

Loomis Chaffee Log

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**LOOMIS CHAFFEE
WALKS OUT AGAINST
GUN VIOLENCE (page 2)**



A LETTER FROM THE EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

**Liam Scott '19
& Beatrice Dang '19**
Editors-in-Chief

Dear Loomis Chaffee,

The Log is LC's finest news source. Every issue, our staff, comprising ten section editors, a graphics team, two managing editors, and two editors-in-chief, as well as countless staff writers and contributors, work to assemble and to polish a completely student-produced paper about once a month. Each production cycle lasts around three weeks, and culminates in a long layout weekend spent in the sweltering basement of Palmer dorm, where editors while away their Friday night correcting misplaced modifiers and comma splices. The tens of hours of work we put in isn't just for our small but loyal reader base, but also for the wealth of experience we gain and the fun we have crafting every issue. That's right. We have fun in that overheated dungeon of a dorm basement. And not only do we serve ourselves, we serve the entire community.

This year, we will strive to make The Log a platform for voices of all backgrounds and political standings, and to reach out to a wider base of both contributors and readers. We will also strive to explore and to produce more investigative journalism pieces. We want to find stories, because there is some spooky stuff going on in Windsor, CT. We hope to continue producing pieces that spotlight outstanding members in our community, from the dining hall staff to student athletes to new faculty. Here at The Log, we aim to undertake the school mission: betterment of self and service for the common good. The 2018-2019 staff will continue to both uphold time honored tradition, and also endeavor to create some of our own.

Warmly,
Liam and Beatrice

DAGNY MACTAGGART: EQUESTRIAN SPOTLIGHT

Liam Scott '19 | *Editor-in-Chief*



Dagny on Ziezo competing in Miami.

Photo by The Book LLC

Dagny Mactaggart, a junior from Millbrook, NY, is an accomplished equestrian. She not only acts as one of the school's co-captains for the varsity equestrian team, but also competes regularly at a high level in at WEF in Wellington, FL, as well as shows in the Hamptons, Lake Placid, and HITS. Liam Scott: When did you start riding? Dagny Mactaggart: I started riding literally out of the womb. Like literally a week old.

LS: Why did you start riding?
DM: All of my family rides, so it just kind of happened.

LS: What do you currently compete in?
DM: I compete in the high junior jumpers. It's 1.45 m. The biggest class I've ever competed in was a 2-star Grand Prix. I went to compete in the Longines Global champions tour in Miami, and I competed in the 2-star division there. The

level right above that is the 5-star, and it's made up of the top thirty riders in the world. I'm in the division below that. I go to Florida basically every weekend to compete, but pretty much everyone else in my class stays down there for the whole winter.

LS: What do you wish people knew about equestrian?
DM: There's so much that goes into it. That minute that you're in the ring, there's so much work you put into developing yourself, working with your horse, and there's so much work to get to that level of precision. If you mess up even for a second, you won't do well.

LS: What have you been up to recently?
DM: I competed a few weekends ago in the high juniors on my horse Ziezo, and I won the speed class, and I was second in the jump off. I ended up champion.

LS: What's the hardest thing about riding?

DM: Probably you know you have your plan and everything before you go in the ring, but when you go in, there can be so much deviation. To do well in riding, the level of precision is nuts, but that's also what makes it such a challenge.

LS: What do you love about riding?
DM: Riding is the only sport in which men and women compete against each other equally on the same field. I think that's really cool. And riding is a team sport in a way. It's you and your horse. When you're out in the ring, it's you and your horse, and there's that connection between you and this animal. I don't know how to explain it. If you're really clicking with a horse, there's a special connection.

LS: Tell me about your trainer, Judy.
DM: Judy is my trainer, but she's kind of like my second mom. I've been riding with her since I was like 6 years old. She puts up with me. Judy is a good balance of tough and caring. She's pretty much like my mom, she's like, "Whatever happens, I love you," but she wants me to do as well as I can. Judy was on the US team for a little bit.

LS: What's your proudest accomplishment?
DM: My proudest accomplishment is probably being team bronze at Young Riders. Young Riders is a competition where all the top juniors go. It's like a championship competition for North American riders. There's the team and the individual. I was sixth in the individual, third for team. There was so much jumping that day. It's at competitions like those where you see that the horses want to compete and win just as much as you do.

LS: What your next goal?
DM: My current goal is to do the under-25 Grand Prix. That's what I want to accomplish in the next year.

LS: Anything else to add?
DM: Go follow me on Instagram @dagny_mactaggart.

MENTAL WELL-BEING

Minna Gao '19 | *Managing Editor*

"Next year's school theme is mental wellbeing? That's interesting."

This was my reaction when I first heard of the Student Council's decision. I thought about all the things that could go wrong by selecting this theme, and about the underlying message of the decision: the topic of mental distress has become so grave an issue that it demands the school to devote one year's worth of convocations and discussions to it. However, as I reflect upon my experience here as a student, I realized that this focus on mental wellbeing would shift our attention from the outer world to our inner selves.

Life as a high school student in a competitive prep school can be hard. Sometimes, it is not a sudden traumatic life experience that breaks a person, but the long-term accumulation of small disappointments and minor stressors that become the straws that break the camel's back. Lately, I often find myself staring at an empty table on a Saturday night, too stressed to go hang out with my friends but too mentally taxed to start my work. As thoughts of my workload pester me 24/7, I seem to carry the weight of my responsibilities around like a snail would carry its shell; stress and being stressed became living norms of my everyday life.

As a school, we don't give mental wellbeing the attention it deserves. We have talks about the environment and current events, but we rarely hold meetings or events that teach students how to move on from a bad performance in class or that give them a space to share their struggles. Just because many students are stressed, complaining about your own stress is often deemed tactless and self-centered; this implicit yet stifling social practice can lead to an unhealthy environment. Simply

acknowledging common problem of stress and removing the stigma of talking about it will be the first step to ameliorating the issue.

I think sometimes we overlook how hard it is to be a student at Loomis Chaffee, or any similar type of school, and we forget to reward ourselves for dealing with all the hardship because we're so used to it. Boarders often experience homesickness that, contrary to common belief, does not lessen over time, and though I can only talk confidently about the boarder's experience, I have heard from some of my day student friends that balancing life outside and within Loomis is difficult. We are all high achievers and hard workers who have pulled through despite many challenges, and we ought to give ourselves a pat on the back for that.

All in all, I am glad that the mental wellbeing of the community is given greater campus-wide emphasis, and I look forward to seeing how the school theme unfolds next year and its impact on the Loomis community.

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LOOMIS CHAFFEE WALKS OUT AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

Liam Scott '19 | *Editor-in-Chief*



Loomis students gather on the Upperclassmen Quad to protest against gun violence on April 20, 2018.



Photos by the LC Communications Office

On April 20, National Walkout Day, Loomis Chaffee students walked out of their B4 classes at 11:00 a.m. to take a stand against gun violence around the country. The walkout was organized by Cathy Hyeon '18, Caroline Colao '18, Anya Sastry '20, and Blaine Stevens '18. "We organized the walkout with a common goal in mind: to create unity amongst the Loomis Chaffee community beyond the intense political divides that plague our country in this age," said Stevens. "The battle against gun violence is a non-partisan battle, and with the walkout, we strived to bring students of all creeds together."

Loomis Chaffee students and faculty alike congregated in Grubbs quad for one hour and listened to different speeches and performances pertaining to gun violence in America. Dean Liscinsky commented on the deans' role in the walkout, saying that "[the walkout was] definitely a student initiative," and she and her fellow deans only offered "support."

Caroline Colao began with a speech that touched upon lesser known types of gun violence, including suicide and domestic violence. She also encouraged all Loomis students to get involved with local politics. Such advice was present throughout many other speeches, including that of Anya Sastry. In Caroline's words, "We can forget about gun violence once we've ended gun violence."

Cathy Hyeon followed, speaking from personal experience living in Sandy Hook. "I walked out, for I once knew exactly how the students of Parkland are feeling.

Echoes of "please, please, don't shoot" rang through the quad during a spoken word poem by Oumi Sowe '20. The cutting poem exacerbated the chill brought about by the cold wind.

Simone Moales '21 and Loren Jones '21 both sang "Change" by Christina Aguilera, a song that underscores the importance of equality and compassion.

The organizers of the walkout went to great efforts to make this event as nonpartisan as possible. Although, as Dean Liscinsky questioned, "issues [so] big, [can hardly ever] be nonpartisan" student organizers certainly worked to include a "wide range of opinions." Jack Costello '18 and Aidan Murphy '18 gave a conservative perspective, explaining that they "don't believe we should ban semi-automatic weapons" because that would essentially lead to the government's banning of other "technically killers," such as alcohol and cigarettes. "Wouldn't you feel restricted if the government took [those things] away from you?" Potential black market sales were also brought up. "Look at the drug epidemic. They're all illegal, but citizens get them."

Still, there were some who had different opinions regarding the walkout. Patrick Pugliese '18 shared his thoughts. "Although the nationwide participation of the walkout is commendable, the efficacy in regards to enacting definitive policy on the matter remains debatable. The vague nature of the protest encouraged participation, but only complicated possible tangible solutions to them. In order to be more effective, the protests must be more specific in their aims, lest they end up with a failure of

resulting legislation similar to the Occupy Wall Street movement." Cara Keogh '18 added that the walkout "was also a valuable experience for students who did not want to participate [in the greater movement] or who had differing opinions."

"I see our faces in those people who die," Blaine Stevens explained. "I know these people; I know them. We are them... This tragedy is not mine, but how can I see faces on the news so similar to me and my friend, and not grieve the losses. This is not the Columbine generation, but the activist generation, the change making generation."

There was still confusion among students regarding whether or not they would be deeped by a teacher if they walked out. Such concerns are valid. For example, what if walking out means missing a test? A walkout is civil disobedience and an opportunity to take a stand for something you believe in. Civil disobedience intrinsically demands that something be put at risk. In Cathy Hyeon's words, "We as a prep school participated because [gun violence] affects all people."

"Civil disobedience is a really interesting thing for kids to wrap their head around. What matters to you? How much does it matter? What does that really mean?" said Dean Liscinsky.

Ultimately, Loomis is a school. We learn here, but education is not necessarily restricted to the classroom. Dean Liscinsky put it eloquently: "For me, the outside of the classroom stuff is incredibly important for understanding your place in the world, and understanding the impact you can have on others."

**TAKE a PHOTO of THIS QR CODE
with SNAPCHAT for
GUS HAWLEY'S VIDEO of the WALKOUT**



LC HOCKEY HONORS THE HUMBOLDT BRONCOS

Jean Shin '20 | *Staff Writer*

On Friday, April 6 at around 5:00 pm, The Humboldt Broncos, a junior Canadian ice hockey team, was on its way to the playoff game when the bus collided with a semi-trailer truck at a highway intersection on the northern border Tisdale, Saskatchewan, Canada.

The impact flipped the bus sideways and sent the vehicle skidding across the highway. The front half of the bus's roof was completely torn off. Broken road signs and pieces of glass littered the scene. Fifteen people, including head coach Darcy Haugan, athletic therapist Dayna Brons, team captain Logan Schatz, and radio announcer Tyler Bieber, died in the accident, and the remaining thirteen passengers were injured. Another passenger on the bus passed away five days after the crash.

The small town of Humboldt responded to this tragedy with shock and disbelief. Like many cities in Canada, ice hockey plays a major role within the Humboldt community. The devastating loss of these players brought the town together. Community members held vigils and decorated stairs of the Broncos' arena with teddy bears, jerseys, and flowers to commemorate the team.

The Loomis Chaffee Varsity Ice Hockey teams demonstrated their support by wearing their game uniforms to class on April 13th to spread awareness about the collision.

Many members of the girls ice hockey team first heard about the incident through social media such as Instagram and Twitter. They expressed their grief to one another and discussed ideas that could contribute to the

Humboldt cause. The team decided to hold a fundraiser at one of the boys lacrosse games, and by selling food and gathering donations, they collected over \$300 to support the Humboldt families.

Jenna Donohue '20, a right wing player on the Loomis Varsity Hockey team, commented, "It especially impacted us as a community because we are always on a bus together. The accident could've happened to anyone in any sport at Loomis. The situation would be devastating because every team member feels like a sister."

The Humboldt tragedy continues to gain support for the victims and their families in the tragic bus accident. The outpour of love through social media and generous donations through the GoFundMe campaign keep the memories of the Humboldt Broncos members alive.



Loomis Chaffee Log

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ABOUT

The Loomis Chaffee Log is Loomis Chaffee's official student newspaper. We can be found online at www.thelclog.org, and we can be contacted via email at log@loomis.org. Letters to the editor and op-ed piece submissions are welcome via email. The Log reserves the right to edit all letters and pieces for brevity and content. The views expressed in the Log do not necessarily reflect those of The Loomis Chaffee School. Unsigned editorials represent the collective views of the Editorial Board.

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HOW WE CAN GO GREEN FOR EARTH DAY



Jackson Done '19 | *Opinions Editor*

With Earth Day recently passing, I've reflected on the importance of being environmentally friendly, and how we as students can continue being green around campus and in our everyday lives. I was surprised to learn what little effort going green requires. This makes going green ideal for busy Loomis Chaffee students.

One of the easiest and most obvious ways to go green on campus is trading in the disposable water bottles for the reusable ones that can be bought in the bookstore. This simple act can make a huge dent in our global plastic problem. Another quick and simple way to go green is making sure your lights and fans are turned off when you are not in the room.

Granted, there are times when I'm running out of my room to the first class of the day and I forget to turn my fan off. Everyone will have moments like that, but not

making that mistake a habit is what is important.

Around campus, the E-Proctors are in charge of events that have to do with environmental sustainability around campus, such as running the Green Cup Challenge and organizing events during Earth Week. The E-proctors hold regular meetings with Mr. Dyreson in the Taylor common room, hard at work trying to make Loomis a more environmentally friendly place. We recently celebrated Earth Week on campus which brought much attention to what the institution and the students can do to lessen the school's carbon footprint.

While I know many of my peers are invested in bettering Loomis, I also feel as though more could be done to encourage students to become actively involved in going green. While there is no "typical Loomis student," there needs to be more emphasis on reaching out to the student body as a whole, from boarders to day students, in order to promote ways of being eco-friendly on

a regular basis. There should also be more of a presence in the dorms by the E-Proctors. E-Proctors could come to the dorms every month and update students on new sustainability efforts on campus as well as on different ways to go green.

Besides the E-Proctors' efforts to make Loomis' carbon footprint as small as possible, the school is making leaps and bounds by approving the construction of solar panels and approving the allotment of a fund within the school's endowment for student-led investing in accordance with Environmental, Social, and Governance investing criteria. I find the investment fund most exciting because it gives students power to make a difference in the world outside of the Loomis community.

These are examples of significant progress in the community, and these efforts make me optimistic for the future of environmental sustainability at Loomis.

JUNIOR-VARSITY INJUSTICE?

Portia Inzone '20 | *Opinions Editor*

Within most Loomis Chaffee sports, JV teams work to prepare their athletes for varsity. The coaches stress technical skills, drills, and activities, creating a motivating environment that stimulates improvement. JV acts as a booster for varsity, and encourages the athletes to think of JV as a temporary assignment. However, I have heard from many students that they feel JV teams fail to prepare them for varsity, either based on coaching or a team dynamic.

JV sports are often coached by teachers or faculty who have other commitments on campus, so the coaching itself isn't always as technical or rigorous. Additionally, from going to various games and practices, I have seen how a low-intensity team nature works against those who hope to move up to the varsity level; often instead of the coaching limiting the JV athletes, the low competition

level between teammates ultimately makes it a lot harder for them to improve. Therefore, an overall attitude of the team sometimes stifles or discourages more passionate athletes, damaging the JV reputation and hurting their chances to move up to varsity. While the varsity team does invite many JV athletes to play for their team, the JV mindset hinders this selection--the group mentality suffers, poorly reflecting on the competent athletes.

Contrarily, Mr. Zavisza, coach of boys varsity hockey, says, "When it comes down to it though, every player on JV is in control of their own approach. If they put their best effort on the ice every practice and every game, are a good teammate, are coachable, and trust in the process they are going to get better regardless of how well the team does or how strong the team culture is." He illustrates how a varsity-equipped athletes stand out regardless of the environment they are in.

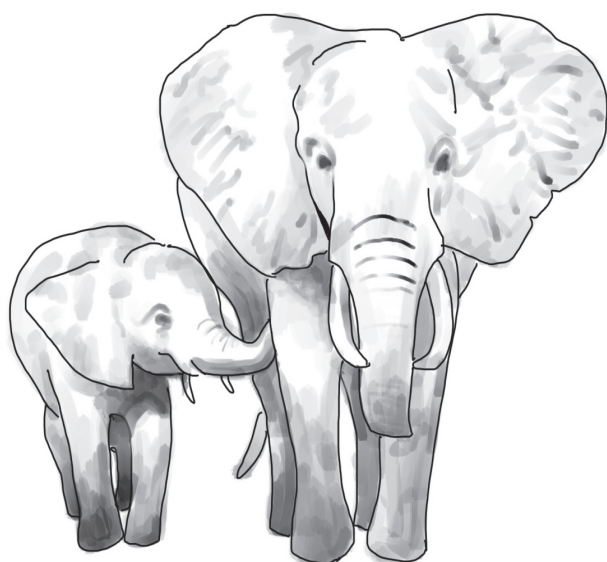
Similarly, Mr. Stewart, coach of girls varsity basketball, says, "Playing JV basketball COULD prepare athletes for varsity level basketball if the athlete has the requisite experience and patience to play JV basketball for more than one year. Unfortunately, because we see young athletes with good basketball potential continuously giving up the sport, the level of JV basketball play has, in some years, been at a beginner's level."

Although some students doubt their potential to improve from certain JV sports, I would have to agree with Coach Zavisza and Stewart. With engaged students and coaches, the teams foster athletes and strengthen their abilities to increase their chances of making varsity in future years. The Loomis athletic department often does a fantastic job of polishing JV athletes for varsity, and a team mindset cannot sell an athlete short.

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PAULA KAHUMBU: ELEPHANT PROTECTOR

Raffi Hemacha '20 |
Contributor



Graphic by Michelle Park '20

On April 9, 2018, the Loomis Chaffee community came together to listen to Kenyan conservationist and activist, Paula Kahumbu. Kahumbu graduated from the University of Bristol, and earned a master's degree from the University of Florida in Gainesville and a doctorate from Princeton University. In 2010, Kahumbu was awarded a National Geographic Buffett Award for conservation leadership in Africa, and in 2014, she was awarded the Whitley Fund for Nature Award. In addition, she is a National Geographic Emerging Explorer.

Kahumbu has always possessed an interest in animals since she was young. "I had the most extraordinary childhood," said Kahumbu. "I had four brothers, four sisters, a very large family, and there was a lot of wildlife around us, and we always loved to explore it," Kahumbu added.

When she was a child, Ms. Kahumbu met Kenyan paleoanthropologist and conservationist Richard Leakey. Kahumbu frequently spoke with Leakey about nature and wildlife. Through these conversations, Kahumbu developed a love of nature, and especially elephants. "I studied elephants because I believe they are one of the most beautiful and magnificent creatures on the planet," said Kahumbu.

Kahumbu desired to do more with her love for elephants. While she loved animals, she explained to Loomis Chaffee students that most Kenyans lack access to wildlife reserves, national parks, or quality nature-related television programming. Further, most Kenyans are raised with a dislike for animals. A large number of African citizens think of elephants as simply a source of danger.

As CEO of Wildlife Direct, Ms. Kahumbu strives to improve the relationship between the Kenyan people and wildlife. She hopes that with her activism, Kenyans will learn to appreciate wildlife. She has supported the creation of locally-produced educational television programs that feature wildlife native to Kenya to increase public interest.

Further, the popularity of ivory in foreign countries has supported poaching in Kenya. Such poaching has declined the population of elephants in Kenya. Kahumbu showed the students gruesome photographs of poached elephants that had been killed for their tusks. Kahumbu led Wildlife Direct's 2013 campaign, "Hands Off Our Elephants," to take action on this issue. She enlisted celebrities in Kenya to spread the message, end corruption in the courts, and stiffen sentences for apprehended poachers. Since 2013, the campaign was successful in limiting the number of poachings.

ANN MICKLOS' TALK ABOUT NASA: WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2018

Sharon Zhou '19 | Staff Writer



AP Images

“At NASA, at least within my team, gender is not the important issue. If you get the work done, then you’ll be well respected by your colleagues.”

On Thursday evening, April 12, NASA engineer Ann Micklos came to Loomis Chaffee to have dinner with a group of students and faculty members. She later gave a lecture on NASA's latest plan for 2018 and her career in the field of aerospace engineering.

For more than thirty years, Micklos has worked at the Kennedy Space Center as one of NASA's few female aerospace engineers and team leaders. She is also the first female Mission Assurance Engineer in NASA's Launch Services Program, which allows NASA to help and oversee launching projects initiated by individuals or companies (Women's Eye). When she first began her career at NASA, Micklos specialized in the rocket's thermal protection system. During the dinner, Micklos discussed her work in preventing the plasma flow from damaging the inner structure of the rocket by designing special types of tiles that effectively slow down the transmission of heat. Her work helped the Space Shuttle Program immensely in its many missions.

After the Space Shuttle Program ended, Micklos wondered for a while what she would do next. It was then, she said during the lecture, that she entered the Launch Service Program. Founded in 1998, it uses commercial rockets (e.g. SpaceX, Delta, Atlas, etc) to launch high-end spacecrafts and ensures a mission's success. The Space Shuttle Program has so far enjoyed notable success, with only two losses of rockets during its twenty-year history. This year, there are six primary NASA missions scheduled to launch from two different coasts, within six months, atop six different rocket configurations (NASA).

As Micklos said during the lecture, "Six is really a magic number for LSP this year!" Among the six projects that Micklos mentioned in her lecture, TESS, NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite, was successfully launched last Wednesday by SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida (NASA). TESS is humans' next step in exploring exoplanets—planets outside our solar system—in an attempt to detect any possibility of extraterrestrial life.

After the lecture, Log Director of Design Ashley Chung '19 said, "I liked the talk because I am deeply interested in science in general, and I wanted to know more about the technology NASA uses to explore the outer space, a potential place with many resources and residential place for humans." When asked what she liked the most from the lecture, Ashley said, "I was most excited about the videos that Ann Micklos presented to us, including the clips that showed the rocket assembly machine. It was exciting to see how the rocket scientists and engineers worked as a team to accomplish something great."

During the dinner with Micklos, Maria Fernanda Cassol '19, a member of the Women in STEM club, talked with Micklos about gender barriers within the STEM fields. While Micklos acknowledged the existence of gender discrimination within the STEM fields, she said that her career was, in fact, hardly ever impeded by people's view of women: "At NASA, at least within my team, gender is not the important issue. If you get the work done, then you'll be well respected by your colleagues."

Micklos' response, admitted Maria, was quite surprising to her. "I expected Ann to say that gender expectation has been a factor that holds her back, because it's so common to see stories about how women need to fight against gender discrimination and demonstrate their talents, especially in a male-dominated field like rocket science." Although a little skeptical about Ann's account, Maria found it very inspiring, as it tells a story of a woman really embracing her passion for science and dedicated to her work. "It definitely makes me optimistic," said Maria, "both her spirit and the fact that our society's attitude towards women in STEM is changing in the positive direction."

Indeed, female scientists like Ann Micklos, deeply devoted to math and science, are great inspirations to women and girls who see their curiosity in the traditionally male-dominated fields.

FRAMED-IN THEATER

Julie Chung '21 | Graphics Contributor



Loomis students performing on stage in NEO, April 19th, 2018.

Photo by Angela Wang '20

The fifth annual Framed-In Theater was on stage in the Norris Ely Orchard Theater on April 19th and 20th. Students independently wrote and staged plays, casted the actors, and prepared costumes props. Each play had to focus on the theme of Globalization, incorporate several required props, and take place inside an onstage frame. Additionally, each play had to begin with the line, "That is a baseless superstition," and end with, "Where do I even start?" Six short plays, entitled, "Peace Talk," "Hitmen Have Feelings Too," "La Casa de Ignorancia," "Our Hidden Hill," "Big Talkers," and "Random Selec-

tion," were performed. Olivia Thompson '18, the writer for a comedic play, "Hitmen Have Feelings Too," said, "[Globalization] was a very interesting theme... I wasn't sure if I could use it in a comedic sense... but it was a very interesting experience!" Olivia also said that she enjoyed looking at the various interpretations that the writers had this year, as well as the different stories created from the common theme. Talia Mayo '21, an actor in the play, "Random Selection," said, "I think that [Globalization] was a very cool theme, but also very broad, leaving a room for interpretation." The writer for "Our Hidden Hill," John Howley '21, stated that "the theme, globalization, was interesting because there were so many dif-

ferent paths you can take... which opened many different doors to make a story." Howley said that working with peers was a really great experience, and that he enjoyed having the freedom to shape his own story. These plays were very well received by the audience. After watching the plays from the Framed-In Theater, Andrew Zhang '21 said, "The whole play is grouped by many skits, and it's really interesting that every skit has its own style and emotion in it." Thomas Martin '19 said that it was very entertaining to see his friends and classmates' creative sides through these skits. The Framed-In-Theater was a wonderful experience for students to explore their creativity through screenwriting.

LOOMIS CHAFFEE STUDENTS ATTEND DIVERSITY CONFERENCE

Stephanie Zhang '21 | Staff Writer



Photo by Christine Coyle

Diversity allows one to meet people of different cultures, backgrounds, and situations. Here at Loomis, 26% of our student body is of color and 16% are international students. However, diversity is not solely defined by the color of one's skin or where one comes from.

On Sunday, April 15, fourteen students and two faculty advisors from Loomis Chaffee attended the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools Student Diversity Leadership Conference at Hotchkiss with more than 400 other students and teachers.

The conference, composed around the theme of Breaking Boundaries: Identity and Intersectionality, began with welcoming remarks from a couple of different speakers, a performance from the Hotchkiss Gospel Choir, and a presentation by the Keynote Speaker Dr. Courtney Marshall, an African-American English teacher at Phillips Exeter.

Azaan Malik '21, a Loomis participant, remarked, "The keynote speaker talked about how it's different for people who have two identities. She said she had a hard time fighting for both her female rights and black rights. She felt she had to choose a side; this was a new problem I learned in the conference."

Following the opening ceremony, all the students and teachers were broken up into multiple groups based on age, experience, and the school you attended.

My group had freshmen, sophomore, and junior students from Kent, Choate, Taft, Avon Old Farms, and others. In these groups, our student facilitators led discussions about sexuality, gender roles, race, economic status, and other aspects that define one's identity. I realized that the word "diversity" includes various aspects of one's life. Overall, Loomis students walked away from the conference with alternative perspectives on controversial topics.

Azaan Malik '21 stated, "At the conference, I learned how many different identities impact individual lives. One specific question that resonated with me is, 'have you ever felt objectified,' and on one side were all the girls and the other were all the boys. This question really opened up a new perspective to not just me but all the other male participants. The overall experience was wonderful, and especially my group made my time the most informational and beneficial."

Alejandro Rincon '21 commented, "My experience at CT SDLC was very cool and eye-opening. I learned that even people who go to private schools like LC feel like they are given less opportunities based on the color of their skin. I also found that the diverse backgrounds represented at the conference affected the perspective of what I thought would be a straightforward question."

Jet Elbualy '18 remarked, "The experience of going to SDLC for the second time was a really amazing one. Being surrounded by seniors and being able to talk

about our trepidations and excitements about college was very helpful, as well as being able to workshop ideas for our own schools and to network with other students."

The group sessions ended with an activity titled "The Privilege Walk." Student facilitators had all members of the group stand in a horizontal line, then take steps forward or backward depending on their answers to certain questions. Some of these questions included: Are you on financial aid? Does your family own a car? Are you a citizen of the USA?

Anna Li '21 described the privilege walk as "a really eye opening experience" and "nice to do at the end of the conference." She said, "You spend so much time with everyone in your group without really knowing anything about them, and then in one activity you learn so much about everyone. Many people that I thought were as privileged as me, weren't, but that didn't change my perception about them and I was happy about that."

The conference ended with student representatives from each group describing topics their group had discussed and what they hoped to bring back to their school. After a day of energetic communication and dialogue, students and adults alike departed from Hotchkiss with a heightened understandings of diversity. Jet described the conference as "All in all, a great time, and I highly recommend [the conference] to any other Loomis student committed to inclusion."

Liam Scott | *Editor-in-Chief*

Study Reveals Correlation Between Students' Mood Swings and Lack of Their Favorite Cereal in the Dining Hall

"It's really incredible," the researcher said. "Students who love Cinnamon Toast Crunch are considerably more depressed or more prone to mood swings when Cinnamon Toast Crunch is not available." A Cinnamon Toast Crunch-lover was available to comment. "I love Cinnamon Toast Crunch. Honestly, sometimes it's all I have left, so when it isn't even there, yeah, I get upset. Wouldn't you get upset if your favorite thing in the world was just taken away?" The researcher added that her next study will explore the impact of the availability of toast on students' mood.



Photo by Michelle Park '20

Jaded Seniors Laugh as Juniors Struggle to Apply for as Many Leadership Positions as Possible

"It's hilarious!" a Palmer senior chuckled. "I mean, can you smell the stress? The juniors are so desperate! They're trying to get every position— RA, Peer Counselor, Head Tour Guide, PSO President, Writing Studio, everything! I'd feel bad if I wasn't already broken down by the college process. And do you know what makes this even funnier? The fact that there isn't a lot of space on the Common App to list your extracurriculars, so most of the stuff these juniors are struggling to apply for won't even fit in their application."



No excuses | Meghan Trainor
 instagram | DEAN
 please don't go | Joel Adams
 Sick boy | The Chainsmokers
 My my my! | Troye Siven
 Wake me up | Avicii
 Best Friends | Rex Orange County
 Un poco loco | Anthony Gonzalez
 Dura | Daddy Yankee
 Heart Out | The 1975

Angela Wang '20, Graphic by Ashley Chung '19

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Minna Gao '19 | *Managing Editor*

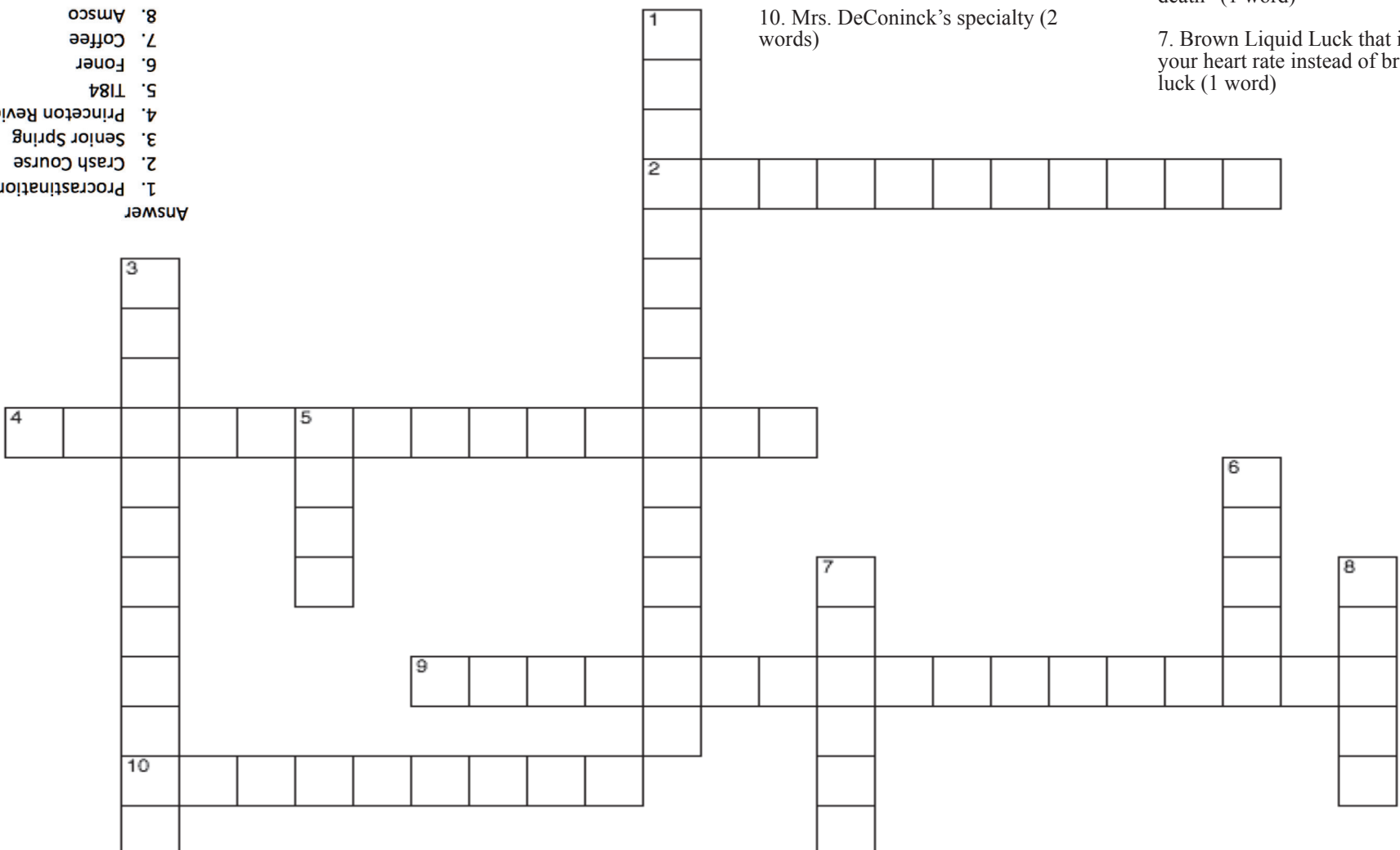
ACROSS

- 2. Made by some nerdy YouTuber who is always overly excited about the subject (2 words)
- 4. The books that you buy, but don't actually open until the night before the exam (their company name includes the name of an Ivy League school) (2 words)
- 9. Little green box filled with precious knowledge (3 words)
- 10. Mrs. DeConinck's specialty (2 words)

DOWN

- 1. The bane of every student's existence (1 word)
- 3. The seasonal phenomenon that creates an illusion of freedom (2 words)
- 5. The electronic device that will replace your phone as your favorite device (4 characters)
- 6. "I don't want liberty; just give me death" (1 word)
- 7. Brown Liquid Luck that increases your heart rate instead of bringing you luck (1 word)

- Answer
- 1. Procrastination
 - 2. Crash Course
 - 3. Senior Spring
 - 4. Princeton Review
 - 5. T184
 - 6. Foner
 - 7. Coffee
 - 8. Amso
 - 9. Barrens Flash Cards
 - 10. No2 Pencil



DESPERATE MEASURES

Neala Sweeney '20 | *Melange Editor*

Here on the Island, and many other places in the United States, it is prom season. This means dresses are being bought, tuxedos are being rented, and the smell of sweet underclassmen desperation is in the air.

Once, maybe in the distant past, Loomis was a place where seniors took seniors to prom. As the years have gone by, underclassmen girls are saying no more and taking action. One anonymous freshman girl has threatened multiple senior boys with the sound bite of "Before He Cheats," by Carrie Underwood, with the accompanying message "me without a prom date hehe rofl."

Another sophomore girl has claimed that if she does not get a prom date by next week, she will kidnap a senior boy and force him to listen to musical compilations for hours until he agrees. It has also been rumored that an underground organization has formed between the freshman and sophomore classes and meetings take place every Thursday morning in the Day Student Lounge to discuss the strategies and measures needed to be taken to get a prom date this season. They are said to have a list of every senior who has and does not have a prom date.

There has been severe backlash from the up-

perclassmen population asking underclassmen boys and girls to "please leave us alone," and that they "are scared." To try and ward away the underclassmen, many a senior has taken to starting every conversation with, "So have you started thinking about college yet?"

Another popular warding technique has been making it obvious that one does not like, nor listens to Drake or Shawn Mendes. In this day and age, it has become commonplace for seniors to slowly leave behind the constructs of hygiene. The varsity boys lacrosse team is allegedly hiding underneath Olcott, waiting until prom night when they can finally come out of their forced hibernation. Although these techniques are somewhat effective, nothing truly deters the path of a determined underclassmen.

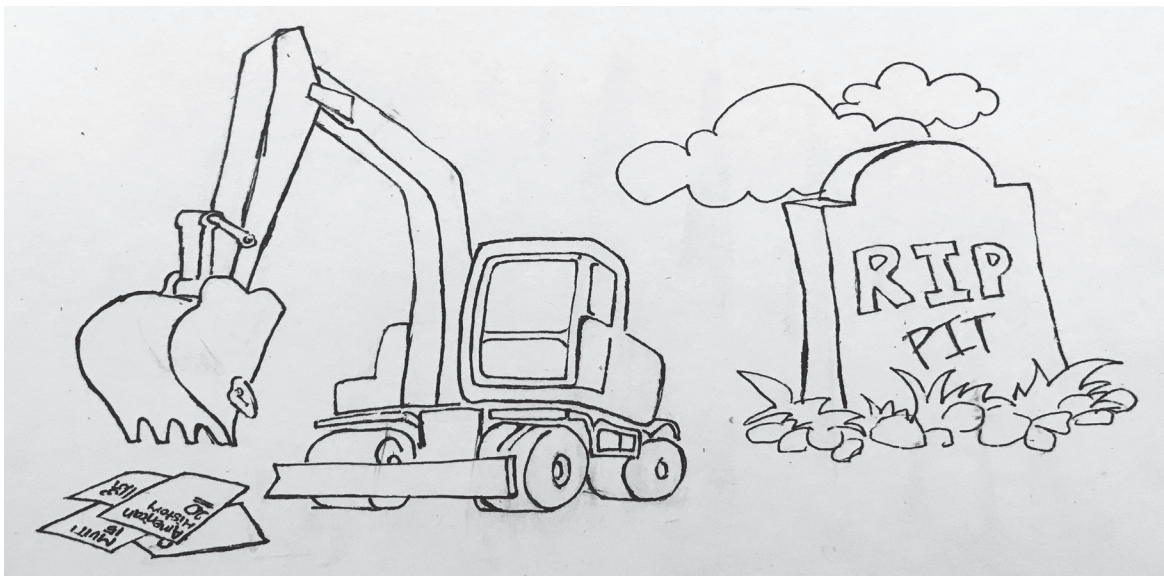
Every year underclassmen make an effort to try and get a prom date, and the facts are that every year most of them fail. The victorious ones live on as legends in the eyes of the freshmen and sophomore boys and girls alike. They are the unforeseen heroes. The art of finessing has never been more prevalent than in this generation, and it truly shines during spring term. Fads and trends will pass, but underclassmen who try to finesse their way to a prom date will never be a fad. It is a lifestyle.



Graphic by Ashley Chung '19

RIP PIT

Emma Goldfarb '20 | *Melange Editor*



Graphic by Michelle Park '20

What Will We Miss About the Pit

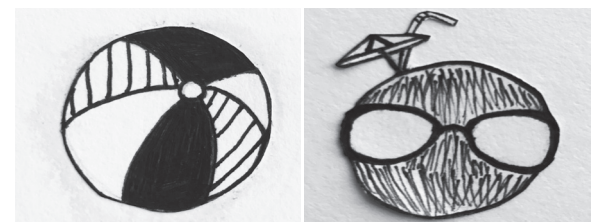
1. The beautiful beachfront view from the library study rooms (easy to get homework done with the relaxing construction noises)
2. Giant trash pit for our failed tests and papers
3. Construction fences provide cover to hide from the deans when out of dress code
4. Getting excused from being marked tardy by claiming you got lost on the quad
5. Desolate mudscape during seemingly endless winter improved student morale

What We Look Forward to in the New Student Center

1. Being able to use our cell phones in the dining hall to communicate with our long-lost classmates who are actually sitting at the same long, rectangular table
2. Coming up with creative names for our new building (the beautiful reign of SNIF will finally meet its demise)
3. Using the new 3D printers to make an army of mini deans (to keep everyone well-behaved)
4. Having grass again!! (yes, grass is still a thing)
5. The long-anticipated comeback of Family Style! Yaaay!

HOROSCOPE: WHAT SUMMER BUCKET LIST ITEM ARE YOU?

Nina Gildor '19 | *Staff Writer*



Graphic by Krishnapriya Rajaram '21

- Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)
Drive-In Movie
- Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)
Summer Fling
- Gemini (May 21 – June 20)
Spa Day
- Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22)
Water Gun Fight
- Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 22)
Tanning on the Beach
- Virgo (Aug 23 – Sep 22)
Watch Sunset and Sunrise
- Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)
Camping
- Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)
Road Trip
- Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)
Pool Party
- Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)
Bonfire with S'mores
- Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 18)
Music Festival
- Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20)
Surfing

NBA PREDICTIONS

Grace Lawrence '19 | Contributor



Graphic by Ashley Chung '19

Jaw-dropping trades. Major upsets. This NBA season has been full of these, and it's not over yet. We may have just entered the first round of the playoffs, but debates around the NBA regular season awards have been brewing since the season began in October. In particular, out of the 12 distinctive awards given out during the NBA Award Show, the Rookie of the Year and MVP have been the most anticipated.

The Rookie of the Year award is arguably the most debated in the NBA right now, with Ben Simmons at the top of the list. Drafted out of Louisiana State University as the first overall pick in the 2016 NBA draft, Simmons redshirted his entire first season with a preseason injury which makes him applicable for the current Rookie of the Year award. To say Simmons has proved himself is an understatement. As a 6'10" point-guard for the Philadelphia 76ers, Simmons averages 15.8 points per game, 8.2 assists, 8.1 rebounds, and a field goal percentage of 54.5%. The other major contender is Donovan Mitchell, a current fan favorite, from the Utah Jazz. Drafted this season as the 13th overall pick from Louisville, Mitchell currently leads all rookies with 20.5 points per game, 3.7 rebounds, 3.7 assists, and a 43.7% field goal percentage as a 6'3" shooting guard. Stats are very important, but another argument is the way both of these players perform on the court. Mitchell has become the primary scorer for the Jazz, the fifth ranked team in the Western Conference, and has defied expectations by putting up incredible numbers for a rookie. Ben Simmons, however, has had an

immense impact this season with his old-school style of playing. He lives in the arc, and hasn't sunk a three all year. His weak outside game is what hurts him most in this Rookie-of-the-Year race. However, Philadelphia's placement as the 3rd seed in the Eastern Conference is arguably almost wholly because of this 6'10-point guard.

Other Rookies who have made a huge impact on the league this year were Lauri Markkanen of the Chicago Bulls and Kyle Kuzma of the Los Angeles Lakers. In his first season, Markkanen has had 13 double doubles, as well as a hot hand behind the arc. Kyle Kuzma, overshadowing his other rookie teammates like Lonzo Ball and Brandon Ingram, has made a statement by shocking everyone in his summer league debut after four years of college in Utah. Seeing him first hand in the Staples Center, he is extremely quick and has one of the most versatile games in the league, being a threat behind and inside the arc. Any other year, these two men probably would be top of the list, but Simmons and Mitchell are too special and have had amazing rookie years.

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ing a threat behind and inside the arc. Any other year, these two men probably would be top of the list, but Simmons and Mitchell are too special and have had amazing rookie years.

The most prized award of the season, Most Valuable Player, will also be given out on June 25. Most basketball experts think that James Harden is guaranteed to win this accolade this year. The past few years, since his departure from OKC to Houston, Harden has been overshadowed by LeBron James, Kevin Durant, Stephen Curry, and Russell Westbrook; however, this year, the award seems likely to be his. Yes, his defense has, and probably always will be, atrocious to watch at times; however, his offensive game is unparalleled. Harden's stats are the best in the league right now, although he falls short in the assists category for someone who has been noted as "getting everyone involved." He averages 8.8 APG, but also averages 30.4 PPG and 5.4 RPG, both incredible statistics.

What hurts Harden the most however, is his field goal percentage of 44.9%, which falls short to those of LeBron, Davis, and Antetokounmpo. Again, beyond the stats is the player. James Harden has been MVP runner up the past two of three seasons and most people agree that this year it's The Beard's turn. He plays extremely well with Chris Paul, a teammate whom he has welcomed with open arms. Others in the running include the Giannis Antetokounmpo, Anthony Davis, LeBron James, Chris Paul, and Russell Westbrook. The Houston Rockets might just go all the way this year, past the Warriors, the Thunder, the Cavs, or whoever else you throw at them. This is the year of the beard.

STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS PREVIEW

Nina Gildor '19 | Staff Writer

This year's thrilling Stanley Cup Playoffs reflects the extremely exciting season of 2018. The Las Vegas expansion team shattered record after record throughout their incredible inaugural season and won the Pacific Division by 109 points. This underdog team defied all odds and had a real chance at taking the Championship title away from the returning victors, the Pittsburgh Penguins, who were looking for their third consecutive win.

As the series commenced, round one already set the tone of a suspenseful and exhilarating playoffs ranging from game seven tiebreakers to full blowout wins.

In the Western Conference, the Predators, Jets, Sharks, and Golden Knights will be advancing to round two, knocking out the Avalanche, Wild, Ducks, and Kings. In all these matchups, the victors crushed their opponents, finishing off their series as early as game four.

Over in the Eastern Conference, there was no loss of excitement as both the Maple Leafs and Bruins had an extremely close series, tying 3-3, and both going into Game 7 where the Bruins took the ultimate victory, winning seven to four and removing the Maple Leafs from the 2018 playoffs. However, the Lightning, Capitals, and Penguins also all continued their phenomenal season,

eliminating the Devils, Blue Jackets, and Flyers, as each team progresses to round two.

Looking ahead to round two of the playoffs, the match ups and games intensify as every goal begins to matter more. The Capitals will face the Penguins in a close series in the East as Ovechkin seeks redemption against the reigning champions. While the Golden Knights continue to push the boundaries and to set new standards for expansion teams in their first ever playoffs, playing for their loyal fans who have believed in them since the beginning.

Varsity Home Games to Watch:

May 7, 2018 (Monday)

Girls Water Polo vs. Suffield 4:30 p.m.
Girls Tennis vs. Kingswood-Oxford 4:30 p.m.

May 9, 2018 (Wednesday)

Boys Baseball vs. Avon 3 p.m.
Boys Tennis vs. NMH 3 p.m.
Girls Water Polo vs. Greenwich 3:15 p.m.

May 11, 2018 (Friday)

Boys Lacrosse vs. NMH 7 p.m.

May 12, 2018 (Saturday)

Girls Softball vs. Suffield 2:30 p.m.
Boys Lacrosse vs. Taft 2:30 p.m.
Girls Lacrosse vs. Andover 2:30 pm
Girls Golf vs. Westminster, Taft 2:30 p.m.
Boys Golf vs. Bader Tournament 2:30 p.m.
Boys Baseball vs. Kent 2:30 p.m.