

**CO-SEC**

Read about Student Council's new co-secretaries, 2

**VALENTINE'S DAY**

See the Academy's heartfelt Valentine's Grams, 8.

**SLEEP**

Read prep Aryan Agarwal's thoughts on sleep stigma, 4.

## Student Council Holds Presidential Debate and Election

By **SAM ALTMAN, ANGELA HE, MARVIN SHIM, and FORREST ZENG**

This past week, Student Council hosted its annual turnover elections for its Executive Board. Lower Lauren Lee and Kyle Kennedy were elected as Co-Secretaries, upper Anna Holtz was elected Vice President, and, following the presidential run-offs and debate, upper Cam Khater was elected to serve as Student Council President for the 2024-2025 term. There was significant student participation all around, with a 78% voter turnout for the final presidential runoff, and 74% turnout for the other positions and the presidential primary.

After the presidential primaries, three candidates were chosen to participate in the presidential runoffs. Uppers Meishu Han, Caspar Bailey, and Cam Khater participated in an official presidential debate held during assembly on Feb. 9, 2024. Voting for the runoff took place later that day.

The candidates were first allowed to deliver brief, two minute opening statements. Each candidate was then invited to respond to questions produced by the moderators of the debate, covering topics such as policies and effective student body outreach. After the designated question period, the candidates fielded

STUCO DEBATE, 2

### StuCo President-Elect: Cam Khater '25



Cam Khater smiles in front of Jeremiah Smith Hall

Photo Courtesy of Roxane Park

By **SAM ALTMAN**

Last Friday, Feb. 9, upper Cam Khater, a resident of Abbot Hall, was elected Student Council President for the 2024-2025 term. This news came after a hard-fought campaigning season and presidential runoff debate. Khater commented on his background, "I'm from Joliet, Illinois, a small blue-collar city outside of Chicago. I love to play the video game FIFA with my friends. In terms of my experiences thus far at Exeter, in addition to my StuCo experience, JV soccer has prepared me to be a leader and move on after dropping an absolute howler, qualities that we all know every president should have."

Khater also discussed how he felt the

debate was useful, saying, "I think it gave a lot of people who might not have known myself or other candidates a chance to hear us talk, hear some of our thoughts, even our humor and personalities, and our policies. Especially for younger students who probably don't know a ton about these things, I think it gave them a needed window into the world of student council."

With experience as a former co-head of the Student Life Committee, Khater also discussed his philosophy for the types of issues that he will direct Student Council to focus on, and how he plans to utilize the organization's funds. "It's sort of similar to an initiative by Siona Jain, who I believe was president my prep year: in essence,

to spend all the money that student council has available for the year, because we're only here for at most four years and we want to see something actually happen," Khater shared. "And if we're always focused on large-scale, huge time-frame issues, then we'll rarely see meaningful change. Honestly, I think that the things that you remember from Exeter are sort of the small everyday items like, for example, getting food from a food truck, between your science class and your math class, and enjoying that type of thing."

"One of my earliest memories at Exeter," Khater continued, "and what originally made me fall in love with this campus, was having

KHATER, 2

### StuCo Vice President-Elect: Anna Holtz '25

By **ERIN HAN**

On a usual Saturday afternoon, you may hear the distant sounds of a vibrant playlist and the whir of a vacuum sounding from one of the rooms in Dunbar Hall. Inside, a student joyfully vacuums her room, pausing occasionally to dance to the music that fills the space. This is upper and vice president-elect Anna Holtz, who, together with the next Executive Board of the Student Council, will assume office in the second week of the spring term.

While cleaning to a staple playlist is one of Holtz's favorite pastimes, on-campus, Holtz is involved with a full plate of activities. In addition to her involvement with the Student Council, she serves as a member of The Exonian's business board, one of

the step dance teams on campus, Precision, and Health's Angels, a club dedicated to promote and educate students on positive health behaviors and attitudes. She is also a member of the varsity volleyball and junior varsity lacrosse teams.

Born and raised in Portland, OR, Holtz came to Exeter as a prep, and walked onto campus with the goal of forming strong friendships and easing into the Academy's academic rigor. "During prep fall I focused on meeting people and developing strong friendships. The friends I made prep year I am still very close with to this day." She added, "Academically, the transition was not easy, especially in math, but now funnily enough math is my favorite subject at Exeter. So I'm glad I was patient and gave it a chance to

grow on me."

Holtz also shared a prep year memory that still endures in her memory today—of an icy slip, "I remember it was icy lower winter and, while I was walking down the steps to Grill, I slipped and summersaulted down the stairs, and my backpack catapulted over my head in a circle. I was a little prep and the people around were all older kids, and so it was slightly embarrassing—but hilarious."

Reflecting on the past two and a half years, Holtz explained her gratitude toward the Academy, both for pushing her to the best of her ability in academic settings, and for providing a remarkable community. "Exeter has pushed me in a way I am so grateful for. I have improved my time

HOLTZ, 2



Anna Holtz poses on the Academy Building steps

Photo Courtesy of Roxane Park

# News

## » PRESIDENT-ELECT

Read about Cam Khater '25, the newly elected President for the 2024-25 Student Council term, 3.

## » VP-ELECT

Read about Anna Holtz '25, the newly elected VP for the 2024-25 Student Council term, 3.

## » CO-SEC ELECTS

Read about Lauren Lee and Kyle Kennedy's '26, the Co-Secretaries for the 2024-25 term, 3.

## Presidential Debate Cont.

questions from the audience on topics ranging from their leadership skills to specific initiatives they proposed. After all questions had concluded, the candidates were each designated 45 seconds for closing statements to wrap up the debate.

Bailey was the first candidate to present an opening statement, in which he mentioned multiple initiatives, including Visitation, Community Conduct Committee (CCC) reform, more transparency relating to Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), returning a TV to Grill, and specified DoorDash drop-off locations across campus.

"I'm open to those ideas, as well as other possibilities, like bringing back math test retakes or increasing dorm events," Bailey added.

He ended by emphasizing his previous experience in Student Council, particularly his experience serving as a Co-Secretary on the Executive Board this past year.

After Bailey presented his opening statement, Khater took the stage and spoke to the audience about his approach to change. He emphasized that "There are a lot of things flying under our radar. Things that we don't even think about changing. These are small issues that are important." Khater mentioned his previous efforts in making small changes around campus, including bringing back panini presses to Elm Dining Hall, increasing available dorm funds, and setting up more winter

lights around campus.

Before concluding his statement, Khater offered a few initiatives, such as getting free hot chocolate in Grill, opening Grill on Saturdays, and "putting our CVP blocks to better use." He concluded by promising the audience to bring food trucks onto campus if elected.

Finally, Han delivered her opening statement, emphasizing immediately the general need for no-homework weekends. "Let's think about family weekend, MLK weekend and Climate Action Day," Han said. "How are we supposed to recharge and spend time with our family and friends, if we are given major assignments due the very next day?" She stressed that the substantial workload at Exeter significantly impacts student happiness and wellbeing.

In addition to no-homework weekends, Han also spoke to the audience about bringing a greater variety of food options back to the campus dining halls, including daily ice cream, diversified meat options, and fruits.

After concluding these opening statements, the candidates answered questions from the moderators. While responding to the questions, many of the candidates spoke about student outreach. "The great thing about Student Council is that on any given Tuesday, anybody can check out and come to the meetings," Bailey said. "Through community outreach, we can understand what y'all want and then achieve it. It's as simple as

that just by talking to people and then we're gonna get it done."

Some of the questions took a humorous angle, which lightened the mood of the debate. In response to the question, "Are you a hunter or a gatherer?" Khater said, "There's no doubt in my mind. Hunter. I'm assertive. I get things done."

"Big dogs gotta eat," Khater continued, the audience answering with thunderous applause. "And if you vote for me, we're gonna feast."

Throughout the prepared and audience questions, the candidates vouched for their own initiatives and capabilities as leaders. The Assembly Hall was packed to the brim with cheering supporters. "I would say the atmosphere was ecstatic. People were very happy. There was a lot of cheering," upper Jacques Leleux reflected. "We were told not to act 'degenerate' by one of the moderators, but there was still a lot of whooping and hollering. All in all, it felt as if it were an immense positive atmosphere for our future."

Bailey expressed his happiness with the debate "It was a lot of fun. I really enjoyed it, and I would like to thank everyone that came out."

Lower Sean Murthy, however, thought that the excitement could have been toned down. "I was in Mayer Auditorium, so my perspective wasn't perfect. But, from what I was able to see from the livestream, it looked really heated and almost not as professional

as I would've liked."

This election, as well as the debate, was hosted by the Student Council Elections Committee. "The Election Committee is in charge of all elections. They determine the timing in order to make sure that they are meeting the expectations laid forth in the Student Council Constitution," Student Council Adviser and Dean of Studies and Academic Affairs Laura Marshall said. "They determine the rules for campaigning and decide if any rules have been violated. If a candidate is disqualified, this decision is up to the Elections Committee."

Leleux believed Khater advocated his platform effectively. "I think Cam performed brilliantly. I would say that I went in as a pretty firm cast for Bailey, but, after the course of the debate, I think Cam delivered very strongly. I think he made some very good points and I think he highlighted why his policies are the best for us to pursue. He was eloquent, he was clear, he was funny; it was a great performance."

Senior Chris Serrao echoed these sentiments, saying, "Cam especially, really got the crowd engaged. I remember in his final speech, Cam made the line that he would 'touch everyone's lives,' which really aroused everyone."

"Cam had quite the strong performance," lower Noah Twilley said. "He's a pretty interesting person. I do think it's good to focus on smaller things."

Khater shared some of his campaigning strategies, explaining, "I think the biggest thing is confidence when saying that I'm running for president. Some-

thing like, 'My name's Cam, I'm running for president.' You shouldn't be hesitant and say, 'Oh, I'm just trying, I don't know [if I'll make it].'"

Khater continued, "I, of course, used Instagram reposts, like everyone else. Another strategy I used was asking my friends to spread the word around. And I think my biggest thing was confidence, just not being scared to talk to people about policies. Also, you know, posters have been a lot of fun to make and put up as well as seeing everyone else's. But overall, the most important strategy is to project a confident image."

Murthy noted Han's performance at the debate as well. "I think Meishu stood out to me a lot. Meishu, from my perspective at least, seemed like the most responsible candidate," he said.

"I know Meishu went around asking the question, 'do you know what the Student Council does?' And everyone responded, 'No, I don't,'" upper Michael Lu recalled. "She used that as part of her platform and really engaged the audience."

Lower Stanley Huang believed that all the candidates seemed equally prepared: "All three candidates seemed quite prepared and they were all charismatic."

Co-Secretary-elect Lee also shared some of her strategies for the race. "I tried to focus my campaign around how experienced I am as a candidate," she said. "I focused on what I, as a person with unique communication and leadership skills, can bring to Student Council and can bring to our effort as a

whole. That's what I focused my posters and my word of mouth campaigning on. I think I put up a poster in almost every building in this school, at least on the north side. I even had a strategic spot in front of the water fountain in the academy building, so that whoever wanted to drink water would have to look at my face."

Bailey commented on his approach to campaigning, "For me, the biggest thing was outreach: talking to people, putting up posters, handing out stickers, approaching people at lunch and saying, 'Hey, I'm Caspar. I'm running for president.' That's the basis of all of this; if you're gonna trust me to be the president of Student Council, you've gotta know me, at least a little bit."

Bailey continued, "The focus of my policies were mental health. It's the student experience in conjunction with mental health, and it's looking for ways to alleviate a lot of the pressures that are put on students here. That's what I focused on."

Khater, Holtz, Lee, and Kennedy's will begin their term as Student Council's new Executive Board in the next few weeks. The fervor surrounding the election, marked by an unexpectedly high voter turnout and spirited debate, reflects the student body's commitment to shaping the future of their community. The stage is now set for the incoming Student Council Executive Board to carry forward the aspirations of their predecessors, fostering positive change and representing the voices of their fellow Exonians within the school community.

## Cam Khater '25 Cont.

those food trucks around. If I could have one last memory with some of my friends in class of 2024, it would be to have food trucks and truly bring that memory back. It's the best time ever, and the preps haven't really experienced it: eating everywhere on the quad, on the benches, all of that, wherever you like."

Khater also discussed the possibility of changes in the way we choose Prom venues. "In addition to some of my other policy points, another thing, which I haven't been able to talk about too much thus far, is granting the right to seniors to choose their Prom location. We've talked about it before in StuCo, but nevertheless students have been stuck with the same venue for many years now. And, don't get me wrong, it's an awesome venue, but I know other schools have their seniors choose their location, and Andover even did it on a cruise last year. I think the seniors deserve a vote, one last hurrah. Call me crazy, but I think if you've been here for that long, you've put in all this work, we have the money to do it, I think you should have the right to choose where you want to have your Prom. I think the seniors and everyone else would love it."

Although he wants to focus on more achievable and small-scale issues, Khater also recognized the importance of policy improvements of larger-scale reforms relating to student mental health and transparency with available Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS). However, he suggested that these responsibilities should be primarily delegated to various Student Council committees for efficiency's sake. "If I were to put all my thinking and effort as president, saddled with a lot of other responsibilities, into CAPS transparency (and again, we don't really know what that means), it feels like I'd almost be avoiding the big picture," Khater said. "I think this is what Student Council committees are made for...just as in any system like this, delegation to those who can focus more on the topic is key. With regards to some of the issues mentioned by other candidates, [the] Mental Health Committee, for example, is a huge player. They've run events in the past, and I also want to expand their role, because they do their research, they publish infographics, and all sorts of things related to mental health. I'll ask them: 'What do you guys see as CAPS reform?'"

Khater continued, "Truthfully, as a committee head myself, the committees are the engines by which Student Council makes progress. If we didn't have committees, we would simply be four idiots running around trying to fix a school; it would be a power trip."

"I've talked to Lauren and Kyle a bit so far, and they seem like great people," Khater expressed, referring to the newly elected Student Council Co-Secretaries, lowers Kyle Kennedy's and Lauren Lee. "I don't know them extremely well yet, but I plan to get to know them very well as we begin to work together."

"Anna and I, being in the same grade, have worked on various StuCo [initiatives] before, and in classes and whatnot," he continued, mentioning upper Anna Holtz who will be serving as his Vice President. "So I know Anna more than the other two, but I want to get to know all of them as I would my friends, because that's the most important to our relationship as we move into the coming year."

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Khater concluded with gratitude for all who supported his campaign journey: "Thank you so much, Exeter, and, as a lot of people have repeated to me on the paths, let's feast!"

## Anna Holtz '25 Cont.

management, organizational, and leadership skills through challenges at Exeter. Additionally, the people here are unmatched and I am so grateful to be surrounded by such incredibly kind and talented people." She added, "I can actually picture my close friends and me having reunions in 20 years. I know I have already built some long-lasting friendships that I consider family."

Prior to her run for vice president, Holtz began her involvement with the Student Council in her prep year, and served as a co-head of the Recreation committee for two years. During that time, her work included the organization of a mentalist's visit to campus, various events including dances, dodgeball tournaments, pep rallies, and pep assemblies, and—most recently—the Casino Night held in the Thompson Gym on Feb. 10.

As a part of her campaign, Holtz emphasized her gained experience from serving as a committee cohead for two consecutive years. "I tried to emphasize the experience I have had on Student Council as a reason to vote for me, which brought benefits including the connections, skills, and knowledge of Student Council I have gained ... Additionally, [I explained that this] experience would allow for

a smooth transition into the role of VP."

Holtz also took the logistical aspects into her hands, putting up numerous posters across campus, and even setting a color scheme to her campaign. She elaborated, "I put up a bunch of posters...[and also] tried to use yellow as my marketing color since I already had a bright yellow coat that I wore everywhere. Basically, wearing the coat was a kind of campaigning without campaigning."

However at the core of Holtz's successful campaign were two main objectives that she spelled out clearly in both her initial statement and candidate speech: 1. A happier and healthier campus, and 2. Increased efficiency of student council committees.

She elaborated, "My campaign was in two parts. [The first part was] 'A happier and healthier campus': happier as in events and student life, and then healthier as in mental health and focus. I want to focus on increased CAPS transparency, so that more students can feel comfortable talking to adults, and knowing explicitly what they can and can not say. I understand much of it was very legal and complicated, but I will do what I can to have productive conversations with CAPS, health instruc-

tors, and other adults on campus to come up with a clear way for students to understand what the school legally has to report."

She continued, "[The] focus [of the second part of my campaign was] on increasing the efficiency of student council committees. [I proposed that]... smaller goals be distributed amongst committees. For example, berries in the dining hall, and more smoothies are Student Life goals."

In addition to advancing her plans, Holtz also shared that she hoped to become a familiar and approachable figure for students during her tenure. "I also just want to be an accessible person on campus, that is a familiar face for all students. I am super open to hearing students' ideas about what they want from Student Council."

Holtz, with the same enthusiasm that she showed tossing candy into an applauding crowd at the end of her candidate speech, expressed her excitement for what is at hand for the next executive board. "I am so excited and so grateful to be vice president, and am so excited to work with Cam, Kyle, and Lauren. We are gonna be a great team, and I am so ready to get started." She concluded, "I won't let anyone down! I'm ready to get to work!"

# StuCo Co-Secretaries-Elect: Lauren Lee and Kyle Kennedy's '26



Lauren Lee and Kyle Kennedy's look ahead to their term on Student Council

Photo Courtesy of Roxane Park

By JINMIN LEE

After attending the Student Council Candidate Appearance event and listening to eight Co-Secretary candidate speeches, the student body elected Lauren Lee and Kyle Kennedy's. In their campaigns, both emphasized their experience with campus life and previous leadership roles in Student Council: Lee is a co-head of Student Council's Public Relations Committee, responsible for designing social media posts, and Kennedy's is a Lower Rep with experience organizing events for the lower class.

The campaign process was swift for both candidates. "It was fun and efficient, and I didn't find any parts stressful," remarked Kennedy's.

Lee agreed: "The elections are half decided even before they begin. There is very little a candidate can do in a few days, so their usual caring reputation matters much more." Kennedy's had a similar campaign strategy, valuing positive word-of-mouth over an elaborate campaign plan.

Lee and Kennedy's both served as Prep Reps last year. When asked about what initially brought her to Student Council, Lee reminisced, "Going around campus to get signatures for Prep Rep was a great opportunity to get to meet new people." Kennedy's too found fulfillment in supporting the Exeter community. "I learned how to relate to people well," he reflected, "and it was a great

opportunity to organize class events."

"However," Lee stated, "I learned there was a big disconnect between the class representatives and the Executive Board, and the funding wasn't streamlined." After a disappointing experience, Lee chose not to run for Lower Rep to focus on leading the Public Relations Committee. "Although I didn't initially see myself making Student Council social media posts, I knew I had a key eye for design and detail," Lee recalled. As a co-head, Lee found great value and learned leadership lessons: "My position opened my eyes to how pivotal the committees are in accomplishing those small, yet important goals."

Lee wishes to contin-

ue her diligent care for detail as Co-Secretary; she believes her new role isn't about making monumental policy changes, but rather assisting the President's goals. "The President's job is to pioneer the vision, and the Secretaries are there to push the vision forward," Lee observed.

Kennedy's affirmed this: "The main responsibilities of a Co-Secretary include taking minutes and communicating policies to the administration." Kennedy's expressed excitement to assist the President by listening to the student body's requests.

Despite their main role being providing aid to the President, one vision Lee wishes to enact is continuity. "I've worked with two different administrations with

two very different goals. It is the secretary's job to remind new Presidents about pursuing valuable previous goals so past efforts don't get lost." As a two-year council member, Lee understands which changes helped the most people. "We'll survey the student body more efficiently," Kennedy's added, "and improve the mental health of our community."

Outside of the Council, extracurricular activities equipped both secretaries with important insights and skills. "As a leader, I learned the concerns that affected Exeter's underrepresented communities through the Young Brother's Society, African Students Association, and AfroShade, among many others," Kennedy's remarked.

Lee also noted gaining her eloquence through clubs: "Communication is key to making progress in Student Council, and I learned articulate speech from Mock Trial, Debate, and The Exonian."

Yet, despite their commitments to other clubs, both Secretaries are confident that they can manage their responsibility on Student Council and avoid burnout. "I'll continue to utilize the time-management skills I've learned as a two-year class representative to conduct my job effectively and efficiently," Kennedy's promised.

Lee agreed, saying, "When you do something that you truly enjoy, it doesn't feel like work at all."



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**CONTACT**  
[rhpark@exeter.edu](mailto:rhpark@exeter.edu)  
[jheo1@exeter.edu](mailto:jheo1@exeter.edu)  
[alin1@exeter.edu](mailto:alin1@exeter.edu)

# Op-Ed & Humor

## » SLEEP

Read lower Sam Altman's thoughts about the stigma around sleep at Exeter, 4.

## » COMPLIMENTS

Read Altman's favorite recent Exeter Compliments, 4.

# The Stigma of Sleep

By **ARYANAGARWAL**  
'27

How many hours of sleep did you get last night? As a protruding question in our daily lives, one ponders the presence of a stigma around the answer. Exonians find themselves toiling away, night after night, completing every last homework assignment, waiting till they can sigh of relief.

After showering, and then completing their scrolling routine for the night, they can settle in for what should be a good night's rest. That is all until they realize that it's 1:30 AM, and that they have an 8:00 AM chemistry class lingering around the corner. They wake up multiple times in the middle of the night, whether it is to their roommate "Beacon" alarm ringer, their neighbor blasting "Lover" by Taylor Swift, or after they are jumpscared by the periodic table in their nightmares, leaving them with five-hours of sleep, if you can even call it that. This issue is a persisting detriment

to the exceptional education that we have promised ourselves here.

If one asks a fellow Exonian what they think that a good amount of sleep is for an average school night, many will find themselves getting answers around six, maybe seven hours of sleep. This is objectively wrong. Exonians are made to think that we are wired differently than the rest of the human population, and that mediocre sleep shall suffice for an extraordinary developmental process throughout our years at Exeter. Multiple studies show that children from the ages of thirteen to eighteen need 8-10 hours of sleep per night, but at Exeter, students readily ignore this necessity. This is a chronic issue throughout the world but it is especially amplified at the Academy. Teachers assign a supposed fifty-minutes of homework per class meeting, but this is of course flawed, as in reality, completing the average assignment may take

much longer. If they don't complete these assignments just so that they can get a reasonable amount of sleep, teachers put their behavior off as lazy or uncommitted. This leaves us with an environment where students are scared to get the proper amount of sleep, as there is a supposed inverse correlation between the amount of sleep that you get and how hard-working you are. In reality, to properly function at our full capability, we must provide ourselves with proper rest, consistently throughout the week.

After establishing that Exonians seem to be getting lackluster shut-eye, we come face-to-face with the reality of its consequences. My father, an outsider to Exeter, told me that one of the most surprising things that he noticed during Family Weekend was the amount of yawning from my peers and me. To us, we barely notice it, as it has become a norm in our lives. Students' focus is hindered, ability to retain information

hampered, and many other functions that are crucial to learning are being impeded upon. By the time that we get to our extracurriculars, we are already drained of energy from our tedious academic schedule. And in regards to a social life, those who maintain one are lucky to do so, and likely are ignoring some other parts of their health. A saying that some of my fellow Peabodians have coined goes something like this. You can only have two of the following three: good grades, good friends, and good sleep. That in itself tells you everything that you need to know about the mindset at Exeter. We believe that we need to sacrifice certain parts of our health to balance

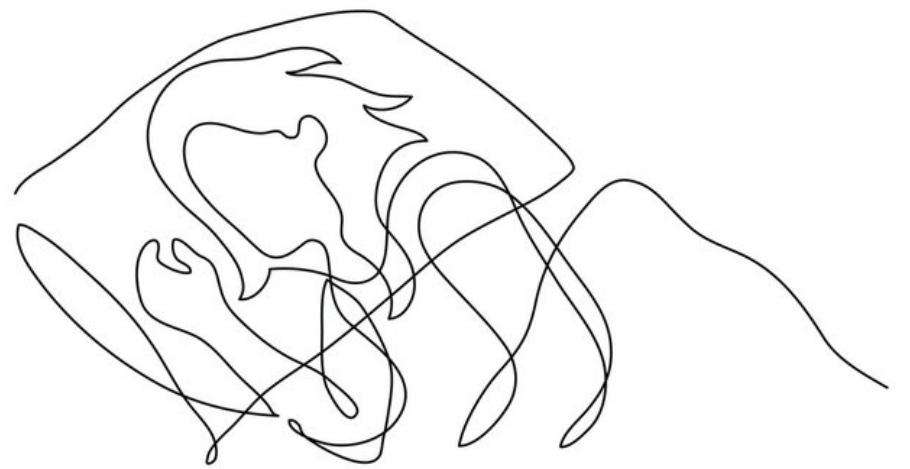
others, but this is simply not true, as each aspect is interdependent, and this is true of sleep as well.

The solution to this problem is not black and white. The sleep habits that institutions such as the CDC preaches (linked below), seem impractical for Exonians to fit into their schedule. Still, we can implement change by acting upon smaller aspects of our sleep. For example, rather than using your electronics right before bed, it may be helpful to read or meditate for fifteen minutes before sleeping to enhance the quality of your rest. Additionally, taking warm showers before bedtime can be relaxing for your body, as the tempera-

ture adjustment after stepping out will allow for quicker sleep. You may even order some black-out curtains to ensure that you aren't woken to artificial light.

As you and your peers continue throughout your time at Exeter, consider how small habits before your bedtime will compile, leaving you with a better experience in all aspects of your life. It can be difficult to ignore the stigma around sleep, but as we normalize proper rest, we will see that Exonians will become more successful, happier, and better people.

CDC Resource: [https://www.cdc.gov/sleep/about\\_sleep/sleep\\_hygiene.html](https://www.cdc.gov/sleep/about_sleep/sleep_hygiene.html)



# 15 Exeter Compliments

**HE ACTUALLY LIKES ME AHHHHH**

@exeter\_compliments

**what if I don't go to college and instead become a sheep farmer in northern wales**

@exeter\_compliments

**Can someone please explain what the punishment for getting an overnight illegal visitation is for someone who has a 100% clean record?**

@exeter\_compliments

**whenever someone complains about their grades, i can never tell if it's an A- or below a C**

@exeter\_compliments

**does anyone else have 90 million ladybugs in their room or is that just me**

@exeter\_compliments

**To whoever checked out Pride & Prejudice from the library please return it I'm trying to rizz up a girl**

@exeter\_compliments

**why are the preps in my math class doing better than i am...**

@exeter\_compliments

**what god do i have to pray to to get people on this campus to stop cockblocking me**

@exeter\_compliments

**I have lice... (i'm too embarrassed to tell someone) what do I do?! I'm a prep in a big dorm!**

@exeter\_compliments

**New hall, can we please please fix the windows because it's four am rn, and it's freezing in my room because we have no storm windows so there's just a breeze coming in and seriously my hands are too cold for this right now.**

@exeter\_compliments

**I rather be homeless for 10 years than homeless for 2 years. Now replace "years" with "the".**

@exeter\_compliments

**Is Joseph Vicente and/or Joseph Kim single?**

@exeter\_compliments

**Somebody save me from my dorm please why are there literal shit stains on the shower curtain**

@exeter\_compliments

**welcome to exeter, where extraordinary becomes extraordinary!**

@exeter\_compliments

**I would let Kevin date my daughter**

@exeter\_compliments

By **SAM ALTMAN** '26

"I rather be homeless for 10 years than homeless for 2 years. Now replace "years" with "the." Believe it or not, the preceding was the comedic genius of one of our very own bright students here on campus, posted on the Instagram account "Exeter Compliments." It's an online platform whereby (perhaps a select few) Exonians regularly anonymously overshare their personal problems, unload their romantic relationships, and occasionally sprinkle in a cliché inspirational phrase that everyone cringes at. Now, what we're supposed to make of the conclusion to the aforementioned joke (I['d] rather be homeless for 10 the than homeless for 2 the) is unknown to me, but I'm sure we can all appreciate the humanity of a failed joke, right?

Speaking of a failed joke, let's talk about the person who wrote this "Exeter Compliment": "what god do i have to pray to to get people on this campus to stop cockblocking me." Now, normally, I'm not one to judge, but my first piece of advice would be to get your priorities straight. Secondly, just man to man, I'm not a connoisseur of religions or anything like that, but I'm fairly sure praying to any god for that purpose is going to be counterproductive.

Here's another. "HE ACTUALLY LIKES ME AHHHH." AHHH... why are you telling the whole world this? Surely you've got something better to do or someone better to tell?

Sometimes, posts just make you feel bad for the person. "New

hall, can we please please fix the windows because it's 4am rn, and it's freezing in my room because we have no storm windows so there's just a breeze coming in and seriously my hands are too cold for this right now."

I think it's time to transfer out of (we all know it's true) Ewald: "Somebody save me from my dorm please why are there literal shit stains on the shower curtain."

The cluelessness of certain Exonians is also constantly on display. "I have lice... (i'm too embarrassed to tell someone) what do I do?! I'm a prep in a big dorm!" This type of thing actually makes you worry not only for the intelligence of the person posting but also for the poor students around them (seriously, watch out, south side).

"Is Joseph Vicente and/or Joseph Kim single?" Don't get me wrong, on this one, I see the appeal of both candidates. My question, though, is why this person has such an obsession with the Josephs. Is that a coincidence or something? You know they are two different people, right? And what if they're both single, you really want both (trust me, you don't)?

And yet, every so often, one comes across a wholesome update on someone's life. "To whoever checked out Pride and Prejudice from the library please return it I'm trying to rizz up a girl."

Indeed, in this sea of madness, sometimes we are lucky enough to see deep into the true desires of an Exonian. "What if I just don't go to college and instead become a sheep farmer in northern wales?"

## » TRENDWATCH

Read about four of the most stylish students from each Exeter class and what influences their style, 5.

## » EXIE BLOG

Read the spotlight on the club that helps new students get used to Exete, Exie Blog, 5.

## » CASINO NIGHT

See the photo spread of Academy students enjoying their time at Casino Night, 6.

## TRENDWATCH



Claire Xiao '27  
Courtesy of Xiao



Corinne Welling '26  
Courtesy of C. Welling



Abigail Sears '25  
Courtesy of Sears



Nat Welling '24  
Courtesy of Roxane Park

By IZYAAN BURNEY  
and JANIBEK  
SUBKHANBERDIN

This week, we chose four students, one from each grade, to share with us their stylistic influences, what themes they play into, and what vibe they aim to give off. Prep Claire Xiao @claire.\_xiao plays into themes of minimalism and coquette styles. Lower Corinne Welling @i\_like\_pans\_23 is all about thrifting, using colors, textures and layering to curate their outfits. Upper Abigail Sears @abigail\_0000 uses second-hand clothing websites to obtain different pieces of clothing, while Senior Nat Welling @nat.4878 emphasized the use of passed down clothes from family members.

When thinking about their outfits, many students focus on a specific aesthetic. Xiao, for instance, explains her vision: “this changes

pretty often but some are Asian streetwear, Stockholm style, minimalism, [and] a little bit of coquette.”

For some, like N. Welling, fashion boils down more to expressing parts of her identity than to aligning with a specific aesthetic. C. Welling echoed this sentiment, explaining that, for them, a key part of their fashion sense is breaking down certain boundaries. “I think [of] a combination of masculine and feminine,” Welling continued, “I just hate the idea that we have to wear certain clothes.”

However, students don't always find themselves aligning within a specific aesthetic or idea. For instance, upper Abigail Sears detailed that “some days I'll dress in a full private school preppy [look]. I love a black dress or a suit with a tie.” Sears continued, “But some days, like today, I have a button down and a ban-

dana on.”

Students highlighted the different places they purchase their clothing from, from online searches to exploring different thrift shops and buying at big-brand stores. C. Welling described the current outfit that they were wearing, saying, “This shirt is from a big chain of different, small, curated thrifted clothing things in Boston, which was really, really cool.” They went on to say, “I really love the material that this coat is made of. It's the first thing that I ever got from a yard sale. And it will be the best thing I ever get from a yard sale.” Sears reflected similar views, “Online shopping can be really difficult, but second hand stores like Depop, are really solid.” Xiao echoed, “To be honest, a lot of my clothes are my brother's or thrifted!”

N. Welling also described her use of passed down clothes, “One of the few benefits of being

a day student is that I can steal clothes from my parents. My dad has a ton of old button downs, which - though a bit oversized - are cool,” she said. N. Welling continued to mention her shopping habits at big-brand stores: “Target is also nice.”

Xiao agreed, citing “Brandy Melville, Ralph Lauren, [and] Uniqlo.”

These different styles all help create the students' desired images. Inspired by her aesthetic, Xiao aims for people to take away a “clean/minimalist vibe.” For N. Welling, who reflects that she has grown to care a lot less about how others perceive her, the hope is to “look cozy and comfortable and approachable on the path.” On a similar note, C. Welling uses her clothing as a facet to express their individuality and how they hope people see them. “I want you to, like, notice, that like, I am dressing

the way I am to express a part of my personality and I'm a really loud person and I think my clothing reflects that.”

These Exonians received their fashion influences from a variety of places, from online websites to their upbringing. Xiao mentioned, “My biggest style influences include Kazuha, myself and my pinterest boards” Nat Welling also utilized Pinterest, which is a website where people can find different recipes, decor and style inspiration. She described, “I love Pinterest! I don't really look at it all the time for day-to-day stuff, but it's certainly had an impact on my own aesthetics/sense of style.” Corinne Welling remarked about getting fashion inspiration from another online platform, Instagram. They said, “At one point I was following this guy...he would get dressed like every morning and he would dance in the mirror to like soft jazz

and put on his neon pink fishnets. And that made me so happy.”

Sears commented on her fashion awakening during her childhood, “If I think about it, when I was younger I really, really liked fashion. Like, I never would wear kids' clothes.” She went on to say, “I always would wear women's petite, extra small clothes. Like, even when I was like 10, I didn't like how kid clothes were put together.”

To these students and many others on campus, fashion is a tool for self-expression and a form of challenging social norms - their style extending beyond just appearance and forming an integral aspect of their identities. Drawing from a wide range of inspirations to convey their aesthetics, hopefully these students can inspire you too to dress how you want, to communicate what you want, and to feel welcomed doing so.

## Club Spotlight: Exie Blog

By ELLEN JIN and  
CHLOÉ LIND

Every Sunday at 11 a.m. in the Elm Street Dining Hall, members of the Exie Blog club pick up brunch and take it up to the Mezzanine for their weekly meeting. A club founded during the Covid pandemic, Exie Blog aims to publish blog articles and social media posts about the Exeter experience. They produce media designed for prospective and fellow students to benefit them and offer advice on how to navigate their journeys at the Academy.

Members describe Exie Blog as a relaxed club with flexible hours, willing to work around students' busy schedules. They are given lots of creative liberty in how they can contribute to the club by either creating a video for the Exie Blog Instagram or TikTok accounts or writing an article for the club's own section on Sharepoint.

The club's productions and outreach are what draw a lot of members in. Lower Sophie Yu, who serves as the Managing Editor, commented on why she first decided to join Exie Blog: “When I

was an incoming prep, I didn't really know anything about campus, but after watching a lot of blogs that were made, I realized that [it] would be such a good opportunity to help more students who are coming in to learn a lot of things about the schools that you really don't get on a first tour.”

Upper and Executive Director Pranavi Vedula related this desire to pay the advice forward. “I came into Exeter as a new prep, and I spent the summer before my prep year reading lots of Exie Blog articles to get acquainted with life at Exeter. I've always been an anxious person, and I was especially nervous because I didn't know what to expect. Reading the humorous anecdotes of older students put me at ease. I joined Exie Blog because I now want to help incoming Exonians from the other end.”

Lower Shawna Jiang described what kept her interested in the club “Initially it was first my proctor who was the co-head and she sort of made me join it.” She continued “But then afterward, after seeing all the videos and articles that they produced, I wanted to be

part of it because when I was reading it, I felt like I was learning a lot from the other students and I just wanted to do that too.”

Media produced by Exie Blog brings positive energy to student life. Lower Olivia Zhang said “What I like most about the club is that it gets a lot of outreach. People talk about it and it gets the community rallied together because of common interests. I think that romanticizing our school in a way really helps students get through the day and we can bring them a little more joy in the process.”

In the spirit of imbuing knowledge and experience, Zhang wishes the club could broaden its community outreach, allowing for even more media and resources for new and returning students alike. Zhang cited the club's desire for a website, explaining, “We have them on sharepoint but we are currently working on getting our own website up and running to be more accessible to students.”

Yu agrees and believes that this will allow them to increase their impact,

become more accessible to students, and hopefully become more mainstream on campus. “One thing we've been trying to get [is] a website so that we can market our outreach to more students. Because I feel like a lot of students know us for our video content rather than our actual writing.”

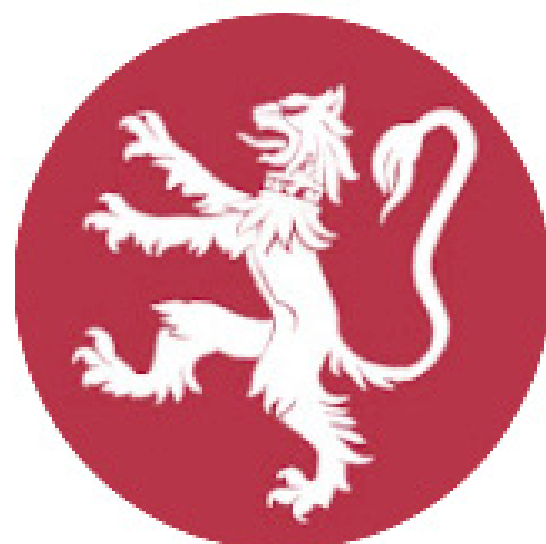
In order to increase community outreach, Jiang touched on the welcoming atmosphere, stating, “It [Exie Blog] is a way to get to know the community better and you can get your voice out there on whatever opinions you want to write about.” Exie Blog is all about creative expression and spotlighting diverse backgrounds and opinions, and many members believe that rich perspectives are a key facet of the club. Zhang commented that, “We have a lot of articles about winter experiences, spring experiences, dorm and things like that. It really helps familiarize the students.” Zhang also noted that the club is trying to get in contact with the admissions office in hopes of making it a larger part of orientation

for new students, and also making the responsibilities more engaging for club members.

There are many different roles that one can choose to take on as an Exie Blog club member. For example, Vedula is the executive director of the club and stated, “I normally work on making sure operations are running smoothly. I supervise editors and content creators, and also keep in touch with the Admissions department to facilitate collaborations or ways of increasing engagement with prospective students”. Younger students, such as Jiang, can be editors, writers, or content creators,

producing original media for the consumption of Exeter students. Jiang cites, “I'm the writing editor, so I basically edit all the articles that people write and I also can write articles of my own and I make videos of my own as well.”

Exie Blog is a tight-knit community of aspiring writers, social media creators, and those interested in bettering the life of Exonians. Through their meetings and outreach, they are able to glean how to best support Exeter students, and in turn deliver engaging content and media about student life. To view Exie Blog's frequent publications, visit their page on Exeter Connect Sharepoint.

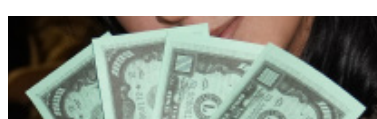


Logo of Exie Blog

Courtesy of @exieblog

# Casino Night

Courtesy of Anika Bhatnagar



# Sports

» **WRESTLING**

Read about how student athletes organized fundraisers to support mental health in sports, 7.

» **SEASON RECORDS**

Read about how Exeter athletes prepared for this important race at Harvard, 7.

## Big Red Wrestling Competes at the Northern New Englands

By ALLEGRA LAI and CELIA VALDEZ

On Feb. 3, Big Red Wrestling woke up bright and early to compete at the Northern New England tournament hosted at Hyde School. The team placed 3rd overall, with wrestlers co-captain Sebastian Hiller, prep Konrad Kutt, and senior Jack Mosley leading the charge with individual championship wins. In addition, eight other Exeter wrestlers, Marek Jin, co-captain George Varghese, co-captain Alex Rosen, Nathi Lomax, Zain Reza, Ikaika Toves, Becket Moore, and Jack Breaks all placed at the tournament.

“The team had a solid performance at the Northern New England

tournament, finishing third behind Eagle Hill and Andover,” said coach Justin Muchnick. “It would have been nice to have pipped Andover for second place at the end, but overall the weekend went well. The main goal of the tournament was to get us prepared for the upcoming Class A and New England tournaments, so I’m glad that our wrestlers gained experience in a long day of tournament competition.”

“I think the tournament was great for the team. We all had a great time and we all were pretty focused,” reflected Kutt. “At the beginning of the season, we weren’t that great. Most of us were very new to the sport or the team and I think we’ve improved a lot consid-

ering how well we did at the Northern New Englands.”

“Overall as a team we wrestled really well, learned a lot throughout the practices, practiced well, and then just brought it to the competition over the weekends,” Sebastian Hiller, co-captain of the varsity wrestling team said.

“A big highlight was seeing Konrad, a freshman winning his bracket at 126, then for me, I just pinned everyone in under a minute thirty, so that was really nice. Just seeing everyone having fun at a tournament,” Hiller added, complimenting Kutt.

When speaking to the team’s overall progress throughout the season, Hiller expressed the resilience of the wrestlers, who stuck to their sport despite its physical rigor. “This year we had a lot of new wrestlers, but they stuck to it, didn’t

quit, which is the main thing — usually a lot of people quit early on in wrestling, but I’m very proud of them for not, and they just stayed through, stayed true to the sport, and so far there’s been a lot of progress.”

The team is looking ahead at the Class

A tournament, as well as the New England tournament at Choate. “Finishing in the top six at New Englands qualifies you for Prep Nationals at Lehigh University, which is the culminating event on our calendar. What makes these tournaments so thrilling and

rewarding is that you have to earn the right to extend your season—this is when you need to find a way to close out a tight match, to score a last-second takedown, or to beat a kid who beat you earlier in the season if you want to make it to the next week of competition,” Muchnick said.



Exeter wrestler competes in a match

Courtesy of exeter.edu

## Big Red Season Records Since Feb. 9, 2024

**BASKETBALL BOYS JV**

Worcester Academy: W 59-39

Deerfield Academy: L 48-42

**BASKETBALL BOYS V**

Worcester Academy: W 73-46

Deerfield Academy: W 55-54

**BASKETBALL GIRLS JV**

New Hampton School: L 29-28

Worcester Academy: Cancelled



**BASKETBALL GIRLS V**

New Hampton School: L 54-37

**HOCKEY BOYS V**

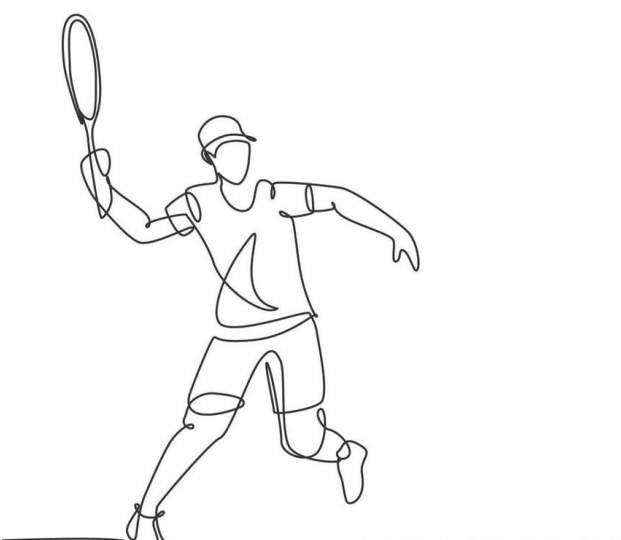
Proctor Academy: T 3-3

Albany Academy: W 5-4 (OT)

Choate Rosemary Hall: W 4-0

**HOCKEY GIRLS JV**

NA



**HOCKEY GIRLS V**

Kimball Union Academy: W 3-1

New Hampton School: T 2-2

**SQUASH BOYS JV**

Dexter School: W 7-0



**SQUASH BOYS V**

Dexter School: W 5-2

New Englands v. Nobles: W 5-3

**SQUASH BOYS V**

Dexter School: W 5-2

New Englands v. Nobles: W 5-3

**SQUASH GIRLS JV**

NA

**SQUASH GIRLS V**

New Englands v. St. George’s: L 4-3

New Englands v. Nobles: L 5-2

**SWIMMING & DIVING BOYS JV**

NA

**SWIMMING & DIVING BOYS V**

NA

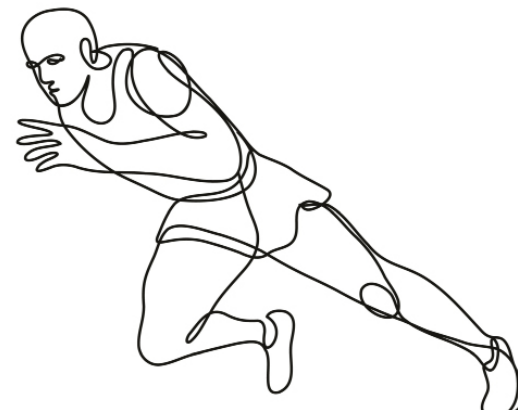


**SWIMMING & DIVING GIRLS JV**

NA

**SWIMMING & DIVING GIRLS V**

NA



**WINTER TRACK BOYS & GIRLS JV/V**

BU Valentine Meet

Millrose Games

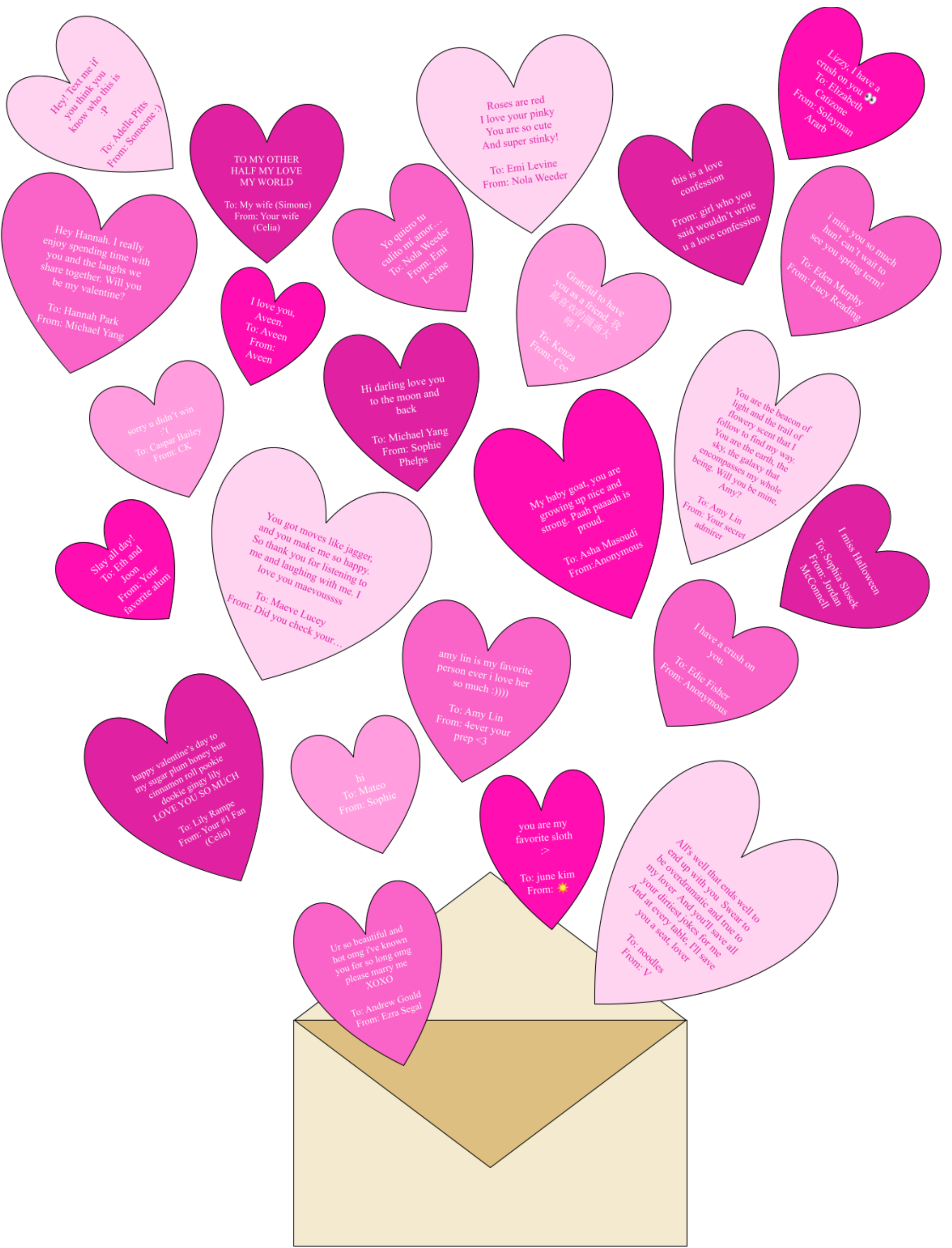
**WRESTLING JV**

N/A

**WRESTLING V**

Class A Tournament @NMH: 4th

# Valentine's Grams



## SO MUCH LOVE IN THE AIR!

### The Exonian

We would like to acknowledge the Squamscott/Penacook peoples who were the first peoples of this land. We would like to honor their ancestors, descendants and future generations for caring for this area and allowing us to be here today.

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