

CRYSTAL ♦ 99

Malden Catholic – A Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School – 99 Crystal St., Malden, MA 02148

Charitable Lancers

By; Emerson Tully
Editor-in-Chief

The Malden Catholic Campus Ministry endeavors to help students build connections with their peers while coming together spiritually towards the same goal. Campus Ministry has been a long standing objective at MC, however the Covid 19 placed restrictions on Campus Ministry that made it less accessible to many students. All the usual Campus Ministry initiatives, such as Liturgy, service and retreat programs, were still enacted and developed, but it was less collaborative within the student body. Finally being able to wholly put Covid behind, this year is the perfect opportunity to once again prioritize Campus Ministry. But what exactly is Campus Ministry?

Coordinated by Brother Puccio, with the help of Mr. Casey, Mr. Jorge, and Ms. Connolly, alongside the entire theology department, Campus Ministry is a place where anyone is welcome. Campus Ministry oversees the spiritual life of the school. It reinforces and puts into practice the teaching that goes on in a student's daily theology class and tries to bring some of that teaching into action through

the service opportunities that it supervises and encourages. According to Mr. Jorge: "Campus Ministry is very much the heart of the school. We are a Catholic school, and it is important that the Catholic Mission of the school is evident and the fact that we have a place where people can come and work on the mission of what it is to be Catholic is vital."

This year alone, the Campus Ministry has helped coordinate the weekly masses every Friday morning, as well as the Rosary every Wednesday morning in the Brother Puccio Chapel, the baby clothing drive, the 9th and 10th grade retreats, the Thanksgiving Food Drive, the Lancer Santa Toy Drive, the ALS walk, Pizza and Prayer and the Coat Drive.

Brother Puccio focuses on coordinating the efforts of the Campus Ministry team, which consists of: Ms. Connolly who focuses on service, Mr. Casey, who focuses on retreats, and Mr. Jorge, who focuses on Liturgy and prayer. Alongside this group, theology department chair Mr. Gregory is connected to Campus Ministry, as well as all of the theology teachers. To Mr. Gregory, Campus Ministry as a whole is an extension of everything done in the classroom regarding theology. In theology,

one can talk about the nature of God, who God is, and how God is experienced in our daily lives. Campus ministry allows students to put those thoughts into action by learning how we can experience God through worship, service, retreats, fellowship, and community with each other. "I see the work of theology and the work of Campus Ministry as two lungs that help animate one body at Malden Catholic. You've got the scholarship in the classroom, but you also have the application of our faith in everything that we do in Campus Ministry. I see them as vitally important to each other and inseparable," expressed Mr. Gregory when asked what Campus Ministry means to him.

Students enter the Campus Ministry center and are aware of the welcoming environment, allowing them to socialize, do their homework, play games, and get involved with the service programs at MC. According to Mr. Casey, "It is a place where people can gather just to hang out and feel comfortable." Campus Ministry is the opportunity to bring together what we teach in theology classes about coming to a greater understanding with our relationship with God and bringing that understanding to action in everyday life. "It reminds us that there are a lot of needs in the world

around us. It also brings our beliefs into action that we're intended to reach out to others, try to bring assistance to those in need and it also helps to nurture the interior life of students through opportunities of prayer," stated Brother Puccio when asked what Campus Ministry does at Malden Catholic. The Malden Catholic Campus Ministry is the heart of MC. It emphasizes on everything taught in the theology classes, and strives to exceed the expectations of the Xaverian Brother values of simplicity, humility, compassion, trust and zeal.



Students work on making Holiday cards in the Campus Ministry center during their free period.

Photo Courtesy of Malden Catholic

IN THIS ISSUE:

Winter sports

Review: *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*

MC Drama's
Production of *Godspell*

CRYSTAL 99

Student Newspaper

Malden Catholic High School
99 Crystal Street
Malden, Massachusetts 02148
(781) 322-3098

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
KATELYN CIRAME
EMERSON TULLY

MANAGING EDITOR
ORLANDO PUTNAM-BAGLEY

EDITORS
JARED DESIMONE
LILY McDONOUGH
ISAAC TOSCANO
JONATHAN TRAN

STAFF WRITERS
MICHEAL CASEY
JAYDEN CRAFTS
JULIANNA FERGUSON
SOPHY FRANCOIS
SARAH JOB
MATHEUS LIMA
KRISTEN MARCHANT
JACQUELINE SMILES
GIANNA SPADAFORA
HALEY TALBOT
VI VU

STAFF ARTISTS
RACHAEL BURKE
TERESA DIAZ
KATIE ERAZO
HELEN NGUYEN
KIMBERLY NGUYEN

FACULTY ADVISOR
MR. CHRISTOPHER CLEARY

THESE OPINIONS DO NOT REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF MALDEN CATHOLIC AS AN INSTITUTION

Reporting on current events and publishing student opinion, we at the *Crystal 99* hope to inform, challenge, and entertain our readers, and allow students an outlet to communicate with their peers.

If you would like to contribute to the paper, submit an article, or offer your suggestions, contact any editor or Mr. Cleary.

To place an advertisement in the *CRYSTAL 99*, contact:

Christopher Cleary clearyc@maldencatholic.org

The *Crystal 99* is published by School Publications Company.

New Sheriff in Town: Mr. Molea

By: **Sophy Francois**
Staff Writer

At the start of the 2022-2023 school year, Malden Catholic was eager to welcome Mr. Gary Molea to the Malden Catholic family. Mr. Molea, currently serving as the Dean of Students, is an esteemed and respected administrator and a



Photo courtesy of Malden Catholic

native of the North Shore area. His experiences include working at Everett High School, and for over three decades, displaying his intelligence and tireless work ethic at Lynn English High School. During his time at Lynn English, he served as a teacher, Head Football Coach and Athletic Director. For the past seven years, Mr. Molea's resume additionally includes being an Assistant Principal.

Change always contains the unknown. Obviously, working in a new school and building bonds with new students could have been hard, but Mr. Molea has displayed nothing but a comfortable rapport with students since day one. He has put a clear effort into building bonds with his students has quickly garnered the students' respect as a result.

When asked about of his favorite memories during the school year thusfar, he cited the Thanksgiving Mass, saying that "Seeing everyone in the gym together and praying made me elated." When asked his reasoning for taking on the Dean of Students job, his was short and straightforward: "To help young adults make the right decisions." His main wish is that the students here at Malden Catholic accept the rules and regulations that he has tried to bring here. "No excuses, no exceptions!"

MC Students Creating New Opportunities

By: **Kristen Marchant**
Staff Writer

Clubs are an essential part of a high school community. They unite students with similar interests and enrich the school community. Due to Covid, many clubs at Malden Catholic weren't able to continue meeting, and some weren't able to start at all. Fortunately, now that we have grown to live with Covid, clubs have fully resumed and begun to thrive at MC. Many new ones have been started during the 2022-2023 school year.

Multiple clubs have been started to celebrate unique cultures and heritages. One of the most prominent new clubs is the Latino Student Association, run by Mrs. Connelly and Mr. Jorge, along with students Isaac Toscano and Jayden Castano. Here, students can gather to shine a light on the Latino community at Malden Catholic and allow them to express themselves culturally. The club aims to create opportunities for Latino students and their families to display different aspects of Latino life through food and dance. They previously hosted an after-school dinner and aim to host another one soon. The Portuguese Club also started recently, and has already begun planning events like Carnival. The club, with the help of Mr. Jorge, celebrates Portuguese as well as Brazilian culture. They hosted an event called Folia de Reis, described by Vice-President Selene Ferreira as "a mini-Christmas celebrated in January" on January 12th. The club meets on Mondays. The Irish Heritage club helps students celebrate all things Irish. The club hosted a dress down day to raise money for a small community in Ireland called Cresslouth to recover from a gas explosion. The curators are juniors Thea Sanzone and Clodagh Duffy, with Mr. Baldwin advising. The club meets every other week.

A few clubs were created to spread positivity at MC and make it a better place. The Amore Club held a bake sale in November to raise money for Cradles to Crayons in Boston. When asked about why she created the club, creator Ava Visconti says, "I started Amore not only as a positive setting in my life but in others too. The goal was to create a space where everyone can contribute their talents into something special for our community. We wanted to influence the idea of leadership and peace through the beautiful chaos of life." Amore meets Mondays before school. C.A.P.E. stands for Covenant of All People of Every Kind. It aims to be an inclusive space for everyone, with seniors Xavaier de Santos, Alexa DoVale, and Shannon Bellofatto running the club, with Mrs. Mader advising. The club's colorful words of encouragement can be seen throughout hallways and doors. They meet in room 130 on Wednesdays at 2:30.

A few other new clubs have stood out, like the Get Real Club. Get Real is a club that was founded to discuss various issues regarding modern culture. Co-founders Jessica Berlus and Sachelle Sterlin describe the club as "A club focused on getting students together and learning how to talk about real life issues, and things going on within our community! We've already spoken about controversies like Kanye West, the Britney Griner trial, and underrepresented minorities in the media." They are hosting a scavenger hunt for members and meet every Monday at 2:30. If you or someone you know is interested in starting a new club, feel free to reach out to Mr. Gregory.

All Hands on DECA

By: Jonathan Tran
Editor

The start of a new academic year at Malden Catholic often gives rise to new extracurricular activities being offered in the school. One such activity is the DECA club, headed by math teacher Mr. Philip Baker. Using his entrepreneurial experiences from Babson College, along with his experience in sales and his private sector business, Mr. Baker has successfully created a club that can compete in the DECA competition calendar, both at the district, state, and international levels. A top six finish in the Massachusetts District meet by seven of the club members shows that this club is dedicated to its purpose.

DECA, or Distributive Education Clubs of America, is an association designed to help develop business and leadership skills in its participants through so-called “DECA competitions.” These competitions are designed to challenge and test participants’ abilities in problem solving within a typical business setting. These activities are related to DECA’s four goals, which are leadership development, civic consciousness, social intelligence, and vocational understanding.

In the first year of the DECA club, Mr. Baker wants to create a place where aspiring business majors can build their skills in this sector. Up until this year, there have not been many clubs at the school that are focused primarily on business. With the creation of the DECA club, Mr. Baker hopes to provide an opportunity for students who are interested in business to help improve upon skills that are deemed necessary in the business world. The club can also potentially inspire other students to pursue business as a major in college.

Senior Brendan Zinck ‘23 states that “In our first competition this year, we had 3 kids from MC place in one category where the top 5 are chosen. I think for our first competition, getting 3/5 in one category is quite impressive.” A club getting members into a top finishing position on their debut event is impressive in its own right, especially considering

that this club was a recent addition to the catalog of clubs offered at MC. “One member of our club, Charlie Lemieux has been a large part in our success. He placed at districts and will be one of the many people to represent us in states,” Brendan remarks. Lemieux, ‘24, has qualified third in business administration, and is aiming for a position in the national competition coming this spring.

The first district competition for the DECA club was on December 14, 2022. 40 students competed in five different events against students from other schools. During this competition, seven students from MC managed to qualify for the state competition by finishing in the top six for their respective events. Sarah Job ‘25 and Vi Vu ‘25 both placed first in business administration and finance, respectively. One second, fourth, and sixth place finish were claimed, along with two additional third place finishes. Devin Melly ‘25 and Kayla MacAuliffe ‘24 also qualified for states, earning spots as alternate competitors.

As with any other extracurricular club, a spot to compete on the nationals level is the ultimate goal for the DECA club. “The goal for the rest of the year is to have one of our state finalist(s) advance to nationals in Orlando, FL!” Mr. Baker remarks. The DECA International

Career Development Conference, or ICDC, is considered to be the ultimate competitive event on the calendar, and it serves as the final event during the school year. About 20,000 students participate in the ICDC every year in the spring, and Mr. Baker hopes that members of the club will be in that participating group. Like the mock trial club winning the state tournament in 2022, the DECA club is eager to add its name to the list of states finalists, and is hoping to carry that momentum to the nationals event.

After the season is over, the DECA club is looking forward to having a wave of new members joining the club come next fall. The addition of new members always brings new hope into a club that is aiming to replicate its success in the years to come.

Event	Student	Place
Business Administration	Sarah Job	1
Business Administration	Gabriella Mejia	2
Business Administration	Charles Lemieux	3
Business Administration	Erynne McNulty	4
Business Administration	Alex LaMarca	6
Finance	Vi Vu	1
Marketing	Delilah Putnam-Bagley	3

The above table shows the seven students who have finished in a top position in the district DECA tournament, and will be aiming for the states tournament in the future.

Senior Upset at the Powderpuff Game

By: Jayden Crafts
Staff Writer

The second annual Malden Catholic Powderpuff game resulted in a 22-16 win for the junior class in a high-intensity, competitive game that brought entire grades against each other to ensure flag football supremacy over their opponents. The game came down to the wire, with junior Luna Murray scoring the game winning touchdown for her team. When Luna was asked to describe the experience of securing victory, she said, “It was an amazing feeling to not only make the winning play, but also to turn around and see my team running at me in pure bliss, and celebrating with me.” Not only was Luna an offensive asset to the team, but she also caught a crucial interception that would give the juniors the ball back and led up to the game-deciding touchdown. This year’s Powderpuff game was the first time the junior class has been victorious and Murray is confident that her team is going to continue this streak for next

year.

For next year, Luna said, “I have very high expectations for the next game and we are definitely going to aim for back-to-back victories.” However, the seniors did not lose without a fight, as both Jillian Perry and Laura Daltoe led the team to stand a winning chance. Perry was extremely talented with the football and torched the juniors’ defense by scoring both touchdowns for the seniors. When Perry was asked what she wished the team could have done differently, she said, “I wish we could have run more plays that correlated to how the defense was lined up instead of hoping that random, non-related plays would be effective. I also feel like we could have communicated a bit better.” Senior Laura Daltoe played on both sides of the ball and was a game-changer for the seniors. Laura described her favorite part of the game was being able to witness her peers’ abilities on the field and being able to come together with not only her team, but her closest friends,

to draw up plays that would help them succeed.

When Daltoe was asked to compare this year’s game to last year’s, she said, “We were not very familiar with the other team, which was different from last year because we knew who to guard and look out for even before the game. The athleticism of a lot of the girls caught us off guard as we did not expect so much talent from the opposing team. Additionally, since last year was our first Powderpuff game, we treated it as a fun experience and tried to really enjoy the time we had on the field; however, this year was different because instead of focusing on the fun aspect, we were intent on winning.”

The Powderpuff game is something that many junior and senior girls look forward to and sets the stage for them to show off their skills. It is often an unforgettable experience that unifies entire grades against one another with the main goals being victory and bragging rights.

Founders' Week: A Spiritually Transforming Time!

By: Orlando Putnam-Bagley & Jared DeSimone

Editors

Every year, Malden Catholic and other Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools celebrate Founder's Week. This week has been a time to honor the legacy of education Theodore James Ryken left behind after his death on November 26th, 1871. Each day of Founder's Week is assigned one of the five core tenets of the Xaverian Brother's education: Simplicity, Humility, Compassion, Trust, and Zeal. At the end of this week, a Mass is held and the Ryken Award, along with other awards are given to various Malden Catholic faculty members.

The Ryken Award in particular is the most prestigious award given out. It was first given to Br. John Sullivan, CFX, in 1993, when all 13 of the Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools (XBSS) decided to start selecting a member of their community and present them the Award during Founder's Week every year. When Mr. Smith was asked what the award represents, he responded with, "In recognition of the devotedness of the adult members in Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools, the Theodore James Ryken Award has been established to recognize an adult member of the school community who by her or his commitment and dedication lives the mission of the Xaverian charism of education and strives: To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, To participate in the school's community of faith and to nurture members of the community, To be committed to academic excellence and to recognize the talents of individuals. To recognize



A picture of Mr. Casey, recipient of the Ryken Award

the importance of educating the whole person, and To fulfill the Gospel call to peace and justice. This award is given to a community member who lives the vision of Theodore James Ryken."

Every year, the Ryken is awarded to a Malden Catholic faculty member who embodies each of the five core tenets of the Xaverian Brothers education, and this year the award has been given to Mr. Casey for his dedication and hard work in the classroom, and for spreading the Xaverian values every chance he gets. This award is given out based on which teacher gets the most votes from their fellow teachers, and it is no surprise that the majority of teachers agree that Mr. Casey is the

right person to receive this award.

Before the recipient of the award is announced, Mr. Thornburg reads a detailed description of why this person should receive the award, and at the end of the biography reveal their identity, but most can usually guess before Mr. Thornburg is done. When asked to comment about receiving this award, Mr. Casey explained, "I did not expect to win the Ryken Award. I was very humbled and honored to receive it," and continued on to state "I don't think I can say I achieved this without the constant inspiration I receive from the people around me - my family, the other teachers, the staff. When I'm feeling a little 'burnt out', I am constantly inspired by the people at Malden Catholic, including the students, to be better and find joy in bringing God's Word to people. I hope that all of us can be inspired

every single day." And later when asking Mr. Smith why Mr. Casey won the award, he responded by saying, "Mr. Casey is a dedicated veteran member of our faculty who earned this award for his years of dedicated service in a variety of roles, his ability to live out the Mission of Malden Catholic, and the example he sets for his students and peers."

Previously, Mr. Moran had won the 2021-2022 school year Ryken Award before his retirement after his decades long career as a teacher and administrator. He has been missed from MC, but will forever be a part of it. Each year the Ryken Award is used to put the spotlight on a Malden Catholic faculty member who has truly worked hard to be an exemplary educator, worker, and human being.

Movember: Raising Money for Cancer and Mental Health Research

By: Lily McDonough

Editor

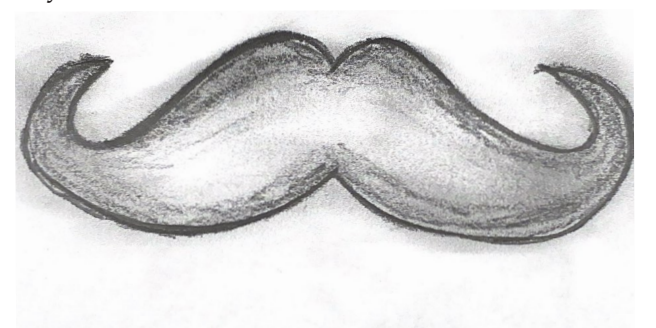
"Did you know that men around the world, on average, are dying five years earlier than women for largely preventable reasons?" the daily announcement reads. "This month, Malden Catholic is partnering with the Movember Movement to raise awareness of the crisis of men's health around the world." November was an exciting month for the Malden Catholic Boys Division. They could support a wonderful cause and were encouraged to breach dress code rules in the process! While MC generally enforces a clean shave, the point of Movember is to grow out a nice, long beard in support of men's health awareness. Movember has become the leading charity of men's health, providing a fun, engaging way to support the cause. This year, Malden Catholic raised three hundred and twenty dollars from a mixture of students, as well as one of the engine

groups from the Malden Fire Department. Organized by senior class president Josh Lopresti, this event was definitely a monumental one at Malden Catholic. "We are very happy with the donations that we received during November for men's prostate cancer, mental health, and testicular cancer awareness, and our fundraising brings us a step closer towards helping those who suffer from these silent killers in the male community around the world," stated Lopresti.

The idea of Movember, and more specifically the mustache, started out as a joke between two friends in Melbourne, Australia, who were discussing "recurring fashion trends". A staple in past decades, the mustache would soon be brought back - if participants contributed to the charity. Founders Travis Garone and Luke Slattery began the tradition of charging \$10 per stache, and so the organization was born.

Since 2003, the Movember movement has raised over \$800 million for a variety of causes con-

cerning men's health. A few of the most important causes include mental health and suicide prevention, prostate cancer, and testicular cancer. "Men's health is in crisis," Movember's about page reads. "A growing number of men - around 10.8M globally - are facing life with a prostate cancer diagnosis. Globally, testicular cancer is the most common cancer among young men. And across the world, one man dies by suicide every minute of every day."



Art by Emerson Tully

The Controversial Wisdom of Jordan Peterson

By: Matheus Lima
Staff Writer

Jordan Bernt Peterson is a Canadian clinical psychologist, author, ex-professor emeritus at University of Toronto, and media personality who has become quite popular in the last six years. Peterson was born in Alberta and got a bachelor's degree in political science and psychology at the University of Alberta and a PhD in clinical psychology at McGill University. He also did research and taught at Harvard University for some time and later returned to Canada in 1998, where he published his first book called *Maps Of Meaning: The Architecture of Belief*. He rose to fame when he criticized the act to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Criminal Code (known as Bill C-16) which it was passed through the Parliament of Canada to introduce "gender identity and expression". Peterson's claim is that putting such variables on the penal system is dangerous since anyone can say the wrong pronouns and be charged with hate speech, in his case if he is lecturing his class and for a mistake, he calls someone "she" instead of "they", the student can sue Peterson for hate speech and be sent to prison.

After gaining attention with his criticisms, he was fired from the University of Toronto in 2021 so now he gives lectures around the world. It also gave him time to write more books, create YouTube videos with diverse "controversial" themes, and make Podcasts on *The Daily Wire*. He made three amazing books recently which are *12 Rules for Life An Antidote To Chaos*, *12 Rules For Life Beyond Order*, and *ABC Childhood Tragedy Volume 1*.

On Peterson's latest podcast called "Dragons, Monsters, and Man," he goes deep about masculinity and he answers common questions that male teenagers have, such as the moral journey of human beings, how to treat dating relationships, and the differences between dating scenes and cultural norms. Interestingly, on the first episode, he describes the challenges of life or un-

healthy habits as "dragons" of your story that are guarding a certain "treasure" such as an objective or desire that you want. For example, you might need to go to an interview, but you are a shy person, which is the dragon that you need to fight to get the job. Another thing that he spoke about was about the "dragon" of lies, which is the habit that we have to lie to other people. He gives us an "adventure" saying, "Sometimes you know perfectly well that you are about to lie or just did and

On the last episode of Peterson's Podcast, he talks about the "Monster." Jordan Peterson has an interesting take on masculinity and how a man can achieve it. During the Podcast, he tells men that they should become a monster and then learn how to control it since a dangerous man is seen as more competent than a harmless man. He says that a man should be capable of putting up a fight with other men, but that does not mean that he should always incline to that course of action. A man should have the discipline to always try to resolve things civilly and if the problem is not resolved then they could take a physical response such as fighting or just "warnings".

The last thing that I want to talk about from his Podcast is Episode 3, which is focused on how to prepare yourself for a proper marital relationship. He mentions a fairly uncommon way of thinking: instead of encouraging people to ask the question "How do I find the right partner for me?" he encourages people to ask, "How do I become the right partner to someone else?" It is interesting to see how he changes the question to be more self-reflective, because it makes it easier to understand why you are not successful in your relationships and what you can do to become a person that the opposite sex might want or desire. Then he encourages men to improve themselves by saying "Be the Prince. You'll find the Princess" and I think it makes sense, because if you focus on making your future self able to provide, protect, and be reliable, you will have no trouble supporting a serious relationship.

Art by Rachel Burke



so you can just start by stopping the unnecessary lies, and then you get better to discriminate. So you get rid of the blatant lies." On the following quote, he says that the first step for the journey of truth is to stop lying and the start of this journey is to stop the unnecessary lies, because it makes it easier to distinguish the other lies that you will find out during your journey, such as the lies that you use to impress other people. There are lies that we tell ourselves to feel better and other lies that we might find while walking this path. However, he also warns people that it will not be an easy journey, since the truth may be harsh for other people to take and you might get some negative feedback along the way.

I think that every young man and young woman should listen to this podcast because Jordan Peterson goes deep into many questions that teenagers have about common occurrences that we encounter as we grow up. He teaches us a path to become better human beings. I also think that the fascinating thing about his discussions is that they are "controversial" since people are afraid to create a discussion about it and seeing him talk about it openly encourages us to ask ourselves if we can be better human beings and how we can achieve our personal growth.

ChatGPT Review: The Future is Now?

By: Orlando Putnam-Bagley
Editor

ChatGPT is a large language model AI released by the company OpenAI on November 30th, 2022. It's public, free to use, and has gained millions of users with unprecedented speed. Within the first week, the site reached one million users, a milestone that took major social media platforms like Twitter, Instagram, or Youtube months to accomplish. It has the ability to answer questions in a human-like way, writing anything you ask it to. It can write poems, essays, functional lines of programming script in any language, and fictional stories after being given a small prompt.

In my experience using ChatGPT, I would describe it as nothing short of amazing. Meanwhile, when I asked it to describe itself, ChatGPT responded "I am a large language model trained by OpenAI. This means that I have been trained on a massive amount of text data and can generate human-like responses to a wide range of questions and statements. I am not a person, but a program that uses artificial intelligence to process language and generate responses. I do not have access to the internet, so I am not able to browse for information or interact with the world outside of this conversation. My main function is to assist with answering questions and providing information to the best of my ability" (ChatGPT). This sample of text displays a glimpse of how well the AI can formulate concise, coherent responses to any prompt you give it.

There are many daily functional uses for ChatGPT besides having it write funny stories or have it describe the history of the United States in iambic pentameter (which it can do very well). Since Chat GPT makes use of a truly gargantuan amount of data, it can be used to answer questions of many, many topics very concisely and usually very accurately as well. Instead of googling a specific question about an unfamiliar topic and scrolling through pages of wikipedia and other websites to find a meaningful answer, more often than not, ChatGPT can write you the answer in seconds.

For example, when asked, "Why were the crusades fought?" within seconds ChatGPT replied, "The primary goal of the Crusaders was to regain control of the Holy Land, specifically Jerusalem, which was under Muslim rule. The

crusaders believed that retaking the Holy Land would help to defend the Christian Byzantine Empire and also restore the access to the Holy Places for the Christian Pilgrimage..." (ChatGPT). The information contained in this response is accurate and also very concise, despite ChatGPT only taking a few seconds to generate this text. What once might have taken five minutes of scrolling through wikipedia is now boiled down to five seconds worth of typing a prompt into ChatGPT, quite an improvement.

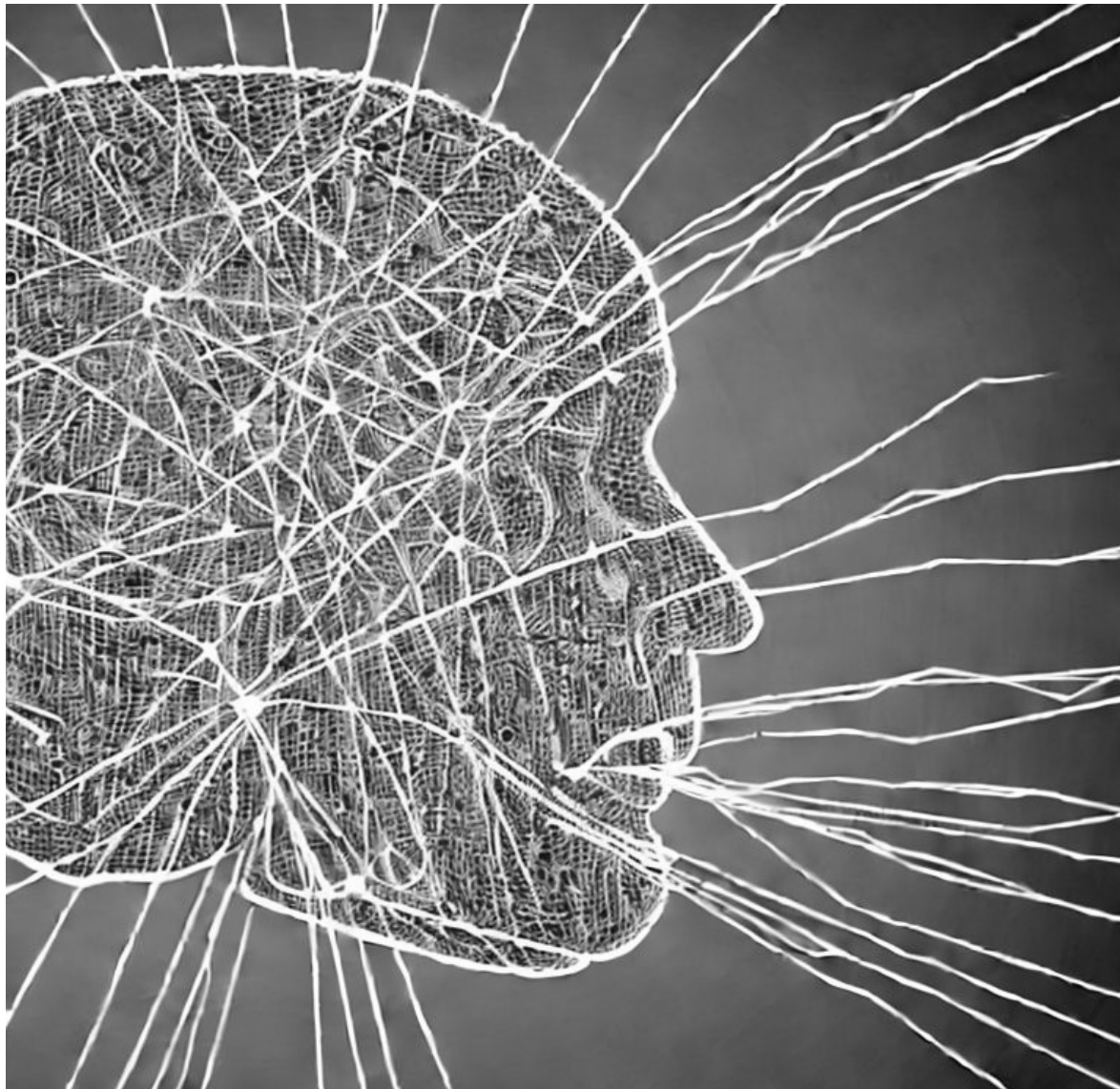
Due to ChatGPT being such a powerful tool, it poses a major dilemma for academia and social media. Currently, students who want to can use ChatGPT to write essays or answer various guided questions simply by typing a

false articles or type comments by hand. But now, one could simply ask an AI to elaborate on any prompt that is given to it. In the future, if certain people or organizations wanted to spread misinformation about elections, vaccines, or other topics of interest, they could utilize this technology to write convincing yet untruthful articles about certain topics and have it be produced on a much larger scale than ever before. The difference between generating misinformation using humans and generating misinformation using AI is the difference between traveling by walking and traveling at the speed of sound in a fighter jet. Yes, they both accomplish the same thing, but one is vastly more effective than the other.

As this technology advances it will become harder and harder to distinguish between human text and AI generated text. Already it is nearly impossible to distinguish the two and although an AI output detector can be used to verify the authenticity of a text, even then there are options to counter these checkers. These options include sentence rearranging algorithms and whatnot. As AI continues to advance, AI checkers may still be able to discern whether or not a text is human generated or not, yet that may not even matter in the near future. We have already seen how AI algorithms such as ChatGPT can produce incredibly convincing text with little effort that could fool the average person 10 times out of 10 into thinking it was human generated text and fact checkers may not be able to keep up with the sheer output of possible AI misinformation.

I have researched ChatGPT and other large AI models and I can say with confidence that they will change the world as we know it, for better or worse. These tools are incredibly powerful now and every week there are

new advances in artificial intelligence that never cease to amaze me. In the future, many jobs will be automated or heavily aided by artificial intelligence such as doctors, workers in the transportation industry, manufacturing jobs, accounting jobs, bank clerks, soldiers, and even Lawyers (Yes! Lawyers!). All of these jobs will either soon heavily utilize AI if they don't already or be completely usurped by AI technology. We must now decide how we will regulate artificial intelligence as the decisions we make regarding AI now will be unimaginably influential to the future human race because AI will allow people to not only automate menial jobs, but most of skilled human labor as well. So overall, I give ChatGPT a 6/10.



Artwork by: Orlando Putnam-Bagley using Stable Diffusion Artificial Intelligence

prompt into the algorithm (this behavior is not endorsed by Malden Catholic or Crystal 99, as it can be interpreted as plagiarism). English and History teachers across the country now have to discern whether or not a student's essay may be AI-generated or not, and it's not easy to tell the difference. So far, ChatGPT does not have the ability to cite real sources or use real quotes, but all body text is still fair game. On social media, artificial intelligences such as ChatGPT now raise the concern of false information being easier to generate than ever.

Usually, if you wanted to spread misinformation before AI became as powerful as it is now, you would have to either write and publish

Concrete Jungle: How American Urban Design Prioritizes Cars over Pedestrian Safety

By: Jacqueline Smiles
Staff Writer

Pedestrian deaths have increased by 59%, with 17% being fatal since 2009, according to The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. It is astounding that many city designs prioritize car transportation over pedestrians and cyclists in the United States. While there are measures to protect pedestrians and cyclists, these measures still value the passengers in the vehicles' time over their safety. That puts people in a difficult position where places with little to no sidewalks force them to share the road or walk on property. With this risk, many people decide to take a car, which in turn, adds to the traffic congestion. Demand for cars will only increase because many areas only allow low density, single-family housing in America due to zoning laws which prioritize them which in turn creates the suburbs. This also increases the amount of gas and energy consumption.

As a result of urban sprawl, an uncontrollable expansion of urban housing has plagued many cities' layouts. Common suburbia models followed the Euclidean zoning model which encouraged the separation of land uses as seen in the Basis of General Law in Chapter 20A. This divides towns and cities based on their uses. While this does separate residential from industrial lands, it also limits housing and increased affordability issues. Now there is hope that cities will take the steps to include smart growth in the Massachusetts General Laws, growth emphasizes mixing land. This can be seen in Chapter 40r, which "increases the availability of affordable housing by creating a range of housing opportunities in neighborhoods, takes advantage of compact design, fosters distinctive and attractive communities, preserves open space, farmland, natural beauty, and critical environmental areas, strengthens existing communities, provides a variety of transportation choices," Neighborhoods have already adapted to the Euclidean model, this gives the chance for new places to include smart growth into their layout.

A Smart Growth study in a survey main-

tained by the CDC has found that in over 200,000 individuals in 400+ counties, those that lived in an urban sprawling environment weigh more, and are less likely to walk or bike. Furthermore, these areas have higher air pollution which can heighten the risk of life-threatening conditions, such as cancer. In a national poll, 55% of Americans would prefer walking over driving. It's almost impossible to navigate safely through highly sprawled areas since they are spread out over further distances, that makes it harder to achieve. Teenagers should have reliable transportation before they can drive, to give them a level of independence before becoming an adult. Jane Jacobs mentioned that "eyes on the street" made urban neighborhoods safer where residents and shopkeepers do their activities and monitor the street will contribute to a vital urban life. A community with a lot of social capital will have less crime.

Roughly 20% of US energy greenhouse gas emissions are from heating, cooling, and power for households according to PNAS or the

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Urban sprawling highly encourages single-family homes, but detached houses are the most difficult for heating and cooling because all sides are constantly leaking energy. These detached homes are about half of the total gas emissions. The urban sprawl has also increased which has prolonged the asphalt roads, these roads are extremely expensive and limit public transportation. Parking lots also add more concrete which gives the ground less space to absorb water and rain which can cause flash floods. This puts safe urban environments in high demand. Modal filters, a road design that closes roads off to cars to encourage other forms of transportation, could reduce stress on pedestrians and cyclists, encourage exercise, give people "eyes on the streets", and give a community more social capital.



Artwork by Katie Erazo

New Teachers: Round II

By: Vi Vu
Staff Writer

Excitement and nervousness were palpable on the first day of school as the students walked down the hall and entered their classrooms. Expecting to be greeted by familiar faces, they were surprised when they saw new ones. This year, Malden Catholic welcomes approximately fourteen new teachers and faculty members.



Profe. Elizabeth Achorn: Spanish I & II)

“All I have wanted to do is travel. I have traveled to 30 countries. Watching students grow and learn to explore new ideas is what gives me joy and hope.”

Favorite Quote: “How (can I) change the world? One random act of kindness at a time” – Morgan Freeman



Ms. Adrienne Talamas: Spanish

: “I like to bike, swim, embroider, practice yoga, travel, and spend time with friends and family. I look forward to continuing to get to know the Malden Catholic community and culture and to seeing my students’ language skills grow.”

Favorite Quote: “My cup is empty.”



Mrs. Elizabeth Manstrangleo: English



Mr. Connor Baldwin: Theology

“I love playing and coaching rugby, so I am excited to work with Coach Baker on the rugby program for both boys and girls at MC. I look forward to making long-lasting relationships with my students and having a positive impact on them.”

Favorite Quote: “Trying to be number one and trying to do a task well are two different things.” – Alfie Kohn



Mr. Kyle Borick: Theology: Scripture, Morality, and Justice

About: Mr. Borick appreciates a good movie reference and looks forward to seeing the intellectual and spiritual growth of students in the classroom and during service.

Favorite Quote: “I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35)



Mr. Thomas Jacobsen: English

“I look forward to getting to know more about the school! I have heard a lot about Malden Catholic over the years and I can’t wait to get immersed in the school community.”

Favorite Quote: “Ability is what you’re capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it.”

Make sure to participate in Campus Ministry’s Easter Basket Drive Starting 3/20 to benefit families

Congratulations to the 82 new inductees to the Brother Gilbert Chapter of the National Honor Society!

Congratulations to Mrs. Abbas, the science department, and all of the student contestants on the successful STEM fair.

Winners:

1st Place - Amanda Cooper ‘25 and Grace MacDonald ‘25 for “Vibrational Energy and its Effect on Scallions”

2nd Place - Lena Nguyen ‘25 and Brooke Santosuosso ‘25 for “The Ultimate T-Shirt”

3rd Place - Benjamin Hurley ‘25 and Julia Gamitto ‘25 for “Tardigrades Save Lives”

Wednesday Review: An Addams Family Adventure

By: Julianna Ferguson
Staff Writer

You might find *Wednesday* to be a boring day of the week but I can assure you that the show never has a dull moment. In my opinion, *Wednesday* is an adventure to watch. It entails mystery, murder, and a lot of revenge, and it brings a present-day sense to one of my favorite movie characters. Previous Addams Family movies portrayed her as a complete outcast, but the show has a school full of similar people. She still chooses to be somewhat outcast, but now she has friends. The show gives us a different side to the Addams family. Usually we wouldn't see much of the family together, instead we mostly saw the kids or the parents on their own. Luckily in the show we get to see into Morticia and Gomez's teenage years.

Wednesday is driven to the town of Jericho to attend Nevermore Academy, due to the fact she's been expelled from eight schools in the last five years. Nevermore Academy is filled with a variety of students, from vampires to telekinetic kids. While there, Wednesday meets one of her ancestors. She also discovers more about Morticia and Gomez's teenage years. She also becomes somewhat of a detective, trying to uncover all the secrets in front of her. Just as Wednesday would get close to the truth, her lead would turn up nothing. She was hit with many obstacles, but somehow Wednesday managed to balance school, detective work, and figuring out a way to get out of Jericho. She did however make friends who helped her along the way.

But what is a television friendship without betrayal? Friendship swere growing on

Wednesday, leading to letting her guard down and letting clues slip. She almost got killed multiple times, once by a vengeful student, thinking he was in the right, and again a couple of times by her "normie" love interest who was just using her for information. Information was a rarity, a necessity, a vital thing to survive. Share this information in hopes of making things better, and the people who it concerns will silence you without hesitation.

I loved the amount of twists in the show. I especially wasn't expecting anything big to happen with the therapist. I also like the use of romance and family to create what the characters and audience believe is a safe space and then takes it away. For example, they made it seem like Rowan was a great kid and good student, but he was actually going insane with his idea of the truth. Not to mention all the emotion they gave Wednesday and how well Jenna Ortega portrayed her. In my opinion, I think that the writers should have expanded more on the diversity of the students though. We can see students that seem to have no face, vampires are mentioned, and we learn shapeshifters exist such as Principles Weems. There's just so much more potential to talk about with the students and their "powers".

I feel that they also could have done more with Nevermore's past when Morticia and Gomez were there. Speaking of the past, I would have loved to know more about Wednesday's ancestor, Goody Addams, along with more of the history of Jericho. I can't forget to mention some of the many different theories on who is stalking Wednesday. My favorite theory is that there is another shape-

shifter who pretends to be Yoko, another student, who is seen taking photos of Wednesday during the show. The theory that the shapeshifter turned into Lurch, Wednesday's driver, is another interesting one. It would explain why, as he's driving away at the end of the last episode, he has two normal eyes when usually one eye is glossed over a foggy gray.

I also loved how the show was from Wednesday's perspective, so we got to figure everything out with her. I mostly loved the mystery behind the show and how I thought I knew who the true antagonist was, but then a curveball would be thrown and the signs pointed to someone else. I had my suspicions at the beginning and they were somewhat correct, but I enjoyed guessing. Anyways, if outcasts, mystery, and the paranormal are your thing, then why not have a look into *Wednesday*.



Art by Julianna Ferguson

Lord of the Flies Review: A Critical Look at a Classic

By: Vi Vu
Staff Writer

For decades, *Lord of the Flies* has been a constant in the American English literature curriculum, but just like any icon, it quickly sours in taste with the test of time. In a way, *Lord of the Flies* is to literature like Marie Antoinette is to the French Revolution: its values are not in its own mediocrity but rather what it represents - the nature of humanity. Marie Antoinette didn't really deserve the hate. I couldn't say the same about *Lord of the Flies*.



Art by Kimberly Nguyen

Perhaps William Golding was meant to write a masterpiece that transcends time, something that *Lord of the Flies* unfortunately isn't.

While it is arguable that the book retains certain merits when it comes to its philosophical approach to human nature, that is sadly the only value of the book. It was disappointing, but not surprising to see how the novel completely embodied every aspect of the word 'overrated'. Somehow, Golding has turned what was supposed to be an interesting story into a chore to read; the writing dull and cliched, its pacing incredibly slow, and its characters very forgettable. His lack of writing capability completely ruined the story, which was a shame since the book did have some potential with its dark and complex symbolism.

In addition, do we really need another dead white man telling us depressing theories about our nature? While his attempt to use the overly grotesque and disgusting acts committed by the teenage boys on the island laudably reflect the societal zeitgeist of his time, he might have been a little too late to the trend when he turned everything that was already said by Aristotle and Thomas Hobbes into a book. Furthermore, he completely failed the most important role of his book: representing real societal issues. In 1977, a group of six boys was caught by a storm dur-

ing their fishing trip to Tonga, they landed on an secluded island. What happened next? Perhaps they went insane and start mauling each other? Or would one boy suddenly rise as a cruel dictator and demand the killings of his teammates? No, not really. The boys instead formed a pact with each other to remain a team and never fight. They were rescued three-weeks later, intact, with nobody mauled or killed. Thus the main flaw with *Lord of the Flies* is its lack of plausibility. Or, in simple words, Golding was wrong. The book, made out to be a shocking revelation and analogy of the human mind, turned out to be more of the author's projection of his own warped mind. This is not really surprising as the author once stated "I have always understood the Nazis because I am of that sort by nature." While it is not entirely truthful to deny the partial 'evil' that is evident in every human's mind, these instances of cruelty largely stems from extreme cases of outliers or ignorance and untreated mental conditions.

Personally, *Lord of the Flies* to me felt like a half-baked 10th grader's English project, and attempt to create a masterpiece in three weeks but then abandoned halfway as too much of a hassle. And the worst part? It probably wouldn't made much of a difference if an actual 10th grader wrote it instead.

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever Review

By: Michael Casey
Staff Writer

Recently I watched *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*. I saw it twice, first in IMAX at Showcase Cinemas in Lowell, then at Chunky's in Pelham, New Hampshire. *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* is the second-longest movie in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, clocking in at about two hours and 41 minutes. Right off the bat, it was not as good as the 2018 *Black Panther* movie, but the first was a masterpiece and the first ever superhero movie to be nominated for best picture (although 2008's *The Dark Knight* should have been).

The movie had the difficult job of living up to the original and of properly honoring Chadwick Boseman and his character T'Challa. Chadwick Boseman of course tragically died on August 28th, 2020, Chadwick was an incredible actor and brilliantly led the first movie. His death resonates throughout this entire movie, in both the plot the film's quality. I will not give away any major details of the plot in this article as it is a spoiler-free review, but the movie is very much focused on the passing of T'Challa and the resulting grief that the characters feel. It does use that grief in an effective way to highlight the characters emotional journeys and really give the actors some time to shine and show their skill. The movie portrays T'Challa's death in a way that channeled the real-life death of Chadwick Boseman, and that worked really well, as everyone is still grieving that loss.

The echoes of Boseman's death in the plot and themes of the movie allowed for sharp writing and acting, but overall, the movie was not as good as the first one, and that is mostly because

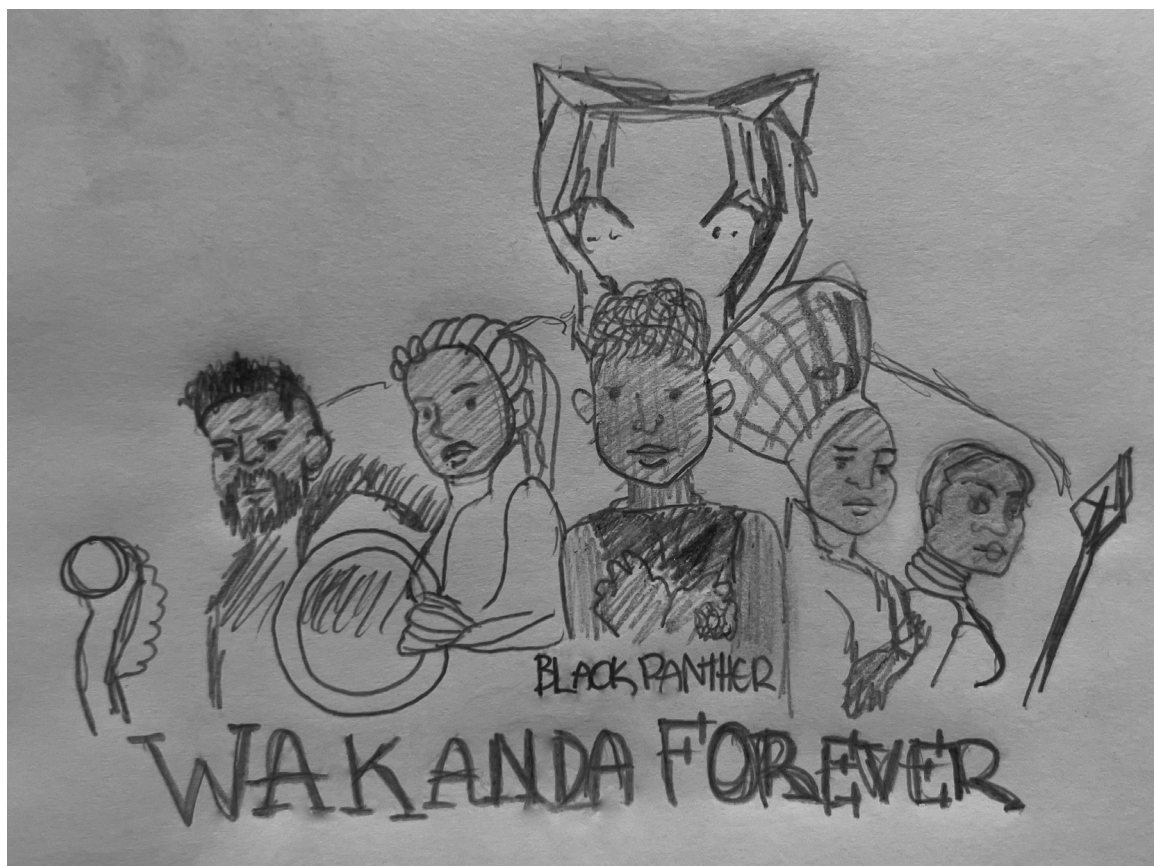
Boseman is not the one leading it. Chadwick was perfectly cast in the role of Black Panther and he just exuded the wisdom and charisma that the role called for, and while Letitia Wright still does an amazing job in her role as Shuri, who is becoming the new Black Panther, she cannot match the endless rewatchability that Boseman had whenever he was on screen.

In other aspects of the movie, it still held up as great. As I previously stated, the perfor-

tory to make both countries feel like real parts of the world.

Speaking of Talokan, the movie makes great use of it. Talokan is the home nation of Namor in the movie, though in the comics Namor's homeland is Atlantis. The change was likely made for two reasons: so that there would be no comparisons or competition with DC's *Aquaman* movie from 2018 or it's upcoming sequel, and because making it Talokan better fit with the Mesoamerican cultural feel that the movie was attempting. In the Marvel Cinematic Universe, Talokan is the only place in the world that we know of other than Wakanda that has Vibranium. By featuring a war between Wakanda and Talokan, they are able to go in a new direction for the MCU by featuring a war between two technologically advanced nations. Namor is an amazing antagonist for the movie, as he is the God-king of Talokan and leads their fight against Wakanda. For those who do not know, Namor was the first ever mutant in Marvel Comics, appearing a year and a half before even Captain America, who was Marvel's first avenger. Namor is more of an anti-hero than a villain in the movie, which holds true to his comic self. He is not a completely bad guy, but he is very much willing to kill as many others as needed to protect Talokan.

They explain why he is willing to kill so many, also his name, when showing his origin as a child hundreds of years ago. Namor had large shoes to fill stepping into the antagonist role of Black Panther: Wakanda Forever, considering Michael B. Jordan's amazing portrayal of Killmonger in the original, and while I would not say he is as good a foil as Killmonger was, Tenoch Huerta does an excellent job and certainly has made his mark on the MCU, especially considering this was his first ever movie role. Overall I would say the movie is very good, but not groundbreaking like the original. I would give it 3.5 out of 5 stars.



Art by: Teresa Diaz

mances in the film were amazing, particularly Angela Bassett in her role as Queen Ramonda. Her amazing dramatic performance got her a Golden Globe win and Oscar nomination for best supporting actress. The score for the movie was also amazing, and so was the set design, and these two elements combined to give a really atmospheric feel to the movie. In Wakanda and Talokan; the music, art, and architecture all flow together to paint a beautiful picture of the two warring nations. The movie was very respectful to the cultural heritages of both countries, and while they are fictional, the movie used real his-

Keep Strumming...

By: Lily McDonough
Editor

Performing arts are a staple at MC. From dance to choir, there are a number of opportunities to perform. The newest clubs is Guitar Club, a "spin-off" of the MC Rock Project. "For several years, I ran the MC Rock Project, an original rock band of MC students. Originally, I had planned to resurrect that club with Mr. Burke, but students were more interested in learning instruments," says club moderator Mr. Kissel.



Godspell: A Divinely Moving Production

By: Jared DeSimone
Editor

Godspell was the first musical held at MC in years, and it certainly did not disappoint. All three days of the performance, the entire auditorium was sold out. In fact, the show sold out a week prior. This was obviously frustrating for anyone who didn't get the tickets early enough, but luckily for them, the performance was also uploaded to MC's Youtube to be viewed later.

The play was well worth the two-and-a-half hour watch. It had the perfect amount of comedy and music to keep the audience entertained the entire time. Many would agree that one of the best songs in Godspell was "Day By Day" but there were many great songs in the production. Emelle Jacob, a senior performer, said that her favorites were "On The Willows" and "All For The Best". Sophomore Delhery Diaz Hernandez said that her favorite songs were "Day by Day" and "Light of the World." Diaz Hernandez said, "I gave it all on the stage, I really loved my solo 'Day By Day' and it was really fun to work on, and doing it in front of a big audience was a very exciting experience." Both students were also asked which of the three days was the best performance, Emelle said Sunday was the best, while Delhery said Friday. Jacobs elaborated, "I think that my first night was okay, second night was mediocre, and the last night I was at my peak". I only saw Friday's performance, but I thought the performance was very well done, so I cannot imagine it being topped.



The cast of Godspell during a performance

Photo by Julianna Ferguson

There were many great performances in Godspell, like senior Bernardo Sanchez. He had a great presence for the whole musical and always impressed whenever he had a singing part. Also, the behind-the-scenes effort of the theater crew and the musicians playing during the musical helped make the performance great from all sides. It cannot be understated how much practice and effort the cast put into preparing for the performances to make the musical a night to remember. Jacobs said, "My favorite part was seeing it all come together in the end. The two or three hour

long rehearsals, the endless singing and dancing, were all worth it."

Dr. Tamagini, the director of Godspell and MC's drama program, elaborated on why this play in particular was so meaningful: "This story of the Gospel of Matthew, with all of its uplifting parables, relatable characters, and upbeat music makes me feel alive like no other musical. It was a rewarding challenge to take what was expected of Godspell, and then to put our own unique stamp on it here at Malden Catholic. Each time I direct the show, I am reminded of the value of being a part of a community and working together to 'sing about love' to all I meet." She was also full of praise for her cause and crew, saying "I was blessed with such a funny, caring, and dedicated group of students. Rehearsals were often long, but the students always worked with smiles on their faces. The community we have formed in the Malden Catholic Theater Department...are all forever changed and bonded by our work together and will never forget what we created as individuals and a team of performing artists."

All in all, Godspell was an amazing performance and showcased the effort that all the students put into it. It was a great production considering it was all the students' first musical, and it set expectations that will no doubt be met if there is a Spring performance. Tellingly, when Jacob and Diaz Hernandez were asked if they'd participate in a spring production, they both said yes emphatically. It is clear that great things can be expected from MC's flourishing drama program.

The Christmas Concert: A Merry Musical

By: Sarah Job
Staff Writer

On December 15, 2022, Malden Catholic hosted its annual Christmas concert in its very own Performing Arts Center. At exactly 7 pm, night began with the acapella group Trilogy gathering on stage. The girls were wearing all black with red roses on their shirts and the gentleman wore black pants, a white button-up, and a tie. Led by the beloved Dr. Tamagini, Trilogy blessed the audience with Christmas songs such as "Carol of the Bells" and "O Holy Night."

After this beautiful performance, the choir was brought on stage to continue the show. But even during this transition, the audience remained entertained thanks to the comedic stylings of one Dr. Tamagini. As she fire off jokes about taking the choir on the road and hilariously cautioned the audience from booing, I was on the edge of my seat waiting for the choir to begin. And as expected the choir did not disappoint. With the help of Scott Ness, on the piano the choir beautifully sang the song "Prepare the Way." The second song sung was "With Open Hearts" by the soloist Olivia LaBella. We were then serenaded with a solo performance by Emelle Jacob on "Let it Be,"

Ashley Reardon and Tuan Bui on "From the Heart of God," and Emily Parker and Andrew Webb on "Joy on the Mountain." All sang beautifully and in the singer's own unique range and style.

We were then met with a change of pace as Lena Aguila charmed the audience with her amazing saxophone solo, one of the things I enjoyed most. After this, the audience was treated to the songs "Sing Gloria" and "Unto Us" with solos done by Ava Visconti, Matthew Zubricki, Bernado Sanchez, and Xavier DeJesus.

We were then pleased to be introduced to the Malden Catholic Dance Department. After a brief intermission, we returned to our seats to see a large group of girls enter the stage with cheer and choreography. If you weren't in the Christmas spirit before, you sure were now. A large group dance done to "Santa Tell Me" got me ready to see the rest of the performances for the night. A trio performed to "Believe" by Emma LaFontaine, Ashley Reardon, and Elena Rotondo was one to remember. Dressed in long blue skirts, black leotards, and black socks, the trio was mesmerizing and painstakingly synchronized. We were then graced with a solo by Rachel Burke to "Run Run Rudolph." A complete 180 from the previous lyrical routine, Rachel came onto the stage and gave

the audience a tap number, an irrefutably challenging style, genre but Rachel made it look easy. But she was not the last solo of the night. Sara Leonard gave a great performance to the Pentatonix rendition of the classic "Hallelujah." A very somber and hypnotizing track accompanied by Sara's eloquent execution of the choreography paired well.

After this, we were again hit with a 180 from the previous performance with Lorianna Luongo giving an upbeat and engaging performance to Sia's "Santa's Coming for Us." Then it was back to the somber and hypnotizing with Selene Ferreira doing the "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy," a performance we've all seen a thousand times, yet Selene still managed to make it her own in beautiful and well-executed performance.

Our last soloist of the night was Olivia Goff, and I have to say her performance was my favorite. Dancing to "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," Oliva showed true power over her craft. With great extensions and height on her jumps, I truly enjoyed her performance. In the end, we were greeted with one more group dance before the night was over.

Overall I was extremely pleased with what I both saw and heard and would definitely attend this show again. I highly recommend it.

Skating Away the Season

By: Emerson Tully
Editor-in-Chief

Coming off an 11-9 season in 2021-22, Coach Kuchar and the Malden Catholic Lancers knew it would be a hard fought 2022-23 season, with one of the toughest schedules in Massachusetts Division I boys ice hockey. The Lancers opened up their season on December 10th at the Malden Valley Forum against Central Catholic in their opening matchup. Though the end result was a 2-2 tie, this motivated the team to work harder, and that is exactly what they did. They were able to confidently bring home a well deserved 3-1 win on December 17th against Newburyport, which marked their first away game, as well as the first win of the season. A prominent player in this game was senior captain Daniel Zizza, who notched a goal for the Lancers and led the charge on offense. Alongside Zizza, senior captain and two-year starting goaltender Brendan Zinck had a phenomenal game, saving 25 shots. "Zinck has been a two year varsity starter and has been an intricate part of the team's success," expressed coach Kuchar when asked to remark on top individual performances this season. Zinck also expressed his hard work and dedication to the team: "Coming off of a good year last year, I wanted to give the team the chance to win every game," and that is exactly what Zinck did with his impressive .917 save percentage.

On December 27th, the Lancers played against Franklin at the Malden Valley Forum II. This was the boys' first game of the tenth annual Christie Serino Christmas Classic Tournament, a longstanding tradition at Malden Catholic. Named after former Malden Catholic hockey coach Christie Serino Jr., the tournament was started in 2012 by former assistant coach and athletic director Patrick Driscoll as a way to honor Serino after his passing in October of 2012. Every year, Malden Catholic hosts this tournament to honor the late Serino and pay tribute to him by playing the game he loved with him in mind. Although the game ended in a 7-2 loss against the Panthers, the atmosphere of the game was like no other. With the Lancers down 5-0 going into the third period, Coach Kuchar knew he needed to make a change. Senior goalie Preston Tully took the net and put up a good fight for the last period. "As a senior, I want to set the example of being a good leader to the younger players," said netminder Preston Tully. "I want to teach them to always work hard and never give up to get the end results they strive for...I want to make sure the team always stays positive and has fun, while working hard whether win or loss." The following day, the Lancers finished up the tournament with a solid game, ending in a 1-1 tie against Weymouth.

Bouncing back from a tough couple of games, Malden Catholic swept Saint John's Shrewsbury with a 2-0 win in the first game of the Catholic Conference. This marked Zinck's first

shutout of the season. Conner Seeley also had an impressive game, scoring his first goal of the season alongside a Zizza assist. Zizza has been a prominent member of the varsity hockey team and has had a positive impact on the team.

clearly achieved this goal, Lancers earned a berth in the MIAA playoffs.

At the end of the season, the team will be sending off seniors Conner Seeley, Preston Tully, Brendan Zinck, Daniel Zizza, Will Fosdick,



(Above) Senior captain Will Fosdick awaits a face-off. (Below) The Lancers get into defensive position.

"As a captain and leader of the team, I want to set a standard and show these younger and newer guys what it takes to play in the Catholic conference, the toughest division in the state." Zizza

Michael Bourgeois, Tyler Fukuda, and Trevor Strauss. It will be tough without these eight hard-working players, but the team is looking forward to working harder and seeing what they can make out of next season.

Photo Courtesy of Malden Catholic

Track Sprinting to the Finish Line

By: Isaac Toscano
Editor

Both the boys and girls track teams have had very exciting seasons so far. The boys track team has fought hard this season against teams such as Brockton, St. John's Shrewsbury, Catholic Memorial, St. John's Prep, and BC High. The team has seen strong leadership from senior captain Patrick Radochia. When asked who some of the stand-out players are, Patrick said "Jullian Curran, Lucas Donahue, and Adrian Babu are some of the key runners and throwers. Lucas qualified for states for the third year in a row and has taken a real leadership position within the throwers. Jullian Curran and Adrian Babu are extremely talented runners who have put lots of time and dedication into the team." As neither Curran nor Babu are seniors, the future of this team is very bright. Leadership from the seniors has shown the underclassmen how to perform, and their talent will ensure great improvement from the team in years to come. .

One of the biggest challenges the team has faced this season is keeping up with competition, consistency with practices, and improvement. Captain Patrick Radocia stated, "We need to be more consistent with our practices if we want to improve. Right now were struggling ot keep up with the rest of the Catholic Conference, but once we crack down on making sure the we improve from meet to meet, we are bound to compete." When senior Aiden Balandan was asked what could be improved on the team, he said "We need to emphasive improvement. Currently, the team tends to joke around a good amount and not take practices as seriously as we should. However, I see

that the team is heading towards taking practices seriously and prioritizing improvement." Aiden Balandan has set the tone on improvement as he shaved off about 2 seconds from his 300 meter time from Catholic Conference meet 1 and 2.

Meanwhile, the girls track team has also competed against teams such as Fontbonne, Ursuline, Mt. Alvernia, and Notre Dame Academy. The Girl's indoor track team took the win over Fontbonne 59-31 in their first meet of the season. This meet showed much improvement as there were an impressive 30 PR's. Sophomore Sofia Dowd won a medal at Reggie Lewis Track for the MSTCA Freshman/Sophomore meet with her 55 meter time of 7.94, placing her 6th overall. The team also competed in the MIAA Divisional Meet at Reggie Lewis Center in Boston and the Catholic Confrence All-Star meet, in which Junior Grace Ryan and Freshman Mia Waldron represented Malden Catholic.

Both teams have showed great improvement this year and are sure to continue to improve in the years to come. The seniors on both teams have shown great leadership this season, and this is sure to show in next year's seniors. With the immense amount of underclassmen talent, both teams pose a threat to their competition.

Photos courtesy of Malden Catholic

Malden Catholic's indoor track athletes leap into action. (Above) Junior Ian McCarthy sails over a hurdle during a race. (Below) Senior Eyrann Anim leaps for distance in the long jump competition.



Flying Through an Amazing Swim Season

By: Haley Talbot
Staff Writer

The boys swim team got off to a very good start, opeing the season with a record 3-2. Both the coaches and the captains have been doing a great job with leading their swimmers. "Webby has led the team very strongly; We have a great senior and junior class that are great role models to the younger kids," said Coach Gaff.

Even after a tough loss to St. John's Prep during senior night, the boys continued to have a positive mindset and worked to train harder. "I have learned that teamwork only works if everyone on a team works together, and as long as you are giving 100% of your effort the team will strive," said swimmer Ronan Sanzone '26. With the boys' hardwork and dedication to the team, the athletes managed to pull offa victory at their first away meet against O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science with a score of 89-72 and came home to celebrate a big win. After the meet, Jared DeSimone '23 said "The meet was fun, and I could tell we all brought the energy you need to win a meet. These kinds of days are what I'll miss when I graduate." The team also set a number of personal records (PRs) in their first away meet this season.

The athletes have set numerous goals for the winter season, "This season the team's goal is to go 6-3, have a couple of athletes qualify for states and sectionals, and place 4th in the Catholic Conference meet," according to senior Robert Hackley '23. When Coach Gaff was asked what some of his goals were for this season, he said he hopes his swimmers, "Continue to build on a tradition in swimming, being competitive, keeping it fun, and continuing the growth of the younger kids."

As the seniors are wrapping up with their final swim season at Malden

Catholic, they leave behind some useful advice for their teammates. "The best piece of advice I've gained from my coaches is not to assume that somebody can beat you based on having a higher seed time. This advice has helped me push myself to new personal bests when I didn't think I could win a race," said by Robert Hackley '23.

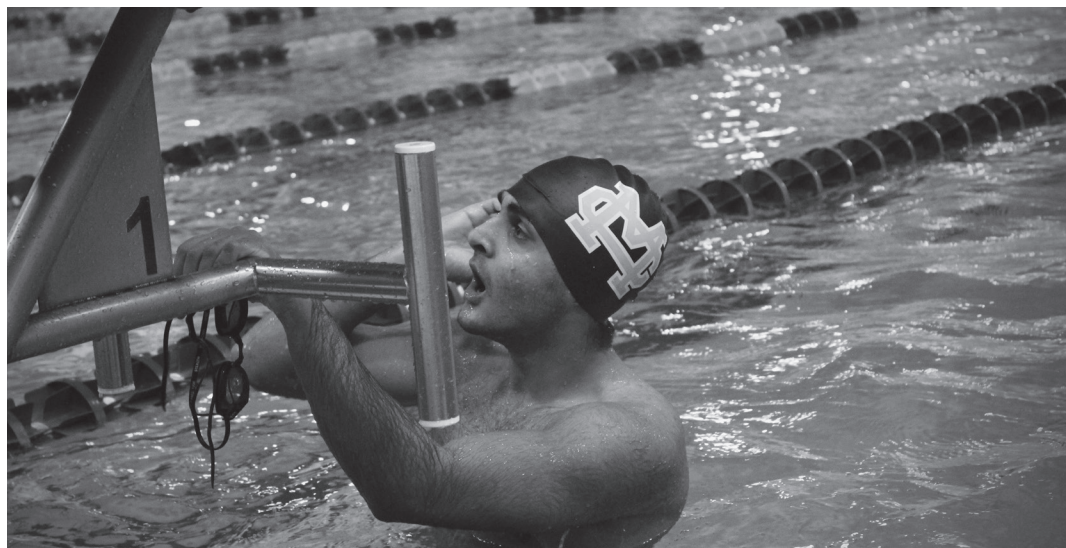


Photo by Haley Talbot

Junior Mo Al-Azzawi competes in the pool for the swim team.

MC Basketball Continues Greatness

By: Jayden Crafts
Staff Writer

Coming off of an impressive season last year with a record of 23-2, the Malden Catholic boys varsity basketball team knew they'd have to work hard to maintain their title as Division II State Champions. The team was undefeated through their first 13 games and remained number one in their division heading into the playoffs.

While the team has lost some key pieces since last season, their remaining players have stepped up to take on more prominent roles to lead the team to success. One standout player this season is senior captain Nick Martinez. On January 3rd, the Lancers took on St. John's Prep for the home opener of the regular season. With ease, the boys obtained a 96-49 win. Martinez scored an impressive 32 points this game. Sophomore co-captain Matt Gaffney predicted that Martinez is "going to have a breakout season." The win against



Photo Courtesy of Malden Catholic

Sophomore Matt Gaffney dribbles past as defender as senior Nick Martinez and sophomore Ben Howard look on.

SJP brought much confidence to the boys, and when asked after the game how he expected the rest of the season to play out, Martinez confidently said, "We are easily going to finish undefeated and be back-to-back state champions. We have one of the best coaching staffs in the state and an incredibly talented team."

cited for is the rematch against Boston College High School at home on the 24th, where he hopes to replicate such a stellar stat line. The Lancers' last game of the season was a home win against Charleston on February 14th, and now they begin exciting playoff run.

Alongside Martinez, sophomore Ben Howard, a dual varsity athlete, has been a key defensive player for the Lancers, helping to hold Cathedral High School to just 43 points in their away win against them on January 20th. Another talented player on this team is sophomore Matt Gaffney. In only his second year on the team, Gaffney has managed to earn the starting point guard position and has established himself as a lights-out shooter and elite scorer on the team. On January 6th, during the away game against Boston College High School, Gaffney had five three-pointers against the Eagles, finishing with 18 points and nine assists in a 20-point victory. Gaffney mentioned that the game he was most excited for is the rematch against Boston College High School at home on the 24th, where he hopes to replicate such a stellar stat line. The Lancers' last game of the season was a home win against Charleston on February 14th, and now they begin exciting playoff run.

Give Me an M! Give Me a C!

By: Sophy Francois
Staff Writer

Winter has arrived, and a new sports season at Malden Catholic has begun. The Winter Cheerleading season, which is coached by Alisa and Katie Richardson, started a little before Christmas break. With cheerleading still being a fairly new sport at Malden Catholic, the fall cheerleaders have proved they can handle the pressure, doing excellently in their competition. The winter will undoubtedly exceed expectations as well. Even though no captains have been announced, the seniors of the team which include Emelle Jacobs, Janessa Sikora, and Kaylee Fiore, have had a strong track record as the primary leaders of the varsity team. In every basketball game, the seniors on the team take charge and lead the group in powerful chants that can be heard all over the basketball court.

The girls on the team are all extremely close, and with the bonds they have created, it really makes their performance that much better. Their genuine energy and happiness at the games makes the games even more enjoyable than they are regularly.

The hype continued when the cheerleaders cheered at important games. At the home basketball game against St. John's Prep, as they cheered on the Lancers, who finished with an impressive win of 96-49 that left the crowd going insane. When asking some of the seniors what keeps them going during these events, they state that the energy and the vibe of the crowd always boosts their energies

during these nerve-racking games and helps with their performance. With that being said, that also ties into some of the favorite memories that these cheerleaders have had. Senior Kaylee Fiore mentions that two things she is going to miss once she graduates are: "...laughing and cheering at the games with my teammates....It's already been an extremely good season with a group of amazing people."

As the cheer season continues, the Lady Lancers have shown talent and will certainly make progress on their performances at every game through their hardworking nature. Junior Emerson Tully says, "The environment of this team is like no other. We are all really close and genuinely want to be there and I think that clearly shows. We bring great energy to every game and I can't wait to make more memories with this phenomenal group of girls." The crowd cannot wait to see them shine and do even better than last year's outstanding season.



Photo Courtesy of Malden Catholic

Senior Captains Kaylee Fiore, Janessa Sikora, and Emelle Jacobs pose during a basketball game.

Breaking the Ice: Documenting the Success of the Girls Hockey Team

By: **Gianna Spadafora**
Staff Writer

The Malden Catholic girl's hockey team has had an outstanding season. They've brought home wins against Burlington, Haverhill/Pentucket/North Andover (HPNA), Belmont, Boston Latin, and Arlington Catholic. After 8 games, they held a sterling 5-3-0 record.

The team has had many milestones together this year along with improvement from last season. "I think the team has improved from last year," says senior Maya Plant, "This year everyone seems to have better attitudes towards each other." The program has gained new players this year and continues to grow. On January 4th, freshman Nevin Mustone scored her first varsity goal against HPNA. The Lancers brought home a 3-1 win this game. On January 6, sophomore Ava Baker scored two goals, including the OT winner in their 5-4 win against Belmont. On January 11, the team had another outstanding game against Arlington Catholic. They brought home a 6-1 win with goals from Bella Gillis, Alyssa Jankowski, Aviana Panacopoulos, and Ava Baker. Captain Danielle Dejon led the night with great saves in net.

As one of the newest teams at Malden Catholic, the girl's hockey program is constantly finding new ways to stay connected and better themselves.



Photo Courtesy of Malden Catholic

Sophomore Ava Baker shows off her puck-handling skills.

connected by having team bonding events like team breakfast after morning practices and pasta parties the day before a game," says Plant. During their Christmas Eve practice, the girls even brought Christmas spirit onto the ice. "We split up into two teams, one team dressed as minions and the other was the grinch." By strengthening their relationships the girls have been able to communicate better with each other and play well as a team.

Along with new players, the team has gained a new coach this year. The hockey team is lead by head coach Alexa Hingston, along with assistant coaches Jess Piracini and Miceala Sindoris. "I have learned to be patient this season because we have a new coach," explains Maya Plant. "She also must learn about how the team works so she can work to improve the team."

As one of the newest teams at Malden Catholic, the girls hockey program has developed, grown, and learned immensely and are looking forward to continuing their progress into the end of the season!

In order to collaborate and play as a team on the ice, members have found ways to keep in touch off the ice as well. "We work to stay

MC on the Mat: Boys Wrestling

By: **Orlando Putnam-Bagley**
Editor

Malden Catholic's wrestling team has reason to celebrate. With the 2022-2023 season marking 30 years of the wrestling team being a varsity sport at MC, the team is working hard to build momentum. Notably this season, Senior Andrew Maher won the Wakefield wrestling tournament in the 106 pound weight class, pinning his opponents in all four matches he competed in and pulled out the victory each time. When asked to comment on his recent win and how he will proceed in the future, Andrew stated "I'm just hoping I can keep that energy going for the rest of the season".

The wrestling team as a whole has not won an entire competition this season, but Coach Stanton remains hopeful. When asked to comment about the state of the team, Coach Stanton explained "Malden Catholic Wrestling continues the rebuilding process this year as a lot of first-time wrestlers have come out to join the team. It is not an easy sport to just pick up and requires a lot of strength, endurance, and skill. However, this current roster has started to develop



the discipline, desire, and dedication needed to become a successful team thanks to the example of our senior captain, Andrew Maher". In addition to Captain Andrew Maher's standout performance, Jaxon Pace '24 and James Glowacz '24 have also been recognized for their effort given on the wrestling team and fast improvement.

As Malden Catholic Varsity Wrestling continues to train, it is full steam ahead for athletes and coaches alike. When asked to comment on the future goals this season for the team, Andrew Maher '23 simply responded "Win states". Unfortunately, Andrew's season ended prior to states due to injury despite qualifying for states, but not before he finished in 2nd Place in the Division II Central Sectionals.

Photo Courtesy of Malden Catholic

(At left) Junior Jaxon Pace raises an arm in victory representing MC wrestling on the mat.

Lady Lancers Dominating the Court

By: Katelyn Cirame
Editor-in-Chief

With the Malden Catholic Girls Varsity Basketball coming off an amazing '21-'22 season, making it to the MIAA round of eight, the current team has a big reputation to keep up. The girls seem to not be worried in the slightest and are definitely keeping up the reputation established by past Lancers.

Even with four out of five of the teams' starters graduating, they managed to stay strong during the season so far. Junior captain Luna Murray says, "The graduating seniors left big shoes to fill. However the team came together with a mission, to give it our all at practice and in games in effort to make the graduating seniors proud."

With the season still not being over, their goal has definitely been reached. Coach Jay Keane adds to what Murray states, "Our season is going well, the girls are working hard in practice and continue to improve." Senior captain Jillian Perry also mentioned, "The team dynamic has changed dramatically since the previous seniors graduated. It was a little rocky at first, but I think that only because we are a team that finds our own way of doing things and with learning always comes mistakes."

Of the team's many games this season, one of their best was against Everett High School. Everett was soundly defeated with a final score of 71-28 MC. The big scorers of the game were, Jill Perry with 18 points, junior Marcella Bonfardeci with 12 points, and new to the team, junior Zya Rosa with ten points. Perry says, "The most important highlights that have happened this year come from our defense. We have also learned to become unselfish with the ball and that has helped us with our ability to score and move the basketball." Perry was also asked about the game against Everett and said, "The Everett game was a huge game for me because I have been struggling with my shot

and confidence and I felt like this game had an influence on how I am as a player. Scoring 18 points wasn't something I planned on doing, but I wouldn't have been able to do it without my teammates creating open opportunities and moving the basketball. I feel like as a team we really were able to improve on our game."

The girls' early record reached 4-4 with great wins against Ursuline Academy and an amazing game against Concord-Carlisle High School. The girls beat CCHS with Murray scoring 14 points, junior Mary Turco adding six points and 18 rebounds, and Bonfardeci leading the game with 16 points.

The Girls Basketball team's leading scorers for the season are both juniors, the previously mentioned Luna Murray and Marcella Bonfardeci. Murray has been a great motivating captain and Bonfardeci has started every game and reached her career high of 25 points in one game. Bonfardeci was also chosen as one of the December athletes of the month. In Malden Catholic's second home game of the season, she had seven rebounds and four assists. "I am very happy to be chosen as one of the athletes of the month, but my team is a big part of why I continue to grow and improve my game." Bonfardeci stated. She leads the team and has grown to become one of its top players. When asked about being one of the leading scorers, she states, "I've been working really hard on my game recently and I've been pushing myself to get to the rim and raise my shooting percentage.



Photo Courtesy of Malden Catholic

Junior captain Luna Murray dribbling through traffic during a game.

it's pretty good but I'm never fully satisfied."

It is safe to say that the current girls varsity basketball team is in good shape and will be able to keep up with the competition and past lancers reputation. "We are playing hard and putting our name out there for other teams to hear." Perry states about her last MC season.



Photo Courtesy of Malden Catholic

Junior Marcella Bonfardeci piling up points at the home game against Burlington High School.

Don't Miss the
Make-a-Wish
St. Patrick's Day
Celebration on
Friday, March 10th.