

THE FINALE

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thelawrence.lawrenceville.org

Happy Trails to the V Formers of *The Lawrence* CXLIII

Dorothy Lee '26

Editor-in-Chief: Claire Jiang '24



For Jiang, being involved in *The Lawrence* for four years has allowed her to "undergo an evolution of perspectives." In the beginning, she enjoyed "the aspect of writing and getting to know people through writing articles and through interviews." However, she viewed *The Lawrence* as

if it was a "glass box," explaining, "I didn't really know the Board." Now, as Editor-in-Chief, she has realized "how much the people [of the Board] care for what it is that they do."

"It's such a privilege to be able to work with an amazing group of people this year and the last," Jiang said. She especially enjoyed the Board's Saturday meetings, where they gathered to brainstorm the weekly Editorial. "It's having those spaces and cultivating those places of discussion that I find so important," she explained, "and I'm just really grateful that everyone on the Board [was] so eager to be a part of the conversation."

Executive Editor: Luke Park '24



"Reflecting on my time with *The Lawrence*, I think my biggest experience was growth," Park said. "I grew as a leader and as a co-worker, as a friend, and as a person." His favorite part of the Board was the "shared desire to produce something [they] could collectively be proud of." He noted that "everyone got along

really well," and this environment allowed Park to improve his "ability to communicate with and work with others." His advice to the 144th Board is to "make sure to remember your goals from the beginning of the year—it's easy to lose sight of them as the weekly work-cycle of *The Lawrence* takes over." "Enjoy the journey that is running this paper," Park concluded.

Opinions Editor: Garrett Heffern '24



Describing the 143rd Board, Heffern said, "Everyone on the Board is an amazing person. Everyone works really hard, shows up, and are just personable people." His favorite part of being an Opinions Editor was "learning things from the writers and thinking through their opinions with them." Additionally, Heffern noted, "I have developed so much

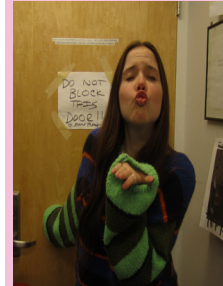
as a writer over the course of being a writer and editor. I believe I've learned a lot about working in a team—how to be encouraging but constructive at the same time." He hopes that future editors will simply "enjoy [their] time on *The Lawrence*." "It will probably be a unique experience in your life," he said, "you will learn a lot, it will be stressful, but you will miss it when it's done."

News Editors: Helena Chen '24 and Nichole Jin '24

While working together as editors of the News section, Chen and Jin have learned to "delegate work...seeing what works out the best for both," according to Chen. They both noted how their time management skills have improved in the past year as well. As News Editor, Chen enjoyed "being able to learn about the events that are going on both on campus and around the world," especially through "at least three hours of gossip every week" in the basement of Pop Hall. Jin added that "the dynamic of the Board was truly unmatched." "My favorite part of *The Lawrence* was definitely the people," Jin said. In addressing future Board members, Jin advised them to "enjoy the busy nights and the chaos of it all."

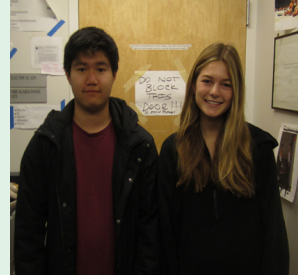


Arts Editor: Sofia Carlisi '24



Reflecting on her time with *The Lawrence*, Carlisi said, "The Pop Basement is a place of laughter, comradery, and intellect, and I think our Board has only added to this." Her favorite part about the 143rd Board of *The Lawrence* was "how diverse of a group" it is. "We all have different Lawrenceville niches, but come together every Wednesday and Thursday to work on something we pour so much time and energy," she explained. Carlisi's experience on the Board has "taught [her] how to feel confident [and] that [her] voice matters." She encourages future Board members to be creative, because "*The Lawrence* is an outlet for exploration, and [you should] lean into that."

Features Editors: Will Wang '24 and Jackie Williams '24

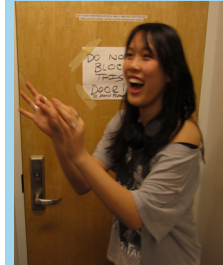


Wang '24 feels "grateful and thankful to have spent the past year working with [*The Lawrence*]," which he considers "a reflection of the student body and the diverse array of people at Lawrenceville." While there have been times when "responsibilities of *The Lawrence* [conflicted] with [his] coursework," Wang noted that "the people on the Board every week and each of [their] small individual contributions ultimately worth it."

Williams mentioned appreciating "the ability [of the Board] to fill in for one another." "We all understand the stress of Lawrenceville and are always there to take someone's workload with the understanding that they would do the same for us," she continued. Wang compared his time as a Board member to his experience in his V Form year so far, explaining, "it is not about what you do but who you did it with." One piece of advice Wang hopes to leave to future members of *The Lawrence* Board is to "build connections and get to know the people." Williams encouraged "socializing and collaborating with the other Board members" as well. From her time with *The Lawrence*, she has learned "how important it is to do [her] individual part so that the group can function as a whole."

"As much as *The Lawrence* is about the paper released each week, it's also about the community you build as the people making the paper," Wang concluded.

Graphics Editor: Emily Pan '24



Pan enjoyed her time in *The Lawrence*, especially working in the office every Wednesday and Thursday, which she described as "a nice bonding experience."

"We had music sometimes," she said, "and lots of people would just stay until the end of office hours even though they had turned in their pages just to hang out with the other editors."

She considers the office "a safe space" and hopes the members of the 144th Board will also "spend time in the Office [as] it helps with team morale."

Photos Editors: Cindy Shum '24



After two years as the Photos Editor of *The Lawrence*, Shum's favorite part of her role is "the sense of satisfaction and relief that [they] got another issue out on time." She values "the experience of being a part of something...integral to

Lawrenceville."

"I love being the Photos Editor simply because I love photography," Shum said. She enjoyed seeing the different types of photography students have submitted over the years.

Media and Outreach Editor: Sofia Bonilla '24



As the first-ever Outreach and Media Editor of *The Lawrence*, Bonilla enjoyed "the flexibility that came with [her] position." She feels "really grateful to have had the opportunity to be part of the 143rd Board" and encourages "anyone and everyone to apply to be an Outreach Editor."

Reflecting on how the members of the Board developed throughout the year, Bonilla said, "It was interesting to see how...differently everyone interacts" now. She believes that "every board is different," and looks forward to seeing "the community that the 144th Board is going to make."

Congratulations to *The Lawrence's* 144th Upper Management

Aki Li '25 & Imani Gaskin '25



The 143rd Board of *The Lawrence*

Imani Gaskin '25/*THE LAWRENCE*



Office hours with 143!

Claire Jiang '24/*THE LAWRENCE*



THE LAWRENCE

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Luke Park
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Nicole Jin
News Editors

Garrett Heffern
Arya Vishwakarma
Opinions Editors

Jackie Williams
William Wang
Features Editors

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CORRECTIONS

The Lawrence sincerely apologizes for a mistake in its last issue: in the Features section, "Faculty Profile: Max Maxwell" was written by Mira Ponnambalam '26, not Jenny Zhao '25. Readers who notice errors should contact lpark24@lawrenceville.org.



In a small tower in southern France, Michel de Montaigne signs his name in the corner of a paper with a flourish, finishing the first *essai*. Each time I sit down to write an Editorial, read an article for *The Lawrence*, or ask another editor for a page, I think of Montaigne and essayer, which means "to try" in French. It's a reassurance. I know I cannot do this past year and the Board justice, but I can try.

First, reader, a concession: I have never been great at keeping track of time. Instead, each night with *The Lawrence* feels like a blur—papers flying back and forth, scratchy handwriting on pages, and rapid-fire problem-solving. So, I root my memories in the people and the office, our Montaigne tower fit for 16.

Tucked into the corner of Pop basement, the office hosts a variety of swivel chairs, bouncy stools, and an AC that turns on and off on its own volition. Though we like to complain about its small dimensions, I don't think we would ever give it up with all the memories and moments we've made in there:

Each Thursday, expect to see Garrett and Bryan sitting in the corner together, their backs facing the door as they calmly prod through sports and political jargon. Jackie takes her seat against the wooden door, peeping up from time to time when someone mentions L10 or praises another great Features article. Arisa sits on the couch, working on homework, code, or whatever brilliant project she has decided to take on. Next to her, Emily hunches over her iPad, blending blues and hues of orange on her palette, while Cindy scours the Lawrenceville Flickr

for a last-minute photo request. Helena and Nichole take the rolling table, exchanging articles, food, and small talk as they deliberate the best way to format the front page. Bonilla reintroduces Brinly to the team, and together they ransack the animal cracker jar. When it empties, they remind us to fill out Board Picks, taking 0.5x photos all around the office.

Everyone else changes their places every week or so, an everlasting game of musical chairs. Will, our in-house DJ, can hop up and down to the Top 10 pop hits no matter where he sits. Sabrina and Aki shift from week to week, searching for the best surfaces to lay a page on and make edits with glaring Style Guide expertise. Arya likes to sandwich herself right in the middle, her passion for the writer's voice beaming wherever she goes. Sofia gazes intently at her page, bringing in a flurry of pinks and reds as she enters the office.

In the conference room, Mrs. Buckles and Ms. Keane pore over tests and essays while previewing the issue in its roughest form. Their wisdom and realism keep us grounded. Luke, my ever-steady partner-in-crime, wanders checks in with each section. You know it is time to wrap up when he patiently paces the office, signaling us to slip our laptops' greased keyboards back into backpacks.

Yes, it's the dream team. I can't help but reflect on how we first entered this place together—16 individuals packed into the office, awkwardly answering icebreakers from a randomly generated website. I remember how the body heat and intense laughter surely raised the room's temperature by a few degrees. What most people do not see, however, is the steady

accumulation of hours and challenges we've built up to this point. Behind eight pages of polished articles and Indesigns are often long nights, good cries, and fierce debates. But we've also had an equal share of dance parties, trivia nights, and hours of conversation on an endless trove of topics.

I like to think *The Lawrence* is a lot like our office—a small platform for a big group of people. With a whopping 23 issues under our belt, we—the Board and our writers—have crammed in coverage of outside news alongside Lawrenceville events, fit six 500-word articles onto one page, produced a historic amount of special issues, and engaged readership through emails and social media. I cannot be more grateful to be part of such a group.

143: every day, your passion and care for your writers; your commitment to the paper; and your kindness inspire me. Without such a team, the success of these issues and such a reader base would not have been possible. Dear Board, you have made another year of *The Lawrence* possible, reaching more readers and writers than you know. More importantly, you have all been a part of cultivating such a wonderful and welcoming culture—from this small team of editors to our writers and beyond—and upheld the high journalistic standard that makes *The Lawrence* so special. That, at its very core, is the foundation of any good newspaper. Thanks for becoming my family and friends in this past year, my thanks, appreciation, and gratefulness are endless.

-CJ

On Belonging

ANGEL XIN '26

During my II Form year, I always thought of the House system as one of the numerous PR stunts that Lawrenceville employs to attract applicants—one of those ideas that looks good on paper but offers few recognizable, day-to-day benefits to the community. However, this year, I was proven wrong. The House System provides us opportunities to take risks that transform acquaintances into close friends.

I formed a tentative friendship a few weeks into my II Form year. From our shared love of boba to appreciation of authentic Chinese foods (which does not include orange chicken), we managed to become close despite our difference in interests, upbringing, and forms. We were close enough that we would stop in the halls for conversation, order from Kung Fu Tea together every few weeks, and this year, when we found ourselves in the same Crescent house, we would sit together during House meetings. But this year, when my head of house Ms. Lantz announced that Stephens was holding an in-house sleepover, where boarders invite day students, I was hesitant on whether I should invite her. After all, a friendship that stemmed from sharing boba orders to reduce the delivery fee seemed superficial. I wasn't sure if I was overthinking, but I eventually decided to take the risk of connecting, and she said yes.

We had an insane amount of fun that Saturday night. We stayed up until three in the morning. What began as rewatching every episode of *The Summer I Turned Pretty*

turned into a confession of our deepest secrets, discussions on the fleeting nature of life, and dreams of who we want to be in 10 years. My simple act of reaching out miraculously allowed us to be vulnerable with each other. That was the moment I realized one of the most beautiful essences of Lawrenceville's residential system: when we students are herded into this social bubble of a House, we are placed into a soil with various

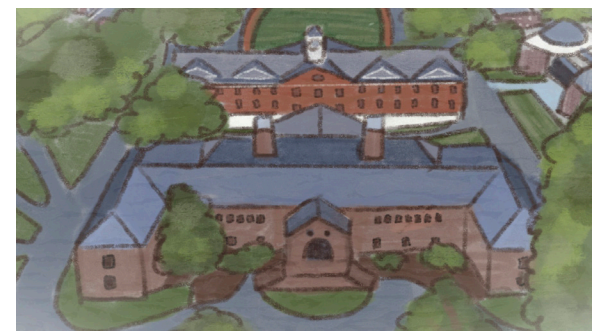
possibilities. Here, we pick and choose risks that we are willing to take and the growths we are willing to make. This environment serves as an enabler of our change. It made me realize that friendship and community are not elements of nature that simply exist, they are founded and molded by its members. Interactions that sprout within the House will grow extend beyond the House: from cheering on fellow Stephenites at games to supporting their performances; from attending a

Housemate's club meeting to founding a new club together; from ordering Door-dash together to sitting at the same table in Tsai and enjoying a night-out at Acadia.

A sense of belonging is strengthened by the bonds we form with the people around us. With the House system being a pre-existing community, we students have an easier time taking the risks that connect us with others. While Lawrenceville helps us find our people through the House system, we ultimately still need to make an active effort to get to know them in order to feel we belong to a community. And ultimately, it's like a large coat on a cold day. While it is up to you to decide whether you would like to grab the coat—and yes, the zipper is hard to pull up—you will always feel warmer when you put it on. In a community like the House system, you will almost always feel a sense of warmth and belonging when you take the risk and engage with others.

Reaching out is difficult. Much of the time, we expect immediate responses or reactions from others, though we won't receive any. However, this tendency is not a valid reason to refrain from showing love to someone important, whether that be a friend or a family member. I urge you, whoever you are—a student, a classmate, a Housemate—to continue showing your love: give your friends a stem of roses after a show, buy them a box of chocolates for Valentine's Day, text them how much you appreciate them, and call them when you miss them. Even at somewhere as large as Lawrenceville, small actions create ripples that inspire

Lawrenceville Vignettes



SAHANA LOWY '26

1 We've just finished our workout. I'm exhausted and my legs shake of their own volition. As we trudge through Tsai, desperate to sit down and finally eat, you spot something: just beyond the windows lies the most spectacular sunset I've ever seen. It might not actually be that—maybe I just haven't seen the sun in forever—but wow, does it feel like a blessing to see bright splashes of orange and magenta streak across the sky. We race outside to gape and I forget about the burn in my lungs. Somehow the same feeling takes both of us over and we start to chase the setting sun, giddy and giggling. My blood is pumping and my endorphins are running high and all I can think about is how happy I am to be here with you.

2 I lace up my new Hokas on the edge of my treadmill. I spent forever picking them out and even longer tracking their shipping, but the day has finally come where I can try them out. In the corner of my eye, I no-

tice a familiar flash of baby blue with warm yellow. The girl stretches just parallel to me, lacing up the very same shoes. Excitedly nudging my friend, I gesture over: "She's got great taste in shoes, huh?" My friend laughs, indulging me but ready to resume running; I glance back over, hesitant. Impulsively, I blurt "Hey! I like your shoes," struggling to be heard over the giant Loucks fans. The girl thanks me, confused, then notices my own shoes. We start talking, animatedly recounting our online-shopping experiences, and find out we ordered them at the same time. Her name is familiar, and I remember I've read her articles in *The Lawrence*—she has the same realization. It's a little awkward, but the whole time I'm thinking about how delighted I am to have met her. Now I have one less stranger and one more friend at this school. I don't think I'll hesitate next time I want to go say hi to someone.

IRIS WU '23

IRIS WU '23

OPINIONS EDITOR OF THE 142ND BOARD

I've always liked to keep diaries, but I've never journaled as often as I did during my senior year at Lawrenceville. Fueled by an intense need to preserve the present moment, I journaled nearly every day. The closer I got to graduation, the more feverishly I wrote. My sentences were tinted with fear, and a shadow of desperation hung behind every word.

I've always seen writing as a pursuit of perfect accuracy. Yet this becomes a problem when I'm trying to describe something as complex as my feelings about graduating. As I wrote, I would frequently find myself dropping my pen and miming the shapes of the feelings that I couldn't transcribe into words. I would try to combine this sentence structure with that exact tone, take this word from that phrase to try and build the perfect container for my feelings. Yet no matter how

many combinations of words, phrases, and tones I used, I couldn't capture my emotions, let alone preserve them for my future self.

It was frightening to watch the days slip by me and to worry that I would one day never recall them again. Whenever phases of my life begin to reach their end, I find myself wishing, irrationally, that they would continue on forever.

I'd be lying if I said I no longer experience this tendency to wish for permanency. But think about it: nobody enjoys the feeling of being stuck. It's only because Lawrenceville had a definite ending that I was able to value my time there. I dread endings when, in reality, without them, I'd be miserable. Impermanence affords us the space to appreciate the beauty of transient moments.

Whenever I start to feel sad about endings, I try to remind myself that it is the existence of an ending that makes an experience so beautiful. And I would encourage you to do the same.

SOFIA BONILLA '24

SOFIA BONILLA '24

OUTREACH AND MEDIA EDITOR OF THE 143RD BOARD

For years, my favorite movie has been *Monte Carlo*. Even as a child, I found its premise ridiculous but endearing, and as I grew older, it cemented itself as my movie. There's this moment, this perfect moment, near the beginning of the movie when the bus drives to the Eiffel Tower. The strings in the soundtrack's "Feeling Eiffel" build between shots of trees, buildings, and the Tower itself. In the gift store, Meg buys a mini tower to add to her late mother's charm bracelet, and Grace stands at the top of the Eiffel Tower, observing Paris in wonder. It is 59 seconds of peace as everything slows and the characters still — only 59 seconds in a 109-minute-long movie, but they are 59 seconds that always struck me as quiet, 59 seconds that left me feeling softer.

It's nice to notice quiet moments. It is especially nice to notice quiet moments when the world feels overwhelmingly loud. Sometimes, I feel like things can only ever be loud at Lawrenceville—when I am bogged-down, sleep-deprived, and generally unhappy. When I do badly on a test, or a paper, or get rejected for a leadership position. When I just wish everything would slow down, but also speed up—because I fear being stuck in moments like those forever. And then someone says hi to me.

Maybe they just smile, or nod in passing.

Maybe they compliment my outfit or a point I brought up in class. Maybe it is someone I don't know particularly well. Maybe it is someone I haven't spoken to in a while.

It might only be a slight wave. It might be a bright smile that leads to conversation.

Hi, they seem to say. I see you, is what I hear.

I will smile back. Maybe we'll talk. Thank you for saying hi to me, I think, I'm glad to know you.

And since I have always believed that what you put out in the world comes back to you, when I haven't felt seen in a while, or when I am tired and unhappy, I make myself be kind.

I will stop and compliment someone. I will say hi to someone without being sure they will respond. I will smile as I pass an old friend in the hallway.

Hi, I want to say. I am glad to know you. I hope you are doing well.

I am grateful for the quiet moments when they realize I see them too.

In my three years of doing this, I have only ever felt better afterwards. Even if people don't say hi back, at least I know I've tried.

So, the next time you feel badly, or the next time you feel generous, or the next time you're just walking to class, say hi to someone. Smile and make eye contact. It's nothing crazy, but it might be just what someone else needs. It might just be what you need.

Sometimes it's enough to just decide to be kind.

BRYCE LANGDON '24

To say my journey through Lawrenceville has been conventional would be an utter lie, but that's what makes this place so unique—you don't have to take the same path as anybody else to achieve success and fulfillment.

When I was waitlisted from Lawrenceville in 2020, I was unbothered. Part of me was upset, but I was mostly unconcerned. It wasn't until April when I decided I wanted to attend and also when I sent my letter of continued interest to the director of admissions.

When I arrived in the fall of 2020, I was scrawny, unconfident, and intimidated. I wore my POM Covid-19 tracer around my neck and had difficulty blending in—it seemed everyone around me was much more accomplished and deserving. I thankfully found a few friends through freshman soccer—Garvey '24 and Rayce '24—two people who remain some of my closest friends today.

Once I had finally settled in and found a group of close friends, we had to leave again—Winter Term was virtual for that year, much to my disappointment. In the spring, however, I found my footing. I made the Boys' Varsity Tennis team and gained some confidence through the guidance and leadership of my captains and prefects.

As I spent more time in Raymond and

the Bowl playing Spikeball, football, and frisbee, I began understanding the type of community Lawrenceville was before the pandemic: inclusive, spirited, welcoming, proud, and present.

In Dickinson House, I experienced these sentiments on a newfound level. Winning House Olympics alongside my housemates remains my favorite moment at Lawrenceville—I remember completing the trike race and taking my shirt off to run a victory lap with my entire House in pursuit. And, even as our House faced tragedy, the tight-knit bonds and uplifting environment resembled a second family—one that I will hold in my heart forever.

These moments of brilliance ultimately motivated me to run for School President. My belief, which has only been reinforced over the past year, is that students have more ability than anybody in the community to bring the best out of Lawrenceville.

Throughout the past few years, my goal has been to give back to this community, which has given me everything. Despite my departure from Lawrenceville, I will continue to repay this debt for the rest of my life. Staying on the waitlist was undoubtedly the best decision I've ever made, and my experience goes to show that no matter your past, you belong at Lawrenceville.

ARYA SREEDHAR '24

As soon as the lights dimmed and Lauren Williams strutted onstage with her "yeah girl, you tell her," I knew I was in for a rollercoaster of emotions. Periwig's Winterfest selections featured thought-provoking student-written plays, including Na'imah Ford's powerful message on stereotypes, a truly hilarious performance by Elijah Miller (the sweetest guy on the planet playing a male manipulator), a touching meet-cute in the supermarket written by the one and only Mr. August, and a reflective play about the beauty of life directed by Claire Jiang. Being able to share laughs with my closest friends, watch them and my prefectees transform into dynamic characters who beautifully conveyed the messages of their plays, and appreciate the arts as a viewer instead of a performer made me fall in love with theatre all over again. I thought of the butterflies dancing in my stomach before I would step out on stage. I remembered squinting into the audience, barely distinguishing faces under the blinding lights. In a place where you feel safe to become a new person, you embody their quirks, discover their challenges, and express their emotions. I felt the warmth of the theatre community engulf me with joy. Most of all, I was reminded that I perform to make other people feel.

Leaving "Middle of Nowhere" Illinois and my family's comfort was one of the hardest parts of my transition to Lawrenceville. But as soon as my prefect Delaney Musgrave welcomed me with her warm smile and persona, my worries disappeared. Sporting the purple and gold swag, she described the family she grew to love in McClellan. From the late nights with Avianna Zampardi (the best roommate I could ask for) in room 308, grinding out history papers,

to each House Olympics that killed my voice for the rest of the week, to the ridiculous karaoke nights spent belting Olivia Rodrigo in the common room, to experiencing the best type of comfort—a much-needed hug—McClellan has become my haven and my home.

To all my McSiblings: thank you for showing me so much love and for helping me find my sense of belonging. I will forever cherish the memories we've created together. So much McLove for you all <3

When the posts and stories commemorating the 100 days left before graduation flooded my Instagram feed, I panicked: the beginning of my time at Lawrenceville felt like just yesterday. There are so many things I have yet to do, so many things I have yet to learn, and so many events creating a person I have yet to become. Over this process of reflecting, I realized that while leaving Lawrenceville is not the end of that journey, this School has begun the process of shaping me into my authentic self. Through the common room laughs and electrifying performances, I know Lawrenceville has transformed me into a more confident, compassionate, and vibrant human being, and shown me that the power and love of community can carry us through any hardship. To the underclassman reading this, I encourage you to embrace every challenge, lean into each emotion, and be unafraid to step out of your comfort zone: there's a warm community waiting for you here which will inspire you to grow. So thank you, Lawrenceville, for giving me another family and home; for every lesson learned, and every friendship formed.

SNEHA KUMAR '24

After Winter Gathering, I cleared out my dark purple "everything" folder: any and all papers, whether from my Honors Government class or from an elective I took last term, end up in its plum-colored embrace. I questioned what I wanted to keep—a particularly insightful reading assignment, or maybe a test I did well on? Do I recycle these papers, or stash them away for a different day? Would I ever use any of this?

Every kid is familiar with the dreaded question that parents ask on school commutes—what did you learn today? As the end of my high school career inches toward me, I ask myself this on a larger scale. I want to proclaim I soaked up all the knowledge Lawrenceville offered me, but that simply isn't true. Returning my trusty folder into my worn-down backpack, my heart was struck with worry: had I wasted my Lawrenceville experience?

I have been connected to the Lawrenceville School for nearly 10 years. From the age of seven, I attended Allegro Shows and read TFA articles, marveling at the size of the Bunn Library and longing for the day I could call Lawrenceville my own. When I was accepted into the Class of 2024 I couldn't wait to begin my own journey. Unfortunately, I spent much of my II form year in Zoom classes. Still, I was convinced that the great Lawrenceville experience I awaited for so long would surely happen.

Over the course of III Form, I applied to be a RLC leader, a RCI, a Hutchins Scholar, House President, and House Vice President, and was rejected from all of them. Combine those rejections with the worst grades I ever received, and you could understand why I truly believed I was failing Lawrenceville. Day after

day, I felt beat down by the very School I hoped would mold me into the ideal student. By the end of my III Form year, reality sank in—I would never achieve the same accomplishments I watched my older siblings and their friends attain.

The illusion of what I expected Lawrenceville to be only began to fade when I changed my mindset. I could not relive the experiences of my older siblings; I needed to create my own (realistic) goals and work in small steps to achieve them. This School forced me to learn patience, and helped me discover exactly what I enjoy learning. As I opened up to other students about my difficulties here, I realized that nobody is immune from feelings of doubt, inadequacy, and failure. It is humbling to learn that even the best students, athletes, and musicians question their own undeniable talents—but these are the very feelings that make us human.

The great Lawrenceville experience should not be defined by grades or leadership positions. My time at this school showed me that striving for the perfect resume will only leave one unsatisfied. At my lowest points, it wasn't an empty title that lifted me up—it was the people. Lawrenceville taught me that it takes a lot to sustain a community: it requires teachers who are willing to go the extra mile and friends who are always there for you. What made my years here so meaningful were the times we laughed a little too loudly in the library or ate overpriced slices of pizza in a TJ's booth. My friends taught me more than any class ever could, and I look forward to a lifetime of friendship with them. These invaluable moments are impossible to shove in my messy purple folder, but I will keep them forever.

CHRISTOPHER YEN '24

William Jiawei Huang '24 believes that the diminishing house and school culture at Lawrenceville is mainly due to the loss of mutual respect on campus. While I don't respect Jiawei (just kidding), I do agree with him. I've learned in my three years at Lawrenceville that respect matters more than anything else.

As a new sophomore, the prefects and IV Formers in my house were supportive, helping me integrate into Lawrenceville, and our friendship was founded upon the respect we had for each other. I looked up to those who had the experience and knowledge, while they helped me without asking for anything in return. I still remember walking from Kennedy to the KAC parking lot with my prefect every day; I felt compelled to join him because he often walked alone, and although he reminded me that I shouldn't feel obliged to follow him, I accompanied him out of the kindness and respect I carried for him. Thanks to this, I got to know him as a close friend; I had the chance to share my personal experiences with him, and in

turn he provided me with guidance and wisdom. Although my prefect has graduated, our friendship still endures. So even if traditions don't endure, I hope that mutual respect is preserved. Underclassmen, it's your job to shape the future of Lawrenceville, and it shouldn't be one filled with mistrust and animosity.

It's easy to show respect for the people we care for just by taking a few minutes out of our day to catch up quickly or by shooting them a text asking how they're doing. Jiawei has claimed that his daily greetings of classmates in the hallways improved the energy on campus and fostered shared respect between fellow Lawrentians. It would be wonderful if we could all learn to be like Jiawei and reach out to people we aren't familiar with. Ultimately, we want to build a community of trust and kindness, and that all starts with respect.

Difficult 2 Divest

A Response to "Sustainable Living, Beyond the Council," published on February 2, 2024

AKI LI '25
COPY EDITOR

On February 2, 2024, the 143rd Board of the Lawrence published the Editorial "Sustainable Living, Beyond the Council," advocating for students to actively incorporate sustainability into their day-to-day lives, instead of concentrating all efforts into one month. "If Lawrenceville incorporated sustainability into our lives," read the Editorial, "the impact we could make would benefit the world." This statement rings true: Lawrentians could, as the Board suggested, ban single-use plastic at feeds or incentivize reusable utensils at the Bathhouse by offering discounts. We could go even further, banning single-use plastics altogether or mandating students to generate their own electricity by riding on a power bike daily. Ultimately, no matter how much sustainable action we take, even if we abandon all technology in favor of homesteading—Lawrentians' carbon offsets would be counteracted by the Lawrenceville Endowment's investment in fossil fuels.

The School is composed of two parts: the community and the institution, and both must work in parallel to enact any change "that would benefit

the world." To its credit, the School has worked hard to make our community more sustainable: with a dedicated Office of Environmental Sustainability overseeing recycling programs, the construction of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) buildings and a solar array, Lawrenceville pledges to "reduce [our] dependence on fossil fuels." Ironically, despite the School's Leopold Scholars program and partnerships with ecological institutes, the Lawrenceville Endowment does not hold the same resolve.

The Lawrenceville Endowment maintains holdings in fossil fuels, indirectly empowering the industry and allowing it to further increase its tolls on the environment. According to The Carbon Major Report, since 1988, almost 25 fossil fuel companies have accounted for 51 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. So as long as the Endowment invests in the fossil fuel industry, the Lawrenceville community toils in vain to decrease emissions. The Lawrenceville Endowment must divest from fossil fuels to stop being complicit in environmental degradation and act accordingly to its stated ethos.

Divestment is always a difficult, long-term effort, so the School should begin planning a reasonable timeline immediately. Harvard, Yale, and Cornell,

among others, have not only ceased increasing their investment in fossil fuels but also established a plan for complete divestment. Rutgers University has done the same, committing to completely divesting its \$1.6 billion endowment from privately held fossil fuel investments within 10 years. In possession of its own significant endowment of more than \$600 million, Lawrenceville is responsible for divesting from a cause that exacerbates climate change and redirect its money to projects which protect the world. The School would not be alone in its decision; over 25 schools, including Andover and Exeter, have begun their own paths towards divestment. If it wants to remain a leader among peer institutions, it is necessary, not optional for Lawrenceville to divest: the School should teach by example the importance of taking action against climate change to its students.

We students have worked tirelessly searching for ways to make Lawrenceville more sustainable. It is now up to the alumni and managerial board of the School to create a sustainable Lawrenceville we can be proud to call our alma mater.

It is Bigger than US: Elections in 2024

ELLEN JORDAN '26

Although it is easy to think that all that matters in 2024 will depend on the impending Biden-Trump rematch in November, there are many other elections taking place this year on which to keep an eye. Last November, *The Economist* predicted that 2024 will be "the biggest election year in history," with good reason: citizens in at least 64 countries are poised to vote in national elections, and the ballots cast in the coming months have the ability to shape the world's geopolitical landscape for decades to come. Here are four countries due to head to the polls that are worth paying attention to.

Senegal:

Amidst the general chaos of West Africa, a region that continues to be plagued by civil wars and heavy conflict, Senegal has stood out as one of Africa's most important and stable democracies. Peaceful transitions of power have been the rule, which has allowed Senegal to achieve economic prosperity and a rising standard of living as well as improvements in healthcare and education.

However, on February 3, the President of Senegal, Macky Sall—who already served his maximum of two terms—announced Senegal's Presidential Election was postponed from February until December. The decision, delivered just three weeks before the Senegalese were due to vote, was received as a direct attack on the nation's democracy. Following the decree, protests erupted all over the nation and have already claimed three lives.

Although Sall's decision was deemed illegal by Senegal's constitutional court on February 16, and he has since pledged to reschedule the election as soon as possible, Sall has not yet provided the Senegalese with a specific date. Therefore, the chaos that he has unleashed continues: While Sall has been declared a power-hungry dictator by some of his constituents, *The Economist* suggested that perhaps Sall aims to delay the election to buy time for finding a new candidate to support, considering that victory is not currently guaranteed for Sall-endorsed and current Prime Minister Amadou Ba, who faces strong opposition from other candidates.

If and when Senegal will have the opportunity to vote on Sall's successor remains unclear. Given the instability around Senegal, any crumbling of its democratic institutions will likely have a wider negative impact.

The United Kingdom:

Although the UK has been fortunate enough to be spared thoughts of potential dictatorship within its government, the island continues to face financial woes. In the last quarter of 2023, its economy slid into a recession, placing even more pressure on the Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak.

Since entering an office facing whiplash from Liz Truss' chaotic stint as prime minister, in which she was memorably outlasted by a head of lettuce, Sunak has faced blunder after blunder with only occasional success. Most of his defeats have been financial as the UK suffered heavy inflation and minimal economic growth.

Sunak's stance on the UK's growing illegal immigration problem has also come under fire: in March, he introduced the "Illegal Migration Bill" which included the right to deport immigrants caught illegally attempting to cross the English Channel to a "safe third country" such as Rwanda. The bill was never realized, and instead Sunak was characterized as "racist" by his critics.

The combination of ineffective economic policies and controversial public policies has cemented Sunak among the most unpopular British Prime Ministers in recent history (behind Truss, of course). In December, his approval ratings hit an all-time low of just 23 percent. Although the UK has until January 28, 2025 to organize the next general election, Sunak has already promised to "call" an election in late 2024. However, Britons likely will not head to the polls in November, as Sunak additionally hopes to avoid having to divide media attention with the much anticipated Biden-Trump rematch.

Undoubtedly, Britain's next general election will test its government's stability once again: in less than two years, the UK has been led by three prime ministers. As Sunak's popularity continues to plummet, the likelihood grows that there will be yet another change of power in the UK.

Russia:

Sitting across from Tucker Carlson in an ornate chair in Moscow, Vladimir Putin looked as confident as ever. He laughed at many of the former Fox News anchor's comments, radiating self-assurance with each response. Following the interview—his first Western one since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022—he even joked that Carlson failed to ask enough "aggressive" questions. Yet, beyond the sheltered interview room, cracks are visible in this once-untouchable leader.

On March 17, Russians will return to the polls to, theoretically, "vote" in the country's Presidential Election, where Putin seeks to win a fifth term. Presumably, he hopes to increase his winning margins further from 2018's 76 percent.

Given this background, any other Russian "candidates" are trivial. Instead, the real question is whether or not Putin will face any resistance while reaffirming his grip over the country. Much has changed in Russia since 2018 when Putin's name was last on the ballot, and Putin's control may not be as secure as six years ago.

To begin with, the last time Putin was vying for the Presidency, he was not simultaneously managing a bloody, full-scale conflict; the war in Ukraine has proved to be far from the ideal clean sweep the Russian leader hoped for.

Also, it was between 2018 and 2024 that Putin faced the greatest threat to his power: Yevgeny Prigozhin. Last June, the former leader of the Wagner Group (a Russian military company) staged a full-scale armed rebellion against Putin. While Prigozhin's act of defiance was eventually shut down, and Prigozhin was coincidentally reported dead in a plane crash soon after, the uprising revealed cracks in Putin's leadership.

Along with taking Prigozhin out of the picture, Putin recently silenced his greatest critic, Alexei Navalny, who was reported dead on February 16 in his Arctic prison. While these may merely be Putin attempting to exercise power, his elimination of both Prigozhin and Navalny can simultaneously be interpreted as paranoia from the ever-nearing March 17. Perhaps Putin is not as confident as he appears on the television screen.

Ukraine:

A country that is currently intertwined with Russia for all the wrong reasons is Ukraine. For a decade, the city of Avdiivka, situated in the heart of the Donetsk Oblast, remained a key stronghold for Ukrainian forces. Yet, on February 17, a Russian flag rather than the familiar blue and yellow flew over the city. Following one of the war's bloodiest battles, Ukrainian forces were forced to withdraw. Its greatest victory since Ukraine's unsuccessful counteroffensive, Russia's conquest of Avdiivka was both a strategic and symbolic blow to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

In addition to managing a war with dwindling troops, supplies, and outside aid, Ukraine faces an additional dilemma: whether to hold a Presidential Election.

In accordance with the Ukrainian Constitution, the next Presidential Election must be held by March 2024, but Ukraine has been under martial law since Russia's invasion in 2022, which suspends elections. Further, back in late 2023, Zelenskyy explained that this spring "is not the right time for elections," reasoning that Ukraine must instead focus on the war effort.

Yet despite Zelenskyy's stance, it is still possible that Ukrainians will head to the polls, as Western nations have expressed disdain at Zelenskyy's announcement. Specifically, leaders from the U.S.'s Republican Party voiced its disapproval, believing that Ukraine's election suspension of an would not uphold its allegiance to democracy.

The opinions of U.S. lawmakers indeed have the power to overturn Zelenskyy's previous decree, as American aid remains a critical lifeline for the Ukrainian military.

Indeed, Zelenskyy's imminent decision—whether to give in to Republicans' demands, accepting the challenges of organizing a war-time election, or to risk losing crucial aid—may very well demonstrate the true extent American influences hold over the war-torn country as the conflict enters an increasingly pivotal period.

What Krishna Meant

JAX GOTTSCHALCH '25

Though we had not known Stella, her passing weighed heavily upon our disposition. We had (and this steadfastly... nay, cowardly) known that fervor which swells in a desperate surge, and the sadness that basins and brims the whole. The salving taste of misery and the blush of blunted votes; and we had known the rash of sackcloth. And there was occasion to reflect that night on the roof. No, we were not the same ones who walked with him and who wept on Dickinson's curb. And we will not be the same ones who will pass last through

Lawrenceville's ivory gates, and who will settle the city and be shored against the annals. No, we are not myth. But we sat together on the roof, borne eternally by concordant thoughts. And I had frequent mind then for Elliotts' Dry Salvages. O Voyagers! Some weary sum of students, one temper of dis-tempered hearts. O sodales mei! You who will suffer the main, know that moment was the real destination. I pray my God that I should keep this. So Krishna as when he admonished Arjuna on the field of battle. Not fare well, but fare forward, voyagers.

Epidemic of Violence

CLARA KHABBAZ '26

Valentine's Day 2024: 22 shots ring out during the Super Bowl Victory Parade in Kansas City, Missouri, killing Elizabeth Galvan, a beloved radio host, and injuring twenty-two others. If you saw this on Instagram, Tik-Tok, or in your inbox, you probably kept scrolling, thinking it was just another mass shooting. But this cannot be our mentality. We cannot simply express condolences; we need national policy change.

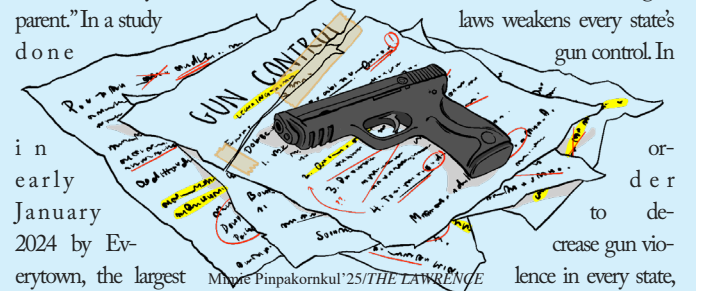
The term "mass shooting" denotes an event where three or more people are shot to death by multiple people. According to the Gun Violence Archives, a non-profit corporation that records every instance of gun-violence in the United States, the Kansas City shooting was not the first mass shooting of the year; there have been 25 since January 23rd, and in 2023 there were more mass shootings than days in the year. The number of mass shootings has been on the rise since 2014, and is projected to continue increasing, taking the lives of more innocent people every year.

Just after the shooting, Quinton Lucas, the Kansas City mayor, called it "absolutely devastating" and said it has made him "vastly more concerned as a parent." In a study done in early January 2024 by Everytown, the largest gun violence prevention organization in America, Kansas currently ranks number 37 out of 50 for gun law strength, which means it is easier for people to have access to guns and carry them in public compared to other states. Kansas' weak gun laws allow people to carry firearms without a permit, making it harder to create gun free spaces and in turn creating Lucas' concern. While the shooting was indeed "absolutely devastating," words are not enough. Words do not end gun violence or assure there are adequate safety measures for people purchasing guns. Lucas should use his concern to enact policy changes in Kansas City, like New York State did after the Buffalo mass shooting in 2022.

Right now, gun laws, including background checks, purchase permitting, and permitless carry laws, are controlled by individual state governments. However, the strength of a state's gun laws does not directly correlate to decreased

rates of gun violence. In EveryTown's study, California ranks number one for gun law strength, yet they still have a gun violence rate of 8.7 percent. Meanwhile, Rhode Island is ranked number 13 for gun law strength but has the lowest rate of gun violence at 3.1 percent. Nevertheless, states with the highest rates of gun violence, which includes mass shootings, also have relatively weak gun laws. Mississippi, for instance, has the second weakest laws for gun violence and the highest gun violence rate at 29.7 percent. Because especially weak gun laws increase rates of gun violence, gun laws are necessary and effective.

While strong state gun laws minimize the problem of shootings, they do not completely solve the problem either. Even though states with strong gun laws are more likely to have lower rates of gun violence, they are still susceptible to the "iron pipeline." The iron pipeline describes the flow of illegal guns from states with weaker gun prohibition laws to states with stronger laws. In states with strong gun laws that border states with weaker gun laws, about 80 percent of all the guns found on crime scenes come from states without good background checks. State borders are permeable, so the weakness of one state's gun laws weakens every state's gun control. In



we need national gun laws, which would make every state safer by decreasing the amount of firearms smuggled between states.

While six out of ten Americans believe gun violence is a major problem, the increase in gun violence, mass shootings, and school shootings, has made Americans feel they need to own guns for their own protection. The Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan social science research institute, found that of the 32% of Americans that own guns, 72% own one for their own protection. This feeds an endless cycle because as gun violence and mass shootings increase so does the number of guns available to commit such violence. One cannot be truly protected if a third of the country keeps guns in their home. As long as gun laws are inconsistent and a substantial number of Americans own firearms, Congress cannot ensure life and liberty for all.



Finding Wellness in Winter Wonderland

BUNNY HENAULT-BASSETT '26
FEATURES ASSOCIATE

It is no surprise to anyone that Lawrenceville is a rigorous school. Students are held to high standards in all respects of life, but the Winter Term offers its own unique challenges that make it much less bearable than the Fall and Spring Terms. Lawrenceville's new strategic plan, Heart, Harkness, Heart: A New Era for Community Wellbeing prioritizes the wellness of students. Despite efforts from all members of the community to make Lawrenceville a place where students can maintain strong physical and mental health, students cannot always shake away the winter blues. Taylor Hill '25 and III Formers Emily Kumar, Leila Campbell, and Canaan Williams, shared their thoughts on what makes Winter Term so difficult, observations on mental wellbeing, and tips to succeed.

Each student agreed that the dreary winter weather makes the term particularly challenging. When addressing Winter Term, Kumar remarked, "the weather is depressing, it gets dark earlier, and it's just the time of year that feels really long and tiring." Campbell added that the "workload gets heavier" and her "mood changes with the weather." Winters in Lawrenceville, New Jersey are often dark and wet, with the sun setting at early hours of the night leading to

cold temperatures. Environment and mental health go hand in hand: when the weather grows harsher, mental health often declines with it. The coursework also becomes increasingly taxing in the Winter Term.

A vital part of Lawrenceville is the beautiful campus and spending time outdoors with friends. Yet Williams observes that "people do not socialize as much and people stay inside" in the winter. Hill shared a similar sentiment about how the gloomy weather affects mental health and can bring about "seasonal depression." She also noted that the schedule, with an almost three-week break and many long weekends, makes it "difficult to get back into...[the] 'groove' [of things] with school because everyone becomes used to the relaxing schedule of break." The lack of motivation and constant exhaustion that some students feel is reflected in the entire student body.

Many students struggle during Winter Term, but making sure to take care of their wellbeing is crucial. Kumar helped herself this Winter Term by "spend[ing] time with friends and do[ing] things that...[she] enjoy[s]." Campbell made "sure not to isolate" herself by "maintaining important relations." Prioritizing social time at Lawrenceville can often be difficult as there is such a strong emphasis on academics, but in order to excel



Emily Pan '24 / THE LAWRENCE

academically, a student must be well-rounded and mentally secure. Williams maintains his well being by "balancing work, sports, and time to hang out" with friends. Physical activity is equally important in maintaining wellbeing, as physical and mental health are closely linked. Hill "plays ice hockey every night... and goes on runs and walks... outside to let out energy and appreciate the snow," all of which has greatly helped her this winter term. It is easy to hide oneself in their cozy room during the Winter Term, eager to escape the dreary weather, but experiencing frequent interactions with friends is just as important.

With the recent implementation of a new strategic plan, Lawrenceville will take the opportunity to provide more resources to address student

mental wellbeing. Hill thinks that the creation of "a student center would be the best thing." Having a hub for student life will be a great place for students to escape cold weather in the winter while still spending time with friends and socializing, especially given the lack of inter-house visitation during the daytime. She also wants more House bonding and events to give students "something fun to look forward to."

Campbell and Kumar both want teachers to be more mindful of the "amount of major assignments per week," possibly by communicating with one another to avoid dense weeks of work. Campbell, a day student who has to commute every day, thinks it is important to "give snow days when all other schools in the district have them." Around 30% of the student body is day students and there are

many members of the faculty and staff who live off-campus, so having snow days when the weather calls for them would limit the amount of classes missed and traveling in treacherous conditions. Missing classes because of the weather can cause students to fall behind, bringing unnecessary stress into their lives. The extra days off would allow students to recuperate and have fun playing in the snow.

Winter term is obviously a stressful time, but there are things students can do to make it just a bit better. Learning to appreciate snowy days, although there may still be classes on them, spending time with friends, relaxing, staying active, and doing things that they enjoy are small things students can do to maintain their wellbeing at Lawrenceville through the winter.

Inside Kennedy's Rent-a-Friend

EMILY LEE '26

Each House at Lawrenceville has many special traditions, yet one that stands out among all is the Kennedy House's annual Rent-a-Friend in January. The program is a fundraiser for Homefront, an organization located in Central New Jersey that aims to help families in need. Kennedy Rent-a-Friend allows students to "rent" the residents of Kennedy to help with any task of their choosing ranging from cleaning to tutoring. The program takes place every year in January.

"It's part of the House culture," House President Toni Eburnlomo '25 explains. Eburnlomo noted that the fundraiser is a fun way to raise money while supporting a local charity aimed at eliminating poverty. Kennedy residents are mostly indifferent about the program since they have been doing it for so long; "it is in the House description," states Reed Cloninger '25, who is organizing the program this year.

Leo Min '26 claims that the program is symbolic of Kennedy's house spirit; he says, "Helping out the community to thrive, helping other people; that is our House".



Kennedy House

While Kennedy residents have overall positive perspectives regarding the program, there have also been some interesting tasks other students have rented Kennedians out for. Eburnlomo says that some girls had rented "Kennedians to go on a date with them, and afterwards [have them] clean their room." Other tasks include washing someone's car, picking flowers, and more. The donation-only nature of the fundraiser makes it so interesting, as Kennedy residents could be rented to complete tasks of a wide range.

Customers report over all positive reviews from the service. Matt Campbell of the Performing

Courtesy of *The Lawrenceville School*

Arts department reported that "[he] really enjoyed it when [he] hired four or five guys for gardening, more specifically transplanting flowers". It was an arduous job that took a long time, but "the Kennedy residents handled the task with grace", Campbell states. Campbell says that he would definitely hire them again.

Overall, the Kennedy Rent-a-Friend is a program special to the Kennedy House where residents get to help the community for a good cause; it is clear that when in need of simply a friend or help on anything, one should just reach out and Rent-a-Friend from Kennedy house!

From the CXLIII Features Editors

To the Features Friends: Thank you to each and every writer for making our work so enjoyable and worthwhile. We are so fortunate to have never experienced the struggle of finding qualified writers, and truly could not have asked for a more consistent and driven group. All of you have immense talent, and your efforts were and continue to be the backbone of our two pages each week.

Jackie Williams '24

To the Board: The only place I like listening to background chatter is in *The Lawrence* office. The 143rd Board has taught me so much, but mainly that it is a privilege to spend each Wednesday and Thursday evening with Lawrenceville's most ambitious, accomplished, and impressive students. It was a privilege serving as a Features Editor.

William Wang '24

To the Board: Looking back at the last year I could not have asked to work alongside a more talented, dedicated Board. Each and every one of you have made my Wednesday and Thursday nights (no matter how much homework I have for the day after) truly worth it. Even if I haven't said this to you in person, I love each and every one of you. Good luck 144!

It was truly a pleasure to serve as your Features Editors for the past year. We will miss each and every one of you so much! See you all in the new board! - Will & Jackie

Lawrenceville's Senior Day Send-Off Spectacle

MIRA PONNAMBALAM '25
FEATURES ASSOCIATE

As their final year at Lawrenceville nears the end, V Formers slowly say goodbye to the communities they have helped build and maintain at school. Before leaving the school altogether, they perform in their last shows, publish their last issues, and play in their last athletic home games and meets. These events are often commemorated with special speeches and rituals. At the end of each term, V Formers playing an interscholastic sport are honored through "senior days." These days commemorate the last home competition of the season and the last chance for V Formers to play their sports in front of the Lawrenceville community.

Each sport has its own way of celebrating these important days. The Fencing Team makes a unique tunnel of blades (two lines are formed with swords pointed towards the ceiling,) water polo players high five their teammates down a line, and every Senior Day celebration almost always includes posters.

"Running through the blade tunnel was surreal. It is definitely something that I am not going to forget. Getting my own poster was a full circle moment because I used to be the one who made the posters, and now I was the one receiving a poster," described Alyssa Roberts '24, the

Girls' Fencing Team Captain.

The posters give underformers the chance to show their appreciation for the V Formers on the team through little notes and drawings. "It is fun seeing what the juniors come up with for our posters," noted Vivian Teeley '24, a co-captain of the Girls' Water Polo Team. Dean of Athletics Tripp Welborne H'58 P'21'24 or Director of Athletics Nicole Stock also act as announcers at senior days, reading off the names of those graduating and congratulating them on their hard work.

"It was a little bit bittersweet. On one hand we were getting honored, but I also knew we were leaving the team. I had always seen senior days, but it felt really weird to be the one running through the tunnel of swords and getting the flowers," stated Jonathan Antonov '24, the Boys' Fencing Team captain.

Because senior days are a way of saying goodbye and good luck to V Formers, it often comes with overwhelming emotions. "Senior day was a bit emotional, knowing that was my last time fencing for Lawrenceville excluding states. It felt like passing on the torch. It was a good day to get a win and know that the team was in good hands for next year," mentioned Antonov. The day brings up fond memories of time spent on the team and big triumphs. For Antonov, the day is spent remembering big comebacks and

his first bout, while Teeley thinks of game winning shots in overtime and the knowledge that people put enough trust in her to make her captain. Lastly, for Roberts, reminiscing on time spent growing with her teammates and coaches has been especially sentimental. "The memories I made would not [have been] possible without the coaches and my teammates, who helped me through difficult times and who I celebrated with," she stated. Saying goodbye to your team is often difficult. While students may continue to play your sport after leaving Lawrenceville, they will not be playing with the same teammates and coaches. "As a team, we mesh really well together. I am going to miss being in an environment where people can both have fun and work hard. It's a really great experience," noted Teeley.

Wherever they go, Lawrenceville students carry little pieces of their teams with them through the lessons they learned. "I know that being on the team has taught me a lot. I learned a lot about leadership and working as a team, and I am happy that I got to have that experience," stated Roberts. Similarly, V Formers often have an impact on the underformers on the team and the coaches.

Like Teeley said, "senior day makes you realize that all good things come to an end, but that is what makes them special."



Varsity Girls' Soccer Senior Day

Courtesy of *The Lawrenceville School*



Varsity Boys' & Girls' Water Polo Senior Day

Courtesy of *The Lawrenceville School*



Varsity Boys' and Girls' Fencing Senior Day

Courtesy of *The Lawrenceville School*

Lawrenceville's Lunar New Year

MARIAM DZIDZIKASHVILI '25

Originating from China's Shang Dynasty, Lunar New Year (LNY) is widely celebrated throughout East and Southeast Asia and has been brought to America. Lunar New Year is the beginning of the new year on the lunisolar calendar, usually between the end of January and the beginning of February, lasting 15 days. Preceding the days before LNY, the house is cleaned to get ready for a new year with festivities lasting a full moon. On LNY, families get together, wear red, set off firecrackers, and children kowtow while receiving red packets. Red is an auspicious color that symbolizes good luck and fortune, warding off evil spirits. In the first few days of LNY, clothes cannot be washed as the action symbolizes washing away the good luck.

For celebrants, LNY is a time to get together and feast with family. As the largest holiday in its celebrating countries, the holiday includes a three-week-long break for time to rest, erase bad luck from the past, and plan for new hope in the future. In Vietnam, the first day of LNY is reserved



Aileen Ryu '25 / THE LAWRENCE

for family while the second is for friends—community is emphasized throughout the holiday. Visiting friends and family is for children to show respect for elders, receive red packets, and spend time worshipping ancestors. Before LNY, windows and doors are decorated with red paper-cuts and couplets to spread wealth, health, and longevity.

LNY was born out of fear and legend. According to legend, a beast named Nian (in Mandarin Chinese, Nian translates to "year") would appear at the end of each year to attack and eat villagers.

Loud noises, the color red, and bright lights were used to deter the beast, hence the firecrackers, red clothes, and lanterns in abundance during the holiday. The red packets of money, in Chinese called "Ya Sui Qian," also come from a myth of a beast called "Sui." On New Year's Eve, the beast would chase after sleeping children but the money under the children's pillows would keep them safe. The name itself, Ya Sui Qian, means "suppressing Sui money." According to another Chinese tradition and myth, each lunar year has a zodiac animal, which

cycles every 12 years—2024 is the year of the dragon. Every year is a different animal sign with its own stereotype of the year's personality, just like an astrological zodiac sign.

During LNY celebrations, delicious food is served. Traditional Korean dishes include sliced rice cake soup, mung bean pancakes, and ginger cookies. Chinese dishes include dumplings, fish, sweet rice balls, and rice cake. Vietnamese dishes include spring rolls, boiled chicken, and xoi gac, which is made from rice and fruit. All cultures incorporate rice! In larger scale celebration parties, lion

dancing is a tradition across Asian cultures that entails mimicking a lion's movement in a lion costume to bring good luck and fortune. It is normally performed by two dancers, one manipulating the head while the other controls the rear end. The dance is composed of martial arts moves, which are performed to an energetic drum beat.

This Lunar New Year, make sure to pop out to Lawrenceville's celebrational events, which include student-hosted hotpot, and firecrackers, as well as try out the rice cakes or other traditional foods served in Tsai Commons



Chinese New Year Activities

Courtesy of *The Lawrenceville School*

Cross-Culture Learning: Keio School Exchange

JENNY ZHAO '25
FEATURES ASSOCIATE

Each year, Lawrenceville hosts a number of students from Japan through the Keio School Exchange Scholarship. These students spend a portion of their winter learning about the boarding school experience and the United States. The visiting scholars are paired with current Lawrenceville students also participating in the program; the Lawrenceville students later complete their portion of the exchange program by visiting Japan and residing with their Japanese partners for two weeks in June—fully immersing themselves in the local language and culture.

Hailing from Tokyo, Japan and having previously lived in Houston, Texas, Momoka Kurihara applied to the exchange program for the chance to “experience high school in America and improve [her] English skills.” Hosted by Elizabeth Duda '25, Kurihara resided in the Kirby House for her 2-week stay at Lawrenceville. Her first encounter with dorm life showed her the “multitude of aspects of boarding school,” as she

“was always a day student in Japan.” Kurihara’s initial shock at “the gigantic campus” and apprehension about “how much [she] would be able to interact with other students” due to her limited time at Lawrenceville, luckily proved insignificant. She felt that “many students were really nice...especially the ones in Kirby.” As such, Kurihara could “sense the strong bond in Kirby...and the [House members] felt a lot like a team and made [her] feel at home.”

Similarly, Wellness Day, a special Lawrenceville event, was a new experience for Kurihara. Kurihara observed that “Lawrenceville puts more priority on mental health [than her school in Japan],” which she sees as “definitely an upside.” Even with only a few short classes, Kurihara’s quick dip into a typical schedule of a IV Former showed her that “Lawrenceville [is different] from other schools [because] of its more advanced and interesting classes.” Taking a variety of courses from Honors Environmental Science to Advanced Poetry, Kurihara especially enjoyed A History of American Democracy in Cases, one of the U.S.



Elizabeth Duda '25 and Momoka Kurihara Courtesy of Elizabeth Duda '25

history courses available to IV and V Formers. As Kurihara put it, the class “features student opinions and their perspectives,” which she sees as “really important...because teachers can learn from students and students can broaden their perspectives,” which is “good for education overall.”

Gaku Mori shares the same sentiment on the popular history class. As another IV Form exchange student coming from Yokohama, Japan, he applied to the Keio exchange

program thinking it would “be a good opportunity to experience being in the States.” Once arriving on campus, he immediately noticed the striking differences between Lawrenceville and his school back home, where lessons were “lecture-style” and students took “18 subjects...with no free periods.” Given the relatively lighter workload at Lawrenceville, Mori was shocked when the nightly study hours rolled around in the Woodhull House and he had to put his phone away

to work. Though surprising, this method proved effective, as Mori will “try to do the same at home now.”

Even so, Mori will miss being in Woodhull House the most. With his program partner Thaddeus Appiah-Dankwa '25, Mori was quickly integrated into the atmosphere of the Circle. Outside of the dorm, he especially appreciated the quick pace of his Honors Biology course, as it pushed him to “actively try to remember things.” Mori also noticed that in his math course at Lawrenceville, Honors Calculus BC, the content specialized in calculus, whereas his school in Japan focused on complex planes and statistics.

Although “difficult,” the change was “extremely enjoyable” to Mori as well. Perhaps what resonated most with Mori, however, was his Advanced Poetry teacher’s words to him; that “Lawrenceville is a place to tackle difficult things.” As such, upon reflecting on his experience at the school, Mori hopes that future students embarking on the same journey will keep in mind that “the slump is temporary [and] the comeback will be legendary.”

Sick with Senioritis

MARIAM DZIDZIKASHVILI '25

Every year, thousands of seniors across the United States contract “senioritis”—if feelings of decreased motivation and vanished discipline plague students during their final year at high school, it is likely after experiencing the college process. During this time, most students take a step back from their extracurricular responsibilities and worry less about putting extensive effort into producing high-quality work for their classes. However, colleges have begun to explicitly outline that they may rescind incoming students’ acceptances in response to a drastic decline in their grades. Thus, senioritis can pose a worrying issue for parents, teachers, and students alike. Nonetheless, how big of a problem does senioritis pose for V Formers? How prevalent is this issue for the students of Lawrenceville?

Some V Formers have been afflicted less than others. According to Anabel Guerreiro '24, senioritis has not plagued her mindset yet. She claims that the key to avoiding burnout is engaging yourself in activities that you genuinely love. “I planned out this year knowing that it would be my senior year and I’m doing a lot of things that I like, so the activities I do are not things that I want to slack off on. Music, for example, is really important to me. It helps me stay happy, so of course I stay busy with that. I like a lot of the classes I’m taking, because this year I had a lot of freedom with the classes I chose. Even though they’re hard classes, they’re engaging.”

On the other hand, Arya Sreedhar '24 states “I’ve experienced burnout in the past, but it has never hit me like it has this Winter Term. I think it’s just a very ‘I don’t care mentality’ and completing tasks has become

so tough.” To help the symptoms subside, she watches TV and regularly naps to help herself relax. “I’ve been channeling my creative side with music a lot more; that’s probably why you’ve seen me perform so much, like at smeeeting, Cabaret, and Amélie!” Sreedhar exclaims. For the incoming V Form class, she advises them to “use [their] time wisely. Plan things out—especially so you don’t backlog all your applications for regular decision.” When advising on the college process to current IV Formers, she emphasizes “fully using Winter Break time and working on college applications. Also, don’t push past your limits. Take time to do the things that you like. Most importantly, talk to your friends, and be social! Don’t just keep focusing on your work”.

The cure for senioritis, as suggested by the experiences of these students, lies in a balanced approach to

the V Form year. Planning and managing time effectively, staying connected with peers for support and engaging in activities that one

genuinely enjoys can provide a sense of fulfillment and motivation to get students all the way to graduation.



Gloria Yu '26 / THE LAWRENCE

Behind the Tsai Field House

SAHANA LÖWY '25

The goal of building the Tsai Field House is not simply to renovate Lawrenceville’s dining and athletic facilities or updating old structures—the project is also focused on creating a space that fosters community, wellness, and inclusivity. I had the opportunity to sit down with Head of School Mr. Murray H '54 '55 '63 '65 '16 P '16 '21 to discuss the vision behind these renovations and how they will transform the student experience.

Nine years ago, Lawrenceville faced a daunting challenge. The aging athletic facilities, including the Loucks Ice Rink and the Lavino Field House—which encompassed indoor tracks, basketball courts, and a pool—were in dire need of repair. The systems were failing, the roof was leaking, and the ice rink was in need



Tsai Construction

of a renovation. Fundraising for such a massive project, estimated to cost over \$100 million, required more than just highlighting the maintenance issues. According to Murray, it demanded an inspiring vision, “an idea that would excite people.”

The idea that captured donors’ imaginations was a concept which

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

paralleled a recent project at Princeton University that combined healthy eating, living, and lifestyle with athletics and fitness. Lawrenceville’s project is not just about a new hockey rink or a renovated track, but rather about truly combining wellness, fitness, and community well-being. The Harkness Courtyard,

for example, will echo the sense of belonging around a Harkness table, symbolizing that every voice matters and every person belongs.

Lawrenceville’s design also emphasizes equity and accessibility. Upon entering the facility, visitors are greeted by common spaces like dining areas and multi-purpose rooms, making everyone feel welcome and included. The layout facilitates movement and interaction, fostering a sense of community. The design of the renovated facility reflects this vision of inclusivity. “When you walk into the space, it shouldn’t be that you feel unworthy,” Murray emphasized. “The idea is that people should feel like this is just as much their space as anyone else’s.”

The renovation project is being completed in phases. The first, including the new rink, pool, and

dining hall, is already open. The second phase, which includes the new basketball and the completed entranceway, should be open by April of this year. The last period of construction, finishing the renovation of the track and the turf football field, will extend into the summer. The football field, now a central sports venue with lights and a turf, will be a hub for various sports events. “You could have field hockey on a Friday night under the lights, football the next day, and soccer games earlier in the day,” Murray explained. “All our sports are important, and this venue reflects that.”

This project represents more than just a physical transformation; it is a testament to the School’s commitment to future generations. “We do not have too many opportunities to do a project of this size,” Murray reflected. “It is part of a series of steps the school has taken

The Big Blur of the Art Industry: MSCHF, Who Are They?

LOUIS PARK '26
ARTS ASSOCIATE

Once every two weeks, MSCHF presents its work to the world, creating a new website for the introduction of each of its drops. The collective's work breaks down boundaries across genres from social issues and politics to fashion and technology, arousing curiosity and public interest around the world.

In 1999, futurist Stanley Davis first used the term "Big Blur" to describe the phenomenon of software that blurs and mixes lines of various industries, but it would be no different to say that now MSCHF is the big blur of the art world for our generation. How has this group dismantled the boundaries between different genres? And why is the public so enthusiastic about them?

MSCHF is a Brooklyn-based creative collective group led by Gabriel Whaley, Kevin Wiesner, and Lukas Bentel. Unlike "normal" companies or art teams, MSCHF comprises lawyers, and game designers, who all contribute to the creative process. As one could probably guess, just like its name 'mischief' suggests, MSCHF does not define itself as 'something' but opens the door for its creative possibility to anything. Dropping their work every two weeks, MSCHF introduces provocative, witty, and absurd ideas in many forms: digital games, magazines, shoes or clothing websites, online apps, physical objects, virtual assets, and many more. Nonetheless, MSCHF always transcends social norms, tackles forbidden topics, and presents its creator's critiques of popular culture. Because MSCHF enjoys playing with mischievous ideas, they often fall into legal disputes or public controversy. Before they were publicized because of their biggest hit, the Big Red Boots—shoes inspired by the Astro Boy and brought into real life—MSCHF was sued by Nike. This time, to criticize previous collaborations on the market, MSCHF released Jesus Shoes, the custom Nike AirMax 97 that has holy water from the Jordan River in its soles and was engraved with lines from the Bible. However,

ironically, once they introduced the Satan Shoes as their next work, which had human blood and verses of Satan in the shoe, Nike sued MSCHF and attracted the media's spotlight. Since MSCHF was reselling Nike shoes, Nike sued MSCHF for trademark infringement for their use of the shoes. In addition, famous painter Damien Hirst's artwork was cut into small 88 square pieces and sold, each piece for \$88, causing creative destruction to highlight their belief in accessible art by allowing more people to own the art piece. The frame after the dots were cut out was auctioned for \$261,400. To criticize the overinflated prices of famous artworks, MSCHF purchased Andy Warhol's work Fairies for \$20,000 and sold 999 of their identical replicas. Of the 1,000 pieces, only one was Warhol's original, but even the certificate was elaborately copied, making it impossible to distinguish between the original and the replica. They also made an extremely small Louis Vuitton handbag the size of a salt grain with a 3D printer, yet sold it for more than four times the bidding price, at over \$63,000. This work questions the purpose of purchasing an item that has no function. Lastly, MSCHF published a website selling Michael Jordan's autographed basketball for \$23 without any descriptions, which

sold out in a short time. However, it was a basketball signed by another basketball star named Michael Jordan, who was a businessman. This was to mock the consumer's impulse purchases and inflated items due to name recognition. The long list of MSCHF's mind-blowing drops could go on forever, but here are some of the highlights: selling 1000 of the same keys for one car so whoever finds the car can drive, as if the online game Grand Theft Auto has come to life; melting guns and making a sword out of it to advocate for more gun control in America; one gigantic fruit loop that is half a pound; an app with famous YouTuber Mr. Beast that gave \$25,000 to the last person to have their finger on the screen; a chicken fast food chain styled after Chick-Fil-A that was open on Sunday

Through their works, MSCHF makes us reflect on popular culture and social customs that we have taken for granted or never contemplated. With their witty ideas, MSCHF appeals to the public with a message they want to convey in an accessible yet serious way. They teach the public to always question their actions and meanings. MSCHF attempts to inspire the world by removing the boundaries of various genres and interacting with the public through the free expression of art. Stay tuned for the next drop!



Big Red Boots

Courtesy of Printerval

One Love: A Tribute to the Great Bob Marley

KADEN LU '26

Bob Marley: One Love was released on February 14. It is a film about the life and legacy of Bob Marley, one of the most renowned singers in musical history. Many Bob Marley fans have eagerly anticipated this movie since its announcement in June 2018, directed by Reinaldo Marcus. The movie stars Kingsley Ben-Adir as Bob Marley, Lashana Lynch as Rita Marley, and James Norton as Chris Blackwell. The movie depicts Marley's life, portraying his journey to fame in the 1970s until his eventual death in 1981.

During Marley's life, he produced many songs in several genres, including ska and rocksteady, but most prominently, reggae. Music lovers describe Marley's music as revolutionary as he fused different styles while incorporating his lively spirit and passionate soul into his songs. During his career, he tried to infuse love into his lyrics, which explains the title of the movie, *One Love*, named after his song with The Wailers.

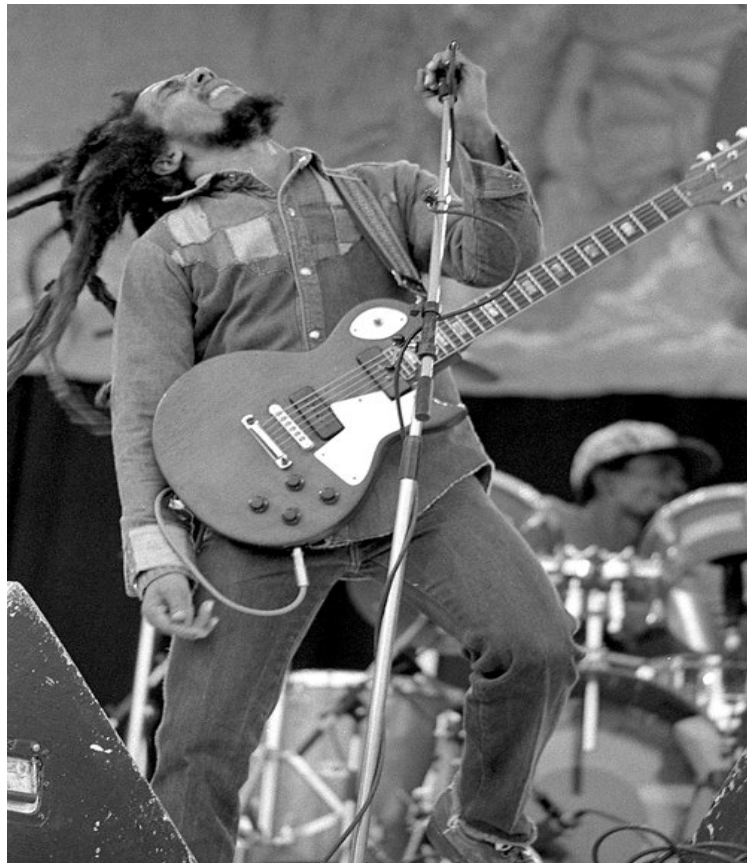
Marley's music transcended borders, reaching a heterogeneous group of followers from all over the world. The pure beat of his music also transcended language barriers, resonating with those everywhere sharing his message of love and unity. He spread Jamaican music and culture around the world through the songs and lyrics of his life. Marley was a Rastafari who often promoted his god, Jah, in his songs.

Even after his death, people continued

Marley's legacy by producing songs inspired by his style, listening to his music, and carrying on his activism. His foundation of hope, love, and peace has endured even after his death and inspired all to fight for justice and unity. Even now, people listen to his music to traverse through adversity and restore their spirit. Marley transformed the musical scene and left an enduring mark in the history of reggae.

Recently, Marley's grandson Joshua Marley, also known as YG Marley, has

gone viral on the internet for his new song "Pray Jah in the Moonlight." Many praised YG's lyrical prowess, which they think was passed down from his grandfather, Bob Marley, and his mother, Lauryn Hill. The song, in just one month after its release, garnered over one million streams and has continued climbing the charts since. Despite his lack of explicit statements, YG has shown that he wants to follow in his father and grandfather's footsteps by creating reggae music.



Bob Marley in Concert

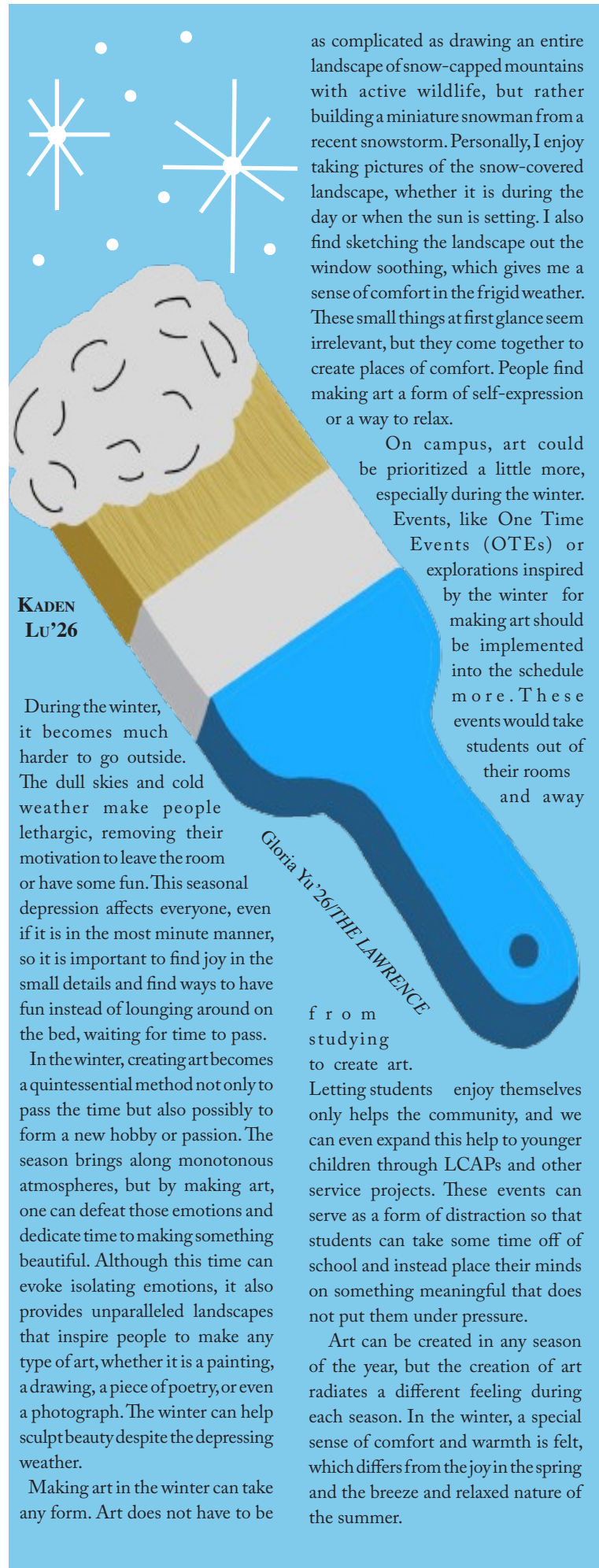
Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

A Trip Down Memory Lane



Courtesy of Lawrenceville Flicker

Wintertime Reflections



as complicated as drawing an entire landscape of snow-capped mountains with active wildlife, but rather building a miniature snowman from a recent snowstorm. Personally, I enjoy taking pictures of the snow-covered landscape, whether it is during the day or when the sun is setting. I also find sketching the landscape out the window soothing, which gives me a sense of comfort in the frigid weather. These small things at first glance seem irrelevant, but they come together to create places of comfort. People find making art a form of self-expression or a way to relax.

On campus, art could be prioritized a little more, especially during the winter. Events, like One Time Events (OTEs) or explorations inspired by the winter for making art should be implemented into the schedule more. These events would take students out of their rooms and away from studying to create art. Letting students enjoy themselves only helps the community, and we can even expand this help to younger children through LCAPs and other service projects. These events can serve as a form of distraction so that students can take some time off of school and instead place their minds on something meaningful that does not put them under pressure.

Art can be created in any season of the year, but the creation of art radiates a different feeling during each season. In the winter, a special sense of comfort and warmth is felt, which differs from the joy in the spring and the breeze and relaxed nature of the summer.

During the winter, it becomes much harder to go outside. The dull skies and cold weather make people lethargic, removing their motivation to leave the room or have some fun. This seasonal depression affects everyone, even if it is in the most minute manner, so it is important to find joy in the small details and find ways to have fun instead of lounging around on the bed, waiting for time to pass.

In the winter, creating art becomes a quintessential method not only to pass the time but also possibly to form a new hobby or passion. The season brings along monotonous atmospheres, but by making art, one can defeat those emotions and dedicate time to making something beautiful. Although this time can evoke isolating emotions, it also provides unparalleled landscapes that inspire people to make any type of art, whether it is a painting, a drawing, a piece of poetry, or even a photograph. The winter can help sculpt beauty despite the depressing weather.

Making art in the winter can take any form. Art does not have to be

KADEN LU '26

Gloria Yu '26/THE LAWRENCE

SHLOKA CHODHARI '26
ARTS ASSOCIATE


As Mother Nature breathes great blows of snow into the Northeast, the Lawrenceville campus comes alive. The students' laughter around campus provides a sensation of warmth in the cool air settling. Despite the wintery outlook many Lawrentians have about New Jersey's cold exterior, this season has a unique way of evoking various emotions of happiness through individuals. Whether gathering around a warm fireplace, drinking hot chocolate, or celebrating holidays with loved ones, winter brings a sense of togetherness while fostering feelings of happiness and belonging. The winter season truly transforms the campus into a scene of beauty and serenity, inviting everyone to embrace the unique charm that this season brings to our educational environment. Lawrenceville was especially lucky as snow has blanketed our campus repeatedly over the past few weeks. Students, bundled in layers of clothing, eagerly experienced the wintry scene as the campus transformed into a magical wonderland. As snow covers the paths, laughter echoes as students partake in snowball fights and take cute pictures to display this sense of happiness and bliss. Not only does the snow create a beautiful wonderland, it also brings the community together.

Winter on campus not only allows us to experience memorable times, including snowball fights outside our houses or even snowman-building challenges amongst the community, but winter also commences a series of routine changes and valuable learning experiences for us as individuals. Winter is all about building resilience and adaptability, a time to learn time management. This season allows students to collaborate with one another to navigate through hardships. Despite how the colder months can bring physical and emotional hardships, we must learn to embrace acts of self-love and self-care for ourselves and fellow Lawrentians. The colder months can bring physical and emotional stress, so taking for yourself and mental health practices help fight these challenges. Prioritizing self-love will truly help enhance resilience and overall well-being during this winter season. Celebrating small joys such as a cup of hot chocolate or even the experiences of snowfall and sunsets fosters a sense of gratitude and resilience. Taking pride in these little things is vital as it cultivates an overall positive mindset. Embrace the beauty of winter!



Pop Hall
Nicole Halucka '26/THE LAWRENCE

SHLOKA CHODHARI '26
ARTS ASSOCIATE



Nothing is a more powerful form of self-expression than fashion, allowing individuals to convey their personality, identity, and emotions through dress. A common saying is that, "If you look good, you feel good," and individuals use fashion to make statements. It reflects and influences different cultural trends, traditions, and societal norms. However, the overall concept of the rise of fast fashion has accelerated the pace of trends. Fast fashion makes trends faster because consumers can buy clothes cheaply, creating a fashion culture where we shop for fads instead of timeless. Regardless, fashion trends emerge quickly and spread rapidly around the world and even on our very own campus. The constant cycle of change keeps the industry dynamic and encourages consumers to stay updated with the latest styles. Fast fashion has a significant influence as it quickly produces and delivers clothing at affordable prices. Fast fashion's accessibility through online platforms and physical stores also caters to consumer demands for constantly changing styles. Additionally, seasons have a profound impact on fashion and influence decision-making about clothing choices. Especially on campus, seasons influence students to wear cozy sweaters, boots, and the infamous black Canada Goose coat. My personal stance holds practicality and comfort as key factors in clothing choices. High school students are highly influenced by their peers. As trends spread quickly among this demographic, students may feel a sense of belonging by aligning their clothing choices with what their friends and classmates are wearing, but in reality, clothing is a form of self-expression, and it should be used to convey one's own personal identity and individuality. From the II Form to the III Form, I believe my fashion has changed in so many ways! Living on campus has especially inspired me to try out so many unique styles that I would have never dreamt of wearing before. As my fashion is improving, I believe I am also maturing as a person, allowing myself to be more open to different trends!

Aileen Ryu '25/THE LAWRENCE

The Current State of Award Shows

ROBERT GIUFFRA '26

In the run-up to the Oscars, I wanted to take some time to reflect on the award season of American television. The long-awaited results for one of the most highly competitive award shows have just been finalized, and they are...not surprising whatsoever. In fact, the Emmy Awards had practically the same winners as the Golden Globe Awards in every category. So, rather than writing about the winners and the event itself, going from category to category, it is crucial to recognize the problem with award shows in the digital age. As performances get better and the supposed "Golden Age of Television" comes to an end, we have to take some time to think—to think about the nominees for each of the major categories and wonder if the winners really are that much better. Kieran Kulcan and Sarah Snook swept

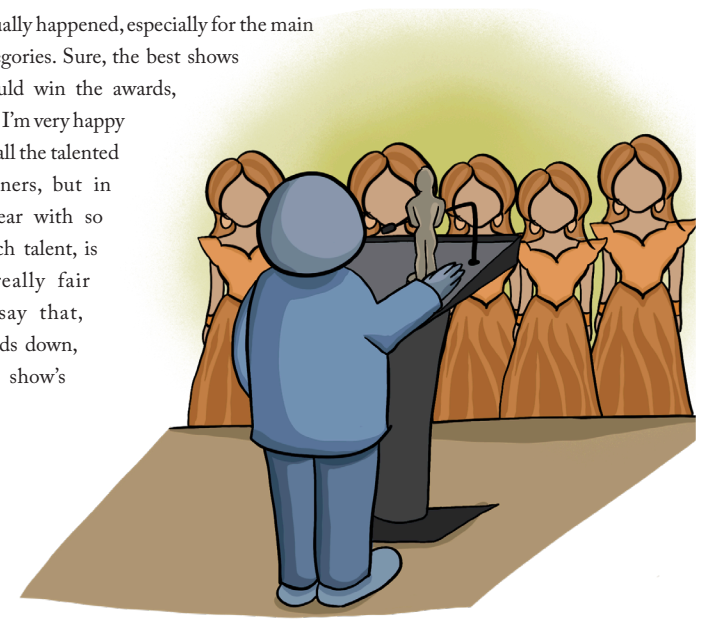
both the Golden Globes and the Emmys, winning the categories of Best Actor and Actress in a TV Drama, respectively. Both of their performances are nothing short of astonishing: I took the time to re-watch *Succession* episodes before writing today, and looking back on the series as a whole, what they accomplished, with subtle foreshadowing and complex camera motion, is incredible. The acting is all top-notch, which is where the problem originates. Jeremy Strong, who plays Kendal Roy, the "eldest boy" (sorry, Connor) in *Succession*, just as easily deserves an Emmy for his performance, with his acting capability as exceptional as anyone on the show. I would also be remiss if I did not mention *Better Call Saul*, a prequel to *Breaking Bad*, after being nominated 53 times without a single win, it has now become the show to have lost the most Emmys. Bob Odenkirk, who plays Jimmy

McGill, the alter ego of Saul Goodman, delivers a world-class performance over six seasons, showing his development from a law-abiding citizen fighting for the "little guy" who falls back into a life of crime. All of the performances here are spectacular, and I highly recommend you watch both *Succession* and *Better Call Saul*, but the point stands: why do some shows win big when all of them are practically equal in quality? This winning is due to the way actors and shows actively campaign for awards.

HBO staged a great campaign for *Succession* going into the award season and the writer strike, which postponed the Emmys for months, caused *Better Call Saul* to lose any of its momentum, leading to *Succession's* sweep. The issue with a sweep is that it imperils audience interest in the awards. Who will tune into the Emmys and Golden Globes each year if they already know the results? Prior to the Emmys, I

read the predictions of the winners, and 99 percent of them were accurate to what actually happened, especially for the main categories. Sure, the best shows should win the awards, and I'm very happy for all the talented winners, but in a year with so much talent, is it really fair to say that, hands down, one show's

performances were that much better than another?



Gloria Yu '26/THE LAWRENCE

Celebrating Student Voices at Broadway Cabaret

CHARLES POTTER '25
NEWS ASSOCIATE

Last Thursday, February 15, and Friday, February 16, the Allegro Council hosted the Broadway Cabaret, a night of solo show tunes sung by students. In the Clark Music Center, attendees sat around circular tables under dimmed lighting in a cozy atmosphere. The event was hugely successful this year, with tickets to both shows being sold out.

In order to perform at the show, students first had to audition for Director of Music Robert Palmer, Director of Instrumental Studies Stephen Rozek, and Director of Theater Matthew Campbell. According to Palmer, "over thirty [students] auditioned, the most [Broadway Cabaret] has ever had." After the auditions, the selected performers worked with Vocal Instructor Laura Heimes and Piano Accompanist Craig Renoe to polish their pieces. Palmer described the Cabaret's performers as "fabulous because every performer was miles better by the performance night than they had been at auditions." "They had in some cases come up with more dramatic ideas for their character, which was a night and day difference," Palmer said.

Administrative Assistant and Private Lesson Coordinator Colette Burns took on a large role in the planning of the night, organizing the distribution of tickets, setting up the furniture and decor, and promoting the event. She commented on the successful preparation for the Cabaret, saying, "The students really have such respect for Ms. Heims and she just brings out the best in them, as well as Mr. Renoe. He's a wonderful accompanist who loves working with the kids, and it makes a difference

and it shows that they enjoy what they do." Additionally, she was very glad to see the community's support of the event: "You could feel the love in the room," she explained.

This year was Sydney Wang '25 second time singing in the Cabaret. Wang especially appreciated the variety of performers and song selections this year. She chose to sing "Live Out Loud" from *The Little Princess* because it is a ballad that also has uptempo moments. "I felt like it really fit my personality," she said.

Simi Rath '26 called the event "a great experience." As an underclassman, she appreciated a rare and "big opportunity to sing," and enjoyed the diverse group of performers that was composed of "so many people from different grade levels." Rath sang "If I Loved You" from *Carousel* as she thought it suited her voice well.

Ryan Ding '25 chose to sing "Stars" from *Les Misérables*, which he came across while researching online, and described the experience of performing as "really fun." Anika Ponnambalam '25 took a slightly different approach to her song, "I Won't Say I'm in Love" from *Hercules*, encouraging audience members to snap along to the piece's rhythm. She noted that, although performing in front of the crowd was "scary at first," once the audience started to participate, she became "more comfortable."

Celine Fong '25, a member of the Lawrentians choir, came to the event in support of some of her fellow choir members. As she typically hears her peers perform as a group, she said that "seeing everyone's individual talent shine made [her] really happy." Daphne Volpp '24, another member of the Lawrentians, agreed with Fong, calling the event "truly inspiring."

The Broadway Cabaret presented a unique opportunity for soloists to combine acting and singing in making their pieces come to life.

Wellness Day Here at the Ville

ELLEN JORDAN '26
NEWS ASSOCIATE

Dubbed Well@theVille, Lawrenceville's second annual Wellness Day took place on Wednesday, February 14. Instead of bringing guest speakers to address the community on matters such as reducing stress, anxiety, and sleep habits, students instead signed up for different workshops where they partook in wellness-related activities. Each of the workshops correlated with an aspect of the Wellness Wheel, which was presented at School Meeting on February 8 alongside the plans for Wellness Day.

For Dean of Campus Wellbeing Rae Chresfield, the shift from lectures to workshops was part of the effort to make the events of the day more engaging for students. "I felt it was important to have a day that focuses on skill-building, community, and fun. [Lawrenceville] is an academically rigorous environment. Taking care of your wellbeing requires opportunities for students to engage in hands-on learning," Chresfield elaborated.

In addition to changing Wellness Day into a more interactive program, Chresfield and other faculty involved in the planning process aimed to incorporate the Wellness Wheel into the activities—the seven dimensions are Environmental, Intellectual, Professional, Spiritual, Physical, Emotional, and Social. Through this initiative, Chresfield hoped that students would walk away from their workshops with a greater knowledge of the Wheel and how to work towards improving their own well-being on campus.

"The all-around goal was for students to come together and learn about how to apply the different parts of the Wellness Wheel in fun and creative ways. I wanted to bring the Wellness Wheel to life and give students

the option of focusing on the parts... that [were] meaningful for them," Chresfield continued.

The events themselves were led by a mix of students and faculty members, and ranged from making ice cream sundaes to playing pickleball. Describing her process with organizing a workshop, Gloria Yu '26 said, "It was actually pretty simple. All you had to do was fill out a form with your name, the event that you are leading, a brief description of it, and what aspect of the wheel it fo-

many people know that there is an environmental crisis, many aren't actually taking any meaningful action," she expanded.

Although Yu was pleased with how her workshop went, she found it difficult to stay within the 45 minute time slot of the workshops.

"Looking back, I wish that we could have watched more excerpts from the film and additionally have included a discussion period, but there simply wasn't time," she said.

For Clara Khabbaz '26, one of the



Photo of Wellness Day Workshop

cuses on."

Yu, along with III Formers Dorothy Lee and Mila Cooper, chose to host a workshop focusing on the environmental facet of the Wheel, where they screened the 2016 documentary, *Before the Flood*. The film follows actor Leonardo DiCaprio as he travels around the world and meets with politicians and scientists to discuss the current climate crisis.

"We thought that the documentary did an excellent job of discussing some of the issues associated with climate change. The motivation for hosting the workshop was to educate students on environmental wellness, since climate change is such a crucial issue right now, which of course impacts us at Lawrenceville," Yu explained.

"Overall, the main goal [of the workshop] was for students to [develop] better environmental consciousness, especially regarding the current climate crisis. Even though

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School most enjoyable aspects of Wellness Day was the sense of freedom that came with getting to pick workshops, and "hanging out with people that you otherwise normally wouldn't hang out with."

However, Khabbaz's main critique of the event was that it did not completely free students from their academic obligations.

"After lunch, everyone kind of went back to study[ing], which I feel just completely defeats the purpose of Wellness Day," she explained, citing the main issue as students still having homework to complete following the conclusion of the workshops.

"While I thought that Wellness Day was a great initiative, I believe that it is only through allowing students to completely detach from academics and co-curriculars that we can focus on developing our wellbeing to the fullest extent," Khabbaz concluded.

Lawrenceville Fencing Places First at Prep-States

ETHAN ZHU '26
NEWS ASSOCIATE

Last Wednesday, February 14, the Boys' and Girls' Varsity Fencing teams placed first overall at the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) Prep-States Tournament. Eight preparatory schools across New Jersey gathered at the Hun School to compete in a team round, which Lawrenceville won, and an individual round for each discipline that only the eight most experienced fencers on the team round participated in. In the individual round, Girls' Sabre Captain Cindy Shum '24 and Boys' Varsity Foil member Owen Lynch '26 brought home wins in their respective disciplines, marking a great end to this year's fencing season.

Reflecting on her experience, Girls' Fencing Captain Alyssa Roberts '24 noted that she had a lot of fun and was proud of each and every member of the fencing team. "As a team, we did very well, even against some tough opponents," she said, "as for myself, I fenced so many people and learned a lot from them, which was a really enjoyable experience." Though Rob-

erts attended the tournament last year as just an "avid supporter," this was Roberts' first time actually competing at Prep-States, and she "really felt the pressure of the competition."

Boys' Fencing Captain Jonathan Antonov '24 shared a similar experience, calling the tournament "fun yet stressful." "It was like a constant battle," he said, "I would fence a bout, sit down for a few minutes, and then get up again." Like Roberts, this year's tournament was also Antonov's first time fencing at Prep-States, so he felt "really accomplished" when he advanced to the individual round. Antonov also noted that he was "a bit somber leaving the tournament." "For most of us [V Formers], that was our last ever meet," he added, "I won't be fencing in college, so it was really an emotional day for me."

Reflecting on their win, Antonov noted that it was "honestly a bit anticlimactic," but "vindicating" at the same time. "I remember in [III and IV Form year], I would really look up to the [V Formers], like 'these people are so much better than me, and I don't know if I can really reach this height,'" he elaborated,

"Getting the win this year did eventually affirm that we had, in fact, become the Varsity members that we used to look up to."

William Wang '24, a member of the Boys' Varsity Foil Team, expressed a different viewpoint. Having just competed at the Cetrulo Fencing Tournament two weeks ago, Wang felt that Prep-States was a "good yet somewhat disappointing end" to the season. "Cetrulo had 35-40 teams, but Prep-States had only 8," he noted, "There was less of an atmosphere, and it was a lot less intense." At Cetrulo, Wang had fenced 15 bouts, significantly more than the four he fenced at Prep-States. "It really went by in the blink of an eye," he said.

On the contrary, Shum appreciated the more relaxed end to the season and recalled that the tournament was still quite competitive. The girls' team had placed first by only one bout, and she felt that there was strong competition among the fencers. "The second place team in particular, Newark Academy, had a new freshman who's on the U.S. U17 national [fencing] team, so I was definitely stressed going in," she noted, "that made the victory even more special



Photo of Fencing Team

to us though, just because it was even harder to win."

Reflecting on her win in the individual round of the tournament, Shum thought it to be a full circle moment. She first entered the fencing program as a II Former during the Covid-19 pandemic, which led to the tournament's cancellation. Now, at the end of her time with the fencing team, she had become one of the captains on the Varsity Team and ended with both an individual and team win.

Antonov, Roberts, Shum, and Wang all noted that the tournament was a nice end

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School to the season, as they celebrated their win and reunited with friends from the fencing teams at other schools. "It was a sort of get-together with some of our previous friends," Roberts said. Antonov echoed her sentiments: "One of the strong sides of fencing is that we really get to know the other teams very well."

"I think the fencing community as a whole has been getting increasingly supportive, as has the School's attitude towards us," Shum added, "I'm excited to see where that takes us."

Yap Culture: the Good, the Bad, and the Wordy

TIFFANY SUN '26

You sit at an oval table: a notebook, pencil, and book splayed out around you. Your teacher has scribbled your classmates' names on a piece of paper, and remains silent, leaving discussions to the students. Voices break awkward pauses, filling the room as they comment on powerful quotes or the author's stylistic choices. Louder than any voice, however, is your teacher's silently approving nod and the scratch of their pen tracking the conversation on their piece of paper. Each arrow they draw makes your heart beat faster with the knowledge that said arrow does not point to you. As the fifty minutes trickle away, you decide that you need to talk—you need a good Harkness grade. You wedge yourself into the conversation, perhaps starting with "I thought it was interesting that" or "I agree with." After you finish, you earn your

arrow, but at what cost? After all, you know that all you did was yap.

According to the Urban Dictionary, yapping (verb) consists of "speaking without discretion at length to an uninterested audience." Lawrenceville treasures its emphasis on Harkness learning, that utopic arena for sharing opinions, inspiring ideas, opening minds, and promoting thinking; indeed, I have left many class discussions enriched by my peers' insightful comments. However, Harkness discussions are also extremely conducive to yapping, an opportunity escalated to a necessity by Harkness grades.

The majority of comments made in discussions—including many of my own—contribute little, if any, new information, nor do they embody the Harkness mission of learning

from different perspectives and beliefs. Thus, while yapping can secure one a decent Harkness grade, it is a waste of time that might otherwise be spent on thoughtful, engaging Harkness discussions.

It is important to clarify the nature of yapping here. When students first approach Harkness learning, many go through a period of transition and learning how to speak in a discussion. Oftentimes, discovering one's voice involves

making tentative comments that contribute small things to conversations.

How can Lawrenceville alleviate this yapping crisis? The very reason for its existence is the Harkness grade. Eliminating discussion-based evaluation, then, would alleviate pressure on students to crudely shove themselves into conversations out of obligation. This shifts the focus away from grades and towards the

discussion itself, promoting a genuine and engaged climate and lowering the pressure on students to yap. Additionally, students would be able to truly immerse themselves in the discussion without the stress of needing to contribute, giving them time to absorb, reflect, and take away from discussions. While sharing one's voice at the Harkness table is important, listening and being able to reflect on and learn from the viewpoints of others is a critical skill to develop through Harkness as well. Students in current Harkness discussions are often only focused on what they might say next and how they might word it, rather than listening to others' comments and reacting to them. When Harkness learning aims to foster genuine, natural, and spontaneous conversations and we emphasize on listening to others, students not only move closer to this ideal Harkness model, but they also glean more from each Harkness discussion.



Emily Pan '24 / THE LAWRENCE

GRAPHICS & PHOTOS (SPECIAL!!)



Sonia Shum '27 / THE LAWRENCE



Nichole Halucka '26 / THE LAWRENCE

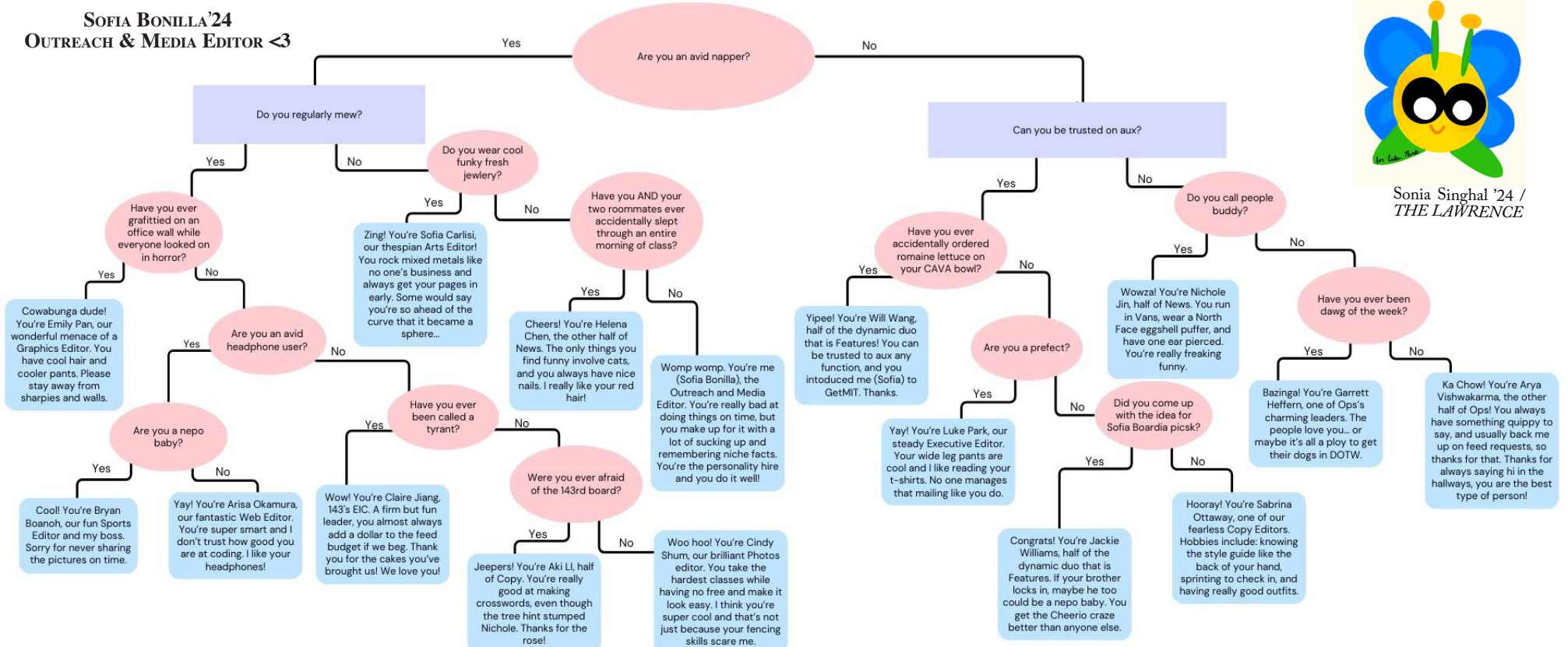


Mimie Pinpakornkul '25 / THE LAWRENCE

Which Editor Are You? Choose Your Own Path!

SPOT THE SQUIRREL

SOFIA BONILLA '24
OUTREACH & MEDIA EDITOR <3



Sonia Singhal '24 / THE LAWRENCE

SEASON PREVIEW:
2023-24 LAWRENCEVILLE
GIRL'S LACROSSE
MIRA TRAPPE '26

The 2023 season for the Big Red Varsity Girls' Lacrosse team (BRVGL) was one of the best to date. The team finished with a record of 14-4, winning the Mid-Atlantic Prep League Championships (MAPLs), Mercer County Tournament (MCT), and making the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) state championship. Coming off of an incredible season last year, BRVGL could not be more ready for the future. This year, the team is led by a strong group of V formers, including captains Chloe Babich

'24, Hayla Dora '24, and Anna Hoover '24. In addition to the captains, leadership from the upperclassmen has spurred the team to victories in the past, and those same players are looking to return stronger and better than ever.

A deep feeling of community exists between all players, both older and younger. The dynamic of the team is unmatched; according to sophomore returner Ava Moses '26, "the team is a very close-knit community, like a family. I can always rely on [the BRVGL team], on and off the field. They are kind of like my big sisters." To foster the team dynamic, Head Coach Lindsey Mulhern P '25 believes that players need opportunities outside of lacrosse to bond. "If a team is not close with each other off the field," Mulhern states, "their gameplay and chemistry will be affected on the field". According

to Mulhern, the strongest teams overcome adversity at the start of the season, which in turn strengthens the bonds between players throughout the rest of the season. To improve team chemistry, BRVGL is looking to have a strong start to the season, going to Naples, Florida for the spring training trip where they will scrimmage against great teams like Westminster and Berkshire, which will be a mix of hard work and fun.

This season, BRVGL has the goal of winning the triple crown, which consists of MAPL, MCT, and NJSIAA titles. Obtaining the triple crown has been a unifying goal for the players and coaches after losing to Oak Knoll last year in the NJSIAA finals. Mulhern is confident in the abilities of the 2024 team to achieve this goal, stating that "so many girls on our team say lacrosse is their first

sport, and whenever you have that kind of dedication and focus it is much easier to set and achieve common goals." Every one of the players loves the sport and each other, which enables the team to succeed. BRVGL is looking to have a fantastic season because of their unmatched energy, dedication, and family bond on and off the field.

Even with the team's success last year, there are a few things Mulhern wants to alter for this upcoming season. She first describes the team's defense, saying that the defensive lineup will change this year, seeing what works and playing to their strengths. With V Formers set to leave by season's end, the team is hoping that the younger players will build strong chemistry between each other for both the short and long term. All players will have to create these connections for both the next few seasons and

for the upcoming months because BRVGL is playing a "very, very, very competitive schedule this year, [without] any days off when it comes to games." In a fast paced sport like lacrosse, the little things matter, which is why Mulhern, in addition to Coaches Liz Cook and Emilie Kosoff H'88 '96 '00 '18 '20 S '88 P '19, want to work on the details to have a victorious season.

BRVGL players will tell you that Mulhern is known for saying "Spring Term, best term", and that's what the Girls' Varsity Lacrosse Team embodies. The community, dedication, and energy are something that cannot be found in any other team. Every member of the team can trust each other and their coaches, making the team unique and enabling them to achieve their goals for the future.

"One Last Time" Board Picks

1/2 the Board	Claire Jiang '24 Editor-In-Chief	Luke Park '24 Executive Editor	Nichole Jin '24 News Editor	Helena Chen '24 News Editor	Garrett Heffern '24 Ops Editor	Arya Vishwakarma '25 Ops Editor	Jackie Williams '24 Features Editor	William Wang '24 Features Editor
								
What are you going to miss the most from 143?	My lovely dovey board, feeds, a small office, and all the happy memories	All our unbinged ramblings	Succulent calves	Diet Coke supply	Office hours family	Garrett Richard Heffern: his smile, his whistling, his love for this paper and its people	Feed	The people and the times.
What are you going to miss the least?	Having to order feed and long nights	Mailing	Aki peering over my shoulder	Topic emails	Late and stressful topic emails	Ops' exquisitely balanced, precisely 50-50 workload distribution (dub)	Printer failure	The work I pushed back the night before.
Favorite Mrs. Buckles quote?	It was very salient to the modern zeitgeist	"What's your name again?"	Not my circus, not my monkey	Are you Nichole?	The zeitgeist one	Why do you need that scrunchie if you already have a stick?	Not my circus not my monkeys	What's your name again?
One thing you're proud you accomplished	Getting to work with such a great team, OTB, newsletters, reader engagement!	Never having to learn indesign	Taught Bonilla how to say "thats awkward" in chinese	Outside the bubble	How much I've learned about writing opinions and working with others	Meeting with writers @ office hours <3 y'all are always welcome	Publishing on time every week...	Getting the paper published every week.
Biggest regret	Giving them too much freedom (I am a tyrant)	None. adios	Not picking up the cheerio pieces I scattered across the office	Outside the bubble	Not reading the news, providing relatively bland topics, and getting behind on work academically and The Lawrence related	Never learning how to say no. set boundaries kids, your time and peace are important	Always forgetting Saturday board meetings	Not working harder.
Advice for 144?	enjoy the people and make friends! trust that you've got this	do your finances	S(he) be(lie)ve(d)	Always ask for more feed money, you may be lucky	Plan out your time, reach out to people around you, and keep up with the news and campus. Also revamp associates	Never forget why you do this: for Lawrenceville and its people. Remember that their voices---all of them---matter most.	Get things done early!	Maintain pace, increase effort - Stephen Wallis.
Other Half	Sofia Carlisi '24 Arts Editor	Bryan Boanob '25 Sports Editor	Aki Li '25 Copy Editor	Sabrina Ottarway '25 Copy Editor	Arisa Okamura '25 Web Editor	Sofia Bonilla '24 Outreach Editor	Cindy Shum '24 Photo Editor	Emily Pan '24 Graphics Editor
								
What are you going to miss the most from 143?	Free diet coke!	Staying in the office until 10:15	100% the graduating board. I can't (and don't want to) believe that the seniors are leaving :-(Me	Going back to Crescent with the seniors	Yapping on Thursdays	Everybody's beautiful constantly smiling never stressed out faces	Let's see... Mrs. buckles coming in periodically asking for more pages, claire smiling when we ask her for more feed money, snack restocks, consultation couch naps (I'll be hopefully continuing those, please don't revoke salto rights)
What are you going to miss the least?	Communicating via facebook messenger	Doing homework after staying in the office until 10:15	the number 143. 144 (12^2!) is much more auspicious.	[redacted] and [redacted] but most of all [redacted]-ing the [redacted]	Making errors in the all-school newsletter	Yapping on Wednesdays	Begging for photo requests to be in	Sofia's board picks emails >:)
Favorite Mrs. Buckles quote?	"Sofia, you're so amazing and wonderful!"	Obligatory: "Not my circus not my Monkey"	Not my circus.. not my monkeys!	"I guess the administration is nice now"	Every single word she said is my favorite word	Where do cows go on Saturday nights? To the mooooooovies	That tickled me	It has got to be the iconic, "not my circus not my monkeys"
One thing you're proud you accomplished	Drinking six diet cokes in one day	Keeping Stufour out of my position	very proud of my crosswords!! You'll see them in 144 too <3	[redacted]	Upload all..... most articles	learning how to say "thats awkward" in Chinese	Figuring out how to stop getting copyright claimed	One time i skated with a huge bag of tacoria feed and didn't eat sh*t (unlike auri and luke, who were walking!)
Biggest regret	I live a life with no regrets	Not getting an article from '24	I was actually terrified of half the board at first... so I would tell me in the past the board isn't that mean!	Nothing	I don't regret. I move forward.	Not designing the merch	That I didn't write more editorials	Another time, i didn't order my feed on time. i went to sleep hungry that night.
Advice for 144?	Drink as much diet coke as you can	Make sure you have a free on Friday	Communicate and collaborate!!	Be like me	get the pages in before 10pm!	Fill out board picks on time	Trust the process and lock in	Order your feed on time (keep your messengers notification on!!!) also, the yoga ball seats in the office are horrendous for your back