



EFX GEARCATS

GEARCATS The school's robotics team found success in its first year competing by focusing on collaboration.

EFX Gearcats Place 4th at State Robotics Event

By **KATE CHOU '25**

The Hotchkiss EFX Gearcats—the school's robotics team—made the semi-finals at the state championships last Saturday, February 26, 2022.

11 students went to the state championships, which featured 27 teams, at Sage Park Middle School in Windsor, Connecticut. During the semi-finals, the top four teams from qualifiers each selected two other teams to form alliances with. The Gearcats won their first game against another alliance, but lost the next two, placing fourth overall.

The robotics team consisted of 20 students, enrolled in either the fall or winter

**Testing and masking
procedures following March
break are still uncertain.**

robotics cocurricular. In the fall, nine students brainstormed and prototyped the robot, and in the winter, 11 students built and finalized the robot in preparation for competitions.

Due to the pandemic, several other competitions were canceled, and the team only competed once before state championships at the Ethel Walker Qualifiers,

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Students Talk About Respect

By **CALLUM RODIN '25**

Have you ever witnessed disrespectful behavior in team locker rooms, the dorm, or the Dining Hall? On February 17, students gathered in Walker Auditorium, a first since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, for an all-school discussion to discuss respect. Organized by Sydney Goldstein '22, All-School President, and Margie Bowen '22, student communications director, students gathered to discuss respect and the many ways in which students treat one another to impact a community. Goldstein

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OPINION Haruto Nonaka '25 writes that some respect isn't mutual. Page 4.

Opinion: The Preventable War in Ukraine

By **SOPHIE ELLIOTT '24**

The devastating consequences of the current Russian invasion in Ukraine are evident—with Russian forces advancing to Kyiv, the death toll continues to rise, and many analysts question whether the conflict will escalate to nuclear devastation. However, a full scale war could have been avoided had the Minsk plan—an existing proposal formerly negotiated and approved by involved parties—been implemented.

The Minsk II agreement, devised by France, Germany, Russia, and Ukraine and endorsed by the EU, US, and UN in February 2015, would have allowed Ukraine to maintain territorial integrity and was hence the only logical solu-

tion that had been proposed. The plan, through decentralization in Ukraine, ensured political autonomy for Donbass, a Ukrainian region with multiple Russian-backed separatist territories that have recently been recognised by Russia as independent states—a decision confirming Russia's abandonment of attempts to influence domestic Ukrainian politics without use of military force. The plan also called for demilitarization by disarming separatists and removing Russian forces and aimed to restore Ukrainian sovereignty. However, this solution was buried by the US political establishment and media because of the US government's refusal to pressure Ukraine for implementation. In addition, the cruel and unnecessary war waged

**The Minsk II Agreement
Could Have Brought Peace**

against Ukraine—in which mass suffering and destruction is guaranteed—is both the fault of the Russian government, which has abandoned all statesmanship through this attack, and the US and other NATO allies, which have aggravated Russia through NATO expansion and thus produced the conditions of the conflict.

Minsk II protocols were not enforced predominantly due to disagreement regarding the sequence in which

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STUDENTS UNMASK IN CLASS FOR FIRST TIME IN TWO YEARS

**School Goes Mask-Optional,
Citing Low Community Spread**

By **REBEKAH OPPENHEIMER '24**
News Editor

On Monday, February 28, 2022, the state of Connecticut lifted the mask mandate; because of that, masking became optional in all school buildings and athletic facilities.

Prior to February 28, masks had been optional in dorms and outdoors, but were required in all other educational facilities, including the main building, the dining hall, and the MAC due to the executive legislation by Connecticut governor Ned Lamont. However, on February 7, Lamont endorsed a plan to terminate the statewide mask mandate, a decision that was prompted by the decreasing Covid infection rate across the state.

The school had been closely following CDC and Connecticut state guidance. Mr. Stephen McKibben, dean of community life, said, "Our decision was driven by data, and the fact is, we haven't had any positive cases in the past few weeks. That, in combination with the low rate of infection in our immediate and local community, the state lifting their mandate, and new CDC masking regulations, informed our decision to become mask-optional."

The decision was made by the Hotchkiss Covid-19 Steering Committee, which alongside Mr. McKibben, includes Mr. Craig Bradley, the head of school, Mr. Richard Davis, dean of academic life and Covid coordinator, Dr. Zachary McClain, the medical director, and Ms. Danielle

Shippey, director of health services, among others.

Mr. McKibben emphasized that the option to wear a mask remained for any student who prefers it. He said, "I want to clarify that the new protocol is optional. I would think that if you're going home to an immunocompromised family member, if you're flying home for spring break, or if you're on a team that's playing in a postseason tournament, you would want to remain masked. We anticipate that a lot of students and faculty will continue to wear a mask, and we support their individual health decisions."

**Testing and masking
procedures following March
break are still uncertain.**

Testing and masking procedures following spring break is contingent upon how Covid develops over the next few weeks. However, the school anticipates that students will test at home before returning to campus, and masks will be required in all school buildings until several rounds of Covid-19 testing have been completed. If the community tests negative, the school will return to a mask-optional policy.

Spring break begins Saturday, March 5. All students and faculty will receive rapid tests from the state of Connecticut to use before returning to campus.



DASHA POST '23/THE HOTCHKISS RECORD

Hotchkiss Hosts Founders

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SPECIAL MEDIA FEATURE



Working With EFX Gearcats

News

THE HOTCHKISS RECORD

Florida House Approves Bill Banning Abortions After 15 Weeks of Pregnancy

By MATIAS ACEVEDO '24

The Florida House of Representatives, following a precedent set by Mississippi, passed a controversial bill banning abortions after fifteen weeks — including in cases of rape and incest — on Thursday, February 17, 2022.

After a six-hour debate, the majority-Republican House voted to pass the bill by a margin of 78 to 39. It bans all abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy, excluding cases that involve fatal fetus abnormalities or medical emergencies. Republican representative Dana Trubusly, supporting the bill, said, “This is the right to life and to give up life is unconscionable to me.”

Controversially, the bill did not include exceptions for rape or incest, prompting outcry from Democrats. Richie Mamam-Nbiba '23 said, “The fact that there’s no exceptions for rape and incest is absurd. It takes away a woman’s humanity to say [to her] even if you were raped, even if it was incest, you have to have this baby. It turns a woman into a means of giving birth, not a person.”

If passed by the Senate, this 15-week ban

would jeopardize the precedent established by the Roe v. Wade case in 1973, which determined that the Constitution protected a pregnant woman’s right to choose up until the point of fetal viability, which is up until around 24 weeks.

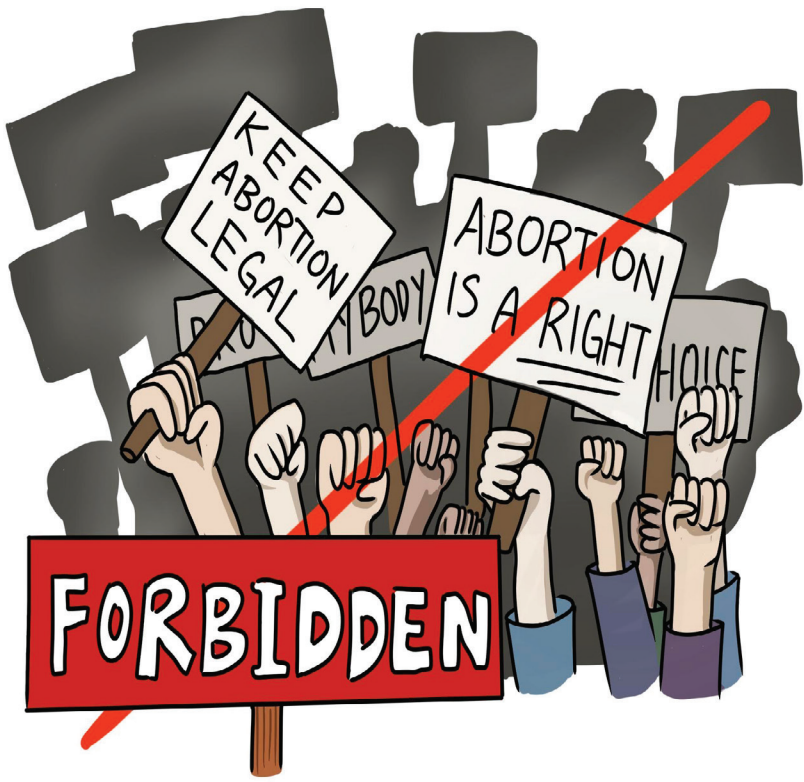
“It turns a woman into a means of giving birth.”
-Richie Mamam-Nbiba '23

Although only 3.5% of abortions happen after 15 weeks of pregnancy, some women do not know that they are pregnant until after this time period. The bill prohibits any abortions after the first 15 weeks, even if the woman is unaware of her pregnancy. The bill not only impacts women in Florida but also others in southeastern states who travel to Florida for the procedure. Bill supporters, however, argue that Florida should not be a place to undergo abortions. Mamam-Nbiba said, “Elements of [anat-

omy] and morality come into play. Even if some believe a baby has a right to life at 15 weeks, the viability is outweighed by the mother’s right to privacy. It’s inappropriate to say a woman can’t get an abortion because it takes away her ability to choose before she even knows.”

Despite objections, the bill will likely be passed by the Republican Senate and signed into law by Republican Governor Ron DeSantis. The passing of this bill appears to mark the beginning of a trend, as other state legislatures such as Arizona and West Virginia are predicted to pass similar laws restricting abortion. Samantha Deans, the associate medical director of Planned Parenthood in North, East, and South Florida, said, “If we do this in Florida, North Carolina will be right behind us. Then patients will have to go to Maryland, Virginia, Chicago. It will continue like that, getting further and further away, becoming less and less accessible.”

If the bill is passed by the Senate and signed by Governor DeSantis, it will become law on July 1.



Hanna Sun '24/THE HOTCHKISS RECORD

Robotics Team Takes Fourth Place at State Championship

From Cover

where the Gearcats placed second overall out of 25 teams.

Although this was the robotics team’s first year competing, they performed well beyond expectations. Leo Wang '24, captain of the robotics team, said, “We accomplished a lot as a rookie team. Our robot was well-rounded and was able to do everything on the field.

“Our robot was well rounded and able to do everything on the field.”
- Leo Wang '24

[Its] flexibility and reliability enabled our team to do well.” Additionally, communication and teamwork impacted the overall performance as a team. “We realized the importance of communication within our team under the stress of a



Robotics Team/THE HOTCHKISS RECORD

The robotics team poses with their robot.

competition,” said Boffi Lin '24, a member of the robotics team.

The competitions gave Gearcats the opportunities to meet other robotic teams from different schools. Marcus Lam '23, a member of the robotics team, said, “The highlight was definitely meeting the other teams because it’s extremely difficult to get to know people during the pandemic, and this competition allowed me to meet some of the best people in robotics.” Maddie Lykouratzos '23 said, “I think the most exciting thing

was that I was finally on the field for the first time in a real competition.”

As for the future plans of the team, Ben Ely '24 said, “Mainly what we’re doing now is planning for team sustainability and helping to educate new members. We want to get new people involved in the community so we can build new robots.”

As the competitive robotics season comes to an end, the Gearcats look forward to expanding their success in the coming years.



EFX GEARCATS

EFX Gearcats at work.



EFX GEARCATS

Students put the finishing touches on their robot in the EFX lab.

Sandy Hook Families Settle With Gunmaker Remington

By SAMUEL RODRIGUE '25

On December 14, 2012, 20 first-graders and six adults lost their lives when gunman Adam Lanza opened fire on students at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. Prior to the shooting, Lanza killed his mother; he later ended his own life as police arrived at the scene. The Sandy Hook shooting is the deadliest mass shooting at an elementary school in U.S. history. In February 2022, the families of nine victims won the largest lawsuit against a gun manufacturing company known to date, in a settlement of \$73 million dollars.

The families accused Remington Arms, the manufacturers of the AR-15-style gun used in the attack, of intentionally advertising their weapons to troubled teens like Lanza. Although Remington claimed that their marketing never influenced or prompted such actions, the lead counsel for the families Josh Koskoff argued otherwise. Quoting specific phrases used in Remington advertisements like “Consider your man card reissued,” he contended a connection between the phrase and Lanza’s mental health issues. However, groups like the National Shooting Sports Foundation objected to the settlement as they believed Koskoff failed to prove that Remington’s advertisements not only influenced Lanza’s mother to buy the gun, but also caused him to steal it and kill over two dozen individuals.

The settlement also required Remington to release internal company documents to the public that are thousands of pages. The families of the victims contend that the documents could potentially expose extreme marketing tactics targeting young men like the 2012 shooter. This is not the first time that Remington Arms has been at the heart of controversy. The company had pre-

viously been mandated to release over 130,000 files in 2016, after the advocacy group Public Justice fought to make the documents public. The documents revealed that engineers had taken note of a design flaw that could allow guns to misfire without the trigger being pulled.

This lawsuit represents the largest settlement by a gun manufacturer known to date.

There are federal laws that work to protect gun companies from litigation; however, states like New York and Connecticut have passed bills that work around such laws. These consumer protection measures prevent gun manufacturing companies from denying payment to families in lawsuits. With states like California and New Jersey working to propose similar measures, there will likely be comparable results to similar lawsuits in the future. This settlement has caused major setbacks for the entire firearms industry. Duncan Griffin '22, head of the Hotchkiss Republicans, said, “I believe that this case sets a horrible precedent. Remington shouldn’t be held responsible for the massacre just because they supposedly ‘exploited’ men’s insecurities of not being macho. Adam Lanza was a psycho, and [for the public and the court] to claim Remington [influenced] him is ridiculous.”

While the \$73 million settlement will only go to the families who signed the lawsuit, it will never erase the tragic loss these families faced on December 14, 2012.

A memorial created in the weeks after the shooting.



Wikimedia Commons

Features

THE HOTCHKISS RECORD

Community Reacts to Wellness Programming

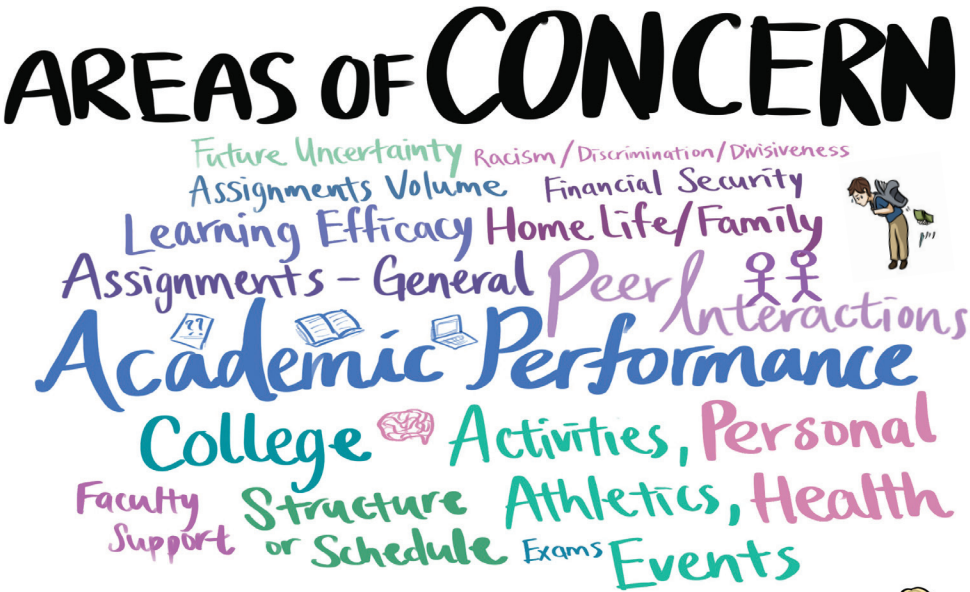
The Features Editors explored the school’s recent efforts to assess and improve student well-being and mental health in the community. This included student leader bystander prevention training, an all-school conversation on respect, and the presentation of data from an Authentic Connections climate survey students took last November. In addition, on February 28, Bring Change to Mind (BC2M), the school’s mental health club, held a joint meeting with other BC2M chapters from Westminster School and Deerfield Academy to discuss mental health in boarding schools. On March 2, BC2M held a fishbowl to about mental health in the school community. Data presented below is from the Authentic Connections student survey.

Written by Anthony Hu ’25 | Graphics by Hanna Sun ’24

“I think the most surprising part was why students feel isolated: more than a third of students said race & gender, and almost 50% of students said their political views. I think that really shows how much work Hotchkiss has to do to make sure we can really accept each other.” - Max Salzinger ’25



We don’t have to necessarily use the word “reform” – that suggests going back to how it was before Covid-19. Its effects are always there, and we need to establish a new social condition with new interactions that students enjoy.” - Celina Wang ’23



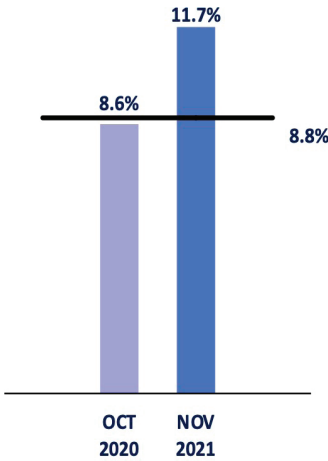
“Our students like to be involved in so many things and figuring out how to relieve that pressure is hard. How can we possibly decide on what to take away from them? How do you make room for students’ well-being but make sure they are not sacrificing passions or interests?”
- Ms. Jodi von Jess, Director of Counseling

“BC2M is looking to jumpstart the conversations surrounding the stigma of mental health at Hotchkiss. We are examining the impact of the deteriorating mental health of Hotchkiss students, while collaborating with the community in hopes of brainstorming and creating effective solutions that will improve the school’s climate and culture.” - Grace Keefe ’22, co-head of BC2M

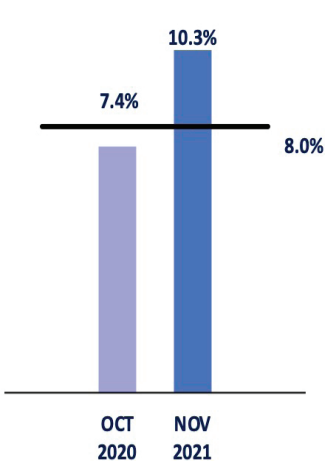


“We need a much more long-term solution, rather than a one-and-done presentation. The conversation about respect was quite encouraging. We saw that at the beginning, barely anyone raised their hand, but by the end of it, people were running up. That was really nice.” - Sophia Piao ’25

Clinically Significant Anxiety



Clinically Significant Depression



— = national norms

“I feel like a lot of people joke around about how they’re depressed or pressured, but I don’t really have a sense of how many people among these truly need help. Even though we are very close to each other, it’s not possible for us to actually know who is in dire need of help.” - Celina Wang ’23



TOP 3

Student Feedback

Going Well

	Survey Numbers
1. Faculty Emotional Support	170
2. Activities, Athletics, Events	116
3. Structure / Schedule	83

Areas for Improvement

1. Assignment Volume	131
2. Faculty Flexibility	107
3. Faculty Emotional Support	100

Students Engage in Conversation on Respect

From Cover

noted, “The reason why I wanted to have this conversation from the start was because of a pattern of [a lack of respect] during the first semester, especially with upperclass students.”

The planning committee and panelists for the discussion included 12 students representing three grades. They were supported by faculty members, including Mrs. Christy Cooper, sexual misconduct prevention & response coordinator,

human development coordinator.

The program was structured as a mandatory community conversation, followed by a one-hour optional Q and A discussion for those wanting to continue the conversation. Panelists initiated the discussion by defining respect and sharing prompts and anonymous stories on respect and disrespect in various situations. Students came forward and shared positive and negative



Panel of students facilitate discussion.

personal experiences, relating to issues of racism, classism, and sexism. Jason Shan ’23, a student panelist said, “We were extremely touched by the commu-

nity’s vulnerability and willingness to share such powerful personal stories. I think the conversation will serve as the starting point for more specific conversations about other issues affecting the community, such as misogyny, racism,

“I think it was the closer space that made me personally feel more comfortable talking.”
- Jared Hurst ’24

homophobia, ableism, and classism.”

The conversation’s format was inspired by the Anti-Defamation League programming on hate and discrimination held in 2019. Shan said, “Even though [the Anti-Defamation League programming] happened when I was a Prep, I still remember how powerful it was to sit in that vulnerable and informative environment. We wanted to personalize the conversation on respect in a way where everyone is able to see and hear the examples of respect and disrespect first hand.”

Student Leaders Undergo Intervention Training

By MATTEO HOTTENROTT ’25

On February 15, proctors and varsity team captains attended the Learning Courage Student Leader Training in the Science Lecture Hall. The student leaders discussed healthy relationships among students, mental health issues, and moments of challenge when they had to intervene. Learning Courage is a non profit organization dedicated to helping students and faculty adopt practices, tools and resources to reduce incidents of sexual assault and support survivor healing.

Last October, proctors participated in bystander intervention training with Learning Courage. They used role-play scenarios to explore how they would approach difficult situations, and followed it up with discussions regarding their choices. The recent training included more guidance from adults and used realistic situations, which gave the discussions a greater sense of structure.

Mrs. Christy Cooper, sexual misconduct prevention & response coordinator, emphasized that proctors need to

be able to communicate struggles they faced with one another. She said “The purpose of the training was for student leaders to talk to each other. If we want our student leaders to be effective, they need to have the opportunity to think about the job they’re doing.”

The general response to the training was positive. Huck Whittemore ’22, captain of Boys Varsity Track, said, “A lot of people going into it were dreading it, and then came out of it saying that that was a really positive experience.”

Some of the student leaders felt they were already qualified enough as proctors and captains, and some left recognizing the training as a safe space for student leaders to be vulnerable and reflect on their responsibilities. Leopold Dorilas ’22, proctor in Redlich, said, “It clarifies a lot of the common concepts we are used to hearing, like being empathetic, active listening, or making sure your proctee feels safe, seen, and supported.” The selection process for next year’s proctors has begun, and discussions around similar topics will occur in the spring.

Dr. Nilaja Green, mental health counselor, and Ms. Carrie Smith P’18, ’20, ’24,

Opinions

THE HOTCHKISS RECORD



AMALIA SARDINHA '25/THE HOTCHKISS RECORD

Should Respect Be Mutual?

Haruto Nonaka '25

As we sat in Walker Auditorium on February 16 during the all-school conversation about respect, many students shared their personal experiences and opinions about the matter. Some asserted that respect is mutual — that others must first treat us with dignity if they want us to do the same.

I believe this view is an oversimplification of how we should treat others; we must hold ourselves to a higher standard and show basic respect to all of our peers, regardless of who they are and what they believe.

To respect someone is to acknowledge the validity of their feelings, rights, and wishes. If we refuse to respect someone, we're implying that they don't deserve to be treated like a member of our community. It makes sense, then, that respect shouldn't be mutual — every member in our community deserves the right to be treated with respect.

We're all witnesses to what can happen when we believe that people must behave a certain way to be worthy of basic respect. Many of the deep-rooted problems in our society — racism, homophobia, classism, and sexism — originate from society's belief that particular groups of people are not worthy of even the most basic form of decency. This disrespect is cyclical and is detrimental to our society as a whole.

The same logic applies to our school community, albeit on a smaller scale. If we go about our lives granting respect to only those who have shown us goodwill first, we'll create a toxic environment where everyone waits to be treated with dignity instead of proactively extending kindness. And, if we only respect the feelings of those who share our beliefs and ideals, we'll tread dangerously close to

replicating the problems the world faces in our community.

I want to clarify that the respect mentioned above is its most basic form. The second, more complicated form is the admiration and praise we receive from

If we only respect the feelings of those who share our beliefs and ideals, we'll tread dangerously close to replicating the problems the world faces in our community.

our benevolent acts. It's a respect that can be earned and lost. If we act in a way that benefits others or our community, we'll naturally gain the admiration and appreciation of others. But by behaving in ways that harm others, they'll refuse to give us this type of respect.

Therefore, this second level of respect should be mutual, since we need to show kindness and benevolence towards other people to earn their appreciation and commendations. The more care and admiration we offer for another person through our actions, the more praise the other person will reflect, leading to a cycle of respect. This cycle of mutual respect is vital to communities because it fosters kindness within them. In contrast, cycles of disrespect can cause harm and chaos.

In conclusion, if we believe that every human being has the same worth, we should show respect towards everyone. However, the respect that we earn through our actions should be mutual, and we must act decently towards people to earn it.

The Invasion of Ukraine Was Preventable

From Cover

Donbass had insisted that taking full control of the frontier with Russia in Donbass and disarming local forces occur before local elections are held and Ukrainian government passes a law that amends the country's constitution to allow Donbass autonomy. Otherwise, it argued the elections are prone to interference from Moscow. Likewise, the Russian government and separatists believed that by allowing Ukraine to establish full control before they change the constitution and hold local elections, Kyiv may have rigged the elections and Donbass would have been granted autonomy. Ultimately, the United States and European Union should have ensured Ukraine upheld these democratic commitments of revising the constitution to allow for decentralization and Russian language rights and announced their support of a multi-ethnic, pluralist republic.

In an essay written by Putin in July 2021, he suggested that Russia may annex Donbass if Ukraine does not enforce the Minsk II plan, writing he was "becoming more and more convinced of this: Kyiv simply does not need Donbas." The primary reason why Ukraine refused to grant autonomy for Donbass is that the region could, through use of newfound constitutional position, prevent Ukraine from joining the EU or Nato in the future; the Minsk II protocols effectively allow for Russian-speaking provinces in Donbass to veto NATO or EU membership. Officially, the US supports future Ukraine

NATO membership—however vapid this commitment really is—and thus had not been helpful in resolving the crisis. However, as long as Ukraine is part of a territorial conflict, it will not be invited to join NATO or the EU. Even if a US administration wanted to invite Ukraine, this proposal would be vetoed by Germany and France, as has happened in the past.

It is worth noting the reason for the escalation of American involvement to begin with. Domestically, the Biden administration is flailing, looking at low approval ratings and what will probably be a bad midterm election for democrats. War has proved an effective way to drum up public support and distract the masses from criticizing the government or domestic problems. In addition, the US is trying to navigate maintaining the present postwar dynamic in Europe—in order to strengthen American hegemony,

Ultimately, the United States and European Union should have ensured Ukraine upheld these democratic commitments.

a power that has been declining since the end of the Cold War, the US must ensure European states remain aligned with the US instead of Russia by keeping the latter as isolated as possible. This vision of the global order is the driving force of NATO expansion, even though the alliance has had no real justification for its

existence since the collapse of the Soviet Union. Rather, it currently exists as pretext to allow powerful states—that is, NATO members—to deploy threats or actual use of military force within what is effectively a worldwide "area of jurisdiction"; namely, the faculty for "humanitarian intervention" as outlined in the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) doctrine. Essentially, American involvement has only provoked Russia profoundly and made the conflict more dangerous, when the US really has no argument interfering with Ukrainian politics.

Could the West have imposed enough economic pressure that Russia abandoned Donbass before attaining autonomy? Can Ukraine, without being a part of NATO, defeat Russia in war? If the Donbass conflict is not resolved, can Ukraine ever join the EU? As the sole response to all these questions is a resounding "no," Minsk II was really the only feasible solution for the immediate future. Furthermore, the terms of this agreement would have been welcomed by the Ukrainian population: opinion polls indicate that large majorities in Eastern and Southern Ukraine are in support of a multi-ethnic republic that includes an official status for the Russian language and culture. Ultimately, a federal constitution would be a more accommodating political apparatus for the Ukrainian republic where there is a wide range of cultural and language differences across the country.

Ukrainian forces have mounted a stiff defense to the Russian invasion.



TARAS GREH/MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF UKRAINE

A Farewell From the Editors-in-Chief of the CXXIII Editorial Board



AURORA SMEDVIC '22/THE HOTCHKISS RECORD

From left: Hannah Goldberg '22, Kiki Henry '22, Mr. Craig Bradley, Isabel Su '22, and Annie Xu '22.

We are so thankful for the dedication the entire CXXIII board has shown to The Record, from their work compiling newsletters last spring to the difficult transition back to print. Now, after our final issue, here are our farewells to The Record:

Working for The Record is what I expect having a baby is like: labor-intensive, insomnia-inducing, and frustrating. But I have never felt prouder or more joyful than when I first saw my byline on the front page, or when I read through our first print issue, or when I saw students arguing over a controversial article. I've loved every single moment of my almost four years here, from changing apostrophes to joining 1 a.m. Zooms to sitting in SB202 for hours every other Sunday. Above all, though, I've loved working with Kiki, Hannah, Annie, Ms. Villano, Mr. Van Mierlo, Ms. Wynn, and the rest of the CXXIII board. Thank you, and much love.

-Isabel Su '22, CXXIII Editor-in-Chief

Growing up, the newspaper was a weekend staple. The sports section was my primary obsession, but Calvin and Hobbes comic strips and crosswords were also fair game. As a new Lower Mid, I had only one goal in mind - to write for the school newspaper. Now, three years on, The Record has transformed me. Though our journey hasn't been easy by any means, it's also been full of rewards, including working with incredibly talented co-editors and overseeing our return to print. For this, I am endlessly grateful.

-Hannah Goldberg '22, CXXIII Editor-in-Chief

As a Prep, I thought working on The Record was unattainable. I was terrified of sharing my voice with the school and committing my words to print. But from waiting outside room 101 eager to receive article assignments to sitting at

the head of the table assigning articles four years later, I cannot imagine my life at the school without The Record. Thank you for the layout snacks, late-night rewrites, and endless support. I am so grateful for this experience and love you all.

-Kiki Henry '22, CXXIII Editor-in-Chief

It would have been odd, for the young Prep me, who joined The Record on a whim, to fashion the following four years: in MB101 and SB202, sharing endless hours with each article, apostrophe, and italics to create these tangible pages now lying in your hands. But as I write this nostalgic farewell, the previously unimaginable has become an ending journey, one that is accompanied by a group of ever-dedicated editors and faculty advisors. To these and every other moment at The Record, cheers!

-Annie Xu '22, CXXIII Editor-in-Chief

Turkey’s Divisive Leader Seeks to Rebuild its Ottoman-Era Dominance



Andy Mettler/Wikimedia Commons

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at the 2009 World Economic Forum.

Jack McGilnn ’22

After a pandemic that rocked the world of foreign policy, it would seem logical that few nations in 2020 were able to make great geopolitical strides. But that assumption doesn't apply to Turkey. Led by 67-year-old firebrand, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Turkey is one of the few nations that did not let Covid-19 get in its way. In fact, Erdogan did more than just survive the pandemic: he—arguably—thrived in it. Erdogan's aggressive foreign policy will likely propel Turkey into great-power territory in the near future. A lifetime politician, Erdogan became Mayor of Istanbul in 1994 with Turkey's Islamist Welfare Party. Renowned for his problem-solving skills, he gained national fame and won Turkey's Prime Ministerial position in 2003. By 2014, Erdogan became the President of Turkey as part of the AKP Party. Riding on the back of the same Islamist ideologies he used to gain a mayoral seat, Erdogan instantly began to project Turkish power throughout Europe and the Middle East in what has been dubbed “Neo-Ottomanism.” Much like Hungary's Victor Orban or Russia's Vladimir Putin, Erdogan frequently references his nation's past—in Turkey's case, the Ottoman Empire. Revisiting past empires is a useful strategy for leaders because it cultivates the feelings of national pride that are key to preserving their regimes. Erdogan dreams of restoring the glory of the Ottoman Empire through aggressive military action, and his policies may be Turkey's best chance to do so. Erdogan knows the timing for his policies is propitious. Indeed, the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne, a post-World War One treaty designed to carve up the remains of the Ottoman Empire, will expire in July of 2023, giving him extra legal impunity. The world is still battling the pandemic, and many surrounding states, such as Libya, Lebanon, Greece, or Syria, are weak. Erdogan knows the

rest of its neighbors are suffering from severe demographic issues. Bulgaria, for example, has a declining population, a stagnating birth rate, and, struggling to find military recruits, is decreasing in its military capacities by the day. The time for the resurgence of the Ottoman Empire—which once stretched from Tunisia and Romania to Somalia and Saudi Arabia—is right. What was once referred to as the “sick man of Europe” is now looking to be on the mend. Over the past few years, Erdogan has begun aggressively expanding Turkish power in all directions.

Who was once deemed the “sick man of Europe” is now looking to be on the mend.

To the North, he has warmongered with the Kremlin while supporting Azerbaijan against Russian-backed Armenian forces during the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War, a decisive Azeri victory. If there's one thing Erdogan understands, it's that causing crisis works: his aggressive policies have taken Turkey from a nation that was uninvolved in geopolitics to one that directly challenges Russia's primacy in the Caucasus. To the East, he has made large gains in Pakistan through his Islamist soft power, spreading his Islamic worldview that has shaken Turkish secularism. As he once recited from a poem: “The mosques are our barracks, the domes our helmets, the minarets our bayonets and the faithful our soldiers.” Erdogan has used dizi, Turkish television dramas, to spread his brand of Islam and help familiarize the world with Turkish history. The most famous dizi is “Dirilis: Ertugrul” (or “Resurrection: Ertugrul”) and has taken Pakistan by storm. Turkish TV is now the second most-watched worldwide after U.S. and Turkish TV is now the most-watched foreign language

in the world, beating Korean, Hindu, Spanish, and Mandarin. Erdogan's dizi crusade has made Pakistan grow closer to Turkey's modern Islam and estrange itself from Saudi Wahhabism, a medieval, repressive, orthodox sect. By striving to become the center of the Sunni Islamic world, Erdogan is making his new Turkey more palatable to other nations, which can help it secure new alliances and avoid potential conflicts. To the South, Erdogan's actions have been incredibly aggressive. He sent his troops to occupy over 8,000 square miles of Northern Syria. He intervened in the bloody Libyan Civil War in support of the National Salvation Government, which is one of three other factions that oppose the U.S. and U.N.-led Government of National Accord, or GNC. He stoked tensions with Syria and Iraq over the damming of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, and even proposed a two-state solution to solve Cyprus' Greco-Turkish dispute. As with his actions in Nagorno-Karabakh, Erdogan's aggression on his Southern flank will protect Turkey. Considering Turkey's Sunni majority, Erdogan's efforts to project his military power could serve as a form of deterrence against a potentially aggressive Shia-majority nation, such as Iran. Invaded by Turkey in 1974 during Operation Attila, Cyprus has been hotly contested between Turkey and Greece. The aforementioned Treaty of Lausanne, which will expire in 2023, ended all Turkish claims to the island, which was once part of their Ottoman sphere of influence. However, given that the treaty will be nullified soon—and that Turkey sees it within its historical jurisdiction—Erdogan has Cyprus firmly within his crosshairs. Cyprus is culturally split between Greeks and Turks, and the 1974 invasion divided the island along a dividing line known as the Green Line. Erdogan has already begun his slow takeover of Turkish Cyprus, and he has begun unilaterally reviving Varosha, a Turkish Cypriot city that was abandoned during the invasion. Like the dizi in the Middle East, revamping Varosha could prove to be a smart move to spread Turkish soft power. By proposing a two-state solution (whereby Turkey and Greece would each get a slice of the island), Erdogan could endow Turkey with a tactically advantageous piece of territory—or, if nothing else, a client state with a ethnically and linguistically Turkish population that would aid him in his goals for hegemony over the Eastern Mediterranean. Erdogan's interest in Cyprus...



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QUISHA LEE '24/THE HOTCHKISS RECORD

The Quest For a Study Space

Dan Gilbane '24

Sunday afternoons are homework hours here at Hotchkiss. People escape their rooms to work alone in the tranquility of the library or in groups in classrooms. This is great in terms of finding space to think and work. But recently, those groups wishing to study in classrooms have been inconvenienced by impolite behavior. While I was looking for a quiet classroom to work in with my friends, I saw multiple classrooms taken up by people working alone. Not only is it impolite to take up an entire classroom for yourself, it is quite awkward when a group is looking for space to work collaboratively. While impolite, this behavior is less concerning than the inconsiderate practice of leaving a backpack on a desk in an attempt to reserve an entire classroom for the day. I saw a verbal disagreement arise when one person felt entitled to a classroom because they left their things there hours before; upon returning, they were shocked to see other people working as a group in that space. Due to this inconsiderate behavior, large study groups often must resort to public spaces unsuitable for quiet studying, such as the snack bar. It is inconvenient for groups to have to work in spaces designed for individual studying while multiple classrooms are “occupied” by one person at a table that can seat ten. I understand people's desire to work outside their own room, but we should all attempt to practice better etiquette when it comes to shared community spaces. There seems to be a shortage of study spaces during multiple hours of the day. The library is open until 5:00 P.M. on Sundays; after those hours, you can find people writing papers in the snack bar or student center. Those areas are

typically filled by students who have already finished their work and have moved to areas designed for socializing and relaxing. The study rooms in the TLC are all often taken. Clubs often occupy classrooms during the evening hours. Finally, for those wishing to study in their dorm rooms, the atmosphere of the dorm can be a detriment to productivity. An ideal solution to this problem would be to allow the lower levels of the library to remain open all day. While this solution may be more difficult to implement due to staffing concerns, I believe that Hotchkiss students should be able to prove that they can be responsible in the lower levels of the library even without complete supervision.

There seems to be a shortage of study spaces during multiple hours of the day.

If we all hold each other accountable for our actions in a shared space, then we should have no problem using the lower level of the library without incident. Another suggestion might be to have minimum group size requirements for classroom usage during periods of high traffic such as Sunday evenings. A minimum of three people per room might make it easier for people to find a space to study and encourage collaboration. With this solution, we could ensure that people can utilize group study spaces effectively. These proposals are by no means perfect. There are certainly broader issues of respect that play into this current study space dilemma. However, until we identify an effective solution, people will have to continue to get creative with where they study.

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Arts

THE HOTCHKISS RECORD

Alum’s Work Displayed at Tremaine Gallery

By TJ PARK ’25

The Tremaine Gallery has once again been filled with artwork created by alumna Eilen Itzel Mena. The exhibition, titled “Holding Self-Regard”, features 14 different works on love, community, and other important themes in Mena’s life.

Mena is an Afro-Dominican artist from the South Bronx. She studied fine arts at the University of Southern California, and later continued her studies abroad in Brazil. Mena’s art pieces have also been displayed in New York, San Francisco, Miami, and London and featured in the New York Times, Deem Journal, and Hyperallergic. Additionally, she supports her community through co-founding Honey and Smoke, a global artist community, and is a principal member and interim studio director for Zeal, a Black Artist studio and cooperative agency.

In the gallery, Mena’s works mostly represent identity, spirituality, and community. Ms. Terri Moore, director

of the Tremaine Art Gallery, was her former art teacher at the school. Commenting on Mena’s work, she said, “When she came back to being a painter and a maker, she really embraced symbolism, identity, culture, memory, spiritualism, [and] community.”

A larger abstract component of the exhibit is the idea of reflection. This idea is portrayed through one of her favorite pieces, “God’s Love”. The spelling of the phrase “God’s Love” is mirrored, only showing the spelling correctly when faced with a mirror, which brings in the concept of looking yourself in the mirror upon reflection. The other aspect of the piece is a depiction of her grandmother, an important figure in her life.

Mena said, “The artworks in this show underscore a youthful state of being, where the soul rejects inhibitions and its true impulse is freedom.” In the creation process, Mena asks questions such as “how can I create a safe space for my spirit to grow?” and “how does

spirit, family, and community support my expression of self?” Additionally, she implemented rainbows, clouds, flowers, and smiley faces as her visual language.

When at the school, Mena hosted workshops within the gallery for students. Describing the interactions of students and Mena in the workshop, Ms. Moore said, “They were sharing ideas and it was freeing and enjoyable. It was sort of a breath of fresh air for them.” During the artist talk, Ms. Moore described, “Close to 80 people were there...everybody was just totally focused.” All studio art students had the opportunity to interact in a workshop with Mena, gaining insight of her inspiration and work methods. Working intensively with the DEI Program, Mena designed a mural for the Multi-Cultural Center, which can be found across the post office.

To see Mena’s artwork, check The Tremaine Gallery, which will still be available to view until March 5.



MS. TERRI MOORE/THE HOTCHKISS RECORD

Alum Eilen Itzel Mena ’13 engages in community conversations with students.



DASHA POST ’23/THE HOTCHKISS RECORD

From left: Daphne Khayatt ’25, Ophelia Cham ’25, Isabel Su ’22, and Daniela Vasquez ’24 perform in Valse Sentimentale.

Dance Company Performs Winter Recital in Walker Auditorium

By RICHARD LU ’24

On February 26 and 27, the Hotchkiss Dance Company held their Winter Recital in the newly renovated Walker Auditorium.

Dance Company is a co-curricular option where students learn both classical and modern dance while choreographing their own performances in preparation for the annual Winter Recital. Ms. Alessandra Rinaldo, instructor in dance, said, “I am so proud of each and every single dancer’s hard work this year. We have a wonderful production lined up with a variety of dance styles and are so thrilled to be able to be back on stage in the newly renovated Walker Auditorium.”

Ten dancers, along with members of the Hotchkiss Step Team, performed in eight total pieces. Two pairs, Ophelia Cham ’25 and Daniela Vasquez ’24, as well as Natalie Bushell ’24 and Kavya Ramasamy ’24, danced in self-choreographed duets that

were contemporary and hip hop, respectively. Daphne Khayatt ’25 and Sansan Yu ’25 also performed their own solos.

The dancers encountered difficulty in preparing for the showcase because of the school’s delayed reopening after Winter Break. Isabel Su ’22, one of the dancers, said, “The teachers had originally planned to have us choreograph larger-group dances for the show but the delayed return due to COVID and people being out of co-curriculars due to sickness or being close-contacted made getting together to choreograph pieces really difficult. That’s why we made the transition to having self-choreographed duets and solos instead. It was also super difficult for us to learn and clean the pieces in the shortened timeframe.”

For those who were unable to watch the performance live, a recording of the Dance Recital can be found online on the school’s website.

Self-Directed Plays in Blackbox

By YIXI ZOU ’25
Staff Writer

After only five weeks of rehearsal, students of the Advanced Theatre Course presented their self-directed plays in the Black Box on March 1 at 8 p.m. and 9 p.m..

Advanced Theater, taught by Mr. Parker Reed, head of theatrical performance and instructor in theater, builds upon the strategies developed in Prep and Lower Mid Humanities Theater. Discussing his teaching methods, Mr. Reed said, “I try to pursue a practical and conceptual approach, so students can understand both from a theoretical perspective of what is effective in acting [and apply] it into exercises and performances.”

Since Advanced Theater is a semester course, the four students in the course, Kiki Henry ’22, Zach Scrima ’22, Richie Mamam Nbiba’23 and Mehar Bhasin ’23, started rehearsals three weeks ago, giving them minimal time to prepare for the performance. Recounting on the difficulty of the rehearsal process, Nbiba said, “The rehearsal process was pretty strenuous, especially because the entire cast was also balancing the time commitment of Mamma Mia!. It took a lot of energy because it was four different shows at once, making things somewhat chaotic. At the end of the day, we got to a place where we were comfortable and confident with the word we’d done, and we’d done what we thought was impossible.” Each student directed one play and acted in the other three, equally contributing to one another’s plays. As some consisted of more than three characters, several stu-

dents were pushed outside of their comfort zone in order to play multiple roles, which challenged them to display their versatility and knowledge regarding different theatrical techniques. Students transitioned from directing to acting within minutes in the performance.

Students selected their plays aiming to challenge themselves as well to engage the community. Scrima directed Gonna Need to See Some ID by Donna Latham; Henry directed Incident on the Golden Gate Bridge by David MacGregor; Bhasin directed I Love You I Love You by Mark Harvey Levine; and Nbiba directed Soap Opera by David Ives. The performances gave both the audience and student actors an opportunity to examine the human condition, which is one of the key components of theater. The plays additionally gave student audiences insight about the course, by looking at the products that current students were able to make with the direction of Mr. Reed. Talking about the entire process, he said, “I think it’s helpful when an academic endeavor yields a real thing, and people will see the final product. This amount of self-direction is also something that has never been attempted here [at Hotchkiss] before. Also, it is only the first marking period of this course, so I can’t imagine what they will be able to achieve by the end of the year.”

The upcoming Spring play, Clue, will offer more performance opportunities for students interested in theater. For more information regarding the play, be on the lookout for emails from the Hotchkiss Drama Association.

Netflix Releases *Jeen-Yuhs: A Kanye Trilogy*

By HOLDEN BURNS ’25
Staff Writer

“Every great story begins with a vision” - Coodie

Kanye West seems to have permanently been in the press recently – the controversial tweets, the divorce with media personality Kim Kardashian, and the blatant shade to other celebrities – but, unfortunately, his newly released documentary, *Jeen-Yuhs*, hasn’t. On February 16, Netflix released the three part documentary, *Jeen-Yuhs*, a film recounting the life and career of the artist, record producer, and fashion designer Kanye West, also known as Ye. Directed by Coodie and Chike, *Jeen-Yuhs* compiles unseen footage into three episodes, “Vision,” “Purpose,” and “Awakening,” to cover West’s journey in music and fashion, the death of his mother, and his presidential campaign.

“Vision” was the first episode of the trilogy to be released. As a praised talent coming from Chicago, Kanye had caught the eye of many in the music industry, especially filmmaker and storyteller Coodie, who knew from their first interaction that something special brewed inside the 21-year-old producer. When Kanye moved to New York in the early 2000s to try to sign a record deal, Coodie tagged along, committed to documenting the life of the promising young artist. A few years later, co-director Chike joined the two in the creation of the film, predominantly working behind the scenes.

The first episode primarily focuses on West’s struggles to land a record deal in the already dominated hip-hop industry. Despite being a multi-platinum and Grammy-nominated producer in his twenties, he was not satisfied with being behind the scenes. In the episode, he said, “I’m nowhere near my dream. I got aspirations. I got big dreams.” In fact, it’s clear that producing was never Kanye’s greatest interest. As Coodie says, “[Ye] only made beats so he could rap over them.” Eventually, on August 18, 2002, Roc-A-Fella Records, a label founded by Jay-Z in the 90s, signed Kanye.



Wikimedia Commons

Young West in the studio working with his mentor, No I.D.

Overcoming rejection from multiple labels in New York, his story of success in “Vision” is unique and captivating; as Michael Matte ’25 said, “I love *Jeen-Yuhs*. Kanye’s path to greatness has been a tough one... Nothing was ever handed to [him], yet he has become one of the most successful hip-hop artists we have ever seen.”

Coming from an underrepresented area in the industry, Kanye fought an uphill battle trying to become the next big name in hip-hop. It wasn’t his background or conformity to trends that made him famous; instead, his infectious confidence and unapologetic attitude pushed him to stardom. He knew what everybody wanted – authentic and personal music. Talking about his originality, Kanye said, “The music is me, it ain’t no

representation of anything except how I live every day.” Such a genuine attitude has no doubt been unique and refreshing to many fans. As Yuv Banker ’25 said, “Most artists refuse to voice their opinions or do anything bold simply because of the fear of the backlash and the bad press that they may get. That isn’t Kanye.”

Jeen-Yuhs has been a thought-provoking introduction to the story behind one of the most popular artists of our time, offering insight into Kanye’s successful yet often controversial actions. In part two and three, the directors dive into the tragedies that affected Kanye’s career as he became a household name. To watch the trilogy, visit the Netflix website.

To read more about the Arts, please scan the QR codes below.



Leonel Morales
Returns to Campus



Looking to the
Oscars

Sports

THE HOTCHKISS RECORD

Jordyn Harrison '22 Commands on the Court and the Field

By DAN GILBANE '24
Staff Writer

Jordyn Harrison '22 is a four-year Senior and captain of Girls Varsity Basketball. She is also a member of the Girls Varsity Lacrosse team and plans to continue her lacrosse career at the University of Richmond. Teammate Mimi Emswiler '24 said "Jordyn is a role model both on and off the court as she leads the team with positivity and passion. She supports everyone and is someone who my teammates and I will always look up to."

How has your season been?
We've had a pretty successful season compared to seasons before Covid. We have a really strong chance of making the playoffs. We're in Ninth place right now and the top 18 teams make the playoffs. We have also beat and come close to beating a lot of high-level double-A and A teams, so that's pretty exciting.

What would making the playoffs mean for the team and the program?
I think it would mean a lot for the girl's basketball program because it hasn't won a Founders League championship since 2013. They've been building up to it for a couple of years now.

What inspired you to be a captain?
Honestly, it really started when I saw the girls who were captains during my Prep and Lower Mid year. They were like older sisters to me and always made me feel welcome, so I wanted to

be like that for the younger girls now. But also, I think it's just fun having girls who look up to you and want to get better and learn from you.

As a dual-sport athlete, how do you find the balance between competing offseasons and teams?
I previously did dynamic in the fall, but this year I thought it would be fun to manage with one of my best friends, which was a super fun experience. But it hasn't been an easy balance. The coaches help me manage it. They're super positive and approachable when I'm struggling to spend time on one sport versus the other. But they love the fact that I play both sports because they translate into one another.

What advice would you give to girls that are hoping to join the varsity team or be captains next year?
I would say just give it your everything. Put all your eggs in the basket because I think it's definitely worth it. I put a lot of time and effort into the team over my four years and I don't have any regrets. I think I would regret it if I was to stay quiet and not stand up during times when I think things should have been said because I think that was a big part of taking on the captain role. You have to speak up for things when you know something's wrong. So that's the leadership aspect. For girls who wanna just play and try out, I think just give it your best shot and don't be scared. Come in with confidence and you'll play with confidence and be successful.



Jordyn Harrison '22 dribbles down the court.

DASHA POST '23/THE HOTCHKISS RECORD



ANNA TRAGGIO/THE HOTCHKISS RECORD

Wrestlers compete in the Field House.

Wrestling Season Ends With Nationals Appearance

By VIRGINIA WOOD '25

Even though wrestling is an individual sport, the team has become close knit and bonded even with the added Covid-19 restrictions. The program's goal is to help young students learn the basics of wrestling and apply new techniques to the mat. The schools' Covid protocols led to frequent practice and game cancellations and many players frustrated with the school's close contact policy. Wrestler Nouri Badrous '25 said, "Close contact tracing has been a tiresome issue as we haven't had some of our better wrestlers in some of our important meets but I am impressed with how Varsity Wrestling Head Coach Coach Cooper Puls '11 and the team has managed to handle these setbacks."

However, the effects of the Covid-19 on the wrestling team this year were not completely negative. Younger and less experienced wrestlers were given opportunities against more skilled wrestlers and stepped up to the challenge, which has been a unique and positive addition to the wrestling season this year. The team had opportunities to demonstrate its full potential and completely exceeded all expectations. Sean Donovan '23, member of the team, said, "Some key wrestlers were not able to wrestle in important meets. But with all this darkness comes light. We as a team adapted quickly to this destructive problem and made it our strength."

Typically, practices ran the same each day despite any pandemic-related setbacks. Practice starts every-day with a required weigh-in before warm ups. Wrestlers begin with running, stretching, and other exercises before drilling different techniques. Next, wrestlers sit in line formation and are taught a couple new skills to practice for that day. To end off the practice, wrestlers jump rope for a set amount of time in increasing increments of 15 seconds each practice. At the end of the day, wrestlers gather in a circle to stretch and reflect on what was accomplished in that practice. Badrous '25 said, "Something I really enjoy about practice is how Coach Puls teaches us many different moves that we can choose from depending on the type of wrestler we are. For example, longer armed wrestlers may feel that ankle pick is more suitable for the style where shorter armed wrestlers may focus on using more shots to take down their opponents."

In the future, the biggest challenge the team will face includes the post-season tournaments. These special matches can be grueling both mentally and physically, but the best way to deal with this pressure is to keep a positive attitude and focus on what you want to do technically. Alistair Taaffe '25 said, "I wrestled a guy from Taft three times and although I was able to learn some of his go-to moves, it is still a different experience each time. The

Wrestlers overcome challenges throughout winter season

biggest mental obstacle is wanting it enough because when you're tired and beaten down, it can be difficult to keep fighting."

The team has been working hard throughout the season to prepare for their final matches. On February 12, the team traveled to the WNESPA championships and placed fifth overall out of 14 teams. Donovan and Ben Johnson '22 both placed 2nd at 220 lbs and 195 lbs respectively. Kayla Uzwiak '22 at 113 lbs., who was the only female wrestler at the entire tournament to medal, earned sixth place. During this competition, seven male and five male wrestlers qualified for the New England tournament, which is a direct qualifier for the National Prep tournament.

Even in the toughest tournaments, the wrestlers do not think about the outcome but rather the match ahead of them. Donovan added, "What is most important for the team is not actually winning but making sure that you put your best effort in. We never feel bad about ourselves after a loss. We all just know to work harder and be more prepared for the next match."

Swimmers Challenged as School Hosts Founders League Championship

By VIRGINIA WOOD '25

For the first time since early 2019, the school hosted the Founders Swimming Championships at Hixon Pool on February 26, capping off the end to both the boy's and girl's teams' season. The swim team faced some of their toughest competitors, more specifically their long standing rivals, Choate and Loomis. The school's swimmers enjoyed a home pool advantage. Rahul Kalavagunta '22 said, "Hotchkiss has, without a doubt, the best pool in the league, so swimming Founders here helps us have the home court advantage, and gives us an opportunity to swim faster than we would otherwise. Considering how few meets at Hotchkiss we've had in the past few years, we're really excited to be in our home pool for the end of the season."

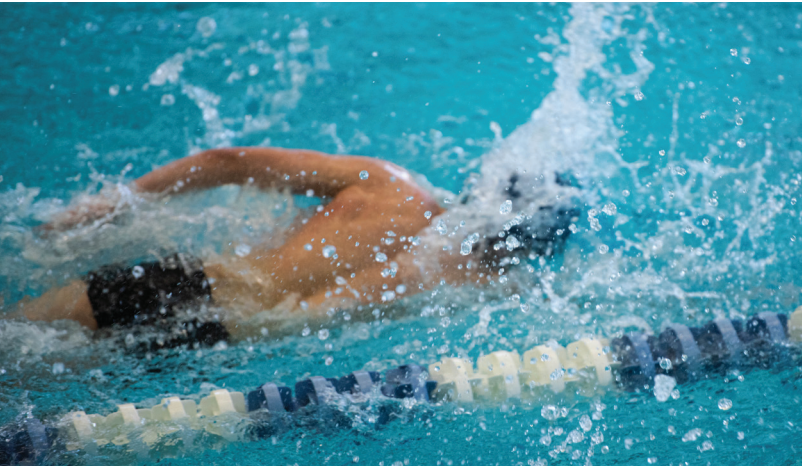
The championship worked a little differently with more schools participating than the conventional two-team meets of the season. The event progressed in the same regular swimming order, but ran significantly longer. Instead of only having one heat of

swimmers per event, each event had multiple, progressively faster heats, based on seed times. Each school can score a limited number of swimmers per event, with relays counting for extra points.

Although the Founders championships have been going on for many years, both the boys and girls teams consist of fairly new members, with many underclass students never having raced at a prep school championship meet, since the Covid-19 pandemic interrupted regular competition for the past two years. Kalavagunta said, "It's natural to be nervous for any championship meet, especially when you're new on the team."

"We're really excited to be in our home pool for the end of the season."
-Rahul Kalavagunta '22

To prepare for Founders, both varsity swimming teams were on taper,



DASHA POST '23/THE HOTCHKISS RECORD

Luis Soto-Moyers '22 races at the Founders League Championship.

which is a period of doing shorter practices after weeks of intense training and interval work. The distance and intervals on sets get easier, and the focus turns more to sprint work and intensity, giving muscles the chance to recover. It is important for swimmers to let their muscles rest before import-

ant meets because this allows swimmers to have a higher level of physical preparation. Rahul Kalavagunta '22 said, "Tapering was a key part of our strategy for Founders, as it allowed us to fully realize the gains we've made this season, and swim faster than we ever have."

Individual events are scored equally, but relays count for more, making them the team's biggest focus for training. Other than that, the varsity team is especially strong in distance freestyle and other strokes, the 200 yard individual medley, 500 yard freestyle, and the 100 yard Back/Breast/Fly.

Both the boys and girls teams placed third overall at the Founders Championships, with Loomis and Choate taking first and second on both sides. Standout swims on the teams included first place finishes by captain Emily Bukowski '22 in the 100 yard Breaststroke and 50 yard Freestyle, captain Carter Levine '22 in the 100 yard Backstroke, and James Yae '23 in the 100 yard Breaststroke. The relay teams were also majorly successful, with Carter Levine '22, James Yae '23, Ryan Tse '23, and Alex Tolis '23 taking gold in the Boys 200 Medley Relay, and Amelie Zhang '23, Quisha Lee '24, Abby Renger '23, and Bukowski placing second in the Girls 200 Freestyle Relay.

Valieva’s Doping Scandal Stirs Controversy

By HELEN O’NEILL ’23

A massive doping scandal shrouded the 2022 Winter Olympics in controversy as the International Olympic Committee (IOC) chose to allow the Russian Olympic Committee’s Kamila Valieva to continue competing in the women’s figure skating final round after the release of a failed drug test that was positive for a banned heart medication. The decision followed the release of a 40-page report drafted by an emergency three-person panel from the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) stating the 15-year-old skater was not to blame for the delay in results from a drug test taken in late December. The panel pointed out that Valieva had tested negative twice since then and that the 44-day delay in results was due to a Covid-induced staffing shortage at the laboratory in Stockholm.

Furthermore, the CAS’s ruling was influenced by the fact that Valieva is a minor and is therefore subject to different rules than an adult athlete. The CAS also cited that Valieva’s test was administered two months before the competition and the testing facility failed to release the result on time. Valieva and a team of lawyers have decided to fight the International Olympic Committee during the investigation with the argument that the teenager inadvertently ingested the banned substance. The CAS panel, however, states that they have not been provided with any evidence supporting the Russian

skater’s claim.

Valieva tested positive for three heart medications: Hypoxen, L-carnitine, and Trimetazidine (or TMZ), a drug that is on the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) prohibited list. US Anti-Doping Agency chief executive Travis Tygart commented on the case, and said “The trifecta of substances Valieva took seem to be aimed at increasing endurance, reducing fatigue, and promoting greater efficiency in using oxygen.” It is typically prescribed to older patients with heart-related conditions and helps the body use oxygen and relieve chest pain with the increased metabolism of fatty acids. Because the increase in lung capacity is said to potentially improve stamina and endurance in athletes, the WADA categorizes it as a hormone and metabolism modulator. However, experts say that there has only been a small amount of research done on the performance-enhancing effects of TMZ and that the substance might not even have a positive impact on elite athletes like Valieva. The drug is not recommended for people under 18 because its side effects include dizziness, headache, abdominal pain, and diarrhea; these could derail an athlete’s performance. A cardiologist at USC even went as far as saying that the potential positives of taking the drug for performance-enhancing purposes could be outweighed by the multitude of negative side effects.

The scandal has prompted a worldwide anti-doping movement led by the U.S.

Reignites Debate Surrounding PEDs

Olympic skating team. The CAS’s ongoing investigation of Valieva has subsequently led to them postponing the medal ceremony, forcing the U.S. skaters to return home empty-handed. The U.S. team’s co-captain, Evan Bates, testified to the CAS panel in hopes of forcing the International Olympic Committee to give the nine athletes their medals before they left Beijing. Bates and his teammates insisted that the issue is not necessarily the absence of a medal, but the crumbling integrity of their sport. They argued that there needs to be more action taken against all doping issues to promote clean competition. This came after a 1-hour-and-40-minute meeting with Thomas Bach, the president of the International Olympic Committee, in which the U.S. skaters lamented how they were being punished for another athlete’s mistake and the failures in the organization’s anti-doping policies.

Kamila Valieva’s case is still ongoing as outcry over the integrity in the Olympic Games and pattern of doping among athletes reaches an all-time high. Speculation swirls around the delay in her test results, her position as a minor, and the question of whether Trimetazidine would actually enhance her performance.



ZACH LEWIS '24/THE HOTCHKISS RECORD

From left: Johnnie Walter ’22, Aaron Tandatnick ’22, and Kenny Noland ’22.

Boys Basketball Dominates in Record-Breaking Season

By KEIRA CASON ’24

Kenny Noland ’22 is a new Senior and captain of the Boys Varsity Basketball team this year. Johnnie Walter ’22 is a new Senior and player on the Boys Varsity Basketball team. Four-year Senior Aaron Tandatnick ’22 is the team’s manager and Director of Basketball Operations.

How do you think Hotchkiss has helped you improve as a player during your time here? Who has helped you improve and why?

Johnnie Walter: I think my teammates have made me a lot better. Going against good players everyday makes a big impact. I also think Coach Adam Turner has been really helpful. He was the coach of a college team for a while, and now that he’s come down to the high school level, he’s brought a lot of knowledge that only college coaches have. He’s really helped me build a better mindset and improve in ways that I never knew I could.

Kenny Noland: I feel like being able to play against pretty high level guys everyday pushes me to become a better player. Also our coaches, Coach Turner and Coach Yassine Talhaoui, have challenged me to think about the game more and read the game better.

What are some of your strong points as a team?

JW: I think we’re very good at transitioning and playing fast, and forcing the other team to play at an uncomfortable pace. Our defense is strong, which creates offensive opportunities, so when we get stops, we push it and the opposing team can’t set up in time. That gets us easy baskets.

Are there any new challenges the team is facing? What’s changed since previous years?

Aaron Tandatnick: This year we have a completely new team apart from JJ Paul ’22 and I, so our main challenge is finding a way to play and gel together; however, I think the team this year is a lot more cohesive. Even though we’ve only started at the beginning of the year, we’ve really come together over the course of the season.

Do you think a close group dynamic helps you do better as a team?

KN: I think it helps a lot because it establishes a level of trust. Since we’re all really good friends and genuine with each other, playing on the court makes trust that much easier.

AT: The close dynamic allows you to be honest with people, since they know what you say is coming from the right place, especially if it’s more constructive. At the end of the day, everyone here wants to win the championship. If everybody has the same goals in mind, as well as that trust, we can hold each other accountable.

Can you talk a little about a favorite memory or a highlight from the season so far?

KN: One time we played in the Brooklyn Nets arena in Barclays Center. Since we stayed in New York as a team, we had a night out in the city. It was a fun experience being able to hang out with the guys outside of school. The game itself was also a once in a lifetime opportunity — playing in an NBA arena with your friends is crazy.



Kamila Valieva skates in the Russian Championship.

Varsity Teams Enter Playoffs

UFC 271 Recap and Analysis

By CARRIE CAO ’23
Editor-in-Chief

Hotchkiss athletes have fought long and hard this winter season and it has paid off for many of them. The Girls Varsity Basketball team, Boys Varsity Basketball team, and the Girls Varsity Ice Hockey team all move onto the 2022 NEPSAC tournaments in their respective sports.

The young and talented Girls Varsity Basketball team will continue its upward progression. During Head Coach Michael Hickey’s first season two years ago, the team nearly doubled its wins from the previous season and has continued to improve. Of the 14 girls on the roster, only one is a senior so for many of the girls on the team, this was their first competitive season with Hotchkiss. The Girls Varsity Basketball is seeded eighth and will battle it out at Kent on Wednesday, March 2.

Two years ago, the Boys Varsity Basketball team lost in the last minute against Loomis in the finals of the NEPSAC Class A tournament. This year, the team will return again led by captain Kenny Noland ’22. Not playing any games last season emphasizes the value of each moment the team has with each other. The Boys Varsity Basketball team is seeded first and will play against Berkshire in Fowle on Wednesday, March 2.

This year’s Girls Varsity Ice Hockey team is fortunate to have a strong and youthful roster that has helped push the team towards a 8-9-1 record. With nearly 30 girls on the team, ten of them are seniors who have been tremendous leaders for the rest of the group. The Girls Varsity Ice Hockey is seeded sixth and will battle it out on the road against Choate on Wednesday, March 2.

By PRESTON LEUNG ’23

The Ultimate Fighting Championship returned to the Toyota Center in Houston, Texas to a sold-out crowd of 17,872 people. The pay-per view main card featured epic knockouts, dramatic submissions and a battle for the middleweight championship.

In the main-event slot, the undisputed world champion, Israel “The Last Stylebender” Adesanya (21-1) faced off against Robert “The Reaper” Whittaker (23-5). In the previous meeting between the two, Adesanya put on a show in Australia to defeat the Aussie, Whittaker, via second round knockout. Two years later, after three big wins over top contenders in the division, Whittaker earned his second shot and the middleweight crown. In the first round, both fighters came out with patience, however, Adesanya came out

Thrilling knockouts and a battle for the championship

with a flurry of hard leg kicks and ended the round with a straight left that sat Whittaker down. Whittaker looked like he’d given up during the break and his years of hard work were not going to pay off. Throughout the remainder of the five-round fight, Whittaker displayed his take-downs which he clearly has improved over the last couple fights. However, Adesanya also worked on his takedown defense and shot right back up to his feet. Adesanya’s slick movement in the cage as well as accurate striking earned Adesanya an unanimous decision victory (48-47, 48-47, 49-46) over Whittaker.

Well, after securing his fourth title defense, what is next for Israel “The Last Stylebender” Adesanya? Jared Cannonier. In the same card as Adesanya, Cannonier and Derek Brunson, the third and fourth ranked contender in the middleweight division faced off in what likely would be the fight to be next in line for

the title. Cannonier is 5-1 since joining the middleweight division, defeating contenders like Kelvin Gastelum, Jack Hermansson, and Anderson Silva. His only loss was to Whittaker via unanimous decision in 2019. In his fight against Brunson, Cannonier had a tough first round. Brunson landed a late takedown and got Cannonier in a rear naked choke to end the round. However, Cannonier rallied back in the second and displayed his striking abilities with a high volume of elbows. Cannonier knocked Brunson down and overwhelmed him with his “ground and pound”. This got the referee to call off the fight. The UFC President, Dana White stated, “It was an awesome fight and yeah, I’m not gonna say ‘no’ to Cannonier.” Cannonier’s aggressive offense can make his fight very interesting if he does go up against Adesanya.”



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<div>Final Winter Season Records</div>	Boys Varsity Basketball: 20 - 1	Girls Thirds Basketball: 1-3	Girls Varsity Hockey: 8-9-1	Boys JV Squash: 5-3
	Boys JV Basketball: 3 - 8	Boys Varsity Hockey: 4-16	Girls JV Hockey: 5-5	Girls Varsity Squash: 7-3
	Boys Thirds Basketball: 4-4	Boys JV Hockey: 8-3	Co-Ed Wrestling: 6-3	Girls JV Squash: 5-2
	Girls Varsity Basketball: 3-8	Girls JV Basketball: 4-5	Boys Varsity Swimming: 2-3	Girls Varsity Swimming: 3-4
				Boys Varsity Squash: 10-2