choate Rosemary Hall Alumni Award. Initial recommendations for award recipients made by the Alumni Relations office are passed to a small group of administrators who make the final decision. Ms. Semple has agreed to come since last fall, but the announcement was made only recently after ensuring her availability.

"The speaker was very thrilled to do it," said Dr. Curtis. "Especially before we had an alumni

do it, it was a lot of work to get a speaker because they didn't understand the importance of it and they didn't know Choate."

He continued, "It seemed particularly the right time because of all the work she's done recently. I think a lot of our students will either have read [*Where'd You Go, Bernadette*] or seen the movie."

Inviting a graduate of the School, Dr. Curtis explained, allows students to see at least one of the many possibilities that await them after Choate. He said, "We hope that the alumni speakers will together form a group of people who will be of interest and add inspiration in some way."

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**College Student at 66**  
Author Joyce Maynard picks up where she left off at Yale.  
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**Lonely Hearts Club**  
Join the 113th's masthead's search for love on Valentine's Day.  
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The production of Shakespeare's comedy, adapted to the 1920s, opened last night.  
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## Choate Ethics Bowl Wins Big at Regionals

By **Joy Bang '22**  
Reporter

On Saturday, January 25, Choate's Ethics Bowl team won first place out of the 13 teams participating in the Connecticut Regional High School Ethics Bowl at Yale University.

The Ethics Bowl team began rigorously preparing for this tournament at the start of the school year. The cabinet initially worked with less experienced members to teach them ethical frameworks and theories, outline the competition procedures, and hold general discussions of ethical cases from the official National High School Ethics Bowl (NHSEB) case set. These cases are presented to teams during regional competitions. Toward the end of fall term, the cabinet members finalized the two competing teams, the Jets and the Sharks, through an in-house tournament. In the winter term, the newly formed teams devoted an average of ten hours each week to working with specific cases, polishing structuring and speaking skills, and undergoing practice rounds.

In an ethics bowl competition, teams are presented with cases entailing complex ethical dilemmas around which they build their arguments. Ethics Bowl differs from the traditional style of debate competition in the sense that competing teams do not have to stand on the opposite sides of the issue but rather advocate for whatever argument they believe in. Demonstration of the ability to defend the team's stance with thoughtful reasoning and respect toward all participants determines the winning team.

At Yale, all teams participated in five rounds before the two finalists were determined through their tournament re-



Photo courtesy of Ms. Amy Foster

With a regional win, Choate Ethics Bowl takes one step closer to Nationals.

cord. The Jets, formed by Will Greve '20, Anya Mikovsky '20, Tyler Neri '21, Carmen O'Conner '21, and Isabella Grau '22, entered the finals undefeated. For the finals, the case that the team was given dealt with the ethical dilemma of donating to the reconstruction of Paris's Notre Dame Cathedral after its destruction from fire last year while overlooking the needs of people in warstruck or impoverished areas. The essence of the case challenged the members to define the value of art, history, and culture. The team argued that although these elements allow human beings to live a fulfilled life, the basic needs of humans must be addressed before rebuilding Notre Dame.

The hard work of Ethics Bowl's members indeed paid

off on the day of the tournament as they won in the end by a slim but clear margin of two votes in favor and one vote as a tie. Isabella Grau '22, one of the newest members of the team, said, "My first experience with an Ethics Bowl was amazing. The first round I got to go [to] was most memorable, and winning the competition made my experience even more exciting."

The journey of the Ethics Bowl team continues as it begins to prepare for a virtual competition against The Lincoln School in Rhode Island. Members of the team aim to continue growing their skills. "I am looking forward to gaining more experience and improving my public speaking skills," said Grau. The winning team of this competition will

qualify to compete in Nationals, which will be held at the University of North Carolina — Chapel Hill in April.

Ethics Bowl Vice President Neri said, "I am looking forward to the upcoming competition. It is exciting because it is a new team we have not yet faced. It is also exciting compared to other competitions because the winner of the competition will be determined in just one round, while most competitions offer a chance to recover even if we lose one round."

Ethics Bowl is in the midst of reviewing feedback and comments from this past tournament in preparation for this pivotal upcoming competition.

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## After 40 Years at Choate, Ms. Madeline Perkins Retires

By **Claire Yuan '21**  
Associate Editor

On January 31, Ms. Madeline Perkins retired from Choate after dedicating 40 years to the School. Throughout her career, Ms. Perkins has taken on various roles in the Choate community: she started as a part-time interior designer, worked with the Choate Icahn Scholars Program, and spent her last years on campus as the Third Form Deans' Assistant. No matter the job, one thing remained consistent: Ms. Perkins's love and dedication to the community.

"I hope that I have helped Choate students navigate their way through this wonderful School in a positive, nurturing way," Ms. Perkins said. "I've always felt more [like a] mother than [an] assistant, giving hugs and encouragement along their journey."

As Dean of Students Mr. Michael Velez '00 said at School Meeting on January 28, "While Ms. Perkins's roles at Choate changed over the years, what always mattered to her most were her family and you — the students, faculty, and staff who made up this community for the past four decades."

Mr. Velez first met and grew close with Ms. Perkins in the fall of 2005 in Memorial House, the old location of the third form deans' offices. "Particularly last year when I was serving as one of the third form deans, [we would have] a lot of casual conversations, talking about things other than our jobs. I think in a lot of ways, Choate was an extended family for her, and I think she applied the same care to her responsibilities at Choate as she did to her family."

Mr. John Ford, who worked closely with Ms. Perkins when he was a Third Form Dean, agreed that Ms. Perkins took great care in her work. "She just did everything so neatly — she dotted every 'i' and crossed every 't'. She was

just so thorough with everything and saw every detail," he said. "She was terrific to work with. We just made a good team."

Third Form Dean Ms. Emily Osterhout said, "In the short time that I worked with Ms. Perkins, it was obvious through her stories and experiences here — everything that she's seen and all the people she's met — that people see her as a kind heart, really and truly caring for other people. I think she invested herself in others' lives, and they became her family. She was always such a huge help to me, being new in the deans' office. I'm going to miss that."

Ms. Fran O'Donoghue recalled of her own time working with Ms. Perkins: "She was always very nice, happy, and friendly. She never seemed to have a bad thing to say about anything or anyone, and she was always very professional whether we were dealing with a tough situation or something where we didn't really know how it would turn out. She always had a positive attitude towards it, and she always knew if we worked together, we could solve any problem."

Going into her retirement, Ms. Perkins plans to travel with her family, spending time at her house by the shore and on her boat: "As far as transitioning goes, I am so looking forward to spending more time with my grandchildren Kaya, London, and Camden; children Carrie, Derrick, and Timothy; and husband Perk. A cruise awaits us all on the horizon!"

"I shall miss Choate greatly — that's a given," Ms. Perkins said. "I've made so many friends here and have met so many special people, students, faculty, and parents alike. I've loved my time here."

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## Novel Coronavirus Compels Choate To Take Action

Continued from Page 1

family in Beijing on Friday, February 7. "We talked about how their lives are right now, in what way [the coronavirus] changed their lifestyle. They seemed to be very peaceful and calm, which is good. We ended our conversation by reciting a poem together, called 'Yellow Crane Tower,'" said Ms. Chen-Lin. "We read lots of online material, but it's good to have a family who's right in front of you."

The host family is looking forward to receiving students in 2021. "Although we were able to ask questions that helped us understand how the virus has affected their lifestyle, it was also clear that this family was very well-off and therefore could afford services like hiring cleaning staff, paying for delivered groceries, and not worrying about the missed time at work," said Stephanie Su '21, a student who was present for the call. Unfortunately, many other families are not so lucky.

The cancellation of Choate's term abroad trip to China is just one example of the safety measures taken by numerous institutions around the world. Yale University took a similar approach in late January when a high school student from China fell ill during the Yale Model United Nations Conference (YMUNC).

When YMUN announced the sudden cancellation of the scheduled events early Sunday morning, 1,800 high school students from more than 40 different countries had to depart from their assigned hotels while remaining unaware of the situation. Lucas Eggers '21, one of Choate's delegation leaders, said, "I tried to stay focused

Sunday morning, but everything seemed to be potentially dangerous, even the hotel's continental breakfast offerings."

The lack of any official announcements left many students confused. Gaby Nirmal '23, another Choate delegate present at YMUNC, said, "Yale should have clarified the cancellation immediately. Social media only added to the hysteria, adding more rumors with no evidence." Hours later, the campus informed advisers and students of the reason behind the sudden decision — a delegate from China was hospitalized with the flu and was undergoing tests for the COVID-19. Yale released a statement saying, "Yale regrets that the participating MUN students will not be able to complete their conference's program, we feel it to be in the best interest of those students and of the Yale community to take this precaution."

Although most students understood the safety measures taken, many felt the abrupt end to the conference could have been handled more appropriately. "Yes, we were coming from twenty minutes away," said Nirmal, "but others were coming from as far as parts of Asia." As students left Yale's campus, the Chinese student was released from the hospital but remained in isolation until the test results returned. Not far away in Middletown, Conn., a Wesleyan University student was also under speculation of having contracted COVID-19. Both students tested negative for the coronavirus.

At an all-School meeting last Friday, Laura Jiang '21, Claire Yuan '21, and Jayden Khuu '21 announced a joint fundraiser by Chinese Club and Choate Public Health to raise money for criti-

cal supplies for medical frontline workers in Wuhan, China. Khuu summarized the issue's role on campus: "For Choate, I think this is a pivotal issue to support as there is a sizable Chinese population on campus, whose families and friends at home are vulnerable to COVID-19. The community's support does not only help the medical workers at risk, but also shows Chinese students that the community cares and they are not alone."

The organization Chinese Students in North America reached out to Jiang about their Fight for Wuhan movement after noticing a forum that she and her friends from other boarding schools were running about high school experiences in America. After confirming the legitimacy of the organization, Jiang and Khuu began a sub-fundraiser on their platform. The fundraising process is entirely transparent; all receipts, messages between coordinators and hospitals, and daily fundraising catalogs are published so that people can trace how the money is used in Wuhan hospitals.

Although the coronavirus is in the international spotlight, Dr. Cohen directed the Choate community's attention to the flu: "Right now in the U.S., our greatest risk [of] infection is from influenza." According to the CDC, there have been 15 to 21 million cases of the flu in the United States since October 1, 2019 and well over 8,000 deaths. Dr. Cohen said, "Please visit the health center if you are sick, especially if you have a fever."

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Graphic by Chandler Littleford / The Choate News

Choate's spring term abroad program to China was cancelled due to coronavirus.



# A 66-YEAR-OLD LOOKS BACK ON LIFE

By **Bianca Rosen '21**  
Associate Editor

Plenty of college students take time off from school. But few can match the nearly 50 years that Ms. Joyce Maynard, now a 66-year-old sophomore at Yale, took between her first and second years in college.

A renowned American novelist and journalist, Ms. Maynard began her career writing first for *Seventeen* magazine and eventually the *New York Times*, contributing personal essays and feature articles while living in New York, New Hampshire, and California.

But it is her essay titled “An 18-Year-Old Looks Back On Life,” published in the *New York Times Magazine* in the spring of 1972, for which Ms. Maynard remains best known. (“As some people prepare for their old age, so I prepare for my 20’s,” she writes with a jaundiced eye.) The essay caught the attention of author J.D. Salinger, himself famously disillusioned, who wrote Ms. Maynard one letter and then another. Ms. Maynard wrote him back, and what started as a mail correspondence evolved into an affair. The relationship lasted only about a year, but the experience of dropping out of Yale to live with a celebrated writer and fabled recluse came to define Ms. Maynard’s career.

Today, Ms. Maynard has returned to New Haven, re-enrolling in the Ivy League university she left nearly five decades ago, taking classes and learning to live as she might have had her life taken a different course.

“I probably will never get a degree,” she said recently. “But I will learn.”

Ms. Maynard’s singular journey began in the small town of Durham, New Hampshire, where she grew up carrying the weight of her parents’ expectations. Her mother had earned a Ph.D. in English from Radcliffe College, but, as Ms. Maynard explained, sexism and anti-Semitism precluded her from securing a job.

“She did what a lot of women in that generation did — put their hopes on their daughters,” Ms. Maynard said. “I became very ambitious for her. I wanted my mother to know success through me.” Throughout high school, Ms. Maynard submitted her work to Scholastic writing competitions and came to write regularly for *Seventeen*.

In 1970, Ms. Maynard left her local public school and entered Phillips Exeter Academy as a senior and a member of the institution’s first crop of female students. (“Here someone else was the newspaper editor, the year-book boss, the actor, the writer. I was the girl,” she writes in “An Eighteen-Year-Old Looks Back.”)

A year later, when she began her freshman year at Yale, Ms. Maynard spent much of her time



Photo courtesy of Jim Barringer

After a 48-year-long hiatus, writer Joyce Maynard returned to Yale this past fall for her sophomore year.

alone. She ate meals in her dormitory. She woke up every day at the crack of dawn to write to her family. She felt definitively disconnected from her classmates. (“The idea is not to care,” she writes in the essay. “I feel it most of all on Saturday morning, when the sun is shining and the crocuses are about to bloom and, walking through the corridors of my dorm, I see there isn’t anyone awake.”)

Ms. Maynard may have been outwardly reticent at Yale, but she was learning to be bold in her prose. While at Yale, she regularly took the bus from New Haven to New York to meet with the editors of *Seventeen*. At one point, she suggested a piece on the Miss Teenage America Pageant. *Seventeen* liked the idea but wanted her to write from the perspective of having participated in the contest itself. Ms. Maynard had no inclination to be a competitor, so she called the head of the pageant in Fort Worth, Texas, and asked to be a judge.

“I flew to Fort Worth and wore my evening gown, as the judges did,” Ms. Maynard said. “I got to judge all these girls who were my age, but a different kind of girl from me — the girls that I kind of envied in high school — and I wrote my piece.” When Ms. Maynard later read the published article in *Seventeen*, she discovered that editors had removed her distinctive tone and wit.

Ms. Maynard mailed the filed version of the article to the editor of the *New York Times Magazine*, with a letter asking if she could write for the publication. She soon received her first assignment: write about what it’s like to be an 18-year-old in America. When “An 18-Year-Old Looks Back On Life” — a funny, clear-eyed, and stunningly precocious essay — was published on April 23, 1972, it changed her life.

“It’s hard for someone in this era to imagine what the impact of

a magazine article in 1972 was,” Ms. Maynard said. “There was no internet, and there was no social media. Everybody saw just a handful of things, and the *New York Times* was one of them. I got hundreds of letters and all the kinds of offers that my mother would have wanted for herself or for me, and that I wanted. But there was this one letter that was totally different. It wasn’t that it was written by J.D. Salinger that moved me. It was just the voice in that letter that seemed to know me in a way nobody had.”

Salinger and Ms. Maynard began to correspond regularly. At the end of her freshman year, Ms. Maynard met him in person. She soon left her summer job at the *New York Times* and withdrew from Yale to move in with Salinger. “I left the world,” Ms. Maynard said. “I didn’t think about how he’s 53, and I’m 18. I just thought ‘Oh, I’m at home now.’” She added, “I really did believe that I would be with him forever.”

Almost a year after they had been living together, Salinger abruptly asked her to clear her things and leave. “If some man said some of the things Salinger had said to me now, I would think much less of the man.” But, as a teenager, Ms. Maynard said, “you think less of yourself.”

In the following decades, Ms. Maynard moved around, married twice, had a family, and kept publishing (including a 1976 piece in the *New York Times* on the recent merger of The Choate School and Rosemary Hall). She rarely spoke about her affair with Salinger. But when her daughter turned eighteen, in 1996, Ms. Maynard felt compelled to break her silence. In 1998, she published a memoir, *At Home in the World*, which discussed the relationship. Literary critics pilloried Ms. Maynard for exposing Salinger’s idolized life. One publica-

tion called the book a “tawdry, boudoir confession.”

“I did not anticipate that it would be such an outcry against me,” Ms. Maynard said. “It was a moment when I had to really reassess who I was. I had always been a very good girl, and I cared a lot about pleasing and accepting. I followed Salinger’s rules, but I broke them when I was 42 years old. I told this story, and I was not a good girl anymore.”

She went on, “I could either adopt their — the *New York Times*’s and the critics’ of just about every newspaper in the country — view of me, or say, ‘Well, I’m not going to take my definition of who I am from them,’ which is what I chose to do.”

Because of the criticism surrounding the book’s publication, the memoir failed to gain significant traction in the literary world. Years later, Ms. Maynard was surprised to find that Ms. Anne Fadiman, a nonfiction writer and Yale professor, was teaching *At Home in the World* in her writing workshop. Ms. Maynard wrote to Fadiman and offered to visit the class as a guest speaker.

In 2015, Ms Maynard began visiting New Haven once a year from her home in California. As Ms. Maynard recalled, “When I came back to New Haven, Anne, who is exactly my age, said ‘You have unfinished business at Yale,’ and I just laughed. ‘Me, go to college now? At this age? I’m still paying off my kids’ college, so I didn’t think I’d ever do that.’”

Her perspective changed, however, when her husband died of cancer, in 2016. “Suddenly, I thought, well, ‘Who am I now?’ So, I decided to apply to Yale,” Ms. Maynard said.

Ms. Maynard, now in her second year as a Yale undergraduate, is still doing things differently than the typical Yale student. For one, she is not taking a full course

load and is auditing many of her classes. She is able to sidestep the anxiety of grade-point averages and grad-school applications. But she listens attentively to lectures, takes notes, and completes the readings.

“When young people at Yale, specifically women, ask me why I left, I will give them the short answer: I left for love,” Ms. Maynard said. “I might as well say that I left because I got the measles.” The Yale that Ms. Maynard attends in 2020 is worlds away from the Yale she attended in the 1970s. She is not only struck by how much students now depend on their devices — during lectures, in the dining hall, on the walkways — but also by a seismic shift in their attitude toward love. “When I was at school in the 70s, it was a very romantic and passionate time,” Ms. Maynard said. “You never see that on this campus anymore.”

Ms. Maynard has also had to learn to become more collaborative at Yale. She has long been accustomed to working on her own. But when a play she wrote was recently chosen for a campus arts festival, she essentially turned the production over to her director. “I didn’t even go to the rehearsals,” she said. “I let go of it, and it was huge for me. A lot of this experience is about letting go.”

Ms. Maynard grew up quickly and publicly. Before she had graduated from high school, she was publishing in magazines and seemed destined for literary stardom. Today, as an undergraduate, Ms. Maynard is finally having the college experience she missed, immersing herself in interesting classes, going to club meetings, acting in a play. She’s also using this time to focus on herself and on personal projects. Eventually, she said, she will write all about it.

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## Community Calendar

**FEB. 14, 2:00 p.m.**

**St. Valentine's Day Tea**  
*Enjoy an afternoon of Valentine's Day tea, treats, and trivia.*

Bristol Public Library  
Free admission; no registration required; \$29 car ride

**FEB. 14, 7:30 p.m.**

**Atlantic Broadband Garde Cinema Series: The Farewell**  
*View a Valentine's Day screening of The Farewell, a comedy-drama following a Chinese family saying goodbye to its terminally-ill grandma*

Garde Arts Center, New London; \$12 admission; \$69 car ride

**FEB. 15, 8:00 a.m.**

**Eagle Watches on the Connecticut River**  
*Trek along the Connecticut River to view North America's largest predator in its natural habitat*

907 Boston Post Rd., Madison  
\$25 admission; must register online; \$35 car ride

**FEB. 15, 10:00 a.m.**

**Stories of Resilience: Encountering Racism**  
*Explore photographs, artifacts, and video testimonies showcasing local residents' experiences and stories related to systemic racism.*

Lyman Allyn Art Museum, New London  
Free admission; no registration required; \$88 car ride

**FEB. 15, 2:00 p.m.**

**Wallingford Writers Community**  
*Learn from local writers at the Wallingford Writers Community's monthly meeting.*

Wallingford Public Library  
Free admission; no registration required

# Local Nonprofits Promote Youth Development

By **Amanda Li '21**  
Associate Editor

Much of today’s youth faces formidable challenges like financial instability, food insecurity, and substance abuse. In Wallingford, a variety of local organizations has worked with the Town Council to create initiatives and programs to prevent unhealthy behavior and provide Wallingford’s youth with opportunities and resources for personal development.

According to the 2018 Five-Year American Community Survey Profile of Wallingford, conducted by the National Census Bureau, around 9% of minors in Wallingford live in families with incomes below the poverty line, and 17% of households receive benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). For these families, putting food on the table

is a regular struggle. “Low household income, access to employment opportunities, and education and training for parents prevent families from being able to meet basic needs,” said Ms. Stephanie Decker, Marketing and Communications Manager of the Connecticut Food Bank.

The Connecticut Food Bank has created initiatives such as the Child Hunger Impact Program (CHIP) and the Grocery on Wheels Program (GROW) to support low-income households with children. “Children who are exposed to hunger and food insecurity are less likely to do well in school and are less likely to graduate high school, and they’re more likely to be low-income as adults,” said Dr. Jaime S. Foster, Chief Programs Officer at the Connecticut Food Bank.

As the Connecticut Food Bank’s website puts it, CHIP “seeks

to ensure children and households have access to a reliable, monthly resource of fresh produce, healthful grains, dairy products, and proteins.” The program uses local pantries, mobile farmers’ markets, or other local programs to deliver resources that are tailored to each neighborhood’s needs.

“We send different foods to different communities, so if there’s a high Latin American population and we know foods like rice and beans will move, we will send those there. If it’s a community where we know frozen proteins don’t move, we won’t send those there,” said Dr. Foster. Many of the pantries set up through this program are located at schools so that parents and students can conveniently access the produce.

GROW also provides families with nutritious food, but it delivers its goods through grocery trucks. In

addition to healthy meals, GROW offers financial and nutritional education. Families participating in GROW may attend a workshop about food nutrition and financial literacy, in which they learn how to save on groceries and build a healthy meal, among other skills. “For this program, we use an evidence-based curriculum taught by nutrition educators,” said Dr. Foster. GROW trucks are partnered with local schools and funded by a grant from Stop & Shop.

Master’s Manna, a Wallingford food bank, also aids low-income families with its Family Dining Center and Master’s Manna Market. The Family Dining Center provides nutritious meals three times a week to anyone who walks in. Master’s Manna Market provides household necessities from school supplies to hygienic products and clothing.

Ulbrich Boys & Girls Club, Wallingford’s branch of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, addresses another crucial issue: academic opportunity. Offering homework help and educational seminars, the staff supports local students by nurturing curiosity and exploration. “Club programs and services promote and enhance the development of boys and girls by instilling a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging and influence. The Ulbrich Boys & Girls Club is a safe place to learn and grow, all while having fun,” the organization’s website states. Around 70 kids participate in the club’s daily programs.

As communities across the country battle an opioid epidemic, organizations like the UBGC are striving to turn teenagers away from substance abuse.

“We create a community of health and support, and we always

advocate against drugs. We’ve hosted a few visitors who inform the students on the dangers of drug use and how to manage stress in healthy ways,” said Alexandra Torres, a student volunteer who has been involved in the organization for ten years. “We’re able to help parents out by keeping the kids here and keeping them safe at an affordable price,” said Torres.

These nonprofits plan to continue expanding their programs to increase the impact of their work. The Connecticut Food Bank recently launched a research institute that will utilize consumer feedback to determine its future agenda and goals, and the Ulbrich Boys & Girls club opened a new branch located in North Haven this past October.

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# Coronavirus Outbreak Highlights Humanity's Best and Worst



Photo courtesy of The New York Times

More than 1,000 people in mainland China have died from the coronavirus. Researchers are working to develop a vaccine, but the process could take years.

By **Jay Zhou '21**  
*Opinions Writer*

Lunar New Year, corresponding to the cycle of the moon, is the most festive holiday of the year in China. The 2020 Lunar New Year will be one of the most memorable holidays for my generation, not because of its festivity but because of the plague that has cast a shadow over the country — the coronavirus.

Although living in a country half a world away largely reduces the concern of getting infected, the outbreak of the disease has still profoundly affected every aspect of my daily life.

In mid-January, though, I didn't yet know how much coronavirus would impact me. There were a few reports about the new virus then; everyone was looking forward to the upcoming Lunar holiday, so few people paid attention to the precautionary tips. It wasn't until January 20 that articles on the new virus started to domi-

nate media and news headlines. I wasn't too concerned about these reports until my mother told me to order some medical face masks for my family because they had sold out in China. A few days later, they were out of stock in the U.S. too. The panic spread rapidly as quarantine zones were put in place and all public transportation from Wuhan, where the disease originated, was stopped. Unfortunately, it was too late, and people who were infected but without symptoms were already across the country.

My city, Shanghai, is a nine-hour drive from Wuhan, and its leaders still responded to the outbreak with utmost urgency. Most of the public facilities have closed, and all the stores, restaurants, and theaters have been shut down. I video chat with my family every day, and they've shared that Shanghai is the quietest they've ever seen it. My grandparents have not gone outside in ten days, and it seems that the entire city is in a slumber.

After the World Health Organization declared the virus a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, many countries around the globe closed their borders and banned Chinese visitors from entering the country. Many airlines also canceled all flights to China until late April. These measures are understandable and necessary to contain the disease. However, in regions without modern and fair media coverage, there have been voices criticizing the Chinese government for being incompetent in dealing with this outbreak. Some more radical views have used this event to empower their Sinophobia. For instance, the *Wall Street Journal* published an article on February 3 headlined "China Is the Real Sick Man of Asia" and *Sydney Daily Telegraph* published another titled, "China Kids Stay Home." The virus is not related to ethnicity, so naming it the "Chinese virus" is discriminatory. No one calls "Vache Folle" the "virus européen" or "virus français." At an urgent time like this, it is critical

to ensure that all humans are on the same side, and that we foster a united global effort in combating the disease.

To be sure, there have been countless heartwarming moments that reflect the innate kindness of humanity. Japan, a country that typically has a tense relationship with China, donated more than a million medical masks. There have also been billboards supporting the global effort in fighting the disease in many countries, as well as movements in Florence, Italy offering hugs to Asian people to soothe anti-Asian sentiment.

Although nations are always in constant economic conflict and warfare against one another, humanity is what always brings people together at a time like this. Building a community with a shared future for humankind is the kind of spirit we all need.

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# Democrats Must Unite to Support Bernie and His Electability

By **Niki Gummadi '21**  
*Associate Editor*

The year so far has been kind to Senator Bernie Sanders and his presidential campaign. With 99% of precincts reporting, the results of the Iowa caucus showed Sanders winning the popular vote in the state despite receiving one fewer delegate than Mayor Pete Buttigieg did. According to the *New York Times*, Sanders is currently leading in New Hampshire and is set to overtake Former Vice President Joe Biden in national polls. If Sanders continues at this rate, he has a great chance of clinching the Democratic nomination, so the Democratic Party must begin rallying around him.

This is not an endorsement of his views or policies but rather of his electability. In his 2016 presidential campaign, Sanders struggled to garner support among communities of color, but he has found a way to remedy this. His campaign staff is much more diverse than it was four years ago, and Sanders has focused more on community outreach in black and Latino communities. A recent CNN poll found that Sanders is beating Biden 30% to 27% among non-white voters, who will account for a third of the electorate. The Democratic Party needs a candidate that appeals to every type of voter and is willing to do the work necessary to do so.

While Sanders's major opponents — Biden, Buttigieg, and Senator Elizabeth Warren — liken their moderateness to electability over Sanders, the electoral track records of these four candidates tell a different story. As a candidate whose only experience running for public office includes a failed campaign for Indiana State Treasurer and the mayoral campaign for the position he currently holds, Buttigieg is untested on the national stage. There is no way to tell how he will stack up against President Donald Trump P'oo in a general election, and that is not a risk the Democratic Party can afford to take.

Sanders, on the other hand, has a long history of winning a variety of elections — including mayoral

and congressional elections. Warren, who has been seen as a more moderate version of Sanders, lacks the ability to win over voters in "Trump country." Warren is not popular in smaller, more rural areas in Massachusetts, the same areas that Trump won in 2016. The Democrats need someone that can take votes away from Trump, and Warren has yet to prove herself as that candidate.

In contrast, Sanders has a historically good record at winning over traditionally conservative areas. His political career began in Vermont at a time when the state had a political environment that was much more conservative than it is now. Even today, Sanders performs well in districts that voted for Trump, which is evident in the results from his 2018 senatorial re-election campaign. Sanders has also proven his electability over Biden, beating him by more than 10% in Iowa, a state that consists largely of working-class white voters — a group that Biden's campaign heavily depends upon.

Not only will Sanders be able to convince Trump supporters to vote blue in 2020, but he will also be able to garner votes from Americans that usually do not turn up at the polls. Sanders is especially attractive to young voters, a group that historically has low voter turnout. If Sanders were the nominee, he would be able to draw youth voters to the polls. In fact, he already has. According to *The Washington Post*, 25% of the people that attended the Iowa caucuses were younger than 30. Forty-eight percent of these voters preferred Bernie over the other Democratic candidates.

Throughout this election cycle, Sanders has been marketed by his opponents as too radical to be electable, but both his record and his campaign have proven this label wrong. If those running for the Democratic nomination truly want to defeat Trump, the best way for them to do so is to back Sanders.

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# A REFLECTION ON TRUMP'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

By **Sabahat Rahman '21**  
*Opinions Writer*

What I took away from President Trump's State of the Union speech:

**1. I'm often too quick to criticize President Donald Trump's P'oo abilities as a president.** I think there's undoubtedly a lot to criticize when we're looking at the president's character. The things he says and the things he does are, in the best of times, questionable. At the worst, they're abhorrent. Although President Trump may lack presidential demeanor, he has had some positive impact on the United States (how much positive impact he has had is another question). For instance, his State of the Union address was full of statistics, which, no matter the party you support, indicate that the economy has been strong during his presidency. Take this statement from the speech: "The unemployment rate is the lowest in over half a century. And very incredibly, the average unemployment rate under my administration is lower than any administration in the history of our country." Donald Trump spent much of his speech sharing a myriad of facts like these, all pointing to one conclusion: during his presidency, the economy has steadily improved or maintained a stable condition.

**2. There's a fine line between making a point and being disrespectful.** Democrats didn't clap for President

Trump when he bashed their proposed healthcare bills: "One hundred thirty-two lawmakers in this room have endorsed legislation to impose a socialist takeover of our healthcare system." But this was expected, and their anger is certainly understandable. In this situation and other similar ones, Democrats' less-than-enthusiastic attitude served to make a point: they didn't like their ideas being insulted.

But some of the night's events were on the fine line between making a point and being disrespectful — like when President Trump refused to shake Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's hand, and when Pelosi ripped up her copy of the speech at the end. Yes, the two have had their fair share of arguments and Twitter battles. However, I don't think it was reasonable to bring social media feuds or even political feuds into this prestigious event. President Trump and Nancy Pelosi are both working in the White House for the same goal: to protect and improve the American nation. No matter how different Trump and Pelosi's methods may be for achieving this, the reality is that the State of the Union address is one of the most important speeches in a president's career. It should not be tainted by the president or by his Speaker of the House, regardless of what tensions exist between the two. Finally, what message did refusing to shake Pelosi's hand or ripping up the

speech send to U.S. citizens and other nations, other than one of hatred and contempt?

**3. Listening to others is important, especially when their views oppose yours.** Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez tweeted before the State of the Union address: "After much deliberation, I have decided that I will not use my presence at a state ceremony to normalize Trump's lawless conduct & subversion of the Constitution. None of this is normal, and I will not legitimize it. Consequently, I will not be attending the State of the Union." At first, I thought something along the lines of, "Wow! That's pretty brave and admirable." But as I reflected upon the tweet, I realized that I wish Ocasio-Cortez had attended. Personally, I don't agree with many of President Trump's policies or decisions. However, I think it is still imperative to listen to his speeches. Through listening to the president's viewpoints, I gain a better understanding of what he is trying to say. Senators and representatives, regardless of their political parties or personal beliefs, are invited to the State of the Union address, and I would have liked to see Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez attend. Her presence would have demonstrated to her supporters and other Americans that she is willing to hear her opponents' side of the argument.

**Sabahat Rahman** is a fifth-former from Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. She may be reached at [srahman21@choate.edu](mailto:srahman21@choate.edu)

# TRUMP'S TRAVEL BAN PROMOTES NATIONAL SECURITY AND AMERICAN PRINCIPLES

By **Marcus Amine '22**  
*Opinions Writer*

I'm a student with a conservative political stance, so my support of the existing and recently expanded travel ban enacted by President Donald Trump P'oo may be construed as coming from a racist and xenophobic perspective. However, there are legitimate standards for immigration policy that our nation needs to uphold in order to create truly effective reform.

The six countries recently added to the ongoing travel ban list are Myanmar, Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Sudan. While a permanent travel ban would be inherently detrimental to our nation's economy and highly unethical, citizens should support the Trump administration's current travel ban as there are genuine national security concerns that must be addressed prior to the reauthorization of immigration.

We must ensure that those immigrating into our country will respect, uphold, and abide by the crucial security laws and principles that help to maintain the economic opportunity that our nation offers.

The aforementioned countries did not demonstrate a willingness or full capability to hand over all documents relating to criminal history records of their citizens and possible terrorist networks that may be present in their nations. The State Department stated that the countries on this new list further displayed an "unwillingness or inability" to adhere to "baseline" security criteria. Thus, these bans stem from clear national security concerns, not from a nativist or xenophobic ideology.

If this newly extended policy were predicated on racially discriminatory sentiment, it would target a specific group of people and aim to prevent that specific group's entry into the United States. However, the only thing these nations have in common is the fact that they failed to meet multiple immigration criteria and pass security stress tests. These countries will be continuously monitored by the Department of Homeland Security, and if countries improve their security and cooperation with the U.S., they will be removed from the list, as Chad was in 2018.

The existing travel ban is not a "Muslim ban" either. Trump's "policy covers just 8 percent of the world's Muslim population," Chief Justice John Roberts observed in *Trump v. Hawaii*. If this policy was truly created to deter the Muslim population from entering the United States, it would be quite ineffective. Indonesia and Pakistan, the two countries with the highest Muslim populations in the world, were not placed on the travel ban list. That's because they passed the security tests and met the safe immigration criteria.

If countries meet the security requirements Congress and the Executive branch deem necessary, no matter the culture, religion, or race, their citizens should be granted fair access and the opportunity to enter the United States after the next DHS reevaluation period.

Moreover, Trump is supporting a more merit-based immigration system over the current diversity lottery program, in which more qualified and skilled workers are given priority for visas over those who are not. This is a policy the

vast majority of Americans agree should be pursued; the Pew Research Center revealed that 78% of Americans support encouraging the immigration of highly-skilled people into the U.S. Even among those who believe very few immigrants should be allowed into the country each year, 63% say highly-skilled immigrants should be encouraged to immigrate to the U.S.

Today, two-thirds of immigrants to the United States are admitted on the basis of family ties, and only 15% on the basis of skills. A skills-based point system, which can be added to the current diversity lottery program, would be a major incentive for people around the world looking to work and make a better life for themselves. Not only would this improved policy boost diversity, but it would also help the United States fill open skilled labor positions and maintain its competitiveness in the global economy.

I, along with the vast majority of Americans, want our nation to be as secure and as prosperous as possible. President Trump's newly expanded temporary travel ban reinforces our national security and ensures that more skilled, highly-motivated, and qualified workers are immigrating to our country. We must prioritize and protect the safety of our own citizens at all costs; our outdated system is decidedly flawed and must be updated. This new framework will serve as a foundation for bipartisan reform of our immigration system.

**Marcus Amine** is a fourth-former from Greenwich, Conn. He may be reached at [mamine22@choate.edu](mailto:mamine22@choate.edu)



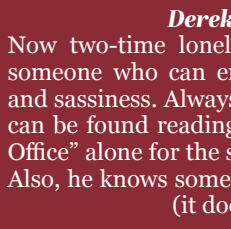
## Lonely Hearts Club

with The Choate News



### Grace Zhang '20

A fiend for grapes and chicken nuggets, Grace is looking for a Crocs-wearing partner. Must have an affinity for “Love Island,” horrible dancing, and threats of poking herself with 75 toothpicks. Be prepared to carry her on your back as she has permanently weak ankles.



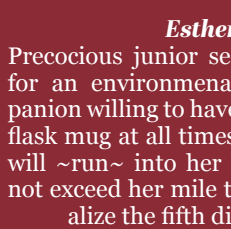
### Derek Ng '20

Now two-time lonely heart looking for someone who can endure his flakiness and sassiness. Always “too busy,” Derek can be found reading or watching “The Office” alone for the seventh time in CK. Also, he knows some Greek, if that helps (it doesn’t).



### Brandon Zhang '20

A simple man often featured on Choate’s newest fitness account, JAT Lifts. If you are looking for deep talks with a sensitive soul, this is not your man. He prefers ignoring people, walking slowly, buying expensive clothes, or watching professional League of Legends.



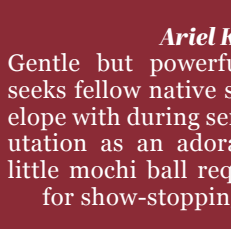
### Esther An '21

Precocious junior section editor looking for an environmenally-conscious companion willing to have coffee in a Hydro-flask mug at all times. Hoping someone will ~run~ into her life, but preferably not exceed her mile time. Ability to visualize the fifth dimension a plus.



### Will Zhu '20

Quiet Local News editor looking for a companion who can wake him up before his 8:00 a.m. classes. Must be able to patch the doggy-sized hole in his heart by regularly sending him puppy memes.



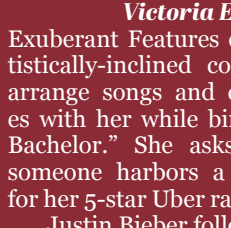
### Ariel Kim '20

Gentle but powerful lifelong learner seeks fellow native speaker of Latin to elope with during senior winter. A reputation as an adorable, hardworking little mochi ball required. A penchant for show-stopping dancing a plus.



### Alexandra Alkhayer '20

Curly-headed cutie looking for someone to get late-night boba tea with. She hopes to bump into her other half while reading every novel in the Barnes & Noble bookstacks. Bonus points if you’re a Manchester United fan.



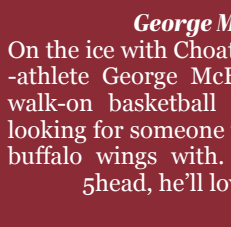
### Victoria Esquibies '20

Exuberant Features editor seeking an artistically-inclined companion who will arrange songs and choreograph dances with her while binge-watching “The Bachelor.” She asks that her special someone harbors a deep appreciation for her 5-star Uber rating and the fact that Justin Bieber follows her on Twitter.



### Deanna Tan '20

Obsessed with Nutella and celery juice, an Arts editor known for posting her vacation photos during the middle of senior winter. On the hunt for someone who shares the same infatuation for Post Malone and Timothée Chalamet.



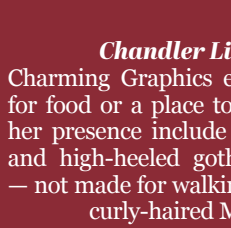
### George McCabe '20

On the ice with Choate’s hunkiest student-athlete George McCabe: Future Duke walk-on basketball player McBabe is looking for someone to share spicy Sage buffalo wings with. Despite his shiny 5head, he’ll love you 4ever.



### Ryan Kim '20

Photography editor desperately searching for a League of Legends duo partner under 5’5”. Candidates must have equally basic taste in music. Attraction to purple Crocs and black-and-white photos spamming your feed a plus. Must consider doordashing McDanks and reading romance novels a date. Always prepared for the flood!



### Chandler Littleford '20

Charming Graphics editor often looking for food or a place to nap. Hallmarks of her presence include statement earrings and high-heeled goth-reminiscent boots — not made for walking. Looking for a tall, curly-haired Madison native.



### Kiki Kim '20

Fun-size senior seeks seductive sweetheart to praise her skills in archery and layout. This San Francisco native enjoys sunny weather, succulents, and science. She is also in search of a Last Hurrah date — does anyone know if Lucas Sim is available?

# FEATURES

## Pictures, Posters, and Polaroids: Three Approaches to Room Decorations

By **Tony Lee '21**

Associate Editor



Photo by Sesame Gaetsaloe/The Choate News

### Tenney House Sixth-Form Single Room

Head Prefect John Wilson '20 has a room that boasts a large blue couch and posters of hot sauce and Spongebob. For Wilson, meticulous organization and matching decorations is less of a priority than creating a comfortable and approachable space.

“It’s important for me that my room is somewhere that my prefectees feel welcome to come and talk to me at any point,” he said. “In terms of decorations, my approach hasn’t really changed since freshman year. The things I put in my room are just things I like. They might be a little mismatched, but it’s not a big deal to me.”

### Archbold Fifth-Form Single Room

Three-year fifth-former Supriya Chang '21 has a reputation in her dorm for having a charming and tastefully decorated room. A neatly aligned mosaic of black-and-white photos and printed quotes greets visitors as they step through the doorway. Adjacent to the picture spread is a small alcove for clothes where Chang has hung a full-length mirror with warm lights wrapped around the white frame.

Chang’s room decorations have had much lighter color schemes in the past two years but have slowly evolved as her preferences changed. “The color scheme I’ve had for my room had always been more childish colors like mint green and pastels. But now I tend to opt for classi-

er, a little more mature colors like black, white, and beige,” she said.

While many people admire the dedication and creativity that goes into creating an aesthetically pleasing room, Chang stressed that functionality is her top priority. She wanted her room to be both appealing to the eye and practical, which is reflected by her furniture layout.

“The way I position and organize everything makes my daily routine a lot simpler,” she said. “When I wake up in the morning, I get dressed and pick my jewelry out right across from the mirror. When I leave for the day, I can quickly glance and make sure everything matches and looks good.”



Photo by Amanda Li/The Choate News

### Bernhard House Fifth-Form Double Room

Jenny Guo '21’s room features her and her roommate’s desks by the two windows in the center of the room, flanked by a bookshelf. Glow-in-the-dark stars hang above her bed, and a colorful variety of sheet masks can be seen in an open drawer. With the exception of a few decorations, Guo’s half of the room is minimalistically clean and tidy.

Guo prides herself on maintaining a neat and organized space at all times; for her, minimalism and healthy habits limit distractions and increase productivity.

“Having less stuff in general means there are less distracting things in your room, and you can focus more on homework,” Guo said. “Also, every morning, I make it a point to make my bed — it’s

a good way to get your mind in an organized mindset for the rest of day. I also have a clock on my desk to constantly remind me of my deadlines and keep me focused and on the grind.”

Sharing a space with a roommate often entails dealing with differences in lifestyles and cleanliness. “The first few days I lived with my roommate, we had a good talk about keeping our room clean. Although it’s a shared room, we still respect each other’s personal space, and we agreed to keep our belongings on our halves of the room,” Guo said.

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## A LOOK INTO THE COLLEGE COUNSELING PROCESS AT CHOATE

By **Brian Harder '23**

Reporter

Once again, the winter term has brought in a new class of students into the College Counseling Office (CCO). Although the college application process can be lengthy and stressful, the CCO remains a profoundly helpful resource, helping juniors dive into the college process prepared and confident. The CCO assigns one of their 10 counselors to a group of 20 to 30 juniors. Throughout the school year, students attend college seminars with their group and have one-on-one meetings with their counselors regularly.

College counselors are invested in getting to know the students they are working with. Before the college application process begins, every junior writes a personal narrative about their character, interests, and accomplishments at Choate. By reading these essays, the college counselors are able to get a better sense of what each student’s goals are and which colleges would suit them.

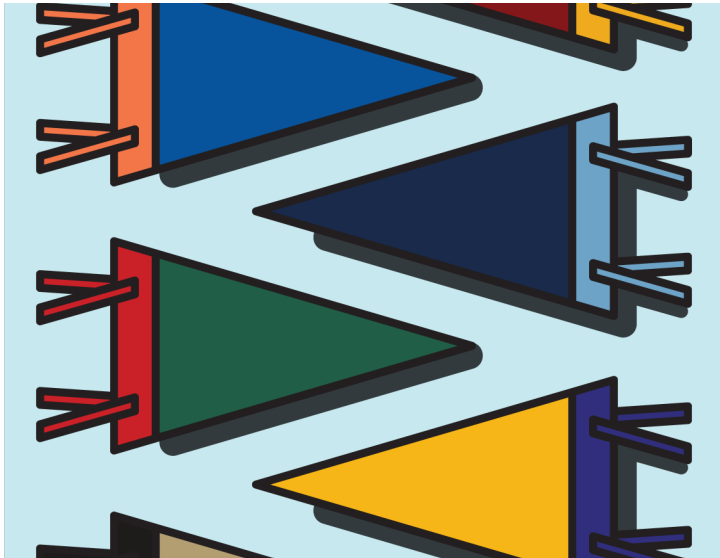
One-on-one meetings happen regularly from late junior winter until the student is admitted into a university. In these meetings, topics such as one’s list of preferred colleges and standardized testing, among other things, are discussed. However, each student can decide the frequency of their meetings.

During senior fall, students often choose to have one-on-one meetings more frequently. “During [junior spring], I’d say we

met around every two weeks, but senior fall, we would meet around every week,” said Esi Dunyoh '20. Additionally, group seminars consisting of 25 to 30 students introduce students to the college counseling process and provides students with advice on researching possible colleges.

apply to in January, finishing that list by early December is fine.”

Students applying for early decision, however, decide on their college list earlier. Other principal aspects of the process in senior fall include teacher recommendations, including one from your counselor, and essays.



Graphic by Chandler Littleford/The Choate News

College tours usually happen during spring break of a student’s junior year and the summer before senior year. Choate hosts a college visit trip during spring break, but students also organize tours on their own. By holding college information sessions and fairs during senior fall, the CCO hopes to put students directly in contact with the admissions staff of several universities to allow colleges to know them personally.

“The college fair is set up in the Athletic Center, and you go around giving colleges your email,” Dunyoh said. “For schools you want to

While students can certainly begin writing their application statements over the summer, their counselors help to ensure that the process runs smoothly throughout the application season.

While most students agree that this overall structure is effective, many would also love for the entire college counseling process to begin earlier. Sabahat Rahman '21 said, “It could have been nice if in sophomore year they had told us a little about testing. I feel like I’ve saved it all for this year.”

Doing some planning and college research beforehand may prove useful because, most students acknowledge, the college process is a lot of work. “You might be interested in something niche, and that might be good to look into,” Dunyoh remarked.

As every sixth-former knows, it is paramount to take it slow. Rushing through the process increases stress and can ultimately decrease the quality of one’s application. While the process is all but guaranteed to induce stress, one should try to relax and plan ahead, especially in the beginning.

The more anxiety one feels, the more difficult the process becomes. Moreover, taking full advantage of one’s counselor is extremely beneficial. Dunyoh said, “Talk to your counselor about how you’re feeling.” They are there to help and are valuable resources.

Ms. Marcia Landesman, the Director of College Counseling, said, “Because our college counseling is tailored to meet students where they are, Choate college counselors can adjust their approach to help students work through whatever part of the process they find to be difficult.” By taking full advantage of the CCO’s resources, Choate students can have a successful, more relaxed college application experience.

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## *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM* EXPLORES GENDER ROLES AND THE SEARCH FOR IDENTITY



Photo by Jenny Guo/The Choate News

Ms. Tracy Ginder-Delventhal's production highlights women's suffrage and gender identity.

By **Angel Guo '22**  
Reporter

*A Midsummer Night's Dream* will be performed in the Paul Mellon Arts Center from February 13 to 15. Because *Midsummer* takes place in a male-dominated society, Ms. Tracy Ginder-Delventhal, acting teacher and director of the play, wished to also portray the struggle for women's suffrage and the process of finding one's authentic identity and voice in it.

While Ms. Ginder-Delventhal tailors the design of sets, soundtracks, and props to suit individual plays, the general process remains unchanged from play to play. Ms. Ginder-Delventhal prefers to first immerse herself in the time period in which the play takes place by listening to music that "feels to me like how the play feels to me." She then applies the appropriate music to specific scenes. In *Midsummer*, she uses popular music from the 1920s for scenes in the palace and music by Lindsey Stirling, an American violinist, for those in the woods.

In addition, Ms. Ginder-Delventhal researches art forms such as fashion from the play's time period, to ensure that the play showcases historical accuracy. "Costume design is particularly important because clothing defines the way people move, and behavior is generally reflected in the clothing," Ms. Ginder-Delventhal said.

To construct a set of props in theme with each specific play, Ms. Ginder-Delventhal looks for imagery that matches her perception of the play. In this case, Ms. Ginder-Delventhal examined pictures of English and cottage gardens and Art Deco. "It's like building a puzzle — each element that I find will lead me to find another element until I could create a unified piece," she said.

Although the process of creating the play starts with the imagination of Ms. Ginder-Delventhal, the immersive world of the play is created collaboratively by a team of various faculty and students. For *Midsummer*, Sparks Mellon (the set design team), and Ms. Ginder-Delventhal worked together to highlight the contrast between life in the palace and life in the woods. For Ms. Ginder-Delventhal, *Midsummer* is a portrait of female imprisonment and freedom, as shown through the controlled, male-dominated palace and the liberated, open forest.

The lighting group, led by Technical Director of the Arts Mr. Mark Gostomski, also helps to bring the story to life through colorful lighting. When Mr. Gostomski has a particular idea, he meets with Ms. Ginder-Delventhal to ensure that their visions are cohesive. The lighting process, as Mr. Gostomski described, is a part of the storytelling process achieved through color choice, specific lighting of characters, or deliberate focus on certain

parts of the stage to guide the audience's line of sight.

To enhance the contrast between the confining, constricting palace and the mythical creatures in the forests, Mr. Gostomski designed distinct color palettes for each world. Toward the end of the show when the palace and the woods merge, Mr. Gostomski created another palette that blended the two worlds together.

"We are constantly retrospectively on our designs: how do we create each element to tell the story but also not have it [be] muddy? How does the bright and dark lighting react to all the characters on stage? Are we actually presenting the story that we wanted to convey?" Mr. Gostomski said. "We spend a lot of time doing little adjustments to ensure that the stories are as clear as we make them."

Theater, as Ms. Ginder-Delventhal beautifully put, "is a collaborative art" that involves all of the directors, designers, crew, and actors who support and complement each other. Through *Midsummer*, Ms. Ginder-Delventhal and the production staff hope to emphasize "embracing your identity regardless of what those around you may think or may say. We hope that people can walk away from this play being more willing to live outside the box and being less judgmental of people who are brave enough to do so."

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## Inside the Dodge Shops: The Work of Mr. Aaron Sober

By **Adrienne Chacon '22**  
Staff Reporter

Ceramics teacher Mr. Aaron Sober does not confine his artistic talents to his classroom. Since high school, Mr. Sober has dedicated himself to making pottery and has familiarized himself with the craft. In addition to teaching students the fundamentals of pottery, he sells his own ceramic artwork.

Mr. Sober had a very influential pottery teacher in high school who showed him the beauty of the art form. Through his teacher's guidance, Mr. Sober was inspired to pursue ceramics. His teacher was an artist that spoke while he worked, a practice that significantly impacted the students' learning experience. Now a teacher himself, Mr. Sober employs the same teaching style.

Being a teacher has affected Mr. Sober's artistry. "I like to be in an active space that is busy with people making art and learning. It's motivating to have a lot of activity in the creative space," he said.

Leading by example, crafting alongside students, and guiding beginners help Mr. Sober keep in mind the importance of persistence and humility. "I try to show the students that failure is something that doesn't stop after you get better. I've been doing this for 25 years, and every day I make mistakes," he said. "I fail, which is a super important part of the art-making process that should be embraced rather than resisted."

Although Mr. Sober has been teaching consistently throughout his career, he has always mainly sold, not taught, pottery. "That's all I'd ever wanted to do. From high school, I thought that would be the best job imaginable: to make a living from selling pottery," he said.

People bring the items he makes into their homes and lives, so in a small way he is also welcomed into their lives as well. His works, though personal and beautiful, also func-



Photo by Ryan Kim/The Choate News

Mr. Aaron Sober's inspiration stems from his former ceramics teacher.

tion as household items. Furthermore, because Mr. Sober's work is an extension of himself, giving away his pottery is especially intimate.

"Having the regular objects people use be handmade is a small, important, intimate way to slow down and be present," Mr. Sober said. "Everyone's artwork is unique to them and it is impossible to remove your experiences, personality, and emotions from what you make."

As a beginner, Mr. Sober was driven to create pieces in order to improve his craft. Now, after 20 years of working and developing his skills, it is second nature to him.

"There is an old expression that 'art is part of life, and craft is life.' Craft becomes a part of your everyday [life]. It doesn't feel like discipline anymore because it has become habit," he said.

Mr. Sober has numerous sources of inspiration, ranging from Asian forms such as Japanese, Chinese, Thai, and Vietnamese pottery to American, English, and Native American

styles. Other artistic disciplines such as basketry, woodblock printing, street art, and Japanese calligraphy also influence his pottery. Even items not necessarily considered art are present in his artwork, such as tools associated with manual labor like wrenches, scissors, and even silos.

Mr. Sober also finds a great deal of inspiration in nature and stories. To him, stories that expose both strength and vulnerability in their characters are motivational. And in the natural world, "the way animals survive in nature, their little victories and defeats are inspiring."

Mr. Sober's life has been dedicated to the creation and artistry of pottery. Since taking that fateful pottery class in high school, ceramics has become Mr. Sober's dream and profession. Now, as an educator, he hopes to spark the same love for pottery in today's students and be a mentor to tomorrow's artists.

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## SENIORITY NOT A FACTOR IN PRODUCTION CASTING, CHOATE THEATER DEPARTMENT MAINTAINS

By **Tony Lee '21**  
Associate Editor

Imagine that you're an aspiring student-actor, entering Choate brimming with passion but lacking any experience. You muster up the courage to audition for the musical or play, but when you fail to make it to the cast list, you pour your grievances out to your friends and blame bad casting.

Each year, the casting process for theater performances can accompany tension and finger-pointing among students, from dismissing roles as guaranteed by seniority to frustrations over the same few people landing lead roles.

The term "seniority" is often tossed around to explain casting of upperclassmen who some students perceive to be less talented than other candidates. The idea of seniority suggests that, as juniors and seniors approach the end of their time at Choate, they should receive more opportunities to perform onstage.

Kathryn Phillips '20, who has been consistently auditioning for performances since her freshman year, disagreed that so-called seniority is prevalent on campus. "There have been only two instances where I have been cast for the main stage performance — *Bring It On*, where no one was cut, and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* — and this term, I was cast as only an understudy in the ensemble for *Disaster*," Phillips said. "Seniority may apply for some people in some situations,



Graphic by Chandler Littleford/The Choate News

The idea of seniority suggests that as students come closer to finishing their time at Choate, they should receive more opportunities to perform.

but my friends and I can say that it hasn't been the case for us."

Instead, she mentioned the disparity between Theater Arts Concentration members and other students in terms of experience and prior involvement in theater as a bigger factor in casting. According to Phillips, Arts Concentration students often begin acting and singing as early as elementary or middle school, leaving less experienced students at a disadvantage right from the start. "Auditioning for roles isn't exactly where anyone who is interested can try and will get a role, but that's of course understandable. People who started taking lessons before Choate become more talented. Some of them get into Arts Con, and they get more roles because they're capable," she said. "It's slight-

ly harder to compete if you start theater at Choate."

Di'Anna Bonomolo '20, who was cast as a part of the dance ensemble for *Disaster*, believed that neither seniority nor advantages from previous experience are pressing issues, and that there are many layers to casting. "While I think that factors and biases shouldn't ever be accounted for in theater — and that also goes for the future in the real world: Broadway won't care about how old you are — the fact that Choate's a high school does make things different," Bonomolo said. "High school's the time when you should give people more chances to try different things, but you should also prep them for the real world. I think if someone's not fitting the role,

but they're trying really hard, then they can still be an understudy or part of the ensemble."

Acting teacher and director of *Disaster* Ms. Deighna DeRiu, always hopes to cast as many people as possible for each performance, evident in *Bring It On*'s no-cut ensemble.

However, for shows in which cast cuts are inevitable, she assured students that the faculty disregards past experience or training. "I never look at twelve years of experience and value that. If it's a musical, singing is important, and if it's a dance show, then dance is important," Ms. DeRiu said. "Similar to how some people are on the varsity football team for all four years, some people are cast for multiple shows because they

are able to do what the show requires of them."

Ms. DeRiu hopes that the auditioning and casting process will remain positive experiences for all students. "Even though some students do get roles more often than others because they are more capable or they can embody certain characters better, we really do our best to keep opportunities open to as many people as possible. Every time I do a show, I try to include as many new people as I can so they have the chance to fall in love with this art form," she said.

Echoing Ms. DeRiu's stance on external factors, acting teacher and director of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* Ms. Tracy Ginder-Delventhal said that involvement in the Arts Concentration program does not provide students any advan-

tage over their peers. In contrast, she revealed that the majority of students who are disappointed with casting are Arts Concentration members.

Ms. Ginder-Delventhal shared a story in which she cast Choate graduate Betsy Lippitt '05 as Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet* for embodying the role the best, even though she received backlash for casting a fourth-former in a lead role. The following year, despite Lippitt's acceptance into the Arts Concentration program, Ms. Ginder-Delventhal did not cast her for any role in *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

"I remember she came to me clearly sad and confused, and I told her that I have a responsibility to keep opportunities open to everyone," Ms. Ginder-Delventhal said. "She was in Arts Con at that point, and two other Arts Con kids who weren't cast made a decision to group direct and act in a three-woman play — a play that isn't often done, and a play they would not have been able to do if they were cast for *The Diary of Anne Frank*."

Ms. Ginder-Delventhal continued, "How do you use the opportunity from not being cast? You create a piece, you get involved with crew, you audition again, and you audition again and again. I hope kids don't become discouraged with not being cast but instead transform it into a learning experience."

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## FIELD REPORT

Choate Winter Record  
94 - 114 - 7

Varsity Saturday Games

**Girls' Basketball** (12-6)  
beats KO, 61-43

**Girls' Hockey** (8-8-1)  
beats Milbrook, 2-1

**Boys' Squash** (7-10)  
falls to Exeter, 0-7

J.V. Saturday Games

**Girls' Basketball** (6-3)  
falls to KO, 33-46

**Boys' Hockey** (8-3-2)  
beats Hamden Hall, 10-1

**Girls' Hockey** (1-3)  
beats Taft, 3-1

**Boys' Squash** (9-4)  
falls to Exeter, 1-8

Varsity Wednesday Games

**Boys' Basketball** (6-11)  
falls to Williston, 55-61

**Boys' Hockey** (2-12-4)  
ties Pomfret, 2-2

**Girls' Basketball** (13-6)  
beats Berkshire, 43-22

**Girls' Hockey** (8-9-1)  
falls to Williston, 0-3

**Girls' Squash** (8-1)  
beats Hotchkiss, 6-1

**Boys' Swimming** (5-1)  
beats Hopkins, 100-86

**Girls' Swimming** (3-3)  
beats Hopkins, 93-85

J.V. Wednesday Games

**Girls' Basketball** (7-3)  
beats Hamden Hall, 38-10

**Boys' Basketball** (0-13)  
falls to Williston, 25-41

**Girls' Hockey** (2-6)  
falls to Berkshire, 3-7

**Boys' Squash** (10-4)  
beats Taft, 8-1

## JORDAN OBI '20 JOINS EXCLUSIVE 1,000 POINT CLUB

By **Greer Goergen '21**  
*Associate Editor*

Jordan Obi '20, a four-year member and current captain of Girls' Varsity Basketball, joined the acclaimed group of student-athletes who have reached the 1,000 point milestone. Obi accomplished this feat at The Ethel Walker School on January 18, when Choate walked away with a 58-47 win.

"I feel like it's an incredible accomplishment, and I think it's a big deal I get to be a part of a group of people that have also reached this goal," Obi said.

Obi didn't know she had hit 1,000 points until after the game. Head Coach Mr. Donta Johnson told her at a practice, a few days after the game against Ethel Walker. "No one really knew it would happen at Ethel Walker," Obi said. "I was never thinking about that, but at the beginning of the season Aliya told me I was 220 points away from 1,000, but I didn't know if I could reach it or not." (Until this season, Ms. Aliya Cox was the team's head coach.)

Usually, most athletes know before they're going into the game, but Obi says not knowing allowed her to focus more on playing. "It was one of my several team goals heading into the year, which included beating Loomis and winning the Founders League," Obi added. She was especially driven to the goal after witnessing two of her former teammates, Sam Gallo '19 and Jocelyn Polansky '19, reach 1,000 points last year.

In 1976, after a Choate player first reached the 1,000-point mark, Choate decided to put the names of these players on a banner in the gym. Assistant Coach Mr. James Davidson, who has been with the team for more than 35 years, coached the first-ever athlete that reached 1,000 points: Jeanne Hennessy '76.



Photo by Amitra Hoq/The Choate News

In January, Obi became the ninth Choate basketball player to score 1,000 points in his or her career.

There were no three-point shots when Davidson started coaching, and it seems the overall quality of the teams has improved, making it harder in recent years to reach 1,000 points.

All of the girls who reached the historic landmark of 1,000 points were four-year players, and Davidson emphasized that the historical significance of joining others on the list is impressive since less than ten Choate players have ever done it. Obi is also among the top five performers for points in a single game, which Obi marked at 33.

Obi has played basketball competitively since third grade but became serious about the sport in the fifth. Obi mentioned that she moved to Japan for sixth and seventh grade, where she vastly improved her game. She then played for a high-level Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) basketball team in eighth grade before coming to Choate.

Obi is modest but has played a huge role in Choate teams for all four years. She says when she was a freshman, more players on the team had aspirations for playing in college and the team was slightly stronger. She said, "Watching captains from my freshman year compared to being a senior now and not having as many people who want to play in college — it's different. It's being a leader in context, and it's a different approach to being a leader."

Mr. Davidson has known Obi for five years. They met when Obi was playing intramural basketball during Choate Summer Programs the summer between Obi's seventh and eighth grade years. Mr.

Mr. Davidson said, "She's very private and thoughtful, and she has gradually become more expressive. I don't think it's easy for her to be a team captain, as she's not 'ra-ra' and in the face of others."

Mr. Davidson said she leads others by example and by what she's able to do. After coaching her for four years, Mr. Davidson can confidently say her biggest improvement is how she is much more able to take advantage of her physical tools, like her height and strength, and she's now much more able to utilize her skill set and not just settle for outside shots. She now attacks the basketball hoop and has improved her passing. He said she is better able to find others on the floor, and she's also improved her overall fitness and strength.

Obi's teammates note that she is a dedicated, skilled player who puts in a lot of practice in the off-season. Norah Salujah '23, a new addition to the team this year, added that Obi is a role model for her and other young players and that she is very excited for her.

Betsy Overstrum '20, the team's other co-captain, said, "Jordan has been an amazing co-captain, and it's so exciting to see her achieve this milestone. I'm really glad I'm able to support her and celebrate her incredible accomplishments."

After Obi graduates and leaves Choate this spring, she will continue playing basketball for the next four years at the University of Pennsylvania.

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## WRESTLING PLACES HIGH AT CLASS A TOURNAMENT

By **Sam Anastasio '23**  
*Reporter*

Over winter long weekend, Varsity Wrestling traveled to the Hyde School in Bath, Maine, for the annual New England Independent School Wrestling Association's Class A Tournament. The tournament consisted of wrestlers from prep schools across New England competing in a double-elimination bracket. Overall, the team performed well, with captain Holden Zerega '20 taking second place, Edwin Lopez '23 taking fourth place, Charlie Katarincic '22 taking fifth place, and Sam Schamis '21 taking sixth place in their respective weight classes.

The tournament was the first major competition for many of the wrestlers, and it was a worthwhile learning experience. "We learned resilience," Zerega said. "We had a few hard matches in the beginning with some hard losses, but the wrestlers really bounced back." The team was especially proud of the high finishes of Lopez and Katarincic, who are both new to the team this year.

The results from the Class A Tournament marked a high-point in the team's season. Last year's team consisted of a strong group of seniors, so the newcomers this year have had to compete in higher divisions. However, since the team currently only has one active senior, it has a lot of room to improve. "Going forward, we definitely have the potential to grow the team and rebound," Zerega said.

"This year has been a very good learning year for the team," said Head Coach Mr. Erik Freeman. "They learned how to wrestle a lot better overall. Most of our wrestlers this year are new to the sport and have had to learn everything from scratch."

Unlike other teams at Choate, like the basketball or football teams, wrestling has trouble relying on athletes coming to Choate who have wrestled in the past. Instead, experienced teammates and coaches have to dedicate a lot of time to teaching new athletes the complicated rules and techniques of the sport.

Since it is already February, the team has only two more weeks of training left. Zerega, Lopez, and Katarincic were the only Choate wrestlers who qualified for the Varsity New England Championships this weekend, February 14 and 15, held at the State Armory in Hartford. If Zerega, Lopez, or Katarincic were to place sixth or higher at New England's, they would qualify for Nationals, which would take place the following weekend, February 22, at Lehigh University, in Pennsylvania. All of the other wrestlers on the team who did not qualify for Varsity New England's will travel to JV New England's, which will also be held that day.

All of the wrestlers look to carry their momentum after a Class A Tournament showing to both Varsity and JV New England's.

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## Boys' JV Hockey Dominates Hamden Hall, 10-1



Photo courtesy of Danielle Capri

Daniel Altschuler '22 scored his first goal as a Choate hockey player last week against Hamden Hall.

By **Robert Goergen '22**  
*Reporter*

Boys' JV Ice Hockey added another victory to an already successful season on February 8 with a 10-1 home win against Hamden Hall Country Day School.

Going into the game, Choate boasted a strong record with eight wins, three losses, and two ties. The team had a rare loss to Hotchkiss a few days before the game and wanted to revive its winning streak against Hamden Hall.

Choate played hard for all three periods, getting every player involved on both offense and defense, and achieved its goal. "I thought our guys did a nice job of getting off to the right start," Captain Jonah Feldman '20 said. "It's always fun when we are playing well and we get the win."

Choate started the first period with good scoring opportunities from Hugh Zanelli '20, Daniel Altschuler '22, and Mac Cady '23, but the team was unable to sneak one by the Hamden Hall goalie. However, with 12 minutes on the clock, Patrick Yowan '21 managed to score the first goal for Choate.

The home team quickly went on a scoring run, with Henry Kops '22 and Cady putting two more in the net. However, towards the end of the period, Hamden Hall took some momentum from Choate and threatened to score. Goalie Charlie Tait '21, unwilling to concede a goal, positioned his body and saved several shots by Hamden Hall's offense. At the end of the period, Choate held a commanding lead of 3-0.

At the start of the second period, Choate kept up their energy with another quick goal from Yowan, making the score 4-0. Hamden Hall was finally able to sneak one by Tait to put themselves on the scoreboard with six minutes left. Altschuler and Mark Hong '23, fueled by the opposition's goal, each scored a goal during a minute and a half, to put Choate up 6-1. Altschuler's goal was especially meaningful as it marked the first of his Choate career.

Altschuler said, "I got a good pass from Dallyn Rai ['20] and simply put the puck on net. It felt good to finally get that monkey off my back after not scoring all of my

freshman year." Boys' JV Hockey then ended the period with a series of solid shots on goal but was unable to increase its lead as the game headed into the third period.

Choate continued the scoring run in the third period. In the first few minutes, Cady scored again, giving Choate a 7-1 lead. Cady's goal was immediately followed by another goal from Bradley Wang '21.

With two minutes left, Choate scored twice to put the finishing touches on the game. Ultimately, Choate prevailed over Hamden Hall by nine goals, which also marked the team's largest winning margin of the season.

Thomas Barton '22 said, "We started out fast and continued to compete until the end of the final period."

Boys' JV Hockey wants to end their season strong. The team's game against Loomis Chaffee on February 26 will be especially important, as the schools will play for an orange traffic cone at stake each year in the "Grim Cup."

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