



DEVON DIALOGUE

Issue 1, October 2023

<< WORK



School Success Tips

Dominic Liberatore '24

School is back in full swing, in fact, a whole quarter is under your belt. No matter what grade you are in or the easy/hard schedule you have, procrastination is always going to be a silent killer. If you are new to the school or have a new teacher, make the effort to get to know them and form a relationship with them. At Devon, your teachers aren't just your teachers, they can also be your friends. I came to Devon in 8th grade, and I have known some of my teachers for almost five years now. If you have had Mr. Haas or Fr. Shea, you now know that daily nighttime studying is needed in order to succeed. The practice of reviewing your notes is something that is going to seem tedious and annoying but ends with a great outcome. I noticed a rise in my grades when I would study every night for only a few minutes.

Don't save all your studying for the night before a test, it never works out in your favor (unless you have a photographic memory). And after one quarter, you know if your current studying habits have worked or not.

With certain classes, you may feel like you don't understand what you are learning and are too afraid to ask for help. If you find yourself in that situation, especially after a whole quarter, talk to the teacher. Don't worry what others may be thinking as you're asking your question(s); chances are, they have the same or similar questions but are too afraid to ask. Don't let bad days or moments ruin your week. Your time here at Devon goes by faster than you might think. Enjoy the time you spend here. And good luck 2nd quarter!

MEMORY >>

7 Years

Max Collins '24 and Austin Thomas '24

In this column of the Devon Dialogue, we will be talking about our experiences over the seven years at Devon. We both have had what some would consider the "full Devon experience"- seeing physical changes and shifts in students and staff over the entirety of our time at Devon.

For the first article, we want to talk about the changes in team bonding trips throughout our middle and high school years. Within a month of being at Devon, we were camping in a state park with the entire middle school. This theme continued on throughout the three middle school years and brought with it many hijinx. Kids on these trips would seem to lose all reason! Some by losing shoes in the mud, or spraying AXE into other tents, and even burning anything they could get their hands on including that AXE spray, to performing rap battles that had to be broken up because they got the youngins too riled up. Of course throughout all this there were injuries everywhere- from sprained ankles to sicknesses and an almost broken nose of one anonymous Dialogue writer.

In high school, there was slightly more variety in the trips including a trip to Blue Mountain during COVID which uneventfully resulted in no injuries, though it did involve a certain valedictorian getting stuck on a ropes course. For sophomore and junior year, we had other fun day trips such as rock climbing, Sky Zone, an escape room, and multiple go-karting excursions.

So in conclusion, the best advice we can give when it comes to the trips you have throughout your Devon experience is to form meaningful bonds with the brothers in your class as they will last a lifetime.



Journey with my Senior Brother

Spencer Collins '26

A key part of the college selection process for many is visiting and touring the various schools you are interested in. Along with this comes a ubiquitous experience for younger siblings everywhere: your parents forcing you to come along. Since the start of this summer, I have tagged along to visit six colleges with my brother. Despite being only a sophomore, I have strong opinions about my experiences visiting all of these universities so far.

The first college we visited was Boston College. Looking back I mostly remember the experience being just fine and distinctly not for me. Some of the buildings around campus were very nice and its location is amazing, being just outside of Boston, but other than that I did not see the appeal. My opinion is undoubtedly influenced by the fact that it was the first college I visited. Still, based on my own thoughts at the time, the experience seemed like something I would not enjoy.

The next school I visited was Quinnipiac, which I went into ready to not enjoy it. By the time we left, however, my opinion was much more positive than I had expected. The buildings around campus were much

nicer than I had expected, the location right beside Sleeping Giant State Park was beautiful. This is all not to mention the fact that they eliminated Michigan in the NCAA hockey tournament after Penn State's overtime loss to Michigan in the previous round. Overall, Quinnipiac was much better than I expected and I can see why my brother was interested in visiting.

A few weeks after that, we visited Lehigh University. Very shortly into the visit, it became clear that it would be my favorite of the three visits, contrary to what Max thought. Despite this annoyance, the beauty of the campus and its buildings was enough to make it stand out.

The next two colleges we visited were Pitt and Carnegie Mellon. Despite loving Pittsburgh, I did not enjoy visiting either of these schools, particularly Pitt. My main issue lies in the fact that the campus is located right in the middle of a city. Carnegie Mellon is also in the middle of a city, but the campus feels more self contained than Pitt's. At the time, I did not give Carnegie Mellon as much credit, but I like it more than I did at the time.

The final school we visited was Penn State. Without a doubt this was the most enjoyable experience I have had visiting a college, but I can not yet say what I think of it as a school. This is because while we had intended to walk around campus, we were not able to due to the wet, terrible weather. Instead, we only tailgated and went to the Penn State-UMass game which was extremely fun. The area around Penn State is beautiful and the atmosphere is great. It was definitely the best experience I have had visiting a college.

Overall I do not think I will take much about these visits into consideration when I consider where I will go to college. This however does not mean I found no value in it. Instead, that value came from starting to think about what I may like and dislike in a college. It also has caused me to start thinking about what I may want to do in the future. By starting to think about this sooner, I can better pick my classes in the future and find extracurricular activities to do that fit what I may want to major in. This ultimately is what I think was the greatest benefit of these experiences.



AROUND TOWN

Homecoming 2023

Connor Savage '24

This fall, Devon broke the signup record for the Homecoming dance by having 150 people sign up! It was great to see so many faces having fun but I know we can have even more people show out for the upcoming Winter Formal. Thanks to the chaperones and the talented DJ, the night was a great success. The Student Council hopes to see even more people at the upcoming Winter Formal. If you have any suggestions or questions regarding the dance, feel free to find any Student Council member in the hallway and talk to them.

MS Snipes and Stadium

Jimmy Lutz '28

On September 19, the middle school helped a non-profit called Snipes Farm located in Morrisville, PA which helps to feed the less fortunate. They have been helping the community since 1682 when James and Joan Moon immigrated from England. During their time there, Devon Prep students helped feed chickens and other farm animals, sand tractors, and weeded fields!

On Thursday, October 12 while the freshmen, sophomores, and juniors were taking PSATs, the middle school went on a tour of Lincoln Financial Field and Fort Mifflin. The Lincoln Financial Tour gave the students an amazing experience as they were able to learn the history of the stadium, see the press box, locker room, interview room, and they even were able to sit in Jalen Hurts' and Nick Siriani's chairs.

After, they took a short bus ride to Revolutionary and Civil War era Fort Mifflin. There, they ate lunch, received a historical tour, and even witnessed the firing of a cannon and a musket!

This entire experience gave the middle school an exciting and well needed break from the 5-day school week.



EVENTS >>>

Freshmen Blue Mountain

Sherwin Dsouza '27

On Monday, October 2nd, our freshman class had an exciting outing to Blue Mountain, which turned out to be a day filled with adventure and bonding. Blue Mountain surpassed our expectations and left a lasting impression on all of us, contributing significantly to our Devon experience. Our freshman class, made up of students from various backgrounds and schools, faced the challenge of getting to know one another. This trip helps many to form new friendships and interact with people they normally wouldn't on a school day. Activities like outdoor laser tag, ziplining, rock climbing, and a tree-based obstacle course not only provided tons of fun but also helped us strengthen our bonds and create lasting friendships



This Blue Mountain adventure was not just a break from our regular school day, rather, it was an experience that also instilled in us the values of brotherhood and kindness that Devon deeply cares about. It was a day that brought us closer together and taught us valuable lessons about being good Devon Prep students.

Choral Tide Takes the Ren Fair

Vincent Holloway '24

The Choral Tide started off the day by practicing our song "Now is the Month of Maying." Then we performed on a stage in front of at least 100 people. We did a good job and it was fun to see other people performing on this stage before it was our turn. Afterwards, we separated into groups and went to see the other parts of this Fair. Even in groups, all of us tried the famous turkey leg. Our group in particular, waited an hour in line for a milkshake. Other activities that we did included watching a woman breathe fire and an entire kingdom get destroyed by an internal conflict and fireworks. Overall, it was a pretty fun way to spend a day and I hope that Choral Tide continues to do this every year for the foreseeable future.



AROUND TOWN

Experiences >>

Competition. Excitement. Teamwork. -MS Fall Field Day

Devak Shah '28

Field Day is a highly anticipated event among the entire middle school. Besides the fun competition that takes place throughout the day, it's basically a free day out of class! The middle school is divided into 6 teams that compete in various activities throughout the day, all wanting to be crowned Middle School Field Day Champions. This year, our individual huddle groups were teams, and the Middle School Legacy Team members (Joel Rajeskar, Naish Lynch, Charlie Kleiner, John Vieth, and Devak Shah) were captains. In the morning session, the teams competed against each other in some fun events like a three-point shoot-out, obstacle course, bean bag relay, football long throw, and a perimeter relay. In the afternoon session, teams split up to compete in different sports like lacrosse, soccer, and football. It was a very exciting afternoon, and eventually, the green team came out victorious. But, it wasn't that easy. The green team had to do a tug-of-war against the white team to decide on a winner. After much back and forth, Green pulled the rope to their side to win the day! Thank you to all the faculty and our Student Council for making this day what it was!

Top 5 Haunted Houses near Devon

Michael Buzbee '30

Have you ever wanted to get scared out of your socks!? Well, here's a list of the top five spookiest haunted houses near you!

#5. **Scream mountain at Spring Mountain Adventures**, take a thrilling chairlift ride up a dark dimly lit mountain, survive that and take a hayride through a resort filled with ghosts and ghouls and hope you'll live to tell your story.

#4. **Pennhurst Asylum** walks you through the remains of a haunted asylum. Get scared out of your skin as the facility's chilling past haunts you. For those who would be too scared of the haunted house there is also a daytime paranormal investigation tour.

#3. **Lincoln Mill Haunted House** is a haunting tour of a mill formerly occupied by a man named Viktor Kane and his mill workers who he would experiment on and torture. It's a horrifying experience that's sure to give you a fright!

#2. **The Bates Motel** is one of the most spine tingling and exciting haunted houses out there. First, go on an adventurous haunted hayride through castles, gas stations, caves, abandoned mines, and more! Next, is the corn maze walk through. This trail of terror is sure to give you the chills. And finally the motel itself. Some might say it's fun, some might say it's crazy, but most people just say it's horrifying! With animatronics, awesome decorations, and creepy actors your head will definitely be on a swivel the whole time.

#1. **Eastern State Penitentiary** is the most frightening one of all! A creepy old prison turned into a haunted house! Who wouldn't be scared? You can even buy a touch pass where the actors can touch and separate you from your group! Eastern State Penitentiary will chill you to the bone and will probably have you running out in fear.

Brokenhearted at the Bank

Pierce Rohlfing '25

No words can describe how Phillies fans may be feeling at this moment right now. Even though the 2023 season was magical, the goal for this season was to win the World Series. The past week and a half was a total embarrassment for the conclusion of the season. Coming into it, Philly fans had very high expectations after making it to the World Series last year. The 2022 regular season had lots of thrilling games from the Phillies, but this year's season was even more magical. Although the first two months were a slow start, once June hit, things started to click. There were many thrilling games throughout this season. The Phillies had 8-9th inning comebacks with the most memorable being against the Marlins on July 7th. The Phillies were down 2-3 in the top of the 9th inning with JT on second. The unlikely hero, Christian Pache, hits a 2 run HR against closer A.J. Puk to give the Phillies a 4-3 lead. But, the most memorable moment from this regular season happened on August 4th. The struggling Trea Turner was batting under .240, constantly making consistent errors on the field. Phillies fans came together on August 4th to give Trea Turner a standing ovation when he appeared at the plate. This moment between the fans and Turner not only turned his playing around, but it uplifted the ball club. After the standing ovation, he went on a 10-game hit streak and finished the season batting .338 for the rest of the 48 games. The Phillies were able to finish the regular season with a record of 90-72, 2nd in the NL East, and claimed the 4th seed in playoffs and the first wildcard, giving them home field advantage in the wildcard round against the Miami Marlins. As we all know, our home field advantage is a huge advantage unlike other teams. Our home field is not only packed every game, but they changed the entire game completely. The energy the Philly fans bring to CBP is unbelievable. Games 1 and 2 against the Marlins went as perfect as any Phillies fan could hope for. Wheeler and Nola both had great starts and the offense for the Phillies took advantage of the starting pitching the Marlins had. Round 2 against the Braves was an exciting series against 2-heavy powered offenses with great pitching. The Braves were obviously favored coming into this series as they had to play meaningless baseball for the last 3 weeks of the regular season and they clinched the number one seed in the playoffs early on. Another major advantage the Phillies had was that their bats were hot coming into this series. They were able to carry the momentum they had into the upcoming series against the Braves. The Phillies were able to steal 1 game on the road, but could've easily taken game 2, then the offense exploded in game 2 and 3. The Phillies were able to take care of business in game 3 and head into their 2nd consecutive NLCS against the young Arizona Diamondbacks. The Phillies had a great start to this series winning both games at home, but the Diamondbacks were able to slither out and win the NLCS in 7 games. What makes this series loss so detrimental is that the Phillies are a more talented and experienced team than the Diamondbacks. After game 2, the Phillies overlooked this team and let the Diamondbacks steal this series. Even after the road trip to Arizona, we were still put in a great position to close out the series. Games 6 and 7 felt that the Phillies had already given up. Their approach at bat was too aggressive, the energy around the team also wasn't great. Once we were down in game 6, all the Phillies hitters wanted to be that hero. Trying to hit a home run every at-bat, the most important thing was to get on base. Obviously this wasn't the goal to start the season, but I am confident that we'll bounce back next season. Go Phils!



TEACHER NEWS

Welcome >>>

Spotlight on Stefan

Adriel Gonsalves & Devak Shah '28



Mrs. Stefan recently joined Devon Prep, and she has a strong passion for ELA. We interviewed Mrs. Stefan to get to know her better and hear about her teaching past. Believe it or not, she is even an avid history fan and often connects her lesson plans to events in history.

1. Where are you from? How did you get an interest in teaching?

I have lived in the suburbs of Philadelphia for the last 25 years.

I have always wanted to be a teacher for as long as I remember. Teaching, in my belief, was something innate within me.

Perhaps I was born to teach. In second grade, my teacher, Sr. Roberta asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. I replied, "a mother and a teacher."

2. Why is ELA your favorite subject?

ELA has always been my favorite subject to teach because it serves as the foundation for all learning. It equips students with essential skills in reading and writing, awards opportunities to challenge students by promoting critical thinking and enhances abilities to communicate effectively. ELA is a vital component of education and connects with all other subjects.

3. What is something that most students don't know about you?

I grew up at the beach in Sea Isle City, NJ. My summers were busy, and my winters were quiet. I built snowmen on the beach when it snowed. My family is still there and I spend every summer in Sea Isle City at the beach with my kids.

4. In ELA, there are many topics. Which one do you think is a necessity for any successful ELA student?

I believe reading and writing are reciprocal processes. Reading helps grow writers, and writing helps grow readers: whether or not we plan it that way, it happens.

5. Which aspects of teaching ELA do you like the best, dislike?

I personally love all aspects of ELA. However, I think grammar may be the aspect that students find the most difficult. Many of the words we use stem from Latin and Ancient Greek words which makes it difficult to understand and its perplexing spelling scheme can really be tricky.

6. What job would you do that's not teaching?

If I was not teaching, I would love to work in the bookstore or library. Books make me happy.

7. What books would you pick if you were stranded on an island?

If I was stranded on a deserted island, I would hope to have the following books with me: Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese, A Little Life by Hanya Yanagihara, and The Holy Bible

8. Do you have any embarrassing teaching moments you'd like to share?

Probably when I spilled a 20 oz. Wawa coffee down my white blouse and had to wear a coffee stained blouse all day at school. Or the time when I was chosen as the faculty member to dress up in a sumo blow up wrestler costume for a pep rally at school.

9. In which teacher's class would you go to for a day?

I think it would be super fun to pop into Mr. Jack Duffy's class. I imagine it would be entertaining. He makes me laugh.

10. How long have you been a teacher for (different schools and experiences)?

I have been a teacher on and off for 17 years. I worked in public, parochial, and private school settings. The bulk of my teaching career has been in middle school.

11. What is your teacher style (like how much homework or how often do we have quizzes)

I believe that assessment drives instruction so I tend to be a bit heavy on quizzes. However, I do believe my class offers a variety of activities from writing to reading as well as projects and other forms of assessments.

12. Describe a lesson plan that exceeded your expectations that you might want to do again.

I love linking Language Arts to history. Some of my students' favorite lessons were the Escape of Alcatraz Unit and the Return to the Titanic Exhibition. My former students also get excited for my famous Tournament of Books sweet sixteen bracket during March Madness.

Meet Mr. Green

Ryan Samms '25

Whether he is teaching in the classroom or coaching on the field, Jamile Green has already made an impact at Devon Prep this year. Mr. Green is one of Devon's new additions to the staff, teaching AP Calculus BC, AP Statistics, and Honors Precalculus, and moderating the mathletes team. Mr. Green isn't new to education, as he was a Statistics professor at Temple University before coming to Devon Prep. He also comes with loads of experience on and off the soccer pitch, attending St. Georges College in Jamaica for his playing days and continuing his college career at University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma. Afterwards, he played 3 years of professional soccer in Jamaica! He has coached for FC Europa for 6 years and he has 2 soccer players of his own, Kehmar, and Journey.

When I asked Mr. Green what his first impression of Devon Prep was, he was quick to respond with "quiet." He says he chose the word quiet because the classrooms are always a desirable atmosphere, without many distractions. Coach Green is committed to improving the soccer environment at Devon and making them a powerhouse in the Philadelphia Catholic League. Some fun facts about Coach Green are that he was born and raised in Jamaica, came to the United States at age 18, in his playing days his favorite pre game meal was chicken curry, and finally, the soccer team he supports is Liverpool FC. So, if you see Mr. Green in the halls make sure to give him a warm welcome.



DP ARTS

Sean May & Charlie Voss '24

Acoustic Coffee House

On October 14th, the Devon Art's Program held an Acoustic Coffee House at the Gryphon Cafe in Wayne. The event included live performances, karaoke, and (of course) coffee. Many students from Devon, members of the theater program, and family members were in attendance.



Art Student Project

The Design, Materials, and Methods class are creating ink stamps. It involves using linoleum blocks as the printing surface. After creating a design, they then transfer the design onto the linoleum. They then cut the design out of the block to successfully create a linoleum stamp.



Happy Halloween!
Love, Rory

Aiding Artists

Aiding Artist is a organization that helps bring creativity and a passion for art to children that are less fortunate and don't have access to it. Devon Prep, with the help of Art Student Council President Charlie Voss, plans to team up with Aiding Artists to help bring art to children. We hope you look forward to updates about this in the coming months.

Peter and the Star Catcher

On a thrilling adventure at sea and on a distant island, an orphan boy and his new friend Molly, face pirates as they try to save the world from evil. Buy your tickets for Devon Prep's production now! Dates: Nov 3, 4, and 5.



Which costume
did he wear best?

Come to room
107 with your vote
and a treat





THE MORE YOU KNOW



Let's Talk Movies

Patrick Kearns and James Simpson '24

James Simpson, an aspiring film major, and Patrick Kearns, a man who seldom watches movies, unite to give the people insight on the films of the season. In honor of the spooky season, we present to you the classic... Ghostbusters!

"He slimed me." Ghostbusters is an essential Halloween film that follows a cast of unforgettable characters- Peter, Ray, Egon, and Winston. They fight to protect New York City from the most dangerous threat imaginable - ghosts! With their proton packs and a handful of EPA violations, the members of the iconic squad climb skyscrapers, listen to their own theme song, and try not to cross their streams in order to combat Gozer, an ancient Sumerian god.

Bill Murray's performance as Peter Venkman is an unforgettable one. Many of the lines in the film are improvised - showcasing actors such as Bill Murray's talent. One of his improvised lines, "This chick is toast!" caused the creation of new American slang. Rick Moranis' character, Louis- James' favorite- engages in awkward conversations with Dana down the hall, locks himself out of his apartment, and becomes "The Keymaster."

Overall, the movie is incredibly fun to watch, especially if you haven't seen it in years like the both of us. Many jokes went over our heads as children, and caught us off guard every time. Knowing that kids watch this movie after hearing some of the jokes makes them that much more funny. The graphics for the beloved Stay Puft Marshmallow Man also hold up incredibly well, which made us question whether the film was actually produced in 1984.

So if you want to take a trip down memory lane and enjoy watching your favorite gluttonous green ghost with family, friends, or the Gatekeeper to your Keymaster, Devon Prep's two favorite movie-reviewing professionals officially endorse Ghostbusters as Fall 2023's film.

Special Thanks-

Editors-in-chief-Dominic Liberatore, Austin Thomas, Connor Savage, Diego Alonso, Luke Lelli, Max Collins, Charlie Voss, Patrick Kearns, Ronny Wolfe, Vince Holloway

Moderators-Ms. Desch and Mrs. Stefan

Pictures-Ms. Haroun

Devon Dialogue meets B days in room 107

Nick's Coaster Corner

Nick McAnally '27

Skyrush at Hersheypark in Hershey, Pennsylvania is an incredible intamin prototype wing coaster that opened in 2012. Skyrush is a super compact hyper coaster that stands 200 feet tall and has a max speed of 75 mph. This is a very polarizing coaster as many people gave it the nickname 'Thigh Crush' because the coaster's restraints lay right on your thighs and with its crazy airtime which tries to send your body into the sky, your thighs will be crush whenever you fly through a crazy airtime moment. Personally, I am one of the enthusiasts who do not have a problem with restraints because I don't feel that they are that uncomfortable as they sit low only on your lap so you get ample room on your upper body to let this ride toss you about! Skyrush starts off with a speedy cable lift which throws you into its world class 85 degree first drop. This drop starts off by giving tons of powerful sustained ejector airtime before halfway down the drop, a random kink in the track occurs which throws you out of your seat even more!

<<OPINION

Then the train is slammed with positive-gs and laterals on the pullout rising into the first of two camelback airtime hills which both give some more powerful and sustained ejector airtime as you feel like you'll be thrown out of the park! After the second camelback you head into three different strangled dives! All of which, whip you from side to side while giving some great airtime! These moments toss your body like a rag doll, especially if you're in a wing seat! You're then thrown into one final ejector airtime hill before a over banked turn over comet sends you up into the break run ending your 3,600 foot long journey on this one of a kind coaster! Skyrush is everything I love! It's intense, aggressive, and has some world class ejector airtime and laterals! It easily deserves a 10/10! If you haven't already, you need to go to Hershey to take a spin on this unbelievable rollercoaster.



I Want Candy...

Angelo Markham '27

When it comes to Halloween, trick-or-treating for candy is one of the best parts of it, but actually eating the candy is so much more fun. The Economic Times says, "The average American consumes approximately 3.4 pounds of candy on Halloween." That is a lot considering an M&M, which is the 2nd most popular Halloween candy according to Candystore.com, weighs only about 0.9 grams as stated by Weighschool.com. There are about 453 grams in one pound so that is equivalent to about 504 M&Ms! That means that the average American consumes the equivalent of 1,713 M&Ms on Halloween! There is a lot of sugar in that much candy, but who cares, it is Halloween!

