

THE AMITY TRIDENT

LXXIV-No.2

Amity Regional High School

Woodbridge, CT 06525

October 19, 2018

Guest Speaker Visits Marine Biology Class

by Evan Hollander '20

Part of what consistently sets Amity Regional High School apart from other schools is Amity's facilitation of engaging presentations for students.

On October 4, the Amity Science Department continued this tradition by bringing a guest speaker into the fifth-period marine biology class. Dr. Robert S. Prezant of Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) spoke to students and even brought in

study of mollusks — which are soft-bodied animals like clams, scallops, octopuses, and snails.

He allowed students to see and hold many animals, including cuttlefish, squids, octopuses, crabs, sea mice, dogfish, cowfish, and batfish, which are species that the marine biology course covers throughout the year.

While Dr. Prezant permitted students to handle all of the specimens, many were less than eager to actually touch them and declined.

Sydney Reiner '20, a



Mia Sandberg '19 holds a marine organism.
Photo contributed by Valerie Cournoyer.

several specimens for them to examine.

Dr. Prezant is the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at SCSU. He holds a Ph.D. in Marine Biology. Having authored more than 50 peer-reviewed papers, Dr. Prezant is an expert in the field of malacology — the

marine biology student who attended the presentation, said that she enjoyed "being able to examine all the different animals [the class has] looked at and studied." She also noted that the specimens "were many different textures, some soft and slimy,

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Annual Club Day Encourages Student Involvement

by Grace Tiddei '19

Amity Regional High School's annual Club Day is normally accompanied by two things: the beating sun and the students' excitement. Although this year was met with cool temperatures and dreary skies, the familiar feelings of exhilaration and enthusiasm still permeated the air.

After weeks of preparation, Club Day graced the Amity parking lot on Friday, September 28th. In past years, students were normally walking around, exploring the plethora of

clubs the high school has to offer, while simultaneously trying to beat the September heat. This year's Club Day was full of students watching their step, carefully trying to avoid the puddles in the middle of the parking lot.

The upbeat sounds of music and cheers from different club members filled the air, however, adding to the excitement and festivities. The parallel rows of tables created an endless stream of choices and opportunities for students.

Assistant Principal Frank Barretta, who helps plan Club Day, said, "A lot goes into organizing this. Every Club

Day is successful because of the students."

When asked about the purpose of Club Day, Barretta said, "It's to get the students involved — the freshmen all the way up to the seniors — in something they are interested in."

Joseph D'Averso, a math teacher and co-advisor for Tabletop Gaming Club and STEM Club, said, "Clubs are opportunities to make friends and memories." He said he wants seniors to join clubs despite it being their last year.

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Freshmen Representatives Sworn into Student Government

by Audrey Marin '22

Amity Student Government held its second official monthly meeting on Monday, October 1st, but the first for freshmen representatives to attend. Student Government president, Avital Sutin '19, along with the other members of the executive board, welcomed the group back together and organized the group for participation in future events. However, this meeting held a special

significance, especially for the 25 new freshmen that attended. After being voted to represent their class, these freshman delegates were officially inaugurated into Amity's Student Government.

To apply to be in Student Government, freshmen were obligated to answer some questions about themselves, their involvement in school, and write a short paragraph describing the reason they believe they would be a good fit for Student Government. 28 eager freshmen applied, but only 25 freshmen were

eligible to be accepted. Thus, the entire freshman class was given permission to vote via an online form for their preferred representatives.

After being accepted, the new freshmen were looking forward to representing their class for the first time on the following Monday.

Ava Gross '22 discussed her hopes for this year by saying, "I'm excited to make a difference in our school."

Similarly, Grace Lodewick '22 said, "I felt like

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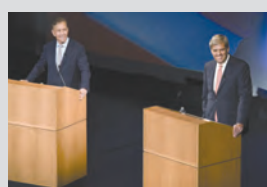
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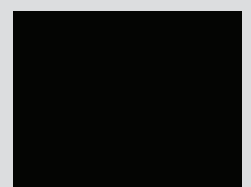
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Annual Club Day Encourages Student Involvement

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“Throw something at the wall and see what sticks,” D’Averso added, alluding to the wide variety of clubs Amity has to offer.



Seniors enjoy this year’s Club Day.

Photo contributed by Danielle Grosso '19

Students had the chance to see a variety of clubs such as STEM to Young Democrats and Robotics to Unified Sign Language.

Keri Tenerowicz '19 said, “Club Day gives students the opportunity to explore their interests in any area that want,” whose club, Statistics of Cards examines the math behind different card games.

Students can also explore their interest in different lan-

guages with the French Club and Chinese Club. “It’s definitely a good thing to have options,” said Alex Cadelina '19, a member of the Latin Club.

to share their ideas.

Forrest Miller '19, a member of the Retro Gaming Club, said this “allows everyone to be exposed to everything Amity has to offer, especially smaller clubs that aren’t as popular.” He added that the rain made it difficult in order to keep the main computer dry, but he was able to use an umbrella held by a backpack so prospective members were able to see what the club was like.

“I really enjoyed Club Day even though the weather was not ideal,” said Nicole Grosso '22. “Signing up was extremely easy, so naturally, I signed up for nearly every club I saw!”

Between the lively music, endless amounts of candy, and the overall energy from being outside, Club Day has proven to be an event that liberates students from their typical school day and provides them with different opportunities.

After seeing nearly 100 tables spanning the length of the parking lot, it is apparent that students are able to explore a variety of fields due to the abundance of clubs and have the chance to get involved in Amity’s community.

Despite the rain, the event was an opportunity to see everything Amity has to offer, encouraging students to get involved in the school community.

“I think that it’s a great way for freshman to see what clubs we have here,” said Koda Blue '20, a member of the Environmental Club. “And it’s a great way for people to promote their message and what their club is.” Blue said her club is really engaging and also is an outlet for people

Guest Speaker Visits Marine Biology Class

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some tough and hard.” Not only did Dr. Prezant

contacted Dr. Prezant about speaking, observed that her students “were engaged by his storytelling.”



Dr. Prezant and the Marine Biology class.

Photo contributed by Valerie Cournoyer

bring his specimens but also his years of experience and storytelling ability.

Valerie Cournoyer, the marine biology teacher who

Summer Schaaf '19, a marine biology student who attended, found the presentation captivating and “really enjoyed learning about ocean acidification and its effect on shells of marine animals.” Overall, she said that she is “very appreciative [to have had] the experience to learn about Dr. Prezant’s work.”

All students who saw the presentation seemed eager to learn from Dr. Prezant’s vast knowledge of and experience in the field of marine biology. Had the Amity Science Department not brought him in, students would have likely never received the insight into his work that he provided.



Dr. Prezant speaks to the class.

Photo by Valerie Cournoyer

Freshmen Sworn into Student Government

Continued from page 1

I was a part of something.” Partway through the meeting, the freshmen were invited to stand in front of the government and pledge their dedication to the council, which made their inauguration official.

Junior Student Government

representative, Ella Marin '20 says, “I’m really excited for the 2018-19 Student Government school year because the freshmen have shown enthusiasm as they step into their new roles.”

All in all, the meeting was definitely a success, and many are looking forward to an enjoyable and productive year.

Sophomores and Juniors Take the PACT and PSAT

by Caroline Chen '21

October brings not only the autumn season but also the standardized test-taking season. Each year, the sophomores and juniors of Amity Regional High School take the PACT and the PSAT, respectively. Both tests were administered on Wednesday, October 10, 2018 and lasted approximately three and a half hours.

Beginning in 2016, Amity sophomores have been offered the PACT as a preparatory test for the ACT, a standardized college admissions examination. The test includes four timed sections: English, Reading, Mathematics and Science. Sophomores felt that each section varied in difficulty but did not feel significant levels of stress while taking the test.

Allison Su '21 stated, “I wasn’t stressed because as [English teacher] Ms. Kimball said, ‘There are no stakes.’ It doesn’t count for anything, and colleges don’t have to see it.”

Claudia Lihar '21 similarly said, “It’s not worth stressing.”

Furthermore, sophomores saw the benefits in taking the

assessment. Emily Paolozzi '21 said, “I think while we do take too many tests, it’s a good [test to take] because it shows us our strengths and weaknesses to help us prepare for the real thing.”

Shyam Viswanathan '21 held similar feelings, since, “It helps people prepare for the real thing and decide whether they want to take the ACT or the SAT in the future.”

While sophomores took the PACT, juniors took the PSAT. This is another preparatory test given to ensure readiness for the SAT, a second type of standardized college admissions examination. The PSAT has been administered at Amity for much longer than the PACT.

The PSAT includes four different sections: English, Reading, Math with a calculator, and Math without a calculator. Juniors who do exceptionally well on the PSAT may qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Amity juniors held a range of feelings before taking the PSAT.

Nicole Mongillo '20 stated, “I wasn’t particularly nervous, since the SAT is more important than the

PSAT in terms of college applications.”

Others felt more stress and were unsure of how they would do on the test.

Joyce Zhang '20 said, “It was really stressful because [I’m] a really bad test taker.”

After taking the PSAT, juniors reflected on the experience. Both Mongillo and Zhang agreed that the test was exactly what they had expected.

They further believed that the test was worth the time it took. However, Mongillo stated that the test does not completely assess one’s academic ability.

She said, “In terms of preparing us for the SAT, I thought it was worthwhile, but I also think that you can only get so much out of it since it’s only one snapshot of all you can do on one random day.”

Though both tests were challenging at times, sophomores and juniors worked to their full potential and put in what effort they could.

“[At times], I was honestly going to give up, [but] I did not give up,” said Zhang.

Amity students are eagerly anticipating the release of their test results in the upcoming months.



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The Governor Race Heats Up Towards Election Day

by Ryan Anastasio '20

The race to be Connecticut's next governor has been going on for over two years. The field narrowed after the party conventions, and after months of anticipation, Bob Stefanowski and Ned Lamont are the major party nominees.

Democrat Ned Lamont, who previously ran for the U.S. Senate and for Connecticut governor, was the presumptive winner of the Democratic nomination from the get-go. Lamont had virtually no connection to the Malloy administration, and he poured millions of his own money into the race. Lamont has inherited much of his wealth and is worth over \$100 million. Lamont has little government experience besides serving as a Selectman in Greenwich.

Bob Stefanowski, the Republican nominee, also has very little government experience. He has worked in the private sector his whole life at both General Electric and UBS Investment Bank.

It is incredible that neither candidate has ever previously been a politician. It shows that people want change in Connecticut and to see a businessperson run the state. However, not having someone in politics as governor can be a disadvantage. Whichever candidate that becomes governor must learn the government pro-

cess and work with the state legislature and dozens of government agencies. While working in the private sector can be helpful, I argue that it can hurt you once you are in office.

A recent Quinnipiac University poll found that 47% of voters support Lamont, 39% support Stefanowski, and 11% support unaffiliated candidate Oz Griebel. The poll had a margin of error of 5% but Lamont has a notable lead. I was surprised that Oz Griebel got 11% in the poll. Griebel, who petitioned his way onto the ballot, has little name recognition outside of the Hartford area, where he served as the CEO of the MetroHartford Alliance.

Both Stefanowski and Lamont have very similar backgrounds, but their positions on policy are very different. Lamont supports adding trucker-only tolls, while Stefanowski is against any type of tolling. While I think tolling can be beneficial, the state has proven itself incompetent to put funds from a lockbox into transportation projects. Lamont's idea of tolls for only trucks is laughable. Very little revenue would be raised, and it is likely that the policy would eventually expand to all vehicles.

On taxes, Stefanowski plans to eliminate the state income tax. The tax brings in \$10 billion each year and accounts for over half the state's revenue. While I

give credit to Stefanowski for setting a goal, it is highly unlikely that he can do this without slashing funding. His plan calls for the elimination of the income tax over eight years, and he says that no cuts to education or town aid will occur. Stefanowski's plan is very vague and offers no specifics. He has repeatedly been asked what he will cut to account for the lost revenue, and he instead talks generally about waste and fraud in government. On the other hand, Lamont has said several times that he would raise taxes as Governor. In an interview with me and on WPLR, when asked if he would raise taxes, Lamont said yes and that everyone is going to have to give their fair share. Lamont later walked back on these comments and said he would not raise the income tax, but he would consider adding a statewide car tax to replace the town car tax and a marijuana tax if it is legalized. Having Lamont on tape saying he will raise taxes has been damaging to his campaign, and it is his greatest weakness.

The race for Governor is going to be very close. Both sides are constantly running advertisements, and the people are energized. Whoever you support, I encourage anyone that can vote to go to the polls on Tuesday, November 6th. Let your voice be heard and let's change Connecticut.

THE TRIDENT

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Should Sophomores Take the PSAT or Pre-ACT?

by David Sugarmann '20

On October 11, 2018, juniors took the PSAT/NMSQT, and sophomores took the Pre-ACT. I believe that as a whole, these tests are beneficial for students. However, I feel that the way we take these tests is slightly flawed.

Starting last year, sophomores no longer take the PSAT and instead take the Pre-ACT. By taking the two different sets of tests sophomore and junior year, it can help many students figure out if they are better at the ACT or SAT. While at first, this makes sense, I believe that it is a worse alternative to the original system, however. There are multiple reasons why it would be better

if both 10th and 11th graders took the PSAT.

Firstly, doing well on the PSAT can qualify you for the National Merit Scholarship. About 50,000 people in the entire country get recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program as either commended students, semifinalists, or finalists. Because it is so selective, taking the PSAT for the first time as a junior would decrease anyone's odds at getting recognized. Taking the PSAT as a sophomore would help students be more prepared when they take the test again the following year. Since the scholarship could be worth thousands of dollars, it is unwise to waste that opportunity.

Secondly, the Pre-ACT is not nearly as well known

as the PSAT, so it is much harder to understand your score. It is a relatively new test that started within the past decade, and there is little information about it.

On the contrary, the PSAT has many helpful tips and practice questions for the test. This is a big difference because students are virtually unable to prepare for the Pre-ACT, while there is a multitude of practice resources for the PSAT. Last year, when I took the Pre-ACT, I tried to figure out what ACT score it was equivalent to, but I couldn't even get a clear answer to that.

Without knowing the meaning of my score, I did not feel any more informed on which test I am better suited for.

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Brett Kavanaugh: Extremely Qualified, Fair Judge

Proven Record to Rule in Favor of the Law

by Timothy Belcourt '20

Supreme Court Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh is an extremely qualified individual and deserves the position he now holds on the Supreme Court.

He is a graduate of Yale University Law School and

has taught at both Yale and Harvard Law schools. Kavanaugh spent time as a clerk for Judge Walter King Stapleton of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Soon after, he clerked for Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy. Justice Kavanaugh was confirmed

to the United States Court of Appeals in 2006. He spent 12 years on the court, and in that time, he has heard over 2,000 cases. He has written over 300 opinions, and 13 of those opinions have been vindicated by the Supreme Court.

Throughout his career, Kavanaugh has proven

that he bases his rulings on the law rather than his personal views. He has had two notable campaign finance cases: one in which he ruled against the Republican National Committee, and another in which he ruled in favor of a liberal, pro-choice organization.

Kavanaugh also ruled in

favor of environmentalist plaintiffs on several occasions, and he ruled against the Bush administration over 20 times. Kavanaugh's career is extremely impressive, and he has proven to the American people that he will rule in favor of the law, not in favor of his own beliefs.

Brett Kavanaugh: Unfit for the Supreme Court

Credibility Is Highly Questioned

by Zachary Garfinkle '22

On October 6th, Brett Kavanaugh was confirmed as the latest Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. This has sparked outrage and protests among many people, in large part because of the allegations posed against him by Dr. Christine Blasey Ford. Regardless of whether one agrees with Kavanaugh's past judicial decisions, legal philosophies, or political persuasions, his nomination symbolizes a great threat to America's judicial system.

Both the serious allegations that Judge Kavanaugh attempted to rape Dr. Blasey Ford and the accusations that he was less than truthful dur-

ing his confirmation hearings have certainly warranted an F.B.I. investigation, and President Trump complied with these requests. However, the investigation was anything but thorough.

Numerous news reports suggested that President Trump was warned by the White House counsel, Donald F. McGahn II, not to let the investigation uncover too much. He reasonably feared that results of a rigorous investigation could prove to be catastrophic for Kavanaugh.

This advice is tremendously suspicious, strongly implying that the allegations are true. Furthermore, five Yale alumni who attended college with Kavanaugh were denied when they volunteered to be interviewed. There were, in fact, reported-

ly more than 25 people who could have spoken about Kavanaugh's sexual assault allegations and his lying under oath about drinking.

Kavanaugh's credibility is highly questionable. He claimed that he had never been so drunk to the point of blacking out or forgetting events; conversely, a former classmate stated that Kavanaugh acted "belligerent and aggressive" when he was under the influence. Additionally, he lied about the meanings of several vulgar expressions in his yearbook.

It is not surprising that a teenager who would insert such indecent phrases in the yearbook would sexually assault a peer. It is the general opinion of many that Dr. Blasey Ford was credible, and many Republican senators

even believe this.

However, they sent a clear message when they cast their votes: No matter how plausible Dr. Blasey Ford's story was, and regardless of her certainty of her assaulter's identity, it simply was not Brett Kavanaugh.

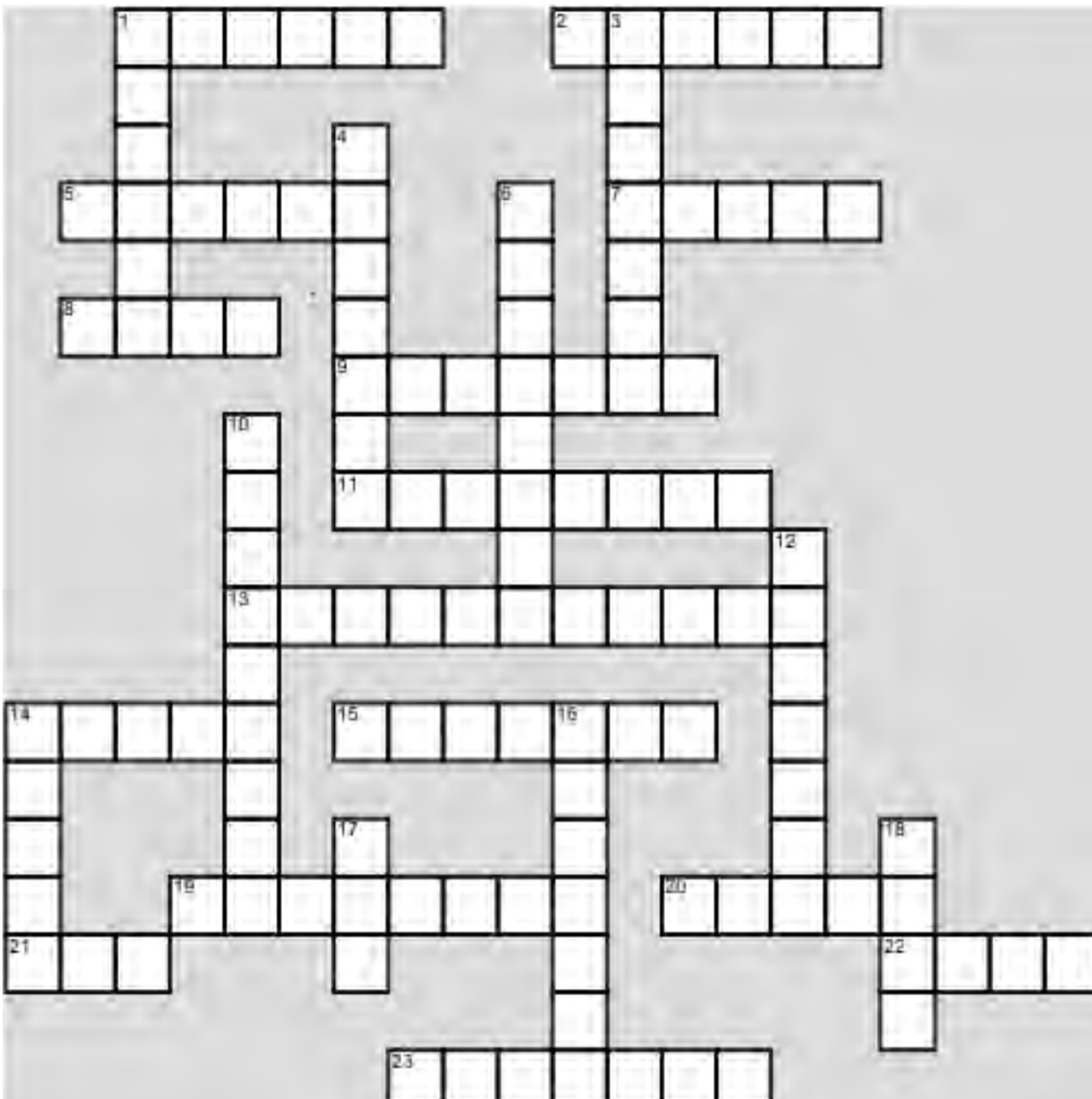
During the Kavanaugh controversy, the political divide in Congress and among the populace has seemed more conspicuous and extreme than ever. Nearly all conservatives were in favor of Kavanaugh's nomination, and the vast majority of liberals condemned him. The Senate vote reflects this; only one Republican voted present, and only one Democrat voted in favor of Kavanaugh (many of his voters are conservative).

Injecting politics into

everything is not the answer. Though Kavanaugh's nomination is certainly a political matter, the allegations posed against him are anything but.

Entrenched and unyielding political views can blind the general public; opinions on the future of our country should not cause people to scorn a victim of sexual assault. Polarization in politics could be precisely what prevents America from achieving greatness.

Judge Kavanaugh's temperament and illegal past make him an unfit justice for the Supreme Court. With his addition, two of the six men on the Supreme Court have been credibly accused of sexual assault. America faces uncertain times as the balance tips towards the right for the foreseeable future.



Across:

- 1. LA basketball player
- 2. Music in _____
- 5. Won 2 golf majors in 2018
- 7. Band teacher
- 8. ABC CT affiliate
- 9. "The Few. The Proud. The ___"
- 11. "Taste the Rainbow"
- 13. GOP Gov candidate
- 14. Football coach
- 15. Unaffiliated Gov candidate
- 19. Armstrong film
- 20. HI 5-O Commander ___ McGarrett
- 21. NBC Comedy Sketch
- 22. "Just Do It"
- 23. Show formerly known as Roseanne

Down:

- 1. Dem Governor Candidate
- 3. Wallingford Theater
- 4. KCity QB
- 6. Rap Musical
- 10. Recently deceased Saudi Journalist
- 12. This day happens every year during English class
- 14. New Superintendent
- 16. Freed Pastor
- 17. Political Club
- 18. 11 time National Championship Coach

This month's crossword puzzle was made by Ryan Anastasio '20. Thanks to him for making this incredibly difficult puzzle and good luck to all of our readers!

Clubs Emphasize Social and Global Change

by Jack Tajmajer '20

Amity hosts a wide variety of clubs that deal with social and international issues. Many clubs continue to expand upon what we as students can do to not only have an influence now, but also have a strong influence in our future by building a strong foundation of leadership and experience through extensive planning and preparation.

With the existence of many world events and problems, clubs that use their time to delve into global issues have a lot to discuss and are furthering the conversation that we need to have in order to be involved members of our communities and of our planet.

One club, Model United Nations, focuses on teaching students how the United Nations (UN) works by having them attend conferences where students can participate in various committees, including the security council or general assembly, and choose a country to represent.

These conferences provide passionate students with strong platforms to discuss prominent world issues regarding overarching themes with countless other representatives to negotiate a resolution that can be made to help solve the problem.

Sophia Wang '20, the president of the club, said that the purpose of the club "is to teach people about the United Nations and about foreign policy, diplomacy, and international relations so that if this is a career that someone is interested in pursuing, they will have experience to do so".

This club focuses on many world issues, and does its best to give its students a wide variety of knowledge surrounding many countries and international problems.

Another club of NASAGV, is excited to continue the impact of social change

is the National Association of Students Against Gun Violence (NASAGV), which was founded

this year. The club is trying to further the conversation around gun violence within the United States, and is also working to understand the issue as a whole within an international scope.

The club is bipartisan, open to all ideas, and strives to create conversation so that everyone can not only participate in this global movement, but possibly even be the one to start such an important change.

Nicole Mongillo '20, a founding member of the club, said that the purpose of NASAGV is "to continue the conversation surrounding common sense gun laws in response to the increase in lethal gun violence that we have seen in the last year."

Debate is also another club that discusses global issues. The Amity Debate Team spends most meetings teaching people how to debate in proper form and giving members new information, often regarding current events, to use in debates.

Because debates topics are far-reaching, lots of information about various countries and their prospective issues, or perhaps just their relationship to the United States, is analyzed and argued, giving debaters a thorough amount of worldwide knowledge. Through Debate, students can learn to not only have opinions or form opinions about new world issues, but also learn how to defend them with factual evidence and strong speaking skills.

Ariba Chaudry '20, a varsity debater, said that debate is "all about learning new global issues and being able to not only understand them, but use things I already know about the world to defend my position on it. Because we need to argue both sides, I have to know all of the information, not just what I choose to see."

These clubs, among many other student led organizations, compose the Amity landscape, and are a continual representation of the inspiring community that is Amity.



Nicole Mongillo '20, co-founder of NASAGV, is excited to continue the impact of social change

Photo courtesy of Jack Tajmajer '20

Sophomores Experience Life in the 19th and 20th Century

by Lani Beaudette '19

Sophomores taking Honors English had the chance to experience their reading come to life on October 3rd when they went on a field trip to the Tenement Museum in the Lower East side of New York City.

Students began the year by reading *The Bread Givers* by Anzia Yezierska. In the novel, readers learn the story of Sara Smolenski, a first generation Jewish woman, who experiences numerous hardships in America, including poverty and the age old clash between the Old and New World.

Sara spends much of her early life living in a tenement, where she endured many hardships. The story is a compelling representation of life as an immigrant. During the recent field trip, sophomores saw this history in person through visits to tenements like those that Sara Smolenski lived in.

Kennedy Csejka '21, a student who went on the trip, thought the tenement tour was a "really interesting experience since we read the book in class, and then were able to experience it in real life."

Several students echoed the

sentiments of Csejka, viewing the experience as eye-opening, seeing the things they had read about in person.

"The experience was very humbling," said Macaelan Rahn '21, another student who went on the trip. "It was astonishing that people actually lived that way and that was their life."

The tour allowed students to imagine living in a tenement throughout the 19th and 20th century. With tight spaces and poor living conditions, students



Eesha Acharya '21, Wendy Zhang '21, Alica Gopal '21, and Allison Su '21

were surprised by the busy daily routines and small quarters that residents were accustomed to.

As the tour progressed, the connection between the book and reality continued to grow. After exploring sweatshops where Jewish American immigrants worked, and walking into an Italian immigrant's tenement,

students realized that they were witnessing a piece of history before their eyes.

Within certain tenements, there were no pieces of furniture. Students were amazed that there was little to no room within the cramped space, and were even more astounded when the tour guides revealed that the living area was representative of a setting from the 1920's, which many considered to be much later and closer to today than expected.

Allison Su '21 said her favorite part of the trip was "when we got to explore the area on our own after the tour. I would have enjoyed the tour more if it wasn't cut short because we arrived late. That's why exploring was the best part."

Tasia Kimball, an English teacher who organized the field trip and made it possible for the students to have this experience, said, "The museum was a physical reminder and representation of how people use to live."

With this in mind, students were humbled by the experience and grateful to have gone. The trip showed students a real life and interactive version of the book as well as a piece of the past that would be implanted in their memory.

Seniors Set Up for the College Application Process

by Arielle Lavi '19

With college application season in full swing, many seniors and juniors are utilizing the college visits offered within the Career Center. Admission representatives from particular colleges or universities come to Amity during the school day and hold information sessions as well as meet prospective students.

Even if students already know which schools they want to attend or feel as though they are not yet ready to start looking, it's important to begin the college search early, and one way to do this is by attending these visits.

Katie O'Brien '19 said, "The biggest thing I get out of admission counselors coming to our school is a better understanding of the college or university. You get the opportunity to speak face-to-face and make a potential connection with the officer who may be reading your application."

Not only are college visits a free tool to meet with college

representatives, it helps students focus on specific aspects of their application, especially for more competitive programs. Pamphlets given out should be taken into consideration as well.

"It's an easy way to get yourself organized when applying to college," said O'Brien. "It contains everything you need to know about a particular school, and will save you time and money during this hectic time."

While college visits are beneficial, it is also important to go visit in person. On-campus tours tend to include an information session, while also giving prospective students the chance to walk around and experience the physical environment.

"It allows you to picture yourself as a student on campus and interact with the student body," said Maddy MacKay '19.

Having done both college visits and tours, MacKay finds that this in-person exposure is great for deciding if the school is the right fit. Through the vari-

ous opportunities offered, ranging from shadowing current undergraduates to sitting in on classes, potential students can fully immerse themselves in the campus climate if they wish.

While Julia Potter '19 hasn't been able to attend college visits, she feels tours are great ways to see the daily life of a student first hand.

"I benefited from being on-campus as I saw how I mixed in with the rest of the community," said Potter. "I now know what kinds of individuals are found on campus and helps me make a better informed decision of how I would potentially fit in."

Although it is only October, it's never too early, or too late, to attend these visits in the Career Center and on-campus. These information sessions and face-to-face contact with admission representatives can only benefit you, and can greatly help along your journey to applying and (hopefully) getting accepted into college.

THE 2018 GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION

MEET THE CANDIDATES!



**DEMOCRATIC NOMINEE:
NED LAMONT**

As the Democratic candidate for the Connecticut gubernatorial election, **Ned Lamont** prides himself in being a father, teacher, husband, and business owner. The candidate hails from Greenwich. Stressing female and LGBTQ+ rights, Lamont appeals especially to the liberal population. Throughout his campaign thus far, Lamont has said that he supports having tolls in Connecticut, which has been highly controversial. Lamont recognizes the current Connecticut budget crisis, and he says that he will fix it with his plan to cut taxes and reduce regulations. He also promises to increase job training and workforce development. Additionally, ensuring a fair economy for all is important to him. Lamont would also like to invest in Connecticut's specific strengths and "spark and urban renaissance." "I am not going to raise the income tax," he says. "I'm going to live within our means."

ON THE ISSUES

TAXES: Lamont's plan focuses on tax relief for the middle class. He will raise the property tax credit for existing beneficiaries by 50%. If a household earns up to \$160,500 a year, they will qualify for relief on property taxes paid on home or car. This will affect 900,000 tax payers, and 2 million Connecticut residents in total.

ECONOMY: Lamont stresses the importance of a fair economy. He supports the \$15 minimum wage to keep up with the continual increase of the cost of living in Connecticut. He further backs the labor movement and the push for protection of worker rights. Included among these issues are the expansion of paid medical and family leave.

EDUCATION: Lamont's education plan includes higher investment in child care and early education to set children up for a more promising future. His plan for K-12 includes closing the funding gap by using need-based formulas between districts which will contribute to minimizing the achievement gap. This also involves a heavier emphasis on STEAM.



**REPUBLICAN NOMINEE:
BOB STEFANOWSKI**

Bob Stefanowski is the Republican candidate for the Connecticut gubernatorial election. The former CEO of General Electric resides in Madison with his wife and three daughters. The main focus of his campaign is his plan to cut taxes. He also hopes to help small businesses, modernize our infrastructure, and make Connecticut a more attractive place to live for retirees and graduates. He has a five-step plan to rebuild the state's economy. Furthermore, Stefanowski has a deep problem with how Dannel Malloy governed the state, and in the last debate, he said, "Dan Malloy has absolutely ruined this state and the economy." Contrary to his opponent's plans, Stefanowski is a strong supporter of tolls. "Tolls are just another tax," Stefanowski said. "There is a ton of private sector money that is waiting to invest in roads and bridges." Stefanowski's campaign is highlighted by his plans to change the workings of the economy.

ON THE ISSUES

TAXES: Stefanowski plans to phase out the corporate income tax and business entity tax over two years, followed by phasing out the state income tax over eight years. He further plans to eliminate gift and estate taxes immediately, tackle spending by implementing a zero-based budget, and enact a taxpayer Bill of Rights, a concept that states that tax revenues should only be increased when tied to inflation or population increases.

ECONOMY: Stefanowski has an extensive tax plan that he believes will revitalize the economy. Furthermore, he has asserted himself as a large supporter of small businesses, placing a large emphasis on the importance of helping such businesses to have the ability to grow. He plans to do this by lessening the regulatory burdens that exist, which he believes will cause small business to want to move to Connecticut.

EDUCATION: Stefanowski is a large proponent of placing power in local control. The amount of unfounded mandates in Connecticut municipalities is a key issue of concern. Reducing the mandates would make it possible to redirect resources towards benefits such as education in local communities. He has also emphasized support for maintaining state grants to municipalities and exploration of vocational and technical schools.

ATORIAL ELECTION

PUBLIC OPINIONS

Lizzie Bowler '22: "Ned Lamont knows what he's doing. He's fighting for women's rights and LGBTQ+ representation, and that's really important to me and many others. He also wants to prevent gun violence, which is becoming a big thing in our country right now."

Karl Wilson (math teacher): "I can't say I'm happy with either candidate. Politically, I'm a libertarian and neither candidate is what I would consider a libertarian. So I am not particularly happy with either candidate. So at this point I can't say that I know who I would vote for."

Ryan Anastasio '20: "The race for Governor is going to be one of the most important decisions the voters of Connecticut have had to make in a decade. Failed political leadership on both sides of the aisle have put us in a fiscal crisis. The race is going to be close, and it is anyone's race to win."

Paul Johnson '19: "I support Bob Stefanowski because his past experience and fiscal conservatism are necessary to securing a sound economic future for Connecticut."

Thomas Livesay '19: "I like Stefanowski's plan to make Connecticut more desirable for businesses through cutting corporate tax and deregulation. I think that will be important in revitalizing Connecticut's economy."

Mounisha Anumolu '19: "I can understand why people are supporting Republicans on the state level, and I see why there's unhappiness with the current Democratic administration, but I feel Stefanowski is a poor choice for Connecticut."

Samuel Farbman '19: "I honestly feel that neither of the candidates are very popular among their own parties, which is not a good sign for the state. I'm honestly not sure who to vote for, and I wish there were better choices."

Tassos Kyriakides '20: "I feel really good about Ned Lamont's campaign. He's the LGBTQ+ ally and feminist that we need right now. It's also great that he cares about the arts, which is definitely an area that needs economic support right now."

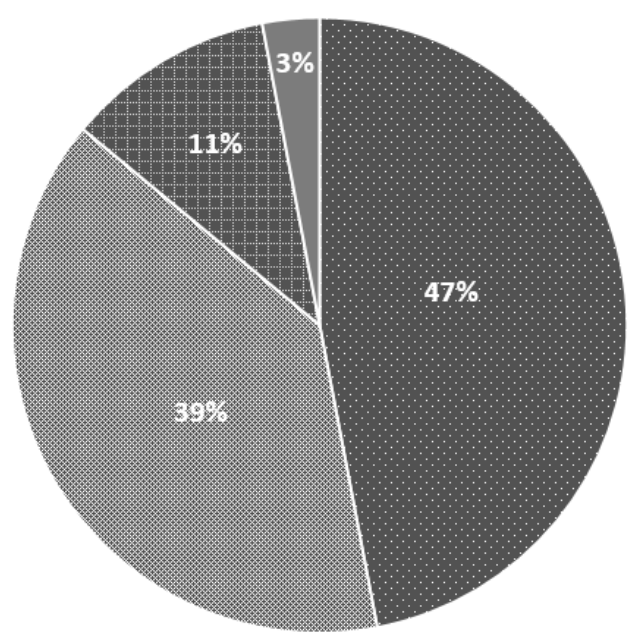
Elizabeth Massey '22: "I prefer Ned Lamont over Bob Stefanowski because Bob seems like a very arrogant man. For example, he says Dan Malloy has ruined the economy. Also, Bob says he plans to cut taxes, which is used for state funding and spending. Without this, unknown aspects of our lives may be limited or changed. Ned Lamont is the better candidate."

Payton Grande '19: "As a newly registered voter, I will be supporting Stefanowski in the upcoming midterms. I believe he is the best candidate and will be able to make Connecticut stronger."

Tim Belcourt '20: "I personally prefer Stefanowski. I'm conservative, and I agree with his economic policies more than Lamont's."

THE NUMBERS

Likely Voters



BREAKDOWN OF LIKELY VOTERS

MEN: 46%-Stefanowski 41%-Lamont 9%-Griebel
WOMEN: 53%-Lamont 31%-Stefanowski 13%-Griebel

INDEPENDENTS: 42%-Lamont 36%-Stefanowski 18%-Griebel

IMPORTANT ISSUES: 31%-Economy 26%-Taxes 24%-Government spending 13%-Education

■ Lamont ■ Stefanowski ■ Griebel (Independent) ■ Undecided

All polling data used was gathered from Quinnipiac Polling. Data was collected from 8/24 -10/8.

Music Students Awed by Marine Corps Band Performance

by Allison Su '20

The Amity Band, including both the Symphonic Wind Ensemble classes and the Concert Band, took a field trip to Madison Middle School in Trumbull to watch the U.S. Marine Corps Band perform on October 9th.

The Marine Corps have a total of ten bands, located in several different areas, such as New Orleans, San Diego, and Hawaii. The section that came to Madison Middle School was from Quantico, Virginia.

To begin the showcase of talents, the ceremonial band performed. This division of the band includes a variety of wind instruments, such as trumpets, trombones, tubas, saxophones, clarinets, and a piccolo, and requires a high level of discipline. To start, the players marched to the front of the room and played two songs.

Melita Collins '21 found this band's performance to be "the most interesting part because the performer's movements were crisp."

Then, Phil Dolan, the band teacher at Amity, was invited to conduct "Stars and Stripes Forever."

Mason Zhang '21 said, "My favorite part was when Mr. Dolan conducted because it sounded very professional."

Secondly, the brass band was introduced. The players in this band were much less traditional than the ceremonial band, and played several pop songs, including "Shake it Off" by Taylor Swift.

The performers sang along to the well-known tunes and encouraged the audience to sing along as well. For most of the audience, this part of the performance was unexpected, because people seem to believe that the Marine Band is all about discipline.

Although the players are excellent musicians who must follow strict rules, there is much more to their personalities.

The last group to perform was the rock band. They played popular songs, like "Can't Stop the Feeling!" by Justin Timberlake, and other rock songs. Many Am-

ity students in the audience went up to the stage as if it was a large scale rock concert, filling the auditorium with energy and enthusiasm. Sixth, seventh, and eighth graders from Madison Middle School were also in attendance to hear the performance.

Xingqi Shen '21 learned that "the band plays many different types of music."

When the performance ended, the audience learned about auditions to get into the Marine Corps Band. The process of getting into the Marine Corps Band involves talking to a recruiter in the area, being interviewed, and auditioning through video.

Through this explanation, Collins "learned that there are many opportunities for band outside of high school."

After this short talk, students were separated into sections for woodwinds, brass, and percussion players. For an hour, students got to converse with the performers and hear about their experiences as part of the band.

"Leah On the Offbeat" Book Review

by Alison Bowler '22

Earlier this year, rom-com *Love, Simon* made waves both inside and outside the LGBT community due to its realistic and nonchalant storyline.

Based on esteemed author Becky Albertalli's hit novel, *Simon Vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*, fans fell in love with characters like the passionate Simon Spier, the charming Abby Suso, and perhaps one of the most complex characters, the secluded Leah Burke, who becomes the focus of the acclaimed novel's sequel, *Leah on the Offbeat*.

This book takes place at the end of the characters' senior year amongst pressure from colleges, drama between friends, and most prominently, relationship issues. Leah thrives in her tight knit bunch of friends, but her closeted bisexuality threatens to disrupt her relatively mellow social life when she falls hard for the aforementioned Abby.

The story plays out around this, delving into topics like biphobia, bi representation, and the many struggles that play into coming out.

When asked about how the novel personally im-

pacted her, Jade Krukar '22 said, "The book is a great form of representation for the LGBTQ+ community... it was a really good book and I loved how Leah's heart didn't restrict itself. It also talks about biphobia and the lack of bi representation, and that's a discussion I think we all need to have."

Having just recently read this book, I completely agree with the points that Jade made. Not only is the novel vital to the actual community, but as another outsider I can say that reading this book opened my eyes to the many struggles dealt with by people like Leah that appear so miniscule or even nonexistent to those of us who don't battle those daily issues.

Ultimately, if you are a fan of Becky Albertalli's books or just someone looking for a novel that deals with such pressing issues, *Leah on the Offbeat* is a well done, comical, and heartbreaking book that I recommend everyone take the time to read, as the story and its message will never leave me.

Despite my results, I think everyone should make an effort to go out to the movies and see this wonderful musical. I strongly believe you won't be disappointed.

ACT Prepares for Fall Play

"The Curious Incident" Debuts in December

by Ava Gross '22

As the school year finally starts to settle in, the fall play becomes the focal point of the Amity community's attention. This year, the Amity Theater Department is staging "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime."

It is quite different from previous plays, as it features an autistic child as the lead character, Christopher Boone. Throughout the story, Christopher must overcome many issues that can only be solved by spurring something special within himself.

The play begins with a bang, when Christopher

finds his neighbor's dog dead in her yard. His neighbor, Mrs. Shears, calls the police and he is pulled into custody. After inconclusive evidence, Christopher is let off with a warning, however, the death still haunts him. Christopher conducts an investigation that leads to a spiral of events, and soon Christopher is forced to take matters into his own hands and decide his own path.

The cast has been diligently working Monday through Thursday, 2:30-4:30 to rapidly prepare for this show.

Cast member Macie Cox '22 said, "I am excited about it and think that it will be a very good educational opportunity for the students who watch it."

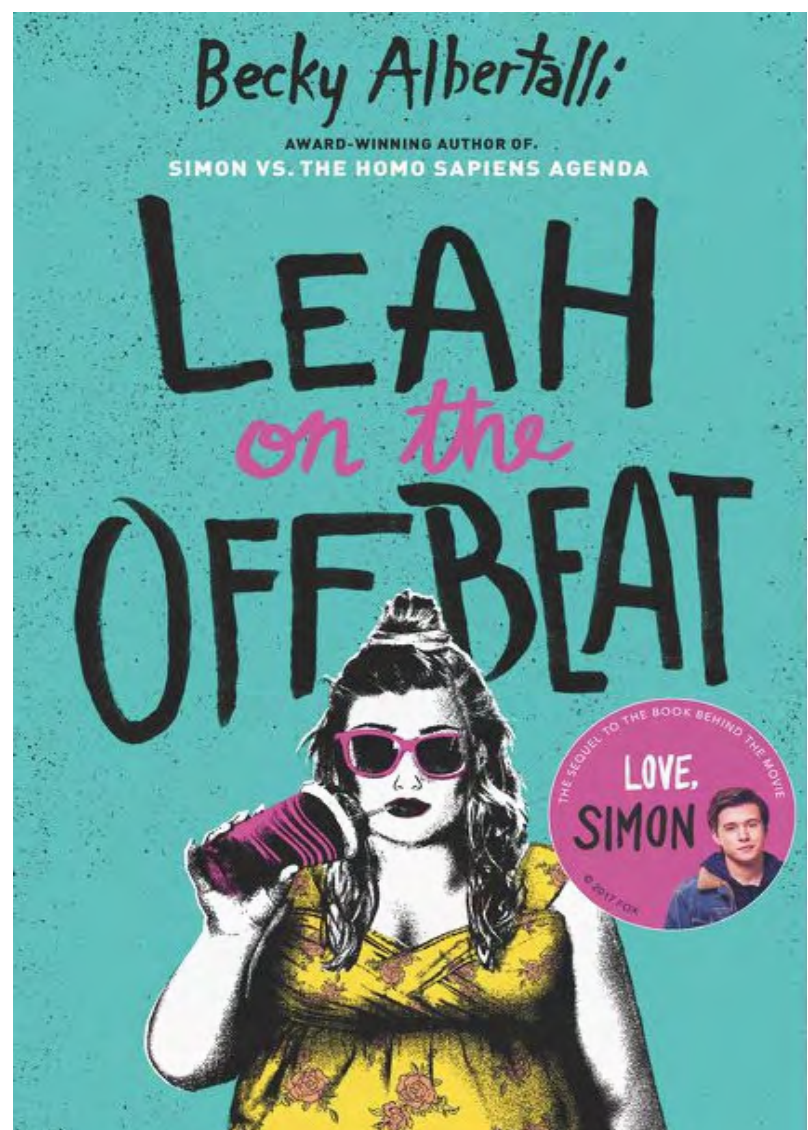
When asked why he chose this particular play, Rob Kennedy, director of the play, says that he, "chose this play because when [he] saw it on Broadway it was one of the best experiences [he] has ever had inside a theater. It is an incredibly powerful play. It has an amazing message but it is still accessible to everyone."

The opening night of "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime" will begin on Friday, December 7 from 8:00 pm. to 10:00 pm.

It will also be showing Saturday, December 8 from 8:00 pm. to 10:00 pm. Tickets to see this creative show can be purchased on amitytheaterdepartment.com!



Cast members read through the script
Photo from Amity Creative Theater Facebook page



Book cover of *Leah on the Offbeat*
Photo from Harpercollinspublishers.com

Amity Boasts Pride for Breast Cancer Awareness

by Jade Krukar '22

Amity Girls Soccer hosted its annual Pink Game fundraiser for breast cancer awareness on October 9th against Sacred Heart Academy. The varsity girls geared up in custom-made pink jerseys, grabbed a bag of pink soccer balls and took to their field, freshly painted with pink lines.

The game started off with a bang. Captain Kaylee Huber '19 landed a shot in the back of the net in the 8th minute to make the score 1-0 in Am-

goals before the first half ended, but we knew we had to keep up the intensity as Sacred Heart would try to make a comeback in the second."

Sacred Heart stepped out onto the field in a tougher mindset for the second half, quickly taking over possession. However, Amity did a good job of withstanding Sacred Heart's offensive attacks, with their stellar defense and performance in net.

Goalkeeper Grace Lodewick '22, who made many replay worthy saves, upheld her impressive shutout. The game finished

ning team, the players weren't as satisfied with their performance.

After the game, Emma Beloin '22 said, "It wasn't our best game but we fought through it and worked hard."

Ella Marin '20 added, "We definitely know what to work on in practice and we're going to work harder and come back stronger."

But Natalie Prinz '20 said that even with an unsatisfactory performance, they "still pulled out the win."

Although Amity Varsity Girls Soccer had room



JV Girls huddle up at half time during this week's pink game.

Photo by Dawn Smith

ity's favor. The girls continued to work hard, later rewarded in the 30th minute with a beautiful through ball from Nicole Grosso '22, which Julia Potter '19 launched in over the goalkeeper's head.

Psyched up about their early lead, varsity coach Owen Quigley gave the girls a quick pep talk at half time, but the girls knew the game was not over just yet.

Potter said, "It was great being up by two

off in the 80th minute with a final score of 2-0.

The girls lined up to shake hands with Sacred Heart and cooled down by jogging across to the spectators' side of the field. The fans, along with the JV and freshman girls soccer teams, clapped hard and with pride for the victory of their Amity team.

While the crowd was full of pride for their win-

for improvement, it was the cause that was the main focus

of the game.

Captain Cailey Esposito '19 said, "It was an honor to play as a team to support breast cancer. We won as a team and fought for those who are fighting battles greater than we can imagine."

The game raised awareness for breast cancer, all the while enjoying the tough competition soccer has to offer.

Swimming in Success

by Elana Bershtein '19

Throughout the fall sports season, the Amity Girls Swim and Dive team has repeatedly demonstrated how to be successful. With an impressive record of 12-1, AGSD is now up top as one of the best teams in the Southern Connecticut Conference.

Head coach Todd Rainey attributes their recent victories to a variety of factors.

"We have great senior leadership, we have some outstanding front-line swimmers, and we have phenomenal depth," he said. "Some teams will have one accomplished swimmer per event. We will have three or four."

Freshman Katie O'Connor '22 is one of the team's most accomplished swimmers and has consistently placed highly in her events throughout the season. With her top time of 58.7 seconds in the 100 yard butterfly and 24.8 seconds in the 50 yard freestyle, O'Connor has not only automatically qualified for states but is even close to breaking the school record.

In addition to the myriad of talented swim-

mers and divers, AGSD also contributes much of their success to team comradery. Bonding events such as pasta parties, team movie nights, and other activities have truly connected the girls.

Senior and captain Molly Cox '19 has especially worked hard to create a supportive team environment. She said, "It is very important to create a strong support system both in and out of the pool. It is when we are encouraging each other that we see the most accomplishments."

The team bond is especially evident at swim meets, in which the energy on the pool deck is contagious. The girls are constantly cheering and supporting their teammates regardless of the score.

Carly Silver '20 said, "As I prepare for a race I always take a moment to look around me. I see my teammates cheering as loud as they can and supporting my fellow teammates. Our team's spirit is what truly motivates me to swim fast."

AGSD encourages the entire Amity community to attend their swim meets and hopes for a large turnout on their Senior Night on October 16th at the Orange Town Pool.



Members of the swim team huddle before a recent meet.

Photo by Jenna Zamkov '21



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Success Continues for Amity Girls Field Hockey

by Alli Hummel '19

Going into this school year, the Amity Field Hockey Team was unsure what the season would hold, after they lost 14 seniors from last year. It would be one of the youngest teams that longtime coach, Sarah Hale, has had in a long time.

After losing their season opener, the morale was not lost, as the team soon embarked on a point streak that had been rare in past years. The outcome of this season began to seem more and more hopeful.

Amity went on to beat long time rivals Luralton Hall and Sacred Heart Academy under the leader-

ship of captains Tess Cs-jeka, Daria Torrenti, Jill Kauod, and Alli Hummel, boosting the confidence of the team.

The girls then moved on to play the reigning SCC champions, Daniel Hand. In previous years, Amity had lost to Hand by as many as 10 goals.

However, with Cs-jeka's late goal, the Spartans tied Madison's Daniel Hand 1-1 last week. The wins did not stop there, as the girls continued to dominate in the SCC and non-conference teams like their 1-0 overtime win in New Milford.

Following these earlier strands of success, Amity recently picked up two huge wins. The team

defeated the reigning SCC runner-ups, Branford, in a 4-3 overtime win from sophomore, Natalie Huber's goal.

Later that week, goalie Payton Rahn '21 shut out Hamden in a 4-0 win.

This season has been full of exciting moments and growth for the Amity Field Hockey program as their record improved to 8-3-1.

Under the leadership of their coach and the upperclassmen and goalies Ana Carney '20 and Rahn, Amity is on course for one of their best seasons and hope to become a dominant team in the state after being ranked 5th most recently in Class L.



Natalie Huber '21 drives the play up the field into the Hamden defense.
Photo from sportsmd.com

Boys Soccer Blanks Jonathan Law in Victory

by Evan Arovass '20

The Amity Boys Soccer team looked to bounce back in a recent game against Jonathan Law High School after suffering a tough loss at Fairfield Prep last week. Earlier in the season, Amity defeated the same Jonathan Law team 3-0 on their home turf.

Forward Ali Bobi '20 stated, "This was an important game for us to win after the initial loss at Fairfield Prep."

Not only did Amity win this game by a lot, scoring five goals, but they also held Law scoreless yet again. Two goals during the first half for Amity set the tone for the rest of the game.

Mitchell Sousa '20 and Bobi were the first two Spartans to put the ball in the back of the net. The Spartan defensemen held down the backfield as the offense tacked on three more goals by Sousa, Bobi, and Arian Bobi '21.

Coming into the game,

Amity knew this was one they should win.. It is an understatement to say that they more than proved their dominance.

This victory allowed for Amity to improve its record to six wins, four losses, and one tie.

As the regular season comes to an end, Amity has completed all of their away games. It helps the team sleep at night knowing that they will be playing their final five games all on their own turf; a place where they haven't gotten the chance to play much so far.

Arian Bobi recapped the victory saying, "This win against Jonathan Law put us in a good position for the rest of the season with all these home games left."

Before wrapping their season up with East Haven, Amity will face Foran, Hamden, Guilford, and Wilbur Cross.

The Spartans will hold their Senior Night game on Friday, October 25th. We hope to see you come out and support!



A freekick by Thomas Swat '19 is swathed out of the air by a Guilford goalie.
Photo by Andy Koorejian

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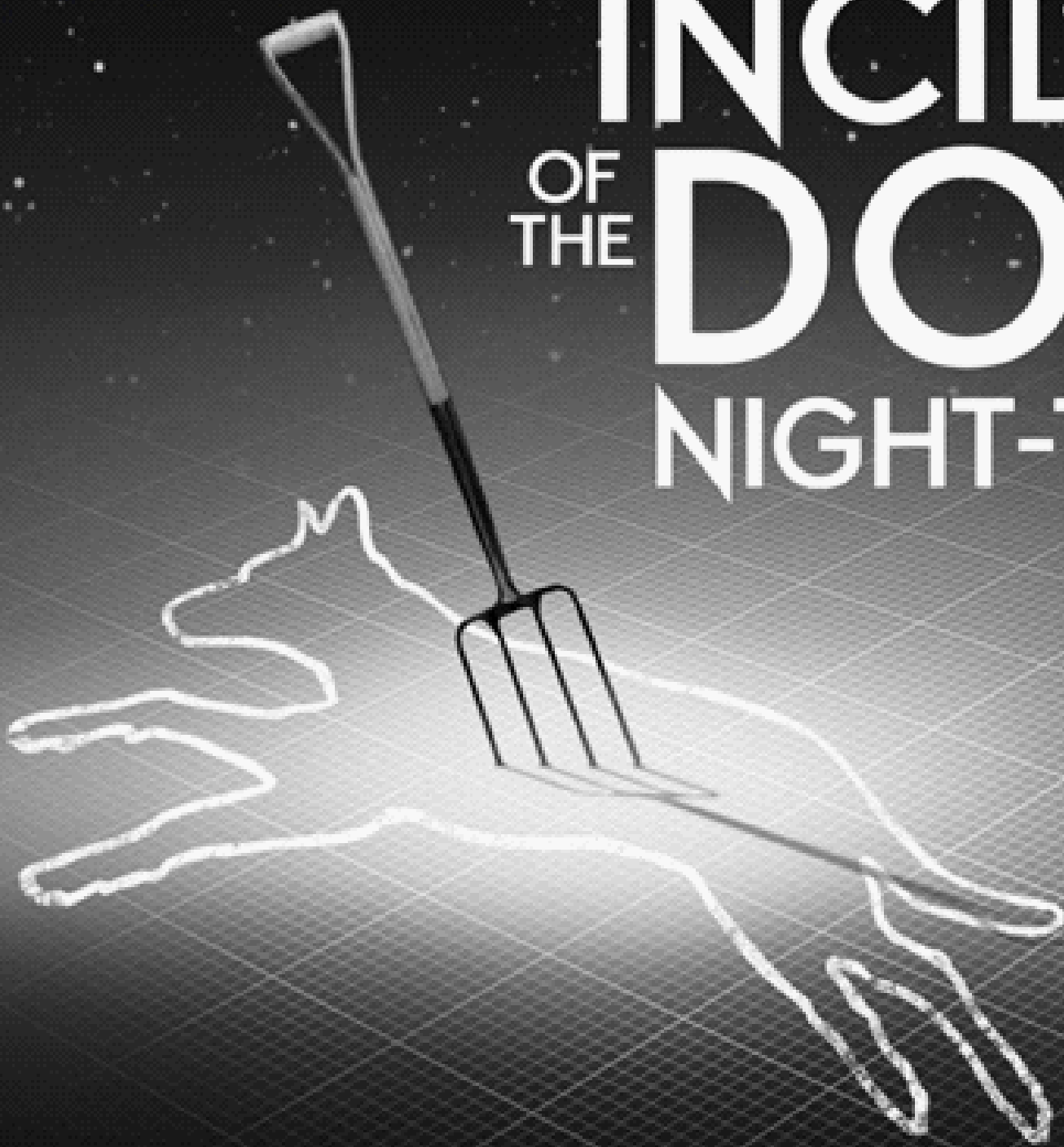


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