

Warde Wins Big at DECA State Conference

By Mary Harvey
PRODUCTION EDITOR

Fairfield Warde is often lauded for its performance on the field. But at this year's DECA State Conference, the Mustangs proved their business abilities are equally impressive. The competition yielded many winners including:

Katherine Foley received first place in Retail Merchandising Series and Retail Merchandising Simulation. Elle Melson and Eleni Gold placed second in the Buying and Merchandising Operations Team Event and Aura Kurel placed third for Independent Business Plan. Placing in the top 5 for the State of Connecticut were Aadira Balan (Business Financial Series), Adam Horwitz (Marketing Communications Series), and Caroline Buck (Principles of Finance). Additionally, Owen Campbell was awarded one of two DECA State scholarships.

The DECA Conference is a docket of tests, interviews, and mock scenarios, where competitors must think in real time as CEOs and business owners. Schools from across Connecticut competed in all disciplines of business. I spoke to Senior Katherine Foley, who will be moving on to Nationals in Orlando, Florida.

DECA is an organization that helps aspiring careers. Foley stressed the importance of the connections that DECA offers.

"In my opinion, DECA is one of the most rewarding programs to be a part of at Warde. It helps to provide students who



The Warde DECA Champions celebrate their win at this year's DECA State Conference.

Photo Credit: Anshika Sinha

have a passion or interest in business with a network of connections all around the world, business skills, and lifelong friends," Foley said.

Foley also said that it improves things like problem solving and professionalism. This can aid those looking to enter the corporate world or even just having a professional career. A large draw to the DECA Conferences is post-high school plans. Where some scouts go to sports games, many colleges send scouts to the DECA conferences. They become a chance

to build a relationship with schools or even future places of employment. Partnerships come from brands like Chick-Fil-A and schools like FIDM. Starting to forge these bonds at a young age creates career advancement opportunities and opens the door to universities and scholarships early.

So, how did the win feel?

"I was super nervous going into it! However, after receiving an outpouring of compassion and support from genuinely everyone around me, my nerves definitely eased up," Foley said. "Once my name was

announced on stage, I was genuinely in shock. It was definitely a moment I won't forget and will always savor."

She now looks to Nationals, hoping that her confidence will once again help her win.

"I had the constant mindset that I was a smart, strong, and intelligent woman and that I could do anything I put my mind to. This sort of mindset gave me the ability to compete at my prime and honestly I think it

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Sikorsky, Foreign Service Speakers Visit Warde

By Eleanor Jacobs
EDITOR

Some of Warde's first outside lecturers of the school year visited on October 6th, when Mr. D'Acosta's first period Global Studies class had the chance to sit down with representatives from the Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation Company's workers' union, Teamsters 1150.

Composed of workers from the prominent aircraft manufacturer based in Stratford, they discussed the means by which they advocate for benefits, fair treatment, and equitable opportunities for all workers in their share of the company umbrella.

Among the representatives were union trustee Dr. Amy Gianninato, union member and interim coordinator Nick



Hewell, and Sikorsky intern Kaylene Kezer. Following her discussion of how the endeavors of the union helped to better opportunities for advancement, particularly for women and young people within the company, Kezer emphasized: "We just wish that we'd learned about this in school."

Through interaction with outside

community representatives, Warde faculty and students are working to give their own students and peers a look into topics and experiences beyond what class curriculums may provide. As it turns out, the presence of a speaker or speakers in any educational setting – the auditorium, a classroom, a Google meet – seems to be

the most effective way to bring these ideas into school.

Following the Teamsters 1150 visit, Warde has hosted a variety of events meant to involve the school community: On November 3rd, motivational speaker Brian Williams addressed the 9th grade class on the importance of kindness and camaraderie both within and outside of Warde. On January 27th, Ambassador James Zumwalt, a former U.S. Ambassador to Senegal, delivered a presentation to interested students on career opportunities within the Foreign Service. Steered Straight Founder Michael DeLeon spoke to Warde's lowerclassmen on February 15th

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World Cup In Review

By **Anshika Sinha**

STAFF WRITER

All winter, there was one topic at the forefront of people's minds: The FIFA World Cup. Whether or not you're a soccer fan, the frenzy is everywhere.

This year's World Cup was an eventful one, with matches leading up like dominoes to an explosive final. Before the groups were even announced, controversy surrounded FIFA's decision to host it in Qatar, a place infamous for its various human rights abuses and continued oppression of the LGBTQ community. In addition to this, history was made, as this was the first year that the World Cup was held during the winter.

As the games began, excitement abounded. The group stage commenced with a bang: Germany was, shockingly, knocked out of the group stage. Qatar became the first host country to get eliminated after its first two games (knocked out by Senegal 3-1). "Underdog" countries continuously played beyond anyone's expectations. Saudi Arabia beat Argentina 2-1, Morocco beat Belgium 2-0, and Cameroon beat Brazil 1-0 (Vincent Aboubakar took a red card one minute after scoring the winning goal, but they won).

The World Cup frenzy was exceptionally strong this year, as the United States played quite well in the group stages. They tied England 0-0 (with 10 shots), and beat Iran 1-0 to advance to the knockout stages. Unfortunately, the US played less than spectacularly in the Round of 16, losing by an embarrassing 3-1 to the Netherlands. Each of the 3 goals was a repeat of the previous: The defense made a mistake, allowing Memphis, Blind, and Dumfries each to score. Haggi Wright brought it back in the 76th minute, allowing Americans a glimpse of hope before Dumfries took it to the point of no return in the '81.

Still, excitement over the World Cup can be found everywhere. During a family trip to Dubai, I was able to experience the World Cup's effect tenfold. People would watch the games on the plane, all the while flight attendants would ask about the score. The streets were filled with huge screens displaying the day's matches. At night, we would go to bed hearing the roar of the crowds at Fan Zones (areas where fans could gather and watch matches on a big screen, mimicking the feeling of watching the game live).

Here at Warde, the World Cup mania struck as well. Teachers put matches on after class and hopeful students wore jerseys of the teams they wanted to win.

As the Round of '16 continued, people rallied behind their favorite teams and countries. There wasn't anything very unexpected about the Round of '16: Argentina beat Australia 2-1, France beat Poland 3-1 (where Olivier Giroud broke the record for most goals by a French player), England beat Senegal 3-0, and Croatia beat Japan in penalties 3-1. Brazil beat South Korea a brutal 4-1, and Portugal hit Switzerland with an even more painful

6-1. The real surprise, however, was Morocco. The African country beat Spain on penalties a shocking 3-0, advancing to the quarter-finals (hats off to Canadian-born Moroccan goalie Yassine Bounou for the excellent keeping).

This year's quarterfinals were shockingly filled with penalty shootouts. As the stakes got higher, the games got even more tense. Croatia beat Brazil on penalties 4-2. Earlier, Brazil fans had been feeling confident when Neymar scored a goal in the 105+1' minute, but this confidence soon chipped away further when Bruno Petkovic scored for Croatia 9 minutes later in the 117'. When it came time for penalties, Brazil's playing turned subpar. While Croatian goalie Dominik Livakovic is fantastic in his position, Brazil showed none of their usual skill. The deciding penalty for Brazil, kicked by Rodrygo, bounced off the bar. This meant that, regardless of whether or not there was a goalie in the net, the shot would have missed.

This sentiment was echoed in the England-France game on December 10th. While the match did not go to penalties (France beat England 2-1), England had two penalties and the opportunity to draw with France. Harry Kane, a clinical penalty taker with an 84% penalty conversion rate, took both. He scored the first but wildly missed his second, sending the ball flying over the crossbar. Similar to Rodrygo's penalty, Kane would have missed the shot regardless of the goalie. It was just the 11th penalty Kane has missed in a 13-year career, but what a costly one!

In keeping with the penalty theme, Argentina beat the Netherlands 4-3 through penalties in what was a very close match. In the beginning, Argentina appeared to dominate. Nahuel Molina scored for Argentina in the 35' minute, and Messi scored a penalty in the 73'. It seemed hopeless for the Dutch, but Wout Weghorst brought them back with 2 goals; one in the 83' and one in the 111'. Argentina then beat them out for good in penalties, but, needless to say, it was an excellent and entertaining match to watch, regardless of who you might have been supporting.

Morocco beat Portugal 1-0, making history as the first-ever African country to advance to the semi-finals of the World Cup. However, as Moroccans celebrated, soccer fans everywhere were hit with a special type of melancholy; it was likely the last World Cup game world-renowned player Cristiano Ronaldo would ever play. Despite spending the majority of the game on the bench (for the second game in a row), the legend was very emotional following the end of the game.

Ronaldo's fellow soccer legend, Lionel Messi, in contrast, was jubilant after a 3-0 win in the semi-final game against Croatia. He had reason to be. He scored the first goal, a penalty in the 34th minute. His teammate, Julian Alvarez, continued the

streak with goals in the 39th and 69th minutes. When the whistle blew after 6 minutes of stoppage time, Argentina was through to its sixth World Cup final, and Messi had the opportunity to win his first and last World Cup.

France excitedly anticipated a potential repeat of their 2018 World Cup win, with a comfortable 2-0 win in the semi-final game against Morocco. France started and ended strong, with Theo Hernandez scoring a goal in the 5th minute and Randal Kuolo Muani scoring in the 79th minute.

The highly anticipated Argentina-France final began on Sunday, December 18th, with viewers watching from around the world with bated breath. At first, the game seemed to be an open-and-shut case for Argentina; Messi scored a penalty in the 23rd minute, and Angel Di Maria followed with another goal in the 36' minute. At halftime, many people were losing interest. Argentina had a 2-0 lead and seemed to have no issues retaining it. The French team seemed hopeless. However, in the last few minutes of the last half (80'), France won a penalty. Kylian Mbappe took it and, in typical Mbappe style, scored it. The goal seemed to reawaken him and the rest of the French team—a little over one minute later, in true Mbappe style, he scored yet again, and the game was tied; 2-2. The game went to extra time, and Messi showed his true skill with a goal in the 108'. Argentina seemed to have it in the bag, but Mbappe came back with a penalty in the 118'.

France had some close calls, desperately doing everything to keep from going to penalties. The French goalie, Hugo Lloris, had gone on record in saying that he wasn't very good at penalties. Unfortunately, it did in fact go to penalties, where Lloris was unable to save a single penalty. Argentina won the PKs an incredible 4-2, with Montiel scoring the winning goal. That was it. Argentina had won the world cup.

Personally, I had been rooting for France (since no one else seemed to), but I ended up being quite happy with how it ended. It was the epitome of soccer, and the explosive ending a legend like Messi deserved. As I watched him lift the trophy, I knew that it was the perfect ending to his illustrious career, and an amazing finish to a World Cup for the history books.

This year's World Cup was many things: Dynamic, dramatic, and explosive. No matter how you look at it, it was a World Cup that will never be forgotten.

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Published by and for the students of Fairfield Warde High School, the Focus has a long history as an open forum.

Readers are encouraged to submit guest articles and letters to the editors. These should be submitted to wardefocus@gmail.com and must be signed, although names may be withheld from letters upon request.

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We are always looking for more writers. Contact Mr. McGarry or Mr. Donlon to start your journalism career today.

Support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Today!

By Yael Grossman
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

I'm a member of The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Student Visionaries of the Year program, where we raise funds for blood cancer research and patient care. LLS is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to finding a cure for blood cancers and improving quality of life for patients and their families. They have invested over 1.6 billion dollars into research and their mission is to improve personalized medicine and immunotherapy for those im-

pacted by blood cancer. LLS is the largest funding group for blood cancer research worldwide, and they have tens of thousands of volunteers just like us everywhere who help to support their mission and cause. They have funded over two hundred research grants that have worked to produce over seventy percent of the available blood cancer treatment options that are currently available and FDA approved, as well providing more than two hundred million dollars into financial aid for blood cancer patients.

Here at Warde, we have already raised over \$1200 dollars toward the cause and are working towards a grand total goal of \$10,000. Our team is composed of several Warde students and headed by our leaders Shruithika Gopinath and Sadia Khanam.

Help us create a change for those impacted by leukemia and lymphoma by donating today with the link posted on our Instagram (@thewardefocus) or on our site.

Support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Today!



Photo Credit: Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Sikorsky, Foreign Service Speakers Visit School

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on the threats and implications of vaping and drug addiction on their lives. Whether to inform, interact, or educate, the teachings of speakers provided opportunities for students to lend an ear and gain insight into lives, careers, and outlooks that vary from their own.

These keynote speakers are often first contacted by teachers within the school. Mrs. Murphy, who teaches Global Studies, American Studies, and AP Psychology at Warde, is no stranger to hosting speakers. In past years,

she's facilitated interactions with individuals from Secret Service agents and professors for her History classes to animal behavior specialists at the Norwalk Aquarium for her Psychology students. She emphasizes the significance of bringing in those who have firsthand experience in the topics which she educates on to speak to the class, which she finds often resonates most strongly when within a classroom setting.

"I think a small, intimate setting is often better for learning,"

Murphy said. "People often feel more comfortable asking questions in a smaller group rather than a large audience of others. In their classrooms, they're more comfortable asking questions in front of their peers."

Murphy regularly hosts visitors in her classroom, allowing students to determine the significance of these moments through their own interactions with the speakers.

While a smaller environment may seem best for prompting

interaction and questions, a lecture to a much larger group of students can prove to be just as impactful. For instance, on November 17th, John Trautwein of the *Will to Live Foundation* spoke to all grade levels in the auditorium with the goal of raising awareness of mental illness and teen suicide. His powerful message has impacted Warde's entire population for the past two years.

The strongest paths to learning, the development of new ideas, and greater understand-

ing around the experiences of others may come in the form of an article or book. However, the same impact can be found through conversation. While not necessarily one-on-one, a one-on-twenty-five interaction can be impactful all the same.

These recent visits to Warde over the past seven months, all have been appreciated and will hopefully pave the way for future visits, during this second semester and beyond.

THE CENTER FOR FAMILY JUSTICE INVITES YOU TO ITS 11TH ANNUAL



SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023
FAIRFIELD TRAIN STATION MAIN LOT
Registration begins at 8 AM. Walk starts promptly at 9 AM.

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Fees: \$25 Adults | \$10 Students | Free Children 10 and under

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An awareness event sponsored by The Center for Family Justice, Inc. and The Center's White Ribbon Campaign Committee. The Center is a recognized 501(c)(3) charitable organization. "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" and "Put Yourself in Her Shoes" are registered trademarks of walkinherhighheels.org.

Warde Wins at DECA

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really set me apart the most from my competition."

Going into nationals with this momentum will be big for Warde, establishing it as a school with a powerful business education department and an empowered student body.

Warde DECA's future is bright, with a large number of strong underclassmen. We will be watching to see what DECA does next!

A message from Katherine

about sponsors for DECA Nationals: We will be attending the ICDC national competition at the end of April and are actively seeking corporate sponsors/donors to help with the competition's cost. If you or anyone you know would be interested in sponsoring Warde DECA, reach out to Mrs. Terwilliger, Mrs. Sauro, or myself (Katherine Foley). Thank you for your kind consideration!



Senior Katherine Foley

ARTS AND ENT

Winter Aesthetics

By Sabrina Cassano

BLUR EDITOR

Since last season, I've changed my mind. Winter is aesthetic... or at least, it can be. As long as you ignore the frostbite, the slush, and the fact that we're saying goodbye to the sun for at least 3 months, it's nothing that can't be fixed with either a puffer coat or

staying inside.

FOOD:

(Any food that is warm has a reasonable chance of making this list)

Cinnamon Buns

Aesthetic: Whether you're pulling them out of the oven or from a plastic box, this cinnamon classic is the best experience anyone can

have. A diamond may be cool and all, but we all know that cinnamon buns are the only thing that'll really last forever.

Aesthetic Rating: 5000/10

Reasoning: C.I.N.N.A.M.O.N

Toasted Chestnuts

Aesthetic: The fact they have a whole song about them roasting on an open fire qualifies them as reasonably aesthetic.

Aesthetic: 4/10

Reasoning: The work of finding chestnuts and then roasting them on an open fire is a lot less appealing than the idea of it.

MEDIA:

As the weather gets colder, everyone starts locking themselves indoors. Since we can't stand to be alone with our own thoughts, we need something to watch or read so it might as well be aesthetic.

T.V. Shows

Dash & Lily

Aesthetic: A quick binge that feels like a book within a show.

Aesthetic Rating: 50/10

Reasoning: It features New York bookstores and a guy who likes

books. Is there anything else you need in a show?

MOVIES:

Little Women

Aesthetic: The vibes, wanting to escape to Europe (In the movie, Europe is warm and sepia toned—all 44 countries), and debating homeschooling all hit a little too close to home, especially around late December.

Aesthetic Rating: 20/10

Reasoning: Trying to convince people (and yourself) that you're watching for the plot and not to see Timothée Chalamet profess his love on a hill can get tiring, but it's worth it.

The Holiday

Aesthetic: Every time I watch this movie I don't know if I want to go to England or California (England for the British accents, California for the sun, which is obviously a real predicament)

Aesthetic Rating: 20/10

Reasoning: Yes, Jack Black is attractive in this movie, a true paragon of the female gaze at work.

BOOKS:

Rebecca, Silent Patient, Aesthetic/WARNING:

If you like the process of trying to decode a mystery and then feeling dumb when the inevitable twist is revealed, as you of course CONFIDENTLY chose the person who was definitely the red herring (which may or may not be my own experience)... these are for you.

Aesthetic Rating: 7.5/10

Reasoning: Killing people is cold (as in dead wrong-or to put it in a non punny way: Not nice) and so is Winter.

ACTIVITIES:

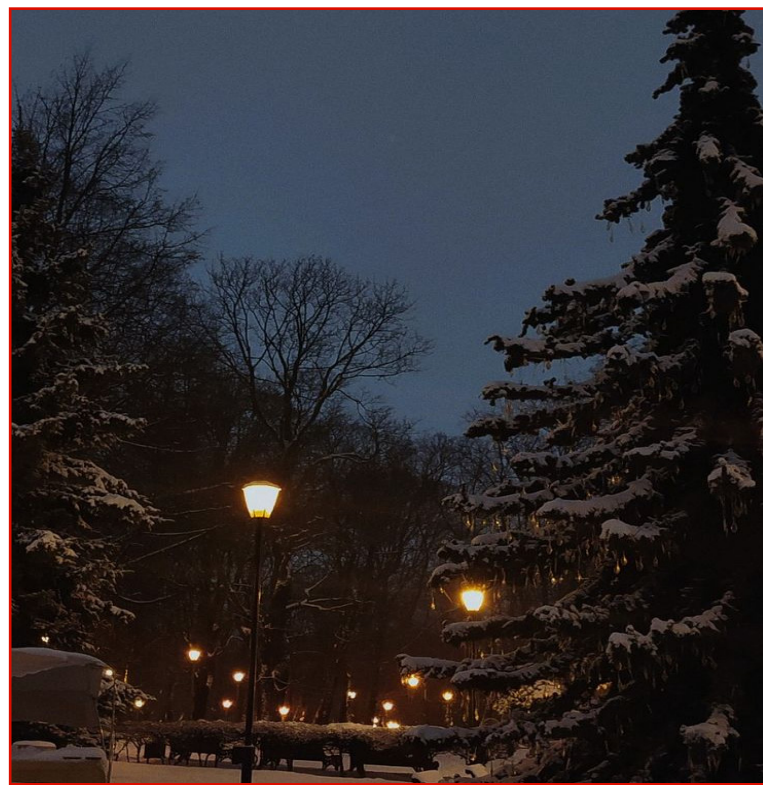
We all have to do something in the snow besides freeze.

Getting Sick

Aesthetic: The bad part is that you get sick, the good part is you get a guilt free day or two off of school.

Aesthetic Rating: 5/10

Reasoning: Sure, there's ice skating, but no one's doing that so this is more relatable... and if you have a fever, less cold.



Ugly Christmas Sweaters: Fashionable or Just Plain Ugly?

By Charlotte Lovell

STAFF WRITER

Originally popularized in the 1950s, with a resurgence in the 2000s, ugly Christmas sweaters have become a staple amongst many festive partygoers. With endless creative styles and designs, these sweaters are surely unique. For many people, ugly Christmas sweaters are considered stylish and trendy, but to others, these sweaters are considered just plain ugly.

So, what's the history behind the trend of ugly Christmas sweaters? Let's investigate.

Starting in the 50's, "Jingle Bell Sweaters" which featured Christmas-themed decorations, became popular. The original ugly Christmas sweaters were not intended to be ugly, and were actually very pretty and artistic.

By the 80's and 90's, ugly Christmas sweaters became popular on TV, particularly on The Cosby Show and Bridget Jones' Diary. In the 2000s, Chris Boyd and Jordan Birch held the first Christmas sweater party. Soon, this idea



Photo Credit: Evan Papageorge spread throughout North America and around the world. These parties often were huge events, supporting different charities. Throughout the 2010s, celebrities and designer stores began to hop on the trend. Fashion designers released ugly Christmas sweater collections, and soon retail stores joined in too.

Now, the real question is, how do Warde students feel about ugly Christmas sweaters? According to a survey sent out to a portion of students, 79% of students believe

that ugly Christmas sweaters are actually trendy. Meanwhile, 21% of students believe that these sweaters are just ugly, hence the name ugly Christmas sweaters. In some ways, ugly Christmas sweaters can be very stylish if they have cute designs or cool aspects to them. As junior, Mihaela Siretanu, stated, "ugly is the new pretty. Ugly sweaters are cute, fashionable, comfortable, etc. Who doesn't love ugly sweaters??" Meanwhile, an anonymous Warde student believes the contrary, "Ugly Christmas sweaters aren't

fashionable; stores just wanna scam you of your money for ugly stuff like these sweaters."

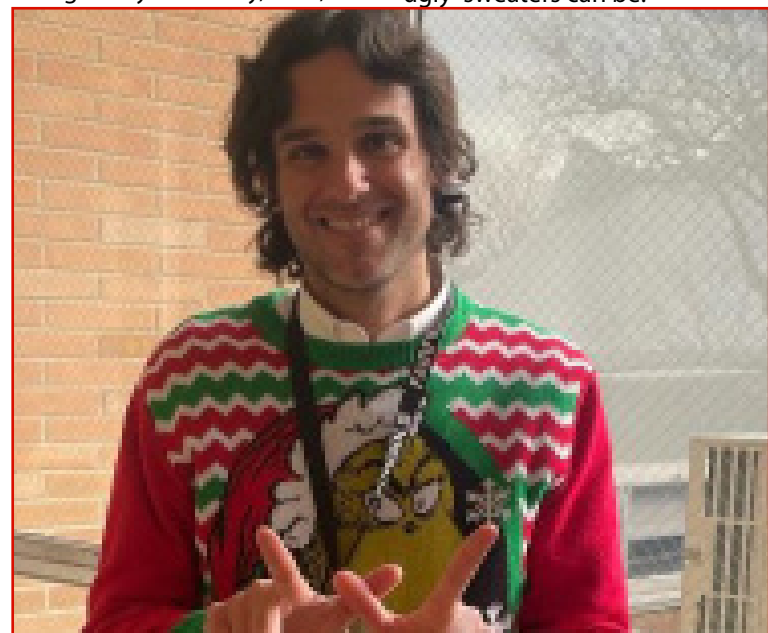
Similarly, freshman Aura Kurel claims that "ugly Christmas sweaters are ugly and not trendy at all because they simply are ugly."

Finally, sophomore Alecks Mantell holds that "ugly sweaters are a hilarious fashion statement. I believe everyone should have one in their wardrobe."

Overall, Warde students seem to enjoy the ugly Christmas sweater trend. Many students feel as though they are funny, cute, and

stylish. However, a select group of students are rather opposed to the idea of ugly Christmas sweaters, believing that these sweaters are truly ugly, and therefore should not be a trend.

Personally, I feel as though ugly Christmas sweaters can either be very cool or really ugly. I own a hideous Christmas sweater that I consider truly ugly (and uncomfortable). However, I have seen many trendy holiday sweaters throughout the years, and I think it's great how unique different 'ugly' sweaters can be.



TERTAINMENT

Midnights Album Aesthetic

By Sabrina Cassano

BLUR EDITOR

After the bloodbath of the Tickmaster presale, as well as the shocking cancellation of the general sale, most fans of Ms. Swift are disheartened. So, let's focus on something better, the aesthetics of her latest album.

When I first heard that Taylor Swift –undoubtedly my favorite artist of any media– was releasing her 10th album, I was excited but scared to listen. I have a tendency to hate new albums for the first or even a couple of replays. It's not because I have a problem with the songs themselves, I just have to let the lyrics and sounds marinate before I can form a true opinion on them. *Midnights*, I'm ashamed to say, was no different. However, after re-listening, I've been forced to rearrange my top three favorite albums in her discography. So while it wasn't the indie-AP Lit vocab feeding album of *Folklore* some fans were expecting, it's no throwaway, either. So, if you're a little apprehensive about the album or close-minded and ready to write off Taylor's return to Pop, then aestheticizing the songs might help put things into perspective.

Lavender Haze

Aesthetic: The opener of the album so you'll statistically hear it the most if you currently have the album on repeat(it's tradition).

Rating: 8/10

Reasoning: Illustrates how societal expectations encroach on love, covered by drum beats and Swift's echoey, almost haunting voice

Maroon

Aesthetic: Gaslighting yourself into romanticizing your life

Rating: 8/10

Reasoning: Throughout Swift's discography, an evolution of her view on love is highlighted. In her 2012 song 'Red,' she believes love should be primarily 'red,' or passionate. In her 2019 song, 'Daylight,' she has come to the conclusion that healthy love is 'golden' or comfortable. 'Maroon' seems to further that ideal, as the love depicted throughout the lyrics transitions from shades of

fiery red like scarlet to the darker less vibrant shade of it (maroon) to illustrate a passionate relationship that falls apart. Basically the difference between a fresh cut and a bruise.

Antihero

Aesthetic: Intrusive thoughts

Rating: 7.5/10

Reasoning: Just because it's on the radio it doesn't take away from Swift's masterful use of a typical archetype and molding it to fit both her perspective and her fans-naming herself the anti-hero and any listener interested in some self-analysis

Snow On The Beach

Aesthetic: The sound isn't for everyone, and sometimes the beat is reminiscent of waiting for a high drop on a roller coaster only for it to be a tranquilizing trip downwards when it finally falls

Rating: 7/10

Reasoning: Some may complain about the lack of Lana Del Rey's familiar sound, but the haunting vocals and production imply her influence throughout. The song is a musical manifestation of their styles meshing together (Also, Dylan O'Brien is a credited drummer on the track and that may or may not be what half of these points are from)

You're On Your Own Kid

Aesthetic: Oldest daughter syndrome

Rating: 8.5/10

Reasoning: The most anticipated and heartbreaking song on any Taylor Swift album is always the track 5's as they usually are the most vulnerable with a personal revelation weaved in. This delivered the same type of story-like narration Swift has used in the past with her 8th studio album, *Folklore*. She explores the feeling of growing up and realizing the only person who'll stick with you throughout every moment is yourself, but it doesn't mean you have to be alone.

Midnight Rain

Aesthetic: Just because it sounds fun doesn't mean that it isn't sad (Right person wrong time beat)

Rating: 9/10

Reasoning: The production may

make you want to snatch the synch beats away from Jack Antonoff (Swift's long-term producer) but if you pay attention to the lyrics, you'll realize that it's a heartbreaking story of someone so preoccupied with making something of themselves that they put their relationship on the backburner and end up leaving their partner behind

Question...?

Aesthetic: The song-form of every response that you think of hours after the actual argument.

Rating: 15/10

Reasoning: Daringly fun, it genuinely makes you want to condescendingly ask carefully prepared questions to someone while saying in response 'oh', 'that's suitable' and 'it's just a question' (while dancing of course)

Vigilante Sh**

Aesthetic: Revenge and it feels bitter in the best way

Rating: 911/10

Bejeweled

Aesthetic: A jewel of a song that makes you want to strut somewhere

Rating: 5000/10

Reasoning: You can't tell me that a song about a girl who feels unappreciated in her relationship with a guy who is so forgettable she doesn't remember if she has a boyfriend or not, isn't hilarious

Labyrinth

Aesthetic: I never knew that there could be so much difference between the words, 'uh-oh', 'oh, no', and 'oh'. Also I would like to announce that I no longer trust elevators in an act of solidarity with Ms. Swift

Rating: 7/10

Reasoning: Another one of the *Midnights* bunch that drops subtle hints that Swift is a genius lyricist. While the beat comes off as slow for the first listen, it's not. If you listen closely, it's simply hesitant, which is how the narrator feels about her new journey into love.

Karma

Aesthetic: Camp

Rating: 13/10



Photo Credit: Google Images

Sweet Nothing

Aesthetic: Sounds like a whispered journal entry

Rating: 8/10

Reasoning: New goal unlocked: Writing a terrible poem in my notes app and have someone go 'what a mind' (Thank you Joe Alwyn/William Bowery for setting the standard)

Mastermind

Aesthetic: Getting to feel smart for understanding the Machiavelli name drop

Rating: 9999/10

Reasoning: Makes you want to sing along with the wrap-around lyrics and subtle story of someone appreciating you for who you are: a crazy psychopathic planner

The Great War

Aesthetic: The couple did in fact NOT survive the great war

Rating: 11/10

Reasoning: Just a regular song with a regular battle motif about World War 1-maybe you can convince your history teacher to incorporate it into a unit or two. It's a fundamental part of our education

Bigger Than The Whole Sky

Aesthetic: We're going to ignore the fact that I hated this song for the first 5 or so listens and consistently skipped it-because sincerely, I was wrong and I now am in a full circle moment of crying to it (out of respect, of course)

Rating: 12/10

Paris

Aesthetic: The beginning is a gossip sesh, the rest is a love letter

Rating: 15/10

Reasoning: This song teaches you that brainwashing people is completely acceptable and that you don't actually have to be in Paris to feel the vibe-truly dedicated to

High Infidelity

Aesthetic: Getting annoyed that Calvin Harris wants to know the details of how you cheated on him (he's so nosy)

Rating: 10/10

Glitch

Aesthetic: Unexpected in the way I would imagine being electrocuted would be-in a gentle way oddly enough

Rating: 8/10

Would've, Could've, Should've

Aesthetic: I'm sorry, Fairfield Warde, but your most famous alumnus is trash

Rating: 19/10

Reasoning: Dear John 2.0, but so much more brutal, which makes it better

Dear Reader

Aesthetic: Giving advice to someone but then ending it with a smooth 'but I could be wrong though' just in case you in fact have no idea what you're talking about

Rating: 7/10

Reasoning: The irony of giving advice to someone that they should not take advice from someone who is falling apart(While that warning absolutely applies to you). Truthfully, it's a coded song, where Taylor communicates to her fans that she's not perfect and therefore shouldn't be used as an example for everything and that honesty in itself is slay.

Bonus

Hits Different

Aesthetic: Being the committed fan you are and buying the Target CD or streaming it via 'podcast' on Spotify, either way it's amazing

Rating: 18/10

In Photos: AP Psychology Students Visit the Maritime Aquarium

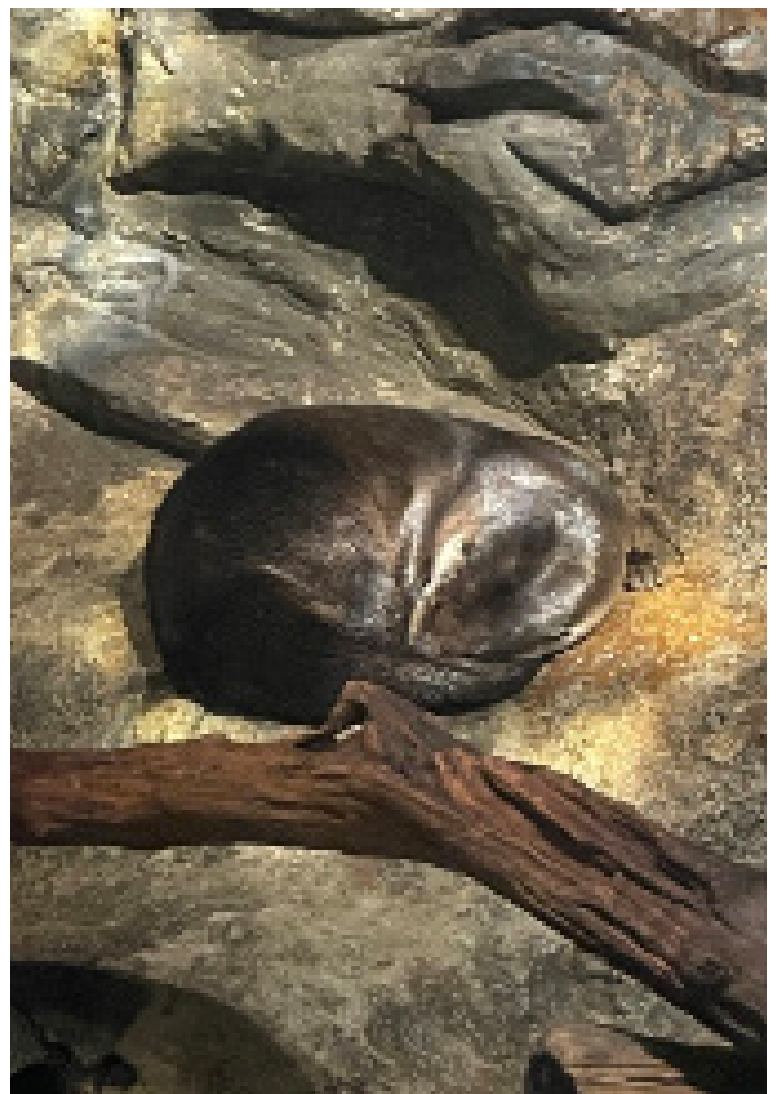
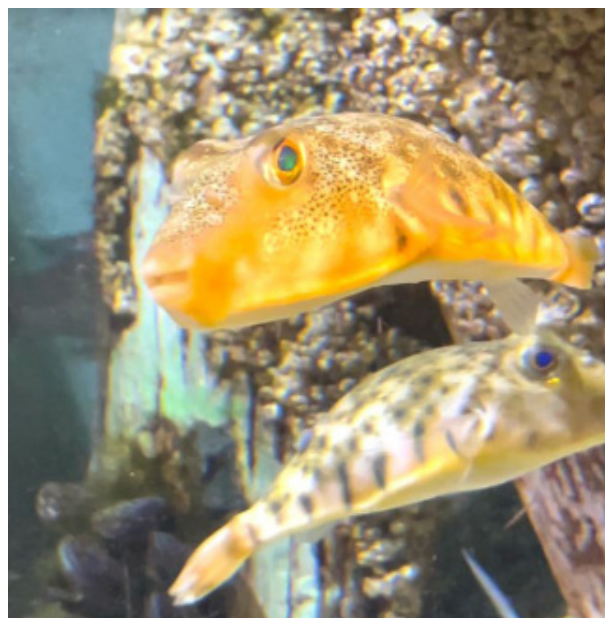
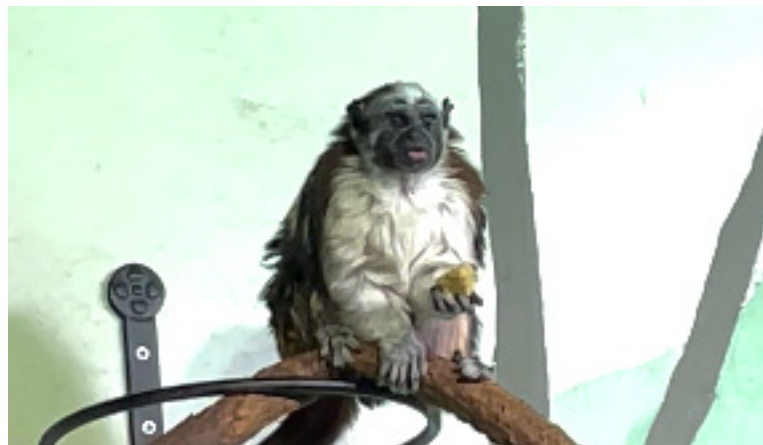
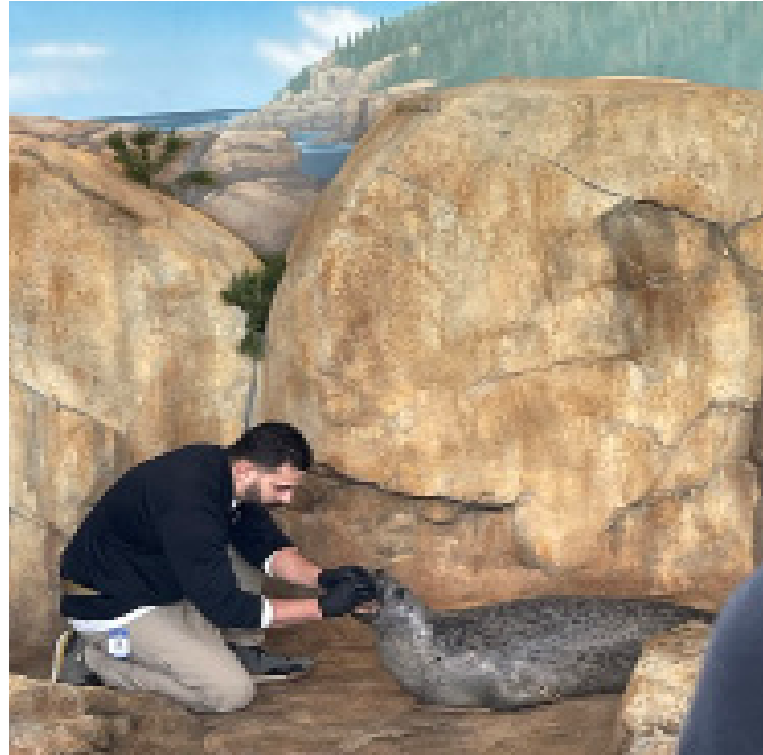
Aquarium

By Eleanor Jacobs

EDITOR

On March 2nd, the students in Ms. Moyer, Mrs. Murphy, and Mrs. Muller's AP Psychology class took a trip to the Maritime Aquarium to observe sea life in the context of concepts learned in class. Buses departed at 9:00 a.m., and arrived at the aquarium at approximately 9:40. The morning began with a lecture from one of the aquarium's animal behavior specialists, who gave a presentation on how different

psychological concepts come into play while in contact with many of the species residing at the aquarium. For instance, trainers elaborated upon how positive reinforcement helps to motivate the seals to participate in necessary tasks, such as sitting still to receive an inhaler, or to perform tricks, such as retrieving toys from the bottom of their habitat pool. Students were granted time to explore the building, and all of the creatures within.



Warde's Spanish Classes Visit the Museum of Contemporary Art

By **Siri Anagani**
STAFF WRITER

This past Friday, a number of Warde's Spanish classes went on a field trip to the Museum of Contemporary Art, or MoCA, an art museum in Westport. Following their visit, they went to a Spanish restaurant, Valencia Lucheria. There were two freshman classes and two sophomore classes, led by Señora Mairech and Señor Taylor.

MoCA had a lot to offer. They had many different galleries from all types of artists, especially those with a concentration in modern art. Additionally, one gallery was filled with artwork made by students in grades 9 through 12. It featured a wide range of art, from dresses to clay, paintings, and even photography. Each piece was inspired by the theme of dreams, in whatever form the students chose to interpret it.

Another gallery featured a collection of modern art by Paul Camacho. Paul Camacho was a Hispanic artist who studied at the School of Visual Arts in New York. His work was so interesting to look at, and abstract in a way that everyone had a different perspective on its interpretation. The

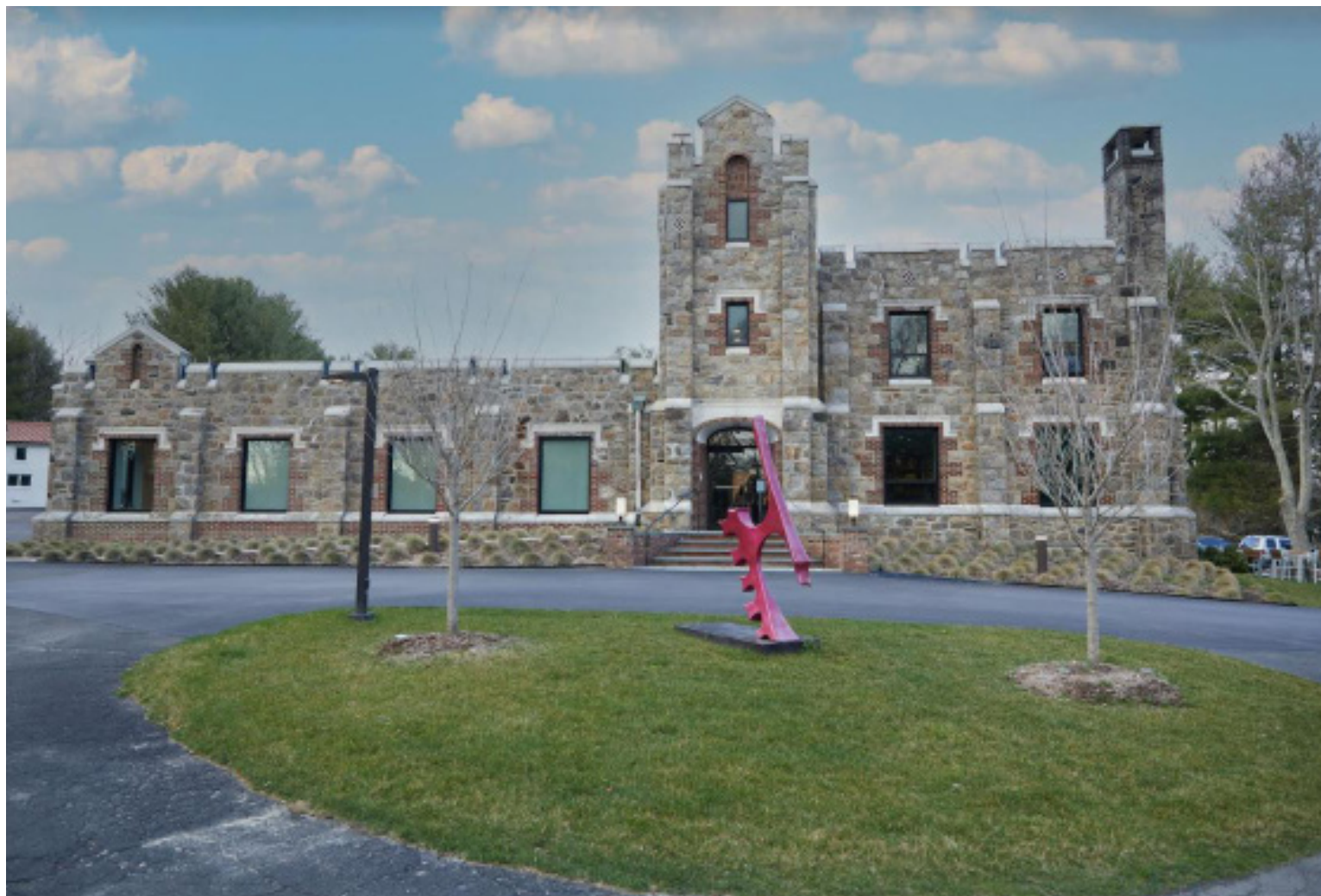


Photo Credit: MoCA Westport

colors were bold, and the lines were defined. He also drew many self-portraits, in "casso" style (out of proportion) that held so much meaning. He was a very successful artist, his art having sold for thousands of dollars. Overall, the museum was inspirational and

insightful. Valencia Lucheria was located in Norwalk and decorated with bright colors. There were lights and garlands, along with artwork of the ocean shore. The menu offered empanadas, along with chips and guacamole. Every

student had a pick of two empanadas, and there were many options such as beans and cheese, beef, chicken, spinach, and even chocolate. They were all delicious, cheesy and deep fried perfectly, and enjoyed by all

At the end of the day, students were sad to leave. It was educational and interesting, and the food was so good. It was a nice break from the normal routine of school, and students took away a greater understanding of the connection between art and culture.

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THE BLUWR

Frisbee Fiasco

By Alex Renzulli
STAFF WRITER

The game of frisbee is one adored by people all over the world. Invented in our very own state of Connecticut, the small plastic disc can be thrown around for hours on end without a dull moment. It truly is a piece of technology ahead of its time. However, although the beloved disc is quite a simple invention,

it has quickly become the source for outrage and disgust within our favorite Fairfield high school. This hatred stems from a spontaneous game of "Kan Jam" played by a handful of students in their "Physical Education" class on October 24th, 2022. A "game" would be a stretch, if I could say so myself, as few points were scored in the 40 minutes that I presided over the game. The objective of the game is to hit or land a frisbee in a little can, as the game's title suggests.

However, an active member of the game (whose name I will redact for safety and privacy reasons) stated: "It almost hit me in the head every time!" Now, it is not too hard to infer that if a playful saucer should come close to knocking out a teenage boy who could only be described as "unnecessarily tall", and not a flimsy plastic can of 20 inches, something must be wrong.

Following the inconclusive match, a spectator possessing strong emotions on the matter muttered that "these members of the Warde High School community have no right to tarnish Connecticut's discus pride."

Many agree with this spectator's sentiment. Not only has a call to suspend these students been arranged for proposal to the Board Of Education, but a GoFundMe petition has arisen with more than 2,000 signatures to create a course curriculum at the Fairfield Public Schools to

better educate our seemingly naive youth in the art of the disc. Due to public outrage, a frisbee strike has occurred in the town's fields and courts, as the student body refuses to risk playing their favorite sport with classmates until action is taken by the higher-ups. A student involved in the original game reported: "I take much shame in my actions and I am sincerely remorseful for the pain I have caused around town".

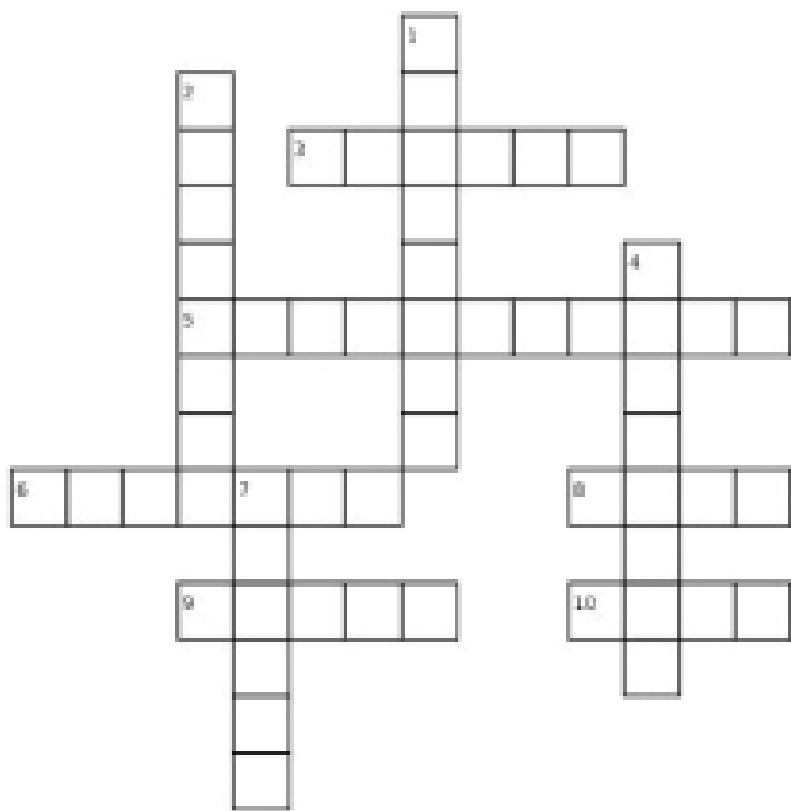
And boy, has pain been caused. The "Moms of Fairfield" Facebook page has seen a striking revitalization over the matter. Now, you know you're in deep trouble when the Facebook mothers are getting involved. A quote attributed to the mother of a freshman preclaims, "I don't mean to sound radical, but this school system has failed my child and the only feasible measure is to pull my sweet boy out of his classes and enroll him in another school". The mother has decided

to keep her child at Fairfield Warde (as the Ludlowe Frisbee epidemic is far more severe) but she lives in fear that her child will be solicited to play a game of frisbee and will not be adequately prepared.

While I am no frisbee expert by any means, I can agree with the sentiment that the art of "the flick of the wrist" has been lost in the Nutmeg State. If you are a parent, student, or even a Warde alumnus, you must listen up. As proven by a mere handful of students (I simply could not call them "athletes" at this point), the disc is in danger. Vote upon the petition. It is time to decide if you will help these children to rediscover the game of frisbee, or let this fundamental part of society be forgotten, allowing thousands of other Mustangs-to-be to fall into a similar pit of humiliation, despair, and tragedy.



Photo Credit: Eleanor Jacobs



Down:

- 1. Department that takes up much of Lower Fitts
- 2. Warde's Counselling Center resides in _____ House
- 4. Warde Music Department's Annual Holiday Performance
- 7. Winning team of 2018 FIFA World Cup

Across:

- 3. Joint APUSH and AP Lang class offered to Juniors
- 5. Writer of Warde's Fall Play
- 6. You can practice your square breathing on _____ Mondays
- 8. Color of Pequot Hallways
- 9. Warde's Security Guard
- 10. Upper Classmen often inform freshmen that there is a _____ on Warde's roof

THE CROSSWARDE