

An Evening Trip to the Met Opera



Photo of a scene in *X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X*

Emily Pan '24 / THE LAWRENCE

DOROTHY LEE '26 NEWS ASSOCIATE

This past Saturday, December 2, Reach Out to the Arts (ROTTA) organized a trip to the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City for the viewing of *X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X*.

Malcolm X was a Muslim minister, human rights activist, and advocate for Black empowerment. He was a prominent figure during the civil rights movement who encouraged his fellow African-Americans to fight back against racial oppression and discrimination during the early to mid-20th century.

Directed by Anthony Davis, the opera revolves around Malcolm X's upbringing, accomplishments, and legacy. The performance was separated into three acts—the first describing impactful events that shaped him and his goals from his childhood until his imprisonment; the second explaining X's leadership in the Nation of Islam and during the Civil Rights Movement; and the third narrating his contributions as his fame began to decline, eventually

ending with his assassination. Suzie Nguyen '26 had read about the life of Malcolm X prior to the ROTTA trip, but the opera allowed her "to immerse [herself] in the story." Reading about the opera "doesn't feel the same as watching it unfold right in front of your eyes," she elaborated.

Nguyen described the performance as "phenomenal," noting how skillful the performers were as well as how clearly sound traveled throughout the theater without the use of microphones. "The way the actors spoke and the way emotions were carried out...the performance definitely left an impression on me," she said.

Reflecting on the background elements that enhanced the overall experience, Nguyen emphasized the role the lighting and projections played in adding to the effect of the opera. "You could almost feel the emotions within the lighting," Nguyen elaborated. The music surprised her as well, as it integrated aspects of jazz and African cultural music that she had not previously associated with opera. She also noted the group of

dancers who performed in between and during scenes: "Their dances were so impactful," Nguyen reflected. She appreciated how the different theatrical elements incorporated unique aspects of Malcolm X's life and background.

Nguyen "enjoyed every moment" of the trip, and looks forward to attending future events. She believes that ROTTA provides the Lawrenceville community with "wonderful opportunities" to learn more about "different cultures [and] different experiences" through the arts. "It's just a great way to connect with your friends and your teachers," she added.

ROTTA is led by Department Chair and Director of Theatre Matthew Campbell and Chair of the Visual Arts Department Chloe Kalna. "We aim to help young minds and hearts grow as citizens who see art as a major factor in their lives," Campbell said in an interview from February of 2023. He described ROTTA's trips as "hidden gems" and hopes to continue bringing new and exciting opportunities in the arts to Lawrenceville's student body.

Bridge to College: An Innovative New App

JAMIE HO '27

History Teacher Vielkha Hoy, a new addition to the Lawrenceville community, recently founded the startup Bridge to College, an advanced search tool that uses educational data, research, and machine learning to match students of various backgrounds with colleges that would be a good fit for them.

Hoy was inspired to work within the college admissions process after observing educational disparities between marginalized groups and their peers "I realized that the students were not to blame; rather, systems were put in place that inhibited the students' progress," she explained. Hoy started offering college counseling services for underserved students. Her clientele base grew from five to 75 in the span of just one year.

While working at Stanford University, Hoy started taking machine learning classes in the evenings in addition to her self-teaching. Combining her knowledge in coding with her passion for helping underprivileged students through the college process, she set her sights on creating Bridge to College. "I aim to ensure that underserved students graduate from college in close to four years with as little debt as possible, creating opportunities for them to break the systems that constrain these students," she said.

In addition to her experience working with high school seniors, Hoy also draws inspiration in her work for Bridge to College from various artists. Specifically, quilted art from American fiber artist Bisa Butler and Molas-style textile designs from Panama embodied a "a type of bravery,

resilience, and intellect that [Hoy] hope[s] to espouse." "I surround my workspace with certain artistic works that I gain motivation from every day," she elaborated.

Hoy noted that, aside from her programming skills, her experience in the social sciences helped her conduct a more comprehensive analysis of the college acceptance data she gathered. "Through my examination, I found that how other college access platforms showcased data was not always representative of reality," Hoy said. For example, college acceptance rates posted online are oftentimes untrue and based on skewed data. Building an application like this is not just about "asking questions related to technology...it means learning more about front-end development and product design." In addition to incorporating their own experience with college matriculation, Hoy and her team also analyzed "200,000 data points across two decades" to ensure they had the most accurate data in matching kids to their given school.

One challenge Hoy faced during her process was balancing her home and her work life. "I quickly realized that a startup founder life is not conducive to being a single parent," she said. Now, using the attention Bridge to College has received from venture capitalists and other investors, Hoy is working with another programmer to rebrand the app. "When this effort is complete," she hopes "I can finally step aside and let our team take over."



Photo of Vielkha Hoy

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

Donation Motivations: Why Do Alumni Give Back?

Angel Xin '26 explores the reasons, selfless and self-fulfilling, that donors give back to the School.



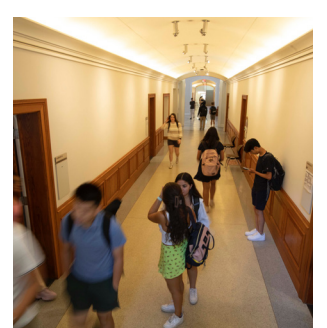
Bryant Holiday Market How-To

Melina Kyriakopoulos '27 explores the delicious food and holiday cheer that are the hallmark of the 2023 Bryant Holiday Market



Hallway Rules at The Lawrenceville School

Mira Ponnambalam '26 discusses the difficult and challenging rules and strategies for students to navigate with each other in the hallways and around campus.





THE LAWRENCE

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CORRECTIONS

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

Dog Of The Week: Yaya
Aki Li '25



Dishonesty Was His Only Policy

ELLEN JORDAN '26
NEWS ASSOCIATE

"Why would I want to stay here? To hell with this place!"

That was former Representative George Santos' (R-N.Y.) response to his expulsion from the House of Representatives, which occurred on December 1. His exit from the U.S. Capitol was quick, chaotic, and strangely comical. Swarmed by reporters, Santos bolted for his car, and his final words to the eager press only added to the bizarreness of the situation.

"As unofficially, already no longer a member of Congress, I no longer have to answer a single question from you guys."

Santos' removal, the latest of a string of unprecedented decisions from the House, cemented him as the third Congressman to be expelled since the Civil War. The call for his removal was overwhelming across party lines, with 105 Republicans and 206 Democrats voting in favor of his expulsion. Santos did not even stick around for the final vote tally, as he began to make his dramatic exit from the Capitol moments before the decision was even announced.

Santos' time in office—an 11-month whirlwind—was plagued by scandals and federal charges. However, his infamous departure may be a sign that U.S. politicians perceived as corrupt will now be held accountable for their misdeeds.

Back in November 2022, Santos' victory in northern Long Island and northeast Queens was his second attempt at Congress and an upset in a district that had previously favored Democrats. Yet even before he arrived at Capitol Hill, Santos faced serious doubts regarding his integrity. During his campaign, Santos claimed that he graduated from Baruch College in 2010, after which he became a "seasoned Wall Street financier and investor."

However, a report by the *New York Times* discovered Citigroup and Goldman Sachs (where Santos had claimed to once work) had no records of Santos' employment. Baruch College also revealed that it had no record that Santos had attended, and shortly thereafter Santos admitted that he had embellished aspects of his resumé.

However, the lies did not stop there; Santos' even lied about his ethnicity. While campaigning, perhaps in an attempt to appeal to New York City's large Jewish population, he shared a great detail about his "Jewish background," and claimed that his maternal grandparents had fled from Ukraine to Brazil during WWII to escape persecution. However, genealogy tests first cited by *The Forward* showed that his maternal grandparents were born in Brazil, not Ukraine. When he was questioned about the lie, he argued that he had been misheard.

"I said I was Jew-ish," Santos responded.

Yet despite the controversy and warning signs of his dishonest nature, he was still sworn into office by Kevin McCarthy on January 7.

Not even two weeks later, scandal surrounded Santos once again. On January 17, Richard Osthoff, a Navy veteran, accused Santos of scamming him out of \$3,000 worth of donations that Santos raised to fund life-saving surgery for Osthoff's dog. This was just the beginning of the turbulence in Santos' political career: lie after lie of his was exposed, including the claim that his mother had survived the 9/11 attacks while in the South Tower (she was not as immigration records proved that she wasn't even in the U.S. at the time).

Dear Reader,

You have probably passed by *The Lawrence's* office at least once, peered through the door to read the quotes hanging on the wall, and wondered to yourself, "What is it they do in there?" As this publishing week marks our final issue of 2023 and in the spirit of a new year, here are a few things we would like to reflect on 143rd's tenure thus far:

1. Let's face it—time management is hard, good time management almost impossible. Each Board member is familiar with the time crunch of the publishing schedule: providing the three rounds of edits for the writer is often done outside office hours while Wednesday and Thursday nights are devoted to InDesigning and making final edits on a page. Some like to say the contributors of *The Lawrence* often juggle more than they can carry, participating in everything from varsity sports and debate to musical commitments. Still, the most rewarding part of student life at Lawrenceville is the abundance of choice, and we like to think we've managed decently well with balance, or at least well enough to push out an eight-page issue each week.

Yet in this difficulty lies the heart of this process—it's the pulsing rhythm of dedication and passion that ultimately keeps the paper alive. From late Wednesday and Thursday nights in the office to the quick weekly turnaround, it is the physical copies that seem to miraculously spawn each Friday (or the following Monday—yes, we concede there have been some printing issues) that showcase the work and commitment of everyone contributing to the paper.

2. Writing and editing for this newspaper is like a workout on all fronts—stretching the limits of our time management, reaching new bounds in our creativity, and pushing

Editorial
The Lawrence: Wrapped

the bar for hours of functionable sleep. But as we push our limits, we grow as well—like the aftermath of a hard workout, we emerge with the strength to do things a little more efficiently, write with a little more zeal, and function on (although not ideal) slightly less hours of sleep. Pushing limits has come to define the work of *The Lawrence*—ultimately, the paper not only pushes us to be better writers, but better students and members of the community.

3. Writing and editing for *The Lawrence* has taught us a handful of new survival skills, necessary for handling both *The Lawrence* and school workloads. We've learned how to collaborate—everyone has a job and functions as an interdependent unit, culminating in the incredible feat of producing eight fully-fledged pages on a weekly basis. We've learned how to talk with our writers and communicate with one another. Some of us have learned how to lead—others have learned how to function independently. We'd like to believe that all of us have learned to write a little bit better.

Though *The Lawrence's* publication in the last hundred years can be attributed to consistency and an adherence to tradition, we also prioritize the ability to continuously transform. The newspaper boils down to one important idea: strengthening community. From the creation of an Outreach Editor to the implementation of "Outside the Bubble" by the News Section to the weekly online newsletter, this Board has focused on expanding our reach to the community both in terms of readership and the information shared with the student body.

4. As writers and readers, we know how much weight each article can carry; the process of reaching out, interviewing, and drafting all feel like putting a part of yourself into the work. Working for *The Lawrence* means aiming to prioritize writers' opinions and

viewpoints. Ultimately, we serve as an outlet for student voices, a goal difficult to accomplish but something we aspire to every day.

Within the office, weekly Board meetings encourage diversity of thought where ideas are challenged, debated, and refined, finally to be shared with the rest of the community through our Editorials. As of writing, the Board has published 16 unique editorials on topics ranging from homework and to circle-crescent divides, to the aftershocks of Covid-19, and the nature of student protest. Each Friday, editors shuffle in and out of the office to distribute dozens of issues to each building.

5. As our dear advisor Mrs. Buckles once sat us down to specifically say, nothing has to be perfect. It's easy to get caught up in the minute details of punctuation, spacing, and formatting, but at the end of the day, most students won't be taking a pen in hand, annotating each and every mistake in the paper (to our most dedicated readers: thank you).

Lastly, with the advent of the New Year, *The Lawrence* would collectively like to make a New Year's Resolution—we promise to bring you more. We promise to uphold the consistency that has defined us, and we promise to transform this paper and bring you novel, experimental ideas. We promise to learn more, to grow more, and to improve ourselves and the paper. In the meantime, we'd like to take a moment to thank you for sticking with us for the past two terms. We are nothing without our readership—and we cannot express enough how much we appreciate you. From the bottom of the Board's hearts, thank you—here's to an amazing remainder of the Board of 143.

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

resign. Even after the House decided to vote on expelling Santos on December 1, he remained defiant that he should be presumed innocent, exclaiming "But if I leave, they win. This is bullying."

"They" won, and he was expelled—although in retrospect, it was always a matter of when rather than if. From the moment he took office back in January, it quickly

became evident that Santos was not the person whom New Yorkers had voted for. His resumé and inspiring backstory were revealed to be a pure fabrication. Santos lied about all aspects of his character—his childhood, education, heritage, employment, and accomplishments. In the end, Santos' lies even outweighed the Republicans' need to maintain their razor-thin majority in the House: simply put, the entire situation was too embarrassing to continue. While in office, Santos remained a liability for Republicans, for his antics reflected negatively on the GOP as a whole.

For now, Santos will be remembered as a conman who bizarrely evaded scrutiny long enough to get elected but was unable to untangle himself from his web of lies.

However, the work to end corruption in Congress should not end with a fond farewell to Santos' antics. Other lawmakers under serious ethical clouds remain in office, a prime example being Lawrenceville's home Senator, Robert Menendez (D-NJ). In 2017, Menendez was charged with a wide range of offenses, including intervening in visa applications and interfering with government contracts, in exchange for personal favors such as luxury vacations. Menendez vehemently denied

the allegations in the trial which ended with a hung jury and viewed his subsequent reelection the following year as a personal vindication. 2023 brought a different variation of the same theme, with both Menendez and his wife now charged with accepting significant bribes including cash, gold bars, and even a Mercedes-Benz in exchange for taking action to assist Egypt.

Menendez is once again proclaiming that he will fight the charges and be acquitted. However, Santos' expulsion will undoubtedly increase the attention on why Menendez should be entitled to retain his seat while the criminal case against him proceeds. This attention will focus upon the specific allegations against Menendez, which are his abuse of his legislative powers for the benefit of a foreign country, a more serious public policy issue than Santos' Botox sprees.

Menendez is now the most prominent remaining example of the perceived corruption that continues to contaminate Capitol Hill, which not only inhibits progress but, if proven, cheats the American people out of the fair representation that they deserve. Simply put, each member of Congress should be beyond reproach regardless of their actions, and ethical standards should reflect the level of responsibility attached to leading the people. In this regard, Santos' case is a step in the right direction towards restoring confidence in Congress' integrity, and may even spark a broader chain reaction of holding lawmakers accountable. Without consequences for abuse of power, how can the United States trust that its leaders are acting justly? Congress must not lose the momentum gained from ousting Santos, by ensuring that members of Congress are working for their constituents rather than themselves.



Pheobe Rayner '26 / THE LAWRENCE

the House failed to reach the two-thirds majority needed to remove him from office, with 182 Republicans and 31 Democrats voting in favor of allowing him to retain his seat.

However, Representatives' minds changed when on November 16, the House Ethics Committee published a report finding that Santos stole money from his campaign for personal expenses. Just an hour after the report's publication, Santos announced that he would not run for re-election, but would not

A Class Act

Speculating Why Lawrenceville Alumni Donate

ANGEL XIN '26

As much as Lawrenceville is known for its high quality education, it is equally known for its high tuition—one of the highest in the country at \$73,220 every year. While geographic location could be used to explain the exorbitant expenses of other toppers of highest-tuition lists, such as California's WoodSide Priory School, The Webb School, and The Thatcher School, this likely cannot apply to Lawrenceville. At the same time, Lawrenceville is also famous for its resources, including an enormous endowment, described by The Lawrenceville Fund as a "margin of excellence."

In 2018, the Lawrenceville Fund suggested that the school's huge endowment, ranking in the top 10 among all private boarding schools in the country, owed its thanks to two major parties: the School's alumni (33 percent) and family of alumni (63 percent). Parents donate to the school to better the educational environment for their children. Why, then, do alumni, who have already reaped the benefits from the school, continue to give back?

This fall, the Class of 2024 broke the record for making the largest commitment to the Lawrenceville Fund, with 90 percent of the class donating. My primary focus however, is how these donations would impact our community. In comparison to the hundreds of millions of dollars that the school gathered from successful alumni, input from current students are comparably insignificant to the large-scale alumni gifts. For example, the recently constructed Tsai Field House and the long-existing Bunn Library are both physical testaments to our alumni's generosity. It is the alumni contributions that have given us a better learning environment, affording us a campus that resembles post-secondary institutions. Of course, a sixth of our endowment also supports students on financial aid—the school's official website states that another \$100 million is dedicated to funding for scholarship aid in order to make Lawrenceville more accessible. NAIS, the National Association of Independent Schools, for example, claims that "among students at boarding schools, 46 percent received financial aid," while, currently, only 29 percent of our student body is on need-based assistance. The opportunity

to bring more students with diverse socioeconomic backgrounds to Lawrenceville may be a strong motivator for philanthropic alumni.

Despite donations' many tangible benefits to our campus, I still believe the most important benefit of a large endowment is mental, not physical. Donations are a way to show off—for alumni to signal that they remain connected to the school community, that they had an enjoyable time during their stay, and are currently successful in their respective careers. All three of these signals may benefit the School, enticing prospective students to enroll. A large endowment

& *World Report*. Money is automatically factored into the very systems we use to measure—and compare—the status of a school.

While Lawrenceville is undoubtedly reliant on alumni donations, what do alumni gain from their generosity? Optimistically, one could assume that they are altruistic and are merely giving back without any intent of reaping any benefits. Ultimately, this may be true simply because of the Lawrenceville education's heavy emphasis on giving back. Being required to participate in a LCAP, a long-term opportunity for real community service, cultivates our senses of responsibility. Therefore, in certain ways, an altruistic instinct to give back is something that we develop as part of our education here. However, pure altruism, which I believe is inherently

alien to humans, is highly improbable—even motivating factors like receiving praise from those you respect subconsciously cause donors to link giving back with external validation. Donations can be yet another way to signal status: a mansion in Malibu cannot shout, "I have enough wealth to satisfy all of my desires, so I will give back with money that is no longer useful to me." Ultimately, having "enough money" to live in a state of utter financial excess is incredibly difficult, and donating a building is itself a way to signal wealth. It takes a significant amount of wealth to seek catharsis by giving money away instead of receiving it. At the end of the day, therefore, the relationship between those donating and receiving the donation is mutually beneficial.

Personally, I would choose to donate to the School, not because of altruism I was neither born with or have actively learned through my two years here nor because I have reached a stage in my life where I have more than I could ever spend. To me, donating is a Lawrenceville tradition that has been established for hundreds of years and is one that I would like to uphold. Perhaps it is related to my sense of ego, but the thought of supporting a community with an ongoing influx of intelligent, kind, and dedicated people just feels right. And given my privilege of having the power to give back, I would choose to do what feels right.

The Magic of Sports

HALDORA CHURCHILL '27

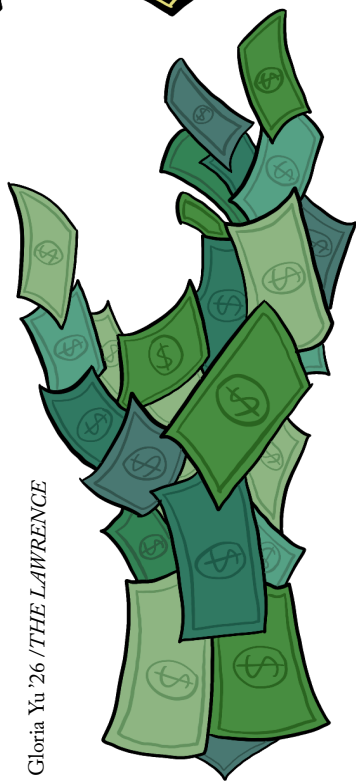
Here at Lawrenceville, many students are stressed and sleep-deprived from their academic, athletic, and extracurricular commitments. Simply put, life at Lawrenceville can be taxing on students' mental health. There is one activity at Lawrenceville that greatly improves both students' physical well-being and mental health: playing sports. Exercising can significantly reduce the effects of or the risk of developing a mental health disorder, as does going outside and interacting with nature.

As a member of the Girl's Varsity Cross Country team in the Fall Term, I felt incredibly well-supported by all of my teammates and coaches. It felt amazing to help our girls' team win the MAPL Championship, knowing the hard work each of us put into our season. Even though we did not win every meet, what mattered most was that we gave it our all and performed the best we could in the moment. All Lawrenceville students should consider participating in inter-

scholastic sports so they can reflect on fond memories with their teammates, created during wins and losses, reaching goals and falling short—together. Uplifting experiences, like those offered by playing sports, are essential for maintaining mental health. Additionally, bonds with teammates and coaches can be helpful assets to every student's support system, because no one should have to take on the challenges of Lawrenceville alone. Participating in athletics at Lawrenceville is a great way to create lasting memories with coaches, teammates, and with the sport itself.

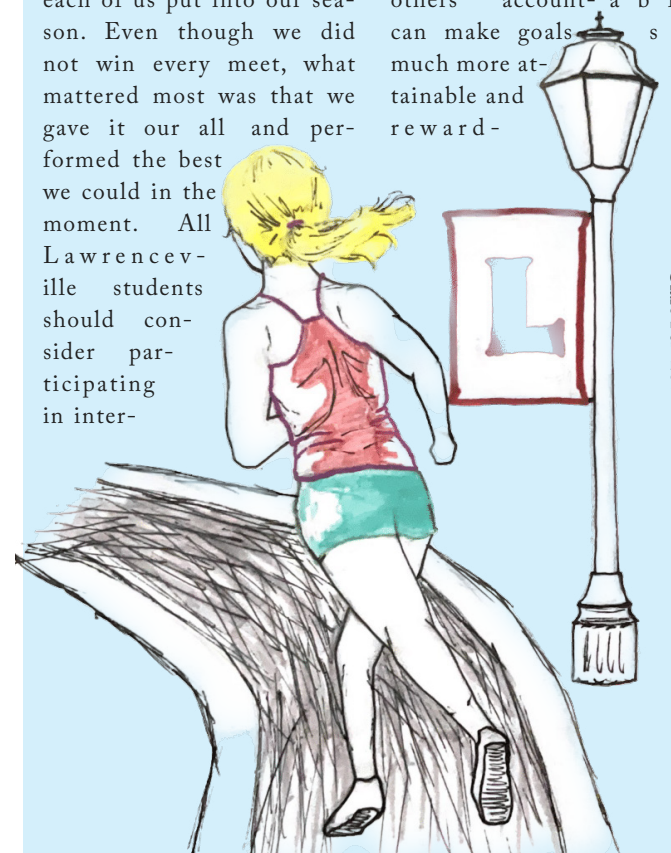
While not everyone is inclined to exercise before or after a long day of classes, the endorphins released during exercise can make students feel happy, accomplished for their hard work, and even energized to continue exercising. Endorphins are not only released from working hard in practice, but can also be released when student-athletes run their personal bests, score touchdowns or goals, or reach a weight-lifting personal record in Loucks. Sports at Lawrenceville push students to feel positive, even amongst the rigor of the Lawrenceville schedule. After hard workouts and meets, I felt an unmatched sense of accomplishment and an endorphin rush which makes playing a sport you enjoy worth it—it feels amazing!

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Gloria Yu '26 / THE LAWRENCE

means that, in the past, the School was able to pave roads to success for its former students in hopes of drawing highly ambitious students to attend. If this cycle continues, Lawrenceville will continuously admit passionate students who will grow to be important members of the global society and eventually give back. Esteemed universities like Harvard, Yale, and Princeton similarly prize themselves on their high endowments—not only because these donations are testament to the success of their graduates and their education's impact on that success, but also because they have been factored into the determination of college rankings, according to *U.S. News*



Clare Pat '26 / THE LAWRENCE

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While varsity sports at Lawrenceville may be highly respected, junior varsity and lifetime athletics are equally important for building strong bonds with new people, developing athletic skills, and supporting psy-

Outside the Bubble Chauvin Stabbed by Inmate

SIENNA SOEMITRO '26

On November 19, John Turscak non-fatally stabbed Derek Chauvin at the Federal Correctional Institution in Tucson, Arizona, with an improvised knife. Turscak claimed that he had planned to execute the attack on Black Friday in honor of the Black Lives Matter movement and the 'Black Hand,' a symbolic connection to a Mexican mafia criminal organization he was formerly part of. Turscak told in-

vestigators that he targeted the ex-Minneapolis police officer for his killing of George Floyd that sparked the Black Lives Movement in 2020. Chauvin survived the attack and will continue serving out his 22-year sentence at the same facility in Arizona. Turscak was charged with attempted murder, assault with intent to commit murder, assault with a dangerous weapon, and assault resulting in serious bodily injury.

Buffalo Bills Von Miller Arrested

SYDNEY WANG '25
NEWS ASSOCIATE

On November 29, the Dallas Police Department issued an arrest warrant for Buffalo Bills linebacker Von Miller. The police received an early morning call from Miller's neighbors reporting a disturbance, subsequently leading to an investigation in which officers discovered that Miller and his girlfriend—whom he had been dating for seven years, and who was also pregnant at the time—engaged in an argument before Miller allegedly physically assaulted her. According to Bills News, the woman said that Miller had pulled out a chunk of her hair, shoved her, and applied pressure to her neck for "three to five seconds

before letting go." An officer took note of bruises and abrasions on her hand and neck that corroborated Miller's girlfriend's report. On November 30, Miller turned himself in to the police and was transferred to a local jail, though he paid bond and was immediately released. On the same day, in response to social media backlash, Miller's girlfriend claimed her words were "blown out of context," and that the situation had become exaggerated to the point that it was "outrageous" and "insane." According to a spokesperson for the National Football League, Miller will not be placed on paid leave until he is "formally charged."

George Santos' Expulsion

MIRA TRAPPE '26

After facing 23 federal charges, Republican Representative for New York's third Congressional district George Santos was expelled from Congress on December 1 after a bipartisan vote. Santos, the focus of many public scandals throughout his short-lived political career, is currently facing charges of money laundering, fraud, identity theft, and falsifying records among others. His expulsion marks the sixth removal of a Congressman from

Congress and the third removal since the Civil War. Over the past year, there have been two other attempts within Congress to oust Santos, though they were unsuccessful. At the end of November, the House Ethics Committee filed a 56 page report finding significant evidence to prove that Santos committed several federal crimes, convincing the majority of the House of Representatives to vote in favor of his expulsion. Santos' trial will take place in September of 2024.

Wrestling Bouts and Bubble Battles: Rumble in the Arena

SOPHIE CHENG '25
NEWS ASSOCIATE

Varsity Wrestling Head Coach Johnny Clore H '02 and the Boys' and Girls' Varsity Wrestling Team hosted the annual Rumble in the Arena event in the Loucks Ice Center this past weekend. The event featured bouts from some of the Varsity wrestlers and brought the Lawrenceville community together with a bubble ball competition for House points. 2023 marks the ninth year of Rumble in the Arena, and Clore is hoping to continue running the event in the years to come.

Wrestler Jalen Gravesande '25 enthusiastically expressed his excitement in seeing friends from the team showcase their wrestling skills for members of the school community. Gravesande is very passionate about the sport and appreciates that his fellow peers and classmates had the opportunity to learn more about wrestling through Rumble in the Arena. "I couldn't wait to see my housemates in Cleve compete for house points in the Bumper Ball suits," he said.

Fellow teammate Eshan Tibrewal '25 commented, "As a new [III Former], I have only been able to participate in two Rumbles... fortunately for me, this year was even better than the last because

of how tight-knit the team is and our combined efforts to host other students for a memorable time."

Emily Lee '26 also attended the Saturday night activity with high hopes. "Watching the wrestling team in their natural habitat was a surreal experience," she remarked, "Being unfamiliar to the sport, I was shocked to see the intensity and energy...I think the crowd made the experience very hype and full of spirit as the turnout was great." Alongside Lee was Sienna Soemitro '26, who attended her first-ever Rumble this past Saturday. "It was truly an enjoyable experience to watch different students across all the Houses compete in such an energetic competition," Soemitro said. Soemitro noted that Rumble was a "good mix of both fun and competitive spirit," with Lee adding that the highlight of the event for them was when the wrestling team came on and "displayed their skills for everyone."

Next year, students will get back on the wrestling mats and compete for the 10th year of Lawrenceville's Turkey Term tradition: Rumble in the Arena.

Celebrating Native American Heritage Month at Lawrenceville

ETHAN ZHU '26
NEWS ASSOCIATE

November marked the arrival of Native American Heritage Month, also known as American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month, commemorating the rich history, culture, and contributions of indigenous peoples in the Americas. During this month, Native American communities are recognized for the crucial role they have played throughout American history as the original inhabitants of American land. November was chosen because it represents the end of the traditional Native harvest season and the arrival of Thanksgiving.

Director of Equity and Inclusion Nuri Friedlander noted the uniqueness of Native American Heritage Month at Lawrenceville. "Because we don't have a Native American student group on campus, our goal for the month wasn't necessarily for a group of students on campus to celebrate their culture like we did for Hispanic Heritage Month," Friedlander said, "but rather for the edification of the campus as a whole."

Friedlander worked closely with several student-led groups on campus to celebrate the month and what it stands for. He

noted that Lunch and Dialogue—a forum for students to discuss relevant issues and current events—provided a great opportunity for Lawrentians to learn more about the history and culture of Native American tribes. The student-led organization hosted a documentary viewing about Oklahoma's Osage tribe, which connects to a recently released movie called "Killers of the Flower Moon." "Something that Lunch and Dialogue does is collaborate with different affinity groups or do programming that's

nape tribe, whose members reside in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Delaware, including Lawrence Township. "We have limited space, but anyone is able to sign up, and I would really encourage all who are interested to try," he said.

Reflecting on the importance of celebrating Native American Heritage Month, Friedlander noted that the month provides "an opportunity for us to think of the history of the place that we're in, the lands that we're on, and what it means for us to



Emily Pan '24/THE LAWRENCE

aligned with what's happening around us at any given moment," Friedlander elaborated.

Friedlander has also organized a trip to the Michener Art Museum for this upcoming Sunday, December 10. The museum exhibits art from the Le-

be here." "Celebrating these heritage months can be a good chance for students to become more engaged within the school community, as they can highlight, showcase, and educate their peers in things that matter to them," he concluded.

Time to Git Down: This Year's Winter Jazz Concert

ELLEN JORDAN '26
NEWS ASSOCIATE

This past Sunday, Lawrenceville's student jazz groups—the Little Big Band and the 8 O'Clock Jazz Combo—performed in the Clark Music Center as part of the annual winter Jazz Ensemble Concert. The concert featured a variety of songs and compositions, from holiday classic "All I For Christmas is You" by Mariah Carey to the New Orleans-inspired tune "Git-Down Time" by Rick Hirsch. To prepare for the concert, members of both ensembles attended weekly morning rehearsals.

"We rehearse every Wednesday morning at 8:00...it really wakes you up," commented clarinet player Clara Khabbaz '26, a member of the 8 O'Clock Jazz Combo.

Khabbaz first started playing the clarinet when she was in third grade. Though her music career originally blossomed in orchestra, she switched over to jazz in middle school so she could have more playing time during performances. Despite the early morning rehearsals before class, Khabbaz genuinely enjoyed the preparation experience and getting to know other Lawrentians who are equally passionate about jazz.

"For me, the best part about playing in the ensemble was not only performing the music itself, but also discovering that so many people are interested in jazz and getting to know them through playing music together," she elaborated.

Anna Bao '27, who is part of both the Little Big Band and the 8 O'Clock Jazz Combo, echoed Khabbaz's sentiments. "I loved playing with everyone...it's just so fun outside of all your classes to get together and have fun making music with other students," she said.

Bao has also been playing the euphonium—which resembles a smaller-sized tuba—since elementary school. She was first introduced to jazz by her brother, who played in his school band. In addition to having family ties to jazz, she also developed an interest simply by listening to the music in her free time and eventually decided to try her hand at playing a jazz instrument by joining her school's band. After arriving on

having the opportunity to perform it again," Bao explained.

However, Bao encountered some setbacks during the preparation process. "Jazz music was a big adjustment [at Lawrenceville] compared to my old school, and I think a lot of other people can also agree that the music itself is really challenging," she elaborated.

Prudence Dwyer '26, who played the trombone as part of the Little Big Band, found herself drawn to jazz for a similar reason to Khabbaz. "In jazz performances, it feels like trombones actually play a more important role and really shine on stage," she said.

Attendees of the concert spoke highly of the performance. "It was spectac-



Photo of Jazz Concert

Sonia Shum '27/THE LAWRENCE

campus this fall, Bao decided to continue pursuing her passion by joining the two jazz bands. She enjoyed performing all of the pieces at the concert, though she did have one particular favorite.

"My favorite was 'Freddie Freeloader,' because I played it in my old school [with] a different arrangement, so I enjoyed

ular...I loved seeing my talented classmates perform, and I'll definitely be attending the next concert," Arya Sreedhar '24 said.

"It was so fun to see students that I live with and I teach in a completely new light...I'm always so impressed with my Stephenites," Stephens Head of House Nicole Lantz added.

You're so Fake: An Exploration of Art Replicas

SOPHIE YANG '26

What is real art, and what is fake? Does this difference really matter? Is there truly a difference to begin with? In this modern epoch of visual art, the question of authenticity has relentlessly wedged itself into our perception of art, unfortunately straying from the simple, humble form of visual entertainment art has always been. Now, especially with the rise of A.I. art, our criteria for judging art have changed from simply appreciating its visual aesthetic to the initial questioning of whether the art piece was A.I. generated or not. Like mindless drones scrolling away in the endless onslaught of braindead content known as social media, self-proclaimed critics tap fiercely away at their blue phone screens, unapologetically criticizing strangers for drawing the wrong facial proportions and then accusing others of fraud when their art is "too good" to be real. Art forums transform into warzones—contemporary art is ridiculed, A.I. users are publicly shamed, traditional artists look down on digital artists, and artists draw solely for likes and follows.

Recently, a German man stole four paintings from the Deutsches Museum in Munich and replaced them

Sonia Singhal '24/THE LAWRENCE



with replicas. Together, the paintings were worth hundreds of thousands of dollars, and the man decided to auction them off to fund his short-lived luxury lifestyle. The museum soon realized that fakes had replaced their collection of paintings, and the man was arrested and fined. While all the paintings were safely returned to the Deutsches Museum and the case was closed, this story gave way to the moral dilemma surrounding replicas and whether they are legitimate works of art too. If someone made a perfect replica of the Mona Lisa and secretly replaced it with the real one, most

ordinary viewers would never notice that it was not the original. And until an art critic comes out and reveals the truth, everybody would go about their day believing that it was the real thing. But then, the world would be shaken into an outrage that somebody dared to create a fake of the Mona Lisa and condemn the replicator as a liar and a fraud. Even if the artist made the same exact paint strokes as Leonardo Da Vinci, the simple fact that Da Vinci's own hands didn't draw it changes its worth from priceless to nothing. But, at the end of the day, the Mona Lisa is just another portrait of a woman, and

since art is judged by visual aesthetics, shouldn't the replica and the original be worth the same amount?

My answer to this is that the modern criteria for judging art assigns different values to artwork based on their age. Nowadays, there is an urgency to protect and preserve as much of the past as we can. As such, we view relics of the past as limited-edition collectibles. No matter how similar a replica may be, it will never carry the same history, memories, creativity, or arduous process of trying over and over again as the original. The same logic applies to A.I. art, which will

never have the heart and thought put into it as something created by a human. Art, in this modern day and age, goes far beyond a piece of visual entertainment. As the zeitgeist of an era changed, art, too, like a butterfly undergoing metamorphosis, will continue to evolve, creating new definitions for itself. Perhaps contemporary art will slowly find its roots again in old Renaissance masters, or perhaps it'll continue to embrace the abstract and futuristic, but it's the history behind a single drawing, a single painting, a single PNG that people truly care about.

Festive Fun: A Bryant Holiday Market How-To

MELINA KYRIAKOPOULOS '27

With a winter chill in the air, holiday lights are beginning to glow. It's time to hop over to New York City, where Bryant Park hosts its annual holiday market, the Bryant Park Winter Village.

The Bryant Park Winter Village, a market modeled off a classic European holiday market, opened its gates in 2002. The festive booths are chock-filled with jolly, albeit expensive, items that began as a way for local businesses to use the park during the colder months of the year, as well as spread the holiday cheer. The first few years were shaky, though, and the market did not produce much customer turnout. This all changed in 2005 when the clever idea of adding an Olympic-sized skating rink "melted" the New York City holiday event competition. Although the city is home to a wide variety of ice rinks, New Yorkers were happy to welcome another one with open arms. Uncommon for the Big Apple, admission into the rink was, and still is free, if you bring your own skates. The ice brought in seasoned (and flimsy) skaters that drove up sales at the many booths at the Winter Market. The number of booths present at the first fair, 80, pales in comparison to the now more than 180 kiosks that had to compete for the lucrative spots. The heavily publicized event does not lack social media coverage and overall fame.

Here are some of the booths



Bryant Park Ice Rink in NYC

Courtesy of Pxhere.com

to look out for when visiting the village! Food is the main event of this park, but there is also an assortment of ornaments and stockings that can be picked up to decorate a dorm room, apartment, or house after devouring many filling snacks. Scarves and mittens are also stocked up if you want a

new and fashionable way to stay warm. Back to the food, though. Let's just say that there are plenty of options to choose from, whether you want a savory and fresh meal or gooey, fried cheese on a hot stick. Starting off strong, No Chewing Allowed is a great place to grab a comforting cup of chocolaty

goodness to warm up your body and soul. Their name is no lie; the melty truffles and cocoa-filled drinks stand out among the crowd from other chocolatiers. Staying on the dessert train, Donuttery is the place to go for mouth-watering donuts. The mini donuts are great for a quick treat or a dentist's nightmare meal.

They are infused with innovative tastes, like bam berry and spicy rooster, and customers have the option to purchase a dipping sauce to accompany the fried dough balls. Whether you choose to go for powdered sugar or pumpkin pie brûlée, this charming stop is a must-try. To break up the sweet, head over to Baked Cheese Haus. They feature a show-stopping wheel of cheese, in which the chefs craftily slide a good gloop of cheese onto their famous baguette sandwich. Inspired by the Scandinavian delight, videos of this luxurious meal set high hopes for viewers, and many visitors say they have not been let down. Picking up a crunchy side at Bel-Fries is the essential next step for this market food tour. Made from local ingredients, these crunchy potatoes are famous for a reason, from the genius marketing on Instagram to the quality of their large servings piled in a cone. They come with different tastes, toppings, and sauces and are a must-hit. Topping off the meal run, Destination Dumplings are unique creations that bring a little bit of spice to the dominantly European menu. Some of their coveted eats are their Korean beef dumplings and their classic pork bao buns. Try to visit earlier rather than later, though, because they sell out!

Whether you love the holiday lead-up and want to be celebrated with cheer or are a fan of a good bite, the Bryant Park Winter Village should be the next event on your list of run-throughs this holiday season.

Hallway Rules at The Lawrenceville School

MIRA PONNAMBALAM '26 - FEATURES ASSOCIATE

Lawrenceville can be quite difficult to navigate. Not academically. Not socially. But literally. Walking from class to class presents a set of challenges that every Lawrentian must pass before graduating. Never fear! Here is how to survive these moments:

Rule #1

Nearly every boarding student has misplaced or broken their fob at some point in their time at Lawrenceville. If this tragedy has not happened to you yet, it will. So how can you go on with your day without your \$15 piece of plastic? Simple. Acquire a responsible day student friend who has a fob. Then, drag them from building to building at your convenience. Who cares if they get some tardies? Dean of Students Blake Eldridge '96 H '78 '12 P'25 says everyone needs to get at least one detention before graduating.

Rule #2

Everyone knows you must hold the door for the person behind you, no matter the weather, how late the kindful action will make you, or how far away the trailing person is. It is unbecoming of a Lawrentian to let others take the time to press their phones to the fob reader and go through the effort of opening a door themselves. If you see someone clearly coming in your direction, hold the door. However, sometimes other people also have to hold the door for you, and it is equally unbecoming of a Lawrentian to make someone wait for you. You could run like your life depends on it, but that is just so overzealous. Instead, embrace spontaneity, avoid eye contact, and fake going for a different door.

Rule #4

Sometimes, though, you are the one walking too slowly. You see your friend ahead of you and want to approach them. The problem is you can not seem to close the divide. You are just too slow. You cannot run or yell for them without attracting too much attention. You have two options at this moment. You can tell them you see them in the creepiest voice you can muster, or you can just learn to teleport. What, like having a superpower is hard?

Rule #5

Walking across campus with friends is a staple of the Lawrenceville experience. You can complain, tell stories, and have fun during your treks from place to place. Sometimes, however, you employ rather colorful language, leading to awkward reprimands from teachers for the use of harsh words. React quickly, and you will be fine. Loudly tell your friend to watch their language and hope the teacher does not mistake the speaker for you instead. Friends are just dead weight, anyways.

To Board or Not to Board

BABETTE HENAULT-BASSETT '26

The Lawrenceville School, the place we call home, is not everyone's residential home, with about 70 percent of students being boarders and 30 percent being day students. Although Lawrenceville does a great job integrating people of both statuses, differences still exist among the students.

Price Donaldson '24, a day student from Princeton, New Jersey, has been a day student all four years at Lawrenceville but wishes she were a boarder. Although she has the "freedom to leave and campus and go to [her] own home," Donaldson has to make a more "conscious choice to be involved and dedicated to the community." Constant activities are happening on campus, such as clubs, athletic competitions, and cultural events, so it was more difficult for her to involve herself fully in the social life at Lawrenceville without a driver's license. Parents are not always available to pick up their children when they want to and/or want to

accommodate late-night plans, so day students sometimes miss out on some of the campus' special events.

Grayson Salatto '25 and Taylor Hill '25 are boarding students from Redding, Connecticut, and Rock Hall, Maryland, respectively, who happen to be roommates in Stanley. Since their II Form years, Salatto and Hill have been boarders, and they would not want it any other way. Salatto believes that as a boarder, she is more "involved in the house and community" since she experiences both day and night activities on campus. However, she recognizes an advantage day students have because boarders must adjust to a bigger transition in having to "adapt to living away from home and learn the responsibilities" of newfound independence. Although loving her experience as a boarder, Hill recognizes that "boarders have no option of going home to eat or hang out with our parents... while day students leave and practically live another life outside of school." Both Hill and Salatto agree that

day students can miss out on The Lawrenceville Experience, such as small conversations and hallway interactions in the house at night. They also both think that the transition to college from Lawrenceville will be easier for boarders since they will have already had the experience of living away from home. Hill and Salatto love the experience of being boarding students, which is why they both chose to come to a boarding school like Lawrenceville.

Lily Chincarini '26 has had the unique experience of being both a day student and a boarder. Last year, Chincarini attended Lawrenceville as a day student, but this year, she became a boarder, so she first-handedly understands the benefits to both experiences. As a day student, Chincarini found focusing on her homework difficult. Hill thinks that day students often "miss out on what is going on after sports," which can sometimes make day students feel isolated, so while she appreciates the two hours of study hall every night, she does not



Students in Fathers Hall

Courtesy of *The Lawrenceville School*

Rule #3

While only faculty members and V Form day students can drive on campus, we all experience a little road rage when a group of people in front of us walk way too slowly. Picture briskly walking your way to class so you can sit in your unassigned assigned seat before someone else does. Suddenly, you are slowed by a group of students walking at a leisurely pace. First of all, how dare they enjoy themselves? Second, what do you do? Easy. Speed walk around them as fast as you can to assert your dominance (and get some exercise).

Rule #6

Have you ever contemplated whether or not it is weird to say "hi" to someone? Maybe you have made awkward eye contact with someone you only know loosely, who used to be in one of your classes or even a complete stranger. This greeting is not weird. Say "hi"! Nod, smile, wave, talk, whatever. Just do not say their name. That way, if they do not respond, you can just pretend you are talking to someone behind them. Add their name to your list of sworn enemies, and move on.

All jokes aside, just do your best to be nice and considerate! Appropriate hallway etiquette just requires that you acknowledge and respect the people around you, not that you turn into a time-traveling, traitorous track star.



Sonia Singhal '24 / *THE LAWRENCE*

like being unable to do homework after 11:15 PM after lights-out. As a boarder, Chincarini now feels a stronger connection with her house's duty team and has more opportunities to participate in activities on campus. However, as a member of the Girls' Varsity Field Hockey team and a competitive field hockey player outside of school, she could participate in off-campus practices last year without the difficulty of signing out, which she now has to do as a boarder. Signing out was a general complaint among all interviewees.

Overall, having both experiences, she still prefers the advantages of being a boarder despite missing her family and home-cooked meals.

Donaldson, Salatto, Hill, and Chincarini are just a few examples of the lives of boarding students and day students. Each person at Lawrenceville has an individual experience that cannot be replicated. However, there are more differences between the boarding students and the day students, principally that the day students miss out on a lot of campus events and experiences that boarders are able to attend.

A Reflection of the Lawrenceville Experience



Annabelle Yao '26 / THE LAWRENCE

JENNY ZHAO '25

As the holiday season begins, a feeling of nostalgia and recollection has dawned on campus. For the V Formers, this marks the start of their many “lasts” at Lawrenceville. Reflecting on their time at the School, four members of the V Form class discuss how the Lawrenceville experience has shaped who they are now.

Nichole Jin '24

Nichole Jin '24 is a four-year veteran of Lawrenceville. In addition to serving as the Co-Captain of the Girls' Varsity Tennis Team and as the Co-News editor of *The Lawrence*, Jin is also a proud Carter House prefect. When reflecting on her experiences as a II Former, Jin recalls her excitement for the House system and Lawrenceville's scholar programs that allowed students to get involved with research. Yet she was initially apprehensive about the school's “academically rigorous environment” and its “interactive Harkness approach.” Fortunately, Jin was pleasantly surprised with the “supportive...and generally friendly atmosphere” of Lawrenceville. With practice, she has also come to appreciate the “engaging Harkness discussions.” Jin feels that being a prefect now helps connect her to underformers in similar shoes as she was in and see the “benefits to the House system,” and “the supportive community that [Lawrentians] are lucky to have.” While the last of her favorite Carter House traditions—the annual Halloween invite-a-friend—has concluded, she recalls fond memories of witnessing the “strong bonds between House members.” From these transformative experiences, Jin feels that “Lawrenceville has played a very important role, if not the most important role, in helping [her] become the person [she is] today.”

Krish Mehta '24

Kennedy House prefect and Hutchins Science Scholar Krish Mehta '24 was drawn to Lawrenceville due to its Harkness-style learning. For him, the “biggest appeal” was to “collaborate and learn from [his] peers,” which has proven to be an extremely important practice in his science and mathematics classes. At the start of his III Form year, Mehta did not think he would enjoy study hall. He now believes the nightly study hall routine is “underrated” and “a good opportunity for students to lock in.” Mehta also perceives Lawrenceville as having a “completely different vibe” compared to his experience at his prior school; while hard work is certainly necessary at Lawrenceville, there are also “many fun Saturday nights...hanging out with friends.” He especially enjoys “Kennedy [House] grilled cheese” and, as a prefect, considers “the small parts of living in the House” the “highlight of [his] Lawrenceville experience.” As a V Former, Mehta wants to focus on fostering a vibrant and inclusive house culture for his prefectees—ensuring students feel “like a family.” Mehta would give one message for Underformers as he reflects on his time at Lawrenceville: “Don't take Honors Chemistry—you're not the exception.” After his time at Lawrenceville, Mehta feels that he has become “significantly more studious,” and now has “the tools to succeed in life”—perhaps from taking Honors Chemistry!

Jane Atkinson '24

Jane Atkinson's '24 journey at Lawrenceville has truly come full circle. Entering as a II Former, Atkinson had “a lot of expectations” for the “academic rigor” and “anticipated being challenged in the classroom.” Fortunately, Lawrenceville delivered: from the “life-changing events” she has experienced, Atkinson feels she is now “much better of a person” than she was as a II Former and now possesses “skills that will help [her] after graduation.” The most prominent change Atkinson went through has taken place on the track: entering Lawrenceville “identifying as a runner,” she now “enjoys so many things more than running.” Now a Dawes House prefect, Atkinson feels that this role serves as a way for her to “create the culture [she] hopes to see at Lawrenceville.” Stemming from her own journey with running, Atkinson hopes to inspire her prefectees and underclassmen peers “not to be afraid of changing their personal image” and accept that, through participating in the “vast array of opportunities on campus, they can “create a new image for themselves.” As Atkinson embarks on her last Winter Term at Lawrenceville, she wants to emphasize to prefectees who are “in the same shoes as [she] was” to “enjoy the process” and “focus on supporting one another and being kind always.”

Anabel Guerreiro '24

An arts enthusiast at heart, Anabel Guerreiro '24 was drawn to Lawrenceville's offerings of a “strong community” and the opportunity to “live alongside peers equally as motivated as [she is].” Her experiences as a III and IV Former in the Stephens House have helped her “love Stephens more than anything.” Now a dedicated prefect, she “truly believes Stephens is the place for [her]” and enjoys “every single Saturday night in the House.” Some aspects of boarding school, such as the “prevalence of athletics,” also exceeded her expectations. However, Guerreiro, now Co-Captain of the Girls' Varsity Softball team, sees participating in sports as one of Lawrenceville's “biggest personal surprises” and represents a “major change” since her II Form year. Some ambitions have remained since she entered the school: from being “especially involved in music...and science,” Guerreiro leads and participates in countless musical events, including the bi-annual orchestra concerts. Reflecting on her growth from a II Former, she recognizes Lawrenceville as the main catalyst for her “improved confidence.” She hopes that her journey can be a source of inspiration for underformers to “support the arts,” but most importantly, “buy into Lawrenceville” because “you get out what you put in.”

The Dynamics of Stress Strains

ELLIE TURCHETTA '25

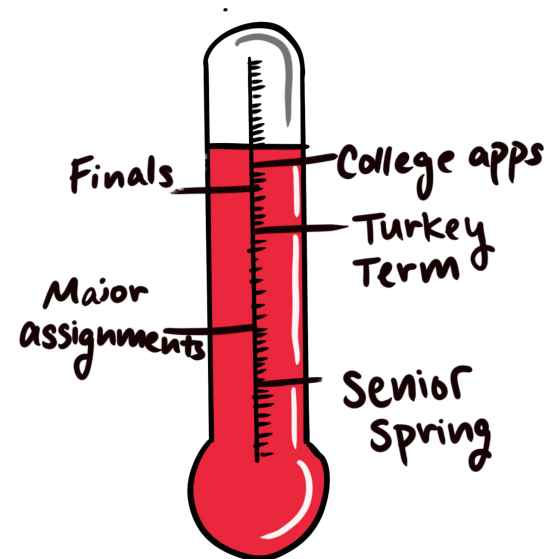
Returning students waste no time explaining to new students the horrors of the academically infamous Turkey Term: back-to-back major assignments and winter sports pick up their intensity, all while arts ensembles culminate in stressful concerts. But when boiled down to its roots, the Turkey Term, or even the Winter Term itself, is really structurally no different from the fall or the spring. Still, stress levels at Lawrenceville wax and wane with the comings and goings of the term.

For Riley McKibben '25, her first term on campus was the easiest in terms of academics. “II Form

Fall was by far the easiest term I've had so far because we didn't have any grades, so the academic pressures were much less.” However, McKibben noted that while the II Form Fall had a lighter academic workload, the fall was much more stressful socially. “The social pressures that came with everyone being new and making new friends was almost equivalent to some of the academic stress that I've felt here.” Despite the II Form Fall schedule reducing stress significantly to incentivize student bonding, social pressures seem to replace academic pressures present in any other term.

Like the II Form Fall narrative, the Fall Term seems generally accepted

as the easiest term overall. Jenny Zhao '25, a new III Former, pointed out a sudden rush of motivation beginning the new year, comparing the rush to the feeling of a “new year's resolution,” which, while dying away quite quickly, gives you enough motivation and energy to finish the term. Zhao also noted that the weather in the fall significantly affects her stress levels. “While the workload of fall term is the same as any other, the weather offsets the workload and impacts my mood and ability to concentrate.” Risa Kato '26, a new III Former this year, attributed her reduced stress in the fall to teacher expectations. “In the fall, teachers know that you're



Michelle Zhang '25 / THE LAWRENCE

still new and getting used to the environment, so they don't expect to excel in everything,” she says. “But, as the year goes on, the expectations become higher, and so does the stress.”

Indeed, as the year goes on, Turkey Term and Winter Term approaches, leading to rising stress levels for nearly everyone on campus. “It gets dark, really, really early,” Zhao notes, “and that really takes a toll on my mental and emotional state...since you are in the middle of the academic year, your motivation from the summer is dying out but you also can

not really look forward to summer realistically because it's so far away.”

While the spring might lead to some reprieve in stress on campus, especially for V Formers who will have, for the most part, completed their college applications, it is no secret that the least stressful time at Lawrenceville is when you are not on campus. While we are in the weeds of the stress and exhaustion of the notorious Turkey Term, rewarding breaks and warmer weather are almost in each and every Lawrentians' sight.

Beyond the Turf



Aileen Ryu '25/THE LAWRENCE

Brotherly Love: Appreciating the Kelces, On & Off the Field

ELLIE DUFFY '26

Two of the most famous faces in football today are the Kelce brothers, Jason and Travis Kelce. But who are they really? For one, Jason is one of the greatest NFL (National Football League) centers of all time, celebrated for his blocking and snapping skills, along with his lead role in legendary “tush push” play. Travis also plays on the offensive end but in a pass-catching position as a dynamic tight end on the Kansas City Chiefs. These two are both extremely accomplished on the field, but outside of football, the Kelces have become singers, highly-rated podcasters, and stars of TV commercials and documentaries. Behind their respective Kelly Green and red and gold jersey, these brothers have impacted much more than football and have created lasting legacies for the Kelce name.

First off, the oldest brother, Jason Kelce, who was drafted in the sixth round of the 2011 draft, is a 12 year veteran for the Philadelphia Eagles, who have 10 wins and two losses this season. He is a key member of their offensive line, blocking for star quarterback Jalen Hurts, and has played over 145 consecutive games, the second longest-streak in the NFL. Over his career, he has also been a six time Pro-Bowler. Since

2014 he has played 100 percent of all offensive snaps for the Philadelphia Eagles, with over 800 of those snaps coming in this season alone. Off the field, Jason is a music producer having created two Christmas albums featuring other Eagles players, the more recent of the two entitled “A Philly Special Christmas Special.” The record quickly climbed the charts as one of the first Christmas albums led by football players. He also stars in a very popular documentary on Prime Video called “Kelce,” and is an actor in numerous Tide Laundry Detergent commercials. Jason also was a finalist for the title of “Sexiest Man Alive” given to celebrities by People Magazine, and headlines the “New Heights” podcast with his brother about the lives of NFL athletes. Jason Kelce, at age 37, has built a career outside of his insane athletic ability through various forms of music, podcasts, and TV and hopefully he continues to build his career outside of just football.

Not to be outdone by his older brother, Travis has built an impressive NFL career as by far one of the best tight ends in the NFL. Travis has only played for one team in his 10 year career since being picked in the third round of the 2013 NFL Draft by The Kansas City Chiefs, who currently have a record of 8-4 this season. Travis has played 153 games in his NFL career and has caught over 884 passes from quarterbacks Alex Smith, Nick Foles, and most recently Patrick Mahomes. He has scored 74

touchdowns as a tight end in his last nine seasons and has gained 11,076 yards so far in his career. Travis is also an eight time Pro-Bowler and became the first tight-end in NFL history to have at least 1,000 receiving yards in four back to back seasons. Besides being one the greatest tight ends of all time, Travis is an actor in the iconic State-Farm commercials with his teammate Patrick Mahomes and he co-leads the aforementioned “New Heights” podcast with Jason. Travis is currently known for dating Taylor Swift and has been seen at many of her concerts, indirectly introducing himself to an entire new demographic of fans. Travis, like his brother, has cemented his name in football record books and is on the road to becoming maybe one of the greatest tight ends in NFL history.

There is no debate that the Kelce brothers are easily among the best NFL players of all time at their respective positions, and are both headed for the Pro Football Hall of Fame when their illustrious careers are over. Not only have these two been stars on the field but they are developing impressive careers in the media industry as TV personalities, music producers and singers, podcast stars, and as general inspirations to people all over the country. Overall, these two players are unlike any others we have seen in professional sports on and off the field. Viewers will be awaiting their future off-field escapades just as eagerly as their on-field play for the rest of the season.

Around the Grounds

Courtesy of Lawrenceville Flickr



Previewing the '23-'24 Big Red Hockey Season

ANGEL XIN '26

Last week, the Lawrenceville Boys' Varsity Ice Hockey team overpowered Millbrook in their home opener with a 6-2 win. The team received an incredible turnout. IV Formers Marlow Mellquist and Frances Brooks, who both attended the event, were amazed by the “positive energy”

that rippled throughout the Tsai Field House.

Although their season has just begun, Big Red Hockey has already secured four consecutive wins, namely against Ulysse Academy, Stanstead College, Ridley College, and Millbrook. Big Red, led by

Coach Keith Dupee, who coaches the forwards, and Coach Marc Cibelli, who coaches the defense, have scored six goals so far this season: Luke Benitez '24 had two outstanding goals, while Troy Negus '24, Shane Sullivan '25, Aidan Yi '25, and Austin Lundmark '24 each scored one for the team; Hopefully, Big Red will continue their winning streak in their next few games against The Hill, Berkshire, and Millbrook. The excellent performances from the Lawrenceville Boys' Varsity Ice Hockey team displayed their hard work, fervent passion for the school, and relentless dedication both during and before their regular season.

The Boys' Varsity Hockey team spends over 14 hours in the Louck's Ice Rink weekly: their schedule is filled with practices, fortnightly games, and 30-minute film sessions, in which the members of the team review clips of past game footage. The boys spend even more time together outside of the ice rink—from exchanging Secret Santa gifts to engaging in team karaoke. Vassar

Tarumianz '26 elaborated on the special connection between the team members, commenting that his teammates “push each other to be better hockey players as well as people” both on and off the ice. Their determination and dedication to the sport when facing adversity was on full display in their game against Stanstead College. Tarumianz noted that Big Red started off in a tough situation, as one of the most experienced players on the team, Negus, was injured during the tournament. However, the team was able to “come back and win the game” at the last minute. Tarumianz also attributed the team's success to their coaches, describing the two as “caring, hard-working, and extremely disciplined individuals.” The team is still early in the early stages of their season, giving them time to grow throughout the months to come. Tarumianz expressed their aspiration to “win every game [they] can” and in particular, outperform other teams at the Lawrenceville Invitational Tournament, one of the oldest highschool prep school tournaments

in the country.

Ultimately, both Big Red's games against Hill and Princeton Day School bring this community together. Unlike in Fall Term, which was packed with large-scale events such as the Homecoming Football Game and House Olympics, there are simply fewer opportunities in Winter Term for Lawrentians to gather together and celebrate our community: this is where fast-paced, intense hockey games come into place. In the two hours that the Lawrenceville Boys' Varsity Hockey team dominate our historical rivals on the ice, the crowd becomes one. In those two hours, the school unites to not only celebrate the Boys' Varsity Ice Hockey team, but also our Big Red spirit—our unique identity as both “devoted teammates and dedicated intellectuals.” In those two hours, the Tsai Fieldhouse will be overwhelmed by red and black to unite as one. Ultimately, it is the togetherness that Boys Varsity Hockey's games create that makes them so incredibly crucial to our campus culture.

Lessons and Carols Board Picks

	Tarak Jaya Chandran	Constance Sharp	Daphne Vlopp	Morgan Hendler	Cindy Shum	Charlie Vachris
favorite part of Lessons & Carols?	Silent Night	silent night!!!	Ian playing the trumpet	Lighting the candles during silent night	the candles	Silent Night and everyone lighting their candles
what's the highest note you can hit?	Not high enough	this feels like something i should know....	Mariah Carey whistle note	Hugh enough to hurt my roommates ears	B6	F
How many candles are you blowing out?	3	all of them	As many as it takes	All of them	0, people who blow out the candles are rude	Just mine
If you didn't have to dress in all black for your performance, what would you wear?	A white t-shirt	the candelabra (think lumiere from beauty and the beast)	Pajamas	All black I'm lazy	holiday pajamas.	I get to wear a blue jacket and khakis
anything else that's funny?	Mr. Palmer's occasional joke	me trying to learn latin pronunciation	Mr. Palmers spotify wrapped	My life.	the little lawrenceville singers that are put up by the organ and nobody can really hear them other than like Mr. murray	Guess we'll never know (he didn't actually say this he just didn't answer the question)