

# THE DEVON DIALOGUE

DEVON PREPARATORY SCHOOL'S PRESTIGIOUS NEWSPAPER PROUDLY PUBLISHING FOR OVER FIVE DECADES  
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## *Why Philadelphia is just better*

*Ms. Samantha Desch*

When I took over the Devon Dialogue five years ago, it was all about sports-Devon sports, Philly sports, world sports, etc. Needless to say, that was my first change as the moderator. I am not a sports hater. I don't play, that is true, but I grew up around sports with three younger brothers and my dad constantly watching it was a "can't beat them, so join them" situation. That ESPN app notification still haunts me in my sleep... But having brothers who liked sports made it pretty easy to buy gifts during Christmas and birthdays as it was just the newest player's jersey or an updated hat.

That being said, I would be remiss if we didn't at least acknowledge the significance of sports in our city right now. If you haven't been paying attention, here is a recap: our football, soccer, and baseball teams are all killing it!! The Philadelphia Eagles are currently undefeated, making them the only team in the NFL that has this record. Additionally this is for the first time in franchise history! Next up, they will play the Washington Commanders on November 14. The Philadelphia Union will play for the MLS Cup tomorrow against the Los Angeles Football Club (LAFC). And in case you really have been living under a rock, the Philadelphia Phillies baseball

team will be playing game 6 of the World Series against the Houston Astros. Now, I don't want to speculate, mainly because I am superstitious and take a little blame for the Phillies loss in game 4 because I wore a different shirt than usual, but regardless of the outcomes of any and all of these teams, right now, Philadelphia is *the* place to be.

So why is Philadelphia just better? During times like this, it is as if every fans' identity is tied to their teams. The city is electric with fireworks each night, Eagles chants as you walk down the street and "Dancing on my Own" playing throughout Rittenhouse Square. Our fans can be pretty ruthless, but we are loyal. That doesn't mean we don't have our share of choice words when a call doesn't go our way or a player misses a pass, but we are right there, the following game watching and cheering just like it never happened.

It is no coincidence that our Flyers mascot is named Gritty-our city has grit! (FYI at the time of publication, the Flyers record is 5-3-2). You cannot count us out and we will show pride in the form of lost voices, obnoxious attire, and ultimately continuing to watch the next season of the sport, no matter the outcome. But, all these teams are going all the way, right?





## First Year Homecoming Experience

Sean Thiele & Nate Weir '26

We have been here at Devon since sixth grade and have just advanced into high school. The number of students in our grade doubled this year compared to the past year, and we both are still adjusting to all of the new things that high school has to offer, such as classes, clubs, responsibilities, and more. The transition from middle school to high school is rough, but there's nothing like a good party to start the year off! Both of us went to Homecoming for the first time, and we had an experience of a lifetime. There were teachers and faculty who greeted us at the entrance and a snack bar with some snacks to fill us up and get us back to partying. When we went through the back, after checking in with Mr. Sheehan, there were lights, fog, and loud music surrounding the pit of students at Devon and girls from schools like Notre Dame, Villa Maria, and more. People were surrounded in a circle with high schoolers doing backflips in the center, except for Sam Tatum who showed off in a different way. People's heads would bob up and down to the beat of the music, and their hands were thrown in the air to certain songs. When we were dancing, the grade gap would disappear to form a bunch of people having fun instead of a bunch of ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth graders. We both could not forget this experience even if we tried, and we're both looking forward to the next three Homecomings we have.



## College Applications

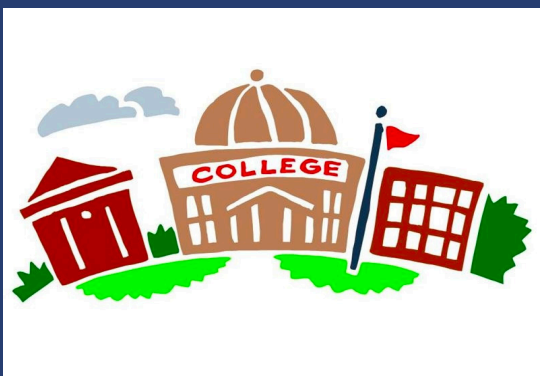
Jack Ranieri '23

College applications are something every Devon Prep Senior will be doing at some point, and it is unavoidable. Even though I haven't done much yet, and my November 1st deadlines are approaching fast, you should definitely get some of the college searching and application basics down during the summer and there should be certain things that should be completed before others. The college search is a fun, although admittedly at times a tiring process, but it all pays off when the college applications are complete and you have hopefully been accepted to your number one school.

Some of the hardships or high hurdles with this process could be the management of your time between school, sports, and the college application process which can very quickly get stressful. Also, some of the application restrictions regarding the

common app could be difficult, because if your school of choice does not use the Common Application, the process just got more complicated.

Some solutions to these issues include holding off from too many AP classes, or skipping a sport for the fall season, which is when most of the Early Action deadlines are due. Obviously starting the application process in the spring of your Junior year and summer would be the best way to prepare. Like asking teachers for your letter of recommendation before you go to summer and working on the essay during this free time. That way when you come back to start Senior year in the fall, you have something to show and have less stress with everything else going on. If the school you are applying to is a special school to you, then the restrictions will not pose much of a problem, but if a school that you are applying to in an attempt to throw your hat in and see what happens does not accept a common app, you may want to rethink your decision.





# Ethpithanies

Finnian Kelly '23

These are small tidbits of information, quotes, and advice given by the man, the myth, the legend, Ethan Puz! If you don't know Ethan, look for the man carrying a coffee and or energy drink in the halls. Ethan has been a Devon student since 6th grade and these are some takeaways.

"If you are going to drink a ton of energy drinks, drink 5 hour energies or sugar-free Red Bulls (RBs) to keep that calorie count low. A cost-effective option is Celsius', as they are relatively inexpensive compared to the other options." Ethan himself claims that there are no diminishing marginal returns on energy drinks.

"I would like to be adopted by the average Monaco family"



"Im soooooo close to moving to a cabin in Lincoln, Montana"

"Things to do in Spain: #1 La siesta #2 Get yelled at by a crazy Spanish person"

"Sheehan says winter dress code until May 1, even though it is supposed to be the first day after spring break as stated in the handbook. Lawyer not respecting the law"

"That rabies infected 'raccoon' is just another government spy"

"There is a hidden cost associated with the Wawa quesadilla"



# Ice Hockey: Devon's Newest Sport

Dominic Liberatore '24

Ice hockey is now offered at Devon Prep! We interviewed Mr. Fabrizio, the coach for the newest sport at Devon Prep.

Q: What made you want to bring hockey to Devon Prep?

A: Being in the gym, watching the DP Hoops games and watching the students in "the Pit," it dawned on me that Ice Hockey would fit well with the Pit. The energy of the Pit is perfect for hockey. Hockey is just as fun in the stands as it is on ice, so aside from my players, our students are going to love cheering for their hockey team too!

Q: What kind of impact do you foresee hockey having on Devon Prep's athletic future?

A: Years ago, strong students did school work while strong athletes played sports. The two were separated. Then sports like hockey became year round sports, and in order to succeed, an athlete needed to be determined, driven, focused, dedicated, and inspired. All of a sudden, today's athletes had the same attributes as yesterday's excellent students. It was only a matter of time before we realized that an academic institution like Devon Prep that was searching for a driven and focused student, was simultaneously searching for a modern day athlete.

Q: What kind of impact has your father had on you, especially from a coaching and mentoring perspective?

A: The primary reason I coach is as a tribute to my father. When I graduated from Penn State, my best father/son bonding experiences occurred while we were on the ice, coaching together. Coaching became an excuse to hang out with my dad. During the early stages of his Alzheimers, the last place he was allowed to drive was to the rink, and he never missed a home game. He was also the better coach.

Q: How do you feel about the group of guys you have?

A: A coach has a separate relationship with his students than a teacher does. A coach sees his students doing what they love to do, and in order to get the full teaching experience, I couldn't do that without coaching. There is great team chemistry going on between our boys. Most of our experienced players are freshmen and sophomores, so we will get to grow together. I want the high school to rally behind the team and root for the guys on and off the ice. I want ice hockey to become a cornerstone of Devon Prep athletics. I want my hockey players to be revered the same way our baseball and basketball players are revered. I want to win a Flyers Cup and make people around the area think "Where is Devon Prep?" I want to create a buzz around our school and our hockey team, and most of all, I want to prove that you can be an amazing student and a champion-level hockey player at the same time.

The team's first game is on Monday at 9:00pm against Archbishop John Carroll High School. Check DPathletics for more information.

## Advice on Happiness

Mr. Fabrizio

I really wish that \$.99 in-game purchase made me as happy as I was hoping it would make me. Life would be so simple if happiness could be purchased on our phones, but have you ever noticed it never works out that way?

The pursuit of happiness is a fundamental right guaranteed to us in the Declaration of Independence, but how to go about actually finding happiness becomes a conundrum. Typically, we see something, usually some thing, and we construct an entire theory in our head about how that thing will (finally) make us happy. Then we are surprised when, two days later, we are back on our phones, starting a new search for the next thing, hoping this time you will become happy.

Around twelve years ago, I became possessed with the concept of pursuing true happiness. And in my studies, I've arrived at two common

truths that truly cause happiness. No, it isn't extra gems in Clash of Clans, but like you, I wish it was. Below is what I've uncovered so far. Here are two ways that I think guarantee you to be happy:

- Expressing Gratitude
- Donating to a Cause

I'll explain. Expressing Gratitude is a fancy way of saying thank you. You know that you have said thank you to someone, then watched their face light up. You know that time your mom made you fill out Thank You notes for your birthday presents and you know you felt great when you finally finished them and dropped them in the mail.

My recommendation? Think about something you are grateful for, and write out a sincere Thank You note in your own handwriting. Hand that note to the person you are thanking, then let me know how you felt inside afterwards.

Secondly, donating to a cause is another means to pursue happiness. It already sounds expensive, but in using the verb 'Donating', you are not limited to money donations. You can donate one of your much more important resources, time. Spending time with someone can be the highlight of the week for some people. I dare you to spend an entire Saturday with one of your grandparents. You could make them so happy, and here is the secret: when you make someone else happy, you become happy yourself.

I'm not in the business of telling other people what to do, but I can tell you I have two hot leads on how to be happy. I wish I could say I did a great job at either, but I'm more fallible than most people myself. Express gratitude and donate to a cause. I dare you to try.

## Blue Mountain Adventures

Aaron Gonsalves '26

On September 19, the freshman class of 2026 had a trip to Blue Mountain in the Poconos for fun activities: laser tag in the woods, ziplines, a rope course, and archery. Upon arrival, we were split into groups; mine started with laser tag, which was super fun. There were tons of hiding spots in tubes, behind bushes, and even in small shacks. My team made strategies to help us win. Next, we had archery, where our instructor taught us the proper way to handle a bow and arrow. Then, after some target practice, we had a 6v6 battle with our bows and arrows. Some people would taunt the other team by making jokes to distract the person shooting at them. After that, we did a wipeout game, where one person would run back and forth to try not to get hit by a barrage of arrows. Trying to dodge the arrows while maintaining enough stamina to avoid the next bombardment was an exciting experience.

Then, we had lunch and went off to the most nerve-racking part of the trip: the rope course. The rope course consisted of four levels, each level getting progressively more difficult. To get to level four, you had to advance through all the previous levels. Now, this is when I made a mistake, going first. I have a fear of heights, but I had no choice because I was the first one up. I had to finish, or else everyone behind me would not be able to go ahead. So, I found the courage and persisted, and it resulted in a great experience. As I got through more of the levels, I got bolder and soon, I was able to complete the first two levels. When it got to the third level, however, things changed. Level three was the highest level, which scared me a lot. I thought there was no way I was going up there, but I

wanted to because of the view. So, I pushed on, and it was a good thing I did because it was terrific. You could see everything above the trees. You could see roads and buildings, and it felt like a once-in-a-lifetime experience. When I reached level four, the bar was raised. The course was more demanding in strength, flexibility, balance, and patience. Luckily, the instructors gave me helpful information, like putting my feet firmly on the platforms before my hands. Then, after some pretty scary obstacles, I had completed level four and ziplined my way back to the ground with relief.

Then, it was free time, where we could go anywhere we wanted. I decided to go on "The Drop" first. "The Drop" is where you get attached to a rope and repel yourself down from the top of a rock wall. All you have to do is jump off, which may seem scary at first, but once you decide to just go for it, "The Drop" becomes exhilarating. For the first couple of seconds, it feels like actually falling because the rope hasn't pulled your body, which is terrifying. Then, we invented different challenges on the ziplines, like who could spin the most or not touch the ground for the longest. We had a lot of fun doing that, and I think the trip went well. On our way back, there was a lot of traffic due to an accident on the highway, so I decided to take a small nap before we ended up back at the school. After this trip, I felt like I had a closer connection with my classmates, some of whom I had not known well prior.

To future freshmen, I recommend you go on this trip because you will make great memories.



*Student Council Interview**Matt Davis '23*

On October 9th, 2022 I had the pleasure of interviewing the Devon Prep student council president, Jack Ferry.

First, I asked him about how he thought the homecoming dance went. He said, "It was a great night. We broke the record for most signups to a dance. I thought the smoke and lights added a really cool touch to the atmosphere. The pictures turned out great and will be sent out soon! However, there was word around campus that some juniors decided to go to a Phillies game instead which was disappointing to hear. We want to thank everyone for coming and we look forward to doing it again at winter formal."

As a Devon Prep student myself I am so glad to have such a great guy as my President and I am expecting winter formal to be even better.

*Cross Country's New Coach**Pierce Rohlfs '25*

In just his first year of coaching, Coach Girard has already made a huge impact on the Cross Country team this year. Coach Girard was born on November 20, 1994. He started running when he was just 10 years old. He liked to play football, basketball, and hiking while growing up. He likes to watch sports, and his favorite sports teams are the New York Yankees, New England Patriots, Miami Heat, and the New York Islanders. He also supports colleges like Notre Dame and Oral Roberts. Coach Girard was able to keep his talent of running his whole life. He was able to improve year after year. His talent didn't just stop after high school, he ran in college as well and continues to keep running today. Coach Girard went to Burnt Hills High School, and he ran all four years in and made significant improvements every year. His favorite memory was in junior year at Sectional 2 Championships, which happens before competing for states. Only one team in the championships could win in each division. Coach Girard performed his best race at those championships in his junior year. His time was 16 minutes and 14 seconds in a 5k, which is about 3 miles and 10 meters. Which means that he ran about 5 minutes and 20 seconds per mile. He was thrilled to run one of his best times in the Sectional 2 Championships. After Coach Girard was hired to be the new cross country coach, he was very excited to start coaching. Coach Girard loved anything to do with running, so he knew that coaching would be a fun experience for him. Before the first practice in the off-season, he didn't know what to expect from the upcoming season. He had never coached at the high school level before, and he was unsure how to coach runners that were at a slower or faster pace. Throughout the season, Coach Girard has loved every second of it. He's been enjoying coaching and seeing improvements between every single runner. He's also looking for ways to improve his runners as well. Overall, Coach Girard has been loving his experience with the team and hopes to continue finding ways to improve the team.

*New Dress Code**Spencer Collins '26*

With the beginning of October came a major change to Devon's dress code, and the casualness brought in due to Covid was gone. Instead, our new dress code focuses on looking formal with one major change from our pre-covid uniform-blazers. Initially, these changes were much maligned by most students, however after living with the dress code for some time the majority opinion seems to have shifted. Most students seem not to mind wearing their blazers, even during class, and that they make us as a school look better. That would be the case, if there was better enforcement of the dress code. The most obvious example of poor enforcement is the amount of people wearing sweatshirts over their dress shirts. It should not matter if technically it is allowed according to the letter of the dress code, as it clearly violates its spirit. The dress code should be changed, as could be easily done through a simple Schoology post to patch this obvious loophole. (Since time of publication, this has occurred). Enforcement of dress code was a problem last year and it still is today. If a student's shirt is just untucked in the middle of the school day, that is one thing. However, if students are purposely obscuring parts of their uniform or are not wearing their blazer in the hallway, some punishment is in order to discourage future violations. I applaud the school for this new dress code, but a dress code is only valued if it is followed by all members of the school, and I hope that soon the day will come when I can walk down the hallways and see all of my fellow students in proper uniform.

*Was the Lunch Tent Better?**Max Collins '24 and Austin Thomas '24*

After two long years of suffering in a tent during our precious lunch time, students were excited to finally return to eating in the school cafeteria. To their surprise they returned to an incomplete and crowded cafeteria. A once sacred room reserved for the blessed time of eating and enjoying food with your friends has been defamed by the new changes in lunch procedures. Students are stripped of their freedoms and sense of security as shown as they walk through the doors as they are forced to remove their bags and waste more of their lunch time trying to find a spot to store them. After finally getting into the cafeteria, students must wait in an unbearably long queue to receive their food. Students are then expected to find a seat among the masses of other students all clamoring together in a wall of noise for the few scattered seats remaining, causing many students to opt to sit either outside or in the overflow room in the Old Library. Then, and only then, are students able to enjoy their meal and must repeat this strenuous process the next day. Students had very high expectations this year for the return of the lunch room, all of which have not been met in the slightest.

## *Ms. Trainor Interview*

### *Ronnie Wolfe & Connor Savage '24*

In this section of the Devon Dialogue, we have decided to help the Devon community get to know the new faculty around Devon. We will introduce each new faculty member one at a time. Our first subject was Ms. Trainor. We had a lovely interview with her about how she got here and what her thoughts are on Devon Prep.

Due to Mrs. Brightwell being busy with other things, namely her baby Brooks born in August, Ms. Trainor has stepped up to the plate as a long term substitute and she's done an incredible job fitting into the Devon Prep community.

She attained a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and went on to graduate from Eastern this past May with

a Masters in Education and School Counseling K-12.

While she didn't spend the first ten years of her working career in education, she realized that she wanted to work in school counseling, and she hasn't looked back. According to Ms. Trainor, she really enjoys working as a counselor, noting "It doesn't really feel like work being that you interact with people so often and coming from the field I came from, I enjoyed this type of work. It's just more interesting to me." We are so grateful that she ended up at Devon and hope she feels the same.

Ms. Trainor has found herself feeling quite comfortable at Devon so far saying "The students and faculty were both very welcoming

and that's one of the things I like most about Devon... Even on my first day I just felt a sense of comfort being here". She has already helped out so many students, mainly from the junior class, where she serves as Junior Group Counselor.

Concluding the interview, we asked Ms. Trainor for some words of advice for the student body at Devon and she responded with a Jane Goodall quote: "You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. Everything you do makes a difference. You just have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

## *Guess the Mystery Teacher*

### *Diego Alonso '24 & Patrick Kearns '24*

In this new segment, you will be given various clues in order to assist you in guessing which teacher they belong to. They won't all be the most obvious, but you will learn some things about a teacher that you might not have known. And hey, maybe it will make you like them even more!



Clue 1- They majored in English and History.

Clue 2-Their favorite band is Penny and Sparrow.

Clue 3-They would invite Abraham Lincoln, their 3rd grade teacher/penpal, and Condoleeza Rice to a dinner party.

Clue 4-They don't drink soda.

Clue 5-Their guilty pleasure is eating salt and vinegar chips with black coffee.



## Arnold's Day

Devak Shah '27

I went to school thinking that I would have a regular day until we all gathered outside. I thought this was just going to be a quick couple of reminders until Mr. Irving said, "You're not going to have any classes for the rest of the day, we are actually about to hop on a bus and go to Arnold's Fun Center." All the 6th and 7th graders went crazy when this was announced. All of us raced to the bus, eager to get to Arnold's. Once we got there, we got our cards that had infinite access to all the games, and the place was huge! It had a go-kart track, an arcade, and a mini golf course. I spent most of my time on the go-kart track, but I also played some arcade games like Warzone. For lunch, we had really good pizza, and we got ice cream for a treat afterwards. After lunch, I tried a couple other games and got some cool prizes. I really had an amazing day and I thought that it was a nice way to take a break from school work. I want to thank everyone who was involved for surprising us with a "day off."

## Nick's Coaster Corner: Coney Island

Nick McAnally '26

Coney Island is just about 2 hours or so away from the Delco area! It has many fun things to do for the whole family like rides, roller coasters, great food, and even beaches for relaxing on the sand and playing in the ocean. I suggest Coney Island as a vacation spot mostly for its amusements and proximity to Manhattan in the great New York City. For rides and rollercoasters, there are three great spots.

The Eldorado Auto Scooter is an awesome indoor bumper car attraction that is said to have the world's best bumper cars. This is just down the street from Luna Park and Deno's Wonderwheel Park. Deno's Wonderwheel Park, home to the famous Wonder Wheel, is one of 2 designated historic landmarks you can actually ride in Coney Island. This park focuses on family-friendly entertainment but still has some great thrills like the Phoenix roller coaster and the Spook-a-Rama haunted dark ride.

Though it is fun to stop at Deno's for 1 or 2 hours of the day, Luna Park is the Star of Coney Island. This Amusement Park has some great family-friendly rides as well as some incredible rides and attractions for thrill seekers. Some noteworthy attractions are the Slingshot which includes a blur of flips and turns through the air and Screaming Eagle which is a fun flying roller coaster with twists and inversions that make you feel like you're taking flight on the New York City Coast. Thunderbolt is also an awesome coaster with a great vertical lift hill and drop as well as some great inversions and bunny hills that feature amazing hangtime and airtime!

Even though all of the things about Coney Island I've listed are a blast, the main reason I would recommend the trip is the famous Coney Island Cyclone! This is another designated historic landmark because it is nearly 100 years old and is one of the most ambitious coasters for its time. This coaster is an insane roller coaster with some of the most insane airtime and lateral moments I've ever experienced on a rollercoaster. It might not look like much only standing at 75 feet but you should never judge a book by its cover. This ride just oozes with history as it stands on a street corner in Brooklyn. This coaster is part of Luna Park and is easily the best attraction there. This coaster only has lap bar restraints that lay inches above your lap so you go flying out of your seat on every drop and airtime hill. It also has no seat dividers so you get slammed side to side on every insane unbanked turn! This roller coaster is easily one of the greatest coasters in the world for its sheer history, power, and craziness. If you ever find yourself in the New York City Area, you must go and ride this historic attraction.

# THE DEVON DIALOGUE

### Mission Statement

As Devon Preparatory School's prestigious newspaper, proudly publishing for over five decades, *The Devon Dialogue* works to accurately inform the Devon student body on the wide array of happenings that occur within the Devon community. Through our commitment to creating innovative, entertaining content that conveys truthful, pertinent information, we offer Devon students the unique opportunity to express themselves by showcasing their literary and artistic gifts to the rest of the Devon community.

### Editors-in-Chief

Finn Kelly '23  
Will Owens '23  
Connor Thiele '23

### Faculty Moderator

Ms. Samantha Desch  
Mr. Matthew Fabrizio

### Joining *The Dialogue's* Staff

*The Devon Dialogue* strongly believes that our strength as an organization lies in our diversity of thought. As such, all students of Devon Preparatory School, both middle school students and high school students, are welcome to join *The Dialogue's* staff as contributors. Please contact Ms. Samantha Desch for more information.

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