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Gaggle Goes into Effect

by Roger Chen 2017

Starting on March 8th, Cheshire Public Schools implemented Gaggle Safety Management with the Google Education Platform. The purpose of this program is to create a safe online learning environment for students while still complying with the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) and Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

Gaggle works by reviewing suspicious words and images in emails, documents, and attachments. Once a suspicious word is spotted, Gaggle automatically flags the document in question. Then, a human from Gaggle Safety Management reviews the document. If the material is deemed inappropriate, Gaggle will then notify

school administrators. Gaggle safety measures will also be applied to district-owned Chromebooks issued to freshman and sophomores.

Since its implementation, the program has been met with controversy. At the high school level, students occasionally use language in assignments that are deemed inappropriate by Gaggle. As a result, many students have been wrongly flagged by the program resulting in students missing class instruction time to deal with the matter. Furthermore, many students see Gaggle as intrusive and an invasion of their privacy.

Raj Dhage, 2017, believes “the gaggle policy infringes on students right to privacy. Administration is cracking down unnecessarily on students that do nothing



but add to CHS’s extraordinary reputation.”

Yet, many see this program as necessary to protect students from online

Please See **Gaggle Controversy**, page 4

Cafe Naming Contest Winner Annouced

by Shivani Padhi 2018

Cheshire High School’s Food and Nutrition Services initiated a “Name Your Cafeteria Contest” to find the perfect moniker for the Commons. The Food and Nutrition Services “wanted to improve the dining experience for the Cheshire High School students,” said the Food and Nutrition Services director, Madeline Diker. The Food and Nutrition Services hired Tacey Martinek, a designer from “ Love Your Lunchroom” company based out of Massachusetts. During their discussion of refreshing all the serving areas with an updated menu, new paint colors and signs, Ms. Martinek suggested a “Name Your Cafeteria” contest to give the bland Commons a new taste and exude excitement.

Based on the wonderful advice



of Ms. Martinek, all the students got an unique opportunity to provide a name for the Commons.

According to Diker, the contest will award one first place winner, three second place winners, and 22 third place winners. The first winners will receive a \$75 gift card; the second place winners will receive \$50 gift cards and all the 22 third place winners get free lunch up to \$5.

While going through the overwhelming process of picking winners, the Food and Nutrition Services “looked for names that incorporated words that students would associate with CHS and school spirit- such as ‘ram,’ ‘ramland,’ and ‘Cheshire.’”

Among the many suggestions, a first place winner emerged: Kaitlyn Clairmont, 2017. Clairmont suggested the commons to be named the Ramland Café and had uncommonly good. as the tagline. The second place winners were Anthony Vignola, 2018 for The Ramland Café, David Tanner, 2017 for The Ramland Café, and

Please See **Cafe Naming Contest**, page 4

Park and Rec Championships

by Jack Stanton 2018

This past Friday, on March 17th, the West Gym was home to one of the most anticipated events that is held at Cheshire High School each year. The Park and Rec Basketball Championship took place at 7 o’clock with a thrilling matchup between the Green Team, lead by Coaches Hick and Moran, and the Purple Team, coached by Mrs. Lindsey and Mr. Hoynes. Leading up to the game, there was all sorts of hype, as another great season of the George Welch League was coming to a close.

From tip off, you could tell that it was going to be a hard fought game, with each of the players leaving it all on the court. The first 10 minutes were extremely close, as the two teams battled it out to take home the trophy. Players such as



Mike Millea of Green and Cole Escoto of Purple, went back and forth trading buckets as the crowd roared. It had all the makings of an instant classic.

From then on, the Green team

Photo Credits: Twitter/Greg Lederer @glederernews pulled away, going on scoring runs that could not be matched by Purple. Even as the lead increased, the atmosphere of the gym stayed high and the excitement never

Please See **Park and Rec**, page 4

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2017 Science Bowl Competition

By Jess Tan

2018

On March 4, 2017, a group of 17 students from Cheshire High School's Science Bowl Club competed in the Northeast Science Bowl, sponsored by the US Department of Energy. The competition was held at the University of Connecticut's School of Engineering in Storrs.

Students answered sets of questions involving Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Mathematics, Energy, Earth and Space, and General Science. The competition involved two parts: a round robin session in the morning to determine divisional rankings, and the finals in the afternoon for the top 16 teams from the North and South regions compete in an elimination style tournament. Both the Cheshire A and Cheshire B Team advanced to the final.

At the end of the day, after the competition had ended for Cheshire, the



students engaged in a friendly battle with the UConn engineering students who were volunteering at the event. "Science Bowl was a great experience because we were able to meet new people from all across New England and test our science knowledge," says Roger Chen, CHS's Science Bowl Co-Captain.



CHS Robotics Team Competes in an International Competition

by Shivani Padhi

2018

Every year schools all over the world take part in the annual First Robotics Competitions (FRC). According to First Inspires, "FIRST Robotics Competition is the ultimate Sport for the Mind."

In this ultimate game, teams get six weeks to design, build, and program a robot to fit the challenge presented. This year, the challenge is called FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) STEAMWORKS and it has three goals: to build steam pressure, start rotors, and prepare for flight. In order to accomplish this, teams and alliance members need to use effective communication and strategy. According to First Inspires website, robots can build steam pressure by collecting fuel (balls) and "score it in their boiler via high and low efficiency goals. Boilers turn fuel into steam pressure which is stored in the steam tank on their airship – but it takes more fuel in the low efficiency goal to build steam than the high efficiency goal." In order for robots to start rotors, robots need to deliver gears to pilots (human players) on their airship for installation. Once the gear train has been complete, the pilots can turn the crank to start the rotor (First Inspires). Lastly, in order for robots to successfully prepare for flight, robots "must latch onto their airship before launch, which occurs

at the end of the match, by ascending their ropes to signal that they're ready for takeoff" (First Inspires). The alliance (red or blue) with the most points in the end is claimed the winner of that qualifying match.

Every year, Cheshire High School's Robotics Team 999, MechaRAMS, focuses on a specific goal. This year the team put their emphasis on getting rotors and latching onto airship for flight (climbing). During the build season, the build and design team focused on constructing a robot that will be able to grab rotors and climb. After the build season came to an end, the drive team went in business; meaning they start practicing driving the robot. The MechaRAMS drive team has members who have a good hand on the maneuvering the robot and are confident in driving on the game field.

The bag and tag day, the end of six week build season, was on February 21st at midnight. On that day, MechaRAMS members and mentors put the finishing touches on the robot and got ready for the subsequent events. The first event that MechaRAMS competed in was at Wilby High School in Waterbury, CT. The city of Waterbury and the public school system were kind enough to let FRC robotics team use their high school as the game field and allow the other 42 New England Teams to compete. In the



Junior Prom Information

By Manavi Jain

2018

Hey juniors! Don't forget that prom is just around the corner. Junior prom will be held at La Bella Vista located in Waterbury on April 29th. Doors open at 6pm and close at 7pm. Prom will run from 6pm - 11pm. Students will not be allowed to leave before 10pm. The junior prom theme this year is James Bond.

The cost of prom is \$95 per person. Be sure to turn in all your class dues prior to prom. A failure to successfully turn in class dues will result in not being able to attend. Each table will select one table captain to handle all of the paperwork. Each table can have a maximum number of ten students. If less than ten students are picked, other students will be placed at your table. Prom packets must be completed and ready to submit by March 29-30 after school from 2-3 pm in Room 1 (Mrs. Paier's Room).

Keep in mind of the allergies and dietary needs students may have at your table. Students with specific allergies and dietary needs must inform their table captains so they can specify it in their prom



packet. Food planned for the evening includes: penne alla vodka and assorted fruits and vegetables, chicken marsala, prime rib, baked stuffed shrimp, and eggplant parmesan. For dessert, there will be chocolate brownies topped with vanilla ice cream.

Please keep the important dates in mind and have a fun and safe prom, Juniors!



Waterbury competition, MechaRAMS did "well, but can do a lot better" said Mallory Groom, 2017. The MechaRAMS hope to compete again at Hartford High School on April 1st and 2nd and aims to do even better.

Besides the competition itself, the robotics competition is a big social event "with a deluge of people" said Jack Wertz, 2019. Beside the stress and anxiety of getting to the finals, the competition encompasses loud pumping music, dances, sing alongs, and catchy chants that each team displays as a way to cheer for their own robot. It is also a great way to meet and greet some key members of the FRC community like Dean Kamen, founder of FIRST and inventor of the segway, Dr. Woodie Flowers, a distinguished advisor to FIRST or even Don Bossi, the prestiged president of FIRST. In addition to meeting the honored and prestiged figures of FIRST, the robotics competition is an excellent opportunity to get scholarship money. We all know that

college is expensive so a little scholarship money along the way will not hurt to say the least. Luckily, FIRST provides over 200 scholarship providers and offers up to 50 million dollars in scholarships to participants of FRC.

FIRST acts as an inspiration for many students across the nation and worldwide and leads to positive changes in one's community. For many, FIRST is a miracle because it changes the unimaginable things like building a functional, automated robot in six week into a reality. And last, but certainly not least, are the gamut of characteristics FIRST brings upon students like dedication, commitment, hard work, teamwork, communication, and collaboration, and gives them a chance to have fun! FRC a game of the mind, soul, and spirit effectively combines the magic of science and technology to give the best opportunity and challenge to students and mentors to exude their designing, building, prototyping, programming and collaborating skills.





Cheshire Rams

MLB Baseball- It's in our DNA

by Kyle Leff

2018

The admission person takes the ticket from your hand. You walk in, smelling the pretzels and hot dogs in all directions. You walk up the elevated ramp and breathe in the crisp spring air. This signifies the beginning of the baseball season.

Last Major League Baseball season ended with a bang, as the perennial losers Chicago Cubs came through in the playoffs, eliminating the San Francisco Giants, Los Angeles Dodgers, and the Cleveland Indians to win the World Series.

As every year shows, this baseball season will be just as good as the last, if not better. Many major players took their talents to other cities, most notably World Series winning closer Aroldis Chapman returning to the New York Yankees after being traded mid year to the Chicago Cubs, and his crosstown rival, pitching ace Chris Sale, being traded from the Chicago White Sox to the Boston Red Sox.

This year also marks the first for something new - The Cleveland Indians now have the longest streak without a

World Series ring, tallying a whopping sixty eight years without winning any "bling". The former record holder was the Chicago Cubs with a streak reaching 107 years.

In the offseason, the memories of past seasons were honored. Former players Ivan "Pudge" Rodriguez, Tim Lincecum, and Jeff Bagwell, as well as Bud Selig(former Commissioner) and John Schuerholz(Atlanta Braves General Manager) entered into National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

The regular season for the MLB begins on April 2nd, which is only just around the corner. I certainly know that I won't be the only person bringing out the new caps and gear to support my team on that day!



Spring Sports Preview: Softball Looks to Repeat

by Mike Lewis

2019

Last year, on June 11th, Cheshire's varsity softball team won their second Class LL championship in the program's history. However, this one was unlike the one prior, as it came following 26 consecutive wins, an undefeated season.

Last year was looked at to be a "rebuilding" year for the Rams, after losing star pitcher Mackenzie Juodaitis and power hitters Olivia Odermatt and Casey Harding to graduation. Cheshire's team was mostly comprised of underclassmen, with the exception of a few seniors. However, the team came together and stepped up, winning each of their regular season games. They took this momentum into the SCC tournament, which they won, and into the Class LL tournament, which they also emerged victorious from.

Now with the rebuilding talk behind them, Cheshire enters the 2017 season as favorites to repeat as state champions, behind pitcher and power hitter Abby Abramson (2017). Abramson broke Cheshire's single-season HR record with 11, and also pitched three no-hitters and one perfect game. Also returning for Cheshire is the sophomore trio of Brianna Floyd, Lexie Hemstock, and Mia Juodaitis, all of which who started as freshmen last season. Finally, Hannah Salvetti and Sam Simone return, rounding out a loaded lineup.

The Rams begin the season on the road, at Mercy on April 3rd. Their home opener is on Wednesday, April 5th against Sheehan. First pitch is at 3:45. Come out this season and support the Rams in their quest for a second straight title!

Check out the rest of the spring teams, accompanied by a recap of last season and their first home game of the year. Schedules for each team can be found at ciacsports.org.

CAPSULES:

Baseball:

2016 recap: Finished 13-7 in the regular season, 4 seed in SCC playoffs, fell in quarterfinals to Fairfield Prep, 12 seed in Class LL tournament, fell in first round to Wilton.

First home game: Monday April 3rd vs Amity: 4:00pm

Boys Lacrosse

2016 recap: Finished 11-5 in the regular season, did not qualify for SCC playoffs, 11 seed in Class L tournament, fell in first round to Fairfield Prep

First home game: Wednesday April 5th vs Sheehan: 6:30pm

Girls Lacrosse

2016 recap: Finished 12-4 in the regular season, 2 seed in SCC playoffs, fell in championship to Daniel Hand, 5 seed in Class L tournament, fell in quarterfinals to Wilton.

First home game: Tuesday April 11th vs Mercy: 1pm

Boys Volleyball

2016 recap: Finished 13-5 in the regular season, 1 seed in SCC playoffs, defeated Daniel Hand in championship game, 7 seed in Class L tournament, fell in quarterfinals to Darien.

First home game: Friday April 7th vs Joel Barlow: 6pm

Boys Track and Field:

2016 recap: 8th in SCC Championship, 13th in Class LL

First home meet: Tuesday April 4th vs Shelton: 3:45pm

Girls Track and Field:

2016 recap: 2nd in SCC Championship, 8th in Class LL

First home meet: Wednesday April 26th vs Amity: 3:45pm

Winter Sports Recap: Boys basketball highlights great season

by Mike Lewis

2019

The varsity boys basketball team began their 2016-2017 season with two consecutive close losses: One at the buzzer to Platt and the other in double overtime to Shelton. While the losses were tough at the time, they helped the team in the long run.

"Hopefully we'll use some things that we learned today later in the season. Maybe there will be another game like this five, six, 10 games later, and we'll be better then because of this," said head coach Dan Lee following the loss against Shelton.

The team did use some things learned in the early season struggles, notching tight wins throughout the regular season against Amity, Sheehan, and even Shelton in the first round of the SCC tournament. These tight wins brought Cheshire to a 10-10 regular season record, and the 9 seed in the SCC tournament. After defeating the Gaels in Shelton, they advanced to play the state's best, Notre Dame-West Haven. The Rams kept it close for the first half, before CT Gatorade Player of the Year Tremont Waters took over for the Green Knights, and handed Cheshire a 14 point loss.

Cheshire put up yet another fight with another one of the state's stronger teams in the Class LL tournament first round. Visiting Kennedy, Cheshire kept the Eagles within striking distance for most of the game, but still fell six points short of the next round. Although it was the final game in a Cheshire uniform for four of the team's five starters, Lee expressed confidence heading into next season.

"We have some guys in 11th grade that got some varsity time, but next year they're going to step up. That's kind of been a recurring theme over the last few years. Guys wait their turn, and then step

up," said Lee.

Congrats to the Rams on a great season! Check out the capsules from the rest of the winter sports teams seasons, along with Cheshire's All-SCC honorees.

CAPSULES:

Boys Basketball: Finished regular season 10-10, 9 seed in SCC tournament, fell in quarterfinals to Notre Dame-West Haven, 25 seed in Class LL tournament, fell in first round to Kennedy.

Girls Basketball: Finished regular season 5-15, did not qualify for SCC/Class LL tournament

Boys Ice Hockey: Finished regular season 11-9, did not qualify for SCC tournament, 6 seed in Division II tournament, fell in quarterfinals to New Fairfield-Immaculate

Indoor Track and Field: Boys placed 13th in SCC, 14th in Class LL. Girls placed 15th in SCC, did not place in Class LL.

Boys Swimming: 10-1 in regular season meets, 2nd in SCC, and 3rd in Class LL

ALL SCC HONORS:

Boys Basketball: Second Team: Drew Hart (2017).

Boys Ice Hockey: First Team: Vinnie Solla. Second Team: Matt Federico.

Boys Indoor Track and Field: First Team 3200 meters: Brendan Murray (2018).

Girls Indoor Track and Field: First Team 4x800 relay: Camille Lewis, Aliza Taylor, Amanda Adesso, Rachel Kaplan.

Boys Swimming and Diving: 200 yard IM, 500 yard freestyle: Ben Brewer. 50 yard freestyle, 100 yard freestyle: Jamie Eigner. 200 yard freestyle relay, 400 yard freestyle relay: Ben Brewer, Jamie Eigner, Dara Malone, Jack Hanke. 100 yard breaststroke: Ryan Mostoller.

Congrats to all winter athletes on great seasons!



The Rams warm up before the annual Coaches vs Cancer game on January 27th, 2017



Cheshire softball celebrates its 2016 SCC Tournament championship last spring

SAT's are coming to CHS Cafe Naming Contest

by Shivani Padhi 2018

As spring approaches, it is time to think of standardized tests. Spring of 2017 is the prime time for juniors to think about SAT's and ACT's. The SAT is important because many competitive colleges look at standardized test scores as an entrance ticket for many high school applicants. In addition to college entrance, high standardized test score is important for scholarships. College is not cheap, so every scholarship will be a helping hand for students.

Lucky for students, CHS will be administering a free SAT test for all juniors on April 5th. These scores can be reported to colleges, but does not include the optional essay.

For more information about score reports, check out the highlighted portion of the guidance counselor corner:

For the full guidance counselor corner newsletter for March 2017, click on the link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B8yAhWIE-AolOHNFQWhpNk1PYkE/view>

How to prepare for the SAT's

Students can use Khan Academy for extra SAT prep. It offers free personalized study materials. Khan Academy also indicates a student's major areas of weaknesses or strengths so he/she can improve on specific subjects. By working on weaknesses, the most points will be earned because students will likely make less mistakes on the SAT and the ACT. For further help or test prep, contact the school guidance department and see how you can improve your standardized test score today!



Plan your Future with College Tours

by Shivani Padhi 2018

As junior year of high school is gradually coming to an end, it is time to think about colleges. Cheshire High's School Counseling Department does an excellent job with junior meetings, where guidance counselors have a one-on-one discussion with many anxious juniors and their parents to provide some great resources and advice to help students start thinking about their future. In order to be successful in picking the right college, you must tour colleges. By visiting a college campus, you are allowing yourself to get a firsthand experience of the college atmosphere and the college life. A visit also enables you to talk to current students, faculty and a college representative who can answer all the important questions mending your mind. Some important questions one may choose to ask are:

What is the student to professor ratio?

What is the average class size?

How is the campus life? Is it diverse?

Based on previous statistics, what are the average SAT and ACT scores?

Do you look for any standardized testing?



Besides these questions, the College Board's College Search Checklist has additional resources put together by their staff. It includes a checklist for students and parents to use on their college campus visits to be successful. To view and print the college campus visit checklist, go to: <https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/CollegePlanning/media/pdf/campus-visit-checklist.pdf>

By visiting a certain college, you are demonstrating your interest. The college admission offices love to admit students who show interest in their college.

The important thing to remember is that college touring is essential because you are exploring college life and showing your interest to colleges. More than anything, colleges look for your interest and your enthusiasm and you want to make sure you are showing your full passion and purpose.



American Legion's Voice in Democracy Essay Contest



Sophomore student, Ayan Bhattacharjee (left), finished 2nd in the American Legion's Voice in Democracy Essay Contest. He's being congratulated by Cheshire's American Legion Post representative, John White (right).

Continued from page 1

Lauren Rochow, 2017 for The Ramland Café. In addition to the first and second place winners, 22 others will be awarded if they suggested The Ramland Café. On top of the receiving awards, 14 others who mentioned "Ramland" or "Uncommons" will receive a free breakfast coupon as a honorable mention. Upon discussing this "Name your Cafe Contest" with Diker, Food and Nutritional Services is planning on having the Cafeteria, Commons, and serving areas painted with the new names, and reorganized by May 1st. In addition, Food and Nutrition Services will be making changes to the lunch lines and the food options. For example, line four will be an Express-Grab 'n Go Line. The chicken wraps, yogurt and fruit parfaits, and peanut butter /jelly Uncrustables will be relocated

to Line 4. In addition, new food items will be added like hummus, veggies, and tofu spinach wraps.

Food and Nutrition Services which runs more or less like a business, will be funding this renovation which includes the prizes, painting the new names and new equipment. According to Diker, one of the new pieces of equipment that will be added to the cafeteria is a small oven that can heat up the made to order sandwiches similar to Subway's ovens. They also plan to also purchase and fit an oven that can cook pizzas as needed in the Ramland Café.

The Food and Nutrition Department would like to thank all the contributors for participating in the "Name Your Cafeteria" contest and cannot wait for the new additions to Ramland Café!



Gaggle Controversy

Continued from page 1

bullying and make learning online safer. By implementing this program, administrators can ensure that students are appropriately using their district accounts. It also allows administrators to help students who they feel could be a threat to themselves or others.

Mrs. Kristen Pelz, an Assistant Principal, recognized that Gaggle is new and the school is still adjusting. However, Pelz says, "We do need a means of monitoring what students are putting out in a system that we have provided for them."

Park and Rec

Continued from page 1

dwindled. Towards the end of the game, Green was able to increase their lead to as much as 20, and came out the victor with a final score of 61-41.

Millea lit up the court, scoring a game high of 25 points, with 14 of those coming in the second half. Escoto led the Purple team in points, finishing the game with 17, including 4 three pointers. Other key scorers for the Green team included Dillon Fohl (12 pts), Matthew Sherman (9 pts), and Tim Krutz (9 pts). The Purple team also had a few players who racked up the points, as Tim Hoynes had 11, Matthew Seigel had 5, and Ryan Lindsey had 4.

All in all, it was a well played ball game. Both teams went all out, creating a very exciting game. Not only was it exciting, but there were some very scrappy moments, as the referees made

calls left and right. Much to the dismay of several players, they were handing out fouls and technicals freely, proving that it was a very heated game. The players, fans, parents, and coaches were all very animated and excited with each call that was made.

After the end of the game and handshake line, the Green Team gathered around for a team photograph with a handful of them screaming "Champions". The Purple Team, although upset with the outcome of the game, went over to the bench and said how next season could not come fast enough.

No matter if you play in the games or only watch them, everyone is excited for the next season to start. This championship game was a great way to end the season and to celebrate the year that was had by the Green Team and their journey to the top.



SCC Scholar Leaders



Seniors Colleen Carroll (left) and Roger Chen (right) were awarded the SCC Scholar Leaders Award at a banquet in New Haven on March 27, 2017.

Photo Credits: Twitter/@CHSRamPride

Senior Spotlight- Julia Marcouiller

by Simran Kaur 2018

Cheshire High School Drama Club is taking on a challenge of making the stage rain for its performance of Singin’ in the Rain. Julia Marcouiller, a senior at CHS is involved in the musical and plays the vocal coach and an ensemble member. She has been in the musical since her freshmen year. Along with the musical, Marcouiller is also heavily involved in cross country in the fall and with the fall play! What is your favorite part of being in the musical?

There are so many things I love about being in the musical, but if I had to name one thing it would probably be the community we build over such a short period of time. Rehearsals are often divided up between chorus and leads/speaking parts for vocals, acting, and dancing, but through cast bonding and as show week approaches and we have full cast rehearsals, it’s amazing to see it all come together and how everyone helps each other out. Why do you think some people love coming to see the musical?

I think it was Ms. Chorney or Ms. DeMeo who at one time or another said that people come to the theater because they have need of us. Whether they need to leave their stressful days or lives behind for a couple of hours, want to be emotionally moved, or just be entertained, they come to us for an “escape”. This has stuck with me because I can say the same for myself when I go to the theater, and impacting people through art is so

Singin’ In The Rain

by Abby Dziura 2020

On March 23rd, 24th, and 25th, the CHS Drama Club put on a performance of the classic movie-musical “Singin’ in the Rain.” It was directed by English teacher Ms. Demeo. This year’s show was a hilarious re-imagining of the 1952 hit. Mr. John Williams and his Tech Theater class did an outstanding job of building an imaginative set that rained on the dancers!

The plot followed Don Lockwood, a Hollywood star in the era of silent, black-and-white films, along with his best friend, Cosmo Brown (who mostly mans the piano). His co-star, Lina Lamont, is annoying and dumb with her high-pitched voice, but can still act.. She is attached to Don and believes they are a couple, even though Don has no interest in her and is in fact infatuated with the rookie actress Kathy Selden. Jealous, Lina has her fired while their movie studio begins to make the transition to a new type



empowering. But if I’m being basic, they come because they know where to go for a real good time.

Being a senior, what will you miss most about performing in the musical?

This is such a gut-wrenching question because I’m still in denial that this will be my last time performing in a CHS Drama production! I could write a whole novel about the things I’ll miss, but the one thing that I’ll definitely miss the most (this is gonna sound so cliché, but it’s true) is the people involved. Being a part of theater gave me friends I could be both my loud, weird self around but also be able to work hard with. There’s no better feeling than taking that final bow knowing you’ve poured your heart into a production with your best friends and incredibly hardworking leaders/directors at your side.

What is the hardest thing about this particular musical?

This year, I was cast as a feature dancer, which in this particular show means I’ll be tap dancing. Boy, what a work out. Not going to lie, it has been hard for me given that I don’t dance (casual HSM2 reference?) I’m mostly a singer and actor, but it certainly has been a fun, challenging way to step out of my comfort zone. Our choreographer, John Carter, and my fellow feature dancers have been remarkably helpful, so it’s made the dance process a lot easier.

Have you seen improvement in yourself because of taking part in CHS Drama?

Absolutely. Both as a person in general and a theater kid, I have gained a lot of confidence in myself. Through auditions and performing, I’ve learned to grow and not be afraid to put myself out there and go all out. I have CHS Drama and everyone involved in it to thank for that. If you had to have any Broadway/Off-Broadway role, what would it be?

Tough choice but good question! I’d want to be them all if I’m being honest, but if I could have just one I’d want to be Glinda from Wicked or Bea from Something Rotten! Glinda has always been a favorite of mine because she’s charismatic, a little ditzy, but a good friend. I’d also want to be Bea because Something Rotten! is my favorite Broadway show, and Bea is fiercely supportive and hilarious. It’s pretty much a tie between those two.

La La Land Review

by Abby Dziura 2020

Each year, sometime in mid-January, the Oscar nominations are released.

Each year, I try my best to see each of the best picture nominations, but usually, that doesn’t happen.

After the delight of Hidden Figures, I became even more excited to see La La Land, which many people were praising for its gorgeous soundtrack, mesmerizing dance sequences, and breathtaking colors.

Here is the plot synopsis, courtesy of Metacritic:

“Mia (Emma Stone), an aspiring actress, serves lattes to movie stars in between auditions, and Sebastian (Ryan Gosling), a dedicated jazz musician, scrapes by playing cocktail piano gigs in dingy bars, but as success mounts they are faced with decisions that begin to fray the fragile fabric of their love affair, and the dreams they worked so hard to maintain in each other threaten to rip them apart.”

I was definitely not disappointed. The story is captivating, and though the middle drags on a bit, it is more than made up for with the ending.

The story takes place in Hollywood, and the old-movie glamour is definitely present in the costuming and sets. It’s a nice touch that just adds to the prettiness of the movie.

Overall, I quite enjoyed the movie, and I would definitely recommended it to anyone who enjoys movie musicals and Oscar nominees. Though it isn’t the next Singin’ in the Rain, it carries its own distinct charm that makes it a fun watch.



of film: those with sound (called talkies at the time). Lockwood fears for his career as audiences find Lina’s shrill voice laughable, until he decides to have the studio dub over her voice with Kathy’s. Shenanigans then ensue.

The show starred Thomas Mueller as Don Lockwood, Joe Berardi as

Cosmo Brown, Elizabeth Feest as Kathy Selden, and Katie Sparks as Lina Lamont, as well as dozens of other characters and ensemble members. The performance was filled with many talented actors and actresses from the CHS drama department.

Congratulations to the cast and crew for a wonderful production!



Discovery Expo - March 11, 2017



Cheshire Public Schools hosted its first annual Discovery Expo on March 11, 2017 at Cheshire High School. This was a great chance for students to showcase their talents, skills, and abilities.

Photo Credits: Mrs. Wellspeak



Finding a Solution for Teachers and the Town

by Julia Acquavita 2018

This past month, the controversial topic of teacher contracts has been making its way into various conversations among residents of Cheshire. I know what you may be thinking: What exactly are teacher contracts? Essentially, these types of contracts can be defined as contracts between teachers and school districts. This law includes the concepts of offer, acceptance, mutual assent, and consideration. For a teacher to determine whether a contract exists, he or she should consult authority on the general law of contracts. However, the school board must ratify these contracts before they can be put in place. Even if a school administration offers a teacher a job and the teacher accepts this offer, many state laws require that the school board must ratify the contract before it becomes binding. Thus, even if a principal of a school district informs a prospective teacher that the teacher has been hired, the contract is not final until the school district accepts or ratifies the contract. The same is also true if a school district fails to follow proper procedures when determining whether to ratify a contract.

How does this relate to Cheshire? Recently, the teachers and the school board of Cheshire had come to an agreement regarding the teacher contracts. The next step was to have the town council approve of the agreements made by the teachers and the school board. However, a bump in the road was hit, to say the least; the town



council did not ratify the contracts, setting everything accomplished a step backward. According to Mr. Redford, a math teacher here at Cheshire High School and President of the teacher's union, the town hired an arbitrator to help bring both the teachers, Board of Education, and Town Council to an appropriate agreement. Mr. Redford described the recent process of coming to a final conclusion for these contracts as "complicated and time consuming."

Based on the past information I have acquired, I agree with Mr. Redford that this process must be very complex and stressful. After all, imagine how hard it must be to convince everyone to agree on one final contract. Recently, the arbitrator ruled in favor of the Town of Cheshire against teachers meaning that many teachers will not see the yearly pay raises they normally receive. However, the town is scheduled to save \$857,000 over the next four years.



International and Local: Women's Day is Now More Important Than Ever

by Jordan Nann 2018

March 8th, 2017 was International Women's Day, a day to celebrate powerful and influential women across the globe. I believe this is a great time to talk about the power of feminism here and abroad, and how both are necessary. Seneca Ellis, a junior at Cheshire High School, agrees stating that, "It [IWD] encourages young girls and boys to reflect upon all the influential women in their lives and shows girls that they are powerful and important."

Many argue that in modern America we do not need feminism or events that celebrate women, such as International Women's Day. However, this neglects the fact that there are still inherent problems with the way our society treats women. Earlier this year in our town, there was a youth harassing women and grabbing them. There are still 1 in every 6 women who will be the victim of attempted or completed rape according to RAINN, the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization. Regarding men and sexual assault, according to RAINN, 1 in every 33 men will be sexually assaulted as well. And this number only rises in



minority areas. Trans women and women of color are far more likely to be harassed and assaulted in their life. Simply, sexual violence and assault is a major issue in modern America, and impacts women harshly. I believe it must be dealt with in order to stop such degrading acts to both men and women. If you want to learn more about this relevant topic in society, be sure to go to RAINN's website, found at <https://www.rainn.org/>, to learn more about how sexual assault is an issue that must be dealt with.



100 Days Later: The Trump Administration

by Annie Wang 2018

Students across Cheshire High School shared their thoughts on the new and highly controversial Trump administration as we power through the first 100 days. Here is what they had to say.

What do you think of the first 100 days of the new presidential administration so far?

Michael Kosover (Unaffiliated/Conservative), 2018: "I am disappointed with the environmental policies that Trump is enacting. I am pro-EPA."

Jessica Tan (Moderate/Democrat), 2018: "I feel angry by Trump's administration. His cabinet is unqualified and unrepresentative of our nation. He also seems to have no sense of how the government is actually supposed to operate, dismissing the court's ruling on the ban on Muslims. I am angry that his administration is unqualified and unprepared to serve us. I'm angry that he himself is in every way unqualified."

Rebecca Hyman (Democrat),

2017: "Very disappointed. His speech to Congress was very scripted which made me think that he may be turning over a leaf but he has quoted a lot of false information. I see him trying to make a change but I am still frustrated with his actions."

Moreira Salsman (Republican), 2019: "The mainstream media has no intention of being a friend to the president, but it seems clear that they recognize, on some level, that a significant portion of the public no longer trust their analysis or presentation of the facts. As we witnessed in the speech this week to the joint session of Congress, a great number of people that were part of his original constituency have come to appreciate and accept his leadership."

Natalie Roach (Democrat), 2017: "The speech he delivered to Congress was hopeful. But the way he has been continuing so far has not been working. If he has actions to follow his speech that would be great but so far he has done enough damage."

Matthew Siegel (Republican),



2018: "I am disappointed. I think there are good intentions behind some of his actions but they are not executed well. I am also worried about the rise in antisemitism and racism and how the administration does not want to do anything about it or renounce it."

Sophia Cheng (Unaffiliated), 2018: "I feel indifferent about President Trump so far. I remain optimistic about how he will shape our nation."

Mara Tu (Democrat), 2017: "While it isn't surprising, this first month has been incredibly disappointing. A lot of his decisions and actions made since the inauguration haven't been in favor of most Americans, and I think everything is very tense, since we don't really know what else to expect. Even with the election over, it's still important to think about what's best for America and to get opinions out."

Thomas Bonitz (Unaffiliated), 2020: "Trump is a childish Russian spy."

Sean Roach (Moderate/Liberal), 2018: "Many people are believing his

lies which is causing him to gain more support. His war with the press is also very concerning because he is banning certain news outlets because they ask him tough questions."

Maggie Shugrue (Republican), 2018: "After the mishaps and, frankly, less than satisfactory turnout of President Trump's cabinet, appointees, and Russian relations, I am still hopeful his administration and the Republican party can find their bearings. Bipartisan efforts are key at this point for the entire government to be successful."

Rachel McCaffrey (Democrat), 2017: "I think what is most shocking is how successful his administration has been in silencing the opposition, especially media sources who are critical of his policies."

Yingpeng Tao (Unaffiliated), 2020: "Donald Trump's ideas are surprisingly exceeding, even after the fact that Mexican companies are willing to help supply materials for his wall implementation."



Where are the Bees?

by Seneca Ellis 2018

There is no doubt that the bees are dying, but is it really such a big deal? The answer is yes. Bees are responsible for one-third of the food we eat. They pollinate crops, which is necessary to the crop’s survival. Without these crops cattle would also have less food, substantially affecting the meat and dairy industry. Another common crop pollinated by bees is oilseed, which is necessary for the creation of both oil and cotton. So yes, bees perishing is a major issue. But what can we do about it? The number of honeybees in the United States has been decreasing by 30% each year since 2006. About 10 million beehives have died off since then. Scientists believe the biggest cause of this rapid loss is pesticides, specifically neonicotinoids, also called neonics. Neonics are the most popular among the used pesticides because they are the safest for humans and animals, but the deadliest to insects. However these neonics have taken a serious toll on bees by scrambling their sense of direction and causing poor nutrition. Other countries in Europe have started banning pesticides that are most dangerous to bees. It is important that the United States follows this example and takes steps to ensure



the safety of our bees. But this will not happen unless people speak up. Write to your senators encouraging them to support legislation protecting the bees. The Environmental Protection Agency is also in jeopardy, so we must show our support for them. However some actions can be taken locally. Planting bee friendly flowers can promote the wellbeing of bees, as well as their growth and development. You can join Cheshire High School Junior, Jordan Nann, in sending letters to local government buildings asking them to use bee-friendly plants. Jordan Nann stated, “it is absolutely vital on a local level that everyone tries to stop killing bees by encouraging towns, schools, and businesses not to use deadly pesticides and plant bee-friendly plants.” There is so much that can be done to help save these important creatures.



Spring Recipes

by Jess Tan 2018

Spinach and Strawberry Salad:

Ingredients

- 2 bunches of spinach
- 4 cups of sliced strawberries
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- ¼ cup white wine vinegar
- ½ cup white sugar
- ¼ tsp paprika
- 2 tbsp sesame seeds

Instructions

Toss together spinach and strawberries. Whisk all of the other ingredients together in a separate bowl. Toss the salad with the dressing to coat. recipe courtesy of allrecipes



Lemon Poppy Seed Donuts:

Ingredients

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ¼ tsp baking soda
- 1 tbsp poppy seeds
- ½ tsp salt
- 2 tbsp unsalted butter, melted
- 1 large egg
- ⅓ cup granulated sugar
- ¼ cup milk
- ⅓ cup sour cream

GOP HealthCare Plan 2017

by Jess Tan 2018

After many attempts by the Republicans to repeal and replace Obamacare, or the Affordable Care Act, Republicans finally have the opportunity to do so under the election of President Trump and Republican majorities in both houses of Congress. The GOP released its bill for the replacement of the American Health Care Act, which is being called the American Health Care Act, on March 6th. It seems to be a partial repeal of Obamacare, presenting several drastic changes to the law while keeping the general framework set up under the Affordable Care Act.

The biggest changes under the new health-care plan will be experienced by those with very low incomes and those who are buying insurance but cannot get it through an employer (non-group coverage). The GOP plan proposes a freezing of expansion of funds to anyone earning less than 138% of the poverty line (around \$16,000 per individual) by 2019. This would cause most people who are receiving Medicaid to lose coverage within a few years of 2019. With regards to those who cannot get insurance through their employers, the GOP will be allowing



insurers to sell different kinds of plan and provide subsidies based on age. This could lead to younger and healthier people being offered cheaper plans while older people living in rural areas may be offered more expensive plans. Other major changes include cutting federal funding for health services at Planned Parenthood clinics for a year and cutting funding for public health programs.

President Trump says he “100 percent” supports the GOP’s plan and warned his fellow Republicans that their seats and Republican majority would be in danger in 2018 if they failed to pass the bill. If the bill passes the House, it could still be rejected if three Republican senators cast a vote against it. The vote will take place on Thursday.



- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tbsp lemon zest
- Lemon Glaze
- 2 tbsp unsalted butter, melted
- 1 cup confectioners’ sugar
- 1-2 tbsp milk
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- ½ tsp pure vanilla extract

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350°C and spray donut pan with non-stick spray. Whisk together flour, baking powder, baking soda, poppy seeds, and salt in a bowl. Whisk melted butter, egg, sugar, milk, sour cream, vanilla, lemon juice, and zest until completely combined. Pour the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and mix until just combined. Spoon batter into donut cavities and bake for 9-10 minutes. Dip each donut in glaze and set on a wire rack.



recipe courtesy of Sally’s Baking Addiction



Relay for
HOPE

Join us to save lives from cancer.
RelayForLife.org



Relay For Life of Cheshire

May 20, 2017
11:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

RelayForLife.org/Cheshirect
1.800.227.2345

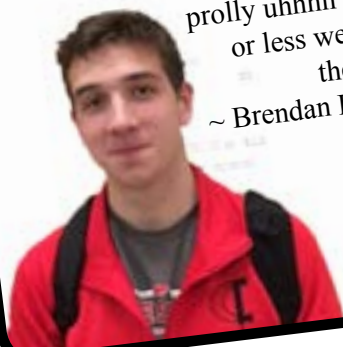
The American Cancer Society Relay For Life is the world’s largest fundraising event to save lives from cancer. Uniting communities across the globe, we celebrate people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and take action for lifesaving change.

Quotable Quotes

What is your favorite thing about prom season?



"uhhh the ...
prolly uhhhh more
or less wearing
the tux"
~ Brendan Hogan
2017



"The drama"
~ Adrian Nawrocki
2017



"The food at
prom"
~ Hunter Williams
2017



"Promposals I guess"
~ Mengyi Sun
2018



"The dress shopping"
~ Julia Marcouiller
2017



"The hair"
~ Gabby Messeder
2017



"The pictures."
~ Katie Tomko 2017



"School Spirit"
~ The Ram
1957



"Finding the right car
and party"
~ Drew Riccitelli
2018



"Being on the
prom committee"
~ Matt Siegel
2018



"After Prom"
~ Brian Weyrauch
2017



"Looking classy"
~ Anders Norback
2017



"Suspenders. I love sus-
penders."
~ Billy McKinley
2017



"The after-
parties are the
best part"
~ James Giusti
2017



"Wondering what ev-
eryone is going to look
like."
~ Rachel Esposito
2017



"Getting ready
because you can't
wear a dress like
this any other
time."
~ Sarah Clark
2017



"The hype"
~ Megyn Jasman
2017



"Picking out the dress"
~ Isabella Purpora
2018



"I think it is very nice
getting the class together
and sentimental for
memory sake."
~ Jill Neiswanger
2017



"Taking pictures
with James and
other people"
~ Jensen Bassett
2017

