



SAME RIVALS, NEW CHALLENGES:

Previewing Deerfield Day Games, Obstacles, and Goals



"LAST YEAR, THE ENERGY IN THE GYM WAS INSANE. THIS YEAR, I THINK THAT IT WILL BE A MORE EVENLY MATCHED GAME, SO WE'LL HAVE TO BE IN IT 100% MENTALLY."

- LANI UYENO '19, GIRLS' VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

"THE TEAM HAS A GREAT CHANCE TO AVENGE THEIR LOSS TO DEERFIELD LAST YEAR."

- BRENDAN KISH '19, BOYS' VARSITY SOCCER

"WE WILL NEED TO EXECUTE TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY AND HAVE FAITH IN OUR COACHES AND ONE ANOTHER."

- JAMES MCCARTHY '19, BOYS' VARSITY FOOTBALL

By **George McCabe '20**
Staff Reporter

Boys' Varsity Soccer

After suffering a tough loss to Deerfield last year, Choate Boys' Varsity Soccer has the potential to avenge itself. This year's team has dominated all season long with a 11-2-3 record. Defense is their strength. The team has only conceded six goals this season and none since the end of September. During last year's game, the team was caught off guard when one Deerfield player scored four goals. However, Deerfield Boys' Varsity Soccer only has a 5-7-3 record this year, worse than its 8-9-1 record last year. Additionally, Tife Agunloye '21, who scored against Deerfield last year, returns for Choate. After playing Deerfield, the Boys' Varsity Soccer will compete in the New England playoffs with championship aspirations. Co-captain Brendan Kish '19 said, "Overall, the team has a great chance to avenge their loss to Deerfield last year, which would be really special. We are also working toward the playoffs and have a good opportunity to potentially host a playoff game, which would be even better."

Girls' Varsity Soccer

Girls' Varsity Soccer has managed to have a successful season and has a great chance

to avenge last year's loss against Deerfield. The team has played remarkably well and even recently beat a previously undefeated Miss Porter's squad, despite losing several key players to injury. Co-captain Nicola Sommers '19 said, "Considering the amount of adversity we've faced, three starters out from torn ACLs and a meniscus tear, I'm very proud of how we've played." Cici Curran '20, Jenna Rempel '20, and Hannah Huddleston '19 have shut down opposing offenses all season. Erin Martin '20 and Sommers have created plenty of offensive opportunities. Last year, Choate lost a close game to Deerfield 4-3 where Choate almost completed a comeback after trailing 3-1. Girls' Varsity Soccer should be able to prevail on Deerfield Day, which would allow the team to clinch a spot in the New England playoffs.

Varsity Football

The only undefeated team on campus will look to beat Deerfield once again on Deerfield Day. Varsity Football has steamrolled through its competition this year, posting a 7-0 record. The team has dominated due to a group of talented seniors, including Clay Zachery '19, Hunter Burns '19, and Spencer Witter '19. However, Choate has faced some challenges this season. Recently, quarterback Jack Maley '19

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Photos courtesy of Ross Mortensen

The last time Choate hosted Deerfield Day, in 2016, the Wild Boars dominated in front of an energized fan base.

At Vigil Against Hate, Students Mourn Recent Tragedies

By **Grace Zhang '20**
Copy Editor

Over 40 students and faculty gathered in Seymour St. John Chapel for support and prayer at the Vigil Against Hate last Friday, November 2. The Vigil Against Hate was a collaboration between student and faculty leaders from Spiritual Life and Equity and Inclusion in response to recent national events: the mailing of explosives to prominent critics of President Trump, the Kentucky Kroger shooting that left two African American grandparents dead, the disappearance of Lion Air Flight 610 with 189 people on board, and the mass shooting at the Tree of Life Congregation in Pittsburgh, PA.

Reverend Ally Brundige, Protestant Chaplain and Director of Spiritual Life, said, "The

vigil provides an opportunity for all of us to mourn the lives that were taken and to come together among us with our commitment to combat injustice."

"Pittsburgh made me realize that men and women who survived the Holocaust, men and women who fled to this country for safety, who thought of this place as welcoming, were shot in an act of terrorism," said Stella Dubin '21. "I needed a community around me to help me come to terms with this and to remind Jewish students, students from Pittsburgh, and students who just feel connected to this shooting to feel safe."

Dr. Keith Hinderlie, Director of Equity and Inclusion, said, "We wanted students to feel like they had some agency around how they dealt with it, that they could see that others were similarly af-

fected, and to have some sort of process for dealing with the sadness, anger, grief, or whatever other feelings people may have in response to the incidents."

Attendees of the vigil were deeply moved by students' words and the unity of the community. "Students stood up and reflected on the impact of many recent events and how they personally have been affected. We talk in the abstract but going to the vigil really confronted me with the fact that people are in pain and suffering from the hate in our world," reflected Kathryn Phillips '20.

The support and affirmation that comes from events like the Vigil Against Hate are crucial in the wake of hate-driven tragedies. "The Reverend Dr. King once said that injustice anywhere is a

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Photo by Katherine Phillips/The Choate News

Community members gathered in the Chapel on November 2 to reflect on recent violence.

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The Wallingford Community Lake is more than just a body of water.
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Vigil Offers Moment of Reflection to Those Shaken by Recent Tragedies

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threat to justice everywhere, and I truly believe that to be true. I know that especially when we witness, even from afar, racist attacks and anti-semitic attacks, it's personal," said Rev. Brundige. "Those who are Jewish or students of color might feel that their lives are undervalued or that they're under attack right now in our nation and world. That is not a world I wish to condone."

Choate students who were emotionally affected by recent events found comfort amongst one another at the vigil. "My brother is a Jew who lives in Pittsburgh and so the headline 'Shooting at a Synagogue in Pittsburgh' definitely rattled me. My brother is totally fine, but I think that it affected me a lot because it was far too close to be comfortable with," said Dubin. Elise Morgan '20 explained her motivation to attend: "You know when you're on a roller coaster and you go to the top and then the bottom and your stomach drops? Hearing about the Pittsburgh shooting was that kind of feeling. It scared me, and it made me concerned about my safety because I'm super open about my religion."

Rev. Brundige commented on the importance of participation by anyone who found themselves affected by violence in the nation or is simply invested in the issue. "I would invite, especially those of us who don't identify in those groups, to seek ways to be allies in this time

and to think about how, together, across all our identifiers, we can build a community which would never let something like that happen." Dubin agreed, stating, "Anti-semitism is still very real in this country and shouldn't be ignored."

"One of the biggest messages I took from it is that love is what bonds us all together. I really saw that in that room," said Morgan. Phillips agreed, saying, "I hope students took away that hate, misunderstanding, and inequality do exist in the world, but in communities like this, love does too."

"I just hope that the conversation continues, and that people just continue to be there for each other," said Morgan.

According to Rev. Brundige and Dr. Hinderlie, more events are being planned. "In conversation with student leaders of Hillel, Stella Dubin in particular, we're talking about hosting letter-writing campaigns to offer our love and support, both to the Tree of Life synagogue and to the church that could have been attacked," explained Rev. Brundige.

In response to grave tragedy, the Vigil Against Hate was a positive and uplifting event. Rev. Brundige said, "I hope students know that it's okay for them to live life and to laugh and to experience the joy that this world has to offer."

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SRP CULMINATES WITH PRESENTATIONS TO COMMUNITY

By **Siri Palreddy '20**
Copy Editor

Since coming back from Long Weekend, you may have noticed the striking green and black posters around campus advertising the 2018 Student Lectures Series (SLS) given by members of the Science Research Program (SRP). SRP is an intensive signature program that accepts 16 students each year who are divided into two sections: biology and quantitative science.

Over the course of their junior year, these students take an SRP class in which they decode complex research articles, learn common lab skills, and contact laboratories for summer internship opportunities. During their senior fall, students create the SLS presentations as a culmination to their SRP experience.

This week, the senior members of SRP gave their SLS Talks, with presentations occurring on Tuesday and Thursday night from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. The students presented on a range of topics within the biology and quantitative sciences fields.

While each presentation is 15-minutes long, the SLS Talks only represent a small part of the students' work. Dr. Selena Gell, the head of the biology section of SRP, said of her students, "By the time they present for SLS, they have had four rounds of editing and their presentation is completely different."

For her summer research, Meghan Musto '19, a member of the biology section, spent four



Photo by Pinn Chirathivat/The Choate News

Parth Mody '19 presents on his work building one of the first tongue-on-a-chip devices.

weeks focusing on how reward uncertainty changes the incentive value of reward cues, specifically related to gambling. She stated, "I want people to know that when they listen to all of our presentations, that these are the product of a year and three months of work and that they only scratch the surface."

Sarah Koljaka '19, who studied the involvement of two specific proteins in the development of meningioma brain cancer, also discussed the difficulties she faced during her work. She said, "What my presentation doesn't show you is the multiple times each of my experiments failed before they finally worked. If everything I talked about in my presentation had gone perfectly the first

time I tried it, my internship would've been a lot shorter."

As part of SRP, students must also make a poster and a research paper to summarize their summer work. However, the work they do to complete the poster and paper do not directly translate into a finished SLS presentation.

"Out of all these three, SLS is the one students stress out about the most because of their audience," said Dr. Hogue, the director of the quantitative sciences section of SRP. He continued, "A successful SLS Talk is one that makes the audience feel smart." The hardest part of the talks, as Lani Uyeno '19 from the biology section said, is "finding a way to convey the research so that the general public will understand

There are a lot of terms that are complex but necessary to include when presenting research. It's easy for audience members to not understand terms and then be confused for the rest of the presentation."

While SRP demands maximum effort and dedication from the students, it doesn't mean that the members haven't enjoyed their journey. "There were some low moments in junior spring where I questioned the point of a lot of my work," Musto remembered, "but once you are able to apply the information you spent all year learning, it becomes incredibly rewarding and inspiring."

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"WHERE SHOULD I GO? WILL I GET IN?" THE STRESS OF THE COLLEGE PROCESS

By **Brandon Zhang '20**
Staff Reporter

The college process is long and exhausting, filled with standardized tests, long applications, and a whirlwind of deadlines. On November 1, the first major round of deadlines came around, which required the submission of the majority of Early Decision (ED) and Early Action (EA) applications. A smaller portion of these applications were due on October 15 and others will be due on November 15.

I actually feel more stressed that the deadline is over. [College] seems to always be in the back of my head.

Tippa Chan '19

Most students who sent in their early applications will hear back from the colleges in December and receive one of three results: acceptance, rejection, or deferral. A deferral means that the student's application will be pushed to the regular decision pool to be evaluated again.

The goal of the EA and the ED applications are to push a student's college process forward a couple of months. Other goals of the early applications, according to College Board, are to "reduce stress by cutting the time spent waiting for a decision" and to "save the time and expense of submitting multiple applications." They also give students who are very interested in a certain school the opportunity to put themselves in a smaller pool with similarly interested applicants.

However, do these applications really complete the goal that College Board has stated? After the momentous November 1 deadline, it seems that the reaction among the senior class is mixed: some seniors are relieved while others continue

to resent the college process. Tippa Chan '19, Sixth-Form Class President, disagrees with the claim that the early applications reduce stress. She said, "I actually feel more stressed that the deadline is now over. I know it is supposed to give you some time away from the college process, but it seems to always be in the back of my head."

As a student athlete, the college process is different, but still tough. Kobe Tray '19, a diver who has verbally committed to a college already, said, "A lot of my peers have been pretty stressed, so I am glad I got to know where I am going to college so early." In response to Tray's comment, Chan said, "I sometimes envy recruited athletes because of the security they have in knowing where they are going, but then I remember the amount of work and number of hours they put in to reach that point and that envy turns to respect."

On the Choate campus, it seems that college is an inescapable topic. The College Counseling Office consistently provides a stream of college-related events: college fairs, individual college information sessions on campus, and college process seminars. Even for fourth and fifth formers in their fall term, it seems that college is a hot topic that comes up in everyday conversation. Zaid Ball '20 commented, "I understand that the topic of college is important to our future, but it sometimes annoys me when people spend too much time talking about college when they themselves are not in the process themselves yet."

One of the major talking points between students when college is brought up are the problems with the current process. College Board and the Common Application have seemingly morphed into living nightmares that will continually haunt seniors until spring term. Tracey Stafford '19 commented, "The college

process is stressful and annoying because it requires seniors to spend a ton of time working and critically thinking outside of the work they already have for classes, which is difficult to deal with. Students have to visit schools, which requires extreme coordination, parental cooperation, money, and time."

One particular problem that seniors applying to college encounter is dealing with other people asking about the process. The general sentiment among the senior class is that they enjoy talking about their own experience and plans in moderation. However, it is probably ill-advised for a freshman to pester seniors for information on all the colleges that they are applying to. When asked about this topic, Niraj Desai '19 said, "Personally, I am someone who is very open about my own college process; however, I know that a lot of people want to keep things to themselves or between friends, and I respect that."

I feel like my grade has done a great job remaining chill throughout this experience.

Evan Karas '19

Evan Karas '19 echoed these sentiments: "Frankly, I feel like my grade has done a great job remaining chill throughout this experience. My own personal experience has been discussing my plans, worries, and stressors, openly with friends."

However, Karas did note one issue that he finds irritating. He said, "What does piss me off is when I hear people talking down to other people about where they're applying. When people ask me where I'm applying, and I say my choice, and they respond in a condescending way, that is what annoys me."

Another point that seniors agreed on was the treatment

they received from faculty members when crucial deadlines approach for the college process. Karas said, "Coaches and teachers and other faculty members have in no way, shape, or form been sympathetic. They'll say, 'Oh, that must be so difficult,' in class and then assign a heinous amount of reading. Like I have 80 minutes to read and take notes." Desai agreed, saying, "Teachers definitely do not ease up on the work, so you have to deal with both college applications and the regular amount of work." However, he also mentioned that "faculty members do their best to provide moral support during tough stretches."

Ms. van Mierlo, one of the sixth-form deans and a sixth-form science teacher, said, "I've had students reach out to me, saying they have a heavy work load, or they are going through a tough time. I wouldn't say I moved a lot of major assignments because of this, but I would attribute that to strategically planning my class schedule to avoid major deadline conflicts like November 1 or October 15."

However, the sixth-form deans have tried to work with their class to coordinate form events to boost morale. Ms. van Mierlo stated, "I think that form events can be a nice stress reliever. It is a nice time for the class to get together. The dance was a wonderful time and I know that other form events, like the karaoke night, were very well attended."

Ms. van Mierlo did have a final message to seniors to motivate and comfort them: "This is not going to last forever; I am very much looking forward to getting everyone back after applications are submitted, seeing them become playful teenage students and enjoy life a bit more."

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Students Enjoy Hindu Tradition at Diwali Dinner



Photo courtesy of Ceema Mody

Students enjoyed Indian food and dancing in celebration of Diwali.

By **JeeHwan Kim '21**
Staff Reporter

Diversity is actively celebrated at Choate, and students are encouraged to express and share their cultures with the community. Last Friday, the Choate South Asian Association (CSAA) hosted a special dinner to celebrate Diwali, the Hindu, Jain, and Sikh festival of lights. There weren't fireworks, though students enjoyed Indian dishes in the library along with traditional Indian dance performances. The club leaders also explained to the guests the historical significance of Diwali and how they celebrate it themselves.

Although Diwali is one of the biggest highlights of the South Asian calendar, it was not celebrated at Choate for a long time. The club was quite inactive for many years before Parth Mody '19, Raddin Ivanov '19, and Niraj Desai '19, current leaders of the club, revamped CSAA last year. "Mr. Yanelli remembers a time when this used to be annual and the club was more popular," said Ivanov. Mody said that the weekend schedule last year didn't fit nicely with some major events. However, all three leaders of the club hope that future club leaders will continue to revive the spirit of the club and make this dinner an annual event again.

Desai discussed the motivation for the dinner: "We did a movie last year, which had a good turnout, but we wanted to do something that would get

people talking to each other and educate them about the culture." This turned out to be no easy task: "We couldn't get many of the logistics figured out until a couple of weeks before the event," said Mody, noting how ordering the right amount of food was particularly challenging because tickets started selling only three days before the event. In the end, the leaders were happy to report that the event proceeded as planned, without significant problems.

The food was catered by Zaika, an Indian restaurant in North Haven. When asked about how the choice of menu was made, the leaders said that they wanted a variety of dishes, including vegetarian options and classics, such as chicken tikka masala and naan. "We actually talked with one of the employees at Zaika, and he recommended some items," said Mody, "so it was a combination of classics and recommendations from Zaika."

Ivanov said, "Looking around, most of these people don't come to the club, but when they come here, they get to learn about Diwali and experience Indian food and Indian dancing. I think it's just a great opportunity to learn something about a culture that you don't know about." Mody added, "They add so much to Choate's diversity; I think more people need to embrace diversity, and I know, having organized one event, I'll definitely go to more events like these."

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COMMUNES, CREW, AND CONTAMINATION: OUR TOWN’S FORMER LAKE



Photos courtesy of the Choate Rosemary Hall Archives

The Community Lake was opened for recreational use in the mid-nineteenth century after the relocation of the Oneida community and served the Choate School’s crew team.

By **Victoria Esquibies ’20**
Staff Reporter

Wallingford’s Community Lake was once a beautiful body of water enjoyed by many local organizations and Wallingford residents. The lake has now been reduced to a meager collection of muddy ponds. While the lake was a Wallingford staple for many years, the forty-five-mile stretch of the Quinnipiac River long predated it. A local community known as the Oneida constructed a dam on the river to power a factory that produced silver spoons, imitating the infrastructural additions that other groups had built on the banks of the Quinnipiac River throughout the 19th century. The dam eventually flooded, creating Community Lake.

Community Lake’s origin is directly attributed to a little known, short lived local group called the Oneida commune, whose Wallingford branch established itself in 1850. The Oneida were very religious and consid-

ered the Bible their constitution. Adults collectively raised the community’s children and were non-monogamous. The Oneida commune originally focused on agriculture and grew produce like strawberries, raspberries, and grapes. The Wallingford Oneidas soon converted to more industrial practices, building a spoon factory and a dam to power it. As time went on and more competition arose on the banks of the Quinnipiac River, the Oneida abandoned the lake created by their dam. In 1881, the community left Wallingford and moved to New York where they established Oneida Limited, a joint-stock silverware company that is still in business today.

The interesting history of the Oneida community is what introduced Mr. Erik Freeman, a Choate Humanities teacher, to Community Lake. Mr. Freeman expressed that it was valuable to him to learn about the town he lives in. He first learned about the lake from a 19th century book that discussed the Oneida

commune and former lake. “I realized there wasn’t a lake, and so I looked it up and found maps that had this big lake in the center of town,” explained Mr. Freeman. Mr. Freeman teaches the class “The Greening of America: The Environmental Movement,” for which he wrote an iBook that describes the various phases of the lake’s history. “I wanted to use local history for classes,” said Mr. Freeman. “I’m also really interested in environmental history, and so I thought it was an interesting topic to look at.”

The lake’s purpose shifted to recreational use after the departure of the Oneida community, as depicted in multiple postcards from the time period. The lake was used by townspeople for fishing and boating, as well as ice skating in the winter. Eventually, another community in Wallingford began using the lake: The Choate School.

In the early 1910s, Choate established its interscholastic crew team. Prior to the team’s establishment, the boys would

canoe on the Quinnipiac River as an intramural sport. As it was only a short walk from campus, Community Lake was a convenient location for Choate’s rowers. The townspeople would come to the lake and watch the boys race on Saturday mornings. Some of the races were against Yale freshmen, and, at times, the boats of the Choate team would race against each other. Next to the lake stood a boathouse used by Choate, a structure that still stands today but was given to the town of Wallingford two or three years ago.

From an environmental standpoint, the lake and those who used it had an immense impact on local ecosystems. “All the other silverware companies that lined the Quinnipiac River were polluting the lake,” explained Mr. Freedman. “Choate started using the lake without thinking about all of the different pollutants.” These pollutants included sewage, toxic waste, pesticides, and other harmful chemicals. Knowledge of these pollutants is not

what stopped Choate from using the lake, however. In late January of 1979, the lake was washed out by a flood, and the dam collapsed, completely preventing its use. This damage unfortunately arrived right after discussion of plans to clean the lake, dredge toxic sediment, and build a recreational center on its banks.

When the dam collapsed and the lake mostly disappeared, it erased knowledge of Oneida history and damaged the widely-used recreational gathering place of Wallingford townspeople. Many Wallingford residents think the restoration of the lake would be a great addition to Wallingford and its community. The price to do so, however, would be very grand. As current mayor Mr. William Dickinson Jr. told *The New York Times*, “It would certainly be a wonderful facility. But the town is not currently in the position to take on a \$25 million project.”

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Community Calendar

NOV. 10, 10:00 a.m.

Yoga at the Wallingford Public Library
Instructor Ramesh Patel teaches poses and breathing techniques in the Wallingford Public Library’s Community Room.

Wallingford Public Library
200 North Main Street

NOV. 14, 12:30 p.m.

Yale University Art Gallery Talk
Learn how the instruments and music of antiquity are preserved in the visual art of the time period at this Gallery Talk entitled “Listening to Ancient Ritual.”

Yale University Art Gallery,
New Haven
Free admission; \$30 car ride

NOV. 16, 4:30 p.m.

R.J. Julia Bookstore Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindlewald Release Party
Pay a visit to R.J. Julia Bookstore to purchase a copy of J.K. Rowling’s new screenplay and participate in other Harry Potter-themed activities.

R.J. Julia Bookstore,
Middletown
Free admission; \$27 car ride

NOV. 24-DEC. 23

Gingerbread House Workshop
Children are invited to design and decorate gingerbread houses at the Lyman Orchard Apple Barrel.

Lyman Orchards Apple Barrel,
Middlefield
Registration required;
\$15 car ride



By **Peter DiNatale ’21**
Columnist

Located just off of Route Five in Wallingford, The Greek Guy offers authentic Greek food for both dining and delivery at a very reasonable price. Ms. Joanne Makis, the owner of the restaurant, has been running the restaurant for two years now with her husband, Mr. Chris Makis. The Makis family wanted to bring their culture to Wallingford by providing quality cuisine to the local community. “We felt that there was a need for authentic Greek food in this area,” explained Joanne Makis. The Makis family’s restaurant was in a smaller location for roughly a year, but the owners decided to expand in order to help their restaurant grow. They are now located on 600 North Colony Road in Wallingford and are open six days a week.

The name of the restaurant, The Greek Guy, is due to Mr. Makis’ Greek heritage. “It just fits, Greek food cooked by the Greek guy,” said Ms. Makis. Mr. Makis is the main chef of

the restaurant and not only prepares the food, but also assists in selecting the specials that appear on the menu every so often. Aside from the specials, the main menu offers choices from a variety of vegetarian and meat-based appetizers, salads, sand-

The Greek Guy
600 N. Colony Road

Open every day
except Mondays for
lunch and dinner.

wiches, burgers, and even specialty desserts. According to Ms. Makis, the most popular items on the menu are the Saganaki, a flaming cheese that is lit on fire on the table in front of diners, and the Moussaka, an appetizer containing layered eggplant, potatoes, and seasoned ground meat, all topped with a creamy bechamel soufflé.

The food at The Greek Guy is filled with flavor. The meat and vegetarian options

are both very filling and hit with just the right spices. The Moussaka, more specifically, is definitely a suggested appetizer. All of the vegetables were cooked just right and the creamy bechamel soufflé was not too heavy, but just the right consistency. As a side, their Greek fries were also very flavorful. They were not too greasy, or packed with sodium, instead, light and appetizing. On top of their passionately cooked meals, their delivery service is also very affordable. They deliver to any location throughout Wallingford, including Choate’s campus.

The Greek Guy aims to bring its customers flavorful, and authentic food. As their mission statement puts it, the restaurant aims “to serve fresh authentic Greek food” and “to have a very family-oriented and laid-back environment.” The Greek Guy is a great option for both Greek food enthusiasts and those who wish to try it for the first time.

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Photo courtesy of Uber Eats

The Makis family runs The Greek Guy, serving favorites like saganaki and moussaka.

Edible Arrangements Ditches Wallingford for Atlanta

By **Amanda Li ’21**
Reporter

Edible Arrangements, a well-known, worldwide fruit bouquet franchise, is in the process of relocating their headquarters from Wallingford to Metro Atlanta. Back in early March, plans to establish a second headquarters in Atlanta were publicized, but the announcement to close down the Wallingford headquarters were only reported in late August.

Former CEO Mr. Tariq Farid established Edible Arrangements in East Haven, Connecticut in 1999. The company has since expanded into over 1,200 stores in 11 countries. It specializes in providing unique and artistic assortments of fresh fruits for any occasion, from birthday bouquets to healthy family snacks.

Although the Wallingford headquarters only opened in July 2016, Edible Arrangements has had a big impact on the surrounding community. In addition to its economic contributions, the Tariq Farid Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to supporting food and healthcare programs, has given grants to many local organizations like Chrysalis, which supports domestic abuse victims; Literacy Volunteers, which promotes adult literacy; and the Tommy Fund, which aids children diagnosed with cancer. Farid is also an active member of the local Muslim community, creating the Salma K. Farid Academy, a private non-profit Islamic preschool and elementary school in Hamden, CT that bases its curriculum on Islamic culture. Mr. Farid also promoted entrepreneurship, often speaking at conventions and meetings. For example, in January of 2017, he gave a talk at Startup Grind New Haven directed towards small-business owners.

A main reason for the decision to move the headquarters may stem from the appointment of a new CEO. This past July, Mr. Farid stepped down, selecting former CEO of Tropical Smoothie Cafe, Mr. Mike Rotondo to succeed him. In an interview with the



Photo courtesy of Edible Arrangements International, LLC.

Edible Arrangements is popular for its flower-like fruit bouquets.

New Haven Register, Mr. Donald Klepper-Smith, Chief Economist and Director of Research for New Haven-based DataCore Partners suggested that the move was spurred by three major advantages: demographic shifts, cost, and familiarity. “Census projections through 2030 show significant migration to the Southeast and West,” said Mr. Klepper-Smith. “On average, a net total of 428 people per week move out of Connecticut. Connecticut [also has] the fifth highest cost in the United States for companies doing business. And a third and equally important factor is likely Rotondo’s already having a presence in Atlanta.”

In a formal statement announcing the relocation, Mr. Rotondo said that Edible Arrangements is “excited to make Atlanta the brand’s home base as we build a best in class Support Center for our franchise owner.” The mayor of Sandy Springs, the suburb where the new headquarters are located, commented on the area’s resources, saying “Our deep, talented labor pool, access to world class, world reachable transportation, and superb quality of life all make Sandy Springs a perfect spot for major businesses to call home.”

For Wallingford, the loss of a major company could have a great economic impact. A spokesperson for Edible Arrangements reported that the Wallingford office will

downsize from around 130 employees to around 20, who will maintain the office as a small call center. “Edible’s Wallingford, CT office is an important part of the brand’s history and heritage, and we will always have a presence in the community,” added Mr. Rotondo. Edible Arrangements also has 8 subsidiaries, many of which are located in Connecticut, that could also potentially relocate to Atlanta as well, resulting in more layoffs for the local community.

“Any time a company announces a headquarter relocation out of state it is disappointing news,” acknowledged Ms. Catherine Smith, commissioner of Connecticut’s Department of Economic and Community Development in a *Hartford Courant* article. “But, we have had many more wins than losses in this area. We have successfully recruited more than 90 companies to the state and continue to see great interest from corporations looking to expand or relocate here.”

Although Edible Arrangements will no longer have their headquarter here in Wallingford, the positive influence that the company has had on the local community will still be felt through its earlier altruism, which has benefited many non-profit organizations and local small businesses.

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EDITORIAL

Target the Artwork,
Target the Artist

During the a cappella concerts on Parents' Weekend, students flooded the second floor of the PMAC for a better view of the performances below.

In the commotion, students failed to notice the artwork scattered across the balcony. Clear signs had been placed to warn passersby away, and yet, they did not deter students from climbing on, clambering about, and cluttering the workspace. The night left heavy footprints on incomplete drawings, still-life setups destroyed, and the entire balcony in disarray. A parent visiting the studio the next morning was disappointed to see her daughter's artwork vandalized.

This wasn't an isolated occurrence. Last year, Drawing students found their projects graffitied overnight. Thick, haphazard strokes of black paint had been smeared over at least half of the class's drawings. The class had to abandon their projects and start over.

And this year Visual Arts Concentration students' workspaces have been continually ruined by visitors. One artist had unsolicited drawings doodled on pages of her sketchbook with artwork already on them. Another artist had to peel chewing gum off her canvas before she could start painting. Someone's work was even used as scrap paper to test pens before the pens themselves were stolen.

Why? Anything from ignorance to callousness could have motivated these incidents. In any case, they are unacceptable.

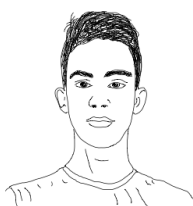
It's one thing to disagree or dislike a piece of work someone else produces. But it is an entirely separate, much more serious issue to deface another's work because you don't like it — or worse, because you don't respect the work enough to care. Targeting artwork, whether intentionally or not, is nothing short of targeting the artists themselves. Violating another's creations shows nothing short of contempt.

Even if we may not all identify as artists, many of us know what it's like when our hard work has been tossed aside. Wrecking someone's art is akin to deleting someone's history essay from his or her laptop. It's emotional damage. We all understand that it's difficult to recover from the hopelessness and the lack of motivation that follows. And we also know that starting any project over is never the same.

Be respectful. It's an important message, and it's one that we sometimes forget to follow. Notice how your actions may influence others. What matters little in your eyes may mean the world to someone else. The next time you find yourself picking between a better view of an a cappella concert and honoring another's hard work, we hope that you will make the respectful decision.

The Case Against Switching Advisers

By Calvin Walker '21
Opinions Staff Writer



An essential part of any Choate boarding student's life is his or her adviser, who helps with everything — from keeping up with classes to having a fulfilling social life. They also serve as trusted adults on campus to talk to, as many of us boarders live far away from our parents. As I do not have experience with the day student advisory system, I will be focusing on the boarding advisory system in this article.

Every so often, students and their advisers get together to talk about how things are going. And because all advisers live or do duty in their advisees' dorms, by the end of the school year, students know their advisers well. However, Choate students get a new adviser each time they move dorms, which often happens every year. Thus, the process of getting to know an adviser must happen over and over again.

Why do we have to get a new adviser almost every year? To me, it doesn't make sense. Instead of hitting the reset button each year, students should keep the same adviser throughout their entire Choate career.



Graphic by Senching Hsia|The Choate News

It is hard for anyone to discuss personal issues with someone they don't know well. So for many students on campus, it is hard to reach out to an adviser, especially a new one, to chat on a deeper level. The adviser ends up becoming someone to meet with every once and a while to talk about grades, not someone who students can really trust. Yet the latter should be true for everyone.

Many believe that it is important for advisers to live or to do duty in a student's dorm as it makes the advisers easily accessible, so switching advisers every year is worth it. However, we forget that the original reason advisers currently live in dorms is to encourage interaction with students. But if students and advisers had strong bonds, students would seek advisers out regardless. For

instance, I often see and talk to my adviser from last year, who I now know well and who doesn't live in my dorm.

Naturally, the bond between a student and an adviser strengthens over time. An adviser who really knows a student well could tell if they are, say, depressed or tired, and then take action to help them. A new adviser will find it harder to identify those things and won't be able to help as much. In the end, it's better for everyone when students are encouraged to build strong relationships with their advisers over time.

Some argue that switching advisers every year allows students to cultivate strong relationships with more than just one adult on campus. Yet, we forget that students already get to know many adults in the classroom, during sports, or

while participating in other commitments. It seems more logical for students to have one adviser they can really trust rather than a few adults scattered around campus whom they can only somewhat trust.

The current advisory system gets a lot of things right. It gives students time to meet with their advisers and encourages interaction. However, I believe that it can still improve.

If students and advisers had strong bonds, students would seek advisers out regardless.

As students graduate, they should be able to look back at their advisers as people whom they knew well. They shouldn't remember three or four adults whom they never really connected with. Ultimately, a system where students could keep their advisers throughout their Choate careers would benefit both students and advisers far more than the current system does.

Calvin Walker is a fourth former from Rhinebeck, NY. He may be reached at cwalker21@choate.edu

STOP LOUNGING IN LANPHIER,
AND GO GRAB A REAL MEAL

By Anjali Mangla '20
Opinions Writer

The topic of the 40-minute lunch block has been thoroughly discussed in the community. However, we tend to skim over one aspect of the average Choate student's weekly lunch schedule — the habit of skipping lunch between STEM classes.

Many students find it pointless to walk the 10 minutes up to the dining hall, shovel food into their bodies, wait in a long line to return silverware, and rush back up to the other side of campus to attend their next STEM class. Because of the hassle, they have adopted the unhealthy habit of skipping lunch at the Dining Hall in favor of coffee and snacks from Lanphier Café. However, in doing so, students lose the nutrition and experience of a meal in the Dining Hall.

It's only expected that they serve salads and sandwiches at Lanphier — after all, it is a cafe. Though tasty, however, these snacks lack the nutrition required in a full meal. Yes, the fruit and bagel table — a relatively new addition to the Lanphier experience — feeds hungry students not trekking to Hill House, but these snacks simply do not suffice as full meals.

Last year, on the days I had chemistry, lunch, and then pre-calculus, I'd skip full meals at the dining hall and spend the time at Lanphier. Some days I would just buy a coffee and



Photo by Pinn Chirathivat|The Choate News

Lanphier Cafe houses busy, quiet students over lunch blocks.

deem it nutritional enough to constitute a whole meal. It was a bad habit, I know. Eating only once or twice a day — or worse, having only a coffee for a meal — was so unhealthy. It was no surprise that trading my health for convenience left me fatigued for the rest of the day.

Another integral part of the lunch experience is the togetherness at the table. The dining hall's social environment not only promotes lively conversa-

tion but is a much-needed break from the academic day. The Lanphier Café, on the other hand, houses quiet, working Choate students — not the proper ambiance for a meal. If anything, the quiet atmosphere contributes to the stress that we all face at one point or another. Spending the lunch block at Lanphier can only be detrimental to the well-being of Choate students.

Choate has a problem on its hands. The School must ei-

ther provide better resources for those spending their lunch block at Lanphier or encourage students to stop skipping meals because it's more convenient. It goes without saying that academics are important, but we mustn't forget that our health is even more so.

Anjali Mangla is a fifth former from Cheshire, CT. She may be reached at amangla20@choate.edu

Didn't you Hear?
Introverts Have a Voice, Too

By Ariel Kim '20
Opinions Staff Writer



Many Choate classes are heavy on discussion — a major part of one's final grade is determined by class participation.

I have no complaints with discussion on its own; it makes class so much more entertaining because it prompts us all to constantly stay engaged. In fact, I've become so accustomed to discussion-based classes that lecture-based classes have become incredibly hard to sit through. There's really no problem with the Harkness philosophy.

My problem, however, lies in the execution of the "perfect" discussion. What should that involve? Notions like "respect," "polite disagreement," or "sub-

stantiated opinions" might pop into your head. Yet we forget one: balance of participation.

Despite being an introvert, I've found myself very comfortable in the classroom. This high level of comfort means that I usually don't feel judged, disrespected, or bullied when I speak my mind. However, this doesn't mean that I get to speak whenever I want to.

Sometimes before I find a window to assert myself eloquently, the class has already moved on.

I mull over my ideas before voicing them. During a discussion, if I find myself wanting to respond to someone else's point, I need to fully formulate my response before actually speaking it. Yet discussions happen so quickly — sometimes, before

I find a window to assert myself eloquently, the class has already moved on to a new topic.

Some students need time to think. I don't think that this is necessarily a disadvantage — it's just temperament. In fact, the ideas these students bring to the table are often incredibly insightful, as they've been thoroughly contemplated before reaching the table.

I find myself getting interrupted and blocked out of heated discussions quite easily. There always seem to be several students in a discussion who, because they're incredibly passionate, never give up their opportunities to talk. Even when I try to raise my hand and chime in, other students will interrupt to make sure their points are heard. Many times, this results in a continual imbalance — certain students staying quiet, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, and certain students repeatedly speaking.

I'm not disparaging outspoken students. In fact, I envy their loud voices and passion. I

simply believe that we can take some steps to better include introverts in conversations.

I think the old-fashioned, practical method of raising hands could fix the issue. Some might argue that it stunts the flow of conversation, but it really doesn't. My World History class last year operated on a hand-raised basis, and all of our discussions went below the surface level.

Moreover, as our teacher made a conscious effort to select those who hadn't participated as readily in the discussion, everyone got a chance to speak, and everyone's ideas were accounted for.

From my experience, quiet students are quiet in discussions not because they aren't fully engaged or knowledgeable, but because they don't know when or how to join. Implementing simple regulations like hand-raising will include introverts in conversations well.

Ariel Kim is a fifth former from Seoul, South Korea. She may be reached at akim20@choate.edu

Corrections

Features

A features article last week incorrectly identified the mother of Lily Ball '19 as Cindy Wall. She is Cinda Wall.

A features crossword last week was not credited. It was created by Will Zhu '20.

The Choate News regrets these errors.
To submit a correction, email thechoatenews@choate.edu



Photo by Derek Ng|The Choate News

During Parents' Weekend, student artwork was destroyed despite signs asking visitors to be respectful.

REFLECTING ON THE TREE OF LIFE SHOOTING



Photo courtesy of The New York Times

After eleven of its congregants were fatally shot by gunman Robert Bowers on October 27, the Tree of Life synagogue mourned their loss with a memorial.

By **Abbie Chang '19**
Local News Editor

On Saturday, October 27, when the first coverage of the shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh was being broadcasted, my parents and I were paying close attention. The massacre, later identified by news outlets as the deadliest attack on Jewish individuals in America, took place in Pittsburgh's Squirrel Hill neighborhood, where my mother lived while attending graduate school at Carnegie Mellon University.

My mom told me stories of the hasidic community she spent four years in, how she frequently passed the synagogue when walking back to her apartment, how she once paused on the street during the High Holidays so she could hear the sound of the shofar, a

special ram's horn that is blown to commemorate the most holy week of the Jewish calendar.

While I have of course learned about anti-semitism from books and classes, I only realized how ignorant I was of its continued presence after the events of October 27, when a man entered a synagogue and killed eleven Jewish worshippers. I have been raised Jewish, but I have never before felt that my religion has the potential to put me in harm's way. Perhaps growing up in an interfaith household on Choate Rosemary Hall's campus has blinded me to the intolerance that continues to plague the Jewish community today. Maybe I have avoided anti-semitism because my religious identity is inconspicuous enough to those around me that, upon informing someone that I am Jewish, I am often met with a look of surprise. After speaking to other

members of the Jewish community, both those of generations before me and those of my own, I realized how hard Jews in America have worked to raise a generation of children unafraid of practicing and expressing their religious beliefs.

The horrific events at the Tree of Life synagogue brought many people together, both Jewish and otherwise. My synagogue held a vigil a few days following the massacre, with people of all faiths filling the two levels of pews in the sanctuary in greater numbers than any bar or bat mitzvah, holiday service, or Hebrew school class I've ever attended there. Choate, too, organized a vigil against hate that took place on Friday, and students and faculty members alike gathered in the chapel to remember those lost in the recent onslaught of violence. In this environment,

many began to share stories of anti-semitism and fear of such intolerance, and I realized how little time I'd previously spent discussing the topic.

Politicizing the murder of human beings inhibits us from coming together to fight hate.

Fear of hatred of the Jewish community is far from a problem of the past. Jewish preschools should not need to have guards standing outside their doors. Holocaust survivors should not need to feel like what they escaped decades

ago is beginning again. My synagogue should not have needed a police officer to stand outside while the vigil took place. I should not have needed to see the flashing lights of his squad car to feel safe.

I have found many things about the massacre at the Tree of Life synagogue frightening, but I found one thing particularly distressing. Mr. Robert Bowers, the man who shot the eleven members of the Tree of Life synagogue, was not alone in his thinking. According to a New York Times podcast, his attack has been supported by members of an online platform known as "Gab," on which Bowers posted anti-semitic material.

I understand that our nation is currently grappling with the line between free speech and hate speech, and citizens' views often correlate with political identity. However, murder

should not be a partisan issue. I find it despicable how quickly political figures and media outlets across the political spectrum began to ask what the shooting's impact would be on the midterm elections. The events of October 27 are not just another factor to consider in an elaborate political plan to take congressional seats, and framing it as such is not only disrespectful and divisive, but also helps propagate the desensitization that allows such acts of violence.

The moment we began examining the effect of the Tree of Life massacre on Tuesday's elections was the moment that it became a less universal concern. Politicizing the murder of human beings inhibits us from coming together to fight hate.

Abbie Chang is a sixth former from Wallingford, CT. She may be reached at achang19@choate.edu

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IS NOT THE PROBLEM



Photo courtesy of The New York Times

Protestors gathered in Boston on October 14 to demand the elimination of bias against Asian-Americans in Harvard University's admissions process.

By **Laura Kors '21**
Opinions Writer

Since John F. Kennedy '35 ordered the implementation of affirmative action, a government initiative to educate and employ marginalized groups in the United States, race and background have become important factors in college admissions. In 2014, a group known as Students for Fair Admissions sued Harvard University, accusing the institution of discriminating against Asian American students and setting a quota for the number of Asian students they accept. Many legal experts believe this case has the potential to reach the Supreme Court — most likely determining the future of affirmative action in the U.S. While Harvard appears biased against Asian applicants, eliminating race as a factor in its admissions process is not the solution.

Historically, college admissions ignored issues of racial diversity, focusing solely on qualifications such as test scores and

essays. However, in the 1920s, Jewish students were rising in number and about to form a quarter of each class. Harvard, instead of implementing a quota, which would be more clearly perceived as anti-semitic, responded by adding diversity criteria to acceptances. For example, Harvard promoted 'geographic diversity' because Jewish populations were more condensed in the Northeast. By 1930, Harvard successfully reduced the Jewish population of their incoming class to one in ten students.

Over time, colleges have shifted their diversity goals to accept more students of color, specifically black and Latinx students. This is due to the implementation of affirmative action. By promoting diversity in college admissions, the quality of education is improved because students can now learn from their peers' diverse backgrounds and experiences.

Moreover, tests and grades cannot accurately tell a student's story. In fact, research has often shown that they are ineffective at

gauging potential collegiate success. Additionally, students from marginalized backgrounds may have lower grades or standardized test scores simply because they lack the resources of their white peers — for instance, less access to academic tutoring or test-prep services. Students of color often have to work harder to achieve the academic qualifications of white students because of systemic discrimination, and school admissions should account for this. Severing a student's scores from his or her background paints an inaccurate picture.

Race and ethnicity are often integral parts of one's identity. As Sarah Cole, a black Harvard Student from the class of 2016, has said, "Race-blind admissions is an act of erasure. To not see my race is to not see me." Race should obviously not be the only factor in college admission, but to not consider it at all is deeply misguided.

Although affirmative action might benefit certain minority groups, the case shows that

for Asian Americans, racially-influenced admission is harmful. For example, Harvard sends out letters each year to students with high test scores, encouraging them to apply. White male high school students in rural regions with PSAT scores of 1310 or above receive a recruitment letter, but Asian male students need a PSAT score of 1370, clearly indicating that Harvard employs higher standards for Asian applicants. Furthermore, Harvard reported lower personality scores — the combination of teacher recommendations, alumni interviews, and essays to determine the character of the applicant — for Asian students despite the group having interview scores comparable to white students. The school's admissions system must address this obvious bias and account for it in their application process through the continued use of affirmative action.

Laura Kors is a fourth former from Pacific Palisades, CA. She may be reached at lkors21@choate.edu

HOW MERKEL LEFT HER MARK

By **Alex Alkhayer '20**
Copy Editor

After four terms as Germany's chancellor, Angela Merkel has announced that she is not seeking re-election in 2021, when she plans to withdraw from politics completely. In her 13 years as chancellor, Merkel managed to overcome many ideological barriers while pushing Germany toward greater success.

Merkel was raised under a communist dictatorship in East Germany before it was united with West Germany. The entirety of Merkel's childhood and a great deal of her adulthood — as well as her education — fell under Communist rule. Despite this — or perhaps because of it — Merkel, as chancellor, worked toward making Germany a liberal democracy. In the midst of populism rising in Europe and Russian President Vladimir Putin's revival of a belligerent Russia, Merkel remained consistent with her values.

As the first female head of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and the first female chancellor, Merkel increased Germany's role in international security as an active leader of the European Union. Her support of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) continues in the face of President Donald Trump P'oo's criticism. At times when the social justice and finances of the German social market model were challenged, she stood by economic liberalism. With her consistency as chancellor, Merkel guaranteed the German nation a relatively stable economy.

In addition, Merkel steadily aimed to move Germany away from its horrific past. Employing a much more humanitarian perspective than past leaders, Merkel denounced Nazi Germany's appalling values, such as xenophobia, once and for all. In fact, Merkel allowed 890,000 refugees into Germany during the migration crisis of 2015, according to the German Interior Ministry. Truly taking initiative for Western humanitarian values, Merkel

provided for refugees when other major Western powers accepted significantly fewer. In 2015, the United States admitted only approximately 70,000 refugees, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

In foreign affairs, Merkel wished to maintain good relations with the United States, reportedly being very close to former president Barack Obama, and to better relations with Russia to further strengthen German business and economy. She graciously agreed to bailouts to save both Greece and Portugal from bankruptcy. It would be an understatement to say that Merkel worked incessantly to establish friendly and productive relations with other nations while strengthening Germany's own hospitality and commitment to liberty.

However, Merkel's four terms as chancellor did bring controversy, namely in her decision to allow refugees into Germany. Only time will tell if this was the right decision for Germany — but that doesn't negate Merkel's honorable intentions in opening Germany's borders to those in need.

The future of Germany is, in many respects, impossible to determine. Merkel's successor will face many challenges: rebuilding the EU without Britain, struggles with neighboring populists, and managing Putin's Russia, to name a few. Regardless, the CDU's lack of success in Hesse and Merkel's decline in popularity despite her beneficial policies and actions for Germany raises concern. Does this reflect a subtle reappearance of a political atmosphere that could potentially lead to extremism? Only time will tell.

In her years as chancellor, Merkel earned the title of "leader of the free world" — and rightfully so. Merkel dutifully advocated for the values of Western liberalism, which she translated into German society through her initiatives for liberty among the people and in the economy.

Alex Alkhayer is a fifth former from South Windsor, CT. She may be reached at aalkhayer20@choate.edu

GOOD THINGS COME IN TREES



Photo by Katherine Phillips/ The Choate News

Choate has one of the largest and most diverse populations of trees in Connecticut, but climate change threatens its survival.

By **Lizzie Quinn '20**
Staff Reporter

When walking around Choate campus, whether you're by the Humanities building and Memorial Circle or on upper campus by Ruutz Rees and Brownell, you're surrounded by foliage: pines and spruces, oaks and beeches, hemlocks and firs, cedars and maples. There isn't just one type of tree that resides on campus more than the others. Connecticut — Choate included — is home to an extremely diverse population of trees, bushes, and shrubs. In fact, Choate earned a number of tree certificates that are currently displayed in Facilities.

Mr. Joe Scanio, Program Director and teacher at the Kohler Environmental Center (KEC), splits the campus in two parts when thinking about its trees: "You can think of the trees that are part of the managed landscape, the trees near Hill House or Mem House — the very visible trees, many of which were planted. Then you can think about trees on other areas of campus: many of those also were planted at one time and others were just

natural, secondary succession coming into abandoned fields."

When planting trees, one has to be cautious to make sure that these trees won't be harmful to the ecosystem. Mr. Scanio said, "Choate is now thinking a lot more about how we plant trees that are going to be native to support native organisms and also what trees are going to be planted in order to think about climate change."

A changing climate and the introduction of non-native insects are severely detrimental to the existence of native species. Elms, hemlocks, and now ash trees — prominent trees in Connecticut — are dying by the dozens. Mr. Scanio observed, "There used to be more Hemlock on main campus, but a lot of those died from the woolly adelgid. There used to be a lot of elm around campus, but elms died from Dutch Elm Disease. You've probably also seen a lot of the dead trees that have died recently, and a lot of those are ashes. Those are dying from the emerald ash borer."

The most recent threat to local trees is the warmer temperature sweeping through New Eng-

land. Mr. Scanio pointed out, "Even the maples — the sugar maples — are under threat now, people think, because of climate change, the change to a warmer zone. Maples tend to do better in a zone slightly cooler than here. There seems to be a disappearance of maples in these warmer areas, so maybe the environment here has become stressed."

In the past, Choate has planted trees and bushes for aesthetic purposes, but now, Choate is thinking a lot more about what can help thrive the ecosystem while also providing beauty. The massive tree that used to stand tall outside Lanphier Center was a European copper beech that died last year. This tree was planted for an aesthetic purpose, with its natural range extending from southern Sweden through France and England to northwest Turkey.

Mr. Scanio said, "You want to plant things that have minimal requirements in terms of water or nutrients. Basically, when you're planting or doing landscaping around buildings, you want to be thinking about minimizing your requirements for irrigation and worry about

pests. And then you also want to think about how does the landscape support the broader ecosystem: how does it support the birds, the insects?" Native plant species prove to be a more reliable option; "Natives are well adapted to their native ecosystems, and then they'll be better able to survive on their own without your help. If they're native, they're going to have this already evolved relationship with other species," Mr. Scanio continued.

A great plethora of insects, birds, and fungi rely on oaks, for instance, which are native to New England. Introducing a white poplar, a species not native to North America, would throw off the preexisting balance of flora and fauna. "If you can get important trees that will be valuable to the animals, then in this fragmented landscape that is New England, you would be able to support these animals that might not be able to survive if you plant species that they can't use," Mr. Scanio said.

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MUG NIGHT?

By **Ho Jin Jang '21**
Reporter

For many boarding students at Choate, the highlight of the week is the unexpected dorm mug night prepared by the dorm advisers. "Mug night" is a term used in dorms when advisers share baked goods, ice cream, or other treats with their advisees during the study break. (Traditionally, students brought their own mugs from which to eat food.) Some residential members of the Choate community took a moment to share their favorite type of mug night.

Madison Lee '22 and Claire Hong '22:

We're new students, and we live in Nichols, which is a freshman girls' dorm. We've had a lot of mug nights over the past few weeks. For us, mug nights are usually when we eat junk foods. We've had popsicles, chips, M&Ms, pretzels, and Cheerios. Honestly, popsicles were the best. I hope we can have more ice cream.

Charlotte Raine '21:

I live in West Wing this year as a sophomore. My favorite mug night was when Ms. K. bought a wide variety of chips from Costco. Even though it's store bought, it was still good. I hope we have monkey bread for our next mug night.

Anna Bonnem '21:

This year, I'm living in a sophomore and junior dorm, Hall. It is just above the dining hall. My favorite dorm mug night this year so far has been monkey bread. I liked it because it tasted amazing and because one of my advisers, Mr. Kafoglis, made it. In the future, I hope we can have more monkey bread.

Aris Tambakis '19:

I'm a senior prefect in Clinton Knight. I have to say I prefer artisan cheese nachos with homemade guac. They're delicious. It's a great snack after a long day of arduous work. The guacamole was prepared by myself, Ms. van Mierlo, and Jack Smoot '19. We usually have homemade mug nights. It's very tasty. In addition to the cheese nachos, I also highly recommend the pigs-in-a-blanket. They're the bomb. We do not have them as often, but they're equally as tasty. Still, we need more nachos.

Alicia Xiong '21:

I am extremely satisfied that I'm living in Bernhard because I have had so many mug nights in a couple of weeks. My favorite one so far has been Zoe's homemade cookies. They are cookies with faces on them. If I could make a personal wish, I would like to request more frequent mug nights and monkey bread. I also love the fact that the birthday girl gets a crown.

Will Robertson '20 :

I'm a fifth-former living in Hill House. My favorite mug night we've had so far was when Mr. Proulx's girlfriend made homemade apple cider and apple crumble for the whole dorm — she's a great baker, and, as a boarder, it's really nice to have homemade food once in a while. I think anything along those lines would be great; however, I think I might be biased towards the apple cider and crumble, since Virginia is a big apple state and it reminds me of home!

Ho Jin Jang may be reached at hjjang21@choate.edu

Introducing: Game of Thrones Club



Photo courtesy of Tippa Chan

Game of Thrones club hopes to spread its love of the popular TV series.

By **Camille Grant '21**
Reporter

Early this fall, on the bus returning from the annual Camp Hazen prefect retreat, Will Brown '19 and Matt Cuomo '19 decided to start a club dedicated to *Game of Thrones*. The popular HBO fantasy drama is based on George R. R. Martin's best-selling series *A Song of Ice and Fire*. The franchise follows three storylines — a war between several families (the Starks, the Lannisters, and the Baratheons); the exiled Daenerys Targaryen's attempts to return and reclaim her family's power; and Jon Snow's hopes to protect the land from an incoming siege. At each bi-weekly meeting, Brown and Cuomo promise pizza and a chance to view *Game of Thrones* and discuss its conspiracy theories. "If you watch *Game of Thrones*, come to the meetings," said Brown.

The club presidents didn't start their *Game of Thrones* journey very long ago. Cuomo began watching the seven-season series as a sophomore. Brown says he binge-watched the entire series over the summer. Cuomo's favorite character is Daenerys Targaryen. Brown, on the other hand, favors Tyrion Lannister. This year, Brown began reading *A Game of Thrones*, the series' first novel. However, he has had trouble finding time to finish it. Although each episode runs between 50 and 80 minutes in length, the books are each about one thousand pages long. Since the TV show is reasonably accessible online, the *Game of Thrones Club* chose to focus on the show rather than the books.

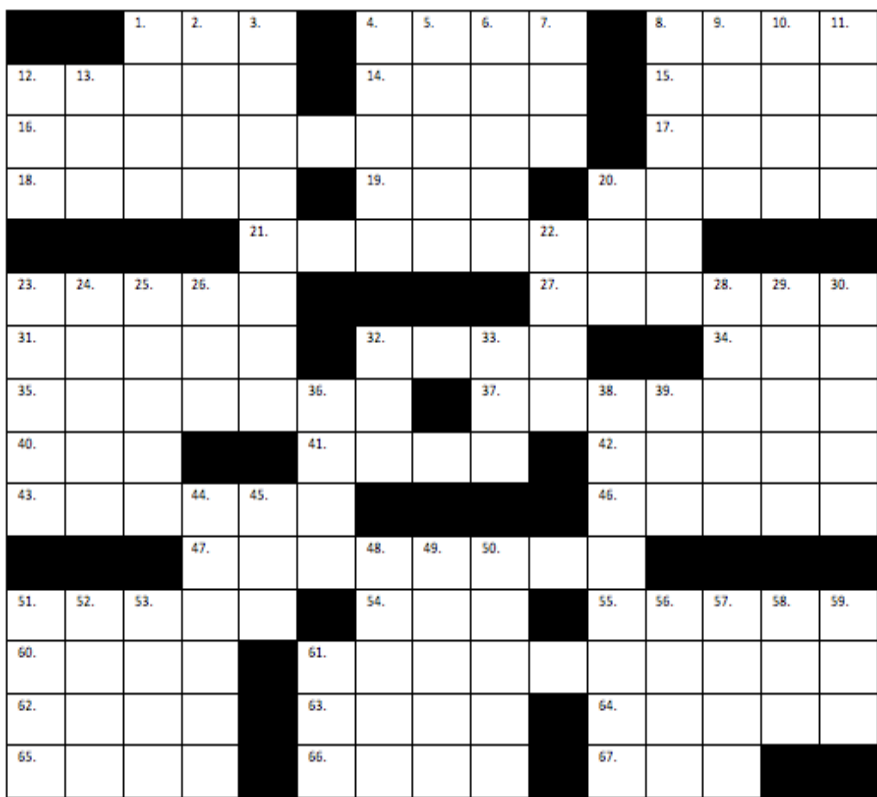
After the conversation on the bus, the presidents recruited Mr. Ned Gallagher as their faculty adviser. On the cabinet is Cameron Pole-

meni-Hegarty '20 and Ryan Kim '20. Although there is no shortage of *Game of Thrones* fans on campus, it wasn't particularly easy to get the club approved. The club raises the question: If a *Game of Thrones* Club was allowed, what other clubs would have to be allowed? However, the club leaders believe that *Game of Thrones* is different. "There's just so much going on — so many conspiracy theories and so much to talk about," said Cuomo. "You can't have *The Office Club*, because there's nothing really going on."

Game of Thrones Club's first meeting was held two weeks ago in Elman Auditorium. There were about 30 attendees, all from a wide spectrum of grades and experience with the series. Cuomo and Brown, both prefects, encouraged their prefectees to come. "I thought it was a great introduction to people who know about the series and people who don't know about the series," said Monty Singer '22, a Mem House resident. Singer himself has watched the entire series twice, and is making progress through *A Game of Thrones*. During the meeting, the club played *Game of Thrones* trivia; Brown and Cuomo were surprised at the expertise of the attendees.

Game of Thrones Club plans on sponsoring a SAC dance and designing T-shirts at some point. When the eighth and final season of *Game of Thrones* is released this spring, the club will gather to watch these episodes. Until then, *Game of Thrones Club* will continue to meet every two weeks — come join them for *Game of Thrones* revelry and, of course, the pizza.

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Across

- Electrical property with a misleading name
- "This thing all things devours; birds, beasts, trees, flowers"
- "_____ said!" (slang for end of discussion)
- Echolocation for submarines
- Stench
- 3.7 million square miles for China
- A fishy clue in a mystery novel that misleads the detective
- End _____ License Agreement
- Ring around the rosie, pocket full of _____ (singular)
- Drunkard
- One of these begins with "The Lord is my shepherd"
- Polite fib
- Plants in the background of Road Runner cartoons (plural)
- Moonshine is this type of whiskey
- _____ Gas Law
- Sandcastle mold
- Pie _____ mode
- Sea of _____, where Jesus is said to have walked on water
- "Layla" guitarist
- Ice, Stone, Bronze
- Window glass section
- Literary figure of speech
- Partial refund
- Apollo's stringed instrument (plural)
- Morally ambiguous
- Effusively sentimental
- Formal spelling of Chimamanda Adichie's Nigerian ethnic group
- South African spiral-horned antelope
- Organic compound commonly used as a source of nitrogen in fertilizer
- The Hunt for _____
- You can smell these when Kendrick is walkin' down the street (plural)
- Fruit used to represent electrons in Bohr's model of the atom
- Piece of cake, let the cat out of the bag, beating a dead horse
- Long, narrow cut
- I will not sit _____ by
- College Board exam abhorred by many at Choate

Down

- Justification for the means
- Half of dolphinfish
- Heavily debated philosophical idea that is one letter away from a movie about a captive orca
- Multiple chests
- A real no-brainer
- _____ Carlo
- Masochistic exercise at Choate
- Cruise passenger's symptom
- Greater or lesser bear
- "_____ Good Inc."
- The setting of George Orwell's famous allegorical novel
- Signature program for science geeks
- Government agency created by Lyndon B. Johnson as part of his War on Poverty (abbr.)
- Remember to pull this out before you throw the grenade
- Soothe, put to sleep
- Cuba's most famous export
- Old saying, proverb
- Movie star, for short
- _____ chi, Chinese martial art
- University of Florida mascot
- Secretly run away to get married
- The people of Denmark
- The Princess and the _____
- Commonly found solid on Earth with the strange property of having a lower density than its liquid state
- Fencing sword with a button tip
- Plato's lost island
- Poke one's nose into someone's affairs
- Taken aback, shocked
- You never know unless you _____
- Income returned on an investment
- Kareem _____-Jabbar
- Comfortably spacious
- There are five of these at many burger restaurants
- Forms the border between Europe and Asia
- 18-Wheeler
- Solve this crossword, you must
- Not much, just _____
- Lion in the sky
- Supply weapons and ammunition

Crosswords!

By **Will Zhu '20**
Copy Editor

Check our Facebook page /choatenews and our Instagram account @choatenews this afternoon for the answers to this week's crossword!

PMAC'S WINDOWS SPELL THE DEMISE OF DOZENS OF MIGRATING BIRDS



Photo by Jenny Guo/The Choate News

Numerous birds have died recently, after flying into the PMAC glass windows.

By **Deanna Tan '20**
Staff Reporter

Anyone who has been in the PMAC in the past few weeks may have noticed a strange occurrence: dead birds lying outside of the building.

Questions regarding these sightings have permeated campus. Ms. Kalya Yannatos, Director of the Arts, has been able to pinpoint the cause of these unfortunate incidents. Many of these birds appear to be on their migration south, and have been pausing in a large tree in the center of the PMAC that grows many fruits during this time of year. They then fly into the PMAC's glass walls. "It's a feasting orgy for these birds but then they go 'bang!' It's absolutely traumatic," Ms. Yannatos said.

The dead birds primarily consist of cedar waxwings, however, there have also been a couple of robins as well as a single yellow bird species that has not yet been successfully identified.

Art student William Robertson '20 said, "It's ironic how the PMAC, a building dedicated to celebrating the beauty that life has to offer,

is currently surrounded by scores of dead birds."

Robertson has had many encounters with the animals in the PMAC. He recalls being horrified after seeing a surreal number of carcasses on his way to a cappella. "I was surprised nobody had done anything with them — they must have died recently because I can't imagine people would simply leave them there. I went into a cappella a little shaken, only to be disrupted a few minutes in by a 'thunk!' against the glass window. We ran outside and saw the poor bird, bashed and shocked, twitching and unable to right itself. With help from Kalya, we were able to get it back on its feet again; afterward, we made a sort of mass grave for the other dead birds around the building, throwing their limp bodies in a pile in the leaves. Not only was this disruptive to the rehearsal, but it was also incredibly disturbing — by having fruitful trees right next to crystal-clear glass walls, it makes sense that birds would injure themselves."

Robertson thinks Choate should take action. He said, "If you ask me, I think it'd be

irresponsible to do nothing; rather, we should replace the trees that attract all the birds to that area. I wouldn't suggest changing the side of the PMAC, but we should take any reasonable steps we can in order to help save the innocent birds flying to their death at the hands of I.M. Pei's architecture."

It's a feasting orgy for these birds but then they go 'bang!' It's absolutely traumatic.

Ms. Kalya Yannatos
Director of the Arts

Robertson is not alone in his discomfort. "I've definitely seen that down in the PMAC," Supriya Chang '21 said. "It reminded me of my house in New Jersey, where birds would try to fly into our house because they didn't realize there was a window."

Many of the Arts Concentration students have tried to prevent these casualties from occurring. Ms. Yannatos explained, "The Arts Con kids

have been trying to create a silhouette and hanging it over the windows, because silhouettes are supposed to signal to the birds. We would have to hang silhouettes over entire panels of windows in order to prevent future incidents."

Many families who come on tours visit the PMAC, and seeing dead animals lying near the sides of the building is certainly not the impression and reputation Choate hopes to achieve. Ms. Yannatos has been thinking of solutions to solve this issue. "The problem is the trees," she said. "The birds won't be so attracted to the trees if they weren't fruit bearing. What we need to do is to replace these trees and any trees close to the windows with ones that don't bear fruit because that's what's attracting them. We may then get an incident now and then, but it definitely would not be what it is like now. Seriously, it feels like 20 birds a day."

Colony Hall will open next fall, and the type of trees planted near the sides of the building will be critical.

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Choate-Deerfield Rivalry Fueled by Fashion Stereotypes

By **Grace Zhang '20**
Copy Editor

As Deerfield Day approaches and the rivalry between Choate and Deerfield reaches its annual high point, students at both sharpen their own identities by distancing themselves from the other. This often involves seeking different ways look at students of the other school as "unlike us," a divisive mentality which in part explains the jeering and intimidation heard from both schools on the sidelines at Deerfield Day sports competitions.

In their attempts to build their own school up and put the other down, students often look beyond the academics, campus, and atmosphere of their rival, and turn to more shallow characteristics, such as clothing choices. Though fashion could be considered just one surface-level aspect of who a student is, for some, it represents much more than just a component of physical presentation.

Deerfield requires students to adhere to an "Academic Dress" similar to Choate's "Special Academic Dress" in all academic buildings and in the dining hall during the school day. For boys or gender-nonconforming students, this means tucked-in button down shirts, sport coats, and visible ties. For girls or gender-nonconforming students, this means bottoms or a dress of appropriate length, defined as four to six inches above the kneecap, and a non-athletic sweater, sport coat, or jacket. On special days, Deerfield students are allowed to let loose with "Casual Dress." However, Deerfield's "Casual Dress" still prohibits "sweatpants, leggings, yoga pants, running shorts, printed t-shirts, halter tops, crop tops, sports jerseys and other forms of athletic apparel." Deerfield's list of prohibited clothing on "Casual Dress" days include several staples of Choate students' wardrobes, namely denim, sweatpants, leggings, hooded sweatshirts, and athletic gear.

Choate, on the other hand, has (since 2016) an amorphous dress code consisting of few defined rules and many general statements such as, "Clothing should promote a positive, focused learning environment." This provides plenty of leeway for students to dress casually, and while many still dress more for-

mally, many a student takes advantage of the freedom. Every day, some Choate students don sweatpants, sweatshirts, leggings, athletic gear, and even pajamas to class.

The stark contrast between the two dress codes, and therefore the two styles, inevitably results in stereotypes in which the students of one school compartmentalize the other. Deerfield students have been known to call Choate students "poor" or "illiterate," while Choate students call Deerfield students "spoiled" and "elitist."

Grace Stapelberg '20 called attention to the irony of these stereotypes because of the many similarities between the two schools. "I think Choate students talk a lot about how Deerfield kids are spoiled and all about 'Daddy's money' and all of that, and that's why they dress preppy, because they're just spoiled brats. But most of us here are also spoiled brats, and many of us are also here from 'Daddy's money' — we just wear more sweatpants. I think we're just playing into the stereotype."

Many Choate students take pride in the freedom of expression they have through their dress. Student Body President Itai Mupanduki '19 said, "I would say the style at Choate is much more free. It seems as though here people have more room to experiment with what they wear and dress in what they feel is most comfortable."

Mupanduki feels that Choate students' style reflects positively on the School. "I would say the dress style at Choate is reflective of the open mindedness that is prevalent throughout our campus," he said.

Stapelberg pointed out that students tend to have incomplete pictures of both the clothing styles and overall experiences of the other school. "The stereotype is that Deerfield is a lot more preppy and Choate's a lot more casual, but I don't go to Deerfield so I don't really know how true that is," she said.

Going into Deerfield Day, Choate students might aim to maintain their healthy school spirit while also examining the reasoning behind their words and actions. And, in doing so, perhaps we can all move beyond divisive stereotypes.

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Humanities Darkroom: An Underused Resource

By **Richard Chen '22**
Reporter

Choate has a sprawling campus that occupies around 458 acres of land, all of which is home to hundreds of classrooms, studios, study rooms, and more. Yet, there seems to be much of campus that many students, even seniors, have yet to see.

One of these more mysterious spaces is the dark room, a photo-development studio that is located in the basement of the Humanities building. Used by photographers and filmmakers, dark rooms are the place where camera film is developed and the photos truly comes to life. The process involves putting film into a solution and then projecting high-focus light onto the negative to produce a 'positive' image on a piece of paper. Typically, the process takes an hour for a single color photo, one reason that dark rooms have decreased in popularity with the advent of digital photography. However, students in photography classes, taught by Mr. Robert Mellon, still use the room to develop rolls of film, to learn what photography as a serious art is about.

Priam Alataris '22 takes photography and says they fully utilize the dark room: "When we are in the dark room, we take large magnifiers and project a negative image onto a piece of paper that is a positive of it. After, we use chemicals to process the photos and make sure that they come into print, focus, and color correctly."

Mr. Mellon's Photography I class is currently the only class that uses the room, which begs

the question: Is it an undervalued or outdated resource for students? To this question, Mr. Mellon responded, "There is an art of photography that exists with film photography. I believe that a photograph printed through traditional, silver-based, wet-process dark room photography reflects light differently than an inkjet-made photograph."

Darkroom-based photography originated in the 18th century. Although this renders the artform dated, could the history behind the process make it that much more important to cherish? Today, oil painting plays a pivotal role in visual arts, yet it existed much before the invention of the dark room. However, with the growing importance of the internet, dark rooms have been replaced with easier, more accessible techniques. This has not yet happened with other forms of applied art.

The diminishing interest in film development is clear on campus. Every student in Photography I is a freshman — individuals might take the class simply to fill an arts requirement. For 15 years, Mr. Mellon taught three sections of the course every term. "There have been people who have spent a lot of time in the darkroom and really taken it to the next level," Mr. Mellon said. He and many others in Choate's art community hope that individuals will once again find more meaning in physical objects and hands-on art than in art made behind a screen.

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KAKI SU '19 SOLOES ALONGSIDE ORCHESTRA



Photo by Pinn Chirathivat/The Choate News

After months of preparation, Kaki Su '19 performed Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No.1 in B-flat Minor.

By **Eliana Kim '20**
Staff Reporter

For several years, it has been a Parents' Weekend tradition for a senior, either a member of the Arts Concentration Program or the Choate Symphony Orchestra, to perform a solo piece with the orchestra. Following David Park '17's Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto and Annett Ho '18's Wieniawski Violin Concerto, Kaki Su '19 performed Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto on October 26 in the Chapel. Musicians also performed Berlioz's Roman Carnival.

This concert was certainly a special moment for Su and the orchestra, as they performed some of the pieces

that they will be playing in Italy this summer. An unexpected guest also performed, rendering the event even more exceptional. Annett Ho '18 joined the orchestra to replace the current group's concertmaster, who was unable to attend the event because of schedule conflicts.

Ho said, "I really missed Choate and the orchestra that I grew up with, and it was nice to see old and new people. Kaki did a great job in the concert, and I was glad to be with her for her meaningful performance."

To prepare for this concert, the orchestra has practiced three times a week since the first week of school, and put in extra hours during sectional rehearsals on Sundays.

Su said, "I first want to thank the orchestra and the people who came to watch my concert. The main reason that I chose the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto was because of the piece's familiarity. I wanted the audience to enjoy the music with me and I also knew that the Choate Orchestra was capable enough to help me achieve that goal. This piece is definitely challenging, but I knew that our orchestra was advanced enough to play it very well."

Su said that this concert was different from her many other performances. "I remember when I walked up to the piano, unlike other concerts, I knew exactly what to do." After her performance, she was speechless.

"Even up to this point, this concert seems surreal to me," she said. "But when watching my performance video, I can recall what it was like each moment. I specifically remember when I cried as soon as I saw my Yale piano professor at the concert. It reminded me of the hard work my colleagues, my teacher, and I put in just for this concert."

It was "an experience I will never forget," she said. She added that it is very meaningful as a musician to be able to share music and help people realize its significance. "Looking at the audience enjoy your performance is a huge motivation for me to pursue what I love," Su said.

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FIELD REPORT

Varsity Games

Boys' XC (3-6)
4th in Founder's

Girls' XC (5-2)
1st in Founder's

Field Hockey (4-10)
falls to Sacred Heart, 0-5

Football (8-0)
beats Loomis, 25-0

Boys' Soccer (11-2-4)
ties Avon, 1-1

Girls' Soccer (9-2-4)
beats Miss Porter's, 1-0

Volleyball (7-9)
2nd out of 3

Water Polo (5-13)
2nd out of 3

J.V. Games

Boys' XC (5-4)
2nd at Founder's

Girls' XC (1-3)
3rd at Founder's

Field Hockey (3-9-1)
falls to Hopkins, 0-3

Boys' Soccer (9-1-3)
beats Avon, 2-1

Girls' Soccer (3-6-2)
falls to Miss Porter's, 0-2

Volleyball (11-2)
beats Hotchkiss, 3-1

Choate Athletes Anticipate a Successful Deerfield Day

Continued from page 1

suffered an injury, forcing back-up Shane Baldwin '21 into action. Baldwin has exceeded expectations, already helping the team to a last-second victory against Suffield on Parents' Weekend. Last year, Choate faced one of Deerfield's strongest football teams, with a roster full of post-graduates. Choate comfortably beat Deerfield 28-7. Choate senior co-captain James McCarthy '19 said, "Deerfield was very disciplined and well-coached last year, and we can expect more of the same from them this year." He added, "In order to beat them this year, we will need to execute to the best of our ability and have faith in our coaches and one another." This year, Deerfield will be eager to avenge its loss. However, the season doesn't end against Deerfield. McCarthy said, "We are focused on taking things one day at a time at this point, but obviously welcome the challenge of a post-season bowl game." After playing Deerfield, Boys' Varsity Football will play in the New England Championship game, where it will hopefully win its fifth consecutive title.

Girls' Varsity Volleyball

This season, Girls' Varsity Volleyball has not performed as well as it has the past few years, but the team should still have an excellent opportunity to beat Deerfield. The girls have momentum as they have won five out of their past six games. Reigning New England Player of the Year Lani Uyeno '19 along with Julia Mackenzie '19 and Blake Migden '19 have been crucial to the team's



Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen

Choate and Deerfield have each won one of the last two Deerfield Days; each school won on its home field.

recent success. Last year, Choate easily beat Deerfield, sweeping all three sets, but Deerfield has improved and currently has a 9-5 record. The team will have to play to the best of its ability in order to beat Deerfield. Co-captain Uyeno said, "Last year, the energy in the gym was insane, which I think helped us beat Deerfield. This year, I think that it will be a more evenly matched game, so we'll have to be in it 100% mentally." With a win over Deerfield, Girls' Varsity Volleyball could secure a playoff spot and pursue a third straight New England Championship.

Boys' Thirds Soccer

Boys' Thirds Soccer has had

an excellent season so far and looks to complete its season with a win over Deerfield. The boys started their term with a nine-game unbeaten streak before falling to Hotchkiss at the end of October. Despite losing a large number of juniors and sophomores from last year's squad, the new players on the team have performed incredibly well. Freshman goalie Arjun Singh '22 has been a brick wall in the net all season, and Jaime Gonzalez '21 and Adrian Kwan '21 have played important roles on offense. Unfortunately, the team lost 3-1 to Deerfield last year, but with improved play and home-field advantage, this year's team cer-

tainly has a strong chance at winning. If Boys' Thirds Soccer plays its best, there is no reason that the team cannot end the season with a huge win against Deerfield.

Girls' JV Volleyball

Girls' JV Volleyball has had an outstanding season to this point starting off 11-2, and they look to improve that record against Deerfield tomorrow. With a dominant win over Deerfield last season, the team should come into the game plenty confident. Brooke Popadich '20 said, "We went into the season with a very strong and deep team, which shows itself in our 11-2 record. We've had a few tougher games against Taft and Exeter, but over-

all we've been able to play very well and earn some good results on the scoreboard." The girls have pretty easily handled every team this season, and this year's Deerfield team should be no different. Deerfield has a team that is weaker than normal this year. This will be the last game for the girls as there is no playoffs at the JV level, but it will allow the team to give leave everything on the court. Popadich said, "We plan on going into the game prepared for the toughest opponent yet and hopefully bringing our best will lead to a W in the end."

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PLAYER PROFILE

IN THE POOL WITH OLLIE CHESSEN '19



Photo courtesy of Tippha Chan

By **John Buckholtz '20**
Staff Reporter

Ollie Chessen '19 is a varsity rower, this year's Boys' Varsity Water Polo captain, and the leading goal scorer this season. He is a four-year senior from San Francisco and has been a member of the varsity water polo team since his freshman year. With 50 goals already this season, he leads the Wild Boars on offense. Chessen was gracious enough to sit down with staff reporter John Buckholtz '20 and talk about how he got started playing water polo, his favorite Choate memory in the pool, and why he chose to come to Choate.

John Buckholtz: When did you start playing water polo?

Ollie Chessen: I actually started out swimming in third and fourth grade. In fifth grade, I saw a couple water polo games and decided I wanted to try it out. Sixth grade was the year I started to play competitively with club teams.

JB: Was there anyone in specific who inspired you to play water polo?

OC: Not anyone in specific. The atmosphere of my club water polo team inspired me to continue playing. Their attitude towards the sport was infectious and it motivated me.

JB: Why did you choose Choate?

OC: A lot of it was by chance. Of the schools I was looking at, Choate's Water Polo team stuck out to me as being very active in

the process of getting people to play for them. My eventual co-captain, Ben Zhao '18, came and spoke to me about the water polo team. Not only did he speak to me, but most of the team talked to me at the activities fair. They were all very serious and committed to the sport. I knew that if they were committed to me, I would be committed to the team as well.

JB: What is your greatest water polo memory throughout your Choate career?

OC: We had a very strong team for my sophomore year. We ended up finishing third in New England's which was a huge accomplishment. Throughout that season, we played Loomis Chaffee twice, losing by one goal both times. When we faced them in New England's, we beat them 16-1, which put us in third place.

JB: In terms of water polo, what is the biggest obstacle you've had to overcome throughout your four years here?

OC: The biggest obstacle was coping with the fact that I couldn't play year-round. Before coming to Choate, playing year-round was crucial. It was always an adjustment getting back into it when playing in summer leagues. Not playing during the off-season was hard for me too because water polo is something that I genuinely enjoy so much. I use it as a way to relieve my stress and take my mind off things.

JB: What position do you currently play? Have you always played that position?

OC: Water polo is pretty fluid as a sport. It's like basketball where you play offense and defense. I play on my strong shooting side, which is left of the cage. I facilitate the offense most of the time. Primarily, I'm a spot up shooter.

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On Being a Team Manager

By **Allen Zheng '21**
Staff Reporter

For every one of Choate's various varsity sports teams, there are a few students who help run the show from behind the scenes: the managers. Whether it's on the soccer field, in the hockey rink, on the cross-country course, or in the pool, managers are a key part of every varsity sports program in their own unique ways.

The responsibilities of a manager often vary from sport to sport. Tippha Chan '19, who manages Boys' Varsity Water Polo, said, "My job consists of getting ice from the X before every practice, running the clock during home games, and writing stats during games." However, the responsibilities of managers will sometimes transcend gathering equipment and tracking each player's statistics. Asher Kassinove '19, who has managed Boys' Varsity Hockey for three years, is responsible for musical entertainment during games, and he even takes part in pre-game rituals.

Though the jobs and responsibilities of managers may be similar, the reasons they manage are very different. Some, like Chan, manage a sport in order to improve their understanding of the game. "I decided to manage because I

play water polo in the spring, so I'm familiar with the sport," she said. "By managing, I can learn more about the sport and further understand the game." Others manage a varsity sport to spend more time with friends. Kassinove began managing after his prefect, Craig Uyeno '17, who was the Boys' Varsity Hockey captain at the time, brought up the opportunity with him. "Following the conversation, I went and talked to some of the players who lived in the dorm with me and asked what it would be like," he said. "Their response was a simple, 'You get to spend more time with us.'"

The guys have made me feel that I am part of the team in my own special way.

Asher Kassinove '19

Since managers work closely with the team itself, they are often able to witness the team grow and improve as the season progresses. Alex Du '21, who manages Boys' Varsity Cross-Country, said, "My favorite thing about managing a sport is watching the runners improve every week and see how they really benefit from all the hard work they put in during practices." Managing can even help cre-

ate meaningful bonds and life-long friendships. "The guys have made me feel that I am part of the team in my own special way," Kassinove said. "I still talk to many of the alumni from the team, and some are my best friends, and that bond would not have been created without being the manager."

Though managers usually don't participate in the physically grueling aspects of their sports, managing can prove to be challenging in its own way. One of the biggest challenges managers face is the time commitment that comes with managing a varsity sport. Managers typically have to go to every practice as well as both home and away games with their team. "As a senior, time management and making sure I get all my work done is my biggest challenge as a manager," Chan said. "However, the coaches are super understanding and let me take days off when I'm super stressed."

Managing a varsity sport can be one of the most rewarding athletic experiences at Choate. "I think that managing is a valuable experience," Du said. "It's unique in the sense that you are able to see athletes improve each week, and it's cool that you can view the sport in a different lens."

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Photo by Jenny Guo/The Choate News

(From left) Rachel Proudman '19, Alex Amine '19, and Anya Wareck '19 manage Boys' Varsity Soccer this season.