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Cheshire High School Welcomes New Principal

By Sarah Salvati 2017

This school year Cheshire High School gained a new addition to its family: Dr. Mary Gadd. Dr. Gadd has taken over the position of principal, which was previously held by Jeff Solan; Solan is now the Superintendent of Cheshire Public Schools. She has already become a vital presence in the CHS community, but we are still left with the question: who is Dr. Gadd as a person?

Gadd is quite possibly the most passionate principal this school has ever had. Her kind-hearted nature and bubbly personality can pull anyone into a conversation. She enjoys gardening, reading and poetry. Her favorite writers include, but are not limited to, Hawthorn, Dickinson and Coleridge. In addition, as a high school student she was heavily involved in the music program as a vocalist and cellist. Through this

background Gadd participated in many school musicals. Before she became a teacher, Gadd was a paralegal in New York. However, the desire to teach was constantly present in her life, so she switched career paths and became an English teacher at Miss Porter's School for eight years, in Farmington, where she still lives today. Gadd was principal of Granby High School for three years, before joining our community.

At CHS, Gadd loves how much student leadership is present, through student lead clubs, assemblies, and community service (such as the Safe School Climate Committee's leaf raking day.) What also drew her to CHS was how dedicated the different departments were to their students. Gadd raved about how teachers here push their students to understand the material- not just memorize it. Gadd wants to support the independence of students



as much as possible and really get to know each and every one. Next time you see her in the halls, stop to introduce yourself and say hello!



New Assistant Principal Is Shaping Up to Be a Perfect Fit

By Gabby Messeder 2017

Mr. Daniel Tartarelli, the new Assistant Principal for Cheshire High School, has proven that he is going to fit in seamlessly. He knows Cheshire inside and out; he's planning to get involved in school clubs and activities, and he's excited to get to know all of the students. What more could we ask for?

Before he joined the CHS staff, Mr. Tartarelli worked for Farmington High School; however, he's always been a part of the Cheshire community. As a trainer of fifteen years at Physique Plus on Highland Avenue, he spent plenty of time getting to know the local businesses and the community. He fell in love with the small town, and said, "When I saw the posting for the open position here at Cheshire



High, I thought it would be perfect. I decided to apply and see what happened, and luckily everything worked out great." And now that he's here, Mr. Tartarelli is ready to jump into school activities. He already has plans to take over previous assistant principal, Mr. Sansoucy's, Safe School Climate Committee, to ensure that everyone at school feels safe and welcomed. He's also excited to support the sports teams here, which will not

only give him a taste of how our teams play, but also give him an opportunity to connect with students and get involved with the school.

Mr. Tartarelli has some big shoes to fill, but it's obvious he loves his job. Not only does he love being an Assistant Principal, but he says, "I've never felt like I've made a wrong career choice." He is right where he wants to be: among the students and staff of Cheshire High School.

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Cheshire High School Welcomes New Faculty

Ms. Ocone

By Tara Sbordne

2020

Ms. Ocone is a new English teacher at Cheshire High School. She graduated CHS and attended The Honors College at Southern Connecticut State University and took graduate courses at SCSU and the University of Hartford. When she attended CHS she was a part of the girls soccer team, peer tutors, student government, and diversity club. In her classroom she would like to incorporate technology more by having her students engaged in digitally interactive activities. She would describe her teaching method as being a "half demonstrator and half facilitator." Ocone wants to model good thinking and writing and then coach her students as they attempt both. The reason she applied for the position at CHS was because her father, sister (a French teacher here) and brother are all CHS graduates, and now one of her sons is attending CHS.



Ms. O'Neill

By Jenna Smith

2020

Cheshire High School welcomes Elizabeth O'Neill as one of our new teachers in the Technology Education Department.

Q: What is your Educational Background?

A: Bachelor's Degree in Science and Exercise Science and a Master's of Education and Physical Education from Texas State University.

Q: List five adjectives that describe yourself

A: Humorous, driven, flexible, competitive, and caring.

Q: Describe your teaching style

A: Facilitator.

Q: To what teams and/or clubs did you belong as a student?

A: Teams: Volleyball, Basketball, Track, Softball and Swimming

Mr. Carpino

By Juliana Petronio

2020

Mr. John Carpino arrived at Cheshire High School for the first time this year and he has already found a family and home within the CHS community. From the minute students met him, they knew he'd be a great teacher, role model and friend. The Rampage asked Mr. Carpino to introduce himself to our community.

Q: What is your educational background?

A: I got my undergrad at Quinnipiac University and earned my Master's for teaching in History. I then went to Central Connecticut State University, helping me get my job in Special Education.

Q: List four adjectives that describe yourself.

A: I would say that I am easygoing, reasonable, and easy to work with. I am also a fairly happy person.

Q: Describe your teaching style.

A: My class is, I guess what you would

Q: What interests do you pursue outside of the classroom?

A: Technology, Home repair, my two children, Rose and Melissa, games and barbecuing.

Q: How do you motivate your students to become active listeners in your classroom?

A: I like to model the behavior and eliminate barriers to learning.

Q: What plans do you have for the integration of technology in your own classroom?

A: I am rearranging the classroom to allow more students to participate and keep up to date with latest trends.

Q: What do you think is the greatest challenge facing students today?

A: Making the right decisions to set them up for the future, college, tech school, student loans, etc.

call, student centered. I make sure I keep my students interests in mind for my lessons and I am flexible.

Q: What teams did you belong to as a student?

A: I played basketball in high school.

Q: What interests do you pursue outside of the classroom?

A: I love fishing and spending time with my family.

Q: How do you motivate your students to become active learners in your classroom?

A: I think that the best way to motivate students is to connect with them. I think that my students and I have a good respect for one another, and it creates a good environment for everyone.

Q: What plans do you have for the integration for technology in your own classroom?

A: I use the SmartBoard, however I allow the students to present in any way. I want them to use resources that they already understand how to use.

Q: What do you think is the greatest

Ms. Manning

By Samantha Hines

2019

Miss Melissa Manning is a new English teacher at Cheshire High School. Before applying here, she was a student at Albertus Magnus College. There, she received her Master's Degree in Education and her Bachelor's Degree in English. She also went to the University of New Haven for a short amount of time. Miss Manning describes herself as outgoing, caring, funny, understanding, and humble. She says her teaching style is very flexible, and she puts the needs of her learners first. She also expressed that she is very welcoming to different perspectives in the classroom.

When she was in high school, she was quite the athlete; she played on the volleyball team, basketball team, and softball team. She was also a part of the photography club. She explained that she still today loves to play softball and volleyball outside of work. When asked about her teaching style, she said that she motivates her students through self-reflection and goal setting on activities in and out of the classroom. Also, she feels



that when you encourage your students, you often are able to draw more effort out of them and get their best work.

As for technology in her classroom, she said right now she uses Google Drive and Google Classroom with her students, however she likes to have a nice balance between paper and technology, so that students still have the necessary writing skills. Manning thinks the greatest challenge facing students today is the pressure that teachers and schools put on their students to achieve. Students, according to her, are more concerned about their grade rather than actually learning the material, which should be more important, but isn't as emphasized. Miss Manning went on to explain that her graduate school was what brought her to Cheshire High School. As a new teacher she works long hours and said that her favorite morning beverage from Dunkin' Donuts is a coffee light and sweet.



Q: What brought you to Cheshire High School?

A: The opportunity to work at an exceptional school.

Q: What is your favorite morning beverage from Dunkin Donuts?

A: Hazelnut coffee!



challenge facing students today?

A: I think that it's important to get my students to understand that this is a valuable step to getting where they want to go and what they want to do.

Q: What brought you to Cheshire High school?

A: I always thought that Cheshire was a nice community and I grew up not far from here.

Ms. Orsi

By Brianna Colins and Meredith Carson 2020

Christina Orsi is a new guidance counselor at CHS. She has a Bachelor's Degree from UCONN, and a Master's Degree from Southern Connecticut State University. She motivates students by helping them understand their weaknesses and strengths, and by developing their confidence. Orsi describes herself as compassionate, fun, curious, kind, and caring. Outside of the classroom, she enjoys reading and playing with her pets. As a student, she played softball and volleyball, and also was in the Italian Club. She believes the greatest challenge to students is the pressure to take advanced classes, maintain their grades, and manage stress. Orsi came to CHS because she had an internship here, and enjoyed her experience. Her favorite morning beverage from Dunkin' Donuts is a caramel latte.



Ms. Alves

By *Meredith Carson*

2020

Ashley Alves is a new Science teacher at CHS, whose educational background consists of a Bachelor's Degree from Southern Connecticut State University, and a Master's from the University of Bridgeport in Secondary Science Education. She describes herself as energetic, passionate, a planner, and serious. As a student, Alves participated in many clubs and sports, such as softball and the National Honor Society; and believes that the greatest challenge for students is disconnecting from social media in school. She tries to do hands-on projects, and uses notes to help develop understanding. She really likes having students use chromebooks



in her classroom. Alves came to CHS because she wished to be part of the community. She enjoys spending time with family, kayaking, and her favorite morning beverage is the Strawberry Coolatta from Dunkin' Donuts.



Ms. Catucci

By *Brianna Collins*

2020

Michelle Catucci is the new department leader of School Counseling. She attended Villanova University to get her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, also attended Chatham University to get her Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology/School Counseling, and Southern Connecticut State University for her 6th Year in Educational Leadership. She was president of her class in student council, and some clubs she participated in were peer helpers, musicals/singing groups, lacrosse, and overall participated in a lot of school events in high school. Ms. Catucci likes to encourage students to be active in their learning by pursuing things that they are passionate about, like taking classes and being part of clubs and activities. She came to CHS because she has always respected Cheshire Public



Schools, and when a leadership opportunity opened she wanted to take a chance, and is now thrilled to be part of our community.



Ms. Elliot

By *Rachel Diglio*

2020

Rebecca Elliott is one of Cheshire High School's new Special Education teachers. She went to UCONN as an undergraduate and the University of Saint Joseph, to get her Master's. She said the most rewarding aspect of college was that she was able to study content that she was very interested in and motivated to learn. Elliott's teaching style would be described as reflective/adoptive, because her personal

teaching style is wholly dependent upon the content that her students need to learn. She was a very active high school student and was involved in swimming, tennis, key club, drama club, TRI-M club, music honor society, and entrepreneur club. Outside of the classroom, she likes spending time with her family, including her 3 daughters. She has twin girls who are 3 years old, and another girl who is 6. They love to go on day trips and seek new adventures!

She motivates her students to become active learners in the classroom by making them laugh. She also engages the students in learning by jokingly humiliating herself. She noticed that this helps the children take risks, and helps children realize that it is perfectly fine to make mistakes. Elliott likes to show everyone how much she values learning and how important it is for your everyday life. Some of the plans she has for the integration of

technology, is that she just started using Google Classroom this year. She thinks the greatest challenge facing students today is balancing all of the pressure, school expectations, and extra-curricular activities while still taking the time to enjoy life as "care-free" young adults. She also loves everything about Cheshire High School including the students, teachers, and faculty.



Club Spotlight: Operation Smile

By *Jessica Tan*

2018



Courtesy Google Images

Every three minutes, a child with a cleft lip is born. Billions of these children cannot afford safe and well-timed surgical treatment. Cheshire High School's latest club, Operation Smile, is on a mission to offer cleft-lipped children around the world with a cure. You can be a part of this mission.

Started by Erin Wu, 2019, and Emily Trocchi, 2019, Operation

Smile has already kicked off its fundraising efforts. The members have already held a bake sale at Stop and Shop, raising hundreds of dollars for the organization.

"People should join because if there's an easy way to make a huge difference in so many people's lives, there's no excuse to not do it. Cleft palate/lip is not common in industrialized countries, but

it's a large issue in developing countries because fixing it is unaffordable. We want to help make it affordable for these countries," says Tess McConnell, 2019, a member of the club.

It's never too late to join. The club meets every other Wednesday in the Guidance Seminar Room at 2:00 pm. The next meeting will be held on November 23rd.



College Spotlight: Duquesne University

By Shivani Padhi

2018

A college representative from Duquesne University visited Cheshire High School. Duquesne University is one of the top rated private Catholic University located in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. Duquesne University is placed along the Monongahela river within the Pittsburgh metropolitan area. Across the river, there are many vintage stores including fashion antiques and thrift shops. Since 1878, Duquesne University has expanded to over ten thousand undergraduates and 49 acres. Duquesne University is a compilation of several institutes that offer several academic programs.

Student Life

Duquesne University offers more than 150 student organization. In addition to student organizations, the greek life is Duquesne University is vast and very welcoming. Duquesne University 19 fraternities such as Alpha Delta, Alpha Delta Gamma and Delta Chi. At Duquesne University, the students and staff are dedicated to their peers and students. Duquesne University promotes staying healthy, getting along with others, good living arrangements, enhancing leadership skills and prepare for the future. A helping hand is always available in the campus of Duquesne.

Athletics

Duquesne University plays in division one sports. The Duquesne Dukes play varsity football, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's soccer, women's swimming, men's and women's tennis, men's and women's outdoor track and field, women's indoor track and field, women's lacrosse, women's rowing, and women's volleyball.



Eligibility

Thinking to apply to this wonderful University? Duquesne University is mostly interested in students who are well rounded. Well rounded students consist of good academics and students who actively participate in their high schools by participating in clubs and sports. Duquesne University is culturally diverse meaning the university has a variety of culture and ethnic societies. In order for an applicant to successfully apply, they must have at least 3.0 grade point average (gpa). On the SAT, applicants need to get at least 1240 (no essay required). Similarity on the ACT, applicants need to get to at least a 27. Duquesne University, while looking applicant's application, will superscore the scores and will roundup. In addition, Duquesne University does not apply an application fee on their incoming applicants. At last, applicants also need to hand in one letter recommendation.

Camps Setting

Duquesne University is an excellent college due to its fantastic resources and many leadership and internship opportunities. The American Eagle (AE) headquarters is located in Pittsburg across Duquesne University. AE incorporations offers summer internships with stipend

for students in college, working towards a 4 year degree. According to Americanagleoutfitters.com, the internships act as a supplement to students education; an AE incorporation internship offers students with the opportunity to work for ten weeks in the fast paced retail environment.

Duquesne University, an institute with high virtue and a belief in high educa-

tion quality is a great University. One of the biggest goals on Duquesne University is to direct their students toward a successful career path, from choosing the right major to assisting with resume writing to conducting mock interviews. In addition to leading to a successful college life, Duquesne University has a network of support services which is available for students to utilize. 🌐

Upcoming Scholarships

By Shivani Padhi

2018

American Association of Physics Teachers

Eligibility: High school students and college students planning to major in physics
<http://www.aapt.org/programs/grants/lotze.cfm>

Application Deadline: December 1, 2016

Big Y Foods

Eligibility: A student's permanent residence or school must be located within Western MA, Central MA, Norfolk County, MA, or the state of Connecticut

BIG Y employees are also eligible to apply

Application Deadline: February 1, 2017

The Elks National Foundation "Most Valuable Student Scholarship"

Recipients are selected on the basis of scholarship, leadership, and financial need

Must be a US citizen

Application Deadline: November 30, 2016

GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship Program

High school seniors who demonstrate exceptional leadership, drive, integrity,

strong academic performance, and citizenship

reaganfoundation.org/scholarships

Application Deadline: January 5, 2017

The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)

Young Entrepreneur Award

www.NFI.com/YEA

Apply online between October 1, 2016-December 8, 2016

National Genealogical Society

Applicants must submit an appropriately prepared genealogy

http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/rubincam_youth_award/nomination_form

Application Deadline: December 15, 2016

Parentinn

All participants will have to research and submit 600-1,000 words on the topic "Why and How to Stop Cyberbullying".

Must be US citizens

<http://www.parentinn.com/scholarship>

Application Deadline: February 28, 2017

The Ronald McDonald House Charities Scholarship Program

<http://www.rmhc.org/>

Application Deadline: January 17, 2016

A perspective on homeschooling vs traditional schooling

By Shivani Padhi

2018

Over the last decade or so, homeschooling has shown a significant increase. According to eanews.org, over the last 12 years, homeschooling has increased by 34 percent and it is starting to become a top choice among many families. Many factors have affected this increase including school pressure and peer pressure. So what is homeschooling? Homeschooling is a type of education where the parent or guardian's teach their child or "student." Over the last decade or so, many families have considered homeschooling over public schooling. Homeschooling comes with many benefits, such as providing students with a custom curriculum. In public schools, all students have to follow a specific curriculum made by core subject departments. Many students have trouble learning and keeping up with the course materials in school which eventually cascades to bad grades. However, in homeschooling, curriculum can be made by parents to better fit their student's learning style and skill level. In homeschooling, making curriculums can be very expensive because study materials, tests, quizzes and textbooks need to be purchased to teach students. On an average, homeschooling can cost families nine hundred dollars per students every year.

What are you missing out on?

There are many demerits in not attending a public school. One of the biggest factors is missing out on a social life and seeing friends. Elementary, middle and high school students are surrounded by friends. When being homeschooled, students do not get to see their friends every day which leads to a slight detachment. In addition to missing your friends, homeschooling also hinders students in becoming well rounded. Many public schools offer thousands of clubs and curricular activities that students can take part in. Students in public schools are also given a chance to make their own clubs if they want. Public schools also have sports. School sport teams are great because they consist of long engaging bus rides, crazy spirit and delicious pasta parties. Colleges love seeing well rounded students who are academically well off and active in school. Public schools are a great place to build the college resume by getting involved in clubs, sports or community work. By homeschooling, students can't join clubs or do sports. Homeschooling students miss out on many of the adventurous experiences of high school and miss out the fun.

Homeschooling reduces pressure and discipline



VS



many students due to the heavy load of homework, tests, and projects. Students are constantly worried about the grades and grade point average (GPA). In public school, competition among students leads to much of the stress; however in homeschooling, the overarching school pressure is much less due to no competition and the comfort of being in your own home.

Besides the reduction of school pressure, homeschooling also reduces discipline. In public school, students and school staff must follow the school rules or else the consequences can lead to detention or sometimes school suspensions. However being homeschooled is different; parents can have a hard time becoming "teachers" and keeping their "student" discipline. In addition, many parents who decide on

balance between job and teaching can be very tedious for many parents and can also lead to improperly controlling their "student." In addition to bad time management, many parents also lose patience teaching their own child. A loss of patience is very ineffective for the students and their studies. Ineffective homeschooling can lead to inadequate education which will hinder a student's college and job life. Ultimately, in the end, all choices are excellent. Students, depending on their learning styles, should pick their school style and choice. Public schooling is more restricted and controlled, while homeschooling is more accommodating and student centered.



Message From the Sports Editor: Successful Season for Fall Sports Teams



SPORTS EDITOR

by Mike Lewis 2019

The fall of 2016 will end as one of Cheshire's more successful athletic seasons in recent years.

Despite early exits for most teams in the state playoffs, the Rams had major success this season in most sports. In the sports that hold a tournament (boys/girls soccer, field hockey, girls volleyball), Cheshire qualified for the Class LL

and SCC tournament in all of them. This did not happen last year, as the varsity girls soccer team missed out on playing in the SCC tournament.

However, the tables were flipped this year. Not only did the girls soccer team qualify, they fought through the tournament with dramatic win after dramatic win, eventually defeating the number one seeded Daniel Hand Tigers by means of a penalty shootout in the SCC championship. This gave

Cheshire their first girls soccer SCC championship since 2011.

The other fall sports teams also had success. Girls cross country won the SCC championship for the first time since 2009, and girls swimming won their fifth straight championship meet at SCSU.

To all seniors that have played their last game in Rams colors, good luck moving forward!



108 Year Curse Finally Over

by Kyle Leff 2018

The date is November 3rd, at 12:54 am EST. Game seven of the World Series is in the 10th inning. Cubs first baseman Anthony Rizzo has just caught the throw from teammate Kris Bryant to ruin Cleveland's Michael Martinez's chances of reaching first base safely. Rizzo jumps off the first base bag with glee, celebrating the fact that the Chicago Cubs had just won their first World Series since 1908.

The Cubs shocking win was fueled by the youngest starting lineup of players ever fielded by a Major League club in a World Series game. This includes 24 year old superstar third baseman Kris Bryant, 23 year old designated hitter Kyle Schwarber and 22 year old superstar shortstop Addison Russell.

The thrilling seven-game series

between the Chicago Cubs and the Cleveland Indians was one of the most interesting matchups we could've had in the World Series.

The Cubs entered looking to end their 108 year World Series drought while the Indians looked to end theirs at 68 years. These were the two longest active championship droughts in the MLB.

This World Series means not only a lot for the Cubs organization, but for the city of Chicago. Citizens from the northern side of Chicago would attend Cubs games just to go to a baseball game and expecting nothing from the Cubs. They were perennial losers, so why should you expect them to make it to September with a chance at glory, let alone November?

But they did it. The Cubbies won the Windy City a ring in dramatic fashion. They gave north siders

something to be proud of for the first time in 108 years.

The embodiment of these fans lives in the area known as Wrigleyville, the neighborhood surrounding Wrigley Field (the Cubs ballpark). After the final out was made at nearly 12am CST, thousands of Cubs fans jumped up and down with jubilation in the streets of Wrigleyville to celebrate together.

This is what the Cubs were playing for. Not just for the team's pride of winning, but for a whole cities pride of winning the World Series.

For any more information on the World Series and the sport of baseball, please check out <http://www.espn.com/mlb/> or email Rampage News Writer Kyle Leff at kleff@cheshire.k12.ct.us



Football Team Stifling Opponents in 2016

By Mike Lewis 2019

Entering 2016, the Cheshire Rams football team was not expected to do well. In Gametime CT's preseason SCC Tier 1 poll, they were projected to come in last. But here we are, into the last game of the regular season, as the Rams stand at 6-3.

"Knowing that almost everyone in the state thought that we would be 2-8 to start, the year is awesome now that we're 4-1. We're just going to keep going and playing the best that we can," said Ethan Bronson, 2018, following the Rams week five win against Xavier.

That game against the Falcons could be in consideration for SCC game of the year come December, as Cheshire pulled out a dramatic 26-24 win in front of a crowd of

nearly 1,500 at Alumni Field. After the Rams fell into a 14-0 deficit early, they bounced back to take the lead by halftime. With a mere minute to go, Xavier scored the go ahead touchdown, seeming to dash Cheshire's hopes of a 4-1 start. However, a long pass by Will Graikoski, 2018, to Eric Angelone, 2018, set up Bronson for the game-winning 38-yard field goal.

Not all wins this season were that close. After another dramatic win to open the season at North Haven, the Rams posted two blowout wins over Amity and Sheehan. They won by an average of 30 points between those two weeks. After a huge game against Sheehan, Elijah Allston, 2019, described how the team was feeling after three games.

"It feels great," said Allston, who had three touchdowns in the Rams'

home opener. "We're just going to attack the rest of our games as hard as possible."

However, one week after the home opener, Cheshire hit a bump in the road down in West Haven. The Blue Devils ran all over the Rams with a 41-14 win. They bounced back though with the previously described Xavier win a week following, entering the midway point ranked #7 in Class LL.

A few weeks back, Cheshire returned home once again to host Fairfield Prep in yet another pivotal game. Behind the support of Ramland's rowdy support, the defense held tough, shutting out the Jesuits 10-0. The Cheshire defense provided four fourth down stops, forced two fumbles, and had one interception. After the win, quarterback Jack Raba, 2018, described the im-

pact the students have on the game.

"Ramland is the best student section in the state. They always get us going, even if we're a little down," said Raba, who threw for a touchdown in his return from a week four injury. "It's tough for opposing teams to come in here with a student section like ours. It's definitely nice to have."

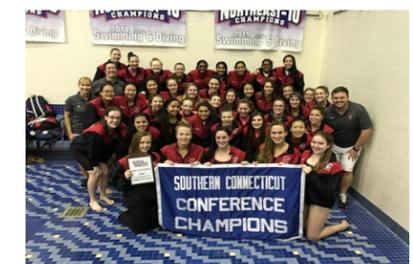
If Cheshire wants a chance to make the Class LL tournament for the first time since 2009, they'll need to win at Southington on Thanksgiving morning. Therefore, be sure to come out for the 10am kickoff, and cheer on your Rams!



Girls Cross Country
Photo courtesy of SCC website



Girls Soccer
Photo courtesy of The Cheshire Herald



Girls Swimming
Photo courtesy of SCC website



From the Arts & Reviews Editor

ARTS & REVIEWS EDITOR

by Simran Kaur 2018

For all the students who love to see a good show, CHS Drama Club kicked off the year with the play, "Radium Girls." Ms. Chorney, the director, was planning on doing this play for a while; however, she didn't know when was the right time.

This show is based off on the real story of female factory workers in the 1920's who develop radium poisoning while working in a radium factory. Their job was to paint the dials on the watch, but in order to keep the brush pointed when they painted, they licked the brush with every stroke. In the 1920's, it was thought that radium was a cure for everything until these girls figure out otherwise. Little did they know that they contracted one of the most deadly diseases.

The story goes through the struggles of Grace Fryer, played by Katie Ardesia, 2017, who is one of the factory workers who figures out, along with her friends that she contracted radium poisoning. Follow Grace and her friends as she tries to sue her boss, Arthur Roeder, played by Thomas Mueller, 2018, for getting away with the girls contracting radium poisoning in his factory. However, the clock is ticking for these girls.

Senior Spotlight: Mike Stearns

STAFF WRITER

by Simran Kaur 2018

Mike Stearns, class of 2017, plays the role of Edward Markley in this year's play, Radium Girls. Markley is the company's deceitful and clever lawyer who works very hard to keep the girls who contracted the disease quiet.

This is Stearns first year acting in the play; however, he was involved with the musical. In his free time, he enjoys making and listening to music. In addition, he is the president of the choral department in which he devotes a much of his time. His plans after high school are to pursue music in a band.

Q: What do you like about being in this play?

A: I have been digging the story and everything, and the plot is pretty great. Also I really love all the characters and it feels like an ensemble and doesn't feel so individual. Like it doesn't seem like Grace and Roeder are leads, everybody seems to

play a really big part in constructing the story line.

Q: What will you miss about the show?

A: I'm going to really miss the people and all the interactions. We are all like a close knit family, you know, at the end of the day "we are all in this together" as cheesy as that is. But it's a big family and it's great to know there are people that going to be hard to lose.

Q: What suddenly caused you to audition for the play?

A: Is it bad to say peer pressure? I don't know. It's funny because I haven't done any the plays. At all. Like in three years. So this is the first time I'm acting in the play because I have been involved in the technical parts of the show but I wanted to see what it's like to be on stage.

Q: What is the best part of being in theater?

A: I love becoming someone else; it's like a new persona. Everybody



is so different. So it's nice to have a chance to not be so restricted to who you are and lets you become someone else.

Q: How do you think theater will help you after high school?

A: I think theater is a good jumping off point for being more open, and like I said before, when you become somebody else your personality becomes bigger and better. You feel more comfortable with certain situations and people.

Senior Spotlight: Katie Ardesia

STAFF WRITER

by Abby Dziura 2020

Katie Ardesia played the lead role of Grace, a factory worker who ends up with a terrible disease from working. Grace is a follower at first, but through a series of vignette-style scenes, she becomes more of a leader.

Katie has participated in theater since age 5. When she was younger, she had been a part of many ballet shows, which got her more interested in plays and musicals. Previous performances include "The Wizard of Oz", "Guys and Dolls", "Alice in Wonderland", "Aladdin, Fiddler on the Roof", "Aida", "Nice Work if You Can Get It", "The Ash Girl", "Much Ado About Nothing", and "Mary Poppins."

Q: Could you tell me a little bit about the show this year?

A: The play follows the story of a few dial painters who worked in a factory in World War I. The paint that they used would glow in the dark, so they could see the [watches] in the dark, but to make it glow, the paint contained radium. Without knowing it, these dial painters were ingesting the radium when they licked the brushes to point them and they were getting sick and dying. The show is about the journey that they take to get compensation for the factory's wrongdoings and negligence.

Q: Could you tell me about your role?

A: Grace is the main character in the play, and she is one of the dial painters in the factory. She's kind of soft-spoken and she doesn't stick up for herself that much. You see her change throughout

the show- she starts speaking up more for herself, realizing she has to take a stand because nobody else is going to.

Q: Do you feel any personal connections to your character?

A: Yeah. She doesn't really stick up for herself in the beginning, which I feel I do. So towards the end, I feel more of a connection with her when she starts to really notice what she needs and understands what needs to happen.

Q: Have you ever been in a lead role before?

A: No! This is my first time, I'm really excited. It's an incredible experience!

Q: If you had been cast as any other role, what would you have chosen?

A: I really wanted Kathryn to begin with because I was thinking, "Oh, I don't know about a lead role, sounds like a lot of lines," but as soon as I got it I was really excited. But I think Kathryn is a really interesting character. I like her switch from thinking dreamily to becoming very cynical and I think it's a great part to play.

Q: Why do you enjoy theater and performing?

A: When I go to see shows, being able to sit back and feel like you're in a totally new world is an incredible experience. I like being able to do that for other people. I also like being able to go on stage and become a different person and transforming who you are completely. You can be the exact opposite of your character and still be able to make other people believe that's who you are. I think it's pretty amazing.



Q: Would you like to get involved in the musical this year?

A: Oh yes, of course I'd love to. I'm very excited for the musical!

Q: And finally, is there anything you'd like to say to people who are considering joining the theater program?

Honestly, I can say it's probably going to be one of the most amazing experiences! Everyone is super welcoming and accepting and we always have a lot of fun. There is work to do and everything, but we still find time to talk, and hang out, and we have all this fun stuff like cast bonding. It's a really nice way to meet a lot of new people who share the same interests as you and it's a really fun thing to be a part of. I would definitely encourage anyone who wants to join to audition or become a stage crew member.



The Lifeboat Clique: A Lighthearted Read that Deals With Tragedy

By Abby Dziura

2020

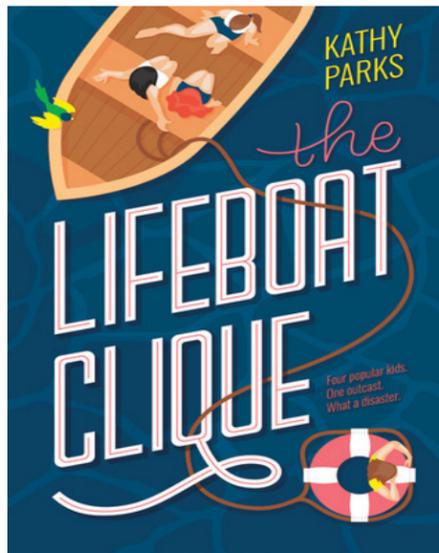
This summer, I had the pleasure of going to the Outer Banks for a beach week with my family. My favorite thing to do there, of course, was to read.

One of the books I picked up was *The Lifeboat Clique* by Kathy Parks. The story follows the tragedy loner protagonist, Denver, faces when the “cool kids” party she snuck into on the California shore is hit by a tsunami, killing her crush and forcing her to survive a terrible situation. Denver and four of her most popular classmates, one being her ex-best-friend-turned-enemy Abigail, find a lifeboat while swept away to sea, and must live together until rescue.

“Denver wonders what might kill her first-dehydration, sunstroke, or the girl she used to think of as a sister?”

-The Lifeboat Clique by Kathy Parks

Kathy Parks beat my wildest expectations with her first novel. A fun read that I had difficulty putting down,



she maintained a dark comedic sense even when putting her characters into increasingly worse situations. The book is often described as “Mean Girls meets the Life of Pi”, and this is definitely true. The book is satisfying enough for those who are more into the survival genre, but it also is able to keep the (relatively accurate) social scene of high school.

The frustrating stupidity of all of the characters (excluding Denver and Abigail) only adds to the fun, because they’re well-written. Often, I find complaints with the stereotype of the “dim-witted popular kid”, but these characters all have motivation and are written in a very comedic (bordering on satirical) style. Instead of dragging the book down with their clichés, these characters elevate it with the wit and humor with which they were written.

My only problem would be that it was a bit too short. I did enjoy the ending, though, and it didn’t feel too rushed. It was the kind of ending that made you feel a bit bad for laughing at, because in most situations, that’s probably what would have happened (unfortunately). All in all, the short length may be a pro for some, because it makes for a quick and easy read that you could likely complete in a day.

I would certainly suggest this for anyone looking for a short, summery-

type read that is great for a sunny day at the beach or the park. The Lifeboat Clique was probably one of my favorite recent books and it makes for an amazing debut novel on Kathy Parks’ part.

“Getting your first review is like getting your teeth whitened. You hope it doesn’t hurt as much as they say on the internet and you also hope it will leave you with a blinding smile.”

-Kathy Park 🐼

3 Ingredient Banana Oatmeal Cookies

by Annie Wang

2018

3 Ingredient Banana Oatmeal Cookies

This month I am spotlighting a simple 3 ingredient recipe that is perfect for fall. It incorporates a fall favorite, cinnamon, and is warm and healthy and makes the perfect weekend treat. You can even eat it for breakfast. These are vegan, low in calories, and can easily be made gluten free!

Ingredients:

1 cup old-fashioned oats

1 banana (medium, the spottier the better)

1 tsp cinnamon (If you don’t like cinnamon don’t add it; If you like other spices like nutmeg, do add them!)

Optional: chocolate chips, cacao nibs, raisins, cranberries, nuts, or whatever your heart desires.

Steps:

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees.

Mash your banana with a fork and mix in the oats.

Add the cinnamon and stir once again until thoroughly combined.

Place parchment paper on a baking sheet and make approximately 1 tbsp balls of dough onto the sheet (you can lick the spoon without fear of salmonella!).

Bake for 10-12 minutes or until golden brown and enjoy!



Mrs. Generous: “Silent Night”

Mrs. Ruddy: “Rudolf the Rednose Reindeer”

Mr. Galvin: “Drummer Boy”

Jensen Bassett, 2017: “All I Want for Christmas is You”

Arnav Velaparthi, 2017: “Dilwale”

We Need to Convert to the Metric System

STAFF WRITER

by Abby Dziura

2020

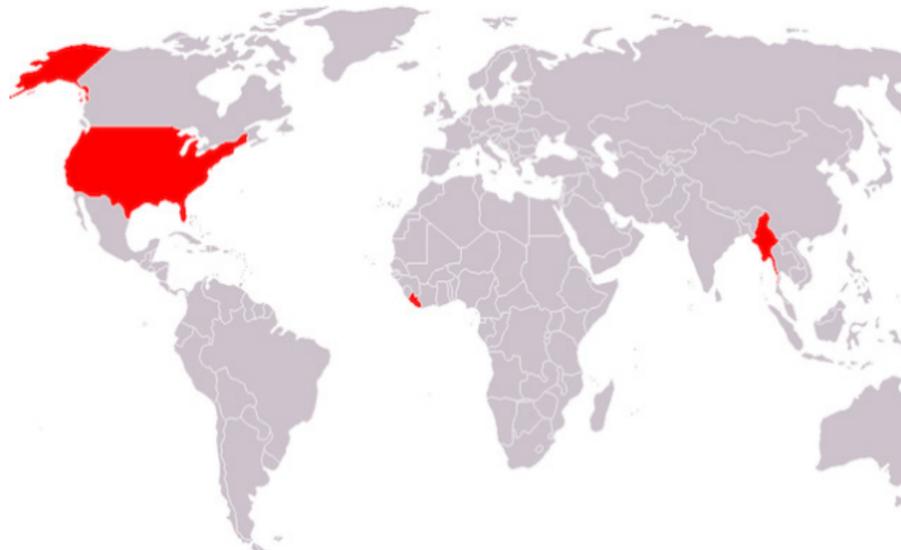
How many yards are in a mile? How many pints in a gallon? How many pecks in a bushel?

The English system of measurement has long been used in the US, and other units within it include the cubit (18 inches), the shaftment (6 inches), the pennyweight (the equivalent of the weight of 24 barleycorns), the hogshead (about 63 gallons), and the dram (1/16 of an ounce).

Clearly, these units of measurement are arbitrary and it is difficult to find a common ground on which to compare them. There is no sound reasoning behind using the measurement system that is difficult to convert and is made up of completely random numbers and names.

Currently, the only three countries that don’t use the metric system of measurement are Liberia, Myanmar (Burma), and the USA, as seen in the map.

There’s a reason that the rest of the world converted to the metric system decades ago. It has a logical system of conversions and prefixes that is much easier to remember than the English system of measurement.



The metric system consists of three base units- “meters” for length, “liters” for volume, and “grams” for mass- and a series of prefixes- “mega-”, “kilo-”, “hecto-”, “deka-”, “deci-”, “centi-”, “milli-”, and “micro-”- that are all represented through powers of ten (there are prefixes that represent smaller and larger units, but they are not very common in the everyday facets of life). The base units are all ten to the power of zero, or one. This way, converting from one unit to another is just a simple matter of dividing or multiplying by a power of ten, which I believe is significantly easier than multiplying or dividing by the random numbers in the English system.

Here is a chart of the metric conversions and prefixes (the blank prefix spot indicates where the base unit goes).

For example, there are 100 centimeters in a meter, and 1,000 meters in a kilometer, so 1,000 times 100 is 100,000. There are 100,000 centimeters in a kilometer. That math was relatively easy, and it was only dealing with powers of ten.

Now compare that to the English system. There are 12 inches in a foot, and 5,280 feet in a mile. Quick!- how many inches in a mile? The answer is 63,360 inches, but that number was significantly more difficult to figure out.



What is your favorite holiday song?

We asked students and teachers what their favorite song is. Here are their answers:

Mrs. Rousell: “I’ll be Home for Christmas”

Mrs. Kochiss: “Twelve Days of Christmas”

Sophie Kurtz, 2020: “All I Want for Christmas is You”

Jack Palma, 2020: “Twelve Days of Christmas”

Neal Dellostritto, 2017: “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas”

Bora Osmanlli, 2017: “All I Want for Christmas is You”

Mrs. Flood: “I’m Dreaming of a White Christmas”

Kathryn Robinson, 2017: “Christmas Cannon”

Claire Pier, 2017: “Rocking Around the Christmas Tree”

Mrs. Rooney: “I’ll Be Home For Christmas”

Mrs. McCloskey: “I’m Dreaming of a White Christmas”

Quotable Quotes

What is your favorite holiday Tradition?



My favorite Christmas tradition is making cookies.
~ Emily Russolillo, 2019



"Going to Massachusetts to visit family"
~Paul Bisbort 2019



"Christmas Eve movie marathon I watch every year; includes Elf, The Santa Clause, Rudolph, and A Christmas Story."
~Jake Wallinger 2017



"Every year on Christmas Eve, friends come over and we laugh, play games, and eat."
~Kaitlyn Young 2018



"Seeing Cheshire take down Southington on Thanksgiving"
~The Ram 1957



"Waking up early on Christmas, early morning breakfast, getting to those gifts."
~Nick Wallinger, 2017



"My favorite holiday tradition is going Black Friday shopping after Thanksgiving"
~ Alyssa Casey 2019



"(Drinking) eggnog"
~ Matt Imperati 2018



"Opening gifts on Christmas morning at 4am"
~ Devon O'Brien, 2019



"Christmas dinner with family"
~Joey Stevenson 2018



"Every year we make sugar cookies for Christmas."
~Samantha Garrison 2018



"My favorite tradition is my Italian family drinking eggnog and discussing politics"
~Samuel Casertano 2018




"A hot cup of coco on a cold winter morning."
~ Harry Kiesling 2018



"My favorite holiday tradition is eating lamb on Christmas with my Greek relatives."
~Alexander Terry 2018



"My favorite holiday tradition is baking Christmas cookies for family and friends with my mom."
~Alysha DeGennaro, 2017



"Waking up Christmas morning"
~Eddie Nigretti, 2019

