

# THE AMITY TRIDENT

LXXIII-No.6

Amity Regional High School

Woodbridge, CT 06525

March 16, 2018

## AMITY WALKS OUT

*Students demonstrate to show solidarity with Parkland*



Students stand outside the high school on March 14 in solidarity with victims from Parkland, Florida. Photo by Nitya Bhattarai '18.

by Sana Pashankar '19  
and Kate Yuan '19

Over the course of the last month, this country has bore witness to a movement unlike any other that the students of this generation have experienced. It comes in the wake of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas tragedy that claimed the lives of seventeen individuals.

The Never Again movement, created by the survivors of the MSD shooting, is entirely student-led and advocates for safer schools and more specifically, stricter gun laws.

Student voice has been a large part of the success of this movement, and activism for this cause in the Amity community is no exception to this.

On March 14, student of Amity Regional High School staged a walkout to support the students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas.

At 10 a.m., hundreds of Amity students got up, left their classrooms, and

poured out of the back doors. In the senior parking lot, hundreds of them united in a group facing an elevated platform where student speakers delivered two minute speeches about the purpose of the walkout, the importance of student solidarity, and the need to instigate change.

Micha Aviad '18, one of the main organizers of the event, said, "I can honestly say that this is the first time that I feel true change coming from a tragedy, and it's incredible that the youth is on the front lines of it. I'm honored to have led Amity's walkout and hope that it's only the beginning of the change yet to come."

In a moving speech, Anisha Jain '18 talked about how action is needed to make a change in our nation to ensure safer schools.

"Violence and death should not be a political issue," she said. "Columbine should have been enough, Sandy Hook should have

been enough, and Parkland should be the last... Thoughts and prayers are no longer enough; let us be the generation that ends this."

Paul Johnson '19, spoke on the need to unite as a nation, regardless of political views, to resolve domestic issues.

"Many of us may disagree on what changes ultimately need to take place and what policies our nation should implement," he said. "I am not here to advocate for my political beliefs or to tell anyone what is right or wrong. I just want to advocate for love and respect... We must hold onto the idea that we can disagree with those around and still respect them."

Student participators themselves seemed to be empowered by both the unity of the student body and the eloquent speeches of their peers.

During the event, Alisa Glenbovitch '19

said, "There is definitely a feeling of student unity in the air. I think it's really impressive the way our generation has become such a big voice in this fight. Age is just a number; we have as much power to change our society as anyone else, and today definitely showed that."

Similarly, Nick Matalote '21 said, "I felt that finally being able to see my classmates and peers stand up and express their minds in a way that they've always wanted to in front of the whole school really showed that our students are ready to see a change and not just stand by."

Many schools around the country had issued statements warning students that any sort of walkout would be faced with disciplinary action.

However, through planning and communication, the Amity administration made it known students would not face punishment for peaceful demonstra-

tions.

Principal Anna Mahon said, "I am definitely very proud of the students' response because it was respectful and appropriate. It is about working together and showing respect."

While teachers are not permitted to protest under Connecticut State laws, on Wednesday morning, many staff and faculty participated in a unified "walkin" before school to show that they stand with the students. Additionally, teachers were permitted to facilitate the walkout, and many expressed how moved they were at being able to witness the event.

Science Research Program teacher Deborah Day said, "The first word that comes to mind is 'inspiring' because the students helped one another to be empowered and they took the opportunity to make their voices heard."

History teacher LeeAnn

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## Amity Walks Out to Show Solidarity

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Browett said, "It is great that students are empowered and feel passionate about something."

Walking out on the morning of March 14 meant many things to all of the participators, observers, and general student body.

For some, it demonstrated solidarity for the victims and the need for stricter gun control laws. For others, it simply was to stand for safer schools.

The movement was entirely voluntary, and as such, there were individuals who did not participate for a multitude of reasons.

Jacob Feuerstein '19 chose not to par-

ticipate. "Considering that the administration approved of it and any political message was removed in favor of inclusion, it just exemplified the thoughts and prayers movement that so many people swore would never happen in light of a mass shooting like this," he said.

"Because of that, I just felt I couldn't support it without being hypocritical."

Cailey Esposito, another junior who chose not to participate, said, "I felt that it was more of a protest on gun control than showing solidarity. I feel very upset about what happened in Parkland, but I do not feel that a protest on gun control is impactful."

Following the speeches, the names of the victims who lost their lives in Parkland Florida on February 14 were read aloud and a moment of silence was held.

Additionally, after the school day, the Amity rock on the pond was painted with a message that reads, "Amity stands with Parkland."

Eighteen pinwheels then were placed around the rock as well: seventeen for the victims of Parkland and one for all of the victims of mass shootings.

These efforts were taken with the hopes that the lives lost will never be forgotten and that student voices will continue to echo for support and action.

## Another Winter Congress Success this February

by Payton Grande '19

Another year, another Winter Congress. This year, the JSA Winter Congress Convention was nothing shy of spectacular. Amity students left early on Thursday, February 8th to start the trek to Washington D.C.

On Friday, during the day, students went sightseeing and checked out the Newseum as well as the Smithsonian museums.

party meetings, and one of the two dances. The convention really kicked off on Saturday with debates on bills covering a variety of topics. Some of the best debates included topics like punishing felons, childhood beauty pageants, and immigration reform.

Junior Rachael Crow said, "The debates this year got really heated, and everyone in the room was involved!"

Saturday finished up with chapter meetings and the second dance.

amendments, and alterations, and there was also a whole pile of bills that got vetoed. Each one of the bills was passionately debated over the weekend, Sam Epstein '20 and Sam Farbman '19 left with gavels.

Amity chapter president Anisha Jain '18 said, "Well, I'm just proud of everyone in the Amity chapter for choosing to come to this convention, and debate and write bills. It's of paramount importance that we keep students doing



Patrick Burland '18, Ryan Anastasio '20, Evan Kindseth '20, Nitya Bhattarai '18, and David Nizzardo '18.

Photo by Sana Pashankar '19.

Maddie Pickett '19 said, "Being able to sightsee D.C. before the convention started was a really good opportunity to get a feel for the city and to bond as a chapter."

The convention began Friday night, with political

On Sunday, bills that passed in both the House and the Senate were reviewed again. From there, committees were able to pass and veto all the different bills. By the end of the day, all kinds of bills passed with added

these things to create an atmosphere of civil political discourse to produce engaged citizens."

After the convention, students left looking forward to Spring State on April 28-29.

## Amity Hosts Its First Sock Hop

by Ella Marin '20

The National Honor Society at Amity hosted its very own sock hop on February 23. From 7-10 pm, students were invited to dance the night away while wearing their coolest socks.

All proceeds were donated to Columbus House in New Haven. Students were encouraged to bring pairs of unworn socks to donate as well for the chance to win raffle prizes. Raffle prizes included entertainment boxes, restaurant boxes, a parking pass for the front lot, and most famously, tickets to see Kendrick Lamar.

Seniors Maya Barbieri and Morgan Sullivan were leaders in making this event possible. Additionally, Kayla Zamkov '18 was a key figure in organizing the event.

"I thought the sock hop was a huge success!" said Zamkov. "I didn't think this many people would attend, but we had an awesome turnout! Everyone seemed to have a great time and we were able to raise lots of money and get lots of socks for the Columbus house!"

Over 700 socks were collected to go to the Columbus House.

Marty Gnidula '20 attended the sock hop. "I thought that it was a great dance and really fun," he said. "I feel like it was an amazing event for a good cause and there was a lot of fun for everyone."

Additionally, another sophomore Aoi Tischer said, "It was a real sockity and hoppity night!"

The Sock Hop was especially unique because many students had been voicing opinions about wanting another dance other than homecoming and prom.

Sydney Reiner '20 said, "It was a fun experience. I think it was a good idea to have another school dance other than homecoming." Many more students voiced approval of this additional dance.

In terms of the future of the sock hop, current NHS members hope the dance will continue as an event at Amity.

Zamkov expressed her hopes for the future saying, "I hope that the next group of National Honor Society kids will carry on this event because it was successful. I think within a few more years of having the event, the outcome will be incredible!"

It looks like Amity may have just started a new tradition!

## Amity Students Receive Special Screening of 'Every Day'

by Sydney Reiner '20

Over the summer of 2017, every student, teacher, and faculty at Amity read the book, *Every Day* by David Levithan. The story followed the life of A, a soul who wakes up in a different body everyday. As the time to pick the book for the upcoming summer quickly approaches, the One Book One Amity Committee hosted a fundraiser.

The book *Every Day* recently became a movie, released on February 23, 2018, and the committee held a screening of it on February 27th at 7pm at the Seymour Cinemas.

The flyer read, "Come see *Every Day* on the big screen! One Book One Amity is hosting a special exclusive screening of the film..." The tickets were \$10 a person, sold on MyPaymentsPlus, and the outcome was around fifty people.

The screening brought together teachers and fac-

ulty, and students who all loved the book, and wanted to see the story on the big screen.

This fundraiser was to help cover some of the costs of One Book One Amity, such as the possibility of having the author of the next chosen book come to Amity.

English teacher Tasia Kimball called the event "a really nice way to build community among Amity folks, celebrate One Book One Amity, and watch a newly-released film- all while raising a little money, too."

Many students thought having the author speak was very interesting, and made an impact on their views of the book.

Alicia Myung '20 said, "It was really interesting seeing an author come and talk us through the process behind certain pieces of the book."

The fundraiser was a fun night for those who enjoyed the book, and one that raised money for the One Book One Amity committee.

# Amity JSA to Host Connecticut Megacon

by Ryan Anastasio '20

The Junior State of America will be hosting Connecticut Megacon on March 31. At this event, students from across Connecticut and New York who are members of Junior Statesmen of America (JSA) will come to Amity to get together and debate different issues. For the second year, Amity JSA will be hosting the event that drew many students across the state last year.

The event which will be held at the high school from 9:00 am - 3:30 pm, was

planned by students from Amity and Cheshire. It expects to draw a crowd of around 100 students from JSA.

Senior Anisha Jain, who serves as the Northeast JSA Director of Expansion and is the President of Amity JSA, said, "Planning megacon took a lot of effort from both Amity and Cheshire JSA. I hope we have a high turn out and some good debating."

Jain, along with several other students across the northeast initially scheduled the event for Saturday, March 10th, but it had to be rescheduled due to the weather.

Patrick Burland '18, the

JSA Vice Mayor of the Empire Constitutional Region, said the event was planned to "give all students in Connecticut and New York an opportunity to debate issues they are becoming involved with." Burland also said that the themes of the debates would be security, immigration, and gun control.

Amity JSA has attended two overnight conventions this year in Boston and Washington DC. Many students got involved in the planning of these conventions, but this event at Amity will give students an opportunity to plan and organize an event.

# Appreciating Music by Our Society's Standards

by Payton Grande '19

If there's one thing almost every high schooler can relate to, it's listening to music. Whether it is Spotify, Apple Music, or even Soundcloud, when you put in those white earbuds, you enter a new world. It becomes a place to be private in a room full of people. Music in all forms is art, and everyone is entitled to listen to whatever they want, but throughout my lifetime, society has seemed to take over musical standards.

Interest in music is sparked in a variety of ways, but what is clear is that it is like a chain reaction. In my opinion, music becomes popular because when one person "likes" a song, their friends feel

obligated to like that song as well, because they constantly hear it in the car or want to be able to talk about it. Sometimes, it feels like people don't like the songs they listen to because they like it, but because everyone else is listening to it. So yes, music most definitely brings people together. Is that always a good thing? I don't always think so. Obviously, at parties and events it is great to know the songs and be able to sing along, but I think it narrows people's interest to specific genres and artists when there is a whole world of music you may not even know you like.

Recently, it has started to feel like you need to know specific artists and songs to fit in. This is most definitely not what music was intended to be like.

Music comes in so many different varieties, and many people don't take advantage of that. It scares me that people can't recognize Billy Joel, Carole King, Nat King Cole, or other inspirational artists. There's an entire world of music out there, and some of the most popular artists now, don't represent that.

For me, growing up, I listened to all kinds of different music. Mostly 80s, because that's when my dad grew up, but that music was my foundation. It makes me question what kind of music our generation would pass down. Is sexualized rap music about women, and drugs truly what you want to share? I challenge you to listen to something new and hear music for yourself, not for everyone else.

# Amity's Summer Vacation Dilemma

by Ryan Anastasio '20

As snow continues to hammer Connecticut, schools in the state including Amity have to take days out of the summer to make up for the lost time. By state law, students must attend school for 180 days. Everyone cherishes summer.

Going to the beach, having a barbeque, and taking a summer vacation are far more enjoyable than a day inside watching movies or sitting by the fire while your power is out. Want more summer? Well I have a solution.

One way to increase our summer vacation is to have school on holidays

that we have off today, such as Columbus Day.

Columbus didn't discover the United States. Columbus also treated natives very harshly - he spread disease, injured natives, and sometimes even killed them. Presidents Day and the Tuesday that we have off in February should also be days where we go to school.

On Presidents Day, similarly to Veterans Day, we should have a day in school where we talk about the holiday. We should honor our Presidents, discuss them in classes, and have speakers come in and talk about the day and its significance.

Having school on these three days will al-

low for more enjoyed time off in the summer. In the middle of May, students go on Instagram and they see that their friends from Florida or Georgia are finished with school and that summer vacation has started for them. How would you like it if we got out in May?

Currently, we go to school from 7:34 to 2:18. If we added an hour to the school day and went from 7:30 to 3:30 (and attend less than 180 school days), then we could get out in early to the mid May.

By going an extra hour each day we could go to school around 25 days less and have a longer and more enjoyable summer vacation!

# THE TRIDENT

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# Crossword Puzzle

## ACROSS

- 1) American reality TV show; another version with flipped genders
- 13) Place to store earrings, necklaces, rings, etc.
- 14) Audio/Video acronym
- 16) Driver's \_\_\_\_
- 17) Ocean Observatories Initiative
- 18) Mr. Green, an American singer-songwriter. What's his first name?
- 20) Dogs are great at detecting these
- 22) 1000; prefix for grams, meters, etc.
- 23) Tag, you're \_\_\_\_!
- 24) Ms. \_\_\_\_ teaches biology at Amity
- 25) We celebrate him on a Monday close to his January birthday
- 26) 4 of these in a deck (singular form of the word)
- 27) "Id est"
- 28) Famous American singer born in the 1940s
- 29) "In" in Spanish
- 30) Remote-Control abbreviation
- 32) Pigs do this
- 33) Don't \_\_\_\_ the halls during class!
- 36) On/Off in binary
- 37) Oar homophone
- 38) List of vowels, backward
- 42) American Library Association
- 43) It seems we're all hoping for \_\_\_\_s of sunshine instead of more snowstorms!
- 45) Baseball during the off-season
- 47) Green in spring and summer; red, orange, and yellow in fall; nonexistent in winter
- 48) Dogs carry these parasites

## DOWN

- 1) Dystopian TV show with a new plot each episode
- 3) Not TJ or DJ but similar; short for the first and middle of a boy's name
- 4) Adele's 2015 hit
- 5) Word to express disgust
- 6) Richard Henry \_\_, member of the Continental Congress
- 7) Antonym of youngster
- 8) Choo choo's heard on this form of infrastructure
- 9) Word (or perhaps sound) made popular by Sylvester Stallone as an iconic Italian-American word
- 10) A type of steak, a type of car accident, or Clifford's friend
- 11) Popular taffy-like chocolate candy
- 12) Some say they are having an \_\_\_\_\_ crisis at times
- 15) A bride wears one
- 19) One of the largest species in the deer family; similar to moose
- 21) \_\_\_\_ and flowing
- 23) H<sub>2</sub>O turns into this at 0 degrees C
- 26) If you have a lightbulb moment, you may say \_\_\_\_
- 31) \_\_\_\_ reefs are being destroyed because of acidic water
- 34) Coefficient of friction in physics
- 35) Where one may go to learn to cook or where one works as a spy
- 39) If an electrical appliance isn't plugged in, it's \_\_\_\_
- 40) Holiday movie with Will Farrell
- 41) "Todo" en ingles
- 42) Type of battery or car service company
- 44) Come All \_\_\_\_ Faithful
- 46) B, Bee: Homophones

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	47					48					

If you correctly complete this crossword puzzle, email a picture to [amitytridentnewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:amitytridentnewspaper@gmail.com).

The first one to send us the correct puzzle will receive a prize (likely a gift card).

**\*\*Submissions start at 3 p.m. on March 16, 2018.\*\***

Should we continue the crossword puzzles? Should we add more types of puzzles? Let us know your thoughts!

# Come Experience the World through the new WiLLow MAG!

by Alicia Myung '20

A new magazine, WiLLow MAG or World Language Literary Magazine, will soon be entering Amity's orbit. The publication was started by Elizabeth Frieden '18 and Hannah Rappaport '18, currently the only two working on the magazine. Both of them were incredibly excited to create this magazine because they "are both lovers of languages" according to Rappaport. They believed that this magazine would be great practice in using a second language and that it would be an asset to the World Language Department at Amity.

Sources of inspiration for the magazine ranged from their AP Spanish Literature course to their aforementioned love of languages. Rappaport said, "It can often be easier to convey personal ideas in a second language because the words hold fewer connotations. This made us curious to see the results of a world language literary magazine."

She also mentioned that their immersion in Spanish literature really helped spark the interest in creating



WiLLow MAG's Logo.

Photo contributed by Hannah Rappaport '18.

a World Language magazine. With WiLLow, they hope to represent all languages offered at Amity, possibly more, through the literary and artwork submissions of the Amity student body.

There is no set date for the first issue, but there are plans for a possible release around mid-April depending on student submissions, but Rappaport says that she is hopeful for multiple releases throughout the year. It is likely, however, that the publication will have an annual release.

WiLLow Magazine is a collection of students' creations. The magazine will consist of literature and artwork. Students may send any inquiries to the WiLLow email ([amitywillowmag@gmail.com](mailto:amitywillowmag@gmail.com)) and may submit their work through the WiLLow Mag submission page ([goo.gl/U9ztzy](http://goo.gl/U9ztzy)).

Regarding submissions, Rappaport says, "We are looking for all kinds of literary submissions (poetry, short stories, personal essays, nonfiction) and art that relates to a culture students are studying in a foreign language class. English translations of the literary works and captions for the art are required to make the magazine accessible to everyone." Further guidelines can be found on the submission page.

# Micha Aviad Takes a Stand to Honor Parkland Victims

by Arielle Lavi '19

Student government President Micha Aviad '18 felt inspired to take action in light of the recent Parkland shooting on February 14. After 17 lives were lost in the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, she believed it was Amity's duty to get involved and honor those no longer with us through this nationwide event.

"I'm very politically active and passionate about human rights," says Aviad. "I find it very moving that teenagers across the country will be walking out together to show solidarity for the Parkland victims."

Aviad knew she wanted to lead in this cause during the Principal's Committee, a meeting held by student government every Friday.

"We were throwing around ideas after Parkland and we felt we needed to get involved as a school in the nationwide movement. It was really at this moment that I felt ready to take the lead on organizing the Walkout and passionate enough to do something about it."

Along with Aviad, many individuals were instrumental in planning and advising this event. As faculty in

Connecticut are legally unable to go on strike, the entire Walkout was student-led, the use of social media and word of mouth helping to spread the word. Despite other controversial activities, the staff here at Amity worked hard to ensure that students would be able to participate without any repercussions.

"We are so lucky that the faculty was extremely cooperative and moved things around in order to allow us to partake in this nationwide

exactly the way to show politicians and the older generation that we do care and we'll be the ones to spark change."

As a takeaway from the Walkout on March 14th, Aviad hopes that students used this Walkout to honor the victims of Parkland and send a message to Washington. While respecting those who did not participate in the Walkout, she wishes that individuals will view it as a powerful symbol of change.

According to Ali

Ashworth '18, another individual involved in organizing this event, "The Walkout proves that we, as a community, are not complacent with being bystanders and we refuse to forget what happened in Parkland and move on without a fight. I'm proud to be a part of a nationwide, student-run revolution that I hope will finally bring comprehensive gun control reform and safer schools to this country."

This event was not meant to create more controversy between people, yet display that the younger generation will continue to advocate until people feel safe inside schools and other areas nationwide.

"I couldn't be more proud of our school," says Aviad. "There were so many people who came together for this event, whether for or against gun control. They just want to see change occur and that is greatly impactful."



Micha Aviad '18 speaking to the crowd of Amity students on Wednesday, March 14.

Photo by Sophie Baum '18.

movement," Aviad said.

"There are so many people who were involved and came together and I think it's important that the younger generation get out and let their voices be heard."

Understanding the controversy that surrounds gun control and school safety, Aviad just wants individuals at Amity to feel they have a voice and the power to speak out. "I feel there's a misconception that our opinion and voice don't matter just because we're young and we can't vote. This event is

# Mamoun's Falafel: A Taste Bud's Trip to the Middle East

by Ani Dixit '18

The warm air blasted my face as I stepped into the vibrant restaurant. My nose picked up on the scrumptious smell of spices and lamb as I scanned the scene in front of me. People with laughing faces cluttered around the rectangular tables and backpacks dotted the crowd. Casting a gorgeous red, and orange shadow on the intricately designed Persian rugs coating every wall of the restaurant was a large stained glass light fixture in the center of the ceiling. A pair of dazzling metal peacocks danced above my table. The atmosphere and delicious food comforts many hungry visitors.

Located on Howe Street in New Haven, Mamoun's Falafel is in a prime

location for anyone in or near Yale University. Just a couple blocks down are the Yale Repertory Theatre, Sterling Library, and Yale Art Gallery, making it perfect for anyone taking a trip down there to walk a little in order to grab a scrumptious meal.

When I first came into the bustling restaurant, I had low expectations. Some family friends of mine had warned me about tasteless shawarma, and mediocre baba ganoush. Taking their word for it, I avoided the franchise until my vegan friend, Nevia Selmon, boasted of their exquisite falafel sandwiches. And man was she right!

Right as we walked into the restaurant, we were greeted by a line of students, waiting to take out their food. A waitress ushered us in and allowed us to choose

any table that we liked. The surroundings and decorations were beautiful. A large wooden ship with colorful sails hung atop two twin Persian rugs giving a feeling that you were transported to the Middle East.

As one can guess from the name of the restaurant, Mamoun's speciality are their falafels. Deciding to try their staple delicacy, I ordered the falafel sandwich, and mango juice from the swirling container in the front. In about 10 minutes, the food was brought out in an iron holder. It contained a white wrapped pita with falafels (crispy fried chickpea balls), onions, parsley, garlic, and tahini sauce. We were given circular paper plates and drinks came out in a paper cup, truly showing its casual dining. This being said, casual attire is also key

at Mamoun's since the tahiti sauce in the falafel has the tendency to soak the pita break, drip down, and soak your fingers. I suggest that you ask the waiter for extra napkins in case things get messy.

The food was marvelous! Occasionally pita bread can be a hit or a miss with texture and chewiness, but this bread was wondrous. In the sandwich, the falafels brought the perfect crunchiness necessary and parsley really brought out the flavor of the chickpeas. If this isn't your style, there are plenty of dishes to choose from ranging from a variety of lamb and chicken kabobs, Syrian rice, salads, lamb and chicken shawarmas, stuffed grape leaves, hummus, makkdous, and tabouleh. Again, referring back to Selmon, Mamoun's has a variety

of mouthwatering plates for vegans and vegetarians alike.

The dessert was a hit! Baklava is a staple for many people of the Middle East and Ottoman Empire, and Caucasus, so I was compelled to dive into the delicacy. The layered dough was crispy at the top, and soft in the middle with the right amount of honey drizzling each sheet. The sliced almonds complimented the dessert. It was made fresh since it lacked soggy and staleness, which is quick to come to a pastry such as this.

Mamoun's took me and my taste buds on a fantastic journey to the Middle East and won me over with their delectable falafel sandwich. Next time you are in New Haven, I suggest you bring your friends and take a trip down to try it for yourself.

# THE WHAT, WHY, AND

Throughout history, protesting has been used by many to advocate for social or political change. People often protest by participating in an organized public demonstration, in which they can speak out against issues and try to spark change. When people protest, they're looking to alter these unfair conditions or fix the problems that have caused them to protest in the first place. Although protests don't always end up fixing the actual problem, they typically spark thought and discussion about the topic, which has a ripple effect that can often elicit change.

## The Amity Community's Thoughts on Protesting

In the Amity community, many students and faculty alike have their own respective views on protesting. In light of Wednesday's National School Walkout day, The Trident asked Amity community members about their views on protesting.

"Protesting is the act of trying to make a change," said Ryan Nuzzo '20. "You need a big group of people to try to get one voice out there, so if everyone agrees on one thing, with lots of people, then I think it will be effective."

Nuzzo said when he walked out on Wednesday, he decided to wear maroon to show support for the victims of the Parkland shooting.

While faculty at Amity cannot participate in the Walkout, Jim Clifford, a member of the History Department, said, "Protesting is the expression by individuals who are upset with the current conditions and it's deeply rooted in the American culture, American history, American psyche." As an advisor for the Exploring Justice club, he is helping to organize a panel discussion

which is going to "look at the nature of gun violence, gun safety, mental health, reasonable restrictions on rights, and bringing people together to find compromise on the issue. That to me is more important than walking in the parking lot."

Claude Roy, another history teacher, agrees that protests can be effective. However, he asserts that a "protest should be a part of a larger initiative and followed by specific action that may be legislative action or proposing a bill. I think that's important. A protest may garner headlines and

may raise people's awareness."

When asked what she thinks about protesting, Principal Anna Mahon said, "I think protest allows people to feel a sense of comradery and solidarity. I believe it's more symbolic than anything else, but symbolism is as real as any other aspect of our perception, and so it gives people a chance to feel like they're expressing their voice as one voice and kind of bolster their sense of what they're feeling in a way of their own expression."

It's hard to predict

beforehand what the outcome of such protests may be, but Mahon believes that the Walkouts will inspire students and leaders to take action.

"I don't think [the Walkout] is necessarily going to achieve legislative change, but it gives [contributors] a sense that they can go on to do other things to maybe achieve legislative change. Maybe inspire them to contact their legislators."

Regardless of their views, many agree that protesting, in some way, allows expression, which is an integral part of our society.

## Famous Protests Throughout History

In 1912, textile workers in Lawrence, Massachusetts went on the famed Bread and Roses Strike. Employed American immigrants left their factories to protest the low wages that they were receiving despite the very many hours they worked. Massachusetts state legislation had previously cut down the work week for child laborers and women. However, this prompted textile mills to cut wages. Despite the hard task of organizing people that speak twenty languages, the Industrial Workers of

the World saw potential and a need for more experience. So, the IWW helped organize protests and raise money for the cause.

The efforts gained the attention of fellow American citizens and prompted an investigation from Congress. This highlighted the working conditions that were exceptionally unsafe. The union reached a deal with the mill, and workers went back to their jobs with higher salaries all while prompting other mills to also raise wages to prevent this type of reaction.

Voices must be seen and not just heard. Throughout history, groups of individuals have stood up for their values and beliefs and have in turn influenced society and policy. In 1930, Mohandas Gandhi led the Salt March, a 240-mile protest of the salt acts that Britain imposed on the Indians. This legislature prohibited them from collecting or selling this mineral vital to the Indian culture.

The Salt March aimed to peacefully defy the inhibitions set on the Indian people. Gandhi and his followers made salt from the seawater on their trek, and his following grew to tens of thousands of people. More than 60,000 people, including Gandhi, were arrested, however, the efforts continued even without him. The protest promoted negotiation, and in 1947, India gained independence.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott, from December 1955 to December 1956, was sparked by Rosa Parks's actions, which led to increased momentum of the racial equality movement.

During this protest, African Americans stopped using public transportation. 40,000 people of color continued giving car rides and walking to their destinations until the city came to terms with their demands, which included bus driver jobs for African Americans as well as a first-come-first-serve seating protocol.

On June 5, 1956, the Montgomery Federal Court acknowledged that the bus laws were in violation of the 14th Amendment.

In Beijing, China, in 1989, the Tiananmen Square protests involved pro-democracy protesters against the Chinese government. These protests for free speech and freedom of the press persisted for seven weeks. Unfortunately, however, on June 4th, the Chinese government used fatal, brute force to cease these events and kill hundreds of individuals.

The following day, a man, famously recognized as wearing a white shirt and carrying two shopping bags, stood in front of the parading tanks, shifting to block the tanks from proceeding.

While this gained worldwide attention, there is still not much detail and coverage about this incident because of censoring imposed by the Chinese government.

Photos (left to right, starting on top left): Bread and Roses Strike; "Tank Man" standing in front of the government's tanks the day after the Tiananmen Square protests; Rosa Parks refusing to move her bus seat; Mahatma Gandhi during the Salt March.



# HOW OF PROTESTING

## The Two Sides of the Gun Control Debate

Many people in America are fighting for more laws regarding limits for gun purchases and use, or for the outlaw of guns completely. They say that the second amendment was written before machine guns and most of modern technology was created, and the law would surely be different had these weapons of mass destruction been in existence at that time.

In 2015, around 13,286 people were killed from guns. Since 2013, there have been over 300 school shootings in the USA, averaging around one per week. School shootings are the main focus of most

people fighting for gun control, because the number of school shootings is rapidly rising. While everyone can agree that school shootings are worth fighting against, they have been used as a rallying point to gain supporters for anti-gun ideas.

Other reasons for gun control include how guns are largely associated with domestic abuse and stalking incidents, how countries with gun control have lower homicide and suicide rates, and how gun control could reduce accidental gun deaths.

To learn more about this side of the gun argument, and how to support it or donate to it, please visit [www.everytown.org](http://www.everytown.org).

The most common argument used when fighting against gun control surrounds the Constitution's Second Amendment. The Second Amendment states the following:

*A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.*

In today's society, this roughly translates to the idea that all people can own guns. In the event of a gun falling into the wrong hands, of someone who plans to use it for a harmful purpose, everyone else should be able to protect themselves

with their own guns. 22% of Americans own guns, 35% of men and 12% of women.

The National Rifle Association is the most vocal anti-gun control enthusiast, and it has been proven that they pay some politicians to protect the right for all people to own guns. Other reasons to limit gun control include that guns give people security, that gun laws encroach upon one's constitutional right, and that gun control laws would grant too much power to the government.

To learn more about this side of the gun argument, and how to support it or donate to it, please visit [www.nra.org](http://www.nra.org).



Photos from Amity's walkout on March 14, 2018.

Planned by Micha Aviad '18, the Walkout consisted of 8 student speeches. Amity students stood in the parking lot between the tennis courts and the baseball field. Read more about Wednesday's school-wide event on the front page of this issue of *The Trident*.

Photos by Nitya Bhattarai '18.  
Top middle photo by Sophie Baum '18.

### Centerspread Writers:

Olivia Gross '20, Gillianne Nugent '20, Hailey Pryor '20, Sheariah Stevens '18

### Additional Resources:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2014/04/chinas-forgotten-liberal-hero/360722/>

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Tiananmen-Square-incident>

<http://time.com/2822290/tiananmen-square-massacre-facts-time/>

<https://www.epicurious.com/expert-advice/bread-and-roses-and-determination-inauguration-weekend-article>

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/montgomery-bus-boycott>

[https://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles\\_Gen/Letter\\_Birmingham.html](https://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles_Gen/Letter_Birmingham.html)

<https://gun-control.procon.org>

<https://www.insidermonkey.com/blog/15-countries-with-the-strictest-gun-laws-in-the-world-598634/?singlepage=1>

### Photo Resources:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tank\\_Man](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tank_Man)

<https://www.massmoments.org/moment-details/bread-and-roses-strike-begins.html>

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Montgomery-bus-boycott>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salt\\_March](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salt_March)



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# ACT Takes You Backstage

by Lilli Querker '19

Amity is always abuzz about Amity Creative Theater in the spring. With this year's

mez Addams played by Harrison Paek '18, Morticia Addams played by Ali Ashworth '18, Wednesday Addams played by Emily Kilian '18.

The Addams Family is a challenge for actors because of

friendly. They're always pretty talkative, which sometimes makes it difficult to get work done."

Avital Sutin '19, the Student Producer and Props Master, is in charge of attaining the



The cast works through the very first table read of the show.

Photo Courtesy Marissa Proto '18.

spring production of The Addams Family just around the corner, there are many reasons to see the show. Let's take a behind-the-scenes look at the talented performers, intense rehearsal process, and everything else that contributes to the performance.

No matter what the show, the performers' stage managers, and directors show up to rehearsals four evenings every week from January through April with rehearsals on Saturdays as well. Ensemble member Lily Swain '19, who is playing the Courtesan Ancestor, said, "Rehearsals are long and often strenuous if we're doing a lot of dancing, but the payoff in the end is worth it. Once you know what you're doing and you know your show, you can be more comfortable in your performance and add your own flare to your characters and interactions. That's what really makes the show."

Ensemble members spend hours perfecting every dance move and note in each song, with help from Choral Director Marcia Rizzotti and Choreographer Andrea Kennedy. Those in principal roles work on char-

acter development, line memorization, and blocking. Among this year's principals are Go-

the distinctness of each individual character. The Addams are much different from the average family because they prefer dark humor and lead a rather strange lifestyle.

Marty Gnidula '20, who plays Fester Addams, has faced some challenges with his characters and said, "Playing someone who is really crazy but also really loving at the same time is pretty difficult to balance, and since this is my first character in a show ever, it's so interesting to get into something like this and become another person, especially someone who's so different than I am."

Paek said, "I think because it's a comedy, some people find it difficult to play a character genuinely. I've been trying to humanize Gomez as a person and a character, even though he is so much larger than life. That's the biggest challenge for me. As far as rehearsals go, I just get to rehearsal early and get myself into the right headspace to gain momentum and get into the groove of Gomez."

However, it is not just singing and dancing that make the musicals; the tech crew works tirelessly to keep everyone on task and supervise the technical

props and keeping them all in order and said, "The props are super quirky, all expensive and hard to find, but it makes it all the more fun than last year." Sutin works with Stage Managers Gusciora and Sophie Clemens '18 and Assistant Stage Manager Sarah Foley '20.

Clemens joked, "The best part of our job, though, is getting to yell at everyone and eat candy while we do it." The tech theater classes, taught by Director Robert Kennedy, also help build and paint the set, along with volunteer parents of cast and crew members.

Of course, you can't have a performance showcasing great makeup and dazzling costumes without the Makeup and Costume team. English Department Chair Julie Chevan is also head costume designer, and Andrea Kennedy serves as the lead makeup artist to guide the student makeup artists.

Chevan said, "The fun of this show is the fact that everyone knows The Addams Family and has a picture of it in their heads. We have to make it our own, but not change it too much. The audience still has their expectations. The ancestors are the fun of it. Every character is different completely -- time period, details, everything. Most shows have a unified ensemble in their attire, and this show is nothing like that."

Getting measured for costumes is an interesting process, especially this year, as every character is unique. Some characters may need custom-fitted suits, specific skirts, hats, or any other clothing item to perfect their look.

The 2018 play will likely prove to be as successful as past Amity plays. Although a wild and exhilarating process, under the direction of Robert Kennedy ACT looks to dazzle audiences once again.

# Westgard Wins the Amity Shakespeare Speaking Competition

by Sophia Wang '20

Students met in the Media Center on February 13 to participate or watch the Amity Shakespeare Speaking Competition. The requirements for the competition were to memorize a monologue from a Shakespearean play. Many participants performed monologues from Hamlet, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Romeo and Juliet, and Merchant of Venice.

Julie Chevan, an English

teacher, organized the event and said, "I think that Shakespeare knows so much about human nature, love, power, longing, insecurities, jealousy, and just about anything that human nature grapples with and god."

She added, "He really understands in a way that no playwright does better, 400 years after the fact...and the language is really pretty too!"

The competition has been a long lasting tradition at Amity. Chevan organizes this competition because of her "love for Shakespeare." She teaches the Shakespeare class at Amity and said that Shakespeare's knowledge inspires the competition.

Lillian Querker '19 said that she participated in the competition because "my English teacher is the person running it, and I really like Shakespeare. I love performing and this was a little extra thing to perform."

Maren Westgard '18 won first place with her performance of Portia's Monologue, Act 3 Scene 2, from the play, The Merchant of Venice.

Talya Braverman '20 placed second in the competition for her performance of the same

monologue. These two winners secured placements in the state competition in Greenwich, originally scheduled for March 8 but postponed until March 28 due to snow.

Westgard said, "It's fun not only to perform but also to dive into the language."

She has been a competitor for three years, during which she has placed at Amity and participated at the state competition.

When asked about how the state competition experience compares to Amity's competi-



Amity Shakespeare Speaking Competition Winners Talya Braverman and Maren Westgard pose after their victories.

Photo by Kayla Morgan '20.

tion, Westgard said, "It's just like this, a little bit more of an auditorium setting, [with] people from different schools."

Westgard, actually influenced Braverman's decision to perform this year. Braverman chose her monologue at the beginning of last week and worked on the performance since then.

Braverman said, "I met Maren last year...and I saw how interested she was in it and that was an influence...I love theater, acting, and public speaking and I've always wanted to do this type of thing with Shakespeare."

Portia's Monologue resonated with Braverman. She said, "It contains so much truth... and I liked how she had this philosophical discussion in her head."

According to Chevan, the competition gives students the opportunity to "[be] comfortable with any kind of public speaking...and the language is good for your brain, to make sense of language that's different."

This positivity and enthusiasm will help ensure the event's future success.

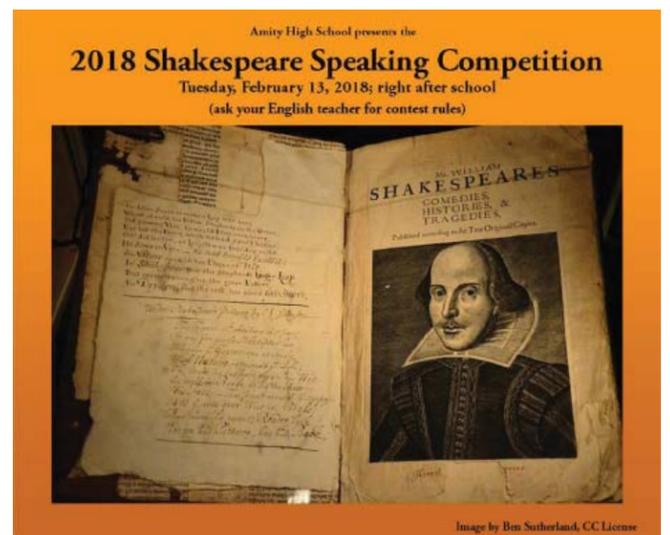


Ali Ashworth '18 rehearses in the Black Box Theater.

Photo Courtesy Marissa Proto '18.

actor development, line memorization, and blocking. Among this year's principals are Go-

side of theater. Stage Manager Jill Gusciora '18 said, "Everyone is so



An ad for this year's Shakespeare Speaking Competition.

Image courtesy Amity Media Center.

# At the Movies with Nico Sagnelli: “Black Panther”

by Nico Sagnelli '19

The Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) undeniably puts out some of the highest quality action blockbusters today. Yet, the group

characters and rich supporting cast who give a fantastic performance. The film’s villain, Killmonger, played by Michael B. Jordan, provided an especially electrifying element to the plot. His character possesses

everything great about it. Is this a perfect film though? No movie is perfect and *Black Panther* certainly possesses certain flaws. The CG (computer graphics) in the film looked quite outdated and brought me out of



A *Black Panther* promotional poster. Image courtesy Disney.com.

often comes under the criticism for their unoriginal movie style.

In *Black Panther*, they change up not only their own formula but also the genre by providing a majority black cast. This will trailblaze the way for more minority led blockbusters, effectively making this one of the most culturally important films of our time.

Aside from the “real world,” cultural importance of this film, was it objectively a good movie? The answer to that question is: yes, very much so. It is not Marvel’s best, (which in the opinion of this reviewer is *Spider-Man Homecoming*), but it is definitely in the upper echelon of their canon. There are many good qualities of this film, but what stuck out to me the most while watching it was the art of Wakanda.

The whole art style of the film is based in afro-futurism, and it is interesting to see how the production designers and director Ryan Coogler explored this style throughout the film, whether it was in architecture or costuming.

This film’s world is not brought to life purely by its visual beauty; it is also the

complex motivations, unlike other blander, unoriginal villains in the MCU. He challenges the hero not only physically but also men-



Director Ryan Coogler speaks about his film.

Photo courtesy npr.org.

tally. Coogler masterfully builds a conflict between them, weaving a complex web of themes around them.

Something I really give this film credit for is using these themes to address real life issues like foreign aid and the refugee crisis, ideas not often explored in superhero films like this. There are many more reasons why this film is so great; from its soundtrack to dazzling sequences in South Korea the movie impressed me in many ways. But it would take too long to cover ev-

the film at some points. Additionally, the middle of the movie hits a bit of a dry spell when a major turning point occurs because the

following twenty minutes become quite predictable and are an obvious setup for the final act. The final act itself provides ample payoff and is well worth the wait.

*Black Panther* is by no means a perfect movie, but it is certainly one of the most unique superhero films released to date. Its cultural significance, both in its political messages and what it means for the film industry and minority representation, make this a pivotal moment in movies to be remembered for years to come.

# Amity Returns to CMEA’s All-States

by Courtney Greifenberger '18

This January, members of Amity’s music community participated in the Connecticut Music Educator’s (CMEA) Regional Music Festival, more commonly referred to as “Regionals.” In order to participate in this event’s orchestra, band, choir, or jazz band, partici-

soprano, will sing with the mixed choir.

When asked about preparation involved in scoring highly at this state-level competition, Andersen said, “It was a tedious task and many days I felt as though I had not improved from the day before. It took a tremendous amount of effort to keep my motivation up.”

When asked about his



Left to right: Zhao, Baum, and Andersen at last year’s All-States.

Photo courtesy Sophie Baum '18.

pants had to score highly in an audition process.

Those who participated in Regionals were then allowed to audition for CMEA’s All-States. Twenty-five Amity students participated in Regionals in January, and results from the All-State audition process were extremely positive: seven of Amity’s most experienced musicians will be representing our school at All-States this spring!

Violinists Harris Andersen '18, Sophie Baum '18, and cellist Alicia Myung '20 will represent the Spartans in the orchestra.

Flautist Sharon Yang '18, clarinetist Kevin Zhao '18, and French hornist Alice Zhou '18 will perform as members of the concert band. Willow Smith '19, a

feelings toward the festival, Andersen was quick to respond, “I am always excited for festivals such as these because for 60 hours you essentially eat, sleep, and breathe music.”

Zhou, a first time participant at All-States, said, “I’m most excited for the challenging music experience and also for playing with awesome musicians from all over the state!”

At Regionals, she loved seeing “so many horn players at once” and wishes she had auditioned in past years.

The CMEA All-State Festival will be taking place April 19-21 in Hartford. In just a little over a month, Amity’s seven representatives will look to impress at a higher level than ever.

# Amity Alumni Eggy Performs and Inspires

by Sydney Reiner '20

In an event sponsored by the Jamie A. Hulley Arts Foundation (JA-HAF), the band Eggy visited Amity to talk about their musical journey on February 23.

Three members of the band were former students, so having them explain their story to current students was very impactful.

Choral Director Marcia Rizzotti said, “I think it’s great that they are Amity alumni, because they came back here to the band room where they spent most of their high school years, and

it’s awesome to have them come back and talk to current students.”

Students were able to get an understanding of what being a working musician is like, and the hard work that is involved with a musical career.

The band talked about their journey as a group, but also about the composition of their music and lyrics.

Hayden Nork '19 said, “I thought it was really good, they were jamming.” As an up and coming musician himself, Nork was moved by the experience.

The event had a profound impact on many of the students in attendance.

Like other JA-HAF events, it provided real world context and inspiration for Amity students looking to pursue a musical passion.

**The band Eggy jams out in the band room in front of an audience of musically inclined students.**

Photo Courtesy Orange Live.



# Amity Baseball Steps up to the Plate to Reclaim their State Crown

by Jordan Conn '18

Five years ago, the Amity baseball program went on a legendary championship streak. In 2013, they won the Class LL State Championship, and then won the next three as well, repeating an unprecedented four times as champions.

Last year, they came up

just short of their fifth straight title, losing to Staples in the championship game 5-1.

The Spartans lost some spectacular talent from last season. Andy Hague '17, the shortstop, is now playing at the University of Connecticut. Teddy Hague '17, a pitcher and outfielder, is playing at Yale. Max Scheps '17, a pitcher, is playing at West Point.

It is rare that a public high

school team remains a competitive force in their conference for such a long time. Despite losing these key pieces from their last few title runs, Amity is still very deep with talent.

Three captains are going to have a considerable impact on the diamond this year. Catcher Pat Winkel, '18 is one of the most promising high



The Amity baseball team uses their fall league to hone their skills. Above, they conference on the mound. Photo courtesy Quinn Burke '18



Pat Winkel '18 tries to avoid a tag against Hamden.

Photo courtesy Quinn Burke '18

school players in New England. Last season, he batted over .500 and is strong defensively behind the dish. Winkel will join his brother Chris Winkel '16 and Andy Hague on the UConn baseball team next school year.

Third baseman Jack Nolan '18 was also a force to be reckoned with last year. Nolan has an explosive bat and is sound defensively. He will play ball next year at Central Connecticut.

Lastly, pitcher Ben Lode-

wick '18 will hope to pick up where he left off last season on the mound. Due to an arm injury, Lodewick has not committed to play collegiate baseball. He did not lose a single game, and his earned run average was below one.

A few juniors will look to contribute as well. John Lumpinski '19 will be the Spartans number two starter. Sebastian Formica '19 will be picking up where Andy Hague left off at shortstop. Cole Kuchachik '19 will also be a key outfielder.

Even though there is a lot of individual talent, it is still going to take a team effort to make it to another state

championship game.

"It all comes down to focus and drive," said first baseman Quinn Burke '18. "It is easy to get complacent and expect things to be easy. Losing last year needs to be our motivation for this year so that we can take care of business."

And under the guidance of head coach Sal Coppola, that dream seems feasible. Coppola has run the team for numerous years and is a significant factor in the team's past success. It is undoubtable, then, that he will encourage the team to put in their all and to take back the state title.

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# Boys' Lacrosse Gears Up for the 2018 Season

by David Sugarmann '20

As March passes by, many Amity athletes are preparing for the Spring season. The boys' lacrosse team is no exception. With the entire season ahead of them, the team is pumped up to compete.

In order to give everybody a chance to play, as with many other sports at Amity, there are three different teams: the freshmen team, the junior varsity team, and the varsity team.

The philosophy behind this type of layout is that players can work up from the freshmen team to JV and varsity as they become upperclassmen. This type of structure gives players of all skill levels something to strive for.

The varsity squad will be coached by Brandon Pepe, and the JV team will be headed by his brother, Tyler Pepe. With years of coaching experience at Amity, they are extremely important components to the success of the team.

The varsity captains are Paul Buda '18 and Matt Weidenfeller '18. In previous years, both the JV and varsity lacrosse teams have had success. Last year, they went 12-1 and 7-6 respectively. Going into this season, the boys lacrosse team will use their success from 2017 to do even better this year.

Their rivals are Daniel Hand and Cheshire High School. When they face these teams, they will make sure to give it everything they have to get the victory.

In order to be prepared for the upcoming season, the team will have to endure rigorous practices. But as sophomore Adam Ginsberg '20 describes, the team is up for the challenge.

"We'll work hard, play hard, and just have a great season," he said. The team will face some tough competition this year, and hard work is essential.

Ginsberg also stressed the importance of a positive team culture: "The team needs a tight bond between each of the players. If all the players on the field know they can trust each other they won't hesitate to pass the ball on a great play."

With this mentality, coupled with experienced players and extensive training, the team seems poised to perform well.



Above, the 2017 varsity squad celebrates a win over the Jonathan Law Lawmen. Below, 2018 captain Matt Weidenfeller, Jacob Lettick, and Cory Sachs communicate while on offense. Photos courtesy Orange Live



# Amity's Wrestling Season Ends on High Note

by Jared Beltz '19

Although the most well-known winter sports at the high school may be hockey or basketball, Amity Wrestling has certainly stepped up their performance this year. With a focus on growth and improvement, the team has collectively improved over the winter.

Captain Shayna Goldblatt '18 said, "This season was by far our best season yet. We all worked so hard every single day inside and outside the wrestling room and it showed when we

The team's third captain, Matt Rothman '18, fought his way deep into the postseason. He placed third in the state open and represented Amity at the New England Championships. Despite the fact that he didn't take home a medal from New England, he demonstrated the skill and commitment that are a core part of the team.

Other key wrestlers include captain Sam Keylock '18 and Aiden Herbert '20 who both helped the team reach their 13-7 record.

Although the team



Above, Captain Shayna Goldblatt '18 faces off with Foran's Ryan Jordan. Below, Goldblatt pins Jordan.

Photos courtesy Orange Live



went to compete."

And the team's hard work yielded impressive results. They finished fourth out of 12 teams at the SCC B division title tournament with 90 points, the highest finish for Amity since 2009.

The wins did not stop there, as captain Christian Chadwick '18 completed his 100th win during the state open. He went down in Amity history as the fourteenth wrestler to make it into triple-digit wins.

will lose a lot of talent as the senior class graduates, a strong underclass squad looks to take their place.

Both Hebert and Justin Griffin '19 look to live up to their captains' legacies. Overall, the season was a resounding success.

"I am extremely happy with how it all turned out," Goldblatt states. "We accomplished all our goals this season and I could not be more proud of this team."

***Congratulations to the Boys Basketball Team on making it to the State Finals! Good Luck on Saturday Night!***

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