

THE AMITY TRIDENT

LXXV-No. 2

Amity Regional High School

Woodbridge, CT 06525

October 18, 2019

December Referendum to Improve School Facilities

by Audrey Marin '22

Members of the Bethany-Orange-Woodbridge (BOW) community will vote on a bond referendum to upgrade and add certain facilities to Amity Regional High School and to the Orange and Bethany Regional middle schools on December 4th, 2019.

The bond referendum entails two proposals: internal scheduled replacement of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) air handling units in all three schools as well as various upgrades to the Amity Regional High School athletic facilities, including the installation of a new track and all-weather turf field in the stadium complex.

The first proposal is the internal scheduled replacement of the HVAC air handlers in all three schools. Amity Regional High School alone has about 30-40 handlers, and they are responsible for maintaining a certain temperature comfortable for occupation of the building. Though maintained properly, these air handlers are all nearing the end of their practical use.

Theresa Lumas, Amity Region #5 District Director of Finance, said, "To avoid any catastrophic down time, because it could affect school being open, we are being proactive."

These internal upgrades include acoustical improvements for large gathering spaces such as the cafeteria, gymnasium, and music rooms.

According to Lumas, HVAC replacements make up almost two million dollars of the proposal as a whole and are necessary, regardless of the outcome of the referendum. If the referendum were to be voted down, the administration would be required to select certain air handlers to replace and put it in the budget request for the upcoming year. This ap-

proach is difficult because it is hard to discern which ones require replacement. There is also the risk that an unreplaced air handler could fail. This would then result in the district going back to the towns and asking for money for immediate replacement.

Lumas said, "They will all be replaced, it's just a matter of incorporating it into one budget year and having a huge impact on the taxpayers." She believes that the bond would help to spread these payments out over a large span of time, as to not impact the taxpayers as harshly.

The second proposal is for athletic facility upgrades at Amity Regional High School. Within the stadium complex, there will be a new scoreboard, a new track, an all-weather field, and upgrades to the stadium lights. For Field #3, there will be a new walkway to allow those with disabilities access to the field, a permanent set of bleachers, and a new scoreboard. The current track is an asphalt track, which has become warped over time. The new track would be a post-tension concrete track, which would resist the pressure that causes asphalt to give.

Ernie Goodwin, ARHS Athletic Director, believes this technology would allow the track to have a much longer life span. The padding and crushed rubber on the top of the track would remain the same.

The all-weather field would be accessible to all athletic teams. Currently, the stadium complex field is used for football games and graduation.

Amity Schools Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Byars said, "The wear and tear doesn't allow [the grass field] to be used for anything else. Purposefully putting the all-weather field in opens it up

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Annual Club Day Encourages Involvement *Students Get a Glimpse of All Amity Has to Offer*

by Matteo Delsanto '20
and Evan Schumann '20

Amity Regional High School hosted its annual Club Day during lunch waves on Thursday, September 26. Students strolled around the parking lot in front of the school and gathered around countless tables searching for clubs that they thought they would enjoy. The importance of this day is understood throughout the school community, but everyone has their own reasons as to why it is so significant.

While they checked

out the different organizations and tables, students sought various aspects of clubs. Some, such as Julian Stevens '21, said they wanted to join clubs they are genuinely interested in rather than just signing up for random clubs. Students know that the day could impact their year greatly. They consider this when choosing club tables to visit.

Evan Arovos '20 tried to make the best of his final Club Day. He said that the day has been so important to him over the years because it has allowed



Sunny weather greeted hundreds of students as they signed up for clubs during Amity's annual Club Day, held outside the high school's main entrance on Thursday, September 26.

Photo by Wil Gambardella '21

Continued on page 2

NEASC Committee Evaluates Amity

by Melita Collins '21

From September 22nd to September 25th, Amity Regional High School was evaluated by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) visiting team as part of the accreditation process. During this time, students and faculty members held onto Amity's core values of fairness, respect, and passion.

For the NEASC visits, a group of trained teachers from various schools came here to examine Amity Regional High School as a whole. The feedback received from the visit will highlight the school's strengths and needs. This is especially important, as it only happens once every ten years.

The accreditation process started on Sunday. On this day, NEASC visiting team members were given a tour of the school and were shown what an average day would be like for the students. Also, there was an informative session of the Amity community.

In this, administrators talked about their self-evaluations along with their

two-year and five-year plan. There was also a talk from a panel of students as well as teacher interviews. This ended with a mock club day.

"It was a cool experience to show people around the school who had no idea what it was like," said Armando Palma '19.

Palma was one of the students selected to give a tour to a NEASC accreditator. He showed them around and explained the functions of each department and its respective hallway.

Throughout the rest

it was very important that we continued to represent Amity's core values and beliefs while they were visiting."

At the end of the visit, NEASC highlighted Amity's strengths and weaknesses. Overall, the visiting team was impressed with the school's facility, students, and staff. Many comments reflected those of the teacher self-evaluations.

"Overall we couldn't have had a better visit. Our students, faculty, and staff were so supportive and helpful throughout the process and made the process a great experience," said Jess Zamachaj and Angelo Amato, co-chairs of Amity's NEASC committee.

The accreditation process would not have gone so flawlessly without the work of Principal Anna Mahon, Amato, Zamachaj, and the other administrators who spent over two and a half years planning for the week. The continuous involvement of Amity students and faculty added to the success.

With the visit completed, Amity await the release of the official NEASC report in January 2020.

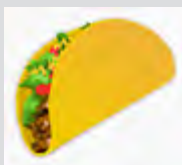


NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

of the week, students were shadowed and interviewed by the NEASC visiting team. Link Crew leaders were often seen helping the judges find their next class or certain areas of the school.

Christian Chen '21 was one of the students shadowed by a NEASC visiting team member. He emphasized the importance of this visit, saying, "The NEASC visit is a big deal for our school, and

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ISSUE



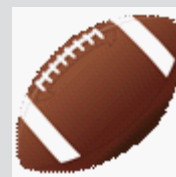
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Referendum to Improve Facilities

Continued from page 1 for six field sports, far more games, practices, and events.” A product called CoolPlay will be the dressing on the turf. The temperature on the synthetic turf will be up to 40 degrees cooler than the tire crumb dressing because it is a plastic based product and does not absorb heat.

In terms of the risk for physical injury, the infill pounds per square foot resiliency is the scale that determines how the artificial turf will absorb shock. Goodwin said, “We have chosen the safest field that we can put in, which is nine pounds of infill per square foot. It’s safer than any other field that we have currently.”

Replacement of this artificial turf would take place every 10-15 years with yearly professional maintenance done. Installing the field requires a large amount of construction to lay the base down, but replacement would be smaller ordeal because the layout is already in place.

Seven years ago, a proposal to upgrade such facilities was voted down by BOW taxpayers. In regard to the all-weather field Goodwin said, “Everything from the infill to the way the field is being constructed is totally different. It is a much higher quality with much better standards, so I think we are going to get a far superior product than we would’ve seven years ago.”

The previous athletic facility referendum only concerned the all-weather field. Currently, the track in the stadium is reaching the end of its usable lifespan for athletics.

In replacement of the track, the grass field must be dug up.

Byars said, “It’s a project that goes hand in hand, which is different than the last time it went to the voters.” With regards to the time that has passed since the last proposal, Byars added, “We are at a different level of urgency to get it repaired.”

Voting will take place on December 4th from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm. The same processes and protocol followed during the annual district budget vote will be followed for the referendum. Residents of the three towns will have a ballot where they can vote on each of the two questions.

If the referendum passes for both projects, the district will administer a bond sale, in which a loan of about 7 million dollars would be borrowed for the two projects. The district will then reimburse bond purchaser over a span of years with interest on the borrowed money. Both projects would begin as soon as the 2019-2020 school year ends.

All major air handlers will be replaced over the summer to allow the school to open up again for regular use in the fall, as the affected area of the air handler cannot be occupied while it is being replaced. Smaller internal adjustments may be conducted during vacation weeks of the 2020-2021 school year. External upgrades are predicted to finish late summer or early fall.

Should these two projects pass, many believe there will be long-lasting, beneficial upgrades for current and future generations of the three schools that are affected.

Club Day Draws Crowds

Continued from page 1
him to be involved in the school community through many clubs.

Clubs range from the TableTop Gaming Club to Exploring Justice and so much more. Many of the clubs displayed have roots in activism and desire to send a message to the outside world while drawing attention to prominent issues.

One of the largest clubs at Amity is “UMTTR,” started several years ago by Sarah Milner ’20 and Saunder Saffran ’20 with the goal of spreading suicide awareness as well as general acceptance. Saffran said, “Umttr is an environment that makes people feel comfortable, and is a place for happiness.” With the amount of teen suicides in the United States, this club aims to make Amity as accepting and inviting as possible.

Other clubs such as The UNICEF Club hoped to gain new members. In their case, this will make it easier to run fundraisers when there are more people involved. Club Day brings a perfect opportunity to gain recognition and recruit new members.

The UNICEF Club Vice President Haley Cable ’20 said,

“Club Day is so important for clubs because it is a time where they could bring in new members in large numbers and grow their organizations for years to come.”

Although the day is meant for students, members of the administration joined in the event, hoping to see students become involved. The sense of community is frequently talked about throughout the school year, and this is one way in which it is demonstrated.

“It allows for all students to come together as a community,” said Principal Anna Mahon. “High school is not just about classes.” She wants to make sure students understand it is important to do things outside of the classroom to bring joy to their lives.

Club Day helps students find a place to fit in. This goes perfectly with Amity’s motto for the year: “Be true, be you.” Assistant Principal Monica Kreuzer said it is a way for the students at the school to embrace the theme.

With a fine display of different options in which students can immerse themselves, Club Day truly speaks to Amity’s motto of “Be true, be you.”

National English Honor Society Chapter Opens at Amity

by Nicole Grosso ’22

Amity has long been known for its large number of clubs and programs offered to its students. However, this year marked the addition of the National English Honor Society (NEHS).

NEHS is an international organization designed to honor students and faculty for accomplishments in the field of English, and many schools from around the country establish their own chapters.

On September 19th, 58 students were inducted into the National English Honor Society. The inductees were students with a particular interest in English who excelled in their English classes.

At the induction, Principal Anna Mahon gave a speech dedicating the Amity NEHS chapter to Harold Freedman. Freedman, a former Amity English teacher and department chair, played a large role in the Amity community and continues to do so as the Amity Girls Tennis coach. Freedman expressed his appreciation for this recognition and his enthusiasm for the creation of the NEHS.

Freedman said, “I think [NEHS is] a

wonderful addition to Amity. I’m thrilled to have it named in my honor. It’s something I wasn’t really expecting, and I’m very grateful.”

The advisors of the Amity NEHS chapter are English teachers Emily Clark, Kelly Kane, and Tasia Kimball.

PJ London ’21, a NEHS member, sees a bright future for the program at Amity under the instruction of these three teachers.

He said, “I’m excited to see what we’ll do and to see what the coordinators will put together.”

Jody Liu ’20 shared a similar enthusiasm for the future, saying, “It’s cool that they created a new English Honor Society.”

The NEHS is not the only Honor Society offered to students at Amity. Others include Spanish, Latin, Chinese, French, and Art Honor Societies, as well as the National Honor Society.

Each are dedicated to students who go above and beyond in the respective language or class.

The NEHS benefits students by giving them access to scholarships that can aid their future in English.

Freshmen Inducted into Student Government

by Hanim Anwer ’22

For the 2019-2020 school year, 25 students of the class of 2023 were elected into the Amity Regional High School Student Government. As the voice of the students, Student Government is responsible for planning school events such as dances and fundraisers, supporting student organizations like clubs and sports, and many other essential aspects to the school.

Every year, incoming freshmen who are interested in shaping their community and environment apply by filling out a questionnaire online about themselves. They explain the reasons they want to join and what they can do to better the Amity community.

Student Government provides a taste for leadership, cooperation, and decision-making to its members.

Elise Sheehee ’23, a freshman Student Government member, said, “I’m excited to make this year a great one for everyone and ensure that the events planned will be ones to remember.”

This excitement was also felt by Student Government members from different grades. Lilianna Restrepo ’22, a sophomore Student Government member, said, “It’s great to have to have new members interested who are bringing in new ideas on how to improve the school community.”

With the new inductees now officially part of the organization, Student Government is looking forward to an eventful and successful school year.



Coupon Expires on November 1st

Snacking in Class: A Bigger Issue Than Necessary

by Ian Glassman '21

It's no surprise kids are hungry during class time. Teenagers' appetites are increasing. This is understandable, considering high school is a time many students grow the most physically.

School's early start time leaves little room for students to eat breakfast in the morning. Some students go into their classes with empty stomachs, yet the school's policy prohibits snacking in classrooms. Other kids who have low blood sugar get easily lightheaded throughout the day. If you have low blood sugar like me, you might be always carrying a bag of pretzels on you. When I get hungry, I start to get tunnel vision and my brain slows

down, so having food on me is necessary at all times. The school must accommodate those with low blood sugar and other afflictions.

Regardless of the severity, hunger makes it difficult for many students to concentrate. Evidently, Amity's general policy of prohibition has a negative effect on students' mental health and academic performance. Snacking is only creating a better, more comfortable environment for learning; and isn't this the point of school?

Another concerning factor is that many kids don't get a chance to eat until C lunch which doesn't start until 12:48 PM. There are clearly many issues that arise from prohibiting snacks that all deserve to be addressed. Some teachers follow the rules strictly while

others are laxer.

One of the main reasons the school has banned snacking is due to food allergies. While this is an issue that needs to be respected and followed due to health guidelines, more must be taken into account, considering the repercussions of hunger. They don't even let us have granola. So long as the snack won't set off any allergies, there should not be any issue or stigma surrounding snacking in class.

The school should refine its policy, allowing kids to eat in class so long as the snack is appropriate and follows guidelines for food allergies. Ultimately, allowing snacks just eliminates an unnecessary obstacle and makes school more fair for everyone.

The Democratic Debates: Disappointing and Ridiculous

by Zachary Garfinkle '22

The current Democratic debates are good in theory; ideally, they should give voters a way to ascertain candidates' policies and differences. Additionally, they provide presidential candidates a platform to publicly speak their minds.

Nonetheless, I believe that the recent Democratic debates have proven to be flawed in many respects.

The debates have been rife with infighting and incivility. The presidential hopefuls seem to focus more on starting drama than discussing actual issues that plague America. I believe the candidate Andrew Yang summarized it best in the second debate: "We're up here with makeup on our faces and our rehearsed attack lines, playing roles in this reality TV show. It's one reason why we elected a reality TV star as our president."

While some instances of these candidate-on-candidate conflicts are understandable, many of these are simply immature spats created purely for media attention. Occasionally, these have backfired and reflected poorly on the initiator. It is concerning that the potential leaders of the free world cannot be civil, even toward one another.

The debates are evidently problematic, but the fault does not entirely lie on the candidates themselves. The debates are hosted by the media, and as corporations, the media prioritizes profit. Due to this, the media targets specific candidates, neglecting the less popular ones. After the debate, the media profits when the news revolves around more well-known candidates. According to the New York Times, during the third Democratic debate, Joe Biden spoke for 17 minutes and 22 seconds; in contrast, the lesser-known Andrew

Yang got a mere 7 minutes and 58 seconds. The debates should give an equal platform for all candidates, yet the hosting media betrays this purpose.

Time and time again, the debates have followed a constant pattern: The candidates will announce their support of some trite, often socially normalized idea in a pretense of progressivism. Every time this occurs, the crowd cheers wildly; yet the audience learns nothing of the beliefs and policies of these candidates. We know that these candidates accept the LGBT community; we know that they abhor the actions of the current administration. Voters should come away from the debates having learned something valuable.

And beyond all of this, the debates themselves have been fundamentally flawed from the beginning. How can a candidate express all that the viewers should know in a mere one minute and fifteen seconds per answer? Perhaps this sheds some light on why the debates are rife with on-stage arguments; due to the flawed format, candidates cannot truly get by on the merits of their policies, as there is no time to thoroughly explain them. Instead, they drum up drama in hopes of being talked about on the news the following morning.

Additionally, to add more fuel to the fire, there are far too many candidates, making the debates muddled and messy. In my opinion, even a brief interview can yield far more insight into a specific candidate than a three-hour debate.

Of course, the Democratic debates are not entirely unfixable; I expect that they will improve as more candidates drop out and the debate floor becomes less crowded. But for now, the debates remain spectacles with no value; empty shells of what could be valuable assets to our democracy.

THE TRIDENT

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CORRECTIONS

In the September 2019 issue of *The Trident*, the article titled "High School Welcomes New Staff" misspelled the name of Lee-Stuart Evans. *The Trident* apologizes to Mr. Evans for this error.

For any corrections or tips, please email 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

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The World’s Climate Crisis: Is There Still Hope?

by Abby Ball ‘22

From October 1st-4th, 80 cities in the eastern and southern parts of the United States tied or exceeded previously record high temperatures, making this fall heat-wave the hottest we’ve ever experienced.

Global temperatures are rising mainly as a result of the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation, which leads to an increase in atmospheric carbon. More carbon means that more thermal energy gets trapped in the atmosphere, worsening the greenhouse effect. These spikes in temperatures melt glaciers, which leads to the level of the sea rising.

It would seem like the scientific evidence regarding climate change would be ir-

refutable and suffice for all people to believe in and support fighting it. Yet this is not the case. Many people worldwide, including various leaders, still deny its significance and its even existence.

On January 20th, 2019, President Trump tweeted, “Wouldn’t be bad to have a little of that good old fashioned Global Warming right now!” during a blizzard.

This mockery demonstrates Trump’s inability to discern the difference between weather and climate and epitomizes his extreme ignorance of the severity of global warming.

The fact of the matter is that he and several other leaders favor protecting big businesses and the fossil fuel

industries over protecting and helping the environment. If leaders with these asinine beliefs stay in office, the future of our Earth is bleak.

And so it falls to us to



vote for leaders who plan to address climate issues and to learn how we can help. As individuals, we can make a difference. No eco-friendly gesture is too small, such as recycling or buying locally. If millions participate in try-

ing to build a better world, change is attainable.

One motivational group that is stimulating hope amidst all the doubt and denial is the young adults fighting for climate action.

The most prominent is Greta Thunberg, a 16-year-old Swedish activist who claims that “we are at the beginning of a mass extinction.” She started a school strike called “Fridays for Future” and sacrificed her education by leaving school to help the planet. Acts similar

to these are vital in beating climate change.

So what does all this mean for the Earth, humans, and other organisms? The fact that we have had such a detrimental impact on the Earth, even in the short amount of

time that we have been here, shows our immense threat to life on this planet. We are not only sealing the ending to our own existence but possibly for all other lifeforms here as well.

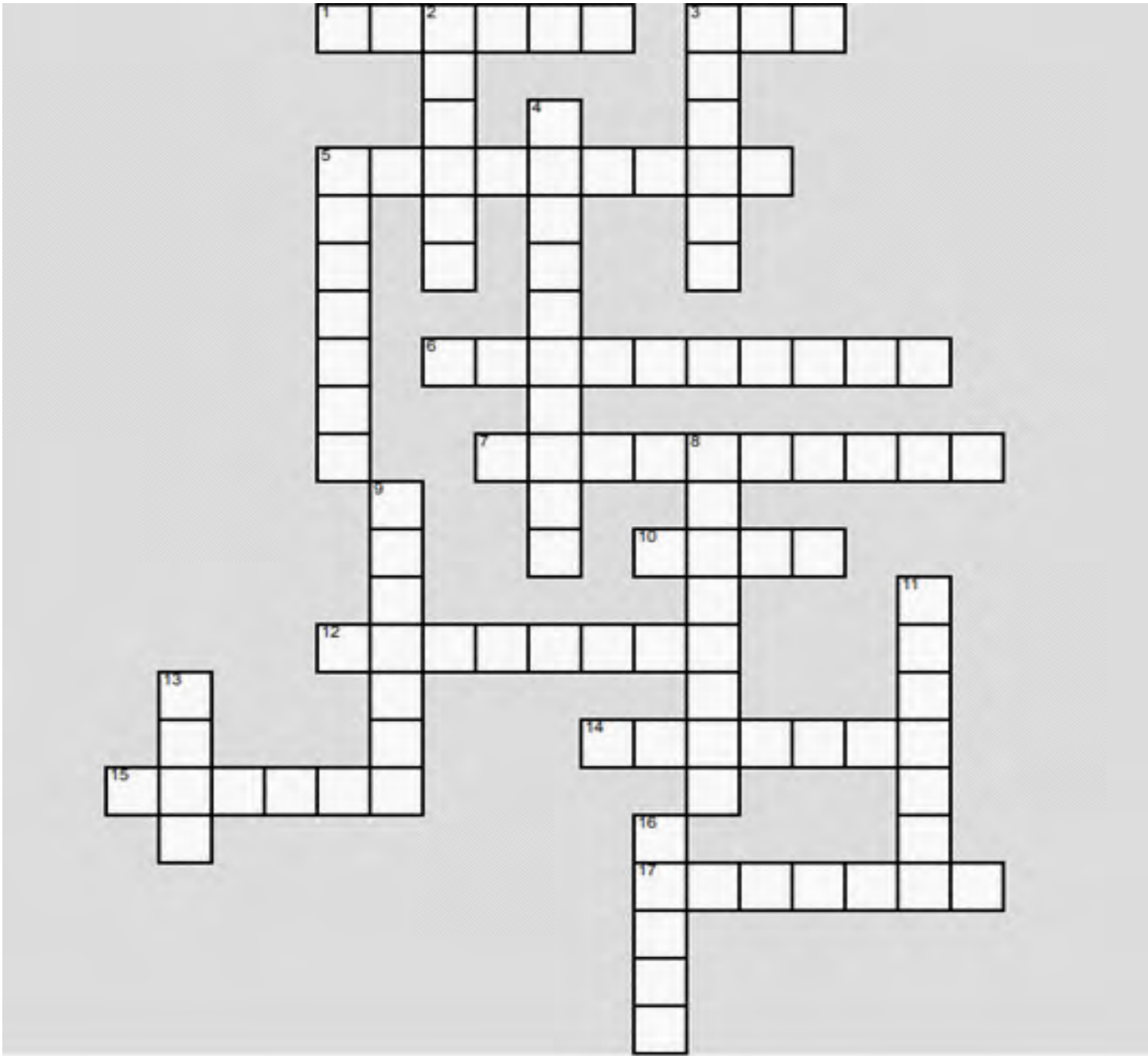
This world is worth fighting for, and so solving climate change must be our number one priority since the fate of humans depends on whether we can learn to live in a way that does not harm our Earth or its organisms.

So is there still hope? Yes. But there is a limited time frame to enforce the necessary changes.

The poor condition of the Earth becomes more irreversible by the second, so unless we take drastic measures immediately, hope for a green future – or any future at all – may be futile. It is now or never to take action.

October Crossword Puzzle

by Zachary Garfinkle ‘22



Across

- 1. Halloween movie named after a famous painting
- 3. Average amount of pieces given to trick-or-treaters on Halloween
- 5. Italian dictator sworn into power on Halloween night
- 6. It is rumored that this important American building is haunted
- 7. Halloween classic in which three witches are resurrected
- 10. Surname of prolific horror novelist
- 12. Superstitious pet shelters used to prohibit buying this animal on Halloween
- 14. Country that Halloween originated in
- 15. Number of installments in the “Halloween” movie franchise
- 17. Transylvania is a region in this country

Down

- 2. Current most popular Halloween candy
- 3. Jack-o’-lanterns used to be made out of this vegetable
- 4. These pests may endanger trick-or-treaters in Connecticut this year
- 5. Shakespeare’s play about witches
- 8. “Taste the Rainbow”
- 9. Annually, Americans spend two _____ dollars on Halloween candy
- 11. Famous magician that died on Halloween
- 13. The word “Halloween” means _____ Night”
- 16. A pumpkin is this type of food

The Book Trader Cafe: An Underrated Downtown Study Spot

by Megan Wu '22 and
Adithi Wijesekera '22

Often overlooked, the Book Trader Cafe is located in New Haven on Chapel Street, a bustling and well-known road in the heart of the city. Strolling customers along the sidewalk are immediately invited to sit down in the lovely outdoor seating section, filled with numerous tables and chairs.

Once inside the restaurant, the shelves of books immediately caught our eye. The exorbitant amount of books and diversity of genres pleasantly surprised us. With your average fiction novels, history and language books, classic stories, memoirs, and many more, it is clear that the cafe is not just for eating

but for discovering books of different varieties. Displayed when you first enter the cafe, CDs and movies are also available for viewers to browse, appealing to the interests of many.

Additionally, a consumer has the option to buy inexpensive, used books, a cheaper way to purchase media that is still in good condition. A unique aspect that added a personal flair, was the ability to sell your own books to the cafe. Although there are regulations necessary to be followed for the process, book-trading at the cafe is an easy way to make a few extra bucks. Quiet and soft music filled the cafe, creating a tranquil mood, and a great reading space.

Glancing at the overhead menu posted on the wall, we were overwhelmed with the numerous order options. While the bulk of the dishes are sandwiches, a soup of the day and salads

are presented. Pastries and bagels were also offered, making for a quick snack. Interestingly, all of the food options are named after books; we both chose to get the Tempesto sandwich, whose toppings included mozzarella, tomatoes, basil pesto, and a balsamic vinaigrette. We both ordered a drink as well- a hot cocoa and a chai latte.

Once we found a seat, we were immediately called back up to get our drinks, and shortly after that, a waiter brought our food to us. The service was extremely quick and



Wu's and Wijesekera's sandwiches and drinks
Photo courtesy of Megan Wu '22

attentive, allowing us to dive into our meals shortly after ordering. Displayed on paper plates, the sandwiches looked underwhelming and not of show-stopping quality.

If you're looking for Instagram-worthy food to take aesthetic pictures of, this is not the cafe for you. However, when we took our first bites, we were pleasantly surprised at how tasty the sandwiches were. Tangy with a hint of lemon, the strong basil flavor perfectly balanced out the bland mozzarella. The ciabatta roll was fluffy and the firmness of it held the messy sandwich together.

The only complaint was that the combination of vinaigrette and tomato juice resulted in a soggy bread bottom. However, stunned by the large size of the sandwich, our stomachs were filled quickly.

After placing the order for our meal, we went to grab a table. Arriving at three in the afternoon, we

did not expect the place to be crowded and were merely seeking a late lunch. However, it was nearly impossible to find a seat! There were two separate sitting vicinities on opposite sides of the food-pick up station, one a beautiful sunroom, allowing for much light to filter through the clear ceiling.

Both were filled to the brim with occupants, mainly studious college students. Either engaged in study groups or alone, the students sat at tables with their overloaded backpacks and piles of papers. Conveniently, the cafe

provided customers with free wifi and wall outlets, adding to the idea that this was a perfect study spot.

When we got the drinks, they were delivered at the perfect temperature: we were able to take our first sips without having to wait for them to cool down. The chai latte was well spiced and not too sweet. A harmonious combination of milk, chocolate, and whip cream, the hot chocolate was a delicious pick-me-up, very soothing on the chilly fall day. However the chai latte was \$3.50, and the hot chocolate was \$3.00. And although the small drinks were very enjoyable, the high prices were quite steep. Yet, due to the large sandwich portions, we felt the \$7.00 price for the food was fair.

The Book Trader Cafe had a broken in, well-loved feel to it. Perfectly decorated for fall, we loved how cozy and seasonal it felt. Overall, the food was tasty but nothing exceptional to rave over, and the appeal of the cafe is certainly the ambiance.

Perfect for book lovers, this unique cafe is great for a casual lunch, a study session, or a place to relax and enjoy a sandwich!

Sophia Wang Recognized for Scientific Invention

by Elizabeth Amankwah '22

As of late, more and more high schoolers have made useful inventions utilizing modern technology. Sophia Wang '20 has been investigating sinkhole detection since her freshman year at Amity, and has now successfully developed a novel device that makes it possible to detect sinkholes before they occur. With her current product, she has made a great achievement and has been able to inspire women across the globe.

Her research journey began during her freshman year when she recognized the growing problems caused by sinkholes. Wang was first intrigued by sinkholes after viewing an image of a sinkhole-devastated fertilizer plant. When this disaster occurred, the phosphate in the fertilizer contaminated nearby water sources, which may have led the water to be hazardous for human consumption.

"I was shocked by the current state of public health and wanted to do something," she said. After seeing the image and researching the topic further, Wang began researching a way to detect and prevent sinkhole-related disasters.

As a senior, Wang developed her initial curiosity into a functioning sinkhole detector. "My invention seeks to detect sinkholes in real time before they collapse. Essentially, like an alert system for sinkholes," she says. "My project has evolved from a proof of concept project to a working prototype."

Wang studied numerous subjects including civil engineering, linear algebra, geophysics, and more to gain a clear understanding of sinkholes and to be able to create a device to detect them.

Wang's invention has given her many travel opportunities, including two trips to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) and recognition in national level competitions. Wang won her first award as a freshman, placing second in the environmental proposals category. This award was followed by many others, including first place in the Earth Sciences

category and two special awards offered by the Air Force and Society for Experimental Mechanics at ISEF.

After qualifying at the Connecticut Invention Convention, she had the opportunity to compete in the National Invention Convention where she took first place for her grade level.

This outstanding trend has continued through Wang's senior year with the new Hasbro game Ms. Monopoly. The game was created to promote female excellence and innovation. Wang and other inventors were contacted over the summer to participate in a promotional video.

Wang was excited when she was contacted and soon after, went through an interview process before being selected from numerous promising young female scientists around the world.

"I was absolutely shocked by Ms. Monopoly," Wang said. "It felt like something completely extraordinary and above all, I just felt incredibly grateful for everyone who has supported me over the years."

Two other young scientists were chosen for the promotional

video: Ava Canney from Scotland, who made a spectrometer that measured artificial dye in soda and candy, and Gitanjali Rao from Denver, whose invention detected lead in water in an affordable and portable way. In a "surprise" from Hasbro, Wang and the girls were given a Ms. Monopoly game set and granted \$20,580 to help further their research.

Wang completed her research in Amity's Science Research course, working with multiple professors from UConn to gain a deeper understanding of her project. Although the process of studying and making her invention was difficult, hard work, perseverance, and the support she received allowed her to create her current sinkhole detector.

Wang hopes to become a science professor at a university in the future and to finally create a more accurate detector with an official patent to aid people in need of them in a non-profitable way

"I hope to contribute to our society as a whole in a positive way," she said. "I think science and engineering is a great forum to do exactly that."



Sophia Wang with Science Research teacher
Cathy Piscitelli
Photo courtesy of Sophia Wang '20

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Stores Thrive Despite Online Competition

by Emily Paolozzi '21

In the past decade, online retailers have grown more and more popular, with some earning millions of dollars in revenue each year. Consumers can access products on the internet in a matter of seconds these days, whether it be through a computer, laptop, or mobile device.

According to Tinuiti, a website that tracks online retail, 96% of American consumers shop online, but 65% of shopping is still done in stores. The gap between the percentage of online shoppers versus in-store shoppers is rapidly increasing, with millennials spending 67% of their spending budget on the internet. With said gap growing larger and larger, local businesses are slowly declining -- but they're not disappearing.

Celeste Senechal is the co-owner of Tolland Red & White general store, which has both a physical and online presence. "A lot of people were missing the store in the center of town," she said when asked whether she prefers the actual store or the online aspect. "[The older customers] remember what it was like when they were kids, and they bring their grandchildren in to [visit the candy counter]." As well as "nostalgia," small businesses can add a lot to the town or area.

There are upsides to being a store with both online and physical existences. Having that extra exposure in the online world goes far for a local store, such as The Flower Pot in Storrs. Jan Stone, a store employee, says that their store and website are used for different purposes at different times. "We get about two dozen in the store a day ... [online is] quite slow; maybe four or five, but it goes up in the winter [or for certain occasions]," she said. Being able to utilize both platforms

is beneficial. For department stores that deal with competition from other online retailers, however, it gets a bit tough. According to Born2Invest, a website that tracks online retail statistics, online revenue went up 15-19% in early 2015, while in-store sales have only gone up about 2%.

Within the Amity Regional community, students aged 14-18 say they tend to shop on the internet more than in-store. Although a handful of pupils go for physical chain stores like Target, Forever 21, and Macy's rather than online retailers, only 45% of those interviewed frequent concrete businesses. Meanwhile, 55% prefer chain stores' online presences or stand-alone sites such as Amazon, Wish, or EBay.

According to CNN Business, middle-class shoppers prefer to get their products for far less money. Junior Dana Black says although she prefers buying clothes and shoes from the mall, she recognizes that online establishments are "really convenient for quick shopping." Online retailers' products are often cheaper than in physical stores; the buying process is more convenient; and people everywhere are able to access their selection.

Online retailers also affect the job market. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York reports that, as of 2017, 29,000 jobs were created by online retailers, while 32,000 jobs were lost from department stores across America in that year.

"The geographic distribution of jobs is very different for online retailers versus brick-and-mortar" stores, according to Liberty Street Economics, a blog by the Federal Reserve. "In other words, areas that are losing a lot of department store jobs may not be the ones gaining online retail jobs."

(A version of this story was originally published online by Connecticut Health I-Team in August 2019.)

Students Attend Día de Los Muertos Spanish Taco Festival

by Weiss Yuan '21

Many students taking AP Spanish Language and Culture attended the Día de Los Muertos Connecticut Taco Festival on Saturday, October 5. These students were given a semester-long assignment to enhance their Spanish skills and knowledge by attending Spanish cultural events, watching Spanish movies, creating a Spanish recipe, and more.

Many of those who went to the CT Taco Festival volunteered there to help out with the Día de Los Muertos memorial wall and parade. Wendy Zhang '21, who participated in this event, said that she "had a great time helping set up the memorial wall for Día de Los Muertos, organizing the parade, and watching Mexican Lucha Libre wrestling." Taco Festival participants were given the chance to write notes to their deceased loved ones on the memorial wall. The parade included a mariachi band, a giant skull float, and a fire-breathing girl. Additionally, there were dozens of food trucks that sold tacos and other Spanish delicacies at this event and Spanish cultural activities such as face painting, a taco eating contest, and a bouncy castle for kids were held throughout the day.

Siavash Raissi '20 commented, "It was interesting to see the variety of taco trucks, each with their own

unique menu [and] spin on what a taco should feature." This festival was representative of Día de Los Muertos, and the food and music were both

designed to be representative of Spanish culture. Día de Los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a Mexican holiday that runs from October 31 to November 2. This holiday is celebrated throughout Mexico, especially the Central and Southern region. In this festival, family and friends remember loved ones who have died. In Mexican culture, death is viewed as a natural part of life. Mexicans do not focus on the sadness of death but rather celebrate their loved ones and their lives through this holiday. In the end, Amity students enjoyed their experiences at the Taco Festival, which gave them an opportunity to witness many aspects of Mexican culture, even though many complained that the event and food was overpriced. Despite these cons, students described the festival as an interesting experience learning about Spanish culture. Arnav Paliwal '21 said, "it was a cool experience to help guide a parade, and I got a lot of experience interacting with people I usually wouldn't." Though Día de Los Muertos has not passed yet this year, plans for similar celebrations are under way to celebrate Mexican culture.



Wendy Zhang '21, Arnav Paliwal '21, and Mason Zhang '21 at Dia de Los Muertos Celebrations
Photo courtesy of Arnav Paliwal '21

Seniors Successful at Yale Physics Olympics

Congratulations to Amity High School seniors Danielle Lee, Daniel Li, Evan Kindseth, and Gargi Nandy, who competed in the 2019 Yale Physics Olympics on Saturday, October 12th. The team took 3rd place in the "Angle

Management" event. Throughout the day, there were five lab based rounds of competition. With close to 40 teams competing in the area, the team placed 19th overall within the competition.



Danielle Lee '20, Daniel Li '20, Evan Kindseth '20, and Gargi Nandy '20 compete at the Yale Physics Olympics
Photo courtesy of Joseph D'Averso

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Last Minute Halloween Costumes Will Get You in the Spirit

by Jessica Miner '20

Spooky season has officially begun and Halloween is approaching so quickly, it's scary! Between work, school, sports, and family time, Halloween costumes are often an afterthought for many.

Gabby McGovern '20 explains, "During volleyball season, my family is always so busy trying to get through our normal daily activities, Halloween comes up so fast. We always have to rush to get costumes together."

Rather than stress about the perfect costume last minute, here are a few fun ideas that can be created with items found in many homes!

(1) *Mickey or Minnie Mouse*

Disney costumes are a classic. Who could resist the magic of everyone's favorite disney couple? This simple costume can easily be made from at home items. Throw on a black top and some red shorts for Mickey, or a red skirt for Minnie. To finish off the look add on some ears, or a red bow and you're done! For those of you who want to go the extra mile, take black face paint or lipstick and draw on a little black nose!

(2) *Tourist*

Are you already sick of the cold and desperately missing summer? Dress up as a tourist for halloween! Although the weather may still be cold, bring your mind back to the warmth of summer with a cool vacation outfit. With some shorts and a tropical shirt, you'll have people thinking you are off to the heat in no time! Accessorize the look with some sunglasses, a hat, or other vacation themed items to make your costume extra special.

(3) *Skeleton*

Halloween is all about the creepy classics. A skeleton is simple, spooky, and can be done super quickly. Put on some black clothes, and paint some skeleton bones and teeth on your face. Face paints can be found in halloween sections at many local stores, or in your own home! To add something special to the look have a friend or makeup artist paint the bones on for an extra detailed look. You can also pick up shirts with skeleton bones on them to pull the whole look together. You will be ready to hit up a Halloween party, or hit the streets in no time!

(4) *Bubble Bath*

If you are feeling extra silly on Halloween, fill the streets with laughter by dressing up as a bubble bath. Blow up some blue, pink, or clear balloons and attach them to an old shirt. Balloons can be found at a local dollar store and are very inexpensive. Accessories like flip flops, a towel, rubber ducks, or other bath items can be added for a unique spin. Finish the look by throwing a shower cap on your head and head out to trick or treat.

With these fun, simple Halloween costumes nobody has to be left costumeless on Halloween. Each costume can be personalized, by putting any sort of spin on the look.

"I've seen people out trick or treating in basic costumes, like a skeleton, but add cool touches like flowers and different colors," said Lucca Avila '21.

Costumes are special because you can make them your own and it is totally okay if you are the only one who loves it. Even last minute costumes can be special, and everyone can have one on this scary night.



hazelnut hearts

by Ian Glassman '21

teeth
harvested the
crust moon
spooked gulps
down amber
pebbles
hazelnut
wisps torn
on a wilted
scarecrow
of himself
frolicked into
haystack
honey trails,

knees
crouching down to
his carbon
converse scraped
on blacktop
foliage foiled

against his
front side his
wings fleeting
cinnamon
wounds twisted
into sequoias
cold breath brewing
mocha kiss me in
the petrichor
the
howling wind
with our legs
peeled,

like apples dripping
in paint,
paint my lips
with Apollo's
golden glory,
spilling amour
from his
eyelashes
settled unto
the soiled

ground

unto
the leafs to
rest in harmony
under the perfectly
messy mural
that is us
marking these
crackling amorous
days with
our love



Photo courtesy of Ian Glassman '21

Amity Supports Farm to Table Relationship with Local Farms

by Ava Gross '22

As part of Amity's push for healthy options, a new system of providing locally grown food to students has been introduced. By bringing in produce from local farmers, fresher food is ensured, forgoing the excessive travel ingredients take to reach a destination.

This new plan supports local farmers who are struggling to succeed, as land prices and the necessary volume of food increase.

The months between early April and late September are prime months for agriculture in Connecticut. Even though the growing season is short comparatively to other southern states, it is important to take advantage of whatever resources are available.

In September, Amity's food provider, Chartwells supplemented school lunches with corn Cecarelli Farm in Northford. This month, Cecarelli Farm will be providing Amity with potatoes.

Along with vegetables, apples, pears, and other types of produce are being considered.

As the months get colder, products that were flash frozen earlier in the year will be used as a substitute for the usual produce transported through numerous states. While to some the idea of a farm to table type of relationship is

just simply for the food, it is one of the many examples of community found within our school.

At Amity, we strive to create a strong and supportive family.

Peter Ferrara, Director of Dining Services, says, "Amity represents the community it comes from and how they build and develop those relationships into making a stronger community. By providing produce from local farms, we are supporting that commitment."

When teachers and students buy food from the cafete-



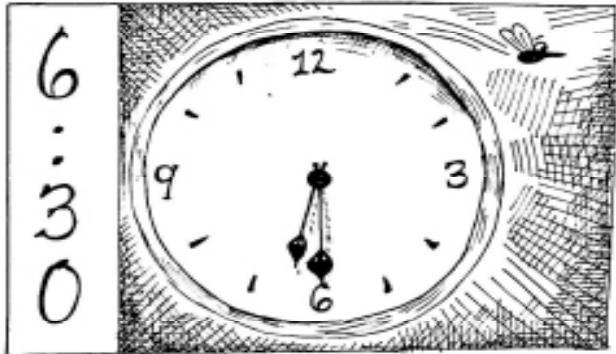
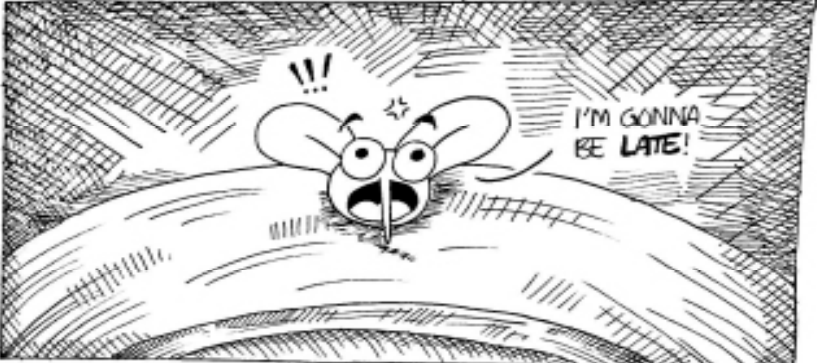
Photo courtesy of Cecavelli Farms

ria, they help to ensure the success of this program.

Not only does receiving produce from local farms help the economy of our region, but it also provides healthy food for our school.

The Mishap of Manny Mosquito

by Caelan Watson '20



Art Teacher Profile: *Jackie Valenzuela*

by Sydney Cohen ‘21

Jackie Valenzuela is the current teacher of many engaging classes here at Amity including, AP Art History, Honors Art, Film 1, and Documentary film.

In her Honors Art class, Valenzuela teaches students many important techniques regarding draw-

most, Valenzuela said “being able to let their guard down and create art.”

Valenzuela makes an effort to help her students dedicate themselves to their projects and convince them that it is okay to mess up, which can be a challenge for many students.

In and out of the classroom, she exhibits constant kindness, creativity, and the desire to help students



Jackie Valenzuela during her travels
Photo contributed by Jackie Valenzuela

ing, painting, and the use of a variety of mediums.

She focuses on improving the classes’ techniques for shading pencil drawings of people, along with teaching the class how to create texture with watercolor and paint.

However, her main goal in class it to teach how to add meaning to everyones’ pieces and make their art reveal their character and point of view.

When asked what her students struggle with the

become better artists and human beings.

Junior Julianna Cavallaro, a student of Valenzuela, describes her as one who is “extremely helpful with coming up with new project ideas and she always encourages me to go beyond my boundaries while maintaining a comfortable classroom atmosphere.”

Because of her inspiring personality, students look forward to learning more from Mrs. Valenzuela throughout the school year.

Write for *The Trident*!

Music in Motion’s Ten Year Anniversary Approaches

by Evan Gorelick ‘21

This October, the Amity Music Department will be holding its annual “Music in Motion” concert. Each fall, the Amity Concert Band, Symphonic Wind Ensemble, and Choir come together to create a truly unique experience- a coupling of both the auditory and visual senses.

While these groups are typically seen performing while seated or standing on stage, this performance is a significant departure; the musicians prepare choreographed routines to perform in tandem with the music playing.

This presents a difficult, but rewarding, process for all involved.

Senior Ruth Cortright says, “Music in Motion is a completely different experience for the performers as well as the audience.”There is nothing else like it at the school and if you have the opportunity you should definitely go see it.”

The group has been meeting on a weekly basis in and out of school for the past 4 weeks. In school rehearsals comprise of memorizing music and learning movement parts.

All the students have learned the techniques needed to perform with the help of Danny Staffieri, the Operations and Facilities Manager of the Connecticut Hurricanes Drum and Bugle Corps, who has extensive professional expertise in this area. He regularly assists the band with choreography and staging at rehearsals.

Outside of school, groups of students have been organizing, rehearsing, and

students who are really passionate and driven to perform their own pieces.”



Students performing at Music in Motion 2015
Photos from Paul Bogush

learning their own numbers.

Because these groups have taken initiative to learn and teach additional songs to those interested, this year’s performance will showcase an array of modern and diverse musical styles.

Senior Mat Haiday, a leader of one such group comments, “Music in Motion is a great outlet for our musicians to get creative. Our smaller musical numbers allow those

This year will be the 10th anniversary of the show, and director Phil Dolan has a few surprises in store to commemorate it.

Dolan says, “This year Music In Motion will be celebrating 10 years of performances since its inception.

The show will be held on October 25th and 26th and will feature the best music from the last 10 shows.”

The Life of Popular Band “Queen” *Their Music Continues to Inspire Generations*

by Jayden Benichak ‘23

Freddie Mercury was a British vocalist who would soon be the lead singer of the band Queen. Born on September 5, 1946, he lived with his parents and his sister, and was originally named Farrokh. Freddie lived in Tanzania until he moved to London to attend London Ealing’s College of Art. There he met Tim Staffel, the lead singer of Smile, a band that would eventually be Queen, with Mercury replacing Staffel. Introduced by Staffel, he then

met his future bandmates, Roger Taylor and Brian May. Freddie wasn’t new to performing as he had done many shows with other bands.

After Staffel’s drop-out in the band, this left a perfect opportunity for Freddie and his four octave range to step in. Afterwards, John Deacon joined to play bass, and this was a start to a band named Queen.

Queen’s popularity spread with two particular albums: Sheer Heart Attack and A Night at the Opera. During this time in the Queen’s career, they produced hits like Killer Queen and Bohemian

Rhapsody. Bohemian Rhapsody eventually hitting the top charts for the third time after Bohemian Rhapsody the film came out, hitting a new record of #3! This song has been through three generations of people, inspiring and satisfying all ages adding to the overall success of Queen.

The ability to please not only the people of the different generations, but the society in general is an amazing feat most artists fail at achieving. Also, Queen has a worldwide name. Songs like We Are The Champions, We Will Rock You, and Bohemian Rhapsody and known

worldwide. Played at football games, school events, and other competitive activities, We Are The Champions is a signature anthem.

We Will Rock You is another example of an anthem Queen created. Bohemian Rhapsody, which has no chorus, still has the same anthem name except adds a mystical, eccentric vibe that most songs don’t have.

Not even looking at the music Queen has produced, the members themselves stand as positive influencers for children. Freddie, sick with AIDS, still performs at Live Aid,

preserving through the long process of getting his voice to where it used to be. Showing people of all ages, determination goes a long way. The latter of Queen’s career included forming back together for a good cause. Roger, Brian, and John could have rejected Freddie and not have done the performance at all, but instead they accepted him back in and they all worked to raise money for the famine crisis in Africa.

Ultimately, having the incredible songwriting and right morality, adds to the overall success of their career, inspiring generations to come.

Ayn Rand’s Anthem: A Dystopian Society with a New Perspective

by Sena Ho ‘23

The novella Anthem by Ayn Rand captivates readers from all angles. It begins the story by diving straight into the conflict of the protagonist. His mission- to discover his origins and what it means to be a man.

The protagonist describes society as a barren, over-ruled land. All men are separated from women and are assigned a number.

It is forbidden to refer to themselves as anything else besides “they.”

This society is set on making everyone feel equal but doing this requires them to be stripped of their individual rights.

The protagonist describes how he feels different than everyone else.

At a young age, he participated in naughty behavior that bumped him down the social hierarchy that controls the whole society.

Because of his lowered status, officials excluded him from the other men, which left him more time to think and uncover secrets

used to function.

This changes his ideas about what he was taught. Woven through the story Rand introduces an important life lesson: ego is something that sounds awful, however, humans need that drive to thrive.

This short 105 page story is not meant to have a conventional plot. It does not follow the usual chain of events pertaining to common fictional stories.

However, Rand alters her style and voice to give readers an easy understanding of how she perceives the human race.

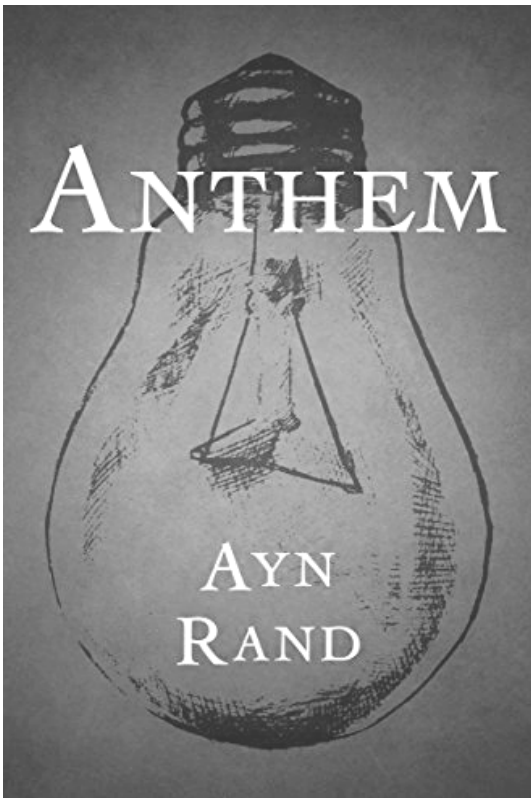
Rand wanted to speak about society using her experiences: Acting as an individual can often be more powerful than a group.

The entire story is built upon the idea of society as a whole and not focusing on the people who make up the group.

It is an odd idea to grasp, but only those who read the novella can truly understand and leave with an interesting outlook on the world.

about their world.

As time progresses, he learns about a secret sewer system, finds a woman he loves, and begins to read antediluvian manuscripts that give insight to how society



Cover of Anthem by Ayn Rand
Photo from hcpl.overdrive.com

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Netflix Review The Politician

by Evan Hollander ‘20

Recently, it seems that politics in America have become ever-more divisive. That’s why the recent premiere of Netflix’s The Politician has proven itself a worthy source of catharsis for our current political climate.

Payton Hobart (Ben Platt), convinced that he is predestined to become President of the United States, runs for Student Body President after determining that several previous modern-day presidents served in that capacity.

He also believes that it will help him get accepted

friends James (Theo Germaine) and McAfee (Laura Dreyfuss), who work quietly behind the scenes to ensure a smoothly run campaign.

His girlfriend, Alice Charles (Julia Schlaepfer), is always by Payton’s side to preserve the image of a stable, happy couple.

This image is not fully accurate, however. Payton finds himself infatuated with River Barkley (David Corenswet), who was once Payton’s Mandarin tutor and now his political rival.

Part of what makes The Politician unique is its portrayal of LGBTQ+ characters. Whereas nearly all shows that feature queer



Ben Platt as Payton Hobart in The Politician
Photo from variety.com

into Harvard University, which has educated a plurality of presidents. Payton, who was adopted by a billionaire couple, could easily get into Harvard because of his father’s vast wealth, continually insists on being accepted on merit alone.

Payton is obsessed with self-image. He worries that an acceptance to Harvard because of his money will hurt him in his inevitable run for president.

Yet, he acts as though he is morally opposed to using monetary power. This makes reading Payton difficult. Every move he makes is carefully calculated to improve his appearance.

In the first episode, this can be seen in his careful deliberation and targeted persuasion in picking a vice-presidential candidate.

In his quest to appear more authentic, Payton enlists a girl with cancer, Infinity Jackson (Zoey Deutch), to be his running mate in the school election. This later proves a possible Achilles heel for Payton when allegations surface that Infinity’s cancer diagnosis may not be legitimate.

Every viable candidate has equally talented staffers. Two of his aides are his

characters revolve around their sexualities, people’s orientations in The Politician simply are; few of the characters are defined by their preferences and all have plenty of other distinctions (the only one who breaks this rule is Skye Leighton (Rahne Jones), whose gender nonconformity serves as her uniqueness as Payton’s opponent’s VP.

Ben Platt’s performance as Payton is both riveting and chilling. He portrays the character as ruthless and Nixonian yet caring and devoted to his mother, Georgina Hobart (Gwyneth Paltrow).

His musical renditions, which happen only two or three times, are very moving and worth watching.

At a mere eight episodes, The Politician is perfectly positioned to be binged. The show moves along at a rapid pace, ending each episode in a completely different state than it started due to the twists, backstabs, revelations, and even assassination attempts, begging viewers to continue watching.

The Politician is highly recommended for political enthusiasts and fans of political thrillers, dark comedies, or musicals.

Stay Tuned for More Reviews...

Boys Soccer Powers through Adversity

by Natalie Prinz ‘20

Amity Boys Soccer has started their season relatively strongly with wins against Shelton, North Haven, Wilbur Cross, and West Haven. A standout win was their first game against Shelton, with a score 1-0 in a tough game. Captains Matt Keys ‘20, Ali Bobi ‘20, and Zach Young ‘20 have led the team through some great games early in the season. However, the team has hit a wall with their past four games. They lost against Shelton, Guilford, and Xavier, along with tying Branford 2-2. Abyan Nawaz ‘20 commented that “We’ve dominated every game, but we’ve lost by one goal in three separate occasions due to unlucky circumstances. In Xavier we

lost 1-0 and Cheshire scored in the last five seconds to beat us 2-1.” It’s unlucky, but the team wants to make clear that they aren’t making any excuses. Captain Ali Bobi ‘20 also explained that “in the Guilford game we played really well, but we lost 2-1.” Defensive mistakes and bad luck have haunted the team for the past few games. But they’re hoping to turn it around with their next game against Cheshire on Friday. With a determined mindset after their previous tough losses, it’s hopeful that they pull out the win. And even with their difficult losses, they’re still top of their league and have a very good chance to qualify for the State Tournament and the SCC tournament. Their next home game is Wednesday 10/30, be sure to come out and support!

Girls Volleyball Bumps, Sets, Spikes at Pink Game

Photos by Kassiani Nicolakis ‘23



A Strong Start Envigorates Girls Field Hockey Team Looks Promising with 7 Wins

by Jade Krukar ‘22

The Amity Spartans field hockey team has been off to a record season already. Field hockey, affectionately coined “Fockey” by the players, is one of the most popular girls sports at Amity. With seven wins un-

courage this years’ team. Instead, it just motivated them even more. The girls ended up making history, securing a 2-1 win against the rival team. The next game was tough, ending with a 1-0 loss against Hand. Even though this snapped a 3-game winning streak, the Fockey girls got right back on track by beating Ston-

chemistry—our girls field hockey team has both. New players are also enjoying the season. Paige Kergaravat ‘22 says, “Field hockey is a lot about working together and communicating with your team. The sport has taught me so much about being a team player and leaving it all out on the field. What I really love about this sport is how it can



The Amity Girls Field Hockey Team on their Home Field

Photo contributed by @amity_army2020

der the belt, the team is looking forward to a successful SCC and CIAC run. Lead by captains Tess Csejka ‘20, Ana Carney ‘20, Maria Farace ‘20, and Jenna Walsh ‘20, the girls hit the ground running in their first game, beating Joel Barlow High School 3-0. Following their first victory, the team was ready to take on a big challenger: Cheshire High School. The team has played Cheshire in past years but always came up short. This did not dis-

ington 2-1. This was the start of a 6 game winning streak and counting. The current record for the team is now 9-1. Captain Tess Csjecka ‘20 is very proud of the team, saying, “This is the strongest team we’ve had yet. The team gets along so well. we are super close and all support each other.” It seems that in order for a team to enjoy success, they need talent and team

shape you into a better person. There’s always room for improvement and supporting your team is key.” The team has a tight bond, which can be connected with all of the team bonding activities they participate in off the field. They recently had a car wash at Material Girls in Orange. The girls worked together to raise money and ended up making over \$900. The team is looking forward to a successful season together.



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Football Team Looks to Improve Upon Last Year

by Laurence Lambiase '21

It's that time of year again, where the football players show themselves off under the lights. The Spartans finished last year's season with 5 wins and 5 losses. This is the first time since 2008 that the Spartans didn't have a losing season,

ello '20 and Sam Sachs '20. Right before the 2nd half, Danny Cavanagh '20 miraculously picked off the ball and nearly returned it for a touchdown with less than a minute left. But when the team moved on to Simsbury, they unfortunately were defeated 49-13. However, one of the sophomores did prove themselves. Running back Ralph

said, "You know, it's not something we were planning on starting for the season, but we're 2-2 right now and we are looking towards McMahon right now, and we're ready to get rolling." Since McMahon High School is their next opponent, that should be their only focus. The main thing that needs to be decided before every game is whether or not



which shows just how effective head coach Craig Bruno was in his first year coaching for Amity.

In his sophomore year as head coach, he has lead the team to a 2-2 start, which includes some very exciting victories. But now, with some of the former starters graduating last year, some younger players making their first year on Varsity are hoping to make a name for themselves.

Last year, the Spartans had a great lineup. Mike Young '19, a former senior who was at wide receiver and safety, caught really explosive touchdowns last year to boost the Spartans. Now he plays football for Western Connecticut State University.

Former captains Danny Beckwith '19 and Ryan Biagetti '19, who also made a big impact on the team, are currently Freshmen at Tampa University and Temple University, respectively.

Now, the team is moving on from last year, and is hoping for the same result, or even better. It all started with the very first game versus one of their big rivals, Harding High School.

Amity emerged from this contest victorious, beating Harding 34-20. Very big plays were made in the game, including rushing touchdowns by Captain Joe Dig-

The Amity Football Team Taking the Field

Photo contributed by @amity_army2020

Toussaint '22 scored a touchdown. This marked the first touchdown scored by a sophomore for Amity this season.

After the devastating loss, the Spartans got the advantage of playing on their home field in front of our beloved Amity Army. They were tasked with playing the Newington Indians, who were undefeated, so the team knew it was going to be a tough game.

The defense knew, however, that if they did their job and didn't allow too many points, then the Spartans would be guaranteed a chance to win. With a rushing touchdown by Quarterback Ben Iwaskiweickz '21, the Spartans unbelievably beat the Indians 7-3.

After that was one of Amity's most competitive rivals: the Notre Dame Green Knights. Fullback Joe Digello impressively scored a touchdown, but that wasn't enough. Notre Dame scored two touchdowns after that, which made them beat the Spartans 14-7.

So what's next for the team? When speaking to some of the players, offensive and defensive Line-

man Cameron Luciano '21 to stick with the previous gameplan or to change it up.

But one thing's for certain: the team has to keep getting their sacks and big tackles.

Luciano also stated, "We worked really hard in the offseason, everybody's lifted hard, and everyone's come out determined to make something happen. Especially like have big players like Joe Digello, he's a beast, you know Nico, you know Schmhidke is coming clutch for us. A lot of our backers have stepped up, especially Jack and Jaime as the season went on. We're talented up front and we are talented in the backfield."

Speaking of Nico Semmonella '20, when he was asked if the game plan would be changed, the captain stated, "I don't think we need to add any changes after all the games we've been played. We have been playing great, and we need to come back and finish the last few games."

Certainly, if the team keeps up the positive attitude and hard work, they can hopefully reach all of their goals.

Until then, the football team will use their bye week wisely and will be ready for their match up with McMahon on October 18th on their home turf.

Where Are They Now?

Profile on Patrick Winkel

by Ben Martin '21

In 2018, Amity catcher Patrick Winkel '18 had an amazing season, but what has happened to him since?

Well, to start that story, let's travel back to the spring of 2015 where young freshman catcher by the name of Patrick Winkel showed up to baseball tryouts with a dream to make the team.

This dream came true, which in retrospect is no surprise. I asked Winkel how he felt after this and he said, "At first it was a little nerve racking... but all I had to realize was that I belonged there and I had to trust my abilities."

Jump forward to the spring of 2018, where Pat Winkel hit 18 singles, 9 doubles, 1 triple, and 6 home

ready for better pitching in college," he added.

After that year came a decision, though. Winkel had to choose between two amazing offers—playing baseball for UCONN on a full paid scholarship or signing a minor league deal in the MLB and playing for the New York Yankees.

When I asked Pat about his process throughout making this decision he responded with, "Both were great opportunities but what really got me leaning toward UCONN was the idea that I could develop as a baseball player and as a student."

Winkel went on to say, "Outside of that I feel that the coaching staff was incredible and gave me the best opportunity to develop my game."

After Winkel had made his choice to attend UCONN, he went into his fresh-



Patrick Winkel during his time at Amity
Photo from nhregister.com



Patrick Winkel playing for UConn
Photo from uconnhuskies.com

runs in 25 games played. He also hit for a .493 average, with 22 RBI, 29 runs, and 27 walks with only 6 strikeouts. Following that season, Winkel made the all-state team and won the Connecticut Gatorade player of the year.

When I asked Pat how his experience at Amity is helping him at UCONN he said, "100% it was the coaches. Coach Coppola and the rest of the staff are hands down the best in CT."

"Not only that, the competition in the SCC is very good which helps get you

man season he hit .318 with 40 singles, 8 doubles, and 7 home runs in 49 games played.

He also drove in 38 runs scored 19 runs and walked 12 times. In addition to individual success for Winkel, the team ended up finishing second in their region in the NCAA baseball playoffs.

When I asked Pat about his future, he said, "my big goal is to make the major leagues."

Hopefully this goal turns into reality in the years to come.

Amity Word Search

M	O	O	R	E	M	O	H	K	Q	T	N	Q	I	S
C	H	I	U	N	W	G	T	C	B	Y	I	C	M	N
D	T	S	E	R	X	R	C	V	L	L	A	F	T	C
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- ALGEBRA
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- HOMEROOM
- SPARTANS
- AMITY
- CALCULUS
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