The Choate News

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PMAC ADDITION TO BE NAMED COLONY HALL

Photo courtesy of Richard Saltz

Colony Hall, a 50,000-square-foot addition to the Paul Mellon Arts Center, will include an auditorium for more than 1,000 people.

By **Christine Mason '19**
Associate Editor

Behind the Paul Mellon Arts Center (PMAC), construction for Choate's much awaited Colony Hall began in mid-December. Ms. Kalya Yannatos, the Director of the PMAC, said this construction is a way of Choate's "recognizing the need to allow the arts program to be fully supported in the way that it deserves." The new building will also fulfill several long-held goals of the School, such as providing seats for the entire student body. Head of School, Dr. Alex Curtis, expressed his appreciation for this new ability to bring the school together, saying, "It is the people that make this place special."

The addition to campus will provide tremendous space for the numerous art programs Choate offers. Ms. Yannatos said, "This building will untangle the music program and the theatre program." Because the PMAC's main stage was designed specifically for theatre, the new arts building's facilities will better accommodate the orchestras, wind ensemble, jazz ensemble, and choruses.

Ethan Luk '20 said, "I hope the auditorium will have better acoustics than our current auditorium. As a member of Symphony Orchestra, we have to work twice as hard in the auditorium to project sound and make the pieces resonate because the current auditorium was built for theatrical performances and not musical performances."

Mr. Phil Ventre, the Orchestral and Jazz Ensemble Director, explained, "In a concert hall, everyone has to hear each other very quickly." He added, "Now we're going to have a home for the music program and a concert hall with very fine acoustics." In addition to catering towards the music program, the new auditorium has features which will allow speakers in to be heard in an

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HPRSS Lanches Signature Program

By **Grace Zhang '20**
Staff Reporter

Since its introduction at form meetings in early December, a new HPRSS signature program has sparked student interest around campus. For the first time, students with a particular interest in government, political science, and public service will have the opportunity to specialize and consolidate their work in these areas, much in the same way the Arts Concentration Program, Science Research Program, Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies Program, and Environmental Immersion Program are instrumental in guiding students in their respective areas of interest.

The John F. Kennedy Program in Government and Public Service includes several related courses (some required, others elective), an off-campus public service internship opportunity, summer reading about President Kennedy, weekly tutorials in the winter term of the senior year, and a culminating TED-esque Talk to be shared with the community in the spring term of the student's senior year. The program will accept eight to twelve students each year.

The idea for this signature program was initially developed by Mr. Zach Goodyear, a former HPRSS faculty member at Choate. Ms. Amy Foster, the HPRSS Department Head, explained, "Mr. Goodyear was the person who really started Choate's government course, as well as political science. He had an idea for something like this, and then the person who really brought it forward and put it together was Ned Gallagher." Mr. Gallagher is a longtime English and history teacher at Choate, and also the former Director of Athletics. (He is currently on sabbatical.)

Ms. Foster has high hopes for the program. "I have received emails from quite a number of students who have expressed interest, had questions, and wanted to know where the application was found on the portal, so I think there is a lot of interest. I am hoping that we can really identify exciting internship opportunities for the students. I want them to feel positive about the experience, and like they have gotten an opportunity to do something beyond just taking their normal classes."

The internships can be completed during the summer after the student's junior year or during the winter or spring break of the student's junior year. Some examples of internship possibilities include volunteering for a campaign or interning for a non-profit organization that looks at public policy, education policy, immigration policy, or economic policy, to name a few categories.

"We have a lot of students who've taken a group of courses that would fill these requirements. These are areas that a lot of students are interested in. This program helps pull together those courses into more of a program and enables students to see the connection between the courses, to do an internship to pursue a particular interest for them, and then experience the tutorial the senior year where it's intensive writing, discussion, and debate. It really brings together threads from a lot of these different disciplines," explained Ms. Foster.

The senior winter tutorials will be weekly meetings of small groups of two to three students, which will include a series of questions they will be tackling throughout the term. The students will write a paper once every two weeks, engaging one of these questions. "The tutorial is really to discuss and de-

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REVAMPING STUDENT-RUN CLOTHING COMPANY

By **Anjali Mangla '20**
Staff Reporter

Jabali Walli, a clothing brand designed by Sarah Gurevitch '19 specifically for Choate students, no longer has a table in the Choate Store. However, the organization is still expanding. Now, it's selling hats.

The process for the partnership between Jabali Walli and the Choate Store was a collaboration between Gurevitch and Mr. Dan Cronin, the District Manager for the School Store. "The first thing I needed to do was sell some shirts and earn a following," Gurevitch said. After making a profit and earning a name for the company on campus, Gurevitch and Mr. Jim Yanelli, Director of the Student Activities Center, spoke to Mr. Cronin.

"It's one thing for someone to say something, but you need to follow up. I had to send some emails during the summer and make an advertisement sign, and then I finally got my own table in the school store," Gurevitch said. Mr. Cronin approved of Jabali Walli being sold in the school store for the fall term.

However, at the end of the term, Gurevitch had to take Jabali Walli out of the Choate Store. She had only negotiated for the shirts to be there for a term, and Higher Learning Supply Co., the company that manages the school store, decided to remove Jabali Walli from the store..

No longer being sold in the store, students and faculty must contact Gurevitch in order to

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Matt Bellace Encourages "Natural Highs"

By **Vincenzo DiNatale '19**
Associate Editor

For the majority of the community, the second school day of the new year was filled with much more excitement than many anticipated. Dr. Matt Bellace, a professional speaker, psychologist, and comedian was invited to campus to offer his inspiring wisdom on drug and alcohol prevention.

From Princeton, New Jersey, Dr. Bellace has an impressive resumé. He has been traveling the country since 1995 conducting presentations. In 2005, he earned a Ph.D. in clinical neuropsychology. He is the author of *A Better High*, and he contributes to National Geographic's *This or That*. In addition, Dr. Bellace has appeared as a comedian on the TV show *World's Dumbest*. Invited to nearly 200 institutions each year, Dr. Bellace has inspired thousands of students.

Mr. James Stanley, the Dean of Students, invited Dr. Bellace to campus. With the opportunity to select a speaker for a special program this year, Mr. Stanley wanted to choose a topic that differed from those in the past, adding that there have been few recent programs on substance abuse. Mr. Stanley commented, "I was looking for something that would engage students, have valuable content, and go into a different area."

As soon as school meeting started this Tuesday, excitement and energy filled the theater as Dr. Bellace called on volunteers to begin the program. After conducting his popular "chair activity," Dr. Bellace elaborated on one of his messages of the presentation: to surround oneself with positive support, asserting, "The number one predictor of your behavior is the friends you surround yourself with."

It was soon evident that Dr. Bellace's presentation was not going to be similar to a normal talk on drug and alcohol prevention. Dr. Bellace elaborated on why this

Photo courtesy of Matt Bellace'S Website

Matt Bellace encouraged students to find a support system among peers.

was true. Using scare tactics — a commonly practiced method of prevention — to dissuade teenagers from drug and alcohol abuse is actually remarkably ineffective, according to Dr. Bellace. When teenagers are presented with the dangers of drugs and alcohol, they are likely to attempt to prove those statements false. Instead, Dr. Bellace approaches his presentations with energy and comedy.

A core element of the program was that teenagers are highly susceptible to stress and often struggle to deal with their emotions. However, when individuals suffer losses or defeat, there are

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Students Respond with Mixed Feelings to Dr. Bellace

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several alternatives to cope rather than turning to destructive actions. Dr. Bellace shared more personal experiences regarding this idea. Growing up, Dr. Bellace's brother was known for his terrible behavior and substance abuse — somebody who dealt with his emotions with drugs and alcohol. In contrast to his brother, Dr. Bellace dealt with his hardships by more productive means, such as sports, elaborating, "I took all those emotions and turned to sports." Transitioning into another core message of the program, Dr. Bellace strongly asserted that "bad things happen," but it is our job to "take the energy for something good."

I thought the presentation was really funny and at the same time delivered a good message.

Sam Kaplan '19

Dr. Bellace then discussed the benefits of natural highs — feeling satisfied after doing something positive — and how they are fitting alternatives to artificial highs to cope with feeling pain. Dr. Bellace said, "You have a choice. What are you going to do with your pain? You can harness it and do something good!" When individuals do so, according to Dr. Bellace, "There isn't a drug on the planet that couldn't replicate the richness and complexity of that moment."

Mr. Stanley was pleased with what he saw as the success of Dr. Bellace's presentation. "My impression in the theater was that the vast majority of students were enjoying it," he said. "There are ways to look at the audience and quickly tell if people are not engaged. Those signs weren't present." Mr. Stanley also noticed that Dr. Bellace connected well with students after the program, and that faculty members enjoyed his message.

Mr. Stanley believes Dr. Bellace effectively communicated that there are indeed risks, and rather than using scare tactics, Dr. Bellace approached this message through personal experience. "Messaging on the national level suggests there are no risks associated with marijuana use, and Dr. Bellace pointed out that use can cause memory and anxiety problems," Mr. Stanley said.

Many students responded to the presentation positively. Parth Mody '19 expressed, "I thought the presentation was really funny and at the same time delivered a good message. Of all the speakers I've heard at Choate, I'm sure he will be one of the most memorable ones."

Samuel Kaplan '19 also approved of Dr. Bellace. "I thought the speaker truly believed what he was speaking about, and I could feel that," he said. "I think it's hard to get the attention of Choate students, but he took the challenge and he did a better job than past speakers and probably grabbed more students attention and inspired some."

Other students were less happy with the program. Ben Cillie '19 said, "I thought the speaker was really funny and approached drugs in a different way, but it was still a bit cheesy and repetitive."

Hannah Huddleston '19 said, "I thought the talk was funny and enjoyable with a good message, but it could've been more effective. Personally, I was annoyed that Dr. Bellace kept promoting his book and talking about his kids. I think that the message of using naturals highs instead of drugs would be more moving if it came from someone who had battled with drug abuse in the past. The fact that Dr. Bellace's brother used a lot of drugs then became a partier and dropped out of college probably cemented Bellace's opposition to using drugs himself. I think it is easy for someone who would never dream of using drugs to say, 'Just don't do it.'"

Vincenzo DiNatale
may be reached at vdinatale19@choate.edu

New Signature Program in Government and Public Service

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bate the different pieces that the student brought to that question," said Ms. Foster.

Our curriculum is very much a living, breathing, moving, evolving, entity.

Dr. Katie Jewett
Director of Curricular Initiatives

Dr. Katie Jewett, Choate's Director of Curricular Initiatives, explained that the approval of the signature program was a part of "continuing to evolve the curriculum to meet and even anticipate the needs of the students. We always want to make sure there are opportunities for students who have different interests. It also seemed to make sense that this celebrated a very well respected alumnus that we have, to be a part of something that's in our curriculum."

She continued, "Every year, we look at all the courses we have to offer, deciding which have passed their time and should no longer be offered, and which should be added in. So, really, our curriculum is very much a living, breathing, moving, evolving, entity. The department heads, Director of Studies, and Dean of Faculty all work together in making decisions about signature programs to ask the question, 'What kinds of skills and content does it give to students that they might not get from simply taking the courses in our curriculum?'"

Ms. Foster commented, "I think that the purpose of signature programs is to provide an opportunity for students with a particular interest to really dig deeply into that area. It's nice, if they do that, for them to have that acknowledged in a signature program. We had a lot of students doing this kind of thing already, but they didn't have a program that helped them pull it together or give them credit for doing that."

Grace Zhang *may be reached at gzhang20@choate.edu*

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COLONY HALL TO INCLUDE AUDITORIUM, PRACTICE ROOMS, AND DANCE STUDIO

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intimate way. Dr. Curtis said that the acoustic design of the building is "a brilliant solution to the problem we had."

In addition to the new concert hall, Colony Hall will provide classrooms for all the music classes. These classrooms will also be acoustically designed in order to ensure that one classroom will not let in another's music. The building will also include a recital hall, rehearsal hall, music library, instrument storage room, and offices for all the arts teachers.

New facilities for Choate's dance program are also underway. Heather Shao '19, a member of Arts Concentration for dance, explained, "The dance studio is really claustrophobic right now; there aren't any windows and the environment is just generally not good for cultivating creativity, so having a new studio with better lighting and atmosphere will really help." She added that Choate's Dance Company doesn't have enough space to work and so is regularly asked to practice on the basketball court in the gym.

However, the construction of such an extensive arts building doesn't come without challenges. Ms. Yannatos explained, "The reality of designing a really big building like this is you have desires for what you can't support — and the realities set in." Ms. Yannatos suggested that providing each practice room with its own window that allows in real light may not be possible. Many of these practice rooms will be buried into the hillside.

Despite these challenges, Choate's arts faculty is very thankful for the efforts of all who were involved in the building's planning process. Ms. Yannatos said that much of the work was done by Dr. Curtis. Ms. Yannatos added that she was so grateful for his support of this new building. Mr. Ventre also expressed his gratitude. "This is a wonderful, wonderful initiative that Dr. Curtis has taken," he said.

In addition to the arts faculty, many students are excited for the opening of Colony Hall, which is expected in 2019, Parth Mody '19 said, "I think the auditorium will give some students better access to the tools they need to pursue some of their arts-related interests. I think it will also encourage more people to get involved in the arts. It'll also provide a better space for all-school meetings." Luk went on, "I think it's great that the auditorium will fit the whole school."

With a smile, Ms. Yannatos said, "I hope it's a happy space for everyone," adding, "and I trust it will be!"

Christine Mason *may be reached at cmason19@choate.edu*

Wallingford's Collaboratory Room Fosters Innovation

By **Abbie Chang '19**
Associate Editor

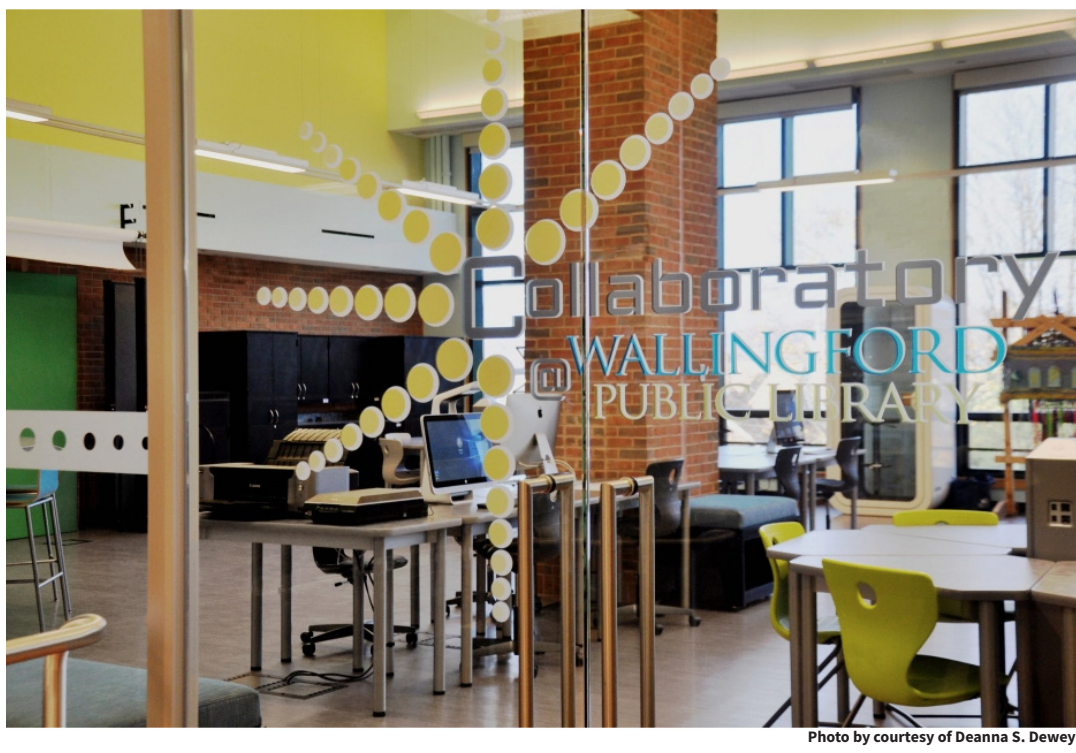

Photo by courtesy of Deanna S. Dewey

The Wallingford Public Library's Collaboratory includes a quilting machine and phoneless phone booth.

Choate may be one of the first high schools to develop a designated makerspace, but just down the street is a site similar to our own i.d.Lab. In September of 2016, the Wallingford Public Library opened its Collaboratory, a combination makerspace, co-working space, and visual media lab. Located in the center of Wallingford, within the spacious town library, the Collaboratory attracts a clientele of all ages and skill sets.

The need for the Collaboratory was derived from the need for more program space. The library hosts a variety of programs throughout the year, ranging from holiday card making for children, to lectures on human trafficking for adults, but, as Head of Creative and Emerging Technologies Ms. Janet Flewelling put it, "The problem was that the children's librarians would want do a big program when the adult librarians would want to do a big program when the teen librarian wanted to do a big program, and there just wasn't enough space."

The plan for the Collaboratory began with research. "We actually went down to our staff room and had a session where we just brainstormed," said Wallingford Public Library Director Jane Fisher. The library staff also contacted makerspaces throughout the state of Connecticut to supplement their ideas. With this research under its belt, the library applied for a grant from the Connecticut State Library. The grant covered a signi ant portion of the nearly $500,000 price tag for the Collaboratory, and the library paid the remaining amount.

The steep price of the Collaboratory was necessary to raise the floor of the space, enclose it in glass, and wire it for electricity, but also for the equipment within. The Collaboratory houses some equipment that may look familiar to Choate students, such as a laser cutter and a 3D printer, but it also contains many items not available in the i.d.Lab. "People were stopping me in the grocery store saying, 'Is it true we're going to have a long arm quilting machine in the Library?'" recalled Ms. Fisher regarding the most popular piece of equipment. The Collaboratory also advertises a silhouette cutter, a phoneless phone booth, and a Microsoft Surface Hub, among other machines. "The challenge is really getting the word out about all the things that are available" said Ms. Flewelling.

As the Collaboratory has now been open for just over a year, the librarians have really gotten to see it in action. Fisher, describing a quilting group that meets in the room and a member of the Wallingford Photo Club who frequents the space because of its high-quality printer, said "It's great we have programs, but for people to come in and discover it and decide to use it on their own is even better." The Collaboratory gives members of the community access to equipment they might not otherwise have been able to afford, as well as space and technology designed for teamwork.

The Collaboratory is not the first library makerspace. Fisher believes that the purpose of libraries is evolving, saying, "Libraries are sort of trying to move away from only being in a role of transaction, meaning pick up a book, go to the desk, borrow the book, and go home."

She continued, "I think that's certainly the buzz in the profession — it's about making the space and the surfaces meet current needs."

This dynamic nature of libraries as a source of community information and communication allows them to escape the age of iBooks and Kindles, and move toward a role as collaboration hubs. Fisher, describing the most rewarding part of opening the Collaboratory, said, "I love that reaction when people realize it's there for them."

Abbie Chang *may be reached at achang19@choate.edu*

TRAIN STATION OPENS IN WALLINGFORD

By **Pinn Chirathivat '19**
Associate Editor

The first of three new train stations along the Hartford Line, Wallingford's new station had a grand opening ceremony in November. However, increased train service will not start until May 2018 as part of the CTrail Hartford Line.

The $687 million construction project, which began in 2015, includes three new stations in Wallingford, Meriden, and Berlin. The new station boasts an elevated platform interconnected with the pedestrian-bridge, elevators, canopies covering over half the platform length, and parking spaces for 221 vehicles. In addition, the station's platforms have hydronic heating systems to melt snow, schedule information display systems, and electric charging stations for mobile phones.

The new Wallingford train station on North Cherry Street is located approximately one mile north of the existing station. Mr. John Bernick, assistant rail administrator for the Connecticut Department of Transportation said, "The Wallingford station [was] moved because the service needed a high-level platform for a more convenient experience for passengers." As the Hartford Line looks to provide more daily Amtrak services between New Haven, Hartford, and Springfield, Bernick is excited for a significant increase in overall passenger numbers.

With the expected completion of the CTrail Hartford Line in 2018, Wallingford residents will at last be able to experience improved Amtrak and Acela services, Metro North, and Shore Line East rail services via the New Haven station. Bernick said, "CT Rail is to combine these different services and provide a more unified experience for the travelers." The number of round-trip trains running between New Haven and Hartford will almost triple — from 6 to 17. The trains will run at speeds of up to 110 miles per hour.

Savannah Cronin, a local Wallingford resident, sees many benefits in the new station. "The new train station will be extremely convenient for workers to commute into the city and back. Instead of having to drive to New Haven and get on the Metro-North to New York City, I can just take the train over."

The Wallingford station [was] moved because the service needed a high-level platform for a more convenient expereince for passengers.

Mr. John Bernick
Assistant Rail Administrator for the Connecticut DOT

Elizabeth Yocher, an employee at Pure Alchemy Juice Bar Cafe on Colony Road, added that she hopes the new train station will help the town's economy, "This would be a huge factor in helping help small businesses, companies and restaurants around town," she said.

Her hopes may become reality, as the long-term vision of this project includes a partnership with Vermont and Massachusetts to have the Vermonter — an Amtrak train that now runs from St. Albans, Vermont, to Washington, D.C. — continue north to Montreal. "There are some hurdles including how to handle Customs inspections," said Bernick. "But the leadership in Vermont and in Canada are working closely to advance the project."

Bernick continued, "I think it means a lot to Wallingford for its convenience of transportation. We look forward to see the changes it will bring to the community."

Pinn Chirathivat *may be reached at pchirathivat19@choate.edu*

DIVERSITY DAY PROMOTES COMMUNITY ACTIVISM

By **Abbie Chang '19**
Associate Editor

This year's Diversity Day, which, as always, took place on the holiday commemorating the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., included a variety of activities designed around a single theme: "Everyone can be an activist." The day required a great deal of planning, both from student and faculty groups, as well as participation from all members of the Choate community. Faculty members also engaged in Diversity Day activities, completing a workshop on cultural competence.

This year's planning committee was expanded to include cabinet members from CALSA, Spectrum, Muslim Student Association, and several other equity and inclusion groups on campus. Many students who had attended the Student Diversity Leadership Conference, in Anaheim, Calif., also helped plan Diversity Day. In the past, the only student voice in the day's organizing was the Choate Student Diversity Association. The planning committee was not the only aspect of Diversity Day that underwent significant change this year. "We revamped third and fourth form activities," said Melody Li '18, a member of the planning committee.

The committee implemented these changes after looking more closely at individual forms. Shamari Harrington '18 explained, , "Third formers are just getting into talking about identity, whereas fourth formers are using the identifiers to formulate their own thoughts about identity. It's not just getting introduced to what the identifiers are, but how they apply in people's daily lives, and how they apply on Choate's campus and beyond."

Photo top right by Pinn Chirathivat /The Choate News, Photos left and bottom right by Ross Mortenson

After Tarana Burke (left) spoke to the entire school, upperclassmen split up into breakout groups to discuss topics relating to diversity.

The fifth and sixth form discussions were very similar to those of last year, but the planning committee decided not to create the groups from English class lists, as had been done before. This was an effort to make the experience effective for all, as the varying comfort levels of the English classes had a great impact on the productiveness of the conversations.

The 2018 Diversity Day also differed from those of previous years in that Dr. Hinderlie and his team chose the speaker. "In the past, students have been in charge of the keynote speaker. This year, I wanted to raise the bar a little bit, so I needed to start that planning earlier," explained Dr. Hinderlie.

Dr. Hinderlie began his search for a speaker in early summer, and was able to bring activist and founder of the #MeToo Movement, Tarana Burke, to campus. Students came to highly anticipate Ms. Burke's appearance. Harrington said, "The #MeToo movement has been such a catalyst, especially in 2017, so I feel like hearing her voice is going to be amazing."

Burke engaged the audience during her speech, having them repeat the motto for the venerable activist organization 21st Century Youth Leadership Movement, which inspired Ms. Burke as a young woman. Many students found Burke's illustration of the statistic that one in six young men will become a victim of sexual assualt. Samuel Kaplan '19 said that this demonstration "gave us a visual representation of the statistic, and because she actually talked about sexual assault on males, which isn't really talked about."

Though Diversity Day was a success for many students and faculty members, it was not without its challenges. This year's vacation calendar made it especially difficult to coordinate facilitator training sessions. When asked, Harrington said, "The biggest challenge for us was time." Dr. Hinderlie agreed. "Last year, we had four different Sundays to do training," he said. "This year we had two."

Despite the limitations of time, the planning committee was very thorough in training facilitators. During the three-hour training session, fifth and sixth form facilitators were assigned discussion questions, and worked together to determine the major points of the conversation. Erica Chang '19 described how the experience impacted her perspective of the day. "As a facilitator, I saw how much work is put into Diversity Day and how much effort all the students put in," she said.

Much praise was given to the influence of the speaker, the breadth of the discussions, and the impact of the identifier activities, but some students said that they wished there could have been a greater number of workshops for fifth and sixth formers. Others thought that some students remained uncomfortable with speaking up in front their peers.

Although students were sometimes apprehensive about sharing their ideas, both the planning committee members and the "Community Norms" document emphasized leaning into discomfort. Melody Li explained, "I have seen what went on last year during the election, and it was distressing for me to see the divisions. I think there is such a great need for open discourse, and I am interested in pushing for open discourse on a respectful level."

As a facilitator, I saw how much work is put into Diversity Day and how much effort all the students put in.
Erica Chang '19

The day appeared effective in encouraging students to think more about its theme. "The speaker really empowered me to be more of an activist," said Chang.

Despite the initial time crunch, Dr. Hinderlie felt that the work done by the planning committee paid off. "They did an excellent job and worked really hard to identify facilitators, line up the training, and deliver quality training so that the facilitator felt prepared," he said. Dr. Hinderlie also hoped that Burke's words would inspire students to contribute their own forms of activism to big and small causes alike.

Abbie Chang *may be reached at achang19@choate.edu*

Employees Take On Wellness Challenge

By **Peter DiNatale '21**
Staff Reporter

Each year, the Wallingford YMCA embarks on the Workplace Wellness Challenge, which takes place over the course of thirty days. This challenge is open to all of the Wallingford community in order to promote better stances on wellness. In it, participants, half of which are Choate faculty and staff members, pay closer attention to what exactly they consume when they sit down for a meal.

Ms. Colleen Villano, the YMCA Health and Wellness Director, was contacted by Choate to help with the wellness initiative, including the schoolwide Wellness Day each trimester, that the school is currently implementing. This is her twelfth year participating in the challenge.

Each year, the challenge is conducted with a new group of participants who have decided to work toward a better and healthier lifestyle. Often, however, there are repeat participants that have participated in the challenge in previous years.

Ms. Villano said, "Each time, I get suggestions and feedback from numerous participants so we have the opportunity to keep making the challenge better and better. For instance, in this particular challenge, we are adding mini challenges in the thirty days."

Some of the small challenges include simple changes like drinking more water. Another activity that has been quite popular is the chance to practice mindfulness. This activity in particular helps participants relax and and take the time to bring full attention to an experience.

One of the challenge's benefits is that people look more closely at what they are consuming. One of the steps people take towards achieving this is by looking at the ingredients of food before putting them into their system. Ms. Villano said, "Not only are these participants eating better, but they have also been sleeping better, and overall feeling better."

According to Ms. Villano, the interactions, not only in person, but online via social media as well, have played a substantial role in how the participants talk about their experiences as a group. "We do have a sense of camaraderie and community because we have our own group and also a Facebook group," she explained. With this sharing and collaboration of ideas, participants have the ability to take a better approach to the challenge by hearing the words of others.

Not only are these participants eating better, but they have also been sleeping better and, overall, feeling better.
Ms. Colleen Villano
YMCA Health and Wellness Director

Most participants hope to achieve similar outcomes from this 30-day challenge. Some objectives are for participants to not only become more aware of what they are eating, but also to pay attention to how their bodies respond to what they are eating, as well as how they feel after they have certain meals. As Ms. Villano stated, "Overall, the main goal of this challenge is to bring awareness to how bodies react to certain foods and eliminate those foods from one's diet. We work towards better eating styles in order to maintain a healthier and stronger diet."

Peter DiNatale *may be reached at pdinatale21@choate.edu*

Jabali Walli Continues to Grow Despite Store Removal

Photo by Kathryn Phillips/*The Choate News*

From left to right, Haley Williams '18, Joey Hong '19, and Jeanne Malle '19 model Jabali Walli hats.

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buy a shirt or hat. The hats, a new product as of December, come in popcorn yellow, light blue, and navy blue. "Jabali Walli has a presence on campus, but it's just known for t-shirts," Gurevitch said. She continued, "I want it to be a clothing brand, so I needed to expand on that." Gurevitch also hopes to make a special Breast Cancer Awareness shirt next fall (October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month).

Though the company has only been around for seven months, it is reaching its goal of generating a profit. Gurevitch said, "Now I am at the point where I need to use that money to reinvest in the company." Mr. Jim Yanelli originally loaned Jabali Walli $2,797 to help start the company. With the loan paid back, Jabali Walli has generated more than $1,600, some of which Gurevitch used to make Jabali Walli hats and restock the shirts. The remaining money after making the hats will be deemed as profits and go to the School's Financial Aid Program.

Thinking about the future of Jabali Walli, Gurevitch said, "I hope this is something that is grandfathered into the school. For example, when I come to my ten-year reunion, it would be such a goal to see that this is still continuing." She added, "I plan to pass the company down upon graduating to someone who I know will take care of it, who will pass it down to someone else when the time comes, effectively making it a part of the Choate community."

Anjali Mangla *may be reached at amangla20@choate.edu*

Hour of Code Introduces Students to Coding

By **Calvin Walker '21**
Reporter

On Sunday, December 17, the Hour of Code — a worldwide, 60-minute introduction to programming — was held on campus. Will Wu '19 has organized the event for three consecutive years. During his freshman year, he was surprised that the Science and Math Departments were not already administering the event, so he decided to start it himself.

The first year's successful turnout gave him a "huge boost of confidence to organize this event every year."In addition, Wu strongly believes that the program is helpful for everyone, regardless of the participant's interest level or experience with coding. "I think tons of Choate students will benefit from this event, as coding gradually becomes an important skill for our generation. This event serves as a friendly introduction for the rookies," Wu said.

This introduction is based around a relatively fun coding language called Processing. Wu described, "With Processing, kids can create amazing games, computer generated arts, and even music pieces." He also tries to make the experience as engaging as possible through fun challenges and small projects. Wu hopes that with a successful third year, he can write a proposal to the Math Department and make it a schoolwide event next year.

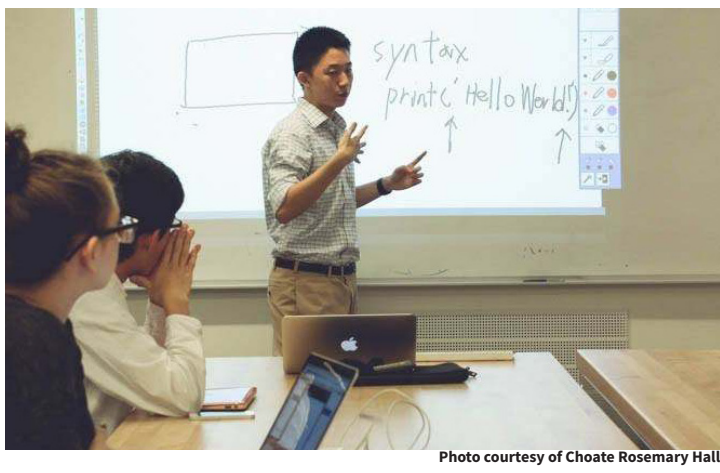

Photo courtesy of Choate Rosemary Hall

Will Wu '19 teaches students coding basics during the Hour of Code.

Calvin Walker *may be reached at cwalker21@choate.edu*

The Choate News

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Less Time Critiquing, More Time Discussing

Illustration by Chandler Littleford

By **Derek Ng '20**
Associate Editor

As a first-year student, I reserved making any judgments about Diversity Day before the day itself. I must admit, however, that it was hard to remain impartial, especially since some of my friends have long criticized it.

So maybe, as many students say, Diversity Day accomplishes little. But here's my view: these discussions are vital to our understanding of today's complex society. Rarely are these topics approached with such scrutiny and sympathy as they are on Diversity Day, and in our increasingly polarized and acrimonious world in which we live, it is more important than ever to address these issues at length and with candor.

As Choate students, we are, if anything, incredibly lucky to have time built in for us to speak and learn about these issues. It is, in fact, our obligation as privileged students to educate ourselves on the heterogeneity that defines our community. Each conversation only serves to take us further along the road of building the equal society of which, one assumes, we all dream.

If Diversity Day is successful in getting these conversations started, our remaining task is simply to continue them.

From the most commonly discussed problems — racism, homophobia, xenophobia — to those less talked about, there are so many issues that we face today as a society that fall under the umbrella of diversity. A crucial one is unawareness; luckily, this has a simple solution. One of the prompts my group was given was whether or not 'invisible' mental disorders such as depression or OCD could be used in everyday conversation colloquially as hyperboles. ("Oh, man, I am so depressed," a merely disappointed student might say.) Some in the group admitted to using such language, despite being unsure of whether it was appropriate. After some conversation, the group evolved, eventually reaching an agreement: though each such situation should be assessed individually, for the most part, we should avoid using such terms in everyday conversation. As a group, we were able to come to conclusions through discourse.

Because diversity plays such a large role in outlining the identity of our community, it only makes sense for us to spend time discussing it, albeit only for a day. As Anne Lamott said, "Remember that that every single thing that happens to you is yours, and you get to tell it." And since every one of our experiences in this community is influenced by our differences, the chance to speak candidly from our own perspective only honors each of the lives we lead.

Diversity Day, however, is merely an initial step. As Eben Cook '18 wrote in these pages last year, "Diversity Day can only be deemed a success if the conversations do not come to a close....Those additional discussions in informal environments are what will really make Diversity Day an overall success." I wholly agree — if Diversity Day is successful in getting these conversations started, our remaining task is simply to continue them.

My hope is that we dispel the negativity surrounding Diversity Day, for I believe that this year's event did, indeed, push us forward in understanding one another. It certainly is a privilege to have the chance to critique our differences so openly and frankly. 'Diverse' is undeniably a fitting adjective for this community. However, if we all scrutinize the true intention behind Diversity Day, it would become abundantly clear that less than diverse we are, in fact, one — a supportive, cohesive community.

Derek Ng *is a fourth former from Fort Lee, NJ. He may be reached at dng20@choate.edu*

Anti-Drug Speaker Criticizes Zero Tolerance — And He's Right.

By **The Popular Front**
Opinions Writers

During a recent school meeting, psychologist and motivational speaker Dr. Matt Bellace addressed our community, encouraging students to find "natural highs" that take the edge off of life in a healthier and more sustainable way than drugs ever could. He relayed his personal history, including a poignant account of his brother's substance abuse, and moved the whole crowd to laughter with the best crowd involvement Choate has seen since the ever-popular hypnotist last fall.

We greatly appreciate the administration expending resources in an effort to improve the quality of student life on campus. We agree with Dr. Bellace's encouragement to lead a healthier, more positive lifestyle. We recognize the dangers of substance abuse, and we believe that finding healthy outlets to relieve stress, such as laughter and socialization, is critical to a student's ability to have a fulfilling Choate experience. Dr. Bellace was funny, engaging, and moving, and his presentation was well received by the student body.

For decades, Choate has enforced a one-strike drug policy — a single dalliance with an illegal substance and you're out. The truth of the matter is that such zero-tolerance policies don't keep kids safe or off drugs. As many in Dr. Bellace's position know, research long ago indicated that the best way to reduce drug dependency is to reduce — surprise! — the impact of risk factors for substance abuse. These include, perhaps most prominently, harmful social and family situations.

A 1992 study published in Psychological Bulletin, a journal of the American Psychological Association, suggested that, while the simple banning of drugs will not reduce their abuse, drug (and alcohol) use can likely be decreased if adults help teenagers build strong relationships, improve academic achievement, and resist harmful social and cultural influences. This approach appeared likely to be most successful if problems in a student's behavior or family were also addressed. We cited a similar A.P.A. report, this one from 2008, in a policy document we presented to the administration last spring, outlining our arguments against zero tolerance.

Research also suggests that counseling can be an effective way to help kids who struggle with dependency. We believe Choate does a good job of recognizing the effectiveness of counseling programs, and are especially grateful for the work that it's done in working with students fighting substance abuse. But the time is now for Choate to consistently treat drug use as the mental health problem it is.

So, for the school to be serious in its efforts to reduce drug use and increase student safety, it must rewrite its policy. Programs like Peer Educators and professional counseling, in addition to further training of faculty advisers and prefects, will also help foster an environment in which drug use is solvable, and not a shocking taboo that rips apart our community. Choate will be improved by building a stronger foundation for our students, not by plucking away those who make a mistake. Surely our community will benefit from the experiences of students who, after making mistakes, receive treatment and return to share their stories of recovery.

The Popular Front *is a leaderless student collective comprised of seven members of the Class of 2018: Katherine Burgstahler, Noah Hermes de Boor, Palmer Hudson, Tristan Jamidar, Esteban Mogollon, Baji Tumendemderel, and Dani Zanuttini-Frank. It may be reached at popularfrontftp@gmail.com*

Corrections

Opinions Nation/World
An article published on December 15, 2017 by Kiki Kim '20 misidentified her contact information. Kim is a sophomore from San Francisco, CA. She can be reached at kkim20@choate.edu.

GREATER AWARENESS, ENTHUSIASM REQUIRED FOR A GREENER CAMPUS

By **Esther An '21**
Opinions Writer

Illustration by Austen Rogers

Environmental sustainability — to many, this phrase evokes thoughts of the three R's of sustainability: reduce, reuse, and recycle. To the Choate student, however, the general understanding of the subject exceeds these three words. It's no secret that our school cares about the environment, often focusing on teaching students more about the natural world. From the numerous detailed posters on how to properly recycle to the recycling and compost bins strategically located around campus, Choate's emphasis on sustainability is undeniable. This emphasis is sparked by incredible support from various student groups, including the Conservation Proctors (C-Proctors), Student Advocates for Environmentalism (SAFE), Environmental Action Coalition (EAC), and 350CRH. Everyone is encouraged to join these groups in order to raise awareness and take action both on campus and beyond.

From the very first moment we step foot onto campus, we are given the resources to support Choate's mission. On the student portal, students can find a section with documents dedicated to sustainability at Choate. On the move-in checklist, one of the earliest documents new students receive, a statement can be found regarding the importance of being green. As the mission states, our school seeks to incorporate sustainability "in all aspects of life." It seems only reasonable that this constant exposure and emphasis would encourage all students to develop a passion for environmental awareness.

There is a notable difference, however, in the dedication of select student groups compared to that of the rest of the student body. In a recent Eco Rep meeting, students were asked to give feedback on the effectiveness of facilitated dorm activities on environmental sustainability. In the past several weeks, the representatives produced and showed fun videos posing questions encouraging students to discuss their thoughts on environmental issues and the Recycling Challenge going on at the time. What came as a shock was the widespread agreement in the meeting: student reactions had mostly been apathetic.

Only a few students partook in active and engaged discussion when resources had been offered to them. Moreover, these discussions scarcely led to follow-up conversations or further inquiry on the subject. Some eco-reps stated that several of their friends had not even been aware of the recent school-wide Recycling Challenge. Others stated that the idea of receiving food as the prize for winning the challenge did not motivate their dorm-mates to put more of an effort into being mindful of how they organized their trash and recycling.

A potential reason for such a reaction could have been that students were simply too busy and stressed to be willing to discuss or work together on sustainability. The business of students' lives at Choate shouldn't be discounted. However, though the efforts of the environmental clubs and organizations on campus are valiant, Choate cannot truly tout itself as environmentally friendly if the remainder of the student body does not meet them halfway. In the busy schedules and lives of our students, perhaps a sliver of time in each day can be spent actively seeking out ways to help. Simply being conscious of the effect each one of us has in our communities and our world as a whole contributes to the cause.

The upcoming Green Cup, a challenge focusing on conserving energy in all areas on campus, will provide an opportunity for students to raise awareness and demonstrate excitement about our environment and the positive impact we can have on it. Choate consists of roughly 850 passionate, creative individuals; everyone's dedicated efforts will not only reach our goal to help our school and our world, but it will exceed it.

Esther An *is a third former from Los Angeles, CA. She may be reached at ean21@choate.edu*

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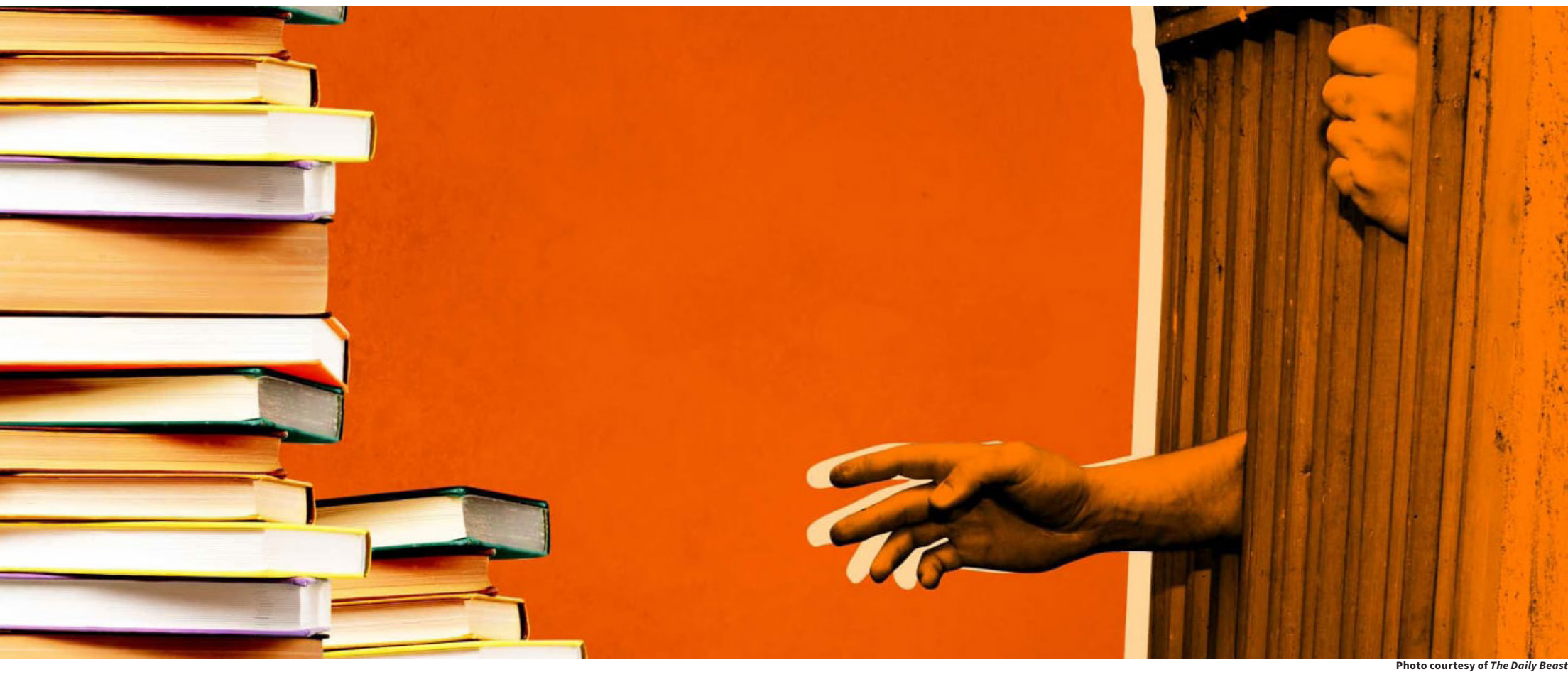

Photo courtesy of *The Daily Beast*

To reduce contraband, a New York prison pilot program bans books from certain vendors.

By **Camille Grant '21**
Opinions Writer

On January 9, books were "banned" from New York Prisons. Prisons have faced difficulty with contraband being smuggled into correctional facilities through packages, including inside books, so heavy restrictions were placed on how books can get to inmates. Under a pilot program aimed to curb the widespread contraband problem, inmates would be unable to receive care packages from unapproved vendors, even though there were only six approved vendors. While the package room contraband is a more than valid concern, as overdoses via smuggled drugs occur in New York prisons, keeping books from inmates is simply unacceptable. Even though prisoners still have access to libraries, the number of available books would be drastically decreased by this policy. To restrict convicted individuals from gaining new and used information truly desecrates the morals of the American correctional system.

The new program was met with harsh and warranted criticism from the American Civil Liberties Union, families of prisoners, and former inmates, to name a few. Four days after it was announced, Democratic Governor Andrew Cuomo tweeted the scrapping of the pilot program. But let's dismiss the fact that the program has been killed. Had it not been for the voices of concerned American citizens, it's more than likely that this detrimental program would still be implemented.

There were only six approved vendors and little reading selection between them. Together, those vendors sold only 77 different books. The majority were coloring and puzzle books, around a third were religious and how-to books, and lastly, one dictionary and a thesaurus. With these restrictions and a lack of selection, how should one have spent their sentence? A rotation of coloring books, romance novels, and the Bible cannot satisfy every inmate's complex needs.

Many inmates rely on outside shipments to obtain their reading material; New York's Books Through Bars program is a notable example of this. The volunteer-run program sends requested books to inmates for free. Some inmates don't have a source of income, and the average federal prisoner will only be able to take home 18 cents an hour. They are unable to afford expensive books, so they rely on the free ones. And if the pilot program had succeeded, they wouldn't be receiving any more donated books from organizations like Books Through Bars.

Why is it so critical that prisoners read? Black's Law Dictionary states that the purpose of correctional facilities is to keep the public safe from "dangerous individuals." According to the National Institute of Justice, 76.6% of released inmates from state prisons are rearrested within five years. If prisons are meant to maintain public safety, they clearly are failing to succeed; recidivism is rampant in America. Additionally, the United States has the highest rate of incarceration in the world. Our taxpayers will continue to pay for ineffective prisons if inmates are not properly rehabilitated. Preventing recidivism is crucial to the safety of our nation, and in this case, it cannot be achieved without letting the inmates read.

While there is some research supporting the link between reduced recidivism rates and prison education, there is little surrounding how reading in prisons impacts recidivism. Some anecdotal evidence suggests a positive trend, but the studies surrounding prison-run educational programs and recidivism only sing their praises. A study observed that New York prisoners who graduated with a college degree while in prison had a 22.2% reduction in recidivism compared to their peers who did not graduate. In Ohio, a 32% reduction in recidivism was observed in inmates who participated in college education programs. So while a general positive association between positive reading habits among prisoners and reduced recidivism rates is understood, it is unfortunately not currently supported by scientific evidence. The lack of research surrounding this issue contributes to the creation of ignorant and unjust programs like the one in New York.

Reading is instrumental in the process of education, and education is the key to rehabilitation. Though Cuomo was successful in cancelling this new policy, the opposition it faced doesn't guarantee that the government will not attempt similar programs in the future. There are similar programs around the nation that haven't garnered as much attention as this one, such as in Texas prisons, where ten thousand books are still banned. The reversal of the New York policy is a reminder to Americans that outrage and action, no matter how small, can still make a change.

Camille Grant is a third former from Oak Park, IL *She may be reached at cgrant21@choate.edu*

Despite Many Flaws, Fire and Fury Spurs Important Change

By **Kiki Kim '20**
Opinions Writer

On January 5, tens of thousands of copies of Fire and Fury rolled into bookstores, where they were quickly snatched up by eager customers. With paper, audio, and eBook copies combined, there have been over 400,000 books sold, with more than 1,000,000 on order. The cover, a reunion between a harsh font, bold colors, and an unflattering photo of President Donald Trump P'00 himself, is now known worldwide because of the shocking revelations the book holds. Behind the cover, author Michael Wolff paints a story of the White House in chaos.

Before the release of the book, planned for January 9, 2017, Wolff's publisher released several excerpts from the book — excerpts that painted Trump as praise-seeking and unstable — inciting excitement within the Democratic Party and retaliation from Trump and his lawyers. He and his legal representative sent a cease and desist letter to Wolff and his publishers, citing defamation and malice as grounds for libel. Unfortunately for Trump, this only fanned the flames, arousing accusations that he thinks himself above the First Amendment. With all eyes turned towards the discourse around this book, Wolff's publisher pushed the release date up to January 5 to capitalize on the excitement.

Once the book was released, major sources of media rushed to release reviews. For the most part, they portrayed the book as overdramatic and overreaching, searching for solid evidence where there is none –– in whole, not a good book. The contents of the book consisted of every scrap of information Wolff could find, much of it stemming from personal interviews, tidbits of gossip, and leaks from within the White House. Unfortunately for him, nearly all his sources are untraceable. One of the greatest contributors of information was Steve Bannon, Trump's former Chief Strategist, who is now a critic of Trump and his associates. His colorful language fills the book, dotting the pages with insults aimed at Trump, his family, and his mental state. Unsurprisingly, Trump responded to this on Twitter, dubbing Bannon "Sloppy Steve" in a sour echo from the days of "Crooked Hillary."

There is no doubt that the book itself has its faults. It draws from unreliable sources and blows information out of proportion and reads "almost like a comedy act," as observed by Rolling Stone magazine. At the same time, Wolff himself admits in the author's note that he intentionally loosened his definition of truth in a reflection of the propaganda Trump creates himself. However, every news source agrees that, amidst all the speculation, rumor, opinion, and word-of-mouth, there are bits of fact. The inside of the White House is a warped, chaotic reflection of its austere exterior, and the President of the United States is portrayed as a child. Furthermore, at this time, it is a moot point whether or not the book is good. It doesn't matter if it reads like a work of art or a gossip rag; what is more important is the conversation and reaction around it.

Fire and Fury may not be the tell-all authority on the truth, but it certainly does push people to find it.

The publication of Fire and Fury has Democrats on their feet, calling attention to the wrongness of the current political situation. A president who throws a tantrum when a book about him is published, going so far as to release an official White House statement by spokeswoman Sarah Sanders calling the book a "trashy tabloid fiction" and tweet that Wolff is "a total loser" shows emotional immaturity and instability. From seeing Bannon as a crucial member of his administration to calling him "Sloppy Steve," Trump shows inconsistency and weakness under pressure. His anger and over-reactive nature are slowly being revealed as the book continues to ship all over the country. As the inner workings of the White House are bared to the public, people are more and more incited to take action in this time of struggle. Fire and Fury may not be the tell-all authority on the truth, but it certainly does push people to find it.

Kiki Kim *is a fourth former from San Francisco, CA. She may be reached at kkim20@choate.edu*

Trump and Kim's Feud Endangers Americans and Global Stability

By **Audrey Powell '19**
Associate Editor

One of the jobs of the President of the United States is to maintain stable foreign relations with other nations across the globe. While this has not always been achieved due to widespread conflict and war, these exceptions do not diminish the essential presidential responsibility to communicate with other world leaders respectfully in order to keep Americans safe and prevent global conflict. However, since his inauguration, Donald Trump P'00 has abused his powerful platform by constantly threatening and insulting North Korea's supreme leader, Kim Jong-un.

While there have been numerous instances on Twitter in which Trump threatened, insulted, or baited Kim, there are two tweets in particular that portray Trump's instability and irresponsibility with regard to foreign relations. First, he called Kim "short and fat." While this may seem like a juvenile and relatively trivial insult, it is important to note that Kim's past consists of unreliability and rash decision making. Clearly, an unstable dictator is not the appropriate target for childish remarks – we cannot be sure of how he will react to those insults, so it is far too risky for Trump to be tweeting them. Additionally, Trump tweeted that he has a "much bigger and more powerful" nuclear button than Kim. This tweet is undeniably worse than the previous one because the president is practically challenging Kim to prove him wrong. Again, these statements would normally be taken as immature, juvenile comments in other scenarios. But, between two notoriously untrustworthy and temperamental world leaders, tweets such as this one are simply unacceptable. They cause widespread fear of retaliation and further inflate Trump's already massive ego.

This widespread fear of retaliation is also completely justified. Since the 1970s, North Korea has been developing and testing its nuclear missile program. Particularly over the past two years, Korea has conducted countless missile tests to evaluate their maximum distance capabilities; each time, they seem to be going farther and farther. Despite some failed tests and short-distance missiles, North Korea successfully tested an intercontinental ballistic missile, known as Hwasong-15, which is capable of reaching all of the continental U.S. Though their available quantity of these missiles is uncertain, the danger that a single intercontinental ballistic missile poses to millions of Americans, especially denser populations in large cities, is much too real and frightening for Trump to be making daring threats on Twitter.

However, Trump has not only been threatening Kim on Twitter, but he has also threatened him during interviews. For example, in August of 2017, he said that "North Korea best not make any more threats to the United States. They will be met with fire and fury like the world has never seen." Though one might claim that he was just defending Americans, he really intended to poke fun at Mr. Kim and continue their feud. Ultimately, his phrasing earned him massive amounts of controversy because of how dangerous they are to our rocky relationship with North Korea. "Fire and fury like the world has never seen" implies that the U.S. would use new, extremely violent tactics to retaliate against Korea, which is particularly scary considering the horrific acts of war we have already seen. While this is most likely a relatively empty threat, as the "leader of the free world," Trump's words carry power and influence. These comments abuse that power and degrade the legitimacy of the presidency.

Photo courtesy of *The Chicago Tribune*

Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un have engaged in an increasingly threatening feud.

If Trump continues this pattern of childish competitiveness and egotism, he may severely endanger the American people. This behavior has no place on the presidential Twitter or during interviews, especially when dealing with North Korea. His use of this language further illustrates his dire lack of political experience and understanding. To preserve international relations and keep American citizens from harm, Trump must discontinue his use of immature, threatening rhetoric toward Kim and other world leaders.

Audrey Powell *is a fifth former from Bronxville, NY. She may be reached at apowell19@choate.edu*

DR. TRAVIS FELDMAN KICKSTARTS INNOVATION

By **Michelle Zhuang '18**
Staff Reporter

Have an idea, but no funds to see it through? Use Kickstarter to bring it to life! Since 2009, the popular crowdfunding base has funded 137,740 fabulous, quirky, and sometimes downright weird inventions. Among these funded inventions, three of them belong to Choate's very own i.d. Lab Director and English teacher, Dr. Travis Feldman: Molecule Synth, Pijin, and the Battery Powered Orchestra Workshop (BPOW).

Even before venturing to Kickstarter, Dr. Feldman has pursued electronics and DIY design for years. He explained, "Circuits and music-oriented electronics have always interested me. In 2011, I rented a MakerSpace in Portland, Oregon and began making my own guitar pedals, microphones, and electronic musical instruments. I was giving them away to people and they liked them."

The inspiration to create Molecule Synth, a system allowing users to create their own musical instruments, came to Dr. Feldman a year later. He said, "In February of 2012, I had the idea to create a modular system that you could make your own musical instruments with — sort of like Lego. I decided to use the periodic table as a metaphor for sound design, and since I really love board games like Settlers of Catan, I wanted the form factor of it to be on the tabletop." The decision to create a flat design opposed to a more traditional one was also motivated by user-friendliness. According to Feldman, "Modular synthesizers have been here since the 1960s, and they are very overwhelming with how abstract and complicated they looked. I wanted to do something more fun like a board game that had the power of the modular synthesizers. So I laser cut hexagons and started tinkering with how they could fit together."

Four months later, Dr. Feldman finished the prototype of his project. However, he didn't think of marketing it through Kickstarter until a conference his MakerSpace held in June of 2012. The enthusiasm he received for Molecule Synth inspired him to crowdfund his creation. "I had dozens, even hundreds, of people check out the project and they all reacted positively. That was my first test with people who didn't know me or what I'd been doing. So I stepped away, took a trip with my family, cleared my head a little bit. By the time I came back, I had made my decision," Dr. Feldman said.

Photo courtesy of Kickstarter

Dr. Feldman's word game Pijin, which he described as "Scrabble for phonemes," was crowdfunded in 2014.

Kickstarter requires a video and a three-to-five-page description for every project, so Dr. Feldman began working immediately on both elements after returning from his vacation. He said, "Creating the video came across as inspiration, like the muse was being channeled. I just went to my favorite places and described the instrument and set up the camera on my kitchen and drew images of what the Molecule Synth was. It took me two days to create that."

The written description, however, was a bit more challenging. "You have to answer, what is this, who's it for, and what it does," Dr. Feldman explained. "For the write-up of my Kickstarter, I thought hard for a few days on who would use it and how would they use it. My tagline was 'An electronic musical instrument for everyone.' I also had to map out how to move a hobby of mine into production. Part of the narrative is the creator describing how the project can be made and shared with everyone. That was a learning experience — I'm an English professor. I didn't know how I could bring my project to scale."

Though Dr. Feldman initially faced challenges in presenting Molecule Synth, his efforts paid off. Starting with a $15,000 goal, Dr. Feldman raised $33,672 from 240 different backers in just one month. Molecule Synth was featured as Kickstarter's Project of the Day on August 28, 2012, received hundreds of thousands of views, and was featured on several news organizations and radio stations.

In February 2014, Dr. Feldman began raising funds for his second Kickstarter project, Pijin, which he described as "Scrabble for phonemes." Unlike Scrabble, which requires the player to spell words in their traditional usage, Pijin requires players to spell only what they hear as a word is pronounced. The title of the project, Pijin, adheres to its own rules: it's a phonetic spelling of the word "pigeon."

Pijin's website, *pijin.org*, explains much of the philosophy that contributed to the phonetic word game. The website states, "As children acquire language, learn, and gather up their vivid sensations of life into pliant, overflowing expressions, they demonstrate incredible powers of language invention and imagination. And yet, this too soon gets tangled up and children find their creativity drying up... The distance between the written word and the spoken word grows as we get older." With its focus on the subjective and consensus-based sounds of each word, Pijin is an attempt to reduce that distance.

This project held new challenges. Consisting of 144 small letter tiles, 52 Action Cards, 6 Player's Mats, and one Player's Manual held within a Pijin Grab-Bag, each Pijin package offered the unique difficulty of creating, shipping, and selling a new type of board game. Dr. Feldman had to coordinate the graphic design of each game, contact a company in India to make the cards, and find plastic bags that matched the size of the cards.

However, Dr. Feldman also noted the similarities between Pijin and Molecule Synth. "Whether it's a synthesizer or a game, one of the fun things is figuring this stuff out. The fun part of Pijin was getting the boxes of tiles laser cut in China. For both projects, calling all your friends over and putting the kits together is also fun," Dr. Feldman said.

Pijin, like Molecule Synth, was met with success. Its $15,000 goal was exceeded — receiving $17,233 from 205 different backers in one month — and it was featured as the Kickstarter Project of the Day on March 11, 2014.

Although most people think of Kickstarter projects as physical items, Kickstarters can also be events. Such was the case for BPOW, a weekend event based around new media and DIY electronics. Taking place on August 10 and 11, 2014, BPOW was the First Annual Interactive Electronic Arts Festival to take place in Portland, Oregon. It resulted as a collaboration between Dr. Feldman, Edward Sharp, and Androo Meyers, and featured workshops ranging from Squishy Circuits to Analog Modular systems. According to Dr. Feldman, "It was a ton of fun — we got an international response and had people from Copenhagen to Australia attend." Of the project's $1,000 goal, 44 backers contributed $1,375.

Unfortunately, Dr. Feldman isn't selling his projects through Kickstarter anymore: BPOW's Kickstarter was dedicated to raising money for the two-day event, and the one-month fundraising time of Molecule Synth and Pijin has long passed. However, Molecule Synth is still available at a hardware purchasing site called Tindie. In fact, Dr. Feldman sold his last one to Tony Hawk. Dr. Feldman explained, "He bought it for his son Riley. I'm a skater and have been since I was a kid, so it was especially exciting. He even sent me a photo of Riley opening it up at Christmas." Make sure to check out Dr. Feldman's great inventions and be on the lookout for some new, creative ideas in the future.

Michelle Zhuang *may be reached at mzhuang18@choate.edu*

Archivist Judy Donald Interviewed for JFK Documentary

Photo courtesy of American Public Television

The 2017 documentary *This Is The House That Jack Built* highlights the untold stories of John F. Kennedy.

By **Elizabeth Quinn '20**
Staff Reporter

The University of Virginia's Center for Politics recently released a documentary on President John F. Kennedy '35 entitled *This Is The House That Jack Built*. The production team for this documentary sought to uncover "untold stories" about JFK 100 years after his birth and more than 50 after his assassination. Larry Sabato, a professor at UVA, the author of The Kennedy Half Century, and a household name for those concerned with policy and government, narrates the all-too-short life story of the 35th president of the United States, and Choate's own archivist Ms. Judy Donald made the cut for the documentary.

Before the 2017 release of the documentary, Ms. Donald was contacted by Sabato's production team, who wished to come up to the campus of Choate Rosemary Hall and take a few photos of key buildings, such as East Cottage, Archbold, the Chapel, and the exteriors of West Wing and Hill House; however, the only glimpse of our campus that ended up making the documentary was an outside shot of the Hill House steps. The production team also spent time interviewing Ms. Donald during the day and a half that they were on campus. Ms. Donald was set up in the John F. Kennedy Collection in the basement of the library, where all afternoon was spent interviewing. The team urged Ms. Donald to dig deep and think of some little-known stories about Kennedy's four years spent at Choate. Ms. Donald admitted that this was a "little hard to come up with after all this time –– something that hasn't been said before."

Ms. Donald focused on Kennedy's lasting legacy to this school, the John F. Kennedy Program in Government and Public Affairs. Kennedy inspired this program when he came back to campus for the school's 50th anniversary and he made a speech touching on how Choate should have a program to get young men interested in the government and public service. Instead of this detail ending up in the hour-long documentary, snippets about Kennedy's life at school as a student and how he was a bit of a prankster were featured. Also included was Ms. Donald mentioning how John F. Kennedy was following in the footsteps of his older brother Joseph P. Kennedy Jr., who was a natural athlete and whom Jack couldn't physically measure up to. JFK's teachers acknowledged that he had the capacity to be a bright student, but he just didn't apply himself enough. With regards to how the overall interviewing process was like, Ms. Donald says that it was lengthy; the production team spent nearly half a day alone interviewing her, but only around two minutes ended up being featured in the final product. Since they were working in the basement of the library, they had to deal with the constant occurrence of overhead foot traffic in the upstairs library reading room, which only made the overall interviewing process more time-consuming.

The trailer for *This Is The House That Jack Built* is already out, and the full hour-long documentary will be aired in Connecticut on Monday, January 22nd at 9:00 pm. The name *This Is The House That Jack Built* came from Jack's and Joe's summer spent on a ranch in Arizona, where they mended fences, herded cattle, and built a house for the owner of the ranch. Jack named this house "The House That Jack Built," because he was the one who ended up doing most of the work on it.

Even long after his death, Kennedy's legacy lives on all across the United States, and most specifically at Choate. He is one of our most famous alumni, with his legacy seen through the John F. Kennedy Program in Government and Public Affairs and beyond.

Elizabeth Quinn *may be reached at lquinn20@choate.edu*

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS SPARK COMMUNITY REFLECTION

From fewer video games to writing more, students share their 2018 goals

By **Riley Choi '18**
Staff Reporter

"Three! Two! One! Happy New Year!" Every year the chant is the same, ushering in a period of new beginnings and renewed resolutions. You might have been at the scene of the ball drop, watched the live television shows at home, enjoyed late-night snacks with your family, or were sleeping when the new year came. When the second hand turned from 11:59:59 to 12 A.M., members of the Choate Rosemary Hall community started to work on accomplishing their New Year's resolutions, hoping to attain their goals and to better perform this year than last year.

Amy Hagan-Brown '18, a four-year student from Kazakhstan, celebrated 2018 by dedicating herself to her resolutions. She explained, "This year, I have written down my goals, whereas in the previous years I only verbally said some vague, unattainable goals like writing essays and plays every week. I plan to read more books and to write 15 minutes every day. "

This year, I want to work on being more patient, nicer, and understanding towards the people around me.

Nil Gulal '20

By recording her resolutions, Hagan-Brown has found it easier to stick to them: "So far, the writing has been going well, and I am looking for specific prompts so that the writing exercise doesn't end up simply being a diary. I am working on implementing meditation, like the breathing exercise we did during the school meeting, in my life as well."

Kwan Sirisakunngam '18, a postgraduate currently enjoying her first year at Choate, has a resolution with a more academic origin: enhancing her own knowledge of Korean language and culture. Sirisakunngam explained, "My goal is to learn more Korean this year for two reasons. First, I enjoy watching K-Pop videos, and I want to practice watching them without subtitles to understand what the song says. Second, my close friends in the archery team are from Korea, so I want to learn Korean to understand more about their culture and their language."

Unlike others, PJ Sethbhakdi '19 has not created a new set of resolutions at all; instead, he has decided to continue his goals from 2017. He said, "My first goal is to not procrastinate. At Choate when I get assignments, I am the type of person who waits until the last day to complete them. This habit is bad for both producing good academic work and having a solid work ethic, so I hope to get rid of it. The second goal is to listen to my parents more. Because my home is far away, I do not communicate as frequently with my parents and have gotten more distanced from them. I want to connect to them more this year and take their helpful advice."

In the same vein of self-improvement, Nil Gulal '20 hopes to improve her relationships with friends. Gulal said, "Here at Choate, I am surrounded by my friends who are caring, nice, and empathetic. I am inspired by their positive attitude and cheerful spirit. This year, I want to work on being more patient, nicer, and more understanding towards the people around me, like my friends."

Abraham Goodman '20 has a much more focused New Year's resolution: optimizing his video game experience. He said, "I enjoy practicing a speedrun of video games, which is completing games as fast as possible. It is a hobby that I enjoy and use to relieve stress. My goal this year is to play a speedrun of more video games to improve my skills and to enjoy more of my favorite hobby."

While many Choate students enjoy making resolutions at the start of the new year, there are also others who avoid the tradition. Luis Romero '20, for instance, believes that the beginning of a new year warrants routine, not special resolutions.

He questioned, "Why should the New Year's Day be special from every other day? For me, the New Year's Day is just another ordinary day. I don't try to change my lifestyle because that is who I am, and I kind of give up improving by setting up resolutions for myself."

For me, New Year's Day is just another ordinary day. I don't try to change my lifestyle because that is who I am.

Luis Romero '20

Xavier Shattuck '21 described, "Generally, New Year's resolutions aren't pleasant because they aren't something that I want to do and tend to be things that I don't normally do. Either I will not follow through with the resolutions, or I will be displeased with myself because I have less fun by following through them."

Moe Janneh '18, a four-year senior, agreed, "I don't have New Year's resolutions because I don't celebrate the New Year's Day. I figured that if I want to continue improving myself as a person, I should just do what I want to do continuously, instead of setting a specific date to start improving."

Riley Choi *may be reached at schoi18@choate.edu*

A WAVE OF BLACK FLOODS GOLDEN GLOBES

Photo coutesy of Getty Images

The all-black dress code that stars adopted for the Golden Globes was as a sign of solidarity with abuse victims through the Time's Up initiative.

By **Abigail Chang '19**
Associate Editor

The 75th Annual Golden Globes were the first Sunday of January. It was the biggest gathering of the Hollywood establishment since both the accusations against Harvey Weinstein and the #MeToo movement, which started in 2006, gained increased notoriety a few months ago. One of the most memorable parts of the evening was the fashion on the red carpet. Actresses and actors decided to dress in black to show solidarity with victims of sexual misconduct. Just as suffragettes and feminists before them, the women and men of the Golden Globes used fashion to propel the recent anti-harassment movements in Hollywood.

The Time's Up campaign did most of the organizing behind the red carpet blackout. Time's Up is a campaign against sexual harassment and inequality that focuses mostly on legal aspects of the movement, but it is also about raising awareness. It is a part of the broader #MeToo movement. Time's Up not only coordinated the actors black attire, but also made a Time's Up button. This small black and white pin was designed by Adrianne Phillip, Reese Witherspoon's costume designer and stylist. The buttons carried the organization's name and were meant to be worn like the blue ACLU ribbons at the Oscars last year. These pins were a way to signal support and solidarity with the movement.

Talking about sexual harassment is scary and hard, but talking about clothes isn't, and that is what has made fashion such a powerful political tactic.

All throughout the evening people discussed why they wore black or wore these pins. Reese Witherspoon, who has been a leader in the Time's Up movement, put it beautifully when she told the *New York Times*, "We have been siloed off from each other. We're finally hearing each other, and seeing each other, and now locking arms in solidarity with each other, and in solidarity for every woman who doesn't feel seen, to be finally heard." Actress Connie Britton told CNN her vision for the movement, "What we really need to do now is get to the grassroots and get to everyday women who have been dealing with these issues and have to sit alone with it and don't have the resources to empower themselves. For me, my hope is that we really get to a place with this movement where it's not just about Hollywood."

There was some criticism regarding the choice to dress in black to make a statement. A main point of criticism was around the passiveness of using fashion as a form of activism. The problem of sexual harassment has been perpetuated by silence, so some people took issue with using a silent form of protest because it seemed too consistent with the cultural mandate for women to be quiet and passive. The choice of the color black was also a point of controversy. Some said that black seems sad, which is unfitting for a time that should be empowering and motivating. Another point of controversy was that most men already wear black, so some thought it might not be appropriate as a lot of this movement is about female independence, not doing as the men do.

Though it was not without its criticism, the majority of people have had very positive reactions to this fashion movement. Fashion is one of the greatest tools for social change. In movements from suffrage to civil rights to gay rights, fashion is not only a tool that conveys powerful and deep messages effectively but is also accessible and inclusive. We see this again with the Golden Globes this year.

Wearing black at the Golden Globes has widely been seen as a success because it has drawn attention to the issue of sexual harassment in a way more people feel they can understand. Talking about sexual harassment is scary and hard, but talking about clothes isn't, and that is what has made fashion such a powerful political tactic. Clothes at the Golden Globes this year has had a huge cultural effect both in terms of the way we think about sexual harassment and the #MeToo movement and how much we think about them.

Abigail Chang *may be reached at achang19@choate.edu*

Fringe Festival Prepares for February

By **Tony Lee '21**
Staff Reporter

With the turn of the year approaching, student playwrights, directors, and actors gather in the PMAC to prepare for the 2018 Fringe Festival performances. Fringe Festival consists of slam poetry, music, and plays produced and performed by theater-passionate Choaties. The Fringe Festival performances will be shown on February 8th and 9th. Auditions for acting roles in the plays took place during the first days of the winter term.

"We held two nights of open auditions. Kids came and read monologues for all of the directors, any writers who were free, and me, and then we sat together and the directors put the actors into roles," said Ms. Doak, head of the Fringe Festival productions. "We tried to make sure each actor was in two plays so that they have enough of a part to give them something to do all term. That's the process each year."

There will be five student-written and directed plays for the 2018 Fringe Festival: *YAWEH*, *Princess Club, Enlightenment, Everything Will Be Alright,* and *The Last Burrito*. Each play is different in its topic, theme, and tone.

"Enlightenment shows how difficult it can be to relax, especially when someone is snoring," said Kate Newhouse '18 . "*The Last Burrito* is about a group of scavengers facing the apocalypse," Austen Rogers '18 said of her play.

"Writers do not participate in Fringe as an after school activity, so they are not required to come to rehearsals. But writers may always come to rehearsals if they would like," said Newhouse. "Shows have one-hour long rehearsals about twice a week. However, every actor is in more than one show and will go to rehearsal as many times as the plays they are in are called."

Participating in the Fringe Festival requires time commitment in the afternoons and weekly rehearsals. Writers, directors, and actors dedicate varying amounts of time towards rehearsals and production, ranging from occasional visits to rehearsals to even spending extra time outside of the regular afternoon activity block.

"My time commitment as a director is two hours of rehearsal per week and one hour of production meeting per week, but I also spend a fair amount of time outside of formal rehearsals prepping for rehearsals," Rogers said. "When it gets closer to the performance, I will spend more time producing the set and costumes for my play. Some of our actors also spend time outside of rehearsals preparing songs, monologues, or slam poetry to perform at the Fringe."

When actors are familiar with each other and trust each other, that translates on stage.

Austen Rogers '18

"At this point in the process, the focus is really on the writers and their work to shape their pieces towards the production with their directors. The Fringe doesn't go up until February, so we are sort of in a lull period now, as we start up rehearsals," Ms. Doak said. "We've had one group read through all the plays, and each cast has had one rehearsal. In a month or so, the directors will have a stronger sense of their process and would love to get the school looking towards their productions."

Rogers added, "Although we've just begun our rehearsals, they have definitely been productive. For my play we've been working on building a sense of team, because that's something I think is really important for a group of actors." She continued, "When actors are familiar with each other and trust each other, that translates on stage."

Tony Lee *may be reached at tlee21@choate.edu*

ABI CRISTO INSPIRES COMMUNITY WITH MUSIC AND WORSHIP

By **Inc Thongthai '19**
Staff Writer

The plethora of arts related opportunities on campus can occasionally blind students to the many skilled artists that live and work nearby. Wallingford itself is rich with individuals who brighten this small town with their artistic talent. One of these individuals is Connecticut native Abi Cristo.

Cristo is a music teacher, church worship leader, and a singer. When asked how long she has been singing for, she joked, "How long have I been singing in general? A very long time." She continued, "Professionally, I have done it for five years." That is also how long she has been contributing to her local church, her commitment to which has never wavered, even with the addition of her professional singing responsibilities. Cristo's relationship with her church has grown such that she is now the leader of the worship team.

Cristo has managed to meld her passions for singing and religion. Instead of reciting the Bible, she uses her singing to touch individuals and unify different cultures. She described how this came to be, saying, "I was doing rounds of different places and different churches. At the time I needed a little help, and there was an opening at Grace Family Church. So I started doing it one Sunday a month. It slowly became my home, and now I am here more often."

In addition to Cristo's role at church, she often sings at open-mics and coffee houses. At those venues, she uses music to express herself both as an artist and an individual. She said, "When I play at coffee houses, I usually do my own self-composed music. I think that is more revealing, because it's an experiment. I get much more scared when I do that." She added, "There is such a wide range of feelings that I experience when I play music. There is always an element of terror, but once I start, I just enjoy it. There is just an atmosphere that comes when you are doing music and doing what you love." She explained how it felt to sing for loved ones, saying, "I feel like I am giving them something and they are reciprocating it."

Abi Cristo finds inspiration

I think it's important to know when you are creating for an audience it is going to limit you, but if you create for yourself and what speaks to you, that sincerity really comes through.

Abi Cristo

in the smallest things. She said, "The day-to-day stuff really inspires me. There is usually just a thought or a phrase that sticks in my head, and I would mull over that. It could be something my husband says or something I see. For me, inspiration comes from everywhere and anywhere." However, she struggles to find the balance between appealing to the general public and simply playing music that speaks to her. Cristo says, "Whenever I play music to my guitar teacher, I always ask 'Do you like it?' He always answers me with 'Well, do you like it?'" She added, "I think it's important to know when you are creating for an audience it is going to limit you, but if you create for yourself and what speaks to you, that sincerity really comes through."

Abi Cristo uses her skills to give back to the Wallingford community. Her talent, passion, and personality magnify her influence on the artistic world.

Inc Thongthai *may be reached at pthongthai19@choate.edu.*

ART ABOUNDS AT THE SPANISH COMMUNITY OF WALLINGFORD

Photo courtesy of The Spanish Community of Wallingford

The Spanish Community of Wallingford (SCOW) offers numerous musical opportunities, including a mariachi academy.

By **Jeanne Malle '19**
Associate Editor

The Spanish Community of Wallingford (SCOW) introduced their first music program in 2008, not only inspiring Hispanic and Latino children of Wallingford to discover the world of music, but also bringing a whole new art community to town. Established 42 years ago, SCOW originally provided social services such as immigration aid and tax assistance. However, in the last ten years, educational services have been added, along with a music school and a mariachi academy.

Evangeline Mendoza Bourgeois, a Mexican-American woman born and raised in a Mexican community in Arizona, founded and now directs SCOW's music program She explained, "I did start with two students downtown in a storefront, which was given to me for 18 months, rent free. This was in 2008." She continued, "After eighteen months, I had 25 students, and we were able to move to our present agency. We were invited to do that, because it was just a private school and it had nothing to do with SCOW." Before becoming a teacher, Bourgeois earned a Bachelor's degree in piano and a Master's in harpsichord, making classical music the best field for her to teach.

Bourgeois explained, "Eight years ago, the mariachi academy was housed in the same agency, but it grew so fast that in no time we had fifty students, which was more than could be handled by our agency. The academy was at SCOW, but as I said, I'm a classical music teacher, not a mariachi. When my kids got to the point when they were performing, I thought they really needed to have professional mariachis teach them the intricacies and the subtleties of the art. We therefore had some professional mariachis move here from Las Vegas. I taught the students violin, trumpet, and guitar. Also vihuela and guitarrón, because I learned how to play those instruments specifically for the school. However, once they got to a certain level, I really couldn't take them beyond, and that's when I needed someone here who knew what to do with it."

Choate Rosemary Hall and the SCOW Music School have been allies since the very beginning of the academy. In its earliest stages, it was aided by two musically talented student volunteers and grew into the program that Choate knows as "Teach Music," in which students help children from SCOW improve their instrumental skills. Bourgeois explained, "knowing Mr. Ventre for many years, I asked him if it was possible to have student volunteers come and help, and he was very willing and eager to help us out. He found two violin students from the orchestra who would come down every week through the winter. They'd walk down there through the ice and work with my students on violin. The students from Choate kept on volunteering, and several years later, one of the young women at Choate named Christine Liu decided that it should have a formal name. She decided on 'Teach Music'. She immediately got about twenty volunteers to go down there every week."

The program continued to grow, transporting students to the SCOW building. However, due to recent flooding incidents, the building that they were using became uninhabitable. This fortunately did not mark the end of the Choate-SCOW alliance. "We began bringing the kids to Choate, and it's worked out much, much better for everybody," says Bourgeois, explaining the new system that they've established. With Choate's help, SCOW's independent success and the Wallingford population's numerous donations of instruments, students from the Spanish community can learn classical music, often arranged by Bourgeois. Furthermore, the school requires each student to learn to sing, leading to fantastic concerts throughout the year, which are often hosted by town organizations. The children have even performed on campus, an event that was especially memorable for Choate students, who were able to witness the work that they had helped to produce.

Jeanne Malle *may be reached at jmalle19@choate.edu.*

The Choate News

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SPORTS

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FIELD REPORT

Saturday Games

Archery (2-0)
beats Algonquin, 209.2-184.1

Boys' **Basktetball** (10-0)
beats Exeter, 61-50

Girls' **Basketball** (9-2)
beats Deerfield,

Boys' **Hockey** (2-9)
beats Taft, 3-2

Girls' **Hockey** (2-6-1)
falls to Taft, 1-5

Boys' **Squash** (4-6)
2nd of 3

Girls' **Squash** (4-2)
2nd of 3

Boys' **Swimming** (2-2)
beats NMH, 88-65

Girls' **Swimming** (4-1)
1st of 3

Wednesday Games

Wrestling (3-3)
falls to Suffield, 30-42

Boys' **Basktetball** (10-0)
beats Westy,

Boys' **Hockey** (2-9)
falls to Berkshire, 1-3

Girls' **Hockey** (2-6-1)
ties Deerfield, 2-2

Boys' **Swimming** (2-2)
beats Avon, 91-85

Girls' **Swimming** (4-1)
beats Porter's, 90-87

Holiday Tournament Results: How Did Choate Fare?

By **Dan Brockett '19**
Associate Editor

The week before we left for winter break, Boys' Varsity Hockey, Boys' Varsity Basketball, Girls' Varsity Basketball, and Girls' Varsity Hockey were away at tournaments across New England. There are a lot of challenges to traveling to a tournament with classes still meeting the following week, which was different from past years. It is a problem because many of the athletes have homework and tests to make up when they return the following week; however, it is also an opportunity for the players on the teams to get to hang out together outside of practice and games. The tournaments also help showcase how the teams have performed to this point in the season.

Photo courtesy of Anne Stewart

Defenseman Kyle Sanborn '19 and goaltender Jackson Elkins '18 follow a puck out of the zone.

Boys' Varsity Hockey

The boys played in Lawrenceville Tournament, which is one of the oldest tournaments in the nation, as it has been around for more than 60 years, so going to the tournament is a big tradition for the team. This time around the team didn't do as well as they hoped.

Coach Pat Dennehy said, "We battled hard in this tournament, and even though we outshot all of our opponents in the four games we played we only were able to post an 0-3-1 record." The team played well, but they just didn't get the lucky bounces; however, their losses all came against solid competition. They played Upper Canada College, Belmont Hill, and Northfield Mount Hermon.

Zach Vandale '21, Anish Deena '19, and John Russo '20 played particularly well in the tournament. When asked about the play of the young players, Sasha Tertyshny '18 said, "Whenever they got a shot they made the most of it, and it really gave the team a boost. It's nice to see, especially with the amount of work they put in on a daily basis."

Going forward, the team hopes the get some better bounces and avoid the mental lapses they suffered in the tournament. The team still has big games left this season against Deerfield, Andover, and Avon Old Farms. Last week, it grabbed a big league win against Taft.

Boys' Varsity Basketball

The team traveled to the Sea Coast Holiday Classic up at Tabor in a nice groove, going in undefeated. The boys have yet to lose a game, as they went 3-0 defeating Brunswick, Phillips Academy, and Tabor. Jayden Nixon '18 played very well in the tournament, despite the fact that he was fighting the flu. Caden Dumas '18 and Jaylen "Juice" Sandifer '18 also turned in outstanding performances.

The team has been superb this season as the players have been able to win the close games and looked dominant in others. One of the highlights of the tournament was the boys's 28-point victory over Brunswick. With over a three-hour drive to the tournament, the team had a great opportunity to grow closer over the course of the tournament.

When asked about the experience of playing in a tournament, Elliot Sawyer-Kaplan '18 said, "It's a great chance for us to get away from school as a team for a bit and play against some good competition." The boys hope to maintain their undefeated record by winning big, upcoming games against Loomis, Deerfield, and Suffield.

Girls' Varsity Hockey:

The girls have had a rough start to the year, but fared alright in the Taft Invitational, playing to a 1-2 record. When asked about why they play in the Taft Invitational, Coach Nicole Stock said, "It is a great exposure piece for the girls. College coaches attend to watch all of the teams play and evaluate talent. There are also good teams that play in the tournament and give us good competition."

The girls lost to two strong teams in Tabor Academy and Kent, but they beat a talented Hotchkiss team in a close game. The team gave a really good effort overall. Kaleah Haddock '19 and Liza Diffley '19 played particularly well in the tournament. This is a young team, so they should expect to continue to grow as the season goes on. The girls have tough games against Deerfield and Berkshire to look forward to, but welcome the challenge with open arms.

Girls' Varsity Basketball

The girls played in the New England Basketball Classic at Deerfield Academy, which they have been going to for years. It was their first chance to play for a championship this season, so the girls were excited and ready to go. Their excitement showed as they won the first two games of the tournament, defeating St. Paul's by ten points and rivals Deerfield by 23. As usual, there were big contributions from Jocelyn Polansky '19, Sam Gallo '19, and Jordan Obi '20.

The girls have been good on the season so far jumping out to a 7-2 record. The girls suffered their first loss of the tournament at the hands of Pomfret, but that didn't appear to dim the girls' enthusiasm. The loss can mostly be attributed to the hot shooting by Pomfret, whose players couldn't seem to miss.

Gallo said about the tournament, "We see this as a great way for the team to bond. We get extra games in and get to compete for a championship." The team has been playing great basketball this season, and it looks to continue that in big games against Loomis and Exeter.

Overall, the holiday tournaments have proved to be a great way for the teams to evaluate their progress so far. For Choate teams that didn't fare as well as they would have liked to, there is still time left in their respective seasons. For those who did, there is plenty to look forward to going into the back stretch of the season.

Dan Brockett *may be reached at dbrockett19@choate.edu*

SWEEP DREAMS: THE JOYS AND SORROWS OF BROOM HOCKEY

By **Joseph Coyne '19**
Associate Editor

Highlighted by its competitive games and electric atmosphere, the puck dropped on the 2018 Choate Broom Hockey Tournament on Friday, January 12. The tournament is an annual tradition, played for more than twenty years at Choate, open to any team of five who wants to join.

This year, there were teams from all grades, including one all girls team and one majority girls team. Ms. Alex Long, Assistant Director of Student Activities and the woman in charge of the Tournament, did say she was hoping for an even larger turnout in the coming weeks.

For many, broom hockey, or broomball as it is often called, was a foreign concept before they came to Choate, but the game is fairly simple. At Choate, the game is played five-on-five across the rink. Players compete in their shoes, causing a lot of slipping. Also, the "brooms" are lacrosse sticks with hard plastic wedge-shaped pieces on the end, the official broom hockey sticks used globally. To score, players must hit the ball into the net with their "brooms." After eight minutes, whoever has more goals wins. Because of these aspects, it is really similar to hockey in only two ways: there are two goals and the game is played on ice.

While the game play has changed a lot over the years, the fun atmosphere and inclusive environment has always existed. Played by studnets from all walks of life, Mr. Jim Yanelli, Director of Student Activities, has always loved broom hockey for its comprehensive representation. A great opportunity for students to do something fun with their friends is what draws so many people to it, and that is what keeps the tournament going.

Will Flamm '21, who is on an all freshman team this year, said, "We had nothing better to do than to come try it out and probably get wrecked by the older teams. We just thought it would be really fun."

Kailey Marotollo '19 and Julia Mackenzie '19 also referenced the great atmosphere when explaining what drew them to the tournament for the first time. Marotollo said, "We thought it would be a great opportunity to have some fun out on the ice, with our shoes on." MacKenzie seconded that, saying, "I don't get to be on the ice much, so I take any chance I can get." Ms. Long said her favorite part of it was that "so many people come out for it even to just watch and cheer. This is always so busy and so much fun."

Another fun aspect of the game is that students are allowed to choose their own team names, which opens the door for a lot of hilarious choices. Some favorites this year were "The Pucked Ups" and "NHL Rejects."

While Round One is already over, Round Two is only two weeks away, giving another opportunity for anyone who wants to join. So, for anyone who wants to enjoy a fun Friday evening, enter a team and head down to Remsen Arena for some slipping, sliding, and scoring.

Joseph Coyne *may be reached at jcoyne19@choate.edu*

Boys' Basketball Tops Exeter

By **Jackson Elkins '18**
Sports Editor

After losing by a combined 55 points over the past 2 seasons, Boys' Varsity Basketball was out for revenge this past Saturday when they topped Exeter 61-50. Not only had Choate been thoroughly outmatched in past years, Exeter is coming off of a New England Championship winning season just last season. However, a reloaded Choate team proved too much for the defending champions, as they were outplayed over the course of the contest.

Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen

Caden Dumas '18 and Jake Sullivan '18 defend against Exeter.

The game was a tale of two halves; Choate dominated the first half, particularly on the offensive end of the ball. Jayden Nixon '18, Brad Landry '18, and Jaylen "Juice" Sandifer '18 were all immense, and Grady Bohen '19 was very solid coming off of the bench for the Wild Boars. All had noteworthy plays throughout the game, highlighted by Landry's stunning dish to Sandifer for a strong finish at the rim, as well as Bohen with a great turnaround shot coming off of the bench. Caden Dumas '18 also had a great game, at one point hitting a clutch three as the shot clock expired. Choate finished the first half in control of the game, leading Exeter 29-24.

Despite the momentum gathered by the Wild Boars, the second half wasn't as fruitful or dominant as the first half. The offense seemed to sputter a bit and Exeter began hitting their shots and slowly climbing back into the game, but that didn't intimidate the boys in blue and gold. On their second half struggles, Elliot Sawyer-Kaplan '18 said, "We had a few sloppy defensive closeouts, so they were able to grab some momentum back from those. That stemmed from us not playing good help defense, and so we started to force things on both ends of the ball as a result." Eventually though, the boys settled back in, as Sawyer-Kaplan noted, "We ended up running around for a bit, but we were able to bring it back and get some control back in the game." Choate hung onto their halftime lead to win convincingly over the defending champions 61-50.

Sawyer-Kaplan commented on the game, saying, "It was a really big win for us, especially given our history with them. It was nice to get some revenge." It truly was a big win for the program, especially in the fashion which the team went about it; Choate didn't trail the entire game aside from going down 0-3 off of one of the first plays of the game. When asked who stood out for Choate, Sawyer-Kaplan said, "Juice," without hesitation. He added, "He was dominant on both sides of the ball (offense and defense) and brought a ton of energy to the team overall."

Going forward, Boys' Basketball has a match-up with Founder's League rival Loomis Chaffee, who are currently 5-5, beating Deerfield, Avon, and Kent along the way. With the Wild Boars currently undefeated, every team it plays will be looking to break that undefeated record, which gives every game significance. It will be on the shoulders of the players to make sure that they avoid the pressure that comes with such a record, and instead, focus on their basketball and team play.

Jackson Elkins *may be reached at jelkins18@choate.edu*