

THE AMITY TRIDENT

LXXV-No. 2

Amity Regional High School

Woodbridge, CT 06525

November 19, 2021

Amity Responds to Shooting Threat

by Nicole Grosso '22
and Aadya Wijesekera '23

Early on the school day of October 25, some of Amity's students and staff received two emails with threatening remarks. Administrators immediately went about contacting the Woodbridge Police and placed the school into a shelter-in-place. This allowed class to proceed as normal with teachers drawing their blinds and locking their classroom doors during each session. Information and rumors were spread throughout the student body, causing panic for many people within the school.

In hours following the threat, many parents felt unsafe keeping their children within the school and came to pick them up. In order to be dismissed from school, the school used a two-gate system. A

Associate Principal Monica Kreuzer said, "The two gate system allows for an orderly dismissal of students to parents/guardians. We have a master list of all students with contacts and emergency contacts. Parents complete a paper with their student's information

and present it with their ID. The information is verified and then a runner goes to find the student."

This was done to ensure the safety of the students, especially with the shelter-in-place. While many students were dismissed, those who remained in school attended classes on a normal schedule for the remainder of the day.

Following the end of the school day, Amity continued to work with local law enforcement to review the threat with multiple updates sent to parents.

Later that day, Principal Anna Mahon said, "This has been a stressful day and a reminder of how fragile our sense of safety can be. We will be resuming regular school tomorrow as we are confident in the safety and security of our building."

Police presence was increased on the school's campus the following day for security, and counselors were available to all students who needed support following these events.

However, members of the school community raised concerns

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Addressing Student-Raised Issues and Affecting Change Focus of Meetings

by Alice Xu '24

Recently, Amity's students have brought up issues within the school, spurring the introduction of "Afternoon with Admins." These monthly meetings were created by Amity's administrative body to hear student opinions on school-wide matters, gathering about 10-12 students with several members of the administrative staff.

The first of these meetings was held on Tuesday, October 19th. Administrative members

present were Principal Anna Mahon, and Associate Principals Miguel Pickering, Frank Barretta, and Monica Kreuzer.

Guest speakers Megan Baker and Steve Hernandez of the CT Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity, and Opportunity were also present to give their own insights, speaking from the point-of-view of the state in contrast to a perspective limited to only the Amity experience.

Mahon said, "The ARHS Administration will be holding monthly 'open house' conversations

with students to create an opportunity for open discussion and transparency between the student body and the high school administration. We will be following a generalized pre-set agenda, but agendas may be adjusted to reflect issues that have arisen around school."

Administrators began their October meeting by reviewing reports of inappropriate behavior both online and in-school, COVID-19 concerns, school expectations for all members of the Amity

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Link Crew Hosts Freshman Tailgate

by Nina Carmeli '23

Link Crew held its annual freshman tailgate event preceding the football game on Friday, October 22. Ninth graders enjoyed lawn games, music, and a barbeque dinner to celebrate their transition into high school and foster strong friendships.

Being one of the first mask-optional events hosted at the school, the tailgate was a great opportunity for students to connect and get to know each other better in a lighthearted setting. Link Crew leaders led outdoor activities and grilled hamburgers and hotdogs to make for a memorable evening. The event attracted even more ninth-graders than in a COVID-free year, bringing the total number of freshman attendees to 176.

Freshmen asked to swipe in and were then guided to the practice football field to play a variety of games such as frisbee, football, soccer, and an attempt at monkey-in-the-middle. Link Crew leaders were spread out throughout the field wearing white-out per the football student theme and could

be spotted interacting with freshmen and grilling barbeque foods.

Link Crew leaders were excited to spend time with the class of 2025 and get to know students better. As the facilitators of the event, it was their job to make sure things were going smoothly.

Chloe Adzigian '23 reflected, "I think the tailgate was a huge success! I had a lot of fun hanging out with the freshmen and I hope this was a great way for them to meet some new friends and get to know each other."

Sean Doron '22, another Link leader added, "I think the tailgate went well, it was a lot of fun getting to see the freshmen playing games with each other and having fun."

Freshmen who came to the event also agreed that it was a smashing success. Valerie Herrera Rizzo '25 said, "I would say that the tailgate was a wonderful and fun place to go to. I made new friends that I thought I wouldn't have before I went there."

Additionally, Link Crew coor-

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Dr. Henry Lee speaks to Amity

Photo by Mackenzie Floyd '23

World renowned forensic scientist Dr. Henry Lee visited Amity on October 29 to discuss his work and career with some members of the student body during sessions 5 and 6. Those in attendance included students from the Science Research program, the Forensics classes, the It's the Law classes, and the True Crime classes. Dr. Lee has worked to help solve many well-known crimes, being called in for the OJ Simpson case, the Wood Chipper case, and the terrorist attacks of September 11.

This presentation was organized by Nick Shamp, who teaches Forensics, Science Research, and AP Physics. Shamp commented, "I was incredibly excited when the opportunity arose for Dr. Lee to come speak to the students. While it was a lot of work to put together, overall, I am so happy with how it turned out...This was an amazing experience and something I hope the students remember for a long time!"

Dr. Lee began by introducing himself and thanking everyone for coming. He discussed his values and core beliefs that he thinks are neces-

sary for success. Throughout this, he asked questions to the auditorium about what he had presented and their thoughts. When students responded, he either took a special metal pin from on stage and threw it across the auditorium and told the students to catch it or had Shamp run across the auditorium to hand the student a signed photo card. This encouraged participation and enthusiasm from all the students, who were vying for the chance of getting a souvenir.

Dr. Lee followed this by discussing some of his specific cases. He gave a detailed background of victims, evidence found at each crime scene, and what police had done so far. Showing pictures along the way, Dr. Lee dissected how he looked at various pieces of evidence differently than other previous officers and scientists. Oftentimes, he related his new way of thinking to his key beliefs for success to demonstrate how looking at things simply can be the easiest way to find the answer. This presentation was a opportunity for students to hear from such an influential and knowledgeable scientist.

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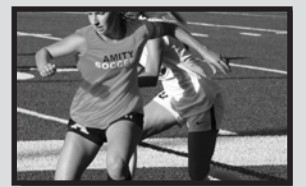
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Addressing Student-Raised Issues and Affecting Change Focus of Meetings

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community and facility usage. This was followed by concerns raised by students in regards to the intermittently locked bathrooms, vandalism, microaggressions, issues during lunch times and study halls, the use of inappropriate language, and the creation of gender-neutral locker rooms.

Sam Bae '24 is glad this step has been taken to increase discussion between students and administrators on school issues. "It's a shame these issues initially happened, and it's frustrating not much has been communicated, but I think that's what Afternoon with Administration is here to help with: communication."

With the two-year anniversary of the pandemic approaching, all members of the community have been becoming increasingly tired of the restrictions and difficulties presented. In addition to this, the transition from a COVID-style year to a more typical year has been a difficult shift for many. The administration has recognized this restlessness and the switch in expectations as the main factors in the increased amount of misbehavior, which they have been forced to address.

Amity's recent Day of Dialogue event was also a prominent topic of discussion. Based on the overwhelmingly positive feedback from students, administration has been encouraged to host more events of this sort. However, some felt that certain events toward the end of the program distracted from an otherwise fruitful day of learning. Students were upset that one incident took away focus from the important dialogue taking place at the session and the overall purpose of the day's events.

Concluding the event, the representatives from CT Commission identified a need for further learning by students in order to prevent the spread of possibly misguided biases and harmful actions.

A member of Amity's Inclusion Club, Nina Carmeli '23, said, "I thought the event was an excellent first step to creating change in our community. The only way that the administrative leaders of our school can effect change and be aware of the issues occurring is through the students. Hosting a meeting to allow students to voice their concerns and opinions is integral to the success and safety of Amity."

Though the session was viewed as generally successful, Carmeli has also made clear she believes there is still much to be done to establish a more supportive, comfortable school community. "By no means do I think this meeting alone solved the behavioral issues (and more) that are occurring this year, but with future monthly meetings, it gives great hope for the future and illustrates the commitment that Amity administration has to improve the students' well being and experience at school."

As Amity continues to move toward growing into more empathetic, educated individuals and creating a more unified environment, conversations such as October's Afternoon with Admins will encourage discussion. Students and administration alike look forward to further discussion, not just at their next meeting which is to be held in November, but in daily exchanges. In this way, issues such as the ones pointed out at this meeting can be acknowledged and worked through, leading to a stronger, more unified school community.

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about the response throughout this school emergency. This led to the regional school district and the local police department holding a security webinar to discuss general school safety. There were a variety of panelists, including administrators from AMSB, AMSO, and ARHS as well as law enforcement officers from Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge. In Spartan Seminar on November 3, students also viewed a video regarding school safety and protocols. They were also given the opportunity to voice any concerns and debrief over the event with their seminar teachers and peers.

Anushka Acharya '23 said, "It was extremely helpful and comforting to have Spartan Seminar to discuss what we were feeling and how the school would respond in the future."

During Spartan Seminar,

administrators discussed the specifics of the various drills necessary to keep the school safe and organized in a true emergency situation. This included identifying and redefining emergency procedures within the school, such as secure school mode, evacuation, lockdown, or shelter-in place. Administrators identified that secure school mode should have been used in this specific scenario.

In the future, police would secure the campus upon any threat. This would tackle the issue of students leaving campus and parents or others coming onto campus. Pre-composed emails have been created for various scenarios and can be edited to address each specific situation. This will help to improve communication throughout the school. Amity will continue to use this new information to create an organized and safe response to emergency situations.

Link Crew Hosts Annual Freshman Tailgate

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Administrators commented on the success of the event. Jennifer Bonaldo, one of the Link Crew advisors remarked, "I would say it was a very successful event. We had above average attendance, and the students were eating, playing football, and generally having a good time. It was great to be doing something normal again."

As the sun went down, 9th graders and Link Crew leaders alike made their way

down to the student section of bleachers to watch the Amity football team compete against Guilford.

School spirit was evident throughout the night and served as an excellent opportunity to integrate the freshman into the Amity community, especially after being isolated for so long. Freshman tailgate is a fantastic example of Amity regaining a high school feel and participating in traditional activities.

National Honors Societies Active Again

by Emma Beloin '22

A part of Amity's pursuit of excellence is its Honors Societies. The National Honors Society chapter at Amity High School is a very competitive and selective group of about 35 students. They promote scholarship, leadership, character, and service. The National Honor Society's main purpose is to interlink its core values into everything they do throughout the year.

The President of the National Honors Society, Tina Burland '22, said, "Currently, we are working in different committees: one is on mentorship, specifically, how the NHS can help young kids in both our community and outside of it."

They also have committees focused on school climate and how to create a better school atmosphere, a committee focussed on drives like toy drives and donation drive projects, and lastly, a committee to work on protecting the Environment in both the Amity and BOW community.

Along with the National Honors Society, Amity also has a National Spanish Honors Society (NSHS). Similarly to the NHS, the NSHS has been keeping busy this year with various activities to help the

community. NSHS President JC Rodriguez '22 says, "Listen for the announcements and ask teachers in [the] language wing about donations for the drive and come to ZUMBA night in December".

Also, the food and clothing drive is an annual event and has been historically successful, thanks to the Spanish Honors Society's efforts.

Another National Honors Society at Amity, the newly established National English Honors Society, is following in the footsteps of its sister societies. After holding their induction ceremony of over 50 members back on October 20th, they are having their first meeting Thursday, November 18th, after school. Member Liam Tassiello '22 says, "We are meeting [soon] to discuss ideas for how we can contribute to the school this year through volunteer work and other activities."

The NEHS plays an important role in the English department here at Amity and also incorporates the same core values as does the NHS and the NSHS by acts of service throughout the community through events such as book drives, donation projects, and offering assistance to student-run organizations like OBOA.

Veterans Remembered



Photo by Lisa Toto

This year, Amity honored all of our veterans for their service in various ways. Students were shown a video in celebration of Veterans Day with various veterans from the Amity community giving their insight on what this day meant to them.

The hallway across from the cafeteria was decorated with photos of past Amity graduates who have served our country.

In addition to this, history teacher Peter Downhour organized a "Missing Persons table" to be set up inside the lunchroom.

Downhour remarked, "The missing person table display for Veterans Day is a display I helped set up as a thoughtful reminder of the day... I think if we are going to be in school on this day we should spend part of the day reflecting on service, sacrifice, and community. The table and all its symbolism does that in a key location, our lunch room, or 'mess hall'. It is a display that each person who sees it can observe and reflect on it in their own way."

These tables are often found at different military events to honor prisoners of war and missing comrades, dating back to the Vietnam War. Various symbols on the table help to remember all military personnel who are not here.

The Impact of the Shooting Threat on the School Community

by Nick Sullivan '24

It was just another Monday at Amity until around 9:30 a.m on Monday, October, when a notice regarding a shelter in place was issued.

"Is this real or a drill?" were my initial thoughts. Nobody had any idea what was going on. Perhaps some animal, like a raccoon, had gotten inside the school, or perhaps a robbery had occurred nearby, my class and I thought.

The first thing I did was check social media, where I noticed two emails threatening Amity being circulated. I wasn't sure if these emails were genuine, but after speaking with numerous teachers who were emailed by that person, they confirmed that the emails were indeed real.

Once they were determined to be real, students

went into a panic. They began telling their parents about the situation, causing many of them to immediately rush to the school.

The lines of parents grew longer and longer since school security and Woodbridge Police had to check IDs to ensure no one was endangering the school. At this time, I thought it was best not to have my parents pick me up, as my friends still hadn't been called down to the office.

As the anxious wait continued, many parents grew very frustrated and some even began pounding on cafeteria windows.

I later found out that multiple news channels were at Amity trying to learn more, like News 8. A couple of my close friends also got interviewed, explaining to the newscasters how events unfolded.

After SSP, little work

was done in class because there were so few students left. Toward the end of the day, the final announcement was made stating that the shelter in place was no longer required and that business could resume as usual for the remainder of the day.

When I got home, I received text messages from family members wondering if everything was okay, so I explained to them what had happened. While this was all very overwhelming, the next day I felt much safer knowing that there were no present threats to the school anymore.

And with the majority of kids and staff returning, it nearly seemed like a regular day. I think we all became more alert of our surroundings, knowing that anything unexpected could happen.

All things considered, I feel like the administration handled everything well.

The Number 1 Threat to Unity: Close-Mindedness

by Gabriel Sousa '22

Have you ever tried discussing politics with your friends, and as soon as you give your opinion, they shut you out before you can even explain yourself? This common trait of close-mindedness plagues our nation.

In recent years, our country has become very polarized, partially due to the growing close-minded population. General citizens and high-ranking politicians from both the Republican and Democratic parties automatically dismiss the opposing party's ideas simply because they resent that party.

There are many factors catering to the growing close-minded population, the most prevalent and impactful of them being the media.

Recently and most notoriously, during the 2016 election, the media ramped up its efforts to polarize the nation. Former President Donald Trump is a very divisive figure with both fanatic supporters and haters. This love/hate relationship led the media to withhold information in hopes of either facilitating or preventing Trump's victory.

During the election, media from both sides fed their respective parties contradicting information that promoted the presumption of facts based on limited information, or in other words, half the story. This led both parties to develop opinions that were both misinformed and underinformed.

The difference in factual information between both parties has led to challenging and bitter discussions, ultimately hindering the sharing of ideas.

A research study conducted by Ness Labs found that "open-mindedness may be linked to higher cognitive abilities." It is unclear if the higher cognitive abilities result from open-mindedness or vice versa, but either way, being open-minded is undeniably beneficial.

Many would argue that they are not close-minded, but often people lack self-awareness. To recognize this trait, people should learn the signs of close-mindedness. Someone who is close-minded is not open to debate or discussion. They are more likely to

make a statement than ask a question since they care more about being understood than understanding others. Most importantly, a close-minded person lacks humility, as they see their beliefs as superior.

Some people might ask, "Why is it bad to stand by your beliefs?" which I agree with to an extent, but sometimes opinions are formed through misinformation, and people have to be open to change. Andreas Kluth from The Washington Post wrote, "If we refuse to update our opinions in response to new and better information there can be no progress and democracy fails." This is very true and can be observed in our government as we watch our politicians fail to compromise or make any significant progress.

Another reason Americans are so close-minded is due to the education system. In his paper "The Purpose of Education", Martin Luther King Jr. wrote, "If we are not careful, our colleges will produce a group of close-minded, unscientific, illogical propagandists, consumed with immoral acts." Unfortunately, his prediction seems to be more accurate every day, as schools and teachers impose their views on students.

According to a poll conducted by Intelligent.com, "52% of all college students say they "always" or "often" refrain from expressing views on political and social issues in classrooms out of concern for potential consequences."

I have experienced this myself when completing assignments where I refrained from expressing my political beliefs and pretended to hold the opposing opinion in fear of getting a lower grade. Professors who push their beliefs on students are teaching them to become close-minded because they are not offering both sides of an issue to allow the students to develop an informed opinion on their own.

Being open-minded is essential, whether on a small scale, such as a discussion between friends, or a larger scale, like a debate on a bill in Congress. Thus, open-mindedness encourages healthy relationships, unity, and the promotion of progress and improvement within our nation.

the TRIDENT

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Let's Bring Everyone Together to Celebrate Our Cosmopolitan School!

by Aditi Bhattamishra '24 and Emily Gu '23

The amount of holidays in the span of a school year is incredible, and we're lucky that our school recognizes many religious and cultural events like Rosh Hashanah and Good Friday. After all, part of Amity's charm is our diversity: we have students from all walks of life and so many different backgrounds. It's only fair that we appreciate our diversity, and festivals have a way of doing this by bringing everyone together.

However, the circum-

stances of the COVID-19 pandemic and stereotypes perpetuated by social media started to create a rift between Amity towns, middle schools, grade levels, and students themselves. It's hard to get to know one another and build a stronger community with all these hardships and distance.

But even through it all, we've managed to bring back Club Day this year and events like the Day of Dialogue were very well-received.

Hosting school-wide events like these helps bring the Amity community together and introduces new

faces and ideas to each other, which is incredibly impactful in light of the pandemic's mayhem.

To bridge the gap that formed because of the pandemic and to expose everyone to the wondrous diversity of Amity Regional High School, we think there should be an event, similar to Day of Dialogue and Club Day, that showcases all the cultures, religions, customs, languages, and other similar identities that Amity students come from.

Why should we even bother with such a thing? Because we as a commu-

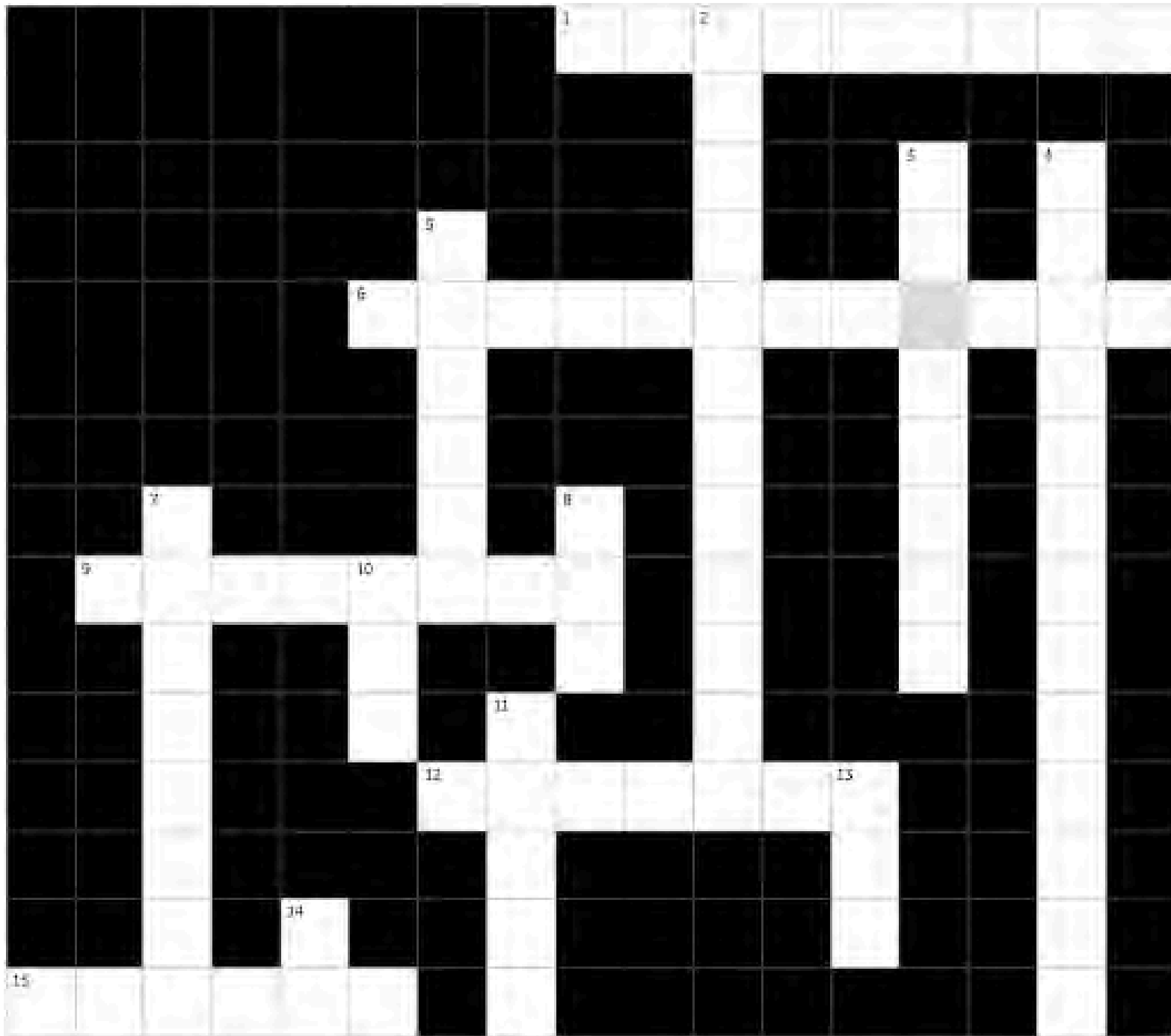
nity would get to bond and grow. Such an event would also provide a nice breather for students and teachers alike. Culture Days aren't new; many other schools have them and they are quite popular, including Orange elementary schools Racebrook and Turkey Hill. A Culture Day at Amity would not only give the opportunity for students to talk about their culture, but it would also allow students to interact with and learn from each other.

Upperclassmen and underclassmen can intermingle as well as the students and staff. And of course, cultural

and language clubs can advertise and host their own events, allowing them to gain more exposure.

Between us writers, we are from two very distinct cultures, ranging from kaju katlis and Diwali to dumplings and the Mid-Autumn Festival. These parts of our culture hold great personal meaning to us. We would love to get to share them with everyone and would be equally as excited to learn more about other cultures. We truly believe a Cultural Day at Amity would make us stronger and promote inclusivity within the community!

November Crossword Puzzle by Emily Gu '23



Across

- 1. This type of tree has leaves that show off a brilliant variety of colors before falling off.
- 6. A day to honor all of those who served our nation
- 9. This sport is currently the most popular sport in Spain
- 12. These clouds are the fluffiest of them all and hang at low altitudes
- 15. The main course of a Thanksgiving Feast (it's a fowl)

Down

- 2. This flower is placed on altars during Dia de Los Muertos to attract ghosts (Aztec name)
- 3. Where the "Gateway to the West" is located
- 4. Fear of death
- 5. Virgin Greek goddess of the hearth and one of the Olympian gods
- 7. This month is the last full month of autumn
- 8. When pigs ____
- 10. "Bacon On Wheels" is an affectionate substitution for this acronym :D
- 11. Latin for "gold"
- 13. How many main branches of the US military are there?
- 14. The most abundant element on and in the Earth (symbol)

Broadcast Journalism Creates “Amity Update” Students Get On-Air Experience

by Erika Fontana '22

Five, four, three, two, one! These are familiar words for Jeremy Iverson’s 8th Period class. Each day, the 16 students show up to the TV Studio ready to give Amity students and staff important updates.

If you walk by the TV Studio at the end of the day, you will probably notice the “On-Air” sign is lit up. This is because the Amity Update is being filmed. Though the show is only two minutes long, the impact lasts much longer.

Several of Iverson’s students take the class in order to get hands-on experience with broadcasting in preparation for a career in the field. Amity Senior Keira Droney said, “I hope to pursue a career in film production, so this class has provided me with a lot of knowledge about what goes on behind the scenes of a broadcast.”

However, the “behind the scenes” aspect of Broadcast Journalism is extremely in depth, as only four people are actually on the camera. The other 75% of the class gets the studio, camera, and script ready for the show.

“The two minute show requires about 20 minutes of preparation,” Droney said. “We have to write the script, set up all three cameras, do mic checks, set graphics and so on.”

Though Droney and other students take the class to prepare for a career in film production, there are other career aspirations amongst the students as well.

Another senior Justin Zamkov hopes to land a job in Sports Broadcasting. As the sports reporter, each day Zamkov researches Amity’s home games. This includes the opponents, location, and times. Not only does he provide the necessary information, but he also includes details such as the team’s seed, and players that the fans may want to watch for.

“Taking this class got me really excited for future classes I may take in college,” Zamkov said. “Being a sports reporter for the Amity Update is good practice because in turn I will be ready for those challenging classes I may take.”

Iverson feels this full-year class is very

beneficial to students wanting to be in the broadcasting field.

“I think broadcast journalism gives students hands-on, real world experience with broadcast media,” he said. “It opens up the possibility to pursue a career in that field.”

In addition to show set up and sports, there are also two anchors and a weather person. Each day the anchors report on any upcoming events such as food drives, dances, and fundraisers. They also include the letter day, national day, and any birthdays for the senior class.

The anchors’ section is usually the longest part of the broadcast. The weatherman will give a brief rundown of the week’s weather and how that may impact daily plans. Similar to sports, it is typically a quick segment of the show.

Beginning last Wednesday, the Amity Update aired during the announcements at the start of session 2. Moving forward, the show will be available on A days and days.

According to Iverson, the students in Broadcast Journalism have been working hard to give the community a polished video announcement show that is both informative and fun.

Physical Education and Health teacher Eric Rothbart loves to see students take classes that are meaningful to them. He said, “It is really important that students have opportunities like taking this class. Electives like this truly set students up for success.”

Additionally, Rothbart mentioned how it is great that Amity offers classes such as Broadcast Journalism because most schools do not have ones like this. He said it shows how much the Amity staff takes student aspirations into consideration while producing such an informative show.

Though it is only a 55-minute class that meets four times a week, students are able to learn the foundational skills of broadcasting such as speaking and reading, production, and presentation. Such skills remain with students even past graduation and can be used in various careers. Because of this class, there is no doubt that these students will be able to pursue any type of career that they wish.

National Spanish Honor Society Drive Benefits Fair Haven School

by Andie Napolitano '24

The National Spanish Honor Society is holding their 15th annual food and coat drive to benefit Fair Haven School

in New Haven from October 18 to November 18.

Fair Haven has a diverse student population both in ethnicity and age; students range from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. The vast majority of students at Fair Haven are immigrants, as all students who have immigrated to the New Haven Public School District from other nations attend Fair Haven.

Head organizer of the drive Nicole Grosso '22 said, “The food and coat drive is a huge help to the Fair Haven community, a neighborhood within New Haven that doesn’t benefit from the same privileges as most of us here at Amity.”

Being new to the country, many of these children and their families struggle financially and are unable to afford the special Thanksgiving and holiday meals that many look forward to.

Throughout the past fifteen years, Amity has provided donations of food to students and families at Fair Haven School; however, last year gift cards were donated in place of non-perishable food products and coats due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year the food and coat drive is back in full swing, and Amity students are encouraged to donate as Fair Haven provides each family with a bag full of groceries around Thanksgiving, and they depend on Amity for the majority of donations.

Claudia Mirci, a Spanish teacher and advisor of Amity’s chapter of the National Spanish Honor Society, said, “Our main goal is to provide food and coats to help families in need as the weather becomes cooler and the holiday season approaches”.

Mirci also notes that the drive used to only involve donations of food items, however after an influx of Peruvian and other South and Central American refugees, the Spanish Honor Society decided to donate coats as well. These regions do not experience cold weather, so many immigrants from this area do not have proper clothing for the Connecticut winters.

When asked why she decided to donate to the drive, Bridget Lowder '24 said, “I feel that donating to the food and coat drive is a great way to help our local community and support those who may be struggling.”

The National Spanish Honor Society has historically filled “at least two car-fuls” of non-perishable foods, coats, hats, and gloves for the children and families at Fair Haven, and are hoping to surpass this amount with the 2021 drive.

Make sure to donate to the food and coat drive by November 18th and look out for future drives conducted by the National Spanish Honor Society to benefit Fair Haven School.



Photo by New Haven Register

Fair Haven School located in New Haven



Photo by Andie Napolitano '24

Donations to the Food and Coat Drive

The National Spanish Honor Society is dedicated to helping Fair Haven School. Keep an eye out for other activities sponsored by NSHS!

Home Organization Service

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Despite Chilly Temps, Flag Football Comes on Hot

by Ava Gross '22

At Amity Regional High School, our most attended sporting event of the fall is not football, soccer, or field hockey, but the senior girls' flag football game fondly known as Powderpuff.

Led by history teacher Rick Bourdeau, the team transforms from a group of novices to professionals before their one game against North Haven right before Thanksgiving. This year, we have the pleasure of hosting the game, so it will be played at 6:00 pm on November 22 on the new turf field.

At the very first practice, before any flags, mouthguards, or cleats are even donned, the girls are taught the different stances and movements. Many people often forget that these girls have never played flag football before.

Amity is unlike other schools who offer leagues for girls from a young age. When our girls first step onto the field, many of them do not even know the real logistics of a football play.

It is a tremendous feat what Bourdeau, along with math teachers Dameon Kellogg, Greg Twohill, Michael Stockmal, and Karl Wilson do every year, yet they come out successful each time. They produce excited, gritty teammates that play really hard for every second of the game. Even though they have only had practices so far, the energy on the field is palpable.

Last Saturday, the girls were expected to debut their game in a scrimmage against Southington. Unfortunately, the game was cancelled due to lightning, but the girls felt it was a fun excursion anyway.

Mia Dow, a wide receiver, stated, "Even though the game got cancelled and we had to leave, I was still really excited to go to Southington."

Recently, the team announced their captains who are Jenna Riccardi, Kalliopi Maniatis, Mackenna Feurer, Lizzie Bowler, Alaina Schneider, Maria Dalle Ave, and Brynn Weirsmann. They will be leading the charge as the team heats up for the big game next week.

While we all would love to know the coveted strategy, the captains have kept that close to the vest when questioned about it.

However, Riccardi said, "The team feels very strong right now and I think we are going to make a big impact." Other teammates have reported that the team has meshed very well over this past month.

Erika Fontana, a defensive player, corroborates Riccardi's point, affirming, "Our coaches have given us excellent guidance and we are so prepared to take on whatever North Haven brings."



Photo contributed by @amityffclassof22

Emily Hoddinott '22 and Caelin Smith '22 are excited for the flag football season.

Hearing such positive words are a great indicator of the dynamic of this team. Considering the fact that they have been given such little time to mold, their collaborative and vivacious spirit shows indelible promise.

To invigorate the team, the captains have crafted an energizing playlist full of Drake, Kendrick Lamar, Lil Wayne, and 21 Savage. With their rapid beats and spirited language, songs like "Turn My Swag On" by Soulja Boy will really drive the team to greatness as they dominate drills and snatch flags.

Despite the seasonal chilly temperatures settling in and expected to stay into next week, we will all be out there at Johnson Field supporting our own flag football team as they battle against the Indians.



Photo contributed by @amityffclassof22

The team demonstrates their enthusiasm at practice

**Come down to the turf on Monday,
November 22nd to watch Amity's
Powderpuff team face off against the
North Haven Indians!**

Automotive Tech: From Classroom to Fully Functioning Repair Shop

by Scott Lowder '22

After thirty years as a pro mechanic and ten as a mentor, Kevin Dwyer is committed to making Amity a stronger community through his automotive technology courses. The new automotive teacher felt compelled to become an instructor and give back to the students with his expertise.

Additionally, he strongly believes that everyone should have a good understanding of automobiles because not only do most people drive them daily, but it's also important to be an educated consumer. With his vision, Dwyer expanded his teaching beyond typical class lectures, but to hands-on experience with automobiles in the classroom or "shop."

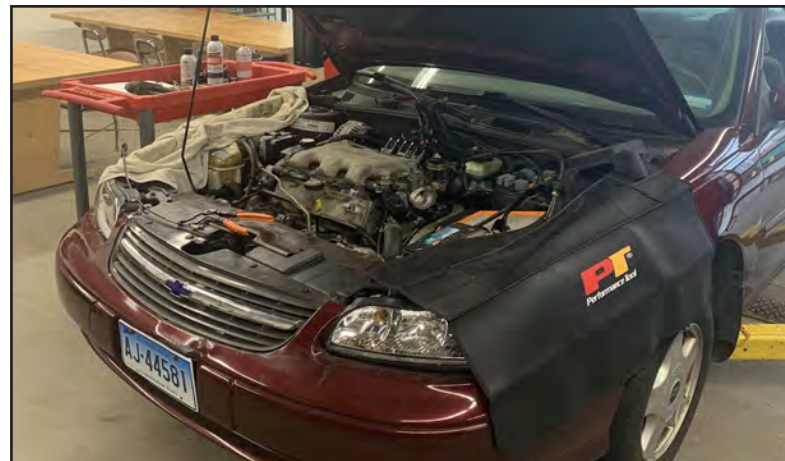


Photo by Scott Lowder '22

In the shop, the classroom is similar to a business, where clientele bring their automobiles in for the school day and have students in the automotive technology courses work on them with the oversight of Dwyer. Typically, the clientele getting these shop repairs are mostly students that are enrolled in his courses and the entire staff of AHS, with automotive services ranging from safety inspections to oil changes and brake jobs.

Yet, despite being new, Dwyer explains, "The program already averages twenty-four different vehicles a month, but I want to expand that more moving forward." As a first-year new instructor, it is clear why Dwyer was brought in to elevate the automotive program at Amity Regional High school.

For students, the dynamic of the class is heavily on participation; however, it looks different for everyone. In the shop, participation is a combination of working hands-on with the vehicles as well as being engaged when being shown how the process is done.

Yet, even if a student masters one component of car repair, Dwyer ensures students are well rounded by having no student getting the same job for every car, but instead using a chart to change up each student's role for each new vehicle. This incentivizes students to be "jack of all trades" and well versed in all parts of the automotive repair process.

As a policy, Dwyer also wants to ensure the clientele entrusting him and his students with their vehicle that they have it to go home by the end of the day. Therefore, the number of automotive services all needs to be in scope for a



Photo by Scott Lowder '22

day's work. Furthermore, it means that clientele cannot have overly complicated repairs needed because it may go beyond the student's knowledge and halt the speed of other repairs in the shop.

Overall, Dwyer said, "The entire class is involved in some way. As a group, we strive to work as a team and are constantly rotating the various responsibilities that go into the daily working of a fully functioning repair shop."

According to Dwyer, students performed several different services since the beginning of the school year, including Winter Inspections, Oil & Filter Changes, Brake Service, Tune-ups, Serpentine Drive Belts, Tire Rotations, Battery Service and Fluid Flushes. Dozens of vehicles have come into the shop.

How to Spice Things Up This Thanksgiving

Try Something New This Holiday Season

by Grace Cavallaro '24

What does Thanksgiving look like in your house? You probably do something similar each year. Perhaps your grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins all come to your house and you have a potluck-style feast. Maybe your family piles into the car and drives over the river and through the woods to grandmother's house for the meal she has prepared for you.

However you do Thanksgiving, the traditions that are held by your family are vital to making the holiday what it's meant to be in your eyes. Annual traditions are always a blast, but what if you were to shift your perspective just slightly? Changing up your family's holiday traditions or adding more to the fun might be an interesting way to spice up your Thanksgiving.

It doesn't have to be a dramatic change. Maybe you add a different side dish to the dinner menu that you've never tried before, or perhaps you decide to play football outside with your cousins instead of just watching it on TV after dinner.

Either way, no matter how your family celebrates Thanksgiving, there should never be a reason for it to be boring.

Are you getting sick of the same, classic Thanksgiving side dishes? No, I'm not getting sick of them either. However, it can be fun to switch things up every once in a while. For example, perhaps instead of using canned cranberry sauce, this year you might decide to try your hand at homemade cranberry sauce.

Although you might stain your favorite wooden spoon pink in the process, it's worth it in order to create a cranberry sauce loaded with flavor that you would not find in a can.

A tasty alternative to the classic roasted turkey is a turducken. That's right! It's a chicken, which is stuffed inside of a duck, which is stuffed inside of a turkey, and then loaded with stuffing in the middle. It may not sound very appealing, but since there are no bones, it is an easy bird (or birds) to carve.

Many are sold from different companies that are based in Louisiana, so you can find Cajun-style turduckens online to be shipped straight to your door in time for your big feast. For prepping, all you would need to do is pick it up and plop it into the oven for a few hours.

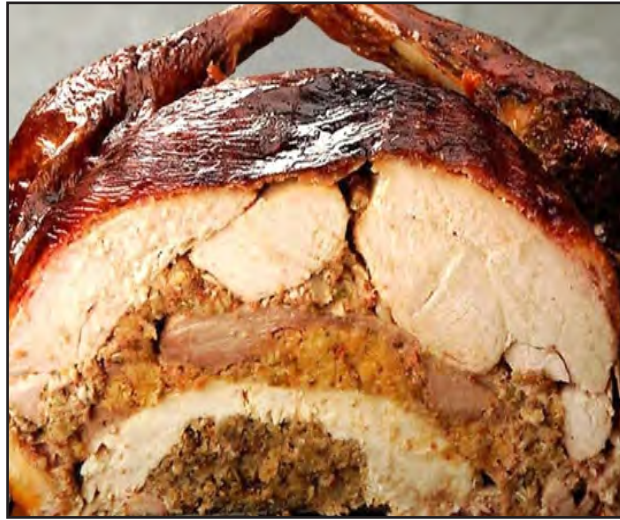


Photo by HerbertsMarkets.com

A delicious-looking Turducken

The items on your dinner menu are always fun to switch around every once in a while, but there are other Thanksgiving traditions that your family

might enjoy giving a try. For example, if you celebrate Christmas, Thanksgiving is a perfect time to draw names for a family Secret Santa. All you need to do is write down the names of your extended family, and then have everyone draw a name. Everyone will have the month until Christmas to shop for their chosen family member, and just in time for Black Friday, too. It's a fun family tradition, so long as you don't say who you're shopping for!

Even if you do not celebrate Christmas, putting up decorations is a family Thanksgiving tradition that is always a blast. Putting up a Christmas tree or two is great, but even just putting up some twinkling lights will give your home a cozy glow for the holiday season.

There's something magical about eating Thanksgiving leftovers while sitting in the comfort of holiday decorations. This tradition is something that your whole family will enjoy contributing towards.

Finally, even if you do not create any additional family traditions this Thanksgiving, try to remember the true meaning of the holiday. Even if it's only for a few minutes, take some time to sit down and think about what you are truly thankful for, even if it's something simple.

Mia Bierowski '24 said, "I'm thankful for my mug because it provides me with coffee and tea, which bring me life."

In addition, Avani Kulkarni '24 said, "I'm thankful I wasn't born as a mosquito, because then everybody would try to squash me." This is something to be legitimately thankful for.

All jokes aside, Thanksgiving is a time to remember that each of us is blessed. Please take the time to reflect on this, and try to have fun this Thanksgiving with some new, fun family traditions!

The A-Team's Visit to Sleeping Giant

Check out these wonderful photos from the A-Team's field trip to Sleeping Giant in Hamden last month!



Photo by Mrs. Nork

L to R: Quincy Houser (back to camera), Diana Isaacs, Hailey Furmanek, Axel Woodworth, Simone Facenda (partial), Sean Reilly, Zack Geremia, and Julian Alicea. Students are taking a stroll to the tower.



Photo by Mrs. Nork

Zack Geremia, Axel Woodworth, Julian Alicea, Abbie Hunter, and Simone Facenda at the tower.



Photo by Mrs. Nork

Anthony Palluzzi '25 and Mrs. Nork at the top of the tower path. The hike took 3.2 miles, 1.6 up and back. The tower was built in 1936 by the Works Progress Administration, part of FDR's New Deal.



Photo by Mrs. Nork

Tenth grader Alex Zaldo explores in the woods of the hike.

On October 22, the Unified/Adaptive Science class and Spartan Academy visited Sleeping Giant State Park. Students listened to a talk on the history of the park from Julie Hulten, president the Sleeping Giant Park Association. JP Barsjy, Park Naturalist, and a forester from the CT Agricultural Experimental Station, gave a talk the park's recovery of damage from the 2018 tornado and nearby Chestnut Grove. Students then hiked gravel tower trail to visit the tower at the top, followed by lunch in the park.

Music in Motion “Comes Together”

by CJ Brinton '24

November 4th marked the return of Amity's annual Music in Motion performance. Although the evening was cold, audience members bundled up on the bleachers while instruments set up on the 50-yard line of the William Johnson Field, marking the first time the show has been performed outside. Groups performing in the show included Amity Band, Jazz Band, Percussion Ensemble, Rhythmix, and Choir.

Marcia Rizzotti, Choir and Rhythmix director reflected on the evening, saying, “I think that our vision of an outdoor Music in Motion came together rather well, especially for never having done a show on the football field before.”

She added, “The music was energetic and fun to listen to, which makes the overall experience of the show enjoyable.”

This year's theme was “Come Together,” symbolic of both the show's cancellation last year and the isolation of musicians that the pandemic caused. Phil Dolan, the band and jazz band director, talked about the return of the show.

“It was amazing to be able to showcase our student performers this year! The student musicians here at Amity take pride in the work they do creating music for the community and to be able to come together for Music in Motion and perform for the Amity community was amazing,” he expressed. Both teachers thanked their students for their hard work throughout the fall to prepare for the show. The show was not structured by group, but rather flowed between.

Manasse Ogendi '24, a flute player that performed with the Band, Jazz Band, and part of the Percussion Ensemble, described what music at Amity meant to him. He said, “To me, music at Amity is important because it connects people. [Playing music] can teach people about the importance of teamwork and communication.” The band played four songs, the most by an individual group in the show, while most others played two.

Rhythmix, Amity's acapella group, sang only one song: “True Colors.”



Everyone performs the final song “Come Together.”

Deborah Luo '24, member of Rhythmix and piano player in Jazz Band, acknowledged the downside of being outside.

“Honestly, the circumstances weren't the best. Being outside meant that it was freezing and the sound quality wasn't great.” She also spoke on her overall feeling of the night, saying, “despite it all, it was super fun! It was exhilarating to be back performing live, especially after all the time away.”

The “motion” of Music in Motion came with the Amity Choir, which sang and danced to two energetic songs. Harry Rosenay '23 described the work that went into creating these dances.

“The rehearsal process has basically been going on ever since the start of the school year. Pretty much all of our classes that preceded the concert were just spent perfecting our harmonies, choreography, and the staging.”

Rizzotti also expressed her pride in Amity's music program putting the entire show together.

“I was really proud of how well the band and choir performed as they only had one dress rehearsal on Tuesday evening, which was the first time that Concert Band and Symphonic Wind Ensemble

performed together and the first time that Concert Choir and Honors Choir classes performed together,” she said. “It takes much rehearsal and preparation to be able to combine instrumentation, voices and dance numbers in just one [dress] rehearsal.”

Sharing the same name as the title of the show, the band performed the final song of the night, “Come Together” by the Beatles. In a last-minute great idea, the choir danced behind them, bringing the whole music program together at the same time.

Macie Cox '22 mentioned this specifically, saying, “The last number, with everyone together, was really the whole point of it, everyone coming together.”

Dolan ended with the thought that this year's show, while different, was certainly memorable. The music department is now preparing for the Winter Concert, scheduled for December 21st at 6:30 p.m. in the Brady Center.

Photo from Marcia Rizzotti

Postmodern Jukebox Takes New Haven by Storm with Pop, Jazz, and Swing

by Nina Carmeli '23

The rotating music collective, Postmodern Jukebox, performed at the College Street Music Hall in New Haven on Friday, October 28th. Scott Bradlee, an arranger and pianist, began the musical band in 2011 and has since continued to reimagine a variety of popular pop songs into different jazz styles of music with an emphasis on 20th-century swing.



Photo from Nina Carmeli '23

Postmodern Jukebox performs on College Street.

What started as a small YouTube channel has surpassed 1.4 billion views and five million subscribers, as Postmodern Jukebox has covered artists from Madonna to Lana Del Ray to Billie Eilish.

They have gained worldwide attention through their musical interpretations and have gone on tour four times as of 2021.

During their stop in New Haven, they arrived to a full crowd with fans coming from far and near to listen to their re-envisioned take on classics. I came into the event thinking this was a small and niche band, obviously failing to do proper research on their extensive platform.

As I made my way down to the venue, I was perplexed to see a lengthy line forming down College Street. Once getting closer, I realized that the line stretched down three blocks, filled with Yale students, parents, and children awaiting the concert.

Their performance included covers of artists such as Britney Spears, Michael Jackson, ABBA, Madonna, Adele, Whitney Houston, Taylor Swift, and many more. Though the lyrics were the exact same, the music was transformed, feeling as if you were to enter a speakeasy in the 1920s. The band was composed of a pianist, guitarist, bassist, saxophonist, clarinetist, flutist, and a series of singers.

While this was unlike any music I had heard or experienced, the jazz effect had a mesmerizing grasp on me and other viewers. Many concert-goers explained after the show that they had been following the band across their current world tour after falling in love with the sensational group. Postmodern Jukebox makes you want to stand up and dance, with beautiful and soulful voices to accompany the swung beat.



Photo from Postmodern Jukebox on Facebook.

The music collective performs a song.

The vintage yet current viral showstopper will be continuing its tour in Texas and California, to then proceed to such international locations as Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Lithuania, Estonia, and Finland.

Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation Annual Arts Gala Hosts Evening of Fundraising and Entertainment

by Zola Kneeland '22

The return of the arts is in full swing at Amity High School. Amity Arts' largest sponsor, the Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation, holds an annual fundraiser in honor of the memory of Amity alumni, Jamie Hulley.

Every year this organization produces a night of auctioning and performances to raise funding for art-based programs all over Connecticut. This year, Amity hosted the event, which took place on Sunday, November 7th.

Judy Primavera, Hulley's mother, worked tirelessly to make everything go according to plan.

When addressing the audience, Primavera said that she "feel[s] overwhelmed with joy to see the support of Jamie."

The foundation was unable to go on last year due to COVID-19, so the renewal of this experience was met with fresh excitement from the audience.

Performers were met with thunderous applause.

Two groups of current Amity students performed their numbers in act one of the showcase. Both Amity Creative Theater and Amity's new acapella group, Rhythmix, performed.

Amity Creative Theater's co-director Andrea Kennedy said, "These kids have worked so hard and waited for so long to perform on the Amity stage. I am so happy that they get to do this now, especially for Jamie."

"Those kids have been so impacted by not performing," says Marcia Riz-zotti, choral director.

Volunteers worked in a whirlwind to get the pieces of art sold, and a raffle in order. Any art not sold was rounded up for The Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation's next fundraiser.

This foundation's history of support is not lost on the students who benefit



Photo from patch.com
A headshot of Jamie Hulley.

The night grossed over \$30,000 in support of this generous organization and Jamie's memory. The work of these performers and volunteers was not lost by Primavera, as she made sure to thank everyone involved for helping carry on their mission to provide artists with the funding they need to carry on.

"We are so fortunate to live in a community where the arts are so supported by an incredible organization," said Kelsey Sullivan, a recipient of this foundation's generous support and now leading volunteer.

The rallying community that the Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation has brought to Amity Regional High School is evident by the sheer amount of volunteers alone. Performers from all the companies that this organization supports were willing to help and ensure that Jamie's legacy lives on.

"Amity will always honor its alumni, Jamie

from it. "It was an honor to be asked to perform for the foundation," Macie Cox '22 said.

to help and ensure that Jamie's legacy lives on. "Amity will always honor its alumni, Jamie

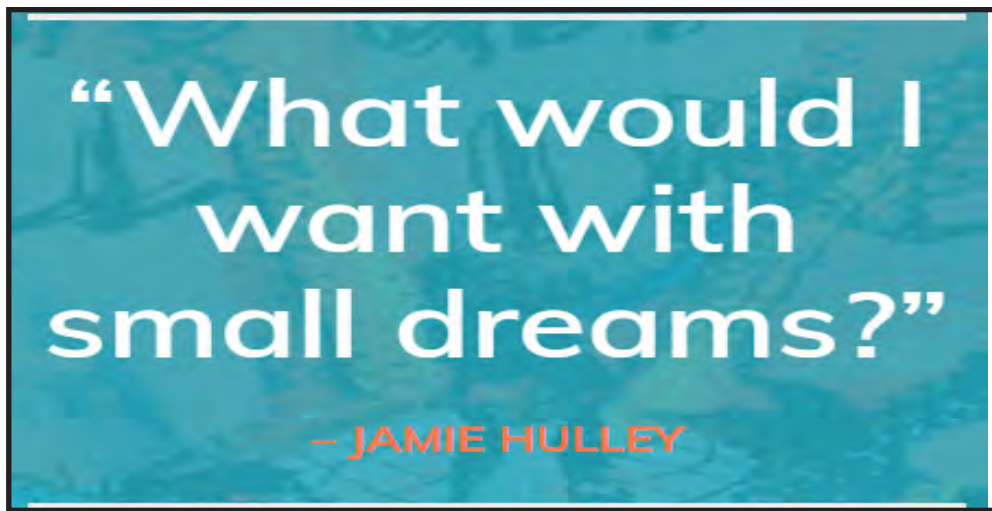


Photo from jamiehulleyartsfund.org

A poignant quote from Hulley.

She also expressed that she enjoyed Carole's Kings and that they did a great job of representing what the foundation stands for.

Carole's Kings is a performance group that covers Carole King's songs in a barbershop trio style. They performed in act two of the gala's events and drew a larger audience to the fundraiser than in some years past. Carole's Kings were thoroughly entertaining, and I'm glad I volunteered, said Nathan Blair, a Parents of Amity Creative Theater coordinator.

Hulley," said McKenna Maxwell '22. Proving her point, a mural of a sunset over an ocean is painted on the black box wall. This was one of Jamie's most notable, and as the sun sets on the gala, the memory of this beloved student lives on with the continuation of support from the Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation.



Amity Creative Theater Announces Plans for the Year

by Emma Schaffer '22

After a yearlong hiatus from the stage lights and performing in front of an audience in the Brady Center, Amity Creative Theater (ACT) is proud to publicize their fall play, Puffs, and announce their plans to perform in the Brady Center again.

Last year, ACT was unable to perform in front of an audience in the fall. The play, It's a Wonderful Life, was only able to be shown virtually by those who purchased a broadcasted copy of the play. The musical, "Anastasia," was outside under a tent with less than half capacity.

However, this year, the play and musical are going to be performed back in the the-

is essentially a comedic spoof of the entire story of the Harry Potter series but from the perspective of the Hufflepuff House. This year's cast is happy with the choice.

"I think the audience is really going to love this show because it's a comedy, so it's super funny and definitely an enjoyable show to watch," Maxwell said. "It's very fast-moving and kind of crazy, but it is so much fun."

With fewer COVID restrictions, there has also been an increase in ACT membership. Senior Andrew Gilbride '22 is in the play for the first time. Maxwell, who is also on the ACT board, said that there have been approximately 40 new members this year.

COVID also impacted rehearsals. Nolan Young, a senior in ACT, said, "Last

year, we had more virtual rehearsals than in person, but this year is all in person."

During in-person rehearsals last year, the cast was forced to practice in cohorts, so they were unable to be with everyone during the year. Young also said how he is excited

to be able to practice all together again,

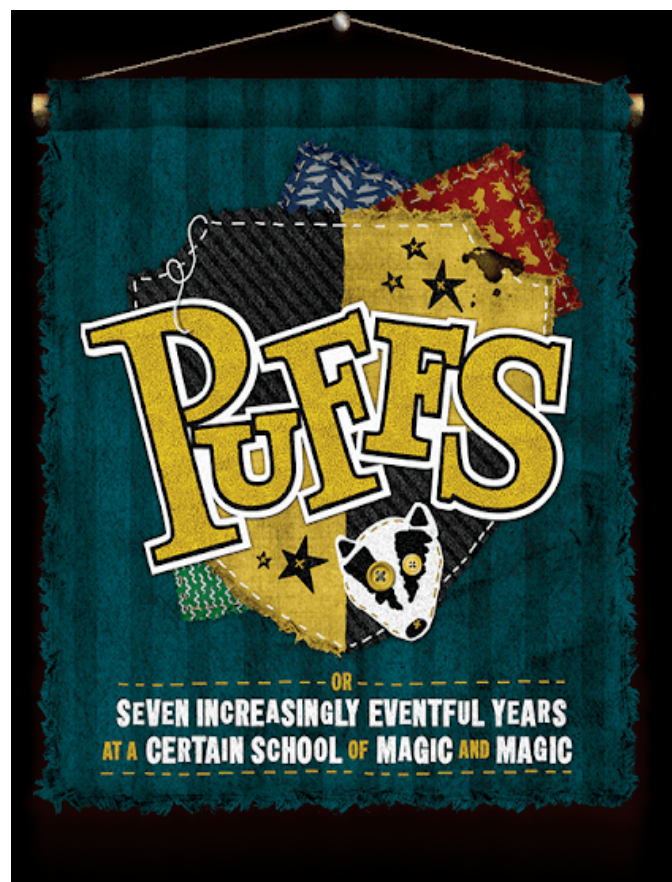


Photo from puffstheplay.com

Poster of the play "Puffs."

ater with a live audience.

McKenna Maxwell '22, a senior who has been a part of ACT since freshman year, said, "We are really excited to be back in the theater and, hopefully, be able to have more people show up to our shows this year."

The COVID restrictions from last year led to a lower audience turnout for the musical, and it was performed for more than a week in order to try and allow as many people as possible to see the play to make up for lost funds.

This year's ability to perform in the Brady Center gives ACT hope that more viewers will come to their performances.

The upcoming play, Puffs,

without cohorts and virtual rehearsals.

Students all around the school are happy to be able to go to plays again. Sophomore Caroline Scott '24 said, "I have never experienced a 'normal' theater production here at Amity, so I am excited to be able to see this year."

Due to last year's restrictions, this year's freshmen and sophomores have been unable to see an ACT production in the Brady Center.

Puffs will be performed on December 9th, 10th, and 11th. The turnout is expected to be far higher last year, as people are going to school in person and taking part in activities. ACT is excited for what this school year has in store.

Football Players Celebrate a Win - and Senior Night

by Clem Neary '22

If you follow high school football, you would know that the WTNH Game of the Week was a matchup between the Amity Spartans and the Wilbur Cross Governors of New Haven. Not only was this the favorite for viewers to watch, but this game was reserved for Senior Night, a tradition that continues to hold honor and significance for all senior players and families.

The Spartans kicked off the game at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, November 5th, under what some players would consider optimal football weather. However, fans watching from the stands may have disagreed, as they bundled up with parkas, ski hats, and blankets under almost freezing conditions.

The stadium was showered

it was so special to have Senior Night! Being able to celebrate the commitment and hard work of these young men and women on the new field was extra special.

"I am thankful there was the opportunity to celebrate and [I am] so proud of each and every senior football player and senior cheerleader for their years of commitment to the hard work!" she added.

The students of Amity contributed by showing up to support their peers on this special night. The student section was notably large, sporting clothes to match the theme of "USA."

Joseph Carangelo '22, a leader of the student section, provided a clear image of how the night played out.

"We had a ton of people tonight. It was really awesome to see all of the students come out in the freezing cold to support the

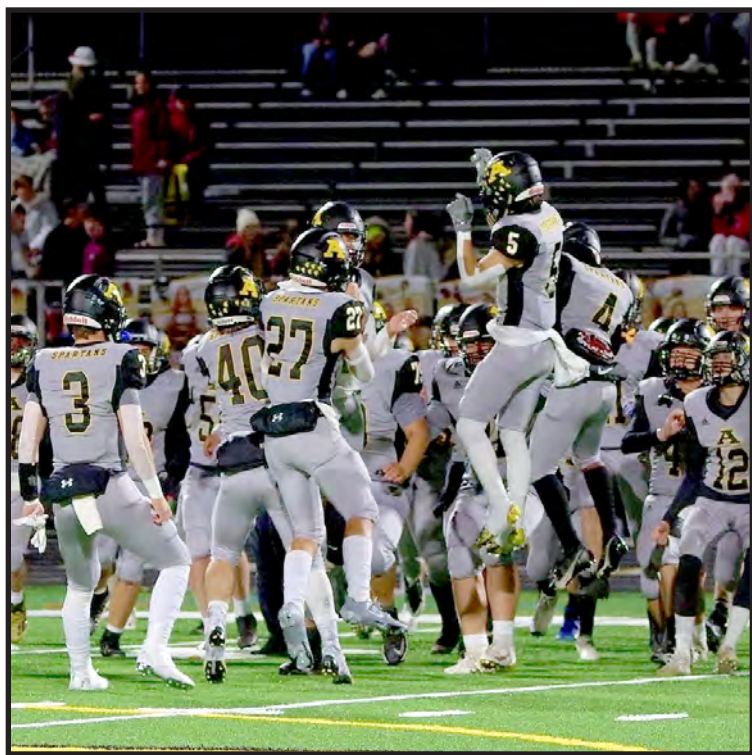


Photo from Brian Laubstein

The players rally together after the coin toss.

with balloons, posters highlighted senior players, and flowers were bestowed upon players' mothers. It all set the stage for what would be a memorable night. Parents and cheerleaders worked behind the scenes for weeks leading up to the game to honor the players.

The cheerleaders were tasked with the job of designing an individualized poster for each senior.

Isabel Cavanagh '22, who has been cheering since she was seven years old, commented about Senior Night. "It's a special night for all families," she said, "but I'm also a little sad that it will be one of the last times I get to cheer."

Kathy Haughton, mother of senior captain Pdraig Haughton '22, played a lead role in planning the celebration.

She said, "[After] missing a season of play due to COVID,

seniors," Carangelo said. "It was even better that the football team put on a show for us."

The Spartans were able to blow past the Wilbur Cross Governors 40-16, with senior Jack Coughlin scoring three touchdowns, senior Clem Neary scoring two, and sophomore Nico Young scoring one of his own.

Sophomore Pat Coughlin also threw for three of these touchdowns. After this game, the Spartans increased their record to 4-3. They later followed it up with another win in the subsequent week against Harding High School by a final score of 14-0. The team's record now stands at 5-3.

Coach Craig Bruno laid out his plans for the rest of the season, describing what else to expect from the team. "Our team played great, but we have work to do," he said. "We'll be ready."

Despite Hard Work, Girls Soccer Falls Short in SCCs

by Sophia Hoyos '25

The SCC Girls Soccer Final was an intense game with well-matched teams. It was bound to be a devastating ending for one team and a huge accomplishment for the other. Amity worked hard and put an immense amount of effort in, but ended up losing to Mercy High School during a penalty kick shootout. The match started with Audrey Marin '22 and Iza Kurpios '23 scoring 2 goals, giving Amity a 2-0 advantage after the first half. Alexa Kudasik '25, spoke on the team's mindset during the team.

"When we were two up, I knew they could come back at any moment," she said. "We hadn't won already and we needed to keep working hard to be the first Amity team in over ten years to win the SCC championship." She was proven right, as Mercy still had the grit to fight back. During the sec-

and Amity were still tied 2-2. With both teams exhausted and eager to win, the game moved to penalty kicks.

After the first five shots from each team

I had a tiny bit of hope that we would have one more round of kicks. But once the ref blew the final whistle, this instant feeling of heartbreak and shock went through my body."



Photo from Melanie Sherrick '22

Senior Nicole Grosso '22 (Captain, 13) dribbles the ball away from Cheshire opponent.

Amity was down by one with the score being 5-4. When Mercy went to kick the next five they sent Kate Donlan up to kick again which led to a lot of confusion between players and coaches.

Captain Martyna Krystopik '22 explained her thoughts on the mess during the penalty kicks. "I was pretty frustrated

Although the ending was a well fought out match with a disappointing finish for Amity, they still secured a spot in the state tournament.

Unfortunately, after a first-round bye, the team lost to 16 seeded Farmington 2-1, bringing their season to an end.

The Amity girls soc-



Photo from Peter Berganross '22

Senior fans cheer for the players. Left to right: Jack Fortin, Grace Lodewick, Andrew Gilbride, Audrey Marin, Robert Farbman, Nicole Grosso, Peter Berganross.

ond half, Mercy players Lauren Kohs and Laney Smith scored the final goals, tying the game 2-2 and sending it into overtime. After an exciting overtime, Mercy

with how the referees did not know the rules exactly of how the penalties worked," she said.

"I wasn't sure if the refs were going to follow through with the rules so

cer team demonstrated their skill and ability throughout this year's campaign. The Amity community can only hope for great things from them in the future.

Field Hockey Season Comes to an End

Girls Fall to Cheshire

by Jenna Maus '25

Amity's Girls Field Hockey Team worked very hard this season. Their regular season record of 5-9-2 earned them an SCC playoff game on the road.



Photo from @amityfockey

Amity Field Hockey Players compete at a game.

However, they were unable to secure the victory in a 0-1 loss to Cheshire. The roster this year composed of sixteen seniors.

The three captains were Grace Gianquinto

'22, Carsyn Riz-zuti '22, and Ava Chomiak '22.

Riley Zielinsky '24 received a top performance recognition from a CT Insider article, with an impressive two goal performance on September 14th in a 4-0 win over North

most of the time, using cohorts, and staying 6 feet away from others at all times.

This year saw advancements in heading towards normality in regards to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Gianquinto spoke on how she felt regarding the change this year. "It was nice seeing faces again and build the bonds we missed out on last year," she said. "One of the great things about the program is that we all work together

to lift each other up. It really is like a

family."

The team's hard work this year was warranted through their SCC Playoff spot.

Despite the loss, the team looks forward to a great performance next season.

Haven.

The team was headed by coach Sara Hale.

Amity sports, in general, saw big changes last year as a result of the pandemic. This included wearing masks

Unified Sports Wraps Up Successful Season

by Colby O'Connor '22

Amity's Unified Sports team is off to a great start this year. Their soccer season concluded as of November 4th. The season saw the team participate in two tournaments.

The first one took place at our newly installed turf field, William Johnson Stadium, on October 28th. This event had five teams and received assistance from Amity's Varsity football team, which helped with setting up, cheering

great to see everyone back participating in Unified," she said. "These events were a lot of fun."

Last year's season was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in increased energy for the players this year. With the conclusion of their soccer season, the team will take on bi-weekly practices in preparation for their highly anticipated basketball season, which begins in February.

Additionally, the team is being recognized for its successes off the field. Amity was just named as a Unified Sports Banner School, a feat only



Photo from Wendy Carrafiello

Unified Sports players pose on the field.

the teams on, and refereeing the games. The team's momentum did not stop at this event.

On November 4th, Shelton hosted them and three other teams for an entertaining tournament.

Amity's Unified Sports head coach, Wendy Carrafiello, commented on her thoughts regarding the team's return to action.

"After a year of no activity, it is

four other high schools in Connecticut have accomplished.

This is a very high recognition that is given based on the many offerings and programs Amity has, showing the inclusivity of the community.

With the soccer season in the rear-view mirror, Amity's Unified Sports team is looking ahead to another successful campaign in February with their basketball season.

Girls Volleyball Misses SCC Title, Reaches 2nd Round of States

by CJ Brinton '24

ence tournament. They beat Jonathan Law and Mercy High School 3-1 consecutively, leaving Cheshire High School as their opponent in the final at West Haven. Karena Norko-Allain '24 described the team's mindset going into the game.

"Going into this game we knew it was not going to be easy," she indicates. "But the team, thanks to our amazing coaches, was really coming together and we were ready to take on the challenge."

The game was undeniably close. Cheshire won the first set 25-21, followed by the second set 25-17. Amity pulled through the third set 25-22, showing how well-matched the teams were. Cheshire pulled the final set 25-19. Natalie Furst '22 reflected upon the team's performance in the game.

"Our offense did a great job and played very aggressively and consistently," she said. Furst also commented on the team's overall performance throughout the season.

"We struggled sometimes with communication on defense," she said. "But overall we played well as a team and tried our best to bring energy to every game." Both girls agree that Cheshire was a better team on November 6th.

With the loss behind them, Amity Girls Volleyball entered the state tourna-

The Amity Girls Volleyball team finished their regular season with a record of 16-3, which was a promising start heading into the Southern Connecticut Confer-



Photo from Natalie Furst '22

Amity's star players compete against the opposing team.

ment as a 6-seed with a first-round bye. Their second-round opponent was #11 seed Newtown High, with a home game to be played on Veterans Day.

Furst reflected, "I think we brought and applied everything we learned throughout the season to the game."

Though the first set was close, Newtown's win was not promising for the Spartans. Just like SCC's, Amity was only a handful of points behind Newtown (18-25). And the Spartans proved just how close the game was by winning the next set, 25-20. While this undoubtedly increased morale for Amity, the next set fell to Newtown 20-25. In the final set, Newtown pulled ahead 25-17. The game, and Amity's season, was over.

Furst says, "Although it didn't end in a win, I think it was one of the best games we played, and when it came down to it, Newton just played a better game."

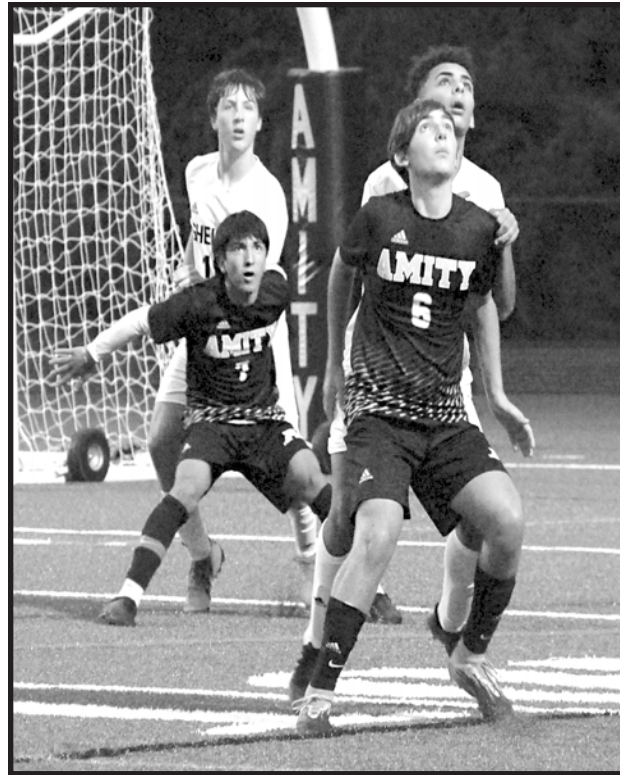
Norko-Allain describes how the team felt, saying, "After that final point we all realized that was the last time we would be together on the court." She also expressed how grateful she was to play with this team. "It was an honor to be on the court with such an amazing group of seniors," she said.

The seniors who exit the team this year -- Natalie Furst, Julia Luciani, Bailey McDermott, Cassie Millea, Julia Papelo, and Anastasia Prentiss, as well as manager Marco Bonato -- leave large shoes to fill as Amity Girls Volleyball prepares to try for a state and SCC title next year.



Above: Amity Girls Swim and Dive all huddled up together before their meet.

Photo by Cassidy Smith '23



Left: Senior Paul Cortes (7) and Junior Luca Santin (6) get ready to receive a ball.

Photo by Melanie Sherrick '22

Amity Athletes Shine

Right: Junior Jaxon Roseman (17) goes towards Shelton opponent to take the ball.

Below: Riya Bonde '23 about to start her backstroke race.



Photo by Cassidy Smith '23



Photo by Melanie Sherrick '22



Above: Senior Natalie Furst serves the ball.

Below: Junior Jaxon Roseman goes towards Shelton opponent to take the ball back



Photo by Melanie Sherrick '22



Above: Johnathan Fortin, Andrew Gilbride, and Peter Berganross support Amity Girls Soccer Senior Night.