

Mixing the New with the Old: The Winter Dance Series



Photo of Dance Series

Courtesy of *The Lawrenceville School*

ELLEN JORDAN '26 &
DOROTHY LEE '26
NEWS ASSOCIATES

Microphone in hand, Director of Dance Derrick Wilder stepped onto the Kirby Arts Center (KAC) stage on Saturday, January 20, to formally welcome the Lawrenceville community to the Winter Dance Series.

“Blink and you will miss it,” Wilder said, kicking off the Series in an auditorium packed with students, faculty, and parents alike, all brimming with excitement for the performance to come.

The Winter Dance Series opened with the dance program’s new “On the Spot” performance, which featured tap dancing duo Ava Jahn '24 and Luli Mitchell '27, and concluded with a dance from Bold Athletes Dancing (BAD), the newest group in EnCorps. In between were performances that paid homage to the vast array of cultures present in the Lawrenceville community, from the Bollywood-inspired “Sitaaron Ke Neeche” by Nachale to Suave’s “El Cambio Tiempo,” which took inspiration from various Latin partner dance genres. Amidst the mix were also performances to popular songs such as Olivia Rodrigo’s “Vampire” and Sara Bareilles’ “She Used to Be Mine,” both performed by dancers from the Lawrenceville School Dance Company, as well as an unexpected—but very well-received—performance from the Series’ Production Crew, who danced to Rednex’s “Cotton Eye Joe.”

For Dance Faculty Member Kristen Devine-Jones '10, who choreographed two of the Series’ performances, one dance stood out in particular: “Step it Out” by FRObeats, which incorporated the dance genre ‘stepping’ (an energetic form of dance which originates from African-American communi-

ties) with the groups original focus, Afro-Fusion dance. This Winter Term, the captain of FRObeats, Isabella Spencer, '26 collaborated with her mother Paula Spencer P '26 in choreographing and teaching the step dance to the members in a parent-child collaboration that was a first for Lawrenceville’s dance program. Spencer’s mother had led her own step dance team when she was in high school, and Spencer “really wanted to incorporate it into FRObeats.”

“I think it is a part of African history that a lot of people don’t know about, and I really wanted to share that with Lawrenceville,” Spencer explained. Despite the stressful moments during the preparation process, Spencer enjoyed “getting to teach everyone something that [she] created.” She appreciated the “inclusive space” EnCorps created through dance: “It’s such a community, and you feel very loved.”

Devine-Jones likewise emphasized the closeness of the dance community, noting the 110 students involved in the production of the Winter Dance Series, as well as the great time and effort that performers in the Series put into rehearsing for the show, as preparation entailed six weeks of rehearsal and a week dedicated to the final steps of production known as Production Week.

For Spencer, Production Week was an opportunity for EnCorps members “to see everyone’s dances” and “see how much fun people [were] having.” She described the Dance Series as an enlightening experience, allowing her to “not only make [her] ideas come to life, but also [those of] the rest of the group as well.” According to Spencer, one of the most important aspects of being a captain is “listening to the other people.”

“It was a pleasure to watch

Bella Spencer lead her team with grace, dedication, and positivity,” Devine-Jones said; “she has fostered a tremendous sense of camaraderie in that group; they build each other up in small moments so that in big moments, like Saturday’s performance, they have a sense of unity and trust.”

In spite of the Series’ success, Devine-Jones acknowledged that there were indeed some hardships that arrived with putting on such a complex and fast-paced performance.

“No performance is the same, which is part of the thrill of the Performing Arts,” Devine-Jones joked, “This go-around, we had more injuries and illness than usual, forcing large adjustments from every department each time the roster for a piece switched.” However, she added that she was grateful for the flexibility of the Dance Department, which allowed for changes in the Series to take place without much trouble.

Amidst all of the difficulties that Devine-Jones faced while planning the Series and ensuring the preparation ran smoothly, she still found the process to be an extremely rewarding experience.

“I love watching dance find people,” Devine-Jones said, specifically citing BAD’s performance. “Watching those gentlemen work together with vigor and a sense of play embodied why I love the Dance Series,” she explained.

Attendees of the performance were in full praise of the Series, especially those who enjoyed seeing new forms of dance being brought to the stage. Varun Venkataraman '26 appreciated the tap dance performance and found the lighting work very impressive. “Overall, it was a really good performance by all involved,” Venkataraman concluded.

Outside the Bubble Trump’s Lawyers Warns Colorado Supreme Court

ISABELLE LEE '27

Lawyers representing former President Donald Trump have issued a warning to the United States Supreme Court. In December of 2023, the Colorado State Supreme Court declared that Trump is ineligible to run in the 2024 presidential election due to his involvement in the Capitol riot on January 6, 2021, which falls under the 14th Amendment’s prohibition on insurrectionists who have previously taken an oath to defend the Constitution from holding office. The Colorado ruling is being reevaluated by the Supreme Court, while the state has approved the 2024 presidential primary ballots with Trump’s name on the Republican ballot.

According to CNN, Trump’s attorneys are concerned about potential “chaos

and bedlam” ensuing, as they believe this ruling sets a precedent for state government officials to label all political opponents as insurrectionists. The Republican Party argues that the Supreme Court should overturn Colorado’s decision in order to prevent the 14th Amendment’s “insurrection ban” from being used as a partisan tool. Furthermore, Republicans believe that the Colorado Court “severely intrudes” on Congress’ power as the Colorado decision was made without authorization by Congress. In response to a similar disqualification made in Maine, GOP secretaries of state have also brought up to the Supreme Court that fellow secretaries of state should not be able to disqualify candidates from the presidential election. Oral arguments at the Supreme Court are set to

US-Saudi-Israel Pact

HELEN CHANG '26

On January 7, American diplomats and lawmakers met in Tel Aviv, Israel with hopes to renew a potential treaty between the United States, Israel, and Saudi Arabia. The goal is to build the foundation for a potential end to the Israel-Hamas war and form a Palestinian government in the Gaza Strip. Saudi Arabia was firm that a pathway to a self-governing Palestinian state be included in the plan. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu re-emphasized his view on the war, which NBC reports

is “destroy[ing] Hamas,” though Israeli columnist for Yediot Ahronot Nadav Eyal believes that any deal with Saudi Arabia right now would be “a major win politically speaking for Netanyahu.” Members of the Israel cabinet have different opinions on the issue; Defense Minister Yoav Gallant believes that “the end of the military campaign must be anchored in policy,” while other right-wing officials have outwardly rejected the idea of a two-state solution. Despite these barriers, a US-Saudi-Israel pact could be an exit strategy from the war for Netanyahu.

Taiwan elects Lai Ching-Te as next president

ELLEN JORDAN '26
NEWS ASSOCIATES

The latest twist in the building tensions between China and Taiwan happened on January 13 when it was announced that Lai Ching-Te—also known as William Lai—had won the election to be Taiwan’s next president. Lai, who currently serves as the island’s Vice President, has been on the receiving end of much backlash from members of China’s Communist Party (CCP) due to his political party’s emphasis on Taiwanese sovereignty. This push for self-government is seen

as an offense by the CCP, which believes that China has a rightful claim to the island, a dispute that dates all the way back to 1949. Yet, for China, the disappointment was not purely in who the Taiwanese elected, but who Lai defeated in the election. Running against Lai was the China-backed Mayor of New Taipei Hou Yu-ih, who pledged to improve relations and engagement with Beijing if elected. In the end, the people of Taiwan chose to ignore the Chinese government’s saber-rattling and vote for, in Lai’s words, “the side of democracy.”



THE LAWRENCE

Class of 1968 Fund in Honor of Edward A. Robbins H'68 '69 '71 - G. Nicholas. Ifft '44 Fund - The Princeton Packet Fund (Denise L. and James B. Kilgore '66) - Michael S. Chae

Claire Jiang
Editor-in-Chief

Luke Park
Executive Editor

Helena Chen
Nicole Jin
News Editors

Garrett Heffern
Arya Vishwakarma
Opinions Editors

Jackie Williams
William Wang
Features Editors

Sofia Carlisi
Arts Editor

Bryan Boanoh
Sports Editor

Arisa Okamura
Web Editor

Emily Pan
Graphics Editor

Sofia Bonilla
Outreach Editor

Aki Li
Copy Editor

Cindy Shum
Photo Editor

Sabrina Ottaway
Copy Editor

Faculty Advisors

Mrs. Elizabeth Buckles

Ms. Ansley Keane

The Lawrence, the weekly newspaper of The Lawrenceville School, is published during the school year except for the periods of Thanksgiving, winter, and spring breaks, by the students of The Lawrenceville School, 2500 Main Street, Lawrenceville, New Jersey 08648, with offices in room 027 of Father's Building.

Typesetting and layout is by the students of The Lawrenceville School. Printing is by Stellar Printing, Inc. Opinions expressed on the Opinions pages do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Lawrenceville School or The Lawrence. The Lawrence reserves the right to edit letters to the editor and opinions.

Readers interested in subscribing to The Lawrence should contact the Editor-in-Chief at cjiang24@lawrenceville.org. Letters to the editor should be mailed to the address above with C/O Elizabeth Buckles or emailed to lvilawrence@gmail.com. The Lawrence may be accessed online at thelawrence.lawrenceville.org

CORRECTIONS

Readers who notice errors should contact lpark24@lawrenceville.org.

Dog Of The Week: Zach Luke Park '24



Other Dogs Of The Week: Olive and Sarge Jackie Williams '24



Editorial

Do You Wanna Build A Snowman?

Last Friday, a gust of ice crystals floated to central Jersey, coating the Lawrenceville campus in a blanket of soft white snow. Witnessing this tranquil sight the night before and hearing of other districts' cancellation of classes, students spread whispers of a possible snow day, or one of the multiple schedule variations that the School might make to abridge normal academic periods. Many were reminded of grade school, when the cancellation of classes meant hours of free play: building snowmen, sledding, and drinking hot chocolate in the warmth of their homes. We can almost guarantee the student body gave a sigh of disappointment when the School announced that the day would proceed as normal—another day of work.

However, these events can hardly rival a snow day, when impromptu play and unrestrained fun are extolled, almost justified. Until the late afternoon, sheets of packed snow, ready for the delightful imprints of boots and snow angels to grace their surfaces, remained untouched. After classes, students initiated a few minutes of play, their hurried movements marked by the remains of hastily built snowmen and a torrent of footprints in the ground.

Even this sight was rare to witness: at Lawrenceville, where the most common vocabulary word is "work" amongst each grade, the concept of free play has been totally lost. Labeled childish or trivial for growing teens by greater society, play has been pushed aside in favor of studying and practice.

This phenomenon, luckily or not, is not unique to the School. A paper published in 2005 found that children's free-play time (when one chooses with full freedom

what they play) dropped by 25 percent between 1981 and 1997. An evolutionary essential, play is how we first learned to communicate, interact with our peers, and socialize, with the added benefits of reducing stress and anxiety and benefiting language development.

The lack of in-person play and interaction, plus the ordeal of remote living during the pandemic, has lasting repercussions. As the first generation to grow up with screens from birth—think of the coined term iPad kids—we have formed more of our connections online and fewer relationships with people around us. Despite the internet connecting us all, an obsession with the online rather than the offline results in physical isolation, and more young people are experiencing rising rates of sadness due to growing disconnectivity.

Spending more time consuming content also renders kids vulnerable to what that content is selling: younger generations prioritize material goods over simple connections as a direct result of social media. While it is important to recognize the ever-existing subconscious desire to associate status with material goods, children these days are experiencing a different dynamic: Dolls and minifigures are traded out for makeup, lego sets for iPhones, and science experiments and art kits for designer clothing. While the items kids desired previously encouraged free play and in-person connectivity, the items kids purchase nowadays lack that adolescent whimsy.

This issue is also rooted in how fast Lawrentians seem to want to grow up. The vocabulary that pervades every aspect of student life subconsciously and eerily parallels what one might hear at a corporate company (note, a place for adults)—

e.g. the positive connotation a Lawrentian and other students associate with productivity, time management, investing time into relationships, the hustle, getting on the grind, and work. Influenced by marketing, online trends set by an older audience, and stories that celebrate the success of youth (think Forbes 30 under 30 and other similar strategies), teens across the board seem more preoccupied with work and becoming career-oriented at a younger age. The endless cycles of work and goals students always seem to get caught up in share the base factor of expecting results. We do homework and attend extracurriculars in hopes of furthering our own goals as academics. We buy products and invest in material goods to fit in with a trend. Yet we rarely simply have hobbies and people simply for the joy of it. We rarely just play.

A simple solution may exist to this bleak situation. Rather than focusing on objects for validation and growing up as a race to the finish line, it is the very moments of spontaneous interaction that cultivate pure joy. We can turn to nostalgia, remembering tag, hide-and-seek, hopscotch, four square, and gaga ball. Simply any act of general reciprocity (giving to someone without the expectation of return) might do. By connecting in shared spaces such as public libraries, cafés, and places conducive to community building, we engage in small forms of everyday play. A simple snow day, when Lawrentians can gather in the outdoors as a third place, might be a good place to start.

This editorial represents the majority view of The Lawrence, Vol. CXLIII

Completion over Caring How Our Homework System Fails Us

MICHAEL MENG '26
OPINIONS ASSOCIATE

Last night, I checked Canvas to see my math homework and got excited when I saw that we only had six problems to do for the night. Flipping to the page on my Calculus textbook, my feelings shifted from joy to despair when I realized each problem consisted of an "a" to "f" part, and I realized there was no way I was finishing my homework by the end of study hall. After the 55-minute limit, my sole goal became finding each problem's answer and explanation on Quizlet so I could finally move on. Lawrenceville's current homework system determines daily workloads based on the level of the class, ranging from two to five hours each night. Although homework has its benefits, the unrelenting nature of mandatory nightly assignments actively harms students by encouraging and rewarding ineffective and unenjoyable learning habits from the very beginning of one's time at Lawrenceville.

Lawrentians, feeling pressured to finish their homework even though teachers tell them to stop at a specific time limit, see

their workload as a checklist to finish and not an opportunity for learning—a problem as deep as our academic culture itself. I can not count how many days I've checked Canvas to try and distribute my time efficiently, and as a result, focused on completion rather than growth. Beyond just homework, the high standards that some teachers hold make it uniquely difficult to invest appropriate time to understand the material. Even in classes capped at 55 minutes of homework per night, students will often work well past an hour to gain a strong grasp of the material. Teachers, assuming their

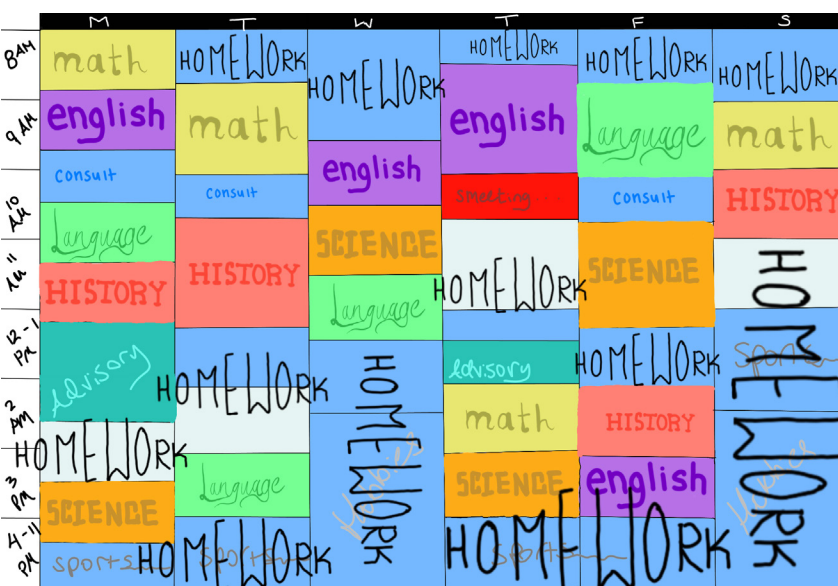
students finished the homework in the expected 55 minutes, continue to give similar workloads for future assignments, perpet-

uating demanding work cycles. The situation will worsen next school year, as three extended classes per day would exacerbate homework issues, encouraging students to scurry to finish longer assignments in the same amount of time. The current school system ac-

tively harms students' learning, by prioritizing completing tasks over enjoying and engaging with material—our current system

normalizes the need for students to always play catch-up by teaching themselves without proper feedback; of course, Consultation provides an outlet for students to ask questions and clarify concepts, but the limited time each day combined with the amount of students who arrive make it almost impossible for struggling students to catch up in a productive way. Without the "required" aspect of homework, students will be able to prioritize reflection over completion and focus

on understanding the material first before attempting further enrichment. The best solution would be the removal of the mandatory aspect of homework, instead offering tasks that students could complete and learn from outside of class. Even if some students end up falling behind, Lawrenceville is all about learning from mistakes and discovering the ways we learn best as individuals, which can be seen by the varied levels of effort it takes for different students to thrive in different classes. Instead of just feeding students a narrow path to success, the School should provide flexible resources to support a variety of futures. Homework's mandatory nature doesn't motivate kids to be less lazy; dropping mandates would promote intrinsic motivation for students to study, rather than an external incentive revolving around grades. After all, we're still just kids, and as we grow up, let's not forget that our learning should always be sprinkled with joy.



Free Speech Musings

TIFFANY SUN '26

The First Amendment and the extent to which it protects free speech has become increasingly relevant since the start of the Israel-Palestine war. Phrases like “From the River to the Sea, Palestine will be free” and “Between the Sea and Jordan there will only be Israeli sovereignty” are gaining momentum at American universities, sparking protest movements and even violence. Several prestigious universities across the country are under scrutiny because of the activities taking place on their campuses, and leaders of academic institutions are under extreme criticism and pressure due to their ambiguous stances on the morality of their students’ use of such phrases.

This raises the crucial question of what the first amendment actually justifies. While the First Amendment outlines clear legal boundaries for free speech, which act as a baseline for the entire country, colleges should facilitate a safe and accepting environment for discussion, and we should set stricter moral boundaries on our speech to support various communities.

According to the First Amendment, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment

of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.” However, the First Amendment has exceptions to the speech it protects: “obscenity, child pornography, defamation, fraud, incitement, fighting words, true threats, and speech integral to criminal conduct.” Throughout the Israel-Palestine conflict, for example, many of the comments from both sides encroached on the limits of free speech and even amounted to physical attacks—online threats at Cornell University; physical engagement at the University of Massachusetts; a hit-and-run at Stanford. Without question, speech and actions that fall outside of the First Amendment cannot be permitted.

Conversely, speech that does land within the scope of the First Amendment, regardless of which side it favors, should be permitted and even encouraged. These different and often clashing opinions allow our country to re-

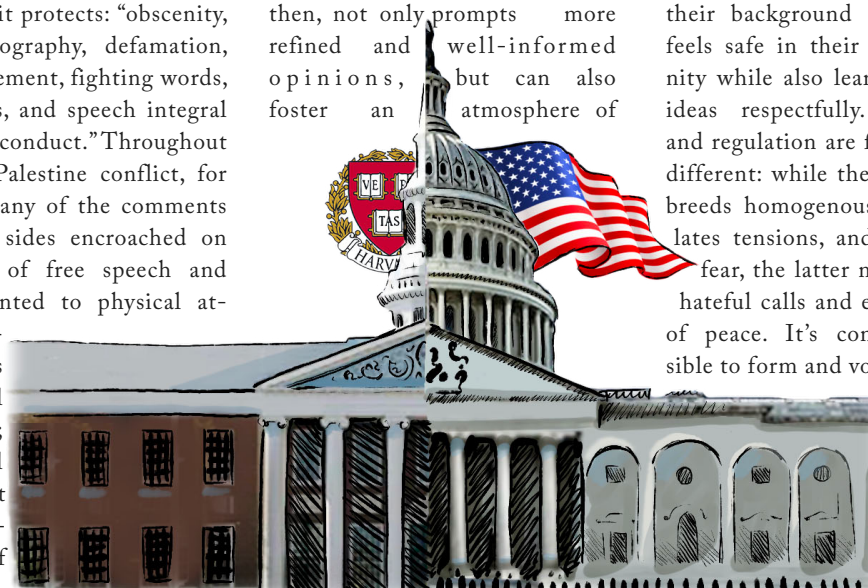
main free and diverse. Restricting free expression throttles the formation of different viewpoints and the chance for people to form nuanced opinions; most of all, it fuels even more resentment and hatred by stifling earnest discussion. Encouraging free speech, then, not only prompts more refined and well-informed opinions, but can also foster an atmosphere of

higher education is just a stage in this transition, and colleges serve as places for students to actively learn, grow, and make mistakes. Colleges should have stricter regulations about acceptable speech in place in order to ensure that each individual—regardless of their background and beliefs—feels safe in their own community while also learning to voice ideas respectfully. Suppression and regulation are fundamentally different: while the former often breeds homogenous views, escalates tensions, and even fosters fear, the latter merely muffles hateful calls and ensures a level of peace. It’s completely possible to form and voice polarizing views while maintaining a climate of respect and understanding.

For instance, Lawrenceville’s diverse student body brings a range of different beliefs and values to discussions. Recognizing the importance of such discussions, the School encourages students to voice their opinions and contribute to discussions through platforms like this publication. While *The Lawrence* reflects the contrasting viewpoints of stu-

dents, the majority of the student body remains relatively respectful, in large part because we recognize and respect the diversity of our world. This acknowledgment enables us to form and communicate our ideas while also appreciating and accepting other views. Indeed, a diversity of perspectives prompts more understanding and respect, and the suppression of those perspectives intensifies resentment.

On a final note, the law does not prohibit every form of harmful speech, even many extreme and terrifying ones. Yet, excessively violent as well as absolutely unfiltered speech provoke hatred and disunity within the public. This strife is the opposite of what the world needs, in times of peace and especially in times like these. While free speech is a fundamental and unique part of our country, and while the law may not in fact filter many hateful statements, we should make the effort to reflect on our words before we say them. Our generation is responsible for the future of our world, and we have the power to shape it as we desire. We need to contribute varying ideas and solutions to conflicts like the Israel-Palestine war, but at the same time, we carry the responsibility of making our world tolerant of everyone.



Sophie Yang '26 / THE LAWRENCE

understanding and respect. What should free speech look like on college campuses in particular, instead of America as a whole? Colleges represent one of the last transitions from childhood to adulthood, and some argue that they should thus reflect the “real world” that they will graduate students into. However,

Independence? Truth? Reason? Reflecting on Political Intrusion in Higher Education

SAMUEL WANG '26
OPINIONS ASSOCIATE

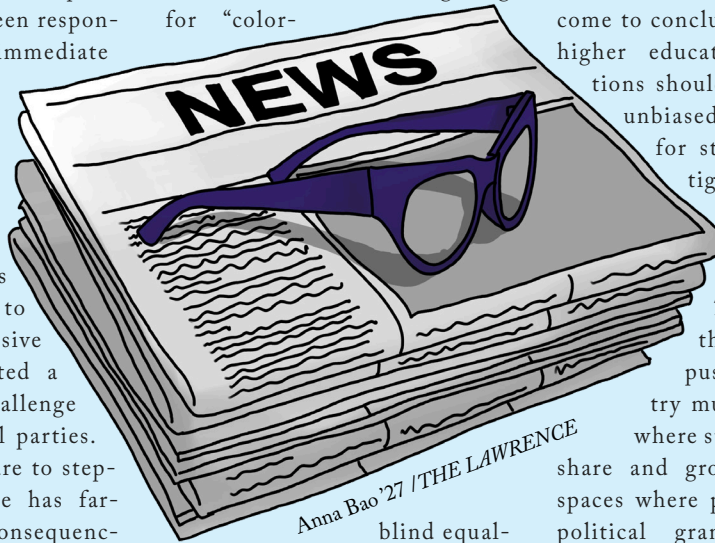
Claudine Gay’s recent resignation as the president of Harvard University was prompted by allegations of inadequate responses to antisemitism, accusations of plagiarism, and conservative efforts to undermine the presence of DEI (an acronym for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) in college administrations. Gay’s testimony on December 5, 2023, addressing her response to antisemitism on campus, sparked heated debate. Her response, deemed as poor and ineffective by the media, has showcased the difficulty in responding to sensitive issues and revealed a complex relationship between politics and American higher education institutions.

Gay’s resignation raises important questions about navigating the fine line between freedom of speech and upholding the values of higher education institutions amongst unpredictable and often harmful political and societal pressures. An intriguing aspect of Gay’s controversy was the focus on the word “context” during her testimony. Conservative commentators labeled her response to antisemitism as “poor and ineffective,” given Gay’s reluctance to acknowledge antisemitism as

a violation of Harvard’s “rules of bullying and harassment.” Her response raised questions on the boundaries between free speech and misconduct. On one hand, her reluctance to admit the violation insinuates the acceptance of hateful speech and tacit permission for genocide in one of the world’s most storied institutions. However, if she had acknowledged that such hateful speech violated Harvard’s policy, she would have been responsible for not taking immediate disciplinary action. In this dilemma, Gay is left with no choices besides responding evasively. To conclude, balancing societal pressures while attempting to foster a safe, inclusive environment presented a nearly impossible challenge for Gay to please all parties.

However, the failure to step up to this challenge has far-reaching political consequences. Many on the right have used Gay’s resignation to attack DEI in higher education and enervate liberal influences. As DEI became a well-known initiative recently, in favor of equalizing the representation of marginalized groups’ higher education, Gay, along with her Black and Lesbian identity, has likely been favored by this ideal. Many

conservatives are itching to take down this system that gives the left support from the historically marginalized demographic. As a result, Gay’s resignation, a toppling of DEI in a treasured American institution, means a proxy victory for the right. One conservative activist, Christopher Rufo announced, “This is the beginning of the end for DEI in America’s institutions,” and vowed to continue fighting for “color-



blind equality.” This statement underscores the ideological battle around DEI initiatives in education and reflects a broader movement that categorizes these initiatives as antagonistic to American society. The controversy that surrounds Gay reflects the increasingly polarized views on education throughout society.

Leaders of these institutions often become scapegoats for not making a satisfying decision, compelled to address controversial issues where any decision invites criticism. Both addressing and choosing not to address these controversial topics is a strenuous task. Yet, the actions that an administration allows can significantly influence students’ beliefs. Students, after all, are still learning how to come to conclusions. Therefore, higher education administrations should foster safe and unbiased environments for students to investigate the truth.

In Gay’s Opinion article in *The New York Times*, she noted that “College campuses in our country must remain places where students can learn, share and grow together, not spaces where proxy battles and political grandstanding take root.” Moreover, in the same writing, Gay poignantly said, “This was merely a single skirmish in a broader war to unravel public faith in pillars of American society.” As similar wars and conflicts unfold in the public eye, politics will be even more guided by the intention to disarm an opposing ideal and gain political attraction rather than

correctly addressing an issue—a trend which will lead to the public’s gradual distrust of the U.S. and its political ideologies.

Political forces seem willing to employ any necessary measures to accomplish their objectives, even at the cost of society. As one of the frontiers in a free society and a force responsible for educating the new generation, colleges often find themselves targeted by political movements. Yet, this political influence undermines their role as temples of independent thought. As Ryan D. Enos, a government professor at Harvard, puts it in the *Harvard Crimson*, “[Gay’s resignation]...represents an attack on the independence of universities [which] can be bullied for political reasons.”

The resignation of Claudine Gay is more than just a leadership change; it reflects the ongoing struggle in all higher education institutions to combat political activities. This event should be a reminder that universities must strive to remain temples of independent thought and resist the tide of political influence. We as a country should prioritize reasoning and upholding truth rather than jumping to conclusions in this politically divided world.

Ellie Dimatos '25 Helps Secure U.S. Hockey Win

ETHAN ZHU '26
NEWS ASSOCIATE

Ellie Dimatos '25 was recently selected to become a member of Team USA's Under 18 (U18) Women's Ice Hockey Team. Starting in March of 2023, Dimatos underwent a lengthy selection process spanning roughly eight months, in which she attended several selection camps—hockey camps to identify top players in a region—and beat out her competition. After many months of hard work, she received word of her admission to the national team in November of 2023.

Dimatos was thrilled to have the opportunity to play for the team, recalling that it has “been [her] dream since [she] was really young.” “It’s definitely an honor putting on that jersey,” Dimatos said. “I’m super humbled by it, and the fact that I’ve made it always gives me this surreal feeling.”

Having moved from the Tsai Field House rink to the international stage, Dimatos initially felt nervous about the transition until she got to know her teammates better. She was pleasantly



Photo of Ellie Dimatos '25
Ellie Dimatos '25 /THE LAWRENCE

surprised that the team was “super fun and closely connected.” “The team was like a puzzle, with us as the puzzle pieces,” Dimatos said, “Obviously, everyone’s from completely different parts of the country, but when we came together, we were all just one group, and we all had one shared goal: to win.” United in their ambition, the team worked well together on the ice and secured the championship.

Last Sunday, January 14, Dimatos donned her jersey and represented the United States at the 2024 International Ice Hockey Federation Under 18 Women's World Championship in Zug, Switzerland, helping her team take home the gold medal against Czechia. “Again, being able to play for Team USA was just surreal,” she said. Dimatos noted that one highlight of her playing experience was playing alongside old friends whom she’s “known for a long time and grown up with.”

Thinking back on her past goals and looking forward to her future aspirations, Dimatos was proud to highlight that she had already accomplished half of her bucket list: “One hope I had was to play in college, so committing to Princeton was something I got to check off this year, as was my hope to play on the U18 team.” Another one of Dimatos’ future goals is to “play on the senior national team” and eventually “represent the nation in the Olympics.” “That’s a huge goal of mine,” she said.

Reflecting on her path to victory, Dimatos credited her brother most. “He walked so I could run, and we’ve worked together on hockey our whole lives. If anyone, I definitely want to give all my thanks to my brother,” she concluded.

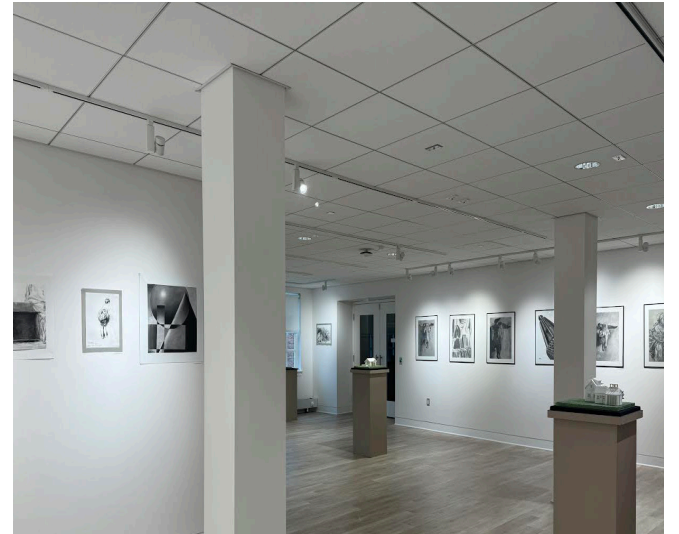
Introducing the Upcoming Hutchins Gallery Exhibit

SIENNA SOEMITRO '26

On January 26, the Hutchins Galleries will unveil a brand-new student showcase curated by Curator and Gallery Director Melina Guarino and Hutchins Galleries Student Representative Sofia Bonilla '24. The showcase will display the work of students from visual arts courses such as Advanced Studio and Ceramics as well as students in clubs like MUSE. From ceramics to prints, the gallery will be filled with a blend of carefully-selected pieces to create an exhibit for Lawrenceville students and faculty to enjoy.

Bonilla, the first Student Representative for the gallery since its opening in 2021, works closely with Guarino and Student Council Arts Representative Sofia Carlisi '24 to engage students in the gallery, curate exhibits, and keep the community updated on future events. During Bonilla’s III Form year, the gallery had recently opened and needed student input for an upcoming show. Bonilla mentioned to Visual Arts Teacher Stuart Robertson '11 H '18 that she was “interested in curatorship and working in the art industry without necessarily being an artist.” From there, Robertson introduced her to Guarino, and they have collaborated on events and exhibits since.

The gallery features a broad spectrum of pieces, and Bonilla’s focus is on creating “an element of cohesiveness” when curating.



Hutchins Gallery Student Exhibition Nicole Halucka '26 /THE LAWRENCE

At the same time, she emphasized the importance of highlighting all forms of artwork and visual art techniques; for example, she noted that the print she submitted from her Advanced Studio class was very different from some of the paintings that her peers in the same class have submitted. For the upcoming exhibit, she waited to receive all the submissions before carefully selecting each piece to be showcased so that the drawings, paintings, and ceramic works among others work well together. “These showcases are always great because there are a lot of students who show up to support their friends,” Bonilla said.

With this being her last year at Lawrenceville, Bonilla has big plans for the gallery, as her goal is for “more people to get involved and have an input and share their insights.” As the

first Hutchins Galleries Student Representative, she is not always sure of what to expect but recalls how the 2022-23 Vice President of Arts Stephanie Xu '23 was amazed to see the 2023 Fall Term showcase upon her return to campus. Bonilla is optimistic about the future of the Hutchins Galleries and hopes that students inspired by her experience will step up and take her place. “In the future, I want to come back to [Lawrenceville] and see how [the arts] have changed and are being promoted differently,” Bonilla said.

The upcoming student showcase will stay open for a month and serve as a testament to the exceptional talent of Lawrenceville artists. Visitors can expect a blend of pieces in different art styles and forms. Next time you pass by the Hutchins Galleries, stop by to appreciate the talents of the visual arts community at Lawrenceville!

Sustainuary: A Month of Trashion Show and Recycling Contests

ETHAN ZHU '26
NEWS ASSOCIATE

January marks the arrival of Sustainuary, a month that Lawrenceville’s Sustainability Council (SusCo) dedicates to promoting sustainable living on campus through a variety of events. For the past couple of months, Student Council Sustainability Representative Ian Lee '24 has worked closely with SusCo to plan several events as part of the Sustainuary initiative, including the Trashion Show, Open Mic Night, and the ongoing House recycling competition.

Lee explained that Sustainuary “incentivizes inter-house competition” and gives sustainability “a more dominant presence in everyone’s minds,” especially for those who aren’t as “consistent or participatory in sustainable practices.” Through these Sustainuary events, he aims to foster more sustainable

habits within the larger student body.

Among the events held by SusCo, the House recycling competition has been “the most popular,” Lee noted. The competition encouraged both individual students and Houses to submit photos of them being sustainable, whether it be through bringing reusable utensils to the Bathhouse or recycling plastic bottles. “We’ve been getting lots of responses from all the houses,” Lee said, “From there, we’re curious to see how taking pictures with healthy recycling may actually create long-term improvements in recycling quality across the Houses, long after the competition is over.”

SusCo House Representatives Subcommittee Vice President Anthony Sapp Guadarrama '25 echoed Lee’s sentiments. “So far, a lot of people have been

hyped and much more motivated about sustainability,” Guadarrama said, “The Trashion Show has made students a lot more aware of the trash they use.” His hope is for the recycling competition to “promote a habit of recycling” within the student body.

Guadarrama is excited for the events SusCo has planned for the rest of Sustainuary, including Valentine’s Day chocolates, Dinner in the Dark, a sustainable cooking workshop, and a Lawrenceville flea market event where Houses will compete for house points. “In previous years, [Sustainuary] was pretty small because we held events offering resources to people who were already interested in sustainability,” Guadarrama said, “This year, there’s a huge focus on making sustainability as interesting as possible so we can attract more students without

as much previous exposure.” By making events more appealing to the student body through adding more social aspects and giving more announcements, Guadarrama hopes students will practice sustainability without having to worry about “forcing” such activities into their packed schedules.

Likewise, SusCo Events Subcommittee Vice President Sophia Kohmann '24 noted that SusCo shifted their approach by providing “more fun and open events” to the campus community in an effort to “get more people engaged, whether they’re already into sustainability or not.” “This Saturday, we’ll be showing The Lorax in Abbott, for example, as opposed to a documentary,” Kohmann said, “Things like that are all to get people more engaged and let people be more interested in the issue.”

Looking ahead to the future, Kohmann shared one of her personal goals for the Lawrenceville community. “I think we’re really trying to get sustainability to a point where it’s completely integrated into our everyday lives,” she said. Reflecting on her previous years at Lawrenceville, she felt that sustainability has “come a long way” in “revamping the recycling program” and improving sustainability practices within the community.

Lee shares a similar goal, thinking back on how “exciting it’s been to see how far sustainability had grown over the course of [his] four years at Lawrenceville.” “One thing that I really enjoy about doing sustainability at Lawrenceville is how every year builds off the previous year, and I’m really keen to see how great it’ll be in the future,” Lee added.

Snow Lands on Top: The Revival of *The Hunger Games*

SAHANA LÖWY '26

Before the Mockingjay soared and the districts rebelled, there was a prelude—a ballad that danced on the precipice of chaos. Let's talk about the newest edition of *The Hunger Games* franchise, *The Ballad of Song Birds and Snakes*. First released in 2008, Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games* is one of the most popular young adult series of the 21st century. A prequel to the series, *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* is set 64 years earlier than the originals and revolves around the series' main antagonist, President Coriolanus Snow.

The plot follows Coriolanus'

mentorship of District 12's Lucy Gray Baird in the 10th Hunger Games. As one of 24 academy students mentoring tributes, children chosen to represent their districts in the Hunger Games, Coriolanus aims for the Plinth Prize scholarship to redeem the Snow family name. Assigned to Lucy Gray, he follows the Head Game Maker, Dr. Gaul's advice to entertain viewers, earning Lucy Gray's trust and proposing a sponsorship scheme to help her succeed.

Rebel bombs during the Games lead to some mentors' deaths, but Lucy Gray survives with Coriolanus'

help, becoming the winner of the 10th Hunger Games. However, Casca Highbottom, dean of the prestigious Academy and creator of *The Hunger Games*, sentences Coriolanus to Peacekeeper service after learning of Snow's scheming to help Lucy Gray win. Bribing an officer, Coriolanus transfers to District 12, joined by his friend Sejanus Plinth. After reuniting with Lucy Gray, Coriolanus becomes paranoid and attempts to kill her. Unable to find her body, he returns to the Capitol, where Gaul enrolls him in university, and Coriolanus rises to power by killing Dean Highbottom. One of the film's most significant weaknesses is its depiction of Coriolanus Snow. A crucial element of the book is Coriolanus' inner monologue, as it highlights his two-faced, self-serving, and controlling qualities despite his charming, intelligent, and sincere appearance to the outside world. His inner monologue makes it clear that he only helps Lucy Gray or Sejanus in order to get ahead. His written character also has no integrity and is willing to do whatever is in his best interests, which was not translated on screen. I understand why that sort of narration would be challenging to include in a film, but as a result, Coriolanus does not come across as complex of a character as he could have been. While viewers can see Snow's ambitious nature throughout the film, we don't have a complete understanding of the motivations behind them, and at times, he even comes across as genuinely magnanimous instead of conniving.

Another lacking aspect of the film is the depiction of the entire Snow family, as it does not properly show their fall from grace. In part, this is due to costuming. They are supposed to be virtually penniless, with Coriolanus doing his best to hide the fact from the world out of embarrassment and pride. The shirt Coriolanus wears at the beginning of the film is meant to be one of his father's, implying that it is behind the times, but Coriolanus blends in seamlessly with his more wealthy classmates. A tall collar would have made it clear that Coriolanus' outfits were not fashionable silhouettes and would also have created a greater contrast to his fashionable outfit at the end of the film. Dean Highbottom's dig at his too-tight shoes is an absolutely humiliating moment for Coriolanus, but it's another instance where we are told of his status, not shown.

Tigress also wears numerous flamboyant outfits that don't feel remotely like what a struggling family would wear, especially considering the book specifically tells us that they sold their nicer things to survive the war. It would have made sense to see clothes that felt more homemade and cobbled together, like knits or patchwork on Tigress, a fashion designer. Instead, she is constantly wearing silks, lace, and velvet with ornate trim materials that are historically considered expensive.

However, the film did a great job of showing the progression of her and Coriolanus' relationship. Tigress' saying that he looks just like his father as a way of making it clear that

she is now aware of his cruelty and heartlessness is an excellent setup for her eventual disdain of Coriolanus in the main timeline.

Another costuming choice that served the film well was that of the outrageous Dr. Volumina Gaul. As the Head Game Maker and the person who first implemented the games, she is portrayed as a mustache-twirling villain in the movie. Director Francis Lawrence described her as "a creative person with a very sinister underpinning, so there's a lot of color in her wardrobe and in her hair and also in her creation." Not only did Dr. Gaul's costuming stand out, but it also clearly marked her as the kind of kooky villainous character that she was. Dr. Gaul enforced extreme punishments and had volatile reactions, so of course, there was an intention to showcase that. Her costumes incorporated over-the-top elements in terms of silhouettes as well as in color, pattern, and texture. For instance, Dr. Gaul wore a very upright and stiff pleated collar, an accessory worn throughout the Renaissance, but it also has a bit of an evil clown-like look about it.

Although *The Ballad of Song Birds and Snakes* is an enjoyable movie in and of itself, it could have done a better job of characterizing Coriolanus Snow in a way that was both more faithful to the book and set up his ruthlessness for the rest of the franchise. Visually, the costume choices created a believable dystopian world, but more focus on the Snow family could have brought the film to the next level. However, I did enjoy the movie and recommend it to any fans of the franchise.



Mockingjay Pin from *The Hunger Games*

Courtesy of Raw Pixel

A History of Fashion

MELINA KYRIAKOPOULOS '27
ARTS ASSOCIATE

Ruffles, tutus, and bows are nothing new to my wardrobe. I have always been a fashion enthusiast at heart, as reflected in my toddler photos and old couture sketches. Since my childhood, my style has been an art form, a controllable, independent variable, and an emotional outlet I play with day-to-day. Even before I knew what I was doing, fashion was a large part of who I was.

Cue the cardigan massacre of 2018. No knitwear of such build was safe from the hand-me-down trash bag, despite my mother's desperate cries to stop the rampage. I hated the itchy wools, the buttons that were always too small and stiff for my squat fingers to maneuver, and most of all, the fitted sleeves. How dare a tube of woven yarn try and constrict the movement of my arms! At the ripe age of eight, I formed one of my first fashion rules (and one of the only ones that has stuck): no overly tight outerwear.

This event was only the first in a series of fashion transformations. It was a turning point, some may say, from my life as an obedient garment-wearer to a budding, independent fashionista. Another core moment in my journey with clothing was when I made my first emotional fashion decision: death to pink! I wanted to feel tough, strong, powerful, and less girly. I'm a big girl now. Pink is for babies. Maybe this rash choice also

came from the trend of seeing less and less pink on my classmates as they, too, wanted to act above their ages of nine and 10 in a way that seemed socially sensible. So, I boycotted every pink shirt, dress, necklace, bow, and object. As a changed lady, I felt proud of my actions and wore my tie-dye shirts with passion (and without pink).

Then, the world shut down, I hopped onto the world of social media, and everything changed. I like to call them my dark yet transformable years. I protested against any fashion advice from my family members—possibly the reason why this period of fashion remains my most chaotic—but also built my own love for the world of pleated linen skirts and floral print dresses. I spent hours on Pinterest surfing hundreds of outfits I liked while pinning my favorites to "2021 Fall Fashion." To my amazement, I saw a whole world outside of the styles I had known my whole life: jeans do not only have to be skin-tight, but they can also be loose, entirely too high-waisted, or even have a little flare at the bottom! How innovative! Shoes can be big and chunky, hats can have animal faces crocheted onto them, and sweaters can be pastel-colored! In fact, sweaters do not need sleeves at all!

The sweater vest season, the most distinctive fashion era of them all for me, defined my new love for knit vests. When pulling my herringbone print sweater vest over my shirt or half-tucking my light blue variation into my skirt, I felt a jolt of confidence and stylishness. Any insecurity, whether

physical or social, would fizzle out and diffuse into the beige and black and blue threads of my vest. School was my runway, and I was the opening act. I was the Rachel Green of the friend group: classy with a sense of style. There were many other mini-phases in between then and now, ranging from bucket hats and certain visually challenging sweaters to neon pencil

were top notch now plunge below the line of painful to observe, but I would not be where I am today, with my fashion house reads and Vogue's best shoe books without this period of experimentation.

Today, I decorate myself in an array of different fun skirts, dresses, and denims. I like how classy trousers can look and how a complex sleeve can

the colors which some of my favorite garments are dyed. Realizing that I can love pink and frills and also like less feminine outfits has probably been my largest area of fashion-related growth. I take inspiration from small boutiques in the villages I visit over the summer and enjoy surfing through the latest runway shows when I can. Not to mention, Pinterest remains my most used social media platform, for better or for worse.

Some would say I really like clothes. Looking back on my past outfits, some are more... presentable than others. But not everything I wear these days incorporates every ounce of thought, effort, and emotion I contain, though I do try. Fashion revolves around making yourself feel good. A simple sweatshirt and leggings outfit carries the same validity as throwing on a delicate babydoll top paired with a blue-striped, eyelet-lace layered skirt and your polo sweater if the former will make you feel your best at the moment. Learning which clothes make me feel excited and confident took time, and my criteria for what makes me feel my best might change (Exhibit A: the pink purge to Barbie-level adoration with the color). The plain joy and confidence that fashion has brought me keeps me coming back for more, not to mention the excitement of seeing how I can incorporate parts of my current interests into the fabrics I am adorned with. I should probably still clean out the "Clothes" section of Safari on my phone, though.



Melina Kyriakopoulos '27/THE LAWRENCE

skirts, cow print bags, and jeans with bleach-drawn swirls. Even a pre-pandemic, very oversized Sky Zone Glow shirt was thrown into the mix, along with much, much more. Fast forward a bit, and I do have to admit that many of the outfits I thought

complete an otherwise basic outfit. I enjoy ornate tops, light and beachy pajama bottoms, elegant boots that reach my knees and fit perfectly, and statement jewelry, especially with meaning behind them. Navy and baby blue, cream and white, and pink are

To Snow or Not to Snow

HELEN CHANG '26

Winter Term at Lawrenceville tends to feel like a hectic and overloaded few months—often seeming to be a never-ending trickling stream of major assignments. When combined with early sunsets and sub-zero weather, the winter certainly does not help the mood on campus. That is, unless, first thing in the morning, you peer out of your window and promptly notice that everything outside is covered in a white blanket of powdery snow! For almost all students in Mercer County this week, this snow covering meant a snow day, an extra day off for binge-watching favorite television shows and catching up on some sleep, but for Lawrenceville students, there was no change to the regular day of class. Would a snow day have been a better option?

Disappointment was common for students across campus. Claire Jiang '24 remarked, “we have days off for severe weather, like in the instances of hurricanes, but I feel like it would be nice to have a day off for students to play and be kids again—there is just so much excitement in snow, when students and kids can go sledding and snow building. At the same time, I get why school was not canceled. It is probably because we have days set aside for other types of planning and events, but



Sunset photo of the Crescent

still, a snow day off would be great.”

History faculty member John Hughes also believes in the magic of a snow day. “Since we have not had measurable snow in over 700 days, there’s a magic to it and we should let kids be kids again, which is where the joy in it lies.”

On the other hand, other faculty, such as Science teacher Stephen Laubach P’23 disagree, explaining, “I’m from the upper midwest, so I’m used to a much higher threshold for school getting canceled. Also, since two-thirds of our student body are boarders, they are here at school, do not need to worry about transport to school, and the day students in my classes could cautiously get here.”

While Laubach took no issue with classes resuming, he did make use of

Arya Vishwakarma '25 / THE LAWRENCE

the snow day, “I was out in the snow a lot... I love it! I went sledding for a bit and went Nordic skiing over the weekend. I also took my students in my Honors Environmental Science class out for a snowball fight for the last ten minutes of class and took our other Lawrenceville students to Blue Mountain in Pennsylvania. I love snow, and this is one of the things that makes me sad about climate change. When I get to go out in the snow, it makes my Mondays get better.”

Yet, the proposed snow day brings up a perpetual issue within the school community: the division between day students and boarders. Should day students take the risk and drive on the icy roads to school simply because most of the student body are boarders? Maybe we will find out next year!



Carter House snowman

Courtesy of Carter House



Side of Memorial Hall during sunset

Garrett Heffern '24 / THE LAWRENCE

Starbucks: A Winter Wonderland

ANGEL XIN '25

Main Street has been covered by heavy coatings of snow for the past week—with possibly the highest local snowfall seen in the past two years. Yet, not even the surrounding 4-inch-high piles of snow could deter the students from their daily walk to Starbucks. In an attempt to make future trips worth it, Lawrentians and Starbucks employees share their winter drink recommendations.

While winter has its own merits, Risa Kato '26 prefers a drink that reminds her of summer. “The Paradise Drink,” Kato claimed, “is an icy drink that perfectly blends tropical flavors and creaminess.” She particularly enjoys the texture of dried pineapples standing out in the smooth, coconut milk consistency.

Similarly, Akhila Mantri '25 adores a cold winter drink as well. Mantri always orders an Iced Chai Latte with Strawberry Cold Foam. “The strawberry cold foam makes this drink as much about aesthetics as it is about the taste,” she elaborated, “the pink really compliments the

completely snow-white campus.”

Sydney Wang '25 on the other hand, prefers a warmer drink. She described a Hot White Chocolate as “a recipe for perfection” in the cold weather as it has never failed to “warm up [her] freezing hands as [she] walks out of Starbucks.” Likewise, Anastasia Fabian '26 talked about the importance of drinking a hot drink on a winter day. “I love my Peppermint Mocha hot,” she emphasized, “it’s so sugary that the drink feels like a dessert.” Fabian believes that this sweet, chocolatey treat acts like “medicine for the mind” after a day of exhausting school work.

The Starbucks employees also offered their profession” takes on winter drinks.

CJ, a Starbucks barista known for their sweet tooth, expressed their love for a “grande Chestnut Praline” on a snowy winter day. They explained that they “do not understand why [they] love the drink so much, but sugar can always elevate [their] day.” Lucas, also a Starbucks barista, agrees with CJ’s reasoning on sweet drinks but

prefers the Vanilla Iced Chai himself.

Starbucks offers far more than just drinks. Mina Kanburlar '24 is a strong advocate for the Pumpkin Loaf. “It creates this warm and fuzzy feeling that reminds me of autumn,” Kanburlar expanded, “And the balance between the sweetness and spices is amazing.”

All in all, Starbucks serves more as a social hub for students than a café, and students embark on their daily trips for many reasons apart from the drinks. From more conventional choices like a Pink Drink to more customized orders like the Vanilla Iced Chai Latte, Starbucks brings students joy

Top Recommendations

Paradise Drink
Risa Kato '26

Iced Chai Latte
Akhila Mantri '25

Peppermint Mocha
Anastasia Fabian '26

Hot White Chocolate
Sydney Wang '25

Vanilla Iced Chai
CJ



Winter Starbucks drink

Courtesy of Stock Snap

The Top Five Tips for Mastering Wok-Making

The wok station—an arena of Tsai where chefs of various abilities create sizzling symphonies of flavors and practice their culinary prowess dancing with the fiery stove, filling the air with fragrant spices and vibrant colors. Often, we students find ourselves captivated by the tantalizing aromas and vibrant dishes emerging from the pans around us. If you are ready to take your wok skills to the next level and create mouthwatering meals of art that rival those of professional chefs, you have come to the right place! The wok opens up a world of possibilities, allowing you to experiment with various ingredients and techniques. Here are five tips from our school's wok enthusiasts:

SAHANA LÖWY '26

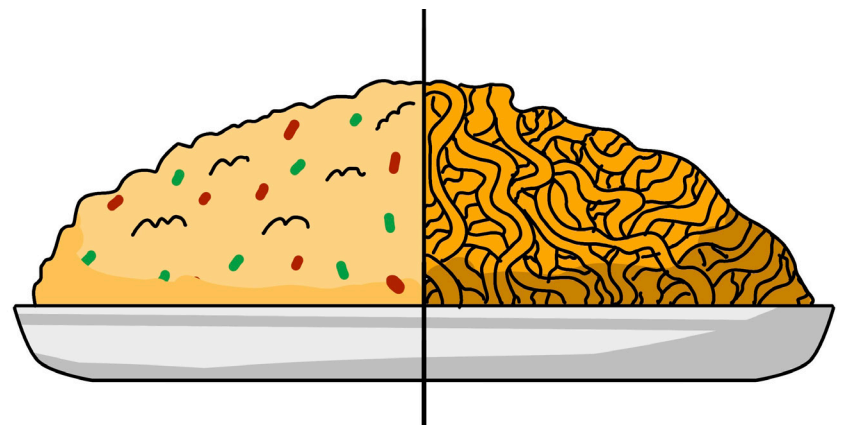
1. It all begins with the sautéing of your aromatics. Whether you choose garlic, onion, or any other combination, the one key ingredient is the stove's temperature. Make sure your flame is not too hot. And if you have not already, always adjust the heat from the burners below the cabinets. Burning your garlic is a rookie mistake that will leave Tsai smelling like the charred remains of an amateur chef's hopes and dreams. One regular wok chef, Martina Yanovich '26, says she likes to keep her heat between 7 to 8 and that anything over 10 is "way too hot!"

3. What fun would making wok be if we could not add our own little spin on an otherwise basic dish? Be innovative with your creations and do not be afraid to add a little something extra. Some Lawrentians like to visit other stations for their secret ingredients. Yanovich frequents the salad bar for the pop of green edamame beans and Arya Sreedhar '24 likes to add egg for some savouriness with an egg. Some scramble the egg on the side of the pan and others mix in the runny yolk for a hint of umami creaminess, but whatever your fancy, take a chance to dabble in different stations.

4. Of course, wok wouldn't be complete without the helping hand of a flavourful sauce. Be wise with your sauce, and we mean one singular sauce. As Angel Xin '26 says, "do not mix and match your sauces unless you want to lose the integrity of your palate." And most importantly, do not use too much sauce! The one thing all interviewees agreed on is that the worst kind of wok is a soupy one with far too much sauce and far too little time spent at the stove. We have all fallen victim to the deceptive nozzles of the sauce bottle and poured out a tad too much, but do not let impatience get the better of you. Give your wok some time so your noodles or rice can absorb all of the delicious flavor instead of turning into "an unappetizing soup" as Sreedhar puts it.

So, as you embark on your wok cooking adventures, armed with the secret tips and tricks shared in this article, remember that there is more to the wok station than just exceptional culinary skills. It is a place where camaraderie and respect flourish alongside the sizzling medleys of flavor. Grab your spatula, embrace your inner Gordon Ramsay, and let us wok and roll with skill, creativity, and a sprinkle of good manners!

2. The next step is adding toppings, a crucial element that brings depth and variety to your wok creation. Some prefer succulent chicken and others plant-based tofu, but what remains constant is a need for balance. Play around with flavors and textures; do not be afraid to try something new! As Yanovich says, "Simple is always best." Make sure you have a reasonable ratio of vegetables to rice or noodles without overcrowding your plate. One tip to avoid an overflowing plate is to use a bowl instead. After all, is there anything better than a steaming bowl of rice or noodles?



Anna Bao '27 / THE LAWRENCE

5. In the bustling, sizzling chaos of the wok station, amidst the symphony of flavors and culinary prowess, the unwritten rules of wok etiquette should not be forgotten. Picture this: you're in the midst of your wok wizardry, swirling sauces and tossing ingredients with finesse. But hold your spatulas, my friend, for there is a crucial ingredient missing from your recipe—politeness! Remember to be considerate of those around you. Avoid committing the cardinal sin of reaching over someone else's wok like a clumsy octopus on roller skates. Ask them to pass whatever you need and award others the same respect when they ask it of you. And while you're at it, let's keep things clean. No one wants to step into a space for wok creation only to find a surprise slip 'n' slide of sauce or a mountain of food debris left behind. Show some love to the cleaning crew and leave your station the way you found it.

The Luxury of Seniority

HELEN CHANG '26

Being a V Former comes with lots of freedom and new privileges. After being set free from stricter underformer rules, V Formers have less structure with later check-in, a V Form-only dining hall, and no required study hall. Younger students look forward to their senior year, giving current V Formers the pressure of being a good role model.

As a V Former, the role "comes with added trust and therefore added responsibility," Anabel Guerreiro explains. Through the lens of a Stephens House prefect, she tries "to be available and support the girls however and whenever [she] can...[and] also try to be engaged in the community." Although she is not in senior housing, she still stays connected with her class by spending time in the Abbott Dining Room.

Nichole Jin '24 agrees that the "main thing about being a senior that is different from other years is the newfound freedom." She thinks

that seniors rightfully deserve these privileges because "they've spent the last three years at the school building good habits into their daily routine." These habits can be seen in any V Former—even with no designated time to do homework, every V Former still seems to complete their work, and have leftover time for hanging out with friends. Even when juggling more tasks to complete, time management skills have been ingrained in them from their past years at Lawrenceville.

Thinking about her time as an underformer, Guerreiro realizes that she always looked up to the V Formers as role models, who set the tone for school culture. She tries to have an enthusiastic mentality while balancing healthy criticisms of the school's systems. In particular, people turn to seniors for "perspective on how Lawrenceville has changed over the past few years." The Class of 2024 specifically started their high school experience remotely, then gradually shifted to on-campus classes and



Upper House

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

activities. Being a senior in the Crescent has given her a different point of view to think about the needs of the House. Guerreiro has "experienced the entirety of the post-Covid Crescent and think[s] a lot about equity and interactions across [the] Crescent and Circle."

As a V Former, it is the final year as a Lawrenceville student. While feelings of future 'goodbyes' sink

in, Jin's mentality has changed to become more appreciative of her experience at Lawrenceville. She has become free from caring about small things that "used to matter more with [her], such as who was friends with who," because she wants to get to know everyone in her grade before she leaves. Jin shares that she thinks this mindset is the case for everyone in her grade—she feels that her grade

is a lot closer this year than in the past. She enjoys that in her growth through the years, she only focuses on the important things, rather than every little setback bothering her.

In the eyes of V Formers Guerreiro and Jin, the V Former life can be seen as more relaxed, but is only a reward for the hard work and due diligence they have spent in their previous years!

Associate Game Preview



Courtesy of Flickr

JV GIRLS PUCK V.S. HOLTON-ARMS

ELLIE DUFFY '26
SPORTS ASSOCIATE

Everyone on campus knows the Big Red Football and Lacrosse Teams, as well as other notable co-curricular participants like the Winter Dance Series performers. These teams deservedly garner high turnouts at their games, but other equally hard-working teams often go under the radar. One such team is Girls' Junior Varsity Ice Hockey or, as the players like to call it, Girls JV Puck. This team is like no other, filled with vivid energy, uncontrollable laughs, and plenty of hidden talent. Every practice, whether it's at 3:00 or 8:30 PM, the girls work hard through practice drills and work harder in games in hopes of winning. The team's talent has skyrocketed this year with the addition of many freshmen and sophomore newcomers

like Lillian Chiaravalloti '27, Allie Grice '26, Gerise Kelly '27, Alice Kim '26, and many more. One of the team's new forwards, Kendall Sorrentino '26, was asked about how she felt about the JV Ice Hockey team so far this season. Kendall shared that "[she] really loved how welcoming the team was, and it really made [her] experience trying a new sport so much better. The energy is unmatched." Along with the new additions, many veterans such as captains Taylor Hill '25, Ellie Turchetta '25, and Hayley Williard '25, along with seniors Maggie Blundin '24, Grace Osborne '24, Jackie Williams '24, Chloe Winograd '24, and anchoring the team next to their outstanding goalie, Kiah Smith '25. Lily Chinicarini '26, a sophomore who has played for two years, shared that "The team is like a community. Everyone treats each other like a big family and although ice hockey is not many of our main sports, we always

have lots of energy and fun in every game." Last year the team finished with a record of 5 wins, one loss, and one tie with their only loss coming against Academy of the New Church. So far this season, the team has won against Hill, lost against Academy of the New Church, suffered a very close loss against Princeton High School's Varsity team and a huge 10-1 win over Westfield. With a record of two wins and two losses, the JV Ice Hockey girls have a huge week of sports coming up with a game on Saturday, January 27, against the Holton Arms School at Tsai. Hopefully the Lawrenceville Girls Junior Varsity Ice Hockey team will secure a fiery victory and force Holton-Arms to bring a loss with them back to Maryland. Come to the Lawrenceville School Ice Rink in the Tsai Field House at 1:30 PM this Saturday to see an energized and fun Lawrenceville victory.

A Look Into this Year's Premier League Title Race

ANDREW ZHANG '26

With the Premier League season just past its halfway point, this year's title race is one of the closest in league history. Five main teams—Arsenal F.C., Aston Villa F.C., Liverpool F.C., Manchester City F.C., and Tottenham Hotspur F.C.—are in contention to lift the Premier League trophy. Let's break down each team and analyze how their odds stack up against each other.

As things currently stand, Liverpool sit atop the table with 48 points after a decisive 4-2 victory over Newcastle United F.C., as well as late winners against Crystal Palace F.C. and Fulham F.C. However, they have recently been struck by a multitude of injuries in addition to absences from some of their most critical players. Star winger Mohamed Salah is representing Egypt at the African Cup of Nations, and important midfielder Wataru Endo is heading off to represent Japan at the Asian Cup. These absences are significant blows to Liverpool's title chances. In addition, both Trent Alexander Arnold and Virgil Van Dijk—two of the best defenders in the league this year—have

also gone down with injuries that will likely keep them out for a few weeks. It will be interesting to see if this team can keep up their high-flying form without key members of the squad.

It shouldn't surprise anyone that defending champions Manchester City began the first half of the season in underwhelming fashion, as they were without sensational midfielder Kevin De Bruyne in addition to last season's top scorer Erling Haaland missing numerous games. Man City looked entirely out of the running for the top four a month ago, but "The Citizens" have since gone unbeaten in their past eight games. As of writing this, they most recently picked up a 3-2 victory against Newcastle, with De Bruyne providing a goal and assist to win his highly anticipated return game. City now look much more like the treble winners that they were last year. Any team coached by Pep Guardiola is certainly dangerous, and Man City look prime to start another one of their patented winning streaks in the second half of the season.

While other teams are making resurgences into the top, Arsenal have suffered setbacks in their title hopes, dropping from first to third place, five points behind league-leading Liverpool. A fallout like this has all Arsenal fans remembering their tragic collapse last season when they let their lead at the top of the table slip in the final game weeks.

Following three straight losses to Liverpool, Fulham, and West Ham, the gaping problems in this Arsenal side are evident. The opportunities to score are there—Arsenal are one of the most possession-dominant teams in the league—but the team lacks a proper striker. Gabriel Jesus is always injured and has only racked up three goals in 15 matches in the league this season. Manager Mikel Arteta recently commented on their slump by saying that Arsenal are the best at "everything" apart from producing goals. The playstyle and dominance is there, and Arsenal fans hope the goals will come with time. This past Saturday, it seemed that the Gunners finally found their footing after a dominant 5-0 triumph against Crystal Palace, sending a message to the rest of the league that the real Arsenal are back.

Aston Villa are, surprisingly, the dark horses of the year. After finishing seventh in the league last year, they are now sitting in fourth place, just five points off of Liverpool at the top. What manager Unai Emery has done for this club is nothing short of remarkable. Aston Villa are a very dynamic team led by English striker Ollie Watkins, who already has nine goals and eight assists this year in 21 appearances. Winger Leon Bailey and midfielders Douglas Luis and John McGinn have all stepped up this season. Along with many strategic



signings made in the summer transfer window including Moussa Diaby and Pau Torres, Aston Villa have formed one of the better attacking lines in the league. However, despite their hot form, they have no experience truly contending for titles. These next few weeks will determine if they are contenders or just temporary pretenders.

In addition, Arsenal's bitter North London rivals, Tottenham Hotspur, are still a threat if any of the top teams hit a slump. Manager Ange Postecoglou, who arrived at Tottenham after winning the Scottish League with Celtic F.C., has completed a massive squad overhaul and a complete positive change to the team's playstyle and identity. Spurs have been an injury-ravaged team ever since their 4-1 loss to Chelsea F.C. on November 6, 2023. Luckily for Spurs, it seems that this spell is ending, with Micky van de Ven, World Cup winner Cristian Romero, and James Maddison all set to make their long awaited returns, in hopes that Spurs can pick up where they left off at the beginning of the season: playing dynamic, attacking football with relentless pressure on the opposition. Postecoglou has done miracles on this Spurs side, and if they remain injury-free, they can certainly put pressure on the top teams.



Sonia Singhal '24 / THE LAWRENCE

Hutchins Gallery Picks

	Brinly Teeple '24 Co-head curator	Thalia Honorat '24 Good at layouts	Mimie Pinpakornkul '25 Human level	Sofia Bonilla '24 Co-head curator
				
favorite type of adhesive?	Blue tac I like that Ms. K calls it ticky tack	Blu-tac	Water	painters tape
what should we wear to compliment the artwork?	Charcoal grey (there's a lot of charcoal drawings)	All-white bodysuits. Don't disrespect the art. Become one with the walls.	The artwork	blues
what refreshment are you most looking forward to?	LEMONADE	Brownies!!! Will eat 7	The napkins, catullus 12 (iykyk)	Ice water
anything else that's funny?	[Redacted] u-turning away from me in the middle of the hallway	*Man skydiving emoji*	Im not typically a funny person, so im not sure what you want from me here	n/a