

# THE AMITY TRIDENT

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Amity Regional High School

Woodbridge, CT 06525

December 15, 2023

## Alumni Offer College Advice to Current Juniors and Seniors

by Emily Russo '24

Amity hosted its annual Alumni College Panel for juniors and seniors, on Wednesday, November 22, the day before Thanksgiving break. Recent alumni returned to their alma mater for the event, participating in one panel discussion for the class of 2023, and another for the class of 2024.

Senior class president Ben Aviad hosted both events, posing questions for the Alumni Panel to answer.

The Career Center has organized many college visits for specific universities; in these meetings, students have the opportunity to ask representatives about the admissions process for that specific school, activities and classes the college offers, as well as its financial aid options.

However, some questions are best answered by college students themselves. Deciding what extra-curriculars to join, adjusting to a new environment (both socially and academically), and determin-

ing which college to go to in the first place, were all discussed at the event.

Certain questions are even better suited to college students who recently attended Amity. Anchal Bahel, who graduated last year, offered advice relevant to students at Amity specifically.

She noted that, at ARHS, there is a certain pressure for students to attend top colleges. Bahel went on to emphasize the impacts of this: that students begin to prioritize a school's reputation over their happiness and well-being. By bringing attention to the culture surrounding college decisions at Amity, Bahel reminded current students to be mindful of what factors impact their college search.

Bahel, who attends Indiana University, said she really enjoyed her return to Amity. "I was able to take the opportunity to reflect on how much Amity has prepared me for college," she said. "I also enjoyed sharing insight on my journey in college so far."

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## Students Spend an Afternoon with the Admins

by Aarushi Trivedi '24

On November 16th, the Principal's Committee brought back the Afternoon With the Admins with a meeting after school in the

lecture hall.

Principal Andre Hauser, all three associate principals, and Director of Counseling Jill LaPlante were present. Afternoon With the Admins, an after school student forum.

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*Photo contributed by Aachal Gupta '25*

**Students attending Afternoon with the Admins**

## Access Lost: Students' Work Disrupted by Disabled Accounts

by Armaan Shrivastav '27

On Friday, November 17th, the Amity school accounts of 77 students were disabled.

In effect, they lost access to the numerous services Amity relies on to administer schoolwork and facilitate communication between students and teachers. This includes both Schoology and Outlook.

When asked why this occurred, Principal Andre Hauser said that every year, before the new session begins, the students' families are asked to complete a list of forms that aims to gather important information about the student that will help them throughout the year.

This includes the students' contact information, health information, asking them to comply with various policies related to devices, sports, etc. While most families filled out the forms timely, there were a few who could not, or did not, fill it even after the administration sent

multiple reminders. Reminders included the information about the student's account being disabled if the forms were not filled out.

Hauser explained, "We temporarily locked the accounts for anybody who still hadn't had this stuff filled out because it was two and a half months into the school year already."

The affected students could not access Schoology, PowerSchool, or any other portal that needed the school account. The affected students were unable to do and upload any online assignments, were not able to view their scores, or read the notices posted. Everything was to be done on paper for them.

Many of the 77 students found this frustrating and annoying. Since students are used to typing instead of handwriting, paperwork was not ideal. Because of this, there was a lot of late work. Students could not check any emails, updates, or announcements for their classes.

Since everything was to be done on paper, this impacted the pace of the entire class. The

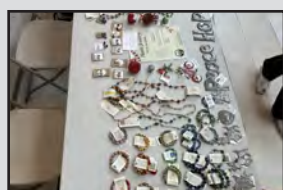
teachers had to check everything on paper, then upload their notes and grades in PowerSchool. Since everyone is so used to technology, going back to the old ways was not easy and slowed down everyone. As of now, according to Hauser, the problem has been resolved with all the families filling out the forms after accounts were disabled.

"I'm hoping that people will remember that a couple of our students lost access for a little while," Hauser said.

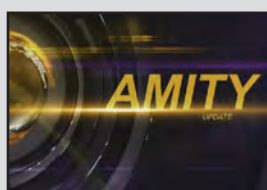
Freshmen Sam Ferriera and Justin Davenport said losing access made completing assignments difficult. "Most work is done on computers now, so it was harder to do projects in class," said Davenport.

While the episode depicts how much of an important role technology plays in our education, it also highlights the importance of paying attention to the communications that school sends out to the families and how a small miss can affect the day-to-day life of a student.

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# Alumni Offer Advice

*Continued from page 1* Senior Aiden Ahmed found the program very engaging. “This was more informative than most college tours. There is a larger sense of relatability with the recent alumni,” he said. The Alumni Panel was successful in discussing the challenges and opportunities that college presents from a student’s perspective. Specifically, hearing from former Amity graduates allowed for a more meaningful and impactful discussion.



Photo Contributed by Lynn Cocco  
**Ben Aviad ‘24 (left) and recent alumni in the Brady Center on Wednesday, November 21.**

# Principal’s Committee Column

by Aachal Gupta ‘25

Principal’s Committee met on December 1st to talk about important matters impacting Amity. The committee examined urgent issues like drug education, study hall protocols, and possibilities for after-school testing, as they are committed to improving the student experience. The first topic of discussion was the widespread misperception about marijuana use among teenagers. At Amity, a significant number of students continue to believe that vaping is less harmful than smoking marijuana. This belief is surprising, given that health classes have taught drug education programs for ninth graders. Since marijuana has been legalized, the environment has changed; students now have easier access to the drug, which is a big change from when juniors and seniors took ninth-grade health. The group suggested putting educational posters in school restrooms—possibly made by DARE students—to address this. The purpose of this project is to provide accurate information and increase public awareness of the possible hazards connected to marijuana usage. The committee also revisited study

hall check-ins and acknowledged that efficiency hasn’t improved all that much. Members proposed introducing a consistent check-in procedure for every study hall; this would simplify the process, essentially clearing up any misunderstandings. Although study hall teachers have access to the most effective system, not all of them use it. The committee stressed the value of consistency in order to improve overall effectiveness. If this is done, they guarantee a more seamless check-in procedure for students. Next, they looked into ways to keep the testing center available after school hours to address the need for greater accessibility. The committee proposed that instructors or guidance counselors should proctor exams after regular school hours. The group discussed using already available services, such as Homework Help Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays, as a location for exam proctoring. This would give students more opportunities to take missed exams. For students without study halls in their hectic schedules, this recommendation would be a game changer. Through the efforts of administrators and students alike via the Principal’s Committee, Amity will improve in these areas of concern. The goal is to always make Amity a safer and intellectually encouraging place for all students.

# Students Spend an Afternoon with the Admins

*continued from page 1*

When coming up with ideas for how to expand the Principal’s Committee’s work to the entire school, students agreed to bring back “Afternoon With the Admins.” The new purpose of the meetings is for students to have the opportunity to discuss any opinions/concerns they have about the school with the administration. At the November meeting, there were a variety of topics discussed. Many students are wondering when and if there can be a directory for Outlook, since when you go to send an email to someone, you have to type out full email addresses which can be a problem if you don’t know the first name of a certain teacher, or make an error in spelling. Administrators said they are in contact with the Technology Department and are working to find a solution. Another topic that was discussed was theft. Students questioned about school policy on theft and if there are any ways that the administration can work to prevent theft. The overwhelming response was that students should not leave their items unattended and they should also not bring items of personal value to school in the first place. However, students can get locks from their gym teachers or get an assigned locker from the Main Office. If items are lost, students should

check the lost and found, and for smaller or more valuable items, check with the security desk. Cafeteria cleanliness was also a hot topic. Many students have expressed concern about not being able to find a clean lunch table, especially if they have any lunchwave after Lunch 1. Hauser’s advice was that if students see their peers fooling around during lunch, the best thing to do is to speak up and ask them to clean up after themselves. It may seem intimidating at first, but it is the most effective way to stop this problem. The last topic, but also a hefty one, was concerning how the administration responds to reports of sexual harassment. The administration works closely with the police to conduct a thorough investigation. Because of FERPA policies, they are not allowed to disclose any parts of the investigation, including the persons involved and the outcome. However, the administrators want students to know that each and every case is taken seriously and handled with care. If you have something to report or know of another student involved in a situation, please use the anonymous SpeakUp number to text or call in your report. Overall, the first Afternoon With the Admins was a huge success. Associate Principal Miguel Pickering said, “I thought it went well! I loved getting an opportunity to answer student questions since we don’t often get the chance, and the topics were meaningful which made the conversation all the more productive.” The next meeting is Tuesday, January 9th. All students are encouraged to attend and make their voices heard.

# FNHS’s Annual Bracelet Fundraiser: A Global Celebration of Francophone Culture and Empowerment

by Ellen Ko ‘24

In a harmonious blend of local impact and global outreach, the French National Honor Society (FNHS) has woven a tale of cultural celebration and empowerment through its annual bracelet fundraiser. As the FNHS embraces the spirit of giving during the holiday season, it transcends the bounds of the Amity community, reaching out to support Haitian families in collaboration with The Apparent Project. “The FNHS looks to not only make an impact locally, but globally as well through different fundraisers and events throughout the year,” emphasizes Mia Bierowski ‘24, co-president of the French National Honor Society. This sentiment echoes the club’s commitment to extending its reach far beyond the familiar walls of Amity. Collaborating closely with The Apparent Project, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing opportunities for Haitian families, FNHS ensures its annual bracelet fundraiser becomes a beacon of hope for those in need. As students and staff members seek meaningful gifts for their loved ones this holiday season, they are inadvertently supporting Hai-

tian families through the purchase of handmade jewelry. This dual-purpose initiative transforms each bracelet into a symbol of cultural exchange. “The FNHS bracelet fundraiser is an annual event dedicated to raising money for impoverished families in Haiti. It’s been really great to have this club as an opportunity to reach people in need beyond the Amity community,” reflects Emily Russo ‘24—co-president of the French National Honor Society—underscoring the club’s global perspective and its impact on lives beyond the immediate community. The FNHS’s dedication to supporting impoverished families in Haiti becomes a testament to the belief that compassion knows no geographical boundaries. The fundraiser serves as a reminder that even a small gesture, like the purchase of a handmade bracelet, can resonate globally and contribute to meaningful change. Available until December 15th during lunch waves, these unique pieces of jewelry carry with them the stories and aspirations of Haitian artisans. For those who may miss the opportunity to purchase during lunch waves, the FNHS has extended an open invitation to students. They can email advisor, Madame Ashley Caron expressing interest in contributing

to the cause and obtaining a beautiful piece of Haitian craftsmanship. The FNHS bracelet fundraiser is not just an event but an invitation to be part of a transformative journey that extends compassion and support beyond the local communities, embodying the true spirit of the holiday season.



Photo contributed by Ellen Ko ‘24  
**The FNHS table with Haitian jewelry outside the cafeteria**



# The Need to Protect the Civilians Amid the Israel-Hamas War

by Sarinah Zamir ‘27

Recent developments in the 2023 Israel-Hamas war was a temporary ceasefire that began on November 24th and ended on December 1st. Progressive lawmakers in the international community called for this ceasefire in hopes that both groups would negotiate to temporarily end the bloodshed, allow time for consideration of longer-lasting peace and to release hostages and prisoners.

During this truce, Israeli air strikes and Hamas firing of rockets paused and humanitarian aid was allowed into Gaza. Over the week, 105 Israeli hostages were released from Gaza and 240 Palestinian prisoners were released from Israel.

Despite hope that the ceasefire would lead to Hamas surrendering - the quickest, most appropriate way to save many lives including those of Gazans - there was no agreement for the ceasefire to continue past Friday and fighting resumed minutes after the scheduled end. This short period of time raised essential questions about the future of the two groups and how they should respond to their longstanding conflict over political, land, and even moral rights.

As Palestinians and Israelis returned home during the ceasefire, one of the questions that became clear was how to protect civilians in a war. The clear answer is that Israel and Hamas need to do more to avoid civilian casualties.

First, Hamas should release Israeli hostages and stop the practice of targeting civilians in Israel. Hamas recently reneged on a deal to release all the innocent women being held hostage without providing credible reasoning as to why.

This is an example of the brutally unjust

decisions of Hamas. The work to free every hostage must not stop until the release of all is secured. This humanitarian issue is of utmost importance and should remain at the head of all global efforts in the region.

At the same time, Israel should focus on fighting Hamas because of its intent to annihilate Israel, not the civilians of Gaza. The Israeli Defense Forces have repeatedly pointed out that whenever possible, it tries to avoid civilian casualties and uses targeted attacks instead of indiscriminately bombing. Despite this, too many Palestinians have been killed. Israel has a right to defend itself, but how to do this without harming the innocent is what’s important.

To start, Israel should continue and expand their use of humanitarian corridors, which is when those involved in a conflict declare that a particular route will not be targeted. This protects the Palestinians’ ability to get to safe areas without being hurt in the process.

The recent pause in fighting proved effective in releasing hostages and giving necessary humanitarian aid. What the situation needs now, is a firm plan for what to do to achieve a longer-lasting peace. Once the fighting is over, Gaza and the West Bank must be unified under peaceful Palestinians’ voices. Gaza must no longer serve as a platform for terrorism, and not be allowed to continue to threaten Israel.

Vice President Kamala Harris powerfully said, “Palestinians need a hopeful political horizon, economic opportunity, and freedom.”

Peace must be achieved by a strengthened, revitalized push for cooperation. A new Palestinian authority to protect the lives of the Palestinian people and security in Israel must follow.

## Here at Amity, We Answer to a Higher Standard

by Alex Klee ‘25

On November 13, 2023, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) issued its first ethics code. This came on the heels of the discovery that some of the court’s justices accepted luxury trips and gifts from wealthy individuals who had or may have future business before the court. The appearance of powerful individuals influencing our nation’s highest court is worrisome, to say the least.

While the ethics code is a first step towards judicial accountability, it is the least the Justices could have possibly done. If it was inspiration they lacked, they could have turned to Amity’s Student Handbook.

Totaling 57 pages of guidelines, the Handbook outlines discovering, interpreting, and punishing unethical behavior. In contrast, the SCOTUS ethics code, standing at a meager fifteen pages, has no protocol for reporting offenses, interpreting the ethics code, or punishing Justices who act inappropriately. Without these key components, the SCOTUS ethics code is performative; it is only a facade to cover a flawed system.

But what would it look like if the SCOTUS ethics code borrowed a few pages from Amity’s Handbook?

To start, Amity’s Handbook has investigative tools to uncover and report violations, such as Turnitin.com, the SpeakUp tip line, and direct complaints to administrators. On the other hand, the SCOTUS ethics code has none of these. Their system relies entirely on self-reporting by the Justices. Imagine if a student were expected to report themselves plagiarizing or using AI on an assignment?

Secondly, there is no organized body that can interpret the SCOTUS ethics code. This means that the Justices alone determine what even constitutes a violation of their ethics code, further rendering it ineffective.

At Amity, there are a handful of individuals and groups that can determine what falls inside of the student handbook’s rules. These include our administrators and publicly elected members of the Board of Education. To the extent that there are any gray areas in our student handbook, should a student be the one to determine if they broke a rule?

Finally, if a Justice violates one of the sections of their ethics code, what would happen? It is not at all clear from the paltry fifteen pages what these consequences are if they even exist. Moreover, it is unclear if the public would even learn about any violations from SCOTUS itself. By contrast, at Amity, we have a plethora of consequences for violations of our Handbook, like confiscations, detentions, suspensions, and a call to your parents.

Of course, no one is going to call the Justices’ parents, but shouldn’t we the people, the Congress, or the press be informed of the Justices’ ethical lapses?

Some may argue that the Supreme Court, as the nation’s highest court, should be able to govern its own ethical obligations. I completely disagree. No group should police itself, especially the group that has the final word on incredibly important and impactful legal decisions.

They should be held to the highest ethical standards, or at least held to something as stringent as the Amity Regional High School Student Handbook.

# The Amity Trident

## *The Amity Trident*

Amity Regional High School  
25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT 06525  
203-397-4830  
amityregion5.org

## EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

CJ Brinton ‘24  
Bridget Lowder ‘24  
Andie Napolitano ‘24

## NEWS

Emily Russo ‘24

## OPINIONS

Ellen Ko ‘24

## FEATURES

Avery Dillon ‘24  
Soumya Wijesekera ‘25

## ARTS

Hannah Guo ‘25

## SPORTS

Liliana Fleming ‘24

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Aachal Gupta ‘25

## FACULTY ADVISOR

Emily Clark

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:** Armaan Shrivastav ‘27, Ellen Ko ‘24, Aryan Shrivastav ‘27, Aarushi Trivedi ‘24, Sarinah Zamir ‘27, Alex Klee ‘25, Chloe Chang ‘27, Sarah Shaikh ‘25. Libby Grant ‘25, Soma Kim ‘25, Ziyang Zhang ‘27, Michael Crisci ‘24, Avery Ketchian ‘26, Joy Deng ‘26, Luna Lu ‘27, Ben Glassman ‘24, Karishma Balamurugan ‘27, Chloe Chang ‘27, Nicholas Lu ‘26, Jill Barnes ‘24, Jacqueline Miller ‘27

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For any corrections or tips, please email [amitytridentnewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:amitytridentnewspaper@gmail.com)

To sign up to write or take photographs for *The Trident*, contact the Editors-in-Chief, Mrs. Clark, or email [amitytrident@amityschools.org](mailto:amitytrident@amityschools.org)

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## WRITE FOR THE TRIDENT

Great opportunity to get involved!

See your name in print!

Check your email and listen to the announcements for information on a writers meeting after the break for the February 2024 issue.

*Get involved. Write for the Trident!*





# Generative AI: Friend or Foe

by Chloe Chang ‘27

Chat GPT, write an article on the development of the use of AI.

It would be so much easier to just write this article with AI (Artificial Intelligence), wouldn't it? It would save me a couple of minutes, hours, maybe even days.

Why not then?

AI usage has been increasingly popular in the last few years. In short, the debate between the benefits and drawbacks hinges directly on one question: does AI take over and control or aid humans' abilities and creativity on the road to improvement?

In the specific field of education, opponents of using AI as a teaching method argue that AI can be more of a headache than it is worth. By bringing in the possibility that students may be generating entire assignments AI, teachers fear that AI may only encourage complacency in the students.

This brings up the question of how would the teacher be able to differentiate between an AI-created source of information and an original thought. Since the possibilities of generative AI are endless, and many new software programs introduce the concept of cre-

ating presentations and projects, teachers' fears are valid. Building a foundation based on generative AI is like building a building on glass.

The glass may be able to hold the structure for a certain period, but it will inevitably crash and then the glass will shatter.

Proponents of having AI used in an educational environment, however, argue that AI could be used to propel students' thinking concepts, and would allow them to come up with more creative solutions compared to not using these platforms.

They argue that by using AI, a platform could be built in place of a foundation, and it would allow students to leap through the road that was usually walked through.

If Chat GPT was used for writing this article, what would have been the point of having it published? To have it attached to my name? As I see it, generative AI, as well as AI in an educational setting, is used only to further human development, not to create complacency and reliance on AI in humans.

Most likely, everyone has used AI-generated prompts to get ideas flowing, and the use of it is not inappropriate for the educational setting. As for the concerns raised by the teach-

ers, the purpose of creating AI is to make human life easier. All inventions. Although people who do use generative AI for their entire assignment may not exhibit ethical behavior, students cannot be forced to retain information, and will only do so willingly.

To a certain extent, though, it may be debated whether there is anything original. And no. There will never be anything 100% new, or undone. Although generative AI may seem like a tool that slows down creativity, when you look at it through a different lens, it can be seen as a bump up from past decades in terms of productivity instead.

AI productivity in the educational field tilted heavily towards being beneficial, and it can also be extremely helpful to humans in terms of achieving their goals.



# Pep Rally Prep Plans Underway for Next Week

by Aryan Shrivastav ‘27

Amity's annual Thanksgiving pep rally has been rescheduled for December 22nd, the last school day of 2023. Planning and preparation is underway for the event. This task is led by the three co-chairs of the Student Government's Pep Rally Committee: Bridget Morrison '24, Ben Cewe '24, and Dariush Raissi '25. The committee has been tirelessly working to ensure the pep rally is entertaining and stimulating and includes fun and engaging activities.

Unlike the Thanksgiving pep rally, the pep rally will take place in the Amity gymnasium due to the frigid temperatures in late December. While the location of the pep rally has changed, it will still be jam-packed with school spirit, competition, and fun. This pep rally is going to be holiday-themed, and the committee has planned multiple games and activities for students to participate in, including Table Surfing and Scooter Hungry Hungry Hippets.

The Pep Rally Committee will be choosing volunteers for each activity from the results of a survey sent out to the student body. Students will be selected on a first-response, first-serve basis.

Bridget Morrison '24, one of the committee members, expressed her excitement about the upcoming pep rally. "I have not organized a pep rally before," she said. "I am super excited to see how this turns out". This sentiment is shared by several other students who are eager for the event.

On December 22nd, classes will run per usual until the pep rally at the end of the day. The pep rally is the last activity the school is going to do together in 2023 and the last thing before the holiday break, which adds to the excitement. It is going to be a memorable event, filled with enjoyment and a lot of school spirit to end another successful year.



116 Old Amity Road  
Bethany, CT  
203-393-PETS (7387)

Kimberly McClure Brinton, DVM  
Shannon Brighenti, DVM  
Dallas Passerine, DVM  
Dana M. Perry, DVM

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# A “Sticky” Situation

## Melted Snowman Cookie Recipe

by Libby Grant ‘25

As we head into the cold and dark winter season, any good New Englander knows that in order to survive, it is time to switch to warm and cozy activities around the house.

Whether that means lighting a candle, reading a book, or baking a warm tray of cookies, there are plenty of ways to embrace and even romanticize this chilly time of year.



*Photo by cookcraftlove.com*

**This is how your cookies will look - perfect little snowmen.**

These adorable melted snowman cookies will certainly spice up the next wintry day and test your confectionary and decorating skills! The general ingredient list and recipe to make one dozen cookies is as follows:

12 plain sugar cookies (can be store bought or homemade!)

12 oz. bag of white chocolate chips

6 jumbo marshmallows

M&Ms

Black gel food coloring

Orange gel food coloring

**Prepare the marshmallows:** Using clean kitchen scissors, cut each marshmallow in half crosswise to create 12 uniform pieces. Set aside.

**Melt the chocolate:** Using a double boiler or the microwave on 15 second intervals, melt all the white chocolate chips, stirring constantly.

**Begin icing:** Pour about a table-spoon of melted white chocolate onto each plain sugar cookie. Gently spread it around with a butter knife as shown in the picture.

**Decorate:** Put one marshmallow half, sticky-side down, onto the uncooled melted chocolate. Add M&M’s to look like buttons. Finally, use the food coloring to pipe on hands, a carrot, eyes and a mouth.

**Cool:** Refrigerate decorated cookies in a covered container for 20 minutes or until chocolate has hardened. Last but not least: enjoy!

# Local Boy Scout Troop Holds Annual Christmas Tree Sale

by Libby Grant ‘25

As you may have seen on your way into AHS, the Boy Scout Troop 63 is hosting their annual Christmas tree sale at town center. Just outside the library, the group is selling a wide array of kissing balls, wreaths, decorative logs and of course the star of the show – Christmas trees.

The sale holds significance for various reasons, one of which is the ability to provide Woodbridge and its neighboring residents with locally crafted Christmas decorations, made by members of Troop 63 themselves. With all of the profits earned, the group can have the funds to officially register the troop for the year.

Additionally, the proceeds can contribute to covering maintenance expenses for Camp Whiting, the scouts’ local campground used by other surrounding troops.

Sophomore and Troop 63 Scout Liam Van Tonder said, “Many of the repairs and maintenance costs are expensive and we don’t charge for use, so we get all the money we need from the tree sales.”

By supporting the boy scouts, you can contribute towards Camp Whiting and scout registration for the coming year.

When it comes to products, the scouts have put together an impressive array of decorations. Beautiful hanging kissing balls are sold for \$40, along with extravagant decorative logs for \$30. Handmade wreaths are being sold as well as the trees.

Van Tonder says, “The wreaths’ materials are sourced locally and assembled by the scouts themselves.”

A lot of work goes into producing high quality natural products for locals.

The major attraction to the sale comes from the Christmas trees, as one might expect during the holiday season. The Balsam Fir trees are sourced from farms in Canada, Vermont and New Hampshire and differ in color and texture depending on the climates they grew in.

Professionally priced by a landscaper, the trees range from five feet tall to thirteen feet tall and are around \$10 per foot, plus \$15. With a wide array of arboreal options, it is a convenient way to find the perfect tree to fit your home.

The scouts will even make free deliveries to any resident less than a fifteen minute drive from the lot at the Woodbridge town center. This available service even includes optional setup in-home.

If you have not yet bought your tree, a wreath or simply want more decorations for the Christmas season, the scouts will be open until Christmas Eve while supplies last!

The sale will run Wednesday through Friday from 4-8 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 9am-8pm.

Happy decorating!



Photo contributed by Liam VanTonder

**One of the handmade wreaths available for sale**

# A Seasonal Memory

by Soma Kim ‘25

In the bed of white  
I see an angel rest  
On a pillow of winter’s glitter  
The bed sheets sparkling and blinding


In the bed of white  
I see an angel’s footprint  
Leaving behind a trail  
Away from that angel

In the bed of white  
I see winter’s breath  
Greeting me with a brittle cold  
Leaving me pink

In the bed of white  
I see the season’s decorations  
Nature’s twinkling ornaments  
Dangling from branches

In the bed of white  
I hear the wind whistle  
Blowing a tune of remembrance  
A welcoming call

In the bed of white  
I sense a sham present  
Hoping it to be everlasting  
A frosty warmth



# Chinese National Honor Society Holds Ping-Pong Tournament

by Sarah Shaikh ‘25

The Chinese National Honor Society (CNHS) is a school organization that helps to promote and recognize students who have been learning how to fluently speak and write Chinese in their highschool years. At Amity, we have several language societies for the four different languages offered: Spanish, Chinese, Latin and French.

Each organization has fundraisers, activities and field trips that they take part in, in order to help broaden their learning experiences and exposure in the school. The CNHS has many members in its society and is growing every year.

Feng, Xia, the advisor of the CNHS, explained how all members are divided into five teams. Each team is responsible for coming up with a unique fundraising activity to raise awareness to Amity students.

This year, Miranda Hurwitz ‘24 came up with the idea of a ping-pong tournament as a way to raise money. Although the CNHS had a ping-pong tournament last year, it was an activity for the Chinese New Year. Xia stated that “this is the first time in eighteen years that someone came up with such a unique idea”.

Leading up to the event, the CNHS members hung flyers around the school and sold raffle tickets for 5 dollars in order to compete in the tournament. This year, about twenty kids participated in the ping-pong tournament.

The winner was Suhail Irshad ‘24 and the runner up was Ethan Hass ‘24 for this year’s tournament. As winner of the event, Irshad received a twenty-five dollar Chipotle gift card. Irshad reflects his interest in ping-pong sparked at a young age. He started playing in fourth grade when his dad started to teach him and found the tournament to be a fun and competitive competition. Although Irshad is a senior this year, he said he would definitely play again if possible.

Kayliegh Fitzpatrick ‘24, the president of the Chinese National Honor Society, also played a crucial role in the success of the tournament, by helping set up and place flyers around the school. Fitzpatrick started learning Chinese in seventh grade.

Xia said Fitzpatrick is “one of the best leaders the Chinese National Honor Society has had.”

Fitzpatrick was pleased with the outcome of the event. However, she wished there was a method “to advertise better so more people would come and [we would] be able to give out better prizes”.

Overall, the ping-pong tournament was an excellent way for everyone to showcase their hidden talents. Although members hope to make some improvement in the future, they look forward to hosting the event again next year.



Photo contributed by Feng Xia

**Members of the CNHS at the ping-pong tournament**



# Nurturing Brilliance in Math Students Compete in Prestigious AMC 10, AMC 12 Competitions

by Ziyang Zhang ‘27

A wave of students ranging from freshmen to seniors flooded the cafeteria on November 8, their excitement buzzing like a hive of eager bees.

These students were looking forward to taking the American Math Competition 10 (AMC 10) and 12 (AMC 12), the most popular math competition for high school students in terms of participation numbers.

After 75 minutes of intense work, the students handed in their tests. A collective sigh of relief rippled through the room, followed by chatter as students compared notes and dissected the mathematical puzzles they had just conquered.

The AMC 10 tests students who are sophomores and younger, and covers the high school curriculum up to 10th grade including algebra, probability and counting, geometry, and number theory.

Meanwhile, AMC 12 raises the stakes and delves into the entire high school curriculum with topics like trigonometry, advanced algebra, and advanced geometry, excluding calculus.

This year, nearly 160,000 students, 119,000 in the US and 40,000 internationally, participated in AMC 10 and 12. Only the top 6,000-7,000 will advance to the distinguished American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME), aiming to select the six brightest young mathematicians to represent their country at the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO).

The AMC is not just a competition; it is a thrilling journey into the heart of mathematical problem-solving skills

and positive attitudes towards analytical thinking and mathematics that can assist in future careers.

For senior students like Edward Han, the AMC competition is a platform to unleash their intellectual potential beyond the school curriculum. He has witnessed significant personal growth through his involvement in the AMC 10 and 12 series from his freshman year.

“The AMC offers a unique and stimulating environment, emphasizing creativity and providing a fresh and engaging experience,” which Han highly recommends to any student seeking genuine intellectual challenge and growth.

On the other hand, for Armaan Shrivastav ‘27, his first encounter with the AMC 10 was equally stimulating. He exclaimed, “I attended this competition because I thought it would be a great opportunity to find where I stand in mathematics.”

He would recommend this competition test to interested future students “to improve their mathematics skills and prepare for exams such as the SATs, ACTs, PACTs, and PSATs.”

Another freshman, Aryan Shrivastav, says, “I attended this competition to improve my analytical and thinking skills and my mathematics skills.”

He also said that he would advise students to participate in this competition to “improve their skills in mathematics and be better prepared for harder classes, such as calculus, statistics, and trigonometry, later in their high school careers.”

For all high school students, the AMC provides an opportunity to unlock creative talents, explore the mesmerizing world of mathematics, and discover hidden connections.

# Programming Club Makes “Hour of Code” a Success

by Michael Crisci ‘24

From Sunday, December 3rd to Saturday, December 9th, Hour Of Code week sweeps the nation. The Hour of Code is a free introduction to computer science through fun activities and videos for learners of all skill levels. Hour of Code Week occurs every year during Computer Science Education Week, celebrated on Grace Murray Hopper’s birthday. Hopper was a computer pioneer in 1906 and she helped with the creation of the computer.

This year, Amity’s Programming Club decided to transform the event to a whole new level by offering instruction on computing to a class of freshman students. Robert Long, a social studies teacher at Amity, was one of the teachers who signed up for this experience.

“We are learning about the Industrial Revolution right now, and it’s great to see kids trying this especially while

we are going through a tech revolution today,” stated Long.

The class in Long’s room consisted of learning Tracy the Turtle basics, which includes very basic code on teaching a turtle how to move forward, backward, left, right, as well as draw lines for drawings.

The Amity Programming Club is led by teacher Michael Battista. Battista stated, “It’s awesome to get great leaders of this club this year who are willing to go out and educate the freshman and future years about some of the great classes Amity has to offer.

“It stinks that freshmen only get one full year of electives whether it be two half or one full year, so it’s great to have the students get their toes wet and possibly explore future elective options, especially computing,” he added.

Julia Kier ‘24 was one of the students who took the class. “For someone who doesn’t like computers, it was a lot of fun and was engaging and easy to learn. I would do it again!” stated Kier.



*This space sponsored by the Law Office of Tracey Lane Russo.*

# Michaela Nunez: From Amity Student to Spotify Artist

by Avery Ketchian ‘26

from Amity, she also attended an arts magnet school in New Haven called ACES Educational Center for the Arts.

She recommends this school for anyone considering a path in the arts. ACES has a wide variety of different art-focused classes including theater, photography, music, dance, and many more. Nunez is eager to earn her doctorate degree in music composition and theory. She is currently a first year undergraduate student attending Boston University. Nunez has also considered becoming a professor at a college and teaching private lessons once she earns her degree.




Photo contributed by Michaela Nunez  
Michaela Nunez

multiple instruments. She was always around music growing up and that inspired her to follow her passion.

Nunez explains, “I always admired people who created music and found it quite magical.”

Her favorite artist is Polina Nazaykinskaya, who is a teacher, composer, conductor, and musician. She has inspired her to keep following her dreams and to always try her best. Michaela was happy to say she was fortunate to be one of Nazaykinskaya’s students at ACES.

Lisa Serio, an Amity orchestra teacher, inspired Nunez to follow her passion for music, and she is very grateful for her. Nunez says Serio was compassionate and welcoming towards her since day one of orchestra class in her sophomore year. She felt accepted in her class, and it was the first class she felt part of a community at Amity.

In her class, Serio helped Nunez compose a song called “If You Were The Sky,” and this song was performed in the 2021 spring orchestra concert. Nunez is also thankful for Matt Stanley, who taught a Digital Media and Technology class. He taught her Photoshop skills that she uses today to help her create her first album cover. She is glad she had supportive teachers at Amity that helped her grow.

Nunez went to the career center to prepare for college, and Lynn Cocco assisted her with the steps she needed to take. Cocco was a great resource for her college applications, finding a job, scholarships, and overall advice on anything. Nunez’s advice for students in high school is to embrace yourself and find friends who care about you.

She says she misses her high school friends and is thankful for the bond she has with her friends. Finally, Michaela Nunez is releasing her first distributed single on February 16, 2024. The single is called “Our Memories,” and will be released on Spotify. It is currently available for pre-save.

Show support for alumni Michaela Nunez by pre-saving her first single!



# Behind the Scenes of the Morning Announcements

by Joy Deng ‘26

Every day, Amity starts its day with the morning announcements. Morning announcements are a meaningful way to deliver ideas and information to the Amity community. Making them is also much harder than it seems. There is a lot more that goes on behind the scenes than many students are aware.

### The Process

The 2 Broadcast Journalism classes run the Morning Announcements that air every A and C day. The announcements are live to tape, which means that they are recorded beforehand but no editing is involved. Each student is assigned a station, and they rotate through the different roles. The director writes the script and camera movements and gives it to each member. There are camera, anchor, sports, weather, graphic, audio, and tech directing stations.

When recording, every person has a headset and the director coordinates the announcements. The technical director starts recording and assembles the different video frames including recorded tapes, graphics, and the live broadcast. The 3-4 camera people handle the teleprompters and give the anchors signals to turn, while the anchors are projecting into their microphones.

Concurrently, the audio person uses the mixing board to adjust the sound to good quality. All of this happens simultaneously during the 4 minutes of air time. This process can be pressuring, but it is also very satisfying. “It can definitely be hectic with everyone trying to make sure everything is set up correctly... Once you get used to the running around, it’s pretty fun,” says Isabella Walther ‘24.

### The Tech

There are many intricate and complex pieces of technology in making the morning announcements. The teleprompter combines a surface, script, and monitor with a camera, allowing an anchor to perform more confidently. Audio technology, such as the compressor which restricts the amplitude of sound within a certain range, enhances the sound quality and can provide a safety net.

All of the recordings are 4K compliant and future proof, creating an analog database. The class is also starting to use handheld cameras, which will allow the students to go out in the field to record content. The incorporation of advanced equipment improves the quality of morning announcements. It is also challenging to get all equipment to work together while communicating effectively with the team– that is where collaboration is very important.

### The Collaboration and the Passion

Communication among members is very important, especially when airing.

When faced with obstacles concerning equipment or mistakes with content, the students learn to navigate them through communicating effectively and working together to find a solution with the pressure of time.

“What I like most about the Broadcast Journalism class and creating the morning announcements is that the students get to work together in a real world setting. They do hands-on work,” said Broadcast Journalism teacher Jeremy Iverson.

### The History

The morning announcements began back in 2009, in a room containing heavy duty computers. It began with weekly 12-15 minutes announcements consisting of 60-90 second feature pieces. In an attempt to gain more involvement, the announcements were then broadcasted on a more regular basis.

During this time, Iverson wrote many grants to purchase better hardware. Due to his efforts,the gigantic machines have since transformed into state of the art broadcast equipment. The entire process is amazing as it goes from words to grant money to equipment to shaping student’s ideas and making the Amity community more informed.



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# “Mean Girls” Broadway Actors Host Audition Workshop

**by Luna Lu ‘27**

On November 20th, students in Amity’s Theater, Honors Choir, Band, and Voice class had the chance to attend an exclusive performance workshop held in the Black Box, which was made possible by the Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation.

It was targeted towards auditionees of Amity’s upcoming Mean Girls musical and was hosted by none other than Erika Henningsen and Kyle Selig from the original Broadway production, who played Cady Heron and Aaron Samuels, respectively.

The air was filled with excitement and a fair share of nervousness, in awe of the opportunity to engage with Broadway performers, and in anticipation of the ten students that would sing their audition pieces for Henningsen and Selig, in order to be coached. The Black Box was full of lively chatter, which soon turned into booming applause as the duo made their way to the front of the room.

The workshop spanned a total of two class periods and started with a Q&A session where students had the chance to inquire the enthusiastic mentors about everything theater.

When a student asked about how to land roles in the industry, Henningsen responded with: “Say yes to everything,” elaborating that saying yes can lead to a plethora of possibilities, both in the theater industry and in life.

She then encouraged students not to be afraid and to seize all their opportunities, telling them to be open-minded. The interview-esque segment of the

workshop ended with the students, especially seniors, more clarified and confident about their futures with theater. Even more exciting was the performance portion of the workshop. After the last question was addressed, the people in the room held their breaths as Henningsen and Selig began to invite volunteers up to perform their songs.

Among the brave souls that performed was

feel safe to express ourselves in a positive environment.”

Additionally, the duo’s comments went beyond technical improvements, and focused more on helping the performers add a piece of themselves into their characters.

“They emphasized that everyone is unique and it’s what you can do to create a character that matters most,” Parady said.

Most performers were already prepared to sing, but some acted in the spur of the moment, like Sohn Ay ‘27. She said, “It was an idea at the last minute, and I was thrilled to perform for them in person.”

She said that singing for Henningsen and Selig served as a strong confidence boost: “After being coached, I felt ready to sing, and nothing was going to stop me from auditioning.”

Both Parady and SohnAy concluded that they can’t wait for another workshop. Parady said, “I would love to be able to attend similar events like this again. It was such a great experience for everyone wanting to participate in future shows.”

Speaking of, auditions for the Mean Girls musical are set for January of this year and students interested in participating are highly encouraged to audition.

The musical debuts on April 5, 2024 and will run for five shows. You can look forward to seeing how the cast puts their own spin on the characters.

Or maybe, you’ll be on stage finding your niche in the Mean Girls universe.



Photo contributed by Rob Kennedy

**Pictured left to right: Judy Primavera (Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation), Connor Deane (Black Rock Theater), Rob Kennedy, Ericka Henningsen, and Kyle Selig.**

Lily Parady ‘24. Even with the entire room to sing for, she described the experience as far from scary, saying, “They [Henningsen and Selig] really made us

# Media Center Hosts Alumni Sabrina Brier and Tyler Jennes *Amity Guided Them Towards Careers in the Arts*

**by Ben Glassman ‘24**

Amity students and faculty had the opportunity to go to the media center throughout the day and listen to advice from two Amity alumni, Sabrina Brier ‘13 and Tyler Jennes ‘17 on Tuesday, November 21st and Thursday, November 30th.

Both Brier and Jennes work in the digital world. Jennes is an assistant comic book editor for an upcoming Amazon Prime series, and Brier is an actress, writer, and comedian who has gained massive followings on TikTok, Instagram, and X (formerly Twitter).

“I always wanted to act,” Brier said. “I always wanted to do out-of-school productions because I didn’t want to be known as a ‘theater girl’, but my mom pushed me to join the school production, and I loved it,” she added.

Brier attended Smith College to study theater and English.

When asked about any advice she could give to students, Brier responded energetically. “Always use the opportunities around you, and make sure to never turn any of those options away.”

Both Brier and Jennes talked heavily about the impact Amity had on them following high school. Both said that the ARHS community was always there and that the friendships they made in high school have carried over into their lives post-ARHS.

Brier noted the fast-paced aspect of her job: the internet. “The internet is ever-changing,” she said, “One day it might favor one topic, and the next being a complete opposite topic.”

Brier began being an influencer during the height of Covid-19 in 2020. Brier started by doing content creation on Instagram, but soon after starting TikTok in the summer of 2021. The first ‘break’ into the content

creation world that Brier had was the ‘CT girl in New York City.’

“People wanted to see the Connecticut girl who would always travel to the city for a day, mispronouncing names of everything, to thinking she knows everything,” Brier said.

“When I saw that people were responding and watching more and more, it inclined me to continue making ‘CT girl’ in New York,” she continued.

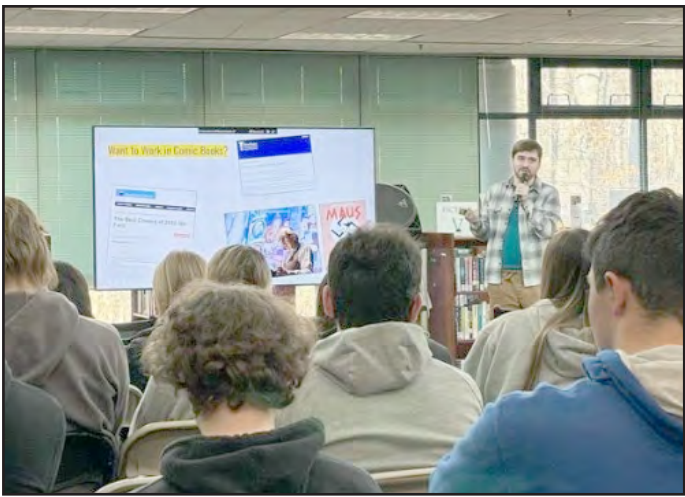
Brier admitted she had doubts about what to do post-graduation when she was at Amity, just like many others. Something that has stuck with her ever since is something she took from her mother.

“If you like something so badly and enjoy doing it, why ever think about stopping it?”

Jennes attended Ithaca College and obtained a bachelor’s in cinema and photography.

Some popular comic books Jennes helped create include Ascender, Deadly Class, Moonshine, Nocterra, Sea of Stars, Seven to Eternity, Snow Angels, The Scumbag, and Undiscovered Country.

“I worked to make lots of comics, and that’s what I



Photos accessed from @arhslibrary on Instagram.

**Left: Sabrina Brier ‘13 with librarians Ken Clark and Victoria Hulse. Right: Tyler Jennes ‘17 talks with students.**

love to do.” Jennes said.

“I always loved to make them since high school.”

Brier and Jennes were both normal high school students, but they are now working to promote and work towards different things. Jennes also offered reassurance to students unsure of what they want to do.

“For those who might not know what they are going to do in the future, don’t worry,” he said. “There will be many opportunities to figure out what you love to do.”

Having both of these students back at Amity to talk to students was a great opportunity for students to know that there are options to work in Graphic or Performing Arts, and to pursue what they love.



# A Canvas of Creativity Unveiled at Woodbridge Public Library Gallery

by Karishma Balamurugan ‘27

The Woodbridge Public Library has transformed into a vibrant canvas of creativity for a short time. The library is holding an art exhibition to give young artists the opportunity to display their hard work, which embedded much emotion and symbolism from within.

The exhibit’s title is “Mostly Woodbridge” and can be viewed by the public free of charge! It is located in the Meeting Room of the Woodbridge Library. Artists who have the opportunity to share their work go through a nerve-wracking application process a year in advance. Much like the endless tales that line the shelves, the art gallery showed its own narrative through the play of shapes, hues of color, the delicacy of strokes, and viewer interpretation.

When entering the gallery, a new chapter unfolds—not one told with words, but with vibrant strokes that bring together the intersection of literature and visual expression. Whether there were bold strokes of a masterpiece or fine delicate lines, the gallery displayed the rich artistic talent within the community. One artist’s journey through the world of oil painting has received much attention. Professional artist Christopher McLaughlin first dipped his brush into oil paints in 2010 and ever since has been expressing his emotions through the medium.

McLaughlin’s artistic renditions are just as diverse as the colors on his palette, specializing in the figurative mode, and McLaughlin has dabbled with both portraits and landscapes. What sets McLaughlin apart is his enthusiasm for embracing various styles embedded with a contemporary American note from the 19th and 20th centuries, connecting the past to the present. Among Christopher’s collection is a series of landscapes



Photos contributed by Karishma Balamurugan ‘27  
Some of the artwork displayed at this showcase.

depicting the serene beauty of outer Cape Cod.

As the curtain falls on this captivating showcase, the work of talented artists leave behind a memorable impression on the community.

Each month, the library will clear its canvas and unveil new art pieces, providing an ever-evolving canvas that welcomes a myriad of talents. The creativity of the Woodbridge Public Library Gallery remains a dynamic space, inviting future chapters of diverse narratives, ensuring that the story it tells is one that continually evolves and embraces our ever-growing imagination.

**The Woodbridge Public Library is open  
Monday through Saturday beginning  
at 10:00 am.**

# Performing Arts Classes Prepare for Winter Concert

by Chloe Chang ‘27

It’s time! As we approach the holiday season, the Amity Performing Arts students are getting ready for their last performance of 2023, the winter concert! On December 21st, you can experience the magic of the Amity band and choir again as they perform Holiday pieces. In addition, Amity’s own acapella group, Rhythmix, will also be performing at this concert.

Soprano Grace Millard ‘27 looks forward to the group’s concert where they get to “see the Rhythmix community come together and spread holiday cheer.” She added, “Each part serves its purpose, and the piece flows seamlessly when the nuances of the piece create a captivating and complex piece in the end.”

Band and choir musicians have also been musically challenged by this year’s pieces, which are a mix of popular Holiday songs, and more difficult orchestral or choral arrangements to reflect the feeling of winter.

However, Ivy Massicotte ‘27 said, “When the whole band comes together, it sounds amazing! Mr. Dolan is also very helpful, and works hard to help us sound amazing.”

The practice that the students have to put in to push each group to its maximum has certainly increased from the previous performance. Not only that, but clarinetist Fynn Vouras ‘27 realizes how this performance will be worth it in the end: “When the part just clicks and I can play it seamlessly, it’s a great confidence boost!”

As a comparison to the pop songs that were played during Music in Motion, the winter concert will have more complex pieces and will be held more formally. Students are very appreciative to already have one performance under their belt, because, as Massicotte noted, “Now we have experienced the feel of playing in front of the school, we will not be as nervous and it will allow us to play to the best of our abilities.”

This performance only broadens the wide range of performances that the Performing Arts can give. The audience-favorite Jazz Band will also contribute two catchy performances. In addition, the orchestra will also showcase its winter collection in a performance on the 19th of December! Lisa Serio, the orchestra director, has prepared, with her students, five different pieces that enhance the orchestra’s ability to blend.

Monica Chen ‘27 reminisced about how “it is always fun to go to rehearsal because you get to meet new people and work together to create beautiful pieces.”



*Happy Holidays, Amity!*  
*Have a great Winter Break*



# Alumni Spotlight: Jack Fortin ‘22

## College Quiddich Team Reminiscent of Harry Potter

**by CJ Brinton ‘24**

Amity’s own Jack Fortin ‘22, a sophomore at the University of Vermont, is part of a unique club sport that many of you could only have imagined playing when reading the Harry Potter books growing up. Fortin is on the Quadball team, a club sport at the University. Most of you are probably scratching your heads and asking, what is Quadball?

In short, it’s Quidditch. But before you go getting your hopes up; no, they don’t fly. And no, there are no wands and no magic involved. However, brooms are key to the play of this game.

As Fortin described it, “[Quadball] it’s kind of like a mix of rugby, basketball and dodgeball.” Confusing right? Fortin agreed, “It’s the most convoluted sport ever conceived.”

Quidditch, rather Quadball, as it is referred to officially, is a game created in 2005, inspired by the fictional game featured in J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter books.

Here’s a basic rundown: The ball is called a “quadball”, and is carried by the Chasers (there’s three on each team), and they can either throw, run, or kick the quadball. Goals are scored in any of three hoops, protected by the Keeper, and are worth ten points each. The Beaters use dodgeballs to try to “knock people out” and disrupt the game. Anyone knocked out must touch their own goal to be back in play.

Now there is a Seeker on each team, who tries to “capture the flag” of the flag-runner, who is a neutral-athlete trying to evade capture by either of the Seekers. They aren’t released until 20 minutes into the game.

Unfortunately there is no giant golden-suited “snitch” flitting around, but the flag will have to do. Capturing the flag is worth 35 points, and the game ends once one team reaches the 60 point cap (after the 20 minute mark). It should again be noted that

these players do all of this with a broom between their legs.

Got all of that? Great.

Fortin’s earlier remark is making much more sense now.

He then expanded on the commitment of playing on this specific team.

Fortin said, “It’s definitely there. We practice two-to-four times a week, and we have games every weekend.”

However, the presence of academics and other variables in a college students’ variables are not ignored. “You do what you can. If academics get too tough, I take breaks from playing,” he noted.

Fortin also mentioned that each club sport

sports. I didn’t want the commitment of doing an NCAA team.”

He also referenced that he did try out for the Soccer and the Ultimate Frisbee teams at UVM (both club level), but ended up liking Quadball best.

“These kinds of sports are ideal for [many students] because of the lower level of commitment,” he said. “You can take it as seriously or as relaxed as you want, you’re there for a good time.”

As a club sport, UVM Quadball competes against other teams in their division, often traveling to Boston for games.

On this aspect, Fortin admitted, “Our team is not super competitive in our division.” He offered that the team is only a few years old in terms of playing in a competitive league, and that this year they have a coach for the first time.



Fortin (center) plays as chaser in a Quadball match. *Picture contributed by Sarah Fortin ‘24*

But he says that this reputation is actually working in UVM Quadball’s favor. “We’re really underestimated, and we can pull off some fun things that wouldn’t be expected of a team like ours.”

Overall, he was very positive about his experiences being part of this team, the friends’ he’s made and that “it’s a fun time”.

Quadball is a fast growing sport, with over 42 college teams, and other club teams all around the country. It is also played in over 40 countries. You can visit the US Quadball website for more information about club teams, college teams, rules, and how to start a team. In addition, it’s a sport that promotes inclusion and equality.

A key rule in the game is that no more than four people of any one gender from each team can be on the field at a time. Teams play seven vs. seven, and this rule promotes equity not just in practice, but in play.

Quadball may be a game based on a fictional sport in a magical world, but who knows, maybe you’ll find yourself seeking out a college with a team, or starting one here at Amity!

# UMttr Club’s Volleyball Tournament Returns to Raise Money for Mental Health Organization

**by Nicholas Lu ‘26**

On Tuesday November 21, the UMttr Club hosted its annual volleyball tournament.

This tournament is a fun after school event where teams of three people play volleyball against one another for a chance to be one of the top two teams that receive gift cards at the end. Each person participating in the tournament pays an admission of three dollars which is then donated to the American Suicide Foundation.

This year, members of the Girl’s Volleyball Team, Taylor Student ‘24, Harley Luciani ‘24, and Haley Mario ‘25, got first place. The second-place team was Ethan Hass ‘24, Jordan Hass ‘26, and Ben Cewe ‘24.

Furthermore, teachers Diana DiGangi, Nora Crann, Eric Rothbart, and Rob Rosner participated in the event as well.

It was very fun and entertaining to see them playing competitively against each other and students. Overall, the event was a great chance to have fun with friends and play some volleyball while also contributing to a good cause.

Even for the teams that did not win, it was a great experience and most are likely waiting in anticipation for next year’s volleyball tournament.

As alluded to earlier, the purpose of this tournament was more

than just for entertainment. UMttr in a national organization that began in Maryland after a suicide of a young boy, who happened to be related to an Amity graduate. This tragic and heartbreaking instance helped people realize that there are many others that could be dealing with severe mental health problems which often leads to thoughts of suicide.

According to UMttr Club advisor Karen Waterman, the mission of UMttr is to form “a community of young adults leading a movement to change the story from bullying, depression, and suicide to a positive, compassionate culture where every person matters.”

As the mission statement and name suggest, UMttr was founded to prevent people from committing suicide and to help those that are impacted either directly or indirectly by suicide. Unfortunately, suicide, especially among teens, is still a growing problem.

According to the American Psychological Association, more than 20% of teens in the United States have seriously considered committing suicide. The UMttr Club’s annual tournament is just one way that UMttr helps to further the cause of suicide prevention.



*Photos accessed from UMttr’s Instagram*

**Left: The winning team of the volleyball tournament: Taylor Student ‘24, Harley Luciani ‘24, and Haley Mario ‘25. Right: The second place team: Jordan Haas ‘26, Ben Cewe ‘24, and Ethan Hass ‘24**



# Winter Sports Season Looks Promising

**by Jill Barnes '24**

Winter has officially arrived, and with it comes the much anticipated Winter Sports Season! Amity is buzzing with excitement as athletes from various sports prepare to hit the ice, court, slopes, track, pool, and wrestling mats for their seasons, sure to be filled with many successes.

After surviving the dreaded pre-seasoning conditioning, tryouts, and lengthy practices, our sports teams are ready to go. Some jamborees and scrimmages have been underway to prepare winter athletes for their seasons, which the SCC officially kicked off the week of December 11.

Boys Hockey started off the season with a home game vs Hamden on December 13th @ 8:00pm. The captains this season are Dante Hardt '24 and Cam DelVecchio '24.

Girls Hockey and Girls Basketball also started their seasons on the 13th, but both teams were away. Girls Hockey was away at Stamford to start their season, and Girls Basketball was away at Norwalk. The Girl's Basketball team won their game, 43-21.

The Girls Hockey Captain this season is Abby Fitol '24 from Amity and their Assistant Captain is Elaina Scasino from Cheshire. The Girls Basketball Captains are Jillian Barnes '24, Vivian Cain '24, and Lucci Dottori '24.

Looking to build on the foundation set from last season, second-year Head Coach Nick Dottori and his team have big goals in

mind. Looking at the state tournament, they are determined to win it all.

All three captains agreed, "We want it this year and we have a special group who can do it. It'll take a lot of small steps and small accomplishments to take us there, but we want it more than ever."

Wrestling opens their season at the Guilford Wrestling Invitational on December 16, led by Captains Amara Santulli '24, Ethan Lah '25, and Cooper MacNevin '25. After 2023 graduate Camryn Brown won the state championship for Amity Wrestling last season, this year's team is definitely looking for a repeat.

Indoor Track is getting ready to go as well, with the girls' first meet on December 19 and the boys on December 16. Girls Captains are Grace Launder '24, Ellie Lupoli '24, and Bridget Lowder '24, and for the boys it's Daniel Manning '24, Eydan Lavi '24, and Micah Blair '24.

Finally, Boys Swimming and Diving opens their season at home vs Sheehan/Lyman Hall on December 19th. Come out to the Orange Community Center to support! After a very successful season last year, they are once again looking to dominate the pool. This year's captains are Adam Liu '24 and Tyler DeRosa '24, and both are very excited to start their season.

As we send off our peers into their sports seasons, please consider coming to a game, meet, or match. All our Spartans deserve to feel that comraderie from their school, classmates, and maybe even teachers!



Photo accessed from @amity\_girls basketball on Instagram.  
**Amity Girls Basketball after a preseason conditioning session.**

# Girls Basketball Team Hosts Successful Fall Clinic For Youth

**by Jacqueline Miller '27**

The Annual Girls Basketball Youth Clinic took place last month in the Paul D. Mengold Gym at Amity. This was a two-night event held on Monday, November 20th and Tuesday, November 21st. This fun and exciting clinic was open to all girls from third grade through eighth grade and over 40 girls from these grades participated in the clinic this year. Both evenings were a resounding success with this large turnout of enthusiastic players. These players got to work on their developmental and shooting skills.

Team captain Lucci Dottori '24 exclaimed, "It's nice to see the younger girls from our community come out and have fun while supporting our team, especially because they will be the future of Amity Girls Basketball."

This clinic helps players build on basketball skills required for success at any level.

Co-Captain Jill Barnes '24 said, "The clinic was a great success, and it was a great team bonding experience as well as a way to get involved in the community."

The Girls Basketball Clinic is a fundraiser and the money raised is used for various team needs. The team plans to primarily spend the money on practice gear for the team. They will also use the money for their end of season banquet, as well as for team gifts, and anything else the team may require throughout the season.

This clinic not only helps the Amity Girls Basketball Team to fundraise but also gives the opportunity for the Amity Girls Basketball players to promote the team to potential future players. Most of the current team participated as mentors in these clinics.

Head Coach of the Girls Basketball team Nick Dottori remarked, "The clinic is about skill and fun, providing an opportunity for all levels of players to improve their game, have fun, and meet the Amity players."

The team will play their first home game today at 6:15 pm against Guilford High School, so go and support the team!



Photo accessed from @amity\_girls basketball on Instagram  
**Girls basketball players spend time with children to teach skills needed for basketball.**

# Class Act Council Starts "Athlete of the Week" Initiative

**by Ziyan Zhang '27**

Amity Regionl High School's Class Act Council (CAC), composed of student-athletes nominated for their exceptional character, strives to uphold good sportsmanship and leadership across the school. One of their new initiatives put in place this year is the "Athlete of the Week" recognition program.

"Our goal is to recognize athletes from all sports for their hard work and positive impact on their teams," explains Lucci Dottori '24, CAC President. "By rewarding those who display good sportsmanship and leadership both on and off the field, we promote these principles crucial to our council."

Each week, the council diligently selects an athlete who excels in athletics and embodies the Spartan Pledge attributes: character, integrity, determination, and hard work, while also demonstrating leadership and serving as a role model for their peers.

The October Class Act Council Athletes of the week were Ian Rady '24 (boys soccer), Holly Querker '27 (field hockey), Luke Cushing '26 (boys cross country), and Maggie Kershner '27 (girls soccer). The November Athletes were Marea Li '25 (girls swim and dive), Braeden Piper '24 (football), Grace Launder '24 (flag football), and Aidan Lydon

'24 (football). So far in December the Athletes of the Week have been Eva Stirk '26 (girls basketball) and Alex Cuzio '25 (boys basketball).

Some of the athletes commented expressing their joy and pride in receiving this recognition. Maggie Kershner '27 said she felt "very honored" and "received congratulations from many classmates."

Luke Chushing '26 emphasized the importance of hard work, stating, "I felt proud of myself and all the hard work I had put in."

Past athletes of the month offered some insightful advice to their fellow Spartans Ian Rady '24 emphasized the importance of relaxation, stating, "It really helps to try to relax when I play. When I'm calm and having fun, I do much better."

Macie Salado '25, a CAC member, believes the "Athlete of the Week" program has been a success. "It recognizes deserving athletes and spreads awareness about our council and its principles," she explains. Salado suggests further promoting the program. "We're always looking for ways to improve," she adds, highlighting the addition of a dedicated section in Student Happenings.

The "Athlete of the Week" program is a valuable initiative that celebrates outstanding athletic performance and character within the Amity community. It encourages good sportsmanship, leadership, and perseverance, inspiring all Spartans to strive for their best.



# 2023 . . .

*This year,*



*let us reminisce,*



*All photos have been credited in past issues.*

*on the many great memories we have made!*



# The Trident's Year in Review