

April Dance Series: Dancing the Night Away



Photo of the April Dance Series

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

ANGEL XIN '26

The April Dance Series, which took place on April 26, featured performances from all of the dance groups on campus, including Suave, Tour De Force, the Lawrenceville Dance Team (LDT), the Lawrenceville Dance

Collective (LSDC), and others. Aside from the LSDC, the rest of the dance groups are primarily student-run, focusing on a variety of dance styles including lyrical and hip-hop. These dance troupes give Lawrenceville students the opportunity to explore dance and

hone their dance skills outside of their sport or co-curricular.

Isabella Danker '26, a member of LSDC, described the performance as both "exciting and nerve-wracking." She explained that, though there were some technical difficulties during her

performance, she still "danced to [her] fullest." For her, "adjusting for spacing was very difficult" due to the size of the stage relative to the studio, as this sizing difference requires dancers to be "more efficient with their footwork and larger in their steps." Through preparing for the April Dance Series, she was also able to form deeper bonds with the other dancers through their shared passion for dance. Danker noted that they rehearsed for "five hours a day during production week," and that she dances for approximately "three hours on a daily basis" excluding the time she practices at home. However, as she prepared for her duet performance, she felt that "time breezed through," as the "fun music, light movements, and ballet choreography" made the piece her favorite.

Christine Wu '25, a member of the hip-hop dance troupe LKrew, said that the preparation process was "more difficult than the performance itself." Since En Corps and other dance troupes are considered extracurriculars instead of co-curriculars, most members of these dance groups also participate in interscholastic sports. These scheduling conflicts forced many dancers

to drop out of the ensemble before the performance. "Everyone was so busy," Wu said, "That was why [LKrew] had to recruit three new members two weeks prior to the show." Fortunately, the three new members "picked up the choreography quickly." In the future, Wu hopes that the group can "expand its song variety while maintaining its signature elements."

Aside from her own performance, Wu also enjoyed the Tour De Force dance. Particularly, she enjoyed "the energy that [Tour De Force] brought to the stage," which was "fully transferred into the crowd." Reflecting on the preparation process and the performance, Wu was very grateful for this "fulfilling new experience," which increased her appreciation for and understanding of dance.

Robert Lee '26, who attended the Dance Series, said that "the music and performing arts came together to form a perfect symphony, conveyed by the fervent passion exuded by each and every dancer." Overall, the performance was an exciting culmination of the work of the talented dancers of Lawrenceville.

St. Baldrick's Day: Time for a New Haircut

MIA KINCADE '25

This past Saturday, on April 29, Lawrenceville hosted its eighth annual St. Baldrick's event in Dresdner Hall, where students signed up to have their heads shaved or hair cut in support of the St. Baldrick's Foundation, a non-profit supporting pediatric cancer research. Aside from the shaving, there were also various student performances at the event.

Student Council Community Service Representative Sara Chiang '23 explained that St. Baldrick's "started as a student initiative" and has since become an annual event. Even though it is only "one Saturday evening in our school year," Chiang thinks "it's really beautiful to see everyone come together as a community to support their friends and enjoy time together." Reflecting on the event, Chiang noted "how fun, talented, and generous our students at Lawrenceville are." To see Lawrenceville students and faculty participate so enthusiastically was "heart-warming" for Chiang.

Churan Xu '25, a performer



Photo of St. Baldrick's event

Helena Chen '24/THE LAWRENCE

at the event, found that "people were really engaged and really seemed to enjoy themselves at the event." Xu also noted that St. Baldrick's really highlighted Lawrenceville's "strong capacity to care for others outside the community as well as inside of our community."

Reflecting on her experience

at St. Baldrick's, Claire Jiang '24 said that she initially felt "some apprehension and nervousness about cutting eight inches of hair, but loved seeing the encouragement and positive affirmations from friends and faculty." For Jiang, the support of her peers eased the anxiety of cutting her hair.

Jiang noted that "there's something quite intimate about cutting and shaving your hair—it's a personal part of yourself that you're giving away," adding to her excitement for the event. Even though it was her first time participating, she noted that St. Baldrick's was "one of [her] favorite moments this term," be-

cause "not only did [she] get to contribute to an amazing cause, but [she] got to do so while celebrating with her friends and the community."

Aiden Mellon '23, who signed up to have his head shaved, said that St. Baldrick's "certainly made for a memorable, warm-spirited night, and brought out the more altruistic part of ourselves." "St. Baldrick's gives the Lawrenceville community a great way to come together and support a charitable cause," he said.

Mellon, Jiang, and Xu all brought up the appearance of a group of students from England, who were visiting in order to partake in one of Lawrenceville's lab programs. The British students contributed to the event by performing a song, which "added to the liveliness and intrigue of this year's St. Baldrick's," according to Mellon.

Overall, St. Baldrick's this year gave students the opportunity to come together, perform, and give back to the community by supporting pediatric cancer research.

The Big Red Farm

Ellie Turchetta '25 outlines the behind-the-scenes action at the Big Red Farm. From the new puppies, to lifetime farming, and much more, the Big Red Farm has a lot to offer.



Not Your Model

In light of AAPI history month, Michael Meng '26 discusses the detrimental effects of the Model Minority Myth.



The Premier League Season

From Chelsea's disappointing season to Manchester City's mid season resurgence, Andrew Zhang '26 goes over an action-packed period of the Premier League season.



Editorial

Tick-Tick Boom!?

Homework: everyone's favorite aspect of Lawrenceville student life. By this point in the academic year, every student has become accustomed to the grind of pushing through three to four subjects of work for the next day's classes. On the surface level, expectations for homework couldn't be any simpler: a teacher gives a set amount of work to be completed by the next class period, and the student is expected to complete said work. Based on the difficulty of the course, standardized time limits dictate how much homework a teacher can assign on any given night. 500-level courses, for example, have a limit of 55 minutes worth of homework each night. None of this information should be new to any student on campus. We as a student body understand this. What we often don't know is what to do when we surpass these time thresholds on homework assignments.

It's a situation nearly everyone on campus has experienced at some point. Your study hall doesn't start until 8:45 PM because you needed time to unwind after your sports practice, and instead of having your homework done at 10:00

PM, it starts to stretch into 11:00 PM, and then 11:30 PM, and then 12:30 AM, all because your English homework that should have taken 45 minutes took 85, and all of a sudden it is 1:00 AM and you still have a math problem set to deal with. But don't the time limits on homework exist to prevent these very scenarios in the first place? If homework is taking longer to complete than the time allotted for its completion, why don't students just stop working on it, regardless of whether it is complete or not? The seemingly easy decision between doing homework and not is complicated by the fact that a strong understanding of the previous night's assignments is baked into the fabric of most courses on campus. In many cases, students are expected to come into class ready to engage in deep discussions based on the material assigned the night before; some teachers even spend the full duration of class time reviewing the homework that was due that day. Students leaving portions of their homework unfinished are unable to fully participate in class, putting them at risk of falling behind in terms of understanding the course material and potentially jeopardizing grades when

test time hits or when essays are due. All of these negative consequences only incentivize students to surpass the existing homework time limits.

So while the choice to stop working on your homework once you've reached its allotted time limit exists, the plethora of negative consequences suggests that there ought to be better options out there, which again begs the question of "What should we do?" Communication between students and teachers is likely the best solution. While students may feel awkward admitting that they didn't finish all their work, communicating that last night's homework was unfinished makes the teacher aware and ask that an advisor could step in to relieve the pressure on the students. However, this solution does not necessarily prevent the problem from happening in the future, instead serving as a temporary fix to a larger problem. Perhaps we shouldn't be asking what to do when we go over the homework limit, but rather, why do we go over the homework limit in the first place?

When teachers assign homework for the night, their intention is to assign work that furthers students' understand-

ing that can be completed within the allotted time period. But when the assigned work ends up taking far too long, who is truly at fault? Should we students look at ourselves and our study habits as the reason why homework takes us so long? If homework is routinely taking too long to finish, then perhaps some changes have to be made to how we approach completing our assignments. Maybe the solution resides not with taking more time on homework, but instead trying to make the most of the time that we are already spending. When teachers assign 50 minutes of homework, they assume that all 50 minutes will be spent 100 percent focused on the assigned task. Perhaps we as students should limit outside distractions that hinder our ability to put our full attention into our work or try varying our approaches.

But should the responsibility to fix this issue fall squarely on our shoulders, or should our teachers reevaluate their expectations and lower the workload for each night? One of a teacher's most important jobs is to make sure their students have a good understanding of the course material. If the amount of work they assign is directly hindering their

student's ability to learn, then adjusting the workload makes sense. As alluded to earlier, the minute restrictions on homework assignments come under the unrealistic assumption that every minute students spend on homework is 100 percent dedicated to the assignment. This can lead to teachers overestimating how much work they can realistically fit into the time slot. It's a big stretch to ask students to apply the same amount of focus to the readings they complete every single night as they would when taking a test worth 20 percent of their total grade.

No matter what, homework is always going to be a vital part of Lawrenceville, and no one is asking for its removal. Conceptually, a time limit for homework is a very helpful rule that benefits students; however, students are routinely disregarding these time limits because teachers continue to overload their classes with coursework. Students and teachers must be on the same page regarding the balance between assigning reasonable amounts of homework and completing work in a timely manner.

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

When Lville Alumni talk, Students Listen

How Expanding Alumni Visits will Teach Current Students

ANGEL XIN '26

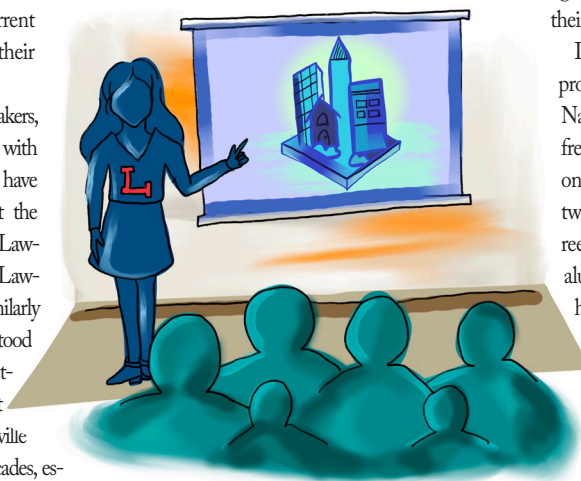
Lawrenceville prizes its alumni network. Alumni events occur Hong Kong, London, New York City, San Francisco, and many other cities worldwide. The alumni magazine, *The Lawrentian*, is published on a quarterly basis, informing the alumni community of changes at Lawrenceville in order to preserve a close relationship with graduates. From Broadway actors to renowned professors, many Lawrenceville alumni have thrived in their respective careers and can provide valuable insights to current students about their journey after Lawrenceville. Given the scale and prominence of Lawrenceville's alumni network, increasing the frequency and depth of alumni visits could better inform current Lawrenceville students about the transition to college and professional life.

Currently, Lawrenceville hosts alumni career panels and workshops to increase this student-alumni connection. At the career panels, alumni from similar career fields talk about their careers and journeys after Lawrenceville. Each career panel covers a different field, and with panels spanning from law and government to STEM, students can meet and listen to alumni involved with all their areas of interest. In addition to the

career panels, Lawrenceville hosts individual alumni workshops, in which returning alumni speak on subjects that interest them, aiming to give current Lawrentians exposure to topics outside of Lawrenceville's curriculum. For example, Constance Small '01 hosted a workshop on Financial Literacy, which taught current Lawrentians about organizing their own wealth.

Unlike other visiting speakers, alumni can empathize more with current students because alumni have borne similar struggles and felt the same desire to thrive within the Lawrenceville community as current Lawrentians. They lived through a similarly fast-paced schedule and understood what it was like to balance athletics, social life, and academics at the School. Although Lawrenceville has changed throughout the decades, especially after Covid-19, Lawrenceville students can still relate to visiting alumni. For example, listening to Kristen Rainey '97 (at School Meeting) address the importance of sleep resonated with me more than if another speaker, unfamiliar with the rigorous schedule and late studying nights of Lawrenceville, spoke on the

issue. Through acknowledging the lack of sleep she received during her time at Lawrenceville and the challenges she encountered trying to embrace the opportunities at Lawrenceville, her presentation felt more genuine and applicable to my life.



Gloria Yu '26 / THE LAWRENCE

For me, her presentation drew my attention because I was able to reflect deeply when listening to her words. I felt validated through our shared experiences. These speakers serve as role models and mentors for Lawrenceville

students still unsure of their futures. Furthermore, alumni can often create presentations that are more appealing to current Lawrentians. Alumni speakers sat in the same seats as current students: they understood what students were eager to hear, and they wanted to give back to the community that molded their characters.

In the future, Lawrenceville can still improve its new program of alumni speakers. Namely, the School should increase the frequency of alumni panels, and prioritize one-on-one, personal interactions between alumni and current students. Career panels could be expanded to gather alumni in their old Crescent and Circle houses to exchange conversations with current students, taking advantage of the School and house connections between both parties. In addition, Lawrenceville should host career panels on a monthly basis, rather than once per term; more frequent opportunities will strengthen the connection between the groups by not only introducing a more diverse group of alumni but also teaching students how to connect with professionals, easing the relationship between students and alumni. Furthermore, once-per-term

meetings can be difficult to attend. These panels usually take place between 6:00 PM and 7:00 PM on weekday evenings, often conflicting with other extracurricular activities like Orchestra and club commitments. More frequent career panels will give more students the chance to attend and will normalize alumni-student interactions. This change will ultimately allow more alumni to share their experiences, give students more information about life after Lawrenceville, and strengthen the Lawrenceville community.

Graduating from Lawrenceville marks only the beginning of students' careers. Alumni have already made this transition and have progressed in the professional world. Alumni represent a valuable resource; they can teach students the nuances of specific careers and the lifestyles they require. They can provide information not included in college recruitment emails or job descriptions. To utilize this resource, Lawrenceville must increase the amount of alumni exposure. From making career panels monthly events to opting for more frequent alumni speakers during the School Meeting, Lawrenceville will grow into a stronger community.



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 '86

Claire Jiang
Editor-in-Chief

Luke Park
Executive Editor

Helena Chen
Nichole Jin
News Editors

Garrett Heffern
Will O'Reilly
Opinions Editors

William Wang
Jackie Williams
Features Editors

Sofia Carlisi
Arts Editor

Bryan Boanoh
Sports Editor

Aki Li
Sabrina Ottaway
Copy Editors

Arisa Okamura
Web Editor

Sofia Bonilla
Media & Outreach Editor

Cindy Shum
Photo Editor

Emily Pan
Graphics Editor

Mrs. Elizabeth Buckles
Ms. Maggie Ray
Ms. Lisa Gillard
Faculty Advisors

Typesetting and layout of *The Lawrence* 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.

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.

Readers interested in subscribing to *The Lawrence* should contact the Editor-in-Chief at cjiang24@lawrenceville.org. Letters to the editor should be emailed to lvilllawrence@gmail.com. *The Lawrence* may be accessed online at www.thelawrence.lawrenceville.org. Readers who notice errors should contact the Executive Editor at lpark24@lawrenceville.org.

Not Your Model

The Negative Effects of the Model Minority Myth

MICHAEL MENG '26

The month of May marks Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, a time to celebrate the contributions of AAPI individuals throughout American history. It is important to understand the role of Asian Americans in shaping America into what it is today, and to acknowledge the hardships and discrimination they faced throughout our nation's history. AAPI individuals still face discrimination and stereotypes, the most prevalent being the Model Minority Myth (MMM). The myth is that Asian Americans achieve a higher degree of socioeconomic success than the average American. It characterizes Asians as smart, wealthy, hard-working, and independent. Many people even believe it as a compliment when someone makes a remark such as "Oh you definitely have an A+ in Precalculus BC", or "You're so Asian" when an Asian American achieves any success. The categorization of Asian Americans as hard-working machines has been overlooked

for decades because of the positive connotations of the stereotype. Although many believe that this stereotype can't cause any harm, the Model Minority Myth has many psychological impacts that drain the life out of Asian Americans and other minorities today.

The Model Minority Myth is internalized by those it affects, and as a result, ruins the mental health of many Asian Americans today. What the myth doesn't take into account is the result of not meeting its frame of success; the shaming ritual that comes after failing to demonstrate perfection happens not just with our peers and teachers, but with our family, too. Asian Americans who internalize this myth feel pressure to excel in all areas of their lives, from academics to relationships, and even career success, making their self-worth contingent on whether or not they can perform well enough in these areas. This leads to feelings of isolation and self-hate, as well as hesitation to seek help for mental health issues due to stigma and shame.

When I was younger, I took a test to skip a couple of grades in math and spent

my entire summer grinding out stacks of textbooks passed down from my brother. As expected by my parents, I passed the test, and felt a sense of relief knowing that I was finally validated



Emily Pan '24 / THE LAWRENCE

by my parents and the people around me, who would now call me smart, or ask me for help on their assignments. I started to create an unhealthy relationship with academic performance by attaching my self-worth to my academic achievements. As corny as it sounds, I was experiencing burnout, and I became the stereotypical Asian who com-

plained about "only getting a B+". For some time, I felt as if the achievements I earned didn't really matter, and as if all I could do was reach for something higher than what I had. I couldn't be content with my life until I finally recognized that I didn't need to conform to the stereotypes I was associated with. It is important to understand how seemingly positive stereotypes can be harmful, no matter the intent. With the rise of concerns over mental health at Lawrenceville, students and faculty alike need to reevaluate the norms we set for students, especially expectations that are dependent on a student's achievements.

Setting aside the impact of the myth on Asian Americans, the Model Minority Myth has also contributed to racial divide and anti-black sentiment in American society. By portraying Asian Americans as a "good minority" who achieve success through hard work, the myth implies that other minority groups, such as Black and Brown people are simply not working hard enough to achieve the same level of success. This false narrative ignores systemic barriers that other minorities face that contribute to their lower rates

of success. The stereotype of the good minority has pitted Asian Americans against other people of color, perpetuating a racial divide. It is important to acknowledge and challenge the Model Minority Myth in order to build solidarity across communities of color and work toward a more equitable society.

This isn't to say that you should beat yourself up over reinforcing the stereotype throughout your life. But rather, take this moment as a learning opportunity. We need to accept that Asians are not all the try-hard, straight A students they are stereotyped to be. Asian Americans are just like anyone else, meaning each of us is nothing at all like anyone else. We are all unique, good at some things, and terrible at others. This means that all of our experiences are different and we each have something new to offer to the table. Understanding Asian identity as a non-monolithic structure is necessary to foster inclusion. So although the myth may seem like a positive stereotype, the impacts it has on mental health and racial divides make it detrimental to our school community and the world.

Mifepristone Ruling: American Women's Temporary Win

AMELIA WELDON '25

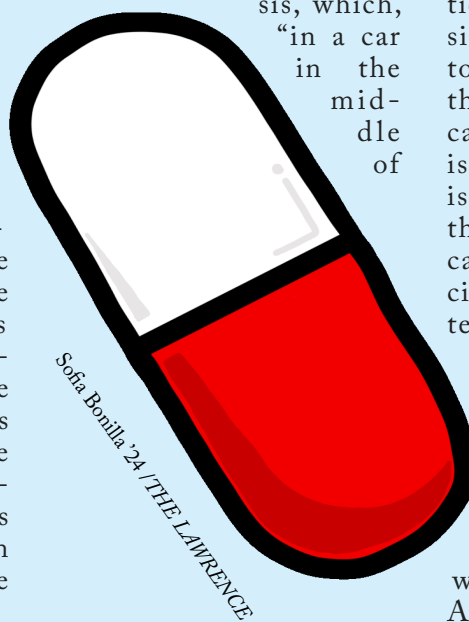
On Friday, May 2, the Supreme Court ruled that the abortion drug Mifepristone will remain available to the public. In light of the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, some challenged the legality of this medication, which can terminate pregnancies of up to 10 weeks. Currently, this pill is used for more than half of pregnancy terminations in the United States. While the Supreme Court ruled that Mifepristone will not be banned, this ruling is only temporary, and it is almost inevitable that the issue will be brought back to the Supreme Court in the future. Additionally, the pill is still extremely hard to obtain in the 13 states where abortion has been banned outright. Therefore, it is still relevant to discuss why it is crucial that the ruling doesn't get repealed going forward and why Mifepristone should be readily available in all states.

First, Mifepristone is a safe and effective way to terminate pregnancies. Not only is the pill cheap-

er than surgical abortion, but it also has fewer side effects. Abortion restrictions often result in a lack of proper medical care due to the vagueness of legislation surrounding it. Fears in the medical field concerning the legal consequences of administering abortion care can result in dangerous and life-threatening situations for women seeking to terminate their pregnancies. Physicians have expressed concerns that the wording of restrictive abortion laws make it difficult to determine when a mother's life is truly at risk and how imminent that risk must be before medical providers can take action. Thus, the availability of Mifepristone takes away the risks that come with women not being able to acquire surgical abortions.

For example, Amanda Eid is one of five women suing the state of Texas because she was unable to receive an abortion and was in a critical condition as a result. Eid went into labor only four months into her pregnancy and was still unable to get an abortion due to

her state's laws. Doctors said there was no chance Eid's child could survive, and that the nearest state where she could legally get an abortion was an eight-hour drive away. She later wrote in an online essay that she feared she would develop sepsis, which, "in a car in the middle of



the West Texas desert, or 30,000 feet above the ground, is a death sentence." According to Eid, the doctors would only feel "legally safe to terminate the pregnancy," once she had developed symptoms of sepsis, a life-threatening medical emergency. 12 hours af-

ter they terminated her pregnancy, doctors had to move her to the ICU, due to the immense toll sepsis took on Eid's health. While Eid did not plan to terminate her pregnancy, many women who want abortions in states like Texas, where abortion is banned, may face similar complications to Eid when in health-threatening scenarios. Because of cases like this, it is vital that Mifepristone is legal in all states so that women who want to can terminate pregnancies early and avoid potential health risks.

Banning Mifepristone would not only take away a relatively safe method of terminating pregnancies, but it would also disproportionately affect women of lower incomes. According to the BBC, women living under or around the poverty line are less likely to have health insurance, and are more likely to live in rural areas where access to abortion providers is limited. Banning Mifepristone will make it more difficult for these women to receive the help they

need. In addition, making reproductive health care less accessible will not stop these women from having abortions; women will still seek out abortions, even if they are illegal, resulting in unsafe, unregulated abortions without the presence of a doctor.

The Supreme Court's decision to uphold the legality of Mifepristone was a victory for abortion rights in America, but only a temporary one. More challenges to the pill's legality are likely to return to the Supreme Court, and Mifepristone still remains largely unavailable in the 13 states that banned abortion. This victory is not enough, as it only acts as a momentary repose. The U.S. must guarantee the right to Mifepristone for women in all states. In a time where it seems as though our nation is going backwards with its abortion policies, the right to accessible, non-surgical abortions must exist to ensure the safety and autonomy of all women.

Outside the Bubble Hunter Biden's Tax Evasion Allegation



Photo of Hunter Biden Courtesy of Reuters Institute Digital News Report

DOROTHY LEE '26

According to *The New York Times*, Hunter Biden's lawyers will meet with United States Department of Justice officials next week to discuss the ongoing investigation into his tax and business affairs. Specifically, there are four potential charges against Biden including misdemeanor tax violations and tax evasion. As Republicans see it, President Biden has profited from his position of

power through allowing his son to engage in these shady dealings. The meeting was requested by Biden's legal team for an update on the status of the investigation. The department officials include U.S. attorney David Weiss, who was appointed by former President Donald Trump and has been leading the investigation since 2018, and at least one senior career official from the Department.

Supreme Court Allows Abortion Pill to Stay



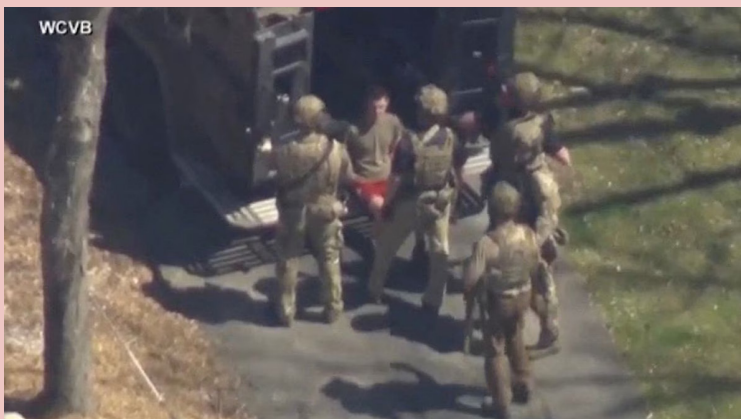
Protestors against the new law Courtesy of Wikipedia Commons

AILEEN RYU '25

Mifepristone is an abortion pill commonly used to terminate a pregnancy within the first 10 weeks. The Supreme Court of the United States has recently overturned a ruling made by Texas U.S. District Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk and allowed the pill to remain available across the country in the U.S. Kacsmaryk's ruling, made on April 7, repudiated the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) long standing approval

of Mifepristone. The ruling was heavily influenced by arguments made by anti-abortion groups as well as medical groups claiming that the pill was unsafe to use. Two of the nine Supreme Court Justices, however, expressed that they would have let Kacsmaryk's decision take effect. However, President Joe Biden and his administration support the FDA's approval of Mifepristone, viewing Kacsmaryk's policy as an attack on women's health.

Jack Teixeira's Arrest



Jack Teixeira being arrested Courtesy of Reuters Institute Digital News Report

DOROTHY LEE '26

On April 14, Jack Teixeira—a 21-year-old member of the Massachusetts National Guard—was called to federal court for the “retention and transmission of national defense information and willful retention of classified documents,” which have strained relations with American allies and brought attention to weaknesses in the Ukrainian military according to *The Washington Post*. He allegedly shared classified documents on a pri-

ivate Discord server, the information later being posted on a public social media platform and spreading rapidly online. The disclosure has raised diplomatic issues over the finding that U.S. intelligence has been spying on its allies in addition to just its adversaries. In an interview with *ABC News*, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin commented, “We take this very seriously and we will continue to investigate...until we find the source of this and the extent of it.”

Philadelphia Ballet and Big Red Dance: A New Partnership

DOROTHY LEE '26

On Thursday, May 27, the Philadelphia Ballet performed at the Kirby Arts Center (KAC) during School Meeting. Lyrical, Contemporary, and Jazz Dance Instructor Kristin Devine-Jones '10 described the performance as “a feast for the eyes and a treat for the heart.” She feels “grateful” for the partnership between Philadelphia Ballet and Big Red Dance.

Lawrenceville first reached out to the Philadelphia Ballet when Director of Dance Derrick Wilder and Carolyn C. Newsom GP '23, Attorney for the Philadelphia Ballet Board of Trustees, arranged a masterclass for student dancers during the 2021-22 school year. Newsom invited several Lawrentians to the company's rendition of “The Nutcracker” as well. Corinne Johnson '23, one of the attendees, felt “amazed” after watching the performance.

Seeing the Philadelphia Ballet dancers on the KAC stage “felt...surreal,” Johnson said, “I have danced on that same stage, and they really are such great people to look up to.” Devine-Jones also recalled being “inspired [by] the blood, sweat, and tears” of the dancers while watching

their “physical feats and artistic mastery.”

The day before their KAC performance, two students and an instructor from the Philadelphia Ballet visited the School for a joint class with Lawrenceville dancers in the dance co-curricular. “They beautifully performed minute and strenuous movements that one could quickly tire of,” Devine-Jones said. She also felt proud of the Lawrentians who “[rose] to the oc-

Johnson hopes that more classes like these can take place.

Devine-Jones's goal is for this partnership to simply “bring joy to the students and faculty.” In fact, bringing happiness to Lawrentians through dance is what motivated her to join Lawrenceville's performing arts program, first as a student, and later as a teacher. “My story parallels that of many teachers at Philadelphia Ballet, who want to share their passion for a



Philadelphia Ballet Performing at KAC Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

casation...and [dedicated] their full

selves to doing their absolute best”

in the class.

Johnson described the class as “nerve wracking but fun.” She explained that it was a refreshing opportunity different from typical ballet classes at Lawrenceville: “The guest teacher...had a lot of constructive criticism for us... We don't normally have eyes on us while we're dancing.” In the future,

vocation with tenacity and dedication,” she explained. Devine-Jones also praised “Lawrenceville's unbelievable resources that allow us to connect meaningfully with [the] community and our chosen passions.” She hopes that working with Philadelphia Ballet will provide Lawrenceville dancers with “an edge, experience, and exposure to professional dance” in a way unparalleled by most other schools.

Peyton Cosover: Lawrenceville's Football Captain

SIENNA MORA '25
CHARLES POTTER '25

Earlier this year, Peyton Cosover '23, quarterback for the Boys' Varsity Football Team, won the Delaware Valley Chapter of the National Football Foundation's Scholar-Athlete-Leader Award. The award commends excellence in football, citizenship, school leadership, and academic performance, and is given to one student from each high school in the area. Cosover said receiving this award was “incredibly special” to him because it is an “off-the-field award, as opposed to something on the field.” According to Cosover, receiving the honor is reflective of his dedication to “being a good person and a strong leader” in addition to being an accomplished athlete.

Cosover's football career began when he was just five-years-old in his hometown of Easton, Pennsylvania. He tried flag football and “fell in love” with the sport and has been playing it ever since. Entering as a new IV Former into the Hamill House in 2021, football gave him the opportunity to “make many great friends and meet sup-

portive coaches.” In the Fall of 2022, Cosover was made Captain of the Varsity Football Team, in addition to becoming a prefect in the Hamill House, two roles that have helped him “hone his leadership skills.” This past fall, Cosover led his team through a successful football season, triumphing over competitive rivals such as the Peddie School, the Hotchkiss School, Deerfield Academy, and the Hill School.

Lawrenceville football coach and French teacher Patrick Loughlin noted that Cosover was “a leader for this team all season.” “While I only had the opportunity to coach Peyton for one year, I knew right away that he was going to have a successful senior season due to this work ethic, his passion, and his knowledge of the game,” he said.

Loughlin found it was “no surprise” that Cosover received the



Photo of Peyton Cosover '23 Nicole Halucka '26 /THE LAWRENCE

Reflecting on his experience with football, Cosover said, “[football] added so many awesome and significant things in my life.” He is thankful for “all the awesome people” that have guided him on his journey, including “both teammates as well as coaches.”

award: “Not only is he a phenomenal football player, but also an outstanding student and young man.”

After graduation, Cosover will continue his football career at Lafayette College at the Division I level.

Supertrees: Singapore's Structures of Hope

ANASTASIA FABIAN '26

Like the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of the wonders of the ancient world, The Gardens by the Bay in Singapore are one of the wonders of the modern world and have become a distinct part of the Singapore skyline. The Gardens by the Bay is an amazing unique display of art, nature, and sustainability, using technologically advanced architecture and structures to create an artistic, aesthetic, yet sustainable solution to a familiar problem we all know: energy consumption.

As you walk into these beautiful gardens, the first thing you see are large tree-like structures towering above you. The Supertree Grove, is truly a sight to see. These Supertrees are so special because their structures are "inspired by mature trees in the rainforest" said Stephanie Dhillon, The Gardens By the Bay's Assistant Director. The Supertrees have a large array of planting panels that are installed in their "trunks," including "various species of bromeliads, orchids, ferns, and flowering climbers which thrive in Singapore's tropical climate," Dhillon continued. These trees are art, and when dusk falls, their amazing structures become

an immersive experience entitled "Garden Rhapsody." At night, thousands of small lights on the trees sparkle as music plays, and all you can do is look up in wonder. These structures look like they come from a different planet, and the aesthetically pleasing performance the Supertrees put on every night makes people from far and wide come to see this spectacle. Another amazing part of these Supertrees is you can take an artistically immersive elevator to the top of a Supertree, nearly 50 feet high. Then you can take a sky bridge to the other 10 for an unobstructed view of the Singaporean skyline below. Or, you can go up to the very top of the Supertree Observatory to sit and relax under the sun. These Supertree structures are artistically amazing, but few know that they also promote awareness of the effects of climate change and play a role in preserving the local climate.

These Supertrees bring awareness to climate change through augmented reality technology, displayed on panels in the Supertrees' observatory space. After taking the elevator up to the top of the garden, you can see panels that show the view below, but with an impactful message. These panels show how the well-loved and glamorous city of Singapore

would look after climate change has taken its toll. Images of the skyline below depict by natural disasters like rising sea levels, hurricanes, and

with solar photovoltaic systems that convert sunlight into energy. This energy then "provides lighting and aids water technology within the

keeps whole Garden cool and minimizes energy consumption. Kenneth Er hopes that people leave the garden with a sense of "how to



Singapore's Supertrees

Courtesy of Wikipedia Commons

tornados ripping apart the city. You can also see how increased climate temperatures would make Singapore uninhabitable. This shocking image will impact every viewer who visits, serving as a grave reminder that even the most beautiful places can be destroyed by climate change.

All 11 of the Supertrees in the Supertree Grove are fitted

conservatories below," according to Kenneth Er, a forest ecologist and chief operating officer of Gardens by the Bay. Er also stated that the Supertrees' unique shape harvests rainwater that is used for irrigation. The Supertrees also mitigate ambient temperatures by absorbing and dispersing heat, serving as air intake and exhaust towers. This mitigation

recreate nature's balance.

Let Singapore's Supertrees remind you that change is possible. You don't have to design miraculous Supertrees to help out our environment! Remember that every small step we take, from throwing our food in the right bin to using less electricity, makes our lives more sustainable.

Flickr!



Scan this code to access Lawrenceville's Flickr galleries, curated by School Photographer Paloma Torres. The galleries feature the latest photos from athletic competitions, campus events, and more. Download high-resolution images of yourself and your friends!



Courtesy of Flickr



Courtesy of Flickr

Art and Activism: Using Creativity to Drive Social Change

EMILY MENG '26

The great power art holds is that it can be understood universally. Throughout history, artists from all over the world have used their work to inspire social change by promoting equality and breaking down stigmas.

Faith Ringgold, an African American artist known best for her story quilts, promotes social equality, spreads the values of other minorities, and advocates for women and other oppressed groups. Ringgold's activism peaked during the 1960s, one of the world's most politically divided decades. During this time, America faced unprecedented protests against racism, war, and homophobia. Ringgold was one of many who fought for change, believing that "no other creative field is as closed to those who are not white and male as is the visual arts." She had to maintain a mindset that, as a black woman, she "could penetrate the art scene... without sacrificing one iota of [her] blackness or [her] femaleness or [her] humanity." Her story quilts told the history of African American life and promoted racial equality.

Additionally, as one of the founders of the Art Workers' Coalition, a group that pressured museums in New York City to effectuate

economic and political reforms, Ringgold demanded The Museum of Modern Arts, MOMA, include minority voices in its exhibitions.

The 13 demands of the Art Workers' Coalition ordered The

Museum of Modern Arts to create a section "under the direction of black artists devoted to showing the accomplishments of black artists." In these demands, she also encouraged the museum to extend its activities towards other minorities in order to "encourage exhibits with which these groups can identify." Along with the change she inspired through her story quilts and the coalition, Ringgold also led protests promoting justice, peace, and equality.

Keith Haring, another well-renowned artist, created street art that advocated for queer rights, especially for those with HIV. At the start of his career, Haring drew on blank advertising spaces in the train platforms of New York City. Using simple and clean figures with bold black outlines, Haring's artwork stood out starkly to passing New Yorkers. Even after receiving recognition, Haring continued to draw in subways and create murals for

low-income areas. He believed that art should be available to everyone, not just the wealthy. Despite his great success, Haring continued to believe that "art is for everyone" and opened a merchandise store with affordable prices. As someone who was diagnosed with HIV during a time when this diagnosis was severely stigmatized, Haring created many art pieces educating people about this illness.

He also founded the Keith Haring Foundation, which funds HIV research, charities, and education. As an advocate for queer rights, Haring opened up about his sexuality and created artwork advocating for safe sex.

Keith Haring and Faith Ringgold are some of the many artists promoting their political views through art. They both profoundly impacted the world and left a legacy that will be remembered for generations to come.



Anika Ponnambalam '25 / THE LAWRENCE

Prefect, Figure Skater, and House President: Caroline Park '23

DOROTHY LEE '26

As Caroline Park '23 experiences her Lawrenceville journey coming to a close, she recounts all the special moments throughout her time on campus as a Lawrentian. Looking ahead to another adventure in college, Park knows she will once again find the “tiny communities” (at Cornell University) that were so valuable during her time at Lawrenceville.

Park entered the Class of 2022 as a professional figure skater who was “looking for something new” and a place where she felt free to “grow and supported along the way.” Although Park enjoyed her II Form year, she “wasn’t immersed in Lawrenceville” as much as she hoped, due to frequent doctor’s appointments as a result of several skating injuries. Park eventually took a medical leave from Lawrenceville and returned a year later, joining the Class of 2023 as a III Former.

“[II form year] was tough because we had such heavy Covid-19 restrictions,” Park recalled. Because of Covid-19 restrictions, boarders were



Caroline Park '23

Courtesy of Caroline Park '23

prevented from visiting each other’s rooms, and day students were not allowed to enter Houses. Social distancing policies ensured that no two students or faculty would step within six feet of each other. Yet despite all of these obstacles, Park noted how “[her] House President, Delaney Musgrave

'22, did an amazing job at finding unconventional ways to foster a sense of community within our house.” Musgrave’s accomplishments inspired Park herself to run for House President of McClellan during her IV Form year. “It was definitely a lot to juggle,” Park admitted.

In addition to this new

responsibility, Park’s schedule now included more rigorous classes as she re-immersed herself in skating, which continued to cause her injuries, including several severe shoulder dislocations, and thus another year of surgeries.

However, Park recalls how “the people [around her]...really made [everything] possible.” With the support of her friends, teachers, and family, Park devoted herself to “completing a bunch of initiatives” as McClellan House President. She primarily focused on organizing bonding activities, such as cookie decorating and trivia games. “That whole emphasis that Lawrenceville places on the House System and community... [and] how we all work together to uplift each other and grow together—it’s something that I’ll always cherish,” Park explained.

With all the support Park has received throughout her time, she knew it was time for her to give back to the people around her during her V Form year. Park decided to undertake the role of Dawes Prefect, an experience that she said has been “really, really special.” She loves being a

role model for the Class of 2026, and someone the II Formers can trust and look up to. “I personally know how important my prefects were to me,” Park explained, “[prefecting] is like being a built-in big sister.” As a prefect, Park has given II Formers in Dawes advice on almost every aspect of Lawrenceville: academics, friendships, homesickness, time management, and mental well-being. She listened. She inspired. She cared. For many students, Park was one of the first people they talked to. No matter what their concerns were, she would direct her full attention to what they had to say. She was someone to trust, and someone who made every individual feel valued.

Although her time at Lawrenceville will soon come to a close, the legacy and imprint she has left on the girls in Dawes will not. As a prefect, a V Former, and a Lawrentian—Park hopes future classes will “flourish, succeed and keep growing,” while finding “moments where [students] are able to find joy with one another.”

The Tales to Tell About Splash

LILY LANZETTA '26

With the harrowing game of Splash still running strong nearly two weeks in, countless interesting stories filled with betrayal, vengeance, alliances, and ruthless competition have emerged. Yet for the average Lawrentian, these stories seem out of reach. How can someone get to the top of the leaderboard? How can they evade hunters lurking around campus? How do the select few splashers make it to the finals? It’s finally time to share the stories of Lawrenceville’s very best Splashers and their advice on the game.

Lilly Gessner '23, one of this year’s most dedicated splashers, committed the ultimate betrayal against her fellow Ropes Course Instructor (RCI) Emma Kim '23, who was reading RCI applications. As the doors locked after class hours, Kim asked Gessner to unlock the Kirby Math and Science Center’s door for her—this moment was when her betrayal began. Gessner fooled Kim by luring her away from the safe zone within five feet of a doorway, claiming that she could only open the door located on the science side of the KMSC. When Kim was about 15 feet away, Gessner moved in for the

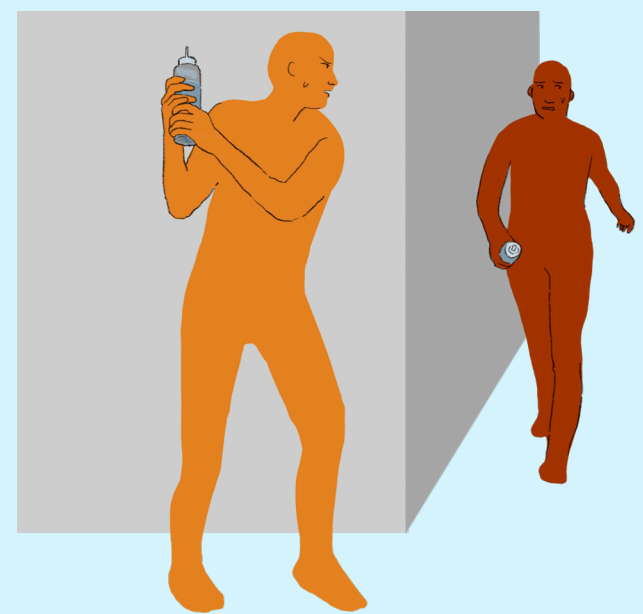
kill by distracting Kim before unleashing the unforgiving Splash bottle. Even the RCI’s unshakeable bond could not stand the test of Splash. Kim recalled, “it was horrible. Never did I ever think I would get betrayed in this manner.” Kim described the betrayal as a “cruel, merciless execution as Lilly used the guise of kindness and abused [the] RCI bond.” Without the time to even process what was happening, Kim had been eliminated and Gessner moved up on the leaderboard.

Taunted and mocked at the Tsai Mezzanine by her hunter, Will Bennett '23, Emily Kumar '26 has had a troublesome time navigating her daily life whilst surviving in Splash. Kumar’s hunter staked out her location during lunch, shouting her name while consolidating his plan. Later that same day, her hunter was found outside of the Dawes House sitting in an Adirondack chair waiting for his chance to pounce. Kumar explained that she “was always watching [her] back and wasn’t really focused on splashing [her] person, more on getting away from her hunter.” Whether it was evading her hunter by taking the elevator down to the mail room to leave Tsai or having her friends exit the building

first when leaving class, Kumar realized that to truly beat a hunter you must always be one step ahead. The most crucial part for her was “[trying] to predict which routes he would take and which doors he would camp outside.” Still, with all of the precautions taken, Kumar was not able to survive. While “walking to English class after consultation, he rushed around the side of Pop where [she] couldn’t see him” and before she knew it, she had been splashed.

After his long run on the leaderboard, David Kwafo '25 is ready to share his mindset. He suggests taking a more conniving yet relaxed approach to the hunt. His first kill was filled with trickery and thoughtfulness. He saw his target walking in the middle of the Circle. Instead of chasing his target, Kwafo “pretended to chase one of [his target’s] friends and that’s when [he] splashed him.” Although modest, Kwafo has racked up an impressive amount of kills and is not yet ready to let the public know how he stays hidden in the shadows.

With over ten kills, Lucas Garcia '23 is a front-runner in this year’s game of Splash; he has annihilated the competition and has no plans to stop. But he didn’t start at the top. Garcia



Emily Pan '24 / THE LAWRENCE

admits that he “started off slow with three kills on the first day but then hit a running streak and now [he’s] in second place.” Garcia seems to have no concept of what an actual “slow start” is in Splash, but he has a good grasp on the winning strategies. To Garcia, “the key is connections and having friends in all grades who can call you when they see your target.” Splash is as good a time as any to get to know fellow students and form inner-circle connections in preparation for the 24-Hour round. Since many people shy away from chasing their target across campus,

Garcia affirms “you’ve got to be willing to run and have no shame in doing it.” However, he has more than just a gift card on the line, he has bragging rights. Garcia’s main competitor is Miki Takaoka '23, who is also his roommate. Garcia “just wants to beat Miki, who has been rubbing it in [Garcia’s] face that he’s number one and [Garcia is] number two on the leaderboard.”

As Garcia says, Splash is a time to “be shameless because it’s worth it.” With that thought, hold onto your Splash bottles and prepare for the epic showdown as finals draw near on May 6.

The Beauties of RCI-ing

MIA MASSERIO '25
CELINE FONG '25

As the current Ropes Course Instructors (RCIs) select their newest batch of members, eager students across campus aspire for a spot among the coveted student group. Every year, aspiring RCIs must complete submitting a two part application, first a written application, then participating in an in-person tryout at the Ropes Course. Despite the lengthy application process and demanding schedule of an RCI, as many as 60 Lawrentians applied this year. Why is the RCI position so desired, and why do the RCIs love their job so much?

When asked about the benefits and drawbacks of the role, one of the current RCIs Chelsea Lim '24 shared that the best parts were not only working with other dedicated students whilst learning essential life skills, but also engaging with the Lawrenceville community through programs such as II Form Orientation, where she was able to “watch the new, slightly nervous students learn to work with their peers.” Lim also explained that being an RCI is extremely rewarding, since she is able to watch “groups navigate through challenges together, which brings out their best sides.”



The 2022-23 RCI Cohort

Riley McKibben '25, another RCI on campus, gave some insight as to what goes into the application process. As a first-year RCI, she was extremely thrilled to help determine the upcoming group. McKibben believes this year's new cohort of RCIs to be especially

impressive and collaborative, with each member having their own interests and stories.

Lim explained that since the RCIs are some of the first people whom the incoming II Formers meet, RCIs must possess confidence and be approachable. She also touched on what she

Courtesy of *The Lawrenceville School*

believes is a unique quality which the whole group shares: “their ability to be completely engaged.” As the current RCIs consider the new group of applicants, they are looking for a variety of personalities and diverse perspectives. McKibben herself looks for “energy

and enthusiasm” in the new applicants and also emphasizes the importance of working well in groups. Similarly, Lim looks for students who have “respect for the program” and “a genuine sense of enthusiasm.” Lim was accepted to the program after her second time applying, and she explained how on her second try, she went in with more confidence and an “eager mindset.”

According to McKibben, being an RCI enables her to “contribute to something bigger than [herself]” and “work closely with [her] peers in a facilitation position.” McKibben also explained that each of the RCIs has their own special interests and qualities which make up a well-rounded group. Surprisingly, she actually fears climbing herself, but “facing her fears was a motivating factor during [her] application process,” allowing her to relate to nervous climbers and help others who feel uncomfortable with heights. Moreover, her favorite games have “silly names,” but entail underlying stories that make them fun and engaging, such as ‘yeehaw,’ ‘giant texas lizard egg,’ and ‘giant’s ring.’ Our RCIs are one of the most supportive groups on campus, and they are looking for students who embody these qualities too.

What Lies Behind the Tent of Puppies: A Look Into the Big Red Farm

ELLIE TUCHETTA '25

Every Discovery Day, Lawrenceville students run to the Bathhouse Cafe to see their favorite part of Lawrenceville: the animals from the Big Red Farm, whether it's lambs, baby pigs, or this year's fluffy puppies, the Big Red Farm is an appealing part of Lawrenceville that is unique. However, as Lawrentians, we often miss the chance to see the inner workings of the Big Red Farm, an important part of our community.

A few lucky members of the student body regularly interact with the farm—those who select Lifetime Farming as their athletic extracurricular. Riley McKibben '25, a member of Lifetime Farming, has particularly enjoyed her experience thus far. “A typical day includes gathering at the Bathhouse Cafe, our scenic walk there, and listening to what Ian Macdonald [the manager of the Big Red Farm] has planned for us that day,” McKibben recounts. “We’ve constructed fences, a dog house, and planted a bunch of different types of produce like snow peas and broccoli.”

The students who participate

in Lifetime Farming are not the only ones helping out at the Big Red Farm. Big Red Farm interns work over the summer with Director of Sustainability Stephen Laubach P'23, performing similar tasks as Lifetime Farming. “This year, we are adding harvesting eggs to the mix with our new laying hens,” Laubach notes. “Students also help with donating produce in the summer and fall to Share My Meals, a local nonprofit that picks up produce to bring it to families facing food emergencies in Mercer County.”

Perhaps the most intriguing aspect of the Big Red Farm is the animals. At Discovery Days, prospective and current students get a sneak peek of the baby animals, the newest members of the farm. What this event does not show, however, is all that happens behind the scenes.

Fertilizing the soil, for example, is an overlooked yet intensive process that the farm undergoes on a regular basis. The farm has a movable coop housing a whopping 300 chickens, allowing them to use the chicken manure to fertilize the soil. This process also gives chickens the nutrition they need to lay eggs. “We move the coop every few days so the

chicken manure doesn't get too concentrated,” Laubach explains. Whilst the puppies look cute, the farm has plans for them: “Eventually, the guard dogs will be with the chickens to protect them from predators, but right now as puppies, they're not yet ready for that.” As a part of Lifetime Farming, McKibben also has the opportunity to interact with the puppies on a daily basis. “I love to hang out with the dogs, especially when it gets hot out and I need a breather,” she says. McKibben is not the only one with a fondness for puppies. As a whole, Lawrentians love to see the puppies around campus, so Laubach always brings animals to Discovery Days. “People have such a natural affinity for baby animals and to have the puppies, pigs, and chickens brightens their day,” he expresses. “We could see everyone's faces light up as soon as they saw these animals and they wanted to stay to pet them.” Prospective families and students are often excited and eager to learn about the farm during Discovery Days.

The farm is the source of our farm-to-table dinners and a hallmark of sustainability at Lawrenceville. “Everyone



Big Red Farm Chicken Coop

Courtesy of *The Lawrenceville School*

should sign up for farming because we learn a lot and have fun while doing so!” To McKibben, “The sustainability aspect is crucial to the Big Red Farm, and it's incredible

to be a part of the farm-to-table process.” While the Big Red Farm might be a hidden part of the Lawrenceville campus, it showcases so much that deserves to be discovered.

GOING OVER THE RACE FOR THE PREMIER LEAGUE TITLE:

ANDREW ZHANG '26

As the Premier League season draws to a close on May 28, the drama and excitement have only continued to increase. Up-and-coming teams like Aston Villa F.C. and Newcastle United F.C. have surged to the top, while more prestigious teams such as Chelsea F.C. and Liverpool F.C. have unexpectedly struggled. The race for the Premier League's top spot has been one for the ages as Arsenal F.C. and Manchester City F.C. compete for the title. Throughout the season, Arsenal's young, dynamic team amassed 75 points through 33 games. Led by an exciting attack featuring big names like Bukayo Saka, Gabriel Martinelli, and Martin Ødegaard, it seemed as if no defense could withstand Arsenal's offense. Arsenal was even eight points ahead of last year's champions Manchester City at the top of the table. However, Arsenal's dominance faltered in April, opening the month with 2-2 draws to Liverpool and West Ham United F.C., followed by a shocking 3-3 tie to bottom-of-the-league Southampton F.C.

Manchester City capitalized on Arsenal's poor run and narrowed the gap at the top to just two points after cruising to a 4-1 victory against Arsenal at the Etihad Stadium this past Wednesday. City came into the game unbeaten since February 5, and they played up to par. This showdown exposed Arsenal's weaknesses and City's champion mentality. City, in addition to having many world-class players, are led by genius manager Pep Guardiola, who was able to tactically exploit the Gunners. Norwegian striker Erling Haaland scored his 33rd goal of the campaign against Arsenal, breaking the record for most goals in a

single season, while Belgian midfielder Kevin De Bruyne provided an assist as well as two goals, including a shot from outside the 18-yard box in the seventh minute. Haaland also supplied two assists, both to De Bruyne. Not once in this game did Arsenal show any signs of resistance; Manchester City dominated from start to finish.

Arsenal did not just lose to Manchester City on Wednesday night; they were left demoralized following the rout. The possibility that Arsenal's season might end in a Premier League title, their first since 2003-2004, took a massive hit, as they have not gotten a win in their past four games and are in desperate need of a turnaround. Now Manchester City have 73 points despite having played two fewer games than Arsenal, setting themselves up perfectly to take home their ninth Premier League trophy. If both City and Arsenal proceed to win all of their remaining games, then the Manchester-based side will ultimately be crowned champions.

Meanwhile, the race to secure Champions League football for next year has grown more intense. While Arsenal and Manchester City have likely secured the top two spots, the third and fourth place spot could be filled by several teams, including a surprising Newcastle United F.C. team (currently placed third), Manchester United (currently placed fourth), the inconsistent Tottenham Hotspur F.C., or an in-form Aston Villa.

On the other end of the table, Chelsea's fall from grace has shocked supporters. Chelsea, are on the brink of joining the likes of Southampton, Everton F.C., Leicester City F.C., and Nottingham Forest F.C. in an extremely close relegation battle.

Despite spending a combined € 6 0 0 million during the summer



Sonia Singhal '24 THE LAWRENCE

and winter transfer windows, Chelsea have greatly underperformed in the Premier League this season, dropping to twelfth place, only ten points above the relegation zone. "The Blues" are currently in a period of absolute turmoil after firing Head Coach Thomas Tuchel in September. Tuchel's replacement, Graham Potter, was a controversial appointment, and many questioned if he could live up to the job. 31 games and only 12 wins later, it was clear that he couldn't. Potter was fired on April 2, failing to last a full season in charge of Chelsea. Frank Lampard was made interim manager shortly after in what was another questionable appointment, and he has led Chelsea to five straight losses. Despite having many talented players, apparently no manager can get this Chelsea team to perform.

How will the final weeks of the Premier League season play out? Will we see Manchester City crowned champions again? Will Arsenal turn things around and win their first title in 20 years? How will inconsistent teams like Tottenham, Liverpool, and Chelsea finish their respective seasons? This year's Premier League is one like no other, featuring an intense title race, new up-and-coming teams, and disappointment of big club's subpar play, showing why the Premier League is one of the most exciting and jaw-dropping leagues in all of world football.

LARGE VS. SMALL MARKETS: FIXING THE POWER IMBALANCE

STANLEY DUFOUR '25

It's no secret that big-market teams in professional sports leagues tend to have an advantage over small-market teams, largely due to their ability to generate more revenue and to attract top players. This makes it difficult for small market teams to compete and succeed, as franchises in Utah or Wisconsin are forced year

after year to put their hopes in the draft, while teams based in New York or Los Angeles can afford to throw money at eager superstars when things don't work out. While it's unlikely that this inequality will ever fully be fixed, a lot has been done and can still be done to minimize market size as a major factor in team success.





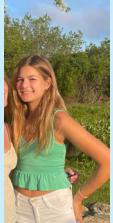
Outside of policy and rule changes enforced by league commissioners, small market teams can take internal approaches to focus on team building in an attempt to fix market equity. One tactic is to focus on building a strong team culture and emphasize the development of young players. By creating good team chemistry, small market teams can build a winning culture where each player fits in well and plays off of each other. In the past, such teams have proven successful over big market superteams where each player has their own agenda. Furthermore, strong team chemistry and player development allows small market teams to create a competitive environment that can attract top talent. For example, the San Antonio Spurs are a small market team that won five championships over a 15-year-span by emphasizing team cohesion and developing relatively unknown prospects like Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili, as well as hitting on top draft picks with the likes of Tim Duncan. In the same league, the Oklahoma City Thunder have also been successful in the past, drafting and developing players like Kevin Durant, Russell Westbrook, and James Harden, who all helped to create a winning culture that the team still takes pride in. Despite the inequality of the system, teams have taken advantage of the draft to bring in talent and compete without superstar signings. By investing in scouting and analytics, teams less open to spending can identify undervalued players and sign them to team-friendly contracts, helping them to compete without

breaking the bank.

In addition to internal team-specific approaches, leagues themselves can take steps to balance the power dynamics. One approach is revenue sharing, where the league collects money from teams and distributes it fairly. This makes monetary distribution more equitable across the league. Leagues can also implement a salary cap, which limits the total amount of money that teams can spend on player salaries. This ensures that bigger market teams cannot simply buy up all the best players, giving smaller market teams a chance to build a competitive team. Currently, associations like the MLB and NBA have soft salary caps, which allow them to spend over the limit as long as a tax is paid, allowing wealthy teams like the Yankees and the Warriors to spend freely. However, many other associations have already taken the initiative to implement hard salary caps. Furthermore, leagues can consider implementing a draft system that favors small market teams. For example, they can adopt a weighted lottery system that gives teams with the worst records the best chance of getting a top draft pick, which is already the case for the NBA and NHL. Sports leagues can also consider expanding revenue streams for smaller market teams, such as exploring new media partnerships, international expansion, or new merchandise sales.

While big market teams may have some advantages over small market teams, certain strategies can be employed to help the less commercial teams compete and succeed. By implementing strategies, such as revenue sharing, salary caps, draft reform, and creating more revenue streams league commissioners can help ensure that all teams have a fair chance to compete and succeed. Professional leagues need to continue to be proactive in addressing this issue to maintain a competitive and equitable environment for all teams.

Kirby Music Festival Picks!

	Ava Jahn '24 House President	Kingsley Hughes '24 Academic Rep	Alayna Ting '24 Sustainability Rep	Abigail D'Souza '24 Diversity Rep	Jackie Williams '24 Treasurer
					
Define festival attire	Some jean shorts and a comfy shirt!	Fun, colorful, and creative	Anti-dresscode	Jorts and a tank!	Cut shirts and cool accessories
What performance are you camping out for?	Zach Bryan is my favorite artist of all time so I am super excited to hear Locke McMurray and Macklyn Harper sing his song, Burn, Burn, Burn.	Disciples	Disciples	the jazz band quartet ensemble	JTR
Favorite glow stick color?	Obviously RED for Kirby	Blue or Green	Purple	Purple (idk if yk this but it's my favorite color)	Pink