

## EG SCHOOL BOND APPROVED

### East Greenwich Voters Approve \$150 Million School Bond

by: Lillian Ranney

The new school bond that was recently approved has been a hot topic of conversation around East Greenwich, although many do not know what it actually entails. Kevin Murphy, East Greenwich School Committee Member and East Greenwich Building Committee Co-Chair, shares his insight and his expertise on the newly approved school bond and what that entails for the entire EG community. Murphy explains that work first began on the project with a \$100,000 grant from the RI Department of Education in 2019, given to the East Greenwich School District.

“The grant allowed us to hire experts to evaluate our buildings and identify areas where we could improve teaching, learning, and social/emotional outcomes by improving our facilities,” stated Kevin Murphy.

Over the course of a year, the experts identified many “key areas of need” at schools in EG, such as updated spaces for the arts, athletics, and life skills. However, COVID-19 posed a challenge for the town and delayed the project into 2021. Additionally, without a large source of funding, East Greenwich would not have been able to consider these improvements.

Murphy explains, “Our entire municipal revenue in any given year is in the tens of millions of dollars, and projects like the proposed school construction project cost hundreds of millions of dollars.”

There needed to be some outside source of funding. This is where the school bond comes in. Town leaders decided to ask taxpayers’ approval to use their tax dollars for these improvements. This money is what is referred to as the “school bond.” In a vote cast in November 2023, almost 70% of voters approved the bond.

The current plan for the usage of this money (\$150 million) includes a multitude of expansions for all elementary schools. This would involve “creating” two new schools ranging from grades 1-5 on the Frenchtown and Hanaford sites. The aim of this change is to reduce transitions from different schools at a young age. Meadowbrook will also be remodeled to be a PreK-K early learning center.

At EGHS, there are plans to renovate and improve most areas of the school, including but not limited to, “additional classrooms, renovations of the basement and locker rooms, renovation of the life skills suite, upgrades to



*The current EGHS auditorium, slated to be renovated using the money from the school bond.*

the auditorium and cafeteria, and even outdoor improvements to the facade, landscaping, and courtyard.”

Additionally, “the renovation plans were designed and proposed by EGHS students, and accepted by RIDE to be included in [the building committee’s] final submission.”

Overall, this project is anticipated to begin in spring 2025, and RIDE has required that the project be completed within 5 years. Construction will begin at Frenchtown, and the old

Frenchtown building will be used to house Hanaford students while the project is being completed. Work at EGHS and Meadowbrook will likely happen “concurrently with the construction at Frenchtown.”

The School Committee and the Building Committee of East Greenwich have evidently been working hard on these plans, and students and the community have great reason to be excited about these new renovations and improvements.

### School Issues Update: What Really Happened?

by: Joshua Yelle

On the first day back from Thanksgiving break, students at EGHS experienced no heat or electricity in the science wing. The science classrooms were cold and dark. When teachers turned on bunsen burners for routine science experiments in their classrooms, students began to notice a strong smell of gas lingering throughout the east side of the building. This was brought to the attention of the school administration who investigated the smell. At 11:15, students in the science wing were moved to the cafeteria in order for the East Greenwich Fire Department to arrive to take a look. They advised the school administration to evacuate the building and later dismissed students. At 11:30, a whistle blew and everyone raced home.

The common word around the school was that there was a gas leak. This is what the majority of the student body heard, but what actually happened? Turns out there were more problems than perceived.

Dr. Ricca, EGPS Superintendent of Schools, states in an email, that the evacuation early Monday morning was due to “a burning smell near room 113, along with a natural gas smell.”

Upon further investigation, it was determined that the previous power outage caused



*The lower south west corner of the school earlier this year due to renovations to resolve recent issues.*

the air exchange units within the science wing to become inactive. Science experiments, involving bunsen burners, in combination with the idle air exchange, led to a buildup of natural gas and, therefore, the smell, which alarmed faculty and led to the evacuation.

Despite the events, students returned to school the following day: Tuesday, November 28th. Upon their return, the entire science wing was closed and many classes were relocated due to a lack of heat and power. Administration later discovered water pooling up in the back stairwell. In response to the heating issues, the area around the north breezeway was blocked off, allowing contractors the ability to create access holes in the floor and thus addressing the issues outside of school hours.

SCHOOL ISSUES, PG3

### Honoring Mr. Bob Houghtaling

As members of the Spectrum Newspaper, we always want to show our support to the people, family and friends who are grieving the loss of a wonderful and selfless man: Mr. Bob Houghtaling. It’s so important to ensure that his memory and all that he has brought to this town and beyond lives on forever. Our town will never be the same without him. Rest in peace, Mr. Bob Houghtaling.

At the beginning of his forums, Mr. Bob would say, “Please take a moment, raise up and acknowledge someone in the room. Whether you know them or not, simply give a hello or handshake. Just taking a moment and choosing to make in-person connection will preserve the necessity of community.” We



*Mr. Bob speaking at one of his town forums*

share this message to remind each one of our readers to take care of each other, check in on your peers, your neighbors, friends, acquaintances, and any passing faces.

#### Mr. Bob’s Impact:

“People need this reminder, all of his work was centered on simple principles. Community being most crucial.”

- EGHS Student

“Mr. Bob was a truly wonderful human being. When he was in the halls he would engage in meaningful conversation. If he asked you a question, he really cared to know the answer. I had the privilege to get to know him, and for a short time, I got to work with him on a project. I am so glad I had the chance to know him and hope his legacy lives on.”

- EGHS Student



*Mr. Bob Houghtaling*



# FUN & GAMES

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## How to Catch A Leprechaun

by: Daragh Gammell

With Saint Patrick’s Day around the corner, people around the world are beginning to prepare for the upcoming celebrations. Some are setting out their green clothes. Some are reading stories about Saint Patrick. And some are preparing their contraptions to capture the mystical green creatures, better known as “leprechauns.”

For many, the act of setting up a leprechaun trap is comical, a mere joke. However, for the serious leprechaun hunters out there, it is one of the most important times of the year. Therefore, to optimize their chances of capturing a leprechaun, they must ensure their traps are no short of perfection. That’s exactly what I will share with you. The best trap for success, so you can join the fellow hunters and capture your first leprechaun.

**Step 1- Understand which leprechaun you are after:** There are three types of leprechauns: The Northerns, found solely in Ireland, The Long Noses, habiting the continents of Asia

and Africa, and The Green Feet, which live in North America and Eastern parts of South America. For the sake of these instructions, I will assume you are reading this in North America, so I will continue to describe the process of capturing a Green Foot Leprechaun.

**Step 2 - Decide your Bait:** It is likely that you do not have true gold in your house. However, do not attempt to use fake gold EVER – they will retaliate viciously if they find out that it is fake. Therefore, you can use the next best thing: Cadbury Chocolate. This can be in any form, but they prefer either Cadbury gold coins – the only exception to the fake gold rule – or Cadbury Cream Eggs. The more chocolate you use, as well as the more variety you use, the more likely you are to lure in more than one leprechaun.

**Step 3 - Setting up the trap:** To set up an efficient trap, you have to create a self-operated trap or else the leprechauns will be able to avoid the auto-trapping features, no matter

how advanced they are. Leprechauns are able to teleport through all materials, except polka-dotted materials, and they are reported to be faster than the speed of light, so you must use a clear material to see the leprechaun. I personally recommend – and have gotten the most success – out of drawing polka dots (approximately 1 inch away from each other) on a clear container suspended by a string on a pulley from the ceiling. They are really bad at looking up so suspending it from the roof is the most effective way. Finally, you need to have Irish music ready to play for when the leprechaun appears.

**Step 4 - Using the trap:** I recommend setting up your trap as close to Saint Patrick’s Day as you can because it makes it harder for them to predict what you are up to. Leprechauns operate on a similar time structure to Santa Claus, so you need to be most vigilant at around 1-3 AM. Make sure that you are always holding on tight to the string keeping the trap open and keep a constant eye on the bait. As soon as you see either a flicker of light in the trap or the bait moving in the slightest, drop the string as silently as possible and start the Irish music to calm down the leprechaun. As much as you

may want to go over to the trap instantly, you must let the music play for at least an hour before you go near the trap or else the leprechaun will become invisible.

**Step 5 - Seeing the leprechaun:** Once you have the leprechaun trapped and it is listening to Irish music, you need to make sure that you very carefully crawl over to it, making sure you never look at the trap. Then, start singing the Irish song yourself while you stand up. The leprechaun should start to reveal itself. I recommend only keeping the leprechaun trapped for about 2 hours because they are known to get violent after 2 hours. To let the leprechaun go, slowly open the cage with the music still playing and wait for about 5 minutes before turning off the music to be safe.

There it is folks, the age-old tradition of catching leprechauns. I strongly advise sticking to my instructions word for word to see the leprechaun and to avoid getting hurt. Additionally, make sure you celebrate Saint Patrick’s Day all day long, wear your green attire and try as many of the traditions as you can to truly experience the holiday.

- Written by a full-blooded Irishman

## Word Search: Teachers at EGHS

G T U U I Z Y E V R A H S R M Z M D W A P R X  
V K O B P T M R S E A V E S T V K G L E H I Y  
D O G M R S G I L D E N Z C X K G Y B K D C Y  
L Q O E Z E R O X I A O C E E T Y S J O R C E  
H U H G R E L L I V N A B S R M D R N Z P U N  
T H M R S C H A M P A G N E O E Z K Z N A D N  
I U G B V W F J E I C C U R T E P R M E G R E  
D S M T C M R S M U N Z E R T D R M S C E E K  
E I T T A R A I G N A M S R M I M R Q S C V R  
R S R A S H U G R U E M R S L E E W W E W S D  
E U X P Z F T M R S G A R N O U Q R K R C R S  
M S I L L E B U C E D R M R N L G E Y C Q M S  
A K E T T E C U O D R M Q N E T R N F E M N L  
R A S Z R V Z T N N E C A H C S R M Z M S Z S  
S K P T E R I M R M D M R R E V K I N N N A B  
D A Y B N C P D W A H S R M M R S B A T E S I

Find the following words in the puzzle.  
Words are hidden ↑ ↓ → ← ↘

- |                |                |                  |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| DR. KENNEY     | MRS. BANVILLE  | MRS. SHAW        |
| DR. PAGE       | MRS. BATES     | MRS. LEE         |
| MME. CRESCENZO | MRS. CHACE     | MRS. MANGIARATTI |
| MR. DECUBELLIS | MRS. CHAMPAGNE | MRS. MUNZERT     |
| MR. DOUCETTE   | MRS. EAVES     | MRS. VERDUCCI    |
| MR. MIRE       | MRS. GARNO     | MR. WREN         |
| MR. PETRUCCI   | MRS. GILDEN    | SRA. MEREDITH    |
| MR. REVKIN     | MRS. HARVEY    | SRA. SHUGRUE     |

## Connections

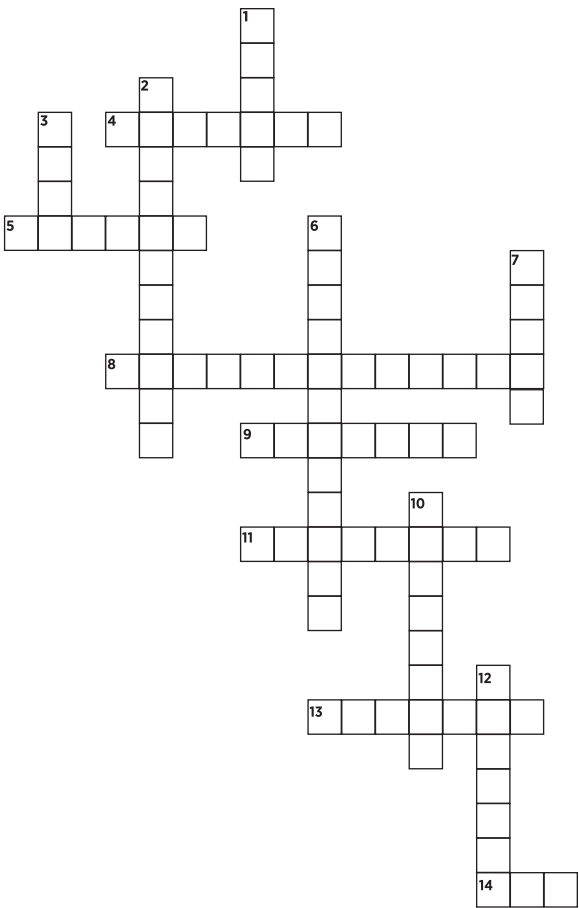
by: Danielle Dronzek & Joshua Yelle

FOR	YOU	DOLLARS	CHANGE
KISS	SUITS	JOURNEY	BRIDGERTON
EAGLES	CASH	ATE	HEART-STOPPER
DOUGH	TO	WON	QUEEN

GREEN	FIANCE	ICE	PO
HECTOR	BLUE	HECKLE	STRAW
THAI	HUCKLE	ROSE	RIDICULE
CLICHE	ASSAIL	BUREAU	BLACK

## East Greenwich Crossword

by: Danielle Dronzek



- ACROSS
- Coffee shop near the high school
  - Mafia Name of EGHS student fanbase
  - The first trait listed in the vision of a graduate
  - Popular brand of chips found in high school vending machines
  - Field Name of the football field (starting with a “C”)
  - Mascot of Cole Middle School
  - Tech College in East Greenwich
- DOWN
- Nickname of faculty member who advises the Spectrum Newspaper
  - Most recent musical put on by Avenger Theater
  - Clementine, grapefruit, apple, and blackberry are the flavors of this sparkling drink sold in the cafeteria
  - Cranston and EG co-op girls hockey team
  - Local grocery store
  - Elective that holds class in Room 200
  - Name of the EGHS yearbook





# CURRENT EVENTS

## School Issues Update: What Really Happened?

### SCHOOL ISSUES, PG3

*Continued from PG1*

According to Dr. Page, Principal of East Greenwich High School, the accumulation of water in the stairwell behind the upper gym was caused by “water trapped between the roof deck and membrane.”

Dr. Page continued with, “This is cause for the common water dripping from the ceiling in the adjacent hallway along the upper gym.”

The water leakage will not be able to be addressed and completely resolved “until the warmer months, as higher temperatures are needed to dry out the roof membrane.” Eyes were also focused on the dripping water in the corridor alongside the upper gym.

Professionals and administration have

been actively tackling the issues, aiming for improvements with the hope that soon the building will be even better than it was before. Now, everything concerning the evacuations has returned to normal. The roof will be addressed at a later date and there is currently work going on that is focused on paint and general repairs to the building.

These events have undoubtedly posed challenges for the students, faculty, administration and professionals involved. However, amidst these adversities, there has been a silver lining: they have served to unify and strengthen the school building and its community.

## Moving Onto Mock Trial Semifinals: EGHS’ Mock Trial Team

by: Min Lombardi

First organized in 2017, the Rhode Island Legal Education Foundation (RILEF) aims to educate student participants about the legal system through a mock trial tournament. The RILEF does this through yearly mock trial tournaments in which each school sets up a team of around twelve or more members for both sides, the Prosecution and the Defense. Each team is made up of attorney and witness pairs as well as coaches. The teams present their cases before judiciary members throughout the state and attorneys who act as scoring judges rate the direct examination, cross-examination, opening and closing statements, and witness performances out of ten, where all the scores are added up to determine the winner. Whoever has the most points wins the trial.

The team at EGHS is comprised of their coach Mr. McPartlin and twelve members: Owen Warren, Steven Saccocio, Min Lombardi, Savanna Tickner, Selena Chen, Cameron Gates, Milo Baumgartner, Juliahna

Falciglia-Mattes, Rishi Gokhale, Polly Clark, Haydon Armstrong, and Julia Moore.

On the dates of November 8, 2023, EGHS’ Mock Trial team went up against Saint Raphael’s with a score of 202.5 to 195.8, with EG winning. The following trial after that was against Middletown with the scores being 202.6 to 195.4, again with EGHS being victorious. The last trial of the first three competitions to compete for the top 16 in the State of Rhode Island was against Moses Brown. The score for that trial was 185 to 179 with once again EGHS being victorious. The next trial coming up for this team is against Portsmouth High School on February 14, 2024, and marks the beginning of the playoff season!

This year’s mock trial case involves the death of a real estate developer on a project site on the shores of Lake Tahoe, in Douglas County, Rhode Island. The Defendant, Carolyn Armistad, who will not testify in this case, was the deceased’s employee, and she had become

## Prom: What to Know

by: Daragh Gammell

One of the staples of a high school experience, regarded by some as the best night of their lives, is attending prom. In turn, our fellow EGHS students and faculty have been working tirelessly to make this year’s prom one to remember.

This year, the 2025 Class Council has decided to have prom on May 17th with the theme “Royal Mediterranean,” at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet. Finan Gammell, Co-President of the Class of 2025, explains the theme as a “high-class ocean theme given the location’s relevant proximity to the water.” Furthermore, he explains that the attire is set to follow a palette of “navy, white, gold, and some pink.” Many of the upperclassmen have already begun to plan their prom attire, shoes, flower bouquets and more. Simultaneously, the 2025

Class Council is staying hard at work, ironing out the fine details such as security, menus, decoration ideas, and invitations through the help of Mrs. Agresti’s Adobe Illustrator classes. Most of all, they are determined to keep the price of tickets as low as possible, aiming to have the tickets cost \$80.

Overall, this year’s prom planning is running smoothly thanks to the efforts of the 2025 Class Council, Mrs. Agresti’s Adobe Illustrator classes and the support from class advisors Mrs. Biafore and Mrs. Bouvard. With the excitement building through the upper-classmen, combined with the stunning theme and location, this prom is sure to be one to remember.

involved in a quarrel with the deceased over money as a development project began to go sour. None of the witnesses in this case saw the murder take place, but each offers evidence of what might have occurred that fateful night. In addition to calling associates of the victim and Defendant, each side relies on an expert witness to complete the presentation of its Case.

On the evening of September 1, 2020, 34-year-old Timothy Eagan went to dinner with several of his colleagues at the Lucky Lobster Restaurant in Stateline, Rhode Island. Eagan was originally from Orange County, California, a graduate of Pepperdine University, and Founder and President of Ocean State Development, a real estate company he started in 2016. The next morning, Timothy Eagan was found dead from a gunshot wound at the site of one of his real estate developments nearby. Carolyn Armistad, 28, of Minden, Rhode Island is an employee of Ocean State Development. After a two-month investigation, she was charged with First Degree Murder in Timothy Eagan’s death.

East Greenwich High School’s Defense team is made up of three witnesses, Rudy Chen (Haydon Armstrong) – Investment Banker,

Amari Lewis (Min Lombardi) – Firearms Engineer, and Val Warren (Cameron Gates) – Architectural Designer. With Owen Warren, Julia Moore, and Rishi Gokhale as the lawyers.

East Greenwich High School’s Prosecution team is made up of Blaine Mendoza (Selena Chen) – a Computer Hacker and Forensic Investigator, Haskell Perry (Savanna Tickner) – a Real Estate Developer and Business Partner of Tim Eagan, and Wynn Wilson (Polly Clark) – a Patrol Officer. Their respective attorneys are Steven Saccocio, Milo Baumgartner, and Juliahna Falciglia-Mattes.



*The EGHS Mock Trial team outside of Garrahy courthouse. Haydon Armstrong, Rishi Gokhale, Cameron Gates, Milo Baumgartner, Steven Saccocio, Owen Warren, Savanna Tickner, Polly Clark, Min Lombardi, Juliahna Falciglia-Mattes and Selena Chen respectively.*



# SPORTS

## Hockey Update

by: Eva Dufresne

East Greenwich High School’s Division 1 Boys Hockey Team has gone through a transition that has tested their team this 2023-2024 Winter season. After ending their 2022-2023 season, the hockey team realized that with the number of seniors graduating, they would not have enough players for both a JV and a Varsity team. The best possible option was to create a Co-Op team with another school.

As Junior Captain, Jack Kiernan, states, “...the co-op was definitely very beneficial to both schools because it gave each school the opportunity to continue to compete in Division 1.”

Before the season started, the team found out that they were merging with Toll Gate High School, since Toll Gate split from the Co-Op they had with Pilgrim. The East Greenwich Avengers became the East Greenwich Toll



*East Greenwich and Toll Gate’s merged hockey team, the Avenger Titans*

Gate Avenger Titans.

Senior Captain, Chase Paskalis, shares, “I think the co-op was a great idea considering the amount of players we had as just EG. I think it put us in a spot where we wouldn’t be if the co-op didn’t happen.”

Merging with Toll Gate High School brought the EG team more skill and numbers

that they needed in order to play in Division 1. As with most new teams, the start of the season can be pretty rocky especially when combining two teams that have never played together.

East Greenwich Athletic Director, Casie Rhodes, states, “Winning isn’t always going to come in the beginning of something new when you are merging new philosophies.”

The newly converged team fought hard at every game, getting to know one another and how everyone played individually. As the weeks went on, from pasta dinners, to bus rides, to away games, the players soon were able to connect with each other. The players’ connection was apparent when they defeated Cumberland High School on January 26, 2024, with a score of 6-3. This was a great accomplishment for the team and showed true teamwork and dedication.

Junior Captain Jack Kiernan states that with the Co-Op, he thinks “the team will do well next season even though we are losing a very important group of seniors.” In the end, becoming a Co-Op team with Toll Gate allowed the players to make new teammates and new memories as a team as their high school season goes on.



*The Avenger Titans during game against Cumberland High School*



# Girls Basketball Update

by: Lauren Elevado

The Lady Avengers’ showed true passion for their seniors during their game against Woonsocket High School. Seniors Catherine Neville, Sophia Schwartzbach, and Gabriela Jackson won their senior night game 61 to 27. The Seniors were welcomed to the court with posters, balloons, and gifts, followed by heart-felt speeches. The Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors decorated the gymnasium before they arrived.

The game itself started off rough as the score fluctuated back and forth between both teams. However, after the six minute mark, the Lady Avengers’ began to exceed the opponents score and grew a lead by fast breaks up the court which greatly sparked the team’s energy and allowed the team to gain momentum. Proactive defense and anticipating the opponent’s passes, allowed for steals and opened up opportunities for East Greenwich to score. With great coaching and a significant amount of sportsmanship, the team was able to defeat Woonsocket.

Although East Greenwich Girls Bas-

ketball did not make it to playoffs, the team fought until the end of their season and captured a record of 4-14 in Division 2. The Lady Avengers concluded their season on February 14th with their match-up against Cumberland. It was a competitive game, with Cumberland winning 51-36 over East Greenwich.

All and all, the team has persevered through this year and has had a tremendous amount of fun playing basketball, having pasta dinners, doing team bonding, and sharing these memories as a team. Congratulations to the Seniors and congratulations for a hard fought season.



East Greenwich and Shea/Tolman girls basketball teams

# Fall and Winter Sports Recap

by: Alex Gendron

The fall season for East Greenwich High School was one to remember. All teams played their hearts out and had great seasons overall. Girls Tennis had a hard-fought season with Ellie Coker-Dodman getting named First Team All-State. The Boys and Girls Cross Country teams placed well in states, with many members receiving recognition for their incredible season. Girls Soccer played together throughout the season, and Ella Kauffman was named First Team All-State. Boys Soccer made it to the postseason and battled against every opponent they faced. Girls Volleyball had a terrific season and made the playoffs before falling to Chariho. The football team was a tight-knit unit that persevered through every obstacle put in their path. The Unified Volleyball team brought home another Division I championship, beating Hendricken 2-1. Finally, the Girls Field Hockey team brought the state championship back to East Greenwich after winning against Moses Brown 3-2. They were led by First Team All-State players: Maeve Kiernan, Catherine Neville, Margaret Neville, and Ellie

Picard. The winter sports season has also presented East Greenwich with many great moments thus far. The Boys Basketball team, led by captains Seamas Comer and Andrew Connolly, has battled tirelessly in Division I. The same goes for the Girls Basketball team, who have been in several close competitions over the course of the season. The Boys Hockey team has competed for every game along with Toll Gate, a newly developed co-op for the next two seasons. The Girls Hockey team has accomplished similar feats while playing alongside Cranston schools. Both Boys and Girls Track and Field have been resilient throughout the season and still have more to accomplish. Boys wrestling has had a terrific season, having a 9-2 record and finishing second in their division. The Swim team has also had much success and still has states to look forward to.

The fall and winter sports seasons have treated the Avengers well thus far, but there is still much to accomplish as the winter season closes out and spring arrives.



# OPINION

## Point-Counterpoint: Ivy League Schools

by: Rosalind Bassen-Alexander and Madison Hennessy

Ivy League universities are known internationally as the best universities in the United States, and some of the best in the world. However, in recent years, their rising costs and falling acceptance rates have caused some people to question whether or not the prestige of an Ivy League education is truly worth it.

### POINT:

Contrary to the skepticism as of late, Ivy League educations are worth the costly tuition and stressful application process. Not only is the prestige of an Ivy League degree attractive to potential employers, Ivy League graduates earn higher salaries annually than those who graduate in the top 10% of other colleges, according to Forbes. In fact, after about 20 years of work experience, Ivy League graduates earn an average annual salary of \$161,888 compared to their non-Ivy League counterparts who earn \$101,777 according to the US News and World Report. Many argue that money cannot buy happiness, but there is no denying that it is the most desired commodity in the world. If there is any way to measure whether a university is worth its costs, it is the money earned afterward to pay its prices. In addition, the Ivy Leagues are known for their small class sizes and esteemed professors. It is for all these reasons that the decision to go to an Ivy League school is not one to regret, but to appreciate as it fulfills its purpose in the future.

All in all, one should consider both the pros and cons when making their final college decision.

### COUNTERPOINT:

While one cannot deny the benefits that Ivy League schools contain for both a graduate’s present and future, with that comes downsides as well. For one, the tuition costs are outstandingly high in most cases due to the prestige of the schools. On average from 2022-2023, tuition costs varied from \$61,000 to \$82,000, not including supplies and housing. On top of high costs, attending an Ivy League school entails great competitiveness from peers and others around a student. From the minute one applies, intimidation and competition to succeed begins. This competitiveness can be heavily stressful on top of trying to do well in school and prepare for the future. In addition to this, while small class sizes at these prestigious schools may seem beneficial, they create a slim chance that a student will be successful socially. Little social activity in a college setting can lead to a higher chance of depression and anxiety, as well as falling into a slump.



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## ChatGPT: Is It Ethical?

by: Emily Clarke

In a technologically advanced world, with the internet and its capabilities evolving daily, the question begs to be asked, is this all ethical? More specifically, is the use of Artificial Intelligence in the classroom ethical? The question is deeply nuanced because, technically, there’s no plagiarism involved when using AI services such as ChatGPT because you can’t get “consent from the original author.” You’re not exploiting another person or stealing their work. This reasoning exactly is why some students see no issue with submitting an essay they had no role in writing. But the question of is or isn’t it cheating goes beyond that. What about students who used ChatGPT as an outline for their essay, or an editing assistant.

Many students at EGHS have strong opinions surrounding the use of AI in the classroom, admitting that they’ve used it to write parts of their essays when they were struggling or to get ideas on what to write about. Should students be punished for seeking help in this way? Is it still cheating? Most students agree that submitting an essay that ChatGPT wrote in its entirety is unfair and would be considered cheating. But what about using it as an assistant? And how far can it assist you before it becomes cheating? Because of these gray areas surrounding the use of AI, clear cut policies need to be put in place, outlining when it is and isn’t acceptable.

Junior Noella Chretien was asked for her input on the subject and decided that “It depends. If you use it as a thesaurus, that’s okay. But if you ask it to write an entire essay that’s not. Honestly though, a lot of times it can’t even detect the nuances and emotion that you’re trying to convey, so it’s so much better to ask a person.”

Many teachers at EGHS would care to defend the point that there ARE ethical ways to use ChatGPT in the modern classroom. Using ChatGPT to help you edit your essays, or study for a test can be helpful for students who may not have time or access to peer and teacher

feedback. Mr. DeCubellis, for example, is a teacher who has embraced the use of AI and even gone as far as to encourage students to build their skills using it.

Mr. DeCubellis defended this choice stating that, “Although I understand how some would argue that it could lead to a diminishment of student creative and critical thinking skills, I think that if we embrace it in the right way it can actually be a tool for improving students’ writing skills.” His main point was that AI is here to stay and there’s no point in trying to avoid that.

When using AI in the classroom, you have to walk a fine line between using it as an assistant and completely relying on it. Mr. Brocato, another English teacher here at EGHS, took on the counter-point of Mr. DeCubellis, offering that, “It’s foolish to think that kids won’t use it. But using it will only weaken kids’ skills, especially if they become reliant on it.” He went on to say that even if you’re paraphrasing Chat’s writing, it’s still cheating. This supports what’s clearly written in EGHS’s student handbook, which states that using Artificial Intelligence and crediting it as your own is a direct violation of the Academic Integrity policy.

When it comes down to it, there is no answer to whether ChatGPT is or isn’t ethical. Are there ethical ways of using it? Maybe. Are there unethical ways of using it? Of course. ChatGPT assuming the role of a teacher or person is not something that should be encouraged, but the widely agreed upon point that ChatGPT is not going away is completely valid. In some cases, it is beneficial to build skills with the resource, but in no way should someone become completely reliant on it as a replacement for their own writing. The question of ethics will always come into play when new pieces of technology are introduced and clear cut policies surrounding ChatGPT, at least globally, will likely not be established for years to come. But for now, the question of ethics is up to the user to decide.

# INTERESTED IN JOINING THE SPECTRUM?

*The Spectrum Newspaper* aims to share a vast range of voices and opinions. We are always looking for new members, so anyone is welcome! We need writers, artists, photographers, and anyone with a niche interest they would love to tell the world about.

If interested, please contact:

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# STUDENTS & STAFF

## Rapid Fire With Mr. King

by: Daragh Gammell, Danielle Dronzek and Lillian Ranney

	“Biology is the only real subject” - Mr. King
Mr. King is a science teacher at EGHS who teaches Biology and Anatomy. He has been teaching for many years and is well-known by his students for his sense of humor and engaging classes (as well as his killer mustache). He continues to capture the attention of his students through his stories. Interested in learning more about his experiences, the interviewers resolved to ask him some interesting (and often food-related) questions. Learn more about the stories he has told his classes and get a glimpse of Mr. King’s life in this Rapid Fire.	ble shots of espresso, and water.
Why did you start teaching?	Top 5 favorite foods? Gotta have a jelly donut in there, that’s required. Put a nice medium-rare steak in there. Potatoes with sour cream. What else? Um... swordfish is in there, pizza, you gotta have pizza, and a good bowl of hearty chili.
It was one of the most family-friendly jobs that I could consider. I’ve enjoyed bio since I was in high school and I wanted to make a career out of it.	Tell us the story of how you fell out of a tree. It was the day before spring break, my dad brought home a heavy duty rope...so I could climb it every morning to start off my day, as a workout. You guys don’t do that anymore, but we had to do that in high school (in gym class). I climbed all the way up the tree, tied the rope all the way around a limb, swung out on the rope, and I heard a loud snap. Not quite understanding what was going on, I felt the air rushing up behind my ears-
What did you eat for breakfast today?	
Just a hot Americano, black cappuccino. Dou-	

## Delaney Sullivan: Senior Story

by: Mary Murphy

Delaney Sullivan, a Senior in the graduating class of 2024, has an array of talents, passions and future aspirations. She is the type of person that achieves her goals and then continues to set more; always looking for a new challenge. Delaney overcomes obstacles and adversity whether it’s in her Irish dancing shoes, decorating cakes with a piping bag in her hand, or with a textbook in front of her. She has been passionate about Irish dance from the age of four and started competing at the age of nine, and now says “at the age of seventeen, I have gone further than I ever even imagined.” Dancing has taken Delaney all around the world: Montreal, Washington D.C., and Scotland this March. Her determination and passion for dancing has led her to be a 2x qualifier for the World Championships, after competing at the state, regional, and national levels.	Delaney has developed a passion for sports medicine and is intrigued “with learning about the body and understanding how and why things work.” This love for science and the medical field has prompted her to study Biology or Health Sciences in college, and she hopes to pursue a minor in either Leadership or Psychology. In regards to leadership, Delaney chose to develop a curriculum and teach a Frenchtown second grade class for her senior project. She is proud to have been able to make an impactful difference, teaching students about leadership and how they too can be leaders in their community. Reflecting on her achievements, Delaney comments, “I have always been self-motivated to achieve. My parents always stressed work ethic over results...I aim to be the best version of myself every day.”
Through her many years of dancing,	

## Rapid Fire With Mr. Perrin

by: Emily Clarke

As a Sophomore World Civ. teacher, Mr. Perrin has been educating students and destroying friendships in the WW1 debate for quite some time now. Whether you’ve already had Mr. Perrin but are interested in his outside life, or want to score some in-class brownie points for knowing his interests, here are some facts that you may not have known about Mr. Perrin.	Pizza
What is your name?	What is your favorite color? Blue
Andrew Perrin	What is your favorite movie? Elf
What is your favorite activity?	What is your biggest pet peeve? Drivers who don’t yield
Cycling	What’s a random fact about you? When I was a child I had a pet crow
What is your greatest accomplishment?	If someone made a biopic about you, who would you cast to play yourself? Larry David
In terms of activities, it’s a cycling accomplishment. My first solo 100 mile ride, averaging 20 miles an hour for 5 hours	What’s your favorite TV show? Somebody Feed Phil
What is your most used app?	Who is someone you admire?
Strava, a little bit of twitter	I have far too many to pick one, but when I think about the traits of the someone I admire, they must have courage
What is your favorite restaurant?	What would you be if you weren’t a teacher?
Matunuck Oyster Bar	I would be a cycling park ranger for the national park service/travel writer
What’s your favorite food?	

[Interviewers laugh.]	What cell organelle are you?
It was a really cool sensation. And in about two seconds, I hit the ground, feet first, and the branch came knocking down onto my shoulder and head. I didn’t get knocked out, but I was in severe pain on the ground until one of my siblings came by and saw me writhing around on the ground and arranged to bring me to the hospital.	Hmm...I’m feeling the mitochondria. The power house, yeah.
Best restaurants in RI?	What macromolecule are you?
I’ve always been a big fan of Twin Oaks, Portofinos. There’s a great taco place near me called Guac n’ Roll. Believe it or not, they have a pretty good burrito. I prefer the shrimp burrito over the meat burrito, shockingly.	I’d like to think I’m something of a complicated fellow, so I’d like to think of myself as a protein.
Do you think that the school should bring back the pasta bar?	What happened to your (fabled) cherry-red truck?
Absolutely, without a doubt, we should have it again. I’m thinking that Wednesday would be a nice spaghetti bar day, yes.	My truck...it wore out, had about 180,000 miles on it.
	What’s your ‘stache routine?
	Maybe every two weeks, just a light trim. I see my barber every six weeks. But no wax, no shampoos, no coloring agents, this is au naturale.
	How much would someone have to pay you for the mustache to go?
	It’s not for sale. I can’t be bribed. It ain’t going.

## Rapid Fire With Ms. Sylvia

by: Lauren Elevado

Ms. Sylvia is a new member to the East Greenwich community, as she has just started her position as vice principal for the high school. Ms. Sylvia wants to connect with all of the students, so return the favor. Meet the new Vice Principal, Ms. Sylvia, in this Rapid Fire.	If I was not in the education field, I would have pursued a career as a boat captain or a marine biologist.
What’s your full name?	How do you spend your holiday breaks?
Ms. Molly Sylvia	I spend my holiday breaks with my family.
What’s your favorite out of school activity?	What were you like in high school?
Spending time with my Goldendoodle and my family.	I was a student-athlete.
What’s your proudest accomplishment?	What’s your favorite song? Who’s your favorite musical artist?
My proudest accomplishment is the number of students I’ve been able to teach and work with during my time in education.	I listen to all types of music depending on the time of day, mood, etc. My top artists on Spotify are Quinn XCII, Jordan Davis, and Two Friends.
What’s your most used app?	What’s your favorite season?
My most used apps are Audible and Spotify.	My favorite season of the year is summer because I enjoy the ocean and spend a lot of time on the bay.
What’s your favorite restaurant, food, color, movie, TV show and book?	What was your first job?
My favorite restaurant is Diegos in Newport, my favorite food is pesto and my favorite color is black. I don’t have a favorite movie or TV show, however, I am currently watching “The Last of Us.” I’m currently on book 18 of ‘23 and I am reading “Forth Wing” by Rebecca Yarros.	My first job was being a sailing instructor in Newport.
What’s your biggest pet peeve?	Where did you grow up?
My biggest pet peeve is loud chewers.	I grew up in Jamestown, RI.
What’s a random fact not a lot of people know about you?	Cat person or dog person?
A random fact not a lot of people know about me is that I’ve run a marathon.	I’m definitely a dog person.
Who is someone you look up to?	What do you think students would have to say about you?
A person I look up to is my older brother, who has helped shape me into the person I am today.	I hope that students know I am a resource to them and want to help them be as successful as possible.
What would you be if you weren’t in the education field?	What car do you drive?
	I drive a Jeep.
	What’s something that is always in your fridge?
	I always have at least two types of cheese.
	Do you have pets? If so, what?
	I have an almost three year old Goldendoodle named Rogue.

WANT TO SEE MORE FROM THE SPECTRUM? VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

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# MEET THE SPECTRUM



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# LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Readers,

First of all, we want to thank all of the amazing writers of *The Spectrum Newspaper* for working tirelessly to help get this print edition out. We started this year with this one massive goal of publishing this very print edition and without them, it certainly would not have been possible. It’s also important that we thank all of you, our dedicated readers, the minority who actually know that the Spectrum exists and read our articles regularly. Thank you to the East Greenwich community for supporting this student led newspaper. Thank you Spoon Game competitors for funding this (even if you didn’t know the Spoon Game was run by the Spectrum) and thank you to our past editors who paved the way for the both of us: Amanda Dronzek, Ana Chelidze, and Morgan Walsh. We would not be who we are without the three of you. Thank you to Mrs. Agresti for helping us with the formatting and layout and teaching us exactly what we needed to do. To wrap up our gratuities, thank you to our amazing advisor, Mr. Brocato, who answers all of our nagging questions, guides us when

we need help, and truly provides a backbone to the newspaper. This print edition is dedicated to all of you.

As previously mentioned, this was our number one goal this year. We’ve been toying around with the idea of a print edition for years now and we knew that as editors, we would make it happen. We had a rough start with extremely limited staff, but after a little bit of outreach we are proud to say that we have over 20 committed, fantastic writers who make up this newspaper. We are so incredibly proud of each of them for taking on boring article assignments, following through no matter how much other work they have, and creating engaging stories that we hope all of you are excited to read.

Thank you,  
Emily Clarke & Mary Murphy

ANSWERS:		Connections 1:		Words Relating to Money: <i>Cash, Change, Dollars, Dough</i>		Shows on Netflix: <i>Heartstopper, You, Bridgerton, Suits</i>		Numbers That Are Homophones: <i>Ate, For, Won, To</i>		70's Rock Bands: <i>Eagles, Journey, Kiss, Queen</i>	
Connections 2:		Berry: <i>Straw, Huckle, Blue, Black</i>		land: <i>Po, Thal, Green, Ice</i>		French Words Used in English: <i>Fiance, Rose, Cliche, Bureau</i>		Aggressively Challenged (AP Lang Words): <i>Heckle, Ridicule, Assault,</i>		9. Doritos	
Crossword:		ACROSS:		4. Felicias		5. Helmet		8. Knowledgeable		11. Carcieri	
3. Izzy		6. Thunderbirds		7. Daves		10. Ceramics		12. Crimson		2. Descendants	
1. Brock		DOWN:		14. NET		13. Lancer		1. Brock			