



Photo by Kathryn Phillips/The Choate News

During school meeting on Wednesday, Head of School Dr. Alex Curtis released plans for the new auditorium, which is scheduled to open during the 2019-2020 academic year next to the Paul Mellon Arts Center.

## Traffic Incidents on Campus Reinforce Need for Vigilance

By **Owen Collins '19**  
*Copy Editor*

Two weeks ago, many students gathered out near the Chapel, at the corner of North Elm Street and Curtis Avenue, where a red sedan had driven onto the sidewalk before crashing through the granite and wood fence posts and flipping through the air. The car landed upright, injuring the two people in the car. The driver and passenger were transported to Yale-New Haven Hospital, and the driver was charged with driving while under the influence of alcohol. Luckily, no one else was hurt. No Choate students or teachers were on the sidewalk at the time of the accident.

The week before that, another crash took place on campus, albeit more minor. A car rear-ended another on Christian Street in between

the crosswalks connecting the Humanities building and the Library. No students or faculty were hurt in that crash, either.

These accidents have shed new light on the safety of Choate's sidewalks and crosswalks in regards to vehicular traffic. And yet, over the past year, the Choate administration has worked closely with the town of Wallingford to ensure that whenever community members walk across or along city streets they're as safe as possible.

**There is a significant responsibility on us as pedestrians to be aware of our surroundings.**

*Mr. James Stanley*  
Dean of Students

Wallingford restricts what

structural changes Choate can make. Mr. James Stanley, Dean of Students, said, "We're not allowed to create new crosswalks or install other traffic control measures. Those are all things controlled by the town."

Still, the town has been more than willing to help with the matter. A few years ago, the town agreed to install the "Stop for Pedestrian Traffic" signs with the town, and officials added a reflective strip to the "Pedestrian Crossing" signs to make them more visible. At the beginning of this year, the streetlamps around campus had their bulbs replaced to make visibility better for not only cars, but for pedestrians as well. "The town's doing a lot to try to make the crosswalks more visible," said Mr. Stanley.

The School has stressed to the students to be aware

of their surroundings as they cross the street, wherever they may be on campus. "We do emphasize with students, 'Stop, make eye contact, make sure the driver sees you, don't go through the crosswalk on your phones,'" said Mr. Stanley, "There is a significant responsibility on us as pedestrians to be aware of our surroundings."

Choate Community Safety has proved invaluable for traffic safety here on campus. Working as crossing guards, they have helped monitor traffic during hours when many students are passing through, like in the morning before classes start. "When there are buses that go from Rock Hill school, which is to the east of us, to Moses Y school, which is just to the west, and when we have students crossing the

See **TRAFFIC SAFETY**, Page 3

## NEW ELECTRONIC SIGN-OUT SYSTEM GOES LIVE

By **Pinn Chirathivat '19**  
*Staff Reporter*

This week Choate's new electronic sign-out system, REACH, went live. For the first time in school history, students may now sign out for the weekend without using slips of carbon paper. The new system, aimed to facilitate the sign-out process for both students and faculty, will only operate in the digital world.

After the student makes the request for a weekend sign-out, their dorm adviser receives an email explaining the student's weekend plans. After reviewing the information, the adviser either approves or declines the request. The email includes information including time of departure and return, destination, and means of transportation. A paper prep slip is never signed, and no form is

ever returned to the Deans' Office.

Miralie De Jesus '18 used the system for the first time last Tuesday, for a college visit to New York City. "I think the new system is a lot more efficient," she said. "But I find it a bit redundant to have your parents approve your request every single time, especially because my mother never minds that I'm leaving campus. She trusts me. Also, she doesn't check her email."

Many advisers reported being caught off guard when the new system's emails first showed up in their inboxes. Some forwarded the email to the rest of their advising team, wondering, "Is this a test, or is this for real?" Mr. Will Morris, Choate's Director of Residential Life and the main force behind the project, assured them that it was real; the process of using elec-

See **SIGN-OUT**, Page 3

## THEFT AND DAMAGE AT ST. JOHN HALL

By **Grace Zhang '20**  
*Staff Reporter*

Where have all the Ping-Pong balls gone? That's what Mr. Jim Yanelli, Director of Student Activities, and his team have found themselves asking more than once in these opening weeks of the school year.

Choate's St. John Hall is a beautiful new building, but its equipment seems to not like living there. So far this year, Mr. Yanelli has discovered that two X-Box controllers went missing, many Wii U controllers were disassembled, sixty-seven ping pong balls were used, and two cue stick tips were removed, which causes significant damage to table felt. "Inappropriate music was streamed in the game room in too many instances to count. Students routinely walked away from their food and beverage containers

leaving meeting rooms and public areas embarrassingly messy," wrote Mr. Yanelli. Sarah Stern '21 recounted, "The other day I saw a kid take a pool cue and bang it into the roof, and a panel fell off."

The Student Council has been working and communicating with Mr. Yanelli in the past several weeks to help minimize the damage to and theft from the school's newest building. Student Council has even formed a subcommittee within the council whose focus is the mistreatment of St. John.

Because the student center is meant for the students, and the students are primarily the ones who interact with it, this issue was brought first and foremost to the attention of the student council, which, much like St. John Hall, is both for and

See **ST. JOHN**, Page 2

## New Schedule Puts Future of Daily Grind in Doubt

By **Ariel Kim '20**  
*Reporter*

Prior to this year's schedule overhaul, students would go to the Humanities Rotunda every Friday during their 30-minute Conference block to purchase cheap delicacies amid an otherwise hectic day. Every week, the Student Council would work with another club or student organization to sell various foods and drinks, including lemonade, coffee, donuts, cake pops, muffins, and breakfast sandwiches. The money collected was sent to a charity at the end of each year.

Organized by the Vice President of the Student Council, the Daily Grind offered an alternative lunch option to students whose schedule precluded them from eating in the Dining Hall. This year, however, the Daily Grind may be changing in accordance with the changed schedule.



Illustration by Austen Rogers/The Choate News

Students once regularly purchased breakfast foods and drinks at the Daily Grind, which raised money for charity.

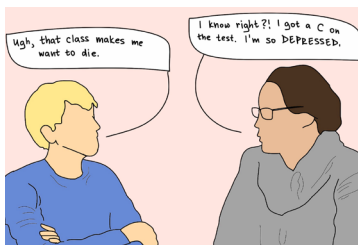
Mr. Oliver Morris, an adviser of the Student Council, explained, "The Daily Grind is undergoing a transition because of the loss of community lunch. It had become an event that had

provided an alternate lunch for people during Conference Period on Friday when the Dining Hall wasn't open because of community lunch. But since we don't have community lunch anymore,

that need has gone away." While the Student Council is still not entirely sure about their plans for the Daily Grind this

See **DAILY GRIND**, Page 2

**Meditation for All**  
School provides free access to meditation app Headspace.



**Suicidal Metaphors**  
Why they shouldn't be tolerated at Choate.  
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**Senior Sweaters**  
Newest addition to the Class of 2018's wardrobe.  
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Elkins investigates the lack of school spirit in away games.  
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Read it then recycle it.

Visuals by Amazon.com, Austen Rogers, and Ross Mortensen

**Write for The News**

Third floor of St. John Hall  
Tuesdays, 6:45 pm



## CHANGES TO DAILY GRIND SCHEDULE AND DONATIONS

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year, they are hoping to maintain the charitable purpose of the Daily Grind. After discussing the Daily Grind's transition during the Student Council meeting on Tuesday, September 26, School Vice-President, Julian Yau '18, said, "Whatever happens, the council wants to continue having some kind of ongoing fundraiser. We've settled on setting up snack bars at sports events and plays, especially during big events like Deerfield Day, but we're also thinking about adding another component to the Daily Grind to compensate for the whole community lunch conundrum, including turning the tradition into a fundraising designer brand."

The Daily Grind has been a huge success since the Student Council started it in 2007, as a one-year event to raise funds for charity. Last year, the Student Council was able to donate nearly three thousand dollars to Call to Care Uganda, a nonprofit organization with a mission of helping vulnerable children in Uganda through health and education initiatives.

While the council has not yet decided on a charity to donate to this year, the council will be voting upon this after taking suggestions and coming up with more ideas. Yau, said, "We often reach out to the student body to see where they believe the money can do the most good. Sometimes if a student, or a group of students, feels particularly strongly about a cause, we may decide as a council to hand over the funds to support it."

**We often reach out to the student body to see where they believe the money can do the most good.**

Julian Yau '18

Yau added, "It's cool to be part of the process of remaking a school tradition like this. Hopefully, by the end of the year, we'll have something unique to be really proud of passing along."

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## Choate Welcomes New Head of Facilities

By **Abbie Chang '19**  
Reporter

The Choate community recently gained a new Head of Facilities, Mr. Mark Cappello, whose job it is to collaborate with the rest of the facilities management team in assuring that the campus continues running at its smoothest. This is no small feat. As Mr. Cappello himself put it, "Not much happens on campus that the Facilities Department does not facilitate or support in some way, shape, or form." Despite the challenges that such a fundamental role may pose, Mr. Cappello is up to the task.

Born and raised in Syracuse, New York, Mr. Cappello left his hometown to attend college. After graduation, he worked as a supervisor in the Facilities Department of a Syracuse hospital. He went on to work at both the College of Saint Rose and Yale University. A recruiter hired by Choate reached out to him about the vacant Head of Facilities position, and, after some communication, Mr. Cappello eagerly accepted the job offer. Mr. Cappello said, "The more I learned about Choate, the more excited I got."

Mr. Cappello is very connect-

ed with his family. He has two daughters, Elizabeth and Anna, and said that his greatest role model is his grandmother, as she did everything she could to help others. He hopes to emulate her generous spirit. Mr. Cappello said on the most useful piece of advice he has ever received, "A mentor of mine once advised me to solve a particularly difficult problem by looking farther down the road and deeper into the situation." Mr. Cappello's careful application of this personal motto is clear in his success in the facilities departments of several institutions and the unique challenges that each one posed.

**I would like the Facilities Department to be recognized as a talented, dedicated, and highly motivated resource.**

Mr. Mark Cappello  
Head of Facilities

Mr. Cappello said a major challenge for any facilities group is determining how to maximize resources to meet the needs of its larger organization. Choate's Facilities Department maintains



Photo by Lauren Canna/The Choate News

Mr. Mark Cappello will lead the Facilities Department.

nearly every physical aspect of campus. It is the responsibility of facilities to keep both the inside and outside of buildings in top condition, the lawns and grassy stretches of the grounds trimmed and green, and to generally assure the functionality of the campus.

Mr. Cappello explained, "We maintain the systems that keep our students safe and support the academic mission of the institution." The new director said that he hopes to continue Facilities' long-established trend of hard work. He added, "I would like the Facilities Department to be recognized as a talented, dedicated, and

highly motivated resource."

Though he has only recently joined the Choate community, Mr. Cappello is devoted to the Facilities Department and, through the numerous ways in which this department contributes to the entire community, the school as a whole. On his experience at Choate thus far, Mr. Cappello said warmly, "I've really enjoyed the interaction that I've had with my staff and the members of the campus community that I have met. Choate is a very special place."

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## The Headspace App: A Step Toward Better Mental Health at Choate

By **Vincenzo DiNatale '19**  
Copy Editor

In the midst of conversations about mental wellbeing on campus and at a national level, Choate is taking initiative to provide more resources for the community. The School is introducing Headspace, an increasingly popular digital guided meditation platform, to the community.

Mr. Morgan Harris, Choate's Academic Technologist, was a major force behind making the app available for students at no cost. At a wedding last summer, Mr. Harris stumbled upon a pleasant opportunity. At dinner, he found himself sitting next to co-founder and CEO of Headspace, Mr. Rich Pierson, who referred Mr. Harris to the educational outreach coordinator of the company. In the past, Headspace was used primarily by major corporations, but because of the success of these partnerships, Headspace reached out to teachers, to whom the company

provided the app for free.

At the time of Mr. Harris's conversation with Mr. Pierson, Headspace was strongly considering the possibility of providing students with the app. Headspace eventually decided to do so, and at no cost. Mr. Harris said, "I've been interested in mindfulness and meditation for a while now. I have tried to take a mindfulness-based approach in the classes I teach and think about how to bring this to Choate. We can now do it through this app!"

In recent years, the benefits of meditation have become increasingly apparent, and Headspace is a testament to that progress. Mr. Andy Puddicombe, another co-founder of Headspace, said in a TEDTalk, "On average, our minds are lost in thought almost 47 percent of the time... At the same time, this sort of constant mind-wandering is also a direct cause of unhappiness... To spend almost half of our life lost in thought and po-

tentially quite unhappy...it just kind of seems tragic when there's something we can do about it, when there's a positive, practical, achievable, scientifically proven technique which allows our mind to be more healthy, to be more mindful and less distracted."

The application is designed to provide an individual with a selection of secular meditation sessions. The full version of the application, which is available to the Choate community, allows the user to test out general meditation sessions to become acclimated to the process. After exploring the general meditation sessions, the user may select sessions from more specific and personal categories, depending on what he or she would like to practice. Some of the categories that Headspace offers help with managing, stress, competition, and workload.

Meditation has been proven to make individuals happier, more mentally stable, and less overwhelmed daily.

Mr. Harris also believes that Headspace has advantages even beyond those that are obvious. He said, "It helps inspire positive change from the inside out. People can confront, in a non-threatening way, the ways they are willing to change themselves. That might have a ripple effect out into the broader community. Although [meditation] is a solitary pursuit, by being connected with yourself you are actually able to connect with others at a fuller and deeper level."

Overall, in a busy community, where stress is common, Mr. Harris hopes that Headspace will help individuals cope with that stress and be less overwhelmed.

Headspace is available to all students and faculty. Anyone wishing to download the app at no cost may contact Mr. Harris. There is additional information on the portal as well.

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## STUDENT COUNCIL ADDRESSES ABUSE OF ST. JOHN HALL

Continued from Page 1

comprised of students.

"When the student council heard about the severity of the misuse of the SAC, the subcommittee began drafting proposals to help rectify the situation," said Caroline Rispoli '20, fourth-form representative. "Our ideas included attaching cables to all controllers in the Game Room, preventing the threat of the equipment being stolen, and, if the issue worsened, having the administration make an announcement at an all school meeting asking students to return all stolen items to a bucket/the lost and found, which would be an anonymous return."

**Responsibility requires no talent, only general human decency.**

Reade Ben '18

In regard to the damage and loss of ping pong balls, Rispoli '20 stated, "The idea was to attach a ping pong ball holder/dispenser to the side or underside of the table, allowing students easy access to return the balls when they were finished playing."

In addition to these ideas, Reade Ben '18, sixth-form representative, said, "Such solutions are short term. As a greater, overarching goal, student council hopes to encourage attitudes of respect and decency in regards to treating the SAC. While clearly many Choate students have such attitudes, the condition of the SAC clearly indicates that some of our peers have yet to incorporate such values into their actions."

In addition to many proposed solutions, the student council also spoke about the issue at some of the form meetings that took place on September 27. "After discussing the best way for announcements to be made, whether that should be by the administration at all-school meeting or by form representatives in a more personal and 'peer-oriented' setting, we opted for the latter," explained Rispoli.

The issue of the mistreatment of the SAC, however, was not elaborated on at the sixth-form meeting. Said Ben,

"I think the form meeting talks are much too short to really significantly alter campus attitudes, but I believe they are a step in the right direction. Personally, I would have liked to have seen the condition of the SAC elaborated on at the sixth-form meeting." The student council plans on following up with Mr. Yanelli in the coming weeks in order to determine whether or not the form meeting talks made a significant difference in students' attitudes about the SAC.

These past few weeks, however, have not been the only periods of time when there have been issues in students' treatment of the new SAC. "Last May, Mr. Yanelli and Mr. Stanley reached out to student council about the issues in the SAC," said Ben. "Even though the building was open for merely a month and a half, some issues were already prevalent, such as music choices, language, volume, and trash."

"In terms of future plans, the Student Council will continue to monitor improvements and/or the continuation of misuse once systems have been implemented," continued Rispoli. "If the situation persists or worsens, we will discuss with Mr. Yanelli and talk as a Council about further steps that can be taken. This will mean the implementation of stricter rules and harsher consequences, but we do hope that the recent ideas to rectify the issues will be successful."

As students at this school, who are represented by the behavior of their classmates, many students are put off by this issue. About the issue of stealing, Ben said, "The fact that theft is, and continues to be, an issue at Choate is discouraging." He added that those responsible "negatively impact everyone else's Choate experience."

He continued, "The messes left behind in St. John are picked up by ABM workers, who should not have to deal with such conditions. Ben said that the recent treatment of St. John Hall damages the reputation of the Choate community. "Responsibility," Ben went on, "requires no talent, only general human decency."

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## CHOATE'S RED CROSS CLUB TO HOST BLOOD DRIVE

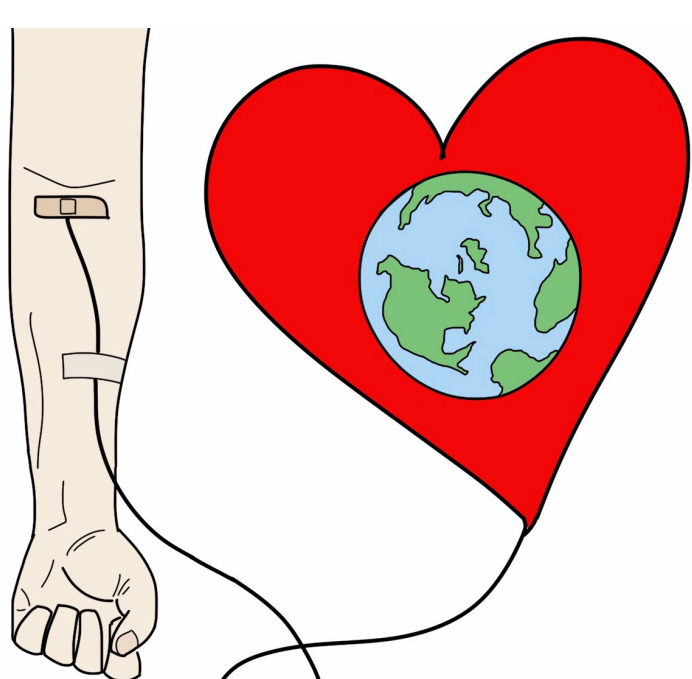


Illustration by Austen Rogers/The Choate News

Your donation of blood can save up to three lives.

By **Anjali Mangla '20**  
Staff Reporter

On October 13, Choate Rosemary Hall will take part in a school-wide Community Service Day, during which the Red Cross Club will host a blood drive.

Choate's Red Cross Club has hosted blood drives in conjunction with the American Red Cross for years. The club is part of many across the nation, which all act under the umbrella of the American Red Cross Association. It has become

a normal part of the Choate schedule to see a blood drive hosted by the Red Cross.

The club handles a lot of the responsibility that comes with hosting this annual blood drive and recruiting volunteers. This year's club president, Gordon Clark '19, organizes student and faculty volunteers and plans the blood drive in order to make it run smoothly. "I want everyone involved to be comfortable donating blood, and I want everyone to feel comfortable volunteering at Choate," Clark said.

The blood drive is an opportunity for Choate students to connect with people from outside of campus and engage with the Wallingford community. Bringing the outside world's needs closer to Choate is one outcome of the blood drive. This year, Clark said, "with the help of [Director of Community Service] Ms. [Melissa] Koomson and the cabinet, we have gotten the club off the ground," Clark said.

At this stage, the club is using multiple platforms in order

to reach the students, recruiting volunteers and spreading awareness about the initiative. The Red Cross aids the club with whatever it needs. "Working with the Red Cross of America has been very easy and pleasurable. They give our club many opportunities to rally students into helping those in need and provide much of the material we need to host these events," Clark said.

**I want everyone involved to be comfortable donating blood, and I want everyone to feel comfortable volunteering at Choate.**

Gordon Clark '19

Giving blood at the drive takes a maximum of twenty minutes, a short and relatively painless activity. "One donation of blood can save the lives of up to three people in desperate need of blood. It is important for Choate students to partake in this initiative in order to help these people," Clark urged.

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## Electronic Sign-Outs

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ronic signouts has begun.

Since Annett Ho '18 began at Choate in 2015, she has left campus every weekend to study violin at the Juilliard School, in New York. "I am so sick of those slips!" she said. "I can't wait for the new system. In my time here, I must have had 300 slips signed. I killed, like, a forest of trees."

The new system is the result of years of work by the Deans' Office. The School officially announced the electronic weekend sign-out system last spring, and hoped to unveil it in early September. However, because of various technical issues, the School was forced to postpone its implementation.

In recent weeks, Mr. Morris ran a series of test runs. "The first issue that hindered the process," Mr. Morris explained, "was that parent information had not loaded correctly. After fixing the problem, we tried running a trial through REACH again and realized that some student information had not loaded correctly either."

Choate wanted to ensure that the system was working perfectly before it was introduced. Mr. Morris explained, "It is important that we make sure that we get that right because keeping tabs on students' whereabouts is a very important responsibility."

When REACH is fully functioning, the program will also allow for students to set their evening location on campus through the REACH app or website. The information will appear on that student's house log so the adviser on duty will be notified about the student's whereabouts.

Mr. Morris described creating this new system, "Any information technology-related project — particularly when you are trying to get information systems to communicate with one another — is difficult." The data stored in REACH includes basic information on the student, including his or her dorm, room number, and adviser. Mr. Morris continued, "The information required for this system has turned out to be more of a hurdle than I, Choate's information technology staff, or even REACH really anticipated."

A group of students were selected to test the new sign-out system; some had their REACH app functioning as expected, while others had minor operation flaws. REACH is trying to decode the problem in the system. The process of resolving these issues requires constant communication between Mr. Morris, Choate's ITS department, and REACH's technology support office to ensure a secure system.

Mr. Morris said, "We will continue to move forward with it carefully and see if this is going to be the right direction for our school."

Despite the difficulties in the electronic sign-out system, Choate continues to push for the ideal sign-out system that will ensure the responsibility and security of students at all times. Mr. Morris said, "Choate has a strong interest in moving this out as expediently as we can without compromising our responsibilities in keeping track of our students."

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## MEASURES TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC

Continued from Page 1

road, and there's a line of twelve buses, it's difficult and challenging for everybody," said Mr. Stanley.

Many students are grateful for Community Safety's presence. Angela Zhao '19 said, "I think they're really necessary because, usually when they're not there, kids keep on going in all directions, and I feel like that is very dangerous and a potential risk because drivers will get fed up."

The school has also been in contact with the Wallingford Police Department to make sure that everything runs smoothly and risks are minimized. Director of Risk Management Ms. Risa Vine said, "The Wallingford Police Department is extremely responsive and easy to work with." The School has an online mechanism to report any incident that takes place between students and drivers, and, according to Ms. Vine, the

School has received about two reports a week this year.

The School recommends that students, should they ever find themselves involved in such an incident, try to get the license plate of the car or remember whatever information possible about the car. Mr. Stanley commented, "When kids do share that information of somebody being a reckless driver or an obnoxious driver and we get the description, we can get that to the police and they follow up."

When asked if the School could do anything that it isn't already doing, Ms. Vine said, "The School administration is always considering options to keep our community safe. When we have a plausible idea, we have the type of relationship with the Wallingford Police Department that we reach out to them to discuss its merits."

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## SAYING FAREWELL TO MS. NIJOLE JANIK: CHOATE'S FINANCE FAMILIAR FACE

By **Siri Palreddy '20**  
Reporter

Last week, students, faculty, and staff said goodbye to a beloved, if less well known, member of the Choate community. On September 29, after 29 years with the school, Accountant Ms. Nijole Janik retired. Ms. Janik joined Choate's financial office in the fall of 1988.

Ms. Janik has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Connecticut, but, as a lover of math, she had always aimed to work in finance. After college, she took an adult-education course in bookkeeping, learning how to track an institution's daily monetary transactions properly. Ms. Janik said, "I caught on quickly. The teacher told me just to read the book, since I really didn't need to come to class."

From there, Ms. Janik began to apply for openings in accounting. "I looked in the help-wanted section of the newspaper," Ms. Janik said, "which is unheard of these days." Before coming to Choate, she worked in the finance

division at the Central Bank in Meriden. Then, in August of 1998, she called the school's personnel director, who asked her to come in for an interview. "And that was the beginning," Ms. Janik recalled.

**At the end of the day, you have to be sure everything is balanced and processed properly. Nijole did a great job.**

*Ms. Olga Pivazyan*

According to the department's mission statement, its role is to "provide quality financial information and services to the Choate Community and its related party in an accurate, timely, and friendly manner." In truth, Choate would not run without its financial office. The department's performs all the school's bookkeeping, pays its bills, processes tuition from students, manages students' accounts, and oversees each department's budget. It also

reports this information, when needed, for taxes and to the Board of Trustees. Ms. Janik ensured that transactions were correctly reconciled in the school's general ledger. "Making sure everything is accurate," Ms. Janik said. "That's number one." When figures do not match, Ms. Janik went on, "it's kind of like being a detective, and I enjoy that very much."

Ms. Olga Pivazyan, Choate's Accounting Manager, said, "Nijole was a dedicated employee with exceptional organization skills and work ethic." She added, "At the end of day, you have to be sure everything is balanced and processed properly. Nijole did a great job. It doesn't matter what you ask of her, it will be done accurately and on time — actually, no, ahead of time."

Outside of her work at Choate, Ms. Janik has a diverse array of interests. Ms. Pivazyan said, "She loves music, she loves to sing, and I know she has a very warm heart. When people are having difficult times, she will just crochet an afghan and give it as a gift."

And those are some of the activities that Ms. Janik plans to pursue after she retires. Already a cantor at her church, she is looking forward to getting more involved there, by joining a prayer-shawl crochet group. She also hopes to travel more with her husband, spend time with friends and family, read, and volunteer. "But I want to see what retirement feels like first," Ms. Janik explained.

**When people are having difficult times, she will just crochet an afghan and give it as a gift.**

*Ms. Olga Pivazyan*  
Accounting Manager

As for Choate, Ms. Janik said, "It's how well people work together here. Everybody here is very motivated — they care about the school, they care about the students, and they want to do the best job they can."

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## After Hurricane Harvey, Student Takes Action

By **Silas Walker '19**  
Reporter

As a "born and raised Houstonian," Alix Kirby '18 feels that it is imperative to help those in need in her hometown, especially since her family and friends were directly affected by the Hurricane Harvey, which has recently affected large portions of the southern United States. She said, "Most of my family lives in Houston, and we were affected by the hurricane as well as my friends, and since I can't be there in person to help, I thought it was important to do everything I could."

For this reason, Kirby has created a community service initiative, which she presented at the all-school meeting last Tuesday, aimed at providing aid to those affected by the hurricane. She is working alongside Community Service Director Ms. Melissa Koomson



Photo by Jeanne Malle/The Choate News

Donation jars can be found across campus.

to raise awareness for those in need through their American Red Cross sponsored fundraiser. Donation jars have been placed in the Dining Hall, Tuck Shop, Choate Store, and Fitness Center. Cash, coins, and checks are all accepted, and Choate Card scanners were available in the Dining

Hall on Tuesday, September 26th and Thursday, September 29th. The jars will be up until Community Service Day on Friday, October 13th, at which point the donations will be collected.

Another primary goal of the fundraiser, in addition to assisting the people who were

harmed, is to raise awareness in the Choate community of what happened and to encourage as many people to contribute as possible. Kirby also believes that it's important for the Choate community as a whole to take part in these initiatives, whether it be this fundraiser or others. She said, "I think it's important to show that you're making a difference in the lives of so many other people, and especially that your contribution is actually being put to use, that something is being done with your donation."

All of the proceeds from the fundraiser will go to the American Red Cross, which will use the money to help victims of the hurricane rebuild their lives, by providing them with food, shelter, and basic necessities for recovery.

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## NEW FACULTY: CHAPLAIN SAMI AZIZ



Photo courtesy of Choate Directory

By **Amanda Li '21**  
Reporter

Chaplain Sami Aziz, a 2105 graduate from Wesleyan University, is Choate's new chaplain

for Muslim students. As a friend of the previous Muslim chaplain, when a spot opened, he jumped at the opportunity. Since participating in an internship here six years ago, he has loved Choate's diversity and respect for religion.

Off campus, Chaplain Sami leads a non-profit organization, Common Ground Services, which he founded soon after graduating. Members of the organization, including himself, give talks to various communities about Islamophobia, being Muslim, and women of Islam. Already, he has visited Salisbury University, Ethel Walker School, and many other

academic institutions. At Choate, he hopes to inform students about Islam, connect with other religious groups, and host interfaith events. As for the students themselves, he hopes they will build a connection with a Muslim student before they graduate.

Chaplain Sami admires the Prophet Muhammad and Omar Suleiman for their optimism and ability to deal with conflicts in a calm manner and plans to express the same attitude towards students. In his free time, Chaplain Sami likes hiking, archery, watching a Turkish TV show called *Ertugrul*, Indian food, and

spending time with his wife. Currently, he is trying to earn a doctoral degree in ministry, focusing on how to reach out to students.

Every Friday, Chaplain Sami leads a sermon in the Spears Center, to which all are welcome to attend. He is always available for advice afterwards and during his office hours, which are 4-6 P.M. on Friday. Although he doesn't spend a lot of time on campus, he already loves the School and the atmosphere, and he hopes to stay here for years to come.

**Amanda Li** may be reached at  
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## NEW FACULTY: MR. JEREMY OLIVER

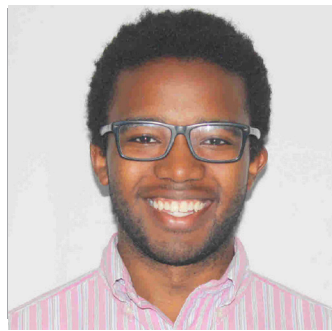


Photo courtesy of Choate Directory

By **Amanda Li '21**  
Reporter

Mr. Jeremy Oliver, a recent graduate from the University of Connecticut and a resident

of North Haven, is one of the newest additions to our mathematics department. After being contacted by Choate for a job interview, he was impressed by the School's encouraging and passionate administrators, as well as the beautiful campus. As a teaching fellow at Choate, he teaches two pre-calculus classes and will be coaching the swim team this winter.

Mr. Oliver's passion for math stems from his belief that the field of study teaches others to overcome problems by focusing on the core and

ignoring all superficial details. Although he has a wide area of expertise, with a major in mathematics and a minor in psychology, he especially likes proofs, logic, and calculus. A true extrovert at heart, Mr. Oliver chose teaching to be able to express his outgoing personality. His personal advice to all students is to "Make mistakes as fast as you can."

Aside from his studies, Mr. Oliver greatly enjoys watching the sci-fi show *Black Mirror*, playing ultimate frisbee, and watching the Olympics. In

college, he was an avid singer, touring with his a cappella group and even performing at Carnegie Hall.

Already, Mr. Oliver has grown to love the vibrant energy at Choate and has developed a soft spot for the frosted brownies found in the dining hall. Mr. Oliver hopes that at Choate he will be able to familiarize himself with as many students and staff members as possible.

**Amanda Li** may be reached at  
ali21@choate.edu

CHOATE ROSEMARY HALL

COMMUNITY

Friday, 10/13

SERVICE DAY

The entire Choate community will be assembling disaster relief kits for The American Red Cross to distribute to those in need from Connecticut and Rhode Island. The goal is to assemble **10,000 packets**, so we need **THOUSANDS** of unopened, travel-sized:

- shampoo
- conditioner
- deodorant
- soap
- toothbrush
- toothpaste

Please note: brand name not necessary

Please bring these items to the following locations **before 10/11**:

- Brownell - Development office
- Eglise Shops - Facilities office
- Hill House - fireplace in the senior section of the dining hall, Mail Room
- Worthington Johnson Athletic Center
- Ruutz-Rees - ABM office



# The Choate News



III<sup>TH</sup> MASTHEAD

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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VOL. CXI  
NO. 3

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## Jewish High Holidays: A Time to Reflect and Improve

By **Nate White '20**  
*Opinions Writer*

From nightfall on Wednesday September 20 to nightfall on Friday September 22, Jews around the world brought in the new year of 5778. Rosh Hashanah, or Head of the Year, is regarded as one of the most holy holidays in the Jewish tradition, but its meaning transcends a simple celebration of time passing. Observing Rosh Hashanah involves not only welcoming the new year but also reflecting on the year that has passed, and for Jewish people around the world, this reflection hasn't exactly been easy.

*To say that anti-Semitism is a thing of the past is misguided and ignorant.*

Of course, reflections on the political climate in the U.S. currently bring to mind the neo-Nazi march in Charlottesville — a devastating moment, to be sure — but anti-Semitism has seen a larger uptick in frequency and severity over the past year. While Jewish people are not being regularly killed in the streets, Jewish schools and synagogues have been defiled with anti-Semitic symbols. And Jewish cemeteries have been desecrated, their grave-stones toppled and graffitied with swastikas. Even here in Connecticut, with its generally progressive left-wing ideologies, anti-Semitism thrives. The Jewish Community Center of New Haven, which offers nursery schools, fitness classes, basketball tournaments and several other services to people of all religions, has received several bomb threats. To say that anti-Semitism is a thing of the past is misguided and ignorant.

Of course, it would also be ignorant to say that other forms of violent bigotry have not seen a similar increase in frequency. Islamophobic, xe-

nophobic, and racist crimes have been happening more and more, yet we see no serious action being taken by the current Administration. The president campaigned on an “America first” ideology, but seems to have little regard for the threatening of millions of those Americans every day.

On September 30th, Jews observed Yom Kippur, also known as the Day of Atonement. On this day, Jews reflect on their deeds in the past year and how they may have wronged others, wronged themselves, and, for some observers, wronged God. Once again, this day is a reflection on the year, but this time, the focus is on the self. Jews look back on their actions and misdeeds, considering the ways in which they can improve their behavior.

This is an opportune moment for our country to look back in similar fashion. We are approaching almost one year since the 2016 Presidential Election, and it is a fitting time for the United States to reflect, not just on its political decisions, but on its political culture. We hurled insults at one another, delegitimized individuals simply based on their opinions, and became more divided as a nation.

It is often difficult to apply other cultures to our own lives, but if there is one thing that all Americans should take away from the Jewish High Holidays, it is that with a proper reflection on its past, there is still hope for the United States. Even when the President unleashes another barrage of ridiculous tweets, even when an unarmed African-American man is shot dead by the very people meant to protect him, even when nursery schools are evacuated in the face of bomb threats, there is still hope. In the face of hate and division, hundreds of thousands of Americans continue to stand up for their beliefs, cultures, and ideas. To the students, faculty, and staff of Choate: we need to look back, reflect, and improve. This is the advice that the Jewish high holidays offer.

**Nate White** is a fourth former from Cheshire, Conn. He may be reached at [nwhite@choate.edu](mailto:nwhite@choate.edu)

## THE DANGER OF SUICIDAL LANGUAGE IN CASUAL CONVERSATION

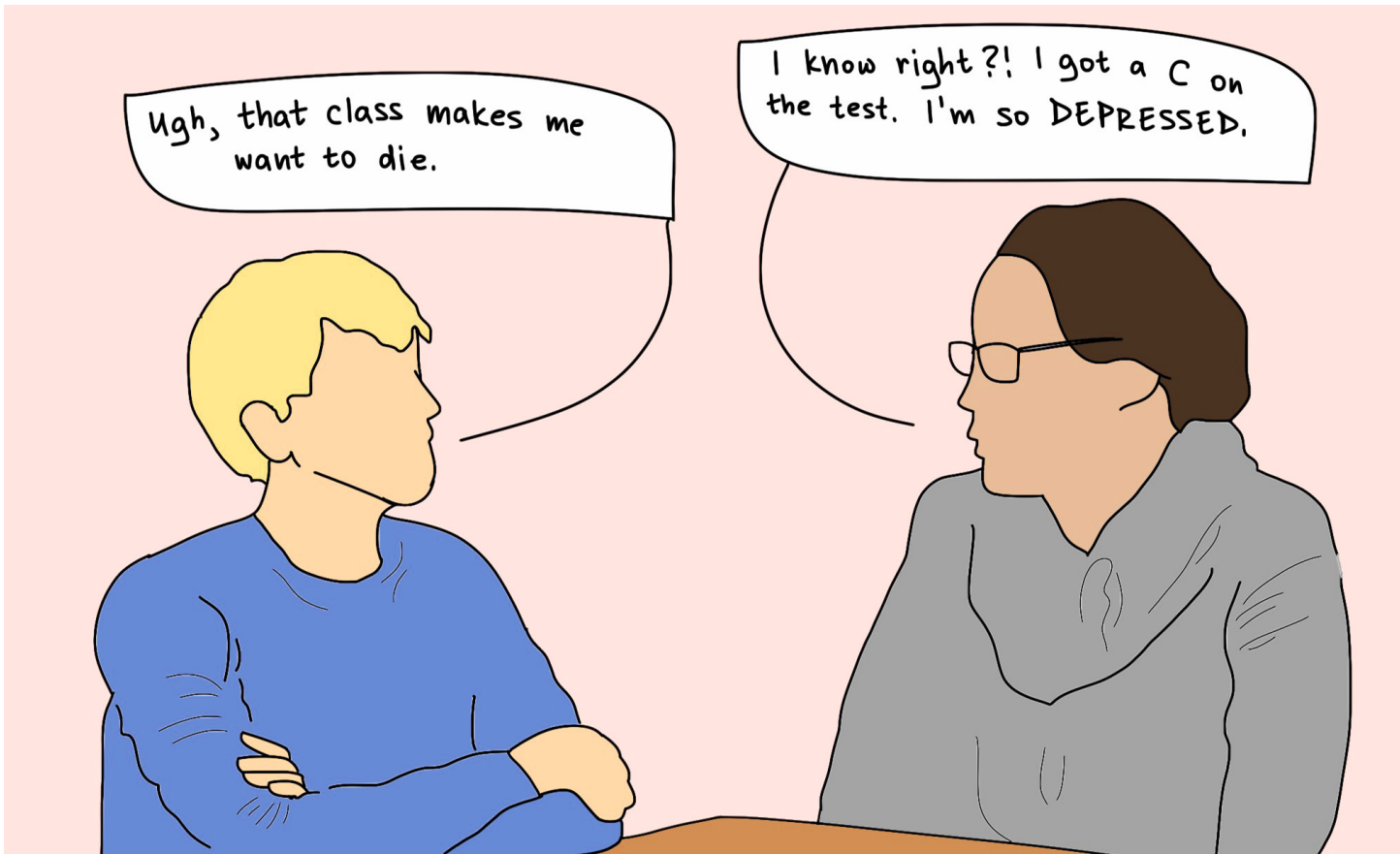


Illustration by Austen Rogers/*The Choate News*

At Choate and elsewhere, suicidal talk pops up in everyday conversation over topics like classes and grades.

By **Derek Ng '20**  
*Opinions Writer*

Although most of us welcome a good joke in casual conversation, certain humor crosses the line from being funny to being threatening. Though Choate advises its students to avoid using derogatory language, it is really up to the students to recognize the effects that their jokes have on the mental health of their peers. Comments about mental health issues should be taken seriously, yet some students disregard this in favor of lighthearted jokes that poke indirect fun at this issue.

Over time, modern-day society has embraced comments that trivialize important mental health issues. Interspersed within our day-to-day conversations are seemingly harmless comments intended to convey annoyance and not genuine suicidal thought:

*“That test was so hard. Literally, shoot me.”*

*“I have so much homework; I think I’m going to kill myself.”*

*“Wow, you ate lunch without me? Die.”*

These phrases can often be found online, too. Common abbreviations such as “KYS,” “KMS,” or “RIP” float about group chats and online forums—supposedly harmless expressions that unintentionally belittle death or suicide.

Although we may not immediately notice it, these comments undercut the real issue at hand. Though such phrases appear ubiquitous, we hardly realize the depth or seriousness they hold.

Why is death so casually ubiquitous within everyday conversation? More than anything, this points to a large disconnect between language and meaning. Instead of representing the serious mental health issues for which these comments should literally be employed, they are instead used to depict casual bouts of irritation. Though we might agree that no one who has used these phrases is actually encouraging suicide, it is nonetheless inappropriate to use them. Too often, we fail to recognize the severity of the things we say.

Suicide-slang isn't the only issue. Aside from terms regard-

ing suicide, phrases take their roots from other mental health issues that have emerged in society. On the surface, there seems to be nothing wrong with saying things like “Why does she always have to be so bipolar?” or “I’m so depressed because all my friends are off-campus” or “I’m going to have a panic attack when I take this test.” But because we have grown accustomed to hearing these on a regular basis, most of us seem to forget or disregard that each of these phrases draws their roots from real mental health problems. From even the most superficial standpoint, it should seem abnormal that we claim a medical episode if we are merely taking a test, or that we diagnose someone with a severe mental disorder without substantial evidence.

According to a *Vice* article on the casual degradation of these mental health terms, it sometimes becomes a matter of whether or not mental health illnesses are correctly identified. Because it's harder to diagnose a mental health problem on the surface level, it is convenient to conflate other

emotional problems with mental health. I recently came to understand that depression and simply feeling sad are very different. Depression is a clinically diagnosed condition, and we all, depressed or not, feel sad from time to time.. However, because both are ‘all in our head,’ it becomes challenging to tell the difference between the two. Thus, mental health illnesses are constantly being re-appropriated to mean things they were not originally intended to mean.

In order to pay due respect to those suffering from mental health problems, we must change the words and phrases we throw around on a daily basis. In order to do that, we must first re-wire the attitude in which we approach issues such as mental illness or death. Yes, this is a matter of what we say, but more important, it's about how we think. Though these small details may seem nitpicky to some, to others this really could be a matter of life or death.

**Derek Ng** is a fourth former from Fort Lee, NJ. He may be reached at [dng20@choate.edu](mailto:dng20@choate.edu)

## 100% PARTICIPATION NECESSARY IN EMERGENCY DRILLS

By **Matthew Anastasio '19**  
*Opinions Writer*

Recently, the Choate community has partaken in various emergency drills that are intended to prepare the students and faculty for potential dangers and threats on campus. There has been one lockdown drill, in which a person or animal may pose a threat, and one emergency assembly, which occurs in the event of potential weather or natural disasters. Although beneficial, the drills that are being conducted are not being done in a productive and orderly manner.

*Although there is never a convenient time when a disaster drill occurs, it is still important to make sure every student and faculty member at Choate goes through the emergency processes.*

On September 14 at 9:00 a.m., the Choate Administration sent out a school-wide announcement that asked all students to report to the Athletic Center. Since classes do not begin until 9:40 a.m. on Thursdays, many Choate students did not participate in the drill. Many boarding students were still sleeping, and many day students were either on their way to school or still at home. It is unfair for the school to expect students to make it to a designated area of assembly during a drill if a quarter of the Choate community is not required to be one campus at the time, and many others are not able to receive the message because they are asleep. In a situ-



Photo courtesy of Internal Auditor Website

When these alarms sound, the entire Choate community needs to know how to respond.

ation where there is an actual threat that requires a lockdown or an emergency assembly, the Choate Administration would have trouble taking account of its students if they are scattered on and off the Choate campus.

There are two improvements that the school should make in order to legitimize the drills. First, Choate needs to make sure that they are conducting the drills at a time of day when students are most likely going to be awake and on campus. Although there is never a convenient time when a disaster drill occurs, it is still important to make sure every student and faculty member at Choate goes through the emergency processes.

The Choate Administration also needs to improve its plan on announcing emergency

evacuations and assemblies. School-wide texts and announcements are sent to students and faculty, but in the event of an emergency, every single Choate student and faculty member must be aware of what is happening. Therefore, in addition to announcing the emergency plans via text and email, the school should also have a designated faculty or staff member in each dorm who vocally announces the emergency plans. This will ensure that even the students who are sleeping or simply not checking their phones will be informed of the emergency procedures immediately after they are announced.

If the time ever comes when there is an actual lockdown or emergency assembly, the students and faculty of Choate must be prepared. In recent years,

Choate and many other schools around the country have admirably improved their emergency plans and methods. But with a campus that is larger than many schools in the country, it is more challenging to make every person aware of the situation.

The drill on September 14 was a perfect example of why the Choate Administration should review its means of announcing emergencies to its students and faculty members. The drills that the school conducts are useful, but their emergency response plans should be improved in order to ensure the safety of the Choate community.

**Matthew Anastasio** is a fifth former from Woodbridge, Conn. He may be reached at [manastasio19@choate.edu](mailto:manastasio19@choate.edu)

## CORRECTIONS

### NEWS

An article last week misidentified Ms. Jennifer Tuleja as a member of the Communications Department. She is a member of the Alumni Development Office.

### FEATURES

A pull quote attributed to Bryce Wachtell '17 misspelled his name.



## CHINA’S COMMUNIST COLLAPSE: WHY CAPITALISM IS THERE TO STAY

By **Jack O’Donnell ’17**  
*Opinions Editor ’16-17*

Socialism is a dying concept in China; gone are the days of Mao’s green jacket and the People’s Communes. Walk down Nanjing Road in Shanghai today, and you will see the Chinese people spending more money than their grandparents dreamed of. General Motors, Rolex, Gucci, and thousands of other Western brands have poured into China over the last 20 years. People have more disposable income than ever before, consumption is up to new heights, and the private sector is booming with foreign investment flowing through Shanghai and Hong Kong, especially with the Shanghai-Hong Kong stock exchange connect. Capitalism has arrived in China, and it’s there to stay.

To understand the changes that China continues to undergo, one must look at its recent past. 50 years ago, the People’s Republic of China was undergoing the worst period of its existence — The Cultural Revolution. Offices and schools were closed, factories shut down, millions of people executed and tortured, the econo-

my left reeling from the effects of the Great Leap Forward, and famine was rampant across the land. A small group of powerful figures in the Communist Party, led by Deng Xiaoping and known as the Pragmatists, tried to check Mao’s power and institute economic and land reforms to stop famine and encourage economic growth. Mao didn’t like unrest in the party, and he had the Pragmatists purged and exiled. 11 years later, in 1976, Mao Zedong died, and the Cultural Revolution finally came to an end. Two years later, Deng Xiaoping had replaced his deceased rival as the leader of China, and true to his ‘Pragmatist’ nickname, began a series of huge reforms throughout the PRC.

Deng quickly decentralized trade, and the Chinese Communist Party began to promote microeconomics by breaking apart the massive people’s communes. Many of these monstrous and largely inefficient State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) were broken in Town and Village Enterprises (TVEs), which were considered by the party as a transition from socialism and nationalized industry to capitalism

and privatized industry. Furthermore, Deng tackled the problem of famine and illegal farming by instituting the Responsibility System of 1978, which allowed peasants to privately cultivate land that was leased to them under contract by the government. While still a flawed and imperfect system, this allowed for food surpluses to be created throughout China and paved the way for economic growth. Throughout the 1980s and 90s, Deng and the CCP encouraged foreign investment in China. Even after Deng stepped down in 1992, the CCP still encouraged growth in the economy and passed the Tax Reform of 1994, granting more disposable income to the average person in China and creating the world’s largest consumer market. Finally, in 2001, China joined the World Trade Center. From 1978 to 2014, China’s GDP had grown from 168.5 billion USD annually to over 9000 billion USD annually. In 2015, Shanghai and Hong Kong opened a joint stock channel, allowing investors from Mainland Chinese Stock Exchanges to invest in the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and vice versa. Xi

Jinping, the current President of China, is widely known for prosecuting CCP members for corruption, largely in an effort to make China safer for foreign investment banks and private equities. As of the modern age, China is a wholly capitalist nation.

*If China is a capitalist society, why are its people still living under a brutal authoritarian regime?*

This begs the question: If China is a capitalist society, why are its people still living under a brutal authoritarian regime? Shouldn’t the CCP come toppling down any day now? Won’t it be a grand and marvelous spectacle, with hundreds of thousands of people streaming down the avenues of Beijing, Shanghai, and Hong Kong, singing and clamoring about freedom and liberty?

While this may be the ideal outcome, unfortunately for China and its citizens, it simply won’t be the case. The fall of the Chinese Communist Party will most likely be preceded by a lengthy build-up, a continual weakening of the state until its final and rapid collapse. The outermost regions with the most minority unrest, such as Xinjiang, Tibet, and Inner Mongolia, will break off and form independent nations. Inevitably, there will be a period of instability, just as there was after the last dynasty fell to ruins in 1911. However, luckily for this long oppressed country, democracy is slowly but surely coming. As the Hong Kong Umbrella Revolution proved, the horrors of the Tiananmen Square Massacre should not and cannot be repeated. The next time the incensed people march for democracy, they will be successful in their mission. To quote the timelessly wise Chinese philosopher Confucius, “Only the wisest and stupidest of men never change.”

**Jack O’Donnell** is currently a freshman at Johns Hopkins University. He may be reached at [jodonnell@jhu.edu](mailto:jodonnell@jhu.edu)



**Donald J. Trump**   
[@realDonaldTrump](#)

Being nice to Rocket Man hasn’t worked in 25 years, why would it work now? Clinton failed, Bush failed, and Obama failed. I won’t fail.

**Elizabeth Warren**   
[@SenWarren](#)

Thoughts & prayers are NOT enough. Not when more moms & dads will bury kids this week, & more son & daughters will grow up without parents.

**Barack Obama**   
[@BarackObama](#)

Michelle & I are praying for the victims in Las Vegas. Our thoughts are with their families & everyone enduring another senseless tragedy.

**Chris Murphy**   
[@ChrisMurphyCT](#)

To my colleagues: your cowardice to act cannot be whitewashed by thoughts and prayers.

None of this ends unless we do something to stop it.

**Kamala Harris**   
[@KamalaHarris](#)

Let’s speak the truth that Puerto Rico deserves to be a priority, just like our brothers and sisters in Florida and Texas.

**Bernie Sanders**   
[@BernieSanders](#)

Republicans’ budget would cut Medicare by at least \$450 billion, but would give billionaires, including the Trump family, huge tax breaks.

**Ivanka Trump**   
[@IvankaTrump](#)

Wishing everyone an easy and meaningful fast and may we all be inscribed in the Book of Life. G’mar Hatimah Tovah!  
[#YomKippur](#)

**Theresa May**   
[@theresa\\_may](#)

The UK’s thoughts are with the victims and the emergency services responding to the appalling attack in Las Vegas.

**Mike Signorile**   
[@MSignorile](#)

MSNBC’s Stephanie Rule: “My source didn’t say Tillerson called a ‘moron.’ My source said he called Trump a “f\*\*\*\*\*g moron.”



Photo courtesy of Reuters

Soldiers clear debris from a house affected by the Mexican earthquake on September 8th, 2017.

“Texas and Mexico share more than half the border. There are families, marriages, businesses that bind our two sides. This is about being good neighbors.”

This kind gesture came from a time where relations between Mexico and the United States have been strained due to President Trump’s P’oo recent attempts to propose a wall between the Mexican-American border. Furthermore, the president is adamant that Mexico will pay for the establishment of this wall. Trump has also threatened to leave NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement), an agreement that reduces tariff on any

supplies being transported between the countries. The removal of NAFTA would further increase the already rocky relations that the United States with Mexico.

This all changed when the 8.1 magnitude earthquake struck killing 90 people. The quake was followed by a category 1 hurricane that formed deadly mudslides killing even more citizens. Then the devastating 7.1 earthquake hit. As a result, Mexico revoked its agreement to send aid to Houston, and the country began focusing on recovering from their own natural disaster. On September 14th, Donald Trump tweeted: “Spoke to President of Mexico

to give condolences on terrible earthquake. Unable to reach for 3 days b/c of his cell phone reception at site.”As a result, The United States Director of Defense sent an elite group of men on a disaster team to help Mexico City recover from the earthquake.

It is unclear what Donald Trump’s ultimate motive is by sending aid to Mexico. He could simply be trying to return Mexican president’s gesture, even though they never did provide any aid to the Houston area. Trump could be sending supplies and people to help in the hope Mexico will be more compliant so the next time he wants to build

a wall. Only time will tell to see how these events affect the future.

The amount of camaraderie that was shown by both the United States and Mexico over the last month is commendable. Hopefully, both countries will continue to improve relations in the future. Maybe now they realize that Mexican-American relations are not just about who pays for a wall, they are about keeping people safe, and that should always be a top priority.

**Alex Coletti** is a fourth former from Madison, Conn. He may be reached at [acoletti20@choate.edu](mailto:acoletti20@choate.edu)

## Lock Them Up: The Trump Administration’s Email Double Standard

By **Audrey Powell ’19**  
*Opinions Staff Writer*

As first reported by the New York Times, four current and two former White House officials have been using private email accounts to discuss government business — further proving the severity of the hypocrisy demonstrated by the Trump Administration.

*The degree to which Secretary Clinton used her personal email is more extreme than the Trump administration’s use, as far as we know.*

Just one day before the publication of the Times’ article, *Politico* revealed that Jared Kushner, advisor and son-in-law of the president, had used his per-

sonal email to send around one hundred emails during the first seven months of his work in the White House. A *New York Times* article named the five other officials who inappropriately used their personal email accounts: Stephen Miller, Gary Cohn, Reince Priebus, Ivanka Trump ’00, and Steve Bannon. Miller serves as a presidential advisor and speechwriter, Cohn is a director of the National Economic Council, and Ivanka Trump is one of Trump’s advisors as well as his daughter. Priebus no longer works at the White House, but he was Chief of Staff to Trump. Steve Bannon, former chief strategist, also doesn’t work for Trump anymore; instead, he has returned to his position as executive chairman of the alt-right, white supremacist “news site” Breitbart News.

As many can recall, one of the most, if not the most, influential reason for Hillary Clinton’s loss in the 2016 election was her use of a personal email server to communicate sensitive information while Secretary of State. However,

the degree to which Secretary Clinton used her personal email is more extreme than the Trump Administration’s use, as far as we know. Clinton sent approximately 30,000 work-related emails on the personal server, including intel on the 2012 attack on U.S. government facilities in Benghazi, Libya. Conversely, the current White House emails have been labeled as “sporadic” by the Administration. While the information transmitted in these emails isn’t yet known, the number sent by Jared Kushner seems to indicate that it is not as dire as those sent by Secretary Clinton.

But while there is a distinct difference between the two cases of personal email use, it is still extremely alarming that the White House is engaging in this inappropriate behavior. Donald Trump spent the vast majority of his campaign blabbing about “crooked Hillary Clinton” because of her use of a personal email server. And yet, his government officials are doing the same thing. In other words, he is yet again exhibit-

ing overwhelmingly hypocritical behavior. Not only did he criticize and antagonize Clinton over and over again about the emails, but he also prom-

*Not only did Trump criticize and antagonize Mrs. Clinton over and over again about the emails, but he also promised to “drain the swamp.”*

ised to “drain the swamp.” He swore to eliminate corruption in the White House; however, he went on to hire people like Steve Bannon, a white nationalist. Moreover, he hired Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner, purely based on their familial relation to him. And he hired the other three people who en-

gaged in inappropriate use of personal email accounts. This makes him a hypocrite and a liar. But we already knew this.

What might be most unfortunate about this whole situation is that this story is not and will not be highly publicized. It will not be used as a basis for hatred as it was for Hillary Clinton. The same Trump supporters who constantly bashed Clinton for her use of the servers will not do the same to Trump or the hypocrites working for him. It will also not be used as a point of contention in an upcoming election in the same way that Secretary Clinton’s misuse was. But just like she faced repercussions and an investigation, those six government officials should also be scrutinized and evaluated so as to determine what information they sent using private email accounts and their future statuses at the White House.

**Audrey Powell** is a fifth former from Bronxville, New York. She may be reached at [apowell20@choate.edu](mailto:apowell20@choate.edu)



## PARENTS' PORTAL REVAMPED TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY

By **Caroline Donatelli '18**  
Staff Reporter

Choate students seldom have reason to ponder the parents' portal, the online venue for all parent information on student life. However, this topic is very much on the mind of members of the Communications Department and Internet Technology Services (ITS). Thanks to collaboration between these two groups, recent improvements have made the parents' portal clearer and more accessible than ever.

According to Ms. Alison Cady, Director of Communications, the Communications and ITS Departments began building the new parents' portal early last year, with the changes introduced to parents in May 2017. The portal was moved from a framework called SharePoint into the Finalsite platform, which hosts the student and faculty portals. Ms. Cady said that this new platform provides for a "unified, consistent experience for all Choate constituents." Parents have a graphically-enhanced view of student information, but the content is the same.

The intended impact of the change is for content to be shared more easily. Ms. Cady explained, "Things like calendars, announcements, etc. can be shared across constituencies, without duplicate input." In addition, all Choate constituents — parents, students, and faculty — have similar experiences across the website and portals. Ms. Cady has received some feedback from parents and it seems parents "like the updated look and features." However, Ms. Cady noted that the portal will continue to be refined and improved as more feedback comes in.

Ms. Cady feels the parents' portal is important to the community because it is "an important information-sharing tool for parents whether they are around the corner, or across the globe." The portal not only provides parents with updates about campus events but is also a

resource for student information. Through the portal, parents pay tuition, manage their child's Choate Card account, and view term grades and comments.

Mr. Andrew Speyer, Director of ITS, said, "One of the big goals was to have calendars, events, and announcements translate more easily to parents. We hoped by putting the parents in the same sandbox as students, faculty, staff and other campus residents, they would have a better communication plan. They know when practices are, they know when games are, and they know when events are happening. Overall, the goal was just have a more unified experience so that parents are not in a separate ballpark."

Parent opinions on the new portal are mixed. Efuah Hagan, mother of Amy Hagan-Brown '18, expressed that it was inconvenient getting onto the new portal after the user ID and password changes. However, she also noted that the portal is now easier to access and more informative. Philip Gibbs, father of Grayce Gibbs '18, has one specific complaint about the portal: he cannot set up his own UserID, and he also thinks it is harder for him to see billing information. Overall, though, the portal plays a minor role in his experience as a Choate parent, and he said he has not "paid too much attention to it."

Now that that the parents' portal has been changed, it is simpler for parents to access information, an especially important aspect of any boarding school. As Mr. Speyer said, "Parents are important to the community; they're the audience we cater to the most besides students, especially parents of boarders who may be more than an hour or two away from campus and can't get here. We want to be able to bring as much of the experience of campus to everybody who is not physically able to be here."

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## SENIOR SWEATERS DISPLAY SCHOOL SPIRIT



Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen

Students from the Class of 2017 wore their senior sweaters to last year's Deerfield Day.

By **Victoria Esquibies '20**  
Reporter

Within the next few weeks, watch for sweaters with a giant 'C' appearing on campus. These are the distinguished senior sweaters, a longstanding Choate tradition involving exclusive apparel only to be purchased by the sixth form class. Though you'll soon see the Class of 2018 sporting these sweaters, the history of senior sweaters has existed for much longer.

Starting at The Choate School in the 1910s, senior sweaters were known as "varsity sweaters" and given to the boys who played on a varsity team. Sweaters were an athletic honor and displayed the student's sporting ability. Depending on the sport, they would be a navy or white crewneck knit sweater with a gold or blue C. The equivalent to this at Rosemary Hall was a white blazer with a patch of the School's seal on the front pocket and stripes on the arm to show how many varsity teams a student participated in.

The varsity sweaters passed on from The Choate School to the new Choate Rosemary Hall and soon evolved in the later 1900s to become more

complex. Choate Rosemary Hall Archivist Ms. Judy Donald said, "These sweaters were only for student athletes that had achieved six letters during their time at Choate or three varsity letters during their senior year." The sweaters were given to these select few called the Wild Boar Award winners, but not long after, vanished as a whole. Ms. Donald said, "Varsity sweaters became cardigans with a big 'C' on the pocket, and then they just disappeared. Budget cuts meant that the program was eliminated."

**Starting at The Choate School in the 1910s, senior sweaters were known as "varsity sweaters" and given to boys who played on a varsity team.**

In 2013, the senior class took it upon themselves to revive the sweaters. Mr. Kerry Kuhn, manager of the School Store, commented, "The seniors came to us asking to have a special senior item. We used to sell sweaters with the Choate seal and class year, but they

ended up preferring to wear the sweaters with the big 'C.'" The school store now takes orders for the sweaters during the seniors' junior spring and delivers them September or October of their senior year.

Now called "senior sweaters" instead of varsity sweaters, they have become a controversial topic for students in the sixth form. Many students complain that the sweaters are too expensive with their \$119.99 price tag and dislike the look and feel of them. As Austen Rogers '18 said, "I don't think they're that cute. If it were less expensive and not a cream color, I would probably be more inclined to buy it. I love the idea of a senior sweater, but not how we execute it here." Other students simply did not even know that they existed. Caroline Donatelli '18 said, "I'm not even sure when they sent the email asking if we wanted one. I don't really think about them; I care more about colleges now than a senior sweater."

Some people, however, did see an importance for these sweaters. Lauren Canna '18, who bought a senior sweater, said, "Even if I don't wear it now, I'll want it when I'm older." Several sixth formers just want it to remember their se-

nior year at Choate. The senior sweaters now are hand-knitted and made with a "soft-hand." They come in a cream color with a large, navy C on the front. The sweaters are offered in 100% fine worsted wool, the reason for the sweaters' high price tags.

Mirialie De Jesus '18 did not buy a senior sweater. She commented, "I know that you can technically use the Beyond The Classroom Fund for it, but I don't feel like I wanted it that much to use a fund that's for students who want to go on things like community service trips. I didn't want to give in to the ridiculous price."

Love them or hate them, senior sweaters have been around for decades of Choate Rosemary Hall's history. Evolving from an athletic item to a sixth form memento, these sweaters have gradually progressed into the product sold today. Even though some students disagree with getting one or simply did not have the time to order one, the sweaters continue to be sold yearly at the School Store due to a continued demand by many other sixth formers.

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## PINK COLOR RUN MAKES STRIDES FOR PLANNED PARENTHOOD



Photo by Lauren Canna/The Choate News

The inaugural PINK Color Run takes place this Sunday, October 8.

By **Caroline Donatelli '18**  
Staff Reporter

Colors! Sweat! Paint! Music! Fun! This year's inaugural PINK Color Run, organized by Women on Developing Empowering Resolutions (WONDER) and co-sponsored by many gender equality clubs on campus, is literally making strides to support women's rights. The color run will take place this Sunday, October 8, and all proceeds will be donated to Planned Parenthood.

Serena Levin '20, co-president of WONDER, defined the event as "a 5K where you get pink powder thrown on you, which is a lot fun because in the end you're covered in all this powder." To participate, students may purchase a PINK Color Run shirt in the dining hall, which serves as both the uniform and the registration fee for the event. An estimated 140 shirts have been sold thus far. Rachel Proudman '19, another leader of WONDER, said,

"Leading the color run means educating people that Planned Parenthood is not just a place where abortions occur; Planned Parenthood is a place that promotes women's health care." Proudman feels that with our current administration, it is very important that we, as citizens, "do everything in our power to continue to fund Planned Parenthood and educate the population about the importance of the organization."

Though WONDER is the main organizer of the event, a variety of gender equality groups on campus are co-sponsors, including Students Advocating Gender Equality (SAGE), Girl Up, Misstique, Like a Girl, Girls for Girls, and Choate for Women. Madi Epstein-O'Halloran '18, co-president of SAGE, said, "I think it's important to support the cause because it shows that within a community, we are really cohesive and support one another." She continued, "Planned Parenthood is such an essential tool to everybody.

Even if you are against reproductive rights, it is used by lot of women that have other health care needs."

Kay Ingulli '18 plans to participate in the color run because she "runs a lot of races as a cross-country runner, but participating in a color run is something I've never actually gotten around to do." Audrey Powell '19 purchased a shirt because she is "a huge supporter of Planned Parenthood and women's reproductive rights." She thinks it is great that the proceeds from the shirt sales are going to Planned Parenthood, and even though she is not running, she wanted to show her support by donating.

If you're interested in bright colors, emphatic activism, and enthusiastic peers, put on your sneakers and walk up to the cross-country course this Sunday, October 8 for the PINK Color Run.

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## SRP Summer Internships Inspire Student Work

By **Riley Choi '18**  
Staff Reporter

Radiation. Cancer therapy. Environmental engineering. Empathy. Granular materials. These are just a few examples of the subjects that the students in Science Research Program (SRP) investigated at professional laboratories over the summer. SRP is a four-term signature program that offers students the opportunity to practice professional laboratory science. It is divided into the Biology section, which is advised by Dr. Allison Nishitani, and the Quantitative section, which is advised by Dr. Christopher Hogue. The application is open during winter term to all sophomores who are interested in science, with 16 students admitted to the program in their junior year.

**It was amazing that my mentor and Principal Investigator had me dive into experiments so quickly.**

Mehreen Pasha '18

For the first three terms of the program, the students read professional journals, learn how to present complicated information to the general public, and write scientific articles. The program advisers work closely with each student, helping them find labs for their summer internship. After completing the internship, SRP students write a manuscript of their summer work, create a poster that summarizes their research, and present in Student Lecture Series at the end of fall term.

"SRP is an amazing program because it is very unusual to get the opportunity to work in an academic research lab at a high school level," commented Dr. Nishitani. "The internship experience is special because students

get to investigate something that has never been done before, and they get to have a first-hand experience of a research scientist."

Mehreen Pasha '18 worked in a lab at Yale University that studies heterotaxy, a disease in which one or more of the organs are on the wrong side of the body. Her research focused on identifying the function of a gene called CFAP45, which is found to be mutated in a patient with heterotaxy.

"It was amazing that my mentor and PI had me dive right into experiments quickly, and I was very grateful that they trusted me with all of their equipment in completing these crucial experiments for the overall goal of the project," said Pasha. "I had a lot of fun in the lab because every Friday, there was a time for all the lab members to bond and talk about non-science things."

James Rose '18 researched at Department of Chemistry in New York University, and his goal was to design frameworks to include specific organic molecules. He analyzed 3D structure of molecules and experimented on chemical synthesis.

"I was in Material Research Science and Engineering Center (MRSAC) program at NYU," said Rose. "It was amazing to see what it's like to pursue science and to experiment chemical synthesis, which is taught at college and graduate school level."

Victoria Song '18 studied in the Astronomy Department at Yale University. She learned how supermassive black holes affect the overall shape of their host galaxy. She worked at the lab of her favorite scientist, Meg Urry, and she programmed and analyzed data to model and estimate the effect of the black holes.

"One of many cool moments in my lab experience was an event in the Yale planetarium hosted by the Yale Astronomy Department," said Song. "A graduate student who sounded like a sarcastic Neil deGrasse Tyson gave us a tour of various

constellations and planets. It felt like I was watching a movie."

Richard Lopez '18 researched the development of the kidney at University of Southern California. His research project focused on elucidating kidney formation process by experimenting with tip cells, which are developing structures of the kidney.

**It was exciting to learn about ongoing research related to kidney diseases.**

Richard Lopez '18

"I learned so much about scientific research in general," commented Lopez. "It was exciting to learn about ongoing research related to kidney diseases, and it definitely has deepened my interest in science."

The SRP advisers hope that the students have gained an appreciation for science through their summer internship. "I don't even expect that every SRP student would be a professional researcher in the future," said Dr. Nishitani. "I hope that SRP students feel confident that they have made a huge achievement of being able to read professional scientific papers and to conduct experiments at a professional lab."

Dr. Hogue added, "Whether they enjoyed the experience of SRP or not, the students have learned many valuable skills in life, such as building a life-long friendship with their classmates, learning how to create an effective PowerPoint presentation, and collaborating as a group. I hope these skills help them for the remainder of their Choate experience and beyond."

See the results of these students' work at the SRP Student Lecture Series on Tuesday, November 7 and Thursday, November 9, in Getz and Elman Auditorium.

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## WORKING IN HARMONY: CHAMBER CHORUS RETREATS TO WISDOM HOUSE



Photo courtesy of Lily Kops

The Wisdom House Retreat Center in Litchfield, CT, was a center for inspiration and activity for Chamber Chorus.

By **Simi Sachdeva '19**  
Staff Writer

The vast amount of talent at Choate, specifically in the arts, is not a secret to anybody in the community. One example of this is the Chamber Chorus, a choral group for which members must audition. The group not only performs for the Choate community, but also travels internationally. On September 23, the group travelled to the Wisdom House Retreat Center in Litchfield, CT on their annual weekend retreat, a highlight for all the members of the Chamber Chorus.

Ms. Alysoun Kegel, Director of the Chamber Chorus, explained that the retreat is designed to be a relaxing escape for the members of Chamber Chorus to bond and work on music. The retreat schedule consists of bonding activities and rehearsal time.

One key component of the trip was the location of the retreat. According to the The Wisdom House Retreat Center website, the Wisdom House Center is an “...interfaith Retreat and Conference Center presenting programs

in spirituality education and the arts...” and it was the perfect retreat location for several reasons. The rehearsal space at Wisdom House Retreat Center is larger than the usual rehearsal space for the Chamber Chorus at Choate, and this allows for work on “alignment and posture, interpreting music through movement, and using more physical rehearsal techniques.” One such exercise was practicing dynamics with a stretchy band.” Ms. Kegel expressed the environment was welcoming and there was a lot of nice outdoor space. “There is a meditative walking labyrinth that we like to sing in.” The retreat received unanimous positive feedback from its participants, despite initial doubts.

Ellie Latham '18, a new member of the Chamber Chorus, was skeptical at first, but ended up having many positive memories at the camp. She commented, “I was really surprised; I am a skeptic of retreats, but I did come away bonded.” She then shared an amusing anecdote of a bonding moment between her and the other members. “We played the human knot game but the

other group actually succeeded in getting out, but we were just standing there trapped in 90 degrees, sweating all over each other and making zero progress. It was bonding and it was really fun.”

Coming into the retreat, Jana Godbole '19, another new Chamber Chorus member, was excited but apprehensive, as she did not know many of her peer members in the group. She reminisced on the fun traditions, the joy of just running around and playing games and the late night talks and card games with the female Chamber Chorus Members, “I honestly think that now I can call a lot more people in Chamber Chorus my friends.” Her singing was impacted as well, “I think I learned how to sing with a tired voice,” and she elaborated that this an important skill to have as a singer at Choate. “I also think that since the group is smaller, my breath and sustaining notes have gotten better.”

Not only did the trip make an impact on the newest members of the group, the trip was also a positive experience for returners. Max Patel '19 articulated his experience, “We re-

hearsed and played games and got to know each other. A lot of the returning Chamber Chorus members were close and we were trying to incorporate the new kids. And I think we did that through a series of games and rehearsals.”

**I honestly think that now I can call a lot more people in Chamber Chorus my friends.**

Jana Godbole '19

The Chamber Chorus retreat is a success annually, and the members of the Chamber Chorus and Ms. Kegel agreed that this year was no exception to the norm: “Usually when we come back from the retreat, we have achieved a new level of expressive music-making, the new singers feel like they are an important part of the group, we have a better understanding of how to rehearse together, and everyone feels more connected.”

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## Jazz Ensemble: New Schedule, New Practice Hours

By **Tony Lee '21**  
Reporter

With the introduction of a new academic schedule this year, many extracurricular activities and groups have been reassigned to different meeting times. Jazz Ensemble, a musical group with rehearsals previously conducted from 7:00-8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, now meets during B block, akin to an academic course. This stark schedule change raised many eyebrows from members of the ensemble.

For seniors with numerous time commitments and extracurricular activities, having Jazz Ensemble as a B block “class” holds distinct negative effects. “I liked the old schedule,” Sebastian Chang '18, a trombonist, said. He continued, “From a personal perspective, I think it would be nice to change the current schedule. I would have had a double early out on Tuesday and Thursday, which would be totally nice because I could get a lot of work done.” Dani Zanuttini-Frank '18 added, “I didn't appreciate it as much during the old time, but I enjoyed having more frees during the day. I had two less free blocks than I had expected coming into the year, which is a lot. I find, in terms of homework, I'm way more efficient during the day compared to at night. I can really feel it on the nights that I don't have my frees. Frankly, the new schedule is less efficient for me.”

The new meeting time renders some musicians unable to participate in the orchestra. “Jazz Ensemble is being incorporated as a class whereas traditionally it has been treated as an extracurricular, which makes it tough for students who to enter the group if they take six classes or if they want to join later in the term. It's stressful, or at times, impossible. I've had a friend this year who was interested in joining, but couldn't. Joining Jazz Ensemble would be equivalent to adding another

class, which wouldn't work for his schedule.”

**There are some students who wanted to join Jazz Band and weren't able to due to conflicts in schedules.**

Dani Zanuttini-Frank '18

The new meeting time has also led to various scheduling conflicts with other classes. Zanuttini-Frank said, “There are some students who wanted to join Jazz Band and weren't able to due to conflicts in schedules. It is a huge loss to have some students who can't do Jazz Band because of their other classes.” He stated as an example, “In the spring, there is a music elective called Music of the 1960's taught by Mr. [Noah] Baerman, during B block. I really want to take it, and I know a lot of other people who want to take it but can't because of Jazz Band. So while I appreciate freedom in the evenings, the new B block meeting time has been causing headaches in scheduling.”

However, while the new Jazz Ensemble schedule serves as an inconvenience to some, it benefits other members. Chang said, “I'd like to change the schedule, but I haven't spoken to enough people to know if a change would do more good than harm. There are a lot of compressed activities in the evening.” “I don't know whether or not the new meeting time has freed up more people's schedules or clogged up more schedules. I don't have the most accurate perspective.” Zanuttini-Frank agreed, “There isn't a general consensus or agreement. Some people like it, some people don't like it.”

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## À LA MODE



By **Jeanne Malle '19**  
Columnist

When speaking of fashion on campus, our community seldom mentions anyone but students. Whether the discussion be admiring or criticizing one's style, the talk never revolves around anyone but us; I have seldom heard anyone commenting on teachers' style choices. Is it just assumed that because of their ages and career choice, the world of fashion should be kept out of their lives? Ms. Dan Zhao, a Chinese teacher on campus, proved this theory wrong when I asked

her some questions about her sense of style. Summarizing her style she said, “Simple, elegant, conservative, practical.” She continued, “I never follow or care about trends. It is all about the fit. Very often my clothes last for at least a few years. I have quite a few clothes that are 15 years old. I still wear them and like them. It's very environmentally friendly.”

For Ms. Zhao, “how a person dresses reflects the person's personality and perspective of beauty.” She elaborated, “My clothes are mostly in quiet color just like me: white, grey, black, brown, blue, beige, dark green, etc. I do use loud color a little now and then but only for accessories.”

When I asked her if getting dressed as a teacher was a different task than getting dressed for almost any other career, she replied without doubt, “Oh yes. I think that because I am in front of students, I need to show them something that I believe must be beautiful.” She continued, “I

would really like my students to dress similar to me. I believe that it's a great style. They might not dress the exact same, but at least learn to wear something nice and appropriate.”

The conservative style that Ms. Zhao has developed did not begin at the starting point of her teaching career, but in her childhood. “I was a very picky kid for my clothes, and my mom felt frustrated when she brought me shopping because I liked almost nothing,” she explained as she laughed at herself.

In raising her children, Ms. Zhao understands how important it is to let them choose what kind of style they want to have. She commented, “I let my kids wear what they want. My eight-year-old, he will choose something better than I can choose. That was really a surprise for me. It's interesting how young they were already able to recognize what is beautiful and what is not. There are situations where I really dress up and my two year old will come to me and say, 'mom, you're beautiful!' It was very crazy.” Her reasoning when deciding to give freedom of fashion to her kids had everything to do with her. “My style from when I was young is definitely not the same as the one from now. It takes some time for you to recognize what you are, what type of clothes belong to you.”

She believes it to be a necessity for any student to learn to dress appropriately, for although she admits these outfits may be conservative, she also sees that it is neither boring nor unappealing. It truly is important to embrace every aspect of your community, because you know what hidden gems lie out there!

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Photo by Jeanne Malle/The Choate News

Ms. Zhao describes style as a reflection of a person's personality.

## FACULTY MUSIC CONCERT



Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen

Violin teacher Ms. Artemis T. Simerson performed a beautiful violin solo during the concert last Sunday.

By **Ethan Luk '20**  
Staff Reporter

Last Sunday, the Choate music faculty serenaded the community during their afternoon recital held at the Chapel. It was an afternoon of diverse music, fervent passion, and lots of soulful playing.

The recital began with an original piece by violinist Mr. Netta Hadari, who was recently appointed as the new conductor of the Choate Rosemary Hall String Orchestra. His piece, “A Haunting and Tango,” was a spellbinding musical discovery that played around with dissonance, contrasting dynamics and rhythms. Following Mr. Hadari's solemn performance came a more light-hearted jazz rendition of the classic Disney song, “When You Wish Upon A Star,” by guitar instructor Mr. Brian Hartley.

After a handful of solo performances came a magnificent array of chamber pieces ranging from classic staples like Mendelssohn's Piano Trio No. 1 and Faure's Morceau de Concert to modern pieces like Bela Kovács's “After You, Mr Gershwin!” The Faure piece, played by Ms. Elizabeth Kitson-Arnold on the flute and Ms. Julie Levene on the piano,

was interpreted elegantly and warmed the hearts of many audience members. The slow pace took a shift as Ms. Susan Cheng and Ms. Levene stepped up onstage to perform a jazzy and rhythmically demanding piece by Bela Kovács. As an audience member, it was fun to listen to the syncopated beats and refreshing musical exchanges between piano and clarinet. The recital concluded with a sonorous interpretation of the Second Movement from Mendelssohn's “Piano Trio No. 1.” The beautiful melodic lines passed on from piano to cello to violin were handled deftly and soared across the chapel. Ms. Cheng, a piano teacher at Choate who performed at the recital, compared the pieces she played, “The piano part to the Mendelssohn Trio is more challenging to learn, prepare, and perform. The ensemble work between piano and clarinet for the Kovács is harder to coordinate. The Kovács piece is fun to hear and play, but I really love the Mendelssohn Trio. This particular Mendelssohn Trio is one of my favorite chamber pieces. It has a great piano part, and I love how all three instruments have pretty equal parts in the music. The writing for each instrument is great and

the parts are wonderfully put together to create a cohesive whole. The second movement of the Mendelssohn has always been a favorite of mine for its beautiful melody. Therefore, it was no surprise that I wanted to play it with my wonderful colleagues.”

The recital was met with the enthusiastic applause of an audience filled with students and teachers all with a love for music. Isabelle So '20 gushed, “It was extremely inspirational watching faculty members playing instruments with so much passion, and the fact that they had so many unique styles of playing really made the whole recital entertaining to watch.”

Ms. Cheng added, “I always enjoy preparing and performing chamber music with fellow music faculty members. It's a time for us to catch up with each other and do something fun and something that we all love to do.” The recital was a testament to the great musical talent among the Choate community that left the audience in awe and served as a reminder of the many ways music can enrich our lives.

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FIELD REPORT

Saturday Games

**Girls' Volleyball** (6-0-1)  
*falls to Exeter, 0-3*

**Girls' Soccer** (4-1-1)  
*beats Westy, 5-0*

**Boys' Soccer** (3-1-2)  
*beats Exeter, 2-0*

**Girls' XC** (2-0-0)  
*beats Taft, 28-29*

**Boys' XC** (3-0-0)  
*beats Taft, 21-37*

**Boys' XC** (3-0-0)  
*beats Trinity, 16-47*

**Field Hockey** (0-0-4)  
*falls to Westy, 0-2*

**Football** (3-0-0)  
*beats Exeter, 49-0*

**Football** (3-0-0)  
*beats Exeter, 49-0*

**Water Polo** (2-0-5)  
*falls to Exeter, 7-17*

Wednesday Games

**Volleyball** (6-0-1)  
*beats Loomis, 3-1*

**Boys' Soccer** (3-1-2)  
*ties with Trinity, 1-1*

**Girls' Soccer** (4-1-1)  
*beats Worcester, 2-1*

**Water Polo** (2-0-5)  
*falls to Deerfield, 16-6*

THE DILEMMA OF ROOTER BUSES AND SCHOOL SPIRIT

By **Jackson Elkins '18**  
*Sports Editor*

Any student-athlete knows that away games can be tough, whether it's because of the bus rides, the foreign locker room, the SAGE bag lunches, or any of the other inconveniences that come with playing at another school. Perhaps the most unnerving aspect that comes with playing away from home, particularly in prep school, is dealing with the home school fans.

Of course, fan support varies from school to school and from sport to sport, but for rivalries, playoffs, or any other big games, when Choate athletes play away, they can expect the stands to be packed in the other school's colors. Unfortunately, there seems to be a trend of Choate athletes seeing little representation from their own school opposite the home crowd, no matter how important the rivalry, no matter how crucial the playoff matchup.

Why does Choate not regularly send rooter buses to support its student-athletes when so many other schools appear to do so? Deerfield Day is the obvious exception, but, as fun as it is to sweep Deerfield in varsity sports every fall, there are many other games that are just as entertaining, as well as important. Choate athletes need greater fan support.

Head of Student Activities, Mr. Jim Yanelli, has given a lot of thought to the matter. "We tend to run the rooter buses by request," he said last week. "The complication is getting chaperones to give up their Saturday, or at least a major piece of it, to accompany students."

He went on, "Other times, there are so many kids traveling on teams that there aren't enough kids left behind to be on the rooter buses."

Students cannot control



Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen

School spirit is a pivotal aspect of student life and must be sustained by and for the students.

what faculty members do with their weekends. For faculty, it makes sense that they would rather enjoy their free time than deal with what can only be described as pandemonium. Students ask for rooter buses to incredibly important games, so it only makes sense that the crowds could be unruly.

Many observers wonder about the school's ability to pay for more rooter buses, an endeavor that would include paying for food students would require during the busride.

Mr. Yanelli, though, said that money isn't the issue. "In the past," he said, "we've been able to find the funds to do them. Usually, we split the cost between the athletic department, the dean of students office, and the student activities center, and we're happy to make that happen."

Mr. Yanelli did go on to get at the crux of the issue, "We

don't really have a mechanism for assigning faculty members or finding volunteers. I usually ask students interested in sending rooter buses to a game to check with faculty members that they may think would be willing to ride up on a bus."

When asked if there would be an easier way to get chaperones, Mr. Yanelli explained that some schools have a readily available pool of faculty on a given weekend that are 'on-duty' to chaperone rooter buses or other off-campus trips. That said, there are plenty of faculty who already chaperone weekend trips to New Haven, New York City, and other places. Perhaps a solution would be to have faculty who already volunteer for trips off campus be available for rooter bus chaperoning as well.

In the past, the school has sent buses to football, hockey, basketball, volleyball, and oth-

er sporting events, but there certainly are other sports that could use away-game support. Mr. Yanelli said, "We tend to support teams that are in championships and playoffs, but we really are willing to support other teams in all positions, playoffs or not."

This raises another question; are students willing to spend their Saturday on a bus to go and support their classmates? It is well noted that school spirit has been on the decline for a few years. Could rooter buses be a solution?

Calvin Carmichael '18 said that rooter buses are a big part of Boar Pen's goals for the year. "We're definitely working on getting rooter buses more frequently," he said. "It's really about the timing, so we have to know that students are interested ahead of time so that we can schedule accordingly."

In a perfect world, there

would be faculty available every weekend to take students on rooter bus trips to away games and there'd be students eager to make the trip. But that is simply not the case because of duty schedules, family commitments, school requirements, and whatever else that may clog a teacher's schedule.

On the other hand, students must be vocal about when they want to show support at another school, and they must take the initiative to make that known a week or two in advance to not only organize everything, but to rally the student body. School spirit often marks one of the best aspects of a student's time at Choate, for both athletes and fans. It falls into the hands of the student body to make sure it stays that way.

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On the Course with XC Coach Jim Davidson

By **George McCabe '20**  
*Staff Reporter*

A high school cross-country coach with 40 years of experience? If that's a rarity, it's also Mr. Jim Davidson. Back in the 1975, when Mr. Davidson was still a graduate student, he started to run with Choate's Boys' Cross Country team. Girls' Cross Country was not an official sport yet at Choate, but a few girls ran with the boys team. After he became a teacher at Choate, the athletic director at the time asked him to coach a new Girls' Cross Country team. In its first year, the girls' team grew into a group of ten athletes. It started running, and has never looked back.

When asked recently about how he got the job, Mr. Davidson said, "I would not say that it was by chance, but it was sort of by chance." He went on, "I had run in high school and did a fair bit of running in college, and it was fine with me." He gave credit to the Director of Athletics for the idea, but admitted, "I guess you could say that I have worked with the team since it was a team."

Mr. Davidson said, "Running is a sport that anyone can do something in." He pointed out that a runner's progress can be measured more easily in cross country than, say, soccer or basketball. That's "especially important for young athletes," he said.

So what, exactly, are Mr. Davidson's coaching methods? He explained, "I like to really identify individual strengths of kids. I like to structure practices so that there are different phases or stages so that kids of different abilities can find success in the sport."

He went on, "I try to structure practices so that there can be chances to build your confidence, chances to do more than you believed you could."

Additionally, Mr. Davidson tries to challenge his runners by helping them establish goals to work toward. "One of my methods," he said, "is to try to see where kids are and help them move from their point A to point B."

Mr. Davidson tries to inspire and get young athletes to test themselves. "That could mean a ten-minute-mile runner to making her way to a sub-eight-mile runner." Mr. Davidson is a big believer in giving positive and constructive criticism to his runners.

As for this year's team, Mr. Davidson acknowledged that he is working with a athletes new to the team, if not the sport. He did say, however, "We have a stronger top five runners than we have had recently." New junior Lilly Bar '19, sophomore Sarah McAndrew '20, and captain Kay Ingulli '18 will likely be key to the team's success. "We have some kids who are starting at ground-zero as well," Mr. Davidson said.

Clearly, Mr. Davidson's coaching has worked so far this fall; Girls' cross country hasn't lost a race yet, topping Lawrenceville and Taft. However, the team faces tough competition coming up in teams like Andover, Loomis Chaffee, and Deerfield. It will be important for the girls to stay focus and work even harder if they want to continue their success, something that Mr. Davidson will certainly emphasize.

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Tristan Jamidar '18 Receives National Rowing Recognition

By **Joseph Coyne '19**  
*Copy Editor*

Many top athletes are born to do a certain sport. They begin at a young age, and, over their childhood, perfect and refine their natural talents. Some, however, have a much longer path to their calling, defined by hard work and perseverance. Tristan Jamidar '18, a co-captain of the Boys' Crew Team, took the latter on his way to becoming one of the top rowers in the Northeast, as evident by his success at the inaugural Youth Regional Challenge, held last month in Sarasota, Florida.

Before coming to Choate, Jamidar had never rowed. Jamidar said, "When I started, I was at the bottom of the team. You usually say bottom of the barrel, but if you looked at the bottom of the barrel and then underneath it, that's where I was at the start."

Despite his lack of early success, Jamidar decided to stick with it. He cited the "rowing bug" as his reason for staying. "A lot of people just get bit by the bug, and that's what happened to me. A lot of my very good friends are members of the team, so the camaraderie was nice. And suffering together makes you closer, so I decided to stick with it," Jamidar said.

Jamidar has come a long way from a freshman who struggled to keep up with the rest of the team. Over the past three years, Jamidar has managed to transform himself into a rowing machine. He was

able to qualify for the youth challenge out, a four-day event last month that united the sixteen best rowers from every region in the U.S, beating out over 300 other rowers who also applied.

**A lot of people just get bit by the bug, and that's what happened to me.**

*Tristan Jamidar '18*

At the event, the coaches find a lineup that works, and, on the final day, the newly-formed teams race. The skill Jamidar showed in the event's initial practices earned him a spot in the Northeast region's top boat. Jamidar rowed in the boat's seventh seat.

On September 23, Jamidar's boat won its heat and qualified for a final next day. In that race, it finished second behind the Midwest.

"We came off the line really strong and held off a lot of boats," Jamidar said of the final. "We were about a second up on the field at the halfway mark, and during the third 500-meter section of the 2000-meter race, the Midwest started to come back. Coming into the last 500 and the final sprint, we couldn't respond."

The hardest part of the sport, says Jamidar, is making sure everyone is working on the same page. This event tested that aspect of rowing the most. The teams had never practiced together before, and the lineups were still up

in the air going into the first day of racing. "Everyone from their home teams has different styles," Jamidar said, "so the biggest thing was making sure that everyone rowed together as a synchronized unit, because that's the only way to be successful. Obviously, the racing hurts a bit, but it was a really cool experience."

Coming off his great performance at the event, Jamidar can now refocus on the Choate team and their upcoming races. Jamidar said of this season, "I was worried because we lost seven seniors this past year. However, a lot of younger guys on the team are stepping up. I'm excited about where we are on the water, in terms of form and being a cohesive unit. We have a big race on the Charles River in the fall. Top five get a medal there, so that's our goal. In the spring, we want to get fast and win New England's."

Typical of his personality, Jamidar did not forget to acknowledge the people who have helped him and guided from his very first day as a rower. "I want to give a shout-out to Mr. Pat Guelakis and his coaching," Jamidar said. Mr. Guelakis is the head coach of Boys' Varsity Crew.

"He has been my rowing father, teaching me everything I know and pushing me to be better," Jamidar added. "He has absolutely brought me to where I am today as a rower and a person."

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