HIGHLIGHTS AND RECAP

Community Service Day: *September 27, 2024*

Whether writing cards or cleaning up gardens, students and their advisors participated in the School's annual Community Service Day to learn more about housing insecurity. Following the theme of "Housing Justice," a panel discussion featuring four speakers: Mr. Ralph Gagliardo, who shared his experience with homelessness; Ms. Stephanie Boyce and Ms. Kelly Dougherty from Hands on Hartford; and Ms. Abigail Brone from Connecticut Public Radio. Members of the Choate community participated in activities both on and off campus, visiting retirement homes like Elim Park, while others spent their morning helping out at the Kohler Environmental Center. This year's Community Service Day allowed students to explore how meaningful small actions can collectively address housing insecurity and contribute to broader efforts toward housing justice.



Photo courtesy of Choate Photos

Northern Lights: *October 10, 2024*

As an array of bright lights illuminated the sky at the beginning of study hours, October 10 was interrupted by an evening surprise: the Northern Lights. What started as an ordinary day changed at 6:30 p.m., when the dark blue skies turned into a swirl of vibrant purple-pink ombres. An hour later, the palette shifted into midnight blue and deep purple with a hint of pink. Students and faculty stopped their evening activities and gathered outside Colony Hall or outside of their dorms to take in the moment and capture the rare and natural phenomenon. Captivated by this special moment, they took pictures, shared smiles, and watched the Northern Lights all around campus until it faded into the night.


Photo courtesy of Dana Tan '25

Family Weekend: *October 24-26, 2024*


Photo courtesy of Choate Photos

Family Weekend was jam-packed with activities and memorable moments leading into Fall Long Weekend. Parents and siblings flew from all over the world for the unique opportunity to experience the classroom atmosphere by shadowing their Choate family member throughout a typical school day. From acapella performances to a series of concerts by ensembles, Family Weekend highlighted the diverse talents of students and also provided parents with a chance to talk to teachers, view end-of-term projects, and gain insight into their child's academic and student life at Choate.

Deerfield Day: *November 9, 2024*


Photo courtesy of Choate Photos

The Wild Boars were dominant on the field during Deerfield Day 2024, with a winning record of 4-2 in varsity sports. From the Friday night pep rally, where Boar Pen fired up the entire campus with dances and games, to the final game ending in a Choate victory, the energy was palpable in the face of friendly rivalry. Students, faculty, families, and alumni packed the sidelines supporting the teams in their gold and blue attire. The Varsity Football team punctuated the day with a 41-0 victory, which propelled them into the New England Championship game later in the term.

Holiday Ball: *December 4, 2024*

The Holiday Ball (Hol Ball), Choate's annual winter dance, transformed the Worthington Johnson Athletic Center into a winter wonderland. While the ongoing construction of the Hill House dining hall displaced the event from its traditional location, the towering Christmas tree returned with a sense of familiarity as the prime photo-op spot, delivering that cherished Hol Ball ambiance. Flowing chocolate fountains with strawberries added to the students' joy and excitement, and fueled their energy to dance. "I got to see my friends in all different forms and had so much fun listening and dancing to the music," Hannah Yeo '26 said.


Photo courtesy of Dana Tan '25

Tiz the Season: *December 17, 2024*

On December 17, 2024, Choate celebrated one of its long-standing traditions: Tiz the Season. Hosted during the final school days of the 2024 calendar year, the event was created by Math teacher Mr. Marquis Tisdale to dedicate time for students to relax and enjoy sweet treats and holiday festivities. With an abundance of hot chocolate, gingerbread cookies, and custom pencils embellished with "Tiz the Season 2024," the event served as a break from classes and a celebration of the holiday season. Students were also able to sign cards sent to local communities within Wallingford to share the joy.


Photo courtesy of Choate Photos

Diversity Day: *January 25, 2025*


Photo courtesy of Choate Photos

On January 25, Choate's 34th Diversity Day opened with the theme "Keeping the Torch Lit: Athletes and Advocates for Justice." The 2024 Paris Olympic Gold Medalists Ms. Tara Davis-Woodhall and Mr. Hunter Woodhall spoke to the Choate community about justice and advocacy through sports. Along with the Woodhalls' presentation, Choate students and faculty participated in various workshops and film screening sessions. By listening to the stories of Ms. Davis-Woodhall, Mr. Woodhall, and other athletes showcased in workshops and films, the Choate community was encouraged to openly support one another and strive for greater diversity and inclusion.

President's Day: *January 30, 2025*


Photo courtesy of Dana Tan '25

"Tomorrow is... President's Day!" The video created by Choate's very own Board of Trustees surprised the students on a late Thursday evening on January 30. As the news of the impromtu long weekend spread quickly, students stormed out of the dorms and came together in a special Student Activities Center (SAC) dance to spend the eve of President's Day together. With a day off from classes, many chose to catch up with friends and recharge for the rest of the term. Many students relaxed in their dorm rooms or went out to enjoy a meal with friends. President's Day was a well-deserved break for both students and teachers during the cold winter months.

Carnival: *May 2, 2025*

The Great Lawn was filled with bright lights on May 2 with the much-anticipated Choate Carnival making its remarkable return since 2019. The evening was full of food trucks, thrilling rides, and game booths, transforming the campus into a fairground with screams of delight. Enthusiasm from all members of the Choate community was palpable throughout the event. Katherine Pan '27 said, "I got to spend time solely on creating many good memories with my friends. I took full advantage of the various food trucks and the rides." The carnival that once brought countless smiles back in 2019 had once again raised the community spirit this year.



Photo courtesy of Choate Photos

Revisit Days: *April 1-4, 2025*

Throughout the first week of April, Choate hosted Revisit Days for prospective students entering the upcoming academic year. The revisit days allowed prospective students to experience a "day in the life" as a Choate student, actively participating in classes and learning the ins and outs around campus. Incoming students also had the opportunity to connect with student representatives at the Community Fair and see the various activities Choate has to offer on and off the field. From CRH Grilling to Varsity Ultimate Frisbee, the Revisit Days served as a world of possibilities for prospective students.



Photo courtesy of Choate Photos

New Visitation Policy: *May 19, 2025*



Graphic by Leah Han '27

As of May 19, Choate will implement a revised visitation policy for "House Guests." Dean of Students Mr. Will Gilyard's outline of the new policy highlights how House Guests may only visit common rooms after the academic day until 10 minutes before curfew on weekdays and on weekends, from noon until 10 minutes before curfew. However, he also noted the addition of 'dorm clusters.' Intra-cluster visits require the visitor to signify their location via REACH. Cross-cluster visits must be granted permission by the Duty Associate. Next fall, the policy will begin once all students complete annual consent workshops.

New Phone Initiative: *Spring 2025*

With the help of the Challenge Success Committee, Choate recently implemented new initiatives across campus to encourage students to disconnect from their devices. Across campus, bright reminders stenciled into the ground read, "Eyes Up, Phone Down." In addition, the first floor of the dining hall has been made into a screen-free zone. Multiple pilot programs have also been tested throughout the spring term, like the Digital Detox challenges in dorms and forms giving students the chance to enter a raffle and win prizes if they left their phones outside their rooms for the night or with their Deans' Assistant for the academic day. When students return in the fall, the committee will determine a new policy to deepen inter-community connections phone-free.


Graphic by Leah Han '27

New Dining Hall: *Spring 2025*

It is finally time. The long-anticipated and newly renovated Hill House dining hall has finished construction. At the end of the 2023-2024 school year, Head of School Dr. Alex Curtis announced that Choate would receive a new and expanded servery. There will be a significant expansion of new food options and different culinary styles for everyone's dietary demands. The revamped servery has an expanded floor, so there will be less traffic going in and out during busy mealtimes. Dr. Curtis allowed for a sneak peak with an open house for students and faculty to get a glimpse of what it looks like inside.


Photo courtesy of Choate Photos