

The Loomis Chaffee Log

Issue CIV, No. 1

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October 11, 2019



Courtesy of LC Communications / Mary Forrester

Family Style No More?

By MINJUNE SONG '21
and STEPHANIE ZHANG '21
News Editors

Along with changes to the Community Work Program, advising system, and athletics, Loomis Chaffee's traditional weekly sit-down dinners will also be changing. For the 2019 fall term, instead of having an all-school sit-down (formerly "family style") dinner every Tuesday for boarding students, Loomis plans to hold a class dinner for each class once this term.

The weekly sit-down dinners have been postponed until a workable format can be implemented to accommodate the increase in the student population. This change has been expected since last year, after legitimate questions were raised by Loomis students and faculty regarding the purpose, expectations, and practicality of sit-down dinners in a new dining hall context.

Dean of Students Mr. Jake Leyden said that conversations around sit-down dinners are still underway, as the school leadership considers questions such as, "What is the purpose of sit-down dinners? Does it make sense to have weekly dinners for all boarders given our busy schedule? Does it make sense to have a dinner designed primarily for boarding students while we actively encourage day students to participate in as much life at Loomis as possible?"

705
students at LC in Sept. 2018

735
students at LC in Sept. 2019

164
students accepted LC's
offer of admission in 2018

194
students accepted LC's
offer of admission in 2019

55:45
ratio of boys to girls in
LC's student body

Over-Enrollment by the Numbers

By STEPHANIE ZHANG '21
and MINJUNE SONG '21
News Editors

Two new modular housing units, a packed dining hall during Wednesday lunches, and a multitude of new faces have suddenly integrated themselves into everyday campus life.

Due to the above-average yield of admitted students — 49.9 percent of admitted students accepted LC's offer compared to a past average of between 40 to 45 percent — Loomis Chaffee has seen a recent spike of around 30 students in the school population. With a total of 162 freshmen enrolling, Loomis now boasts a total student body of 735 students compared to last year's 705 students.

"The buzz for Loomis Chaffee is very strong right now," Amy Thompson, the dean of enrollment, said.

When schools have a high yield rate, it is a healthy symptom of high interest and likeability among prospective students, Mrs. Thompson said. However, despite the increase in students, Loomis is still working to maintain a high quality of education.

"After it was clear that the school would open large, we hired five new teachers to make sure class sizes remained small and the student experience remained excellent," Dean of Faculty Mr. Andrew Matlack said.

In the past five years, Loomis has accepted between 27 to 29 percent of applicants, and the number has not changed since.

The day to boarding students ratio also played a role in the recent increase of the student population.

"Fewer day students and more boarding students attend the school now," Mrs. Thompson said.

This year, more prospective boarding students said "yes" more than prospective day students. Mrs. Thompson explained that the increase in boarding student numbers was happening because Loomis's reputation as a boarding school became more prominent in the public.

Among these changes, "Loomis Chaffee is moving forward towards a gender parity," Mrs. Thompson added.

In the last five years, Loomis Chaffee has been at a steady gender balance of 56 percent male students and 44 percent of female students. Starting this year, the numbers have changed: the student body is 55 percent male and 45 percent female.

This year, "there are actually more girls than boys in the class of 2023," Mrs. Thompson said, adding that while reaching an equal gender balance is a long-term goal, Loomis Chaffee is taking a step in that direction.

For the past five years, Loomis Chaffee's student body comprised a stable 15 percent international students. Although this year the international student ratios did not change, Mrs. Thompson said there was good news.

There was "more diversity of represented countries due to increased number of dual-citizenship holding students," Mrs. Thompson said, referring to the increased number of countries Loomis Chaffee students now represent.

As more students recognize Loomis and choose to attend, the average yield rate shows that interest for Loomis Chaffee among prospective students are high.

"There are good words on the street, and we must continue to meet good standards," Ms. Thompson said, addressing Loomis students, faculty, and community as a whole.

Preserving the Chaffee Legacy One Sweatshirt at a Time

By PORTIA INZONE '20
Managing Editor

The Loomis Chaffee bookstore now sells "Chaffee" sweatshirts, replicas of an antique sweatshirt on display in the Katherine Brush Library and a tribute to the previously separate girls' institution.

Created during the spring 2019 Innovation Trimester led by Mrs. Jennine Solomon and Mr. Tim Helfrich, the sweatshirts initially marketed the students' final project.

Shortened to the "I-Tri" program, the Spring Innovation Trimester is available to seniors only and focuses on authentic problem solving and entrepreneurship. Each

year the program has a guiding theme; this past spring, the theme was food.

As a final project for the I-Tri students, Dr. Sheila Culbert, the Head of School, pitched that they create a plan for a recently purchased building in downtown Windsor.

At the beginning of 2018, Loomis Chaffee bought the Bank of America located in downtown Windsor. Other than an addition of an unremovable vault, this building was once home to Abigail Sherwood Chaffee Loomis, Colonel James Loomis, and their five children, the future founders of the Loomis School.

Continued on page 2



Photo by Anna Rebello '21

Emma Kane '21 and Eamon Moylan '21 pose in their Chaffee sweatshirts which were, designed by Faith Donegan '19 and recently made available to students in the Alexander Bookstore.

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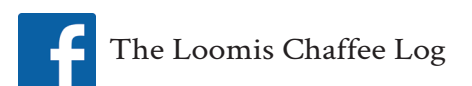
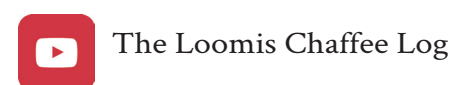
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Preserving the Chaffee Legacy, One Sweatshirt at A Time

By PORTIA INZONE '20
Managing Editor

Continued from the front page

Mrs. Solomon explained that “Dr. Culbert gave the students two tasks: figure out what the school should do with this building and also incorporate a community outreach aspect. She wanted it to have a positive aspect on the Windsor community.”

The students worked with Ms. Karen Parsons, Loomis Chaffee archivist, to learn more about the house.

“When we were in archives, I found this sweatshirt that all the girls would wear in pictures,” Faith Donegan '19 shared. I really liked it and I wanted one. I realized that we sold a lot of gear that just said ‘Loomis’ but not just ‘Chaffee.’”

Mrs. Solomon noted that “the students really became interested in the history of the family and the Chaffee school as well. It was really important to Faith Donegan, and I think she really brought this passion to the group about preserving not just the name Chaffee but what it stands for.”

Combining entrepreneurship with creativity, Mrs. Solomon’s group of I-Tri students proposed making a Chaffee dessert bar out of the vacated space. The students mapped business plans and strategy for a holistic understanding of exactly how the ex-Loomis home would be utilized.

For the students’ final presentation, the

“I realized that we sold a lot of gear that just said ‘Loomis’ but not just ‘Chaffee.’”
— Faith Donegan '19

new Chaffee sweatshirt was provided to the distinguished faculty, deans, and board members in the room (as well as to the students who wore them on the day).

Although initially, the students did not have intentions for a variation of this “Chaffee” sweatshirt to be sold in the bookstore, the project quickly picked up momentum. Within a month, the sweatshirt was being sold in the bookstore.

The initiative of creating a Chaffee bake-shop and ultimately the Chaffee sweatshirt follows the question of Chaffee erasure as

seen on LC toasters and sports uniforms that plainly refer to the school as “Loomis.” This printed and colloquial threat against the Chaffee legacy is a primary concern of Chaffee alumnae.

Perri Courtheoux, Chaffee class of 1969,

“Before the merger, there was a fear that the boys’ school would gobble up Chaffee.”
— Perri Courtheoux '69

graduated right before the union of the Loomis and Chaffee schools and recalls the anticipation of the merger.

“Before the merger, there was a fear that the boys’ school would gobble up Chaffee. One way they guaranteed that our identity wouldn’t be lost forever was to have Chaffee be a part of the school name—and so it became Loomis Chaffee,” Mrs. Courtheoux said.

“The dropping of the name Chaffee anywhere in print in letters, articles, on the website, on the playing fields, on the uniforms, on the school transportation, etc. is not a simple, unprovable, branding decision or an informal movement. It’s a breaking of the promise to sustain the legacy of Chaffee school. Wouldn’t it distinguish the school to keep the name that honors its mother and sisters and connotes its female identity while it shows that both schools were and are equals? This requires a thoughtful, active policy to preserve the Chaffee name. We would expect nothing less from a school whose goal is to be our best selves,” Mrs. Courtheoux and Betty Sudarsky '69 said.

They hope that the volume of their, and other Chaffee alumnae’s, concerns provoke a campus-wide conversation about the legacy of Chaffee and the importance of historical integrity. They believe that conversational convenience should not come at the cost of legacy.

Mrs. Courtheoux and her classmates received the replicated “Chaffee” sweatshirts at their 50th anniversary this past June.

“We were all so excited. It meant so much to us. It gives me so much hope. I have a deep, deep love of the school which is why this issue goes to the heart. My heart is in this, and my classmates feel the same way,” she said.



Photo by Anna Rebello '21

The Norris Ely Orchard Theater (NEO) will be renovated and expanded to over double its current size, with space added for a black box theater and dance studio.

Construction to Begin on the Island Once Again

By BRETT DONSHIK '21
Staff Writer

Just one year after the completion of the Scanlan Center project, construction will once again affect the Loomis Chaffee community. Starting later this academic year and continuing into the summer, Batchelder and Howe dormitories as well as the Norris Ely Orchard Theater (NEO) will be undergoing major renovations.

Beginning in winter term, much of Batchelder will be overhauled. This refurbishment will increase the room count of the dorm as well as modernizing the facilities. The biggest change coming to Batchelder is the relocation and expansion of the common room. The new common room will be located on the other side of the dorm, and Mr. Jackson Fleming, the head of Batch, hopes that the new space will be able to accommodate multiple large gatherings of students in one space for both social gatherings and dorm meetings.

“Having a public space that’s thoroughly used is one of my strongest beliefs about being a sign of healthiness of a community,” Mr. Fleming said.

Howe will be receiving similar renovations. A new wing will be built, increasing the room count of the dorm. Dorm Head Mrs. Lori Caligiuri is most excited that the building will be retaining its original structure despite all of the changes.

“Especially as a history teacher here, I’m always very concerned about the character and I think our architects are doing a great job to maintain the character and integrity of the building while giving us a nice re-

model,” Mrs. Caligiuri said.

Most of the construction will be done during the school day in order to have minimal impact on the residents of the dorms. Immediately after commencement, renovations will begin on the parts students are currently living in. Completion is expected by next fall.

The one major impact on students this year is that both Howe and Batchelder are seniors-only dorms.

Howe resident Kelsey Lee '20 has enjoyed her time living with only her senior classmates. “I think it’s great to have people around you that are going through the same ups and downs as you during senior year. Everyone is supportive of each other and is always open to empathize or sympathize with each other’s struggles. With these benefits, it is easy to strengthen bonds with old friends and build new bonds with new friends,” Kelsey said.

Aside from the dorms, the NEO will also be undergoing some major renovations. The NEO is being expanded in order to give the actors and tech department more space to develop and ultimately put on shows. It will also have more space for the actual classes that are taught in the NEO.

John Howley '21 expressed excitement about these changes. “While I still love the NEO, it is now outdated, and with our school population growing, the small size of the NEO is becoming more and more impractical. I think that a change to the small red barn is welcome as long as its memory remains intact,” John said.

New Dean on the Block: Dean Matzkin

By JACK GLASSIE '20
Web Content Editor



Photo by Anna Rebello '21

Ms. Jessica Matzkin moved to Loomis Chaffee after previously working at Thayer Academy and Blair Academy. She graduated from the Taft School, where she also worked as a teacher of Spanish.

This fall Loomis Chaffee welcomed a new dean of students, Jessica Matzkin. Ms. Matzkin moved with her family to Loomis from Thayer Academy in Braintree, MA, where she was the director of counseling. Before that, she held the dean of students position at Blair Academy in Blairstown, NJ.

Ms. Matzkin is joined by her husband, her three children, and their three-year-old yellow lab, Gypsy. They are most excited to get to know the student body, and be involved in Loomis’ unique culture. The first challenge? Figuring out school-specific lingo like ‘deep’ and ‘loop.’

A Taft School graduate herself, Ms. Matzkin believes that her boarding school education has shaped her professional career. One takeaway from high school: Ms. Matzkin feels that “having a relationship with an adult mentor is incredibly important.”

This year at Loomis, Ms. Matzkin will be working with the current junior class, the Class of 2021. She was quick to recognize just how transformative the year can be.

“I think that it’s [junior year] when students really begin to understand who they are, and what they want for themselves

moving forward,” Ms. Matzkin said.

Ms. Matzkin also acknowledged the change in mentality that juniors experience, as they become “less image-conscious and more inclined to be true to themselves” as they have progressed through high school.

Regarding the pressure of the college process that looms over her students, Ms. Matzkin hopes to reassure them that their success in life will not be decided by where they go. As an alternative, she wants her class to focus on the “much more critical skills” of communication and self-advocating that they can improve on every day at Loomis.

Outside of the classroom, Ms. Matzkin is enthusiastic about spending time on the Island with her family. As a former college athlete, she is excited to see our teams compete this year.

Having moved from Massachusetts to Connecticut, Ms. Matzkin was adamant about where her sports loyalties lie.

“As for being a fan in the professional sporting world — it is all Boston teams. My favorite is the Red Sox, and I would say that I’m pretty hard-core,” she said.

Regardless of her athletic affiliations, she is glad to be joining the LC community.

New Faculty Spotlight

By LANA SHENG '22
Staff Writer



Photo by Haven Low '21

MS. SONG GE

Ms. Song, called Song Ge in her hometown in northeastern China, came to the United States in 2013 to teach Chinese at the Hotchkiss School. Loomis Chaffee eventually drew her in with its warm, inviting community.

"I have always wanted to be a teacher since I was young, and my grandpa was the biggest reason why. He was a Chinese teacher and the headmaster of a middle school in China, and he experienced a lot during the Cultural Revolution. Being a teacher was considered a bad job and knowledge was not useful, but after the Revolution, he still decided to be a teacher, and still enjoyed education," Ms. Song said.

"I still remember when I was four years old and watched him work, he was always very happy to help his students. At that time, I thought being a teacher was a very cool job."

Ms. Song indirectly learned one of her most important lessons about teaching from a past teacher: teaching is not just about the teacher speaking and the students listening, but rather making education fun.

Quick Fun Facts:

Favorite Food: Dumplings

Favorite Movies: *The Truman Show* and *To Live*

Hobbies: Reading, badminton, listening to Chinese rap and jazz.



Photo by Haven Low '21

MR. DRIN PACUKU

Hailing from Albania is Mr. Pacuku, a Loomis Chaffee alumnus from the class of 2015. He was born in Albania and was five years old when his family moved to Wallingford, Connecticut as refugees from the Kosovo War.

A close friend encouraged him to attend Loomis for a post-graduate year for soccer.

"I loved Loomis when I was here, I made a ton of different relationships, and to this day, I still talk to all my best friends from Loomis," Mr. Pacuku said.

After graduation, he played soccer and studied economics at St. Lawrence University, taking on internships and co-ops with finance companies.

Mr. Pacuku found himself on the Island again when a position for an alumnus in the admissions office opened up.

"Loomis gave so much to me, and I wanted to give back," he said

Apart from being a part of the admissions process, Mr. Pacuku coaches JV boys soccer and thirds lacrosse. He is a self-proclaimed outdoors guy and has a taste for adventure, considering he's travelled to many European countries, and studied abroad in Vienna.

Mr. Pacuku's life motto is, "You can accomplish anything you set your mind to,"

"I never thought I could work at an investment bank," he said. "But if you put your heart into what you do, you will succeed."



Photo by Haven Low '21

MS. DANIELLE FERGUS

Ms. Fergus, recognizable by her big smile, teaches psychology on the Island and is a Cutler affiliate. She has been a swimmer since she was eight years old, and she will coach the swim team in the winter.

She is a Boarding School Teaching Residency fellow, which means she has the opportunity to work and learn at Loomis Chaffee while pursuing her master's degree in education at the University of Pennsylvania.

"I love the boarding school aspect, and I like working in the dorm so I can interact with the students more. I knew I wanted to be a teacher and make a difference in people's lives, and I think high school offers the best chance to make that impact," she said.

Apart from being a teacher, she enjoys living an active life, and being with her dogs at home. Ms. Fergus's takeaway from life is "Don't stress about the little things," which she learned from balancing graduate school work with her Loomis work.

"Time will pass, and I will wonder why I was so stressed about something. If it's work, I'll finish it, and if it's something else, it'll resolve itself."



Photo by Haven Low '21

MRS. BETH HELFRICH

Mrs. Helfrich was born and raised in Davidson, North Carolina to parents who were both teachers. She majored in theater at Davidson College, where she met her husband, Mr. Tim Helfrich '96.

They stayed in Davidson for 13 years and grew their family and careers. However, after staying in one place for so long, they prioritized adventure and chose to start their new chapter at Loomis Chaffee in 2016.

"Mr. Helfrich is an alumnus here, and he's always dreamt of teaching and coaching at Loomis," Mrs. Helfrich said.

Before becoming an English teacher, Mrs. Helfrich was a theater teacher. However, after rediscovering reading and feeling driven by her passion for stories, she realized she wanted to engage with students.

"That feels like a valuable and meaningful way to spend my days," she said.

Mrs. Helfrich learned through the challenges of parenthood that "life is messier than we're led to believe; it's not a straight line at all. Every day has some steps forwards and some steps backwards. Because of that, I've learned that doing or achieving something perfectly is no longer a goal, it's just about showing up fully to my day, to the people in my life, and getting back up and recommitting."

Secret Fact: Mrs. Helfrich studied abroad in Mongolia during college, and spent a month as a shepherd in the desert, complete with a flock of sheep and a yurt!

From the Archives: The Loomis Log, Issue 1, No. 1

By JENNY PAN '22
Graphics Manager

In November of 1915, The Loomis Log published its first issue. Loomis's first head of school, Mr. Nathaniel Batchelder, addressed the school in "An Open Letter" and expressed his hopes for the student publication.

"It is not my paper, nor the Faculty's paper... It is... the paper of the whole school," Mr. Batchelder wrote. He hoped for the paper to be a platform of ideas, the pursuit in journalism, and a way of communication within and beyond the school.

"[The Log] opens up a specific field for training in writing on subjects familiar and dear to the writers, under conditions that demand vigorous accuracy," Mr. Batchelder wrote.

The Log has valued high standards of writing and art since its beginning. "At first it can only be an experience. It may fail," the first editors wrote, as they introduced the newspaper in the first volume, first issue.

"But, although we do not pretend to know much about editing, we do know that the result of the experiment depends not alone upon us but upon the readers of the paper," the editors wrote. "Instead of eleven fellows, like a football team, we want all, from the youngest to the oldest, to feel that it is their paper, not just ours." They encouraged every student to contribute and participate to make this paper a community tradition.

"We want [students] all to feel free to speak their mind on any subject that interests them," the editors said. In other words, from the beginning, Loomis has endorsed

critical, progressive, and individualized thinking. The Log has been a platform for diverse students to freely share their ideas and opinions.

"But let us not make the mistakes of trying to write like professionals. Let us talk about things as we see them ourselves," the editors said, encouraging both truth and honesty in writing.

There are many differences between the publications from the beginning and now. Originally, the Log was black and white and had a simple black bolded heading. Now, it is printed with color on the front and back covers and center fold. The transition from the black and white to a colored design was made in 2005.

In the past, the Log was distributed outside of Loomis Chaffee as well. The subscription was \$1.5 a year. The Log played an important role in the Windsor community because it was a source of news and entertainment for the residents.

Students wrote about not only sports records, campus activities, school life, but also global events relating to politics, economics, and society. Just as Mr. Batchelder envisioned, the Log became a platform where students explored journalism and writing and learned more about the world around them.

"We have athletic teams, musical clubs, and many other school organizations, it seems right and proper that the school should be represented by a paper. So here goes Vol I, No. 1," the editors wrote. One hundred and four years later, the Log carries on those traditions.

THE LOOMIS LOG

Vol. I Windsor, Conn., November 10, 1915 No. 1

FOOTBALL GAMES

THREE VICTORIES AND THREE DEFEATS.

Loomis 0, Choate 2d 6.

The football squad left the school at ten-thirty on Wednesday, October thirteen, for their first game away. It was the first football team Loomis had put out and a great many fellows had never played before. They all showed great spirit and fought hard to the end. When they arrived at Wallingford, they were greeted with the best of hospitality. Besides the team, a few fellows came up from school. Mr. and Mrs. Batchelder came in their car.

The game commenced at quarter of three, Choate kicking off to Loomis. The first quarter was almost over before it began. Both teams played a very snappy game. In the second quarter, Berger, Choate's fast quarterback, made a touchdown on a delayed pass through tackle. The goal was not kicked. The last two quarters neither side gained much. Lord and Baughman made very good tackles, while Page made the few gains Choate managed to get. In the first two quarters Loomis's forward passes were very successful. Mr. Batchelder, even after the defeat, felt as everybody else felt, that the game was most interesting and that the team showed that it had something in it. Every player fought hard to the last.

Loomis 8, Choate 2d 0.

On November first Choate second team came here to play the second



THE 1915 FOOTBALL SQUAD.

game with us. About twenty of their number came down and every one of them was very much pleased with our place. We, on our part, tried to return the hospitality Choate showed us on our visit to Wallingford.

At about half-past two the whistle blew and the game was on. Choate kicked off. Loomis lined up quickly and before you could have turned around, Maynard had made a long forward pass to Grimshaw, who caught it perfectly and ran down the field for a touchdown. The run was over sixty yards. Captain Baughman was not able to kick the goal, mostly due to a strong wind. Loomis outplayed Choate in the greater part of the game. Once in the second quarter the visitors looked dangerous, creeping up to the ten-yard line. But the strong line of Loomis and the ever-watchfulbacks held for downs. Baughman throughout the whole game made

good gains every time he was sent with the ball. Munro's kicks were all good, and all forward passes that were tried were successful. The only two passes Choate tried were spoiled by the secondary defense.

In the last quarter Loomis made gain after gain, Pease for ten yards, Herrick for a few more, and Lord for twenty. With the ball three yards from the goal line, Choate took a brace, broke through and succeeded in grabbing the ball out of Herrick's hands. The reason for Herrick's holding the ball so long was a mistake in signals. There followed a poor pass by the Choate center and before the fullback could get away, Ulmer and Killam were on him. This scored a safety for Loomis. After a few plays the game was called.

The line-up was as follows:

Continued on Page 4.)

New Babies (and a Puppy) On Campus



Photo by Hazel Le '22



Photo by Nikki Criniti Photography



Photo by Jenny Pan '22

Left to Right: Ellie Osei-Mensah with her mother, Mary; Dylan and Gavin Solomon; and Indy

By HAZEL LE '22
Graphics Manager

A puppy runs around the quad, wagging his tail happily at every passerby. A baby giggles in the dining hall, capturing everyone's attention with her vibrant and gleeful smile. Puppies and babies can cheer up the Loomis Chaffee community even on the gloomiest day.

Over the summer, LC has welcomed the arrival of several new babies and puppies.

ELIKEM "ELLIE" OSEI-MENSAH

Mr. Koby Osei-Mensah, a science faculty member, has moved to Cutler Hall this year along with his wife, Mary, and young daughter, Ellie. Ellie was born on February 9, 2018, in Hartford, Connecticut. She loves playing with her favorite toy panda and enjoys banku and yams, traditional Ghanaian

foods.

Besides learning the most basic words such as "papa" and "mama," Ellie's first word was "baby," since she heard it too many times from her parents. She loves to be held and thrown up in the air, as well as looking at the New England fall.

She also likes watching kids' programs sometimes, but her favorite hobby must be reading books.

"One night I was going to put her to sleep.. and I heard her reading a book. Literally I go over it and it was exactly the words on the page. I was blown away," Mr. Osei-Mensah said.

DYLAN SOLOMON

Dylan Solomon, born on June 20, is the second child of Associate Director of Innovation Mrs. Jennine Solomon and Mr. Andrew Solomon. Mrs. Solomon loves Dylan's

"gender-neutral name" because it resembles the name of Dylan Dreyer, the weather woman for Today Show.

Dylan's brother Gavin enjoys his big-brother responsibility as he helps out taking care of the family's new baby. Gavin likes having Dylan as his audience — even when he goes to the bathroom. Gavin is still too young to know that Dylan is not a toy and often speaks for Dylan, making remarks such as "Dylan likes hockey."

Mrs. Solomon said that Dylan is a cheerful little girl as she always "smiles when she gets to look at people's faces, especially people she knows." Dylan is even trying to learn to mimic other people's sounds by making a cooing sound. "It's really interesting to watch babies grow through their developmental stages," Mrs. Solomon said.

INDY

Ms. Jackson, an English and history faculty member, recently adopted a three-month-old black labrador puppy, "Indy," from a breeder in Oxford, Connecticut. Ms. Jackson's girlfriend, Laura Wyrick, was inspired to name their puppy Indy from the iconic movie series Indiana Jones.

People usually wrongly assume that they named Indy after the main character, Indiana Jones. Ms. Jackson clarified that instead, Indy "was named after Indy, Indiana Jones' dog."

Indy spends lots of time with her favorite toy: her squeaky monkey. Indy is certainly an extroverted puppy and loves receiving belly rubs. She sometimes tags along with Ms. Jackson when she is on duty to hang out with the girls in Howe Hall.

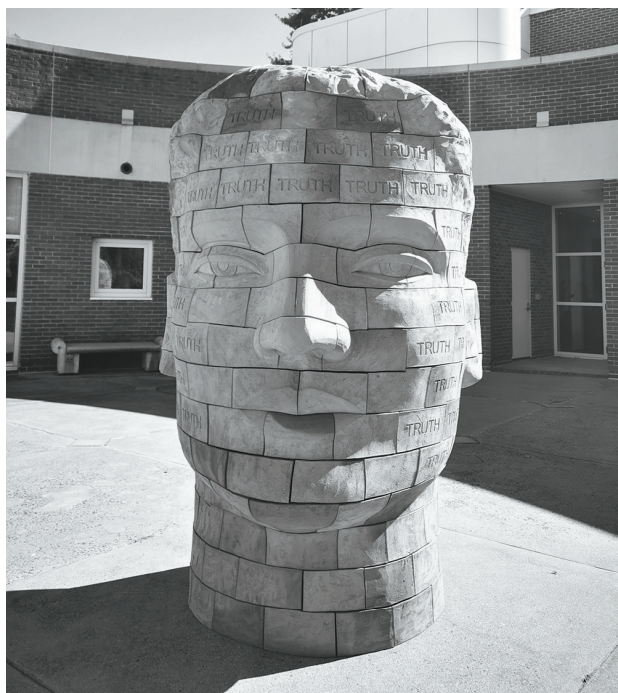


Photo by Jenny Pan '22

James Tyler's "Brickhead" sculpture will be on display in the RAC Courtyard for the 2019-2020 school year.

"Brickhead" Unveiled

By COOPER RAPOSO '21
Contributor

A large sculpted head outside the Richmond Arts Center greeted the Loomis Chaffee students returning from summer vacation. The "Brickhead," a temporary art installation that will stay on campus for the entire year, is a part of visiting artist James Tyler's TRUTH/NO TRUTH exhibition, which opened on September 17. Mr. Tyler was invited to campus by the Visual Arts Department Head Jennifer McCandless, and his work will be exhibited in the Mercy Gallery until November 1.

"I would say Loomis Chaffee has a variety of programs and philosophical approaches to education that are speaking to the same issues as the works in the exhibition: cultural inclusivity, diversity, universality of hopes and dreams and stories," Mr. Tyler said.

Mr. Tyler's art also has a connection to environmental causes, which is a major top-

ic at Loomis this year, especially given the climate strike on September 20. His art has connections to "the environmental realities of the planet that require a new level of human understanding if we are to stave off a global disaster," Mr. Tyler said.

Students have given positive feedback in response to the new installation. "I think it's a nice, thoughtful addition to campus," Isabelle Fonseca '21 said.

"It's great to have an interesting, cool sculpture outside of the RAC; the void of concrete that was there before was demoralizing," Steele Citrone '20 said.

In 1975, Mr. Tyler obtained his master's degree in fine arts from Hampshire College, and has been making brick sculptures for many years. His current works feature abstract bodies. The name of the exhibition, TRUTH/NO TRUTH, "asks for reflection on the meaning of truth itself. Is there such a thing as truth? Is truth a human construct? Who gets to decide," James Tyler said.

Where Did the Chickens Go?

By STACEY ZHANG '23
Contributor

Walking past Clark Science Center, students are no longer greeted by the familiar sound of clucking chickens. The birds have been temporarily relocated in response to recurring hawk attacks in April.

The chickens have long been a part of the work job and the agriculture programs at Loomis Chaffee. Students who participate in these programs have several different obligations, including feeding them food and fresh water, and cleaning the chicken coop.

"We would collect their eggs and sell them to faculty members," Agricultural Proctor Megan Lam '20 said.

"The chickens help to reduce our food waste. They help eat our food scraps from the dining hall, and their manure in turn becomes part of our compost, and is an important nitrogen component," Mrs. Gratia Lee, the director of sustainable agriculture, said.

Agricultural Proctors began to notice the disappearance of several chickens in April. Later investigations concluded that a hawk swooped in from above the enclosure and killed nine chickens.

"The students and I, for numerous afternoons, had to clean up [the killed chickens]," Grounds Keeper Jesse Lamb said. He assisted with the agriculture program while Mrs. Lee was on maternity leave.

No clear directions were given by the school about how to proceed. To prevent further loss of chickens, Jesse Lamb brought the four chickens that survived back to his house in May; his two children now take care of them.

"The fence in our backyard is giant, so it's almost free-range. And because it's in the woods, the predators can't just swoop in and kill those chickens," Jesse Lamb explained. The chickens are now in a safe environment, and lay one egg a day on average, according to Lamb.

However, the emptiness of the chicken coop is not permanent.

"When I return from maternity leave, we will get more chickens in the spring," Mrs. Lee said. Since new chickens are coming on campus, the chicken coop will undergo restructuring to prevent similar incidents.

"I'm hoping to be part of the planning process, and I'm talking to Mrs. Lee a lot,"

said Jesse Lamb. "[We will] put up a net on top of the chicken coop area, make sure no one can dig through from underneath. And clean the chicken coop more regularly." The chickens at his house will likely return to campus in the spring as well.

"I'm excited for the new chickens to come in the spring," Megan Lam '20 said.

"When I return from maternity leave, we will get more chickens in the spring," Mrs. Lee said.

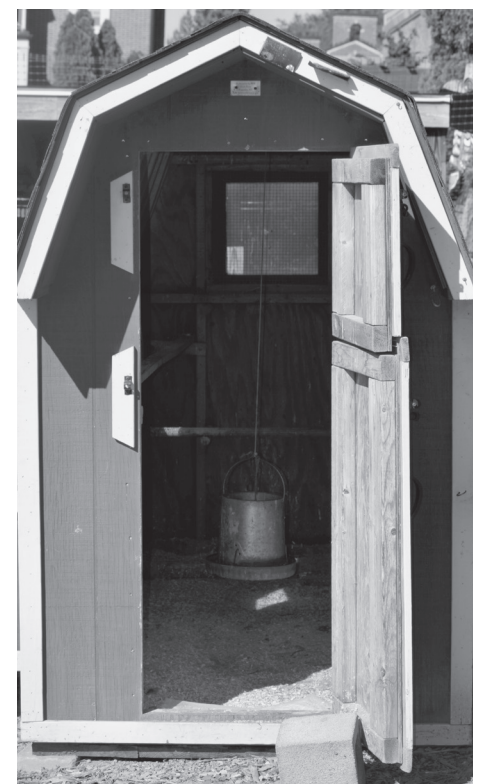


Photo by Sky Hanley '20

After a hawk killed nine of the LC chickens, the survivors were removed from their coop behind Clark Science Center. The chickens are currently staying with Jesse Lamb, a member of the grounds crew, and will likely return in the spring.

LC Students Strike for Climate

By GAVIN ANDERSON '21
Contributor

Over 100 Loomis Chaffee students took to the streets of Hartford on Friday, September 20 to participate in the Youth Climate Strike, one of the largest collective youth-lead demonstrations in history. People all over the world fought for immediate climate reform and against politicians' anti-climate-action agendas.

Students Anya Sastry '20, Griffen Malkin '20, and Sophie Rodner '21 each contributed to the strike in their own way. Environmental Proctors Sophie Rodner '21 and Griffen Malkin '20 Environmental Proctor's, National Outreach Director for the US Youth Climate Strike Anya Sastry '20, along with many others in the Loomis Chaffee community collaborated to make the event possible.

For Sastry, this day had been a long time coming due to her work and the work of others at the US Youth Climate Strike, an organization "entirely youth-lead, that works to advance a political and legislative agenda, focused on sustainable and climate-action oriented goals." In addition to helping coordinate the strike at Loomis, Sastry also organized the climate strike nation-wide.

The US Youth Climate Strike works with politicians and lawmakers to push for climate reform. As the national outreach director, Sastry said her position is, "to make the movement more accessible to everyone,

a lot of my work intersects with climate justice, and that's something I'm pushing."

Sastry, who attended the strike in New York, made her voice heard by leading off the march at the front of the group holding the banner along with other young activists from the US Youth Climate Strike. Estimated by the organization, over 250,000 people showed up to the strike in New York.

Climate justice is, "the idea that some people are being affected by the climate crisis more than others because they are already being affected by the skin color, their economic status, and their gender," Sastry said.

Head Environmental Proctors, Malkin and Rodner, collaborated to plan the school's participation in the event.

According to Malkin, "115 [students] took the train down to Hartford, marched to the capitol building, and from there we did not just observe, Loomis students wanted to take the megaphone, lead chants and participate."

When asked what an Environmental Proctor's role was at the school he answered, "We are the stewards of Loomis Chaffee's sustainable movement."

"It really raised awareness about sustainability in our school community," Rodner said. "People are now after the strike more aware of what the Environmental Proctors do and how to be conscious about their personal environmental impact."



Photo by Sky Hanley '20

Sisters Emma Tishler '20 (left) and Sam Tishler '23 are day students from Glastonbury, CT. Sam said that teachers often comment on how similar the sisters look.

Seeing Double: New Siblings at LC

By FREYA RICH '20
Contributor

Early this year, 16 members of the freshman class came to campus with an older sibling already at Loomis Chaffee. Joining the ranks of those before them, these freshmen are now paving their own path at the place that once was just 'my older sister/brother's school.' The dynamic between these siblings, however, varies with each pair.

Adi Chakravarthy '20, a boarding student from Ellington, CT, said that although he doesn't see his younger brother, Tej '23, very often around campus, he is still glad that they are both at Loomis. "I really like that he went to Loomis...we can both relate to being in the same school, going to the same dining hall," Chakravarthy said.

Sam Scherer '21, a day student from Avon, CT, reflected on the simpler time before his sister, Hayley Scherer '23, joined the Island. "I liked being independent... We went to the same school before for a long time, so I liked being by myself here," Sam said.

However, Sam was still able to give Hayley helpful advice by letting her know "how the schedule works, if she should meet with a teacher, and how much time she should be spending on homework."

Grace Murphy '21 remembers finding out that her sister, Fiona Murphy '23, would be attending Loomis. "I was excited for her... but just a little nervous because I know that... adjusting to a Loomis lifestyle can be hard," Grace said.

"It's really weird seeing her around and in the halls...[her] being a high school student and being independent," Grace said. She also alluded to a tradition of passing down LC advice in her family. "My brothers told me

and so I was able to tell [my sister]," she said.

Neil Grover '23, a day student from Avon, CT, and the younger brother of Arjun Grover '20, provides a younger sibling's point of view. "He drives me to school every day; I've lived with him all my life," Neil said when asked to describe his and his older brother Arjun's relationship.

Neil mentioned that many teachers recognize him by his last name. "A lot of [teachers] know me by my brother," Neil said.

Sam Tishler '23, a day student from Glastonbury, CT, shared her thoughts about being on the Island with her older sister Emma Tishler '20. "I was really excited to come to school with her. She's a senior... so it's our last year together," Sam said.

Sam related to Neil's observation on meeting teachers for the first time. "[My teachers] will always be like, 'You look so much like... do you have a sibling?'" Sam said.

Mrs. Elizabeth Stewart, the senior associate director of admissions, offered her thoughts on siblings at Loomis. "We certainly want as many Loomis Chaffee siblings to be part of the experience, but I don't think it gives them a specific edge over other applicants," Mrs. Stewart said.

"When you see them [an older sibling]... stepping out of their comfort zone, that is really empowering for a younger sibling," Mrs. Stewart said. "Having that security of seeing your sibling every day... I think that's very reassuring for siblings."

In terms of admissions interviews, Mrs. Stewart feels that, "[the] interview is not about their older sibling...[the interviewees] need to feel that we understand who they are... They have their own identity."



Photo by Zachary Davis '21

Batts Desmond, an environmental justice activist, speaks at the Climate Strike.

Norton Fellows Support Their Communities

By ZACHARY DAVIS '21
Staff Writer

As the school year begins, the summer projects from the Norton Fellowship come to a close. With the support of a grant from the Norton Family Center for the Common Good, five students spearheaded projects to enrich their communities this summer.

The Fellows, consisting of four seniors and one junior, will continue their projects during this school year, with plans ranging from continuing online forum meetings for children with autism throughout the year, to sharing films at Loomis Chaffee that they created over the summer.

Anya Sastry '20 hopes to shine a spotlight through film on the dangers and overall impact of climate change. Specifically, she emphasized how this impact disproportionately and negatively affects underfunded and

underprivileged communities. Her mission ties in to a larger youth movement, highlighted recently in the Youth Climate Strike, of young leaders in America taking the reins of their generation's future away from those who may turn a blind eye.

Also producing films with the grant is Alejandra Velasquez '20, social media manager of the Log, who partnered with the Hartford Police Athletic League to create a film-making and leadership program for inner-city youth. Helping her students create their own films, her project seeks to further foster a sense of community for the children and teach them valuable skills for their studies.

Ethan Levinbook '20, editor-in-chief of the Log, created a summer instrumental music program for elementary school students from New Britain and Hartford, CT. He used the funds to purchase cellos for

these students, who either attend schools that don't have music programs or who do not have access to instruments on their own.

Ethan's summer music program expands on the Loomis Chaffee Music Mentors program, a weekly community service program that he established in 2017. Since this program's founding, Ethan and his crew of "music mentors" have offered free instrumental music lessons for over twenty-five students.

Kassie Rivera '21 used the fellowship to create a peer support group for children living with autism. Inspired by her brother and the lack of existing support groups in the New York community, Kassie seeks to spread awareness and help families to learn more about autism.

"It was very difficult for me to find people to attend my meetings even through social media. So I had to branch out and start find-

ing big corporations and groups who could spread the word about my meeting and help me find people. It was also difficult for me to find a location that would be suitable for my meetings and central located to the people who would be coming," Kassie said.

"I learned how to find people and organizations who could help me in my efforts and how to share appropriate amounts of information with them," Kassie said. "I also learned more about the autism community as a whole and how experiences with people from different parts of the spectrum can be extremely different, it really varies from person to person." Kassie hopes to maintain the support group online from campus.

Also running his project from a technological standpoint, senior Wilder Burris-Wells '20 is using his understanding of app design to guide kids in his hometown to create smartphone apps themselves.

The Pelican Deserves More

Liam Scott '19 Reflects on our Mascot's History



Photo by Haven Low '21

By LIAM SCOTT '19
Editor in Chief Emeritus

"The pelican, ready to wound itself to feed its young ... peers down at us from the pediments above doorways mutely saying, 'How far will you go in giving of yourself?'" former headmaster John Ratté wrote in "Symbol, Tradition, and Myth in the Life of the School." The myth he referenced goes that the vulning pelican pecks at its breast to feed its young.

His question is a daunting one. How far will you go in giving of yourself? How much will you sacrifice in service of something? Those are big questions for teenagers—and even adults—to answer. Nevertheless, his question, and the history in which it is rooted, are things I wish were made more overt at Loomis Chaffee.

I am incredibly happy with my experience at Loomis Chaffee. And while I find myself unsure about my immediate response to Ratté's question, I feel as if I have come closer to an answer, especially during my last year here.

I am grateful for the journey that brought me where I sit writing today—literally, in a blue couch in the library, and, figuratively, more sure of myself than I have ever felt, and more empowered and inspired than I have ever felt. Getting here required time and, I realize now, giving of myself—perhaps most prominently through designing the course Genocide: Media, Remembrance, and the International Community with Mr. Shure and co-leading The Log, but in other ways, too.

The history behind our selfless pelican is complex yet rich in meaning. Coming from the Loomis family's coat of arms, the pelican represents giving to young, maintaining the narrative of the Loomis family that founded a school in honor of their children, whom they all outlived.

The pelican therefore "typifies a moral idea, course and purpose, [a] life full of charity," and it is tied to our phrase *ne cede malis* (yield not to adversity), LC archivist Karen Parsons explained. The pelican embodies "strength of moral purpose which is based on giving to others."

The nature of our mascot, however, seems to have changed over time.

"I don't know that we consciously see it [as John Ratté described the pelican], but we could, right, if we chose to attach that meaning to it," Ms. Parsons said.

"I think we've become much more playful with the pelican than maybe the founders ever imagined, which is fine. A mascot is meant to develop school spirit [...] and then there could be that added layer of meaning about purpose," she continued.

Ratté expressed himself similarly: "Every institution has the possibility and the obligation to create its tradition and embody its symbols, its two- and three-dimensional icons, but principally its icons of word and deed in order to make more fully possible that modeling of interdependence and of self-discovery and self-making in society that is the school's principal moral responsibility."

In my experience, Loomis faculty have undoubtedly taught me the value of self-discovery and self-making (thank you, Mr.

Shure, Ms. Hsieh, Ms. Engelke, and Mr. Helfrich). Self-discovery and self-making are some of the most valuable things I have learned while here, and for that I am forever grateful.

Nonetheless, I think the school as a whole could do a better job at reinforcing the importance of the school's history and how that history informs how people can give themselves to something. Loomis Chaffee's history is unique and compelling, and remembrance of that history is a powerful form of tradition.

"What is certain is not the definition of tradition [...] but the inescapability of the obligation to invent it, and to be invented by it as well," Ratté mused. Remembering that history and the significance of a purpose in service of others, is a vital responsibility.

I am forever grateful that faculty and students here have pushed me to answer, "How far will you go in giving of yourself?" through the quest for self-discovery and self-making.

And when I see pelicans—on campus and off—I think of the story of the school's founders, but I do not think very deeply about the pelican. Nevertheless, while I have not been formally asked how far I will go in giving of myself, through experience I have learned that I will go far.

Fortunately, I think most students learn that while they are here. Consciously adding in the extra layer of meaning for all, however, undoubtedly would enrich our experiences to new levels of transformative poignancy.

The pelican deserves more.

The Loomis Chaffee Log

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CORRECTION: Matthew Weng '22's article, "Summer Priorities: College or Fun," was misattributed to Oscar Ye '22. Hazel Le '22's article, "Loomis Chaffee Announces 2019-2020 Dorm Heads," was misattributed to Jenny Pan '22.

EDITORIAL

Over-Enrollment Fails to Detract from LC Student Life

Last spring it was unclear what Loomis Chaffee would do to solve the problem of over-enrollment. This year, a number of different measures put in place by the LC administration have ensured that the campus dynamic does not change and that all students feel comfortable and at home. By hiring new faculty, finding an effective solution to overcrowded dorms, and designing more efficient drop-off routes and parking

Although the units are essentially trailers, Loomis spared no expense to make these as comfortable as possible for the students who would be living there.

lots, the LC administration has done a commendable job handling the over-enrollment.

In The Loomis Chaffee Log Issue 103, No. 8, Jenny Pan '22 reported in "Admissions by the Numbers" that 50% of prospective students said "yes" to Loomis during the school's recent admissions cycle. The school's yield had thus increased — a testament to Loomis' growing popularity and beautiful, inviting campus — and would ultimately result in more crowded dorms and, overall, a more crowded campus.

A general sense of uncertainty was palpable among students. Would doubles become triples? What would Loomis do to accommodate the increase of students attending in the fall?

As a response to dorm overcrowding, the Loomis administration decided to adjoin "modular housing units"—now commonly referred to as "the Palmer Pod" and "Harman South"—to Palmer Hall and Harman Hall, respectively. Although the units are essentially trailers, Loomis spared no expense to make these as comfortable as possible for the students who would be living there. These air-conditioned units have six doubles that are connected to the first floor of their respective dorms. Although there

have been complaints about the thin walls, the doubles are substantially bigger than any other double in Palmer and Harman and also are climate controlled; the residents of those rooms can control their heat or air-conditioning independently, unlike other LC boarders.

LC also made a conscious effort to hire more teachers to accommodate the over-enrollment.

"It was and is an administrative priority to make sure student experience is not compromised," said Andrew Matlack, Dean of Faculty.

Actually, the student-to-faculty ratio has improved, despite the increase in student enrollment.

Moreover, the school has changed the day-student drop-off route by constructing new traffic circles and revamping the parking area between Olcott Gymnasium and Cutler Hall. This more efficient drop-off system has made student and parent life much easier. There has also been a parking lot added in front of Longman Hall, also helping to accommodate the increased number of cars on campus.

Indeed, the serverly is as hectic as ever, and some dorms are over-capacity still. For instance, Warham Hall has a quadru-

Actually, the student-to-faculty ratio has improved, despite the increase in student enrollment.

ple room, which is unprecedented for the dorm. If sit-down dinner is happening, it is clear that not all dorms will be able to be in attendance every week because the dining hall will not fit anyone. But nonetheless, the Loomis administration has done a great job managing last admissions cycle's fortunate problem: that so many students decided to attend Loomis.

QUESTION OF THE ISSUE

What are your general impressions of the new work job program?

By RYAN JONES '20
Opinions Editor

MELISSA RION

Assitant Director of the Community Work Program

"We have done something that hasn't been done in at least the recent past, which is to allow students to voice their opinions on what jobs they wanted to engage in."

TIM HELFRICH

Director of the Community Work Program

"I think at the root of the changes is a desire to make sure the work that we're asking students to engage in is meaningful and adds value to the school...The sleep wellness of our students was an additional reason to get rid of work jobs occurring outside of the school day."

ETHAN ITO '20

Study Hall Proctor

"I think the new workjob program as a whole is better than it was before because we're doing jobs that actually have an impact... I also prefer having workjobs during the day to [those that were conducted] before school."

MELISSA RION

Assitant Director of the Community Work Program

"We're very happy to say...most of the students [who filled out the jobs survey] got one of their first three choices, unless their schedule absolutely didn't permit for them to be in the jobs that they picked."

IZZY BALISE '23

Quad Pickup Worker

"I think it's definitely good that everyone's helping out and has a role in the school. However, I think that some of the work jobs are very tedious, and it's unnecessary to have people doing some jobs every day for a long time when there's not that much to be done...I think it could be much more efficient."

ABBEY SCHNEIDER '20

Bookstore Worker

"I think the new program is really cool because you get to choose what you want to do. Overall, I think the program has gotten better."

OSCAR YAN '22

Dining Hall Cleaner

"I think the new workjob system is a waste of time, because we don't really do much, especially on dining hall duty — we just kind of walk around. New students don't have any kind of choice, so some of the benefits are kind of lost too."

TIM HELFRICH

Director of the Community Work Program

"We've seen plenty of glimpses that this setup is going to be a very positive change for the community...We're not rebuilding so much as we're trying to add efficiency and value where we can."

College Counselors for Sophomores: A Reasonable Change

By VICTORIA CHE '21
Opinions Editor

For many years at Loomis Chaffee, students have been assigned college counselors during the winter of their junior year. However, the College Office is moving this process forward in time. In May 2019, all students in the class of 2021 — sophomores at the time — received an email from their newly assigned college counselors.

"Making assignments in May was only a transitional step in the process. Future sophomores will be assigned counselors even earlier, in December," Director of College Counseling Mr. David Rion said.

In addressing what precipitated this change, Mr. Rion gave three reasons: the counselors will know their students better by the time they start working in depth in junior winter, students will have a reliable source to direct all their questions to between sophomore winter and junior fall, and counselors will help reduce student anxiety about the many unknowns of the college process.

I believe introducing college counselors earlier is overall a positive move. For many sophomores and juniors, some important decisions, like those concerning junior courses and AP testing, need to be made before junior winter comes. While teachers and the Academic Office offer great advice, many students find comfort in talking to someone well-versed in the workings of the college process. Furthermore, having professional guidance will prevent students from making decisions that may unintentionally hurt them later in the process.

When your friend starts visiting schools or taking APs and subject tests, it is easy to start panicking and stressing over whether you have been left behind. In fact, everyone's college application process is unique since each may require a different set of pre-

requisites for matriculation. In moments of anxiety, your college counselor can help you clarify the situation and ease unnecessary stress.

An additional point that Mr. Rion shared was that currently the majority of Loomis students apply to at least one school by November 1 of their senior year; that number was significantly lower ten years ago, as most students applied by January 1. The rising trend in applying early decision in the fall has shifted the college process itself forward by two months.

"As a result of this change, the time between counselor introductions and application deadlines has shrunk," Mr. Rion said.

I believe announcing counselors earlier will counteract the impacts of this shift by building a more substantial foundation for each student, providing time for refining application details, and making the process feel less rushed.

One of the biggest concerns regarding the change in time-frame has been the theory that a longer college process may simply intensify students' anxieties. While it may seem that the college process lengthened after the change, activities and interactions between students and their college counselor before junior winter are mostly informational. The College Office is planning to host four counselor group meetings between the announcement day and junior winter. From my experience, these meetings have been mostly casual conversations, introducing college research websites and accessing juniors to college receptions.

I believe introducing college counselors earlier is an effective step in response to the shifting trend of the college process, and that the College Office is doing its best in trying to alleviate pressures the process may evoke.

LC Supports Student Climate Activism

By EMILY KHYM '23
Contributer

In my first few weeks at Loomis Chaffee, I have observed many students and faculty trying to make a stand against the looming dangers of climate change by initiating projects, forming clubs, and encouraging conversations.

After talking to Kelly Eng '20, one of the head environmental proctors, I learned that e-proctors do a lot to maintain an environmentally-friendly campus. Former Head E-Proctors Mark Valadez '19 and Kiki Szemraj '19 proposed initiatives to reuse hangers from laundry, promote awareness during Earth Week, and reduce plastic bottle usage. These student-led projects demonstrate our students' passion for combating climate change.

Currently, the e-proctors' initiatives focus on four main areas: energy, waste, water, and food. Projects concerning food and paper management and videos promoting environmental awareness have succeeded in informing students about the alarming dangers of climate change.

They have even launched the new student-led organization the SUNRISE group, which is devoted specifically to climate activism. It's a logical next step, considering, just two weeks ago, 113 students and 14 faculty members from Loomis participated in the largest climate protest in Hartford's history.

Director of the Norton Family Center for the Common Good Mr. Eric LaForest said that allowing students to miss class for the strike "shows that this is a school who will listen to students for climate change." By allowing students to participate in the Climate Strike, Loomis is encouraging its students to become informed, caring citi-

zens in addition to pursuing academic excellence.

In addition, by offering the Global and Environmental Studies Certificate, which encourages students to engage in classes and activities related to environmental studies, including term courses in ecology and sustainability, Loomis is demonstrating its support for raising awareness of climate change.

"We will be doing more and we aren't going to stop," Associate Director of the Alvord Center for Global & Environmental Studies Mr. Jefferey Dyreson said.

At first it may seem unnecessary to have two bins, one for recycling and the other for trash, in one's dorm room. However, by providing two bins, Loomis further demonstrates the importance of educating students about preserving the environment. Furthermore, in almost every building, there are several posters stressing the dangers of climate change and the methods by which students may take action.

When I go into the closet to get a liner for my bin, I always read the recycling poster that is hung up; when I go to the bathroom, I find posters about how to reduce water and electricity usage. Prefects and faculty constantly remind us to switch off lights and take other precautions to reduce our carbon footprint.

Loomis as a community has done a tremendous amount of work to both promote awareness of climate change and take actions to combat its consequences. Some suggestions for the future could include creating compost bins that are more accessible, reducing water waste during athletic games, and using less paper. Nevertheless, I believe that Loomis has done enough to let student voices be heard and to raise awareness about the looming dangers of climate change.

A New Coach for LC Football

By **NICHOLAS DARRAS '21**
Contributor

Loomis Chaffee football looks forward to a bounce-back season, starting with the addition of new Head Football Coach Jeffrey Moore, who is also the new dorm head of Kravis Hall.

Mr. Moore coached at others schools in New England before coming to Loomis Chaffee, and is from the region.

"I am from Norton, Mass. I was a walk-on at University of Massachusetts. I coached at Amherst and then Yale, then went back to Amherst," Coach Moore said.

Later in his career he, "took 3 years off and worked at a YMCA, then from there [he] coached at St. Thomas More for two seasons. The five seasons prior to [his] arrival, they had only won five games, and during [his] two years [they] went 6-3 both years."

During Mr. Moore's two years at the St. Thomas More School, a small institution in Oakdale, CT, the program sent 30 athletes to play college football, including 20 Division I players who went to elite football programs such as Michigan, Clemson, Penn State, University of Florida, Syracuse, Arizona, and University of Connecticut. He also led the team to a two-year record of 12-6, the best record St. Thomas More has had in over a decade.

"Our goal is to create a foundation of hard work, and for kids to understand that every day leads to a bigger picture," Mr. Moore said.

Coach Moore preaches passion, consistency and an upbeat mentality, which are qualities he already sees in Loomis football. He sees a bright future ahead, thanks to a great coaching staff, returning players, and new recruits.

The idea of consistency is a pillar of Loomis football. Mr. Moore wants the team to understand the long-term idea of building off of each practice. The way the team practices on Monday will reflect throughout the week and onto later practices and eventually games. Mr. Moore wants his team to consistently convert the little things to the big things.

Currently the team has a 2-2 record, winning most recently to Phillips Exeter Academy 13-7. The team looks forward to its next game, at home against Deerfield Academy this Saturday.



Photo by Michelle Park '20

Head football coach and Kravis dorm head Jeff Moore played football at the University of Massachusetts, coached at Amherst College, and most recently coached at the St. Thomas More School before coming to the Island

What's in a Name? And What's Up with the Skirts?

By **ABBY CANNON '20**
Contributor

When former Loomis Chaffee varsity field hockey, basketball, and lacrosse player Melinda Harvey '76 was informed that some Loomis girls' sports uniforms still include skirts, she was shocked.

"It is demarking male and female, but to what end? Why is that important? Why do they need to be in any sort of traditional feminine garb?" Harvey said.

Nearly 50 years after the Loomis and Chaffee schools merged, with the exception of basketball, girl's sports uniforms have largely clung to the kilts-and-blouses tradition present in the 70s, 80s, and 90s that distinguished female athletes from males.

Today's skirt-blouse combo, though, is not as restrictive as its 1970s counterpart. According to Harvey, uniforms for female athletes in her era consisted of knee length kilts, button down cotton shirts, maroon panties, and maroon and white socks.

"Obviously it was a flowy skirt so it blew around and flapped up. I also didn't wear a lot of skirts, so for me it was a little weird. I would've liked to have had the choice of shorts as opposed to the skirts," Harvey said.

Today's Loomis field hockey team con-

tinues to wear skirts to play. Varsity field hockey player Calabria DeFazio '20 explains that wearing skirts for field hockey today is normal and no one on the team sees them as problematic.

"I don't mind the skirts anymore, I actually kind of like them. It's such a normal thing for field hockey and lacrosse. When we see a team that's not wearing skirts, we say, 'Oh, that's interesting, I wonder why they're not wearing skirts.' But we just let it go," Calabria said.

Harvey and her teammates saw it similarly. No one thought anything of the skirts because every girl had to wear them for sports. No one knew any differently. But in retrospect, her view has changed.

"We didn't have to wear skirts to classes, so why did we need to wear them on the athletic field of all places?" Harvey said.

Outside of Loomis, gender politics has been a prominent issue around the world. In March of 2019, a federal judge ruled that a North Carolina charter school could not prohibit girls from wearing pants, despite the school's argument that they were promoting "traditional values." And it was only in 2013 that France revoked its law barring women from wearing pants in Paris.

But the gender politics concerning the

school name are less clear. Nearly 50 years ago the Loomis School and Chaffee School joined and became one, with the unified school being named "Loomis Chaffee," and it has remained ever since.

According to Associate Head for External Relations Nat Follansbee, the evolved name

No one thought anything of the skirts because every girl had to wear them for sports. No one knew any differently.

of the school poses a challenge, even when all teams are ultimately under the "Loomis" name.

There remain proud Chaffee alumnae who lament the shrinking legacy remaining of their school, especially as Loomis Chaffee is increasingly now commonly shortened in print and on uniforms to "Loomis." However, Follansbee says there are no current plans to change the school's name or brand

again.

When the schools were merged, the name on the jerseys of most boys sports teams was "Loomis," while the girl's uniforms bore no name at all on their plain white dress athletic blouses. When the girls' blouses gave way to performance jerseys and added a school name, they read "Loomis Chaffee" rather than "Loomis," as did the boys' uniforms, perhaps in an effort to preserve the Chaffee name in some form for the girls.

It remained that way for nearly every girl's team until 2018, when most teams received new Under Armour uniforms emblazoned with "Loomis" across the chest.

This removal seems to have gone unnoticed by many people at Loomis, and longtime coach and science teacher Allison Beason and student athlete DeFazio admit that they have not noticed this phenomenon in all their years at the school.

Still hopeful that all school teams will soon be unified under the "Loomis Chaffee" name, Melinda Harvey believes there is more work to be done.

"I think there's certainly still a lot of progress to be made with equity of uniforms if girls are still wearing skirts. What is the point of wearing a skirt? I really don't understand," Harvey said.

LC Teams Look For Success This Fall

By **CHLOE CHEN '22** and **MARIAPOLA GONZALEZ '22**
Contributors

Loomis Chaffee's fall sports teams have an eventful fall season ahead of them.

The varsity boys soccer team welcomed many new players and the team is excited to have them. This year, they are hoping to win Founders and potentially the New England championship.

"I'm really excited to see more younger players this year. I'm also excited to see how we can come together and win a championship. The team goal will always be to win, but we can for sure improve on our team chemistry. I think that once we do that, we'll be the best team in New England," William Cleary, a returning sophomore, said.

Members of the team know that they all have something to improve on, and everyone is confident in their own abilities as well as the team's improvement as a whole. Both new and old players agree that they still need to get used to differences in their playing styles. As the season progresses, chemistry will start to click and they'll strive to become the best team in New England.

Oliver (Ollie) Martin '22, a new player on the Island, is optimistic about this season. "Team goals are to win the championships and individually, become a better player and to get some Division 1 looks. The team has welcomed me since they're very open and we all work well together. I'm glad that we're just here creating new friends and friendships that will last us a while," Ollie said.

"The coaches have been awesome as well. But I think I can improve on my attitude and not getting mad too much. A prediction for the team is that we will do well if we keep up what we're doing. A strategy is definitely to continue working hard during practice and keeping it up to game speed, so when we play a game, it will feel normal," Oliver said.

The girls varsity soccer team is looking to come back stronger than last year, where they were a New England Class A finalist, narrowly losing to the Nobles and Greenwich School in the prep school championship.

Lauren Morissey '21, the starting goal-

keeper for girls varsity soccer, spoke affectionately about her new team. "They are very welcoming and we work as a unit... I truly feel like I have been here since freshman year. We are definitely looking forward to a successful season," Lauren said.

Varsity girls volleyball, the reigning New England champions, have hit the ground running with five wins in their first six games. The girls welcomed numerous new recruits this year, and are excited to defend their championship.

Focusing on new strategies and cementing the fundamentals, the team hopes to become an even better team overall. At the end of this year, many current players will graduate, so they are looking to have a good run before leaving the island.

"I feel like we can win New England's again we just need to work hard and focus on fundamentals. As a team, we need to practice what we will do in the game and match each player to the opposite lineup. The team has been welcoming and willing to help me do my best. It's definitely a weird transition, but everyone's been really supportive," Emily Collins '22, a new sophomore on the team, said.

Though Loomis prides itself on varsity championships and titles, teams of all levels at Loomis have found success. JV girls cross country, for example, is looking forward to a season with many new runners.

Pilar Wingle '22, a returning runner, was confident in the team's possibilities.

"We would love to be able to make New England's, and personally, I would love to be on the scoring team of the JV team. Individually, strategies for me would be running with quicker people and trying to log more miles than previous years. As a team, however, teamwork is dreamwork," Pilar said.

At their first meet of the season, on Northfield Mount Hermon's course, the girls began bonding, which has been the key factor in making them such a unified and successful group.

"It felt really nice when we all cheered for each other. We would love to continue bonding as the season continues and even past that," Pilar said.



Photo by Julia Manafort '21

Ms. Bissett played Division I lacrosse at Syracuse University and is excited to bring her passion for lacrosse and other sports to the Island.

Ms. Bissett: From ESPN to LC Lacrosse

By **TODD WEITZMAN '21**
Contributor

Whether she is on the lacrosse field or playing with her three guinea pigs, Assistant Athletics Director Stephanie Bissett looks to make an impact at Loomis Chaffee.

Ms. Bissett is the new girls varsity lacrosse coach and assistant athletic director. Along with her role within the athletic community at Loomis, Ms. Bissett is also an advisor and a dorm affiliate in Kravis Hall.

Originally from Maryland, Ms. Bissett graduated from Syracuse University as a student athlete, where she played Division I college lacrosse. She also worked for ESPN in West Hartford for ten years.

At ESPN, Ms. Bissett worked to acquire the rights for ESPN to air various competitions, including tennis, college football, bowling, extreme sports, and competitive eating ("always a fan favorite," she said). Then she had a change of heart.

"I revisited my career path and I went into education," said Ms. Bissett.

She was a teacher, class dean, and a coach of varsity basketball and varsity lacrosse at the Wheeler School in Providence, Rhode Island. The Wheeler School is a co-educational independent school for stu-

dents ranging from nursery school all the way through high school.

Ms. Bissett has a master's degree in athletic leadership and administration. She plans to use her prior experience as a dean and as a teacher to build onto an already well-rounded program for the student athletes at Loomis.

As the new coach of the girls varsity lacrosse team, Ms. Bissett is very excited to see the athletes play and compete. Unfortunately, Ms. Bissett will have to wait until the spring term for the lacrosse season to begin.

"I have heard great things about the kids in the [lacrosse] program," said Ms. Bissett.

Ms. Bissett is not only passionate about lacrosse, but also is passionate about all athletics at Loomis in general. Ms. Bissett is looking forward to watching all the student athletes develop and grow both as individuals and as athletes while competing for Loomis.

"The people [at Loomis] have been so nice and so kind," Ms. Bissett said.

She is excited to watch the freshman and sophomores that live in Kravis Hall mature, and witness Loomis develop as a school and community.

LC Fall Team Captains: Leadership and Losses



Photo by Gabriele Kozik '20

Alejandro Rincón '21, Gus Hawley '20, and Chase Collyer '21 serve as captains of the varsity cross country, water polo, and football teams.

By **MATTHEW WENG '21**
Contributor

As Loomis Chaffee's various teams experience the early portion of their seasons, many newly-elected captains will test out their athletic leadership skills for the first time. As they lace up their cleats, throw on their singlets, and pick up their sticks, athletic veterans must once again ponder an important question: what exactly does a captain do?

Captains have many roles depending on their respective sports. For football captain Chase Collyer '21, that role is to be the motivational foundation among the players.

"A big part of my job is to motivate the guys to avoid complacency after a win and stay hyped after a loss," Collyer said.

Just a junior, Chase has quickly become one of the leading voices in the locker room. However, his job is far from easy.

"As a mid-5ft guy who is pretty young, it is hard to gather everyone's respect, but my work on and off the field has gained me that voice," he said.

For boys cross country captain Alejandro Rincon '21, the role is much different.

"Not only do I need to ensure the guys are doing what they are supposed to be doing, but most importantly, I need to make sure everyone is having fun," he said.

Not only does Alejandro lead off the course, but he is also leading by example on the course as he has become a consistent frontrunner for the team.

The girls cross country team is a sizable program, and gives the potential to feel excluded early on. As a result, captain Emma Tishler has taken on a variety of responsibilities.

"[My objective] is to make cross country fun for everyone. It doesn't matter what time you can run the 5k in, we are all a big family and cheer everyone on," Tishler said.

However, that responsibility often proves challenging; Emma noted that though uniting her team is her favorite task, it is also her most difficult.

Under the leadership of these captains, the fall sports teams are looking to dominate. Be sure to show up to the games and support these wonderful athletes as they look to bring even more wins back to the Island.

The All-School Bee Buffet

By **ANDREW PARK '22**
Melange Section Editor

Ahh...the sun's shining, the birds are singing a beautiful tune, delicious smells are wafting through the air, the wasps are buzzing – wait, wasps? As I looked down at a (hopefully) delicious handcrafted burger made by yours truly, I heard a particularly annoying sound coming from my left.

The sounds multiplied, until all I could hear was the nonstop buzz of wings moving at over 200 times per second enveloping me, or, more specifically, my food. That's when I realized this "Outdoor Barbeque" wasn't the earthly paradise it had seemed at first glance.

The sun wasn't shining warmly, it was shooting harsh rays of deadly radiation straight into my skin; the birds weren't singing songs but were screeching just a bit too loudly; and the delicious smells – well, they were the ones that caused this entire wasp problem.

Then I realized I didn't have time to think of such trivial matters – the wasps were coming! And for my food, no less.

I proceeded to do two triple backflips, a back extension roll 180° pirouette roll out, three linking aerials, and a front tuck step

out round off back handspring to get away from them, all while keeping my burger at the center of my movements. But the wasps were relentless.

They chased after me at supersonic speeds of upwards of Mach 3. They dive bombed my food, but I wasn't about to let them get to it so easily. My vision gained a red hue and my perception of time accelerated 100 times, allowing me to see the individual flaps of the wasp's wings. My ears roared with the sudden flood of blood as adrenaline rushed through my system.

I roared with rage and proceeded to swat the wasps out of the sky with my hands, instantly knocking them out. I was a living weapon; I was death.

News must travel quickly among wasps, as the wasps that were hovering around the trash bins soon joined in the carnage. So far, the score was 0 for wasps and 13 for me, but I wasn't sure if I would be able to hold out for much longer against the vast army. It was just short of a miracle that I hadn't gotten stung yet.

I redoubled my efforts, trying to kill any and all wasps that came close to me or my burger. Kicks, slaps, elbow swings – I did all those things and more while simultaneously keeping my burger in the eye of the

hurricane that was me.

However, I soon began to tire, and my breath came in ragged gasps. My vision started to fade, and my hearing wasn't much better. I made one last dogged attempt to shoo away the wasps around me, but I overshot and tripped – a fatal mistake.

The burger slipped from my hands, so I lunged for it, but lost my balance. And then I was falling...

and

falling...

and falling...

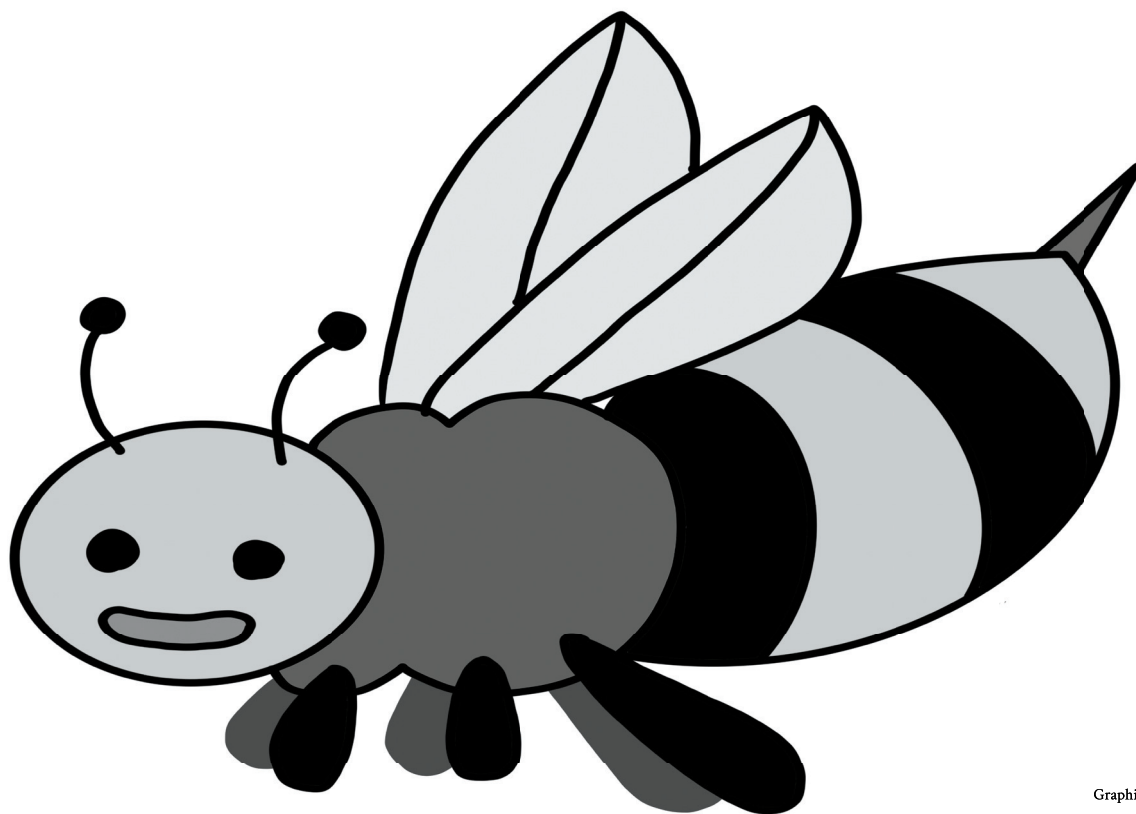
thump.

I had bumped into someone.

My vision cleared and my hearing came back to normal, just in time to hear the person ask if I was okay. I said I was fine, dusted my pants, picked up my burger, threw it in the trash bin, and walked away.

Then I realized I still hadn't eaten anything, so I quickly came back and made myself a burger and ate it in the dining hall before heading to my next class.

So, from now on, let's all eat indoors – please and thank you.



Graphic by Michelle Park '20



Graphic by Julie Chung '21

Your Inner Psychopath: Kit-Kat Edition

By **CHLOE BEHRINGER '20**
Contributor

It's October, the month of scary decorations, elaborate costumes, and of course, delicious candies. Among all of these sweet treats, the resurfacing of the famous Kourtney Kardashian approach to eating a Kit Kat is inevitable.

While this method concerns many of the normal candy consumers out there, it doesn't even scratch the surface of the many deranged ways to eat Kit Kats; if you see anyone practicing these methods, please, just run away.

1. Bite directly into the bar without breaking off the separate pieces. This certainly is a chaotic approach, but still somehow neutral. It does not involve the dissection of the candy, which is a step in the right direction.

2. Scrape off all the chocolate with your teeth and then eat the wafer. This is a variation of the 'Kourt Kardash method,' but certainly more psychotic.

3. Break the Kit Kats off, not along the conveniently placed dividers already in the candy, but in any other direction. Perhaps even diagonally. This is an example of chaotic good. Not a terrible approach, but enough to make you think, 'That's not right.'

4. Split the whole bar in half and add something else for in between the two halves to make a very chocolatey sandwich. Peanut butter, jelly, and Nutella all apply. Out of every obscure method, this one definitely seems the most appealing. However, if you see someone add any other type of condiment, start sprinting immediately.

5. Eat a Kit Kat with a fork and knife. This could be the worst one on this list. It challenges the status quo in the most dangerous and foolish way. Do not be friends with someone who does this.

In this wonderful time of year filled with delicious treats, please, just eat your candy like a normal human being.

Fall Horoscopes

By **JOHN HOWLEY '21**
Staff Writer

'Tis the season of pumpkin spice and flannels! What will you be doing this fall season? Well, the stars have aligned and your astrological signs have weighed in. Here is what you will be up to this autumn based on your zodiac sign (so obviously 100% accurate).

Aries

Deceiving other people into turning the wrong way, "accidentally" tripping your best friend and leaving them behind on the hard ground like a human scarecrow, you love corn mazes and will stop at nothing to be the first (and only) one to come out uninjured!

Taurus

While some find the end of summer upsetting, you revel in the beautiful colors of the leaves as they wither up and die, one by one, and the frantic efforts of small woodland creatures as they try and secure a food supply as to not endure horrible, death by starvation in the cold winter months to come. So beautiful.

Gemini

You really can't stand the fall. The temperature is dropping and the days are getting shorter. On top of that, your return to school and your 13 hours of homework mean that you can't spend as much time outdoors, not that you'd want to. It's okay, though; there are only 350 days until summer...

Cancer

You enjoy becoming one with the fall scenery and embracing the earth as it prepares for winter. Sure, some people might think it's weird that you're always rolling around in dirty piles of leaves to enhance your spiritual connection to the changing seasons, but you don't care – you are too busy meditating in a pumpkin field to notice.

Leo

Walking onto campus sporting a seasonal sweater and holding a Starbucks Pumpkin Spice Latte in each hand, you dominate the fall season. Oh, and did you mention that you brought Dunkin' apple fritters for your first-period Chem class? That's right, you're killing it.

Virgo

To you, fall is just another step closer to the most important season of all – the Christmas season. You are already on Amazon creating your perfect Christmas wish-list, decorating your room with lights and plastic Santas, and picking out the perfect tree. Only 70-something days to go.

Libra

You are determined to create the perfect scarecrow dressed in your roommate's nicest button-up and a stolen pair of khakis – he's in dress code.

Scorpio

As autumn officially begins, you shed a tear for the former days of summer, knowing that you can no longer post beachside photos on your Instagram and stay up all



Graphic by Julie Chung '21

The stars are in their places, and the leaves are falling – what's your zodiac sign?

night watching Netflix (even though you're doing that anyways). A red leaf just fell – you shed another tear.

Sagittarius

You love embracing the Harvest Season! You reveled in Flik's fall celebration and you just can't get enough of the new dining hall decorations. Now, you're preparing to install a corn maze in the meadows! Soccer can wait.

Capricorn

Where some see the beautiful fall trees changing colors, you see the mass death of thousands of leaves, and their struggle to cling to life. Where most see a beautiful apple orchard, you see a field treated with destructive fertilization products that are ruining the earth. You're a glass-of-apple-

cider-half-empty kind of person.

Aquarius

It's fall and you know what that means – prime craft making time. Who cares if your attempt at a homemade scarecrow looks like a demonic doll and your carved pumpkin looks like it's been run over by an eighteen-wheeler? It's the effort that counts.

Pisces

To some, the falling leaves and changing temperature are just a product of the autumn season. But not to you. No, when you look out at the fall scenery you see an allegory for the impermanence of humanity and the foreshadowing of our inevitable demise. So what if some people think you are over-analyzing? They just aren't as emotionally savvy as you.

Modular Housing

By LISA CHANG '22 and NATASHA BALINGIT '22
Contributors

Although we don't really know if the dorm heads drew their names from a hat, we do know that the winners of this special lottery are extremely lucky.

The first few weeks of school have been quite hot, but those fortunate enough to live in 'Harman South' or the 'Palmer Pods' have spent their nights in their cool, air-conditioned rooms, not sweating nor kicking off their blankets.

Andrew Halesworth '21 said he "actually [likes] it." According to him, "The rooms are weird and narrow, but air conditioning makes up for it, and it looks like a psych ward...white everything." The new dorm extensions continue to smell of fresh white paint, but Andrew is still very happy with Harman South.

Lauren Castleman '21, a 'Pod Person,' said that since the beginning of the year, she has maintained a positive view on "Pod life" and even convinced her roommate that the Pods are much better than the other rooms, since they are "bigger and a lot cooler."

Both Andrew and Lauren say that they love the modular housing and that those who were lucky enough to win this lottery are indeed very fortunate.

LC's New Traffic Circle

By JORDAN KORN '22
Staff Writer

What exactly are the parking circles? Day-student parent purgatory. An homage to day students.

A central drop-off or pick-up location for students.

What fun things can we do there?

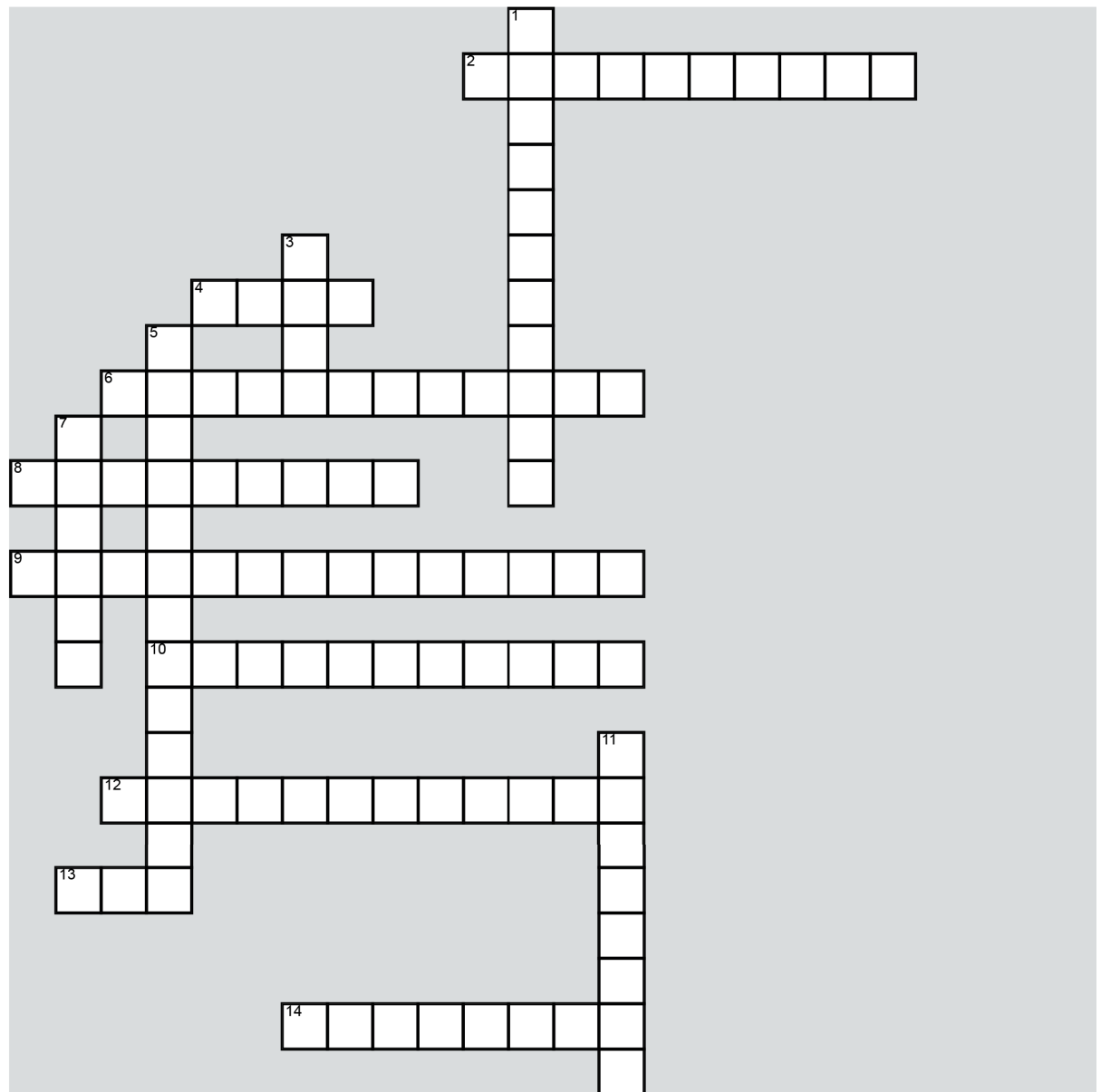
Given the influx of young kids of faculty members on campus, it does seem right that the new parking circles are the perfect dimensions for a Little Tikes racetrack.

You can observe a seemingly endless stream of drivers doing three-point turns after realizing their cars' inability to drive around the pavement's circumference. Riveting entertainment.

You can run a lap around the circle as a more relaxing and less strenuous alternative to running a loop around the school.

You can construct a shrine for your love of campus construction, which never fails to result in only the most functional additions to the Loomis Chaffee campus.

Back-to-School Crossword



By LILY POTTER '21
Staff Writer

*Solutions on bottom left-hand side of page

ACROSS

- 2 people who say "confluence of the Connecticut and Farmington Rivers" a lot
- 4 a very fun event to add to your weekend night schedule
- 6 it's finally gone since the traffic circle is

- done
- 8 upperclassmen girls' modular housing unit
- 9 the weekly apocalypse
- 10 colloquial version of 'modular housing unit'
- 12 home of the chicken bacon ranch
- 13 the number one imminent threat to students' lives
- 14 building that is perpetually 90 degrees Fahrenheit

DOWN

- 1 where the line to scan IDs takes longer than the speech
- 3 test every October that exists solely to generate quality memes
- 5 designated breakfast-sandwich-purchasing hour
- 7 classic interpretive sentence verb meaning, 'to express sorrow passionately'
- 11 absurdly priced tables

LC Unveils State-Of-The-Art Trailer Park

By NICHOLAS JI '22
Contributor

With school back into full swing, and floods of prospective students arriving on campus every day, tour guides are finding themselves troubled by a seemingly insurmountable challenge: explaining the modular housing units — or trailers — set up around campus.

A few tour guides have helped compile a list of examples to give some much-needed inspiration to those struggling to think of excuses.

A popular response to questions posed by parents about the trailers is, "You can probably entertain yourself for prolonged periods of time on weekends with just a fly swatter and a can of Raid."

"The disappointment of those living in the trailer has been largely overblown and exaggerated," said one tour guide. "I live in one myself, and the vomit-inducing smell of paint can double as an air freshener. It's all about your attitude towards it."

Perhaps the quote that best sums up the campus' open-armed welcome to the trailers comes from tour guide Evan Caulfield

'22. "They're apparently the nicest rooms on campus on the inside. You're unlucky if you don't live in a trailer."

Like many other students, Evan doesn't have the privilege of living in one of these wonderful housing units and has instead been forced to live in the Kravis quad, an oh-so-miserable room furnished with its own bathroom, microwave, common area, cabinet, and sink.

For better or for worse, the trailer units are here to stay for at least another year, a sign of our growing LC community.

SATIRE New LC Intramurals

By LANA SHENG '22
Staff Writer

Sports. They can make you hot, sticky, and miserable, but in the end, it's all worth it. Loomis Chaffee provides the standard sports: field hockey, soccer, ice hockey, basketball, swimming, tennis, and lacrosse.

For those not interested in interscholastic athletics, this school also provides some unique after-school options, such as hip hop, community service, agriculture, yoga, robotics, pillow fighting, professional playing-dead... okay, so the last two currently

don't exist on campus yet. But hey, there's always room for improvement — variety is the spice of life!

Proposed List of New Intramural Activities:

- Synchronized standing
- Bubble soccer (On the theme of bubbles) A bubble blowing competition. Gotta train those cheek muscles!
- Competitive Just Dance. You're always dripping with sweat after a few

sessions.

- Thumb training for an ultimate thumb war battle
- Doggy-paddling in the pool with real dogs beside you
- Pool noodle duels
- Golf cart racing
- The floor is lava
- Cow pond snorkeling
- Juggling

Solutions
 Across:
 2. tour guides
 4. SNS
 6. construction
 8. Palmer Pod
 9. Wednesday lunch
 10. trailer park
 12. Windsor Pizza
 13. EEE
 14. Founders
 Down:
 1. convocation
 3. PSAT
 5. community time
 7. lament
 11. Harkness

Hollywood With Halsey: Halloween Edition

By NATALIE HALSEY '20
Columnist

For this edition of Hollywood with Halsey, I have compiled a list of movies that I think set the tone for fall. In accordance with this, I have rated them on a scale of 1-5 pumpkins for spookiness, with 5 being the most absolute Halloween cliché I could get my Halloween-lover hands on, and 1 being only tangentially related to Halloween (ie. set in the fall, vaguely murder).

THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS (1993)



Director Henry Selick
10/5 pumpkins. Includes pumpkin king AND a pumpkin patch.

After many long hours pondering whether Nightmare Before Christmas is a Christmas movie or a Halloween movie, I think we can safely consider this film a Halloween movie. Disney puts some hard marketing and park theming onto Nightmare Before Christmas as a Halloween movie, and the movie's main characters are Halloween-theme, ergo Halloween movie. Anyways, Nightmare Before Christmas is a fantastical stop-motion animation film about Halloween monster Jack Skellington's quest for purpose through changing himself into Santa Claus. This film is a perfect mix of spooky and sweet, and has earworm songs that you'll be humming into the new year, and includes a plethora of stop motion technical marvels.

CHILDREN OF THE CORN (1984)



Director Fritz Kiersch
3/5 pumpkins; happens in a farming area, includes scythes.

Children of the Corn can best be described as an elaborate day nightmare your friend had while on a road trip through the famed endless corn fields in the Midwest and then described to you while this friend was slightly inebriated. While significantly more spooky than some other Stephen King adaptations (empty towns stuffed with corn husks and creepy children? eek.), Children of the Corn lacks some of the story and character power of Itor Carrie. A must watch if you like cults, a skip if you hate corn.

CHARADE (1963)



Director Stanley Donen
2/5 pumpkins, super suspenseful and intriguing, but no actual pumpkins

You can watch this entire movie on its Wikipedia page, as of the writing of this article. A high-tension murder mystery, Charade stars Audrey Hepburn as a widow who is determined to find out who murdered her husband. Cary Grant co-stars as romantic interest/maybe spy/potential killer. This slightly gruesome comedy is stunning and confusing in parts, but overall an amazing, gripping watch. While not exactly a Halloween movie, the thrills and chills in this film place it on this list. Watch this if you love Audrey Hepburn!

CORALINE (2009)



Director Henry Selick
5/5 pumpkins; misty atmosphere, Neil Gaiman story, parallel universes, the only thing to make this movie more spooky would be some additional pumpkins.

Coraline was the first movie I ever saw that I could not finish. Granted, I was seven when I tried to watch it with my family, but I can still remember the visceral horror of the Other Mother and her button eyes. Stop motion animation studio Laika's debut picture, Coraline is an adaptation of Neil Gaiman's novel of the same name. Set in Oregon, Coraline spins the tail of young Coraline's adventures with the Other World. Every single one of the film's sets was created in miniature in a 13,000 square meter warehouse, each tiny detail perfected to appear life size on film. Knitwear in the film was knit with tiny needles by one crew member, with some needles as thin as a human hair. The story is just as engaging as the visuals, with a crew of motley characters to flesh out a weird, off-kilter world. A truly unskippable film!

IT (2017)



Director Andres Muschetti
1/5 pumpkins, more scary and funny than spooky. Needs more bats and fewer clowns. And child deaths.

Watching It is like remembering a nightmare you once had as a child after peeking in on the backstage of a circus. Clowns mid-transformation into terrifying monsters, a lingering feeling of unreality, nostalgia, and a pinch of your childhood friends combine together into a surprisingly cohesive horror film. Based on the cocaine-fueled Stephen King novel of the same name and the TV mini series also of the same name from the 1990s, It (2017) retreads old routes with fancy cgi and a heart of gold. While the film's 135 minute runtime feels just right, a jam-packed ensemble cast of seven kids still feels a little undeveloped leaving the film. It delivers on its monsters, friends, and scares.

IT'S THE GREAT PUMPKIN, CHARLIE BROWN (1966)



Director Bill Melendez
infinity/10 pumpkins, the main plot involves the big daddy of all pumpkins, THE GREAT PUMPKIN HIMSELF!

This Halloween special was brought to you by Coca Cola and a Hostess baked goods subsidiary! Seriously, all your childhood was owned by Brands. This sweet special is the perfect length for a study break at 25 minutes long and the perfect tone for a Halloween night! Featuring everyone's favorite cartoon children, the Peanuts, as they go trick or treating or wait for the Great Pumpkin our Lord and Savior. A cool fact about this special: because Charlie Brown received only rocks while trick or treating, candy from around the world was sent in by viewers just for him after the special aired.

CARRIE (1976)



Director Brian de Palma
3/5 pumpkins: more horror than spooky, but still spooky for scary Jesus closet, pig blood, and fall setting.

Sometimes, you just snap. Carrie is a fantastic adaptation of Stephen King's novel of the same name, depicting the horrific consequences of bullying a psychic teenager. Sissy Spacek stars as the titular Carrie, proving that sometimes it is a good idea to cast 27-year-olds as 16-year-olds. Spacek shines in this film, truly embodying Carrie in such a sympathetic way that I almost cheered when Carrie began her horrific rampage. This movie is a perfect mix between teen drama and horror, so if you ever feel like you're about to crack... check out Carrie on Netflix. No, I do not have any opinions on the 2017 remake.

JENNIFER'S BODY (2009)



Director Karyn Kusma
5/5 pumpkins: set in the fall, involves demon stuff, crazy indie bands

Jennifer's Body slaps. Written by Diablo Cody, the screenwriter behind 2007's indie hit Juno, Jennifer's Body chronicles the changing friendship between Megan Fox's Jennifer and Amanda Seyfried's Needy as Jennifer gets possessed by a demon and starts killing all the boys at their high school. Fox sparkles in her role as teen girl turned demon, spinning from zinger to murder seamlessly and artfully. This film is darkly funny, intensely feminist, and completely spooky. Please watch this movie.

DEAD POETS SOCIETY (1989)



Director Peter Weir
1/5 pumpkins: some spooky, but mostly tragedy.

Have you ever found yourself wishing you'd gone to St. Paul's School up in Concord? Did you have plans that involved three hours being cleared that fell through? Then this is the movie for you. Set in a Vermont boarding school in the 1950's, Dead Poets Society depicts the dark drama of trying to follow dreams that your parents don't agree with. While maybe a little on the nose for some Pelicans (parental pressure, stress about school), this film is perfect for indulging your inner Dark Academic.

REAR WINDOW (1954)



Director Alfred Hitchcock
3/10 pumpkins: no pumpkins in sight, but a lot of spooks.

Starring Jimmy Stewart and Grace Kelly, Rear Window is widely considered as Hitchcock's greatest work. The film chronicles a bed-ridden professional photographer's witnessing and subsequent investigation into the strange comings and goings of his neighbors. This film's suspenseful atmosphere, intense performances, and detailed set create an intriguing mystery and intense climax. Watch this one if you want to feel sophisticated and want a real scare!

FRANKENWEENIE (2012)



Director Tim Burton
7/5 pumpkins. Spooky monsters in black and white!!

Are you a Loomis Chaffee upperclassman who had to read Frankenstein for summer reading? Are you sick of over analyzing of Vicky and his monster and are ready for some whacky shenanigans? Do you not understand any of that and just like Tim Burton? Frankenweenie is for you. Shot in black and white and animated in stop motion, Frankenweenie is Tim Burton's tribute to classic horror through the lens of childhood pets. When elementary student Victor Frankenstein's beloved dog dies, Victor will do anything to get him back. This film's wacky atmosphere and creepy design creates a beautifully touching and comedic story. Tim Burton's style really shines in stop motion.

HOCUS POCUS (1993)



Director Kenny Ortega
10000/5 pumpkins: There are so many pumpkins in this movie!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Hocus Pocus is all-Halloween camp stuffed into an hour and 36 minutes. This is the ultimate spooky movie! A coven of witches resurrected by a teenager wreak havoc on a small town. Cool facts to know and tell: Leonardo DiCaprio was offered the lead role, but chose to do What's Eating Gilbert Grape instead. While the entire film is set in Massachusetts, the majority of production took place in Burbank, California. The entire score was written in two weeks after the original composer dropped out. This movie is what I watch when I want to feel in the Absolute Full Halloween mood. The fall-toned colors, the New England setting, the Halloween time frame all combine into the ideal Halloween movie.

THE SHINING (1980)

Director Stanley Kubrick
0/10 pumpkins. This movie is slow and happens in the winter.

Some fun facts to know and tell about The Shining: a documentary film released in 2012 called Room 237 documents the crazy theories a few cult fans of Shining subscribe to. An adaptational change of an iconic room number (from 217 to 237) has been interpreted by some as Kubrick's admittance to being involved with faking the moon landing. Stephen King himself has had a mixed record with the film, mostly hating it and sometimes respecting it. Kubrick also isolated Shelley Duvall and forced her to do the record amount of takes for one scene; Duvall went on to state in The Complete Kubrick that during shooting she was in and out of health, the stress of being under Kubrick was so great. As revealed by his daughter later, Kubrick also told his crew not to sympathize with Duvall, and to isolate her. All this to say that if you want a real spook, read the 1977 novel instead.

LOGRhythms What's Playing in the Log Room

By ETHAN LEVINBOOK '20
and NEALA SWEENEY '20
Editors in Chief

PORTIA INZONE '20
and ANGELA WANG '20
Managing Editors

Stolen Dance
by Milky Chance

The Less I Know the Better
by Tame Impala

Walking on a Dream
by Empire Sun

Over My Head
by The Fray

Vienna
by Billy Joel

Scenes from an Italian Restaurant
by Billy Joel

Circles
by Post Malone

Electric Love
by BØRNS

Juice
by Lizzo

All Night
by Chance the Rapper feat. Knox Fortune

Replay
by Iyaz

What You Know
by Two Door Cinema Club

The Weeknd Funk Wav Remix
by SZA feat. Calvin Harris

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