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Volume XXVIII Number 3

Manchester Essex Regional High School 36 Lincoln Street Manchester, MA 01944

December 13, 2021

Assembly organized to address Instagram cyberbullying

Students, teachers emphasize sympathy, kindness

By Wyeth Takayesu INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Recent derogatory posts on anonymous Instagram accounts led to an assembly on Nov. 29 to discuss the impact of such behavior on members of the school community.

The assembly, organized and led by seniors Alex Briggs, Theo Brown, Ema O'Neil, and Noella Hadaegh, as well as staff Robert Bilsbury, Beverly Low, and Courtney Brown, discussed the repercussions of the recent Instagram accounts.

The senior speakers and senior Olivia Gado brought the idea for an assembly to principal Patricia Puglisi following conversations with English teacher Mary Buckley-Harmon about how to address the issue.

"We all went down to Ms. Puglisi and told her the reasons why

our school needs to get together and talk about this, and she was very open to the idea, agreeing with it right away," O'Neil said.

Speakers at the assembly sought to inspire understanding within students, reminding them that false and derogatory messages are deeply hurtful and damaging to one's future.

"We are a community, and having this kind of hatred flowing around us makes me sad," Spanish teacher Robert Bilsbury said. "Something totally ridiculous and clearly not true for a whole group of people can be taken out of context and really mess someone's life up."

Senior speakers Hadaegh and Briggs commented on the importance of empathy in a community and how everyone has their own lives separate from their online persona.

"This goes back to a concept we we're taught in elementary school: treat people how you would want to be treated, and with kindness and compassion," Hadaegh said.



MARY BUCKLEY-HARMON PHOTO

Staff Courtney Brown, Beverly Low, Robert Bilsbury, and students Alex Briggs, Ema O'Neil, Noella Hadaegh, and Theo Brown talk to the school community about being respectful online.

Briggs discussed how the disconnected nature of social media causes a lack of concerns for oth-

ers and called on students to remember the lives of their peers. "It's really important to keep

in mind that these are real people who are going through the same **ASSEMBLY**, page 2

New elementary school open for community use

Modern building receives positive feedback from students, staff members

By Phileine de Widt INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Elementary students and staff started the school year in the new \$52 million Memorial School building, which was finished at the end of the summer.

Only small landscaping projects and the installment of a new playground are left to reach full



PHILEINE DE WIDT PHOTO

After over a year of construction, the elementary school was completed in the summer and is available for town use. New rooms were added for students to cooperate on group work.

Students also gave positive dents can spread out and collabofeedback about being in new rate on projects such as science experiments and readers theater, "I like how it's very modern he said.

NEASC visits via Zoom, gives feedback regarding interdisciplinary classes

'Every committee

said.

Student speakers praised for discussions with officials

By Emma Ketchum **INDEPENDENT EDITOR**

Following their visit in 2018, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges came back to the high school for an evaluation that takes place every 10 years, principal Patricia Puglisi said.

NEASC is an organization that accredits public and

recommended implementing the "vision of the graduate," which focuses more on student-centered learning, Puglisi said.

Although the finalized document of this year's report won't be published until late December, Puglisi said NEASC already reported that they saw a significant improvement in the inclusion of student-centered learning since 2018.

This year, NEASC reported that

there should be more interdisciplinarv classes

completion, said Avi Urbas, director of finance and operations.

Though there was a two-week delay in the spring of 2020 due to COVID-19, the building process continued with safety protocols and finished in line with the original schedule, he said.

Being in a new environment prompted the teachers to work extra hard in decorating the common spaces, hallways and classrooms, Memorial School Principal John Willis said.

"Teachers have done a nice job of making the new school feel like home," he said.

learning spaces.

and has better technology," fifthgrader Alex Chafe said.

The layout of the new building includes additional classrooms and collaborative spaces.

"The library and tech lab are now one large space so that students can access information through books and technology in the same area. We have also added an additional pre-K classroom," Willis said.

Two project rooms are also new additions to the building. These are large rooms where stu-

The new building is also available for community use.

"The gymnasium and cafeteria are great spaces for organizations in town to use for events or meetings. The grounds are also impeccable with three new playgrounds and a basketball court for the public to access after school hours," Willis said.

The building committee planned public open houses for Dec. 8 and Dec. 11, so that everyone in the community could see NEW SCHOOL, page 2

private high schools and colleges in New England by completing in-person visits during school hours, she said. Before CO-

> VID, officials of the organization would physically come into the school and sit in the classrooms, but this year the visit was done via zoom on iPad cameras, which didn't fully show the school culture, she said.

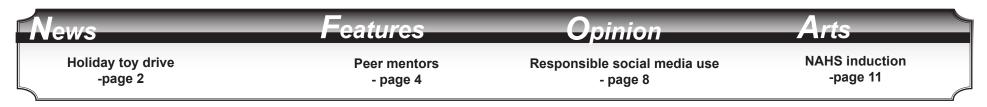
Following the 2018 visit, NEASC

member was blown away by the students' confidence, communication skills...' - PATRICIA PUGLISI

offered to students, meaning subjects like math and science should be taught together for students to make connec-Puglisi tions,

Puglisi said department chairs worked together to choose which students would give presentations to showcase projects they've done this year to demonstrate student-based learning.

NEASC VISIT, page 2



Senior girls win powder-puff football game against juniors 16-13

Football players coach, referee junior, senior girls' teams

By Jordie Cornfield INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Senior girls won this year's annual powder-puff football game, a tradition where junior and senior girls compete against one another in a match of flag football.

This game was different from past years because there was a lot more interest, senior Emily Doucette said.

"A lot of people wanted to play, whereas last year the junior team had to have sophomores play with them too," she said.

The seniors won with three touchdowns and two 2-point conversions. Seniors Emma Fitzgerald, Shea Furse, and Wrede Charlton each scored a touchdown.

"Everyone assumes that the seniors would win the game. But this year it was really close. We won 16 to 13," Doucette said.

Despite the cold weather, approximately 20 fans cheered from the bleachers, Doucette said.

"Especially bouncing back from COVID and everything, everyone wanted to come and support. It was freezing out that night," she said.

Seniors AJ Pallazola and Luke Smith, captains of the football team, coached the senior team while junior football players Danny Wood, Cam Hubbard, and Jesse Oliver coached the junior girls.

"It was more organized than last year because we had Luke Smith and AJ coaching. Luke came up with a game plan for the whole thing," senior Emma Fitzgerald said.

The game was refereed by sophomore football players Steven Martin, Troy Flood, Cade Furse and Quinn Brady.

While tackling is not allowed in flag football, there were some instances of tackling, Doucette said.

COURTESY OF EMILY DOUCETTE

NEWS

After being led by coaches and football players AJ Pallazola and Luke Smith and scoring three touchdowns, the senior girls celebrate their victory against the juniors by taking a group photo.

"There was some tackling going on, but the game was fair," Doucette said.

The powder-puff games work to bond each grade together, as everyone must work together as a team, junior Amy Vytopilova said.

"Our grade has always been super close, but I feel like it brought us even closer," Vytopilova said. Fitzgerald said a moment in the game that stood out to her was when junior Hadley Levendusky scored a touchdown. "I was so happy for her, even

"I was so happy for her, even though we were on different teams," she said.

School Council organizes holiday toy drive that provides gifts for families in need

Community donates presents to Pathways for Children

By Finn O'Hara INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Pathways for Children, an organization based in Gloucester is working with the Student Council to organize a toy drive that will help economically vulnerable families.

The Student Council aims to use the holiday toy drive to relieve stress from parents and put a smile on their child's face for Christmas this year, said Barrett Alston, the Student Council adviser.

He said that the toy drive will benefit families from Beverly and



FINN O'HARA PHOTO

Sophomore Erik Bischoff decided to help families during the holiday season by donating a Pop-Up Tunnel to the toy drive.

Salem, who will be able to pick out donated gifts that are new and unwrapped.

Sophomore Sander Breuker, a member of the Student Council, said the goal of the drive is

to spread positivity through these gifts.

"I hope that this toy drive gives the parents a sense of relief and brings joy to children," he said.

Sophomore Diego Sanson, a

member of the Student Council, said he is helping with the drive, as he wants to give children the same Christmas experience that he had when he was a kid.

"When I was younger, nothing compared to the surprise factor of waking up on Christmas morning and then getting that rush of joy when opening up presents," he said.

Helping out not only allows children to get the full Christmas experience, but it also helps the adults who are forced to choose between paying necessary bills and getting their kid a Christmas gift, Alston said. "The best feeling in the world for a parent is seeing their child happy, so we want to take away the dilemma of deciding between needs or wants and allow them to have both," he said. Alston said

'I hope that this toy drive gives the parents a sense of relief and brings joy to children.'
-SANDER BREUKER
'I hope that this holiday toy drive is more important now than ever, as many families are going through difficult times financially

ally due to COVID-19.

"The families participating are struggling especially now in a time with the increased difficulty in finding jobs and socializing with friends," he said.

and emotion-

Sanson said donating to this charity is the perfect way to brighten a child's world.

"Each time someone puts presents into the box, they are directly impacting a child's Christmas in a positive way," he said.

in training days to address biases

By Carson Komishane INDEPENDENT EDITOR

To inform and address students and teachers about biases and other important topics, the Anti-Defamation League had two training days to prepare students to complete these same educational activities with ninth-grade classes later in the year, social studies teacher and co-adviser Jessica Tran said.

She said this program, called A World Of Difference, is almost like a student-peer training program. About 25 students ranging from sophomores, juniors, and seniors are members of ADL. the ADL to lead activities with our ninth-graders with the goal of promoting tolerance and understanding and decreasing bias in our school community," Tran said.

"They are being trained by

During these training days, held on Nov. 19 at the Manchester Community Center and on Nov. 29 in the learning commons, ADL facilitators helped by guiding the groups.

They participated in both team-building and educational activities. The third training day was held on Dec. 14, she said.

"On our third training day, we [worked] on how to lead those same activities and practice because that is what we are going to do with the ninth-graders later on...our goal is February and March to go into classrooms and run these activities," Tran said.



CARSON KOMISHANE PHOTO

Senior members of ADL Molly Machain and Lynn Benali discuss ways they can confront biases after having two days of training.

Social studies department chair and co-adviser Lauren DuBois said that the ADL facilitators showed them different activities that they can use and potentially modify to better fit this school and to address in the classrooms later in the year.

"We...[talked] about identity, the different levels of [it], and of our identity...and how we are all unique so we can coexist happily despite our differences," she said.

Dubois said they also discussed allofthe"-isms,"microaggressions, and different biases to make people more aware and educate them on these serious topics.

Senior and member of ADL Molly Machain said they started off with an icebreaker activity in order to feel more comfortable as a group and then got more indepth with more serious topics, such as bias.

"I think the activity about identity will be really important for the ninth-graders. Another thing that was really important was learning about how people have biases that they didn't know they had, and picking up on those biases is important," she said.

NEWS

Peer mentors provide first-hand experience to eighth-graders

Give guidance, help with transition to high school

By Hadley Levendusky **INDEPENDENT EDITOR**

Peer mentors have talked with eighth-graders about time management and finding balance for

'I think that the

peer mentors did

a wonderful job

answering questions

and being truthful.'

-GILLIAN POLK

when they transition to high school. Co-leader

of the peer mentors Charlie Weld said the idea is to help integrate the eighth-graders into the

high school.

The peer mentors work with the middle school health teacher Janda Ricci-Munn to talk with the eighth-graders during his class period, Weld said.

This is the third year that the peer mentors have been working closely with Ricci-Munn, she said.

"Working with him is really helpful because he can help prepare and make sure it flows with his units that he is doing within the health classes," Weld said.

Guidance counselor Gillian Polk said Ricci-Munn helped the students prepare questions to continue the conversation.

The peer mentors came together and signed up for certain times

> the said.

the mentors] the information and suggested responses [to share with the eighth-

community before they reach the graders], but everyone has different interpretations," she said. "It is the first introduction [to high school], and it is good for it to come from students."

Since Dec. 9, the peer mentors have had five sessions with the eighth-grade classes.

Junior Sophie Zalosh talked with an eighth-grade class last Thursday.

to meet with eighthgraders, Weld "We give [peer



EMMA KETCHUM PHOTO

Senior Vaughn O'Leary, a peer mentor, speaks to eighth-grade health teacher Janda Ricci-Munn's class. Peer mentors help integrate eighth-graders into the high school community.

"I think that a lot of eighthgraders have been really nervous about coming to high school, and this is a way for us to give our experience and help them the best we can," she said.

Weld has been participating in

the talks with the eighth-graders for the past two years.

"I think it is really helpful for them because it is a first-hand experience, and we try and emphasize the social- emotional well-being of students," she said.

Polk sat in to watch some of the classes talk with the peer mentors.

"I think that the peer mentors did a wonderful job answering questions and being truthful," she said.

Green Team partners with local sustainable organizations

By Amy Vytopilova INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Partnering with three local organizations, the Green Team is engaging in healthful practices to make the community a sustainable environment, Green Team adviser Keith Gray said

He said he has talked with three organizations to help the team take part in hyper-local activities.

"My goal is to get the Green Team to engage in things that are local, with the three different organizations in the state of Massachusetts. I thought that would



MECHLO'NEIL PHOTO

Green Team adviser Keith Gray allows his freshmen students to research various local organizations that promote sustainability.

be a great place to start because a lot of students are interested in how they can do things that are hyper-local," Gray said.

Massachusetts Grown, Massachusetts Agriculture, and The Mother Earth Project are the three organizations that help

students get involved with their communities faster and lead to a greener economy, Gray said.

Junior Sophie Zalosh, a member of the Green Team, said she is excited to work actively with these organizations.

"It's really cool to partner with these organizations...especially after being online last year and not being able to do much stuff like this," Zalosh said.

Junior classmate Ava Ricci said it's important to promote the ideas to the Manchester-Essex community.

"I hope we get the whole school community involved and become more sustainable as a school...organizations like these can help our school and towns in the future," Ricci said.

The "Mother Nature Project" is a project that includes art. It lets students express climate change awareness through art.

Gray said the project sends out four cloth parachutes, where students can design them with their views on how to make society more sus-

tainable.

Gray hopes the project will make students more aware of what is going on in the outside world.

"I want students to have empathy for what's going on outside of our bubble," he said.

'I hope we get the whole school community involved and become more sustainable as a

school.'

-AVA RICCI

CONTINUATIONS

ASSEMBLY **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** things as you," Briggs said.

Students were called upon to aid in the betterment of the school community by reporting further inappropriate posts and standing up to protect those around them.

"I encourage all of you to please keep speaking up for what you think is right, keep having difficult conversations because they are what is needed in this school, and teach your peers how to be a community," O'Neil said.

Guidance counselor Gillian Polk said the assembly relayed the message of empathy in an understandable and impactful way.

"I have never been to an assembly that held so many students' attention all the way through before today...Sharing from the heart and from experience is a powerful way to shift the focus from what has been said online to what can be done in person," Polk said.

NEASC VISIT **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

Puglisi said the highlight of the visit was the student speakers and their presentations of what they individually have been doing in their classes.

"Every committee member was blown away by the students' confidence. communication skills, and the ability to articulate why what they're learning actually matters to them in their lives," Puglisi said.

Senior Gelsey McCue said she spoke about her recent project on stress and sleep, while others talked about their AP Government projects. She said they also discussed the school's improvements since the beginning of COVID. When asked what the school could improve upon, most students said "less homework and later start times," McCue said.

"We were told by the NEASC officials that we did wonderfully, and I feel as though it went really well," McCue said.

Puglisi said they will receive the final report of the visit this month, and in three years the school will provide NEASC with an update on the improvements made since the visit.

NEW SCHOOL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

need to address Essex Elementary School next with our School Committee and during public budget hearings," Urbas said.



PHILEINE DE WIDT PHOTO

The new elementary school provides more space and better technology for enhanced learning and community building. of all skill levels

to come in and

play together.'

-GAVIN KEMPSKIE

Chess Club created following rise in game's popularity

New club invites students to learn, compete together

By Wyeth Takayesu INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Chess boards in the learning commons have sparked an interest in the game, leading to the creation of a chess club to give 'We really just players a place to wanted to make a learn and compete. place for players

After finding unused chess boards in the learning commons that had been left in the back of the room, students began

playing until more boards were needed to avoid crowding, learning commons aide Barrett Alston said.

"I didn't even know the boards were here at first, but then people started playing a little bit on one or two sets that were around, and

soon people were lining up to play, so I had to find more sets," he said.

The game's popularity has steadily increased since the release of the popular Netflix television show "The Queen's Gambit."

The market research company NPD Group found that chess board sales increased 87% three

> weeks after the show's release in 2020.

"Between 'The Queen's Gambit' and these new boards, playing chess has become so much more mainstream and has broken

through this

stigma of the game being nerdy and boring," junior Gavin Kempskie said.

This growth of chess's popularity led Kempskie and junior Finnegan Straub to create a chess club.

"We really just wanted to make a place for players of all



WYETH TAKAYESU PHOTO

FEATURES

Junior Alexander Wolf plans to join the Chess Club once tournaments are made since he enjoys playing chess against learning common aide Barrett Alston during his free periods in the library.

skill levels to come in and play together, as well as learn all the different parts of this complex game," Kempskie said.

Although the club currently lacks positions and meeting dates, with the aid of adviser Dean Martino and senior Theo Brown, the club hopes to begin tournaments soon, Kempskie said.

Interested students are considering joining the club, looking for new challenges.

"Having a Chess Club is a great idea. I play with friends all the time during free periods, so getting to beat new people and

learn how others play sounds good to me," junior Alexander Wolf said.

To join the club and receive updates on future tournaments, use the Google Classroom code wnwrrud. All are welcome, regardless of skill or grade level, Kempskie said.

New club explores, protects exotic marine life

Students revive extracurricular lost to COVID-19

By Charlie Lations INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Students interested in marine biology are creating the Reef Tank Club, hoping to explore the field outside of standard classes.

Sophomore Sander Breuker said this will actually be the second incarnation of the club, after students who have since graduated got funding for the club but were unable to start it due to COVID.

He said that the club's mission would mostly be to introduce people to the process of working with fish tanks.

Breuker said a reef tank is similar to a regular fish tank and that the term is very broad,

allowing for considerable leeway in terms of the marine life that could be included.

He said that he and Sophomore Nate Gardner hope to include fish that aren't common to New England, such as lionfish and clownfish.

Gardner said he and Breuker

got the inspiration to restart the club after seeing that the school has an aquarium tank that hasn't been set up.

Gardner also said the club would be a good opportunity for students to get a look at

a fairly expensive hobby without making a serious commitment.

"[Interested students] would learn to maintain aquariums,

which you don't really get to do unless you have one, and it's a lot easier to learn by having one at the school, rather than having to buy a whole setup," he said.

Breuker said the club most likely wouldn't be a "very large"



CHARLIE LATIONS PHOTO

Sophomore Sander Breuker and Nate Gardner work on the reef tank in preparation of the new Reef Tank Club's eventual first meeting.

'We've been

reaching out

to local doctors'

offices to see if any

of them would

help sponsor us.'

-LUKAS SHAN

ty unique thing in itself--having a club to do it with other students would be a pretty cool thing, as well," he said.

Breuker said any interested

students should email him or Gardner as "the club isn't fully set up yet, but knowing you're interested would be really important."

HOSA organizes

'[Interested students] would learn to maintain aquariums, which you don't really get to do.' -NATE GARDNER

"We've been reaching out to

commitment for members. For him and Gardner, it would

require much more work. "[Nate and I] will have to work on the tank almost [every other day]," he said. Sophomore Erik Bischoff said he is ex-

cited about the opportunity to create a habitat for marine life and to learn about

reef tank. "I think [a reef tank] is a pret-

what goes into maintaining a

events, plans to become chapter

By Avabella Mitrano INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Future Health Professionals, also known as HOSA, is working towards becoming an official state chapter at the school with new activities and speakers.

President senior Lukas Shan said the group created the chapter last year from the former Pre-Med Club, which aimed to build leadership skills for students interested in medicine

"I think the best way to think of HOSA is it's like DECA, but for students interested in medicine instead of business management," Shan said.



AVABELLA MITRANO PHOTO

President Lukas Shan and treasurer Katherine Kuhl learn how to check the blood pressure of Owen Bappe during HOSA meeting.

He said joining an international organization allows the members to perform at competitions and conferences, but one of the main challenges was getting the registration of a chapter set

in motion.

The treasurer of the club, senior Katherine Kuhl, said her position was created to manage the money needed to formalize official chapter registration.

local doctors' offices to see if any of them would help sponsor us in offsetting eventual competition and travel costs," Kuhl said. Despite the challenge, she

said the club has been participating in many fun and educational activities relating to medicine. The club

hosted medical experts to speak, watched docu-

mentaries, participated in online pre-med simulations, and hands-on activities.

Club adviser and science teacher Maria Burgess said she taught students how to take each other's blood pressure with her previous medical knowledge.

the ball and run with it, getting speakers in and organizing different activities...That was all originated by the officers. They're doing an incredible job;

> I'm just kind of a bystander," Burgess said.

She said Shan made a push for the HOSA chapter, and she sees the club becoming an official one, eventually by the end of the year, given the long process.

"I think we are going to get a lot of energy and motivation for a very active chapter. It's always slow getting something started, but it's good to take baby steps one at a time," Burgess said.

FEATURES

Science classes resume in-person labs

By Libby Mulry INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Labs have resumed in science teacher Debra Nolan's classes after a year of online learning through Zoom.

An AP Physics 1 class recently completed a horizontal projectile lab.

Students set up a ramp and equipment at the edge of a table, using gravity to send a marble down the ramp and onto a bullseye, Nolan said.

Students used mathematics to predict the outcome of the lab.

"[The] students' job was to use kinematic equations to calculate where it should land," Nolan said. Students saw the accuracy of their predictions once they completed the lab, she said.

In the experiment, students ap-

plied what they learned to real concepts.

"The whole lab was about proving what we were learning in class and how these things apply to real life," junior Charlotte Lawrence said.

The science department also saw the positive effects of restarting labs.

"There is a collective effort by our department to do labs and to have students do those experi-

COURTESY OF DEBRA NOLAN

Juniors Sara King, Mary Callahan, and AJ Altieri participate in a horizontal projectile lab in Debra Nolans honors physics class.

"This

I'm learn-

ences because they learn more," Nolan said.

Lawrence said the lack of labs caused by the COVID-19

pandemic **'There is a collective** made effort by our department learning new ideas to do labs and to have much students do these harder. experiences because they year I learn more.' certainly know that -DEBRANOLAN

ing more in physics through labs than I did last year in the science classes I took," she

said. Nolan prefers teaching in-person. The experience of interacting with human beings is

so important when learning, she said.

"You have groups in labs and that comradery, and figuring it out and learning together is helpful," Lawrence said.

Classmate Finnegan Straub also enjoys working in groups.

"Collaboration is a large part of labs, and that makes it a lot of fun," Straub said.

Nolan said the resumption of labs prepares students for upcoming AP exams in the and future college courses. Future units for the class include centripetal force, where students will try and calculate the inward force of a swinging object, she said.

"You're providing that centripetal pull inward, so it's important for students to realize it's a physical thing," she said.



Freshman Elior Zaremba "I like watching Christmas movies."

Freshman Tori Moulton

"My family and I sleep in

front of the fireplace every

Christmas Eve."



Sophomore Stephen Martin "My favorite tradition is opening presents under the Christmas tree."



Sophomore Pippa Spingler "My grandmother and I make a Christmas cake every year, and we take a spoonful of the cake batter and make a wish."

Student Speak fa What is your favorite holiday tradition?

Junior Giuseppe Tra "My favorite tradition is having egg nog around Christmas time."



Junior Lydia Shwartz "All of my family comes home during the holidays, which is really nice."



Investment gains popularity among students

Increased availability of online tools leads to more student interest

By Charlie Lations INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Learning financial literacy is something that more students are becoming interested in, and some have chosen to learn through experience by playing the stock about 15 stocks at the moment, ranging anywhere from \$100 to market.

ships formed by mutual interest in the market.

"I've actually built some friendships through it--every morning I'll be like 'Oh, how are you looking?,' and it's just an interesting conversation starter," Cronin said.

McKenna said one piece of advice he would give to a new investor would be to "have a plan... [it] can help you take stock of your situation, define your goals, and figure out practical steps to get there."

Cronin said that most of the time when he puts money into the stock market, it's to compound his existing investments.

Cronin said he has shares in

more than \$1,000. He said he

puts most of his money into in-

Sophomore Eamon McKenna said that an experience from in-

Junior Patrick Cronin said that

among the unique experiences

he's had as a result of investing,

one that stands out is the relation-

vesting that stands out to him is witnessing and investing in GameStop during its meteoric rise, in which time the stock price went from under \$20 per share to over \$500 in just days.

'Investing in yourself gives you greater value. You see the effects of that value ... as it gives you opportunities to share, teach, and otherwise provide a positive influence.'

-EAMON MCKENNA

ket. Junior Tyler Cro-

dex funds

that

the

nin, who invests using the Stockpile app, says a good way for people to get into investing is to invest in the same index funds following the S&P 500.

Junior Tyler Cronin checks his stock portfolio that he has built up by investing in various stocks throughout the last few years.

CHARLIE LATIONS PHOTO

He said that he got his start track in investing after his father and S&P 500, a colgrandfather suggested it to him lection of and his brother Patrick and gave 500 stocks them money with which to start. that are ac-"Investing in yourself gives you greater value. You see the efcepted to be a good fects of that value ... as it gives indicator you opportunities to share, teach, of the state and otherwise provide a positive of the marinfluence," McKenna said.

> **Investment apps** -Stockpile -ETrade -SoFi Invest -Acorns Invest -Merrill Edge

Senior Anton Westrick "Every December 13, my family makes candle balloons, and we let them go."



Senior Isabella Thurlow "I love making pumpkin pie with my grandmother.



FEATURES



Iced peppermint mocha

This drink felt like a strong Christmas kick in the face. The intensity of the peppermint was strong, almost like eating a candy cane, and the powerful chocolate flavor added a unique taste. Compared to the one from Dunkin' Donuts, this one had less of a coffee flavor but had a more heavily intensified peppermint and chocolate flavor. Although this one was enjoyable at first, after a few sips the taste was no longer as appealing as it was when first trying it. I give this drink a 7/10.



Iced toasted white chocolate mocha

This drink was underwhelming. The drink tasted like a plain coffee. There was no white chocolate, although I think it added a hint of sweetness. The idea of it being "toasted" was also not accurate. I give this drink a 5/10, not because it tasted horrible but because it missed the holiday theme.





Iced sugar cookie almond milk latte

I was curious about this one solely because I had seen some videos online about how this drink was either incredible or the worst thing ever. In reality, it wasn't actually that bad, but it was just way too sweet for my liking. The holiday theme was definitely reached; they added little red and green sprinkles to the top, and a sugar cookie reminds me of the holidays. However, the sweetness was overwhelming. I give this drink a 4/10.

Holiday coffee battle: Starbucks or Dunkin'?

By Carson Komishane INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Coffee shops all over the world create special, limited time drinks around the holiday season. In this area, there is a big competition between two big coffee chains, Starbucks and Dunkin' Donuts. I pit them against each other for the ultimate holiday coffee drink battle. While they had similar flavor concepts, the actual taste of them contrasted intensely. After tasting all 6 drinks, none of them were perfect, but Dunkin's more subtle flavors gave it a win in my book!





Iced toasted white chocolate signature latte

I personally don't like white chocolate, but this one definitely prevailed in that flavor. The white chocolate was clearly evident and maybe slightly strong, but it wasn't unbearable. Somehow they made this drink taste toasted. Although I didn't love the flavor, I could see how a white chocolate lover would enjoy this for the holiday season. I give this drink an 8/10.



Iced peppermint mocha

This drink my favorite out of the drinks I tried. Although it didn't match the Christmas kick that the Starbucks iced peppermint latte provided, it still held the same holiday cheer. This drink had a much less overpowering peppermint and chocolate flavor, and I could taste the coffee in the drink. Due to the less overwhelming flavors, I was able to enjoy the drink more and would probably buy it again. I give this drink a 9/10.



Peppermint mocha cold brew, sweet cold foam

When I saw this only on the Dunkin' app, I was excited. Unfortunately, either the drink was waiting for me for a while or the natural composition of the drink was separated. The syrup clumped at the bottom, and I could not mix it. It was just a cold brew with the peppermint mocha syrup, and it was similar to the iced peppermint mocha in terms of ingredients. I give this drink a 5.5/10.

CARSON KOMISHANE PHOTOS

OPINION



This or that?

Tree Lights



Colored Lights

Nothing quite captures the spirit of the holidays like passing through your neighborhood and seeing warm, colorful lights illuminating each window.

The use of multicolored lights creates a more lively atmosphere. Many prefer these lights because of long-standing tradition and growing up with the old-fashioned C9 lights.

Multi-colored lights are great for decorating the tree with mismatched, handmade ornaments. Their ambiance is energetic, and several LED lights allow you to personalize the settings and make the lights sparkle or twinkle.

With multi-colored lights, there are no restrictions. You can add ribbons, beads, and a decorative tree skirt to bring the festive spirit to life. The glow of multicolored lights can be warm, bright, or somewhere in between, making the holiday season even more enjoyable.

By Mechi O'Neil

INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Real

Taking a plastic tree out of storage every year isn't the same as heading to a Christmas tree farm or

local nursery and bringing home a fresh, live tree. For many people who celebrate Christmas, a genuine evergreen is a festive and romantic symbol of family, tradition, and nostalgia. It's a non-negotiable, seasonal staple in many households, with far more positives than negatives.

Christmas has its own bouquet of seasonal scents, but the scent of freshly fallen pine needles may be the most enchanting. Sure, you can burn an evergreenscented candle, but nothing quite compares to the natural woody musk of a freshly cut Christmas tree. Real trees also don't require the carbon emissions that it takes to produce and ship artificial trees. So, if you're looking for a lowcarbon emission option, consider investing in a real tree this holiday season. By Mechi O'Neil

INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Sugar

Sugar cookies represent Christmas's core ideals of family and joy in their simplicity while retaining an age-old taste of happiness.

Rather than the spicy and bitter taste of gingerbread that leaves your mouth dry, sugar cookies are sweet and irresistible for all age groups.

Christmas is about everyone coming together. Making sugar cookies can be a fun activity by itself by bringing everyone in to decorate the sweet treats with fun colors of frosting and various candies. Sugar cookies are the simplest of baked goods, having few ingredients and measurements. Gingerbread is more expensive and with the wrong amount of ingredients the cookie becomes near inedible.

By Wyeth Takayesu

INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Elf

"Elf," written by David Berenbaum and directed by Jon Favreau, is the embodiment of purity and hope that makes Christmas a beloved holiday across the world.

The pure nature of the film shows that no one is beyond help, especially during the festive season. Simply watching "Elf" inspires one to go out and make the world a better place. The irresistible joy of Buddy the elf, the main character, shows any viewer that Christmas is a holiday of acceptance, family, and love. Buddy puts a smile on everybody's face, including the audience.

Everything about the film's radiant energy and hopeful themes makes the days until Christmas fall away like minutes. With its abundant holiday spirit, this movie becomes a holiday classic right after the first watch.

By Wyeth Takayesu INDEPENDENT EDITOR





White lights allow for peaceful and pleasing holiday decorations. They ensure a put-together look in comparison

to the craziness of multi-colored lights. These simple yet elegant lights pair perfectly with any additional decorations or colors but also look bright and beautiful when standing alone.

When covering a tree, white lights enhance the branches rather than overpowering them like multi-colored lights.

Before electricity, houses and trees were decorated with candles, all providing white lights.

Now that safety measures are put in place and electric lights are proven to be more efficient, this historical tradition still needs to be carried on today. Using white lights will ensure that people have the most wonderful time of the year just like those who took part in these historical traditions of using candles.

By Phileine de Widt **INDEPENDENT EDITOR**

Fake

Allowing families to free themselves of stress during the holiday season, the artificial

Christmas tree is revolutionizing the Christmas decoration game. People want to spend the holidays enjoying time with family, not sweeping beneath or watering their tree. These chores take away from the Christmas spirit and reduce the joyous activity of decorating to more of a requirement. In addition to causing unnecessary stress, the real Christmas tree costs more at around \$75 for a single year, thus reducing the amount of money that parents can devote to gifts. By purchasing a single artificial tree that costs around \$400 and lasts more than 10 years, people can save money, get more presents for their children, or donate to a food or toy drive, something that

elicits the utmost joy in others during the holiday season. By Finn O'Hara INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Gingerbread

Without the tradition of gingerbread and its many forms, the holiday season would not be the same.

Houses and other traditional shapes can be made from gingerbread, making the cookie not only tasty but also fun.

It is a classic flavor that corresponds with the magical feeling of December. The overall experience of eating and making gingerbread could be described as a fairy tale, which is precisely why the Gingerbread Man is a well-loved story among all. Gingerbread traditions bring people together, which, in

times like these, is needed.

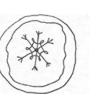
By Phileine de Widt **INDEPENDENT EDITOR**

Home Alone

Combining holiday spirit, comedy, and an unique plot, the Christmas classic "Home Alone" is a Christmas movie that never grows old. Showing that anything is possible, 8-year-old Kevin McCallister protects his home from two robbers while being home alone. Kevin's strategic plan to stop the robbers gets the audience laughing as he outsmarts the older men time after time.

Christmas music and the abundance of holiday decorations throughout the movie make people want to grab a hot chocolate, some sugar cookies, and just relax. This festive mood brings people together in a time of joy. On a snowy Friday night in December, "Home Alone" is the perfect movie to get everyone into the spirit of Christmas. CAROLINE MACKINNON ILLUSTRATIONS

By Finn O'Hara **INDEPENDENT EDITOR**









Christmas Trees

Billionaire space travel pollutes, prohibits earthly progress

By Libby Mulry INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Space travel is a privilege afforded to those who can pay and allows billionaires to forget the problems of the Earth.

Problems that prevent the growth of humanity like global warming aren't issues for people like Jeff Bezos, the owner of the aerospace company Blue Origin, which recently sent the likes of William Shatner to the edge of space.

"We can move all heavy industry and all polluting industry off of Earth," Bezos said while neglecting the realities of a growing space tourism industry that

contributes to the pollution of Earth.

For example, CO2 from space travel causes pollution.

"For one long-haul plane flight, it's one to three tons of carbon dioxide (per passenger)," said Eloise Marais, an associate professor in physical geography at University College London.

The US government must hold this industry accountable through stringent rules, regulations, and laws.

Representative Earl Blumenauer of Oregon proposed legislation that would tax non-scientific commercial space flight.

"Space exploration isn't a tax-free holiday for the wealthy," Blumenauer said.

This proposal motivated Blue Origin to pay even more in lobbying. Bezos dedicated \$1.3 million to lobbying against taxes on commercial space travel this year alone.

It's hard to believe Bezos will represent the will of mankind in space when he's so reluctant to pay his fair share on Earth.

He can't be given an option to contribute to the global community while spending millions of dollars on space flight. Bezos should be forced to give back through taxes.

Mankind and the future of the Earth can't be at the whims of the wealthy. Society should exist for the needs of the people.

Bezos has cited space travel as a way to provide for humankind and solve the problems of the

past.

If Blue Origin makes space tourism more like commercial flying, then we'll be building a road to space for the next generations to do amazing things there, and those amazing things will solve problems here on Earth, he said.

Space tourism only adds to Earth's problems, however, by polluting the land, and the wealthy who are major polluters aren't experiencing any of the destruction.

Bezos also owns the multibillion dollar company, Amazon, which contributes to socioeconomic problems.

The people who work for Bezos are trampled by Amazon's consistent effort to prevent unionization. The corporation fired workers who led the effort



FLICKR PHOTO Long-haul planes create excess carbon dioxide pollution.

to unionize in a warehouse in Chester, Virginia, in 2016.

The global community doesn't need William Shatner and Jeff Bezos to venture into space. It needs them to give back to working people in a more tangible way.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Anonymous Instagram accounts create harmful environment

Recent student-run anonymous Instagram accounts demonstrated students' complete disregard of how their online comments affect others, both emotionally and legally.

Social media may seem like a place where one's identity can be hidden and comments said about others are seen as "jokes,"

but in reality, cyberbullying has the potential to ruin someone's life. Since the beginning of the pandemic, people have been using social media as a way to keep themselves

entertained and

to stay in touch

with friends

and family.

important to keep in mind that these are real people who are thinking and going through the same things as you.' -ALEX BRIGGS

desensitized people to how their posts, comments, likes, and messages affect others.

Since social media is often used as a form of entertainment, it's easy for people to disassociate themselves from what they are watching and interacting with while staring at a screen. Internet users need to remember that

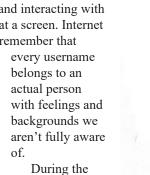
'I think it's really of.

Alex Briggs discussed this disassociation to

media.

to keep in mind that these are real people who are thinking and going through the same things as you," she said.

Posting hurtful assumptions or comments about other people on social media is a form of



recent school assembly about the anonymous Instagram accounts, senior

other's emotions while on social

"I think it's really important



CAROLIINE MACKINNON ILLUSTRATION

Various social media platforms allow students to anonymously write harmful words towards peers.

cyberbullying and is extremely harmful to one's mental health.

According to the Megan Meier Foundation, the percentage of children who said they experienced cyberbullying doubled from 18% in 2007 to 36% in 2019.

Cyberbullying is a problem almost every school experiences. The Megan Meier Foundation reported that 90% of U.S. teenagers believe cyberbullying is a major problem for their generation.

To prevent social media harm, schools need to implement consistent meetings and conversations between students, teachers, and guest speakers in order to educate teenagers on how their actions affect others online, and to address conflicts as soon as they arise.

If more students are informed of the impact their posts and comments have on others, then they will be more mindful of what they decide to post.

OPINION

Before posting something, ask yourself: Is this something I would say in person? Does this reflect how I want to present myself to others? If the answer to either of these questions is no, simply don't post.

Airlines unfairly increase prices during school vacations

Statista Research Depart-

ment published that in 2020 the

average time worldwide internet

users spent on social media was

145 minutes per day, which was

The growing use of social

media in recent years, with less

face-to-face interactions, has

an increase from 2019.

By Ella Chafe INDEPENDENT EDITOR

During school vacation, airline prices go up immensely, leaving families responsible for making challenging financial decisions.

The concept of supply and demand is prevalent during school vacations since the market for seats is very high. This leaves a very low supply of seats, causing airline prices to rise.

According to JetBlue, a round trip ticket to San Juan.



INDEPENDENT ARCHIVE

Student Gabbi D'Andrea and English teacher Allison Krause are both affected by the increasing prices of airline tickets during school vacations. Choosing between missing school or buying expensive tickets creates consequences for both of them.

same flight leaving on Sun., Feb. 20 and returning on Sun., Feb. 27 increases to \$1,145.60.

These prices are only the cost of one round-trip ticket, and the total will only increase when each family member is accounted weeks, families and students often have to choose between missing school when prices are lower or paying the expensive airfare.

Sophomore Gabbi D'Andrea flies three days before the start

said.

"I'm excited to go on vacation, but I'm also terrified of missing school because missing one

day feels like I've missed a week," D'Andrea said. Teachers are especially in a difficult

position when it comes to traveling during school vacations because it's not

typically allowed for them

to extend a school break.

English teacher Allison Krause said that the high prices are frustrating and make planning travel verv difficult.

or shortening the length of your stay," she said.

Because of this, Krause closely analyzes the airline prices, she said.

Although, vacationing in the summer is an option, going to warm climates during this time is

Families in New England are limited to traveling to warm destinations during the school year, which creates a

financial disadvantage for both students and teachers.

It's evident that airlines take advantage of students and teachers by raising airfare during vacation. Families shouldn't have to choose between their student's education and affordability.

'I'm excited to go on vacation, but I'm also terrified of missing school because missing one day feels like

less practical.

I've missed a week.'

-GABBI D"ANDREA

Puerto Rico costs \$313.40 when leaving on Tues., Feb. 15, and returning on Tues., Feb. 22. The

for.

Because of the increased prices during school vacation of school vacations to avoid the costly prices but is also affected by being absent from school, she

"You have to make hard decisions, which can result in not going, spending more money,

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SPORTS

Winter track teams strive to make Divisionals, States

Indoor meets resume this year

By Hadley Levendusky **INDEPENDENT EDITOR**

Boys' and girls' indoor track teams are back to running at the normal time of the year.

With COVID protocols from last year, the track team had to run during the Fall II season, which occurred

from Feb. 22 to Apr. 25 last year. Normally, the winter season starts the first week after Thanksgiving and ends at the end of February. Sophomore

captain Caelie Patrick said she is really excited

to have track back in the winter season.

"Last season was only about three months. This season we get to train much longer, which is really going to help with conditioning," she said. Last year, all track meets were held outdoors. This year they

will be held indoors again. Despite running at the usual time of the year and being back indoors, there are still COVID protocols in place, indoor track coach Mark Dawson said.

"There won't be any spectators at our races, which will be interesting at some of our larger races with no people at them besides the athletes,"

he said. Dawson said the protocols are very get to train much scattered this year compared to last year when it was clear about how

little they could do. "It has been a tough scheduling year because we have had races not

get confirmed, and certain schools have rolled back how much they were allowing," he said.

The indoor track team will still have the same goal as usual, Dawson said.











ELLA CHAFE PHOTOS

The captains of the indoor track teams are senior Maddy Curran, sophomore Nate Gardner, junior Jack Newton, sophomore Finn O'Hara, sophomore Caelie Patrick, and junior Amy Vytopilova.

"If we run well, if we train well, and we can get into some good races, then the rest will take care of itself," he said.

Dawson expects the team to go onto States and wants to get as many runners to qualify for Divisionals, he said. Dawson said he expects

sophomore Finn O'Hara, sophomore Caelie Patrick, sophomore Charlie Lations, and junior Amy Vytopilova to have a good season.

Partick said she thinks the team looks really good this year. "It's a lot smaller than last year, but we have a good group

Now that the team can com-

pete in the playoffs, Pallazola

ing players, he added.

of younger kids that seems to be really promising," she said. Junior captain Jack Newton

agreed.

"Even with the loss of last year's best senior runners, I think we'll still be able to bring strong competition to the CAL," he said.

Boys' varsity basketball returns to full 20-game season schedule

'This season we

longer, which

is really going

to help with

conditioning."

--CAELIE PATRICK

By Ella Chafe **INDEPENDENT EDITOR**

Head coach Timothy St. Laurent and the boys' varsity basketball team are preparing for their season.

St. Laurent said he has been coaching at the high school for six years and has 15 years of experience coaching at the varsity level.

Last year the team had a record of 7-3 and took the Cape Ann League title.

This season, fans will be in attendance, and the team can

participate in non-league games, St. Laurent said.

There will also be a regular 20-game schedule, although masks are still required, he said.

St. Laurent said his goals are to provide a positive experience, win the Cape Ann League title, and have a deep run in the state tournament.

"As long as the effort is there and we play as a team, not individually, we will be successful," he said.

Senior captain AJ Pallazola said this year they are a very young but tall team.

Pallazola is the only captain this season, and he was also selected the previous year to fill the role.

"My main leadership style is staying positive no matter what and trying to lead by example," he said.

Pallazolla said his goals for the season are to take one game at a time while keeping a winning mentality.

This year the games are going to be at a faster pace, with more pressing and pushing the ball up the court, Pallazola said.

The team's toughest opponent will most likely be Georgetown because they have many return-

spoke about his perspective on how the **'The biggest** team can make it far. thing is "The biggest thing is to not get overto not get whelmed, be confioverwhelmed, dent in our team, and trust that everything will work out," he said.

everything will work out."

--AJ PALLAZOLA

Personally, Furse hopes to become a better teammate and player, he

Sophomore Cade

Furse said his goal

for the team is to get

past the first round of

the playoffs because

it has been difficult in

said.

season.

"Whether it's scoring, passing, or defense, I'm going to do

but everyone is working really well together. The younger kids "My goals for the season are



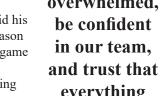
ELLA CHAFE PHOTO

The boys' varsity basketball team captain, AJ Pallazola, has been on varsity since his freshman year in the 2018-19 season. This is his second year in the role of captain.

whatever I can to help my team win," Furse said.

Girls' varsity





the past.

basketball team continues to build skills

By Amy Vytopilova INDEPENDENT EDITOR

With five new players this year, the girls' varsity basketball team continues to grow and improve, senior captain Emma Fitzgerald said.

As basketball is an indoor sport, different rules from outdoor sports have been put into place due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Senior captain Amelia Donnellan said the 10-second backcourt rule is one of the biggest adjustments the team has to make.

AMY VYTOPILOVA PHOTOS

Senior varsity basketball captains Amelia Donnellan and Emma Fitzgerald said they are excited to work with the younger kids.

"One new regulation is the 10-second backcourt rule...a lot of people have never had that rule before. You have to get over the halfcourt line after a basket for turnover in 10 seconds... it will be a lot more intense," she said.

Fitzgerald said the new rules

have improved from their past season as when COVID-19 restrictions were a lot stricter.

"The regulations are a lot better than last year...we still have to wear masks but I don't mind," she said.

Head coach Lauren DuBois wants the team to have a strong

to get better, be competitive in the Cape-Ann League, and make the tournament. We have great players coming back, and we will be competitive in the [Cape Ann Small League]," she said.

Along with returning varsity players,

there are a lot of new players that build and contribute to the team Fitzgereld said.

"There's a lot of new girls, and we don't have a lot of varsity players from last year,

'Everyone is working really well together. The younger kids have a lot of confidence, which is really good on the court and helps us work with them.'

- EMMA FITZGERALD

said. Donnellan said the team chemistry and bond is what

she loves most about the team. "I want everybody to get better. I love watching everybody get better and improving. It's incredible how we learn to work together," she said.

work with them," Fitzgerald said. DuBois said she is excited for the season to begin. "I just love basketball, and I'm very lucky to be there. I'm excited to get going," she

have a lot of con-

fidence, which is

really good on the

court and helps us

New coach joins swim team after leading YMCA North Shore Sharks

In-person meets return this season

By Mechi O'Neil **INDEPENDENT EDITOR**

After coaching the YMCA of the North Shore Sharks club team for six years, Caitlin Eramo is the new varsity swim coach. .

Eramo has been working with the YMCA for about 10 years. She started as a lifeguard and a swim instructor when she was still in high school, she said.

"After a few years in, I fell in love with coaching, and I became the head age-group coach for the Beverly YMCA," she said.

Eramo, who currently attends Southern New Hampshire University for nonprofit management, said she still swims outside of college.

"I continued swimming with the Masters swim team at the Beverly YMCA right out of high school, and I still swim with them to this day," she said.

The swim team had their first practice Nov.

29 at the Greater Beverly YMCA, where all their games and practices take place. There was a great energy, and everyone worked incredibly

hard for their first practice back, Eramo said.

"It's a great group of swimmers, and they all seemed ready to go and looking forward to the season," she said.

After a very different season last year with the COVID-19 regulations, senior captain Alex Briggs said she is excited for things to go back to normal. "Last year all of our meets

were virtual, and

we had to submit

our times online

instead of racing

in-person," she

This year,

said the swim

however, Briggs

team will travel

to other facilities

and be with the

other team for

said.

'Having some sort of goal in mind every time they practice is what is going to help progress them as athletes.' - CAITLIN ERAMO

meets.

Senior captain Shea Furse was coached by Eramo while swimming for the YNS Sharks.

"She gives us motivation to improve and push ourselves dur-





MECHI O'NEIL PHOTOS

Senior captains Aidan Cunningham, Alex Briggs, Emma Ketchum, Carson Komishane, and Shea Furse are looking forward to a swim season with fewer COVID-19 restrictions.

'I think that this

year is going to be a

growing year for the

team.'

-TIM WONSON

ing practices," Furse said.

Both captains along with senior captains Emma Ketchum, Carson Komishane, and Aidan Cunningham, said they are looking forward to fostering a good sense of spirit within the team and just having fun.

One of the main goals Eramo has for the swim team this season is for each swimmer to pick one thing to excel at every week.

"Everyone having some sort of goal in mind every time they practice is what is going to help progress them as athletes and people in general," she said.

The team had their first meet on December 12, and lost to Triton.

Ski team begins dryland practices to prepare for season

Coach, athletes express excitement for competitions

By Ema O'Neil INDEPENDENT EDITOR

After coming back from a difficult season due to the pandemic, the boys' and girls' ski teams are excited to start their racing seasons, according to the coach and captains.

Last year, the skiers only had five races, which is only half of the amount that they normally have, explained Tim Wonson, the ski team coach.

He said it was a difficult year for the athletes in terms of travel, practice restrictions, and a lack of skiers participating on the team.

"I don't think there will be any



Senior captains Cameron Light and Emma Wonson are excited for a return to racing on the slopes of Ski Bradford in Haverhill.

comparison between last season and this season, just because it was such an anomaly," Wonson said.

With last year being so different, he said that this season will feel like a fresh start.

"I think that this year is going to be a growing year for the team." Wonson said.

He is most excited to work



EMA O'NEIL PHOTOS

with David Coletti, a new member of the ski team coaching staff and to see his daughter, senior Emma Wonson, perform in her races.

Emma Wonson is the captain of the girls' ski team this year. She said she was also disappointed about last year's season and has high hopes this year will be different.

"I'm really excited for this season because it's going to feel

a lot more normal," she said.

She is also excited about her role as a captain this year, saying that she wants to make all of

the girls feel close to one another and included.

"I'm really just going to try to express my love for skiing, and hopefully others will have that same feeling," she said.

Tim Wonson also expressed his excitement to see senior Cameron Light race this season.

Light, who is the captain of the boys' ski team, said he is also looking forward to his season because the team is able to practice a lot more than they did last year.

"I'm really just excited to be able to get out there again," he

said.

The teams have been having dryland practices three times a week to prepare for their racing season, Tim Wonson said. "It's just for

the kids to get to know each other, work on some cardio, and get them familiar with skiing," he said.

Tim Wonson explained that they will most likely start traveling to Ski Bradford, a small ski mountain in Haverhill, after Christmas vacation if there is snow.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the kids outside, making new friends, having new experiences, and enjoying skiing," he said.

Hockey team returns with







SPORTS

new COVID rule changes

By Jordie Cornfield INDEPENDENT EDITOR

As winter approaches, both the boys' and girls' hockey are beginning their seasons. While last year's season was hindered by the pandemic, both teams are excited to get back on the ice this December.

The girls' hockey team is a co-operative team with Marblehead hockey, while the boys' team partners with Ipswich and Rockport high schools.

This year's season officially began on Nov. 27 for both teams and will end in February, freshman Elsa Wood said.

Members of both teams said that this year's season is somewhat different from the previous

season, which was during the height of the pandemic.

Wood said the masking rules are much less severe this year compared to the last.

"Last year we couldn't go anywhere without a mask. We just had a tournament, and they didn't really require them as much," she said.

The Pingree Tournament began on Dec. 4 and ended Dec. 5. The girls' first "real" game was on Dec. 9 against Medford, she said. The girl's team won 3-0.

The boys' team played Lynnfield on Dec. 11, junior Finn Lawler said. The boys lost 6-2, he said.

This year fans are allowed to attend the games, junior Mark Pollock said, which was different JORDIE CORNFIELD AND AMY VYTOPILOVA PHOTOS

Juniors Dougie Pratt, Finn Lawler, and freshman Elsa Wood are hopeful for a safe and successful hockey season with their new teams; however, they remain wary of COVID-19 and its dangers.

last year due to COVID protocols.

One of Pollock's favorite

aspects of hockey is enjoying the game with his friends and teammates, so he is looking forward to this change, he said, since last year there were social distancing mandates.

The boys' team is scheduled to compete in a holiday tournament against Hamilton-Wenham on Dec. 27, Pollock said.

This year, the girls' team is

coached by Brittany Smith. The captains are Marblehead seniors Hadley Wales and Elle Seller.

The boys' team is coached by Kyle Nelson. Junior Dougie Pratt is their captain.

While Wood is excited to get back on the ice, she thinks that the new COVID variant may impact her team and their game schedules if there were to be an outbreak or an exposure.

"We would probably have to quarantine," she said.

Last year the girls' team had to quarantine multiple times due to outbreaks and exposures, Wood said. The boys' team also had to quarantine last season, Pollock said.

Future game dates, game locations, and scores can be found on MAscores.com for fans who want to support the Hornets.

"I'm excited for this season. One of my favorite parts of hockey is having the chance to play and improve," Pollock said.

Drama Club switches production to '25th County Spelling Bee'

Students express excitement to perform musical

ARTS

By Ema O'Neil INDEPENDENT EDITOR

After its two-year break due to COVID and a change in musicals, the Drama Club will be performing "25th Putnam County Spelling Bee" this spring.

The musical comedy focuses on a fictional spelling bee at the Putnam Valley Middle School. An unusual aspect of the show is that four audi-

ence members are chosen during the performance to compete in the spelling bee with the cast.

Drama director Gianna Baglioni said that she and musical director Ben Icenogle hold an information session for the school musical at the beginning of every school year.

"I like to get a sense of the level of interest from students so that I can consider it in my production planning," she said.

Baglioni said that many students came to this year's information session and gave her great feedback. This led to her decision to choose "High School Musical," a bigger production.

"I really wanted something that would allow us to come out of these dark, shuttered theater doors with a bang," she said.

Audience members late September, Baglioni said, and only eight students

> came. "I immediately knew that

we were going to need to change our show," she said.

Drama Club member senior Sofia Sarmanian said that it wasn't difficult choosing a different musical.

"The group that auditioned brainstormed a selection of musicals that we could put on,"

Auditions for the show were held in



COURTESY OF GIANNA BAGLIONI

Drama Club switched musical from "High School Musical" to "25th County Putnam Spelling Bee."

she said.

Baglioni said that "25th Putnam County Spelling Bee" was on their original list of potential shows; however, it was not originally chosen because of the small cast.

Production manager and senior Nathan Kelleher said that the last-minute change was stressful, but he is satisfied with the outcome.

"I would've rather done 'High School Musical,' but again I'm biased towards that one since I have performed in it...I think ['25th Putnam County Spelling Bee'] will still have the musical maturity that 'High School Musical' does," he said.

Rehearsals for the show will begin in January, and the cast will rehearse two to three times a week with Baglioni and Icenogle

until the first weekend in May. Sarmanian said that she and many other cast members are excited to be performing again.

"COVID was a hard time for the performing arts...I am excited to be acting on the stage where I fell in love with performing and began participating in musical theatre," she said.

Band, chorus, Sound Waves perform indoors at the Winter Holiday concert

By Hadley Levendusky **INDEPENDENT EDITOR**

Band, chorus, and the Sound Waves had their Winter Holiday concert and participated in other holiday performances this week.

Along with the concert on Dec. 9, the musical groups all performed at the Manchester tree lighting on Dec. 5.

The Sound Waves also

performed at Troop 3 Tree Sale on Dec. 11.

Junior Lila Carpenter said she enjoys the winter performances. "[My favorite part] is being able to sing with all my friends,

being able to do what I love with the people I love," she said.

The band performed four pieces during the Winter Holiday Concert: "Hanukkah, Festival of Lights," "Haunted Sleigh Ride," "A Christmas Tale (Beware the

Krampus)," and selections from "Polar Express." Junior Vanessa Gregory said she liked the holiday music they played.

we played music from the 'Polar Express,' which was pretty cool," she said.

The chorus, directed by Allan MacTaylor, sang "There Will Be Rest" by Frank Ticheli, "Blow, Blow Thou Winter Wind" by Sara Quartel, and "Supermarket Flowers" by Ed Sheeran, John Mcdaid, and Benjamin Levin.

The Sound Waves, directed by Fiona Dooley, sang four pieces: "Christmas" by Phil Spector, "That's Christmas to Me" by Pentatonix, "For the Longest Time" by Billy Joel, and "Jingle Bells" by James Pierpont.

Carpenter said her favorite song is "That's Christmas to Me."

"We have sang [the song] for a couple years now because it is a group favorite and a crowd favorite," she said.

The concert was the first indoor performance in two years due to COVID, band director Joe Janack said.

"It was great to be on stage again, and the energy in the whole auditorium was great," he said.



COURTESY OF ALANA CARPENTER

The Sound Waves performed at the Manchester tree lighting on Dec. 5 and later performed at Troop 3 Tree Sale on Dec. 11.

"[The students] persevered so much through the past two years, and their hard work really paid off."

Gregory said that the performance felt somewhat strange since it had been a while since they had played in the auditorium.

"But overall I'm glad that we

were able to play at the concert," she said.

The Winter Holiday concert was the last winter performance for the band and chorus.

"From the choir, to the band, to the Sound Waves, they just played and performed amazingly," Janack said.

The concert was the first indoor performance in two years due to the

are chosen during

the performance

to compete in the

spelling bee alongside

the cast.

pandemic.

"This year,

National Art Honor Society inducts new members

By Amy Vytopilova INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Over 20 new and recent members of the National Art Honor Society were recently inducted as they were not able to be recognized last year due to COVID-19. The induction ceremony, held Thursday, Dec. 2, inducted sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Adviser Tamera Burns said that the National Art Honors Society, also known as NAHS, is an organization that inspires



COURTESY OF TAMERA BURNS

NAHS members explain the integral elements of art, such as color, line, texture, and movement during their induction.

and recognizes students who have shown outstanding ability in art, whether it be in photography, painting, drawing, or sculpture. "It's a club that's based on

your nomination for it. If you are in Level 2 classes, then you are invited because it shows that you are interested in pursuing a pathway in art and design," Burns

said.

Senior and vice president Julia Rousmaniere said to begin the induction ceremony recognized the elements of art that NAHS is based around, and students were able to

express them.

"Part of the induction ceremony is a very brief explanation of the elements of art, such as color, line, texture, and move-

ment...some of the seniors

came up and each had an object to represent those words and explain what each element was," Rousmaniere said.

Senior President Sami Turner said the ceremony ran smoothly

and quickly.

National Art Honor

Society recognizes

10-12 grade students

who have shown

outstanding ability in

art.

Turner said after the ceremony attendees enjoyed the art gallery created by the students over the first three NAHS meetings. Each meeting introduces a theme

which the artist must use to prompt their pieces.

Student work included photography, paintings, drawings, poetry, and three-dimensional pieces. "There was

a nice art gallery for everyone to look at...parents really seemed to enjoy it and seeing all their kids work," Turner said.

Student work is still available to view by the main entrance.

her listeners from all

feeling of connection

with her music.

Taylor Swift releases re-recording of 2012's 'Red' album

10-minute original version of 'All Too Well' included

By Emma Ketchum INDEPENDENT EDITOR

After not obtaining legal ownership of her music from the private equity firm Shamrock Holdings, Taylor Swift has decided to re-record her old albums and add "Taylor's Version" to

the titles. Not only do the releases bring back music that is already incredibly loved, but Swift's unique touch on the songs

and inclusion of unreleased lyrics creates an exciting listening experience for Swift fans around the world.

Swift's most recent release, "Red (Taylor's Version)," came out on Nov. 12, after she released "Fearless (Taylor's Version)" back in April.

"Red (Taylor's Version)" has 30 tracks, including a 10-minute version of the beloved song "All Too Well."

The 10-minute version is the rough draft that was cut short when released in 2012 and includes new lyrics that reveal more about her relationship with Jake Gyllenhaal in 2010.

Although Swift does not explicitly mention Gyllenhaal in the song, fans can assume that it is about him because of the obvi-

ous hints in the lyrics. Swift never fails to give "You said if we

had been over the world an intense closer in age maybe it would have been fine/and that

made me

want to die," is a revealing line that refers to Swift and Gyllenhaal's nine-year age gap.

In a recent interview with Seth Myers, Swift discussed her feelings about recording the song again many years after the relationship ended.



The 10-minute version of "All Too Well" on Taylor Swift's rereleased "Red" is the rough draft that was shortened when the album was released in 2012. The short film is based on this release.

"At the time I was honestly really sad 'cause I'd actually gone through the stuff that I had sung about...It's really nice to be able to put this album out and not be sad, not be taking breaks in between interviews to cry. I'm telling you, it's much better this way," she said.

Following the release of the album, Swift came out with an "All Too Well" short film, which she wrote and directed herself.

The film is 15 minutes long

and features actors Dylan O'Brien and Sadie Sink starring as the main characters.

The age gap between the actors makes people assume the film is about Swift's relationship with Gyllenhaal, with O'Brien being 30 years old and Sink being 19 years old.

The film shows the heartbreaking progression of a couple's end and the emotions felt when a relationship falls apart. ABC News said the short film had more than three million views on Youtube in less than three hours after its release, marking it as a major success.

In reaction to the release of the album and video, angry Swift fans have been flooding Jake Gyllenhaal's Instagram comments with red scarf emojis, referring to a lyric in the song that states he kept Swift's scarf after the breakup because it "reminds him of her innocence."

The re-recorded album partnered with the film brought back emotions from Swift's past that many people continue to relate with today.

Adele's '30' addresses divorce, motherhood

By Carson Komishane **INDEPENDENT EDITOR**

Six years after the release of her last album, "25," Adele released her new 12-song album "30," which gave fans all over the world songs to relate to and enjoy.

According to an interview done with Adele on rollingstone. com, the album, released on Nov. 19, is almost a chronological order of events through her life including her divorce and raising her son.

The album opens with "Strangers by Nature," which starts as Adele sings, "I'll be taking flowers to the cemetery of my heart." According to rollingstone.com, this song is a homage to Judy Garland.



ADELE.COM

Adele's album "30," which was released six years after her last album, "25," details her recent divorce and life as a new mother.

beginning of the song contrasts to the middle and end, as the background instrumentals begin to speed up.

The chorus hits with power, and the different harmonies of

of the chorus.

After a powerful opening, Adele returns to her roots in the second song, titled "Easy on Me." This song was released as a single on Oct. 15.

Adele song; it is full of strength, honesty, and emotion.

According to rollingstone.com, this song explains her feelings during her marriage. She sings, "Go easy on me / I was still a child," which represents both her emotions through her divorce as well as the emotions of her son, who had to experience the divorce with her.

Adele also sings, "I changed who I was to put you both first," indicating that she struggled with her identity during both her divorce and marriage because she prioritized her husband and son over herself.

This line gives an insight to Adele's feelings as she, once again, brings relatable and touching music to everyone.

As the events in her life continue through the songs, the seventh song of the album, titled "I Drink Wine," reveals that she has to work through her own problems before letting others into her life.

She sings, "I have to learn to

somebody else," and explains how she searches for validation from others rather than herself. This song, as well as the entire album, is vulnerable and truthful to her life as a mother and as a person.

The final song, titled "Love is a Game," brings an inspiring conclusion to the events of her life. It is slightly more upbeat as she explains that through her pain, she is able to find love again.

This is evident in the ending as she sings, "I can love, I can love again / I love me now, like I love him / I'm a fool for that." This song brings a powerful conclusion to her message in previous songs about how she had to work on herself before finding love again.

This album emphasizes her growth as both a singer and a person due to the time between this album and her last, and it serves as a way for listeners to process their emotions and cone

This song is more of a classic

get over myself / stop trying to be

with their feelings.

'Yellowjackets' loosely based on 'Lord of the Flies'

By Jordie Cornfield INDEPENDENT EDITOR

"Yellowjackets," the new, fictional teen drama inspired by William Golding's 1954 novel "Lord of the Flies," premiered on Showtime on Nov. 14. This compelling narrative chronicles the aftermath of a plane crash through the memories of the five survivors.

In 1996, a group of female soccer players on their way to a national championship became trapped in the Canadian wilderness for 19 months after their plane crashed.

The girls struggle to survive

and face environmental and interpersonal challenges following the tragedy.

The episodes jump between 1996 and 2021, weaving the story together through memories and flashbacks. From interlacing episodes with two timelines, audiences know who survives and who dies.

"Yellowjackets" is a modern, gender-bent retelling of "Lord of The Flies." While many Hollywood executives were doubtful that teenage girls would exhibit the same barbarity seen in Golding's novel, the writers kept the gory storyline.

While "Yellowjackets" is a

fictionalized story, it was partially inspired by the real-life plane crash of Uruguayan Air Force Flight 571. In 1972, a plane carrying a rugby team crashed in the Andes mountains, leaving the survivors to resort to cannibalism until their rescue. Similarly, the first three episodes of "Yellowjackets" often allude to cannibalism.

This show is not recommended to those who have a weak stomach or own a pet rabbit. Fans of the Amazon Prime series "The Wilds" and Hulu's "Cruel Summer" would enjoy "Yellowjackets."

While in the past, shows and



SHO.COM

"Yellowjackets" depicts a girls' soccer team stranded in the wild.

movies featuring predominantly female casts have been less bloody than films like Ryan Reynolds' "Deadpool," the opposite is true for "Yellowjackets."

Three episodes have been released as of now, and new episodes will be available to stream every Sunday. The full first episode is available on Youtube.