

Editorial Page...pages 15-19

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School News

A Party With Consequences

By: Anne Gordon & Madeleine Dubeau

While preparing this issue of the newspaper, we were informed about a house party that took place on the evening of Friday, November 13th, causing the Cohasset Middle-High School to switch from the hybrid model to an all-remote learning model. A large number of high school students attended the party, failing to stay six feet apart. None of these students had masks on which made the chance of getting and spreading coronavirus much higher. Due to the health risks associated with this party, the school administration decided that students in both the Middle School and the High School would be safest moving to a remote only model for two weeks starting Nov. 16 and ending on Nov. 30.



Empty hallways, a common sight during the remote learning weeks



Sixth grade English Zoom call cohort A & B

I spoke with some students and faculty to see what they thought about this. Mrs. Noble, a history teacher in the seventh grade, shared her opinions about this sudden and unexpected switch to remote learning. She agreed with the school administration that the decision of going remote was the right choice. "We are in uncharted territory with this pandemic and we need to always err on the side of caution."

Acknowledging that this sudden switch to remote was difficult, Mrs. Noble explained, "The shift in the type of assignments that are effective in a remote setting are very different from in-class learning, and assessments are also challenging in a remote situation." Despite these challenges, Mrs. Noble added, "The students have been incredibly resilient, and their effort is commendable given the circumstances."

I also spoke with several students about the sudden change in school schedule. Most students had mixed reviews about the two week remote order. Two six graders, Molly Campbell and Olivia Langevin, both felt that it is more difficult to focus at home. "It's hard to concentrate on Zooms when there are other things around you," Molly said. Olivia added that "it is also harder to socialize" when remote. On the flip side, both girls liked sleeping in later and not having to wear masks in a remote classroom. "It is sometimes nice to see your friends faces without having masks on," added Olivia.

With coronavirus numbers spiking again, please remember to wear a mask and social distance. Stay healthy CMS Skippers!

Newspaper Special Guest

By ~ Sari Reyes & Will Chisholm

After reading the fall issue of *The Pond Street Press*, Stephen Kurkjian, one of the top investigative reporters in the country, three time Pulitzer award winner, and retired Boston Globe Reporter wanted to meet the CMS students who publish this newspaper. During the Zoom call on December 3rd, Mr. Kurkjian talked about his adventures as a reporter and advice for us cubs (the name for young, inexperienced reporters).

Kurkjian said that his job required to be a quick writer and to be able to pay attention and re-tell all the little details in a story. He informed us about breaking news, when a big story happens unexpectedly, like a fire, he or his colleagues have to race over to the scene and take notes on what happened. Most importantly, they needed to ask if anyone was injured or died. After they got all their notes, they return to the newsroom and only have a few hours to write the story.

Kurkjian went to Suffolk University law school and his understanding of the law helped him with his investigative reports. One of his most famous of these reports was on the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum art heist; one of the largest art heists in history. He spoke about this heist and how the crime was committed. Even stating that the thieves pretended to be Boston Police Officers and "...were wearing false mustaches and beat up old uniforms!" To our amazement, the thieves haven't been caught yet!

Kurkjian wrote many articles on very important events, but one of the most meaningful stories he ever wrote was about his own father, an Armenian immigrant. He and his father returned to Armenia and the site of the Armenian Genocide of 1915, which greatly impacted his family.

Kurkjian is an amazing writer with endless achievements who was happy to share his passion for writing and reporting with us, inspiring the whole newspaper crew. He gave great advice that will keep all of us writing for years!

A Day For Our Veterans

By ~ Madeleine Dubeau & Anne Gordon

Each year on November 11th, the Town of Cohasset honors its military veterans in a ceremony held at Veteran's Memorial Park. This year, the ceremony started with a parade of Veterans around the Park. Lieutenant Phil Mahoney began the ceremony by asking the audience to "think of those Veterans who came back to families, and those who did not." Mahoney proclaimed that "this country is still the freest country in the world, even during these tough times of Covid-19. And we will all continue to keep this country the greatest!" After the speech, the Veterans continued the parade over to the Legion Hall where a celebration commenced. In honor of Veteran's Day, we want to highlight three local veterans that have impacted our lives: Daniel Dubeau (Madeleine Dubeau's father), Richard Harries (Eva Harries's father), and Peter Kowenhoven (Anne Gordon's uncle).

Daniel Dubeau is a veteran of the Gulf War. He is a retired U.S. Army Captain in the Military Police. Mr. Dubeau said "serving in Iraq was hard work in a difficult and hot environment, but it was also very rewarding because they were able to free the Kurdish people from persecution."



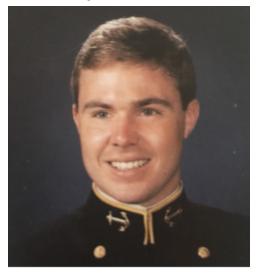
Captain Dubeau on the right

Richard Harries is a veteran of the Iraq War as well as Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He is a retired U.S. Marine Corps Colonel. Over the course of his 30 years with the Marine Corp, he worked in many different areas, including basic training, infantry, an F-18 fighter pilot and senior management.



Colonel Richard Harries III

Peter Kowenhoven is a veteran of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He is a retired U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander. He continues to serve our country as an Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Boston office.



Lieutenant Commander Kowenhoven

We thank all our veterans for their service and for defending our nation and our freedom. Happy Veterans Day to you all!

Giving Thanks During COVID By: William Chisholm



This year, Thanksgiving may not look the same as last year or any year before. Thanksgiving looks different this year because of a new disease, COVID-19. Since March 2020, COVID-19 has stopped people from having parties and

family gatherings and all of the other activities that involve people getting close together indoors. As a result, this year people are starting to make up their own ideas on how to spend this Thanksgiving holiday with their family.

One idea that people have come up with is to have Thanksgiving with their immediate family only. Other people have thought that maybe Face-timing loved ones while they eat would keep their minds off of feeling sad about not being together in person. Some other ideas for making this a memorable Thanksgiving is to watch a TV show or holiday movie that you love, to keep you and our family from focusing on missing their loved ones.

I have interviewed three different people on what their holiday may look like this year.

The first person I interviewed was Erin Cook (AKA my aunt). She told me that for Thanksgiving what she did was she went to my grandparents' house because they have been seeing them often. Since she and her kids have been hanging out with them since the beginning of this virus, they got to have Thanksgiving at my grandparents' house for this year. They also feel really comfortable being around them because they have been watching, playing, and hanging out with their kids that are both under 6 years old. That is how my aunt spent her Thanksgiving.

The second person I interviewed was one of my very close friends. His name is Campbell Seeley. When I interviewed him he told me that he was going to have a few of his cousins over at their house for Thanksgiving. He described that he was going to have tasty turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, and gravy. He said he was going to have so much fun when he eats. He also said that he was going to be eating in his dining room with his family and cousins. After I asked him what he thought about having Thanksgiving in a pandemic his first words were "it is going to be YUMMY." After he told me that I asked him is there anything else that you feel, he told me that he was just happy that everyone could be together at last and have a good lunch or dinner.

The third person I interviewed was my mom, (AKA Tara Chisholm). She said that she was going to have Thanksgiving at my dad's sister's house. She also told me that we will be going to their house for dinner. One reason she thought it would be safe is because my aunt's family is going to sit at one table and my family would sit at a different table. My mom was confident that Thanksgiving would be good because we were wearing masks and being socially distanced when we did not have our masks on. My mom was happy about how Thanksgiving went and was happy that the big meal was delicious.

Those were three ways that three different families had their Thanksgiving in these hard times. Even though they were all kinds of weird things going on, they all felt happy about being able to see loved ones in COVID.

Student Profile

By ~ Anne Gordon



In this issue, we are finding students new to CMS. We found Carter Backus from the 6th grade and he has a very interesting story to tell!

Carter moved from Seattle, Washington to Cohasset. He lived in Seattle for five years. But that is not the only place where he has lived. "I also lived in Vancouver, in Canada, and Anchorage, in Alaska." He is quite the nomad! Carter shared his feelings about

how he is liking Cohasset.

"I like Cohasset a lot," he said.

For many people, moving to a new school can be hard. Carter explained that his biggest challenge is adapting to this new environment.

"I am still getting used to how different Cohasset is from my old town in Seattle." Coming from the Pacific Northwest, it's no surprise his favorite hobby is playing hockey. Hopefully the Cohasset winters will be cold enough for him to continue enjoying his favorite pastime!

CMS Student Council Meeting

By ~ Will Henle, Student Council Vice President

With the holidays just around the corner, the Student Council is starting to

collect cash or coin deposits to be able to buy gift cards for food banks. We came up with this idea after deciding donating food wasn't safe for the people at the shelter. We really hope people donate and that we get a good turnout for the people in need.

As many of you know, CMS recently had a merchandise sale with our relatively new logo. Some of the merch included was a long sleeve t-shirt with a graphic design of the most important



sailing flags on the back. As well as Cohasset running down a sleeve. Unfortunately shopping is closed for cold weather merch at the time this is published.

At the end of our meeting, we decided to discuss spirit days revolving around winter. Many of us came up with the idea for a winter-themed spirit day because we don't want to offend anyone regarding what holiday they celebrate.

President-Elect Joe Biden

By ~ Charlie Manewal

After a long wait of seven days after the final vote was cast, the Associated Press has called the presidential election for former Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. Incumbent Donald John Trump was defeated after serving one term as President. No matter who you voted for, you have to be relieved that the election finally ended. Cohasset was not a very close race. It went very blue, meaning that 67% of the people voted for Joe Biden. Similarly, Massachusetts went so blue as to which each and every county voted for President-Elect Biden. Biden's running mate, Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris, makes history as the first woman vice president, as well as the first black person and Indian-American to hold the position.

StopsShop Food Pantry Drive shaw's

By ~ Saoirse O'Duggan

The Cohasset Food Pantry is a non-profit organization that collects food and money donations to give to people that can't get food easily. The Cohasset Middle/High School gives the food pantry donations from students and staff every year. COVID-19 affected this tradition, so now we give and get donations a little differently.

All the middle school utilities competed to see who could raise the most money for the food pantry. All of the money raised was turned into grocery store gift cards. The utility classroom that raised the most money won a mystery gift. Ms. Gallager's eighth grade utility class raised the most money and won the competition this year. For the prize this utility class won a pizza party with Mr. Mills! The highest individual contributors are Alex Sturdy and Grace Shaunghnessy, both from the eighth grade. All together the entire middle school raised exactly \$451.90 that will go to The Cohasset Food Pantry.

This friendly competition between utilities is both doing something great for the community and showing how Cohasset Public Schools follow the Skipper Creed. Thank you to everyone who contributed money to this cause. The donations are deeply appreciated by the Cohasset Schools, The Cohasset Food Pantry, and the people that have to rely on the food pantry to fill their stomachs.

What Will Happen To Remote Wednesdays? By Sari Reyes and Isla Veitas

Put down your pencils and turn off your computers because online Wednesdays are coming to an end. We interviewed Mr. Mills to get the inside scoop on Wednesdays and what will happen to them. For Cohort A, Wednesday signifies the beginning of their online school for the week and for cohort B, it's the day that ends online school for the week. We don't speak for everyone, but we think that the majority of students don't like Wednesdays.

According to Mr. Mills, the School Committee is planning to make Wednesdays switch off, so one cohort will be in-school Wednesday, and the other one will be online. Then the next week, the first cohort will be online and the other one will be in-school.

We also thought that it would be interesting to see what Mr. Mills thought about remote Wednesdays.

"I have been so impressed with the amazing job teachers have done creating fun and educational activities for students," he says.

While Mr. Mills wants to keep everyone safe, he admits that he enjoys in-school learning over online learning. According to him, nothing can replace being in person.

Wednesdays are different for all teachers and classes, so we interviewed teachers to find out their opinion on online Wednesdays.

"We all have to work together and get through this difficult time," Madame Sanges tells us. Madame Sanges, the French teacher, prefers online learning because she wants to keep the students safe. She likes online Wednesdays because they require less preparation and they allow the two cohorts to interact with each other.

We talked with Ms. Hegland, the chorus teacher, and asked her about what remote Wednesdays are like for her. Does she like them or not?

"I would say that I like them because I like to see all of my students in the same place for the day," Ms Hegland says.

A main disadvantage overall is the time spent on Zoom. Being the chorus teacher, she struggles with making music with the online students. Mrs Hegland thinks, "Students are handling remote Wednesdays very well, however I think we will find benefits in switching to in person on Wednesday."

Whether you like them or not, remote Wednesdays are coming to an end on December ninth. We think it is safe to say that everyone has different opinions on Remote Wednesdays and we respect them all.

Cold Weather Lunch Plans

By ~ James Lanza & Aidan Donnelly Photo left: Ms. Hegland; Photo Credit ~ Hadley Berns



2020 has been a very strange year! There is a lot going on in these weird times. But one thing that makes students concerned is the question, What are we going to do in cold weather for walk and talk? Well, there are many great ideas for solving the problem of the weather during the winter months.

Principal Mills thinks we could play indoor games as a substitute for going outside. He says, "As the weather gets too cold or it is too wet to go outside, we'd like to have games that would be fun and inclusive for anyone that wants to join, but would also allow us to maintain social distance."

Dr. Salas is feeling hopeful for students. "My hope is that we will be outside for most of the days. We encourage students who want

to go out to dress appropriately. If it's too cold to go out then we will look for ways to have fun inside. I would love to hear some more ideas to make lunch fun."

The teachers have thoughtful ideas too. "Kids could plan a fun Kahoot," added Mrs. Melia.

"I think that a good idea would be to put up a projector in the gym or cafeteria and then put on some music and dance. It does not have to be just dancing, we could also do some games and play," says Ms. Hegland.

Some of our ideas are to play board games such as Jenga, Monopoly, Chess, and Checkers. Two more ideas could be to watch a movie while sitting at your assigned desk or making a book club. We hope that these amazing ideas can be used during walk and talk. Let's wish for a win-win solution, so that students benefit from whatever plan of action is taken.

Sunny Weather

By: Grace Kiernan & Charlotte Gallagher Photo Credit: Eva Harries & Ms. Weisslinger



The week of November 9th, CMS was very lucky to get some warm weather days. Students benefited from that by wearing summer-like clothes and spending their Lunch and Utility time outside. They got to eat lunch on the back field, (socially distanced by white markings) and then were able to walk around the back field and talk with their friends in addition to having a mask break.

As classrooms have to keep their windows open due to COVID-19, the warm air made it pleasant for that to happen. Some of the 6th graders were able to head outside during utility and play on the front field. Students rolled down the hill, ran around, or just sat on the fence and took in the fresh air.

We think that the time outside that week was very beneficial for the students, as we head into the cold winter months. 6th grade World Geography teacher Ms. Weisslinger shared her opinions. "It was fantastic to be able to bring 6th grade students out to enjoy



some active play in the fresh, warm air. Students rolled down the hill onto the front field, had races, did cartwheels, handsprings, and front and back flips that were so fun to watch! What I enjoyed most was seeing my students interact with one another in an entirely different way than

they're able to do in the classroom. They were able to release an incredible amount of energy and

the laughter was deafening! I really think it is so healthy, in mind and body, for students to have an outdoor break, especially when most of our time is now spent indoors and behind masks. Although the temperature is getting colder, I hope we can continue spending



time outdoors during the Utility period. No matter the temperature, I feel that if the sun's out, we're out!"

As the winter months creep closer, warm weather and time outside is limited. We hope that as winter begins, we will be able to experience more beautiful days and outdoor lunch and utility periods.

The Arts at CMS

Students Hit the Big Screen

By ~ Janet O'Carroll and Madeline Schultz



(Photo Credit: Janet O'Carroll) The middle school has a new TV located at the school entrance. The TV was donated by the Kearney family who have a 7th grader named Jack and have two 9th graders, Isabella and

Samantha. According to Mr. Mills, this TV is important to middle school because it is a way to share information with the students such as the daily schedule and school activities. It is also a way to share student projects with the school, staff, and the community. The future of the TV might be a way to share students' ideas on subjects, such as a contest for the funniest tik tok.

Editorials

Cohorts Should Swap Days for Term 2

By Saoirse O'Duggan

I think that it would be reasonable for the two cohorts to switch the days they go into school after the holiday break. I believe Cohort A gets better days to go into the building.

There are pros and cons of going into the building on either set of days. As you know, Cohasset Middle/High School is currently doing a hybrid model, when Cohort A goes into school Monday-Tuesday and B Thursday-Friday, with rotating Wednesdays.

Cohort A has many advantages and barely any disadvantages to the days they go into the building. Cohort A gets to go to school, get their work for the week, and have it explained by an in person teacher. They also get to talk to teachers at the beginning of the week if they have any questions or concerns. These students also get the advantage of refreshed and happy teachers after the weekend. They start their weeks being organized and with a tighter schedule because they are in school. Although, when there is a Monday off because of a holiday, they lose one of their few school days.

Cohort B has a couple perks, but mainly disadvantages. Teaching is harder than ever these days, and by the end of the week teachers are exhausted and do not have a lot of energy left for Cohort B. Cohort B has to wait until Thursday to ask a teacher a question or just speak to one. Usually we have forgotten our questions, and by now the work is already due. Although, Cohort B can talk to teachers right before the weekend to catch up on work over the days off.

As a student of Cohort B, I think Cohort A has better days in school and has an advantage. This is just my opinion, so I have talked to some other students from both cohorts. I asked them what they thought about my idea to switch our days in school after the winter break.

Cohort A Sixth Grader Ashle Henle told me, "It would kinda ruin my schedule."

I can agree with this; all students have formed after school activities around the days they go into school. Some parents have also changed their work schedule for their kids and when they are at home.

Another Cohort A student named Eva Harries pointed out that this could cause commotion with parents, teachers and principals. "It could confuse people and parents could get mad," Eva added.

I talked to Regan Carroll from Cohort A and she said, "I'd rather keep the same days."

They, too, thought it would confuse people. Somebody told me that they have gotten used to the days they are in school. Two students from Cohort A said they liked my idea and thought it was reasonable. Most of these answers show that Cohort A is taking their days in school for granted and don't understand our struggle. It seems like Cohort A doesn't want to switch because they like their days, what they don't understand is that we don't like our days and we want theirs.

I also talked and texted with students in Cohort B. Sixth grader, Summer, McDonough said that we are assigned all of this confusing work for the week ahead over a Zoom meeting and expected to understand it. Sienna Marshak, another sixth grader, also said that by the time we go into school we have forgotten our questions and concerns, and we never got a chance to get them answered.

Another student named Rose White explained, "We can't go at the beginning of the week when we are refreshed from the weekend and ready to go."

I completely agree with this. I feel very new and fresh on Mondays and we have to spend them at home where there are many distractions.

In conclusion, I can understand what my fellow students had to say, and I agree with some of their points and not with others. Overall, I think we could all adjust, be flexible and be open to new ideas to keep things fair and balanced between the cohorts. In these difficult times, it is important to make sure everyone is happy, and we can do that by changing the days the different Cohorts go into school.

Pitfalls, Distractions, and Pointers, Oh My!: How to Learn Online By ~ Ava Coffey

Ever since the March of 2020, we've been using online learning to temporarily replace in-person schooling during the pandemic. Many students can agree that online learning can be difficult, and we have trouble keeping track of classwork.

Around a few weeks ago, I had been chosen to be interviewed over Zoom about how school was going for me in person and remote. Many people that had joined the Zoom agreed that online learning made it very easy to procrastinate, fall behind, lose track, and become unorganized (PFLB).

We all agreed that there was too much homework going on for the seventh graders because all periods through 1-7 are squished into one day every day for 5 days. As you may assume, 7 classes in one day instead of 5 means a lot of

homework. This is compounded by the fact that there is so much to get distracted by when learning remotely. Although, after doing the conference, it became clear that the Superintendent and the Principal had informed the teachers about this, and 7th grade teachers started to cut down the homework by at least 40% both online and in person. Now, I barely have any homework assigned from any of the classes because we get them done *in class*.

<u>"In class</u>" are like miracle words to lots of seventh graders and many more, because it means that we don't have to worry about doing the work <u>at home</u>. Now "<u>at home</u>" is like a death sentence for me and probably many others because doing work at home brings us back to the downs of online learning, PFLB.

Family members are also distracting. Maybe your crazy siblings are annoying you to play with them, or maybe your parents/guardians are watching TV in another room and you can't focus on your work. Pets can also be a distraction to those of us who have them because maybe your dog wants extra pets and attention, or maybe your cat won't stop meowing for absolutely no reason at all. This happens to me, for sure. My cat would meow and meow on until I actually play with her, or my dog used to bark a lot so that she could go outside to go to the bathroom because a 17-year-old dog's bladder is definitely not sustainable. A tip that I personally feel is best for a situation like this would be to close the door of your room or wherever you're sitting doing schoolwork, or maybe you could go outside if your Internet reaches that far.

Some ways to keep yourself from falling into PFLB; set a timer at the beginning of each class that let you know when the next class is going to take place, take a break every now and then, avoid stress eating or binge eating, keep all your papers in one binder with folders in it, etc.

Covid-19 has been a difficult turn and the year of 2020 has been bad, but we can all get through it by just pushing through, self-discipline, and keeping ourselves happy.

'Gimme' a Break – A Mask Break

By ~ Ava Coffey

Of course, mask breaks are important. They provide relief from the constant sharp pain, aching and uncomfortable pounding behind your ears. Many students agree that mask breaks are essential to save your ears.

Schools worldwide are opening up with extra precautions to keep safe: social distancing, hand sanitizing, washing your hands, and of course this includes wearing our masks. Mask wearing is essential to keeping healthy and safe, but lots of us can deeply agree that we require mask breaks, but how many is debatable.

Toby Carpenter, 7th grade, thinks that we just need the mask breaks spread out, instead of right next to each other. He proposes that instead of having lunch, then spending the extra lunch time outside, lunch is much shorter. This extra time could instead be used between sixth and seventh period, so kids don't have to go 3 hours with their masks on.

Haley Cody, 7th grade, feels otherwise because she believes that we should have less mask breaks, so that we don't miss any time in school. She also sees other ways to feel comfortable without having to go outside to do so.

The seventh grade has two mask breaks, while eating lunch, and the walk and talk after lunch. Other than that, the teachers could also arrange to have mask breaks either before or after their classes, as long as we get our work done. I feel as if we need more mask breaks as long as we're productive and well-behaved during class.

Another way to establish having more mask breaks is to make it a *reward*. Personally, feeling like I've accomplished something makes me feel better and more confident, as long as it helps me be more productive and focused. We could establish this, so that when we get more school work done than expected, we could earn something, like a mask break. And I don't know for sure, but it is most likely the case for many people other than me.

Helping Hand

By ~ Charlie Manewal Thousands of children are dying. How can we help?

If you are a sixth grader, you are preparing to read *The Boy who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba, who was from a less fortunate country in Africa, called Malawi. I have already read the book for pleasure, and I am looking forward to seeing William's story open my classmates' eyes to the poverty that millions in Africa face. Not only that, but when we did the World Geography "Back-to-School" unit, I chose Djibouti because of its funny name (Ja-Booty). But it showed me the hundreds of kids in Djibouti without food and water and a proper education. This spurred me to action and I wanted to know; how can I help? There are thousands of amazing non-profit organizations providing food, shelter and education to those most in need. This gift-giving season, please consider your local food pantry, an international hunger relief organization, or an agency working to improve the health and education of people who are lacking these basic needs. Thank you!

Sports

Winter Athletes Worry if Season is Possible

By ~ Oliver Buckley, Sports Editor

With COVID-19 on the rise, things weren't looking up for winter sports. All winter sports at Cohasset Public Schools are indoors.

If we can't consistently have in-person school, how are we going to have sports? This is the question many people are asking and it has brought them to at least assume one thing: high and middle school wrestling will not happen. This is true for the moment, but coaches are looking to have a season from late April to the end of the school year if possible. Nothing yet is decided for sure about wrestling, but things are looking better for the other winter sports.

Ice hockey has recently started up. You are required to wear your masks at all times and spectators are limited. The main worry for hockey is the locker rooms. Such compacted areas of many people breathing heavily does not sound good. Hockey in all towns was shut down for two weeks during the beginning of the season due to a rise in cases resulting from hockey games or practices. Regardless, ice hockey in Cohasset is happening this year.

Another sport at risk is basketball. For middle school basketball, the public schools in Cohasset are not allowing games or practices on their courts. Coaches are trying to find alternate places but there aren't many options. It's mainly just "The U" or outside, in the middle of winter. According to the Cohasset Athletics website, high school basketball will occur this year, in fact all winter sports will occur in their regular season besides wrestling.

Winter sports are at the biggest risk with the COVID-19 pandemic, and I'm sure many parents, athletes, and coaches are happy they are able to happen.

The Pond Street Press Staff

Faculty Advisor: Mrs. Melia Editors: Toby Carpenter, Will Chisholm, Ava Coffey, William Elwell, James Lanza, Charlie Manewal, Catherine Willock	Staff Reporters - Ava Coffey, Will Chisholm, Aidan Donnelly, Madeleine Dubeau, Charlotte Gallagher, Anne Gordon, Will Henle, Grace Kiernan, Charlie Manewal, Saoirse O'Duggan, Sari Reyes
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Keep an eye out for the next issue of Pond Street Press, coming January 2020!