

## Welcoming Our New VPs for 2023-24



Photo of the VPs

### STAFF REPORT

Congratulations to the 2023-24 VP of Academics Conan Chen '24, VP of Honor and Discipline Daphne Volpp '24, and VP of Social Life Grace Chu '24.

Chu was motivated to run for VP of Social Life because it is a role that “holds meaning for a lot of students. We spend so much time here at school engaged in academics, and social life is our break from that,” she explained. As Social Representative on the Stephens House Council, Chu had a “good time” helping organize events and working to improve social life for the House. While she was “nervous” about eventually being responsible for planning schoolwide and Saturday night events, working with the Social Council and Director of Student Life Ian August helped “ease this stress.” As VP of Social Life, Chu aims to involve the student body more in social life on campus. “I think listening to student input is something really important in planning good events that people will enjoy,” she said. One way Chu hopes to achieve this goal is by sending feedback forms after every social event and working closely with the Social Council and Student Council members on school events. “I also want to

try new things that haven't been done before...dances are great, but I think something new would be good for the school,” she concluded.

Volpp is “very excited” to start working with the rest of the Student Council and the Honor Council. Running for the position was a “stressful experience,” but she was glad to have had the opportunity to practice “speaking under pressure in front of a large audience.” “Since my [II Form] year, I've felt like the honor system at Lawrenceville has been secretive and almost ominous...I want to change the culture at our school to be more transparent,” Volpp said. Specifically, she aims to create an honor portal on Veracross and ensure that all Houses have an Honor Representative to answer potential questions and sit in on disciplinary councils (DC). To implement these changes, she plans to work closely with the Honor Council and current VP of Honor Lucas Garcia '23, the Dean of Students, and the Dean of Faculty. “I want to thank my Heads of Houses, Ms. Ding and Ms. Calvert, my whole House for supporting me, and everyone else who ran,” Volpp said.

After being elected as VP of

Academics, Chen hopes to “hit the ground running” in terms of working on new initiatives. Specifically, he aims to extend gym hours this term and start working with Assistant Dean of Students Douglas Davis early on to implement more policies by the Fall Term. “Academics is not just about classes, so I would also like to work closely with the future Wellness Representative to improve mental health on campus,” Chen said. Many of Chen's ideas also overlap with initiatives highlighted on president-elect Bryce Langdon's '24 platform, including increasing student WiFi access and taking advantage of the School's alumni network. Additionally, he hopes to work with Volpp to “clarify the use of AI resources like Chat GPT in academics.” To increase transparency, Chen is planning to keep the student body informed monthly of new policies through School Meeting. “Overall, I want to really place a priority on wellness, specifically keeping students healthy and more stress-free,” Chen said.

With the President and the VPs elected, the next step in the election process is to elect Diversity, Arts, Wellness, Athletic, and Community Service representatives. The applications for the other representative positions came out on April 24 via email.

Cindy Shum '24/THE LAWRENCE

## Welcoming The Inaugural Wellness Day

SOPHIE CHENG '25

CELINE FONG '25

On Wednesday, April 12, Lawrenceville hosted its first ever Wellness Day. Starting at 9:00 AM, keynote speakers from DBT of South Jersey—a community of therapists specializing in dialectical behavioral therapy—spoke at the Kirby Arts Center on mental health and their personal experiences with it. Following the lecture, students signed up for various workshops that focused on topics ranging from mental health awareness, self-care, community-time, to the harmful effects of nicotine and marijuana.

Director of Counseling and Psychological Services Tonita Balcom spearheaded the planning for this year's Wellness Day. Balcom and the counseling office worked with other professionals, both on and off campus, to “plan, promote, and enact” Wellness Day. It was important to not only branch out and “establish a network of individuals” who would effectively support Lawrenceville's goals, but also give students and faculty the opportunity to “consider what wellness means to them.” The workshops and activities were geared towards helping community members practice greater mindfulness while “honing skills to further build resilience and capacity for acceptance of emotional distress.”

Looking ahead, Balcom noted that Lawrenceville is “steadily increasing its attention on student well-being.” One important stepping stone was the creation of the role “Dean of Campus Wellbeing,” who will be responsible for “assessing and promoting wellbeing” on campus. The inclusion of this role reflects that the School is “acknowledging the pressing need to be even more intentional about the ways in which we [handle] wellbeing,” Balcom said.

Wellness Day kicked off with a presentation from three keynote speakers, all with backgrounds in therapy and counseling. Bridget Holden '26 noted that there were “a lot of things” she feels could have been significantly improved, especially in regards to the speakers. She ex-

pressed that the presentation's “sheer length alone” made the it seem “less purposeful.”

Holden signed up for the “Clear Facts” workshop, an informational session hosted in the Heely Room of Woods Memorial Hall in which a speaker highlighted the “the timeline and process of nicotine and marijuana addiction and the effects of doing drugs at a premature age.” Although she acknowledged that teenage drug addiction is a prevalent and crucial issue, in her opinion, the presentation was “unoriginal and also repetitive,” making it “difficult to pay attention to.” From a scheduling perspective, she noted that having another special schedule amidst Discovery Days and no Saturday classes “added more stress to things.”

Lauren Williams '24 viewed the keynote speakers' presentation as “very general,” wishing for a more in-depth and specific look into teenage mental health. Jonathan Yang '25 “enjoyed the barbecue” as he felt that it brought the community together. He proposed that Lawrenceville organize similar community bonding events that have a “positive effect on [most] students.”

Overall, students appreciated Wellness Day's stress on the importance of learning about mental health. However, many students also agreed on wanting to see greater community emphasis in the future to raise awareness for mental health topics on campus.

Balcom's goal for this year's program was to “promote healthy and open dialogue about mental health, [because] across the country, the number of people dealing with mental health issues is on the rise.” At Lawrenceville, Balcom wants students to understand that “they are not alone in their struggle.” Moreover, another important goal of the event was to “provide opportunities for the community to engage in tried-and-true wellness practices and learn new practices.” Most importantly, Balcom hopes that Wellness Day will reaffirm “the School's commitment to enhance community wellness.”

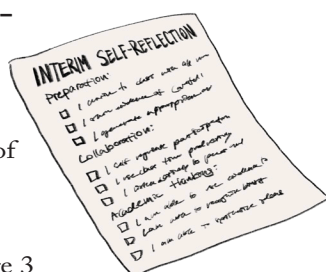


Wellness Day Workshop

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

## Interims Reimagined

Arya Vishwakarma '25 talks about the new look of interim comments.



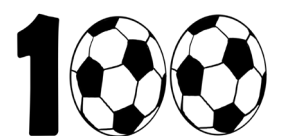
## An Exploration of Bunn Library's Unique Spaces

Luke Puricelli '25 and Riley McKibben '25 compile all of the information on study locations that library locals should know.



## Records Are Meant To Be Broken

Brian Yun '25 reports on Heung-Min Son scoring his 100th Premier League Goal, and the implications that his achievement has on the world of soccer.





## Editorial

### New Council, Same Challenges

The blossoming of flowers and the arrival of warm, sunny days mark not just the start of spring but of the long-awaited election season, in which a number of admirable IV Formers toss their hats in the ring for various positions on Student Council, whether it be for President, the Vice President positions, or the representative roles. Each year, after platforms are released and speeches are delivered, the dining halls and house common rooms fill with excited chatter about each candidate's ideas and suggestions for ways to improve life at Lawrenceville. While some students take a more optimistic view, believing the proposed ideas to be effective and implementable, most students are aware of the reality that, ultimately, very few of these candidates' promises are actually kept. It is time for a much-needed shift in the student body's expectations of Student Council as well as the authority that representatives of student government hold.

Though every election season features a new batch of competitors eager to voice their innovative ideas to the rest of the community, there has been a noticeable pattern in recent years of

the aspects of campus life that candidates choose to focus on. Contenders for the role of Vice President of Honor tend to push for greater leniency in the disciplinary process, Vice President of Academics candidates promise to increase grade transparency, Vice President of Social Life candidates aim to revamp Saturday night events, and so on. Despite this consistency in the improvements that candidates want to implement, Lawrenceville has yet to see measurable change over the last couple of years.

In response to this lack of substantial improvement, Lawrentians complain and criticize. We fault our Student Council representatives for not being able to follow through on promises, or we fault ourselves for being the ones who voted these students into their respective positions. In these moments, we tend to forget that these individuals we think of as high and mighty fighters for the student cause are just like us. Just like us, they have major assignments due and sports games to attend with the additional burden of college applications weighing on their shoulders as V Formers. Rather than

channeling our frustrations towards the school into condemning members of Student Council, it might be time for us to reconsider our expectations of student government and its role on campus. With such a shift, we would relieve some of the tremendous pressure that Student Council representatives face while taking on a more positive and appreciative attitude towards Lawrenceville life.

Not only are Lawrentians' expectations of Student Council too lofty, they are also unrealistic. Students tend to believe that Student Council has the same abilities as the School's administration to plan events, change policies, and more, when in reality they do not have that power, let alone access to the proper oversight and resources to be able to make the drastic changes students so attentively hope for. If students were not given the idea that Student Council has the same, if not, greater power than the administration, we would not expect our peers to function like administrators. The role of Student Council is to serve as a bridge between the students and administration and to vouch for ideas on behalf of

the entire student body. Often, however, as IV Formers run for roles on Student Council, they, too, find themselves caught in this misconception of these roles. In hopes of winning a position on Student Council, most students become carried away in making promises they can't keep, not for lack of work ethic, but rather for lack of ability. The continuation of these promises every election season results in the cycle of ambitious goals that sound feasible and ideal in spirit, only to be shut down by the administration and regenerated by a candidate the next year.

These repetitive platforms and similarities in ideas also beg the question—why is it so challenging for many student initiatives to be implemented? While the School has made strides towards better including the student body in decisions regarding campus life through events like the town hall, the reality is that even representatives on Student Council have limited power in implementing changes. Every policy, even seemingly-trivial details like the theme of a school dance, has to be approved by faculty or a member of the administration. Without this stamp of

approval, nothing can be accomplished on campus. The administration acts as a constant supervisor, trying to control any behavior that does not meet its standards.

So should Student Council be given more power? While its main duty is to act as a bridge between the administration, faculty, and students, perhaps an increase in the authority of student government would benefit the School and all Lawrentians. Administration should trust that Student Council VPs and representatives have the ability to take on the responsibility of their roles, roles that they ran for and were elected into. Even if representatives are unable to effectively implement changes, future generations of student government should treat the lessons learned by past Student Council members as opportunities for improvement rather than criticism. By granting Student Council representatives more power in making decisions for the School, greater opportunity arises for positive, substantial improvement over the course of the next few years.

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

## The Road Ahead

### Weighing the Effects of President Biden's Electric Vehicle Goal

LUKE PURCELLI '25

This month, the Environmental Protection Agency announced its plans to accelerate electric vehicle (EV) production to meet President Biden's 2021 goal for 50 percent of vehicles sold in 2030 to be electric, hybrid, or fuel cell driven. Given that gas stations can be found at every street corner, and pollution takes over our air, Biden's policy is the first major step towards reducing the transportation industry's negative impact on climate change. Transportation is the largest single contributing industry to climate change, producing 27 percent of all CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. It is about time we took extreme action against gas-guzzling cars.

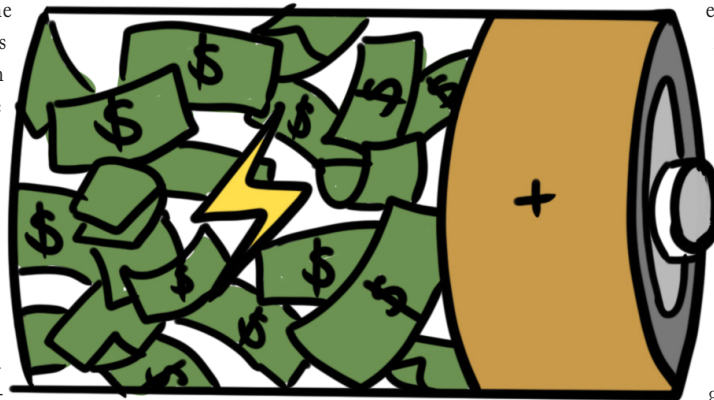
Electric vehicles are substantially more carbon-efficient than gas vehicles. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, producing the electricity necessary to power electric vehicles produces some CO<sub>2</sub>; however, electric vehicles do not directly produce carbon themselves, ultimately reducing the total tonnage of polluting emissions, leading to a cleaner environment. As America generates

more and more electricity from renewable sources, powering electric vehicles becomes even more carbon efficient.

Moreover, electric vehicles are becoming easier to operate in the United States. Electric vehicle owners do not have to pay the now exorbitant gas prices and instead can conveniently charge their car at home. In addition, Tesla Motors now has about 17,000 free public chargers located in parking lots and along city streets across America, and this number is growing as more people switch to electric vehicles.

While Biden's goal will benefit our air quality and help curb climate change, many Americans have the right to be concerned about his policy. Electric vehicles are far more expensive than gas-powered vehicles—a gas-powered Ford F-150's

cost starts at \$33,695 while the electric F-150 starts at \$55,974. People who cannot afford to make the switch to electric vehicles might be forced to seek alternatives to owning a car such as bikes, electric bikes, buses, or walking. To support this transition



Sonia Singhal '24 / THE LAWRENCE

to electric vehicles, Biden must also encourage alternatives to cars to accommodate Americans who cannot meet their rising prices. Although living without a car seems impossible in modern America, Americans' reliance on cars is the reason the trans-

portation industry's carbon emissions are so great. Forcing fewer people to own cars forces the government to sponsor more efficient public transportation. Although the transition away from cars will not be easy, in the end, it will bring about a much more efficient America, with fewer, more carbon efficient vehicles.

But public transportation will not need to support the entire burden of transitioning to electric vehicles. Electric vehicle prices will not remain high forever. As the market for Electric Vehicles (EV's) grows, automotive companies will produce and compete more, naturally lowering the prices of EV's. The transition period from gas to electric vehicles does look rocky; affordable cars will become harder to find and less people will be able to own vehicles. However, gas vehicles will not be completely phased out. Those who can afford the price of

electric vehicles have the incentives of convenient charging and saving years of gas money. We also should not discount Biden's inclusion of hybrid vehicles in his 2030 goal. Hybrid vehicles are often cheaper to buy than EV's and have a much better mile per gallon ratings than their gas-fueled counterparts. Hybrids can be a more affordable option that save owners some gas money and also benefit our climate. Even though this change may sound scary, the transition to electric and hybrid vehicles has begun, and overtime, they will become the primary option available. Biden's goal will not eradicate pollution or carbon emissions, and the car industry will need to endure a revolution in car production. But Biden's goal will become practical and will significantly reduce pollution and emissions in America. Biden's goal is the first major governmental step addressing the transportation industry's contribution to climate change—an unprecedented level of action we must trust will create a healthier planet.



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# Interim Interventions

## How Revised Responses Promote Performativity over Reflection

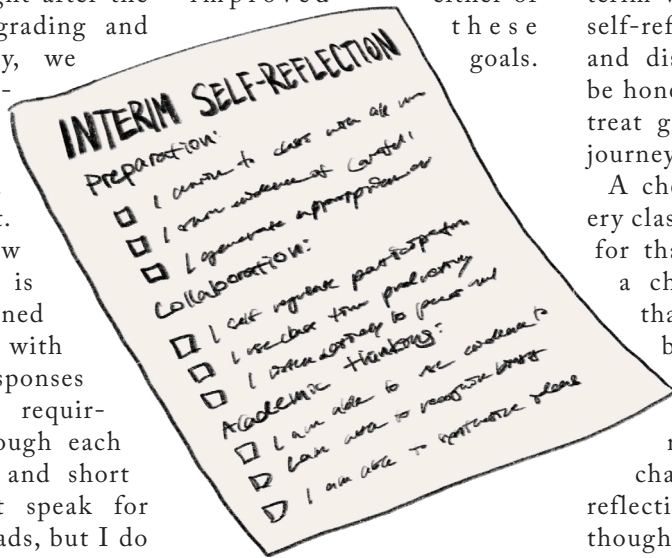
ARYA VISHWAKARMA '25

With interim comments coming out earlier this week, Lawrentians are reckoning both with how to respond to the most recently written feedback from their teachers each term and the new format. In an effort to increase transparency between students and teachers, the comments have taken on a new format this year. Instead of just receiving comments from their teachers, this term students were asked to fill out a Google form assessing their own performance in the class. The responses from these forms essentially served as outlines used by teachers to then frame students' interim comments. Interims, in theory, are meant to bridge the long gaps of time between final comments and provide advice that students have time to implement before finals week. They are valuable because they are personalized—teachers are trained to give students advice that lets us most effectively reach our learning goals. Our personal growth results from our

reactions to this impressively frequent feedback: six written comments a year per class is far above the amount most schools deem necessary for their students.

Our teachers work hard—this weekend and Scheduling Day many typed comments late into the night after the usual slew of grading and advising. Ideally, we should all support proposals that make their lives easier and more efficient. However, the new interim process is not as streamlined as it appears, with thoughtful responses to the forms requiring wading through each multiple-choice and short answer. I won't speak for teachers' workloads, but I do believe that examining an interminable list of hastily-composed reflection forms is unfair for us to ask them to do, because it could easily become repetitive and monotonous. Time they spend filing through responses is time that could be better spent writing thoughtful and helpful comments based on their already extensive knowledge

of their students' habits, which is important because interims exist solely for our benefit in the first place. An ideal system would consider the needs of students as a first priority and give teachers time to write, but the revised format has not improved either of these goals.



Aileen Ryu '25 / THE LAWRENCE

The purpose of the forms this term was to increase greater transparency between a student's reflection of their own performance and their teacher's perception of them; students who spent more effort on these forms (often assigned for a short 10 minutes during a

class period) could receive more relevant comments. In theory, there is value in engaging in thoughtful criticism of ourselves and taking charge of our own learning—the middle of the term is a great time to do that. What's ignored in this revised interim-writing process is that self-reflection takes time and discipline—we need to be honest with ourselves and treat growth as an ongoing journey.

A check-box form for every class is not a replacement for that experience. Filling a checklist out knowing that our teachers will be viewing our written responses and putting it in a report may incline some to change the tone of the reflections from honest and thoughtful to artificially humble and syrupy sweet. In some of my own comments, I received quotations from teachers such as "the goals you've set for yourself sound good," leaving me with no feasible strategies to improve recommended by my teachers. I think it's important that my teachers and I agree on my perception of how I'm doing in class, but this online self assessment

was not as accurate in tone and content as a face-to-face meeting would have been. Without room for real, constructive self-criticism to be discussed between students and teachers, interims essentially become performative.

What if we started the conversation about student growth earlier and more consistently, similarly to the weekly advisory process? What if consultation (on the rare, regular-schedule days that we have it) was used as a place to check in on progress more often? Most importantly, what if we remembered to incorporate more human connection into our journeys of learning and growth by normalizing open communication with our teachers about the inevitable hills and valleys on the rollercoaster of academic pursuit? I believe that we are capable of more effective strategy than simply avowing to come to consult more often or highlight our nightly readings with more colors. A better interim process that's more conducive to real self-reflection has the potential to finally serve as the best option for all of us.

## Splash: The Winning Formula for Fun and Fund

LOUIS PARK '26

Every spring, Lawrenceville buzzes with excitement as students prepare for Splash, a campus-wide game of 'assassin'. For \$8, students receive a target—another student they must squirt water on—and a plastic Splash bottle, the only tool they can use to splash their targets. However, each student also has a hunter, someone trying to splash them, whose identity is kept secret. After splashing their target, a hunter is assigned their target's target and the cycle continues. In essence, splashers must survive till the last one standing while eliminating as many targets as possible. The only rule: you cannot splash someone within buildings or within 5 feet of a door.

With around 580 students signing up this year, Splash has absolutely consumed our campus. Walking between classes, I have seen Splashers yelling and screaming and begging for their lives. I have seen students donning full disguises—sunglasses, masks, and layers of clothes. And in the mornings you might see students scouring the campus looking for hidden revival codes. In the span of just two days, students became fully consumed by Splash.

Why do students enjoy Splash so much? The answer is obvious: it's fun! As each student is given a Splash bottle and a target, Splash

feels as if we are in an assassin game, complete with the intensity and intricacies of the James Bond life, simultaneously eliminating targets and escaping from hunters. Conspiring and forming alliances with students across forms adds a social aspect to the game. It makes each student feel like the main character of an action movie. Memories of the tension, the thrill of the hunt, and eliminating your first target will all last beyond our time at Lawrenceville. Even getting eliminated by your hunter will surely become a fond Lawrenceville memory.

Splash feels more fun than other school events for a number of reasons. First, we are allowed to spray water on our friends. Second, unlike other events with set time and space constraints, Splash remains on campus each and every day, acting as a small diversion from our hectic schedules. Merely watching the chaos of hunters and targets running around between classes never fails to put a smile on students' faces. And third, Splash occurs towards the end of the year, acting like a refreshing reward for the hard-work students have put

into Lawrenceville. Splash becomes everything that academics is not: a social event, an outdoor game in the Spring, and a fun intensity to students separate from their academics.

Splash allows us to be the main character of our story. Unlike other social events that have set

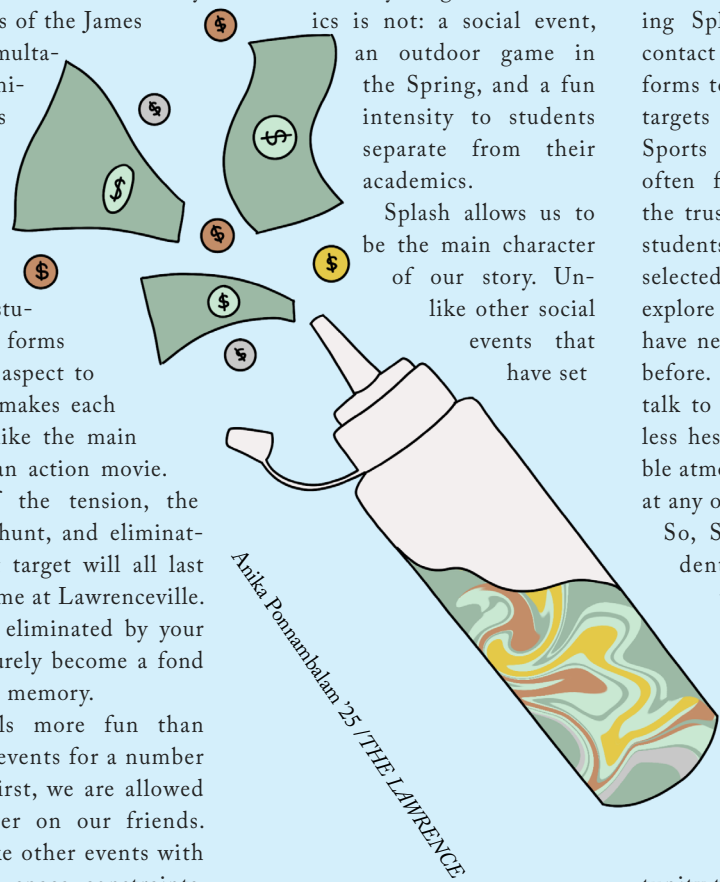
is a great opportunity to meet and bond with other students. During Splash, students commonly contact other students in separate forms to share information about targets and negotiate alliances. Sports teams and Houses also often form alliances increasing the trust and friendship between students. As targets are randomly selected from every form, students explore areas on campus that they have never had an excuse to visit before. Splash allows students to talk to others around them with less hesitation, creating an amiable atmosphere on campus unseen at any other point in the year.

So, Splash is a win for students. But what about in the school's perspective?

All the proceeds from Splash go to School Camp (SCAMP), a program which provides 10-12 year old children from New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania an opportunity to enjoy a two-week summer camp experience. With 580 students signing up for Splash this year, about \$4600 will be donated to SCAMP. While \$8 can seem too much for a plastic bottle, especially considering how quickly students get eliminated, students are seldom concerned with the price. The benefits of Splash are twofold: it is fun to play, and students feel they are

donating to a good cause by participating. \$8 is a clever fee, low enough that most students will disregard it, but high enough to raise a decent fund for SCAMP. Splash seems to be a winning formula for fundraising and fun. Would we be willing to spend \$8 on events besides Splash? Splash has some unique allure that makes \$8 seem worth it. Indeed, Splash is an opportunity for students to come together, make lasting memories, and support a good cause.

Splash has captured the hearts of students, boosting the liveliness of our Spring Term. Splash fosters a sense of community and camaraderie. It leverages excitement and competition to attract students to participate and donate to SCAMP. Future social events should look towards the success of Splash to find how to attract more students and provide them unforgettable experiences. Our campus seems to love events that use active involvement to generate attention. Lawrenceville students seem also more keen to contribute to fundraisers when the fundraisers are ingrained in a social event. These aspects create the winning formula of Splash, a formula we should not confine exclusively to Splash.



Anika Ponnambalam '25 / THE LAWRENCE



## Lawrenceville Entrepreneur Workshop

ANGEL XIN '26

On April 22, Constance Victory Small '01 presented on entrepreneurship and financial literacy to Lawrenceville students. Her talk focused on the different components of a successful business plan and the importance of branding. The purpose of the workshop was for her to share her entrepreneurship experience with Lawrenceville students, expanding their business knowledge while helping them discover their own unique talents.

Jenny Zhao '25 described the workshop as “extremely rewarding, informative, and interesting.” She explained that the workshop covered topics that are “not often discussed in a classroom setting” and introduced her to financial literacy. Prior to the workshop, she only had a “minimal” understanding of the tax system, with Small's presentation also giving her a “fundamental grasp” of the different types of incomes and how credit scores work. Zhao recognized that having a basic level of financial literacy is “essential”

to our daily lives, noting that “actions like opening up a bank account is definitely something that most Lawrentians should partake in.” For Zhao, this experience was more meaningful as Small is a Lawrenceville alumni, making her own goals seem more “attainable.” Zhao aspires to be “happy with [her] profession” like Small is. She hopes future workshops will be more “interactive” to better engage students.

Emily Meng '26 was also able to expand her knowledge of business and finance concepts from the workshop. “I used to resist the idea of becoming an entrepreneur after taking a related course at my old school,” Meng confessed, “But now it's a field that I want to try.” After the workshop, Meng not only discovered an interest in entrepreneurship but also learned basic financial skills and concepts that she remarked will “be useful in the future.” Overall, for Meng, the experience was “fun” and “worthwhile,” expanding her horizons by challenging her previous views on entrepreneurship.



Photo of Victory Small

Courtesy of Capucinedewulf

## Flying Kites and Building Terrarium: Earth Day Fair

SYDNEY WANG '25

Lawrenceville's annual Earth Day Fair was hosted on Saturday, April 22, inside the Bathhouse Café. The event, organized by the Sustainability Council, aimed to help Lawrenceville students and faculty explore different environmental topics, with booths offering a variety of activities including kite-making, building succulent terrariums, and learning about the science behind solar panels.

According to Sustainability Council Board Member Antonia Comanicu '25, the Events and Community Service subcommittees began organizing the Earth Day Fair a few weeks ago. “Fun and engaging” ideas for the fair were brainstormed before a form was sent to the whole council, with anyone on the council having the chance to host a booth based on their interests. The main purpose behind the booths was “to get everyone involved and educated about sustainability,” explained Comanicu. She, along with Alayna Ting '24, Audrey Cheng '25, and Sienna Mora '25, was in charge of the Arts and Crafts station, where community members could paint and design tote bags. The tote bags serve as a reminder for Lawrentians to use reusable items over disposable ones when possible.

“I think my motiva-

tion [for helping run the Arts and Crafts booth] was just to give back to the community and teach people more about sustainability,” said Cheng. Aside from helping community members “blow off steam” through decorating tote bags, she also learned that sustainability is “easy to incorporate into [one's] daily life.” The succulent terrarium stations, for instance,

cause of his “love for plants and nature.” He described the fair as having “enlightened” him on sustainability-related topics, reminding him of the significance of living a sustainable lifestyle. In the future, he hopes to use less water and save more electricity to be “more [environmentally] conservative in [daily] practices.”

Comanicu noted that the fair



Earth Day Fair Booth

Cindy Shum '24/THE LAWRENCE

taught her how to “easily put an abundance of supplies into good use.” The fair helped her understand the importance of reducing waste and converting daily objects into sustainable products.

Kingsley Du '26 shared a similar sentiment on the event. Though Du is not a frequent attendee of campus sustainability events, he decided to visit the Earth Day Fair be-

this year was “one of the most engaging and popular [sustainability-related] events” that she has attended in the past two years. “I think the more students are educated about sustainability and have fun during [these] events, the more they will take actions to reduce their carbon footprint,” she said, “Every student making a sustainable difference in their lifestyle will help lower our campus' total carbon

## Spring Choral Concert Featuring The Lawrentians and The Lawrenceville Singers

CHARLES POTTER '25  
MIRA PONNAMBALAM '26

Last Friday, April 21, The Lawrentians and The Lawrenceville Singers performed in the Edith Memorial Chapel for the Spring Choral Concert. The performance included a variety of songs ranging from jazz to gospel.

After months of preparation, the two choir groups came together to perform. The Lawrentians performed 10 songs and were joined by The Lawrenceville Singers for half of them.

“The concert was a very uplifting performance...It was really nice to see my friends on stage showcasing their talents,” Maggie Blundin '24 said.

Sophie Yang '26, another concert attendee, said that “the singing really resonated throughout the chapel, and the environment helped bring [her] into the music.”

For the performers, the concert was a culmination of



Spring Choral Concert

Sienna Kulynych '26/THE LAWRENCE

all their practice and preparation this year. In place of a free period, The Lawrentians meet every E period to refine their singing skills, to learn and practice new songs, and to prepare for school events like the choral concert. “Losing a free period may seem inconvenient,

but it is so worth it when we see our hard work pay off,” said Cindy Shum '24, a member of The Lawrentians. The Lawrenceville Singers, a campus choir group that is open to all students, also rehearse weekly on Wednesday mornings.

“The performance was

very special because it was the [V Formers'] last time singing with The Lawrentians,” Shum added. Director of Music Robert Palmer, who teaches The Lawrentians, bid goodbye to the graduating seniors toward the end of their final performance.

Several of the V Formers

in The Lawrentians sang solos; Soloist Lilly Gessner '23 described the performance as “an incredibly bittersweet moment,” as it was her last time performing with The Lawrentians. Reflecting on her time in the choir, she noted that she felt “the presence of a strong community and was especially drawn to it” after a period of virtual and socially-distanced learning due to the Covid-19 pandemic. After these pandemic regulations were lifted, Gessner said that The Lawrentians had “built a community for [her] of some of the brightest and most talented students on campus, and [she] is incredibly thankful to have shared experiences with them.” She encourages future generations of Lawrenceville students to participate in choir groups like The Lawrentians and The Lawrenceville Singers to “continue choosing the magic of singing in the Edith Memorial Chapel.”



## What's Trending? Spring Fashion

SHLOKA CHODHARI '26

It's finally time for blue skies and green grass here on campus! The beautiful trees and flowers blooming carry an array of colors, letting us know that spring has sprung. The sound of the lawnmowers and students laughing just screams spring! Many of us are looking forward to the arrival of warm weather so we can bust out our cutest tops and sundresses from the back of our closets for the first time this year. The first few days of spring have been very lively! From the stunning cherry blossom trees blooming near The Bunn Library to the stylish outfits people are sporting, campus has never been more colorful.

I want to see our student body wearing playful floral patterns during the Spring Term. Floral dresses for girls and floral shirts for boys all show spring blooming! Denim should also make an appearance back on campus. Denim is a spring staple that always stays in style, and I predict that baggy jeans and denim jackets will continue to stay on-trend. Next, let's talk tanks! A tank top, either ribbed, cropped, or meshed, can be paired with almost anything and dressed up or down. Last but not least, my favorite, skirts! They are a feminine and stylish option for the spring season, coming in a range of styles. Recently, maxi dresses have been on the rise, and I cannot wait to see how

people style them this spring!

Overall, fashion is a form of self-expression, and you should wear what makes you comfortable and confident. Whether you are rocking the latest trends or sticking to your style, remember that fashion is about having fun and feeling good in your skin! Lawrentians, enjoy the warm weather and show off your unique style this term!



Emily Pan '24 / THE LAWRENCE

## POW! ZAP! A Look Inside Final Boss Comics and Games

SYDNEY WANG '25

Due to the fast-paced lifestyle of Lawrenceville, students can hardly find time to curl up and peruse a new book with a hot cup of tea in hand. However, now that we (finally!) have two-day weekends, Lawrentians have more time to engage in relaxing hobbies. For many, including me, reading comic books has always been an enjoyable, stress-relieving activity. Fortunately, the Final Boss Comics & Games shop, located at 10 Gordon Avenue on Main Street, is finally open and ready with an assortment of comic books.

Before I spoke with the store's owner, I looked around at his quaint and homey store. The thing that immediately caught my attention was his collection of figurines—ones that especially stood out to me were Galactus (a legendary villain from *The Fantastic Four*) and Black Panther (a superhero, also from *The Fantastic Four*) since I am a huge fan of the Marvel Universe. As I stepped further into the store, I noticed board games on display, each one more colorful and nostalgic than the next. I initially contemplated which Marvel comic to search for, but I stared in awe at the array of choices instead, delighted by the rows and rows of graphic novels before me.

The owner of Final Boss Comics and Games, Floyd Bennett, opened his shop on Main Street in November, 2021, but has been selling comic books since 2007. He picked up comic books in third grade and has

been engrossed in these worlds ever since. Iconic superheroes had a huge influence on Bennett's childhood;

illustrate every detail and illicit a more emotional response between readers and the story. Many stories have



Bennett Outside Final Boss Comic and Games

for instance, because he was a huge Spider-Man fan, a lot of Spider-Man quotes became etched into his mind. "He always said 'with great power comes great responsibility,'" explained Bennett, "it helped me [realize] I should do good things and encourage everyone to try to do [so as well]."

Oftentimes, comic books are regarded as cheap, valueless entertainment. They are deemed simple and unrealistic, and many do not consider them "real" books. I asked Bennett about his rebuttal to this prevalent belief, and he told me that whoever came up with the statement "clearly has not read a comic book in a very long time." Comic books are published in series and have complex—if not profound—plotlines, often even more so than some novels. In addition to all kinds of plot twists, engaging visuals vividly

Courtesy of *Community News* truly come to life in comic books and could never have been as successful as they are if they were put into the typed forms of prose or literature; some of the most outstanding movies originated from comic novels,

Having lived in Lawrence Township for seven years now, Bennett has enjoyed his daily interactions with students, faculty, staff, and family members of the Lawrenceville community. He has also collaborated with the Bunn Library and is excited to drop off more graphic novels in the future. New comics come out every Wednesday in his store, and he loves that "people come in and get lost in stories." So when life gets tough, visit Final Boss Comics and Games and just allow yourself to submerge into the world of comics.

## Sanity and Insanity in a Classic Thriller

JOELLE VERMUT '25

*Shutter Island* is an amazingly crafted psychological thriller film that explores the dark corners of the human mind. Directed by Martin Scorsese and based on the

novel by Dennis Lehane, *Shutter Island* has remained a must-watch movie since its release in 2010. The film tells the story of two U.S. Marshalls, Teddy Daniels, played by Leonardo DiCaprio, and Chuck Aule, played by Mark Ruffalo, who are sent to investigate the disappearance of a patient from a maximum-security hospital for the criminally insane on the remote Shutter Island. The island

deeper into the case, they encounter resistance from the hospital staff, who seem intent on keeping them in the dark as to what is going on with the psychologically disturbed inmates.

Teddy, haunted by his past experiences as a soldier in World



DiCaprio and Ruffalo in *Shutter Island*

War II, begins to experience vivid hallucinations and is taunted by dreams of his dead wife. As the film progresses, Teddy becomes increasingly convinced that the asylum is involved in a sinister plot, and he must confront his own demons in order to uncover the truth. One of the most striking aspects of *Shutter Island* is its pacing. The story unfolds slowly, with the characters incrementally uncovering the truth behind the disappearance of the patient. This deliberate pacing

Courtesy of *The New York Times*

is surrounded by a thick fog, creating a sense of isolation and danger. As the investigation unfolds, it becomes clear that all is not as it seems. As they delve

gradually builds the tension, creating a sense of dread and anticipation. The use of flashbacks and dream sequences is also effective in adding depth and complexity to the narrative. Moreover, the film highlights the complexity of the human psyche and the thin line between sanity and insanity. As Teddy and Chuck slowly uncover pieces that help them solve the mystery, the audience is able to connect the dots that Teddy doesn't see. The movie raises questions about the ways in which we construct our own realities, and how our past experiences can shape our perceptions of the world around us.

Leonardo DiCaprio delivers a powerful performance as Teddy Daniels. He brings raw intensity and emotional depth to the character, which is both captivating and haunting. Through his portrayal of Teddy's descent into madness, he explores themes of trauma, grief, and the limits of sanity in a way that is extremely thought-provoking. DiCaprio's performance is a standout in his already impressive career.

The film's setting also plays a significant role in creating a sense of unease. The imposing Gothic

architecture of the asylum looms over the marshals as they set foot on the island, surrounded by mist and rough waters. The production design and cinematography are outstanding as well, creating a haunting and unsettling atmosphere that keeps the audience thinking long after the film has ended.

The twist ending of *Shutter Island* is both surprising and satisfying, bringing the various strands of the story together. The film's final moments leave the audience questioning their own perceptions of reality and the limits of the human mind, making *Shutter Island* a must-watch for anyone searching for an unpredictable psychological thriller. *Shutter Island* is an amazing work of suspense that explores the mysteries of the mind. The film will leave you questioning your own perceptions of reality and the limits of the human mind. The usage of deliberate pacing, flashbacks, dream sequences, and outstanding performances make *Shutter Island* a must-watch movie for anyone searching for a thought-provoking thriller.



# Splash: A Short Story

YUNA CHO '26  
LOUIS PARK '26

On a bright and sunny spring day, I called up my friend Daniel. As we ventured into Memorial Hall for our English class, he asked, "Hey, you know that Splash is coming up right?"

"Wait, what's Splash?" I replied.

He gave me a quick rundown of the rules, explaining that "the goal is to survive as long as you can while eliminating as many targets as possible."

His words made my heart pound. As a thriller movie maniac, Splash seemed right up my alley. My inner voice told me it was my time to shine, and from that point on, I had only one goal in mind: to become the next John Wick.

Even though others looked at me with a pitiful gaze and Daniel called me "overindulged," I still decided to dress in sunglasses, a mask, long pants, and a hoodie in 85°F weather, necessities in order to escape a precarious scene. Soon, School Meeting on April 19, or the beginning of the end, had come.

"Let's see who will be my first

unfortunate victim... James Muzzy '23. When I revealed my target to Daniel over text, he responded with a request to terminate our alliance, implying that my conquest would never be successful. How dare he doubt me! While it might be difficult to defeat the captain of varsity football, hockey, and lacrosse, I was determined to achieve glory.

School Meeting was when and where the battle started. I was dripping in sweat from the layers of clothing wrapped around me, and I could feel the anticipation building inside. "Second form, you are dismissed!" yelled the School President. The II Formers instinctively began to dash away from the KAC, unaware of the massacre which would soon follow. As soon as they stepped outside the door, upperclassmen ambushed the innocent rookies, eliminating just over half of them. Unlike the others, I managed to exit using the backdoor, resulting in my safe arrival to GCAD. Even better, my target just so happened to have class in the same building, so I sat anxiously in the classroom waiting to see him,

trying to get my teacher and class to help. My plan was simple. As soon as the target walked outside of the building, I would ambush him. When the bell rang, I dashed downstairs, waiting for him to leave the building so I could follow.

He pushed the door open and walked outside with a wary glance. Thankfully, my well-prepared disguise kept him blissfully unaware of my presence until water hit him. With a sigh, my victim resigned to his fate and handed over his code. Ha! I hoped he'd learned a lesson on being more well-prepared if he wanted to survive. With one target down, I was now one step closer to sweet victory.

My next target was a little more difficult. I got an elusive III former who had turned her Google Calendar private... What a shame! This did not stop my formidable self, though. Luckily, after reaching out to a sophomore baseball teammate, camping by the KMSC entrance with a reluctant friend in tow was still a fool-proof plan. Even if people exchange judgemental looks, I would keep my head high.



Sonia Singhal '24 / THE LAWRENCE

They would never understand this strategy anyways. My target stepped out, and I worked myself up.

Time slowed, and I felt one step closer to sweet victory until an ominous feeling crept over me. I found myself looking down at the cold barrel of a spray bottle. It glinted in the sunlight, mocking me. My fate was sealed. Water

splashed all over my face and I was dumb, dead, and defeated. The world suddenly seemed darker. Just like that, my hopes and dreams were crushed, a phrase my friends would continue to hear for days to come. "Still," I told myself, "my Splash career can't be over yet. All I need to do is find a revival code, and how hard could that be?"

## An Exploration of Bunn Library's Unique Spaces

LUKE PURICELLI '25 & RILEY MCKIBBEN '25

Whether it be Finals Week, a rainy afternoon, or Wellness Wednesdays at Lawrenceville, the Bunn Library is an essential building that cultivates our academic prosperity, social life, and self-care. The term "library warriors," has come to describe Lawrenceville students who spend their hours in Bunn either by studying alone, catching up with friends, or reading a good book—all within the walls of Bunn. Consider a few of the following options when you next face the grueling choice about where in Bunn to set up shop!

### McGraw Reading Room

This multipurpose space is arguably the most frequently filled room in Bunn. The Reading Room is home to the majority of smaller-scale events and various club meetings and community gatherings such as What Matters to Me and Why, LTA, and seasonal House gingerbread competitions. To those who study in McGraw—we commend you for your bravery. McGraw is often a "busy, noisy, and exciting room, often yielding too many distractions for homework," observes Kyle Ozgun '24, a native of Bunn. We recommend this large room if you need an event space or want to socialize, but not as a study environment, unless you prefer being surrounded by chaos and distractions.



Library First Floor

Annabelle Yao '26 / THE LAWRENCE

### The Study Pods

Located on each floor of Bunn, almost every nook of the wall is filled with little study rooms Lawrentians call "pods." In the pods, you will find four chairs, a round wooden table and a big whiteboard. This layout encourages collaborative or independent work on the board which can be used to map out larger ideas (like history papers!). There are four pods on the upper floor, six on the main floor, and two in the basement. During study hall especially, students fight tooth and nail for these pods to secure a spot. One of its most frequent occupants, Sawyer English '25 enjoys how "private the rooms are," allowing him to "study alone or with friends, making it the perfect hangout space, or place to do homework." Study pods are an optimal place to hangout with friends if you want to avoid messy common rooms and the crowded Tsai Dining Hall. They also serve as a great place for group projects.

### Heely Archives

Another flexible library room, the Heely Archives serve as an area for gathering and conversing. Located in Bunn's basement, this room is often popular towards the end of longer lunch periods or after dinner when students study for tests. Additionally, Heely's numerous projection screens around the room are a unique source for GSA presentations or group assignments. Just ask Elizabeth Parnell '23, who, with her time through the Heely Scholars Program last summer, learned to appreciate "the octagonal shape of the room, as it was easy to turn and talk to my peers on collaborative assignments." The Heely Archives, unfortunately, is often overlooked, but it's typically quiet and frequently available making it an awesome room for a study session.

### Harkness Classroom

Located on the main floor, The Harkness Room is the Electronic Classroom's sophisticated older sister. The room isn't modern but it embodies the true 18th century aesthetic of Lawrenceville. This room is often used for students who need to make up tests or in-class essays, and it is the perfect room for meetings. In this room, there is a Harkness table and a TV. If you want to use this room during the week, you have to receive permission, as it is only used for special reasons.

### Electronic Classroom

Although the Electronic Classroom is often locked, we can appreciate this room as a modern, clean, and simple space to crack open a copy of *The Great Gatsby* or *When the Emperor was Divine* and get to reading. While its doors are rarely open, when the lights are on, you should grab the room without hesitation since the room is truly unique. First of all there are the wheely chairs— who doesn't love to spin while they work? Secondly, the EC has a round Harkness table, a smart board, and even an official podium, meaning it is a classroom after all. Price Donaldson '24, Co-President of the Lawrenceville Sailing Club, uses this room for her club meetings, noting that "the space is ideal for any amount of people, easily reconfiguring into numerous layouts depending on the club meeting turnout." Use this space whenever possible, and don't hesitate to reach out to the Circulation Desk to book a time with the EC!



# Head of School Happiness!

ANNABELLE YAO '26

With the end of the 2022-23 academic year fast approaching, homework, interscholastic sports games, and tests have started to overflow Lawrentians' schedules yet again. While enjoying extended weekends with the lack of Saturday classes this term has helped alleviate stress, students often feel overwhelmed, and many would appreciate having a proper day off from classes. This term, Lawrenceville students are busy anticipating a Head of School Day, the School's surprise day-off traditionally happening in the Spring Term.

This unique Lawrenceville tradition officially started in the 20th century but occurred annually long before then. The Head of School Day was initially called Founders' Day to honor the legacy of John Cleve Green, a refounder of the School in 1888. On Founder's Day, the School would gather

students and faculty at the Chapel to announce the day off (in the morning) followed by a discussion of the school's history. Professors outside of the School would be called to deliver a Founder's Day address in the chapel. These addresses served to inspire the students and pay tribute not to only the founders of the school but also its alumni and dutiful teachers. However, the most important aspect of this event was the day's unpredictability. Oftentimes, it happened subsequently to a joyous school event, such as the day of an athletic win.

Last year, our Head of School day happened after an important varsity hockey win against Hill. As Kyle Ozgun '24 remembers, it was "a pretty big deal." The hockey team had faced continuous losses against Hill multiple times that year, and they were determined to finally win. After playing two of the game's three periods, they

were still tied, and the energy was low. Ozgun recounts that during a water break, he had jokingly asked Head of School Stephen Murray H'54 '55 '65 '16 P'16 '21, who had come to watch the game, if he would announce a Head of School Day if they won. Upon hearing Murray's, "I'll think about it," the entire team felt motivated,

scored more goals and eventually won the game. Ozgun also tells the story of another Head of School day in the winter of 2022, where everyone had gathered on Halloween to tell Murray to have a Head of School Day as other local schools canceled classes and college applications were coming up. The announcement came in the form of a SNLville video;



Rehanna Yakubu '25 / THE LAWRENCE

at first, only a couple of people who had watched the video were aware of this fact. However, soon Lawrentians across campus were "yelling about having a Head of School Day," and everyone knew, said Ozgun. Ozgun enjoys Head of School Days and expresses his fondness of them, remarking that it is "pretty good the way it is" and that it gave him time to "do whatever."

As the end of term nears, there have been more and more guesses as to when this year's Head of School day will happen and if it will, considering the recent schedule. Ozgun hopes that it will happen on "a good day" and guesses that it will happen at the end of May whilst many others, like II Form students Emily Meng '26 and Luna Desir '26, believe that the holiday will happen. But with the incoming avalanche of games against the Hill School and other MAPL schools, Head of School Day could be just around the corner.

## The Big Red Race: 20th Anniversary

School Camp or "Scamp" is one of Lawrenceville's most beloved and impactful programs. It's a way to give back to inner-city children through a two-week camp experience in northern New Jersey. School Campers, or "Scampers," have a great time learning activities like fishing and canoeing and enjoying plenty of time outdoors. Scamp is definitely a cause worth supporting, as all funds contribute to ensuring more kids "have a memorable experience which they can hold forever," said Scamp counselor Kevin Chiang '23. One of the largest sources of funding for the school camp is from the Big Red Race, the annual 5k fundraiser on campus. Participants can race either on-campus or online. Sign ups are \$20 and official timing is provided along with a commemorative T-Shirt. Please consider running in the Big Red Race or sponsoring a runner to help provide a memorable experience at Scamp for as many children as possible!

## At a Glance

May 7: 3pm at the XC Course

Sign ups are \$20 - look for all-school email.

100 percent of proceeds go to SCAMP.

Timing will be provided by an official service.

Contact Holly Burks Becker P'06 '09 '12 or Jeffrey Durso-Finley P'13 '14 '19 '22.



Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

# Sustainability: What We Do, What We Can Do Better

MIA MASSERIO '25

With Earth Month in full swing, many of us are reflecting on how we have impacted the planet and what steps we can take to lessen the harm we do to the environment. Many Lawrentians spend hours in Sustainability Council (SusCo) meetings, working on initiatives to help Lawrenceville become a more sustainable school. All of the Sustainability Council's subcommittees, including food, community service, and outreach, have been hard at work in hopes to improve different aspects of Lawrenceville's overall sustainability. According to Antonia Comanicu '25, the council has been "working with Tsai to increase sustainable food options," while also publishing its newsletter,



Aileen Ryu '25 / THE LAWRENCE

the VILLEage Green, featuring student-written articles that display sustainability progress within the School along with environment-related world news and alumni interviews. Antonia believes the council has "increased [their] presence this year" through initiatives such as hosting

sustainability-centered Community Day and Wellness Day workshops. In celebration of Earth Day, Lawrenceville students gathered in the Bathhouse Cafe for the Earth Day Fair where they participated in sustainable crafts and activities. Comanicu co-ran the arts and crafts

booth, where students flew kites and painted tote bags. She thinks painting tote bags was "a fun and artistic activity with sustainable applications." This booth was popular among students and especially faculty children who enjoyed the creative process whilst spending time outdoors. Attendees also enjoyed other activities such as sustainability trivia and making freshly squeezed orange juice. Students can look forward to more Earth Month events according to Sustainability Council Events Subcommittee Head Alex Noviello '23: "Earth Month events will last into May which will be the council's final events for the year." The council hopes to "organize diverse events to get individuals that generally would not attend sustainability

events involved." Sonia Ivancic '25 revealed upcoming events and goals, explaining that the council hopes to add "a sustainability-themed LCAP with a local elementary school," but before that plan comes to fruition, the council wants to first schedule a one-time event which will serve as a test run. Hopefully, these events are able to increase awareness of sustainability on campus, as well as inspire a larger group of students to take initiative and implement sustainability into their own lives. Students who are not as involved with sustainability clubs on campus can do simple things to be more environmentally friendly, such as making sure to turn off the lights when leaving your dorm

room in the morning, or unplugging everything before heading on break. Sustainability Council member Audrey Cheng '25 takes steps to reduce waste in her own life "by using hand-me-down clothes from [her] siblings" and reusing "water bottles and containers as much as possible." Cheng also tries her best to limit food waste and walk to places rather than drive. Ivancic believes Lawrenceville students can be sustainable with "really simple actions like printing double-sided to save paper or using a reusable bowl when getting ice cream at Tsai." If every student were to begin replacing harmful habits with environmentally friendly actions, the School as a whole would become much more sustainable.



## Son Hits 100 Premier League Goals

BRIAN YUN '25

On April 8, in a game against Brighton & Hove Albion F.C. on Matchday 30, Tottenham Hotspur F.C.(Spurs) winger Son Heung-Min became the first South Korean player to score 100 career premier league goals. Son became the 34th member of the English Premier League's "hundred club", putting his name in the same breath as the most decorated players in history.

Son's career in the Premier League has cemented his reputation as the greatest South Korean player of all time. After his €15 million transfer from Bayer 04 Leverkusen in 2015, Son has consistently scored double-digit goals in all competitions for Tottenham, with the 2019-2020 season being a landmark year where Son took his game to new heights and emerged as one of the greatest wingers in the world. That same year Son won the Puskas award—the award for the best goal in a given season—with an impressive solo goal against Burnley F.C, dribbling 73 meters before scoring.

In the 2020-2021 season, Son scored four goals against Southampton F.C. within 73 minutes, breaking down the defense with his speed and clinical finishing ability. According

to transfermarket.com, Son was the fourth most valuable left winger in the world with a value of €90 million in December 2020. Lastly, in the 2021-22 season, Son became the first South Korean player to win the Premier League's Golden Boot, with a single season career-high of 23 goals.

But this season the South Korean player has struggled, scoring only eight league goals so far. This is a far cry from his six successive seasons with double digits in the league. The 2022-2023 season began with Son's longest goal drought in recent years. Many have criticized Son's performance this season, with some forums mentioning Son's age and his conflict with teammate Ivan Perisic as reasons for his lackluster play this season. In his recent interviews, Son has expressed his frustration claiming not to be the perfect player and needing to "look at [his] weaknesses."

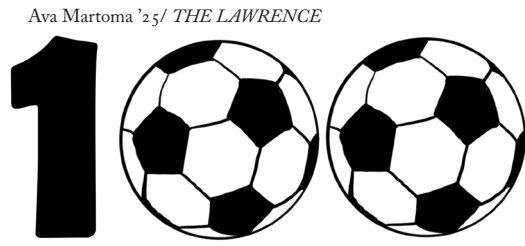
Yet that bitterness seemingly vanished into thin air when Son hit the century mark with a tenth-minute outside-of-the-box strike. The match ended 2-1 after Tottenham Hotspur striker Harry Kane struck a 79-minute game-winner to put

Tottenham in fifth place in the table with 53 points. With only two wins in their last six games, the three points they gained on Matchday 30 helped Spurs in the race for qualification into next year's Champions League. Son was nominated for the Man of the Match award, with many critics having noted Son's revitalized form and praising his presence on the pitch. For Son, scoring his 100th goal was an emotional accomplishment as he dedicated the goal to his grandfather who passed away early in April.

Son also mentioned his hopes

Matchday 31 against Bournemouth, as he gave Spurs a 14th-minute lead. But Tottenham failed to seize fourth place from Manchester United after continuous mistakes made on the backline led to a 3-2 loss against their relegation-threatened opponents. While Son's individual performance seemed to shine in the past two games, Tottenham is still under severe fragility; There have been continuous rumors of Tottenham's all-time top goal scorer Harry Kane joining other English sides such as Manchester United or Manchester City, and the defense still requires reinforcement despite years worth of searching.

Despite his exceptional performances for the club, Son's future with Tottenham is in doubt. The South Korean star is in desperate need of a trophy and is on the wrong side of 30. Many analysts have claimed that Son's prime years have ended, citing this season as evidence. Son's current contract with Tottenham is set until 2025, and the player currently values at €60 million according to transfermarket.com. For such a legendary player, it is imperative that Son continues to chase for trophies, even if that chase happens at a different club.



Ava Martoma '25 / THE LAWRENCE

to inspire young Asian talents around the world. Bias towards European players means Asian players' transfer values are often lower than that of European talents, but Son's accomplishments have broken thresholds for Asian players. Son said, "It's a good thing for Asia and me to take a big responsibility to be a good example to help the young guys. I want them to believe an Asian player can do amazing things in the Premier League."

Son's form continued into

## Shohei Ohtani: The Man Defying All Odds

NIKHIL DHRUV '26

Three-time Major League Baseball (MLB) all-star, Pacific League MVP, American League (AL) Rookie of the Year, and American League Silver Slugger. These are just a few of the numerous accomplishments of the young Japanese phenom, Shohei Ohtani. Growing up in Oshu, Iwate, Japan, Shohei's passion for baseball was fostered at a young age. By the time he was in high school, scouts from all over the world were coming to see him play. Despite his deep interest in the MLB, he was drafted by the Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters and would end up playing in the NPB (Nippon Professional Baseball) for the first four years of his career. Shohei established a name for himself during those four years by leading the Fighters to a Japan Series victory (equivalent to the World Series in the United States) in 2016. After the 2017 season, Ohtani

felt that he needed more of a challenge, so he crossed the ocean to join the Los Angeles Angels on a lucrative \$200 million contract. Since signing with the Angels, Ohtani has been arguably the best player in the MLB.

In 2018, Ohtani won AL Rookie of the Year and was a force to be reckoned with. Finding a baseball player who is both an extraordinary pitcher and hitter was thought to be nearly impossible, but Ohtani has proved scouts wrong by consistently hitting 450 feet home runs and throwing blazing 98 mph fastballs. By posting a .285 batting average and a 3.3 earned run average in his rookie year, Ohtani immediately showed the league that he is the 'real deal.' As time has progressed, he has only gotten better and better. In 2021, Ohtani had a historic season by hitting 46 home runs, throwing 156 strikeouts, stealing 26 bases, and ultimately achieving the AL MVP award. Jumping to 2023, Ohtani started the

year victorious as he led Japan to their third World Baseball Classic (WBC) victory, winning WBC MVP and out-dueling his teammate Mike Trout in the process. During the tournament, Ohtani continued to prove he was a threat, as he had eight RBI's (Runs batted in) and struck out 11 batters.

Although there are numerous great things to be said about Ohtani, there are also a fair amount of concerns. The main concern is whether he'll be able to manage his current workload over the long term and if he'll be able to continue his rigorous pace. Being asked to throw around 100 pitches one day and then being tasked to play the field and bat the next day is no easy task. Luckily for Ohtani, his injuries thus far haven't been very severe, but as he starts to get older, it can be harder for him to perform at the top level he has thus far. He has suffered a few minor injuries over the past years, but nothing that had a chronic impact.

Ohtani so far has proven that he has what it takes to become one of the greatest baseball players. Here is what we can expect to see from Shohei in the near future. There is a very high probability he will leave the Angels when his contract expires after this season. The most probable destinations include the high-profile teams on the East Coast such as the Red Sox, Yankees, Mets, or Phillies. He will win another MVP within the next three years and will lead the league in strikeouts thrown. Last but not least, Ohtani will finally make the playoffs and win the world series at least once. As for his legacy, everyone in the world would know his name as he will leave a long-lasting impact on the world of baseball. It will be interesting to see what Ohtani will accomplish and whether others will follow in his footsteps.

## Playoff Predictions Revisited

STANLEY DUFOUR '25

At the time of writing, The Philadelphia 76ers v Brooklyn Nets is the only completed best of seven series as Philly swept Brooklyn, in spite of Embiid's struggles. Tobias Harris was key for the 76ers throughout the series, and he will need to continue his hot shooting and aggression if Philadelphia wants to make a deep playoff push. In the East's 1v8 matchup, The Milwaukee Bucks lost Giannis Antetokounmpo early in the first game to a back injury, and his team now trails 1-3. The Bucks will have to find a way to stop Jimmy Butler and use their big three more effectively if they want any chance of a comeback. In the West's 4v5 series, the Phoenix Suns hold a commanding 3-1 lead over the LA Clippers. While they are still learning to play off each other, their offense is nearly unstoppable when they are clicking, and the absences of Kawhi Leonard and Paul George have given Phoenix ample time to figure things out. On the Eastern side, the New York Knicks have got Madison Square Garden roaring as New York is set to win only its second playoff series since 2000. The Knicks have suffocated Cleveland's offense, limiting them to as few as 79 points in the third game. Donovan Mitchell hasn't been living up to his standards as a playoff veteran, and the Knicks have been getting their way on the glass all series long. Kings vs Warriors has looked like an all-time classic series through the first four games, with the home team winning every game so far. De'aaron Fox's clutch-time heroics and Malik Monk's overperformance so far have put to rest the doubt that the young Kings may be too inexperienced for a playoff environment. Meanwhile, The Warriors have gotten themselves back in the series after being down 2-0. The question remains of whether Golden State can scrape together a win on the road. The LA Lakers look poised to upset the disorganized young Memphis Grizzlies, and the Lakers' new-look roster has turned their season around, successfully playing off its stars. The number one seed Denver Nuggets have been silencing their doubters, nearly sweeping the Minnesota Timberwolves. Anthony Edwards is playing at a superstar level, but the rest of that team leaves a lot to be desired, with the Rudy Gobert trade looking worse by the day. Finally, the Boston Celtics have taken care of business so far, as they seek to return to the finals. Trae Young's inconsistency won't get this Atlanta Hawks roster very far in the playoffs, and when you can expect at least 30 points each from Jayson Tatum & Jaylen Brown every night, it is hard to imagine anyone stopping these Celtics.

## Board Picks

	<i>Luke Park</i> <i>Wannabe Tyrant</i>	<i>Helena Chen</i> <i>News Person 2/2</i>	<i>Jackie Williams</i> <i>Features Person 2/2</i>	<i>Will O'Reilly</i> <i>Opinions Person 2/2</i>	<i>Cindy Shum</i> <i>THE Photo Person</i>	<i>Aki Li</i> <i>Copy person 2/2</i>	<i>Sabrina Ottaway</i> <i>Copy Person 1/2</i>	<i>Arisa Okamura</i> <i>THE Web Person</i>
<i>Who on the board do you think moonlights as a dancer?</i>	<i>William Wang, of course</i>	<i>Absolutely Fangyao</i>	<i>William Wang</i>	<i>Willabus Wang</i>	<i>I would pay to see Bryan Boanob light up the stage</i>	<i>Luke prob has killer moves</i>	<i>I'm not allowed to disclose what happens in the office after 10 PM</i>	<i>Garrett or Luke</i>
<i>If you could start your own dance team at Lawrenceville, what style of dance would it be?</i>	<i>1920s ragtime swing dances</i>	<i>Meditation style</i>	<i>Ballroom dancing</i>	<i>Break dancing</i>	<i>Acrodance - I used to do it and its super fun</i>	<i>Interpretive dance (goal is to look as silly as possible)</i>	<i>Dance moms reenactment</i>	<i>Polka for the musics &amp; costumes</i>
<i>How long could you last in a dance marathon?</i>	<i>As long as Mr. Wilder wants me to</i>	<i>Not very long</i>	<i>Infinity hours</i>	<i>Not sure what a dance marathon is. Probably a week or two tho</i>	<i>6 hours, but a full day if given enough caffeine</i>	<i>30 seconds max</i>	<i>As an AI language model, I can't estimate the maximum time elapsed for physical exertion.</i>	<i>10 seconds</i>