



SCIENCE RESEARCH PROGRAM CULMINATES IN SLS PRESENTATIONS



Photo by Henrik Torres (left) and Tiffany Xiao (right)/The Choate News

Students presented their summer research in Getz or Elman Auditoria.

By **Ryan Kim '23**
Staff Reporter

On Tuesday, November 9, and Thursday, November 11, the 14 sixth-form participants of the Science Research Program (SRP) gave their annual Student Lecture Series (SLS) presentations—detailing their summer research. Each night from 7 to 8:30 p.m., two sessions were held simultaneously in Elman and Getz Auditorium. Each presentation was around twelve minutes long followed by a brief Q&A session. Though the presentations were only open to members of the Choate community due to health and safety concerns, the event was live streamed over Zoom for guests to attend remotely.

As Choate's oldest Signature Program, SRP is a rigorous, four-

term program designed to give students the opportunity to experience the life of a professional research scientist. The program is split into two sections: the Quantitative Sciences cohort, led by science teacher Dr. Chris Hogue, and Biological Sciences cohort, led by science teacher Dr. Selena Gell.

During their fifth-form year, students in SRP learned how to dissect scientific literature, design and conduct experiments, and write scientific reports. In addition to their homework, students read papers by principal investigators (PIs) and reached out to them with requests for summer research opportunities. As soon as they secured a lab internship, students conducted extensive background research in their respective field, culminating in a review paper at the end of the spring term.

Over the summer, the students worked for a minimum of eight weeks in college laboratories conducting their research projects. Throughout their time working in the lab, students kept a research log to track their progress.

Throughout this term, students have created professional research posters for display in the Science Center, written journal articles detailing their research, and prepared to present their work to the community in the SLS. These talks, however, are not ordinary class presentations but polished and professional talks that have been perfected over the duration of the program.

According to Dr. Hogue, the process is arduous yet fulfilling. "[Students] start with storyboarding, developing the over-

all story arc of their talk. They develop analogies and simplify both the science and technical jargon so the talk is accessible to a wider audience. They create and refine graphics and animations and work to create strong transitions to keep the audience engaged. At every stage along the way, they gather feedback from their SRP teacher and classmates and make changes, large and small."

Joy Bang '22, a member of the Biological Sciences cohort, conducted research on common genetic and pathway profiles within the fibroblasts of aging lungs, lung cancer, and lung fibrosis. Reflecting on her SLS presentation, she considered simplifying the complexity of

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Community Discusses Socioeconomic Class

By **Alexis Lien '23**
Staff Reporter

The second Community Conversation of the school year took place on Monday, November 1 and focused on socioeconomic class at Choate — a topic generated from a Google form submission process last year.

Many students felt as though this conversation was long overdue and have patiently waited for this opportunity to discuss socioeconomic class at the School.

Chloe Lewis '22 said, "For so long I have felt like an imposter here, and I was really looking forward to this Community Conversation because I have always felt uncomfortable when people bring up the generalization that everyone comes from a place of privilege."

Similar to the first Community Conversation of the year, questions submitted by community members were screened by the Dean of Equity and Inclusion Dr. Rachel Myers and Associate Director of Equity and Inclusion Mr. Felipe Camarotti to eliminate any offensive language. The questions were then placed in a bowl and drawn at random by audience members. Topics that were discussed included pressure points for students from lower-income backgrounds at Choate, strategies to save money at school, and socioeconomic assumptions made about international students.

HPRSS teacher Ms. Rachel

Kesler found the question about money-saving tips at Choate thought-provoking. "It made me reflect on things that I did both growing up in college, and also that I still do now, that reflect what my socioeconomic background is and the ways in which some of that stuff isn't conscious," she said.

"The [question] about pressure points allowed people like me to explain our experience and how every single day is a pressure point because I know I am not here for the same reasons as other people," added Lewis. "I have had to build a future for myself. Coming to Choate is a means of changing the course of life that I would have otherwise had."

However, two questions regarding personal finance, rather than socioeconomic class, raised much controversy. One question asked for advice on how many credit cards one should have, while the other asked for help learning to investment money as a student. Some community members felt that these questions took time away from voices and stories that needed to be heard, and were somewhat irrelevant to the conversation at hand.

Lewis said, "It was definitely very triggering for me. I felt extremely uncomfortable and felt like I was crawling in my own skin and wanted to leave the room ... watching people's reactions to the questions and how

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Journalism Class Explores the Archives

By **Oliver Howard '23**
Reporter

For the past few weeks, students in the senior Journalism and Nonfiction Storytelling class have been working on a research project sourced from the Choate Archives. Each member of the class created an exhibit with five artifacts they culled from the school's archive collection, with topics ranging from the history senior soccer to the stories of the first minority students at Choate and Rosemary Hall. Their teacher, Dr. Amber Hodge — who is filling in for Mr. Mike Peed this fall — hoped that this experience would encourage more students to make use of the School's archival resources in their research.

The Archives are filled with artifacts ranging from 19th century document records to historic yearbooks to old uniforms — all of which can paint a vivid

picture of Choate's history. Dr. Hodge explained, "It is my hope that this experience in the archives will encourage the class to continue on-the-ground research when they get to college to see what they can uncover."

Journalism student Luc Galiardo '22 was astounded by the Archives' vast collection of artifacts. "I didn't even know Choate had an Archives," he said. "To see the amount of history kept there while most people are completely oblivious was pretty eye-opening." Galiardo also shared Dr. Hodge's enthusiasm for the future of Archives. "Everyone interested in the history of the school or programs should go to understand the past and how it has led to the events of today."

Archivist Ms. Stephanie Gold noted that the Archives have become increasingly involved in the community each year. While journalism students have previously produced re-



Graphic by Yujin Kim/The Choate News

search papers, stories, and documentaries using archival content, Ms. Gold said that this was the "first time that such a large display of student work from the School Archives will be exhibited." Additionally, Ms. Gold is trying to put together events such as exhibits, Choate history trivia night, and other class activities using archival materials.

The projects have been displayed in the library cases by the JFK exhibit since Novem-

ber 8 and will remain there until fall break. That said, Ms. Gold and Dr. Hodge hope that the Archives will continue to be a hub of student research and curiosity. "There is a wealth of material in the Choate archives, even beyond campus history," Dr. Hodge said. "I think they could come in handy for almost any research project."

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CHOATE QUIZ BOWL WINS TOURNAMENT

By **Tess Taetle '24**
Staff Reporter

The Choate quiz bowl! club recently attended the Long Island Fall Tournament (LIFT), at Kellenberg Memorial High School in Uniondale, New York, where one of its three teams won first place. The team, composed of Joy An '23, Nathan Nicholas '23, Athena Liu '23, and Henry Ding '24, went undefeated in all ten of their rounds.

While all teams that registered were allowed to compete in LIFT, previous performances were used to determine the initial seeding and brackets going into the preliminary rounds. The team participated in nine preliminary rounds, with a single crossover match where they faced off with the same team twice. In the tournament finals they squared off against Darien High School, winning with a final score of 330-255.

The team's performance qualified them for the national competition which will take place next summer in Atlanta, Georgia.

The team used many different methods in preparation for the tournament. Nicholas, the President of the quiz bowl!, used flashcards, both physical and virtual, to memorize and learn new information. He also likes to edit and read Wikipedia pages to practice for tournaments. An, the Captain of quiz bowl!, said the

best way to improve as a competitor is to play as much as possible. To prepare for LIFT, the club held many practices, simulating competition-like questions. "With every question you hear, you learn something new," said An.

This tournament was many of the members' first in-person competition, making the win that much more exciting. An's favorite memory

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Language Limbo

Lauren Kee '24 learns to balance multiple languages.
Opinions Campus • P4



Into the Metaverse

Facebook undergoes a rebrand.
Opinions N/W • P5

Behind the Spotlight

Lara Stone '22, Choate's theater tech specialist, worked on recent theater productions.
Arts and Leisure • P7



Boars Take on Deerfield

Choate athletes compete at Deerfield Day
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ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE HOSTS VIRTUAL SUMMIT

By **Yoyo Zhang '24**
Staff Reporter

From November 7 to November 9, students attended the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) summit series. The ADL, founded in 1913, is a global anti-hate organization with a mission to "stop the defamation of the Jewish people" and "secure justice and fair treatment to all." This year, the ADL continued its annual "Never Is Now" online summit to discuss the empowerment of marginalized groups and to combat Anti-Zionism, Anti-semitism and other forms of hate.

"This is a great opportunity for students because of the content, speakers, and format," said Dean of Equity and Inclusion Dr. Rachel Myers. During the three-day conference, the agenda consisted of various seminars and workshops such as "Confronting Anti-Black Racism to Fight Anti-Semitism," "How Online Hate is Infiltrating New Platforms,"

and "Confronting Anti-Semitism on Campus: A How-To Guide." The wide range of topics brought about diverse methods to interpret the overarching theme of fighting hate and discrimination.

As one of the largest global conferences on Anti-Semitism, "Never Is Now" invites experts to present at panels every year. This year, the featured speakers included Kamala Harris, Vice President of the United States of America; Jean-Paul Agon, Chairman of L'Oréal; and Yair Lapid, Israel's Alternate Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs. These prominent figures offered insight on societal issues and helped bring widespread notoriety to the organization's important cause. According to ADL's official website, "Never Is Now" brought together "7,000 participants from 28 countries and more than 45 states in 2020."

Many students said that since Choate is a diverse community with a vibrant Jewish population, it is important for students and faculty

alike to understand Anti-semitism and to take actions toward combating the discrimination faced by our Jewish community members. As a leader of Hillel, the Jewish affinity group on campus, David Garsten '23 said, "A lot of people at Choate know that the issue exists, but not how it exists, what it does, and how to combat it." This summit, he explained, offered a valuable educational opportunity for everyone to become a more aware and compassionate community member.

Hillel welcomed all students to join its watch parties for parts of the ADL summit. One panel, "How Marginalized Communities Can Advocate Together," particularly resonated with students. Garsten learned from the session that becoming a change-maker and activist is not exclusive to a particular identity, but rather a skill that benefits people from all walks of life.

Garsten expressed appreciation for Choate's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force for introducing the event to the Choate

community, as well as for supporting the Jewish population on campus in general, such as in last year's Community Conversation on Jewish identity. Many hope that with the School's ongoing efforts to eliminate discrimination on campus, the crucial conversations of the ADL Summit can extend beyond the online space and be brought into Choate students' day-to-day interactions.

Nevertheless, Will Hare '23, another Hillel leader, believes there is still much to be done. "Anti-semitism is an incredibly important issue to address," he said. "I hope we can foster an environment at Choate that understands that."

"We should all be learning about combating Anti-semitism and other forms of hatred so we can live together in mutual respect and show compassion for one another," said Dr. Myers.

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Choate Quiz Bowl Wins Long Island Fall Tournament

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from the tournament was buzzing in and correctly answering on the last toss up question to beat Darien, and letting out "a frankly inhuman shriek of pure happiness." Their second favorite memory was sharing highlights and shout-outs after the tournament, which was a moment of positivity, amity, and support.

The greatest challenge was organizing the logistics of the trip. As the team's Captain, An finalized the rosters, organized transportation to and from New York, found chaperones, and resolved emergencies along the way. An said that organizing transportation for the tournament was difficult and that ensuring the right number of participants was another big obstacle. As such, many faculty members and students contributed to the

team's win by providing them with safe travel and food.

The Choate quiz bowl! is currently focused on preparing for CORGI, an online tournament that they will be hosting in January. "Our preparations for the future are the same things we do every week: holding regular practices, building team camaraderie, and playing lots and lots of Quiz Bowl," said An. They are eager for more participants, and point out that previous experience is not required.

"[Quiz bowl is] one of the most intellectually stimulating activities in the world," An noted. "I've developed and discovered countless new interests and learned so many things I would never have otherwise encountered through quiz bowl."

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Photo by Tiffany Xiao/The Choate News

Caelan Kirkland '23 shares his experiences at Community Conversation.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

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they cheered and applauded for certain answers was kind of telling of the privilege at Choate."

Others thought that moving through such questions helped the discussion reach a more eye-opening place. "I think we need to learn to read for subtext, as well as text," said Mr. Minneman. "So if you just want to take out of it what those responses were, then that is for a financial advice column in the news. But if what you want is to understand the kinds of perspectives on money, and the assumptions [made] about how much money people have, those questions were incredibly illuminating."

Furthermore, after the program, some students questioned whether the conversation topic should have focused primarily on the lower socioeconomic classes in order to amplify voices that aren't often recognized at Choate. However, others pointed out that narrowing the scope of this topic can create further complications. Economics teacher Mr. Jesse Minneman said, "The danger of having [the Community Conversation] be low-income is that we don't really know what social class is. It's a hard thing to define, so where the line is on low-income is tricky."

Nevertheless, the broad topic provided an opportunity for all members of the community to

participate. "It was good that it was broad because everyone felt personally involved in it," said Jane Rak '23. "Socioeconomic class is an identifier we all carry, and I think this is why people are still having conversations about the topic."

Across the board, though, students and faculty reported having found the Community Conversation proved to be emotional, uncomfortable, eye-opening, and freeing for members of the School, pushing students and faculty alike to reflect on their various backgrounds and experiences.

The upcoming Community Conversation will center around body image and will re-

vert to the virtual set up of last year that took place last year's Community Conversations due to the nature of the topic.

Dr. Rachel Myers said, "The Office of Equity & Inclusion doesn't feel it's the right decision to ask people to share perspectives on body image while also having their body on display for the whole school in Colony Hall." In the virtual format, participants may turn off their cameras or use the chat function so as to allow all members to feel comfortable in the discussion.

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SRP Students Present in SLS

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her research as the greatest challenge. "I was really struggling to find the right intersection between the advanced research that I did over the summer and trying to explain it to the lay audience, who we assumed would have only the most basic scientific knowledge," she said.

Dan Xiao '22, a member of the Quantitative Sciences cohort, conducted research in finding genes and transition factors that prevent axon regeneration after trauma. He echoed Bang's sentiment on the stressful preparation process, saying, "My presentation has been through many iterations, so it was very stressful making those changes and memorizing them." He added, "It was challenging to know what to cut from my presentation without losing too much of the meaning or science behind my research."

Reflecting on their time in the program, Bang and Xiao shared their love for their respective cohorts and expressed that they were sentimental to watch their SRP experience come to an end. Bang said, "I love that SRP provided me with a unique opportunity to pursue my passions in scientific research. I also love the bonds that I was able to form with my SRP Bio cohort. Although we started this long journey as complete strangers, we became such a close group of friends." She added, "Because they were the only ones in the School that understood exactly what I was going through, I was able to rely on them for support, and they also gave critical feedback in the process of crafting my presentation."

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ROBOTICS TEAM WINS SECOND IN OFF-SEASON COMPETITION

By **Aubrie Williams '24**
Reporter

On October 31, Choate's Robotics team won second place out of 24 teams at RiverRage, an off-season contest of the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) organized by the nonprofit organization For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST).

Since the competition was an off-season event, the team couldn't gain FIRST eligibility points, which are used to enter higher-tiered competitions. Additionally, because the competition was based off of the 2020 challenge, the robot that competed in this event was the same one used in the previous year.

Nevertheless, the competition was valuable experience for team members, especially because none of the participants had ever attended a Choate robotics competition.

Robotics Co-captain Kenadi Waymire '22 emphasized the importance of getting competition experience: "You can build the best robot, but if you have no competition practice, then you're not going to do very well."

She also spoke about the challenges the team has persevered through during the off-season. A few weeks before RiverRage, the

team participated in another off-season competition that didn't go quite as well. "It was a mess," said Waymire. "The robot just would not drive, and that happened in the middle of the competition."

Mr. Andrew Murgio, an adviser to the robotics team, noted that the team members' inexperience with the robot was another obstacle to their success. "The robot had been built, but it hadn't been driven recently, and the people who built and coded it aren't necessarily here anymore," he said.

To prepare for RiverRage, the team put a lot of effort into familiarizing themselves with the robot and fixing any technical and mechanical errors they recognized from previous competitions. Mr. Murgio said, "Within two weeks, we had to completely replace the gearbox and make sure that it was working properly, which was a huge amount of work."

This off-season event was the perfect opportunity for the team to see what skills they needed to improve upon for their upcoming season this winter. Mr. Murgio was impressed to see how quickly the first-timers adjusted to the new environment. "I was very pleased with how quickly the students were able to become a good team and

perform well under the pressure of one of these events," he said.

Reflecting on her first ever robotics competition experience, Zoe Plunkett '24 "felt nervous before the competition. However, I had fun meeting other robotics teams and getting to see [the team's] hard work in action."

Both Waymire and Mr. Murgio have high hopes for the season. Mr. Murgio is confident in the team's abilities: "The new kids this year are very well-prepared from the fall term course and are ready to start the build process in January." He continued, "I'm very optimistic about our team this year and how we'll do."

Waymire spoke of the confidence she has in this team, not only to win accolades, but to become a supportive and cohesive group. "I hope that we can have a good time at competitions, not just awards-wise, but also as being a cohesive team that understands each other's strengths and weaknesses," she said. "I hope that we can go in and have fun while still being competitive."

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Robotics team prepared for RiverRage competition.

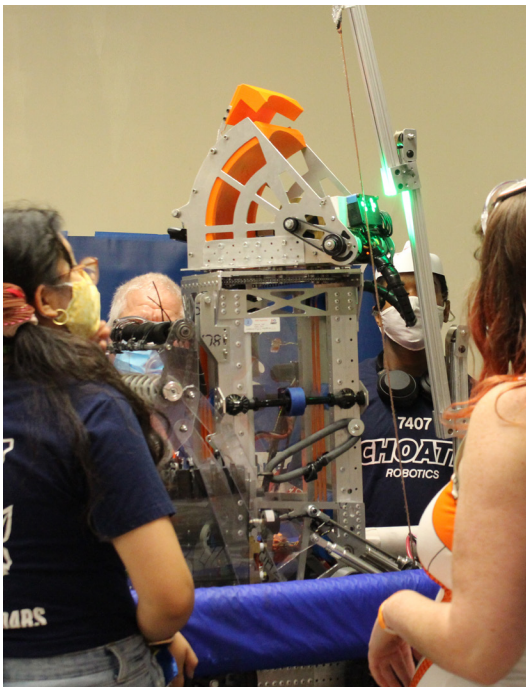


Photo by Zoe Plunkett/The Choate News

Night of Lights: Choate Celebrates Diwali



Photo by Ava Persuad/The Choate News

Shivani Sharma '22 (left) and Ms. Smita Sen (right) celebrate Diwali.

By **Begum Gokmen '23**
Copy Editor

On November 5, members of the Choate community gathered for their annual celebration of Diwali organized by the South Asian Student Association (SASA). The festival took place in the Andrew Mellon Library Reading Room, where both a dinner and a dance party were hosted.

The name Diwali comes from the Sanskrit word "deepavali," meaning "rows of lighted lamps." "Diwali is the Hindu festival of light and the victory of good over evil," said Shivani Sharma '22, the president of SASA and the organizer of the event. "It's an important celebration due to the fact that it comes from the Ramayana. Basically, the end is when Lord Rama returns home to his kingdom to be crowned king after his 14-year exile in the forest, so his people put out oil lamps to welcome him back." The five-day celebration marks an important date in the Hindu calendar, as it takes place in the last three days of the month of Ashwayuja and the first two days of the new month of Kartika.

The planning for this year's event was an arduous process. "We first looked at decorations online, selected a restaurant, worked on advertisements, pro-

mo videos, and posters," explained Sharma. With around 75 attendees, this year's event was largely successful and lively, especially following last year's virtual celebration. Another SASA club member Saijel Burkett '22 said, "The food was definitely a crowd favorite, because who doesn't love Indian food. Also, this year, we decided to include dandiya, which is like a line dance, and it was a lot of fun to teach everyone."

Sharma and Burkett shared their favorite part of the festival. "I loved celebrating with everyone because it completes a circle for Shivani and me. Freshman year was our last in-person celebration and we danced with a then-senior, Max Patel '19. So, coming back our senior year and doing a revised version of our freshman dance was an important end for us," said Burkett.

"A lot of hard work was put into this festival and I'm glad that was reflected," said Sharma. "I've had many people come up to me saying how much they loved and enjoyed it. My hope is that this becomes an annual celebration, because it's one of the most important Hindu festivals."

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Connecticut Celebrates Native American Heritage Month

By **Ryan Kim '23**
Staff Reporter

November nationally commemorates Native American Heritage Month. This November, the deep history of Indigenous peoples in Connecticut is being honored by regional institutions and community organizations.

Before Connecticut was a British colony, the region was inhabited by Native tribes: the Nipmuc, the Sequin (consisting of the Tunxis, Schaghticoke, Quinnipiac, Podunk, Wanguk, and Hammonasset peoples), the Matabesec, and the Mohegan-Pequot. The name “Connecticut” itself is derived from the Mohegan-Pequot word “Quinnehtukqut,” which means “land on the long tidal river.” 385 years later, the land that is now Connecticut is celebrating and honoring Native Americans, their customs, and their history. The Month celebrates the diverse cultures, traditions, and contributions of Indigenous tribes, and acknowledges the struggles for equality they have faced.

Throughout November, and throughout Connecticut, events are taking place in celebration of Indigenous communities. Various colleges and universities are offering educational programming to provide insight on the



Photo Courtesy of Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation

Members of the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation, one of the original tribes in the Connecticut region.

complex history of tribal nations and their place within Connecticut. In New Haven, Yale University invited Chief Malerba of the Mohegan Tribal Nation on November 1 and Chairman Rodney Butler of the Pequot Tribal Nation on November 4. For the rest of the month, Yale will be holding additional events featuring conversations on Indigenous identity, Mashantucket Pequot pow wows, and opportunities to taste Indigenous cuisine.

At the University of Connecticut in Mansfield, the community will be talking with authors Dr. Susan Birch and Ms. Sandy Grande on Native American pedagogy and institutions, and a dialogue on the history of indigenous land grabbing in Connecticut. Ms. Sage Phillips, a rising senior at the University of Connecticut and a member of the Penobscot Nation, reflected on the importance of celebrating the Month. “[Cele-

brating Native American Heritage Month] is important to pay our respects to our ancestors who have given us the opportunity to be here today. We also take this time to educate our non-native communities and allies on our cultures, histories, struggles and so much more. It really is a time to uphold and honor Native and Indigenous cultures, though we really try to emphasize that we should be celebrated every

day, not just during the month of November.”

Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven also celebrates Native American heritage. The university has featured keynote speakers, read books featuring Indigenous perspectives, and screened the short film “The Bears on Pine Ridge,” which focuses on adversity faced by an isolated Native American community.

On November 9, the Albert Schweitzer Institute at Quin-

nipiac University in Hamden featured a lesson about the history of the Quinnipiac area and its connections with the local Indigenous population. “Quinnipiac is not named after a river. The history of the Indigenous goes back thousands of years but [...] the society we grew up in is not based on the history of the place, but on the people who colonized it,” said Quinnipiac Professor Sean Duffy, Executive Director of the Albert Schweitzer Institute, which links teaching and ethics.

Furthermore, the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center in Ledyard, Connecticut offered free admission on November 9 for the first annual Community Day in recognition of Native American Heritage Month. The museum will also be hosting a pow wow to honor veterans on November 13.

Ms. Phillips had one last message to share with the Choate community: “I encourage you to take some time to educate yourselves on the presence of Indigenous peoples in your own communities and beyond, while also learning and understanding whose lands you are on. Kci woliwoni (many thanks).”

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TALKIN' BUSINESS

Our Talkin' Business column focuses on the operations of local businesses and their histories.



IT'S FUN TO READ 'BOUT THE YMCA

By **Michael Korvyakov '23**
Copy Editor

The YMCA is a well-established nonprofit organization with a global and local history of providing accessible resources for youth and their families. Located five minutes away from Choate on 81 South Elm Street, a certain franchise has served the community of Wallingford for 77 years. In this edition of Talkin' Business, let's get to know the local YMCA.

As a global organization, The YMCA operates on a franchise model, which allows its members to attend whichever establishment they chose. At the same time, each YMCA franchise is financially independent, meaning that all of the money they take in is put into the business' operations. Every individual franchise is incorporated within the recognizable YMCA brand, making it easier to target marketing towards communities. Each branch operates as a part of an association in a certain location. Wallingford's association comprises two locations: the east side branch on South Elm Street and the west side branch on North Turnpike Road. The two associations largely share the same executive leadership. The goal of the split YMCA in Wallingford is to make its services more accessible to families in all parts of the town.

Initially convened in Wallingford's Town Hall in 1944, the YMCA was a community center where people could play games, enjoy activities, and socialize with peers. According to YMCA Marketing and Outreach Director, Ms. Cassandra Allen, “The YMCA was created to fill a need in Wallingford for youth programs.” Although operating under the acronym “YMCA,” which stands for “Young Men's Christian Association,” members of both sexes and non-Christian faiths were allowed to participate in activities, including theater groups, and a bowling league.

In 1953, the organization moved into its current building and expanded to include other activities. In the 1960s, a basketball

court and lockers were constructed, and then around 1970, a pool was added and the branch subsequently offered swimming lessons. These features have become hallmarks of the establishment. The local YMCA is also the largest childcare provider in Wallingford with two daycare centers, in addition to before and after school programs available at every Wallingford elementary school. One of these childcare facilities is located in the southeast part of Choate's upper campus. Math teacher, Ms. Kristen Chin recounted her experience with Choate's YMCA sect: “I will be forever grateful to the Learning Community, not only for what my kids have learned there, but for the relationships it allowed them – and me – to build with people in the wider Wallingford community.”

One of the YMCA's main programs, called “Upper Bound” is completely free and provides students in fourth through 12th grade with an adviser during their formative years. Participants have the opportunity to build self esteem, confidence, and social skills through YMCA activities alongside their adult mentors. “It's designed to help students grow and develop in a constructive environment with positive role models,” said Ms. Allen. The YMCA programs are accessible and useful for children of all ages, as well. “The staff who work there do very impactfully help the young kids have a smoother transition to other programs run by the YMCA in town. For instance, my son, Cody, began Kindergarten this year at Moses Y. Beach, and because of his time at the daycare knew some of the staff members at the before and after school program he attends that is run by the YMCA,” said Ms. Chin.

To maintain their operations, the YMCA has 30 full-time employees and about 150 part-time employees. Most full-time employees work in administration, while those who work part-time tend to be athletic instructors and facilitators of daycare and school programs. YMCA

Pos 1977/46

What The Y. M. C. A. Offers Local Youth

The Wallingford YMCA which is now conducting its \$25,000 Financial Campaign for a much needed Community Youth Center has made remarkable progress in its 4 months of operation in Wallingford. In its program, the Community YMCA is serving boys and girls as well as young adults. Active membership ages range from 10 to 25 years of age.

At present there are 23 clubs and activity programs being carried on by the "Y", with a staff of one full time General Secretary, two part time associates—one working with girls and one with boys groups. In addition to this staff, there are 30 volunteer leaders.

These Gra-Y members, Jane Rundle and Eric Oji, enjoy a dance which they themselves planned.

The biggest club activity group is the Gra-Y Club which is operating in churches and schools throughout the community. There are 6 such groups for girls 8 in town and one in Yalesville, there are five groups for boys. From January to June, 242 seventh and eighth grade boys and girls were enrolled in these groups and a larger enrollment is expected this year. Five Hi-Y and Tri-Hi-Y clubs are now functioning in the high school with an expected enrollment of 150.

Gym classes are proving very popular again this Fall. Two classes for grade school boys are conducted each Saturday morning at the Choate-Witter exercise building, and one class for grade school girls is conducted in the high school gym. On alternate Wednesday evenings, classes are held in the Choate gym for high school boys. A model airplane club is now functioning, and is a direct outcome of the summer camp program where a model plane class proved most successful.

The Phalanx Club for young men 16 to 25 years of age is now under way and has a most interesting program set up for its membership. Sixty boys and girls took part in the YMCA-Red Cross Swim Campaign during the summer months. Two separate courses of two weeks duration each were conducted. Dur-

An Unknown American—
I am the unknown American, unknown because my life has not yet been lived and no one can tell what it is to be. But I represent the Youth of our Country and am probably just a typical American girl. From our ranks must come the manhood and womanhood of tomorrow.

What are we worth to you? I typify the Mothers of the future. There has never been a time in the History of America when good Fathers and Mothers were more needed. We youth are being trained in the Community Y.M.C.A. to be honest and honorable citizens of tomorrow. Do you dare take the chances with our lives? What is Youth worth to you? I represent the great scholars who are to come. From youth of today must come the doctors, the inventors, the teachers, the ministers, the authors and the homemakers of tomorrow. Do you dare take chances with our lives? What are we worth to you? I am the Unknown American—for my life lies in the unexplored future. But—I am America's hope for a glorious tomorrow. Am I worth enough so that I may have my chance to grow up and make a strong woman? Are we worth enough so that Youth may grow into worthy citizens? Will you protect me? an unknown American—for the promise of the future which I hold in my hands?

June Mottram, 8th Grade, Whitesley avenue school, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Mottram of 65 South Elm street, delivered this speech at the dinner Tuesday night, opening the Y. M. C. A. Campaign.

Charles Sile of the Washington Eagles Gra-Y on his way over the top in a broad jump event.

Which was conducted for one week also proved most successful and will probably be expanded next year. Two and one half days of the camp were for girls and the other half of the week for boys. Interesting craft classes were held in addition to nature study, sports, swimming and evening campfire activities. Twenty-one campers attended the week's program at St. Andrew's Camp. The local "Y" has now 670 members.

The great need in Wallingford now is for a modern Community Youth Center whose quarters will contain the necessary equipment for wholesome social and recreational expression. The Town Freemen have voted the use of the Town Auditorium by the "Y" for it's center. Once the building survey is made and the building found adequate to use, the Y Board of Directors plan to completely renovate, modernize and equip it as a YMCA Community Youth Center. It has been found that over a five year period (period of proposed lease) the total investment involved to put the auditorium into shape atn cost of operation will be less than \$5.00 per day.



Photo courtesy of the Wallingford YMCA

Old newspaper clippings write about the programs offered by the Y.

is funded primarily through membership dues, which work on a sliding scale — in which members pay what is reasonable based on their income — and fundraising events, such as the recent Fishbein/YMCA 5k Run. Sofia Munoz '23, who ran in the race said, “The YMCA was extremely organized with how the race was structured and made signing up and picking up race materials very easy. It's awesome that they can give Wallingford residents the opportunity to participate in the race in such an easy and fun way.”

There are plenty of opportunities for Choate students to get involved in volunteering at the YMCA. For example, those who are interested in history can work in the archives at the YMCA. Other roles include setting up events and helping out with administrative work at the office. Whether it be through volunteering or participating in events, “our goal is to help bring Wallingford together,” said Ms. Allen.

Michael Korvyakov
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WALLINGFORD ELECTION RESULTS

By **Eva Li '24**
Staff Reporter

On November 2, Wallingford residents voted in municipal elections including the mayoral, town council, and Board of Education races. A few hours after the polls closed at 8 p.m., results of the elections were announced. Incumbent Republican Mayor William W. Dickinson Jr. defeated Democratic challenger and Choate alumni Riley O'Connell '14. Mayor Dickinson's next term will mark his twentieth consecutive term in office, and his 39th year as mayor.

This election is the closest a Democratic mayoral candidate has come to election in 30 years. Mayor Dickinson won by just 400 votes, with 6,632 votes to Mr. O'Connell's 6,236 votes.

In his concession speech, Mr. O'Connell congratulated Mayor Dickinson on a well-won election and hoped the mayor “takes some of the ideas [that O'Connell's campaign has brought forward] to heart.” Mr. O'Connell also mentioned that local Democratic candidates will continue to stay politically involved: “We're still going to do all we can to hold our elected officials to it.”

During his victory celebration, Dickinson stated that “the vote stands for what people are thinking right now, and I'm happy to be winning, but obviously [it was] a close race.”

As for both the Town Council and Board of Education, Republicans held a six to three majority. The current Town Council — incumbent Republicans Craig Fishbein, Vincent Cervoni, Autumn Allinson, Tom Laffin, Joe Marrone, Christina Tatta, and Democrats Gina Morgenstein, Vincent Testa Jr. — will be joined by Democrat Sam Carmody. The new Board of Education reelected Republicans Ray Ross and Tammy Raccio and added Republicans Rajan Doering, Jennifer Passaretti, Donna Regan, and Marla Roscoe. Democratic incumbents Michael Votto, Kathy Castelli, and Patrick Reynolds also retained their seats on the Board.

To conclude the 2021 election cycle with a promise, leaders from both parties have passed a \$17 million referendum for a new library in Southington.

Eva Li may be reached at eli24@choate.edu

Mayor <i>DICKINSON vs O'CONNELL</i>	WILLIAM W. DICKINSON JR. Incumbent
Town Council	CRAIG FISHBEIN Incumbent VINCENT CERVONI Incumbent AUTUMN ALLINSON Incumbent TOM CAFFIN Incumbent JOE MARRONE Incumbent CHRISTINE TATTA Incumbent GINA MORGENSTEIN Incumbent VINCENT TESTA JR Incumbent SAM CARMODY
Board of Education	RAY ROSS Incumbent TAMMY RACCIO Incumbent RAJAN DOERING JENNIFER DASSARETTI DONNA REGAN MARLA ROSCOE MICHAEL VOTTO Incumbent KATHY CASTELLI Incumbent PATRICK REYNOLDS Incumbent

THE CHOATE NEWS



115TH MASTHEAD

VOL. CXV
NO. 4

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Corrections

In the November 5 issue, an article about the fall theater productions stated that Orville Amankwah interned at a law firm. In fact, however, Jordan Azzinaro interned at a law firm and drew the connection between her work and 12 Angry Jurors.

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

DEAR TIFFANY, WE MADE A MISTAKE

By **Tiffany Xiao '23**

Photography Editor

Dear Miss Tiffany Xiao, We regret to inform you that our credible sources have leaked information that lead us to question your competence as a Choate student. This investigation is still in its early stages, so consider gathering some friends from the mock trial team to prepare yourself for the slew of questions that will soon come your way. To start off, let's review the evidence we have.

In your application, you said that in Choate's welcoming environment, "You can build stronger relationships with your peers." First red flag: since you've arrived on campus, your definition of "peers" has shifted more accurately to be "pets." Yes, while most students wave at one another, you've been observed to wave primarily at dogs (and speak to them in a rather annoyingly high-pitched, delighted voice). Ironically, we have even noticed some students calling you "Tiffpup." Or, as our lovely Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor of *The Choate News* prefer: "PUP-PY!" You, however, may be taking that title a little too literally, as we've observed the occasional bark greeting from you as well.

In your interview, you spent quite a bit of time telling Admission Officer Ms. Courtney Given about your involvement in the arts, with an emphasis on the violin and your engagement in various city and regional orchestras. With your extensive experience participating in musical ensembles, one would assume you would understand that bringing an in-

strument to rehearsal is the bare necessity. Why is it, then, that the entire Symphony Orchestra has — on multiple occasions — watched as you sheepishly walked up to the conductor, Mr. Gene Wie, and asked to borrow a violin because you left yours in your dorm room?

Also, as any logical person may conclude, proficiency in playing an instrument requires ample amounts of practice time. It seems that the only time you are ever inspired to practice is at 9 p.m., the exact time that Colony Hall closes for the night. As for your passion for singing, it has become more of a nuisance. We find you singing in every echoey stairwell at this school, not to mention in your dorm room, the shower, under the arch of the PMAC, in the dining hall, on the balcony of Bernhard while study hours are taking place ... need we go on?

Swimming was another main highlight of your application. Yes, we admit that you hinted towards disliking the sport, though that was an extreme understatement. "Loathing" seems more fitting. Besides your constant complaints about it in the first floor bathroom of Nichols while everyone was peacefully brushing their teeth at 10:30 p.m., you apparently felt it was necessary to center your entire freshman year speech on the topic. Although you put a valiant effort into justifying your continued participation in the sport, it failed, as even your teacher Mr. John Cobb stated, "I (and, my guess is, some of your peers) was not entirely convinced that the pros come anywhere near close to the cons in regards to your choice to continue swimming."



Graphic by Yujin Kim/The Choate News

Did Coach Sara not nickname you "Negative Nancy" during swimming season freshman year? You have been sighted at Sunday open swims training for a half hour, blowing bubble rings, and climbing out while you should be working hard to get into shape. Others have heard you saying that you want to exclusively swim the 50-meter freestyle this year — which is, for the non-swimming fanatics, the shortest distance possible. At this point, Tiffany, a wise decision would be to just quit or finally reinvent your attitude to become more positive.

From listening in on some of your Gold Key tours, we have also deduced that you are not only ... unique, but also a liar. While explaining the class schedule, we heard you mention how you often take advan-

tage of free blocks to complete homework or meet with teachers. Prefects in your dorm have observed, however, that you are much more likely to be sighted sprawled napping on the floor of your room — which, by the way, is distastefully decorated with a pile of blankets, a Stitch stuffed animal, and a grey sleeping bag meant for adventures in the big outdoors. Some advice: next year, a simple rug would suffice.

Would you like to challenge us on any of these points? If not, your path at Choate looks like it is leading you back to your — what we are sure are wonderful — Southern California suburbs.

Best,
The Choate Admission Team

Tiffany Xiao is a fifth-former from Irvine, Calif. She may be reached at txiao23@choate.edu.

DON'T TAKE BOARDING FOR GRANTED

By **Mikayla DaSilva '24**

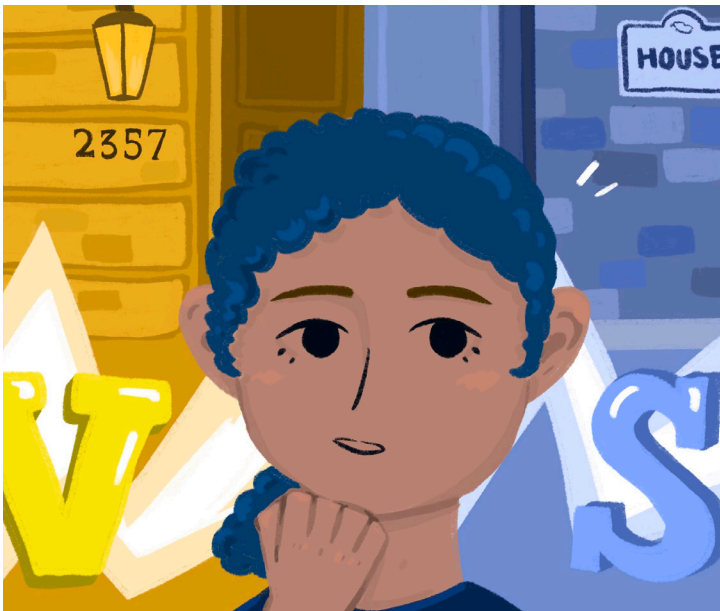
Opinions Writer

What time did you wake up this morning? Five o'clock? Six o'clock? 7:59 a.m. just before the start of your English class? These answers differ across the student body depending on different variables — if you're a morning person, if you go to breakfast in the dining hall, or if you can run across campus in less than three minutes. Yet, there's one variable that affects student wake-up times across the board: whether you are a boarding or day student.

Day students often start their mornings much earlier than boarding students, simply because of the time spent commuting to campus. Compare living a hop, skip, and a pathway away from your first class to living a hop, skip, and a 45-minute wait on the highway just to get to your locker in St. John Hall. As thrilling as it is to begin your day

by climbing two or three flights of stairs to an angrily beeping wooden rectangle, the lockers that day students are assigned aren't especially useful. Being small and inconveniently located, lockers are not often used to store bags and books.

Now, you might be wondering, "Why are books very rarely stored in the place where books are intended to be stored?" The response of most day students would likely be a very loud groan as they dump their overstuffed backpacks at your feet. While many boarding students can promptly deposit and retrieve their belongings from their dorm in time for any classes or commitments, day students must keep all their belongings on them at all times. Too infrequently do they have a specifically scheduled time, such as a highly-treasured free block, to pick up their books from their lockers in time for their next class. All over cam-



Graphic by Katherine Chong/The Choate News

pus you can identify day students by their bent over backs, bowing under the weight of their school backpack, their sports equipment, a tote bag with a change of clothes, three different chargers, and a trombone.

One further disparity lies in the difference in sleep schedules between day and boarding students. Boarders can stay up to absurd hours and then wake up at 7:45 a.m., watch a few TikToks, toast a bagel, and make it to their

first class early. But, when you have to wake up at 5:30 a.m. just to get to school on time, staying awake to study isn't typically an option, at least if you want to avoid the morning traffic on I-91.

And, the commute home is equally time-consuming; transportation time varies from ten minutes to 45. So, while borders can walk down the path after a long night of sports, club meetings, or other extracurricular and social obligations, day students get in the car for the return commute, during which they lose time for homework and sleep. When events and meetings are held at odd hours and on weekends, it's hard for some day students to even find a ride, forcing them to miss out on the experiences that foster a stronger sense of community.

This can lead to a disparity in integration that boarding students may not notice. Last winter, I lived on campus due to Covid-19.

During that period, I participated in more social activities than I had been exposed to throughout the entirety of my freshman year: my friends and I hosted surprise parties, went sledding, attended meetings for clubs we hadn't considered prior to our on campus relocations, and befriended people we otherwise wouldn't have met.

It's important to be mindful of how the day student experience differs from that of boarding students who live on campus and are able to engage fully in all the social aspects of the Choate community. If you forget all of my in-depth analysis on the disparities experienced by Choate students based on their boarding status, I ask that you remember to be understanding to your day student friends.

Mikayla DaSilva is a fourth-former from Wallingford. She may be reached at mdasilva24@choate.edu.

WHAT BEING MULTILINGUAL MEANS TO ME

By **Lauren Kee '24**

Copy Editor

Many people are amused when I tell them that I speak English, Cantonese, and Mandarin. I grew up in Hong Kong, where the local language is Cantonese, a dialect of Chinese. I was exposed to English and Mandarin at a young age, as they are often used to cater to the large and diverse immigrant population in Hong Kong.

When I went to a local elementary school, my classmates and I spoke Cantonese, and I avoided speaking English outside of the classroom altogether. While I was there, a much heavier emphasis was placed on the Chinese curriculum, so my English classes lacked rigor and were based on grammar rather than practical usage.

Then, I switched to an international middle school, where white expats who spoke perfect English were put on a pedestal. Our idealization of English stemmed from our exposure to American and British books and movies from a young age. I wanted to sound American, and I looked down on people who spoke accented English.

I began to intentionally taint my Cantonese with slurring and awkward pronunciation, attempting to sound American. I rarely spoke Cantonese at home anymore and took for granted the fact that my entire family spoke English. At my international school, I was required to speak Mandarin instead of Cantonese in Chinese class. The two dialects are drastically different in structure and pronunciation, with the former having four tones and the latter, nine, causing me to mix them up often. Soon, Mandarin and Cantonese had become a blurred afterthought, while English became my primary language.

Coming to Choate, I was confronted with its multilingual and multicultural environment. Choate has a large Mandarin-speaking community consisting of Chinese Americans, international students, and a wide spectrum of Chinese learners. I chatted to dormmates and gossiped with friends in Mandarin. I had never used Mandarin so frequently before, and it never occurred to me that this would happen somewhere like Wallingford, Connecticut.

Using Mandarin with my Chinese friends makes me feel connected to them and my culture. Speaking in a different language brings out a different side of people, and I love seeing my friends light up and rave about 湯圓 (*tangyuan*: sweet glutinous rice balls) or the song "童話" by Michael Wong. I love moments when I finally understand an inexpressible thought in English that is easily articulated in Chinese. I love playing mahjong and hearing the excited shouts of "糊了!" when someone wins a game. However, not having spoken much Mandarin outside of Chinese class, I'd get confused by slang and cultural references or get lost mid-sentence when my friends speak rapid-fire Mandarin.

My English can come across as an ambiguous mix of American, British, and Cantonese accents, since I have always been surrounded by a wide range of English accents. I say "pass-ta" instead of "pah-sta." I articulate my consonants, so I say "LaTin" instead of "La-in" or "Ladin." Consequently, my teachers and classmates make assumptions about how I speak English because of my multilingual back-

ground. In these moments where my accented English, awkward Cantonese, and inadequate Mandarin shine through, I question if I am truly fluent in any of the languages I speak.

However, I've realized that how I use language reflects how my life experiences have shaped who I am and how I communicate with the world. So, I have learned to embrace the quirks in my speech. Before I left for the U.S., my grandma reminded me solemnly, "你唔好唔記得晒你啲廣東話," or "Don't forget all your Cantonese." Cantonese is my mother tongue and speaking it reminds me of home. I make the effort to speak Cantonese to my family when I call them, and I stop myself when I default to English. At school, I speak Mandarin to Mandarin-speaking friends when possible to practice it. One language used to diminish the others. Now, they work in tandem to serve different purposes in my life and showcase different facets of my identity.

Lauren Kee is a fourth-former from Hong Kong. She may be reached at lkee24@choate.edu.



Graphic by Yujin Kim/The Choate News

COP26'S FAILURE IS IMMINENT



Graphic by Yujin Kim/The Choate News

By **Tyler Kuo '23**
Opinions Staff Writer

The 26th Conference of the Parties, also known as COP26, kicked off in Glasgow on October 31. The summit brings countries together in an attempt to solve climate problems and accelerate action toward the goals set by the Paris Climate Accord and the UN Framework of Convention on Climate Change. It is hosted by the UK and will run from October 31 to November 12.

This meeting was able to excite international politics ahead of the COP26. In it, G20 countries pledged to end overseas financing of coal projects, reduce methane leaks, and promised to bolster national plans to cut emissions “where necessary.”

Although the conference isn't over, the direction has already been set. The opportunity for decisive action among the various world leaders and delegates has already passed. This conference is unlikely to change humanity's actions and is likely to result in failure.

Time and time again, countries across the globe have failed to meet goals set by preceding climate conferences. The Paris Climate Accord, which allowed countries to set their own emission-reduction standards, did nothing to compel countries to stick to those goals. A report conducted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns that the planet is likely to be 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels in 2030. The UN warns that some potential consequences of this failure are global military conflicts, mass migrations

of populations, greater terrorist threats, and food insecurity.

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, the COP26's most enthusiastic proponent, said he was only “cautiously optimistic” that change could come. Before the conference, Johnson claimed that the climate crisis was a soccer match in which the world was losing five goals to one.

On November 1, India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, laid out India's climate pledges. He pledged that India would reach net-zero emission by 2070, half of the country's electricity would be renewable by 2030, and that it would cut its carbon-dioxide emissions by one billion tonnes. However, while this is a step in the right direction, India is not likely to stick to that commitment. Indian officials believe it is unrealistic to expect the country, which is highly dependent on coal, to meet its goals given the country's developing economy.

The third day of the COP26 opened with 100 countries pledging to end deforestation by 2030. Countries such as Russia, Brazil, and Canada all signed the agreement which covers around 85% of the world's forests. In return, countries will receive \$19 billion in funding from public and private sources. However, previous pledges made in the past have failed to slow deforestation.

“Finance Day,” on November 3 opened with Britain's pledge to be the first “net-zero aligned financial center.” This means that the government will encourage all British financial institutions and British stock market companies to publish plans detailing how they will decarbonize their operations. However, environ-

mentalists worry that the target will encourage financial firms to sell polluting assets rather than actively try to reduce emissions by the companies they support.

The following day, countries offered a global carbon budget — an analysis of carbon-dioxide sources and sinks — produced by the Global Carbon Project. This year, it predicts, that emissions from fossil fuels are set to bounce back by 4.9%, thus almost returning to their pre-pandemic levels. People in inflatable “Pikachu” costumes campaigned against Japan's coal industry across from the COP26 venue. While on the inside, leaders from more than 40 countries committed themselves to phasing out the usage of coal for power.

On Friday, November 6, Brazil, which has been a challenging participant in previous climate summits, announced two climate initiatives: a revamp of a low-carbon agriculture plan and a new green growth program in an attempt to look greener. Several thousand protestors, joined by Greta Thunberg and Vanessa Nakate, flooded the streets of Glasgow as a part of a “Fridays for Future” march.

Even though countries and corporations are pledging to do their part, the evidence suggests that there is little reason to believe that change will actually happen. Unfortunately, as the planet warms and more action is needed, climate change action is most often used as a political tool, rather than an attempt to save the planet.

Tyler Kuo is a fifth-former from Hong Kong. He may be reached at tkuo23@choate.edu

CRT BECOMES A FOCAL POINT IN VIRGINIA ELECTIONS

By **Mealy Cronin '23**
Opinions Staff Writer

In the days since the November 2, 2021 elections, the long-standing, popular media outlets, Fox News and CNN, have been vigorously debating reasons that lead to the Virginia gubernatorial race “upset” of Democrat Terry McAuliffe by Republican Glenn Youngkin. The wildest claim is that McAuliffe was undone by the latest conservative disinformation campaign centered around the purely academic exercise of Critical Race Theory (CRT).

CRT was created in the 1970s and 80s from the hallowed halls of academia, predominantly law schools. It theorized that racism was so endemic and institutionalized that it permeated all aspects of the legal field, from laws and decisions, to any race-related reforms. “Critical race theory is a practice. It's an approach to grappling with a history of white supremacy that rejects the belief that ‘what's in the past is in the past’, and that the laws and systems that grow from that past are detached from it,” said critical race theorist and law professor at UCLA and Columbia University, Kimberlé Crenshaw. However, contrary to the idea used by anti-CRT advocates, it is not part of the curriculum currently being taught in Virginia public schools.

Following the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and other senseless killings of Black Americans by police officers, CRT was used as a lens through which a national reckoning about race relations might be viewed. Crenshaw said Floyd's murder led to “so many corporations and opinion-shaping institutions making statements about structural racism — cre-

ating a new, broader anti-racist alignment, or at least the potential for one.” In fact, before the 2020 election, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention scheduled CRT training, which was promptly cancelled by President Trump because, as his administration said, it was “divisive, anti-American propaganda.” However, the current Biden administration seems more receptive to CRT and has begun promoting programs to address systemic racism and the legacy of slavery in the U.S.

Chris Rufo, a noted advocate against teaching CRT in schools, cited the “mention” of CRT on the Department of Education website as justification to, as Rufo explained, “[build] the most sophisticated political movement in America.” Additional evidence he provided for his claim were the works of Abolitionist Teaching Network co-founder, Bettina Love, who wrote, “Lastly, teachers must embrace theories such as critical race theory, settler colonialism, Black feminism, dis/ability, critical race studies, and other critical theories, that have the ability to interrogate anti-Blackness.”

How did a Republican primary candidate viewed as a puppet of former President Donald Trump P'oo, emerge to win the Virginia general election? In 1995, political scientist Chris Wlezien introduced as a political model the term thermostat, where the American electorate adjusts the thermostat whenever the temperature of the political environment is too hot or too cold for their liking. As a result, during non-presidential election cycles, such as this last election cycle, the pendulum swings back and forth depending on which party is

in power; those out of power galvanize their members and rail against those in power.

Although Virginia has a long history of voting against an incumbent president's party in off-year and midterm elections, a Republican has not won statewide since 2011. While Northern Virginia is typically blue and the rest of Virginia generally bleeds red, Virginia moderates of either party are integral to winning a state-wide election. According to exit polls, moderate Republican voters that were put off by Trump and thus voted for Biden in 2020, came back to the fold. Youngkin, eschewing Trump's support in the final stages of the campaign, rallied the moderates and doubled down on education, lowering taxes, safety, and law enforcement.

In an interview with The New Yorker, Sean Trende, RealClearPolitics' senior elections analyst said, “If we had seen a massive swing in Loudoun County, which was ground zero for the Critical Race Theory issue, that would suggest the Republicans have an issue they can latch on to and use to really pound the Democrats in the midterms ... but, for now, it looks like if Republicans are going to win, it will be by virtue of not being in power, rather than having some agenda the public is lining up behind.”

For Virginia's more moderate voters, the election last week of its next governor appears to have been a purely Wlezien temperature-adjusting exercise, and not some new conservative roadmap based on Rufo-inspired anti-CRT rhetoric.

Mealy Cronin is a fifth-former from Alexandria, Va. She may be reached at mcronin23@choate.edu



Photo courtesy of The Hill

Parents rallied behind Youngkin during the Virginia elections.

Facebook's Rebranding to 'Metaverse' is an Unacceptable Ploy

By **Helen Ryan '24**
Opinions Writer

The app that has almost 1.9 billion users on a daily basis — you guessed it, Facebook — has undergone a rebranding, but has anything really changed? The new name, “Metaverse” represents a new era in Facebook technology. But while a new name may be good for business, does it right the wrongs Facebook has made?

In reality, this new name is Facebook's way of distracting from the turmoil they have created in public discourse and the global relationship to technology at large.

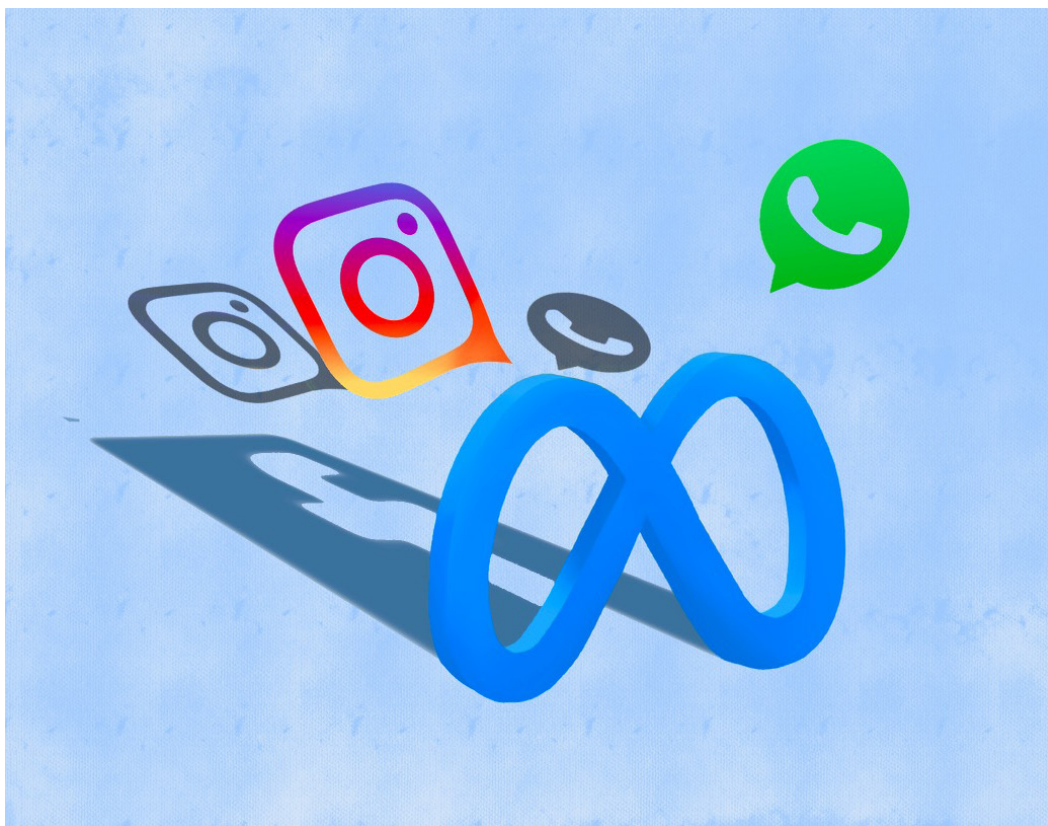
The Metaverse is what many are saying is the next chapter of not only Facebook, but the internet as a whole. The Metaverse is an immersive, 3-D realm where people can do things like attend concerts, have meetings, play games, and buy digital goods and services all online.

With the new name, Facebook claims to be introducing these new aspects of the platform. Mark Zuckerberg, the creator of the app, says he hopes to expand Facebook and look into new opportunities of the Metaverse.

Furthermore, Metaverse is an attempt to rebrand in order to show the company's broader goals, including trust and transparency. As Metaverse first and Facebook second, the company hopes to detach from the drama and social media scandals of its past. With this clever branding trick, the company plans to move forward free of the association with the “like button” and “friending feature.”

This new concept is expected to create huge profits, but there is still a long way to go until Metaverse is at its final stages and ready to launch. Before Facebook jumps into this new project, it must focus on how to fix the issues it faces in the present.

The platform's most recent scandal centered on internal documents collected and leaked



Graphic by Brian Yip/The Choate News

Metaverse is Facebook's attempt at revamping its reputation.

by Frances Haugen before she left the company. These documents gave a deeper look to the inner-workings of the company and suggest that Facebook puts its profits before its users's wellbeing.

The documents also showed conversations between Facebook employees who

expressed frustration over the fact that Facebook had not done enough to find a way to “manage discourse without enabling violence.” Similarly, the documents also show that Facebook has not been able to effectively moderate content in languages other than English, and hateful speech and content

has managed to avoid Facebook's censors.

The reports reveal that Facebook has not been truthful with the public about the progress they have made in dealing with hate speech, violence, and misinformation. Haugen has said that if Facebook changes the app to make it safer, it will be less enticing to viewers and therefore the company will lose profit. “And the more anger that [Facebook users] exposed to, the more they interact and the more they consume,” Haugen said.

Facebook has seemingly made attempts to fix some of its mistakes — for example, the company has invested into combating hateful content and hired people to work for safety and security. However, these attempts have been almost fu-

tile, as not much change has been made; Facebook still inflicts a negative impact on its users and the world at large. One employee said, “We were willing to act only after things had spiraled into a dire state.” Facebook continuously fails to protect its users and change its policies for the better, choosing to help itself and increase its profits instead of aiding people around the world who use the app. The company may have changed its name, but that doesn't change the harm it has already caused.

Instead of making efforts to fix company flaws like its hate speech policy or make sure that it is properly equipped to safely handle political discourse or any issues that arise on the app, Facebook has changed its name and moved its focus to making more money off of a new idea. Facebook, or Metaverse, may hope that this name change magically fixes the problems many people associate with the company, but the new name will not make people forget the turmoil Facebook has caused.

Helen Ryan is a fourth-former from New York. She may be reached at hrayan24@choate.edu

Deerfield and Choate's Parallel Spirit-Week Traditions

By Lauren Hsu '24
Staff Reporter

Every year since 1922, Choate athletic teams have competed against Deerfield Academy during the last weekend of the fall term. Here in Wallingford, this day is known as Deerfield Day, and the week leading up to it is called Spirit Week. During the week, school spirit runs high and students participate in a variety of Choate traditions. But, have you ever wondered how Spirit Week at Choate compares to what's known as "Choate Week" at Deerfield?

During Spirit Week, Choate students dress up according to the theme of the day, as announced by the pep squad, Boar Pen. One community favorite is "Dress Like Deerfield Day," where Choate students wear collared shirts, blazers, ties, and pleated skirts, as a way of teasing Deerfield's stricter dress code and "preppy" stereotype.

Similarly, Deerfield students dress up each day of the week to match a certain theme, one of which is always "Dress Like Choate Day." Dr. Edrik Lopez, who taught English at Deerfield during the 2016-17 school year before coming to Choate, said, "People come in dressed like they don't care, like they have just been run over by a motorcycle and dragged through the mud and a horse just picked them up." Deerfield's stereotype regarding Choate is that students are dirty, leave their rooms messy, and don't wash their clothes, though Dr. Lopez added that this perception is a "winked-at thing."



Choate and Deerfield: two houses both alike in bonfires yet with an ancient grudge that will play out tomorrow in fair Deerfield, Mass.

Also, mascot-related ribbing is as strong at Deerfield as it is at Choate, where students love making fun of Deerfield's unthreatening door. At Deerfield, bacon-grilling stations are set up across the campus all week long; the bacon, of course, is meant to represent the Choate boar. On Deerfield Day itself, a favorite chant among Deerfield students is "I smell bacon!"

Emily Feng, a senior at Deerfield, explained that one of her

favorite traditions is the battle cry. Someone will call out another student's name twice followed by "Don't be shy! Do the Deerfield battle cry!" The student called out has to shout out "V-I-C-T-O-R-Y" — then, everyone in the building or dining hall will respond with "Defeat Choate!" Feng explained, "In the dining hall, you can get 'battle-cried' out of nowhere, and it's funny to listen to other people. If you don't do it, you get booed."



Left: Photos courtesy of Choate Flickr / Right: Photos courtesy of Deerfield Flickr

On the Friday night before Deerfield Day, Choate students attend a pep rally led by Boar Pen, the pep squad on campus. Brooke Edwards '22, whose favorite part of Spirit Week is the pep rally, said, "It's a night where all of the varsity sports teams will come out and perform. So they can do a skit, a video, really anything." The height of the pep rally is when students kick down a door symbolizing their nemesis. Weather permitting, students

then head to the field after the pep rally for a bonfire to burn a large wooden fire-breathing dragon, representing Deerfield.

Over at Deerfield, students also gather for a pep rally led by cheerleaders and Captain Deerfield. The cheerleaders are a coed group of students selected to generate school spirit at events. Captain Deerfield is a student elected by the entire student body who serves as the leader of the cheerleaders. During the pep rally, Captain Deerfield wears a

special hat and carries a stick, and later leads the crowd to a field for their bonfire. Here a ten-to fifteen-foot-tall letter "C," painted gold and blue, is burned at the bonfire, and the chants and cheers continue.

Another tradition that exists around the event at both schools is the dance. Choate has both a pre-games dance and — should they win — a victory dance, while Deerfield only has a post-Choate-Day dance. Despite Choate's extra dance, Dr. Lopez noted that more events happen at Deerfield during Choate week than at Choate during Spirit Week. This, he said, is because "Deerfield loves to 'hate' Choate more than we 'hate' Deerfield." Adaugo Nwaokoro, a sophomore at Deerfield, echoed this sentiment. She said, "The atmosphere on campus is very lively. Deerfield spirit is definitely raised the week leading up to Choate day and everyone is very pumped to go out and compete."

Through all the similarities and differences between Choate's and Deerfield's school spirit, there is no denying that both schools bring competitive spirit to these final games. Beyond tomorrow's sports competitions and a burning rivalry, the two schools each have their own unique rituals, which have survived for over a century. Diego Maldonado-Alvarez '22, a member of Boar Pen, said, "Every single person at the school is cheering for one thing and one thing only, which is beating Deerfield."

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Assessment Team's Subtle Presence

By Begum Gokmen '23
Copy Editor

Imagine this: a friend is going through a tough time. You see this happening, but you don't know how to approach them. How can you find out what they're feeling to help them? You don't want to hurt them or hit a sensitive spot. What can you do?

The Assessment Team may be a solution. They are a group of fifth- and sixth-formers led by two faculty advisers — Director Associate of the Counseling Center Ms. Judith Bender and Associate Dean of College Counseling Mr. Tim Eash — who aim to help students experiencing any kind of difficulty in full confidentiality. Here's some transparency behind the Assessment Team door.

The Assessment Team reaches out to individuals through a referral process. Referrals are generally made by anyone close to the student — a friend, teacher, or dean — who feels that they may be struggling to navigate issues like "substance use, disordered eating, relationship problems, changes in social interaction and engagement, family problems, inappropriate or rule-breaking behavior — pretty much anything that may be problematic to the student and/or the community," said Ms. Bender.

The group gains as much context as possible about the student's situation before contacting them. Once the group has discussed, one

of the two advisers will be assigned to meet with the student. Other faculty or parents are not brought into the conversation.

"The Assessment Team supports not just the student being referred, but the person who is confidentially making the referral," said Mr. Eash. "It's a chance to actually get someone help without the fear of punishment being involved." Following the initial meeting, if an urgent concern isn't identified, Ms. Bender will give the student her contact information. The student has the choice to pursue additional meetings or counseling.

More broadly, the Assessment Team hopes to influence counseling as a whole at Choate. The group "is trying to help and support students both by getting them counseling help and by advocating the wants and needs of our student body to the faculty advisers," said Tommy Barton '22, a member of the group. The Assessment Team sparks conversations between students and faculty on sensitive topics that may often get overlooked. "We act as liaisons between students and counseling, and seek to support the student body," said Macie Simmons '22, an Assessment Team member.

At times, the Assessment Team has been associated with the work of other counseling services on campus, whose controversial nature has made some students more reluctant to use the Assessment Team as a resource. The group's

student members are working to remove the stigma of helping others by changing the reputation of the group on campus. They emphasize its confidentiality for those making the referrals, which differs from the traditional ways of addressing students' concerns that directly involve adults.

Another goal the team has is to increase their accessibility to the student body. Many new students are unaware of their existence. "I haven't heard much about the Assessment Team or anyone that has gotten into contact with them. So, I wish they were a more prevalent resource on campus," said Grace Walters '24, a new fourth-former.

The Assessment Team acknowledges this issue and hopes to address it by adjusting the referral process. Case Sakamoto '23, a member, said, "I would make it even more accessible with something like a link in the portal to a form or maybe connect with other leadership groups and clubs in collaborative meetings."

Overall, the faculty advisers believe that so far, the team is working together well. "The level of maturity and conscientiousness that people bring to our conversations really inspires me," said Mr. Eash. "It's a group where people are comfortable expressing their convictions, and all are respected and genuinely appreciated."

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HOW TO BE A CHOATE SWIFTIE

By Reagan Colton '24
Staff Reporter

Since Taylor Swift's rise to superstardom in 2006, the singer-songwriter has built quite the fanbase. These fans, otherwise known as Swifties, even exist among the students and faculty right here at Choate. In honor of today's release of Swift's *Red* re-recording, here's how to become a Choate Swiftie in five simple steps:

1. Become Enchanted

Since you're bound to find your new idol here, a "mind-blown" discovery story is essential. Julia Xu '23, the president of Choate's soon-to-be-official Taylor Swift fan club, discovered Swift when watching the music video for "You Belong With Me" on their parents' computer. "I couldn't believe she was a superstar — we felt so similarly," said Xu. Ms. Rachel Kesler, a HPRSS teacher, also goes way back with Swift. She said, "I remember that when 'Love Story' came out, I was in middle school. I heard her on the radio and asked my friends who this new person Taylor Swift was." Whether you've been a Swiftie since "Our Song" or are preparing for your first Swift experience in *Red (Taylor's Version)*, every fan has a Taylor discovery story — what will be yours?

2. Ready for Inspiration?

Taylor Swift has 50 million monthly Spotify listeners — she has to have inspired some of them, right? This assumption would

be correct, at least for the Choate community. Xu said that Swift motivates people to find new passions. "She inspired me to learn guitar and ukulele and inspired me to sing and write songs," they said. Not a songwriter? Your Taylor Swift inspiration may simply be a desire to relive signature Taylor experiences, from a "Fifteen"-esque first kiss to the crushing heartbreak detailed in "Dear John." To Ms. Kesler, Taylor's inspiration came in an emotional form: "The way she invites people to be honest about their emotions, and just feel their emotions is very cool." Mr. Carey Kopeikin, a math teacher, would agree, saying, "She makes me feel happy and free, sometimes lonely and confused, all in the best way."

3. Find Fellow T.S. Lovers

Time to find your Swiftie community. It's not hard to find Swift fans on campus, even beyond her fan club. "*Folklore* and *Evermore* have a lot of songs about how Covid has impacted us. A lot of people I know have been listening to those albums, especially while doing homework, so they can cry and feel better about themselves," said Xu. Tristin Hurst '24 agreed, saying, "There isn't a day when I don't hear her name mentioned." Sometimes finding a fellow Swiftie can blossom into a long-lasting Choate friendship. Campbell Pflaum '23 said, "Finding people who are also Taylor Swift fans makes me feel more emotionally connected to someone."

4. A Song to Call 'Mine'

If you're overwhelmed by Swift's sheer popularity on campus, try differentiating yourself from the hordes by picking out your own favorite song. Out of nine studio albums, three live albums, and five EPs, there are quite a few options to choose from. Hurst's favorite is the entire *Reputation* album — a choice Xu agrees with. His favorite cut off of the album is "Getaway Car," because he believes it's a great representation of her lyricism. Ms. Kesler's absolute favorite Swift song is "All Too Well," a choice made all the more appropriate given that Swift only just released the song's extended version on *Red (Taylor's Version)*. Mr. Kopeikin, on the other hand, prefers the earlier country material in Swift's catalog. "I think *Fearless* is one of the best albums of all time," he said. But you can't go wrong with any of them.

5. The Best Day and Party

This may be the last step, but it's by far the most important — the capstone of your transition from normal person to card-carrying Taylor Swift fan. The *Red (Taylor's Version)* listening party is this Sunday, November 14, at 3 p.m. in the Bay Room. It will be a chance to meet fellow Swifties, eat comfort food, and shed a few tears (of joy). As Xu points out, "We could all use a time to wallow in self-pity [listening to Swift]."

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Photo courtesy of the Choate Archives

Bobby Galvin '79 completes the "Miracle Pass" and scores a winning touchdown.

The "Miracle Pass" of 1978

— THE STORY BEHIND AN ARCHIVED PHOTOGRAPH —

By Talia Bourdon '25
Reporter

November 11, 1978, was the date of the 56th Deerfield Day. Little did everyone know, it was also the date of one of the biggest games in Choate football history — the day of the "Miracle Pass."

Coming off a single point loss against Lawrenceville in their previous game, the Choate football team came out ready to fight. From the beginning, it was clear that this game wasn't going to be an easy win for either team.

The first points of the game came from Deerfield on their first possession, when Chris

Grennon hit a 21-yard field goal. Deerfield would not score again.

The first Choate points came in the second quarter, when Jamie Walter '80 drilled a field goal from 22 yards out. After that, the game was tied, 3-3.

The same tense back-and-forth struggle continued throughout the third and fourth quarters. The turning point for the game was when the Blue and Gold defense stopped the Big Green offense on downs, Deerfield being just one inch shy of tucking away the game with minutes left on the scoreboard.

During a last-second timeout, quarterback William Millard

'79 discussed game play with his head coach, Mr. Doug James. Then, on the field with only seconds left on the clock, Millard dodged a Deerfield defender and threw a 50-yard desperation pass.

In a crowd of three Deerfield defenders, wide receiver Bobby Galvin '79 was there to come down with the ball as Deerfield stumbled away. Galvin turned and ran to the end zone for a walk off touchdown, winning the game for Choate with a final score of 9-3, as the crowd erupted into cheers.

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BEHIND THE CURTAINS WITH LARA STONE

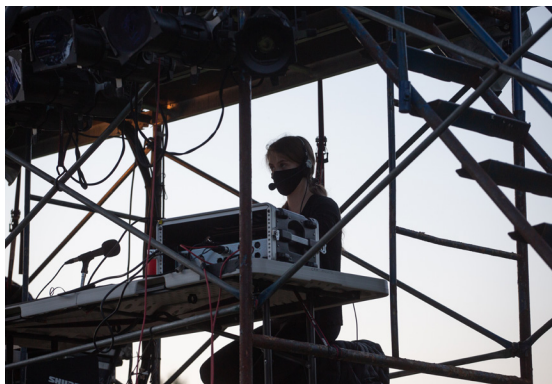
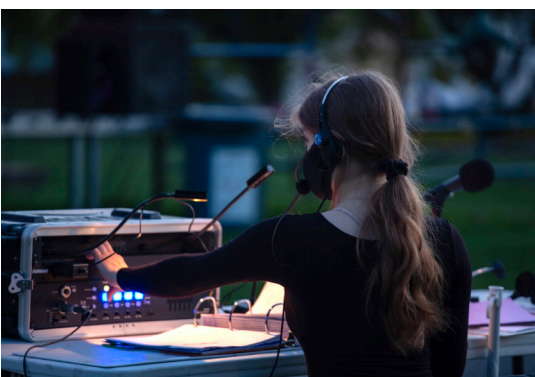


Photo courtesy of Lara Stone

Lara Stone behind the scenes of Choate productions.

By **Claire Liu '24**
Reporter

Take a glance at the sound-booth during any Choate theater production and chances are you'll see Lara Stone '22, a senior in the Theater Arts Concentration, sporting a signature black shirt. Not sure where to look? From lighting to rain machines, you can easily watch her creations onstage, establishing a whole new realm for the actors to tell their stories. Often considered to be the backbone of Choate theater productions, she's constantly running around, moving backdrops, and watching for light cues. Behind the scenes, she designs construction blueprints that allow for the productions to come to life.

Stone entered tech theater as a new sophomore at Choate after she was inspired by the director she worked with at her former school. As a new student still finding her bearings at the School, Stone worked on *Clue* during the fall of 2019. Stone recalled that being a part of the stage crew helped her feel welcome and allowed her to better assimilate into the Choate community. That experience crystallized her passion and empowered her to continue exploring tech theater. "Everyone finds their niche here, and it's a little obscure, but tech theater definitely works for me," said Stone.

At the end of a long class day, spending the rest of the afternoon painting and building set designs

for hours might seem to be a tedious task for most, but Stone finds it relaxing. As a member of the Theater Concentration program, she spends three days a week working on tech theater, two hours each day. However, with *Xanadu* and *Twelve Angry Jurors* having both hit the Choate stage recently, she's spent the past few weeks in the shop every day from 3 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. putting the final touches on both shows. During this time, she collaborated with directors and faculty, constructed pieces from drafts, installed them onstage, and ran through full dress rehearsals.

"It's one of those things where time just flies by; I just lose track of it," said Stone. Even just walking through the door of the PMAC gives her a sense of relief and spikes her energy. "There's some form of exhilaration there, which also goes along with a manifestation of calmness. You have to be a presence that is productive and active for all the actors. Troubleshooting and paying attention to details play a big role in that, and I try to channel both of those things in a lot of aspects of life," she said.

Stone admits, however, that technical theater can definitely be frustrating at times. Little things, like using the wrong type of screws or having a prop accidentally break, can cause her to feel pressured. Stone uses these small, yet time-consuming, challenges to learn how to adapt, a skill necessary in the uncertain world of live theater. *Xanadu* was

a perfect example of this. It was the first show that she contributed to stylistically, designing all of the lighting in the Gelb Theater. Unfortunately, technical difficulties forced the entire cast and crew to relocate their show on opening night from the Gelb Theater to the Chase Bear Theater, the Black Box, in less than 24 hours. She said that although her "heart hurt a little bit," and it was extremely stressful, the process was rewarding. "In the end, it worked out in the best possible way that it could've and it was great to see all the hard work pay off," she said.

As a senior this year, Stone is trying to make the most out of her remaining time at Choate. She has packed her year with a directing class, Student Directed Scenes, and tech work for Fringe Festival. She plans to end on a high note by stage managing *Footloose* in the spring. Planning even further into the future, Stone says that she has been looking at colleges with strong theater programs, including those with opportunities to continue her focus on technical theater. Her involvement in the Arts Concentration at Choate has given her so many opportunities to pursue her passion, but she's certainly not going to stop after graduating. "Technical theater is something that I love and something that I look forward to every day so I definitely don't want to let go of that," affirmed Stone.

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Live Instrumental Recital Returns to the Seymour St. John Chapel

By **Audrey Lim '23**
Staff Reporter

Walking by St. John Chapel this past Sunday afternoon, you would have been immediately immersed by the soothing melodies of the instrumental music recital that showcased the talent of a dozen students, from freshman to senior.

Yoyo Zhang '24, who has been playing the flute since fourth grade, performed "Sicilienne," by Gabriel Fauré, a solo piece accompanied by the piano. Her interest for flute stemmed from her childhood curiosity to simply "try it out," Zhang stated. Through years of practice and the sense of fulfillment she experienced with flute, her interest became a passion, empowering her to pursue it ever since.

Zhang began practicing "Sicilienne" with her Choate flute teacher last year and decided to perform it in this past recital. "I couldn't get a chance to perform it last year because we didn't have any recitals, so I wanted to play it in front of an audience at least once." More importantly, Zhang hopes to share the unique connection and serenity she felt when performing the piece with the audience. "It's very relaxing, so when I play it, I feel very calm. The piece is very flowy and light, so it helps me relieve stress."

Paloma So '23, another performer, particularly enjoys the

judgement-free zone of the Choate audience. "I really like the Choate atmosphere, because everyone who is there is there to enjoy the music and not to judge others," So said.

So performed two movements — "Obsession" and "Les Furies" — from "Violin Sonata No. 2" by Eugène Ysaÿe. The melody of these pieces are based on a *cantus firmus*, the fundamental melody where more complex notes can be added. "I chose this piece to play because it's very powerful and I really enjoy playing it." She further remarked on "the cool effect of the *cantus firmus* being hidden in many passages that some people don't notice."

Max Xu '22, an upright bass player in the Music Arts Concentration program, performed "Straight No Chaser," by Thelonious Monk and "Autumn Leaves," by Joseph Kosma with the Jazz Combo. Xu was first introduced to upright bass in third grade, and he chose this particular instrument because "it could beat all the other instruments in a fight if it wanted to," according to his third-grade-self. Furthermore, upright bass enabled Xu to play every genre possible, ranging from classical to jazz. "After learning how to play upright bass, you can also apply that skill to play bass guitar, so you can then play pop."

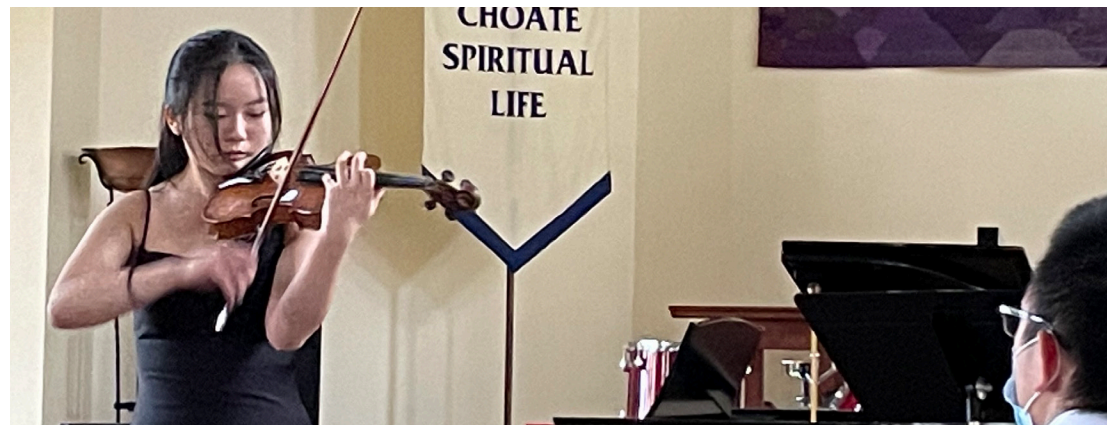
Even though all Jazz Combo members are familiar with the pieces performed, Xu still profoundly enjoyed every practice they had together. "One of the main things for a small Jazz Combo is communication. Let's say someone was soloing; when they are close to done performing, they would look at the rest of the members and we would all look at the next person soloing," said Xu. Xu further noted that although everyone knew the order of solo performance beforehand, this type of communication improves the flow of the piece, making it sound more coherent and spontaneous.

Another sentiment that Xu shared regarding the recital performance was as follows: "I was more scared thinking that I needed to hit these chord changes during the performance. I think our practices are generally better than the actual recital because I'm less worried in a relaxing setting," Xu said.

So echoed the same feeling: "Sometimes my favorite part of violin is performing and sometimes it's just playing the pieces I like to play."

With the closing of the instrumental recital last Sunday, the music recital (voice and piano) will take place this Sunday in the Chapel at 2pm.

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Photos by Yoyo Zhang/The Choate News

Paloma So '23 (top) and Je-won Im '23 (bottom) performed in the recent recital.

FACULTY EXHIBITION SHOWCASES CREATIVITY

By **Aubrie Williams '24**
Reporter

Mr. Willard Lustenader

When Mr. Willard Lustenader, an Art History Professor at Gateway Community College, sits down to paint, he doesn't have a plan. Instead, he lets his inspiration and creativity take control of the artistic process. During his time as an artist, Mr. Lustenader has focused on both realism and abstraction. Completed between 2018 and 2019, the series that is currently on display in the PMAC, employs a type of abstraction — the color field painting. This type of art primarily focuses on the "relationship between the color and patterns and subtlety of the surface." Color has always been an essential means of expression

for Mr. Lustenader, no matter the style of art. With this project, color is particularly important because of how it appears on flat surfaces. "It hits you in a very different way than if it's a reflective object," he said. As a general theme for this series, Mr. Lustenader dealt with ideas of containment and the vibration between edges. He hopes that his art is interpretive and viewers will connect the pieces to their own lives. "These are subjective pictures," he said. "You interpret in your own way, and certain pictures hit certain nerves." Ultimately, the intentions or themes behind Mr. Lustenader's work are separate from the viewer's takeaway. "What the painter thinks really has nothing to do with the experience of the viewer, in this case."



Ms. Smita Sen

Ms. Smita Sen, a Visual Arts teacher at Choate, also participated in the exhibition with her installation focused on caregiving, the body, and illness. Ms. Sen titled this collection "Manipura" after the chakra, a Hindu energy point of the same name, and has been working on these pieces for three years, with her first installation displayed in 2018. "I have a background as a dancer, so my work is always about how ephemeral the body is and how it changes," said Ms. Sen. In this particular piece, she is exploring caregiving. "It's about creating a healing space that cares for the people who walk into it, and also a space to acknowledge grief and loss, and the transformations that take place in those spaces." Ms.



Sen uses color to convey themes in her work. "I'll do an entire series of works that focus on a single color," she said. Her most recent series focuses on yellow, the color that correlates with the Manipura chakra located at the navel. "The Manipura Chakra is where a lot of your strength comes from," she said. "This strength is necessary for the demanding task of caregiving, where one has full responsibility for another person's physical, mental, and emotional needs." Ms. Sen drew on her personal experience of caring for her late father when formulating this concept. On the viewer's experience, Ms. Sen said, "I want [the viewer] to feel a sense of peace. I want them to think about something beyond the things we do every day."

Ms. Catherine Adams

Inspired by the Covid-19 pandemic, Choate Art Teacher Ms. Catherine Adams created a series of works to explore loneliness and the sense of belonging. "This body of work has a theme that runs through it, but I didn't have that intention going into it," said Ms. Adams. "The theme is all about location, a sense of place, and I think it is a reaction to the isolation over the past year or so." Ms. Adams developed her work during the pandemic, with certain periods being more productive than others. For some pieces, "I knew what I needed to do to get my message across," she said. "Others were more laborious, where I had to spend time revis-

iting whether I was being effective." Her drawings are all black and white, and the absence of color "removes the potential of getting attracted to something that doesn't warrant the viewer's attention," she said. While creating these pieces, Ms. Adams had no intention of sharing it with a wide audience. "It's definitely interpersonal work. This artwork is a vehicle for processing." However, she enjoyed sharing work with others, especially her students. "I feel so lucky that the people I got to show this first to were my students — viewing it with them is an added bonus."

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Photos by Sophia Kim and Angel Guo/The Choate News

The exhibition displays works by Mr. Lustenader, Ms. Sen, and Ms. Adams, respectively.



The Choate News SPORTS

Vol. CXV • No. IV

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER XII, 2021

FIELD REPORT

Choate Fall Record
83 - 95 - 5

Varsity Games

Boys' Soccer (7-8-2)
vs. Avon Old Farms, 1-2

Girls' Soccer (12-3-1)
vs. Miss Porter's School, 1-2

Girls' Volleyball (10-6)
vs. Hotchkiss, 3-0

Football (6-1)
vs. Trinity-Pawling, 54-6

Girls' Field Hockey (3-12)
vs. Kent, 1-2

Girls' Cross Country (3-4)
Founders League Race, 3rd Place

Boys' Cross Country (2-6)
Founders League Race, 3rd Place

Boys' Water Polo (3-12)
vs. Brunswick, 2-21

J.V. Games

Boys' Soccer (6-7)
vs. Avon Old Farms, 3-0

Girls' Soccer (2-10-1)
vs. Miss Porter's, 0-1

Girls' Volleyball (9-2)
vs. Miss Porters, 0-3

Girls' Field Hockey (5-7)
vs. Taft, 1-2

Boys' Cross Country (3-5)
Founders League Race, 3rd Place

Football (5-0)
vs. Taft, 30-20

Thirds Games

Boys' Soccer (0-9)
vs. Avon Old Farms, 0-4

Girls' Soccer (1-1-1)
vs. Miss Porter's, 1-0

Girls' Volleyball (6-2)
vs. Suffield Academy, 3-0

Deerfield Day Preview

Game Schedule:
Varsity Volleyball - 10:00 am
JV Volleyball - 10:00 am
Thirds Volleyball - 10:00 am
JV Boys' Soccer - 10:30 am
JV Girls Soccer - 10:30 am
Thirds Boys' Soccer - 10:30 am
Thirds Girls' Soccer - 10:30 am
JV Field Hockey - 10:30 am
Varsity Field Hockey - 11:30 am
Girls' Varsity Soccer - 11:30 am
Boys' Varsity Soccer - 12:00 pm
Varsity Football - 1:15 pm

(follow @boarpen for updates)



Photo courtesy of Choate Archives
Students prepared to burn the Deerfield's Dragon in 1992.

Quotes collected by **Sam Anastasio '23**
Copy Editor

Girls' Varsity Volleyball
"I am ready to take revenge on our heartbreaker loss two years ago. We lost 15-13 in the fifth set."
— **Valerie Guadian '23**

Girls' Varsity Field Hockey
"Each year, I look forward to Deerfield Day as the best, hardest played game of the season. We expect it to be a cold morning, but we will bring the heat! We plan to shock them with eager play at the start and will hold strong in the backfield where we are led by seniors Gretchen Russell '22, Hadley Rogers '22, and Ellie Pyper '22. Our attack is focused on disrupting the Deerfield defense and using every scoring opportunity to take down the Doors!"
— **Coach Grace McGee**

Girls' Varsity Soccer
"The Girls Varsity Soccer team is looking forward to Deerfield Day! A day to show our pride and experience in a spectacular competitive atmosphere!"
— **Coach Rick Koczak**

Boys' Varsity Soccer
"Even though this will be my first one, I am looking forward to the fierce and competitive atmosphere Deerfield Day possesses."
— **Sean Dallaghan '23**

Boys' Varsity Football
"This is my third Deerfield day since I've gotten to Choate, and this one is particularly sentimental, seeing as though it is my final Deerfield Day. As a member of the football team, I think what makes this one special is the opportunity we have in front of us. Anyone that was on team 120 remembers how it felt to lose to them in 2019, which resulted in us missing out on playing in a bowl game that year. That was our last experience as a football program before Covid-19 shut everything down. Now we have a fantastic opportunity to go back to their place and play them again. I don't think we could be any more excited or grateful!"
— **Damian Carrano '22**

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Photo courtesy of Choate Archives
Choaties gathered to cheer on teams in 1984.

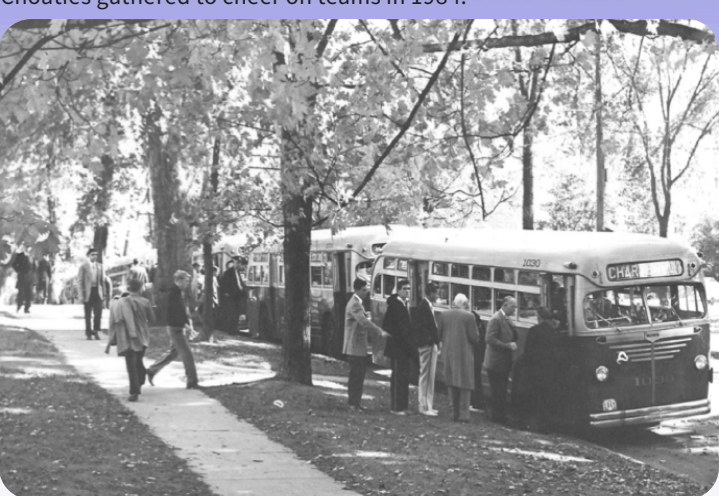


Photo courtesy of Choate Archives
Fans boarded rooter buses to Deerfield in 1951.

GO FOR A TOSS ON THE CAMPUS FRISBEE COURSE

By **Michael Korvyakov '23**
Copy Editor

For those bored with the traditional sports, Frisbee golf combines two century-old activities into a fun and dynamic new game. Similar to the rules of golf, players attempt to get the disc into a "hole" in as few throws as possible.

In 2020, math teacher Avery Feingold and science teacher Mr. Ben Small brought frisbee golf to campus. Mr. Small said, "Usually in the fall, I coach the intramural kayaking group, but last year, since we could not offer any programs that involved off-campus travel, I suggested frisbee golf." He set up a total of nine "holes" — shaped more like nets — which consist of a stand, a pocket to catch the frisbee, and metal chains to prevent the frisbee from bouncing out. These holes are set up near the track, and the course include throws of all styles — uphill, downhill, straight, and curved.

Will Hare '23, who participated in the sport last year, said "It was a fun opportunity and a great sport during the pandemic." He also mentioned that it was a great way to relax and a fun new activity to try for any experience level. Though the sport is not being offered this year, the course is still set up, and students and faculty are welcome to go and play any time they'd like. "I still go out and play a round from time to time, and I know other faculty members and students do too," said Mr. Small.

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Scan to view this map online.

Choate Frisbee Golf

(cut this card out)

Map Legend
— = frisbee lanes
• = "tee" boxes
• = "holes"

Hole #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total:
# of throws										

Girls' Soccer Adds to Impressive Record with Win Over Kent

By **Alex Skrypek '23**
Staff Reporter

Choate Girls' Varsity Soccer had a major 5-2 home win over Kent on November 3, adding to their already impressive 11-win

record. The game started energetically as Paley Adelson-Grodborg '22 snuck past Kent's defense, putting Choate on the board less than a minute into the game. Team manager Adama Sowe '23 described the first goal as "amaz-

ing," noting that the team "started very strong." Just a minute later, Captain Ava Gizzie '23 scored, solidifying a 2-0 lead.

For the next three minutes Choate dominated the pace of the game, keeping the ball primarily on Kent's side of the field and blocking any offensive attempts. Moments later, Lexi Taylor '23 drew a penalty kick that she scored, putting Choate ahead by three goals. Following the kick off after Choate's third goal, Kent was able to quickly move the ball up the field. A defensive stop gave Kent a throw-in, leading to a cross in front of the goal. Luckily, Captain Sophia Zhang '23 was able to force the Kent player off the ball, kicking it out of bounds, leading to a corner kick. Kent's physicality following the corner yielded them two headers — however, both were saved by Choate's goalie, Maddi Genovese '23. The ensuing counterattack demonstrated Choate's dominant ball movement. Despite Kent's aggressive defense, Taylor was able to convert, marking her second goal of the game and putting Choate up 4-0 just six minutes into the game.

With a strong lead in the game, Choate began substituting many of their starters out but were still able to stall Kent's offense. However, following a series of minor defensive blunders by Choate, Kent was able to sneak one into the goal with less than a minute left in the half. Sowe explained that the team was "not expecting [Kent's ability] to use their bodies to get some balls," and recognized that it took the team time to adjust. The rest of the period saw no movement, with Kent displaying a newfound defensive aggression. The first half ended with a foul being called and Kent and the scoreboard reading 4-1, Choate.

The second half brought a sudden, yet short lived, change in momentum. Within five minutes, a corner kick led to a close shot. Kent was able to score, narrowing the gap between Choate to only two goals. The next ten minutes of the game consisted of a series of good offensive attempts by Choate and the return of a strong defense, holding Kent

to only one shot following their goal. Nevertheless, the score remained unchanged well into the last twenty minutes of the match. The continuation of offensive pressure allowed Choate to get multiple, but unfortunately unsuccessful, shots on the goal. The stalemate continued until Mia Bratti '25 beat her defender, scoring on a fast break with three minutes left in regulation. Choate's uncompromising defense yielded Kent only two goals, ending the game with a final score of 5-2.

With this win, for the first time in four years, the Girl's Varsity Soccer Team was able to achieve 12 wins in a season. Sowe attributes the team's success to their communication and positive attitude that has allowed them to "stay strong together throughout the entire season." She continued, "We are so excited for the playoffs and all the girls are excited to play under the pressure. I am so proud of them."

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Photo courtesy of Ramsey Scott
Lexi Taylor '23 shoots on Kent.