

# THE AMITY TRIDENT

LXXIV-No.3

Amity Regional High School

Woodbridge, CT 06525

November 19, 2018

## OPINION

### The Trident Reacts to the Tension at Amity

*Editors' Note: As the Amity Regional High School community reflects on events of the past week, The Trident editorial staff has decided to publish the following opinion piece. It is important to note that the writer wishes to remain anonymous due to fear for their safety and well-being within the community. Their identity is credible and known to the staff. We do not tolerate hate or bigotry.*

The tension in the hallways at Amity on Tuesday, November 14 was truly palpable. Negative feelings not limited to fear, sadness, and anger stirred throughout members of the student body. But students did not let these emotions drive them into hiding. Rather, it brought them into the light.

This week, a movement was suddenly born by a group of Amity students ranging throughout all grades. Originally, "Stronger than Hate" was a slogan coined after the Pittsburgh shooting but spread quickly throughout the Amity community on social media Tuesday night, after students called allegations of anti-Semitism to the attention of the administration and Board of Education.

Students from all walks of life, including various religions, races, and genders have since come together to enforce inclusivity, positivity, and love in the community.

Some expressed that recent events should be perceived as a learning incident, in which we can come together and change the future for good rather than dwelling on our past. The thoughts and values of our friends

and peers are inspiring to the BOW area, teaching that we cannot get hung up on the adversity in our world, but rather celebrate our diversity and come together to better ourselves.

Now, social media, including a public Facebook group and an Instagram page, has been created for the "Stronger than Hate" movement in hopes of spreading the peaceful message embodied by the students involved. They continue to reach out to fellow friends and peers to become active in the cause to strengthen the inclusive aspect of the core ideas and the Amity community, as well.

This has been no local story. Publicity has encouraged students from neighboring communities to stand up and be courageous in creating a safe environment for their peers at school. Students here are striving to improve ourselves, our school, and our community at large with determination and are making themselves heard.

If there is anything we can learn from these students, it simply is the importance of kindness and respect towards everyone.

#### REFLECTIONS FROM JONATHAN SCHACHTER '19

Change is upon us. This community has never been stronger and more willing to change, especially the administration of Amity High School. We must understand that action IS being taken. It may not be moving as fast as some of you are hoping, but it is integral to know that long-term change does not move quickly. If we want to lay the groundwork for existing change in our classrooms, our schools, and our communities, we must first be patient.

Beyond that, HATE DOES NOT DRIVE OUT HATE. The purpose of this movement is to demonstrate our solidarity as a community and to show that we are no longer going to allow intolerance and insensitivity to propagate. While this is still developing, respect all individuals in our community, no matter their involvement in this issue or any others.

#StrongerThanHate #ItEndsHere

## Veterans Day Event Enlightens Students

by Ella Marin '20

Amity High School celebrated Veterans Day through an interactive program on Friday, November 9th. Starting halfway through first period, students were called down to the gymnasium. Once there, they had the opportunity to visit each of the five different tables including a World War I table, a World War II table, a Vietnam War table, and a Korean War table.

There was also a table with memorabilia from veterans living in Orange. At each station, historians or veterans of a specific war shared their own experiences

with students. Further, each table had different artifacts that were used during the war. Artifacts ranged from badges and pins to rifles, cannons, and guns. Students learned about the significance of each item and how various weapons were used.

The second half of the program was in the Brady Center, where students watched a panel. Four veterans, including Amity math teacher Dameon Kellogg, answered questions and shared their experiences from their times in the war. They discussed their motivation to join the military, elaborated on their time during the military,

and shared their difficulties with returning to civilian life. Each veteran shared a different story and students learned how



A veteran shows artillery. Photo contributed by Trident staff.

joining the military is a different experience for each individual.

The Veterans Day program gave students a new perspective on the holiday and a greater appreciation for all veterans do for us.

Continued on page 2



War memorabilia. Photo contributed by Trident staff.

## "One Book One Amity" Inspires Diversity Workshops

by Audrey Marin '22

Students of Amity Regional High School attended a variety of workshops about diversity on Friday, October 19. This topic was a continuation of the "One Book One Amity" book selected for all students to read in the summer before the 2018-19 school year.

"One Book One Amity" is a club at ARHS that is responsible for choosing a book for the entire school to read over the summer. The purpose of this club is to have a piece of literature that everyone can have a view and opinion on coming into the new school year. Generally, there are various discussions, assessments, and

workshops based on the book that people read.

This past summer, the chosen book was All American Boys by Jason Reynolds. This narrative follows two high school students (African American Rashad Butler and Caucasian Quinn Collins) after an unexpected, terrible act of violence that leaves the community distraught. Rashad was beaten by a Caucasian police officer after he was accused of committing a crime he didn't do. As a result, the school is split over themes of racism and justice.

Aoi Tischer '20 says, "I think All American Boys was a really important book for the school to read, especially since police brutality

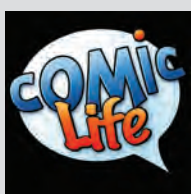
is such a significant issue in America. It was a really eye-opening book for me in seeing that this issue is very complex and that there is no easy solution."

Similarly, Ava Gross '22 said, "It was baffling that the people we look up to for protection could turn on fellow citizens because of an unfounded prejudice."

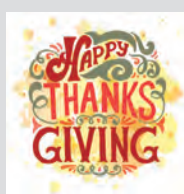
In the workshops, students learned about diversity and culture in a variety of different ways. Some examples of the workshops are "Racial Stereotypes in American Advertising and Media" which discussed skin color and race in the modeling and advertising industry, "Racial Perception and Psy-

Continued on page 2

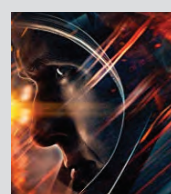
IN THIS ISSUE



First-time Comic Strip! Features, 5



Thanksgiving Centerspread, 6-7



First Man Movie Review Arts, 8



Opinion: Pitch Clock Sports, 11



# Freshmen Participate in Link Crew Tie-Dye Day

by Caroline Chen '21

This year, Amity Link Crew hosted its ever-popular 12th annual Freshmen Tie-Dye Day. On Thursday, October 25th, the courtyard was covered with tarps, dye bottles, cotton shirts, and gloves while conversation flowed between freshmen and Link Crew leaders as they squeezed vibrant dyes onto cotton shirts.

Amity's Tie-Dye Day started as a way to keep freshmen and their respective Link Crew leaders connected while also letting underclassmen socialize with upperclassman as well as their own classmates. Link Crew has carried on this tradition and brought the experience to the freshman class every year since the creation of the event.

Scott DeMeo, one of the Link Crew faculty supervisors, said, "We [Link Crew] strive to provide everyone involved an opportunity to be a part of the group, be it as a class, or as a school. Tie-Dye Day is one of those opportunities."

This year, freshmen either brought their own shirts or purchased them

at the event. During their lunch waves, they went out to the courtyard and tie-dyed with the assistance of Link Crew leaders. Following the event, the participating freshmen brought home their new shirts.

Molly Blair '21 was one freshman who participated in the activity. She said, "I enjoyed tie-dyeing with my friends, and it was nice to get to do something other than educational activities."

Link Crew leader Abbey Bowser '19 held similar positive feelings about the event. She said, "I think freshmen Tie-dye day is a great way to get the freshmen together and make memories."

Bowser hopes that Tie-Dye Day will become even more popular over time. "I think the more freshmen see others doing it and having fun...[the more] they will realize that they should too."

DeMeo said, "It 's is always about helping freshmen find their place in [the] school community.

These activities provide the opportunity to get involved, have a conversation, and have some fun."



Students tie-dye shirts. Photo contributed by Link Crew.



Students pose for a photo. Photo contributed by Link Crew.

Contact the *Trident* with questions, comments, or suggestions at: [amitytridentnewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:amitytridentnewspaper@gmail.com)

# "One Book One Amity" Inspires Diversity Workshops

Continued from page 1

-chology" which discussed how we interpret race and skin color subconsciously, and "Building Bridges Across Difference" where students listened to a speaker who talked about his personal experience growing up as

an African American in a primarily Caucasian environment.

Students thought these workshops were an educational and interactive way to draw positive attention to diversity.

Nicole Grosso '22 said,

"It was a creative way to connect what we read in the book to real life." Grosso also attended the "Diversity in Action" workshop run by the co-presidents of the Diversity in Action club at Amity.

Kobi Spence, co-president of Diversity In Action, said,

"What I wanted people to understand is that diversity is not limited to issues of race, ethnicity, and religious background, but can also be defined by the circumstances and situations that people endure. However, it could also be those same differing experiences that show simi-

larities between individuals... many people fail to realize this due to stereotypes and stigmas."

The series of workshops and seminars about All American Boys that took place on Friday, October 19 were successful and educational for all.

# Veterans Day Event Enlightens Students



War memorabilia. Photo contributed by Trident staff.



Veterans present to students. Photo contributed by Trident staff.



Veterans speak to students. Photo contributed by Trident staff.



Appetizers • Burgers • Brunch & More!!!

Monday - Friday  
Special Prices  
3:30 - 6:30

Weekly Food & Drink Specials

Saturday & Sunday Brunch

203-553-9135  
12 Selden Street • Woodbridge, Ct  
[www.woodbridgesocial.com](http://www.woodbridgesocial.com)  
[www.facebook.com/woodbridgesocial](https://www.facebook.com/woodbridgesocial)



# Counseling Department Responds to PreACT Article

by Amity Counseling

In response to the opinion piece “Should Sophomores Take the PSAT or Pre-ACT?” in *The Trident* from October 19, 2018, the Amity Regional High School Counseling Department would like to respond to David Sugarmann’s opinions. We appreciate the feedback and want to touch on a few points.

First, the ACT is accepted by all colleges and viewed equally to the SAT. Taking the Pre-ACT sophomore year and the PSAT junior year allows students to compare scores and test experiences to identify which test would be most beneficial to take for college admissions. Historically speaking, Amity students perform better than the state average on the ACT. The state average is 25.6 on the ACT, and the Amity average is 26.4 which is the equivalent of a 1240-

1270 SAT. Amity’s average SAT score for the Class of 2018 was 1180.

We feel exposing students in their sophomore year to the practice ACT is in their best interest since the ACT is often a good fit for our students. In addition, students complete a World of Work assessment that allows them to identify careers of interest.

Since sophomore year focuses on career development and leads up to a Career Fair, we feel the Pre-ACT supports that plan. Lastly, we want to make students aware that in the year 2020, the practice ACT will also be used as a National Merit Semifinalist Qualifying Test.

To address the concern about having more practice for the PSAT in 11th grade which is also used as the National Merit Semifinalist Qualifying Test, we want to make students aware of opportunities to practice the

PSAT and SAT outside of the formal testing done in school. Students can create a College Board account at any point.

Once an account is created, they can link it to Khan Academy and access free prep tailored to their needs. Students can also set up a practice test schedule through their College Board account. It provides students the opportunity to practice for the PSAT and SAT at their convenience, in the comfort of their homes, and without the expense of a prep class. The Amity Counseling Department is happy to assist any students who need help creating their College Board account and linking it to Khan Academy.

For more information on the benefits of taking both tests, please see this article from Princeton Review: <https://www.princetonreview.com/college-advice/5-reasons-to-take-both-sat-and-act>

# Midterms: A Surprising Yet Welcome Result

by Zachary Garfinkle '22

Considering the odd and unfamiliar nature of our current presidency, the 2018 midterm elections were of the utmost importance. Democrats were able to take control of the House of Representatives, but Republicans strengthened their iron grip on the Senate.

A Democratic victory in the lower chamber was just what America needed to restore constitutional checks and balances. President Trump’s alleged corruption can now be investigated in greater detail and with fewer impediments.

Voter disenfranchisement was a significant issue in this election. In North Dakota, the Republican-controlled state legislature passed a law that requires a residential address in order to vote. As a result, people living on Native American reservations, an overwhelming majority of whom traditionally vote Democratic, were unable to vote.

Kansas joined North Dakota in its own attempts to rig the election; would-be absentee voters in the two states were required to use a certain color of ink but were given contradicting

and confusing information about which ink to use.

Perhaps the most despicable voter suppression effort took place in Georgia, where the Secretary of State, Brian Kemp, overseeing the election was simultaneously running for the governorship.

He enacted an “exact match” requirement on voter negotiations and unilaterally purged several hundreds of thousands of voters from the electoral votes over the past several years. These actions had a strongly disproportionate effect on particularly disenfranchising African-American and minority voters.

Additionally, partisan gerrymandering was prevalent among the midterm elections. Dividing districts unfairly to favor conservatives is underhanded and unwelcome. Recently, on his Twitter account, President Trump blatantly perpetrated voter intimidation, which can negatively affect voter turnout.

He aggressively warned people to watch out for illegal voters. He later doubled down, stating that in his “opinion,” illegal voting was widespread. However, in 2016, 135,000,000 ballots were cast – and there

were merely 4 instances of voter fraud. It is a wonder that Democrats were able to take the House of Representatives when left-leaning voters were faced with an election that was blatantly rigged from the beginning.

The Democratic takeover of the House of Representatives signifies the dawn of a new era in politics. Ballot measures to expand Medicaid were approved in Idaho, Utah, and Nebraska; as the Huffington Post’s Lydia Polgreen puts it, “[It] turns out people like Obamacare minus Obama.”

This proved that the Obama name was only detrimental to the Affordable Care Act, and now that it is no longer tied to Obama and it has proven to ameliorate lives, more people approve of it. Regardless, the progressive policy of affordable healthcare will now be a reality in some conservative states, which can be considered a victory.

Now that Democrats control the House of Representatives, President Trump’s egregious behavior can now be opposed, and the alleged corruption of his administration can be put

*Continued on page 4*

# THE TRIDENT

## EDITORIAL STAFF BY SECTION

### EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Rosie Du '19  
Sana Pashankar '19  
Kate Yuan '19

### NEWS

Niha Irshad '19  
Ella Marin '20

### ARTS

Sydney Reiner '20

### SPORTS

Jared Beltz '19

### FEATURES

Sophia Wang '20

### OPINIONS

Ryan Anastasio '20

### CENTER SPREAD

Olivia Gross '20  
Gillianne Nugent '20

### FACULTY ADVISOR

Emily Clark

## CORRECTIONS

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 [amitytridentnewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:amitytridentnewspaper@gmail.com).

To view the newspaper online go to <http://ourschoolnewspaper.com/Trident/>.

## WRITE FOR THE TRIDENT

**Great opportunity to get involved!**

**See your name in print!  
Communication is through email, so you don't have to worry about missing extracurriculurs or sports!**



# Midterm Elections: A Surprising Yet Welcome Result

Continued from page 3

under great scrutiny. With the Democratic caucus controlling the House

and the all-important House Congressional Committees, they will not be afraid to criticize the president for fear of losing their jobs.

Overall, the midterm elections went rather well for both parties; however, this was no resounding success for either of the

two. They each have control of one chamber. The most important takeaway from these elections is that Congress is now balanced.

Checks and balances will occur, the rule of law will be upheld, but most importantly, democracy will be restored.

## Connecticut Republicans Ignored the Trump Factor

by Ryan Anastasio '20

After eight years of an incredibly unpopular Governor, it seemed as there was no better time for the Connecticut Republican party to take back the Governorship and the state legislature.

After two of the largest tax increases in state history, the residents of Connecticut were fed up. Governor Malloy's approval rating has consistently been below 25% and an October Sacred Heart University

poll showed an approval rating of 14.6%. The question that many state Republicans are asking right now is how the people of Connecticut voted for another Democrat, who has suggested that he would raise taxes on the citizens of Connecticut.

Bob Stefanowski, the Republican nominee for governor, consistently ran on the platform that he would eliminate the state income tax and never put tolls on Connecticut highways. He also painted Ned Lamont as the third term

of Dan Malloy. However, Lamont was able to counter the attack by stating the fact that he challenged Malloy in the Democratic primary for governor in 2010. The pledge to eliminate the income tax sounded amazing to many people, but the people of Connecticut did not fall for the lie. The tax accounts for over 50% of the state's revenue and would be impossible to cut without significantly reducing town aid and education spending.

What Connecticut Republicans never saw

coming was the Trump factor. While Dan Malloy may be an easy punching bag for the Republicans, Democrats were able to tie State Republicans to Donald Trump. Dan Malloy is leaving the office of governor and will no longer be of concern to people in Connecticut, but Donald Trump will be here for at least the next two years. While it was certainly unjust and unfair for Democrats to make state races about Trump, the tactic proved to be very successful. The Democrats won the gover-

norship, all of the constitutional offices, and made extraordinary gains in the state legislature.

The Connecticut Republican party is going to have to do some serious soul-searching. They need to rethink how they deal with national issues, develop an advanced ground game, and most importantly recruit good candidates. The statewide elections in 2018 were a wakeup call for Connecticut Republicans and they need to start reevaluating and plan for 2022 immediately.

## Honoring Those Who Served *Why We Should All Care about Veterans Day*

by Samantha Hass '21

Amity commemorated Veterans Day by having veterans come in and discuss their experiences with students. The event was held on November 9th this year. During the assembly on Friday, history teacher Peter Downhour asked the veter-

ans on stage what Veterans Day meant to them when they were in high school. Most replied that for them, it was just another day off.

While some Amity students might not agree with having school on Veterans Day, I think it is more important to be educated on the topic than have a day off.

I personally believe

that the Veterans Day Program was incredibly educational, touching, and emotional. When I walked into the Brady Center for the program, I didn't expect to be fully immersed in the experience. The energy and passion of the four veterans were undeniable. The veterans connected with the students in the room, they

involved us in their stories, creating parallels between their high school experiences and ours. The assembly truly opened my eyes to the importance of Veterans Day.

When one of the veterans stated that the reason he joined the military was for the sole purpose of the people of the United States, my belief that we need to respect

Veterans Day and the people it honors was strengthened. Our veterans served this country and we should be acknowledging their commitment to our safety every day. Since we have the privilege of awarding a day to the guards of our nation, we need to honor that day just as Amity does with the Veterans Day service.

**An Award-Winning  
Lifestyle Boutique**

Clothes, shoes, jewelry,  
accessories, gifts & more.





**OPEN 7 DAYS**

Monday-Saturday 10am-6pm  
Sunday 11am-5pm

[www.redbarnwoodbridge.com](http://www.redbarnwoodbridge.com)  
The Red Barn of Woodbridge  
on Facebook

245 Amity Road  
Woodbridge, CT 06525

**203-389-2910**

**Welcome to our new School Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Byars!**  
**We are excited to have you join the Amity Region 5 Schools.**  
**Good luck as you start your new position!**



# Students Volunteer at Beecher's Annual Halloween Hoot

by Allision Su '21

Every year, Beecher Road School holds the Halloween Hoot to celebrate the festivities of Halloween. There are many activities for children to enjoy, such as arts and crafts, games where kids can get tokens to buy prizes, a haunted hallway, and even Kung Fu demonstrations. The halls of Beecher are often packed, and because of all the festivities, many volunteers are needed. Amity students often take this opportunity to give back to the community. This year, the event was held on October 20.

Volunteers helped out by setting up before the event, cleaning up after, and running carnival games. Akanksha Paul '20 takes on the persona of Professor Proton!

On the morning of the Hoot, Jenny Liu '21 helped set up tables, decorate the hallways, and write the menu for the coffee table.

Liu said, "My favorite part was making posters for the coffee table in the cafeteria. I chose to volunteer here because it is so much fun to talk to kids from elementary school, and I'm really happy to see how they enjoy it. Halloween is also my favorite holiday."

One of the main attractions of the Hoot was the Haunted Hallway which was filled with decorations and spooky scares. Another Amity student who volunteered, Chloe Lenski '21, worked here.

Lenski said, "My favorite part was getting to work with younger kids. If they were too scared, I got to go through with them and guide them. I volunteered partly for hours, but also because it seemed like a fun

thing to do."

There were many carnival games at the Hoot as well. When participants played these games, they could get tokens and exchange them for prizes.

Jody Liu '20, who worked at the prize station, said, "My favorite part was seeing the kids so genuinely excited about Halloween and candy. I chose to volunteer because I knew it was a fun and easy opportunity to get involved in the community."

At the Hoot, children can also enjoy activities in the crafts hallway. Abby Sauberman '21, a former Beecher student, worked at the

clothespin bats craft.

Sauberman noted, "I enjoyed seeing how each kid put their creative spin on the craft. I volunteered because I enjoyed attending the Hoot when I was younger."

Compared to Sauberman's experience years ago, the Hoot "was pretty similar, but some of the games and crafts were different."

Amity students also gave science demonstrations in activities provided by Professor Proton, Neutron, and Electron. The demonstrations allowed young children to play with slime, observe the reaction of baking soda and vinegar, better understand the glow-in-the-dark phenomena, and experiment with elephant "toothpaste."

Akanksha Paul '20, who took on the role of Professor Electron, shared her love for the Hoot.

She said, "It was so much fun and nostalgic to be back at the very place that shaped a lot of my childhood, and I was happy to be able to captivate kids in the same way I was when I was their age by volunteering to engage and walk them through fascinating science experiments and demos."

# State and Local Campaigns Benefit from Students' Efforts

by Tracy Lu '20

Amity students did not have school on Election Day, November 6. With several government positions being contested, including governor, both state and U.S. congressional seats, and other local positions, many students were involved in campaign efforts for various candidates.

Volunteers participated in a myriad of efforts. These included behind the scenes activities and reaching out to voters both before and on the day of the election. Work for students involved running and participating in phone banks, canvassing, going through neighborhoods and knocking doors, postcard writing, and delivering literature door to door.

This year, encouraging Connecticut residents to vote was a substantial part of campaigning efforts.

Mounisha Anumolu '19, who volunteered for CT Democrats, said "We didn't try to convince people things they didn't believe.

We just asked them to support issues that mattered to them by voting for the candidates that stood for those same things."

These efforts went on for months prior to Election Day, with volunteers and other campaign staff working extremely

"Plus, I definitely made friends and formed relationships for life."

Aside from gaining insight on the structure and components of a campaign, many students gained positive experiences and knowledge that extended past the scope of a single campaign.

Kevin Lu '21, who worked for several campaigns, said, "I really learned a lot from this experience. Although I initially volunteered to support a specific cause, the opportunity of being able to help the community taught me the importance of political involvement as a whole."

Another volunteer, Ariba Chaudhry '20, said, "I gained an invaluable experience and I can't wait to do it again."

Through the election and campaign process, students were able to become involved in their communities while simultaneously expressing their views and hopes for the state and country. Neha Sudhir '19, said, "working on this campaign has given me a realistic sense of how far hope can take us."



Joey Benedetti '19, Jay Moon '19, and Mounisha Anumolu '19 work for Connecticut Democrats.

hard. When Election Day came, volunteers were able to interact with voters in person by helping to advocate for their candidates at polling stations. This involved holding up signs, handing out pamphlets, and thanking people for showing up to vote.

"It taught me a lot about the value and necessity of civic engagement," said Anumolu.

# Seniors Complete and Reflect on Their Early Options for College

by Payton Grande '19

For some seniors, the daunting task of submitting the Common Application has come to an end. By November 1st, a large portion of the senior class could say that they were finished submitting college applications.

Some seniors went down the route of early decision (ED), which is a binding commitment to the school of their choice.

Others have chosen a more open-ended route of applying to multiple early action (EA) schools, which is a non-committal option. This eases the stress of last-minute decisions and may give students an early holiday present.

Lani Beaudette '19, an early action candidate, said, "It's a relief

that I had the chance to apply by November 1st. However, the stress coming up to it was a lot on me."

Other seniors also reflected on the building stress before application submission.

Harrison Blume '19 commented, "It was really stressful trying to get all my stuff in order by the deadline, but the panic was honestly worth it!"

The guidance department was bustling as the days narrowed. Students were responsible for asking their teachers for recommendation letters, submitting a senior sketch on Naviance, requesting and paying for their transcripts, and submitting their test scores. Seniors juggled all of this while trying to fulfill their workload in school.

In addition, some schools

require supplemental essays in conjunction with the personal statement. These essays posed questions that ranged from students' role models to their future aspirations are in life.

Now that November 1st has passed, a different type of anxiety has set in. Senior Jake Skolnick described this new tension by saying, "Now the real pressure is on as I'm waiting for letters and emails from the schools I applied to."

Most schools respond before the new year, and by then, these students that took advantage of early options will finally know where they will spend their next four years.

On the other hand, for those who did not choose EA or ED, the next few months will be crunch time.

Good luck to the seniors on their college search!

# Is It a Spartan Seminar Schedule?

by Caelan Watson '20



If you are an artist or know an artist that is interested in creating a comic for the next edition of the *Trident*, please contact Features editor Sophia Wang at wangso20amity@amityschools.org.



# AMITY'S THANKS

## WHAT IS THANKSGIVING?

Thanksgiving is defined by many as a day for family, eating, and celebration, but we oftentimes forget that the purpose of the holiday is actually the expression of gratitude. When *The Trident* interviewed members of the Amity community for this article, asking what Thanksgiving means to them, many had comments about the cuisine and shared family food traditions, such as making mashed potatoes or rolling spinach balls.

This Thanksgiving, remember the struggle that the founders of our country endured, and think about how lucky we are to be here. Give thanks for the food on your table and be grateful for the loved ones with whom you can enjoy the holiday.

## THE HISTORY OF THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is seen today as a national symbol of togetherness, cooperation, and thankfulness. People all over the country sit down with their families to feast and give thanks. However, the first Thanksgiving differs from today's commercialized and fictionalized version of the event.

The story says that Indians of the Wampanoag tribe in Massachusetts and the Pilgrims from England sat down together peacefully in the fall of 1621 and shared several days of feasting and celebration in a spirit of friendship provided by the generosity and hard work of both groups.

While it is true that both Native Americans and Pilgrims took part in the event hosted by the colonists, the circumstances

that led to the meeting and the views of both groups toward each other have often been left out of the history.

The racial complications between the Native Americans and settlers are less known today. Within days of their arrival, the Pilgrims began stealing from Native American communities to attain goods for survival.

On their second day, settlers entered Native homes and took knives, bowls, fishing equipment, and other goods, intending to repay the inhabitants but instead left in haste, not doing so. Despite the theft, which Massasoit and other Wampanoag leaders soon learned about, the Natives tolerated the Pilgrims, allowed them to stay, and even befriended some of them.

Laden with a bountiful

harvest, the colonists celebrated surviving their first season in the New World in November 1621. In doing so, they created a myth that still holds fast in American today - that the first Thanksgiving was a time of celebration for all inhabitants of the New England region.

In reality, the Thanksgiving feast represented a validation of Manifest Destiny to the Pilgrims, their belief that they had a God-given mandate to live in North America. This came at the expense of the resident Native American population.

After being persecuted in Europe and risking their lives in a new land, the settlers felt blessed with divine favor in the future United States. The celebration to them was a time for rejoicing in their own survival.

However, for Native Americans still living in the region, the first Thanksgiving continues to represent a time of great difficulty for their people and their ancestors.

In response to a request by the Massachusetts Department of Commerce for a Wampanoag Indian to speak at the 350th anniversary of the Pilgrim landing, a Wampanoag man named Frank James wrote, "Today is a time of celebrating for you. But it is not a time of celebrating for me. It is with heavy heart that I look back upon what happened to my People."

Even though today Thanksgiving is known as a joyous time for gratitude, this perception has changed over time and was clearly not the case in the first Thanksgiving.

## RECIPES FOR YOUR TABLE!

### THANKSGIVING TURKEY COOKIES:

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 30 candy corn candies, plus 6 white tips of candy corn
- 6 chocolate sandwich cookies
- 6 mini peanut butter cups
- 6 malt balls
- 1 cup Red Frosting, recipe follows
- 6 chocolate sandwich cookies with top cookies removed

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Take the chocolate chips and put them over the stove until they melt and then set aside
2. For each turkey push 5 candy corn into the filling of the sandwich cookies (oreos) to make it look like feathers
3. Dip the flat part of the peanut butter cups into the chocolate and then place the dipped chocolate side onto the cookie
4. Dip a malt ball into the chocolate and place above the peanut butter cup to make a head
5. Dip the flat end of the candy corn into the chocolate and place onto the malt ball to make the beak
6. Put the red frosting into a bag and cut the tip of the bag and pipe a small piece of frosting under the malt ball to make a beard
7. Place a cookie on a platter and stand the cookie upright onto the cream filling. Repeat for the remaining cookies.



### EASY PUMPKIN MUFFINS

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 package (18.25 oz) yellow cake mix
- 1 can (15 oz) pumpkin puree
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- ½ tsp ground nutmeg
- ¼ tsp ground cloves

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a muffin tin or put in paper liners.
2. In a large bowl, mix the cake mix, pumpkin puree, cinnamon, nutmeg, and cloves until smooth. Place equally sized spoonfuls into the prepared muffin cups.
3. Bake for 20-25 minutes in preheated oven, or until a toothpick inserted into the middle of a muffin comes out clean.





# THANKSGIVING SPREADS

## WHAT MAKES THANKSGIVING SPECIAL TO YOU?

**Señora Altimari:** “I’m Italian and my family is enormous, and we can’t fit in someone’s house. We have to rent a hall, and it’s so fun.”



**Sydney Reiner '20:** “We do something different every year, but we always spend it together!! We always say what we are thankful for, and some of our favorite memories. We don’t always do the traditional Thanksgiving food, but we always have a huge feast!”

**Audrey Jurzyk '22:** “For Thanksgiving, I travel across Connecticut to my aunt’s humble abode. She cooks her famous artichokes and pizza dip that my grandma used to make.”

**Ashley Gelin '20:** “Thanksgiving is the day we make turkey and I make sweet potato mashed potatoes by hand and my mom makes lasagna. And then we just feast.”

**Hayden Nork '19:** “I’d say my preferred culinary element of Thanksgiving is tofurkey because I get to be a contrarian and not partake in the killing of animals, and, you know, partake in the soy industry which must be popularized. Tofurkey is really wonderful and I can not recommend it more.”



**Isabella Ursini '19:** “One tradition my family does every year is run the Madison turkey trot 5K and in the afternoon get together for dinner to have all the traditional Thanksgiving foods.”

**Mr. Wilson, Science teacher:** “We actually have two Thanksgivings. We go to my Mom’s house and then my sister-in-law’s house. I like it — it’s nice to just see everybody because you don’t always get to see so many family members at the same time. On certain holidays in particular, you get to see everybody which is good.”

**Mounisha Anumolu '19:** “Most of my family is in India but it’s really nice to spend time with family friends! And my mom always makes all the Thanksgiving food Indian style, so it’s dope.”

**Mr. Benvenuti, Science teacher:** “Thanksgiving is probably my favorite holiday, as I overindulge. It’s one of the couple days of the year where I overindulge, and I always look forward to my stuffing. I have a small family—there’s just six of us there together. It’s awesome. We just talk the entire day. I love it. Love it!”

**Ashley Thomas '19:** “I love having my whole family together. It’s a day that I get to spend every minute with them. I don’t usually see them a lot throughout the year, so it is really nice to spend some time with them.”

**Jackie Tice '22:** “I love Thanksgiving. Being thankful for what you have is a really positive message to spread, and we never really realize all that we have and how fortunate we are to live in the world with our friends and family, so Thanksgiving is the perfect time to stop and be thankful for all you have.”



**Tassos Kyriakides '20:** “About 40 people come to my house and we eat stuffing, turkey, mashed potatoes and other Thanksgiving foods. My cousins, aunts, uncles and other extended family members celebrate.”



**Rhea Dey '20:** “We invite all of our friends and close by family members. We always start off with small appetizers. Then we take out the turkey and I watch my dad cut it. Then we stand in a circle and say our thanks and then EAT TILL WE DROP. After dinner, we all sit on the ground and play taboo. I love the mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, turkey, and apple pie. Just everything really.”

**Vera Belfonti '20:** “Every year, my family goes to my grandma’s house for Thanksgiving with my mom’s side of the family for an early dinner. Then we stop by my aunt’s house on my dad’s side of the family for dessert. This way we can see our extended family on both sides.”

**Talya Braverman '20:** “Usually for Thanksgiving, I go to a fancy restaurant with my parents, sister, grandparents, aunt and uncle, and great aunt and uncle. My favorite food is mashed potatoes!”



**Mr. Wilson, Math teacher:** “My favorite foods for Thanksgiving are definitely the turkey, definitely the stuffing, the gravy. The gravy makes it all. We always get together with my wife’s family. We have dinner, watch some football. Nothing special, but we always say the same prayer every Thanksgiving.”

**Centerspread Editors:**  
Gilliane Nugent '20 and Olivia Gross '20  
**Centerspread Writers:**  
Jade Krukar '22, Samantha Hass '21,  
Jordan Klein '20  
**Additional Resources:**  
<https://americanhistory.abc-clio.com/Search/Display/386093>  
<http://www.giadadelarentiis.com/recipes/216/thanksgiving-turkey-cookies>  
<https://www.spendwithpennies.com/easy-pumpkin-muffins/>



# Review: *First Man* Goes Where No Man Has Gone Before

by Siavash Raissi '20

*First Man* is director Damien Chazelle's first return to the screen after the phenomenal success of *La La Land*, a movie which managed to win five Oscars in 2017, including best actress, score, and director (and almost best picture). Anyone who knows me knows that I have had a diehard, almost unhealthy obsession with the movie ever since its release.

So when I was told that Chazelle would once again be collaborating with both Justin Hurwitz, the composer of *La La Land*'s soundtrack, and Ryan Gosling for a second time, needless to say, I was excited. But was *First Man* able to soar up to the almost untouchable bar established by its predecessor? I can say that for the most part, yes.

*First Man* tells the story of legendary astronaut Neil Armstrong, and the challenges that had to be overcome by NASA in order to successfully land

the Apollo 11 spacecraft on the moon in 1969. The film takes you through Armstrong's other missions prior to the launch of Apollo 11, further emphasizing the deadly risks involved with such a bold project.

In one of the film's most powerful scenes, Armstrong is having dinner with his wife and children, explaining to them the solemn truth that there is a great possibility that he may not return home from his mission. *First Man* is full of these brutally realistic, intense moments. Although every viewer knows the outcome of the Apollo 11 mission, the movie is still able to effectively create this tension, whether it's through the image of a rocket violently burning up in Earth's atmosphere or a silent family dinner.

The soundtrack only exemplifies these scenes even further. The jazzy, rhythmic tunes that Hurwitz has been known for in movies such as *La La Land* and *Whiplash* have instead been replaced by the sound of slow,

sometimes haunting, violins and piano. Yet despite this radical departure in genre, Hurwitz is still able to create beautiful melodies that manage to fit every scene they're featured in.

The rocket launches are accompanied by bass-filled orchestras, continuing to build up until they climax at the firing of the engines. The scenes in space are all filled with uneasy, wavering violins; even when Armstrong is just simply seen staring, reflecting on his circumstances, a beautiful, light guitar melody plays in the background of his thoughts.

*First Man* is quite a departure from the movies Chazelle has been known to make in the past. Yet despite that, it is still a gripping biopic and should be used as a model for others to come.

It never strays away from its original goal, and manages to effectively pull the viewer into the eyes of Armstrong in every situation. It truly is a movie that has gone where no man has gone before.

# Documentary Filmmaker Shares Stories with Students

by Adam Leszczak '19

Documentary filmmaker Karyl Evans visited the Library Media Center at Amity Regional High School on October 23rd thanks to funding from the Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation.

Evans shared with students and teachers from journalism, video production, and history classes how she became a filmmaker, details about filmmaking, and a behind-the-scenes view on how she develops documentaries.

Evans did not become a filmmaker through a traditional route. She said both of her parents were scientists, which is what led her to receive a degree in botany.

It did not take her long to find out that she was not passionate about this area of study, so she decided to go to California to find an intriguing job after college. Evans said her parents, who supported her in her career change, told her, "Do what you really love to do."

After taking an internship with a news network, she soon found her passion: filmmaking. Commenting on the idea of following your passion, Evans said, "I want my films to be inspirational."

During her presentation at Amity, Evans showcased one of her favorite documentaries, a piece on the female rock icon Tina Weymouth, adding how unusual Weymouth's story was.

She was a bass drummer in two rock bands – Talking Heads and Tom Tom Club. Being a female drummer was something that hardly occurred during the 1970s and '80s.

Evans also noted that Weymouth wasn't famous for just one band, but two, an important part of her unusual and iconic story.

While Evans showed her documentary, she

walked the crowd through the different aspects of the filmmaking process, pointing out many little moments in the project that she felt were important in making a great film.

Amity High School Librarian Robert Musco commented on the documentary walk-through, saying, "It was very much like the director comments in a DVD. It was really fascinating for people interested in film production."

Throughout the film, Evans discussed other key notes. For example, she said that she positioned Weymouth's drummer in front of her drums for the interview. She explained how having photos and videos of Weymouth when she was younger was an important aspect, which allowed the film to show her growth.

Evans also mentioned how Weymouth always tried to give back to her Connecticut community, another positive point about this musician.

This filmmaker was very well received by the many students attending, who enjoyed seeing her works. Peter Spodnick '19 said, "She was very informative about her work and gave a lot of information about what she did while making it very interactive."

This presentation was made possible by the Jamie A. Hulley Arts Foundation, which funds many local art shows at the school in honor of an Amity student who passed away. It helps young people find a passion for art with these presentations. Encouraging students to find careers in the arts is the main goal of the foundation.

Hulley's parents said they decided to fund Evans' presentation because it is very inspiring and is one of their personal favorites.

Overall, this presentation was inspiring, intriguing, and informative, and furthered students understand of the filmmaking process.



Movie Cover of *First Man*  
Photo from Imdb.com



# Music in Motion: Concert-Goers Treated to A Thrilling “Motown to Mars

by Payton Grande '19

Music in Motion is historically one of the most energetic and thrilling shows at Amity, as the band, led by Phil Dolan, never fails to impress. This year's hour long show, featuring the theme of “Motown to Mars” showcased multiple ensembles who performed choreographed numbers while playing mesmerizing music.

Motown is a certain style of soul music that has both blues and pop influences in it. Artists like Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, and Earth Wind and Fire, are popular in this genre.

The band performed the songs September, Superstition, My Girl, Brick House, and Ain't No Mountain High Enough in the first half. The percussion ensemble put on their rendition of Heard it Through the Grapevine by slamming brooms and hitting buckets in rhythm, creatively pro-

ducing music. Additionally, the Chamber Singers made their debut in Music in Motion with a Jackson 5 Medley.

Melita Collins '21 said, “I loved the first act of the show because each of the songs made you want to get up, dance, and sing along. These songs were so fun to play.”

The second half of the show involved a different inspiration, Bruno Mars. The percussion group used snare and bass drums to play the energetic 24k Magic, while the choir sang a more serene song, Just the Way You Are, featuring Julien Stevens '21 as a soloist.

One number in the second act, Marry You, was performed with only xylophones, creating a majestic tone. A small group of band members put on a rendition of Runaway Baby, that showcased two saxophone players, Aidan Farrell '20 and Matt Haiday '20, humorously competing for the chance to play music.

Finally, the band played Finesse, Uptown Funk, and ended the show with Treasure.

“This show was something really special,” said Spencer Shepard '19, “I'm going to miss this.” This year's Music in Motion was especially sentimental to the senior class, as each song was student produced and led by a senior.

“My song, Uptown Funk, ended up coming out really well. I wanted it to have a city street vibe where people dropped money into a case, as we played.” Marc Chodos '19 said. Uptown Funk was just one of the many numbers that was run by a student. The song My Girl was dedicated to be the “Senior Song” and represented the family that emerged this year during the show.

In the end, Music in Motion 2018 was a success and will be remembered as a year that everyone's hard work truly allowed them to “go the distance” on opening night!



Seniors playing My Girl  
Photo by Peter Beltz

# Upcoming Art Events in Our Community

The wintry months are a great time to indulge in creativity! Take in a concert, stroll through a gallery, or view a photography exhibit.

Here are some events coming up in our community that you won't want to miss!

**Colonial Concert XXX-IX**  
November 24th at the United Church on the Green:

Begin the holiday season with the 39th annual Colonial Concert, filled with wigs, waistcoats, and candlelight.

**Side by Side: The Nutcracker Swings!**  
December 1st at Woolsey Hall:

Watch as the Concert Band and the Yale Jazz Ensemble take on the holiday classic, the Nutcracker

**The Art of Protest**  
December 3rd at the New Haven Pride Center:

Explore the protest and fight for equality with this exhibit through photographer, Arianne Davey's work.

**Creative Arts Workshop: Drawing the Figure from the Inside Out**  
December 8th at the Creative Arts Workshop in New Haven

Join this creative class and discover the basic structures of the figure need to create solid forms and alignment.

**Holiday Extravaganza**  
December 15th at Hamden Middle School:

Featuring the Elm's City Girls Choir, listen and dance along as your favorite carols and holiday songs, from “Sleigh Ride” to a “Sing-Along with Santa” are sung, in honor of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra's 125th anniversary.

**Love Heals All Wounds**  
January 11th at the Edmunds Center for the Arts:

Watch as movement artists Lil Buck and Jon Boogz, founders of MAI (Movement Art Is), perform their piece, Love Heals All Wounds, dancing through societal issues like racism, police violence, immigration, and more.

# Winter Bucket List

Though it is still only November, the snow has already begun. Winter in Connecticut is so special so make sure to take full advantage of it! Below are some ideas to keep you active this winter.

- Bundle up and go ice skating!
- Reminisce your childhood and make a snow angel and a snowman
- Get crafty and make a gingerbread house, try your best not to eat the materials!
- Hit the slopes and go skiing
- Attend or host an ugly homemade sweater party!
- Give back to your community and donate to a winter clothes drive
- Exchange homemade gifts with your friends!
- Have a holiday movie marathon! Make sure to load up on lots of hot chocolate!
- Enjoy a sleigh ride in the snow







# A Look Back at Amity's 2018 Football Season

by Logan Corris '19

Going into the 2018 football season, students and athletes thought it was bound to be a new era for Amity football. A new coaching staff had arrived in the off season, and many juniors with great potential were about to get a lot more playing time than their sophomore year. The varying talent among the team, as well as the strong experience of the quarterback James Laubstein '20, led to hopes of Amity finishing with a winning record.

The Spartans played their first game on the road against Harding High School. The effort was led by touchdowns from Jacob Lettick '19 and Joe Digello '20, creating a blowout win that gave them confidence for the season.

The next week was their first home game of the year against Foran, which ended in disappointment with a score of 21-8. This was a frustrating game, but it fueled them for the next week of football, in which they were faced with a tough matchup at home against Hillhouse. Amity came out on top with a final score of 27-18, after losing to them in the past.

Throughout the game, the Spartans defensive and offensive lines held up against the pressure put on by Hillhouse. The main leader of this game was Mike Young '19, who

helped his team immensely by scoring three touchdowns. Their win against Hillhouse gave the team belief in their new coaching structure and series of plays, something that was not the strongest for them in the past.

The seemingly easy win against Hillhouse was the first of three games that they would play at home, one after another, aiding them with a home field advantage.

Following this win, the team would face Wilbur Cross in their second home game. Winning this hard-fought game, the Spartans were gifted with a two game win streak, furthering the confidence of the players, who, just weeks before, were unsure about their success.

However, even not at their home field, the team continued to stay strong, shown through the win the following week against New Milford, where they dominated the field with a score of 36-0.

This win gave Amity their best start to a season in years, with a record of 4-1. Following New Milford's blowout victory, Amity played their biggest rival, Notre Dame. This was the most important game of the year as Amity had the potential to improve their record to five wins and had an even greater chance at an early playoff run.

Unfortunately, they dropped this game by a

score of 21-14 in an electric battle. Following this loss came two more against Branford and Shelton which leaves them at a 4-4 record. The question that remains as they go into the end of their season is: can they bring back the immense confidence and courage they gained in the beginning of their season to a playoff run?

Although, in reality, Amity's playoff hopes are slim, they still have a chance to finish the year with over a 500 winning percentage, something that is very impressive for a young team with a first year coach.

Mike Young describes their first year coach, saying, "Coach Bruno pushes us to put our all into everything we do while still enjoying the atmosphere."

The combined pushing of the players abilities, and positive reinforcement to their efforts has helped to create a more successful team. This season for the Spartans has been respectable to say the least, and has helped to establish them once again as a team Amity can be proud of.

Sam Sachs '20 reported on the overall season saying, "Obviously there have been many ups and downs but we look forward to continued success."

With their arsenal of talented players who hold immense potential, the success for Amity Football is on the rise for years to come.

# Don't Sleep on Baseball's Biggest Problem

by Peter Spodnick '19

Baseball was once considered by everyone as America's favorite pastime. Families would tune in to watch their team every night even if they were having an unsuccessful season. Parents would take their children to a game on their off day. But now, most of those kids wouldn't choose to go see a baseball game.

Times are changing as other sports have seemed to leap in front of baseball. Football and even basketball are the new generation's favorite sports. This change can largely be credited to dragging pace of play in Major League Baseball games.

We've all been there. You sit on the couch to watch the game at 7pm, doze off around the 6th inning, then wake up at one in the morning with no idea of the outcome of the game and a bad night's sleep. What if the game could end around the time you started to fall asleep? There's no way around it- MLB games need to be shortened, and it is very achievable with the implementation of a pitch clock.

According to Baseball Reference, the average length of MLB games in 2017 was 3 hours and 8 minutes, an all time high. Rob Manfred, the commissioner of MLB, implemented a few pace of play changes such a limitation mound visits and instant intentional walks for the 2018 season to try and shorten game times.

However, this only shortened games by an average of 4 minutes the next year, changing next to nothing. If MLB ever wants to shorten their games, they must introduce a pitch clock.

If you've ever watched a game, you may have thought to yourself, "Man, this guy takes forever to throw the ball." And you're right. Pitchers are taking an

average on 23.8 seconds between pitches as of 2017. But that's just the average. There are some players who take up to 30 seconds, even more.

On August 5th of the 2018 season, the Yankees and Red Sox faced off with their starting pitchers Masahiro Tanaka and David Price. The game took a total of 4 hours and 39 minutes; in just your standard nine inning game. Both Tanaka and Price are notorious for dilly-dallying on the mound. If a pitch clock was introduced, forcing players to throw a pitch somewhere between 15-20 seconds after the pitcher receives the ball, the pace of play will be increased dramatically. This has been proven in the Minor Leagues, which have been using a pitch clock for years now.

In 2015, the league was able to subtract an average of 25 minutes of playing time in just one season. It has been helpful ever since.

Now I know what you're thinking. You don't want a pitch clock. You fear that it will ruin the best part of baseball, being that it is the only professional sport with no sort of clock or time limit.

As Yogi Berra once said, "It ain't over till it's over," and that can only be applied to baseball. But don't worry. The the use of a pitch clock won't change this. Implementing one will not change the end result of games. No Yogi-isms will become unrelatable from this change. All it will do is cut out the unnecessary time lollygagging and make the game more exciting and appealing to viewers.

We have to accept that baseball is in a dire need for change. With a noticeable drop in ratings, even in the World Series, the sport's downfall is on the horizon.

The promising part of the issue, however, is that there is a solution. We just have to be willing to embrace it.



Football Captain Ryan Biagetti contemplates the game in review

Photo by Robert Taylor



Masahiro Tanaka reviewing a ball prior to pitching  
Image by Kyodo News

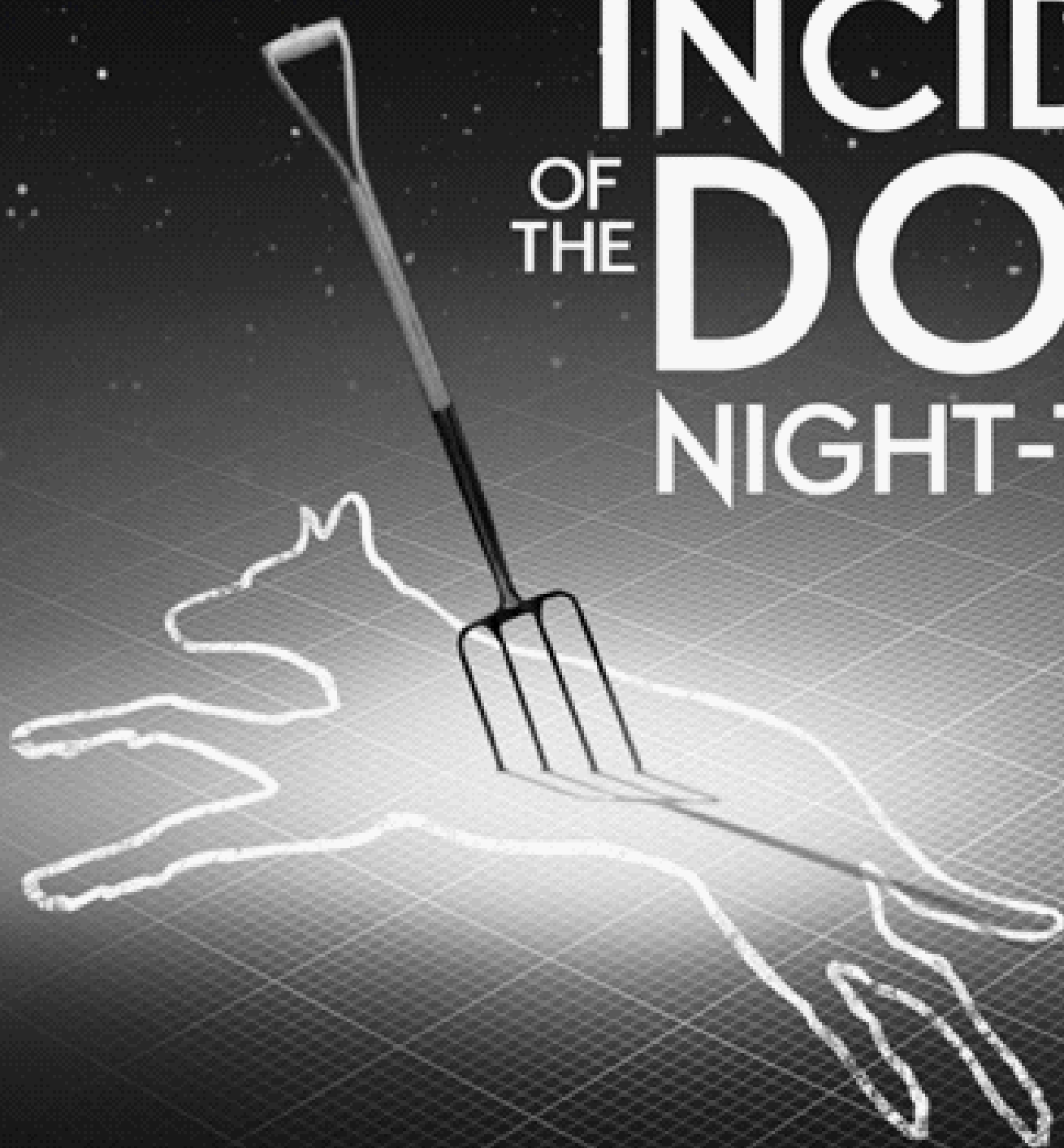


AMITY HIGH SCHOOL

PRESENTS

THE  
CURIOUS  
INCIDENT  
OF THE DOG IN THE  
NIGHT-TIME

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY  
MARK HADDON  
ADAPTED BY  
SIMON STEPHENS



DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup> 2018

(203)- 392-2019

[WWW.AMITYTHEATERDEPARTMENT.COM](http://WWW.AMITYTHEATERDEPARTMENT.COM)