The Lakeside Voice

JANUARY, 2016 **VOLUME 15 ISSUE 2**

Colchester High School

Colchester, VT 05446

Taking the virtual path

Virtual High School, also known as VHS, is a program to help students gain or make up credits. It has been around since 1996 but has only been available at Colchester High School since 2011. Students from other high schools throughout the world join together to form a specific class taught online. A student can choose a variety of different classes ranging from an AP class, such as AP Psychology, to an honors class, such as Calculus Honors, or just a typical class, such as Spanish. Taking a class online takes a lot of self regulation and time management.

According to previous students who have taken a course on VHS, it is very time consuming and can contain between 4-6 hours of work. Although that might seem like a lot of work, students have one week to complete any work they may be assigned to unless said otherwise. It's important to take note of due dates because even though students have a week, some assignments may be due a certain day during the week.

This year, there are 19 CHS students taking at least one Virtual High School course and there are 29 classes being taken. Meghan Collins, a senior has experience with taking an online course. As a junior, she had the opportunity to take AP U.S History. This year, she is taking two classes. She is taking AP Calculus and AP Psychology. Although Collins would prefer to take a class in school, she loves that she can take a course that our school doesn't offer and can still keep her in-school classes.

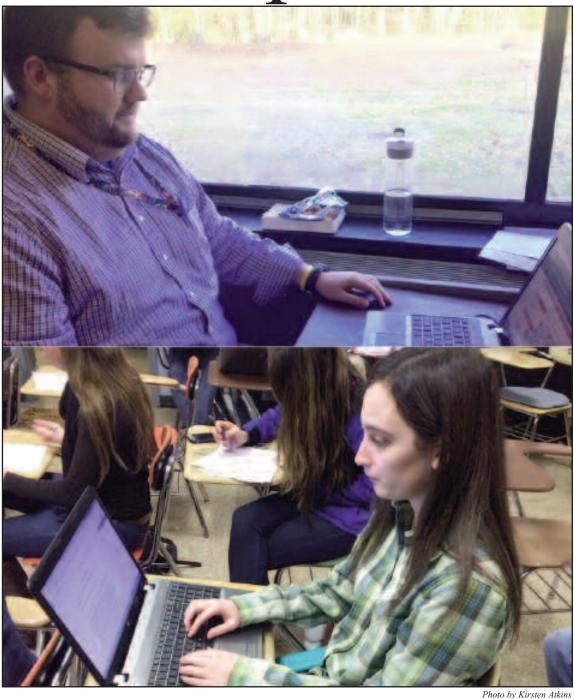
She believes that some of the advantages of taking an online class would be that there are, "no exams and it gives her flexibility". She is able to create her own schedule and work on her own pace and on her own time. One of the disadvantages would

not being able to talk to anybody face to face or a teacher to hear from to ask questions.

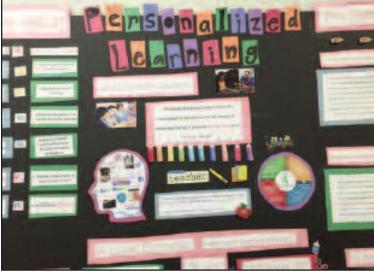
According to Collins, the workload can differ each week. One week could have a heavier work load and the next could not have as much. But she says that it's very time consuming because students have to learn all of the content and do all of the homework and classwork all on their time. One tip she has for anybody who is interested in taking an online course would be to be ready to make a serious commitment to it and to not save all of the work for the end of the week because that's when stress happens and then the rush to get it done which means the student won't be handing in very high quality work.

CHS Humanities teacher, Mr. Hammond is in his first year teaching a class on Virtual High School. Although he has taught a regular psychology class at Colchester High School, he is now teaching AP Psychology online. It's very different for him considering he's only used to teaching in a classroom rather than a computer screen. From a teacher's perspective, he is able to get a lot of work done in a short amount of time, at the same time. Since the class itself is based off of Virtual High School's curriculum, Mr. Hammond isn't responsible for designing the lessons, but rather grading the work and being there for help if the students need it. As a teacher, he doesn't like the no face to face contact, as Collins mentioned.

He believes, "It is harder to teach a class when you don't even know who you're talking to. Not to mention, it's really easy for the students and even the teachers to misinterpret what they are saying".



VHS AP Psychology teacher, Mr. Hammond and CHS senior Meghan Collins diligently work on Virtual High School material.



Jenna Baillargeon completed her Senior Seminar project on Personalized Learning presented at Senior Seminar Night, January 7.

Personalized learning

Many programs offered through options credit

by Carter Miller

Colchester High School has begun to offer alternative programs, which allow students to explore different fields of study while still gaining credit. These include internships to many different businesses, as well as internships to departments inside the school - such as the IT Department. These programs allow students to practice in that certain field of work, gaining real experience - while still allowing the students to gain credits just like they would a normal class, which is a really great

opportunity for some.

The program is designed to allow students to choose their own path, within a school setting. It allows students to get prepared for a real job setting, providing them with the knowledge and experience they would get from working a real job outside of

To become a part of the program students must apply with a plan of what exactly they would like to focus on, such as IT. They will either have a year long course or a half-year

long course, depending on availability and preference. Each course is different depending on student interest.

If for some reason the student doesn't enjoy the internship, they'll be able to drop it like any other class however loss of credit earned for the course can happen.

Overall, this opportunity that is being offered by the school is great and students who have taken advantage of the opportunities highly recommend checking it out.



What Do You Drive... Page 7



2016 New Year's Resolutions Page 8



Winter Sports Pages 10-11

Syrian refugee crisis

by Alex Gardner

For the last four and a half years, Syria has been a site of major conflict in the Middle East due to the Syrian Civil War. The Syrian Civil War is sort of three sided, but started between the Syrian government and people. Originally started as a peaceful protest by Syrian activists against the government turned into a massive conflict. ISIS is also involved in the war, but as a separate component because ISIS isn't on the side of the Syrian government or people, but in it for personal gain. ISIS's goal is to create one big Islamic State in Syria, Iraq etc. While this does affect the refugee crisis, it is not the major cause of it.

There are many reasons for the refugees fleeing to other countries; a major one being that there doesn't appear to be an end to the war anytime soon, and it is becoming increasingly more dangerous for Syrian citizens to live in a war zone. While safety is of main concern, there are other factors the refugees are taking into account while fleeing their homes: the longer they stay, the longer their children go uneducated. But even leaving to go to another country may not help this situation much. In Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey, there aren't enough opportunities for students to go to school there. Not to mention, a fifth of former Syrian students already left school to go to work and support their families. Many other reasons include; the cost of living skyrocketed in Syria and it became too expensive to live; people's homes, or entire towns, have been destroyed by the fighting, and government forces taking over cities and towns.

According to Syria Regional Refugee Re-

Based on the popu-

lar British TV show

that has the same

name, this faster



The Ron Paul Institute for Peace and Prosperity

Syrian refugees trying to flee via train.

sponse, there are at least 4,390,439 Syrian refugees and thousands more unregistered. Of the over 4 million refugees, about 95% of them are fleeing to 5 countries (Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt) and the other approximately 200,000 refugees are trying to head to Germany, America, Sweden, Norway, the UK, etc. But there are only so many spots available in each country, and it doesn't even begin to solve the issue. The refugee crisis has gotten exponentially worse the last three years and it's not

likely to get better anytime soon; so as the fighting gets worse, thousands are dying, millions are being displaced and there is no plan in place to provide significant help for the future.

The Syrian refugee crisis is the worst refugee crisis since WWII, and might just surpass it as the worst refugee crisis in history, if we don't all work together to help them.

Lakeside Voice Staff / Contact Information

A New England Scholastic Press Association Award Winning Paper

The Lakeside Voice is published by students at Colchester High School. Articles are selected and submitted by the CHS com-

at large. The high school Journalism class is responsible for every facet of the Lakeside Voice publication. Suggestions and ideas for articles, as well as Letters to the Editor, can be sent in care of:

The Lakeside Voice CHS Student Newspaper

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The Office never gets old

by James Comi



paced American version is based around the interactions and follows a group of office employees at a Rainn Wilson small paper company as Dwight in Pennsylvania. The

The show was originally created and written and directed by Ricky Gervais and Stephen Merchant and was on the air for nine seasons. The American version starred Steve Carell, Rainn Wilson, John Krasinski, Jenna Fischer, and Ed Helms among several others throughout its run.

show aired on NBC from 2005-2013.

The show was filmed at Chandler Valley Center Studios in Los Angeles and won several acclaimed awards. The show was set in Scranton Business Park where the Dunder Mifflin Scranton office, the main

setting of the show, was located. Its address in the show is 1725 Slough Avenue in Scranton, PA.

No matter who you are, "The Office" would be a terrible place to work. And it's hard to imagine that someone would want to spend time there without getting paid for

The show gained a huge audience because it has the viewer constantly laughing. Unlike other TV shows where someone has to watch it with another person to make it funny, this can be watched alone and it will still leave someone with a hurt stomach because it makes the viewer laugh so hard.

Filmed in a mockumentary style, the raw spontaneous joke and wise cracks made by the cast let you know it is really well written and it will leave you wanting to watch more and more. That's why this franchise does so well. although some people think of it as not a TV show because the episodes are so short. It is still jam packed with great comedy and definitely worth a watch.

Time to legalize

One of the biggest ques-

tions in America today is

whether or not marijuana

should be legalized.

Would the legalization of

marijuana benefit our

country more than it

would hurt our country?

Marijuana has already

been legalized in four

by Sam Corman



Vermonters

states and medical maridebate issue juana is legal in 18 more states. In total, 22 states have made moves towards legalization

It's not just common citizens that want marijuana legalized, it is celebrities and politicians that believe

In 2013, the Huffington Post reported that marijuana prohibition cost the government 20 billion a year. Why should our government spend that much money on stopping people from smoking a plant? But no one is stopping the public from smoking tobacco which is also a plant that kills 6 million people a year. Marijuana has actually been proven to help some diseases, that is why medical marijuana is legal in 22 states. One can buy tobacco at any gas station in the country if 18, but it is still a federal crime to carry marijuana at any time.

A Senior lecturer at Harvard University conducted a study in 2010 and found about 8.7 billion would be saved on law enforcement and about 8.7 billion dollars would be made from the taxation of marijuana. Why would our government pass up on that kind of money? But every day we would rather put our country further and further into debt.

Local governments spent an estimated 211 million dollars from 2000-2010 on enforcing marijuana prohibition laws. Legalizing marijuana wouldn't just affect America, but also Mexico. The Mexican Cartels who control most of Mexico and are the cause of many corrupt police forces in Mexico would be severely hurt by the legalization of marijuana. Marijuana is the largest revenue for the Mexican Cartels. With marijuana legal, it would absolutely devastate them.

A recent poll discovered that 52 percent of Americans are for the legalization of marijuana. So why would politicians avoid legalizing marijuana? Marijuana has never killed a human directly, but 2.5 million deaths related to alcohol from 2006-2010. There are a reported 88,000 deaths per year due to abuse of alcohol. But it is okay for alcohol to be legal but not marijuana. 750,000 people are arrested every year for marijuana related crimes. This could significantly reduce the overcrowding in

This is a huge problem that has surfaced in the past few years. The legalization of marijuana would do more good than bad but why is our government avoiding the legalization of marijuana?

What Would Your Vanity Plate Say?

Photo Poll by Mckenna Stannard



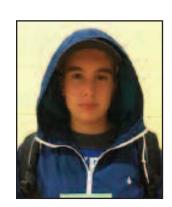
Kelsey Desjardin KELS(:



Dylan Davison OG Dyl



Mr. Lang I cant be defined by only 7 letters!



Josh Ryan **RICECAR**



Ella Cole COLE₁₀

numbers

734 Students enrolled CHS 27%-30% Of students participate in sports each season

CHS Facts by Sam Corman 96% Of students graduate

from CHS

146 Teachers and Staff

50 Students in ski and board

401 Parking spots

699 Laptops at CHS

82 Desktops at CHS

110 Parking passes are issued

293 Kids attended Winter Ball

90 The amount of classes offered in one semester

20-24 Average amount of kids in each class

168 Smallest class (Sophomores)

200 Largest class (Juniors)

15 The amount of kids that go to UVM from CHS each year

48 The amount of pizzas or-

dered on pizza day 13 Urinals in CHS

186 The amount of kids in Band or Chorus

10,822 Material in the library 1,086 Material checked out of the library

22 Team State Championships 8 D1 State Championships

CHS by the Creative tardy excuses "I got sprayed by a skunk"

by Kirsten Atkins

Everybody has their favorite excuse as to why they are late for class. Here are some common ones students gave.

Zach Cummings- I was talking to Mark. Brett Krzynski- My kitchen caught on fire. Dakota Persons- I overslept. Karson Kelsey- I had to make a phone call.

Mikayla Wallis- I was getting breakfast. Aidan Connors- My brother drove me. Liam Martin- I was at the AI a Carte

Seth Masson- I was in the bathroom

Cam Laclair- I slept in. Mr. King- My dog ran away.

Hope- I hit a moose.

Katina Messier- I was tired.

Eric Phelps- I hit a bear.

Here are some excuses throughout the years that have made their way to the Planning Room archive of excuses:

"Going for a walk"

"Bus never picked me up"

"The alarm broke"

"Concussion"

"Traffic"

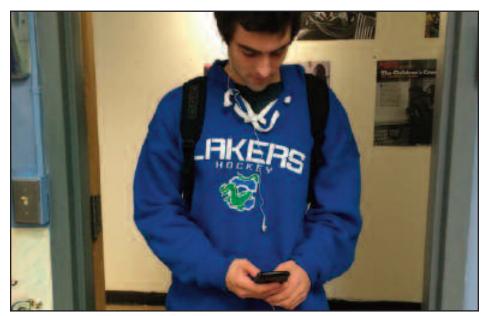


Photo by Kirsten Atkins

Senior Brandon Bedard late for class because he is on his phone.

"I got sprayed by a skunk"

"Hamster is sick"

"Family situation"

"Parking lot was full"

"I had a play date"

"Swag meeting"

"Senior skip day"

"Mom"

"My mom's fault:):("

Four year high school

by Caci Kranz

Are four years of high school necessary? Education starts from the age of five and continues until students are 17-18. Are all those years beneficial for growth in academics?

All four years are necessary because it is needed for the adult years. Some students need it more than others. The classes offered are beneficial and help with the career choices.

Many of the students tend to not like high school very much. Some students believe that they don't need to learn everything that is taught. That can be true, agree with that, but learning those things will help in the grander scheme. In college, the opportunity to decide on a major and later on a career choice, will be helped by the learning of classes in

high school and with the exposure to new things and deciding what to do in life. The classes can spark interest in careers that are later pursued. Even though the classes are thought to be useless, they may actually turn out to be worth it. When thinking about college, all colleges require some sort of classes that need to be taken all four years; which is shown in the prerequisite for schools, so to get there, all four years of high school education are necessary

But what about the students who slack off in high school? Four years of high school is worth it for some students because it takes longer for them to get their grades up and think about what they want to do in life. Those students who slack off have more time to get their act together before their high school years are done. Some students may also just have a hard time getting their grades up and require

all four years. Generally, every student should get all four years because they're a lot more helpful now. They teach students new aspects and help them to get ready for the future. They'll benefit them in the future and students will be glad that they actually took all those classes, even the ones that were just for electives, because there was a reason those classes were chosen.

A four year high school is very necessary for students because it's the end and the beginning of a career. It helps students fix and decide everything in their last two years. All the tests that are taken, and senior year when colleges are chosen or if someone doesn't go to college than whatever else they choose to do. The experience prepares everyone for what's after high school. Every year gives us more opportunity for experience and new learning before we are officially on our way out.

The value of education

by Jake Stebbins

As a country the United States is very lenient on education and that is starting to show itself in colleges filling with more and more international students that are competing with our nations top students for spots and jobs after col-

As it stands right now the United States is ranked 14th out of the top 40 countries in the world based on a study done by the Pearson Science Agency that tested the overall "cognitive skills and educational attainment" of these 40 countries. Many Americans, especially teenagers, think we are the most intelligent country with the smartest youth. In fact, that is not true at all. It all comes down to where and how we value education in the United States.

In the United States it is not so often a kid is

heard saying, "Wow I cannot wait to go to school". Even then it's most likely just because we just want to see our friends that we never see outside of school. These relationships are the ones that go un-noticed but are essential to student life.

It all comes down to the idea that students in the US have to go to school while students in other countries, including Japan, China and Thialand, get to go to school. They are given the tremendous opportunity to attend school if they're lucky. In the US we are forced five days out of the week to go to someplace that usually we don't want to go to. We value the importance and use of education differently here in the United States, and with upcoming political and social issues if this doesn't change, the effects will be evidently bad for the United States of America.

Seniors share projects

by Brandon Bedard

On January 7th, the majority of the seniors participated in Senior Seminar Celebration Night that featured gallery presentations of semester long research projects.

Senior Seminar is a class that is required to be taken and passed in order to graduate for all seniors at Colchester High School. This class teaches students how to be an active citizen and an independent learner, while learning important skills that will help students problem solve in the real world.

Seniors are given half a semester to research a topic of their choice and become an expert on that issue. Students have to do more than just google some information on their topic;

they are required to have an interview with a professional on the issue, and write an extensive paper on what they have learned.

At the end of the semester all the seniors get together at Senior Seminar Night. It is here that all the students show off the projects they have made on their issue and learn more on their friends' and classmates' topics.

Students have more freedom in their time they use to do their work per say, students are given release blocks while they are researching their topics and are allowed to go wherever they please to work on their project. Even though the students don't have a teacher watching their every move they maintain a schedule to work on the assignment because they have due dates every so often for small assignments that add up to the final project.

Opinions

The Jenner transformation

by Mikayla Wallis

She is well known from her family's TV show Keeping Up with the Kardashians, and her accomplishment of winning a gold medal in the 1976 Summer Olympics, but now we all know her for something much bigger. On September 25, Bruce Jenner went under the knife to become Caitlyn Jenner, and now goes by "she" rather than "he".

Formally known as Bruce Jenner, Caitlyn has only been known as a woman for a few months. At 65 she's been keeping this identity secret for many of those years. When she came out as transgender, there was a lot of disbelief. After she went through major surgery, no one doubted her. But people did judge her, making everything about her situation controversial. With having one side of people saying what she's doing is great and amazing for the transgender community, and the other being disgusted by what she has done.

With the major change Caitlyn went through, it stirred up a lot of controversy. There were a lot of positive comments said about Caitlyn, and a lot of negative reactions. After a few months everything died down; it wasn't the biggest story anymore. She made her own TV series just like the rest of her family, so she is still relevant. But on November 10, Caitlyn won Glamour's Woman of the Year award. This caused much hate, not only to Caitlyn, but to the magazine, as well.

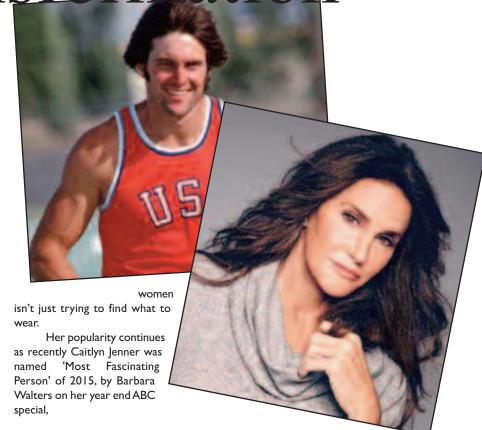
James Smith heard about Caitlyn winning the award and was not pleased. He had lost his wife to 9/11 in 2001. She was a police officer who was last seen helping rescue people from the towers. She received a reward in her name and her husband took it on her behalf. Once Smith heard that Caitlyn won the same reward, he returned the award his wife received. He told the magazine that it wasn't because Caitlyn's a transgender woman, but that she isn't a true woman. What Smith is referring to is when Caitlyn was being interviewed by Buzzfeed she said the hardest thing about being a woman is getting dressed. Proving that she knows nothing about being an actual woman, only knowing how to look like one.

Smith isn't the only one who got upset about what Caitlyn had to say about being a woman. Rose McGowan posted on Facebook her thoughts on how Caitlyn doesn't know anything about being a woman.

"Caitlyn Jenner you do not understand what being a woman is about at all. You want to be a woman and stand with us, well learn us. We are more than deciding what to wear. We are more than the stereotypes foisted upon us by people like you."

McGowan also said that she likes what Caitlyn has done for the transgender community, but not her comments about it. She added that because of Caitlyn's comments they can lead to stereotyping women.

With all of these negative comments being said about her, Caitlyn is still living strong as a transgender woman. Her show is still being aired on TV, (even with all the uneducated comments she has been making, and not knowing fully how to be a woman). Hopefully, soon she'll realize that the toughness of being a



Top Photo: Bruce Jenner during the 1976 Summer Olympics Bottom Photo: Caitlyn Jenner, 2015.

For which it stands, one nation...

by Ryan Arel

In 1954, President Eisenhower, the man responsible for the allied victory in Normandy during WWII, added the simple phrase "under God" to the United States' Pledge of Allegiance. He did this for the sole purpose of demonstrating to the international community that the US was not going to condone or encourage communism. While this decision was made by the president with congressional approval, many modern Americans are not in favor of the phrase being in the Pledge. Though the US was founded primarily on Christian beliefs and practices, modern US citizens practice multiple kinds of religions and come from all religious and ethnic backgrounds. The US is certainly a country of diversity, and the United States' Pledge does not account for this diversity.

fathers drafted the Constitution, and in 1791, the Bill of Rights was added. Included in this was the idea of separation of church and state found in the 1st Amendment. Some argue that the inclusion of the phrase "under God" in the Pledge merges church and state and is unconstitutional. Congress cannot force any U.S citizen to associate themselves with any religion of which they do not believe or practice. Therefore, inclusion of the phrase forces people to address a particular religion when reciting the Pledge which the amendment protects. When the term was added in 1954, the God in question refers to the Christian god. While the term "god" is very broad and can be applied to many different figures, the God referred to in the Pledge is specifically for Christians exclusively. The Pledge is associated with nationalism and pride in the United States, and some people believe they should not have to address religion while demonstrating pride in their country.

The reciting of the Pledge is a time for many Americans to feel patriotic towards their country. A person should not need religion to feel patriotic since patriotism is not defined



theodysseyonline.com

The United States flag is a symbol of patriotism and pride for many Americans.

by religion. Instead, it is defined by an inner feeling of pride a person may get when facing the flag, addressing it and saying the pledge. Furthermore, a large number of citizens of the US simply do not adhere to Christian beliefs. In a census conducted by Pew Research Center in 2014-15 of over 35,000 people in all 50 states, only 70.6% of people identified as followers of some type of Christian Sect, and 29.4% either did not identify or identified with other religions. While only 70.6% of citizens identify with Christianity, all live under the same Pledge. Therefore, the citizens who are not Christian are bound to a religion of which they do not identify. The inclusion of the phrase is often interpreted as a silent accusation that any god other than the Christian God is wrong.

Although diversity exists, minorities are often

feeling discriminated against by the majority. The Pledge only emphasizes the majority religious group in the United States by recognizing a key figure in the Christian religion, leaving people of other faiths at a loss when reciting the Pledge, singling them out from the majority of

Though it can be argued as a place for patriotism and acknowledgement of the common faith, the Pledge does not address the diverse culture in America. It can be argued it is unconstitutional, includes religion where religion is inappropriate, and alienates individuals of other religious sects. Despite these factors, the inclusion of the phrase will

CHS

Dateline

February:

- 2 AMC Math Test Library
- 3 CHS Cares Mtg. 2:40
- 3 FAFSA Help Night 6p-8p
- 4 Laker Learning Connections
- 5 Registration Deadline SAT
 - 6 ACT Test Date
 - 6 Music and Meal Soiree 4p
- 10 Student of the Month Luncheon
- 15/29 10th Grade Heritage Project Gallery
 - 18 Junior College Night
 - 19 Progress Reports Due
 - 19 Coffeehouse 7:00
 - 22-26 Winter Recess
 - 29 Staff in Service

March:

- I Parent Conferences
- **1-2** Heritage Projects
- Intramural Volleyball **Tournament**
 - 4 District Choral Concert 7:00
 - 5 SAT Test Date
 - 7 Heritage Gallery
 - 9 UVM Math Test
 - 9 Spring Sports Sign Up Meeting
 - 10 Junior College Night
 - 12 District Band Concert
 - 18-19 Variety Night 6:30



During the holiday season there are many fun activities to do to get you into the holiday spirit. At Colchester High School we have an annual gingerbread house competition. Each homebase creates their own gingerbread house using one of the two categories; open and traditional.

Traditional everything must be edible and Open some things can be non-edible but mostly edible. The three categories of winners are Open, Traditional and People's Choice. People's Choice is the student body's vote of what gingerbread they like the best. The money to buy the kits is funded by a student activity fund by a variety of sources.

According to Mr. Hall who started this competition nine years ago, "Every year after the competition is done we donate the houses to the children's hospital, senior living facilities, McAuley Square, COTS, Fire House Shelter, Whitcomb Woods, Grandway Commons, Ruggles House, Cathedral Square and Ronald McDonald House. The children's hospital usually receives a dozen, Ronald McDonald receives three, and the senior living facilities receive up to eight."

This years winners for the Traditional category were first place Ms. Jurnak's AT with "A Beary Good Ski Resort"

Second place Mrs. Towle's AT with "Polar Express"
Third place Mr. Sharkey's AT with "Christmas Tree Farm"
In the Open category:

First place Mr. Martin and Mr. Ellingson's AT with "Going Up" Second place Mrs. Keep's AT with "Graham Cracker" And third Mr. Strobel's AT with "Hunger Games"



Sweet Charty

Seniors Derek Sanderson and Kelsey Desjardin create their gingerbread house.

Seniors Peri Navarro and Hailey Thibault plan out their gingerbread house and prepare to put on some finishing touches.



Mr. Orr's sophomore Home Base is hard at work collaborating on their gingerbread house to be submitted for judging.

FEATURES

Early school start time causes issues

by Ryan Arel

All students have felt the dreadful feeling. You got home late from practice or work the night before, and it was about 9 PM by the time you even sat down to eat dinner, and then you had three hours of homework to do. Finally by midnight, you head to sleep. The alarm goes off six hours later, and now the worst part; the awful crawl out of the bed, knowing you didn't get enough sleep last night. Then the preparation for school, and then the trip there, often without enough time to even grab a bite to eat in the morning.

At Colchester High School, the school day of-

ficially starts at 7:45, with first bell at 7:40, and the school day formally ends at 2:20. For comparison, the South Burlington High School day begins at 8:40 and ends at 3:20; CVU starts at 8:15 and ends at 3:00. Some students believe that the 7:45 starting time is perfect in the morning.

"I like that we get out of school really early, it gives me the majority of the day to do stuff' says junior, Keagan Landry.

The purpose of the early start time is to ensure students have enough time after the school day ends to participate in extracurricular activities, after school clubs and sports. Students like having time after the school day ends to do other things. Some argue a later start time would interfere with other obligations.

"I go right from school to work, so it'd be difficult for me because I'd have less time to get homework done" says senior, Alex Gardner.

Furthermore, the time helps staff members and teachers who can meet after school, as well as allows school teachers and officials to coach sports. However, the current time is often argued by students and some teachers to be too early, because students often feel unproductive at such an early time.

"I don't learn anything that early, so why should I come that early?" says junior, Mckenna Stannard

According to the National Sleep Foundation, teens need 8.5 to 9.25 hours of sleep a night, but an average of two-thirds of students only get

seven or less every night. Early start times interfere with adolescents natural sleep and hunger rhythms, allowing for less sleep overall, as well as a lack of hunger so early in the morning, leading to skipping of breakfast.

According to healthychildren.org, "A 2008 study in the journal Pediatrics found that adolescents who ate breakfast daily had a lower body mass index than teens who never ate breakfast or only on occasion." In other words, on average students that have the time in the morning to eat breakfast are generally healthier than students who don't

Favorite television shows?

by Mikayla Wallis

Mr. Giles- Jessica Jones
Nick Bouffard- Breaking Bad
Mr. Fiske- Orange is the New Black
Greetje Scheller- Scrubs
Kyra Walker- The Office
Savanah Goodreau- Skins
Kirsten Atkins- Greys Anatomy
Hailey Thibault- The Office
Thomas Duggan- Spongebob
Brandon Bedard- The Walking
Dead

Chris Smith- X-Files
Alex Gardner- Gilmore Girls
Suleika Torres- Young and Hungry
Mr. McCannell- Modern Family
Angus Doherty- 60 Minutes
Garret St. Pierre- Game of
Thrones

Nancy Tessier- Amercian Horror Story

Abbie Batchelder-Vampire Diaries Brenden Hinman- Scorpion Juliette Quintal-The Grim Mackenzie Dorr-Mickey Mouse Club House

Angela Wood- Scandal Collin McNeil- Sunday Night Foot-

Karsen Kelsey- Empire
Cassie Mallabar- Grey's Anatomy
Zach Sheets- How to Get Away
With Murder

Kayleigh Carty- Once Upon A Time

Kesha Frost-The 100 Kianna Frost-The Flash Aidan Conners- How I Met Your Mother

Liam Martin- How I Met Your Mother

Seth Masson-The Big Bang Theory Cam Leclair- Workaholics Mr. King-The Office Hope-The Voice Katina Messier- White Collar

Teacher Facts - odd but true

by Jake Stebbins

To dive deeper into the school and the people inside of it, teachers and staff members were recently asked to offer some facts that most students and teachers might not know about them; odd, but true.

Mr. Perry: I have 3 children, 2 daughters and a 24 year old son.

Mr. Marlow: I played the bag pipes in Faneuil Hall in Boston on St. Patricks Day.

Mrs. Soltau: Worked at the Lakemonsters for 4 years. (Concessions and souveneirs)

Mrs. Towle: Met young (bad) Robert Downey Junior at a hotel.

Mr. Pelltier: My Great Uncle was the scarecrow in The Wizard of OZ Ray Bolger

Mrs. Delarichlierre: Donated a kidney to my sister. I love Chewbaca.

 $\mbox{Mr.}$ Orr: Once won a Christmas coloring contest in 2nd grade.

Mr. Richey: I slept overnight on the observation deck on the Empire State Building.

Mr. Brown: I'm a retired professional sheep shearer.

Mr. Lang: I am Vulcan, "Only Mr. Richie knows, that's what makes me mysterious, you can quote me on that."

Mr. Perrotte: I have run 5 marathons.

Mr. McCannell: I auditioned for Last Comic Standing, once scalped Van Halen tickets, and high fived Bono at a U2 concert.

Mr. Price: My father played a concert in the capital of Iran.

Mr. Dean: I used to run really fast...

Mr. Fiske: I grew up on a dairy farm in Wainbridge VT.

Ms. Hughes: I welded my own bicylce at MIT and love New Orleans and go at least once a year. I also own over 300 dresses and don't believe in pants.

Ms. Gauding: My great grandmother rode horses with Theodore Roosevelt.

Mrs. Baron: In 4th grade I dropped a bottle off of a cruise ship in the middle of the Atlantic and 8 years later it was found by an 80 year old man in Ireland.

 $\mbox{Mr.}$ Emery: I was a drummer of a rock and roll band named Dirt Cheap.

Mr Cieplicki: The Rice basketball court is named after my father.

Ms. Turner: 2nd job out of college was a stock brocker.

Mr. Scheuch: I've been to China 6 times.

Mrs. Shea: Was in a moshpit at a Red Hot Chili Peppers concert

Mrs: Minor: Was a national champion baton twirler in high school.

So next time before you think to yourself that our teachers are cliche and not cool just like the lame ones you find on TV sitcoms, think again. Don't think of your teachers as the Ben Steins of the world, think of them as adventurous human beings with amazing lives outside of theirs at school. Remember teachers are people, too. They've done some interesting things in their lives some odd- but all true.



Photo by Jake Stebbins

Ms. Hughes works with a student.



Photo by Jake Stebbins

Mr. Lang and Mr. Richie working hard.



Photo by Jake Stebbins

Mrs. Minor checks out the wall and remembers her baton twirling days.

What do you drive...



by Keagan Landry



One of the many Hyundai's driven by students.

by Keagan Landry

A GMC Sierra parked in the student parking lot.



by Keagan Landry

A long line of different vehicles represent the variety of cars, jeeps, and trucks driven by students.





An Audi, one example of many foreign cars at CHS.

Toyotas seem to be a popular car choice by students.

LAKER POLL

2016 New Year's Resolutions

Poll conducted by Ryan Arel

"Get Kanye West to tweet at me"

- Mckenna Stannard

"To think of a new resolution"

-Anne Dean

"To get my own shoe deal"

-Teagan Alderman

"Stop doing bad things"

-Alex O'Connell

"Stop eating late at night"

-Derek Sanderson

"Double my efforts for finding Sasquatch"

-Mr. Richey

"Gain 4 MPH on my fastball"

-Ella Cole

"To work out more"

-Alli Sheets

"Do my AP Stats homework"

-Jessica Erdmann

"Not use lattice to multiply"

-Olivia Mead

"Get into college"

-Zach Sheets

"Do my homework more"

-Sam Messier

"Get my free throw percentage to 90%"

-Thomas Meadows

"To be nicer to Cameron R."

-Madison Webster "To be a

kinder person"

-Summer Hathaway

"No more bad things"

-Coleman Crady

"Get more vitamins"

-Owen Chamberlain

"To not do the bad, and don't be not smart"

-Evan Soulia

"I need to be nice to people"

-Erika Thibault

"Get straight A's"

-Isaiah Freeman"

"To be nicer to people"

-Mercedes Duval

"To stay in America"

-Katie Genest

"Be more alert in class"

-Breylen Johnson

"Enjoy my summer before going off to college."

-Zach Cummings

"Finish my Senior Seminar project on time"

-Brett Krzynski

"Stay on task for the whole class"

-Olivia Trevisani

"Sleep more"

-Chris Elhajj

"Be nicer to my family"

-Kelsey Leclair

"To recover from injury"

-Katrina Groseclose

"To be book smart"

-Maygan Blow

"To exercise more"

-Rachel Gervais

"To stay under 400 pounds"

-Dylan Davison

"Help Austin get better shoes"

-Josh Ryan

"Gain 85 pounds of pure mus-

-Mr. Deane

"Get a boyfriend"

"Lose weight"

-Dakota Navari

"Get swole"

-Sullivan Crady

"Get good grades"

-Michaela Brodeur

"Raise my bank account by \$1000"

-Charlie Powell

"I have no idea"

-Brooke Senesac

"Get swole" -Hayley Giard

"To bench 385 pounds"

-Mason Rogers

"To get a new duck call"

-Caleb Tourville

"To put on muscle"

-Matthew Hesford "To get fat"

-Logan Lemnah

"To go some place new"

-Courtney Phelps

"To stay organized"

-Ryley Baker

"To get good grades"

-Gwendolyn Ruescher "Make more money"

-Ben Turner

"Go off the rails on a crazy train"

-Jacob Newsome

"Travel out of the country"

-TJ Brown

"Promote more peace in the world"

-Mr. Price

"Score an overtime goal"

-Cam Rolston

"To be your best friend"

-Alex Aley

"To graduate"

-Ben Shepherd

"Make more friends" -Taylor Rockwood

"Get a better job"

-Raven Sweeney

"Eat better"



-lan Sarrazin

"Get Max B. kicked out of AP US

History"

-Brenna McMannon

"Try something new"

-Kiah Martin

"Have a good time"

-Matt Touchette

"Ride a bike everyday"

-Josh Richland

"Get bigger"

-Kyle Blake

"Get a girlfriend, get rich" -Austin Collins

"Get healthier"

-Colton Lafayette

"Cut Amber's hair" -Greetje Scheller

"To be a nicer person"

-Amber Sicard

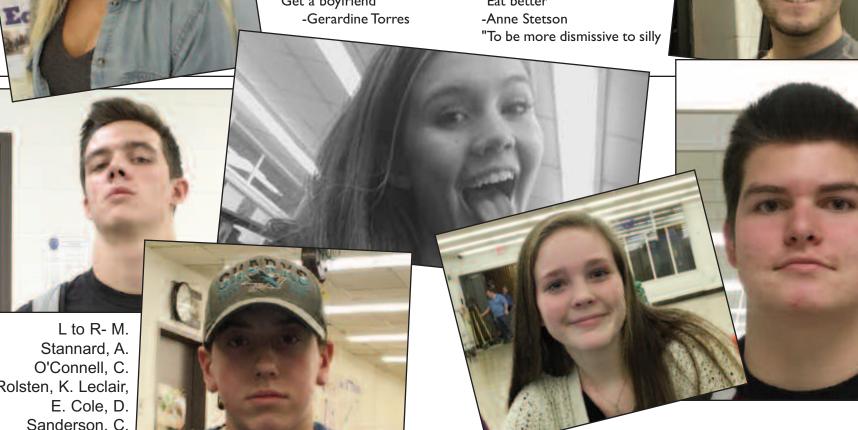
"Go to the gym more" -Zach Morin

"Lift more"

-Steven Cadieux







Civil rights movements in the modern era

the phrase should be 'All

Lives Matter.' I disagree.

That implies that all lives

are equally at risk, and

they're not. Black Lives

Matter is the right

[phrase]."

- Bill Maher

by Alex Gardner

The phrase "Black Lives Matter" has been at the center of many civil rights protests all over the United States, even as close as right in our very own state. In December multiple students, adults and civil right's activists protested the large percentage of minority students that are expelled or suspended in comparison to the percentage of actual minority students in the school. The protest held in St. Albans, Vermont are minor in comparison to the massive civil rights protests in Missouri, Illinois, Maryland and all over the United "There are people say it,"

Black Lives Matter has become a national movement against police brutality and the brutality and murder of black people.

States.

It started with #blacklivesmatter, a hashtag that popped up on social media sites in response to the 2013 acquittal of

George Zimmerman. Zimmerman was found not-guilty of shooting 17 year old Trayvon Martin. While the actual details surrounding the 2012 case still remain quite fuzzy, even to this day, after some sort of altercation between 32 year old Zimmerman and the teenage boy, Trayvon Martin was shot dead. Now, almost 4 years later, #blacklivesmatter isn't just a hashtag anymore, it's a cry for justice. The movement has since picked up momentum and was the chant of protesters all over America after the deaths of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri; Nicholas Thomas in Atlanta, Georgia; and Freddie Gray In Baltimore, Maryland as well as many more.

Many of the Black Lives Matter protests are protesting the shootings and murder of black citizens by white police officers and police brutality of black citizens. This is the

case of the death of Nicholas Thomas in Georgia. Thomas was at work when officers arrived to serve an arrest warrant to him; he was in a vehicle at the time when he saw the officers approach. He began driving the vehicle around his place of business at high speed in what is believed to have been an attempt to evade the officers. An officer at the scene who felt that the quickly moving vehicle placed the officers in harm's way, shot at the car and shot and killed Nicholas Thomas. While a grand jury did later find that the shooting and resulting death of Thomas was justified, the officer was found guilty in the court of public opinion. Black

Lives Matter activists were outraged and believed that the verdict was not justice for Nicholas Thomas.

Four years after the terms Black Lives Matter surfaced, and the movement is stronger than ever.

However, the movement is a point of nacontroversy. tional There are many Americans who believe the

phrase Black Lives Matter should be replaced with All Lives Matter, but as Bill Maher, host of Real Time with Bill Maher pointed out " "There are people say it," the phrase should be 'All Lives Matter.' I disagree. That implies that all lives are equally at risk, and they're not. Black Lives Matter is the right [phrase]."

Others accuse Black Lives Matter activists of not being pro-black lives supporters but of actually being anti-police and anti-white. Small groups of white college students have reportedly been creating a "safe-space" for white students to talk about the "anti-white racism" they feel the Black Lives Matter protests portray. It has also been pointed out that none of the Black Lives Matter activists have responded to black on black crime and that it should be included in the protests.



Common Dreams

The phrase "Black Lives Matter" has been at the center of many civil rights protests.

Prom costs continue to rise

by Kirsten Atkins

Talk about the senior and junior prom has occurred ever since our early years of high school. Sometimes, even in our last years in

middle school. Prom isn't just an average high school dance. It's a very formal event where the girls get in formal dresses. apply makeup and get their hair done. Guys either rent or buy tuxedos. In some schools, students will often rent limos. It's no doubt that prom can cost more money than an average cell phone bill. But has it become too costly for the average high school student?

With everything students have to buy, prom \$1,000. Tickets alone can expensive for average students. cost close to \$100, de-

pending on the school. According to CNN Money, a school in Houston sells their prom tickets for \$150. That is just about the cost of a basic cell phone bill. Dresses can start around \$200. The cost depends on where it is bought and if on sale or not. When buying the dress, there has to be matching accessories such as shoes which runs the bill up even higher. For girls, the costs continue with getting hair and nails done. For guys, the main cost will be renting a tux, corsage, and boutonniere. Tack on the cost of a meal if eating

> out before or after and all these costs add up to an expensive event.

Have the costs gotten too expensive? Many students have the costs of college to look forward too and the prom money could perhaps be better spent. The kids who can't afford to go are left out of the social event causing them distress.

Schools can help by US news.com reducing the costs such as lowering

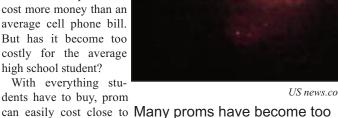
All students should be able to have the

chance to attend this special event during their

high school career. The high cost should not

prevent this from happening.

ticket prices. Area merchants could make things more reasonable to purchase as well.



Star Wars hype

by Keagan Landry

The recently released Star Wars The Force Awakens film sold out many theaters across America the day of its release.

The movie broke the record of 208 million opening weekend that Jurassic World made. It was estimated that the movie would make 225 million opening weekend and it went above and beyond. The movie ended up making 238 million.

The production budget of all the other films ranges from 8 million all the way to a max of 115 million, but the newest Star Wars had a production budget of 200 million making most people think that this newest edition would be as good or better than the others of the series.

The newest Star Wars The Force Awakens became the most anticipated and most hyped up movie of the saga. The reason behind this is because the last movie was released in 2005 and now the newest one was released at the end of 2015 that's 10

Currently, the most popular Star Wars film is The Empire Strikes back because it was seen by the most number of people followed by Return Of The Jedi. It is anticipated that the newest Star Wars is going to beat that due to how long the saga has been out of commission. It has allowed the saga to keep building up its hype over its break.

In America, Star Wars Phantom Menace makes number 6 for most successful movie of all time and Star Wars A New Hope Makes number 7 for most successful movie of all time in America. The newest Edition is hoping to make it into these ranks.



"Star Wars: The Force Awakens Theatrical

The movie cover for the newest released Star Wars.

Health benefits of yogurt

by James Comi

Everyone's body needs to have a healthy amount of good bacteria to digest food. A lot of yogurts have added good bacteria to make it even better for the digestive tract.

A lot of vogurt manufactures have added Probiotics to their yogurt products, which means there are living organisms that can help the body if you

Yogurt comes from milk. So people that eat yogurt will get a healthy dose of protein with every serving of yogurt, plus many other good things for the body like calcium, and vitamin B.

One of the best ways to help lower a person's blood pressure includes three servings of low fat or no fat daily products every day. These dairy products are an important source of calcium which is believed to help lower blood pressure.

Many people just like the calcium in yogurt while others turn to calcium filled pills to get calcium in order to get their daily amount, although Greek yogurt lets you get a lot more than just calcium that are not found in just calcium

When all the facts are in, yogurt has proven to be one of the most inexpensive and healthiest food sources on the

Laker Sports

Lakers hope to bounce back

by Sam Corman

The Colchester Lakers boys' hockey team jumped off to a rough start dropping two games to Rice, and one each to BFA and Rutland. Things began to move in the right direction when they pulled off an overtime win against rival Essex gaining their first victory of the season.

"We work hard in practice and in workouts we just need to carry that over into games," says junior David Cross.

Even though the team has eight seniors, they are still fairly young. A lot of juniors and sophomores have key roles on the team. The Lakers lost six players last year and didn't make any cuts this year with only one freshman trying out. A core of returning defensive players and junior goalie Jake Rocheleau create the foundation for the team this year. The biggest struggle for the team this year will be scoring.

"We have a quality team, with great chemistry but we just need to find our strength's so we can succeed in games, junior Tate Hamblette adds.

The team had two games over the Holiday break, travelling across the border to face some tough competition that will go a long way in developing the team for a strong play-

The Lakers have had nine non-league games so far. Thier non-league record is 1-7-

"We work really hard. Even though the games we have played haven't gone our way that they will start to," say senior Zach

Once playoffs arrive the Lakers have always become a team to fear. Last year, after having only six regular season wins, they went on to advance to the Semi-Finals and were one win away from a chance for a State Title.

This year the hope to follow that trend.



Photo by Roger Nadeau

Junior Forward Andrew St. Pierre sets up a pass in a recent Laker con-

Ski and Board club Girls' b-ball popular choice

by Brandon Bedard

The Colchester High School Ski and Board club gives students the opportunity to go to Bolton Valley Thursday nights including one in Dec, and several in January on the 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th after school until 8pm. If any of the days are canceled there will be make up days going through February on Thursday nights.

The program has been extremely successful filling up the maximum number of spots with a healthy waitlist. Only the first 49 people signed up can take the journey to Bolton on a Premier bus.

The Ski and Board club is very weather

dependant and could be canceled if the temperature falls into the negative fahrenheit or if conditions are too icy. The transportation fee is 95 dollars because of the Premier bus, lessons, lift tickets, and equipment that can be purchased/rented but will cost extra.

Mrs. Wolf who has been the Ski and Board club adviser for eight years thinks, "The ski and board club gives students of all ability levels a chance to have access to the mountain together."

Senior Billy Pretty has been in the Ski and Board club ever since he has been a freshman and said. "The Ski and Board club has given me a great opportunity to meet new friends and is great for showing your friends what you can do because everyone is up there at the same time."

hoops it up

by Mckenna Stanard

This year the girls' varsity basketball team is experienced and gets along better than ever. With two new faces everyone right now has the same goal starting off, to make it to Patrick Gym.

Closing in on their first half of the season saw them with a record of 5-4, respectable in the tough DI league they play.

With a new coach and a determined attitude the season has seen success. Winning games have come at the expense of BFA, Spaulding, MMU, Middlebury and MVU. Tough battles have been fought against BHS, Essex, CVU and Rutland where the

girls came up short on the scoreboard.

The new head coach Jason Desjardin is ready to make this team go to the end. Coach Desjardin also happens to be senior Kelsey Desjardins dad, a well experienced coach who bonds with the team creating memories and skills to last a lifetime. He and the team are a dedicated bunch ready to be pushed to the limit only improving for the better. By having a coach that's dedicated to the team and the game it makes the girls more dedicated, too.

Senior Kelsey Desjardin said, "Basketball uniforms make me feel like a man playing basketball," but that doesn't stop her from shooting those threes!

by Jason Lynch Staff writer for Adweek

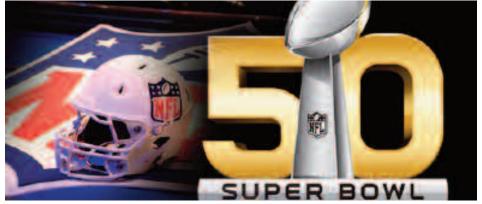
CBS isn't shying away from hyping its upcoming Super Bowl telecast as one of the biggest of all time. During its presentation at the Television Critics Association's winter press tour, CBS Sports referred to Super Bowl 50, "which it airs on Feb. 7, "as "the game America will never forget" in a sizzle reel.

"I really think the next time the Super Bowl will be this big will be Super Bowl 100," said Sean McManus, chairman, CBS Sports.

CBS has been preparing for Super Bowl 50 since "five days after Super Bowl XLIX," when CBS Corp. president and CEO Les Moonves hosted a companywide meeting involving all departments from programming to interactive to research to sales. Eleven months later, McManus said, "We are set from every single aspect to present what I think will be the best presentation of the Super Bowl in its history."

'There has never been a promotional campaign as broad ranging and as large as the promotional campaign behind Super Bowl 50," said McManus. On the Monday through Friday of

Super Bowl week, CBS will be doing live inserts at 8 p.m. to update viewers on that night's Super Bowl activities. "Wherever the biggest event is going on around the Super Bowl, we will be there live for one minute," said McManus.



Contributed by NFL.com

Super Bowl 50, the most hyped in history, will be played on February 7.

On Super Bowl Sunday, the network will broadcast seven hours of pregame programming, featuring four different sets: one on Market Street in downtown San Francisco and three at Levi's Stadium (outside, on the field and the host set on a concourse overlooking the field).

Among the "bells and whistles" CBS is highlighting during the game is Eyevision 360, a replay system featuring 36 cameras strung around the stadium's upper deck, which allows the team to freeze replays, rotate around a play and then continue to let the action play out.

In another Super Bowl first, CBS will outfit eight pylons with 16 cameras and microphones to film the goal lines and sidelines during the game. It provides "an unbelievable ground-level view." said McManus.

Super Bowl week will also see the launch of CBS Sports' new logo, which is changing for the first time in 35 years, and a new on-air graphics package for CBS Sports and CBS Sports Net-

Laker Sports

Sea-Lakers play as one

As hockey fans may know our own girls' Laker hockey team has had low numbers in the past couple years. Due to this, the girls of Colchester had to combine with the lady Seahorses of Burlington. This merging of the two teams didn't just bring new faces onto the team, it brought new coaching and even a new set of jerseys into the locker room. The biggest change however was that the previously Division I Lakers got moved down to Division II. This opened up a whole new batch of teams to play against and compete for a championship.

Going into their 2nd year as a combined team, the lady Sea Lakers saw eleven new comers which made for a difficult first couple of practices as the new girls were trying to find their hockey legs as six of them had never even skated before.

"Those first couple of days were rough and slow, but with hard work and perseverance we have improved," said senior defenseman Tayler Losier."I look foward to seeing what these girls can do and having fun in my senior year."

At the mid way point in the season the team is 4-6-1.

"The first couple of games were a real test for us and we played some great teams," Junior Goalie Jenna Blondin said."I have put in a lot of effort in the off-season and it seems to all be paying off in the early parts of the season."

As Blondin averages 30 saves a game the talent in net as well as her extreme work ethic to never give up does not go unoticed by the other Lady Lakers. "Jenna is awesome, to back her up this year is great, I have learned a lot about goalie that I didn't know and she helps me with getting used to the speed and different things that come with playing high school hockey," says freshman goalie Ally Peeters.

The Sea-Lakers might have gotten off to a slow start, while facing some of the hardest teams in DI and II in their first seven games of the season (1-6), but in their next four games went 3-0-1.

As the girls close out the second half, their goal is to strive for a championship in March.



VT Sports Images photo

Junior goalie (Jenna Blondin) covers the puck, while senior defenseman (Taylor Losier) shields the South Burlington player.

Varsity mix youth Dance prepare with experience

by Caci Kranz

This year's Varsity boys' basketball team has come together with new and returning players. They've worked together and began their season with an exciting 65-51 win against Middlebury. Since then, it was rocky with four losses; however, in their six games after that rough start, they went 4-2, bringing their record deep into January at a respectable 5-6, with nine re-

The captains this season are Matt Hesford, Justin Evans and

starts in the spring.

and Clippers.

Most sports fans have a favorite team. Many have a favorite

team for each season of the year. A favorite NFL and NBA team in fall, soccer(MLS) team in the spring, NHL team in the winter, and MLB team in the spring. Including NASCAR which also

In Vermont, most of our favorite sports teams are local and feature the Celtics, the Patriots, the Bruins, and the Red Sox. But some students are fans of other teams outside New England such as the Dolphins, Seahawks, Cowboys, Giants, Royals, Yankees,

Penguins, Red Wings, Broncos,

Raiders, Rangers, Heat, Lakers

Following and supporting a

team is part of enjoying sports.

Anthony Park.

Junior Thomas Meadows says, "We are a young team, but with a little experience we can have a good season."

The boys have more chemistry and are hoping to improve from their season last year. They are going to continue to work harder this year and practice their game speed.

The new players to the team have shown what they can do and are a great inclusion to the team.

The boys look forward to making a strong run once playoffs begin in a few weeks.

for States

by Caci Kranz

Dance Team this year has been off to a great start. They have a new coach, Alexandra Leigh, and everything seems to be going well. They perform regularly

at basketball games and have a few more competitions left in the season.

Each year, the Dance Team competes in small competitions that lead up competitions are against other teams that live around the area. Once States come, Cochester team will com-

pete against other teams around the state. The judges at all competitions will score the team on different categories including difficulty, technique, synchronization and appearance.

This year, their first competition was on January 9th and they competed in the Jazz and Pom categories.

Other competition dates are January

23rd, January 30th, February 13th and States on February 20th.

Junior, Anne Stetson dances to come tosays, "We're working really hard to get the dance to States. The smaller nice to see how they to come together so it'll be nice to see how they turn turn out at games!" out."

> Dance will continue to the -Anne Stetson perform at several basket-

girls', throughout the remainder of the

"We're working re-

ally hard to get the

gether, so it'll be

ball games, both boys' and

James Comi



Blackhawks **Eagles**

Megan Wallace



Seahawks Redsox Celtics **Panthers**

Justin Lafayette



Red Wings Heat Redskins Yankees Manchester United

Favorite team

12 JANUARY, 2016

LET THE MUSIC PLAY

