



BROWN & GOLD

Haverhill High School

December 2021



Gold Stars

Many Haverhill High School athletes were honored with **All Conference Awards**. For **Golf**: Aiden Azevedo, MVC 1st Team All Conference; Zachary Robertson, MVC 1st Team All Conference; Matthew Murphy, MVC 1st Team All Conference; Nicholas Samaha, MVC 2nd Team All Conference; Maxwell Gould, MVC 2nd Team All Conference; and Ryan DiFloures, MVC 2nd Team All Conference. **Girls Soccer**: Maci Gould, MVC 1st Team All Conference / Eastern Mass 1st Team All Conference; Mallory Amirian, MVC 1st Team All Conference / MVC Goalkeeper of the Year / Eastern Mass 2nd Team All Conference; and Hannah Allen, MVC 2nd Team All Conference. **Boys Soccer**: Ethan Archambault, MVC 1st Team All Conference and Drew Roberts, MVC 2nd Team All Conference. **Field Hockey**: Brenna Corcoran, MVC 1st Team All Conference; Sydney Keyes, MVC 1st Team All Conference; Victoria Preble, MVC 2nd Team All Conference. **Cross Country**: Finleigh Simonds, MVC 1st Team All Conference and Brynne LeCours, MVC 2nd Team All Conference. **Girls Volleyball**: Kyalee Burdier, MVC Div. 2 Player of the Year / MVC 1st Team All Conference; Gabriella Burdier, MVC 1st Team All Conference; Emmerson Cerasuolo, MVC 1st Team All Conference; Summer Zaino, MVC 2nd Team All Conference; Mia Ferrer Valdez, MVC 2nd Team All Conference. **Girls Swim and Dive**: Cailey Simard, MVC 1st Team All Conference / MVC Diver of the Year; Jacqueline Story, MVC 1st Team All Conference; Carli Quinlan, MVC 1st Team All Conference; Makenzie Hillsgrove, MVC 1st Team All Conference; Kailyn Aquino, MVC 2nd Team All Conference; Sophia Lundgren, MVC 2nd Team All Conference; Sophia Caruso, MVC 2nd Team All Conference.

The Girls Volleyball team finished co-MVC champs.

The Haverhill High MCJROTC competed in several Physical Training and Raider competitions, all with great success. The Raider competition brought home gold for both the Alpha and Bravo teams. They also participated in Haverhill's annual Veterans Day parade.

Creative Writing and Spoken Word Club members were the feature performers at this season's final Haverhill River Bards reading at HC Media. Aidan Bean, Emily Fermin, Caleb Linsey, Barney Judge, Jesse Looney, and Tristan "T7x12" Taylor were the talented students that appeared at the event. Tune into HCTV for the broadcast.

The Drama Club put on three productions of *Our Town*, which turned out to be a huge success. Between all three performances, over 650 people attended the play. Cast and crew alike are thrilled with the turnout and are now preparing for the winter production of *This is a Test*.

The Crew Team competed in the MPSRA state championship regatta in Fall River, Mass. The regatta took place on Watuppa Pond and was graciously hosted by the folks at the Watuppa Rowing Center.

Varsity Blues: nail-biter ends one-win season

Lack of dedication, consistency, skill cited as major factors in lackluster football season

By Marcus Antonelli and Sasha Orr

HAVERHILL—Were it not for a controversial last-minute call granting the Lowell Red Raiders a chance to score the winning touchdown in the Thanksgiving game, the Hillies would have ended the season with something they failed to accomplish all year: a winning streak. Instead, the Hillies finished the year with a 1-10 record, 0-6 in the Merrimack Valley Conference.

Granted, the season was no cakewalk. Predictable losses came from perennial powerhouses Central Catholic and St. John's Prep, but the team also got shut out by Beverly and Danvers and dominated by both Lawrence and Methuen 42-12 in back-to-back games. Despite a slow start and some poor showings, as the seas-

on progressed, so did the team. In their last three games, Haverhill put in a strong performance against a tough Lexington team, brought home their lone win against Cambridge Rindge and Latin, and had the lead against Lowell until, literally, the last second. Ending a long season on a promising note is always a good thing but that doesn't dismiss the

fact that the team just completed its fifth straight losing season. The one win is the lowest win total for Hillie football in a decade.

The story of the Hillies' fall from grace provides more questions than answers: How could a team, a city, with so much promise have a one-win season less than 5 years after being boosted into

Division I and beating the likes of Everett and Central Catholic? What explains a city of nearly 80,000 people being unable to field enough skill, size, and muscle to contend with the much smaller Chelmsfords and Acton-Boxboros of the world?

Continued on page 3



Haverhill High School's Tristan Naylor stands in the fog, as the team grasps for a path back to glory. Courtesy Photo/Marilyn Caradonna

Santa Parade primes residents for more recognizable Christmas

By Christopher Villaman

HAVERHILL—After being on hiatus due to Covid, Haverhill's annual Santa Parade, sponsored by the local VFW, returned under the theme Santa Is Coming to Town. The parade lasted about an hour and consisted of everything from marching bands and color guards to robotics groups, farms, dance teams, and local businesses.

The weather being ideal and warm for November, the 2-mile route from Hunking Middle School to Winter Street across the Merrimack River drew thousands of Haverhill residents and people from

neighboring towns. South Main Street was lined with families setting up shop with chairs, blankets, and refreshments, children, of course, front and center dashing throughout the day at the candy many groups scattered for their taking along the streets.

Some impressive sets included the clydesdales, the classic cars, the bikers, and the many creative floats and characters, such as the recreation of Santa's workshop that stopped for elves to dance on and around the display as well as a separate float with moving toys on an assembly line.

Whovill and Mount Crumpit featured Whos and, of course, the Grinch waving as they drove by. Last but not least, Santa rode his sleigh, being pulled by reindeer at the tail end of the parade.

Scattered throughout were many musical performances by neighboring high schools and independent groups. Marching bands came to perform from the Haverhill middle schools and from the high school, along with the high schools of Londonderry, Reading, Salem, and Georgetown.

When asked how he felt about the return of the

Santa Parade, a local father, who shared his name as Jackson, told the *Brown & Gold*, "These kinds of things aren't really my style, but I loved seeing the smile on my son's face throughout the parade."

Another Haverhill woman told *Brown & Gold*, "It was good, kind of old fashioned, but I loved the music."

Another young woman from Haverhill, Angelina, said, "I really missed it last year since I've always loved these parades."

Continued on page 3

HHS Band tunes up for Winter Concert

Band will perform live for first time in two years

By Max Popoloski

HAVERHILL—Hillie Nation will once again be graced with the sound of music at this year's Winter Concert on Wednesday, Dec. 15. This is the high school band's first Winter Concert since 2019. The Winter Concert will also feature performances by the HHS Chorus.

Due to COVID-19, the band has not been fortunate enough to perform many concerts in the last two years. However, their upcoming Winter Concert will showcase promising new talent.

The band is made up of 25 members with an array of instruments, including woodwinds, percussion,

brass, bowed strings, keyboard, and a variety of guitars.

Mr. Dean Tsioropoulos, who has directed the high school band since 2015, spoke with *Brown & Gold* about his feelings pertaining to the hardships the club has faced these past two years and how the band is finally growing again this year. He feels the Winter Concert is the reward for the Band's perseverance over the past couple of years.

Tsioropoulos said, "I feel both compelled and motivated to teach our scholars each year by our shared love of the music," and added that the band

members feel a "ride or die" sense of purpose in the face of many obstacles.

Due to COVID-19, there was a lack of live performance opportunities, which, according to Tsioropoulos, hurt participation in the band.

"The numbers of band members feeding the high school band program significantly [diminished]," Mr. Tsioropoulos said. But, he noted the lack of performance opportunities during the pandemic, along with the challenge of revitalizing the program, will make the Winter Concert all the more special.

Continued on page 2



Members of the HHS Band rehearse for the Winter Concert.

INSIDE

PRIVATE SCHOOLS, CLUB TEAMS DRAINING HAVERHILL TALENT
PAGE 2

CUSTODIANS CONTEND WITH MESSY HILLIES
PAGE 2

FUTURE NURSES ON HHS' CTE NURSING PROGRAM
PAGE 3

A NEW APPROACH TO CHRISTMAS SPENDING
PAGE 4

A CHRISTMAS CAROL REVISITED
PAGE 4

Brown & Gold
The mission of the Brown & Gold is to provide the Haverhill High School community with accurate, socially significant, and thoughtful news. As an organization of dedicated, conscientious, and curious journalists, we honor and revere our responsibility to ensure that our readers are equipped with all of the necessary information to make the mature and deliberate decisions that are the foundation of rich and ethical lives.

WINTER CONCERT

Continued from page 1

Patrick Sainato, class of 2022, who plays clarinet, expressed how the band has impacted his high school experience. Patrick has played in the band for four years and it has allowed him “to improve [his] skills” and “do something that appeals to [him].” With more rehearsals in school, he and the other members have gained a lot more time to practice and hone their skills.

Another band member, Carina Archer, class of 2023, has played the guitar since their freshman year. They told *Brown & Gold* that they experienced great change and impact from being in the band. It is the first time Carina has “had a music program since elementary school” and that “just being able to meet other people in music is a big draw.” Archer feels they are “able to find community with

the group, with like-minded people.”

If Hillies are curious to know how they can see the band play in live performances and come show their support, the Winter Concert will be the perfect opportunity to immerse yourself in the school’s musical talent.

If you miss out on the concert, the Band also performs at Hillies sporting events; marches in both Lawrence’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade and Haverhill’s Memorial Day Parade; holds a spring concert; has a jazz band appearance in downtown Haverhill; and, as always, will be at the HHS graduation ceremony.

Any student interested in joining the Haverhill High Band should contact Mr. Tsioropoulos and attend a rehearsal as they meet every Tuesday in classroom A-21.



Mr. Dean Tsioropoulos leads the HHS Band in a recent rehearsal.

What a mess!

Custodians feeling return of unruly students

By Christopher Villaman



Lunch and breakfast items more frequently left behind since students have returned to normal school.

Haverhill—Since the school year began, the airwaves and newspapers have been fraught with stories of the challenges caused by students returning to school after nearly two years at home and hybrid-learning.

Most stories focus on the stress placed on students, teachers, and administrators but an important and too frequently overlooked group of stakeholders who have been greatly affected by the transition back to school is the facilities and custodial staff. Unorthodox and unruly behavior is not only being expressed through up-ticks in violence but also in the form of vandalism and littering. Things like chicken nuggets, ketchup, and yogurt are left behind, marring the appearance of the school as a whole.

“The return of students has created a lot of extra, extra, extra work. Extra messy kids means extra mess for us,” said Tomas Tavera, the Senior custodian. “We have to pick up more trash than ever because the kids are not very cleanly this time around.” Tavera, who’s been work-

ing at Haverhill High School since 2010, offered insight into the daily grind of the job now that students have returned. Tavera and his team are not only responsible for unloading shipments, supplying papers for the copiers, changing light bulbs and locks, waxing floors, making sure classrooms are stocked with hand sanitizer, and all manner of general maintenance, but also sweeping up the increasing messes found in the hallways, bathrooms, and cafeteria. Despite these efforts, it is common to see lunch debris found in the halls, stairways, and even the library of Haverhill High School.

According to Jason Harvey, a new custodian at the school, “There are only so many of us and it seems like there aren’t enough.” According to Jason and other custodians, students are just leaving their trays behind after breakfast and lunch. To every student Tavera wishes to say, “This is your school, try to keep it clean. Even if you didn’t drop that wrapper, picking it up is a big help for us.”

COMMENTARY: Public high school hockey struggles to attract talent

Exposure, increased competition at private schools, club teams luring promising athletes from HHS

By Sydney Keyes and Camden Connerty

Haverhill—Unbeknownst to many, Haverhill hosts a premier hockey event annually at the Valley Rinks in Ward Hill. Hockey Night In Boston, the acclaimed summer showcase for hockey’s most promising young talent, provides elite, high school aged players a chance to get scouted for college, or even the pros.

Interestingly, out of the 247 14-19 year-old players that participated in the tournament this past summer, more than half of them do not attend the public schools in the cities or towns in which they live. Most of those athletes attend private school, but some also play at a technical school, or do not play on a high school team at all, only playing for a club program, which was also true of all but one of the Haverhill players.

Also interesting: of the 247 highly touted recruits, 8 were Haverhillites, living in Haverhill and playing for either private or club teams. Meanwhile, the Hillie hockey team finished last season with a 3-15-2 overall record, 1-11 in the Merrimack Valley Conference. One can only wonder, what would their record look like if all these

after his sophomore year, echoed athletes attended Haverhill High School?

Other than a few exceptions, most recently being the girls volleyball team, Haverhill High School athletics have been frustrating to follow. In recent seasons boys baseball, football, and hockey, as well as girls varsity basketball, have struggled to be as competitive as they once were in the MVC. Although the impact of private schools and club programs on the talent local schools are able to cultivate differs from sport to sport, its depletion of Haverhill’s talent pool is quite noticeable, particularly in girls basketball and boys hockey.

Take Jordan Harris for example, the senior captain of the nationally ranked Northeastern hockey powerhouse, who proudly speaks of his Haverhill roots. At Northeastern, Harris has racked up a list of prestigious awards, such as being a semifinalist for the 69th annual Walter Brown Award (2021), a Hobey Baker Nominee (2021), and many more. He was also drafted in 2018 by the Montreal Canadiens in Round 3, as the 71st pick in the draft. He, of course, did not attend his hometown high school in

Haverhill but was recruited by and attended Kimball Union Academy, a boarding school in New Hampshire.

There’s also the recent controversy with Evan Foskett. As reported by The Eagle Tribune last January, Foskett was a promising talent poached by Malden Catholic. Haverhill High and the athletic director Tom O’Brien refused to sign his transfer papers, stopping him from being able to switch schools and play hockey for the well-known private school. Foskett was later granted relief by an Essex County Superior Court judge and was allowed to transfer.

Foskett, speaking with *Brown & Gold*, explained that his decision to jump ship to Malden Catholic was mostly motivated by the opportunity to learn more about and improve his game. Foskett pointed out that playing at Malden Catholic and against better, predominantly private school, competition gave him “exposure to different prep coaches at different schools” and thus a different skill level to compete against and learn from.

Brady Ferreira, a current senior at Salem High School in New Hampshire, who left Haverhill and expanded upon Fos-

kett’s sentiments. Ferreira, a member of the Boston Avantage New England Fall Prep club program, explained, “A key benefit that I think is important for club sports is the development aspect. For example, [Massachusetts] high school hockey has faded away and all players are starting to choose prep or club hockey to focus on developing as a player. Not only that, but exposure plays a huge role. You’re traveling around the country playing games and you never know who could be watching.”

Zach Montecalvo is another hockey player who lives in Haverhill, yet does not attend Haverhill High. Montecalvo differs from Foskett and Ferreira since he has never attended a Haverhill school. When asked why he never considered attending HHS, Montecalvo responded, “I went to private school to play in a higher division than Haverhill High.” Graduating from Malden Catholic in 2021, Zach is now at Hebron Academy for a post-graduation year.

As a Haverhill resident, it’s exciting to see so many Haverhill athletes having successful high school careers. Unfortunately for Haverhill High, those athletes’ careers are not happening in a Hillie uni-

HHS offers pathway to healthcare careers

Career and Technical Education program provides opportunities to those interested in healthcare

By Elizabeth Palumbo

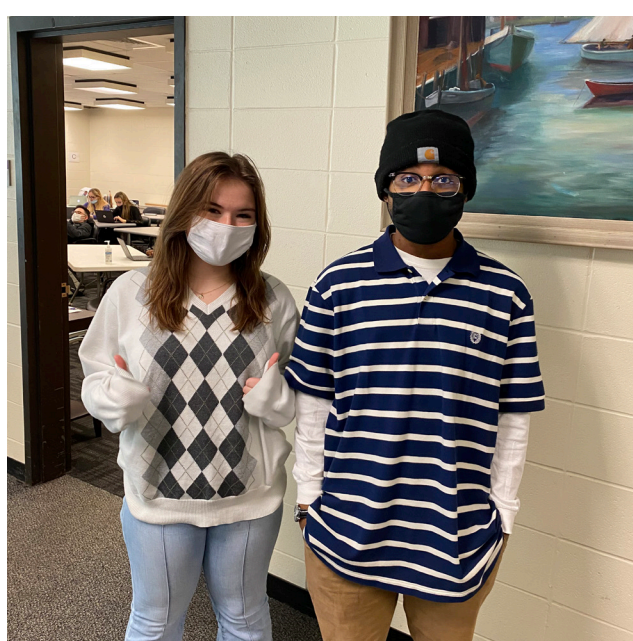
Haverhill—One of the many exciting programs offered at Haverhill High School is the Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, which provides students with career training that helps them prepare for college or work in the future. The program not only fosters traditional academic growth and skill-building but also focuses on “employability” and specific technical skills to ready students for careers in medical and tech fields, among several others.

Healthcare is one of the more prominent and popular CTE programs at Haverhill High School. It prepares students for the state CNA program and teaches students to help assist and treat different types of patients.

“I’ve learned a lot about myself that I don’t think I would have known if I hadn’t been a part of this program,” one student member of the program stated.

The CTE Healthcare program was offered to students for the first time in 2015 and currently enrolls approximately 60 students of all grades, all hoping to pursue a career in nursing or meet the requirements to become an EMT.

Senior Alice Contino has



CTE Healthcare candidates Alice Contino and Nate Buteau.

been part of the healthcare program since arriving at the high school in 2018. Contino plans to continue nursing and healthcare practices next year and intends on pursuing it as a career.

Speaking about her experience in the CTE Program, Contino explained, “I think it’s really beneficial when you get your CNA certification and other certificates to help you in the future. Even if you don’t want to get into healthcare as a career, it’s really great for exploring your options and readying yourself just in case.”

Contino added, “Guidance can work with you to allow you to be put into more healthcare related classes, like Anatomy and Child Psychology, in order to help further your Healthcare career, if that is the career you choose.”

Senior Nate Buteau has also been a part of the CTE Healthcare program since 2018. Unlike Contino, he joined in the middle of his freshman year.

Buteau hopes to continue with nursing next year as well and plans to make a career out of it. He says the CTE program has provided

him with direction and purpose. “It was interesting, it’s still a class so there were some highs, but near the end it was really worth it, as you see yourself grow from being a 14 year old who had no idea what they wanted to do, to being a full grown senior,” Buteau said, adding that he believes that his experience in the program was fulfilling.

Both Contino and Buteau have received their Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certifications through the program. The CNA license can help kids have a better chance of pursuing a healthcare career, and it allows for better success when looking for jobs.

Contino explained, “In order to get your license you take dementia training, which is a one week course, so you’re able to work with people with Alzheimer’s and dementia. You also have to be certified in first aid and CPR, have the vaccine or take weekly Covid Tests, take a written exam, a hands-on exam, and 32 hours of training in a clinical practice.”

Both Buteau and Contino believe that the program was beneficial in the long run and recommended it to any upcoming 8th graders or students who are looking to gain life skills and career experience.

Please Recycle

VARSITY BLUES

Continued from page 1

The last time the Hillies record was as disappointing as this season was in 2010, when they went 0-11. The 2011 season was somewhat better with the Hillies being able to scrape together 4 wins, but by 2012 it seemed a new era had begun. With the arrival of Coach Tim O'Connor, the team posted an impressive record of 8-4, followed up by strong 7-4 seasons in both 2013 and 2014. By 2016, the competitive jump the team took got the Hillies promoted to Division I. In their first season competing with some of the best teams in Massachusetts, the Hillies pulled off an impressive feat, going 8-4 and taking down perennial powerhouses Central Catholic and Everett. The 2016 season was encouraging, as it marked 5 consecutive years of winning seasons, with no foreseeable decline in sight.

However, in 2017, the Hillies failed to meet encouraging expectations, recording their first losing season in Coach O'Connor's era. The Hillies finished 4-7 and placed 5th in the MVC, 19th in the MIAA Division I. For the next three years, the trend remained consistent, the Hillies winning no more than 4 games in any season from 2017-2020. This year they finished with a record of 1-9. Bottom of the barrel.

Talking with players, many chock up the disappointing 2021 season to a lack of commitment and skill. Running back Victor Martinez, class of 2022, blames a lack of commitment for the team's poor play.

"No one showed up to the weight room," Martinez said. "Some players weren't even eligible to play until week 7 of the season."

As outside linebacker Daniel Pierre, class of 2022, pointed out, "players were getting into fights and skipping class, which led to suspensions."

Another member of the offensive backfield, Alec Valenti, class of 2022, shared similar sentiments.

"Some starters wouldn't show up to practice, there was no commitment," Valenti said. "As a whole people didn't care as much."

Another common complaint among players was the lack of qualified personnel. Tight end and strong safety Shawn Joubert, class of 2022, was among those.

"We don't have a real quarterback, we've just been alternating three kids," Joubert said. "There were just a lot of moving pieces throughout the entire team, offense, defense, special teams; everything was moving around."

Victor Martinez and senior captain Tristan Naylor, class of 2022, also expressed concerns with the offensive line, saying they were "unconditioned" and "lacking in proper personnel."

Captain Joey Spero, class of 2022, highlighted this issue as well. "Kids didn't know their assignment, simple football stuff. A lot of people on the team just don't know football. They'll think they're doing something, but when we go back to film and watch it, no one's doing what they're supposed to be doing."

Speaking to Coach Tim O'Connor about the recent struggles and the perspective of his players, he appears to share many of their concerns.

"With the 2017 team, they all stayed together and didn't go off to private schools, they bought into the system and realized the little things mattered; commitment to the summer, weight room, and classwork," said Coach O'Connor. "They got the whole package, which is rare for a public urban school."

When asked about the 2021 season, O'Connor puts the blame on the pandemic.

"Coming off of COVID was detrimental to most urban schools in my opinion," he said. "Some kids just disappeared, some chose not to play or do the extra things like weight room and conditioning."

Coach O'Connor also



Above: Scoreboard at Trinity Stadium displays a common sight at a Haverhill High football games this past season. Below: Coach Tim O'Connor with senior Nolen Skafas.

Courtesy Photos/Marilyn Caradonna

credits the team's lack of success to underdeveloped talent.

"What you had was a lot of kids stepping up sooner than they should have. You look out there and your whole offensive line is freshmen and sophomores," he said. "The quarterback I wanted to have didn't want to play quarterback, and I wasn't going to force him to play a position he didn't want to."

O'Connor then expanded upon the lack of off-season participation.

"Whether people believe it or not, football is a war of attrition, if you are not in physical and mental shape through the off-season you will struggle," he said. "For the first time in a while, my summer commitment was 50-percent participation, when I'm usually expecting 75-percent." O'Connor said that in 2016 his commitment in the summer was 85 percent.

O'Connor also spoke to issues with eligibility.

"Numerous or several key players did not have the eligible credits to play this fall because they didn't take their school work seriously," O'Connor explained. "Players getting into trouble has consequences. It affected the growth, it affected the development, it affected morale."

The season almost ended on a winning note as the Hillies played their best game of the year and were up 28-7 against Lowell at the half. Although Lowell stormed back, the Hillies still had the lead with 10 seconds remaining. The defense came up with a clutch sack on that play but unfortunately Lowell was able to stop the clock with enough time to run the game-winning play.

Nonetheless, the coach was happy with the growth he saw in the final game.

"I'm proud of the boys and thankful for the opportunity to see them grow," O'Connor said to The Eagle Tribune. "All we can do now is grow as a program."



Santa Claus and his reindeer rolling down Merrimack St. on the last leg of the VFW's annual parade.

SANTA PARADE

Continued from page 1

I'm so glad that it was amazing this year."

Her sister Jacqueline also jokingly added, "I can't exactly say the same as my sister but at least we were not freezing in the rain this year."

John Bishop, a junior at Haverhill High School, expressed his satisfaction with the parade returning. Bishop stated that although it did not live up to the excitement, it brought to him in the past.

"It was fun, and better than nothing," he said. "It was good that the parade was back. There are a lot of new families in the community, and it was nice to see them starting a tradition."

Established in 1964 by the Veterans of Lorraine Post 29, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Santa Parade was led by the late John T. Sullivan. The parade was created by bartering and forming partnerships to get more participation within the parade. Nowadays the parade is funded by individuals and local businesses. Through ceremonies, services and fundraisers the VFW aims to preserve the memory of local veterans and to assist their widows and orphans.

Happy Holidays
from the staff of
Brown & Gold

HAPPY holidays

At Pentucket Bank, we believe that supporting our local communities, businesses, customers and employees is not only the backbone of our history, but the foundation for our future.

Try us out & find out what the Pentucket Bank Experience is all about!

PentucketBank.com
NMLS# 1630813
Member FDIC • Member DIF

Pentucket Bank
On Track Together Since 1891

Here's to a Warm and Healthy Holiday!!

A Haverhill Manufacturer of Windows, Doors & Porch Enclosures since 1973

Call Coastal Industries @ 978-373-1543
Start Saving NOW!
We offer installation

Or have your contractor call or email your specifications to: info@ciwindows.com for a quick quote.

Our windows are energy efficient and among the best in the Industry!
Affordable, Reliable & We are Close to Home!

Give us a call, see what we have.

Coastal Industries Inc.
www.ciwindowsanddoors.com
77 Newark Street | Haverhill, MA 01832

Benedetti's Deli
"Home of the Rocket"

Delivery to Haverhill & Bradford

FAST & EASY ONLINE ORDERING

For in-store pickup or delivery:
www.BenedettisDeli.com

350 Washington Street
Haverhill, MA 01832
Across from Fantini Bakery
EST. 1961 **Phone: 978-372-2097**

Store hours: Wednesday thru Saturday
10am-8pm Closed Sun, Mon, Tues

OPINION

Step in the right direction

School Committee approves additional adjustment counselors and security guards

By Nina Hamel

The best way to address behavioral issues at Haverhill High School is addressing the root causes, which is why it is such a positive development when the School Committee announced funding for two new adjustment counselors.

Haverhill High School has recently received press for the increase in physical fights, which was covered by Channel 7 News and The Eagle Tribune. Since returning to "normal," Haverhill High School has struggled with student behavior on multiple levels, including vandalism of school property, theft, and multiple physical altercations between students, with some students even being charged by law enforcement.

As a student at the high school, I find it very unfortunate that I have to watch my school be presented in such a negative light. Luckily, things are moving in the right direction, as the School Committee, on Nov. 18, announced their plans to fund two more adjustment counselors and security guards. This is a meaningful and substantial decision that should be applauded, as it will help benefit and improve our school in terms of

student behavior and mental health.

The School Committee had tried to resolve these issues earlier in the school year by hiring another School Resource Officer. There is no doubt that there are students and families who feel like more law enforcement in the school is more beneficial to the students. They can rely on this idea that with law enforcement close by, children will be better protected from any danger in the school and any bad behavior would be addressed or even avoided. Despite this desire, this was not the reality in the high school. With the extra Student Resource Officer already in the school, there were still frequent fights

Research from the Congressional Research Service regarding police in schools has shown that increasing the number of School Resource Officers in a school building primarily increases suspensions, arrests for low-level offenses, charges for these offenses, and children in court. However, the goal should be to avoid these outcomes by not letting behavioral issues reach this point. The best way to help address these issues is to hire those who can profes-



Students leaving the 200s wing at Haverhill High School

sionally track down the problems at the source, most likely creating a more beneficial outcome for the entire student body. These individuals would be the Adjustment Counselors.

Students are very likely

to be willing to work with school Adjustment Counselors as statistically, according to the ACLU, students are 21 times more likely to reach out to school-based health services for help than anywhere else. School

Adjustment Counselors will work with students to analyze these anti-social behaviors of violence, stealing, and vandalism in order to help students reach a point in which they stop these behaviors.

Although it would have been more beneficial for this action to have taken place earlier, it shows the effort on behalf of the administration to create positive change within the school for a better future for the students.

OPINION

Remember mental health this Christmas

By Nina Hamel

The joy of Christmas morning, when the gifts are sitting under the tree and everything in the home is decorated in red and green, is a warming thought to me and many fellow Haverhill High School students. Now imagine bringing that warmth to someone who is struggling this holiday season, even to just one of the many million dealing with mental health issues during the pandemic.

As we begin to enter the holiday season, families are beginning to plan out what gifts to get one another, along with figuring out ways to make Christmas as normal as possible in the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Despite our craving for normalcy, the 2021 holiday season might not be quite satisfactory. However, there are ways that we can make the most of this holiday season, especially by giving to those who have been deeply impacted by the isolation of the pandemic.

As will be the case for many, Christmas at my house will look a lot different than those of the past, but not in the way you might expect. My family and I have decided to dedicate our holiday season to giving to those in need who are staying in mental health facilities. Just about anyone can agree that COVID worsened feelings of isolation throughout society, leading to an increase in the

severity of those suffering from a mental illness, many of whom are still being impacted to this day. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, in the United States alone, the ratio of adults who have been diagnosed with anxiety and depressive disorder has doubled from 1 in 10 pre-COVID to 1 in 5 post-COVID. Even more astounding, 56.2 percent of people ages 18-24 are suffering from anxiety and depression. The sad truth is, these statistics do not even cover the full extent of how much mental health has been impacted during COVID.

This past year and a half has been extremely eye-opening to my family and me, and we feel that it is absolutely necessary to acknowledge those who have had the strength to seek help. By donating gifts to mental health facilities, we are providing them the opportunity to let them feel appreciated. I personally have people in my life who have spent time in mental health facilities during the holiday season, and they have described the experience as melancholic, especially as patients are not with their families and the facilities may not put much effort into making it a festive place to be. Imagine the difference it would make for patients to wake up on Christmas morning to additional gifts that they didn't expect from those

who have taken the time to donate them. I wholeheartedly believe that sharing the holiday spirit with those who are in a mental health facility during this season will give so many the opportunity to experience what everyone deserves to have: love and appreciation.

The easiest way for you to donate to mental health facilities is as simple as sending \$100 to facilities such as the Haverhill Pavilion Behavioral Health Hospital or to Emmaus House. Both organizations provide assistance to those in need of mental health solutions. If you wish to do something more personal, you could donate things such as a pair of snow boots to play in the snow, a shaving kit, or a blanket. There are so many things we could all chip in to donate this holiday season to anyone who is unable to spend the holidays with their family.

If you or a loved one have ever been in a situation with mental health facilities, it would be clear that a little holiday spirit would make anyone there feel more at ease. While my family might be particularly sensitive to the challenges those in mental health facilities are facing, I feel the pandemic has made the need acute. Even if it is just asking one person to donate instead of giving you a present, there is someone who would appreciate the gesture.

ARTS & LETTERS

Dickens' original *Christmas Carol* sings a different tune

By Caleb Lindsay

Christmas is back in our lives as are our yearly dose of Mariah Carey and Hallmark movies. Along with these, we also get dozens of incarnations of the same movies we saw growing up, be it the third version of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* or another film in which Dad can't find a particular toy his child absolutely needs. However, this phenomenon of recreating classic tales, especially Christmas tales, is a tradition in and of itself, as the most celebrated and well-known of all Christmas productions has not only inspired dozens of film renditions but is also performed on stages across the world, on the radio, and even began as an actual novella. The said work of course being Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. This timeless novella has been dragged through a multitude of adaptations, and time and time again they fall short of properly adapting one of the greatest pieces of holiday inspired literature.

One reason to cozy up and dive into the actual story of Ebenezer Scrooge (yes, I mean read the book) is the richness of the symbolism. Despite the ever advancing attempts to make *A Christmas Carol* more visually compelling, not even Zemeckis' computer-animated version with Jim Carrey can match Dickens' deep symbolic imagery.

Take the case of the Ghost of Christmas Past for example. The ghost is described as having a "bright clear jet of light," which the movie captures. However, while the movies try to wow the audience with the sensationalism of this image of a phantasmal being, in reality this light holds high symbolic value. The light represents Scrooge's past memories, which he tries to block out with his nightcap. This is a psychological phenomenon that is lost on most movie viewers and theater-goers: that Scrooge absolutely refuses to look back into his past, not only because of the pain he has suffered but also because of the joy that lies there. Dickens, worried about much more than just Christmas, is trying to convey something meaningful about the challenge of contending with our pasts, not just because how they hurt, but also because of how our memories might show our present moment to be lackluster, especially at Christmas time when many of us find ourselves in the sentimental mood.

The adaptations also tend to ignore some of the other prevalent themes in the novella, especially the environmental aspects, which Dickens was preoccupied with due to his distaste for the social ramifications of the Industrial Revolution. Dickens intended for his description

of Victorian England to be on par with how it was in reality. The novel displays imagery in a way that's often overlooked in the movies, often portraying a very grimy London: "candles were flaring in the windows of the neighbouring offices, like ruddy smears upon the palpable brown air. The fog came pouring in at every and keyhole, and was so dense without, that although the court was of the narrowest, the houses opposite were mere phantoms." These conditions were a byproduct of the Industrial Revolution, which was at its halfway point during the time of the story. The Industrial Revolution has left us with these types of conditions in the modern day, a consequence of polluting the environment.

Sitting down to actually read *A Christmas Carol*, a story from generations ago, can slow us down, enchant us, and bring us back to simpler times. It can also help to nurture our impulses to forgive and allow people to redeem themselves, as Scrooge does, at this generous time of year. We can treat this story as an engaging reminder to cherish what we have, and to encourage those among us to take part. In these times of tension and fatigue, Dickens reminds us that sympathy for others is worth the energy it requires and that salvation and redemption are possible.



BRADFORD
ORTHODONTICS
Thomas A. Ferlito D.M.D.
www.DrFerlito.com
www.Facebook.com/BradfordOrtho
(978) 521-6262



Congratulations & Happy Holidays from all of us!



**Visit Our Office! 412 South Main St. Bradford, MA 01835
(978)-521-6262**

