



Dining Commons Officially Opens

By KATHARINE ELLIS '26, SHAYE LEE '26, JACK MCCARTHY '26
Editors-in-Chief

After nearly two years of construction, the new Dining Commons opened to community members on Monday, December 8. The reopening marks a significant moment in the school's history; with a budget of \$41 million dollars, the dining facility is one of the school's largest ever capital improvement projects.

The New York-based DLR Group designed the space, while O&G Industries completed the construction. The project included a renovation of the old Dining Hall's existing 33,000 square feet and an addition of 11,000 square feet. Seating, which originally fit 342, expanded to accommodate 525.

The new facility has several amenities besides the central dining space. The bottom floor has offices that will house the College Advising Office, along with extra meeting rooms and study spaces. The renovation also created new entryways; besides the original southeast entrance by Hurst Hall, there is now a northeast access point by the Griswold Science Building. A terrace by the southeast doors provides the option for outdoor seating.

The completely rebuilt and expanded servery looks out over



The \$41 million dollar project is one of the school's largest capital improvement projects ever.

Bissell Quad. In addition to the larger hot food bar, there is a center counter with a pizza oven, sandwich station, salad bar, dessert area, and built-in soup pots. CulinArt intends to serve pizza and pre-made specialty sandwiches daily

at lunch. Community members can also make their own food in an updated stir fry area with seven stations and at the four new panini presses.

Since opening, the Dining Commons has become a popular

spot for studying during the school day. "I've been spending hours every day in the new space. The space is really conducive to socializing, studying, and eating, all my favorite things," said Sia Reddy '26. Several events have

already been held in the facility, including Jingle Bingo and the annual Gingerbread House Build.

"The space is conducive to socializing, studying, and eating, all my favorite things," said Sia Reddy '26.

The school's dining service prides itself on using "Real Food," a philosophy that manifests itself in locally farmed produce and meat. "Tasting History," an exhibit curated by Jeffrey Gong '26, showcases the progression of the Dining Hall and students' meal experiences since the school's founding. Displayed in Main Hallway, it features a map of historical eateries in Lakeville, as well as aspects of the dining experience from food sourcing, to atmosphere to student traditions. "Many things have changed here at Hotchkiss, but some don't," said Gong. "I hope that we can recognize food and the memories we make in the Dining Hall as an essential part of our school experience and routine that bonds us around hot meals and laughter."



Mr. Richard Davis and Ms. Davida LaCrosse were honored on Tuesday, December 2.

Mr. Richard Davis and Ms. Davida Lacosse Are Honored With Faculty Chairs

By DEVEN PATEL '27
News Editor

On Tuesday, December 2, Mr. Richard Davis and Ms. Davida LaCosse were awarded The L. Blair Torrey Jr. '50 Chair and The Audrey May Mars Teaching Chair, respectively.

Mr. Craig Bradley, head of school, gave opening remarks before Ms. Shannon Clark, dean of faculty, offered personal comments and anecdotes on both recipients.

Mr. Davis, dean of academics, instructor in Latin, and head coach of varsity sailing, has taught at the school for 19 years. Ms. Clark highlighted his notable contributions to the school including his time as secretary to the faculty and work with the trustee

committee as they rewrote the school mission. She said, "Looking through the varied and challenging work he has taken on, I see Mr. Davis as the sort of person who simply steps up when he sees a job that needs doing or a problem that needs solving."

Ms. LaCosse has taught at the school since 2022. She is an instructor in biology and chemistry and oversees the theater tech cocurricular. Previously, she has also coached girls JV squash and tennis and served as dorm head of Baechle-Ayres. Ms. Beth Smithy, head of the science department, offered high praise for her colleague. She said, "Ms. LaCosse is the ultimate team player, rolling up her sleeves to mentor and support other teachers."

Remy Lee '26 Earns International Recognition for Documentary *The Mermaids*

By EVIE LIU '29

Remy Lee '26 is a four-year Senior from Seogwipo-Si, a city on Jeju Island in South Korea. He is passionate about photography and film, serving as a co-head of Photo League and Analogue Photo Magazine. In 2024, Lee's solo photo essay, "Sea, Breath, Songs: Story of the Haenyeo," including his documentary, *The Mermaids*, won a national YoungArts award. The two works feature the everyday lives of Jeju Island's Haenyeo women, traditional free deep divers who harvest seafood without breathing equipment. In spring of 2025, Lee curated his solo photo exhibit, *Sea, "Breath, Songs: Story of the Haenyeo,"* inspired by his essay and documentary. Recently, *The Mermaids* was endorsed by the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

Lee is also a writer and poet. He is the co-head of the Creative Writing Club, co-Editor-in-Chief of the No Limits STEM Magazine, and has worked on the board of Students for Environmental Action.

What was the process behind filming *The Mermaids* and curating your "Sea, Breath, Songs: Story of Haenyeo" exhibit?

During the summer of 2024, I traveled around Jeju, immersing myself in the island's indigenous culture. I was inspired by the Haenyeo's strength, resilience, and wisdom, and decided to honor their heritage with a photo essay and documentary.

Recording the diving scenes was the highlight of the filming process—it was by far the most challenging but rewarding. A Haenyeo, whom I befriended in my immersion journey, kindly agreed to dive with me. I planned out everything—from my GoPro to my outfit and the shot compositions. But it turns out, shooting underwater quite literally isn't exactly walking in the park. The clothes I had brought were short-sleeved, which posed risks in diving—so I opted for hers: hence the purple top and the tropical leggings. The experience was truly moving—instead of the commentary that I had prepared, I ended up speaking impromptu, and those words were what I ultimately

included in the documentary.

Capturing the landing of the Haenyeo for my photo essay was an exhilarating experience as well. As you may imagine, the Haenyeo are exhausted when they reach the rocky shore after their hours-long diving sessions. They moved very quickly, ready to head home. Crafting the right composition with moving targets, treacherous terrain, and the clock ticking—I really enjoyed letting my instinct navigate and problem-solve. That's exactly why I love shooting candidly.

Many teachers and faculty helped me choose, design, and set up my photo exhibit, and I can't stress enough how grateful I am for their kindness.



Lee traveled around Jeju during the summer of 2024 to capture footage of the Haenyeo.

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Dr. Fish Offers Preston Lecture

The annual lecture focused on antisemitism.

Farewell to Ms. Henderson

Ms. Henderson is moving to Miami to become the HOS at KIPP high school.

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Dining Commons Survey

70 community members share thoughts on the new Dining Hall in a word cloud.



LAUREN NIEM '26

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Goodbye FFC!

Emily Hwang '27 bids farewell to the temporary dining facility.

The Race to the Holidays

Penelope Thornton '27 contemplates our countdown to the holidays.

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New Tremaine Gallery Exhibit

Fern Apfel and Colleen McGuire present work in *Wish You Were Here*.



COLLEEN MCGUIRE

SPORTS 4

AOI: Preston Merrick '26

Merrick is co-captain of Boys Varsity Basketball and is committed to Harvard.

Boys Varsity Squash

The team is undefeated after playing Deerfield and Hopkins last week.

News

Ms. Henderson to Lead KIPP Charter School

By CHLOE CAIRNS '29

Ms. Kinyette Henderson is the associate dean of student life, Walter Crain fellow, and an instructor in English. She joined the school in 2022, in the inaugural year of the Walter Crain Fellowship. Mr. Pierre Yoo, co-director of pluralism and community, who taught and coached Ms. Henderson when she was a student at St. George's School, recommended that she apply for the position.

Ms. Henderson will leave this December to start her next chapter at KIPP Miami Technical High School. KIPP is a free, public charter school with the mission "to prepare students for college and a fulfilling life." Ms. Henderson will be the founding school leader at KIPP Miami Tech. Her connection to KIPP runs deep, as she was a student at KIPP New Jersey and later on worked at KIPP schools in New Jersey and New Orleans. Mr. Yoo said, "She is a KIPP person. She worked at KIPP, she went to KIPP, and I can't think of a better person for the job."

Why did you go into education?

I always knew I wanted to be a teacher. Teachers made such a difference in my life growing up. A teacher was the first person who told me I was going to go to college. My teachers helped me find out about boarding school and supported me through college. I wanted to do the same for kids, so right after college I joined Teach for America and never looked back.

Why did you come to Hotchkiss?

I came to Hotchkiss after the pandemic. Mr. Yoo was my Chemistry teacher and track coach when I was a student at St. George's in Newport. He sent me the posting about the Crain Fellowship, and it felt like a perfect time to get back to boarding schools.



Ms. Henderson will join KIPP Miami Technical High School.

What have been some of your favorite experiences here?

I have had so many great experiences at Hotchkiss! My favorite parts have been moments with kids. I've thoroughly enjoyed all of my English classes and the students I have had in the dorm, as well as being a part of the Boys Varsity Basketball team. I loved being invited to be a part of the dance performance last year in Fowle Gym. There are so many to name—so many students have created some of the happiest memories for me.

Why did you decide to work with the new KIPP school?

KIPP has a mission I believe in deeply. They want to run the best schools to provide the best education for students in urban cities. Good teachers and good schools truly make a difference for different demographics of kids.

I was a founding student at KIPP in New Jersey. My middle school experience changed the trajectory of what I thought was possible for me. After college, I taught at KIPP

in New Orleans and back at my old middle school in Newark, NJ.

Can you tell us about your new position at KIPP Miami?

I am going to be the Founding School Leader. It has always been a dream of mine to design and run my own school. The chance to build a vision and culture from the ground up is an educator's dream. I am looking forward to building a team of adults who are passionate about teaching!

I hope that I can provide an excellent education to kids in Miami similar to what Hotchkiss has done for their students.

What do you see in your future as an educator?

I want to lead school leaders and impact public schools.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Thank you to Hotchkiss for making me a better educator and a better teacher.

St. Luke's Collects 79 Pints Fall Blood Drive

By ELLIE MATASAR '29

On November 18, from 1:45 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., St. Luke's Society hosted the annual blood drive in association with the American Red Cross. The event was organized by Ellie Prinz '27 and Clemmie Morlock '26, with the support of the St. Luke's board.

Participants had to be at least 16 years of age, meet weight requirements depending on their height, and meet other requirements about travel history and medication use.

One hundred and eight donors attempted to donate. Ultimately 79 pints of blood were successfully collected—a donation that can save up to 237 lives.

This event was the club's first

blood drive without the assistance of Mrs. Caroline Kenny-Burchfield '71, the long-time former advisor for St. Luke's, who retired last year.

Morlock said, "I was really proud of our result, especially since it was our first drive without the beloved Mrs. Burchfield."

Approximately 30 student volunteers helped organize and guide donors. Faculty and staff members donated baked goods and snacks to help donors recover after donating.

The donated blood will be distributed across multiple hospitals in the region. Donors can find out where their blood is sent and how it is used through the Red Cross app.



On Tuesday, November 8, 108 donors donated 79 pints of blood.



Dr. Rachel Fish spoke to faculty, attended classes, and had lunch with students.

Dr. Fish Delivers Annual Preston Lecture

By CLOVER CURRY '27 and SOFIA CLARK '27

As part of the Preston Lecture speaker series, Dr. Rachel Fish, co-founder of the non-profit Boundless Israel and Israeli studies professor, visited the school to talk about historical transformations of antisemitism on Tuesday, October 2.

At her alma mater, Brandeis University, she is a Special Advisor for the President's Initiative on Antisemitism and an associate research professor.

In her talk, Dr. Fish emphasized that Jewish people encounter antisemitism in everyday life. She encouraged students to be aware of how even seemingly innocuous jokes

or comments normalize and spread harmful anti-Semitic narratives.

Dr. Fish highlighted how these, and other forms of antisemitism, can be recognized using the "three D's" formulated by Israeli politician Natan Sharansky: demonization, or disproportionate criticism of Israel or Jews; double standards, which place stricter moral standards on Israel than on other nations; and delegitimization, the denial of Jews' right to self-determination.

As an example of delegitimization, Dr. Fish cited a critique of the creation or existence of the state of Israel. She stated that as a traditional Jewish ancestral home, rejection of Israel's right to exist as a country is

antisemitism.

The idea of delegitimization, in particular, roused discussion among students during general Q&A and later in the Faculty Room. Students inquired about when criticism of the Israel's actions crosses over into invalidation of the Israeli state, and therefore, by Dr. Fish's definition, antisemitism. She clarified that criticizing the specific policies and political choices made by Israel is not an act of antisemitism, but rather fosters healthy and open discussion around the country.

Following the lecture and surrounding conversations, HPU partnered with No Place for Hate to host an open discussion of Dr. Fish's lecture on November 5.

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Opinions & Features

Community Members Respond to Dining Hall



LAUREN NIEM '26

The Race to the Holidays: Finding Joy in All We Do

Penelope Thornton '27

When I was younger, I truly believed my grandpa, John Thornton, had everything figured out. He worked as a forensic scientist from 1963 to 2003 and became the most published forensic scientist in the United States. To me, his life looked like a clean, perfect line of success, like he was born knowing exactly what he wanted to do, and then just did it brilliantly. Over Thanksgiving break, I asked him how it feels to be at the very top of your field. His answer shocked me. He said he often felt like a fraud. Even with all his publications, awards, and famous cases, he still doubted his own abilities.

Hearing that from someone I admire so much changed something in me. It made me realize self-doubt isn't a sign that you're doing badly; it's something that even the most accomplished people carry with them. In fact, the most accomplished people often have more self-doubt, because they're constantly pushing themselves. But what stands out to me is the fact that my grandpa never let that doubt stop him. He loves solving mysteries. He loves piecing together evidence in a way others can't. That passion carried him through late nights in the lab, through uncertainty, through pressure that never seemed to let up. Passion and doubt can exist at the same time. But if all you feel is doubt with nothing to balance it, it will slowly eat away at your motivation and joy.

At Hotchkiss, I see this everywhere. We go to a school, now ranked #1 on Niche, filled with people who excel in everything: academics, the arts, athletics, and every random hobby you can imagine. And yet so many of us feel like imposters. Others' achievements loom over us, dwarfing our own. It reminds me of how my grandpa

must have felt working with other top scientists in his field. The worst part is that this self-doubt doesn't only make us feel insecure, it steals the spark we once had. I used to love writing, or taking on science projects just because they felt exciting. Now, sometimes I view myself as average, my writing as clumsy, my ideas as not good enough.

And this leads us to right now: this wild, intense, two-week stretch between Thanksgiving and winter break. The race to the holidays.

When life becomes a grind of grades and deadlines, purpose gets blurry. The race to the holidays becomes a race away from ourselves.

We're not just tired, we're completely drained. We cling to the countdown because it feels like the only thing keeping us going. Every day becomes a box to check off, closer to that moment where we finally get to breathe. And during this race, everything becomes about performance. You hear people say, "I need to get this grade on the final or I'm done," or you find yourself typing your assignment scores into RogerHub to see what you need for an A. (I have done this way too many times, and trust me, it just stresses you out more.)

But this frenzied comparison, pressure, and measuring of ourselves chips away at the reason we came to Hotchkiss in the first place. We came because we love learning. Because

we are curious. We wanted to push ourselves, not because we needed to be perfect, but because it felt good to grow. And now, halfway through the year, it's hard to remember that. Instead of actually learning, we cram information from flashcards just to get by on the next test.

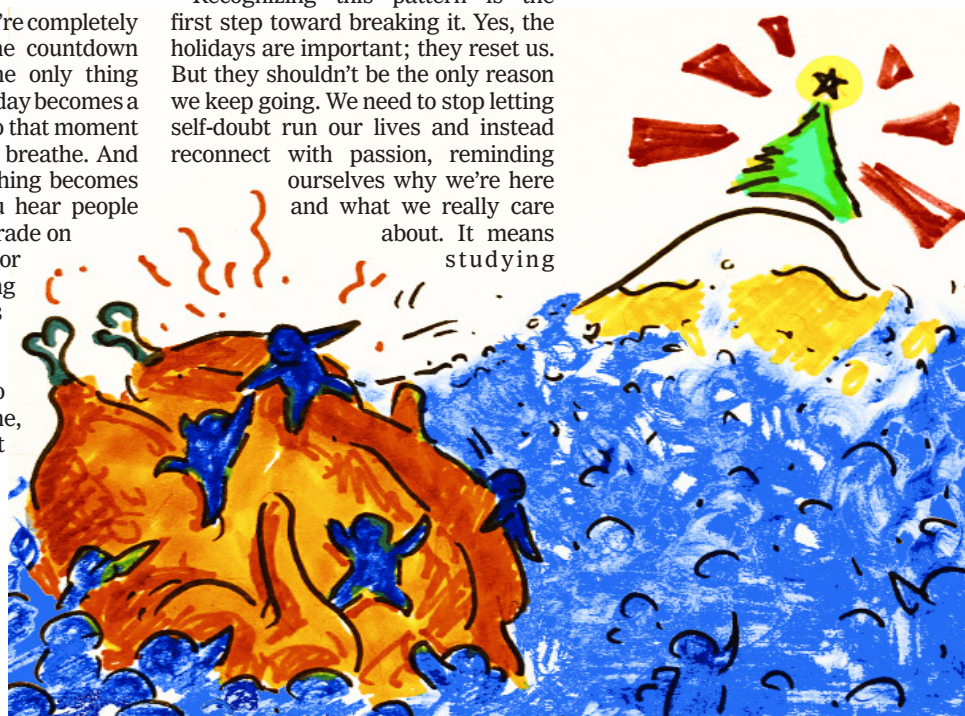
During this countdown, we forget what drew us here. Hotchkiss is about curiosity and joy. My grandpa didn't pursue forensic science for fame or recognition; he did it because he loved the challenge and the mystery. And I think many of us came here for a similar reason: to explore ideas, to create, to grow in ways that matter to us. But when daily life becomes a grind of grades and deadlines, that purpose gets blurry. Passion gets pushed aside. The race to the holidays becomes a race away from ourselves.

Recognizing this pattern is the first step toward breaking it. Yes, the holidays are important; they reset us. But they shouldn't be the only reason we keep going. We need to stop letting self-doubt run our lives and instead reconnect with passion, reminding ourselves why we're here and what we really care about. It means studying

a subject because it actually interests you, or creating something just because the process is fun. When we start doing that, the race to the holidays becomes less desperate.

I've been trying in my own tiny ways—by writing without judging every sentence, learning something new purely because I'm curious, and reminding myself what I love about each class or project. These moments don't erase doubt, but they do bring back that spark.

Self-doubt will never disappear. My grandpa carried it, and so do I. But it doesn't have to define us. If we pause, reflect, and reconnect with our purpose even a little, the race to the holidays can become something totally different. Not a sprint for survival, but a firm reminder of what keeps us going.



REMY LEE '26

Farewell, FFC

Emily Hwang '29

Dear Ford Food Court,

It turns out one month is long enough to feel strong emotions about a dining hall (especially when it's a ten-minute walk away). Breakfast required extra early wake-ups. Lunch demanded speed-walking. Dinner tested our survival skills in the cold. And yet, it was always worth going.

With you, things were never boring. You hosted dances. You welcomed children, adults, and students; air hockey games that definitely got louder than necessary; MB140 concerts that stopped us mid-bite; and conversations that started insignificant but somehow became the best parts of the day.

Homework sometimes got done, short discussions often turned into full-blown debates, and friendships formed over cereal bowls and team dinners. We laughed across your tables, called after friends, and our ordinary meals created memories forever. It felt chaotic, but in the best way.

You were many things: a dining hall, a meeting space, a study area, and the reason everyone on campus developed exceptional walking speed. But more importantly, you were the spot where we had countless experiences—both sweet and bitter.

So with the opening of the new dining hall, saying goodbye feels a little strange. But Ford Food Court, you've done enough. It's time to rest. (And time for everyone else to enjoy shorter walks, too.)

Arts & Sports

Wish You Were Here: Tremaine Gallery Exhibit

By TRACY PHAM '28
Staff Writer

Upon entering, Tremaine Art Gallery's newest exhibition evokes the feeling of lifting the lid of an old keepsake box, where every piece holds a story worth pausing for. "Mining beauty from old letters and old things, my paintings are nostalgic reminders of things that no longer exist and histories of bygone times," wrote Fern Apfel, whose pieces appear alongside the work of Colleen McGuire, former instructor in Studio Art, in the exhibition *Wish You Were Here*. On display from November 4, 2025 through January 25, 2026, the exhibit showcases the artists' exploration of themes of home, place, light, and loss in their distinct styles.

Ms. Joan Baldwin, curator of the Tremaine Gallery, began planning the exhibition a year ago, meeting individually with Ms. McGuire and Ms. Apfel and later holding joint meetings to discuss the meaning of their work as well as the connections between the two artists. Ms. Baldwin said, "For me, one theme that surfaced was the idea of 'home,' both as a place and a concept. The title *Wish You Were Here* captures both the longing we sometimes feel for home and the desire to be with someone in a certain space."

In addition to the 39 pieces of works of acrylic on canvas by Ms. Apfel and oil on board by Ms. McGuire, five poems hang throughout the exhibit. "Hopefully, the poems can echo themes in the paintings and provide breath between the pieces," said Ms. Baldwin.

Among the show's unique features is a table where visitors can sit and write down their reflections about the art on postcards, as well as movable walls

displaying Ms. Apfel's postcard and letter paintings.

In Ms. Apfel's paintings, the dual theme of home and its absence is seen in her use of remnants of the past, such as old stamps, diary pages, or well-worn books. Each letter or piece of paper is carefully reproduced with multiple layers of acrylic paint, and the writing is executed with archival pens.

One of Ms. Baldwin's favorite spaces is the northwest wall, where the chairs

"The title 'Wish You Were Here' captures both the longing we feel for home and the desire to be with someone in a certain space,"
said Ms. Joan Baldwin.

in front of the window echo the ones in an accompanying painting by Ms. McGuire.

In Ms. McGuire's work, home is



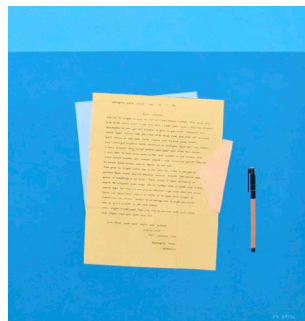
Artwork by Colleen McGuire and Fern Apfel.

captured in images of open closets under incandescent light, in the rain, and in paintings where she created from inside her car.

Ms. McGuire spent time as an artist in residence working with Lower Mid Studio Arts students for a lesson on color theory. Chloe Ayer '28 said, "Ms. McGuire talked about how you don't need a huge range of colors to make a strong piece, because sometimes working with just a few hues can actually make your work feel more harmonious. I learned a lot from her."

Ms. Baldwin said, "I hope the community sees the Tremaine as a place for quiet reflection, to momentarily escape from the hustle and bustle of life. With *Wish You Were Here*, 'I hope visitors have a chance to pause and reflect on a space that feels like their 'here', and the memories that make it truly their own."

The exhibit "Map Making Redux," a four-week pop-up supporting units in Ms. Moore's and Ms. Owen's Studio Art classes, will open in the Rotunda, followed by "Ancient Travel Books: A Rare Books Exhibit" curated by Diana Kravchenko '26.



COLLEEN MCGUIRE AND FERN APFEL



REMY LEE '26

AOI: Remy Lee '26

From Cover

How did you discover your passion for photography and film?

I first discovered my passion for photography and film at Hotchkiss, starting with Prep photography taught by Mrs. Colleen MacMillan, instructor of photography. Photography allowed me to render what I see in the world just as eloquently as singing, drawing, or acting. Ms. Ann Villano, instructor of film, deepened my appreciation for the visual and artistic components of documentary. As someone with a love for storytelling, I've found photography and documentary film to be particularly compelling mediums of expression.

What inspired your love for poetry?

My love for poetry bloomed during my Prep year, during a time of change and self-discovery. Whenever I felt gloomy or sentimental, I turned to my poetry journal. Writing helped me turn stormy emotions into meaningful poems that could inspire others.

People often find poetry scary or boring, but I think it's generous and approachable. Poetry is powerful because it uses words—the very tool we use to communicate. Each word, pause, and punctuation is imbued with feeling, and poetry is all about how to maneuver those sensibilities to create effect. At its core, poetry is pure communication, and it is synonymous with hope, regret, angst, thrill—life!

How has the school supported your passions for photography and poetry?

Hotchkiss's faculty and resources have been indispensable in developing my passions. *Analogue*, the Photo League, and *The Record* have shaped my vision as a photographer. At the same time, English teachers and faculty poets have continued to challenge me to grow as a poet. I am very grateful for all those in our community who share my love for these two art forms: from the library and their April Poetry Month activities to those who supported my photography exhibition.



US SQUASH

Parth Khera '26 played at nationals last year, where the team finished second.

Boys Varsity Squash Aims for National Championship

By TAYLOR PANG '27
Staff Writer

Boys Varsity Squash finished its 2024-2025 season with a program record second-place finish in nationals, and a tight 5-2 in the finals. The team graduated Oscar Okonkwo '25, who now plays at the University of Virginia, and Liam Waldron '25, who plays at Bowdoin College.

This year's co-captain Rohan Gupta '26 said, "I enjoyed the camaraderie we built throughout the season last year; it is a bond we will continue to have as we make our push for a national championship this year."

This year, the team added three new players: Mattias Liem '29, Simrith Gaddam '28, and Reed Morris '28.

Throughout the fall, team members participated in squash concentration four days a week to prepare for challenge matches and the upcoming season. During squash concentration, players are not ranked by skill on a ladder like in season, but instead, they do drills, team lifts, and practice matches. Many players also play off-campus throughout the year.

This season is a home season, meaning that a majority of the team's matches will be at home. The team is led by co-captains Gupta and Parth Khera '26.

The boys follow a key team slogan, PID, which stands for passion, intensity, and discipline. Gupta said, "This slogan is a huge part of our drive as a team."

The team culture emphasizes togetherness. Each year, they have traditional team dinners, but they prioritize simply spending time with one another in any way possible, whether it is on or off the court.

Luke Velasco '27 said, "I think what sets our team apart from others is our drive to see each other all succeed and push each other to get better."

The team defeated Hopkins on December 3 and Deerfield, in its first Saturday game of the season, on December 6.

The goal this season is to build off of last year's success and go undefeated, winning the Founders League title, the New England championship, and High School Nationals. Velasco said, "If there's any team that would be able to do it, I think it's this group of guys."

Athlete of the Issue: Preston Merrick '26

By AIDAN SONG '27
Staff Writer

Preston Merrick '26 is a four year senior from Laurelton, New York. He is co-captain of Boys Varsity Basketball and has committed to play next year at Harvard University.

Teammate Max Mudry '26 said, "Preston is a great teammate and always lifts up the people around him. Whether in practice or in game, Preston is always making sure that we are organized and locked in."

How did you get your start with basketball?

My dad and my brother used to play soccer. When I was around three years old, I played goalie.

When I came home one night with my dad and brother, we saw LeBron playing against the Celtics during the playoffs. I wondered what sport it was—it looked really fun. I saw LeBron come in and dunk. Right there and then I knew

that I was going to play basketball. I literally quit soccer that day and started playing basketball.

What led you to come to Hotchkiss?

My brother went to Oxford Academy, and I went up to visit him during Parent's Weekend. I thought it was cool to be at a school like that. I wanted to get away from New York and follow in my brother's footsteps.

My mom ended up sending me to Cardigan Mountain School in New Hampshire. I did two years there and became the school leader in my ninth grade year. Then I reclassified here.

Hotchkiss recruited me when I was at Cardigan, and after Revisit Day, I knew I wanted to be here.

What have been some of your biggest moments playing basketball here?

Prep year, I had a big game against Trinity Pawling, and it started my love for the Hotchkiss community and playing for Hotchkiss.

Anytime we go to St. Joseph's or the Hoophall, I like to represent the school and let them know we're good at basketball.

What is it like to be a captain this year?

It can be challenging, because I need to lead by example. But for my future, I think it's a good thing. It teaches me skills that I'm going to need later. I'm also able to teach people who were my age and those who come from Cardigan, which provides me challenges. It keeps me dialed in and focused on my games.

What has your college recruitment process been like?

When I was Upper Mid, I didn't really think I was going to go to an Ivy League school. I was more focused on basketball at schools like UConn, Texas, UMass, BC and Syracuse. I was thinking that maybe a bigger school might be better for basketball and a little

less on the academic side compared to Harvard.

But after spring of Upper Mid year, a lot of big schools turned me down.

Harvard always asked me when my next game was and stayed engaged with me. They showed the most love out of all the schools.

When I revisited, I met some of the teammates who I would play with, and now I have good bonds with them.

What are your goals in college?

It's been my dream ever since I was a kid to go to the NBA. I want to take advantage of the opportunities in college and play basketball at the same time.

Hotchkiss has given me access to tools that most people don't have. For example, taking engineering here has been important for me, because there isn't an EFX lab in Queens, where I come from.

What are your goals for the rest of the season?

To win the championship. But first, make the playoffs. We fell short three years in a row. I've been here for four years, so I feel like it's my duty to help make sure we get to where we should've been for the past three years.

Another one is to have as many people come to our games as much as possible. The last two games, we've had a lot of people turn up and it shows how much people care for us. I think this year is going to be different if we keep winning and we have this much support.

Do you have any advice for younger athletes?

Stay confident. People my age or even younger struggle to keep their confidence. Basketball is a mental game and less about the skills. If you want to get where I'm striving to be, I think you have to believe in yourself. I wasn't as good as I am now. If you doubt yourself, you should rethink it—because you are more than capable.



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