

# The Trojan Times

A NEWSPAPER DEDICATED TO BRINGING YOU NEWS AND UPDATES FROM SIMSBURY HIGH SCHOOL

## 10 QUESTIONS WITH SUPERINTENDENT CURTIS

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FULL ARTICLE - PAGE 2

## SIMSBURY'S 350TH ANNIVERSARY



In 2020, Simsbury turned 350 years old. The current pandemic has withheld large celebrations of the milestone, but there are planned events soon to look forward to.

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## MARS ROVER ACHIEVEMENT



On February 28, a giant leap was made in regards to Martian exploration. NASA's Perseverance Rover landed on the surface of Mars, in hopes of gathering more information about the red planet. The main goals of the landing were determining whether life ever existed on Mars, characterizing the climate and geology, and preparing the planet for human exploration.

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## CURLING: RULES OF THE GAME

Oftentimes compared to shuffleboard, the objective of curling is quite simple. In each match, there are ten "ends", similar to innings in baseball. During each end, teams throw a total of eight 45 pound stones, which are numbered accordingly. By the end of each respective end, the goal of teams is to have the most stones closest to the center of the "house" (the target at the opposite end of the ice sheet), as only one team is awarded points per end. Teams earn points equal to the number of stones of their color that are closer to the center of the house than the next closest of the opposite team.

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# 10 QUESTIONS WITH SUPERINTENDENT CURTIS

## KITTY MARTIN

Kitty Martin is a sophomore who is interested in current affairs and believes it is important to have an informed student body. The purpose of this article is to introduce the readers to Superintendent Matthew Curtis, in addition to keeping the community informed with the latest information regarding student's education situations regarding the coronavirus in Simsbury Schools.

**O**n March 19th of 2021, I had the opportunity to sit down with Simsbury Schools superintendent, Matthew Curtis. Not only was this to get to know him, but also to gain his perspective on multiple concerns about COVID-19 and our local school system.

**Q: What high school did you attend?**

A: "High school? That takes me way back. I went to Cheshire High School."

**Q: I heard you were a competitive basketball player in high school. What does the number 2263 mean to you?**

A: (laughing) "That's the total number of points I scored way back in the dark ages."

**Q: That's quite a big number! Which is your favorite: free throw, layup, or three-pointer?**

A: "I am going to go layup - more efficient."

**Q: What was your most memorable high school experience?**

A: "It would be the relationships formed through sports, including my coaches, teammates, I still talk to many of them."

**Q: What is it like being a superintendent during this time in history?**

A: "I think it is very much like everyone else, you are learning as you go. We educators talk about being lifelong learners and this puts you in it because information changes. You have to stay on top of the information. Communication becomes more important than ever because the kids want to know what is coming next. The parents need to know what is coming next. The community as a whole needs to know. So really trying to think through how we communicate, what is important to know, trying to keep it simple for people has been really incredibly important along the way. I always try to keep communication at the center of what we do. It has been an incredible learning experi-

ence. I feel fortunate that we are in a community where the kids are really motivated, parents who are really involved, and this awesome staff. When you start with those three things the chances of success are pretty good. I am really proud of our community."

**Q: How have your personal experiences influenced how you have approached the coronavirus in the Simsbury public school system?**

A: "I think it has changed everyone's routine, right? It has isolated everyone a little bit, which has been tough. You learn to value the simple things a little bit more, maybe, and try to make decisions that are for the greater good. I think we have all done that. I think when we come out of this we will have a better appreciation for those things we did not recognize before. Not to be cliché, but it's accurate, you long for some of those things and we will appreciate them more. It's interesting, so I have three kids, and I have them at all levels - I have a 6th grader, I have a junior in high school, and a freshman in college. So, I get it. I get talking to the elementary parent where the kid is struggling with distance learning because it doesn't fit. I understand the high school parents whose student's extracurriculars or sports have been cut short. So, that has helped me problem solve and navigate the way through. We all are in this together. And everyone is impacted in their own way."

**Q: Due to the pandemic, some students have fallen behind in their education. Looking forward, what strategies do you plan on implementing to ensure Simsbury graduates obtain the skills they need to be successful?**

A: "That's a great school-based question, district-based question, state-based question, and as a country. In our budget development process this year, the one theme and goal is that we need to be ready next year to figure out where these gaps are and how we are going to address kids and

meet them where they are. We are going to have additional summer programs this year at every level to address shortfalls in kids that are struggling. We are fortunate to have some federal money in the relief package that just got approved, so we will be able to have money on the side to build some of those programs without cutting other programs. Local budgets are always tight, right? So this is a real positive that we will be able to build a summer academy for elementary students, fund those teachers, and for the kids that need it we can get them up to speed and close some of those gaps. We are planning to have credit recovery situations at the high school and education intervention at the middle school. So, we have preliminary intervention plans in place, and I think that is where we start. It is a recognition and a mindset of everybody that this is going to happen. And we need to be patient with it and we need to support each other both from a social-emotional standpoint and from an academic standpoint to see where we are and move forward."  
--continued on page 2.







*Continued from page 1--Q: Now that the majority of students have returned to in-person classes, what is next on the agenda for you? Is it going to school 5 days a week, taking off masks when certain requirements are met? What is the next big step as we continue to evolve toward our new normal?*

A: "The board wants a successful culmination of the school year. We are in a

combination now where at least at the secondary level we have opened up to this four-day model. We are fortunate that the data continues to trend in the right direction. Vaccination supply is increasing. We have the majority of our teachers and staff vaccinated which is a really positive thing. We are starting to have some conversations of four days versus five days, but we haven't set any targets yet."

"So now how can we round out the experiences for our kids now that they are back? We are starting to feel a sense of normalcy. I think it will be really interesting over the summer months to see what kind of mandates come forth from the state about distance learning. Are they going to pull back on that? Is there still going to be an expectation for districts to provide any alternate education? It will be a really interesting exercise of problem-solving for us. I think we are just feeling fortunate for where we are and that there is light at the end of the tunnel, and how we can support each other through the rest of the year."

**Q: Is there anything you would like the student body or community to know about you?**

A: "I am just so incredibly proud of everything in all that our students and staff have represented this year. I think that in challenging times you really see how people respond and we have amazing kids, amazing families, and staff. It's a community that is in it for the right reasons, you feel fortunate and proud to lead a community like that."

**Q: What is your favorite Tulmeadow ice cream flavor?**

A: "I am a straight chocolate chip, simple."

# QUESTIONING A NEW NORMAL IN SCHOOLS

MARINA WALLMAN

Marina Wallman is a junior who loves to research the sociological factors on real-life issues. This article raises questions and references research about the potential precipitating consequences of distance learning for education, as well as the factors that created the experiences of those facing this challenge globally.

It is no surprise that the world has been turned upside down since COVID-19 began over a year ago. Our students, faculty, and staff have all watched the consequences precipitate, affecting school in terms of abilities to teach and learn. Schools all over the globe have had vastly different approaches to maintain access to education while combating community spread. Some students returned to school in the spring of 2020 and others have not even met their teachers for the 2020-21 school year. However, more issues have arisen other than simply returning to school. Differences in virus protocol, infrastructure allowing for distance learning, poverty and illiteracy in families, and poor school budgets have created rifts within communities. These

varying circumstances have led to varying access to educational resources; an inequality which we will see the consequences of long after vaccination. Experts believe, however, that the limitations of our current educational structure, unearthed by crisis, will bring more discussion of implementing reform. Concluding research published by The Educational Review, Sunita Maharaj explains that "it is critical that the academic educational community learns from these experiences and prioritizes a forward-thinking and practical scholarly approach as solutions to cope with current realities." While it might be difficult, especially with the alarming uncertainty of this past year, we must ask questions. Do we want to return to a "normal" ridden with inequity sus-

ceptible to collapse? Is it a viable option for the global majority? What will a new "normal" look like, taking into account all that was shaken by COVID-19? We will likely continue to find ourselves asking questions for many years to come, but as we look towards this future, we look towards opportunity.



# SIMSBURY CELEBRATES 350 YEARS

## AVA DUNN

Ava Dunn is a freshman who loves to learn about worldwide and town events to be aware of what is happening around her. This article is about the celebration of Simsbury's 350th anniversary and the events in history that have led up the milestone.

In 2020, Simsbury turned 350 years old. The current pandemic has withheld large celebrations of the milestone, but there are planned events soon to look forward to.

The Simsbury Duck Race will take place this spring at the Flower Bridge with highlights on the 350th anniversary incorporated. Scheduled for September 2021 is the 25th Annual Simsbury River Run. This family-friendly race runs down the Farmington River with a performance from the Simsbury Community Band introduction. Both the anniversaries of the River Run and Simsbury will be recognized at the race.

One activity that was able to occur was the 350 Steps Walk. Long banners were displayed along Iron Horse Boulevard fences that walk you through Simsbury's history, dating all the way back to 1643. Since the banner is no longer up, let's take a virtual walk and learn about some highlights in Simsbury's story. On May 12, 1670, Simsbury first got its name: "Simmsbury." It was previously known as Massaco; The heritage of this name is attributed to Massaco Street in the center of town. Further correlating through his-

tory, the oldest house in Simsbury is believed to have been built in 1717 by Joshua Phelps. A major general, Noah Phelps, was born here in 1744. He was a spy for George Washington during his presidency. He helped capture Fort Ticonderoga as part of the Revolutionary War. Adding onto housing in town, the neighborhood of Tarriffville got its name in 1825. It stemmed from the protective tariffs which supported the first carpet factory. In 1907, Simsbury High School opened, but the town hall and police station now occupy the building. The locally famous Heublein Tower was built in 1914 and served as a summer home for the famous liquor magnate, Gilbert Heublein.

Martin Luther King Jr. sang in the choir of First Church and worked on the

tobacco farms in summer. Many know of his time and impact here during the 1940s as he fought for racial equality. Franz von Holzhausen, the head of Tesla, was born in Simsbury in 1968. World champion rower, Sarah Hendershot, was born here in 1988. She was on Simsbury High School's crew team. She won gold at the World Championships in 2011 and proceeded to be a part of the London 2012 United States Olympic Team. Several influential structures and people make up Simsbury's rich historical culture, each having its own role in our town's past.

The cruciality of this history thrives within Simsbury. These events have shaped the town into what it is now, and allow people to happily celebrate the 350th anniversary. There is much to reflect on from the past and much to look forward to in the future.

You can find more details for upcoming events and see the 350 Steps Banner online [here](#).



# HOPE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS FUNDRAISER

## ALANYS RIVERA

Hi! Interested in helping out your community during these dark times? Simsbury High School is taking part along with other high schools around Connecticut in the fundraiser Hope For Human Rights started by students at Conard High. The purpose of this fundraiser is to raise as much money as possible to donate to local nonprofits that are committed to working towards anti-racism, human rights, LGBTQ+ rights, and ending homelessness. The Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, Center for Children's Advocacy, Hands on Hartford, and CT's Women's Education and Legal Fund are the nonprofits and we chose to donate to. Each school will have its own fundraiser, ours is a virtual trivia night and raffle! Trivia night will be on April 8th and the raffle will be drawn on April 9th. Hope For Human Rights will also be hosting a state-wide virtual running fundraiser, a Fun Run. If you would like to check it out, take a look at [@hopeforhumanrightsct](#) on Instagram to stay up to date. The GoFundMe, and resources on the Fun Run, etc. are provided in the link in the Instagram bio. For more information, you may contact João by email at [21galafaj@simsburyschools.net](mailto:21galafaj@simsburyschools.net). Please, donate, share and help us out for an amazing cause! Thank you





# THE MEANING OF THE MLK IN CT MEMORIAL

AMANDA KELLY

Amanda Kelly is a freshman interested in the fight for racial inequality within and beyond our community. This article explores the events of the unveiling, the process put in to it, and the what this memorial hopes to achieve.

On January 18th, 2021, a small group of committee members, alumni, and students gathered together to celebrate the final product of a decade's long work. Students Jack Grossman, Ethan Hamlin, João Galafassi, Gabby Essex, and Harper Wilson helped to proudly reveal this thoughtful monument. Not only for Simsbury but for the entirety of Connecticut. Songs were performed by Alex Vargas, Veronica Pundy, Hailey Grabinsky, and the Gospel Choir. Other community members included Deacon Art Miller, who marched alongside Dr. King spoke. In 2011, the nationally recognized "Summers of Freedom: the Story of Martin Luther King, Jr. in Connecticut" was released. Created by a group of Simsbury High school students, this incredible documentary educated many on Dr. King's time in Simsbury, however, this was just the beginning. The idea for a Dr. Martin Luther King memorial to be established in Simsbury was formed. Jay Willerup, a local architect, Richard Curtiss, chair of Sims-

bury history department, and many more were eventually involved in this project as well. After 10 years of hard work from community members, students (past and present), and members of the Simsbury Free Library, this memorial was ready and complete.

This landmark is set on the grounds of the Simsbury Free Library. It includes 5 glass panels with information about Dr. King written on each. The clear panels were "chosen to reflect the idea that his words are not meant to be bound by walls, but to be understood and reflected upon by all people". These thoughtful design elements were the product of the collaboration of Willerup and many students of the MLK Committee. In front of these five panels is a pathway of brownstone bricks (a homage to the architecture of Connecticut). A bench of Georgia granite (an homage to Georgian architecture) will also be added. This contrast of the North and South was purposeful in creating an accurate picture of the life of Dr. King.

The panels tell a story of King's early life, time spent in Simsbury, religious aspirations, the contrast of North and South, and his legacy. To Jack Grossman, this memorial should be "a form of education for the town of Simsbury". Ethan Hamlin adds that this memorial should "inspire us to keep pushing forward [for racial equality]".

This group of visionaries and community members' hard work has paid off in full. It is safe to say that this momentous moment in Simsbury's history is a beacon for educating the community, inspiration for further change, and celebration of a truly incredible man that Simsbury had the honor to host.

If you wish to learn more about the MLK in CT memorial, refer to [this website](#).



# MYANMAR COUP ATTEMPT

## NATE GROSSMAN

Nate Grossman is a freshman who is interested in global politics. This article explores a relevant global event as it unfolds.

Myanmar is a country in Southeast Asia that declared independence from Britain in 1948. Since then, the country has been plagued with political instability. Myanmar had a general election in November of 2020, in which a political party known as the National League for Democracy won 396 out of 476 seats in Parliament. The Tatmadaw (Myanmar's military) disputed the election, claiming it was fraudulent, and for several days there were rumors of a coup d'état. Sure enough, on the morning of February 1st, 2021, the democratically elected ruling class was arrested and disposed of by the Tatmadaw. The most notable arrest was of Aung San Suu Kyi, the former State Counsellor. In 1991, Suu Kyi was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. In 2015, she led the National League for Democracy to victory in Myanmar's first openly contested election (after twenty-five years). She has also been placed under house arrest for a total of 15 years over a 21-year period in which she was politically active. In 2021, she was placed under house arrest once again with approximately 400 others. On February 2nd, Min Aung Hlaing established the State Administration Council

as the executive governing body. On February 3rd, Aung San Suu Kyi was filed with a criminal charge. Allegedly, she imported unlicensed communication devices used by her security detail. This was after her home was raided by the police. Protests have been emerging both in the country and outside of it. Not only have Myanmar's citizens rioted, but people overseas are being vocal about their want for Suu Kyi's release. On February 12th, security forces reportedly clashed with protesters. This was followed by five journalists being arrested. As of March 31st, 2021, at least 520 people have died. In America, President Biden has approved an Executive Order for new sanctions on the coup perpetrators. This enables his administration to "affect the perpetrator's business interests and close family members". In addition to this, Biden stated that he would freeze the \$1 billion of US assets that belonged to Myanmar's government. But, he would maintain support for other things that benefit the people of Myanmar directly. The legality of this coup has been questioned, with some saying that the Tatmadaw is violating Myanmar's constitution. However, the military has invoked



Articles 417 and 418 as the legal basis for the military takeover, but the exact specifications of Article 417 have arguably not been met. On February 26th, 2021, Kyaw Moe Tun, the Myanmar ambassador to the UN, condemned the coup. The very next day he was fired. As of the editing of this article, the coup d'état has been successful. This coup resulted in the imposition of military leadership along with many other changes to the government.

# STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH DURING COVID-19

## ALEXA GREEN

This article is about the continuous issues teenagers have been forced to face during these unprecedented times.

During these unprecedented times, the mental health issues of adolescent students are rapidly increasing. While there are obvious, devastating physical implications, this pandemic has also caused stress, anxiety, and grief for so many individuals. However, this burden does not stop at home. It creeps into teens' education. The mix of school and a fluctuating pandemic can cause many negative mental health symptoms; some of which can form into larger complications. The time when you are in school is a crucial chance for you to learn about yourself. It is an important part of your development. COVID-19 has halted these enriching stages of social interactions. How easy is it to improve your

social skills through a computer screen? Teachers do their best to accommodate their students while dealing with this uncertainty, but learning through a screen is not the same. According to Statista, 33% more students experienced stress or anxiety due to COVID-19. This stress is a result of the lack of schedule, less physical exercise, and a feeling of loneliness. Not only have mental health issues have increased, but there has also been a rise in domestic violence at home. School can provide a support network for students, but as the pandemic strengthens, there are fewer opportunities for students to reach out for help. Overall, the effects of these struggles are devastating. And they won't improve overnight. While our pop-

ulations deal with these outcomes, we need to make sure to care for one another and support people who are struggling. By expressing understanding, kind thoughts, we can alleviate the difficulties that adolescents face, and aid those who need it.

### Resources For Relief

*Domestic Violence and Dating Abuse:*  
1-866-331-9474

*National Suicide Prevention Line:*  
1-800-273-8255

*The Trevor Project (LGBTQ+):* 866-488-7386

*Crisis Text Line:* Text SUPPORT to 741-741

[7 Cups of Tea - Free Online Counseling](#)

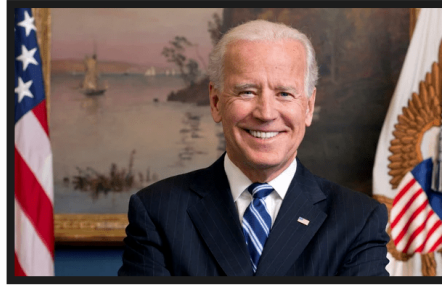
# BIDEN'S PROGRESS SO FAR

## DYLAN GROSSMAN

Dylan Grossman is a freshman and enjoys creating and writing, as well as keeping up with current political events, nationally and internationally. This article goes through and explains many of the changes that the Biden administration have so far introduced to our country and the fixes that are still to occur.

On January 20th of this year, Joseph R. Biden took the oath of office and was inaugurated as the 46th president of the United States. A former two-term vice president and having served thirty-six years in the Senate, Biden has become the single chief executive with the most experience in public service in American history. He and Vice President Kamala Harris, have taken office amid a massive pandemic that has now claimed hundreds of thousands of lives and produced astronomical unemployment rates. It had been stated before by Biden's constituents that, because of the large economical damages this past year, the president would want a large administration. Because of his small, but present congressional majorities, Biden can now enact large changes through executive action, as well as big-spending bills with the help of his Democratic Senate and House of Representatives.

Since presidents often lose seats in Congress during the first midterm elec-



tions, this president and his vice will have to make efficient use of their time since their inauguration and then until early January 2023, when the next Congress is seated.

In the president's first three days in office, he made exactly 30 executive actions. Many of these actions were reversals of Trump policies, with others focused on pandemic response.

On Wednesday, March 10th, the House of Representatives approved a \$1.9 trillion Covid relief package, therefore providing Joe Biden with his first legislative achievement after an eight-week sprint.

The bill passed with no Republican votes, and with one Democrat voting against. House Democrats state that these funds are sorely needed to help aid our country. GOP members denounced the bill as going beyond the needs of national coronavirus recovery.

Also on Wednesday, March, 10, President Biden approved 100 million more doses of Johnson and Johnson's coronavirus vaccine. This brings the United States' total order of vaccines to 800 million, split among three separate manufacturers. However, this new 100 million is unlikely to come in time to speed up the vaccination of adults for this spring.

President Biden issued an executive order back in January for American officials to study the possibility of adding Covid-19 vaccinations to new, digitized, international immunization cards.

In most important news, the Bidens made a statement saying that the first dogs are still beloved family members after a reported biting incident.

# TRUMP ACQUITTED FOR THE 2ND TIME

## REBECCA DIAZ-MATOS

Rebecca Diaz-Matos is a sophomore who loves to write. Her article explores the second impeachment trial of Donald Trump, and why the majority vote in the Senate was not enough for conviction.

Donald Trump is the 45th president of the United States and the only president to be impeached twice. The first time was in February of 2020, where Trump faced two charges. These charges were the abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. The impeachment passed in the House of Representatives, but not in the Senate. More recently, on January 13, 2021, Donald Trump was impeached in the House again, this time for incitement of insurrection. The vote was held exactly one week after a violent group of Trump supporters stormed the Capitol building in what many would consider a terrorist attack. Ultimately, 10 Republicans and 0 Democrats flipped their vote in the House of Representatives, resulting in a 232-197 vote in favor

of Trump's impeachment. The article of impeachment was officially brought to the Senate on January 25. Lots of controversies sparked from this trial. Senator Rand Paul insisted that "the whole proceeding was unconstitutional" and that a former president can not be tried for impeachment. Several people backed his argument. A law professor at NYU, Peter Rajsingh, said that "you can't impeach non-sitting public officials". Many other professors from around the country conquered. Senator Rand Paul also said that if Trump were convicted, he would be removed from office and that that wasn't possible, given Trump was no longer in office. However, this is not entirely true. While impeachment would remove a sitting president from office, it would also

prevent them from ever running for office again. In Trump's case, it would not be unlikely that he would face jail time as well. Ultimately, the Senate vote resulted in a 57-43 vote in favor of Trump being guilty. Does this mean that Trump was convicted? No. Although a majority of the Senate, including 7 Republicans, voted that Trump was guilty of incitement of insurrection, Trump had to be acquitted. For him to be convicted, 2/3 of the Senate had to vote in favor. So while 'guilty' was the popular vote, it was not popular enough. Therefore, Trump was not only the first president to be impeached twice, but he was also the first to be acquitted twice.



# MARS ROVER ACHIEVEMENT

## JAMESON BODENBURG

Jameson Bodenburg is a sophomore and enjoys exploring scientific accomplishments. This article informs about Martian exploration, the Mars Rover, and the potential of space travel in general.

On February 28, a giant leap was made in regards to Martian exploration. NASA's Perseverance Rover landed on the surface of Mars, in hopes of gathering more information about the red planet. The main goals of the landing were determining whether life ever existed on Mars, characterizing the climate and geology, and preparing the planet for human exploration.

This is a huge advancement in regards to space travel, exploration, and potential colonization. If it is found that Mars has the potential for life, or even hosted life in the distant past, that would mean big things for the future. Not only would this secure the theory that we are not alone in the universe, but it would also help advance the process of colonization. Considering the rate at which climate change is harming the Earth, having an alternative could only benefit humanity as a whole.

Mrs. Williams, a science teacher here at SHS, is "looking forward to any data collected relative to the presence of life." Furthermore, she is very impressed by the achievement in general. She is "amazed by the design of the whole project, and the calculations made to get a tiny little contraption to meet exactly with Mars" and land on the surface safely.

Overall, this is an incredible accomplishment from the team at NASA. However, there are concerns about the economic implications of the project. Just the rover alone cost \$2.2 billion, which is a significant investment for such a risky proposition. With that said, the potential benefits are going where no human has gone before; another planet. Something that our species could desperately need in the future. The rover could lead to human missions as soon as the 2030s. NASA's program is specially designed to take a



step-by-step approach to explore different environments on Mars. The potential for water or evidence of other life on another planet is extremely significant. The Perseverance Rover landing could pave the way for future space exploration, which is viewed by many as the next step for humanity.

# ARE MAKEUP TESTERS SAFE?

## MAGGIE BERLING

Maggie Berling is a freshman at SHS. This article is a commentary on common habits many people participated in before the pandemic and raises the question of if these practices will continue in the future.

Before the pandemic, countless people shopped at Sephora, Ulta, and countless other makeup franchises. Of course, we still do this today, but the recent changes worldwide have opened many eyes to the unsanitary, and frankly, sickening component when it comes to trying to match your foundation color or discovering the right red lipstick for you. If you have ever been to a makeup store, think about what it looks like when you walk in. Imagine the countless aisles of different brands, ranging from expensive, luxury products to drugstore, affordable goods.

Now, think about the rows and rows of makeup testers. Anything that is up for sale will probably have a tester. If you look around the corner of the aisle, there is a chance you might see a little table with some wipes and cotton swabs. These stations are usually located in beauty shops

due to COVID-19. But before the pandemic, it seemed like sanitary rules were not enforced. It was common to see many people dipping their fingers into concealer and spreading it onto their hands to color-match. Other samples, such as lipstick testers, were used in similar ways.

Based on this, anyone can recognize the unsanitary, contaminated tendencies that seem to come along with makeup testers... think about it. If twenty people in one day incorrectly swatch from the same lipstick, chances are that at least one of them will encounter or contract some sort of bacterial infection from the spread of germs. This, of course, could lead to major issues and complications. Not only for the individual but also the company.

This raises the question, are makeup testers safe? Even further on, will we ever go back to using makeup testers in the future? It would be surprising considering

the medical, hygienic, and technological precautions that the world has imposed since COVID-19 has spread across the world. What do you think? Should major makeup franchises go back to allowing makeup testers? Should they implement sterilized use of the testers? Or will this component of makeup shopping be abolished forever?





# REVIEW: “MOST DANGEROUS WAYS TO SCHOOL”

RACHEL ZHANG

Rachel Zhang, a sophomore, is very passionate about the value of education and is always looking for opportunities to share this important message with others. This article examines how the series, “The Most Dangerous Ways To School,” integrates a touching story, beautiful scenery, and personal accounts from students around the world into a life-changing documentary.

The multi-season TV documentary series, “The Most Dangerous Ways to School”, produced by Maximus Films (Germany 2016) introduces the lives of children in some of the most remote areas to viewers. The show expresses a common task that students around the world experience: going to school. It is heart-breaking to see that children as young as the age of four need to overcome a fear of heights, fight against the current, endure adverse climates, and escape ferocious animals for the chance of a better education. However, it also provides viewers with an enlightening experience that helps lead to new insight about ourselves. Inspiring for everyone, the series is especially valuable for children. It reminds us of the blessing we enjoy and leads us to incorporate the mindset of these brave children without the use of excessively complex language or far-off examples.

Each episode of this touching series highlights some aspect of the treacherous journey that children in different countries travel. Endless snow and ice on the Roof of the World (India), dense jungles along the Rio Negro River (Colombia), or the scorching desert near an active volcano in one of the world’s hottest regions (Ethiopia) are examples of the perilous routes that students travel. The series opens a window to adventure into the life of children in other parts of the world, and is, for many of us, an eye-opening experience. For students in America, we sometimes complain about having to get out of a warm bed between 6:00- 7:00 AM, or earlier for those of us who are older and spend time standing in front of the mirror improving our appearance. For the students living in these remote areas, however, school is such a sacred place that they are willing to march along the icy cliff of the Himalayan Mountains in the cold winter for four days or walk for more than ten miles in over 100-degree temperatures. Their desire to learn is not affected by crossing through the Dorn Savannah in Tanzania where boars and hyenas are found, or traversing through the “Land of 1,000 Rivers,” a five-day journey through one of the world’s largest rainforests in Papua New Guinea. They travel often hun-



grily and without the appropriate shoes to get to school, which is typically a modest facility with limited resources. American parents and educators are constantly in search of ways to spark an interest in students to learn, and if the heroic story of Malala Yousafzai seems a little distant, the simple, yet powerful, storytelling of this documentary series about an everyday routine provides an excellent alternative. The vivid picture of the life-threatening ways that these children travel to school is worth thousands of words and is undoubtedly more effective in helping inspire or re-instill a passion for learning. Further, it depicts school, a convention so commonplace in the United States, as a cherished and venerated place. Since the films express the story from the students’ perspectives, viewers are renewed in their appreciation and gratitude for education and re-recognize the value of what seems so typical from a different outlook.

This documentary series successfully captivates viewers through an artful mixture of the breathtaking scenery, inevitable danger, and struggle that these children face every day. While the classic National Geographic scenery showcases the wondrous views that Earth has to offer, it delicately paints a picture of the precarity and intimidation that these places pose to the local people, and challenges us to reflect upon the circumstances in our own lives. After viewing, we are not only emotionally moved by the dangerous ways these students travel to school— the crumbled, narrow path along

a cliff facing over 10,000 feet above the river, the unsecured ladder on the almost 90° cliff, and the broken zipline above one of the world’s longest rivers packed with crocodiles— but also naturally begin to ask the question: how can we rise to challenges that confront us in the school environment, and find the strength to do what might have seemed impossible? Watching children make their way through these tremendously difficult paths will certainly help cultivate determination in our own lives and build a purposeful, unflinching mindset to overcome the challenges we face. This can occur both internally (in terms of individual mindset) and externally, between ourselves, other people, responsibilities, and environments.

This striking demonstration of the ordinary daily routine of these extraordinary children teaches a precious lesson of perseverance and endurance in a gentle way that will be well-received by students of all ages. The series provides authentic imagery of the challenges that students around the world have overcome and opens a window of perspective for students who do not encounter such struggles or obstacles in their day-to-day lives. The straightforward, yet thought-provoking narration of this documentary teaches the values of appreciation and gratefulness without viewers even realizing, and will naturally change how students with access to limited resources leverage the circumstances and opportunities around them.

# THE VITAL ROLE OF SPORTS DURING COVID

**SOFIA DURAN AND KATE BATCHELAR**

Sofia Duran and Kate Batchelar are two sophomore student athletes that explore the key roles of sports, motivation, and accountability in athletics.

For many students, this past year sports seasons have been affected by the pandemic in one way or another. Whether it be a shortened season, less playing time or no season at all many students found themselves feeling deprived and disconnected from their sport. Everyone can take away something after a good game through their love for the game, the rush of adrenaline they get, cheering from the sidelines, or the connections and bonds with teammates. These connections did not falter even with the adjustments made to the season. Two important roles that sports still incorporate include being a key motivator for athletes and holding them accountable.

The most valuable lessons one can learn from a sport are not always physical, but mental. I find the structure a sport gives me to be comforting and vital to helping me manage my time better. Many

students find it difficult to get the incentive to complete their numerous homework assignments, but when you have the commitment of practices and/or games throughout the week it can help motivate you to complete homework over the weekend which results in more stress-free nights during school nights. Our current schedule allows us to finish most, if not all, of our work up to Wednesday's school day over the weekend. The issue is that after finishing a long week many of us will procrastinate our work until the night before, causing late nights and no free time. Sports play the role of the motivator in this situation which in turn helps us throughout the week. This is one reason why the athletic department at our school is so important.

Where does motivation come from? Think about it? Do you do something just to get it done, to get a good grade,

for peace of mind, to learn something? Sports help keep students accountable, which is why many of us will be excited about attending. Dress-up spirit days for games allow us to be excited about seeing teammates during the school day. Ideas of music blasting bus rides keep us happy throughout the day and are the cherry on top of the hard work and fun memories made with our teammates.

The accountability and motivation that sports provide to every student on a team are vital for our athletes. They help bring us joy and time management, always improving our lives even off of the field/court/rink/track. These roles will forever be present no matter how many changes are made to our season and that is why many students see sports as a crucial part of their high school experience.

## CROWDS AND MORALE

**BETSY KELLOGG**

Betsy Kellogg is a 3-sport athlete and a sophomore at SHS. This article explores how Covid-19 restrictions on crowds affects the morale and attitudes of athletes.

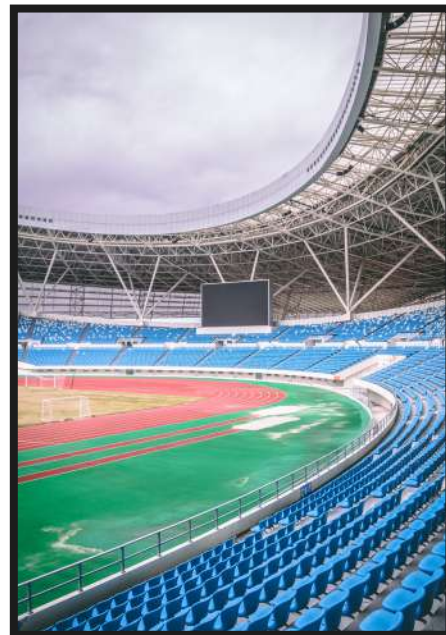
Amidst the pandemic, many stadiums, events, and tournaments are found empty. Without the cheering, enthusiastic crowds, this leaves one to wonder; How does this affect the performance of our athletes?

Many athletes strive for the satisfaction that comes from a crowd. Whether that is the cheering, validation, a sense of accomplishment after a good performance, or simply the urge to show off your skills. Whatever the cause may be, the restrictions and limitations on crowds have taken a toll on the morale of athletes at SHS. Students have expressed how the lack of fans impairs their performance, as there is less motivation to play well. It feels as if no one will care or see you if you mess up, hindering gameplay.

Most athletes can vouch that a supportive crowd, or a taunting crowd, changes the entire atmosphere of a game or

match, along with the athletes' attitudes. Although some students may see a crowd as moral support, others may find themselves feeling pressured or intimidated by fans. For these few, the crowd control rules may be a good thing, as they relieve the pressure and fear of failure that comes alongside a large crowd. Without this internal panic, some students may be able to find sports more enjoyable.

No matter your stance on whether or not you perform best under pressure and the cheers of a crowd, it is agreeable that sports and athletes at SHS have been impacted severely by COVID-19. One's morale is heavily dependent upon the environment around them, and so we should do all we can to support and better the performance of our athletes from a distance.



# CURLING: THE RULES OF THE GAME

EMMA PASTOR

Emma Pastor is a sophomore and avid curling enthusiast working to shed light on the true complexities of the often forgotten winter sport.



Every four years, when the Winter Olympics finally rolls around, we are often reminded of the forgotten yet fascinating sport that is curling. Though it is often perceived as boring and unimportant, it is a guilty pleasure of many to watch the red and yellow stones slide across the ice in between other events. Despite this, very few people understand the objectives and rules of the game.

Oftentimes compared to shuffleboard, the objective of curling is quite simple. In each match, there are ten “ends”, similar

to innings in baseball. During each end, teams throw a total of eight 45 pound stones, which are numbered accordingly. By the end of each respective end, the goal of teams is to have the most stones closest to the center of the “house” (the target at the opposite end of the ice sheet), as only one team is awarded points per end. Teams earn points equal to the number of stones of their color that are closer to the center of the house than the next closest of the opposite team. Teams are composed of two to four players, depending on the type of match. For “round-robin” games, each team consists of four players - the lead, second, vice, and skip. The lead, as the name suggests, is the first to throw a stone for their team at the beginning of each end, while the second and vice sweep. Before the first end, the lead participates in a coin toss determining which team gets the last stone advantage, also known as the “hammer”. The hammer is then awarded to the team that does not earn any points after each respective end for the remainder of the game. After the lead throws their first 2 stones, the second takes over, throwing stones 3 and 4, with the lead and the vice sweeping. The vice then throws stones 5 and 6, as the lead and second sweep. Once this has been done, rather than sweeping for the last player (the skip), the vice goes to the opposite end of the ice sheet, taking over the vital role of the skip. The skip is the “brains” of the operation. They are the player responsible for instructing the other members of their team on where to aim their stones when it is their turn to throw. This is done by placing their broom in the area of the house they would like the stone to end up, and specifying the kind of play they would like the thrower to make. After the stone is thrown, the players in charge of sweeping listen for the skip’s direction on when to begin sweeping, as

is not to make it into the house, but instead to protect stones already positioned in the house by making it more difficult for the other team to have a clear shot at knocking out stones in the center. Center guards require a lighter throw, with only a slight curl, and oftentimes end up positioned closely to either side of the center-line. Generally, a center guard is thrown by the team without the hammer and is commonly removed by the opposing team later in the end. Corner guards serve a similar purpose, however, they require a greater curl to be placed on the stone, serving to protect the outside areas of the 8 to 12-foot lines. They are generally thrown by those with the hammer, as they enable the team to draw around the stone later on and have that shot protected. This creates a higher chance of scoring at least one point in that end. -- continued on page 12.

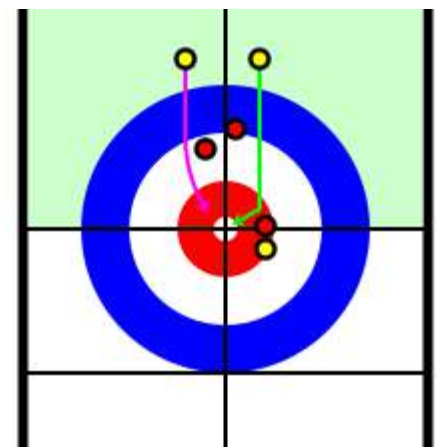
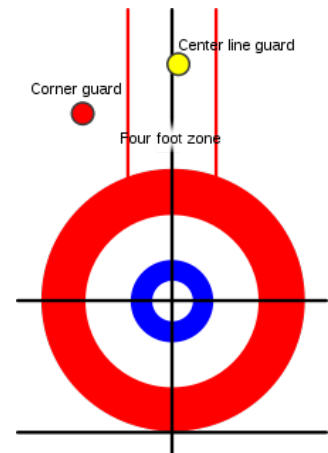


to innings in baseball. During each end, teams throw a total of eight 45 pound stones, which are numbered accordingly. By the end of each respective end, the goal of teams is to have the most stones closest to the center of the “house” (the target at the opposite end of the ice sheet), as only one team is awarded points per end. Teams earn points equal to the number of stones of their color that are closer to the center of the house than the next closest of the opposite team.

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well as the speed at which they should for the play to be properly carried out. When sweeping, a greater amount of pressure and higher speed causes the stone to travel farther, because the ice upon which curling is played has small droplets of ice protruding from it, causing the surface to be rough. As players sweep, these bumps are flattened, allowing the stone to glide smoothly across the ice at a higher speed. Once the stone has passed the second hog line, the skip can aid in sweeping if needed. After an end has finished, players evaluate the score for the end and switch sides of the ice sheet so that they are throwing from what was the house for the previous end. Both teams throw from the same side.



Curling Draw



*Continued from page 11* -- When the skip calls for a draw, they are referring to a shot that lands inside of the house, without hitting another stone. Drawing around a stone requires the delivered stone to have the correct amount of curl to wrap around and land behind a rock already in play inside of the house. The amount of curl put on a stone is determined by the rotation placed on it by the player throwing the stone. When a clockwise rotation is placed on the stone, it curls towards the right, causing the stone to end up on the right side of the house. Conversely, placing a counterclockwise rotation on the stone causes it to curl left, resulting in the stone landing on the left side of the house. Executing a draw requires the thrower to

apply what is called “draw weight”, which describes the momentum needed for the stone to land in the front portion of the house, in front of or on the tee line running through the center.

The last kind of play is known as the takeout. The takeout, although a fairly self-explanatory play, requires careful precision of the player throwing the stone. It describes a stone being thrown at a high velocity to knock a stone already present in the house out of play. Generally, when this is done, the rock that is impacted and the delivered stone both are removed from play. This kind of throw is often used by the vice or skip in an attempt to “blank” an end, or in other words, clear the house of any stones so no points are awarded to

either team for that end. This is a strategy used by the team with the hammer to retain the hammer for the next end.

It is quite clear to see how truly interesting the sport of curling is. Though it is often overlooked, it is an extremely inclusive and accessible sport to people of all ages and can be picked up fairly quickly. For those interested in trying it out, Connecticut is home to two of its very own curling clubs - Norfolk Curling Club in Norfolk Historic District, and Nutmeg Curling Club located in Bridgeport. Both clubs offer memberships for both youth players and adults, with no prior experience necessary!

## THE 2021 OLYMPIC GAMES

### MOLLY PANE

Molly Pane is sophomore and avid Olympics viewer who cannot wait for the 2021 Olympics this July. This article talks about why the 2020 Olympics were delayed and the effects the postponement caused.

**1** 916, 1940, and 1944: the only three times in world history that the Olympic Games have been canceled, until now. The 2020 Tokyo Olympics were scheduled in September of 2013, but like many things, that all changed in March of 2020. On March 24th, 2020 the International Olympic Committee (IOC) was forced to postpone the 2020 Olympics due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This cancellation was one of only four in modern history, and the only one that has ever happened during peacetime. Cancellations, even temporary ones, are extremely rare because the organizers of the games make every effort to avoid them at all costs, and for good reason. Holding the Olympics is extremely costly for a city and a cancellation vastly increases that price tag. Tokyo's postponement added an estimated 2.7 billion dollars to the 12.6 billion dollars they had already spent to host the

games. Luckily, this cancellation is not permanent because of decreasing COVID rates. The IOC rescheduled the Olympics to start on July 23rd, 2021. This is great news for Tokyo considering they will get some return on their investment, and not just financially. A big motivator for choosing to host the games is the opportunity to show off your city to the world. Holding the games is usually a point of pride for the citizens of the host country and through the tireless work of the IOC and the Tokyo game organizers, Japan will still get this opportunity. The postponement is great news for all the athletes who now in a few short months will get their shot at Olympic glory. The cancellation of the Olympics, a peaceful and unifying competition, was a harsh blow at an already hard time, but the games being able to start this summer is a joy to us all and just goes to validate the chosen motto of the 2020

Olympics, if by nothing else we are “United by Emotion”.



# COMICS

## UNRECOGNIZABLE

BY HANNAH GRANGER



# Modern Trojans

By: Dylan Grossman





# THANK YOU!



Thank you for reading the first issue of the Trojan Times! If you are interested in joining our Google Classroom, please use the code: **swpewda**. We look forward to putting out our next edition by the end of the school year!

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